

ARS UNDERWATER ARRANGEMENTS

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The 1997 Revision of the American Rose Society Guidelines for Judging Rose Arrangements added several designs for Rose Shows. Among the added designs was the underwater arrangement. These sparked a new interest to rose arrangements schedules, challenged rose arrangers and fascinated the rose show visitor.

Among the designs added was the underwater arrangement. This type of design has been popular in flower shows for several years, but it was rarely seen in rose shows as it was not covered in the guidelines. The underwater design is particularly well suited for roses as they have thick, heavy, waxy petals, thus hold very well in water. There are two types of underwater arrangements: (1) the rose design attached to the rim or top of the container and, (2) the rose design attached to the bottom of the container. These designs may be identified as Type I and Type II designs.

An underwater arrangement is a creative design with part or parts placed under water in a clear or transparent container to magnify and create interest.

When selecting the underwater arrangement for a rose show:

- a. Acquire a copy the rose show schedule. Carefully read and understand the show theme and schedule requirements before selecting the design to be exhibited.
- b. Select your container (more than one container may be used). Containers may be square, round, oval, etc. Be sure that the container is crystal clear and there are no obvious blemishes. Containers may be clear glass or clear plastic. Containers may be clear bowls, vases, tall dishes, coin banks, parts of lamps, fish bowls, parfait dishes or any other clear vessel and of any shape.
- c. Gather appropriate line and plant materials. Be sure leaves are thick, heavy and waxy. Line materials may be branches, wood, metal, plastic, rope, or any material that holds well in water (if any part of it is to be under water).
- d. Create your arrangement:

Type I - Attach or hang the mechanics to the rim or top of the container to hold the arrangement. Create the arrangement being careful to ensure that part or parts of it extend down into the water. Attach it to the rim/top the container. Remember that water magnifies and the degree of magnification may be determined by the surface the container. Flat surfaces have less magnification. Rounded surfaces have greater magnification. Thus, the roses and materials to be placed underwater, probably should be smaller than other roses and materials used in the design.

Type II - Attach a heavy needle point securely to the bottom of the container with "floral stickum". Cover the needlepoint with leaves, stones or glass stones or marbles. Cover mechanics carefully as this material become a part of the total design. Create the arrangement in the container. It is important that plant materials used in this design be carefully anchored as they tend to float. Also, all materials used under the water will be magnified. The degree of magnification will depend upon the shape of the container.

- e. Placement of An Underwater Arrangement

Place your completed underwater arrangement in the location where it is to be exhibited. Recheck it to make sure that all materials are in their final position. Carefully and slowly add the water (distilled water is best) to

minimize floating and bubbles. Fill to the top/rim of the container, as anywhere lower will cause a horizontal plane of reference and disturb the rhythm of the design. All containers used in the designs must be filled with water. Do NOT add fish or other floating material. Adjust any materials that may have moved during the filling of the container. The arrangement is now complete.

References:

Guidelines for Judging Rose Arrangements, American Rose Society, Revised 1997, Chapter 6, Page 22, Classifications of Modern Arrangements, Paragraph 10.

Exhibitors and Judges Handbook, Revised Edition, Ohio Association of Garden