

Show Notes and Regulations

COMPETITIVE CLASSES

1. **Eligibility of Exhibitors.** Unless otherwise stated, only members of the Society may compete. Professional Alpine Nurseries may compete only in the Open Sections. Children under the age of 18 may exhibit in the Novice Section without the need for membership of the Society, however points will not be eligible towards any Awards or Merit Medals until full membership is attained.
2. **Entries.** Entries should be received by the Show Secretary not later than the date indicated in the Schedules. A competitor may not enter or stage more than one exhibit in any one class.
3. **Ownership of Exhibits.** All specimens exhibited in competition for prizes must be the bona fide property of the exhibitor, and on the first day of the show all plants except those of annual duration, must have been in their possession for at least six months. Any prize obtained contrary to this regulation will be forfeited.
4. **Entry Fees.** No entry fees will be payable.
5. **Acceptance of Entries.** The Society reserves the right to refuse any entry and, in the event of such refusal, shall not be required to give any reason or explanation.
6. **Staging.** The Show Secretary will direct the placing of exhibits. Exhibits must be ready for judging five minutes before the judging time stated in the Schedules. Entry cards must be placed faced downwards in front of the Exhibit.
7. **Judging.** All exhibitors and their assistants, except those retained for official duties, will be required to withdraw from the Hall before judging commences, and will not be re-admitted until judging is finished
8. **Prize Money.** There will be no prize money for competitive classes at the Society's Shows:
9. **Points.** In competition for aggregate prizes, *only first prize points count*. Points will be awarded as follows:

	1st prize points	2nd prize points	3rd prize points
6 pan classes	6 pts	6 pts	6 pts
4 pan classes	4 pts	4 pts	4 pts
3 pan classes	3 pts	3 pts	3 pts
2 pan classes	2 pts	2 pts	2 pts
1 pan classes	1 pt	1 pt	1 pt
Arrangement of cut flowers	1 pt	1 pt	1 pt
Cut flowers in vases	1 pt	1 pt	1 pt

ARTISTIC SECTION:

3 entry classes	3 pts	3 pts	3 pts
1 entry classes	1 pt	1 pt	1 pt

In the case of "equal" prizes, both exhibits will carry the appropriate number of points. In the event of a tie for an aggregate prize, second prize points (and if necessary third prize points) will determine the winner.

10. **Alteration of Exhibits.** After judging has taken place nothing exhibited may be altered or removed until the close of the Show, except by permission of the Show Secretary.
11. **Clearing.** All exhibits and other goods must be removed from the Hall immediately after the closing time stated in the Schedules. Anything left on the premises remains there at the owner's sole risk.
12. **Protests.** Any protest must be made to the Director of Shows or his representative before 2.00 pm on the first day of the Show. His decision will be final.
13. **Liability for Loss.** All exhibits, personal property, etc., will be at the risk of the exhibitors, and the Alpine Garden Society will not be liable for compensation for the loss or damage by theft, fire, accident, water or any other cause whatsoever. Exhibitors will be wholly responsible for any claim by their employees under the Workmen's Compensation Act, The Employer's Liability Act, etc.

RULES FOR EXHIBITORS and JUDGES

Please note that no trophy or award should be given unless the exhibit is of a sufficiently high standard.

14. **Definitions “Alpine or rock garden plant”:** The term covers all plants, including shrubs, suitable for cultivation in a rock garden of moderate size or in an unheated frame or alpine house. **It excludes any plants which will not survive an average British winter under such conditions** but includes many plants which do not necessarily grow in mountainous regions. The term excludes ‘over-selected’ forms of plants, such as Show Auriculas or Florists’ Cyclamen. **“Distinct”:** The word “distinct” means “distinct varieties”. Obvious colour variants or sufficiently different forms are distinct varieties for this purpose.
15. **Size of Pots and Pans.** All pan sizes are measured externally at the rim. No pot or pan may exceed 36 cm outside diameter. In all cases, the term “pan” shall be interpreted to mean pan or pot. In the case of square pans: a 32 cm square pot or pan shall be the equivalent of a 36 cm circular pot; a 23 cm square pot or pan shall be the equivalent of a 26 cm circular pot, a 17 cm square pot shall be the equivalent of a 19 cm circular pot. For rectangular pans the surface area shall be equivalent to the area of the relevant square pan measurement.
Classes for Large Pans: there is no lower size limit in these classes, but preference will always be given to larger, more mature specimens that have been grown on into larger pots.
16. **Number of Plants in a Pan.** Unless otherwise stated, only one species, one variety of a species, or one hybrid, may be shown in a pan, but a pan may contain more than one specimen. **Seed Raised Classes** may show the natural variation that occurs in plants grown from seed.
17. **Lifting of Plants.** Unless otherwise stated a plant need not have been grown in the pan in which it is exhibited and, if desired, plants may be lifted and potted for the competition.
18. **Labelling.** Plants should be clearly named and **the label should be horizontal.** It may indicate if the plant has been grown from seed, the parentage or country of origin, but nothing else. Errors in naming will not disqualify.
19. Extended lists of plant families and geographical delineations are available from the Director and his Assistants.
20. To assist with judging, condition of plant is of prime importance. The following points allocation is intended as a guide to the importance of different factors in the Judges’ decision:
 - (a) for the plant – 4 points.
2 points for “**suitability**” and 2 points for “**rarity**” i.e. rarity in cultivation.
 - (b) for cultivation – 6 points.
it is considered undesirable to allocate the points exactly but importance should be given to:
 - (i) the plant being “**in character**”, i.e., its character in nature, and not obviously forced.
 - (ii) the plant being in **flower**, if primarily grown for that purpose.
 - (iii) success in overcoming known **difficulty of cultivation**.
- Other things being equal,** preference should be given to species or natural hybrids over garden hybrids. Berried plants will be judged on the same basis as flowering plants, in classes where they are eligible.
21. **Dwarf Conifers.** The term **conifer** or **Coniferae** includes **Cupressaceae, Pinaceae, Podocarpaceae, Sciadopityaceae** and **Taxaceae**. Importance should be attached to the following points:
 - (i) if possible, plants should be on their own roots.
 - (ii) shape should be characteristic of the variety or form.
 - (iii) plants must not have been artificially dwarfed or clipped.
 - (iv) in general, the older the plant is the better.
22. **Miniature alpine gardens.** The general effect and variety of dwarf shrubs and Alpine plants used is of importance but it is undesirable to make any definite allocation of points. Preference should be given to exhibits in which the plants are well established. However, a few appropriate seasonal plants may also be added for effect - these need not meet the 6-month ownership rule. **In all sections,** the maximum pan size is 36 cm outside diameter, or in the case of rectangular pans, 1000 sq. cm in total surface area. Accessories are allowed unless specified otherwise.
23. Other special classes. In classes for the following types of plant, additional notes apply:
 - (a) **cushion plants:** cushions should be either grown for natural effect or grown for perfect form.
 - (b) **plants with silver or grey foliage:** colour and condition are the main considerations, greenness leading to down pointing. Note that cactus spines are **not** considered to be foliage.
 - (c) **plants for foliage effect:** shape, architectural value, and in the case of multiple classes, the effect of the group as a whole should be taken into consideration. Cactus spines are **not** considered to be foliage.
 - (d) **plants “new” or “rare” in cultivation:** the fullest information is required. Plants exhibited without informative botanical notes, including family and country of origin, will be disqualified. 3 pan classes should indicate whether “new” or “rare” with justification. A “new” or “rare” plant should be in flower if it is grown **primarily** as a flowering plant.

- (e) **plants grown from seed:** in all references – plants 'grown from seed' includes ferns grown from spores. A plant should be in flower if it is grown **primarily** as a flowering plant. The date of sowing **must** be provided in all cases. Botanical Notes are allowed.
- plants grown from seed to show variation:** these classes are for a group of plants all raised from the same packet of seeds or the same parent plant to show the natural variation that occurs in the species concerned. In one-pan classes, the plants should be growing together in one pan.
- (f) **shrub:** A shrub produces persistent, woody growth with terminal resting buds which do not die back during dormancy. Note that neither subshrubs nor conifers are shrubs. In those classes where shrubs may be exhibited Judges will look less favourably on those entries whose growth would normally exceed 80cms after 10 years.

In cases (a), (b) and (c), the fact that the plant is in flower is of secondary importance (unless otherwise stated), though it may show a high standard of cultivation.

24. Where the Schedule says "arranged for effect", this refers to the exhibit as a whole and is to be regarded as the first consideration. Rarity per se will have no advantage although, of two equally effective plants, judges will naturally prefer the less common.
25. *Now deleted.*
26. **Cut flowers.** Where shown in vases the general rules as to pointing, rarity, etc., will apply and exhibits should be correctly named. There is no restriction as to number of stems or flowers. Where an arrangement is called for, with no size limit, it is the quality and delicacy associated with alpine plants and expressed in the exhibit, that the judges are asked to look for. Bases and accessories are not permitted.
27. Classes for bulbous plants are for plants defined in Rule 14 belonging to the genera list on page 16. They must be monocotyledonous plants with a storage bulb, corm or rhizome.
28. Geographical classes are those which include the words **from** or **native to** followed by the name of a country or region, e.g. '1 pan rock plant from Asia'. Geographical classes are for species and/or natural hybrids, excluding garden hybrids and plants that would not normally be seen in the wild (e.g. double flowers, variegated foliage etc.). There are seven Continents: Europe, Asia, Africa, Australasia, North America, South America and Antarctica. For these regulations, North and South America are separated by the Panama Canal. For the boundary between Europe and Asia, see the map inside the back cover.
- The British Isles** (as defined by Ordnance Survey) refers to the islands of Great Britain and Ireland (including the Republic of Ireland) and more than 5,000 smaller islands scattered around our coasts, including the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands.
29. Please note that six pan classes must include at least three plants in flower or fruit (except in the case of six pan classes raised from seed).
30. It is the responsibility of the exhibitor to check or monitor the origin or source of any plant exhibited on the show bench and/or thereby featured in The Alpine Gardener. The AGS accepts no legal responsibility for the origin or source of any such plant so exhibited. The AGS strongly supports the aims of CITES
31. **Multi Pan Classes:** In multiple pan classes the plants must be distinct - each plant in the grouping must noticeably differ from the others. Some classes may qualify the level of distinctness e.g. distinct genera.
32. **'How to Grow' Educational Classes:** these are intended to educate the public on how and where to grow a group of plants. They will be judged not only on the quality of the plants exhibited but also on the educational content of the accompanying notes – these should be in the form of bullet points of one paragraph each to cover: Location (i.e. alpine house, frame, open garden etc.); Compost; Watering/feeding; Ventilation/shading; Known pests/disease and any other relevant detail in brief. **In judging these classes, the educational information should carry as much weight as the plants themselves.**
33. **Cyclamen 'groups'.** C. hederifolium 'group' refers to the species of Cyclamen that have at different times been regarded as subspecies or forms of Cyclamen hederifolium: C. hederifolium, C. africanum, C. confusum, and C. crassifolium. Similarly, C. graecum 'group' includes C. maritimum as well as C. graecum and its subspecies.

NOTES FOR EXHIBITORS

LOCAL AGGREGATE TROPHIES: There are trophies for the highest aggregate first prize points at most of the Shows. These cups are open for competition to all eligible members.

SEASONAL AGGREGATE TROPHIES: The **First Prize** points accrued by an eligible exhibitor in **his/her section only** plus those gained in the Open, throughout **all** the Shows are those which qualify towards the Giuseppi, Byng and Clifford Crook Cups. The Clifford Crook Cup can be won only once by the same exhibitor - previous winners are not eligible in subsequent years.

Within the Artistic Open Section, the First Prize points achieved by an exhibitor will be tallied towards the Nancy May Herbert Memorial Award. Similarly, First Prize points achieved by exhibitors eligible for the Intermediate Section will be tallied (along with any achieved in the Open Section) towards the Art Award. Both awards will be recorded in the Shows handbook.

SCHEDULES: Exhibitors should read carefully "Rules for Exhibitors and Judges" (Notes 14 to 33).

NON- COMPETITIVE EXHIBITS and SPECIAL AWARDS

Non-competitive exhibits (including those from the Trade) will be welcomed at many of the Shows mentioned herein and **where space is available**: Large Gold, Gold, Silver and Bronze Award Cards may be awarded.

Please refer to the additional information under the heading of '**AGS Special Award**' towards the bottom of page 5.

No cash payments will be associated with these awards. One or more awards may be given at any Show.

Plants on such exhibits may be sold only at the close of the Show. There will be no charge for such an exhibit.

Nurserymen may apply for a selling area adjacent to their exhibit, or apply for a selling area only.

A charge will be made for such areas, negotiable with the Local Show Secretary and the Director of Shows. They will not be eligible for the Medals.

The selling areas must be kept clean and tidy throughout the Show. All litter, staging material etc. must be removed at the close of the Show.

Applications for space should be made to the local Show Secretary, whose address will be found at the top of the relevant Schedule. **Early application is advisable as space is limited.** Roster systems and waiting lists operate at most Shows.