

Southwest Region Get Together Fun with Friends and Begonias

March 2024
Austin, Texas

SHOW RULES

GENERAL

1. The Plant Show Chair shall have complete charge of all exhibits from the opening to the closing of the Show, and no entries may be removed beforehand without permission of the Show Chair. The Show Chair will make all decisions, except in matters of judging.
2. No one other than Placement Staff, Entries and Classification committee members, and Judging Chairs may be in the Show room during the set-up and until the Show opens.

ENTRIES

3. Entries in the Show are limited to members of the American Begonia Society (ABS) in good standing. Entries must be from an ABS member's own private collection, grown for pleasure, by their own efforts, and owned for at least 90 days prior to the Show.
4. A commercial grower or an employee of a commercial grower may enter plants from their own private collection only if the plants are grown at home and not at the commercial nursery. Plants grown at a nursery can only be entered in the Commercial Grower Division.
5. There is no exhibitor registration fee. All entries must be registered between 2:00 PM and 6:00 PM on Thursday, May 2, 2024. No entries will be accepted late without the approval of the Show Chair. If an exhibitor has more than four plants to enter, (s)he should arrive at least one hour before entries close.
6. Plant entries must be mature plants (they must be of adequate size and stage of development for the variety).
7. All plants should be accurately named on the registration form. Errors in spelling or identification do not disqualify. The Entries and Classification Committee will help exhibitors determine the proper name and class.
8. Only clean, healthy plants will be accepted for entry. The Entries and Classification Committee shall have the right to exclude, refuse, or remove diseased, infected, or unsightly entries.
9. All plants are to be groomed prior to entry. Consideration will be given to obvious signs of travel damage.
10. Exhibitors must fill out the Registration Form legibly. All entries must be checked by the Entries and Classification Committee and entered according to the Show Schedule. Additional classes may be created at the discretion of the Show Chairman, whose decisions are final. *Begonias, The Complete Reference Guide*, by Ed and Millie Thompson, can be used for classification and placement.
11. The exhibitor must place the Entry ID card on/with the exhibit prior to the exhibitor leaving. Unidentified entries may be disqualified at the discretion of the Show Chair.
12. Entries may not be removed until the close of the show at 4:00 PM on Saturday, May 3, 2024. All exhibits must be removed by 11:00 AM on Sunday, May 4, 2024.
13. SWR staff and Show Committee will exercise due caution and care in safeguarding exhibits but cannot assume responsibility for any damage or loss. Exhibitors agree to conform to the show rules and regulations and are responsible for the care of their own entries.
14. Each plant may compete in only one class. Any exhibitor may enter more than one plant in any one class, provided that each plant is of a different variety.
15. Plants in hanging containers that have hangers, must be entered in Divisions J or R. Division R Class 31 is for Commercial Growers. Hangers must be removed in all other divisions.
16. Plants and containers must be neat, clean, and proportionate to the size of the plant. In all Divisions except Novel Containers, containers must not detract from the plant and therefore should be a single neutral tone (e.g., terra cotta, brown, tan, gray, dark green, black). White pots or metal cans and commercial nursery pots are not acceptable. Decorative containers (e.g., multi- or brightly colored pots, or pots with designs or in shapes) may be entered only in the Novel container Division.
17. Stakes are to be inconspicuous in size, color, and height. All labels must be removed or pushed down into the soil and out of sight. No artificial plant material may be entered in any plant division or class.
18. All entries shall be placed into the Show area by the Placement Committee.

JUDGING

19. The judging staff shall assume complete charge at the start of the judging. No one is allowed to interfere with the judges or clerks. Entry tags must remain sealed until the Judging Chair declares judging complete.
20. No exhibitor or judge may change the class of an entry without the consent of the Entries and Classification Committee.
21. The judges shall make awards according to merit only. If the entry is without merit, the judges shall make no award regardless of the number of entries in the class.
22. Plants will be judged by their appearance at and above the soil line and not by parentage or cultural needs alone.
23. Each class will be judged for first (blue ribbon), second (red ribbon), and third (white ribbon) on merit only. If deemed eligible, Class Commendation Ribbons may be awarded.
24. Divisions A through L and Divisions N, O, P, Q and T are eligible to compete for Best of Show. **It must be a single plant.**

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25. The judges' decisions are final. The Judging Chair can ask a different team of judges to evaluate an entry if appropriate to resolve an issue.

DIVISION-SPECIFIC GUIDELINES

26. Division K, L and M – Terrariums: Any plant in a contained atmosphere must be entered in Divisions K and L and M. Commercial growers should enter terrariums in Division R, Class 32. All containers must be covered.
27. Division N – Traveling Begonias: This division is for entries from over 200 miles away from Austin, Texas. And must be in pots no larger than 4"
28. Division O – Novice: A novice is one who has never won a Blue Ribbon in an ABS judged competition.
29. Division P - Novel Container: The plants must be growing in the novel container, not set into it.
30. Division Q - Novel Grown: This is for plants trained to grow a certain way. They could be a topiary, bonsai, ring or trellis.
31. Division R and S— Commercial Grower and New Introduction, Commercial Grower: A commercial grower for the purpose of this show is defined as follows: Person(s) who sell plants and derives most of their income from the sale of these plants, and/or has an employee who assists in growing his/her begonias. Commercial growers are not eligible to compete for the Best in Show.
32. Division S and T—New Introductions: Entries must be mature plants and are not eligible for entry in any other division. The plant may not have been in competition in any prior show and is not eligible if released, unless it has been released for testing. The hybridizer need not have grown the plant. The grower may enter with hybridizer's permission. If not in bloom, a description of bloom and time of bloom, if known, must accompany the entry. NOTE: An employee of a commercial grower may enter plants from his own private collection in Division T only if the plant entries are grown at home and not at the commercial nursery.
33. Division U—Begonia Photography: Photos will be judged for artistic merit and not horticulturally. Photos must be matted or presented in a suitable display format.
34. Division V—Begonia Arts and Crafts: Entries must feature begonias and be the original work of the exhibitor.
35. Division W- Exhibits: The American Begonia Society's mission is to foster a community dedicated to the appreciation of begonias through conservation, education, research, growing, and sharing. The educational exhibit should promote one or more of those features. Photos, live plants, drawings, diagrams or descriptive texts may be used. The Exhibits Division W is open to Hobby Growers and Commercial Growers.

MAJOR TROPHIES

1. Best of Show – This will be awarded to the entry that the best in the total show. It must be a single plant.
2. Rekha Morris Best Species in Show – This will be awarded to the best species in the show.
3. Lou Dyess Best Cane in Show - This will be awarded to the best cane-like in the show.
4. Dianna Wilkerson Best Rhizomatous in Show – This will be awarded to the best rhizomatous in show which would include rex cultorum.
5. Best New Introduction – This is the best of the two new introduction division entries.
6. Ed and Millie Thompson's Showing is Sharing Award – This award goes to the Hobbie Grower Exhibitor with the largest number of entries in the show.
7. People's Choice Award – This award goes to the entry that has been elected by a vote of visitors (members and guests) to the show.
8. Best Southwest Region Hybrid – This award goes to the best entry in the show that has been hybridized by a southwest region member in the southwest region (Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma)