



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

- [Container Plants Competition Guide](#)
- [Horticulture Glossary & FAQ](#)
- [Judging Criteria](#)

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

1. Is/are the plant(s) healthy?
2. Is this presented well/properly groomed/clean?
3. Is it true to form for the cultivar(s)?
4. Are the plants/cultivars compatible together?
5. Does the entry tag have all of the correct information?
6. Does this pot make sense for the plant it contains (right size)?

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



## ADVICE FOR CONTAINER PLANTS

### Size and weight

Due to space constraints, size limits are strictly enforced. Oversized items must be pre-approved by the program coordinator. Call 714-708-1618 or 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.

Container plants should be no heavier than 50 pounds to ensure they can be moved by staff members. Exhibitors are also expected to be able to transport their entries themselves; feel free to bring a friend or tools (i.e., a wagon) to help you.

Common class dimensions (consult the competition guide to confirm the size requirements for your chosen division/class):

- **MICRO:** less than six inches in any dimension (length/width/height)
- **MINI:** equal to or greater than six inches and less than sixteen inches in any dimension (length/width/height)
- **STANDARD:** equal to or greater than sixteen inches in any dimension (length/width/height)\*

*\*These class dimension restrictions include the size of both the container and the plants held within the container. Container gardens (Divisions 121 - 125) should not exceed 36 inches in any dimension.*

### Establishment and long-term health

As per the competition guide, "all plants should... be well-established as evidenced by being firmly rooted (exceptions: air plants and plants grown hydroponically)." Plants appearing to have been recently potted will be disqualified by the judges.

### Symmetry and composition

Specimen plants should not be one-sided or lopsided in their growth form; this indicates the plant was not rotated regularly and has grown towards a light source.

### Container choice

Plants are encouraged to come in containers that are aesthetically pleasing (attractive without distracting from the plant) and proportional to the specimen(s) they contain.

### Grooming

Entries often benefit from some grooming (i.e., removing dead foliage, cleaning off dirt spots, etc.) but this grooming should be done with care. Hide obvious signs of grooming, such as cut stems, as much as possible to avoid getting marked down.