

FOOD & FARMING AREA, AYLSHAM SHOW 2009

FAMILY 'GROW YOUR OWN VEGETABLES' COMPETITION

Supported by P P Products, Bretts (Greengrocers) of Aylsham & Norfolk Farm Shepherd's Huts

Thanks to the help and support of Monica Harding, co-ordinator for the Aylsham cluster of schools, 36 enthusiastic families from 7 schools in the Aylsham area (Aylsham High School, John of Gaunt, Bure Valley, St Michael's First School, Erpingham Primary, Aldborough Primary and Buxton Primary) have entered the competition and we are very much hoping to see the results of their efforts on Show Day.

There will be display tables/judging area in the Agriculture and Education Marquee on the Food & Farming Area. Entrants to bring their vegetables to the showground on the Sunday before the show.

There are prizes and the categories being judged are:

1. **GIANT MARROW** - the ugliest, knobbliest green marrow of all
2. **STRIPED MARROW** -the most beautiful striped marrow with the best decoration (you can write on the marrow and the words will grow too ...)
3. **LONGEST RUNNER BEAN** - this is a special old variety grown specifically for such competitions and its' name gives the game away - Yard Long!
4. And three divisions in the **POTATO** growing competition (sponsored by Greenvale AP and B & C Farming)

Marrow seeds and runner bean seeds supplied to all entrants - courtesy of Paul Corfield, seed merchant, of P P Products who persuaded two leading seed companies to donate the seeds (details below)

RUNNER BEANS

A traditional 'British' vegetable, its brilliant scarlet flowers make a very pretty addition to any garden, vegetable or not. In the UK the main growing areas for runner beans are Worcestershire, Herefordshire and Kent.

MARROWS

Marrows are a member of the squash family and another traditional British vegetable. The most popular form is a courgette but these are harvested when quite small whereas marrows are left to grow much bigger. There are two main types of marrow: either all green or striped - our competition entrants are growing both! The green will grow very large whilst the striped marrow will be more cylindrical and fat. The main production areas for marrows are Cornwall, Kent and Sussex and also an area around Wisbech which takes in land in Norfolk, Cambridgeshire and Lincolnshire. The UK growing season is from June to November.

The seed for the Runner Beans and the Giant Green Marrows were donated by Medwyn's of Anglesey. Medwyn Williams is a world famous grower of giant vegetable and is the only person to win 10 consecutive Gold Medals at the Chelsea Flower Show for his wonderful displays of vegetables. He specialises in supplying vegetable seed of unique varieties to growers who compete at both local and national shows - as well as varieties ideally suited for the amateur gardener.

The Tiger Striped Marrow seeds were given by Tozer Seeds. Based in Surrey, they are one of the few top companies producing true British vegetable seeds. They breed many new varieties of vegetable but specialise in parsnips, celery, lettuces, brassicas and runner beans.

All entrants were given full growing instructions for their beans and marrows, together with a few nasturtium seeds (because Winnie the Pooh grew them all over his front door) and a pot of herbs - parsley, marjoram or oregano - because herbs are easy to grow and great for cooking.

POTATO SECTION

Sponsored by *Greenvale AP Ltd* and *B&C Farming Ltd*.

The Variety being grown for the competition is called *Vales Sovereign*. Prizes will be given to the entrant(s) with:-

- The largest single tuber as defined by its individual weight.
- The best group of ten potatoes judged for their evenness and clean bright skin
- The best dressed potato: a potato or potatoes dressed or designed as the contestants see fit where originality and innovation combine to create a potato person or object.

Judging will take place on the *Greenvale AP* stand on the Food & Farming area at the show at 10.00am on the day of the show. Results will be announced as soon as the judging is completed.

I have just sent out a postcard to all of the children, (27th July) hoping they are all getting on well with their growing, reminding them of the Show date, giving contact details re bringing their veg to showground and, most importantly telling all exhibitors how to claim their one free entry adult ticket.

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