

Notes from the MWGCM FFF Workshop - July 30, 2019

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Get to the Arb early....it'll be less stressful!

Things to bring along with you---

Bring a ruler (to measure if there is a size requirement of the specimen), towel (to work on so your work surface doesn't get too wet/slippery), pencil/pen (something that doesn't run if it gets wet), Saran Wrap (can be used instead of Styrofoam triangles for small specimens), small clippers/scissors, pre-printed address labels (to fill out Entry Tags).

Cuttings---

Know what you need for each of your samples! Refer to the FFF Show "rules" booklet located on the MWGCM website/Events page/August. A link to the "MN State Horticultural Society Exhibiting and Judging Handbook" is also located there.

Cut your flowers longer than what you think you need.

Bring an extra sample of your flowers/veggies, ie: if you need 3, take 4 with you.

Cut your flower samples the evening before. Refrigerate them overnight if possible.

Impatiens/elephant ears, etc. - cut right before you leave for the Arb as they will not last overnight typically.

If you're in doubt about a specimen, bring it anyway!

Transporting---

Load the car the night before if possible, unless your car is too warm.

Put small flowers in a jar with water. Larger items require larger jars/containers to transport.

Transporting container ideas: bucket with duct tape taped across the top to create a grid, liquor bottle box to put jars/flowers into, 6-pack beer bottle carrier, Caribou multi-cup to-go cardboard carrier, soak an "oasis" (be sure it's the WET kind) and place into some type of container then stick flowers into it.

Use a large box to transport items in the back of an SUV. Can stuff newspaper between jars/vases to keep them from tipping. Secure items around the box to keep it from sliding around.

Or use a laundry basket to transport items (keeps water from spilling onto the floor).

Arriving at the Arb---

Free entry to Arb if you tell the guard house you are there for the FFF.

Go around to the back side of the Visitor Center to the loading dock. You can unload your items, then go park.

Find the notebook that has a list of the exhibitor numbers. Write your name by the number you'd like, if the space is empty. You will use this number on your Entry Tag.

Find a spot where you can work....space may be limited.

Staging---

Best to have your Entry Tags filled out in advance/night before (with the exception of your exhibitor No.; you will get this once you arrive at the Arb). Refer to pg. 11 in the FFF Show "rules" booklet for directions on how to fill out the Entry Tags if needed.

Attach your Entry Tag onto the bottle/vase (supplied by Club and will be already filled with water) using a rubber band (supplied) before staging the flower, it's easier this way.

Know the full names of your specimens; this gives you an advantage if your specimen and someone else's are otherwise equal.

Work on a towel to keep your work area dry/easier to work at.

Cut off holey leaves and spent blooms as needed. You may also try to cut off brown edges of leaves, but ensure it doesn't "look like" you cut them off.

Leaves should yet be attached to flower specimens.

If you have a choice between a specimen that is fully blossomed vs one with "more-to-come blooms," choose the one with "more-to-come" to exhibit.

Stage the specimen in the bottle/vase, using one or more of the Styrofoam wedge(s). Do not allow any leaves to be beneath the waterline!

With multiple specimens in one bottle/vase, uniformity matters! Ensure they are uniform height, size, evenly spaced in the bottle/vase, etc.

Set staged specimen out on the Exhibit Tables in the proper division/classes. Ensure the specimen is facing the way that highlights it. Do NOT move anyone else's specimens on the table. Ask for assistance from one of the FFF organizers if someone's specimen must be moved.

"Other" category---

If doesn't fit into another category within a specific division (hanging pots, veggies, bulbs, annuals, perennials, etc).

Veggies---

See pgs. 58-63 in the "MN State Horticultural Society Exhibiting and Judging Handbook."

When exhibiting berries, use one of the plastic grocery store berry containers.

White paper plates are provided by the Club to stage veggies.

Herbs: when exhibiting a "collection," only one Entry Tag is required but each of the 5 different herbs will be in a separate staging bottle/vase and grouped together.

Designs---

Design entries count double points!

An Ikebana Japanese design book is a good reference for easy instructions/ideas on how to do an easy design. Here is a link to an online *How to do an Easy Ikebana Flower Arrangement*

<https://thesecretyumiverse.wonderhowto.com/how-to/do-very-basic-ikebana-flower-arrangement-0127730/>

Minis must be < 6" high, wide and deep.

Width x height x 1.5 = typical height of an arrangement