

*Seattle Rhododendron Society*  
*On-Line Show Guide*

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## *Preface*

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One of the stated purposes in the Bylaws of the Seattle Rhododendron Society is to educate the public regarding rhododendron and azalea culture. This is one of the reasons why the Seattle Rhododendron Society holds its annual rhododendron shows.

These shows also give the membership an opportunity to demonstrate horticultural skills and provide a way of acknowledging those skills by awarding ribbons and trophies to the exhibitors.

The purpose of this booklet is to provide general guidelines with flexibility to expediently set up the rhododendron shows.

The color classifications contained herein will simplify show setup by reducing confusion generated by a more complex system.

The Show Classification Guide was developed by the SRS Show Classification Committee and pertains to the Seattle shows only. However, the Guide is not copyrighted and may be copied and amended by any chapter for their use.

# *General Guidelines*

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## *Eligibility for Entering Shows*

- Any grower of rhododendrons and azaleas, amateur or professional.
- Any public or private horticultural garden.
- An exhibitor need not be a member of any rhododendron organization or society.

## *Entries Will be Classified in Accordance with this Guide*

- At the discretion of the Show Classification Committee, classes may be eliminated or expanded as they deem necessary.
- Exhibitors of cut sprays must confine the size of their sprays to no more than 15" in width and 18" in height above the container.

## *Exhibitors in Shows*

- Will make their best effort to accurately identify all exhibits prior to entry.
- Will prepare and attach entry tags to the exhibits prior to presenting them for placement. Entry tags will contain class number, entry name and exhibitor's name on both tag and stub. Tags will be filled out with WATERPROOF INK.
- Novice exhibitors will so note this status on the stub of the entry tag.

## *Preparation of Plants and Cut Blooms*

- Plants and cut blooms should be selected so that they are at the peak of their bloom development at time of judging.
- Plants and cut blooms should be carefully groomed. Damaged or dead twigs, leaves, bud scales and flower pips should be removed.
- No artificial waxing of foliage is permitted but washing and/or cleaning of the foliage is advised.
- Plants should be well watered for several days in advance of digging for the show.
- Trusses and sprays should be cut from well watered plants during the coolest part of the day.

- The single rachis truss and its accompanying collar of foliage is all that is judged. Older leaves on the stem should be removed.
- Prepare the cut end of the stem of all trusses and sprays so that water is taken up more readily.
- Use suitable containers to retain water during transportation. The use of chemical additives to preserve cut bloom freshness is approved.

### *Definitions*

- Truss—Group of flowers emerging from one flower terminal and attached to a single rachis (the principal axis of the inflorescence).
- Spray—Multiple branched section of a plant containing more than one principal inflorescence.
- Hammerhead—Truss with a multiple rachis emanating from a single terminal.
- Species—Botanically identified plants originating from seed or cuttings collected in the wild.
- Hybrid—Plant resulting from crossbreeding of more than one species, hybrid or combination thereof.
- Novice Exhibitor—One who has never previously exhibited a plant, cut bloom or photograph in an A.R.S. show.

### *End of Show*

- Exhibits and ribbons awarded should be claimed by the exhibitor at the close of the show.
- Wilted trusses and sprays (held at exhibitors request) must be picked up at the close of the show.

# *Show Guidelines*

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## *Hybrid Color Classification*

The show color classes consist of the following colors:

- White
- Yellow
- Orange
- Pink
- Red
- Purple

At the discretion of the show classification chairman, color classes may be subdivided when sufficient entries exist. For example, 105 pink would become:

105a	light pink
105b	medium pink
105c	dark pink

In instances where categories are subdivided by hue, each subdivision is eligible for all applicable ribbons and/or trophies.

Hammerhead entries are accepted as courtesy displays but will not be eligible for judging.

## *All Plant Material Entries*

- Color classification shall be determined by the predominant color of the flower, and not by colors of spots or blotches.
- Trusses and sprays shall be entered in color classes with close attention to distinctions as defined, between trusses and sprays.
- All plants, trusses and sprays shall have been the property of the exhibitor for at least one year prior to the date of the show in order to demonstrate the growing skill of the exhibitor.
- Plants will be placed in appropriate containers to hold the planting medium. Plastic sheeting will be required to protect the show floor area, if so directed by the Show Committee.

## *Photographic Exhibits*

### SUBJECT MATTER

Rhododendrons and companion plants (predominantly rhododendrons).

### PHOTO SIZE

8" x 10" to 11" x 16" except that smaller prints may be used in photo album and composite entries.

### NUMBER OF ENTRIES PER PERSON

The maximum number of entries per person is 12. Composites, photo sequences and photo albums each count as one entry (photo albums must contain at least 20 photos).

### **Notes**

All photos must be backed and/or matted.

Maximum size for photo entries is 16" x 20" including matting and/or frame.

## *Educational Exhibits*

Education Exhibits shall not exceed 16 square ft. or 27 cu. ft. of wall or table area. Additional restrictions may be imposed by the show committee as required by available show area.

## *Exhibit Acceptance Hours*

Exhibits are accepted between the hours of 4:00PM to 9:00PM the day before the show opening and 7:00AM to 9:00PM the morning of the show, unless changed by show committee publication.

### **Note**

The Classification Committee will make the final decision on all classifications.

## *Judging Guidelines*

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Judges shall work in groups of three and will be assigned by the Show Judges Chairman to those classes where it is felt they have considerable expertise.

Ribbons available for award in each class are:

- Blue (1st) One ribbon only awarded.
- Red (2nd) More than one may be awarded.
- White (3rd) More than one may be awarded.
- Green (Honorable Mention) Optional, more than one may be awarded.

Awards and trophies designated for certain classifications shall be voted upon only by those Judges assigned to that particular portion of the Show. For example:

- Specimen Plant Judges will award trophies for specimen plants including Best in Show.
- Cut Blooms Judges will award Trophies in their respective categories.
- Hybrids and Species Judges will come together to judge for Best Truss or Spray in Show.
- Photographic Judges will award trophies in the Photographic Section.
- Educational Exhibits will be judged by the Photographic Judges or alternates as assigned by the Judging Chairman.

Judges may withhold any ribbon and/or trophy if they consider exhibited material to have insufficient quality or merit.

Judges may request the correction of an erroneously identified plant or bloom and if necessary have it moved to the proper class for judging.

An entry judged for foliage shall be not in bloom and is not eligible for the BEST IN SHOW TROPHY. This trophy shall be awarded only to a plant in bloom.

Judging should be done on the quality of the exhibit at the “Moment of Judging”. Rarity should not influence awards, except when all else is equal.

The best Truss/Spray in show will be selected from all Truss/Spray exhibits awarded a blue ribbon.

All blue ribbon trusses and sprays will be moved to a judging table to facilitate the trophy judging.

In Judging trusses or blooming plants, unopened buds and live leaf scales will not be cause for degrading when they enhance the exhibit.

**Exception**

New hybrids will be given special consideration in judging to provide for recognition of new and unique characteristics. Judging of exhibits in this section will tend to minimize conditional features such as floral or foliage damage, insect damage, past prime condition etc. Judging of new hybrids is intended to recognize development of new characteristics above other considerations.

*Plant Exhibits*

Use the following guidelines when evaluating plant entries:

**Specimen Plants**

Foliage Quality	30%
Plant Habit	20%
Flower Texture & Substance	20%
Quality of Inflorescence	20%
Floriferousness	10%

**Cut Blooms**

Condition	30%
Quality of Foliage	20%
Size of Flowers	20%
Form and Development	20%
Texture & Substance	10%

**New Hybrid Blooms**

Unique characteristics	30%
Uncommon Flower Color	30%
Quality of Foliage	20%
Flower Form	10%
Condition	10%

## *Photographic Exhibits*

### **Technique** 33%

- General quality
- Clearness (for technique)
- Subject matter in focus
- Proper diffusion, if used
- Good use of depth of field
- Proper lighting conditions

### **Composition** 33%

- Good cropping
- Good framing (photographically)
- No distracting points in photo
- Direction of interest toward subject
- Proper sizing of subject in photo

### **Rhododendron** 33%

- Good representation of plant
- Proper color (except abstract)
- Good depiction of subject

## *Educational Exhibits*

Overall quality of display 50%

Actual educational value 50%

## *Show Committee Responsibilities*

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The Show Chairman will:

- Coordinate the overall show site requirements.
- Delegate responsibilities to the following Committee Chairmen
  - Banquet & Judges Luncheon
  - Classifications
  - Clerks
  - Hosts/Hostesses
  - Judges
  - Plant Sale
  - Programs
  - Publicity
  - Staging
  - Trophies & Ribbons

The Show Committee will:

- Provide maximum security for all exhibits from time of acceptance until close of show.
- Not be liable for loss or damage beyond their reasonable control.
- Destroy all cut blooms which are not claimed by exhibitors at the close of the show.
- Destroy cut blooms that wilt during the course of the show in order to maintain a presentable public display.
- Hold wilted blooms in a secure area, if requested by exhibitor, until show closes.

### *Floral Arrangements*

**Category**

Any combination of azaleas and/or rhododendrons as the primary subject.

**Hybrid/Species**

265—all colors

## *Other Exhibits*

### *Educational Exhibits*

Table top or wall displays not to exceed 16 square feet or 27 cubic feet.  
Additional restrictions may be imposed by the show committee as required by available show area.

- 520 Leaves of Rhododendrons, mounted on cardboard and properly identified.
- 521 One flat of seedlings, selected for educational value.
- 522 Flat pattern displays for table or wall.
- 523 Plants illustrating any educational concept.

### *Photographic Exhibits*

- 540 Sequence of 4 to 5 prints showing a progression and/or documentary study of plants.
- 541 Flower trusses
- 541A Lax flower trusses
- 542 Flower and plant parts
- 543 Seasonal moods and/or colors
- 544 Landscape
- 545 Meerkerk Garden
- 546 Native habitat
- 547 Artistic expression
- 548 Technique
- 549 Photo album consisting of 20 or more prints, 5 x 7 maximum size
- 550 Mounted composite
- 551 A single specimen plant
- 552 One to five prints depicting an educational theme
- 553 Rhododendron people

## *Trophy Categories*

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Best Species Rhododendron Truss or Spray †

Best Species Azalea Truss or Spray †

Best Hybrid Rhododendron Truss or Spray ‡

Best Hybrid Rhododendron Lax Truss or Spray ‡

Best Hybrid Azalea Truss or Spray ‡

Best **New** Hybrid Rhododendron Truss or Spray §

Best **New** Hybrid Azalea Truss or Spray §

Best Truss or Spray from ARS Seed

\*Best Truss or Spray in Show

Best Dwarf Species Plant (Rhododendron or Azalea) \*\*

Best Rhododendron Species Plant (Non-dwarf) \*\*

Best Azalea Species Plant \*\*

Best Dwarf Hybrid Rhododendron Plant ¥

Best Rhododendron Hybrid Plant (Non-dwarf) ¥

Best Azalea Hybrid Plant ¥

Best New Hybrid Rhododendron Plant ø

Best New Hybrid Azalea Plant ø

Best Plant from ARS Seed

\*Best Plant in Show (in flower)

**Note:**

All of the above exhibits must be in flower.

Best Foliage – Whorl of leaves (may include new leaves)

Best Foliage Plant (not in flower)

\*Best Photograph in Show

**Notes**

Not all categories need be awarded trophies. Judges may withhold any trophy if they consider exhibited material to have insufficient quality or merit. However.

At the discretion of the Chairperson of judging, Trophy categories marked with identical symbols may be collapsed into fewer Trophy categories. (for example, Best Species Rhododendron or Azalea truss or spray).

An individual entry (a single truss, spray or plant) may win more than one Trophy category, but the exhibitor may receive only ONE Trophy (the highest awarded) per entry, at the Show Chairperson's discretion.