

Advice from Rob Germany about plant sales for the Moorside Show

Hi Peter,

The most useful plants to grow are perennials. Traditionally they need two seasons. The first season you grow them from seed and they bulk up. The second season they will flower. This is why they are expensive to buy in Garden Centres because someone has had to look after them for a year. At the end of season one they will easily fill a three/four litre pot: that looks big and people will happily pay £1-50/£1-99 a plant (in the Garden Centres they go for up to £5-99 a plant). This is a good way to make money for the association. **Lupins, Foxgloves, Delphiniums** are all typical perennials.

Herbs are popular little shrubs and they can be raised from cuttings or sown from seed. They should also sell well. **Box cuttings** are also a good bet. People like to make the little edging hedges from them.

I wouldn't waste time with annuals as they will be over by the show.

Small shrubs that attract wildlife will always be popular. Cuttings can be taken, which is how the nurseries increase their stock.

The best way to sell **Dahlias** is to sell the tubers. Dahlias germinate easily from seed. Grow them in your plot and at the show let the buyer see the plants in flower. You then agree to sell them the tuber when you lift it in a month's time. You will get dozens of plants from one packet of seed. You could ask £1 a tuber at the show.

Its a good idea to start planning and sowing this early for the show. This way it has the potential to raise a considerable sum for the association funds.

cheers,
Rob