

2024 Spring Flower Show - Exhibitors Guide

Preparation/acceptance of entries (**except entries in the photography section**) will commence on the Memorial Hall verandah at **9am on Friday, 18 October** and entries will be accepted up to **1.30pm** and **no later**. **Entries in the photography section must be received by 4pm on Friday 1 October. Electronic Entries only (see Section 11 of the 2024 Show Schedule for further details on entering photos).**

Please refer to the “Conditions of Show Entry and Rules” detailed in the [Flower Show Schedule](#).

All entries (**excepting photos**) must be accompanied by an Entry Slip – these will be distributed at the BGC September General Meeting and will also be available on the BWMCA Hall verandah on Friday, 18 October. You must complete the entry slip with the following details:

Buderim Flower Show	
Exhibitor's No	<input type="text"/>
Name of plant	
Section No.	<input type="text"/>
Class No.	_____
(circle) A / B / C	

Exhibitors Number - (i.e., your club membership number which is on the back of your club's name badge). If you cannot find your club number or are not a BGC member then see the Show Secretary who will be stationed on the Hall verandah.

Enter the name of the plant – this information is often sought by show visitors. Ask a Show Steward if you do not know the name.

Section Number – Refer to [Flower Show Schedule](#) e.g., Section **1** cut-flowers.

Class Number – e.g., **12** which is Orchid other (refer to Flower Show Entry Schedule) for the Class Number.

If you are entering one entry in a class circle A, if you are entering two or three (maximum of three entries per class) you need to circle A on the entry slip for the first entry, circle B on the next entry slip for the second entry and if entering three circle C on another entry slip for the third entry.

Sticky tape the entry slip to your exhibit's container **N.B. containers are provided by BGC for exhibits in Sections 1-4** (refer to [Flower Show Entry Schedule](#)).

Preparation Assistants will be on the verandah to assist you if required.

With all entries it is important that they are well presented in their container for judging as good presentation can mean the difference between winning a prize or not. With cut flower and foliage entries you can use plastic tubing (provided) to prop up the flowers/foliage in the container – place the stem between the tubing and the bottleneck to keep the specimen upright.

There is special tubing provided for vine entries such as Jade that allows the flowers to hang down.

Sections 1-4 (refer to [Flower Show Entry Schedule](#)) ensure stems reach well into the bottle (in the water). Leaves may be left on but ensure there are no leaves below the water in the bottle. Section 8 (Floral Art) No artificial adornments permitted on entry. Base max of 30cm and able to sit on display table.

Use an appropriately sized container – small containers and larger/heavier containers.

With Section 1 Class 13 (**Pansy or Viola**) – in mini bottles supplied by the BGC.
With Section 4 (**Foliage entries**) height of entries is restricted to **50cm**.

Exhibitors must place their completed entry on the stewards holding table Or hand them to a Steward who will place them appropriately. Once placed, exhibits **must** only be handled by a Steward. Please remember that exhibits are expected to last three days so delay taking flowers/ cuttings to Friday morning if possible. If possible, replace your spent flowers on Saturday and/or Sunday morning e.g., hibiscus and brugmansia flowers.

When taking your cutting cut the stem on a slant preferably with a sharp knife. Plunge the cutting immediately into lukewarm water.

All exhibits must be removed from the Hall on Sunday 20 October commencing at 1:30pm. To 2.30pm, if **Not** collected the BGC will dispose of the exhibits, if unable to collect for set reason please notify the chief Steward who will arrange storage in BGC shed.

Show Stewards will be on hand on Friday to assist should you have any questions regarding Show entry.

Tips for Producing a Quality Flower Show Entry

The following tips have been compiled from multiple sources including, The Australian Horticultural Show and Judges Manual, comments provided by Buderim Garden Club Flower Show Judges.

The aim of judging horticultural exhibits is to identify the exhibit with the best overall quality. In determining the overall quality of an exhibit, the judge will be looking at the following six facets:

1. Form – the shape which is true or characteristic of a particular flower, fruit or plant;
2. Condition – freshness of the exhibit, the perfect stage of an exhibit's development usually determined by the firmness or standing of petals or foliage, the colour and condition of stamens and pollen, freedom from insect or disease injury, tears or other surface marks;
3. Colour – the aim is to produce exhibits of glistening colour, unaffected by fading or dullness;
4. Size – a dominant factor as it usually indicates strong culture but must be balanced with the known maximum potential of the particular exhibit without being unbalanced, (height of entries is restricted to **50cm**.)
5. Substance – substance and texture are sometimes used in flower and fruit judging either in unison or individually. Substance means the firmness and thickness of the flower or it can refer to the flesh of fruit;
6. Texture refers to the same factors as substance but with an emphasis on the desirable features that either enhance the surface of the flower or the condition of the fruit.

General

Read the Show Schedule carefully to ensure that you meet the exact requirements for the class that you are entering e.g., Class 18 Composite Flowers – any colour – 3 flower stems:

1. ensure that you have selected a composite flower which in simple terms is a flower made up of a "composite" of flowers clustered together to mimic a single flower e.g. daisy, sunflower.
2. ensure you have three stems with a composite flower head on each stem.

Taking Flower and Foliage Cuttings

Take your cuttings either the evening before (around sunset) or early in the morning of show entry. Make sure all your cutting implements and containers are clean before you begin.

It is important to get the cut specimen into water immediately so no air enters the stem to prevent the uptake of water. Carry a bucket filled with enough **warm** water to be able to submerge at least the lower half of each stem. Use sharp knife, scissors or secateurs to cut the stem at an angle, being careful not to crush it. Always cut the stem as long as possible. You can recut it later, under water, to

modify the length to fit the proportions of the exhibit container. Remove all leaves below water level. This helps to prevent decay and rotting of leaves that can result in a build-up of bacteria.

Flower entries

- ensure you select a flower/s that are at their peak or just coming to their peak of perfection, an exhibit that is not near or fully out or is past its prime will lose points
- remove all insects and pests from your entry
- select a flower/s with a shape that is true or characteristic of the plant/variety
- the exhibit should be free of damage and blemishes with no old flowers, leaves or seedpods
- the exhibit should have clean foliage and have a strong stem
- evenness and symmetry of a flower is an advantage (unless the flower is normally asymmetrical)
- the colour of the flower should be clear and bright
- a larger flower is viewed as being a better example of the kind or variety of the plant
- in a close competition the presentation and naming of an exhibit can be taken into consideration
- in preparing the exhibit ensure individual flowers or stems can be seen and that they are not crammed in
- carefully groom your entry e.g. use nail scissors to remove any brown stubs

Potted Plants

Grooming is one of the most important parts of showing a potted plant. The clean-up should not be put off until moments before the show but should be part of your daily routine for the well-being of your plants. Don't wait for yellow leaves and faded flowers to drop!

Both plant and container need to be considered in a well-groomed exhibit. Here is a check-list of some of the things you can do:

- clean leaves with a soft cloth, paint brush, cotton buds, cotton balls, etc. When removing dust and debris from the plant, don't forget to look under the leaves.
- Do NOT apply oil or polish to the leaves.
- use fingernail scissors to CAREFULLY remove brown stubs or damage to leaves.
- Center the plant in your pot (unless it is a bonsai). Plants have been overlooked for awards because they were not centered. Turn the plant regularly for symmetrical growth.
- if a plant to be exhibited needs repotting, do so well in advance of the show.
- remove tiny weeds and any stray debris from the surface of the potting soil. If you are not repotting, scrape off a little potting soil, without disturbing the roots, and add additional soil. This really improves an entry.
- Remove any evidence of pests & diseases i.e. **(Bio Security)**.
- **All exhibits in Sections 1-7 and 9 must be the property of and have been grown by the exhibitor for at least 3 months prior to entry.**

Ensure that any stakes are removed from the pot before you stage your entry.

The plant should be in proportion to the size of the pot.

Saucers (clear plastic) beneath the pot are allowed, this reduces water markings on the tablecloths, these will be provided by the BGC.

The pot should be clean and white oil can be used to improve the appearance of the pot.

Ideas for Transporting Entries

Place potted plant in a box. Surround pot with thickly crushed newspaper to stabilize it. Transport the plant in a box/foam container, or in a bucket/container of water.

Equipment for preparing Exhibits

Equipment for preparing exhibits is provided by BGC, but where possible bring your own so you are not waiting to use equipment. E.G – scissors, knife, secateurs, sticky tape & pen.