

FLOWER SHOW RULES & HELPFUL TIPS

Rules

1. Exhibitors at the shows must be members of the garden club and are not required to pay an entry fee to exhibit.
2. One entry per exhibitor per class (unless otherwise stated). All entries must be grown by the exhibitor (unless otherwise stated). Potted plants must be in possession of exhibitor for at least 3 months.

3. Exhibitors must make out their **own entry tags** carefully, legibly and correctly. Tags may be obtained at any regular meeting and can be downloaded and printed from the WCGC website.
4. Qualification: **Novice** – Anyone who has not entered before may enter as a Novice, and remain so for a second year, if desired.
5. Exhibitors must bring their own containers.
6. Show committee will co-operate in giving any necessary information and assist exhibitors in putting their entry in the proper spot, but are prohibited from making any change to any entry or exhibit unless authorized by the judge or chairperson.
7. When a class calls for a certain number of blooms, stems, etc..., it must not contain more or less; otherwise the entry will be disqualified.
8. Any bud showing colour will classify as a bloom.
9. Any bloom size or height of the exhibit that is not correct will also bring disqualification.
10. No two members of the same family may exhibit in the same class from the same garden, with the exception of the Decorative class.
11. Flowers should be shown with their own foliage unless otherwise specified, with the exception of the Decorative class.
12. Ribbons, bows, wire or support will not be allowed for cut flowers.
13. The **judge's decision is final** and the judge may withhold any prize when exhibits are unworthy of a prize.
14. While the judging is in process, no one shall be present except those on the flower show committee.
15. Prizes: ribbons/certificates to be awarded. A trophy for Best in Show for a cut flower specimen and also one for Best in Show in a Decorative class is awarded once a year and the trophy remains with the winner for a year.

Tips for Floral Displays

The following helpful tips may be of interest to those planning to enter flower shows and local fairs. The information is taken from the *Ontario Judging and Exhibiting Standards for Horticultural and Floral Design*. This booklet from 2003 is currently being revised and updated but is always available from the OHA's website for a fee of \$10 (gardenontario.org/shop).

Definitions:

BLOOM	An individual flower, one per stem (all buds removed).
SPIKE	Upright stem carrying several flowers, eg. gladiolus
SPRAY	Portion of a plant with a number of flowers; eg. flowers in bloom, buds showing colours, green buds and leaves (eg. chrysanthemum, floribunda rose).
STEM OR STALK	Carries one or more flowers and buds, may be branched e.g. sweet peas, iris, petunia
PAVÉ	Technique of placing groups of plant material, which have been cut very short, close together to form undulating mounds of colours, textures, shapes, and sizes; any plant material may be used.

Scoring is based on:

CONDITION	Entries should be at the proper stage of maturity and be free from blemishes.
FORM	Overall shape of the plant, flower, leaf and/or stem; form should be characteristic of the cultivar
COLOUR	Typical of the cultivar, fresh and clear; markings, patterns, and contrasts should be clean and clear with smooth blendings
SUBSTANCE	Quality of firmness of flower or leaf that enables it to retain its characteristic form, freshness, and colour; physical quality of petals and leaves, soft and thin to firm and thick
BALANCE	Arrangement of leaves and florets on stem; should be even and pleasing
TEXTURE	Surface quality of plant materials – rough, smooth, velvety, silky, etc...
SIZE	Should be normal for a well-grown specimen of the cultivar; excessively larger or smaller than normal will be penalized
STEM & FOLIAGE	Should be in good proportion; straight, clean, healthy; only attached foliage is permitted unless otherwise stated

UNIFORMITY	Applies to entries with more than one bloom, uniform in size, shape and colour
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Tips for Showing

1. Cut flowers in early morning the day of or late evening the day before; put in warm water immediately; and into a cool room out of direct sunlight.
2. Cut the stems again as entries are being prepared.
3. Use a clean, plain container that supports the stem or stems firmly.
4. Include some foliage and sufficient stem to hold bloom up.
5. Make a final check with regard to count, class and number.
6. Label your entries with correct name, even though the schedule may not ask for it. This adds to the educational value.

Pre-Conditioning Plant Material

1. Cut plant material the night before or in early morning (it will last longer if you do!) and, right away, put it into warm water up to its neck and leave it for a few hours, if possible, in a dark place out of drafts.
2. For most flowers, cut the stems at a slant, about an inch and a half above the base.
3. Before arranging flowers, carefully cut off any leaves, thorns, etc..., that will be below water. This will prevent decay from fouling the water.
4. Flowers with woody and fibrous stems such as chrysanthemums or honeysuckle should be cut and shredded at the base of hammered with a mallet so they absorb more water.
5. Blooms for poppies and euphorbia should be treated by searing the end with a match or by immersing the ends in about half an inch of boiling water for about a minute.
6. The thick, hollow stems of amaryllis or lupin should be held upside down, their hollow stems filled with water and plugged with cotton or tissue.
7. Spring bulbs or corns such as tulips, narcissus, daffodils and hyacinths will bleed a sap-like fluid and should lie on a tabletop out of water for a half hour before using.. If they need to be re-cut later, cut

under water. Tiny slits or pinholes at the base of the flower prevent it from closing prematurely.

8. Roses need to be conditioned each time they are removed from water, the stems must be cut under water to avoid air bubbles blocking the stems. The flowers should be placed in deep water after cutting.
9. Delicate-stemmed flowers such as violets can be revived by completely submerging them in a bowl of water for a couple of hours.
10. Spraying your arrangements with a water-mister will refresh most flowers; however it is not to be used on orchids.
11. Vase water needs to be changed at least every one or two days.

Assessment for Floral Design

1. Is the plant material fresh and well-groomed? Is it suitable to the design title or season of the year (eg. autumn foliage is often bug chewed).
2. Are the mechanics unobtrusive?
3. Is the design suitable for its purpose?
4. Are the principles of design used well?
 - **Balance**: Does the design appear to lean forward, backward, sideways? Has it depth? Does visual weight on one side balance visual weight on the other? Does the base aid or destroy balance? Is the balance too perfect, therefore static?
 - **Proportion**: Is the design too short, too tall, too wide or too deep for the available space or niche? Are the relative measurements pleasing? Do the number of colours, forms and textures balance?
 - **Scale**: Are the plant forms too large or too small for the container?
 - **Rhythm**: Are the points of interest well placed? Is there too much unrelated movement? Is flow interrupted? Is the colour spotty or is it imaginative, perhaps daring, or is it just pretty?
 - **Dominance**: Is the focal area well defined, is it a bull's eye? Is there dominance of colour, line, shape or texture?
 - **Contrast**: Is there variety, too much or too little (colour, texture, form)?

5. Is there complete harmony of components, are they fully integrated? Is the container suitable in shape, colour, texture and style? Does the accessory add to the design, is it necessary and would it be missed?
6. Does the design communicate an idea, beauty or emotion? Is it interesting in the choice of materials and assembly or is it a collection of unrelated parts?
7. Is it creative, imaginative and original?