

Prepared by Ann Madden – January 2025

“I can enjoy flowers quite happily without translating them into Latin.” - Cornelia Otis Skinner

Many gardeners, designers, and plant enthusiasts share the sentiments quoted above. However, there are certain rules to follow when we are entering our prized plants into a flower show. One important rule is **to name your plant correctly!**

The flower show Schedule will explain the rules and regulations for each flower show, and there will be SGC members to assist you to fill out the entry cards, because the National Garden Club Inc. defines how horticulture entry cards are to be filled out. Not too scary!

The internet has many, many descriptions of proper naming of plants, some are fine, others are not. If you have the original tags, seed packets, or catalog descriptions of your entry it will be much easier to name it. If you do not have these items, consult fellow gardeners, phone apps, or reliable nurseries for help.

These are the rules as the NGC describes:

Horticulture

D. Writing the Entry Tag

1. The entry tag is used to properly identify the exhibit and is one of the best methods to educate the public.
2. Exhibitors should provide as much of the botanical binomial or current scientific designation as possible. Common names, enclosed in parentheses, can be included below the scientific designation.

A binomial name or scientific designation has at least two parts: the first is the name of the genus, and it always begins with a capital letter. Next is the species name, or specific epithet. It always begins with a lower-case letter. Genus and species are always italicized. If handwritten, the genus name and the species name must be underlined.

You may also add the name of the variety, cultivar, series or patented name:

- A cultivar name is placed in single quotes and is not italicized. *Helianthus annuus* ‘Mammoth’ or *Helianthus annuus* ‘Mammoth’.
- A series is not placed in quotes nor in italics. *Aster novae-angliae* KICKIN Pink Chiffon or *Aster novae-angliae* KICKIN Pink Chiffon.
- A variety name is underlined or italicized and includes a v or var. preceding the name of the variety. *Pinus flexilis* var. *humilus* or *Pinus flexilis* var. *humilus*

- Common names must be in parentheses. (Black Eyed Susan) Flower Show entry cards must include the following information:
 1. Name of Flower Show
 2. Date of Flower Show
 3. Division Number (Design, Horticulture, Special Exhibits – as indicated in flower show schedule)
 4. Section Number – subcategories under each division – as indicated in flower show schedule
 5. Class Number – subcategories under each section – as indicated in flower show schedule
 6. Entry Number – each exhibitor is assigned a unique number by the flower show entries chair
 7. Botanical and common name for horticulture entries, class name for design or special exhibit entries
 8. Exhibitor name – can print or use address label (Neat trick!)
 9. Exhibitor address
 10. Exhibitor club

The flower show judges complete the entry card, when judging, by marking the entry as first, second, third place or honorable mention.

This is a standard entry card:

National Garden Clubs, Inc.

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CITY LIGHTS 7/6/17

FLOWER SHOW DATE

DIVISION	SECTION	CLASS No.	ENTRY No.
I	A	2	1

Liatris spicata 'Alba'

VARIETY OR CLASS NAME

(White Blazing Star)

1st	2nd	3rd	Honorable Mention
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EXHIBIT SCORED 90+

National Garden Clubs, Inc.

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CITY LIGHTS 7/6/17

FLOWER SHOW DATE

DIVISION	SECTION	CLASS No.	ENTRY No.
I	B	6	4

Hosta 'Francee'

VARIETY OR CLASS NAME

1st	2nd	3rd	Honorable Mention
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EXHIBIT SCORED 90+

Cornelia Otis Skinner was correct: we can enjoy flowers without translating them into Latin, but we do need their scientific names to enter them in a flower show!