



AT THE SOUTH OF ENGLAND SHOWGROUND

South of England Show 2026 Garden Design “Contrast”

Friday 5th, Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th June 2026

Contrast

This year's theme encourages the use of contrasting materials, be that colour, landscape materials or shape and form. We are looking for imaginative interpretations of the theme with your designs and planting schemes, using materials that are readily available either new or recycled.

Size

Each entry will be provided with a 5 x 5m area of grassland.

Entries

All entries must be received by **22nd May 2026**.

Entries after this date may not be accepted.

All entries will be provided with three tickets a day for access into the show.

Awards

Prizes will be awarded for Gold, Silver-Gilt, Silver and Bronze place.

The People's choice award judged by show visitors will also be awarded a prize.

Maintenance and Show Presence

We ask for the gardens to be maintained throughout the 3 days of the show.

There will be access to water close to the location of the gardens, but we suggest you bring your own hoses and watering cans. We would encourage you to have a presence at the garden throughout the show to make the most of this fantastic opportunity to engage with show visitors and receive feedback for your efforts.

Planting and Breakdown

The building of the gardens can commence on the Monday 1st June and must be completed by 8am on the morning of the first day of the show. Plants used in the display may be sold off on Sunday after 4pm. Exhibitors have the full responsibility of removing all building and plant material and to leave the ground as they found it.

Examples and Colour Wheel



Regulations

- 1.The competition is open to any groups or individuals with an interest in gardening and garden design, this includes but is not limited to: individual students or a group of students in secondary school or attending a college course in Garden Design, Landscaping or Horticulture, gardening clubs/groups or individuals within the landscaping or gardening profession, community groups like Scouts, Guides, Young Farmers, local businesses.
- 2.Gardens must be created using the whole allocated 5x5m space. The exhibitor will be responsible for the construction and all costs.
- 3.Materials used must be readily available either new or recycled.
- 4.The building of the Gardens can commence on the weekend before the show (from 1st June between 9am and 5pm) and must be completed by 8am on the morning of the first day of the show. Plants can be planted directly into the soil either with or without their pots. Please check with the Chief Steward before you start digging the ground to make sure that you will not damage any cables or pipes
- 5.A master plan, perspective drawing drawn to scale with as short design explanation is required. The garden built must be the same as the design submitted or an explanation of any changes provided. Both the design and its implementation will be judged as will the quality of the landscape construction and planting of the garden, the planting will be judged on the suitability for the designed garden, e.g if a woodland garden, shade loving plants. If a seaside garden on plants that will cope with exposed sites and sea salt etc. The judge will offer constructive and helpful comments about the design of the garden.
Individual components of a garden may be used more than once but the overall structure must be original. Designs must be submitted by **22nd May 2026**
- 6.There will be a walkway between each garden which should remain clear at all times during the show.
- 7.The exhibit should be designed so that it is primarily viewed from the front although there will be walkway between each garden to allow the public to view the gardens from all aspects.
- 8.No mains electricity will be available to gardens but a water tap is located nearby. No generators are allowed. Small solar panels are allowed.
- 9.All surplus materials must be moved to a designated area or offsite before 8am on Friday 5th June.
- 10.A maximum spends of up to £2000 is allowed per garden- this is to include construction of the garden and transportation of the materials.
- 11.Gold, Silver-Gilt Silver and Bronze will be awarded and prize money of £150 will be awarded for the best in show.

12. You may obtain sponsorship and discreetly acknowledge this in your display after judging has taken place.

13. THE SOCIETY WILL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE IN ANY WAY FOR ANY ARTICLE, MACHINERY OR OBJECT OF ANY KIND EXHIBITED ON THE SHOWGROUND. The exhibitor shall assume full responsibility therefore including liability for all claims arising out of the exhibition, handling or housing of such exhibits and the conduct on the garden generally. The exhibitor shall indemnify the Society against all claims, damage or expenses whatsoever in any way arising out of the presence of the exhibitor or their exhibits on the Showground. Acceptance of the foregoing provisions shall be a condition of entry. Exhibitors are encouraged to hold public liability insurance and are advised to insure against damage not only as regards to their own property, but also against third party claims.

14. At the end of the Show, you must clear all plants and building materials from the site and leave it in the condition you found it. This must be completed within 24 hours of the show closure. Gardens may be charged if they don't leave the site as they found it. Please note that during show days there is no vehicle movement on the showground between 8.15am and 6.30pm at the earliest.

15. The society will not be responsible for the death, injury, disease or loss caused to any exhibitor or to their agent or servant or to any animal, insect, bird or thing of whatever nature, exhibited by the said exhibitor, , however such damage, loss, injury or disease shall be caused. Under the requirements of the Reporting of Accidents, Disease and Dangerous Occurrences Regulation 1995 (RIDDOR) all accidents that are classified as major under these Regulations must be reported to the Society and also to the appropriate statutory authority. All injuries that occur to exhibitors, their staff or members of the public who visit stands, displays or any other facility, no matter how minor they may appear to be, must be reported to the Society in order that the incident can be recorded in the accident book.

The exhibitor will indemnify the Society for all claims arising out of the exhibit and the Exhibitor's Show Staff and invitees conduct at the Show Garden generally and against all claims, demands, damages, proceedings, costs or expenses whatsoever in any way relating to or arising out of the use of the show garden by the Exhibitor.

16. The Society reserves to itself, by its Council and Committee, the sole and absolute right to interpret these or any other prescribed conditions and Regulations, and arbitrarily to settle and determine all matters, questions or differences in regard thereto, or otherwise arising out of or connected with or incident to the Show. Also, to refuse or to cancel any entries; to postpone or abandon the exhibit; and relax conditions as the Society may deem expedient.
By Order of the Council.

17. Plants used in the display may be sold in the plant sell-off which takes place on the Sunday of the show after 4pm.

18. Three entry tickets per day will be allocated to each Garden. Further entry tickets can be purchased.

19. Smoking is NOT allowed at any time whilst in the show garden area.

Garden Design Application Form

Name/ College/ Establishment/ Business	
Key Contact	
Address	
Post Code	
Email	
Telephone	
Title of Garden	
Please write a short story or design explanation (50 – 100 words) Please use separate sheet if necessary	

Checklist

Master Plan ☐ Perspective drawing ☐ 50 – 100 Word Description ☐

In submitting this application, I/we confirm that I/we comply with the rules and regulations of the competition.

Signed..... Print Name.....Date.....

Please return completed forms to: Horticultural Competitions, South of England Agricultural Society, Selsfield Road, Ardingly, RH17 6TL or by email to horticulture@seas.org.uk by the **22nd May 2026**.