HOW TO PHOTOGRAPH FOR THE VIRTUAL FLOWER SHOW

We aren’t expecting professional photographs. What you take with your cellphone or tablet should be good enough. This is a virtual flower show and not something for publication.

No photoshopping. We are trusting you on this.

When we ask for measurements, we want to see the beginning of the measuring device (0””) to the length; don’t just show us the final height, width and/or depth. (See examples in the images below.)

Shoot the image at the highest resolution. Do not compress or resize. Each image should be between 1-2MB. The reason: The judges have to be able to expand the image to get detail. If the image is pixilated or out-of-focus, that will affect their decisions.

DO NOT SUBMIT MORE THAN THE NUMBER REQUIRED.

HORTICULTURE DIVISION

Six views are needed: front, back, left, right, top, and one with a measuring stick (yardstick, meter stick, ruler, tape measure, etc.) that shows the dimensions of the specimen. See images below.

Remember, except for container-grown specimens, all specimens are CUT, just like a typical flower show. Do not submit a specimen growing in the garden. Put the specimen in a clear, colorless, label-free vase or bottle. Wedge so the specimen is upright.

A solid background is better for the image than placing the specimen in a vase/container and taking the photos in the middle of the garden. Use the side of the building, a staging panel, cloth, or something else solid so the eye focuses on the specimen.
Figure 1: Left View
Figure 2: Rear View of Acer palmatum 'Butterflies'
Figure 4: Right View
Figure 6: Measuring stick with proper wedging
Figure 7: Plastic tubing wedging

Figure 8: Wedging a little "jammed" into lip of Alocasia
Figure 9: Viburnum against white wall. Would better color background be better? Would it be better not in the corner? Yes, to both.
Figure 10: Viburnum in yard. Specimen is in focus, but everything in the background pulls the eye.
DESIGN DIVISION

Four views are needed: front, full left side, full right side, and one with measuring sticks giving depth, width, and height.

Additionally, do NOT crop the image. The judges must be able to see the top of the staging panel and front of the tabletop or whatever you use for staging. (Photos may be cropped by NGC Social Media Committee for publicity.) Judges will focus on the design, and not the background.

Realize that a straight on front view may show the design taller than the staging panel. Consider CAREFULLY standing on stool or stepstool to show the design is below the staging panel or hold the camera higher than the head and aim downward.

Staging Panel wings may distract from the overall design. Consider just a flat staging panel, but if you do use wings, make sure they do not hinder the design when photographing from the sides.

BOTANICAL ARTS – DESIGN

Same as Design Division Above

BOTANICAL ARTS – ARTISTIC CRAFTS

Same as Horticulture Division Above
Figure 11. Left side view. Notice the unobstructed view. Measuring sticks are only needed in ONE view; you don’t have to include them in all views.
Figure 12. Front view. Note design appears to be taller than staging panel, but that is due to the angle of the camera pointing up. Designers should try to take the image higher and pointing down. DO NOT CROP THE DESIGN.
Figure 13. Right side view. Try to show the entire design from tabletop to beyond the top of the design. Extended wings may create problems. Do you really need them? An underlay improves the rhythm of the design; watch out for wrinkles.
Figure 14. Design showing height, width, and depth measurements for judges to determine use of allotted space/frame of reference. You only need one view with measuring sticks.