

Advice: Floral Arrangement Section, Autumn 2026

Your entries don't need to be perfect. Don't be afraid, just 'have a go'!

The more entries the better the show.

- The purpose of these tips is to help those exhibitors who want to know more and not to discourage entries.
- Check that your entries comply with all the requirements mentioned in the schedule - take particular note of the size and/or space allowed.
- Except where alcoves are specified, exhibits are to be staged on the **tabling** provided which will have a **white covering**.
- **Alcoves** (provided) are **mid grey-green** with matching bases. **Alcove size: 76cm x 76cm, height 64cm**. Height of the design may extend beyond the alcove for good use of proportion.
- **Drapes, bases, backboards and title cards** are optional, at the discretion of the exhibitor.
- Judging will be in accordance with the **NAFAS Competitions Manual**. This manual provides great advice for entrants as well as judges. It is available to purchase from the NAFAS website. Alternatively, ask the Show Secretary if you would like to borrow the Society's copy.
- Below are basic definitions for some of the terms used in class descriptions. However, please consult the NAFAS manual for the official definitions. Please don't hesitate to ask the Show Secretary if there is anything that you don't understand.
breamgardeningssociety@gmail.com
 - **Exhibits** are arrangements that may include accessories (i.e. non-plant material items) as appropriate, but plant material should predominate unless otherwise stated.
 - **Plastic foam-free mechanics** are used instead of floral foam (Oasis) to support arrangements. They include aluminium wire, mesh, marbles, pebbles, Agra Wool, plant stems, etc.
 - **Garden plant material** includes any plant material that can be cultivated in the UK. It may have been grown by you or your friends, or it may have been purchased from any flower outlet. Local flower farms can be a good source, e.g. www.flowersfromthefarm.co.uk.
 - **Dried plant material** includes any dried, preserved, bleached, skeletonised, or made-up plant material including basket cane, raffia, seed pods, sisal and spathes.
 - **Lichen and moss**, fresh or dried, may be included in any exhibit.
 - **Additionally coloured plant material** may be included in any exhibit unless otherwise specified in the class description. This includes any natural plant material that has had its texture or colour altered by bleach, dye, glitter, paint, varnish etc.
 - **Artificial plant material** is not allowed unless it is specifically mentioned in the class description or if it forms an integral part of a container, base, background or accessory.
 - **Traditional style exhibits** may have one of the following line/mass styles: symmetrical or asymmetric triangle, oval, crescent, inverted crescent, Hogarth curve or diagonal. They should usually have a focal area and a good transition of plant materials. Please contact the Show Secretary if you need a more detailed explanation. breamgardeningssociety@gmail.com
 - **Interpretative exhibits** should use plant material and other components to convey the theme and atmosphere given in the class title. You may need to research the class title to aid your interpretation.
 - **Contemporary exhibits** should push boundaries and break with convention. The 'Elements and Principles of Design' may be used in an unconventional way. Unless specified, the shape of the design is totally free and exhibits may have one, several or no points of interest. They may be decorative or expressive. The form of the plant material may be manipulated. Mechanics may be visible if this is a conscious design decision. A diverse range of techniques, mechanics and embellishments may be displayed.
- Three NAFAS articles providing guidance on entering flower arranging competitions are available upon request (breamgardeningssociety@gmail.com). These articles were written by Alwyn Page who judged at our shows for about 15 years

and taught many of our members to arrange flowers. Alwyn sadly passed away at the end of August and will be greatly missed at the Autumn Show.

- **Preparing to enter a competition - How to read the schedule!**
- **Entering Competitions - What the Judge Looks for**
- **Notes on Conditioning Plant Material for use in arrangements**

➤ If you require any further advice, please contact the Show Secretary.

If you are thinking of entering future shows and wish to develop your flower arranging skills further, we recommend **Lydney and Severnside Flower Club** or signing up for a local flower arranging class. Contact the Show Secretary for details.

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