



Revised in 8.22

Chapter 28

SINGLE BLOSSOM ENTRY

Approved by the AIS Board of Directors, June 8, 2021

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The single blossom entry is the place to display a single flower without stalk, foliage, or the presence of buds. The entire emphasis is on the beauty of the single blossom.

A hybridizer, when conserving flowers for breeding purposes, can use this section of the show to display one flower of a new cultivar. Someone with a display garden and a limited number of stalks might use this section to display one gorgeous flower. A stalk damaged in transit might still hold a single blossom that could be entered in this section. The exhibitor who has run out of time might have a few minutes to set up one last flower for the show bench.

Single blossom entries are NOT eligible for Best Specimen of Show Award or for sweepstakes awards (silver or bronze medals). The Youth Division of a show schedule is encouraged to include single blossom entry.

Each exhibitor is permitted to enter only one stalk of any particular cultivar, including registered but unintroducted seedlings, in any of the single stalk sections (e.g., Tall Bearded, Arilbred, Spuria) of the Open Horticultural Division. The same cultivar may also be entered in any of the Collection, English Boxes, Container-Grown Iris, or Single Blossom Sections. (Keep in mind that entries in the sections of Collections, English Boxes, Container-Grown Iris, and Single Blossom are not eligible for Best Specimen of Show.) For example, an exhibitor may enter 'Dusky Challenger' in the Tall Bearded Section as a single stalk and in the single blossom, according to instructions in the show schedule. **This also applies to seedlings: they may be entered in the Seedling Division and in any of the Collection, English Boxes, Container-Grown Iris or Single Blossom sections following the guidelines in the following chart:**

Eligibility of a seedling entered by one exhibitor:

	Eligible for Seedling Division only	Eligible for Seedling OR Open Horticultural Division	Eligible for Seedling AND Open Horticultural Divisions	Eligible for sections that are NOT competing for Best Specimen in Show
A seedling not registered and not introduced (i.e., seedling with number only)	yes	no	no	yes
A seedling registered but NOT introduced	no	yes	no	yes

The show schedule should state who will furnish the container(s) for the single blossom section. The container should be short enough that the falls do not rest on the lip of the container but deep enough to display the flower and its perianth.

SCALE OF POINTS

Exhibition Judging of the Single Blossom Entry

1. Overall Beauty	40
2. Cultural Perfection	30
3. Condition & Grooming	30
TOTAL	100

1. Overall Beauty - 40 points

The beauty of a flower comes from the overall harmonious effect of color, size, form, and substance. It is the color which attracts us. The flower with a blend of colors can be bright and intense or subtle and mellow as long as the total effect is pleasing.

Occasional splotches and patches of an atypical color will sometimes occur on the petals due to weather or disease and should be faulted.

Size should be appropriate for the variety. However, size can be variable depending on soil and culture conditions of the local region. Consult the appropriate chapter in the current *Handbook for Judges* for information about sizes.

Flower form will depend on the class and variety of the flower, but in all cases should be balanced and pleasing to the eye. Consult the appropriate chapter in the current *Handbook for Judges* for information about standards and falls.

Petals should have good substance. Substance will aid with color retention in the petals and with flower form during weather events.

All of these, color, size, form, and substance, should work harmoniously to support and promote the beauty of the flower.

2. Cultural Perfection - 30 points

Cultural perfection addresses how well the flower has been grown. Color, size, form, and substance of the specimen should be compared to the variety's typical flower performance. However, recently introduced cultivars usually have limited distribution which will make it difficult to compare the specimen to the variety's typical flower.

3. Condition & Grooming - 30 points

The skills of the exhibitor are evaluated here. The specimen should reflect visible improvement of the flower resulting from the exhibitor's grooming. This includes cleanliness, absence of insect infestations, and a firm upright positioning and facing of the specimen. The result should be a specimen being presented in its best possible appearance.

A judge may encounter trickery such as pinning or taping of flower parts, and flower parts replaced. If any such alterations are found, the entry is to be disqualified from competition.

Ch 28 Single - p 4

Notes Chapter 28: Single Blossom Entry