

# **OPEN CLASS HORTICULTURE**

**Judging on Thursday, July 15**

**FLOWERS, FRUITS, VEGETABLES,  
AND HERBS**

**REGULATION AND PREMIUM LIST**

**EL PASO COUNTY FAIR**

**July 11-18, 2021**

Open Class Horticulture Competition  
2021 El Paso County Fair

## General Information

### ***Why enter?***

- Help keep our agricultural heritage alive in El Paso County
- Dazzle fair attendees with the beauty and bounty from your garden
- Share a favorite flower or super-sized vegetable
- Show off your gardening skills and accomplishments, as well as your artistic talents
- Inspire others to ***grow!***
- WIN prize money and ribbons

The 2021 El Paso County Fair is right around the corner! If you grow flowers, fruits, vegetables or herbs in your home garden, consider entering them in the Open Class Horticulture Competition for adults and youth. Horticulture Day is Thursday, July 15th, 2021.

You do not have to be the best gardener to enjoy entering something in the horticulture competition. Every year, people bring a favorite rose, a fragrant bunch of chocolate mint, or a striking amaranth bloom and they walk away with a ribbon. If it impresses you, it's likely it will impress other people and the judges!

### ***How to enter:***

Here are the simple steps you need to follow to enter:

1. Decide which items to enter - You can enter most flowers, fruits, vegetables, houseplants, and herbs that you have ***personally*** grown. Check to see if your item fits into a class listed on what is called the "Premium List." The Premium List contains all of the rules for the competition and the judging classes. It also contains what part of the plant and how many stems or fruits you should bring. The Premium List is located on-line at <http://www.elpasocountyfair.com>.
  2. Help us by pre-registering your entries. This means that you fill out and turn in your entry forms to the Colorado State University Extension Office in El Paso County no later than Monday, July 12, 2021. Extension office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. It is understood that entries may change the day of the event based on weather and harvest conditions, therefore pre-registrations are not considered final or binding. No fees are collected at pre-registration. Pre-registration forms are available after June 10, 2021 online at [www.elpasocountyfair.com](http://www.elpasocountyfair.com), at the Fair office in Calhan, or at the CSU Extension office at 17 North Spruce in Colorado Springs.
- Be sure to pick up Entry Labels when you pre-register, so that you can fill these out before the competition. Labels available after June 10, 2021.
3. Registration occurs the day of competition and judging. Payment for all items entered will be collected (see below for fees). Registrations forms will be available at the competition venue which is the Whittmore Building on the Fairgrounds.
  4. Entry fees - Entry fees are charged based on the number of items that you enter. See the rules section for more details. Entry fees are paid to El Paso County Fair when you turn in your entry form. You will be required to fill out and submit a W-9 to receive prize money. Your Social Security number will be required.
  5. Entering items - List your floral and foliage entries on the "Floriculture" entry form and your edible entries on the "Fruits, Vegetables, and Herbs" entry form. There are separate forms for Adults and Youth.

6. Entry Labels - Exhibits will be entered and labeled according to Department and Class Code on the premium list. An exhibitor may make only one entry per class.

Exhibitors are responsible for correct completion of entry tags. Entry tags may be printed from the El Paso County Fair web site or picked up at the Colorado State University Extension office after June 10, 2021.

If you are entering many items, we suggest filling out the labels at home and bringing them with you to the competition or you can fill them out when you enter your items.

7. Entering items in competition - Entries should be brought to Whittemore Building at the fairground in Calhan. Entry into the Fairground must be made VIA THE EAST GATE, at no charge, between 8:30 a.m. and 10 a.m. on Thursday, July 15, 2021. All processing of horticulture entries must be completed by 12:00 p.m.

After completing their entries, exhibitors should go to the entry gate and pay admission to the fair. Judging begins at 1:00 p.m. Thursday, July 15, 2021, and is open to the public. Decisions of the judges are final.

8. Prepping your entries - Presentation is very important. Improper presentation can eliminate your entries from competition. Read and follow the entry guidelines listed in the Premium List. Arrive early enough to prepare all of your entries. No entries are accepted after 12:00 p.m.

Flowers and herbs are placed in soda bottles filled with water that are provided for you. If the stem is bigger than 3/4" in diameter, bring your own bottle to display the item. Fruits and vegetables are placed on plates that are provided.

This event is made possible with the support of Colorado State University Extension in El Paso County, working with the El Paso County Fair Board and El Paso County Community Service Division. Colorado State University Extension volunteers coordinate manage and tend the annual Horticulture competition. Their goal is for you to learn from the horticulture exhibit, to enjoy the competition and to be inspired to grow.

**Thank you for participating!**

## 2021 El Paso County Fair Open Class Horticulture Competition

### GENERAL RULES

All fruit, vegetables, herbs, and flowers and potted plants are restricted to those grown by exhibitors. Items can be grown at any location in Colorado.

#### **Exceptions:**

- Items used in Dept. B- Artistic Arranged Floral Designs entries need not be grown by the exhibitor.
- Dept. F-Potted plants (non-blooming) must be grown by the exhibitor for a minimum of 6 months prior to the competition.
- Dept. G -Potted plants (blooming) must be grown by the exhibitor for a minimum of 45 days prior to the competition.

The deadline for pre-registration is 5:00 p.m. on July 12, 2021

Exhibitor entry forms are available prior to the fair at the fair office, 366 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Calhan, CO 80808, and online at [www.elpasocountyfair.com/](http://www.elpasocountyfair.com/) and at the CSU Extension office, 17 North Spruce, Rm 220. Entry forms will also be available at the Whittemore Building on July 15, 2021.

Registration fees must be paid at the time of registration. **Registration fees are non-refundable.**

1-5 items.....\$5.00  
Each additional item.....\$1.00  
Maximum entry fee.....\$30.00

Exhibits will be judged according to trueness to variety and type, uniformity, quality and maturity as against perfection. Correct naming of genus, species and variety of cultivar increases the value of the exhibit. The decision of the judges is final. Entries can be disqualified at the judges' or superintendent's discretion if the entry does not conform to the specification described in the premium list. Disqualified entries will not be judged.

**Entries are to be picked up between 9:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, July 18, 2021.** NO EXHIBITS WILL BE RELEASED BEFORE THIS TIME. Unclaimed entries will be disposed of after 3:00 p.m. unless other arrangements have been made. RIBBONS MUST BE PICKED UP BY THE EXHIBITOR unless prior arrangements are made.

Exhibitors may submit a protest to an entry or judges' decision by filing a protest in writing with the Horticulture Superintendent within 24 hours of the judging decision in question. All protests must be accompanied by a \$15 cash deposit. Upon receipt of a properly presented protest the Superintendent will appoint a committee of three disinterested, qualified persons to review the protest and evidence and render a decision. If the protest is sustained, the deposit will be returned to the complainant. If the protest is not sustained, the deposit shall be forfeited to the El Paso County Fair Board.

**The Fair Board, clerks or superintendents will not be responsible for loss or damage to any exhibit or ribbons.**

## AWARDS:

Entries will be judged on merit, regardless of the number of entries in a class. No premium or distinction of any kind shall be given an entry which does not deserve or is improperly entered.

**Awards:** Youth (under 18) and adults will be judged separately. Judges may award up to three places in each class, in any combination warranted by the quality of the entries. For example, three First place and no Second or Third place may be awarded. Or one First and two Second may be awarded. Only three places per class may be awarded.

Each award winner in both youth and adult will receive a ribbon and a monetary award in the following amounts:

1<sup>st</sup> place - \$5.00  
2<sup>nd</sup> place - \$3.00  
3<sup>rd</sup> place - \$2.00

**Grand and Reserve Grand Champions** awards will be given in each Division based on the judge's discretion. All blue ribboned entries within each Division will compete against each other for Grand Champion of that Division. Once the Grand Champion is selected, the red ribbon winner from that same Department/Class will move up to compete for the Reserve Grand Award. Awards will be based on overall horticultural excellence and presentation.

### DIVISION 1 Floriculture

Grand Champion Division 1	\$20.00
Reserve Grand Champion Division 1	\$10.00.

### DIVISION 2 Vegetables, Herbs and Fruits

Grand Champion Division 2	\$20.00
Reserve Grand Champion Division 2	\$10.00.

**Premier Exhibitor** awards are presented to those individuals who entered the most, highest quality entries into the competition based on point accumulation. These awards are presented by the Horticulture Superintendent. These awards will be given to the exhibitors with the highest number of points earned in either the Adult or Youth categories, plus points earned by the individuals in All Ages categories. Premier Exhibitor points will be summed based on the following system:

1<sup>st</sup> place..... 4 points for each  
2<sup>nd</sup> place.....3 points for each  
3<sup>rd</sup> place ..... 2 points for each.

The Premier Exhibitors will receive a monetary award in the following amounts:

Premier Exhibitor	\$25.00
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# DIVISION 1 - FLORICULTURE

## ADDITIONAL RULES

- \_\_\_ All entries must have a properly completed Entry Card affixed before being placed on exhibit.
- \_\_\_ The exhibitor is responsible for assigning the correct department and class to each entry.
- \_\_\_ Exhibitor is responsible for knowing the proper scientific name of each entry, ( genus and species).
- \_\_\_ Exhibitor is responsible for entering it in the correct class based on genus, species, and plant form. Those entries not in the correct department and class may be reassigned by the superintendent, or disqualified by the judge.
- \_\_\_ The exhibitor is responsible for the presentation. Those entries not presented properly, based on stated requirements in the Premium list, will not be judged.

**Final decisions are at the discretion of the judge.**

Double potting is permitted. Containers should be inconspicuously marked with the exhibitor name.

All specimens are inspected on arrival. No diseased or insect-infected specimens will be accepted as entries, subject to the superintendent decision.

Leaves of entries should not be touching the water in the container.

Entries may be disqualified from competition for any of the reasons listed above, but disqualification is not limited to the above.

## PREPARING FLOWERS FOR EXHIBITION

To condition cut flowers: in the early morning or late afternoon the day **before** judging, re-cut stems under water and plunge immediately into warm water (110°F). Keep in a cool dark place overnight.

Each class entry should be of one variety unless otherwise stated. Each color is a different variety.

### Definitions:

A **scape** refers to a leafless flowering stem terminating in a solitary flower.

A **spray** refers to a stem terminating in a branched inflorescence (a group of florets/flowers).

A **head** refers to the defining inflorescence for the Sunflower family (*Asteraceae*). It may include ray and/or disc florets.

A **stalk** refers to a vegetative stem, with leaves attached. As in herbs..

A **stem** refers to the structure that supports a flower, inflorescence or fruit. As in the stem on a berry.

## RULES FOR ARTISTIC ARRANGED DESIGNS

\_\_\_ All exhibits must contain and emphasize fresh and/or living plant material. Judging will focus primarily on plant material.

\_\_\_ Plant material need not have been grown by the exhibitor, but must have been willfully arranged by the exhibitor.

\_\_\_ NO artificial flowers or foliage may be used. The following are also not allowed: natural bird's nests, stuffed birds, butterflies or other insects, fish, animals; however, feathers are permitted.

- \_\_\_\_\_Bases, accessories, backgrounds, frames, etc. are allowed in Artistic Classes but should enhance or support the overall artistic theme and design.
- \_\_\_\_\_Containers and accessories are to be provided by the exhibitor and must be left for the duration of the fair. Containers and accessories must also be removed by the designated date or they will be discarded along with the arrangement.
- \_\_\_\_\_Designs must not exceed a maximum of 28" in width, with height and depth to be governed by proportion.
- \_\_\_\_\_ **All plant material should be named on the back of the 3" x 5" card.**

Exhibits may not be in a closed or sealed container for judging, but may be sealed after judging.

Entries may be disqualified from competition for any of the reasons listed above, but disqualification is not limited to the above.

NATIVE PLANTS ON THE FOLLOWING STATE CONSERVATION LIST ARE PROHIBITED FROM ENTRY IN THE COMPETITION.

THE COLORADO WILDFLOWER CONSERVATION LIST  
(Pikes Peak Council of Federated Garden Clubs leaflet)

- |                               |                                      |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| All Columbine                 | Purple saxifrage                     |
| Tulip-gentian                 | Great spurred violet                 |
| Rocky Mt. fringed gentian     | Birdfoot violet                      |
| Wood lily                     | Twinflower                           |
| Fairy slipper                 | All ball cacti                       |
| Glacier lily (avalanche lily) | Creeping wintergreen                 |
| Mariposa lily                 | All paintbrush                       |
| Woody nymph                   | All bog orchids and coralroots       |
| Bog or swamp laurel           | All alpines                          |
| Dwarf cornel                  | All ferns except bracken             |
| Parry's primrose              | Yellow lady's slipper                |
| Leather flower                | Little Lewisia                       |
| Rocky Mt. clematis            | Any other flower if rare where found |
| Blue clematis                 | Barrel cactus                        |
| Princess plume                | Parachute penstemon                  |
| Pipsissewa                    | Pagosa skyrocket                     |
|                               | Debeque phacelia                     |

2021 El Paso County Fair  
 Open Class Horticulture Competition  
 Premium List

DIVISION I - FLORICULTURE

DEPARTMENT A - SHRUBS

- |   |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All roses to be exhibited with at least two (2) full sets leaves.</li> </ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cultivar names should be listed on the entry tag.</li> </ul>                 |

Class

3001 Roses, 3 stalks

3002 Any other flowering shrub, 3 stalks

DEPARTMENT B - ARTISTIC ARRANGED FLORAL DESIGNS

- |  |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plant material need not be grown by the exhibitor.</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Entries will be judged on creative and artistic use of plant materials.</li> </ul>                                      |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Containers and accessories are to be considered as secondary elements; an enhancement to the floral display.</li> </ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>All plant material should be named on the back of the 3" x 5" card.</b></li> </ul>                                   |

DEPARTMENT B - ARTISTIC ARRANGED FLORAL DESIGNS

Class    Theme

3025    Cut annuals

3026    Container planting and troughs

3027    Cut Perennials

3028    Mixed annuals and perennials

3029    Edible arrangement (May be a cornucopia-like display including herbs, edible flowers, may be a humorous arrangement of vegetables, herbs and fruits on a tray in the form of a face, etc.

DEPARTMENT C - ANNUALS

- |  |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The show committee will furnish containers for floriculture and vegetable/herb specimens, with the exception of large stemmed floral entries with a stem diameter of over 3/4"; these containers should be supplied by the exhibitor and they should be transparent.</li> </ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leaves should not be touching the water in the container</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use plastic wrap to support flowers as needed to enhance display</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Every entry should be of three stalks. Slightly vary the height of blooms</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use only the containers provided unless size prohibits. For larger stems, (ex: sunflowers), bring a clear, plain container for display.</li> </ul>  |

Class (see preparing flowers for exhibition for definitions)

3041    Vining (i.e. sweet pea, hyacinth bean)

3042    Spray (i.e., baby's breath, spider flower)

3043    Spike (i.e. larkspur, snapdragon)

3044    Single flower (i.e. sunflower, cosmos)



D - BIENNIALS AND PERENNIALS

- |   |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leaves should not be touching the water in the container</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use plastic wrap to support flowers as needed to enhance display</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Every entry should be of three stalks. Slightly vary the height of blooms</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use only the containers provided unless size prohibits. For larger stems, (ex: sunflowers), bring a clear, plain container for display.</li> </ul> |

Class

- 3109 Vining (i.e. trumpet vine, honeysuckle).
- 3110 Spray (i.e, yarrow)
- 3111 Spike (i.e., Delphinium, catmint)
- 3112 Single flower (i.e. Echinacea)
- 3113 Outdoor succulents

DEPARTMENT E - BULBS, CORMS, TUBERS AND TUBEROUS ROOTS

- |   |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leaves should not be touching the water in the container</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use plastic wrap to support flowers as needed to enhance display</li> </ul>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Every entry should be of three stalks. Slightly vary the height of blooms</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use only the containers provided unless size prohibits. For larger stems, (ex: sunflowers), bring a clear, plain container for display.</li> </ul> |

Class

- 3186 All kinds (I.e., Crocosmia, Dahlia, Daylily, Lily, Blackberry Lily, Gladiolus)

DEPARTMENT F - INDOOR POTTED PLANTS

- |   |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must be grown by the owner for at least six months.</li> <li>• Double potting is allowed.</li> <li>• Entries will be judged primarily on plant material. Containers and accessories are to be supporting and complementary to the living plant.</li> </ul> |
|---|

Class

- 3227 Non-blooming (foliage. I.e, Philodendron, indoor succulents/cactus)
- 3228 Blooming (i.e. African violet, orchid)

DEPARTMENT G - NATIVE PLANTS

- |   |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must be grown by owner and NOT wild collected</li> </ul>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must be native to Colorado (check here for native status if unsure: <a href="https://plants.sc.egov.usda.gov/">https://plants.sc.egov.usda.gov/</a> -</li> </ul> |

Class

- 3300 All native plants

DEPARTMENT H - FRAGRANT PLANTS

- |  |
|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leaves should not be touching the water in the container</li> </ul>                                   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any variety of fragrant plant will be accepted - judging is on the basis of most fragrant.</li> </ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 stalks</li> </ul>   |

Class

- 3400 All varieties

## DIVISION II - VEGETABLES, HERBS & FRUITS

- Specimens must be free of insects, disease, malformations, and mechanical damage.
- Carefully remove the soil without damaging the root.
- DO NOT WASH. Use a soft dry brush to clean.
- All exhibits are to be clean, but not polished with polishes or waxes.
- Light buffing is permitted with a dry cloth or brush.
- A plate will be provided to display the exhibits.
- Two vegetables per entry, except cabbage (1).
- Herbs: Three stalks/stems fresh cut; should be in proportion to the size and variety of the herb. Stems should be approximately 6" to 10" unless otherwise indicated.
- 

### DEPARTMENT B - FRUITS

- Must be grown by the owner for at least six months.
- Bring one half pint of small fruits

#### Class

4131 All kinds (i.e, cherries, strawberries, raspberries)

### DEPARTMENT A - VEGETABLES and HERBS

#### Class

4001 Legumes - beans and peas

4002 Root vegetables (potatoes, beets, turnips, radishes, carrots, garlic and onions)

4003 Leafy greens (lettuce, kale, spinach, chard, cabbage)

4004 Warm season vegetables (corn, peppers, tomatoes, summer squash, cucumbers)

4005 Any other vegetable

4006 Herbs in containers

4007 Fresh cut herbs





