

DAHLIAS: GENERAL GUIDE ON IDEAL FEATURES

Group 1: Single and Collerette Dahlias

- a. The outer florets of Single and Collerette dahlias may vary in number from eight upwards, they should overlap at the base, but must not assume double formation. They should be equal in shape, size and formation and should radiate evenly and regularly away from the central disc in a single flat plane. The outer edges of these florets may be rounded or pointed.
- b. The inner florets or collar of Collerettes should be visible and not more than two thirds of length of the outer florets, and even in colour and formation.
- c. Central disc circular with no more than two rows of pollen-bearing stamens.
- d. Blooms poised at an angle of not less than 45 degrees to the stem which should be straight and proportionate to the size of the bloom.

Group 2: Anemone-flowered Dahlias

- a. The group of tubular florets which comprises the centre of the bloom should be circular in outline, close and compact.
- b. The outer ray florets should be equal in shape, size and formation, generally flat and regularly arranged around the central florets.

Group 4: Waterlily Dahlias

- a. Fully double with face view circular in outline and regular in arrangement.
- b. Firm, circular, closed centre which should be proportionate to the size of the bloom.
- c. The depth should be approximately one third the diameter of the bloom.
- d. Poised at an angle of not less than 45 degrees to the stem.
- e. Stem straight and of a length and thickness proportionate to the size of the bloom.

Groups: 5 Decorative, 8 Cactus and 9 Semi-Cactus Dahlias

- a. Symmetrical in all respects with the outline perfectly circular.
- b. Firm, circular, closed centre which should be proportionate to the size of the flower.
- c. The bloom "full", without overcrowding, have sufficient florets to prevent gaps in the formation and outline, and to give depth to the bloom approximately two-thirds, or more, of the diameter. *Note: It is not necessary to dress these types back to the stem*
- d. Poised at an angle of not less than 45 degrees to the stem.
- e. Stem straight and of a length and thickness proportionate to the size of the bloom.
- f. The general formation of blooms and their florets should correspond to the standards laid down for that particular class of dahlias.

Group 6: Ball Dahlias

- a. All ball dahlias should be ball-shaped but the tendency towards flatness on the face of the larger cultivars may be tolerated and reasonable latitude may be allowed.
- b. The florets should be symmetrically arranged and should dress back to the stem to complete the ball shape of the bloom. The florets should be compact and dense at the centre.
- c. Ball dahlias should be poised at an angle of not less than 45 degrees to the stem.
- d. Stems straight and of a length and thickness proportionate to the size of the bloom.

Group 7: Pompon Dahlias

- a. Perfectly globular. Florets involute for the whole of their length, evenly and symmetrically arranged throughout the bloom and dress back fully to the stem.
- b. Firm, circular, closed centre which should be proportionate to the size of the bloom.
- c. Blooms of Pompon dahlias should face upwards on a straight, firm stem.

Group 10: Miscellaneous Dahlias

- a. Blooms in the exhibit shall be similar in size and formation.
- b. Blooms poised at an angle of not less than 45 degrees to the stem which should be straight and proportionate to the size of the bloom.

Group 11: Fimbriated Dahlias

(Generally a Fimbriated dahlia should be a fully double bloom.)

- a. Tips of the ray florets evenly split or notched into two or more divisions, uniformly throughout the bloom to create a fringed overall effect.
- b. The petals may be flat, involute, revolute, straight, incurving or twisted.
- c. Blooms poised at an angle of not less than 45 degrees to the stem which should be straight and proportionate to the size of the bloom.

Group 12: Star Dahlias

- a. Blooms in the exhibit shall be similar in size and formation.
- b. The outer ray florets should be equal in shape, size and formation, and regularly arranged around the central disc.
- c. Blooms poised at an angle of not less than 45 degrees to the stem which should be straight and proportionate to the size of the bloom.

Group 13: Double Orchid

- a. Blooms in the exhibit shall be similar in size and formation.
- b. The outer ray florets should be equal in shape, size and formation, and regularly arranged around the central florets.
- c. Blooms poised at an angle of not less than 45 degrees to the stem which should be straight and proportionate to the size of the bloom.

Group 14: Paeony Dahlias

- a. Blooms in the exhibit shall be similar in size and formation.
- b. The outer ray florets should be equal in shape, size and formation, generally flat, and regularly arranged around the central disc.
- c. Blooms poised at an angle of not less than 45 degrees to the stem which should be straight and proportionate to the size of the bloom.