



SHOWTIME

OHA JUDGING COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER VOLUME 4 - 22

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EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the fourth edition of the SHOWTIME newsletter. I hope you enjoy this edition of the newsletter. It is chocked full of information for everyone, not just judges.

We will aim to issue four newsletters per year, so if you have any suggestions for articles for our newsletters, please send them by email to ohajudges@gmail.com.

OHA JUDGING COMMITTEE VIRTUAL JUDGES UPDATES 2022 THEME "INTO THE FUTURE"

Judges, please make note and mark **February 22** and **March 1 ,2022** on your calendars. Both sessions will start at **7:00 PM**.

February 22 will be a session with a focus on design. It will include a virtual practice judging session. The design Topic is "Green Designing" no foam options. March 1 is a Horticultural Session with practice judging and topic of Invasives in the garden and on the Show Table.

We will be limited to the first 99 registrants. Please send your name, phone number and email address with the Subject line title of Judges Update to ohajudges@gmail.com. You will receive an email confirming your registration and more information on the practice judging session. The sessions will take place on Zoom. We look forward to seeing you.

JUDGE'S REMINDER

From the OHA Judges' Registrar

Judges, please don't forget that to renew as a Judge and remain on the Judges' list on the OHA website, you have to be a "member in good standing" of a Horticultural Society that is a Society "in good standing" with the OHA. So don't forget to keep your membership renewed at the Society of your choice. We know Society renewals this past year or so have been made more difficult by COVID-19, but please get in touch with your Society and make sure you are up to date at your society. Your Judges renewal request will be sent to you when its due. Thanks so very much.



Submitted by Penny Stewart

Christmas is over. Your beautiful Amaryllis bulb is nothing but green leaves. Can you make it rebloom? Yes! You can.

Taken from articles written by Paul Pietsch, Lanark County Master Gardeners (with his permission) and notes from Linda Bartlett.

Reblooming Amaryllis –a worthy challenge! Strange how Amaryllis always shows up around Christmas. With built-in clocks and mechanisms, these bulbs can easily be available to flower any time of the year. Bar none, these are the easiest plants to flower...and showy flowers they are!

Amaryllis are available at almost any big box store or grocery store in colours of red, pink, white, and combinations of all three. If you want some unusual varieties or extra-large bulbs, the best place to purchase them is at the local floral shops or garden centres.

Amaryllis are well worth the investment, especially if you intend to reflower them, and they are worth the challenge.

By now, your Amaryllis have finished flowering or possibly still have a few more blooms, but the leaves have started to grow. Remove the faded petals leaving the green stock as this contains chlorophyll.

This greenery will now begin to replenish the bulb so it can flower again. Water the bulb every second week and fertilize with a water-soluble fertilizer (30-30-30) with each watering. The amount of fertilizer to use is less than a quarter of the suggested amount because you are applying it often.

Here is how you can determine when the Amaryllis will bloom again.

- ▶ The amount of time you keep the leaves green. As a guideline, two months is a good minimum.
- ▶ And the important part – dormancy. Where Amaryllis grow naturally there is a wet season and a dry season. They must have the dry season to reflower. To create this, stop watering. Let the leaves turn brown and die off. Again, the minimum dormant time is two months.

As I said earlier, you can determine when the bulb will rebloom by lengthening the leaf period and the dormancy period. When you decide it is time for the bulb to wake up, it will take two months for it to grow and bloom. Plant the bulb in a container without drainage holes that contains loose, well-draining soil, fill the pot three-quarters full with soil and place the bulb into the soil, until it almost covers the bulb, but leaves an inch of the bulb tip exposed. Water to make the soil moist. Let it dry a bit between watering. Fertilize once the leaves appear at less than a quarter the full strength. And voila you should get a new set of blooms. Often the leaves will come on first the second time around. Enjoy and repeat the process to get it to flower a third time!

Note: In recent years, you can purchase Waxed Amaryllis bulbs. They require little to no care and can produce multiple large blooms. They prefer cooler temperatures and grow best when kept indoors away from direct sunlight. Most people say that due to the nature of how they are prepared in wax and grown without water, soil or roots, waxed amaryllis are only good for one season. But a true gardener will experiment to see if they can get these bulbs to rebloom. It could be successful or not, but you will have to remove the spent blooms and wax around the bulb. Then plant the bulb in soil and treat it the same way as you would a regular bulb. Here are two videos on how to get a Waxed Amaryllis bulb to rebloom.

Waxed Amaryllis bulbs, what to do after blooming - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1BB95ouaUH8>

Waxed Amaryllis Update & Aftercare! - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fDgYwyzalT8>



Submitted by Linda Bartlett

Alternatives to Green Floral Foam



Design using a kenzan

Over time, we have learned that we are destroying the earth quickly but that if we all do little things, it will help the earth recover. For many years, our staple in the floral industry has been green foam for design. It was the go-to, always used, then thrown away. Well, we now learn that every block of foam we have used is still here on the planet, like plastics, it breaks down very, very, mark it, very, slowly and what's left is not good for anything living.

The big companies like Oasis have been working on and have produced a biodegradable foam block which is better. It keeps flowers looking good even longer and breaks down in about a year (by 75%) not leaving any bad stuff behind. That's much better than before.

Unfortunately, it is not super available and not all of us live near a floral wholesaler who carries it. It's about triple the cost of the not-so-good non-biodegradable foam. What to do, what to use instead?

Alternatives

- ▶ **Chicken wire "Pillows"** – use the floral wire (what they call chicken wire coated in plastic). You want to make a ball shape of wire, multi-layer, and fill your container.
- ▶ **Tape Grids** – you make a grid, tic tac toe board, or more using either green or clear floral tape. Remember to go over your ends with a layer of tape for extra security.
- ▶ **Pin Holder-Kenzan** – plastic or metal, multi shapes – are suitable for line and designs where not much material is used.
- ▶ **Tubes** – glass or more common are plastic – reusable, different sizes, don't leak, but hold minimal or individual flowers/material.
- ▶ **Damp/wet sand** – works great for Pave design—shape the sand to the container and insert flowers.
- ▶ Gel or glass beads in water.
- ▶ Branches/twigs as an armature to hold the plant material in place.



Design using coloured chicken wire



Design using tubes

This covers many of your alternatives. Consider using them whenever you can instead of the old-school green foam. Help the planet. We can all make a little change for the bigger significant cause.

Article and design photos submitted by Catherine McGill.

OHA JUDGING COMMITTEE

Judges Questions and Answers

Question: I am interested in knowing more about entering an OHA Judging School. Can you please tell me what is involved?

Answer: *An OHA Judging School is a two or three-year set of courses with six two-day sessions. Each session takes place at a different time of the year. There is a cost to attend, which is reflected in the cost of running the school, which differs in different areas of the province. The fees usually range anywhere from \$75 to \$150 per session. Students are required to maintain a 70% average in each session and are allowed to use make-up exams for up to two missed exams. Students are also required only to miss two sessions over the entire course to be able to graduate. You need to be a member of an OHA Society to be enrolled. Check the OHA website at <http://www.gardenontario.org> under 'Shows' and then scroll down to 'Upcoming Judging Schools,' where future schools and updates are listed. Since schools are sporadic throughout the province, a list of prospective students is maintained by the Judging Schools Coordinator. If you'd like to be notified of upcoming schools, you will be notified by email. You decide whether the forthcoming school is feasible for you to attend and enroll with that school principal.*

Question: If a Show Schedule differs from OJES which takes precedence?

Answer: *Always remember "the Schedule is the Law of the Show." Read it very carefully to fully understand the rules and what is prohibited. The Schedule overrules OJES if something is specifically described in the Show Schedule.*

Question: How do we deal with Virtual shows for Judges looking for entry credits for their Judging renewal?

Answer: *Check the Judges renewal form on the website. It has been changed to allow Judges to count one Virtual Show due to the Covid restrictions.*

Question: How do you deal with misplaced entries in a Virtual Show.

Answer: *The same as an in-person show. The Show Chair should contact the person entering and let them know they have placed something in the wrong spot and get permission to move it. A Show Chair should not move an entry without the Competitors permission. In terms of Judging, you must judge what you are presented with if something is not in the right class, then make a polite comment so the competitor knows why it did not place.*