

Dahlia Market Bunch

Description: A "farmer market bunch" typically refers to a bundle or arrangement of freshly cut flowers sold by local farmers or growers at a farmer's market. Farmer market bunches are prized for their freshness, seasonal variety, and often for their sustainability and support of local agriculture. This category will focus specifically on these bunches utilizing dahlias.

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

Judges will evaluate 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.

Color:

- It is ok for blooms to have even and uneven distribution of colors.
- Muted, Muddy (brown), Vintage & Blends are ok.
- 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.

Categories:

- Can either be single color/variety bunches or a mixed bunch category. (would recommend these be judged separately)
- Can be a single variety or multiple varieties. (would recommend these be judged separately)
- Can be either a 5 stem or 10 stem bunch (would recommend these be judged separately)

Guidance for the Judges

- Judges will need to pick up and handle bunches to evaluate characteristics.
- No crushed leaves and petals on blooms. There may or may not be leaves, however if they do have leaves they need to be outside of the water.
- No crushed or torn cut-ends of stem

- Buds are fine as long as they aren't wilting/drooping

Rules

- 1) Use of wire and artificial means of supporting stems and/or blooms will disqualify entry.
- 2) Minimum stem length of 16"
- 3) Bound with one rubber band at bottom for security
- 4) No wrapping
- 5) No additional foliage
- 6) Must be placed in a clear container
- 7) If it's one variety, please place that on the show tag. If it's mixed, please note that it's mixed or unknown.
- 8) It is up to the club's discretion as to how many entries per person may be entered.

Cut Flower Score Card

Color...25

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Must be appealing & useful (as in a color that will sell in bouquets).)

Stem Quality

Firm blossom attachment..... 20

Firmness & Integrity... 10

(Blooms are not bruised or crushed. Stems should be strong with a stem that doesn't arch and is not weak. Stems aren't too large in diameter. The cut edge is clean, fresh and straight.)

Stem length (min 16").....10

(long strong straight stems preferred)

Freshness

Condition of petals... 15

(lack of damage and good moisture content, no shedding petals)

Harvested at appropriate stage... 10

(appropriate stage is slightly immature, young and still developing, no pollen present, green centers ok)

Uniformity of age of blooms... 10

(Blooms should be relatively the same maturation stage.)