

MERSEA ISLAND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



Programme of Shows for 2024

Schedule of Entries

SPRING SHOW – 23rd MARCH
SUMMER SHOW – 24th AUGUST

1.30pm

MICA CENTRE, WEST MERSEA

MERSEA ISLAND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

www.mi-gc.org.uk

President: Mr D.K.M. Cooper

Chairman:

Secretary: Miss H. Ritchie 01206 383752

Treasurer: Mrs A. Briggs 01206 384680

Show Committee: Mrs A. Briggs 01206 384680
Mrs P. Newton 01206 383795
Mrs J. Wingar 01206 382179

IMPORTANT NOTE

Spring Trophies to be returned to 103 Fairhaven Avenue by the end of February 2024

Summer Trophies to be returned to 103 Fairhaven Avenue by the end of July 2024

A Message from last year's Chairman

Welcome to our 2024 schedule. This covers the Spring Show on 23rd March and the Summer Show on 24th August both to be held at the MICA

Do study the schedule well, and more importantly enter some classes, still only 30p a class. We are very keen to get some children's entries. Children enjoy free entry. It's open to all, including grandchildren – whether on the island or away. Any queries, please contact Philippa Fairbanks(01206 384952) or Annette Briggs (01206 384680) we are happy to help.

Our meetings are on the second Tuesday of each month, usually held at the museum but on April 9th the meeting will be at West Mersea Church Hall at 7.30pm. Our SHED (the Self Help Edible Division) holds meetings on the first Wednesday of the month at 3pm in the Community Hall in Melrose Road. In the summer months SHED members meet in in each other's gardens - tea and cake provided (for a small donation). Contact Faith Richardson (01206 381966) if you are interested.

Who knows what the weather will throw at us in 2024 - welcome to gardening - always a challenge, but keep going!!

Good luck, I look forward to seeing you at the shows

Philippa Fairbanks

RULES and DEFINITIONS - ALL SHOWS

- 1.** All Shows open to any exhibitor
- 2.** All entry forms to be sent to 103 Fairhaven Avenue, West Mersea by 9:00pm on the Wednesday prior to the Show date, together with any entry fees payable. **NO LATE ENTRIES ACCEPTED.** Entries will also be accepted on plain paper. No exhibitor may enter more than one exhibit in each class unless stated.
- 3.** Exhibits must have been grown, made, created, or (photographs) taken by the exhibitor. Pot plants must have been tended for 3 months. Materials may be purchased for the Flower Arrangement classes.
- 4.** Novice entries are accepted in any class in any Show, provided the exhibitor has not won a first prize in that section in any previous Show. Entry card must indicate novice status.
- 5.** Exhibitors infringing Rules 3 or 4 will forfeit all prizes and may be debarred from future exhibiting.
- 6.** Judging of Flowers and Vegetables will be in accordance with the RHS "Rules for Judging". Judging of Flower Arrangements will be in accordance with NAFAS Rules.
- 7.** The Judges will be empowered to withhold prizes if they consider the exhibitors do not merit them.
- 8.** Exhibits to be staged by 10:00am prompt at each Show. No exhibits to be taken away before completion of prizegiving. No unauthorised person will be allowed in the Show hall while judging is in progress.
- 9.** The decision of the Judges as to the merits of exhibits shall be final and no appeals therefrom will be entertained. Any appeal or objection against a Judge's decision as to classification of exhibits or as to exhibits not being according to schedule shall be made in writing and handed to the Show Secretary not later than 3:30pm on the day of the Show, accompanied by the sum of £1 which may be forfeited at the discretion of the Committee if such appeal or objection is not upheld.
- 10.** The prize money must be collected from the Hon. Treasurer between 3:00pm and 3:45pm.
- 11.** While the Committee will take all reasonable steps to prevent loss or damage to exhibits, they cannot be held responsible for the same, and the placing of an entry in the Show implies acceptance of these Rules and Conditions by the exhibitor.
- 12.** The Committee reserves the right to refuse acceptance of entries of exhibits or entry to the Show hall.

38th ANNUAL SPRING SHOW

SATURDAY 23rd March 2024

At the MICA Centre

West Mersea

Open to exhibitors	8:00am – 10:00am
Judging begins	10:30am
Show open to All	1:30 pm
Prizegiving	3:45 pm
Auction of Produce	4.00 pm

TROPHIES - SPRING SHOW

1. **FITZPATRICK FLORAL TROPHY** for most points in Flower classes 1- 28
2. **BILL BAREHAM TROPHY** for best exhibit in Flower classes 1-28
3. **MARY SIENKIEWICZ MEMORIAL CUP** for best exhibit in Pot Plant classes 29 and 31-34
4. **LUCKHAM TROPHY** for most points in Vegetable classes 35-41
5. **CROSS CUP** for most points in Home Industry classes 42-50
6. **BARTON TROPHY** for most points in Flower Arrangement classes 51-54
7. **DUANE TROPHY** for most points in Children's classes 61-63
8. **SOCIETY CUP** for best exhibit Children's classes 61-63

THE MAUREEN FORD TROPHY will be awarded to the exhibitor gaining the most points in M.I.H.S. shows in one calendar year. **(To be presented at the AGM each year)**

PRIZE MONEY

Classes except Children's:- 1st prize 60p 2nd prize 40p

Children's:- 1st prize 80p 2nd prize 50p 3rd prize 30p

DESCRIPTION OF THE CLASSIFICATION OF DAFFODILS (RHS DAFFODIL AND TULIP COMMITTEE 1998)

DIV. 1 TRUMPET DAFFODILS

One flower to a stem; corona (trumpet) as long as or longer, than the perianth segment (petals).

DIV. 2 LARGE CUPPED DAFFODILS

One flower to a stem; corona (cup) more than 1/3, but less than equal to the length of the perianth segments (petals).

DIV. 3 SMALL CUPPED DAFFODILS

One flower to a stem; corona (cup) not more than 1/3 the length of the perianth segments (petals).

DIV. 4 DOUBLE DAFFODILS

One or more flowers to a stem, with doubling of the perianth segments or the corona or both.

DIV. 5 TRIANDRUS

Usually 2 or more pendent flowers to a stem; perianth segments reflexed.

DIV.6 CYCLAMINEUS

One flower to a stem; perianth segments significantly reflexed; flower at an acute angle to the stem with very short pedicel (neck).

DIV.7 JONQUILLA and APODANTHUS cultivars

One to five flowers to a stem; perianth segments spreading or reflexed; corona cup-shaped, funnel shaped or flared, usually wider than long; flowers usually fragrant.

DIV. 8 TAZETTA cultivars

Usually 3 to 2 flowers to a stout stem; perianth segments spreading not reflexed; flowers usually fragrant.

DIV.9 POETICUS

Usually one flower to a stem; perianth pure white; corona very short or disc shaped usually with a green and/or yellow centre and a red rim, but sometimes of a single colour; flowers usually fragrant.

DIV.11 SPLIT CORONA DAFFODILS OF GARDEN ORIGIN

Corona split usually for more than ½ its length.

FLOWERS

Note: Society vases must be used in all classes where a VASE is stipulated

1. Vase 3 stems Trumpet Daffodils, 1 variety. RHS Div. 1
2. Vase 3 stems large cupped Daffodils, 1 variety. RHS Div. 2
3. Vase 3 stems small cupped Daffodils, 1 variety. RHS Div.3
4. Vase 1 specimen Daffodil, single.
5. Vase 3 stems double Daffodils, 1 variety. RHS Div.4
6. Vase 1 specimen double Daffodil.
7. Vase 3 stems Cyclamineous Daffodils, 1 variety. RHS Div.6
8. Vase 3 stems Daffodils multiheaded, 1 variety. RHS Divs.4,5,7 or 8
9. Vase 3 stems Poeticus Daffodils (a.k.a. pheasant eye), RHS Div 9
10. Vase 3 stems split corona Daffodils, 1 variety. RHS Div 11
11. Container of Miniature Daffodils, growing, any variety,(container not to exceed 30cm)
12. Container of Daffodils, growing, other than miniature,(container not to exceed 30cm)
13. Vase of cut Daffodils, mixed varieties, 7 stems.
14. Vase of 6 stems Miniature Daffodils, 1 or more varieties
15. Vase of 3 stems Tulips, single, 1 or more varieties
16. 1 Specimen Tulip
17. Vase 1 specimen Hyacinth
18. Vase 3 stems Hyacinths
19. Container of bulb or bulbs growing (except daffodils), (container not to exceed 30cm)
20. Container of 6 stems Muscari (Grape Hyacinths)
21. Container of 3 stems cut Heather
22. 3 Stems of Violas/Pansies (display rack provided)
23. Container of 6 stems of Primroses
24. Container of 6 stems of Violets
25. 1 Camellia Bloom displayed in a saucer
26. Container of cut mixed Spring Flowers, excluding those listed in other classes and shrubs
27. Container of spring flowers growing (not bulbs), (container not to exceed 30cm)
28. Vase 3 stems cut flowering Shrub or Tree.

POT PLANTS

Containers not to exceed 12 ins. in size or diameter

29. Flowering Orchid
30. Container of mixed indoor plants growing
31. Flowering Cyclamen
32. 1 Cactus or Succulent
33. Flowering Pot Plant, other than cyclamen, orchid, cactus or succulent
34. Foliage Pot Plant

VEGETABLES

35. 1 Cabbage 75mm stalk
36. 1 Lettuce, unwashed roots
37. 3 Leeks, washed roots, trimmed foliage
38. 3 stalks Rhubarb, leaves trimmed to 25mm (unless forced)
39. 1 Cauliflower 75mm stalk, trimmed leaves
40. 6 shoots of Sprouting Broccoli
41. Any other fresh vegetable

HOME INDUSTRIES

Please read culinary guidance notes

42. 6 Vegetarian Sausage Rolls – own recipe
43. 6 Cupcakes, decorated – own recipe
44. 6 Chocolate Brownies – recipe at the back of schedule
45. Loaf of Italian style bread – own recipe
46. Fruit Loaf – own recipe
47. Jar of Lemon Curd
48. Jar of Marmalade
49. Jar of Chutney
50. Jar of Pickled Vegetables

FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS

Classes 51 and 52 staged against a white background with green table coverings, width and depth not to exceed 60cm height optional.

(Accessories may be used in classes 51-52)

51. An arrangement to celebrate a Silver Wedding
52. Arrangement of foliage and flowers in an unusual container
53. * Petite exhibit – 22.5cm overall maximum
54. * Miniature exhibit – 10cm overall maximum

*** A black stepped platform will be provided. Remember these classes are judged at eye level where possible.**

PHOTOGRAPHY

Photos may be digital or conventional, but not digitally altered and can be in colour or black and white. All photos must be unmounted. Maximum size 12.5cm x 17.5cm unless otherwise stated.

55. A View Through
56. A Winter Scene
57. Wildlife
58. A Stately Home
59. A Portrait
60. Classic Car

CHILDREN – under 16 years of age

61. A “Get Well” Card
62. 4 Fairy Cakes decorated for Easter
63. Cress grown in an egg, decorated and displayed in an egg cup

HANDICRAFTS

64. An item of Pottery
65. A Garment made from recycled material
66. A drawing – any medium



**SPRING
ENTRY FORM**

ENTRY FORM – SPRING SHOW 2024

This form must be delivered to **103 Fairhaven Avenue**, West Mersea by 9pm on the Wednesday preceding the Show.

Late entries will not be accepted. Only one exhibitor to use this form, additional forms can be obtained from the Show Committee or plain paper may be used.

To: The Show Committee

I wish to exhibit in the following classes.

(Please mark with a cross in the relevant numbered box)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65	66				

..... entries @ 30p = enclosed

Novice Age if under 16 years

Name

Address

Phone Number

ENTRY FORM – SUMMER SHOW 2024

This form must be delivered to **103 Fairhaven Avenue**, West Mersea by 9pm on the Wednesday preceding the Show.

Late entries will not be accepted. Only one exhibitor to use this form, additional forms can be obtained from the Show Committee or plain paper may be used.

To: The Show Committee

I wish to exhibit in the following classes. (Please mark with a cross in the relevant numbered box)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108		

..... entries @ 30p = enclosed

Novice Age if under 16 years

Name

Address

Phone Number W.I. Member



**SUMMER
ENTRY FORM**

102nd SUMMER SHOW
SATURDAY 24th AUGUST 2024
At the MICA Centre
West Mersea

Open to Exhibitors	8:00am – 10:00am
Judging begins	10:30am
Show opens to All	1:30 pm
Prizegiving	3:45 pm
Auction of Produce	4:00 pm

TROPHIES – SUMMER SHOW

1. **DENT CHALLENGE BOWL** for most points in Vegetable, Flower & Fruit classes 1-66
2. **ALDOUS CHALLENGE CUP** for runner up in above category
3. **USHER CHALLENGE CUP** for most points Vegetable classes 1-26
4. **MARY KENT CUP** for most points Fruit classes 27-34
5. **SOCIETY CHALLENGE CUP** for most points Flower classes 35-66
6. **LAPWOOD CHALLENGE CUP** for best flower exhibit classes 35-66
7. **MILBURN SALVER** for best Pot Plant, classes 53-56. 60 & 61
8. **DORA WINCH CUP** for best exhibit Fuchsia class 55
9. **POND HOUSE TROPHY**, for most points, Handicraft classes 67-73
10. **MARSDEN TROPHY** for most points, Photography classes 74-79
11. **MERSEA MUSEUM TROPHY** for best exhibit Photography classes 74-79
12. **SHEILA PHILLIPS TROPHY** for most points Home Industries classes 80-96
13. **THE GREEN CUP** for most points Children's classes 97-102
14. **BUCKLE CUP** for best exhibit Children's classes 97-102
15. **SANDFORD DOD BOWL** for most points in Flower Arrangement classes 103-108
16. **GLORIA SEARLE CUP** for best Flower Arrangement, classes 103-108
17. **W.I. SHIELD** for most points by a W.I. Member (all classes)
18. **LORNA TARRAN TROPHY** for best exhibit in Show
19. **DAVID ROBINSON CUP** for best exhibit class 57

THE MAUREEN FORD TROPHY will be awarded to the exhibitor gaining the most points in M.I.H.S. Shows in one calendar year. **(To be presented at the AGM each year).**

PRIZE MONEY

Classes except Children's: - 1st Prize 60p 2nd Prize 40p

Children's: - 1st Prize 80p 2nd Prize 50p 3rd Prize 30p

VEGETABLES

1. Three Potatoes, white, one variety
2. Three Potatoes, coloured, one variety
3. Collection of 6 potatoes- 3 white (1 variety) & 3 red (1 variety)
4. Four Carrots, long pointed (foliage trimmed to 75mm)
5. Four Carrots, other than long pointed (foliage trimmed 75mm)
6. Three Tomatoes, yellow, striped or beefsteak
7. Three Beetroot (foliage trimmed to 75mm)
8. Two Cucumbers
9. Four Red Tomatoes (display with calyx) 35mm-65mm
10. Six Tomatoes Cherry or Plum 35mm or less
11. Single truss of Cherry Tomatoes (ripe and unripe)
12. One Lettuce
13. Six Climbing Beans not Runner (with stalk)
14. Three Onions – no bulb to exceed 250g (trimmed and tied)
15. Three Onions for size and quality, (trimmed and tied)
16. 12 Shallots – pickling (not to exceed 30mm diameter)
17. Nine Shallots - exhibition
18. One Cabbage
19. Six Runner Beans (with stalk)
20. Ten Dwarf French Beans (with stalk)
21. Three Courgettes (10cm-15cm in length or round one approx 75mm diameter)
22. Heaviest Ripe Tomato
23. Any other vegetable (not listed above), 1 specimen
24. Longest Runner Bean
25. Collection of 3 kinds of vegetable – at least 2 of each variety
26. A mis-shapen fruit or vegetable

FRUIT

Please display fruit with stalks where applicable – see HINTS FOR EXHIBITORS

27. Plate of 12 Raspberries
28. Plate of 12 Blackberries
29. Three Apples – dessert
30. Three Apples – cookers

31. Plate of 12 Blueberries
32. Four Plums
33. Plate of any other fruit (not listed above)
34. Collection of Fruit

RHS Handbook pages 41 – 50 – Suggestions to Exhibitors

FLOWERS

Note: Society vases must be used in all classes where a VASE is stipulated.

35. Vase of 5 stems flowers grown from seed during last 12 months
36. Large Dahlia bloom
37. Vase of Mixed Perennials (5 stems)
38. Vase of 6 stems of Cosmos
39. Vase of 3 blooms of Decorative, Cactus or Semi-Cactus Dahlias
40. Vase of 3 blooms of any other Dahlia
41. Vase of 3 stems of Penstemon
42. Vase of one stem of Gladioli
43. Vase of one stem of Specimen bloom Rose
44. Vase of 3 stems of any Rose
45. One Rose to be judged for fragrance only
46. Vase of 3 stems of Pelargoniums (Geraniums)
47. Any flowering bulb(s) cut or growing
48. Bowl of Floating Flower Heads (*min 3 blooms, bowl max.30cm*)
49. Vase of 5 stems of Lavender any varieties
50. Vase of 3 stems of 3 varieties of Herbs (9 stems in all)
51. Vase of 5 stems/one variety of flower grown from seed within last 12 months
52. Vase of Silver Foliage, any variety(ies), 5 stems
53. One Cactus/Succulent
54. One Foliage Pot Plant
55. One Fuchsia growing in a pot (*max. 30cm*)
56. One Flowering pot plant, other than Fuchsia, Begonia, Pelargonium
57. 5 flower heads of Fuchsia (display rack provided)
58. Vase of 3 stems of flowering shrub, other than Fuchsia
59. Vase of 3 stems of shrub bearing hips or berries

60. One flowering Begonia
61. Flowering Orchid
62. Vase of Ornamental Grasses (5 stems)
63. Vase of 6 Sweet Peas
64. Vase of one Hydrangea head
65. Three stems of Fuchsia
66. Vase of 1 Sunflower

HANDICRAFTS

67. A Patchwork and/or Quilted article
68. A Cushion Cover
69. A Cross Stitch article
70. A Decorated Stone
71. An Item made from previously used material (eg recycled)
72. A Hand Made Bag
73. A Miniature Model Garden max 40 x 30 cms

PHOTOGRAPHY

Photos may be digital or conventional, but not digitally altered and can be in colour or black and white. All photos must be unmounted. Maximum size 12.5cm x 17.5cm unless otherwise stated.

74. Up the Creek
75. Migration
76. Magic Moments
77. The Essence of Mersea
78. People
79. Woodland

HOME INDUSTRIES

Please read culinary guidance notes

80. 6 pieces Ginger & Treacle Spiced Tray Bake (recipe in schedule)
81. 6 Cheese Scones – own recipe
82. 6 Flapjacks – own recipe
83. Pizza – max 20cm – own recipe
84. Quiche Lorraine – own recipe

85. 6 Sweet Biscuits – own recipe
86. Carrot and Orange Cake (recipe in schedule)
87. Apple Pie – own recipe
88. Plate of items for an Afternoon Tea
89. Chocolate Cake – own recipe
90. Jar of Strawberry Jam
91. Jar of Raspberry Jam
92. Jar of any other Jam
93. Jar of Curd
94. Jar of Chutney
95. Jar of Jelly
96. Jar of Marmalade

CHILDREN – under 16 years

97. A Gingerbread Man, decorated
98. A Decorated Shell
99. A Hand Sewn Item
100. A Painting of your Pet
101. A Decorated Flowerpot
102. An Arrangement of flowers grown by the exhibitor from seed, to be arranged in a pot.

FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS

Classes 103–106 staged against a white background with green tablecover, width and depth not to exceed 60cm, height optional. (Accessories may be used in classes 103-106)

103. A Celebration of Summer
104. An exhibit using seedheads and grasses
105. “Solitude” – one flower and foliage
106. Summer Wedding
107. *Petite exhibit- 22.5cm overall maximum
108. *Miniature exhibit- 10cm overall maximum

***A black stepped platform will be provided and remember these classes are judged at eye level where possible**

SHOW RECIPES

CHOCOLATE BROWNIES

Traybake tin 30 x 23 x 4cm

275 g (10 oz) margarine, softened	375 g (13 oz) caster sugar
4 eggs	75g (3 oz) cocoa powder
100g (4 oz) self raising flour	100g (4 oz) plain choc chips

Cut a rectangle of non-stick baking parchment to fit the base and sides of the tin. Grease the tin and line it with the paper.

Preheat oven to 180C/350F/gas mark 4

Measure all ingredients into a large bowl and mix with a mixer until evenly blended.

Spoon mixture into prepared tin. Spread mixture gently to corners of the tin and level the top.

Bake for 40-45 minutes until the brownies have a crusty top and a skewer inserted into the centre comes out clean. Allow to cool in the tin and cut into 24 squares.

GINGER AND TREACLE SPICED TRAYBAKE

Traybake tin 30 x 23 x 4cm

225g (8oz)margarine , softened	1tsp ground mixed spice
175g (6oz)light muscovado sugar	1tsp ground allspice
200g(7oz)black treacle	4 eggs
300g(11oz)self raising flour	4 tblsps milk
3 bulbs stem ginger, finely chopped	2 tsps baking powder

For the icing:

75g(3oz)icing sugar

3 bulbs stem ginger from a jar, finely chopped

3 tblsps syrup from the jar

Grease the tray and line with baking parchment. Pre heat oven to 180C/350F/Gas mark 4.

Put all the ingredients for the traybake into a large bowl and beat for 2 minutes. Turn mixture into prepared tin and level the top.

Bake for 35-40 minutes until traybake springs back when pressed lightly and is beginning to shrink away from the tin. Allow to cool a little, then remove from the tin and turn onto a cooling rack, removing the lining paper and leaving to cool. To make icing, sift icing sugar into a bowl, add ginger syrup and mix. Spread over cake and sprinkle with chopped stem ginger. When set slice into 15-20 pieces.

CARROT AND ORANGE CAKE

2lb Loaf Tin – base greased and lined.

125g(4oz) butter	1 tblsp grated orange rind
125g(4oz)caster sugar	2 medium eggs
225g(8oz)sultanas	275g(10oz)grated carrot
225g(8oz)self raising flour	1 tsp nutmeg
1 tsp mixed spice	1 tblsp orange juice

Frosting:

50g(2oz)butter	225g(8oz) icing sugar
1 tblsp orange juice	Orange food colouring

Preheat oven to 150C/300F/Gas mark 2.

Cream butter, rind and sugar. Beat in eggs one at a time, add sultanas, carrot, dry ingredients and orange juice. Spread in tin. Bake for 1.5 hrs, leave in tin for 5 mins before turning out.

Frosting:

Cream butter until light and fluffy. Add icing sugar, orange juice and a few drops of colouring, Beat until spreadable.

HINTS FOR EXHIBITORS

GENERAL

We would like to encourage many more people to exhibit. It does not require great expertise or special knowledge. We have all had to start somewhere!

The single most important rule is to READ THE SCHEDULE. Make sure that your exhibit is not classed as N.A.S., Not According to Schedule. Try to make your exhibit look as attractive as possible. All exhibits, whether they win a prize or not, go to make up the Show. Evenness, freshness and freedom from disease are more important than size, unless stated.

EXHIBITORS MUST COLLECT THEIR ENTRY CARD FROM A MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE ON ARRIVAL. For the information of the public, if possible all exhibits of flower, fruit or vegetable varieties should be named, please write this on both sides of the entry card.

Before judging, the show secretaries will make sure that all entry cards are turned over, so that the exhibitors name is not visible. After judging they will be placed face upwards.

VEGETABLES

They should be cleaned, using plenty of water and a sponge. It makes for better presentation if tops are trimmed and bound with raffia, or an equivalent. Be careful, when lifting carrots and parsnips not to break the long 'root'. Carrots should not have 'green' shoulders, this can be avoided by ensuring carrots are fully covered by soil whilst growing. Potatoes should be lifted at least two days prior to the Show, allowing the skins to set before washing.

i) Parsnips, carrots, cabbages, beans and beetroot are usually just laid on the table. Foliage should be trimmed to 75mm as per schedule.

(ii) Potatoes, tomatoes and peppers are best placed on a white paper plate.

(iii) Shallots should be mounted on a dish of dry sand, and onions on cardboard rings, such as ones cut from kitchen roll containers. Onion neck tops should be trimmed and tied neatly as per schedule.

(iv) Brassicas should have not less than 75mm of stump left.

(v) All varieties of peas and beans should have stalks attached.

(vi) Tomatoes should be fully ripe and displayed with calyces attached and fruit not polished.

FRUIT-to be exhibited on White Paper Plates

(i) With the exception of peaches, nectarines and apricots, all fruit should be shown with stalks.

(ii) All fruit should retain their natural bloom and not be polished.

FLOWERS

Make sure that they are firmly in the vase and drawing up water. Kitchen roll or newspaper helps to wedge the stems in the vase.

If five blooms are asked for, arrange three above and two below, or vice versa. If three are asked for, place them two and one.

The size of the pot is the internal measurement. Avoid using outer containers for the pot. If the schedule states 'not exceeding', it is quite in order to use a smaller size.

CULINARY

All preserves to have metal screw tops, free from rust, or cellophane jam pot covers.

Jars to be free of advertising.

Labels to state type and day, month and year made.