

The Show Schedule....On Your Way To Winning

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Now is the time to obtain a copy of the Rose Show Schedule for each of the shows you expect to visit this spring. Almost all rose show chairpersons will gladly email (or snail mail) a copy of the show schedule to you upon request; after all they want you to bring your roses to the show. As soon as you receive the schedule, **read and reread** taking care not to assume anything. Schedules change from year to year and what may be applicable at rose show A may not be the same for rose show B. By the way...make certain to check the specific **day** of the rose show; no need to drive three plus hours to an out of town show only to be told that the show is the next day. And yes, been there, done that! The only consolation that we had was that two others we are aware of did the same identical thing and one was from much further away than we were. Case in point...not all rose shows are on Saturday. It behooves the exhibitor to pay attention to the time as well as **date** of the rose show.

As you read through the schedule pay particular attention to the rules of the show. Some show schedules are quite specific whereas others tend to leave some things up to the exhibitor. Note if the show is at the same place that it is normally held at and had time the door open. It is a good idea to arrive somewhat early as the venue may in fact be open and you can get a head start on getting set up. If the facility is not open when you arrive you may have an opportunity to socialize with others exhibitors prior to the building being opened.

Another item worth mentioning is to determine if you need to **register** and obtain an **exhibitor number**. This should be clearly pointed out in the show schedule but on occasion it is not. It is a good idea to ask when you enter the preparation area if this is a requirement. Registering is good for the local rose society that is hosting the rose show but having a registration number is more trouble than it is worth. In fact it serves no useful purpose as does the registration information which may serve to bring in a new member which is highly beneficial to the local rose society.

Wedging is often one of the items within a show schedule that may vary from show to show. Some shows will state that wedging is permitted. This allows the exhibitor great latitude in that Saran Wrap, aluminum foil, Styrofoam, canes from a rose bush or just about anything else is permissible. More often than not the hosting society will specify a particular type of wedging material. When this is done, the local society quite often will supply the wedging material for each exhibitor. We have only encountered one local rose show where no wedging on any kind was allowed. When this does happen you must play by the rules.

Some shows have **placement committees** and others allow the exhibitor to place their own entries. If the show has a placement committee we suggest that you find someone that you are comfortable with and take your prize entries to them. Striking up a dialogue with a member of the placement committee may or may not help you as far as placement is

concerned but, it probably will make you feel better and it may help to relax you as well. When the schedule calls for the exhibitor to place his or her entries, **extreme care** should be taken to insure that roses that are already placed are never touched or moved as you are placing your own entries. On occasion there may not be adequate space to enter your rose or roses. This can and does happen especially with some of the Challenge Class entries. When this occurs the only option available is to report the situation to one of the show committee members. We have encountered this situation previously and have noted that the committee typically works diligently to correct the condition. **Never** and we repeat **NEVER** move someone else's entry.

In reading over the show schedule, it is a good idea to pay attention to specific requirements for the **Challenge Classes**. Does the entry of three or five specify all different or three or five of a kind or some other criteria such as color. If it is **not specified in the schedule**, then the exhibitor determines what the entry will consist of regarding varieties or color, etc. This is also applicable for the **English Box**. Some schedules will not indicate anything regarding entries and others will specify something specific such as no more than two of any particular variety. If given the choice the exhibitor is wise to choose all the same variety as six of a kind, with centers, will more often than not win over a combination of different varieties.

The exception to this rule of **all the same** is when entering the **Artist Pallet** which requires an entry that would simulate colors that an artist might have on their pallet; hence a variety of contrasting colors affords the exhibitor the best chance of winning this entry. If we had a red, pink and a white rose the entry might appeal more to a judge's eye if we placed the white roses in the middle with the lighter pink to the right of the white rose. The contrast between the red, white and pink would certainly capture the judge's attention and if the entry was consistent in size and had well defined centers, chances are the entry would do quite well.

The last item of note concerning the show schedule is to **plan ahead** regarding roses that you think might be available for the show. If you plan to enter a **Cycle of Bloom**, you are going to need an open bloom and perhaps two as you need to insure that the open bloom is fresh especially the stamens. We typically will take, at minimum, two of the exhibition blooms, the same for open blooms and two if not more of the buds. We do this to insure that we will have more than enough roses to select from with the bud being, in our opinion, the most difficult to properly exhibit as it tends to open beyond bud stage. Ideally you will cut your buds the evening before the show.

Some rose shows have a Challenge Class called the Hi-Lo which is matching typically a Hybrid Tea rose with either a Miniature or Miniflora. Solid colored roses have a distinct advantage over blends but we have won this class with regularity using a combination of a white Hybrid Tea with a pink edge such as '**Moonstone**' and complimenting the entry with one of several Minifloras such as '**Leading lady**' which is a near perfect match. The key here again is to plan ahead and chances are you will have an opportunity to win.

Next up on our agenda we start with what we consider the beginning of the fun part of our writing; **Classes to Consider Entering at the Rose Show**. From here on out it is all about the roses and the entries you will make on your way to winning. As always, if you have questions and/or comments regarding this or other articles that we have written, please send them to Richard at RJA4CPA@aol.com or Kristine at Beancnr30@wideopenwest.com.