

Massachusetts Horticultural Society Presents



NEW ENGLAND FALL FLOWER SHOW®

Celebrating the 140th Show
WITH THE THEME

**GROWING
TOGETHER**

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18 – SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2026

THE GARDEN AT ELM BANK

FALLFLOWERSHOW.ORG

Amateur Competitions Schedule & Information

WELCOME

Thank you for your interest in entering the 140th New England Flower Show: Growing Together. We're excited for you to be part of our display, which will be viewed and appreciated by thousands of guests from Friday, September 18 – Sunday, September 20, 2026 at the Garden at Elm Bank in Wellesley, MA.

The New England Fall Flower Show is a place where flowers, communities, and people flourish side by side. This year's theme, 'Growing Together', emphasizes shared experiences, collaboration, and the beauty of collective growth. This schedule outlines the classes of our six competitions that celebrate the beauty of what we grow when we grow together!

The New England Flower Show is a tradition 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.

**New England Fall Flower Show®
"Growing Together"**

Friday, September 18 – Sunday, September 20, 2026
fallflowershow.org

Produced by

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

MHS Flower Show Staff:

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

Amateur Competitions Chair:

Carla Morey



**MASSACHUSETTS
HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY**

THE GARDEN AT ELM BANK

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EXHIBITOR INFORMATION

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 their livelihood may exhibit in **Horticulture**.

Any amateur floral designer who does not design or sell flowers for the major part of their livelihood may exhibit in **Floral Design**.

Any amateur photographer who does not sell their photos for the major part of their livelihood may exhibit in **Photography**.

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.

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

EXHIBITING TIMELINE

Key dates for entering competitions of the New England Fall Flower Show.

Competition	Registration Opens	Registration Closes	Exhibitor Meeting or Workshop	How to Enter
Amateur Horticulture	REGISTRATION NOT REQUIRED		—	Drop Off <i>see times below</i>
Junior Horticulture	REGISTRATION NOT REQUIRED		—	Drop Off <i>see times below</i>
Floral Design	Tuesday, March 3	Monday, May 4	Thursday, May 14	Register
Botanical Arts	Tuesday, February 17	Sunday, June 1	Tuesday, June 3	Register
Photography	Tuesday, April 7	Friday, June 5	—	Register

SHOW TIMELINE

Drop Off & Set Up <i>(Except Photography)</i>	Wednesday, September 16 from 4pm-7pm & Thursday, September 17 from 6am-9am
Judges Welcomed with Briefing	Thursday, September 17 at 9:30am
Show Judged	Thursday, September 17 at 10:30am
Preview Party	Thursday, September 17 at 6pm
Show Open to Public	Friday, September 18 from 9am-5pm, Saturday, September 19 from 9am-5pm & Sunday, September 20 from 9am-4:30pm
Awards Reception	Sunday, September 20 at 4pm
Show Closes	Sunday, September 20 at 4:30pm
Removal Time	Sunday, September 20 from 4:30pm-6pm

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 will be shared later. *No entries will be accepted after 9am on Thursday, September 17.*

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 20. 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		
FLORAL DESIGN			
Chair, Schedule & Classification	Katie Barrack	katwfb@comcast.net	(617) 823-8520
Entries	Carla Morey	moreycarla13@gmail.com	(617) 875-0593
BOTANICAL ARTS			
Chair, Schedule & Entries	Sarah Boynton	sjbgarden68@gmail.com	(781) 771-6947
PHOTOGRAPHY			
Chair, Schedule & Passing	Beth Paisner	bpais001@gmail.com	(508) 380-4682
Juried Show	Beth Paisner	bpais001@gmail.com	(508) 380-4682
	Tori Macmillan	torimacm@gmail.com	
EDUCATION			
Chair	Carrie Waterman	carrie.drury.waterman@gmail.com	(617) 680-9282
AWARDS			
Chair	Meghan Connolly	mconnolly@masshort.org	(617) 933-4934
JUDGES			
Chair	Kathy Michie	michie.kathy@gmail.com	(774) 261-0353
STAGING			
Chair	Carla Morey	moreycarla13@gmail.com	(617) 875-0593

– 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 their livelihood may exhibit. No entry fee is required. Anyone age 18 or under as of September 16, 2026 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 16, 2026, 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. Pre-registration is not required for any Amateur or Junior Horticulture classes.
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 20. We ask that you kindly adhere to these times. The committee assumes no responsibility for entries left after 7pm Sunday, September 20.

For a full timetable, see Show Timeline on page 5

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 47-52 and 55 in Amateur Horticulture Competition and Classes 83-86 in the Junior Horticulture Competition. These can be picked up ahead of the show at the Garden at Elm Bank gatehouse during [Garden Hours](#) or filled out during show drop-off times.
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", 5"x 7" or 8.5"x 11" white, unlined 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 1-82 in the Amateur Horticulture Competition with the exception of Class 69 Par, where multiple blues may be awarded if merited. Only one blue will be awarded in Classes 83-100 in the Junior Horticulture Competition. If merited, more than one red or yellow, and unlimited honorable mention ribbons, may be given in both the Amateur Horticulture and Junior Horticulture Competitions with the exception of Class 69 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

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*
10. *Chrysanthemum*
11. *Hylotelephium* (formerly classified as *Sedum*)
12. *Nipponanthemum nipponicum*, Montauk daisy
13. *Solidago*, golden rod
14. *Aster tataricus*
15. *Symphotrichum*
16. *Coreopsis*
17. *Rudbeckia*
18. *Echinacea*
19. *Eupatorium*
20. *Eurybia*
21. Grasses, 3 stems of a single variety
22. Other

Plants Grown for Seed Heads or Berries

23. *Benthamidia* (*Benthamidia florida*, *B. japonica*)
24. *Calycanthus*
25. *Cotinus*
26. Other

Woody Plants in Fall Foliage, Bloom, Berry or Seed

*indicates staged without bottle, lying flat

27. *Acer*, maple
28. Broadleaf evergreens*
29. *Buddleja*, butterfly bush
30. *Callicarpa*, beautyberry
31. Conifers*
32. *Hydrangea*
33. *Ilex*, holly
34. *Rosa*, rose in bloom. Must be exhibited with at least one attached leaf.
35. *Rosa*, rose hips. For ideas see [here](#).
36. *Viburnum*
37. Woody Vines:
 - a. *Clematis*
 - b. *Lonicera* (non-invasive types only)
38. Other

Dahlias

- 39. *Dahlia*, large and giant: diameter of bloom exceeds 8"
- 40. *Dahlia*, medium: diameter of bloom 4" - 8"
- 41. *Dahlia*, miniature: diameter of bloom less than 4"

Section B. Container-Grown Plants

Blooming Containers

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

- 42. Container 6" or less
- 43. Container over 6"

Foliage Containers

- 44. *Begonia*
- 45. Fern
- 46. Other, variegated
- 47. Other, non-variegated

Miniature or Dwarf Plant

- 48. A mature example of a species or cultivar that is one of the naturally diminutive members of the genus.

Herbs

One species or cultivar per container.

- 49. Culinary herb, with a sample recipe written or printed in a black waterproof medium on a 4" x 6" white unlined information card.
- 50. 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.

- 51. Cacti
- 52. Succulents other than Cacti
 - a. *Echeveria*
 - b. *Gasteria*
 - c. *Haworthia*
 - d. Other
- 53. Collection of three to five different species/cultivars of Cacti in one container. Key card required. Container no larger than 12" in diameter.
- 54. 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.

- 55. Grown from seed
- 56. Grown from stem cutting
- 57. Grown from root cutting
- 58. Grown by air layering
- 59. Grown by division
- 60. Other method

Old Friends

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

62. 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

63. 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.

64. 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

Registration is NOT required for this class. 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 displayed on a simple, unobtrusive saucer provided by the exhibitor. Instructional videos can be found online.

65. 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 Kokedama entry must be able to stand up right without any props or supports.

Pot-et-Fleur

Pot-et-Fleur is a combination of rooted plants (in or out of pots) and cut flowers and/or foliage (in water or conditioned to last for the duration of the show) assembled in a container. The use of whole vegetables and/or fruit is permitted. Horticulture must dominate the entry. No length of ownership required.

66. Create a Pot-et-Fleur container to be viewed from all sides not to exceed 24" in width or depth. No height restrictions. A key card is required to accompany the entry.

Terrarium

A terrarium is a covered, transparent container which holds soil and one or more plants growing in humid conditions. If the terrarium contains several plants, they must be culturally compatible and in scale. It may be a glass garden, Wardian case, enclosure with glass sides and top, arranged for keeping plants.

67. Create a terrarium with a minimum of three or more different species, varieties, or cultivars, in a glass container with a clear cover. Container should not exceed 12" in any dimension including diagonal or diameter. Key card is required. Artificial accessories are not permitted. Plants need to be in the exhibitor's possession since June 16, 2026.

Heirloom Friends

68. Tell a story about a plant that has been owned and grown by the exhibitor for at least five years. The plant should be inherited or acquired. Extra points given for extended years. Containers may not exceed 15". Story should be on a 4"x 6" white unlined information card.

PAR

69. 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

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

70. *Allium cepa*, onion
 71. *Capsicum* spp., sweet and hot peppers
 72. *Cucurbita moschata*, butternut squash
 73. *Cucurbita pepo*, summer squash, zucchini
 74. *Cucumis salivias*, cucumber
 75. *Daucus carota*, carrot [3 displayed]
 76. *Malus domestica*, apple
 77. *Pyrus vulgaris*, pear
 78. *Rubus*, raspberry [3 displayed]
 79. *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
 80. Other
 81. 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.
 82. 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. *Cucumis salivias* 'Sweet Superior', cucumber [2 displayed]
 b. *Citrullus lanatus* 'Mini-Me', watermelon [1 displayed]
 c. *Solanum lycopersicon* 'Little Big Boy', slicer tomato [3 displayed]
 d. *Capsicum* 'Banana Boom', sweet pepper [3 displayed]
 Seeds 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.

Ernest Kimball Logee Award: In memory of Ernest Kimball Logee. Awarded to the most meritorious windowsill grown exhibit in the individual entry classes.

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 in Horticulture: Awarded to any exhibitor(s) for an entry which achieves an exceptional standard of horticultural excellence in the Horticulture division of a flower show. Presented at a sanctioned Non-GCA Flower Show.

Libby Stephenson Award: Awarded to the most meritorious exhibit grown under artificial light in the individual entry classes.

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.

The Cruso Cup for Horticultural Excellence: Awarded for outstanding effort by an individual exhibitor in the Amateur Horticulture Competition.

***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

Collection

Classes 53 & 54

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

Evergreen Cut Specimens

Classes 28 & 31

Condition	40
Form of Branch	40
Grooming	10
Distinction	10
TOTAL	100

Container Grown Plants

Classes 42 - 66

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

Vegetables and Fruit

Small & Medium

Large

Quality: <i>best eating stage, good color</i>	30	35
Condition: <i>free from disease, blemishes</i>	25	30
Size: <i>average or slightly above</i>	15	15
Typical of the variety	15	20
Uniformity	15	-
TOTAL	100	100

Vegetables and Fruit Collection

Condition	30
Variety in kinds shown	30
Staging & arrangement	30
Suitable key card	10
TOTAL	100

Terarium

Cultural Perfection	40
Design	20
Diversity	20
Container	10
Key Card	10
TOTAL	100

Heirloom Friends

Cultural Perfection	40
Length of Ownership	40
Story	20
TOTAL	100

All Other Classes

Cultural Perfection	35
Form & Size of Plant	20
Foliage	15
Grooming	10
Color	10
Rarity	5
Labeling	5
TOTAL	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 16, 2026 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. For Classes 91-94, date of propagation may be any time after January 1, 2026. **For all other classes, plants must have been owned and grown by the junior exhibitor since June 16, 2026.**
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](#).

For a full timetable, see Show Timeline on page 5

CLASSES

General Junior Horticulture Classes (Classes 83-90)

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

83. 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.*
84. Vegetable grown in the exhibitor's garden. One specimen to be displayed on a plate provided by the committee. *Exhibitors 13 to 18 years old.*
85. Leaves Alone. Any container plant grown primarily for foliage*. *Exhibitors 12 years old or under.*
86. Leaves Alone. Any container plant grown primarily for foliage*. *Exhibitors 13 to 18 years old.*
87. Flower Power. Any container plant grown primarily for flowers (must be in bloom)*. *Exhibitors 12 years old or under.*
88. Flower Power. Any container plant grown primarily for flowers (must be in bloom)*. *Exhibitors 13 to 18 years old.*
89. 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 14 in Amateur Horticulture Rules). *Exhibitors 12 years old or under.*
90. 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 14 in Amateur Horticulture Rules).

Junior Propagation Classes (Classes 91-94)

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 91-94. In those classes marked by an *; container may include more than one plant of the same species or cultivar.

91. Flowering Plant Grown from Seed* (for example: marigold, zinnia, cosmos). Plant must be in flower. *Exhibitors 12 years old or under.*
92. Flowering Plant Grown from Seed* (for example: marigold, zinnia, cosmos). Plant must be in flower. *Exhibitors 13 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](#)

93. 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*
94. A Massachusetts native plant grown from seed.* *Exhibitors 13 to 18 years old.*
 - a. Red Columbine, *Aquilegia canadensis*
 - b. Cardinal Flower, *Lobelia cardinalis*
 - c. Spotted Bee Balm, *Monarda punctata*

Junior Cut Specimens Classes (Classes 95-98)

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

95. 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.*
96. One annual or non hardy perennial in bloom such as a *Zinnia*, *Tagetes* (marigold), *Helianthus annuus* (sunflower) or *Cosmos*. *Exhibitors 13 to 18 years old.*
97. One perennial in bloom such as *Anemone*, *Chrysanthemum*, *Hylotelephium* (formerly classified as *Sedum*), or Grass. *Exhibitors 12 years old and under.*
98. One perennial in bloom such as *Anemone*, *Chrysanthemum*, *Hylotelephium* (formerly classified as *Sedum*) or Grass. *Exhibitors 13 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.

99. 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.*
100. 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 to 18 years old.*

AWARDS

Beket Lang Award: Awarded for an outstanding effort by a Junior Horticulture exhibitor (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

ALSO FOR JUNIORS:

**Photography Competition
Class 5: Seeking Perspective
Junior and Amateur Collaboration Diptych**

[Visit Page 28 to Read the Rules and Class Description](#)

FLORAL DESIGN COMPETITION

RULES AND GUIDELINES

Eligibility

1. Floral Design Competition Classes are open to all. Any amateur floral designer who does not design or sell flowers for the major part of their livelihood may exhibit in Floral Design.
2. 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 [registration form](#) and also found after the classes in this schedule. If exhibiting in the Floral Design Competition Classes, you cannot judge in the same Class.

Entering & Registration

3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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	May 4
Floral Design Orientation	May 14 at 10am [Garden at Elm Bank]

For a full timetable, see Show Timeline on page 5

Display & Design Components

7. 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.
8. Pedestal tops may be covered with plexiglass or similar material, no fabric permitted. No plant material can extend down the front of the pedestal.
9. 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.
10. No accessories are allowed unless specified in the class schedule.
11. All containers must be labeled inconspicuously with the exhibitor's name.

12. Mechanics should not be visible unless they are an integral part of the design.
13. Designs may be partially assembled prior to show with finishing touches done on site. All Floral Design pedestals are painted semi-gloss black.

Accompanying Information

14. All plant material must be correctly identified with the botanical and common names. A preliminary plant list must be submitted by September 9, 2026 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](#).
15. If a Statement of Intent is stated in the Class description, it should be included in the same form as the preliminary plant list above. It should be 25 words or less offering insight into the exhibitor's creation. If the Statement of Intent is not part of the Class description, it will not be accepted.

Restricted Material

16. 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

17. 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 Competition and must exhibit alone.

MHS Disclaimer

18. 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
19. 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 Growing over the Years

4 Entries

THIS CLASS IS NOW FULL

Interpret a historic Massachusetts Horticultural Society Flower Show Poster from 1999. The poster can be found [here](#). Design will be staged on a black pedestal 36" high, with an 18" square top, placed against a cream colored wall.

A large copy of the poster will be displayed on the wall above the Class. All designers will interpret the same poster. Viewed from three sides.

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

CLASS 2 Growing Together

4 Entries

THIS CLASS IS NOW FULL

Create a Pot et Fleur design where cut flowers must predominate.

Staged on a high-backed black pedestal. The design surface is 30" wide x 17" deep and is 35.75" from the floor, with a high-back measuring 42" tall from the design surface to its top. Viewed from three sides.

Pot et Fleur Design: A combination of cut flowers and/or foliage (in water or conditioned to last the duration of the Show), and rooted plants (in or out of pots), assembled in a container.

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

CLASS 3 Loyal Companions

4 Entries

THIS CLASS IS NOW FULL

Create a Vegetative design using grouped plant material. (Invasive plant materials applicable to MA are not permitted). The designer can use all surfaces in their allotted space, but please do not exceed the staging in any direction. No more than two rooted plants permitted.

Pedestal has two high backed sides joining at the back of the design area to form a 90 degree pie shaped design space. Back corner to curved radial front measures 34.5" deep, back corner to each of the two wall edges measures 34.5". The design space area is 30" from the floor, and 40" to the top of the two high backs. Viewed from three sides.

Vegetative Design: A design presenting grouped plant material, placed as it grows naturally. Materials may overlap and intermingle as they do in nature.

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

CLASS 4 Shared Insights

4 Entries

THIS CLASS IS NOW FULL

Create a Functional Table set for two who discovered they share a common love of flowers, one in particular. Your floral choice should dominate the floral design but can be paired with other fresh flowers and foliage.

Class will be staged on a card table measuring 34" x 34" x 29" with a floor length white tablecloth, overlay cloth is permitted. A Statement of Intent is required for this Class showcasing your choice of flower. Statement of Intent should be no longer than 25 words. Viewed from 4 sides.

Functional Table: A table exhibit arranged for dining, may include dishes, glassware, linens, and floral design(s) with or without other food related components such as salt and pepper shakers. Accessories and flatware are not permitted.

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

CLASS 5 Support Network

4 Entries

THIS CLASS IS NOW FULL

Create a Construction design incorporating upcycled, man-made materials combined with florals and foliage in a contemporary design.

Design is not to exceed outside edges of the pedestal in any direction including down the sides of the pedestal. Staged on a black 24" square-topped pedestal 36" tall. Viewed from four sides.

Construction Design: A contemporary design style with strong geometric or architectural characteristics, often employing natural or man-made materials joined to create a structure.

Upcycled: Man-made materials which are otherwise discarded that are creatively transformed into a new form.

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

CLASS 6 Flow Together

4 Entries

THIS CLASS IS NOW FULL

Create a Cascade design staged on a high-backed black pedestal. The design surface measures 30" wide x 22" deep and is 30" from the floor. High-Back measures 40" from design surface to top of backing. Design is not to exceed outside edges of the pedestal in any direction including down the sides of the pedestal. Viewed from three sides.

Cascade Design: A design constructed of layered, loosely trailing plant material which appears to flow, spill or tumble.

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



AWARDS

Best in Show: Awarded to a blue ribbon winner.

Garden Club of America Award of Distinction in Floral Design: Awarded to any exhibitor(s) for a creative design of outstanding beauty in a competitive class in the Floral Design division of a flower show. Presented at a sanctioned Non-GCA Flower Show for GCA clubs, non-members, or other organizations. Entry must have placed first, second, or third in a judged class. Challenge class entries not eligible.

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

For Judging Functional Table (Class 4):

Design	35	Floral Design	25
Creativity	20	Overall Design	20
Interpretation	20	Color & Textural Harmony	15
Distinction	15	Conformance	15
Conformance	10	Interpretation	15
TOTAL	100	Distinction	10
		TOTAL	100

BOTANICAL ARTS COMPETITION

RULES AND GUIDELINES

Eligibility

1. Botanical Arts Competition Classes are open to all. Registrants will be notified of acceptance into a Class or waitlisted within two weeks after schedule is posted.. 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 Art 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 Competition.

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 Wednesday, September 16 between 4-7pm and on Thursday, September 17 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 20. 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	February 17
Registration deadline	June 1
Botanical Arts Orientation	June 3 at 10am via Zoom
Mail-In Due Date	August 22
Hand-Delivery Dates	Thursday, September 18 from 4-7pm or Friday, September 19 from 6-9am

For a full timetable, see Show Timeline on page 5

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 not part of the plant kingdom, algae, including seaweed and kelp, and dried fungi, including mushrooms and lichen, 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.

Committee Contact & Class Consultant:

Sarah Boynton, sjbgarden68@gmail.com

CLASSES

CLASS 1 Nature's Framework

4 Entries

THIS CLASS IS NOW FULL

FORM CLASS: Create a miniature garden structure with accompanying plant material using all dried plant material. Exhibitors may choose the type and style of structure intended to support vining or climbing plants, such as a trellis, arbor, gate, pergola, obelisk, or plant cage. The design should evoke a sense of place, an intimate garden moment in miniature, featuring dried plant material that naturally climbs, twines, or drapes upon and around the structure.

The completed structure and its surrounding plant material must fit within a total footprint of 8 inches by 8 inches, with the overall height also restricted to 8 inches. Non-plant material may be used as a base or support, but must be completely covered with dried plant material and must not be visible. The design must be self supporting and visually coherent from all sides.

Entries will be viewed and judged from all sides.

CLASS 2 Growing Treasures

4 Entries

NOVICE CLASS AND EMBELLISHMENT CLASS: Create a trinket box embellished with at least 50% dried plant material. An unfinished wooden box will be supplied to each exhibitor upon registration and payment of a \$10 fee. The unfinished box measures 3.7 inches by 2.2 inches by 2.1 inches. The completed design must not exceed 5 inches in width, depth, or height.

The box may be presented with the lid open or closed, attached or removed. The clasp and hinges may be removed if desired. If the entry is mailed, exhibitors should include a photograph indicating the preferred presentation on the riser.

Entries will be viewed and judged from all sides.

NOVICE EXHIBITORS ONLY: Novice exhibitor is a Botanical Arts Exhibitor who has not won a blue ribbon or the Artisan Award in any of the past MHS Flower Shows.

CLASS 3 From Bud to Bloom

4 Entries

JEWELRY CLASS: Create a necklace using all dried plant material that represents a plant, or plants, as they develop from bud to full bloom. The design should illustrate stages of growth, from the promise of tightly furled buds to the exuberance of open flowers, with transitions that feel organic and harmonious, reflecting the energy and movement of growth. The necklace must be wearable in scale and proportion.

The entry will be displayed on a 12 inch black neck form provided by the Committee. A \$20 fee for the form is required and will be sent to the exhibitor upon registration and payment.

Entries will be viewed and judged from three sides.

REGISTRATION

Please ensure you've read the rules and guidelines thoroughly before registering. [Click here to register for Botanical Arts.](#)

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.

AWARDS

Best in 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: Awarded to any exhibitor(s) for a creative design of outstanding beauty in a competitive class in the Botanical Arts division. Presented at a sanctioned Non-GCA Flower Show for GCA clubs, non-members, or other organizations. Entry must have placed first, second, or third in a judged Class in its division. Challenge Classes 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
TOTAL	100

PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

RULES AND GUIDELINES

Eligibility

- Classes 1-4 are open to adult amateur photographers only.** Any amateur photographer who does not sell their photos for the major part of their livelihood may exhibit in Photography.
- Class 5 is open to adult and junior amateur photographers.** Junior photographers are aged 10-17 years.

Entering

- 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.
- 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.
- The digital photos will be juried by a panel of photography judges to determine the six finalists 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 Thursday, August 20, 2026.
- 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 (the overall dimension of final entry must be a minimum of 40" and not exceed 60" in total perimeter measurement).
- Rename your digital photo file: Last name.First name.Class entered. For example: Smith.Joan.Class1.jpeg, rather than IMG-1.jpeg.
- 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.
- 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 7
Registration deadline	Friday, June 5
Jury Results & Finalist Acceptance	Friday, July 10
Mail-in Deadline	Thursday, August 20

For a full timetable, see Show Timeline on page 5

Committee Contact & Class Consultant:
Beth Paisner, bpais001@gmail.com

CLASSES

Growing Together: Celebrating and exploring connection, nature, and growth through the lens.

CLASS 1 Celebrating Artistry

16 Juried | 6 Finalists

An intimate landscape of human-made objects enhancing a garden. 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).

CLASS 2 Bearing Witness

16 Juried | 6 Finalists

A traditional landscape that captures a natural environment. Monochrome

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.

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 3 Savoring the Harvest

16 Juried | 6 Finalists

A composed Still Life with fruits and/or vegetables evoking the beauty and symbolism of harvested growth. Color.

Composed Still Life: an intentional arrangement by the photographer of a variety of objects to convey a visual story or to explore broader compositional concepts such as color, form, light, or shadow.

CLASS 4 Growing Native

16 Juried | 6 Finalists

Close up of a New England Native plant. Color

Use this reference guide: [Native Plant Trust Plant Finder](#)

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

CLASS 5 Seeking Perspective

16 Juried | 6 Finalists

Junior and Amateur Collaboration Diptych

Create a diptych without borders, from two images of the same plant. The two images must come from two completely different photographs taken by the two photographers. Color

Diptych: Two images, printed on a single piece of photographic paper, which together create a unified composition.



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 flower show. Presented at a sanctioned Non-GCA Flower Show for GCA clubs, non-members, or other organizations. Entry must have placed first, second, or third in a judged Class in its division.

Massachusetts Horticultural Society Corliss Knapp Engle Photography Award: May be awarded to a photograph by an amateur photographer in the Photography Competition of the New England 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 show which is of exceptional merit.

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
TOTAL	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 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 7 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 Thursday, August 20, 2026. If possible, please mail your photograph between August 1-15.
Mail to: **Massachusetts Horticultural Society**
Attn: Flower Show Photography Competition
900 Washington Street
Wellesley, MA 02482
8. If the printed photo is not received by Thursday, August 20, 2026, 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 shipping label. Shipping material will be recycled for the returns. 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.

EDUCATION COMPETITION

RULES AND GUIDELINES

Eligibility

1. Education exhibits may be executed by any invited person(s), organization, or business wishing to communicate information relevant to the educational message of the Flower Show.

Entering

2. Please carefully read and follow the Exhibitor Information and Exhibiting Timeline.
3. Exhibit set up starts Wednesday, September 16 at 4pm and ends Thursday, September 17 at 9am.
4. Include a brief statement of intent (60 words or less) for each Education exhibit.
5. Exhibitors are responsible for the complete removal of their exhibit at the end of the show between 5:30-7pm on Sunday, September 20.

STATEMENT OF INTENT

Growing Together Since 1829

The earliest exhibits of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society featured vegetables and fruits to teach the public about new horticulture techniques and varieties. Please join us as we explore that history, enjoy a visual feast of what we are growing in our vegetable gardens and a propagation how-to for starting seeds, as MHS continues its long tradition of growing together.

AWARDS

Garden Club of America Award of Distinction in Education: Awarded to a flower show exhibit of exceptional educational merit which increases the knowledge and appreciation of plants and their importance. Presented at a sanctioned Non-GCA Flower Show for GCA clubs, non-members, or other organizations.

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

POINT SCALE FOR JUDGING

Educational Value	65
Staging	20
Creativity & Distinction	15
TOTAL	100

FAQ + DEFINITIONS

What is a competition?

Competitions are the categories that make up the Show. The New England Fall Flower Show: Growing Together 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 contains its 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 at the Garden at Elm Bank during the week of the Show (Wednesday, September 16 from 4-7pm and Thursday, September 17 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 ("finalists") that will be displayed and judged at the 140th New England Fall Flower Show.

For additional questions about exhibiting in the 140th New England Fall Flower Show: Growing Together, 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:

