

Glossary of some of the words/terms used in the Schedule Classes. Taken from the RHS Horticultural Show Handbook (where included).

Annual: A plant that grows from seed and naturally and ordinarily flowers, seeds and dies within 12 months.

Basket: A container used to hold or carry things, typically made from interwoven strips of cane or wire.

Biennial: A plant that grows from seed and ordinarily requires two seasons to complete its life-cycle, growing one year, flowering, seeding and dying in the second.

Bloom: One open flower, eg of a Tulip, or one flowerhead, eg of a Chrysanthemum or Dahlia.

Bowl: A Vessel for displaying cut flowers in water or for growing bulbous plants and having a mouth-width measurement at least equal to, but usually greater than, its height.

Bract: Usually a small leaf-like structure occurring below the flowers and above the true leaves, but sometimes large and coloured, as in Euphorbia.

Bunch: A number of things, typically of the same kind, growing or fastened together.

Cactus: A plant belonging to the family Cactaceae, eg species of Cereus, Epiphyllum, Mammillaria, Opuntia or Schlumbergera.

Collection: An assembly of kinds and/or cultivars of plants, flowers, fruits or vegetables in one exhibit.

Cultivar: The internationally accepted term for what, in English-speaking countries, is commonly known by horticulturists as a “cultivated variety” or simply a “variety”.

Cutting: A piece, as a root, stem or leaf, cut from a plant and used for propagation.

Dish: In horticultural-show schedules, a specified number or quantity of a fruit or vegetable constituting one item that may be displayed on a table or on a stand or on a receptacle of any material and of any shape. Unless specially permitted by the schedule, a dish must consist of one cultivar only.

Foliage 1: The leaves of any plant.

Foliage 2: Stems bearing only leaves.

Foliage Plant: A plant usually grown for its ornamental foliage. If they are in flower they may be entered into a foliage-plant class but the flowers will not be taken into account.

Fruits 1: In classes for edible fruits: “fruits” means those normally grown for dessert or for eating when cooked as pudding.

Fruits 2: In classes for ornamental fruits and for floral arrangements: “fruits” means all types of developed ovaries, eg seed pods, berries and ornamental gourds.

Inflorescence: The flowering portion of a stem above the last stem of leaves, including its flower branches, bracts and flowers.

Jar: A wide-mouthed cylindrical container made of glass or pottery, especially one used for storing food.

Perennial: A perennial plant is one that lives for more than two years. Perennial plants include trees and shrubs, plants that grow from bulbs, corms, rhizomes and tubers and, in fact, all that are not annuals or biennials.

Pod: An elongated seed vessel of a leguminous plant such as the pea, splitting open on both sides when ripe.

Shrub: A woody perennial, often many -stemmed, of smaller structure than a tree and having no distinct bole or trunk.

Specimen: A sample or a limited quantity of something.

Spray: For horticultural show purposes, a spray is a branched, many-flowered inflorescence usually on a single main stem.

Stalk 1: The main stem of a herbaceous plant.

Stalk 2: The slender attachment or support of a leaf, flower, or fruit.

Stem: A stem is the part of a plant that bears leaves and flowers.

Strig: A term relating to currants and to berries and indicates a bunch.

Succulents: A plant with fleshy leaves or stems or both, eg species of Cotyledon, Crassula, Echeveria, Hoya, Kalanchoe, Sedum, Sempervivum and most Cactaceae.

Variegated: (Of a plant or foliage) having or consisting of leaves that are edged or patterned in a second colour, especially white as well as green.

Vase: A vessel for displaying cut flowers and having a greater height than the width measurement of its mouth.

Vegetable: For horticultural-show purposes, a vegetable is a plant (or part of a plant) normally grown in the kitchen garden to be eaten either cooked or less often raw, but not usually as a dessert or a pudding. Rhubarb, though commonly eaten as a dessert, is classified as a vegetable.