

Accredited Judge Requirements

1. Must be an ADS member in good standing during the candidate training period which is at least three consecutive years; if ADS membership is not maintained, participant will not be advanced.
2. Must have grown and exhibited dahlias in an ADS-affiliated shows each year for at least five years or have grown and exhibited dahlias in at least six ADS shows over three years.
3. Must pass a written examination on judging dahlias based on the ADS *Guide to Judging Dahlias*, the ADS *Classification and Handbook of Dahlias*, and the ADS seedling scorecards (both fully double and open centered) during the training period.
4. Must attend at least two judging/training sessions during the training period.
5. Must serve as a candidate judge on a team with ADS accredited and/or senior judges in at least six dahlia shows in a period not to exceed six years or serve as a candidate judge in six shows during a three-year period.
6. Must serve at least a three-year apprenticeship as a candidate judge.
7. Must judge at least 15 seedlings in trial garden and in ADS seedling bench evaluation to the satisfaction of the judging chair. While it is recommended that a mix of both trial garden and seedling bench evaluation judging is included in the experience, if one of the venues is not available all judging may be in the venue available.
8. Societies without seedling bench evaluation entries or trial gardens nearby may have their candidate judges fulfill their seedling evaluation requirements by one of the two following methods:
 - a. Using the correct ADS scorecards, score disseminated cultivars set up as mock seedling bench evaluation entries at a society show, training class, or seminar to the satisfaction of the judging chair.
 - b. Using the correct ADS scorecards, score disseminated cultivars in a society member's garden as mock trial garden entries. There must be two or more plants of the same

variety grown side-by-side with six to eight blooms. The scores are to be reviewed by the judging chair.

The candidate judges will be supervised and assisted by a senior judge while using an alternative seedling evaluation method. Candidate judges using an alternative seedling evaluation method are required to judge 15 entries.

9. Candidate judges who have fulfilled all judging requirements in three years or more may be advanced.
10. Exemptions to the judging requirements may be made at the discretion of the Chair of the ADS Judges Accreditation Committee.