



THE GARDEN CLUB *of* AMERICA

Flower Show & Judging Guide

Book 5

2022 Edition

Glossary of Terms

The glossary is intended as a guide through the terminology likely to be encountered by those sponsoring, exhibiting in, or judging a show. It is not intended as a complete listing of all design, photographic, horticultural, and educational terms.

Symbol Key:

Floral Design **[FD]**
Horticulture **[H]**
Photography **[P]**
Botanical Arts **[BA]**
Conservation **[C]**
Garden History & Design **[GHD]**
Judging **[J]**
General Flower Show **[G]**
Education **[E]**
Specialty Class(es) **[S]**

AAG: [GHD] Archives of American Gardens; managed by the Smithsonian Institution, is a collection of approximately 6,500 gardens with photographic images and records documenting historic and contemporary gardens throughout the United States, many contributed by GCA members.

Abstract: [P] a photo, which focuses on shape, form, color, pattern, and texture. It seeks to show the subject's essence, not the reality.

Abstract Design: [FD] a design style in which plant material and other components are used for their intrinsic qualities of line, form, color, and texture; characterized by boldness, an emphasis on space and interest distributed throughout the design; may be interpretive (a subjective response to a title or theme) or non-objective (without a theme).

Accessory / Accessories:

[BA] are not permitted.

[FD] anything other than plant material, base, mechanics, background, or container used anywhere in a design; must be subordinate to the plant material. Accessories are permitted unless the schedule prohibits.

Acid soil: [H] has a pH below 7.0.

Achromatic colors: [G] neutral colors having no saturation or hue, such as neutral grays, white or black.

Airbrush: [P] a technique to alter, improve or remove components from an image.

Air-layering: [H] a propagation technique where a terminal stem growth is coaxed to develop roots while still attached to, and growing on, the mother plant. This technique is useful in some slow to root plants.

Alkaline soil: [H] has a pH above 7.0.

Ambient light: [P] the light existing in a scene prior to the photographer introducing an additional light source.

Analogous colors: [FD] colors adjacent to each other on the color wheel.

Anchoring: [FD] securing a stem into floral foam by using wooden picks or wire.

Annual: [H] a plant that normally completes its life cycle (germination, flowering, seeding, dying) in one growing season (RHS). In some flower shows, classes for annuals may include those non-hardy perennial plants blooming the first year from seed, which are treated as annuals because of a short summer growing season, such as petunias and snapdragons.

Anther: [H] part of stamen that produces pollen.

Aperture: [P] the relative size of the lens opening that is measured in increments called f-stops.

Armature: [FD] framework or grid work constructed for mechanical and/or decorative purposes.

Arrangement: [FD] soil-less plant material and other components organized according to the principles and elements of design to create a unified whole; synonymous with floral design.

Artistic crafts: [S] exhibits that, while related to horticulture or floral design, involve a particular kind of skilled craftsmanship as well as excellence in design, e.g., Needle Arts and Pressed Plants.

Asexual propagation: [H] see Propagation.

Asian manner: [FD] adaptations for flower shows of traditional and/or modern Asian design styles.

Assemblage: [FD] an abstract, three-dimensional design using plant material and other components. May be staged on a table, pedestal, or in a niche, hung on a wall, or in front of other art.

Asymmetrical balance: [FD] approximately equal visual weight on both sides of an axis, composed of elements (including space) differing in placement, amount, kind, etc.

Backlight: [P] when the source of light comes from behind the subject.

Background:

[FD] surface or surfaces behind, under, and around a design.

[P] visual material behind the subject.

Balance: [FD] [P] a design principle of visual (and physical) equilibrium; visual weight is distributed on either side of an imaginary axis. The balance can be distributed either equally (symmetrical balance) or unevenly (asymmetrical balance).

Banding: [FD] see Techniques.

Base: [FD] any object used under the container or plant material in a composition and not considered an accessory; may include more than one related part, such as two discs or three triangles.

Basing: [FD] see Techniques.

Bench Show: [G] an informal show used for practice staged at a club meeting and may be as informal as entries shared for interest or more formal with classes announced in advance and posted on the club website. Generally, classes are not passed; there may be several blue ribbons, and a club member(s) may informally judge or local GCA judge(s) and/or judges from another organization or experts in the discipline may be asked to judge. A Bench Show is used to encourage exhibitors in all disciplines in the process of preparing an entry. There are no minimum class requirements, number of entries, or number of classes. Clubs may stage a Bench Show at each meeting, record points, and designate a Sweepstakes winner at the end of the meeting year.

Beneficial insects: [C] insects that act as pollinators and/or parasites or predators of harmful garden pests.

Bicolor: [G] two different colors in the same flower.

Biedermeier: [FD] a tightly constructed round design traditionally consisting of formal rings of flowers; more contemporary versions use strong groupings and may include non-plant material.

Biennial plant: [H] a plant that completes its lifespan in two years. Some herbaceous flowers and vegetables are biennial. Most biennial plants produce foliage the first year and bloom the second year.

Binding: [FD] see Techniques.

Binding point: [FD] central point from which all stems radiate.

Biodegradable plastics: [C] plastic products such as shopping bags that break down when exposed to sunlight, water or dampness, bacteria, enzymes, etc., and will degrade slowly when placed in a compacted, anaerobic landfill or marine environment, or may fragment, but not decompose. Some plastics may be compostable in commercial compost facilities.

Biodiversity: [H] [C] in living things in a particular area or region, the variety of species, and genetic diversity of life within ecosystems. It is a contraction of the words “biological diversity.”

Biological species concept (BSC): [C] group of interbreeding or potentially interbreeding organisms that can produce viable offspring.

Black and white: [P] an image executed in black and white. See Monochrome. Schedules may specify either monochrome or black and white.

Bloom: [H] a flower or blossom, also a waxy coating found on fruit and foliage e.g., *Rhododendron* foliage and blueberries.

Bokeh: [P] the blur, or the aesthetic quality of the blur, in out-of-focus areas of an image, e.g., the attractive quality of a blurred background in a portrait.

Bolting: [H] a burst of stem growth leading to premature flowering and production of seed usually caused by hot temperatures and warming soil.

Bonsai: [H] the horticultural practice of growing and training woody plants as artificially or naturally dwarfed specimens. Specimens not following the classical principles established by the Japanese may be classified as “grown in the bonsai manner.” Bonsai is judged as a trained plant using GCA standards rather than the Bonsai judging standards.

Botanical Arts: [BA] Division IV of a flower show. Designs crafted from dried plant material. Botanical Arts fall into four categories: Botanical Jewelry, Botanical Embellishment, Botanical Couture, and Botanical Forms.

Botanical Jewelry: [BA] a design created entirely from dried plant material and made to resemble wearable jewelry in both size and function. Plant materials may be treated. No mechanics or structural base material may be visible

Botanical Embellishment: [BA] a man-made object enhanced with dried plant material. Plant materials may be treated. Complete coverage of the object is not required unless stated in a flower show schedule.

Botanical Couture:[BA] a design emulating an item of clothing and/or other fashion accessory created from all dried plant material. Plant materials may be treated, unless otherwise stated in the schedule. Schedule states requirements such as no mechanics or structural base material may be visible.

Botanical Forms: [BA] a design of any other form (e.g., not Botanical Jewelry, Botanical Embellishment, or Botanical Couture) created from all dried plant material. Plant materials may be treated. No mechanics or structural base material may be visible.

Bracketing: [P] several shots taken in sequence with slightly different exposures to increase the chances of capturing the correct exposure.

Braiding: [FD] see Techniques.

Brightness: [P] the degree to which the subject appears to be reflecting or emitting light.

Brownfield: [C] an abandoned site, often commercial or industrial, which has had previous development that may have produced contamination.

Bud: [H] for the purpose of exhibition, an unopened or partly opened bloom.

Bulb: [H]

1. a modified underground stem, which is typically very short, flattened, and surmounted by a group of usually fleshy, non-green, scale-like leaves. Bulbs are sometimes covered by a thin, membranous layer, e.g., onions and tulips, or fibrous and reticulated, tunic, e.g., *Allium*, or the scales may be naked, e.g., *Lilium*.

2. in horticultural classification, corms, tubers, or thickened rhizomes may be considered bulbs, which they resemble and have similar cultural requirements. For purposes of a Flower Show, Corms and Tubers are to be grouped with Bulbs.

Burning: [P] darkening an area of a photograph in post-processing.

Cachepot: [H] a decorative container, often used as a receptacle for a standard pot and is permitted unless the schedule prohibits.

Cactus: [H] all cacti are succulents, but not all succulents are cacti. Cacti bear areoles, a unique pad-like structure on the stems that bear spines or flowers. Cacti (members of Cactaceae) have fleshy stems with spines, typically large, bisexual flowers, and are native to the New World.

Calyx: [H] the outermost parts of a flower blossom.

Carbon footprint: [C] the total set of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions caused by an organization, event, product, or person, (UK Carbon Trust) taking into account all related sources, sinks, and storage.

Cascade:

[FD] a design constructed of layered, loosely trailing plant material which appears to flow; waterfall.

[H] a plant trained to grow downward over the edge of its container, emulating a waterfall; a bonsai style or a method of training chrysanthemums.

Catch lights: [P] gleams or patches of light caught in a subject's eyes.

Caudiciform: [H] succulents that survive periodic drought by means of a swollen, perennial, watery storage organ from which arise slender, sometimes seasonal, photosynthesizing organs. Caudex refers to the swollen stem/root.

Cauline: [H] of, having or growing on a stem.

Challenge classes:

[FD] - Floral Design Classes

1. Challenge Class

- At-the-show all components, mechanics, containers, plant material, and accessories are supplied by the Flower Show Committee.
- The schedule will specify how many of the items must be used.
- These items should be as identical as possible for each exhibitor.
- Exhibitor brings clippers only.

2. Component Challenge Class:

- Prior to the show, exhibitors are given identical objects, some or all of which must be incorporated into the design.
- The schedule dictates how many items must be used and to what extent these components may be altered.

- The arranger creates the design, adds plant material and, may add mechanics, etc., including a container.

[H] – Horticulture Classes

- The challenge of growing one specific variety or cultivar of a plant, bulb, corm, root, tuber, cutting, seed, etc., to be exhibited at a flower show.
- The schedule states where and when the above will be distributed or may be purchased.
- Or the challenge class may be a plant grown by a certain propagation technique, a specific plant or tree, ground cover, etc.

Chlorophyll: [H] the green pigment that is necessary for photosynthesis.

Chlorosis: [H] result of disease or infestation, poor growing conditions, poor drainage, compacted soil, damage to roots, or lack of nutrients, including iron deficiency; leaves may become yellow.

Chroma: [G] the purity of a color (hue).

Circles of confusion: [P] indistinct blobs; areas that are out of focus.

Cityscape: [P] an image that captures an urban landscape, especially skylines, though cityscapes can be taken from a variety of angles and perspectives. The primary subjects of a cityscape are man made structures - buildings, streets, bridges, etc., rather than nature.

Clarity: [P] clearness of appearance affecting the image's mid-tone colors.

Clerk: [J] a person who accompanies a judging panel to record comments, place ribbons, and who has a general familiarity with the layout and personnel at a flower show.

Climate change: [C] refers to any significant change in measures of climate (such as temperature, precipitation, or wind) lasting for an extended period (decades or longer). Climate change might result from natural factors and processes or from human activities.

<https://www.epa.gov/climate-change>

Clone: [H] the descendants of a single plant produced asexually by cuttings, division of rootstock, grafting, runners, and cloning, etc., are genetically identical to the parent plant.

Cloning: [P] the act of copying a part of an image from one area to another by painting it in place with a clone tool in Photoshop or other post-processing software.

Close-up: [P] a photo taken close to the subject or with a long focal-length lens to permit a close and detailed view of the object. The object fills most of the frame.

Clustering: [FD] see Techniques.

CMYK: [P] (process color, or four color) refers to the primary colors of pigment, cyan, magenta, yellow, and key (black), that are used in printing.

Collage: [FD] a composition made by attaching various fresh and/or dried plant materials and, optionally, other objects to a flat surface in low relief.

Collaring: [FD] see Techniques.

Collection: [H] an exhibit containing three or more specimens of container-grown plants, cut flowers, etc.; judged primarily for cultural perfection and variety; a pleasing arrangement is desirable; must be accompanied by a key card or diagram to identify the plant material. See Display.

Color: [FD] [P] a phenomenon of light that enables one to differentiate objects. All colors have three characteristics: hue (specific color name), value (lightness and darkness), and intensity (the strength or weakness of the color).

[FD] a design element;

[P] a compositional element

Color splash: [P] (Spot Color, Selective Color) the selective use of color(s) in an otherwise gray scale image. It is not monochrome. See Monochrome.

Color wheel: [FD] a circle with hues arranged in the same order as they appear in the solar spectrum. A color chart or wheel is a color circle expanded to include tints, shades, and tones.

Compatibility: [H] refers to plants with similar cultural requirements – sun, shade, water, etc.

Complementary colors: [FD] two colors which lie opposite or approximately opposite on the color wheel.

Component: [FD] that which is used in a design, e.g., plant material, container, mechanics, background, base, accessory.

Composite: [FD] a handmade creation in which different petals or buds are wired together on a single stem to create the illusion of a giant flower.

[H] a composite flower is made up of many florets, both disc florets and ray florets, e.g., Asteraceae (syn. Compositae), Sunflower.

Composition: [FD] synonymous with arrangement or design.

[P] the arrangement of the elements that comprise the image.

Compound leaf: [H] a leaf made up of two or more leaflets.

Condition: [FD] [H] the physical state of plant material.

Conditioning: [FD] advance preparation of cut plant material to maximize its vase life.

Conformance: [FD] [P] the assessment of whether the exhibit follows the rules of the show and class requirements as set forth in the schedule. For passing purposes, conformance does not include correctness of style or interpretation; judges evaluate this aspect of conformance.

[P] If a passer determines that, even giving the photographer wide latitude for artistic interpretation, an image does not conform to class, she/he should consult with the division chair to determine if the image should be passed into the show.

Conifer: [H] woody trees and shrubs that produce cones. Common conifers include pines, firs, spruce, juniper, redwood, and hemlocks.

Conservation easement: [C] a legal, voluntary deed restriction placed by the landowner on his or her property to protect valuable resources, including soils, water quality, wildlife habitat, historic sites, and scenic views.

Conservation exhibit: [C] [E] an exhibit at a flower show designed to illustrate any aspect of conservation and to educate the viewers about conservation issues.

Construction: [FD] a contemporary design style with strong geometric or architectural characteristics, often employing natural or man-made material joined to create a structure.

Container: [FD] any receptacle for holding plant material and other design components. (In classes requiring all fresh plant material, the container may be of dried plant material.)

Container garden: [H] a planting of at least three species or cultivars in a container. The plant material must be culturally compatible, in scale, and arranged in a pleasing manner to suggest a garden. See Trough.

Contemporary Design: [FD] floral design not following traditional styles, using imagination and creativity to devise new approaches to the selection and organization of plant material and other components according to the principles and elements of design.

Content: [P] the subject or topic captured in the photograph.

Contrast: [FD] a design principle; use of dissimilar elements. [P] the amount of difference among tones in an image.

Coordinating Judge: [J] appointed by the zone judging rep or Judging Committee chairman, depending on the type of show, from the list of experienced, approved judges on the panel. Duties include panel introductions, timekeeping, establishing guidelines for the team including candidate and prospective judges, and confirming accurate comment and ribbon placements. See [Coordinating Judge](#)

Corm: [H] a bulb-like, swollen underground stem stored with reserve food and bearing buds or growing shoots on its surface, e.g., *Crocus*, *Gladiolus*, *Cyclamen*, *Colchicum*.

Cotyledon: [H] energy storage components of a seed that feed the plant before the emergence of its first true leaves.

Creative Techniques: [P] the use of manipulation or alteration in any stage of the photographic process to achieve an effect that the original subject is no longer discernible or reflective of reality.

All representational images in a manipulated or creative technique photo must be the work of the photographer. Non-representational enhancements such as the addition of purchased textures are allowed. Creative techniques may be entered in any class.

Creativity:

[FD] artistic inventiveness; ingenuity in the selection and/or organization of plant material and/or other components. See Originality.

[P] imagination, innovation, originality in some aspect, either technically or artistically.

Cropping: **[P]** trimming an image to improve the composition and/or enhance the impact of the photograph.

Cross-pollination: **[H]** the transfer of pollen from the male reproductive organ (an anther or a male cone) of one plant to the female reproductive organ (a stigma or a female cone) of another plant.

CSA: **[C]** Community Supported Agriculture, a system in which consumers purchase and receive food by pick-up or delivery directly from the farmers who grow it, often grown by organic or biodynamic methods or an alternative certification e.g., Certified Naturally Grown.

Culm: **[H]** a stem of a grass or sedge.

Cultivar: **[H]** a horticultural variety that has been selected and maintained in cultivation for particular horticultural attributes; usually propagated vegetatively to maintain its distinct characteristics. This term is derived from "cultivated variety." The correct abbreviation is "cv.", and the cultivar name is capitalized and placed in single quotes, as in *Clematis* cv. 'Betty Corning' or *Fagus sylvatica* 'Pendula.' See Variety.

Cultural Landscapes: **[P]** works of art, narratives of culture, and expressions of regional identity. They are geographic areas that represent the combined works of nature and man. In photography, they may be images that depict cultural situations or practices. Cultural landscapes often include people and animals but not necessarily.

Cultural perfection: **[H]** the quality or state of being perfect; a plant specimen at its peak.

Culture: **[H]** the conditions (e.g., soil, sun exposure, moisture) in which a plant thrives.

Cutting: **[H]** a part of a plant used to reproduce its exact characteristics by vegetative propagation.

Deadheading: **[H]** the removal of old blossoms to encourage continued blooming or to improve the appearance of the plant.

Deciduous: **[H]** plants that shed all their leaves annually, usually in the fall.

Decorative arrangement: **[FD]** an arrangement typically created for individual pleasure as at home, rather than for competition.

Della Robbia: [FD] a style of floral design that mixes flowers with decorative fruit and vegetables, usually in wreaths and garlands, inspired by Renaissance ceramics of Luca and Andrea della Robbia.

Depth of field: [P] the distance range of acceptable focus determined by aperture setting, focal length, and subject distance.

Desiccation:

[BA] a technique used to prepare plant material for use in botanical jewelry and pressed plant creations, commonly utilizing silica gel, a flower press, or heat.

[H] dehydration or loss of water.

Design: [FD] synonymous with arrangement.

Design forms: [FD] basic geometric forms are cube, sphere, pyramid, and cone from which all geometric design forms emanate.

Diagonal rule of composition: [P] states that a photograph looks more dynamic if the objects in the image follow or fall below a diagonal line in the photograph, which may be actual or implied.

Dioecious: [H] having distinct male and female organs on different plants within the same species.

Diorama: [FD] a floral design division supplemental class; a scene in miniature, partially or completely three dimensional, and often with a painted background. Analogous to 'vignette'. See Vignette.

Diptych or Two-panel: [P] a picture that has two panels placed next to each other.

Direct complement: [FD] hues directly opposite on the color wheel.

Disability Policy: [G] While most flower show schedules permit joint entries, it is up to the show committee to determine whether this is desired. In any class where joint entries are not permitted, exhibitors with a disability (temporary or permanent) should be allowed the physical assistance of one person who is not another designer or experienced in the division being entered. Such an entry needs to be approved by the show chairman.

Disbudding: [H] the selective removal of flower buds as the plants grow to improve the size and quality of remaining blooms.

Display: [H] an exhibit of plants, flowers, fruits, and/or vegetables artistically arranged; accessories permitted unless schedule prohibits; judged for decorative effect, cultural perfection, and labeling; should be accompanied by a key card or diagram to identify the plant material. A scale of points should be stated in the schedule. See Collection.

Distinction: [G] marked superiority in all respects; an element in judging.

Division:

[G] A flower show is organized around the show disciplines, which form divisions. These include floral design, horticulture, photography, botanical arts, conservation, and education exhibits.

[H] a propagation technique that increases the number of plants by splitting a parent plant into sections each containing roots and top growth, which are planted and grow into a plant identical to the parent.

Dodging: **[P]** lightening an area of a photograph in post-processing.

Dominance:

[FD] a design principle; marked prominence of one or more element(s) over others in a design.

[P] the focal point or of interest.

Double potting: **[H]** one pot inside another generally disguised with top dressing permitted unless the schedule prohibits. Used when a plant cannot be disturbed from its growing pot or plants with very sensitive watering requirements, but a clean pot is needed for display.

Dried plant material: **[FD]** **[BA]** plant material with all moisture removed.

Ecosystem: **[H]** **[C]** a system composed of the community of plants, animals, microorganisms, and other life co-existing in the water, soil, and air, and all interrelated in a certain locale by a particular set of environmental conditions and processes.

Education Classes: Education Division V, Divisions I-IV, are eligible for the Education Award.

Education Exhibit: Large exhibit, Education Division V, is eligible for the Education Award or the Ann Lyon Crammond Award, and is eligible for the Marion Thompson Fuller Brown Award (if a conservation exhibit).

Educational Component: **[G]** **[E]** a required element in a GCA Flower Show which must be documented in the schedule. This can be an exhibit, a class(es), a division(s), or the entire show.

Elements of composition: **[P]** color, form, light/value, line, pattern/repetition, space, and texture. Eligible for the Education Award.

Elements of Design: **[FD]** color, form, light, line, pattern, size, space, and texture.

Endangered and threatened plants: **[C]** **[H]** native species whose status in the wild is listed in a conservation priority ranking system. Two terms are widely used:

1. endangered: a native species in danger of becoming extinct throughout all, or in a significant portion, of its range due to one or more causes, including loss or modification of habitat, pollution, disease, competition, or over-collecting.

2. threatened: a native plant without special protection is likely to become an endangered species in the foreseeable future.

Endemic: [C] plant native to a specific area.

Entry: [G] a submission in any class in a flower show. Becomes an exhibit once passed.

Entry card:

[G] a card containing all information pertinent to entering any division of a flower show: exhibitor's name, garden club, zone, class and entry numbers, novice status, class titles. Entry cards may be downloaded from the GCA website and then customized. [Entry Card](#)

[FD] [H] the botanical and common names for all plant material must be included.

[H] the class subdivision, length of ownership, horticulture award eligibility must be noted.

Epiphyte: [H] a plant that grows on another plant for support without being parasitic since it obtains its nutrients from the air and rain.

Epithet: [H] in 2-word binomial botanical nomenclature, the genus appears first, followed by the specific epithet, which identifies descriptive characteristics, place of origin, people associated with the plant, etc.

Espalier: [H] a plant trained on a form in two dimensions, often viewed only from the front.

Etiolation: [H] the abnormal elongation and blanching of plants grown in weak light.

European mass: [FD] a style of design where similar flowers, fruits, or foliage are grouped in color blocks.

Evergreen: [H] a plant that retains green foliage all year, even during its dormant period.

Exhibit:

[G] an entry (which has been passed) in a competitive or non-competitive class.

[E] a Large Exhibit(s) in Division V. A brief written paragraph (no more than 50 words) offering explanation of the exhibit is required.

Exhibition table: [FD] see Table classes.

Exotics: [FD] [H] [C] plant material from tropical climates; non-native plant species.

Exposure: [P] the amount of light reaching light-sensitive material such as film or a digital image sensor.

Expression: [P] communication of emotion using the elements and principles of composition.

Family: [H] a group of genera which have in common certain technical characteristics, usually based on flower and fruit e.g., Ericaceae, Rosaceae, etc.

Flare: [P] light that reflects or scatters inside the camera or lens, resulting in loss of contrast, spectral inpoints, or streaks of light.

Floral Design: [FD] soilless plant material and other components organized according to the principles and elements of design to create a unified whole.

Floral foam: [FD] man-made foam blocks used in floral designs to hold plant material in place. It retains water like a sponge and, once moistened, is placed in a container, hydrating flowers for extended time periods. Eventually breaks down to small particles, but is not biodegradable.

Floriferous: [H] bearing flowers, especially flowering abundantly.

Flower Arrangement: [FD] see Arrangement or Floral Design.

Foam boards/foam core:

[H] [P] [C] used for mounting exhibit materials; lightweight, rigid, can be easily cut, and strong enough to stand up to laminating, screen printing, or die-cutting.

[P] backing for photographs and a lightweight material for display exhibits.

[C] contains polystyrene, which is not accepted by recycling centers and ends up in a landfill. The choice for archival photographs is acid-free museum board (made of cotton) or museum mat, or rag mat (made of paper/wood pulp).

Focal area or focal point: [FD] [P] a dominant area or point of interest to which the eye is drawn.

Focal length: [P] a measurement of the length and magnification properties of a lens expressed in millimeters. The longer the focal length, the narrower the angle of view and the higher the magnification. The shorter the focal length, the wider the angle of view and the lower the magnification.

Focus: [P] sharpness achieved in camera.

Foliage: [H] [FD] leaves of a plant including ferns, grasses, leaf buds, and leaf-like bracts.

Foreground: [P] the area of the image in the forefront.

Form: [FD] a design element; the outside contour of three-dimensional material; applies to the contour of individual parts or components, as well as to the contour of the whole design.

Formal plant: [H] a trained plant.

Formal linear: [FD] a design that features bold, forceful lines and distinctive materials.

Framing: [P] setting up a photographic shot using elements on the edges of the image to enclose and enhance the photograph.

Free form: [FD] a fluid unrestricted contemporary design style, free from geometric outlines; restraint is used in the amount of plant material; man-made materials are used sparingly; balance is asymmetrical.

Free standing: [FD] a design to be viewed from all sides.

Froned: [H] the leaf of ferns, cycads, and some palms.

Fruit: [H] the ripened ovary of a plant, which is seed bearing; fruit may or may not be edible.

Functional table: [FD] see Table classes.

Fungi: [FS] [P] [BA] although not plant material, may be used in flower shows if properly labeled on entry and key cards. The typical fungus consists of mycelium that produces a fruiting body that is the visible part of a fungus. Their ability to break down dead organic material continues the cycle of nutrients through the ecosystem. Examples include mushrooms, lichens, truffles, and toadstools.

Garden Style Design: [FD] reflects organic arranging of flowers foraged from the garden - a mixture of highly curated painterly colors and textures inspired by those portrayed in the Old Dutch Masters paintings. It is increasingly becoming a statement for NoFoam designing.

Garland: [FD] [BA] elaborately woven rope or strand of plant material, typically used to adorn mantels and doorways.

GCA Special Awards: [All] are given at approved flower shows.

GCA Flower Shows:

- GCA Novice Award [All]
- Best in Show [All]
- Award of Appreciation [All]
- Judges' Commendation [All]
- Award of Appreciation [All]
- Dorothy Vietor Munger Award [FD]
- Harriet DeWaele Puckett Creativity Award [FD]
- Sandra Baylor Novice Floral Design Award [FD]
- Catherine Beattie Medal [H]
- Clarissa Willemsen Horticulture Propagation Award [H]
- Rosie Jones Horticulture Award [H]
- Photography Creativity Award [P]
- Botanical Arts Creativity Award [BA]
- Marion Thompson Fuller Brown Conservation Award [C] [E]
- Ann Lyon Crammond Award [E]
- Education Award [E]
- Corliss Knapp Engle Zone Horticultural Sweepstakes Award [H] – only presented at a Zone Flower Show

GCA Major Flower Shows:

GCA Novice Award [All]
Best in Show [All]
Certificate of Excellence [All]
Annie Burr Jennings Sweepstakes Award [All]
Carol Coffey Swift Medal [FD]
Fenwick Medal [FD]
Margaret Clover Symonds Medal [FD]
Sandra Baylor Novice Floral Design Award [FD]
Elizabeth Platt Corning Medal [H]
Louise Agee Wrinkle Horticulture Propagation Award [H]
Photography Creativity Award [P]
Botanical Arts Creativity Award [BA]
Ann Lyon Crammond Award [E]
Education Award [E]

Non-GCA Sanctioned Major Flower Shows:

Award of Distinction [FD] [H] [P] [C] [E]
Certificate of Excellence [All]
The Bulkley Medal [H] [C] [E]

Genus, genera (pl.): [H] one or more species of plants closely related to each other and sufficiently distinct from other plant species to warrant giving them a generic (group) name (e.g., the genus *Lilium*).

Genetically modified plants: [C] plants in which genetic material (DNA) has been altered by transferring genes from one organism to another, often from totally unrelated species (also called genetic engineering).

Genetic diversity: [C] in populations of plants and other organisms, the range of inheritable traits (genes) that enable organisms to reproduce and survive.

Geophyte: [H] a perennial plant that propagates by underground corms, tubers, or bulbs.

Gilding: [BA] the decorative technique of applying gold, metal leaf, or powders to a surface.

Global warming: [C] the continuing rise in the average temperature in the earth's atmosphere. It is believed that it happens when greenhouse gases (carbon dioxide, water vapor, nitrous oxide, and methane) trap heat and light from the sun in the earth's atmosphere, which increases the temperature.

Gold leaf: [BA] gold that has been hammered into extremely thin sheets for the purpose of gilding.

Graft: [H] to unite a stem or bud of one plant to stem or root of another plant.

Grain: [P] a pixelated effect that is often used for artistic purposes, for example, to make an image appear old-fashioned or grungy. "Grain" is distinct from "noise" in that grain is an intentional effect used for artistic purposes, and noise is unintentional and detracts from the overall quality of the image.

Green belt: [C] an area of open land retained around a city or town designed to limit development and promote open space.

Green Building Council: [C] USGBC, a non-profit organization dedicated to sustainable building and garden design and construction. The USGBC created the LEED building rating system.

Greenhouse gasses: [C] Carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide, methane, water vapor, and also synthetic, man-made gases (e.g., those used for aerosols). 350 parts per million (350 ppm) is considered the safe upper limit for CO₂ in the atmosphere by scientists and climate experts.

Grooming: [H] procedures to ensure that a specimen presents the best possible appearance.

Growing conditions: [H] refers to soil type, soil pH, outside- sun/shade, inside- windowsill/full sun/low light, greenhouse, etc.

Growing methods: [H] the steps taken in growing or propagating a plant – (how much, how often, etc), including:

- Date purchased
- Seed planted or cutting taken
- Soil medium used
- Rooting hormone if any
- Bottom heat used
- Growth rate
- When potted up
- Extra light used
- Amount and type fertilizer used
- Water frequency
- Rotation of plant to promote symmetrical growth
- Other

Growing zones vs. GCA zones: [H] growing zones are the 11 areas in the United States that have been divided by criteria based on average temperatures. GCA's 12 zones are zones that are divided by geographic location. Each GCA zone includes its clubs, one zone chairman for club committees (ZCC), one zone chairman for club presidents (ZCP), and one zone representative on each GCA committee.

Habit: [H] the characteristic appearance of a plant.

Habitat: [C] a natural home or environment where an organism or ecological community normally lives or occurs.

Half-hardy: [H] a plant that is reliably hardy only to about 32 degrees F.; 'temperennial.'

Hanging Design: [FD] a design hung on a solid structure or suspended as from a frame or hook. Schedule must include staging information. Should be viewed at approximately 60" - 72" high.

Hardening off:

[FD] conditioning a cut stem in water before arranging to extend its vase life.

[H] the process of plant adjustment to colder temperatures or outdoor conditions.

Hardiness: [H] the ability of a plant to withstand cold or warm temperatures.

Hardiness zone: [H] the average minimum and maximum annual temperatures determine the Hardiness Growing Zone of a given area. Plants are also classified by the zones in which they will grow with ratings from Zones 1- 11. The GCA adheres to the USDA Plant Hardiness Map.

Harmony: [FD] the pleasing organization of all components of a design.

Heirloom plant: [H] a plant that has been grown for 50 years or more; heritage plant.

Herb: [H] one of a group of savory or aromatic plants used for medicine, food, flavor, or scent.

Herbaceous: [H] without woody tissues in its stems; may be annual or perennial, hardy or non-hardy, deciduous or evergreen.

Herbicide: [H] [C] a chemical that kills or retards plant growth. Herbicides may kill the entire plant, or they may kill only the above-ground plant parts, leaving the roots alive. Organic herbicides include vinegar, etc.

Highlights: [P] values of an image near the light end of the spectrum.

Histogram: [P] a graphical representation of the shot usually displayed on a monitor that shows a graphical distribution of light and dark areas.

Horizontal Design: [FD] a composition in which the components are arranged on an axis parallel to the horizon.

Horticultural oil: [H] [C] oil used to smother eggs and developing insects on trees and ornamentals; often, this is a highly refined, petroleum-based product sprayed as a dormant oil on woody plants and an ultra-fine or summer oil to kill soft-bodied insects in the growing season; non-petroleum based soaps and oils offer organic alternatives.

Horticulture: [H] the art, science, and hobby of gardening. Professional practitioners are horticulturists.

Host: [H] any plant material that will support a parasite.

Hot spots: [P] unwanted overexposed pixels that affect the quality of the image adversely; or bright spots due to uneven lighting or reflected flash.

Hue: [FD] [P] an identifying color name, such as red, yellow, green, green-blue, violet-red.

Hybrid: [H] the offspring resulting from crossbreeding between two plants which are different species or cultivars, or between distinct forms of the same species; can occur naturally in the wild or more often by human manipulation; may not come true to type from seed and should be propagated vegetatively to maintain its distinct characteristics. In nomenclature, X indicates a hybrid. The placement and size of the x in the name will help determine if it is an intergeneric hybrid (X

Gasteraloe, capital X) or an interspecies hybrid (*Pelargonium* x 'Roseanne,' lower case x after the genus) or an intergeneric hybrid (X *Gasteraloe*, capital X, before the genus). See definition of X.

Hydroponics: [H] the science of growing plants in nutrient-rich solutions of water instead of in soil.

Ikebana: [FD] Ike means "life," while bana means "flowers." Ikebana may be literally translated as "living flowers." Ikebana may mean "to bring life to the flowers" as when an arrangement is made. The three main lines are heaven, man, earth (Shin, Soe, Tai/Hikae).

Indigenous: [C] endemic or naturally occurring in a place; native.

Inflorescence: [H] the characteristic arrangement of buds and flowers on the stem or branch.

Informal plant: [H] a plant grown in its natural form and not trained.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM): [H] [C] See IPM.

Internode: [H] the section of stem between two nodes.

Intergeneric hybrid: [H] (synonym: bi-generic hybrid) an unusual type of hybrid where two different genera are crossed to create a new plant with characteristics of both parents. It is unusual because the genetics of most genera do not permit successful interbreeding. Most offspring are sterile. e.g., *Gasteria* species cross with Aloes to create X Gasteraloes. See definition of X.

Interpretive Design: [FD] a design in which components are selected and organized to portray a theme, idea, occasion, mood, or atmosphere; not a design style.

Intimate Landscape: [P] landscape that excludes the horizon and is pared down to a small scene.

Invitational class: [G] open to exhibitors by invitation only.

IPM: [H] [C] Integrated Pest Management is an effective and ecologically sensitive approach to pest management relying on a combination of practices for prevention and control of problems, tolerating a few individual pests or light insect damage in return for a healthy environment.

Italian Layered Design: [FD] a contemporary version of a horizontal design in which plant material is stacked horizontally with additional placements of vertical and/or diagonal components. No focal point.

JPEG: [P] (Joint Photographic Experts Group). The most commonly used format for compressing digital photography images while maintaining reasonable image quality for ease in sharing.

Japanese manner: [FD] adaptation for flower show classes of classical and/or modern Japanese design styles.

Judges' Commendation: [J] a special citation given to any class, flower show division, special exhibit, clerks, etc., recognizing outstanding accomplishment within the given area by the judges.

Judging panel: [J] a group of judges who work as a team in their discipline to judge flower show exhibits.

1. a GCA Major Flower Show panel consists of 3 approved judges and one prospective judge on a regular panel, and three fully approved judges on a Special Awards panel.
2. a GCA Flower Show panel consists of two approved judges and one prospective judge on a regular panel, and three approved judges on a Special Awards panel.

Juried photography show: [P] entrants submit a digital image (jpg) for pre-judging by a panel composed of three judges; entrants are notified of photo selection, and selected exhibitors submit a printed image per guidelines of show schedule.

Kenzan: [FD] the Japanese term for a specific device with upright needles. The many sharp points hold flowers and plant material firmly in place. Is equivalent to an English pin holder and functions as a “frog.”

Key card: [H] a numbered list of botanical and common names accompanying an exhibit such as a collection, display, terrarium, or trough which contains two or more genera, species, etc. Corresponding numbers can be placed with each individual plant or a schematic diagram or photograph may be used instead. Each key card should be encased in plastic or written in waterproof medium.

Kinetic: [FD] expressing motion, actual or implied.

LAB color: [P] unlike the RGB and CMYK color models, LAB color is designed to approximate human vision.

Landrace plant: [C] historically cultivated plant which is variable in appearance, genetically diverse, and adapted to local and regional environmental conditions and cultural practices. Often given traditional local names by farmers, each landrace has a reputation for certain features (e.g., adaptation to particular soil types or climate) or distinct identity.

Landscape: [P] a view of the scenery of any kind from wilderness vistas to urban cityscapes, land, or sea. Primary subject is the scenery, and it must dominate although the image may contain secondary elements such as people, animals, or objects. City elements predominate in cityscapes; sea predominates in seascapes.

Landscape orientation: [P] refers to the horizontal orientation of the image or page.

Land trust: [C] a non-profit organization that protects land directly, usually by helping landowners establish a conservation easement, accepting donations of property and easements, or buying land.

Lateral bud: [H] a bud forming along the side of a stem or branch rather than at the end.

Layering:

[FD] see Techniques.

[H] a method of propagation using stems or roots still attached to the mother plant.

Leaching: [H] removal of salts and soluble minerals from soil by flushing with water.

Leading lines: [P] lines that carry the viewer into the picture.

Leaf Manipulation: [FD] altering foliage by using one of the following techniques: folding, twisting, cutting, pleating, braiding, or wiring.

LEED: [C] Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design. Created by the Green Building Council (USGBC), developed guidelines for certification for exemplary performance in six areas: gardens, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection, and indoor environmental quality.

Leggy: [H] abnormally long internodes, with sparse foliage. Lack of light or too much nitrogen fertilizer can cause plants to become leggy.

Light:

[FD] a design element; includes natural and artificial light within the exhibition hall, in a class's staging, or within a design.

[P] natural or artificial.

Light meter: [P] an electromagnetic mechanical device that senses light intensity and translates into camera aperture and shutter exposure settings.

Line:

[FD] a design element; a continuous visual path through the design.

[P] one-dimensional visual path and structural framework of an image; carries the eye through the image and can be real or implied. There can be leading, diagonal and/or radial lines.

Line Design: [FD]

1. modern/contemporary line design: uses a minimum of plant material with emphasis on contrast in form and texture.
 - a. There may be more than one point of emergence for plant material.
 - b. They could be straight or curvilinear, diagonal and/or radial lines.
2. traditional line design: the element of line predominates emphasized by a restrained use of plant material; silhouette is open; voids exceed solids.

Line-Mass Design: [FD]

1. modern line-mass design: are bold and dramatic designs which may have more than one point of emergence of plant material. Components may emphasize contrast of texture, color, and line. Main directional line may be horizontal, vertical, or diagonal.
2. traditional line-mass design: blending mass and line designs with an open silhouette; voids equal to solids; usually asymmetrical with a rhythmic flow.

Locavore: [C] a person who only eats food that is locally produced.

Luminosity: [P] [FD] intrinsic brightness and the quality of emitting light; adding white to hues increases luminosity.

Macro: [P] a macro photograph is one in which the size of the subject on the negative or image sensor is life-size or greater.

Macroclimate: [C] the general climate of a large area or region.

Macro lens: [P] a macro lens is classically one lens capable of reproduction ratios greater than 1:1, although it now refers to any lens with a large reproduction ratio, despite rarely exceeding 1:1. A lens designed to produce a high degree of sharpness when focused up close; the subject is life-size.

Manipulation: [P] all post-processing of an image is manipulation to some extent, and is allowed for all images entered in a GCA flower show. Standard post-processing is simply how a photographer “develops” an image in the digital darkroom from the digital negative. This includes traditional development tools like cropping, lightening shadows, and darkening highlights. Manipulation rises to the level of Creative Techniques, a separate judging category defined in this Glossary, when the image has been altered to an extent that the original subject is no longer discernible or reflective of reality. See Creative Techniques.

Manipulated plant material: [FD] plant material that has been bent, cut, folded, skeletonized, artificially colored or otherwise altered from its natural condition.

Masking: [P] a post-processing technique that allows you to target effects to a specific area of a photograph by hiding the areas you do not want to effect or revealing the areas that you do.

Mass Design: [FD]

1. Garden Style Design: reflects organic arranging of flowers foraged from the garden - a mixture of highly curated painterly colors and textures inspired by those portrayed in the Old Dutch Masters paintings. It is increasingly becoming a statement for NoFoam designing.
2. Modern Mass Design: groupings of limited varieties of plant material with emphasis on bold design, blocks of color, contrasting forms and textures.
3. Traditional Mass Design: a profusion of flowers of various forms and sizes arranged in an oval, triangular, or fan-shaped design; a closed silhouette having more solids than voids.

Mass/Line Design: [FD] see Line mass design.

Mat: [P] a way to enhance a photograph by surrounding it with a paper product frame.

Matte: [P] type of photo finish, duller and without the shiny glare of glossy.

Matting: [P] a flat piece of paper-based material included within a picture frame, which serves as additional decoration and protection for an image. Putting mats in a frame is called matting, a term which can also be used interchangeably with mat.

Mechanics: [FD] aids to control and thereby ensure the stability of a design (pin holder, oasis, clay, wire, tape, etc.). Mechanics should not be exposed except as an integral part of the design.

Merger: [P] point at which two objects blend together.

Microclimate:

[H] the climatic environment immediately surrounding a plant; very localized climate conditions.

[C] sustainable gardening effectively uses a garden's microclimate, considering topography, sun/wind exposure, soil type, vegetation, and water, for productive land and energy-efficient homes.

Mid-tones: [P] values of an image near the center of the scale (middle gray).

Millefleur: [FD] "1,000 flowers"; a design characteristic which features many types of blossoms of similar sizes that are placed randomly in a circular form.

Miniature Design: [FD] a diminutive design not more than five inches in height, width, and depth.

Miniature Garden: [H] a scene of cut and/or rooted plant material, often with accessories, built to a specific scale.

Mixed Media: [P] the alteration of a photograph after printing. Mixed media is to be a separate class and is not able to be juried.

Mizugiri: [FD] [H] cutting the base of a stem under water so that air will not enter the stem to block water uptake.

Mobile: [FD] a suspended design consisting of individual parts which can be moved by air currents.

Mode: [P] either a camera setting or a setting on Photoshop, e.g., black and white.

Modern: [FD] pertaining to current trends in the arts and design.

Mono-botanic: [FD] a design of any style in which three or more parts of a plant of one family or genus are used. Part may be stem(s), bloom(s), foliage, roots, fruit, etc. (Schedule to determine whether family, genus, species, cultivar, or variety is the defining factor.)

Monochrome: [P] an image is considered to be monochrome only if it gives the impression of having no color (e.g., contains only shades of gray which can include pure black and pure white) OR it gives the impression of being a grayscale image that has been toned in one color across the entire image. (For example, sepia, red, gold, etc.) A grayscale or multi-colored image modified or giving the impression of having been modified by partial toning, multi toning, or by the inclusion of spot coloring does not meet the definition of monochrome and shall be classified as a color image.

Monochromatic Design: [FD] a design incorporating plant material of just one color, including the shades and tints of the hue. A small amount of green foliage is allowed with the chosen single color; small bit of attached non-conforming floral parts are permitted e.g., the yellow center of a purple aster. Unless stated in the schedule, the container, bases, and/or stands do not need to be the same color.

Multi-stemmed plant: [H] plant having more than one stem; term used in connection with woody plants, usually shrubs.

Mother plant: [H] the original specimen from which a new plant is propagated vegetatively (not by seed). In showing, a class called Mother and Child assumes that the smaller plant(s) came from a cutting of the older plant.

Movement: [P] an image that captures motion or implies passage from one place to another.

Native plant: [H] [C] a woody or herbaceous plant indigenous to the region in which it is growing.

Nature: [P] landscapes, animals, plants, etc.

Naturalized species: [C] a non-indigenous species introduced from an outside area that reproduces, spreads, and establishes itself in a place where it did not originally grow.

Needle Arts: [S] a canvas and thread piece designed to relate to a theme or specific object. It need not contain dried plant material. Complete coverage of canvas, with any type of needlework, is required unless otherwise stated. Specific canvas or thread requirements, if any, will be determined by the host flower show committee and stated in the schedule. Three-dimensional stitching may or may not be encouraged. This is a Specialty Class.

Niche: [FD] a space enclosed on three sides used for staging a floral design.

Noise: [P] an image has noise, or is considered “noisy,” if it is unintentionally pixelated (see “Pixelated”), resulting in a significant loss of image quality. “Noise” is distinct from “grain”: “Noise” is an unintentional byproduct of overcropping, then enlarging, or a high ISO, that has a negative impact on the quality of the image. “Grain,” a pixelated effect, can often be used for artistic purposes, for example to make an image appear old-fashioned or grungy.

Nomenclature: [H] the scientific system, based on Latin, used to name plants and animals accurately. For GCA flower shows, occasionally the family (a subdivision of the order) is requested, but it is always necessary to state the genus (a subdivision of the family) and the species (a subdivision of the genus) and sometimes the cultivar or other subdivision of the species such as variety or patented selection (subdivisions of the species). [References and Lists/Botanical Nomenclature](#)

Non-woody plant: [H] a plant lacking woody (lignified) tissues in stems and branches; herbaceous.

Novice: [G] a novice is an individual exhibitor who has not won a first place ribbon or a GCA Special Award in the division entered at a GCA Flower Show, GCA Major Flower Show, or Sanctioned Non-GCA Major Flower Show. An exhibitor winning a first place ribbon in a GCA Flower Show is still considered a novice in a GCA Major Flower Show, or in a Sanctioned Non-GCA Major Flower Show, or in another division of any flower show. In addition, an exhibitor who has won a first place ribbon or Special Award in a GCA Major Flower Show or Sanctioned Non-GCA Major Flower Show is no longer a novice in any level of GCA Flower Shows in the division won. Only individual novice exhibitors are eligible to receive the GCA Novice Awards or the Sandra Baylor Novice Floral Design Award. A novice exhibitor will be identified on the entry card, following the initial judging.

Oasis ®: [FD] special foam blocks used in floral designs to hold plant material in place. Oasis ® retains water like a sponge and, once moistened, is placed in a container, hydrating flowers for extended time periods. Eventually breaks down to small particles, but is not biodegradable.

Open space: [C] undeveloped land or common areas that are reserved for parks, walking paths, or other natural uses.

Optical zoom: [P] digital camera feature which changes the focal length from telephoto to wide angle.

Organic: [C] [H] the system of growing plants without the use of herbicides, chemical pesticides or fertilizers in order to create a healthy, self-sustaining environment in natural balance, rich in biodiversity. For farmers, the use of the word “organic” denotes certification and strict compliance with Federal regulations, as well as state regulations, and a 3-year minimum of organic growing. However, to encourage GCA members to adopt organic/sustainable methods, the time restriction in flower shows may be much less.

Organic Gardening: [C] [H] the practice of gardening without the use of herbicides, pesticides, or harmful household chemicals. This includes the practice of creating a healthy, chemical-free growing environment.

Originality: [FD] [P] [BA] the aspect of creative or invented work as being new or novel.

Overexposure: [P] term for too much light allowed into the lens, resulting in a loss of detail in the light areas.

Overlay: [P] in digital photography an overlay is another translucent layer added to an image in an editing program. Overlays can be photographed, scanned, or made in Photoshop, Lightroom, or other software.

Overlay/over drape: [FD] fabric or other material used over the staging (table, pedestal, etc.); not considered a base; permissible unless the schedule prohibits.

Ozone layer: [C] a layer in the earth’s stratosphere containing a high concentration of ozone, which absorbs most of the ultraviolet radiation from the sun; also called ozonosphere.

Pair: [H] two of the same species or cultivars identically trained and shown in matching containers.

Panorama: [P] a wide or ultra wide-angle image, often, but not restricted to, a landscape.

Parallel Design: [FD] a design in which plant material (and other components if not prohibited) are placed in strongly parallel groupings with open space between; may be vertical, horizontal, or diagonal. Additional components may be placed at any angle at the base as connectives. Multiple containers may be used, but design must appear as a single unit.

Par class: [H] entries are judged against the standard of perfection (100 points) for that species, rather than against each other. Cut specimens are discouraged. Entries are assumed to be mature, top quality specimens of their type. Multiple 1sts, 2nds, and 3rds may be awarded. No honorable mentions are awarded in this class.

Passing: [G] all entries in floral design, horticulture, photography, and botanical arts in a flower show must be seen and approved for conformance to GCA show rules and class requirements by a panel of knowledgeable people (passers) experienced in that division. A set of passing criteria is used, depending on the division and schedule. Passing for horticulture often occurs at a passing table prior to the entry being placed into position. Floral design and botanical arts are passed in situ. Once an exhibit is passed and put into position, it may not be touched.

Pattern:

[FD] a design element; an overall design or silhouette formed by solids and voids, usually involving repetition.

[P] the repetition of elements such as shapes, tones, forms, or lines.

Pavé: [FD] see Techniques.

Peat: [H] [C] often used as a soil conditioner/compost and ingredient in potting soils and planting mixes. Since it is a non-renewable resource from peat bogs, gardeners committed to sustainable practices should avoid its use.

Pedestal: [FD] a plinth, stand, or column, freestanding or attached, used as staging.

Perennial: [H] any plant living for at least three years (annual = 1 year, biennial = 2 years) (RHS); in flower shows, generally includes herbaceous plants.

Period arrangement: [FD] a design with characteristics typical of a historic period; plant material need not be authentic but must interpret the classes dictated by schedule.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_flower_arrangement

Pesticide-free: [H] [C] see Sustainable practices.

Petal: [H] a modified leaf, often colorful, that surrounds the reproductive organs of a flower. Together, the petals are called the corolla.

Petiole: [H] leaf stalk.

Photosynthesis: [H] the process by which plants use the sun's light to produce food (carbohydrates).

Pesticide-free: [H] see Sustainable practices.

Picture mounting/Mount boards/Backing boards: [P] mounting is the technique used to secure a photograph to a mount or display board.

Pillowing: [FD] see Techniques.

Pistil: [H] the female part of the flower containing the ovary.

Pixel: [P] pixels are the tiny dots or squares that make up a digital image. The higher the density of pixels, the higher the quality of the photo. This is why a 5 MB (megabyte) photo will, in general, be higher quality when printed than a 1 MB photo.

Pixelation: [P] a visible graininess that occurs when an image has been cropped, losing pixels, and then enlarged too much, with the effect that the remaining pixels are visible to the viewer's eye, resulting in a significant loss of image quality.

Placement show: [FD] a flower show staged in a private house, museum, gallery, or institution where designs are designed to complement locations or specific objects.

Plaiting: [FD] see Techniques.

Point scoring: [J] the evaluation of exhibits by using a scale of points.

Polychromatic colors: [FD] [P] many different colors assembled together.

Pollution: [C] the presence in or contamination of a habitat, ecosystem or environment (soil, water or atmosphere) with a natural or artificial substance or thing that has harmful or poisonous effects.

Portrait: [P] a formal photograph of a person or group of people or a plant or group of plants that captures the likeness in the fullest sense.

Portrait mode/orientation: [P] refers to the vertical orientation of the image or page.

Position papers: [C] eleven papers written by the GCA Conservation and National Affairs and Legislation Committees, based upon independent, academic, peer-reviewed scientific research, approved by the GCA Executive Board and available on the GCA website. Together these papers are used to educate GCA members and to promote the formulation of responsible public policy on: Clean Air, Clean Water, Climate Action, National Parks, Native Public Lands, Native Plants, Oceans, Sustainable Agriculture, Seed Diversity and Food Security, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Waste Management.

Pot-et-fleur: [FD] [H] a combination of rooted plants (in or out of pots) and fresh cut flowers and/or foliage (in water or conditioned to last for the duration of the show) assembled in a container. The criteria for a pot-et-fleur class determines its place in a schedule:

[FD] as a class in the Floral Design Division – the design is predominant – and the class is considered a Supplemental Class, which is not eligible for GCA Special Awards, but may win Best in Show.

[H] in the Horticulture Division, rooted plants must be planted together in the same container by the exhibitor. Horticulture is dominant. Refer to scale of points.

[H] as a class in the Horticulture Division there is no ownership requirement – and the class is considered a Supplemental Class, which is not eligible for GCA Special Awards, but may win Best in Show. The pot-et-fleur is a combination of rooted plants and cut flowers/foilage which gives the lasting quality of plants with the colorful impact of cut stems. The cut stems may be replaced to give the design many weeks of beauty.

Pressed Plants: [S] an artistic design created from pressed flowers and plants. It must be 2-D (flat) unless otherwise stated. Flat designs must be matted and framed under glass, Lucite®, or plastic. Natural plant material may be modified. The use of matting (as a design component), overlays, underlays, glossy papers, drawn or painted backgrounds; fabrics, rice papers, lace, photographic images or drawings; lamination or coating of plant material are not allowed unless specifically stated in the rules of a flower show. In addition, plant material that has been artificially colored or painted, three-dimensional plant material, and signed works of art cannot be used unless specifically stated in a flower show schedule. If 3-D, pieces must be coated with polyurethane or similar substance. This is a Specialty Class.

Principles of Composition: [P] balance, contrast, dominance (emphasis), proportion, rhythm, and scale.

Principles of Design: [FD] fundamental precepts based on natural forces; they are the same for floral design as for the other visual arts: balance, contrast, dominance, proportion, rhythm, and scale.

Propagation: [H]

1. the natural reproduction of plants by spores or seeds.
2. the reproduction of plants vegetatively (asexually) by cutting, division, budding, layering, grafting, or tissue culture.

Propagation card: [H] 4" x 6" or 5" x 8" white card with detailed explanation of propagation method that accompanies a propagated entry in a flower show; includes dates, growing medium, growing conditions, and potting. [Propagation card](#)

Proportion: [FD] a design principle; refers to how the sizes of different components of a design relate to one another.

Prune: [H] altering the shape and growth pattern of a plant by cutting stems and shoots.

Quality of light: [P] the quality and amount of light is the basis for all good photography. Soft, diffused, ethereal light comes from more than one source or is filtered. Hard or harsh light comes from a single source.

Raceme: [H] an indeterminate inflorescence, the axis producing a series of flowers on lateral pedicels, the oldest at the base and the youngest at the top.

Radiate, radial: [FD] [H] stems coming from a central point.

Range: [P] the span of light and dark within an image.

RBG: [P] refers to the primary colors of light, red, green, and blue, that are used in monitors, television screens, digital cameras, and scanners.

Recycling: [C] converting or returning waste into reusable material.

Reflective Design: [FD] a contemporary design style in which reflecting elements are included; it is not a design placed in front of a mirror.

Repetition: [P] see Pattern.

Resizing images: [P] reducing or enlarging the image size on a computer.

Resolution: [P] the degree of detail available in a photographic image.

Rhizome: [H] a thick, horizontal stem (under or above the ground) which forms roots, stores food, and sends up leaves and flowering stalks.

Rhythm: [FD] a design principle; the dominant visual path through a design usually achieved by repetition, gradation, and line direction.

Rolling: [FD] see Techniques.

Root: [H] the part of the plant, usually subterranean, which generally originates from its lowest part and which furnishes nourishment, moisture, and physical support.

Root bound: [H] roots stifled or inhibited from normal growth by the confines of a container.

Rooted cutting: [H] a new plant, grown from a piece of a mother plant, possessing roots. It will have identical qualities to the 'mother plant.'

Rule of thirds: [P] the compositional guideline which suggests that images with dominant points of interest look best at points one-third from the top, sides, and bottom. The rule states that an image should be imagined as divided into nine equal parts by two equally-spaced horizontal lines and two equally-spaced vertical lines, important compositional elements should be placed along these lines or their intersections.

Runners: [H] above ground, trailing stems that form roots at their nodes when they make contact with moist soil.

Sanctioned Non-GCA Major Flower Show: [G] are prominent flower shows presented by horticultural societies, preservation societies, or other organizations that have asked permission to give GCA Special Awards to participants. Awards given at these shows, if merited, are the Certificate of Excellence in Floral Design, Horticulture, Photography, Botanical Arts, and Conservation, and The Bulkley Medal. The current list of shows includes: Philadelphia Flower Show, New England Flower Show, and Newport Flower Show.

Saturation: [P] the intensity and purity of a color.

Scale:

[FD] [BA] a design principle; refers to how the size of a design relates to the area in which it is placed.

[H] refers to the size relationship between pot and plant contained within or the size relationship between plants in a garden.

Scanner Art, Scanography: [P] the process of capturing digitized images of objects for the purpose of creating printable images using a scanner.

Scene: [FD] depicting a setting or tableau.

Scientific Names: [H] every plant has a name made up of two parts, a **generic** (or **genus**) name and a **specific** name or **epithet**. Together, these two names are referred to as a **binomial** which is the **species** name.

Sea fans, sea fern, coral, and shells: [FD] animal, not plant material. The use of such items is customarily prohibited in the general rules of a flower show schedule.

Seascape: [P] an image in which the primary subject is the sea or ocean rather than land or landscape features.

Seed: [H] the fertilized, mature ovule of a flowering plant containing an embryo or rudimentary plant; one of the propagative parts of a flowering plant.

Seedling: [H]

1. a young plant that has developed from a seed (RHS)
2. with fruit trees, a plant of any age raised from seed as opposed to one propagated vegetatively.
3. in connection with daffodils and other bulbous plants, a new cultivar raised from seed and not yet named.

Seed Pod: [H] a dry fruit containing a mature or maturing seed.

Sepia: [P] sepia is a color filter or chemical process used to turn a black and white image to tones of brown. It is a form of monochrome photography. Sepia toning is often used to mimic the look of antique photographs.

Sessile: [H] without a stalk.

Shadow box/Silhouette: [FD] an enclosed niche with a translucent front covering in which a floral design is placed; a light within the box creates a shadow of the design on the front covering.

Shadows: [P] darker areas in a photograph.

Shade: [FD] a characteristic of color; a dark value achieved by adding black to the hue.

Sheltering: [FD] see Techniques.

Shutter speed: [P] the speed of the camera mechanism that opens and closes to allow light into the camera.

Shrub: [H] a low woody plant which lives for more than two years, often many-stemmed and of smaller structure than a tree; produces shoots from its base and has no single trunk. The distinction between a shrub and a tree is often blurred by environmental variations or by the nature of the plant.

Size: [FD] a design element; the physical or implied mass of plant material or other components.

Smartphone image: [P] (also camera phone) a photograph taken with a smartphone, which may or may not be processed using phone apps.

Soft Focus: [P] soft focus can have both positive and negative connotations. Soft focus can be positive when the photographer has intentionally defocused all or part of an image for artistic effect. Soft focus is negative when it appears to the judges that the effect is unintentional; that an area of the image where the focus is soft should have been sharp.

Soilless mix: [H] the growing media used for growing containerized plants. It does not contain 'field soil' or earth, but is made from a variety of organic (e.g., peat, compost, coir) and inorganic (e.g., perlite, pumice, sand) materials formulated for different growing needs.

Space: [FD] a design element; includes the area in which the design is placed, the voids created within the design, and the intervals intrinsic to the individual components of the design;

[P] refers to a feeling of depth or three dimensions. It can also refer to the photographer's use of the area around the picture plane. There is positive space, which is the space occupied by the primary object, and negative space, which is the space around the primary object.

Specialty Classes: [S] Classes not specific to any Division. They do not count toward the minimum number of entries for a Flower Show. They are not eligible for GCA Special Awards.

1. **Needle Arts**
2. **Pressed Plants**
3. **Video Classes**
4. **Other**

Species: [H] a subdivision of a genus having certain distinctive and permanent characteristics in common; designated by the second part of the botanical name and generally not capitalized, e.g., *Viola odorata*, *Viola pedata*. Technically "specific epithet".

Specimen: [H] a single plant, bloom, fruit, spike, spray, stalk, or vegetable.

Spike: [H] a lengthened inflorescence bearing stemless flowers, e.g., *Gladiolus* (see Raceme).

Split complement: [FD] a color scheme of three colors: a color and the two colors that flank its complementary color on the color wheel (but not including the complementary color).

Spray: [H] a branched, many-flowered inflorescence usually on a single main stem, e.g., polyantha and floribunda roses.

Sprout: [H] recently germinated seed or new growth of a leaf or stem.

Stabile Design: [FD] a stationary design with implied motion.

Stamobile: [FD] a rhythmic stabile design with a mobile attached, related, and judged as one unit.

Stacking: [FD] see Techniques.

Staging: [G] the stands, lighting, tables, signage, and other equipment needed to display and organize the entries in a show.

Stamen: [H] male organ of a flower containing pollen. The stamens of lilies are typically removed for floral designs to avoid staining of the petals, but not for display in horticulture classes.

Stand: [FD] see Base.

Standard: [H] a form of topiary. The plant is grown on a single stem with the growth concentrated at the top. Staking should be inconspicuous.

Statement of Intent: [G] a brief written paragraph (no more than 25 words) offering explication of the exhibitor's creation. Exception: Exhibit(s) for Division V (no more than 50 words).

Stem: [H] the main leaf and flower-bearing axis of a plant. In flower show parlance, it may include the stem's branches, leaves, and flowers.

Stewardship: [C] any activity involving the maintenance of conservation values of a protected property, including promotion of sustainability, monitoring, invasive species removal, violations reporting, and legal defense.

Still Life: [P] there are different types of Still Lifes, and the schedule should be written to clarify which type is called for in the class.

1. **Still Life - Composed: [P]** An image depicting a composed arrangement of inanimate objects, either natural or man-made, or a combination of both. It is clear to the viewer that the objects have been deliberately arranged and illuminated. The framing of the objects and how they are photographed should be visually compelling. Composed still life photographs can have a theme, if desired, and can range from traditional to contemporary.
2. **Still Life - Found: [P]** A photograph of a collection or grouping of inanimate objects that were discovered but not intentionally arranged by the photographer. The objects are photographed in the setting in which they are found and do not appear to have been

moved around by the photographer. The framing of the objects and how they are photographed should be visually compelling.

3. **Still Life - Portrait: [P]** An image of a single inanimate subject, not a grouping, that is framed, illuminated, and photographed in the manner of a composed still life. As with Found and Composed Still Lives, the framing of the object and how it is photographed should be visually compelling.

Stretch Design: [FD] a design composed of two units of unequal size, joined by a prominent stretch component. Length and strength of stretch component (which may extend in any direction) must be appropriate to other components and to its prominent role. Smaller unit must appear to have been forcibly pulled away from the larger unit. Dynamic tension is important.

Stitching: [P] photographing a series of images with overlapping fields to form a panorama.

Stuffed form: [H] a shape made of wire, etc., stuffed with sphagnum moss or other medium(s) into which are planted multiple small plants.

Style: [FD] a distinctive way of handling forms or other elements; an artist's own technique; a reflection of an historical period.

Substance: [H] thickness of tissue structure of a plant part; usually refers to foliage and flowers.

Succulent: [H] a plant with very fleshy tissue in the leaves and/or stems adapted to storing water. (All cacti are succulents, but not all succulents are cacti.) Many succulents grow in arid microclimates or regions e.g., *Sedum* 'Autumn Joy' is a succulent well adapted to temperate areas.

Supplemental Classes: They may count toward the minimum number of entries (with the exception of youth classes). They are not eligible for GCA Special Awards but may win Best in Show, and must be marked on the entry card.

[FD] corsages, dioramas, swags, wreaths, and youth classes.

[FD] [H] Pot-et-fleurs, vignettes.

[H] garden design, planters, window boxes, and youth classes.

Sustainable/ Sustainable Practices: [H] [C] gardening practices that encourage healthy, enduring ecosystems rather than using toxic chemical sprays or pesticides creating a dynamic, natural balance between pests and beneficial predators, low maintenance, disease-resistant plants which thrive in local environments. Biodiversity is encouraged as well as composting, mulching and vermiculture. Local products and renewable resources are recommended. Organic growers rely on many Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices which are sustainable. For the purpose of a flower show, "sustainable practices" will be used for entries grown according to organic methods and sustainable gardening practices, with no toxic chemical pesticides or chemical fertilizers.

Sweepstakes: [G] are points by an individual or club depending on the criteria set forth in the flower show schedule or club program. Points are totaled based on the placement of ribbons or special awards received in the show by an individual or club. May be tallied from all entries throughout each division or a specific division. Club programs may include Bench Shows at each meeting

tallying the individual exhibitors' points earned throughout the year. The member with the most points is the Sweepstakes winner.

Symmetrical balance: [FD] approximate reverse repetition of components on each side of an axis.

Symmetrical Triangle Design: [FD] an evenly balanced, three-sided floral composition having the form of a triangle.

Synergistic Design: [FD] a contemporary design style including 3 or more containers; each unit is either a partial or complete arrangement which, when combined with the others, makes a unified whole.

Table classes: [FD]

1. Functional: a table exhibit arranged for dining, including dishes, glassware, linens, and floral design(s) with or without other components.
2. Exhibition: a display using the components of dining in an artistic presentation as a coordinated design. The practical service of food should not be implied.

Tack sharp: [P] a term meaning maximum sharpness of detail.

Taxon (pl. Taxa): [H] a named group of organisms defined by a set of common characteristics; can be a species, genus, family, etc.

Technical skill: [P] a photographer's ability to present a scene or subject that has been appropriately exposed, focused, composed, and edited.

Techniques: [FD] a way of carrying out a particular task, especially the execution or performance of an artistic work such as, but not limited to:

Banding: a decorative encircling of materials.

Basing: placing materials as a foundation of a design to create textural detail, decoratively cover floral form and other mechanics, and give visual weight to taller stems.

Binding: the process of physically tying materials together into units or bunches; the primary purpose is functional, to hold stems together or in place, but can also be decorative. Materials used can be man-made or natural.

Clustering: positioning the same material so close together that the identity of the individual is lost and the cluster functions as a single unit of color and texture.

Collaring: creating a frill or finish at the base or underside of a flower holder, bridal bouquet, or arrangement using greens or other decorative material.

Framing: outlining a composition on one or more sides with material that clearly defines the total designed space, controlling eye movement, and focusing attention on the composition.

Hedging: inspired by topiary designs, materials are trimmed into a form.

Layering: overlapping grouping of same or different materials to create texture; space between materials may be varied, resulting in anything from a scale-like appearance to a three-dimensional texture study.

Pavé: a technique in which plant material is placed closely together to form a pattern, often creating a cobblestone effect that may be flat or contoured. Derived from jewelers' term, "en pavé setting."

Pillowing: plant material clustered in mounded groupings to appear as one large flower.

Rolling: manipulating flat foliage to form three dimensional rolls; may be secured with glue, staples, or by tying; may be used as decorative forms in themselves or as a way to hide mechanics such as tubes.

Sheltering: the placement of additional material over or around other component(s); enclosed space becomes a protected focal area.

Stacking: the orderly placement of like materials, either individually or in bunches, side by side or on top of each other with no space in between.

Terracing: materials are over-lapped to create a stair-step effect; front to back placement.

Veiling: the layering of light materials, such as *Asparagus plumosus*, metallic threads, angel hair, etc., over more solid forms; softening and slightly obscuring the material beneath, creating a sheer overlay effect.

Weaving/braiding/plaiting: interlacing materials to create a surface texture line and/or form.

Tender: [H] a plant in need of winter protection if grown beyond its natural cold tolerance area.

Tendrils: [H] the leading growth on a vining plant; a modified leaf or short stem that coils or climbs from axillary buds, e.g., sweet pea.

Terminal buds: [H] a bud at the end of a stem or branch.

Terracing: [FD] see Techniques.

Terrarium: [H] a covered, transparent container, which holds soil, and one or more plants growing in humid conditions. If the terrarium contains several plants, they must be culturally compatible and in scale. May be a glass garden, Wardian case, enclosure with glass sides and top; arranged for keeping plants.

Texture:

[FD] a design element; an object's tactile quality which conveys the effect of smooth, rough, shiny, dull, etc., with a period.

[P] the depiction or illusion of texture, which is the tactile quality of a substance, through color, line or shape used to enhance detail, drama or information.

Thrifty: [H] appearing to be healthy and well grown.

TIFF: [P] a large file format (tagged large file format) used by graphic artists and the publishing industry for the storing and transporting of digital images. The additional storage required for these files makes them unsuitable for general use.

Tint: [FD] a characteristic of color; a light value achieved by adding white to a hue.

Top dressing: [H] the material on the surface of a potted plant in exhibition. It should reflect the plant's native growing conditions: e.g., stone chips for cactus or succulents, humus for begonias or tropical plants.

Tone: [FD] a characteristic of color; a hue which is not at full intensity, achieved by adding gray or the hue's complementary color to a hue.

Toolbox: [FD] [H] [P] portable container used to carry basic (floral design, grooming or pruning) equipment.

[P] "toolbox" refers to the computer applications used in digital photographs.

Topiary:

[FD] a design, which resembles a formal or informally trimmed or trained plant, shape, or animal, with or without accessories.

[H] the art of trimming or training a plant into ornamental shapes in three dimensions. The plant can be single-stemmed (see Standard) or multi-stemmed; it can be trained on a stuffed form (see Stuffed form); it can be one plant or several plants trained together to the desired shape.

Traditional arrangement: [FD] a design based on classical approaches to the use and placement of plant material and other components, usually radiating from a central point.

Trained plant(s): [H] a plant which has been grown in other than its natural form such as bonsai, cascade, standard, espalier, or topiary; one plant or several grown together, depending on the type of training used.

Transparency Design: [FD] a contemporary design style in which part of the design is seen through a component such as branches, mesh, glass, etc., which is an integral part of the design; strongly three-dimensional.

Treated plant material: [FD] dyed, painted, shellacked, varnished, flocked, or otherwise artificially altered plant material.

Triadic color scheme: [FD] three hues equidistant on the color wheel.

Triptych or Tri-panel: [P] a picture that has three panels placed next to each other.

Trough: [H] 1. a container made of natural stone or made to simulate natural stone. 2. a container garden, miniature landscape, or artistically arranged, culturally compatible plants.

Truss: [H] a cluster of flowers or fruits growing from one main stem, e.g., *Rhododendron*, tomato.

Tuber: [H] a swollen underground stem, usually rounded, with buds or “eyes” from which new plants or tubers are produced, e.g., potato.

Tuberous root: [H] a fleshy storage root having no buds but having a portion of old stem attached at the neck, which bears the necessary buds, e.g., *Dahlia*, tuberous *Begonia*.

Turgid: [H] plant material, which has a sufficient amount of water to stand strong. Opposite of wilted.

Tussy mussy: [FD] a posy carried in a small, metallic, hand-held vase popular during the Victorian era. Currently, the term is often used in reference to the holder itself.

Two-sided Design: [FD] a design organized in one or more containers that are joined to appear as one. Opposing sides (back and front, never left and right) present a composition thematically linked. A concentration of components between the two contrasting design segments prevents one side from showing through to the other in their focal areas. The center may be composed of plant material, accessory, etc., of whatever will provide a visual concealment between the focal areas of the two designs, however, not a background panel. Both sides may share the dominant line and enclosed space. Staged to be viewed from all sides and judged as one unit from the front and the back.

Underexposure: [P] term for an image that is too dark and has lost detail in the shadow areas due to lack of proper light exposure.

Underwater Design: [FD] a contemporary design style where all or part of the design must be under visible water.

Uniformity: [H] the state of being alike in size, form, and color.

Unity: [FD] the combining of parts resulting in a harmonious effect.

Value: [FD] the lightness of a color (tint), a mixture of pure hue and white; or the darkness of a color (shade), a mixture of pure hue and black.

Variegation: [H] differently colored zones and/or patterns on the foliage and/or stems of plants.

Variety: [H] a naturally occurring subordinate group or class of a species. Variants of species and hybrids selected by man in cultivation are termed “cultivars.”

Vegetables: [H] parts of an herbaceous plant used as food, such as fruits, seeds, roots, tubers, bulbs, stems, leaves, or flower parts.

Vegetative Design: [FD] a design presenting grouped plant material, placed as it grows naturally (geographically, seasonally, and proportionally). Materials may overlap and intermingle as they do in nature. See Garden Style Design/Mass Design.

Vegetative propagation: [H] asexual propagation (cuttings, division, grafting, etc.), rather than by seed.

Vibrance: [P] saturation and/or brightness of a color.

Video: [P] a recording, with or without sound, featuring moving images which tell a story containing a beginning, a middle, and an end.

Video Classes: [S]

1. A video for a GCA flower show should be in narrative form, including a beginning, middle, and end, and convey a clearly presented theme in accordance with the show schedule.
2. A video can include regular time video footage, time-lapse photography, slow motion photography, and/or still images. The video can be one of the previous formats or a combination of two or more.
3. Creative techniques in both audio and video are permitted.
4. The video may include background, voice overs, etc.
5. Non-representational commercial overlays and textures are allowed.

Vignette: [FD] a functional segment of an indoor or outdoor living space containing furniture, accessories, and a floral design; container plants are permitted.

[P] a reduction of an image's brightness or saturation at the periphery compared to the image center; may result in a rectangular image having circular or oval quality. The class is considered a Supplemental Class, which is not eligible for GCA Special Awards, but may win Best in Show.

Water table: [C] level within the ground below which the pores of soil or rock are saturated with water.

Weaving: [FD] see Techniques.

Weed: [H][C] often defined as "a plant that is growing where it is not wanted" while sometimes just a minor nuisance, aggressive weeds can spread easily, invade agricultural and ranching landscapes, threaten biodiversity, and dominate native habitats. Weediness is the quality of a plant to be aggressive.

Wedging: [H] unobtrusive, natural or biodegradable material used to support cut specimens in bottles. Boxwood and celery are not allowed, plastic wrap-biodegradable preferred.

White balance: [P] balancing the color temperature of the image so the whites in the image do not have a color cast from the various light sources: tungsten, cloudy, shade, fluorescent, full sun, etc.

Wildflower: [H] flowering herbaceous/bulbous plant native to the region in which it is growing. May grow independently of human action and not rely upon cultivation by gardeners to survive.

Wildlife: [P] a photograph of animals, free and unrestrained in a natural or adopted habitat.

Woody plant: [H] a plant whose stem forms a hard and fibrous material as it matures.

x/X: [H] usage indicates a hybrid or cross between different species or genera in botanical nomenclature. An interspecific hybrid, a cross between species within a genus, is written with a lowercase x between the genus and specific epithet, e.g., *Pelargonium x hortorum* 'Mrs. Parker'. An intergeneric hybrid, a cross of two different genera, is currently written with an upper case X before the genus, e.g., X *Gasteraloe*, the intergeneric hybrid of *Gasteria* and *Aloe*.

Xerophyte: [H] a species of plant that has adaptations to survive in an environment with little liquid water, such as a desert, or an ice or snow covered region.