



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

- [Pressed Botanicals Competition Guide](#)
- [Horticulture Glossary & FAQ](#)
- [Judging Criteria](#)

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

1. Is the plant material in good condition?
2. Is this composed/presented well?
3. Does my design match my theme?
4. Does the entry tag have all of the correct information?
5. Does the frame fit its contents (size/composition/design)?

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



## INFORMATION AND ADVICE FOR PRESSED BOTANICALS

### Judging Criteria

**Plant Quality and Composition**.....50%

Materials are of good quality, healthy and well placed within the frame.

**Preservation and Technical Skill**.....25%

Items are fully dried, without mold and well-mounted without visible adhesive.

**Design Distinction and Creativity** .....25%

Interpretation of theme (if applicable) and uniqueness of the entry.

A herbarium (plural: herbaria) is a collection of preserved plant specimens and associated data used for scientific study. People who benefit are people who study ecology, plant anatomy and morphology, conservation biology, biogeography, ethnobotany and paleobotany, as well as people who enjoy collecting plants as a hobby. Herbariums are important for plant classification.

The practice of pressing plants between sheets of paper and drying them is around 500 years old. Thanks to this simple technique, most of the characteristics of living plants are visible on the dried plant.

Collect your favorite leaves, flowers, seeds or even roots. Press your specimen flat and let it dry. Frame it and submit it in our Pressed Botanical Competition. Label according to the rules.

### Size

Due to space constraints, size limits are strictly enforced. Entries shall not exceed **two feet in length or width as measured from the outside of the frame.**

Email [GardenFloral@ocfair.com](mailto:GardenFloral@ocfair.com) if you are unsure of what to bring. If the size requirement is not followed, the entry will be disqualified.

### Mount

All entries must be well-mounted, hangable and sturdy.

- Glue and adhesives within the frame should not be visible.
- The background is not limited to plain white, however, the background should not be overly busy/patterned or distract from the pressed material(s).

### Frames

Frames should be balanced and proportional to the size of the entries held within the frame. Frames may also be used to enhance the theme or design of the display.

Frames will be displayed on a wall within the Silo Gallery and therefore must include a hook or hanger. If an entry is unable to hang, it may be DISQUALIFIED.

Mats/backgrounds may be used to enhance the theme or design of the display, but must be solid in color.