

FRUIT CLASSES – TIPS FOR GROWING



Judges are looking for the best quality produce for the consumer. Maturity, freshness, internal characteristics, and freedom from disease, insect damage and blemishes are all important. Uniformity of size is important. Table quality is more important than size – biggest is not always best.

GARDEN BED PREPARATION

- There is a wealth of information available online for setting up beds and soil mixtures
- Use plenty of compost to achieve vigorous plants, refer to online tips
- All vegetables prefer full sun, especially morning sun
- Use fine mesh netting to control birds and insects

TIMING FOR BERRY SHOW

- Capsicum – October with complete NPK fertilizer
- Chillies – October with complete NPK fertilizer
- Eggplant – early October with complete NPK fertilizer
- Rockmelons – August if no frosts with complete NPK fertilizer
- Watermelon – August if no frosts with complete NPK fertilizer
- Tomatoes – August if no frosts with complete NPK fertilizer

FRUIT CLASSES – TIPS FOR GROWING



FRUIT CLASSES – TIPS FOR PRESENTATION

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Check for faults such as sand and soil deposits, chemical residues, holes, spots, cracking, insects, damaged leaves, nutrient deficiencies, bruising or wilting.

APPLES (6)

- Leave small stem attached
- Even size and shape, shiny skin
- Ripe
- Free from damage

• CAPSICUM (3)

- Leave 5-20mm of stalk attached
- Remove any leaves and flowers
- Wipe over with a damp cloth to remove any dirt/insects
- All exhibits to be of even ripeness, size, shape and colour
- All fruit should be shiny with no blossom end rot

• CHILLIES (6)

- Leave 5-20mm of stalk attached
- Remove any leaves and flowers
- Wipe over with a damp cloth to remove any dirt/insects
- All exhibits to be of even ripeness, size, shape and colour

EGGPLANT (3)

- Eggplants should be uniform in size, colour and firmness, with even ripeness
- Skin should be shiny and free of blemishes
- Leave 10-25mm of stalk attached
- Bottom tips to be attached
- Remove any leaves
- Wipe over with a damp cloth

LEMONS (6)

- Leave a small stalk on the fruit
- Fruit should ideally have thin, shiny skin with no blemishes or damage
- Fruit should be of even colour, size, shape and ripeness
- The Peduncle (star shaped structure at base of stem) should remain attached
- When cut all segments should be of an even size



LIMES (6)

- Leave a small stalk on the fruit
- Fruit should ideally have thin, shiny skin with no blemishes or damage
- Fruit should be of even colour, size, shape and ripeness

PASSIONFRUIT (6)

- Good and even size, purple or red skin
- Not excessively wrinkled
- Juicy pulp with many seeds, filling the whole cavity
- No damage
- Leave a small stem attached

ROCKMELONS (1)

- Leave 10-25mm of stalk attached
- Skin should be consistent with its type, evenly coloured, and free of blemishes
- Fruit should be ripe

WATERMELON (1)

- Leave 10-25mm of stalk attached
- Clean, uniform skin with no blemishes
- Ripe
- Can be wiped over with a damp cloth



STONE FRUIT (6)

- Leave 5-10mm of stalk
- Remove any leaves
- Fruit to be of even ripeness, size and colour
- Wipe over with a damp cloth but ensure you leave the natural “fur”

ANY OTHER FRUIT/BERRIES

- All entries should be clean, blemish and insect free, with shiny skin and fully ripe

TOMATOES (6)

- Leave 5-10mm of stalk
- Tomatoes should be of even size and colour, shiny and firm
- Remove any leaves or flowers
- Large tomatoes should not be joined along a vine, but cherry tomatoes can be displayed on the vine
- No blossom end rot or blemishes