



FLOWER SHOW

DIVISION 11

EXHIBITOR'S HANDBOOK

Welcome to the world of Competitive Exhibits! As an exhibitor at the fair, you are entering into a long standing tradition of education & competition that began in the Tanana Valley in 1924.

Your primary source of information about entering an exhibit is through the Exhibitors Guide, available online or at the Fair Office. This handbook will provide you with some additional information as well as judging criteria and sample judging sheets.

Superintendent:

**Please contact the Fair Office
451-5553**

The Geranium is the Official Flower of the 2009 Tanana Valley State Fair. Entries that include geraniums will receive a theme ribbon.

ENTRY RULES

- **Get your Fair I.D. number & exhibit tags** from the Office. Fill out Exhibit Tags before you arrive on entry day.
- **Pick your Best:** You may enter only one exhibit per lot. Note any restrictions listed in the Exhibitor's Guide.
- **Know your entry and pick up days.**
- **Prepare your entry:** Read the paragraph on preparation & presentation and present your exhibit in the best way possible.
- **Fill out an index card (available at entry desk) with the following:**
 - First & Last Name
 - Class and lot
 - Variety of flower/s. Include all names if an arrangement or General Garden Display.

PREPARING YOUR ENTRY

Specimen selection is based on the flower's maturity, form and color, stem condition, and size. Be sure to follow the instructions in the Exhibitor's Guide for number of blooms, stem length, etc. required. Promising blooms should be given special attention for several days prior to entry time. No wiring, oiling, spray or artificial coloring is permitted. Any evidence of spray, dust, insect damage, or faded petals and/or leaves should be carefully removed.

Cut specimens in late afternoon or early morning. Measure stem length, cutting several inches longer than required with a sharp knife. Make the cut on a slant so that the stem end cannot rest squarely on the container bottom. Woody stems should be peeled back and split or hammered for approximately an inch at the cut end to help with moisture uptake. Plant material that exudes a milky substance should be sealed by searing the end with a flame.

After cutting, immerse specimen as deeply as possible in a container of lukewarm water (110 degree F). Cut off dead blossoms from stalks or plants with a razor blade, cutting close to the stem so it won't be noticed. Place the container in a dark, cool room, letting the water cool to room temperature. This method is best for most flowers & is recommended by the National Garden Club's *Handbook for Flower Shows*.

Eliminate bacterial growth by washing the containers, changing water daily, removing submerged leaves and using chemicals designed for this purpose.

Use a small camel hair brush to clean off pollen or dust. A damp cloth may be used on broad leafed plants.

Wash insects off or lightly spray with pesticide the night before entry day. Make sure not to leave spots on the leaves.

Container-grown plants should be well groomed with no seed pods, wilted flowers, damaged or unclean foliage, broken stems or training props. The container should be clean and in scale with the size of the plant.

Transportation: Specimens can be transported in a container of water if care is given to protect the blooms from sunlight, heat & wind. Or carry in a plastic bag or florist box with stems supported on rolls of florist paper placed under each flower head.

Terrariums should have the lid fastened down with tape. Condensation will form, so remove the lid & allow enough time for the container to ventilate & dry before judging time.

SPECIFIC CLASS INSTRUCTIONS

Classes A - R are for

Cut Flowers only.

Classes S - U are for Growing Plants.

Aster: Remove all dead leaves below water line. Use a 1% sugar solution (1 tsp. per qt. water).

Calendula: Select half-open flowers for cutting. Remove most of the foliage. Cut stems and immediately place in water up to the flower head. Tie in bunch of a dozen while hardening for straight stems. Sprinkle flowers lightly with water while hardening.

Cosmos: Cut in late bud stage in early morning. Rub salt in end.

Dahlia: Cut when almost fully open. Immerse cut stems in boiling water for one minute, then plunge into cold water with charcoal. Spray flowers with ice water.

Forget-Me-Not: Remove all excess foliage. Harden for 10 hours in water up to the flowers, or dip in boiling water as for dahlias. Keep at least 1/2 of the stems under water.

Gladiolus: Keep flowers dry to avoid spotting. Cut when first floret is fully open. Harden in bunches to preserve straight tips.

Larkspur: Place stems in a solution of 1/2 tsp. alcohol per 2 qts. water for 1 hour.

Lily: Keep flowers dry. Cut in late bud or early flower stage. Remove the anthers. Harden at 42-45 degrees F.

Pansy: Pick freshly opened blooms and keep dry.

Poppy: Cut in the bud stage. Immerse stems in boiling water for 1 minute followed by cold water. Place a drop of gelatin or melt paraffin (not too hot) in the base of the flower.

Peony: Cut in the bud stage, with 3/4 inch of color showing. Harden at 33-35 degrees F.

Snapdragon: Keep flowers dry. Refrigeration is not necessary.

Sweet pea: Harden at 50 degrees F. Keep flowers dry. Place in shallow water.

Violet: Wrap well in wax paper & place on ice. Make a closed packet to preserve the fragrance.

Class O General Garden Display

Largest Number & Best Collection: An arrangement in one large container. Includes specimens of all flowers in your garden. All varieties must be listed and attached to the exhibit tag. Judging will be based on the quality and condition of the flowers and the total number of varieties shown.

Best Bloom: A single flower so spectacular it has to be shared.

Class P Fresh Arrangements

Arrangements should be at least one & one half times the length of a tall container or the length plus the width of a shallow bowl. See Design & Creativity under Judging Criteria.

Class Q Dried Arrangements

This Class includes mounted specimens. **Exhibit Books** must contain 20 or more specimens, each mounted separately and labeled, with date & location found.

INSTRUCTIONS CONT'D.

Class R Wildflowers

This Class is for fresh cut wildflowers.

Classes S—U Growing Plants

Plants must be growing in a pot or planter.

Class V Professional

This Class is for adult exhibitors who have been paid for flowers, plants, arrangements or who have taught a horticulture or floral design class. Not eligible for awards, other than Professional Award.

JUDGING CRITERIA

All entries must be properly named & labeled.

Scoring Criteria for Cut Flowers :

Preparation: Clean & trimmed, no leaves in the water. Correct number for lot, variety named correctly.

Condition & Quality: No pests, water spots, or dead flowers. Stems - Straight, proper thickness in relation to the flower. Leaves - good color, appropriate amount for the species. Flowers - healthy, vibrant vs. limp, bruised, damaged. Should be good, top quality produce.

Uniformity: All blooms the same size, shape & color; petals symmetrical.

Maturity, size, color: Entry the proper size for a fully mature bloom. Color should be bright, clear; typical harmonizing mark and shadings, correct for variety

Scoring Criteria for Arrangements, Collections & Containers

Quality: Overall quality of plants in exhibit.

Design & Creativity: The relation of light, line, form, space, pattern, size and texture of all components should be organized according to the principles of design. Creative use of a new concept, or unusual combination of material or space.

Container: The size of the container should relate properly to the size of arrangement.

Color: Blending of colors.

JUDGING AT THE FAIR

Judging at the Tanana Valley State Fair is accomplished through a network of volunteer judges chosen for their expertise in a particular area. It is through their generous donation of time & knowledge that we are able to showcase your achievements.

Judges are expected to follow these guidelines set down by the Fair Association:

- be fair & consistent in their judging;
- provide positive comments & constructive criticism to the exhibitor;
- follow the Fair Association's mission to educate participants through their evaluation.

SAMPLE JUDGING SHEET

Division 11 Flower Show & Wildflowers Cut Flowers

ID # _____ Exhibit Tag # _____

Class _____ Lot _____

Judge's Initials _____

POINTS POSSIBLE

Preparation 10
(clean, trimmed, correct number, variety named)

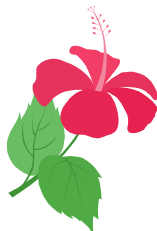
Condition & Quality 10
(free from pests, damage & disease on foliage & flowers)

Uniformity 5
(are all grouped exhibits alike in shape, size & color)

Maturity, size, color 5

TOTAL POSSIBLE 30

COMMENTS _____



Tanana Valley State Fair Association
1800 College Rd, Fairbanks, AK 99709-4173
451-5553/452-3750
www.tananavalleyfair.org

SAMPLE JUDGING SHEET

Division 11 Flower Show & Wildflowers Arrangements & Baskets

ID # _____ Exhibit Tag # _____

Class _____ Lot _____

Judge's Initials _____

POINTS POSSIBLE

Quality (overall quality of plants in exhibit) 10

Design & Creativity 10

Container (size/design appropriate) 5

Color (blending of all colors in exhibit) 5

TOTAL POSSIBLE 30

COMMENTS: _____

PERISHABLE EXHIBIT PICK UP

Because of the length of the Fair & the desire to keep the displays as fresh as possible, we have two different entry days for perishable exhibits.

Junior exhibits are entered on Thursday before opening day and may be picked up on Tuesday, Adult Entry Day, during the Fair. Admission onto the grounds will be granted if the exhibitor has their claim check in hand at the gate. **All others must pay admission.**

Cut flower exhibits that are not picked up, either junior exhibits on Tuesday, or adult exhibits on Sunday after the Fair will be discarded. Containers & live plants may be picked up in the Office after Pick Up Day.

QUESTIONS

We have tried to create a lot for everything, but if you cannot find an appropriate lot in which to enter an item, please contact the Division Superintendent. They can help you in selecting a lot, or can add any lots as needed. Be sure to contact them before Entry Day.

If you are unable to reach the superintendent, the Fair Office is here to help. Call us anytime between the hours of 9 am & 5 pm, Monday through Friday or e-mail ozzie@tananavalleyfair.org.