

70th Annual
Elkhart
Dahlia Society
Show

August 24, 2025

Presented at the
Wellfield Botanic Gardens
1011 N Main Street
Elkhart, IN 46514

ELKHART DAHLIA SOCIETY OFFICERS

President – Rusty Ritchie

Vice President – Jan Gawthrop

Secretary/Facebook – Cammi Waggoner

Treasurer/Website – Anita Ritchie

Judge's Chairman/Trial Garden – Steve Kuiper

ADS Reps – Rhonda Cantrell

SHOW COMMITTEE

Co-Show Chairs - Steve Kuiper & Rusty Ritchie

CONTACT INFORMATION

Rusty Ritchie, 574-315-9855, ritchie8961@aol.com

Steve Kuiper, 574-533-0117, skuiper@bnin.net

Cammi Waggoner, 574-535-8883, ckuiper474@aol.com

Website: elkhartdahliasociety.com

Facebook: Elkhart Dahlia Society

Email: elkhartdahliasociety@gmail.com

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PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Saturday – August 23, 2025

noon - 7:00 pm - Set up and staging of entries

Sunday – August 24, 2025

6:00 am - 9:00 am - Staging of entries

9:00 am - Staging Ends, Entries Close

8:45 am - 9:00 am - Judges Meeting

9:00 am - 11:00 am - Judging

11:00 am - 5:30 pm - Show opens to the public

5:30 pm - 6:00 pm - Sale of Blooms

6:00 pm - Show ends, Clean up begins

GENERAL RULES GOVERNING THE SHOW

1. Any dahlia grower may exhibit in the show. To be eligible for exhibitor perks, judging assignments, and show awards, you must register by August 15. There is no cost to register, but only registered growers will be granted entry without paying an entry charge.
2. All blooms entered for competition must be grown by the exhibitor, with an exception for arrangements..
3. Containers will be provided for single bloom entries and three bloom entries. Exhibitors must furnish suitable containers for all other multiple bloom entries and arrangements.
4. Any entry considered unfit by at least two of the Show Committee (officers) for exhibition may be removed at any time during the show.
5. Any artificial support on a bloom (excluding arrangements) disqualifies the flower from consideration by the judges.
6. When entered, all flowers become the property of the show management and may not be removed before the close of the exhibition except by direction and consent of the Show Committee.
7. The EDS and Wellfield Botanic Garden assume no responsibility for containers or other personal property of exhibitors.

JUDGING AND AWARD RULES

8. Every entry must be identified using the show tags provided, with all information recorded, and tag properly **folded**. This includes arrangements and photographs. Using printed name labels is encouraged for the exhibitor name section of the tag.
9. All dahlias shall be entered in accordance with the American Dahlia Society Official Class Numbers. Use the current ADS Classification and Handbook of Dahlias for verification. Dahlias not listed should be approved by a senior judge prior to being placed in the show.
10. Entries misplaced as to color, type, size or class may be properly placed or reclassified by the section judges prior to judging.
11. Any, or none of three places may be awarded in any class at the discretion of the judges.

12. The judges' decision will be final. Consensus is the goal. Pull out the scorecard if necessary.
13. To qualify for any prize, award or trophy, an entry must have won a blue ribbon. Blooms eligible for Grand Awards shall come from Sections Student, Novice, A, B, C, D, E, F, G.

SECTION SIZE RULES

14. Size rules do not apply to the Student or Novice grower. Plant Count does not apply.
15. In Sections A and B, the section in which an exhibitor shows is determined by the number of dahlia plants they grow in sizes AA, A, B, BB and Miniature. Only these sizes are included in the Plant Count. Seedlings of these sizes are excluded. All classes above 5000 are shown in other sections.

SECTION A- SMALL GROWER SECTION - Amateurs growing from 1 to 200 plants.

SECTION B – LARGE GROWER SECTION - Amateurs growing more than 200 plants. Growers that have cloth enclosures or who are professional growers must exhibit here.

16. The number of dahlias planted in the initial planting shall determine the section the exhibitor enters. Plants that stunt, or are damaged by insects or other acts of violence too late to be replaced, cannot be deducted from the original number to gain admittance into a lower section.
17. An exhibitor may choose to enter a section higher than the number of plants grown, but then ALL entries must be entered into that same section.
18. A grower with a cloth enclosure must show in Large Grower, regardless of Plant Count. A cloth enclosure is a framework to which is attached, or suspended, material which covers the top AND any part of the sides.

OTHER RULES

19. Seedlings may be shown in all Sections, upon classification by a senior judge (See Rule 9).
20. In Section H the 3 blooms must be the same cultivar. In Section I, the 5 bloom entries must be the same cultivar, and the 10 bloom entries are preferred to be the same, but similar mixed varieties are acceptable.

SHOW SECTIONS

SECTION S-STUDENT SECTION

Open to exhibitors age 17 and under. Plant Count does not apply. Single bloom entries of all class numbers will be shown in Student. Arrangements and Photos may be entered, but will be in regular competition in Sections J and K.

SECTION N-NOVICE SECTION

Open to any exhibitor who has never won a Novice Sweepstake. Plant Count does not apply. Single bloom entries of all class numbers will be shown in Novice.

SECTION A- SMALL GROWER, SINGLE BLOOM ENTRIES

Class numbers 0001-4515. Open to growers of up to 200 plants grown in sizes AA, A, B, BB and Miniature.

SECTION B- LARGE GROWER, SINGLE BLOOM ENTRIES

Class numbers 0001-4515. Open to growers of over 200 plants grown in sizes AA, A, B, BB and Miniature.

SECTION C – BALL, MINIATURE BALL, POMPON

Class numbers 6001-6215. Open to all.

SECTION D – STELLAR, WATERLILY, DOUBLE NOVELTY

Class numbers 7001-7015, 7301-7315, 7601-7615. Open to all.

SECTION E – PEONY, ANEMONE, OPEN NOVELTY

Class numbers 8001-8015, 8201-8215, 8601-8615. Open to all.

SECTION F – COLLARETTE, ORCHID, ORCHETTE, SINGLE, MIGNON SINGLE

Class numbers 9001-9015, 9201-9215, 9401-9415, 9601-9615, 9701-9715. Open to all.

SECTION G – MICRO DAHLIAS

Single bloom entries of all classes of Micro dahlias. Micros are classification numbers 5001-5015, 7101-7115, 7401-7415, 7701-7715, 8101-8115, 8301-8315, 8701-8715, 9101-9115, 9301-9315, 9501-9515. Open to all.

SECTION H – THREE BLOOM ENTRIES

Open to all. All Classes. The three blooms must be the same cultivar.

SECTION I – 5 and 10 BLOOM ENTRIES

Open to all. All classes. 5 bloom same cultivar. 10 bloom preferred same cultivar, mixed acceptable.

SECTION J – FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS

Open to all exhibitors. Exhibitors may enter one vase, one basket, and one artistic design.

RULES:

1. Scale of Points:

Creativity/Adherence to theme	30
Condition of fresh materials	30
Balance and Rhythm, Proportion, and Technical Aspects	20
Color Balance & Selection	20

2. The exhibitor must make the arrangement; however, the plant materials do not have to be grown by the exhibitor.
3. Dahlias must be predominant, but other flowers and plant materials may be used. No artificial plant material should be used.
4. Accessories may be used to carry out the theme.
5. Containers and other items used must be furnished by the exhibitor and should be marked with the owner's name. No backboards will be available at the show. While reasonable care will be taken, the Elkhart Dahlia Society will not be responsible for the loss, damage, or breakage of such materials.
6. All entries must be in place by 9:00 am on the opening day, and not removed until the show closes. The exhibitor is responsible for the prompt removal of the entry at the show's close. Please make plans for removal if you will not be present at closing.
7. No arrangement is to be disqualified, but might be downgraded.
8. Limit one entry per class.
9. Please follow the theme and parameters given for each Class. Some classes have restrictions on dahlia size, spacing of blooms, and angle of view.
10. Each entry must have a Show Tag. Tag must specify Section J and Vase, Basket, or Artistic Design. Show Tags are available at setup.

VASE

OMG! Use a large vase to show off multiple blooms. Viewed from one side.

BASKET (with or without handles)

BASKET OF BEAUTY A basket to be viewed from one side. Use blooms 4 inches or larger. Blooms should not touch.

ARTISTIC DESIGN

MAGIC MOMENT An arrangement to celebrate one of life's magical moments. Maximum space allowed is 30" x 30". Viewed from one side. Backboards may be used, but are not provided nor required.

SECTION K – PHOTOGRAPHY

1. Open to all.
2. Entries can be images photographed in 2025, or in 2024 (if they have not been entered before).
3. 4 x 6 photos or 5 x 7 photos only.
4. Matting of photos is required. Mat not to exceed 8x10.
5. Limit of two entries per class.
6. Please put exhibitor name on back of photo.
7. Each entry must have a Show Tag. Tag must specify Section K and the Class number, and identify the blooms present, if known. Show Tags are available at setup.

Class 1. Dahlia portrait (one bloom - entire bloom visible)

Class 2. Dahlia close up (an intimate focus on its' beauty)

Class 3. Dahlias in the garden (multiple blooms visible)

Class 4. Dahlias on display (A photo that features dahlias being used at a show, event, wedding, etc)

Class 5. Dahlias and critters

Class 6. Dahlias and humans

PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD – “BLUE” DAHLIA

Create a blue dahlia. Rules don't apply.

This is an EDS tradition inspired by Mona Kuiper to honor Sylvia Bradburn, who always wanted a blue dahlia. Winner is chosen by People's Choice voting.

SHOW AWARDS

NOVICE & STUDENT Sections

The largest bloom, best AA, A, B, BB, and Miniature will earn a special ribbon.

All worthy best of types are eligible for the Court of Honor.

Section A Small Grower

The largest bloom, best AA, A, B, BB, and Miniature will earn \$25.

Section B Large Grower

The largest bloom, best AA, A, B, BB, and Miniature will earn \$25.

Section C Single Blooms of Ball, Mini Ball, Pom

Best Ball, Miniature Ball, and Pom will each earn \$25.

Section D Single Blooms of Stellar, Waterlily, Double Novelty

Best Stellar, Waterlily, and Double Novelty will each earn \$25.

Section E Single Blooms of Peony, Anemone, Open Novelty

Best Peony, Anemone, and Open Novelty will each earn \$25.

Section F Single Blooms of Collarette, Orchid, Orchette, Single, Minion Single

Best Collarette, Orchid, Orchette, Single, and Minion Single will each earn \$25.

Section G Single Bloom Micro Dahlias

Best Micro dahlia will earn \$25.

Section H Three Bloom Entries

Best of each type will earn \$10. Best of section will earn \$25.

Section I Five & Ten Bloom Entries

All firsts of 5 bloom entries earn \$5, and best 5 bloom entry in section earns \$25.

All firsts of 10 bloom entries earn \$10, and best 10 bloom entry in section earns \$25.

Section J Arrangements

First(\$50), Second(\$30), and Third(\$20) places will be awarded for best Vase, Basket, and Artistic Arrangement.

Section K Photography

First(\$20), Second(\$15), and Third(\$10) places will be awarded for best in each category. Best photo in section will earn \$25.

People's Choice Award - "Blue Dahlia"

Winning entry will earn \$25.

Other Elkhart Dahlia Society Honorariums

Kelvin Floodlight in memory of Frank Campise, mentor to many.

Islander in memory of Wanda Erikson.

Manor Jayne to honor Mac and Norma Boyer.

Manor Jubilee to honor Mac and Norma Boyer.

Bristol Fleck in memory of Maranel Sue Guiff, Marcia Nellans' sister. Also in memory of Dan and Kathy Franklin, the originators.

These varieties have a special place in the hearts of many EDS members.

Any blue ribbon awarded to these varieties throughout the entire show will win an extra \$10.



Thank You

The ELKHART DAHLIA SOCIETY acknowledges, with appreciation, support from the following:

American Dahlia Society
Badger State Dahlia Society
Central States Dahlia Society
Dahlia Society of Wisconsin
Elkhart City Parks Department
Elkhart County Parks Department
Inland Empire Dahlia Society
Lane County Dahlia Society
Midwest Dahlia Conference
Minnesota Dahlia Society
Southeastern Michigan Dahlia Society
Southtown Dahlia Club
Washington State Dahlia Society
Wellfield Botanic Gardens