

Classes to Consider Part II...On Your Way To Winning

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We left off with our last article writing about entering the Rose in a Bowl and just how much fun that class is. We are going to continue on with the rose show schedule and hopefully our new exhibitors will find more than a few classes they will feel comfortable entering and perhaps win some blue ribbons.

English Box – This is a fun entry and most rose societies will supply the box for exhibitors desiring to enter. Typically you will not see many entries in this class. Pay particular attention to the show schedule as more likely than not it will specify what the requirements are. Typical is **all the same varieties** or different named varieties or perhaps you may see no more than two of any one variety. If you have the option of entering all the same variety we suggest that you enter **six** of one variety. Six of one variety with same size and centers will almost always beat out a mix box. The next best strategy is to have two white roses in the center with perhaps a dark red on the bottom and pink at the top. The white will make a nice contrast, with the pink and red, and should cause the judges to take a second look at the entry. We have won with an entry of “Snow Bride” in the center and near look a like alike ‘Kristin’ and ‘Picotee’ at the top and bottom. The key to winning this class is to insure that the bloom size for each specimen is as close to **identical** as possible and having a **good center** for each bloom. The final consideration is to insure that each bloom is seated perfectly flat against the box. If you have near identical size, good centers and are seated on the box properly a trophy will most often be the result.

Cycle of Bloom - This is another fun entry and one that will not have a lot of competition under normal circumstances. In order to win this class you need to have a **full blown bloom** that is flat with fresh stamens. The winning entry more often than not will center on the open bloom; one that can win on its own accord. You will also need to have a very good exhibition bloom that is one half to three quarters open and a bud that is just beginning to have **petals unfurl**. Our suggestion is to have the open blooms open naturally, hopefully the day prior to the show. The exhibition bloom can be a cut a few days prior to the show assuming it will be refrigerated up until show time. Even though you will win with the open bloom, it is the bud that will make or break the entry. With this in mind the new exhibitor might want to consider taking two or three buds to the show as they will continue to open as the day progresses. You could even take one outside and place it in the sun to aid in opening an overly tight specimen. Arrangement of the entry will vary with a horizontal line with the open bloom to the left and the bud to the right being observed most often. Another preferred way to place the entry would be the open bloom in the rear flanked to the front left by the exhibition bloom and the bud to the right of the exhibition bloom. This will present a very nice entry. Keep in mind that whatever colors that will do well as an open bloom entry will also do well in the cycle of bloom challenge class as the open bloom is what captures the judge’s attention.

Matched Pair – is exactly what it sounds like; two roses that are very close to being identical. This is a class where solid colored roses tend to shine. Hybrid Teas tend to dominate with roses such as ‘**Crystalline**’, ‘**Dublin**’ and ‘**Veterans Honor**’ although just about any plausible color combination can and often does win. The key to winning is to have two very good specimens that match almost perfectly in **size and color**; the primary reason to use solid colored roses is that they are much easier to match than blends are. If and when you have identical size and a perfect color match a winning entry is almost assured. The most likely way to display the entry is side by side as opposed to a straight vertical line.

Three of a Kind – another exactly as it sounds challenge class entry; three roses of the same variety. This is an entry that does not necessitate using solid colored roses but having the roses as near identical in size and a good color match will go a long way toward insuring success. Our preference is to use the rose ‘Gemini’ for three of a kind as we have done very well with the variety in the past. The same attributes that apply to a matched pair are applicable to three of a kind. Staging the entry will look best with one rose in front and two in the rear.

Three Different – is exactly what is indicated; three different varieties. Our suggestion is to consider a combination of perhaps red, white and pink or a pink blend with the darkest rose being the lead roses with two in the rear. This is a safe route to pursue. In all likelihood there may be more entries in this class than in the three of a kind. The same conditions regarding size, centers and matching of colors apply to this entry as they do to three of a kind.

As always, if you have questions regarding this article or others that we have written, please direct them to Richard at RJA4CPA@aol.com or Kristine at Beancnr30@wideopenwest.com.