

# ORNAMENTAL HORTICULTURE

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Superintendent: Meredith Hudson

## ORNAMENTAL HORTICULTURE RULES

- a) All entries will be judged as they are brought in. Cut flower entries will be evaluated based on the group standards found in the Vegetable Section.
- Excellent** – clean; only vary minor defects in general appearance; best market size and quality; true to varietal characteristics. For exhibits with more than one specimen not more than 10% variation in sizes for fruits and vegetables only slightly detectable variation, uniform in shape, color and degree of maturity.
- Good** – clean; slight defects in general appearance; defective and unusable parts should not exceed 5 percent; good market size and quality. Exhibits with more than one specimen: not more than 25 percent variation in sizes for fruits and vegetables, and cut flowers; only slightly detectable variation in shape, color and degree of maturity.
- Worthy** – fairly clean, some defects in general appearance; defective and unusable parts should not exceed 10 percent; fair market size and quality. Exhibits with more than one specimen – not more than 100 percent variation in sizes for fruits and vegetables and cut flowers; noticeable variation in shape, color or degree of maturity.
- No Award** – dirty, serious damage apparent; defective and unusable parts exceed 10 percent; unsatisfactory market size or quality. Exhibits with more than one specimen – more than 100 percent variation in sizes for fruits and vegetables; extreme differences in shape, color or degree of maturity.
- b) Cut flower entries (class #1) **must be labeled with correct common name and variety name (ex. Snap beans, Blue Lake; or petunia, Red Picotee). Entries without correct common name and variety name will be lowered one award.**
- c) All cut flower entries must have been grown by the exhibitor. Exhibitors will be expected to have knowledge of variety characteristics, growing methods, and market quality.
- d) A cut flower entry shall consist of 3 stems with the same color blooms except when noted next to cut flower below. (If bloom is 6” or larger, show ONE specimen.)
- e) Stems should be 8 inches long except where type of flower makes this impossible.
- f) **A maximum of 20 entries may be entered in class #1 CUT FLOWERS. There is no maximum number of entries in classes 2 – 22. When more than 1 entry is exhibited in a class, each must be of a different variety and be distinctly different.**
- g) Exhibitor must **provide a disposable container** to display cut flowers.
- h) In arrangements only, containers will be judged as part of the exhibit.
- i) Flower entries that are diseased or infested will receive “no award” and will be sent home. If exhibit becomes infested during fair it will be removed immediately and sent home.
- j) **All living plant exhibits MUST include a 3”x 5” card with care instructions. The card must include indoor or outdoor placement, watering needs and sun exposure.** If the exhibitor wishes to care for the plant themselves you must notify the evaluator and include that in statement.
- k) **Theme Garden entry will be disqualified from judging if no live plant material is present.** Exhibit must contain at least 50% live plant material.

## AWARDS:

**Blue \$2.00 Red \$1.50 White \$1.00**

Classes # 1 - 3

### Class #1 – Cut Flowers

- Aster (Annual)
- Bachelor Button
- Calendula
- Carnation
- Chrysanthemum (any form)
- Cleome
- Cosmo
- Dahlia (3 blooms of one color OR one bloom if over 6”)
- Daisy
- Flowering Tobacco
- Gladiolus (1 spike with at least a 12” stem) (*Glads for 4-H’ers to be entered in Class #2*)
- Larkspur
- Marigold, French
- Marigold, African
- Marigold, Hybrid
- Nasturtium
- Ornamental Grass (foliage and fully developed seed head)

- Pansy
  - Phlox-annual
  - Rose, Hybrid Tea (one stem)
  - Rose, Floribunda (one stem)
  - Rose, Grandiflora (one stem)
  - Rudbeckia (Coneflowers, Black-eyed Susan)
  - Snapdragon
  - Statice (fresh, not dried)
  - Stock
  - Strawflower (fresh, not dried)
  - Sunflowers
  - Sweet Peas
  - Viola
  - Zinnia, baby-under 2"
  - Zinnia, medium 2 - 4"
  - Zinnia, large – over 4"
  - Miscellaneous, any other cut flower not listed, annual or perennial, display the same number of specimens as similar crop listed.
  - A collection of six (6) garden cut flowers not used in other cut flower entries. One specimen of each variety. Flowers named and variety listed. No wildflowers, weeds, or shrubs.
2. **Glads for 4-H'ers Project** – Open only to those members who have participated in and completed this program this year. Please provide 1 gladiolus spike with at least a 12" stem. (Contact the 4-H Office if you are unsure about this.)
3. **Starting Plants from Seeds or Seedlings** – Include multiple growing specimen (vegetable or flower). Minimum of 4 cell-packs (1/2 flat), maximum of 8 cell-packs (1 flat) – 1 type per. Specimens must have 1-2 true leaves.
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Classes # 4 - 32

#### Class #

4. **Outdoor Portable Container Garden** (i.e. flower box). Minimum length of container 18" not larger than 36". Must contain living plant material. Shade tolerant plants such as Impatiens, Begonias, Coleus, Herbs are best for the 4-H Youth Development Building's light conditions. Plant materials must be exhibited in a watertight container.
5. **Miniature Arrangement** – arrangement of fresh or dried flowers; less than 6" in height and diameter including container.
6. **Christmas Tree Ornaments** – set of 6 different created out of live or dried plant materials.
7. **Indoor Gardening**
- Include list of plants and plant materials used
  - All items should follow recommended guides of balance, design, proportion and harmony.
  - No artificial or plastic materials allowed.
  - Ribbon and bows as part of the design are allowed.
  - Entries must be grown in display container for three (3) months.
  - Exhibit:
    - Dish Garden
    - Terrarium or closed eco system – no endangered species allowed.
8. **Indoor Gardening – House Plants**
- Houseplants must be a single stem or crown in proportional container.
  - No artificial or plastic materials allowed.
  - Must list plant name.
  - Entries must be grown in display container for three (3) months
  - Exhibit:
    - Potted houseplant – flowering
    - Potted houseplant – foliage
    - Potted houseplant – vine
    - Potted houseplant – hanging container. More than one (1) plant accepted.
    - Miniature houseplant – 2 ¼" – 3" pot maximum. Example: miniature African violet.
9. **Container Gardens**
- Entries must be grown in display container prior to June 1 of the current year.
  - Perennial, annual, vegetable, ornamental
  - Appropriate container and plant combinations
  - No artificial or plastic plant materials allowed.
  - Must list plants included in container
  - Hanging outdoor baskets are included here.
10. **Theme Gardens**
- Minimum 3-4 plants
  - Figures and artificial accessories acceptable
  - Example: Fairy, Lego Land

#### 11. Bonsai

- Must be in low-sided, suitable container
- Plant material suitable for cultivation

## 12. Floral Design

- Dry or fresh flower corsage in transparent bag
- List plants
- Table arrangement of live or dry plant material standard – not over 12” in diameter and under 8” in height. Large arrangement of live or dried plant material – for arrangements over 12” in diameter and over 8” in height.
- Dyed or tinted flowers are allowed. Exhibitors must use “Just For Flowers” tint or food coloring and water solution.
- Holiday decoration of live, dried, or natural plant materials – no more than 18” in diameter or 24” long
- Plaque of dried or pressed plant material; includes other craft projects made with real plant material (e.g., floral pictures)

**13. Horticulture Scrapbook** – A collection of plant pictures. This collection may be cut from magazines, garden catalogs, illustrations by your own drawings, photographed, or photocopied. Write in the front or back of the catalog where your images came from if you did not make them yourself. Each plant should be represented on its own 8 ½” x 11” page. Catalog will be worth more if the picture (or perhaps more than one picture) shows different stages of growth (fruit and leaf, vegetable and flower, flower and leaf). Fasten pictures with clear tape, paper glue, or rubber cement. Pages must be bound in notebook binder. Label with common name and brief description. Consult [NY Horticulture Contest Guidelines](#) for the plants specified from each group. Beginners must include the 15 plants specified from each group – flowers and indoor plants; ornamentals; fruits and nuts, vegetables. Intermediate must include 30 plants from each group. Advanced participants must include all 45 plants from each group. (Guidelines are found in the “New York Horticulture Study Guide for Youth” or contact the 4-H office.) Scrapbooks of accumulating years should have dividers between years. Current year should be clearly marked. Current year will be judged

*Beginner; at least age 8 as of January 1; 1–3 years in 4-H Plant Sciences Program*

*Intermediate; 4-6 years in 4-H Plant Sciences Program*

*Advanced; 5 or more years in 4-H Plant Sciences Program*

**14. Plant Collections** – Plants must be pressed, dry, mounted and labeled. To press plant material, it is best to use the method described in: Pressed Flower Pictures (1982), 141-IB-34, or as described by a person who has experience collecting plant material. A clear protective overlay is helpful for many, but not all exhibits. Weeds and other specimens mounted green (not pressed) will not be evaluated. Collections of plants may be on one side of ONE PIECE of poster board or like material, 22 x28 inches in size, or in notebook binders with single specimens on pages 8 1/2 x 11 inches. An entry is one of the following collections:

- **LEAF, TWIG** (and fruit, flowers and seed, if possible) **OF TEN OR MORE ORNAMENTAL TREES**
- **LEAF, TWIG** (and fruit, flowers and seed, if possible) **OF TEN OR MORE ORNAMENTAL SHRUBS**
- **LEAF, TWIG, AND ILLUSTRATION** of fruit or nut, of ten or more fruit or nut plants
- **TEN WEEDS** common to lawns and flower beds
- **TEN ANNUAL FLOWERS**
- **TEN PERENNIAL FLOWERS**
- **TEN WILD FLOWERS**
- **TEN SEEDS** (any single plant types, e.g., 10 ornamentals, 10 fruits, etc.) Seeds must be clean and dried (not green). Seeds must be harvested by the exhibitor. A picture of plant must accompany seeds. List growing conditions (required).

### Landscape Pictures and Plans – Guidelines:

- All collections, pictures and plans will be enhanced by a clear, protective overlay.
- Markers, colored pencils or paints may be used to embellish the landscape plan.

**15. Plan or map of home grounds**, or apartment dwelling, drawn to scale, showing things as they were at beginning of project. A second map, with suitable and necessary notes, showing changes and improvements made. In different colors, show changes and improvements yet to be made. (Exhibit only current year's work). Indicate direction north on plan. See *Young People's Guide to Landscaping*. For map of apartment dwelling, a terrace or porch garden of containerized plants can be depicted where ground space is unavailable.

**16. Plan of Annual and/or Perennial Flower Garden** – show varieties, name, placement, height and color. Use scale no smaller than 1” = 4 feet. Indicate direction north on plan.

**17. Plan of Home Vegetable Garden** – show varieties, name, placement, height, and approximate harvest times. Succession of plants maybe indicated by a tracing paper overlay. Use scale no smaller than 1” = 4 feet. Indicate direction north on plan.

**18. Plan of Community Service Beautification Project**

**19. Plan of Home Orchard (tree fruit and/or berry crops)** – show varieties, name, placement, height, and time of fruiting; use scale no smaller than 1” = 4 feet; exhibit should indicate current year's work; current year's work will be judged; indicate direction north on plan.

**20. Garden Record Book** – List plants chosen and varieties. List reasons for selection. Garden designs sketch, including layout, dimensions, and spacing. Indicate direction north on plan. Photos showing before and after are helpful.

**21. Home Grounds Landscape Photographic Album** – must have at least six “before” and six “after” pictures of current year's work.

**22. Wreath of Natural Material** (i.e., straw, pine cone, cornhusk, grapevine, etc.). List plants on 3” x 5” card.

*\*Experiments related to working with plants. See class #5 “Science, Engineering and Technology” for requirements.*

**23. Plant Propagation**

**24. Plant Breeding**

**25. Cultural Practices applicable to plants**

**26. Soil Science**

## Horticultural Methods

This division gives young people a chance to an interesting, different approach to growing plants. This enhances gardening skills and encourages the participant to think creatively.

- Because of the difficulty of reproducing some of the horticultural methods for exhibiting purposes, a poster or poster series format may be used.
- Use heavy poster paper (14" x 22" minimum) as background
- Glue or tape photos and diagrams, along with sheets of white paper that include your description within these sections: 1) *introduction*, 2) *growing method used*, 3) *What you learned or discovered*
- Instead of a poster, an exhibit of the method itself (such as a small hydroponics set-up) can be displayed.

### 27. Hydroponic Gardening

### 28. Season Extender Methods

### 29. Propagation

**30. Outside Window Box-** A window garden created with exhibitor's/club's choice of 2 or more types of plants. Can be flowering, foliage, and/or herbs. A list of plans used in Window box must be attached to the entry card. Window boxes (8"x36") are in the outside garden area. Window boxes can be planted on the Saturday or Sunday before the fair. **Window boxes will be evaluated on Sunday, August 11th.**

**31. Outside Garden Display-** A garden display created by exhibitor/club. Design with plants and garden items. Garden areas are 10' x 20'. A list of all plant materials must be attached to entry card. A brief story of the garden design must be included. Displays can be set up on the Saturday or Sunday before the fair. If there is a special request for early setup you must coordinate with the 4-H Office and realize you are responsible for the garden until fair opens. **Garden displays will be evaluated on Sunday, August 11th.**

### 32. Miscellaneous – Any Horticultural Methods Not Listed

- Entries will be evaluated according to similar project criteria

#### NOTE: Special Requirement for 4-H exhibitor who will not be talking with the Fair Evaluator

For any 4-H member who is unable to bring his/her exhibits/entries to the 4-H Youth Development Building on Saturday, August 2, 2025, to speak personally with the evaluator, the following Exhibitor Information Statement is required to be completed for each exhibit/entry. The evaluator will be requiring this in order to accept the exhibit/entry. (Cloverbuds should complete this information to the best of their abilities; regular 4-H'ers (ages 8-18 as of January 1<sup>st</sup>) should complete these statements fully in their own handwriting if possible. Age and experience will be taken into consideration.)

1. What is the Kind \_\_\_\_\_ and Variety \_\_\_\_\_ of your exhibit (relates to vegetables, flowers, etc.)
2. Describe what you did to complete this project. Provide a list of materials, products and/or equipment used and why they were selected. Briefly explain your methods of construction process and your source of ideas. (3-5 sentences is sufficient)
3. In approximately 3 – 5 sentences, describe your feelings about this project: what you learned, what challenged you, and /or how you would improve your exhibit in the future.
4. Additional information requested in the Section for this class (Be sure to read complete guidelines in the section)
5. Additional information or special needs to be noted by the evaluator.