

COSV PRINCIPLES OF JUDGING HANDBOOK

Large Flower Types

(The majority of the flowers should be over 100mm)

Valley Splash 'Awesome'



Blazing Fury 'Talk It Up'



John Wooden 'Princess'



Kimberly Winter 'Tee Pee'



Small Standard Types

(The majority of the flowers should be between 85mm to 100mm)

Valley Olympic 'Rose'



Jinjerra 'Desiree'



Anna Szabo 'Geyserland'



Sims Vision 'Barcelona'



Intermediate Types

(The majority of the flowers should be between 60 mm and 85 mm)

Legend Bearer 'Jayden'



One Tree Hill 'Beenak'



Miniature Types

(The majority of the flowers should be less than 60 mm)

Jessie Rose 'Kernot'



Dolly x Little Aussie



Tango Velvet 'Sheen'



Gentle Touch 'Bon Bon'



Idyllic Glamour 'Ern'



Doo Wop 'WooPie'



Where appearance, habit and/or parentage indicate a predominance of genes compatible with a specific type the outcome shall be considered and the cymbidium placed in the most appropriate class.

COSV PRINCIPLES OF JUDGING

PRINCIPLES OF JUDGING

- A.** The aim of COSV judging is to recognize and reward quality in Cymbidiums (or their culture, where applicable) in accordance with COSV judging philosophy. These principles simplify judging practice and should provide a uniform and credible approach, regardless of the Cymbidium type.
- B.** The approach to all judging is by **objective appreciation**. Appropriate values may be assigned to the various features of the flower and plant to aid this assessment. For training and future reference, **values** will be assigned to each of the following **features** for all Cymbidiums.
- C.** These **features** are :- **Shape and Substance, Colour and Texture, Habit and Arrangement and Size of Flower and Floriferousness of Inflorescence & Plant.**

D. Features and Their Evaluation

In those exhibits where the flower quality predominates, Large Flowered Type Cymbidiums & Small Flower Standard Type, but where the overall display is also important, values will be assigned to the following features in the ratio 30 : 30 : 10 : 30.

Small Flower Standard Type clones and hybrids will be considered where appearance, habit and parentage indicate a small standard size outcome.

In those exhibits where the overall display predominates, Intermediate Type and Miniature Type Cymbidiums, values will be assigned in the ratio 25 : 25 : 25 : 25.

- E.** The above **features** are defined as following :-

Shape and Substance (30/25): The flower should exhibit superior form and spatial arrangement. All shapes from circular in outline to those exhibiting characteristics of background species are acceptable. The flower should be zygomorphic; excessive hooding, cupping, furling, reflexing and twisting are undesirable unless they are natural features. The flowers should have sufficient substance to maintain its shape.

Colour and Texture (30/25):- Colour includes white and any other colour or combinations of colours. It should be clear, fresh and glistening. All markings and shadings should be evenly distributed and clearly defined. Flowers should be without major blemish.

Habit and Arrangement (10/25):- The stem should be sufficiently strong to support the inflorescence/s with minimal staking and tying; it should not be bent or twisted. The flowers should be evenly displayed with minimal overlapping and should preferably stand clear of the foliage. In general, only racemes with two-thirds of their flowers fully open are eligible for judging. The number of flowers should be commensurate with the maturity of the plant.

Size of Flower and Floriferousness of Inflorescence & Plant 30/25):- The size and number of flowers should be appropriate to the hybrid or species under consideration. The plant should be well presented. The floral display should be proportional to its size.

- F.** The available Quality awards are **First Class Certificate (FCC), Award of Merit (AM), Highly Commended Certificate (HCC), Certificate of Botanical Merit (CBM), Award of Quality (AQ).**

To receive a **FCC** an exhibit must receive at least 85%.

To receive an **AM** an exhibit must receive at least 80%.

To receive a **HCC** an exhibit must receive at least 75%.

A **CBM** is an award conferred only once to a species or natural hybrid. The plant should be healthy well established and the flowers should be appropriate to the hybrid or species under consideration. It is expected to be rare in cultivation.

An **AQ** is available for at least five (5) superior siblings of the one grex grown from a single seed capsule by the same grower and shown together; at least one should receive a quality award or Certificate of Excellence where a quality award is inappropriate due to flower type. (Appropriate C/E's would be for Distinctive Feature or Floral Display)

G. All plants, to be eligible for award judging, must have been owned and grown for a minimum of six (6) months by the exhibitor.

H. Certificates of Excellence for: - **a/ Outstanding Culture b/ Superior Floral Display c/ Distinctive Feature d/ Superior Flower Form**

Shall be available to recognise outstanding individual qualities in a *Cymbidium*.

To receive a Certificate for Outstanding Culture, an exhibit must have been owned and grown for at least two (2) years by the exhibitor.

I. All Cymbidiums will be eligible for award consideration. Cymbidiums will be judged according to the criteria described in the COSV judging philosophy. Parentage may be taken into account. Large Flowered Type Cymbidiums & Small Flower Standard Type Hybrid must have a minimum of seven (7) fully open flowers.

Extra classes such as Novelty etc. are the domain of the Show Schedule.

J. Reference to expert advisers regarding expectation for a hybrid, together with updates on recent breeding trends, will be encouraged. Reciprocal cooperation with interstate and overseas bodies regarding their awarded Cymbidiums will be sought.

K. Benchmark photograph slides, pictures or digital images will be required and used to establish a library that reflects the standards required for each award. Three (3) views; one each of the whole plant, a single flower and the raceme is required. These pictures will not represent the standard specifically, but will demonstrate the features that are appropriate to that standard.

JUDGING GUIDELINES

1. GENERAL

1a. Judging will conform to the Principles as defined in the **COSV Principles of Judging** and elsewhere in the **COSV Judging Handbook**. If it is decided that **COSV** guideline's prevents a just decision being made, an adjudicating panel comprising all Judges present will resolve the problem. The issue will then be discussed at the next panel meeting and the appropriate action taken.

1b. In general, only racemes with two-thirds of their flowers fully open are eligible for judging. The number of flowers should be commensurate with the maturity of the plant. Large Flowered Type Cymbidiums & Small Flower Standard Type Hybrid must have a minimum of seven (7) fully open flowers.

1c. Seedling: is the whole plant raised from seed, which has not been divided, with no leads removed for cloning purposes and is being shown for the first time, at any show/meeting under any judging system. It should be an immature plant. It would be expected to produce a representative flowering in a pot no larger than 200mm. (eight (8) inches). Where appearance, habit and/or parentage indicate a predominance of genes compatible with a specific type the outcome shall be considered and the cymbidium placed in the most appropriate class. For show purposes the plant maintains its seedling status for the current flowering season. Parentage should be considered in the assessment of which size class is appropriate for flowers presented on obviously immature plants. If it could reasonably be assumed that given a plants parentage and the immature nature of the plant, that future flowerings on a mature plant would give a different and more consistent flower size outcome, then that likelihood should be taken into account when judging the exhibit.

At shows the plant name label should carry the names of the parents use in the seedling cross.

1d. Tying back and/or the excessive removal or the excessive cutting of leaves on a plant for the purposes of better display will be penalized. The excessive support of a raceme may be penalized.

1e. The Judging Panel shall report to the Show Marshal any plant that it believes to be virused or otherwise diseased. The Show Marshal shall take the appropriate action.

2. JUDGING FOR AWARDS AND SHOW JUDGING

2a. Judging should commence at the time in the Show Scheduled. All persons not involved in the judging should be excluded from the display area under control of the Show Marshal during judging.

2b. The Registrar or his nominee will allocate the judging duties to the Judges present. The name of the team leader will be printed on the result sheets for each class so that any queries by the Registrar or Show Marshal can be speedily resolved with the leader concerned.

2c. Judging will conform to the Show Schedule and to the Principles as defined in the **COSV Principles of Judging** and elsewhere in the **COSV Judging Handbook**. The show schedule will take precedence when a particular schedule item conflicts with **COSV** guidelines.

2d. Plants and/or cut stems nominated for consideration for champions should be removed from the display and tabled together for closer examination and comparison. All Cymbidiums are eligible for consideration. The winners will be determined by ballot of the judges present. The Registrar or his nominee will have the casting vote, if necessary.

2e. Plants and/or cut stems wrongly notified or not notified when eligible for a notifiable class may not be judged, depending upon instructions from the Show Marshal.

2f. Inflorescences with a flower missing, pollinated, structurally deformed or severely damaged may be penalized. Inflorescences with missing or blackened pollen caps may be penalized. The question of whether plants and/or cut stems will be penalized and whether defects are properly identified as such will be resolved by Panel vote.

2g. Definition of Colour Break is: - "random areas of colour, or lack of colour, which appears irregularly on some segments of a flower or flowers". The question of whether plants and/or cut stems will be penalized for colour break, and whether this defect is properly identified as such, will be resolved by Panel vote as matters arise during the judging at a show or monthly meetings.

2h. All plant and/or cut stems names, clones & seedlings, must be as registered with the Royal Horticultural Society. Owner required to prove any recent registration if requested.

2i. In general, only racemes with two-thirds of their flowers fully open are eligible for judging. The number of flowers should be commensurate with the maturity of the plant.

2j. All plants exhibited should be presented in a healthy and clean condition. They should be without evidence of excessive removal, tying back, or cutting of leaves. The excessive support of racemes or excessive manipulation of flowers will be penalized.

2k. All plants should be displayed in show condition. That is with the removal of sheaths, old leaves, husks, etcetera with care given to the cleanliness of plants. Whether the plant is in show condition will be identified and resolved by Panel vote as matters arise during the judging at shows or monthly meetings and be realistically applied.

2l. The Champions should have a balance between superior flower form and overall floral display.

2m. All plant names, clones or seedlings, must be as registered with the Royal Horticultural Society.

CYMBIDIUM CLASSIFICATION AND DEFINITIONS

Cymbidiums should be subdivided into the following classes:-

1. *Large-Flower Type: The majority of the flowers should be over 100 mm (at the widest point measured horizontally). Large Flowered Type Cymbidiums must have a minimum of seven (7) fully open flowers and should show characteristics of the type.
2. *Small Flower Standard Type: The majority of the flowers should be between 85mm to 100mm (at the widest point measured horizontally) and should show characteristics of the type. Small Flower Standard Type clones or hybrids will be considered where appearance, habit and/or parentage indicate a small standard size outcome.
3. *Intermediate Type: The majority of the flowers should be between 60 mm and 85 mm (at the widest point measured horizontally) and should show characteristics of the type. Intermediate Type clones or hybrids will be considered where appearance, habit and/or parentage indicate an intermediate outcome.
4. *Miniature Type: The majority of the flowers should be less than 60 mm (at the widest point measured Horizontally) and should show characteristics of the type. Miniature Type clones or hybrids will be considered where appearance, habit and/or parentage indicate a miniature outcome.

*Where appearance, habit and/or parentage indicate a predominance of genes compatible with a specific type the outcome shall be considered and the cymbidium placed in the most appropriate class.

5. **Species:** The plants in this category are being judged for their characteristics and traits as species. There are over 50 known cymbidium species and their varieties, with many more synonyms in the species category. Cymbidium judges are encouraged to gain a working knowledge of the main common species exhibited on the show bench. They should be able to recognise superior shape, colour, size and floriferousness.

When judging all types a sight evaluation, and not a ruler, should determine the flower type.

Seedling: is the whole plant raised from seed, which has not been divided, with no leads removed for cloning purposes and is being shown for the first time, at any show/meeting under any judging system. It should be an immature plant. It would be expected to produce a representative flowering in a pot no larger than 200mm. (eight (8) inches). Where appearance, habit and/or parentage indicate a predominance of genes compatible with a specific type the outcome shall be considered and the cymbidium placed in the most appropriate class. For show purposes the plant maintains its seedling status for the current flowering season. Parentage should be considered in the assessment of which size class is appropriate for flowers presented on obviously immature plants. If it could reasonably be assumed that given a plants parentage and the immature nature of the plant, that future flowerings on a mature plant would give a different and more consistent flower size outcome, then that likelihood should be taken into account when judging the exhibit. At monthly meetings and shows the plant name label should carry the names of the parents use in the seedling cross.

Novelty Cymbidium: is defined as one of the following type, where the **dominant feature** of each type will be:

a) peloric, b) spotted, c) striped, d) feathered or e) variegated flowers.

Pastel: is essentially a single even, soft, or pale colouring, generally consistent in tone over the surface of both sepals and petals.

Blush/Splash Petal: This applies to all variations of Pink & Red colour overlay in the sepals and petals of *Cymbidium* flowers (a typical example being *Cym.* Valley Splash ‘Awesome’), **excluding** the novelty (as above) and combinations of colours in flowers such as *Cym.* Cronulla ‘The Khan’

Definition of Colour Break is: - “random areas of colour, or lack of colour, which appears irregularly on some segments of a flower or flowers”. The question of whether plants and/or cut stems will be penalized for colour break, and whether this defect is properly identified as such, will be resolved by Panel vote as matters arise during the judging at a show or monthly meeting.

3. JUDGING AT MONTHLY MEETINGS

- 3a. The Registrar or his nominee will allocate judging duties to the Judges present.
- 3b. Before the commencement of judging, Associate Judges should review the benched plants and move them into correct classes, if necessary.
- 3c. Judging will be carried out in accordance with the requirements of the Society.
- 3d. Judging will conform to the Principles as defined in the **COSV Principles of Judging** and elsewhere in the **COSV Handbook of Judging**.
- 3e. At monthly meetings a quality Cymbidium with a flower missing or damaged may be eligible for a prize, provided that this defect does not detract significantly from the appearance.
- 3f. Where there are three or more plants (of reasonable quality) of one type benched at a monthly meeting, the Judges at their discretion may create a separate class for them.
- 3g. The Judges vote should be granted to the Cymbidium that is closest to award quality.
- 3h. Plants eligible for awards at monthly meetings will be judged for COSV awards & Certificates first. If a plant is eligible for an award under another judging system, this will be done at the end of COSV judging. There is a qualifying criterion for allowing other awards granted at the COSV. The award granted must be the equivalent to the COSV award.

4. JUDGING FOR AWARDS

- 4a. COSV grants the following awards and certificates to acknowledge excellence:
 - a) The available quality awards are **First Class Certificate (FCC), Award of Merit (AM), Highly Commended Certificate (HCC)**.
 - b) **Certificate of Botanical Merit (CBM) & Award of Quality (AQ)**
 - c) Certificates of Excellence for: - **a/ Outstanding Culture b/ Superior Floral Display c/ Distinctive Feature d/ Superior Flower Form**

These certificates shall be available to recognise outstanding individual qualities and achievements in a *Cymbidium* or group of *Cymbidiums*.
- 4b. Award judging will generally be available at cymbidium clubs shows, monthly meetings and other COSV approved events. Decisions on whether or not a particular award is granted are to be determined by the majority vote of Judges present, provided that at least five (5) Judges are in favour of the award being granted. If the average score of all the Judges present (except the Panel Leader) is less than the award so voted, the lowest points possible to receive the award shall be deemed the average. The Panel leader shall abstain from voting unless required to complete the quorum or provide the casting vote.

Examples: (1) 6 Judges for HCC, 4 for AM; Average, 80.1%. Adjustment: HCC, 79.9%.
(2) 6 Judges for AM, 4 for HCC; Average, 79.9%. Adjustment: AM, 80.0%.
- 4c. For a grower to be awarded a Certificate of Excellence for Culture, his or her plant must be of exceptional standard in every respect, with foliage, floriferousness and general culture being of principal importance. It must be a single plant, owned and grown by the exhibitor for a period of not less than two years.
- 4d. Where insufficient Judges are present to grant an award and the Cymbidium is considered to be of award quality, the Registrar must be notified. He or she will then arrange for a quorum to review the plant. As a matter of courtesy, the Registrar or his/her deputy should be informed of any plant likely to be submitted for an award.
- 4e. An owner may contact the Registrar or his/her deputy to initiate award procedures. Where judges consider any *Cymbidium* to be of award standard, they may approach the owner for permission to present it to the panel for award judging. This applies to cymbidiums viewed privately, as well as at monthly meetings or shows.

- 4f. A plant submitted for an award shall be judged.
- 4g. If it is decided that a plant is not to be awarded, the owner should be notified, preferably with an explanation of why the plant did not receive an award.
- 4h. For a *Cymbidium* to be awarded it must be approved by at least half of the Judges officiating, with a minimum of five granting the award.
- 4i. Where a plant has been granted a COSV award and that plant is eligible for an award under another judging system; the plant must be awarded the equivalent award as it received at the COSV meeting, show or other COSV event. If the plant does not receive the equivalent award, the COSV will not recognize that award and the plant should be taken elsewhere to get its award under the other judging system.
- 4j. The Registrar or his nominee will record all COSV Awards in a Register. A summary of the year's awards will accompany the Registrar's annual report.
- 4k. All plants, to be eligible for award judging, must have been owned and grown for a minimum of six (6) months by the exhibitor.

5. JUDGING SPECIES

General Statement:- This standard lists those considerations under which any *Cymbidium* species will be assessed for judging. The plants in this category are being judged against known standards for the species. The aim is to encourage the awarding of outstanding individual species. There are over 50 known cymbidium species and their varieties, with many more synonyms in the species category. *Cymbidium* judges are encouraged to gain a working knowledge of the main common species exhibited on the show bench. They should be able to recognise superior shape, colour, size and floriferousness.

5a. Shape and Substance:- The flower should exhibit superior form and spatial arrangement. All shapes are acceptable. Flowers should be symmetrical; excessive hooding, cupping, furling, and twisting are undesirable unless they are natural features. The flowers should have sufficient substance to maintain their shape.

5b. Colour and Texture:- Colour or combinations of colour must be bright clear, fresh and glistening. All markings and shadings should be evenly distributed and clearly defined. Flowers should be without major blemish. Flower segments should be free of any sign of bruising.

5c. Habit and Arrangement: - Staking and other forms of raceme support are permitted. The raceme should be strong enough to support the inflorescence with minimal staking and tying. The raceme should be clear of the foliage and it should not be bent or twisted. No manipulation of any part of the flower is permitted. In general, only racemes with two-thirds of their flowers fully open are eligible for judging.

5d. Size of Flower and Floriferousness of Inflorescence & Plant:- The size and number of flowers should be appropriate to the species under consideration. The plant should be well presented. The floral display should be proportional to its size. The number of flowers should be commensurate with the maturity of the plant. The plant should exhibit strong growth characteristics and be well-established.



6. JUDGING COMMERCIAL POT PLANT TYPES

General Statement. This standard is for use when judging the suitability of a plant as a commercial pot plant variety. The standard lists those considerations under which any Cymbidium will be assessed for judging.

- 6a. Pot Size:** - The plant should be presented in a pot no larger than 200 mm in diameter.
- 6b. Growth:** - The plant must exhibit fast growth characteristics. Multiple growths emerging from green bulbs carrying 1 or more racemes are desirable. Only established plants will be judged.
- 6c. Foliage:** - The foliage should preferably be compact and commensurate with the plants floral display. It should be unblemished, appealing to the eye and help to form a well-balanced plant.
- 6d. Floriferousness:** - The plant must exhibit very free flowering characteristics, preferably multiple spiking from the majority of its mature green bulbs.
- 6e. Colour and Texture:** - Colour and texture are critical factors for a commercial pot plant type Cymbidium. Colour or combinations of colour must be bright, clear, fresh and glistening. Solid colours, combinations of colour, spots and striping are all desirable attributes of the flower, provided that they add to the appeal or impact of the flower. The labellum and its colour & size should add to the overall beauty of the flower. Flowers should be without major blemish.
- 6f. Raceme:** - Racemes should be upright, staking and support is permitted. The raceme should be strong enough to support itself; soft spikes are not a desirable attribute. The excessive support of a raceme may be penalized. Excessively long racemes are to be avoided because of transport difficulties. The size and number of flowers is not a major consideration
- 6g. Habit and Arrangement of Flowers:** - Flowers should be well arranged and not overly spaced. Bunching, while not desirable, will not be treated as a major defect provided the overall raceme presents an attractive display.
- 6h. Shape and Substance:** - For commercial pot plant type Cymbidiums shape is not an over-riding characteristic. Flowers should still be symmetrical with reasonable size to the flower segment. The flowers should have sufficient substance to maintain its shape and to allow the flower to display itself correctly.
- 6i. Floral Display:** - The floral display must be impressive and commensurate with the physical size of the plant. The overall balance between plant and overall floral display should be achieved.



7. JUDGING COMMERCIAL CUT FLOWER TYPE

General Statement. This standard is for use when judging the suitability of a plant as a commercial Cut Flower variety. The standard makes no assumption as to preferred colour or to the size of the flowers. The standard relates primarily to the diverse raceme markets available. The standard lists those considerations under which any Cymbidium will be assessed for judging. The plants in this category are being judged for their attributes as a cut flower variety, not their show-bench perfection.

7a. Growth: - The plant should exhibit strong growth characteristics with most of the mature bulbs showing evidence of more than one growth.

7b. Floriferousness: - Each mature bulb of the plant should have flowered at least once during its development either as a growth or as a green bulb. Judges have the discretion of allowing multiple spiking characteristics to compensate for the occasional failure of a bulb to spike. It should be remembered that being a commercial section, maximum commercial viability should be the main focus of judging. Therefore, emphasis should be placed on strong growth and flower productivity.

7c. Habit and Arrangement: - The raceme must be basically upright and straight with the flowers well displayed without undue bunching or spacing. Staking and other forms of raceme support are permitted. The raceme should be strong enough to display itself unaided. The raceme should be clear of the foliage and it should not be bent or twisted.
No manipulation of any part of the flower is permitted.

7d. Colour and Texture: - The flower may be any colour or combination of colours. It should be attractive, clear and glistening.

7e. Shape and Substance: - Flowers should still be symmetrical with reasonable size to the flower segment. Preferably the flower should be slightly cupped to facilitate packing methods. The flowers should have sufficient substance to maintain its shape and to allow it to display correctly without undue furling, twisting or collapsing. Preferably the petals should not be thin at their edges and should project slightly forward to protect them from rubbing against the sepals during shipping. Flower segments should be free of any sign of bruising.



8. DISPLAY JUDGING

General Statement

Displays are to be judged as follows:-

Presentation & Originality

Quality and Condition of Plants and /or Cut Stems

Overall Appearance

The COSV encourages innovative and imaginative use of cymbidiums to create a pleasing display. Well-grown plants and/or cut stems, well-flowered and presented are of major importance.

A display is a floral arrangement of *Cymbidium* plants and/or cut stems, which may be supplemented with foliage plants or other non-flowering material.

Theme/Artistic Display: a theme/artistic display is an arrangement of cymbidiums containing accessories that convey a message. The quality of the cymbidiums on display and the effectiveness of the theme in conveying its message should be given equal consideration by the Judges.

8a. Presentation and Originality of Design: A display should be well presented, using first class techniques, innovative ideas with maximum attention to detail. The display should be well presented from all possible viewing angles. Any non-*Cymbidium* plants, none to be flowering, and props used in the display should be in first class condition and should enhance the display. The display should incorporate features, which provide a focus on outstanding parts of the display. Colours used should be pleasing to the eye, and the use of all possible colours available is encouraged, unless it is not possible due to the use of a special theme which requires a special palette of colours. The use of a **theme/artistic**, though not mandatory, is to be favourably looked upon by the judges, but it must be tasteful and not offensive or outrageous. Overall the display should be well planned, well balanced, beautifully presented and finished.

8b. Quality & Condition of Plants and/or Cut Stems: All plants and/or cut stems should be grown and displayed to perfection. The latest champion show-bench *Cymbidiums* need not necessarily be used. A display should present superbly grown and good quality plants and/or cut stems. All plants and/or cut stems displayed should be in perfect condition, with no damage or deformity visible on the flowers. Quality is a measure of the overall standard and condition of all plants and/or cut stems in the display.

8c. Overall Appearance: The display should be eye catching and striking with the overall effect being memorable. The labels should accurately identify the plants and/or cut stems and be legible from the front of the display, with out being obtrusive.

