



Press release: 10th July 2008

Jekka's Best Thyme at Hampton Court:

Another RHS Gold and Best Floral Exhibit for the second year running!

Organic herb grower, Jekka McVicar, has achieved another gold medal for her floral display of organic herbs at the RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show. This is Jekka's 16th consecutive gold medal at Hampton Court, and her 61st RHS gold medal achieved at flower shows across the UK.

Incredibly, the exhibit has also won the prestigious Tudor Rose Award for Best Floral Exhibit for the second year running. Jekka is stunned: "It hasn't quite sunk in yet. Last year we were amazed to become the first herb nursery and the first organic outfit to win this award, but it is a huge honour to win it two years on the trot!"

The herb display is a vista of colour and aroma: the visitor's eye is immediately drawn to a thyme lawn flanked on either side by a lavender hedge leading to the statue centrepiece, 'Aphrodite' which has accompanied Jekka to many shows. The statue is surrounded by a tall arch of *Galega officinalis*, commonly named Goats Rue or more descriptively, French Lilac, as racemes of mauve flowers hang delicately amongst a soft mid green foliage.

Beyond the arch, a pathway of *Chamaemelum nobile* 'Flore Pleno' Double Flowered Chamomile has a cascading waterfall-like effect, leading to an abundance of aromatic, medicinal and culinary herbs. This area overflows with vibrant colour from the large, red flowers of *Monarda Didyma* Bee Balm Bergamot, and the randomly pink and blue *Salvia viridis* var. *comata* Painted Sage, softened by tall white bracts of *Salvia sclarea* 'Vatican White' Clary Sage Vatican White and the delicate appearance of *Verbena officinalis* Vervain.
(continued overleaf)



Invited to partake in the Hampton Court 'Children's Trail', Jekka's exhibit includes a 'touchy-feely' table of herbs for children to sniff, touch and even taste. The most popular herb to sniff has proved to be *Aloysia triphylla* AGM Lemon Verbena, which has a strong 'lemon sherbet' aroma, and to taste, *Rumex scutatus* Buckler Leaf Sorrel, which has delighted children and adults alike with its delicious and somewhat surprising taste of green apples.

Located near Bristol, Jekka's Herb Farm grows organic herbs available for mail order via their website, but is open to the public for a long weekend in August, from Friday 29th – Sunday 31st, when Jekka will be giving talks on 'Maintaining your Herbs' and there will be a end-of-season plant sale where some perennial bargains can be snapped up! More details can be found at www.jekkasherbfarm.com or by 'phoning 0845 2903255.

Notes to the Editor

1. Jekka's Herb Farm is the UK's leading grower of herbs and has won 61 RHS gold medals, including 13 Chelsea golds. The farm is a specialist organic nursery, supplying by mail order a vast range of culinary, aromatic, decorative and medicinal herbs.
2. This is the first time that the Tudor Rose Award for Best Floral Display has been won for two consecutive years by any exhibitor.
3. Photographs of plants are available on request. For photographs of the display at the Hampton Court Palace Flower Show, please contact Vicki Young at Jekka's Herb Farm on 0845 2903256 or email enterprise@jekkasherbfarm.com.
4. To find out more about Jekka's Herb Farm, visit www.jekkasherbfarm.com or call 0845 2903256.