Why Be a 4-H Flower Grower?

Everyone should know how to raise and enjoy flowers! This project will help you learn about flowers by growing and using them.

What Does a 4-H Flower Grower Do?

4-H Flower Growers plant seeds, plants, and bulbs; prepare soil for plants and bulbs; water, fertilize, cultivate, control insects and diseases; pick flowers, arrange them, care for them and may exhibit or sell them; learn names of flowers and learn to enjoy flowers.

Who May Be a 4-H Flower Grower?

If you are interested in growing flowers, were 9 years old before January 1, and can meet the requirements of this project, you may be a 4-H Flower Grower. You can live in town or in the country. Only common garden tools will be needed.

Requirements

I. Grow one or more of the following:

A. Flower Gardening -- grow at least five kinds of flowers in rows or beds:
   - Roses, Asters, Zinnias, Daffodils, Begonias, Phlox, Snapdragons, etc.

B. Specialty Flower Gardening -- grow a larger amount of one kind of flower as a hobby or for sale. A suggested minimum size -- 100 square feet:
   - Roses, Dahlias, Chrysanthemums, Sweet Peas, Lilies, etc. (More than one variety of the same flower can be raised.)

C. Indoor Flower Gardening -- grow six or more plants indoors -- at least three different kinds or species:
   - African Violets, bulbs, Begonias, Cacti, foliage plants, etc.

D. Combination Flower Gardening -- on approval of your leader you may grow a combination of A-B-C.
   - 3 roses and 3 kinds of annuals; or 6 chrysanthemums, 2 begonias, and a fern.

II. Do at least three optional jobs from Section A, two from Section B, and one from Section C.

III. Complete your "My 4-H Garden Record" and give it to your 4-H club leader at the close of your project or the end of the club year.

Privileges

As a 4-H Flower Grower you may exhibit your flowers at 4-H club fairs, you may enter 4-H flower judging and arrangement contests, and you may take part in other 4-H activities.

Club Series D-19

Revised December 1960

Cooperative Extension Service • Oregon State College • Corvallis
Options

A. **Flower Gardening** (Do three or more of these.)
   1. Prepare a flat of soil for seeding.
   2. Plant one or more varieties of flower seed.
   3. Transplant ten or more seedling flower plants.
   4. Plant some bulbs in a pot or outside.
   5. Spray or dust a plant for insect control.
   6. Feed (fertilize) some flower plants.
   7. Water your flower garden properly.
   8. Cut a bouquet of flowers for home use.
   9. Arrange a bouquet for the dinner table.
  10. Make a corsage for someone to wear.
  11. Visit three other flower gardens.
  12. Plant a rose bush.
  13. Prune a rose bush.
  14. Transplant a house plant.

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<th>Date done</th>
<th>Parent or leader initials</th>
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B. **Personal Development** (Do two or more of these.)
   1. Have a club meeting at your house.
   2. Make a talk before your club or another group.
   3. Lead the pledges at a 4-H Club meeting.
   4. Give a demonstration on flower growing.
   5. Conduct a tour of your flower garden.

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C. **Service** (Do at least one.)
   1. Take flowers to a hospital.
   2. Take flowers to a friend.
   3. Take flowers to a church.
   4. Take part in an educational exhibit of flowers.

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2
Soil Preparation

Use good soil. Water should drain down through it so that the plant roots do not stand in very wet soil for more than a few hours. A soil containing sand or with plenty of organic matter (leaves, fine roots, peat moss, manure, etc.) will usually be a good soil. Soil is ready to work when a freshly dug piece will readily break apart when dropped on the ground.

Very sandy soil will benefit if heavy soil is added to it, and very heavy soil is better if some sand is mixed with it.

Soil is usually worked once each year to a depth of 6 to 8 inches for most annual plants. For rose and bulb beds the soil is often worked 15 to 24 inches deep since their roots should grow to a greater depth than those of most annual plants. A spading fork or shovel is very useful for turning and mixing the soil. If a trench is first opened across the garden as you start to work, the next soil lifted can be broken and mixed in that trench. That is a good time to add organic matter and fertilizer. After the soil has stood long enough to air well, it should be worked down until level and firm before planting seeds, plants, or bulbs.

Fertilizers

Barnyard manure is a good fertilizer and can be used at the rate of 100 to 150 pounds per 100 square feet of garden. If commercial fertilizer is used, look for the analysis (what is in it) on the container. It is given in percentage of available Nitrogen (N), Phosphorous (P2 O5), and Potash (K2O). Use amounts as listed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Analysis on sack</th>
<th>Amount per 100 square feet of garden</th>
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<tr>
<td>(N) 12% (P2O5) 16% (K2O) 8%</td>
<td>3 pounds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 (P2O5) 10 (K2O) 5</td>
<td>5 pounds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 (P2O5) 12 (K2O) 4</td>
<td>6 pounds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sulfate of Ammonia (20 % N)</td>
<td>2 pounds (Use as side dressing along the row and water in.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nitro pills (33 % N)</td>
<td>1 pound</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Cold Frames

These frames are very useful in protecting young plants in the early spring. You can plant seeds several weeks earlier than you can in the open garden.

Cold frames are made from 1-inch to 2-inch lumber and should be about 12 inches high on one side and 18 inches on the other. This gives a slope so rain will readily run off. The tops are usually made of 3-feet by 6-feet sash, or frames covered with a glass substitute. By raising and lowering the sash the temperature can be controlled and fresh air admitted.

Plants started in a greenhouse or hot bed can be hardened off gradually in a cold frame and will be ready for outside planting at an early date and in good condition.

Cold frames are very useful in giving protection to potted bulbs or other plants while they are rooting before they are forced inside. Late blooming plants like chrysanthemums can also be protected from storms in the fall months.

Plant Propagation

Flower plants are started and increased in several ways.

Seed. -- Hardy plants can usually be started by use of seed planted where they are to grow. Earlier flowering often comes from seeds sown inside and the plants set outside after the danger of frost is past.

Seed is usually planted about three times its greatest diameter in depth. The soil must be moist and warm for best results.

Plants usually started inside: petunias, asters, snapdragons, lobelia, etc.

Plants usually started outside: zinnias, marigolds, nasturtiums, etc.

Very small seeds are planted on good garden loam in a clay flower pot with a very small amount of soil scattered over them, or they may be pressed into the soil and covered with a damp piece of newspaper until sprouted. Watering may be done with a fine syringe or by setting the pot in a pan of water until soaked through.

Larger seeds are easier to plant and are usually covered lightly and watered with a fine spray.
When the first true leaves appear, the seedlings are ready to plant in a flat of soil. This flat should be about 3 inches deep and of a size that will be handy to move about; 12 by 20 inches is a useful size.

The soil used in the flats should be a good garden loam containing a fair amount of organic matter and reasonably rich. The plants are set from 2 to 3 inches apart and grown in the flats until ready to transplant outside.

Cuttings -- Plants that live over but are usually started new each year or used as house plants are normally propagated by use of cuttings. These are usually started in warm, moist sand and sometimes in water.

Illustration: Carnations, geraniums, fuchsias, chrysanthemums, etc.

**CUTTINGS**

![Cut made below joint of leaf and stem](image)

Rooted Cutting

**BULBS**

![Mother bulb Increase divisions](image)

**CORMS**

![New corm Cormels Old Corm](image)

**TUBERS**

![Old Stem Eye New tuber](image)

Division -- Bulbs, tubers, and many perennials are increased by division.

Illustration -- Daffodils, lilies, tuberous rooted begonias, dahlias, peonies, Shasta daisies, etc.
Planting the Flower Garden

Hardy flowers like snapdragons, stocks, and sweet peas are seeded or set out as soon as the soil can be properly worked. The tender kinds must wait until danger of frost has passed.

It is a good idea to make a planting plan for your garden before starting to plant.

Give the branching type of flowers more room than those which grow mainly as single stems. Illustration: Asters and tall marigolds as compared to zinnias and larkspur.

Place tall flowers in the background and the shorter ones nearer the front of a bed.

If seeding is done direct in the garden the seedbed must be made fine. Sifted compost and peat moss are good to work into the soil for this purpose.

In setting out plants, lift them with as much soil on the roots as possible. A small trowel is helpful for this work. Make the opening where the plant is to be set with the trowel, and set the plant slightly deeper than it has been growing. Fill in the soil and firm it around the roots, making sure no open spaces remain. Water the plant well and draw loose soil around it, covering the wet area.

**STRAIGHT ROWS**

**BEDS**

*Placing Bulbs, Rhizomes, and Tubers*

Bulbs do best in rich, well drained soil. If manure is added to the soil it should be done well in advance of planting time and should not come in contact with the bulbs. One to two inches of sand placed directly under the bulb will give good drainage and a healthy growing condition.
Dahlias, gladiolus, and tuberous rooted begonias are planted each year. Other bulbs, tubers, and rhizomes can be left in place three or more years without digging.

### PLANTING CHART

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Plant name</th>
<th>Depth Inches</th>
<th>Distance between plants Inches</th>
<th>Planting time</th>
<th>Bloom</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bulbous Iris</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>October</td>
<td>June-July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crocus</td>
<td>3 - 4</td>
<td>10 - 12</td>
<td>October</td>
<td>February-March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dahlia</td>
<td>4 - 6</td>
<td>36 - 60</td>
<td>After frost</td>
<td>Fall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gladiolus</td>
<td>4 - 6</td>
<td>6 - 10</td>
<td>February-June</td>
<td>Midsummer-frost</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grape Hyacinth</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>October</td>
<td>April-May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hyacinth</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>October</td>
<td>April-May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lily</td>
<td>6 - 10</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>October-December</td>
<td>Summer and fall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Narcissus</td>
<td>4 - 6</td>
<td>6 - 8</td>
<td>August-September</td>
<td>March-May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhizome Iris</td>
<td>In surface soil</td>
<td>1 - 2</td>
<td>July</td>
<td>May-June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuberous Begonias</td>
<td>&quot; &quot; &quot;</td>
<td>1 - 2</td>
<td>March-April</td>
<td>July-frost</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tulips</td>
<td>5 - 8</td>
<td>6 - 8</td>
<td>October-November</td>
<td>April-May</td>
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### Irrigation

Flowers like a gentle watering. This can be done with fine sprinklers, ditches, or soakers. The soil should be thoroughly wet down when watering, and it will then go for several days to a week before more water need be added. On the usual garden soil once or twice a week is often enough to water, unless the soil is very light or the weather exceptionally warm. A mulch of compost, peat moss, or dry grass will be helpful under such conditions.

House plants should be watered carefully. Keep the soil moist but not too wet. Use water of room temperature. Pour it carefully to fill the pot and avoid getting any on the foliage. Another method is to pour the needed water in a pan; then set the pot in the water until it is all taken up.

**WATERING A PLANT**

Use only enough water to moisten (not soak) this soil.
Insect and Disease Control

Diseases and insects become common problems in the garden unless you guard against them. Using clean planting stock and keeping the garden free of weeds and refuse will help maintain healthy flowers. Good well-drained soil, with proper spacing of plants to allow for a correct amount of sunshine, air, water, and food, will be very helpful. It is easier to avoid troubles than to control them.

In general, chewing insects are killed by stomach poisons and sucking insects by contact insecticides. Diseases are best prevented by good clean culture. If you have pests that you cannot handle, call on your Club leader or supply dealer for help.

Please remember that all sprays and dusts are dangerous and should be handled with care. Follow the instructions on the package. Do not inhale dust fumes or spray. Remove soiled clothing and wash well as soon as possible after spraying or dusting.

Care of Cut Flowers

Your cut flowers will keep longer if they are properly cut and prepared for use. The following rules will be helpful.

1. Cut flowers in the early morning, while they are cool and full of sap.
2. Cut the flowers with a sharp knife or shears, making a clean, slanting cut to give more absorbing surface.
3. Woody stems should be split or have some bark peeled away to allow for better water takeup.
4. Remove foliage from the lower part of the stem.
5. Place in water immediately so that the lower half of the stem is in water.
6. Do not crowd the flowers.
7. Avoid getting petals wet.
8. Storage in a cool room for a few hours or overnight will help the keeping quality of flowers.
9. Dahlia, Oriental Poppy, Heliotrope, and Poinsettia flowers should have the freshly cut ends seared in a flame or sealed by dipping in boiling water momentarily before storing in cold water.
10. Flowers keep best if cut just prior to maturity. Stamens should be removed when possible to prevent pollination.

Flower Arrangement

With a little practice you can arrange flowers so they are attractive and pleasing wherever used.

A few flowers or many may make an arrangement. It can be made of the finest garden blossoms or from wild flowers.
Containers

Containers can be large or small and of many shapes. Neutral-colored containers usually show off the flowers best.

SOME COMMON CONTAINERS

Be sure the container is clean and filled with fresh water. Change the water every 2 days so the flowers will always have fresh water.

Flower Holders (Frogs)

There are several kinds of flower holders that are helpful in flower arrangement. These may be fastened to the container with a thin layer of molding clay if the arrangement tends to move around or fall over.

Some people use fern leaves, pieces of evergreen foliage, marbles, pebbles or sand to help hold flowers in place.

COMMON FLOWER HOLDERS (FROGS)

Types of Arrangements

There are three basic types of arrangements.

1. Line -- Following a definite line (straight, curve, circle, etc.)

These arrangements may be formal or informal. Formal means that one-half of the arrangement looks like the other half.
Principles of Flower Arrangement

There are four principles of flower arrangement: design, scale, balance, and harmony.

**Design** is the thought-out plan you have as to the form you will use. It is planning the use of the container and materials you have so that the finished product will look right.

**Scale** has to do with size. The materials used and the container must all be appropriate for use with each other and for the setting.

**Balance** has to do with pleasing proportions. Avoid making an arrangement that is top-heavy or lopsided.

**Harmony** has to do with a pleasing appearance of the finished arrangement. Do the colors go well together and do they complement rather than clash?

How to Make an Arrangement

1. Have a definite plan in mind.
2. Select a container suited to the setting and flowers suited to the container.
3. Use a holder and select your tallest flowers 1 1/2 times the height for a tall container or 1 1/2 times the width for a flat container.
4. Use flowers cut with stems of different lengths.
5. Let each flower show. Do not crowd.
6. Use buds, half opened and full opened flowers. The largest and brightest specimens should be at the center and bottom of your arrangement. Light colors should be used at the top and outer edges.
7. Foliage should be used to add color, background, or an interesting line effect.
8. Arrange flower stems as if springing from a central root,
9. Let one color or center of interest be outstanding.
10. Look at your finished creation to see that all principles have been observed.

Selection of Exhibit Material

1. The exhibition of flowers is a very desirable part of the flower project.
2. Make your exhibit to fit in with the regulations set up by the fair or show.
3. Individual flowers should be true to variety.
4. Foliage and stems should be clean and perfect.
5. Flowers should have good form, size, color, and substance.
6. Gather cut flowers carefully during the cool part of the day.
ACTIVITIES FOR 4-H FLOWER GROWERS

Tours

Tours are fun. Your club may want to hold several. You can visit each other's flower gardens and you can visit nurseries, flower shops, seed stores, and flower shows.

Exhibits

You will want to exhibit some of your flowers. Many adult garden clubs have special classes for 4-H Flower Growers at their flower shows. 4-H members may also show in open classes. County and state fairs have classes for 4-H flowers. Be sure to check the fair rules for the classes you can enter.

Exhibits

Flower Judging and Identification Contests

These contests help you learn more about flowers. Your club may want to do some judging and identification at some of your meetings.

In judging, your leader or someone else should select one or more classes of 4 flowers (of the same kind) or 4 bouquets. They will be numbered 1 to 4. You will examine the flowers and place them according to quality. Be prepared to give reasons (tell why you placed them as you did). After the members have given their reasons the leader should give the official placing.

In identitication you look at selected flowers, weeds, and insects that might be found in a flower garden and tell or write their names.

Flower Arrangement Contests

In a flower arrangement contest each member arranges a group of flowers into a bouquet. You are judged on your workmanship and your completed bouquet.

Basis for Scoring

Color combination ...................... 25
Design ................................. 25
Distinction and originality .............. 20
Relation to container .................. 10
Suitability of combination of material ... 10
Condition .............................. 10

Possible Score .......... 100
Showing Your Flowers
By Mrs. J. W. Scheel and Mrs. A. B. Scott
Accredited Flower Show Judges
National Council of State Garden Clubs

Selecting and Preparing Your Flowers for Exhibit

A. DEFINITIONS

1. Bloom -- an individual flower, one blossom to a stem.  
   Examples: Large Flowered Dahlia, Large Flowered Aster

2. Specimen -- a single bloom, spike, stalk, plant, fruit, or vegetable.

3. Spike -- a stalk carrying many stemless or nearly stemless flowers.

4. Spray -- a portion of a plant with a number of flowers on one stem.  
   Examples: Cosmos, Chrysanthemums

5. Stalk -- stiff stem, which may branch, with one or more flowers.  
   Examples: Bearded Iris, Lilies

B. KNOW WHAT YOU PLANT

Newer, finer varieties are apt to rate higher in competition than older,  
more commonly grown varieties; so choose the flowers you plant with the help  
of good, up-to-date seed catalogs. Flower exhibits are labeled so it is  
important to know the names of your flowers as to class and variety. Gladiolus  
and Roses are also divided according to color.

C. GENERAL SUGGESTIONS FOR SELECTING YOUR EXHIBIT

1. Freshness -- A flower should be at its most attractive stage, of good clear  
   color with no fading or thinning of outer petals, no curling  
   of petal edges (e.g. Gladiolus as it ages).  
   Remove faded florets from sprays (e.g. Phlox).

2. Size -- If freshness is equal, choose one with greater size, more  
   depth, more petals, more nearly circular form.

3. Stem & Foliage -- Stem strong, long enough to balance size of flower.  
   Must have attached leaves. Leaves crisp, bright green and  
   with no damage from insects or disease. Remove only the  
   lower leaves which would be under the water when exhibited.

4. Check merits and faults of individual flowers as follows.

5. If class calls for 3 or 5 blooms or sprays, choose those near the same  
   size and with stems of nearly the same length.

D. SPECIFIC MERITS AND FAULTS

1. Asters -- should have circular outline, good stiff stem with no crook  
   behind flower head. Ostrich Plume or Crego types should have  
   yellow centers well covered by curled petals. Sunshine and  
   Princess type do show centers.
2. Marigolds -- Choose one shaped most nearly like a perfect ball. In large flowered varieties watch for irregular outlines, depressed, green centers or slight lop-sidedness.

3. Snapdragons -- Choose the tallest, straightest spike with many florets, well spaced, spike tapering towards the top. Leaves free of rust.

4. Zinnias -- Flower must have good depth. Choose a fully opened flower, but check back petals for any sign of greenish color or fading, a fault known as scorching.

5. Dahlias -- Center should be fully developed with no hard, green button, which sometimes appears, particularly in the Ball type. Balls and Pompons should have outer petals turning back nearly to stem completing a spherical shape.

6. Gladiolus -- A well-balanced spike should have from 3 to 5 open florets. Miniatures will have fewer florets open at once. Choose specimen with straight spike, no browning of green sheath which covers each bud. This may be thrip damage.

7. Other Annual Garden Flowers -- See general suggestions C.

8. Chrysanthemums -- Choose a spray with good balance, carrying many open well-spaced flowers. Remove faded ones.

9. Lilies -- Many flowers open, clean, disease-free foliage, flowers unstained from pollen.

10. Roses -- Sprays of Floribundas, etc. will usually appear less crowded if lower, central blossom is removed. Any faded blossom should be removed.

11. Roses -- Hybrid Teas should be grown disbudded. Pick bloom so that it will be about 1/3 to 1/2 open when put on exhibit. It will continue to open during the soaking period unless in a very cool place. An exhibition-type rose has a high-centered bud. Many garden roses are not of this type.

12. Other Perennial Garden Flowers -- See general suggestions C.

13. Potted Plants -- Should be of good size, attractive shape and have clean, healthy foliage. Flowering plants should have lots of bloom.

E. PREPARING YOUR FLOWERS FOR SHOW

1. Pick flowers early in morning or late in afternoon.

2. Place in deep, lukewarm water and set in cool place away from any draft, overnight if possible, or for several hours. This is called hardening.

3. Clean leaves with cleansing tissue so no dust or spray shows. Petals may be gently wiped, also. Failure to do these things may keep the exhibit from winning a blue ribbon.
F. ENTRIES AND LABELS

Study premium lists and flower show schedules so you will know what you can exhibit and how many entries you can make. Label your exhibits correctly. 4-H Flower Show Tags are available from your county extension office.

4-H Club Flower Show Schedule

Entries may be made in any class or sub-class according to number of entries allowed. A 4-H exhibitor may make more than one entry in a flower class if the specimens are in different sub-classes or are different varieties.

4-H flower exhibitors at the State Fair will be divided into senior and junior groups. Seniors, 14 and over last December 31, may enter 3, 4 or 5 specimens. Juniors, under 14 last December 31, may enter 2 or 3 specimens. Awards will be based on a combination of specimen placings.

Seniors       Juniors

3 or more blue ribbons - Blue Award       2 or more ribbons - Blue Award
3 or more red or better - Red Award       2 or more red or better - Red Award
Other exhibitors - White Award            Other exhibitors - White Award

SECTION A. ANNUALS

CLASS 1. ASTERS

1a. 1 variety, 3 blooms
1b. Mixed varieties, 5 blooms

CLASS 2. MARIGOLDS

2a. Tall double African -- 3 blooms
2b. Carnation flowered -- 3 blooms
2c. Chrysanthemum flowered -- 3 blooms
2d. French, dwarf double -- 3 sprays
2e. French, dwarf single -- 3 sprays
2f. Red and gold hybrids -- 3 sprays

CLASS 3. SNAPDRAGONS -- 3 spikes

CLASS 4. ZINNIAS

4a. Giant flowered, 4 inches or over -- 3 blooms
4b. Medium flowered, 2 to 4 inches -- 3 blooms
(e.g. "Cut and Come Again", Fantasy, Peppermint Stick, Quilled)
4c. Small flowered, 2 inches or under -- 3 blooms
(e.g. Lilliput, Baby or Pompon, Tiny Cupid, Persian Carpet)
CLASS 5. DAHLIAS

5a. Large, over 8 inches in diameter -- 1 bloom (grown disbudded)
5b. Medium, 4 to 8 inches in diameter -- 1 bloom
5c. Miniature & Miniature Balls, 2 to 4 inches -- 3 blooms, 1 variety
5d. Pompons, under 2 inches -- 3 blooms, 1 variety

CLASS 6. GLADIOLUS -- 1 spike

6a. Red
6b. Pink
6c. Yellow
6d. White
6e. Blue or lavender
6f. Miniature, 1 spike, any color

CLASS 7. OTHER ANNUAL GARDEN FLOWERS -- 3 stems or sprays

CLASS 8. CHrysanthemums -- 1 spray

CLASS 9. LILIES -- 1 stalk

CLASS 10. ROSES: Floribundas, Grandifloras, Polyanthus, and small Hybrid Teas such as Dainty Bess and Innocence which are usually shown in clusters

10a. Red
10b. Pink
10c. Yellow
10d. White
10e. Blends

CLASS 11. ROSES: Hybrid Teas and large flowered climbers, grown disbudded -- 1 bloom

11a. Red
11b. Pink
11c. Yellow
11d. White
11e. Blends

CLASS 12. OTHER PERENNIAL GARDEN FLOWERS -- 3 stems or sprays

CLASS 13. POTTED PLANTS

BASIS OF SCORING CUT FLOWERS

Size, according to variety ........... 20
Form, color, substance, abundance of bloom .... 20
Foliage and stem .................... 20
Trueness to variety ................. 20
Condition .......................... 20

Possible score ..................... 100