

TIPS FOR PREPARING YOUR ENTRIES FOR THE FLOWER SHOW

- No wiring, oiling or plant shine is permitted in Horticulture Classes.
- Evidence of spray, dust, insect damage or faded petals should be removed.
- Spray residue can be removed by gently stroking with a paint brush or stocking.
- By googling the common name of a plant you can get its scientific name.
- The Latin name, when handwritten is underlined.

Flowers

- When deciding on a flower(s) you wish to exhibit, be sure to disbud side buds—the sooner the better.
- When selecting an annual or perennial that requires more than 1 bloom, make sure all blooms are identical in size, etc.
- Pick flowers in the evening before the show. Place flower stems in tepid water and place in a cool dark place overnight to harden off and condition (e.g., Refrigerator)
- Always bring more flowers than necessary, in case one or more breaks in transit.
- Cut flowers with a knife or scissors. Cut the stem on a slant to allow maximum water to be taken up.
- Flowers should be open and mature, but not past their prime.
- Roses should be $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{3}{4}$ open.

Branches

- Select branches of trees/shrubs without insect or disease damage. If damage exists, cut it off. Proper grooming is important.
- Be sure to measure your branches to conform to the schedule.

Container-Grown Plants

- Container should be clean and plants in scale with size of the container.
- Container plants should be well groomed. There should be no seed pods, wilted flowers, broken stems, no damage or unclean foliage.
- In a container, accessories are not permitted.
- In a planter, plants should have similar growing conditions, interesting form, unusual foliage and/or attractive flowers. Judges are looking for cultural perfection of plant material, good color harmony and suitability of container.
- Flowering plants in a container should be in bloom with $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ of the flowers open, remainder in bud, spent blooms removed.

Vegetables

- In selecting vegetables, make sure all vegetables in a category are the same size as well as the same variety.
- All vegetables should be labeled with a Latin name as well as the variety name.