I. All evergreen plants are woody perennials.
   A. The term “evergreen” means that the plant is never bare of foliage.
   B. An evergreen does shed its leaves regularly, but always retains at least two years’
      covering of leaves.
   C. Evergreens are described as having one of two types of foliage
      1. Broadleaf: Most are shrubs with a few trees among them.
      2. Needled: Majority are trees (conifers, cone bearing) with several familiar
         kinds of shrubs.

II. Broadleaf evergreens
   A. All broadleaf evergreens flower; most are conspicuous: Magnolia, Rhododendron.
   B. Some are less noticeable: Ilex, Buxus.
   C. The fruit is often conspicuous: Cotoneaster, Ilex, Mahonia, Pyracantha
   D. Leaves vary in size, shape, venation and placement on stems. Because they must
      withstand several years of drastic seasonal changes of weather, leaves are often
      leathery, thick, substantial.
   E. Foliage can be simple: lanceolate, oval, cordate (heart-shaped,) ovate or lobed.
      Compound forms include trifoliate, palmate, pinnate and bipinnate.
      Leaf edges can be entire, crenate or serrate.
   F. Growth habits vary from prostrate, Calluna, Calliope, Cotoneaster, Erica,
      to sturdy branched, Ilex, Kalmia, Rhododendron
      to weak stemmed, fountain shapes, Leucothoe, Mahonia, Nandina, Pieris.
      Choose from standard size or dwarf size; limit need for excessive pruning.

III. Uses in the landscape
   Today’s landscaper has the world to draw from when selecting residents for the garden.
   After considering the cultural needs of the plant (light, soil, water, humidity and
   temperature) and which of those aspects he/she is able to be duplicated at the
   proposed site, the designer must then determine the intended use of the site
   (functional, privacy, windbreak, recreational, educational, esthetic.) Because the
   potential list of appropriate plants is so extensive, the gardener must balance the
   planting with plants which can serve as focal points at different times of the year. By
   combining contrasting textures, shapes, sizes and colors, the designer can create
   whatever impression is desired for the space when viewed either up close or at a
   distance. A shrub or tree may be featured because of scent, rarity or elegant growth
   habit. It may have unique coloring of leaves or blossoms at different times of the year.
   When combined with other perennials, bulbs and seasonal plants, the shrub border can
   be labor intensive, but when combined in such a way to define specific areas, the effect
   can be a source of unending pleasure for the viewer.
IV. Including broadleaf evergreens in The NGC Flower Show Schedule

A. Arboreal branch: Pertaining to trees and shrubs; a cut specimen when entered for competition must include several nodes and measure ≤30”L; may require foliage, flowers, fruits and/or cones according to the mandates of the schedule.

B. Container grown arboreal specimen: schedule determines size limits of container. Must have attained some degree of maturity to portray growth habit, foliage coloring.

C. Both cut and container grown specimens may be eligible for the Arboreal Award, a Section Top Exhibitor Award in the Horticulture Division and the Award of Horticultural Excellence Division Award.

D. Botanical Arts Division Horticulture may include arboreal specimens not permitted in the Horticulture Division, but notable for other attributes.
   1. Naturally large branches: specimens which require ≥30”L to display the beauty of mature form. Schedule determines limits and staging.
   2. Judged by the Horticulture Scale of Points
   3. Eligible for the Botanical Arts Horticulture Award

E. All exhibits must be correctly named according to current scientific designation including genus, specific epithet and cultivar as applicable.

V. Writing a Section for Broadleaf Evergreens in the NGC Flower Show Schedule

A. All classes w/in a section should relate to some major attribute: same genus, all shrubs/trees, all flowering/fruiting/foliage. Size: standard or dwarf (dwarf specimens never compete in the same class as standard size.) The larger the show, the more specific the sections/classes.

B. For small shows, sections may be composed of more loosely related criteria: Woody perennials, shrubs, trees.

C. Remember to include three classes of specific description; fourth may be an “any other worthy specimen” related to the types w/in the section.

D. Title of section should reflect theme of show and of the division.

E. List the awards for which the section is eligible: Section, Division, Club awards

F. List the limitations for sizes of cut branches and containers.

G. When writing a schedule to include specific genera of plants, the schedule writer must consider the time of year and the season when plant is at its peak.
   1. Shrubs which are grown primarily for their showy flowers should be described as such in a Section for flowering shrubs.
   2. For shrubs which flower, but have insignificant impact, later producing attractive fruit, the fruiting season would be preferable for including them in a show.

For instance: Spring, early summer shows might highlight Rhododendrons, Kalmia and Pieris, but a late summer or fall show could emphasize Abelia, Ilex, Leucothoe, and winter shows might include Buxus, Daphne and Mahonia. Ideally, shrubs should be shown when they are at their most beautiful stage. Some types with interesting colors and shape may be featured when not in bloom or with fruit—-but simply for their beauty in the landscape: Buxus, Leucothoe, Pieris.

H. If the schedule section calls for flowering cut branches, flowers must be present to conform. The number, condition and distribution are considered elsewhere on the scale of points.

I. If the schedule section requires specimens to be fruited, the ripeness of the fruit depends on the time of year. Do not fault specimens for immaturity if it is not the season for ripeness.
VI. Exhibiting in the Horticulture Division of an NGC Flower Show  General Horticulture Rules  HB, P 55
A. All specimens must have been grown by the exhibitor
B. Must be all fresh plant material
C. Container-grown arboreals must have been in exhibitor’s possession at least 6 months.
D. Exhibitor may make more than one entry per class if each entry is a different variety, cultivar, type, or color unless schedule says otherwise.
E. Containers will be provided for cut specimens (Schedule will specify type if exhibitor is to furnish.)
F. Cut specimens should not have any foliage below water line or in neck of bottle.
G. For types that flower at the tips of previous years growth, (Rhododendrons) it is not possible to include several year’s growth, but should be a single stem with a whorl of leaves or collar below the flower head. Under no circumstances should the main branch sport “rabbit ears.” That is, forming a Y shape with blooms at tips of each of the two branches. Kalmia may include the single main stem with short branches ending in a cluster of flower heads.
H. Stem must be sufficiently long to allow it to be submerged in water in the container and wedged for best appearance, yet hold the leaves and bloom above the lip of the bottle.
   1. Shape
      a. Arched or straight; strong central leader; Side branches in balanced positions
      b. No missing leaves or gaps in placement of side branches
      c. Apical bud present, undamaged
   2. Specimen should be free of pests, disease, debris.
   3. Do not use artificial shine on leaves. Washing with water, give a light rub with towel.
   4. Choose a mature branch; immature specimens usually do not condition well.
   5. If flowering, are flowers/clusters of small or large size, clear and bright color?
I. Wedging is permitted unless prohibited by schedule. Leaves should not be used for wedging.
J. Entries must be entered and placed within stated time frames; removed promptly.
K. Choose a branch typical of plant, hydrate for several hours
L. Grooming and Staging the Specimen P 56
   1. Remove leaves which would go below water level in container for exhibition
   2. Cut stem cleanly, on slant just before placing in container, 30” or less overall length.
   3. Use wedging, unless prohibited in schedule, to hold branch at an attractive pose.
   4. Use a water filled container of sufficient size to support specimen Containers may be weighted, but stems may not be hidden within ballast.
K. Identifying the specimen and filling out the entry card
   1. Proper naming Handbook, P54, is of utmost importance in NGC Flower Shows: educational for exhibitor and viewer and insures placement in proper class. Label specimen on entry card correctly using proper underlining indicating italics, capitalization and single quote marks: Genus specific epithet ‘Cultivar’. Genus and specific epithet in italics when printed. Ilex aquifolium ‘Pyramidalis’
   2. For a hybrid, if specific epithet is unknown or is a cross between two hybrids, may be written using only genus and cultivar: Rhododendron ‘Cecile’
   3. Trademarked (™) names or registered trademarked (®) names are a legal entity that may or may not be the actual cultivar name: trademarked names are acceptable in an NGC Standard Flower Show in place of a cultivar name. Trademarked names are not enclosed in single quotes.
POSSIBILITIES FOR SECTIONS/CLASSES
OF COMMON BROADLEAF EVERGREEN SHRUBS

_Abelia_ Clusters of trumpet-shaped blossoms on gracefully arching branches; flowers from June until September. Slow growing to 5-6’ at maturity. Some species retain the reddish sepals after the petals have fallen. Hardest species is _A. triflora_ which is scented.

_Buxus microphylla_ (little leaf,) _B. sempervirens_ (common boxwood) Opposite leaves, tiny star-shaped male and female flowers on same plant.

_Daphne odora_ Early spring flowering; fragrant starry shaped flowers followed by poisonous berries; cream-edged leaves, purplish-rose blooms in February-March. Sun to light shade, rarely needs pruning.

_Kalmia latifolia_ (Mountain Laurel) Leaves, oblanceolate to 10 cm L., collar the blossoms. Clusters of hexagonal flowers on thin stems. Pale pink to white. New cultivars have more brilliant colors

_Leucothoe fontanesiana_ Arching branches form a spreading clump. _L. ‘Rainbow’_ is a common cultivar with flecks of pink, red, orange on variegated leaves. Drupes of white flowers in spring hang from stems

_Mahonia japonica_ (Oregon grape holly) Stiff, unbranched erect stems; leaves in horizontal tiers, situated in multiple leaved, flat foliage radiating from branch tip. Drupes of bright yellow flowers broom from first thaw thru spring and sporadically thru summer followed by clusters of dark blue fruits.

_Pieris japonica, P. Formosa forrestii_ Ovate leaves, new growth often red, alternate on thin stems with drooping panicles of white flowers in spring.

_Rhododendron_ (Includes Azaleas) Extensive group. Leaves vary from oval to nearly round. Flowers are bell-shaped held in a truss (ball -like) with 5 to 25 flowers in the cluster. Bloom at branch tips. Azaleas have funnel-shaped flowers either singly or in small groups along stems.
JUDGING THE EXHIBIT  Judging the Broadleaf Evergreen specimen Use Scale of Points for Cut or Container-grown, HB, P 129  NOTE: Recognize worthy 90+ exhibits. A pat on the back is never amiss.
Cut branch must be ≤30”L and correctly identified according to genus and cultivar or binomial and cultivar
Exhibit name as written on entry card:  **Genus**  **specific epithet**  ‘**Cultivar**’

**Conformance (5)**  Adherence to the class requirements

Is it what the class calls for? A cut branch of a broadleaf evergreen? If yes, award all points; if something else, (a container-grown plant, flowering according to schedule, not correct genus) REMOVE ALL 5 POINTS. It’s all or nothing. Where do we consider maximum length, apical tip, ID? Under size, grooming, form, maturity and identification.

**Plant identification (5)**  Identified by the binomial name or currently accepted scientific designation

Because most of entries will be hybrids, only the genus and cultivar names are required, except for the rare species when genus and specific epithet (species) names are required.
Genus name must be repeated on entry card, even if in the schedule. If not, -3, if no cultivar -2. If not completely identified, exhibit can win 1st place, but not an Arboreal Award.

**Peak of Perfection (75)**

**Form (20)** Overall 3-D Shape of the specimen as well as individual parts (leaves, flowers, stem.)
Overall: balanced, strong, straight, central leader, apical tip intact.
Negative: heavy with dominant branches on (right or left) side; 2-5 point deduction
If central leader is shorter than side branches due to pruning, heavy deduction -6-8 Leaves may or may not be present, depending on cultivar. If present, even coverage. Negative: sparse coverage (if present) 2-5 point deduction. If flowers: evenly spaced. In clusters, global cluster.
Negative: sparse flowers, irregularly placed, some missing; 2-5 point deduction

**Color (20)** Visual perception of the hues, shades, tints and tones of all parts of the specimen.
Flowers and buds: Describe the vividness, evenness, contrast (of buds and flowers, blush on petals) if appropriate, and specific color.  Negative: faded, uneven, 2-5 points deducted.
Leaves, if present, younger leaves may be lighter/darker than older ones. Consistent, bright.
May have a distinctive color on underside. Negative: color not consistent, pale, 2-5 points off.
Stem: one color, not discolored by disease or insects Deduction according to level of problem

**Maturity/Size (20)** The ideal stage of development for plant exhibited (blooming, fruited)
Should have ~2/3 of flowers open, others in bud stage; Leaves may or may not be present. Stem should have strong central leader and side branches with at least three years of growth evident. If flowers not sufficiently open or stem not well-developed, 2-5 points deduction
If size is noticeably small, indicating a side branch was used, not central leader, appropriate to specimen as identified, 2-5 points deduction. (Possession of container grown, > 6 months.)
Maturity and size are two different things: can be mature and small, or immature and large.
Depending on parentage, branches may be shorter, closer together.

**Condition/blemishes (15)** Physical appearance of the specimen at time of judging
Condition: Hydrated, alert, well-conditioned. If not 2-5 points deduction
Blemishes: Free from mechanical and insect damage, tears, holes, cuts. If present 2-5 Points off.

**Grooming and Staging (15)** Presentation of the specimen

**Grooming (10)** Actions taken by exhibitor to improve the appearance of the specimen
Clean, free of debris, water spots, dead/damaged parts/seedpods removed, free of insects. Foliage below water line removed, no indication of surface treatment, stem length cut proportional to number of flower/foliage. If any problems 2-5 points deduction

**Staging (5)** Presentation of the specimen
Appropriate size bottle, wedged for best pose, if not 1-3 points deduction