

# **LEAF SHOW PREPARATION**

## **“ from plant to bottle ”**

- I. **WHICH PLANTS DO I SELECT FOR EXHIBITION?**
  - A. Choose only mature plants, 3-5 years, 3+ divisions.
  - B. Choose plants that show appeal.
  - C. Choose plants that expand the visual base.
  - D. Overview the garden several days before the show.
  
- II. **WHICH PART OF A PLANT WILL GIVE THE BEST LEAF?**
  - A. For Sieboldiana and Fortunei backgrounds the first several leaves exhibit the most mature leaves. Exhibit the most mature examples.
  - B. For Sieboldii backgrounds the center offers the best examples.
  
- III. **WHAT PROCESS DO I USE CUTTING A LEAF?**
  - A. Choose only leaves with no visible damage, including no tears, or major pin holes.
  - B. Choose only leaves that show symmetry.
  - C. Choose the largest example where possible.
  - D. Choose more than one example if in doubt. Make final decision at the preparation table.
  - E. Always choose two leaves when exhibiting an unregistered cultivar. It's a rule. Always select the two leaves most alike.
  - F. Cut your example with a sharp knife and with as long a stem as possible.
  
- IV. **HOW SHOULD I GROOM THE LEAF FOR THE SHOW?**
  - A. Immerse the entire leaf in cool water overnight.
  - B. Use liquid soap, cotton balls, que tips, etc. on all leaf surfaces.
  - C. Never clean a blue leaf by any other means than water washing.
  - D. Don't forget to clean the back side and the petiole.
  
- V. **HOW DO I TRANSPORT MY LEAVES?**
  - A. Select a large pail with 4 to 5 inches of water into which you place the leaves.
  - B. Arrive Early. Staging takes time.
  
- VI. **HOW DO I PLACE THE LEAF IN THE SHOW BOTTLES?**
  - A. Select a bottle in proportion to the leaf being displayed.
  - B. Place cotton batting around the petiole at the mouth of the bottle.
  - C. Place the leaf above the cotton batting.
  - D. Avoid the "Easter Bunny" look when showing non-registered cultivars.