

## TIPS FOR SHOWING FRUIT

As long as you read the show schedule correctly and follow what it says you cannot really go wrong so long as you consider and always remember the following when selecting your fruit:

**Condition** – the fruit that you exhibit should be in a good condition and ripe but certainly not overripe. However, apples, pears and gooseberries may be exhibited unripe. Eliminate, if possible, any fruit that has disease or pest damage. Never polish your fruit to make it look better and try and preserve the “bloom” that you find on a number of fruits e.g. plums.

**Size** – the fruit must be of good size for its particular variety. For dessert apples the judges will be looking for a size of around 7.5cm (3in) although some varieties such as Pitmaston Pineapple and Winston are inherently small and Jonagold and Jupiter are inherently large.

**Colour** – the fruit colour should be characteristic of the variety e.g. only select red specimens of the apple Discovery as it is a red apple (although when fruits are hidden under leaves they tend to remain green).

**Uniformity** – ensure that all of the fruit specimens that you have entered in a single exhibit are uniform in size, shape and colour i.e. if a class calls for five specimens of a dessert apple you must do your best to find a set that are as similar as possible in size, shape and colour.

**One Variety** – unless the show schedule states otherwise, all of the fruit that you show in one single exhibit must be of one variety.

### **And when it comes to the day of the show:**

Read the show schedule carefully before going to the show to check the quantities required for each class that you are going to enter.

Pack your fruit, for transport to the show, carefully and make sure that it is secure. Avoid carrying too much into the show at any one time.

Allow plenty of time for travelling to the show and for staging your exhibit, as shortage of time can lead to carelessness and mistakes. Always treat your fruit very carefully to maintain its bloom and not to cause damage.

Make sure that the fruit you stage is the best quality that you can manage, uniform in all respects and meets the numerical requirements. Try and avoid entering fruit that is becoming overripe because it will quickly deteriorate.

### **Displaying fruit:**

When displaying your fruit lay it out carefully and present it in a way to catch the judge's eye.

Apples should be exhibited stalk down and in classes where five or more are required lay one fruit on top of the pile. Pears are best exhibited on their sides with one on top in classes of five or more. Soft fruit should be carefully laid out.

When staging your exhibit, it is inevitable that you will find one specimen that is a little larger or smaller than the rest. Hide it as best you can and leave the judge to find it by not placing it in a prominent position e.g. on top!

Never be put off by what other exhibitors have entered – you never know just what is lurking in the unexposed parts of the fruit! That is why judges will always examine all exhibits most carefully! When you have finished staging check each of your entries very carefully to make sure that you have exhibited the right quantity and that you are happy with the arrangement. Do not fiddle with anything once you are satisfied. It is very easy to damage fruit by too much handling.