

2025 Container Plants Competition Judging Criteria

These will be the guidelines the judges will use to score each individual design. 100 points are possible.

Design 35 points total (5 elements @ 7 pts each)

- Plant groupings and types enhance the container/theme
- Entry is original, unique, and creative
- Display attracts attention, shows imagination, holds viewers interest, and is sale worthy in auction
- Container, additional media, other design elements enhance creative presentation of entry
- Entry designed to be viewed from all sides

Planting & Staging Quality 40 points total (8 elements @ 5 pts each)

- Features at least 3 different species of plants
- Plants chosen work collectively in related elements (moisture, sun, temp needs etc.)
- Plants have been grown in container for at least 8 weeks and securely rooted.
(*Substitutions are allowed for dying, dead, or diseased plants, but this MUST be documented in project log by statement and photographs.)
- Plant number and sizes appropriate for container
- Potting elements such as soil types, top dressing, mulch, sand, rock, or other media are suitable and enhance the project (* Double potting IS acceptable with suitable media to top dress and cover. Terrariums may NOT be double potted)
- Drainage is correct and present (if necessary) and efficient for plant groupings
- Plants are healthy with no signs of pests or disease
- Plants in natural form without leaf or foliage enhancers used. Fertilization is acceptable

Project Log 25 points total (5 elements @ 5 pts each)

- Official ACF log used (found on ACF Horticulture site to download)
- Thorough and descriptive narrative entries describing inspiration and creative process
- **10 + printed PROGRESSIVE** photos, over **8-weeks or more**, of student owned & grown project. Use as many photographs as needed to tell your time lined story
- Plants used are identified by genus, species, common name, cultivar and/or variety in narrative
- WEEKLY detailed timeline with growth and change, as well as progressive maintenance documented and photographed over the ENTIRE growing period of at least 8 weeks.
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