

CHAPTER 25

EXHIBITION JUDGING

ENGLISH BOXES

English Boxes are designed as a means of displaying collections of single flowers without stem, foliage or the presence of buds. The entire emphasis is on the beauty of each individual blossom. The English Box is entered in the horticultural division of an iris show and is judged by AIS judges according to horticultural exhibition judging guidelines. Because of the complexity and time involved in creating and presenting this form of collection, it is suggested that, in addition to the blue ribbon, a rosette or other special award be given to the best English Box. English Box entries are not eligible for "The Best Specimen of Show" award.

An English Box should consist of a minimum of five and not more than six, individual flowers of the same classification of irises, such as all spuria, all SDB, all TB, etc. Flowers may be all different cultivars or all of the same variety, the latter being more difficult to achieve. The show schedule shall be specific in determining the number and types of irises to be used. An entry not meeting the schedule requirements should not be judged.

Each blossom should be correctly labeled. It is suggested that labelling be posted outside the box so as not to detract from the overall effect of the display. A 3 x 5 card with the Iris names in the correct position may be used.

The number of entries in this class may be limited at the discretion of the show committee.

The show schedule will determine the exact method of display, such as construction and size of the box. [See suggestions for construction of box below.]

SCALE OF POINTS

1. Overall Beauty	15
2. Color and Pattern Combination	20
3. Cultural Perfection	45
4. Condition and Grooming	<u>20</u>
	100

1. Overall Beauty (15 points). The box as a unit is viewed from above. The blossoms selected must be uniform in size and freshness, form, substance and texture. Harmony of flower characteristics should be achieved. The blossoms should appear to float without visible means of support. Under no circumstances should the falls touch the surface of the box.

Note: An exception to the uniformity rule would occur if the schedule called for a theme, such as "progress in hybridizing."

2. Color and Pattern Combination (20 points). There should be harmony in flower color or colors. Because of the viewing angle, colors in the heart of the flower (styles, beards, hafts) are more easily identified and may influence color harmony. The specifics of color and patterns to be displayed will be determined by the schedule. Color need not have uniform intensity; dark with bright colors can be bold and pleasing, while bicolors combined with two self colors can be dramatic. Glaring color clash and poor color arrangement should be faulted.

3. Cultural Perfection (45 points). In viewing single blossoms of the English Box, the judge will find each element of the flower more emphasized. The horticultural quality of each flower should be typical of its variety in form, color and size; substance should be judged as in any specimen class. Division of the 45 points allowed for cultural perfection should be according to the guidelines of the iris classification being judged, and the judge should refer to the appropriate chapter in this *Handbook* as needed.

4. Condition and Grooming (20 points). The flowers should be fresh, mature (not past peak) and beautifully clean. Bruised or torn petals should be heavily faulted, and there should be no evidence of disease or insect infestation. Errors in presentation such as leaning blooms or falls touching the surface of the box should be penalized.

CONSTRUCTION OF AN ENGLISH BOX

The purpose of the box is to provide an unobtrusive holder for the flowers. The background covering should be of non-reflective material and neutral in color, and should never clash with the flower color(s). The schedule should specify whether the box is to be furnished by the show committee or by the exhibitor. In the interest of uniformity, it is recommended that each club construct and make available the boxes for this exhibit. Use of styrofoam blocks and visible flower picks is permitted but should be discouraged, as this presentation detracts from the pleasing overall effect and prevents optimum display of each flower.

If displaying MTB, SDB, or Siberian irises, boxes may be proportionately decreased in size. A good supply of all sizes should be available at the show.

Suggested construction details are shown below:

