



## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

OC Fair runs July 18 to Aug. 17

Online Registration Deadline	Competition Delivery Date	Check-In Time	Entry Pickup Date
Wednesday, July 16 2 p.m.	Thursday, July 17	7-9:30 a.m.	Tuesday, July 22 7-9:30 a.m.
Monday, July 21 2 p.m.	Tuesday, July 22	7-9:30 a.m.	Tuesday, July 29 7-9:30 a.m.
Monday, July 28 2 p.m.	Tuesday, July 29	7-9:30 a.m.	Tuesday, Aug. 5 7-9:30 a.m.
Monday, Aug. 4 2 p.m.	Tuesday, Aug. 5	7-9:30 a.m.	Tuesday, Aug. 12 7-9:30 a.m.
Monday, Aug. 11 2 p.m.	Tuesday, Aug. 12	7-9:30 a.m.	Tuesday, Aug. 19 9:30 a.m. - noon
<b>Final competition pick up: Tuesday, Aug. 19, 9:30 a.m. - noon</b> We cannot guarantee that items will be available for pick up after this date. Ribbons will not be mailed.			

**Contact** ..... Garden & Floral Staff • [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 the competition guidelines and relevant supporting documents and must abide by them. There may be changes from the previous year. Relevant documents include:**
  - [Horticulture Judging Criteria](#)
  - [Horticulture Glossary and FAQ](#)
  - [How to Prepare Your Fruit & Vegetables](#)
3. **Note that this page provides only broad guidelines for this competition.** More specific information is spread throughout pertinent sections in this guide.
4. One to three inches (1"-3") of the calyx, stem or plant must be left attached to the entry.
  - Exception: *all foliage from citrus must be removed*. NOTE: Due to the quarantine in the area, if any citrus fruit appears to be diseased, it should NOT be entered.
5. **Do not bring entire plants.** Excessive entries will be disqualified and trimmed by our expert staff..
6. **Do not refrigerate or freeze produce before entry.**
7. Do not wax fruit or vegetables.
8. Entries that are incorrectly identified or otherwise do not match their labels will be disqualified
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 or insect problems, under quarantine as specified under the California Department of Food and Agriculture or endangers the staff and/or public).
10. **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 the OC Fair. Every precaution will be taken in the handling and exhibiting of entries.**



## ELIGIBILITY

**Adult Divisions:** Open to California residents, ages 18 or older.

**Youth Divisions:** Open to youth ages 6-17 (by July 18) who live in California.

## ENTRY LIMIT

Entering in multiple Divisions and Classes is allowed. Multiple entries per Class are not allowed.

***If multiple entries are submitted by the same exhibitor in the same Class, they will be disqualified.***

The same item cannot be re-entered in subsequent competitions, neither under the original nor a different exhibitor's name.

## HOW TO ENTER

- Go to [ocgard.fairwire.com](http://ocgard.fairwire.com) to submit your entries online by the registration deadline listed on the front cover of this guide. **PLEASE NOTE: all exhibitors must create a new account; last year's accounts are no longer valid.**
- For detailed information on the online entry process, consult the [Entry Tutorial](#).

### Exhibitor Name

- Provide the most complete information possible for each entry (e.g., species/cultivar, *if known*).
- **Entries must be made under the name of the individual who prepared it** (this also applies to youth entries). Do not use team, business or fictitious names.
- ***All information will be displayed as entered. Please carefully proofread for punctuation, capitalization and spelling. Fair Management is not responsible for errors on entry forms. Severe errors may lead to disqualification.***

### Entry Confirmation

An email notification and confirmation will be sent immediately after your online payment is received. **PLEASE NOTE: this email will not be sent if you do not click the final "finish" button.**

### Entry Fees

There are no entry fees for this competition.



## HELP WITH ENTERING

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 Fruit & Vegetable](#)

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 and paid to enter that competition week. ***We are unable to accept payment or registration during entry delivery.***

For more guidance, a short document clarifying some of the terms used in this guide and addressing several frequently asked questions can be accessed here: [Horticulture Glossary and FAQ](#)

## ENTRY DELIVERY

**7 – 9:30 a.m. (see cover page for competition delivery dates)**

***Late entries will not be accepted.***

[Entry Delivery Map](#)



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

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.



## OC FAIR TICKET

**Exhibitors will receive one (1) 2025 OC Fair admission ticket at the time of entry delivery to ensure they can view the results of their efforts on display.**

- One (1) ticket per exhibitor, not per entry.
- Tickets are good any day during the OC Fair and do not require reservations. Tickets must not be re-sold.

## ENTRY DISPLAY

After judging, entries will be displayed for one (1) Fair week in the Silo Patio at Centennial Farm. 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 PICKUP

**Entry pick-up dates are listed on the front page of this guide.**

**Final Entry Pickup: Tuesday, Aug. 19**

If you are unable to pick up your item(s), please arrange for someone to pick them up for you. Unclaimed items and ribbons become the property of OC Fair and will be discarded. **We will not provide reminders via phone call or email.**

***OC Fair & Event Center is not responsible for exhibits or ribbons left after the final entry pickup date.***





## 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.** 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. They also have the authority to transfer to the correct Class any exhibit that does not meet the requirements of the Division or Class in which it was entered.

Judges are not obligated to reevaluate the awards given to other entries if an entry is disqualified or moved. Awards are not required to be given unless entries are of a minimum merit. ***No exhibitor shall be entitled to an award that has been disqualified as the result of their own error.***

### Judging Criteria

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

- Adult Divisions: 301-335
- Placed using the American Judging System, wherein exhibits are ranked against one another.
- Youth Divisions: 9301-9335
- Placed using the Danish Judging System, wherein each entry is judged individually on how well it meets a standard rather than how it compares to other entries. Multiple first, second and third places may therefore be awarded per Class
- Entries will then compete using the American Judging System for special placings (Best of Class, Division Winner and Best of Show).

### 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.



## AWARDS

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

### Judging Results

Results will be posted online at [ocfair.com/results](https://ocfair.com/results) as soon as possible.

***Please do not call, email or reach out via social media for competition results.***

### Entry & Ribbon Pickup

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. 19 from 9:30 a.m. - 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.

### Sweepstakes & Premiums

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

Adult Sweepstakes .....	Ribbon & \$50
Youth Sweepstakes (ages 6-12) .....	Ribbon only
Youth Sweepstakes (ages 13-17).....	Ribbon only

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.







## Adult Divisions: Specimen Produce

**Eligibility** ..... Open to California residents, ages 18 or older

**Entry limit** ..... One (1) per Class, per date

**Entry Fee** ..... Free

- **Submissions for each Class must have the proper quantities as indicated in the parentheses below to avoid disqualification.**
- Entries are only judged on the edible "crop" portion; do not bring entire plants due to the limited space available for display. Staff may be required to trim plants to comply with constraints.
- For more information, read the recommendations for [How to Prepare Your Fruit & Vegetables..](#)

### DIVISION 301-305

#### Specimen Produce

Competition dates: July 17, 22, 29, Aug. 5 and 12

Class 01: Avocados .....	(3)
Class 02: Beans .....	(8 pods)
Class 03: Beets .....	(3)
Class 04: Bitter Melon .....	(1)
Class 05: Carrots .....	(3)
Class 06: Chayote Squash .....	(2)
Class 07: Corn .....	(3 ears)
Class 08: Cucumbers .....	(3)
Class 09: Daikon Radish .....	(3)
Class 10: Eggplant .....	(1)
Class 11: Figs .....	(3)
Class 12: Grapefruit .....	(2)
Trim all foliage from citrus	
Class 13: Grapes .....	(1 bunch)
Class 14: Guava .....	(3)
Class 15: Kumquats .....	(5)
Class 16: Lemons .....	(3)
Trim all foliage from citrus	
Class 17: Limes .....	(3)
Trim all foliage from citrus	
Class 18: Mango .....	(2)
Class 19: Melon .....	(1)
Class 20: Napa Cabbage .....	(1 head)

Class 21: Onions .....	(3)
Class 22: Oranges .....	(3)
Trim all foliage from citrus	
Class 23: Papaya .....	(1)
Class 24: Peppers, Hot .....	(3)
Class 25: Peppers, Sweet .....	(3)
Class 26: Pomegranates .....	(3)
Class 27: Potatoes .....	(3)
Class 28: Pumpkins .....	(1)
Class 29: Radishes .....	(3)
Class 30: Rhubarb .....	(3 stalks)
Class 31: Squash .....	(2)
<i>Not zucchini or pumpkin</i>	
Class 32: Starfruit .....	(2)
Class 33: Mandarins/Clementines .....	(3)
Trim all foliage from citrus	
Class 34: Tomatillos .....	(3)
Class 35: Tomatoes, Cherry .....	(5)
Class 36: Tomatoes .....	(3)
Class 37: Turnips .....	(3)
Class 38: Zucchini .....	(2)
Class 39: Any other fruit or veg not listed ...	(1)
Entries may only be entered as "Any Other" if a Class for the chosen specimen does not exist.	



## Adult Divisions: Largest, Most Unusual & Hydroponically Grown

**Eligibility** ..... Open to California residents, ages 18 or older

**Entry limit** ..... One (1) per Class, per date

**Entry Fee** ..... Free

- Entries are only judged on the edible “crop” portion; do not bring entire plants due to the limited space available for display.
- Although these Divisions are not specifically judged on quality, entries are expected to be at least healthy enough to be displayed.
- For more information, read the recommendations for [How to Prepare Your Fruit & Vegetables.](#)

### DIVISION 311-315

#### Largest Item

Competition dates: July 17, 22, 29, Aug. 5 and 12

- No entry limit, however multiples of the same specimen are not permitted.

**Class 01: Avocado**

**Class 02: Beet**

**Class 03: Bitter Melon**

**Class 04: Carrot**

**Class 05: Cucumber**

**Class 06: Citrus**

Trim all foliage from citrus

**Class 07: Eggplant**

**Class 08: Mango**

**Class 09: Onion**

**Class 10: Papaya**

**Class 11: Pepper**

**Class 12: Pumpkin**

**Class 13: Radish**

**Class 14: Squash**

*Not zucchini or pumpkin*

**Class 15: Sunflower Head**

**Class 16: Tomato**

**Class 17: Zucchini**

### DIVISION 321-325

#### Most Unusual Looking

Competition dates: July 17, 22, 29, Aug. 5 and 12

- No entry limit, however multiples of the same specimen are not permitted.
- This Division is intended for items that are unusually shaped or colored *for their variety*, not for unusual varieties in and of themselves.

**Class 01: Carrot**

**Class 02: Citrus**

Trim all foliage from citrus

**Class 03: Cucumber**

**Class 04: Eggplant**

**Class 05: Potato**

**Class 06: Tomato**

**Class 07: Any other root vegetable not listed**

### DIVISION 331-335

#### Hydroponically Grown

Competition dates: July 17, 22, 29, Aug. 5 and 12

- No entry limit, however multiples of the same specimen are not permitted.
- This Division is intended for items that are grown hydroponically- a photo of your system must be submitted via ShoWorks when you enter.

**Class 01: Any fruit or vegetable**



## Youth Divisions: Specimen Produce

**Eligibility** ..... Open to youth ages 6-17 (by July 18) who are California residents.

**Entry limit** ..... One (1) per Class, per date

**Entry Fee** ..... Free

- **Youth competitions follow the same rules as the adult competitions;** read through those sections of the guide for more details.
- **Submissions for each Class must have the proper quantities as indicated in the parentheses below to avoid disqualification.**
- Entries are only judged on the edible "crop" portion; do not bring entire plants due to the limited space available for display. Staff may be required to trim plants to comply with constraints.
- For more information, read the recommendations for [How to Prepare Your Fruit & Vegetables..](#)

### DIVISION 9301-9305

#### Youth Specimen Produce

Competition dates: July 17, 22, 29, Aug. 5 and 12

Class 01: Avocados .....	(3)
Class 02: Beans.....	(8 pods)
Class 03: Beets.....	(3)
Class 04: Bitter Melon .....	(1)
Class 05: Carrots .....	(3)
Class 06: Chayote Squash .....	(2)
Class 07: Corn.....	(3 ears)
Class 08: Cucumbers .....	(3)
Class 09: Daikon Radish.....	(3)
Class 10: Eggplant.....	(1)
Class 11: Figs .....	(3)
Class 12: Grapefruit .....	(2)
Trim all foliage from citrus	
Class 13: Grapes .....	(1 bunch)
Class 14: Guava.....	(3)
Class 15: Kumquats .....	(5)
Class 16: Lemons.....	(3)
Trim all foliage from citrus	
Class 17: Limes.....	(3)
Trim all foliage from citrus	
Class 18: Mango .....	(2)

Class 19: Melon .....	(1)
Class 20: Napa Cabbage .....	(1 head)
Class 21: Onions.....	(3)
Class 22: Oranges .....	(3)
Trim all foliage from citrus	
Class 23: Papaya .....	(1)
Class 24: Peppers, Hot.....	(3)
Class 25: Peppers, Sweet.....	(3)
Class 26: Pomegranates .....	(3)
Class 27: Potatoes .....	(3)
Class 28: Pumpkins .....	(1)
Class 29: Radishes .....	(3)
Class 30: Rhubarb .....	(3 stalks)
Class 31: Squash.....	(2)
<i>Not zucchini or pumpkin</i>	
Class 32: Starfruit.....	(2)
Class 33: Mandarins/Clementines .....	(3)
Trim all foliage from citrus	
Class 34: Tomatillos.....	(3)
Class 35: Tomatoes, Cherry .....	(5)
Class 36: Tomatoes.....	(3)
Class 37: Turnips.....	(3)
Class 38: Zucchini.....	(2)
Class 39: Any other fruit or veg not listed ...	(1)
Entries may only be entered as "Any Other" if a Class for the chosen specimen does not exist.	



## Youth Divisions: Largest, Most Unusual & Hydroponically Grown

**Eligibility** ..... Open to youth ages 6-17 (by July 18) who are California residents.

**Entry limit** ..... One (1) per Class, per date

**Entry Fee** ..... Free

- **Youth competitions follow the same rules as the adult competitions;** read through those sections of the guide for more details.
- Entries are only judged on the edible "crop" portion; do not bring entire plants due to the limited space available for display.
- Although these Divisions are not specifically judged on quality, entries are expected to be at least healthy enough to be displayed.
- For more information, read the recommendations for [How to Prepare Your Fruit & Vegetables..](#)

### DIVISION 9311-9315

#### Youth Largest Item

Competition dates: July 17, 22, 29, Aug. 5 and 12

- No entry limit, however multiples of the same specimen are not permitted.

**Class 01: Avocado**

**Class 02: Beet**

**Class 03: Bitter Melon**

**Class 04: Carrot**

**Class 05: Cucumber**

**Class 06: Citrus**

Trim all foliage from citrus

**Class 07: Eggplant**

**Class 08: Mango**

**Class 09: Onion**

**Class 10: Papaya**

**Class 11: Pepper**

**Class 12: Pumpkin**

**Class 13: Radish**

**Class 14: Squash**

*Not zucchini or pumpkin*

**Class 15: Sunflower Head**

**Class 16: Tomato**

**Class 17: Zucchini**

### DIVISION 9321-9325

#### Youth Most Unusual Looking

Competition dates: July 17, 22, 29, Aug. 5 and 12

- No entry limit, however multiples of the same specimen are not permitted.
- This Division is intended for items that are unusually shaped or colored *for their variety*, not for unusual varieties in and of themselves.

**Class 01: Carrot**

**Class 02: Citrus**

Trim all foliage from citrus

**Class 03: Cucumber**

**Class 04: Eggplant**

**Class 05: Potato**

**Class 06: Tomato**

**Class 07: Any other root vegetable not listed**

### DIVISION 9331-9335

#### Youth Hydroponically Grown

Competition dates: July 17, 22, 29, Aug. 5 and 12

- No entry limit, however multiples of the same specimen are not permitted.
- This Division is intended for items that are grown hydroponically- a photo of your system must be submitted via ShoWorks when you enter.

**Class 01: Any fruit or vegetable**