



*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	<b>Unlimited Blooms Pass Entries:</b> Friday, May 29 <sup>th</sup> , 2026 at 8:00 PM <b>Individual Blooms Entries:</b> 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](mailto: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
<b>Special Awards</b>	
<b>Sweepstakes Award:</b> Presented to the exhibitor earning the highest number of premiums in each of the specimen divisions.	Rosette & Award
<b>Best of the Day Award:</b> 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**

<b>Class 001</b>	Largest quality bloom	<b>Class 013</b>	Anemone
<b>Class 002</b>	Smallest quality bloom	<b>Class 014</b>	Orchid/ Orecchiette
<b>Class 003</b>	Formal, 8" and up	<b>Class 015</b>	Peony
<b>Class 004</b>	Informal, 8" and up	<b>Class 016</b>	Single
<b>Class 005</b>	Cactus, 8" and up	<b>Class 017</b>	Mignon Single
<b>Class 006</b>	Semi-cactus, 8" and up	<b>Class 018</b>	Novelty
<b>Class 007</b>	Lacinated, 4" and up	<b>Class 019</b>	Stellar
<b>Class 008</b>	Water Lily	<b>Class 020</b>	Best seedling larger than 6"
<b>Class 009</b>	Ball, 3 ½" and up	<b>Class 021</b>	Most unusual bloom
<b>Class 010</b>	Mini Ball, 3 ½" and under	<b>Class 022</b>	Dahlia in a bowl, larger than 6"
<b>Class 011</b>	Pompom, up to 2"	<b>Class 023</b>	Three blooms in a vase, same variety, type, or color, larger than 6"
<b>Class 012</b>	Collarette	<b>Class 037</b>	Yellow

### **DECORATIVE, 4" AND UP**

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

### **CACTUS, 4" AND UP**

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



## **Division 4700-4770: Dahlias (Continued)**

### **MINIATURE, UP TO 4"**

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

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

### **MINIATURE, ONE SPIKE**

<b>Class 019</b>	White or Cream	<b>Class 028</b>	Dark Rose
<b>Class 020</b>	Green	<b>Class 029</b>	Lavender
<b>Class 021</b>	Yellow	<b>Class 030</b>	Purple
<b>Class 022</b>	Orange	<b>Class 031</b>	Violet
<b>Class 023</b>	Salmon	<b>Class 032</b>	Variegated
<b>Class 024</b>	Pink	<b>Class 033</b>	Smoky
<b>Class 025</b>	Red	<b>Class 034</b>	Tan or Brown
<b>Class 026</b>	Rose	<b>Class 035</b>	Bi-Color
<b>Class 027</b>	Dark Red	<b>Class 036</b>	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**

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

### **LEAVES**

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