



The National Cherry & Soft Fruit Show

Class Schedule & Programme 2025



Friday 18th July 2025

Brogdale Collections Faversham



www.ncsfs.co.uk





Contents

Show Committee and Judges	3
Chairman's Report	4
Sponsors of the Show	4
History of the Show	6
Schedule of classes	7-9
Rules and regulations	10

Entry Information and Dates

Monday 14th July

Deadline for entry forms. Later entries can be submitted but packaging and labels cannot be guaranteed to arrive in time.

Friday 18th July

Please deliver entries to Brogdale Collections, Faversham, ME13 8XZ by 8am. There will be signs to direct deliveries to the right location.

NCSFS Committee

T Hulme (Chairman)
R Sands (Vice-Chairman)
T Johnson (Chief Steward)
C Joules (Secretary)
J Hinchliff
A Myatt
S Lillywhite

Judges

D Vaughan
N Franklin
P Foster
N Wing
A Barham
R Schofield
S Rusev
V Eltringham
T Waterman
Master of Worshipful Company of Fruiterers



Courier Delivery

A courier can be arranged to deliver entries of fruit from around the UK. Please contact the Secretary as early as possible so this can be arranged.





Chairman's Report

Tom Hulme - Chairman - National Cherry & Soft Fruit Show

I am pleased to present the programme for the 94th National Cherry and Soft Fruit Show. This year, we are delighted to continue hosting the event at Brogdale Farm in Faversham, the renowned location of the National Fruit Collection. The Show will align with Brogdale's annual Cherry Festival, which invites the public to explore the orchards through educational tours and sampling sessions over the weekend:

<https://brogdalecollections.org/event/cherry-trail/>

Brogdale's National Fruit Collection offers a stunning and appropriate backdrop for celebrating the best of British cherries and soft fruits. We believe this setting will not only highlight the excellent quality and diversity of produce grown across the UK but also enhance the visitor experience, allowing everyone to enjoy viewing the top-tier entries. A notable change in recent years involves how we present our award-winning fruit to the Royal Family. Historically, winning cherry exhibits were sent on the day of the show to various members of the Royal Family, including the late HRH Her Majesty the Queen. We have now arranged for the winning growers' stone and soft fruit (including cherries, raspberries, and strawberries) to be couriered in the week following the Show to His Majesty the King, Queen Camilla, and the Prince and Princess of Wales along with their children. This change offers the industry an excellent opportunity to showcase the ongoing commitment to raising fruit quality to a wider audience.

You will notice from this year's Programme that we have made some adjustments to the packaging format for the main cherry classes, moving all entries to be in punnets rather than 4lb chips. The objective is for a more consistent look across all the classes, whether stone fruit or soft fruit, and as importantly to make the life of both the growers and judges easier. We will review the outcome of these changes and be prepared to adapt further in the future if necessary. All feedback is welcome!

We have also rebranded the Tastiest Classes which in future will be open to all growers rather than just Kent based entrants.

The 2024 entries were outstanding, with a wonderful range of cherries and soft fruits on display. Despite a smaller national cherry crop, the quality was exceptional. Congratulations to all who contributed and to the winners for their achievements. I would also like to thank Catherine Joules, our hardworking Secretary, and all the individuals whose efforts make the Show possible each year for their ongoing commitment to our Show.

Finally, on behalf of the Committee, I extend our gratitude to the sponsors who help sustain the Show. Special thanks goes to DPS, Norton Folgate and BerryWorld. Our appreciation also goes to Produce Packaging for providing the packaging. Your generosity is crucial to the success of this key industry event.

Looking ahead, we are both excited and optimistic about the future of the National Cherry and Soft Fruit Show and eagerly await your entries on Friday, 18th July.





NEW 'Tastiest' Classes for 2025

We are pleased to announce that the show will now have a wider selection of 'Tastiest' classes available for all entrants. Previously known as the Taste of Kent awards, the new classes are open to all growers across the UK.



Entry Requirements

- Growers can enter as many varieties as they like.
- Varieties should be kept separate – one variety per container.
- Entries should be submitted in 1lb punnets for cherry and strawberry, 1/4 punnets for all other soft fruit.
- Entries are judged on taste only.
- Winners are eligible to use 'Tastiest' logo for labels and marketing. More information will be sent to winning growers after the show.





The National Cherry & Soft Fruit Show

The National Cherry and Soft Fruit Show is a distinguished annual event in the UK, celebrating the excellence of British-grown stone fruit and soft fruit. It serves as a platform for commercial growers to showcase their produce, engage with the public, and promote the fruit-growing industry.

Historical Background

Traditionally, the show provided an opportunity for the public to witness the quality and variety of UK-grown soft and stone fruits, including cherries, strawberries, raspberries, and plums. The event not only celebrated the produce but also aimed to educate visitors about fruit cultivation and the industry's importance to the UK economy.

Significance

The National Cherry and Soft Fruit Show is more than a competition; it's a celebration of the UK's fruit-growing heritage. It provides a unique opportunity for growers to gain recognition, for the public to appreciate the quality of local produce, and for the industry to educate and inspire future generations about fruit cultivation.

Fruit Fit For A King

For many years, the prize winning cherries from the show would be sent to Buckingham Palace to Queen Elizabeth II, Prince Michael of Kent and Princess Alexandra. Letters of acknowledgment and thanks would be received and passed onto the respective grower of the fruit.

Since the sad passing of Queen Elizabeth II, we now send a selection of fruit to HRH King Charles and Queen Camilla, and Prince William and Princess Kate and family. The grower of the fruit will be chosen from each respective winner of the best exhibit of cherry, the best exhibit of strawberry and the best exhibit of raspberry. The fruit is usually sent up to Buckingham Palace a week after the show, and the Secretary will be in touch to organise this with the winning growers.





Schedule

Open to fruit grown commercially in Great Britain.

All entry forms must reach the Show Secretary, Catherine Joules, Hope Farm, Bulltown Lane, West Brabourne, Ashford, Kent TN25 5NB

Tel: 07976 465035 Email: secretary@ncsfs.co.uk on or before Monday 14th July 2025.

Points

Points in respect of any Class and Trophy are awarded as follows:

1st – 4

2nd – 3

3rd – 2

HC – 1

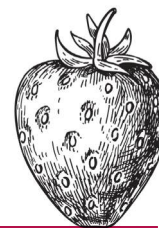
Cherry Classes

Class	Classes to consist of:
1	Four 1lb Punnets of Karina
2	Four 1lb Punnets of Penny
3	Four 1lb Punnets of Regina
4	Four 1lb Punnets of Kordia
5	Four 1lb Punnets of Sunburst
6	Four 1lb Punnets of Summersun
7	Four 1lb Punnets of Stella
8	Four 1lb Punnets of Lapins
9	Four 1lb Punnets of Vanda
10	Four 1lb Punnets of Sweetheart
11	Four 1lb Punnets of any Black Modern Variety
12	Four 1lb Punnets of any Red Modern Variety
13	Four 1lb Punnets of any Heritage Variety
14	Four 1lb Punnets of any White Variety
15	Two Separate White Varieties – One 1lb Punnet of Each Variety
16	One White Variety and One Black Variety – One 1lb Punnets of Each Variety
17	Two Separate Black or Red Varieties – One 1lb Punnet of Each Variety
18	Three Separate Black or Red Varieties – One 1lb Punnet of Each Variety
19	Six Separate Black, Red or White Varieties – One 1lb Punnet of Each Variety
20	Novice Grower (no wins in last 5 years) – Four 1lb Punnets of Any Variety





Strawberry Classes



Class	Classes to consist of:
30	Four 1lb Punnets of Different Varieties – One 1lb Punnet of Each Variety
31	Four 1lb Punnets of Junebearer
32	Four 1lb Punnets of Everbearer
33	Four 1lb Punnets of UK Bred Variety
34	Four 1lb Punnets of Non UK Bred Variety

Raspberry Classes



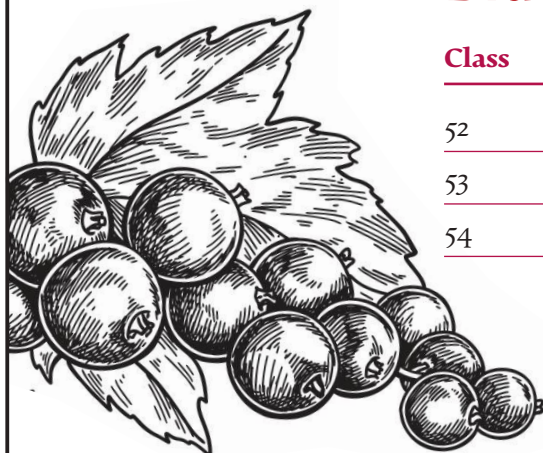
Class	Classes to consist of:
40	Four 1/4lb Punnets of UK Bred Variety
41	Four 1/4lb Punnets of Non UK Bred Variety
42	Four 1/4lb Punnets of Primo Cane Variety
43	Four 1/4lb Punnets of Summer Fruiting Variety
44	Four 1/4lb Punnets of Different Varieties – One 1lb Punnet of Each Variety

Blackberry Classes



Class	Classes to consist of:
50	Four 1/4lb Punnets of Sweeter Eating Variety
51	Four 1/4lb Punnets of Any Other Variety

Blueberry Classes



Class	Classes to consist of:
52	Four 1/4lb Punnets of Any Variety
53	Four 1/4lb Punnets of Early Season Variety
54	Four 1/4lb Punnets of Mid Season Variety



Other Fruit



Class	Classes to consist of:
60	Four 1lb Punnets of Plums. Any Variety
61	Four 1lb Punnets of Apricots. Any Variety
62	Four Punnets of Any Other Soft Fruit (not listed in any other classes)
63	Four Punnets of Organic Soft Fruit (Raspberries in 1/4lb Punnets, any other fruit in 1lb)
64	Four Punnets of Organic Stone Fruit

Wholesale Market Packs

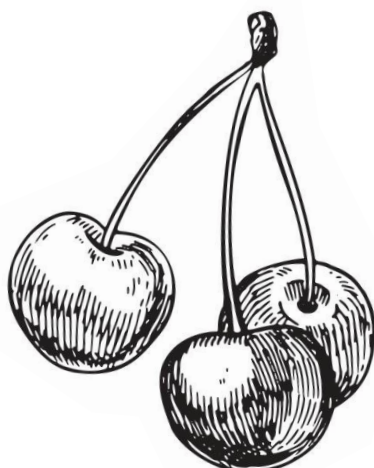
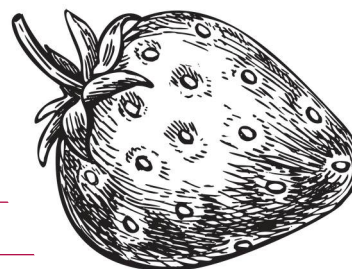
Fruit must be entered in the normal market pack of the grower. Any number of varieties may be entered in each class, but only one entry per variety per grower.

Class	Classes to consist of:
70	One Wholesale Market Container of Cherries. Any Variety
71	One Wholesale Market Tray or Case of Strawberries. Any Variety
72	One Wholesale Market Tray or Case of Raspberries. Any Variety
73	One Wholesale Market Tray of Blackberries or Case of Punnets. Any Variety
74	One Wholesale Market Container of Other Stone Fruit. Any Variety

Supermarket Packs

Punneted fruit with lid or film consistent with supermarket requirements.

Class	Classes to consist of:
80	Best Cherry. One Single Layer Case 60cm x 40cm
81	Best Strawberry. One Single Layer Case 60cm x 40cm
82	Best Raspberry. One Single Layer Case 60cm x 40cm
83	Best Blackberry. One Single Layer Case 60cm x 40cm
84	Best Blueberry. One Single Layer Case 60cm x 40cm



NEW Tastiest Classes

Class	Classes to consist of:
90	Tastiest Cherry. One 1lb Punnet of Any Variety
91	Tastiest Strawberry. One 1lb Punnet of Any Variety
92	Tastiest Raspberry. One 1/4lb Punnet of Any Variety
93	Tastiest Blackberry. One 1/4lb Punnet of Any Variety
94	Tastiest Blueberry. One 1/4lb Punnet of Any Variety



Rules and Regulations

Entries

All entries should be sent to the Show Secretary, National Cherry & Soft Fruit Show, Hope Farm, Bulltown Lane, West Brabourne, Ashford, TN25 5NB, secretary@ncsfs.co.uk, on or before Monday 14th July 2025.

Packing

All competitors will be supplied identification labels by the Secretary. The correct name of each variety of fruit exhibited must be stated on the label and the label must be clearly visible on the container. In all classes the names of the exhibitor must not appear on the package, with the exception of the Market Pack/Supermarket Pack classes. Entries in the Supermarket Pack classes can be displayed.

All exhibits must be packed in the packaging supplied by the Committee, free of charge, with the exception of the Market Pack/Supermarket Pack class where the growers own packaging should be used.

All trays and punnets containing exhibits must be properly filled as near as possible to the rim.

Underfilling may be penalised, but a certain amount of overfilling will not. The laying in of cherries is not permitted. The laying in of any other fruit is permitted. Fruits in any one individual container must be of one named and commercially released variety only.

Raspberry entries should be entered with the plug/sprig off the fruit.

All questions in connection with the identification of varieties shall be decided by the Chief Stewards.

Delivery

All exhibits must be delivered to Brogdale Collections, Faversham by 8.00am on Friday 18th July 2025.

The Committee will receive each exhibit and will be responsible for the staging. After delivery to the Committee, exhibits shall not be touched by the competitor or anyone acting on their behalf.

Indemnity

The Committee nor any related party shall in any way be responsible or accountable for any loss or damage, no matter from whatever cause, arising to competitors, or to exhibits brought into the show.

Judging

Competent Judges will be appointed by the Committee. In the event of any of the Judges being unable to attend, the Committee reserve the right to substitute others.

No prize or trophy shall be awarded to an exhibit which does not in the opinion of the Judges possess sufficient merit.

No interference with the Judges while making their decisions will be allowed. Any such interference by a competitor or anyone acting on his behalf will disqualify their exhibit.

Protests

Any protest must be made to the officer in charge of the show before 1.00pm on the day of the show. The Committee's decision shall be final.

Sale of Fruit

All the competitive exhibits of fruit will be donated to Brogdale Collections. They will sell the fruit to raise funds for their charitable work with schools and education.

Market/Supermarket Pack Class

The entry must be the normal market pack/supermarket pack of the grower. Any number of varieties may be entered but only one entry per variety. The fruit shall conform to the generally accepted minimum grade classifications for each variety, to be determined at the absolute discretion of the Judges. For Supermarket packs the name of the grower and variety to be displayed on the film/lid. The supermarket awards are for the best UK supermarket case of cherries, strawberries, raspberries and blackberries. The fruit should be free from any external defects and have no organic debris in the packs. Labelling should be symmetrical and in the same position on each pack.

Packaging and specifications

Packaging: Any supermarket punnet format with top seal or lid

Labels/film: Labelled as if being supplied into depot

Outer case: Cardboard outer 60cm x 40cm single layer with a box end label.

10 punnets per case.

Origin: UK only

Quality specification: Class 1





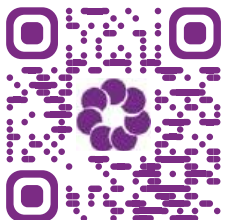
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ACROSS THE UK**

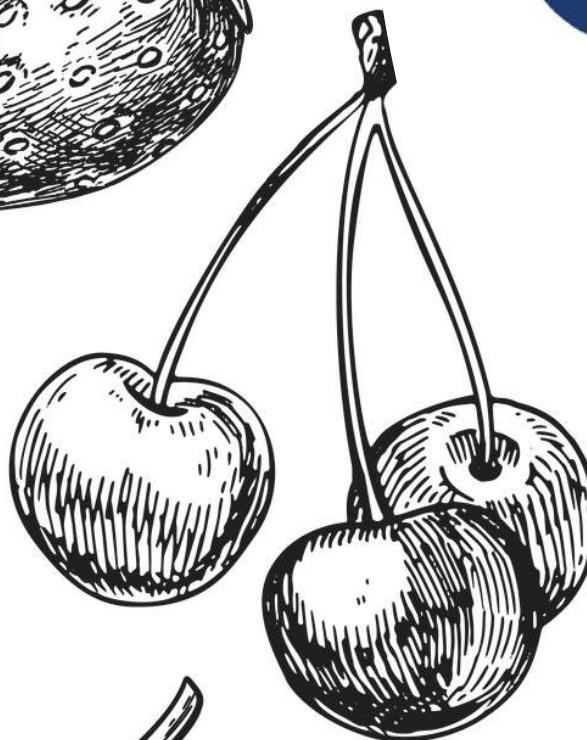


**NATIONWIDE NEXT
DAY DELIVERY**





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