



OPEN HORTICULTURE SHOW RULES

Superintendent: Beverly Holbrooks

Assistant Superintendent: Heather McClanahan

Online entries open November 6, 2023 and close at midnight March 15, 2024. (Voluntary)

JUDGING: Wednesday, April 3, 2024 | 9:00 AM

CHECK IN: Sunday, March 31, 2024 | 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Monday, April 1, 2024 | 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Additional forms will be provided for completion the day of plant check-in.

REMOVAL: 4/15/2024: 2:00 PM – 7:00 PM | 4/16/2024: 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

ELIGIBILITY:

- Open to amateur and professional gardeners.
- There will be two divisions: YOUTH: 18 and under, ADULT: 19 or older. Age as of September 1, 2023.
- All plants should be brought to the ENTRY RECEIVING AREA at the front of the center Fairground Exhibit Building (Bldg. #2). There you will be given registration forms and an exhibit tag for each plant being entered. After your plants have been accepted and properly tagged with your name and registration number and you have received receipt stubs for each plant entered, it is requested that you leave in order to avoid congestion. The receipt stub (bottom half of your registration form) must be presented at the time of exhibit removal. Exhibits without this stub and plant tags will require approval by the Horticulture Exhibition Superintendent for removal.
- One (1) plant will be considered one (1) entry.
- Each exhibitor will be limited to 25 entries.

ENTRIES:

- Each entry will compete in only one (1) Section and must be of exhibition quality.
- In any Section or Botanical Genus, exhibitors may enter more than one (1) variety/color but, not more than one (1) of the same variety or color.
- Adult Division entries must have been grown by the exhibitor for at least Six (6) months.
- Youth Division entries must have been grown by the exhibitor for at least three (3) months.
- Bonsai Entries of the same Genus/Variety must be of a different Bonsai Style or Size Classification. Adult Bonsai entries must have been grown by the exhibitor for at least twelve (12) months. Youth Bonsai entries must have been grown by the exhibitor for at least six (6) months.

DIVISIONS:

Youth Division:

- A. Youth Division (Y)
- B. Youth Exceptional (YE)

Adult Division:

- A. Amateur (AA)
- B. Professional (AP) - Nursery operators, landscapers, landscape maintenance operators, horticulture instructors and consultants
- C. Adult Exceptional (AE)

FORMS:

Initial Registration Form and Rules are available on the Fair website www.claycountyfair.org. Online registration is voluntary-

NOTE - additional forms required will be provided at plant check in. PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR COMPLETE ADDRESS AND AVAILABLE PHONE NUMBERS ARE ON YOUR REGISTRATION FORMS. Each plant that is entered will be given a tag for your name and your registration number. Labels (with name only- no address) may be used on these tags. PLEASE CHECK THE TAGS ON YOUR PLANTS BEFORE LEAVING. BE SURE YOU GET A RECEIPT STUB FOR EACH ENTRY ALONG WITH YOUR HALF OF THE REGISTRATION FORM. Make sure your registration number and plant description are on each tag.

SPECIFIC SHOW RULES:

- **CARE:** Plant care will be provided by the Horticulture Exhibition Volunteers for the duration of the Fair. All reasonable efforts will be provided to maintain adequate care and protection for the exhibits during the Fair. The Fair Association is not responsible for damage to exhibits due to unusual weather conditions or for unforeseen human factors. Should you choose to maintain your own plants, notify the volunteers at registration and you will be provided instruction on who to contact to make arrangements to access the locked building.
- **PLANT STANDARDS:** Plants listed on the State of Florida Conservation List as rare or endangered will not be accepted unless acquired in a documented lawful manner.
Noxious weed / Invasive Plant – Plants on the UF Assessment and FLEPPC are not recommended due to their habit of taking over natural areas or the risk that they may pose in the future due to their attributes. The USDA Noxious Weed list are plants that are illegal to propagate, own, or transport within the state. See below websites for reference.
University of Florida Invasive Assessment- assessment.ifas.ufl.edu
Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council (FLEPPC) Invasive Plant List- http://bugwoodcloud.org/CDN/fleppc/plantlists/2019/2019_Plant_List_ABSOLUTE_FINAL.pdf
USDA Noxious Weed List- <https://plants.usda.gov/java/noxious?rptType=State&statefips=12>
Any plant found with pests will be disqualified even if it was accepted at registration. **All Plants must be clean, groomed and in appropriate, clean containers/pots.** Artificial plant material may not be used. There is no limit to size of container; but any plant in a container larger than 18" may require assistance by the owner to set in place. The use of plant shine or other oils will disqualify the entry. Exhibits with evidence of insect or disease problems will not be accepted for entry. During the Fair, the Horticulture Superintendent may remove any entry whose exhibition quality becomes unacceptable (i.e., disease or pest found after entry). Plant Societies and/or Commercial Growers may provide educational plant exhibits, with prior approval of the Horticulture Exhibit Superintendent. These will not be judged as part of the Horticulture Competition; but may be eligible for a Superintendent's Award.
Final decisions in the OPEN HORTICULTURE EXHIBITION remain with the Horticulture Show Director and Superintendent.
- **ENTRY CLASSIFICATION:** Any plant in a container 14" or over (i.e. >14") will automatically be classified as Patio (I) with the exception of hanging plants. The Horticulture Superintendent reserves the right to combine sections if necessary and/or move a plant to a different class for the benefit of judging the plant.
- **CLASSIFICATION:** The Horticulture Classification Committee will assist with Section Classification and Identification of the entry. In cases of disputes, the Horticulture Show Director and Superintendent retains final authority for classification and identification. The Horticulture Superintendent also reserves the right to move a plant into a different section if it is deemed to be more appropriate.

Plant society criteria, which is more demanding, is not used in the fair judging. Each Plant will be judged individually against a Standard of perfection represented by the following criteria:

- **CULTURAL PERFECTION:**
Form or Symmetry according to variety, health, and condition of the foliage/flowers/fruit.
- **ATTRACTIVENESS OF DISPLAY:**
Pot condition, decoration, distinction.
- **LENGTH OF TIME IN POT:**
Plant should **NOT** be freshly repotted.
- **PLANT SIZE:**
According to Variety.
- **SIZE RELATIONSHIP TO POT:**
Pot size should be in scale to plant size.
- **GROWTH DIFFICULTY:**
Age versus condition, rarity.
- **CONDITION:**
Plant cleaned and groomed. Pot cleaned. Debris Removed.

CLASSES:

**CLASS A: BLOOMING / FRUITING PLANTS
MUST HAVE FLOWERS OR FRUIT -**
grown specifically for blooms / fruit, unless
there is a specific section for the plant (i.e.
cactus, violets, and orchids).

**CLASS C:
CACTUS/SUCCULENTS/EUPHORBIAS
WITH OR WITHOUT FLOWER**
Lot 1 - with Bloom
Lot 2 - without Bloom

**CLASS E: FOLIAGE
ALL PLANTS GROWN FOR FOLIAGE**
and plants without flowers or fruit, variegated, colored
and / or green, tropical or landscape

**CLASS F2: SPECIAL DISPLAY – TEACUP /
TEACUP GARDEN**
Plants grown in teacups / or teacup display

**CLASS H: HANGING PLANTS
ALL HANGING PLANTS REGARDLESS OF SIZE,**
including wood mounts that are meant to hang.
Lot 1 - Blooming / Fruiting, must have flowers/fruit
Lot 2 - Non - Blooming / Fruiting

**CLASS B: BROMELIADS AND ORCHIDS
WITH OR WITHOUT FLOWER**
Lot 1 - with Bloom
Lot 2 - without Bloom

**CLASS D: AFRICAN VIOLETS
WITH OR WITHOUT FLOWERS.**
Lot 1 - with Bloom
Lot 2 - without Bloom

CLASS F1: SPECIAL DISPLAY - other than teacup
Dish Gardens, wire framed, topiaries,
terrariums, totems, etc.

**CLASS G: BONSAI
ALL SIZES AND STYLES,** in pots, on trays
or racks.

CLASS I: PATIO PLANTS
All containers 14" or over that are not hanging.
Lot 1 - Blooming / Fruiting
Lot 2 - Non - Blooming / Fruiting

AWARDS:

After being judged, the individual entries will receive either a 1st-Blue, 2nd-Red, 3rd-White. The premium money will be determined as follows:

All premium award money will be forfeited if not collected by the end of the Fair.

Blue Ribbon	\$3
Red Ribbon	\$2
White Ribbon	\$1

Cash awards will be presented when the plants are recovered at the end of the Fair. Premiums will be paid for awards as marked in the judges' book and not from ribbons attached to exhibits. Any exhibitor who removes plants other than the stated times shall forfeit their premium money. Note: Plant removal other than stated times is unauthorized. Unclaimed entries shall be forfeited.

SPECIAL MERIT: Receives \$10.00 and a Rosette.

A Special Merit Award may be given to the best of the 1st Place Winners in each section. If a section is unusually large or there are several outstanding plants in one section, then more than one Special Merit Award may be given.

BEST IN SHOW: Receives \$20.00 and a Rosette.

A Best in Show Award is given to at least one plant within each of the five (5) participant divisions, if merited, and is selected from the Special Merit Winners. For each section where there is more than one (1) Special Merit Award given, there may also be a Best in Show given for that section, if warranted. This will be done at the discretion of the judges and upon approval of the Superintendent.

SUPERINTENDENT'S AWARD: Receives \$25.00 and a Rosette.

A Superintendent's Award is given for a unique **Horticulturally Related Display** which is previously authorized for exhibit by the Horticulture Superintendent and is considered a non-selling booth by the Clay County Fair Board.