

EXHIBITION JUDGING

INTRODUCED CULTIVARS

Introduced intermediate bearded cultivars exhibited at a show are judged primarily on the basis of the exhibitor's horticultural skill, and secondarily on his/her expertise in grooming and presenting the specimen. It is therefore the responsibility of the judge to be familiar with as many cultivars as possible in order to compare each entry with its own norm under good garden conditions. The relative merit of the cultivar itself as a garden subject is immaterial in this context.

Placement in the class is determined by the official registration of the cultivar, even if the registered classification appears to be incorrect. The specimen must be correctly identified and should appear well grown and disease-free. In size and proportion it should be typical of the cultivar as it performs in the geographical area where it has been grown. Faults inherent in the cultivar itself are not penalized, except that an exhibit which is "out of class" in any respect may receive no award higher than a blue ribbon, even where the discrepancy is typical of the cultivar exhibited. Section and higher awards are withheld from such exhibits because any cultivar which does not conform to the intermediate bearded guidelines tends to misrepresent the class to the gardening public.

The exhibitor's presentation skills are also judged. Specimens should be clean, free of mechanical injury and carefully groomed. Any removal of spent blooms or trimming of foliage must be inconspicuous. Blossoms should be fresh and if two or more are displayed on the stalk, should balance one another attractively. Entries must be evaluated as they appear at the moment of judging; no assumptions may be made with regard to how the exhibit may appear later on the show day. However, when severe local weather conditions have damaged large numbers of entries in a particular show, the criteria for judging condition may be relaxed somewhat.

SCALE OF POINTS

CULTURAL PERFECTION	75
a) Flower	45*
b) Stalk	30*
CONDITION AND GROOMING	<u>25</u>
	100

* Points to be awarded or deducted according to the optimum for the cultivar exhibited, as discussed above.

SEEDLINGS

In judging seedling classes, judges should remember that they are not seeking a superior horticultural specimen, but rather a new cultivar which not only conforms to the guidelines for the intermediate bearded class, but exhibits desirable qualities comprising improvement and/or innovation. Condition is not a factor in judging seedlings; in fact, it is preferable that the stalks not be groomed, so that the judge can more easily evaluate such features as branching and bud count.

The Exhibition Certificate is awarded to the "Best Seedling" if one is chosen. The certificate is not a recommendation for introduction, since on the show bench it is not possible to

evaluate plant qualities; however, no "Best Seedling" award should be given if there is no entry promising enough to be worthy of introduction, given that its performance in the garden equaled its promise as it appears on the bench. Exhibition Certificates are also awarded to seedlings receiving at least five judges' votes on special ballots provided; judges visiting a show are urged to review the seedling entries and use these ballots to reward excellence where they find it.

SCALE OF POINTS

1. OVERALL PROPORTION	25
2. FLOWER	35
a) Color and Finish	15
b) Form	10
c) Substance	10
3. STALK	20
a) Proportion	10
b) Branching and Buds	10
4. DISTINCTIVENESS	<u>20</u>
	100