



Dahlia Market Bunch

From the ADS Cut Flower Committee

Dahlia Market Bunch at Your Show

For most Dahlia Societies the biggest function we have is our club's show. These shows provide a great way to network with dahlia growers from outside our club and are great for public outreach.

All across North America dahlia clubs are experiencing growth, a large portion of that growth is from people with cut flower farms. The ADS Cut Flower Committee believes that by adding this class to our shows, we might encourage others in our clubs to exhibit blooms.



Description

A “Dahlia Market Bunch” typically refers to a bundle of fresh cut Dahlias sold by local farmers or growers at a farmer’s or floral market.

Dahlia market bunches are prized for their freshness, seasonal variety, for their sustainability, and support of local agriculture.

This category will focus specifically on dahlia bunches with no fillers.



Objective

Evaluate the freshness of the blooms with scores that rank marketability and favors good grower management for a commonly found market item.



Judges
will be
evaluating
the
following

MARKETABILITY

This bunch needs to arrive in a quality condition, as good as or better than, acceptable market standards with a customer focus.

GROWER MANAGEMENT

The grower's ability and skill to produce a healthy plant and process cut stems to maintain quality and freshness.

**Judges
will be
evaluating
the
following**

COLOR

- It is ok for blooms to have even and/or uneven distribution of colors.
- All colors are accepted including muted, muddy (gray color base), vintage and blends.
- Blends do not need to have even distribution.
- Variegated varieties are allowed to have uneven distribution.
- It is ok for bicolors to have bleeding and uneven distribution.
- They may also have solid and bicolored ray florets.

A few suggestions for classes

- SIMILAR COLOR 5 STEM BUNCHES
- SIMILAR COLOR 10 STEM BUNCHES
- MIXED COLOR 5 STEM BUNCHES
- MIXED COLOR 10 STEM BUNCHES

Fully doubled forms are preferred as they are the market standard for best cut flowers.

For example, your club may decide to have two Dahlia Market Bunch (DMB) classes, a 5 stem similar color and a 10 stem mixed color.

Similar colors might be different shades of red, mixed colors would be an assortment of colors.

Guidance for Judges

Judges will need to pick up and handle bunches to evaluate characteristics.

No crushed leaves and petals on blooms.
Leaves may not touch the water in the vase.

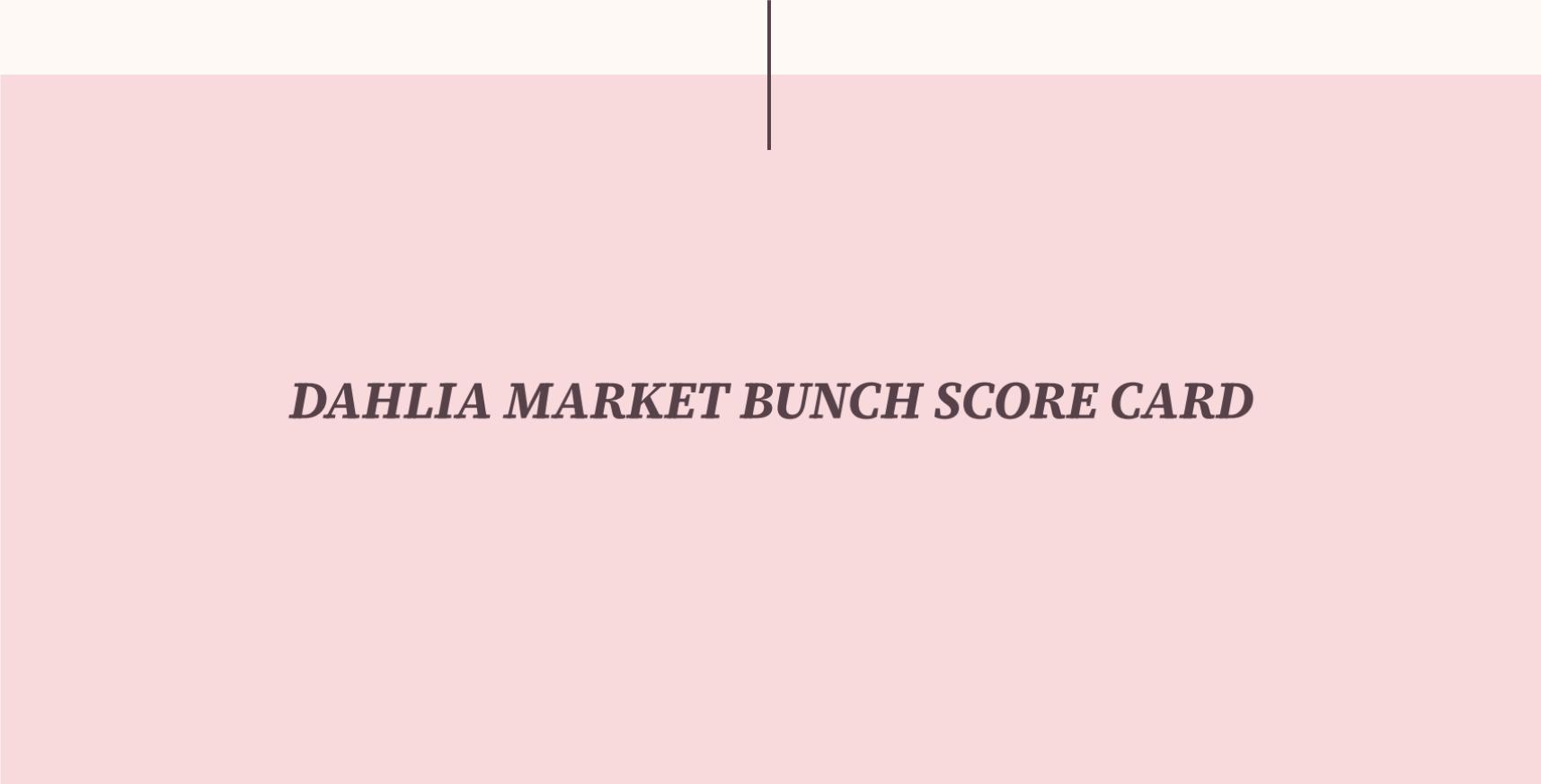
No crushed or torn stems. Leaves below the water line should be cleanly removed.

Buds are acceptable as long as they aren't a distraction, such as wilting/drooping.



Rules

- Use of wire and artificial means of supporting stems and/or blooms will disqualify entry.
- Minimum stem length of 12”.
- Must be neatly bound with one rubber band at bottom for security.
- No external wrapping material around the bunch.
- No additional fillers or flowers other than dahlias (leaves attached to the stems are okay)
- Must be placed in a container that will not tip over.
- Show tags must be filled out properly.



DAHLIA MARKET BUNCH SCORE CARD

Color — 15 pts

- Distribution of colors can be uneven or even. Muted, muddy, vintage and blends are ok.
- Blends do not need to have even distribution.
- Variegated varieties are allowed to have uneven distribution.
- Bicolors can have bleeding and uneven distribution and may also have solid and bicolored ray florets.
- Colors must be appealing & useful (as in a color that will sell in bouquets).





WHILE THE COLORS ON
THIS BLOOM
HAVE A MUDDY
APPEARANCE, THIS IS
ACCEPTABLE FOR CUT
FLOWERS.

IT SHOULD NOT LOSE
POINTS.



Unevenness in
bicolored and
variegated
dahlias is
perfectly
acceptable.



Blooms — 45 pts

- Condition of petals.....20
 - Lack of damage from insects, handling, ect.
 - Good moisture content (Turgid), no shedding petals.
- Harvested at appropriate stage.....15
 - Appropriate stage is slightly immature, young and still developing, no pollen present, green centers are ok.
- Uniformity of age of blooms.....10
 - Blooms should be relatively the same age.



**This is the appropriate age for a Dahlia
Market Bunch.**

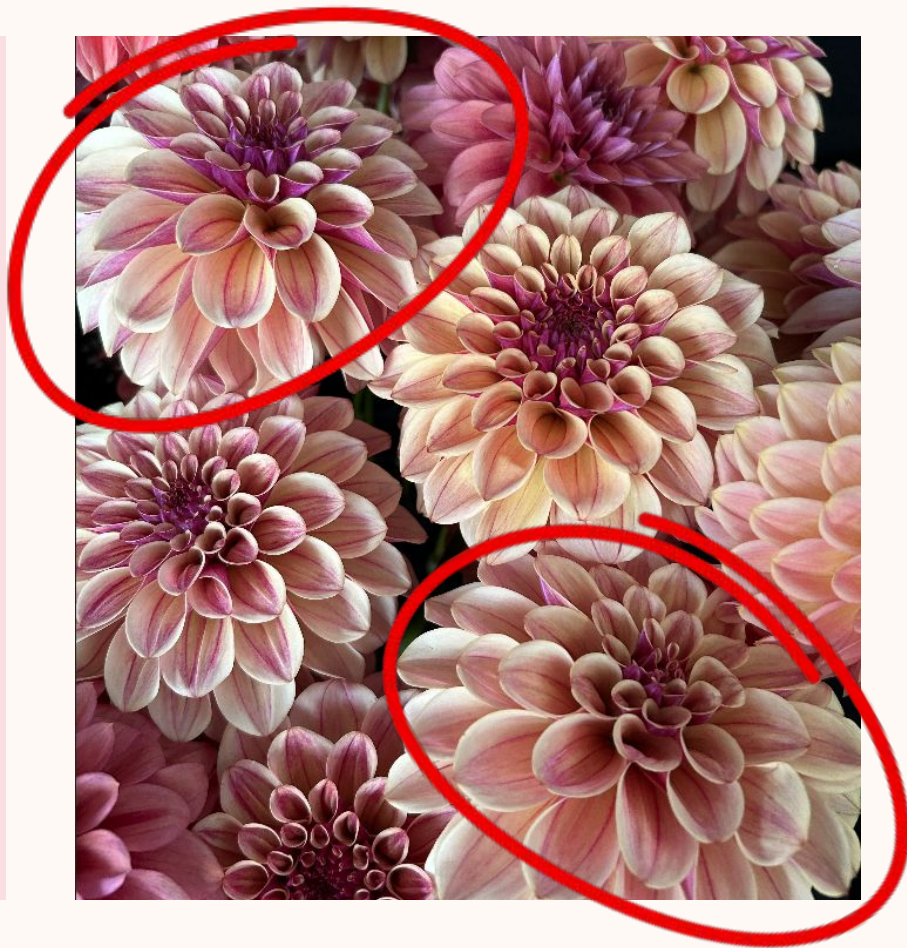
**Centers are still tight and under
developed.**

Blooms are immature.



Bloom circled at the top is the correct age of maturity.

Bloom circled at the bottom is too mature.





**GREEN CENTERS ARE
ALLOWED**



BUDS ARE ALLOWED,
THEY SHOULD NOT BE A
DISTRACTION.

LIKE THE BLOOMS, THEY
SHOULD NOT BE
WILTED.

Stem Quality — 40 pts

- Firm blossom attachment.....15
- Stem firmness & integrity.....10
 - Stems should be strong (able to hold their blooms) and straight.
 - Stem width should be proportionate to the bloom.
 - The cut edge should be a clean sharp cut.
- Stem length (min 12'').....10
- Bound with a single rubber band (elastic).....5





We are looking for strong, straight stems, notches are allowed.

If leaves are removed, they should be removed cleanly.

No leaves below the waterline.

The cut end should not be ragged or crushed.



You will need to pull the bunch out of the vase to examine the stem cuts and measure the lengths.

You can also check the bloom attachment at this time.



The stems need to be bound together with one rubber band.

The blooms must be bound without damaging the petals.

Notice the score breakdown

COLOR.....15 points

When judging traditional show dahlias we look for clean, crisp colors. However, when judging a Dahlia Market bunch, any colors including muted, muddy, and vintage colors are acceptable. Points would be deducted for environmental factors (an example could be watermarking).

BLOOM QUALITY.....45 POINTS

When judging a Dahlia Market Bunch good form is not required. We are looking at the quality and age of the blooms. Green centers are okay. The blooms should be the appropriate age and uniform maturity. Points would be deducted for pest or environmental factors (an example being chewed petals).

STEM QUALITY..... 40 POINTS

When evaluating the stem, we look for clean, straight cuts that are strong and well-formed. Since we're judging cut flowers, the entire stem must be at least 12 inches long, from the cut end to the bloom. Any stem shorter than this is considered a major fault.

