



RUTLAND FLOWER SHOW
15-17
AUGUST
2025
Sponsored by
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SHOW GARDENS – FAMOUS GARDENERS
GATES’ GRAND MARQUEE – FLORAL COMPETITIONS
CHILDREN’S ACTIVITIES – FINE FOODS
RARE PLANT SHOPPING – FLYPASTS – LIVE MUSIC

RUTLAND FLOWER SHOW 2025

FULL SHOW MANUAL AND COMPETITION SCHEDULE

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Rutland Flower Show 2025 General Information

Location

Rutland Showground, Oakham, LE15 7TW

Show Dates and Public Opening Times

Friday 15th – Sunday 17th August 2025, 9.30am – 5pm Daily

Competition Application Deadlines

Competition Categories A to B: **Sunday 1st June 2025**

Competition Categories C to M: **Friday 8th August 2025**

Health and Safety

All exhibitors must comply with the requirements set out in the Health and Safety Policy, organisation, and arrangements of the Rutland Flower Show and Rutland Showground. Copies of this policy will be available from the Organiser prior to the Show and will be displayed in the Show Office prior to and during the Show.

During build-up and breakdown the Showground will be classed as a construction site and all Health and Safety procedures must be adhered to, including use of PPE comprising at least hi-vis jackets and safety boots, as well as safety glasses, ear defenders, hard hats, etc. according to your own risk assessments.

All exhibitors, traders, competitors, entertainers, and catering providers are required to maintain their exhibit, stand, and areas so that their exhibit and activities do not endanger themselves, other exhibitors, traders, competitors, or members of the public.

A Health and Safety Officer will inspect the Show during build-up and on each opening day. Exhibitors will be required to comply with and implement any recommendations made by the Health and Safety Officer.

All food outlets could be inspected by the local authority's food hygiene inspectors and the Show's Health and Safety Officer, and will be subject to their rules and regulations.

Exhibitors will be asked to provide proof of public liability insurance.

Requirements of the Venue Landlord

On due notice being given to the exhibitor or their staff, exhibitors must comply immediately with any requirements imposed on the Show Organiser by the Venue Landlord or any other authority.

How to Enter a Competition

Step 1: Pick Your Classes

Look through the competition schedule and decide which class(es) you would like to enter.

- You may enter as many different classes as you wish but are restricted to one entry per class.
- Check that you understand and meet the criteria for the class (e.g. do you have to be an amateur to enter, can you enter as a group or an individual, is there an age limit, how many specimens are required for the class, is there a theme, etc.?). Entries that do not meet the class-specific criteria will be disqualified.

Step 2: Complete an Entry Form

Entry forms can be downloaded from the Rutland Flower Show website.

Entry Form Deadlines:

- Competition Categories A to B: **Sunday 1st June 2025**
- Competition Categories C to M: **Friday 8th August 2025**

Step 3: Submit Supporting Documents

For Categories A and B (Show Gardens and Planting Design), supporting documents outlining your designs must be submitted along with your entry form. Details of these requirements can be found in the Outdoor Competition Class Schedule.

Supporting Document Deadline:

- Competition Categories A to B: **Sunday 1st June 2025**

Step 4: Build or Deliver Your Competition Entry

See specific competition regulations for details of build-up and delivery dates. Any entry fees will be payable on delivery of your competition entry.

- **Show Gardens, Planted Borders, and Trade Stands to be ready for judging by 5pm on Thursday 14th August 2025.**
- **Competition Marquee entries to be ready for judging by 8.30am on Friday 15th August 2025.**

HAVE FUN AND GOOD LUCK!

General Show Rules

Exhibit and Exhibitor Details

Application and entry forms must clearly state the nature of your trade stand or exhibit, as well as the name under which you wish to trade or exhibit.

Staffing of Trade Stands

Exhibitors are requested to ensure their stands are sufficiently staffed 30mins before the public opening time of the Show, and that stands are not vacated before the public closing time each day.

Stands should be kept clean and in good order at all times.

Security of Trade Stands and Exhibits

All exhibits and exhibitors' goods, money, and vehicles on site will be the sole responsibility of the owner of that exhibit or trade stand.

The Organiser cannot accept any liability for loss or damage under any circumstance.

24/7 security, including patrols, will be provided by the Organiser to help secure the premises but this shall in no way place any responsibility on the Organiser for loss or damage.

Allocation of Show Plots

Show plots may only be used for the purpose for which they were originally allocated.

You may not sub-let, share, or otherwise part with the possession of part or all of your allotted space.

Eligibility of Traders, Exhibitors, and Competitors

The Organiser reserves the right to refuse any application for trading space or competition entry, or to cancel any previous acceptance. This includes, but is not limited to, if your application is felt unsuitable by the Venue Landlord.

Where a previously accepted application is refused, any fees paid will be refunded less any reasonable expenses as determined by the Organiser.

General Terms and Conditions

The decision of the Organiser or their representatives on any matter relating to the proper conduct of the Show shall be final and binding upon all exhibitors and their representatives.

The Organiser will not be responsible for any loss or injury, however arising, incurred by any exhibitor, their staff, or representatives, nor do they accept any liability to an exhibitor in the event the Show has to be cancelled or curtailed due to circumstances beyond its control.

Exhibitors will indemnify the Organiser and their representatives for any liability incurred by the Organiser to persons as a result of the act or omission of the exhibitor, their staff, or representatives.

Should any questions arise that have not been covered in these conditions, the decision of the Organiser shall be final.

The right to alter, amend, add to, or cancel any of these Conditions, Rules, and Regulations and to grant relaxation in any individual case is reserved by the Organiser.

Show Build-Up and Breakdown

Build-Up and Breakdown Vehicle Access and Entry Passes

No vehicle will be allowed onto the Showground unless displaying an appropriate vehicle entry pass.

A strict 5mph speed limit will be in place at all times.

All vehicles (including trailers) must be parked in allocated areas prior to the opening time on each day of the Show.

All traders, exhibitors, and competitors will be issued with appropriate exhibitor, build-up, and breakdown entry passes once your application for space or competition entry has been confirmed. These must be clearly displayed on arrival at the Showground.

Collection passes will be issued to enable collection of entries from the Competition Marquee on the final day of the Show. These will only be valid for entry to the Show after 3.30pm on Sunday 17th August.

Exhibitors' vehicles will not be allowed to move on or enter the showground for breakdown before the show closes at 5pm on Sunday 17th August.

No exhibitor should park their vehicle on another exhibitor's allocated plot at any time.

Re-Stocking

Re-stocking using vehicles (including Dutch trolleys) will only be permitted before the show opens and after the show closes on each day.

Trader and Exhibitor Build-Up Days

Exhibitors including traders and those building show gardens, border displays, or other large outdoor exhibits will have access to the showground for build-up from Monday 11th August to Thursday 14th August at the following times:

- **Monday 11th August 2025, 1pm-5pm**
- **Tuesday 12th August 2025 – Thursday 14th August 2025, 9am-5pm**

The Showground will also be open to traders and exhibitors from 7.30am on opening days (Friday 15th – Sunday 17th August).

All trade stands, nursery displays, show gardens, and border displays to be entered for judging must be complete and ready for judging by 5pm on Thursday 14th August.

All other trade stands and exhibits must be completed by 9am on Friday 15th August.

It is expected that traders and exhibitors will present their stands to a high standard and with suitable enhancement using floral/plant material where appropriate.

Competition Marquee Drop-Off/Build-Up Days

Competitors building-up and delivering entries for the Competition Marquee categories are invited to do so on the following dates and times:

- **Thursday 14th August, 9am-5pm**
 - Category C: Garden Design Plans
 - Category D: Floral Art and Floristry
 - Category E: Collections and Displays
 - Category G: Pot Plants
 - Category K: Arts and Crafts

- **Friday 15th August, 7.30am-8.30am**
 - Category F: Cut Flowers
 - Category H: Fruit and Vegetables
 - Category I: Heaviest and Longest Fruit and Vegetables
 - Category J: Home Produce
 - Category L: Children's Competition

All entries must be in place and ready for judging by 8.30am on Friday 15th August 2025.

Post-Show Breakdown

Plants and small items can be sold and removed from show gardens, borders, and displays after 3pm on Sunday 17th August. A bell will be rung to signal the start of the sell-off.

Competitors will be able to collect small entries from the Competition Marquee after 4pm on Sunday 17th August. Larger collections/displays and floral art must not be broken down until the Show closes at 5pm. It is the responsibility of all competitors to dismantle/collect all their entries.

No large objects, landscaping materials, or unsold items must be moved before the show closes at 5pm.

It is the exhibitor's responsibility to ensure their trade stand/exhibit has been dismantled in its entirety and removed from the site by 8pm on Monday 18th August 2025, leaving the area as it was on first arrival.

In the event that site damage occurs due to lack of compliance with Show regulations, the exhibitor will be liable for the cost of repair.

If not collected, all exhibits and competition entries will be disposed of to facilitate clearing of the site. Where this involves large-scale dismantling of an exhibit, the exhibitor will be liable for the cost of removal.

Show Garden and Planting Design Competition Regulations and Prizes

Sizes

- **Class 1 – Large Show Garden: 8m x 8m**
- **Class 2 – Small Show Garden: 3m x 5m**
- **Class 3 – Planted Border: 2.4m x 2.4m OR 4.8m x 1.2m**

Entry Fees

There is no entry fee for classes in Categories A (Show Gardens) and B (Planting Design).

Promotional Space

Large Show Garden competitors will also be provided with a free 3m x 9m plot adjacent to your garden to erect a promotional trade stand. This must only be used to promote your business, organisation, and/or sponsors. You will need to provide your own gazebo or similar shelter to protect your trade stand from inclement weather.

All Show Garden and Planted Border exhibitors are encouraged to staff your exhibit and distribute promotional literature about your display, business, and sponsors. This should be done from either on or close to the edge of your exhibit.

Exhibitor Passes

You will be issued with appropriate exhibitor, build-up, and breakdown entry passes once your application for space or competition entry has been confirmed. These must be clearly displayed on arrival at the Showground.

Exhibitor passes will be provided to allow you to staff your Show Garden or Planted Border on each public opening day of the show:

- Show Gardens: 4 exhibitor passes
- Planted Borders: 2 exhibitor passes

Any additional tickets required will need to be purchased at the public rates.

Build-Up Dates

- **Monday 11th August 2025, 1pm-5pm**
- **Tuesday 12th August 2025 – Thursday 14th August 2025, 9am-5pm**
- **Your exhibit must be ready for judging by 5pm on Thursday 14th August**

Entry Limits and Cancellation of Entries

The Organiser reserves the right to set a limit to the number of entries that can be accommodated in each class. In the event that this limit is reached, submissions for that class will be closed.

If you find you are unable to make an entry for any classes previously applied for, please advise the Organiser as soon as possible before the Show.

Staging

- Show Gardens:
 - Show Gardens will be allotted a marked area of grass outdoors.
 - Exhibitors will be responsible for providing all landscaping materials, plants, and contents/accessories to create your garden.
 - The Show will provide a simple display board alongside your garden so that the public can view information about yourself, your garden design, and any sponsors involved.

- Planted Borders:
 - Planted Borders will be allotted a marked area of grass outdoors.
 - A raised edge will be provided by the Show, consisting of landscape sleepers used to construct a bed measuring 2.4m x 2.4m or 4.8m x 1.2m, depending on your chosen border size during the application process.
 - The edge of the border provided will be raised approximately 200mm above ground level. You are welcome to increase this height if you wish.
 - Exhibitors will be responsible for providing all landscaping materials, plants, and contents/accessories to create your border.
 - The Show will provide a simple display board alongside your border so that the public can view information about yourself, your planting scheme, and any sponsors involved.

Plant Health

Please ensure that any plants used on your exhibit are healthy and free of any pests and diseases.

Judging Criteria

Show Gardens will be judged according to the following criteria:

1. Realisation of the Client Brief
2. Ambition
3. Overall Impression
4. Design, Layout, and Plan of the Garden
5. Design, 3D, and Spatial Composition of the Garden
6. Quality of Construction
7. Planting Design
8. Relevance of Planting Associations
9. Quality of Planting Implementation (including plant health)

Planted Borders will be judged according to the following criteria:

1. Realisation of the Client Brief
2. Ambition
3. Overall Impression and Impact
4. Design, 3D and Spatial Composition of the Planting Scheme
5. Relevance of Planting Associations
6. Quality of Planting Implementation (including plant health)
7. Quality of Construction

Points for each factor will be awarded using the following system:

- Excellent – 4 points
- Very Good – 3 points
- Good – 2 points
- Poor – 1 point
- Unsatisfactory – Zero

Prizes

After judging, Show Garden and Planted Border scores will be converted to a percentage. Certificates will be awarded according to the total score achieved, and the exhibits with the highest percentage scores in each class will be awarded Best in Show. In the event of a tie, the judges will conduct a blind vote to determine the winner.

Category A	Class 1 Large Show Garden	Score of 80%+ Gold Cert.	Score of 60%+ Silver Cert.	Score of 40%+ Bronze Cert.	Best in Show £500
	Class 2 Small Show Garden	Score of 80%+ Gold Cert.	Score of 60%+ Silver Cert.	Score of 40%+ Bronze Cert.	Best in Show £350
Category B	Class 3 Planted Border	Score of 80%+ Gold Cert.	Score of 60%+ Silver Cert.	Score of 40%+ Bronze Cert.	Best in Show £250

Show visitors will also be asked to vote for their favourite exhibits from Categories A and B, with the winners receiving 'People's Choice' certificates.

Public Access

Please note that public access is not permitted on competition gardens and borders during the Show.

Show Garden and Planting Design competitors should construct sufficient barriers (e.g. post and rope/chain) to restrict access onto their exhibits. Barriers will not be necessary where planting or other structures forming part of your exhibit naturally restrict access.

Boundaries

Boundaries should be designed to allow optimum viewing of your exhibit by the public.

- For Show Gardens of all sizes, at least 2 adjacent boundaries should be open (comprising no hedging or structures exceeding 60cm in height).
- Planted Borders will be viewed from all sides.

Heights of Buildings, Structures, and Trees

Any buildings or structures exceeding 2m in height must be positioned at least 1m away from the garden boundaries.

Trees should be an appropriate height for your garden or planting scheme.

Excavation

There must be no excavation on the Showground for any exhibit. Turf must not be removed. All gardens and exhibits must be built up from the existing ground level.

It is the exhibitor's responsibility to ensure that all structures are sufficiently supported above ground level to ensure they do not pose any risk of collapse or injury.

Ground Protection

To prevent soil contamination and damage to the existing ground, the base of all exhibits must be lined with a thick, strong membrane so that landscaping materials, plants, and garden contents are not in direct contact with the ground. This is the responsibility of the exhibitor.

Water

Shared standpipes will be available for use by all Show exhibitors for watering purposes throughout the Show. Please bring your own hoses and watering cans as appropriate.

Deliveries and Storage

All deliveries to site must have an assigned contact name and mobile phone number, and you or your representative must be available to accept delivery.

Exhibitors should ensure that, where applicable, deliveries to site are made using off-loading devices (e.g. hi-ab, forklift).

During construction and breakdown, materials and plants must be stored directly adjacent to your plot and must not cause an obstruction to other Show exhibitors or emergency access routes.

Construction Work, Plant, Machinery, and Waste

You will be required to provide and organise all of the materials, plants, and labour needed to build your exhibit on site.

Care must be taken to prevent ground contamination and damage during the build-up and breakdown of your exhibit.

You are not permitted to mix concrete, mortar, resin, or other such materials outside the area allocated for your exhibit. Mixing boards must also be used.

You must not create unnecessary noise, dust, or dirt on site. Stone cutting must be done with a water-spray dust suppression kit.

You must receive written permission from the Organiser to bring and use any machinery, plant, or power tools on site.

Plant operators must be competent, experienced, and in possession of the appropriate qualification, licence, or certificate.

Unattended plant and machinery must be parked correctly and safely, and immobilised.

Unattended power tools must be disconnected from any power source and stored securely.

There is no overnight covered storage for equipment. Please ensure that all of your tools, plant, and machinery are removed from site at the end of each day. The Organiser takes no responsibility for loss or damage of your property under any circumstances.

Vehicular plant and machinery must be fitted with safety reversing alarms.

During build-up and breakdown, you are responsible for ensuring any waste generated by your activities is removed from site safely, legally, and responsibly.

Competition Marquee Regulations and Prizes

Entry Fees

There is an entry fee of £1 per class for all competition classes in Categories C to L.

Entry fees must be paid in full when delivering your entry to the Competition Marquee.

Show Tickets

Each competitor entering fewer than 10 classes will be eligible for one Show ticket discounted at 50% of the public rate valid for one day of the Show. Competitors entering 10 classes or more will be eligible for one free Show ticket valid for one day of the Show. Discount codes will be issued by Show staff on receipt of your competition entry.

Collection passes will be issued to enable collection of entries from the Competition Marquee on the final day of the Show. These will only be valid for entry to the Show after 3.30pm on Sunday 17th August.

Any additional tickets required will need to be purchased at the public rates.

Eligibility

You are welcome to submit entries for as many classes as you wish, but you can only submit one entry per class.

Classes in Category L (Children's Competition) are only open to children under the age of 12. Please state your age on the application form if applying for these classes.

Children aged between 12 and 17 are welcome to enter any other competition classes in Categories C to K as junior competitors. All children, junior competitors, and school groups will be awarded a 'Well Done' certificate for entering and will also be eligible for the main class judging. If applying as a junior competitor, please state your age on the application form.

Competition Entry Quality

Make sure your competition entries are:

- Free of pests
- Free of diseases
- Healthy
- Unblemished

Please be aware that humidity in the marquee may affect some materials and products.

Build-Up/Delivery Dates

Competitors building-up and delivering entries for the Competition Marquee categories are invited to do so on the following dates and times:

- **Thursday 14th August, 9am-5pm**
 - Category C: Garden Design Plans
 - Category D: Floral Art and Floristry
 - Category E: Collections and Displays
 - Category G: Pot Plants
 - Category K: Arts and Crafts

- **Friday 15th August, 7.30am-8.30am**
 - Category F: Cut Flowers
 - Category H: Fruit and Vegetables
 - Category I: Heaviest and Longest Fruit and Vegetables
 - Category J: Home Produce
 - Category L: Children's Competition

- **Entries must be ready for judging by 8.30am on Friday 15th August 2025**

Please note that children and junior competitors must be accompanied by a responsible adult when delivering their entries.

No entries will be accepted after the closing date and time under any circumstances.

Collection of Entries

No entries or parts of entries whatsoever shall be removed before 4pm on Sunday 17th August. Entries for classes in Category D shall not be removed before 5pm on Sunday 17th August.

Entry Limits

The Organiser reserves the right to set a limit to the number of entries that can be accommodated in each class. In the event that this limit is reached, submissions for that class will be closed.

Cancellation of Entries

If you find you are unable to make an entry for any classes previously applied for, please advise the Organiser as soon as possible before the Show.

Empty spaces can spoil the Show, so please try not to apply for more classes than can be practically attempted.

Staging and Class Cards

If the Organiser is providing any staging for a particular class, this will be stated in the class-specific criteria in the Competition Marquee Schedule. Some classes will require you to provide your own staging, supports, vases, etc.

On arrival at the Competition Marquee:

- You will be asked to register your entries and pay any entry fees owed. You will then be guided to the relevant areas to stage your entries.
- In the relevant area for each class, please look for the class card for your entry. Place/stage your entry, then place your class card face downwards in front of your exhibit.
- Any signatures or names on entries must be masked for judging.

Entries in all classes must be labelled with titles or plant names as appropriate to the class. In the interests of the Show, all competitors are asked to ensure that your entries (including plant cultivars) are correctly named. You must not re-name any plants, flowers, produce, etc. that already have a recognised name.

Please check the details printed on your class cards thoroughly and immediately bring any errors to the attention of the Organiser. Any exhibit staged without the appropriate class card will be disqualified.

Advertising and Signage

No advertising materials or business cards may be placed alongside any entries prior to judging. Once judging has been completed, you are welcome to display a small number of advertising materials or business cards next to your exhibit.

Judging Criteria

Specific judging criteria will vary according to class-specific criteria (see the Competition Marquee Schedule for more information), but judges will generally be looking for the following where relevant:

- Health and Quality of Plant Material
- Correct Identification
- Uniformity
- Standard of Presentation
- Demonstrated Use of Skills and Techniques
- Originality
- Creativity
- Overall Impression and Impact
- Endeavour

Prizes

Judges will award the following prizes for individual classes in each category.

Competition Category	First Prize	Second Prize	Third Prize
Category C	£25	£10	£5
Category D	£25	£10	£5
Category E	£25	£10	£5
Category F	£3	£2	£1
Category G	£3	£2	£1
Category H	£3	£2	£1
Category I	£3	£2	£1
Category J	£3	£2	£1
Category K	£3	£2	£1
Category L	£3	£2	£1

All competitors aged 17 and under will receive a 'Well Done' certificate for taking part and will also be eligible for the main category prizes shown above.

'Highly Commended' certificates will be awarded at the judges' discretion to acknowledge high ambition or creativity that does not quite achieve a placed prize.

Show visitors will also be asked to vote for their favourite exhibits from Classes 6 and 7 in Category D, and from all classes in Category E, with the winners receiving 'People's Choice' certificates.

Conditions and Penalties

Unless otherwise stated in class-specific criteria, all competition entries must have been cultivated or produced by the competitor. All entries must be the unaided work of the competitor.

The same exhibit cannot be entered into more than one class.

For entries to all classes requiring the submission of plants, cut flowers, fruit, and vegetables, natural plant material must be used. The inclusion of artificial plant material (including artificial grass) is not permitted and such entries will be disqualified.

Liability for Damages

The Organiser and their representatives will not be responsible for any damage or loss to persons or property, including competition entries, under any circumstance.

No Smoking and Fire Precautions

Smoking, including use of e-cigarettes, is not allowed in the Competition Marquee. Nothing of an inflammable or explosive nature must be brought into the Competition Marquee at any time. The use of naked flames is also prohibited at all times.

Traders' Competition Regulations and Prizes

Entry Fees

There is no entry fee for any classes in Category M (Trade Stands and Displays).

Eligibility

Plant nursery trade stands will be eligible for an additional area measuring 2.4m x 2.4m close to your stand in order to create a horticultural display using plants that you stock.

All non-plant trade stands are invited to enhance your stand design and presentation with a garden or horticultural theme.

If you would like to be judged within any class in Category M, please complete and submit an application form by Friday 8th August 2025 at the latest.

Build-Up Dates

- **Monday 11th August 2025, 1pm-5pm**
- **Tuesday 12th August 2025 – Thursday 14th August 2025, 9am-5pm**
- **Your exhibit must be ready for judging by 5pm on Thursday 14th August**

Judging Criteria – Class 129 (Nursery Planting Display)

Nursery Planting Displays will be judged using the following criteria:

- Plants (horticultural relevance, range, identification/labelling, health, quality, colour, and texture)
- Overall Impression (finish, design, creativity, impact)
- Endeavour (level of difficulty, originality, planning, curation)

Points for each factor will be awarded using the following system:

- Excellent – 4 points
- Very Good – 3 points
- Good – 2 points
- Poor – 1 point
- Unsatisfactory – Zero

Prizes – Class 129 (Nursery Planting Display)

After judging, Nursery Planting Display scores will be converted to a percentage. Certificates will be awarded according to the total score achieved, and the exhibit with the highest percentage score will be awarded Best in Show and a refund of their stand fee. In the event of a tie, the judges will conduct a blind vote to determine the winner.

Class 129 Nursery Planting Display	Score of 80%+ Gold Cert.	Score of 60%+ Silver Cert.	Score of 40%+ Bronze Cert.	Best in Show Stand Fee Refund
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Judging Criteria – Classes 130 to 132

Classes 130 to 132 comprise the following:

- Class 130 – Non-Plant Trade (Outside)
- Class 131 – Non-Plant Trade (Inside)
- Class 132 - Food

Classes 130 to 132 will be judged using the following criteria:

- Prevalence of Garden/Horticultural Theme
- Integration of Garden/Horticultural Theme to the Context of the Stand
- Quality of Construction
- Quality of any Plant Material
- General Standard of Stand Presentation

Points for each factor will be awarded using the following system:

- Excellent – 4 points
- Very Good – 3 points
- Good – 2 points
- Poor – 1 point
- Unsatisfactory – Zero

Prizes – Classes 130 to 132

After judging, stand scores will be converted to a percentage. Certificates will be awarded according to the total score achieved, and the stand with the highest percentage score in each class will be awarded Best in Show and a refund of their stand fee. In the event of a tie, the judges will conduct a blind vote to determine the winner.

Class 130 Non-Plant Trade (Outside)	Score of 80%+ Gold Cert.	Score of 60%+ Silver Cert.	Score of 40%+ Bronze Cert.	Best in Show Stand Fee Refund
Class 131 Non-Plant Trade (Inside)	Score of 80%+ Gold Cert.	Score of 60%+ Silver Cert.	Score of 40%+ Bronze Cert.	Best in Show Stand Fee Refund
Class 132 Food	Score of 80%+ Gold Cert.	Score of 60%+ Silver Cert.	Score of 40%+ Bronze Cert.	Best in Show Stand Fee Refund

Plant Health

Please ensure that any plants used on your exhibit are healthy and free of any pests and diseases.

Signage

Please ensure there is sufficient signage visible on your display or trade stand so that visitors can identify your business/organisation.

Excavation

There must be no excavation on the Showground for any exhibit. Turf must not be removed. All displays must be built up from the existing ground level.

It is the exhibitor's responsibility to ensure that all structures are sufficiently supported above ground level to ensure they do not pose any risk of collapse or injury.

Ground Protection

To prevent soil contamination and damage to the existing ground, the base of all displays and exhibits involving soil, landscaping materials, or other similar materials, must be lined with a thick, strong membrane so that landscaping materials, plants, and garden contents are not in direct contact with the ground. This is the responsibility of the exhibitor.

Water

Shared standpipes will be available for use by all Show exhibitors for watering purposes throughout the Show. Please bring your own hoses and watering cans as appropriate.

Deliveries and Storage

All deliveries to site must have an assigned contact name and mobile phone number, and you or your representative must be available to accept delivery.

Exhibitors should ensure that, where applicable, deliveries to site are made using off-loading devices (e.g. hi-ab, forklift).

During construction and breakdown, materials and plants must be stored directly adjacent to your plot and must not cause an obstruction to other Show exhibitors or emergency access routes.

Construction Work, Plant, Machinery, and Waste

You will be required to provide and organise all of the materials, plants, and labour needed to build your exhibit on site.

Care must be taken to prevent ground contamination and damage during the build-up and breakdown of your exhibit.

You are not permitted to mix concrete, mortar, resin, or other such materials outside the area allocated for your exhibit.

You must not create unnecessary noise, dust, or dirt on site. Stone cutting must be done with a water-spray dust suppression kit.

You must receive written permission from the Organiser to bring and use any machinery, plant, or power tools on site.

Plant operators must be competent, experienced, and in possession of the appropriate qualification, licence, or certificate.

Unattended plant and machinery must be parked correctly and safely, and immobilised.

Unattended power tools must be disconnected from any power source and stored securely.

There is no overnight covered storage for equipment. Please ensure that all of your tools, plant, and machinery are removed from site at the end of each day. The Organiser takes no responsibility for loss or damage of your property under any circumstances.

Vehicular plant and machinery must be fitted with safety reversing alarms.

During build-up and breakdown, you are responsible for ensuring any waste generated by your activities is removed from site safely, legally, and responsibly.

Judging Details and Payment of Prizes

Judging Dates

Your exhibits and competition entries must be ready for judging by the following dates and times:

- Categories A to B: Thursday 14th August 2025, 5pm
- Categories C to L: Friday 15th August 2025, 8.30am
- Category M: Thursday 14th August 2025, 5pm

Judging of Categories A, B, and M will take place across Thursday 14th August and Friday 15th August 2025.

Judging of Categories C to L will take place on Friday 15th August 2025.

You will need to vacate your exhibit while judging takes place.

The Competition Marquee will be closed to all competitors and the public while judging takes place.

Judging Panels

Final judging panels will be announced closer to the Show dates, but all panels will consist of experts and professionals in fields relevant to each class.

All judges' decisions are final.

Payment of Prize Money

All prize monies owing will be settled by the Organiser within 14 working days of the final show day (Sunday 17th August 2025). Winners will be asked to provide details for their preferred method of payment to allow suitable transfer of funds. All personal details provided will only be used to facilitate this action and will not be stored for longer than necessary to achieve this.

Competition Marquee winners will be able to collect their prizes in cash from the Show Box Office (at the entrance) whilst the Show is open.

Outdoor Competition Class Schedule

Entries to classes in Categories A and B are free.

Please familiarise yourself with the application deadlines and regulations applicable to each class before applying to take part.

Category A: Show Gardens

CLASS

- 1. Large Show Garden (8m x 8m)**
- 2. Small Show Garden (3m x 5m)**

Open to all horticultural, landscape, or garden design professionals and students, as well as charities and community groups.

Exhibiting at Rutland Flower Show is an excellent marketing opportunity to showcase your business, organisation, charity, or community group.

You are free to write your own brief for your garden using any theme or style you wish.

There are two classes of different garden sizes to choose from.

Entries for Class 1 (Large Show Garden) will also be offered space to erect a promotional trade stand for free.

For both classes, your application must include the following saved as a PDF file:

- A Design Brief – 500 words maximum
A concise explanation of the philosophy behind your design. Who is the design for? What do they want from their garden? How do they want to use it? How will you ensure the design is practical whilst fulfilling their desires? You will also need to explain your use of plants or a planting theme, and how this relates to the rest of the garden. Do the same for the hard landscaping – why have you chosen particular materials and how do they fit into your design? Finally, are there any features that you have included to enhance your garden within the theme?
- Garden Design Plan (drawn to scale) – 1 sheet of A3 paper maximum
A 2D bird's eye view plan of your design, including labelling of all materials and contents. You may not know exactly which plants you will use in the final garden yet but should identify any important specimens or general planting styles.
- 3D Drawing (drawn to scale) – 1 sheet of A3 paper maximum
A 3D drawing of your design to help visualisation of your finished garden. This drawing may be used in Show publicity.

Judging will take into account how well you have met the criteria set out in your original brief and design plan, so consider the achievability of your plans at the outset.

Application Closing Date: Sunday 1st June 2025

Category B: Planting Design

CLASS

3. Planted Border (2.4m x 2.4m or 4.8m x 1.2m)

Open to all horticultural, landscape, or garden design professionals and students, as well as charities and community groups.

Creating a Planted Border at Rutland Flower Show is a great opportunity to promote your business, organisation, charity, or community group using a slightly lower budget than creating a Show Garden. It is also an excellent way to gain experience in creating a flower show exhibit if you have never done anything like this before.

All entrants in this class will be provided with a pre-built edge for your border comprising of timber sleepers.

You are free to write your own brief for your planting scheme using any theme or style you wish. Whilst planting should predominate your design, you can also include other materials and features to add context and interest to your scheme.

At the application stage you will need to choose which size of border you would like to design, 2.4m x 2.4m or 4.8m x 1.2m. Both offer the same amount of planting space, but the different proportions give some flexibility depending on what you want to achieve.

For this class your application must include the following saved as a PDF file:

- **Design Brief – 300 words maximum**
A concise explanation of the philosophy behind your design. What is it about and what does it represent? Explain your choice of theme and how the plants you are using relate to this. At this stage you may not know all of the exact plants you will use, but you will need to have some idea of your main specimens and types. Also explain how any other materials or features to be used in your border relate to your design aims and themes.
- **Design Drawing (drawn to scale) – 1 sheet of A3 paper maximum**
A 2D elevation or 3D drawing of your planting design to help visualisation of your finished scheme. This drawing may be used in Show publicity.

Judging will take into account how well you have met the criteria set out in your original brief and design, so consider the achievability of your plans at the outset.

Application Closing Date: Sunday 1st June 2025

Competition Marquee Class Schedule

A £1 entry fee applies to all classes and must be paid in full on delivery at the Show.

Entry by groups will only be allowed where indicated in the specific class criteria.

You can enter as many classes as you wish but are limited to one entry per class.

Please familiarise yourself with regulations applicable to each class before applying.

Category C: Garden Design Plans

CLASS

4. Garden Design/Horticulture Students and Recent Graduates

Open to all current students or recent graduates (from 2023 onwards) of horticulture or garden design courses. Please provide proof of your studies at the application stage.

You are invited to submit a set of garden design plans in response to the following brief:

- A garden measuring 10m x 20m.
- Your clients are a young professional couple with 1 child under 10 and a dog.
- Space for outdoor cooking and dining is required, with seating for up to 8 people.
- Your clients regularly work from home.
- They would love to have space to grow their own produce.
- Wildlife potential and sustainability are important elements to them.
- They prefer traditional English garden styles with cottage-garden planting but need a low-maintenance space to enjoy alongside their busy schedules.

Your submission for this class must include the following, drawn or printed on good quality paper and fixed to stiff pieces of card/board to prevent curling:

- Garden Design Plan (drawn to scale) – 1 sheet of A3 paper maximum
A 2D bird's eye view plan of your design, including labelling of materials/features.
- 3D Drawing (drawn to scale) – 1 sheet of A3 paper maximum
A 3D drawing of your design.
- Planting Plan (drawn to scale) – 1 sheet of A3 paper maximum
A detailed plan showing the positions of each plant in the garden, labelled to identify and quantify them. Make sure that planting pockets are directly labelled and do not use numbered or coloured keys.
- A Design Description – 500 words maximum on 1 sheet of A4 paper
A concise explanation of how your design satisfies the requirements of the client brief. Explain your use of design principles and how they have been used to meet the clients' needs. How do the hard landscaping materials, features, and plants you have chosen help to establish a theme and achieve your aims?

Judging will consider how well you have responded to the given brief, your creativity, and your use of industry-standard drafting techniques.

CLASS

5. Schools

Open to whole schools, individual classes, or school clubs/groups.

You are invited to submit a design plan or drawing for your dream garden.

Gardens can be of any size or shape and can follow any style or theme you wish.

Your submission for this class must include the following, drawn or printed on good quality paper and fixed to stiff pieces of card/board to prevent curling:

- **Garden Design Drawing – 1 sheet of A3 paper maximum**
A drawing of the dream garden for your school. You can complete this any way you wish – as a design plan, a 3D drawing, or as a collage. Think about the different spaces and features that you would like to have, as well as some plants. You can add labels to identify different elements.
- **Design Description – 300 words maximum on 1 sheet of A4 paper**
Tell us about your dream garden and why you have designed it the way you have. What is its theme? What is exciting about it? What will the different spaces be used for and why have you chosen particular features and plants?

Judging will consider your creativity and ambition, as well as how well you communicated your ideas.

Category D: Floral Art and Floristry

All classes are open to both amateurs and professionals. Plant material may be bought or homegrown unless otherwise stated.

CLASS

6. Floral Art Installation using bought flowers and foliage, and representing 'Victory' in celebration of the 80th anniversaries of VE Day and VJ Day.

- Open to individuals and groups
- Maximum Space Allowed: Width 100cm, Depth 100cm, Height Optional
- Staging: An area of grass
- Please bring a sufficient stand/support for your installation
- Accessories may be used to enhance the display
- Viewed and judged all round

7. Floral Art Installation using homegrown flowers and foliage, and representing 'Victory' in celebration of the 80th anniversaries of VE Day and VJ Day.

- Open to individuals and groups
- Maximum Space Allowed: Width 100cm, Depth 100cm, Height Optional
- Staging: An area of grass
- Please bring a sufficient stand/support for your installation
- Accessories may be used to enhance the display
- Viewed and judged all round

8. Pedestal Arrangement

- Maximum Space Allowed: Width 100cm, Depth 100cm, Height Optional
- Staging: A painted black base at ground level
- Please bring a secure pedestal as part of the exhibit
- Viewed and judged from the front

9. Abstract Arrangement using plant material in a non-naturalistic way

- Maximum Space Allowed: Width 75cm, Depth, 75cm, Height 100cm
- Staging: Tabling covered in black fabric
- Please bring a sufficient stand/support for your arrangement if required
- Viewed and judged from the front and above

10. Bridal Bouquet

- Maximum Space Allowed: Width 50cm, Depth 50cm, Height 75cm
- Staging: Tabling covered in black fabric
- Please bring a suitable clear glass vase for your bouquet
- Decorative ties may be used as part of your bouquet
- Viewed and judged from all round

CLASS

11. Table Spray

- Maximum Space Allowed: Width 100cm, Depth, 100cm, Height 75cm
- Staging: Tabling covered in black fabric
- Viewed and judged from all round

12. Basket Posy

- Maximum Basket Size: 30cm
- Staging: Tabling covered in black fabric
- Please bring your own basket
- Viewed and judged from all round

13. Headdress, Hat, or Fascinator

- Maximum Space Allowed: Width 45cm, Depth 45cm, Height 45cm
- Staging: Tabling covered in black fabric
- Please bring a sufficient support for your exhibit
- Viewed and judged from all round

14. Homegrown Flower and Foliage Arrangement in a Jug or Vase

- Maximum Space Allowed: Width 50cm, Depth 50cm, Height Optional
- Staging: Tabling covered in black fabric
- Please bring your own jug or vase
- Viewed and judged from the front and above

Category E: Collections and Displays

All plant material must be homegrown or cultivated by you for at least 3 months.

CLASS

15. The Greenhouse

- Open to individuals and groups
- A display of cut flowers, pot plants, fruit, and/or vegetables on the theme of a greenhouse. Whilst the display will normally include all of these, it may be of one type only (e.g. just vegetables) or any combination of the types (e.g. cut flowers and fruit).
- Maximum Space Allowed: Width 180cm, Depth 75cm, Height Optional
- Staging: An area of grass. Please supply your own staging to suit your display.
- Accessories should be used but must not dominate your display
- Viewed and judged from the front

16. Master Gardener

- A display of a minimum of two of the following groups:
 - Group 1 – Two vases of different cut flowers
 - Group 2 – Two different flowering pot plants
 - Group 3 – Five different kinds of vegetable
 - Group 4 – Five different kinds of fruit
- Maximum Space Allowed: Width 180cm, Depth 75cm, Height Optional
- Staging: An area of grass. Please supply your own staging to suit your display.
- Viewed and judged from the front

17. Mixed Hanging Basket

- Hanging basket not to exceed 36cm across the top
- Maximum Trailing Length: 100cm
- Staging: Baskets will be suspended from metal stands provided by the Show
- Viewed and judged from all round

18. Mixed Display of Patio Tubs and Containers

- Maximum Space Allowed: Width 100cm, Depth 100cm, Height Optional
- Staging: An area of grass
- Viewed and judged from all round

19. Collection of Fruit and Vegetables

- 9 different kinds of fruit and/or vegetables, with not less than 3 of each kind
- Maximum Space Allowed: Width 90cm, Depth 75cm
- Staging: An area of grass. Please supply your own staging to suit your display.
- Viewed and judged from the front

CLASS

20. Collection of Potted Houseplants

- 3 different potted houseplants, comprising 1 foliage plant, 1 flowering plant, and 1 cactus/succulent
- Maximum Space Allowed: Width 180cm, Depth 75cm, Height Optional
- Staging: An area of grass. Please supply your own staging to suit your display.
- Viewed and judged from the front

21. Textile Display representing 'Victory' in celebration of the 80th anniversaries of VE Day and VJ Day.

- Open to individuals and groups
- Any combination of textiles, threads, wool, fibre, yarn, paint, dye, beads, and other textile embellishments.
- Maximum Size: Width 100cm, Depth 100cm, Height Optional
- Staging: An area of grass
- Please bring a sufficient stand/support for your installation

Category F: Cut Flowers

Classes open to amateur growers only. All entries to be displayed in your own vase.

Maximum vase size 12". Staging provided is tabling covered in black fabric.

CLASS

22. Dahlias – 3 blooms of any type (can be a single cultivar or mixed)

23. Dahlias – Giant/Large Decorative (8-10"+ in diameter), 1 bloom

24. Dahlias – Cactus/Semi-Cactus, 3 blooms of the same cultivar

25. Dahlias – Pompon/Ball, 5 blooms of the same cultivar

26. Sweet Peas – 5 spikes of the same cultivar

27. Sweet Peas – 5 spikes of mixed cultivars

28. Perpetual Carnations – 3 blooms of the same cultivar

29. Perpetual Carnations – 5 blooms of mixed cultivars

30. Roses – 5 stems of blooms, mixed types/cultivars

31. Roses – Hybrid Tea, 1 stem of blooms

32. Roses – Floribunda, 1 stem of blooms

33. Vase of Annuals – 3 different types, 2 stems of each

34. Vase of Herbaceous Perennials – 3 different types, 2 stems of each

35. Vase of Flowering Shrubs – 3 stems of one or more types

36. Vase of Garden Foliage – at least 3 different types

Category G: Pot Plants

Classes open to amateur growers only. Maximum 10” pot size for each specimen.

Staging provided is tabling covered in black fabric.

CLASS

37. Begonia

38. Pelargonium

39. Fuchsia

40. Orchid

41. Fern

42. Bonsai

43. Foliage Plant

44. Cactus or Succulent

Category H: Fruit and Vegetables

Classes open to amateur growers only.

Staging provided is tabling covered in black fabric. Please provide your own dishes/plates as appropriate for display purposes.

Each individual class entry to be of the same cultivar unless otherwise stated.

CLASS

45. Potatoes – dish of 5 white

46. Potatoes – dish of 5 coloured

47. Parsnips – dish of 3, tops not to exceed 76mm

48. Carrots – dish of 3, tops not to exceed 76mm

49. Beetroot – dish of 3, tops not to exceed 76mm

50. Turnips – dish of 3 white or yellow, tops not to exceed 76mm

51. Garlic (excluding elephant garlic) – dish of 3 bulbs, dressed

52. Onions (grown from seeds or sets) – dish of 3 bulbs, dressed

53. Shallots – dish of 6 large/exhibition type

54. Shallots – dish of 6 small/pickling type

55. Leeks – dish of 3, with tops and roots

56. Peas – dish of 6 pods with stems attached

57. Broad Beans – dish of 6 pods with stems attached

58. French Beans – dish of 6 pods with stems attached

59. Runner Beans – dish of 6 pods with stems attached

60. Cauliflower – 2 heads with 50mm stem

61. Cabbage – 2 heads with 76mm stem

62. Lettuce – 2 heads with roots

CLASS

- 63. Rhubarb – dish of 3 sticks with leaf blades trimmed to 40mm**
- 64. Marrows – 2**
- 65. Courgettes – dish of 3**
- 66. Cucumbers – dish of 2**
- 67. Tomatoes – dish of 6 small fruited/cherry types, calyx attached**
- 68. Tomatoes – dish of 3 large fruited/beefsteak types, calyx attached**
- 69. Chillies – dish of 3 pods**
- 70. Culinary Herbs – 3 bunches of different types**
- 71. Cooking Apples – dish of 3**
- 72. Dessert Apples – dish of 3**
- 73. Strawberries – dish of 6**
- 74. Raspberries – dish of 6**
- 75. Misshapen fruit or vegetable**
- 76. Any fruit not included in the above classes**
- 77. Any vegetable not included in the above classes**

Category I: Heaviest and Longest

Classes open to amateur growers only.

Staging provided is tabling covered in black fabric. Please provide your own dishes/plates as appropriate for display purposes.

CLASS

78. Heaviest 3 Potatoes (same cultivar, weighed together)

79. Heaviest Onion

80. Heaviest Marrow

81. Heaviest Tomato

82. Longest Carrot

83. Longest Leek

84. Longest Runner Bean

Category J: Home Produce

Classes open to amateur producers only. All produce to be homemade.

Staging provided is tabling covered in black fabric. Please bring your own plates, containers etc. as required for display.

For hygiene purposes, all food not contained within a jar, bottle, or other secure container must be placed on a plate and covered with clingfilm.

CLASS

85. Jar of Fruit Jelly (of any type)

86. Jar of Jam (of any type)

87. Jar of Strawberry Jam

88. Jar of Marmalade (of any type)

89. Jar of Lemon Curd

90. Jar of Chutney (of any type)

91. Jar of Honey

92. Hen's Eggs – box of 6 (white, tinted, or brown)

93. Shortbread – plate of 5 pieces

94. Sweet Muffins (of any type) – plate of 6

95. Traybake (of any type) – cut into 8 portions

96. Victoria Sandwich Cake

- raspberry jam centre, dusting of caster sugar, no decoration
- 8" maximum diameter

97. Rutland Flower Show Celebration Cake

- a cake of any flavouring and decoration to celebrate the best of Rutland
- 10" maximum diameter

98. Fruit Cake (of any type)

- 8" maximum diameter

99. Tea Loaf (of any type)

CLASS

- 100. Handmade Loaf of Bread (of any type)**
- 101. Bread Rolls (of any type) – plate of 5**
- 102. Fruit Scones – plate of 4**
- 103. Cheese Scones – plate of 4**
- 104. Cheese Straws – plate of 6**
- 105. Bottle of Non-Alcoholic Cordial (of any type)**

Category K: Arts and Crafts

Open to amateurs and professionals.

Unless otherwise stated, staging provided is tabling covered in black fabric.

CLASS

106. Floral Painting

- Any medium
- Except for deep edge canvasses, artwork must be framed, strung, and ready to hang on hooks provided by the Show
- Paintings will be displayed on vertical boards along the side of the marquee
- No clip frames
- Maximum Frame Size: 100cm x 100cm
- Artwork can be any size within the frame

107. Landscape Painting of a Rutland Scene

- Any medium
- Except for deep edge canvasses, artwork must be framed, strung, and ready to hang on hooks provided by the Show
- Paintings will be displayed on vertical boards along the side of the marquee
- No clip frames
- Maximum Frame Size: 100cm x 100cm
- Artwork can be any size within the frame

108. Photography – Wildlife in Summer

- Print Size: A4 Landscape or Portrait
- Print to Edge, Borderless
- Print Paper: All photos must be printed on photographic paper
- Backing Card/Board: Please fix photos to a stiff piece of A4 card/board to prevent the photo curling
- No mounts

109. Photography – Rutland Life

- Print Size: A4 Landscape or Portrait
- Print to Edge, Borderless
- Print Paper: All photos must be printed on photographic paper
- Backing Card/Board: Please fix photos to a stiff piece of A4 card/board to prevent the photo curling
- No mounts

CLASS

110. Knitted or Crocheted Item

- Any material
- Maximum Size: Width 100cm, Depth 100cm, Height 100cm
- Please supply your own stand if required for display

111. Handmade Stuffed Animal Toy

- Any material
- Maximum Size: 50cm in any direction

112. Handmade Birthday Present

- Any medium/material
- Maximum Size: 30cm in any direction
- Please supply your own stand if required for display

113. Handmade Vase

- Any medium/material
- Maximum Size: Width/Depth 25cm, Height 50cm
- Can be decorated with cut flowers for effect

114. Handmade Plate

- Any medium/material
- Maximum Size: Width/Depth 60cm, Height Optional

115. Handmade Bowl

- Any medium/material
- Maximum Size: Width/Depth 60cm, Height Optional

116. Woodwork Item

- Any item made of wood
- Maximum Size: 50cm in any direction

117. Woven Basket

- Any weaving material
- Maximum Size: 60cm in any direction

Category L: Children's Competition

Classes open to children under the age of 12. Please put age on entry form.

Staging provided is tabling covered in black fabric.

CLASS

- 118. Freaky Fruit and Veg – The freakiest-looking fruit/veg you can find!**
- 119. Vegetable Animal – An animal made from fruit and vegetables**
- 120. Arrangement of Garden Flowers in a Jar**
- 121. Floral Headdress/Hat**
- 122. Garden on a Tray – A miniature garden using real plant material in a standard seed tray**
- 123. Garden Model on a Plate – A model of your own garden design using any materials on a paper plate**
- 124. Lego Model – any model of your own design made of Lego**
- 125. Painting of Flowers – A4 size in any medium**
- 126. Photograph of My Favourite Garden**
 - A photograph with a sentence explaining why it is your favourite garden
 - A4 maximum overall paper size (photo and writing)
- 127. Photograph of My Favourite Animal**
 - A photograph with a sentence explaining why it is your favourite animal
 - A4 maximum overall paper size (photo and writing)
- 128. Collage of Natural Materials – A4 size**
 - Natural materials could include anything found in nature, e.g. leaves, flowers, bark, etc.

Traders' Competition Class Schedule

Please familiarise yourself with the application deadlines and regulations applicable to each class before applying to take part.

Category M: Trade Stands and Displays

CLASS

129. Nursery Planting Display

- Plant nursery trade stands will be eligible for an additional area measuring 2.4m x 2.4m close to your stand to create a horticultural display using plants that you stock.
- Aim for this display to inform and inspire Show visitors to purchase your plants to create their own successful planting schemes at home.
- Please do not sell plants from your designated display area until the sell-off bell is rung on the final day of the show (Sunday 17th August).
- Best in Show will receive a refund of their stand fee.

130. Non-Plant Trade (outside)

- Open to any non-plant trade stands positioned outside.
- You are invited to enhance your stand design and presentation with a garden theme.
- Best in Show will receive a refund of their stand fee.

131. Non-Plant Trade (inside)

- Open to any non-plant trade stands positioned in a marquee.
- You are invited to enhance your stand design and presentation with a garden theme.
- Best in Show will receive a refund of their stand fee.

132. Food

- Open to any food trade stands throughout the show.
- You are invited to enhance your stand design and presentation with a garden theme.
- Best in Show will receive a refund of their stand fee.