

PRODUCE SHOW

SATURDAY 8TH AND SUNDAY 9TH AUGUST 2020

HINTS AND TIPS FOR EXHIBITORS

Below are basic hints and tips for Exhibitors; if you would like more detailed information about competing in a show, please refer to the RHS Horticultural Show Handbook which is available to order on the RHS website, price £8.00.

VEGETABLES:

The following features should be considered when exhibiting vegetables:

- A dish should consist of one cultivar only unless otherwise stated
- **Condition:** All vegetables should be clean, fresh, tender and free from coarseness and blemishes
- **Uniformity:** All the specimens exhibited on a dish should be alike in size, shape, condition and colour.
- **Size:** Large specimens are preferable but only if they are of good quality, as the production of large specimens of good quality requires more skill than the production of small specimens.
- **Colour:** Colour should be fresh and true to the cultivar at maturity. There are now many vegetables available in a range of colours. Good colour for the cultivar should be the main consideration.
- All calyces and stalk should be left attached where specified, and onions should be trimmed and tied with uncoloured raffia.

FRUIT:

The following features should be considered when exhibiting fruit:

- A dish should consist of one cultivar only unless otherwise stated
- **Condition:** All fruit should be clean, fresh, and blemish-free with attractive, naturally produced colour with the natural bloom intact.
- **Ripeness:** Apples, gooseberries, medlars, pears and quinces may be shown either ripe or unripe. Where the schedule does not specify that the fruit must be ripe, preference should always be given to cultivars in season rather than to larger or showier cultivars that have been picked prematurely. All other fruits should be ripe unless otherwise specified in the schedule. Over-ripeness will be regarded as a defect.
- **Stalks:** All fruits except: apricots, peaches, blueberries and citrus fruits are shown with stalks unless otherwise stated. All nuts are shown without stalks or husks. All other fruits should be shown with stalks intact.
- **Uniformity:** All the specimens exhibited on a dish should be uniform and alike in size, shape, condition and colour.
- **Size:** All fruits except dessert apples, should be above average size for the cultivar, but enormous specimens are not preferred, as beyond a certain point size becomes a defect, especially in dessert fruits. In dessert apples it is recommended that the fruits should be between 60mm and 80mm in diameter, but the judges should make allowances for the fact that some cultivars are inherently small, whereas others are naturally large.
- **Colour:** Colour should be attractive and naturally produced. The natural bloom should be preserved, and the colour resulting from the removal of the natural bloom or any form of polishing will be considered a defect.

Pot Plants:

The following features should be considered when exhibiting pot plants:

- **Merits** – Plants should be sturdy, shapely and well furnished with healthy, unblemished foliage and flowers. Plants should display flowers, coloured bracts or fruits of good size colour and substance
- Pot plants must have been grown by the exhibitor or been in their possession for a minimum of six months.
- Pots and containers should be clean and undamaged, and where staking, tying or wiring is necessary, it should be neatly done in a manner that does not detract from the appearance of the plant. The pot should be in proportion to the plant.
- Ferns, bromeliads, orchids and similar plants that are naturally epiphytic may be shown attached to a piece of wood or bark instead of in a pot
- The presence of flowers on a foliage plant will not be considered a fault, but the decorative value of the flowers will be disregarded.

Flowers:

The following features should be considered when exhibiting flowers:

- **Merits** – Flowers should be in good fresh condition. Flowers should be fully developed and appropriately positioned on their stems. The petals should be properly positioned on the flowers and of a shape, texture and colour typical of the species or cultivar. The foliage should be clean, healthy and undamaged. The stems of flowers which bloom in spikes, such as larkspur and hyacinths, should be straight and firm right to the tip with the flowers evenly spaced and the open florets touching or almost touching one another.
- **Mixed vases** – the above criteria apply. The inclusion of foliage from plants other than those of the flowers being exhibited in the mixed vase, is not encouraged.

Floral Art:

The following features should be considered when exhibiting floral art:

- All entries must comply to size restrictions
- Flowers and foliage should be in good, fresh condition.
- Entries will be judged from the front
- Plant material must not be artificial and must be based in water or a water retaining medium.
- Accessories may be included, but natural plant material must dominate in all exhibits
- Backgrounds, bases, drapes and containers may be included but must fit within size specification.

Craftwork:

The following features should be considered when exhibiting craftwork:

- Entries must have been completed within the last three years and not previously entered into this show.
- Your entry must comply to all size restrictions and specified mediums.

Photography:

The following features should be considered when exhibiting photography:

- Conventional or digital photographs may be entered, but they must not be manipulated or enhanced.
- Entries must have been taken within the last three years.

Home baking & preserves:

The following features should be considered when exhibiting home baking & preserves:

- All exhibits must be made or produced by the exhibitor
- Pastry should be homemade
- Cakes should be cold and must be made according to the specified recipe where applicable.
- All preserves and bottled drinks must be dated with the date they were produced.

Children's Section:

- All of the above also apply to the Children's Classes.

Good Luck!