

71st Annual
Elkhart
Dahlia Society
Show



August 23, 2026

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

ELKHART DAHLIA SOCIETY OFFICERS

Co-President – Rusty Ritchie

Co-president - Cammi Waggoner

Vice President – John Monger

Secretary – Cammi Waggoner

Treasurer – Anita Ritchie

ADS Reps – Ramona Kuiper

Judge's Chairman – Steve Kuiper

Bonneyville Trial Garden- Cammi Waggoner

Facebook – Cammi Waggoner

Website – Anita Ritchie

SHOW COMMITTEE

Co-Show Chairs - Steve Kuiper & Rusty Ritchie

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PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Saturday – August 22, 2026

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

Sunday – August 23, 2026

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

9:00 am - Entries Close

8:45 am - 9:00 am - Judging Instructions

9:00 am - 11:00 am - Judging

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

5:15 pm - 5:45 pm - Sale of Blooms

5:15 pm - 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. Seedlings and 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, remembering that we judge for the best of what was entered.
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.

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

RULES:

1. Open to all exhibitors. Limit one entry per class.
2. Each entry must have a Show Tag. Tag must specify Section J and Class number. Show Tags are available at setup. Please count the dahlias in your arrangement and write the number in the top left corner of the tag.
3. The exhibitor must make the arrangement; however, the plant materials do not have to be grown by the exhibitor.
4. Containers and other items used must be furnished by the exhibitor and should be marked with the owner's name. While reasonable care will be taken, the Elkhart Dahlia Society and Wellfield Botanic Gardens will not be responsible for the loss or damage of such materials.
5. Dahlias must be predominant, but other flowers and plant materials may be used. Artificial plant material may not be used.
6. Accessories may be used to carry out the theme.
7. Please follow the theme and parameters given for each Class. Some classes have restrictions on dahlia size, color, and angle of view. No arrangement is to be disqualified, but might be downgraded.
8. Scale of Points for Vase, Basket, and Artistic Design:

Creativity/Adherence to theme	30
Condition of fresh materials	30
Color Balance	20
Rhythm, Proportion, Technical Aspects	20
9. All entries must be in place by 9:00 am when judging begins.
10. The exhibitor is responsible for removing the entry at the show's close. Please make plans for removal if you will not be present at closing. If you do not want your arrangement deconstructed for the sale at 5:15 please write "Do not sell blooms" on the back of your Show Tag.

VASE

- Class 1** OMG! Use a large vase to show off multiple blooms. Viewed from one side.
- Class 2** SAY IT WITH FLOWERS A vase arrangement that expresses a message, such as Happy Birthday! Viewed from one side.
- Class 3** TEA FOR TWO A table centerpiece in a short container (ceramic, glass, plastic). Arrangement not to exceed 8" in height or width. Viewed from all sides.

BASKET (with or without handles)

- Class 4** ANGEL KISSES A basket of Pompon dahlias. Viewed from all sides.
- Class 5** TASTE THE GARDEN In a basket, create a unique display of dahlias resembling/representing fruits or vegetables.
- Class 6** SUMMER SUNSET Create a brilliant sunset using dahlias. Viewed from one side.

ARTISTIC DESIGN

Class 7 MOON GLOW An arrangement of white blooms in a black container.

Class 8 FIELD AND STREAM A linear floral design that incorporates water in the design.
If electricity is needed please bring an extension cord.

MARKET BUNCH A bundle of fresh cut dahlias. See the *Dahlia Market Bunch Presentation* at **dahlia.org** for guidance. Exhibitor to provide a container that will not tip over. See page 11 for score card.

Class 9 Similar colors 5 stem bunch

Class 10 Mixed colors 10 stem bunch

SECTION K – PHOTOGRAPHY

1. Open to all.
2. Entries can be images photographed in 2026, or in 2025 (if they have not been entered before).
3. 4 x 6 photos or 5 x 7 photos only.
4. Due to space constraints NO matting will be allowed. Photos will be hung. Supplies for hanging will be provided at the show.
5. Limit of one entry per class.
6. Please put the exhibitor's name on the back of the photo or mat.
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.
8. The exhibitor is responsible for removing the entry at the show's close. Please make plans for removal if you will not be present at closing.

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

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

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

Class 4. Dahlias on display (A photo that features multiple blooms being displayed at a show, event, in a vase, arch, etc)

Class 5. Dahlias and critters

Class 6. Dahlias and humans

SECTION V - VIGOR CHALLENGE

8 blooms to be staged as follows:

2 blooms over 6 inches, with each bloom in its own vase. They can be AA, A or B sized.

2 groups of 3 blooms under 6 inches. Each vase of 3 is to be one variety.

In all it will be 4 vases and 8 blooms. Winners will be the highest scoring entries as determined by a score card. See page 11. This style of championship is popular in Australia and the UK. To conserve space dahlias should be staged without foliage.

PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD – “BLUE” DAHLIA

Create a blue dahlia. Rules don't apply.

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

SHOW AWARDS

STUDENT Section

Best entry will receive a rosette and a prize.

NOVICE Section

The largest bloom, best AA, A, B, BB, and Miniature will earn a special ribbon. Best entry of AA to Micro (0001-5515) will earn \$25. Best of other types (6001-9715) will earn \$25. Novice sweepstakes winner will receive a trophy. 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 each earn \$25.

Section B Large Grower

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

Grand Awards The bests from the above four sections will compete for Grand Awards and a place on the Court of Honor. These winners will receive:

Largest bloom, an additional \$25

Best AA, an additional \$75 in honor of Marcia Chambers

Best A, an additional \$25 sponsored by Gail Weybright

Best B, an additional \$25

Best BB, an additional \$25

Best Miniature, an additional \$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, and Double Novelty will each earn \$25. Best Waterlily will receive \$50, sponsored by Robert Slaski.

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 an additional \$30.

Section I Five & Ten Bloom Entries

All firsts of 5 bloom entries earn \$10, and best 5 bloom entry in section earns an additional \$30.

All firsts of 10 bloom entries earn \$15, and best 10 bloom entry in section earns an additional \$40.

Section J Arrangements

First(\$25), Second(\$15), and Third(\$10) places will be awarded in each class.

Best Vase, Basket, and Artistic Arrangement will earn an additional \$30. Best

Market Bunch will receive an additional \$30, sponsored by Gary Heater.

Section K Photography

First(\$25), Second(\$15), and Third(\$10) places will be awarded in each class.

Best photo in section will earn an additional \$25.

Section V Vigor Challenge

First(\$25), Second(\$15), and Third(\$10) places will be awarded. Sponsored and inspired by Warren & Rhonda Vigor.

People's Choice Award - "Blue Dahlia"

Winner will be awarded \$25.

Other Elkhart Dahlia Society Honorariums:

Kelvin Floodlight in memory of Frank Campise.

Islander in memory of Wanda Erikson.

Manor Jayne and **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.

Oldoc Cleopatra, **Oldoc Hippie Chick** and **Oldoc Combustion** in honor of Jan & Kathy Gawthrop

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.

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Thank You

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

American Dahlia Society
Badger State Dahlia Society
Central States Dahlia Society
Cammi Kuiper
Dahlia Society of Wisconsin
Elkhart City Parks Department
Elkhart County Parks Department
Friends of Marcia Chambers
Gary Heater
Gail Weybright
Inland Empire Dahlia Society
John Monger
Lane County Dahlia Society
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Robert Slaski
Rusty & Anita Ritchie
Southeastern Michigan Dahlia Society
Southtown Dahlia Club
Steve & Ramona Kuiper
Supporting members of the Elkhart Dahlia Society
Washington State Dahlia Society
Wellfield Botanic Gardens

Market Bunch Score Card	Possible points	Score
Bloom Quality:		
Color	15	
Condition of petals	20	
Harvested at appropriate stage	15	
Uniformity of age of blooms	10	
Stem Quality:		
Firm bloom attachment	15	
Stem Firmness & Integrity	10	
Stem length (min 12")	10	
Properly bound with a single rubber band	5	
Total score		

Comments

The Vigor Challenge Score Sheet

Entry ID:

Vase	Variety	Form 40	Condition 25	Stem 15	Color 10	Size 5	Staging 5	Total
Single 1								
Single 2								
Trio 1								
Trio 2								
Total								