

# SUMMARY OF EVALUATION QUALITIES

## COLOR

Color is: clear, clean, vibrant, bright, shiny, sparkling, lustrous, appealing, useful. Single color evenly distributed from tip to base of ray flower. Bicolor and variegated (uniform color, good distribution, good contrast, separation clean and sharp, adequate quantity); Flame (colors sharp, clean and distinct, good contrast); Blends (harmonious blending, even distribution, smooth, distinct.).

*Faults:* Color is: dull, grayed, impure, splotchy, streaked, granular, veined; Bicolor and Variegated: bleeding(break not sharp and clean, uneven), poor contrast, splotchy, inadequate color distribution. Blends: unharmonious, poor contrast, blending uneven. Flame: bleeding of contrasting color, inadequate amount of colors. Effect of: pest damage, spray deposits, mildew, virus, or mosaic, showy bracts, water spotting, wolf petals, bruising, petaloids, two different unharmonious colors on the face and back of the ray flower, fading, burning.

## FORM

True to type, shape regular. Peak of development; meets type standard. Center of bloom (symmetrical, circular, good proportion in size for bloom, adequate height, full, tight, more to come, centered exactly over the stem). Bloom: symmetrical, circular in outline, even, no gaps, ray flowers well-developed.

*Faults:* Center (elongated, too high, too low, not exactly above stem, sparse rays in center, tufted, lopsided, hard, green). Bloom: lopsided, asymmetrical, bearded, not centered, gaps in contour, rough formation, thin, insufficient ray flowers, missing ray flowers, pest damage, immature bloom; flowers drop back unequally; form, border-line type, does not meet standard. ST - florets not involute/narrow/curved.

### Diameter

Adequately meets size standard as shown in Classification of Dahlias and not to close to size limits.

*Faults:* Size at or very near size limit.

Depth - It exceeds ideal; is ideal; or is adequate for this form as defined in the Judging Manual.

*Faults:* Does not meet minimum standard depth for this type as defined in Judging Manual.

## SUBSTANCE

Look for the effect of conditioning, uniform back and face of bloom, ray flowers firm, crisp, springy, thick. No loss of ray flowers.

*Faults:* Ray flowers soft, lack springiness, missing ray flowers, loss of shape and form shriveled, thin or falling.

## STEM

Look for form, proportion and strength. (Strong, erect, graceful, round, straight and good proportion in length and diameter; not tapered).

*Faults:* Faulty disbudding, irregular, cooked, too short, too long, multiple stem, too heavy, too small, hocked at juncture of bloom, crotch, does not meet the bloom squarely, wiry, weak.

## BLOOM POSITION

Look at position of the bloom. Preferred 45 degree angle (see type standards). Top facing (ball types and pompons only).

*Faults:* Down facing all types. Side facing (bloom parallel to the stem) but a lesser fault than down facing. Note whether the bloom is facing squarely between the first pair of leaves.

## FOLIAGE

Color rich green. Proportion in relation to bloom. Form of leaf pattern the same on opposite sides of the "stalk"; compound leaf has all leaflets alike; adequate proportion of leaf surface.

*Faults:* Inadequate proportion of foliage; leaves too small, too large; coarse, thin, not uniform in position or formation; folded, crinkled, surface raised in bubble-like formation (may indicate disease); discolored by water or steam; form damaged by insects, slugs or snails, spray deposits.

## UNIFORMITY

Should be uniform in size, color, form. Each characteristic Considered and evaluated separately and the whole entry restudied for relationships.

## FLORIFEROUSNESS

Applies to a Trial Garden entry of three plants of the same dahlia. Check number of dead blooms, buds, blooms. Are there lots of them or only a few? Is there a significant difference in the three plants? Do the three plants appear to have a long, short, or average blooming season? How does the blooming cycle fit the local growing area? Too late? Too early?

## DISTINCTION

Unique or attention holding, very outstanding in one or more of the following characteristics: color, form, substance, size, stem, foliage, uniformity. Condition; uniform staging; balance and proportion; harmony. Can win in its class, section or win higher awards.

*Faults:* Not a marked uniqueness or outstanding quality. Unable to compete with current varieties.