

The National Vegetable Society

Essex District Association

Interactive Talk on

'Exhibiting and judging vegetables'

by John Branham and Jim Thompson



Hatfield Peverel Village Hall, Hatfield Peverel, CM3 2HP
On: Sunday 14th October 2018 at 2.00pm

John has been gardening for 44 years, starting when he first got married exclusively to feed his family. Having been encouraged to enter his local village show, he has gradually moved on to county and national level, where he has been extremely successful, winning UK championship classes with roots, leeks, and potatoes. His signature class is collections of 6 kinds of vegetables – winning many branch classes, and the National Championship 6 times. Despite having no formal training in horticulture as such, John is one of the best, or possibly even the best all round vegetable grower about, but admits there's been a lot of trial and error involved! He still grows for the kitchen and almost never has to buy any vegetables.

Jim started gardening when helping his father on a farm and in a garden in North Nottinghamshire. He then got married, moved to South Wales and started growing food for the family on an allotment. He then caught the "exhibiting bug" and entered his first local show in 1989. Jim then progressed through the local shows and won his first National Title in 1995. Since then, he has won many titles for a variety of vegetables but his most coveted trophy is for the collection of six vegetables which he won in 2005 – the collection of 6 kinds of vegetables being Jim's real passion. This means he has a wealth of knowledge to share about the various vegetables he grows, including: carrots, cucumbers, cauliflowers, beans, parsnips, celery and leeks. Jim has not restricted his competitive drive to vegetables; he has also competed at National level with dahlias and was instrumental in introducing the colerette dahlia. Recently, he has also branched out into sweet peas but continues to put most of his efforts into vegetables.

Both John and Jim are both accomplished, top class growers and showmen. They have both been to speak to us before on their respective methods of growing vegetables, but this time will extend this to how to go about preparing vegetables for exhibition and tips on what judges are looking out for on the show bench.

Light Refreshments provided. Members: free, Non-members: £2

For further information please contact Emily on (01621) 741787 or emily.plumb@btinternet.com

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