

Exhibiting your Orchids for AOS Judging:

There is nothing quite like winning your very first American Orchid Society Award. The thrill of knowing that you own a flower of the highest quality, or that you have grown a plant so well that you are being honored for your growing prowess, or that you have a species that will be recognized for the very first time, and on top of that knowing that your name will forever be listed in the records for Orchid Awards throughout the world is an experience like no other!

There are several ways that you can enter your Orchids for AOS judging. You can enter them into an AOS sanctioned show (either individually or as part of a society or vendor display), take them in to an AOS Judging Center monthly judging, or participate in an AOS Outreach Judging. Check out the Calendar for all judging events <http://www.aos.org/news-events/event-calendar.aspx>. They are also posted in Orchids magazine monthly.

SHOWS

At an AOS sanctioned show, you can enter plants for orchid judging for the opportunity to win ribbons and trophies through the hosting society and this also makes them eligible for AOS awards. Generally plants are put into an arranged display by societies, individuals and vendors, but you can also enter them as individual entries. Most shows grant ribbons for 1st through 3rd place and also have trophies for the different classes or genera. AOS judges typically preside over the ribbon judging and then nominate plants for AOS judging. All plants entered into a show are eligible for AOS awards unless they are clearly marked as “not for AOS judging”. If you happen to win an AOS award, you are obligated to pay the award fee associated with the win (as of October 2016, the processing fee is \$40 for members and \$60 for non-members).

AOS Center Judging

There are 26 judging centers throughout the United States and Canada; several of them have multiple judging locations within the center <http://www.aos.org/orchid-awards-judging/aos-judging-centers.aspx>. Center judgments are held monthly. All you need to do is show up with your properly named orchid (cleaning up the leaves first, staking the inflorescences, and placing them in an attractive pot aren't necessary, but it does help with the overall presentation!)

AOS Outreach Judging

Occasionally AOS Judging Centers offer Outreach judgments that can be held at society meetings or other events. If you would like to host an outreach judging, please contact your nearest judging center.

Award invoices and the role of Affiliated Societies

In 2016, the American Orchid Society made the decision to increase award fees, and at the same time, in order to reward membership in our organization, created a two tiered processing fee of \$40 for members and \$60 for non-members.

In an effort to reach out and help AOS non-members to foster a feeling of comradery within the society, the AOS allows the hosting society two options. The society can offer to be responsible for collecting the award fees from the winning exhibitors and processing them through the society membership so that award will be collected at

the membership rate. Some societies have even offered to absorb the cost of all awards granted during their show, so that all exhibitors who are granted an AOS award from plants exhibited in the show will receive them free of charge with the hosting society covering the cost as a benefit to their membership.

If your society has any interest in either of these two options, you need simply to note that on the show application, so that we can process them accordingly.

What happens when a plant receives an award?

Either at a show or judging center, the exhibitor of the winning plant will receive a copy of the award form with a unique award number. If your plant does not already have a clonal name (this is a name given to this particular plant or mericlone, or any pieces of this plant). Some orchids are purchased with the clonal name already provided (in the case of a mericlones or in case this is a piece of a large plant) This is the name on the label that has single quotes around it. If there is not already a clonal name on the plant, you get to choose one! This can be any name of your choosing (within reason) <https://www.rhs.org.uk/plants/pdfs/plant-registration-forms/GuidelinesOrchidreg.pdf>. Your plant will also be photographed. The judging center will then process the award, and send the award and photograph to the awards registrar for processing.

Once processed, you will receive an emailed invoice (If you do not have email, you will receive your copy in the mail). To pay for the award, you can either follow the link on the invoice (if you are a member) or purchase it through website in the online shop, mail the invoice back with your check/money order/credit card information, or you can call the office, 305-740-2010, and they will process your credit card payment over the phone.

Once your award is paid for, you will be sent your official award certificate and you may also ask for a digital copy of the award photograph for your personal use. The award will be included in Orchids Plus, our official registry of all American Orchid Society Awards, and will be published in Orchids magazine the following year.

Keep in mind that you have an original 30 days to pay for the award and then additional invoices will be mailed to you. If we do not receive payment within 60 days of the original invoice date, the award will be nullified and the exhibitor will be placed on our delinquent list. No other plants for this exhibitor will receive AOS awards until the past awards are paid for and reinstated. This is to ensure the integrity of our award system, and the judging process and avoids recipients picking and choosing awards. The judges' decisions are final and based on point systems that measure the attributes of the given flower/plant with prior awards. The judging handbook instructs that awarded plants should be an improvement over past awards, which fosters overall improvement of the genera.

Before you bring in or submit a plant for judging you should be aware of all of the rules <http://www.aos.org/orchid-awards-judging/judging-handbook/judging-process.aspx>

Should you have any questions about the process, feel free to contact the Awards Registrar laura@aos.org.

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/plants/pdfs/plant-registration-forms/GuidelinesOrchidreg.pdf>