

2026 FLOWER SHOW AND COMPETITION

Amateur Horticulture and Artistic Divisions

"Rhythm & Blooms"

General and Division Information

- AH and AA Classes are open to the public of all ages **excluding anyone working in the Horticultural industry.**
- All forms are available at www.njstatefair.org (click on 'be part of the fair' then click on 'be an exhibitor' scroll to Flower Show forms) or at the fair office.
- **All entries must be pre-registered with entry fee no later than July 17th. You will receive a follow up email the week before the fair with helpful instructions.**
- No entry ticket or parking pass is needed for entry drop off. Fair tickets and a parking pass will be provided for entry pickup day.
- Exhibitors must check-in at REGISTRATION TABLE – Procedures will be posted day of show. Doors open at 8:30AM, and entries must be received by 10AM.
- No plant on the invasive species list may be used. (<https://dep.nj.gov> invasive-species)

AMATEUR HORTICULTURE (AH) DIVISION Rules

- Entry fee for AH is \$5.00 for the first 15 entries (cut flowers and/or potted plants) and \$5.00 for each additional 15 entries, only one entry per class. **Exhibitors with 15 or more entries can receive their entry tags prior to the show (7/31/26) by contacting Renae Clark at reanaeclark07@outlook.com**
- Plants entered as "flowering plants" should be in bloom at the time of entry for optimal judging.
- Classes 200 - 330, potted plants, accepted in the Conservatory Friday, July 31st 9 - 10am. **Potted Plants will be judged on Friday, July 31st.** Potted plants classes 200-330 will remain on display until Saturday, August 8th, 9:00pm. **All potted plants must have a water tight saucer or container.**
- Classes 21 - 195, cut flowers, accepted in the Conservatory Tuesday, August 4th 8:30-10 AM. Gate 1 will be open for drop-off. Clear vases and bubble wrap will be provided by the Flower Show Committee for cut flowers. **Judging will commence for cut flowers promptly at 10:30 AM on Tuesday, August 4th.** Decisions of judges are final. Points will be taken away from any entry not in conformance with General and Division rules.
- **Cut Flowers and Ribbons must be picked up on Thursday, August 6th prior to 3:00 pm. All remaining cut flowers will be discarded on Thursday, August 6th at 3:00 pm. Ribbons and cards will be placed on a bulletin board for pickup. The Flower Show Committee is not responsible for any exhibits or ribbons left after the closing day of the fair.**

AH Judging Criteria Rules

- All lily pollen should be removed, keep anther.
- No foliage should be below the water line of cut specimens except for Gladiolus.
- Flowers may not be altered by spraying, dyeing or being dried.
- A blue ribbon will be awarded for 1st place (\$8), red ribbon for 2nd place (\$4) and yellow ribbon 3rd place (\$2).
- Best in Show ribbons and \$25 will be awarded to one entry selected from the first place entries in Cut Flower classes 21-195 as well as for Potted Plants classes 200-330.

Horticultural Judging Criteria	Weighting
Cultural Perfection (Color, Form, Substance/Texture, Size, Floriferousness, Foliage)	0 to 60 points
Grooming and Display	0 to 15 points
Condition	0 to 15 points
Conformity to Rules	0 to 10 points
Total	100

AMATEUR ARTISTIC (AA) DIVISION Rules– Friday August 7th

- Entry fee for AA is \$5.00 for unlimited entries; however, only one entry per class.
- Accessories permitted; however, flowers may not be artificial or altered by spraying, dyeing or being dried.
- Entries will be accepted in the Conservatory **on Friday, August 7th between 9:00 and 10AM**. Gate 1 will be open for entry and drop-off.
- Entries must be **removed Sunday morning August 9th. The Flower Show Committee is not responsible for any exhibits or ribbons left after the closing day of the fair.**
- **Judging will commence promptly at 10:30 AM Friday, August 7th.** Decision of judges is final. Judging will be according to National Garden Club criteria.
- A blue ribbon will be awarded for 1st Place 90-100 points (\$20), red ribbon for 2nd Place 80-89 points (\$10), and yellow ribbon for 3rd Place 70-79 points (\$5). In case of a tie, deciding points will be awarded for nomenclature and/or uniqueness.
- A Best in Show ribbon and \$25 will be awarded to one entry selected from all first place entries in Classes 8 –14.

Artistic Judging Criteria	Weighting
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 - Uniqueness, 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
	100 points

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/Corm: 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 native plant communities or ecosystems. <https://dep.nj.gov> invasive-species

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

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.

**THE NEW JERSEY STATE FAIR/SUSSEX COUNTY FARM AND HORSE SHOW
2026 FLOWER SHOW AND COMPETITION**

AMATEUR ENTRY FORM

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail address _____

Total AH Entries _____ \$5.00 AH Fee per 15 Entries \$ _____

Total AA Entries _____ \$5.00 AA Fee \$ _____

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
email: wlllobrkfarm@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: _____

PLEASE COMPLETE THE ACCOMPANYING PAGES

RETURN WITH COMPLETED ENTRY FORM and CHECK

AMATEUR ENTRY FORMS

WE SUGGEST KEEPING A COPY FOR YOUR RECORDS
AMATEUR HORTICULTURE DIVISION - AH

Cut Flowers - Annuals					
Check Entry	Class No.	Flower	Size	Display	Additional Clarification
	21	Zinnia	Small	Single stem	Less than 3"
	22	Zinnia	Large	Single stem	3" and over
	33	Marigold	Small	Single stem	Less than 3"
	34	Marigold	Large	Single stem	3" and over
	60	Annuals		Collection	Named & Labeled , All different species
	70	Sunflower	Large	Single stem	Less than 6"
	71	Sunflower	Giant	Single stem	6" and over
	90	Cleome		Single stem	
	95	Cosmos		Single stem	
	97	Celosia		Single stem	
	98	Salvia		Single Stem	
	99	Any annual other than above		Single stem	Named & Labeled , Rarity encouraged

Total Cut Flowers - Annual Entries

Cut Flowers – Perennials/Shrubs				
Check Entry	Class No.	Specimen	Display	Additional Clarification
	100	Perennials	Collection	Named & Labeled , 3 different varieties
	103	Perennials	Collection	Named & Labeled , Same variety – distinctly different colors
	104	Native Flowers	Collection	Named & Labeled, 3 different varieties, natives accepted
	109	Daylilies	Single stem	Hemerocallis
	110	Hydrangea	Single stem	Paniculata (conical)
	111	Hydrangea	Single stem	Macrophylla (big leaf)
	112	Other hydrangeas	Single stem	Quercifolia, Serrata, Arborescens
	113	Garden Phlox	Single stem	Phlox paniculata
	114	Cone Flower	Single stem	Echinacea
	115	Black-Eyed Susan	Single stem	Rudbeckia

	116	Shasta Daisy	Single stem	Leucanthemum
	129	Rose of Sharon	Single stem	Hibiscus syriacus
	130	Rose	Single stem	Hybrid Tea
	131	Rose	Single stem	Any other
	132	Anemone	Single stem	Anemone japonica
	133	Any other Perennial	Single stem	Named & Labeled , Not named above

Total Perennials and or Shrubs Entries

Cut Flowers – Bulbs/Tubers/Corms

Check Entry	Class No.	Flower	Color	Additional Clarification
	151	Gladiolus	White, Yellow, Pink	Single stem
	152	Gladiolus	Purple, Red, Orange	Single stem
	160	Canna	Any	Single stem
	170	Dahlia	Any	Small, Less than 3"
	171	Dahlia	Any	Medium, 3" to less than 6"
	172	Dahlia	Any	Large, 6" and over
	195	Any other Bulb/ Tuber/Corm	Any	Named & Labeled , Rarity encouraged

Total Bulbs/Tubers/Corms Entries

Potted – Flowering Plants, water tight container or saucer

Check Entry	Class No.	Specimen	Additional Clarification
	200	House Plant	Named & Labeled , to be placed on a 10" deep shelf
	210	African Violet	Named & Labeled , to be placed on a 10" deep shelf
	211	Tuberous Begonia	Named & Labeled , to be placed on a 10" deep shelf
	212	Geranium <i>Pelargonium</i>	Named & Labeled , to be placed on a 10" deep shelf
	213	Begonia 'Dragonwing'	Named & Labeled , to be placed on a 10" deep shelf
	214	Begonia 'Angel Wing'	Named & Labeled , to be placed on a 10" deep shelf
	215	Petunia	Named & Labeled , to be placed on a 10" deep shelf
	216	Scaevola	Name & Labeled , to be placed on a 10" deep shelf
	217	Lantana	Named & Labeled , to be placed on a 10" deep shelf
	240	Annuals Collection	Name & Labeled , 3 or more varieties, to be placed on a 10" deep shelf
	250	Annuals	Named & Labeled , 3 or more varieties, in a creative container, to be placed on a 10" deep shelf

Total Flowering Plants Entries

Potted – Foliage Plants, water tight container or saucer

Check Entry	Class No.	Specimen	Additional Clarification
	260	House Plant	Named & Labeled , to be displayed on a 10" deep shelf
	280	Herbs	Named & Labeled , 3 or more varieties, to be displayed on a 10" deep shelf
	282	Rex Begonia	Named & Labeled , to be displayed on a 10" deep shelf
	285	Caladium	Named & Labeled , to be displayed on a 10" deep shelf
	287	Coleus	Named & Labeled , to be displayed on a 10" deep shelf
	295	Succulent	Named & Labeled , single, to be displayed on a 10" deep shelf
	296	Succulent Collection	Named & Labeled , collection of 3 or more to be displayed on a 10" deep shelf
	297	Fern	Named & Labeled , to be displayed on a 10" deep shelf

Total Foliage Plants Entries**Potted – Mixed Foliage and/or Flowering Plants, water tight container or saucer**

Check Entry	Class No.	Specimen	Additional Clarification
	310	Fairy Garden	Named & Labeled , to be displayed on a 10" deep shelf, Accessories permitted
	320	Any other annual	Named & Labeled, to be displayed on a 10" deep shelf
	330	Annuals	Named & Labeled, to be displayed in a hanging basket

Total Mixed Plants Entries

AMATEUR ARTISTIC DIVISION - AA

Check Entry	Class No.	Clarification
	8	<u>Nature Boy</u> An arrangement of homegrown flowers and foliage in a rustic container to be displayed on a 10" deep shelf.
	9	<u>A Tisket a Tasket</u> A miniature arrangement of yellow flowers in a small basket no larger than 5 inches by 5 inches to be displayed on a 10" deep shelf.
	10	<u>Too Darn Hot</u> An arrangement of red and orange flowers with a musical instrument contained in the arrangement to be displayed on a 10" deep shelf.
	11	<u>Satin Doll</u> An arrangement of hot pink flowers in a pink container of your choice to be displayed on a 10" deep shelf.
	12	<u>April in Paris</u> An arrangement of a variety of foliage and pastel flowers in a rectangular metal container no longer than 12" suggesting a flower market to be displayed on a 10" deep shelf.
	13	<u>Three Coins in a Fountain</u> An arrangement of flowers and foliage cascading from an urn into a water feature no larger than the 12" by 12" pedestal to be viewed from all sides.
	14	<u>Blooming Art</u> A floral arrangement interpreting a painting provided by the Flower Show Committee (photo attached) suggesting our theme "Rhythm & Blooms" in a container of your choice to be displayed on a 12"x12" pedestal viewed from all sides.
	Total AAA Entries	

