

GUIDANCE FOR DAFFODIL JUDGES

1. This Guidance for Judges is intended primarily to assist inexperienced judges of daffodils and judges of other plants who are called upon to judge daffodils. It is based to a certain extent upon the responses of 100 experienced UK daffodil judges to a questionnaire about faults sent out in November 1999. A summary of these responses was published in the Daffodil and Tulip Year Book 2000-2001.
 - 1.1 Judging is always to some extent subjective. It is not possible to devise a points system by which points are fed into a computer which will then produce an acceptable result. If it were possible there would be little need for judges.
 - 1.2 It is not possible to categorise faults in order of seriousness. In most cases it is a question of degree.
 - 1.3 Judging by comparison of faults is not the right approach. Flowers should be judged on their good qualities first, and only then should the seriousness of defects be assessed. A poor specimen of a daffodil is a poor daffodil. An exceptionally good specimen of any daffodil must still be judged dispassionately against the other exhibits and extra credit should not be given to a good specimen of an inferior daffodil.
 - 1.4 There are some matters on which it is not possible to give specific guidance. In particular a flower should be elegant with good proportions, but no definition of elegance or proportion can be given as both are to some extent subjective.
 - 1.5 In classes for more than one vase, each vase should be judged and marked individually. But before this is done, each exhibit as a whole must be judged on presentation and marked for visual impact, coverage of divisions and colour combinations.
 - 1.6 The guidance offered is that which has been agreed by the Daffodil Show Schedule Panel of the Royal Horticultural Society.

2. The following may be regarded as good features of an exhibition daffodil:

- 2.1 Symmetry of petals
- 2.2 Symmetry of corona
- 2.3 Petals uniformly spreading or slightly reflexed
- 2.4 Petals plane (flat) or slightly incurved at the margin
- 2.5 Any halo of another colour on petals well defined
- 2.6 Colours of petals and corona clear
- 2.7 Any different colour zones of corona well defined
- 2.8 Petals of solid substance and silky texture
- 2.9 Good poise - axis of corona at right angle to stem
- 2.10 Flower fresh but well developed, without signs of ageing
- 2.11 Elegant shape and proportion

3. The following may be regarded as poor features:

- 3.1 More or fewer than six petals on each flower or floret
- 3.2 Petals torn or nicked or otherwise imperfect
- 3.3 Petals with prominent ribs
- 3.4 Petal misplaced - i.e. inner petal partly behind outer petal
- 3.5 Petals significantly reflexed, inflexed or incurved (unless required by the show schedule)
- 3.6 Base of petals stained with colour of corona
- 3.7 Petals significantly twisted
- 3.8 Defect in petal not visible from the front
- 3.9 Petals too narrow
- 3.10 Petals of poor substance or texture
- 3.11 Corona torn or damaged
- 3.12 Corona with blobs, spots or flecks of another colour
- 3.13 Corona unevenly serrated or lobed
- 3.14 Corona not round or symmetrical
- 3.15 Corona faded or burnt
- 3.16 Corona axis not at right angle to perianth axis
- 3.17 Any part of flower trimmed
- 3.18 Flower dirty, diseased or harbouring pests
- 3.19 Flower or stem damaged by pests or disease
- 3.20 Weak colour
- 3.21 Flower undersized for the daffodil
- 3.22 Flower not "clocked"
- 3.23 Pollen disturbed or anthers misshapen
- 3.24 Flower showing signs of ageing
- 3.25 Stem twisted, curved or weak
- 3.26 Flower not showing the features regarded as good

4. The following may be regarded as neither good nor poor features
 - 4.1 Corona cylindrical, with no flange (“stovepipe”)
 - 4.2 Long neck (i.e. pedicel) provided that poise is good
 - 4.3 Registered flower not measuring the Division in which it is registered

5. The features which may be regarded as good and poor apply to flowers from all of Divisions 1-13 with the following exceptions:
 - 5.1 Division 4 - double flowers
 - 5.1.1 Additional poor features are an “open” centre i.e. the absence of petaloid or corona segments in the centre of the flower and lack of a rounded profile
 - 5.1.2 Good feature 2.5 does not apply
 - 5.1.3 Poor feature 3.6 does not apply and both 3.1 and 3.5 apply only to the outer whorl of petals

 - 5.2 Divisions 5-13
 - 5.2.1 An additional good feature of a flower having three or more florets is that the florets are symmetrically arranged.
 - 5.2.2 Good features 2.3, 2.4 and 2.9 do not apply
 - 5.2.3 Poor feature 3.5 does not apply

 - 5.3 Divisions 5 and 6
An additional good feature (replacing 2.3) is:
petals significantly reflexed

 - 5.4 Divisions 10 and 13
Poor features 3.7 and 3.9 do not apply

 - 5.5 In Divisions 4, 5, 7, 8, 11 and 12 on stems carrying more than one floret all florets should be uniform

 - 5.6 In classes calling for more than one stem in a vase all the flowers should be uniform and in classes calling for more than one vase Judges should look for a good balance of colours and good coverage of Divisions (when appropriate) and diversity

Technical terms used in this Guidance are as defined in the International Daffodil Register and Classified List 2008.