

Rules using the **NAGC DECORATIVE SPIKE SCORE SHEET**

Revised February 2015

Foreword:

The Decorative Spike Score Sheet places great emphasis on Beauty & Appeal with less emphasis being placed on mechanical perfection and presentation. Note should be made that the minimum standards relative to total buds, florets open, buds in color differ from the Exhibition Standard. This is in keeping with the overall concept of the Decorative Gladiolus as one suited to show, both in design classes, and spike classes (as a decorative), and as a garden specimen.

Exhibitor Considerations:

Familiarity with the decorative standards and knowledge of the differences between Decorative and Exhibition standards will aid the exhibitor in determining the proper placement of their spikes in the show.

SPIKE SCORE

Overall Beauty and Appeal 40 points

Item 1 - Viewer's First Impression. As judges first approach the Decorative Gladiolus entries they are to take note of their First Impression of the Beauty and Appeal of the total flower spike. In evaluating this characteristic some judges use the wow factor. However favorably or less so, one views the spike, points should be awarded accordingly.

Item 2 - Distinctive Features. Distinctive features may be a combination of characteristics including colors, floret shapes, petal shapes, floret placement on the stalk, or any feature of the spike that makes it distinct, and may include double florets, petaloids, fragrance and others features that may be unusual or totally new. Any unique features should receive due credit, insofar as they do not detract from the beauty of the spike. Mechanical features are secondary in judging Decorative Gladiolus, the focus should be on something that challenges the norm. These distinctive characteristics should be additive as they effect scoring.

Item 3 - Overall Color Impact. In evaluating the spike one should make note of the color and how it adds to the attractiveness of the floral spike. Colors should be bright and crisp in appearance, mixed pigments are acceptable if they do not appear dull or as often referred to as muddy.

*** The determining factor on any of the above named characteristics is the overall appearance of the spike is to be pleasant to the viewer's eye. No preference will be given to Formal or Informal Gladiolus.**

Structural Total

30 points

Item 4 - 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 balance.

Item 5 - Open Florets. A floret shall be considered open if it is one half or more open. Deduct one point for each floret short.

Item 6 - 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 7 - Floret 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 8 - Floret Facing & 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 9 - 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 10 - Stem Structure and Length. 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 13" for 100 size; 15" for the 200 size; 17" for 300, 400, and 500 sizes, or whatever seems proper to give balanced spikes.

Item 11 - 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 another point if more florets are removed.

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, but the sheath **should** remain. You may or may not remove side shoots from seedlings, but, a penalty 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. 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.

Item 12 - Spike 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 be gradual. The bottom of the flower head should be rounded.

FLORET SCORE

Color Total **20 points**

Item 13 – Clarity of color. Deduct for dullness, muddiness, distracting flecking, and the smearing of vagrant color.

Item 14 – Saturation of color. Deduct for feathering, peeling, any unevenness, bleeding of blotches, and transparency denoting lack of pigment.

Item 15 - Harmony/Contrast. If the overall presentation of the color of the bloom is one of harmony, deduct for bizarre or discordant blotching, detracting anther, or calyx coloring. When the overall presentation of color is one of Contrast between the base color of the inflorescence and the color of the blotches, splashes...on the petals, and/or between the colors of the other floret parts, if this contrast is crisp and appealing, it should NOT be subject to deduction. Deduct points where contrast does not add to the appeal. Deduct for objectionable throat markings such as scratches.

Item 16 - Color Distribution. Uniformity of color from one floret to another in whole or in part is to be considered as being desirable. This includes blotches and other markings. Deduct for fading, a combination of two and single lip blotches, genetic color breaks whereby a color appears that is not common to all florets. However asymmetrical color distribution including splashing and variegation is NOT

to be subject to deduction if the overall effect is pleasing. If the color distribution is such that the bloom appears messy, deduct in proportion to the degree of the distraction noted.

Structural Total **10 points**

Item 17 – Floret Form. Deduct for cupping, 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 18 – Substance and 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.

Additional Deductions:

Up to 10 points for each item

Freshness & Condition: Deduct for lack of freshness or deterioration in any part of the florets or foliage. Deduct here also for calyx burn, foliage tip burn, mechanical or insect damage.

Poor 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.

The following factors shall be taken into consideration in the initial consideration of Beauty and Appeal and no further deductions taken as in Exhibition Spike Judging:

Crooking, Balance of the length of the flower head to the breadth Ratio, Inflorescence to flower-head Ratio, Less than Distinctive Appearance, Deformed Florets, Adventitious Buds, Irregular Opening, and Leaves.