

# Entering a Garden Club of Virginia Flower Show

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# Entering a GCV Flower Show

## Entering the Artistic Division

### Artistic Design Rules

1. The Schedule is known as "The Law of the Show."
2. Except in Inter Club arrangements, which are entered in the name of the club, one person must execute each entry.
3. An exhibitor may enter as many classes as desired, but is restricted to one entry per class.
4. Designs will be judged according to the GCV Flower Shows Handbook found at [www.gcvignia.org](http://www.gcvignia.org) under Flower Shows.
5. Flowers of the theme show must predominate in all designs, i.e. daffodil, lily, or rose, unless otherwise specified by the schedule.
6. Plants on the Endangered Species list may be used only if grown in exhibitor's garden and should be noted on the plant material card.
7. The use of commercially grown flowers is discouraged. Seasonal flowers are preferred.
8. Designs must include some fresh plant material. All exhibitors must ensure the freshness of their arrangements for the duration of the show.
9. Artificial flowers, foliage, and fruit are not permitted.
10. Treating fresh plant material by application of substances such as paints, dyes, etc. is not permitted. Plants may be clipped, stripped, bent, or otherwise manipulated.
11. Living creatures are not permitted.
12. The following are permitted, unless prohibited by the schedule:
  - a. Accessories
  - b. Bases
  - c. Contrived flowers and/or forms made of fresh or dried plant material
  - d. Cut fruit or vegetables sealed in some manner to discourage insects
  - e. Objects that add interest when tastefully used, e.g., nests, feathers, coral, sponges, sea fans, starfish, antlers, etc.
  - f. Container-grown plants growing in soil as part of Pot-et-Fleur or other appropriate classes
  - g. Dried and/or treated plant material
  - h. Drapery
  - i. Cards of intent (3 x 5 inches)
13. No part of an arrangement placed on a pedestal may extend horizontally more than 6" on left or right of the pedestal, regardless of the position it is placed in on the pedestal.
14. There are several types of backdrops used in the flower shows. None of them may be used on a pedestal. No flower material may touch the sides, back or roof if present.
  - a. A backboard is a two dimensional surface against which an arrangement is to be seen. Unless specified otherwise by the schedule, it is to be considered a neutral backdrop like a wall, and the arrangement will not be judged in proportion to the size of the backdrop. However, if an arranger modifies the backboard with drapery, overlays, or underlays, the arrangement is judged in proportion to the size of the backdrop.
  - b. A trifold is similar to a backboard, and the above descriptions apply, but wings are attached to both sides. These may be opened at an angle or placed at right angles to the back. The schedule states the permitted dimensions of the arrangements, which may include a height restriction.
  - c. A niche is constructed with a back, roof and fixed sides. The dimensions of the structure are provided in the schedule.

## Artistic Procedures

1. All artistic entries must be pre-registered with the show Registration Chairman.
2. Check in at Registration desk upon arrival at the show.
3. GCV exhibitor entry cards will be filled out completely, both top and bottom portions, by the Registration Chairman. They will be given out to the registrant when they come to the desk.
4. The exhibitor must check the name and address on both portions. Make sure that there is a mark on the entry card if you are a GCV member and/or if you are a novice. (A novice is one who has not won a Blue ribbon in a GCV Flower Show.)
5. Make arrangements for Container Return upon arrival. All containers and accessories must be plainly marked with exhibitor's name and address. Instructions for shipping should be made and a fee paid if the container is not to be claimed at the end of the show. The use of containers with a value greater than \$200 is discouraged.
6. Check Show Schedule regarding whether or not arranging is permitted on the showroom floor.
7. Upon completion of design, complete a 3x5 card listing floral material, noting "G" for garden grown or "F" for florist. A Pot-et-Fleur must include "R" for rooted material or "C" for cut material.
8. Notify a member of the Passing Committee when an exhibit is ready to be passed. The Passing Committee may disqualify arrangements that do not meet the schedule requirements in consultation with the GCV Flower Shows Chairman and/or the GCV Judges' Chairman.
9. The Passer will check exhibitor entry card for accuracy and completion.
10. The Passer will determine that the arrangement complies with the schedule and that the above-mentioned cards are in place before passing.
11. **The exhibitor will remain in the exhibit area until the exhibit is passed.**
12. Except for watering and/or necessary maintenance, the exhibitor may not touch the exhibit after it is passed.
13. Exhibitors are urged to show caution when placing their arrangements and when viewing the show. As a courtesy to other exhibitors, they must stay a safe distance from neighboring arrangements.
14. Exhibitors are asked to please leave the showroom floor immediately after their arrangement has been passed.

## Conditioning Plants for Artistic Arrangements

It is imperative that plant material used in artistic arrangements in flower shows be properly conditioned. A few recommendations follow:

1. Cut flowers in the cool of the day, i.e., early morning or late afternoon.
2. Cut on a slant with a sharp knife, sharp scissors or clippers.
3. Place immediately in deep, tepid water to reduce shock and enhance absorption.
4. Use clean glass or plastic containers (rinsed with bleach if possible). Some flowers react badly to metal containers.
5. Remove all the foliage from the part of the stems that will be below the waterline in the finished arrangement.
6. Condition flowers from 4 to 24 hours in a dark or shaded, cool, draft-free place.
7. Some plant material requires special attention.
  - a. Woody stems: split ends and scrape stem. Example: Lilacs, Azaleas.
  - b. Brittle stems: Break and scrape stem instead of cutting to allow more water-absorption. Example: Chrysanthemum, Boxwood
  - c. Milky stems: Seal stem ends to prevent loss of sap; burn with an open flame or scald the end in boiling water. Example: Poppy, Poinsettia
  - d. Submerge Ivy, Hosta, and similar foliage completely underwater

# Entering the Horticulture Division

## Horticulture Exhibitor Rules

1. The Schedule is known as "The Law of the Show."
2. Except for the Club Collections which are entered in the name of the club, **one** person must execute each entry.
3. Always read the Rules for Horticulture Exhibitors in your schedule, which provides rules and guidelines for the show.
4. GCV exhibitor entry cards are provided. However, nationally sanctioned show entry cards may be used by members of the national organization. All entry cards must be filled out completely, top and bottom portions. The exhibitors name and address must appear on both portions. Use of mailing labels is encouraged. Mark on the entry form if you are a GCV member and if you are a novice. (Novice: One who has never won an individual horticulture blue ribbon in *any* show approved by the GCV flower show's sanctioning flower society. A horticulture exhibitor may be considered a novice in each of the GCV flower shows sanctioned by the American Rose Society, the American Daffodil Society or the North American Lily Society.)
5. Exhibitors are responsible for proper labeling of exhibits. Entries that are incorrectly named are not to be judged.
6. No label may be changed except by the show chairman or the passing (classification) chairman in case of placement error.
7. All Horticulture Judges are accredited by appropriate national sanctioning societies.

## Daffodil Horticulture

### American Daffodil Society Scale of Points

	Standard and Miniature	Species	Historic
Condition	20.0	50	40
Form	20.0	15	15
Substance	7.5	10	5
Texture	7.5	5	5
Color	15.0	10	15
Pose	10.0	5	5
Stem	10.0	5	5
Size	10.0		10
Total	100.0	100	100

**Condition:** A specimen should be fresh, clean, and in its perfect stage of development. Faults are cuts, mechanical injury, bruises, dirt, rain spots, pollen on cup, too old or too young, anthers brown, ovary swollen, sheath badly injured, mutilated or absent (never remove).

**Form:** (and Grace, when judging miniatures) Form is the shape of the flower. Petals should be flat and overlapping; may be shovel-shaped, pointed or oval. Balance of all parts to each other, includes axis balance (when an imaginary vertical line bisects mid-rib or petal, sepal and stem. Cup should be round; if ruffled or serrated, cup should be even; if notched, cup should be regular. Faults are nicks, notches (sometimes called “mitten thumbs”), twisted or too much cupping of petals, and misshapen or uneven cup.

**Substance:** Substance is the thickness of the perianth tissue. Specimen should have thick, crisp tissues. Excessive age shows up in translucence at petal edge and tip, thinning of tissues.

**Texture:** Texture refers to the surface of the perianth segments. It is the smoothness or roughness of tissue structure. Specimen should have smoothness of tissue, sheen, luster and no crinkles or “ribbings.”

**Color:** Color should be clear and clean, true to variety. Green at base of cup or eye is of merit in white varieties. Specimen should have no streaking, muddiness, fading. Staining on petals radiating from base of cup is not undesirable, if normal for variety and the effect is pleasing.

**Pose:** Pose refers to how the bloom is held in relation to the stem. For Divisions 1, 2, 3, 4, 9, and 11, the ideal pose for the bloom should be at right angle to the stem or slightly above. The flower should “look you in the eye.” In Division 4: some varieties normally droop; e.g., “Cheerfulness,” and “White Marvel.” Division 5, 6, and 7: heads may droop, and Division 8: head should be dome-shape.

**Stem:** Should be straight; free from blemish and ridges down sides; in good proportion to size of bloom. Some twisting of stem is normal in most daffodils; therefore, caution should be used in penalizing severely a flower which is otherwise excellent.

**Size:** Full credit for normal size. Knowledge of normal size is, of course, essential when judging any variety. Above-average size suggests good culture and is desirable if resulting bloom is still refined and not coarse.

**Foliage:** No points are given for foliage, which is not judged when exhibited with blooms. Foliage is used with blooms, it should be of the same general type but never cut from exhibition bulbs. The American Daffodil Society does not have a rule prohibiting the use of foliage with specimen blooms, but it is hoped that those planning shows will omit foliage in the interest of bulb conservation.

**Seedlings:** Properly identified seedlings may be shown by number. Official classification is according to The Royal Horticultural Society Classified list and International Register of Daffodil Names.

## Lily Horticulture

### Official North American Lily Society Scale of Points for Evaluating Specimens

Condition	30
Vigor	20
Placement on Stem	20
Substance of Flowers	10
Form of Flowers	10
Color of Flowers	10
Total	100

### Modified Lighty System for Evaluating Seedlings

Vigor	20
Placement on Stem	20
Substance	20
Form	20
Color	20
Total	100

**Condition:** includes the stage of maturity. Generally it is considered that a spike of lilies is in the best condition when the lower flowers are open but not faded and the upper ones still in bud. The larger the number of open flowers the better, provided the old ones have not begun to fade. The flowers should not be bleached in the sun, wilted or otherwise in poor condition. The plants should also be free from disease and injury of all kinds. The anthers should be present although it is recognized that if open flowers are to be shipped the anthers may be removed rather than have the petals stained with colored pollen.

**Vigor:** refers to the length and strength of the stem, the number and size of the flowers and the size and attractiveness of the foliage. In cutting lilies, leave about one-third of the foliage with the bulb.

**Placement of flowers:** refers to their arrangement on the stem. In general, separation on the stem vertically in a spiral arrangement rather than crowded at the same level or in whorls is an advantage. Flowers should also be spaced in such a way that the individual blooms do not interfere with each other. In the case of hybrids competing against hybrids, the separation of the flowers and the attractiveness of their appearance as related to the angle on the pedestal may be considered.

**Substance of flowers:** refers to the thickness or apparent thickness of the petals. Firm texture that withstands exposure is desirable. In placing the entries in collections, the quality of flowers, the number of species shown, (except where the number is limited) and the horticultural difficulty of raising the kinds of lilies will be considered.

**Form of the flower:** judged on the basis of conformity with that typical of the species or variety, or with attractiveness of form in comparing different species or varieties.

**Color of flowers:** should be clear and attractive rather than muddy. This is particularly important in hybrids that have no recognized typical color.

## Rose Horticulture

### American Rose Society Scale of Points

Form	25
Color	20
Substance	15
Stem and Foliage	20
Balance and Proportion	10
Size	10
Total	100

**Form:** exemplifies the highest type of an exhibition rose, having many petals; formed, high-pointed center, in the most perfect phase of its possible beauty. Generally, this is when the bloom is “half-to three fourths” open.

**Color:** should be clean, fresh, pure, clear, and typical of the best specimen of that variety.

**Substance:** constitutes the quantity and quality of matter and turgidity in the petals. Texture, crispness, thickness, firmness, and stiffness of the petals must be sufficient to give stability and durability of form and finish to the bloom that determines the keeping quality of the rose.

**Stem:** must be primary, straight, with typical prickles or thorns; in proportion to the bloom; and of sufficient size and strength to support the bloom without undue bending. The length of the stem should be in proportion to the size of the bloom and should exhibit several five-or seven-leaflet leaves

**Foliage:** should be comparable in size with the bloom and stem, uniformly spaced, typical of the variety in quantity, size and color. It should be clean and free of the following: spray and dust residue, disease and insect damage, and additives.

**Balance and Proportion:** The overall pleasing appearance of the specimen, the relationship of size, form and location of each part in relation to the whole.

**Size:** Refers to the actual dimensions of the bloom. Seven or eight points are awarded the average size of a variety.

### Classifying Roses

There are three groups of rose classification:

1. Species Roses (wild roses)
2. Old Garden Roses (Alba, Bourbon, Centifolia, Damask, Hybrid China, Hybrid Eglanteria, Hybrid Gallica, Hybrid Multiflora, Hybrid Perpetual, Hybrid Sempervirens, Hybrid Setigera, Hybrid Spinosissima, Moss, Noisette, Portland, and Tea.)
3. Modern Roses (Large-Flowered Climber, Floribunda, Grandiflora, Miniature, Mini-Flora, Polyantha, Classic Shrub, Hybrid Tea, Hybrid Wichuriana, and a large class of shrubs that include David Austin English roses.)

### Definitions

1. A Specimen is a single stem containing a bloom or blooms.
2. A Bud is the stage of opening in which the sepals are down and the petals are just beginning to unfurl.
3. A spray must have at least two blooms at exhibition stage.
4. Buds are not blooms.
5. Exhibition Stage is usually one-half to three-fourths open, depending on the variety.
6. One bloom per stem is a specimen exhibited without side buds.
7. Disbudding is the removal of side buds and should be done when just formed to avoid unsightly scars.
8. Fully Open Bloom has stamen showing.