

Denver Orchid Society — How to Exhibit Your Orchids: The Basics

DO's

- Read the show schedule
- Use only those plants in good condition, clean leaves and trim if necessary, stake inflorescences for best presentation.
- Water all plants before transporting them
- Select props wisely, then only use half of them
- Choose appropriate backdrop material — colors should be dark neutrals
- Use principles of design — see page 63 of the *Handbook on Judging and Exhibition*
 1. *Balance* — visual stability — asymmetrical preferred
 2. *Rhythm* — movement — gradation of colors, sizes, light to heavy
 3. *Dominance* — stronger color, weight, shapes
 4. *Contrast* — difference, opposites together to emphasize difference
 5. *Proportion* — relationships
 6. *Scale* — relationship in size only
- Group colors, with darker ones at the lower levels of the display
- Labels should be readable but not too large — spelling counts
- Prepare a *Title card* for your exhibit with your name, for use after judging

DON'Ts

- Show up at the last minute
- Whine
- Use every plant just because it's in bloom
- Identify your exhibit until judging is completed
- Let props dominate the exhibit — flowers should be the main element

Show Kit

Items you will need to take with you to the show site include:

Plants, green plants for filler, stakes, clear tape, scissors, twist ties, extra pots for staging, back-drop, fabric or moss for covering pots, spray bottle, extra label materials, marking pen, props, dust-pan and brush for final clean-up, lights, extra bulbs, extension cords, power bars.