



**JUNE 19-JULY 12**  
PLEASANT  N 26

# **2026 ALAMEDA COUNTY FAIR YOUTH GARDENING ENTRY GUIDE**

Click [HERE](#) to enter!

No Entry Fee!

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

For Questions, please contact:  
[ag@alamedacountyfair.com](mailto:ag@alamedacountyfair.com)  
or call 925-426-7612 to leave a message



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# 2026 Youth 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.	<b>Opening Day</b>  Flowers Period 1 <b>DELIVER ENTRIES:</b> 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	
June 21	June 22	June 23	June 24	June 25	June 26	June 27
	<b>Fair Closed</b>  Flowers Period 2 Online Entry Deadline 11:59 p.m.	<b>Fair Closed</b>  Flowers Period 2 <b>DELIVER ENTRIES:</b> 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.			Flowers Period 3 Online Entry Deadline 11:59 p.m.	Flowers Period 3 <b>DELIVER ENTRIES:</b> 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
June 28	June 29	June 30	July 1	July 2	July 3	July 4
	<b>Fair Closed</b>	<b>Fair Closed</b>		Flowers Period 4 Online Entry Deadline 11:59 p.m.	Flowers Period 4 <b>DELIVER ENTRIES:</b> 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	
July 5	July 6	July 7	July 8	July 9	July 10	July 11
	<b>Fair Closed</b>	<b>Fair Closed</b>	Flowers Period 5 Online Entry Deadline 11:59 p.m.	Flowers Period 5 <b>DELIVER ENTRIES:</b> 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.		
July 12	July 13	July 14	July 15	July 16	July 17	July 18
<b>Last Day of Fair</b>  <b>Plant Sale</b>			<b>Release of All Entries</b> 3:00 pm-7:00 pm	<b>Release of All Entries</b> 9:00 am -1:00 pm		



## Youth Gardening Department Rules

The submission of an entry constitutes agreement to these rules.

1. Eligibility:
  - a. The competition is for youth residents of California aged 5+ years old as of January 1st.
  - b. 5–8-year-old exhibitors have no entry fee, receive no premiums, and receive participation ribbons.
  - c. 4-H entries will be verified via Alameda County 4-H project lists. Upon entering, please indicate 4-H club for eligible 4-H entries.
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. On occasion, entries may be transferred to a different division or class by judges or fair staff.
  - d. Entries must be healthy, free from insects and disease, fresh, clean, and neatly trimmed.
  - e. 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.
  - f. Potted plants must be well-rooted in a container with a maximum size/weight of 20” high x 15” wide and no heavier than 20 pounds.
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. Plates and vases are provided.
  - d. Produce will be disposed of when wilted, unless the exhibitor provides a sealable, labeled container.
  - e. Any unclaimed ribbons, containers, or other exhibit props not picked up on the release day will be stored for one month after the closing date of the Fair. After that point, they will be discarded.
4. Judging & Awards:
  - a. Cut Flowers will be judged on: Color, Form, Size, Condition, & Stem/Foliage.  
Floral Arrangements will be judged on: Color Harmony, Design/Balance/Proportion, & Construction.  
Produce will be judged on: Form, Size, Color, Uniformity, Condition, & Freedom from Blemishes.  
Fairy/Mini Gardens will be judged on: Design, Selection of Plants, Condition, & Creativity.  
Potted Plants will be judged on: Color, Form, Condition, & Symmetry.
  - b. Entries are judged using the Danish System of Judging where exhibits are judged against a scorecard. Multiple 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place awards may be given. Every entry will receive a placing and a ribbon. (5–8-year-old exhibitors will not receive a placing or premiums but will receive a ribbon).
    - i. All 1<sup>st</sup> place winners in a class will compete against each other for the Best of Class and all Best of Class winners within a division will then compete against each other for Best of Show. Judges may choose to omit Best of Class and Best of Show if there are no qualifying entries.
    - ii. There is the availability of a Best of Class and Best of Show in 4-H and in Open Youth within the same entry category.
  - c. Cash awards: Best of Show (\$20); Best of Class (\$10). No premiums awarded for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, or 3<sup>rd</sup> place.
  - d. Qualified judges are selected by the Alameda County Fair. Judging decisions are final.
  - e. Sponsored award winners are chosen from eligible entries in the award categories. No special entry is required. The Fair does not guarantee the payment of Sponsored special premiums and awards as they are secured in good faith.  
Available Sponsored Awards:
    - 4-H exhibitors: Best Produce (\$20 each period), Best Mini Garden (\$20), Best Floriculture (\$25)
    - Youth exhibitors: Best Produce Period 1, 2, 3, 4, & 5 (\$20).



	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.

Judging preparation begins immediately after the close of the delivery period (9:00 a.m.).  
No entries will be accepted after the start of judging preparation.

### Delivery Dates:

- Period 1: Divisions 70, 71, & 72 - Friday, June 19 from 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
- Period 2: Divisions 73 & 74 - Tuesday, June 23 from 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
- Period 3: Divisions 75 & 76 - Saturday, June 27 from 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
- Period 4: Divisions 77 & 78 - Friday, July 3 from 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
- Period 5: Divisions 79 & 80 - Thursday, July 9 from 7:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

### 5-8-Year-Old Exhibitors:

- Period 1: Division 70
- Period 2: Division 73
- Period 3: Division 75
- Period 4: Division 77
- Period 5: Division 79

### Class:

- 01: Any Gardening Entry by a 5-8-Year-Old Exhibitor

### Plants, Fairy Gardens, & Mini Gardens:

**Period 1 ONLY:** Division 71

### Classes:

- 01: Fairy or Mini Garden
- 02: Potted Plant
- 03: Celebrating 250 Years of America (fairy garden or mini garden)

### Youth Exhibitors:

- Period 1: Division 72
- Period 2: Division 74
- Period 3: Division 76
- Period 4: Division 78
- Period 5: Division 80

### Classes:

- 01: Cut Flowers (1 stem)
- 02: Floral Arrangement
- 03: Fruit (3 uniform pieces)
- 04: Herbs (3 stems)
- 05: Vegetable (1 head or 3 uniform pieces)



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