

MASSACHUSETTS BEAUTIFUL Acton Garden Club 2013 Flower Show

Hints for the Horticulture Division

The following are some tips and hints on preparing specimens for the Horticulture Division of the Flower Show scheduled for September 23-24. It should be used in conjunction with the Flower Show schedule. **Entries will be accepted at the Acton Memorial Library from 11:00AM to 2:00PM on Sunday September 22nd.** A Horticulture Entry Form already filled out must accompany each of your plant specimens. Our entry time is limited and this helps expedite the process.

ALL members of the Acton Garden Club are eligible and requested to participate.



READ the schedule. It tells you:
WHAT you can enter
SIZE requirements
WHEN and WHERE to bring your specimens

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call Phyllis McDonough (978-263-1208). If she does not know the answer, she will refer you to someone who does.



GENERAL INFORMATION

1. You must have had a specimen in your possession for at least 3 months in order to enter it in the show.
2. There is no limit to the number of entries you may submit.
3. More than one entry per class may be made by the exhibitor, provided EACH is of a different cultivar, type or color.
4. **Be prepared to spend some time when you bring your specimens in.** There are several steps to the entry process and you may have to wait in line
5. All specimens in Sections B, D, E, and F must be in bloom. If the flower stem has leaves do not remove unless they are below the water line.
6. Section C should include leaves and seed heads.
7. When measuring cut specimens, measure from the base to the tip.
8. Cut stems as long as possible. They can be trimmed at the show.
9. Leaves and flowers must be CLEAN.
10. Remove all diseased and damaged leaves.
11. Control all pests before coming to the show. **DO NOT** bring any specimen that has any pest problem. It is not fair to the other exhibitors and will not be accepted.
12. "Gardener's Choice" is any specimen that belongs in a section but is not specifically listed.
13. Have your specimen classified as to genus, species and cultivar, etc. **before** bringing it to the show, for example Rudbeckia flugida 'Goldstrum'. Refer to the labels you saved or your list of plants. Use references. There will be members at Classification who can help with this, but it really slows down the entry process for everyone and we cannot guarantee identification at this time. Botanical names are required for vegetables. For example, Daucus carota (carrot). If the specimen is a cultivar, include the cultivar name.
14. Most garden catalogs have pictures. They can be very helpful in identifying plants.
15. Each class will be eligible for 1st Place, 2nd Place, 3rd Place and Honorable Mention ribbons.
16. **All entries and ribbons must be picked up at 5:00 P.M. on Tuesday** the last day of the show, or the committee will dispose of them.

PRECONDITIONING

1. Watering
Plants should have the equivalent of an inch of water per week during the summer for best results.
2. Frost
If a frost is expected, cover your plants with newspapers, sheets, blankets or baskets or a "wall of water". Be sure the covering is not too heavy for the plants. Also remember to uncover the plants in the morning.



SECTION SPECIFIC INFORMATION

1. Section A. Branches



- Bring more than one branch and select the best one at entry time.
- Look for typical shape of branch.
- Class 3 & 4 branches must have flowers or fruit present. Flowers or fruit should not be overripe or damaged and should be typical for the variety.

2. Section B. Perennials

Helianthus tuberosus is a perennial, not a tuber.

3. Section F. Roses

There must be no side buds. Evidence of recent disbudding will lose you points. The flower should be 1/2 - 3/4 open on a stem long enough to complement it, with enough foliage to “clothe the stem well” and also to complement the blossom. No thorns below the water line.

4. Section G. Container Plants Grown for Foliage

Other suggestions for plants are hostas in a pot, herbs in a pot or house plants grown primarily for foliage.

3. Section H. Vegetables

- Refer to the enclosed “Vegetables in the Flower Show” sheet for information specific to each type, especially the length of stems on vegetables. Show the best side of the specimen. For instance, the side of a pumpkin that was on the ground should not be facing the judges.

CONDITIONING AT TIME OF CUTTING

1. General

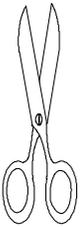
Plants from which you are going to take flowers or cuttings, should be well watered before cutting. Cut specimens in early morning or late afternoon. Use a sharp knife or scissors. Put specimens into warm water immediately. Keep stems straight so flowers don't lean. Place container in dark, cool place for 12 hours or so. Flowers that exude milky sap should have their stem tips seared by flame before putting in water. Re-treat if you cut the stem again.

2. Roses

Plants should be well watered before cuttings are made. Immediately after cutting the rose, put the stem in warm water and cut again on the diagonal while it is under the water.

3. Woody Branches

Crush the lower 2 inches or so of the stem with a blunt object to increase water uptake.



TRANSPORTATION

1 Cut specimens

Milk jugs or cartons, water pics, as well as buckets may be used. Protect flowers with tissue paper. Place smaller containers in larger one held apart by scrunched-up newspapers.

- For all specimens: newspaper tents or dry cleaner's bags will protect from wind and cold.



REMEMBER



NO BUGS



**PICK UP AT 5PM
TUESDAY**

Know the specimen's
genus, species and
cultivar before you
arrive.