

How to Enter Blooms in a Show

Selecting a bloom:

- Down-facing (can clothespin in place)
- Fresh bloom with no drooping petals
- Just fully opened
- If everything else is equal and you have a choice, select the larger bloom
- Symmetrical form
- No blemishes from weather or physical damage and no petal blight
- Fresh stamens in a neat cone preferably without stray petaloides
- Evenly distributed variegation on the bloom, if variegated
- Choose a nice leaf (no blemishes) in good proportion to bloom
- For a tray of three blooms of a variety try to find three that match as closely as possible

Preparing to transport:

- Grouping in boxes by entry classes (japonica, reticulata, etc.) speeds entries
- Cut bloom from plant with a 2"-3" stem.
- Cut all leaves from stem
- Cut good leaf from the plant
- Prepare leaf, cut, polish with cloth.
- Choose a cup in good proportion to bloom
- Place leaf in a cup of Perlite, filled with warm water (add floral conditioner if schedule does not prohibit), reducing in size or stem length as necessary
- Re-cut stem of bloom to 1" and insert in front of leaf tilting so that it slightly faces the judges
- Place bloom cups in sweater box filled with waxed Easter grass or Styrofoam to hold cups steady when box is moved
- Write bloom name on slip of paper and place next to bloom in box (ballpoint pen)
- Prepare entry card (use *Nomenclature*)
- Prepare a list of blooms you are taking
- Refrigerate box at 40° F
- Tape sandwich bag of cards to box lid

Entering the show.

Take the following:

- *Nomenclature*
- Blooms and extra leaves
- Extra cups
- Take extra cards, pencil and eraser, ballpoint pen
- Scissors, tweezers, brush, Q-tips, secateurs, cotton balls, ruler

Placement of the bloom on the table:

Note position of leaf either straight up or angled to the right or left



Tray of three blooms of one variety:

- Blooms of identical size, shape, stamens, petal formation and size
- Leaves pointing the same direction

Bloom sizes:

Miniature: less than or equal to 2 ½ inches

Small: over 2 ½ inches to 3 inches

Medium: over 3 inches to 4 inches

Large: over 4 inches to 5 inches

Very Large: over 5 inches