

RHS Garden Wisley Scarecrows Factsheet 2019 - Spectacular Plant Discoveries

Please read all of the information in this factsheet before applying to take part in the competition.

Where is RHS Garden Wisley?

RHS Garden Wisley, Woking, Surrey, GU23 6QB

What is the competition about?

The Scarecrow competition is open to schools and children's uniform or community groups and is an opportunity for students to showcase their design skills and imaginative ideas to RHS members and 20,000 visitors to RHS Garden Wisley during the summer half term (Sat 25 May – Sun 2 June 2019).

Who can take part?

Schools and groups signed up to the RHS Campaign for School Gardening are eligible to apply. If you are not already registered, it's easy and free to do so. [Click here to register.](#)

Up to two staff/volunteers from each school/group will need to be able to deliver and install their scarecrow on Thursday 23 May 2019 at RHS Garden Wisley. Installation must be completed promptly by 4pm on Thursday 23 May.

Scarecrows must be designed and created by pupils and students, not just adults.

One entry per school/group is permitted.

How do schools/groups enter?

Complete an application form and return it by email to learning@rhs.org.uk with "Scarecrow Competition" in the subject. Attach colour photographs or drawings of your ideas and details of the discovery that you have chosen to represent. Application forms must be received by 5pm on **Monday 25th March 2019**.

After the closing date the judges will decide which schools/groups have won a place in the competition and participants will be notified by the end of March. Participants will then be required to complete an acceptance form to confirm their place.

Further details on set-up and collection days and additional competition information will be sent to contestants via email, during the lead up to the event.

The deadline for all application forms is 5pm on Monday 18th March 2019.

Is there a theme to the competition?

This year's competition is based around the theme of **Spectacular Plant Discoveries**. Create a scarecrow that represents a discovery that you feel is spectacular! This could be a discovery you have made in your own school or community garden. Or a discovery made by a famous scientist, explorer or horticulturalist that you have recently studied at home or at school. This could be something from the past or modern day. You can adorn your scarecrow with relevant and interesting props which will help demonstrate to our visitors the significance of plant and horticultural discoveries.

Please bear in mind the following:

- Every scarecrow should include an element of plant material, which can be dried, fresh or living.
- Scarecrows should be made from scratch and you are encouraged to use recycled materials.
- It is important that scarecrows are well-made and substantial, in order to withstand all weather conditions.
- The maximum scarecrow height is 1.8m and they should not have any loose or easily detachable parts.
- You may use props and accessories to enhance your scarecrow
- Your entry must be a single scarecrow.
- Scarecrows must follow the theme **Spectacular Plant Discoveries**
- A 2m wooden post and cable ties will be provided for each group and the scarecrow must be fixed to this pole. Entrants may wish to bring additional fixings.
- Groups should bring their own trolley or wheelbarrow to move their scarecrow through the garden to the competition space.

What are the prize categories?

All chosen entrants will receive a certificate of participation and a small prize for making and displaying their scarecrow.

The following prizes will also be awarded and winners will be selected by our panel of judges:

- Category Winner – ages 11 to 16
- Category Winner - ages 2 to 11
- Category Winner – SEN groups – all ages

What are the benefits of taking part?

- Free entry to RHS Garden Wisley for contributing pupils from participating schools, community groups or uniform groups, valid for summer half term 2019 (25 May to 2 June), and this includes the Family Gardening Festival (entry passes will be issued). Parents, family members or other adults will be required to pay the normal entry fee.
- The chance to win some great prizes if your group is given an award by our judges.
- A certificate and small gift for each group that takes part.

What is provided by the RHS?

A 2m wooden post on which to secure your scarecrow. Cable ties for fixing.

An information label for each scarecrow will be produced with information obtained from your group key contact. This will include details of your chosen **Spectacular Plant Discovery** and why your group chose to represent this.

When do we set up our scarecrow?

There will be a set-up day at Wisley on **Thursday 23 May (9am - 4pm)**. Judging of the scarecrows will take place during May half term.

Where do we go on the set-up day?

Full details and maps will be sent nearer the date.

How tall can our scarecrow be?

The maximum height your scarecrow can be is 1.8m. If you are attaching props and accessories these should be securely fixed to your scarecrow and extend no more than 1m around the base of the post in any direction.

Please bear in mind that your scarecrow will need to stay standing for up to 11 days during which time it will be mostly unattended and the weather could be temperamental.

When will the gardens be dismantled?

You will need to collect your scarecrows and any other items or props that you wish to keep by **4pm on Monday 3 June 2019**. Those that are not collected will be dismantled by the RHS and composted/recycled. Unfortunately we cannot allow you to remove your scarecrow on any other date.

Additional rules:

- Please do not include any sharp objects or live animals in your design.
- Please do not include any food items.

Any further questions?

Please email learning@rhs.org.uk and we'll be happy to help.

Terms and Conditions:

The judges' decision is final.

We acknowledge that some school half term dates may vary from those of this competition, but the dates listed are final.

Please note that entries will not be returned and will need to be collected. If you wish to collect your scarecrow this can **only** be done on **Monday 3 June 2019 between 10am and 4pm**.

Please note that the wooden post remains the property of the RHS.