



## SHOWTIME

### OHA JUDGING COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER VOLUME 7 - December 2022

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#### EDITOR'S MESSAGE

I hope you enjoy the seventh edition of the SHOWTIME newsletter. Each edition will include a horticulture article and a design article as well as Judges Q&A. There will be four newsletters per year, so if you have any suggestions for articles, please send them by email to: [ohajudges@gmail.com](mailto:ohajudges@gmail.com).

### OHA JUDGING COMMITTEE JUDGES' QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

**Question:** Are Dahlias a Perennial, Annual or both? They have been seen on Show Table as both.

**Answer:** They are a Perennial, albeit a tender perennial in most of the province, but they do not fit the definition of Annual from OJES.

**Annual:** A plant that completes its life cycle from seed to seed within one growing year. The seed germinates to produce a plant with flowering shoots, which dies completely after seed production.

**Perennial (Herbaceous):** A plant that lives for more than two years, e.g., Hosta, Peony, etc. The stem dies to the ground each fall. Plants from bulbs, corms, tubers and rhizomes are herbaceous perennials but should be classified separately in a show schedule. There are also many hardy evergreen herbaceous perennials, e.g., Iberis and Bergenia.

**Note:** Shrubs are woody, not herbaceous, perennials.

**Question:** We had a class for a fairy garden. It was in the design section and maybe should have been done as a special exhibit. One of our judges insisted that soil was not allowed in design. The definition in the OJES is not fully clear on this.

**Answer:** OJES definition: Fairy Garden: A miniature scene in a single container often reminiscent of children's stories. Plants may be alpiners, miniatures or parts of larger plants but must have similar growing requirements. Accessories permitted.

This definition does not mention soil, but plants that are part of this type of class need soil. The definition of Design in OJES (page 137) also does not state no soil. The no soil in design is found under the definition of Soil (OJES page 151).

**Soil:** The upper layer of earth in which plants grow. No soil is permitted in floral design. Sand, pebbles, wood chips, etc., are permissible.

Show Committees are encouraged to use the new Special Exhibits Division for Fairy Gardens and all other Special Exhibits. See pages 118-119 of OJES for information on Special Exhibits.

# ***Illuminary Design***

As we move into the festive season, this design can lend itself to many holiday settings. What better time to try and explore a new design concept? Illuminary is defined in OJES (2019) on page 142. "A design that incorporates light or lights as an integral part of the design."

The key is the light or lights are integrated into the design, and its effects should be apparent. The light or lights can be placed above, within the design, under, behind or within a container but not be lit by a spotlight. The lights should not distract but create a special effect. In displaying Illuminary designs, staging is critical. A darker niche and or table covering will enhance the light. Staging in a part of a room that has less light or an area where overhead lights can be dimmed would also be helpful.

In searching the internet, you will find many sources for Illuminary designs, especially from garden clubs, particularly in the United States. These sources refer to the emphasis being on colour, pattern and balance. The lights should contribute an additional quality to the design, extending areas of interest, adding balance of colour, and creating a greater depth. One should keep in mind that the colours of the lights may change the appearance of the colours of plant material, which needs to be considered.



[www.gardenclubky.org/  
floral-design](http://www.gardenclubky.org/floral-design)

Lights of various types can be incorporated into the design. There are many sources of lights, especially battery-operated and LED, so it is easy to use them. Be sure to conceal the mechanics. Encourage your Show Committee to try some of the new designs from OJES (2019) in their next schedule. Offer to do a demonstration or workshop. Let's be creative and try this bright new design.

Best wishes for a joyous holiday season.

Penny Stewart



[http://newgardenclub  
journal.blogspot.com](http://newgardenclubjournal.blogspot.com)



Photo Credit: P. Stewart -  
Gan Hort June 2022

## **References:**

OJES (2019)

[www.gcvirginia.com](http://www.gcvirginia.com).

[www.beverleyhillsgardenclub.org](http://www.beverleyhillsgardenclub.org)

[www.gardenclubky.org](http://www.gardenclubky.org)

<http://newgardenclubjournal.blogspot.com>



# ***Ever Wonder How to Get Your Poinsettia to Rebloom?***

Written by Catherine McGill

## **We have the answer to that!**



Place your Poinsettia where it will receive at least 6 hours of indirect but bright sunlight each day. In mid-April, pinch/cut back the stems to 6-8 inches and place the plant in a sunny location. When new growth begins, you may use a liquid fertilizer to ensure the plant gets enough minerals, especially calcium. Let it grow this way until September. Give it another pruning. Trim off two to three inches (5-7.6 cm.) to promote side branching, allowing 3 or 4 leaves to remain on each shoot.

Now it's time – Poinsettias require short day lengths to bloom and form those colorful bracts we love so much. Begin keeping your Poinsettia in complete darkness for about 12-14 hours until American Thanksgiving – or an 8- to 10-week period. Simply stick it in a closet or cover it with a large box every evening. Then, return the plant to its sunny window during the remaining part of the day, placing it in a sunny area for at least six hours daily. Reduce water and fertilizer. Then, by Christmas, your blooming Poinsettia will hopefully be the centerpiece of holiday decor and ready to begin the cycle anew.

**Happy Holidays**  
from the  
**OHA Judging Committee**

