MAIRIE DE PARIS

Rules of the International Dahlia Competition

Parc Floral de Paris

Article 1 : Object of the competition

The International Dahlia Competition is aimed at presenting new cultivars or varieties that have been on the market for less than 5 years and to make a selection of the best ones.

The competition is organized each year on the third Friday of September. Dahlias are assessed at the end of the season of presentation by a jury made up of elected representatives, specialists of the culture of dahlias, personalities from the City of Paris Department of Green spaces and Environment, journalists and florists.

Article 2 : Competition procedure

2.1 – Anonymity
Dahlia cultivars in competition are presented and judged anonymously.

2.2 - Classification of the dahlias.
The modern classification of garden dahlias approved by the Dahlia Section of the French National Horticultural Society and the French Dahlia Society has been adopted for the competition.

Types

1) **Single flowered dahlias** (S)
Open center, a ring of flat florets evenly spaced out
    - Single ordinary (So), variable height, diameter above 5 cm.
    - Single Mignon (Sm), dwarf, diameter inferior to 5 cm.

Varieties are presented according to the following types :

2) **Collerette dahlias** (CO): Single flowered dahlias with a ring of florets of variable colour around the disc.

3) **Anemone flowered dahlias** (AN) : the oversized and more or less colourful tubular florets of the central disc form a sort of protruding honeycomb surrounded by a ring of flat florets.

4) **Paeony flowered dahlias** (PE): cupped blooms with at least two rings of florets. Frequently, half dwarf.

5) **Orchid flowered dahlias** (O) : cupped or full blooms, long revolute florets (so that the downside of the floret might be visible)

6) **Bouquet dahlias**: full bloom, less than 15 cm in diameter, possibly with fewer florets than cactus or decorative types. Wide range of shapes and thickness but frequently thin. Plants are characterized by a large number of stems and, hence, a large number of flowers in full bloom at the same time.

7) **Camelia flowered dahlias** (CAM): very evenly spaced out, generally medium, small or miniature blooms, thiner than in decorative species. Ray florets are flat, broad, straight, rounded at the tip, never undulated or recurved towards the stem. Maximum thickness : - in diameter

8) **Waterlily flowered dahlias** (NY): same characteristics as above but florets are longer, slightly revolute and incurved.

9) **Ball dahlias (B):** particularly large number of florets (often more than in decorative dahlias), short, broad and rounded at the tips, revolute, which gives to the spheric bloom a slightly alveolate aspect. Optimal thickness: at least three quarters of the diameter.
   - Ancient double dahlias (Bd) : open disc can be visible.
   - Ball dahlias (Ba) . Fully double blooms, diameter above 5 cm.
   - Pompons dahlias (liliputs) (Bp). Balls less than 5 cm in diameter.

10) **Decorative dahlias** (D): fully double bloom. Florets are more or less broad, flat, slightly concave, convex or undulated, scarecely revolute, frequently recurving towards the stem.
    Ideal thickness: three quarters of the diameter.
    - Strictly decorative (Ds): flat florets, slightly concave or convex, evenly spaced, often broad. Rounded or pointed ends.
    - Hybrid decorative (Dh): revolute florets (convex) at the tip only (approximately one fourth of the floret length) or undulated, curly, ribbon-like.
    - Lacinated decorative (" carnation flowered" included) (Dic) : lacinated florets (or fimbriated : regularly and clearly presenting a fork end, split into two or three divisions).

11) **Cactus dahlias** : Fully double blooms with pointed, revolute ray florets (upper side of the floret visible). Ideal thickness : one half or three quarters of the diameter.
    - Straight cactus (Cd): straight florets, evenly spaced out blooms.
    - Incurving cactus (Ci): florets regularly incurving towards the centre, evenly spaced out bloom.

- Recurving cactus (sometimes named "chrysanthemium flowered") (Cr). Florets curved sideways in a more or less disorderly way, swirling aspect of the bloom.
- Lacinated cactus (Clc) : lacinated florets.

12) <u>Semi-cactus dahlias</u> (hybrids) (SC)
Shape intermediary between cactus and decorative types. Florets imperfectly revolute (convex) for their whole length or revolute (convex) for a large part of their lenth (about half their length). Ideal thickness : three quarters of the diameter.

- Lacinated semi cactus (SCIc) : same, lacinated florets.

13) <u>Miscenalleous dahlias</u>
New forms or species too rare to form a specific category.

2.3 - Conditions of presentation
The competition spans a one year period.
Young plants are planted in the open ground, in the dahlia garden, as soon as they arrive at the Parc Floral. The varieties to be tested are submitted to the same culture, the same attention (hoeing, disbudding, watering…) as a regular culture.
One plant per variety will not be disbudded.

2.4 - Sending conditions
Each variety must be sent in the form of tubers (3 tubers) by March 15th at the latest or in the form of rooted cuttings (6 for big dahlias and 12 for dwarf species by June 1rst to the Bois de Vincennes district (Rond-Point de la Pyramide – Bois de Vincennes – 75012 Paris – Tel : 01 49 57 15 15 email : concours.dahlia@paris.fr.
Cuttings must be in good sanitary conditions and well rooted.
If, exceptionnally, a grower cannot comply with this condition, he must notify the Head of the Bois de Vincennes district no later than March 1rst and specify the number of specimens he will send later. Prior to any sending, each grower must forward a letter mentioning the content of the parcel, the assumed date of reception, the name and address of the forwarding agent.

Each foreign grower must send :
- a copy of the phytosanitary certificate with the above mentioned letter
- the original of the phytosanitary certificate and a non commercial invoice enclosed with the parcel

2.5 - Labelling of the dahlias
Each variety must have a sending label with the following information :
- the name of the variety or its commercial code
- the name of the group to which the variety belongs (Art. 2.2)

2.6 - Reception of the dahlias

Upon arrival of the parcels, the Bois de Vincennes district issues a number for each variety and sends these to the secretariat of the competition under this sole number to ensure anonymity.
A receipt is sent back to the grower, as well as a data sheet that must be filled out and returned to the District before the day of the competition.
This data sheet provides information on each variety refered to by the letters and figures of the sending label : breed, family, description, specific features, (colour, height and description of the flower), newness claimed by the grower, etc…

The data sheet will be kept by the District. The data enclosed will only be released on the day of the competition, at the moment of the announcement of the results by the jury. If the data file is not complete, the variety presented may be dismissed from the competition.

<u>Article 3</u> : the Jury

3.1 – Composition of the jury
Its members are :

3.1.1 – Elected representatives
The Mayor, President of the jury, or the Deputy Mayor in charge of Green Spaces and Environment.

3.1.2 – Personalities
- the president of the French National Horticultural Society or his/her representative
- the secretary of the dahlia section of the French National Horticultural Society or his/her representative
- the president of the French Dahlia Society or his/her representative
- the director of cultures of the Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle or his/her representative
- the president of the Association of Garden and Horticulture Journalists or his/her representative
- professionals who have no commercial interest in the production, culture or marketing of dahlias
- directors of foreign urban parks or their representatives
- directors of foreign associations related to dahlias (five at the maximum)

3.1.3 - Journalists

3.1.4 - Florists

3.1.5 – The director of the City of Paris Department of Green Spaces and Environment, the head of the division of vegetal sciences and technics, as well as technicians from her department appointed by her.

3.2 - The standing technical committee
The members of the technical committee are appointed by name by the director of Green Spaces and Environment of the City of Paris among the members of the jury.
The committee is chaired by the head of the division of vegetal sciences and technics of the City of Paris Department Green Spaces and Environment, or his/her representative and has a maximum of 15 members.
Its mission is to see to the quality and prestige of the international dahlia competition and to examine the dahlias at the following periods : around the end of August or during the first week of September. Field visits are organized in groups and the members are informed by the chairman of the standing committee.
If they are held up, the members of the committee are allowed to come and examine the dahlias at a date as close as possible as that of the group visit. Apart from mandatory visits, each member is allowed to examine the dahlias as often as he/she wishes, especially in July and August.

3.3 - The committee has authority to change the category of the varieties in case of a misclassification by the grower and to dismiss any diseased plant likely to contaminate the other cultures.

<u>Article 4</u> : Rating of the dahlias

4.1 - The members of the technical committee give a mark for each criterion. To this end, they receive an individual rating notebook. The committee rates the dahlias over a one year period.

4.2 - Rating by the technical standing committee :
The general rating issued by the standing committee takes the following technical elements into consideration :

5 marks : height of the flower
5 marks : leaves
10 marks : stem
10 marks : floral density
10 marks : position of the flower
15 marks : colour of the flower
10 marks : general aspect of the flower
25 marks : quality and shape of the flower
10 marks : bonus for outstanding features

4.3 - Rating by the jury
The general mark issued by the jury takes the following technical elements into account :

10 marks : general aspect of the plant
10 marks : general aspect of the flower

10 marks : bonus for outstanding features

The results will be available to the members of the jury and will be given to the growers for information on the day of the competition.
The final mark out of 10 is calculated from the average mark of all the marks.

4.4 - The selection of the public
All the visitors of the Parc Floral de Paris can participate in this selection. Each participant fills out an entry form in which 3 of the varieties in competition for the current year are classified in order of preference.
3 marks are given to each variety everytime it ranks first on the form, 2 marks when it ranks second and 1 mark when it ranks third.
The total of the marks obtained for each variety determines the classification.

4.5 - Specific ratings
Specific ratings can be decided by professionals to reward dahlias that correspond to special uses or use criteria.

Article 5 : rewards
They are awarded by the president of jury on the day of the competition.

5.1 - Nature of the rewards
The rewards given by the City Hall of Paris include :
- First prize for dahlias, all categories : reflects the choice of professionals for a use of dahlias in gardens.
- First prize for dwarf dahlias : rewards the most interesting dahlias for the floral ornementation of cities.
- First prize for the public selection : highlights the dahlias most appreciated by the general public.
- First prize of non professional growers : an opportunity to promote and develop the research of new varieties by non professionals.
- One or several certificates.

5.2 - Special prizes
- the prize of the horticultural press awarded by the association of garden and horticulture journalists
- the prize of florists awarded by a jury of florists.
- other prizes created by professionals.

5.3 - Prize awarding
The first prizes will be awared to the variety that has obtained the greatest number of marks in its category. Certificates will reward the variety or varieties that have particularly caught the standing committee's attention.

5.4 - Exhibition of the prize-winners

Pize winning varieties will be kept in the collections of the Parc Floral de Paris with mention of their rating in the competition.
Growers will be able to collect the other varieties during the month of November. Otherwise, they will be destroyed by the services of the Bois de Vincennes District. The director of Green Spaces and Environment is responsible for the enforcement of the present rules that will be published in the official municipal bulletin.