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Yard 'n' Garden



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SELECTING VEGETABLES FOR EXHIBIT

Each year county fairs or garden clubs usually have vegetable exhibits during the late summer or early fall to give gardeners an opportunity to show off their produce. As in all types of exhibiting, there are some definite rules to follow in showing vegetables.

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First of all, check the premium list carefully to be sure you have the correct number of specimens. To add to the educational function of the exhibition, label each specimen as to variety.

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All specimens should be free of diseases or defects. Harvest several specimens and select those having no blemishes.

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Showmanship is very important in exhibiting. This involves the selection of specimens uniform in size, shape, color and maturity. It also includes proper trimming, cleaning and grooming. Washing is permitted for potatoes and root crops, but they should not be scrubbed so the skin is bruised.

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Root vegetables should have tops removed 1½ inches from the root. Tap roots of beets should be trimmed to 1½ inches in length. Onions should not be skinned. Each onion should have a hard, dry skin, and the necks should be small and well cured.

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Cabbage should be firm and not peeled too much. Leave one or two outside wrapper leaves on each specimen. Sweet corn should be exhibited in the husk. Tomatoes should be uniformly ripe and exhibited without the stems attached. Beans should be shown with the small stems attached to each pod.

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