

2<sup>nd</sup> Report to Judges' Council September 2023

This is a report on some of the questions the committee has received, researched, and discussed. We will publish more topics periodically.

**MANDATE FOR THIS COMMITTEE:**

***We are not rewriting OJES. We are trying to clarify what is already in OJES for all GCO judges. We would like to receive your questions and comments. Please do jot down queries about OJES as you encounter situations in judging that seem unclear.***

**TOPICS COVERED IN THIS REPORT:**

1. Accessories/Features/Featured
2. Containers for Horticulture Division entries
3. Specialty Society Judging vs Judging according to OJES
4. Definition of Species on pg. 151
5. Definition of Perennial on pg. 147
6. Pot-et-Fleur vs Plants and Flowers – differences
7. Flowering branch with only green buds, no colour showing

**ACCESSORIES/FEATURES/FEATURED**

In judging design classes, the judge should keep these in mind.

For example, a judge may feel that a Buddha figurine is out of scale – but perhaps the designer intended it to be a feature? Judges must keep an open mind.

Check the definitions in OJES. They are quite clear.

When is it mechanics and when an accessory? If a mechanic is a visible, integral part of a design, it could still be a mechanic. See definition of mechanics, pg.145 in OJES. An example would be wire used to connect willow sticks into a structure. The willow sticks are plant material, but the binding wire is a mechanic. If the wire is intended to serve as a design element, it could be considered an accessory.

Whether to allow the use of accessories or not? Keep in mind the type of design you are asking for in your schedule. Some styles may be difficult to accomplish without the use of accessories.

**CONTAINERS FOR HORTICULTURE DIVISION ENTRIES**

Some schedules ask for specific types of containers for horticultural classes, e.g., clear glass for cut specimens.

Clear glass makes it easier to check the number of stems. However, when you are asking exhibitors to supply the containers, you may be eliminating some of them from entering by being too particular about the containers.

**SPECIALTY SOCIETY JUDGING VS JUDGING ACCORDING TO OJES**

Although some specialty plant groups were consulted in revising OJES, it is important to realize that many specialty clubs judge using quite different judging standards than OJES.

One example is the African Violet Society, where a blue ribbon is the highest placement. However, there may be, and usually are, several blue ribbons awarded per class.

Another example: roses in a small general show; it can happen that none of the specimens are ribbon worthy if judged according to Canadian Rose Society standards.

### **DEFINITION OF SPECIES**

The current definition in OJES 2019, on page 151, needs clarification.

The second term in a botanical name, e.g., for *Rosa blanda*, *blanda* is the specific epithet not the species. Species name consists of Genus + Specific epithet.

### **DEFINITION OF PERENNIAL**

On page 147 in OJES the definition of perennial reads “... also many hardy evergreen herbaceous perennials...”. The word herbaceous does not apply here, so it should just say “hardy evergreen perennials”.

### **POT-ET-FLEUR & PLANTS AND FLOWERS**

A question arose at a recent show about some of the entries in a class asking for ‘Plants and Flowers’.

One exhibitor felt that some of the entries would fall under the definition of ‘Pot-et-fleur’.

The exhibitor was quite correct. In fact, an entry that meets the criteria for a Pot-et-fleur also meets the criteria for Plants and Flowers. However, the reverse is not always the case.

<b>Component</b>	<b>POT-ET-FLEUR</b>	<b>PLANTS AND FLOWERS</b>
Growing plants in soil or other moisture retaining medium.	Always	Always
Only one container	Always	OK
More than one container	Never	OK
Cut flowers	Always	OK – may have just cut flowers, just cut foliage, or both
Cut foliage	Never	OK – may have just cut flowers, just cut foliage, or both
Cut branches – flowering or fruiting	OK	OK
Cut branches – non-flowering or non-fruiting	Never	OK
Accessories	Depends on Schedule	Depends on Schedule

**FLOWERING BRANCH WITH ONLY GREEN CLOSED BUDS, NO FLOWER COLOUR SHOWING**

A branch entered in a class for flowering branches has buds, but they are not open – can it be awarded a ribbon?

To be eligible for a ribbon, a flowering branch must have some flowers open or at least showing colour.