



SHOWTIME

OHA JUDGING COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER VOLUME 5 - June 22

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EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the fifth edition of the SHOWTIME newsletter. Each newsletter edition will include a horticulture article and a design article as well as Judges Q&A.

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.

JUDGES' REMINDER

From the OHA Judges' Registrar

Judges, thank you very much for joining us in the two virtual Judges Updates held in February and March. The feedback was very positive and the OHA Judging Committee will be putting together another session for the fall of 2022. Keep your eyes on the website and next newsletter for more information.

Judges should encourage their Show Committees to always include a Novice class and also to please write shows as Standard.

OHA JUDGING COMMITTEE JUDGES' QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Question: How should honorariums for judges be dealt with? There seems to be two opposite ideas amongst judges.

Answer: *OJES page 10 is same as the old OJES. There has been no change in wording. It is reasonable for a Judge to receive an honorarium for the work they do. But it needs to be set before you agree to judge a show. It can be a simple question for the Judge to ask the person who has contacted them, "What is the regular amount on an honorarium for a show of this nature?"*

If the Judge feels it is unreasonable then they can either a) politely decline the job or b) suggest a fee they feel is more appropriate to attend at a show of that particular size. It is often dependant on travel time and cost to get to the Show and how big the Show is. Judges are not looking to get rich on Judging but there are costs associated with getting to a show.

Question: Should judge's pick up horticultural specimens out of the vase if needed to examine the specimen .For example to check if the correct number of specimens are in the vase or to check condition of stem or the underside of blooms.

Answer: *OJES page 20 refers to moving Hort Exhibits for proper assessment. This is common in large shows like Fairs where specimens are crowded together. OJES makes no mention of removing a specimen from the container. Since OJES doesn't prohibit it then it is permitted but care should be taken to be very careful in how you handle the specimen. Also check the show rules and make sure there is no prohibition to touching or handling specimens in the rules(this is not very likely).*

Question: Can Judges use mini shows for exhibiting credentials?

Answer: *Only if the mini show is written as Standard with two divisions Horticulture and Design. Each Divisions must have 5 classes.*

Water, Water, Everywhere...

New schedules are now ready for our review and we are getting back to in person shows. Design Schedules usually have classes that give you the option of “a design.” Why not look at the ones that involve water? What are the similarities and differences in the Designs we find in OJES (2019) that involve water?

Visible Use of Water - A design that must include water that is clearly visible. It is any design in which water is an important component and may be Water-viewing, Underwater, etc. Visible Use of Water was added to OJES (2019) as a new design definition on page 156. This class of design gives more latitude to using water than those of Water-viewing or Underwater Design. It opens a whole creative canvas. Modern Line designs work well in this design style.

It is important that the water used in the design should be clean without floating debris that would distract from the design. A tea-strainer with fine mesh or a turkey baster are handy items to add to your tool kit. The presence of the water is an important component of the design.



Visible Use of Water
Penny Stewart

Underwater - A design with part(s) placed under water to create interest. Although the design must have part(s) under water, no definite percentage is required. A portion of the design must be above the water line. The parts under water and out of water must form a unified design. (OJES page 155)

The real key is that you need to be sure that any plant material has been tested to be sure it is going to hold up when submerged in water especially for multiple day shows. The best way to avoid bubbles if they are not part of your intended look is to use distilled water.



Underwater Design
Kathryn Lindsay

Transportation of an underwater design is a challenge and really lends itself to final construction on site. Make sure you give yourself enough time especially if you are entering more than one design class. Keeping the plant material in place and not floating up can require some ingenuity. Pin holders work well but need to be anchored so they don't move. Mechanics, unless they form part of the design, need to be hidden so as not be visually distracting. It is worth a bit of experimenting, with your plant material and the style of container, well in advance so you can rethink things and find alternative materials

if needed. Is the design easily seen and not crowded in the container? Is the container easy to work in or are you going to be using long-handled tools to make adjustments?

Spring tulips are great for underwater designs as the flowers and foliage both hold up well and now is the time to experiment.

Water-viewing - A traditional line design, adapted in Canada in the 1960s, with a dominant line of plant material and great use of space, in a shallow container with 1/2 to 2/3 of the container surface showing water. Modern line design does not fit this definition but could be used in a design calling for Visible Use of Water. (OJES page 156) The Water-viewing Design has been attributed to Mary Baillie, a Toronto Garden Club member and designer who also studied Ikebana Design. Water-viewing design draws upon aspects of Japanese/Oriental styles and is in keeping with what we know as traditional line design. The idea is to have a clean uncluttered emergence of plant material surrounded by or next to an area of open area of water.

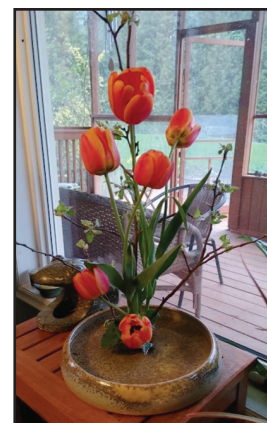
Water-viewing designs should show a great deal of space with line and floral material kept to a minimum. In Water-viewing flowers are used to reinforce the line and to create rhythm, depth, etc. A linear pattern must be dominant. The line material is strong and creates the space in which the flowers are placed. There is a single point of emergence of the plant material.

Typically, a low flat dish that is traditional looking is used. The mechanics for holding the plant material are usually a kenzan/pin holder. The mechanics are covered by careful placement of leaves or with the use of stones. But keep it natural and not "collar-like".

The space created by the line material can be seen as a scalene triangle-like shape. Line material is usually slightly curved (can be gently bent by hand) to soften the line. Materials are placed in a naturalistic fashion, to resemble what you might see at the edge of a pond or stream. There should be no crossed lines. Spring choices might be irises, tulips or daffodils.

Happy Gardening!

Penny Stewart



Water-viewing
Penny Stewart

TULIPA (TULIPS)

Spring has sprung. Most of the tulips have come and gone. I hope you enjoyed the colourful spring displays. The stems and heads have been removed and the green leaves are storing energy for next year's blooms.

Tulips have their origins in Western culture dating back to the 16th century. They were brought to Europe from Turkey in 1554 and from Europe to England in 1578. They became a popular fashion item in France just after 1608 when fashionable women wore bunches of tulips in their low-cut dresses.

There was also a tulip craze in Europe known as "Tulipomania" between 1636 and 1637 where single bulbs were exchanged for vast sums of money. There is one documented transaction where a single tulip bulb was bought for the equivalent of 2.8 million dollars in today's currency.

There could be a complete art history course taught on just the depiction of tulips in art. The Flemish Baroque painter Rubens (1577 - 1640) added images of tulips in some of his paintings.

Tulip dealer and German artist Jacob Marrel (1614 - 1681) was among the first Western artist to depict tulips. His watercolours on paper depictions of tulips influenced textile, furniture and utensil art.

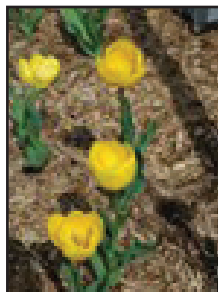
In North America tulips were used as a motif in folk art; notably in the Pennsylvania Dutch communities. Motifs can be found on butter molds, furniture, quilts and embroideries.

For those of us who are not artists (except in our gardens) we can enjoy Tulips blooming in our garden for up to 4 months. We must plant the early, mid and late blooming varieties and have them bloom in succession.

If you like to cut a spring bouquet for in the house; I found some fragrant varieties to add a fresh fragrance inside.



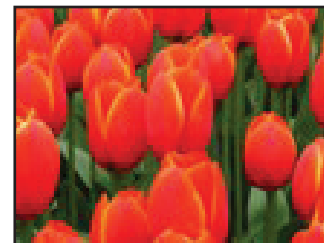
Peach Blossom
(Pink) - Double early -
hardiness zones 3-8



Bellona (Gold)
single early
(hardiness
zone 2a)



General de Wet
(Orange) - single
early tulip



Prince of Austria
(Orange-Red) - mid to
late spring - hardiness
zones 4-8

Planting

Plant the bulb (pointy side up) in fertile, well-drained, neutral to slightly acid soil where they will receive full or at least afternoon sun. Plant between 6 and 8 inches deep as soon as early fall but as long as the soil temperature is 16 degrees celsius it is okay to plant tulip bulbs.

Tulip bulbs are naturally perennials, meaning they can come back more than once. Tulips in the ground do not like too much water or the bulbs may rot.

Care

As soon as the flower has faded and died, remove the stem and head. This will conserve the plants energy stores. When removing the stem, be careful to leave the leaves in place until they die back on their own. The leaves will continue to absorb energy from the sun and through photosynthesis the sun's energy is converted into vital sugars that are stored in the bulb for the following season. Once all the foliage has died back and the bulb has once again become dormant, there is nothing left for you to do.

The best time to fertilize tulips is in the fall. At this time, the tulip bulbs are sending out roots to prepare for the winter and are able to take up the nutrients in the tulip bulb fertilizer.

After planting the bulbs in fall, apply a balanced, 10-10-10 or 10-15-10 slow-release fertilizer. Water it in well. Apply fertilizer to the top of the soil instead of the planting hole to avoid burning the bulbs.

If you wish to remove the tulip bulbs after the blooming period; as you may wish to move them to a different location or plant something else in their place for the season; you must label them and dry them. Store them in a cool dry place free of mice or squirrels. Good air circulation is also important. Storing them in plastic bags is not recommended as the bulbs need to be able to "breathe".

Pests and Diseases

Pests

There are a few pests and diseases that we need to be aware of. When I talk about pests, squirrels are my nemesis when it comes to tulip bulbs. I have seen them wait until the tulip blooms in the spring to dig the bulbs out. Chicken wire staked over the bulbs that were planted can help.

Slugs and rabbits are other predators that like tulips. You can use slug traps if slugs are a problem in your garden.

Rabbits, primarily the Eastern Cottontail rabbit, can destroy vegetable gardens and any tender plants. They regularly chew the leaves of my tulip plants as they first emerge from the soil. You can fence a garden of course or you can plant an herb border around plants that you are trying to protect. Rabbits don't like strong scents so perennial herbs like chives and lavender will help deter them. Some annuals such as Marigolds (*Tagetes*) and Snapdragons (*Antirrhinum*) started indoors and the seedlings planted next to late blooming tulip bulbs can also help deter rabbits. Some perennial plants planted near the tulip bed help discourage rabbits as well. These are *Artemisia*, *Iris*, *Stachys* (Lamb's Ears) as well as *Allium* bulbs.

Pots of mint have a strong scent but because it tends to spread rapidly it should remain in a pot.

Diseases

Tulip Fire, Gray Bulb rot and TBV are the most common diseases in tulips.

Tulip Fire shows itself once the plant is above the ground. Tulips are the only plant that is affected by this fungus.

Botrytis tulipae is the fungus causing the disease known as tulip fire. Infection results from injury to bulbs either due to insect damage or careless handling of the bulbs. Symptoms become apparent when leaves appear and remain visible until the foliage dies.

Gray bulb rot is associated with tulip crown rot, and both are caused by the fungus *Rhizoctonia tuliparum*. In addition to tulips, gray bulb rot can also infect many other spring bulbs.

Both diseases result in the tulip bulbs appearing discoloured to gray and withered. When bulbs are infected with gray bulb rot, it is common for most of the plants to fail to sprout. Plants infected with gray bulb rot that do sprout will normally mature more slowly than normal and tend to shrivel and succumb to the disease before they have a chance to blossom.

Tulips infected with these diseases will have brown discolored areas of dead tissue on their foliage or petals. The foliage of infected plants may also be distorted in shape or twisted.

Prevention of Bulb Rot and Tulip Fire

Too much nitrogen in fertilizer can increase the risk of bulb rot. You could consider using low-nitrogen fertilizer on your bulbs. All tools and equipment that you use in the garden should be regularly cleaned and sanitized to prevent the spread of fungus.

TBV

Tulip breaking virus infects the bulb of the tulip and changes the colour of the petals. This change depends on the strain of the virus, the type of plant and the age of the plant when it gets infected. Tulip breaking virus causes differences in the pigments in the flowers.

The virus infects the bulb and causes the cultivar to "break" its lock on a single colour, resulting in intricate bars, stripes or streaks of different colours on the petals. The virus was proved to be transferred by at least four species of aphids. Insecticides are not very effective.

Viruses are with a plant for life, the only prevention is to remove infected bulbs. Lilies may also host these viruses without noticeable symptoms. It would be best not to plant lilies and tulips together.

“Ontario Judging and Exhibiting Standards” (OJES 2019) gives us the 8 types of tulips we may find on our show tables on page 104 and 105.

They are:

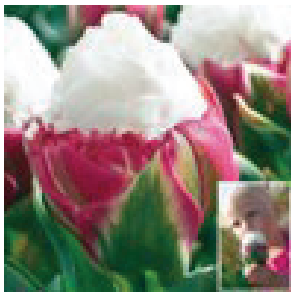
Double	Parrot
Fringed	Single
Lily-type	Species/species hybrids
Multiflora	Viridiflora

Exhibiting Tips - in addition to tips in OJES page 105

1. Tulips continue to grow after they are cut so if you enter tulips in a show that lasts more than one day you may want to make sure to take this into consideration.
2. Tulips once cut, are thirsty plants.
3. Single tulips when being exhibited need to be 1\4 to 1\2 open. They often close up in lower light conditions.

Every year the catalogues have new varieties and here are 2 that I discovered that I have not seen on show tables. or in any gardens that I’ve visited. This might be because of COVID restrictions making flower shows and garden tours difficult for Societies to arrange. However, I thought I’d share them with you as I don’t think I’ve seen a “blue” tulip like this before. I ordered both of these bulbs for my garden as I’ve learned (the hard way) that I have to order Fall bulbs in the Spring if I want to ensure I get the ones I want to plant in the fall.

I found this picture of a late blooming double tulip in Breck’s catalog. It’s called “Ice Cream Tulip”



I found this picture of an early blooming tulip in Breck’s catalog. It’s called “Wild Blue Heart”



Research Acknowledgements:

Brecks Bulbs
Gardening Channel
“Tulips” by Stanley Killingback
Wikipedia

Happy Gardening!

Patty Carlson