SCHEDULE

The most important item for any rose show is the show schedule. It contains all of the show rules and classes. Make sure you have a well-written show schedule. There should be no reason for the exhibitors or judges to have to assume what you meant during judging. Do not make any last minute changes, as it will cause more confusion than help.

Try to have a show theme. It is fun and can be a good marketing tool for your rose show. It might be an anniversary, like the "75th Annual Show", or a seasonal theme like "Sunshine in Summer" or "El Nino Lives!" The theme can carry over to a special challenge class or titles for the arrangement section. One society used song titles from the 1930s to celebrate their 60th anniversary.

There are several things that should be in all show schedules and several pitfalls to avoid. First and foremost, have an experienced judge involved with the writing of the schedule. It is suggested that the District Director or a person the District Director has appointed (the Chair of Horticulture Judges) approve the horticulture portion of the show schedule. It is an ARS requirement that the District Chair of Arrangement Judges review the arrangement section of a rose show schedule before it is printed and distributed. This helps keep rose shows consistent with ARS Rules and Guidelines throughout the district.

It would help if the judges were well versed in all types of roses. You could always copy a good schedule since there are no copyrights. The schedule can be developed into a booklet, tri-fold pamphlet, or the multi-fold square. The important thing is to get all the information in the schedule and duplicate it for distribution. Cost is a factor here as the booklets cost more to print. Make sure you mail a show schedule to all the known exhibitors and make them available at your monthly meetings. A mailing list of area exhibitors can be developed and used by all societies.

Each show schedule should offer all the ARS certificates available. This is a good base on which to build a show schedule. The certificates for large roses, such as English Box, Rose Bowl, etc., can be used for floribundas, hybrid teas, old garden roses, shrubs, etc. Some of the more impressive English boxes in recent years have been in the OGR and shrub classes. There can be several different classes for English Boxes and Rose Bowls including hybrid teas/grandifloras, floribundas, shrubs, OGRs, etc. Blue ribbons can be given in each separate class. Local Society Certificates could be given to the winner of each separate class. HOWEVER only ONE ARS Best English Box or Rose Bowl Certificate can be given, chosen from the best of each class. There are currently 40 ARS horticulture certificates, 13 arrangement certificates and 9 arrangement rosettes available. All can be used in any local or district rose show, except for the shrub class. For Shrub exhibits, you may choose either the one Best Shrub Certificate, or the two certificates for Classic Shrub and Modern Shrub. You cannot give all three. The Best Seedling class has been very popular and should be included in all schedules, especially when frequent or expected exhibitors are amateur hybridizers. It is also important to offer several novice classes, perhaps one for hybrid teas and one for miniatures, to encourage new members as well as the general public. By all means, have judges' classes in the schedule. Several horticulture classes can be included for judges: hybrid teas/grandifloras, floribundas, shrubs, miniatures, minifloras

and OGR's. Blue ribbons can be given in each separate class. Local Society Certificates could be given to the best Judge's entry from each class. HOWEVER only ONE Best Judge's Certificate can be given, chosen from the best of each class. Also, provide arrangement classes for the arrangement judges where the horticulture judges can enter.

The Queen, King and Princess certificates are standard and some societies have added the Prince for the 4th place winner. Again, please have a Court of Honor. Exhibitors want to know how well their roses did; getting a rose in the Court of Honor is a prestigious event especially since the results are reportable to Rose Exhibitors Forum. It costs nothing to have a Court of Honor. Currently there is no ARS certificate for the Prince or the Court of Honor; a simple sign is more than adequate. The exhibitors will be pleased, and a trophy is not necessary if you are concerned about costs. Courts of Honor can have any number; six or seven is the most common.

The schedule must address the use of wedging materials. Some schedules allow no wedging to be used; others allow all types of wedging materials, and most fall somewhere in between. Choices of wedging material have been foil, plastic wrap, foam wedges, and rose stem/foliage. Some believe the best rose show is the best-staged show; therefore wedges are necessary. The issue can be controversial during the judging of the show, so the schedule should be specific. Plastic wrap is difficult to work with and to get water around the wadded wrap so many societies have banned its use. Foam is an ideal wedge. Also note in your schedule that if wedging protrudes above the lip of the vase and is distracting that it should be penalized, rather than disqualified.

Exhibitors are limited to only one entry in a Challenge Class. However, multiple ribbons (for all places) can be awarded as long as one is chosen as Best. State if the novice winners are eligible for hybrid tea and mini/miniflora Queen of show or not. In collections and sprays state if they need to be exhibition form or not. Note in the schedule what type of ink or pencil is acceptable. Blue or black ink seems to be a standard. Felt pens run when wet and should be avoided.

When using ARS certificates, write your schedule so the wording is the same as the certificate. Special care should be given for the wording for the Best Climber class. The certificate is for roses which are classed as Large Flowered Climbers (LCl), Hybrid Giganteas and Hybrid Wichuranas, and was not meant for climbing sports of roses that normally grow as a bush. There are many roses named Cl. xxx, or those described in catalogs as climbers such as Aloha (CL HT) that are not classed by ARS as LCl, HGig or HWich so are not to be exhibited in the Climber class.

Shrubs and OGRs may be shown stem-on-stem, and may or may not be disbudded. A problem exists with some schedules where they have “one bloom Austin roses and they need to be disbudded.” I would avoid this by saying “one stem, bloom or spray, of any Austin rose.” You can also mention they need not be disbudded. The side buds, as with OGRs, can be very appealing or very distracting and it should be up to the exhibitor to leave them on or not.

This leads us to another point. Show rules cannot contradict ARS rules. In the *Guidelines for Judging Roses,* it states that “Each society may establish its own show procedures and local rules, however, such rules shall not conflict with established ARS rules.”

You can use the Genesis certificate for species winners or not use it at all. Often, societies will offer this class in the spring/summer shows and not in the fall. If you do not use the Genesis certificate, then species would be entered in the appropriate Dowager or Victorian class. Some societies require the date and class of all old garden roses be placed on the entry tag, and some require this information for Classic Shrubs. If your society requires the dates, list this requirement in the main show rules and at the beginning of the appropriate section. The date and class on each OGR tag helps educate the public, and the judges who have to judge the class.

For special challenge classes like the artist's pallet, note what you wish to accomplish. A pallet of seven Jennifer's may be nice, but it is unlikely that any artist would have the same color in each section of their pallet. A pallet with five or seven different color classes can be beautiful, just as when the blooms used are all the same variety. Be specific in the schedule. Another popular class in some areas is the micro-mini, which are usually defined as those less than ½ inch in bloom size. Include a children's class as this will help encourage new, young members to participate.

ARS Certificates that are available

Horticulture:

Best in Show
Classic Shrub
Dowager Queen
English Box Regular
Floribunda Spray
Floribunda Spray – Gold
Genesis Award
Hi-Lo
Horticulture - Bronze (HT/GR Princess)
Horticulture - Gold (HT/GR Queen)
Horticulture - Silver (HT/GR King)
Miniature – Silver
Miniature Spray
Mini-Flora – Gold
Mini-Flora Rose Bowl
Modern Shrub
Novice
Rose Bowl, Large Bloom
Seedling
Single Miniature
Victorian Rose
Best Judge's Entry
Climber
English Box Miniature
Floribunda One-Bloom
Floribunda Spray - Bronze
Floribunda Spray - Silver
Grandiflora Spray
Hybrid Tea Open
Hybrid Tea Spray
Miniature - Bronze
Miniature - Gold
Miniature Open Bloom
Mini-Flora - Bronze
Mini-Flora - Silver
Mini-Flora Spray
Most Fragrant
Polyantha Spray
Rose Bowl, Miniature Bloom
Shrub
Sweepstakes

Arrangements (including Rosettes):

Arrangements – Bronze (3rd place)
Arrangements – Silver (2nd place)
Arrangements – Gold (1st place)
Artist

Court of Etiquette (tables)
Duke
Keepsake
Mini Court of Etiquette
Mini Rosecraft
Miniature Arrangements - Bronze (3rd place)
Miniature Arrangements - Gold (1st place)
Miniature Arrangements - Silver (2nd place)
Mini Royalty
Personal Adornment
Rosecraft
Duchess
Junior Royalty
Mini Artist
Mini Keepsake
Mini Duchess
Mini-Flora Arrangement
Mini Oriental
Mini Princess
Oriental Award
Princess
Royalty