

**29th April 2025: Phil Dennis (judge) shared tips for entering vegetable, fruit and flowers.**

**Key points:**

- Read the schedule carefully and provide what is asked for
- Quality and uniformity are important
- Containers: keep them plain and simple so they don't distract from the entry, for example, glass, white china, paper plates
- Beans can be presented directly on the show bench
- Always good to label your veg/ fruit / flower entries with cultivar name if known.
- Do your preparation beforehand – not in the hall on the day
- Entries should be free from pests and diseases

**Fruit and vegetables Division:**

Class 1: Potatoes (4) uniform and clean. Match for colour. Shallow eyes.

Class 2: Tray of (4) mixed vegetables. 4 different

Class 3: Cucumbers (2), any size pair but uniform thickness and straight

Class 4: Runner beans (6) no outward sign of seeds, uniform, leave small amount of stalk on, fresh – should snap!

Class 5: The funniest vegetable (1), have fun!

Class 6: Carrots (4) firm, good shape, uniform, nice taper, can leave clean root on, top trimmed to 3 cm, any colour but do not mix colours.

Class 7: Onions (4), roots cut off cleanly, tie top growth neatly – folded over tied off with raffia or string, can peel away outer skin a bit – but not too much. Show on rings, for example, empty tea lights or cut off sections of centre of kitchen roll.

Class 8: Tomatoes (6) – uniform in size and colour, fresh calyx (that's the green bit!)

Class 9: Saucer of mixed summer fruit, small fruits in bunches counts as one fruit, for example, redcurrants

Class 10: Plums (6) Do not polish – leave bloom, leave short stalks.

**Flower Division:**

Class 11: Single stem rose with own foliage, ideally  $\frac{3}{4}$  open is a perfect bloom. Can remove lower petals if looking tired. Clean foliage.

Class 12: Pot plant (in flower) – pots clean, unbroken. Unblemished sturdy plant.

Class 13: Vase of mixed Dahlias – 3 different (single stem of each) Circular, symmetrical, not too open

Class 14: One flower variety (not Dahlia) – 3 stems, arrange in pyramid shape, with face forward

Class 15: Annual sweet peas (5 stems) straight stems, even flowers, balanced colours, free from blemishes

Class 16: Vase of 5 different flowers (single stem of each) – balance the colours, uniform size.

**A note on floral arrangements:**

NO floral foam. Alternatives include chicken wire, glass beads or gravel.