Horticulture Classification

Horticulture Exhibiting Guidelines for Success
(and Blue Ribbons and Awards of Merit)
How to Prepare for the Flower Show

- Acquire a list of the Horticulture Sections in the show to plan your entries
  - Purchase seeds or seedlings to grow for entries
  - Start grooming established plantings with an eye to a suitable entry
  - Check botanical information needed
- Properly condition plant material for the Flower Show Entry
- Learn to groom plant material for a Flower Show Exhibit
- Study how to write an NGC Horticulture Entry Card
Conditioning Plant Material for Exhibiting at an NGC Flower Show

• Mature plant material is more stable than immature specimen
• Well hydrated plant material will ‘hold up’ better than dry material—deep water unless a soaking rain has occurred in the very recent past
• Gather possible exhibits
  – Early in the morning or later in the evening
  – Choose several possibilities
• Necessary equipment
  – Clean, sharp shears
  – Large sterile bucket with clean tepid water
Plant Conditioning, continued

• Choices
  – Select more than one specimen of each possible entry—immediately ‘plunge’ into the tepid water with a fresh diagonal cut (applies to all plants including woody specimens)
  – Place in a cool dark place over night or several hours
  – Make final selection decisions
    • Peak of perfection
    • No blemishes
    • Clear color
    • Strong stem
    • **Follow all Flower Show Schedule requirements** as stated in the Schedule
    • With two super specimens of the same genus and species, take both. make final choice prior to entry
Grooming Plant Material

Accomplished after Conditioning

• Cleaning the specimen (wash if necessary)
  – Remove any debris including insects, damaged foliage, seedpods, etc.
  – Inspect for disease— if present discard specimen
  – Prune any dead stems/branches to reshape and balance the specimen
  – Remove all foliage which could be below the container water line

• Suggested tools to clean plants
  • Cut foliage can generally be gently washed in tepid water with a mild soap and thoroughly rinsed—be gentle!
  • Flowering specimens and houseplants can be washed using a spray bottle or sink sprayer—*gently, ever so gently*
  • A soft brush (like a clean makeup brush) can be used to clean in crevices and ridges
Grooming, continued

• Houseplants
  – Require a bit of special attention beyond cleaning and grooming the plant material
  – All containers should be spotlessly clean—(no moss even if it enhances the container)
  – Double potting is allowed unless specifically disallowed in the Schedule (check the Flower Show Schedule Horticulture Rules)
    • Both pots should be clean
    • Inner pot should not show above the exterior pot
    • It is permissible to top dress the container with an appropriate material as long as the Schedule does not disallow it
  – Absolutely no surface treatment (plant shine) is permitted on the foliage or blooms of any cut or container specimens exhibited in a Standard Flower Show
Writing a Horticulture Entry Tag

• Why is this important!!!
  – NGC and GCG both emphasize EDUCATION and correctly identified specimens provide important horticulture information to all members and guests of the flower show
    • A correctly identified specimen can be researched or purchased for the visitor’s purposes
    • NGC Flower Show Top Awards cannot be awarded if the exhibit is not correctly identified
Let’s Do a Hort Card Step by Step

Use a sharp pencil!! (with an eraser)

• First line—Correct name & date for the flower show
• Second section—need a Flower Show Schedule or copy of the Horticulture Classes
  – Division—for Daisy Rocks Horticulture is Division II
  – Section—based on specimen
    • Each section is based on specific type of plant—annual, perennial, tree, vegetable, ect.
    • Every flower show is different—read the Schedule carefully several months/weeks prior to show to enable you to plan what you will be entering within the specific time requirements
  – Entry number is not applicable for Yellow Daisy, but if it is being used the Placement Committee will assign it
• Variety or Class name, “A plant is identified by its binomial name or currently accepted scientific identification and required for an exhibit to win an NGC top exhibitor award” quoted from *Horticulture Exhibiting and Judging*
  
  – **Binomial** name includes
    
    • Genus (capital first letter)
    • Species (all lower case letters)
    • *Both genus and species are underlined when hand written (if typed use italics and no underlining)*
  
  – If exhibitor knows **variety or Cultivar** it is included with the binomial (genus and species)
    
    • **Variety** is a natural occurring difference—Nature does this
    • Binomial for a white Colorado Blue Spruce is *Picea pungens glauca* (note: glauca is not a cultivar it is a variety—underlined with genus and species (Colorado blue spruce with white overtones!))
• **Cultivar** is a plant which has been improved or changed by human techniques
  
  – Binomial genus and species is written and underlined as stated for a variety EXCEPT the cultivar name is capitalized and is placed in single quotes and not underlined—*Zinnia elegans* ‘Envy’
  
  – There are several more variables—hybrids, trademarked cultivars, etc. But we are not going to worry about that—there will be knowledgeable people at the classification desk and they can help you with advise
  
  – If you do not know the exact name of the variety or cultivar do not guess—that is confusing to the person searching for information
• If the common name is known it can be included on the line under the Variety or Class Name

• Do not substitute the Family name for genus!!
  – The family name is a classification describing a family of plants with broad similar characteristics
  – Latin names typically ending in “aceae”
  – Lamiaceae is a family of approximately 7,000 species! The largest genera are *Salvia* (900), *Scutellaria* (360), *Stachys* (300), *Plectranthus Vitex*, (250) *Thymus* (220), and *Nepeta* (200).†
• The is absolutely no reason not to get your Horticulture Cards basic information completed prior to the show!!!
• The Hort Cards are available from the DeKalb Garden Center, your garden club, flower show horticulture chairman,
• And good luck on Sept 4 or the morning of Sept 5—times set aside for your entries to be completed
• Your success is important to Redbud District
The Rest of the Hort Card

- The challenging part is over! The rest is easy--
  - Exhibitor is you—your name goes here
  - Address—not much room but I use mailing stickers—cut off the logo and use the smallest ones available and also eliminates writing your name on the Exhibitor line
  - Club—name of your club for Flower Show records and sometimes special awards for the club
  - 1\textsuperscript{st}, 2\textsuperscript{nd}, 3\textsuperscript{rd}, honorable mention and EXHIBIT SCORED 90+ is completed by the judges
  - The next section is a repeat of the previous 3 lines
  - Last section is a repeat of the second section (Division etc.) plus a repeat of the Variety or Class Name
After the Hort Card is Completed

• Make your specimen available to the Classification Committee for final checking for accuracy and correctness

• When Classification OK’s your ‘entry’ the specimen officially becomes an EXHIBIT and the Placement Committee properly places your EXHIBIT on the appropriate spot where it joins all the rest of the specific genus and species as your exhibit. Classification volunteers will, after all EXHIBITS are in place, sub-classify them so that your EXHIBIT is judged with like EXHIBITS.

• The EXHIBITS are available for viewing when the Flower Show is officially opened to the public

• As an exhibitor you have one more responsibility—to return at the appointed time when the Flower Show is closed to the public and collect all your Hort Cards which no longer have the bottom section. This section has been collected by the clerks and recorded in the records of the Flower Show! Simply amazing how it all works
Resources for Binomial Information

- **Horticulture Exhibiting and Judging** from NGC expensive but helpful with card details
- **Southern Living Garden Book** is an easy ‘look up’ format—gives common names listed alphabetically with reference to botanical name which is also listed alphabetically (note: because of recent reclassifications the information is not always current, but the judges have been instructed to not deduct points for this unavoidable situation.)

- The internet images can be a great help! Search the common name or the binomial to validate your decisions.

- Reputable horticulture catalogs are useful IF they include binomials in their information
Two More Opportunities for Help

• After you have exhausted all the other suggestions for help—call me! Gail Berthe gail.berthe@gmail.com. Do I know all the answers—goodness no! But I do have some good research ideas and working together we may find the correct answer

• At the Flower Show on ‘set up’ day when entries are made there will be specific people to help with an unknown genus species—but YOU ARE EXPECTED TO MAKE A DEDICATED EFFORT to determine the solution prior to the show
National Garden Clubs, Inc.

**Daisy Rocks Yellow Daisy F.S. Sept 5-7 2014**

**Division** | **Section** | **Class No.** | **Entry No.**
---|---|---|---
II | C | 13 | ---

**Tagetes patula 'Jazie'**

VARIETY OR CLASS NAME

French Marigold

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**EXHIBITOR**

Suzie Sunshine

**ADDRESS**

32 Candy Flower Lane 30292

**CLUB**

Blooming Designs Garden Club

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**EXHIBIT SCORED 90+**

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**EXHIBITOR**

Suzie Sunshine

**ADDRESS**

32 Candy Flower Lane

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