

# Classes to Consider ...On Your Way To Winning

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Once you have reviewed the rose show schedule, the next item of order is to determine what entries you might consider making. Keep in mind that planning ahead will often work to your advantage but do not become discouraged if the roses do not cooperate. Many times weather and other extraneous considerations may cause your roses to bloom a week ahead or behind schedule. The intent of planning ahead is to “get an idea” of what particular classes you may want to consider for entering your roses. As we take a look at our various options, be cognizant that each class identified below is applicable to Hybrid Teas, Miniature and Minifloras unless otherwise identified.

**Open Bloom** – often incorrectly referred to as **Full Blown**, the open bloom class is an entry most exhibitors can make enter with ease. Unfortunately, the tendency is for most exhibitors not to take this class seriously and for that reason the average exhibitor seldom excels. This is where the new exhibitor may substantially increase the likelihood of doing well by following a few cardinal rules for the open bloom class. Here is where planning ahead can and will work to your favor. Sometime late **Wednesday** or early **Thursday**, assuming a Saturday Rose Show, identify several colorful blooms (as opposed to solid colored varieties) that are potential candidates for this class. Brightly colored and lightly petaled blooms that tend to reach out to a judge and say “**I am the best**” will improve your chance of success in this class. The key to winning an open bloom is a fresh entry that has blown naturally and has fresh pollen filled stamens. If the entry has opened on its own and is flat with fresh stamens it can and will win. Conversely, a rose with petals similar to crepe paper and **darkened stamens** or a rose that looks as if the inner petals have been plucked will almost never garner consideration as the top entry.

**Single Petaled Rose** – under ARS guidelines a “**Single**” rose is a rose with 4 to 8 petals. Pay particular attention to the show schedule as the number of petals may or may not comply with the guidelines and it is worth noting that the show schedule **rules**. Often the schedule will specify Hybrid Teas but if it does not, then Floribundas Climbers, OGR’s and Shrub roses may be entered in this class. Single roses are judged to be at their best when fully open. Bright fresh stamens are an absolute must in order to win this class. The same attributes for winning the Open Bloom also apply to single entries with color and fresh stamens being considered paramount to winning. Flatness is a key component to making the entry stand out. Our suggestion is to allow the ladies with their softer more dainty smaller hands to work on this entry or otherwise risk losing a petal and the entry in the process.

**Classic Hybrid Tea** – this is a fun class and one that not many entries will be on the entry table. The consideration here is that not only do you need to know the name of the rose but also the **date** the rose was registered. Fear not as most die hard exhibitors have a copy of Peter Schneider’s “**Combined Rose List**” as do almost all judges and some rose societies as well. This is a class where the rose ‘**Peace**’ will excel if cut at the right time. The same attributes that apply to winning Queen of Show also apply to this class; the primary difference will revolve around the number of entries or lack thereof.

**Picture Frame** – Typically the rose show provides picture frames that have a water pic on the back side immediately under the hole in the center. The typical frame will have either a green or a black velvet background. The key to winning this class is to **contrast** your entry with the velvet background. A white rose centered on the green or black background will have a tendency to be **eye catching** to say the least, just as a dark red rose will be less than appealing to most judges no matter how perfect the rose is; you need to cause the judge to look twice at your entry. Another consideration is how to display the rose. Do you want it to be **three dimensional** or do you want it to lie **flat**. Three dimensional tends to work best for most entries although a Single rose will be enhanced if displayed flat.

**Boutonniere** – Is typically staged similar to that of the Picture Frame with a three dimensional effect having preference. The display is representative of a boutonniere in a man’s lapel and is usually black or dark in color. **White** and **yellow** roses tend to dominate winning entries. Typically foliage may not be displayed although if the rules do not limit the use of foliage, then it is up to the exhibitor to determine if foliage enhances the appearance of the bloom or not.

**Rose in a Bowl** – Or floater is a very popular class and one that can expect many entries as most exhibitors will have at least one rose that they may consider using in this class. This is a perfect class to enter that queen quality rose that has a short cane or leaf damage. Most exhibitors give little if any planning to win this entry and that is why it is a difficult class to win. The average exhibitor will take the best left over rose they have and enter it; this is why so many solid colored roses and pink blends are entered. The key is to not only have an outstanding exhibition bloom but one that will capture the judge’s attention with outstanding **stop in your tracks color** as well. We suggest that you take your water filled bowl in one hand and your rose in the other and walk to the entry table; cut your rose leaving a nice length (one to four inches depending on the rose) to stabilize your entry. Place the rose in the bowl insuring that it sits upright not tilting to one side or the other. Also make sure that the size of the bloom is not too large or small for the bowl. If too big, take a row or two of petals off. As this is a challenge class, care must be taken not to touch or move the other entries already entered.

As we have several other classes for you to consider entering such as the Cycle of Bloom, English Box and others, we will issue **Part II – Classes to Consider** at mid-week. Until then if you have question concerning this or other articles that we have written, please send them to either Richard at [RJA4CPA@aol.com](mailto:RJA4CPA@aol.com) or Kristine at [Beancnr30@wideopenwest.com](mailto:Beancnr30@wideopenwest.com).