

Preparing for the Flower & Vegetable Show

Sue Van Horne

- 1 Get a schedule well in advance, from website or there will be copies at the Club meeting in June.
- 2 Highlight anything on the schedule that you grow.
- 3 Pick up tags for entries at the June or July meetings or contact the Show co-ordinator (2014 & 15 – Sue Van Horne @ 765-0906). If you have tags ahead of time, you can fill them out and attach rubber bands to them at home. Save your tags from year to year and if they do not have an award sticker on them, then reuse these for the same class or section or use whiteout for a different entry. This saves the club a little money.
- 4 One week before the show, go round your garden and make a note of things which will not be ready or are already past and adjust your schedule.
- 5 One week to a few days before the show, fill all your bottles with water and attach the tags to the necks with the rubber bands. You will need to punch a hole in each tag. NB – Collect suitable bottles and jars all year so you have your own collection, the Club has plenty, but they may not be the right size for your particular entry. Bottles will be available at the Club June and July meetings. They will also be at the Show hall the night before and the day of the Show, but you will need extra time.
- 6 Two days before the Show, do a final check of your garden and adjust tags and schedule. Make sure you have boxes for transporting your bottles. If you can get a hold of wine case boxes or Bernadin jar boxes, they are great for keeping bottles safe during transport. If not, screwed up newspaper packed around the bottles works well. You can also bring flowers in a bucket and put them into the Club's bottles, but again allow for extra time.
- 7 The day before the Show, pick all you can and bring them in the evening before the Show, or at least pick some and put them in the bottles for the next day. The night before is a good time to take in houseplants, vegetables, hanging baskets, etc.
- 8 On the day of the Show, get up good and early and pick the rest of your entries especially the delicate ones and the daylilies, which have to be picked on the day
9. There are experienced gardeners present at the hall to assist you if need help in placing your entries.

Tips

- All flowers and vegetables should be uniform size and colour.
- Snip off all dead flowers and leaves, etc. with a sharp implement. Anything dead is a no-no!
- Take off any insects, webs, etc.
- Leave pollen on lilies.
- No foliage below the water line.
- Have a ruler ready in the garden to measure blossoms for a class e.g. (under 2 inches)
- Count blossoms to make sure you have the correct amount according to the schedule.
- You can do flower arrangements 1 or 2 days before the Show and they will still be fine and that gives you time to pick specimens nearer the time.