



## 2026 Entry Timeline

Registration opens..... June 15

Fair dates ..... July 17 - Aug. 16 (*closed Mondays and Tuesdays*)

Competition	Online Registration Deadline		Competition Delivery Date	Check-in Time	Entry Pick Up	
Dry & Silk Arrangements	July 13	2 p.m.	Tuesday, July 14	7-8:30 a.m.	Tuesday, Aug. 18	7-9:30 a.m.
Ikebana, Miniature & All Fresh Arrangements	July 15	2 p.m.	Thursday, July 16	7-9:30 a.m.	Tuesday, July 21	7-9:30 a.m.
	July 20	2 p.m.	Tuesday, July 21	7-9:30 a.m.	Tuesday, July 28	7-9:30 a.m.
	July 27	2 p.m.	Tuesday, July 28	7-9:30 a.m.	Tuesday, Aug. 4	7-9:30 a.m.
	Aug. 3	2 p.m.	Tuesday, Aug. 4	7-9:30 a.m.	Tuesday, Aug. 11	7-9:30 a.m.
	Aug. 10	2 p.m.	Tuesday, Aug. 11	7-9:30 a.m.	Tuesday, Aug. 18	9:30 a.m.-noon

Final competition pick up..... Aug. 18, 9:30 a.m. - noon

We cannot guarantee items will be available for pick up after this date.  
Ribbons will not be mailed.

**BY ENTERING YOU ARE AGREEING TO THE TERMS AND RULES PRESENTED IN THIS GUIDEBOOK**

Contact.....Garden & Floral Department

[gardenfloral@ocfair.com](mailto:gardenfloral@ocfair.com) • Office 714-708-1619

OC Fair & Event Center • 88 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa, CA 92626



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## RULES & GUIDELINES

1. [Local](#) and [state rules](#) govern this competition.
2. Exhibitors are responsible for reading and abiding by the competition guidelines and relevant supporting documents. There may be changes from the previous year. Relevant documents include:
  - [Horticulture Judging Criteria](#)
  - [Horticulture Glossary & FAQ](#)
  - [How to Prepare Your Floral Arrangements](#)
3. This page provides only broad guidelines for this competition. More specific information is spread throughout pertinent sections in this guide.
4. **Entry fees are nonrefundable.**
5. Materials
  - Floral arrangements may use commercially grown materials.
  - Entries are not allowed to include food items (e.g., candy, noodles, fruits, vegetables). Exception: properly dried produce in dried arrangements.
  - Entries shall not contain prop materials that may attract pests or cause undo mess.
  - Accessories are permitted, but emphasis should be on the creative use of natural plant materials to represent specific themes rather than the excessive use of props.
  - Items of great or sentimental value should not be used.
6. Set up
  - Exhibitors have a maximum of five (5) minutes to set up each arrangement.
  - Exhibitors may only take photos of their own arrangement(s) and must do so within the set-up time.
  - Exhibitors may not touch other exhibitors' entries.
  - Staff maintains the right to ask exhibitors to leave the set-up area at any time.
  - Consider that individual staff may be required to move your entries.
7. Size and weight limits
  - All entries should weigh less than 25 pounds.
  - Miniature arrangements should not exceed six inches in length, width or height.
  - All other arrangements should not exceed two feet in length or width, or four feet in height.
8. **Hold harmless.** Although reasonable efforts will be undertaken to safeguard exhibitors' property, neither the State of California nor OC Fair & Event Center will be responsible for any loss, damage or theft of exhibitors' property brought on the premises during OC Fair. Every precaution will be taken in the handling and exhibiting of entries.
9. OC Fair reserves the right to refuse to accept or disqualify and remove from exhibit any entry considered ineligible for competition (e.g., entries with serious disease, insect problems, under quarantine as specified under the California Department of Food and Agriculture or endangers the staff and/or public).



## ELIGIBILITY

Open to California residents age 16 and older.

Exhibitors must submit all entries in the correct division/class according to their skill level:

- Amateur: for exhibitors who arrange flowers as a hobby or pastime, do not regularly present or promote their work for sale and/or are students of the art.
- Professional: for exhibitors who are actively and regularly exhibiting and selling their product(s) or are employed in the field.
- Open: these competitions are open to all California residents age 16 and older regardless of skill level.

## ENTRY LIMIT

**Entry limit.....One (1) entry per class, per competition date**

- If multiple entries are submitted by the same exhibitor in the same class, the entries will be disqualified.

## OC FAIR EXHIBITOR TICKET

**Exhibitors will receive one (1) OC Fair admission ticket at the time of entry delivery.**

- One (1) ticket per exhibitor, not per entry.
- Tickets are good any day during the OC Fair and do not require a reservation.
- Tickets are provided to participants to view the results of their efforts.
- Tickets must not be sold.
- Exhibitor must be present to receive a ticket.



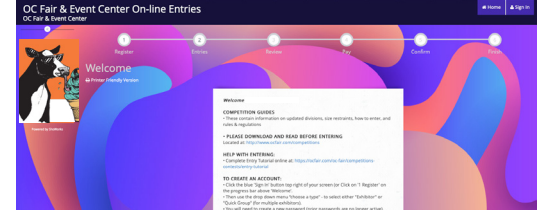
## HOW TO ENTER

Click on the link to the entry homepage: [ocgard.fairwire.com](http://ocgard.fairwire.com).

### Step 1. Register

- Last year's accounts are no longer valid. All exhibitors must create a new account.
- Entries must be submitted under the name of the individual who prepared it. This also applies to youth entries.
- Do not use business, team or fictitious names.
- Provide the most complete information possible for each entry (e.g., species/cultivar if known). Enter the information carefully and proofread the name to ensure accuracy on exhibit display labels. Severe errors may lead to disqualification.
- Email will be used to send important information. Check your spam folders and whitelist emails coming from @ocfair.com.

The numbered steps along the top of page are clickable and show the current section you are on.



fairwire.com welcome page

### Step 2. Entries

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

### Step 3. Cart review

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

### Step 4. Confirmation

- Sign by typing "YES" in the "Agreement to Terms" box.
- DO NOT click the "SUBMIT" button multiple times as you will be charged.
- On the resulting confirmation page you can print a receipt.

**You can log back into your account to see your entries.  
For any changes, contact [gardenfloral@ocfair.com](mailto:gardenfloral@ocfair.com).**

## HELP ENTERING

For additional help, review this detailed step-by-step guide:

- [Entry tutorial](#)

Phone: 714-708-1619

Email: [gardenfloral@ocfair.com](mailto:gardenfloral@ocfair.com)

Please contact us as early as possible with any questions or difficulties regarding the entry process. We ask that you review all relevant materials before inquiring, including:

- [Horticulture Judging Criteria](#)
- [How to Prepare Your Floral Arrangements](#)
- [Horticulture Glossary & FAQ](#)

Although there will be a help desk available during entry delivery to fix mistakes, this service will only be available to exhibitors who have already registered to enter that competition week. We are unable to accept payment or registration during entry delivery.



## ENTRY DELIVERY

### **Delivery time: 7-9:30 a.m. (See cover page for delivery dates.)**

- One (1) participation ribbon will be given to each exhibitor on entry delivery day.
- Late deliveries will not be accepted.
- Exhibitors will not be admitted to the Farm before 7 a.m. and must be checked in and inside the Farm gate by 9:30 a.m. Entries may be delivered by someone other than the exhibitor.
- Check-in tables will be located at the Centennial Farm gate for you to pick up your entry tags, tickets and/or ribbons. All exhibitors must check in and enter through the Farm gate.

### **Entry delivery**

Enter Gate 1 off of Fair Drive and park in Lot B in front of Centennial Farm.



Please bring other individuals or tools, like wagons, if you need assistance transporting your entries, especially if large in size or quantity. Centennial Farm has a few push carts available for exhibitor use on a first-come, first served basis, but we cannot guarantee assistance. If you are unsure what is appropriate to enter or what you are allowed to bring to transport your item(s), please contact us before delivery day to confirm.

## ENTRY DISPLAY

After judging, entries will be on display for one (1) Fair week in the Silo Gallery. Images of ribbons will be printed on the entry tags to identify awards given.

Items will be discarded if they deteriorate. There are no guarantees that an entry will be displayed.

## ENTRY PICK UP

### **See cover page for pick up dates and times.**

- Final entry pick up: Tuesday, Aug. 18.
- If you are unable to pick up your ribbon(s), please arrange for someone to pick them up for you. Unclaimed ribbons become the property of OC Fair and will be discarded. We will not provide reminders via phone or email.



## JUDGING

**Qualified judges will be selected by the program coordinator. The program coordinator may choose new judges each year, or judges may judge different divisions from year to year. The judges are professionals and their decisions are final.**

**Judging is not open to the public.**

### **Judging criteria**

Entries are placed using the American Judging System, where exhibits are ranked one against another.

- First, second, third place and honorable mention(s) may be awarded in each class if judges so determine.
- First place winners will compete for "Division Winner."
- Those chosen for Division Winner will compete for "Best of Show."

All criteria for judging the horticulture competitions are listed in a separate document: [Horticulture Judging Criteria](#).

### **Comment sheets**

Comment sheets are notes from the judges regarding the entry's performance. Comments from the current competition week will be made available on the relevant entry pick up date. They are also available for viewing or pick up any day of the competition week when OC Fair is open; ask the staff member at the exhibit's information table.

### **Disqualified entries**

- If an entry is disqualified after judging is complete, the judge will not change the status of awards given for other entries.
- Judges reserve the right to remove or disqualify any entry in violation of the rules, in poor taste or not in accordance with the competition standards.
- No exhibitor shall be entitled to an award that has been disqualified as the result of their own error.

### **Reassignment of entry division or class**

The judges and program coordinator have the option of reassigning an entry to a more appropriate division or class or combining divisions or classes to create an adequate judging pool. Nevertheless, it is the responsibility of exhibitors to enter work in the appropriate class. Failure to enter the appropriate class may result in disqualification.



## AWARDS

Best of Show .....	Ribbon
Division Winner.....	Ribbon
First Place.....	Ribbon (5 points each)
Second Place.....	Ribbon (3 points each)
Third Place.....	Ribbon (1 point each)
Honorable Mention .....	Ribbon

- Ribbons can be picked up along with entries on the entry pick up days listed on the front page of this guide. If you are unable to pick up your item(s) on these dates, please arrange for someone to pick them up for you.
- Note that the final pick up date is Tuesday, Aug. 18, from 9:30 a.m. to noon. Items and ribbons left unclaimed after the final pick up date become the property of OC Fair and may be discarded. Ribbons will not be mailed.

### Judging results

- Results will be posted online as soon as possible at [ocfair.com/results](http://ocfair.com/results).
- *Please do not call, email or message OC Fair via social media for competition results. We receive a high volume of inquiries daily.*

### Sweepstakes & Premiums

Adult Sweepstakes are tallied based on the accumulated points (see above for award point values) for all floral arrangement competitions across all five judging days. Sweepstakes awards are as follows:

Adult Sweepstakes .....Ribbon & \$50

Sweepstakes awards and premiums will be made payable to the name of the winning exhibitor as indicated on their online entry account and mailed within 30 business days of the final day of OC Fair. Signed judging sheets will be used as evidence for payment of premiums; ribbons and tags will not be accepted.





## Dry & Silk Arrangements (Open)

**Eligibility** ..... Open to California residents age 16 or older.

**Entry limit** ..... One (1) entry per class, per date.

**Entry fee** ..... \$10.

**Premiums** ..... 1st Place \$30 • 2nd Place \$25 • 3rd Place \$20

- Set up time: floral arrangement exhibitors have a maximum of five minutes to set up each arrangement.
- Staff maintains the right to ask exhibitors to leave the setup area at any time.
- Floral arrangements may use commercially grown materials.
- Entries should weigh less than 25 pounds.
- Professional floral designers are encouraged to display business cards with their entry. Business cards will be displayed after judging is complete to ensure anonymous judging.
- For more information, read our recommendations for [How to Prepare Your Floral Arrangements](#).

### DIVISION 201

#### Dry Arrangement (Open)

Competition date: July 14.

- No fresh or silk flowers.
- Acceptable dry materials include: silica gel flowers, freeze-dried flowers, everlasting, glycerinized materials and air-dried materials.
- Acceptable fillers include: grasses, herbs, grains, woods, pod, raffia, cones and mosses.
- Entries are not to exceed 2 feet in length or breadth, 4 feet in height and must be movable for final placement.

**Class 01: Wreath**

**Class 02: Exhibitor's choice**

**Class 03: 2026 OC Fair theme, "Your Adventure Awaits"**

### DIVISION 211

#### Silk Arrangement (Open)

Competition date: July 14.

- No fresh or dried flowers or foliage allowed.
- Acceptable items include: decorative wire, stones, glass and sticks.
- Flowers may be painted.
- Entries are not to exceed 2 feet in length or breadth, 4 feet in height and must be movable for final placement.

**Class 01: Red, white & blue - celebrating America's 250th birthday**

**Class 02: Exhibitor's choice**

**Class 03: 2026 OC Fair theme, "Your Adventure Awaits"**





## Miniature Arrangements (Open)

**Eligibility** ..... Open to California residents age 16 or older.

**Entry limit** ..... One (1) entry per class, per date.

**Entry fee** ..... \$10.

**Premiums** ..... 1st Place \$30 • 2nd Place \$25 • 3rd Place \$20

- Entries should not exceed 6 inches in length, height or breadth.
- No fruits, vegetables (fresh or canned) or candy may be used.
- All materials should be secured to a base or container.
- Set up time: floral arrangement exhibitors have a maximum of five minutes to set up each arrangement.
- Staff maintains the right to ask exhibitors to leave the setup area at any time.
- Floral arrangements may use commercially grown materials.
- Professional floral designers are encouraged to display business cards with their entries. Business cards will be displayed after judging is complete to ensure anonymous judging.
- For more information, read our recommendations for [How to Prepare Your Floral Arrangements](#).

### DIVISION 221

#### Miniature Arrangements 1

Competition date: July 16.



**Class 01: Independence Day**

**Class 02: Picnic**

**Class 03: 2026 OC Fair theme, "Your Adventure Awaits"**

### DIVISION 222

#### Miniature Arrangements 2

Competition date: July 21.



**Class 01: Carnation celebration**

**Class 02: ConGRADulations**

**Class 03: Exhibitor's choice, specify theme**

• Entries may only be entered as "Exhibitor's choice" if a class for the chosen theme does not exist.

### DIVISION 223

#### Miniature Arrangements 3

Competition date: July 28.

**Class 01: Farmers market**

**Class 02: Simply mini**

**Class 03: OC Fair theme, specify year**

### DIVISION 224

#### Miniature Arrangements 4

Competition date: Aug. 4.



**Class 01: Fireworks**

**Class 02: Summer sun(flowers)**

**Class 03: Exhibitor's choice, specify theme**

• Entries may only be entered as "Exhibitor's choice" if a class for the chosen theme does not exist.

### DIVISION 225

#### Miniature Arrangements 5

Competition date: Aug. 11.

**Class 01: Special occasion, any**

**Class 02: Lucky charm**

**Class 03: 2026 OC Fair theme, "Your Adventure Awaits"**



## Ikebana Arrangements

**Eligibility** ..... Open to California residents, ages 16 and older.

**Entry limit** ..... One (1) per class per date.

**Entry fee** ..... \$15.

**Premiums** ..... 1st Place \$70 • 2nd Place \$60 • 3rd Place \$50

- Set up time: floral arrangement exhibitors have a maximum of five minutes to set up each arrangement.
- Staff maintains the right to ask exhibitors to leave the setup area at any time.
- Entries are not to exceed two feet in length or breadth, four feet in height and must be movable for final placement.
- Entries should weigh less than 25 pounds.
- Floral arrangements may use commercially grown materials.
- Professional floral designers are encouraged to display business cards with their entry. Business cards will be displayed after judging is complete to ensure anonymous judging.
- For more information, read our recommendations for [How to Prepare Your Floral Arrangements](#).

### DIVISION 231

#### Ikebana 1

Competition date: July 16.

**Class 01: Rikki**

**Class 02: Freestyle**

### DIVISION 232

#### Ikebana 2

Competition date: July 21.

**Class 01: Shakei Moribana**

**Class 02: Freestyle**

### DIVISION 233

#### Ikebana 3

Competition date: July 28.

**Class 01: Shoka**

**Class 02: Freestyle**

### DIVISION 234

#### Ikebana 4

Competition date: Aug. 4.

**Class 01: Hana**

**Class 02: Freestyle**

### DIVISION 235

#### Ikebana 5

Competition date: Aug. 11.

**Class 01: Hana**

**Class 02: Freestyle**



## Amateur Fresh Arrangements

**Eligibility** ..... Open to California residents, ages 16 and older.

**Entry limit** ..... One (1) per class per date.

**Entry fee** ..... \$15.

**Premiums** ..... 1st Place \$70 • 2nd Place \$60 • 3rd Place \$50

- Set up time: floral arrangement exhibitors have a maximum of five minutes to set up each arrangement.
- Staff maintains the right to ask exhibitors to leave the setup area at any time.
- Entries are not to exceed two feet in length or breadth, four feet in height and must be movable for final placement.
- Entries should weigh less than 25 pounds.
- Floral arrangements may use commercially grown materials.
- No fruits, vegetables (canned or fresh) or candy may be used.
- Small items should be securely fastened to their containers.
- For more information, read our recommendations for [How to Prepare Your Floral Arrangements](#).

### DIVISION 241

#### Amateur Fresh Arrangements 1

Competition date: July 16.



**Class 01: Independence Day**

**Class 02: Farmers market**

**Class 03: 2026 OC Fair theme, "Your Adventure Awaits"**

### DIVISION 242

#### Amateur Fresh Arrangements 2

Competition date: July 21.



**Class 01: National treasure**

**Class 02: California grown**

• Entries may only be entered as "California grown" if the plant material is a California specialty crop. Whole, fresh produce is admissible for this class as long as it follows other competition rules. (For more info on CA specialty crops, [click here](#).)

**Class 03: Exhibitor's choice, specify theme**

• Entries may only be entered as "Exhibitor's choice" if a class for the chosen theme does not exist.

### DIVISION 243

#### Amateur Fresh Arrangements 3

Competition date: July 28.



**Class 01: Fireworks**

**Class 02: Dream garden**

**Class 03: 2026 OC Fair theme, "Your Adventure Awaits"**

### DIVISION 244

#### Amateur Fresh Arrangements 4

Competition date: Aug. 4.

**Class 01: National landmarks**

**Class 02: Fun with foliage**

**Class 03: OC Fair theme, specify year**

### DIVISION 245

#### Amateur Fresh Arrangements 5

Competition date: Aug. 11.

**Class 01: American dream**

**Class 02: Road trip**

**Class 03: Exhibitor's choice, specify theme**

• Entries may only be entered as "Exhibitor's choice" if a class for the chosen theme does not exist.



## Professional Fresh Arrangements

**Eligibility** ..... Open to California residents, ages 16 and older.

**Entry limit** ..... One (1) per class per date.

**Entry fee** ..... \$20.

**Premiums** ..... 1st Place \$125 • 2nd Place \$100 • 3rd Place \$75

Professional divisions are intended for exhibitors who are actively and regularly exhibiting and selling their product(s) or employed in the field.

- Set up time: floral arrangement exhibitors have a maximum of five minutes to set up each arrangement.
- Staff maintains the right to ask exhibitors to leave the setup area at any time.
- Entries are not to exceed two feet in length or breadth, four feet in height and must be movable for final placement.
- Entries should weigh less than 25 pounds.
- Floral arrangements may use commercially grown materials.
- No fruits, vegetables (canned or fresh) or candy may be used.
- Small items should be securely fastened to their containers.
- Professional floral designers are encouraged to display business cards with their entries. Business cards will be displayed after judging is complete to ensure anonymous judging.
- For more information, read our recommendations for [How to Prepare Your Floral Arrangements](#).

### DIVISION 251

#### Professional Fresh Arrangements 1

Competition date: July 16.



**Class 01: Red, white & blue: celebrating America's 250th birthday**

**Class 02: Bridal bouquet**

**Class 03: Exhibitor's choice, specify theme**

- Entries may only be entered as "Exhibitor's choice" if a class for the chosen theme does not exist.

### DIVISION 252

#### Professional Fresh Arrangements 2

Competition date: July 21.



**Class 01: Independence Day**

**Class 02: Garden party**

**Class 03: 2026 OC Fair theme, "Your Adventure Awaits"**

### DIVISION 253

#### Professional Fresh Arrangements 3

Competition date: July 28.

**Class 01: Midway mania**

**Class 02: Tea time**

**Class 03: Exhibitor's choice, specify theme**

- Entries may only be entered as "Exhibitor's choice" if a class for the chosen theme does not exist.

### DIVISION 254

#### Professional Fresh Arrangements 4

Competition date: Aug. 4.

**Class 01: Gala centerpiece**

**Class 02: Baby shower**

**Class 03: California grown, specify theme**

- Entries may only be entered as "California grown" if the plant material is a California specialty crop. Whole, fresh produce is admissible for this class as long as it follows other competition rules. (For more info on CA specialty crops, [click here](#).)



## Professional Fresh Arrangements

**Eligibility** ..... Open to California residents, ages 16 and older.

**Entry limit** ..... One (1) per class per date.

**Entry fee** ..... \$20.

**Premiums** ..... 1st Place \$125 • 2nd Place \$100 • 3rd Place \$75

Professional divisions are intended for exhibitors who are actively and regularly exhibiting and selling their product(s) or employed in the field.

- Set up time: floral arrangement exhibitors have a maximum of five minutes to set up each arrangement.
- Staff maintains the right to ask exhibitors to leave the setup area at any time.
- Entries are not to exceed two feet in length or breadth, four feet in height and must be movable for final placement.
- Entries should weigh less than 25 pounds.
- Floral arrangements may use commercially grown materials.
- No fruits, vegetables (canned or fresh) or candy may be used.
- Small items should be securely fastened to their containers.
- Professional floral designers are encouraged to display business cards with their entries. Business cards will be displayed after judging is complete to ensure anonymous judging.
- For more information, read our recommendations for [How to Prepare Your Floral Arrangements](#).

### DIVISION 255

#### Professional Fresh Arrangements 5

Competition date: Aug. 11.



**Class 01: National treasure**

**Class 02: CA specialty crop box**

- This division is intended to showcase both the exhibitor's prowess and some of the many types of CA specialty crops. Whole, fresh produce is admissible for this class as long as it follows other competition rules. For more info on CA specialty crops, [click here](#).

**Class 03: 2026 OC Fair theme, "Your Adventure Awaits"**

