

*National Auricula & Primula Society*

*Midland & West Section*

# EXHIBITORS' HANDBOOK

*Rules*

*Standards*

*Guidelines*

*Valid from 1st January 2016*

# RULES FOR EXHIBITORS

It is important that these rules be followed by the exhibitors and applied strictly  
by the judges.

Exhibits which contravene the rules will be disqualified.

1. The Shows are open to members of the National Auricula and Primula Society (Midland and West Section). Trophies will only be awarded to members.
2. Trophies are held for one year and must be returned for the following year. Engraving is the responsibility of the winners.
3. All exhibits must have been the property of the exhibitor for at least three months prior to the show.
4. Any number of entries may be submitted in each class. In the event of shortage of bench space the number of entries per exhibitor will be at the discretion of the Show Superintendent.
5. Beginners classes are open to anyone who has not won more than five first prizes at NAPS Shows. Any member who qualifies as a Beginner at the start of the show season will be regarded as a Beginner for that year, even if he or she is awarded five first prizes. After that he or she must enter the open classes.
6. Plants entered in seedling classes must not have won at any previous NAPS Shows.
7. Awards are given at the discretion of the judges whose decisions are final. Judges may withhold an award in cases where, in their opinion, the required standards have not been achieved.
8. a) An Award of Merit Card may be given to any plant, or multiple (including those already awarded a 1st, 2nd or 3rd) that has additional special qualities, e.g. a distinct advance in quality for its type or a new development.  
b) A Highly Commended Card may be awarded in any Class to a single plant or multiple that has failed to achieve any other award but is worthy of encouragement.  
c) No extra points will be awarded for these cards.
9. Exhibitors are not allowed to move other competitors' pots, nor remove any plants before the end of the Show unless by prior agreement with the Show Superintendent. If extra space is needed the Show Superintendent must be contacted.
10. a) Edged, Self, Alpine, Fancy, Striped and Double Auriculas and Gold-Laced Polyanthus (single stem) entries must not have less than five fully expanded pips except in classes for one Edged Auricula where three pips are permissible. Plants carrying fewer than five fully open pips are not eligible for the award of a Premier Medal.  
b) In classes for Edged, Self, Alpine, Fancy, Striped and Double Auriculas all unopened buds must be removed.  
c) In classes for Gold-Laced Polyanthus (single stem) unopened buds may be left but must not detract from the appearance of the fully opened pips.

- d) All classes referred to in paragraphs 10a, 10b, and 10c will be judged to the relevant standards.
- e) All classes for Primulas and Border Auriculas will be judged for overall effect. Unopened buds may be left on the plants but must not detract from the appearance of the fully opened pips. Difficulty of cultivation may be taken into account with the rarer Primulas.
11. a) For Edged, Self, Fancy, Striped, Alpine and Double Auriculas only one truss per plant will be judged. All other trusses MUST be removed or neatly tied down.
- b) In the Gold-Laced Polyanthus (single stem) classes only the main flowering stem may be left on the plant.
- c) Border Auriculas should have at least five trusses except in the classes for Beginners and for Seedlings where three trusses are the minimum acceptable.
12. Neat stakes may be used to support stems in the Edged, Self, Fancy, Striped, Alpine and Double Auricula classes. Gold-Laced Polyanthus and Border Auriculas must NOT be staked. Where staking is used the stake must be as unobtrusive as possible and must not protrude past the junction of the stem and footstalks. The footstalks may be adjusted as part of the arrangement of the pips but may not be supported by artificial means.
13. Any packing between the pips used to correctly space them or to support them during transport must be removed prior to benching.
14. Each plant exhibited must carry a card label showing the plant's name (where applicable) or type and the exhibitor's number. An entry slip must also be placed in front of each exhibit giving all the details requested, i.e. class number, exhibitor's number and plant name. In multiple pot classes, one slip must show the names of all the plants in the entry.
15. All pots must be round and of a terracotta colour. The form and appearance of the pots used shall in no way distract from the overall quality of the display. For some primula classes the pot size is specified in the schedule. In all other classes the size of the pot shall be appropriate to the plant it contains. As guidance the majority of Auriculas use 3-4 inch pots. In the case of Border Auriculas, a maximum pot size of 8 inches is allowed. Pot sizes are measured as the maximum internal diameter at the rim. The surface of the compost should present a neat appearance. The choice of any top-dressing should not detract from the overall appearance of the entry.
16. In multiple plant classes pots must be arranged from the front to the rear of the bench. Artificial means of raising any individual pot with respect to the others with the intention of compensating for small plants in the entry is not allowed. The varieties of the plants used in an entry shall be representative of all the types across the Section unless otherwise specified in the Schedule.

SHOW  
STANDARDS  
&  
GUIDELINES

## DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of these standards:

A **Florists' Auricula** is an auricula judged against written standards.

A **Show Auricula** is a florists' auricula having a paste.

A **Show Standard** consists of a complete list of all the attributes to be considered in judging each type of florists' auricula. The highest quality possible, as determined by the naked eye, is detailed for each attribute. This quality shall be botanically achievable and, at some time in the flower's history, should have been demonstrated to be realistic. The standard is intended to be applied to the fully mature pip when in prime condition.

## A NOTE REGARDING JUDGING

The Midland and West Section of NAPS expects judges to apply these standards at the appropriate shows. They should not be influenced by their preferences for variety, colour, form or type but should look for adherence to the appropriate standard.

It is acknowledged that judging is not an exact science and it is appreciated that a judge's decision will often rest on their personal experience and knowledge. No guidance is given in these standards as to the weightings of the various faults. The judges should have in mind a perfect truss of blooms of the type on which they are adjudicating and assess the plants against this. In the case of emerging auricula types, e.g. Stripes and Fancies, the judge's influence may be particularly important.

## GENERAL STANDARDS APPLYING TO FLORISTS' AURICULAS

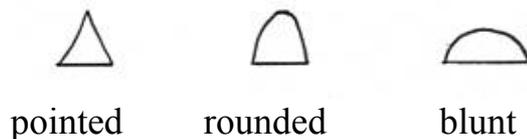
All Edged, Self, Alpine, Fancy and Striped Auriculas must be thrum-eyed.

The plant as a whole should be compact and well-balanced with clean, crisp, healthy foliage, free from pests, and preferably a single rosette of leaves of sufficient size to nicely cover the top of the pot. The stem should be strong and elastic and tall enough to hold the truss well above the leaves, but not overly long (between 10 and 18 cm). The footstalks should be sufficiently strong to hold the pips in a firm array and of just such a length as to permit each pip to be displayed without overlapping. All the pips in a truss should be of even size and character; the periphery of each should just meet that of its neighbours to form a compact whole. The leaves of Grey-Edged and White-Edged Auriculas, Selves, Striped Auriculas, Doubles and Fancies may have farina present or may be plain. The leaves of Green Edges and Alpine Auriculas should be without farina.

The complete assembly of pot, foliage, stem and truss should be in proportion.

The *RULES FOR EXHIBITORS* detail the requirements for the staging of Florists' Auriculas and Border Auriculas.

In the Standards for Edged, Self, Alpine, Fancy and Striped Auriculas, the definition of petal shape employs the descriptions below:



They follow the illustrations of leaf shapes shown under 'Visual Glossary: Leaves' at the front of the 'A-Z Encyclopedia of Garden Plants' published by the RHS in 1996.

## SHOW STANDARDS FOR AURICULAS

### EDGED SHOW AURICULAS

- a) **The pip** should be round and flat. The individual petals should be blunt and not rounded or pointed, of even size, with a smooth periphery, free from notches, of good substance and overlap sufficiently to give the desired circular appearance. The four bands should be of equal weight, no one dominating or receding. The size is of secondary importance but the pips should be neither too large nor too small. Green-edges should be an optimum diameter of 32 mm. with Grey-edges slightly smaller and White-edges slightly smaller again.
- b) **The tube** width should not exceed one-fourth the diameter of the pip; it should be round, smooth-edged, golden or rich yellow in colour, of a waxy substance and well up to the plane of the pip.
- c) **The anthers** should be fresh and bold, of a rich, yellow colour and evenly set around, but not protruding from, the top of the tube. They should curve inwards to meet over and obscure the lower tube.
- d) **The pistil** must not be visible among or above the anthers otherwise the plant will be disqualified.
- e) **The paste** should be circular with clear-cut edges, the outer edge a half of the pip's diameter. It should be brilliant white, smooth, dense and free from blemishes and cracks.
- f) **The body (also called the ground colour)** should be solid and circular where it meets the paste. Its outer edge should extend to no more than three-fourths the pip's diameter. It should feather finely into the outer zone but not extend to the pip's periphery especially at the petal edges. The body may be of any colour provided that it is bright, rich, unshaded and free from meal. Darker colours should appear velvety.
- g) **The edge or outer zone** may be green, grey or white according to the class. If green-edged it should be of an even shade, bright and free from meal. Grey-edged flowers should have an even covering of meal overlying the petal edge, not so thick as to mask completely the underlying green, thereby creating the grey effect. In white-edged flowers the covering of meal must completely mask the green petal edge. In both grey and white edges the meal should be white, bright, refined and free from blemishes. The edge should not extend through the body and touch the paste.

## SELF SHOW AURICULAS

- a) **The pip** should be round and flat. The individual petals should be blunt and not rounded or pointed, of even size, with a smooth periphery, free from notches. They should be of good substance and overlap sufficiently to give the desired circular appearance. The pip is somewhat smaller than the edged types, 29 mm. being the optimum.
- b) **The tube** width should not exceed one-sixth the diameter of the pip, be round, smooth-edged, golden or rich yellow in colour, of a waxy substance and well up to the plane of the pip. In the case of blue Selves the tube may be a lighter colour.
- c) **The anthers** should be fresh and bold, of a rich yellow colour and evenly set around, but not protruding from, the top of the tube. They should curve inwards to meet over and obscure the lower tube.
- d) **The pistil** must not be visible among or above the anthers otherwise the plant will be disqualified.
- e) **The paste** should be circular with clear-cut edges, the outer edge just under half of the pip's diameter. It should be brilliant white, smooth, dense and free from blemishes and cracks.
- f) **The petals** should be of good substance, free from veins and blemishes. They should be clear and smooth, displaying an even, unshaded colour which catches the eye.

## ALPINE AURICULAS

- a) **The pip** should be round and flat. The individual petals should be blunt and not rounded or pointed, of even size, with a smooth periphery, free from notches, of good substance and overlap sufficiently to give the desired circular appearance. Size is of secondary importance but the pip should be neither too large nor too small, the optimum being about 29 mm.
- b) **The tube** width should not exceed one-sixth the diameter of the pip, and be round with a smooth edge well up to the plane of the pip and of the same colour as the eye.
- c) **The anthers** should be fresh and bold, of a rich gold or yellow colour and evenly set around, but not protruding from, the top of the tube. They should curve inwards to meet over and obscure the lower tube.
- d) **The pistil** must not be visible among or above the anthers otherwise the plant will be disqualified.

- e) ***The eye***
1. for **Gold-Centre Alpines** should be a bright golden yellow, of a uniform shade, smooth and free from blemishes. The outer edge should be circular, sharply defined and extend to just over half the pip's diameter.
  2. for **Light-Centre Alpines** should be white or pale cream, of a uniform shade, smooth and free from blemishes. The outer edge should be circular, sharply defined and extend to just over half the pip's diameter.
- f) ***The petals*** should be of a velvety texture. The basic colour should be rich and sumptuous and should shade evenly from a deeper tone where it meets the eye to a lighter tone at the periphery. All parts of the pip should be free from farina.

### FANCY SHOW AURICULAS

- a) ***The pip*** should be round and flat. The individual petals should be blunt and not rounded or pointed, of even size, with a smooth periphery, free from notches, of good substance and overlap sufficiently to give the desired circular appearance. The pip should be neither too large nor too small, the optimum usually being in the range 29 to 32 mm.
- b) ***The tube*** width should not exceed one-sixth the diameter of the pip, be round, smooth-edged, golden or rich yellow in colour, of a waxy substance and well up to the plane of the pip. Depending on the colour and form of the petals the colour of the tube may deviate from yellow as long as the overall effect is pleasing.
- c) ***The anthers*** should be fresh and bold, of a rich yellow colour and evenly set around, but not protruding from, the top of the tube. They should curve inwards to meet over and obscure the lower tube.
- d) ***The pistil*** must not be visible among or above the anthers otherwise the plant will be disqualified.
- e) ***The paste*** should form a well-defined circle, the outer edge about a half of the pip's diameter. It should be a brilliant white or a clear, striking colour, smooth, dense and free from blemishes and cracks.
- f) ***The petals*** may be of any attractive form not specified elsewhere in the Standards for auriculas. Their inner edge should contrast well with the paste.

## STRIPED SHOW AURICULAS

- a) **The pip** should be round and flat. The individual petals should be blunt and not rounded or pointed, of even size, of good substance and should overlap sufficiently to give the desired circular appearance. Any irregularity in the periphery must not detract from the overall attractiveness of the pip. The pip should be neither too large nor too small, the optimum being about 29 mm.
- b) **The tube** width should not exceed one-sixth the diameter of the pip, be round, smooth-edged, golden or rich yellow in colour, of a waxy substance and well up to the plane of the pip. In the case of blue striping the tube may be of a lighter colour.
- c) **The anthers** should be fresh and bold, of a rich yellow colour and evenly set around, but not protruding from, the top of the tube. They should curve inwards to meet over and obscure the lower tube.
- d) **The pistil** must not be visible among or above the anthers otherwise the plant will be disqualified.
- e) **The paste** should be circular with a clear-cut edge, its periphery extending to just under half of the pip's diameter. It should be brilliant white, smooth, dense and free from blemishes and cracks.
- f) **The petals** should be evenly striped. The majority of the stripes should be full-length, i.e. extend from the edge of the paste to the periphery of the petal. The stripes should not coalesce to form an edge or a ground as in the edged auricula. The stripes may be of colour or farina but farinaceous stripes should be different in underlying tissue colour from the rest of the pip.

## DOUBLE AURICULAS

- a) **The truss** should not be congested. Each pip should be clearly displayed and not deformed as a result of overcrowding or overlapping. The pips should be at the same stage of development and of similar size. The layout of colour on all pips must be uniform.
- b) **The pip** may be a double form of any type of auricula and the doubling may be of any character. The individual pips should be circular in outline and have sufficient additional petals to cover and obscure the tube. The petals should be smooth-edged without notches; their conformation should be neat and regular and effectively fill the pip. Pips with open centres will be disqualified. The optimum pip size should be about 29 mm.

- c) *The petals* may be striped or variegated, shaded or self-coloured, but should be clear and bright. The colour is secondary to form. Where meal is present it must not be smeared, but crisp and bright.

### **GOLD-LACED POLYANTHUS**

- a) All plants must be thrum-eyed.
- b) Pips should be round, flat and approximately 20 mm in diameter. All the pips in a truss should be uniform. They should be held out evenly by the footstalks without overlapping. Any unopened pips must not detract from the overall form of the truss.
- c) Each petal should neatly abut its neighbour. There should be no gaps between them. Petals may overlap but not more than the width of the lacing.
- d) The ground colour is preferably red or black. The colour should be dense and have a velvet-like appearance, so as to give the flower a brilliant and attractive look. All the pips should bear the same ground colour. The colour should be uniform across the petals. Any shading will be considered a fault.
- e) The tube should be circular. It should be about 3 mm in diameter and lie at the centre of the pip. It should be of the same bright golden-yellow as the eye and be well filled with anthers. It may have a raised rim which should enhance, but must not detract from, the roundness of the tube.
- f) The eye which surrounds the tube should be circular and bright golden-yellow. It should extend to about half the diameter of the pip. There should be a clean edge where the eye meets the ground. The eye should be as free as possible of radial indentations and darker markings and it should not be cut into by the joins between petals.
- g) The lacing should be golden, even, unbroken and smooth. It must run completely round the edge of each petal and also down the centre of each petal to join up with the eye. Its colour should be as close as possible to that of the eye. The width of the lacing should be sufficient to emphasise the colour of the ground. It should be neither too fine, thus producing a wire edge and giving the ground too heavy an appearance, nor too broad, drawing the eye away from the ground and detracting from the delicate balance between lacing and ground.
- h) Each petal should have a neat, shallow indentation at the centre of its outer edge. This should be of the same depth as the indentation at the junction of two adjacent petals. The ideal is to form as near as possible to a slightly scalloped circle with even undulations in its rim.

- i) The scape should be long enough to hold the truss above the foliage.
- j) The foliage should be clean, fresh and free from pests and disease. It should not be over-extended.
- k) The whole plant should be presented on a neat, preferably single crown at the centre of a clean, round-topped pot of a terracotta colour. See Rule 15 for guidance on pot sizes.

## **GUIDELINES FOR THE EXHIBITION OF BORDER AURICULAS**

- a) The plant should be compact, vigorous, sturdy, well balanced and floriferous. The foliage should be healthy, free from pests or signs of damage and nicely cover the top of the pot.
- b) Flower trusses should be mature and well spaced. Individual stems should be substantial and tall enough to hold each truss well above the leaves. The footstalks should be sufficiently strong to hold the pips in firm array and of such a length as to permit each pip to be displayed without any overlapping.
- c) All the pips in a truss should be of even size and character; the periphery of each should just meet its neighbour to form a compact whole.
- d) There are no limitations as to form and size of individual pips but these qualities should be consistent throughout the plant. Pips may have flat or undulating surfaces, their outline being smooth or indented. Individual blooms should be fully open.
- e) Any flowers that appear to be inferior examples of those characteristic of Show or Alpine auriculas are inadmissible.
- f) Farina may or may not be present on petals, stems and leaves. Surface quality should be consistent throughout the plant, without smears or marks on any areas of farina.
- g) Petal colour should be clear, positive and consistent throughout the exhibit. Thrum-eyed flowers are generally preferred to pin-eyed ones but either type is admissible. Scent may be an advantage but is not essential.
- h) The character and appearance of the plant should suggest that it would succeed in an open garden situation.

## **GUIDELINES FOR THE EXHIBITION OF PRIMULAS**

- a) The plant should be fresh, healthy, floriferous and in pristine condition.
- b) The plant should be pleasingly symmetrical and compact, presented in a central position in its pot with evenly distributed flowers that are all the same character and with the great majority fully open.
- c) Cushion forming plants should have flowers held above the foliage and present a regular uniform dome.
- d) Species of minute forms, such as *Primula scotica*, may be shown in groups. Where separate plants are shown in the same pan they should be seen to be distinct.
- e) Species Primulas should be grown 'in character'.
- f) Farina, where present, should be even and unmarked.
- g) Peduncles, where evident, should be strong and of reasonably uniform height in proportion to the plant.
- h) Prior to exhibition the plant should be rigorously inspected. All faded or dead flowers, dead or marked leaves should be neatly removed. Plants with evidence of pests or diseases should not be shown.
- i) Soft lush growth, occasioned by the use of heat or overfeeding and etiolation will seriously downgrade the exhibit.
- j) Top dressing should be fresh, clean and in keeping with the usual habitat of the plant.
- k) The pots must adhere to any size limitation required by the schedule. They should be clean, free from major chips or cracks and terracotta in colour.
- l) As Primulas are shown for effect, the pot should be carefully chosen to compliment the plant.
- m) Any required labelling should be accurate and legible.
- n) Care must be exercised in staging plants in the correct class, according to the schedules.
- o) Help may be sought from the Show officials if the exhibitor is unsure of any aspect of classification or labelling.