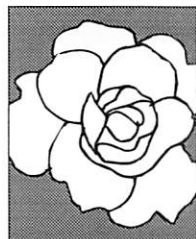


FLOWERS



Section 3 Cut Flowers and Flower Arrangements

Cut Flowers

General Considerations

All exhibits must be grown by exhibitor.

List type and variety for each flower. Exhibit each variety separately.

Exhibit the exact number of blooms (individual flowers) or stalks (stems that may have more than one flower) listed in the catalog.

Exhibit only mature flowers, not over or under mature.

Round headed flowers (marigolds, zinnias, dahlias, etc.) - Flowers should be open enough so that the outer petals begin to turn down and are still in good, fresh condition.

Spike type flowers (gladiolus, snapdragons, salvia, etc.) - Maximum number of florets on the spike should be open without the bottom ones over mature or fallen. Spike should be straight and strong with no secondary side shoots. (Remove side shoots as they develop, so on good spike will develop on the plant.)

Flowers should be turgid (full of water) so they will hold up well on display.

Harvest and prepare flowers properly.

Cut stems with a sharp knife.

Add 1 tablespoon of vinegar and 2 tablespoons of sugar to a quart of warm water.

Place cut stems immediately into the container of warm water (110 degrees F), except those that produce a milky or sticky sap (dahlias, poppies, etc.). Place flowers that produce milky sap into cold water immediately. Then sear their stems to seal them by placing the freshly cut stem in boiling water for one minute, then place back in water. Crush the lower two inches of woody stems such as chrysanthemums and return to container of water. Place containers in a cool location, 40-45 degrees F if possible. A cool basement floor will work. The area should be dark, out of drafts with high humidity to prevent water loss. Leave flowers in water containers in a cool place for 12 hours before preparing to show. A plastic bag placed over pail and flowers will help raise the humidity. Do not crowd flowers to prevent damage.

Prepare specimens for show by removing faded flowers, yellow leaves and gently removing any dirt or residues.

Transport carefully to prevent damage.

Selection of Individual Flower Specimens

Foxglove, Delphinium and Gladiolus - Select long, strong, and straight spikes with as many open flowers as possible and with the bottom florets in prime condition. Use name varieties for best exhibit.

Salvia - Select single straight spikes with bottom florets intact and leaves attached.

Snapdragons - Select long, tapered, well-filled spikes with no skips. A few healthy leaves should be attached.

Asters, Bachelor's Buttons, Black-eyed Susans, Calendula, Cosmos, Dahlias, Dianthus, Gaillardia, Marigolds, Nasturtiums, Phlox, Zinnias - All of these plants should be exhibited as single stem disbuds, there should only be one flower at the tip of the stem and all others along the stem should have been removed in the bud stage. The flowers must be in perfect condition, fully open, with any outer (older) petals still fresh. In the case of phlox, the bottom flowers must still be fresh and on the plant. The flower must be squarely attached to the stem and not crooked or deformed in any way. Stems should be straight and as long as possible. Foliage must be present and removed only on the portion of the stem that is under water. The foliage must be clean, free of damage and lustrous. Condition, cultural perfection and uniformity should be exhibited.

Ageratum, Chrysanthemum, Petunia, Sweet Peas - These plants are exhibited as sprays. They are not disbudded as those above. Otherwise, they should be exhibited following the same guidelines.

Roses - The American Rose Society specifies that blooms of teas, climbing teas, hybrid teas, climbing hybrid teas, hybrid perpetuals and climbing hybrid perpetuals must be exhibited as disbudded specimens. Side buds are not desirable. Single hybrid teas and polyanthas, hybrid polyanthas, floribundas and climbers (other than those mentioned above) may be exhibited as naturally grown without disbudding. Check the catalog for specific information. The bloom should be one-half to three-quarters open. The center should be well formed, and more than just one row of the outer petals should be unfolded. Avoid specimens that are dull in color or that possess split centers or malformed petals. The stems must be strong enough to support the flower but not out of proportion to it.

Flower Arrangements

General Considerations

Good design within the confines of the class is most important. Consider balance, scale and proportion.

Use good color combinations. Avoid clashing colors.

The materials used should not be too skimpy, too crowded or out of scale with the container.

Flowers and foliage should be top quality and well prepared to retain their good quality. (See Cut Flower - General Consideration)

Originality can make the difference between a good and an excellent entry.

Specific Requirements

Table arrangements should not exceed 14 inches in height unless otherwise specified in the catalog.

Miniature arrangements must not be over 3 inches tall overall. Scale is extremely important. The flowers must be tiny, as should the container they are placed in so that the arrangement looks like a miniature of a normal size arrangement. Design, color and condition of flowers should be considered.

Corsage entries should be exhibited with consideration to design, color, good combination of materials, originality and condition of materials. Technique - the way the flowers are tied together, the way they are taped along the stem if tape is used, and the way the ribbon is tied and attached - is also important.