

BOTANICAL ARTS

Botanical Arts is a Flower Show Division, in which creative and distinctive art is skillfully crafted, using all dried plant material, conforming to the principles and elements of floral design and horticultural standards of excellence.

There are six Botanical Arts categories: Botanical Jewelry, Botanical Embellishments, Botanical Couture, Botanical Other, Needlework and Pressed Plants. [Flower Show Schedule must include directions/requirements regarding display]

Classes may include:

Botanical Jewelry: Designed and created, from all dried plant material, that may be artificially treated, to resemble wearable jewelry in size and function. No mechanics or structural base material may be visible.

Botanical Embellishment: A man-made object enhanced, with all dried plant material, that may be artificially treated. Complete coverage of the object is not required, unless otherwise stated in the Flower Show Schedule.

Botanical Couture: Items of clothing and/or other accessories designed and created, from all dried plant material, that may be artificially treated, unless otherwise stated in the schedule. No mechanics or structural base material may be visible.

Botanical Other: Any other natural form designed and created, from all dried plant material, that may be artificially treated. No mechanics or structural base material may be visible. [e.g. wine label; quilled pen; flower; bird's nest; animal]

Needlework: Needle work entries should relate to show theme or to a specific object and need not contain dried plant material. Complete coverage of canvas, with any type of needlework, is required, unless otherwise stated in the Flower Show Schedule. Specific canvas or thread requirements, if any, will be stated in the schedule by Committee. Beading and three-dimensional stitching may or may not be encouraged. [Flower Show Schedule must include directions/requirements regarding display]

Pressed Plants: An artistic design created from pressed flowers and plants. May not copy published pressed plant art. Entries must be 2-D [flat] unless otherwise specified in the schedule. Flat entries must be matted and framed under glass, Lucite[®], or plastic. If class requires 3-D entries, polyurethane or similar coating must protect the exhibit. Natural plant material may be modified. **MAY NOT USE:** matting as a design component; overlays, underlays, glossy papers, drawn or painted backgrounds; fabrics, rice papers, lace, photographic images or drawings; lamination or coating of plant material, unless specifically stated in the schedule rules; plant material that has been artificial colored or painted; three-dimensional plant material, unless specifically stated in the schedule; signed works of art.

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Guidelines

- Only dried plant material may be used.
- A singular identification card [size specified by schedule] affixed with perfect untreated dried specimens of all plant materials used, identified by Latin name followed by common name, must accompany each entry.
- Unidentified collective twigs may be defined as 'twigs'.
- Endangered, diseased and/or locally invasive plant material may not be used.
- The use of processed materials is not allowed. [e.g. couscous, pasta or any processed food product.]
- The use of manufactured products is not allowed. [e.g. wood, carved wood, craft wood, tooth-picks, plant-based string, clay, seashells, real or simulated gems, glitter, by-products of plants (pine sap, pine resin, pollen, extracted components such as juice).]
- Thick coatings such as resin or epoxy are not allowed.
- All exhibits must be your own original design.
- All designers must be named on the entry card.
- There may be no more than two designers per entry.
- Mailed entries should include a repair kit. [e.g. glue, paint, extra dried plant material...etc...]
- [Schedule must include directions/requirements for display.]
- Scoring: Design – 35, Creativity – 30, Craftsmanship – 15, Interpretation/Conformance – 10, Distinction – 10 [For Judges: Each design principle and element is 2.5 points – If a ding for one principle or element, is also a 2.5 point ding under conformance [up to 10 points allotted].]

Characteristics

- Only dried plant materials may be used, select plant material for shapes and textures that will support the design and structure of your creation. Ex: dried flowers, foliage, seeds, pods, nuts (in or out of shell), vegetables, peas, beans, corn, twigs, vines, reeds, etc.
- Only plant material, mechanics and their surface treatment (e.g. paints, nail polishes, lacquer, waxes, etc.) are permitted. Decorative painting is discouraged, create textural details and relief design through the use of plant material instead. Treatments of plant materials should be carefully applied in thin coats.
- Mechanics must not show. Non-plant material may be used for construction but must not show. String, cording, cardboard, metal, and other structural components must be completely concealed with permitted plant material.
- Natural plant material may be modified, disassembled, combined, cut apart. Figural forms must be assembled or judiciously carved from plant material, incised or shaped to

enhance artistic effect, painted, lacquered and/or treated with polyurethane or like products.

- Jewelry must appear to be wearable and functional. It should be accurately scaled and include realistic details like clasps and fasteners made from dried plant material. All mechanics or structural base material must be completely covered by acceptable plant material.
- Entries feature authentic-looking jewelry, made from naturally dried plant material, that is wearable and functional in appearance.
- All components should be appropriately sized to relate to each other, scale and harmony are important.
- Use patterns and textures in unlike elements to create interest.
- The natural materials chosen and treated should evoke the materials they imitate, and the dimensions of the jewelry should be practical and realistic.
- All design elements should be incorporated with refinement and quality, so glue and other mechanics do not show.
- Manufactured materials are allowed only in the construction of the jewelry and must be completely covered with natural dried plant material.
- During judging, jewelry will be viewed from all sides at a close vantage point.