



**April 2004**

## **RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2004 Fact Sheet**

### **Dates**

- 25 - 28 May 2004

### **Where**

- Showground of Royal Hospital, Chelsea, London SW3

### **The Show**

- Chelsea - the world's greatest flower show
- The show is held annually for four days in May
- It has been held at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea since 1913
- This will be the 82nd show to be held at this site
- Originally known as the Great Spring Show, it was first held in Kensington in 1862

### **The Exhibitors**

- There are around 600 exhibitors in total
- In 2004 the show will feature:
  - 23 show gardens
  - 8 chic gardens
  - 9 courtyard gardens
  - 4 city gardens
  - 8 Sunflower Street gardens
  - More than 100 floral exhibitors
- International exhibitors will come from countries as far away as the USA, Barbados, Kenya, Japan, Australia, Jamaica, South Africa and Trinidad & Tobago
- Some exhibitors such as Nottcutt's, Kelways and McBean's Orchids have exhibited at the show since its early days
- Exhibits are judged by specialist RHS Judging Panels before the show opens, and awarded Gold, Silver-Gilt, Silver and Bronze Medals

### **Organisation**

- RHS staff, exhibitors and contractors start planning for the show 18 months in advance
- Work is already underway for the Show in 2005
- It takes 800 people 3.5 weeks to build the show
- Construction of the show includes 5km of piping, 185 toilets and enough canvas to cover 6 football pitches
- The floral pavilion covers nearly 12,000 sq m
- 7,000 sq m of turf is relayed after the Show
- The showground covers 11 acres

### **The Visitors**

- 157,000 visitors will attend the show. This is a capped figure and represents full capacity of the showground
- The RHS currently has over 300,000 members and the Tuesday and Wednesday are reserved for RHS members, although non-members may purchase tickets for the Wednesday afternoon and evening.
- Non-members can purchase tickets for Thursday and Friday
- Members of the Royal Family make a private visit to the show on the Preview Day (Monday)

### **Catering**

- During the course of the week 6,500 bottles of champagne, 18,000 glasses of Pimms, 5,000 lobsters, 110,000 cups of tea and coffee and more than 28,000 rounds of sandwiches are sold

**Source: Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) – [www.rhs.org.uk](http://www.rhs.org.uk)**