

QUEENSLAND DAHLIA SOCIETY INC.

**QUEENSLAND
GUIDE TO DAHLIAS
2007**



Issued by

THE QUEENSLAND DAHLIA SOCIETY INC.

The use of the information in this “Queensland Guide to Dahlias’ will stimulate your interest in the Dahlia by providing the following;

- A firm basis for communicating with others about this flower
- A better appreciation of Dahlias
- A uniform approach to the assessment of their quality
- A scale of points for penalising faults in dahlia blooms

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The Ideal Standard Requirements for Exhibition of Dahlia Blooms

Standard Requirements of Perfection of Dahlia Blooms for assessing the Relative Quality of Dahlia Blooms Exhibited at Floricultural Shows held in Queensland.

Formation of Blooms Requirements

POMPON TYPE

Blooms should be fully double, symmetrical and spherical like a golf ball. Centre should be closed, fully developed and as high as the surrounding face florets. Florets should preferably be uniform in size throughout the bloom. All florets should be involute, regularly arranged and neat in appearance. The tips of the florets should appear to be rounded. The back florets of the bloom should reflex to the stem.



BALL TYPE

Blooms should be fully double, symmetrical and spherical like a ball. Centre should be closed, fully developed and as high as the surrounding face florets. Florets should preferably be uniform in size throughout the bloom. All florets should be involute, regularly arranged and neat in appearance. The tips of the florets should appear to be rounded. The back florets of the bloom should reflex to the stem.



FORMAL DECORATIVE TYPE

Bloom should be fully double, symmetrical and at least half but not more than its diameter in depth. Face view should be circular in outline, regular in arrangement and neat in appearance. Centre should be closed, fully developed, cone shaped and as high as the surrounding face florets, breaking gradually with immature florets. Near the centre they may be involute, but those further away should be broad, smooth and flat. The tips of the florets may be either rounded or bluntly pointed. The back florets should recurve towards the stem.

**INFORMAL DECORATIVE TYPE**

Bloom should be fully double, symmetrical and at least half but not more than its diameter in depth. Face view should be circular in outline, regular in arrangement and neat in appearance. Centre should be closed, high and cone-shaped breaking gradually with immature florets which near the centre should be broad and almost flat. Outer florets should be broad, flat and slightly twisty, wavy or revolute for less than one-quarter of the length of any floret. The tips of the florets should preferably be pointed. The back florets should preferably recurve towards the stem.



SEMI CACTUS TYPE

Bloom should be fully double, symmetrical and at least half but not more than its diameter in depth. Face view should be circular in outline, regular in arrangement and neat in appearance. Centre should be closed, high and cone-shaped breaking gradually with flat, pointed immature florets to outer florets. Outer florets should be broad and flat towards the base half and revolute from the pointed tips for more than one quarter but for less than half of their length. The florets may be either slightly incurved or straight.

**CACTUS TYPE**

Bloom should be fully doubled, symmetrical and at least half but not more than its diameter in depth. Face view should be circular in outline, regular in arrangement and neat in appearance. Centre should be closed, high and cone-shaped, breaking gradually with narrow and partly revolute immature florets to outer florets. Outer florets should be narrow, preferably with revolute edges overlapping from the tips for at least last two-thirds of their length and preferably pointed. The florets may be either slightly incurved or straight.



EXHIBITION CACTUS TYPE

Bloom should be fully double, symmetrical and approximately half its diameter in depth. Face view should be circular in outline, regular in arrangement and neat in appearance. Centre should be closed, high and cone-shaped, breaking gradually with very narrow and involute immature florets to outer florets. Outer florets should be very narrow, long and pointed with involute edges overlapping for as near as possible to their whole length. Towards the tips, the florets should be strongly incurved and may also regularly turn to one side.

**FIMBRIATED (CACTUS OR SEMI-CACTUS)**

Bloom should have all its florets, from centre to back, fimbriated from the tips at least 10mm, and preferably splayed. In all other requirements, the bloom should be a replica of one of the approved types.



WATER LILY TYPE

Bloom should be fully double, and symmetrical. Side view should be saucer shaped and face view should be circular in outline and regular in arrangement. The layers of florets should be openly spaced to give a delicate and light appearance. Centre should be closed and dome-shaped breaking gradually to preferably five rows of fully developed outer florets. Outer florets should be broad and slightly cupped with rounded ends.

**ANEMONE TYPE**

Bloom should be fully double and symmetrical. Side view should be dome-shaped in outline and face view should be circular in outline. Centre should have a dense group of tubular florets surrounded by preferably one row of regularly arranged, flat, broad florets with rounded ends.



ORCHID TYPE

Bloom should be symmetrical with side view flat. Face view should be circular in outline, regular in arrangement and neat in appearance. Centre should be open with fresh pollen and disc-shaped. Surrounding the centre there must be eight florets which should be straight and involute for at least two thirds of their length. Florets should show a distinct colour on the involute reverse side.

**STELLAR TYPE**

Bloom should be fully double, symmetrical and approximately one half but not more than two thirds its diameter in depth. Face view should be circular in outline, regularly arranged and neat in appearance. Centre should be closed and cone-shaped breaking gradually with involute immature florets to fully developed outer florets. Outer florets should be straight, narrow and involute and show a distinct colour on the involute reverse side



COLLERETTE TYPE

Bloom should be symmetrical, with side view almost flat. Face view should be circular in outline, regularly arranged and neat in appearance. Centre should be open with fresh pollen and disc shaped. Surrounding the centre there should be a collar which will form the inner row of wavy florets with multiple divisions usually pointed at the tip of each division and preferably half the length of the outer row of florets, which must be eight in number, broad, flat and rounded at the ends which should overlap. The colour of the collar florets and the outer florets **must** contrast.

**SINGLE TYPE**

Bloom should be symmetrical with side view almost flat. Centre should be open, disc shaped with fresh pollen bearing stamens. Surrounding the centre **should** be a single row of eight round and flat equally sized and shaped florets that should preferably overlap. Tips should be rounded. Florets should radiate evenly and regularly away from the central disc.



Stem Requirements

The stem should be straight, situated centrally to the bloom, rigid and round with length to the first node and thickness in proportion to the size of the bloom it carries. Artificial support is prohibited. It should be cut at least 300mm long except pompon may be 230mm long. The bloom should be staged with at least 160mm protruding from the container to the bottom of the bloom. The stem should carry the bloom (facing upward) at a 45 degree angle, except pompon and ball which should face straight upward in line with the stem.

Condition Requirements

Bloom should be perfectly fresh and mature. It should be of firm substance and fine in texture. It should also be clean and free from blemish.

Colour Requirements

The colour of a bloom should be clear, bright and attractive. The colours of a bloom of a bi-coloured, blend or variegated cultivar should be evenly marked.

Bi-colours

Two clearly defined and sharply changing colours on the face of the florets forming a regular pattern.

Blends of Colours

Two or more colours which merge gradually or intermingle but are distinguishable from a distance of two metres.

Variegated Colours

A ground colour striped, spotted or splashed with a distinctly different colour.

Staging Requirements

Exhibits should be attractive and appealing in appearance and of matching height. Blooms should be firmly plugged in containers at a uniform and acceptable height, placed facing viewers and named. Foliage should be healthy, fresh, clean and free from blemish.

Size Requirements

Formal Decorative, Informal Decorative, Cactus and Semi-Cactus

Giant - Over 260mm

Large - 210mm to 260mm

Medium - 160mm to 210mm

Small - 120mm to 160mm

Miniature - Under 120mm

Pompon - Under 50mm

Ball - Over 50mm

Exhibition Cactus - Large (over 160mm) Small (under 160mm)

Fimbriated Cactus - Over 160mm

Waterlily, Collette and Single - Under 160mm

Anemone, Orchid and Stellar - Under 120mm

Guide Sheet for Point Judging of Dahlias

The following is a lists of faults and allocation of points to be used when assessing the quality of blooms. Blooms should be separately assessed in comparison with the ideal standard. Other blooms staged should be ignored during assessment, but assessments of all blooms of corresponding size and type should be reviewed after completion of reasonable results.

Faults to be Penalised	Max. Penalty Points
<p>TYPE: Variations from approved standard, blade florets in cactus type, Hairlike or pin petals, serrations, fluted or involute florets in decorative types.</p> <p>CENTRE: Open or about to open in fully double blooms. Stale pollen in open centre types. Poor centre in proportion to size of bloom. Oval, sunken, depressed, hard green, isolated from outer florets, brush, distorted, unattractive green bracts. Not located in centre of bloom.</p> <p>BUILD: Rough appearance, unbalanced, gaps or uneven floret spacing, excessive depth, sparse or overcrowded florets. Width of florets poor in proportion to bloom size. Shallow, immature, malformed misshapen, irregular patterns of floret placement.</p>	<p>FORM</p> <p>40</p>
<p>STRENGTH: Weak, Soft.</p> <p>BUILD: Crooked, bent, misshapen, untidy, too short, and too thick. Bloom held at wrong angle, i.e. facing downward or straight upward except Pompon which should face straight upward in line with stem.</p>	<p>STEM</p> <p>20</p>
<p>TEXTURE & SUBSTANCE: Stale, withered, limp, drooping, coarse texture, harsh substance.</p> <p>CLEANLINESS: Eaten, bruised, damaged, blemished, dirty, uneven markings or blends.</p> <p>FOLIAGE: Unhealthy, eaten, bruised, blemished, withered, limp or drooping.</p>	<p>CONDITION</p> <p>20</p>
<p>Dull- faced, bleached, unattractive, discoloured, uneven markings or blends.</p>	<p>COLOUR</p> <p>10</p>
<p>Blooms varying in size in multi bloom exhibits. Blooms over or under size limits should be ignored because they are not in correct schedule class.</p>	<p>SIZE</p> <p>5</p>
<p>Obtuse or loose plugging. Too high, too low. Not placed facing viewers. Unnamed.</p>	<p>STAGING</p> <p>5</p>
TOTALS	100