



THE GARDEN GABBER NEWSLETTER

GARDENERS OF GREATER AKRON JULY 2019

Letter from our President:

This month of July marks my favorite month of the summer. Fireworks, picnics, colorful flowers, summer harvests, and outdoor occasions with family and friends. Farmers markets and outdoor festivals, parks, and garden parties, sparklers, and porch swings remind me that the season is in full swing.

Here at GOGA though, the excitement never ends. Our speaker for this month is our very own Jim Bell assisted by GOGA Photographer John Anderson will teach us how to prepare horticultural show pieces for the GOGA Horticultural Show Program in August. From ratings to tips on how to get the best ribbon, we will have you ready to be Best in Show. Hope to see you there!

A special thank you to Mrs. Sue Godard and volunteers for another amazing Strawberry Festival. What a turn out and amazing event!

As you can see, this is not the normal GARDEN GABBER Publication. Our Editor is temporarily incapacitated, filling in (for July only) is Bob Bell. We will provide updates regarding Clark as they are available.

Our President said in her letter that this month's program is a training session for preparing specimens to enter into the August Horticulture Show.

I am attaching The Horticulture Show Schedule and Rules as well as How to Select and Prepare your Horticulture Show Exhibit. Some copies will be available at the meeting but it is preferred that you make your own copies and bring them on July 15 to the normal July Dinner Meeting.

JULY Dinner Meeting
Social Hour 5:30—6:30 PM
Dinner 6:30—7:30 PM
Program 7:30 PM

GARDENERS OF GREATER AKRON HORTICULTURE SHOW SCHEDULE AND RULES

AUGUST 19, 2019

Entries will be accepted from **4:00-5:00 PM**. Entrants are encouraged to provide their own entry containers, preferably clear, glass bottles, and have them ready to display. We do have containers available if you need them, but please arrive early so that you have time to prepare your entries before judging. (Specimens should be staged with no foliage underwater). Entry cards will be available at the July meeting and are available the day of the show, or prior to the show by calling Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich at 330-630-9625. You must identify your exhibit with the variety or cultivar name, (or the botanical name), to receive a top award. Please include the botanical name if at all possible. Example: *Capsicum annuum*, 'Gypsy' pepper.

All container plants must have been in the possession of the exhibitor for 30 days prior to the show.

Judging will be from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. except for Best of Show, Second Best of Show and Third Best of Show. Those awards will be decided after dinner with the judges providing commentary about their decisions. This will be an educational benefit for the members. All decisions of the judges are final. Those in attendance will vote on a People's Choice winner. Rosettes will be awarded to section winners and trophies shall be awarded to the three Best of Show winners and the People's Choice winner. The Marshall Greenlun Big Blue Award will be given to the entrant with the most blue ribbons and presented at the November awards meeting.

All items must be removed at the close of the meeting by the Exhibitor. Any questions, call Mary Ann Ferguson-Rich or Jim Bell at 330-644-6867.

Specimens shall be a single flower etc., unless the rules specify a larger number. Paper plates and wedging material will be provided as necessary for display. The Show Chairmen will subdivide the sections into classes at the time of entry. (Two or more entries may constitute a class). We reserve the right to add as many classes and/or sections as deemed necessary).

Section A-Annuals (Perennials grown as annuals, such as seed dahlias are entered here) Three specimens of dwarf/small flowers, one of larger flowers; Example: three dwarf marigolds; one only of the large, carnation-type marigolds. Include foliage (at least one set of leaves, unless a flower that has no leaves on the stem naturally)

Section B-Perennials-Three specimens of dwarf/small flowers, one of larger flowers. Include foliage (at least one set of leaves, unless a flower that has no leaves on the stem naturally)

Section C-Flowering shrubs-(i.e. hydrangea), one specimen. Include foliage (at least one set of leaves).

Section D-Vegetables-Three specimens of tomatoes, peppers, onions, summer squash and other small vegetables. One specimen of larger vegetables such as eggplant, winter squash and pumpkins (unless it is a miniature variety, such as Fairytale eggplant, then three). All vegetables should include a stem. Stems may be trimmed but should be at least 1/2 inch. (Cherry tomatoes may be displayed individually, six ripe with stems or as a cluster with six or more on the cluster. A majority should be ripe on the cluster, but not all need be ripe). Class D-1 Any vegetable

Class D-2 Any heirloom vegetable

Section E-Fruits-One specimen of larger fruits such as apples, peaches, etc., six specimens of smaller fruits such as berries.

Section F-Herb-One stem of larger herbs such as rosemary, mint, borage, etc. Three stems of small herbs such as thyme. Section G-Herbs in Containers

G-1 One plant in container

G-2 Multiple plants in a container (can be the same herb or an assortment of herbs)

Section H-Corms, Bulbs, Tubers and Hemerocallis-One specimen.

Section I-Orchids in Containers

Section J-Flowering Plants in Containers

J-1 Single plant in container

J-2 Multiple plants in a container (one type or a mixture of plants)

Section K-Foliage Plants in Containers

Class K-1 Single plant in container

Class K-2 Multiple plants in container (one type or a mixture of plants)

Section L-Hanging baskets (One type or a mixture of different plants in the basket) Section M-Miniature Gardens-(With or without accessories in containers of any size)

Section N-Foliage One leaf specimen of any plant

Section O-Cactus and Succulents in pots

Class O-1 Single cactus in a container

Class O-2 Multiple cacti in a container (can be the same variety or an assortment) Class O-3 Single succulent in a pot

Class O-4 Multiple succulents in a pot (can be the same variety or an assortment)

Section P-Largest tomato by circumference, can be green Section Q-Longest Zucchini

Section R-Best Geranium-limited to those varieties obtained at our sale.

Class R-1 Single stem

Class R-2 Geraniums in a container

Section S-Trees and shrubs-a cut branch, 12" to not more than 30", including the container.

Section T-Arrangements

Class T-1 Any arrangement under 15" in height or width.

Class T-2 Any arrangement over 15" in height or width.

(Floral material does not have to be grown by the exhibitor)

Guidelines for Entering Specimens in the GOGA Horticulture Show

Selecting Your Entries

1. Before heading out to cut your plants, review any class restrictions
e.g. “Not to exceed 12” from the lip of the container to the tip of the branch”.
2. Specimens are best if cut in the very early morning, or just before dark.
Consider cutting your plants the day before the show.
3. Bring very sharp snips and a container of tepid water with you into the garden.
4. If stems grow with foliage attached, leave the foliage attached.
Remove any leaves below the water (Exceptions: Lily-of-the-Valley, Tulips).
5. Cut stems several inches longer than needed, and place immediately in water.
6. Look for straight, strong, “perfect” specimens ... good “substance”.
Watch for detractors: insects, insect damage, torn leaves, bent petals, weak stems, etc.
7. **Selecting Daisy-type Flowers**
 - a. Examples: aster, cosmos, dahlia, daisy, marigold, peony, rose, zinnia.
 - b. Cut when fully developed.
 - c. Avoid over mature flowers: center visible or outer petals curling or faded.
8. **Selecting Spike-type Flowers**
 - a. Examples: celosia, delphinium, gladiolus, salvia, snapdragon.
 - b. Ideal: 1/3 florets fully open, 1/3 showing color, 1/3 green bud.
 - c. All florets should be present, no older florets browned, damaged or faded.
 - d. Spike should be straight to the tip and sturdy.
9. **Selecting Spray-type Flowers**
 - a. Examples: ageratum, pompon mum, daylily, lily, sweet pea.
 - b. A spray is a main stem with blooms on side branches.
 - c. Each flower on every stem should be in good condition.

Conditioning Your Cuttings

1. Remove leaves that will be underwater (Exceptions: Lily-of-the-Valley & Tulips).
2. Fill a clean container with cool or cold water and preservative. A preservative is critical to both feed the plant and control bacteria in the water. Use deep water to help force water up the stems.
3. Re-cut the stem underwater, at a sharp angle to maximize water absorption and immediately place the cutting in the deep water with preservative.
4. Move your conditioned plants to a dark, cool location.
 - a. Cooling plants allows them to pick up more water than they release.
 - b. Most plants like to be placed in the refrigerator for 3-12 hours. Do not store fruits and vegetables that are sensitive to ethylene gas near fruits and vegetables that produce it. As some fruits and vegetables ripen, they emit ethylene, a gas that can cause other produce to ripen, become soft or spotted, soft, or mushy. To prevent this, keep ethylene-sensitive fruits and vegetables separate from varieties that emit the gas.
 - c. If you can't put them into a refrigerator, place them in the coolest place available.

Selecting a Container for Your Cutting

1. Refer to the guidelines for the flower show.
2. Sometimes containers are provided for you once you get to the show.
3. Sometimes, you need to provide your own container.
 - a. Select a container the right size for the cutting (good proportion).
 - b. Make sure the inside and outside of the container are clean.
 - c. The container should not detract from the cut specimen.
4. Rough rule of thumb: Plant should be 1.5 - 2 times the height of the container.

Selecting Potted (Rooted) Plants

1. Refer to the flower show instructions for any ownership requirements, e.g. “No purchased plants or time limit on ownership prior to show”.
2. Make sure the plant is clean, e.g. free of insects, insect damage, nutritional problems (yellow leaves), torn leaves, etc.
3. If flowering: There should be a lots of bright and clear flowers.
4. Make sure the container is clean, and meets the show guidelines.
 - a. Consider the type of container (a clean clay pot is preferred).
 - b. The container size, e.g. “Not to exceed 12” measured inside the container at the soil line”.
5. Look for plants that are symmetrical and a good proportion for their container.
6. Remove any old flowers.
7. Remove any plant debris or litter from the soil surface.
8. Consider top-dressings: moss, pebbles, worm castings (refer to show guidelines).
9. Sometimes “double potting” is acceptable (refer to show guidelines).
10. Do not use leaf shine or wax products on the foliage.

Preparing Your Entries

1. Whether cut or potted, groom your plants to make them as perfect as possible!
2. Remove any dust or pollen with a soft brush or cotton balls.
3. Use a damp facial tissue, Q-tip or other soft product to remove water spots or residue.
4. Use small scissors, shears or snips to remove faded blooms, broken petals, ragged leaves, or other imperfections. A bright light and magnifying glass are good aids.
5. The key to good grooming is to leave no visible evidence of prepping your entries.
6. Sometimes you have to ask yourself, “If I remove that, will I make the specimen better or worse.” If in doubt, ask someone, or leave it alone.
7. Bring your prepping tools with you to the show to “touch up” your entry.

Transporting Your Entries to the Show

1. Most damage to plants occurs during transportation to the show!
2. Place plants/vases in large boxes and pack with lots of packing material.
3. Make sure lower leaves, extending beyond the container, are protected.
4. Place plants on the car floor if possible, or in the back of the car where it’s flat.
5. Seatbelts help, but should not be trusted to protect tall narrow vases.

At the Show!

1. You must prepare an Entry Card. (Help will be available at show) You will need to know:
 - a. The Number of the Class you are entering (refer to the schedule).
 - b. The Botanical or Latin name(s) of your plant(s).
 - c. The spelling of the genus, species, and cultivar.
 - d. If you don’t know the species, you can write “sp.” after the genus, but it’s always better if you know the correct species name: Example: Acer sp.
 - (1). If you know the cultivar, definitely include this information.
 - (2). the genus is always capitalized and in italics or underlined.
 - (3). the species is never capitalized and in italics or underlined.
 - (4). the cultivar is written in single quotes;Example: Acer rubrum ‘Red Sunset’.

Note: The above guidelines were developed from materials collected from The Gardeners of America/ Men’s Garden Clubs of America, Garden Clubs of America, The American Horticultural Society, and other gardening sources.