

Rules using the NAGC Exhibition Spike Score Sheet

January 2025

1. Clarity of Color: Deduct for:

- Dullness or Muddiness
- Distractive Flecking and the smearing of vagrant color.

2. Saturation of Color: Deduct for:

- Feathering, Peeling
- Unevenness
- Bleeding, blotches or
- Transparency

3. Harmony: Deduct for:

- Objectionable throat or lip markings
- Bizarre or discordant blotches
- Retracting anther or calyx coloring

4. Uniformity: Deduct for:

- Fading or difference of color from one floret to the next in whole or part. Any blotches or other markings should be uniform as well.

5. Beauty and Appeal: Judge on:

- Impact of color and/or form
- Purely subjective
- Be careful of judge bias
- Give special marks for seedlings

6. Floret Form: Deduct for:

- Cupping, Hooding, Clawing
- Uneven throat knuckling
- Folded Petals, ragged effect
- Excessive Reflexing
- *Entries should be penalized only if their form is displeasing, and not just because it may be unusual.

7. Substance & Texture: This refers to the thickness of the petals, which usually denotes Keeping quality, resistance to handling, reduced hydration. This refers to the physical surface quality of the petals. A velvety surface of sparkling sheen adds to the beauty while a rough, dull surface detracts.

8. Total Buds: This includes open and partly open florets. Deduct for too few as indicated on the chart on the front page. There is no penalty for too many buds except as it affects items 16 & 17 (balance).

9. Open Florets: A floret shall be considered open if it is one half or more open. Deduct for too few under the chart on the front page of this form.

10. Buds in Color: Deduct for:

- One point for each bud in color short of the minimum (as per chart)
- Max 2 points for too many in colour when objectionable.
- *Flowerheads with a great many buds and open florets may exceed the norm in buds in color without penalty. This is acceptable if the fluorescence is in*

proportion to the balance of the entire spike.

11. Attachment: Deduct for:

A split calyx or elongated tube that allows a floret to droop unattractively and increase the danger of floret loss with handling. This characteristic is inherent in some cultivars.

12. Facing & Placement: Deduct for:

- Improper facing
- Stem showing through wide-open florets
- Reversed florets or buds
- Face-up florets unless uniform
- Downward nodding florets also deserve a penalty
- Irregular spacing which allows gaps in the symmetry of the spike
- Crowding which allows a floret to hide the throat of the floret below

13. Uniformity of Florets: Deduct for:

- A mix of single and double lip petal types
- Florets should be of proper size to conform with their placement on the flowerhead
- Florets should be very nearly the same size on both sides of the spike for balanced symmetry.
- There should be a gradual decrease in the size of each floret on the spike from the bottom upward.
- There should be no variance in degree of rotation.

14. Stem: Deduct:

- If the stem is too heavy or too weak for the size of the floret and flowerhead. *Stem means the length of the spike from the tip to the cut end.*

15. Grooming: Means the presentation of the spike on the show table.

- 1 point penalty for the removal of the bottom floret, the calyx should remain.
- 4 point penalty for the removal of any portion of floret or calyx of the second floret, and a total of 5 points if the bottom two florets are missing.
- Additional 2 points in case of any further infraction.
- Deductions should be made for a poorly dressed spike that allows fallen pollen to remain, or florets to overlap those above.
- Side shoots must be removed from all except seedling entries. However, a penalty of 2 points if the shoot sheath is removed.

- Tip buds that have been broken off, or foreign materials such as pins or cotton balls that have been left in place, disqualify the spike from competition.

16. Balance of Floret Size to Flowerhead

The length of the flowerhead should be between 5 and 6 times the breadth of the inflorescence at its widest point. Allowance should be made for flaring or needlepointed florets. Any variance above or below this ratio should be penalized as indicated under penalties and deductions.

17. Balance of Inflorescence to Flowerhead:

Inflorescence is the continuous mass of color made by the open and half-open florets. It should be from 50 to 55% of the overall length (depending on the width and flatness of the florets) as long as the spike is not thrown out of balance.

A deduction should never be made for overbloom seedlings. In this case, it is better to have more than the required minimum number of open florets.

18. Taper: This should be gradual from the bottom floret to the spike tip including the green buds. From the half-open florets to the tip there should be a gradually reduced separation and a lowering and a movement of the buds to alternate sides. The transition of color from the open florets to the green buds should taper gradually and not square off abruptly. The bottom of the flowerhead should be rounded.

- Deduct for a clump of unseparated buds at the tip (rat-tail).

19. Distinctiveness: This refers to an attractive variation in color, floret form or spike conformation that might tend to broaden interest in, or the use of glads, in general. This item is a plus factor and *applies only to seedlings.*

Additional Deductions: Up to 10 points each item at the judges discretion.

- Crooking
- Freshness & Condition
- Health
- Deformed Florets
- Adventitious Buds
- Irregular Opening
- Leaves
- Handle Length (Handle means from the bottom floret to the cut end)