



For definitions of terms, how this competition is organized and details on the entry or judging processes, please consult the other relevant competition materials:

- [Fruit & Vegetables Competition Guide](#)
- [Horticulture Glossary & FAQ](#)
- [Judging Criteria](#)

## **IMPORTANT QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF WHEN ENTERING:**

1. Is/are the crop(s) healthy?
2. Is this presented well/properly groomed/clean?
3. Is it true to form for the cultivar?
4. Does the entry tag have all of the correct information?
5. Is/are these items market quality?
6. Are these all uniform? (If entering multiple items as one entry in Specimen Produce)

*\*These questions may not apply equally to all entries.*



## ADVICE FOR FRUIT & VEGETABLES

### Specimen Produce

Although competition entries are not actually for sale, the basic idea behind this division is "marketability." We suggest that exhibitors deciding what to enter ask themselves the following question:

*"If I was walking through a farmers market, how would I know which stall to buy from?"*

Generally, this translates into looking for a crop that is ready to eat (mature/ripe), and uniform in size, shape and ripeness.

#### **Pro tip:**

Pay close attention to the number of items required for each class and whether the items are uniform.

### Trimming

Keep 1-3 inches of the stem or plant attached to your item(s) to distinguish them from store-bought products. Due to limited space, we ask that you **DO NOT** bring the entire plant. Entries will only be judged on the edible portion (e.g., the foliage of an entire carrot plant will not be considered in the Largest Carrot Class).

In cases where the foliage is edible, consider how the item is usually classified (e.g., beet greens are great but beets are generally classified as root vegetables; only the root portion will be judged).

**DO NOT include any foliage or stems on citrus due to disease and pest-spreading concerns.**

*\*The above rule is subject to change depending on future updates regarding agricultural diseases.*

### Grooming

Produce should be cleaned before being entered (**do not wax entries**).

Scrubbing or brushing may damage your item(s), but there are other methods you can use:

- Leafy greens (i.e., lettuce, spinach) can be briefly soaked and/or sprayed with water after being picked.
- Fruits (including fruiting vegetables, such as tomatoes and cucumbers) can be lightly rubbed with a damp cloth to remove dirt and debris from their surface.
- Root crops can be soaked for several minutes after being picked, then rubbed with a cloth under running water to remove any remaining soil.

Please **DO NOT** refrigerate or freeze your items before bringing them because they will spoil much faster while on display during the Fair.



## UPLOADING PHOTOS

### Hydroponic system photo upload

#### Image format

- JPEG, JPG or PNG file formats.
- iPhone users must change the default HEIC camera setting to JPEG or convert the image.
- RGB color space (CMYK files will be converted to RGB by the system.)
- Be sure that the image is rotated to be in an upright position and orientation.
- Maximum file size: 8 MB (megabytes).

#### Register your entry/entries as you would for any Garden & Floral competition:

##### Step 1. Entries

- Input your entry (or entries) in the proper department, division and class along with other required information.

##### Step 2. Cart review

- Review your entries. You can add, edit, delete or save your entries.
- When satisfied, click the "CHECK OUT" button.

##### Step 3. Confirmation

- Sign by typing "YES" in the "Agreement to Terms" box.
- On the resulting confirmation page, you can print a receipt. A blue "UPLOAD FILES" button will also appear.

##### Step 4. Image upload

- Click on the "UPLOAD FILES" button to start uploading your images into the system.

*You can log back into your account to see your entry (or entries) and replace images and descriptions.  
For any other changes, contact us: [gardenfloral@ocfair.com](mailto:gardenfloral@ocfair.com).*