

So What Does This Rose Schedule Mean?

By Bobbie Reed, *Master Rosarian* and *Rose Show Junkie*
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The show schedule is out, posted on the GARS website, www.atlantarose.org. That's the Bible for this year's show – it tells you all the rules and classes for the show – everything about how to exhibit. You're looking it over, and wondering what on earth all those classes are about, right? There are a lot – 68 classes for horticulture, 19 more for arrangements. There aren't that many kinds of roses!

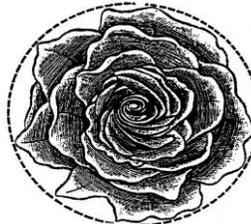
No, there aren't that many rose classes – the American Rose Society's **Handbook For Selecting Roses** lists 37 rose classes, plus their climbing forms. The show schedule includes many ways to display roses – hey, some of these classes would be good practice for displaying roses at home! The winner of each class is placed on the head table, and the exhibitor receives a "keeper trophy", often crystal.

It is, however, important to know what rose, and what kind of rose you have, so you can put it into the right class. Always check listings in the latest **Handbook, Official List of Exhibition Names, or Modern Roses XII**. Roses are often sold under different names, or sold as a different class than ARS recognizes, because they sell better that way – always double-check! Look for the proper exhibition name: that light pink climber "*Eden*", for instance, must be exhibited as '*Pierre de Ronsard*'. It is classified as LCl, a large-flowered climber, so you could exhibit it in Class 18, Climbers, or Class 34, Climber Collection. Also, if you're a Novice (have never won a blue ribbon in a rose show) you could also show it in Class 45; if you're 18 years old or younger, you could also enter it in Class 46, Youth. And if you think it smells really good, you could put it in Class 43,

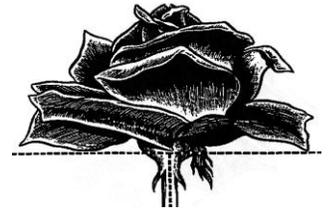
Fragrance. You could also use it in any "standard" rose arrangement class. My, what a versatile rose!

Picking The Right Rose

Most roses must be shown at "queen of show" or "exhibition stage". For hybrid teas, miniatures, minifloras, and most floribundas, that means that the bloom must be one-half to three-



quarters open [right], with a tight, pin-point spiral center [left].



The Queen of Show for hybrid teas, minis, and minifloras is chosen from a rose

with this form.

These roses *must* be disbudded – that means that side-buds or side-stems must be cleanly removed. It's best to do this weeks before the show, but you can still do it during prep. Shrubs and Old Garden Roses may be "naturally grown" – that means side-buds are acceptable for them [right]. But you can improve the looks of your entry by removing the side-buds.



Another no-no for most roses

is "stem on stem" [left]. This is what happens when a portion of the previous stem growth is attached. Only OGRs and shrubs may be entered this way.



If the stamens can be seen, it's not at exhibition stage, it's "fully open." Some classes, such as Class 9 and Class 12, require a rose that is fully open, with all the petals open flat and the stamens fresh (usually bright yellow) and fully exposed. If there is a deformed petal (petaloid) in the center that obscures the stamens, you can remove it – but do it neatly and completely.

Some varieties have too few, or too many, petals to achieve that "queen of show" form. For some varieties, especially single-type roses

(those with no more than eight petals) and old garden roses, exhibition form is fully open.

Some classes require a “spray,” which consists of two or more blooms (and for this purpose, a bud is not a bloom). The flowers in a spray should be in a rounded cluster [left], evenly spaced (no hole in the center), and all at about the same level [right].



The spray form is preferred for floribundas, and is required for polyanthas and special classes of other varieties. The Queen of Floribundas is a spray.

Making Your Rose Right

Cutting a rose is just the start; be sure the rose bush is well-watered before you do so. Recut the stem immediately under water, and transfer the rose to a bucket of warm water where it will cool down until the show. Be sure to keep the rose away from drafts. I usually cut the evening before the show; some folks cut earlier and refrigerate their rose, while others wait for early morning of the show. The rose will continue to open after you cut it, so remember to cut it a little tighter than you think you’ll need. Cut the stem long enough to leave 4 or more sets of leaves; don’t strip leaves or thorns.

Keep track of the rose’s name! In the scurry of a show, we’ve all gotten confused. Many exhibitors use a strip of paper or masking tape with the rose name, secured around the neck of the rose.

Some exhibitors do some preliminary work the evening before the show. You can clean the foliage (dust, pollen, and spray residue aren’t pretty) with a paper towel or scrap of old t-shirt, and trim any foliage that shows insect damage.

You are allowed to remove things (torn leaves, etc.), but not to add anything (oil to polish the leaves).

If you have tags [left], complete one for every rose you cut, in pencil.

The section and class numbers are in the show schedule, and you may want to wait on those until the morning of the show, to see which rose fits which class best. If you don’t have tags, collect some address labels that you can use at the show. Assemble your grooming kit [page 9], and perhaps compile a list of your roses.

Early on the morning of the show, put your roses in the car and head to the show. It always takes longer to get your roses ready than you think it will. With only one rose, you still need to plan for at least an hour of prep time.

Once you arrive, find some table space, vases, tags if you need them, some rubber bands, plastic foam wedges, and an exhibitor’s number. Grab a donut and a cup of coffee. Put each bloom into a vase and double-check for clean foliage and appropriate form. Clean off the rose bloom, brush off any dead insects, polish the foliage, and trim if necessary.

Now look at the bloom. How well does it match the forms described above? You may be able to coax a bloom that’s too tight into suitable shape, using a paintbrush or Q-tips. You can pinch out a bad bloom to make a spray look better. You can remove a petal, or reposition it. If you have a great bloom with lousy foliage, look for a class where you can float it in water, display it in a frame, or put it in an English box.



If you are entering a collection class, select a larger vase or carafe that’s just big enough to hold the stems. Wedge the stem(s) into the neck of the vase with foam, so that it stands tall and upright; if it’s a collection, make it a pleasing bouquet.

Decide which class it’s going into (see below), and complete the tag, top and bottom. Fold the bottom of the tag up and slip it under the tab to hold it closed [right]. Slip a rubber band through the hole at

Section B Class 17
 Variety Mothersday



Name Bobbie Reed & Don Schwarz
 Address 388 Lennox Court
 Lawrenceville, GA 30044-5616
 Ex. No. 50

1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Award	Award	Award	Award

1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Award	Award	Award	Award

Section B Class 17
 Variety Mothersday

Name Bobbie Reed & Don Schwarz
 Address 388 Lennox Court
 Lawrenceville, GA 30044-5616
 Exhibit No. 50

Section B Class 17
 Variety Mothersday



Special Awards _____

1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Award	Award	Award	Award

the top, and loop it around the neck of the vase. Take your rose to the “Classification” table, and they’ll check your tag and put your rose in the right place.

Picking The Right Class For Your Rose

Get a copy of the show schedule and read the whole thing. If you’re still confused about what it means, call Chris Woods or me to talk about it.

The “perpetual challenge classes” (1-10) are limited to GARS and/or Deep South District members, and each has a silver trophy associated with it that the winner may keep for one year. All are collections of roses, usually in a single vase or container (except Classes 5 and 6). You may only make one entry per class,



so make it a good one. Some of these classes are rarely entered, which makes them a good place for you to compete; last year, there were no entries in Classes 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, and 9.

Class 2 is the first of several examples of “cycle of bloom” classes you’ll find in the



show. The entry consists of one bud, with sepals down, petals just starting to unfurl; one bloom at exhibition stage; and one bloom fully open (don’t

forget to groom the center). All must be the same variety of rose.

Class 6 is one you should consider entering. Those AARS roses are the very ones you’re most likely to grow. They are marked in the Handbook with @; the full list is available at www.rose.org. Included are favorites such as ‘Peace,’ ‘Queen Elizabeth,’ ‘Tropicana,’ ‘Mister Lincoln,’ ‘Europeana,’ ‘Double Delight,’ ‘Livin’ Easy,’ ‘Hot Cocoa,’ and



‘Knock Out.’ I’ll bet you grow three of these!

Class 11 is the **Queen of Show** class for hybrid teas. Other classes in this section go through all types of roses, each displayed one stem at a time. A rose that’s in the wrong class will be disqualified, so be sure you know what your rose is, officially.



Collections classes may be mixed varieties or all the same. Exhibition stage isn’t required for all of these, but judges will look more kindly on them if the roses are at this stage.

Special Classes are lots of fun. Bowls, English boxes, palettes, and frames allow you display roses without foliage – but you need fabulous blooms to make these classes look their best. When they call for multiple blooms, be sure the forms are the same, and the colors blend well.

Four special ways to exhibit roses [clockwise from upper left] – bowl, English box, artist’s palette, and in a frame.



The hi-lo matching rose class [left] will show a big rose and a little rose, same color and same form. Interesting! Fragrance is the public’s favorite, so be sure to enter your best.

Then there are classes for **Special Exhibitors**: novices have never won a blue ribbon in an ARS rose show; youth

are 18 or younger; and the judges have a special place to exhibit, too. All the other classes (except Section A) are open to everyone, whether they're a member or not. And you (but not the judges) can show here as well as in other classes.

We also have some **Special Challenge Classes** for mini and miniflora roses. These



require a 4" flat bowl (provided by the show) and some Oasis, to arrange at least 10 stems of roses – one calls for one-bloom-per-stem exhibition stage roses, the other allows variety of stages of openness, and both one-bloom

stems and sprays.

Oh, and there's one last class – **Name That Rose**. Here's your chance to try to find a name for that nameless rose, or to have fun stumping the judges.

Ten Must-Have Items For Your No-Frills, Inexpensive Rose Exhibitor's Kit

By Gary Griffin, from "Diary of a Roseaholic"

This is a basic no-frills rose exhibitor's kit. You can probably buy most of these items at the Dollar Store, if you don't already have them. Your total investment will be about \$10. Where else can you find this much entertainment and fun for \$10?

1. **A small plastic/metal box** to keep your tools in. A little fishing tackle or tool box works well for this and costs only a couple of bucks. Without this box someone will be borrowing your stuff for other things and then you won't have them when you need them.
2. **A couple of sharp pruners**, better yet one large size and a smaller one. (I have one specific **sharp pruners** for cutting my show roses; this is the only time these pruners are used). Then I know it does not get dull from day to day

deadheading chores, cutting wire, etc.

3. **A pair of cuticle scissors** for all the final cuts, touchups, and also for removing any unopened blooms (disbudding) that may still be on your show specimen.

4. **A good pair of tweezers**. This is for removing bad petals and other flaws on the bloom. They don't need to be the expensive scrapbooking type, just functional.

5. **A chunk of firm green Styrofoam** (not Oasis); this is to prop up your bloom in the vase so that it stays at the proper level. Sure, you can beg, borrow, or steal some at the show, but this way you won't need to. [GARS provides wedging material, but other shows may not. – Ed.]

6. **A supply of Q-Tips cotton swabs**, 100 will probably last you all season. These are used to open the bloom, if it is not at exhibition form. (Don't forget to remove them before you enter your rose; everybody forgets this at least once).

7. **A couple of good pens** [pencils work better – Ed.], which means one that will write even if it gets a little wet. There is nothing more frustrating than trying to fill out your entry tags and finding your pen refuses to write, forcing you to find one at the last minute.

8. **A group of smaller size address labels**. This can be a real timesaver, because you will have to put your name and address on the top and bottom of each entry tag.

9. **A pair or two of old nylons**. These are used to polish your leaves to a glossy sheen. You will be amazed at the difference just a few strokes make on the leaf with this miracle tool.

10. **Patience and excitement**. You will need the patience because the preparation period will fly by, and before you know it, you will be rushing to get everything done at the last minute.

Excitement because, how can you not get excited in this type of atmosphere?

Lastly, I want to tell you what I have always heard at every show. "All you need to do is bring one rose; that rose could very well end up being the best rose in the show. You won't know until you try." Good luck, and I'll see you at the rose show!

Adapted from the May 2007 issue of **Rose Scents**, the newsletter of the Milwaukee Rose Society, Jan Staedler, Editor.