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Essex Dahlia Society

Plant Sale, Saturday 18th May 2024 2.00-4.00pm
Main Hall, Writtle University College

56th Annual Show: Sunday 25th August 2023 2.00-4.00pm
In Writtle University College,

For further details, contact: John Cullen, tel: 01245 264183

GUIDANCE FOR THE DAHLIA CUTTING CHALLENGE for Showing in the Autumn Show

1. Aspect: Full sun or partial shade – best is a sheltered position.
2. Soil: Good fertile humus-rich, which is well-drained – most garden soils.
3. Support: 3 bamboo canes placed around the plant (4ft canes best) tied with soft string to form a cage.
4. Watering: Keep plants moist – add a mulch of straw or garden material.
5. Feeding: A general-purpose fertiliser added two weeks before planting – then a general-purpose liquid feed at 2-3 week intervals (Chempack range) until buds form, then a tomato feed to help flowering.
6. Stopping: Remove growing tip in June, then in July remove growing tips of new shoots.
7. Debranching: Remove only wing buds. These are the shoots nearest the main bud you want to flower – this will give you a nice stem to place in the vase.
8. Pests: Aphids will attack new soft shoots – spray with insecticide or squash with your fingers and hose off;
Earwigs: Place a small section of hose-pipe flat on the ground near plants and every 3-4 days, place the hose over a bucket of water and with a split cane poke them out;
Slugs: Only a problem when plants are first planted out. Use a very small amount of pellets or try the beer method – place an old plastic pot half-filled with beer in the soil. Empty as soon as you can.

We hope to see you at our Essex Annual Dahlia Show on Sunday 25 August 2024.
Good Luck. John, Essex Dahlia Society

AUTUMN SHOW SCHEDULE

SECTION ONE – FLOWERS

SECTION A

(To be Judged by National Dahlia Society Rules)

Dahlias - All Dahlias to be named. Classes 101-110 may be any variety or varieties

- 101 Three Medium blooms any variety
- 102 Three Small blooms any variety
- 103 Three Miniature blooms ball or decorative
- 104 Three Miniature blooms cactus or semi-cactus
- 105 Three blooms pompons
- 106 Three blooms any other classification
- 107 One bloom giant or large – any variety
- 108 One bloom medium – any variety
- 109 One bloom small – any variety
- 110 One bloom miniature – any variety

SECTION B

(Not judged to National Dahlia Society Rules – Dahlias do not have to be named)

- 111 One bloom grown from a cutting provided
- 112 One blooms any type and variety
- 113 Three blooms any type or variety
- 114 Bowl of Dahlias, no fewer than 6 blooms, any foliage - for effect. Please provide your own bowl, 30cm diameter max.
- 115 One Dahlia head in a saucer

Other Plants and Flowers

- 116 A single spray of Chrysanthemums grown from cutting provided
- 117 Three sprays of Chrysanthemums, any cultivar(s)
- 118 Three blooms of Chrysanthemums, any cultivar(s)
- 119 One stem of Gladiolus
- 120 One specimen Flowering or Fruiting Plant (not Fuchsia or Orchid)
- 121 One specimen Foliage Plant
- 122 One specimen Succulent
- 123 Vase of three Stems of Zinnia, one variety
- 124 Vase of six stems of Cosmos, one variety
- 125 Vase of three Annual Asters, one variety
- 126 Vase of three stems of flowering shrubs – one or more varieties
- 127 Vase of Michaelmas Daisies/Perennial Asters
- 128 Penstemon – Three stems, one or more varieties
- 129 One Rose with own foliage
- 130 Vase of three Roses, one or more varieties
- 131 Vase of three stems of cluster flower Roses
- 132 Vase of Foliage - may include grasses, seed-heads, berries etc

- 133 Vase of Three stems of Perennials, one stem each variety
- 134 Vase of Mixed flowers - excluding Dahlias, Chrysanthemums and Zinnias
- 135 One Flower (single bloom) and one Vegetable
- 136 One Flower (single bloom) and one Fruit

Note: All pot plants: Container not to exceed 25cm diameter

Walter Harris Challenge Cup & £5 cash prize for highest aggregate in Section One excluding Dahlias

R W Petch Cup & £5 cash prize for competitor gaining highest points in Dahlias (classes 101-115)

Harry Jones Memorial Trophy & £5 cash prize for winner of Class 116

Nick Turner Cup & £5 cash prize for winner of Class 111

SECTION TWO - FRUIT & VEGETABLES

- 201 Four Apples (Dessert)
- 202 Four Apples (Cooking)
- 203 Three Carrots, long pointed - leaf stalks cut to approx. 5cm
- 204 Three Carrots, stump rooted - leaf stalks cut to approx. 5cm
- 205 Three Leeks
- 206 Two Parsnips - leaf stalks cut to approx. 5cm
- 207 Dish of 4 medium-sized Tomatoes - to be shown with stalks (approx. 60mm dia.)
- 208 Dish of 6 small fruited Tomatoes
- 209 Three Onions over 250g
- 210 Three Onions 250g or under
- 211 Six Spring Onions (green salad), with leaves and roots
- 212 Dish of Runner Beans, in fresh condition - 6 pods
- 213 One Autumn Cabbage, with or without stalk
- 214 Three White Potatoes, 1 variety
- 215 Three Coloured Potatoes, 1 variety
- 216 Six Shallots for pickling, not over 3cm diameter
- 217 Six Shallots - exhibition
- 218 One Winter Squash (Not pumpkin or marrow)
- 219 Two cobs of Sweet Corn
- 220 3 Beetroot, round, approx. 60-75mm diameter, foliage cut to approx. 75mm
- 221 3 Chillies, grown from a plant provided
- 222 Any other Vegetable(s) not in Schedule
- 223 Dish of Raspberries – 10 fruits with stalks
- 224 Any other Fruit not in Schedule
- 225 The most curiously shaped Vegetable/Fruit
- 226 Longest Runner Bean (in green condition)
- 227 Heaviest Onion
- 228 Heaviest Potato

- 229 Heaviest Tomato
- 230 Heaviest Marrow
- 231 Longest Carrot
- 232 Biggest Pumpkin
- 233 A selection of 5 different vegetables, space not to exceed 77 x 61cm.*
(Chosen from classes 203-221 incl. – quantities as listed)
- 234 A tray of 3 Vegetables, displayed within the confines of a tray 45 x 30cm
Chosen from 3 Potatoes, 3 medium Tomatoes (approx. 60mm dia.), 6
Beans, 3 Beetroot and 3 Carrots (without top foliage)

*** Double points awarded for class 233 and 234**

Bill Hayden Challenge Cup & £5 cash prize for highest aggregate in Section Two

BCGS £5 voucher for winner of Class 221

BCGS £5 voucher for winner of Class 233

BCGS £5 voucher for winner of Class 234

SECTION THREE – MASTER GARDENERS

- 301 The Society Master Gardeners Competition:
Vase of flowers. Any one of the following:- 3 Dahlias, 2 Gladioli, 3
 Chrysanthemums, 5 Perennials (any variety or varieties) **AND**
Vegetables. Any three of the following:- 6 Runner Beans, 2 Cabbages, 1
 Cauliflower, 3 Carrots, 3 Onions, 3 Courgettes, 5 Potatoes (one variety), 5
 Tomatoes (approx. 60mm
 dia., one variety)

The Society Master Gardeners Trophy & £5 cash prize will be awarded to the winner of Class 301

SECTION FOUR – FLORAL & VEGETABLE ARRANGEMENTS

- 401 A Floral and/or Vegetable Arrangement with accessories suitable for a
Wedding table decoration (**Maximum size 60cm square**)
- 402 A small Posy (**maximum diameter of 15cm**)

The Society Challenge Cup & £5 cash prize for the best Floral/Vegetable Arrangement in Section Four

SECTION FIVE - COOKERY & PRESERVES (See the GUIDE TO EXHIBITORS on Pages 9/10)

Cookery

- 501 Six decorated Cup Cakes
- 502 Apple Pie cooked on a deep pie dish, with a rim, with pastry on top only
- 503 Courgette and Cheese Flan - short crust pastry
- 504 Six seeded Rolls – recipe provided
- 505 Victoria Sandwich
- 506 Swiss Roll
- 507 Six Eccles Cakes (Flakey Pastry)
- 508 Six Oat Crunchies – recipe provided

Preserves

- | | |
|-----|---------------------------------|
| 509 | One jar Stone Fruit Jam |
| 510 | One jar of any other Jam |
| 511 | One jar of fruit Jelly |
| 512 | One jar Pickled Onions/Shallots |
| 513 | One jar Chutney |
| 514 | One jar Pickles |

Trading Centre Cup & £5 cash prize for highest aggregate in Section Five

SECTION SIX – PHOTOGRAPHY

- | | | |
|-----|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| 601 | Village Fete | All photographs to be unframed, |
| 602 | Misery | max size 8"x 6" (20cm x 15cm). |
| 603 | Circles | Mounts must not protrude more |
| 604 | A Day at the Beach | than ½" (1.25cm) from edge of |
| 605 | A Black and White | photograph. |
| | Photo – any subject | |

** All photograph subjects must be original

Chairman's Challenge Trophy & £5 cash prize for highest aggregate in Section Six

SECTION SEVEN – CHILDREN/YOUNG GARDENERS' CLASSES

(Age up to 16 inclusive)

- | | |
|-----|---|
| 701 | Leaf Print picture |
| 702 | Photograph – a tree |
| 703 | Four Gingerbread Figures - <i>Recipe provided</i> |
| 704 | A Christmas gift tag |
| 705 | A collage Robot |
| 706 | A Halloween decoration |

The Broomfield Cottage Gardeners' Cup for the highest aggregate in Section Seven
(awarded on the discretion of the Show Secretaries)

Cash Prize: Children's Classes only: 1st = £3.00

SECTION EIGHT – CRAFT

- | | |
|-----|--|
| 801 | A computer generated Poster – The Summer Flower Show |
| 802 | A Christmas Tree decoration |
| 803 | A decorated bottle – plastic or glass |
| 804 | A hand knitted item of clothing |
| 805 | Pressed Flower Picture |
| 806 | A hand made Christmas card – max size A5 |
| 807 | An upcycled item |
| 808 | Any item of handicraft not listed. |

*Maximum size for class 801 shall be 20" x 16" (50cm x 40cm)

Trading Centre Cup for Autumn Craft & £5 prize – for the highest aggregate in Section 8. **The Ken Searles Cup & £5 prize** for the member gaining highest aggregate in Show.



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