



## **SHOW GARDENS AND BORDERS**



## **COMPETITION INFORMATION**

## **Outside 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> June 2025**

## **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 11<sup>th</sup> August 2025, 1pm-5pm**
- **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> August 2025 – Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> August 2025, 9am-5pm**
- **Your exhibit must be ready for judging by 5pm on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> 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.

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

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.



## **Judging Details and Payment of Prizes**

### **Judging Dates**

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

- Categories A to B: Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> August 2025, 5pm

Judging of Categories A and B will take place across Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> August and Friday 15<sup>th</sup> August 2025.

You will need to vacate your exhibit 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 17<sup>th</sup> 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.