



HORTICULTURE JUDGING CRITERIA

Qualified judges will be selected by the Program Coordinator from local professionals who are at the top in their field. Each year the Program Coordinator may choose new judges or judges may judge different Divisions from year to year. The judges are professionals and their decisions are final.

For clarification on the terms used here, or for more guidance on the entry process, view [Horticulture Glossary and FAQ](#)

For more information and recommendations on how to prepare for the competitions, view [How to Prepare Your Entries](#)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Container Plants Competition	1
Cut Flowers Competition	1-3
Floral Arrangements Competition.....	3
Fruits & Vegetables Competition	4



HORTICULTURE JUDGING CRITERIA

CONTAINER PLANTS COMPETITION

All Divisions

Plant Health.....50%

Plant is in peak health; well-established in the container without being overgrown, free of pests and disease, watered and fertilized properly.

Clean Foliage & Proper Grooming.....30%

No diseased or sunburnt foliage, trimmed and maintained for a pleasing appearance.

Design Distinction & Creativity20%

Attractively potted and appropriate to theme.

Judges will look for balance between pot size, plant growth, and design.

CUT FLOWERS COMPETITION

Specimen & Specialty Blooms

Form25%

Shape and orientation of petals pleasing and appropriate for cultivar, neither immature nor overly mature.

Color.....20%

Appropriate for cultivar, not dull, blotchy, faded or burned.

Stem & Foliage20%

Long, straight stem with clean, intact foliage as appropriate for cultivar. Stem length should be matched to the size of the vase. Avoid having a "stem on stem" where a portion of another stem is still attached to the main bloom's stem. *Entries in Class 01: Single Bloom, any color for the adult Specimen Plumeria divisions should not include any stems thus are excepted from this consideration.*

Substance.....15%

Looks and feels "fresh."

Balance & Proportion10%

Stem & foliage size and length balanced with bloom.

Size.....10%

Blooms are of healthy and robust size for the cultivar

(continues)



HORTICULTURE JUDGING CRITERIA

Hibiscus Blooms

Form25%

Shape and orientation of petals pleasing and appropriate for cultivar and style.

Color.....25%

Appropriate for cultivar, not dull, blotchy, faded or burned.

Substance.....20%

Looks and feels "fresh."

Condition.....20%

Free of insect, weather or handling damage.

Size.....10%

Blooms are of healthy and robust size for the cultivar.

Dahlia Blooms

Form35%

Shape and orientation of petals appropriate for type, neither immature nor overly mature. Avoid open/green centers.

Color.....25%

Appropriate for cultivar (if known), not dull, blotchy, faded, or burned.

Substance.....20%

Looks and feels "fresh."

Stem10%

Strong, straight stem without foliage or side buds.

Bloom Position10%

Ideally, bloom should be at a 45-degree angle from the stem.

Note: The Largest Dahlia Divisions are judged solely on overall size and not quality, but blooms are expected to be at least healthy enough to be displayed.

(continues)



HORTICULTURE JUDGING CRITERIA

Rose Blooms

Form25%

Shape and symmetry of petals, unfurling in a perfect spiral from a center point*.

Color.....20%

Not dull, blotchy, faded or burned.

Stem & Foliage20%

Long, straight stem with clean, intact foliage. Avoid having a "stem on stem" where a portion of another stem is still attached to the main bloom's stem.

Substance.....15%

Looks and feels "fresh."

Balance & Proportion10%

Stem & foliage size and length balanced with bloom.

Size.....10%

Blooms are of healthy and robust size for the cultivar.

**Form criteria here is specific for Hybrid Tea/Grandiflora roses.*

For more information, see our guide on [How to Prepare Your Entries](#)

FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS COMPETITION

All Divisions

Theme Interpretation.....25%

Well communicated through materials and techniques. Accessories are permitted, but the emphasis should be on the creative use of natural vegetative materials to symbolically represent specific themes rather than on the excessive use of props.

Product Quality.....25%

Products are fresh and at peak physical condition.

Mechanics.....20%

Good use of tools or techniques to stabilize or secure materials.

Principles20%

Balance, proportion, dominance, rhythm, contrast, harmony and unity.

Elements10%

Line, form, space, texture, pattern, fragrance, size and color.



HORTICULTURE JUDGING CRITERIA

FRUITS & VEGETABLES COMPETITION

Specimen Produce

Condition.....30%

Well-grown, good color and shape, clean, trimmed, free from blemishes.

Type and Size25%

True to type for the cultivar or group.

Market Quality25%

Prime edible maturity, firm, tender, crisp and fresh.

Uniformity.....20%

Specimens are uniform in size, color, shape, type and maturity.
Cherry tomatoes should be entered on the same stem if possible.

Largest & Most Unusual Looking

These Divisions do not have specific criteria; they are instead judged according to their labels (i.e., which item is the largest or most unusual looking in its class). Only the edible portion of the entry will be judged – do not bring entire plants due to the limited space for our display.

Note: Although these Divisions are not specifically judged on quality, entries are expected to be at least healthy enough to be displayed.