

GETTING YOUR FLOWERS READY FOR SHOWING

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, and leaf does not have to be attached to stem but 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.

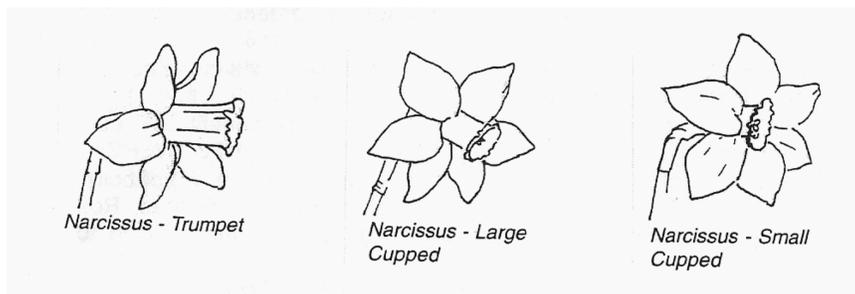
CONTAINERS

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, eg., bud vase for a single bloom and funnel-shaped for multiple blooms
4. NO SOIL is allowed in designs unless otherwise stated.

From: OJES

Narcissus

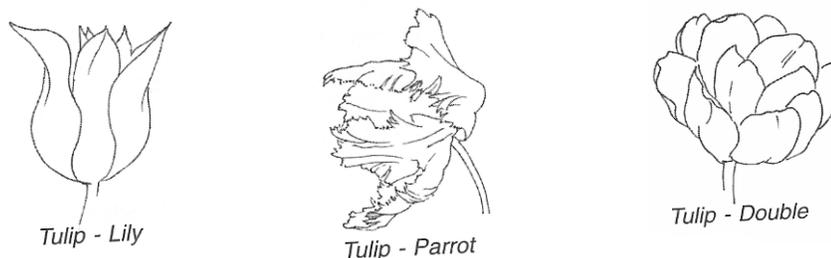
- Do not show Narcissus with foliage
- The spathe (the brown papery bit at the back of the flower, from which it emerges) must remain in place and intact
- Specimen should be typical of the cultivar with the cup (trumpet) in proportion to the perianth (petals)
- Perianth (with certain exceptions) should be broad and flat with overlapping segments symmetrically arranged, not twisted
- The best pose of the face of the Narcissus is at a right angle to the stem with some cultivar exceptions
- 'Trumpet': the trumpet is as long or longer than the surrounding petals
- 'Large-cupped': the cup is more than 1/3 of, but less than equal to, the petals
- 'Small-cupped': not more than 1/3 the size of the surrounding petals
- NIP: Named if possible



Tulips

- No more than 2 sets of leaves should be attached to the stem
- Size should be according to cultivar
- Single tulips should be 1/4 to 1/2 open and the segments should not turn at the tips but stand upright and gently reflex according to type
- Tulip species/species hybrids look best when shown fully open
- The stem should be strong enough to hold the bloom erect without bending or nodding
- Care should be taken not to disturb the greyish 'bloom' on the stem's surface

To prolong the life of a tulip the small air sac at the very top of the stem where the bloom joins the stem should be pierced with a pin to allow water to flow up to the bloom.



Iris

Points to Consider:

Form:

- The form of all types should be symmetrical
- Tall Bearded-the standards must be strong, firmly held erect and should have a sturdy but not coarse mid-rib. The fall shape may vary in shape and pose.
- The presence of a terminal flower is a definite asset.
- The falls should be crisp and firm and may have a heavier substance than the standards
- Stalks should be straight and well balanced. Branching should be such that flowers and buds are not clustered or crowded.

Peony (Paeonia)

Five basic flower forms are generally acknowledged: single, Japanese, Anemone, Semi-double and Double.

Points to Consider:

Form:

- In Singles and Japanese, the outer petals should form a cupped pattern
- Stamens and /or staminodes should be firmly held to make a compact centre
- Singles, Japanese, and Anemone forms look best when freshly opened while they still retain a cupped form.
- Doubles should have recurved petals to form a fine rosebud centre. Doubles generally need to be fully open when judged.

Condition and Grooming:

- Specimens should be disbudded unless schedule calls for buds or multiple bloom on one stem.

Foliage:

- All leaves except the uppermost are typically removed.