

# NEW ENGLAND FALL FLOWER SHOW®



SEPTEMBER 20-21, 2025  
[FALLFLOWERSHOW.ORG](http://FALLFLOWERSHOW.ORG)

**Amateur Competitions Schedule & Information**

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# WELCOME

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Thank you for your interest in entering the 139th New England Flower Show: World in Bloom. We're excited for you to be part of our display, which will be viewed and appreciated by thousands of guests on the weekend of September 20-21, 2025 at the Garden at Elm Bank in Wellesley, MA.

This year's theme is World in Bloom. This schedule outlines the classes of our five competitions that draw inspiration from global plants, styles, themes, and designs. We celebrate the importance of plants around the world and the impact that cultivating and exhibiting plants can have on wellbeing, health, and community.

The New England Flower Show has been part of MHS's nearly 200-year-old history of practicing horticulture for the public good. A 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, MHS provides outstanding educational programs, exhibitions, and community outreach initiatives that bring joy to visitors from across the state and beyond. Massachusetts Horticultural Society promotes the importance of plants, gardens, and natural landscapes to improve lives and build communities of active growers.

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## **New England Fall Flower Show® "World in Bloom"**

Saturday, September 20 - Sunday, September 21  
[fallflowershow.org](http://fallflowershow.org)

### **Produced by**

Massachusetts Horticultural Society  
The Garden at Elm Bank  
900 Washington Street  
Wellesley, MA 02482

### **MHS Flower Show Staff:**

James Hearsum, MHS President and Executive Director  
Karen Daubmann, Director of Garden and Programs and Flower Show  
Meghan Connolly, Marketing Specialist and Flower Show Committee

### **Amateur Competitions Chair:**

Carla Morey

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**MASSACHUSETTS  
HORTICULTURAL  
SOCIETY**

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THE GARDEN AT ELM BANK

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# EXHIBITOR INFORMATION

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Read the full information below in addition to the rules & guidelines stated in the specific competition you'd like to enter. If you have a question, please read our FAQ at the end of this document or contact the appropriate committee person.

## GENERAL RULES

### Eligibility

The Competitions of the New England Fall Flower Show are open to all interested individuals and garden clubs. Any amateur gardener who does not grow or sell plants for the major part of his or her livelihood may exhibit.

### Nomenclature

Exhibitors are responsible for identifying every plant with the correct botanical and common names. Accepted references for nomenclature are: [Missouri Botanical Garden Plant Finder](#) and [Royal Horticultural Society - Find a Plant](#).

### Restricted Plants

Locally invasive plants (as identified by the [Massachusetts Invasive Plant Advisory Group](#)), diseased plant material, artificial plant material, live animals (including fish), taxidermy, natural birds' nests, feathers of any kind and protected sea life, including coral, are not permitted.

Massachusetts Horticultural Society (MHS) expects all exhibitors to be aware of the need to promote the conservation of endangered and threatened plants. Plants collected in the wild and listed by Massachusetts' Natural Heritage Program may not be exhibited in any flower show sponsored by MHS. Cultivated plant material listed by Massachusetts' Natural Heritage Program may be exhibited if accompanied by a typed card stating that it has not been collected from the wild or that it was collected out-of-state and giving information concerning its cultural requirements and methods of propagation. [Natural Heritage Program lists of endangered plant material](#) will be available before and during the show from the division chairs.

### Non-Promotion

MHS requires that businesses, non-profit organizations and commercial products may not be promoted within a design. Logos and business cards may not be displayed, as exhibits are meant to be non-commercial in character.

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Remember to be creative, have fun, and let's grow together!

## EXHIBITING TIMELINE

Competition	Exhibitor Meeting or Workshop	Registration Opens	Registration Closes	How to Enter
Amateur Horticulture	-	-	-	Drop Off <i>see times below</i>
Junior Horticulture	-	-	-	Drop Off <i>see times below</i>
Horticulture - Kokedama	-	Tuesday, March 4	Sunday, June 1	CLASS FULL <a href="#">Join the Waitlist</a>
Floral Design	Tuesday, June 24	Tuesday, March 4	Sunday, June 1	CLASSES FULL <a href="#">Join the Waitlist</a>
Botanical Art	Tuesday, June 3	Tuesday, March 4	Sunday, June 1	<a href="#">Register</a>
Photography	-	Tuesday, April 8	Thursday, June 5	CLASSES FULL

## SHOW TIMELINE

<b>Drop Off &amp; Set Up</b> <i>(Except Photography)</i>	Thursday, September 18 from 4pm-7pm & Friday, September 19 from 6am-9am
<b>Judges Welcomed with Briefing</b>	Friday, September 19 at 9:30am
<b>Show Judged</b>	Friday, September 19 at 10:30am
<b>Preview Party</b>	Friday, September 19 at 6pm
<b>Show Open to Public</b>	Saturday, September 20 from 9am-6pm & Sunday, September 21 from 9am-5:30pm
<b>Awards Reception</b>	Sunday, September 21 at 5pm
<b>Show Closes</b>	Sunday, September 21 at 5:30pm
<b>Removal Time</b>	Sunday, September 21 from 5:30pm-7pm

## DROP OFF AND SET UP

Exhibits will be accepted and staged at the Hunnewell Building at the Garden at Elm Bank (900 Washington Street, Wellesley, MA 02482). Please park in the main parking lot, check in with our visitor services attendant in the Gatehouse, and proceed through the gate to the Hunnewell Building. Carts will be available. Additional information about unloading heavy exhibits will be shared later. *No entries will be accepted after 9am on Friday, September 19.*

## MHS DISCLAIMER

The Amateur Competitions Committee and MHS will afford the best possible protection to all entries. However, they distinctly disclaim all liability for loss or damage to entries and personal property belonging to exhibitors. The committee cannot be responsible for exhibits left after 7pm on Sunday, September 21. No exceptions.



# AMATEUR COMPETITION COMMITTEES

AMATEUR COMPETITIONS CHAIR		
Carla Morey	moreycarla13@gmail.com	(617) 875-0593

AMATEUR HORTICULTURE			
Chair & Schedule	Libby Moore	libbymoor@aol.com	(508) 725-6801
Classification	Ruth Furman		
JUNIOR HORTICULTURE			
Chair	Tracy Firth	tracykfirth@gmail.com	(617) 470-3444
FLORAL DESIGN			
Chair, Schedule & Classification	Katie Barrack	katwfb@comcast.net	(617) 823-8520
Entries	Carla Morey	moreycarla13@gmail.com	(617) 875-0593
BOTANICAL ARTS			
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PHOTOGRAPHY			
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AWARDS CHAIR		
Carrie Waterman	carrie.drury.waterman@gmail.com	(617) 680-9282
JUDGES CHAIR		
Kathy Michie	michie.kathy@gmail.com	(774) 261-0353
STAGIING CHAIR		
Suzanne McCance	suzannebmccance@gmail.com	(617) 650-9420

# — AMATEUR HORTICULTURE COMPETITION —

## RULES AND GUIDELINES

All exhibitors, including Juniors, are asked to read the Rules carefully. Exhibits that do not conform to the Rules may be turned away.

### Eligibility

1. Any amateur gardener who does not grow or sell plants for the major part of his or her livelihood may exhibit. No entry fee is required. Anyone age 18 or under as of September 18, 2025 is eligible to compete in the Junior Horticulture Classes.

### Length of Ownership

2. All plants must have been owned and grown by the exhibitor since June 19, 2025, unless otherwise stated in the schedule, and must be of show quality and free of disease and pests. Plants must be rooted unless they are epiphytic or in the cut specimen, fruits or vegetables classes.

### Entering

3. An exhibitor may submit more than one entry per class or subdivision provided each is a different species or cultivar. Only one entry per exhibitor is permitted in each Junior Class.
4. Exhibitors must leave the show area as soon as their entries have been classified.
5. Exhibitors are responsible for identifying every plant with the correct botanical and common names. Accepted references for nomenclature are: [Missouri Botanical Garden Plant Finder](#) and [Royal Horticultural Society - Find a Plant](#).
6. Registration is only required for [Class 55 Kokedama](#).
7. To receive entry cards before show entry times, please pick them up at the Garden at Elm Bank gatehouse during [Garden Hours](#).
8. Under no circumstances may exhibits be removed from the Show before 5:30pm on Sunday, September 21. We ask that you kindly adhere to these times. The committee assumes no responsibility for entries left after 7pm Sunday, September 21.

### TIMETABLE

Registration opens [Class 55 Kokedama]	March 4
Registration deadline [Class 55 Kokedama]	June 1
Entries Accepted & Passed	Thursday, September 18 from 4-7pm or Friday, September 19 from 6-9am
Judges Welcomed with Briefing	Friday, September 19 at 9:30am
Judging Starts	Friday, September 19 at 10:30am
Show Opens to Public	September 20-21
Removal	Sunday, September 21 from 5:30-7pm

### Containers and Display

9. Pot size refers to the largest interior measurement of the pot at the top. Measure rectangular containers on the diagonal. Measure oval containers at the widest diameter. Disguised double potting is permitted but the outside container must be in proportion to the plant size.
10. Containers should be clean, free of chemical deposits, and in proportion to the plant material. Simple, unpainted terracotta is strongly recommended. Terra cotta colored plastic pots or dark green, rigid plastic pots are acceptable especially for heavy exhibits.

White or brightly colored pots (Junior exhibitors exempt from this rule) and fiber pots are not acceptable. Wire baskets are allowed. However, wicker or plastic baskets are not acceptable. Please be certain that all containers are strong enough to withstand being moved during staging.

11. Cut specimen entries exhibited in clear glass bottles should have sufficient water and the foliage should not be underwater. **Exhibitors will provide their own clear glass bottles and plastic wrap for wedging.** Be sure the size of the bottle is appropriate for the specimen.
12. Conifers and broadleaf evergreens will be exhibited lying flat on staging, not in a bottle.

### Accompanying Information

13. Propagation cards are required for Classes 45-50 and 53 in Amateur Horticulture Classes and Classes 9-12 in the Junior Horticulture Classes. These can be picked up at the Garden at Elm Bank gatehouse during [Garden Hours](#).
14. Key cards are required where three or more different plants are permitted in an exhibit. A key card is a numbered list of botanical and common names accompanying a schematic diagram, drawing or photograph of an exhibit. Please bring a typewritten or clearly printed key card on a 4" x 6" white, unlined white card stock, to the Classification/ Passing area when you enter your exhibit along with an entry card. Add your name to the back of the key card in pencil.

### Restricted Plants

15. Locally invasive plants (as identified by the [Massachusetts Invasive Plant Advisory Group](#)), diseased plant material, artificial plant material, live animals (including fish), taxidermy, natural birds' nests, feathers of any kind and protected sea life, including coral, are not permitted.
16. Massachusetts Horticultural Society (MHS) expects all exhibitors to be aware of the need to promote the conservation of endangered and threatened plants. Plants collected in the wild and listed by Massachusetts' Natural Heritage Program may not be exhibited in any flower show sponsored by MHS. Cultivated plant material listed by Massachusetts' Natural Heritage Program may be exhibited if accompanied by a typed card stating that it has not been collected from the wild or that it was collected out-of-state and giving information concerning its cultural requirements and methods of propagation. [Natural Heritage Program lists of endangered plant material](#) will be available before and during the show from the division chairs.

### Awards

17. Only one blue will be awarded in Classes 1-69 in the Amateur Horticulture Classes with the exception of Class 56 Par, where multiple blues may be awarded if merited. Only one blue will be awarded in Classes 1-12 in the Junior Horticulture Classes. If merited, more than one red or yellow, and unlimited honorable mention ribbons, may be given in both the Amateur Horticulture and Junior Horticulture Classes with the exception of Class 56 Par where no honorable mentions are given. See scale of points.

### MHS Disclaimer

18. The Committee may subdivide classes and move or remove entries if warranted.
19. Committee members will water individual plants if needed. Any special watering instructions should be conveyed to the committee.



## CLASSES

### Section A. Cut Specimens

### Bressingham Garden

One stem - any foliage must be attached to the stem. Broadleaf evergreens and conifers will be displayed lying flat (not in a bottle).

#### Annuals or Non-Hardy Perennials in Bloom

1. *Zinnia*
2. *Tagetes*, marigold
3. *Cosmos*
4. *Helianthus annuus*, sunflower
5. *Celosia*, wool flower or cockscomb
6. *Salvia*
7. Other

#### Perennials in Bloom

8. *Helianthus*
9. *Anemone hupehensis* var. *japonica*
10. *Chrysanthemum*
11. *Sedum*
12. *Nipponanthemum nipponicum*, Montauk daisy
13. *Solidago*, golden rod
14. Grasses, 3 stems of a single variety
15. Other

#### Plants Grown for Seed Heads or Berries

16. *Foeniculum vulgare*, fennel
17. *Iris domestica* (formerly *Belamcanda chinensis*), blackberry lily
18. Other

#### Woody Plants in Fall Foliage, Bloom, Berry or Seed

\*indicates staged without bottle, lying flat

19. *Acer*, maple
20. Broadleaf evergreens\*
21. *Buddleja*, butterfly bush
22. *Callicarpa*, beautyberry
23. Conifers\*
24. *Hydrangea*
25. *Ilex*, holly
26. *Rosa*, Rose in bloom. Must be exhibited with at least one attached leaf
27. *Rosa*, rose hips. For ideas see [here](#).
28. *Viburnum*
29. Other

#### Dahlias

30. *Dahlia*, large and giant: diameter of bloom exceeds 8"
31. *Dahlia*, medium: diameter of bloom 4" - 8"
32. *Dahlia*, miniature: diameter of bloom less than 4"

## Section B. Container-Grown Plants

## Maple Grove

### Blooming Containers

Container may include more than one plant of the same species or cultivar - must be in bloom.

- 33. Container 6" or less
- 34. Container over 6"

### Foliage Containers

- 35. *Begonia*
- 36. Fern
- 37. Other, variegated
- 38. Other, non-variegated

### Herbs

One species or cultivar per container.

- 39. Culinary herb, with a sample recipe written or printed in a black waterproof medium on a 4" x 6" white unlined Information Card.
- 40. Medicinal herb, with the historical medicinal usage written or printed in a black waterproof medium on a 4" x 6" white unlined Information Card.

### Cacti and Succulents

*Note: Length of ownership is six months or more.*

- 41. Cacti
- 42. Succulents other than Cacti
  - a. *Echeveria*
  - b. *Gasteria*
  - c. *Haworthia*
  - d. Other
- 43. Collection of three to five different species/cultivars of Cacti in one container. Key Card required. Container no larger than 12" in diameter.
- 44. Collection of three to five different species/cultivars of Succulents other than Cacti in one container. Key Card required. Container no larger than 12" in diameter.

### Propagation

A plant propagated by the exhibitor. Propagation Card required.

- 45. Grown from seed
- 46. Grown from stem cutting
- 47. Grown from root cutting
- 48. Grown by air layering
- 49. Grown by division
- 50. Other method

### Old Friends

- 51. A plant noted for its age, owned by the exhibitor for at least five years or more.
  - a. Grown for Flower
  - b. Grown for Foliage

## Fairy Garden

A fairy garden is a miniature garden designed to look like a welcoming space for fairies, typically featuring tiny plants, miniature accessories like furniture or houses, and other decorative elements that create a whimsical, magical atmosphere, often placed in a container or a small area of a larger garden; it's essentially a small, imaginative space meant to encourage creative play and foster a sense of wonder.

52. Create a fairy garden planting of the exhibitor's choice. Container not to exceed 24" in any direction with no height restrictions. Container must include a minimum of 6 rooted plants. Accessories are permitted. Key card required. No length of ownership.

## Parent and Child

53. A plant propagated by the exhibitor from a "parent" to create a "child". Parent and child to be displayed in separate containers. Propagation card required

## Upcycle

Upcycle, also known as creative reuse, is the process of transforming old, well-used or worn-out items into new ones perceived to be of greater value due to artistic or environmental merit.

54. Create a container design of three or more rooted plants displayed in a recycled item, used as a container. Maximum length 20", maximum width 20". No height restriction. Key Card required. No length of ownership required.

## Kokedama

**THIS CLASS IS FULL! JOIN THE WAITLIST**

Registration is required for this class and opens March 4.

**Entries limited to 8**

Kokedama is a centuries old Japanese form of garden art that is closely tied to the practice of bonsai. This Japanese term can be translated like this: "Koke" means moss, and "samba" means ball. Kokedama involves using a moss ball as the supporting and the focal point for a tree, shrub, or plant. In other words, it consists of wrapping the plant's roots in a ball of soil which you then cover with moss. The moss ball in this class will be suspended in the air with string. Instructional videos like [this one](#) can be found online.

55. Create a Kokedama planting of the exhibitor's choice. Size not to exceed 12" in width and 24" in height. The diameter of the Kokedama Ball should not exceed 7". Accessories are not permitted. No length of ownership is required. The hanging device and clear filament will be provided by the Flower Show Committee after passing. Extra string should accompany the entry for the purpose of staging.

## PAR

56. An exhibit of exceptional merit which is not eligible for another class. Exhibit to be judged against perfection. Cut specimens are not eligible. Hanging baskets are not permitted. Length of ownership is one year or more. Container not to exceed 20".

## Section C. Fruits and Vegetables

## Seed to Table Garden

One specimen, unless noted, to be displayed on a plate provided by the committee.

57. *Allium cepa*, onion
58. *Capsicum* spp., sweet and hot peppers
59. *Cucurbita moschata*, butternut squash
60. *Cucurbita pepo*, summer squash, zucchini
61. *Cucumis salivas*, cucumber
62. *Daucus carota*, carrot, 3 displayed
63. *Malus domestica*, apple
64. *Pyrus vulgaris*, pear

## AMATEUR HORTICULTURE

65. *Rubus*, raspberry [3 displayed]
66. *Solanum*
  - a. *S. lycopersicon*, cherry tomato [3 displayed]
  - b. *S. physalis*, husk/strawberry tomato [3 displayed]
  - c. *S. lycopersicon*, garden tomato
  - d. *S. melongena*, eggplant
  - e. *S. tuberosum*, potato
67. Other
68. Collection of vegetables, fruits and herbs grown from a single exhibitor's garden, displayed in a container of exhibitor's choice. Not to exceed 24" in any direction. Key card required.
69. World Challenge Class: Grow a new introduction! Three specimens to be displayed on a plate provided by the committee. Propagation card required. Select from:
  - a. *Lactuca sativa* 'Hamerg Hybrid', lettuce
  - b. *Solanum tuberosum* 'Rocky Mountain Russet', potato
  - c. *Brassica rapa* 'Tokyo Sakura Heart', turnip
  - d. *Capsicum* 'Lavaland', hot pepperSeeds available from [Burpee](#)

## AWARDS

**Bennett Award:** In memory of Bradford Davis Bennett. Awarded to the exhibit which demonstrates the most outstanding horticultural achievement.

**Corliss Knapp Engle Award:** For the individual exhibit most reflecting the enthusiasm, skill and spirit of this consummate grower and friend of horticulture.

**\*Cunningham Award:** In memory of Theresa Cunningham. Awarded for horticultural and artistic excellence to an individual exhibit.

**Evelyn D. Cronin Award:** To be awarded in the orchid classes of the Amateur Horticulture Competition, if merited, to the orchid plant in bloom showing excellence of culture, regardless of growing environment.

**Garden Club of America Award of Distinction Horticulture:** Awarded to any amateur exhibitor(s) for an entry which achieves an exceptional standard of horticultural excellence in the Horticulture division at a flower show at a sanctioned Non-GCA Flower Show. Open to GCA club members, GCA clubs, non-members, or other organizations. Entry must have placed first, second, or third in a judged class in its division. The exhibit may receive the award only once.

**Massachusetts Horticultural Society Novice Amateur Horticulture Award:** May be given to an exhibitor who has never won first place in the Amateur Horticulture classes in any MHS flower show in the past. It shall be awarded to an individual novice exhibitor for an exceptional amateur horticulture exhibit. Novice entries placing first, second or third are eligible for this award.

**\*Thompson Begonia Award:** For the finest begonia exhibited.

**Judges' Commendations:** May be given to an entry, class, division, or other aspect of the show which is of exceptional merit.

*\*Entries must have received a first place ribbon to be eligible for these awards.*

## POINT SCALES FOR JUDGING

**A. COLLECTION CLASSES 39 - 40**

Cultural Perfection	25
Design	20
Suitable Material	2
Color Harmony	15
Condition	10
Labeling	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	100

**B. EVERGREEN CUT SPECIMENS  
CLASSES 16 & 19**

Condition	40
Form of Branch	40
Grooming	10
Distinction	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	100

**C. CONTAINER GROWN  
CLASSES 33 - 56**

Cultural Perfection	35
Form and Size of Plant	20
Foliage	15
Grooming	10
Color	10
Rarity	5
Labeling	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	100

**D. VEGETABLES AND FRUIT,  
SMALL AND MEDIUM**

Quality: <i>best eating stage, good color</i>	30
Condition: <i>free from disease, blemishes</i>	25
Size: <i>average or slightly above</i>	15
Typical of the variety	15
Uniformity	15
<b>TOTAL</b>	100

**E. VEGETABLES AND FRUIT, LARGE**

Quality: <i>best eating stage, good color</i>	35
Condition: <i>free from disease, blemishes</i>	30
Size: <i>average or slightly above</i>	15
Typical of the variety	20
<b>TOTAL</b>	100

**F. VEGETABLES AND FRUIT,  
COLLECTION**

Condition	30
Variety in kinds shown	30
Staging and arrangement	30
Suitable key card	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	100

**G. ALL OTHER CLASSES**

Cultural Perfection	35
Form and Size of Plant	20
Foliage	15
Grooming	10
Color	10
Rarity	5
Labeling	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	100



# JUNIOR HORTICULTURE COMPETITION

## RULES AND GUIDELINES

Please read the Junior Horticulture Rules and the Amateur Horticulture Rules carefully.

1. Anyone age 18 or under as of September 18, 2025 is eligible to compete in the Junior Horticulture Classes. Age should be clearly stated on the entry card.
2. In those classes marked by an \*, container may include more than one plant of the same species or cultivar.
3. All plants must have been owned and grown by the junior exhibitor since June 19, 2025, except in Classes 9-12 where date of propagation starting time may be after January 1, 2025.
4. Exhibits must be of show quality and free of disease and pests. Containers must be clean and must not exceed 12" (diagonal inside measurement).
5. No artificial plant material may be used.
6. Cut specimen entries exhibited in clear glass bottles should have sufficient water and the foliage should not be under water. Exhibitors will provide their own clear glass bottles and plastic wrap for wedging. Be sure the size of the bottle is appropriate for the specimen.
7. Exhibitors wishing to receive propagation and entry cards before show entry times may pick them up at the Garden at Elm Bank gatehouse during [Garden Hours](#).

### TIMETABLE

Entries Accepted & Passed

Judges Welcomed with Briefing

Judging Starts

Show Opens to Public

Removal

Thursday, September 18 from 4-7pm or  
Friday, September 19 from 6-9am

Friday, September 19 at 9:30am

Friday, September 19 at 10:30am

September 20-21

Sunday, September 21 from 5:30-7pm

*New This Year!*

## Junior Botanical Art Classes

VISIT PAGE 26 TO READ THE CLASS DESCRIPTION

## CLASSES

### General Junior Horticulture Classes (Classes 1-8)

In classes marked by an \*, container may include more than one plant of the same species or cultivar.

1. Vegetable grown in the exhibitor's garden. One specimen to be displayed on a plate provided by the committee. *Exhibitors 12 years old or under.*
2. Vegetable grown in the exhibitor's garden. One specimen to be displayed on a plate provided by the committee. *Exhibitors aged 13 years to 18 years old.*
3. Leaves Alone. Any container plant grown primarily for foliage\*. *Exhibitors 12 years old or under.*
4. Leaves Alone. Any container plant grown primarily for foliage\*. *Exhibitors aged 13 years to 18 years old.*
5. Flower Power. Any container plant grown primarily for flowers (must be in bloom)\*. *Exhibitors 12 years old or under.*
6. Flower Power. Any container plant grown primarily for flowers (must be in bloom)\*. *Exhibitors aged 13 years to 18 years.*
7. Junior Container Garden. A collection of three or more different species and/or cultivars in a container not to exceed 12" (diagonal inside measurement). Key card required (Rule 9 in Amateur Horticulture Rules). *Exhibitors 12 years old or under.*
8. Junior Container Garden. A collection of three or more different species and/or cultivars in a container not to exceed 12" (diagonal inside measurement). Key card required (Rule 9 in Amateur Horticulture Rules). *Exhibitors aged 13 years to 18 years old.*

### Junior Propagation Classes (Classes 9-12)

Plant(s) must be propagated by the Junior. Propagation cards, which include an explanation of the propagation method, including dates, growing medium, growing conditions and potting are required for Classes 9-12. In those classes marked by an \*, container may include more than one plant of the same species or cultivar.

9. Flowering Plant Grown from Seed\* (for example: marigold, zinnia, cosmos). Plant must be in flower. *Exhibitors 12 years old or under.*
10. Flowering Plant Grown from Seed\* (for example: marigold, zinnia, cosmos). Plant must be in flower. *Exhibitors aged 13 years to 18 years old.*

### GOING NATIVE!

Two Junior classes focusing on propagating Massachusetts native plants grown from seed. Please note that *Aquilegia canadensis*, red columbine and *Lobelia cardinalis*, cardinal flower, require a 60 day period of cold stratification. *Monarda punctata*, spotted bee balm, does not require cold stratification. Please check [this link](#) for further propagation information. Native seeds are available from: [The Wild Seed Project](#)

11. A Massachusetts native plant grown from seed.\* *Exhibitors 12 years old or under.*
  - a. Red Columbine, *Aquilegia canadensis*
  - b. Cardinal Flower, *Lobelia cardinalis*
  - c. Spotted Bee Balm, *Monarda punctata*
12. A Massachusetts native plant grown from seed.\* *Exhibitors 13 years to 18 years old.*
  - a. Red Columbine, *Aquilegia canadensis*
  - b. Cardinal Flower, *Lobelia cardinalis*
  - c. Spotted Bee Balm, *Monarda punctata*

## JUNIOR HORTICULTURE

### Junior Cut Specimens Classes (Classes 13-16)

One stem - any foliage must be attached to the stem above the water line.

13. One annual or non hardy perennial in bloom such as a *Zinnia*, *Tagetes* (marigold), *Helianthus annuus* (sunflower) or *Cosmos*. Exhibitors 12 years old or under.
14. One annual or non hardy perennial in bloom such as a *Zinnia*, *Tagetes* (marigold), *Helianthus annuus* (sunflower) or *Cosmos*. Exhibitors 13 years to 18 years old.
15. One perennial in bloom such as *Anemone hupehensis* var. *japonica*, *Chrysanthemum*, *Sedum* or Grass. Exhibitors 12 years old and under.
16. One perennial in bloom such as *Anemone hupehensis* var. *japonica*, *Chrysanthemum*, *Sedum* or Grass. Exhibitors 13 years to 18 years old.

### Junior Fairy Garden Class

A fairy garden is a miniature garden designed to look like a welcoming space for fairies, typically featuring tiny plants, miniature accessories like furniture or houses, and other decorative elements that create a whimsical, magical atmosphere, often placed in a container or a small area of a larger garden.

17. Create a fairy garden planting of the exhibitor's choice. Container not to exceed 18" in any direction with no height restrictions. Container must include a minimum of 6 rooted plants. Accessories are permitted. Key card required. No length of ownership. Exhibitors 12 years old and younger.
18. Create a fairy garden planting of the exhibitor's choice. Container not to exceed 18" in any direction with no height restrictions. Container must include a minimum of 6 rooted plants. Accessories are permitted. Key card required. No length of ownership. Exhibitors 13 years to 18 years old.

## AWARDS

**Beket Lang Award:** Awarded for an outstanding effort by a junior (aged 18 or younger).

**MHS Green Thumb Award:** Awarded to the Junior Horticulture exhibitor who has succeeded in growing and presenting the most challenging plant. Need not be a first place winner.

**MHS President's Award for Junior Horticulture:** Awarded for excellence in Junior Horticulture, emphasizing the appreciation of unusual or uncommon plant material.

**Judges' Commendations:** May be given to an entry, class, division, or other aspect of the show which is of exceptional merit.

## POINT SCALES FOR JUDGING

Cultural Perfection	35
Form and Size of Plant	20
Foliage	15
Grooming	10
Color	10
Rarity	5
Labeling	5
Total	100

# FLORAL DESIGN COMPETITION

## RULES AND GUIDELINES

### Eligibility

1. Floral Design Competition Classes are open to all. Designs may be the collaboration of more than one exhibitor but no more than two. An exhibitor may enter only one class in the Floral Design Competition by completing the Registrations Form here and also found in the back section of this Schedule. If exhibiting in the Floral Design Competition Classes, you cannot judge in the same Class.

### Entering & Registration

2. Designers will be asked to list their top three class choices. Filling out a registration form does not guarantee a placement. An email will be sent informing you of a placement or if you are waitlisted. Once a space has been confirmed an Exhibitors' package will be emailed which will include your Class and Entry number, diagram of your pedestal, some reminders and a copy of the Floor Plan.
3. Exhibitors may enter the building on the Entry times listed in the timetable below. Only exhibitors and committee members will be allowed on the show floor while designs are being created and installed.
4. When work is completed, the exhibit must be passed before the exhibitor leaves the show area. Passing (or Classification) committee members will be available. Design may not be altered after passing is complete.
5. Exhibitors are responsible for the complete removal of their designs at the end of the show between 5:30-7pm on Sunday, September 21. Other prior arrangements can be made with your Class Consultant.

### TIMETABLE

Registration opens	March 4
Registration deadline	June 1
Floral Design Orientation	June 24 at 10am [Garden at Elm Bank]
Entries Accepted & Passed	Thursday, September 18 from 4-7pm or Friday, September 19 from 6-9am
Judges Welcomed with Briefing	Friday, September 19 at 9:30am
Judging Starts	Friday, September 19 at 10:30am
Show Opens to Public	September 20-21
Removal	Sunday, September 21 from 5:30-7pm

### Display & Design Components

6. Fresh plant material must predominate unless otherwise stated and must be in water or conditioned in such a way as to remain in pristine condition while on exhibit. Leaf manipulation is permitted and does not need to have a water source unless needed. Dried plant material permitted but should not dominate design.
7. Pedestal tops may be covered with plexiglass or similar material, no fabric permitted. No plant material can extend down the front of the pedestal.

## FLORAL DESIGN

8. No artificial flowers, no fresh vegetables or fruit, or prepared food products, will be permitted. No spraying Crowning Glory, or any other liquid at your assigned space. If you wish to spray your materials it can be done outside before you enter the tent. Committee may remove an exhibit at any time if deemed necessary.
9. No accessories are allowed unless specified in the class schedule.
10. All containers must be labeled inconspicuously with the exhibitor's name.
11. Mechanics should not be visible unless they are an integral part of the design.
12. Designs may be partially assembled prior to show with finishing touches done on site. All Floral Design pedestals are painted flat black.

### Accompanying Information

13. All plant material must be correctly identified with the botanical and common names. A preliminary plant list must be submitted by September 11, 2025 through the form provided by the Committee in your Exhibitor Packets and at the Orientation. Plant material may be updated on the entry day of the show to accurately reflect the materials used in the design. Please type your preliminary list either in a Word document or in the body of an email for ease of updating. Accepted references for nomenclature are: [Missouri Botanical Garden Plant Finder](#) and [Royal Horticultural Society - Find a Plant](#).
14. If the exhibitor wishes to supply a Statement of Intent about the floral design, it can be included in the same form as the preliminary plant list above. It should be 25 words or less offering an explanation of the exhibitor's creation. Not mandated unless in a class description.

### Restricted Material

15. Locally invasive plants (as identified by the [Massachusetts Invasive Plant Advisory Group](#)), diseased plant material, artificial plant material, live animals (including fish), taxidermy, natural birds' nests, feathers of any kind and protected sea life, including shells and coral, are not permitted.

### Awards

16. A Novice exhibitor is defined as never having won a blue ribbon in a MHS show, The New England Spring Flower Show or The Boston Flower Show in the Floral Divisions and must exhibit alone.

### MHS Disclaimer

17. Maintenance will be done by the FD committee. Extra plant material in buckets, clearly labeled with the exhibitor's name, should be left in the designated location for the committee to use. Please do not leave any glass containers
18. While Massachusetts Horticultural Society (MHS) and their committees will afford all the best possible protection of the exhibits, they distinctly disclaim all liability for loss or damage to exhibits and personal property belonging to exhibitors. MHS requires that businesses, non-profit organizations and commercial products may not be promoted within a design. Logos and business cards may not be displayed, as exhibits are meant to be non-commercial in character.



## CLASSES

### CLASS 1 Part of a Greater Whole

4 Entries

Create a **Mono-Botanic design** of any type. Design is not to exceed outside edges of the pedestal in any direction. Staged on a high-backed black pedestal. Design area measures 30" wide x 17" deep, pedestal design surface is 35.75" from the floor. The high-back measures 42" from design surface to the top, and is 30" wide. Viewed from three sides.

**Mono-Botanic Design:** a design of any style in which three or more parts of a plant of one family or genus are used. Part may be stem(s), bloom(s), foliage, bud(s), and/or roots.

*Class Consultant: Katie Barrack 617-823-8520 katwfb@comcast.net*

### CLASS 2 Breakfast Blooms from Afar

4 Entries

Create a **Functional Breakfast Tray** including a floral design element inspired by a country of designer's choice. Must include Statement of Intent no longer than 25 words which should confirm chosen country. No flatware, only consumption related accessories, no food permitted.

Staged on a high-backed black pedestal with design surface measuring 30" wide x 22" deep. Design surface is 30" from the floor. High-Back measurements 40" from design surface to top of backing, 30" wide.

Tray table measurements, and link for purchase supplied upon acceptance into Class. Designer is allowed to enhance the background of their staging using wallpaper, paint, etc. on a piece of foamcore measuring 40" high x 30" wide, which will be adhered to the space onsite. Viewed from three sides.

**Functional Tray Table:** Ease of self-service is important. Components must be stable, overall space must appear uncrowded. A functional tray table has no napkin on the plate.

*Class Consultant: Carla Morey 617-875-0593 moreycarla13@gmail.com*

### CLASS 3 Botanical Explosion

4 Entries

A dynamic design inspired by an opening flower. Pedestal has two high backed sides joining at the back of design area to form a 90 degree pie shaped design space. The designer can use all surfaces from the pedestal top to the walls. Back corner to curved radial front measures 34.5" deep, back corner to each of the two wall edges measures 34.5". Design space area is 30" from the floor, and 40" to the top of the two high-backs. [For all measurements see illustration.](#) Viewed from three sides.

*Class Consultant: Katie Barrack 617-823-8520 katwfb@comcast.net*

## CLASS 4 A Journey Around the Garden

4 Entries

Create a **Synergistic design** inspired by a pollinator's flight. Staged on a black pedestal with an 24" square top, 36" high, placed against a cream colored wall. Design not to exceed the width of the pedestal cap. No height restrictions. Viewed from three sides.

**Synergistic Design:** a contemporary design style including (3) or more containers; design may be further unified through use of a connective(s). The individual units (containers) should not appear as completed designs in themselves, but when all units are combined they create a complete and artistic whole.

*Class Consultant: Carla Morey 617-875-0593 moreycarla13@gmail.com*

## CLASS 5 Bloom Where You're Planted

4 Entries

Create a **Parallel design** inspired by a famous garden designer. Statement of Intent to include choice of garden designer, no more than 25 words. Design not to exceed the width of the pedestal cap. Staged on a black pedestal with an 18" square top, 36" high. No height restrictions. Viewed from four sides.

**Parallel Design:** a design in which floral elements are placed in strongly parallel groupings with open space between; may be vertical, horizontal or diagonal. Multiple containers may be used, but design must appear as a single unit, and the overall effect must appear parallel. Groupings do not need to be equidistant from each other. Additional components may be added at the base as connectors.

*Class Consultant: Carla Morey 617-875-0593 moreycarla13@gmail.com*

## CLASS 6 Diminutive but Conspicuous

4 Entries

Create a **Small Design** no more than 8" in any direction including container. To be staged on a black pedestal with a 14" square top, 36" high. Viewed from four sides.

*Class Consultant: Katie Barrack 617-823-8520 katwfb@comcast.net*

### REGISTRATION

**ALL CLASSES ARE NOW FULL!**

*Please ensure you've read the rules and guidelines thoroughly before registering.  
You may enter only one class in the Floral Design Competition.*

**JOIN THE WAITLIST**

## AWARDS

**Best of Show:** Awarded to a blue ribbon winner.

**Garden Club of America Award of Distinction Floral Design:** Awarded for amateur exhibitor(s) for a creative design of outstanding beauty to GCA club members, GCA clubs, non-members, or other organizations. Entry must have placed first, second, or third in a judged class in its division. Challenge class entries do not apply.

**The John Taylor Arms Award:** Awarded to the blue ribbon floral design entry receiving the most number of points. All first prize entries are point scored.

**Ruth A. Wallack Design Award:** Recognizes a floral design of outstanding beauty and creativity in the expression of one designer's imagination. The recipient need not be a blue ribbon winner.

**Susan Scheel Thomas Novice Award:** Awarded to the most distinctive floral design by a novice. The recipient need not be a blue ribbon winner but does need to have exhibited alone. Novice exhibitor is described as a Floral Design exhibitor who has not received a blue ribbon in past MHS (Boston Flower Show) shows.

**Judges' Commendations:** May be given to a class, division, or other aspect of the show which is of exceptional merit.

## POINT SCALES FOR JUDGING

Design	35
Creativity	20
Interpretation	20
Distinction	15
Conformance	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>

*For Judging Functional Tray Table (Class 2):*

Floral Design	25
Overall Design	20
Color & Textural Harmony	15
Conformance	15
Interpretation	15
Distinction	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>

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# BOTANICAL ARTS COMPETITION

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## RULES AND GUIDELINES

### Eligibility

1. Botanical Arts Competition Classes are open to ALL on a first-come basis. Entries may be the collaboration of more than one exhibitor but no more than two.
2. An exhibitor may enter only one class in the Botanical Arts Competition. Exhibitor may be placed on a waiting list for an additional class, if desired. Once an entry is accepted, if the exhibitor must cancel, they must find a substitute unless there is a waiting list.
3. If exhibiting in the Botanical Arts (BA) Competition Classes, you cannot judge in the same division. The BA Committee may not enter unless there are slots left unfilled in any of the three classes. Entry numbers will be pre-assigned on a first-come, first-served basis.
4. An exhibit previously entered in any competition must be significantly altered before being submitted to the MHS Botanical Arts Division.

### Entering & Registration

5. Upon receipt of the Registration Form, designers will receive confirmation by email. Your Exhibitors' package will be emailed which will include your Class and Entry number, photo of your staging details, some reminders, and a copy of the floor plan. There will be a Zoom BA Exhibitors meeting on June 3 at 10am (EST). A link to this meeting will be sent to all registered exhibitors.
6. **Mail-in Exhibits** must be received no later than August 22 and should be mailed to Sarah Boynton, 17 Camelot Drive, Hingham MA 02043. Installation of the mail-in exhibits will be the responsibility of the BA Committee. Detailed photos of each entry must be sent with the entry. The exhibitor should indicate how they would like the exhibit positioned. If the exhibit arrives damaged, the exhibitor will be notified and have the option to have the entry returned for repair if time permits or the exhibitor can give permission for the Committee to make the repair. It is **STRONGLY** suggested that a repair kit be included with the entry and that any shipping method include a tracking feature.
7. **Hand Delivery:** Exhibitors may deliver their entry to the building on Thursday, September 18 between 4-7pm and on Friday, September 19 between 6-9am. Only exhibitors and committee will be allowed on the show floor while BA pieces are being installed.
8. **Take-Down:** Exhibitors are responsible for the complete removal of their exhibits at the end of the show by 7pm on Sunday, September 21. Other prior arrangements can be made with your Class Consultant. If an exhibit is to be returned, the exhibitor must provide a self-addressed return label, return postage and packing material/container.

**TIMETABLE**

Registration opens	March 4
Registration deadline	June 1
Botanical Arts Orientation	June 3 via Zoom
Mail-In Due Date	August 22
Hand-Delivery Dates	Thursday, September 18 from 4-7pm or Friday, September 19 from 6-9am
Judges Welcomed with Briefing	Friday, September 19 at 9:30am
Judging Starts	Friday, September 19 at 10:30am
Show Opens to Public	September 20-21
Removal	Sunday, September 21 from 5:30-7pm

**Display & Design Components**

9. All plant material must be dried. This includes flowers, foliage, seeds, pods, nuts (in or out of shells), vegetables, twigs, vines, reeds, etc. While no longer officially part of the plant kingdom, dried fungi including mushrooms, lichens, etc. are permitted.
10. Only plant material and/or fungi, mechanics, and surface treatments (e.g., paint, nail polish, varnish, wax, etc.) are permitted. Artificial, endangered, or locally invasive plant material may not be used. Locally invasive plants (as identified by the [Massachusetts Invasive Plant Advisory Group](#)), man-made crystals, gemstones, pastas or any processed plant materials (with the exception of rattan, natural raffia and rice) are not permitted.
11. Plant material processed only by the exhibitor is allowed.
12. Use of commercially processed material (existing or caused by nature, not made or caused by mankind). Exceptions to this rule are that exhibitors are allowed to use the following items:
  - Natural raffia
  - Rattan
  - Skeletonized leaves
  - Rice
  - Organic thread (cotton or hemp) as a visible mechanic only to string or knot plant material that resembles pearls or gemstones
13. Non-plant material (e.g., cardboard, metal, twine, string cording, etc.) may be used only for construction and must not be visible unless used to string or knot items that resemble pearls or gemstones in jewelry classes. If string is used for this purpose, it must be made from organic materials such as cotton or hemp.
14. Gemstones should not be made from resin, epoxy, or nail polish. Gemstones must be made from plant material; the plant material may be painted to resemble a gem.
15. A light coating of resin, epoxy, nail polish, varnish, etc. is allowed. Glitter may be used if it is suspended in nail polish unless the show schedule prohibits it. Thick or heavy layers of manufactured resin, epoxy, lacquer, and nail polish are not permitted.



16. Decorative painting depicting scenes, figures, borders, etc. are discouraged; designs should be created with plant material and not simply decoratively painted. In other words, create a flower from assembled pieces of plant material; an image of a flower on a leaf artistically painted on another piece of plant material is not suggested. Marbleizing effects on materials to resemble stone, such as emulating turquoise, are permitted.
17. Plant material may be carved, cut, incised, or shaped to enhance artistic effect only by the exhibitor. Assemblage with other plant material is expected.
18. Man-made or manufactured figural forms as base material are not permitted
19. Unless noted otherwise, all exhibits must appear functional (resemble wearable jewelry, shoes, etc.).
20. In a **Botanical Embellishment** class, complete coverage of the object is not required unless stated in the schedule. Embellished objects should remain somewhat recognizable and not be completely obscured.
21. For a **Brooch** class, a pin on the back is not necessary as it may interfere with the staging.

### Accompanying Information

22. A 5 x 8 typed **Sample Card** (formally called a key card) on white, unlined card stock is required for all exhibits. It should include a small sample of each plant material used in the design, correctly identified with botanical and common names and an indicated placement of plant material. The exhibitor's name should be written in pencil on the back of the card. Craftsmanship should be considered.
23. If the exhibitor wishes to supply a Statement of Intent about their exhibit, it should be typed on or attached to a 4" x 6" unlined index card to include for display. It should be 25 words or less offering an explanation of the exhibitor's creation. Not mandated unless in a class description.

### Awards

24. Novice exhibitor is defined as a Botanical Art Exhibitor who has not won a blue ribbon or the Artisan Award in any of the past MHS Flower Shows - AKA: Artisan Mail-in Classes. Exhibitor(s) must self-identify for this award. To be eligible for Novice Awards, the exhibitor must exhibit alone.

### MHS Disclaimer

25. While MHS and their committees will afford all the best possible protection of the exhibits, they distinctly disclaim all liability for loss or damage to exhibits and personal property belonging to exhibitors. MHS requires that businesses, non-profit organizations and commercial products may not be promoted within a design. Logos and business cards may not be displayed, as exhibits are meant to be non-commercial in character.

## CLASSES

### CLASS 1 The Language of Flowers

4 Entries

THIS CLASS IS FULL!

#### Tussie-mussie [Botanical Form]

Tussie-mussies became highly fashionable in the Victorian era (1837–1901), a period known for its strict social etiquette and emphasis on symbolism. Victorians assigned meanings to flowers, a practice called orioriography. Each flower in a tussie-mussie conveyed a specific message or emotion, allowing people to communicate discreetly without words.

Create a jeweled tussie-mussie to be displayed in a holder provided by the Committee upon registration. The design may not extend beyond 3.5" from the edge of the holder. Each exhibit will be viewed and judged from all sides. Each exhibit will be staged on a black table, 50" tall and 12" deep, with a 12" square mirror as a backdrop. A Statement of Intent and Sample Card are required.

**Botanical Form:** A design of any natural form (e.g., animal, bird's nest, flower) created from all dried plant materials. No mechanics may be visible.

The exhibitor is responsible for the \$25 cost of the holder. Upon successful registration and payment, the holder will be mailed to exhibitor.

*Class Consultant: Sarah Boynton [sjbgarden68@gmail.com](mailto:sjbgarden68@gmail.com)*

### CLASS 2 Floral Celebration

4 Entries

THIS CLASS IS FULL!

#### Flower Coronet [Botanical Couture]

The history of flower coronets, also known as flower crowns, stretches back thousands of years and spans multiple cultures. These headpieces, made of flowers, leaves, and sometimes twigs, have been used for various symbolic, ceremonial, and decorative purposes.

Create a colorful floral crown displayed on a black flocked Styrofoam mannequin head. Entry may not exceed 3" from the mount. Viewed and judged from all sides. Each exhibit will be staged on a black table, 50" tall and 12" deep with a 12" square mirror as a backdrop. A Statement of Intent explaining the celebrations is required.

**Botanical Couture:** A design emulating an item of clothing and/or other fashion accessory created entirely from dried plant material or a couture form that is entirely embellished with dried plant material. Botanical Couture entries must be created from all dried plant material or if embellished, completely covered.

Exhibitors are responsible for purchasing the mannequin head (no more than \$15). A link to the form will be provided upon registration.

*Class Consultant: Sarah Boynton [sjbgarden68@gmail.com](mailto:sjbgarden68@gmail.com)*

## **CLASS 3 Asian Inspired Flower Brooch**

**4 Entries**

**THIS CLASS IS FULL!**

### **Flower Brooch [Botanical Jewelry]**

The history of flowers in Asian jewelry is a fascinating blend of artistry, symbolism, and cultural traditions. Flowers have long been integral to jewelry designs across Asia, reflecting themes of beauty, nature, spirituality, and human emotions.

Create a flower brooch inspired by Asian culture to be displayed on a black velvet necklace stand 4"D x 8.25"W x 12"H. Brooch not to exceed 6 inches. The stand will be staged on a black table, 50" tall and 12" deep with a 12" high black backdrop.

Exhibitors are responsible for purchasing the necklace stand (no more than \$15). A link to the stand will be provided upon registration.

*Class Consultant: Sarah Boynton [sjbgarden68@gmail.com](mailto:sjbgarden68@gmail.com)*

## **CLASS 4 The World in Bloom**

**Class 4a: 4 Entries**

**Class 4b: 4 Entries**

### **JUNIOR BOTANICAL ARTS!**

Class 4a: Ages 12 and younger | Class 4b: Ages 13-18

### **Embellished Wooden Canvas [Botanical Embellishment]**

Embellish a wooden canvas creating a scene inspired by your favorite flowers, colors, or places. You do not need to cover the entire canvas; however, it must be partially decorated with dried plant materials. The frame around the canvas may be painted and need not be embellished. Exhibitor can choose which side of the wooden canvas to embellish.

A Zoom class will be scheduled to go over the rules and explain Botanical Arts in detail. Limit to four entries in each class and will be filled first come, first served.

**Botanical Embellishment:** A human-made object enhanced with dried plant material. Plant materials may be treated.

A canvas will be mailed to exhibitors upon confirmation of registration.

*Class Consultant: Sarah Boynton [sjbgarden68@gmail.com](mailto:sjbgarden68@gmail.com)*

## REGISTRATION

*Please ensure you've read the rules and guidelines thoroughly before registering. You may enter only one class in the Botanical Arts Competition. Exhibitor may be placed on a waiting list for an additional class, if desired.*

REGISTER

## AWARDS

**Best of Show:** Awarded to a blue ribbon winner.

**Artisan Award:** Given in recognition of a design executed entirely of dried material. The design must conform to the schedule requirements and be of exceptional quality in the area of craftsmanship, with skillful and unique manipulation of the materials. The exhibit need not be a blue ribbon winner.

**Garden Club of America Award of Distinction in Botanical Arts:** For an entry of exceptional creativity and impeccable craftsmanship. May be awarded to an individual GCA club member or non-member. Entry must have placed first, second, or third in a judged class in its division. Challenge class entries are not eligible.

**Massachusetts Horticultural Society Novice Botanical Arts Award:** Awarded to the most distinctive botanical art design by a novice. The recipient need not be a blue ribbon winner but does need to have exhibited alone. Novice exhibitor is described as a Botanical Art Exhibitor who has not won a blue ribbon or the Artisan Award in any of the past MHS Flower Shows - AKA: Artisan Mail-in Classes.

**Judges' Commendations:** May be given to a class, division, or other aspect of the show which is of exceptional merit.

## POINT SCALES FOR JUDGING

Design (elements and principles)	35
Craftsmanship	25
Creativity	20
Interpretation of theme	10
Distinction	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	100

# PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

## RULES AND GUIDELINES

### Eligibility

1. This show is open to Adult Amateur photographers only. An Amateur photographer is one whose principal source of income does not derive from photography.

### Entering

2. **This is a juried show.** Advance email registration for all classes is required and registrations must be accompanied by a digital copy of the photo being entered. Each class is limited to 16 entries for jurying, based on the date and time stamp of the registration form.
3. **An exhibitor may submit only one photo per class and may enter no more than two classes in total.** Entries will be capped at 16 entries per class.
4. The digital photos will be juried by a panel of photography judges to determine the six finalists (4 finalists in Class 4a and 4b) in each class, plus two alternates. Finalists must freshly print and mount their photos as per [Finalist Guidelines \(see page 31\)](#) for display at the New England Fall Flower Show. The alternates will be notified if they become a finalist by August 22, 2025.
5. Digital images must be submitted as jpegs, sized between 1 and 5 megabytes, and must accompany the Registration. Incorrectly sized images will not be accepted. Images must be large enough to print well for the show.
6. Rename your digital photo file: Last name.First name.Class entered. For example: Smith.Joan.Class1.jpeg, rather than IMG-1.jpeg.
7. Any manipulation done to the photo must be done before the digital entry is submitted. Manipulation at the time of exposure, in the darkroom, or by computer is allowed in all classes and must be the work of the exhibitor. This includes cropping of the image, enhancement for color or clarity, removal of a part of the image, combining images, or distorting the original subject. The use of AI to generate new visual imagery in a photograph is prohibited.
8. Photos that have won a blue ribbon in a previous public Photography Show may not be entered in this competition. If accepted into the show, the photograph must be newly mounted for judging and display.

### TIMETABLE

Registration opens	Tuesday, April 8
Registration deadline	Thursday, June 5
Jury Results & Finalist Acceptance	Monday, July 10
Mail-in Deadline	Wednesday, August 20
Judges Welcomed with Briefing	Friday, September 19 at 9:30am
Judging Starts	Friday, September 19 at 10:30am
Show Opens to Public	September 20-21
Removal	Sunday, September 21 from 5:30-7pm

Committee Contact & Class Consultant:

Tori Macmillan, Chair, [torimacm@gmail.com](mailto:torimacm@gmail.com)



## CLASSES

We celebrate global influences on photography over the years. **All photographs entered may be from anywhere in the world, including in your own backyard.** See additional information on the Classes in this [references document](#).

### CLASS 1 Splendor of Silhouette

*French & Italian Influence*

A solid, dark image of subject(s) against a lighter background.

Plant material required. *Inspiration: Nicholas Bouvier*

**16 Juried | 6 Finalists**  
**Black & White / Monochrome**

**Silhouette:** An artistic technique that uses dramatic contrast to emphasize a subject's outline against a bright background.

**Monochrome:** An image is monochrome only if it gives the impression of having no color (e.g., contains only shades of gray which can include pure black and pure white) OR it gives the impression of being a grayscale image that has been toned in one color across the entire image. (For example, sepia, red, gold, etc.)

### CLASS 2 Geometry and Repetition

*African Influence*

A close-up photograph from the natural world that exhibits strong lines, repetition and geometry. Plant material required. *Inspiration: Issye Miyake and Seydou Kieta*

**16 Juried | 6 Finalists**  
**Color**

**Close-up:** A photograph taken close to the subject to permit a detailed view.

### CLASS 3 Wabi Sabi

*Japanese Influence*

A photograph that conveys the essence imperfection in the natural world - *Wabi Sabi*. Plant material required. *Inspiration: Erwin Buske and Toshio Shibata*

**16 Juried | 6 Finalists**  
**Color**

**Wabi Sabi:** In traditional Japanese aesthetics, Wabi-Sabi is a world view centered on the acceptance of transience and imperfection and that beauty can be found in imperfections like cracks, tears, and fading.

### CLASS 4 Informal Gardens

*English Influence*

**4a:** A photograph of a garden traditional landscape (anywhere in the world) that conveys informality and spectrum of colors. Plant material required. *Inspiration: Gertrude Jeckyl and William Robinson*

**12 Juried | 4 Finalists**  
**Color**

**Landscape - Traditional:** A view of scenery of any kind from (a garden or wilderness for this class) where the main subject is the scenery and it must dominate. Sky and structures and objects may be included. Identifiable people may not be included.

**4b:** A photograph of an intimate garden landscape (anywhere in the world) that conveys informality and a spectrum of colors. Plant material required. *Inspiration: Gary Aspinall*

**12 Juried | 4 Finalists**  
**Color**

**Landscape - Intimate:** A pared-down version of a natural scenery that is a closer view of the subject(s) than traditional landscape photography. Intimate landscapes typically omit sky (but not always).



AWARDS

The following awards may be given to finalists during the Judging of the Show:

**Best in Show:** Chosen from the first place winners, may be awarded to the most outstanding photograph in the show.

**Garden Club of America Award of Distinction in Photography:** Awarded to an exhibitor for a photograph of high creative and technical merit in a competitive class in the Photography division of a sanctioned Non-GCA Flower Show. The entry must have placed first, second, or third. The award may not be presented to the same exhibit more than once.

**Massachusetts Horticultural Society Corliss Knapp Engle Photography Award:** May be awarded to a photograph by an amateur photographer in the Amateur Competition Photography Classes of The New England Fall Flower Show. This award may be presented to an outstanding photograph celebrating the natural world with artistry, delight, and distinction. The subject might be, but is not restricted to, a landscape, plant or plants, and/or plant related subject(s).

**Massachusetts Horticultural Society Novice Photography Award:** May be given to an exhibitor who has never won first place in photography in any MHS flower show in the past. It shall be awarded to an individual novice exhibitor for an exceptional photograph. Novice entries placing first, second or third are eligible for this award.

**Judges' Commendations:** May be given to an entry, class, division, or other aspect of the

POINT SCALES FOR JUDGING

	<i>For Creative Awards</i>	<i>For All Others</i>
Creativity	30	25
Composition	20	25
Technical Skill	25	20
Conformance/Interpretation	10	20
Distinction	15	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	100	100

## FINALISTS

The following set of rules applies to finalists chosen from the juried part of the New England Fall Flower Show. When the photographer has been notified that their photograph has been accepted for final judging, they should prepare their photograph for hanging at the Show.

1. The printed photo must match the digital image in all respects including color, cropping, and/or manipulation. The photo will be returned to the exhibitor if the Photography Division Committee determines:
  - a. The print is significantly different from the digital submission.
  - b. The print is mounted incorrectly.
  - c. The mounted print does not appear to be in Show condition.
2. The Photography Committee will ask the exhibitor to reprint and/or remount the photo if these conditions apply. The newly mounted photo must be resubmitted to the New England Fall Flower Show prior to Monday, September 10 to be included in the Show.
3. Each Finalist must print and attach to their photograph a completed Entry Form, which will be sent to finalists in their Finalist Acceptance email.
4. The final show quality print of the photograph must be mounted onto **standard-size black foam core** with no over-matting. The surface finish of the photograph is the choice of the exhibitor.
5. **The finished size of the mounted photograph must be at least 48 inches in perimeter, but may not exceed the total perimeter dimension of 60 inches** (for example, an 11 x 14 print).
6. The photographs must be the work of the exhibitor. Printing and mounting may be done professionally.
7. Finalists' mounted photographs must be received by Wednesday, August 20, 2025. If possible, please mail your photograph between August 1-15th to the address provided in their Finalist Acceptance email.
8. If the printed photo is not received by Wednesday, August 20, 2025, the Photography Committee will assume you have withdrawn your entry and your entry position will be given to an alternate.
9. If you wish to receive your entry back after the Show, please include a self-addressed return envelope, packing material (no Styrofoam peanuts), and a \$15 check made payable to Tori Macmillan. If practical, please label your return packing material. If you do not want your photo returned, we donate them to local hospitals and nursing homes or other non-profit organizations.
10. All Finalists will be notified by e-mail of the results of the Judging as soon as possible after the Judging takes place. Entry cards with comment and any ribbons/prizes will be mailed to each finalist within two weeks after the show.

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# FAQ + DEFINITIONS

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## *HOW TO READ THE SCHEDULE & ENTER*

### **What is a competition?**

Competitions are the categories that make up the show. The New England Fall Flower Show "World in Bloom" has 5 competitions that are open for entry:

- Amateur Horticulture
- Junior Horticulture [ages 18 and under]
- Floral Design
- Botanical Arts
- Photography

Each of these competitions contain their own set of rules and requirements, in addition to the general New England Flower Show rules outlined at the beginning of this document. Please read both the general rules and the competition rules carefully when deciding to enter.

### **What is a class?**

A class is a specific category within a competition that is defined by the type of specimen or design that is exhibited. Exhibits are then judged either against each other or against perfection, then assigned awards by Flower Show judges.

### **What is an exhibit?**

Exhibit refers to the plants, design, or photograph you are entering into the show. You are the exhibitor.

### **How can I enter?**

For Amateur and Junior Horticulture, entries are accepted during the week of the show (Thursday, September 18 from 4-7pm and Friday, September 19 from 6-9am), and pre-registration is not required. Please note, however, many classes have a **length of ownership requirement**, which requires you to have owned a plant before a certain date in order for it to be accepted. There is no limit to how many people can enter or how many specimens you can enter.

For Floral Design and Botanical Arts, pre-registration is required and class space is limited. To enter, please read the competition rules and guidelines, review the specifications of the class, and fill out the registration form for your chosen class. Reach out to the Class Consultant (listed in the class or competition) with any additional questions.

For Photography, pre-registration is required. The Photography competition is a juried show, which means that a selection of entries will be chosen to be reviewed by a panel or jurors who will then decide on a smaller selection of exhibits that will be displayed and judged at the 139th New England Fall Flower Show.

For additional questions about exhibiting in the 139th New England Fall Flower Show: World in Bloom, please contact the Class Consultant listed in the class or competitions of this schedule.

## LOCATION & MAP

### Massachusetts Horticultural Society

The Garden at Elm Bank  
900 Washington Street  
Wellesley, MA 02482

[GET DIRECTIONS ON OUR WEBSITE](#)

### *SITE MAP:*

