

2007

Flower Show
Brochure
Texas Garden
Clubs, Inc.

revised July 2007

NGC Flower Show Achievement Awards
Preparation of National Binder
State and Regional Awards
Flower Show Schedules



TEXAS GARDEN CLUBS, INC. FLOWER SHOW BROCHURE

INTRODUCTION

From the *Handbook for Flower Shows 2007*: Standard Flower Show is the official title of a flower show conforming to standards established by National Garden Clubs, Inc. The purposes of a Standard Flower Show are to:

- educate club members and the viewing public
- stimulate interest in horticulture and floral design
- provide an outlet for creative expression
- convey to the community objectives of NGC

Must we have a Flower Show to be a Garden Club?

No. but one of the objectives of Texas Garden Clubs, Inc. is to “advance the fine art of gardening, landscape design, the study of horticulture and floral design.” What better way to do that than through a Flower Show?

Why compete? We can bring designs or horticulture to our meetings.

It’s fun to lob tennis balls over the net with a friend but we try harder when we keep score. Competition brings excellence.

Why are we required to have all of these rules?

Have you ever played cards with children who change rules in the middle of a game? Rules give consistency from year to year, from club to club, from state to state.

Why use accredited judges? We can ask two of our members and our local florist to judge our designs.

NGC Judges study both horticulture and design in Flower Show Schools. They are required to continue their study by judging, exhibiting and taking advanced symposiums. Judges also learn how to fairly evaluate exhibits and make comments to help the exhibitor. Judges have been trained to use a standardized, uniform Scales of Points.

Why Enter a Flower Show? Entering the plants that we grow into competition may be the extra incentive that we need to try a little harder and work a little longer. Whether houseplants or landscape plants, exhibiting encourages us to try new varieties or to start a collection.

We see flowers in our garden, flowers when we shop at the grocery and we want to bring the beauty into our homes. Resist the urge to stuff them into an Italian dressing bottle. Have programs – Hold workshops – Learn to arrange flowers. Challenge your creativity and enter the Flower Show!

Every club planning a Standard Flower Show should own and use *The Handbook of Flower Shows*, 2007 edition. Changes in the *Handbook* are effective only after they have been published in *The National Gardener*. The NGC Flower Show Committee also includes a question and answer column, which is very helpful. This TGC Flower Show Brochure may also serve as a guide. Page numbers refer to *Handbook* pages.

SIX BASIC REQUIREMENTS OF ALL STANDARD FLOWER SHOWS (HB 1-7)

NGC Top Exhibitor Awards may be offered and awarded only when all NGC requirements are met:

1. Must be planned and staged by NGC member club/s.
2. Fresh plant material must be emphasized throughout the flower show.
3. Schedule must be written with specific wording and inclusion of all essential details from the *Handbook*.
4. The flower show must include Horticulture and Design Divisions. Horticulture is not necessarily Division I; Divisions are numbered to correspond with actual staging of Flower Show.
5. Must be judged by a panel/s of NGC accredited judges
6. Must be judged by NGC Standard System of Awarding

FLOWER SHOWS CAN BE FUN!

A Flower Show may be held in a home/s and include a tour of the garden, or in a public building such as a museum, bank lobby, a furniture store, a shopping mall, nursing home or a library. The show may be during any season or might celebrate a holiday. Planning is the key to success:

1. The General Chairman may be an elected officer or appointed by the club president. The Chairman appoints all committee chairmen, assigning duties. Delegate the work. Have the newer members work with and learn from more experienced members. Suggested chairmen and duties are found in the *Handbook*.
2. The members should decide on date of show, size and scope of the show. Challenge members but do not over-extend or the show will become a burden.
3. Select home or public building with enough space to avoid crowding but not so large that the show looks lost.
4. Choose a theme that members will be able to interpret in staging and designs, carry the theme throughout the entire show – horticulture, design and special exhibits.
5. Plan staging at entrance of show to attract visitors and to introduce the theme. Suggestions: fountain, flower cart, antique buggy, small garden, bales of hay with pumpkins, lemonade stand, etc. Use real flowers – the emphasis throughout the show must be on fresh plant material. Artificial is not permitted.
6. Before writing the schedule, read all of the requirements for a Flower Show in the *Handbook*. Walk through the show site imagining traffic flow, lighting, entrances and exits.
7. With projected number of entries, devise a floor plan. Judges should be able to “walk the schedule” without confusion or back-tracking.
8. View walls to include description in schedule for design, “design to be staged in front of beige wall” “design to be staged in front of picture window”, etc.
9. Allow enough space around designs and horticulture for visitors to appreciate exhibits. Remember that visitors may be in a wheel chair or have a baby stroller. Judges will be evaluating the designs from in front of and three feet away, and functional tables may be judged while seated.
10. Reconfirm with past donors of local/club trophies that they are willing to donate awards again.
11. Hold design and horticulture workshops to help new members, to introduce new designs, and teach horticulture grooming and staging.

12. Plan design classes within ability of club members, yet always adding new design styles and staging to challenge the designers.
13. Make horticulture section/classes more detailed if club has been studying a particular subject: perennials, native plants, roses, etc.
14. Add Artistic Crafts to take advantage of other garden related talents: corsages, flower topiaries, decorated packages, pressed flower crafts, tussy-mussies, decorated straw hats, etc.
15. Include Special Exhibits: Educational, Youth, Sponsored Groups such as residents in retirement center, and Garden Sections.

TYPES OF STANDARD FLOWER SHOWS

SMALL STANDARD FLOWER SHOW (HB 1-7)

- Must conform to six basic requirements for all Standard Flower Shows
- Horticulture Division: minimum of 20 exhibits entered in a minimum of 5 classes
- Design Division: 12-19 design exhibits entered in a minimum of three classes, with at least 4 exhibits in each class
- Top Exhibitor Awards may be offered (Tricolor, Arboreal)
- May include Special Exhibits (Educational, Youth)
- Not eligible for any NGC Flower Show Achievement Awards (HB 55-70)

STANDARD FLOWER SHOW (HB 1-7, 13-14)

- Must conform to six basic requirements for all Standard Flower Shows (HB 1-7)
- Horticulture Division: minimum of 20 exhibits entered in a minimum of 5 classes
- Design Division: 20 or more design exhibits entered in a minimum of 5 classes, with 4 or more exhibits in each class
- Top Exhibitor Awards may be offered (Tricolor, Arboreal)
- May include Special Exhibits (Educational, Youth)
- Eligible for any NGC Flower Show Achievement Awards if all requirements are met (HB 55-70)

ADVANCED STANDARD FLOWER SHOW

- Any large flower show conforming to six basic requirements for all Standard Flower Shows (HB 1-7)
- Many sections and classes well beyond minimum requirements
- Offers numerous Top Exhibitor Awards

TYPES & SPECIALIZED FLOWER SHOWS HB 9-13

GENERAL

- Held in public building, outdoors under tent, shopping mall, museum, etc.
- Uses contrived staging such as tables, hanging panels, pedestals

PLACEMENT SHOW

- Home/s: designs are planned for specific locations and utilize existing furniture. Horticulture is staged wherever practical – garage, patio.
- Public building: house museum, furniture store, etc. staged with existing furniture.

PETITE SHOW

- Design Division must consist of all Small and/or Miniature Designs
- Horticulture exhibits may be standard size unless applying for NGC FS Achievement Award, in which all horticulture exhibits must be of naturally small growth and/or those designated as dwarf.

HOLIDAY

- To be eligible for NGC FS Achievement Award, should be a specific holiday Christmas, New Years, Easter – not general such as fall or all holidays. (HB 67)

PATRIOTIC

- To be eligible for NGC FS Achievement Award the US flag must be correctly and prominently displayed. (HB 67)
- May include any patriotic holiday or event such as a dedication.

CO-SPONSORED WITH PLANT SOCIETY

- May be held in cooperation with a plant society, e.g. Chrysanthemum, Rose, Orchid, Daffodil, etc. (HB 12-13)

WRITING THE FLOWER SHOW SCHEDULE

A printed schedule is required. Use the schedule Scale of Points on HB pages 306-308. Also use info HB 25-31, 41-53, 99, 102-104, 154, 187-190.

HORTICULTURE DIVISION

Horticulture is the science and art of cultivating plants – flowers, fruits, vegetables, trees and shrubs. NGC emphasizes the educational value of horticulture to the community through Standard Flower Shows. (HB 99)

Horticulture Division Rules (HB 72, 102-104 for all other required and suggested rules)

- All plant material entered must be all fresh and have been grown by exhibitor.
- Exhibits must have been in possession of the exhibitor for no fewer than 90 days
- Cut annuals and biennials must have been in exhibitor's possession from seeds, cuttings or immature (transplants) and perennials for at least 90 days.
- Bulbous blooms from planting of bulb, tuber, corm, etc. for at least 90 days.
- Combination plantings must have been grown together for no fewer than 6 weeks
- Plant material may not be altered by the application/treatment of oil, commercial 'shine' products, etc. that may artificially change the natural color and texture.
- All specimens should be correctly labeled with scientific (botanical) names or the currently accepted scientific identifications for their educational value.
- To be eligible for any NGC Top Exhibitor Award (Arboreal), a specimen must be so identified. ex. *Tagetes erecta* 'Firecracker' and may include common name American marigold.
- Exhibitor may make more than one entry per class if each entry is a different species, variety, cultivar, type or color

Schedule Writing for Horticulture Division HB 102-104

The Horticulture Division is written in Sections, Classes and subclasses.

Sections . HB 42, 104-120

- A small show may have only a few sections: cut specimens, container-grown foliage container-grown blooming plants.
- A large show could have sections each of annuals, biennials, perennials, bulbs, container-grown foliage, container-grown blooming plants, cactus, succulents, hanging baskets, fruits and vegetables, others.
- A section may be one genus, such as roses or iris.
- NGC Top Exhibitor Awards are available to designated sections. (HB 43-45). Schedule must indicate which sections the awards is being offered.

Classes are within sections.

- Each section should include at least 3 classes. There must be a minimum of three classes in a designated section in order to offer a NGC Top Exhibitor Award such as Arboreal Award or Award of Merit.
- In all other classes there is no minimum number of exhibits required.
- Classes may include: cut specimens, arboreal branches, fruits, vegetables and nuts, container-grown plants, collections, displays.
- Classes may be subdivided into subclasses by the Classification Chairman when schedule is limited or general or if calluses are large or when there is considerable variety. Subclasses will typically be determined by size, color or cultivar.