

THE CENTENARY CUP COMPETITION, 30th MAY 2026

1. The Competition for the Centenary Cup 2026 consists of nine competitive classes:

- 1) A hardy species rhododendron one truss or spray.
- 2) A hardy hybrid rhododendron, one truss.
- 3) A hardy hybrid rhododendron, one spray.
- 4) A tender species or hybrid rhododendron, grown under glass or otherwise, (including Vireyas), one truss or spray.
- 5) A deciduous azalea, species or hybrid, one spray.
- 6) An evergreen azalea, species or hybrid, one spray.
- 7) A camellia species or hybrid, one bloom.
- 8) A magnolia species or hybrid, one bloom.
- 9) Any flowering tree or shrub (except roses), one spray.

2. The winning entry for each class will be further judged, to establish the overall winner of The Centenary Cup.

3. Exhibitors

The Competition is open to all Group members. Exhibitors may enter a single truss or spray, or many trusses and sprays. The award will be for the best entry overall, regardless of how many entries an exhibitor has contributed to the competition.

4. Exhibits must be the property of the competitor – All specimens exhibited in competition must be the bona fide property of the competitor and must have been grown by him/her or his/her employees on land in his/her own occupation for at least the last six months before the competition.

5. Entry fees – There are no entry fees.

6. Liability for loss – All exhibits, personal property, etc., will be at the risk of the competitors and the RCMG will not be liable for compensation due to loss or damage by theft, fire, water, accident or any other cause whatsoever.

Staging

7. Times for staging – Exhibits may be staged between 2.00pm – 6.00pm on Friday 29th May and 7.00am – 10.00 am on Saturday 30th May.

8. Judging – Judging will commence at 10.00am until 11.30am. All exhibitors will be asked to leave the ‘Hazel Room’ whilst this takes place. Prizegiving will commence immediately after

FROM THE GROUP SECRETARY

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judging is finished with the presentation of certificates to the nine Centenary Cup class winners. The winner of the Centenary Cup will be judged from the class winners by the judges and awarded last.

9. Stewards to advise competitors – Stewards will be available during staging times, to advise competitors about the appropriate class for any exhibit and the stewards' decision on all matters of classification and eligibility for the class concerned will be final and will be respected by the judges.

10. Size of exhibit – Judges will be asked to consider the quality of each specimen exhibited rather than its size.

11. Sprays. Exhibits of species and hybrid sprays should not exceed 30" from the top of the vase, and any exhibits exceeding 24" in width will not, on that account, gain extra marks. Sprays of deciduous azaleas must not exceed 24" from the top of the vase. Sprays of evergreen azaleas must not exceed 18" from the top of the vase. In Class 9 'Exhibits of any flowering tree or shrub (except roses)', should not exceed 30" from the top of the vase.

12. Number of entries allowed – A competitor may enter and stage any number of exhibits, provided that in each exhibit all the species, cultivars or hybrids are different from those in his/her other exhibits in that class. Note: while a species and its subspecies are regarded as distinct, as are two subspecies of the same species, different forms of the same species are not permitted.

13. Additional support of sprays – The use of canes, wires or any other means of additional support above vase top level is not permitted.

14. Labelling – All exhibits should be labelled with the names of the plants, typed or written in block letters. Cultivar names should be enclosed within single quotes. The label for a hybrid should bear (in addition to the name) the parentage, when known. For this purpose, small cards will be available to exhibitors on arrival in the 'Hazel Room' with their entries and no other labels should be used. Where the name of a cultivar is unknown the label should bear the words 'NAME UNKNOWN'

15. Competitors cards – Cards corresponding to the entries will be available by the competition tabling. Competitors will be responsible for the placing of these cards with their exhibits.

16. Vases – Vases 6", 9" and 11" in height, and Camellia glasses will be provided. No others may be used.

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17. **The Centenary Cup** will be presented to the winner in an award ceremony at the Competition and will be retained for engraving and thereafter held by the Group.

Definitions

18. Exhibits must have been grown in the open unless otherwise stated in the individual class.

19. RHS Show rule: The use of sand and Oasis or equivalent is not allowed in vases for staging.

20.

21. The term “truss” means a single rachis and, therefore, a group of heads may not be shown where a “truss” is called for. The term “spray” means a single stem or branch. The term bloom means a single flower.

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