

## Flower Show Rules

1. Exhibitors must be members of the Oshawa Garden Club.
2. Flower specimens and all vegetables must be grown by the exhibitor. House plants must have been grown by the exhibitor for at least 3 months.
3. All design classes must contain fresh plant material, unless otherwise stated in the show schedule and may be obtained from any source.
4. Each entry must be accompanied by a completed entry tag. Entry tags will be available at each meeting so that exhibitors can have tags prepared prior to arriving at the next show.
5. Horticultural exhibits should be named if possible (NIP), on the entry tag.
6. All shows follow the rules and regulations in the **Ontario Judging and Exhibiting Standards 2019 (OJES)** unless specifically exempted.
7. Species known to be invasive in Ontario should not be exhibited. Species that are a special concern, threatened or endangered should not be exhibited. Links to information about these species are listed in the OJES.
8. The Show Committee has full charge of staging. The exhibitor, any Show Committee member or a show clerk under the direction of a show committee member may place specimens. The exhibitor may not move another entry to provide a place for his/her own. Consult with the Show Committee if there is insufficient space. Design classes are placed only by exhibitor or by permission of such.
9. Only persons designated by the Show Committee will be permitted to be in the show room while entries are being judged.
10. The Show Committee will take reasonable precautions to ensure the safety of exhibits and containers but the Club will not be responsible for loss through theft or breakage.
- 11. The decision of the Judge(s) is final.**

## Definition of Terms

**ACCESSORIES:** Accessories are acceptable only when specified. An accessory is an inorganic object used in a subordinate manner to enhance a design of plant material. Organic objects such as fungi, decorative wood, etc. are not considered accessories.

**ANNUALS:** A plant that completes the cycle of growth from seed to seed in one year – or plants that are grown as such in our area, Pansies, Geraniums, etc.

**AWARDS:** No award shall be given for classes in which a sole exhibit or all exhibits are deemed to be of mediocre quality.

**BASKET:** A container, usually made of plaited, slatted or woven natural plant materials, **with or without handle**, (materials such as glass, pottery, metals, etc. may also be used, but their form should resemble a basket).

**BLOOM:** One flower on a stem. Extra flowers and buds (showing colour or likely to) should be removed when the Show Schedule asks for 1 (one) bloom. The extra flowers and/or buds should be removed very cleanly, ideally several days before the show to allow the cuts to heal over.

**BRANCH:** Refer to spray definition.

**BUD:** A bud showing colour is considered a bloom. Buds likely to show colour should be removed if the entry calls for a specific number of blooms. This does not apply to spikes or sprays.

**CENTREPIECE:** This is an arrangement that is viewed from all sides, is no higher than 30 cm (12 in.), and is judged from a sitting position.

**COLLECTION:** Specified number of items exhibited for cultural perfection.

**CULTIVAR:** A term meaning "cultivated variety." Forms of plants originated and maintained only in cultivation, which when reproduced retain their distinguishing features. E.g. Petunia, 'Sugar Daddy'; Rose, 'Peace'.

**DESIGN:** Flowers in the Decorative Classes must be fresh material only, unless otherwise stated. The exhibitor need not grow them. Artificial flowers or foliage are not acceptable & soil is not allowed. The height of the plant material in your design should be 1 ½ - 2 times the largest dimension of the container. Flower Arrangements are judged on front viewing only unless the schedule calls for an all-around design such as a table centrepiece.

**DISPLAY:** A specified number of cut flowers, branches, fruits or vegetables, exhibited for artistic effect as well as for cultural perfection.

**DISEASED:** Lousy, scaly or otherwise unhealthy plants will be disqualified.

**ENTRIES:** All entries are to be placed on the entry tables by 7:15 PM. Late entries may not be accepted. Consult with Show Committee regarding late entries.

**ENTRY:** Entrants are allowed two entries per class but they must be different cultivars. Exceptions to this rule are noted in the individual class details.

**ENTRY TAG:** Each entry must be accompanied by an Entry Tag stating Class number, common name, and botanical name where possible, according to the Show Schedule. In the event of a 'tie' those with correct botanical names will be given preference. Tags are available from the Show Committee prior to each show. Take a few extras home with you and fill them out before you come! You only need to put your name on the tag (so we know who you are) or try using return address labels if you have extra.

**EXHIBITORS:** Must be current members of the OGC. Society membership may be obtained from the Membership Convener up to the time of the show.

**FOLIAGE:** All specimen blooms are to be shown with foliage (excluding Narcissus, Hyacinth and Daylily classes – these are to be shown with NO foliage). It must be from the same plant but not necessarily attached to the stem. In all specimen exhibits, foliage should be cleaned, trimmed neatly of damage and washed if necessary, but must not be oiled or polished in any way.

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

**GENUS:** A closely related and definable group of plants which includes one or more species. The genus is the first part of the two-part botanical name.

**HAND TIED BOUQUET:** A handful of plant material, using its own stems, arranged, tied and inserted into a clear container.

**HOUSEPLANTS:** (now listed as “Container Grown Plants”) Should be exhibited in their growing pots only. Please avoid the use of decorative pot covers or jardinières. They must have been in the possession and care of the entrant for at least three months.

**Note:** New definition of “Plant Grown for Foliage” – Plant which is of interest and grown or exhibited for beauty of its foliage. Flowers or berries may be present but are inconspicuous or of minor importance.

**LINE DESIGN:** Line directions may be vertical, horizontal, diagonal and/or curved.

**MASS DESIGN:** A design with a large quantity of plant material arranged in a closed silhouette with few or no voids.

**MEASUREMENTS:** Specimens are measured from the table along the entire length of the specimen. Design class measurements are in all directions, height taken from the table.

**MODERN DESIGN:** A design with no preconceived patterns, few components, new shapes, sculptural qualities, dynamic balance, movement, bold colours. Constantly changing and elegant in composition.

**MONOCHROMATIC:** Includes one hue, using tints, tones, and shades in different variations in value, (light and dark) and chroma (weak and strong).

**NIP:** Named if Possible. The judge gives named entries points. And remember, the purpose of a flower show is educational – please, if possible, name your entry. (You can use a 3x5 card or post-it note for your designs if you need more space)

**NUMBER OF SPECIMENS:** Where a definite number or quantity of specimens is specified in the show schedule, neither more nor less than that quantity shall be exhibited. A bud showing colour must be considered a bloom – remove as required.

**OPEN:** In all classes designated Open you may enter two items but they must be different cultivars.

**PERENNIAL (HERBACEOUS):** A plant whose growth dies down annually but whose roots or other underground parts survive.

**PICK AND PLUNK:** Seasonal, garden grown, plant material picked and artfully plunked into a container of your choice: “Keep it simple.”

**SCAPE:** A leafless flower stem arising from the ground. Each scape carries a number of flower buds depending on the cultivar, e.g., Hemerocallis (Daylily), Narcissus.

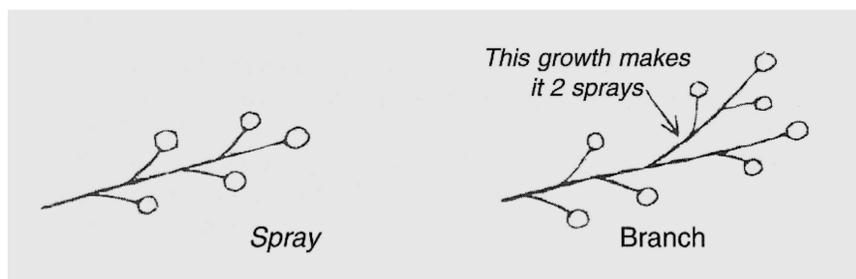
**SMALL DESIGN:** A design from 13.9 cm to 25.4 cm / 5½ - 10” and **which must not exceed** 25.4 cm / 10” in any direction (height, width, depth, diagonal). Proportion is greatly enhanced when exhibited in appropriate sized niches.

**SPECIES:** Subdivisions of a genus having certain distinctive and permanent characteristics in common; designated by the second part of the two-part botanical name. For example, the botanical name for Purple Coneflower is *Echinacea purpurea*, where the genus is *Echinacea* and the species is *purpurea*.

**SPECIMENS:** Flowers in the specimen classes may be supported by inconspicuous mechanics.

**SPIKE:** An upright stem carrying several flowers. Ideally, a spike shows 40% of flowers in bloom, 30% buds showing colour and 30% green buds.

**SPRAY:** When the schedule calls for a spray, be sure not to exhibit a branch! A spray is the terminal flowering growth consisting of one stem (not a branch). A spray must originate from a lead axil of a main stem or cane and should not include any portion of a main stem or cane. Ideally, it should show all forms – flowers in bloom, buds showing colour and green buds. Refer to following diagram.



**STEM OR STALK:** A main plant structure which supports flowers, buds, leaves, or fruit.

**TROPICAL PLANT:** A plant that grows naturally in a tropical climate and does not survive frost, i.e. fuchsia, lantana, hibiscus.

**UNIFORMITY:** When more than one specimen is being judged in an entry – the flowers in that entry should have similar colour, form, size, stem and foliage characteristics (all heads should be on the same level). With fruits and vegetables – they should all be the same size.

**VEGETABLE:** Some classes normally assess points for flesh or interior quality and therefore one or more specimens may be cut open or split for judging. (Look for tips in OJES 2019 on how to show vegetables). Vegetables must be shown on a paper plate or other container appropriate to their size and type. Very large vegetables may not require any container.

## Preparation of Entries for Exhibiting

The exhibitor is concerned with providing the highest quality possible, from the time of selecting specimens to placing them in the proper classes.

1. Read the show schedule carefully to ensure that your specimen(s) will fit into a category.
2. Adhere to requirements regarding number of stems, size of branch, pot size, number of cultivars, etc.

**\*\*\* Double check your entry \*\*\***

**Correct count, proper colour, right section, right class and named if possible.**

If in doubt, ask one of the show committee members for assistance, we will help you.

3. List or mark in the schedule the plants you are growing that are or will be at the proper stage for exhibiting.
4. Cut flowers and foliage the evening before the Show or in the early morning, selecting specimens of quality. (Take a bucket of warm water out with you.)

## **PREPARING PLANT MATERIALS FOR HARDENING**

1. Be sure to check 'Conditioning' tips below before hardening!
2. Remove lower foliage cleanly. Upper foliage must be attached unless otherwise stated. **Always include leaves with your entry** unless otherwise specified (i.e. Narcissus), and leaf should be attached to stem (if possible). The leaf must be from the same plant.
3. Specimen blooms should not have side buds, remove carefully if necessary.
4. Make a fresh cut, on a slant, with the end of stems under water.
5. Place in a wide bucket in warm water for at least three hours, preferably overnight.
6. Store in a cool, dark, humid, draft-free place.
7. Re-cut stem ends before placing in show containers.

## **CONDITIONING**

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

1. Ornamental branches generally benefit from splitting the cut ends. Some also may require removal of the thick outer layer of bark.
2. Some cut flowers which exude a white latex or sap benefit from burning the stem ends, e.g., Poppies, Asters, Zinnias, Dahlias, Sunflowers.

3. Other cut flowers benefit from placing stem ends 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. (Use this method to revive wilted blooms!)
4. Some spring bulbs prefer being placed in 5 cm (2") of cold water.

## **GROOMING**

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

## **CONTAINERS**

1. Members must supply their own containers for exhibits.
2. Use clean, clear, glass - NO plastic - containers so that the judge can see the stems.
3. Container should be appropriate size and shape, e.g., bud vase for a single bloom and funnel-shaped for multiple blooms
4. For displaying fruits and vegetables, use appropriately sized white paper plates, unless otherwise stated. Large pumpkins and squash are excepted.
5. NO SOIL is allowed in designs unless otherwise stated.

**Lastly,**

**Always remember, this is supposed  
to be educational and fun!**