

## Container and Display Sections

*Intimidated by what can seem like a myriad of technical rules and regulations?*

***Looking for more freedom to present YOUR dahlias how you LIKE to see them? Then the Container and Display sections are the ones for you.***

Blooms in these sections are judged on their face value only and are not constrained by the traditional requirements of show blooms regarding the depth, stem length, type or form. Any type of dahlia bloom can be used in all their amazing colours. Recognised varieties may be used but new seedlings are just as useful in creating dazzling and exciting exhibits for the show. The mixing of dahlia types and varieties is encouraged. Dahlia foliage, attached or unattached, along with any other type of foliage can be used in every item.

So, recapping - these items in our schedule allow exhibitors to stage dahlia blooms that do not necessarily meet the standards as set out in the ***Standards and Judging Rules of the Dahlia 1998*** booklet. (Just need to say that the technical rules and regs aren't really that daunting once you make a start but here you don't even have to have touched the book.)

***The emphasis should be on staging blooms that have been grown for pleasure and to provide enjoyment to the viewer.***

A breakdown and some hints and tips for each item follow with the aim to make it possible for even more people to enter at the show.

### **Container Section**

- Any type of container may be used, a pot, a vase, a basket – your choice
- Mixing of types and varieties is allowed
- Any foliage from any type of plant may be used
- Dahlias only are to be used unless otherwise stated
- A container may have any number of stems unless otherwise stated

**1 Container of 5 dahlia blooms using 5 dahlia types/varieties** – all you need are five different blooms – choose a suitable container and arrange them with or without foliage to create a pleasing display – look to make a final arrangement that will be approx. 40cm wide

**1 Arranged basket of dahlias own choice, any number of stems** – grab a basket with or without a handle, some dahlias and your choice of foliage/s and arrange away – look to be no more than 50cm

**Dahlias in a container of exhibitor's choice arranged as you would for enjoyment in the home (other foliage and types of flowers permitted – but dahlias must predominate)** – this is your chance to use any floral materials to create a beautiful arrangement to enjoy at home. The only constraint is that dahlias must be the most dominant horticultural component – look to be about 70cm in width

**1 Container of Bedding and/or Border dahlia blooms** - a chance to use your "Tiny Tots" or other smaller type garden dahlias – look for the final exhibit to be about 30-40cm wide

**1 Waterlily dahlia floating in a container supplied by the exhibitor** – find that perfect waterlily type dahlia and a suitable bowl. The bloom should float and should not touch the bottom or sides

**1 Dahlia plant growing in a pot. Maximum pot size is 25cm** – this is the chance to showcase that gorgeous dahlia that you've successfully grown in a pot all season, just make sure the pot is not bigger than 25cm in diameter

**A pot of “Tiny Tot” dahlias. Maximum pot size is 25cm** – How do you grow your “Tiny Tot’s”? – if it’s in pots then show them off here

**Display Section**

- Any type of container may be used, a pot, a vase, a basket – other props also allowed
- Mixing of types and varieties is allowed
- Any foliage from any type of plant may be used
- Dahlias are the only flower allowed to be used

**Display of Dahlias – own containers and/or props allowed, containers of all kinds including baskets are accepted, pots of dahlias grown by the exhibitor allowed. Space allowed 1.77 meters on a flat table (full table)** – Let your creativity loose in this ultimate display of divine dahlias and complimentary foliage, containers and props

**Small Display of Dahlias – own containers and/or props allowed, containers of all kinds including baskets are accepted, pots of dahlias grown by the exhibitor allowed. Space allowed 0.73 meters on a flat table (½ table)** – Don’t have enough dahlias for a full table, or want to start a little smaller, then this is the place for your creativity to shine

**Display of “Tiny Tot” Dahlias – own containers and/or props allowed, containers of all kinds including baskets are accepted, pots of dahlias grown by the exhibitor allowed. Space allowed 50cm x 50cm on a flat table** – “Tiny Tot” more your forte – then this is your chance to showcase these little blooms

For all these items the judge will look for a balanced, attractive and overall appealing exhibit. Blooms used should be clean, fresh, undamaged and free from pests. The goal is for the exhibitor to arrange them skilfully to develop striking and balanced containers or displays. The finer points of a great exhibit are in the finish. Consideration needs to be given to the effective use of the space. The creative placement of the container/s used along with camouflaging any staging aids are important factors. Any damaged florets (petals) or foliage should be removed. Exhibits are created so that the attractiveness of the container/display is more important than the quality of the bloom.

Overall, it is a statement on how you like to showcase your dahlias!

Judging for both sections is based on the following points breakdown:

Appeal – 30	the judge will look for a unique feature/s that makes your exhibit stand out
Arrangement – 30	creativity of the design, staging techniques, balance of the exhibit, artistry of the complete display and your overall finish and presentation will be assessed
Condition & Freshness – 20	blooms and foliage should be clean and fresh. Although the standards do not apply to the blooms, any which have blown centres (in those that should be double) or are misshapen will see points deducted
Use of Colour – 20	a pleasing harmony and/or contrasting of colours should be achieved within the entry. The use of spotted/flecked or bi-colour blooms can make a striking impression but they must be used with balance while creating impact

***These sections provide a chance to express your imagination and originality while providing unique exhibits for the public to admire. Come on have a go!***

Loosely based on the original notes by Bob Yeomans published in the Dahlias magazine in December 2005.