



Chalfont St Giles Gardens Association

Showing - General Advice

Simple and obvious stuff

1. Have some fun, enjoy entering the competitions. While undoubtedly there are some serious growers who enter every year, there are also many more who just take pleasure in showing something they have grown.
2. Read the schedule carefully. The schedule tells you the absolute minimum requirements and if you don't meet these requirements, your entry will be excluded.
3. If the schedule says 6 dahlias and you show five or seven, it won't be judged and your entry form will be marked "not according to schedule" or "NAS"
4. The most important judging criterion is condition. If your exhibit has wilted and looks droopy, or is blemished, bruised or overripe, it's unlikely to win.
5. It is always best if your exhibits are uniform in both size and colour. One big one and three medium ones are never as good as four medium ones that match. If you are exhibiting more than one item, e.g. three dahlias, or five potatoes, try to get all specimens to look broadly similar. This applies to all classes without exception.
6. Size isn't everything but bigger is usually better! This applies to flowers, fruit and veg, if the schedule doesn't state a maximum size, a good big one, will often beat a good medium one of the same cultivar.
7. Get to the show as early as possible. On show day, if you start early you can ask others about how to stage your exhibit. Avoid a last minute rush - that's when mistakes are made. If in doubt, ask a Steward or another exhibitor - everyone is happy to help!

