



Qualified judges will be selected by the program coordinator from local professionals who are at the top in their field. Each year the program coordinator may choose new judges or judges may judge different divisions from year to year. The judges are professionals and their decisions are final.

For clarification on the terms used in this guide, or for more guidance on the entry process, view our [Horticulture Glossary & FAQ](#).

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## AWARD BREAKDOWN

To receive placement, entries must meet a minimum score listed below.  
If you score 90% but do not receive a ribbon it's because 1st, 2nd and 3rd all scored higher than 90% too.

- 1st place – 90% to 100%
- 2nd place – 80% to 89%
- 3rd place – 70% to 79%



## CONTAINER PLANTS COMPETITION

### All Divisions

**Plant Health ..... 50%**

Plant is in peak health; well-established in the container without being overgrown, free of pests and disease, watered and fertilized properly.

**Clean Foliage and Proper Grooming 30%**

No diseased or sunburnt foliage, trimmed and maintained for a pleasing appearance.

**Design Distinction and Creativity ..... 20%**

Attractively potted and appropriate to the theme.

*Judges will look for balance between pot size, plant growth and design.*

## PRESSED BOTANICALS COMPETITION

### All Divisions

**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.

## CUT FLOWERS COMPETITION

### Specimen, Plumeria & Hibiscus Blooms

**Form..... 25%**

Shape and orientation of petals are pleasing and appropriate for cultivar and form.

**Color ..... 25%**

Appropriate for cultivar, not dull, blotchy, faded or burned.

**Substance..... 20%**

Looks and feels "fresh."

**Condition ..... 20%**

Free of insect, weather or handling damage.

**Size, Balance and Proportion ..... 10%**

Blooms are of healthy and robust size for the cultivar and form a good composition with the stem and foliage (if present).

(Continues)



## Dahlia Blooms

**Form..... 35%**

Shape and orientation of the petals are appropriate for type, neither immature nor overly mature. Avoid open/green centers.

**Color ..... 25%**

Appropriate for cultivar (if known), not dull, blotchy, faded or burned.

**Substance..... 20%**

Looks and feels fresh.

**Stem ..... 10%**

Strong, straight stem without foliage or side buds.

**Bloom Position ..... 10%**

Ideally, the bloom should be at a 45-degree angle from the stem.

***Note: The Largest Dahlia Divisions are judged solely on overall size and not quality, but blooms are expected to be at least healthy enough to be displayed.***

## Rose Blooms

**Form..... 25%**

Shape and symmetry of petals, unfurling in a perfect spiral from a center point\*.

**Color ..... 20%**

Not dull, blotchy, faded or burned.

**Stem and Foliage ..... 20%**

Long, straight stem with clean, intact foliage. Avoid having a "stem on stem" where a portion of another stem is still attached to the main bloom's stem.

**Substance..... 15%**

Looks and feels "fresh."

**Balance and Proportion ..... 10%**

Stem and foliage size and length are balanced with bloom.

**Size..... 10%**

Blooms are of healthy and robust size for the cultivar

***\*Form criteria here are specific for Hybrid Tea/Grandiflora roses.***



## FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS COMPETITION

### All Divisions

**Theme Interpretation..... 20%**

Well communicated through materials and techniques. Accessories are permitted, but the emphasis should be on the creative use of natural vegetative materials to symbolically represent specific themes rather than on the excessive use of props.

**Product Quality ..... 20%**

Products are fresh and at peak physical condition.

**Mechanics..... 20%**

Good use of tools or techniques to stabilize or secure materials.

**Principles ..... 20%**

Balance, proportion, dominance, rhythm, contrast, harmony and unity.

**Elements ..... 20%**

Line, form, space, texture, pattern, fragrance, size and color.

## FRUIT & VEGETABLES COMPETITION

### Specimen Produce, Hydroponics & Specialty Crop Box

**Condition ..... 30%**

Well-grown, good color and shape, clean, trimmed and free from blemishes.

**Type and Size ..... 25%**

True to type for the cultivar or group.

**Market Quality ..... 25%**

Prime edible maturity, firm, tender, crisp and fresh.

**Uniformity..... 20%**

Specimens are uniform in size, color, shape, type and maturity. Cherry tomatoes should be entered on the same stem if possible.

### Largest & Most Unusual Looking

These divisions do not have specific criteria; they are instead judged according to their labels (i.e., which item is the largest or most unusual looking in its class). Most unusual refers to unusual *for the variety*, not to unusual varieties in and of themselves.

***Note: Although these divisions are not specifically judged on quality, entries are expected to be at least healthy enough to be displayed.***