mn 2000 4G 7

Information Service Institute of Agriculture University of Minnesota St. Paul 1, Minnesota



EXHIBITING FLOWERS

The summer flower show has become an important event in the garden club calendar. Most gardeners welcome the opportunity to exhibit their flowers at the county fair. club show or state fair.

* * * *

Exhibiting flowers poses such problems as transporting them to the show, keeping them in a fresh condition and preserving them in arrangements.

* * * *

Keep the car as cool as possible while hauling the flowers. The windows may be open, but don't allow severe drafts to pass over the flowers. A light covering of netting will reduce the draft around them. A deep bucket with a broad base makes a good container for transporting flowers because it will not topple easily. Cover the bucket with a coarse mesh chicken wire to help separate the flowers and avoid injuring them.

* * * *

Hardening flowers will help to preserve their quality. When the flowers are cut, plunge them into deep lukewarm water. After they have absorbed water for several hours, store them at a cool temperature in the basement or refrigerator. Flowers will stand up much better in arrangements after they have been hardened. Don't leave the flowers out of water when preparing them for an arrangement. And don't forget to put water in the container when you have finished the design.

#