

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.

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, 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, 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.