

FLOWERS

Standards of Perfection for Flowers

AFRICAN VIOLETS (*Saintpaulia*)

There are two accepted systems of judging African Violets: The Competitive System, which is used in non-specialist shows, and the Merit system, which is confined entirely to specialist shows. The Merit System is based on the number of points earned. There may be several first, second or third awards in any one class. Points awarded from 90 to 100 earn Firsts, from 80 to 89 points, Seconds. In ordinary shows judges would not use the Merit System.

GUIDELINES FOR JUDGING AFRICAN VIOLETS

1. All show plants must be single crown specimens unless the show schedule provides otherwise.
2. Blossoms that have fallen since entry do not count nor should there be any deduction for them.
3. Some double and semi-double varieties display some single, semi-double and double blooms at the same time should be classed as doubles if they carry any double or semi-double blooms. Crested blooms are also classed as double.
4. Each successive row of leaves should cover the petioles of the row below, but varieties with fluted, wavy or elongated foliage do not cover the petioles. These plants should be judged according to variety.
5. There should never be smaller leaves (baby leaves) below the larger leaves.
6. Any new growth appearing at the base of the stalk and/or in the leaf axil below the point where the blooms stalks emerge is considered a sucker. A sucker will disqualify a plant in classes for specimen single crown plants. Do not judge a plant with a sucker.
7. Any plant that has leaf marking that indicate that it has had a disease or might have one at the time of entry should not be entered.
8. A row of small leaves part way down the plant caused by injury or poor culture should have points deducted under cultural perfection.
9. The size of the pot must be in proportion to the leaf spread of the plant. The pot should be one-third to one-fourth the diameter of the leaf spread of the plant except for miniatures and all types of trailers. For trailers and partial trailers, pot size should be in proportion to the size of the plant.
10. The size of a miniature plant must not be more than six inches (6") (15.24 cm) in diameter. Semi-miniature plants must not exceed eight (8") (20.32 cm) inches in diameter.
11. All stakes, markers, and supports (collars) must be removed, except trailers which may have a maximum of two conspicuous props.

12. A neck is that portion of the plant stem or stalk between the soil level and the first row of leaf petioles. If the neck is disfiguring to the appearance of the plants, points should be deducted. The judge should NOT raise the leaves to search for a neck.
13. The plant should be centered in the pot high enough that the petioles are not forced upward by the pot rim but not so high that the soil has to be removed to cover a long neck.

POINT SCORING INFORMATION

Specimen (Single Crown) Plants:	Scale of points
Quantity of bloom.....	30..
Miniatures.....	6 to 12 blooms
Semi-miniatures.....	6 to 20 blooms
Standards.....	20 to 25 blooms
Amazon, Dupont, or Supremes	10 to 15 blooms
Trailers and partial Trailers	12 to 18 blooms

Deduct one point for each bloom under required number for Standards, two points for supremes, Amazons and Dupont, three points for Miniatures and Semi-miniature varieties

Count only fresh open blossoms toward bloom count. Buds are not considered blossoms.

Cultural Perfection (Symmetry).....30

Cultural perfection is the sum of all the factors which result in a fine show plant, such as proper lighting, watering, temperature, fertilizer, soil mix, pruning and shaping of plant to achieve ideal symmetry, freedom from pests and diseases, with continued care during the entire growth cycle.

Deduct points for a missing leaf which makes a break in the outline of the plant, for each break in symmetry; for each baby leaf found; for any row of leaves whose petioles or leaf blades have not developed in proper sequence; for leaf petioles showing depending upon the growth habits of the variety; for lack of normal variegation on variegated foliage and for marred or faded foliage.

Condition.....25

Condition is grooming and covers problems which could have been eliminated by careful attention shortly before the show. The exhibitor should be sure that plant and pot are clean, the container in proportion to the plant and faded flowers and damaged leaves are removed.

Deduct for a disfiguring neck; for dirt on leaves; for blossom stalks or leaf stubs; for seed pods; for faded blossoms; for over- or under-potting; for stakes left in the pot; for dirty container.

Size and colour of bloom..... 15
Deduct for a variety not blooming true to accepted description and if the blooms are smaller than normal.

TRAILING VARIETIES: SCALE OF POINTS

Form..... 35
Trailers are divided into Standard, Semi-Miniatures and Miniatures.

Standard and semi-miniature size take a 3 1/2-inch (8.89 cm) pot or larger; miniature size take 3-inch (7.62 cm) pot or smaller. Plants must be in proportion to pots. Trailers are judged on form rather than on symmetry. Plants should have controlled growth to be attractive. Modern hybrid trailers must be multi-crowned. Some older varieties prior to 1970 do not have this growth pattern, so the above ruling cannot be applied.

The growth pattern should be irregular but not uncontrolled. Inconspicuous props may be used discreetly. They may consist of hairpins or fine stakes, etc. Of neutral colour. Deduct points if growth pattern is uncontrolled; for each segment of bare stem that is easily seen, for marred or faded foliage; for each missing crown.

Condition

Deduct points if props are conspicuous for dirt on plant; for blossom stalks or leaf stubs; for seed pods; for over-or under-potting; for dirty container.

Bloom (size, colour, quantity)

The bloom stalks should be evenly distributed. Deduct for lack of bloom according to variety; if blooms are smaller than the accepted description; if the variety is not blooming true to accepted description for colour; if variety classified as single, semi-double or double is not blooming true to the accepted varietal bloom form description.

Information on Partial Trailers (formerly referred to as Semi-Trailers)

As the use of the word "semi-" in this connection has led to confusion, the word "partial" should be substituted.

Most partial trailers are small growers. They will be judged in the same manner as other trailers.

Species Saintpaulia

In growing species, strive for natural growth habit, and not attempt to make them conform to the formal appearance of hybrids. Most will have 6 to 12 blooms.

ALSTROEMERIA-PERUVIAN LILY (Alstroemeriaceae)

This is not a true lily (*Lilium*, a bulb), but grows from thick, fleshy roots, formerly belonging to the *Amaryllis* family, generally exhibited as a single stem or as an exhibit for three stems. The "Ligtu Hybrids" are to be preferred to the species types in which the orange and yellow colours predominate.

POINT SCORE

Condition.....	25
Number, size & form of flowers.....	50
Colour.....	15
Stem.....	<u>10</u>
	100

Condition, form of flowers and freedom from damage are the most important considerations. Look for freshness of individual flowers and the perky, upright positions of well-opened flowers. The presence of closed or partially closed flowers is a sign of age as is the presence of seed pods or the stubs where pods have been taken off. There should be a large number of well-formed flowers with crisp, erect petals, slightly recurved on the tips forming a well-rounded head. The branchlets and flowers should be well spaced generally forming an open pattern.

Colours should be bright, clean and luminous with no trace of muddiness. The Ligtu hybrids are brilliant luminous mixture ranging from glowing pink to brilliant crimson.

Stems should be stout, long and straight and able to hold the flowerhead stiffly erect. Side branchlets, if presents, should not spoil the outline of the main flowerhead.

ANTIRRHINUM - SNAPDRAGON

Spikes must be long, stiff, and straight, tapering and well furnished almost to the tip with evenly spaced open florets filling the stalk all around. They must be in good condition, fresh, crisp, free from blemishes and mechanical damage.

Florets must be large, broad-lipped and firmly attached, with no fading. Wilted florets and seed pods should be removed and scored down.

Colours should be bright and clean, either completely self-coloured or in an harmonious blend. Spikes should be uniform in size, shape and development with harmonious colour blending.

POINT SCORE

Condition.....	20
Form of spike.....	30
Form of flowers.....	15
Colour.....	20
Uniformity.....	<u>10</u>
	100

AQUILEGIA - COLUMBINE

A good hybrid should always win over a species because it is a better flower. The row of guard petals in lie almost flat and generally circular with the circle of five inner petals (corolla) at a 45 degree angle and centre filled with stamens. Spurs are long and slender, graceful with slightly curved tips. This is where the hybrids surpass the species, as in the latter case the spurs are usually short, stubby and lack a graceful, curving line.

POINT SCORE

Condition.....	25
Form of Flowers.....	35
Stem and foliage.....	15
Colour.....	15
Uniformity.....	<u>10</u>
	100

Aquilegia stems should be long and slender but still stout enough to bear the flowers well at an angle between 45 and 60 degrees. The foliage should be clean, a bright green colour and free from damage.

The colour range is almost the entire spectrum and included self-coloured, bi-coloured and blends. In some, there is a pronounced dark colour on the corolla which, when present, should be uniform throughout. They may be shown with or without side buds.

ASTERS

Flowers should be large and well poised on the stem. In single-flowered varieties there should be a small central disc and long, broad ray florets which touch each other; in double varieties the flower must be fully double but showing no central disc. If a disc is apparent the specimen is passed its prime.

The flowers must be in good condition, with fresh, crisp, clean petals and foliage and free from all damage. Colours should be clear, clean, and bright.

Stems should be long, but in proportion to flower head which should be held up strongly.

Uniformity should apply to size, of shape as well as length of stem.

POINT SCORE

Condition.....	20
Form.....	25
Colour.....	20
Stems.....	20
Uniformity.....	<u>15</u>
	100

BEGONIAS

These generally called for in non-specialist schedules are the Tuberous varieties. A Fibrous or Rhizomatous variety should not be exhibited in the same class with the Tuberous variety.

Begonias are generally shown in classes calling for planted pot specimens, basket specimens (pendulous types) or a single cut bloom or a tray of cut blooms shown in water or on wet moss.

POINT SCORE

(American Begonia Society, 1969)

Pot or Basket Specimens

Number and size of bloom in proportion to size of plant.....	40
Cultural perfection.....	25
Foliage.....	15
Erect flowering stem or stems.....	10
Quality of flower.....	<u>10</u>
	100

Cut Specimens

Colour of flower.....	35
Form of flower.....	20
Size of flower.....	35
Substance and condition.....	<u>10</u>
	100

Comments from the judging form of the American Begonia Society, 1961:

"It is very important for judges to know Begonias and their culture. Due to the diversity of the plants there is much variation in their culture. When a schedule is not detailed or is shortened (as in non-specialist shows), it means that Begonias of easy culture may be competing with Begonias that take time and skill to grow. Therefore, a large handsome specimen that is easy to grow competing in the same class as one touchy or difficult to grow makes judging a task of skill. A beautiful specimen of a "difficult" Begonia should rate higher than a large handsome "easy" Begonia.

"In Pot specimens, watch for insect holes in the leaves, straggly uneven growth, old flowers, old faded blooms and an unevenly shaped plant. An unclean pot should be scored against.

"In specialist Begonia shows instructions given to the Judges by the Judges' Chairman, usually recommends leniency on judging foliage damaged in transit. This type of damage is easily detected (bruising) and may be overlooked to some extent."

In pot specimens the plant should be well balanced, bearing flowers in size and number proportionate to the plant. Flowers should be large, circular in outline and of good substance; petals should overlap culminating in one centre. Irregular outline or divided centres are serious faults as are long narrow petals.

In basket classes (pendulous types) the plant must be evenly developed all around. The drooping, pendulous branches and pendant flowers should be long and reasonably even in length. There should be masses of bright, clean flowers with shiny, undamaged foliage. Consideration should be given to the overall effect of the plant and its basket container. Use points for Cultural perfection in the Pot scale for this.

BEGONIAS OTHER THAN TUBEROUS

Judges not being able to be acquainted with all begonias being grown and entered in shows, would be wise to judge the plant according to growth, quality of flower (if flowering type) and general appearance.

Plants should be grouped according to types: fibrous, such as wax or semperflorens, and cane, rhizomatous, such as, Rex, etc.

CACTI AND SUCCULENTS

DEFINITIONS:

Succulent: A plant with very fleshy leaves or stems or both, e.g. Crassula, Echeveria, Hoya, Kalanchoe, Sedum, Sempervivum and most Cacti. Said of plants which store water in their tissues and which can, in consequence, withstand adverse conditions of drought or aridity, a plant possessing these properties.

Cactus: a plant belonging to the family Cactaceae, e.g. species of Cereus, Epiphyllum, Mammillaria, Opuntia, Schlumbergera or Zygocactus.

Cactaceae: A family with a large but uncertain number of species, usually with succulent stems and leaves much reduced or absent; spines borne on an areole are usually present.

Areoles: are present in all cacti and are often referred to as "spine cushions", and are growth areas from which flowers and new growth (plantlets, offsets) arise as well as spines, hairs and glochids, (barbed hairs).

Some succulents may have thorns (i.e. some Euphorbia, (Crown of Thorns) or teeth or sharp serrated edges, needle-like points on the end of leaves, or bristles, but they never have areoles or spine cushions.

Orchid cacti, Christmas, Easter and Thanksgiving cacti are all true cacti with areoles and minute spines.

POINT SCORE
Cactus & Succulent Society of America

Condition.....	20
Nomenclature.....	20
Rarity.....	15
Size and degree of maturity.....	15
Educational value.....	15
Staging.....	15
	100

In the average small show with classes for Cacti and Succulents the judge is not likely to be a specialist for these classes. Such a judge should give major consideration to "Condition".

With either Cacti or Succulents the plant must look healthy and well cared for. Firm growth, not overly lush and soft, and good natural colour, not too pale or vividly green is desirable. Any sign of etiolation (long, pale, unnatural growth; 'ball' cactus tapering to a point) differing markedly from the preceding growth, is an indication of poor growing. Watch for sun-scald (white or brown patches), broken spines or missing spine cluster, damage marks on leaves or plant bodies of succulents. The plant should be free from insect damage or any sign of disease. Insect damage is most likely from meal-bug, red spider mite or scale, and aphids on flower stems of some succulents.

The shape of the specimen should be typical of its variety. Cacti grown indoors may be leggy. This is frequently seen in succulents grown with insufficient light or too much warmth and moisture together with poor light conditions and should be considered as a fault.

All other things being equal, a Cactus or Succulent exhibited with flowers or buds is preferred to one without, although under most show conditions these are not too likely to be open. (Sunshine is needed for many Cactus and Succulent flowers to open initially, or remain open). Some Cacti and Succulents may have to be large or very old to bloom; also blooms may be very seasonal, so do not put too much emphasis on bloom.

Many leaf succulents, particularly white or glaucous species, have "bloom" on the leaves. When it is present it should not be disturbed and is a desirable feature.

There are miniature varieties in both Cacti and Succulents (most suitable for window-sill growing), which ideally should have separate classes for, such as, mature Cacti 2"(5.08 cm) or less in diameter and mature Succulents in 2" to 3" (5.08-7.62 cm) pots.

CACTI AND SUCCULENTS - Difficulty of Cultivation Conformity to Type and Rarity:
These three items should be considered and/or scored only when the judge is thoroughly familiar with Cacti and Succulents. Unless the Judge knows, it is best not to give too much weight or consideration to these points, but to base the choice solely on "Condition".

The same applies to those items listed on the Point Score of the Cactus & Succulent Society of America as Nomenclature, Rarity, Size or Degree of Maturity. The items of Educational Value and Staging may be disregarded entirely, except Staging in the case of the display of a collection. In this case uniformity of the size of pots, or where sizes of pots may vary, the placement of different sizes and overall appearance of the collection should be considered. Cleanliness of pots is of more importance than type of pot, and also the tidy appearance of any exposed soil surface.

CARNATIONS (Border)

Must be in good condition, fresh, crisp and clean. There must be no browning at the edges nor any sign of insect or spray damage.

Flowerheads should be large, symmetrical and circular in outline. Petals should be firm, with smooth edges and no serrations. Guard petals should be large, broad, smooth and carried at right angles to the calyx. Inner petals may stand up somewhat to form a centre "crown".

POINT SCORE

Condition.....	20
Form of flower.....	25
Calyces and stems.....	20
Colour.....	15
Fragrance.....	10
Uniformity.....	10
	<u>100</u>

The Carnation calyces should be smooth and unbroken, stems strong, stiff and straight. Colour or colours should be clear, clean and bright, the pattern well defined. There should be a strong scent.

The following notes are taken and abridged from the **Handbook of the British National Carnation Society**.

Under "Carnations" fall "pinks" and Dianthus; Hardy Border Carnations and Perpetual Flowering Carnations. The latter are almost exclusively greenhouse plants and are not considered here.

The Border Carnation is the only true, hardy carnation. They are divided into "Selfs", "Fancies", and "Picotees".

Selfs are one clear colour, free from any form of shading or marking. Colours are usually white, scarlet, crimson, yellow, apricot, various shades of pink, purple and old rose.

Fancies are further sub-divided into white ground, yellow ground and colour other than white or yellow. White and yellow ground Fancies have markings of contrasting colour or colours, usually as stripes, flakes or ticks.

Picotees are like white and yellow ground Fancies, except that they have a different coloured edging, but are without stripes.

Pinks (Dianthus) are not miniature Carnations; an appearance of lightness and daintiness is essential to a Pink, and great size is not desirable. Pinks are sub-divided into "Doubles", "Singles", and further by "Selfs", "Bi-Colours", "Laced pinks" and "Fancies".

Doubles - the outer or guard petals should be flat; inner petals should be regularly and smoothly laid over guard petals, diminishing in size as they near the centre. The centre should form a flat rosette, but it may be raised and some centre petals may stand up slightly.

Single pinks should have 5 evenly shaped petals that lie flat and are right angles to calyx and should overlap each other sufficiently to prevent any space appearing between them, but not so as to obscure each other.

Selfs are of one distinct colour, except that slight shading at the centre of the flower is acceptable.

Bi-colour the 2 colours of Bi-colours should be in concentric rings; the boundary between the 2 colours should be clear and distinct.

Laced pinks in white ground and other that white ground, the lacing colour should form well marked eye in the centre of the flower from which a narrow, even band of colour should extend around a petal, leaving a clear patch of ground colour in the centre of the petal. There may be a narrow band of ground colour at extreme edge of petal.

Fancies all Pinks which are not Selfs, Bi-colours, or Laced are considered "Fancies". They may be speckled, have radial stripes, or some petals of one colour and other petals of another colour.

CHRYSANTHEMUMS

The judging of Chrysanthemums can be very challenging. The main object is to encourage the growing of Chrysanthemums of the highest possible quality.

Chrysanthemums, by size, are classed by the National Chrysanthemum Society as LARGE FLOWERED (designated 'b') and SMALL FLOWERED (designated 'c'). The various cultivars are more or less arbitrarily assigned to the classes by N.C.S. Classified Register of Chrysanthemums. Either you know your varieties or accept them as named by the exhibitor.

There are many classifications of Chrysanthemums by type but the only ones likely to be encountered in shows are the "Outdoor Varieties" or Early Flowering Types.

Following are the main types of Chrysanthemums with characteristics:

Incurved (Sec. 23) Should be spherical in form. Ideally the bloom should be represent a complete ball, florets should be uniformly laid and spaced. The centre should be filled.

Reflex (Sec. 24) Have blooms with florets reflexing smoothly down all around, broad and deep and full in the centre. Some varieties will have a more smooth appearance. The blooms should be shown at 7/8 stage of maturity.

Intermediate (Sec. 25) These are two varieties which come between the previous two, or may resemble one-half of each.

Anemone (Sec. 26) The ray florets are either broad to the tips, flat and equal in length, or sharply pointed and uneven in size. Disc florets should be deep and even in size.

Single (Sec. 27) The ray florets are broad, flat and at right angles to the stem. The disc is regular and usually surrounded by 5 rows of florets.

Pompom (Sec. 28) Should be ball-shaped, full in the centre and with florets almost touching the stem at the back.

Spray (Sec.29) A spray is the last flowering growth consisting of one stem (not a branch) with or without a central flower or bud. The individual blooms of spray types should be evenly spaced on the spray and not overlapping. They may be Intermediate, Reflex, Single, Anemone or Pompom type

Any Other Types Under this heading the only type likely to be encountered in local shows are the **Rayonnantes**. They are usually quite large, ranging from 6" to 12"(15.24-30.48 cm) across and usually very shallow. The florets are of a quill type and are generally arranged in a regular pattern, of symmetrical shape and spacing.

The late- Flowering and the October-Flowering Chrysanthemums are divided into the same types but are given different section numbers.

POINT SCORES, NATIONAL CHRYSANTHEMUM SOCIETY

Incurved, Reflexed and Intermediate.

Form.....	25
Size.....	20
Freshness.....	20
Uniformity of blooms in a vase.....	10
Foliage.....	5
Staging.....	5
	100

Sprays and pompoms

Spray form	
Uniform placement and development of blooms.....	20
Breadth and depth (Balance).....	20
Number of blooms.....	10
Bloom Quality	
Form.....	15
Freshness.....	15
Colour.....	10
Size.....	5
Foliage and stems.....	5
Staging.....	5
	100

Blooms are judged according to the potential of their type and their variety. In general, when judging a group of entries, the following are considered in the order given to form an aggregate total for each entry:

Form: Is it true to type? Is this vase representative of the variety?

Size: Has the size caused Coarseness Big is beautiful if the form is true to type?

Freshness: Are all the petals fresh? Does the bloom look tired?

Colour: Is it true to the Chrysanthemum cultivar? Is colour uniform throughout?

Uniformity: Are all blooms in the vase comparable in size, colour, form and characteristic?

Foliage: Is it fresh and of good colour?

Staging: Can all the blooms be seen? Are they pleasing to the eye?

The artistry in judging lies in the ability of the individual to readily perceive and weigh all the little factors which contribute to bloom quality, according to the standards for the type of bloom.

FORM - Incurved

Florets either rounded or pointed forming a solid symmetrical bloom.

FORM - Reflex

Viewed from above should be circular in outline. There are two main types: Fully reflexing type where florets reflex gracefully, or interlace and / or whorl. They may reflex from the "shoulder" or inward toward the stem.

The type with stiff florets which do not form a "shoulder" but have a spiky outline that is symmetrical with breadth and depth in proportion.

Common Faults: Bloom not at right-angles to stem; lack of depth; faded colour; centre weak, double or elongated, florets malformed; florets old, damaged.

FORM - Intermediate: Three main types are distinguishable:

A. Blooms with florets incurving to give a generally globular outline, but with an open floret formation showing the inner colour. This type rarely closes at the centre.

B. Blooms with florets incurving to give a generally globular outline with a closer floret formation showing very little of the inner colour. This type may sometimes close up the centre.

C. Blooms of lower florets reflexing to reveal the inner colour but with the upper florets incurving to show the reverse colour. There should be a gradual transition from reflexing from reflexing to incurving florets.

COMMON FAULTS of Chrysanthemums: Lack of depth; lack of symmetry; centres weak, double or elongated, "feathering" of florets at centre of closely incurving type; florets damaged or malformed; looseness of florets particularly at the base.

FORM - Anemone The "cushion" or centre should be a deep dome shape made up of evenly sized disc florets. The outline of the bloom as formed by the ray florets should be circular. Ray florets may be broad and flat or fluted and pointed. Some types have ray florets that are tubular with open, flattened spoon-like tips.

FORM - Singles These vary in the number of florets produced. A few in the medium flowered section produce more than the normal 5 rows and while these varieties should not be penalized, on a close decision the final choice should go to the bloom that conforms to the standard.

The central disc should be circular in shape and the pattern, made by the tiny florets, neat and regular. Ray florets must be broad and flat with uniformity of length so the outline of the flower is circular. A tendency for the tips to curl either upward or downward is not a fault if it is characteristic of the variety.

FORM - Pompoms Individual flowers may vary but the classic shape is still the ideal: A full, globular shape, well filled in to the stem. Any flatness or depression on the top is a serious fault.

FORM - Sprays The mass of flowers constituting a spray has a tendency to conceal individual blooms. As most sprays will be either Anemone, Pompom, Reflexed or Single types, the standard of those types must be applied to the individual flowers. Do not be misled by a mere mass of rather indifferent individual blooms. Five or more blooms should be open and fully developed.

SIZE: This is a relative thing. It must be assessed in terms of what the full, average potential of a Chrysanthemum variety may be as it is grown in the specific locality of the Show. Perfection of Form, all else being equal, is to be preferred to mere largeness in a bloom. Here again, if a large-grown Medium is shown against normal, large-size blooms, it must be judged on Size against the standard for Large Chrysanthemums.

FRESHNESS: The most perfect stage of a flower's potential beauty, considering not only the age and development of the flower, but also its freedom from damping, spotting or insect damage is the test under Freshness.

The complete globular form of the Incurved is only obtained when the centre has closed over neatly and tightly. A too young bloom will show a small pit or depression in the centre breaking its spherical outline; too old bloom will have opened slightly in the centre, showing the start of a "daisy eye".

In the Reflexed and Intermediate types the ideal stage is reached just before the bloom is fully opened. There should still be a bit "more to come" in the centre with the centre still regular in outline and free from ridges or partings. However, blooms with too much centre are immature and should not be penalized.

Sometimes an apparently good centre will hide a totted cushion or a daisy eye. The centre petals may be lightly and gently parted with a pencil so that these conditions may be checked.

As flowers age, or from adverse weather conditions, the older florets begin to lose their freshness and become soft or stale at the base and underside of a bloom. The presence of wilted or brown florets at the base, or the indication of undue or excess floret plucking at the base, is a sure sign of age and lack of freshness. This can generally be seen but the best test is to raise the back of fingers and hand under the base. Dampness or staleness will be felt noticeably, if present.

COLOUR: This quality in Chrysanthemums, as in other kinds of flowers, is hard for anyone except an expert to assess. Colour variations in a single variety will vary with different soil and climatic conditions. Therefore, unless the true colour potential of each and every variety, and particularly as that variety grows in a certain locality is well known, the non-specialist judge has best judge colour on its cleanness and brilliance. A fading colour may be, but is not always, a sign of age. In multiple bloom exhibits where two or more colours are combined in a single exhibit, penalize if the colours clash or are not harmonious.

NOTE: In small shows, where blooms are shown by colour, it is advisable to check with the N.C.S. Register of Chrysanthemums to be sure the blooms are shown in their proper colour class. Mistakes that are frequently made are mauve colours (listed and pink in the N.C.S. Register) being shown as purples; and reds being shown as bronze.

FOLIAGE: While only 5 points are assigned for condition of foliage, much can be learned as to the general cultural excellence of a bloom from the condition of its foliage. Insect damage or spray residue is, of course, indicative of careless growing; limpness and drooping foliage indicates general lack of condition and freshness; foliage that is hard and brittle indicates over-feeding, usually of nitrogen, the results of which can also be seen in coarseness of the florets.

A bloom should be shown with, at least 2 and better 3, fully developed leaves. The stem must be in proportion to the size of the bloom it carries and should (unless otherwise called for in the Show Schedule) be 15" to 18" (38.10 - 45.72 cm) long. Unless specifically permitted by the schedule, wire supports of any kind are cause for disqualification.

STAGING: Blooms in multi-bloom classes should be arranged in the container so that each bloom can be seen to the best advantage. This includes the positioning the Chrysanthemum blooms, matching blooms in size and general uniformity. An exhibit containing 3 Incurved or 3 Reflexed is more appealing than one that is made up of all 3 types, and should be considered in a close decision.

In a very close competition the judges may decide they need to touch the blooms in a multi-bloom class, then make sure that a mark for Staging and Uniformity of bloom development is given first, as once the container is touched by judges, these categories could not be judged fairly again. It is preferable to lift the entire vase to see the underside of blooms.

VASES, BOWLS AND BASKETS: Chrysanthemums used in classes of Vases, and Bowls are usually arranged in a symmetrical dome shape that is to be viewed from all sides. The exhibit should have lightness of feeling, together with a pleasing arrangement and blending of colour. The size and quality of flowers must be in relative proportion to the size of the container used. Unless the schedule prohibits it, other foliage may be used for effect. Read the schedule carefully as regards Vases and Bowls, and be sure that an exhibit complies in every respect what the schedule calls for. The blooms used should be of good quality, fresh, free from damage of any kind.

Baskets are arranged to exhibit blooms viewed from either one side, or all around as called for in the schedule. Generally the larger sizes of blooms are used in baskets, although small blooms can be used for fillers. Unless prohibited by the schedule, foliage other than Chrysanthemum foliage may be used for effect. Watch particularly for over-crowding of too many blooms. Fewer blooms of good quality, well spaced and arranged so as to pleasingly fill the basket are to preferred to a mass of blooms just jammed in. Colour symmetry and colour harmony should be watched for, and the general placement of the blooms must have balance so the basket does not appear to be top heavy or lopsided.

A word of caution when judging Chrysanthemums in Baskets - the Chrysanthemums used are often all the left-over blooms that were not good enough for the show bench. Examine blooms carefully for quality and freshness. While a bit of over-dressing and plucking of wilted florets can be overlooked in a basket, definite tiredness, over maturity or under maturity should be penalized.

The following scale of points will indicate the relative value to assign in judging Baskets, Bowls and Vases.

POINT SCORE
Baskets, Bowls and Vases

Lightness, artistic arrangement.....	35
Harmony or uniformity of colour.....	25
Freshness, condition of blooms.....	35
Container.....	<u>5</u>
	100

COSMOS

Form: The flower should be flat with circular outline; petals overlapping for 2/3 of their length tips may be either slightly serrated or smooth. Generally, there is a single row of petals but a few are semi-double. The central eye should be prominent and slightly darker insignificant petaloids.

Colour: Petals should be of a uniform solid colour without blotching. Any pollen on the petals is a sure sign of age.

Stems : should be thin and wiry, and may be twisted without penalty. Buds may be left on the stem or trimmed off clean. Foliage fine, wiry and of a dark green colour.

POINT SCORE

Condition.....	25
Form.....	30
Colour.....	15
Stems.....	15
Uniformity.....	15
	100

DAFFODILS NARCISSUS

The collective name for all daffodils, irrespective of the number of flowers on a stem or the size of the trumpet or cup is Narcissus. Thus the correct name for the variety would be Narcissus 'February Gold'.

Terminology:

Trumpet: When the centre tube is long it is referred to as a "Trumpet", but a short tube is referred to as a "cup".

Perianth: The six petals of the flower as a whole; a perianth segment is an individual petal.

Corona: The botanical term used to signify the trumpet or cup.

CLASSIFICATION: It is desirable to know all of the classification characteristics, but is essential to know the first four in order that you may be sure the flowers are shown in the proper size class. If a Daffodil whose perianth segment is longer than the corona, it is not a Trumpet and should not be shown in the trumpet class.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS OF DIVISIONS OF DAFFODILS

DIVISION 1: TRUMPET DAFFODILS OF GARDEN ORIGIN One flower to a stem, trumpet or corona as long or longer than the perianth segments.

DIVISION 2: LONG-CUPPED DAFFODILS OF GARDEN ORIGIN One flower to a stem, cup or corona more than one-third but less than equal to the length of the perianth segments.

DIVISION 3: SHORT-CUPPED DAFFODILS OF GARDEN ORIGIN One flower to a stem, cup or corona not more than one-third the length of the perianth segments.

DIVISION 4: DOUBLE DAFFODILS OF GARDEN ORIGIN Double flowers including doubles in any division.

