



Show Schedule for Disbudding Show Plants

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How to Calculate for Disbudding.

1. Take your target date, the show date and using a calendar, count backwards. (Show date is February 23.)
2. Count backwards to find 6 weeks before show date. (January 12)
3. Then count backwards for two more weeks (8 weeks before show date.) (December 29)
4. On December 29 all disbudding for standards with double flowers should stop. Allow all buds to bloom from this time. **If a warm winter, you may need to disbud longer! Talk with others to decide.**
5. On January 12, stop disbudding all trailer, miniatures and semi-minis as well as standards with single blossoms. Allow all buds to bloom from this time. **Again, weather dependent.**

NOTE: All instructions regarding increasing light hours are optional; use of bloom boost fertilizer is recommended but also optional. Top national winners win with and without these options.

Show Schedule Planner

Target Show Date: 02/23/2024

12 weeks before show: 12/01/2023 (Date)

1. Strip bad leaves check for suckers, disbud.
2. Repot (if not repotted RECENTLY).

10 weeks before show: 12/15/2023 (Date)

1. OPTIONAL! Increase light hours – one hour per week until lights are on 15 hours per day.
2. Dust off bulbs or replace. (Replace at night and allow new bulb to be on only for a few hours since it will be very strong).
3. Fertilizer: (OPTIONAL!) Switch to high phosphorus (high middle number) such as Peters 12-36-14 or **Peters 5-50-17 for variegates**; use HALF the recommended fertilizer – if the instructions are ½ tsp/gal, use ¼ tsp per gal.
4. If plants are not disbudded, disbud completely now.
5. Bathe plants two to three times a year especially after final disbudding for show. Dry with kitchen towels.
6. Water with bloom booster or foliar feed with products such as Superthrive.
7. Put in new tube on each level increasing light time to 13 hours.

9 weeks before show: 12/22/2023 (Date)

1. Increase light hours to 14 hours per day.
2. High phosphorus fertilizer (12-36-14 or 15-30-15, 5-50-17 for variegates) at half strength
3. Disbud variegates for the last time. Future buds should be allowed to bloom.

8 weeks before show: 12/29/2023 (Date)

1. Light: 15 hours per day.
2. Bloom booster or foliar feed – Superthrive™ or other similar product.
3. Final disbudding for doubles. Future buds should be allowed to bloom.
4. Check for suckers. Cut off bloom stalk stubs.

6 weeks before show: 1/12/2024 (Date)

1. Lights continue at 15 hours per day.
2. Final disbudding for all singles. Allow future buds to bloom.
3. Check for suckers.
4. Carefully bathe each plant in very warm water. Sponge off any water trapped in the center (or touch with a Q-tip to absorb water droplets). Wait until plants are dry before placing under lights.
5. Continue bloom booster (high phosphorus) fertilizer at half strength

5 weeks before show: 1/19/2024 (Date)

1. Lights continue at 15 hours per day. Check for centers that are tightening up and adjust light for each plant.
2. Carefully place blooms to the top and center of the plant.
3. Check for suckers and flower stalk stubs.
4. Prepare design ideas and make up design kit with tools needed.
5. Fertilizer: high phosphorus at half strength

4 weeks before show: 1/26/2024 (Date)

1. Lights continue at 15 hours.
2. Fertilizer: high phosphorus at half strength
3. Make adjustments if temperature is cold and blooms are slow to come in. (Raise indoor temperature, increase light hours.)
4. If temperature is too warm and plants are blooming too quickly, reduce light hours and reduce temperature of room.
5. Foliar spray with high phosphorus fertilizer.
6. Brush plants and check for suckers and stubs.
7. Should repotting be necessary, do it now.

3 weeks before show: 2/2/2024 (Date)

1. Light continue at 15 hours per day.
2. Fertilizer: high phosphorus at half strength.
3. If possible, begin to fill out papers given by AV society for the registration. When you have many plants to enter this is time consuming and causes stress.
4. Check plants daily, grooming and checking for suckers, secondary leaves (those which are smaller or of a different shape under the last row of leaves.)

2 weeks before show: 2/9/2024 (Date)

1. Lights continue at 15 hours per day.
2. Fertilizer: high phosphorus at half strength.
3. Prepare boxes to carry plants.
4. Pots should be clean. Place tape under each plant and mark plant's name, your name, phone number or address. This prevents loss.

1 week before show: 2/16/2024 (Date)

1. Light on for 15 hours. Make adjustment according to temperature. If plants are in full bloom reduce light hours, reduce temperature. If plants are not coming into full bloom, add another hour to lights, increase temperature.
2. Brush and groom each plant.
3. Check for suckers and flower stalk stubs.

4. Possible last-minute leaf removal. Make sure you want to remove that leaf by planning bits of paper on leaves and seeing the effect if the leaf was removed. More points are taken off for a missing leaf than for a leaf that has marks. Many points are taken off for baby leaves.
5. If your plant has a sucker it will be eliminated and not judged since the schedule states all plants except trailers, species and certain gesneriads must be single crowned.
6. Check for toothpicks or any other leaf trainer.
7. Remove any foliage support now or after transportation to show.
8. Water with Sturdy™ which helps with the shock of transportation.

1-2 days before show: 2/21-22/2024 (Date)

1. Lights on for 15 hours.
2. Suckers are removed.
3. Flower and leaf stubs are carefully removed.
4. Plant shows no animal hair, dust or debris. Take makeup brush to show for last-minute culture.
5. Place each plant carefully in box for transportation. Tape pots to box so movement is minimal.
6. Place collection of papers necessary for registration in safe place.
7. Leave packed boxes open until a few hours before transportation.

Setup date: 2/23/2024 (Date)

1. Arrive early
2. This will be a stressful event so prepare everything well in advance.
3. As each plant is taken from the box, verify carefully for suckers and stubs, dust and debris. Water marks or other mishaps to leaves will have points taken off, usually 1/2 or 1/3 point for each mark. This will not prevent your receiving a high score.

Show date: 2/24/2024

1. Another stressful day? Judging starts at 9:00 AM, and unless you are clerking, you can't be in the show room. So, arrive early, and convince yourself this is a day to work with fellow TAVS members, enjoy the beautiful African Violets & Gesneriads, and interact with the public.

Close of show

1. Disbud at the show prior to bringing plants home.
2. Pack with some care. Outside leaves may be removed to compact the plants into fewer boxes.
3. Help with the cleanup! It's a big job, but a lot easier if we ALL share the work.

After the show

1. Lights on for 8-10 hours per day.
2. Unpack boxes carefully.
3. Water/leach with clear water to get rid of fertilizer salts.
4. The plant room now becomes an isolation ward since plants may have been exposed to every insect and pest in the plant kingdom.
5. Check flowers for thrips. If movement is seen when you blow especially on a dark colored flower, disbud every plant for two months. Put up sticky yellow cards.
6. Be prepared to treat for every known pest.
7. Once plant room is back in order, sit back, drink a coffee and congratulate yourself on all the ribbons you won.