

COA Report for February 2008.

There have been 96 awards this past year; two of them were Plant Breeder Awards.

It has been interesting receiving most of the award forms this year and there seem to be some problems. Some groups still seem to have trouble calculating the award points, not just because of the 6 points inclusive. Several times Associate points were included in the total scores. Groups should also be reminded that if the spread is outside 6 points the Judges should be asked if they wish to reconsider. All the judges should be given their papers back after being told the highest and lowest scores.

Some Judges seem to have a problem with the award form, judging plants with more than one flower under the Single Flower scale. The person totaling the sheets should pick this up, and the mistake pointed out to the judge concerned.

I wonder how much research goes into awarding plants at times as I know of at least two Awards where there was no apparent research done. One was judged under the wrong name, which would have been found out if the parentage had been researched at the time, the other was awarded under the cross on the label, no one looked to see if it had been named; it had and had been awarded so they would have had a reference point. Reference material was available in the latter case. Judges should be encouraged to at least check the parentage of a cross.

Several awards had missing measurements, and some groups do not know the measurement requirements for Masdevallias. Judges should also be encouraged to record the vertical measurements of the flowers they judge. If you are retyping a form please take care that they are correctly transcribed, as a few mistakes have shown up.

I feel it would be good for all award forms to continue to be sent to COA.

Photos were really good on the whole, and were commented on by the firm doing the reproductions. There were a few problems with the sizing of the photos however; I think this is due to cropping as was mentioned last year.

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