
EIAA Horticultural Award Program Participant Rules

Welcome to the Horticultural Award Program. As you participate in this program, please keep the purpose of the program in mind. The HAP is designed to disseminate plant materials and information to also help others achieve, as well as to recognize your personal achievement. Be sure that you are as detailed and forthright as possible with your entries. If you need help with identification, contact the HAP committee members for help. When an entry requires an article, do the best to make it as informational as possible. You do not have to be a professional writer, but you do need to be accurate and complete. Our editor will take your article and make it readable if that is a problem. At the discretion of the HAP Chair, the participant may present a verbal program to the membership. Under certain conditions, the HAP Chair may, instead, allow an article to be written on another subject related to plants and aquascaping.

Familiarize yourself with the rules before submitting an entry, to make sure you meet the minimum requirements of the program.

Participant Rules

Requirements

- 1) Participant must be a member in good standing of the EIAA.
- 2) Plants allowed in the program are those that are normally submersed during part, or all, of an annual cycle.
- 3) Plant identification is the responsibility of the member. The HAP committee will only confirm the identification. If the identity can't be determined, the HAP will assign an identification number which should be retained with the propagated material as well as with the parent plant. (see notes at the end of the rules for identification procedures) Note that certain classes, D, E, and F require propagation verification procedures prior to the meeting.
- 4) Plants being propagated must be the property of the participant.
- 5) An adequate amount of plant material must be submitted for auction, and the auction proceeds will be retained by the society for program advancement.
- 6) The amount for small floating plants is one loose handful. An equivalent amount of plant matter is required for larger floaters.
- 7) Bunch plants shall normally consist of a minimum of 4 stems of 4" length.
- 8) Rooted plants shall be a minimum of 2 plants for small species and 1 plant for large species.
- 9) Only one healthy seedling, capable of continued growth, is required for class F. See verification and article requirement.
- 10) No entry material except the form is required for class E (blooming). See verification and article requirement.
- 11) All submitted entries must be of a quality and size that is likely to survive when given proper conditions.
- 12) All plants with only a trace of water may be single bagged. Entries submitted with more than a trace of water must be double bagged. Leakers will be pulled.
- 13) All bags must show "HAP", the species and variety name, and the name of the participant.
- 14) The form must be submitted with the bagged entry.
- 15) Articles must be submitted before or during the following monthly meeting. Articles must be a minimum of 250 words and contain all pertinent maintenance and propagation data known by the entrant. Ghost writing assistance is available for writing articles. Alternately, a verbal presentation can be given at a membership meeting. If no article or alternative is used, a 5-point deduction will

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be given. At the discretion of the HAP Committee, an article on another HAP topic may be able to be substituted. Ask the HAP Committee before using this alternative.

- 16) First time submissions of a species (not separate variety) will be awarded a 2 point bonus.
- 17) Articles for entries, which meet minimum requirements, will be awarded a 2 point bonus. **No bonus will be given for verbal presentations.**
- 18) Plants contained on the USFWS black list will not be allowed (see the Classifications listing for notes on those species which are banned).
- 19) Classifications for individual plants are given on a separate list (separate document). Classes A, B, C & D are for vegetative propagations with A being the easiest and D being the most difficult. Class E is for flowerings and Class F is for sexual propagation. Before submitting propagations for species not on the list, contact the HAP to ensure you meet requirements.

Verification prior to submission

- 1) Start by contacting the HAP Chairperson or other committee member as soon as you know that you may have an entry in classes D, E or F. The HAP Chair may offer alternative verification procedures depending on circumstances.
- 2) The class D entry must be verified by an HAP committee member prior to separation.
- 3) Class E and F entries must be verified while in bloom by an HAP committee member.
- 4) Class F must also be verified, before or during seed harvesting, to witness that seeds are available.

Award Levels

- 1) Horticultural Award – Requires 50 points from any combination of classes
- 2) Advanced Horticultural Award – Requires 150 points total which includes at least one entry each from classes B & C.
- 3) Master Horticulturalist Award – Requires 300 points total which includes at least one entry each from classes D, E & F.
- 4) Master Horticultural Award levels II, III, IV, etc. – Requires 200 additional points for each level plus additional entries from classes D, E & F.
- 5) Class D entries will be awarded an additional certificate for each species (not for separate subspecies or varieties of species already submitted).
- 6) “Problem Plant Award” will be given to a participant that successfully propagates 3 class D species plus 5 class E and 3 class F entries.

Disqualification

- 1) Any entry which fails to meet the criteria of these rules will be disqualified. However, the HAP committee member will attempt to give the participant a chance to rectify the shortcomings whenever possible.
- 2) Intentionally fraudulent entries will be disqualified and the participant warned that further fraudulent entries may require that the participant be banned from the HAP. If the entry has already been auctioned, the EIAA will retain the proceedings.
- 3) Banned participants will be banned for a minimum of one year. At that time the EIAA BOD will determine if the participant will be allowed back in the HAP.

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Suggested Resources for Help with the Identification Procedure by Participant (and by HAP committee for verification)

It is suggested that participants in the program keep good notes on the source, date and advertised identity of the plants in their possession. Some sources are typically as accurate as the nomenclature at the time of the propagation. Typically, for example, tissue culture plant identification will be known by the propagating laboratory, which is also, often, the marketing corporation. Potted plants supplied by well-known distributors also provide a good starting point, albeit somewhat less reliable than with tissue culture plants. There are many errors to be found on those bare-root plants and bunches found in the local fish stores, but even that does give a starting point for identification research. If a plant is purchased as an HAP submission by another member, Identification can be assumed as already being reviewed. It is a good idea to keep a record of those plants and provide this info on your submission of the propagation materials of that plant.

The preferred available primary reference to get the participant into the ball-park, at least in the English language, is *Aquarium Plants*, Christel Kasselman, Krieger Publishing, 2003. However, this reference is already outdated. See the following references for in-depth research.

A list of plant species can be found at <http://www.theplantlist.org/1.1/about/#audience>. I am directing you to a page you need to read before using the actual list. Particularly note the section on "Limitations". This list is not automatically up-to-date. If you suspect any problems with the data provided, refer to the sources of the data to find out if more up-to-date info is available. One of the sources, Tropicos, is highly recommended, and is an excellent reference. Other excellent sources are also listed within the plantlist site.

Nomenclature is available at www.tropicos.org. Tropicos.org contains the nomenclatural data accumulated in the Missouri Botanical Garden's database during the past 25 years. This should be the final deciding resource when establishing current nomenclature. However, using this database, and interpreting the information for identification process, will require technical skills, and considerable research.

The Crypt Pages <http://crypts.home.xs4all.nl/Cryptocoryne/index.html>, maintained by Jan D. Bastmeijer is an excellent resource for information, and illustrations, for identification for species and naturally occurring varieties of the *Cryptocoryne* genus. Again, some technical skill is required, but much of the research has been done. The contributors to these pages are trusted experts on this genus.

Be sure to check the notes within the classification tables (separate document) for some assistance in identification of your plants.