

COLLECTIONS OF IRIS

Definition | Eligibility | Scale of Points

Approved by the AIS Board of Directors, July 27, 2022



The purpose of a collection should be to demonstrate the consistency of the grower’s horticultural expertise.

Collections are entered in the Horticultural Division of a show.

Collections are not eligible for Best Specimen of Show.

Each exhibitor is permitted to enter only one stalk of any particular cultivar, including registered but unIntroduced seedlings, in any of the single stalk sections (e.g., Tall Bearded, Arilbred, Spuria) of the Open Horticultural Division. The same cultivar may also be entered in any of the Collection, English Boxes, Container-Grown Iris, or Single Blossom Sections. (Keep in mind that entries in the sections of Collections, English Boxes, Container-Grown Iris, and Single Blossom are not eligible for Best Specimen of Show.) For example, an exhibitor may enter ‘Dusky Challenger’ in the Tall Bearded Section as a single stalk and in the Collections Section with 5 stalks (or whatever quantity is required by the show schedule). This also applies to seedlings: they may be entered in the Seedling Division and in any of the Collection, English Boxes, Container-Grown Iris or Single Blossom sections following the guidelines in the following chart:



Eligibility of a seedling entered by one exhibitor:

	Eligible for Seedling Division only	Eligible for Seedling OR Open Horticultural Division	Eligible for Seedling AND Open Horticultural Divisions	Eligible for sections that are NOT competing for Best Specimen in Show
A seedling not registered and not introduced (i.e., seedling with number only)	Yes	No	No	Yes
A seedling registered (with a name) but NOT introduced	No	Yes	No	Yes

The ideal collection will consist of three to five stalks of the same type (but not necessarily the same cultivar) of iris, all of which should be of first-place quality. Stalks should be identical in all physical respects, e.g., size, form, freshness, etc. All stalks should be cut to the same length. There should be an artistic quality in the presentation of the collection. Only one first-place ribbon may be awarded per collection.

Exhibition judging of iris is distinctly different from judging in the garden. On the show bench a judge is not trying to determine the qualities and attributes of a particular variety. Rather, the exhibition judge must pass judgement in two areas:

1. Cultural perfection - how well the specimen has been grown by comparing it to the maximum typical performance of the variety being judged.
2. Condition and grooming - how well the specimen was prepared for entry into the exhibition.

Exhibition judging evaluates the specimen as it is shown at the moment the judge sees it.

SCALE OF POINTS

Exhibition Judging of Collection Classes

1. Overall Effect			20
	a. Combination of Specimens	10	
	b. Harmonious Display	10	
2. Horticultural Perfection			50
	a. Individual Flowers	25	
	b. Stalks, Buds & Bloom Quality	25	
3. Condition			30
	a. Grooming	10	
	b. Culture	20	
TOTAL			100

In judging collection classes, one must consider uniformity of stalks, size, petal texture, color patterns and harmonious combination of colors, as well as horticultural perfection of each specimen in the collection.

A collection should be composed of stalks of the same type of iris, for example, all tall bearded or all Louisiana iris. Collections of mixed types should be reserved for educational or display purposes only. A good show schedule will provide for classes with either three or five stalks per collection. It will specify the color composition of the collection, for example, all selfs, all plicatas, all whites, all different, etc. Since multiple stalks may result in crowding or damage to individual blooms, the schedule should specify whether specimens are to be displayed in one container or in individual containers. The schedule should also state who will furnish the container(s).

Each different variety must be properly labeled to be eligible for an AIS award. If all stalks are same variety, one label will suffice. Labels should be unobtrusive and preferably external to the exhibit.

1. Overall Effect - 20 points

Stalks should be cut to equal lengths. Although this is not a design entry, the combination of colors and color patterns should be harmonious and should create a balanced and symmetrical outline of the display when exhibited in one container. Containers should be appropriate to the size of the iris being shown and should be uniform in size, shape, and color and clean. Containers should be unobtrusive so as not to detract from the appearance of the flower stalks in the exhibit.

Note: Multiple containers may be placed on a common base or otherwise linked together so long as the staging does not intrude on the purpose of the display, which is to show the flower stalks.

2. Horticultural Perfection - 50 points

As in specimen classes, each stalk should be judged against the perfection for that particular variety. When the collection entry is composed of assorted varieties, attention should be accorded to the overall effect and condition. All the flowers on each stalk must be fresh and of top quality. In all cases, correct proportion is a primary consideration. The judge must notice that tall bearded stalks, when exhibited in individual containers, are not cut too short.

3. Condition - 30 points

The skills of the exhibitor are evaluated here. The specimen should reflect visible improvement in the flower and stem resulting from the exhibitor's grooming. This includes neat removal of diseased or damaged foliage; cleanliness of the stem and flower; absence of insect infestations; firm upright positioning of the specimen; facing of the specimen; and a neat removal of spent blossoms, including the ovaries, with no damage to the spathes. The result should be a specimen being presented in its best possible appearance.

A judge may encounter trickery such as pinning or taping of flower parts, flower replacement from another stem, splicing of stems, unattached leaves or leaf spathes, cracking of stems to make them appear straighter, or hidden supports and wedges. If any such alterations are found, the entry is to be disqualified from competition.

Handbook For Judges and Show Officials



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Note: This chapter and others from the *Handbook for Judges* are available online. It is recommended that judges and other readers check out the Introduction and Table of Contents in the full version of the *Handbook* in order to know the full list of available resources, e.g., Glossary, essays, Judge's Activity Record, etc.
