

## Getting Your Plants Ready to Be Judged at Shows

**Select the plants you want to send.** You want to look for the ones with good size, shape, and color. Usually the more flowers on the plant, the better. You don't want to send flowers that are past their prime, look dry, or have brown/black spots. Make sure none of your orchids are infested with insects or show signs of fungal, bacterial, or viral infection. They can't be shown with these conditions.

**Get them ready.** Wipe the leaves with a damp cloth to remove dust and water spots. Remove any dead leaves, stems, and take out unnecessary plant supports, etc. Stake them well for travel. Put your name on the pot or slab in a non-conspicuous spot. Place in a box with a sturdy bottom. Cover the box well for the weather. Mark your box(s) with your name. Be sure there is a plant identification label in the pot or securely attached to the slab/pot/plant. The plant label should identify the genus (e.g., Paphiopedilum, Phalaenopsis, Cattleya) and the species or hybrid. PRINT CLEARLY and use upper and lower case as appropriate. Correct labeling avoids confusion classification.

**Figure out what class they should be in.** The class is determined by the Mid-American Orchid Congress (MAOC) Show Schedule. This schedule is required to be in all show books. In addition, there are the MAOC Orchid Classification List and the MAOC Orchid Intergeneric Makeup Listing available at their website under show documents. It is generally best to place your plant in the lowest number class that applies. That way, if it is incorrect, the judges may move it to the correct one. If you aren't sure, you can put a note on your plant list and the person taking the orchids to the show will do their best to get your plant entered in the correct class.

Class #	Tag #
Owner #	Exhibit #
Name _____	
Cross _____	
x	
Award	
1 2 3 J.C. Spec.	

**Complete entry tag.** What is an entry tag and how many do you need? One entry tag for each plant you submit for judging. Here is a sample: Fill in Class #. Leave Tag #, Owner # and Exhibit # blank. These will be filled in by the person taking the plants to the show. "Name" indicates the name of the plant (not your name) followed by the parentage, if a hybrid. If the plant is a species, write "species" in the space for cross. MAOC defines "hybrid" as a cross made with the genus listed, unless preceded by the word "intergeneric," in which case, two or more different genera are used in the cross. Don't pull your tags apart or put them on your plants. Put them with your lists in your box(s). Tags are usually available at the monthly meetings.

**Your list.** It needs to include your name, class number for each plant and the plants full name. Email the list just as soon as you can. If you need to make corrections, let OGG know as soon as you can. This email list is used to make up plant labels. It's easier to throw a label away than to have to make it the night before. **Put two printed copies** of the list in/on your box(s) with your entry tags.

**Take your orchids to the pick-up point.** Drop your plants at Orchid Garden Center by noon on the Thursday before the show. Your orchids will generally be returned to Orchid Garden Center by Noon the Monday after the show.