

American Dahlia Society (ADS) Accredited Judge

ADS Requirements (summary):

1. Maintain ADS membership during the judging training program
2. Grow and exhibit dahlias in an ADS-affiliated show each year for at least five years or grow and exhibit in at least six ADS shows over three years
3. Pass a written examination on judging dahlias
4. Attend at least two judging/training sessions during the training period
5. Serve as a candidate judge on a judging team in at least six dahlia shows in six years or six shows during a three-year period
6. Serve at least a three-year apprenticeship as a candidate judge
7. Judge at least 15 seedlings in a trial garden and/or ADS seedling bench evaluation
8. If no seedling bench or trial garden, set up a mock evaluation at a show or use a society member's garden as mock trial garden entries.

ADS Accredited Judging Curriculum

1. Dahlia Characteristics

In-depth knowledge of Dahlia Characteristics:

- Form, Color, Size, Substance, Foliage, Stem, Bloom Position, Uniformity, Floriferousness
- Dahlia nomenclature, including standard classification descriptions
- Become proficient in the use of the four digit classification system
- Acquire the knowledge necessary to coach and mentor new growers

2. Judging Responsibilities (for example)

- Team leader at shows – able to judge confidently in any section
- Demonstrate appropriate demeanor of a show judge
- Team member judging at trial garden and seedling bench

3. Using Resource Material (for example)

- In-depth knowledge and use of the Classification and Handbook of Dahlias (CHD)
- Thorough knowledge of the ADS Guide to Judging Dahlias manual
- Become proficient in using the ADS Seedling Evaluation Scorecards – fully double and open centered
- Become proficient in using the ADS Color Guide and properly identify and record colors