

Rules 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 no longer officially part of the plant kingdom, dried fungi including mushrooms, lichens, etc. 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 or hemp) as a visible mechanic only used to string beads or 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 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.
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

Proper Nomenclature

Botanical Name		common name	
Genus	species	'Cultivar'	common name
<i>Capitalized</i> <i>Italicized</i>	<i>lower case</i> <i>italicized</i>	Capitalized single 'quotes' (not italicized)	lower case 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.
13. Botanical Couture entries must be created from all dried plant material or fungi or, if embellished, completely covered.
14. For a brooch class, a pin on the back is not necessary as it may interfere with the staging.
15. 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.
16. 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.

How to paint small items: Painting small items such as mustard or sesame seeds can be challenging. One way to do it is to take packing or regular tape, place it sticky side up on a piece of cardboard or cardstock, and secure the ends with regular tape. Simply pour the seeds onto the sticky tape and tap down gently. Then, all the seeds can be spray painted at once without rolling around! When ready, simply remove the seeds with tweezers and apply glue on the unpainted side to adhere to the design. Glue tends to work better on untreated plant material.

How to paint round material: The tape method may be used, but one side will need to be touched up. A better method to get paint on all surfaces of a round object is to drill a small hole in the object and secure it to a small toothpick or skewer with glue. It is best to start with a spray primer and then apply paint or nail polish so that the color adheres to the material. When using nail polish, turn the toothpick while applying the color to give it an even and smooth finish. After the paint dries, the toothpick/skewer can help position and glue the round item with the hole out of view. The toothpick/skewer may be simply cut off.

Diamonds—When creating "diamonds," check the schedule to ensure that glitter is permitted. If glitter is allowed, it should be suspended in a medium such as glue or nail polish. It is essential to first paint the materials silver, let them dry, and then apply glitter nail polish, such as ORLY's "Tiara." Because the nail polish is essentially transparent, the underlying color is crucial for achieving the desired effect.

Pearls - Crafting pearls from plant materials is a process that requires patience and attention to detail. Start by drilling a small hole in the material, such as a soybean, and glue it to a toothpick or skewer using white glue. Once the glue is dry, spray the material with a primer to ensure the paint adheres well. After the primer has thoroughly dried, use pearlescent paint or nail polish, such as OPI 'Kyoto Pearl, to apply the pearl finish.

For even coverage, rotate the toothpick while painting. Allow the material to dry thoroughly between coats for the best results. Apply a protective coat to enhance the finish once the paint or nail polish is dry. Remember, each step is important, so take your time and enjoy the process. The end result will be worth the wait!

Gems: The best way to create a "gem" is to shape plant material into a faceted jewel. Almonds work particularly well because they can be sanded or carved to create angles that resemble a faceted gem. Since almonds are oily, sealing them after shaping before applying any paint or nail polish is essential. First, apply a coat of epoxy or Krazy Glue. Once this coat has dried, you can use jewel-toned nail polish, iridescent paint, or paint pigments to achieve a beautiful effect. It's great to experiment with different options to find the look desired. After the polish or paint is completely dry, apply a final coat of epoxy or clear nail polish to protect and enhance its shine!

Adhesives:

Aleene's Tacky Glue is a popular choice for artists. It is a versatile adhesive ideal for holding small items in place. Drying typically takes 30 minutes to an hour, and complete curing requires 24 hours.

E6000 adhesive bonds to any surface, dries clear and is paintable. It is a good option for larger pieces or hard-to-hold material. Allow 24 hours for curing.

Gorilla Glue Gel is terrific as it dries fast but is not as thin as standard superglue, allowing more time to work with it before it sets. A small amount can be squeezed onto waxed paper, and then the material can be dipped into the glue and affixed to the piece. It takes longer to dry than thinner superglue, allowing time for excess glue to be wiped away.

Krazy Superglue with a brush is excellent for sealing oily materials before painting. It is essential to allow it to completely dry before painting.

Epoxy comes in two parts: the resin and curing agent. Mix the two as directed and apply to the piece to seal material or to create a clear, hard, shiny top coat. **ArtResin®** is one such epoxy, but there are several others available. This epoxy is not harmful to your health like other resins, as it contains no VOCs, fumes, solvents, is non-flammable, and non-hazardous. It complies with ASTM D4236 standards, making it safe for home use in a well-ventilated area.

Paint/nail polish

Nail polish is a go-to for Botanical Arts (BA) artists as it gives the best "Jewel" tones and is available in many colors.

Gold spray paint: Two popular spray paints are Rust-Oleum Metallic and Design Master's 24KT Pure Gold.

Silver spray paint: Design Master's Super Silver and Krylon Silver Metallic paint.

Liquid or Fluid Paint:

Gold paint: GOLDEN Liquid acrylic "Iridescent Gold"

Silver paint: GOLDEN Liquid acrylic "Iridescent Silver" and DecoArt Dazzling Metallics "Shimmering Silver"

Botanical Arts: Division IV of a flower show. Designs crafted from dried plant material. Botanical Arts fall into four categories: Botanical Couture, Botanical Embellishment, Botanical Forms, and Botanical Jewelry.

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.

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 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 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.

GCA Botanical Arts scale of points:		National Garden Clubs scale of points:	
Design	35	Design	48
Craftsmanship	30	Craftsmanship and Techniques	24
Creativity	15	Conformance	14
Interpretation of theme	10	<u>Distinction</u>	<u>14</u>
<u>Distinction</u>	<u>10</u>	Total	100
Total	100		

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.