



# The Ornamental Plant Show Schedule 2026

## **The Early Camellia Competition**

March 14 & 15 2026  
RHS Garden, Rosemoor

## **The Early Rhododendron Competition** **The Spring Ornamental Plant Competition** **The Main Camellia Competition**

April 11 & 12 2026  
RHS Garden, Wisley

## **The Main Rhododendron Competition**

April 25 & 26 2026  
RHS Garden, Rosemoor

## **The Harlow Carr Rhododendron Competition**

May 2 & 3 2026  
RHS Garden, Harlow Carr

## **The Autumn Ornamental Plant Competition**

October 2-4 2026  
RHS Pot to Plate, Hyde Hall

**Please note:** This schedule is available as a hard copy by request, all requests should go to Georgina Barter/Amy Mason  
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# REGULATIONS FOR COMPETITIVE EXHIBITS

## Exhibitors

1. **Eligibility** – The competitive classes are open to all, unless excluded by some special regulations.
2. **Usual regulations apply** – The competitions will be subject to the Royal Horticultural Society's usual rules and regulations except on points where, under this Schedule, they obviously do not apply. (*See regulations for the Society's Exhibitions and the Horticultural Show Handbook.*)

## Entries and Exhibits

3. **Exhibits must be the property of the competitor** – All specimens exhibited in competition must be the *bona fide* property of the competitor and must have been grown by him/her or his/her employees on land in his/her own occupation for at least the last six months before the competition.
4. **Entry fees** – There are no entry fees.
5. **Acceptance of entries** – All entries must be made on the official entry forms. Competitors are requested to make entries in all classes for which they think they might have plant material and notify the Shows Department on the day before the competition of any classes in which they are not able to stage an exhibit. Entry forms should be returned to the Shows Department by the date given on the entry form.
6. **Liability for loss** – All exhibits, personal property, etc., will be at the risk of the competitors and the Society will not be liable for compensation for loss or damage by theft, fire, water, accident or any other cause whatsoever.

## Staging

7. **Times for staging** – Exhibits may be staged between 2pm and 8pm on the day before or between 6am and 9.45am on the first day of the competition. Staging for the Harlow Carr Rhododendron and Autumn Ornamental Plant Competitions will vary slightly from these times and will be notified with confirmation of entry.
8. **Parking and unloading arrangements** - Further information will be sent to competitors with their acknowledgement of entries.
9. **Competition Passes** – Only competitors and such assistants as may be required for the arrangement of exhibits will be admitted before the Competition is open to the public. Competitors' passes will be posted on receipt of entries.
10. **Stewards to advise competitors** – For the ornamental plant competitions, a steward will be available to assist in the staging of entries from 2pm until at least 7pm on the evening before the competition, and from 7.30am on the first day of the competition. For the Camellia and Rhododendron Competitions, a steward or stewards will be available from 7.30am on the first day of the competition, to advise competitors in regards to the appropriate class for any exhibit and the stewards' decision on all matters of classification and eligibility for the class concerned will be final, and will be respected by the judges.
11. **Size of exhibit** – Judges will be asked to take into account the quality of each specimen exhibited rather than its size.

12. **Number of entries allowed** – A competitor may enter and stage any number of exhibits and be eligible for any number of prizes in any class, provided that in each exhibit all the species, cultivars or hybrids, as the case may be, are different from those in his/her other exhibits in that class. Note: while a species and its subspecies are regarded as distinct, as are two subspecies of the same species, different forms of the same species are not permitted, except where otherwise stated.
13. A plant may not be shown in a general class (single vase) if a specific class is available in the same competition.
14. **Floral Foam** - Floral foam may not be used as a staging material due to concerns about its non-biodegradability and disposal. Alternative biodegradable staging materials include sustainably sourced moss and newspaper.
15. **RHS Peat Free Policy** – all potted plants exhibited from 2026 onwards must be ‘No New Peat’. No New Peat is defined as: Plants grown entirely peat-free, or older plants containing peat that was already in the pot before 31/12/25. Any potting action after 31/12/25 MUST be peat-free.
16. **Additional support of sprays** – The use of canes, wires or any other means of additional support above vase top level is not permitted except in the case of natural climbers.
17. **Camellia Flower Blight (CFB) (also known as Camellia Petal Blight)** Blooms showing signs of CFB must not be brought to the competitions. Any blooms showing signs of CFB will immediately be removed by the stewards and disposed of regardless of whether they have been judged. To reduce the risk of spreading the fungus all camellia blooms will be bagged at the end of the competition and destroyed.
18. **Labelling** – All exhibits should be labelled with the names of the plants, typed or written in block letters. Cultivar names should be enclosed within single quotes. The label for a hybrid should bear (in addition to the name) the parentage, when known.

For this purpose, small cards will be posted to exhibitors on receipt of their entries, and no other labels should be used. Where the name of a cultivar is unknown the label should bear the words ‘NAME UNKNOWN’.
19. **Competitors cards** – Cards corresponding to the entries will be available by the competition tabling. Competitors will be responsible for the placing of these cards with their exhibits.
20. **Vases** – The Society will provide vases 6”, 9” and 11” in height, and camellia containers. No others may be used, except where otherwise stated in the Schedule.
21. **Alteration of exhibits** – After judging has taken place, no exhibit or part of any exhibit may be altered or removed until the Competition terminates, except with the permission of the Shows Department.
22. **Protests** – Any protest must be delivered in writing to a Shows Department representative by 1pm on the first day of the Competition.
23. **Uncollected exhibits** – Exhibits in the ornamental plant, camellia and rhododendron competitions which have not been collected by the owners at the end of the show will be destroyed. Competitors are asked to indicate on the entry form whether their exhibit is to be collected or destroyed.
24. **Prizes may be withheld** – Any prize may be withheld or modified if the exhibits are considered undeserving of the prize offered.

25. **Cups** – Challenge cups will be presented to the winners in an award ceremony at the Competition and retained by the Society afterwards.
26. **Payment of prizes** – Prize money will be paid following the Competition.

## Definitions

27. Exhibits must have been grown in the open unless otherwise stated in the individual class. Exhibitors in the camellia competitions should indicate if an entry has been grown under protection by placing a small red dot on the exhibit name card. These will be available from the stewards.
28. **Rhododendrons:** Nomenclature to be used. All exhibits must be entered and staged in accordance with the classification and nomenclature used in *The Rhododendron Handbook* 1998 (RHS, 1998). There are two exceptions to this: firstly, the retention, for horticultural convenience, of *Rhododendron yakushimanum* as a species and secondly the retention as Group names of some entities which are no longer recognised botanically but which still have horticultural value. The latter are given in *An Alphabetical Checklist of Rhododendron Species* (RHS, 1981). *Menziesia* is now considered to be a member of genus *Rhododendron*. The classification of hybrids should contrive to follow *The International Rhododendron Register and Checklist* (2004) and any subsequent supplements except that the nomenclature of species used as parents *must* follow that in the 1998 *Handbook*.
29. **Rhododendrons: The meaning of “truss” and “spray”.** The term “truss” means a single rachis and, therefore, a group of heads may not be shown where a “truss” is called for. The term “spray” means a single stem or branch.
30. **The Classifications of cultivars of Camellia.** For the purposes of the Competition and Show, cultivars of *Camellia* are classified into six groups conforming to the following definitions:  
**Single** – Flower with usually eight and not more than nine petals.  
**Semi-double** – Flower with two or more rows of petals; stamens conspicuous.  
**Anemone-formed** – Flower flat, with one or more rows of larger outer petals, and a central convex mass composed of petaloids and stamens intermingled.  
**Peony-formed** – Flower deep and rounded, with several rows of outer petals, and a central convex mass of twisted petaloids and stamens.  
**Rose-formed** – Flower with imbricated petals, showing stamens in a concave centre when fully open.  
**Formal-double** – Flower with many rows of fully imbricated petals, never showing stamens.
31. **Camellias** – Blooms, sprays and vases. In classes calling for blooms, each species or cultivar is to be represented by one bloom with or without a leaf or leaves. Exhibitors should note that although they are not obligatory, leaves are desirable and can significantly enhance an exhibit. Containers will be provided. The term “spray” means a small branch. In no case may a spray exceed 24” from the top of the vase and 24” in width. Green vases 6” and 9” in height will be provided for sprays. No other method of staging blooms or sprays may be used. The term “vase” means multiple stems or branches. In no case may a vase exceed 30” from the top of the vase and 30” in width. Green vases 11” in height will be provided for vases.
32. **Camellias** – for purposes of determining parentage for the different classes, the final decision will rest with the *International Camellia Register & supplements*, where a named camellia is listed.
33. **Magnolias** – Sprays and vases. The term “spray” means a small branch. The term “vase” means multiple stems or branches.
34. **Bracts** – For the purposes of these competitions, plants such as *Cornus kousa*, *Davidia* and *Euphorbia*, grown for their ornamental bracts, are eligible as flowering plants in bloom if their bracts are fully expanded even if their florets are not open.

35. **Cones** – For the purposes of these competitions, the term “cones” includes both pollen-bearing male and seed-bearing female cones together with berry-like modified cones such as those on *Juniperus*, *Prunnopitys*, *Taxus* etc

36. **Spring foliage** – For the purpose of these competitions, spring foliage refers to young, new growth.

37. **Autumnal foliage** – Judges should be advised that coloration that is natural for a deciduous plant for most of its growing season should not be considered autumnal and exhibits of purple or golden forms e.g. *Acer*, *Betula*, *Cotinus* and *Fagus* etc, should not be considered for prizes unless the foliage shows a marked difference from its summer appearance.

38. **Bulbous plants** – For the purposes of these competitions, bulbous plants also include those grown from tubers, corms or rhizomes.

## CUPS AND TROPHIES

<b>THE EARLY CAMELLIA COMPETITION</b>	
The International Camellia Society (UK) Cup	Twelve cultivars of camellia, one bloom of each
<b>THE EARLY RHODODENDRON COMPETITION</b>	
The Alan Hardy Challenge Salver	Leading exhibitor based on first, second and third prizes
<b>THE MAIN CAMELLIA COMPETITION</b>	
The Leonardslee Bowl	Twelve cultivars of camellia, one bloom of each
<b>THE SPRING ORNAMENTAL PLANT COMPETITION</b>	
The Charles Eley Centenary Bowl	Four trees or shrubs in bloom
<b>THE MAIN RHODODENDRON COMPETITION</b>	
The Lionel de Rothschild Challenge Cup	The winner of Class 1 (six species of rhododendron)
The McLaren Challenge Cup	The winner of Class 3 (one truss of a species rhododendron)
The Roza Stevenson Challenge Cup	The winner of Class 4 (one spray of a species rhododendron)
The Loder Challenge Cup	The winner of Class 34 (one truss of a hybrid rhododendron)
The Crosfield Challenge Cup	The winner of Class 36 (three hybrids raised by or in the garden of the exhibitor)
The Barry Starling Cup	The winner of Class 68 (Any containerised rhododendron plant in bloom)
<b>THE AUTUMN ORNAMENTAL PLANT COMPETITION</b>	
The Stephenson R Clarke Cup	Four trees or shrubs with autumnal fruits
The Rosse Cup	Three conifers shown for foliage effect

**THE EARLY CAMELLIA COMPETITION**  
**SATURDAY AND SUNDAY**  
**MARCH 14 & 15 2026**

*Please refer to Regulations 12, 17, 27, 30, 31 and 32 and Notes on Hybrids on page 9*

**DIVISION 1a: SPRAYS**

**Prize Money in this division:**

First Prize, £10

Second Prize, £6

Third Prize, £4

Class 1. **Any *C. japonica* cultivar**, one spray.

Class 2. **Any *C. × williamsii* cultivar**, one spray.

Class 3. **Any cultivar or species not eligible for classes listed above**, one spray.

Class 4. **Any miniature cultivar or species**, one spray.

**DIVISION 1b: VASES**

**Prize Money in this division:**

First Prize, £16

Second Prize, £12

Third Prize, £8

Class 5. **Any camellia, species or hybrid**, one vase of the same variety, space restricted to 2½' x 2½', no other plant material to be used.

Class 6. **An arrangement of camellias shown for effect**, one vase of the same or mixed varieties (exhibitors may use their own vase). Space restricted to 2½' x 2½', no other plant material to be used.

**DIVISION 2: BLOOMS**

**Prize Money in this division (unless otherwise stated):**

First Prize, £6

Second Prize, £4

Third Prize, £2

**Section A**

**Cultivars of *Camellia japonica***

**Sub-section 1 – single cultivars**

Class 9. **Any twelve**, one bloom of each.

*First Prize, The International Camellia Society (UK) Cup and £32;  
Second, £24; Third, £16*

Class 10. **Any three single-flowered cultivars**, one bloom of each.

*First Prize, £10; Second, £6; Third, £4.*

Class 11. **Any single-flowered cultivar**, one bloom.

## Sub-section 2 – semi-double cultivars

Class 12. **Any three semi-double cultivars**, one bloom of each.  
*First Prize, £10; Second, £6; Third, £4.*

Class 13. **Any semi-double cultivar**, one bloom.

## Sub-section 3 – anemone-formed and peony-formed cultivars

Class 14. **Any three anemone-formed or peony-formed cultivars**, one bloom of each.  
*First Prize, £10; Second, £6; Third, £4.*

Class 15. **Any anemone-formed or peony-formed cultivar**, one bloom.

## Sub-section 4 – rose-formed and formal double cultivars

Class 16. **Any three rose-formed or formal double cultivars**, one bloom of each.  
*First Prize, £10; Second, £6; Third, £4.*

Class 17. **Any rose-formed or formal double cultivar**, one bloom.

## Sub-section 5 – mixed types of *Camellia japonica*

Class 18. **Any six cultivars**, one bloom of each.  
*First Prize, £16; Second, £12; Third, £8.*

Class 19. **Any three cultivars**, one bloom of each.  
*First Prize, £10; Second, £6; Third, £4.*

## Section B

### Cultivars other than *Camellia japonica*

Class 20. **Any three, other than cultivars of *C. japonica***, one bloom of each.  
*First Prize, £10; Second, £6; Third, £4.*

Class 21. **Any three *C. reticulata*, species or hybrids** (parentage to be stated), one bloom of each.  
*First Prize, £10; Second, £6; Third, £4.*

Class 22. **Any *C. reticulata* hybrid of which one parent is *C. × williamsii* or *C. saluenensis*** (parentage to be stated), one bloom.

Class 23. **Any *C. reticulata* camellia, species or hybrid** (parentage to be stated), one bloom.

Class 24. **Any three *C. × williamsii***, one bloom of each.  
*First Prize, £10; Second, £6; Third, £4.*

Class 25. **Any single *C. × williamsii***, one bloom.

Class 26. **Any semi-double *C. × williamsii***, one bloom.

Class 27. **Any peony-formed or anemone-formed *C. × williamsii***, one bloom.

Class 28. **Any rose-formed or formal double *C. × williamsii***, one bloom.

Class 29. **Any hybrid not specified previously**, one bloom.

## Section C

### Miniatures and species

Class 30. **Any miniature**, one bloom.

Class 31. **Any three miniatures**, one bloom of each.  
*First Prize, £10; Second, £6; Third, £4.*

Class 32. **Any species**, one bloom.

Class 33. **Any three species**, one bloom of each.  
*First Prize, £10; Second, £6; Third, £4.*

## Section D

Class 34. **Any 'yellow' cultivar** (with yellow dominating the petal and/or petaloids), one bloom.

Class 35. **Three blooms** of the same cultivar.  
*First Prize, £16; Second, £12; Third, £8.*

Class 36. **Any camellia**, one bloom, shown by an exhibitor who has not won a First Prize within the last 5 years at a previous RHS Camellia Competition.

### NOTE

For the purposes of these Competitions:

- 1) Reticulata camellias include amongst other forms:
  - a. the species and its wild forms; hybrids between *C. reticulata* and *C. japonica*, *C. reticulata* cultivars of Chinese origin and their progeny
  - b. Hybrids between *C. × williamsii* including 'Barbara Clark', 'Black Lace', 'Brian', 'Dr Louis Polizzi', 'Francie L.', 'Grand Jury', 'Inspiration', 'Leonard Messel', 'Phyl Doak' and 'Salutation'.
  - c. 'Felice Harris' has been re-classified as a *C. × williamsii* and should now be entered in those classes.
- 2) *C. × williamsii* covers the hybrids between *C. japonica* and *C. saluenensis*, and includes any seedling of *C. × williamsii* provided that no species other than *C. japonica* or *C. saluenensis* is involved in the parentage.
- 3) *C. 'Vernalis'* and *C. 'Wabisuke'* are regarded as being of hybrid origin.
- 4) 'Miniature' blooms entered must be no more than 2½ inches (6cm) in diameter and should be representative of the normal flower size of the variety exhibited ie not uncharacteristically small.

THE EARLY RHODODENDRON COMPETITION  
SATURDAY AND SUNDAY  
APRIL 11 & 12 2026

Except where otherwise stated the prizes will be as follows:

First Prize, £10

Second Prize, £6

Third Prize, £4

*Please refer to Regulations 12, 28 and 29.*

*Additionally, the Rhododendron, Camellia and Magnolia Group will award The John Hilliard Cup for the best Rhododendron spray in the Competition (open to all competitors), The John Fox Rhododendron Plate for most points in the Rhododendron Competition (open to members only) and the Phostrogen Cup for the best rhododendron truss in the Competition (open to all competitors)*

### Section 1 - Species

Class 1. **Any six species**, one truss of each.

*First Prize, £32; Second, £24; Third, £16.*

Class 2. **Any three species**, one truss of each.

*First Prize, £16; Second, £12; Third, £8.*

Class 3. **Any species**, one truss.

Class 4. **Any species**, one spray not exceeding 30" from the top of the vase. Exhibits over 24" in width will not on that account gain extra marks.

*First Prize, £16; Second, £12; Third, £8.*

Class 5. **Any species of subsect. *Arborea***, one truss.

Class 6. **Any species of subsect. *Argyrophylla***, one truss.

Class 7. **Any species of subsect. *Barbata* subsect. *Glischra* or subsect. *Maculifera*** one truss.

Class 8. **Any species of subsect. *Campanulata*** one truss.

Class 9. **Any species of subsect. *Falconera* or subsect. *Grandia*** one truss.

Class 10. **Any species of subsect. *Fortunea***, one truss.

Class 11. **Any species of subsect. *Fulva***, one truss.

Class 12. **Any species of subsect. *Irrorata***, one truss.

Class 13. **Any species of subsect. *Neriflora***, one truss.

Class 14. **Any species of subsect. *Neriflora*** one spray not exceeding 12" from the top of the vase.

Class 15. **Any species of subsect. *Campylocarpa*, subsect. *Sellesia* or subsect. *Thomsonia***, one truss.

Class 16. **Any species of subsect. *Taliensia***, one truss.

Class 17. **Any species of subsect. *Pontica***, one truss.

Class 18. **Any elepidote species of genus *Rhododendron*** not mentioned above, one truss.

Class 19. **Any elepidote species of the genus *Rhododendron*** not mentioned in classes above, one spray not exceeding 24" in height from the top of the vase.

Class 20. **Any species of subsect. *Cinnabarina***, one spray not exceeding 12" from the top of the vase.

Class 21. **Any species of subsect. *Boothia*, *Edgeworthia* or *Maddenia***, grown in the open or otherwise, one truss.

Class 22. **Any species of subsect. *Boothia*, *Edgeworthia* or *Maddenia***, grown in the open or otherwise, one spray not exceeding 12" from the top of the vase.

Class 23. **Any species of subsect. *Glauca***, one spray not exceeding 12" from the top of the vase.

Class 24. **Any species of subsect. *Triflora* or *Heliolepidia***, one spray not exceeding 18" from the top of the vase.

Class 25. **Any species of subsect. *Lapponica***, one spray not exceeding 12" from the top of the vase.

Class 26. **Any species of subsect. *Scabrifolia***, one spray not exceeding 12" from the top of the vase.

Class 27. **Any lepidote species of genus *Rhododendron*** not mentioned above, one spray not exceeding 12" in height from the top of the vase.

Class 28. **Any species Azalea**, deciduous or evergreen, one spray not exceeding 24" from the top of the vase.

Class 29. **Any species Rhododendron**, one truss, shown by a first time exhibitor or any exhibitor who has not won a prize in the last five years at a previous RHS Rhododendron Competition.

## Section 2 – Hybrids

Class 30. **Any three elepidote hybrids**, one truss of each.  
*First Prize, £16; Second, £12; Third, £8.*

Class 31. **Any elepidote hybrid**, one truss.

Class 32. **Any elepidote hybrid**, one spray, not exceeding 30" from the top of the vase. Exhibits over 24" in width will not on that account gain extra marks.  
*First Prize, £16; Second, £12; Third, £8.*

Class 33. **Any hybrid of which one parent is a species of subsect. *Arborea***, one truss.

Class 34. **Any hybrid of which one parent is a species of subsect. *Fortunea***, one truss.

Class 35. **Any hybrid of which one parent is a species of subsect. *Falconera* or *Grandia***, one truss.

Class 36. **Any hybrid of which one parent is a species of subsect. *Thomsonia***, one truss.

Class 37. **Any hybrid of which one parent is *R. williamsianum***, one truss.

Class 38. **Any elepidote hybrid**, not catered for above, one truss.

Class 39. **Any hybrid of which one parent is a species of subsect. *Lapponica***, one spray not exceeding 12" in height from the top of the vase.

Class 40. **Any hybrid of which one parent is a species of subsect. *Triflora***, one spray not exceeding 18" in height from the top of the vase.

Class 41. **Any tender hybrid except subgenus *Vireya*** (grown under glass or otherwise) one truss.

Class 42. **Any tender hybrid except subgenus *Vireya*** (grown under glass or otherwise) one spray not exceeding 18" in height from the top of the vase.

Class 43. **Any tender species or hybrid of subgenus *Vireya*** (grown under glass or otherwise) one truss or spray not exceeding 12" from the top of the vase.

Class 44. **Any species or hybrid of subgenus *Vireya*** growing in a pot. (refer to Regulation 15 re Peat, page 4)

Class 45. **Any lepidote hybrid**, not catered for above, one spray not exceeding 12" from the top of the vase.

Class 46. **Any hybrid Azalea**, deciduous or evergreen, one spray not exceeding 24" in height from the top of the vase.

Class 47. **A hybrid Rhododendron**, one truss, shown by a first time exhibitor or any exhibitor who has not won a prize in the last five years at a previous RHS Rhododendron competition.

Class 48. **Foliage from a single rhododendron species or hybrid, lepidote or elepidote**, no flowers visible, one vase, not to exceed 30" from the top of the vase. Exhibits over 24" in width will not on that account gain extra marks.

SPRING ORNAMENTAL PLANT COMPETITION  
SATURDAY AND SUNDAY  
APRIL 11 & 12 2026

Except where otherwise stated the prizes will be as follows:

First Prize, £10

Second Prize, £6

Third Prize, £4

*Restriction in size: Entries in all classes must be no larger than 2½' x 2½'*

### Section A

Class 1. **Four trees or shrubs of different genera, in bloom**, other than a camellia, magnolia or rhododendron, one vase of each.  
*First Prize, The Charles Eley Centenary Bowl and £25; Second £18; Third, £12.*

Class 2. **Four ornamental plants of different genera, in bloom, including bulbs but excluding trees and/or shrubs**, in bloom, one vase of each.  
*First Prize, £25; Second £18; Third, £12.*

Class 3. **A tree or shrub, in bloom**, other than a camellia, magnolia or rhododendron, one vase.

Class 4. **A *Prunus* in bloom**, one vase.

Class 5. **A *Pieris* in bloom**, one vase.

Class 6. **A tree or shrub shown for its spring foliage**, excluding conifers, one vase. (See Regulation 36, page 6)

Class 7. **A tree or shrub shown for its variegated foliage**, excluding conifers, one vase.

Class 8. **A heather in bloom**, one vase.

Class 9. **A conifer shown for its foliage**, one vase.

Class 10. **A conifer shown for its cones** (male or female, including berry-like cones eg. *Taxus*), one vase.

Class 11. **A hardy herbaceous plant other than a bulb, in bloom**, one vase.

Class 12. **Any tree or shrub other than a camellia or rhododendron grown under glass, in bloom**, one vase.

Class 13. **A pot, pan or vase of bulbs grown under glass or otherwise, in bloom.**  
*(refer to Regulation 15 re Peat, page 4)*

## Section B – Magnolias

*The Rhododendron, Camellia and Magnolia Group will award the Magnolia Rose Bowl for the most points in Section B (open to all competitors)*

Class 14. **Any species, hybrid or cultivar**, excluding *M. kobus*, *M. salicifolia*, *M. stellata* or *M. × loebneri* species or hybrids, one vase.

Class 15. **Any species, hybrid or cultivar**, excluding *M. kobus*, *M. salicifolia*, *M. stellata* or *M. × loebneri* species or hybrids, one spray.

Class 16. **Any species, hybrid or cultivar**, excluding *M. kobus*, *M. salicifolia*, *M. stellata* or *M. × loebneri* species or hybrids, one bloom.

Class 17. **Any three different species, hybrids or cultivars**, one single bloom of each in three vases.

Class 18. **Any *M. kobus*, *M. salicifolia*, *M. stellata* or *M. × loebneri***, species or hybrid, one spray.

Class 19. **Any *M. kobus*, *M. salicifolia*, *M. stellata* or *M. × loebneri***, species or hybrid, one bloom.

Class 20. **Any magnolia**, one bloom, shown by a first time exhibitor or any exhibitor who has not won a prize in the last five years at a previous RHS Spring Ornamental Plant Competition.

Class 21. **An informal arrangement in a vase, urn or basket of foliage and garden flowers**, including rhododendrons, camellias and magnolias from the garden of the competitor to demonstrate the colourful arrival of Spring, not exceeding 30" high, 30" wide and 30" deep.  
*(See Regulation 14, page 4)*

*Arrangements may be collected at 4pm on the first day of the show, but it is hoped to be able to display the arrangements for the duration of the event, closing at 4pm the following day.*

**THE MAIN CAMELLIA COMPETITION**  
**SATURDAY AND SUNDAY**  
**APRIL 11 & 12 2026**

*Please refer to Regulations 12, 17, 27, 30, 31 and 32 and Notes on Hybrids on page 9*

**DIVISION 1a: SPRAYS**

**Prize Money in this division:**

First Prize, £10

Second Prize, £6

Third Prize, £4

*Additionally, the SE Branch of the Rhododendron, Camellia and Magnolia Group will award the Peter Betteley Cup for the most points in the Competition (open to branch members only)*

Class 1. **Any three**, one spray of each, other than *C. japonica*.

*First Prize, £25; Second, £18; Third, £12.*

Class 2. **Any three *C. japonica* cultivars**, one spray of each.

*First Prize, £25; Second, £18; Third, £12.*

Class 3. **Any *C. japonica* cultivar**, one spray.

Class 4. **Any *C. × williamsii* cultivar**, one spray.

Class 5. **Any species or hybrid not eligible for classes listed above**, one spray.

Class 6. **Any miniature cultivar or species**, one spray.

**DIVISION 1b: VASES**

**Prize Money in this division:**

First Prize, £16

Second Prize, £12

Third Prize, £8

Class 7. **Any camellia, species or hybrid**, one vase of the same variety, space restricted to 2½' x 2½', no other plant material to be used.

Class 8. **An arrangement of camellias shown for effect**, one vase (exhibitors may use their own vase). Space restricted to 2½' x 2½' no other plant material to be used.

## DIVISION 2: BLOOMS

**Prize Money in this division (unless otherwise stated):**

First Prize, £6

Second Prize, £4

Third Prize, £2

*Additionally, the International Camellia Society will award its ICS Challenge Plate to the bloom judged 'Best Bloom in Show', and the Marigold Assinder Challenge Cup to the winner of Novice Class 34*

*A competitor may exhibit in both Class 10 and 11, but the same cultivar may not be exhibited in both classes*

Class 10. **Any twelve**, one bloom of each.

*First Prize, The Leonardslee Bowl and £32; Second, £24; Third, £16.*

Class 11. **Any six cultivars**, one bloom of each.

*First Prize, £16; Second, £12; Third, £8.*

Class 12. **Three blooms of the same cultivar.**

*First Prize, £16; Second, £12; Third, £8.*

### Section A

#### **Cultivars of *Camellia japonica***

##### **Sub-section 1 – single cultivars**

Class 13. **Any three single-flowered cultivars**, one bloom of each.

*First Prize, £10; Second, £6; Third, £4.*

Class 14. **Any single-flowered cultivar**, one bloom.

##### **Sub-section 2 – semi-double cultivars**

Class 15. **Any three semi-double cultivars**, one bloom of each.

*First Prize, £10; Second, £6; Third, £4.*

Class 16. **Any semi-double cultivar**, one bloom.

##### **Sub-section 3 – anemone-formed and peony-formed cultivars**

Class 17. **Any three anemone-formed or peony-formed cultivars**, one bloom of each.

*First Prize, £10; Second, £6; Third, £4.*

Class 18. **Any anemone-formed or peony-formed cultivar**, one bloom.

##### **Sub-section 4 – rose-formed and formal double cultivars**

Class 19. **Any three rose-formed or formal double cultivars**, one bloom of each.

*First Prize, £10; Second, £6; Third, £4.*

Class 20. **Any rose-formed or formal double cultivar**, one bloom.

## Section B

### Cultivars other than *Camellia japonica*

Class 21. **Any three, other than cultivars of *C. japonica***, one bloom of each.  
*First Prize, £10; Second, £6; Third, £4.*

Class 22. **Any *C. reticulata* camellia, species or hybrid** (Parentage to be stated), one bloom.

Class 23. **Any three *C. × williamsii***, one bloom of each.  
*First Prize, £10; Second, £6; Third, £4.*

Class 24. **Any single-flowered *C. × williamsii* cultivar**, one bloom.

Class 25. **Any semi-double *C. × williamsii* cultivar**, one bloom.

Class 26. **Any anemone-formed or peony-formed *C. × williamsii* cultivar**, one bloom.

Class 27. **Any rose-formed or formal double *C. × williamsii* cultivar**, one bloom.

## Section C

### Miniatures and species

Class 28. **Any miniature**, one bloom.

Class 29. **Any three miniature blooms**, one bloom of each.  
*First Prize, £10; Second, £6; Third, £4.*

Class 30. **Any species**, one bloom.

Class 31. **Any three species**, one bloom of each.  
*First Prize, £10; Second, £6; Third, £4.*

## Section D

Class 32. **Any hybrid not specified previously**, one bloom.

Class 33. **Any 'yellow' cultivar** (with yellow dominating the petal and/or petaloids), one bloom.

Class 34. **Any camellia**, one bloom, shown by an exhibitor who has not won a First Prize within the last 5 years at a previous RHS Camellia Competition.

#### NOTE:

Please refer to the notes on page 9 for the classification of camellia hybrids for the purpose of these competition

THE MAIN RHODODENDRON COMPETITION  
SATURDAY AND SUNDAY  
APRIL 25 & 26 2026

Except where otherwise stated the prizes will be as follows:

First Prize, £10

Second Prize, £6

Third Prize, £4

*Please refer to Regulations 12, 28 and 29.*

### Section 1 – Species

*A competitor may exhibit in Class 1 and 2, but the same species may not be exhibited in both classes.  
A species in these two classes includes its variants.*

Class 1. **Any six species**, one truss of each.

*First Prize, The Lionel de Rothschild Challenge Cup and £32; Second, £24; Third, £16.*

Class 2. **Any three species**, one truss of each.

*First Prize, £16; Second, £12; Third, £8.*

Class 3. **Any species**, one truss.

*First Prize, The McLaren Challenge Cup and £10; Second, £6; Third, £4.*

Class 4. **Any species**, one spray not exceeding 30" from the top of the vase. Exhibits over 24" in width will, not on that account gain extra marks.

*First Prize, The Roza Stevenson Challenge Cup and £16; Second, £12; Third, £8.*

Class 5. **Any species of subsect. *Arborea***, one truss.

Class 6. **Any species of subsect. *Argyrophylla***, one truss.

Class 7. **Any species of subsect. *Barbata*, subsect. *Glischra* or subsect. *Maculifera*** one truss.

Class 8. **Any species of subsect. *Campanulata*, subsect. *Fulgensia* or subsect. *Lanata***, one truss.

Class 9. **Any species of subsect. *Grandia* or subsect. *Falconera***, one truss.

Class 10. **Any species of subsect. *Fortunea***, one truss.

Class 11. **Any species of subsect. *Fulva*, subsect. *Irrorata* or subsect. *Parishia***, one truss.

Class 12. **Any species of subsect. *Taliensis***, one truss.

Class 13. **Any species of subsect. *Neriflora***, one truss.

Class 14. **Any species of subsect. *Neriflora***, one spray not exceeding 12" in height from the top of the vase.

Class 15. **Any species of subsect. *Pontica***, one truss.

Class 16. **Any species of subsect. *Thomsonia*, subsect. *Sellesia* or subsect. *Campylocarpa***, one truss.

Class 17. **Any species of subsect. *Thomsonia*, subsect. *Sellesia* or subsect. *Campylocarpa***, one spray not exceeding 12" from the top of the vase.

Class 18. **Any elepidote species of genus *Rhododendron*** not mentioned in classes above, one truss or spray not exceeding 24" from the top of the vase.

Class 19. **Any species of subsect. *Boothia*, subsect. *Edgeworthia* or subsect. *Maddenia***, grown in the open or otherwise, one spray not exceeding 12" from the top of the vase.

Class 20. **Any species of subsect. *Boothia*, subsect. *Edgeworthia* or subsect. *Maddenia***, grown in the open or otherwise, one truss.

Class 21. **Any species of subsect. *Triflora* and subsect. *Heliolepidia* other than *R. augustinii***, one spray not exceeding 18" from the top of the vase.

Class 22. ***R. augustinii***, one spray not exceeding 24" from the top of the vase.

Class 23. **Any species of subsect. *Cinnabrina*, subsect. *Tephropepla* or subsect. *Virgata***, one spray not exceeding 12" from the top of the vase.

Class 24. **Any species of subsect. *Campylogyna*, subsect. *Genestieriana* or subsect. *Glauca***, one spray not exceeding 12" from the top of the vase.

Class 25. **Any species of subsect. *Lapponica***, one spray not exceeding 12" from the top of the vase.

Class 26. **Any species of subsect. *Scabrifolia***, one spray not exceeding 12" from the top of the vase.

Class 27. **Any species of sect. *Pogonanthum* or subsect. *Lepidota***, one spray not exceeding 12" from the top of the vase.

Class 28. **Any lepidote species of genus *Rhododendron*** not mentioned above, one truss or spray not exceeding 12" from the top of the vase.

Class 29. **Any species of subgenus *Vireya***, one truss, grown under glass.

Class 30. **Any species of deciduous azalea**, one spray not exceeding 24" from the top of the vase.

Class 31. **Any species of evergreen azalea**, one spray not exceeding 18" from the top of the vase.

## Section 2 – Hybrids

*A competitor may exhibit in Class 32 and 33, but the same hybrid may not be exhibited in both classes*

Class 32. **Six hybrids**, one truss of each.  
*First Prize, £32; Second, £24; Third, £16.*

Class 33. **Three hybrids**, one truss of each.  
*First Prize, £16; Second, £12; Third, £8.*

Class 34. **Any hybrid**, one truss.  
*First Prize, The Loder Challenge Cup and £10; Second, £6; Third, £4.*

Class 35. **Any hybrid**, one spray not exceeding 30" from the top of the vase. Exhibits over 24" in width will not on that account gain extra marks.  
*First Prize, £16; Second, £12; Third, £8.*

Class 36. **Three hybrids, of different parentage, bred and raised in the garden of the exhibitor**, one truss of each. Parentage should be indicated where known.  
*First Prize, The Crosfield Challenge Cup and £16; Second, £12; Third, £8.*

Class 37. **Any deliberate hybrid or chance seedling, lepidote or elepidote, raised in the garden of the exhibitor**, one truss or spray not exceeding 30" in height from the top of the vase. Parentage should be indicated where known.

Class 38. **Loderi Group**, one truss. Cultivars should be named where known.

Class 39. **Any hybrid of which one parent is a species of subsect. *Fortunea* (excluding the Loderi Group)**, one truss.

Class 40. **Any hybrid of which one parent is *R. williamsianum***, one truss.

Class 41. **Any hybrid of which one parent is *R. williamsianum***, one spray not exceeding 30" from the top of the vase.

Class 42. **Any hybrid of which one parent is a species of subsect. *Campylocarpa***, one truss.

Class 43. **Any hybrid of which one parent is a species of subsect. *Neriiflora*** one truss.

Class 44. **Any hybrid of which one parent is *R. thomsonii***, one truss.

Class 45. **Any hybrid of which one parent is a species of subsect. *Grandia* or subsect. *Falconera***, one truss.

Class 46. **Any hybrid of which one parent is *R. griersonianum***, one truss.

Class 47. **Any hybrid of which one parent is a species of subsect. *Taliensia***, one truss.

Class 48. **Any hybrid of which one parent is a species of subsect. *Pontica***, one truss.

Class 49. **Any hybrid of which one parent is a species of subsect. *Arborea* or subsect. *Argyrophylla***, one truss.

Class 50. **Any hybrid of which one parent is a species of subsect. *Cinnabarina***, one spray not exceeding 18" from the top of the vase.

Class 51. **Any hybrid of which one parent is a species of subsect. *Edgeworthia* or subsect. *Maddenia***, grown in the open or otherwise, one truss.

Class 52. **Any hybrid of which one parent is a species of subsect. *Edgeworthia* or subsect. *Maddenia***, grown in the open or otherwise, one spray not exceeding 18" from the top of the vase.

Class 53. **Any hybrid of which one parent is a species of subsect. *Triflora***, one spray not exceeding 18" from the top of the vase.

Class 54. **Any other lepidote hybrid** not mentioned above, one truss or spray not exceeding 18" from the top of the vase.

Class 55. **Any other elepidote hybrid of genus *Rhododendron*** not mentioned above, one truss.

Class 56. **Any other elepidote hybrid of genus *Rhododendron*** not mentioned above, one spray not exceeding 24" from the top of the vase.

Class 57. **Any hybrid Vireya**, one truss.

Class 58. **Any hybrid Vireya**, one spray not exceeding 18" from the top of the vase.

Class 59. **Any elepidote hybrid bred in North America (Canada or USA)**, one truss.

Class 60. **Any elepidote hybrid bred in the UK**, one truss.

Class 61. **Any elepidote hybrid bred in Europe excluding the UK**, one truss.

Class 62. **Any elepidote hybrid bred elsewhere in the world**, one truss.

Class 63. **Any rhododendron**, one truss, shown by a first time exhibitor or any exhibitor who has not won a prize in the last five years at a previous RHS Rhododendron Competition.

Class 64. **Any evergreen hybrid azalea**, one spray, not exceeding 18" from the top of the vase.

Class 65. **Any deciduous hybrid azalea**, one spray, not exceeding 24" from the top of the vase.

Class 66. **Any azaleodendron**, one spray, not exceeding 24" from the top of the vase.

Class 67. **Foliage from a single rhododendron species or hybrid, lepidote or elepidote**, no flowers visible, one vase, not to exceed 30" from the top of the vase. Exhibits over 24" in width will not on that account gain extra marks.

Class 68. **Any containerised rhododendron plant in bloom**, not to exceed 18" from the base of the main stem. Exhibits over 24" in width will not on that account gain extra marks  
Container not to exceed 14" in width. (Exhibitors may remove their entries from the bench from 4pm on the first day of the Competition.) (refer to Regulation 15 re Peat, page 4)  
*First Prize, The Barry Starling Cup*

THE HARLOW CARR RHODODENDRON COMPETITION  
SATURDAY AND SUNDAY  
May 2 & 3 2026

Except where otherwise stated the prizes will be as follows:

First Prize, £10

Second Prize, £6

Third Prize, £4

*Please refer to Regulations 12, 28 and 29.*

*A glass trophy is offered to the leading exhibitor in the Competition, based on first, second and third prizes.*

*A glass trophy will also be awarded for the best vase in the competition.*

Class 1. **Any elepidote species**, one truss.

Class 2. **Any elepidote species**, one spray not exceeding 36" from the top of the vase.

Class 3. **Any lepidote species**, one spray not exceeding 24" from the top of the vase.

Class 4. **Any elepidote hybrid**, one truss.

Class 5. **Three elepidote hybrids**, one truss of each.

*First Prize, £16; Second, £12; Third, £8.*

Class 6. **Any elepidote hybrid**, one spray not exceeding 36" from the top of the vase.

Class 7. **Any *Rhododendron yakushimanum*** cultivar or hybrid, one truss.

Class 8. **Any lepidote hybrid**, one spray not exceeding 24" from the top of the vase.

Class 9. **Any tender species or hybrid (grown under glass or otherwise) from subgenus *Vireya* or from subsections *Edgeworthia* or *Maddenia* of section *Rhododendron***, one truss or spray not exceeding 24" from the top of the vase.

Class 10. **Any deciduous azalea species or hybrid**, one spray not exceeding 36" from the top of the vase.

Class 11. **Any evergreen azalea species or hybrid**, one spray not exceeding 36" from the top of the vase.

Class 12. **Any rhododendron or azalea cultivar, raised from seed by the exhibitor**, one truss or spray.

Class 13. **A display of rhododendron foliage** from a range of species, arranged to demonstrate the way foliage is important and a major attraction throughout the seasons. To be arranged for decorative effect in a vase (may be provided by the exhibitor).

Class 14. **Any companion plant**, one potted species or hybrid. (refer to Regulation 15 re Peat, page 4)

Class 15. **Any rhododendron**, one truss, shown by a first time exhibitor or any exhibitor who has not won a prize in the last five years at a previous RHS Rhododendron Competition.

# THE AUTUMN ORNAMENTAL PLANT COMPETITION

FRIDAY, SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

OCTOBER 2-4 2026

**Except where otherwise stated the prizes will be as follows:**

First Prize, £10

Second Prize, £6

Third Prize, £4

*Restriction in size: Entries in all classes must be no larger than 2½' x 2½' unless otherwise stated.*

*The removal of shoots or leaves in order to make the fruits more conspicuous will be regarded as a fault if the natural habit of the plant is thereby altered.*

Class 1. **Four trees or shrubs of different genera with autumnal fruits**, one vase of each (unrestricted size).

*First Prize, The Stephenson R Clarke Cup and First Prize, £25; Second £18; Third, £12.*

Class 2. **Four trees or shrubs of different genera with autumnal foliage**, one vase of each (unrestricted size). (See Regulation 37, page 6)

*First Prize £25; Second £18; Third, £12.*

Class 3. **A tree or shrub with autumnal fruits**, one vase.

Class 4. **A tree or shrub with autumnal foliage**, one vase. (See Regulation 37, page 6)

Class 5. **A tree or shrub with autumnal fruits and foliage**, one vase. (See Regulation 37, page 6)

Class 6. **Roses in fruit, one variety**, three stems, one vase.

Class 7. **A tree or shrub in bloom**, one vase.

Class 8. **A heath or heather in bloom**, one vase.

Class 9. **A tree or shrub shown for its coloured bark**, one vase.

Class 10. **A bamboo**, one vase or plant (unrestricted size).

Class 11. **Three conifers shown for foliage effect**, one vase of each (unrestricted size).

*First Prize, The Rosse Cup and £16; Second £12; Third £8.*

Class 12. **A conifer shown for foliage effect**, one vase.

Class 13. **A conifer shown for its cones** (male or female, including berry-like cones eg. *Taxus*), one vase.

Class 14. **A hardy herbaceous plant, in bloom**, one vase, mixed cultivars permitted.

Class 15. **A herbaceous plant or bulbous plant with ornamental berries or seed heads**, one vase.

Class 16. **A grass or sedge, other than a bamboo, in bloom or otherwise**, one vase or plant (unrestricted size). (refer to Regulation 15 re Peat, page 4)

Class 17. **A plant other than a tree, shrub or grass with autumnal foliage**, one vase.  
(See Regulation 37, page 6)

Class 18. **A climbing plant with autumnal foliage**, one vase (unrestricted size). (See Regulation 37, page 6)

Class 19. **Dahlias, mixed varieties**, one vase displayed for overall effect.

Class 20. **Chrysanthemums, mixed varieties**, one vase displayed for overall effect.

Class 21. **A tender plant, other than a bulb, grown under glass or otherwise, in bloom**, one vase.

Class 22. **A pot, pan or vase of bulbs grown under glass or otherwise**. (Mixed cultivars permitted).  
(refer to Regulation 15 re Peat, page 4)

Class 23. **Any flowering plant not included in previous classes**, one vase or pot.  
(refer to Regulation 15 re Peat, page 4)

Class 24. **An informal arrangement in a vase, urn or basket of foliage, fruits and garden flowers from the garden of the competitor to demonstrate the beautiful shades of autumn**, not exceeding 30" high, 30" wide and 30" deep. (see Regulation 14, page 4)

*Arrangements may be collected at 4pm on the first day of the show, but it is hoped to be able to display the arrangements for the duration of the event, closing at 4pm on the third day.*

## NOTES

## NOTES

## **The Rhododendron, Camellia and Magnolia Group**

If you are enthusiastic about rhododendrons, camellias or magnolias you can join a specialist group dedicated to the enjoyment and study of rhododendrons, camellias and magnolias, both in the wild and in cultivation worldwide.

The Rhododendron, Camellia and Magnolia Group organises a range of activities – lectures, garden visits, tours and publications for its Members. It is a friendly and informal circle of enthusiasts and caters for all levels of experience and interest - from those just beginning to garden with these fabulous shrubs and trees, to experienced hands willing to share their knowledge.

For more information, including how to join, visit us online at:

**[www.rhodogroup-rhs.org](http://www.rhodogroup-rhs.org)**

Or contact:

Robbie Sampson, Membership Secretary  
Tanglewood Cottage, 29 Ottershaw Park, Ottershaw, Surrey KT16 0QG  
[membership@rhodogroup-rhs.org](mailto:membership@rhodogroup-rhs.org)

## **The International Camellia Society**

Membership is open to everyone interested in camellias. With nearly 1,450 members in 27 countries, the Society provides advice around the world on all areas of camellia interest, including cultivation, nomenclature, and registration of camellias.

The *International Camellia Journal*, published annually, contains articles about camellia cultivation, research, and other activities in all parts of the world. An International Camellia Congress is held every two years. The 2027 Congress will be held in the Southeast U.S.A. Earlier Congresses have been in Nantes, France, Dali, China, Pontevedra, Spain and Cornwall in the U.K.

For more information, visit online at:

**[www.internationalcamellia.org](http://www.internationalcamellia.org)**

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## **Rhododendrons, Camellias and Magnolias 2026**

This annual collection of illustrated articles for Rhododendron, Camellia and Magnolia enthusiasts is contributed to by international experts, both professional and amateur. It covers a wide range of botanical, horticultural and historical subjects involving plants, places and people.

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