

2026 RHS CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW

FACTS & STATS

- RHS Chelsea Flower Show is run by the Royal Horticultural Society, a **222-year-old charity**.
- The **RHS** is the **UK's gardening charity**. Founded in 1804, today the charity helps millions of people across the country garden and grow for health, happiness and the environment. With a mission to promote the science, art and practice of horticulture, the charity runs national grass roots school gardening and community gardening movements and conducts vital science research to help mitigate some of the biggest environmental challenges facing us today.
- **RHS Chelsea** is **Britain's biggest gardening charity fundraiser** and a vital platform for UK horticulture, the show raises millions of pounds for RHS national community gardening programmes and science research to inform climate change adaptations.
- RHS Chelsea has been held in the grounds of the Royal Hospital for **113 years**, with the first show being held in **1913**.
- The BBC began their TV coverage of RHS Chelsea in **1959**. Originally just one programme, coverage now extends to **14 hours** on BBC 1 and BBC 2 throughout the whole week.

RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2026 in Numbers

- Over **145,000** are expected to attend this year's show across 5 days.
- Over **390** horticultural exhibits from around the world will fill the **20-acre** site including gardens, nursery displays, houseplant exhibits, floristry and floral displays, scientific exhibits, tradestands, and floral installations.
- **30 Gardens** (31 in 2025) including ***The RHS and The King's Foundation Curious Garden***, designed by **Frances Tophill, Sir David Beckham and Alan Titchmarsh CBE**.
- Gardens:
 - **9** Show Gardens (6 in 2025).
 - **4** Small Show Gardens (10 in 2025)
 - **5** All About Plants Gardens (4 in 2025)
 - **10** Balcony and Container Gardens (10 in 2025)
 - **6** Houseplants Studios (6 in 2025)
 - **2** Feature Gardens (unjudged) (1 in 2025)
- Average number of plants per garden in each category:
 - Show Gardens: approx. **3331**
 - Small Show Gardens: approx. **1662**
 - All About Plants: approx. **1170**
 - Balcony & Container Gardens: **259**
- **38** Garden Designers are involved in this year's show (49 in 2025).

- **21** women (16 in 2025)
- **17** men (33 in 2025)
- **22** designers are making their RHS Chelsea Flower Show debut in gardens this year

The Great Pavilion

- Measures roughly **11,775m²** or **2.90 acres**, enough room to park **500 London buses**
- The **largest exhibit** is **David Austin Roses**.
- **Blackmore & Langdon** is the only exhibitor to have exhibited at all of the RHS Chelsea Flower Shows winning over **80 RHS Gold medals**.
- **40** new plants have been announced to be launched at this year's show (with more to be announced on press day), **17** of which were shortlisted to be eligible for the coveted title of **RHS Chelsea Plant of the Year 2026**.
- There are **79** growers and nurseries creating **83** floral exhibits. **11** of these are exhibiting for the first time at RHS Chelsea.
- First timers at RHS Chelsea Flower Show include: Chelsea Physic Florilegium, Little Cornish Glasshouse and National Collection of Wisteria.
- There are **9** finalists across the three categories in the Sustainable Excellence Awards.
- In floristry and floral design, there are two categories designing to a theme of 'Floristry Laboratory':
 - **3** Creative Spaces
 - **10** Floral Creations
- GreenSTEM is returning this year and will feature **5** exhibits that delve into horticultural research, plant health and food crop production.

Judging

- It takes **3** moderators, **30** judges, and **6** skilled panel secretaries **8 hours** to judge and assess all Great Pavilion exhibits.
- It takes **24** judges across **3** panels **20 hours** to judge all gardens at the show.
- Each garden panel is made up of **1** moderator, **2** chairs and **5** judges.

Build, infrastructure and staff

- The whole show is built from scratch in **25 days and dismantled in 11 days**.
- Show Gardens are built from scratch in **19 days and dismantled in 5 days**.
- Smaller gardens are built from scratch in **16 days and dismantled in 3 days**.
- All gardens live on after the show, either as a whole garden or in constituent parts
- The cycle of planning for the Show lasts **15 months**
- It takes approx. **8,000 people** to put on the show
- Approximately **800** people are involved in building the gardens

- **130** RHS staff and around **250** volunteers help make the show happen
- It takes over **2,000** man-hours to deliver the show week catering, which includes:
 - **39,755** glasses of Pimm's
 - **1,974** bottles of Pommery Brut Champagne
 - **61,300** Hot drinks

Fun Facts: Gardens

- The *Woodland Trust: Forgotten Forests Garden* is inspired by the vital work the Woodland Trust does to bring the UK's rare and vulnerable ancient woodlands, which now cover just 2.5% of the UK today, back to life. Over half of the plants featured in the garden are recognised as ancient woodland indicators.
- Darren Hawkes, the designer of the *Lady Garden Foundation: 'Silent No More' Garden*, drew inspiration from the work of Spanish sculptor and artist, Eduardo Chillida. Chillida's etching "Inguru III" informs the layout, and his clay sculpture "La Case del Poeta III" is reimagined in striking architectural structures.
- The *Campaign to Protect Rural England Garden: 'On the Edge'* is celebrating CPRE's milestone of championing the countryside for 100 years.
- The planting in *The Tate Britain Garden* will reflect the climatic future of the Tate Britain site, with many of the plants taking cue from East Asian Woodland, being drought tolerant (adapted to warmer climates) and having the ability to cope with frost free conditions.
- *The Children's Society Garden* will feature a 28-piece glass installation. This has been created by The Repair Shop's glass expert Matthew Nickels, and Yorkshire based artist and University of Sunderland academic tutor, Rachel Welford.
- Inspired by London's status as the first National Park City, the *Addleshaw & Goddard Flourish in the City* garden will reflect the city's heritage, particularly London's connection to the oyster trade. Oysters play a vital role in the structure and natural form of the garden with a new oyster shell-based concrete..
- Boodles are launching a new jewellery collection and sponsoring *The Boodles Garden*, both of which are inspired by the classic and iconic features of four of the Historic Royal Palaces (The Tower of London, Hampton Court Palace, Queen Charlotte's Cottage and Kensington Palace).
- Over three quarters of the UK population drink tea every day, making *The Whittard of Chelsea Garden*, which is designed for tea enthusiasts, all the more pertinent to visitors.
- *The Journey Beyond the Tracks: From Adelaide to Perth* garden reflects more than 350 of the national parks and reserves found in South Australia and celebrates Western Australia's 8000+ endemic species.
- A key plant that is featured in the *Parkinson's UK – A Garden for Every Parkinson's Journey* is a tulip – a flower associated with Parkinson's worldwide after a variety was named after James Parkinson, the man who first identified the condition.
- Within the 200sqm *A Garden for Every Parkinson's Journey* garden nearly 70% is plant material.
- The *Tokonoma Garden – SANUMAYA no NIWA* garden reimagines the traditional Japanese tokonoma, which highlights the value of gathering together in person and the lasting impressions moments in nature can bring.

- The *Cleary Gottlieb: Time for Creativity* garden explores the possibilities of what can be achieved in an environment free from the distractions of technology. The average person in the UK spends a little over five hours each day on their phone. Over the course of a year, this equates to 1,825 hours, which is equivalent to 76 days, or two and a half months.
- *Hedgerow in the Sky – Tech Mahindra* highlights the decline of the British hedgerow. Since the 1950s, the UK has lost more than 50% of its hedgerows. Hedgerows act as vital wildlife corridors, help reduce flooding, store carbon and support pollinators. The UK government has pledged to plant 45,000 miles of new hedgerows by 2050.
- *The Transient Garden* highlights the increasingly temporary nature of modern living. Data from recent surveys from NRLA (2024) suggests that a significant proportion of renters stay for less than three years. These are largely younger renters between 25-34 years.
- Whittard is celebrating its 140th year in 2026 and will mark this milestone by sponsoring *The Whittard of Chelsea Garden*.