



New Hampshire Orchid Society

Show Table Guidelines

One of the major attractions at our meetings, for both beginners and advanced growers, is the Show Table. Each month members bring orchids in flower for display on the Show Table. Rarely does the table have less than thirty plants, and twice the number is common. It's a chance to see a wide variety of species and hybrids, to hear others comment on culture, and to ask questions about specific plants.

The Show Table provides members with:

- Exposure to a broader range of genera and species than they are likely to come across.
- The opportunity to learn about growing methods that other members use.
- A chance to show what they have accomplished, regardless of experience and growing conditions, and to be recognized for their efforts.

Specimens on display are “ribbon judged” by a team of members (chosen by the Show Table Chairperson). Separate standards are used for the Hobbyist and more accomplished growers. The judges also consider the growth environment (greenhouse vs. windowsills, under lights, or solarium of the orchids on display).

At the September meeting, the Hobbyist who has accumulated the highest number of points from the preceding year “graduates” to the advanced group. The Advanced Grower with the highest number of points for the preceding year “graduates” to the expert group.

Members like you do the judging! NHOS encourages all members to bring in your plants and to award as many ribbons as possible.

Show table guidelines are provided below:

- Judging starts at 11:00 AM, unless otherwise noted in the newsletter.
- Judges cannot judge their own entries.

- All plants must be in bloom.
- An unnamed plant (no-id) is not eligible for a blue ribbon (first), it can be eligible for a second or a third-place award.
- Members must have owned and grown plants submitted for ribbon judging for at least 6 months. Plants owned for less than six months can still be brought in to show; but it must be noted on the entry slip “do not judge”.
- Foliage must be clean, free of spray residue, pests and disease.
- All plants must have a completed entry slip (Hobbyist is green, Advanced is blue) to be considered for judging.

The New Hampshire Orchid Society Show Table is divided into three separate classes as follows:

A. Hobbyist Grower Table

A Hobbyist is any member, beginner, or intermediate grower having one or many plants, growing in the home, on a windowsill or in a greenhouse on a limited scale, non-commercially. These plants are judged according to existing standards for judging, which are based upon the aesthetic (visual appeal) of each plant compared to others of its type being shown at each meeting (such as Cymbidium, Phalaenopsis and Cattleya alliances, etc.). Plants not fitting into designated categories are placed into “Miscellaneous”. At the discretion of the judges, more than one first, second or third place ribbon can be awarded in each category, (first/blue/3 points, second/red/2 points, third/yellow/1 point). Plants deemed worthy can be awarded a Growers’ Commendation Ribbon (green/1 additional point). Scored points are tallied at year-end, beginning with the September meeting and ending at the following August meeting. The Dick Valentine Hobbyist Award is given to the person(s) who receive the highest total. This person(s) then advances to the Advanced Grower’s Table. Orchids that are in flower can be displayed one month if they are still in flower the next month, they are not allowed to be re-submitted for judging but can be re-submitted for judging the following month if still in bloom (i.e., one month on, one month off, one month on).

B. Advanced Grower Table

An Advanced Grower is any member who has earned the Dick Valentine Hobbyist Award. A member can also be recognized as an Advanced Grower by recommendation of the Show Table Committee to the Board of Directors for a majority vote. The Board, before voting, considers factors including, but not limited to: length of time growing

orchids, number of plants, awards, previous presentation, etc. A plant exhibited is judged individually on its merits using the following criteria:

- Flower Merit: Quality, quantity, visual impact, etc.
- Horticultural Merit: Attractiveness of the plant difficulty of culture, etc.
- Botanical Merit: Uniqueness, rarity, etc.

There are no genus categories or other divisions on the Advanced Growers Table. Plants deemed worthy are awarded a Growers' Commendation Ribbon (Green – 1 point). There are no limitations on the issuance of ribbons by the judges. The judges can issue a ribbon to all plants, or none, as they see fit, based on criteria outlined above. Scored points are tallied at year-end, beginning with the September meeting and ending at the following August meeting. The Sawyer Family Advanced Grower Award is given to the person(s) who received the highest total. This person(s) then advances to the Expert Grower's Table. Orchids that are in flower can be displayed one month if they are still in flower the next month, they are not allowed to be re-submitted for judging but can be re-submitted for judging the following month if still in bloom (i.e., one month on, one month off, one month on).

C. Expert Grower Table

An Expert Grower is any member who:

- Grows orchids commercially or has done so
- Is an accredited judge
- Has earned the Advanced award
- Has been placed in the Expert Grower category by recommendation of the Show Table Committee or to the Board of Directors for a majority vote. The Board, before voting considers factors including, but not limited to: length of time growing orchids, number of plants, awards, previous presentations, etc. Expert growers' plants are judged and awarded a Growers' Commendation Ribbon (Green – 1 point) using the same criteria as those on the advanced Grower's Table. At this time there is no award at year-end for accumulation of the most points
- Orchids that are in flower can be displayed one month if they are still in flower the next month, they are not allowed to be re-submitted for judging but

can be re-submitted for judging the following month if still in bloom (i.e., one month on, one month off, one month on).

The results of the judging for all grower categories are reported in the monthly newsletter and on the NHOS website (www.nhorchids.org).

Special Note:

Requirements for advancement from Hobbyist to Advanced were updated on January 2022:

At the January 2022 Board Meeting Chuck Wingate, Show Table Chair, met with the Board to discuss the points needed for Hobbyist to proceed into the Advanced Category. It was determined that 50-points would be needed to advance. Points received from Cultural awards would carry over from year to year but points received from placing 1-3 would revert back to zero at the beginning of the fiscal year if the prerequisite 50-point total had not been reached. If a person in Hobbyist received the prerequisite 50-points and accumulated 25 Cultural awards, they must remain in Advanced Category for 1 year before moving into Expert (25 cultural awards are needed to move from Advanced into Expert).