

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

EXAMINATION FOR APPRENTICE HORTICULTURE ROSE JUDGE

The examination for an apprentice horticulture rose judge consists of two parts: the written examination and the practical examination. The purpose of the examination is to determine the candidate's familiarity with the basic content of the *Guidelines for Judging Roses* through a written examination and to test his or her ability to apply the guidelines through a practical judging examination.

The candidate must score 70% or better on both the written examination and the practical examination. A high score on one cannot carry a low score on the other.

THE WRITTEN EXAMINATION

The written examination consists of 100 responses and contains a variety of true/false, multiple choice, and fill in the blank questions. For this examination, you will need to be familiar with the *Guidelines for Judging Roses*, especially the parts of a rose, the prime elements of judging and the points assigned to each of the prime elements, the difference between disqualification and penalization and the reasons for each, the requirements for each of the ARS certificates, and the ethics of judging. About one hour should be required to complete the exam, but no time limit is imposed.

THE PRACTICAL EXAMINATION

The practical examination consists of seven parts. Each part has a separate answer sheet and is staged on a separate table as described below. Several hours will be required to complete the exam, but no time limit is imposed.

In all the Tables but Table 1 you are asked to write comments on the specimens. Note disqualifications and penalizations, such as streaked petals, loss of substance, dirty foliage, split centers, etc. You may use the back of the answer sheet, if necessary. Be sure to identify the specimen on which you are commenting.

Your comments are important and constitute a major part of the grade. Your comments are compared with those of experienced judges who also write comments on the same specimens.

TABLE 1 – ROSE IDENTIFICATION AND CLASSIFICATION

Table 1 has nine specimens to be identified by exhibition name and horticulture class. The varieties should be well known varieties. Exhibition name and horticulture class are graded separately so it is important that you indicate the horticulture class even though you may be unsure of the exhibition name. No comments are required for this table.

TABLE 2 – JUDGING THE ONE CLASS PER VARIETY SHOW

Table 2 has eleven one bloom per stem specimens, divided in to five classes, each of a different variety, as follows: (1) four specimens of the same variety, (2) three specimens of the same variety, (3) two specimens of the same variety, and (4) and (5) one specimen each. The roses are correctly named, but a disqualification may be present.

The roses are to be judged as in a one-class-per-variety show. In the space provided write in the cultivar name, give comments on the quality of each specimen, and award 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or 4th place ribbons or no award to each specimen as you see fit. Then pick the best, 2nd best, and 3rd best roses and write your selections at the bottom of the page. You should consider all the roses on the table, not just the ones that have been awarded blue ribbons in the previous exercise. Consequently, more than one rose of the same variety could be selected in the three best roses.

TABLE 3 - POINT SCORING

Table 3 has two correctly named hybrid tea or grandiflora one-bloom-per-stem specimens and two correctly named sprays. You are to point score each of the one-bloom-per-stem specimens and each of the sprays. To complete this table, you should know the prime elements of judging and the points assigned to each of the prime elements. Write comments on the specimens in the space provided at the bottom of the page.

TABLE 4 – JUDGING SPRAYS

Table 4 has six sprays. Give comments on the quality of each specimen. Award 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and honorable mention ribbons or no award to each specimen as you see fit. Then, pick the three best sprays, in order, and indicate your selections at the bottom of the page.

TABLE 5 – JUDGING MINIATURES AND MINIFLORAS

Table 4 has six miniature and/or miniflora one bloom per stem specimens. Give comments on the quality of each specimen. Award 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and honorable mention ribbons or no award to each specimen as you see fit. Then, pick the three best blooms, in order, and indicate your selections at the bottom of the page.

TABLE 6 – JUDGING OTHER ROSE CLASSES AND OPEN BLOOMS

Table 6 has ten specimens selected from shrubs, climbers, polyanthas, old garden roses, and open blooms. Assume that specimen 1A and 1B have both been entered in the same class in a one-class-per-variety show. Give comments on the quality of each specimen. Award 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and honorable mention ribbons or no award to each specimen as you see fit.

TABLE 7 – JUDGING CHALLENGE CLASSES

Table 7 has two entries each of three different challenge classes. Comment on the quality of the specimens and on the overall appearance of each exhibit. Then rank the exhibits in each section 1st and 2nd. If neither exhibit should receive an award, you should indicate “no award”.