

# FLOWERS

## Standards of Perfection for Flowers

### AFRICAN VIOLETS (*Saintpaulia*)

There are two accepted systems of judging African Violets: The Competitive System, which is used in non-specialist shows, and the Merit system, which is confined entirely to specialist shows. The Merit System is based on the number of points earned. There may be several first, second or third awards in any one class. Points awarded from 90 to 100 earn Firsts; from 80 to 89 points, Seconds. In ordinary shows judges would not use the Merit System.

### GUIDELINES FOR JUDGING AFRICAN VIOLETS

1. All show plants must be single crown specimens unless the show schedule provides otherwise.
2. Blossoms that have fallen since entry do not count nor should there be any deduction for them.
3. Some double and semi-double varieties display some single, semi-double and double blooms at the same time should be classed as doubles if they carry any double or semi-double blooms. Crested blooms are also classed as double.
4. Each successive row of leaves should cover the petioles of the row below, but varieties with fluted, wavy or elongated foliage do not cover the petioles. These plants should be judged according to variety.
5. There should never be smaller leaves (baby leaves) below the larger leaves.
6. Any new growth appearing at the base of the stalk and/or in the leaf axil below the point where the blooms stalks emerge is considered a sucker. A sucker will disqualify a plant in classes for specimen single crown plants. Do not judge a plant with a sucker.
7. Any plant that has leaf marking that indicate that it has had a disease or might have one at the time of entry should not be entered.
8. A row of small leaves part way down the plant caused by injury or poor culture should have points deducted under cultural perfection.
9. The size of the pot must be in proportion to the leaf spread of the plant. The pot should be one-third to one-fourth the diameter of the leaf spread of the plant except for miniatures and all types of trailers. For trailers and partial trailers, pot size should be in proportion to the size of the plant.
10. The size of a miniature plant must not be more than six inches (6") (15.24 cm) in diameter. Semi-miniature plants must not exceed eight (8") (20.32 cm) inches in diameter.
11. All stakes, markers, and supports (collars) must be removed, except trailers which may have a maximum of two conspicuous props.

12. A neck is that portion of the plant stem or stalk between the soil level and the first row of leaf petioles. If the neck is disfiguring to the appearance of the plants, points should be deducted. The judge should NOT raise the leaves to search for a neck.
13. The plant should be centered in the pot high enough that the petioles are not forced upward by the pot rim but not so high that the soil has to be removed to cover a long neck.

### POINT SCORING INFORMATION

Specimen (Single Crown) Plants:	Scale of points
Quantity of bloom.....	30..
Miniatures.....	6 to 12 blooms
Semi-miniatures.....	6 to 20 blooms
Standards.....	20 to 25 blooms
Amazon, Dupont, or Supremes	10 to 15 blooms
Trailers and partial Trailers	12 to 18 blooms

Deduct one point for each bloom under required number for Standards, two points for supremes, Amazons and Dupont, three points for Miniatures and Semi-miniature varieties

Count only fresh open blossoms toward bloom count. Buds are not considered blossoms.

#### **Cultural Perfection (Symmetry).....30**

Cultural perfection is the sum of all the factors which result in a fine show plant, such as proper lighting, watering, temperature, fertilizer, soil mix, pruning and shaping of plant to achieve ideal symmetry, freedom from pests and diseases, with continued care during the entire growth cycle.

Deduct points for a missing leaf which makes a break in the outline of the plant, for each break in symmetry; for each baby leaf found; for any row of leaves whose petioles or leaf blades have not developed in proper sequence; for leaf petioles showing depending upon the growth habits of the variety; for lack of normal variegation on variegated foliage and for marred or faded foliage.

#### **Condition.....25**

Condition is grooming and covers problems which could have been eliminated by careful attention shortly before the show. The exhibitor should be sure that plant and pot are clean, the container in proportion to the plant and faded flowers and damaged leaves are removed.

Deduct for a disfiguring neck; for dirt on leaves; for blossom stalks or leaf stubs; for seed pods; for faded blossoms; for over- or under-potting; for stakes left in the pot; for dirty container.

**Size and colour of bloom**..... 15  
Deduct for a variety not blooming true to accepted description and if the blooms are smaller than normal.

## **TRAILING VARIETIES: SCALE OF POINTS**

**Form**..... 35  
Trailers are divided into Standard, Semi-Miniatures and Miniatures.

Standard and semi-miniature size take a 3 1/2-inch (8.89 cm) pot or larger; miniature size take 3-inch (7.62 cm) pot or smaller. Plants must be in proportion to pots. Trailers are judged on form rather than on symmetry. Plants should have controlled growth to be attractive. Modern hybrid trailers must be multi-crowned. Some older varieties prior to 1970 do not have this growth pattern, so the above ruling cannot be applied.

The growth pattern should be irregular but not uncontrolled. Inconspicuous props may be used discreetly. They may consist of hairpins or fine stakes, etc. Of neutral colour. Deduct points if growth pattern is uncontrolled; for each segment of bare stem that is easily seen, for marred or faded foliage; for each missing crown.

### **Condition**

Deduct points if props are conspicuous for dirt on plant; for blossom stalks or leaf stubs; for seed pods; for over-or under-potting; for dirty container.

### **Bloom (size, colour, quantity)**

The bloom stalks should be evenly distributed. Deduct for lack of bloom according to variety; if blooms are smaller than the accepted description; if the variety is not blooming true to accepted description for colour; if variety classified as single, semi-double or double is not blooming true to the accepted varietal bloom form description.

### **Information on Partial Trailers (formerly referred to as Semi-Trailers)**

As the use of the word "semi-" in this connection has led to confusion, the word "partial" should be substituted.

Most partial trailers are small growers. They will be judged in the same manner as other trailers.

### **Species Saintpaulia**

In growing species, strive for natural growth habit, and not attempt to make them conform to the formal appearance of hybrids. Most will have 6 to 12 blooms.

## ALSTROEMERIA-PERUVIAN LILY (Alstroemeriacae)

This is not a true lily (*Lilium*, a bulb), but grows from thick, fleshy roots, formerly belonging to the Amaryllis family, generally exhibited as a single stem or as an exhibit for three stems. The "Ligtu Hybrids" are to be preferred to the species types in which the orange and yellow colours predominate.

### POINT SCORE

Condition.....	25
Number, size & form of flowers.....	50
Colour.....	15
Stem.....	<u>10</u>
	100

Condition, form of flowers and freedom from damage are the most important considerations. Look for freshness of individual flowers and the perky, upright positions of well-opened flowers. The presence of closed or partially closed flowers is a sign of age as is the presence of seed pods or the stubs where pods have been taken off. There should be a large number of well-formed flowers with crisp, erect petals, slightly recurved on the tips forming a well-rounded head. The branchlets and flowers should be well spaced generally forming an open pattern.

Colours should be bright, clean and luminous with no trace of muddiness. The Ligtu hybrids are brilliant luminous mixture ranging from glowing pink to brilliant crimson.

Stems should be stout, long and straight and able to hold the flowerhead stiffly erect. Side branchlets, if presents, should not spoil the outline of the main flowerhead.

## ANTIRRHINUM - SNAPDRAGON

Spikes must be long, stiff, and straight, tapering and well furnished almost to the tip with evenly spaced open florets filling the stalk all around. They must be in good condition, fresh, crisp, free from blemishes and mechanical damage.

Florets must be large, broad-lipped and firmly attached, with no fading. Wilted florets and seed pods should be removed and scored down.

Colours should be bright and clean, either completely self-coloured or in an harmonious blend. Spikes should be uniform in size, shape and development with harmonious colour blending.

### POINT SCORE

Condition.....	20
Form of spike.....	30
Form of flowers.....	15
Colour.....	20
Uniformity.....	<u>10</u>
	100

### AQUILEGIA - COLUMBINE

A good hybrid should always win over a species because it is a better flower. The row of guard petals in lie almost flat and generally circular with the circle of five inner petals (corolla) at a 45 degree angle and centre filled with stamens. Spurs are long and slender, graceful with slightly curved tips. This is where the hybrids surpass the species, as in the latter case the spurs are usually short, stubby and lack a graceful, curving line.

### POINT SCORE

Condition.....	25
Form of Flowers.....	35
Stem and foliage.....	15
Colour.....	15
Uniformity.....	<u>10</u>
	100

Aquilegia stems should be long and slender but still stout enough to bear the flowers well at an angle between 45 and 60 degrees. The foliage should be clean, a bright green colour and free from damage.

The colour range is almost the entire spectrum and included self-coloured, bi-coloured and blends. In some, there is a pronounced dark colour on the corolla which, when present, should be uniform throughout. They may be shown with or without side buds.

### ASTERS

Flowers should be large and well poised on the stem. In single-flowered varieties there should be a small central disc and long, broad ray florets which touch each other; in double varieties the flower must be fully double but showing no central disc. If a disc is apparent the specimen is passed its prime.

The flowers must be in good condition, with fresh, crisp, clean petals and foliage and free from all damage. Colours should be clear, clean, and bright.

Stems should be long, but in proportion to flower head which should be held up strongly.

Uniformity should apply to size, of shape as well as length of stem.

#### POINT SCORE

Condition.....	20
Form.....	25
Colour.....	20
Stems.....	20
Uniformity.....	<u>15</u>
	100

### BEGONIAS

These generally called for in non-specialist schedules are the Tuberous varieties. A Fibrous or Rhizomatous variety should not be exhibited in the same class with the Tuberous variety.

Begonias are generally shown in classes calling for planted pot specimens, basket specimens (pendulous types) or a single cut bloom or a tray of cut blooms shown in water or on wet moss.

#### POINT SCORE

(American Begonia Society, 1969)

##### Pot or Basket Specimens

Number and size of bloom in proportion to size of plant.....	40
Cultural perfection.....	25
Foliage.....	15
Erect flowering stem or stems.....	10
Quality of flower.....	<u>10</u>
	100

##### Cut Specimens

Colour of flower.....	35
Form of flower.....	20
Size of flower.....	35
Substance and condition.....	<u>10</u>
	100

Comments from the judging form of the American Begonia Society, 1961:

"It is very important for judges to know Begonias and their culture. Due to the diversity of the plants there is much variation in their culture. When a schedule is not detailed or is shortened (as in non-specialist shows), it means that Begonias of easy culture may be competing with Begonias that take time and skill to grow. Therefore, a large handsome specimen that is easy to grow competing in the same class as one touchy or difficult to grow makes judging a task of skill. A beautiful specimen of a "difficult" Begonia should rate higher than a large handsome "easy" Begonia.

"In Pot specimens, watch for insect holes in the leaves, straggly uneven growth, old flowers, old faded blooms and an unevenly shaped plant. An unclean pot should be scored against.

"In specialist Begonia shows instructions given to the Judges by the Judges' Chairman, usually recommends leniency on judging foliage damaged in transit. This type of damage is easily detected (bruising) and may be overlooked to some extent."

In pot specimens the plant should be well balanced, bearing flowers in size and number proportionate to the plant. Flowers should be large, circular in outline and of good substance; petals should overlap culminating in one centre. Irregular outline or divided centres are serious faults as are long narrow petals.

In basket classes (pendulous types) the plant must be evenly developed all around. The drooping, pendulous branches and pendant flowers should be long and reasonably even in length. There should be masses of bright, clean flowers with shiny, undamaged foliage. Consideration should be given to the overall effect of the plant and its basket container. Use points for Cultural perfection in the Pot scale for this.

## **BEGONIAS OTHER THAN TUBEROUS**

Judges not being able to be acquainted with all begonias being grown and entered in shows, would be wise to judge the plant according to growth, quality of flower (if flowering type) and general appearance.

Plants should be grouped according to types: fibrous, such as wax or semperflorens, and cane, rhizomatous, such as, Rex, etc.

## **CACTI AND SUCCULENTS**

### **DEFINITIONS:**

**Succulent:** A plant with very fleshy leaves or stems or both, e.g. Crassula, Echeveria, Hoya, Kalanchoe, Sedum, Sempervivum and most Cacti. Said of plants which store water in their tissues and which can, in consequence, withstand adverse conditions of drought or aridity, a plant possessing these properties.

**Cactus:** a plant belonging to the family Cactaceae, e.g. species of *Cereus*, *Epiphyllum*, *Mammillaria*, *Opuntia*, *Schlumbergera* or *Zygocactus*.

**Cactaceae:** A family with a large but uncertain number of species, usually with succulent stems and leaves much reduced or absent; spines borne on an areole are usually present.

**Areoles:** are present in all cacti and are often referred to as "spine cushions", and are growth areas from which flowers and new growth (plantlets, offsets) arise as well as spines, hairs and glochids, (barbed hairs).

Some succulents may have thorns (i.e. some *Euphorbia*, (Crown of Thorns) or teeth or sharp serrated edges, needle-like points on the end of leaves, or bristles, but they never have areoles or spine cushions.

Orchid cacti, Christmas, Easter and Thanksgiving cacti are all true cacti with areoles and minute spines.

**POINT SCORE**  
**Cactus & Succulent Society of America**

Condition.....	20
Nomenclature.....	20
Rarity.....	15
Size and degree of maturity.....	15
Educational value.....	15
Staging.....	15
	100

In the average small show with classes for Cacti and Succulents the judge is not likely to be a specialist for these classes. Such a judge should give major consideration to "Condition".

With either Cacti or Succulents the plant must look healthy and well cared for. Firm growth, not overly lush and soft, and good natural colour, not too pale or vividly green is desirable. Any sign of etiolation (long, pale, unnatural growth; 'ball' cactus tapering to a point) differing markedly from the preceding growth, is an indication of poor growing. Watch for sun-scald (white or brown patches), broken spines or missing spine cluster, damage marks on leaves or plant bodies of succulents. The plant should be free from insect damage or any sign of disease. Insect damage is most likely from meal-bug, red spider mite or scale, and aphids on flower stems of some succulents.

The shape of the specimen should be typical of its variety. Cacti grown indoors may be leggy. This is frequently seen in succulents grown with insufficient light or too much warmth and moisture together with poor light conditions and should be considered as a fault.

All other things being equal, a Cactus or Succulent exhibited with flowers or buds is preferred to one without, although under most show conditions these are not too likely to be open. (Sunshine is needed for many Cactus and Succulent flowers to open initially, or remain open). Some Cacti and Succulents may have to be large or very old to bloom; also blooms may be very seasonal, so do not put too much emphasis on bloom.

Many leaf succulents, particularly white or glaucous species, have "bloom" on the leaves. When it is present it should not be disturbed and is a desirable feature.

There are miniature varieties in both Cacti and Succulents (most suitable for window-sill growing), which ideally should have separate classes for, such as, mature Cacti 2"(5.08 cm) or less in diameter and mature Succulents in 2" to 3" (5.08-7.62 cm) pots.

**CACTI AND SUCCULENTS - Difficulty of Cultivation** Conformity to Type and Rarity:  
These three items should be considered and/or scored only when the judge is thoroughly familiar with Cacti and Succulents. Unless the Judge knows, it is best not to give too much weight or consideration to these points, but to base the choice solely on "Condition".

The same applies to those items listed on the Point Score of the Cactus & Succulent Society of America as Nomenclature, Rarity, Size or Degree of Maturity. The items of Educational Value and Staging may be disregarded entirely, except Staging in the case of the display of a collection. In this case uniformity of the size of pots, or where sizes of pots may vary, the placement of different sizes and overall appearance of the collection should be considered. Cleanliness of pots is of more importance than type of pot, and also the tidy appearance of any exposed soil surface.

### **CARNATIONS (Border)**

Must be in good condition, fresh, crisp and clean. There must be no browning at the edges nor any sign of insect or spray damage.

Flowerheads should be large, symmetrical and circular in outline. Petals should be firm, with smooth edges and no serrations. Guard petals should be large, broad, smooth and carried at right angles to the calyx. Inner petals may stand up somewhat to form a centre "crown".

### **POINT SCORE**

Condition.....	20
Form of flower.....	25
Calyces and stems.....	20
Colour.....	15
Fragrance.....	10
Uniformity.....	10
	100

The Carnation calyces should be smooth and unbroken, stems strong, stiff and straight. Colour or colours should be clear, clean and bright, the pattern well defined. There should be a strong scent.

The following notes are taken and abridged from the **Handbook of the British National Carnation Society**.

Under "Carnations" fall "pinks" and Dianthus; Hardy Border Carnations and Perpetual Flowering Carnations. The latter are almost exclusively greenhouse plants and are not considered here.

The Border Carnation is the only true, hardy carnation. They are divided into "Selfs", "Fancies", and "Picotees".

Selfs are one clear colour, free from any form of shading or marking. Colours are usually white, scarlet, crimson, yellow, apricot, various shades of pink, purple and old rose.

Fancies are further sub-divided into white ground, yellow ground and colour other than white or yellow. White and yellow ground Fancies have markings of contrasting colour or colours, usually as stripes, flakes or ticks.

Picotees are like white and yellow ground Fancies, except that they have a different coloured edging, but are without stripes.

Pinks (Dianthus) are not miniature Carnations; an appearance of lightness and daintiness is essential to a Pink, and great size is not desirable. Pinks are sub-divided into "Doubles", "Singles", and further by "Selfs", "Bi-Colours", "Laced pinks" and "Fancies".

Doubles - the outer or guard petals should be flat; inner petals should be regularly and smoothly laid over guard petals, diminishing in size as they near the centre. The centre should form a flat rosette, but it may be raised and some centre petals may stand up slightly.

Single pinks should have 5 evenly shaped petals that lie flat and are right angles to calyx and should overlap each other sufficiently to prevent any space appearing between them, but not so as to obscure each other.

Selfs are of one distinct colour, except that slight shading at the centre of the flower is acceptable.

Bi-colour the 2 colours of Bi-colours should be in concentric rings; the boundary between the 2 colours should be clear and distinct.

Laced pinks in white ground and other that white ground, the lacing colour should form well marked eye in the centre of the flower from which a narrow, even band of colour should extend around a petal, leaving a clear patch of ground colour in the centre of the petal. There may be a narrow band of ground colour at extreme edge of petal.

Fancies all Pinks which are not Selfs, Bi-colours, or Laced are considered "Fancies". They may be speckled, have radial stripes, or some petals of one colour and other petals of another colour.

## **CHRYSANTHEMUMS**

The judging of Chrysanthemums can be very challenging. The main object is to encourage the growing of Chrysanthemums of the highest possible quality.

Chrysanthemums, by size, are classed by the National Chrysanthemum Society as LARGE FLOWERED (designated 'b') and SMALL FLOWERED (designated 'c'). The various cultivars are more or less arbitrarily assigned to the classes by N.C.S. Classified Register of Chrysanthemums. Either you know your varieties or accept them as named by the exhibitor.

There are many classifications of Chrysanthemums by type but the only ones likely to be encountered in shows are the "Outdoor Varieties" or Early Flowering Types.

Following are the main types of Chrysanthemums with characteristics:

**Incurved** (Sec. 23) Should be spherical in form. Ideally the bloom should be represent a complete ball, florets should be uniformly laid and spaced. The centre should be filled.

**Reflex** (Sec. 24) Have blooms with florets reflexing smoothly down all around, broad and deep and full in the centre. Some varieties will have a more smooth appearance. The blooms should be shown at 7/8 stage of maturity.

**Intermediate** (Sec. 25) These are two varieties which come between the previous two, or may resemble one-half of each.

**Anemone** (Sec. 26) The ray florets are either broad to the tips, flat and equal in length, or sharply pointed and uneven in size. Disc florets should be deep and even in size.

**Single** (Sec. 27) The ray florets are broad, flat and at right angles to the stem. The disc is regular and usually surrounded by 5 rows of florets.

**Pompom** (Sec. 28) Should be ball-shaped, full in the centre and with florets almost touching the stem at the back.

**Spray (Sec.29)** A spray is the last flowering growth consisting of one stem (not a branch) with or without a central flower or bud. The individual blooms of spray types should be evenly spaced on the spray and not overlapping. They may be Intermediate, Reflex, Single, Anemone or Pompom type

**Any Other Types** Under this heading the only type likely to be encountered in local shows are the **Rayonnantes**. They are usually quite large, ranging from 6" to 12"(15.24-30.48 cm) across and usually very shallow. The florets are of a quill type and are generally arranged in a regular pattern, of symmetrical shape and spacing.

The late- Flowering and the October-Flowering Chrysanthemums are divided into the same types but are given different section numbers.

### POINT SCORES, NATIONAL CHRYSANTHEMUM SOCIETY

#### Incurved, Reflexed and Intermediate.

Form.....	25
Size.....	20
Freshness.....	20
Uniformity of blooms in a vase.....	10
Foliage.....	5
Staging.....	5
	100

#### Sprays and pompoms

<b>Spray form</b>	
Uniform placement and development of blooms.....	20
Breadth and depth (Balance).....	20
Number of blooms.....	10
<b>Bloom Quality</b>	
Form.....	15
Freshness.....	15
Colour.....	10
Size.....	5
Foliage and stems.....	5
Staging.....	5
	100

Blooms are judged according to the potential of their type and their variety. In general, when judging a group of entries, the following are considered in the order given to form an aggregate total for each entry:

**Form:** Is it true to type? Is this vase representative of the variety?

**Size:** Has the size caused Coarseness Big is beautiful if the form is true to type?

**Freshness:** Are all the petals fresh? Does the bloom look tired?

**Colour:** Is it true to the Chrysanthemum cultivar? Is colour uniform throughout?

**Uniformity:** Are all blooms in the vase comparable in size, colour, form and characteristic?

**Foliage:** Is it fresh and of good colour?

**Staging:** Can all the blooms be seen? Are they pleasing to the eye?

The artistry in judging lies in the ability of the individual to readily perceive and weigh all the little factors which contribute to bloom quality, according to the standards for the type of bloom.

#### **FORM - Incurved**

Florets either rounded or pointed forming a solid symmetrical bloom.

#### **FORM - Reflex**

Viewed from above should be circular in outline. There are two main types: Fully reflexing type where florets reflex gracefully, or interlace and / or whorl. They may reflex from the "shoulder" or inward toward the stem.

The type with stiff florets which do not form a "shoulder" but have a spiky outline that is symmetrical with breadth and depth in proportion.

**Common Faults:** Bloom not at right-angles to stem; lack of depth; faded colour; centre weak, double or elongated, florets malformed; florets old, damaged.

**FORM - Intermediate:** Three main types are distinguishable:

A. Blooms with florets incurving to give a generally globular outline, but with an open floret formation showing the inner colour. This type rarely closes at the centre.

B. Blooms with florets incurving to give a generally globular outline with a closer floret formation showing very little of the inner colour. This type may sometimes close up the centre.

C. Blooms of lower florets reflexing to reveal the inner colour but with the upper florets incurving to show the reverse colour. There should be a gradual transition from reflexing from reflexing to incurving florets.

**COMMON FAULTS of Chrysanthemums:** Lack of depth; lack of symmetry; centres weak, double or elongated, "feathering" of florets at centre of closely incurving type; florets damaged or malformed; looseness of florets particularly at the base.

**FORM - Anemone** The "cushion" or centre should be a deep dome shape made up of evenly sized disc florets. The outline of the bloom as formed by the ray florets should be circular. Ray florets may be broad and flat or fluted and pointed. Some types have ray florets that are tubular with open, flattened spoon-like tips.

**FORM - Singles** These vary in the number of florets produced. A few in the medium flowered section produce more than the normal 5 rows and while these varieties should not be penalized, on a close decision the final choice should go to the bloom that conforms to the standard.

The central disc should be circular in shape and the pattern, made by the tiny florets, neat and regular. Ray florets must be broad and flat with uniformity of length so the outline of the flower is circular. A tendency for the tips to curl either upward or downward is not a fault if it is characteristic of the variety.

**FORM - Pompoms** Individual flowers may vary but the classic shape is still the ideal: A full, globular shape, well filled in to the stem. Any flatness or depression on the top is a serious fault.

**FORM - Sprays** The mass of flowers constituting a spray has a tendency to conceal individual blooms. As most sprays will be either Anemone, Pompom, Reflexed or Single types, the standard of those types must be applied to the individual flowers. Do not be misled by a mere mass of rather indifferent individual blooms. Five or more blooms should be open and fully developed.

**SIZE:** This is a relative thing. It must be assessed in terms of what the full, average potential of a Chrysanthemum variety may be as it is grown in the specific locality of the Show. Perfection of Form, all else being equal, is to be preferred to mere largeness in a bloom. Here again, if a large-grown Medium is shown against normal, large-size blooms, it must be judged on Size against the standard for Large Chrysanthemums.

**FRESHNESS:** The most perfect stage of a flower's potential beauty, considering not only the age and development of the flower, but also its freedom from damping, spotting or insect damage is the test under Freshness.

The complete globular form of the Incurved is only obtained when the centre has closed over neatly and tightly. A too young bloom will show a small pit or depression in the centre breaking its spherical outline; a too old bloom will have opened slightly in the centre, showing the start of a "daisy eye".

In the Reflexed and Intermediate types the ideal stage is reached just before the bloom is fully opened. There should still be a bit "more to come" in the centre with the centre still regular in outline and free from ridges or partings. However, blooms with too much centre are immature and should not be penalized.

Sometimes an apparently good centre will hide a totted cushion or a daisy eye. The centre petals may be lightly and gently parted with a pencil so that these conditions may be checked.

As flowers age, or from adverse weather conditions, the older florets begin to lose their freshness and become soft or stale at the base and underside of a bloom. The presence of wilted or brown florets at the base, or the indication of undue or excess floret plucking at the base, is a sure sign of age and lack of freshness. This can generally be seen but the best test is to raise the back of fingers and hand under the base. Dampness or staleness will be felt noticeably, if present.

**COLOUR:** This quality in Chrysanthemums, as in other kinds of flowers, is hard for anyone except an expert to assess. Colour variations in a single variety will vary with different soil and climatic conditions. Therefore, unless the true colour potential of each and every variety, and particularly as that variety grows in a certain locality is well known, the non-specialist judge has best judge colour on its cleanness and brilliance. A fading colour may be, but is not always, a sign of age. In multiple bloom exhibits where two or more colours are combined in a single exhibit, penalize if the colours clash or are not harmonious.

**NOTE:** In small shows, where blooms are shown by colour, it is advisable to check with the N.C.S. Register of Chrysanthemums to be sure the blooms are shown in their proper colour class. Mistakes that are frequently made are mauve colours (listed and pink in the N.C.S. Register) being shown as purples; and reds being shown as bronze.

**FOLIAGE:** While only 5 points are assigned for condition of foliage, much can be learned as to the general cultural excellence of a bloom from the condition of its foliage. Insect damage or spray residue is, of course, indicative of careless growing; limpness and drooping foliage indicates general lack of condition and freshness; foliage that is hard and brittle indicates over-feeding, usually of nitrogen, the results of which can also be seen in coarseness of the florets.

A bloom should be shown with, at least 2 and better 3, fully developed leaves. The stem must be in proportion to the size of the bloom it carries and should (unless otherwise called for in the Show Schedule) be 15" to 18" (38.10 - 45.72 cm) long. Unless specifically permitted by the schedule, wire supports of any kind are cause for disqualification.

**STAGING:** Blooms in multi-bloom classes should be arranged in the container so that each bloom can be seen to the best advantage. This includes the positioning the Chrysanthemum blooms, matching blooms in size and general uniformity. An exhibit containing 3 Incurved or 3 Reflexed is more appealing than one that is made up of all 3 types, and should be considered in a close decision.

In a very close competition the judges may decide they need to touch the blooms in a multi-bloom class, then make sure that a mark for Staging and Uniformity of bloom development is given first, as once the container is touched by judges, these categories could not be judged fairly again. It is preferable to lift the entire vase to see the underside of blooms.

**VASES, BOWLS AND BASKETS:** Chrysanthemums used in classes of Vases, and Bowls are usually arranged in a symmetrical dome shape that is to be viewed from all sides. The exhibit should have lightness of feeling, together with a pleasing arrangement and blending of colour. The size and quality of flowers must be in relative proportion to the size of the container used. Unless the schedule prohibits it, other foliage may be used for effect. Read the schedule carefully as regards Vases and Bowls, and be sure that an exhibit complies in every respect what the schedule calls for. The blooms used should be of good quality, fresh, free from damage of any kind.

Baskets are arranged to exhibit blooms viewed from either one side, or all around as called for in the schedule. Generally the larger sizes of blooms are used in baskets, although small blooms can be used for fillers. Unless prohibited by the schedule, foliage other than Chrysanthemum foliage may be used for effect. Watch particularly for over-crowding of too many blooms. Fewer blooms of good quality, well spaced and arranged so as to pleasingly fill the basket are to preferred to a mass of blooms just jammed in. Colour symmetry and colour harmony should be watched for, and the general placement of the blooms must have balance so the basket does not appear to be top heavy or lopsided.

A word of caution when judging Chrysanthemums in Baskets - the Chrysanthemums used are often all the left-over blooms that were not good enough for the show bench. Examine blooms carefully for quality and freshness. While a bit of over-dressing and plucking of wilted florets can be overlooked in a basket, definite tiredness, over maturity or under maturity should be penalized.

The following scale of points will indicate the relative value to assign in judging Baskets, Bowls and Vases.

**POINT SCORE**  
Baskets, Bowls and Vases

Lightness, artistic arrangement.....	35
Harmony or uniformity of colour.....	25
Freshness, condition of blooms.....	35
Container.....	<u>5</u>
	100

**COSMOS**

**Form:** The flower should be flat with circular outline; petals overlapping for 2/3 of their length tips may be either slightly serrated or smooth. Generally, there is a single row of petals but a few are semi-double. The central eye should be prominent and slightly darker insignificant petaloids.

**Colour:** Petals should be of a uniform solid colour without blotching. Any pollen on the petals is a sure sign of age.

**Stems :** should be thin and wiry, and may be twisted without penalty. Buds may be left on the stem or trimmed off clean. Foliage fine, wiry and of a dark green colour.

## POINT SCORE

Condition.....	25
Form.....	30
Colour.....	15
Stems.....	15
Uniformity.....	15
	100

### DAFFODILS NARCISSUS

The collective name for all daffodils, irrespective of the number of flowers on a stem or the size of the trumpet or cup is Narcissus. Thus the correct name for the variety would be Narcissus 'February Gold'.

#### Terminology:

**Trumpet:** When the centre tube is long it is referred to as a "Trumpet", but a short tube is referred to as a "cup".

**Perianth:** The six petals of the flower as a whole; a perianth segment is an individual petal.

**Corona:** The botanical term used to signify the trumpet or cup.

**CLASSIFICATION:** It is desirable to know all of the classification characteristics, but is essential to know the first four in order that you may be sure the flowers are shown in the proper size class. If a Daffodil whose perianth segment is longer than the corona, it is not a Trumpet and should not be shown in the trumpet class.

### DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS OF DIVISIONS OF DAFFODILS

**DIVISION 1: TRUMPET DAFFODILS OF GARDEN ORIGIN** One flower to a stem, trumpet or corona as long or longer than the perianth segments.

**DIVISION 2: LONG-CUPPED DAFFODILS OF GARDEN ORIGIN** One flower to a stem, cup or corona more than one-third but less than equal to the length of the perianth segments.

**DIVISION 3: SHORT-CUPPED DAFFODILS OF GARDEN ORIGIN** One flower to a stem, cup or corona not more than one-third the length of the perianth segments.

**DIVISION 4: DOUBLE DAFFODILS OF GARDEN ORIGIN** Double flowers including doubles in any division.

**DIVISION 5: TRIANDRUS DAFFODILS OF GARDEN ORIGIN** More than one flower to a stem, flowers usually drooping.

**DIVISION 6: CYCLAMINIUS DAFFODILS OF GARDEN ORIGIN** Perianth segments reflexed.

**DIVISION 7: JONQUILLA DAFFODILS OF GARDEN ORIGIN** Usually two to three flowers to a stem, fragrant. Reed-like foliage.

**DIVISION 8: TAZETTA DAFFODILS OF GARDEN ORIGIN** Two to eight flowers to a stem, very short cup, sweet scented.

**DIVISION 9: POETICUS DAFFODILS OF GARDEN ORIGIN** One flower to a stem, white perianth, small, flat cup edged red; fragrant.

**DIVISION 10:** All species and wild or reputedly wild forms and hybrids Double forms of these varieties are included.

**DIVISION 11: SPLIT CORONA DAFFODILS OF GARDEN ORIGIN** Corona split for at least a third of its length and lying back on the perianth.

**DIVISION 12: MISCELLANEOUS DAFFODILS** All daffodils not falling into any one of the foregoing divisions.

The Royal Horticultural Society issued a revised system of classification in 1977 with the divisions much the same as before but the subdivisions are replaced by the colour code. The colour code distinguishes the colour of the perianth and the corona.

Narcissus 'Green Island' is coded: 2W-GWY. The number 2 stands for Division 2, long cupped daffodils; W-means white for the colour of the perianth; GWY are different colours in the corona, which is green at the base where the perianth meets the corona, white in the mid-section, and yellow at the rim or edge.

## SCALE OF POINTS FOR DAFFODILS

For exhibits of 3 or more blooms

	RHS Scale (modified)	ADS SCALE
Condition.....	16	20
Form.....	16	20
Substance & Texture.....	12	15
Colour.....	16	15
Poise.....	12	10
Stem.....	8	10
Size (for variety).....	12	10
Uniformity.....	<u>8</u>	(*)
	100	

(\*)Note:

In the American Daffodil Scale "Uniformity" is considered under scoring for "Form".

### For exhibits of single bloom

Condition .....	16
Form .....	20
Substance & Texture .....	12
Colour .....	20
Poise .....	12
Stem .....	8
Size (for variety) .....	<u>12</u>
	100

It matters very little which Scale is used, as long as the same Scale is used throughout your judging. The number of points deducted for a fault or blemish likewise matters very little as long as it is consistently applied. For instance, if you deduct one point for a nick on one petal on one bloom, deduct one point for every nick on every petal on every bloom considered.

**Condition:** Flowers should be in their prime, fresh, fully developed, but not over developed or showing signs of age, clean and free from blemish and damage.

Watch for signs of browning on the lip of the corona and for over-development of seed pod behind the flower. Both are indications that the flower has passed its prime.

**Form:** Show daffodils in Divisions 1, 2 and 3 should be well proportioned with perianth segments overlapping, flat or slightly reflexed. In other Divisions, depending on variety, perianth segments may not be overlapping, but should be spaced uniformly or they may be twisted symmetrically in each segment or in alternate segments. Trumpet or Crown should be balanced in relation to perianth; any frills or flanges on corona should be even and uniform.

**Doubles:** (Division 4) should be symmetrical, both as to doubling of segments in the perianth and to pattern of the centre.

Division 5,6,7,8,9 and 10 generally have separated perianth segments that are reflexing and may be twisted. Watch for necks that are too long, weak or spindly.

**SUBSTANCE** is the material of which the flower is made and should be springy, firm, crisp and solid to touch, but not so heavy as to cause coarseness.

**TEXTURE** is the physical appearance of the surface. Watch for 'creped' or crinkled surfaces on the perianth.

**COLOUR:** The perianth should be of even colouring; colour of both perianth and corona should be pure and clean. Colour pattern in doubles should be symmetrical. Watch for colours that are muddy or dull; for spotting or flecking, particularly in the corona.

**POISE:** Flower head should be carried at almost a right angle to stem, or be inclined slightly upward, so as to look you in the face.

**EXCEPTIONS:** Most of those from Division 4 onward which may be slightly drooping to fully pendant as in Triandrus. Watch in Divisions 1 and 4 for drooping heads which is a fault or twisting of heads on neck in any Division.

**STEM:** Should be straight and proportionate in length and stoutness to the size of flower carried. Watch for stems which are heavily ridged, twisted or bulky.

**SIZE:** Should be judged for normal size of variety and not for largeness itself.

**NOTE:** If uncertain as to normal size of any one variety in a class, leave "Size" out of scoring or consideration for all entries in that particular class.

**UNIFORMITY:** Where more than one bloom is shown, blooms should be as nearly equal in size as possible. Do not penalize for varying length of stem unless one or more stems were obviously grown short, and not just cut short to exhibit blooms at two or more heights in container.

## DAHLIAS

### CLASSIFICATION OF DAHLIAS

#### SIZE

AA	Giant, over 10 inches in diameter (25.40 cm)
A	Large, over 8 to 10 inches in diameter (20.32-25.40 cm)
B	Medium, over 6 to 8 inches in diameter (15.24-20.32 cm)
BB	Small, over 4 to 6 inches in diameter (10.16-15.24 cm)
M	Miniature, up to 4 inches in diameter (10.16 cm)
BA	Ball, over 3.5 inches in diameter (8.89 cm)
MB	Miniature Ball, over 2 to 3.5 inches in diameter (5.08-8.89 cm)
P	Pompom, up to 2 inches in diameter (5.08 cm)
MS	Mignon single, up to 2 inches in diameter (5.08 cm)

#### FORMS OF DAHLIAS

Dahlias classified as Formal Decorative, Informal Decorative, Semi-Cactus, Cactus, Incurred Cactus, Laciniated, Ball, Miniature Ball, Pompom and Waterlily are fully double with the central rays spirally displayed. The mature petals which determine the size of the dahlia, determine the dahlia formation.

**FORMAL DECORATIVE:** Ray florets flat, partially revolute, or partially involute. Petals uniform and regularly arranged, tending to curve toward the stem.

**INFORMAL DECORATIVE:** Ray florets twisted, or curled or wavy; imparting a petal that is not flat. Petals may be partially revolute with their arrangement irregular.

**SEMI-CACTUS:** Ray florets broad at the base, straight, incurved or recurved; ray florets revolute for up to one-half of their length.

**STRAIGHT CACTUS:** Ray florets revolute for more than one-half their length; pointed, straight or recurved, radiating in all directions from the centre.

**INCURVED CACTUS:** Ray florets revolute for more than one-half their length; pointed, with pronounced curvature of petals toward the centre of the flower head.

**LACINIATED:** The split or laciniation should be in proportion to the ray floret length. There should be overall twisting in the area of the split involute or revolute ray florets, to give an overall fringed effect.

**BALL:** Fully double flowers, ball shaped or slightly flattened at the face, the ray florets blunt, rounded or indented, involute for most of their length, fully involute for about one-half their length, and normally displayed in a spiral arrangement.

**MINIATURE BALL DAHLIAS:** Same as Ball Dahlias differing only in size.

**POMPOM:** Fully double flowers similar to Ball dahlias but more globular and smaller in size; the ray florets involute for the whole of their length and fully involute for more than half their length.

**WATERLILY:** Bloom should be fully double and symmetrical; side view should be flat to saucer shaped in arrangement the layer of florets should be openly faced and dome-shaped breaking gradually to four to seven rows of fully developed outer florets; outer florets should be broad and slightly cupped. Bloom position preferred 45 degrees.

**PEONY:** Open centered dahlias with two or more rows of ray florets surrounding the disc flowers. Ray florets adjacent to the disc flowers may be smaller, twisted and/or curled.

**ANEMONE:** Dahlias with one or more rows of ray florets surrounding a centre of elongated tubular disc florets. The disc florets should be fully developed and present a domed, pincushion appearance.

**COLLARETTE:** Open faced dahlias with a single row of uniform evenly spaced compound ray florets in a flat plane surrounding the disc flowers. The petaloids surrounding the disc are less than one-half the length of the ray florets.

**SINGLE:** Open faced dahlias with a single row of uniform evenly spaced ray florets in a flat plane surrounding the disc flowers.

**MIGNON SINGLE:** Same as single dahlias except with the diameter up to two inches.

**ORCHID:** Open centred dahlias with a single row of uniform evenly spaced ray florets in a flat plane surrounding the disc flowers. The ray florets are involute for two-thirds or more of their length and fully involute for at least one-third of their length.

**NOVELTY:** Dahlias with characteristics differing from the present classifications. The two kinds of Novelties, one with open centres and the other with closed centres, should be judged against like kinds.

## POINTS TO CONSIDER IN JUDGING DAHLIAS

**COLOUR:** All colour divisions and colour ranges are equally important from a competitive standpoint. Judges must guard against personal colour likes and dislikes. Regardless of colour, appearance of green bracts among the colour florets is a serious fault, as are "wolf" petals, (individual florets of a different colour from the others).

**Light blend:** Blends of the lighter tints and tones of pink, yellow, lavender and other pastels; also two-toned varieties of pastel tints and tones in which the central rays are a different colour than the marginal rays.

**Dark blend:** Blends of low brilliance including any of the dark reds or purples with contrasting colour or colours.

**Variegated:** Two or more distinct colours on the face of the ray florets, the variegating colour arranged in dots, flecks, splashes, stripes or narrow lines which contrast with the basic colour.

**Bicolour:** Two distinctly clear and sharply separated colours on the face of the ray florets.

Colour should be clear clean, vibrant, bright, shiny, sparkling, lustrous, appealing. Single colour should be evenly distributed from the tip to base of the ray flower. Bicolour and variegated should have good distribution, good contrast with separation clean and sharp and in adequate quantity. Blends should be harmonious, even distribution, smooth and distinct.

**FAULTS IN COLOUR IN DAHLIAS** are dull, grayed, impure, splotchy or streaked colours. In bi-colours and variegated, colour breaks that are not sharp and clean or uneven, poor contrast. Blends: unharmonious, poor contrast, blending uneven. Effect of pest damage, spray deposits, mildew, virus or mosaic, showy bracts, water spotting, wolf petals, bruising, petaloids, two different unharmonious colours on the face and back of ray flower.

**FORM:** The bloom should be at the peak of development and true to type. The centre of the bloom should be symmetrical, circular, in good proportion in size for the bloom, adequate height, full, tight with more to come and centres exactly over the stem. The bloom should be symmetrical, circular in outline, even with no gaps, and the ray florets well-developed.

Depth of the bloom should be at least half to three-quarters its diameter in the decorative and cactus types. Viewed from the back, the bloom should be well finished with the involucre hidden by the floral rays. Check the back for signs of plucking, withered or damaged petals.

Faults include a centre that is elongated, too high or too low, not exactly above its stem, sparse rays in the centre, lopsided, hard, green or the stamens showing in double blooms. In the bloom, it should not be lopsided, bearded, show gaps in contour, rough formation, thin, insufficient ray flowers, missing ray flowers, pest damage, immature bloom or over-mature bloom. Over maturity may be indicated by a weak, over-developed centre, dull colour or by shriveled petals.

**SUBSTANCE:** Crisp, firm petallage, uniformly good on the face and the back. Thick heavy petals, without coarseness, with an attractive, sparkling, silky or lustrous texture are signs of good substance.

**SIZE:** Diameter: The bloom meets the size standard as shown in the Classification of Dahlias in the current year. Depth should be adequate for the dahlia type. Regardless of the size of the DAHLIA, a bloom must be entered as officially classified. Undersize or oversize blooms are not to be disqualified if they are entered according to the Classification of Dahlias.

**STEM:** The stem should be strong, straight, erect, graceful and in proportion to the size of the bloom it supports, both as to length and diameter. Faults include longitudinally ridged, or oval instead of round, faulty disbudding, crooked, too short, or too long, multiple stem, too heavy or too small, hooked at the juncture of the bloom.

**FOLIAGE:** a dahlia must always be shown with foliage attached to the stem. The foliage is an indicator of cultural excellence. It should be a good, clean green without trace of insect damage or spray residue. It should be crisp and fresh, but not brittle. Form of leaf pattern should be the same on opposite side of the stem; in compound leaves, all leaflets should be alike. Faults are leaves that are too large or too small. Folded, crinkled and discoloured leaves are also faults.

**BLOOM POSITION:** The preferred position of the bloom is an angle of 45 degrees between the bloom and the stem. Top facing blooms is desired in ball types and pompoms only. Faults are down facing blooms in all types. Side facing (bloom parallel to stem) is a fault but a lesser fault than down facing. Bloom should be facing squarely between the first pair of leaves.

**UNIFORMITY:** In multiple entries the exhibits must be uniform in size, colour and form. Each characteristic is to be considered and evaluated separately and the whole restudied for relationships.

**FLORIFEROUSNESS:** This attribute applies to a Trial Garden entry of three plants of the same Dahlia variety.

**DISTINCTIVENESS:** Is a superior quality in any one or more of: extra petallage, bloom position, substance, form, colour, depth and perfect formation.

## DISQUALIFICATION OF DAHLIA EXHIBITS

Exhibits must be disqualified if:

- blooms of pompoms exceed 2 inches in diameter (5.08 cm)
  - blooms are artificially supported above the top of the vase
  - incorrect number of bloom in an exhibit
  - blooms exhibited in the wrong class\*
- \* In some schedules of shows, the clerks or judges may be allowed to put the misplaced entries in the correct class.

### FAULTS

#### IT IS A VERY SERIOUS FAULT IF A BLOOM

- is malformed
- faces downwards
- has been badly damaged
- has limp drooping florets
- had an obvious number of florets removed
- a doubled flowered bloom has an open centre daisy-eyed with stamens showing
- has a centre that is hard and green, large and undeveloped or badly distorted
- has a gap created by a missing floret  
(singles, anemone-flowered, collarette, and peony)

Faults which may be either minor or serious depending on the amount by which the fault detracts from the perfection of the bloom:

- oval, sunken or isolated centres
- irregular or oval outline of bloom
- removed florets
- florets lacking freshness, or which are malformed
- stems which are bent, weak, short-jointed, thick and out of proportion
- uneven tipping if bi-coloured blooms
- uneven or inconsistent colouring
- shallow blooms lacking in depth or fullness
- blooms either immature or past their best

Dahlia blooms showing the centre disc, such as, singles, collarette, orchid-flowered or peony-flowered, the centre of the bloom must not have more than three rows of the disc flowers with pollen-bearing stamens.

The American Dahlia Society issues a new Classification and Handbook of Dahlias every year. Copies may be ordered from the Treasurer Mac Boyer, 16815 County Road 10, Bristol, IN 46507. Telephone (219) 848-4888.

## DAISIES (Michaelmas) Perennial Asters

These are almost always shown in classes calling for either one or three stems and either by single colour or mixed colours. If they are shown in classes calling for them by varietal names, they must be true to variety. This may lead to difficulties for both Judge and Exhibitor as there are many varieties showing so little difference that only an expert can distinguish between them. If faced with a named variety class the general flower judge had best accept them as tabled unless very certain of his ground.

When a schedule calls for Michaelmas Daisies, varieties most encountered are *Aster novae-angliae* or *A. novae-belgii* in many pastel colours and tall, fall blooming. Dwarf varieties should not be shown in the same class with tall varieties.

### POINT SCORE

Condition.....	20
Form of flowers.....	15
Form of flower head.....	30
Colour.....	25
Stem and Foliage.....	10
	100

The whole stem must be in good condition, fresh and crisp, with no dead flowers or withered leaves; no insect damage, and at least 50% of the individual flowers in the flower head open, more is preferable.

The form of the individual flowers of Michaelmas Daisies should be circular in outline with a prominent, well developed disc. A form that is lopsided or a disc that is oval are serious faults. Most flowers are single but some varieties may be semi-double or fully double. Only one type of flower should appear on a single stem. In judging, too much time cannot be spent on checking every flower in a head, but a quick check should show whether there is uniformity in form or whether poorly shaped flowers are present.

The form of the flower head (inflorescence) is the one most important feature of these flowers. There should be many flower bearing branches radiating out around the stem; each branch should be tipped with a dense mass of well poised and well shaped flowers. The general shape of the whole flower head should be circular, slightly conic, but slightly flattened on top.

Colours range from white through lavender, pink, blue to various shades of red. Some of the newer varieties show definite pastel colours. The colour should be clear, clean and bright, with a contrasting central disc of yellow or golden orange.

The central stem should be stiff, straight and strong enough to hold the entire head erect; the stems of the side branches should be strong enough to bear their flowers stiffly erect. They should curve upward and inward to form the close mass of the inflorescence. Foliage should be of a good bright green colour crisp and free from damage of any kind.

## **DELPHINIUMS**

Normally only hybrid Delphiniums are, or should be shown, as the species Delphiniums do not have the class, form or substance to be found in the modern hybrid varieties.

## **TERMINOLOGY OF DELPHINIUMS**

**Bee:** the eye or central portion of the flower composed of petals.

**Column:** that type of spike in which there is slight, or no tapering, the top being nearly as broad as the base.

**Double:** spikes whose florets are composed of more than 2 rows of sepals, with or without "bees".

**Floret:** one of the individual flowers on the spike forming part of the inflorescence.

**Inflorescence:** the flowering part of the spike.

**Lateral:** a side branch bearing inflorescence issuing from an axil of a leaf beneath the base of the main inflorescence.

**Pedicel:** the stem of one of the florets.

**Petal:** one of the parts comprising the "bee".

**Sepal:** one of the parts comprising the main portion of the floret, commonly, but incorrectly, called a "petal".

**Single:** spikes whose florets are composed of 1 or 2 rows of sepals in addition to the petals forming the "bee".

**Spike:** the entire inflorescence. It may or may not include some or all of the laterals.

**Spire:** that type of spike in which there is pronounced tapering from the base to the tip.

## CLASSIFICATION OF HYBRID DELPHINIUMS

- By floret form:** Single one row of petals and at least 5 petals forming the eye.  
Semi-double, two rows of petals with or without eye.  
Double, ore than two rows of petals with or without eye.
- By spike form:** Column massive, slightly tapering  
Column slender, slightly tapering  
Conical, round and broad  
Loose, open formation of florets

### POINT SCORE

	R.H.S.
Condition.....	5
Form of spike.....	5
Form of floret.....	3
Colour.....	4
Uniformity.....	3
	20

### American Delphinium Society

Shape & form or spike.....	10
Colour.....	25
Flower spike length.....	10
Flower spike symmetry.....	10
Flower size.....	10
Flower placement.....	10
Flower substance.....	5
Foliage.....	10
General perfection, artistry, fragrance, new types of sepals, bees or colour.....	10
	100

Spikes should be long and straight. Good shape and form of the spike is more important than mere length. Depending on variety, the spike should be either uniformly tapered from base to tip or uniformly column in shape, almost as broad and rounded at tip as at the base. Laterals may or may not be present. If they improve the overall appearance of the spike they are permissible. Do not reject if laterals present or not. The Delphinium spike should be well and evenly filled with florets uniformly placed and spaced so there are no gaps. Florets must not be loose son stem. Tapping the stem will cause loose petals and sepals to fall without handling. The florets should be large and circular in outline with broad sepals of good substance.

All florets should be open from base to tip with no faded or fallen sepals. If faded florets are removed from base there should be no indication of their removal. It is permissible to remove dead or faded florets from the centre of the column, provided no holes or gaps are left by removal. Tiny seed pods should be carefully removed from the base. If seed pods are visible, points should be deducted.

Some foliage should be left on lower part of the spike below the inflorescence. It should be of a good uniform colour, free from insect and/or spray damage. When laterals have been removed the stubs in the leaf axils should not be conspicuous.

Colour is very important but difficult to assess in value unless the varietal colour range is known. Colours may be light, medium or dark; some may be light, medium or dark bi-colours, generally blending blue, pink, mauve, purple or other colours either on the sepal, or on different sepals in same row, or with the outer row of sepals on colour, and the inner row of sepals a different colour. The best assessment of colours is: are they clean, pure and brilliant? Dull, muddy or faded colours are definite faults.

### **PINKS (Dianthus)**

There is a great deal of confusion and uncertainty both in schedule writing and among judges as to the classification of Pinks, Garden Pinks, Border Carnations and others. Unless you know, it is best to accept entries as staged. Pinks or Garden Pinks, which may be single or double, are judged under the same point score. True Carnations should be in separate classes. They are larger and have high, large full centres.

#### **POINT SCORE FOR PINKS**

Condition.....	20
Form of flower.....	25
Calyces and stems.....	20
Colour.....	15
Fragrance.....	10
Uniformity.....	10
	100

To be in good condition, flowers must be fresh, crisp and free from damage of any kind and with unbroken calyces.

The form varies greatly with the variety but all should have a distinct rounded outline, and except in certain varieties of Dianthus, petals are well overlapped, generally lying flat. The Dianthus 'Loveliness' and a few others have lacy petals quite widely separated. Petal edges may either be plain or serrated. Centre petals may stand up somewhat and form a flat crown. They may be shown with side buds.

Stems should be strong, straight and stout enough to hold flowers and unopened buds erect. Calyces should hug the base of flower closely and should be unbroken.

Colour or colours should be clean, clear, bright and well defined. Range is from white through pink to rose-red, some have a darker pattern to centre of petal ring, in which case the pattern should be uniform.

There should be a strong, clean, fresh fragrance. Absence of this characteristic fragrance is a serious fault.

### **TRAY PAN POT PLATE OR DISH GARDENS**

Tray and Pot Gardens will usually be found in Adult sections. Pan and Dish Gardens will generally be restricted to Junior sections.

Most schedules are very loosely worded as to what is required in Tray, Pan, Pot, Plate or Dish Gardens. If the judge has any doubt as to what is meant or required, get a ruling before starting the judging.

### **DEFINITIONS:**

**Tray:** a very flat container, often with no sides and seldom of a greater depth than one inch (2.54 cm). In shape it may be rectangular, oval, square or round in the order of preference given in the schedule.

**Pan or Pot:** a stone or pottery container in soft, muted colours. The most pleasing sizes are 4 by 3 inches (10.16 x 7.62 cm) in rectangular shape. The depth seldom exceeds 2 inches (5.08 cm).

**Dish:** A deeper container up to 4 inches (10.16 cm) usually pottery, round, square or oval in dull muted colours.

**Plate:** Generally confined to Junior classes and may be anything as to shape and material. Aluminum plates are mostly by children because they are readily available but likely the least suitable. Do not score down for the use of an aluminum plate.

**Proportion and Scale:** These are important terms that are generally loosely used and not well understood.

**Proportion:** Refers to the AMOUNT of material used and the balance of that amount to the whole.

**Scale:** Refers to the SIZE of the material which must be in keeping with the whole. There is a great difference both in execution and in the judging of an adult's Tray or Pot Garden and a child's Dish or Pie Plate Garden. A Tray or Pot garden should convey a definite feeling, even if executed in an abstract manner; a Pie Plate garden will likely only be a depiction of something the child is familiar with, unless ranging far into fantasy, and the schedule will be interpreted literally. In judging a child's garden much more leeway must be given; there must be more tolerance in applying rules and yardsticks.

### **Tray or Dish Landscapes or Gardens**

Usually a three-dimensional reproduction of some natural scene either actual or fancied. There must be a focal point or centre of interest that draws the eye. It can be a rock outcrop depicting a distant mountain or a single gnarled, old-looking tree or a clump of trees. Sand or fine soil may be used to depict the sea or water. Figurines may be used if in scale and sparingly used. All material should be living and be placed to insure life for the life of the show.

### **True Japanese Tray Landscapes**

Any arrangement of natural or artificial stones and sand, with or without artificial plant material and with or without figurines, almost invariably depicting a distant scene. Usually constructed and shown on a very shallow pottery tray or a lacquered board or tray.

### **Pan, Pot or Dish Gardens**

These differ from Tray Landscapes in that they usually represent a corner or section of a garden with masses of ground cover, dwarf evergreens and tiny flowers set in borders or beds. Container usually of pottery similar to Bonsai dishes or of concrete, deeper than a Tray. These are almost always representations of a real garden, rather than the view of a natural scene. Proportion and scale are of great importance; usually there is a tendency to crowd too much material into the picture and so give a cluttered unreal effect. Generally a large rock or fine miniature tree is the focal point forming the background for the actual garden. If a pond is included it preferably should contain actual water and be unobtrusively placed, as are most garden pools.

A child's pool may be represented by a bit of a mirror or even foil. The use of figurines, human or animal may or may not be used but must add to the whole, or be left out.

Real art lies in the ability to convey an impression or feeling with a minimum of material.

## POINT SCORE FOR ADULT TRAY, PAN, POT, DISH GARDENS

Scale of material used.....	25
Proportion (Container & materials)....	20
Design of composition.....	10
Suitability of material.....	10
Imagination & originality.....	10
Colour combination & blending.....	10
Condition of material.....	10
Neatness and finish.....	5
	100

### CHILDREN'S GARDENS

### PIE PLATE GARDENS, ETC.

Children are much more inclined to be literal in their representation; faults are inclined to be glaring to the adult eye; scale and proportion may be lacking to a large extent; plant material usually will be fading or wilting when judged. All of these faults will be easily recognized, but should be accepted, not from an adults eye, but from the child's viewpoint. The measure of a good child's Pie Plate Garden lies not in its exact design, nor in the container used, nor in its line, mass or balance, colour combination or condition of material, but in the maker's eye and imagination. Did the maker have an idea and was it carried out?

## POINT SCORE FOR CHILDREN'S GARDENS

Scale.....	40
Proportion.....	20
Imagination.....	20
Design.....	10
Condition of material.....	5
Neatness and finish.....	5
	100

### ERYNGIUM Sea Holly

An herbaceous perennial with somewhat thistle like appearance, the central disc being in a cone shape, the surrounding petals are narrow, lacinated and sharply pointed with an inner row of spiky guard petals. The entire flower head of ERYNGIUM is a brilliant steel-blue colour on its upper surface when in its prime. The upper whorl of spiky lacinated leaves is green-tinged and edged with blue. The lower and older leaves are less deeply lacinated and are generally dull green in colour in uppermost sections. Older specimens show some dulling of the steel blue colour.

## FUCHSIAS

Fuchsias are generally exhibited as standards, half-standards, table-standards, bushes, shrubs or in the case of pendulous types, in hanging baskets or other type of hanging container.

### Definition and Rules for Judging Fuchsia Forms

**Full Basket or Half Basket:** Shall present a balanced effect of evenly distributed streamer of foliage and flowers. Branches should present an even appearance and shall extend below the container, preferably to cover two-thirds or more of the container.

**Bush Fuchsia:** A bush fuchsia is an upright fuchsia plant with a single straight stem approximately one-fifth of the total height of the plant. One plant to a container presenting a balanced effect of flowers and foliage when viewed from any side. Plant should be in the centre of the container, two or three times the height of the container. No branches, flowers, etc. to extend below or touch the soil surface.

**Shrub Fuchsia:** One plant with a number of stems origination from the soil surface, none of which dominates. The plant should be two or three times the height of the container with a profusion of flowers and foliage and present a balanced effect from all sides.

**Standard or Tree Fuchsia:** Shall have one straight trunk free from leaves and deformity. The Crown or head shall be a profusion of branches, flowers and foliage presenting a balanced effect from all sides.

**Tall Standard:** Stem height 40 inches or over.(1.01 m)

**Medium Standard:** Stem height 30 to 40 inches.(0.76-1.01 m)

**Low or Table Standard:** Stem height 18 to 30 inches.(0.45-0.76 m)

To determine stem height measure from the soil surface to the lowest branch. One plant per container, single straight trunk, free from leaves, stubs, flowers or other deformity. The crown is usually grown following one of two styles: Upright or weeping. A supporting stake may be used but it should not extend above the head of the standard.

## DECORATIVE FORMS

**Fan:** Trellises and fans are single plants grown and trained on a rigid frame. They should present a well balanced plant on both sides of the centre, well covered with foliage and a profusion of blossoms when viewed from the front.

**Espalier:** Shall have vertical stem with a series of branches opposite each other. It shall present a well balanced effect with a profusion of flowers and foliage. The grower must indicate the "form" attempted on the entry form and identification label.

**Miniature:** A single plant growing in a three-inch (7.62 cm) or smaller container. Flowers, leaves and height should be in proportion. Size limitation: not more than 15 inches (38.1 cm) in any dimension. A small pot may be set inside a larger container for stability.

**POINT SCORE**  
**American Fuchsia Society, 1986**

Cultural Proficiency.....	40
Growth Uniformity.....	10
Growth Fullness.....	10
Freshness of foliage.....	10
Culture and training.....	10
 Quality and Quantity of bloom.....	 40
Amount of bloom.....	10
Evenness of distribution.....	15
Condition of flowers.....	15
 General Presentation.....	 15
Grooming.....	5
Free from insects, disease.....	3
Size of container.....	3
Condition of container.....	2
Supports.....	2
 Labeling for Cultivar.....	 5
Correctness.....	2
Legibility and neatness.....	2
Visibility.....	1
 TOTAL SCORE	 <u>100</u>

Plants should show sturdy or vigorous growth, be generally symmetrical and well developed all around the specimen. They should be very floriferous with plentiful clean, green foliage. Supports or ties are permitted but should be inconspicuous.

Pendulous varieties should droop gracefully and uniformly over and hang down from the container in long streamers. Colours should be bright, clear and clean. In bi-colours the blending should be harmonious and uniform over the entire plant.

## POINT SCORE FOR FUCHSIAS WITH VARIEGATED FOLIAGE

Quality of plant.....	25
Leaf colour.....	25
Foliage.....	20
Form, proportion, balance.....	20
Container.....	5
Labeling.....	5
	<u>100</u>

## POINT SCORE FOR BLOOMS

Perfection of bloom.....	50
Freshness of bloom.....	30
Presentation.....	10
Correct Labeling.....	10
	<u>100</u>

## GARDEN COMPETITIONS

Judges are occasionally asked to judge community garden competitions. In order to save time the gardens entered should be pre-judged by some member or members of the Group or Committee staging the competition and the poorer gardens eliminated.

Be sure the judges understand fully and exactly just what is required to be judged and in how many sub-categories decisions are to be made. There should be at least two judges for garden competitions, and they should be accompanied by a member of the committee when making their rounds. Avoid, as far as possible, learning the names of garden owners or of meeting them while judging.

On arriving at a garden each Judge should judge independently of each other, entering points earned on their score sheets. When all the gardens have been judged add total points awarded by all the judges to each garden entered to get the total scores.

## SUGGESTED POINT SCORE FOR GARDEN COMPETITIONS

Health, vigor and suitability of plants.....	100
Suitability of design to its site and usage.....	75
Maintenance of paths, structures, grassed areas and/or ground covers, working areas.....	50
Cultivation and freedom from perennial weeds.....	50
Harmonious blending of colours, shapes and textures.....	<u>75</u>
TOTAL	350

## CHILDREN'S GARDENS

In children's competitions, selected seeds are generally provided and all grow identical flowers and/or vegetables. Considerable tolerance must be used in judging these gardens because the child invariably gets the poorest section of the garden to work in and they are not as inclined to give constant care to a garden as an adult.

### POINT SCORE

Growth and health of plants.....	40
Freedom from weeds.....	20
Care, neatness, appearance.....	15
General layout.....	15
Naming varieties.....	10
	100

## GESNERIADS

Many growers and judges of Gesneriads come to these plants through their interest in Saintpaulia, but their growth habits are entirely different. We should be aware that such plants exist and we may some day encounter them in a show.

All Gesneriads have fibrous roots; some, in addition, have tuber and/or scaly rhizomes which are modified stem structures which permit storage of material needed for growth during periods of dormancy.

### BASIC TYPES OF GROWTH PATTERNS MANIFESTED BY GESNERIADS

**Rosette** - The growth is radical, outward from a central point with new growth of small leaves in the middle and larger older leaves forming the perimeter. This plant expands in width rather than height.

**Cone** - This form is a derivation of the rosette with centre axis elongated, like a stack of rosettes in diminishing smaller ones as the stem grows taller. It has a terminal inflorescence or flowers clustered in the upper axis.

**Fountain** - Plants of this type are elongated stems of indeterminate length and leaves with little differentiation of size from one end of the stem to the other. Usually trailing in habit, some plants may be erect or spreading. Spreading plants should be well branched and evenly balanced. Erect plants may have single or multiple straight stems.

Not all Gesneriads conform to these simple geometric concepts. Cultural conditions, age of specimen, limitations of growing space and exhibitors preference all influence the type of growth pattern produced.

