

HELPFUL HINTS ON GROOMING

For the Garden Club Flower Bench

When entering multiple stems, pick stems which are uniform in size, floriferousness, length of stem and state of maturity.

Check all foliage and remove damaged leaves, dirt and spray. Do not use leaf shine or other artificial enhancements.

Look for ants, aphids or scale on all plants. These can be removed in many cases by washing exhibit in warm soapy water.

Condition your exhibit by picking the evening before and putting in warm water. Orchids: - If a flower stalk needs to be tied it should be unobtrusive. Avoid decorative butterflies etc.

Potted Plants: - Make sure pot is clean and surface soil is weed free. Use oasis if necessary to raise foliage above the rim and place the specimen in the center of the container so that the exhibit is well displayed.

The judges will notice poor condition of blooms, wilting, fading in colour, bruised, blemished, dying or dead flowers on a stem. Removal of dead florets should be done carefully so that it is not obvious. Use only fresh, well conditioned material. Lack of supporting foliage, diseased or damaged foliage will also be noticed. Healthy foliage could be the deciding factor in close competition.