



HORTICULTURE COMPETITION

Competitive Exhibits Office
Phone: 716-649-3900 ext. 6407
ceoffice@ecfair.org

ONLINE ENTRY REGISTRATION OPENS APRIL 1, 2026

ONLINE ENTRY REGISTRATION CLOSES JULY 27, 2026

ENTRY DROP OFF AUGUST 10, 2026, 1PM-8PM at the AG-GRANGE BUILDING

ENTRY REMOVAL AUGUST 24, 2026, 7:30AM-9AM

Entry Fee: \$25.00 allows entries throughout Departments in Creative Arts, Ag-Grange, and Environment and Sportsman. A promo code redeemable for three (3) admission passes will be emailed to the exhibitor on Tuesday, August 11, 2026

Ages: 13 & Up

Prize Checks: Available Thursday, August 20, 2026, between 11:00 AM – 10:00 PM at the AG-Grange Info Desk along with satin ribbons earned. Checks not picked up by Sunday, August 23, 2026, will be mailed.

***Checks are VOID 60 days from issue date and WILL NOT BE REISSUED. Ribbons will not be mailed.**

Horticulture Competition Rules:

1. Please read and abide by all the Erie County Fair rules and regulations.
2. **All entries must be registered by Monday, July 27, 2026.** For more information see the Important Entry Information page at www.ecfair.org.
3. Anyone 13 years of age or older may enter. Classes are open to **all** exhibitors whether commercial or hobby growers.
4. Variety names should be included to help educate the Fair guests.
5. To minimize errors, exhibitors must affix the correct entry tag with exact variety name written on the front, securely to every entry. If an article is not brought in, the entry tag for that article must be returned to the Superintendent/Check-In Staff.
6. All perishable produce becomes the property of The Fairgrounds to be donated to the local food pantry at the end of the Fair.
7. Upon arrival, ANY class changes to the entry tags need to be made by the superintendent at the table where it is received.
8. All articles for exhibition must remain on the grounds according to the rules of each department or forfeit their premium unless excused by the Fair Manager of the Society.

Judging Criteria

- Plant true to variety
- Plant has proper size relation to container; container is clean
- Plant is symmetrical with a bushy and correct growth habit
- Healthy plant: received proper nutrition and care
- Free of insects, insect damage, sunburn, and disease
- Plant clean: free of dead leaves, blossoms, and broken stems
- In classes with multiple plant entries, uniformity of size, shape, color, and maturity between plants
- In classes with mixed plantings in single container, effectiveness, and compatibility of plant combinations

HORTICULTURE COMPETITION CLASSES

Premiums Offered: 1st Place Blue \$12, 2nd Place Red \$10, 3rd Place Yellow \$8

Guidelines for Classes

- Flowering Plant category entries should consist of plants grown for their blooms - e.g. petunias
 - Mixed plantings can contain foliage plants provided at least one (1) of the plants is flowering
- Foliage Plant category entries should consist of plants grown primarily for their foliage - e.g. coleus
- For "Three (3) of the same plant variety" classes, exhibitors enter three (3) individual plants of the same variety grown in three (3) separate pots of the same size
- For "mixed planting" classes, exhibitors enter one (1) container that has two (2) or more different plants growing in it – e.g. petunia with verbena

Flowering Plants-1

1. 3 of the same plant variety, 4 ½" pot size or smaller
2. 3 of the same plant variety, other than Pot Mum or Hardy Mum, larger than 4 ½" pot size
3. Hardy Mum, 6" pot size or larger
4. Poinsettia Cuttings, 6 of the same variety, 2 ½" pot size or smaller
5. Perennial, 1 plant variety, 8" pot size or smaller
6. 1 Flat of Annuals, 1 plant variety
7. Hanging Basket, 1 plant variety, 10" or larger basket size
8. Hanging Basket- mixed planting, 2 or more plant varieties, 10" or larger basket size
9. Window Box- mixed planting, 2 or more plant varieties, 18-24" container length
10. Patio Pot- mixed planting, 2 or more plant varieties, 8" or larger pot size

Foliage Plants-2

1. 3 of the same plant variety, 4 ½" pot size or smaller
2. 3 of the same plant variety, larger than 4 ½" pot
3. Perennial, 1 plant variety, 8" pot size or smaller
4. Hanging Basket, 1 plant variety, smaller than 10" basket
5. Hanging Basket, 1 plant variety, 10" basket or larger

Seasonal Landscape Ornamentals-3

1. 1 each, Deciduous Shrub, 1-gallon pot or larger
2. 1 each, Broad Leaf Evergreen Shrub, 1-gallon pot or larger
3. 1 each, Narrow Leaf Evergreen Shrub, 1-gallon pot or larger
4. 1 each, Small Tree, 1-gallon pot or smaller
5. 1 each Fruit Tree, 1-gallon pot or larger
6. 1 each, Ground Cover, 6" container

Dish Gardens-4

1. One Fairy Garden, 10-14" diameter container
2. One Succulent Garden, 10-14" diameter container
3. One Cactus Garden, 10-14" diameter

Arrangements-5

1. Wildflower Arrangement
2. Domestic Plant Arrangement
3. Holiday Arrangement
4. Herb Arrangement

SPECIAL AWARD

The Green Thumb Award:

A Banner and \$20 will be awarded to the most accomplished exhibitor.

All exhibitors in the Horticulture Department of the Ag-Grange Building are Eligible.

SPECIAL AWARD

Ken Wilk Memorial Award:

An award sponsored by the Erie County Agricultural Society

All exhibitors in the Horticulture Department of the Ag-Grange Building are Eligible.