

A Manual for Judges



Authorized by the **AMERICAN HIBISCUS
SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

March 12, 1983

SHOW AND JUDGING RULES COMMITTEE
First Vice President, Chairman

Revised January 2020

Table of Contents

Judges' Classes	3
Judge Qualifications	4
Requirements for Maintaining Status as a Senior Judge	4
Judging Team	6
Judging Blooms and Awarding Ribbons	7
Standard of Excellence	7
Point Scoring System	7
Judges' Standards	8
Exhibitor Standards	9
Description Definitions	10
Entry Classes (Tags)	11
Judging Seedlings	12
Final Gold Seal Judging	
AHS Show Director	13
Tri-Color Balloting	14
Mandatory Tri-colors	15
Sweepstakes	15
Annual Judge List	16
Index	17

JUDGE'S CLASS

1. The judge instructor must gain permission to teach a class from the First Vice President (1st VP) of the American Hibiscus Society (AHS) who is also Chairman of the Show and Judging Rules Committee.
2. The instructor must be an accredited Senior Judge, appointed by the Chairman, whose qualifications meet the approval of the Show and Judging Rules Committee. The instructor must follow procedures prescribed by the Instructor's Manual.
3. The instructor should also request the number of official AHS Judge Examinations that will be needed for the applicants.
4. An applicant must have been an AHS member of at least two years.
5. Applicants are required to study this manual prior to attending class.
6. Classes will be held at a specified time and place. All material pertaining to the examination will be fully covered. The exam is an open book test.
7. The instructor will preside over the examination, making sure students include the date of the exam, name, city, state, zip, telephone number, chapter, instructor's name and place of examination.
8. Test results will be discussed with the students and any important errors will be given further instructions.
9. When completed, the instructor will mail examinations to the 1st VP.
10. An applicant who does not pass the examination may retake the exam after obtaining approval from the 1st VP.
11. The 1st VP will keep the names of those successfully passing the exam and will track the progress of the judges-in-training.
12. The new judge-in-training will receive any correspondence sent to the judges.
13. Judges-in-training must make their own opportunities for observing and judging by requesting permission from a chapter show person to participate in their show.
- 14 **REMEMBER: TAKING A JUDGING CLASS AND PASSING THE TEST DOES NOT MAKE A GOOD JUDGE! ONLY EXPERIENCE AND DEDICATION WILL DO THAT!**

JUDGE QUALIFICATIONS

1. After attending judge class and passing the written examination, the new judge-in-training is required to:
 - a. Attend one Judge's Seminar and observe at three shows. Observe final Gold Seal judging using sample ballots but only with permission from the AHS Show Director for that show.
 - b. Upon completion of the above, serve as a Novice Judge at three shows, then as a Junior Judge at three or more shows, and attend a second Judge's Seminar. This training must occur over a two-year period.
 - c. Judges must judge at least two years in the lower ranks before becoming a Senior Judge.
2. Senior Judge badges will be authorized by the 1st VP upon completion of the above.
3. Members with extenuating circumstances like age or availability of classes due to location who wish to become Senior Judges will be considered on a case by case basis after a thorough review of their credentials.

REQUIREMENTS FOR MAINTAINING STATUS AS A SENIOR JUDGE

1. Judge's Seminars will be conducted yearly to enable all judges to participate in a continuing education program. It is mandatory that all judges, including Senior Judges, attend at least one judging seminar per year. Show Directors and Assistant Show Directors will also attend a Show Director's Seminar yearly.
2. Senior Judges must judge, clerk or observe at least two shows each year unless specifically excused for good cause. Judges who find that with advancing age they can no longer travel to other shows and can only judge at their own chapter's show may maintain their status by contacting the 1st VP and asking for a waiver of the two show rule. Judges are urged to judge more than the minimum number of shows to enhance their knowledge. Those observing must serve for the entire judging period- the same as judging- to receive credit.
3. Judges serving as Show Directors or Assistant Show Directors will be given credit as having judged at the show.
4. Senior Judges serving as Tally Clerks will be given credit as having judged at the show.

5. Judges who fail to meet the requirements of a Senior Judge for one year will be asked to explain any extenuating circumstances. Failure to satisfy yearly requirements will result in the judge needing to observe at least two shows before being reinstated as a Senior Judge.
6. To be reinstated, a written request must be submitted within two years to the Chairman of the Show and Judging Rules Committee for Committee approval. After two years, requirements for re-qualification shall be at the discretion of the Show and Judging Rules Committee.
7. There are three reasons for becoming inactive:
 - a. By request.
 - b. Non-payment of AHS membership dues.
 - c. Not meeting the status requirements.
8. Each year a notice will be sent to those judges who have failed to maintain status and have been placed on the inactive list.
9. Each year a notice will be sent to all qualifying judges for their vote on the selection of the bloom to receive the Beverly & Norman Brubaker Award as the "Judge's Favorite Bloom of the Year." Rules and conditions will be listed in the notice. The hybridizer will receive a plaque and a picture of his/her winning bloom. This notice will be mailed after the close of the show season.
10. Each judge shall re-read this "Manual for Judges" prior to each show season and should have it on them when judging.
11. Each judge shall be willing to travel to, and attend, any special judge's meeting that may take place.
12. When invited to a show, a judge should respond as soon as possible to allow that chairperson to complete the list of judges for that show.
13. The judging of blooms at AHS shows is not an exact science, but evolves and changes with hybridization of new varieties.
14. The judging of blooms at AHS shows is based on a comparison of the bloom being judged to perfection of that individual variety.
15. All judges shall conduct themselves in such a manner to be a credit to the AHS.

16. A judge's integrity can be impugned if he/she is observed browsing the bloom prep area before judging begins. Remember that perception is reality in most people's minds.

17. **It is an honor and privilege to represent the AHS as a judge.**

JUDGING TEAM

1. The judging team shall consist of Judges, Clerks, and Bloom Distribution Carriers. The Show Chairman may appoint a Judge Captain for each table to handle the table assignments and positions of the Judges.

2. A team of judges shall consist of three unrelated persons, at least one of whom shall be a Senior Judge. Permission must be obtained from the 1st VP, if in attendance, or other officer, to place judges from the same chapter on the same team. In areas where the number of judges is limited, it may not be possible to avoid doing this.

3. To speed the process, the receiving judge should be one who is very familiar with a large number of blooms. Each judge in turn examines each bloom and forms an opinion as to the type of ribbon to be awarded.

4. The Judge Captain is the last one to handle blooms. After discussion of each bloom, he or she circles on the entry tag the type of ribbon any two of the three judges agree should be awarded.

5. Two clerks will assist each judging team in recording awards on the clerk's tally sheet and in attaching ribbons to the entry tags.

6. The Chapter Show Chairman should always attempt to invite at least one Judge-in-Training, Novice, or Junior Judge for each table to further their education and to facilitate their advancement. They should be in the second judge's position to be in the best position to experience the interaction and get the most assistance.

7. The bloom distribution carrier assigned to each judging team is an integral part of that team by:

- a. Providing trays of unjudged blooms.
- b. Removing Gold Seal winners and trays of judged blooms.
- c. Returning special problems of that team to the proper exhibitor.
- d. Supplying the team with extra ribbons, clerk's tally sheets, or other necessary supplies.
- e. Taking completed clerk's tally sheets to the Sweepstakes Tally Clerk.

JUDGING BLOOMS AND AWARDING RIBBONS

Judges will determine whether or not a particular bloom is true to type in form, size, color and substance, then review the condition of the bloom and determine the award to be given.

STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE

FORM: Refers to shape and symmetry of petals. A bloom that is asymmetrical may receive a Gold Seal if such is typical of the variety.

SIZE: Refers to size of blooms in comparison to that variety's normal size. Oversize blooms should not be penalized.

COLOR: Refers to colors typical of normal warm-weather blooms, as that is when colors are the truest.

SUBSTANCE: Refers to the normal material of petals for that variety and includes freshness of texture. Thin or soft texture is not desirable if due to poor quality for that variety.

CONDITION: Refers to damage from:

W	Weather
I	Insects and Disease
S	Spray
H	Handling

POINT SCORING SYSTEM

1. A 10-point system is used in scoring:

FORM	0 to 2 points
SIZE	0 to 2 points
COLOR	0 to 2 points
SUBSTANCE	0 to 2 points
CONDITION	0 to 2 points

2. Ribbon award scoring:

Gold Ribbon Seal	Perfect bloom 9-10
Blue Ribbon	First Place 7-8
Red Ribbon	Second Place 4-6

JUDGES' STANDARDS

1. Judges should wear their badges at the shows when judging for identification purposes.
2. All decisions of the judges will be final. The AHS Show Director with the Show Chairman may request an amendment of that team.
3. Judges **MAY NOT** look at the exhibitor's name or number on the entry tag. All tags should be properly closed before time of judging.
4. Gold Seal awards shall be designated only by the team judging that bloom.
5. Judging should be done with trained eyes- not by touch. As a judge, you are not allowed to touch a bloom even to help it. Send it back to the exhibitor if it needs assistance.
6. Judges should not discriminate among the types of blooms because of personal prejudices about variety, size, color or hybridizer.
7. Judges should not change the names of blooms on entry tags. Blooms entered with wrong names on entry tags shall be called to the attention of the Show Director, and the exhibitor shall then have the name changed. The bloom will then be considered for an appropriate award with no penalty. If time is a factor, a notation may be made on the upper corner of the tag as to the proper name.
8. When a bloom is assigned an "X", if time permits, an explanation of the reason for the X will be made on the exhibitor card.
9. When a team of judges receives a tray of blooms seemingly entered by one of the judges on the team, those blooms should be given to another table to judge.
10. The Tally Clerk should inform the Show Director if he/she sees that a judge is repeatedly judging his/her own blooms. If this occurs, a warning will be given by the Show Director and the judge will be asked to leave the table for the duration of the judging process. On the second offense, blooms will be disqualified and the judge will lose judging credentials for 2 years.
11. Blooms will be judged in the order they arrive and will be returned to the exhibitor only for clerical error, i.e., a wrong name or, if time permits to be opened more.
12. Judges should not enter the Gold Seal area prior to judging and should remain apart from entry and placement tables to assure unbiased judging.

13. Persons not directly involved in the judging process **must not** be in the judging area during any part of the judging process.

14. It is the responsibility of the Receiving Judge to make sure that all blooms exhibited on a miniature card pass through the 5" ring by passing the ring straight down over the bloom.

15. Judges should not discriminate against doubles because of lack of symmetry if it is typical of that variety.

16. A bloom that grows as either a single or a double shall be judged as entered, i.e., as it is blooming on that day. However, only one bloom of that variety (either the single or the double) may be entered in each show by each exhibitor.

17. Judges do not judge their own blooms at any time with the exception of the miniature category in **initial** Gold Seal judging only. When entering the judged blooms on the tally sheet, if the Tally Clerk observes that a judge at his/her table has judged his/her own blooms, the clerk will notify the Show Director. The first offense, the judge will be removed from judging for the duration of that show. Second offense, all of that judge's blooms will be disqualified from that show and he/she will lose his/her judging credentials for two years with the same penalty as stated in 18.

18. If a judge is observed breaking any of these rules, it should be brought to the attention of the Show Director. First offense, the Judge will be given a warning. Second offense, the judge will lose his/her judging credentials for two years and must start over as a Novice Judge when the suspension has been served.

EXHIBITOR STANDARDS

1. Exhibitors must have plants in their possession for at least 30 days before a bloom from it may be entered in competition at a show.

2. Only one entry per variety per garden is allowed in any one class.

3. The name of the variety must be determined before entering the bloom. The word "unknown" may be used if reasonable persistence has been attempted and identification has failed.

4. Varieties unknown to the judges and not described in the nomenclature should be judged as if the exhibited bloom is typical for that variety.

5. No unnatural support shall be allowed in displaying blooms other than the accepted holders. The approved holders are 6" straight wires with a point on one end. This point is inserted into the calyx of the bloom and the flat end is inserted in the wooden blocks provided.

6. An unopened bloom received by judges may, if time permits, be returned to the exhibitor and reentered when properly opened. If, in the opinion of the judges, time does not permit to return and reenter, the bloom will be marked "not open" indicating it was not judged for an award.

7. If a bloom is exhibited and chosen for a top award and it is observed closing prior to opening of the show, the bloom will be replaced by the runner-up bloom to win the award. The AHS Show Director will make this decision.

DESCRIPTION DEFINITIONS

SINGLE: A bloom that has a corolla of five base petals and a style, usually with five stigma pads, with stylar tip secondary petals at times. Stigma pads may be missing on some varieties.

DOUBLE: A bloom composed of five base petals and at least one extra petal originating up from the base. Petaloids would not count in this number.

MINIATURE: Any bloom that is less than five inches in diameter. Miniature blooms must pass through a 5" ring passed straight down over the bloom and not tilted in any way.

WINDMILL: A bloom with a separation down the length of the petals symmetrically, not overlapped.

RUFFLED: Edges of petals are frilly.

TUFTED: Petals making frilly tufts, usually on overlapping petals.

CRESTED: Petals on the style or staminal column high enough that they are not originating from the base.

OVERLAY: Color that appears to be laid over another color

OVERLAP: Petal that laps over another petal.

REFLEXED: Petals turned downward. Some varieties may reflex when first opened, but become flat later in the day.

CRIPPLED: Base petal separation or twist is abnormal for that variety.

EYE: The eye or center of the bloom, usually a different color from the rest of the petal. Can be small or quite large, but all one color.

ZONE: An area of color different from the eye, but not the same as the body color. This color can be a lighter or darker shade of the eye color.

HALO: An area of color different from the eye, but not the same as the body color. This color can be a lighter or darker shade of the eye color.

VEINS: Lines or streaks of a different color radiating into the body color. Very often these are white or silver or a different shade of the body color.

ENTRY CLASSES (TAGS)

1. The classes for entering both single and double blooms are:

- a. **AMATEUR**: A non-commercial exhibitor showing blooms for two calendar years, with no limitation on number of plants.
- b. **COLLECTOR**: A non-commercial exhibitor having not more than 75 named varieties.
- c. **OPEN COLLECTOR**: A non-commercial exhibitor having more than 75 named varieties.
- d. **COMMERCIAL**: Any exhibitor that sells rooted or grafted plants above their cost.

2. The above classes may also enter blooms as:

- a. **MINIATURE**: Any bloom less than 5 inches.
- b. **SEEDLING**: A new variety of hibiscus that:
 1. Has not been sold.
 2. Has not been shown as a regular variety.
 3. Has not been shown more than 5 times over a maximum of 5 years.
 4. Has not won BOSS.
- c. **MINIATURE SEEDLING**: a seedling as above that is less than 5 inches.

3. All exhibitors must be present to enter their blooms, unless there are extenuating circumstances such as illness, and with prior permission of the Show Director. The only exception to this rule is seedlings. If an exhibitor is growing a seedling for a hybridizer, the grower may enter the seedling with the hybridizer's name shown as hybridizer, and the grower's name as the grower.

JUDGING SEEDLINGS

1. A new seedling may be shown only 5 times in a period of no more than 5 consecutive show years as a seedling. On an honor system it is the hybridizer's responsibility to keep track of the number of times his seedlings are shown.

2. If a seedling bloom is entered in an exhibitor category as a regular variety by an exhibitor other than the hybridizer even without the hybridizer's consent it can no longer be shown as a seedling.

3. All seedlings will be placed together by category, i.e., miniature single, regular double, etc., to be judged by all judges at once.

4. Judges will abstain from voting in any seedling category or selection of Best of Show Seedling if their bloom or bloom they hybridized is under consideration. Ballots will be marked with an "X" to denote abstention.

5. If, because of abstentions, there is a shortage of judges for seedling categories, Senior Judges in attendance at a show who are not otherwise judging may, at the discretion of the Show Director, be invited to vote for seedlings. At the discretion of the Show Director, a Senior Judge so invited may continue to vote through the end of final judging in all categories in addition to seedlings. Invited judges are responsible for signing the Judge's Attendance Sheet and will be credited with judging activity at the show.

6. When a seedling variety wins Best of Show Seedling at any show it shall no longer be shown as a seedling, but then only as a regular variety.

7. It is the responsibility of the hybridizer to mark the seedling entry tag that a bloom is a miniature. Only the hybridizer knows if the bloom is typically less than 5 inches.

8. In the seedling class minor condition defects should not eliminate awards. No crippled blooms shall receive an award.

9. A seedling must receive a majority vote of the judges before it can be Best of Show Seedling. The Best of Show Seedling must be registered immediately with at least the basic information of name of bloom, hybridizer, parentage, configuration (single, double, etc..) and color group. Failure to register the winning seedling with the IHS may result in it being dropped from the evaluation process for Seedling of the Year.

10. Hybridizers will insure that the same identification is used with their cultivar anytime it is exhibited as a seedling in competition. Failure to comply with this rule will result in disqualification of that hybridizer's cultivars for seedling consideration for one year.

11. Hybridizers will use the seedling entry cards. The name of the hybridizer must be shown on the card. If the seedling is being shown by someone other than the hybridizer, the name of the exhibitor must also be on the entry card.

12. All seedlings must be cloned, either by grafting or rooting, and evaluated by the hybridizer in all seasons before being entered in a show.

13. A sport must be grafted or grown on its own root before being shown.

FINAL GOLD SEAL JUDGING

AHS SHOW DIRECTORS

1. The AHS Show Director and Assistant Show Director(s):

a. Are appointed by the 1st VP prior to the beginning of the show season to be in charge of final Gold Seal judging.

b. Shall be qualified Senior Judges with at least two years of senior judging experience. A Show Director must have served as an assistant for three shows prior to serving as a Show Director. At the November 2007 Membership meeting, the Board approved a recommendation from the Show & Judging Rules Committee, that with the approval of the 1st VP, that a non-judge be allowed to train for two years as an Assistant Show Director before moving up to Director in the third year.

c. Will confer with the local Show Chairperson for any extension of the published entry close time.

d. Will renumber Gold Seal bloom tags and group according to Class for final vote in main show arena.

- e. Will give each judge two tri-color ballots (one for Seedlings and one for the other Classes) marked for voting for Best Single and Best Double for each of the seven classes. These votes will be tabulated away from the judges on a special tri-color tally sheet. Blank note paper will be used as ballots to break tie votes when necessary.
 - f. Will assemble the bloom winners from the above vote and give judges a ballot for selection of the "Best of Show" blooms from this group.
 - g. Will remove the "Best of Show" blooms to the awards table. The runner-up in each Class will replace the "Best of Show" bloom in each Class. **Exception: The "Best of Show Seedling" will not be replaced. Seedlings never move up.**
 - h. Will officially dismiss all the judges when final judging is completed.
2. Determination of "Best of Category" and "Best of Show" will be on plurality basis- blooms receiving the highest number of votes plus one. **A seedling must receive a majority vote of the judges before it can be "Best of Show Seedling".**
 3. The Show Director will resolve any question concerning judging, make final determinations and insure adherence to AHS standards and rules in the Gold Seal Area.

TRI-COLOR BALLOTING

1. The judging for all tri-color awards is by secret ballot.
2. All judges must vote in all Categories from the available Gold Seal selections.
3. A tri-color bloom shall receive a plurality vote. The bloom receiving the highest number of votes, and one more than the nearest competitor, will be declared the winner. In case of a deadlock, defined as two run-offs, the Show Director and Assistant(s) will cast the deciding votes.
4. Judges must stay in the final judging area until all judging is completed and they are dismissed by the AHS Show Director.
5. The only time that personal preference for a bloom is allowed in judging is during the tri-color balloting.

6. **EXCEPTION:** Seedlings. If a judge feels there is no worthy seedling in a category or categories, he/she may choose a "No Vote" or "X" in that category(ies). If a majority of judges mark their ballot "No Vote", a bloom cannot become "Best of Show Seedling".

7. Note the exception that a judge may not vote in a Seedling Classification in which he/she has a bloom in competition.

8. A judge may not vote in any category in which he/she has a bloom in competition. Ballots will be marked "No Vote". This does not apply to the first round of voting in the miniature class.

MANDATORY TRI-COLORS

1. When Gold Seals are available in the Class, voting will take place in the following categories:

a. Single and Double: Amateur
 Collector
 Open Collector
 Commercial
 Miniature
 Regular Seedling
 Miniature Seedling

b. Best of Show: Single
 Double
 Miniature
 Seedling

2. The four Sweepstakes winners are also awarded tri-colors

SWEEPSTAKES

1. Judges do not vote for Sweepstakes awards. These are tabulated according to classification from the clerk's tally sheets by the AHS Executive Secretary or representative, and a local Chapter designee on special tally sheets. Sweepstakes awards are determined by counting the number of Gold Seals won by each exhibitor in each of the four classifications (Amateur, Collector, Open Collector, and Commercial). If there is a tie in any one or more of the classifications, the number of Blue Ribbons is counted to determine a clear winner. This tally is completed during Gold Seal Judging and the results are given to the Chapter Show Chairman.

2. Seedlings **are not** to be included in Sweepstakes tally.
3. The Sweepstakes tally indicates winners in each of the four entry classes having the most Gold Seal Awards.
4. If an error in Gold Seal tallying is noticed and confirmed:
 - a. BEFORE opening the show to the public the error will be immediately corrected by the Show Director and/or whatever National Officer or Director is available.
 - b. AFTER the show opens to the public common sense and decorum must prevail. If the error can be corrected quietly, tactfully and without undue public notice, then the Show Director and/or an Officer or Director should make the correction. If the correction would cause undue public notice, appearance of disorganization, amateurism, or confusion, the outward appearance of the Head Table should not be disturbed.
 - c. In either case, any error should be reported to either the 1st VP or Executive Secretary so that show records may be checked and, if warranted, adjustments made in the yearly Sweepstakes tally.
5. At the close of the show season, Gold Seal awards are tabulated for Sweepstakes award presentations at the Annual Convention of the following year.
6. National Sweepstakes awards will be awarded at the Annual Convention to members in good standing of the American Hibiscus Society.

ANNUAL JUDGE LIST

1. A new list of judges will be compiled after the show season with copies sent to Chapter Presidents and to all judges.
2. The list will contain the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of all show judges and their status as of the end of the season, i.e. Junior Judge, Novice Judge, Judge-in-Training.
3. This list will be used by Chapters for the current show season.

Note: These rules shall be changed only after recommendation of the Show & Judging Rules Committee and approval of the Board of Directors.

INDEX

Abstaining from Voting	12,15	Majority Vote	13
Age	4	Mandatory Tri-Colors	15
Badges	4,8	Miniatures	10-12
Best of Show	12,13,14	Nomenclature	13
Bloom Closing	10	Norman and Beverly Brubaker Award	5
Clerk, Judge	4,6	Personal Preference	8,15
Clerk, Sweepstakes	6,16	Plurality Vote	14
Deadlock	14	Point Scoring System	7
Description Designations	10	Qualifications	4
Entry Classes	11	Reinstatement	5
Entry Tags	8,11	Ribbon Awarding Scoring	7
Error	16	Rules Changes	17
Examination	3	Seedling Evaluation Committee	13
Family Members	6	Seedling of the Year	13
Final Judging	13,14,15	Seedling Judging	12
Floater Judges	12	Seedlings	12,13
Gold Seals	7,13	Show Director	4,8,13
Gold Seal Area	8,14	Sport	13
Gold Seal Tallying	16	Standard of Excellence	7
Instructor	3	Standards, Exhibitor	9
Judge Captain	6	Standards, Judge	8
Judge's Class	3	Sweepstakes	16
Judge's Favorite Bloom	5	Symmetry	9
Judge's Integrity	5	Travel	5
Judging Team	6	Tri-colors	14,15
List of Judges	17	Unknown	9
Maintaining Status	4,5	Unopened blooms	10
		Wrong Name	8