



2025

**ELKHART COUNTY 4-H AND AGRICULTURAL EXPOSITION, INC.
HORTICULTURE DEPARTMENT**

Director - Kate Rink

**Committee Members: Mary Hesser, Mayrea Reusser, Mary Riggs,
Sherrie Zou, Barb Heeter**

RULES

(No Pre-Registration)

PLEASE NOTE: Exhibits need to be brought in either Wednesday evening, July 16, 5-7 p.m. or Thursday morning, July 17, 7-9:30 a.m.! Judging will be open to the public. Starting at 10:30 a.m.

1. All articles to be entered must be brought to the Ag Hall on the fairgrounds between 5:00 and 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 16, 2025 or between 7:00 and 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, July 17, 2025 in entry ready condition.
NO LATE ENTRIES.
2. The public may observe the judging; however, contestants are asked not to converse with the judges or their exhibit will be disqualified.
3. Except as otherwise specified, exhibits will be grown by exhibitor. Accent material for arrangements need not be produced at home.
4. The exhibitor must have grown all flowers and vegetables.
5. Only one entry per person is allowed in each class.
6. **An entry fee of \$1.00 will be charged for the first exhibit in each section and \$.50 for each additional exhibit in that same section.**
7. Department officials reserve the right to determine classification. **No endangered species or noxious weeds shall be exhibited.**
8. "Unclassified" means entry types other than already listed.
9. Containers for cut flowers are the responsibility of the exhibitor. Container must be a clear glass vase or jar. (Label bottom of container with name, address & phone number for safe return.)
10. Cut flower entries requiring more than one flower should be the SAME COLOR and VARIETY (with the exception of arrangements).
****Label Bottom of Container with Name, Address & Phone Number for Safe Return****
11. Maximum width for containers is 18 inches in diameter, weighing no more than 40 lbs.
12. All heights are measured from the soilline.
13. All potted plant containers must have a water saucer underneath the container to prevent leakage. Cookie sheets can be used for large plants. (Label bottom of container with name, address & phone number for safe return.)
14. The building is air-conditioned. Department officials will keep exhibits fresh.
15. **Premiums will be paid for first, second & third places at the rate of \$3.00, \$2.50 & \$2.00 respectively.**
16. Judges are instructed not to award premiums or places unless the exhibits are worthy.
17. Champion ribbons will be awarded. These awards are automatic, based on 3 points for first placing, 2 for second, and 1 for third. Overall trophies and special trophies are also awarded. A Best of Show ribbon and Reserve Champion ribbon will be awarded for sections 1, 2, 3-5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, & 11. (In case of a tie, winner will have the most 1st places.)
18. Winners will be notified and a photo will be taken at 1:00 p.m. the first Saturday of the Fair July 19, 2025.
19. Premiums, ribbons, and trophies may be picked up between 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. on Monday, July 28, 2025 after the Fair. Any premiums, ribbons or trophies not picked up are forfeited unless other arrangements have been made.

20. All exhibits must remain in place throughout the entire Fair week. (Unless discarded due to spoilage.)
21. The Horticulture Department will not be responsible for articles left after 6:00 p.m. Monday, July 28, 2025.
22. The Fair Board or its representatives are not responsible for theft or damage to articles.
23. Plant watering schedule will be as follows: Saturday, July 19th, Tuesday, July 22nd, and Friday, July 25th, 2025.

Categories

Section 1: Potted Plants

(Flowering must have blooms at time of showing)

1 variety and color per container

****Label Bottom of Container with Name, Address & Phone Number for Safe Return****

Class

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Double African Violets | 8. Begonias (other – in bloom) |
| 2. Single African Violets | 9. Impatiens (regular) |
| 3. Ruffled African Violets | 10. Impatiens (double) |
| 4. Miniature African Violets | 11. New Guinea Impatiens |
| 5. Geraniums | 12. Unclassified plants – (in bloom) |
| 6. Begonias (wax single flower) | Identify variety on entry card |
| 7. Begonias (wax double flower) | |

Section 2: Potted Plants

(Foliage)

1 variety per container

****Label Bottom of Container with Name, Address & Phone Number for Safe Return****

Class

- | | |
|---|--|
| 13. Strawberry Begonia | 20. Hoya |
| 14. Ficus (fig) Family | 21. Baby Tears |
| 15. Ivy | 22. Ferns |
| 16. Sanseveria (Snake Plant, Mother-In-Law's Tongue or Bird's Nest) | 23. Bonsai – may be taken home on 7/21 |
| 17. Philodendron or Pothos | 24. Unclassified Potted Foliage |
| 18. Coleus | Plants – Identify variety on entry card. |
| 19. Bromeliads | |

Section 3: Cactus or Succulent

(Container no more than 18" diameter)

****Label Bottom of Container with Name, Address & Phone Number for Safe Return****

Class

- | | |
|--|---|
| 25. Dish Garden – Multiple Variety | 29. Aloe-Vera |
| 26. Cacti – 1 variety per container | 30. Hens & Chicks |
| 27. Succulents – 1 variety per container | 31. Unclassified – Identify variety on entry card |
| 28. Holiday Cactus | |

Section 4: Planter or Dish Garden

(Maximum 18" in diameter - maximum weight 40 lbs)

****Label Bottom of Container with Name, Address & Phone Number for Safe Return****

Class

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------|
| 32. Terrariums | 34. Flowering |
| 33. Foliage – no buds or blooms | |

Section 5: Hanging Baskets

(1 variety per container)

****Label Bottom of Container with Name, Address & Phone Number for Safe Return****

Class

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| 35. Wandering Jew | 41. Unclassified, flowering – Identify variety on entry card. |
| 36. Swedish Ivy | |
| 37. Spider Plant | 42. Unclassified, foliage no blooms or buds – Identify variety on entry card. |
| 38. Geranium | |
| 39. Impatiens | |
| 40. Philodendron or Pothos | |

Section 6: Arrangement of Cut Flowers

(Combination of flowers & foliage (and/or filler) - MUST BE GROWN BY EXHIBITOR)

(Stem lengths to best present flowers)

****Label Bottom of Container with Name, Address & Phone Number for Safe Return****

Class

43. Arrangement using flowers with driftwood and/or shells or coral.
44. Arrangement of fresh wild flowers, grasses, etc. (not endangered species)
45. Arrangement of Daisies
46. Arrangement of cut foliage (no buds or blooms)
47. Arrangement of vegetables or fruit with flowers
48. Arrangement of Zinnias
49. Arrangement of Marigolds
50. Arrangement in a kitchen container
51. Arrangement, all white (including accessories)(green foliage allowed)
52. Arrangement of dried flowers, one or any combination of herbs, weeds, and grains
53. Miniature arrangement 4" high or less, including container
54. Arrangement using red, white, and blue flowers
55. Arrangement of Gladiolus – may be larger than 24" wide
56. Holiday Arrangement
57. Centerpiece maximum 24" width – 12" height
58. Arrangement – unclassified

Section 7: Cut Flowers

(Stem length and leaves to best show flowers)

****Label Bottom of Container with Name, Address & Phone Number for Safe Return****

- A. Each exhibit should be same variety & color per container, with leaves*
- B. Daylilies must be 1 stem with at least 3 buds with at least 1 bloom open, without leaves*
- C. Displayed in clear (uncolored) vase or jars*
- D. Label bottom of container with name, address, & phone number for safe return*
- E. No leaves required on other Lilies, Gladiolus, or Gerbera Daisy.*

Class

- 59. Snapdragons, 3 spikes per container
- 60. Miniature Zinnia, 3 blooms per container
- 61. Regular Zinnias, 3 blooms per container
- 62. Large Marigolds, 3 blooms same variety per container
- 63. Small Marigolds, 3 blooms same variety per container
- 64. Gladiolus, 3 stems same variety per container
- 65. Rose, 3 individual blooms same variety per container
- 66. Black/Brown Eyed Susan, 3 blooms per container
- 67. Daisy, 3 blooms per container
- 68. Lilies (remove pollen)
- 69. Daylilies (cut stamens before displaying) see B above
- 70. Sunflowers, 3, under 8"
- 71. Sunflowers, 1, 8" and greater
- 72. Dahlias, 3, 1" to 6" blooms
- 73. Dahlias, 1, 6" and greater bloom
- 74. Unclassified garden flowers, 3, 3" and under blooms, labeled with name of variety
- 75. Unclassified garden flowers, 3, 3" to 6" blooms, labeled with name of variety
- 76. Unclassified garden flowers, 1, 6" and over bloom, labeled with name of variety

Section 8: Grains and Hay

(CLEAR UNCOLORED GLASS CONTAINER - GRAINS WILL NOT BE RETURNED)

****Label Bottom of Container with Name, Address & Phone Number for Safe Return****

Class

- | | |
|---|---|
| 77. Legume hay, one 6" center section of bale or equivalent | 82. Corn, 1qt. |
| 78. Grass hay, one 6" center section of bale or equivalent | 83. Soy Beans, 1qt. |
| 79. Mixed hay, one 6" center section of bale or equivalent | 84. Field Corn, 5 ears |
| 80. Wheat, 1qt. | 85. Indian Corn, 5 ears |
| 81. Oats, 1qt. | 86. Popcorn, 5 ears |
| | 87. Unclassified grains, 1 qt. –
Identify variety on entry card. |

Section 9: Above Ground Vegetables

(All entries become the property of the fair and will not be returned)

****Label Bottom of Container with Name, Address & Phone Number for Safe Return****

- A. *Tomatoes must be ripe*
- B. *Leave wrapper on cabbage (no more than 6)*
- C. *Do not husk corn*
- D. *Do not put dill in a vase*

Class

- | | |
|---|--|
| 88. Horticulture beans, shelled, 12 beans | 110. Peppers, banana type, group of 5 |
| 89. Green bush beans, round pod, group of 12 | 111. Hot peppers, Hungarian type, group of 5 |
| 90. Green bush beans, flat pod, group of 12 | 112. Hot peppers, Chile type, group of 5 |
| 91. Yellow beans, group of 12 | 113. Rhubarb, 5 stalks (trim to approximately 12" in length) |
| 92. Pole beans, group of 12 | 114. Squash, summer, group of 3, 1" stem |
| 93. Purple beans, group of 12 | 115. Squash, winter, 1, 1" stem |
| 94. Broccoli, 3 heads | 116. Zucchini, green, group of 3, 1/2" stem |
| 95. Brussels sprouts, group of 12 | 117. Zucchini, yellow, group of 3, 1/2" stem |
| 96. Cabbage, 1 head round and/or Wakefield type | 118. Tomatoes, cherry type, red or yellow, 1-1/4" diameter or less, group of 10 |
| 97. Cabbage, 1 head Savoy | 119. Tomatoes, pear type, group of 5 |
| 98. Cabbage, 1 head flat type | 120. Tomatoes, red, other than cherry type, group of 5 |
| 99. Cabbage, red, 1 head | 121. Tomatoes, Italian type, group of 5 |
| 100. Cauliflower, 1 head | 122. Tomatoes, other, group of 5 |
| 101. Corn, sweet, roasting ears, group of 5 | 123. Eggplant, exhibit 1, with 1" stem |
| 102. Cucumbers, 5 green for slicing | 124. Peas in a pod, group of 12 pods |
| 103. Cucumbers, 5 pickling, 4" or less | 125. Edible pea pods, group of 12 |
| 104. Cucumbers, 5 burpless | 126. Unclassified vegetable above ground, group of 5 small or 1 large Identify variety on entry card |
| 105. Dill, 1 stem | |
| 106. Kohlrabi, group of 5 | |
| 107. Herbs, best collection of 5, potted individually and labeled | |
| 108. Okra, group of 5 | |
| 109. Peppers, green sweet, group of 5 | |

Section 10: Below Ground Vegetables

In group of 5 unless otherwise stated.

(All entries become the property of the fair and will not be returned.)

****Label Bottom of Container with Name, Address & Phone Number for Safe Return****

Class

- | | |
|---|--|
| 127. Beets, Table, with top 1" long | 137. Potatoes, Russet |
| 128. Carrots, with top 1" long | 138. Potatoes, Yukon Gold |
| 129. Onions, green | 139. Radishes, red or white |
| 130. Onions, white globe, 3" top | 140. Garlic bulbs |
| 131. Onions, red globe, 3" top | 141. Turnips |
| 132. Onions, yellow globe, 3" top | 142. Unclassified below ground
vegetable, group of 5 small or 1
large – Identify variety on entry
card. |
| 133. Onions, flat type, 3" top, any color | |
| 134. Potatoes, Irish Cobbler | |
| 135. Potatoes, red | |
| 136. Potatoes, Kennebec | |

Section 11: Miscellaneous

(All entries must be recreated after last year's fair)

****Label Bottom of Container with Name, Address & Phone Number for Safe Return****

Class

143. Wreaths made from plant products (artificial accessories permitted)
144. Garden Figures – made from vegetables, grains, etc. Judged on originality, decorativeness
145. Seed Craft Display – a craft using dried seeds
146. Collection of 5 dried and labeled (packaged) herbs
147. Best display of 5 or more kinds of vegetables (edible only). Container to be furnished by exhibitor
148. Ornamental Gourds, fresh or dried, exhibit 3 of each
149. Birdhouse – functional, made from dried gourd
150. Horticulture photography colored; 1 photo 8" x 10" framed under glass, no matte
151. Horticulture photography black and white; 1 photo 8" x 10" framed under glass, no matte
152. Birdhouse – homemade, functional
153. Pressed Flower – no larger than 8" x 10", framed under glass, no matte
154. Old fashioned scarecrow. Must be shown on base that will allow it to stand unsupported for use in a garden.
155. Largest dried gourd – Judges discretion
156. Largest tomato (does not have to be ripe) – by weight
157. Longest cucumber
158. Longest bean
159. Largest sunflower head, 3" or less stem – by diameter
160. Largest head of cabbage - by weight
161. Largest potato – by weight
162. Largest onion – by weight
163. Tallest stalk of corn from ground level, roots in container. (Label the height) – in a 5 gallon plastic bucket
164. Tallest sunflower, including flower head, from ground level, roots in container.
165. Odd or distorted vegetable – not altered or decorated.
166. Miscellaneous Fruit – produce smaller than 9" diameter needs to be a group of 5
167. Artistic Herb Arrangement, fresh or dried. Listing of herbs should accompany arrangement.
168. Fairy Garden - Youth (under 18 yrs of age) – maximum 40 lbs., maximum 24" diameter x 24" high (must include plants and a miniature Figure)
169. Fairy Garden - Adult (18 yrs and older) - maximum 40 lbs., maximum 24" diameter x 24" high (must include plants and a miniature Figure)

Section 12: Trial Categories

(Trial categories are in place for 2-3 years before being added to regular categories or being deleted. No charge for entering. No points or premiums will be awarded to trial categories. These categories do not have a bearing on trophy winners. Only ribbons will be awarded. Judging criteria will follow the Section 11: Miscellaneous Categories.)

****Label Bottom of Container with Name, Address & Phone Number for Safe Return****

Class

- 170. Decorative Garden Stepping Stone – Youth (under 18 yrs of age) – No greater than 15 in. across. Maximum weight of 40 lbs. Maximum height of 4 in. Must be made by exhibitor
- 171. Decorative Garden Stepping Stone – Adult (18 yrs and older) – No greater than 15 in. across. Maximum weight of 40 lbs. Maximum height of 4 in. Must be made by exhibitor

THANK YOU TO OUR FOLLOWING SPONSORSHIP PARTNERS

Corporate Levels

Golden Rose

Stanger Group
Michiana Master Gardeners
Tycol Excavating

Sunflower

Knepp Sand and Stone
The Stofleth Family

Daring Dahlia

Sweet Corn Charlie Produce
Dogwood Hills Tree Farm
Charles and Beth Phillips

Zesty Zinnia

Phillips & Son Irrigation, LLC

Bountiful Begonia

McKinley Garden Center	Rink Farms
R&R Regulators	Mary Riggs
Ted and Katie Sautter	Willow View Farms
Aaron and Sherrie Zou	Bill Evans Insurance
Kercher Sunrise Orchard	Countryscapes
Turkey Creek Garden Center	Old Hoosier Meats
Bailey's Auto Parts	

Climbing Ivy

Marilyn Miles
Barb Heeter

2025 GUIDELINES - (These suggestions may help your exhibit win)

Cut Flowers

1. Flowers are free from injury or damage.
2. Shape and size of flowers are typical for the variety.
3. Flowers are clean, fresh, and free of pollen on petals.
4. Flowers are one variety and uniform in size.
5. Stems are straight, clean, and undamaged.
6. Leaves are clean, healthy, and undamaged.

Vegetables

Do not peel onion or remove leaves from cabbage.

Do not clean vegetables by harsh washing or vigorous scrubbing.

1. Overall attractiveness. Clean, roots trimmed.
2. Uniformity: Size, shape, color, type, and variety development.
3. Prime, edible condition, fresh. Best usable size and maturity.
4. Freedom from injury or damage: Insects, weather, growth, handling, and sunburn.

Plants Growing in a Container

Foliage plants must have no buds or blooms whatsoever. Flowering plants must be flowering. Avoid leaf cleaners or shines that contain heavy oils or waxes, except for dried gourds.

1. Plant is attractive, clean, and undamaged.
2. Plant is healthy, well established, and growing vigorously.
3. Container is compatible with size.
4. Container is clean and suitable for growing a plant.
5. Container does not mean nursery pot.

Flower Arrangements

Geometric (triangle or cone) shaped flower arrangement is preferred over other shapes by most judges.

1. Lines establish a strong focal point (preferably the center).
2. Flowers are in scale with container and each other.
3. Flowers are fresh and undamaged.
4. Foliage and accessories supplement and enhance flowers.
5. Flowers should not be crowded.
6. Each flower contributes to the arrangement.

Agriculture Products

1. Uniformity of produce.
2. Condition (old, young, wilted, dirty).
3. Appetizing - appearance
4. Proper handling.
5. Insect free and disease free.

Miscellaneous

1. Overall attractiveness
2. Uniformity; Size, shape, color, type, and variety development
3. Freedom from injury or damage: Insects, weather, growth, handling & sunburn
4. Height, length, width according to rules
5. Suitability for intended use
6. Strong focal point
7. Basic elements of design (balance, movement, line)
8. Good use of color
9. Originality
10. Craftsmanship and creativity
11. Choice and appropriate use of material

Exhibitor No. _____

Total No. of Entries _____ **Amount Paid** _____

HORTICULTURE DEPARTMENT ENTRY BLANK

Name _____

Address _____

Town _____ **Zip Code** _____

Phone _____ **Email** _____

Section 1 - Potted Plants (flowering)

1. _____ 4. _____ 7. _____ 10. _____
2. _____ 5. _____ 8. _____ 11. _____
3. _____ 6. _____ 9. _____ 12. _____

Section 2 - Potted Plants (foliage)

13. _____ 16. _____ 19. _____ 22. _____
14. _____ 17. _____ 20. _____ 23. _____
15. _____ 18. _____ 21. _____ 24. _____

Section 3 - Cactus or Succulents

25. _____ 27. _____ 29. _____ 31. _____
26. _____ 28. _____ 30. _____

Section 4 - Planter or Dish Garden

32. _____ 33. _____ 34. _____

Section 5 - Hanging Baskets

35. _____ 37. _____ 39. _____ 41. _____
36. _____ 38. _____ 40. _____ 42. _____

Section 6 - Arrangement of Cut Flower

43. _____ 47. _____ 51. _____ 55. _____
44. _____ 48. _____ 52. _____ 56. _____
45. _____ 49. _____ 53. _____ 57. _____
46. _____ 50. _____ 54. _____ 58. _____

Section 7 - Cut Flowers

- | | | | |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 59. _____ | 64. _____ | 69. _____ | 74. _____ |
| 60. _____ | 65. _____ | 70. _____ | 75. _____ |
| 61. _____ | 66. _____ | 71. _____ | 76. _____ |
| 62. _____ | 67. _____ | 72. _____ | |
| 63. _____ | 68. _____ | 73. _____ | |

Section 8 - Grains and Hay

- | | | | |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 77. _____ | 80. _____ | 83. _____ | 86. _____ |
| 78. _____ | 81. _____ | 84. _____ | 87. _____ |
| 79. _____ | 82. _____ | 85. _____ | |

Section 9 - Above Ground Vegetables

- | | | | |
|-----------|------------|------------|------------|
| 88. _____ | 98. _____ | 108. _____ | 118. _____ |
| 89. _____ | 99. _____ | 109. _____ | 119. _____ |
| 90. _____ | 100. _____ | 110. _____ | 120. _____ |
| 91. _____ | 101. _____ | 111. _____ | 121. _____ |
| 92. _____ | 102. _____ | 112. _____ | 122. _____ |
| 93. _____ | 103. _____ | 113. _____ | 123. _____ |
| 94. _____ | 104. _____ | 114. _____ | 124. _____ |
| 95. _____ | 105. _____ | 115. _____ | 125. _____ |
| 96. _____ | 106. _____ | 116. _____ | 126. _____ |
| 97. _____ | 107. _____ | 117. _____ | |

Section 10 - Below Ground Vegetable

- | | | | |
|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| 127. _____ | 131. _____ | 135. _____ | 139. _____ |
| 128. _____ | 132. _____ | 136. _____ | 140. _____ |
| 129. _____ | 133. _____ | 137. _____ | 141. _____ |
| 130. _____ | 134. _____ | 138. _____ | 142. _____ |

Section 11 - Miscellaneous

- | | | | |
|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| 143. _____ | 150. _____ | 157. _____ | 164. _____ |
| 144. _____ | 151. _____ | 158. _____ | 165. _____ |
| 145. _____ | 152. _____ | 159. _____ | 166. _____ |
| 146. _____ | 153. _____ | 160. _____ | 167. _____ |
| 147. _____ | 154. _____ | 161. _____ | 168. _____ |
| 148. _____ | 155. _____ | 162. _____ | 169. _____ |
| 149. _____ | 156. _____ | 163. _____ | |

Section 12 - Trial Category

170. _____
171. _____