



FLORICULTURE AND HORTICULTURE

Superintendent:



GENERAL INFORMATION

Horticulture exhibits may only be entered in 4-H, not in FFA.

ENTRY INFORMATION All horticulture and floriculture entries must be pre-entered using the fair entry website listed in this fairbook by the stated fair entry deadline.

ENTRY TAGS The Extension Office does not print entry tags for horticulture or floriculture exhibits.

Exhibitors need to make their own entry tags using a 4"x 6" index card stating the 4-H'ers name, town, 4-H age, class number, and name of the class. (Ex: John Brown, Beantown, Age: 10, Class 41. Rudbeckia) or download at: <https://go.unl.edu/hortcards> and print on cardstock.

ENTRY CARD EXAMPLE

Name:	_____
Town:	_____
Age:	_____
Class Number:	_____
Class Name:	_____

CULTIVAR OR VARIETY NAMES REQUIRED FOR STATE FAIR

Cultivar or variety names will be required for exhibits selected for the State Fair. If cultivar or variety names are not included the exhibit will be lowered one ribbon placing. Cultivar or variety names are not required at county fair, however, including it would be helpful for the judges. Potted plants must also have cultivar/variety names listed.

All entries must receive a purple ribbon at the county fair to advance to the State Fair. Not all purple ribbon exhibits will advance to the State Fair because of State Fair quotas.

Exhibitors whose exhibits were chosen for State Fair will be required to notify the Extension Office by the designated deadline via an online form as to which exhibits they will be exhibiting at the State Fair.

It is not the responsibility of the Extension staff or the horticulture/floriculture superintendent to complete incomplete cultivar or variety names.

State Fair selection has changed. Ex: if an exhibitor is selected for a carrot exhibit, the exhibitor can only enter ONE vegetable exhibit at the State Fair. While the State Fair exhibit does not have to be carrots, it does have to be a vegetable exhibit. The same is true for floriculture exhibits and herbs.

INTERVIEW JUDGING: Interview judging is available. Please read 4-H static exhibit general information on page 54.

FLORICULTURE, EDUCATIONAL EXHIBITS AND HOUSEPLANTS - Division 770

EXHIBIT REQUIREMENTS

Exhibits entered under an incorrect class number, or which contain an incorrect number of stems will be dropped one ribbon placing. In classes 23, 45, & 46 do not duplicate entries with the classes or entry will be dropped one ribbon placing. For example: 4-H'ers with two cultivars or varieties of marigolds can only enter the marigold class and cannot enter the other cultivar or variety in any other class.

PERENNIAL & ANNUAL FLOWERS DEFINITIONS

A perennial is defined as a plant of which the crown over winters. An annual is a plant that grows from seed each season, whether self-seeded or planted by the gardener. A biennial is a plant that germinates, grows, and overwinters as a crown, blooms the following year, and dies. Foliage will be considered when the exhibit is judged. Names of plants must be included on entry cards.

FLORICULTURE

Containers will not be judged; however, they should be of adequate size to display blooms and in a clear glass container for cut flowers. There shall be no duplications of floriculture classes. Remove all foliage that will be underwater in the container.

All 3 or 5 stems of cut flowers should be the same cultivar and color, do not mix cultivars and colors. Follow the guidelines in 4H "Preparing Cut Flowers for Exhibits" 4H227 <https://go.unl.edu/preparingcutflowerexhibits22> when preparing entries for the fair. Foliage will be considered when the exhibit is judged

EXHIBIT PRESENTATION

Containers are not judged. If selected for the State Fair, your container may not be returned. All Cut Flowers and Biennials should be displayed in clear, glass containers which are appropriate in size for the exhibit for displaying the blooms. Any exhibit not in a clear, glass container will be lowered one ribbon placing. No screw-on plastic lids or screw-on rings/flats with holes poked may be used. To hold flowers in place it is suggested to use tin foil or a type of plastic wrap placed over the opening of the container and then poke holes into it for stem placement. Frog lids while screw-one can also be used. Frog lids are a lid with a gridded opening for securing the stems.

Cut Flower Annuals and Biennials - Five stems of a single variety (cultivar) unless otherwise noted in ().

1. Aster
2. Bachelor Buttons
3. Bells of Ireland
4. Browallia
5. Calendula
6. Celosia (crested or plume) (three stems)
7. Cosmos
8. Dahlia
9. Dianthus
10. Foxglove
11. Gladiolus (three stems)
12. Gomphrena
13. Hollyhock (three stems)
14. Marigold
15. Pansy
16. Petunia
17. Salvia
18. Snapdragon
19. Statice
20. Sunflower
(under three inch diameter - Five stems, three inches or more in diameter - three stems)
21. Vinca
23. Any other annual or biennial
(under three inch diameter - five stems, three inches or more in diameter - three stems) (Do not duplicate entries in Classes 1-22)

Cut Flower Perennials - Five stems from a single variety (cultivar) unless otherwise noted in ().

30. Achillea/Yarrow
31. Chrysanthemum
32. Coneflower
33. Coreopsis
34. Daisy
35. Gaillardia
36. Helianthus
37. Hydrangea (three stems)
38. Liatris (three stems)
39. Lilies (three stems) (Not Daylilies)
40. Platycodon
41. Rose (three stems)
42. Rudbeckia/Black-eyed Susan
43. Sedum
44. Statice
45. Any other perennial (under three inch diameter - Five stems, three inches or more in diameter - three stems) (Do not duplicate entries in Classes 30-44)
PREMIUM CODE 13
46. Flower Garden Collection - Collection of 5 different cut flowers. Flowers are to be cut not potted. Each flower in the collection should be exhibited with the number specified for Classes 1-45. Display in a box or other holder not more than 18" in any dimension. Boxes may not be returned from the State Fair. Do not duplicate entries in classes 1-45 with any in the group collection.
PREMIUM CODE 12

EDUCATIONAL EXHIBITS

50. Flower Notebook - exhibit a notebook containing pictures of flowers grown in Nebraska. There must be at least 10 different species of annuals and/or biennials and 10 different species of perennials hardy to Nebraska. Bulbs may be included in a separate section. 4-H members may show more than one cultivar of the same species, but they will only count as one species. The notebook must be the result of the current year's work. Pictures from garden catalogs, hand-drawn pictures, or photographs may be used. Each species/cultivar must be labeled with the correct common name and scientific name; the height and spread of the plants and the growing conditions (for example: the species prefers full sun and dry sandy soil). In addition to this information, bulbs should also be labeled as spring or summer flowering.

Give proper credit by listing the sources of pictures and information used. The 4-H member's names, age, county, and years in the project(s) must be on the back of the notebook.

51. Flower Garden Promotion Poster - individual poster promoting flower gardening, size 14" x 22" either vertical or horizontal arrangement. Poster may be in any medium: watercolor, ink, crayons, etc. as long as it is not three-dimensional. Posters using copyrighted material will not be accepted. Entry card must be stapled to the upper right-hand corner. The 4-H member's name, age, county, and years in project(s) must be on the back of the poster.

52. Educational Flower Garden Poster - prepare a poster no larger than 14" x 22" x 2" (three dimensional if needed) either vertical or horizontal arrangement illustrating a skill or project you have done or learned about in a 4-H flowers or houseplant project. One might show a special technique you use or equipment you have incorporated in your garden

Refer to 4-H horticulture project manuals, but use your own creativity. Entry card must be stapled to the upper right-hand corner. The 4-H member's name, age, county, and year(s) in the project must be on the back of the poster.

53. Flower Gardening History Interview - neatly handwritten or typed account of a gardening history interview whose flower garden has inspired you. Maximum of four pages of text and two pages of pictures (include one picture of this person you interviewed) of their flower garden if the individual is still gardening. Protect with a clear report cover. The 4-H member's name, age, county, and year(s) in the project must be on the back of the report cover.
PREMIUM CODE 13

HOUSEPLANTS

GENERAL INFORMATION

Youth must be enrolled in the Growing Great Houseplants project to exhibit in classes 60-66. Entries in Classes 60-66 must have been designed and planted by the 4-H member. The choice of container and soil quality will be considered in judging. Each entry in classes 60-66 must be identified/labeled with the variety or cultivar for each plant either on the entry tag AND on the side of the container, or a tag in the container.

Plants should be grown in a display container for a minimum of six (6) weeks. Plants grown as houseplants must be used. Containers of annual flowers or annual plants will be disqualified.

Exhibitors in Classes 60-65 must provide a saucer to catch drainage water. The 4-H member's name, age, county, and years in the project(s) must be on the bottom or back of the container and saucer.

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CONTAINER AND PLANTER DIMENSIONS

Any container or planter (flowering or foliage potted houseplants, dish gardens, fairy or miniature gardens, desert gardens, or terrariums) shall be in containers no larger than 12 inches (use the inside opening measurement) in any dimension of length or width. No combination pots may be used. All potted plants are to be in a one-pot container. Any container-grown plant in classes 60-66 that does not follow these guidelines will be lowered one ribbon placing.

Containers of annual flowers or annual plants (i.e. petunias, geraniums, impatiens) will be disqualified and will not be judged.

RESOURCES

4-H Manual - "Guide to Growing Houseplants" and Neb Guide G837 "Guide to Selecting Houseplants" includes a listing of common houseplants can be found at: extensionpublications.unl.edu/assets/html/g837/build/g837.htm

The Extension Staff and the Saline County Ag. Society are NOT responsible for watering houseplants during the duration of the fair.

60. Flowering Potted Houseplant(s) - that are blooming for exhibition. A container may have one or more houseplants in container. Label with the name for each plant. Non-blooming plants will be disqualified.

61. Foliage Potted Houseplant - one variety of tropical or cacti or succulent plant. Label with name of plant.

62. Hanging Basket - of Flowering and/or Foliage Houseplants. A container may have one or more houseplants in container. Label with the name for each plant.

63. Dish Garden - an open/shallow container featuring a variety of houseplants excluding cacti and succulents. Label with the name for each plant.

64. Fairy or Miniature Garden - a miniature "scene" contained in an open container and featuring miniature or small, slow-growing houseplants. The garden needs to have an imaginative theme and miniature accessories, i.e., bench, fence made from tiny twigs, small shell for a bathtub, etc. Label with the name for each plant.

65. Desert Garden - an open/shallow container featuring a variety of cacti and/or succulents grown as houseplants. Label with the name for each plant.

66. Terrarium - in transparent container, partially or completely enclosed; sealed or unsealed. Label with the name for each plant.

PREMIUM CODE 13

COUNTY ONLY EXHIBITS

67. + Bucket Flowers - Containers are not judged, but your name must be marked on the bottom of the bucket.

Plants must be identified on entry tag or by other means.

Plants must be grown for a minimum of 6 weeks in the bucket. Only buckets that have blooming flowers will be judged. You may plant one or more varieties of flowers.

Non-blooming (foliage) plants can be mixed with blooming plants. Exhibits will be placed throughout the fairgrounds after judging, you should take the display home after the fair.

2026 Floral Arrangement theme is centered around the fair theme (Dealing out Success). Exhibitors are asked to use an old boot as the container for their arrangement. Use your creativity to create a unique arrangement. The exhibitor **MUST** create the arrangement. Purchased floral stems may be used; however, do not buy an already created arrangement to enter.

68. + Floral Arrangement: Small – Cut flowers only. The diameter of overall exhibit must be less than 6". 4-H'ers do not have to grow the plants used.

70. + Floral Arrangement: Large – Cut flowers only. The diameter of overall exhibit must be greater than 6". 4-H'ers do not have to grow the plants used.

71. + Native Nebraska Wildflowers & Grasses Arrangement – Arrangement must contain native Nebraska wildflowers and grasses. Include a card or label identifying each wildflower or grasses used.

VEGETABLES, HERBS, FRUITS, & EDUCATIONAL EXHIBITS - Division 773

GENERAL INFORMATION

Vegetables will be judged and exhibited according to guidelines available from the Extension Office such as the scoresheet.

In classes 252, 255, 268, 269, 285 and 286 do not duplicate entries with the classes listed by using other cultivars or varieties or entry will be lowered one ribbon placing. For example: 4-H'ers with two cultivars or varieties of red tomatoes can only enter the red tomatoes class and cannot enter the other cultivar or variety in any other vegetable class.

Dried vegetables will not be accepted (with the exception of dry beans).

ENTRY INFORMATION

Refer to the instructions in the Floriculture section as the same entry process applies for horticulture exhibits.

ENTRY TAGS

Exhibitors will make their own entry tags as referred to in the Floriculture section.

CULTIVAR OR VARIETY NAMES REQUIRED FOR STATE FAIR

Refer to the rules stated in the Floriculture section as the same guidelines apply for horticulture exhibits.

EXHIBIT REQUIREMENTS

Exhibits entered under an incorrect class number, or which contain an incorrect number of vegetables will be dropped one ribbon placing. Do not duplicate entry with any other classes. Ex: you enter class 243 Red Tomatoes and then you enter class 252 Any Other Vegetable with the cultivar of Red Tomatoes.

RESOURCES

4-H manuals Everyone a Gardener, Gardening A, B, C, and D. Follow the guidelines in "Selecting and Preparing Vegetables, Herbs and Fruits for Exhibit" at <https://extensionpubs.unl.edu/publication/4h226/pdf/view/4h226-2022.pdf> when preparing entries for the fair.

VEGETABLE - Number to exhibit in parenthesis.

- 201. Lima Beans (12)
- 202. Snap Beans (12)
- 203. Wax Beans (12)
- 204. Beets (5)
- 205. Broccoli (2)
- 206. Brussels Sprouts (12)
- 207. Green Cabbage (2)
- 208. Red Cabbage (2)
- 209. Carrots (5)
- 210. Cauliflower (2)
- 211. Slicing Cucumbers (2)
- 212. Pickling Cucumbers (5)
- 213. Eggplant (2)
- 214. Kohlrabi (5)
- 215. Muskmelon/Cantaloupe (2)
- 216. Okra (5)
- 217. Yellow Onions (5)
- 218. Red Onions (5)
- 219. White Onions (5)
- 220. Parsnips (5)
- 221. Bell Peppers (5)
- 222. Sweet (non-bell) Peppers (5)
- 223. Jalapeno Peppers (5)
- 224. Hot (non-jalapeno) Peppers (5)
- 225. White Potatoes (5)
- 226. Red Potatoes (5)
- 227. Russet Potatoes (5)
- 228. Other Potatoes (5)
- 229. Pumpkin (2)
- 230. Miniature Pumpkins (Jack Be Little Type) (5)
- 231. Radish (5)
- 232. Rhubarb (5)
- 233. Rutabaga (2)
- 234. Green Summer Squash (2)
- 235. Yellow Summer Squash (2)
- 236. White Summer Squash (2)

- 237. Acorn Squash (2)
- 238. Butternut Squash (2)
- 239. Buttercup Squash (2)
- 240. Other Winter Squash (2)
- 241. Sweet Corn (in husks) (5)
- 242. Swiss Chard (5)
- 243. Red Tomatoes (2 inches or more in diameter) (5)
- 244. Roma or Sauce-type Tomatoes (5)
- 245. Salad Tomatoes (under 2 inches diameter) (12)
- 246. Yellow Tomatoes (2 inches or more in diameter) (5)
- 247. Turnips (5)
- 248. Watermelon (2)
- 249. Dry Edible Beans (1 pint)
- 250. Gourds, mixed types (5)
- 251. Gourds, single variety (5)
- 252. Any Other Vegetable- 2, 5, or 12 (do not duplicate entries in classes 201-251) that doesn't fit in any other class

PREMIUM CODE 13

255. 4-H Vegetable Garden Collection of Five (5) Kinds of Vegetables - (display in a box of appropriate dimension for judging). Box size not to exceed 24 inches in any dimension. Boxes may not be returned from State Fair. Showmanship (attractive display) will be considered in judging, but plastic grass, cotton, figurines, etc. should not be used in the exhibit boxes. Each vegetable in the collection should be exhibited with the number specified for classes 201-252. Do not duplicate entries in classes 201-252 with any in the group collection. Variety names must be included with the entry.

256. 4-H Cultivar Vegetable Collection - vegetables entered in the collection are five cultivars from a single exhibit; for example five cultivars of all types of peppers or squash or onions or tomatoes, etc. Display in a box not more than 24 inches in any dimension. Boxes may not be returned from State Fair. Showmanship (attractive display) will be considered in judging, but plastic grass, cotton, figurines, etc. should not be used in the exhibit boxes. Each vegetable in the collection should be exhibited with the number specified for individual class (201-252).

PREMIUM CODE 12

HERBS

Herbs in classes 60-69 will be judged using the same general criteria used for vegetables. Those grown mainly for their seed, such as dill and caraway, should be exhibited on a plate. Those grown for their leaves such as basil, parsley, etc. should be exhibited in a clear, glass container of water (no plastic containers). Containers may not be returned. Any exhibit not in a clear glass container will be lowered one ribbon placing. No screw on lids or screw on rings and flats may be used. To hold herbs in place it is suggested to use tin foil or a type of plastic wrap with hole poked in the top of use frog lids.

- 260. Basil (5)
- 261. Dill (dry) (5)
- 262. Garlic (bulbs) (5)
- 263. Mint (5)
- 264. Oregano (5)
- 265. Parsley (5)
- 266. Sage (5)
- 267. Thyme (5)
- 268. Any Other Herb (5) (do not duplicate entries in classes 260-267)
- 269. 4-H Herb Garden- display of five different herbs. Herbs are to be cut, not potted. Displayed in a box or other holder not more than 18 inches in any dimension. Boxes will not be returned from State Fair. Each herb in the collection should be exhibited with the number specified for classes 260-268. Do not duplicate entries in class 260-268 with any in the group collection.

PREMIUM CODE 13

FRUITS

Fruits will be judged using the same general criteria used for vegetables. Fruit will be judged for the stage of maturity normal for that season and growing location. Emphasis will be placed on how well fruit approaches market quality.

- 280. Strawberries (ever bearers) (1 pint)
 - 281. Grapes (2 bunches)
 - 282. Apples (5)
 - 283. Pears (5)
 - 284. Wild Plums (1 pint)
 - 285. Other small fruits or berries (1 pint) (do not duplicate entries in classes 280-284)
 - 286. Other fruits or nuts 5 (do not duplicate entries in classes 280-284)
- PREMIUM CODE 13

EDUCATIONAL EXHIBITS

290. Garden Promotion - individual poster promoting vegetable or herb gardening, size 14 inches x 22 inches either vertical or horizontal arrangement. Poster may be in any medium so long as they are not three-dimensional. Posters using copyrighted material will not be accepted. Entry cards must be attached to the upper right-hand corner. The 4-H member's name, age, county, and years in project(s) must be on the back of the poster.

291. Educational Vegetable or Herb Garden Poster - prepare a poster no larger than 14 inches x 22 inches x 2 inches (three dimensional if needed) either vertical or horizontal arrangement illustrating a skill or project you have done or learned about in a 4-H vegetable gardening project. You might show a special technique you use or equipment you have incorporated in your garden (e.g., drip irrigation system, composting, or special techniques learned). Refer to 4-H Horticulture project manuals, but use your own creativity. Entry card must be attached to the upper right-hand corner. The 4-H member's name, age, county, and years in project(s) must be on the back of the poster.

292. Vegetable and/or Herb Gardening History Interview

- neatly handwritten or typed account of a gardening history interview of someone whose vegetable or herb garden has inspired you. Maximum of four pages of text and two pages of pictures (include one picture of person you interviewed) of their garden if the individual is still gardening. Protect with a clear report cover. The 4-H member's name, age, county, and years in project(s) must be on the back of the report.

PREMIUM CODE 13

293. Vegetable Seed Display - each display must include seeds representing the following families: Cucurbit, Brassica (cabbage), Solanaceous (nightshade), and Legume (pea) families, plus representatives from five other families. Group the seeds by family and type. Glue seeds or otherwise fasten clear containers of seeds to a board or poster mat board no larger than 22 inches x 24 inches. Label each group and each individual vegetable type with the common and scientific names. Use only one variety or cultivar of each vegetable, except for beans where several examples of beans may be shown. Attach a card to the back explaining why & how it is important to know which vegetables are related and cite references on where the scientific name information was found. The 4-H member's name, age, county, and years in the project(s) must be on the back of the display.

294. World of Vegetables Notebook - Choose a favorite foreign cuisine and learn what vegetables and/or herbs are common to it (e.g., Mexican, African, Chinese, Italian, etc.). Include a report describing a minimum of five vegetables and/or herbs from each country chosen. Include the scientific and common names; pictures of the plants from your garden or seed catalogs; tell how they are grown; and how the foods are used. Also list a source for buying the seed or plants. Favorite recipes using some or all of the vegetables described may be included. Give proper credit by listing the sources of pictures and information used. Protect in a clear report cover or three-ring notebook. The 4-H member's name, age, county, and years in the project(s), must be on the back cover of the report.

PREMIUM CODE 14

Special Garden Project - Division 775

1. Special Garden Project - Educational Exhibit based on what was learned from the project. Youth must be enrolled in the current Special Garden Project to exhibit. Present information on a poster 14" X 22" either vertical or horizontal arrangement or in a clear plastic report cover. The 4H member's name, age, and county must be on the back of the poster or report cover.

2. Special Garden Project Fresh Cut Flowers, Herbs, or Harvested Vegetables - The current years' Special Garden Project fresh cut flowers, herbs, or harvested vegetables should be entered in this class. Refer to classes 1-45 for quantity to exhibit if special garden project is a fresh cut flower. Refer to classes 201-252 for quantity to exhibit if special garden project is a vegetable. Flowers and herbs must be cut, not potted.

PREMIUM CODE 14