

Guidelines for Botanical Arts Entries:

1. All plant material must be dried. This includes flowers, foliage, seeds, pods, nuts (in or out of shells), vegetables, twigs, vines, reeds, etc. While not part of the plant kingdom, algae, including seaweed and kelp, and dried fungi, including mushrooms and lichen, are permitted.
2. Only plant material and/or fungi, mechanics, and surface treatments (e.g., paint, nail polish, varnish, wax, etc.) are permitted. Artificial, endangered, or locally invasive plant material may not be used. Locally refers to the state in which the flower show is being held and the exhibit will be shown.
3. Plant material processed only by the exhibitor is allowed. What this means is that exhibitors should not buy a shape to be used in a design but that they can create a shape themselves and use it.
4. Use of commercially processed or manufactured materials is prohibited; this includes milled wood, balsa wood, toothpicks, hemp cord, etc. Exhibitors should use natural plant material (existing or caused by nature, not made or caused by mankind). Exceptions to this rule are that exhibitors are allowed to use the following items:
 - Natural raffia
 - Rattan
 - Skeletonized leaves
 - Rice
 - Organic thread (cotton/hemp) as a visible mechanic used to string beads/pearls.
5. Non-plant material (e.g., cardboard, metal, twine, string cording, etc.) may be used only for construction and must not be visible unless used to string or knot items that resemble pearls or gemstones in jewelry classes. If string is used for this purpose, it must be made from organic plant materials such as cotton or hemp.
6. Gemstones should not be made from resin, epoxy, or nail polish. Gemstones must be made from plant material; the plant material may be painted to resemble a gem.
7. A light coating of resin, epoxy, nail polish, varnish, etc. is allowed. Glitter may be used if it is suspended in nail polish unless the show schedule prohibits it. Thick or heavy layers of manufactured resin, epoxy, lacquer, and nail polish are not permitted.
8. Decorative painting depicting scenes, figures, etc. are discouraged; designs should be created with plant material and not simply decoratively painted. In other words, create a flower from assembled pieces of plant material; an image of a flower on a leaf artistically painted on another piece of plant material is not suggested. Marbleizing effects on materials to resemble stone, such as emulating turquoise, are permitted.
9. Plant material may be carved, cut, incised, or shaped to enhance artistic effect only by the exhibitor. Assemblage with other plant material is expected. Manufactured figural forms as base material are not permitted. In other words, exhibitors are not to buy something to use as a base, such as a statue of an animal; however, an animal shape may be created by the exhibitor.

10. Man-made or manufactured figural forms as base material are not permitted. In other words, exhibitors are not to buy something to use as a base, such as a statue of an animal; they can, however, create the animal shape themselves to use.
11. A sample card with a small piece of all plant material used in the entry must be correctly identified with the botanical and common names; **the location of plant material within the design must also be noted on the sample card.** Plant material should be listed alphabetically by botanical name. Capitalize the Genus; list the species in lower case italicized; the cultivar (if known) should be capitalized with single quotes but not italicized; and the common name should be listed in lower case unless it is a proper noun.

Proper Nomenclature

Botanical Name		common name	
Genus	species	'Cultivar'	common name
<i>Capitalized</i>	<i>lower case</i>	Capitalized	lower case
<i>Italicized</i>	<i>italicized</i>	single 'quotes' (not italicized)	unless a proper noun

12. Unless noted otherwise, all exhibits must appear functional (resemble wearable jewelry, shoes, etc.). Note: necklaces and bracelets need a clasp, but the clasp does not need to be workable. For a brooch class, a pin on the back is not necessary as it may interfere with the staging.
13. In a Botanical Embellishment class, complete coverage of the object is not required unless specified in the schedule. The object should remain recognizable and not be fully obscured. Botanical Couture entries must be created entirely from dried plant material or fungi, or, if an object is used, it must be completely covered. In short: Embellishment is partially covered, Couture is entirely covered.
14. If an exhibit has won first place or a GCA Special Award in a GCA, GCA Major, or Sanctioned non-GCA Major Flower Show, it may not be entered into competition again. An exhibit that has been previously entered and did not place first or win a GCA Special Award may be entered again if the piece is significantly altered.
15. See the flower show schedule for additional rules regarding registration, co-exhibitors, number of entries permitted, novice description applicable to that type of show, installation and staging, etc.

Note: The rules for BA are constantly changing; for up-to-date information, it is best to refer to the latest version of the GCA Flower Show and Judging Guide, commonly known as the Yellow Book.

GCA Botanical Arts scale of points:

Design	35
Craftsmanship	30
Creativity	15
Interpretation of theme	10
Distinction	10
Total	100

National Garden Clubs scale of points

Design	48
Craftsmanship & Techniques	24
Conformance	14
Distinction	14
Total	100

Botanical Arts: Division IV of a GCA flower show

Designs crafted from dried plant material. Botanical Arts fall into four categories: Botanical Couture, Botanical Embellishment, Botanical Forms, and Botanical Jewelry.

Botanical Couture: a design emulating an item of clothing and/or other fashion accessory created from all dried plant material or couture form (e.g., hat, shoe) that is entirely embellished with dried plant material. Plant material may be treated with glue, paint, nail polish, etc. Mechanics or structural base material may not be visible with exception of required staging (mannequin, stand, head form, etc.).

Botanical Embellishment: a design made by enhancing a man-made object with dried plant material. Plant material may be treated with glue, paint, nail polish, etc. Complete coverage of the object is not required unless stated in a flower show schedule. An entry fee for the supplied man-made object may be required. Embellished objects should remain recognizable and not be completely obscured.

Botanical Forms: a design of any other form (e.g., not Botanical Jewelry, Botanical Embellishment, or Botanical Couture) created entirely from dried plant material. Plant material may be treated with glue, paint, nail polish, etc. Mechanics or structural base material may not be visible with exception of required staging (stand, etc.). Man-made or manufactured figural forms as base material are not permitted. In other words, exhibitors are not to buy something to use as a base, such as a statue of an animal; they can, however, create the animal shape themselves to use.

Botanical Jewelry: a design created entirely from dried plant material and made to resemble wearable jewelry in both size and function. It is accurately scaled with realistic details, such as clasps and fasteners that appear operable (they don't have to work). A pin on the back of a brooch is not necessary as it may interfere with staging. Plant material may be treated with glue, paint, nail polish, etc. Mechanics or structural base material may not be visible. The use of thread is permitted as a visible mechanic in stringing or knotting plant material resembling pearls, beads, or gemstones. Knots, made from natural plant material (cotton, hemp, etc.), may add form and pattern to the design but should be minimally visible.

Principles of Design



Symmetrical



Balance

Asymmetrical



Contrast



Dominance- marked prominence of one or more element(s) over others in a design.



Proportion



Rhythm



Scale

Elements of Design



Color



Form



Light



Line



Pattern



Size



Space



Texture