

How to enter a nice rose and fill out the entry tag



1. Prepare Walk the garden ahead of time, the last several weeks are key.
 - a. Check frequently, manage issues
 - b. Disbud side buds early for one bloom and center /terminal bud for sprays. Watch for critters, fertilize, and water. Open the center of the bush to lessen fungal disease and wind/ leaf damage.
 - c. Identify proper name and type (e.g., HT, G, F, etc. and year of introduction for old roses requiring year) (ARS Handbook or another ARS source- i.e., Mlle Cecile Brunner 1880). Good to make lists if you have a lot of entries. Look at the Show classes for possible entries.
 - d. Check the Schedule to see what classes may be possible, don't be afraid of Challenge classes. The same rose may be in two or three+ classes or arrangements
 - e. For 2026 with Photography added make sure you select print (Glossy 8x10) and mount best photos per the schedule ahead of time
2. Cut good roses
 - a. Water well the day before. Cut early in the cool morning if possible. Cut longer stems of good blooms, and make sure to identify them (temporary tags help later confusion (...what was that white rose I cut...?). Strips with a slit can wrap around stems near the bloom in the garden for later ID. Get in water immediately in the garden
 - b. Recut under water. Optional - Add floral preservative, a little stale sugar 7 up, or a little citric acid plus sugar to water used to hold roses to storage (adds antioxidant and food)
3. Store in the shade
 - a. Condition the bloom. If bloom is too tight, keep it in a warm spot, if near perfect 3/4 open, keep cool or refrigerate (think Florist)
4. Groom
 - a. Clean leaves with soft, clean dry or damp cloth, or even clean fingers, on both sides, check for insects. Blow open or gentle nudge with q-tip/ soft brush- carefully. Tight center, 1/2-3/4 open, symmetrical = "exhibition form". Not all blooms are exhibition form, e.g., David Austin, many Floribundas and Shrubs, Singles (4-8 petals) . For these strive for best true to type
5. Cosmetics / grooming
 - a. Do not use any substance on the rose except a little water for cleaning on the rose. Damaged leaves? Carefully trim
6. Transport carefully
 - a. Wine boxes with dividers or beer 6 packs can be used to keep transport bottles from falling or leaves from touching – avoid crowding and tearing
 - b. Tight packing or masses in buckets can rip leaves
7. Recut at Show under water, put in show container, wedges (like foam, aluminum foil) may be used, wedges must be below the lip, unobtrusive.

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- Fill out the tag, class, and your name on ARS tags, both parts (some people with several entries do this in advance) . Carry to the show in plastic bags to keep them dry. Pencil is best, ink runs when wet. See how to tag below.
- Take to show and place in class with help if needed.

For more details on how roses are judged download Judging Publication free from ARS. Size, balance, proportion, color true to variety, stem and foliage good, form etc.

See Show Schedule for tips

Entry Tags

Types and sizes

- Large Horticulture (for one bloom per stem, sprays, most classes of roses)
- Small tags for Mini/ Miniflora (Can use large tags if needed we have lots of these) . **Also use mini tags for Photography. Attached to photo mask with small binder clips in upper left photo corner**
- Challenge Class tags with more room for description of varieties (e.g., 6 roses in English box) Can use large tags if needed
- Arrangement tags (red printed color) with more description room and AG info check (Arranger Grown for ARS Certificates)



Fill out top and bottom divisions and class numbers
Name and address. **Pencil** does not run if wet. Stickers or stamps ahead of time to save time. Bottom retained for record keeping.
Rubber band through top hole around vase/ bottle

Judges see only top info Section /Class/ Variety

Horticulture top left in Photo.

Top Middle Judges punch the place and clerks attach ribbons or stickers
Top Middle .

If it is a trophy/award winner, it is written on by judges No Exhibitors number is needed

Mini Miniflora Bottom left, smaller card

Challenge Middle Bottom

Arrangements with more description room Bottom Right

READ THE SHOW SCHEDULE, ask if you have an issue.

See also YouTube PRS Grooming video link <https://youtu.be/ofsaZwaXkKs> Alternatively search Peninsula Rose Society YouTube . Attend 4/18 meeting to hear Lou Evans grooming and exhibiting talk.

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