



News Release

For Immediate Release

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Youth Plant Show Grand champion announced at 2024 event

PLANT CITY, Fla. (March 12, 2024) – The grand champion plant was chosen last week at the Florida Strawberry Festival’s Youth Plant Show in the Swindle Family Pavilion.

Anna Steed won grand champion, and Kate Solomon won reserve grand champion.

The Youth Plant Show is sponsored by Choo Choo Lawn Equipment and offers youth in the community an opportunity to raise a plant, enter it into competition, and sell it at the Youth Plant Sale.

In addition to the grand champion and reserve grand champion, additional category winners are selected. Payton Flanagan exhibited the champion woody ornamentals; Brennan Jenkins exhibited the champion foliage plants; Avery Palmer exhibited the champion hanging baskets; Ashley Jose exhibited the champion miscellaneous plants; Reagan Marchese exhibited the champion liner plants and Noah Steed exhibited the champion edible plants.

In the size categories, Lillian King exhibited the size No. 1 champion; Lacey Merrell exhibited the size No. 3 champion, and Jonathan Jose exhibited the size No. 7 champion plant.

Additional awards include awards of distinction which were given to Noah Steed, Mackenzie Puerto, and Christopher Dudzinski.

About the Florida Strawberry Festival

The Florida Strawberry Festival is an 11-day community event celebrating the strawberry harvest of Eastern Hillsborough County. Each year, more than 600,000 visitors enjoy the Festival’s headline entertainment, youth livestock shows, exhibits of commerce and, of course, its world-famous strawberry shortcake. The 2025 Florida Strawberry Festival will be held February 27 through March 9 in Plant City, Fla. For more information, visit www.flstrawberryfestival.com, Facebook, Instagram, and X (#berryfest25).

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