

Benfleet Horticultural Society

A GUIDE FOR EXHIBITORS

1. Allow sufficient time to stage exhibits. The hall must be cleared for the Judges at 11.30am sharp (12 noon for Floral Art exhibitors).
2. Make sure that you have entered your exhibit in the correct class; if in doubt, consult a Committee member – there will be one in the hall.
3. Be careful to place your card with your exhibit, print name and fold under.
4. If possible, name your varieties.
5. If a set number of flowers, fruit or vegetables is specified in any class, make sure you show the correct quantity. The exhibit will be disqualified if more or less is included.
6. Do not polish fruit. Show with the natural 'bloom'. Apples should be shown with the eye uppermost, stalk end downwards.
7. Remember to bring containers where anything other than a vase is specified.
8. **Salading or salad vegetable.** A vegetable used in either raw or cooked state and served in salads as a cold dish. The following kinds may be used for horticultural show purposes:- Beet, Cabbage (green), Carrots, Celeriac, Celery, Chicory, Chives, Corn salad or Lambs lettuce, Cress (American land), Cucumbers, Dandelion (blanched), Endive, Florence fennel, Kohl rabi, Mustard or Rape, Spring onions, Potatoes, Radishes, Tomatoes, Turnips and Watercress.
9. **Root vegetables** should be washed with a soft sponge and for horticultural purposes include the following:- Artichokes (Jerusalem), Beet, Carrots, Celeriac, Kohl rabi, Parsnips, Potatoes, Radishes, Salsify, Schorzonera, Swedes and Turnips.
10. **Flowers** should be fresh. To ensure this, try to cut them in the morning or evening before the Show and place them up to their necks in water.
11. Aim for uniformity of size.
12. If you are unsure what is required in a class or how to present it, do ask for advice from a Committee member.
13. If you are interested in a particular flower or horticultural subject, remember that there are many specialist societies who give advice and information to members. The Committee will help you contact them if they can.
14. Try to beg, borrow or otherwise obtain a copy of the Royal Horticultural Society's 'The Horticultural Show Handbook'. This gives a lot of guidance.
15. **Cookery hints.** Always read the schedule carefully – jam does not mean jelly – if six tarts or buns are asked for, this does not mean five or seven. Cookery exhibits should be well shaped, evenly baked and nicely presented. Sponge cakes should not be dredged with sugar, the glaze in fruit flans should be clear and completely cover the fruit. Do not bake in foil cases. Jams and jellies should be of a good colour, flavour and well set. Pots should be well filled, the top completely covered with a wax disk, a cellophane cover or screw top. **PLAIN JAM JARS MUST BE USED** and they should be very clean with no trace of stickiness, and labelled with the contents and date of making. Jars should be approximately 14oz to 1lb size. Pickles and chutney should be exhibited in small plain, jam jars, well filled and covered with a plastic screw top lid. Remember, the Judge can disqualify any exhibit not conforming to the schedule or the basic requirements of plain jars or bottles.

- 16. Wine exhibitors** should note that – labels will be supplied. Still wine bottles must be of the 'sauternes' type, punted of clear glass, approximately 26 fluid ounces capacity. Stoppers must be cork with a plastic flanged top. Beer to be in one pint brown bottles with gold crown closures. Barley wine to be in half pint bottles. All bottles to be filled to within approximately one inch of the stopper. Labels shall be fixed centrally between the bottle seams.
- 17. Handicraft hints.** Always read the schedule carefully and comply with the requirements. Knitted and crocheted articles should be pressed but not washed. They should be finished off neatly and securely; knots should never be used. Either join your wool at the end of a row or carefully graft it. You will gain marks for your embroidery if it is an original design and a transfer has not been used.
- 18. Floral Art.** Any living, preserved or dried natural plant material, including berries, may be used, unless otherwise stated. All entries to be arranged at the Show hall, except where stated otherwise in the respective Show schedule. Artificially coloured plant material may be used with discretion. Spaces allowed each measuring 24” wide by 22” deep for each entrant. Height to reflect the scale of the design.