

Dahlia Market Bunch

Description: A "dahlia market bunch" typically refers to a bundle of fresh cut dahlias sold by local farmers or growers at a farmer's or floral market. Dahlia market bunches are prized for their freshness, seasonal variety, for their sustainability and support of local agriculture. This category will focus specifically on these dahlia bunches with no fillers.

Objective: Evaluate the freshness of the blooms with scores that rank marketability and favors good grower management for a commonly found market item.

Judges will be evaluating the following:

Marketability: This bunch needs to arrive in a quality condition, as good as or better than, acceptable market standards with a customer focus.

Grower Management: The grower's ability and skill to produce a healthy plant and process cut stems to maintain quality and freshness.

Color:

- It is ok for blooms to have even and/or uneven distribution of colors.
- All colors are accepted including muted, muddy, vintage, and blends.
- Blends do not need to have even distribution.
- Variegated varieties are allowed to have uneven distribution.
- It is ok for bicolors to have bleeding and uneven distribution. They may also have solid and bicolored ray florets.

A Few Suggestions For Classes:

- Similar color 5 stem bunch
- Similar color 10 stem
- Mixed color 5 stem
- Mixed color 10 stem
 - Fully double forms preferred as they are the market standard for best cut flower

Guidance for the Judges

- Judges will need to pick up and handle bunches to evaluate characteristics.
- No crushed leaves and damaged petals on blooms. Leaves may not touch water in the vase.
- No crushed or torn stems. Leaves below the water line should be cleanly removed.
- Buds are acceptable as long as they aren't a distraction such as wilting/drooping.

Rules

1. Use of wire and artificial means of supporting stems and/or blooms will disqualify entry.

2. Minimum stem length of 12”.
3. Neatly bound with one rubber band at bottom for security.
4. No external wrapping material around bunch.
5. No additional fillers or flowers other than dahlias (leaves and buds attached to the stems are okay. The buds should add to the attraction not distract).
6. Must be placed in a container that will not tip over.
7. Show tags must be filled out properly.
8. It is up to the club’s discission as to how many entries per person may be entered.

Cut Flower Score Card

Color.....15

- Distribution of colors can be even or uneven. For example muted, muddy, vintage and Blends are ok.
- Blends do not need to have even distribution.
- Variegated varieties are allowed to have uneven distribution.
- Bicolors to have bleeding and uneven distribution and may also have solid and bicolored ray florets.
- Must be appealing & useful (as in a color that will sell in bouquets).

Blooms

Condition of petals.....20

Lack of damage from insects, processing, and handling, etc.

Has good moisture content (turgid), no shedding petals.

Harvested at appropriate stage.....15

Appropriate stage is slightly immature, young, and still developing, no pollen present, green centers ok.

Uniformity of age of blooms.....10

Blooms should be relatively the same maturation stage.

Stem Quality

Firm bloom attachment.....15

Stem Firmness & Integrity.....10

Stems should be strong (able to hold their blooms) and straight. Stems should be proportionate in diameter to the bloom. The cut edge should be a clean, sharp cut.

Stem length (min 12”).....10

Properly bound with a single rubber band (elastic).....5