

Virus Protection Reminder

I worked in industrial R&D jobs for my entire career. The corporate management thought it took us forever to do anything. I imagine that most ADS members have the same impression of the virus research we are doing at WSU.

Nevertheless, there are several very important practical results that have evolved from the work at WSU and we/you need to take advantage of that knowledge in your every day dahlia gardening. In particular as we cut blooms for shows and as we begin to think about closing up shop for the winter, please keep in mind that the research work at WSU has shown that:

1. It is virtually certain that some plants in your garden have virus and some may not show any symptoms of the virus.
2. You should remove and destroy any plants with severe symptoms like those published with the June 2016 Bulletin.
3. If you cut blooms for show or if you deadhead with clippers or if you divide clumps without sterilizing your cutting tools, you are likely to transfer the virus from one plant to other plants in your garden.
4. If you sterilize your tools in a 10% bleach solution between plants, you will avoid that transfer.
A strong soap solution of Dawn dishwash detergent is second best and easier on your tools.

The bottom line is that everyone should be routinely sterilizing their dahlia cutting tools. In combination with the removal of plants with extreme chlorosis (yellowing) of the veins, you can be confident that you will be reducing the incidence of virus in your dahlia garden.



My approach is shown in the picture at the right. The Gatorade bottle holds a 10% solution of bleach. The bucket holds a hot, soapy solution of water and Dawn. After each plant, the clippers get a dip and shake in the bleach and a rinse and shake in the soapy water. Please make it a habit to have something like this on hand whenever you have some clippers in your hand in the dahlia garden!

Midwest Judging Experience

A number of us had the opportunity to judge in the Midwest Conference Show that the DSO sponsored (very successfully!) on the weekend of September 7th. Many thanks to the DSO folks who made the whole affair possible!

The good thing about the judging at a regional or national show is the opportunity to exchange ideas and perspectives on judging with judges from other clubs with different experiences and different training. Glenn Ruth's counsel, from years ago, to listen to and to learn from the members of your judging team is most appropriate at these bigger shows! For the most part, there is excellent agreement among the judges even given the widely varying backgrounds. Of course, that should be the case—we are all working from the same judging manual!

One of the more interesting conversations on judging involved Clearview Lily, B SC DB DP10/YL15. Apparently, there is a tendency for the DP10 to sufficiently and consistently disappear in some plants that they could be treated as a sport of CV Lily. That is a separate topic unto itself that I won't get into here. If you find yourself in that situation as an exhibitor, probably the best thing to do is to put the bloom on the Classification Table at the show and let the judges determine where the bloom should be exhibited.

The bloom on the right is a Clearview Lily. It was the second place winner and exhibits the two colors well. The first place winner, below right, is also a Clearview Lily and the second color of the blend is not as clear. It was more obvious on the bloom than it is in this picture.

The judging discussion that evolved from the tendency to sport was whether or not "trueness to color" should be a criteria on which to judge a bloom's quality. My knee-jerk reaction to the question was "No." There is a lot of discussion in the Guide to Judging Dahlias (GJD) on the quality of color; there is no reference to "trueness to col-

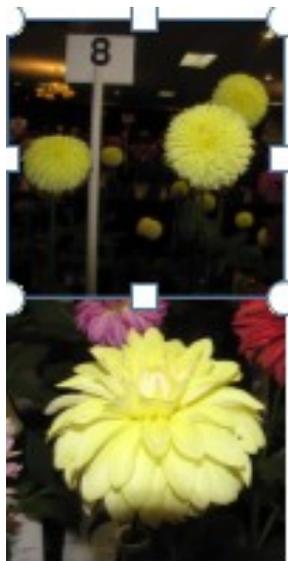


or.” Thus, if you are judging blend class and can detect a uniform distribution of the two colors I would not penalize the less obvious blend. Clearly, you also need to be concerned about other major color faults like fading, dullness, blotchiness, streaking, etc. in your evaluation.

The GJD (p.35) does say that color faults include blends “without adequate color contrast.” Thus, it would be appropriate to penalize a blend entry where the second color isn’t detectable at a distance of 3 ft.

Stellar ??

Another interesting conversation involved the judging of the stellar class at the show, the yellow Stellars in particular. The entries in the upper picture shows the usual winners, Clearview Del Sol. They are big, beautiful, bright, symmetrical blooms. The entry in the lower picture is the “also ran,” Baron Drew. The judging team had a conflict—and so did I as a Floater Judge. The next judge that arrived, a highly respected exhibitor from another club, immediately said something like: “As far as I’m concerned, there is only one Stellar in the class. Right?” His point was that the Stellar definition calls for “space between the ray florets in each of the rows.” (Classification and Handbook of Dahlias, p. 4.) The B Drew has that space; the CV Del Sol has such a high petal count that there is very little space between the florets. That is the first and maybe only time that Baron Drew beat Clearview Del Sol.



I did have to smile about that result, but the lesson in the discussion is that “Trueness to Form” is an important element in the evaluation of Form and thus in evaluating entries. Okay, the question becomes how important is it? The table on p. 40 in the GJD provides the answer. Check it out! You still don’t have enough information to second guess the judges’ decision, because you would need to be able to look at all the other attributes of the entries. They were all good judges; no doubt they made the right call.

Petitti’s Seminar

I hope that you all are planning on participating in the Petitti Show on October 6 and the judging seminar after lunch. I plan to do a short presentation on seedling judging and then get everyone involved in a

hands-on judging process. I think the format we used last year worked pretty well, so I anticipate doing something similar this year.

Be sure to bring some triples for the show and some Seedling Bench Evaluation entries if you can!

The Best Part of the Midwest Show Weekend!

I suppose some might disagree, but the best part of the whole Midwest Show weekend came after the banquet. Jerry Landerholm presented ADS Silver Medals to three of our finest DSO and Midwest members and leaders!



Harriet Chandler, President of the MVDS, Randy Foith, President of the Midwest Conference, and Jerry Moreno, President of the DSO, each received this honor on the basis of past and ongoing service to the ADS and for their role as “Dahlia Ambassadors.” Thanks and congratulations friends!!

Jerry capped the evening off with the shortest awards ceremony in Midwest history. All the Court winners were recognized very well and all the banquet participants were pleased and relieved! They then had lots of time to talk with each other.

Ron

(Ans to Trueness to Form question on previous page: 5 points!)