

HORTICULTURE DIVISION

JUDGE – Jim Allsup (Decatur, TX)

ENTRY FEE - \$20

ENTRY DEADLINE – January 15, 2024

CHECK-IN/CLASSIFYING – 4:00 – 8:00 p.m., Friday, March 8, 2024

JUDGING – 9:00 a.m., Saturday, March 9, 2024

CHAMPION DRIVE – 1:30 p.m., Saturday, March 9, 2024

RELEASE OF PROJECTS – 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., Sunday, March 17, 2024

SPECIAL RULES FOR HORTICULTURE

1. Each exhibitor must be a bona fide member of a Texas 4-H club, FFA chapter, and enrolled in elementary, secondary, or home school. Exhibitors must be residents of Cameron, Hidalgo, Starr, or Willacy counties.
2. FFA and 4-H exhibitors must be in 3rd grade or 9 years old, but under 20 years of age as of January 1, 2024.
3. All plants entered in the Horticulture Division must be in the possession of the exhibitor by December 8, 2023, and must not have been rooted and seeded before the previous year's livestock show, with the exception of projects in class 7.
4. The exhibitors will enter ONE entry online and the project will be classified upon delivery.
5. Each entry will consist of the following:
 - a. A total of 2 photos must be submitted along with each entry.
 - i. The first photo must have been taken on or before December 8, 2023.
 - ii. The second photo must be taken within one week of the entry deadline, January 8, 2024.
 - b. All plants should be in the official show pots by the January photo, with the exception of bulb class.
 - c. No student, student name or club name will be allowed in the photo.
 - d. Photos must be attached to the RGVLS Horticulture Worksheet.
 - i. These same photos must be in the exhibitor's record book as well, duplicate copies are recommended.
6. All horticulture projects must be grown in a home or school facility under the supervision of an AST, CEA, or 4-H club leader.
7. Decorations and fillers:
 - No accessories on the outside or inside of the pots or special stands will be allowed in the greenhouse, with the exception of the trellises purchased from the Show.
 - No rocks or aggregates in any pots larger than sand. No decorative bark on top of potting soil except for the succulent division.
 - Exceptions to succulent and terrarium divisions:
 - Aggregates no larger than 2 cm in diameter will be allowed.
 - Gravel larger than 2 cm will be disqualified at the judge's discretion.
 - See show container section of this book for more details.
8. All plants must be living.
9. Plants must be wiped clean, using only soap and water. No shine or wax will be allowed.
10. All plants must be watered prior to entry. Exhibitors must water their own plants during the show.
11. Plants should be insect and disease free. Any infested plants will be subject to removal from the show.

12. No entry may be re-potted within 60 days of the Show. Horticulture pots showing evidence of this will be subject to removal from the show. All pots are subject to the re-potting test. Pots will not be sold after January 8, 2024.
13. Violation or failure to comply with any of these rules could cause a project to be sifted. The committee has the right to enforce that any sifted project must be immediately removed from the showgrounds.
14. Check-in time will be from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Friday, March 8, 2024. Judging of Horticulture entries will begin at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 9, 2024. The Champion Drive will be at 1:30 p.m. that afternoon at the greenhouse.
15. Entries will be classified upon arrival at the Show. The Horticulture Chairperson will resolve any questions regarding classification of entries. Entries that meet all rules and regulations will be placed in one of the ten divisions.
16. Horticulture Record Books – Each exhibitor shall prepare a written record book of his/her entry to be submitted with each entry at check-in time. Record book requirements must be met, or the exhibitor's entry will be disqualified.
 - a. Horticulture Record Books may be typed, printed, or neatly written by the exhibitor.
 - b. Record book is used for validation and any information needed by the judge to break a class tie.
 - c. At least 3 photos of the plant project must be submitted in the Record Book.
 - i. The first photo should be taken before December 8, 2023.
 - ii. Second photo by January 8, 2024.
 - iii. Third photo to be taken at least 2 weeks prior to the March event.
 - d. The committee will review, validate, or sift entries and corresponding pictures within a week after the January 15, 2024, entry deadline.
17. An entry identification card must be attached to each project at check-in time.
18. Exhibitors must be present with their plant entries and record book during judging. If any exhibitor cannot be present during this time, substitution rulings will apply.
19. Plants will be judged according to the ideal standards for that species, taking these things into consideration:
 - a. Maturity Stage
 - b. New Growth
 - c. Symmetry, Fullness, and Balance
 - d. Insect Damage
 - e. Disease
 - f. Leaf Color
 - g. General appearance and size for age
 - h. The Record Book, if good, could improve its placing.
20. All contestants must be prepared, if necessary, to answer questions from the judge about planting dates, watering, fertilizing, and/or other care and management questions about their projects at entry time.
21. Exhibitors must be responsible for getting their plants from the greenhouse to judging area and back to the greenhouse if they have a division winner.
22. PENDING: RGVLS has not finalized an avenue to include certain divisions in either an auction or add-on program. The following may be necessary for this division to be included in those efforts.

After judging, certain plants may be tagged for sale/ add-on program. Plants will be released to exhibitors on Sunday, March 17, 2024, between 10:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. Any plants not picked up by this time will become property of the Show.

SHOW CONTAINERS/TERRARIUMS/TRELLIS/TOMATO CAGES

All containers, terrariums, trellises, and tomato cages will be provided and sold by the Rio Grande Valley Livestock Show. Entries that arrive at the Show in anything other than the official show containers, terrariums, trellises, or tomato cages will not be accepted. Containers, terrariums, trellises, and tomato cages must be paid for by the exhibitor, 4-H club manager or AST when they are picked up at the Rio Grande Valley Livestock Show Office. Container, terrarium, trellis, and tomato cage prices will be based on the actual cost of the containers when they are purchased by the Show.

CONTAINERS AND SUPPLIES PRICES

Containers will not be sold after January 8, 2024

10" Hanging Basket – Class 3 - \$2.00

10" Round Pot – Classes 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, and 10 - \$3.00

14" Round Pots – Class 10 (Edible plants only) - \$7.00

Tomato Cage - \$1.00

Oval Planter – Classes 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, and 10 - \$4.00

Trellis - \$8.00

Terrarium - \$15.00

PLANT CLASSES

Class 1 – Foliage Plants

Class 2 – Succulents – none older than 3 years – judge's discretion – three or more varieties

Class 3 – Trailers and Vines

Class 4 – Flowering Plants

Class 5 – Ferns

Class 6 – Bulbs – Corn, Rhizome, Tubers, and Pseudo Bulbs

Class 7 – Terrariums – All terrariums must have a lid which can be removed. No colored sand

Class 8 – Collection of Herbs – three or more varieties

Class 9 – Combination Plants – must contain 2 or more different plant species.

Class 10 – Edible Plants – only one vegetable in a pot at a time.

AWARDS

Champion winners in each division will compete for Grand Champion Award. Reserve Champion winner in division that produced the Grand Champion will compete with the remaining Champions for the Reserve Grand Champion Award. The Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion projects will be eligible to participate in the Sale of Champions on Saturday, March 16, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. This is a premium auction only; the actual projects will not be sold to the buyers.

Grand Champion – Buckle & Banner

Reserve Grand Champion – Buckle & Banner

Class Champion – Rosette

Reserve Class Champion – Rosette

3rd through 10th place will be awarded ribbons.

SCHEDULE OF PREMIUMS

- 1st place - \$22
- 2nd place - \$21
- 3rd place - \$20

General Rules, Regulations and Procedures on page 23 also apply.