

SHOW RULES

GENERAL

1. The Plant Show Chair 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 Chair. The Show Chair will make all decisions, except in matters of judging.
2. No one other than Placement Staff, Entries and Classification committee members, and Judging Chairs may be in the Show room during the set-up and until the Show opens.

ENTRIES

3. Entries in the Show are limited to members of the American Begonia Society (ABS) in good standing. Entries must be from an ABS member's own private collection, grown for pleasure, by their own efforts, and owned for at least 90 days prior to the Show.
4. A commercial grower or an employee of a commercial grower may enter plants from their own private collection only if the plants are grown at home and not at the commercial nursery. Plants grown at a nursery can only be entered in the Commercial Grower Division.
5. There is no exhibitor registration fee. All entries must be registered between 2:00 PM and 7:00 PM on Wednesday, May 24, 2023. No entries will be accepted late without the approval of the Show Chair. If an exhibitor has more than four plants to enter, (s)he should arrive at least one hour before entries close.
6. Plant entries must be mature plants (they must be of adequate size and state of development for the variety), except in the Seedling Division and dish gardens.
7. All plants should be accurately named on the registration form. Errors in spelling or identification do not disqualify. The Entries and Classification Committee will help exhibitors determine the proper name and class.
8. Only clean, healthy plants will be accepted for entry. The Entries and Classification Committee shall have the right to exclude, refuse, or remove diseased, infected, or unsightly entries.
9. All plants are to be groomed prior to entry. Consideration will be given to obvious signs of travel damage.
10. Exhibitors must fill out the Registration Form legibly. All entries must be checked by the Entries and Classification Committee and entered according to the Show Schedule. Additional classes may be created at the discretion of the Show Chairman, whose decisions are final. *Begonias, The Complete Reference Guide*, by Ed and Millie Thompson, can be used for classification and placement.
11. The exhibitor must place the Entry ID card on/with the exhibit prior to the exhibitor leaving. Unidentified entries may be disqualified at the discretion of the Show Chair.
12. Entries may not be removed until the close of the show at 4:00 PM on Saturday, May 27, 2023. All exhibits must be removed by 11:00 AM on Sunday, May 28, 2023.
13. 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.
14. Each plant may compete in only one class. Any exhibitor may enter more than one plant in any one class, provided that each plant is of a different variety.
 15. Plants in hanging containers that have hangers must be entered in Divisions 14, 21, or 25. Hangers must be removed in all other divisions.
 16. Plants and containers must be neat, clean, and proportionate to the size of the plant. In all Divisions except Novel Display, containers must not detract from the plant and therefore should be a single neutral tone (e.g., terra cotta, brown, tan, gray, dark green, black). White pots or metal cans and commercial nursery pots are not acceptable. Decorative containers (e.g., multi- or brightly colored pots, or pots with designs or in shapes) may be entered only in the Novel Display Division.
 17. Stakes are to be inconspicuous in size, color, and height. All labels must be removed or pushed down into the soil and out of sight. No artificial plant material may be entered in any plant division or class.
 18. All entries shall be placed into the Show area by the Placement Committee.

JUDGING

19. The judging staff shall assume complete charge at the start of the judging. No one is allowed to interfere with the judges or clerks. Entry tags must remain sealed until the Judging Chair declares judging complete.
20. No exhibitor or judge may change the class of an entry without the consent of the Entries and Classification Committee.
21. 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.
22. 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.
23. Plants will be judged by their appearance at and above the soil line and not by parentage or cultural needs alone.
24. 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 potential blue-ribbon winners in a class shall be point-scored and will be judged for division trophies.
25. Only entries receiving first place and at least 93 points in their class may be considered for division trophies.
26. Entries must receive 95 points or more to be eligible for cultural awards.
27. Divisions 1 through 21 (except 18) and Division 27 are eligible to compete for Best of Show.
28. The Hobby-Grower exhibitor with the most blue ribbons will receive the Sweepstakes Award.

29. The Hobby-Grower exhibitor with the largest number of entries will receive the "Millie & Ed Thompson Showing is Sharing Award".
 30. The judges' decisions are final. The Judging Chair can ask a different team of judges to evaluate an entry if appropriate to resolve an issue.
- DIVISION-SPECIFIC GUIDELINES**
31. Divisions 5 and 9 – Semperflorens and Tuberhybrida: plants need to be in bloom for full points to be awarded.
 32. Division 13—At-Risk Begonias: No wild collected plants. Eligible Begonias are Begonias on the IUCN Red List or the ABS Begonias at Risk list or have a Provisional Conservation Status in the categories Near Threatened, Vulnerable, Endangered, Critically Endangered to Extinct in the Wild.
<https://www.iucnredlist.org/search?query=Begonia>
Other Begonias listed on the ABS website as eligible--See 2023 Show Information. For pre-approval for a Begonia not listed on the IUCN Red List or the web site, but has the appropriate conservation status, send a link to the botanical description containing the Provisional Conservation Status at least three weeks prior to the convention to jazinn@cox.net
Entries must be accompanied by an educational sheet no larger than 8.5" x 5.5". Please include information about the plant including conservation status, reason for conservation status, native habitat, cultural information and other information of interest.
 33. Divisions 15-18 – Terrariums: Any plant in a contained atmosphere must be entered in Divisions 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, or 21, and the container must be covered.
 34. Division 20 – Traveling Begonias: This division is for entries from over 200 miles away from Tyler, Texas.
 35. Division 21 – Novice: A novice is one who has never won a Blue Ribbon in an ABS judged competition.
 36. Division 22—Seedlings: All entries must have been grown from seed by the exhibitor. There should be one seedling per pot.
 37. Division 23: Novel Display: The plants must be growing in the novel container, not set into it.
 38. Division 24- Novel Grown: This is for plants trained to grow a certain way. They could be a topiary, bonsai, ring, or trellis.
 39. Divisions 25 and 26— Commercial Grower/New Introduction: A commercial grower for the purpose of this show is defined as follows: Person(s) who sell plants and derives most of their income from the sale of these plants, and/or has an employee who assists in growing his/her begonias.
 40. Division 25— Commercial Grower: Commercial growers are not eligible to compete for the Best in Show.
 41. Division 27—New Introduction, 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 27 only if the plant entries are grown at home and not at the commercial nursery.
 42. Division 28-Begonia Collections: The name of each plant within the collection must be given on the entry form.
 43. Division 29—Begonia Photography: Photos will be judged for artistic merit and not horticulturally. Photos must be matted or presented in a suitable display format.
 44. Division 30—Begonia 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 format.
 45. Division 31--Exhibits: The American Begonia Society's mission is to foster a community dedicated to the appreciation of begonias through conservation, education, research, growing, and sharing. The educational exhibit should promote one or more of those features. Photos, live plants, drawings, diagrams, or descriptive texts may be used.