

Lavant Horticultural Society

Annual Flower Show – What are the judges looking for?

Flower classes

Although no particular score is given for 'arrangement', an attractive presentation that displays the merits of the flowers to best advantage will inevitably, and rightly, make a favourable impression on the judge.

Dahlias

The face view of the bloom should be circular in outline and regular in arrangement and poised at an angle of not less than 45 degrees on a stem that is straight and of a length and thickness that is proportionate to the size of the bloom. Each stem should carry only one bloom - a bud, even unopened, is also classed as a bloom, and must be removed.

The exhibit should be so arranged that all the blooms face forward, are clear of each other with a pleasant and balanced effect.

Roses

The petals should be symmetrically arranged within a circular outline. For a HT/Large Flowered type, the outer petals should regularly surround an upright and well-formed conical and pointed centre. For any other type, the outer petals should regularly surround a central formation typical of the cultivar.

The stem should be straight and proportionate in thickness and length to the size of the bloom with no lateral growth present. The removal of lateral growth is permitted, as is disbudding and deadheading.

Foliage should be undamaged, fresh and clean, of good colour, with no evidence of the use of artificial aids to enhance its appearance. The insertion of additional foliage is not allowed.

Sweet peas

Strong spikes with well-spaced blooms, each one fully open and fresh. Long straight stems in proportion to the size of the blooms.

The following will be marked down: weak spikes with irregularly placed blooms or undeveloped top blooms or blooms showing seed pods; stems crooked or disproportionately short or long for the size of the blooms; stems having fewer than four flowers.

Fruit

All fruit should be shown ripe, except for apples, pears and gooseberries, which may be shown ripe or unripe depending on the season. Over-ripeness is regarded as a defect.

All fruit should have the stalk intact, except for peaches, nectarines and apricots, which should be shown without stalks.

Small soft fruit, e.g. black currants, red currants, must be shown not as individual berries but as complete strigs.

All fruit should have its natural surface bloom preserved (do not polish!).

Vegetables

Please look at the 'Guidance Sheet_Vegetables - Prepare & Show' for further information and advice.

Culinary herbs

Herbs in flower have been marked down in the past because flowering herbs would not normally be used in the kitchen.

*This information has been prepared with the help of 'The Horticultural Show Handbook',
published by the Royal Horticultural Society.*