

## Ribbon judging guidelines Orchid Society of Alberta

The purpose of ribbon judging is to reward excellence in orchid flower quality, culture and presentation at an orchid show or orchid society meeting show table. It provides the opportunity to encourage, honor and recognize the growers and hybridizers of these plants and the creators of the displays. It also provides the participants the opportunity to learn about orchids, socialize and HAVE FUN!

Ribbon judging evaluates only the plants present at the time of judging “the best of the day”. American Orchid Society (AOS) judging compares plants to others of the same grex that have been awarded by the AOS anywhere in the world.

Ribbon judging is a subjective process and depends on individual likes and preferences. The following is a list of suggested criteria for consideration in order to assist the judging team in being consistent in the judging process. This is by no means exhaustive and the team members are encouraged to use their imagination and express their opinion as it is meant to be a group effort to reach a consensus.

### Judging Criteria

#### Flower

- Floriferous - flower count with respect to the potential of the plant species or hybrid.
- Size
- Substance and texture
- Color
- Symmetry
- Presentation – inflorescence is well supported to ensure flowers are well displayed
- Charm, distinctiveness and overall impressiveness

#### Plant

- Appearance of the foliage (clean, disease free and unmarred)
- Health and vigour of the plant
- Culture – Plant is well grown to its full potential

### Class Judging Ribbons – Given for First Second and Third Place

#### First Place

- Only one first place ribbon per category should be awarded by the judging team.
- In the case of a single plant in a judging class, a first place ribbon may not necessarily be awarded if the plant or flowers are in poor condition.

#### Second and Third Place

- Multiple ribbons may be awarded to second and third place.

### Class Judging Procedure

When class judging, the team lead should announce the class, how many entries are in the class and the location of the plant to be judged. For example, Class 100 – Cattleya Alliance has eight subcategories ( 101-108 ) each requiring first, second and third place ribbon. Once everyone has had a chance to look at the plants, they should step back from the display to allow access for other teams. Once completed, please bring the completed ribbon judging class sheets to the judging chair. The team leads are then requested to wait for the for the Trophy Class Judging sheets to be generated. If a ribbon judging team finishes early, you are encouraged to help out another team by judging subclasses for them. The ribbon judging chair and / or the OSA show chair retain the final authority.

### Trophy Class Judging

This is where we pick the best of class from the plants that have been awarded a first place ribbon for that class. For Class 100 – Cattleya Alliance there would be eight first place ribbons / plants to choose from and only one would receive the Class Trophy. Upon completion of the class judging, all results are returned to the judging chair and the first, second and third place plants are entered into the database. The trophy class sheets are generated and provided to the Trophy Class Judging teams. The team leads are requested to remain in the vicinity in order to be assigned to a trophy class judging team. All participants in the ribbon judging are encouraged to join the trophy class judging team by following their team lead. The same judging criteria that are used for the class judging are applied and a trophy winner is selected. Remember that there are other trophies such as the Special Class Trophies, etc , as outlined in the Show Schedule and on the Trophy Class Sheets. The Ribbon Judging chair and / or the OSA show chair retain the final authority.

### **Incorrect Judging Class Entries**

Sometimes plants get entered into the wrong judging class. If the plant class is obviously wrong, the plant should not be judged.

### Etiquette

Comments about plants or flowers are encouraged to be generally factual and positive but can be critical without being unkind. Remember that you may be standing next to the exhibitor of the plant! If you have signed up for judging and cannot attend, please communicate with the judging chair or any of the show team members before the judging day.

Remember to enjoy the great diversity of color, form, size, shape and fragrance that is the orchid kingdom!

Acknowledgements :

Doris Dukes' article on ribbon judging in the 1999 Awards Quarterly of the American Orchid Society.