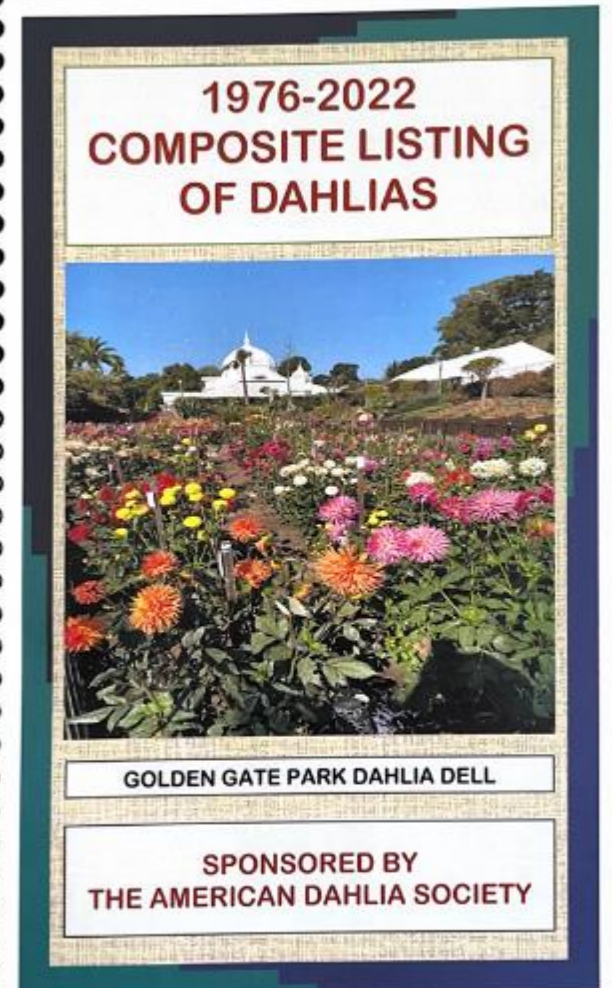
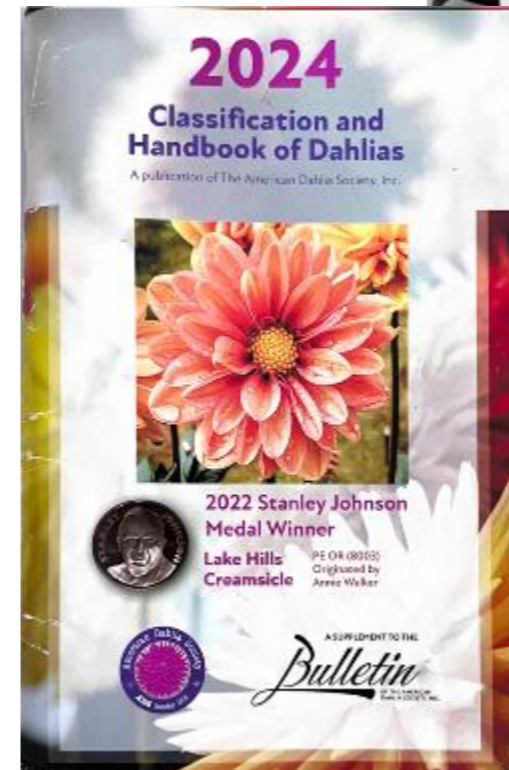
The background of the slide features a close-up photograph of several dahlias. The flowers are in various stages of bloom, with colors ranging from soft pinks to vibrant yellows and oranges. The lighting is bright, highlighting the delicate textures of the petals.

**How do Dahlias qualify to be an
ADS “New Introduction”?**

Classification Handbook of Dahlias (CHD)

- Over 55,000 varieties of dahlias have been introduced
- The ADS (American Society of Dahlias) Classification and Handbook of Dahlias (CHD) currently lists ~ 1800 varieties that have won at least 3 blue ribbons at dahlia shows across the country in the last 2 consecutive years
- How do dahlias get listed in CHD?



Introduction of a New Dahlia Cultivar

- Source of new dahlia cultivars:
 - From seeds collected from flowers that are left to go to seed
 - “Sports” of dahlia growing in garden



- Sports

- genetic mutation that results from a faulty chromosomal replication.
- The results of the mutation are a segment (branch) of the plant that is distinctly different from the parent plant in both appearance (phenotype) and genetics (genotype)
- To propagate a 'new' sport one needs to make a cutting and allow the cutting to produce tubers to verify that the sport is genetic



Spartacus
Original cultivar

sports



Vassio Meggos



Louie Meggos



Steve Meggos



Harvey Koop

Introduction of a New Dahlia Cultivar

- If grower considers the flower (from seed or sport) to be ‘worthy’:
 - First year:
 - **Single bloom** entered in “First-Year Seedling” section in a show
 - Judged (blue ribbons given to worthy entries)
- If bloom received a blue ribbon the tubers are saved and grown following year
 - Second Year:
 - **Two blooms** entered in “Second-Year Seedling” section of Show
 - Judged (worthy entries receive a blue ribbon)

Introduction of a New Dahlia Cultivar

- Third year:
 - Three blooms are entered in the “ADS-Third-Year Seedling” section of show
 - And/or tubers can be sent to Trial Gardens

ADS Three-Year Seedling

- Entry Tag

AMERICAN DAHLIA SOCIETY
SEEDLING BENCH EVALUATION ENTRY TAG

This side of entry tag (BOTH PORTIONS) to be completed by judging team. When completed, separate at dashed line. Attach TOP portion to scorecard(s) before submitting to ADS Bench Evaluation Chairman. BOTTOM portion to be left by entry for exhibitor.

SEEDLING NO. _____ ADS SCORE _____
(also enter on bottom portion) (also enter on bottom portion)

Size Class: AA A B BB M or N/A Form: _____
(circle here AND on bottom portion) (also enter on bottom portion)

Diameter: _____ Depth: _____
(3 bloom average) (3 bloom average)

Stem Length: _____
(3 stem average)

COLOR INFORMATION
• RAY FLORET (ALL CAPS) •


Class: W Y OR PK DP R DR L PR/BK LB BR FL DB V BI
(circle AND enter on bottom portion)

Chip(s): _____ / _____ / _____
(enter here AND on bottom portion) PREDOMINANT SECONDARY TERTIARY

• petaloids (CO or OT) or anemone dome or orchid ray floret face or eye zone (all lower case) •

Class: w y or pk dp r dr l pr/bk lb br fl db v bi
(circle AND enter on bottom portion)

Chip(s): _____ / _____ / _____
(enter here AND on bottom portion) predominant secondary tertiary

 SEEDLING NO. _____ ADS SCORE _____

Size Class: AA A B BB M or N/A Form: _____

COLOR INFORMATION
• RAY FLORET (ALL CAPS) •

Class: _____ Chip(s): _____ / _____ / _____
PREDOMINANT SECONDARY TERTIARY

• petaloids (CO or OT) or anemone dome or orchid ray floret face or eye zone (all lower case) •

Class: _____ Chip(s): _____ / _____ / _____
predominant secondary tertiary

ADS Three-year Seedling

- Judging
 - Dahlia will be scored by a minimum of 3 Judges, 2 of which must be Senior Judges at both the show and trial garden
- Scorecard
 - 100 points maximum
 - 85 needed to 'score'
 - Dahlias receiving a score of 85 or higher are automatically entered in the CHD

American Dahlia Society
Seedling Evaluation Scorecard for **Fully Double** Cultivars

Date _____ Time _____ Location _____ Number of Plants _____ Cultivar ID _____
Classification _____ ADS Color Chips _____

1. Determine cultivar classification as a team if possible.
2. Identify faults of blooms at arm's length and judge early or late in the day, if possible.
3. Do not include blooms past their prime when determining faults in the trial garden, but do include several blooms close to prime condition (AA-A-B, 3-4; BB-M, 6-8) when possible.
4. See the back of this sheet for fault recommendations. Circle the faults identified.
5. Consider both the severity and extent of the fault when you determine the deduction.
6. Bear in mind that -1 is a failing (<85%) score for bloom position, and -4 is a passing (>85%) score for form. Therefore, make deductions in the context of each characteristic's scorecard value.
7. Use the bottom of the scorecard for entries that are clearly not worthy.

		SCORE
Color	22 points — if no faults are detected. Look for color that is not dull, blotchy, streaked, or faded. Bleeding is a fault in bicolors and variegated blooms. Uneven distribution of the second color is a fault for all the cultivars with two or more colors.	
Form Diameter _____ Depth _____	28 points — if no faults are detected. Check bloom for irregular or misshapen centers, gaps, asymmetrical contour, adherence to the current ideal definition, and mixed form among the florets. Check depth ratio against current ideal. Fault if the ratio is less than ideal or is greater than one.	
Substance	15 points — if no faults are detected. Look for ray florets that are drooping, sagging, or wilting. Other faults include shriveled, misshapen, and falling florets.	
Stem Length _____	10 points — if no faults are detected. Check for stems that are crooked, too long, too short, too thick, too thin, or enter the bloom off center.	
Foliage	10 points — if no faults are detected. Look for leaves that are too small or too large for the bloom. Ideally leaves are identical and opposite each other on the stem.	
Bloom Position	5 points — if no faults are detected. Downfacing blooms are a serious fault. Sidefacing blooms are less serious. 45° is preferred for most forms, but top facing is fine for balls, pompons, and waterlilies.	
Uniformity (Bench)	5 points — if no faults are detected. Check blooms for uniformity of form, color, size as well as for each of the other evaluation characteristics.	Bench ---
Floriferousness (Trial Gardens)	5 points — if no faults are detected. Very few blooms or blooms too late for local shows are serious faults.	Trial Garden
Distinction	5 points — if strong potential for higher awards. Cultivars unlikely to win in competition should be penalized. Striking combinations of attributes should be rewarded.	
Judge's Printed Name _____ Judge's Signature _____		
Check One: <input type="checkbox"/> Candidate Judge <input type="checkbox"/> Accredited Judge <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Judge <input type="checkbox"/> Honorary Judge		
Note: Only one judge per scoresheet. Each judge must use a separate scoresheet.		Total Score
Entry Not Worthy: It is occasionally necessary to judge an entry that will clearly not score above 75. In such an instance, please circle or underline the reason(s) for that conclusion: Always open centered, consistently malformed centers, too few ray florets, highly nonuniform color, many wolf florets (color or form), consistently downfacing, stunted plants, very poor stems, very poor proportion, very poor color.		
Additional scoring is not necessary; circle "did not score" (DNS) at right. →		DNS
Comments		

Non-Formal Method

- A less formal method to have a “new” dahlia cultivar entered in the CHD exists
 - The “new” cultivar must be at least 3 years old
 - The “new” cultivar is entered into an Annual Dahlia Show
 - Originator provides a name of the “new” cultivar
 - Depending on the show rules, either the Classification Committee or a Senior Judge
 - Classifies the dahlia (provides a number) and authorizes “new” cultivar to be placed on the table
 - This classification can also be used to enter the dahlia in other Dahlia Shows
 - If the “new” cultivar wins two blue ribbons in the course of a year, it will be entered into the CHD

Rules for Inclusion or Deletion from Classification Handbook

- New introduction with a score of 85.0 or greater
- A cultivar must win **two blue ribbons** during the show season to **be initially included or relisting after being dropped**
- A cultivar must win **three blue ribbons** in the last **two consecutive year** period to remain listed

The background of the slide features a close-up, artistic rendering of a flower, likely a gerbera, in shades of pink, light yellow, and white. The petals are layered and detailed, creating a soft, textured appearance. A semi-transparent pink rectangular box is centered horizontally across the upper portion of the image, containing the title text.

ADS New Intros for 2025