

### Handy Hints for Exhibitors

The following notes have been prepared by Show judges and are intended to be a guide for exhibitors as to what the judges look for in an exhibit.

**Preserves** - Jars should be well filled, clearly labelled and clean on the outside. The contents should be sealed in with either cellophane and waxed paper discs or screw top lids/metal covers. The skins of fruit should be soft. Jams and jellies should be bright with an attractive sparkle. Chutneys should be mellow in flavour and have the consistency of a good jam.

**Baking** - Crispness is the most important factor in any biscuit or shortbread. Pastry dishes should be cooked right through.

Be careful when lining cake tins with paper to ensure there are no creases. Tablet should break crisply but melt smoothly in the mouth. Gingerbread must taste of ginger and not other spices.

**Vegetables & Flowers** - The definitive guide to the exhibiting and judging of flowers, vegetables (and fruit) is the Royal Horticultural Society's 'The Horticultural Show Handbook' which gives all you need to know about organising, judging or competing in a show. The following notes are based on the guidance given in this Handbook. It has not been possible to give information for individual types but the following notes hopefully give an idea of what the judge is looking for.

**Vegetables** - In assessing the merits of exhibits of vegetables the following features are usually considered - condition, size and uniformity.

**Condition** - Cleanliness, freshness, tenderness and presence or absence of coarseness and blemishes.

**Size** - This is important if accompanied by quality (but only in those circumstances) as the production of large specimens of good quality requires more skill than growing small specimens.

**Flowers & Ornamental Plants** - In assessing the merits of most exhibits of flowers and pot plants consideration should be given to condition and uniformity.

**Condition** - Exhibits in good condition are fresh and free from damage due to weather, pests, diseases and faulty handling, have good colour and form. Stems should be sturdy and straight and should be proportionate to flower size.