

For those of you new to lily showing, I have copied an article from the Alberta Newsletter *The Bulblet*. It was written by Allan Daku, who is a member of the Alberta Society.

Grooming and Staging Lilies for Exhibition

- A. Selecting the Perfect Stem
 1. In the garden, choose stems typical of the clone.
 2. Stems must be sturdy and straight, with healthy dark green foliage.
 3. Choose stems with flower placement as near to perfection as possible.
 4. In order for a stem to be judged, only one flower need be open. However, a stem which has the bottom tier of flowers all open (with none showing aging) will generally create a better impression.

- B. Cutting the Perfect Stem
 1. Either the morning before the show or the morning of the show, cut the stems after the dew has evaporated. Cutting at this time of day will ensure maximum freshness. The presence of dew or raindrops can cause pollen stains.
 2. Cut the stem to obtain a balanced exhibit, the rule being 1/3 inflorescence, 1/3 stem with leaves, and 1/3 container.
 3. Label each stem.

- C. Conditioning the Stem:
 1. For local shows, place stems in tepid water and store in a cool location overnight or until you are leaving for the show.
 2. For distant shows with long transportation requirements, wilt down the stems simply by leaving them upright in individual containers without water.

- D. Storing the Stems:
 1. Place foil caps gently over all exposed anthers to prevent pollen smudges.
 2. Stems may be cut and stored in cool conditions for a week or more, but such stems do lose a certain degree of freshness, and long stored stems are generally quite evident on the show table.
 3. Try to avoid wetting the foliage, especially for long periods.

- E. Transporting the Stems:
 1. Cushion closely spaced blossoms to prevent chafing.
 2. Wilted stems are transported lying horizontally in large floral boxes, the individual stems well cushioned.
 3. For transportation of fresh stems, place each stem in its own container. Each container is then positioned so as to prevent flowers and leaves from rubbing one against the other.
 4. Do not forget your grooming kit. (*soft make-up brushes, Q-tips, manicure scissors, pruning shears, pen, ed.*)