



Welland Horticultural Society

Rules and Definitions for Competition

Taken from **Publication #34 (2003) Ontario Judging & Exhibiting Standards**

Preparing Plant Materials for Hardening

- ☼ Remove lower foliage cleanly. Upper foliage must be attached unless otherwise stated.
- ☼ Specimen blooms should not have side buds. In fact, good exhibitors will often disbud weeks before the Show.
- ☼ Make a fresh cut, with the end of the stems under water, for maximum water intake.
- ☼ Place in a wide bucket in warm water for at least three hours, preferably overnight.
- ☼ Store in a cool, dark, humid, draft-free place.

Conditioning

It is well known that some cut flowers, foliage and woody materials do not readily absorb water, and require further treatment prior to hardening, to prevent wilting during the Show.

- ☼ Ornamental branches generally benefit from splitting the cut ends. Some also may require removal of the thick outer layer.
- ☼ Some cut flowers which exude a white latex or sap benefit from burning the stem ends, e.g. Poppies, Euphorbia.
- ☼ Other cut flowers benefit from placing stem end in 5 cm (2") of boiling water for a minute or two before placing in cold water e.g., Dahlias, Roses and Rudbeckia. Protect bloom with a paper collar.
- ☼ Some Spring bulbs prefer being placed in 5 cm (2") of cold water.

Note: Specific instructions are available in many flower arranging books.

Grooming

Grooming is essential. Remove evidence of insects, disease, dust, stains, pollen, and any other foreign material from blooms and foliage.

Some Cautions regarding Preparations of Entries

- ☼ A bud showing colour is considered a bloom.
- ☼ Only attached foliage is permitted unless otherwise stated in schedule.
- ☼ Wiring, oiling, spraying and artificial colour are prohibited in the Horticultural Division.
- ☼ Check schedule for the required number of specimens in the exhibit.

Definitions.

Container – Any receptacle for plant material. In design classes, it is an integral part of the design.

Design – A combination of fresh and/or dried plant materials and/or organic objects arranged to create an artistic unit. The designer uses the elements of design: space, line, form, colour, texture and pattern in the accepted principles of art: balance, rhythm, proportion, scale, contrast and dominance to interpret the theme and create a design of harmony and distinction.

Disbudding – Removal of surplus buds along stem or in axil of plant to promote growth of terminal bud.

Display – A specified number of cut flowers, potted plants, branches, fruits, vegetables, or nuts, exhibited for artistic effect as well as cultural perfection.

Foliage Design – Design with interest in foliage. Foliage is to predominate. Flowers and/or fruits may be present but must be inconspicuous.

Miniature Plant - A plant that is a miniature by nature or cultivation, not an immature size of a normal size plant.

Parallel Design – A design in which three or more groupings are placed in a parallel manner with open spaces between the groupings. Parallel direction may be vertical, horizontal or diagonal. Design is in one container or containers combined so as to appear as one unit.

Spray – a spray is the terminal flowering growth of a herbaceous or woody plant carried on one stem. Ideally it would show all forms, e.g., flowers in bloom, buds showing colours, green buds and leaves.

Stem or stalk – A main plant structure which supports flowers, buds, leaves, or fruit.

Underwater Design - A design with part(s) of the plant material placed underwater to create interest. Although no definite percentage of the material is defined to be underwater, the entire design must not be under water. The water must come to the top of the container