

The JUDGE's Corner

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Did you do your assignment from November's column? I actually forgot about it, too, until I went back to work on this column. We were classifying the color on some of Steve Boley's multi-colored seedlings/introductions and I asked you to determine the colors on Daffy 10 (left) and Daffy F (right). The basic question, as I see it, is whether or



not the variegation extends to the tips of the florets. If it does, I would characterize the color as variegated, V; if not, I would characterize the color as bicolor, Bi.

Daffy 10 looks like a bicolor to me as virtually all of the tips are white. The decision is less clear on Daffy F as a lot of the tips show variegation and V might well be the best classification for it. (Remember that this decision can only really be made with an ability to examine multiple blooms in the Trial Garden or three blooms on the show table.) Our job isn't complete.

What are the colors that comprise the Bi in Daffy 10? My answer would be white and variegated yellow and red. The first color in the description should be the dominant color. Not sure which is dominant from the picture? Nor am I but you get a gold star if you picked either Bi W/V(Y/R) or Bi V(Y/R)/W.

Let's assume that Daffy F is variegated and that the variegation is red. What is the other color? The best answer is probably Bi (Y/W), but we could probably have some discussion about that second color being a blend. That distinction depends on whether you perceive the separation between the colors to be sharp (bicolor) or a gradual transition (blend). I would suggest V Bi(Y/W)/R.



The pictures of these two collarettes illustrate an interesting situation. Before you put your judge's hat on, which seedling do you "like" better? I've "liked" seedling A from the first time I saw it. Seedling B is "pretty," too, but it just doesn't grab my attention like seedling A. OK, now put on your judging hat! Those striking white tips on A are not very uniform. The ray floret at 7 o'clock is quite different from the ray floret at 10 o'clock. Assuming that the pictures of the two cultivars are typical, which would you send to the Trial Gardens? "Both" would be a reasonable answer, but I think that those striking white tips on seedling A are non-uniform enough to cause a color penalty to be given in its judging.

There are a number of changes in the accreditation of judges at the national level of the American Dahlia Society. Long-time chairman Bob Moynahan resigned and has been

replaced by Bob Schroeder, a Senior judge in the Kitsap County Dahlia Society in Washington. Bob and his wife, Terry, are active participants on the national scene and visited a number of our gardens when we had the national show here in 2003. Bob has updated the judging tests and will be distributing them for our use before this summer's season.

The immediate consequence of those changes for us DSO judges is that those of us who completed the former test last year won't need to do another test for five years. For those of us who are still working on that old test, please stop! Unless you are virtually done with the process and can get it to me in the next couple weeks, you will need to complete the new test as it becomes available this summer.

I have not yet seen the new test. The ADS Executive Committee will be discussing it in a couple weeks at its annual planning meeting along with the best ways to improve and maintain ADS judging skills. I'll keep you posted if there are additional changes.