

Our Floral Art classes are a great opportunity to show off or develop your display skills and create some lovely arrangements for visitors to enjoy. As well as the more challenging classes 29,30,31, we also have a class (32) for novices where you can try out your skills.

While fashions in floral art may change considerably, “beauty of form and colour, lightness of arrangement, happy harmonies or suitable contrasts always meet with general approval” (RHS). The Brinkworth Show Rules for Floral Art specify that an exhibit is composed of natural fresh plant material, with or without accessories (when specified). Florist foam/Oasis may be used.

Floral Art

When entering a local produce show’s floral art section, focus on adhering strictly to the schedule’s theme, size and component rules, ensuring your arrangement shows proper balance, proportion and colour harmony. Prioritise fresh, blemish free and well-conditioned plant material and ensure any mechanics (foam, wire etc) are hidden. The judge will often make constructive comments on your card to help you develop your skills for future displays.

Key aspects to look out for:

Adherence to Schedule:

- Carefully check size limitations, required material and the specific theme of each class. When accessories are permitted, make sure they enhance your display with interesting elements without overwhelming it.

Design Principles:

- Judges look for good, balanced and proportional arrangements. Avoid overcrowding and ensure a clear artistic focus.

Conditioning:

- Harvest flowers in the morning (if possible) and condition them in water in a cool, dark place to ensure the best.

Quality of Materials:

- Select fresh, clean and bug-free foliage and flowers. Remove any damaged leaves.

Hidden Mechanics:

- Use floral foam or wire to keep stems in place, but make sure they are well covered by flowers or foliage.

Proportion & Balance:

- Ensure containers (if allowed) fit the size of the arrangement. The overall design should not exceed the allotted space.

Presentation:

- Clean all containers and ensure your exhibit is presented in a way that is visually appealing to the judges.

Flowers

The following features should be considered when exhibiting flowers:

Merits – Flowers should be in good fresh condition. Flowers should be fully developed and appropriately positioned on their stems. The petals should be properly positioned on the flowers and of a shape, texture and colour typical of the species or cultivar. The foliage should be clean, healthy and undamaged. The stems of flowers which bloom in spikes, such as larkspur and hyacinths, should be straight and firm right to the tip with the flowers evenly spaced and the open florets touching or almost touching one another.

Mixed vases – the above criteria apply. The inclusion of foliage from plants other than those of the flower being exhibited in the mixed vase, is not encouraged.