



The Belvoir Castle Flower and Garden Show 2023 Countryside Borders Competition

Sponsored by the London College of Garden Design

Call for entries

The London College of Garden Design is delighted to once again support the Countryside Borders competition that celebrates planting design and supports new garden designers and horticulturists in their careers.

We're celebrating the 5th year for the competition with a new second option to design borders in a different shape than in previous years.

The competition is open to anyone involved in garden design, horticulture and landscaping and has proved to be a good platform for professionals wanting to develop their skills in show exhibiting. In the past few years many designers have used this competition as a springboard to other competitions including winning best in category at Gardeners World Live and the RHS Chelsea Flower Show.

The successful applicants will receive:

- The opportunity to be creative, do something a little different and start your show garden career.
- The opportunity to meet potential new customers.
- Recognition and coverage for all the exhibitors involved.
- A grant of £200 to help you cover the costs of materials.
- The chance to win the 'Best Countryside Border' award as well as other show trophies.

In 2023 we have 20 places available. All exhibitors will be given a raised bed ready to install and plant your design.



Designs Jess Akerman and Sam Hunt 2021



Your brief

The Belvoir Castle Flower and Garden Show takes place on Saturday 15th and Sunday 16th July 2023 and is located within the estate of the beautiful Belvoir Castle. We want you to design a great planting scheme that shows off your skills to visitors on a theme of 'Countryside Borders'.

Show us your perfect country border.

You might decide to create a wildlife friendly design, a waterwise planting for summer droughts, a riverside setting or a planting for a small country town garden on an entertaining theme. Whatever your chosen story it should work within the overall theme of 'Countryside Borders'.

You have the option of designing for one of either of these spaces –

- A. 1.2m x 4.8m border or
- B. 2.4m x 2.4m border (these are our traditional spaces that you can see in the images).

They cover the same area but give you more flexibility with your design.

The rest is up to you to design, plant and finish to show standard. Take a look at some of the images of entries in this brief to get an idea of what people have previously achieved.

We will also supply a simple display board alongside the garden so that people can find out all about you. You will not be able to excavate the ground but your border will be raised above ground by approximately 200mm high and you can raise the border height further yourself if you want.

We welcome entries from overseas and in 2022 we had 7 exhibitors from other countries.

The build

You have just 2 days before the show opens to put your border together. Further information on access will be sent to all successful applicants and if you need some advice you can get in touch.



Designs Vanessa Sutton and Sonja Kalkschmidt 2021



How to enter your design

Your design submission should be no more than one A3 page and include:

- An outline drawing of your idea including an elevation of the planting design and a brief description of your narrative or story i.e. what your design is all about.
- A mood board showing an idea of some of the plants you will use.

Entries should be submitted by 28th February 2023.

If you have previously submitted a design for this competition you are still eligible, and we encourage you, to make another submission.

Remember that we are only looking for a concept design at this stage and the winners will be asked to liaise with the show's office regarding access etc. The show's office can also help you with advice on sourcing material locally if this is required.

Please email your submission either as a pdf digital copy to:

halcyondays.ge@gmail.com

or as a hard copy to:

**Halcyon Days Garden Events
Greenaway
202 Papplewick Lane
Hucknall
Nottingham
NG15 8EH**

The successful designs will be selected by a panel of judges to be announced.

The decision of the selectors and show judges is final.



Designs Grace Rogers and Frodig Design 2022.



Some show exhibiting tips

Here are some top tips from previous winners for designing a Countryside Border.

- Focus on one big idea that fits within the “Countryside Borders” theme.
- Think about what idea might appeal to visitors or promote an idea that you are interested in such as a nature or a plant interest.
- Borders with unusual and interesting plants might attract more attention.
- Think about how your design reflects your image and the work you do.
- Don’t be too restrictive in varieties chosen. You may find that you’ll need to substitute plants and flowers nearer to the time.
- When thinking about your plants remember that the show is the second week of July, a great time to find different plants if you need to make later substitutions.
- You may even be able to grow some of the plants yourself.
- Remember that getting top quality vegetables and climbing plants into a show garden is challenging but not impossible.

Experience has shown that nurseries are generally unwilling to sponsor plants and it is unlikely that they will contract grow them for you because by July there have been so many variables including the weather that make it difficult to predict production. There is usually a wide range of plants available at this time of the year. So design your submission with mid-summer plants in mind but be prepared to select your final palette of plants from late May onwards.

If you have any questions please email Andy Tudbury on halcyondays.ge@gmail.com



Design Ralph Wyld and Michelle Macdonald 2022