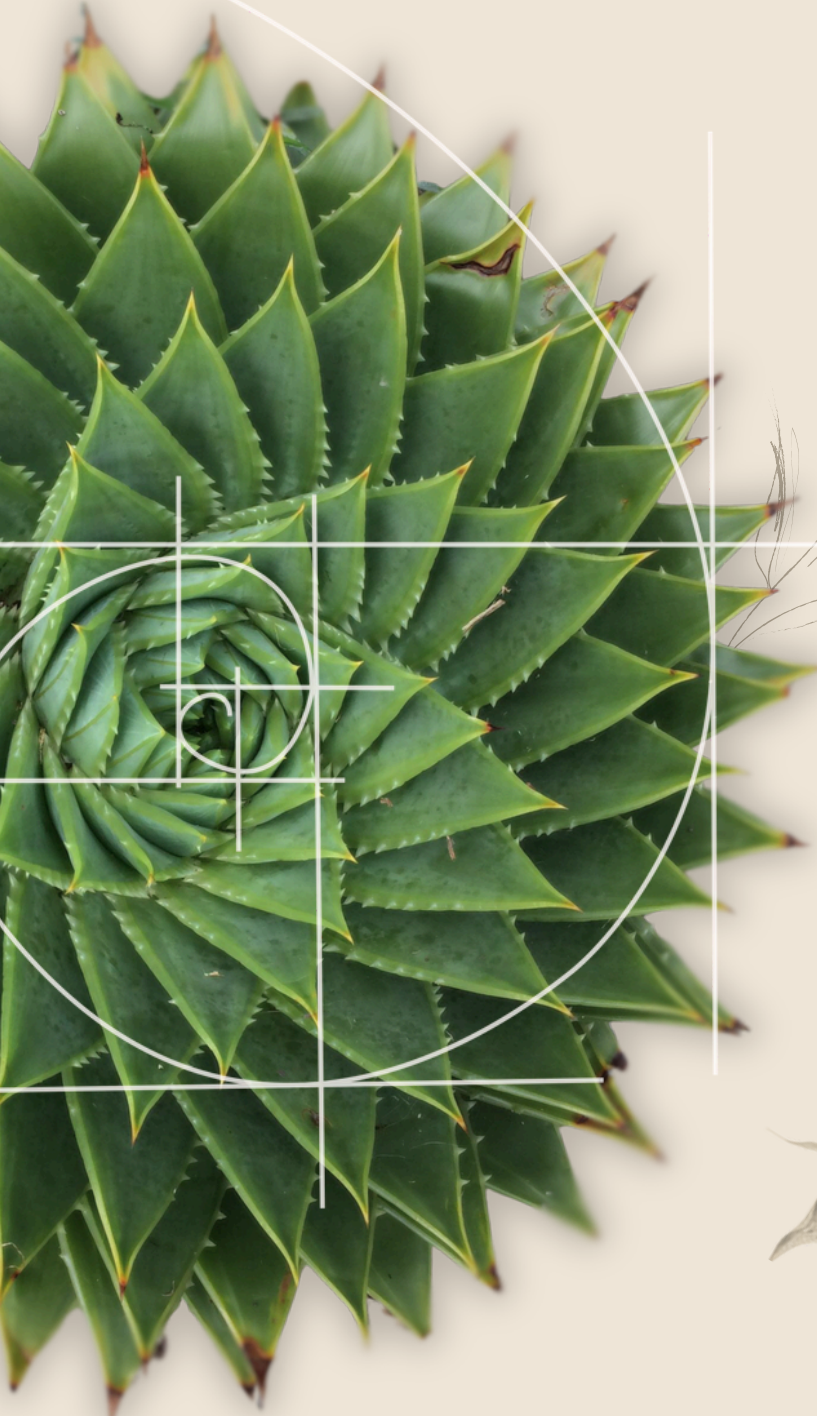


1 1 2 3 5 8 13 21 34 55 89



# HADLOW COLLEGE

## THE MAGIC NUMBER



1  
1  
2  
3  
5  
8  
13  
21  
34  
55  
89



RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2026

**#RHSCHELSEA**

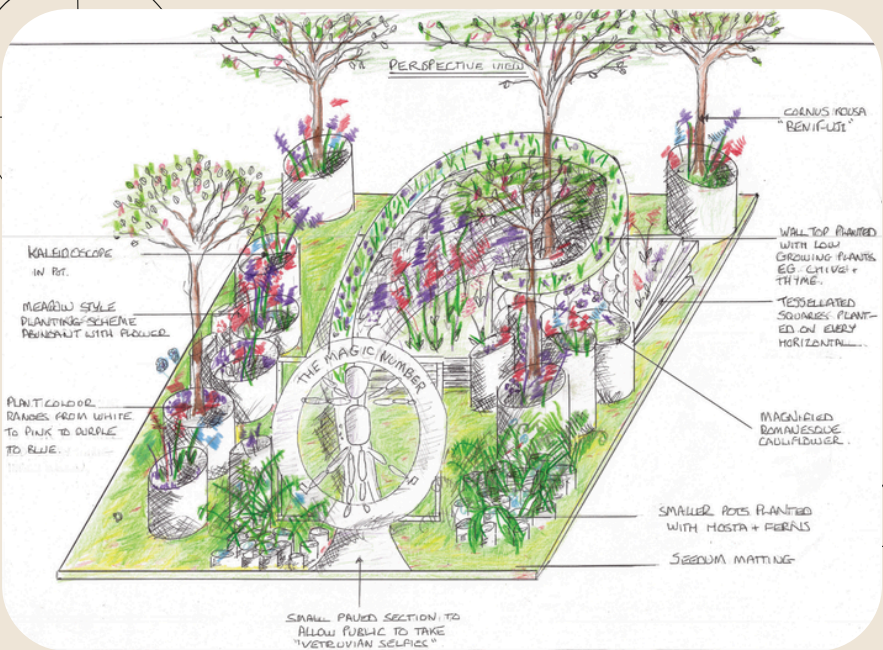


## THE MAGIC NUMBER

***"...Spiral whorls are found all across the natural world, in the patterns of water as it goes down a plughole, a fern frond unfurling in the forest. Or a storm system brewing over the Atlantic.***

***It is the Fibonacci spiral, a shape which underscores the harmony, proportion and beauty in the universe, a timeless curve..."***

**Kevin McCloud, Grand Designs, October 2017.**



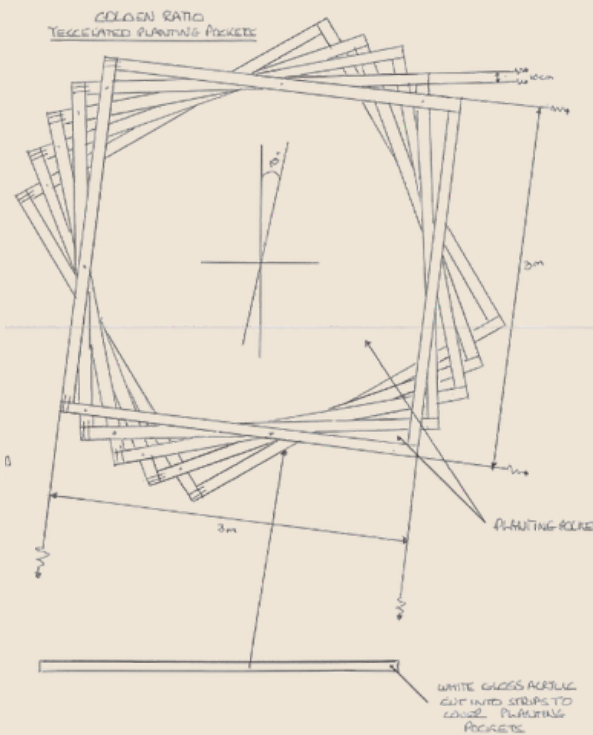
Number theory and mathematics underpin both botanical structures and the principles of garden design. Hadlow College's "The Magic Number" exhibit aims to demystify and illustrate these relationships within the context that 52% of English adults are at or below the expected numeracy level of a primary school leaver. The focus is on demonstrating the way mathematical concepts produce naturally harmonious and beautiful structures.

The exhibit is based around the fundamental ideas of the Fibonacci sequence, the golden ratio, tessellation, symmetry and fractals, all of which can be seen in nature and which have inspired garden design, art and architecture for generations. The structures in the exhibit are designed using these principles, with groups of planters in numbers following the Fibonacci sequence, a golden ratio spiral wall and structures covered in gloss acrylic "fish scales" representing fractal and Fibonacci patterns.

The floor is covered in sedum matting, with their characteristic spiral rosettes of leaves demonstrating both the Fibonacci spiral and the golden ratio. The exhibit is interactive, including the opportunity to get up close with natural fractals (Romanesco cauliflower), Chladni figures (sound wave patterns) and our Vitruvian Man selfie spot.

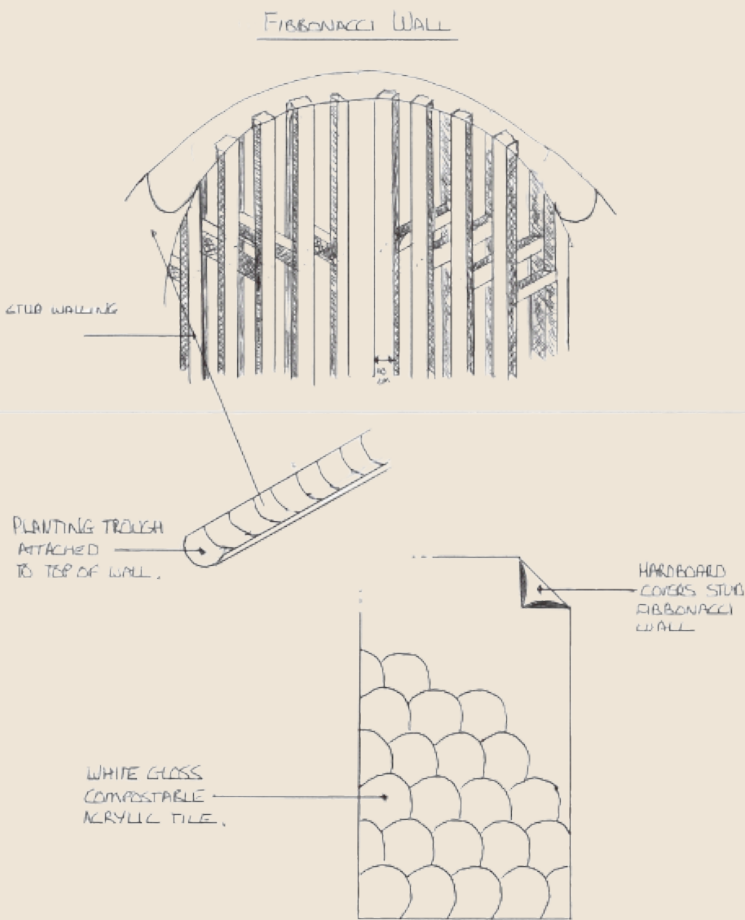
One of our favourite plants in this year's exhibit is *Cornus x elwinortonii* Venus, with its stunning creamy white bracts.

To find out more about this plant, you can visit the RHS website [here](#).



The construction and planting of the exhibit has involved students at every stage from the very earliest exploration of materials through to students being on site at Chelsea for the build. In addition, all our students have been involved in looking after the plants and assisting with the preliminary build at the College. Many students are also representing the College and the horticultural industry during the show, which is a fantastic opportunity for them so early in their careers.

Please say hello and ask them about their studies!



Students representing the College at RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2026 are studying on our horticulture programmes, including the BTEC Level 2 and 3 Diplomas in Horticulture, and our FdSc Degree in Commercial Horticulture, awarded by the University of Greenwich.

# HADLOW COLLEGE

**Hadlow College has over a century of heritage in the land-based sector, tracing its roots back to 1919. It moved to its current site in the 1960s and was officially opened by HRH Prince Philip in 1968.**



Since then, the College has built a national reputation for excellence in horticulture, agriculture, and floristry. It introduced the UK's first Ordinary National Diploma in Agriculture and was named Floristry College of the Year at RHS Chelsea in 2015.

Our alumni include leading garden designers and RHS medal winners, with several achieving top awards at Chelsea and in global conservation.

Today, our 265-acre campus includes commercial farms, woodlands, a river, show gardens, cutting-edge glasshouses, and equine facilities. We're committed to sustainability, with innovations like our robotic orchard and vineyard, featuring AI-driven irrigation and drone monitoring.

Students work with industry leaders such as Thanet Earth at our Centre of Excellence in glasshouse growing, gaining real-world skills in areas from floristry to vertical farming.



1  
1  
2  
3  
5  
8  
13

Building on last year's Silver Gilt at Chelsea, we're excited to showcase how Hadlow continues to grow the future.

21  
34  
55  
89



**#RHSCHELSEA**

# JOIN THE HADLOW COLLEGE COMMUNITY...

Click on the link below to explore our land-based courses, join our optional mailing list for the latest news, and connect with us on social media for the latest updates and insights.

<https://linktr.ee/hadlowcollege>



[www.hadlow.ac.uk](http://www.hadlow.ac.uk)



**01732 850551**