



**Scottish
Gardeners'
Forum**

PROMOTING SCOTLAND'S GARDENING GROUPS

Pallet Garden and Planter Challenge

Scone Palace Garden Fair

Fri 29th & Sat 30th May 2026



Information for Pallet Garden and Planter Entries

The Scottish Gardeners' Forum is pleased once again to be running the **Pallet Garden** and **Planter** Challenge at this year's Scone Palace Garden Fair. We invite and encourage groups and individuals of all ages and abilities to exhibit plant displays of their own making. This information pack has been put together for anyone interested in creating and exhibiting one or more **Pallet Gardens** and/or one or more **Planter**. Copies of the information and applications can be downloaded from the Scottish Gardeners' Forum website:

www.scottishgardenersforum.org.uk

Please email any enquiries to Tom Campbell at:

northeast@scottishgardenersforum.org.uk

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www.scottishgardenersforum.org.uk/

Section 1a Invitation to Take Part in the Challenge

This will be the 5th year of the popular and now well-established Garden Fair in the beautiful grounds of Scone Palace. The Palace's location on the north side of Perth is effectively at the heart of Scotland and is easily accessible from north or south.

The Scottish Gardeners' Forum has run the **Pallet Garden** and **Planter** Challenge as a national event for many years and is pleased that Scone Palace has hosted it since the launch of their Garden Fair. This year is the silver jubilee of the Scottish Gardeners' Forum, and so we will be marking the occasion with special features on the display site.

What is the Challenge?

Entrants are encouraged to design, grow and display one or more attractive horticultural displays for exhibiting at this popular and well-established national gardening event to showcase their organisation / community / activities / skills. To this end, entrants are free to choose themes for their exhibits which may represent a feature or event of local importance, or pick-up on something of topical national or world-wide interest.

There are two categories for entries – **Pallet Gardens** and **Planters**. Both are described in this information pack.

Exhibits are judged against set criteria, not against each other. Please refer to the Assessment Guidelines page for further information. According to the judges' assessments, gold, silver or bronze certificates will be awarded to **Pallet Garden** exhibits and gold, silver or bronze rosettes to **Planter** exhibits.

All entries will be exhibited outdoors, so they need to be of practical design, strongly constructed to withstand exposure to wind and rain, and display predominately living plant material.

Who Can Take Part?

Entry is open to all Scottish based non-commercial groups and individuals interested in growing plants (decorative or edible) and sharing their passion with others. Participation by children is encouraged. You don't have to be a green-fingered gardening expert to enter.

What Are the Rules?

The rules of the challenge are straightforward and are detailed on the relevant pages of this information pack.

What Does it Cost?

Good news – **Pallet Garden** and **Planter** entries are free of charge.

How Do We Enter?

This information pack contains an entry form for **Pallet Gardens** and another for **Planter**. Please make sure you use the form appropriate for your type of exhibit(s).

The SGF website contains photos of previously displayed **Pallet Gardens** and **Planter**. These might help to inspire you and make you keen to join in the fun of this year's Challenge. So here's hoping we'll be welcoming you with your exhibit(s) at Scone Palace in May. Meanwhile, we wish you all happy and successful growing.

Section 1b Guidelines on Assessment of Exhibits

General

Entrants are strongly advised to carefully read and follow the specifications and rules listed on the relevant pages of this information pack when designing and creating their displays. Non-compliance could in extreme cases, result in disqualification.

Each of the exhibits will be judged on how well they represent their stated title or theme. Criteria have been drawn up for this purpose. These are outlined below.

A good principle to adopt when designing and creating your display is to make sure that well-grown plants are the main feature to attract the attention of viewers.

Pallet Garden Specifics

The judges will be looking at the choice of plants and use of landscaping. Also, they will be addressing how well the display has been put together, looking at the quality, condition and combination of planting, the quality of assembly and presentation of information.

The final criterion will be how attractive the display is.

Planter Specifics

The judges will be looking at the choice of plants and their setting. Also, they will be addressing the suitability of the container, how well the plants are grown and how good the presentation of information is.

The final criterion will be how attractive the display is.

Section 1c Instructions for Exhibitors

The following instructions, which are specific to the event site, are to be observed for both **Pallet Garden** and **Planter** exhibits.

Health, Safety & Environment

At all times, entrants must comply with the event organisers' requirements regarding health, safety and environmental protection on site. This relates to activities including but not limited to safe passage of personnel and vehicles, safe use of machinery and tools, safe handling of heavy loads and hazardous materials, safe use of electricity if required, and avoidance of site contamination and water pollution with toxic substances.

Entrants must not dig into the ground under or around their exhibit.

Security

While on site, entrants must follow the event organisers' security advice. Entrants are informed that any items which they bring onto site, either temporarily or for the duration of the Fair, are left at their own risk.

Biosecurity

Entrants are responsible for ensuring that biosecurity is in force by **not** bringing onto site any diseased plant material or growing medium. If entrants notice disease or contamination in their own materials or any others on site, they must inform the event organisers immediately so that the offending material can be safely removed for disposal.

Garden Fair Opening Hours

Scone Palace Garden Fair will be open to paying visitors between 10.00am and 5.00pm on Friday 29th and Saturday 30th May.

SGF Attendance

Representatives of the SGF are scheduled to be at the **Pallet Garden** and **Planter** display area throughout the Fair opening hours. The SGF personnel on duty will regularly check the exhibits and water them if required.

Setting-Up Exhibits

Entrants are required to set-up their exhibits on Thursday 28th May. Access to the display area will be available for entrants, provisionally between 12.00 and 18.00h. To avoid congestion and maintain site safety, all personnel and vehicle movements into and out of the display area and work activities therein will be controlled by site personnel. **Entrants shall obey the instructions of those in charge of the site.**

Judging

Judging of the **Pallet Gardens** and **Planter** will take place early on Friday 29th May before the Fair is open to visitors. Entrants are excluded from the display area while judging is taking place.

Dismantling Exhibits

Entrants are required to dismantle their exhibits on Saturday 30th May after the Fair closes at 5.00pm. To avoid congestion and maintain site safety, all personnel and vehicle movements into and out of the display area and work activities therein will be controlled by site personnel. **Entrants shall obey the instructions of those in charge of the site.**



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Scone Palace Garden Fair, 2026
Pallet Garden Challenge

Friday 29th & Saturday 30th May 2026, 10am-5pm

PROMOTING SCOTLAND'S GARDENING GROUPS

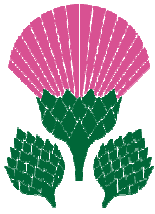
Section 2a Instructions for Pallet Garden Entries

Pallet Specification for Pallet Garden Exhibit:

- A **pallet** marked with the entrants' name will be provided by the SGF. These will be located on the designated display site for use by each registered entrant. All pallets will be collected by the SGF at the end of the event.
- The **pallet** is a bottomless collar of rigid black plastic measuring approximately 1m wide x 1m long x 15cm high with rounded corners.
- If entrants wish to supply their own rigid base for their exhibit, it must fit within the internal dimensions of the plastic collar. For guidance, a rigid base with a maximum footprint of 97cm wide x 97cm long will fit inside the plastic collar.

Pallet Garden Rules:

- The exhibit must fit inside the collar provided by the SGF. It should not exceed 2m in height measured from ground level. **Please lay a cover over the ground** before infilling.
- Plant material may overhang the collar.
- The exhibit should be designed to be viewed from a distinguishable front. The use of a backdrop is permitted within the stated dimensions.
- Each exhibit must consist of predominantly living plant material (can be edible) with hard and soft landscaping components such as rocks, ornaments or other props being kept to minimum. **Artificial plant material is not permitted.**
- All material brought onto site by entrants must be free from pests and diseases to avoid contaminating the surroundings and other exhibits. Any infected material which the event organisers see, will be removed from the display site and disposed of appropriately.
- Entrants are encouraged to provide a leaflet or display board not exceeding A3 size, giving a brief overview of the exhibit including the names of the plants used, and/or information about their organisation.
- Entrants are responsible for transporting all their exhibit material to and from the display site and must be available to assemble and dismantle their exhibit in compliance with the requirements and timings specified by the event organisers.
- Entrants are advised that any items which they bring onto site, either temporarily or for the duration of the event, are left at their own risk.
- During assembly and dismantling of their exhibit, entrants must keep the surrounding area clean and tidy and be courteous to others working adjacent to them.
- When dismantling their exhibit, entrants must ensure that the site is left free of debris and that all items which they have brought onto site are completely removed.



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PROMOTING SCOTLAND'S GARDEN CLUBS

Scone Palace Garden Fair, 2026

Planter Challenge

Friday 29th & Saturday 30th May 2026, 10am-5pm

Section 3a Instructions for Planter Entries

Container Specification for Planter:

- Entrants are responsible for providing their own plant container.
- Maximum permissible dimensions for the plant container are 70cm long x 50cm wide x 70cm high.

Planter Rules:

- Entrants must clearly identify their exhibit with their organisation's name.
- Maximum permissible height for the exhibit is 1.4m measured from the ground.
- Plant material may overhang the container.
- Each exhibit must consist of predominantly living plant material (can be edible) with hard and soft landscaping components such as rocks, ornaments or other props being kept to minimum. **Artificial plant material is not permitted.**
- All material brought onto site by entrants must be free from pests and diseases to avoid contaminating the surroundings and other exhibits. Any infected material which the event organisers see, will be removed from the display site and disposed of appropriately.
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