

Sustainability

RHS Malvern Spring Festival is always striving to improve their sustainability and is constantly taking actions to ensure this. Please see below are latest policies regarding sustainability at our shows.

Waste

Exhibitors seen abusing the general waste / recycling facilities will be charged the equivalent waste removal cost.

The following waste collection will be provided:

Build-up and breakdown

Mixed waste*

Show-week

Mixed dry recycling*

General waste*

*All waste is collected into a vehicle and taken to a Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) to be hand picked to ensure all recyclable materials are into the correct waste stream containers.

Waste streams that become segregated after this process:

- General Waste (to incineration)
- Plastics (further segregation required to split out various polymers for single polymer recycling)
- Metal
- Wood
- Cardboard (baled and sent to a paper mill)

No Hazardous waste should be placed inside the bins. All waste declared hazardous will have an additional charge.

Peat Free by end of 2025

The RHS wants to be a catalyst for change towards peat-free gardening. Working with our networks and using our experience as an exemplar, we aim to be 100% peat free in all our operations by 2025. The RHS is now extending this and working with exhibitors to transition towards no peat use at shows by end of 2025.

Use of materials and procurement

The RHS is working to reduce the use of these materials moving forward: cement based concrete, virgin timber, Plastics, and virgin metals, with a direction of travel to reused/recycled materials.

Exhibitors can help support this by looking at their builds and identifying areas where alternatives can be used. For any advice on alternative materials please contact:

greenershows@rhs.org.uk

Upcoming regulation change

- Ban on cement based concrete from 2025 Garden exhibitors only.

When sourcing materials exhibitors should follow these basic principles wherever possible:

- source locally
- combine deliveries with other contractors / exhibitors
- ensure materials are ethically sourced
- plan for their reuse / recycling after the show
- explore sustainable alternatives for concrete, virgin timber and plastics

Single use Plastic

‘Single use’ means the item is meant to be used only once for its original purpose. Exhibitors are encouraged to familiarise themselves with the changes in governmental policy regarding single-use plastic that came into effect in October 2023:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-bans-and-restrictions-on-polluting-single-use-plastics-come-into-force>

The RHS are committed to stopping the use of single use plastics at all shows. Please note the following:

- Ban of use of floral foam. See our Guidance document for support on alternatives.
- Ban of plastic bags . Exhibitors are permitted to give out or sell paper bags. The RHS is encouraging visitors to bring their own bags to the shows and will be selling reusable bags from retail units.

- Merchandise - The RHS encourages exhibitors to consider the environmental impact of any single-use merchandise, including tote bags, given to the public at the show.

Packaging – please consider how you can reduce the amount of packaging you use and bring to the Show.

Travel

Exhibitors should consider how they travel to the show. If possible exhibitors should

- travel together
- use public transport
- walk or cycle
- share deliveries

Water Use

Please ensure water use is kept to a minimum. Do not leave water running unattended.

Power

Exhibitors should only order the power required for their exhibit. If unsure of power requirements please contact the Shows Office who will be able to advise.

Contact us

For questions, comments or to share exciting new sustainable products or advances please get in touch with us at greenershows@rhs.org.uk

Timber Products at RHS Malvern Spring Festival

Timber products brought to RHS Shows for sale on a Tradestand or on display in a Garden must be proven to be from a sustainable source.

If for sale on a Tradestand, the full product range or line must be proven to be from a sustainable source. Tradestand exhibitors must provide details of all timber products intended for sale at the Festival, including small timber items such as picture frames, tool handles etc. before allocation can be made. Exhibitors must provide appropriate evidence documents relating to the type of timber they wish to sell. See the RHS Timber Policy on the Online Zone for more information.

Garden exhibitors must ensure any timber items on display comply with the RHS Timber Policy, see **Timber Policy** for more information. Independent audits are undertaken at RHS Shows to ensure that exhibitors are complying with the policy. All exhibitors are encouraged to use sustainably-sourced timber in the construction and staging of exhibits. The full RHS Timber Policy can be found in the Exhibitor Online Zone.

FSC or PEFC certification currently represents the best means of fulfilling the timber policy objectives. However, other certification schemes are accepted and can be viewed in the RHS Timber Policy.

Trees and tree protection

Exhibitors and contractors must adhere to the requirements of the Tree Protection Programme detailed below.

Root protection areas

There is a 'root protection area' around each established tree within the Festival site. Each root protection area is four times the girth of the tree trunk, with the girth measurement to be taken at a height of 1.3 metres from the base of the tree.

Driving and parking near trees

Within root protection areas, vehicles or mechanical plant, other than private cars or light vans, must be parked on 'protected ground' only. Protected ground is either covered by a permanent hard surface or a temporary load bearing/load spreading surface. Many vehicle routes over unsurfaced ground will be protected with a suitable temporary roadway surface. Vehicle movements are not permitted over unprotected ground within root protection areas. Engines must be turned off when stationary.

Siting cabins and storage in root protection areas

Within root protection areas, the siting of temporary cabins on unprotected ground will require the prior placement of load spreading slabs or timber baulks (railway sleepers or similar) beneath the legs or corner supports of the cabin, as appropriate. Storage of building materials (bricks, slabs, stone) on unprotected ground must be on wooden pallets only. Bulk materials (soil, gravel, sand etc.) if stored loose, must be stored on minimum 20mm exterior grade plywood sheets, or must be bagged and stored on sheets or on pallets. No storage of loose materials directly on unprotected ground will be permitted. No storage of petrol, diesel or any liquid or non-liquid phytotoxic material is permitted within root protection areas.

Construction of exhibits other than Gardens

Within root protection areas, exhibits are to be designed and constructed to prevent tree root damage and surface soil compaction over the area occupied. Exhibitors should use above ground decking or boarding supported on a timber or scaffolding framework placed on existing ground level. Alternatively exhibitors should lay a minimum 75mm layer of woodchip mulch between timber edgings or boards, secured in place by means of timber pegs driven into the ground.

Restriction on excavations

Throughout the Festival Site, Gardens may be located next to existing trees. In order to protect tree roots permission from the Show Manager is needed when excavating within tree Root Protection Areas (RPAs).

An RPA is defined as the circular area around the tree with a radius of four times the circumference of the tree trunk measured at 1.3m high. Within the RPA excavation guidelines are:

A Excavations within one-third of radius: not permitted except with hand tools and only under arboricultural supervision.

B Excavations between one-third of radius and two thirds of radius: 0.75m depth limit.

C Excavations between two-thirds of radius and limit of radius: 1.5m depth limit

D Excavations beyond radius of root protection area: 1.5m depth limit.

Where temporary raising of levels by soil placement is permitted, the area(s) of raised soil shall be placed on a geotextile mat or membrane laid over existing ground level. At Breakdown, areas of raised soil are to be removed using machinery fitted with a toothless bucket or loading shovel only

Where possible, excavations will take place with excavators, dumpers etc. stationed and working from a position outside the root protection areas of the trees concerned.

If access of excavators and plant within one-third of the radius of any tree's root protection area (zone A in diagram) is unavoidable, temporary ground protection must be placed for tracked vehicles in wet ground conditions.

No roots of existing trees are to be severed except with the prior approval, and under the supervision of, the Clerk of Horticultural Works.

No mixing of concrete, cement, render, mortar etc. is to be undertaken within root protection areas, except on ground protected by minimum 20mm exterior grade plywood sheeting laid above an impermeable polythene membrane. Cement/concrete mixer must not be cleaned or washed out within root protection areas. Concrete or cement footings must be placed on, or contained within, a strong, non-permeable membrane.

Materials stored within root protection areas for Garden construction purposes are subject to the same requirements.

Any excavation or construction which may damage a tree will be suspended by the Clerk of Horticultural Works. Such work may be permanently suspended or an alternative method of operation enforced which will not damage any trees.