**1-6-8 Measurement**

**RESOURCES:**

* aos.org webinar: “Measuring for AOS Awards: Size Counts, at least for Accuracy & Comparison.” Allen-Ikeson. 8-2021 <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/4074064831656198659>
* Handbook on Judging

**RESEARCH QUESTIONS:**

* To be ready to measure flowers, plants, and exhibits, what handy items should you include in your judging bag?
* What is the difference between measuring natural spread and segment (petals, lip, etc.) dimensions?
* When measuring the natural spread of a flower, you should always measure looking at the \_\_\_\_\_ of the flower. Note it is usually easier to measure segments on the back of the flower.
* When a plant has numerous flowers, which one should you pick to measure: anyone that is easy to get to? the largest one? the one photographed if there is more than one flower? Why? Remember that this measure will stand as a comparison for future awards and the largest flower may not be the easiest to photograph!
* When is it allowable to not measure a segment?
* For slipper orchids, how do you measure the length and width of the pouch?
* When should you measure the width and height of a plant?
* When should you measure the size of the pot?
* If a flower might bruise easily (*Lycaste* for example), should you measure more than the natural spread before or after the photo has been taken? Why?
* When, how and why should you measure the length of the inflorescence? Should that be in the description?
* How do you measure the width of fused lateral sepals (some bulbophyllums, *Restrepia*). What should you add in the description about that measurement?
* Reverse engineering: a description lists the petal length as 4.2 cm and the natural spread as 6.2 cm. What can you conclude from that even though the flower appears flat in the photo?
* Typically, *dendrobium*s have a spur-like or sac-like structure called a mentum. How would you measure it and where would you put that measurement on the award form/description?
* All award measurements should be metric. Why is it incorrect to describe a display as 10-feet wide even though the space allowed in the show manual says 10-foot floor display, 4-foot table-top display, etc.?
* Practice measuring flowers on your orchids at home. Before judging, ask your advisor or another expert judge to observe you measuring three flowers, each of a different type (e.g., *Dendrobium*, slipper orchid, *Masdevallia*, etc.). Record the result as you would for a Quality award. What else might you measure for a (1) cultural award or (2) CBR or CHM? Repeat this process with a single plant at future monthly judgings, trying to pick out more difficult flower types until you are confident doing this. Since measurements are used to compare to other awards, you should be *accurate*!