

# 2026 Garden Department

## Adult and Youth

**SUPERINTENDENT: Kathy Hogue**

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE: July 10, 2026**

**On-line entry is available through our website [www.ozarkempirefair.com](http://www.ozarkempirefair.com).** Mail-in registration forms are available at [www.ozarkempirefair.com](http://www.ozarkempirefair.com) or at the Ozark Empire Fair Office. Exhibitor tags will be mailed in July to the name and address on the online entry or registration form.

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### **NO ENTRY FEE for Garden Department**

There are no entry fees for garden entries and monetary awards will not be given for ribbons earned. Monetary awards in each division will be given to champions and special ribbons based upon sponsorships.

If you're submitting a paper Registration Form, please use the form at the end of this Department.

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**CHECK-IN: Tuesday, July 28, 2026**

Exhibits will be checked in between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Tuesday, July 28, 2026. Procedure will be sent with exhibitor tags in July. **IMPORTANT:** write variety name on top corner of tag where judge can see it!

**CHECK-OUT: Sunday, August 9, 2026**

Garden produce that deteriorates during the Fair will be disposed of. Any remaining exhibits will be checked out after the Fair on Sunday, August 9, 2026, between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. **No exhibit will be released at any other time.** Any exhibit not picked up by 4 p.m. will be disposed of.

### **REGULATIONS:**

1. All entries are governed by the Life & Arts Rules and the rules for this department.
2. Exhibitor may enter more than one specimen per class if each entry is a different genus, species, variety, or color. Variety must be written on the exhibitor tag. Multiple entries in the same class will not be accepted without the variety name on the tag.
3. During the Fair, exhibitors are requested to replace any produce that shows decay. (Contact Exhibits Office for tickets to bring in fresh produce.) The superintendent shall have the right to remove from display, at any time, any exhibit which is unsightly.
4. **All exhibits should be correctly labeled with variety name.**
5. The number of specimens required in a class is listed with that class. Example: cucumbers (5 per class) requires 5 cucumbers for an entry. Any other number of will disqualify the exhibit.
6. The following conditions will automatically disqualify exhibit:
  - a. Incorrect number of specimens for class.
  - b. Mixture of types or varieties in a single entry in a class except for collections.
  - c. Improper preparation of vegetables, such as excessive peeling of onions or greening of potatoes.
  - d. Any exhibit that does not meet class specifications listed.
7. Exhibitor must provide container for Display Contests and Herb classes.
8. **Youth exhibitors** (through 18 years) will enter in youth classes provided in this handbook.
9. The Exhibits Director reserves the right to divide classes based on number of entries of a specific variety or age group (i.e. If there are 10 youth entries in cherry tomatoes, the class may be divided into 10 and under and 11-18.).

10. Prize money may be paid to champions in each division in each age group, if sponsored. Other prize money may be awarded to special ribbon recipients if a sponsor has donated specific prize money.
11. In order to have this exhibit of as high quality as possible, the right is reserved to reject all unsuitable exhibits, to determine that all rules and regulations have been followed, and that no identification of the exhibitor in any form is displayed during judging.
12. Exhibit building will not be open to the public during judging. The exhibitor and the public are prohibited from handling exhibits in any manner or from helping remove exhibits on check-out day.
13. **Judging Guidelines:** see Judging Guidelines link.

## **DIVISION 1001 - DISPLAY CONTESTS**

Ribbons Only

### **“SOUP’S ON!”**

#### **Class 01 – Adult      Class 11 – Youth**

Collection of home-grown vegetables for soup. Must include at least five (5) and no more than ten (10) named varieties of vegetables for homemade soup. The numbers of each kind of garden produce are: large item such as a cabbage, 1; medium item such as slicing tomato, 3; small item such as cherry tomatoes, 10. **VARIETIES MUST BE NAMED** on a 3 X 5 card to be displayed with entry.

Herbs may be included but must be cut and in water. Collection may include vegetables not listed in this department such as turnips. Collection is to be exhibited in a **stew pot or soup pot**. Maximum size is 300 square inches (width x length). Display may be decorated. (Judging will include attractiveness of display.)

### **“GIFT FROM MY GARDEN”**

#### **Class 02 – Adult      Class 12 – Youth**

Collection of vegetables, fruits, and/or melons grown by exhibitor. Collection must include five (5) or more kinds of fruits or vegetables suitable for a gift basket. The numbers of each kind of garden produce are: large item such as a cantaloupe, 1; medium item such as slicing tomato, 3; small item such as cherry tomatoes, 10. **VARIETIES MUST BE NAMED** on a 3 X 5 card to be displayed with entry.

Collection is to be exhibited in a **basket** (any shape but shallow or flat enough that produce is easily seen). Maximum size is 300 square inches (width x length). Display may be decorated. Judging will include attractiveness of display.

### **“OZARK’S HARVEST”**

#### **Class 03 – Adult      Class 13 – Youth**

Collection of fresh vegetables, fruits and/or melons grown by exhibitor AND food products canned or dehydrated by exhibitor from his or her garden.

Collection must include a minimum of six (6) different food products (maximum 10). There must be at least three (3) different varieties of fresh garden vegetables, fruits and/or melons from this department AND three (3) canned or dehydrated products from the Food Preservation Department. Canning and dehydration requirements in the Food Preservation Department will apply. The numbers of each kind of garden produce are: large item such as a cantaloupe, 1; medium item such as slicing tomato, 3; small item such as cherry tomatoes, 10.

Exhibitor’s choice of container. Maximum size is 300 square inches (width x length). Display may be decorated.

## DIVISION 1002 – FRUITS AND NUTS

There will be **2 Champion Ribbons** Awarded in this division.  
(One for adult and one for youth)

### Additional information:

- Variety name should be written on top corner of exhibitor tag.**
- For best results, harvest fruit when firm ripe, fully colored, sweet but not soft. (Fall apples will judge as unripe fruit.)
- Nuts are to be shown in shell and may be last year's crop. Variety should be listed on exhibitor tag or state that tree is wild.

Classes	Adult	Youth
Apples, 5, any variety	01	08
Grapes, 3 bunches	02	09
Pears, peaches, or plums, 5	03	10
Any berry, 10	04	11
Pecans, 10	05	12
Black Walnuts, 10	06	13
Other Nut, 10	07	14

## DIVISION 1003 – HERBS

There will be **2 Champion Ribbons** Awarded in this division.  
(One for adult and one for youth)

### Additional information:

- Variety name should be written on top corner of exhibitor tag.**
- Must be fresh herbs, cut, in water. (Exhibitor provides container.)
- Additional herb competitions:  
Garden Department: Herb Collections, Division 1009  
Flowers Department: Planter (two or more herbs growing in one container), Division 709, class 3  
Food Preservation Department: Dehydrated herbs, Division 901

Classes	Adult	Youth
Basil	01	16
Cilantro	02	17
Chives	03	18
Dill	04	19
Fennel	05	20
Mint, Peppermint	06	21
Mint, Spearmint	07	22
Mint, any other mint	08	23
Oregano	09	24
Parsley	10	25
Rosemary	11	26
Sage	12	27
Stevia	13	28
Thyme	14	29
Any other herb	15	30

## DIVISION 1004 – PEPPERS

There will be **2 Champion Ribbons** Awarded in this division.  
(One for adult and one for youth)

### Additional information:

- a. **Variety name should be written on top corner of exhibitor tag.**
- b. Sweet peppers should have exactly five (5) specimens.
- c. Hot peppers should have exactly ten (10) specimens.

<b>Classes</b>	<b>Adult</b>	<b>Youth</b>
<b>Sweet Peppers (5 ):</b>		
Green	01	11
Red	02	12
Any other color	03	13
Banana	04	14
Any other sweet pepper	05	15
<b>Hot Peppers (10):</b>		
Jalapeno	06	16
Habanero	07	17
Long variety	08	18
Globe variety	09	19
Any other hot pepper	10	20

## DIVISION 1005 – SQUASH

There will be **2 Champion Ribbons** Awarded in this division.  
(One for adult and one for youth)

### Additional information:

- a. **Variety name should be written on top corner of exhibitor tag.**
- b. Squash should have exactly three (3) specimens.

<b>Classes</b>	<b>Adult</b>	<b>Youth</b>
Yellow Summer	01	09
Scalloped, patty pan	02	10
Sunburst	03	11
Zucchini, under 12”	04	12
Zucchini, over 12”	05	13
Any other summer squash	06	14
Acorn	07	15
Any other winter squash	08	16

## DIVISION 1006 – TOMATOES

There will be **2 Champion Ribbons** Awarded in this division.  
(One for adult and one for youth)

### Additional information:

- a. **Variety name should be written on top corner of exhibitor tag.**
- b. Large tomato varieties should have exactly three (3) specimens. Red slicing tomatoes should be placed in classes for variety designed to weigh ½ pound or less and designed to weigh more than ½ pound.
- c. Small tomato varieties should have exactly ten (10) specimens. Cherry tomatoes should be 1-1½” in diameter.

<b>Classes</b>	<b>Adult</b>	<b>Youth</b>
<b>Large Tomatoes (3):</b>		
Red Slicing, ½ lb or less	01	10
Red Slicing, ½ lb or more	02	11
Other color slicing tomatoes	03	12
Italian	04	13
<b>Small Tomatoes (10):</b>		
Small Red pear	05	14
Small Yellow pear	06	15
Red Cherry	07	16
Other color cherry tomatoes	08	17
Roma	09	18

## DIVISION 1007 – ROOT CROPS

There will be **2 Champion Ribbons** Awarded in this division.  
(One for adult and one for youth)

### Additional information:

- a. **Variety name should be written on top corner of exhibitor tag.**
- b. All varieties should have five (5) specimens.

<b>Classes</b>	<b>Adult</b>	<b>Youth</b>
Beets, 5 with 3” tops	01	11
Carrots, 5 with 3” tops	02	12
Onions, white, 5	03	13
Onions, red, 5	04	14
Onions, yellow, 5	05	15
Potatoes, 5 white named variety	06	16
Potatoes, 5 red named variety	07	17
Potatoes, 5 any other color	08	18
Sweet Potatoes, 5	09	19
Any other root crop, 5	10	20

## DIVISION 1008 – OTHER GARDEN PRODUCE

There will be **2 Champion Ribbons** Awarded in this division.

(One for adult and one for youth)

### Additional information:

- a. **Variety name should be written on top corner of exhibitor tag.**
- b. Number of required specimens is listed following the class name (i.e. Eggplant, 3)
- c. The exhibits director reserves the right to split a class when several items of the same variety are entered in a single class.

<b>Classes</b>	<b>Adult</b>	<b>Youth</b>
Beans, pole, 15	01	19
Beans, bush, 15	02	20
Beans, any other, 15	03	21
Cabbage, 1	04	22
Cucumber, slicing (under 10"),5	05	23
Cucumber, Burpless, 5	06	24
Cucumber, pickling, 5	07	25
Cucumbers, novelty variety, 5	08	26
Eggplant, 3	09	27
Garlic, dry (may be last year's Crop) 1" top, 3	10	28
Corn, with husks, 5	11	29
Okra, 12 pods	12	30
Rhubarb, 3 stalks with 1" leaf	13	31
Cantaloupe, 2	14	32
Watermelon, 1	15	33
Pumpkin, miniature, 3	16	34
Pumpkin, other, 1	17	35
Any other produce not listed in this or any other division	18	36

## DIVISION 1009 – COLLECTIONS

There will be **2 Champion Ribbons** Awarded in this division.  
(One for adult and one for youth)

### Additional information:

- a. Varieties must be named on a 3 X 5 card to be displayed with entry.
- b. Collections of peppers, tomatoes, and gourds may be displayed plate or container of exhibitor's choice provided that all specimens are given equal exposure to viewing, flat plates or trays are preferred.
- c. Collections of herbs must be fresh herbs, cut, in water. (Exhibitor provides containers.)
- d. Vegetable collections: See Garden Department: Division 1001, Display Contests

Classes	Adult	Youth
Sweet peppers: 4 named varieties, 2 each	01	10
Hot peppers: 4 named varieties, 5 each	02	11
Mixed peppers: 2 named varieties of sweet, 2 each 2 named varieties of hot, 5 each	03	12
Slicing tomatoes: 4 named varieties, 2 each	04	13
Cherry, pear, and/or plum tomatoes: 4 named varieties, 5 each	05	14
Garlic braid: 8 or more dried bulbs together	06	15
Onion braid: 5 or more dried bulbs together	07	16
Gourds, ornamental: 5 or more varieties	08	17
Collection of herbs: cut specimens only, at least 5 varieties but not more than 15 varieties, in separate and labeled containers of water and attached to or contained in a base which is no more than 12" front to back and 20" long. (Base and containers provided by exhibitor).	09	18





	<b>Department</b>	<b>Division Number</b>	<b>Class Number</b>	<b>Title of Class</b> (Exact Wording of Exhibitor Handbook)
SAMPLE	Garden	1004	2	Adult Peppers, Red SAMPLE
	Garden	1006	7	Adult Tomatoes, Red Cherry SAMPLE
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## **Registration Deadline — July 10**