



Exhibiting Peonies

For Competition

Exhibit Rules

- All entries must be completed and in place by 10:30 am, Saturday, May 18, 2019.
- APS supplied entry tags must be prepared completely as to class, cultivar and exhibitor name and address.
- Each cultivar must be identified with an APS provided stem tag—cultivar name legibly printed. One stem tag per exhibit.
- Stems should be approximately 12 inches long (tree peony stems may be less).
- Exhibitors must have grown all entries—except in artistic division.
- Exhibitors are limited to one entry each in classes 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106 and 201. In all other classes up to two entries of each cultivar are permitted; however, any number of different cultivars may be entered.

Exhibit Rules

- Correct cultivar labeling is mandatory in open classes except in the Exhibition Only class 405 and Commercial Exhibit class 401.
- Anemone types, such as GAY PAREE, shall be shown as Japanese.
- The Show/Exhibit Committee may combine or divide classes if the number of entries warrants this action.
- Standard containers will be furnished by the show committee and required in all classes except Artistic.
- The APS standards will govern bloom form and color.
- Awards need not be given to unworthy exhibits.
- The decision of the judges and Exhibition Chairman is final.

Exhibit Schedule

- **DIVISION 1. Open:** Classes 101 – 141. Open to all Exhibitors. Commercial growers and exhibitors who grow more than 200 peonies must exhibit here.
- **DIVISION 2. Amateur and Novice:** Classes 201 – 241. Open to exhibitors who raise peonies chiefly for pleasure, who sell plants or cut flowers only casually, and who do not grow more than 200 plants.

Division 3. Seedlings – See Exhibition Schedule

Division 4: Special Entries – See Exhibition Schedule

- **Division 5: Artistic Design** – See Exhibition Schedule
- **Division 6: Photo Contest** – See Exhibition Schedule

Exhibit Schedule

- **COURT OF HONOR.** Exhibits garnering a 1st place in any of the one-bloom classes are eligible to be placed in the Court of Honor.
- **GRAND CHAMPION/BEST OF SHOW.** The best flower in the show will be selected from Court of Honor winners.

Peony Forms

- Single
- Japanese
- Anemone
- Bomb
- Semi-Double
- Double

Single Form



Unnamed Seedling

'Suzanna Hotz'



Single Form

- Typically resembles the wild form with 5 petals, pollen bearing stamens, and functional carpels.
- Singles in cultivation may have up to 15 petals but still be classed as singles if the petals are spread in a saucer shape rather than cup shaped, ruffled, or otherwise give the impression of bulk.

Japanese Form



‘Louise Marx’

‘Nippon Brilliant’



Japanese Form

- Diagnostic of Japanese flower form are staminodes. These are abortive or transformed stamens in which that origin is still recognizable.
- Edges of the staminodes are thickened and often contain viable pollen, but it is encased in tissue and not otherwise available.
- The original peonies of this form were imported from Japan where the lack of pollen drop was a desirable feature.

Anemone Form



‘Belleville’



‘Lauren’

Anemone Form

- Stamen transformation in the anemone form has progressed to the point where all visible evidence of stamen origin, except for yellow color, has disappeared.
- Structures are termed petaloids and resemble petals. Some of these petaloids are very narrow, and yellow, giving the effect of a Japanese form peony. Other petaloids are wider and as size increases, the flowers begin to approach the bomb flower form.

Bomb Form

‘Goldilocks’



‘Monsieur Jules Elie’

Bomb Form

- Petaloids have progressed in size to almost the same size as the guard petals.
- Almost always the same color as the guards.
- Overall effect is a ball sitting on a plate, the plate being formed of the larger guard petals at the base of the flower, and the shorter central petals forming the ball.

Semi-Double Form



'Pink Vanguard'

'Buckeye Belle'



Semi-Double Form

- Quite a variety of forms are included in this designation.
- All have in common prominent stamens, and a bulking of the petalage, either through partial transformation of stamens into petalodes, increased number of guard petals, or guard petal structure which adds visual bulk to the flower.

Double Form

‘June Rose’



‘White Ivory’

Double Form

- In the ultimate expression of this form, all stamens and carpels are transformed into petals.
- Scattered stamens are allowed.

Classifying Peonies

- Know the cultivar
 - Experts can help by telling you what it is not
 - Sometimes if common they can name
- Use Register to help identify class
 - Lactiflora
 - Hybrid
 - Suffruticosa
 - Lutea



Classifying Peonies

- Color
 - Subjective at times
 - Go with the register
 - Compare with other exhibits
 - Ask experienced exhibitor

» Love Affair



Exhibit Preparation

- About 12" Stem- Shorter for Tree Peonies
- Not too much foliage
 - Drinks water
 - Takes up space on table
- Stem tag on each entry with cultivar
- Entry Tag completed clearly
 - Tip: Use mailing label
 - Fold bottom portion into slot

» The Mackinac Grand



Division 2

Class 226d

3 blooms, Herbaceous Hybrid
Double or Semi-double, red.

On the Table

- Pay attention when placing exhibit
- Watch for One Bloom/Three Bloom
- Others will help place - be open to this, helps move things along
- Some supervision during placing process



Judges

- Experienced APS members
- Most experienced growers and breeders
- Corporate types on different teams
- Novice judges on team to train
- Recorders and Ribbon bearers
- Judges don't judge if entered in a class



What Judges Look For

- Form
 - Perfection of form is most important
 - Petals being uniform and symmetrical
 - Japanese and Singles properly placed
 - Doubles - petal symmetrically arranged with edges re-curved with a rose bud center

What Judges Look For

- Poor Form
 - Relaxation or drooping
 - Stamens and staminodes not firmly held
 - Cupped varieties should not be cupped to hide the center
 - Notching and uneven length of guard petals

What Judges Look For

- Color
 - Clear
 - Clean and fresh
 - Multi-colors should be harmonious
- Texture
 - Silken sheen, velvety or satiny petals
 - Lack of sheen, sparkle or flow are faults



Salmon Dream



Terpsichore
(tərp 'sikərē)

What Judges Look For

- Stem and Foliage
 - Stems should be straight and sufficient strength
 - Foliage is not judged so remove
- Condition and Grooming
 - Fully mature and peak condition
 - Fallen pollen indicates past prime
 - Watch for bruised petals and dark spots
 - Side buds remaining is a no-no

What Judges Look For

- Distinction
 - For collections
 - Broad range of types and colors
- Correct Cultivar and Class
 - Division I disqualified if tabled incorrectly
 - Division II corrected on the spot if possible (if variety can be positively identified)

Awards

- Ribbons Presented
 - 1st Place, 2nd Place, 3rd Place and Honorable Mention
 - Place does not have to be presented if none warrants
 - Certificate of Merit for Seedlings



Special Awards

- “Ben Gowen Memorial Award”_\$25 – for the Best Double Lactiflora, sponsored by David & Linette Sorrentino
- “Allan Rogers Memorial Award”_\$25 – for the Best Herbaceous Hybrid sponsored by the Pacific Northwest Peony Society
- “Best Seedling Award”_\$25 – sponsored by Parker’s Peony & Perennial Farm

Special Awards

- William Seidl Memorial Award _ \$25 – for the Best Lutea Hybrid, Sponsored by Solaris Farms
- Best Itoh/Intersectional Award _ \$25 – Sponsored by Adriana Feng
- Novice Best Specimen- \$25
- “Reserve Champion” - \$25
- “Sweepstakes” - \$25 (most blue ribbons)
- “Grand Champion” - \$50

Artistic Design Awards

- See Exhibition Schedule for Classes
- Each Class 1st, 2nd, and 3rd
- Novice Award-\$25
- Reserve Grand Champion-\$25
- Grand Champion-\$50



How To Win

- First-time exhibitors have been on Court of Honor
- Be a good gardener- Pray for a good year
- Have mature plants providing flowers of proper form
- Cut at the right time
- Store at the right temperature

How To Win

- Transport properly and carefully
- Help flower to open to form- warmth
- Chill to slow opening
- Prepare exhibit according to the rules
- Exhibit in the correct Division and Class

A Thought on Exhibits

“Make your entries, retire gracefully, do not criticize the judges and praise the other fellows exhibits. Never mention the grand flowers you left back home in the garden. Take you winnings with modesty and your defeats with sportsmanship.”

APS Bulletin

After the Exhibit

- Exhibit closes at 4:00 pm on Sunday
- Exhibit flowers disposed of or collected by 4:30 pm
- Ribbons available for collection
- If departed, ribbons are collected and mailed.

The Final Word on Issues

