



# SHOWTIME

## OHA JUDGING COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER VOLUME 1 - 21

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## Welcome to SHOWTIME

Flower Shows can be viewed from various perspectives depending on whether you are a Competitor, Judge, Show Organizer, or someone who comes out to look at a show. The "Show" is the common interest all these groups share. How they view a show can be something quite different.

SHOWTIME's goal is to provide articles of interest from all viewpoints. We hope you will provide feedback and send us suggestions on articles, topics, and questions. If you like writing or have an area of interest or expertise, send us an article. Email us for more details at [ohajudges@gmail.com](mailto:ohajudges@gmail.com)

## Judges Renewals and Covid

All OHA judges should have received an email from Sharon Nivins, the OHA Judges Registrar, that outlines how we are going to adjust renewals taking into consideration COVID-19.

COVID-19 has affected the ability of Judges to participate in events in 2020 and 2021 that would count towards their credential requirements. The lack of opportunities to enter shows, take updates, give demonstrations or talks, attend seminars or presentations means that those judges who would have the year 2020 and 2021 as part of their 3-year renewal period are at a disadvantage. To address this issue judge's renewal dates will be deferred as follows:

The 2021 renewal date will be deferred to 2022.

The 2022 renewal date will be deferred to 2023.

The 2023 renewal date will be deferred to 2024.

Hopefully, in 2021 we will all have opportunities to participate in credential events. Make sure you take advantage of any virtual judges updates and keep track of seminars, talks, and demonstrations. Make note of times, dates, and topics covered. Print off a revised renewal form from the website (updated Oct 27/20) and keep an ongoing log.

## Checking the Facts -- Answers to Queries

**Question:** Must plant material be in water or water-retentive material in a design?

**Answer:** No.

OJES 2019 on Page 157 states: Fresh plant material must be in water or water-retaining material **unless** such material remains turgid throughout the event. *As an example, Aspidistra leaves may or may not be in moisture-retaining material because they would last a very long time without moisture being constant. It is the responsibility of the exhibitor to make sure that all plant material remains turgid.*



**Question:** Can dyed or painted plant material be used in designs?

**Answer:** Yes, unless the show schedule prohibits it.

OJES 2019 on Page 157, states: Painted and/or artificially coloured plant material may be used unless otherwise stated in the regulations. *It nowhere states that **fresh** plant material may not be painted or artificially coloured. (This is in the Design Division only!).*

OJES 2019 on Page 138, Dyed Plant Material, states: Dried or fresh plant material whose appearance is altered by dyeing is not permitted in the **Horticultural Division**. *(Note, it does not say in the Design Division, where it is permitted!).*

OJES 2019 on Page 146, Painted Plant Material, states: Dried or fresh plant material whose appearance has been altered by the application of paint. Schedule to govern. This is not permitted in the **Horticultural Division**. *(Note, it does not say in the Design Division, where it is permitted!).*

**Question:** Can I use oiled leaves in my design?

**Answer:** Yes, unless the show schedule prohibits it.

OJES 2019, on Page 22, Tips In Preparation of Entries, states: Wiring, oiling, spraying with leaf shine, and artificial colouring is prohibited in the **Horticultural Division**. *(Note, it does not say in the Design Division, where it is permitted.)*

**Question:** Can I use soil in my design for effect?

**Answer:** No.

OJES 2019, on Page 151, Soil, states: Soil is the upper layer of earth in which plants grow. **No** soil is permitted in floral design. Sand, pebbles, wood chips, etc. are permissible. *(Soil contains bacteria, fungus, spores, etc., that cause rapid deterioration of cut plant materials.) Note: Pot-et-Fleur, Plants and Flowers, etc. should be listed under the Special Exhibits Division in a show schedule. See a listing of suggested classes in OJES 2019, on Page 118.*

**Question:** The 'Rule of Thumb' about the 1/3 to 2/3 rule, is that still relevant?



**Answer:** Yes, generally in most cases, but not all.

*Although not specifically addressed in OJES 2019, on Pages 149 and 150, it is a **guide** in getting the **proper proportion and scale**. For example: in the Design Division, a design that does not have the proper height or width looks compacted and tight, and the container would look out of proportion and too large for the design. In the Horticultural Division, a giant-sized Dahlia cut with a short stem and placed in a small bud vase would look out of proportion and scale and is not how the plant grows and should be shown. In OJES, on Page 63, it states:*

One set of leaves beneath the flower head is required and two or more sets of leaves are preferred. *In the Special Exhibits Division, Pot-et-Fleur, an over-sized potted plant mixed with short, small cut flowers spoils the proportion and scale and sets the potted plant as a bull's eye, and out of proportion to the rest of the exhibit. Examples of designs where it might not work are Abstract, Assemblage, Collage, Kinetic, New Style (Nuovo Stile), Pavé, etc.*

**Question:** In the Horticultural Division, can faded petals be removed from the back of a Dahlia specimen?

**Answer:** Yes

In OJES 2019, on Page 63, it states that the removal of faded petals from the back of the Dahlia bloom is permitted **but** must not spoil the form. *(A few may be removed, but go too far and spoil the flower form, you will be penalized.) The Design Division always allowed manipulation of form and structure.*

One of my new favourite quotes comes from, *in her own words, 'an old judge with opinions'* is:  
**"If OJES doesn't say you can't, you can."**

## Small and Miniature Designs

In the revisions of OJES 2019, a few things regarding small and miniature designs have changed. There are two main changes for Small and Miniatures.

Firstly, there is now a single scale of points for all designs. Check out Page 35 of OJES 2019 and become acquainted with the new Scale of Points.

• **Design 40** • **Conformance 25** • **Creativity 20** • **Distinction and Condition 15**

Secondly, no more dealing with diagonal measurements!

Miniatures have maximum dimensions of no more than 12.7cm (5") in height, width, and depth including any container, base, and/or accessories.

Smalls are from 14cm to 25.4cm (5½"-10") which must not exceed 25.4cm (10") in height, width, and depth, including any container, base, and/or accessories.

Appeal is greatly enhanced when exhibited in an appropriate sized niche. Niche mock-ups are easily made with exact measurements of the allotted space. A niche can frame the design and 2/3 to 3/4 of the space should be used.

## New OHA Photographic Judging Guidelines

As OHA Certified Judges in Horticulture and Floral Design, we are sometimes asked to also judge photography classes. To help, the OHA Judging Committee released guidelines in January 2021. It is based on a 100 point scale as in the OJES (Revised 2019 edition) as follows:

• **Composition 35** • **Artistic Merit 25** • **Technical Merit 25** • **Presentation 15**

The guidelines also provide further detail and explanations for each category. They were co-authored by OHA Judging Committee members, Jim Mabey and Kathryn Lindsay, with input from other published sources, contributors and reviewers including Russ Talbot, former OHA District 16 Director and OHA Photography Competition Convenor, who provided one of the first drafts.

The guidelines are available from the OHA website, [GardenOntario.org/shows](http://GardenOntario.org/shows), click on Useful Guides for Judges & Competitors.