

# ADS/Minnesota Dahlia Society Judging Requirements

In order to become an A.D.S. accredited **SENIOR JUDGE** a candidate

1. Must be a continual member in good standing of the MDS & ADS
2. Must continue to grow and exhibit in ADS-sanctioned shows virtually every year (minimum 4 of 5 years)
3. Must serve at least a four (4) year apprenticeship as an Accredited Judge on a team with Senior judges in at least eight (8) ADS shows
4. Must judge seedlings either at a Trial Garden or on the bench to the satisfaction of the Judging Chair at least once a year for the four-year period. The recommended number of seedlings is five per year but not less than 25 in five years.
5. Must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the team with Senior Judges the candidate's ability to use the double and open-center scorecards properly when judging seedlings
6. Must be able to classify properly a seedling variety under consideration as to size, type and color
7. Must be able to name the current competition a seedling will compete against, either from memory or from the Classification Handbook.
8. Must attend 3 judging seminar/training sessions during training period
9. Must take the ADS Senior Judge test during training period and achieve a score of at least 90%.

Judges that do not fulfill all of the listed requirements to advance or maintain their judge status will be reduced to the next lower level of accreditation until they have demonstrated that they have completed approved training or experience to remedy the reason for demotion and re-taken the judges' test for the next level of accreditation. (new per 6-2007 ADS published requirements)

Fulfillment of the above requirements may be temporarily waived by the Evaluation Chair/Accreditation Committee in the event of illness, extensive travel distance or other extenuating circumstances.

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To retain status as a SENIOR JUDGE:

1. Each judge must continue to maintain membership in the MDS & ADS in good standing
2. Must judge in at least eight (8) ADS-sanctioned shows over a five (5) year accreditation period
3. Must judge at least ten (10) seedling entries either at the Trial Garden or on the Seedling Bench in a five (5) year period
4. Must attend a minimum of one (1) refresher course/training workshop on competitive and seedling/trial garden judging every other year
5. Must successfully retake the ADS Senior Judges' Examination and achieve an open-book score of at least 90% once every five (5) years
6. All judges must continue to grow and exhibit dahlias to remain accredited

Judges that do not fulfill all of the listed requirements to advance or maintain their judge status will be reduced to the next lower level of accreditation until they have demonstrated that they have completed approved training or experience to remedy the reason for demotion and re-taken the judges' test for the next level of accreditation. (new per 6-2007 ADS published requirements)

Fulfillment of the above requirements may be temporarily waived by the Evaluation Chair/Accreditation Committee in the event of illness, extensive travel distance or other extenuating circumstances.

**NOTE:** Any Senior Judge who decides that they are no longer able to fulfill the requirements necessary to maintain their status may petition the judge Accreditation Committee to become an Honorary Senior Judge.

Adopted January, 1980  
Amended January, 1996  
Amended July, 1998  
Amended June, 2004  
Amended June, 2007