

Florida Strawberry Festival
February 26 – March 8, 2026



Plant City Garden Club Horticulture Exhibit



Location: Neighborhood Village

Chairperson: Tracey Brannigan

Phone: 412.303.5484



Garden Club Pres.: Julianne Papp
Chairperson: Tracey Brannigan 412.303.5484.
Co-Chairperson(s): Tracey Brannigan, Julianne Papp, Christy Linke, Jan Griffin

Contest open to: Hillsborough County amateur growers
Adult & Youth division:
(YOUTH Division includes Junior & Intermediate)

No Pre- Registration: No Fee for entering.

Arrival of plants: **Tuesday, February 24, 2026, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

Removal of plants: **Tuesday, March 10th, 2026, 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

PLEASE NOTE: Plants will be accepted **ONLY** on **Tuesday, February 24th between the hours of 9:00 am - 5:00 pm.**

LOCATION of Horticulture Exhibit: Neighborhood Village Building; The Neighborhood Village Building is located on the southside of the Administration Building, **303 Berryfest Pl, Plant City.** Go in through Gate 4.

All prize money will be mailed to winners after the close of the Fair. Checks will be void after June 1, 2026. Please cash check before that date.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. Classes are open to all **amateur** growers of Hillsborough County, including members of the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs of Hillsborough County. No professional entries allowed. A professional is one who grows plants for profit.
2. Please print and fill out the attached form with your name, address, phone number. Enter the common name and scientific name for the plants (**up to 5 plants maximum**) that you will enter. Bring this form with you when you register your plant materials for the 2026 Horticulture Exhibit. The form and your plant entries will be checked and confirmed upon your arrival.
3. Bring your registration form to the entry table. They will be checked by the classification committee, will be left for placement on the stage for judging. You will be given a copy of the plants submitted. ***Please retain the copy and bring it with you*** for pick-up of plants on **Tuesday, March 10th, 2026, 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

4. Horticulture specimens (**1 plant species per pot**) must be grown by the exhibitor and in the exhibitor's possession for three months prior to the opening day of the festival. **NO Topiaries and, NO Bonsai are allowed...**
5. Multiple plants are allowed for Fairy Gardens, Terrariums, which must have been in exhibitors' possession at least six weeks. ***You are required for registration to provide a diagram or "Map" indicating the various plants included in the entries of Fairy Gardens and Terrariums.***
6. There will be a limit of **five (5)** plants maximum for each exhibitor. When all available exhibit space is filled, the committee reserves the right to decline additional plants.
7. Plants will be inspected as they enter the building, and the Horticulture Committee reserves the right to reject any plants that have, for example: disease, insects, dirty pots, oiling, or poor grooming. Good grooming consists of cleaning plants to remove dirt and spray residue as well as dead foliage or flowers. Specimens may be groomed in any way which does not alter their typical features.
8. All potted plants must be exhibited in suitable flowerpots (***no saucers***), and not in cans or pans.
9. No plants will be accepted in containers over fifteen (15) inches in diameter or over 25 lbs.
10. All dish gardens must be displayed in man-made containers up to fifteen (15) inches in diameter. Fairy Gardens must adhere to a 25 lb. weight limit but may be odd shaped and exceed fifteen-inch diameter.
11. Classes will be judged by species and varieties. All plants are listed by binomial names.
12. A 2025 top award-winning plant, or its baby, **will not be eligible to be exhibited again until 2027.**
13. Judges' decisions will be final.
14. Care will be exercised to prevent damage or loss to your property, but the Plant City Garden Club, Inc., and/or the Florida Strawberry Festival, Inc.® will not assume any responsibility or liability for damage to property.
15. Entries must be picked up **Tuesday, March 10, 2026, between 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.** Any plants left after that time will remain at the exhibit booth and arrangements will need to be made with the Florida Strawberry Festival® personnel to pick them up.
16. Anyone participating in this contest by way of entry, hereby agrees and consents to the use of any picture of contestant in any or all publications, TV, publicity brochure, internet, etc., that the Florida Strawberry Festival® may desire.

ADULT AWARDS

Fourteen (14) awards may be given in the Adult Horticulture Exhibition.

1. Best in Show Award with Rosette and \$25.00 will be given for the named horticulture exhibit judged as finest in Horticulture Excellence. The Best in Show Winner will not be eligible for any other Award.
2. Best in Show Hanging Basket Award with Rosette and \$20.00 will be given in the Hanging Baskets.
3. Special Dish Garden Award with Rosette and \$15.00 will be given for the Dish Garden judged the best.
4. Special Bromeliad Award with Rosette and \$15.00 will be given to the Bromeliad judged best.
5. Special Cactus Award with Rosette and \$15.00 will be given to the Cactus judged best.
6. Special Orchid Award with Rosette and \$15.00 will be given to the Orchid judged the best.
7. Special Succulent Award with Rosette and \$15.00 will be given to the Succulent judged best.
8. Special African Violet Award with Rosette and \$15.00 will be given to the Violet judged best.
9. Special Fairy Garden Award with a Rosette and \$15.00 will be given to the Fairy Garden judged the best.
10. Five (5) Awards of Merit and \$10.00 each will be given to a Blue Ribbon Winner, with only one to a division. Special award winners will not be eligible for any Award of Merit.

YOUTH AWARDS

NOTE: The **Junior Division** age limit is from kindergarten - 5th grade.

The **Intermediate Division** age limit is from 6th grade through 12th grade.

Thirteen (13) awards will be given in the **Junior Division**, if warranted.

Thirteen (13) awards will be given in the **Intermediate Division**, if warranted.

1. Best in Show Award with Rosette and \$20.00 will be given for the named horticulture exhibit judged as finest in Horticulture Excellence. The Best in Show Winner will not be eligible for any Award of Merit.
2. Special Cactus Award with Rosette and \$15.00 will be given to the Cactus judged best.
3. Special Orchid Award with Rosette and \$15.00 will be given to the Orchid judged best.

4. Best in Show Hanging Basket Award with Rosette and \$15.00 will be given in the Hanging Baskets class to the exhibit judged as the best.
5. Special Dish Garden Award with Rosette and \$15.00 will be given for the Dish Garden judged the best.
6. Special Bromeliad Award with Rosette and \$15.00 will be given for the Bromeliad judged best.
7. Special Succulent Award with Rosette and \$15.00 will be given to the Succulent judged best.
8. Special Fairy Garden Award with a Rosette and \$15.00 will be given to the Fairy Garden judged the best.
9. Special Terrarium Award with a Rosette and \$15.00 will be given to the Terrarium judged the best. ***Due to space limitations, the Terrariums will be judged but only displayed during the festival if space permits.***
10. Special Hanging Basket Award with Rosette and \$15.00 will be given to the Hanging Baskets judged the best.
11. Three (3) Awards of Merit and \$10.00 each will be given to a Blue Ribbon Winner, with only one to a division. Special award winners will not be eligible for any Award of Merit.

All container-grown plants to be subdivided when entered.

I. Container Grown Blooming Plants

A. AMARYLLIACEAE

Class 1. *Clivia*

Class 2. *Crinum*

Class 3. *Eucharis*

Class 4. *Hippeastrum* (Amaryllis)

Class 5. Others

B. ARACEAE

Class 6. *Anthurium*

Class 7. *Spathiphyllum*

Class 8. Others

C. BEGONIACEAE

Class 9. Cane-line (Angel Wing, etc.)

Class 11. *Semperflorens* (Wax)

Class 10. *Rex cultorum* (Rhizomatous, etc.)

Class 12. Others

D. GESNERIACEAE - Eligible for the African Violet Award

Class 13. *Streptocarpus* (Saintpaulia)

Class 14. Others

E. Any Other Meritorious Specimen

II. Container Grown Foliage Plants

F. AGAVACEAE

Class 15. *Beaucarnea Recurvata* (Pony Tail)

Class 18. *Dracaena* (Sansevieria)

Class 16. *Cordyline* (Ti)

Class 19. Others

Class 17. *Dracaena* (a. *Pleomele* (b) *Warneckii* (c) Others

G. ARACEAE

Class 20. *Aglaonema*

Class 24. *Philodendron*

Class 21. *Epipremnum Aureum* (Pothos)

Class 25. *Syngonium*

Class 22. *Alocasia*

Class 26. Others

Class 23. *Dieffenbachia*

H. ARALIACEAE

Class 27. *Aralia*

Class 29. *Schefflera*

Class 28. *Hedera*

Class 30. Others

I. FILICIES (FERNS)

Class 31. *Polypodiaceae*

Class 36. *Platycerium* (Staghorn)

Class 32. *Adiantum* (Maiden Hair, etc.)

Class 37. *Pellaea* (Button)

Class 33. *Asplenium* (Bird's Nest, etc.)

Class 38. *Pteris* (Silver Fern)

Class 34. *Davallia* (Rabbit's Foot, etc.)

Class 39. Others

Class 35. *Nephrolepis* (Boston)

J. LILIACEAE

Class 40. *Asparagus* (*Sprengeri*, *Meyerii*)

Class 43. Spider Plant

Class 41. *Aspidistra*

Class 44. Others

Class 42. *Ornithogalum Caudatum* (Sea Onion)

K. MARANTACEAE

Class 45. *Goeppertia* (Prayer Plant)

Class 47. Others

Class 46. *Maranta*

L. MOREACEA

Class. 48. *Benjamina* (Ficus)

Class 50. Others

Class 49. *Elastica* (Rubber Plant)

M. PIPERACEAE

Class 51. *Peperomia*

Class 52. Any Others

N. Any Other Meritorious Specimen

III. BROMELIACEAE – Eligible for the Bromeliad Award

O. Bromeliads

Class 53. *Aechmea*

Class 55. *Cryptanthus*

Class 57. *Neoregelia*

Class 54. *Billbergia* Class 56. *Dyckia*

Class 58. Any Others

IV. CACTACEAE – Eligible for the Cacti Award

P. Cacti

Class 59. *Cereus*

Class 60. *Echinocactus*

Class 61. *Epiphyllum* (including *Schlumbergera*)

Class 62. *Ferocactus*

Class 63. *Mammillaria*

Class 64. *Notocactus*

Class 65. *Opuntia*

Class 66. *Rhipsalis*

Class 67. Others

V. SUCCULENTS – Other than Cacti – Eligible for the Succulent Award

Q. CRASSULACEAE

Class 68. *Crassula* (Jade Tree)

Class 69. *Echeveria*

Class 71. *Sedum*

Class 72. Others

R. EUPHORBIACEAE

Class 74. *E. milii* (Crown of Thorns)

Class 75. *E. obesa*

Class 76. *Pedilanthus*

tithymaloides (Devils Back Bone)

Class 77. Others

S. XANTHORRHOEACEAE

Class 78. *Aloe*

Class 79. *Haworthia*

Class 80. *Gasteria*

Class 81. Others

T. Any other Succulents

VI. U. ORCHIDACEAE – Eligible for the Orchid Award

Class 82. *Cattleya*

Class 83. *Cymbidium*

Class 84. *Dendrobium*

Class 85. *Epidendrum*

Class 86. *Phaius* (Nun's)

Class 87. *Phalaenopsis*

Class 88. *Vanda*

Class 89. Any Other

VII. V. Multiple Plantings – Eligible for the Dish Garden Award

Class 90. Terrariums

Class 91. Succulent Dish Garden

Class 92. Foliage Dish Gardens

Class 93. Planters

Class 94. Strawberry Pots

Class 95. Any other

VIII. W. Botanical Arts - Eligible for Fairy Garden Award

96. Fairy Garden

97. Diorama

98. Any Other Accessorized Gardens

IX. Hanging Baskets – Eligible for the Best in Show Hanging Basket

X. Any Other Worthy Families Not Listed

XI. Youth Divisions

Y. JUNIOR DIVISION

Z. INTERMEDIATE DIVISION