

# 2026 FLOWER SHOW AND COMPETITION

## “Rhythm & Blooms”

### PROFESSIONAL HORTICULTURE and EDUCATION (PHE) AND ARTISTIC (PA) DIVISIONS

#### General and Division Information

Classes are open to professionals. **Anyone working in the floral industry including florists and floral consultants are considered professional.**

- Entry forms are available at [www.newjerseystatefair.org](http://www.newjerseystatefair.org) (click on 'be part of the fair' then click on 'be an exhibitor' scroll to Flower Show forms) or at the fair office in Augusta.
- **All entries must be pre-registered with a completed entry form and paid entry fee no later than July 17<sup>th</sup>.**
- Entry fee is \$20 per entry. Enter as many classes as you want. Only one entry per class per exhibitor.
- Each exhibitor receives two complimentary fair tickets and a parking pass at registration on Friday, July 31st.
- No materials on the invasive species list may be used. (<https://dep.nj.gov> invasive species)
- All Professional entries will be accepted **Friday, July 31st, 9-10 am**. Gate 1 will be open for drop off in the Conservatory.
- **Judging will commence promptly at 10:30 AM on Friday, July 31st.**
- Decision of judges is final.
- Points will be taken away from any entry not in conformance with General and Division rules.
- After judging, business cards/literature may be provided for the viewing public.
- Accessories permitted, but flowers may not be artificial or altered by spraying, dyeing or being dried.

## Ribbons and Premiums

- A blue ribbon will be awarded for 90+ points 1st Place (\$200), red ribbon for 80-89 points 2nd Place (\$150) and yellow ribbon for 70-79 points 3rd Place (\$100). In the event of a tie, deciding points will be awarded for nomenclature.
- One Best in Show ribbon and \$100 will be awarded to one entry selected from all 1st place entries in Classes 510-530 and Classes 17-18-19
- **The Flower Show Committee will not be held responsible for any exhibit or ribbon left after its designated removal time. Ribbons will not be mailed.**

## **Professional Horticultural and Educational Division – PHE RULES**

- All plants in PHE classes must be identified and labeled on a separate card and included with the entry. No cut flowers allowed. **All entries must have a water tight liner of some kind and/or a saucer.**
- Entries in classes **510-530 are to be picked up Saturday, August 8<sup>th</sup> after 9:00pm or Sunday morning August 9<sup>th</sup> until 10am.**

<b>Horticultural Judging Criteria</b>	<b>Weighting</b>
Cultural Perfection (Color, Form, Substance/Texture, Size, Floriferousness, Foliage)	0 to 65 points
Grooming	0 to 15 points
Condition	0 to 10 points
Conformity to Rules	0 to 10 points
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

## **Professional Artistic Division – PA Rules**

- In the PA Classes 17-19, fruits or vegetables are allowed, but must be sealed to discourage insects.
- Entries in Classes 17-19 PA must be **picked up Monday, August 3rd** prior to 3 pm.

<b>Artistic Judging Criteria</b>	<b>Weighting</b>
Design Principles - Balance, Contrast, Dominance, Proportion, Rhythm, Scale	0 to 30 points
Peak of Perfection - Form, Color, Maturity/Size, Condition	0 to 35 points
Creativity - Unique, Imaginative, Well-executed, Original	0 to 10 points
Depth – Placement of materials at different levels	0 to 10 points
Conformance to class description	0 to 10 points
Plant Identification	0 to 5 points
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100 points</b>

### **General Definitions**

**Annual:** A plant that completes its entire life cycle from seed germination to seed production in one season in our zone.

**Appropriateness of all Components:** The plants used are environmentally suited and have similar cultural requirements.

**Artistic Concept:** Selection and organization of all components in the display. Appropriateness of components and their placement for design type if applicable.

**Bulb/Tuber/Corn:** A thickened bud with fleshy scales, usually growing below ground, as in onion, narcissus, tulip; or with narrow separate scales as in the lily.

**Color:** Degree of clarity, brightness and freshness of foliage, flowers, and stems.

**Color Harmony:** A pleasing combination of colors.

**Collection:** A collection consists of three flowers - three flowers each a different variety **OR** three flowers of the same variety with three different colors.

**Condition:** Healthy, blemish free (e.g. damage due to insects, disease, physiological, mechanical problems); neither immature nor past prime.

**Conformity to Rules:** Complies with all rules (overall rules and rules for its class).

**Cultural Perfection:** The quality such as color, form, substance, texture, size, compared to the standard for that variety.

**Floriferousness:** The abundance of flowers on an entire plant; a proportionate number of blooms for the size of the specimen.

**Foliage:** Amount according to type, proportional to stem, positioning on stem, if applicable.

**Form:** Balanced, appropriate to type; flowers & foliage balanced for flowering specimens. This applies to contour of individual components as well as to the contour of whole plant or design.

**Grooming:** Preparations that the exhibitor can control such as stem length, clean cut, foliage removed below water level, cleanliness, insects and presentation. No salt residue on potted plants.

**Harmony:** A consistent, orderly, or pleasing arrangement of parts.

**Invasive:** A plant that is able to establish on many sites, grow quickly, and spread to the point of disrupting plant communities or ecosystems.

**Native:** A plant that occurs naturally in our region without direct or indirect human intervention. (A **Nativar** is a cultivated plant that is bred from a straight species native plant.)

**Perennial:** A plant which lives for three or more years and after reaching maturity typically produces flowers and seeds each year. Perennials are classified as herbaceous if the top dies to the ground each winter, and as woody if the top persists as in shrubs and trees.

**Plant Identification:** A legible identification of the plants included.

**Rarity:** Significant difference from other entries in its uniqueness.

**Size:** Ideal or slightly above average for the variety.

**Stem:** May consist of multiple flowers.

**Substance:** Tissue structure, firmness or thickness.

**Texture:** The quality of the surface structure, such as rough, smooth, dull, or shiny.

**Textural Contrast:** A pleasing combination of different textures.

**Tricolor:** Three different colors.

**Unity:** The placement of elements to create a unified whole.

### **Additional Artistic Definitions**

**Creativity:** An original concept in the selection and organization of all components. This can apply to the choice of materials or the manner of usage.

**Design:** Principles consist of Balance, Contrast, Dominance, Proportion, Scale, and Rhythm. Elements consist of Line, Form, Color, Texture, Pattern, Size, Space and Light.

**Distinction:** Superiority in all aspects. Exceptionally fine design negates minor faults. Moderate to major faults negatively affect Distinction. Degree of distinction is evident in craftsmanship, use of mechanics, and condition of all components.

**Expression:** Interpretation of class classification through the component/s or design element/s.

**2026 Flower Show Competition    PROFESSIONAL ENTRY FORM**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Business \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Total PHE Entries \_\_\_\_\_                      \$20.00 PHE Fee per class \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total PA Entries \_\_\_\_\_                      \$20.00 PA Fee per class \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Included \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Send completed form with payment to:

New Jersey State Fair/Sussex County Farm and Horse Show

PO Box 600

Augusta, NJ 07822

**General questions can be directed to the fair office @ (973) 948-5500  
Flower Show Questions to Karen Opilla, Director of the Flower Show  
Competition email [willobrkfarm@ptd.net](mailto:willobrkfarm@ptd.net)**

I have read and agree to the rules and regulations as set forth by the Flower Show Committee. I furthermore agree to leave my exhibit(s) on display in accordance with the rules. I understand that premiums will be mailed to me within ten days of judging. Ribbons must be picked up by exhibitors.

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**RETURN WITH COMPLETED ENTRY FORMS and CHECK**

WE SUGGEST KEEPING A COPY FOR YOUR RECORDS

## Entry Form Professional Horticulture - PHE

CHECK ENTRY	CLASS No.	REQUIREMENTS	FEE
	510	<p><b><u>Take Five</u></b> A collection of five different flowering plants and foliage to be displayed in a container of your choice, to be displayed on a 10" deep shelf.</p> <p><b>*All entries must have a water tight saucer.</b></p>	\$20
	520	<p><b><u>Alexander's Ragtime Band</u></b> A patriotic collection of flowering plants and foliage featuring a musical instrument to be displayed in a window box.</p> <p>*Maximum size 24" wide by 10" deep. <b>*All entries must be water tight.</b></p>	\$20
	530	<p><b><u>Deep Purple</u></b> A collection of purple flowering plants and foliage to be displayed in a purple container on a 12"x12" pedestal viewed from all sides.</p> <p><b>*All entries must have a water tight saucer.</b></p>	\$20

## Entry Form Professional Artistic – PA

CHECK ENTRY	CLAS S No.	REQUIREMENTS	FEE
	17	<p><b><u>The Girl from Ipanema</u></b> An arrangement of colorful, exotic flowers and foliage in a container of your choice to be displayed on a 10" deep shelf.</p>	\$20
	18	<p><b><u>Night and Day</u></b> An arrangement of dark and light flowers and foliage complementing the container of your choice to be displayed on a 10" deep shelf.</p>	\$20

	19	<b>Art in Bloom</b>	<b>A floral arrangement interpreting a painting provided by the Flower Show Committee (<i>Photo attached</i>) suggesting our theme "Rhythm &amp; Blooms" in a container of your choice to be displayed on a 12" x 12" pedestal viewed from all sides.</b>	\$20
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