

Your Gift in Will Guide





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Thank you so much for thinking about including the Royal Horticultural Society in your Will.

We need the help of passionate gardeners like you to pass on the love of plants and horticulture to future generations.

Gifts in Wills really are vital to the RHS. As a charity that receives no direct financial support from the government we rely on visitors, members and supporters like you to be able to continue to inspire everyone to grow.

By leaving a gift in your Will to the RHS you can help enrich lives through the power of plants and make significant and exciting changes to the world around us, and to those that come after us.

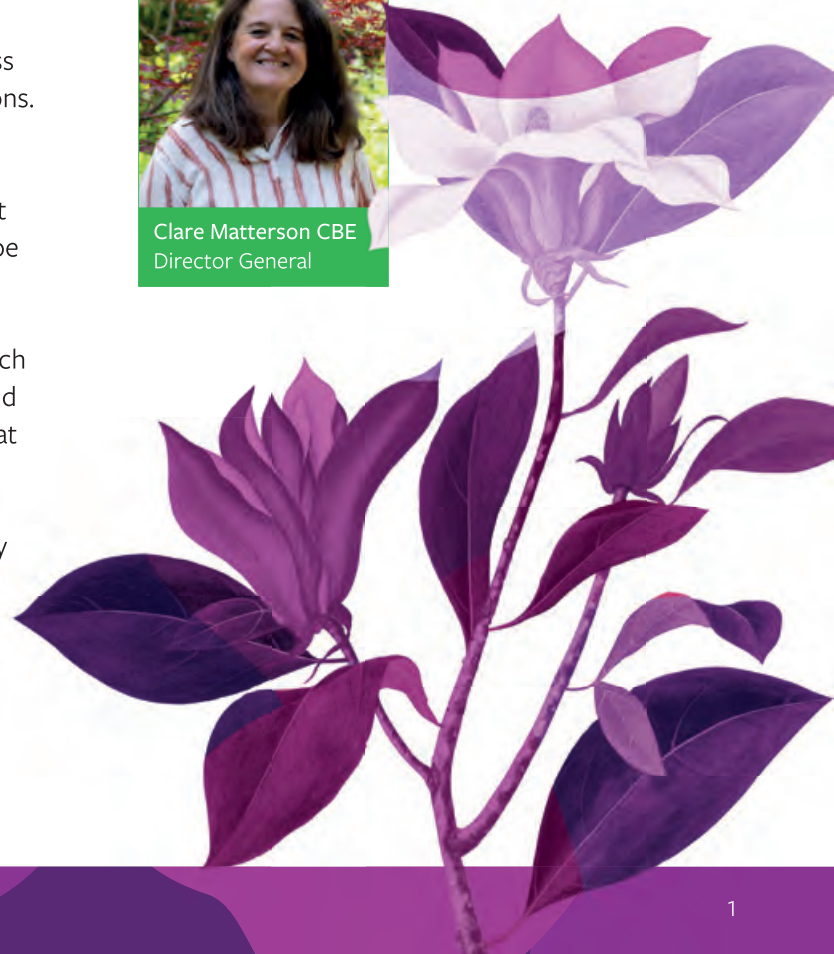
With heartfelt thanks again for considering this incredibly special way to give to the RHS.



Clare Matterson CBE
Director General



Clare Matterson CBE
Director General





Every gift to the RHS, no matter how large or small, will make a lasting difference and help to make the UK a greener, healthier and happier place.

Help *enrich* everyone's life through plants

Approximately 30 million people in the UK now do some form of gardening. Your gift can help that number increase, no matter the size of growing space available. By encouraging more people to grow beautiful flowers and tasty vegetables, or nurture life-enhancing trees and shared green spaces, we want to see everyone benefit from the extraordinary properties of plants. Leaving a gift in your Will to the RHS can make this happen.

“If a legacy can enable even one child to enjoy a gardening experience, or help one student on the way to an important and satisfying career, then it will be a gift to a very worthy cause”

RHS Legacy Supporter

Help *nurture* your most treasured RHS Garden

All of our supporters have a favourite RHS Garden – one that holds special memories, or simply one that they have visited the most. By leaving a gift in your Will to your best-loved RHS Garden you will be helping preserve the diverse plant collections and unique nature to be enjoyed long into the future.

Your gift will not only protect these beautiful sites but also help develop inspirational planting schemes and innovative designs, which constantly change with the seasons and adapt with the decades.

“I want to encourage others to be inspired to garden through the RHS – especially the Rosemoor experience.”

RHS Legacy Supporter

The Hot Garden in summer, RHS Garden Rosemoor >





Help *inspire* future generations of gardeners

Educational visits for school children of all ages are at the heart of all RHS Gardens. Your gift could help support school visits and nurture the horticulturists, scientists, florists, arborists, designers and mental health practitioners of tomorrow.

The RHS School of Horticulture provides training for more than 50 students and apprentices each year. Apprenticeships are available at all RHS Gardens and we aim to expand our programme to increase access to our world-class facilities and fill the skills gap in UK horticultural expertise. Your gift could help someone find a fulfilling role in the world of horticulture.

“There is no better legacy than to support continuing life. Gardening and nature have given so much enjoyment, it is only fitting to give back.”

Gill Smith,
RHS Legacy Supporter

< Enjoying the Woodland Play Area at RHS Garden Bridgewater



Help grow a greener future

To improve the health of people, plants and the planet the RHS is continuing to strive for advances in horticultural science. Your gift could help support our scientific research into the pests and diseases that threaten our precious plants, find better ways to manage emerging threats to the UK's biosecurity, or help mitigate the effects of climate change.

In collaboration with UK university and industry partners, our scientists support PhD students and horticultural post-doctoral fellowships. One study is looking at optimising garden tree selection to help benefit the environment.

“I have great admiration for the work and the benefits one gains from visits to the gardens; for those with health problems, young children, the older generation. Gardening and the outdoor life is such a therapy in this age of stress and tension.”

Janet Wilkinson,
RHS Legacy Supporter

Examining a specimen in the Diagnostics Laboratory at RHS Hilltop – The Home of Gardening Science >





Help *release* the positive power of plants

Seasoned gardeners intrinsically know that gardening is good for them – it just feels right. We all also know how great it feels to be surrounded by plants. Your gift can help explore the scientific research into the healing power of plants, for both physical and mental wellbeing.

“I have left the RHS a gift in my Will for the benefit of my grandchildren and all others who like the garden.”

RHS Legacy Supporter

Case study

RHS research project in Salford, Manchester

In her four-year study, Laurianne Suyin Chalmin-Pui, our first RHS Wellbeing Fellow, has now proven that having just a few plants outside a front door can significantly reduce stress levels. Laurianne distributed two planted containers and Amelanchier trees to 38 households and found a significant increase in patterns of healthy cortisol (a hormone that regulates stress) with a relatively small number of plants.

Before the experiment, 24% of residents had healthy cortisol patterns. Just three months after the plants were introduced, this increased to 54% of residents.

Those with plants in their front gardens reported feeling happier and those suffering from loneliness also found the plants uplifting.

Help *protect* our historic collections for all to enjoy

With the completion of RHS Hilltop – The Home of Gardening Science at RHS Garden Wisley, your gift could further enable us to safeguard and share the comprehensive Lindley Library, Herbarium and entomological collections to a wider audience.

Horticultural artworks and images are an essential part of our heritage but also help us understand and protect the future of plants and gardens. We are continually adding to our collection and making it even more useful and accessible.

“We share a great love of gardens and gardening – also, as locals, a love of Wisley and all that you do to promote gardening as a career. We hope that the garden will continue to be an inspiration for many generations to come.”

Stephen and Susan Rayner,
RHS Legacy Supporters

Recording the colour of a Herbarium specimen at RHS Hilltop – The Home of Gardening Science >



Leaving a gift to the RHS – frequently asked questions

Why does the RHS need legacy donations?

Gifts in Wills are vital to the RHS. As a charity that receives no direct government funding, we can only continue our work through support from visitors, members and donors.

Can I choose how the RHS uses my gift?

Yes you can. We welcome gifts that can be spent wherever the need is greatest but we are also happy to accept gifts for a particular RHS Garden or area of our work that has special meaning to you. Suggested wording for this can be found in the following pages.

Can I be sure that the RHS will spend my gift in the way that I choose?

We always endeavour to honour the wishes set out in a Will. However, in some circumstances where there are very specific terms attached to a gift, the RHS may not be able to spend it or accept it if the terms do not fall under our remit of work. If you do have a very specific request please do get in touch so that we can discuss your intentions and so that you can be sure we will be able to carry out your wishes.

What is the difference between a residuary gift and a pecuniary gift?

A residuary gift is a proportion of your estate once gifts of money or items have been distributed and costs have been deducted, while a pecuniary gift is a sum of money.

Did you know?

Including charitable gifts in your Will can have tax advantages. Your solicitor or financial adviser can help you with this, or you can find more information on inheritance tax exemptions by visiting the UK government website: www.gov.uk/inheritance-tax.

How can I be sure my gift maintains its value over time?

You can leave a residuary gift which will hold its value better than a (pecuniary) cash sum, or you can leave a fixed cash sum which can be linked to the index of retail prices, allowing your gift to keep its value in line with inflation.

How do I make a Will?

A valid Will is the only way to ensure your wishes are carried out. Making a Will isn't as complicated as you might think and shouldn't be costly. It is recommended, however, that you seek legal advice when you prepare your Will.

How do I find a solicitor to write my Will?

The RHS isn't able to recommend particular solicitors but you can search for regulated solicitors in your area via the Law Society website: solicitors.lawsociety.org.uk

Can the RHS be one of my executors?

The RHS is unable to act as an executor. It is recommended that you choose two executors, who can be a professional advisor, family member or friend.

Can I choose how much money to leave as a gift to the RHS and does it have to be for a lot of money?

We are so grateful for all gifts in Wills and value any amount given to ensure the benefits of horticulture are passed on for generations to come. Whatever amount you can leave us, rest assured we will use it wisely.

Can I talk to someone about leaving a gift in my Will to the RHS?

We would be happy to answer your queries, or discuss areas of our charitable work you would like to support. Please contact us on 020 7821 3658 or email legacygiving@rhs.org.uk.

“My initial visits – 30-40 years ago – inspired and uplifted me. I also enjoyed a treat – cream tea for Sunday breakfast as soon as Wisley opened!”

RHS Legacy Supporter



Including a gift to the RHS in your Will

By making a Will and keeping it up-to-date you can ensure that you look after the people and causes that are important to you.

Every gift to the RHS, no matter how large or small, will make a lasting difference and help to make the UK a greener, healthier and happier place.

We recommend you seek legal advice when making or updating your Will.

“I have left the RHS a gift in my Will so your good work will continue forever.”

RHS Legacy Supporter

You can arrange your gift in different ways

A residuary gift is made from whatever is left over once gifts of money or items have been distributed and costs have been deducted.

The value of this type of gift will increase as the value of your estate increases.

You can leave the residue to one person or organisation, or you can divide it among a number of beneficiaries.

A pecuniary gift is a specified sum of money. To ensure that it keeps value over the years, you can ask your solicitor to make it index-linked.

A specific gift or item is an object or asset, like a painting, house or shares. The RHS, like many charities, have guidelines on what we are able to accept.

Suggested wording for the different ways you can leave a gift in your Will to the RHS

A straightforward gift for general purposes

Most of the gifts we receive are for general purposes, allowing us to use the funds where they are needed most.

Wording for a residuary gift

I give to the Royal Horticultural Society (registered charity number 222879/SC038262) of 80 Vincent Square, London SW1P [specify % or 'all'] of the residue of my estate absolutely for general purposes and direct that the receipt of an authorised officer of the said charity shall be good and sufficient discharge to my executors.

Wording for a pecuniary gift

I give to the Royal Horticultural Society (registered charity number 222879/SC038262) of 80 Vincent Square, London SW1P absolutely the sum of [£...] for general purposes and direct that the receipt of an authorised officer of the said charity shall be good and sufficient discharge to my executors.

Wording for an index-linked pecuniary gift

I give to the Royal Horticultural Society (registered charity number 222879/SC038262) of 80 Vincent Square, London SW1P absolutely for general purposes the sum of [£...] or such larger sum as my executors calculate to have the same value at my death as the figure specified at the date of this [insert 'Will' or 'Codicil date'] and direct that the receipt of an authorised officer of the said charity shall be good and sufficient discharge to my executors.

A gift towards a specific RHS Garden or an aspect of our work

Giving to an area of our work that means a lot to you, or a RHS Garden that holds special memories, is also a wonderful way of supporting the RHS.

In order to ensure we can honour your wishes you can specify RHS activities you would like to support – such as education, training, science, libraries, community outreach or horticultural projects.

Wording for a residuary gift

I give to the Royal Horticultural Society (registered charity number 222879/SCo38262) of 8o Vincent Square, London SW1P [specify % OR 'all'] of the residue of my estate absolutely for [use at RHS Garden... OR the benefit of.. insert RHS activity eg. RHS educational activities, RHS horticultural training, RHS science and research etc] and direct that the receipt of an authorised officer of the said charity shall be good and sufficient discharge to my executors.

Wording for a pecuniary gift

I give to the Royal Horticultural Society (registered charity number 222879/SCo38262) of 8o Vincent Square, London SW1P absolutely the sum of [£...] for [use at RHS Garden... OR the benefit of.. insert RHS activity eg. RHS educational activities, RHS horticultural training, RHS science and

research etc] and direct that the receipt of an authorised officer of the said charity shall be good and sufficient discharge to my executors.

Wording for an index-linked pecuniary gift

I give to the Royal Horticultural Society (registered charity number 222879/SCo38262) of 8o Vincent Square, London SW1P absolutely the sum of [£...] or such larger sum as my executors calculate to have the same value at my death as the figure specified at the date of this [insert 'Will' or 'Codicil date'] [£...] for [use at RHS Garden... OR the benefit of.. insert RHS activity eg. RHS educational activities, RHS horticultural training, RHS science and research etc] and direct that the receipt of an authorised officer of the said charity shall be good and sufficient discharge to my executors.



“Wisley featured in my life from quite early childhood – about 70 years ago. My parents, who were lifetime members, brought me and my two sisters here regularly to let us run free and give them time together in peace! I took over membership from the 1970s when they moved to Devon. It has remained for me a place of refuge and delight and has also been the plant origins of my small suburban garden. Thank you Wisley Team for giving me so many glorious and enjoyable hours.”

RHS Legacy Supporter

< The Wildlife Garden at RHS Garden Wisley

Thank you for thinking of leaving a gift in your Will to the RHS

We hope you have found this guide useful but if you have any further queries, or would like to discuss how your gift could make a difference please get in touch.

Contact us

Email: legacygiving@rhs.org.uk

Tel: 020 7821 3658 to speak with the RHS Legacy Giving Team.

rhs.org.uk/legacies

If you have left a gift in your Will to the RHS we would love to hear from you so that we can thank you.

The Royal Horticultural Society
80 Vincent Square
London
SW1P 2PE



Front cover: Tending to the Camassia, RHS Garden Wisley
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For further information on how your gift could make a difference,
please contact our Legacy Giving Team
legacygiving@rhs.org.uk
rhs.org.uk/legacies