



ABOUT OUR FLOWER SHOWS GUIDELINES



We encourage you to participate in and enjoy our Flower Shows, as exhibitors or through viewing the exhibits after judging concludes. Youth participation is encouraged by completing, the Flower Show Youth Permission Form. Youth must be 16 years and under.

There are THREE flower shows this year, in tandem with our member meetings for May, August, and October.

We encourage the purchase of a current copy of **The Ontario Judging and Exhibiting Standards for Floral Design and Horticulture** (from the Ontario Horticultural Association and The Garden Clubs of Ontario). This book, commonly known as **OJES**, was reissued in 2019 and should be used as your guideline for entering flower shows. Copies, \$10.00, are available at our society's General Meetings (ask at the Membership Table). We also encourage the purchase of **Little Snippy #1** cutting tool for conditioning the tips of stems.



FLOWER SHOW

Rules & Regulations

Governing Flower Show Exhibits



Definitions

Exhibitor: anyone who has paid the current membership fee or is an invited guest of the flower show committee.

Youth: a person under 16 years of age. Their parent or guardian must have completed and signed the permission form.

Scoring:

First: 6 points, Second: 4 points, Third: 2 points.

Honourable Mention: 1 point.

Court of Honour: 10 points. This is usually awarded to the best exhibit in each section.

Judge's Choice: 5 points. The judge may make this award for an exhibit.

Scoring Rules:

1. All entries will be judged according to the current Ontario Judging and Exhibiting Standards Publication.
2. All exhibits **MUST** be placed on the show table between 6:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. (No exceptions). For virtual flower shows the entries must be in by the date specified for that show. This is typically the Sunday the week before the show – i.e. approximately nine (9) days.
3. The judge's decision is final. No award will be given to an unworthy exhibit. There may be up to two (2) judges and one (1) OHA Judging Student per flower show.
Remember to put your name and number on the card as you will be disqualified if the owner of the exhibit cannot be identified at the time of judging.
4. Only those persons designated by the show committee will be permitted in the showroom while entries are being set up and judged.
5. Members may exhibit up to two entries in any class in cultivars, provided they are different cultivars. This does not apply to Design Classes or special exhibits, where only one entry is allowed. House plants must have been in the possession of the exhibitor for at least three months before the show (excluding window boxes & Planters).

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The exhibitor is responsible for:

1. Supplying their own containers.
2. Obtaining an exhibit card from the Show Chairperson who also assigns I.D. numbers for people who are actively participating in the flower shows.
3. **For in-person entries:** Filling out his/her card for each exhibit (top & bottom) and placing it beneath their exhibit in the Horticultural division or beside it in the Design division. Unidentified entries without an exhibitor number will be disqualified.
For virtual entries: Pictures should be taken front-facing and top unless otherwise stated. Download the picture, crop it as needed and rename it with Section # 00, class # 00 and exhibitor #00. If pictures are not identified as stated, they will be disqualified.
4. Naming flowers, where possible (this adds to the value when judging).
5. Removing all flowers, plant material, containers, tags, etc. after the show.
6. All flowers, fruits and vegetables, to be entered in these specimen classes, must have been grown by the exhibitor.
7. Where a definite number or quantity of specimens is stated, neither more nor less may be exhibited.
8. For branches or vines up to 30" in length, they are measured from cut end to tip.
9. Wiring or tying will disqualify exhibits in the cut bloom section of the specimen class.
10. House plants must have been in the possession of the exhibitor for at least three months before the show (excluding window boxes and planters).
11. Design: Fresh flowers and foliage are to be used unless otherwise stated. Accessories are permitted. Painting or treating is permitted, but are to be used sparingly unless otherwise stated. Dyed and artificial flowers are not permitted. Plant material entered in the design classes need not have been grown by the exhibitor. Where two or more members maintain one garden, they may compete against one another in the Design classes only.
12. We ask that exhibits stay in place for 15 minutes after the meeting adjourns, time permitting so that everyone can view the Flower Show. Pictures of first-place entries and the Court of Honour will be taken for a slide show during the next meeting. Copies will be entered in OneDrive of the website under flower shows

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PREPARING SPECIMENS

Preparation of plant material begins when flowers and foliage are cut from THE garden plant.

1. List or mark in the schedule the plants you are growing that are or will be at the proper stage for exhibiting.
2. 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.)
3. Cut stems cleanly, on a slant with sharp secateurs. Keep plant material out of the sun and wind to prolong their keeping qualities.

Conditioning is required for those cut flowers, foliage and woody stems that don't readily absorb water. A variety of treatments are used, such as: splitting or burning stem ends, placing stems in very hot water, or submerging the entire specimen in water. Examples:

- Woody stems: strip off leaves, leaving only those near the flower heads, then split the stem end.
- Chrysanthemums: split the 3" stem, then crush the stem end and it dip in boiling water.
- Ferns & Oriental Poppies: burn the end of the stem.
- Roses: scrape end 1", then place in very hot water for 30 seconds. Also, make a pinhole through the stem directly under the flower head.

Hardening is done after conditioning is complete. Place plant material in a large container of deep water for at least 4 hours, preferably overnight, in a cool, dark, draft-free location.

STAGES FOR CUTTING SPECIMENS

For lasting quality, flowers should be cut at specific stages:

- Dahlias in the evening, in full bloom.
- Gladioli when the first bud opens fully.
- Irises when the first & second blooms are the size of an egg.
- Peonies as outer petals unfold.
- Roses when outer petals are about to unfold.
- Rudbeckia in the evening, in full bloom.
- Tulips when bud first opens.
- Most others just before reaching full bloom.