

The Cymbidium Orchid Club of South Australia

Pot plant Judging Criteria

Plants are to be judged by appreciation, by a very experienced pot plant grower, not the club judging panel.

Overall balance of the plant - that is foliage & flowers is very important

Below is a list of required characteristics

1. Grow quickly - (very important) – general appearance of the plant is good indicator.
2. Should flower profusely on first flowering in a 7 inch (175mm) pot (or smaller) - (very important). An 8 inch pot is acceptable but much less desirable. Miniatures should flower profusely in a much smaller pot, (5 or 6 inch size).
3. The plant should regularly and reliably perform well in varying growing conditions
4. Colour of the flowers should be bright and attractive
5. Flower spikes should be naturally upright and preferably self supporting
6. Foliage should be attractive and not too big or small. Poor leaf colour is undesirable
7. Flower spikes should be no longer than 750mm
8. The plant should be pest and disease resistant
9. Flowers and spike should be robust and not likely to be easily damaged in shipping
10. Beautiful perfume can be an advantage, but some perfumes are not liked by everybody.
11. The odd marked or damaged flower can be tolerated, especially if they are in profusion. However, no marked or damaged flowers, is preferred.
12. Cascading plants must be able to be transported to market, using conventional shipping methods (plant sleeve & box)
13. Significant numbers of flowers may be still in bud, but it is necessary be confident that most buds will be in full bloom at the same time.

Note that the shape of the flower is not an important characteristic, but many good showbench orchids, with good shape, would perform well as pot plants, but must show the above good characteristics.

For the Spring show, there are prizes for exclusive & non exclusive varieties (to encourage development of new varieties)

An exclusive variety is one which the grower owns, or controls **all of the plants** in existence. It could be a first flowering seedling (never before divided), it could be a plant which the grower owns, and has 2, 3 or more divisions in their possession, or in the care of a very trusted friend. It could be a plant which has been cloned, but not yet released.

A non exclusive variety is one which is owned by more than one independent grower. It could be a plant purchased from a commercial grower or friend. For example it could be any of the following cloned varieties, which are readily available from many sources Valley Vampire "Blood", Valley Regent "Reggae", One Tree Hill "Doris", Red Nelly "Purple Satin" etc, or a division of a plant, gotten somehow from a friend or nursery.

There will be some decisions, which may surprise growers who do not understand what constitutes a good or great pot plant. Please be patient and be prepared to learn quickly. For example, known poor performing varieties are unlikely to be considered, even if the plant displayed looks great. Growers may be asked to provide information about how a plant grows, and what preparation was required to get the plant into show condition. Please be honest in what you tell the judge, but information supplied will be taken on trust. Incorrect information will be bad for all concerned. All the characteristics listed above may not necessarily be met, but the plant exhibited, could still be a good pot plant.

Graham Morris
The Cymbidium Orchid Club of South Australia