2023

Royal Norfolk Show Garden Village Show Gardens

Information, Awards & Judging

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All information contained in this booklet is correct at time of print, subject to review. Last Updated: 13 December 2022.

Show Theme and Design Brief

Show Theme for 2023

The Royal Norfolk Shows' theme for 2023 is 'Looking to the Future".

You may wish to take inspiration from the forthcoming Coronation of King Charles III, which is taking place in May. As you may be aware King Charles is a passionate advocate of conservation and horticulture.

Show Garden Space

You will be allocated a 6m x 6m plot for you to build your garden. Which will be prepared prior to your arrival with kickboards and filled with topsoil. If you do not require the kickboards or topsoil, please advise in your application.

The plot will be forward facing, and there will be a back to your garden.

Design Brief

Each Show Garden will be judged against the judging criteria and the designer's brief.

The brief document itself is not judged but provides the judges with background information regarding your Show Garden.

The brief should include:

- 300-500 words describing the concept behind your Show Garden
- A sketch/plan, in any form, of your concept for your Show Garden
- Any additional information about your Show Garden
- Plant List (plants included in your Show Garden)

Cost to Exhibit

There is no charge to enter a Show Garden.

If you require any additional services such as Electricity, this will be chargeable, and more detail can be obtained via the Royal Norfolk Show Office, contact detailed on page 5.

Building and Removing your Show Garden

Building your Show Garden

Design work and planning should take place in advance, with the garden being built during the week prior to the show (17th to 27th) between the hours of 9am-5pm.

By the end of the day (7pm) on Tuesday (27th), your garden must be completed.

Removing your Show Garden

Your Show Garden must remain in situ, until the end of the show on Thursday (29th).

If you wish to dismantle your show garden on Friday (30th) or over the weekend (1st and 2nd July).

Please note that we are not able to guarantee security on site post show.

By the time you leave the plot you have been provided, it should be cleared of all items you have brought on to site to construct your garden.

Awards

Awards for Show Gardens

Each Show Garden is judged on its own merit against the judging criteria (see page 6).

Depending on the total number of points the garden receives it will be awarded the appropriate award as given in the judging criteria (page 6).

The awards are Gold, Silver-Gilt, Silver and Bronze. If an Show Garden is judged to be below Bronze standard, no award will be made.

Awards

You will receive your award as soon as possible after judging has concluded.

Award Feedback

You will receive feedback on your Show Garden from the Judging team, or representative, before the end of the show.

Judging Guidance

Judging Times

Please note times specified are subject to change on the day.

Judging will commence at 7am on Wednesday 28th June.

Advising Judges of any significant changes (Exhibitor Comments)

An exhibitor comment form will be provided to you prior to the show. This form is for you to highlight any specific changes to your Show Garden from your original brief.

The details you highlight will not influence the judging of your final Show Garden but will allow you an opportunity to highlight things you may like to draw to the attention of the judges.

This form needs to be submitted to the Head Judge (or Garden Village Steward) no later than 3pm on Tuesday 28th June.

Exhibitors' presence during judging

All exhibitors must leave the area when Show Gardens are being judged.

Discussion with Judges

Exhibitors will have the opportunity to discuss their Show Gardens and seek advice on how to improve them during the afternoon on Wednesday 29 June. The Head Judge (or a nominated representative) of the relevant judging panel will visit each Show Garden, giving all exhibitors the chance to obtain verbal feedback.

Contact Details

If you have any queries regarding Show Gardens in the Garden Village at the Royal Norfolk Show, please contact.

Royal Norfolk Show Office

Events & Sales Coordinator

Maria Skitmore Tel: 01603 731 963

Email: maria.skitmore@rnaa.org.uk

Garden Village Steward and Head Horticultural Judge

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Judging Criteria

Show Garden Judging Criteria						
Criteria	Excellent (4)	Very good (3)	Good (2)	Satisfactory (1)	Poor (0)	
1 Realisation of client's brief Clarity Delivery	First-rate and clear realisation of brief with no apparent discrepancies between brief and completed garden	Strong realisation of brief with minor discrepancies between brief and completed garden	Adequate realisation of brief with minor discrepancies between brief and completed garden	Ambiguous realisation of brief with some significant discrepancies between brief and completed garden	Lack of relevance or relationship of brief to completed garden	
2 Ambition Atmosphere Flair Originality Impact Theatre	Excellent degree of ambition with no apparent issues	Very high degree of ambition with minor issues	Adequate degree of ambition with some noticeable issues	Underlying degree of ambition but with some significant issues	No sense of ambition or showmanship	
Attention to detail Choice of materials Polish and dressing	Excellent overall impression with no apparent issues of attention to detail	Very good overall impression with minor weak areas lacking attention to detail	Favourable overall impression with some noticeable weak areas requiring attention to detail	Weak overall impression with significant areas requiring greater attention to detail	Garden incomplete	
4 Design, layout plan of garden Dimensions Scale Unity	Excellent layout plan of garden, with no apparent flaws	Very good layout plan with some minor flaws	Good layout plan with some noticeable flaws	Weak layout plan with some significant flaws	Major issues with layout plan	
5 Design, 3D and spatial composition Scale Mass and void Volume Balance	Excellent spatial balance and scale, with no apparent issues	Very good spatial balance and scale, with minor issues	Largely acceptable spatial balance and scale, but with some noticeable issues	Weak spatial balance and scale, with some significant issues	Major design issues with poor spatial balance and scale	
6 Construction Quality of build and finish	Excellent build quality and finish demonstrating craftsmanship, flair and skill with no apparent fault in construction	Very good build quality and finish with minor faults in construction that reflect in the aesthetic finish to work	A generally good finish in build quality with some construction faults that could be improved to enhance the build finish	Variable build quality and finish across garden with notable faults in the construction detail	Lack of coherence in choice of materials, poor build quality and finish	
 7 Planting design Visual impact Colour Texture Form Composition 	Excellent planting design with no apparent errors in composition	Very good planting design with minor errors in composition	Good planting design with some noticeable errors in composition	Sufficient planting design with some significant errors in composition	Little or no tangible evidence of planting design, composition or visual impact	
8 Planting associations Relevance Cultural requirements Sustainability	Excellent planting associations with no apparent inaccuracies in plant selection	Very good planting associations with minor inaccuracies in plant selection	Good planting associations with some noticeable inaccuracies in plant selection	Weak planting associations with significant inaccuracies in plant selection	Small or inadequate stock, poor quality plants and specimens and inadequate coverage	
9 Planting implementation Quality Health Density	Excellent quality plants with no imperfections and appropriate density for design intentions	Very good quality plants with few imperfections and mainly appropriate density for design intentions	Good quality plants with some minor imperfections and/or some inconsistency in density for design intentions	Generally undersized plants of insufficient quality and/or quantity for design intentions	Inferior plants inadequate for purpose. Affected by pests and diseases. Unsatisfactory on all counts	
Award	Gold	Silver-Gilt	Silver	Bronze	No Award	
Points	36-28	27-23	22-19	18-15	14-0	

Examples of past Show Gardens

