

Flower Show Exhibitor Tips

Welcome to all new exhibitors!

Why enter a Flower Show? Flower shows are fun and educational.

Here is some information to help you.

1. Each spring the flower show Schedule is issued. Look to see what plants you have and can use in the up-coming shows. You might select a flower to grow over the summer that is listed in the September and October show Schedules. (You must have been growing the flower for at least 90 days).
2. If there is no specific Class for your entry, look for AOC (any other cultivar). This is usually a Class for perennials and annuals but also can include bulbs, biennials, etc.
3. Check and see what kind of entry is required. For example, a stem, three blooms, spray, etc. If a maximum height is given, measure the branch/vine correctly. If the branch/vine is too long, it will be disqualified.

Definitions

A bud: an immature flower insufficiently open to show the form of a bloom. A bud showing colour is considered a bloom except in a rose. Sometimes a certain type of rose (floribunda) may have to be de-budded in a Class. Read the schedule carefully!

A collection: a variety and/or kinds of flowers, plants, fruit and/or vegetables shown in one exhibit. The quality, number and rarity of items making up the group, plus horticultural perfection are foremost in judging collections.

A spike: an upright stem carrying several flowers, usually with short pedicles, i.e. snapdragons, gladiolus.

A spray: a plant portion, small branchlets or flowers cut from the main stem i.e. bleeding heart.

A stem or stalk: i.e. sweet pea, primula, and iris. If showing daffodils or tulips, do not cut leaves as they need to die back to feed the bulb for the next spring.

A truss: A compact cluster of flowers or fruits growing from one stem.

4. Cut your exhibit the night before or early in the morning for best vigour. (especially in hot weather).
5. Cut the stem in proportion to the plant, i.e. a tall flower like cosmos should have a fairly long stem.
6. Check your exhibit, removing damaged/dirty flowers. Always inspect for bugs. Infested plants will be disqualified!

7. A container should have neck narrow enough to support the stem upright. A glass bottle is better than plastic because of the weight. The container is not judged so there is no need for anything fancy for cultural classes.
8. Fill in an entry form. Forms are provided online and at the show. It is helpful to do as much of this as possible at home prior to the show. If you need some assistance, come to the show a little earlier so the Convenor and Clerks can help you. Provide the cultivar name, if you know it.
9. The show tables are divided by Class number; place your entries in the correct spot.
10. All entries **MUST** be in place by **7:15 pm**. At that time, **ONLY** the show conveners and clerks can remain in the Judging area. A sign is placed stating judging has started.
11. Once judging has been completed you can go to the show area and see the results. This is typically at the close of the meeting. Look at the variety of flowers shown. You may see a new cultivar you would like to add to your collection. We encourage the judge to stay until the guest speaker has finished, in order to comment on the entries. If they are not able to wait, the show Convenor will try to answer your questions or concerns.