



**The Belvoir Castle Flower and Garden Show
12th and 13th July 2025**

Countryside Borders Competition

Sponsored by CED Stone – Inspiring beautiful landscapes
and supported by the London College of Garden Design

Call for entries

CED Stone is delighted to sponsor the Belvoir Castle Garden Show Countryside Borders competition with the support of The London College of Garden Design, celebrating planting design and supporting new garden designers and horticulturists in their careers.

We're celebrating the 8th year for the event with an opportunity to include an element of hard materials and containers within the design borders and an option on the shapes which has proven so popular. For the second time the show will be staged near the cannonade and immediate surrounding area to the castle.

The competition is open to anyone involved in garden design, horticulture and landscaping and has proved to be a good platform for professionals wanting to try out their skills in show exhibiting. In the past few years many designers have used this competition as a springboard to other competitions including winning best in category at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show and BBC Gardeners World Live.

The successful applicants will receive:

- The opportunity to be creative, do something a little different and start your show garden career.
- A grant of £200 from CED Stone to help you cover the costs of materials as well as access to CED supplied hard materials.
- The opportunity to meet potential new customers.
- The chance to win the 'Best Countryside Border' award as well as other show trophies.

In 2025 we have an initial 15 places available in July. All exhibitors will be given a raised bed ready to install and plant your design.

Your brief

The Belvoir Castle Garden Show takes place on Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th July 2025 and is located within the estate of the beautiful Belvoir Castle. We want you to design a great planting scheme that shows off your skills to visitors on a theme of 'Countryside Borders'. **This year's focal element within your design is Pollinators.**

Show us your perfect country border.

You might decide to create a wildlife friendly design, sustainable planting for summer droughts, a rain garden for increasingly wet years or a planting for a small country town garden on an entertaining theme. Whatever your chosen story it should work within the overall theme of 'Countryside Borders and pollinators

You have the option of designing for one of either of these spaces –

- A. 1.2m x 4.8m border or
- B. 2.4m x 2.4m border (these are our traditional spaces that you can see in the images).

They cover the same area but give you more flexibility with your design.

The rest is up to you to design, plant and finish to show standard. Look at some of the images of entries in this brief to get an idea of what people have previously achieved.

You will be required to supply a simple display board alongside the garden so that people can find out all about you. You will not be able to excavate the ground, but your border will be raised above ground by approximately 200mm high and you can raise the border height further yourself if you want.

We welcome entries from overseas and we have had many exhibitors from other countries in past years.

Hard materials

Our lead sponsor CED Stone will supply a limited range of products and you can choose from the following – Granite setts, footpath gravels, the Eco gravel system, aggregates and gravels. Other materials may be available subject to approval and availability.



Designs Vanessa Sutton and Sonja Kalkschmidt

The build

You have just 2 days before the show opens to put your border together. Further information on access will be sent to all successful applicants and if you need some advice you can get in touch.

How to enter your design

Your design submission should be no more than one A3 page and include:

- An outline drawing of your idea including an elevation of the planting design and a brief description of your narrative or story i.e., what your design is all about.
- A mood board showing an idea of some of the plants you will use.

Entries should be submitted by 15th April 2025.

If you have previously submitted a design for this competition, you are still eligible to take part, and we encourage you to make another submission.

Remember that we are only looking for a concept design at this stage and the winners will be asked to liaise with **Andy Tudbury** at the show's office regarding access etc. Andy can also help you with advice on sourcing material locally if this is required.

Please email your submission either as a pdf digital copy to:

halcyondays.ge@gmail.com

or as a hard copy to:

Andy Tudbury, Head Gardener,

% The Estate office, Belvoir Castle, Woolsthorpe Road, Belvoir, Grantham NG32 1PA

The successful designs will be selected by a panel of experienced show exhibitors. The decision of the selectors and show judges is final.



Designs Grace Rogers and Frodig Design 2022.

Some show exhibiting tips

Here are some top tips from previous winners for designing a Countryside Border.

- Focus on one big idea that fits within the “Countryside Borders” theme.
- Think about what idea might appeal to visitors or promote an idea that you are interested in such as a nature or a plant interest.
- Borders with unusual and interesting plants might attract more attention.
- Think about how your design reflects your image and the work you do.
- Don't be too restrictive in varieties chosen. You may find that you'll need to substitute plants and flowers nearer to the time.
- When thinking about your plants remember that the show is late August, a great time to find different plants if you need to make later substitutions.
- You may even be able to grow some of the plants yourself.
- Remember that getting top quality vegetables and climbing plants into a show garden is challenging but not impossible.
- Ensure all the elements within your design are easily lifted by hand.

Experience has shown that nurseries are generally unwilling to sponsor plants and it is unlikely that they will contract grow them for you because by end of June there have been so many variables including the weather that make it difficult to predict production. There is usually still a wide range of plants available at this time of the year. So, design your submission with late summer plants in mind but be prepared to select your final palette of plants from July onwards.

If you have any questions, please email Andy Tudbury on halcyondays.ge@gmail.com



Design Ralph Wyld and Michelle Macdonald