

LAWRENCE GARDEN CLUB, INC. PROUDLY PRESENTS

AMERICA IN BLOOM

Celebrating **250**
Years in
Flowers



80TH ANNUAL
NGC STANDARD
FLOWER SHOW

FREE to the Public, Entries Welcomed

**VAN BUREN CONFERENCE CENTER
490 S. PAW PAW STREET, LAWRENCE, MI 49064**

**FRIDAY, JULY 31, 2026 1PM – 5PM
SATURDAY, AUGUST 1, 2026 10AM – 3PM**

Member of National Garden Clubs, Inc. • Central Region Garden Clubs
Michigan Garden Clubs, District 3B

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2026 Show Committee:

Nancy Baker 269-308-1377	Lynn Bingham 269-650-1668
Rosanne Boyan 269-307-4067	Sandy Chew 269-861-0683
Anne Cox 269-674-3200	Lori Dillenbeck 269-350-6015
Victoria Williamson 734-740-3290	

Purpose of an NGC Standard Flower Show:

- *To educate club members and the viewing public*
- *To stimulate interest in horticulture & floral design*
- *To provide an outlet for creative expression*
- *To communicate NGC goals & objectives*

GENERAL RULES

1. This Flower Show conforms to the standards established by National Garden Clubs, Inc. (NGC). The **HANDBOOK FOR FLOWER SHOWS (HB)**, as updated with revisions printed on the NGC website, is the authority for all issues not covered by the schedule which is “Law of the Show” An updated copy of **The Handbook for Flower Shows** may be downloaded from the NGC website at www.gardenclub.org
2. All Horticulture, Design, and Education Division Classes are open to entries from the public. However, NGC Accredited Flower Show Judges who are judging this show may not enter this show.
3. Show Schedules will be available from July 1, 2026 at VBDL Lawrence Library or online at www.lawrencegardenclub.com. Entry Cards will be available at the VBDL Lawrence Library beginning July 25, 2026.
4. Entries will be accepted at the Van Buren Conference Center on Thursday, July 30, 2026 between 5:30pm and 7pm and on Friday, July 31, 2026 between 7:30am-9:30am.
5. Judging will begin at 10:00am on Friday, July 31, 2026. Only the General Chairmen, the Classification Chairmen, and the clerks will be allowed on the show floor during the time of judging. The NGC Standard System of Awarding (HB pg. 5) is used in all Divisions. The decision of the judges is final. Awards may be withheld if not merited.
6. The Show Committee Members and the Classification Chairmen for the Design and Horticulture Divisions must be available during all judging to review all entries for proper identification and for possible consultations.
7. Plants on the state’s endangered or conservation plant list must be grown by the exhibitor or collected in a legal manner and so identified. (State policy prevails.) Noxious weeds and invasive plants on the state’s list may not be used in exhibits. Lists can be downloaded at www.michigan.gov.

8. There must be an emphasis on fresh plant material. No artificial plant material will be allowed in any division.
9. The Lawrence Garden Club, Inc will strive to assure the safety of all items after arrival and placement but is not responsible for any loss or damage to exhibits."

AWARDS

The NGC Standard System of Awards

- * One first place (blue) ribbon per class for score 90 or above.
- * One second place (red) ribbon per class for score 85 or above.
- * One third place (yellow) ribbon per class for score 80 or above.
- * One or more honorable mention (white) ribbons as merited for score 75 or above.

Judges will sign, date and write 90+, if merited, on entry cards that do not win a blue ribbon.

BEST IN SHOW Award will be given to the highest scoring 90+ blue ribbon exhibit in the Floral Design Division.

HORTICULTURAL EXCELLENCE Award will be given in the Horticulture Division for highest scoring 95+ exhibit identified with the correct botanical name.

PEOPLE'S CHOICE Award will be granted to the Floral Design entry selected by popular vote of show visitors.

YOUTH Award will be offered for young exhibitor (up to age 16) scoring most points overall in Floral Design, Class 6.

JOE RICHMOND AWARD will be granted to the top scoring exhibit In CLASS 18A, B, C: Hosta Leaves.

AWARD of APPRECIATION will be given to the highest scoring exhibit in the Education Division.

Gift Certificates from area businesses will be presented to winners of each award listed above.

DIVISION I: HORTICULTURE

HORTICULTURE DIVISION RULES

1. Horticultural Division in Standard Flower Shows must have as many or more classes than the Floral Design Division and a minimum of 20 exhibits overall in the entire division.
2. Classes are open to amateur growers and all plant material must be fresh and grown by the exhibitor.
3. Exhibits must have been in the possession of the exhibitor for no fewer than 90 days. Exception: plants grown from seed, seedling, or immature transplants, bulbs, tubers, corms or rhizomes. Combination plantings must have been grown together for no fewer than 6 weeks.
4. Plant material may not be altered by the application (treatment) of oil, commercial “shine” products, etc. that artificially change the natural color and texture.
5. All specimens must be correctly labeled with botanical names or the currently accepted scientific identification for their educational value. Common name may also be added.
6. An exhibitor may make more than one entry per class if each entry is a different species, variety, cultivar, type or color.
7. Cut specimens must be displayed in clear transparent bottles provided by Lawrence Garden Club of suitable size and stability. Cut specimens should be clean and not have foliage below the water line.
8. Wedging, a small, inconspicuous “plug” in the neck of a container to improve the pose of specimen, is permitted. Wedging may be visible but must not detract from the cut specimen. Wedging will be provided by Lawrence Garden Club and must be inserted by exhibitor.
9. Double potting is permitted; inner pot must not be visible.
10. Fruit and Vegetable specimens must be free of disease and injury. White paper plates will be provided by the Lawrence Garden Club at show to display entry.

11. All entry cards should be filled out in advance and clearly legible; if handwritten, entry should be in pencil or water-proof pen to avoid water damage.
12. The Classification Chairman has the authority to subdivide classes as necessary.
13. The Scale of Points for judging horticulture is listed in Chapter 14 of the ***NGC Handbook for Flower Shows***.



DIVISION I: HORTICULTURE

“HISTORY of GARDENING in AMERICA”

~ Eligible for the ***AWARD OF HORTICULTURE EXCELLENCE*** ~

SECTION A – 1776 “Symbolic Botany”

Native flora was used to express the theme of the new nation: growth, beauty and resilience.

CONTAINER GROWN PLANTS 1 plant per container, unless noted otherwise

- CLASS 1: ***Cactaceae*** (Cacti)
- CLASS 2: **Other Succulents**
- CLASS 3: **Any Ivy or Vine Type Plant**
- CLASS 4: **Any Other Foliage Plants**
- CLASS 5: **Any Other Flowering Plants**
- CLASS 6: **Multiple Plants** (3 or more botanically different plants) in Non-Hanging Container

SECTION B – 1819 “Language of Flowers”

First floriography dictionary is published, assigning meaning to specific flowers & colors.

ANNUALS to be divided by color, flower form, or size

- CLASS 7: ***Antirrhinum*** (snapdragon) 1 stem
- CLASS 8: ***Cosmos*** (cosmos) 1 spray
- CLASS 9: ***Helianthus*** (sunflower) 1 stem
- CLASS 10: ***Tagetes*** (marigold) 1 stem
- CLASS 11a: ***Zinnia***, (zinnia) small; flower diameter of 2” or less
- CLASS 11b: ***Zinnia***, (zinnia) large, flower diameter 2.1” or more
- CLASS 12: **Any Other Annual Not Listed**, exhibited as to type (to be divided upon entry)

SECTION C – 1857 “Fresh Floral Adaptation”

The White House started the trend of using fresh versus wax flowers in arrangements.

PERENNIALS AND BIENNIALS to be divided by color, flower form, or size

- CLASS 13: ***Alcea*** (formerly Althaea, hollyhock) 1 stem
- CLASS 14: ***Asclepias tuberosa*** (butterfly flower) 1 stem
- CLASS 15: ***Bella Perennis*** (common daisy) 1 stem
- CLASS 16: ***Echinacea*** (coneflower) 1 stem
- CLASS 17: ***Echinops*** (globe thistle) 1 stem

~ JOE RICHMOND AWARD ~

During the 1950s and 60s, Joe Richmond was the Postman who delivered mail on Rural Route 2 for the town of Lawrence. He and his wife were avid gardeners and members of the Lawrence Garden Club that was founded in 1930. Upon Joe's death, the Club named an award in his memory for his favorite perennial, the Hosta.

CLASS 18:

18a, 18a, 18c: *Eligible for the **JOE RICHMOND AWARD***

18a: **Hosta** 1 small leaf, length less than 6"

18b: **Hosta** 1 medium leaf, length between 6 to 10"

18c: **Hosta** 1 large leaf, length greater than 10"

18d: **Hosta** 1 flower stem

CLASS 19: **Perovskia atriplicifolia** (Russian sage) 1 stem

CLASS 20: **Phlox paniculata** 1 stem

CLASS 21: **Rudbeckia** (black-eyed Susan) 1 stem

CLASS 22: **Platycodon grandiflorus** (balloon flower) 1 stem

CLASS 23: **Polypodiophyta** (fern) 1 stem

CLASS 24: **Any Other Perennial or Biennial Not Listed,**
exhibited as to type (to be divided upon entry)

SECTION D - 1884 "Founding of Society of American Florists" The first professional organization for nurserymen and florists.

FLOWERING SHRUBS to be divided by type or color

CLASS 25: **Buddleia** (butterfly bush) 1 stem

CLASS 26: **Hibiscus** 1 stem

CLASS 27: **Hydrangea** (hydrandgea) 1 stem

CLASS 28: **Any Other Flowering Shrub Not Listed**
exhibited as to type (to be divided upon entry).

SECTION E – 1917 “Say it with Flowers”

Advertising slogan created by the Society of American Florists.

ROSES to be divided upon entry by type/color.

- CLASS 29: ***Rosa hybrida*** (hybrid tea) 1 stem
- CLASS 30: ***Rosa chinensis minima*** (miniature) 1 stem/spray
- CLASS 31: ***Rosa rugosa*** (shrub rose) 1 stem/ spray
- CLASS 32: **Any Other Type Not Listed** exhibited as to type
(to be divided upon entry).

SECTION F – 1954 “Revolution of Floral Design”

Oasis floral foam is created by V.L Smithers; enabling faster, more durable and elaborate floral arrangements.

BULBS, CORMS, TUBERS, TUBEROUS ROOTS to be divided by
color, flower form, or size.

- CLASS 33: ***Gladiolus*** (gladiola) 1 stem
- CLASS 34: ***Hemerocallis*** (daylily) 1 stem
- CLASS 35: ***Lilium Asiatic*** (Asian lily) 1 stem
- CLASS 36: ***Lilium lancifolium*** (tiger lily) 1 stem
- CLASS 37a: ***Cannaceae*** (canna lily flower) 1 stem
- CLASS 37b: ***Cannaceae*** (canna lily leaf) 1 leaf
- CLASS 38: ***Dahlia pinnata*** (dahlia) 1 stem
- CLASS 39: ***Liatris*** (blazing star) 1 stem
- CLASS 40: **Any Other Bulbs, Corms, Tubers, Tuberous Roots
Not Listed**, exhibited as to type
(to be divided upon entry).

SECTION G – 1965 “Flower Power”

Flowers were used to symbolize peace, love and non-violent resistance to war.

HERBS

CLASS 41: **Aromatic**, 1 stem

CLASS 42: **Culinary**, 1 stem

CLASS 43: **Medicinal**, 1 stem

SECTION H – 1990 “100th Anniversary: Tournament of Roses Parade” A major horticultural tradition featuring floral floats.

FRUITS & VEGETABLES to be divided by type.

CLASS 44: **Edible Leaf Vegetables** 1 leaf

CLASS 45: **Fruits** 1 fruit

CLASS 46: **Root Vegetables** 1 root

SECTION I – 2020 “200th Anniversary: US Botanic Garden”

The oldest continuously operating public garden in the U.S.

GRASSES or SEDGES

CLASS 47: **Grass or Sedge w/Distinctive Leaf Structure**,
1 stalk

CLASS 48: **Grass or Sedge w/Patterned Foliage**, 1 stalk

CLASS 49: **Grass or Sedge w/Decorative Seed Heads**,
1 stalk

CLASS 50: **Any Other Grass or Sedge Not Listed**, 1 stalk
(such as an annual grass) exhibited as to type

DIVISION II: DESIGN

DESIGN DIVISION RULES

1. Standard Flower Shows must have a minimum of five (5) Design Classes that each have a minimum of four (4) entries.
2. A Design entered in competition must be the work of only one exhibitor; that exhibitor's name must appear on the entry card that lists plant materials and simple narrative of design choice on an attached 3"x 5" card.
3. An exhibitor may enter as many classes in the Design Division as desired, but only one exhibit per class. Design being entered has not been previously entered or judged in an NGC Standard Flower Show.
4. Fresh plant material may not be treated in any manner. Plant material that has been treated to alter its exterior appearance may be used only in its dried state.
5. The designer has the freedom to choose Traditional or Creative style with any design type listed unless restricted by schedule.
6. Plant material used in Design Classes need not have been grown by the exhibitor.
7. No artificial flowers, foliage, fruits or vegetables are permitted in the Design Division.
8. Landscapes or scenes are not permitted in the Design Division. Inappropriate or offensive display of religious icons or the American flag is not allowed.
9. The NGC Exhibit Policies are printed in the ***NGC Handbook for Flower Shows, Chapter 7, Exhibiting in the Design Division.***
10. The Design Scales of Points are listed in Chapter 14 of the ***NGC Handbook for Flower Shows.***

DIVISION II: DESIGN

“AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL”

*Eligible for the **BEST IN SHOW & the PEOPLE’S CHOICE** Awards*

SECTION A – “Key Eras of American Floral Design”

1780-1820: The Federal Period favored the beauty of individual flowers.

CLASS 1: ***Simplicity*** – single fresh flower arrangement w/ filler

1837-1901: During the Victorian period, wealth and secret messages were conveyed through flowers.

CLASS 2: ***Tussie Mussie*** – fragrant bouquet or nosegay using fresh flowers and/or herbs; with 4-7” each diameter and length

CLASS 3: ***Victorian Opulence*** – fresh mass arrangement; any type over 8”

1890-1910: The Art Nouveau Period showcased organic designs inspired by nature.

CLASS 4: ***Picture Hat*** – wide brimmed hat (provided by exhibitor) decorated with fresh and/or dried flowers; any size



1930-1960s: Throughout the Modernistic Period, designs featured minimalism, geometric shapes and clean lines.

CLASS 5: ***Merge*** – fresh duo design arrangement: up to 15” high and 24” wide total table space with filler

1970-Today: The Contemporary Period focuses on sustainability, native plants and eco-friendly practices.

CLASS 6: ***Our Future*** – fresh arrangement by YOUTH (to age 16) any type/size

JULY 4, 2026: In celebration of our Nation’s 250th Anniversary

CLASS 7: ***Cheers to 250 Years*** – formal tablescape setting for two; fresh arrangement any type; height of 12” (on exhibitor’s card table with tablecloth)



DIVISION III: EDUCATION

EDUCATION DIVISION RULES

1. Education Exhibits may be the work of more than one individual or organization unless a Student Judge or Accredited Judge is seeking exhibiting credit for preparing an Education Exhibit.
2. Exhibitor must preregister square feet of table display area needed at least one week before show by calling a person on the 2026 Show Committee (see pg. 1).
3. Plant material is not required, although NGC encourages the use of plant material.
4. No artificial plant material is permitted in an Educational Exhibit.
5. Exhibits are competitive and will be judged.
6. Scale of Points for Educational Exhibits is listed in Chapter 14 of the *NGC Handbook for Flower Shows*.

DIVISION III: EDUCATION

“SEEDS OF KNOWLEDGE”

~ Eligible for the *AWARD of APPRECIATION* ~

SECTION A - “Highlighting the Roots of Gardening”

CLASS 1: **Education Exhibits** must focus on a significant gardening discovery, trend, or topic that occurred at the local, state, or national level between the founding of the United States of America in 1776 through the current year of 2026.