

of each flower during transportation. If using supports for flower stems, they should be removed prior to staging. It is useful to take spare containers to assist when staging.

- **Staging** Carefully unpack each flower and place in a spare container. Fill each exhibition vase with fresh water prior to staging. If using oasis, place in position as early as convenient. Stage each vase carefully, ensuring that the stem is neither too long nor too short and that damaged leaves are removed. If inexperienced, look at the experienced exhibitors' staging, particularly height and spacing of blooms. Blooms should all face the same direction unless 'all round effect' is required by the class. Place exhibits in the classes entered and place labels with the exhibit.

- **Pot plants** 'All-round effect' is important in most pot plants (see also p162–163) and plants should be turned every few days. This is particularly important in the few days before a show. If necessary, flowers and leaves should be gently 'teased' out so that the plant is displayed at its best. Any damaged foliage or flowers can be carefully removed. Take care during transit that the plant arrives undamaged. Final preparation should involve removing any faded foliage and flowers back to the base, and ensuring that the container is clean. Stage the plant so that its best side is towards the front, and place the label nearby.

