

2026



Royal Norfolk Show

Garden Village

Show Gardens

Information Booklet 2026

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All information contained in this booklet is correct at time of print, subject to review.
Last Updated: 18th February 2026.

Show Garden Theme and Design Brief

Show Garden Theme

There is no set theme for a show garden we encourage you to use your own imagination to create a garden which inspires and uses the space available to its full potential, while providing the visitor with an inspiring design and ideas they can take home with them.

Show Garden Options

We offer two exhibit options within the Garden Village.

1. **Small Garden** - which is a space of 4m x 5m
2. **Large Garden** - which is a space of 6m x 6m

You will be allocated a plot in which to build your garden. This 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.

Your garden's main view will be forward facing, though gardens should be designed with the concept of being viewed from the sides, with a back to your garden.

Design Brief

Each garden will be judged against the judging criteria (page 7) and against the design brief submitted by the applicant as part of their application.

The brief enables the applicant to communicate with the judging panel and forms the basis for assessing the garden for award.

The brief should focus on:

What - The garden's purpose and function

Why - The garden's design and/or theme and your inspiration for the garden

How - The garden will be constructed and what materials and plants will be used

The brief should include:

- A descriptive text of no more than 500 words
- A sketch/plan of the concept for your Show Garden
- Highlight any additional information about your Show Garden, for example green credentials.
- Plant List (plants you propose to include in your Show Garden)

Closing Date for Entries, Show Tickets and Costs

Cost to Exhibit

There is no charge to enter a Show Garden.

If you require any additional services such as water or electricity this will be chargeable, more detail can be obtained via the Royal Norfolk Show Office, contact details are on page 6

Closing Date for Entries

The closing date for entries for the 2026 show is Wednesday 1st April 2026. We have a limited number of spaces available and would encourage that you submit your application as early as possible.

Notification of Entry being Accepted for the Show

We will confirm the status of your entry by Monday 13th April at the latest.

Show Tickets

Each Show Garden will receive 4 show day tickets (2 per day), 2 x 2-day car passes, 2 x set-up passes.

If you require additional tickets for show days, these can be purchased using the trade stand portal and are charged at the trade stand discounted rate (free parking). The portal will be issued to you on receipt of your booking.

Risk Assessment

All exhibitors must supply a Risk Assessment. A template can be located on the Show website or emailed to you. If you have any queries regarding the risk assessment, please contact the show office.

Insurance

We also require proof of your Public Liability insurance (recommended minimum of £5 million). Please provide a copy that shows you are covered for the duration of the show (including the period of set up and clear down). If you have any queries regarding insurance, please contact the show office.

Building and Removing your Show Garden

Building your Show Garden

Design work and planning should take place in advance off site, with the garden being built on site during the week prior to the show (15th to 23rd) between the hours of 8am-6pm.

By the end of the day (7pm) on Tuesday (24th), your garden must be completed.

Removing your Show Garden

Your Show Garden **must** remain in situ until the end of the show on Thursday (25th).

Dismantling may begin at the close of the show. However, in previous years, some exhibitors have chosen to start dismantling their gardens on Friday 26th June or over the weekend (27th – 28th June). All exhibits must be fully cleared by Monday 29th June 2026 at the latest.

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

By the time you leave your plot, it should be cleared of all items you have brought on to site to construct your garden and left in a similar condition to when you first arrived on site.

Awards

Awards for Show Gardens

Each exhibit is judged on its own merit against the judging criteria (see page 7).

Depending on the total number of points the exhibit receives it will be given the relevant award as indicated in the judging criteria.

The awards are Gold (28-36 points), Silver-Gilt (23-27 points), Silver (19-22 points), Bronze (15-18 points), No Award (0-14 points).

Awards

Award Cards will be presented, or placed on your exhibit, as soon as possible following judging.

Award Feedback

You will receive feedback on your exhibit via email a few days after the show. The Head Judge will be present during the show and feedback can also be obtained verbally on the day.

Judging

Judging Times

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

Show Gardens will be judged on Wednesday 24th June starting from 8am.

Advising Judges of any significant changes (Exhibitor Comments)

An Exhibitor Comment Form will be emailed to your registered contact prior to the show. This form allows you to highlight any updates or changes to your Show Garden since submitting your original design brief, such as design adjustments, plant substitutions, or features you'd like the judges to note.

Please return the completed form to the Head Horticultural Judge or a Garden Village Steward by 6pm on Tuesday 24th June, or email it to rmsgv@harperdebbage.uk.

Exhibitors' presence during judging

All exhibitors must leave their show garden when it is being judged to allow judges to discuss their opinions freely.

Help and Advice

Our Head Horticultural Judge is happy to share his expertise and advice to assist you in the planning and design process so if you are unsure of anything, or would like to explore your ideas, please contact Kristopher (see page 7).

How to Apply

Submit Your Application Online (Part 1)

Visit the Royal Norfolk Show website and navigate to the Trade Stand page (<https://trade.royalnorfolkshow.co.uk/trade-stands>).

- Click the green button: 'Click Here' to open a new page to start your application
- Provide all Contact Details (Complete all required fields)
- On the next page, select SHOW GARDEN and choose the required garden size from the option dropdown down list.
- Next tick the 'Trade Stand Standard' option above the description box
- In the description box enter 'SHOW GARDEN (and size)', no other information is required

Once submitted, please email maria.skitmore@rnaa.org.uk and rmsgv@harperdebbage.uk to fast-track your booking.

Submit Your Design Brief by Email (Part 2)

At the time of, or shortly after submitting your application, email your design brief to the Head Judge at rmsgv@harperdebbage.uk.

This brief informs the judging team and forms the basis for assessing your garden.

Contact Details

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

Maria Skitmore for bookings, show tickets and other site services

Kristopher Harper-Allison for any enquiries regarding the application process, your exhibit, seeking advice and guidance or to arrange a meeting to discuss your garden/application

Royal Norfolk Show Office

Events & Sales Coordinator

Maria Skitmore

Tel: 01603 731963

Email: maria.skitmore@rnaa.org.uk

Head Horticultural Judge and Garden Village Steward

Kristopher Harper-Allison MHort (RHS), MCIHort, FLS

Tel: 07889 679444

Email: rnsqv@harperdebbage.uk

Judging Criteria

Show Garden Judging Criteria					
Criteria	Excellent (4)	Very good (3)	Good (2)	Satisfactory (1)	Poor (0)
<u>1 Realisation of client's brief</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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
<u>2 Ambition</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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
<u>3 Overall impression</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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
<u>4 Design, layout plan of garden</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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
<u>5 Design, 3D and spatial composition</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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
<u>6 Construction</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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
<u>7 Planting design</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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
<u>8 Planting associations</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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
<u>9 Planting implementation</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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

