

# Rules using the **NAGC EXHIBITION SPIKE SCORE SHEET**

Revised February 2015

The first consideration in judging a gladiolus is color, but there are many other factors that contribute to its grace, symmetry and presentation on the show table.

In seedlings you might ask how the color could be improved, before giving maximum points. Your personal preference of color should have no bearing on your judgement.

Note on the score sheet where highest points have been placed. This shows the importance of each of the 19 categories on the score sheet and you should judge accordingly to the points the judging standard committee has set.

## **FLORET SCORE**

### **COLOR:**

**Item 1 - CLARITY** of color. Deduct for dullness, muddiness, distracting flecking, and the smearing of vagrant color.

**Item 2 - SATURATION** of color. Deduct for feathering, peeling, any unevenness, bleeding of blotches, and transparency denoting lack of pigment.

**Item 3 - HARMONY**. Deduct for objectionable throat or lip markings, bizarre or discordant blotches, detracting anther or calyx coloring.

**Item 4 - UNIFORMITY** of color. Deduct for fading or difference of color from one floret to another, in whole or part. This includes blotches or other markings which should be uniform.

**Item 5 - BEAUTY & APPEAL** Impact of color.

This is purely subjective with the judge, but one should strive not to permit frequent appearance of a cultivar to cloud the appreciation of its beauty, or the novelty of a new one to bedazzle. The four items above; clarity, saturation, harmony, and uniformity, should be judged for overall beauty and appeal as they relate to each other. Beauty and appeal are of primary importance in the selection of new introductions regardless of type. Thus these factors deserve extra weight in the judging of seedlings.

### **STRUCTURE:**

**Item 6 - FLORET FORM** . Deduct for cupping, hooding, clawing, uneven throat knuckling, folded petals, excessive reflexing or ragged effect. Form should be penalized only if the form is definitely displeasing, not because

it may be unusual.

**Item 7 – SUBSTANCE & TEXTURE.** Substance is the thickness of petals, which usually denotes keeping quality and resistance to handling and dehydration. Texture is the physical surface quality of the petals. A velvety surface or sparkling sheen add beauty, a rough, dull surface detracts.

## **SPIKE SCORE**

### **Structure:**

**Item 8 - TOTAL BUDS.** Count all buds including, open and partly open florets. Deduct for too few under Penalties-Deductions. There is no penalty for too many buds except as it affects items 16 & 17.

**Item 9 - OPEN FLORETS** A floret shall be considered open if it is one half or more open. Deduct two points for each floret short.

**Item 10 - BUDS IN COLOR.** Deduct one point for each bud short in color. Deduct a maximum of two points for too many in color when objectionable. Flower heads with a great many buds and open florets may exceed the norm in buds in color without penalty.

**Item 11. - ATTACHMENT.** Deduct for a split calyx or, elongated tube which allow an unattractive floret droop and enhance danger of floret loss with handling. This characteristic is inherent in some cultivars.

**Item 12. - FACING AND PLACEMENT .** Deduct for improper facing, stem showing through wide open florets, reversed florets or buds, and face-up florets unless they are all uniformly face-up. Downward nodding florets also deserve a penalty. Deduct for irregular spacing, which allows gaps in the symmetry of the spike, and for crowding, which allows a floret to hide the throat of the floret below.

**Item 13. - UNIFORMITY OF FLORETS.** Deduct for a mix of single and double-lip florets types on any spike. Florets should be of proper size to conform with their placement on the flower head. Florets should be very nearly the same size on both sides of the spike for balanced symmetry. Deduct for any deviation that distracts from the symmetry of the spike. There should be a gradual decrease in the floret size as they position higher up the spike. There should be no variance in degree of rotation.

**Item 14. - STEM.** The length of stem is usually set by the local rules of the show committee. Anything less, and stems too heavy or too weak for the floret and flower head should be penalized. When practical, show committees are encouraged to set stem lengths of 17” for 100 size; 18” for the 200 size; 20” for 300, 400, and 500 sizes, or whatever seems proper to give balanced spikes.

**Item. 15- GROOMING.** Proper grooming will improve the presentation of the spike on the show table. There should be a one point penalty for the removal of the bottom floret to indicate that it was an imperfection, even though its removal may improve the spike. When grooming, the floret calyx **should** remain. Penalize a total

of 5 points if the bottom two florets are removed. An additional two points are available for deducting in case of any further infractions. Deductions should be made for a poorly dressed spike. Fallen pollen should be removed from the florets. Florets should be placed so they are all facing forward, not to the side. The upper florets should overlap the florets below. Side shoots should be removed, a 2 to 5 point deduction if left on. The sheath **should** remain, a 2 point deduction if removed. You may or may not remove side shoots from seedlings, but, a penalty of two points should be applied if the shoot sheath is removed. When leaving the side shoots on a seedling spike, it should not interfere with the spikes appearance or intertwine with the florets. If no florets are removed, 7 points can be deducted for a poorly displayed spike. Spike tip buds broken off, or foreign material such as pins or cotton balls left on the spike, disqualify the spike from competition. The spike should be placed in the container straight and well secured.

## **Balance:**

### **Item 16 .- BALANCE OF THE LENGTH OF THE FLOWER HEAD TO BREADTH.**

The length of the flower head should be between five to six times the breadth (width) of the inflorescence at its widest point. Any variance above or below this ratio should be penalized as indicated under Penalties-Deductions. The important item is horizontal mass, allowance should be made for cultivars with flaring or needlepointed florets, the measurement of which may not truly reflect this factor.

### **Item 17. - BALANCE OF THE INFLORESCENCE TO THE FLOWERHEAD.**

Inflorescence is the continuous mass of color made by the open and half open florets, not including buds in color. The inflorescence should be from 50 to 55% of the total length of the flower head. Any variance below or above this ratio should be penalized as indicated under penalties and deductions. **No deduction is taken for seedlings**, since anything beyond the required minimum number of open florets is a factor to be desired.

**Item 18. - TAPER.** Taper should be gradual from the bottom floret to the tip including green buds. From the half open florets to the tip there should be a gradually reduced separation, lowering and movement of the buds to alternate sides. Deduct for a clump of unseparated buds at the tip, or for too much separation, leaving only a single bud for the tip. The tip should be straight or bent slightly forward, not to the rear or side. The transition of color from the open florets to the green buds should taper gradually and not square off abruptly. The bottom of the flower head should be rounded.

**Item 19. - DISTINCTIVENESS.** An attractive variation of color, floret form or spike conformation which might tend to increase interest in glads or the use of glads in general. This is a plus factor which applies to seedling judging.

## **ADDITIONAL DEDUCTIONS**

**Deduct up to ten points for each of the following:**

**CROOKING** - View the spike from the front, side and back.

A **slight** curve between the lower florets and the leaves is common and should not be considered a major fault. Crooking of the flower head that disturbs the spike's straight appearance, balance, and symmetry, is a major fault. Penalize in proportion to the impairment of the spike.

**FRESHNESS & CONDITION** - Deduct for lack of freshness or deterioration in any part of the florets or foliage. Deduct for calyx burn, foliage tip burn mechanical or insect damage.

**HEALTH** - A spot of fungus on the petal could entail a one or two point deduction depending on how it affects the whole spike. Flowers or foliage spotted all over with disease should be disqualified. Deduct for discoloration in foliage, stem, or calyx, which indicates a probable disease or nutritional deficiency.

**DEFORMED FLORETS** -Such as: double florets, florets missing parts, or florets with feathered stamens. Deformed florets should not be confused with petal folding which is covered in item six. Deduct in proportion to severity.

**ADVENTITIOUS BUDS** - (extra buds) - Are usually shaved off by a good showman. This is another reason to look at the spike from the rear. One shaved bud that does not mar the appearance of the spike probably deserves a one or two point deduction. A number of buds either shaved off or left in place, does increase the penalty.

**IRREGULAR OPENING-** Very seriously affects balance and taper. Penalty should be imposed in proportion to the disruption of balance and taper.

**LEAVES** - At least two leaves should be displayed with each spike. Deduct one point if only one is displayed and up to 5 points if all the leaves are removed. You may deduct additional points if the leaves are obviously split or trimmed.