



Design Concept: **Lucy Lewis, Lecturer in Horticulture**

Design and Construction: **Level 3 Horticulture and RHS Students**

RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2025: **Stand GPB018**

How can you make your garden a place where insects want to party?

Sparsholt College, in collaboration with the Royal Entomological Society, is proud to stage The Ugly Bug Ball which has been crafted to showcase the fascinating beauty that lies in the miniature world of insects.

Within the garden, which has been designed and constructed by our students, we explore the multitude of ways that insects support our gardens. We aim to encourage often overlooked but highly beneficial insects into our home gardens and green spaces.

Ants, earwigs, aphids, wasps, springtails - without them, the world simply would not work and some of our greatest human innovations wouldn't have been possible.

The design and concept takes inspiration from the Royal Entomological Society's book *'RES Insects: Discover the Science and Secrets Behind the World of Insects'*, written by a team of leading entomologists from around the world, including Dr Claire Cresswell – PhD, MSc, BSc (Hons), Wildlife Ecology and Conservation and Agriculture Lecturer at University Centre Sparsholt.

The display aims to continue a long tradition of sharing important knowledge and expertise with as many people as possible.

Our garden design consists of four areas or habitats which flow seamlessly together, surrounding a small house crowned with a modern and biodiverse wildflower roof.

It is essential to have a variety of spaces and habitats to support a diverse range of insects. How can you make your garden a place where insects want to party?

The dry garden features a gabion seat, providing homes for many different species including earwigs and beetles. Drought-resistant plants are great for hot sunny gardens and provide nectar for pollinators as well.



The health of our gardens, and the wider environment, relies on insects. We hope our garden encourages everyone to love insects as much as we do.

Wildflower meadows provide flowers for pollinators such as hoverflies and habitats for many beneficial insects, including ants.



The woodland shade garden, including a small wildlife pond is a wonderful habitat for many insects. Old logs and leaf piles are a favourite for springtails, beetles and earwigs.



Night-scented plants such as *Nicotiana* and *Jasminum* are an essential for moths. The three different wildflower turf mixes in this area have been selected for shadier locations.

The Royal Entomological Society is devoted to the understanding and development of insect science.

The UK-based charity has an international reach, with members in every continent of the world. It supports international collaboration, research and publications dedicated to insect science and aims to show every person how remarkable and valuable insects are to the health of our planet and our survival on Earth. Through its wide-ranging conservation and research projects, including an established educational grant scheme, it enriches the world with insect science.

'*RES Insects: Discover the Science and Secrets Behind the World of Insects*' is a beautifully illustrated book that looks at insects in captivating detail.



Grounded in the latest insect science approved by the Royal Entomological Society, *RES Insects* offers detailed insight into bugs, beetles, butterflies and more – revealing how vital they are to us and we are to them. Within its pages, discover the fascinating stories behind 300 species of insect and explore their world.

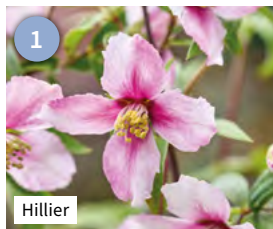


For more information
on the Royal Entomological Society
visit: www.royentsoc.org

 @royentsoc

RHS Plant of the Year

2025 Finalists



Philadelphus PETITE PERFUME PINK ('P1')

Bred by Hillier Propagator Alan Postill as part of a controlled breeding programme, this new variety has a compact, free branching habit, sweetly scented flowers that light up the garden and a unique pink flower colour.



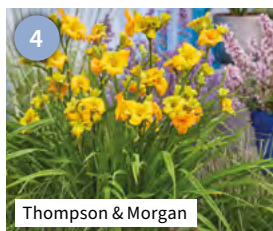
Geranium x oxonianum GOLD NUGGET ('Hillger')

With stunning bright patterned foliage sparkling like a gold nugget in the garden, in early summer pink flowers are produced which contrast against the foliage. The plant forms a perfectly symmetrical circular mound in a pot and maintains a very tidy habit throughout the growing season.



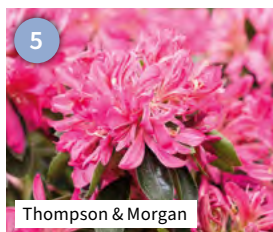
Rhapiolepis indica 'White Cloud'

A new hybrid with a unique colour for this spectacular genus, this variety has an almost dwarf habit and huge numbers of fragrant flowers. An excellent low shrub in the front of a border or in a patio container, its thick, deep green foliage is a perfect foil for the pure white flowers.



Hemerocallis SEE YOU TOMORROW® ('Huhe01')

A day lily with flowers that last up to seven days each. A totally unique flowering habit for the genus leading to longer lasting vibrant floral displays, when flowers on other varieties fade after just one day.



Rhododendron molle supsp. *japonicum* PINK STAR ('Mapo 2')

Pink Star offers a unique combination of traits: broad leaves, heavy blooming performance with thin deep pink petals making up the intense star shaped flowers with an extraordinary 20 to 30 petals. Its striking foliage further enhances its appeal, making it a true standout variety in this popular genus.

SPARSHOLT

COLLEGE GROUP

Sparsholt College began life in Old Basing, Basingstoke in 1899 as the Hampshire Farm Institute before moving to Sparsholt village near Winchester in 1912. It is now recognised as one of the UK's leading land-based colleges, with a national and international reputation, and its students and alumni have been influential within the horticulture industry for many years.

Students on full-time courses such as the Ornamental Horticulture T Level, work with the grounds team to maintain the Horticulture Department, campus grounds and six hectares of sports pitches, as well as collaborating with learners on part-time RHS courses to design and construct our RHS Chelsea Flower Show garden.



You can find out more about this year's garden team, pictured above, on our website.

Sparsholt also delivers the Horticulture and Landscape Construction Operative, Greenkeeper, Sports Turf Operative and Advanced Sports Turf Technician Apprenticeship Standards and trains up to 120 apprentices a year. A team of five sector specialists supports employers in the horticulture and landscaping sectors to develop the gardening talent of the future.

For more information please call or visit:

 **01962 776441**  **sparsholt.ac.uk**



We would like to take this opportunity to thank the following for their generous support:

**Hazel, Keith and George Smith,
Darren Allsopp and:**



Please scan for
indicative plant list and
further information



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