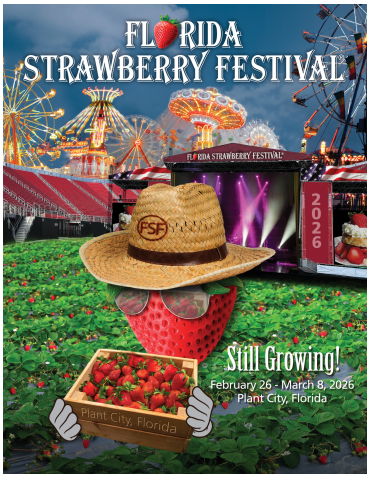

News Release

For Immediate Release

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Horticulture winners declared at 2026 event

PLANT CITY, Fla. (March 8, 2026) – Winners of the Florida Strawberry Festival Plant City Garden Club Horticulture Show were announced last week.

The horticulture show features three competition divisions: youth gardeners, intermediate gardeners and adult gardeners. Entries from each division are displayed throughout the Festival's 11-day run in the Neighborhood Village building.

In the adult gardeners division, Carolyn McBride received Best in Show and Best in Show Hanging Plant honors. Sue Brown earned the Bromeliad Award, while Jan Griffin received the Succulent Award. Kristie Brewington won both the Cactus Award and the Dish Garden Award, and Ludo Van Den Bogart earned the Orchid Award. Christy Linke received the African Violet Award. Awards of Merit were presented to Mary Collins, Linda Stott and Kristie Brewington.

In the intermediate gardeners division, Dylan Brewington took home Best in Show and the Cactus Award. Alexander Shepherd won the Hanging Basket Award, Abigail Sue Smith received the Succulent Award, and Alexandria Best earned the Fairy Garden Award. Awards of Merit went to Abigail Smith and Alexandria Best.

In the youth gardeners division, Benjamin Shepherd was named Best in Show, while Imani Cox won the Hanging Basket Award. Theodore Best earned both the Bromeliad Award and the Succulent Award, and Aubrey Sweeney received the Cactus Award. Paisley Nichols won the Dish Garden Award, Daris Wilson earned the Fairy Garden Award, and Adrian Alvarez received the Terrarium Award. Awards of Merit were presented to Ezra Bennett, Marjorie Bautista and Daisy Posado.

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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, over 650,000 visitors enjoy the festival's headline entertainment, youth livestock shows, exhibits of commerce and, of course, its strawberry shortcake. The 2026 Florida Strawberry Festival will take place February 26 – March 8 in Plant City, Fla. For more information, visit www.flstrawberryfestival.com, Facebook, Instagram, TikTok and X (#berryfest26).

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