



The San Diego County Fair's Specimen Bloom Competition is a vibrant showcase of nature's finest blooms, inviting gardeners, florists, and plant enthusiasts to display their best individual flowers for all to admire. This friendly competition highlights the beauty, uniqueness, and perfection of single blossoms, with categories for a wide range of flower types. Whether you're a seasoned horticulturist or a backyard grower, it's your chance to shine, inspire others, and compete for recognition in a fun and supportive community. Join us and let your blooms take center stage!

Exhibition Timeline

Exhibitor Meeting	Saturday, May 23, 2026 10:00 AM Location: San Diego County Fair Boardroom
Entry Deadline	Unlimited Blooms Pass Entries: Friday, May 29 th , 2026 at 8:00 PM Individual Blooms Entries: See Show Schedule
Entry Delivery & Judging	See Show Schedule
Fair Dates	Wednesday, June 10 – Sunday, July 5, 2026 (closed Mondays and Tuesdays)
Ribbon Request Deadline	Friday, July 3, 2026
Awards Ceremony	Sunday July 5, 2026 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Eligibility

Exhibitors must be 18 years old by the Entry Deadline listed above.

Contact Us

Jasmine Hoofard, [Flower Show Coordinator](#)

San Diego County Fair Entry Office

2260 Jimmy Durante Blvd, Del Mar, CA 92014

Office (858) 792-4207 - Mon-Fri 10am-4pm

2026 Local Rules

1. Completion of online entry registration shall be deemed acceptance of all rules and permission to use your name, photograph, and images and description of entries in print, digital, and other media.
2. Online registration is required for all competitions and one-day contests. Online entries and any required image/document uploads are accepted until the published deadline, which specifies a date and time. Late entries will not be accepted.
3. Once registered, the exhibitor's name, entry description, title, and price may not be changed. Substitutions will only be allowed in accordance with current State Rules. Fair Management is not responsible for errors on entry forms, which may lead to elimination or disqualification of an entry.
4. Processing fees must be paid online at the time of registration. Processing fees are non-refundable.
5. Exhibitors must be living at the time when the online entry is submitted.
6. All non-livestock/non-agricultural entries must be the creative work of the exhibitor (whose name appears on the entry registration), be in good taste, and suitable for family viewing. Fair Management reserves the right to disqualify any entry/exhibit it deems objectionable or not in accordance with competition standards.
7. If an entry is disqualified after judging is complete, no changes will be made to the status of awards given for other entries.
8. Exhibitors are responsible for obtaining necessary permission from models and/or for using material in their entry that is considered copyrighted.
9. No entry will be accepted should the exhibitor describe the conditions under which he/she will exhibit, or the exhibit will be displayed.
10. Judges are selected for their expertise in the divisions or classes they evaluate. New judges may be appointed each year, and judging assignments may vary annually based on the needs of each competition.
11. If a coordinator or judge deems an entry to be in the incorrect category, division, class, etc., he or she may direct the Entry Office to move that entry as appropriate. The Entry Office may combine divisions or classes to create an adequate judging pool.
12. Fair Management reserves the right to limit entries and display thereof, to facilities available, and to cancel any division or class in which, in its judgment, the entries are insufficient to secure adequate competition.
13. Entries must be delivered on the date(s) and times specified. Entries will not be accepted before or after the stated entry delivery date. All accepted exhibits must remain on display and shall not be removed.

until the stated entry pick up date. Any exhibit not picked up on the specified date becomes the property of the San Diego County Fair and will be disposed of promptly.

14. All exhibits are entered and shown at the owner's risk. Reasonable care will be taken to prevent loss or damage to exhibits, but in no event will the 22nd District Agricultural Association (San Diego County Fair) be responsible for any injury or loss which may occur or for the actions of third parties. Insurance, if desired, should be obtained by the exhibitor at his/her own expense.
15. Any person who violates any Local, State, or Department rule or displays unethical conduct will forfeit all privileges and premiums and be subject to such penalty as the 22nd District Agricultural Association (San Diego County Fair) may order.
16. To ensure reliable award notification, exhibitors are responsible for submitting all address, phone number, and email address updates promptly in writing to entry@sdfair.com or Entry Department, 2260 Jimmy Durante Blvd, Del Mar, CA 92014.
17. Premium money will be paid per the recorded placings in the official judging reports rather than the ribbon attached to the exhibit.
18. Donated Award recipients will be selected per the instructions given on the Donated Award Confirmation Form submitted by the donor.
19. Premium, donated cash award, and auction checks will be made payable to the exhibitor as listed on the online entry registration. Checks will be mailed within 30 days after the close of the Fair to the address shown on the online entry registration, or as updated by the exhibitor via written notification to the Entry Office. Checks not cashed within six (6) months from the date of issue will be forfeited. Replacement checks may be subject to a stop payment fee.
20. The 22nd District Agricultural Association (San Diego County Fair) is required by the Internal Revenue Service to report any premium payments totaling \$600 or more. Exhibitors whose awards meet or exceed this amount must submit a W-9 form before their check can be issued.
21. The 22nd District Agricultural Association (San Diego County Fair) management reserves the right to amend or add to these rules and assumes no liability or responsibility not herein expressed.
22. California State Rules apply and are available [here](#).



Entry Limit & Fees

Two (2) entries per exhibitor per class per show. Exhibitors may enter as many classes as desired. **Exhibitors may choose to enter cut blooms individually or purchase one "Unlimited Bloom Pass" for each division being entered (Roses, Dahlias, Gladiolus, Other Specimen Blooms). Unlimited Bloom Pass includes two entries per class in each Division entered as well as one personalized entry badge. The link for submitting a badge request will be sent to Unlimited Bloom Pass exhibitors after entries have closed.**

All Cut Bloom Classes- Individual Entry: \$1 per entry/stem

Unlimited Bloom Pass: \$100 per division entered

Entry fees are payable online with a credit card and are not refundable.

Fair Tickets

Each exhibitor will receive two (2) Exhibitor Access Passes per show they enter in each division. Tickets will be available for exhibitors at time of each entry delivery.

Show Schedule

Entries must be preregistered by the deadline listed below, as entries cannot be accepted after the deadline.

Show #	Show Date (Flowers on Display)	Single Bloom Entry Deadline	Cut Bloom Delivery Date
1	Wednesday, June 10 – Thursday, June 11	Tuesday, June 9, 11 AM	Tuesday, June 9 1 PM – 6 PM
2	Friday, June 12 – Sunday, June 14	Thursday, June 11, 8 PM	Friday, June 12 4 AM – 9 AM
3	Wednesday, June 17 – Thursday, June 18	Tuesday, June 16, 11 AM	Tuesday, June 16 1 PM – 6 PM
4	Friday, June 19 – Sunday, June 21	Thursday, June 18, 8 PM	Friday, June 19 4 AM – 9 AM
5	Wednesday, June 24 – Thursday, June 25	Tuesday, June 23, 11 AM	Tuesday, June 23 1 PM – 6 PM
6	Friday, June 26 – Sunday, June 28	Thursday, June 25, 8 PM	Friday, June 26 4 AM – 9 AM
7	Wednesday, July 1 – Thursday, July 2	Tuesday, June 30, 11 AM	Tuesday, June 30 1 PM – 6 PM
8	Friday, July 3 – Sunday, July 5	Thursday, July 2, 8pm	Friday, July 3 4 AM – 9 AM

How to Enter

1. After reading all entry materials, click the “Enter Now” link below to go to the ShoWorks Entry Homepage.
2. Register as an **Exhibitor**.
3. Select the appropriate division and class and input the required information. (See “Divisions and Classes” below for a list of all divisions and classes.)
4. Review your entry before completing registration to ensure that you have entered the correct division and class for each entry.
5. Click the check-out button and pay for all entries.
6. Read the confirmation statement and type YES. **Do not click multiple times**, as it will charge you each time.

If you plan to make changes to your entries or need to leave ShoWorks at any time, SAVE YOUR CART before exiting out.

For additional help with entering, review this detailed step-by-step guide:

[Entry Tutorial](#)

Still have questions? Please call or email the Entry Office.

Phone: (858) 792-4207, Monday-Friday, 10am-4pm

Entry Tag Pick-Up & Bloom Delivery

Entry tags may be picked-up at the San Diego County Fair Entry Office Tuesday, June 2 through Friday, June 5 during business hours or by pre-scheduled appointment. At specimen delivery, each tag must include the name of bloom and show/class number. If you are unable to pick up your entry tags please contact the flower show office. Following registration, exhibitors will be emailed additional delivery instructions including a map showing access to the Fairgrounds.

Specimen blooms must be delivered on the first day of the show they are being exhibited in. Vases will be provided. Delivery will take place according to the Show Schedule above.

Specimen blooms will remain on display throughout the entirety of the show. Blooms that show extensive signs of deterioration or damage during the show may be removed from display by show coordinators. Flower show staff happily accepts any unused flowers.

Judging and Awards

The Paul Ecke Jr. Flower Show follows the American judging system. All judging will be conducted anonymously in a **closed session**. Exhibitors are not allowed to be present in or around the show area during the judging process. Failure to adhere to this rule may result in disqualification. **Once judging begins, no entries may be moved to a different division or class.**

The judges' decisions are final. Upon the completion of judging, all entries become the property of the San Diego County Fair. See division descriptions for division-specific judging information.

Results will be posted on the San Diego County Fair's website two weeks following the last day of the Fair. Exhibitors wanting ribbons must notify the Flower Show office by the deadline listed above. Award checks will be mailed within 30 days after the Fair closes.

The following will be awarded in each class:

1st Place	\$6 and Ribbon
2nd Place	\$5 and Ribbon
3rd Place	\$4 and Ribbon
4th Place	\$2 and Ribbon
Special Awards	
Sweepstakes Award: Presented to the exhibitor earning the highest number of premiums in each of the specimen divisions.	Rosette & Award
Best of the Day Award: Presented to the exhibitor most frequently selected as "Best of the Day" in each of the specimen divisions.	Certificate & Award
Honorable Mention stickers may be awarded at judges' discretion.	

Divisions & Show Schedule

Show # & Check-In Date		Divisions			
		Roses	Dahlias	Gladiolus	Other Specimen Blooms
1	Tuesday, June 9; 1 PM – 6 PM	4600	4700	4800	4900
2	Friday, June 12 ; 4 AM – 9 AM	4610	4710	4810	4910
3	Tuesday, June 16; 1 PM – 6 PM	4620	4720	4820	4920
4	Friday, June 19 ; 4 AM – 9 AM	4630	4730	4830	4930
5	Tuesday, June 23; 1 PM – 6 PM	4640	4740	4840	4940
6	Friday, June 26; 4 AM – 9 AM	4650	4750	4850	4950
7	Tuesday, June 30; 1 PM – 6 PM	4660	4760	4860	4960
8	Friday, July 3 ; 4 AM – 9 AM	4670	4770	4870	4970

**See below for Divisions and Classes

Specimen Bloom Divisions and Classes

Division 4600-4670: Roses

Classes are open to participants of all skill levels unless designated as “novice.” A novice is defined as an exhibitor who has won fewer than five blue ribbons or a trophy in American Rose Society (ARS) shows or other rose show competitions within these classes prior to this year’s San Diego County Fair. Novice status is maintained for the duration of the Fair.

Classes categorizing blooms by color will encompass all tints and shades of the specified solid color, including light, medium, and dark variations.

Judging Criteria: Judging procedures and color classifications for specimen blooms are in alignment with the [American Rose Society publications](#). Blooms are usually ½ to ¾ open.

MISCELLANEOUS MINIATURE OR MINIFLORA

Class 001	Rose in a bowl, bloom without stem floating in clear water
Class 002	Three mini flora blooms floating in a 6” bowl
Class 003	One bloom stem, any color
Class 004	Single petal (4-8 petals or classified as single by ARS), one stem, no side buds
Class 005	Fully open, any color, stamens must show, no singles
Class 006	Decorative form/ semi-double, does not show exhibition form, one bloom
Class 007	Vase of five, any color or variety, one bloom per stem
Class 008	Spray, any color, one stem, two or more open blooms
Class 009	Novice , any color or variety, one bloom or spray

MINIATURE ROSES

One stem, no side buds, no singles
Class 010 White or color not listed
Class 011 Yellow or yellow blend
Class 012 Apricot or apricot blend
Class 013 Orange, orange blend, orange-red, or orange-pink
Class 014 Pink or pink blend
Class 015 Red or red blend
Class 016 Mauve or mauve blend

MINIFLORA ROSES

One stem, one bloom per stem, no side buds, no singles
Class 017 White or color not listed
Class 018 Yellow or yellow blend
Class 019 Apricot or apricot blend
Class 020 Orange, orange blend, orange-red, or orange-pink
Class 021 Pink or pink blend
Class 022 Red or red blend
Class 023 Mauve or mauve blend

Division 4600-4670: Roses (Continued)**FLORIBUNDA**

One bloom, no side buds	
Class 024	White or color not listed
Class 025	Yellow or yellow blend
Class 026	Apricot or apricot blend
Class 027	Orange, orange blend, orange-red, or orange-pink
Class 028	Pink or pink blend
Class 029	Red or red blend
Class 030	Mauve or mauve blend
Class 031	Novice, floribunda one bloom, one stem, any color

FLORIBUNDA SPRAY

Two or more open blooms	
Class 032	White or color not listed
Class 033	Yellow or yellow blend
Class 034	Apricot or apricot blend
Class 035	Orange, orange blend, orange-red, or orange-pink
Class 036	Pink or pink blend
Class 037	Red or red blend
Class 038	Mauve or mauve blend
Class 039	Novice, one stem, two or more open blooms, any color

HYBRID TEA OR GRANDIFLORA

One bloom, no side buds, exhibition form

Class 040	White or color not listed
Class 041	Yellow or yellow blend
Class 042	Apricot or apricot blend
Class 043	Orange, orange blend, orange-red, or orange-pink
Class 044	Pink or pink blend
Class 045	Red or red blend
Class 046	Mauve or mauve blend
Class 047	Spray, hybrid tea or grandiflora, any color, one stem, two or more blooms
Class 048	Vase of three hybrid tea or grandiflora, any color, one stem, one bloom per stem
Class 049	Novice, hybrid tea or grandiflora, any color or variety

SHRUB ROSES

Class 050	Classic and modern, one bloom, no Austin roses
Class 051	Classic and modern, one spray with two or more blooms, no Austin roses
Class 052	Austin rose, any variety hybridized by David Austin, one bloom
Class 053	Austin rose, any variety hybridized by David Austin, one spray with two or more blooms
Class 054	Shrub vase of three, any combination bloom or spray
Class 055	Old Garden Rose as listed by ARS, one bloom or spray with two or more blooms
Class 056	Most fragrant shrub, one bloom (fragrance 70%, quality of bloom 30%)

Division 4600-4670: Roses (Continued)

MISCELLANEOUS LARGE ROSES

Class 057 Most fragrant hybrid tea, grandiflora, or floribunda, one bloom, no side buds (fragrance 70%, quality of bloom 30%)

Class 058 Single petal variety (4-8 petals, or classified as single by ARS), any color, one bloom, no miniature or miniflora

Class 059 Single petal variety (4-8 petals, or classified as single by ARS), any color, one spray with two or more blooms, no miniature or miniflora

Class 060 Large flowered climbers as listed by ARS, one bloom or spray with two or more open blooms

Class 061 Rose of any Old Garden Rose, Polyantha, shrub, or large flowered climber variety, one bloom or spray with two or more open blooms

Class 062 Polyantha spray, one stem with two or more blooms, any color or variety

Class 063 Fully open hybrid tea, grandiflora, or floribunda, stamens showing. No singles classified by ARS.

Class 064 Unidentified, unknown, unregistered, one bloom with no side buds or spray with two or more blooms

Class 065 Rose in a bowl, any variety without stem, floating in clear water, no miniature or miniflora



Division 4700-4770: Dahlias

Stems on large and medium blooms shall have a minimum length of 12". Stems on smaller flowers should be proportional. All blooms must have attached dahlia foliage.

Judging Criteria: Color, form, substance, foliage, size, stem, distinctiveness, bloom, and uniformity.

STANDARD CLASSES

Class 001	Largest quality bloom	Class 013	Anemone
Class 002	Smallest quality bloom	Class 014	Orchid/ Orecchiette
Class 003	Formal, 8" and up	Class 015	Peony
Class 004	Informal, 8" and up	Class 016	Single
Class 005	Cactus, 8" and up	Class 017	Mignon Single
Class 006	Semi-cactus, 8" and up	Class 018	Novelty
Class 007	Laciniated, 4" and up	Class 019	Stellar
Class 008	Water Lily	Class 020	Best seedling larger than 6"
Class 009	Ball, 3 1/2" and up	Class 021	Most unusual bloom
Class 010	Mini Ball, 3 1/2" and under	Class 022	Dahlia in a bowl, larger than 6"
Class 011	Pompom, up to 2"	Class 023	Three blooms in a vase, same variety, type, or color, larger than 6"
Class 012	Collarette	Class 037	Yellow

DECORATIVE, 4" AND UP

Class 024	Decorative, any color
Class 025	Bi-Color
Class 026	Flame
Class 027	Light Blend
Class 028	Dark Blend
Class 029	Bronze/ Orange
Class 030	Dark Red
Class 031	Lavender
Class 032	Pink
Class 033	Purple/ Black
Class 034	Red
Class 035	Variegated
Class 036	White

CACTUS, 4" AND UP

Class 038	Cactus, any color
Class 039	Bi-Color
Class 040	Flame
Class 041	Light Blend
Class 042	Dark Blend
Class 043	Bronze/ Orange
Class 044	Dark Red
Class 045	Lavender
Class 046	Pink
Class 047	Purple/ Black
Class 048	Red
Class 049	Variegated
Class 050	White
Class 051	Yellow

**Division 4700-4770: Dahlias (Continued)****MINIATURE, UP TO 4"**

Class 052	Miniatures, any color	Class 065	Yellow
Class 053	Bi-Color	Class 066	Best seedling under 4"
Class 054	Flame	Class 067	Best seedling 4-6"
Class 055	Light Blend	Class 068	Dahlia in a bowl, under 4"
Class 056	Dark Blend	Class 069	Dahlia in a bowl, 4-6"
Class 057	Bronze/ Orange	Class 070	Three blooms in a vase, same variety, type, or color, under 4"
Class 058	Dark Red	Class 071	Three blooms in a vase, same variety, type, or color, 4-6"
Class 059	Lavender	Class 072	Five or more dahlias in a vase, combination mixed, any size, form, or color
Class 060	Pink		
Class 061	Purple/ Black		
Class 062	Red		
Class 063	Variegated		
Class 064	White		

Division 4800-4870: Gladiolus**Colors:** All color blends.**Size Classifications:** Standard: Florets 4" and taller. Miniature: Florets under 4".**Judging Criteria:** Spike structure, floret color, balance, and floret structure.**STANDARD, ONE SPIKE**

Class 001	White or Cream	Class 010	Dark Rose
Class 002	Green	Class 011	Lavender
Class 003	Yellow	Class 012	Purple
Class 004	Orange	Class 013	Violet
Class 005	Salmon	Class 014	Variegated
Class 006	Pink	Class 015	Smoky
Class 007	Red	Class 016	Tan or Brown
Class 008	Rose	Class 017	Bi-Color
Class 009	Dark Red	Class 018	Any other color not listed

MINIATURE, ONE SPIKE

Class 019	White or Cream	Class 028	Dark Rose
Class 020	Green	Class 029	Lavender
Class 021	Yellow	Class 030	Purple
Class 022	Orange	Class 031	Violet
Class 023	Salmon	Class 032	Variegated
Class 024	Pink	Class 033	Smoky
Class 025	Red	Class 034	Tan or Brown
Class 026	Rose	Class 035	Bi-Color
Class 027	Dark Red	Class 036	Any other color not listed

Division 4900-4970: Other Specimen Blooms

Anything other than roses, dahlias, or gladiolus applies to this division.

Judging Criteria: Quality, size for variety (not larger than 24" high), and uniqueness

FLOWERS

Class 001	Rare bloom	Class 014	Rose-colored bloom
Class 002	Large bloom	Class 015	White bloom
Class 003	Small bloom	Class 016	Yellow bloom
Class 004	Multi-colored bloom	Class 017	Apricot or coral bloom
Class 005	Any bloom in a bowl	Class 018	Most fragrant bloom
Class 006	Succulent bloom	Class 019	Most striking bloom
Class 007	Blue bloom	Class 020	Most unusual bloom
Class 008	Green bloom	Class 021	Any other bloom
Class 009	Pink bloom	Class 022	California native bloom
Class 010	Purple bloom	Class 023	Hydrangea, any variety
Class 011	Lavender bloom	Class 024	Lily bloom
Class 012	Orange bloom	Class 025	Geranium or Pelargonium bloom
Class 013	Red bloom		

LEAVES

Class 026	Large leaf, not to exceed 24" in height
Class 027	Small leaf
Class 028	Most unusual leaf
Class 029	Variegated leaf
Class 030	Any other leaf
Class 031	Any color leaf
Class 032	Scented leaf
Class 033	Succulent leaf