2026-2027 Rules
Pasco County Fair
Youth Plant Show and Auction

All functions will occur in the Joe Herrmann Greenhouse, apart from the sale taking place in the Dan Cannon Auditorium, on the Pasco County Fairgrounds, Dade City, FL unless stated otherwise.

Dec. 1, 2026 is the DEADLINE for entries. All entries will be done online. There will be NO exceptions for late entries. You can only show and sell one market project. Examples: Can't show a steer and a plant, or a hog and a plant. Can show rabbit and plant, or poultry and a plant. Must have a copy of the plant purchased receipt in the record book. **** If your plants are donated make sure you take a time stamped picture of your plants on the own by date or early and put it in your record book. **** This must be in your record book. The entry fees are **$8** per entry with a **max of 2 entries**.

Remember to make copies of everything (receipts, letters, etc.) for your record books.

Other Important Dates:

Tuesday, September 15, 2026 @ 6:30 PM: Mandatory Educational Seminar for all exhibitors. The seminar will be held in Dan Cannon Auditorium, Pasco County Fairgrounds, 36722 CR 52, Dade City, FL 33525.

Sept. 20, 2026: Deadline to purchase plants for **Class A: Woody Ornamentals**, **Class B: Groundcovers & Herbaceous Perennials, Class C: Foliage Plants, Class E: Miscellaneous**. (All plants must be re-potted in a container that is a minimum of one size larger than the original purchase size.) Be sure to save your plant receipts and take photos.

Nov 30, 2026: Deadline to purchase plants for **Class D: Liners, Rooted Cuttings, Seedlings**. (All **plants** must be re-potted in a container that is a minimum of one size larger than the original purchase size.) Be sure to save your plant receipts and take photos.

Sunday, January 31, 2027 @ 3:00 to 5:00 PM: Plant Record Books must be turned in at Clayton Hall, Pasco County Fairgrounds. If you do not turn in your record book at this time you will not be eligible to show your plants.

Sunday, Feb. 14, 2027 @ 9:00 to 11:00 AM: Plant exhibitor check-in.

Sunday, Feb. 14, 2027 @ 11:00 AM: Exhibitor meeting, including Peewees. Garden Center Knowledge questions will begin after all check in procedures and the exhibitors meeting have been completed. Exhibitors must be in official dress for the Garden Center Knowledge questions

Sunday, Feb. 21, 2027 @ 12:00 to 1:30 PM: Buyers Luncheon
1:00PM: Exhibitor Meeting
1:15 PM: Exhibitor Awards
1:30 PM: Plant Sale

Plant Entry Classes

****Only 2 entries allowed ****

Class A: Woody Ornamentals: Deadline to purchase plants is September 20. Each entry shall be **one species** and grown in identical size containers, 10 to 15 in 1gallon containers, OR 3 to 5 in 3 to 5gallon containers, OR 2 to 4 in 7 gallon containers. No containers larger than 7 gallons. Entries containing less than the minimum number of plants will not be accepted. No Citrus allowed. Plants in this class may include, but are not limited to:

Trees:

Acer rubrum (Red Maple)
Betula nigra (River Birch)
Butia capitata (Pindo Palm)
Callistemon spp. (Bottlebrushes)
Carpinus caroliniana (Hornbeam)
Carya spp. (Pecans and Hickories)
Celtis laevigata (Sugarberry)
Cercis canadensis (Redbud)
Chionanthus virginicus (Fringe Tree)
Cornus spp. (Swamp, Flowering Dogwood)
Cupressocyparis leylandii (Leyland Cypress)
Cupressus sempervirens (Italian Cypress)
Eriobotrya japonica (Loquat)
Gordonia lasianthus (Loblloy Bay)
Illex spp. (East Palatka, Dahoon, Or American Holly)
Juniperus silicicola (Red Cedar)
Koelreuteria elegans (Golden Rain Tree)
Lagerstroemia indica (Crape Myrtle)
Liquidambar styraciflua (Sweetgum)
Liriodendron tulpifera (Tulip Poplar)
Magnolia spp. (Sweetbay, Southern, Or Japanese)
Myrica cerifera (Wax Myrtle)
Nyssa sylvatica (Tupelo)
Parkinsonia aculeata (Jerusalem Thorn)
Persea borbonia (Redbay)
Phoenix spp. (Pygmy, Canary Island, Or Date Palms)
Pinus spp. (South Florida Slash Pine, Or Longleaf Pine)
Platanus occidentalis (Sycamore)
Prunus spp. (Plums, Peaches, Nectarines)
Pyrus spp. (Pears, flowering or fruit)
Quercus spp. (Laurel, Shumard or Live Oak)
Salix babylonica (Weeping Willow)
Sabel palmetto (Cabbage Palm)
Tabebuia spp. (Trumpet Tree)
Taxodium distichum (Bald Cypress)
Trachycarpus fortunei (Windmill Palm)
Ulmus spp. (Winged, American or Chinese Elm)

Shrubs / Vines:

Abelia grandiflora (Abelia)
Agarista populifolia (Pipestem)
Allamanda cathartica (Allamanda)
Aster carolinianus (Climbing Aster)
Bambusa spp. (Bamboo)
Bignonia capreolata (Cross Vine)
Bougainvillea spp. (Bougainvillea)
Buddleia spp. (Butterfly Bush)
Buxus microphylla (Boxwood)
Calliandra spp. (Powderpuff)
Callicarpa americana (Beauty Berry)
Calycanthus floridus (Sweet Shrub)
Camellia spp. (Sasanqua, Common Camellia)
Campsis radicans (Trumpet Vine)
Chamaerops humilis (European Fan Palm)
Clethra alnifolia (Summersweet)
Cleyera japonica (Cleyera)
Coccoloba uvifera (Sea Grape)
Codiaeum variegatum (Croton)
Crataegus aestivalis (Mayhaw)
Cycas spp. (King, Queen Sago)
Cyrilla racemosa (Ti-Ti)
Duranta repens (Golden Dewdrop)
Elaeagnus pungens (Silverthorn)
Fatsia japonica (Fatsia)
Feijoa sellowiana (Feijoa)
Foresteria segnegata (Florida Privet)
Galphimia spp. (Thryallis, Shower of Gold)
Garberia fruticosa (Garberia)
Gardenia spp. (Gardenias)
Hamelia patens (Firebush)
Hibiscus spp. (Hibiscus, Rose of Sharon)
Hydrangea spp. (Oakleaf, Mophead, Lacecap)
Illex spp. (Gallberry, Yaupon, Burford Or Schellings, Rotunda Holly)
Illicium spp. (Florida, Ocala, Japanese Anise)
Itea virginica (Virginia willow)
Leucophyllum frutescens (Texas Sage)
Ligustrum japonicum (Ligustrum)
Lonicera sempervirens (Coral honeysuckle)
Loropetalum chinense (Chinese Witch Hazel)
Lyonia spp. (Fetterbush, Rusty Lyonia)
Mahonia spp. (Leatherleaf, Chinese Mahonia)
Myrcianthes fragrans (Simpson Stopper)
Nerium oleander (Oleander)
Osmanthus fragans (Tea Olive)
Philadelphus inodorus (Mock Orange)
Photinia spp. (Redtop)
Pittosporum tobira (Pittosporum)
Plumbago auriculata (Plumbago)
Podocarpus spp. (Nagi, Yew)
Pyracantha coccinea (Firethorn)
Raphiolepis indica (Indian Hawthorn)
Rapidophyllum hystrix (Needle Palm)
Rhapis excelsa (Lady Palm)
Rhododendron spp. (Azaleas)
Rosa spp. (Roses)
Rubus spp. (Blackberries, Raspberries)
Serenoa repens (Saw Palmetto)
Styrax americana (Snowbell)
Tibouchina urvilleana (Princess Flower)
Trachelopermum jasminoides (Conf Jasmine)
Vaccinium spp. (Blueberries)
Viburnum

Class B: Groundcovers and Herbaceous Perennials: Deadline to purchase plants is September 20. Each entry shall be **one species** and grown in identical size containers, 10 to 15 in 1 gallon containers, OR 3 to 5 in 3 to 5 gallon containers, OR 2 to 4 in 7 gallon. No containers larger than 7gallons Entries containing less than the minimum number of plants will not be accepted. Plants in this class may include, but are not limited to:

Agapanthus africanus (Lily of the Nile)
Alocasia spp. (Elephant Ear)
Aspidistra elatior (Cast Iron Plant)
Bacopa caroliniana (Lemon Bacopa)
Cuphea hyssopifolia (False Heather)
Cyrtomium falcatum (Holly Fern)
Eragrostis spp. (Lovegrass)
Ficus pumila (Creeping Fig)
Hedera spp. (English, Algerian Ivy)
Heliconia spp. (Parrot Flower)
Juniperus spp. (Parsonii, Blue Rug, Shore Juniper)
Liatris tenuifloa (Blazing Star)
Mimosa strigillosa (Sensitive Plant)
Nephrolepis spp. (Boston, Giant Sword, Fishtail Ferns)
Osmunda spp. (Cinnamon Fern, Royal Fern)
Rudbeckia hirta (Black Eye Susan)
Sabal minor (Blue Stem Palmetto)
Saururus cemuus (Lizard Tail)
Spartina bakeri (Cord Grass)
Thelypteris kunthii (Wood Fern)
Tripsacum spp. (Fakahatchee, Gama Grass)
Ajuga reptans (Bugleweed)
Asclepias spp. (Milkweed)
Aristida stricta (Wiregrass)
Caladium x *hortulanum* (Caladium)
Coreopsis spp. (Tickseed)
Dietes spp. (African Iris)
Evolvulus glomeratus (Blue Daze)
Gaillardia pulchella (Blanket Flower)
Helianthus debilis (Beach Sunflower)
Hemerocallis spp. (Daylilly)
Justicia brandegeana (Shrimp Plant)
Liriope spp. (Border Grass, Aztec Grass)
Muhlenbergia capillaris (Muhly Grass)
Ophiopogon japonicus (Mondo Grass)
Pentas lanceolata (Pentas)
Russelia equisetiformis (Firecracker Plant)
Salvia spp. (Tropical, Bog, Pineapple Sage)
Setcreasea pallida (Purple Heart)
Stachytarpheta jamaicensis (Porterweed)
Trachelospermum asiaticum (Asian Jasmine)
Tulbaghia violacea (Society Garlic)

Class C: Foliage Plants: Purchase deadline is September 20. Each entry shall be **one species** and grown in identical size containers, 5 to 7 in 6" diameter containers, OR 3 to 5 in 8" diameter containers, OR 2 to 4 in 10", 12" diameter containers. No containers bigger than 12" diameter. Entries containing less than the minimum number of plants will not be accepted. Plants in this class may include, but are not limited to:

Aglaonema spp. (Chinese Evergreen)
Araucaria heterophylla (Norfolk Island Pine)
Beaucarnea recurvata (Ponytail Fern)
Chamaedorea spp. (Parlor, Bamboo, Reed Palms)
Chrysalidocarpus lutescens (Areca Palm)
Dizygotheca elegantissima (False Aralia)
Ficus spp.(Weeping Fig,Fiddleleaf Fig,Rubber tree)
Peperomia spp. (Peperomia)
Philodendron spp. (Heart Leaf, Split Leaf, etc.)
Radermachera sinica (China Doll)
Spathiphyllum spp. (Peace Lilly)
Anthurium spp. (Lady Jane, Flamingo Flower, etc.)
Asplenium nidus (Birdnest Fern)
Begonia spp. (Tuberous or Rex Begonia)
Chlorophytum comosum (Spider Plant)
Dieffenbachia spp. (Dumbcane)
Dracaena spp. (Dracaena, Corn Plant, Red E
Maranta leuconeura (Prayer Plant)
Phaius tankervilliae (Nun's Orchid)
Pilea cadierei (Aluminum Plant)
Pilea cadierei (Aluminum Plant)
Sphaeropteris cooperi (Tree Fern)

Class D: Liners, Rooted Cuttings, Seedlings: Deadline to purchase seeds or stick cuttings is November 30. Each entry shall be **two full flats of the same species.** Do not mix species in a flat. Flats should be standard nursery size with a maximum container size of 4.5 inches. Entries containing less than the minimum number of plants will not be accepted. Plants in this class may include, but are not limited to: Woody Ornamental, Groundcover or Foliage Liners; Annual or Perennial Bedding Plant Liners; Vegetable and Herb Liners or Seedlings.

NEW **Class E: Miscellaneous: Deadline to purchase plants is September 20th**. **Mixing species** in an entry is acceptable, so scientific names are not required in this class. Entries containing less than the minimum number of plants will not be accepted. Plants in this class may include, but are not limited to:

Hanging Planters, 4 the same size/type container, same species
Orchids, 4 of same size container
African Violets, 6 of same size container
Aquatic Plants, 6 of same size container
Window Boxes, 2 of same size/type container
Staghorn Ferns, 4 of any size container
Water Garden, 2 with at least 5 aquatic plants no more than 3gal
Herb Garden, 2 of same size with at least 5 herb plants per container
Terrariums, 2 of same size container
Bonsai, 2 of same size container
Topiary, 2 of same size container
Bromeliads, 6 of same size container
Cacti and Succulents, 6 individual same size containers
Driftwood/Natural Planters, 2 same size container
Dish Gardens/Color Bowls, 2 of same size/type container

Pasco County Fair Youth Plant Show and Auction 2026 - 2027 Rules

Purpose: The purpose of the Youth Plant Show and Auction is **educational**. Students should learn to properly produce an agricultural product. Plant projects require the daily management skills used by all landscapers, wholesale and retail nurseries. Students learn to water, fertilize and control pests on schedule to meet the needs of their plants.

Students keep a Plant Production Record Book and learn to keep records that are similar to those needed in any business.

Part of the educational process is also learning to market a product. Students participate in the plant sale in order to learn how to market their product and how an auction works. They are required to write marketing letters to five potential bidders.

Eligibility: PLEASE NOTE:
The Pasco County Fair Association rule is for ALL Agriculture Projects. The exhibitor must be a member of a Pasco County 4-H or FFA. The exhibitor must also either live in Pasco County or attend a Pasco County School. If an exhibitor was eligible to show in the 2021 fair but would not be eligible under this new rule, they will be Grandfathered in. This Grandfather Rule will be in place as long as the exhibitor is a continuous exhibitor. The exhibitor must register and complete a project record book to be eligible each year.

All exhibitors must have an unweighted cumulative 2.0 grade point average or better, as stated on the school issued 2026-2027 report card for the first semester, is required for eligibility to show. Proof of grade point average must be submitted on the Academic Satisfaction Form available on the fair web page and attached to the record book at time of record book check-in. The form must be embossed with the school seal or signed and stamped with a school stamp (if available). **A copy of the most recent report card must also be included in ALL record books**. Peewee exhibitors must also include a report card and Academic Satisfaction Form with their record book.

The Pasco County Fair Association rule: You can only show and sell one market project.
Examples:Can't show a steer and a plant, or a hog and a plant. Can show rabbit and plant, or poultry and a plant
Peewees (5 to 7 years old as of Sept. 1, 2026) **Peewees must follow the same rules as other exhibitors.**

- **Peewees will be grouped with their club.**
- **Peewees will be required to sell their plants.**
- Will receive all across the board add-ons.
- Will compete for Peewee Grand Champion and Pewee Reserve Grand Champion
- May compete for Peewee Garden Center Knowledge awards, however it is not required.
- **Do not compete for Overall Grand Champion, Reserve Champion, Class Winners**
- **Must attend the mandatory exhibitor seminar.**
- Must submit a correctly completed entry form online
- NEW Must turn in the Peewee record book.Recordbooks must be in a white ½ binder or Official 4-H Record Book Cover. All pages of the record book must be in plastic sheet protectors. Record books will be scored for record book prizes.
- Must send five (5) buyers letters and attach a copy in the record book.

- Must have copy of purchase receipt or time stamped picture in record book
- Parents are allowed to minimally assist Peewees with their record book and setting up plants in the greenhouse.

Sunday, Feb. 14th, 2027, 9:00 to 11:00 AM: Plant Show Exhibitor Check-In at the Joe Herrmann Greenhouse, Pasco County Fairgrounds.

Check In Procedures:

Step 1: Plants will be inspected by a Department of Plant Inspector for insects or disease and will be rejected if there is an insect or disease problem.

Step 2: Plants will be inspected for sufficient rooting. If rooting is not sufficient the plants will be rejected. (Sufficient rooting = roots growing to the outside walls of the container)

Step 3: Exhibitors must verify information at the check in table

Step 4: Exhibitors receive their assigned place in the greenhouse. No displays this year. All exhibitors will have a row for each entry (Max of two (2) entries/rows)

Step 5**: After** exhibitors complete Step 4, they may begin to move plants into the greenhouse and set up their plants in the assigned row.

*****Due to overcrowding and safety concerns in the greenhouse no parents, siblings, friends, etc. of elementary, intermediate or senior exhibitors will be allowed in the greenhouse until after the fair opens later in the day.***** Youth Plant Show Committee members will be available to help when and where it is needed. **Only Peewees will be allowed minimal parental help.**

Sunday, Feb. 14th, 2027 11:00 AM: Exhibitor meeting will be held under the tent at the greenhouse immediately following check in. The Garden Center Knowledge judging will take place following the meeting. Exhibitors must wear black pants, a white collared shirt & closed toed shoes. The judging of the plants will begin after the Garden Center Knowledge judging is complete. Awards will be posted in the greenhouse by 7:00 p.m. the following day.

Feb. 14th- 21st , 2027 3:00 PM: The greenhouse will open each day at 3:00 PM for exhibitors to water and maintain their plant exhibit as needed. Youth Plant Show Committee members will **NOT** water plants for exhibitors unless prior arrangements have been made.

Feb. 21st, 2027 Award and Auction Procedures:

Step 1: **12:00PM**: Exhibitors are suggested to help with the luncheon at the Dan Cannon Auditorium. Exhibitors must wear black pants, a white collared shirt & closed toed shoes.
Step 2: **1:00 PM:** Exhibitor meeting in the Dan Cannon Auditorium
Step 2: **1:15 PM:** Youth Plant Show Awards
Step 3: **1:30 PM:** Auction begins in the Dan Cannon Auditorium.

Check Out Procedures:

Step 1**: Immediately following the end auction:** Exhibitors must return to their rows in the greenhouse.
Step 2: The buyer will present you with a copy of their receipts, you will then help the buyer load their plants.
Step 3: Once all of your plants have been loaded, your area is clean and your hand has been stamped you must report to the exhibitor table to pick up your buyer's information**. You will be released after all buyers are checked out in the Dan Cannon and all exhibitor invoices are printed out. (This could take up to two hours after the sale ends.) You need to bring your completed buyer's THANK**

YOU letters and envelopes with stamps on them with you to the sale. They can be written the day before with the exception of whom it is to. Once you receive the buyer's information you can address the letters and envelopes. You need to write a letter for every entry you will be selling. **If you are selling TWO entries, then you will need TWO letters. ***Cards inside the buyer's gifts DO NOT count as your thank you letters.*****

Step 4: Upon turning in your thank you letters you will be given your record books, Thank you sheet and you will be free to go.

Within two weeks following the fair you will receive a list containing information for all add-ons given. It will be your responsibility to send them thank you letters. You will only receive a list if you have add-ons.

Checks will be given out once all buyers have paid.

Restrictions:

- **No Citrus** of any type is allowed
- Patented plants must be accompanied with patent tags.
- **Category I Invasive Plants**, Florida Exotic Pest Plant Council (*www.fleppc.org/01list.htm*) cannot be exhibited.
- Plants will be inspected by the Division of Plant Industries for insects and diseases. Plants infested by insects or diseases will be rejected. DPI Inspector's decisions are final.
- Only blue and red ribbon plants will be sold.
- White ribbon plants must be removed from the exhibit area after judging.
- **All plants exhibited** must be sold to the highest bidder at the Pasco County Fair Youth Plant Auction.
- The Pasco County Fair Youth Plant Show Committee reserves the right to interpret show rules.
- The Pasco County Fair Youth Plant Show Committee reserves the right to adjust exhibitor spaces to accommodate all exhibitors.

Judging: Plants will be judged by criteria set forth by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Plant Industries, and the Florida Grades and Standards for nursery stock. Plants are judged as Florida Fancy (blue ribbon), Florida #1 (red ribbon), or Florida #2 (white ribbon). Judges' decisions are final.

Garden Center Knowledge will be judged by the criteria on the score card in the back of the Plant Production Record Book. A second impartial judge will break any ties. Judges' decisions are final.

Plant Production Record Books: All exhibitors are required to keep a Plant Production Record Book. **MANDATORY: All Recordbooks must be in a ½ inch white binder or Official 4-H Record Book Cover. MANDATORY: ALL PAGES OF THE RECORD MUST BE IN PLASTIC SHEET COVERS.**

Record Books must be handwritten by the exhibitor. 4-H Peewees are allowed assistance from their parents. Plant Production Record Books can be downloaded from *www.pascocountyfair.com*. Books will be judged by criteria found on the score card in the back of the Plant Production Record Book.

Plant Production Record Books will be judged by the criteria on the score card in the back of the Plant Production Record Book. A second impartial judge will break any ties. Judges' decisions are final.

Awards: Plant awards will be posted in the greenhouse by 7:00 PM on the day after judging. All other awards will be posted the day of the auction.

Bidder Letters: All exhibitors, including Peewees must mail five letters inviting their bidders to the Youth Plant Sale. Exhibitors must keep copies to include with their record book. Exhibitors **WILL** be fined 10% of the individual's gross income per letter not enclosed in the record book. Exhibitors may want to include copies of the Bidders Guide (included at the end of this rule book) with their personal letters. Exhibitors may want to include photos with their letters. Marketing is an important skill for exhibitors to learn.

Auction and Sale Order: The auction will begin at **1:30 PM on the last Sunday** of fair week in the **Dan Cannon Auditorium.**
The Grand Champion will be sold first, followed by the Reserve Champion, Peewee Grand Champion & Peewee Reserve Champion. Class Champions will follow.

All other exhibitors will sell by randomly assigned numbers.

No re-sale of plants will be allowed.

Commission: The Pasco County Fair Association will charge a 5% commission fee deducted from all sales to cover the expenses of the show.

PASCO COUNTY FAIR YOUTH PLANT SHOW AND SALE 2026-2027 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mrs. Donna Blommel, - Chairman
813-355-6877
Plants@pascocountyfair.com

COMMITTEE
Mrs. Jessie Reagan, Co-Chariman 352-424-2909
Miss Morgan Blommel
Mr. David Greim
Mr. Steve Herrmann
Mrs. Kate Powell

The Pasco County Fair Association, Inc. does not discriminate against any person on the basis of age, race, color, gender, disability, religion, national origin or sexual orientation.

Bidder's Guide for the Pasco County Fair Youth Plant Show and Auction

Dear Youth Plant Show Bidder,

The Youth Plant Show Awards and Auction will be held at 1:30 PM on Sunday, Feb. 21st, 2027 in the Dan Cannon Auditorium located at the Pasco County Fairgrounds. A buyer's luncheon will be held from 12:00 PM to 1:30 PM. If you would like to attend the luncheon prior to the auction please contact the exhibitor that you received this letter from or the plant committee.

The purpose of the Youth Plant Show is educational. We want our students to learn to properly produce an agricultural product. Plant projects require daily management just as any wholesale or retail nursery. Students started their projects last September and learned to water, fertilize and control pests on a schedule to meet the needs of their plants.

Students are also required to keep a Record Book (16 pages) and learn to keep records that are similar to those needed in any business.

Part of the educational process is also learning to market their product. Students participate in the plant sale to learn how to market their product and how an auction works. They were required to write marketing letters to five bidders to promote their products.

As part of marketing, Garden Center Display (showmanship) awards are based on the student's knowledge of their plants and the way they display them, since nurserymen and landscapers must have basic knowledge of their plants and attractive marketing displays.

Plants are judged by master gardeners /nurserymen from neighboring counties with many years of experience. The plants must meet the grades and standards of our nursery industry (Florida Fancy, Florida #1, Florida #2). Their place in the auction is based on where the judges placed their plants in the show.

A Grand Champion is chosen from the most highly graded plants and is sold first at the auction. However, there are **no restrictions** on bidders and buyers (i.e. relatives may bid / buy and there is no limit on prices). There will be no re-sale of plants.

Thank you for supporting our youth plant projects!

Pasco County Fair Youth Plant Show Committee

NOTES