



Erie County Fair

Erie County Agricultural Society

3110 Columbus Avenue, Po Box 2436,

Sandusky, Ohio 44870

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www.eriefair.com

419-625-1000

Open class questions? openclasseriefair@gmail.com

Erie County Fair
Open Class
August 10 – 16, 2026

DEPARTMENT 2 - FLORICULTURE



DEPARTMENT 2—FLORICULTURE Lou Ann Cebull, Kathy Roberts,
Barb Wagner, Beth Weichel, Pat Frey, and Susan Kishman –
Superintendents

RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR CLASSES I, II & III

1. Check in for Classes I, II and III is Tuesday, August 11th from 8-9am
2. Judging will start at 10am
3. Official release time is Sunday, August 16^h from 9am - Noon
4. Ribbons and premiums may be picked up at Fair Office starting Saturday of the fair
5. See Open Class General Rules and Regulations
6. All specimen flowers & herbs must be grown by the exhibitor.
7. Exhibitors may enter more than one specimen category.
8. Exhibitors are limited to one entry per specimen category.
9. All specimens must be clean and free of spray materials, disease, and insects.
10. Suitable “*clear glass*” containers-pop or salad dressing bottles-furnished by the exhibitor. No colored glass.
11. We reserve the right to re-classify an entry if the item has been mislabeled.
12. Placing will be as follows:
For each category: 1st, 2nd and 3rd and Honorable Mention.
Best of Class

TIPS FOR EXHIBITING SPECIMEN FLOWERS & PLANTS

1. Read all the Rules Carefully
2. Specimens should be shown with foliage. Remove all foliage below the water line.
3. Groom plants/specimens by removing dead & faded flowers & foliage. Do NOT use plant shine.
4. Check number of stems or blooms needed to qualify in each category.
5. Use a wedge to hold the specimen upright in the container.
6. Elements often considered in competition are perfections of flower, color, size & overall condition of foliage & stem
7. “THE OHIO ASSOCIATION OF GARDEN CLUBS INC.” is a site for additional information. Check under “FLOWER SHOWS”

CLASS I—SPECIMEN FLOWERS

1. Roses – Hybrid Teas, 1 stem, disbudded
2. Roses – Floribunda, 1 spray
3. Roses – Knockout any variety, 1 spray
4. Gladiolus, 1 stem
5. Snapdragon (Antirrhinum), 2 stem same color
6. Sunflower (Helianthus), 1 bloom, disbudded, smaller than 3”
7. Sunflower (Helianthus), 1 bloom, disbudded, larger than 3” up to 8” in diameter
8. Cleome, 1 stem
9. Celosia—any variety, 1 stem
10. Hydrangea – Panicle (cone-shaped), 1 stem
11. Hydrangea – Mophead, 1 stem
12. Hydrangea – Lacecap, 1 stem
13. Dahlia – Less than 4”, 1 bloom, disbudded
14. Dahlia – 4-6”, 1 bloom, disbudded
15. Dahlia – Over 6” 1 bloom, disbudded
16. Coleus, 1 stem, disbudded
17. Zinnia – 2” or less diam. 3 blooms same color and size
18. Zinnia – more than 2” diam. 1 stems, disbudded
19. Marigold – Petite, under 2” diam. 1 spray, 3 or more blooms on 1 stem
20. Marigold – over 2” diameter 1 bloom
21. Russian Sage – 1 stem
22. Hosta Leaf – Small (measure leaf surface length X width, not stem), less than 30 sq. inches
23. Hosta Leaf – Medium. less than 64 sq. inches
24. Hosta Leaf - Large, 64 sq. inches or greater
25. Any specimen not listed (named) 1 stem

CLASS II—SPECIMEN HERBS 1 stem Herb must be labeled

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Sweet Basil | 8. Rosemary |
| 2. Fennel | 9. Thyme |
| 3. Scented Geranium | 10. Yarrow |
| 4. Lavender | 11. Sage |
| 5. Mint (label variety) | 12. Dill |
| 6. Oregano | 13. Any Specimen not listed (named) |
| 7. Curly Parsley | |

CLASS III—JUNIORS (FOR 14 YEARS OR YOUNGER)

Must be labeled

- | | |
|---------------|-------------|
| 1. Any Flower | 2. Any Herb |
|---------------|-------------|

RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR CLASSES IV, V & VI

1. Check in for Classes IV, V and VI is Thursday, August 13th from 8-9am.
2. All arrangements must be completed by 9:30am.
3. Judging will start at 10am
4. Official release time is Sunday, August 16^h from 9am - Noon
5. All arrangements must be the work of the exhibitor.
6. All plants must be in the possession of the exhibitor for more than one month for Class V
7. All materials need not be grown by exhibitor for Class IV & VI
8. All specimens must be clean and free of spray materials, disease, and insects.
9. Exhibitors may enter more than one class category.
10. No arrangement can compete in more than one class e.
11. Materials used in arrangements must be **FRESH** flowers, unless otherwise noted.
12. List flowers and foliage used in arrangements on a card.

CLASS IV—FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS

“The Sweetest Fair Around”

1. Flowers for my Sweetheart – An arrangement for your sweetheart
2. Floral Confection – Create a colorful mass arrangement no larger than 24 inches
3. Feed the Bees – Arrange a variety of roadside flowers in a rustic container
4. Sugar Bowl – Create an 8-12” arrangement in a sugar bowl
5. My Sweetest Bloom – Make a creative arrangement with a single bloom and foliage

CLASS V—PLANTS AND SUCH

1. Houseplant—A single plant less than 2 feet wide
2. Patio Planter—A mixture of blooming and foliage plants that complement each other in a container 18” in diameter or less
3. Hanging Basket—Grower’s choice of mixed plants in a pot 18” in diameter or less
4. Miniature Garden—With accessories, 18” in diameter or less
5. Succulent Planter—Displayed in a container 12” in diameter or less

CLASS VI—JUNIOR PARTICIPANTS (14 years or younger)

1. Lollipop Guild – Make a colorful arrangement of flowers incorporating Lollipops
2. Willy Wonka – Design a Willy Wonka-type creature using un-cut produce (vegetables or fruit)
3. Candy Land – Create a miniature garden with a path to the candy store

Registration Deadline—August 3rd

Interested in entering the 7 other Departments—Farm & Garden, Baked Goods, Photography, Household Arts, Arts, Antiques & Collections and Hobbies & Crafts?
Contact the Erie County Fair Board office at 419.625.1000 or visit www.eriefair.com

See last page for Open Class general information, rules and regulations

RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE ERIE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

General Information

1. BE SURE TO READ: (1) All rules imposed by the Erie County Agricultural Society; (2) All rules imposed by the State of Ohio; (3) All specific instructions under the department in which you wish to enter; (4) The summary of rules on the entry form.
 2. Questions which arise will be answered by the department superintendents.
 3. The Erie County Fair Board reserves the sole and absolute right to construe its own rules and regulations and to determine arbitrarily on matters and differences in regard thereto, from which there is no appeal.
 4. Security and Police officers are on duty on the grounds during the continuance of the Fair. The Erie County Fair Board is not and will not be responsible for damage, loss, or accident that may occur. Exhibitors are requested to give attention to their items during the Fair.
 5. Disrespect by an exhibitor or agent toward officials, or any misrepresentation, in regard to entries in any department either by statements made or facts omitted, will render the entry ineligible to compete, and no premium will be paid.
 6. Competition is open to all counties in Ohio.
 7. All open class exhibitors must hold a membership ticket, season ticket, pay per entry or a youth wristband.
 8. All entries must be made in the name of the owner of the article.
 9. Entries should be recorded on forms provided and mailed to the Erie County Agricultural Society, PO Box 2436, Sandusky, Ohio, 44870.
 10. If you have been a dealer or professional in the past or earn 50% of your annual income by such means, you must enter as a Dealer/ Professional.
 11. The closing date of all entries for each department will be 6pm, August 3rd.
 12. All mail in entries in all departments must be postmarked no later than July 31st. There will be no exceptions to this rule.
 13. The exhibitor must fill out the entry form completely. This includes designating the department; class; and description of the item. The entry form must be signed by the exhibitor.
 14. When the entry of an item is recorded in the books of the Secretary, tags will be given a number and class which are to be placed on the item. Once the item has been entered, no changes in the entry will be permitted, unless it can be shown that a mistake has been made.
 15. The superintendent has the right to change entry to a more appropriate category.
 16. Every item for competition must be placed on display on Sunday, August 9th between 5-8 pm.
Except for:
 2. Items for Farm and Garden and Baked Goods must be placed on display on Monday, August 10th between 8-9am.
 3. Floriculture Class:
 - a. Classes I, II and III on Tuesday, August 11th between 8-9 am.
 - b. Classes IV, V and VI on Thursday, August 13th between 8-9 am.
 17. Official release time is Sunday, August 16th, 9am-noon.
Any exhibitor removing items before release time will not be permitted to enter any open class exhibits the following year. Not responsible for items left after noon.
 18. Exhibitor must provide receipt to remove item from display area.
 19. No interference or communications with the judges will be allowed and any person who by letter or otherwise attempts to influence the decision of the judge, shall forfeit any and all premiums which may be or have been awarded and be ruled out of competition.
 20. Premiums for most classes are: 1st - \$5.00; 2nd - \$3.00; 3rd - \$1.00. Unless otherwise stated.
 21. Premiums can be picked up on Saturday of the fair in the Sr. Fair Board office or on Sunday at exhibit check out.
 22. Rosettes and ribbons will be awarded at time of judging or may be picked up in the Sr. Fair Board Office.
 23. The judges are instructed not to award premiums, unless the items are deemed of worthy merit.
 24. No person other than members of the Board, who are not competitors, will be allowed to see the entries, or to have access to the judges' books after the awards are made.
 25. If there is any question as to the regularity of any entry, or of the right of any item to compete in any given class, the judges shall report the same to the Superintendent of the Department for adjustment.
 26. The Fair Board is not responsible for notifying winning exhibitors.
 27. For specific rules— see individual departments.
- Questions? email: openclasseriefair@gmail.com**
- Interested in being an open class sponsor?**
We offer 3 levels of sponsorship. Email us if you want to support our program