

An NGC Horticulture Specialty Flower Show

“Pollinator Paradise”



Presented by

McCracken County Extension Master Gardeners
Perennial Gardeners Garden Club
Homemakers' Garden Club
Civic Beautification Board
McCracken County Civic Beautification Board

At

Floral Hall
Carson Park Fairgrounds, 300 Joe Clifton Drive
Paducah, KY 42001
(270) 554-9520

On

July 28, 2026 – August 1, 2026

Open to the public Tuesday through Saturday, 4:30 P.M. – 10:00 P.M.
\$5.00 general admission to Fairground ticket required

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Flower Show Committee:

Mary Dossett, Mary.dossett@uky.edu, (270) 554-9520, Show Chair.

Committee Members: Brenda Johnson & Betty Thompson

This Flower Show conforms to NGC standards. NGC Handbook for Flower Shows, available digitally at [NGC-HANDBOOK-FOR-FLOWER-SHOWS-2022-REVISION](#), is LAW OF THE SHOW.

GENERAL RULES (Apply to all Divisions)

ELIGIBILITY

Flower show is open to all. No charge to enter.

Entries

Entry tags available **Tuesday, July 28, 2026**, at Floral Hall. Tags are also available prior to July 28 at the McCracken County Extension Office during office hours. Please return any unused tags on entry day.

HORTICULTURE ENTRIES accepted **Tuesday, July 28, 2026, 8:00 A.M.** Hanging containers limited to the first 12 entries. TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR JUDGING, ENTRIES MUST BE STAGED, PLACED ON CORRECT CLASS TABLE AND SIGNED IN BY **11:00 A.M.** Exhibitors must leave Floral Hall as soon as exhibit(s) is/are placed. Exhibitors may not return to Floral Hall until the Fair opens. **TIME RESTRICTIONS STRICTLY ENFORCED. Parking Policy:** All parking must be outside the fairgrounds. Parking is available along Monroe Street. Guests may enter through the side gate near the back door of Floral Hall or through the front entrance of Floral Hall. Vehicles parked inside the fairgrounds without authorization will be required to move immediately. Any vehicle not removed in a timely manner may be towed at the owner's expense.

Classification chair for each Division will check for schedule conformity prior to judging. Final determination to conformance rests with judges. Show Chair will be on site during judging for possible consultation. Only judges, clerks and Division Chairs are permitted on floor during judging. Judge's decisions are final. Award may be withheld if not merited. Artificial plant material is prohibited. Each exhibitor is limited to one entry per class, except in the Horticulture Division where multiple exhibits may be entered in the same class so long as each is a different species, cultivar, variety, color or type.

It is unlawful to remove native plants from any public land in Kentucky. Additionally, use of these federally listed endangered plants for Kentucky is prohibited, in a NGC show: *Apios priceana* (Price's Potato-bean); *Minuartia cumberlandensis* (Cumberland Sandwort); *Conradina verticillata* (Cumberland Rosemary); *Solidago albopilosa* (White-haired Goldenrod); *Solidago shortii* (Short's Goldenrod); *Spiraea virginiana* (Virginia Spirea); *Trifolium stoloniferum* (Running Buffalo Clover); *Schwalbea americana* (Chaffseed). Commonwealth: Bush Honeysuckle; Chinese Silverbush; Garlic Mustard; Japanese Knotweed; Japanese Stiltgrass; Kudzu, Multi-Flora Rose; Oriental Bittersweet; Purple Loosestrife; and Winged Burning Bush. These plants may appear in a Floral Show for educational identification purposes only.

AWARDS

Entries in Horticulture - with exceptions noted below—will be judged according to NGC Standard System of Awarding (one for each Place) as follows: 1st Place, Blue Ribbon and \$8.00; 2nd Place, Red Ribbon and \$6.00; 3rd Place, Yellow Ribbon and \$4.00; and 4th Place, White Ribbon and \$2.00. One or more Honorable Mention ribbons may be awarded in each Class.

Sweepstakes - \$15.00 & Green and White Rosette. Awarded to Exhibitor receiving most blue ribbons in Horticulture.

Best of Show - \$15.00 & Blue Rosette. Awarded in Horticulture to the best cut-plant entry. Selected from the best of Blue-Ribbon winners.

Grower's Choice - \$15.00 & Green Rosette. Awarded in Horticulture to best entry in Container-Grown Section. Scientific name must be included on entry card.

Elfin - \$15.00 & Chartreuse and Purple Rosette. Awarded to best entry in the Petite Container-Grown Section. Scientific name must be included on entry card.

COLLECTING ENTRIES AND PRIZE MONEY:

Ribbons and/or prize money will be distributed **Monday, August 3rd, 2026**, between 8:00 A.M. and 10:00 A.M. at Floral Hall. Any exhibits, ribbons and/or premiums not claimed at that time will be forfeited and disposed of unless prior arrangements have been made with Show Chair.

RESPONSIBILITY OF ORGANIZERS:

Neither McCracken County Fair, McCracken County Extension Master Gardener Association, Perennial Gardeners Garden Club, nor Homemakers' Garden Club, shall be responsible for loss of—nor damage to—exhibits or personal property of Exhibitors but will exercise utmost care for their protection.

DIVISION I - HORTICULTURE - RULES

Horticulture Chair: Mary Dossett

Committee Members: Brenda Johnson & Betty Thompson

- 1. All exhibits must be fresh and grown by Exhibitor.**
- Horticulture exhibits received **Tuesday, July 28, 2026, 8:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.** All entries must be staged, placed on correct class table and signed in by 11:00 A.M. to be eligible for judging. **Time restrictions strictly enforced.** Container-grown exhibits must remain on display for duration of fair.
- Entry cards are available on day of registration, as well as prior to the show at the McCracken County Extension office. Each exhibitor limited to one entry per class, but may enter more than one Horticulture specimen per class if each entry is different species, variety, cultivar, type or color.
- An individual may exhibit no more than 20 Horticulture entries.
- All specimens to be correctly labeled by genus, species, and/or variety, if possible, as well as common name.
- Horticulture Committee will supply bottles, water and wedging material (plastic wrap) to exhibit cut-plant material. Exhibitors may bring own clear, transparent, colorless bottles and wedging material. Bottles brought by Exhibitors should be free of lettering, labels, distracting

- colors and patterns. Bottles brought by Exhibitors will **not** be returned. Wedging material must be unobtrusive—sole purpose being to display specimen at its best.
7. Glass marbles or pebbles may be used as ballast inside a bottle to prevent container from tipping but may not be used as wedging. Ballast must not hide any portion of stem.
 8. All plant material must be clean and without dead foliage, insects or disease. Compound leaves must be complete. **All foliage, except Gladiolus, must be above water line.**
 9. Cut-plant material should be appropriate length for variety.
 10. Double-potting of houseplants is permitted in Horticulture Division so long as interior pot is invisible. Topdressing with new soil or other material to freshen look of soil is permitted.
 11. Plant material may not be altered by application of oil, commercial “shine” products, etc. that artificially change specimen’s natural color and texture.
 12. At Chair’s discretion, entries not meeting these requirements may be displayed but not judged.
 13. A plant considered a flowering plant should be exhibited as a flowering specimen (in flower). Foliage plants may flower but should be exhibited as foliage plants if grown primarily for leaves. *A container-plant grown for primarily for foliage may be displayed with insignificant flowers.*
 14. Specimens with class designation in schedule may not be entered in “Other Specimen” class.
 15. For more information, contact McCracken County Extension Office, (270) 554-9520.

HORTICULTURE SECTIONS AND CLASSES

CUT- PLANT MATERIAL - Section 1

One stem per bottle. Bottle, wedging and water provided by Horticulture Committee but exhibitor may bring own.

Annuals

1. *Zinnia*
2. *Coleus*
3. *Calendula* (Marigold)
4. *Impatiens*
5. *Begonia*
6. *Lantana*
7. *Salvia*
8. *Cleome*
9. *Pelargonium* (Geranium)
10. *Verbena*
11. *Celosia*
12. *Antirrhinum* (Snapdragons)
13. *Petunia*
14. *Gerbera* (Gerber Daisy)
15. *Helianthus* (Sunflowers)
16. Other Annuals not listed above

Bulbs, Corms and Tubers

17. *Gladiolus*
18. *Zantedeschia* (Calla Lily)
19. *Lilium* (Asiatic or Oriental lily)
20. *Allium*
21. *Dahlia*
22. *Canna*
23. *Caladium*
24. *Ipomoea* (Sweet Potato Vine)
25. Other Bulbs, Corms and Tubers not listed above

Ferns

26. *Polystichum acrostichoides* (Christmas Fern)
27. *Athyrium filix-femina* (Lady Fern)
28. *Athyrium niponicum* (Japanese Painted Fern)
29. *Matteuccia struthiopteris* (Ostrich Fern)
30. *Adiantum pedatum* (Maidenhair Fern)
31. *Osmundastrum cinnamomeum* (Cinnamon Fern)
32. Other Ferns not listed above

Hemerocallis – Daylilies

33. Single, any color
34. Double, any color
35. Ruffled, any color
36. Spider, any color
37. Multicolored or banded
38. Miniature (less than 3")
39. Other Daylilies not listed above

Herbs

40. Basil
41. Sage
42. Parsley
43. Thyme
44. Rosemary
45. Lavender
46. Oregano
47. Mint
48. Lemon Balm
49. Dill
50. Chamomile
51. Fennel
52. Curry
53. Other Herbs not listed above

Hosta Leaves (width of mature leaf determines placement; exhibit single leaf)

- 54. Small – leaf width up to 3” across
- 55. Medium – leaf width 3”- 6”
- 56. Large – leaf width 6”- 8”
- 57. Extra-large – leaf width over 8”

Hydrangeas

- 58. Mophead (*H. macrophylla*)
- 59. Snowball (*H. arborescens*) 'Annabelle' etc.
- 60. Lace Caps (*H. macrophylla normalis*)
- 61. Oak Leaf (*H. quercifolia*)
- 62. Other Hydrangea not listed above

Perennials – Flowering

- 63. *Echinacea* (Coneflower)
- 64. *Phlox*
- 65. *Rudbeckia* – cultivar
- 66. *Monarda* (Bee Balm)
- 67. Other Flowering Perennials not listed above

Perennials - Foliage

- 68. *Sedum* (Stonecrop)
- 69. *Heuchera* (Coral Bells)
- 70. *Polygonatum* (Solomon’s Seal)
- 71. Grass, Ornamental
- 72. Other Perennials grown primarily for foliage but not listed

Rosa (Roses)

- 73. Hybrid Tea
- 74. Floribunda
- 75. Grandiflora
- 76. Shrub rose
- 77. Other Roses not listed above

Wildflowers - species only (NO cultivated varieties)

Invasive exotics are NOT to be collected from the wild and will not be accepted for entry.

- 78. *Asclepias* (Butterfly Weed)
- 79. *Rudbeckia* (Black-eyed Susan)
- 80. Other Wildflowers not listed above

Vines

- 81. Any flowering vine
- 82. Any vine grown for foliage

Trees and Shrubs

- 83. Broadleaf evergreen tree
- 84. Broadleaf evergreen shrub
- 85. Needled Evergreen tree
- 86. Needled Evergreen shrub
- 87. Deciduous Tree
- 88. Deciduous Shrub

PLANTER/CONTAINER-GROWN PLANTS - SECTION 2

Exhibitor may provide stand or other item to elevate entries.

Combination Planting Rules - Containers may be no larger than 20” in any direction and must have been grown as one unit by Exhibitor for at least 6 weeks (HB p. 55). Three (3) or more botanically different plants with similar cultural requirements such as light, water and humidity must be incorporated in planting. Eligible for Grower’s Choice Award.

Combination Plantings

- 89. Succulents/Cactus
- 90. Flowering plants
- 91. Foliage/Ferns
- 92. Herbs
- 93. Other Combination Plantings not listed above
- 94. Dish Gardens - miniature landscape in open container. One or more accessories may be added. If used, accessories must be in scale with plant material and with each other.
- 95. Terrariums - miniature landscape in covered, transparent container. If used, accessories must be in scale with plant material and with each other.

Single Variety or Cultivar Rules - Containers must be no larger than 20” in any direction and grown by Exhibitor as one unit for at least 90 days (HB p. 55).

Single Variety or Cultivar

- 96. *Saintpaulia ionantha* (African violet)
- 97. *Begonia*
- 98. *Pelargonium* (Geranium)
- 99. Orchid
- 100. Holiday cactus (Easter - *Rhipsalidopsis*, Thanksgiving or Christmas- *Schlumbergera*)
- 101. Bromeliad
- 102. Succulent/Cactus
- 103. Flowering plants
- 104. Foliage/Ferns
- 105. Fruits/Herbs/Vegetables
- 106. Other Single, Container-Grown Plant not listed above

Petite Single Variety or Cultivar Rules - Definition: Naturally small growth, or those designated as dwarf or miniature varieties or cultivars by nurseries or plant societies. Entries can be no more than 12” in any direction. Containers for petite specimens should be in proportion to the specimen. Eligible for Elfin Award

Petite Single Variety or Cultivar

- 107. *Tillandsia* (Air Plant)
- 108. Succulent
- 109. Cactus
- 110. *Pilea* (Chinese Money Plant)
- 111. *Hypoestes* (Polka-dot plants)
- 112. *Dracaena* (Lucky Bamboo)
- 113. Other Small, Dwarf or Miniature Plant not listed above

HANGING CONTAINERS - SECTION 3

Hanging Containers Rules - Limited to first 12 entries. Containers must be no larger than 12” in width, 45” in total length and grown by Exhibitor as one unit for at least 6 weeks. Entries will hang from hooks. Eligible for Grower’s Choice Award.

- 114. Hanging Containers

DIVISION 2 - YOUTH & ADULT VEGETABLE, FRUIT, NUT & HONEY EXHIBIT

Open to all school ages and adults. All entries competing for premiums must be produced and grown by exhibitor in current or immediate past growing season. All entries exhibited must be produced in Kentucky and displayed according to 4-H publication 4BC-08PO “Exhibiting and Judging Vegetables.” Publication available at: <https://bit.ly/3lhxDHt>

Entries accepted Tuesday, July 28, 2026, from 8:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. in Floral Hall. All entries must be placed on appropriate table, staged and signed in by 11:00 a.m. to be eligible for judging. Time restrictions strictly enforced. **Committee will provide plates for staging of vegetables.**

AWARDS - 1st Place, Blue Ribbon and \$8.00; 2nd Place, Red Ribbon and \$6.00; 3rd Place, Yellow Ribbon and \$4.00; and, 4th Place, White Ribbon and \$2.00.

Classes:

- 1. Asparagus (12)
- 2. Beans, Green (12)
- 3. Beans, Bush (12)
- 4. Beets (6)
- 5. Cucumbers, Pickling (3)

6. Cucumbers, Slicing (3)
7. Eggplant (3)
8. Gourds (1 or 3 depending on size)
9. Okra (6)
10. Onions, Green (12 bunched)
11. Onions, Mature (3)
12. Peas, Green (12 pods)
13. Peas, Purple Hull (12 pods)
14. Peas, Cow (12 pods)
15. Peas, Horticulture Beans (12 pods)
16. Pepper, Banana (12)
17. Peppers, Bell Green (3)
18. Peppers, Bell Other Colors (3)
19. Peppers, Cayenne (12)
20. Peppers, Jalapeno (12)
21. Peppers, Other (12)
22. Potatoes, Russet (3)
23. Potatoes, Golden (3)
24. Potatoes, Red (6)
25. Potatoes, Sweet (3)
26. Potatoes, Other (3)
27. Pumpkins (1)
28. Squash, Butternut (3)
29. Squash, Pattypan, any color (3)
30. Squash, Spaghetti (3)
31. Squash, Yellow Summer (3)
32. Squash, Other (3)
33. Sweet Corn, Yellow (3 ears)
34. Sweet Corn, White (3 ears)
35. Sweet Corn, Other (3 ears)
36. Tomatoes, Cherry (12)
37. Tomatoes, Grape (12)
38. Tomatoes, Green (3)
39. Tomatoes, Red (3)
40. Tomatoes, Slicing (3)
41. Zucchini (3)
42. Other Vegetables not listed above (full plate)
43. Blackberries (12)
44. Blueberries (12)
45. Gooseberries (12)
46. Raspberries (12)
47. Strawberries (12)
48. Other berries not listed above (12)
49. Apples (3)

50. Cantaloupe (1)
51. Cherries (12)
52. Honeydew Melon (1)
53. Peaches (3)
54. Watermelon (1)
55. Other Fruit not listed above (3)
56. Nuts (6)
57. Honey, Best Pint Light with Comb
58. Honey, Best Pint Amber with Comb
59. Honey, Best Pint without comb
60. Sorghum, Best Pint

DIVISION 3 - YOUTH & ADULT FIELD CROPS

Open to all school ages and adults. **Entries accepted Tuesday, July 28, 2026, from 8:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. in Floral Hall.** All entries competing for premiums must be produced and grown by exhibitor in current or immediate past growing season. All entries exhibited must be produced in Kentucky. All entries must be placed on appropriate table, staged and signed in by 11:00 a.m. to be eligible for judging. Time restrictions strictly enforced.

AWARDS - 1st Place, Blue Ribbon and \$8.00; 2nd Place, Red Ribbon and \$6.00; 3rd Place, Yellow Ribbon and \$4.00; and, 4th Place, White Ribbon and \$2.00.

61. Yellow Corn (1 quart jar) – previous year
62. White Corn (1 quart jar) – previous year
63. Soybeans (1 quart jar) – previous year
64. Wheat (1 quart jar) – current year
65. Yellow Corn (3 ears) – previous year
66. White Corn (3 ears) – previous year
67. Hay (20 lbs.) Clover – current year
68. Hay (20 lbs.) Grass – current year
69. Hay (20 lbs.) Alfalfa – current year
70. Burley Tobacco (2 hands)
71. Tobacco – Dark Fire Cured (2 hands)
72. Tobacco – Dark Air Cured (2 hands)
73. Any Other Field Crops