



2026 Convention Flower Show Schedule OHA 118th Convention July 24-26, 2026

Host: District 4 & 17

Theme: “Gardening for Life”

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RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. **Theme:** This competition is inspired by the convention theme and linked to the other competitions through the theme **“Gardening for Life”** to explore creative expression and stimulate viewing interest.
2. **Eligibility:** The competition is open to members In Good Standing of a Society/Club (hereafter Society) In Good Standing with the Ontario Horticultural Association (OHA).
3. **Entry:**
 - a. Design and Special Exhibit entries must be **pre-registered by June 1, 2026**.
 - b. Entries can be placed at the convention on Thursday from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. and Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and are to remain in place until the show closes on Saturday at 5:00 p.m.
 - c. No late entries will be accepted, no exceptions.
 - d. Exhibitors may enter all Divisions. All entries must have a generic entry tag (sample appended below), giving necessary information including class name (article) and number, exhibitor's name, Society and District. Tags will be supplied at the convention by the OHA. You will be given an exhibitor number upon registration and the year (yr) ID 2026. To make entry easier you may use a return address label in the space for your name. ***In design classes, an exhibitor may choose up to 5 classes to enter and must list them in order of preference. Every effort will be made to accommodate every exhibitor in at least their top 3 choices.***

- e. Reasonable security will be provided for exhibitor's property; however, neither the OHA nor Durham College assumes any responsibility for loss or damage.
- f. Exhibitors are to place their entries on the show table. The show committee reserves the right to move horticulture entries when necessary to accommodate exhibitors or to subdivide any class. For this show, exhibitors may have someone else bring their entries and have them place the entries on the show table as instructed by the Show Committee.
- g. Exhibitors are encouraged to use reusable mechanics for design entries as floral foam is not biodegradable.
- h. Noxious weeds (<https://www.ontario.ca/page/noxious-weeds-ontario#section-2>), invasive plants (<https://www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca/invasive-plants/species/>), scarce, protected, or endangered native plants (www.ontario.ca/page/species-risk) will be disqualified. The final decision will be at the discretion of the Show Committee.
- i. Judging is in accordance with the *Ontario Judging and Exhibiting Standards (OJES) for Floral Design and Horticulture* (2019). Please use this reference for information and definitions. Copies may be purchased from the OHA Garden Shop (<https://gardenontario.org/gardenshop/>).

Entries – Horticulture:

- a. Exhibitors must provide their own containers.
- b. Exhibitors are allowed up to two (2) entries per class provided they are different cultivars.
- c. Entry tags should include both the common name and the botanical name (if possible).
- d. All exhibits must have been grown by the exhibitor.
- e. For potted plants (Section D), the exhibitor must have owned the entry for at least three months prior to exhibiting. Entries may have more than one plant in a container provided they are the same cultivar, except for African Violets. Pot slipcovers (cache pots) are allowed and should be unobtrusive.
- f. A bud showing colour will be considered a bloom.
- g. Exhibits must be kept in good condition during the show. An entry may only be watered during non-viewing hours either by the exhibitor or the Show Committee.

Entries – Design:

- a. Pre-registration is required for each class. **Exhibitors must register by June 1, 2026**, with the Registrar (see contact information above). Only five entries can be accommodated per class, so register early. Space will be reserved for each entry upon registration. Any exhibitor who finds it necessary to withdraw must make every effort to find a substitute and advise the show chair if unable to reach the registrar.
- b. Exhibitors may enter up to 5 design classes but may submit only one entry in each class. ***In design classes, an exhibitor may choose up to 5 classes to enter and must list them in order of preference. Every effort will be made to accommodate every exhibitor in at least their top 3 choices.***
- c. Allocated space, unless otherwise stated, is 61 cm (24") wide by 76 cm (30") deep on an ultramarine blue table covering. The registrar will assign a specific space to

- an exhibitor for their entry. An exhibitor is not to change this space. An exhibitor may not impinge on another space or move an entry by another exhibitor unless authorized by the show committee.
- d. Exhibitors must have created their entry and if in person, place it on the show table. Exhibitors may have someone else bring their completed entries and have them place those entries as instructed by the show committee.
 - e. Entries must be kept in good condition for the duration of the show. An entry may be refreshed by the exhibitor only during non-viewing hours but must retain its original form and colour.
 - f. Accessories are permitted unless otherwise stated in the schedule.
 - g. Fresh plant material must predominate over other components of the entry, unless otherwise stated. No artificial plant material or cut or sliced fruit is allowed.
 - h. No soil is permitted in design entries. Use of decorative sand is permitted but should not be placed directly onto the show table or other staging surfaces.
 - i. Plant material may be obtained from any source.

Entries – Special Exhibits:

- a. In Special Exhibits, horticulture perfection and overall exhibit design are evaluated. Plants should be chosen with similar cultural requirements with variations in form, colour texture, etc., for visual effect. Kinds/cultivars to be named, if possible, on a separate card provided by the exhibitor. Consult *OJES 2019*, p. 118-119.
- b. **Pre-registration is required for each class.** Exhibitors must register **by June 1, 2026**, with the registrar (see contact information above). Only five entries can be accommodated per class, so exhibitors are encouraged to register early. Space will be reserved for each entry upon registration. Any exhibitor who finds it necessary to withdraw must make every effort to find a substitute and advise the registrar or the show chair if not able to reach the registrar.
- c. Exhibitors may enter any number of Special Exhibits classes but may submit only one entry in each class.
- d. The allocated space is 61 cm (24") wide x 76 cm (30") deep on an ultramarine blue table covering. The registrar will assign a specific space to an exhibitor for their entry. An exhibitor may not change this space or impinge on another space or move an entry by another exhibitor unless authorized by the show committee (see next).
- e. Exhibitors must have created their entry and if in person, place it on the show table. Exhibitors may have someone else bring their completed entries and have them place those entries as instructed by the show committee.
- f. Entries must be kept in good condition for the duration of the show. Any entry may be refreshed by the exhibitor only during non-viewing hours but must retain its original form and colour.
- g. A Special Exhibits entry should conform to *OJES 2019* definitions unless otherwise stated in class description.
- h. Accessories are permitted.
- i. Plant material may be obtained from any source and may be newly acquired.

4. Judging

Judging is in accordance with *OJES 2019* and takes place on Friday, July 24th from 9:30 a.m. to noon.

- Honourable Mention (HM) to be awarded at the judge's discretion.
- A *Best in Show* is based on merit and selected from 1st place entries.
- A *Judge's Choice* need not be a 1st place winner. It is based on the judge's recognition of an entry that is notable in some aspect.
- Judges may withhold an award if, in their opinion, no entry is worthy.
- The judge's decision is final.

5. Awards:

Horticulture

OHA ribbon and cash prize

Collections :	1st \$6	2nd \$4	3rd \$2	HM	\$1
All Other Sections :	1st \$3	2nd \$2	3rd \$1	HM	\$1

Best in Show – OHA Rosette and \$20 (Donated by Host Districts)

Judge's Choice – OHA Rosette and \$20 (Donated by Host Districts)

Design

OHA ribbon and cash prize 1st \$6 2nd \$4 3rd \$2 HM \$1

Best in Show – OHA Rosette and \$40 (Donated by Host Districts)

Judge's Choice – OHA Rosette and \$25 (Donated by Host Districts)

Special Exhibits

OHA ribbon and cash prize 1st \$6 2nd \$4 3rd \$2 HM \$1

Best in Show – OHA Rosette and \$20 (Donated by Host Districts)

Judge's Choice – OHA Rosette and \$20 (Donated by Host Districts)

6. Viewing:

All entries will be displayed with tags open.

The show will be open on Friday, 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m. and Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

7. Return:

Entries and prizes are to be picked up by the exhibitor (or authorized designate) on Saturday between 5:00 and 6:00 p.m. or Sunday between 7:30 and 8:30 a.m. or if necessary, by special arrangement with the Flower Show chair. A signature is necessary for removal of entries and receipt of cash prizes.

HORTICULTURE DIVISION

Convenor: Bonnie-Lynn Murphy bonnielynnmurphy@gmail.com

Note:

- Exhibitors must provide their own containers and tray as stated in the schedule.
- A spray is the terminal flowering growth carried on one stem ideally showing flowers in bloom, buds showing colour, green buds, and leaves (see OJES 2019, p.152).
- A bud showing colour is considered a bloom.
- The Hosta standard of leaf size measurement has been changed (see OJES 2019 p.76)
- Entry tags should include both the common name and the botanical name, if possible.

SECTION A – ANNUALS and BIENNIALS

Class

1. Coleus, 1 cultivar, 1 stem
2. Cosmos, 1 cultivar 3 stems
3. Marigold, 1 cultivar, 3 blooms with own foliage
4. Petunia, single, 1 cultivar, 3 stems
5. Petunia, semi-double/double, 1 cultivar, 3 stems
6. Salvia, 1 cultivar, 3 stems
7. Snapdragon, 1 cultivar, 3 stems
8. Zinnia, 1 cultivar, 3 stems
9. Any other annual or biennial not listed above, 1 cultivar, 3 blooms, stems, spikes or sprays

SECTION B – PERENNIALS, BULBS, CORMS, RHIZOMES and TUBERS

Class

10. Dahlia, Ball type, 1 stem
11. Dahlia, Decorative (formal or informal), 1 stem
12. Dahlia, Cactus type, 1 stem
13. Dahlia, Waterlily type, 1 stem
14. Dahlia, any other type, 1 stem
15. Echinacea, 1 cultivar, 3 stems
16. Gaillardia, 1 cultivar, 3 stems
17. Heuchera/Heucherella/Tiarella, 1 cultivar, 3 leaves
18. Hosta, 193 sq. cm to less than 413 sq. cm (30 sq. in to less than 64 sq. in), 1 cultivar, 3 leaves
19. Hosta, 39 sq. cm to less than 193 sq. cm (6 sq. in to less than 30 sq. in), 1 cultivar, 3 leaves
20. Lilium, 1 stem (no more than 1/3 of stem to ensure future growth of the plant)
21. Phlox, 1 cultivar, 3 stems
22. Rudbeckia, 1 spray
23. Sedum, low growing, foliage, 1 cultivar, 3 stems
24. Sedum, upright, flowering, 1 stem
25. Any other perennial, bulb, corm, rhizome or tuber not listed above, 1 cultivar, 1 stem, spike, or spray

SECTION C – ROSES

Class

26. Rosa, grown for fragrance, 1 specimen bloom
27. Rosa, David Austin, 1 specimen bloom
28. Rosa, Modern Shrub of Canadian origin (Morden, Parkland etc.), 1 spray
29. Rosa, Miniature/Patio, 1 specimen bloom
30. Rosa, any other (Grandiflora, Floribunda, Polyantha, etc.), 1 spray

SECTION D – POTTED PLANTS

Note: Maximum pot size 20 cm (8") in diameter.

Class

31. Anthurium (Flamingo flower) in bloom, 1 cultivar, 1 pot
32. Cactus, any cultivar, not grafted, 1 cultivar, 1 pot
33. Orchid, 1 cultivar, 1 pot
34. Succulent, other than cactus, any type, 1 cultivar, 1 pot
35. Any other plant grown principally for decorative foliage, 1 cultivar, 1 pot
36. Any other plant grown principally for bloom, in bloom, 1 cultivar, 1 pot

SECTION E – COLLECTIONS

Note: See OJES 2019 (pp.38-39). A collection is a specified number of stems of different kinds (cultivars): exhibited for cultural perfection. They should be named on a separate card (supplied by the exhibitor) with common names and botanical names, if possible. For this show, **specimens are to be exhibited in individual containers** on a flat rectangular piece of fabric or paper or tray (supplied by the exhibitor). Tray/mat not to exceed 30 cm x 46 cm (12" x 18"). Do not exhibit your collection in one container.

Class

37. Grasses, minimum of 3 different cultivars, 2 stems of each, named.
38. Mixed cut garden flowers excluding branches or vines, minimum of 7 different cultivars, 1 stem of each, named. No additional foliage to be included.
39. Cut herbs, minimum of 5 different cultivars, 1 specimen of each, named.
40. Cut garden foliage excluding branches, minimum of 3 different cultivars, 1 stem of each, named.

DESIGN DIVISION

Convenor: Barbara Twiner plantsbarbara1@gmail.com

Note: Pre-registration per class is required (see above). Only five entries can be accommodated per Class 40-46. Allocated space, unless otherwise stated, is 61 cm (24") wide X 76 cm (30") deep, no height restriction, on an ultramarine blue table covering in a white niche 61 cm (24") wide x 76 cm (30") high.

See OJES 2019 for definition and exhibiting of miniature (p.32) designs.

Theme: “Gardening for Life”.

Class

41. **Eat your Veggies** - a design
42. **Moon Garden** - a design
43. **Sunshine and Rainbows** - an abstract design (OJES p. 129) - A design in which plant material and other components, together with space are used as design units, i.e. line, form, colour and texture to create original images free from unnecessary additions. Some natural growth pattern may or may not be apparent. Includes: Assemblage, Collage and Kinetic, etc.
44. **Rainy Day in the Garden** - a design with a Visible Use of Water (OJES p. 156). A design that must include water that is clearly visible. Any design in which water is an important component. May be water viewing, underwater etc.
45. **Canadian Rail Trail** - a design
46. **Before the Storm** - a miniature design with fresh plant material staged in a white “L” shaped niche, 14.6 cm (5 3/4") wide x 15.2 cm (6") high x 12.7 cm (5") deep, viewed at eye level.
47. **After the Storm** - a miniature design with dried plant material staged in an “L” shaped niche, 14.6 cm (5 3/4") wide x 15.2 cm (6") high x 12.7 cm (5") deep, viewed at eye level.

SPECIAL EXHIBITS DIVISION

Convenor: Barbara Twiner plantsbarbara1@gmail.com

Note: Pre-registration per class is required (see above). Only five entries can be accommodated per class. The allocated space is 61 cm (24") wide X 76 cm (30") deep, no height restriction, on an ultramarine blue table covering.

Class

48. **Enjoying the Fruits of Your Labour** - a Pot-et-Fleur (OJES p. 149) A combination of growing plants (foliage and\or flowering), in or out of pots, packed lightly with soil and\or other moisture-retaining material, plus cut flowers in tubes of water, floral foam or other material, assembled in one container. Moss, decorative wood and rock may be included. No cut foliage is permitted, cut flowering and\or fruited branches may be used.
49. **Nature Walk** - a miniature landscape (OJES p. 145) A planted exhibit in which a scene from nature is realistically and intentionally created. The scale of all organic and non-organic components is of utmost importance. The use of mature miniature plant material is desirable.

50. **Spice of Life - Plants and Flowers**, must include herbs and be presented in more than 1 container (OJES p. 148) A combination of growing plants plus cut flowers and/or cut foliage with a water source. Any other plant material may be included.

**Entry tags will be available at the Convention.
If you wish to fill out your tags in advance, you may use the tags below.
Print out as many as you will need.**

OHA CONVENTION FLOWER SHOW		OHA CONVENTION FLOWER SHOW		OHA CONVENTION FLOWER SHOW	
CLASS _____	SECTION _____	CLASS _____	SECTION _____	CLASS _____	SECTION _____
ARTICLE		ARTICLE		ARTICLE	
1 ST 2 ND 3 RD HM	1 ST 2 ND 3 RD HM	1 ST 2 ND 3 RD HM			
.....			
<i>fold back bottom portion</i>	<i>fold back bottom portion</i>	<i>fold back bottom portion</i>			
EXHIBITOR'S NO. _____ YR _____	EXHIBITOR'S NO. _____ YR _____	EXHIBITOR'S NO. _____ YR _____			
NAME _____	NAME _____	NAME _____			
SOCIETY _____	SOCIETY _____	SOCIETY _____			
DISTRICT _____	DISTRICT _____	DISTRICT _____			