

Floral Arrangement Tips

Equipment –

- Clean secateurs
- Oasis – green wet for fresh flowers and dry for dried arrangements
- Containers that are opaque – “aesthetics”
- Florist green tape
- Florist green wire
- Scissors
- Pliers
- Needle-aid and blu-tack
- Spray water bottle

Flowers –

- ✓ Flowers should always be kept in water
- ✓ When cutting flowers and foliage from the garden; always place in a bucket of water immediately. Use sharp clean secateurs.
- ✓ Store in a bucket of water in a cool place with very little breeze, out of the sun and bright light until ready to use.
- ✓ Trim off all leaves below the water line.
- ✓ Use a fine spray of water to keep flowers looking fresh.
- ✓ Choose flowers that suit the category and the container and are as blemish free as possible and a good shape.
- ✓ Select flowers that will last for a few days or more.
- ✓ Choose foliage that does not wilt easily; camellia leaves, gum, pine and wooded stem ferns.

Design –

- Formal, Informal design and Ikebana (Japanese).
- Top height of an arrangement is 1 ½ times the height of the container.
- Artistic numbers are 1,3,5,7,9 etc.
- Must not be able to see the oasis; screen with leaves
- If the main flowers are drooping – consider using florist wire and green tape. This should not be easily seen.
- Choose category carefully and adhere to its requirements as per schedule.
- Shoulder Spray – Choose flowers and leaves or fern that do not wilt readily.
- Wire and Tape all flowers and foliage as well as ribbon bows, before arranging, then arrange and tape again for neat finish. Simplicity is usually the most effective.

Labelling and Transport –

- Make sure the entry tag is securely attached to the entry. Use tape, string or cotton thread; needs to be water resistant and should be placed so it does not spoil the look of the arrangement.
- Transport in a box or basket or crate that has a non-slip mat in it, support arrangement base so it will not tip over. Or 'luxury' have someone hold it for you. Drive around corners and roundabouts carefully!! Mind bumps and Do not stop suddenly!!
- Top up water at showground and spray with water if necessary and straighten up arrangement if needed. Place carefully in position on shelf, check entry ticket and make sure it looks its best.
- IT'S ALL ABOUT PROVIDING A WONDERFUL DISPLAY IN THE PAVILION, SHOWCASING THE DISTRICT.

Good Luck