

## **Tips on Displaying Trusses and Sprays**

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A day or two before the show, go around and make a list of the blooms you will pick the day before the Truss show. Bottles in six-pack carriers are useful for transporting blooms.

Picking blooms always takes more time than you think it will! When choosing trusses, look for ones with straight stems with the bloom at the top. Don't choose ones with crooked stems that are growing at odd angles (e.g., pointing down). When choosing sprays, look for ones that will present themselves gracefully in a bottle.

Prune judiciously if need be to enhance the shape of the spray. Avoid choosing entries with bruises. Sometimes rain damage is inevitable, but avoid it if you can. Look for freshness. It is better to have one or more unopened flower buds (for they frequently open after they have been picked) than to choose blooms that are already open and heading over the hill. Some judges like to see one or two unopened or partially opened buds.

Choose blooms with good-looking foliage. Avoid ones with chewed or otherwise damaged leaves. Once again, some judicious snipping of damaged leaves can be done - but don't go too far because some foliage is needed (and you must NOT trim off the bitten parts of a weevil-chewed leaf!). For a truss, one nice whorl is best - and flowers from one bud only. For sprays, more foliage will often be needed for balance, and of course, more than one flowering bud is allowed.

After cutting a truss, plunge it deeply in luke-warm water. Later, you can make an oblique cut across the stem making sure to leave the right length to make the exhibit look balanced - and do this under water. This will help the truss to take up water and keep it fresh all day. You may then store your exhibit in its water-filled bottle in the refrigerator.