*We’re Having a Flower Show! - Now What Do I Do??*

FFGC District VII and the Judges Council are having a flower show – and we can’t wait to see what you’ve been growing!

Wait a minute, you say – I’ve heard that flower shows are hard. How will I know what plants to bring? Aren’t there rules? Don’t I have to fill out forms? Why so many forms?

Don’t despair! Yes, there’s a lot of hard work going on behind the scenes to mount this flower show. But it will all be for nothing without YOU and YOUR PLANTS.

**Why should I enter the Horticulture Division?** One purpose of a flower show is to educate the public about horticulture and floral design. You’re growing lots of fabulous plants – in the flower show world called Horticulture. We want you to display them at our show – *Masks Up!* – so that other gardeners can see what’s out there. We want you to win an award or two. Maybe your beloved plant will even win a Top Exhibitor Award as the best plant in a Section or best in the entire show. The Flower Show Committee is rooting for you to win something!

**How will I know what plants to bring?** That’s easy – check the Masks Up! show schedule. You can find it on the FFGC website under EVENTS – or go to this URL: *https://ffgc.org/resources/Documents/2022%20Documents/22-07-09%20District%207%20MASKS%20UP%20FLOWER%20SHOW%20Schedule.pdf*

The list of plants you can enter starts on page 8. Most of the sections are for container-grown plants. Each different genus of plant is listed in a different class.

**What are the rules? Why so many rules?** The rules are there to ensure that our flower show complies with National Garden Club requirements. They’re mainly intended to help you get your plants registered and staged at the show fairly, correctly, and on time. And they inform you about the standards used to judge your entry. Please read all the rules carefully!

* General Rules are on page 4
* Horticulture Rules are on page 5
* Standards used to judge Horticulture are on page 6
* You also need to check any special requirements under the classes that you enter

**What about these forms?** Yes, you’ll need to fill out two forms. These forms will help us with staging the show, tabulating all the horticulture entered and awards given so we can apply for a Flower Show Award, and – most important of all – making sure the proper person gets credit if that entry wins an award or two.

You can get the Hort Entries Form and Entry Tags from the Hort Entries Chair, Pat Neff by calling 610-220-5903 or sending an email to DVIIFSHort@gmail.com

**Hort** **Entries Form -** Pre-register using the 2022 Hort Entries form. Once you’ve decided what you’re bringing to the show, you can fill out this form and send it by October 1 to the Hort Entries Chair at *DVIIFSHort@gmail.com*. You can list multiple entries on one form. We’ll use this information to determine the overall number of entries in each class and decide how much space each class needs in the show. Proper staging can enhance how your exhibit looks when judged, so please help us with this.

**Entry Tags** – Separate Entry Tags must be completed for each one of your specimens and will be affixed to each entry. This is how the public learns the names of interesting cultivars, and it’s where the judges place awards. To save you time on the day you bring in plants, please complete all information except the entry number in advance. The entry number will be assigned once your entry passes Horticulture Classification.

For both the Hort Entries Form and the Entry Tags, you need to provide your personal information, plus the following information for each plant you enter:

* Section – from the Schedule (for example, Sec – A)
* Class – from the Schedule (for example, Class – 10a if entering a Cattleya Orchid)
* Genus and species/variety/cultivar – Genus is on the schedule as the Class Name. You should add the species/variety of the plant you are entering (for example, *Cattleya aurea).* IMPORTANT – if typing, you must italicize the genus and species; if writing, you must underline this information in order to qualify for a top award.

You can find lots of information about exhibiting horticulture in the *Handbook for Flower Shows,* Chapter 6 – Horticulture. The URL is: *https://gardenclub.org/sites/default/files/2022-01/ngc-handbook-for-flower-shows-january-2022-revision\_0.pdf*

If you need help determining genus and species, try a plant identification app. Some of them are listed in this article: *https://brightly.eco/best-plant-identification-app/*

We’re looking forward to seeing all your beautiful plants and presenting them to the public!

