

# NCDC Daylily Show “Do It Yourself” Guide to Classification

Daylily Show entries are organized by size, form and color. To determine what number to put on your entry tag, first check the NCDC “Classification List,” which assigns numbers to many locally grown cultivars as well as all registered cultivars currently listed by AHS as spiders, unusual forms and polytepals. Polytepals and any flowers registered with more than six segments now go in the Double Section. If the registered daylily you wish to enter is not on the list, you will need to know its color, whether it has a color pattern, and its registered size to determine what number to put on your entry tag. Simply looking at the daylily may tell you all you need to know.

Official AHS registration information is published in the *AHS Hemerocallis Check List* and is now available on-line in the AHS Daylily Database at <http://www.daylilydatabase.org/>. You will also find links to lists of doubles, polytepals, spiders, and unusual forms at the bottom of the AHS database web page. You may also look up the size, color and form by looking in *Eureka*. Although *Eureka* is usually reliable, in event of a conflict, the *AHS Hemerocallis Check List* and the AHS Daylily Database always take precedence.

If a flower is registered with two or more forms then Double (or Polytepal) supersedes all other forms, e.g. a flower registered as a Double/Spider/Unusual Form would be entered with the Doubles. Spider is the next highest priority form. A Spider/Unusual Form would be entered with the Spiders. Better yet, check the NCDC list—all the multi-form registrations are on the NCDC list.

You may want to survey your garden a few days before the show to see if you have any cultivars you might want to enter that are not on the NCDC Classification List. Determining the Section number in advance will save time on the day of the show. Take extra care to distinguish between Large and Extra Large Flowers since they are easy to confuse.

NCDC Flower Show Section numbers are composed of a 1 to 3 digit number followed by a letter. Each digit or letter has a prescribed meaning. E.g., “134P” would mean a single bloom (1) of a red (3) mini (4) with a pattern (P). Leading zeros are omitted. E.g., a scape of an extra large, near white self (solid colored) daylily would be “1S”. As shown in the classification chart, Section numbers for Double/Polytepal, Spider, and Unusual Form are not broken down by color.

Use the following guide and look at the Daylily Show Schedule chart to determine the Section number for daylily cultivars that are not included on the NCDC Classification List.

Alpha character: P = Patterned (bordered, banded, edged, picoteed, eyed, haloed or watermarked)  
S = Self  
A = All (i.e., either self or patterned.)(Used only for doubles, polytepals, spiders and unusual forms.)

Last digit  
1 = Extra Large (7" or more)  
2 = Large (4½" or more, but under 7")  
3 = Small (3" or more, but under 4½")  
4 = Mini (Under 3")  
5 = Double and Polytepal (must be registered as a double or polytepal)  
6 = Spider (All registered Spiders are on the NCDC Classification List.)  
7 = Unusual Form (must be registered as an Unusual Form)  
(All registered Unusual Forms are on the NCDC Classification List.)

Ten's Place Digit: (Colors are based on the background color, rather than the eye or pattern color.)

none or 0 = White to Cream (or for a double, spider, UF any color)  
1 = Yellow to Gold  
2 = Orange to Brown  
3 = Red  
4 = Blend or Polychrome  
5 = Pink  
6 = Purple or Lavender  
7 = Bicolor or Bitone

100's Place Digit none = On-scape (Division I)  
100 = Blooms (Division II)

The *AHS Hemerocallis Check List* and the on-line “Daylily Registry” provide conclusive information on registration, flower size and whether a cultivar is a *double*, *unusual form*, *spider* or *polytepal*. They may be less definitive in other areas. If a daylily has an obvious eye or edge, classify it as patterned, even if the AHS sources do not mention an eye or edge. Color descriptions can often be confusing. A daylily described as “rose” may be pink or red or even orange. “Beige” might be dull pink, light brown, or near white. You may also find confusing color combinations (e.g., “purple-orange!”) in the descriptions. In such cases, your own eye and color sense are probably your most reliable guides.

If you aren't sure which Section number to use for your daylily, contact Rich Galloway 301-589-0939 or [classification@daylilyclub.org](mailto:classification@daylilyclub.org) by the Thursday before the show, or check with the Classification Desk at the show.