



JUNE 19-JULY 12
PLEASANT  N 26

2026 ALAMEDA COUNTY FAIR ADULT GARDENING ENTRY GUIDE

Click HERE to enter!

Entry Fees:

(Entry Fees must be paid in cash when entries are delivered to the Fair)

1 entry: \$1.00

9-19 entries: \$8.00

20+ entries: \$10.00

**Each exhibitor will receive one fair admission e-ticket via e-mail
on the day of entry delivery.**

For Questions, please contact:

ag@alamedacountyfair.com

or call 925-426-7612



JUNE 19-JULY 12
PLEASANTON 26

2026 Adult Gardening Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
June 14	June 15	June 16	June 17	June 18	June 19	June 20
				Flowers Period 1 & Potted Plant Online Entry Deadline 11:59 p.m.	Opening Day Flowers Period 1 DELIVER ENTRIES: 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	
June 21	June 22	June 23	June 24	June 25	June 26	June 27
	Fair Closed Flowers Period 2 Online Entry Deadline 11:59 p.m.	Fair Closed Flowers Period 2 DELIVER ENTRIES: 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.			Flowers Period 3 Online Entry Deadline 11:59 p.m.	Flowers Period 3 DELIVER ENTRIES: 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
June 28	June 29	June 30	July 1	July 2	July 3	July 4
	Fair Closed	Fair Closed		Flowers Period 4 Online Entry Deadline 11:59 p.m.	Flowers Period 4 DELIVER ENTRIES: 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	
July 5	July 6	July 7	July 8	July 9	July 10	July 11
	Fair Closed	Fair Closed	Flowers Period 5 Online Entry Deadline 11:59 p.m.	Flowers Period 5 DELIVER ENTRIES: 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.		
July 12	July 13	July 14	July 15	July 16	July 17	July 18
Last Day of Fair Plant Sale			Release of All Entries 3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	Release of All Entries 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.		



Adult Gardening Department Rules

The submission of an entry constitutes agreement to these rules.

1. Eligibility:
 - a. The competition is for adult California residents who care for their own gardens, with or without occasional help. **The competition is for amateurs only.** Any exhibitor who sells plants or flowers or who is engaged in any capacity in the operation of a nursery or similar establishment is considered a professional and is not eligible.
 - b. Adult family members are considered one exhibitor and co-owners of the entry.
 - i. In classes where an entry requires the creative work of the owner, adult family members are considered separate exhibitors.
2. Entries:
 - a. For online entries, the Fair will provide an exhibit tag using the information provided during registration.
 - b. Whenever possible, specify variety upon entry registration.
 - c. Entry limit: 1 per variety; 2 per class per exhibitor.
 - d. On occasion, entries may be transferred to a different division or class by judges or fair staff. This may result in the exhibitor exceeding class limits, which may affect award eligibility.
 - e. Entries must be healthy, free from insects and disease, fresh, clean, and neatly trimmed.
 - f. Any plant protected by state law is ineligible, unless grown by the exhibitor. Artificial flowers or coloring of flowers or leaves will not be permitted unless otherwise stated.
3. Display, Handling, Presentation, & Release of Entries:
 - a. The Fair Association reserves the right to refuse any entry or refuse to display any entry considered not to be in the best interest of the Fair. No entry will be accepted where an exhibitor prescribes conditions under which they will exhibit. Once submitted, all exhibits are under the direct control of the Fair Association and cannot be removed until the specified release day.
 - b. Greatest care will be exercised in handling exhibits, but the Fair Management, Alameda County Fair Association, and the County of Alameda will not be held liable for loss, theft, or damage of any kind from any cause.
 - c. Any unclaimed ribbons, containers, or other exhibit props will be stored for one month after the closing date of the Fair. After that point, they will be discarded.
4. Judging & Awards:
 - a. Entries are judged using the American System of Judging where exhibits are judged against each other. One 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place may be awarded in each class. Honorable Mention may also be awarded at the discretion of the judge(s). All 1st place winners in a division will compete against each other for the Best of Show. Judges may choose to omit any award that is believed to be without merit.
 - b. Qualified judges are selected by the Alameda County Fair. Judging decisions are final.
 - c. The Fair does not guarantee the payment of Sponsored special premiums and awards as they are secured in good faith.
 - d. Sweepstakes are calculated based on total points (1st: 5 pts, 2nd: 3 pts, 3rd: 1 pt.) earned for eligible entries.
 - i. Ties will be broken by the number of Best of Show or 1st place entries.



	Registration Deadline	Deliver to Building Q (Enter through Gate 12 on Valley Avenue)
Period 1	June 18 @ 11:59 p.m.	June 19: 7:00-9:00 a.m.
Period 2	June 22 @ 11:59 p.m.	June 23: 7:00-9:00 a.m.
Period 3	June 26 @ 11:59 p.m.	June 27: 7:00-9:00 a.m.
Period 4	July 2 @ 11:59 p.m.	July 3: 7:00-9:00 a.m.
Period 5	July 8 @ 11:59 p.m.	July 9: 7:00-9:00 a.m.

Cut Flowers

1. Unless otherwise noted, each entry is to be one stem (cut flowers with stem in proportion to size of flower and strip all foliage from the stem that will be below water level).
2. Vases are provided.
Exhibitors may use their own vase (labeled with their name on the bottom) for Class 23.
3. Entries will be judged on: Color, Form, Size, Condition, & Stem/Foliage.
4. Cash Awards per Class: 1st Place: \$8.00, 2nd Place: \$6.00, 3rd Place: \$4.00

Delivery Dates:

- Period 1: Division 31—Friday, June 19 from 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
 Period 2: Division 36—Tuesday, June 23 from 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
 Period 3: Division 40—Saturday, June 27 from 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
 Period 4: Division 44—Friday, July 3 from 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
 Period 5: Division 48—Thursday, July 9 from 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

Classes:

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|--|--|
| 01: Agapanthus | 13: Pelargonium, Martha Washington (w/foilage) |
| 02: Alstroemeria | 14: Pelargonium, Any Other (w/foilage) |
| 03: Dahlia | 15: Rare/Unusual Flower |
| 04: Daisy, Gerbera | 16: Salvia |
| 05: Daisy, Other (Shasta, Chrysanthemum, etc.) | 17: Any Other Annual (small flower, 2" or less) |
| 06: Geranium, Ivy (w/foilage) | 18: Any Other Annual (medium flower, 2-4") |
| 07: Gladiola | 19: Any Other Annual (large flower, 4+") |
| 08: Hydrangea | 20: Any Other Perennial (small flower, 2" or less) |
| 09: Hydrangea, Lace Cap | 21: Any Other Perennial (medium flower, 2-4") |
| 10: Lily (Asiatic, Calla, Day, etc.) | 22: Any Other Perennial (large flower, 4+") |
| 11: Petunia | 23: Bouquet: 10-15 blooms (any variety or color) |
| 12: Pansy | |



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Period 3	June 26 @ 11:59 p.m.	June 27: 7:00-9:00 a.m.
Period 4	July 2 @ 11:59 p.m.	July 3: 7:00-9:00 a.m.
Period 5	July 8 @ 11:59 p.m.	July 9: 7:00-9:00 a.m.

Floral Design

1. No more than 25% of material used in arrangements may be purchased.
2. Exhibitor will provide decorative containers labeled with the name of the exhibitor on the bottom.
3. Containers are not to exceed 20" H x 15" W and must be no more than 20 pounds. Containers must be clean and ready for exhibit.
4. Do not display arrangements in valuable containers. The Fair Association is not responsible for lost or broken containers. All personal containers will be available for pick up on the next show day.
5. Upon request, the exhibitor may place their exhibit on the judging table with the assistance of department personnel.
6. Entries will be judged on: Color Harmony, Design/Balance/Proportion, & Construction.
7. Cash Awards per Class: 1st Place: \$8.00, 2nd Place: \$6.00, 3rd Place: \$4.00

Delivery Dates:

- Period 1: Division 32—Friday, June 19 from 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
 Period 2: Division 37—Tuesday, June 23 from 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
 Period 3: Division 41—Saturday, June 27 from 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
 Period 4: Division 45—Friday, July 3 from 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
 Period 5: Division 49—Thursday, July 9 from 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

Classes:

- 01: Fair Theme or Featured Commodity (Carrots) Floral Arrangement
- 02: Floral Arrangement with Indoor Props (Tea Pot, Pitcher, etc.)
- 03: Floral Arrangement with Outdoor Props (Birds, Watering Can, etc.)
- 04: Floral Arrangement in an Unusual Container
- 05: Dried Flower Arrangement
- 06: Wine Country Floral Arrangement (Wine Related Props)
- 07: Rose Floral Arrangement
- 08: Any Other Floral Design
- 09: Celebrating 250 Years of America Floral Arrangement



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Period 5	July 8 @ 11:59 p.m.	July 9: 7:00-9:00 a.m.

Garden Produce

1. Produce must be fresh, clean, and neatly trimmed.
2. Plates and vases are provided.
3. Except for monstrosities, judging will be based on the uniform commercial grade.
4. Produce will be disposed of when wilted.
5. Entries will be judged on Form, Size, Color, Uniformity, Condition, & Freedom from Blemishes.
6. Cash Awards per Class: 1st Place: \$8.00, 2nd Place: \$6.00, 3rd Place: \$4.00

Delivery Dates:

Period 1: Division 33—Friday, June 19 from 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
 Period 2: Division 38—Tuesday, June 23 from 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
 Period 3: Division 42—Saturday, June 27 from 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
 Period 4: Division 46—Friday, July 3 from 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
 Period 5: Division 50—Thursday, July 9 from 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

Classes:

- 01: Citrus Fruit (3 whole plus ½ wrapped)
- 02: Any Other Fruit (3 whole items)
- 03: Herbs
- 04: Leafy Vegetables (Lettuce, Cabbage, Kale, Spinach, etc.)
- 05: Any Other Vegetable (3 whole items)
- 06: Nightshade (Eggplant, Pepper, Potato, Tomato) (3 whole items)
- 07: Vine Crop (Melon, Pumpkin, Squash, etc.)
- 08: Monstrosity Fruit or Vegetable (differs significantly from standard)



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Period 1	June 18 @ 11:59 p.m.	June 19: 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

Potted Plants

1. All potted plants must be well rooted.
2. Containers may be no larger than 20” H x 15” W and no heavier than 20 pounds.
3. Containers must be clean and ready for exhibit and must have a self-contained water tray.
4. Plant Maintenance: If specific instructions are necessary, the exhibitor is responsible for providing staff with written instructions upon delivery of entry. Otherwise, plants will be watered weekly.
5. Entries will be judged on Color, Form, Condition, & Symmetry.
6. Cash Awards per Class: 1st Place: \$8.00, 2nd Place: \$6.00, 3rd Place: \$4.00

Delivery Date:

Division 34— Friday, June 19 from 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

Classes:

- 01: Cacti – Single
- 02: Cacti – Group (3+ Varieties in 1 Container)
- 03: Succulent – Single (4-12” Pot)
- 04: Succulent – Single (13-20” Pot)
- 05: Succulent – Group (3+ Varieties in 1 Container)
- 06: Fairy Garden Using Cacti and/or Succulents
- 07: Hanging Plant
- 08: Any Other Potted Plant (4-12” Pot)
- 09: Any Other Potted Plant (13-20” Pot)
- 10: Fairy or Mini Garden Celebrating 250 Years of America
- 11: Fairy or Mini Garden Featuring Carrots (our featured commodity)



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Period 5	July 8 @ 11:59 p.m.	July 9: 7:00-9:00 a.m.

Roses

1. Unless otherwise specified, blooms are to be $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ open.
2. Vases are provided (exhibitors may choose to provide vases labeled with their name for Rose Bouquets).
3. Rose Bouquets must only contain roses and their foliage. No other plant material may be included.
4. Wedges must be below the lip of the container. Water must pass through freely.
5. Entries will be judged on: Color, Form, Size, Substance, Balance/Proportion, & Stem/Foliage.
6. Cash Awards per Class: 1st Place: \$8.00, 2nd Place: \$6.00, 3rd Place: \$4.00

Delivery Dates:

Period 1: Division 35—Friday, June 19 from 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

Period 2: Division 39—Tuesday, June 23 from 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

Period 3: Division 43—Saturday, June 27 from 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

Period 4: Division 47—Friday, July 3 from 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

Period 5: Division 51—Thursday, July 9 from 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

Classes:

- 01: Hybrid Tea/Grandiflora: White/Yellow/White-Yellow Blends (1 bloom)
- 02: Hybrid Tea/Grandiflora: Apricot/Orange/Apricot-Orange Blends (1 bloom)
- 03: Hybrid Tea/Grandiflora: Pink or Purple + Blends (1 bloom)
- 04: Hybrid Tea/Grandiflora: Red or Red Blend (1 bloom)
- 05: Hybrid Tea/Grandiflora: Any Color with Stamen Showing
- 06: Hybrid Tea/Grandiflora: White/Yellow/Apricot/Orange + Blends (1 spray)
- 07: Hybrid Tea/Grandiflora: Any Pink or Purple + Blends (1 spray)
- 08: Hybrid Tea/Grandiflora: Any Red or Red Blend (1 spray)
- 09: Floribunda/Polyantha: Any Color (1 bloom/no side buds)
- 10: Floribunda/Polyantha: Any Color with Stamen Showing (1 bloom/no side buds)
- 11: Floribunda/Polyantha: White/Yellow/Apricot/Orange + Blends (1 spray)
- 12: Floribunda/Polyantha: Pink/Purple/Red + Blends (1 spray)
- 13: Climbers/Pillars/Shrubs: Any Color (1 bloom or spray)
- 14: Old Garden Roses: Any Color (1 bloom or spray)
- 15: Miniature: White/Yellow/Apricot/Orange + Blends (1 bloom)
- 16: Miniature: Pink/Purple/Red + Blends (1 bloom)
- 17: Miniature: Any Color, Fully Opened (1 bloom)
- 18: Miniature: White/Yellow/Apricot/Orange + Blends (1 spray/2+ open blooms)
- 19: Miniature: Pink/Purple/Red + Blends (1 spray/2+ open blooms)
- 20: Most Fragrant Rose: Any Color (1 bloom)
- 21: Rose Bouquet: 10+ Roses w/ Foliage (may use own vase labeled on bottom with exhibitor name)