

LOWDHAM HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY – GENERAL HINTS AND TIPS FOR ENTERING OUR SUMMER SHOW

The best way to support Lowdham Horticultural Society Summer Show is to exhibit your work and produce. The more entries we have, the better the show. These hints and tips have been gathered from a number of sources but as a rule are the sort of thing show judges are looking for. The purpose of these tips is to help exhibitors present their entries to best effect. Remember that judges are looking for the best exhibits which are present ON THAT DAY and they always take into consideration early or late seasons and weather conditions leading up to the show. Take a look around your garden and you will be surprised by what you have that you can put in the show. Anyone who enjoys growing flowers, fruit and vegetables can enter successfully by following these simple guidelines.

Read your schedule carefully

Always read the Lowdham Horticultural Society Summer Show Schedule show rules and class titles carefully. Check the number specified in the Schedule for the class you wish to enter – if it says 5 White Potatoes, you will be disqualified ('NAS' – not as schedule) if you have too few or too many. It is worth bringing along a few extra as spares just in case you find you need them when you are placing your exhibit. Pay particular attention to stipulated sizes and any restrictions.

Start small

Show a small set of flowers/fruit/vegetables really well to ensure you have a stress-free show. If you are new to showing don't be tempted to enter too many classes. Preparing entries for showing takes a bit of time. We have a small number of classes for new growers and you might find it most successful to start with these.

Protect your crops from damage and disease

Flowers/fruit/vegetables should be as near perfect as possible, even if it is not the largest specimen you have. This means no damage, no signs of disease and nice even growth (unless you are entering our 'Novelty Vegetable' class!)

Review your entries - About 10 days before Show Day plan your entries. Go through the schedule again to see what you have.

Harvest, prepare and pack your entries with great care.

The day before, carefully harvest your crops. Shallots and onions may be harvested and set out to dry out a little, a few days earlier. Gently wash away all soil on entries which have been in contact with the ground. Try to avoid dropping or bruising any entry. Remove any pests you find. If there are multiple items in the class (e.g. 5 tomatoes), make sure that they are roughly the same size and match as much as possible – this applies to flowers, fruit and vegetables. You may find it easier to pack entries individually in newspaper or kitchen paper, place in a box and pack around them so they do not move and become damaged in transit. For flower stems and herbs, do not forget to put them in water when you stage them. You may label the exhibit with its name if known.

Arrive in good time to set out your entries - You want to have time to set up your exhibit/s attractively and you don't want to drop or damage anything because you are hurrying. Pay particular attention to how you present your exhibits.

Check your entry again - Once staged, check your entry is to schedule before you leave.

Chat to other exhibitors - It's a good way to get ideas for next year!

Have fun and enjoy the Show!