



BALSALL & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

EXHIBITORS GUIDANCE FOR 76th ANNUAL SHOW

SATURDAY 19th JULY 2025

GENERAL TIPS

Read through the Show Schedule and consider what you can grow/make that will be ready for the show date (19th July 2025).

We would like to encourage you to enter all the classes that appeal to you. Pay attention to the Show Rules as well as the specifics for each section and class that you wish to enter, especially numbers and sizes if specified. Not adhering to the rules would lead to your exhibit being disqualified. Remember, the rules for 2025 may be different to previous years.

Make sure that you complete your entry form and get it to the show secretary on time. Knowing how many exhibits there will be per class is essential in enabling us to set up the exhibition space for you.

On the day of the show, allow enough time to stage your exhibits – it is better to be early than to run out of time.

Exhibitors often bring more than the required number of specimens for a class, in case some get damaged in transit – if you do this, remember to make a final count of the ones you are exhibiting.

SHOW RULES

1. Entry is for members only and there is no charge for entry.
2. Entries must be received by the Show Secretary by Thursday 17th July 2025. **LATE ENTRIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**
3. Exhibitors may **NOT** make more than one entry in each class.
4. The Hall will be open to competitors on Saturday 19th from 8.30am – 11.00am for staging.
All exhibits must be staged by 11.00am on the day of the show. They may not be removed earlier than 4.15pm but must be removed before 5.00pm.
5. Exhibitors are not permitted to move other exhibits; they may only be moved by the Stewards.
6. All exhibits must be presented in accordance with the Schedule.
7. All horticultural exhibits must be the produce of the exhibitors' own garden or allotment unless otherwise stated in the Schedule.
8. No leaf-shine or similar will be permitted on exhibits. 'Oasis' will only be accepted if contained within a vase.
9. All exhibits must be stable and, with the exception of classes D59 & D60, shall be staged on the show benches.
10. Anyone employing artifice or unfair means to deceive the Judges or obtain awards will be barred from any future show activities.
11. Judges have the right to withhold awards when, in their opinion, the competition is insufficient, or the quality of entries is deficient, and to make extra awards at their discretion. The Judge's decision is final.
12. Points will be awarded as: First – 3 pts, Second – 2 pts, Third – 1 pt. Highly Commended – ½ pt.

13. Any protest must be in writing and delivered by 3.00pm to the Show Secretary for submission to the Committee for decision.
14. Any contingency not covered by these rules shall be dealt with by members of the Committee, whose decision is final.
15. The Show awards will be announced on the day of the show.
16. BDHS will not accept responsibility for any loss or damage to exhibitors' property during the Show.

GENERAL NOTES FOR HORTICULTURAL CLASSES (A to D)

Judges look for good quality fruit, vegetables and flowers which are free from blemishes, imperfections, and pests.

Where more than one specimen is displayed, each should be of high quality and the collection should be uniform in size and shape.

Display produce with stalks attached and maintain the natural "bloom" where possible.

Consider using different sizes of paper plates for your display. The size should be suitable for the space your exhibit will take up and ensure that specimens are not cramped.

Clean the outside of any pots.

SECTION A – VEGETABLES

Choose specimens that are the right shape for the variety you have grown, evenly coloured and in good condition (fresh, firm, with no signs of pests or disease).

Root vegetables should be washed gently to remove any loose earth, take care not to damage the skins. Carefully remove any side-roots but not the taproot.

"As grown" onions should have their leaves and roots intact and free from soil. Do not remove their dry outer skins. Select a matching set.

Lettuces, cabbages, cauliflowers are exhibited with roots left on and should be washed clean of soil and the outer leaves left on.

Peas and beans should always be shown with a short length of stalk attached so be careful not to damage when picking – always hold by the stalk and try not to touch the pod itself so the natural bloom is still there.

A helpful hint for choosing peas is to hold the pods up to the light. A bright enough light will usually show you the peas lying in the pod, so you can select the best ones.

SECTION B - FRUIT

Fruit should be the correct ripeness for the variety and season, and all at the same degree of ripeness.

Try to avoid touching the fruit itself, hold by the stalk when picking. Do not wash it or polish it as the natural bloom should be intact on the show bench.

SECTION C - FLOWERS & FOLIAGE

When growing single (specimen) blooms for the Show, remove any unwanted side shoots or buds to aid the development of the main flowers.

Cut for the show the previous evening or early morning when the flowers are cool. Leave the stems as long as possible with a sloping cut to assist uptake of water and, if possible, place in cool water overnight and away from bright light.

Choose exhibits that are in good condition - when they are at their most perfect and all parts are fresh and free from damage due to weather, pests, diseases, careless handling, etc.

In vases of one kind of flower, choose exhibits that are the most uniform, most alike in age, size and form.

When staging flowers, remove any damaged flowers and leaves and re-cut the stem. Check for unwanted buds when staging your exhibit, all buds are considered to be blooms. Where possible choose vases to suit the height of the stems.

It can get very warm in the hall, so make sure your vases are full of water. Bring a small watering-can and top them up before you leave them. A final spray with clean water will help to keep the blooms fresh.

SECTION D & SECTION K - POT PLANTS/PLANTS FROM PLUGS

When growing your pot plants, turn frequently to avoid lopsided growth and water well to make sure the plants are fresh for the show.

Pots or containers should be clean and undamaged. Check there are no slugs underneath, no dead leaves on the soil and the plants are dust free, insect free and undamaged.

Plants should have healthy unblemished foliage and flowers.

Cacti/succulents should be as free as possible from defects and marks, including damaged or missing spines, distorted leaves.

SECTION E - FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS

Make sure you interpret the title of the class you are entering and use appropriate plant material for that class. Remember to keep within the measurements allowed – the judges do measure!

Condition your plant material thoroughly; gather foliage 24 hours beforehand and stand foliage and flowers in buckets of water in a cool place overnight.

Ensure your plant material is in peak condition and there are no damaged leaves or blooms.

SECTION F - PHOTOGRAPHS

Pay attention to the image size stated. White borders around the images are permitted, but the photo should be unmounted.

The main interest/focal point should be in focus and the background not too distracting

The photograph should have a clear link to the theme

SECTION G - PRODUCE & BAKED GOODS

Jam, Jellies, Honey, Chutney, Marmalade – use plain clear glass jars filled to within 1 cm of the rim, make sure your jars are polished clean and free from sticky residues. Top with either a plain screw top lid or a wax seal and cellophane. Labels for Jams, Jellies, Chutney, Marmalade should state the main fruit or vegetable used (e.g. Courgette Chutney) and both the month and year of making (e.g. June 2025)

Jars of Honey should carry a simple label stating “Honey” and the year of production e.g. 2025

Baked exhibits are marked on a combination of factors: External appearance (colour, shape and uniformity), internal appearance (texture and even distribution of ingredients), flavour and aroma as entries must be enjoyable to eat. So consider these when choosing your exhibits.

SECTION H – ARTS & CRAFTS

When making your art and craft items pay attention to the details; use colour and texture to create interest, ensure your items are well finished off and presented attractively.

FINALLY

Have fun choosing what to grow/make and enjoy selecting your best exhibits to share with our members in the Annual Show.

...and of course “Good Luck” to everyone!