



Horticulture Competition

2025 Rules & Regulations

Chairman: Laura Rodriguez

Directors in Charge: Lisa Reyes & Chase Ruska

IMPORTANT DATES

On-Line Entry Deadline All Categories	Aug. 20, 2025	4:00 PM
Release of Liability On-Line Submission	Aug. 20, 2025	4:00 PM
Delivery of Entries (Building B)	Sept. 20, 2025	9:00 – 11:00 AM
Awards Presentation (Building D)	Sept. 26, 2025	2:00 PM
Entry Pick-Up (Building D)	Oct. 5, 2025	8:30 – 10:30 AM

COMPETITION CATEGORIES

- Category 1: Horticulture Photography
- Category 2: Container Grown Plants
- Category 3: Tejas Tables – Floral Tabletop Arrangements

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Exhibitor must be a Fort Bend County resident
- Exhibitor must be between the ages of 8 and 18 as of September 1, 2025

ENTRY INFORMATION *How to Enter: Entry forms must be completed online only at www.fbcfa.org.*

- Incorrect or incomplete information on the entry form may result in disqualification of the entry or a delay in issuing awards.
- Each entry must include the exhibitors mailing address, phone number, and email address. Please refrain from using a teacher or advisors contact information.
- Each exhibitor must submit a signed Release of Liability and Indemnity for the entry to be valid.
- Submission of an entry form means you understand that the decision of the judges is final, and you agree to abide by the rules and regulations of the Fort Bend County Fair and Rodeo's Horticulture Competition.

Division Criteria:

- Entries in the Container Grown Plants, Floral Design, and Horticulture Photography categories must be submitted by individual exhibitors only; team entries are not permitted.
- Divisions as Follows applicable for each Category
 - **Ages 8-18 years as of 9/1/2025**

Entry Fees: The entry fee is \$20 per competition category entered.

Entry Limit: *Exhibitors competing in the Horticulture Competition may enter one entry per category.*

- Please select the category that you wish to enter on the entry form. Complete separate entry forms if entering both categories.
- The Fair has the right to limit entries to facilities available. All entries are considered accepted unless the exhibitor is notified otherwise.

Entry Guidelines: *Please read all guidelines carefully. Direct any questions to the contact listed at the end of this section.*

- The Fort Bend County Fair (Fair) has the right to refuse any entry that has a serious disease or insect problem.
- No entries with copyright or licensing infringement will be accepted. If there is any reproduction, in whole or in part, of a registered trademark or work of another individual, the Fair reserves the right to disqualify the entry.
- The Fair is a family-oriented event. The Fort Bend County Fair and Rodeo reserves the right to disqualify any entry that, in the Fair's sole judgement, is deemed inappropriate for family viewing, controversial, or in poor taste prior to judging and display.

- The Fair will not be liable for entries made in error and will not re-open judging to accommodate such entries.
- All entries will be maintained (watered/cared for) by the Horticulture Competition Committee.
- All entries must be the work product of the individual(s) listed as the exhibitor(s) on the entry form.
- The Fair is not responsible for lost, damaged, or dead items. Small items, accessories, etc.... should be securely fastened to their container. Items of great sentimental value should not be used.
- Any entry that does not comply with all competition rules will be disqualified.

Consent: *Exhibitors agree to the following conditions to participate in the Horticulture Competition:*

- The student, teacher and parent/guardian understand, that as a condition of participation in the Horticulture Competition, they are granting Fort Bend County Fair Association (FBCFA) permission to display the student's entry or entries; to photograph, film, or otherwise record the student's entry or entries; and, to reproduce the student's entry or entries in whole, in part, or composite. The student and parent/guardian waive and release all rights to inspect/approve the final product, and they release discharge, and hold harmless FBCFA from any liability by virtue of the use of the student's entry or entries or images.
- While the Fair takes every precaution to ensure the integrity of the entries, FBCFA and the Horticulture Competition Committee are not responsible for loss, theft, or damage of entries. Damaged entries will not be repaired.

Contacts: The following individual is available to answer any questions about the Horticulture Competition. Should an exhibitor require any accommodation due to personal health or medical conditions please inform individual at least one (1) month prior to the competition date.

CONTACT: Laura Rodriguez
 Chairman – Horticulture Committee
 Laura.Rodriguez10381@gmail.com

Awards Presentation: *The Fair will host an awards presentation as follows:*

- Horticulture Photography category will be recognized on Friday, September 26 at 2:00 p.m. in the Building D.
- Container Grown Plant category will be recognized on Friday, September 26 at 2:00 p.m. in Building D
- Exhibitors placing 1st through 3rd in all competition categories will be recognized as follows.
 - Horticulture Photography
 - 1st Place: \$125 and banner
 - 2nd Place: \$75 and banner
 - 3rd Place: \$40 and rosette
 - Container Grown Plants
 - 1st Place: \$300 and banner
 - 2nd Place: \$150 and banner
 - 3rd Place: \$50 and rosette
 - Tejas Tables – Floral Tabletop Arrangements
 - 1st Place: \$220 and banner
 - 2nd Place: \$110 and banner
 - 3rd Place: \$50 and rosette
- Results will be published on the Fair website at www.fbcb.org.
- The winning entries will be labeled indicating the level of award and remain on display through the end of Fair.

CATEGORY 1: HORTICULTURE PHOTOGRAPHY

Theme: Exhibitors will take a photograph representative of the theme which is the color yellow.

Guidelines: Exhibitors should review the guidelines prior to preparing their entry. Questions may be directed to the Chairman.

- Horticulture Photography entries are limited to subjects related to horticulture, flower arrangement, gardens, and landscapes.
- Photographs should not prominently feature people (living or deceased).
- Photographs should emphasize the yellow theme and must include flora.
- All photographs must include plant material.
- Each entry must be titled.
- Finishing Requirements: Photographs must be mounted on mat board or foam core.
 - Minimum size: 8" x 10" regardless of orientation or use of mat.
 - Maximum size: 11" x 14" regardless of orientation and use of mat.
- A mat around the photograph is permitted; however, the total dimensions, INCLUDING THE MAT, must be within the minimum and maximum allowed sizes.
- The surface finish of the photograph is the choice of the exhibitor.
- Printing and mounting may be done professionally.
- Glass and framing are not permitted.

Delivery of Entries: Entries must be delivered to Fort Bend County Fair Grounds, Building B on, September 20, 2025 between 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Exhibitors must check in at each competition table that they have entered.

- Exhibitors will access Building B through Gate 3.
- Exhibitor's full name, school/organization, and contact information must be attached to the back of the photograph.

Judging: The Fair will select qualified judges for each competitive event. Any questions about the judging criteria may be directed to the Chairman.

- All eligible entries will be displayed.
- There will be two rounds of judging.
- All entries will be judged in the first round of judging and top 25 entries determined at the judge's discretion will advance to the second round of judging.
- In the second round of judging, only the advancing entries will be judged on a 100-point system.
 - Up to 30 points may be awarded for creativity.
 - Up to 25 points may be awarded for composition.
 - Up to 20 points may be awarded for technical merit.
 - Up to 15 points may be awarded for discretion.
 - Up to 10 points may be awarded for interpretation of theme.
- Only judges, Horticulture committee members, and FBCFA staff will be allowed inside the competition area while judging is in progress.
- Judge's decisions are final, and protests will not be considered.
- Winners will be posted on the Fort Bend County Fair and Rodeo website.
- Winning entries will be announced at 2:00 p.m. on September 26, 2025 and winning exhibitors will be recognized. Exhibitors are encouraged but not required to be present to receive their award.
 - Banners may be picked up at this time and **voucher provided for monetary awards.**
 - **Any monetary awards will only be distributed during fair week through October 5th. Any monetary awards not picked up during stated times will be forfeited.**
- Results will be published on the Fair website at fbcfa.org.
- All entries must remain on display until the published entry pickup date. Winning entries will be marked indicating the level of award.

CATEGORY 2: CONTAINER GROWN PLANTS

Exhibitors will plant and cultivate 3 or more different examples of plant species in an appropriate container.

General Guidelines: *Exhibitors should review the guidelines prior to preparing their entry. Questions may be directed to the Chairman.*

- Entries must have been owned and grown by the exhibitor starting on or before August 20, 2025.
 - Plants should have evidence of being grown in the container, such as being securely rooted in the soil.
 - If plants are found to have been freshly potted or do not stand up during the Fair because they were not potted soon enough, the award will be withheld.
 - If single elements require replanting during the eight-week period prior to the Fair, the exhibitors should document (in writing and with photos) that removed element and the replacement element. The documentation will be part of the Exhibitor Project Log. (See the “Exhibitor Project Log” section below).
- Entries should be complete upon arrival to the Fair.
 - Entries must be completely set up by 11 a.m. on September 20, 2025.
 - If the exhibitor is unable to deliver their entry, they may allow a designee to place their entry on the table.
 - The entry will be disqualified if, at the sole discretion of the Fair, it is determined that the designee has altered the design in any manner.
- Entries should be designed to be viewed from all sides. To designate a preferred viewing side, exhibitor may mark the center back of the container with a white chalk mark.
- Entries should feature 3 or more different plant species per container.
 - Plant selection is at the exhibitor’s discretion.
 - Plants may belong to any species.
 - Plants must be healthy, free of disease, and bug free.
 - Plants are the only living items that may be included with the entry – no other living items are permitted (e.g., animals, reptiles, bugs).
 - Vivarium’s are excluded from the competition.
- Plants should be clearly and attractively potted in a container that is suitable for a tabletop display.
 - Select a container that enhances the creative presentation of the entry.
 - If submitting a container grown plant, double potting is permitted, provided natural top dressing is used and the inside of the container is not visible. Top dressing must not float when watered.
 - If submitting a terrarium, double potting is not permitted.
 - If submitted a terrarium the container may be opened or closed.
- Leaf polishes or other commercial foliage enhancers are not permitted.
- Accessories are permitted however emphasis should be on the creative use of natural, fresh planted materials rather than of accessories to create a scene.
- Containers must fit on the display table.
 - Entries must not exceed a size of 30” wide x 30” deep.
 - **Entries may not exceed 50 lbs.**

Delivery of Entries: *Entries must be delivered to Fort Bend County Fair Grounds, Building B on Saturday, September 20, 2025 between 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Exhibitors must check in at each competition table that they have entered.*

- Exhibitors will access Building B through Gate 3.
- Entries must be completely set up by 11:00 a.m.

Exhibitor Project Log: *Each exhibitor must keep an Exhibitor Project Log that will be submitted on the day of the competition at the check in table. Questions may be directed to the Chairman.*

- Each exhibitor must maintain and submit a project log for each entry, using the Exhibitor Project Log template (also available at the website at www.fbcfa.org).
- Other types of exhibitor logs WILL NOT be accepted. Entries without the approved FBCFA Exhibitor Project Log will be disqualified.
- The Exhibitor Project log is assessed for content, not creativity and should include:
 - A brief narrative describing the source of inspiration for the entry and steps taken during the creative process (e.g., selection and sourcing of plant materials).
 - A minimum of ten photographs taken during the planting and cultivation of the entry.
 - Photographs must be printed and included with the log. Photographs may not be submitted digitally. FBCFA will not print photographs.
 - A list of plant materials used, including the botanical and common name.

- A timeline journaling/documenting the planting and maintenance activity.
- FBCFA will not print logs for exhibitors. Project logs need to be complete and ready to be turned in when exhibitors arrive at the check-in table.

CATEGORY 3: Tejas Table – Tabletop Floral Arrangement

General Guidelines: *Exhibitors should review the guidelines prior to preparing their entry. Questions may be directed to the Chairman.*

- Entries must have been owned and arranged by exhibitor.
- Entries should be complete upon arrival to the Fair.
 - Entries must be completely set up by 11 a.m. on September 20, 2025.
 - If the exhibitor is unable to deliver their entry, they may allow a designee to place their entry on the table.
 - The entry will be disqualified if, at the sole discretion of the Fair, it is determined that the designee has altered the design in any manner.
- Entries should be designed to be viewed from all sides. To designate a preferred viewing side, exhibitor may mark the center back of the container with a white chalk mark.
- Students will create a table arrangement using their own materials and florals.
- Students will have total creative control on the design of their arrangement.
 - Florals selection is at the exhibitor’s discretion.
 - Florals may belong to any species.
 - Florals must be healthy, free of disease, and bug free.
 - Florals are the only living items that may be included with the entry – no other living items are permitted (e.g., animals, reptiles, bugs).
- Accessories are permitted however emphasis should be on the creative use of natural, fresh planted materials rather than of accessories to create a scene.
- Containers must fit on the display table.
 - Entries must not exceed width of 18” (in any direction)
 - The floral elements do not count toward the total width count. Entries will be measured during check in. If any entry is found to be over the acceptable width, the entry will be disqualified. If an exhibitor feels that their Texas Tables container has been measured incorrectly, please ask any of the horticulture committee volunteers to speak to the competition Chairman or FBCFA Director in Charge.
 - **Entries may not exceed 50 lbs.**

Judging: *The Fair will select qualified judges for each competitive event. Any questions about the judging criteria may be directed to the Chairman.*

- There will be two rounds of judging.
- All entries will be judged in the first round of judging, and the top 10 entries determined at the judge’s discretion will advance to the second round of judging.
- In the second round of judging, only the advancing entries will be judged on a 100-point system.
 - Up to 45 points may be awarded for cultural perfection.
 - Up to 40 points may be awarded for variety of plants used.
 - Up to 10 points may be awarded for staging and perfection.
 - Up to 5 points may be awarded for the completion of the Exhibitor Project Log.
- Judges may make notes in the Exhibitor Project Log.
- Judging will take place on September 22, 2025.
- Only judges, Horticulture Committee members, and FBCFA staff will be allowed inside the competition area while judging is in process.
- Winning entries will be announced at 2:00 p.m. on September 26, 2025 and winning exhibitors will be recognized. Exhibitors are encouraged but not required to be present to receive their award.
- Banners may be picked up at this time.
- Any monetary awards will only be distributed during entry pick-up on October 5th. Any monetary awards not picked up at this time will be forfeited.
- Results will be published on the Fair website at fbefa.org

Pick up of Entries: *All entries will remain on display at the Fair from the date of competition through October 5, 2025 of the Fair. Exhibitors MUST pick up their entries at the following time:*

- Sunday, October 5, 2025, between 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.
- ITEMS THAT ARE NOT PICKED UP DURING THIS TIME WILL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE FAIR.