



June 2012

# The Clippings



## Pointers for First Time Exhibitors

### Rose Exhibiting for Beginners

by Phyllis Allen

[http://www.ars.org/About\\_Roses/exhibiting\\_beginners.htm](http://www.ars.org/About_Roses/exhibiting_beginners.htm)

So - the rose bug has bit you! You have learned about planting, pruning and spraying! Now you are ready to exhibit!

#### ONE MONTH BEFORE THE SHOW

Start watching your roses for potential exhibition specimens. If you plan to exhibit a single bloom on a stem, you will need a strong, straight stem that has been disbudded as it developed. Disbudding is the process of removing all side buds that form between the stem and the axil of the leaf. This allows all the energy to go to the terminal bud. Eventually you might want to stake the cane with a bamboo stick and some twist ties. Be sure to keep the tip of the stake just under the bloom. Staking protects the cane from snapping off in the wind and prevents leaf tearing on thorns from nearby canes.

If you plan to show a floribunda spray, you will want to remove the center (largest) bud at the point of emergence from the stem. This allows the side buds to develop and fill in the hole where that first bloom would have been if allowed to develop. That center bloom would have developed first and been finished by the time the rest of the spray was in exhibition form. Removing it at that time would have left the hole.

Water your bushes regularly and keep up your spraying schedule!

**ONE WEEK BEFORE THE SHOW**  
Watch the blooms that are starting to open and have show potential. Protect them from night dew by covering with a plastic baggy and twist tie gently below the bloom. This should be done in the evening and removed before the sun shines on the bloom and heats the air inside the bag.

**2-3 DAYS BEFORE THE SHOW**  
When do you cut the rose? The timing varies depending on the variety of the rose, the number of petals, the temperature and general weather conditions and your ability to store the cut roses.

Roses should be cut 1/4 - 1/3 open which allows them time to open more on the morning of the show. Cut them early in the morning if possible or late in the evening. Cut the stem a little longer than the 7:1 ratio (the stem should be 7 times longer than the height of the bloom) to allow for recutting later.

### Pointers for First Time Exhibitors

By Al Schamel (Revised 4/98)

Reprinted from the May 2006 'Portland Rose Chatter', editors Rich and Charold Baer, with their kind permission. Edited slightly to match Olympia's show traditions.

#### **BEFORE SHOW DAY**

1. Try to learn the names of your roses. If you cannot identify some of your roses bring them to the show anyway and personnel at the rose show will try to identify these for you. However, on occasion they will not be able to identify a rose from one bloom and thus it will not be able to be entered in the show.

2. Hybrid Teas, Grandifloras and Floribundas grown singly (disbudded) which are going to be shown as one bloom per stem, should have the side buds removed. For the best results, side buds should be removed as they appear on the rose plant in the garden. These types of roses can also be entered into a show as sprays of roses, that is, three or more blooms on one stem.

The entry classes for Miniature roses are the same as for the Hybrid Teas and they may be shown as either disbudded, one bloom per stem entries, or as sprays of three or more flowers on one stem.

3. Knowing the class (hybrid tea, shrub, mini, alba etc.) of your roses is necessary to enter your blooms correctly. If you know the name of

your rose, we can provide the correct class at the show. If you are a member of the American Rose Society, you can find the class in the "Guide for Selecting Roses" which is one of the publications you receive as part of the ARS membership package. If you do not have your own copy, there will be copies of this publication at the show.

4. Make sure the stem and leaves of your rose entries are clean and free of dirt, insect webs, various other foreign materials, spray residues, etc. Do not put anything on the flowers or foliage to enhance their appearance. Oil or leaf polish applied to the leaves may make them look better but will cause the judges to mark down the score.

5. Novices often cut the rose stem too short and remove too many leaves. Do not remove any of the leaves until entry time, and then only if you find it necessary. If there is any doubt about whether to remove a leaf or not, leave them all on. Leaves can help to hold the stem up straight in the vase, thus making a better presentation. Remember, the judges will be judging more than just the flower. Choosing the proper length of stem is a bit more complicated. The bloom and stem should be in a pleasing proportion. While "rule of thumb" advice can be dangerous if followed too closely, try the following until you are comfortable with your own judgment: on one bloom per stem roses, if the bloom is 2-3 inches in diameter, the stem should be 12-14 inches long; if the bloom is 3-4 inches in diameter, the stem should be 14-16 inches long; and if the bloom is over 4 inches in diameter, the stem should be 14-18 inches long. When in doubt, cut the stem as long as possible (well not over 2 feet) and bring it to the show. One of our

experts can help you then judge proper length.

Sprays of roses, three or more blooms on one stem, follow the same rule of thumb, except the stems tend to be a bit shorter in proportion to the total diameter of the spray. They should at least have a pleasing amount of foliage to enhance the spray of flowers.

6. Review the show schedule so that you have an idea where you are going to enter your roses. The schedule contains information that will help you at entry time. It also contains the point scoring system that the judges will use, directly or indirectly, to judge your roses. Show schedules will be sent before the show.

The evening before the show, visit your roses and cut as many blooms as you like. Select blooms that look pretty to you. The blooms can be in almost any stage of development except tight buds. A bloom which is a little over half open is excellent, but there are also categories for fully open blooms. Cut the stems and immediately place them into water. A plastic pail or bucket works great for keeping them and transporting them to the show the next day.

#### ON SHOW DAY

1. Transport your roses to the show in water. The roses are going to be in the show for a full day. If the stem has been out of water for any period of time, it is likely the rose will wilt before the show is over.

2. Arrive early! Entries are usually accepted from 6:30 am to 9:30 am, check show schedule for exact time. Things tend to get a bit hectic near the end of entry time.

3. When you arrive, find a work space in the entry area. Space for Novices-Junior entries is often reserved and marked. In addition, help should be provided for you in that area.

4. Put your roses in the space you have chosen and select vases for your entries from the many vases provided by the Rose Society. Please do not use your own vases. Fill the vases with water and return to your work space.

5. Obtain entry tags and rubber bands which are usually available on the entry tables. Fill in your name and address, including zip code where indicated (address labels are a great time saver). Should you be fortunate enough to win a ribbon or two, they will be mailed to you. If you happen to win a trophy, it must be picked up at the end of the show or whenever trophies are awarded. Check the show schedule for time of awards presentations.

6. Review the applicable portions of the show schedule if you have not already done so. Determine the class or classes you plan to enter. Write the name of the rose, the Division and the Class numbers in the proper place on the entry tag. There are classes for most rose types in the Novice and Junior division, but some types, such as climbers, must be entered in the open classes. Attach the completed tag to the neck of the vase with the rubber band and fold up the bottom of the tag so that your name does not show.

7. You will be responsible for placing your own entries. If you're not sure what to do, ask anyone with an ORS nametag who looks like they have a clue and we will be glad to help you.

8. If there is still plenty of time before entries close, take some time to watch other exhibitors prepare their roses for entry. Much can be learned in a short time when watching some of the experts. Some exhibitors are quite willing to talk to Novices at this busy time about what they are doing. Others are not.

Above all else, do not let all of the rules and other stuff keep you from participating. The Rose Society will have people to help you and answer questions on show day. If you do not understand some of the items discussed above and want answers before show day, do not hesitate to call any of the consulting rosarians listed in the newsletter. They are available to answer your questions on just about any aspect of growing and showing roses. They will even visit your garden if you have a problem that can not be solved on the phone.

Rose shows are a celebration of beauty that the rose society hosts to share the beauty of roses with the public. Please come to the show with your roses and help make our celebration a success.

To bring with you on Show day:

- Roses in buckets
- Show Schedule
- Clippers
- Paper towels for the inevitable spills
- ARS 'Guide to Selecting Roses'
- Pencil or return address labels
- Please do not bring vases
- A piece of chamois is ideal for cleaning rose leaves
- Qtips to pry bugs out of flowers

## The Challenge in Challenge Classes By Helen Pressley, CR

Some of the best opportunities for novice exhibitors to win trophies or ribbons at a rose show can be in the challenge classes. "Sure" (I hear you saying), "then why do they call them challenge classes?"

A quick look at the show schedule can tell you why they are trophy heaven. In last year's show, we had 17 challenge classes in Section A, and 5 mini rose challenge classes. That's a total of 22 trophies, about one-third of all the trophies available. It never hurts to go where the trophies are if a trophy is what you wish to win! Additionally, one of these challenge classes is restricted to ORS members, and another to gardeners with less than 30 rose bushes. Many of these classes will have only three or four entries so your chances are pretty good.

Judges must evaluate each rose separately on its own merits as is done in the rest of the show, however they also have to judge the group of roses on its overall appearance as well. There are a few tricks to exhibiting roses in each class.

### **Individual Bloom and Spray**

**Challenges:** In all the challenge classes judges look to see that there is continuity, uniformity, and an overall pleasing appearance to the exhibit. This means that each rose should be about the same size and height, and that the colors should enhance each other instead of clash. To be a great challenge class exhibitor, you need to have a bit of the flower arranger in your blood.

Individual blooms shown together in one vase should have blooms that are similar in size and height, and that

are as close to the same degree of openness as possible. You can always manoeuvre the stems around so that they cover any bare spots or flaws in your roses. This is NOT cheating, it's intelligent exhibiting!

If you are exhibiting a vase of sprays, you want to take a good look at the sprays that you have on hand, and make certain that they are approximately the same size and of similar type. Sexy Remy and Lavaglut look wonderful together, because they have the same type of many-petalled pom-pom shape and their colors compliment each other. Playgirl might go well in the color department, but those single blooms would not look as though they belonged with the other sprays. Some varieties such as Dicky, Cathedral, and Little Darling have lovely hybrid tea form and look great when combined together.

You should also look at the type of spray that a particular rose forms. Lavaglut and Sexy Remy have very characteristic tightly packed globular-shaped sprays. Other roses such as Playboy tend to have flatter, more open sprays with fewer, but larger blooms. Some roses typically have sprays on which all the flowers seem to open at once while others have blooms ranging from tight buds to fully open flowers on a single spray. Try to arrange the sprays so that there are no unsightly gaps, and so that all of the sprays are approximately the same size and height. A gap in the line of the spray can often be disguised with a little artful pushing and shoving.

The most important thing to remember is to (in general) combine roses together which are similar in appearance, size, and style of bloom, and are of complimentary colors. This advice holds regardless of the type of

rose you are exhibiting.

**Bloom Transition Challenge**

**Classes:** Here in the Pacific Northwest we show our bloom transitions differently than is done in most areas of the country. We use one vase, and we put the bud on top. For some reason only known to the inscrutable gods of rose shows, other folks put the bud on the BOTTOM and/or use separate vases. Go figure.

The exhibit includes 3 hybrid tea roses of the same variety, one a bud, one a “show form” bloom, and one fully open with stamens showing. The bud should be shown as it begins to open, with its sepals down and petals beginning to unfurl. The “show form” hybrid tea should be one-half to three-quarters open (depending on the variety). It is judged in the same way all the other hybrid tea roses are judged. The fully open rose should be fresh and not tired and worn out looking. The stamens should show and be fresh looking as well. If you have some great roses on short stems, then this may be the class for you! Again, they should be arranged so that there is balance and proportion in the exhibit. Don’t be afraid to ask one of the “old hands” to help you out.

**English Box Classes:** If you have roses on really short stems or poor foliage, then this is the class for you! The same ideas of size, balance, and color are especially important here as well as in the more “typical” challenge classes. Because there is no stem or foliage, the emphasis is solely on the blooms and their overall appearance and balance. Check the show schedule because some shows do require foliage.

The old garden rose English box is different, because the types of blooms available are so varied.

Freshness, balance, color, and arrangement are the keys to a good exhibit. Mini English boxes are judged in the same way that hybrid tea English boxes are judged.

**Floating Roses:** As with the English boxes, roses with short stems should apply here. You will most often be required to furnish your own bowl for this exhibit. The bowl should be inexpensive clear glass or plastic. Don’t use a bowl that you can’t bear to part with, because every year someone loses a bowl.

To conclude: be sure to read the show schedule carefully and follow the requirements for the class to the letter. Challenge classes may seem difficult, but persistence does pay off.