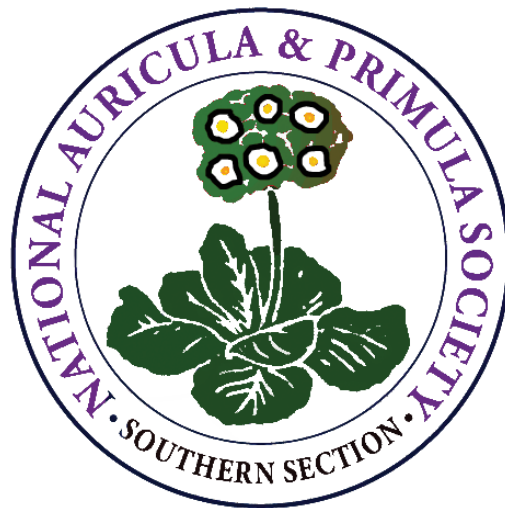


# **National Auricula And Primula Society**

(Southern Section)

Founded 1876



Show Standards for Florists'  
Auriculas & Gold laced Polyanthuses

&

Guidelines for Exhibiting  
Border Auriculas & Primulas

Revised 2011

# SHOW STANDARDS FOR FLORIST'S AURICULAS AND GOLD LACED POLYANTHUSES

## FLORISTS' AURICULAS

### GENERAL STANDARDS

- a. **The plant** as a whole should be compact and well balanced, with crisp, healthy foliage, preferably a signal rosette of leaves of sufficient size to nicely cover the pot. The stem should be strong, sufficiently rigid and tall enough to hold the truss above the leaves, but not overly long as to appear drawn. A neat inconspicuous stake may be used to support the stem, but must not extend into the truss. Any packing or support within the truss must be removed before benching. The footstalks of the truss should be of sufficient length and strength to allow the individual pips (florets) to be displayed evenly and without overcrowding.
- b. **Each Pip** should be flat and circular in outline, and the individual petals should be of an even size, smooth edged without notches, of good substance, and overlap sufficiently to give the desired circular appearance. All the pips in the truss should be of even size and character, (i.e. remove all unopened pips) with the periphery of each pip just meeting that of its neighbor to form a compact whole. The required number of pips per truss is schedule dependent.

### SHOW AURICULAS (Edged, Fancy, Self, & Striped)

#### EDGED AURICULAS

- a. **Each pip** should be flat and circular in outline. The individual petals should be of an even size, not pointed, smooth edged without notches and overlap sufficiently to give the circular appearance. The four bands – tube, paste, body, and edge should be of equal 'weight'. Size is of secondary importance, the optimum being 32mm diameter for green edges, and slightly smaller for grey edges, and slightly smaller still for white edges.
- b. **The tube** should not exceed one-fourth the diameter of the pip, and should be circular, smooth-edged, and golden or rich yellow in colour. It should be of a waxy appearance and well up to the level of the pip.
- c. **The anthers** should be fresh and bold; the same colour as, and evenly set around, the tube. They should curve inwards to meet over and obscure the lower tube.

- d. **The stigma (pin)** should not be visible among or above the anthers. Pin-eyed plants will be disqualified.
- e. **The paste** should be circular with clear-cut edges and should be brilliant white, smooth, dense, and free from blemishes and cracks. The outer diameter of the paste should be about one half of the pip's diameter.
- f. **The body (ground)** colour should be solid and circular where it meets the paste. It's outer edge should extend to no more than three-fourths of the pip's diameter, feathered finely into the edge, but not extending to the pip's periphery. The body colour should be as dark as possible – black, rich and velvety, unshaded, and free from farina (meal).
- g. **The edge** may be green, grey or white according to the class. If green edged it should be of an even shade, bright and free from farina. The leaves of green edged plants should also be free of farina. Grey edged flowers should have an even covering of farina overlying the petal, but not so thick as to mask completely the underlying green thereby creating the grey effect. In white edged flowers the covering of farina should completely mask the green of the petal. In both the grey, and white edges, the farina should be white bright smooth, and free from blemishes.

#### **FANCY EDGED AURICULAS**

- a. The same standards apply as for Edged Auriculas apart from the body colour, which must be any colour other than black. The colour: yellow, brown, red, blue, etc. must be bright, rich, velvety, unshaded, and free from farina.

#### **FANCY – OTHER THAN EDGED AURICULAS**

- a. The same general standards apply as for Show Auriculas, but the flowers do not fulfill the criteria for any other Section. This new Class has been introduced to accommodate innovations in breeding.

#### **SELF AURICULAS**

- a. **The pips** should be somewhat smaller than the edged types, about 29mm in diameter being the optimum.
- b. **The tube** should be smaller than in the edged type, about one-sixth of the pip's diameter, and well filled with anthers.
- c. **The stigma** should not be visible among or above the anthers. Pin-eyed plants will be disqualified.

- d. **The paste** should be as for edged auriculas, save that it should extend to just under half the pip's diameter.
- e. **The petals** should be of an even colour unshaded, bright, clear, and smooth edged without notches, of a velvety texture, free from veins, farina, and blemishes.

### **STRIPED AURICULAS**

- a. **The pips** may be somewhat smaller than the Edged Auriculas, but should have the same general character.
- b. **The stigma** should not be visible among or above the anthers. Pin-eyed plants will be disqualified.
- c. **The stripes** may be of farina and/or colour and should contrast with the body colour. The striping should be radial, clearly defined, and evenly spread. The striped should not coalesce to form a band of body colour (as in the Edged forms).

### **ALPINE AURICULAS**

- a. **Each pip** should be flat and circular in outline, bright and of a rich velvety texture, free from farina, of even size and about 29mm optimum diameter. They may be gold centred or light centred, and the central disc (eye) should be bright golden yellow in the gold centred, and white/pale cream in the light centred. Intermediate coloured (custard) centres are not acceptable.
- b. **The tube** should be circular, about one-sixth the diameter of the pip, well up to the level of the pip, and of the same colour as the disc.
- c. **The anthers** should be fresh and bold, of the same colour as the tube and evenly set around it. They should curve inwards to meet over, and obscure the lower tube.
- d. **The stigma** should not be visible among or above the anthers. Pin-eyed plants will be disqualified.
- e. **The central disc** abutting the tube should be a uniform shade, smooth, bright, and free from blemishes. The outer edge should be circular, sharply defined, and extend to just over half the pip's diameter. The disc should not be funnel-shaped, but should be well up to the level of the pip.
- f. **The petals** should be even in size, smooth edged without notches, and overlap sufficiently to give the desired circular appearance. The colour should be bright and vibrant and should shade evenly in a clear and gradual manner from a deeper hue adjacent to the disc, to a lighter hue towards the petal edge. Too abrupt or deficient shading are faults.
- g. **The foliage** should be free from farina.

## DOUBLE AURICULAS

- a. **Each pip** should be circular in outline and have sufficient central petals to **completely cover and obscure the tube**. Plants with open centred pips will be disqualified. The size of the pips should fall within the range of the show and alpine auricula types, with 29mm diameter being the optimum.
- b. **The stigma and anthers**, if present should not be visible.
- c. **The petals** should be smooth edged without notches, and their conformation should be neat and regular and effectively fill the pip. Doubling may be of any type i.e. show or alpine, or of any character (e.g. imbricate, quartered, anemone-flowered, etc.) but all pips in a truss should exhibit the same degree of doubling.
- d. **The colour** is of secondary importance to form, and may be shaded or self coloured, variegated, picoted, flaked, striped, etc. but should be clear and bright. Where farina is present, it must not be smeared, but crisp and bright.

## FLORIST'S GOLD LACED POLYANTHUSES

- a. **Only one truss** will be judged on each plant but tying down or removal of additional trusses is not required, since the choice of truss will be at the judges' discretion. The truss should have a minimum of five fully expanded pips and will be judged on the uniformity of all the pips in the truss.
- b. **Each pip** should be round, flat and with optimum diameter of 20mm. Each petal should have an indentation in the centre of its periphery, giving it a heart-shaped appearance. The indentation must not reach to the eye or centre of the pip and should be the same depth as those between the petals.
- c. **The tube** should be round and in the centre of each pip, approximately 3mm in diameter and well filled with anthers. The tube may or may not have raised rim.
- d. **The stigma** should not be visible among or above the anthers. Pin-eyed plants will be disqualified.
- e. **The eye** or centre should be round and about half the diameter of the pip, rich gold or bright yellow in colour, and sharply separated from the edge of the ground. The divisions between the petals should not intrude on to the eye.
- f. **The body colour** should be solid, free from shading and have a velvet-like appearance, so as to give the flower a brilliant and attractive look. The colour may be dark (as close to black as possible) or bright red; intermediate colours are discouraged.

- g. **The lacing** should be the same colour as the centre, crisp, narrow, even, and without breaks. It should run around the edge and down the middle of each petal to the eye or centre.
- h. **The stem** should be long enough to hold the truss well above the foliage, and the footstalks long enough to allow the individual pips to be displayed evenly and without crowding. **Staking is not permitted.**
- i. **Foliage** should be clean and free from pests. Leaves should be crisp and dark green, nicely covering the pot.

## GUIDELINES FOR EXHIBITING BORDER AURICULAS

- a. **Border auriculas** are not grown to Florists' Standards. It is the overall effect of the plant that is of paramount importance. To this end, the plant should be well balanced, with crisp healthy foliage, which may be with or without farina. The trusses should be of similar size and arranged evenly about the plant.
- b. **The plant** should be multi-crowned with at **least three** flower stems with expanded pips, with the exception of seedling classes, where at least two stems with expanded pips are required. These **new minimum standards** are deemed necessary in order to better reflect the traditional character and appearance of the plant, which should suggest that it would succeed in a natural garden situation.
- c. **Each pot** must only contain a single plant (i.e. multiple planting of a single variety is not permissible). The foliage should be sufficient to nicely cover the pot, but should not be out of proportion to the amount of flower.
- d. **The stems** should be strong, rigid and tall enough to hold the trusses above the leaves. **Staking of the trusses is not permitted.** The footstalks should be strong enough to support the pips. All the pips in a truss should be of an even size and character, with the periphery of each just meeting its neighbour's to form a compact whole. Flower trusses should be sufficiently separated so as not to occlude one another.
- e. **The pip** may be of any type, but should not too closely resemble any of the Florist' Auriculas defined previously. Thrum-eyed flowers are preferred, but pin-eyed plants would not be disqualified.
- f. **Petals** may be notched or smooth-edged, wavy, frilled or flat, with or without farina on the eye. Farina may also be present on the petal, provided that it is not smeared. Petals may be any colour, but dingy muddy colours should be avoided. The presence of scent is desirable.
- g. **The presence of, or absence of farina** on the plants is dependent on the **Class** in which they are entered, and exhibitors should check the Schedule to ensure that they comply with this requirement.

## **RULES APPLICABLE TO SEEDLING IN ALL CLASSES**

- a. **Seedling** should be judged to the same standard pertaining to the Class they represent. Any seedling that gains a premier or first place in a single or multi pot class is eligible to be named and included in the Southern Section Seedling Register, when the required documentation is submitted. Such seedlings must not be shown as a seedling again in any NAPS Shows. **Note: Other NAPS Sections may have different Rules regarding seedlings.**

## **ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ON STANDARDS**

**These standards** are based on those currently used for judging at our shows. The comments below aim to clarify the above standards and to give additional general guidance to exhibitors:

- a. **The Standards** should always be used in conjunction with the appropriate Show schedule, paying particular note to the section 'Rules for Competitors'.
- b. **In multi plant classes** the plants should stand together harmoniously with no glaring differences in the size of truss or height of the plants. Some difference in height of individual stems is often inevitable, in which case they should be arranged to their best advantage, usually with the tallest at the rear graduating to the shortest at the front of the bench. In all multi plant classes, each entry should be arranged, one pot behind the other i.e. not side by side.
- c. **In multi plant groups** each plant should be representative of its Section, and where feasible, colours should be selected to display the range possible within the Section. The preferred group, although not mandatory would comprise an equal representation of centres, edges, and body colours available, displayed in a pleasing and harmonious manner.
- d. **Sizes** given for pip diameters in the Standards are guides, the aim of which is to curb the trend towards overblown pips in certain auriculas.
- e. **Pots** may be clay or plastic, but should be round, terracotta colour, and clean.
- f. **Whilst dressing of plants** for shows is to be encouraged, the following would be considered to be 'over-dressing' and such plants would be marked down: trimming petaloid anthers on abnormal pips, trimming over-long stigmas, artificially supporting footstalks.
- g. **These Standards** apply to NAPS Southern Section Shows. If members intend to exhibit at other Sections' Shows, they are advised to study the Standards and Rules appropriate to that Section.

## **GUIDELINES FOR EXHIBITING PRIMULAS**

### **(Excluding Florists' Gold Laced Polyanthuses)**

**These plants** are not grown to Florist' Standards, but guidelines on general showing requirement are given here:

- a. **All plants** should be in clean clay or plastic, round terracotta coloured pots. Take care to enter plants in the correct class for the size of the pot, as per the show schedule Calipers are available from the show Superintendent to check this.
- b. **Plants** should be grown to type – avoid forcing by heat or overfeeding. They should be inspected to find and remove all dead, dying, or damaged, flowers and leaves, before benching. Each plant should be placed centrally in its pot with top dressing to suit and complement it.
- c. **Primula allionii** should be shown as a cushioned dome with as many flowers covering it as possible. It is permissible to use more than one offset of the same variety to make this effective as the plants are slow growing and take many year to reach a good size. This applies especially to the Early Primula Show and the Primula Show schedules.
- d. **Other Primulas** (at all Shows) can be multi-crowned, but should be a single plant.
- e. **Staking** of flower trusses is not permitted. If in doubt about any aspect of exhibiting primulas, seek the advice of the Show Superintendent.