

Riverdale Horticultural Society (RHS) Design Guide

The following information contains excerpts from the Ontario Judging and Exhibiting Standards (OJES) 2019

1.1 PREPARATION OF ENTRIES FOR EXHIBITING

The exhibitor is concerned with providing the highest quality possible, from the time of selecting specimens to placing them in the proper classes. The following list provides guidance:

- List or mark in the schedule the plants you are growing that are or will be at the proper stage for exhibiting, including the *Any Other Cultivar Classes*
- Cut your flowers and foliage the evening before the show or early in the morning, selecting specimens of quality. Bring extra ones for back-up in a separate container.

1.1.1 CONDITION OF THE PLANT MATERIAL

- Conditioning is the process whereby everything possible is done to prolong the life of plant material by ensuring maximum uptake of water.
- Specific instructions are available in many floral design books and from online sources.
- Remove lower foliage carefully.
- Make a fresh cut (generally on a slant to help facilitate water uptake) with the end of the stems under water, for maximum water uptake.
- Place in a bucket or warm water for at least three hours, preferably overnight.
- Store in a cool, dark, humid, draft-free place.
- Re-cut stem ends before placing in show containers.

1.1.2 SPECIAL METHODS OF CONDITIONING

- It is known that some cut flowers, foliage, and woody materials do not readily absorb water, and require further treatment to prevent wilting during the show.
- Ornamental branches generally benefit from splitting the cut ends. Some may also require removal of the thick outer layer.



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- Some cut flowers, which exude a white latex or sap, benefit from searing the stem ends. For example, Poppies and Euphorbia.
- Other cut flowers benefit from placing stem ends in 5 cm (2") of very hot water for 1-2 minutes before placing them in cold water. For example, Dahlias, Roses, Rudbeckia. Protect the bloom with a paper collar.
- Some spring blooms prefer being placed in 5 cm (2") of cold water, or completely wrapped in newspaper and refrigerated for a few hours.
- Rinse evergreens in soapy water then rinse in clear water.
- When placing materials in containers, the use of the proper floral preservative is recommended for longevity. If using a floral preservative, ensure that it is for the type of plant material and used according to directions. Otherwise, use clean water and change the water frequently.

1.1.3 GROOMING

- Grooming is an essential part of the design process.
- Remove any soil, spray residue, insect remains, damaged or dead florets or leaves, etc. from the specimen.
- Wiring, oiling, dyeing, colouring, or artificial plant shine are not permitted on horticultural entries.
- Containers for cut specimens should be clean and stable.
- Container-grown plants should have a clean soil surface and a clean container.
- Lily pollen can be removed from horticultural specimens using a very fine paint brush.



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1.1.4 TIPS IN PREPARATION OF ENTRIES (SEE P. 129 OJES)



- A bud showing colour is considered a bloom.
- Only attached foliage is permitted unless otherwise stated in the schedule.
- Wiring, oiling, spraying with leave shine and artificial colouring are prohibited in the Horticultural Division.
- Check the schedule for the required number of specimens to be entered in the class.

1.2 ELEMENTS OF DESIGN

The elements of design are the working components that the designer uses and that, when combined and organized, form a complete artistic unit.

The elements of design are:

- ✚ Space
- ✚ Line
- ✚ Form
- ✚ Colour
- ✚ Texture
- ✚ Pattern

Space – The open area around and within a design. The total space, which is three-dimensional, is the first element to be considered when planning a design, since it will influence its size, form, and direction. The designer considers the total space allowed, and the space(s) within the design, along with the other components used in the design.



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Line – Forms the structural framework of the design. It is the visual path along which the eye is led from one point of interest to another. As the primary foundation of all designs, a line can

convey interpretation, suggest a mood or an idea, etc. Line directions may be vertical, horizontal, diagonal, and/or curved. Lines may be composed of linear material or created through the repetition of forms, sizes, textures, and colours in a linear direction.

Form – The three-dimensional shape of a design (height, width, depth) may be open or closed. Each component used has a form of its own that may be linear, spherical, flat, or compound. It is the placement of the plant material in the design that achieves the three-dimensional shape.

Colour – Appeals to the visual sense and is often the most compelling element in a design.

Texture – The visual and physical surface quality of plant material and objects. Texture appeals to sight and touch, and is described as rough or smooth, coarse, or fine, glossy, or dull. Textures add interest, variety, and contrast, thus avoiding monotony.

Pattern – The design formed by the repetition of solids, spaces, colour, shape, and texture.

1.3 PRINCIPLES OF DESIGN

The principles of design are basic standards used to organize, define, and evaluate the design, its elements, and components.

The principles of design are:

-  Balance
-  Rhythm
-  Proportion
-  Scale
-  Contrast
-  Dominance



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Balance – Refers to the actual and visual stability of a design from any angle or any dimension. A balanced design does not appear top-heavy, bottom-heavy, or lopsided. A design without actual or visual balance is disturbing.

- ❖ **Symmetrical balance** is achieved by using similar amounts of plant material on either side of an imaginary, central axis, placed to give equal visual weight to each side of the design. The forms may be dissimilar, but balance depends on the eye being equally attracted to both sides of the design.
- ❖ **Asymmetrical balance** is achieved by using different amounts of plant material on either side of an imaginary central axis, placed to give equal visual weight to each side of the design.
- ❖ **Note: Dynamic balance** is *not* a third kind of balance, but a technique of organizing components to create balance, tension, and rhythm.

Rhythm: The organization of the elements of design to create visual movement throughout the design. It is accomplished by repetition, transition, line direction, gradation, and/or radiation.

Proportion: The relative amount of one area to another, for example, the amount of plant material to the container, the amount of round forms to linear forms, the amount of rough texture to smooth, etc. The complete design should be in proportion to the space available.

Scale: The size relationship of all components. For example, the size of one flower in relation to another, the flower to the container, the container to the base, the size of the whole design to the space it occupies.

Contrast: This is about differences and is achieved by placing opposite or unlike elements together in such a way as to emphasize differences. For example, a rough texture emphasizes a smooth texture.

Dominance: This is the impact of one element, and it implies subordination. Dominance is achieved by emphasis of one element of a design.



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1.4 STYLES OF DESIGN

There are many styles of design including Period and Traditional.

Period: These are designs that derive from art and architecture of designated periods of time, including historical periods. For example, Egyptian, Greco-Roman, Baroque, Dutch Flemish, French, American Colonial, Georgian, Biedermeier, Victorian, Art Nouveau, and Art Deco.

Traditional: Designs based on geometric forms, dating from the mid-twentieth century, which were created especially for floral design. For example, the Hogarth Curve, the Crescent, Symmetrical, Asymmetrical, Line, Mass, and Line Mass.



The Hogarth Curve, also called the *Lazy "S"*, may be either upright or horizontal. It is usually created in an upright container. The heaviest material should be near the mouth of the vase.¹



The Crescent, also called the *New Moon*, is a very popular arrangement. Tips of crescent may be equally high, or one side may be higher than the other. The heaviest material is near the centre.¹

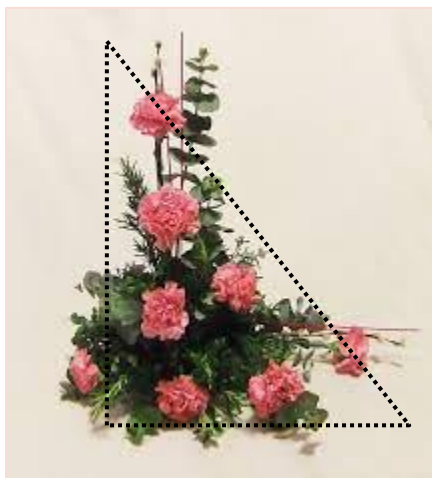


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A **Symmetrical** arrangement, also known as a *Pyramid*, is a full triangle with a tall central point and an equal amount of material on each side for perfect balance.¹



An **Asymmetrical** arrangement, also known as a *Side Triangle*, may face toward either the left or the right side. When using a shallow container, the highest line is usually one and a half times the length of the container.¹



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Below are examples of **Mass** and **Line Mass** arrangements.



Mass arrangement



Line Mass arrangement

Images have permission to be used from Pinterest



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Other design styles include Modern, Transitional, Contemporary, and Freestyle.

Modern: These designs date from the 1860s to the 1960s. Some are Modern perspectives of Traditional designs like Modern Mass, Modern Line, and Modern Line Mass. Most Modern designs do not have a Traditional equivalent, such as Abstract or Kinetic designs.



Abstract design.



Kinetic design.



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Transitional: This term is used to describe a design that bridges Modern and Contemporary. Examples are Parallel, Duo, Satellite, and Synergistic.



Parallel design.



Duo design - one or two containers joined to appear to be one. It is organized as two separate designs that are back to back. Each side appears as a different design from the other. This differs from Satellite designs where one container is smaller than the other.



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Satellite design.



Synergistic design.



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Additional design styles include:

Contemporary: Any style in current or recent fashion as opposed to Period, Traditional, or Modern. Examples include New Style/Nuovo Stile, Land Art, or Graffiti.

Free Style: These designs do not conform to any recognizable or named style.

Pavé design: In floral arranging, a pavé arrangement is one where the designer trims off leaves, cuts the stems fairly short and places the flower heads very closely together.



Pave design image credit

<https://www.bradystreetflorist.com/product/601842603ff9b5.51367/sorbet-pave>



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1.5 MINIATURE AND SMALL DESIGNS

Miniature Designs: These are designs with maximum dimensions **no more than 12.7 cm (5")** in height, width, and depth including any container, base, and/or accessories.

The appeal of a miniature design is greatly enhanced when exhibited in appropriately sized niches. Niche mock-ups are easily made with exact measurements of the allotted space and can frame the design. **Approximately 2/3 to 3/4 of the space in a niche should be used.** Miniature designs are best staged at eye level.

If a container is used, it needs to have the right proportion. **The container should not exceed 3.8 cm (1.5") in height.** Plant material should be in scale with the container and the design.

Small Designs: These are designs from **14 cm to 25.4 cm (5.5" to 10")** and must not exceed 25.4 cm (10") in height, width, and depth, including any container, base, and/or accessories.

Like miniature designs, the appeal of a small design is greatly enhanced when exhibited in appropriately sized niches, which are easily mocked-up with exact measurements of the allotted space and can beautifully frame the design. **Approximately 2/3 to 3/4 of the space in a niche should be used.** Plant material should be in scale with the container and the design.



Miniature design image credit Pintrest



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SCALE OF POINTS FOR THE DESIGN DIVISION

All designs in the *Design Division* will be judged using the Scale of Points shown below. A glossary of terms is found at the end of this guide and are based on the OJES 2019.

SCALE OF POINTS

Design..... 40

The organization of the elements & principles of design

Balance 8

Rhythm 8

Proportion..... 8

Scale 8

Contrast 4

Dominance..... 4

Conformance 25

Compliance with schedule requirements related to allotted space, type of design, plant materials used, etc.

Deductions for non-compliance should be proportional to the degree of non-compliance..... 15

Interpretation of theme and/or title 10

Creativity 20

An original artistic concept in the choice and organization of all the design components.

Distinction and Condition 20

Marked superiorly in all respects and physical state of plant material at the time of judging.



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1.6 HORTICULTURAL DIVISION

Exhibiting in the Horticultural Division is about cultural perfection. However, with the banning of pesticide use in the Province of Ontario, insect and disease damage and blemishes will no doubt increase and are seen on the show tables.

In the horticultural division, no points are given for the container, although a clean, suitable, and stable container enhances the exhibit. Judging in the Horticultural Division is based on a scale of 100 points. Note that botanical names listed are those in use at the time of publication and are subject to change. **A glossary of terms is found at the end of this guide.**

1.6.1 CUT SPECIMENS

Note that rose blooms are judged as a specimen bloom (one bloom per stem), or specimen spray-type inflorescence (multiple blooms per stem).

1.6.1.1 SPECIMEN BLOOM WITH INDIVIDUAL FLOWER HEAD

SCALE OF POINTS

Form.....	25
Colour	20
Size	10
Substance	15
Stem and Foliage	15
Condition, Grooming & Presentation.....	15

Examples include Dahlia, Marigold, Rose, Tulip, Peony



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1.6.1.2 ROSE FOR FRAGRANCE

SCALE OF POINTS

Fragrance	60
Form, Substance, Colour, Size, Stem & Foliage	40

1.6.1.3 MULTIPLE BLOOM WITH INDIVIDUAL FLOWER HEADS

SCALE OF POINTS

Uniformity of Size, Form, Colour & Stage of Development.....	30
Form.....	20
Colour	15
Substance	10
Stem and Foliage	10
Condition, Grooming & Presentation.....	10
Size	5

Examples include 3 Marigolds or 3 Roses



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1.6.1.4 SPECIMEN WITH SPIKY-TYPE OF SPRAY-TYPE INFLORESCENCE

SCALE OF POINTS

Spike or Spray	55
Floriferousness.....	15
Form & balance	15
Size and Vigour	15
Condition, Grooming & Presentation	10
Florets or Individual Glowers	45
Form	15
Colour	15
Substance	8
Size & Spacing	7

Examples include Delphinium, Snapdragon, Gladiolus, or spray-type inflorescence such as Aquilegia, Petunia, Rose



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1.6.1.5 MULTIPLE STEMS WITH SPIKE-TYPE OR SPRAY-TYPE INFLORESCENCE

SCALE OF POINTS

Uniformity of Size, Form, Colour, Stage of Development	30
Spike or Spray	40
Floriferousness.....	10
Form & balance	10
Size & Vigour.....	10
Condition, Grooming & Presentation.....	10
Florets or Individual Glowers	30
Form	10
Colour	10
Substance	5
Size & Spacing	5

Examples include 3 Delphiniums, 3 Snapdragons, or spray-type inflorescence such as 3 Aquilegias, 3 Petunias, 3 Roses



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1.6.1.6 COLLECTION OF CUT FLOWERS

The schedule should state the minimum and maximum number of required kinds or cultivars and should state whether the collection is shown in one container or in separate containers, with the number of specimens specified for each, and identified on a separate card by common and botanical names (if possible).

SCALE OF POINTS

Condition	50
Distinction & Presentation	20
Number of Kinds.....	15
Foliage & Stem	10
Named	5

1.6.1.7 CUT FOLIAGE

SCALE OF POINTS

Form & Size	25
Colour & Pattern.....	20
Texture.....	10
Substance.....	15
Condition, Grooming & Presentation.....	15
Named	15

Examples include Fern, Hosta, Ivy, Heuchera



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1.6.1.8 COLLECTION OF CUT FOLIAGE (INCLUDING HERBS)

The schedule should state the minimum and maximum number of required kinds of cultivars and should state whether the collection is shown in one container or in separate containers with the number of specimens specified for each and identified on a separate card by common and botanical names (if possible).

SCALE OF POINTS

Condition	50
Distinction & Presentation	20
Number of Kinds	15
Foliage & Stem	10
Named	5



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1.6.1.9 FLOWERING/FRUITING BRANCHES OF SHRUBS, TREES, VINES

The schedule should state a maximum length of branch from the top of the container.

SCALE OF POINTS

Specimen as a Whole	45
Stage of Development of Flowers/Fruit (and foliage, if any)	15
Conditioning & Grooming	15
Presentation	15
Flower Bloom/Fruit Quality	50
Floriferousness/Fruit	15
Quality of Bloom/Fruit	20
Size & Spacing of Bloom/Fruit.....	15
Named	5



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1.8 RHS ANNUAL FLOWER SHOW RULES

SEE PAGES 22-24 FOR DETAILS ABOUT EACH SECTION

1. All plant material entered for competition **MUST have been grown by the member/exhibitor** (*who must be an amateur grower*) in his/her/their home or community garden.
2. House plants (Section B) **MUST** have been grown by the exhibitor for at least **3 months**.
3. Annual show entry fee: An exhibitor must be a paid-up member; there is no additional entry fee for the RHS Flower Shows.
4. Entries must be **RECORDED** on your **ENTRY SHEET** and given to the Show Secretary before 7:00 pm on the night of the show, or before 11:00 am if the show is held in the afternoon. **ALL EXHIBITS MUST BE PLACED BETWEEN 6:15 AND 7:15 PM ON THE NIGHT OF THE SHOW, OR BETWEEN 9:00 AM AND 11:00 AM IF THE SHOW IS HELD IN THE AFTERNOON.**
5. Where an entry calls for specific quantities, that quantity **MUST** be shown. More or less than the given number disqualified the entry.
6. The Society's vases will be provided for entries in Section A (except for a bowl for a floating rose), but not in Sections B, C, and D, which are the Potted Plant, Fruit and Vegetable and Design Sections.
7. Exhibitors may place a maximum of **TWO** exhibits in any class in **Sections A and C only**. The exhibits must be **different cultivars**.
8. Please obtain your **TAGS** before the day of the show and have your name, section, and class legibly printed on a separate tag for each entry.
9. Only those persons designated by the Show Chairperson are permitted to enter the Show area during the judging. Refer the *Ontario Judging and Exhibiting Standards, 2019*, for judging information. <https://gardenontario.org/judges-corner/> for judging information.

Ribbons are awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place, and Honourable Mention. Special Rosettes are awarded for the "Best Bloom", the "Best Arrangement", and "Judges Choice".



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1.9 GLOSSARY

BASKET: A container made of wood, fibre, glass, or pottery with a handle that can be picked up.

BLOOM: A bud showing colour is considered a bloom (flower).

BOWL: A container that is broader than it is high.

CULTIVARS: A plant variety that has been produced in cultivation by selective breeding. Cultivars are usually designated in the style.

INFLORESCENCE: The complete flower head of a plant including stems, stalks, bracts, and flowers.

FLORIFEROUSNESS: Of a plant producing many flowers.

NOVICE/AMATEUR: A person who has not won a first-place ribbon in any design category in an annual RHS flower show.

SATELLITE: A design with a main unit and a smaller unit of the same colour, form, and/or texture that do not touch but have a connective line between the units that become a vital part of the rhythmic pattern of the design.

SPIKE: An arrangement of flowers on a stalk directly without stems. For example, Gladioli, Phlox, Delphinium.

SPRAY: A slender spring or branch of flowers or leaves cut from the main stem. For example, Roses or Mums.

STALK: The stem or main axis of a plant bearing flowers, leaves, or fruit. For example, a Bearded Iris.

VASE: A container that is taller than it is wide. Shallow containers may be used in decorative arrangements.



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2.1 NOTES:

