

**RULES FOR ALL ENTRIES**  
**American Begonia Society (ABS)**  
**April 2-8, 2018 ABS Convention/SWR Get-Together**  
**New Orleans, LA**

1. The Show Chairman shall have complete charge of all exhibits from the opening to the closing of the Show, and no entries may be removed beforehand without permission of the Show Chairman.
2. No unauthorized person will be allowed in the show area prior to the Show.
3. The Show is limited to members of the American Begonia Society (ABS). Any ABS member who grows begonias for pleasure and by their own effort may enter. All entries must be from their own private collection and must have been owned and grown for at least 180 days prior to the Show.
4. A commercial grower or an employee of a commercial grower may enter plants from their own private collection as a hobby grower only if the plant entries are grown at home and not at the commercial nursery.
5. There is no exhibitor registration fee. Entries may not compete in more than one class but an exhibitor may enter any number of different varieties in any division or class. Any exhibitor may enter more than one plant of the same variety, provided that each plant is entered in a different division. Entries will be accepted on **Thursday, April 5**, from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm. No entries can be accepted afterward.
6. All plant entries, except in the Seedling Division, must be mature plants. For Show purposes, they must be of adequate size and state of development for the particular variety and classification, making a suitable representation of the variety's potential for purposes of judging and for the viewing public.
7. All entries must be checked in with the Classification Committee at the time of registration, and entered according to the schedule or be disqualified. Additional classes may be created at the discretion of the Show Chairman, whose decisions are final.
8. Any exhibitor may enter more than one plant in any one class, provided that each plant is of a different variety. Plants in hanging containers that have hangers must be entered in Division K, O, or R. Hangers must be removed in all other divisions.
9. Only clean, healthy plants will be accepted for entry. All plants are to be groomed prior to entry. Consideration will be given to obvious signs of travel damage. Diseased plants, or ones with pests will be removed from the show.
10. Containers must be clean, neat, and proportionate to the size of the plant. No white, black, metal nursery, or those with distracting colors (lime green, lilac, etc) cans/pots are permitted. Decorative or unique containers are permitted only in Division Q Stakes are to be inconspicuous in size, color and height.
11. The Show Classification and Entries Committee shall have the right to exclude, refuse, or remove any diseased, infected, or unsightly exhibits.
12. All plants shall be placed by, or under the direction of, the Placement Committee only.
13. All labels must be removed or pushed down into the soil out of sight. The Classification and Entries Committee will help exhibitors determine the proper name and class if these are unknown to the exhibitor.
14. No artificial plant material may be entered in any plant class or division.
15. The Judging Department shall assume complete charge at the start of judging, and no person will be allowed to interfere with the judges.

16. No exhibitor or judge may change the class of an entry without the consent of the Show Classification and Entries Chairman.
17. Entry tags must remain sealed until the Judging Chairman declares all judging complete.
18. The judges shall make awards according to merit only. If the entry is without merit, the judges shall make no award regardless of the number of entries in the class.
19. The judges may only use the point scoring system for begonias as approved by the American Begonia Society. Judges are to follow ABS judging procedures prescribed by the Judging Chairs.
20. Plants will be judged by their appearance at and above the soil line and not by parentage or cultural needs alone.
21. For the “Division Q: Novel Grown,” category, the plants must be growing in the novel container, not set into it.
22. For the “Division U: Collections,” category, the name of each plant within the collection must be given on entry form.
23. Each class will be judged for first (blue ribbon), second (red ribbon) and third (white ribbon) on merit only. If deemed eligible, Class Commendation Ribbons may be awarded. All blue ribbon winners in a division will be judged for division trophies.
24. Only entries receiving first place in their class may be considered for division trophies.
25. All begonia entries must receive 93 points to be eligible for division trophies. Entries must receive 95 points or more to be eligible for cultural awards.
26. Only Divisions A through O are eligible to compete for Best of Show.
27. A sweepstakes trophy will be awarded to the exhibitor with the most blue ribbons in all begonia divisions.
28. The “Millie & Ed Thompson Showing is Sharing” award will be awarded to the exhibitor with the largest number of entries.
29. The judges’ decisions on awards will be final. If the Judging Chairs determines that according to common judging practices, a gross injustice has occurred, it shall be the duty of the Judging Chairs to direct a new team of judges to review the exhibit.
30. Division L – Terrariums: Any plant in a contained atmosphere must be entered in Division L, N, and O, and must be covered.
31. Division R and S—New Introduction by commercial grower: A commercial grower for the purpose of this show is defined as follows: Person(s) who sell plants and derives the majority of their income from the sale of these plants, and/or has an employee who assists in growing his/her begonias.
32. Division T—New introduction by a hobby grower: Entries must be mature plants and are not eligible for entry in any other division. The plant may not have been in competition in any prior show and is not eligible if released, unless it has been released for testing. The hybridizer need not have grown the plant. The grower may enter with hybridizer’s permission. If not in bloom, a description of bloom and time of bloom, if known, must accompany the entry. NOTE: A commercial grower or an employee of a commercial grower may enter plants from his own private collection in Division T only if the plant entries are grown at home and not at the commercial nursery.
33. Division P—Seedlings: All entries must have been grown from seed by the exhibitor.

34. Division O—Novice: A grower who is entering an ABS show for the first time or who has never won a blue ribbon in an ABS show.
35. Division R— Commercially grown: Commercial growers are not eligible to compete for the Best in Show.
36. Division V—Artistic Begonia Photographs: Photos will be judged for artistic merit and not horticulturally. Photos must be matted or presented in a suitable display format.
37. Division W—Arts and Crafts: Entries must feature begonias and be the original work of the exhibitor. Artwork must be matted, framed or presented in a suitable display form.
38. REMOVAL OF EXHIBITS: Exhibits may not be removed until the close of the show at 11:00 pm on Saturday, April 8, 2018. All exhibits must be removed by 10:00 a.m. on Sunday April 8, 2018. Exhibitors unable to remove their exhibits at the close of the show may make arrangements with the Show Chairman to have a designated person of their own choice remove the exhibits from the showroom and have them placed in a holding area until final removal from the hotel later on.
39. PLEASE NOTE: The ABS staff and Show Committee will exercise due caution and care in safeguarding exhibits but cannot assume responsibility for any damage or loss. Exhibitors agree to conform to the Show rules and regulations, and are responsible for the care of their own entries. The show chairman will make all decisions except in matters of judging. The decisions of the judges will be final.