

Container Plant Competition

The Container Plant Competition is open to individual exhibitors who will come to Austin County Fairgrounds on Sunday, October 2, 2022, between 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. to submit their competition entry. Check in is at 9 am. Entries will be completed and accepted via online entry. **Entries will close on August 8, 2022.** Each entry will be \$20.00. One entry per exhibitor. Entry fees are non-refundable. This will be considered an Austin County Fair project. Please see the ACF website for the updates or additional details under Menu/Horticulture.



The contest will be split between Junior and Senior entries at the discretion of the Horticulture Committee. Junior are 3rd to 8th grade and Senior are 9th to 12th grade. **The Horticulture Committee will confirm your entry via email. Exhibitors will be required to RSVP by September 15, 2022, to confirm they will be participating at the fair.**

Competition Format: Exhibitors will plant and cultivate 3 or more different plant species in an appropriate container. Each project will have a corresponding project log to be submitted with the entry at check in.

General Guidelines: Exhibitors should review the guidelines prior to preparing their entry. Questions may be directed to the Horticulture Committee at email address ACFHorticulture@gmail.com.

- Entries must have been owned and grown by the exhibitor for at least 8 weeks prior to the Show. (Planted NLT August 8th)
- Plants should show evidence of being grown in the container, such as being securely rooted in the soil.
- If plants are found to have been freshly potted or do not stand up during the Show because they were not potted soon enough, entries will be disqualified.
- If single elements require replanting during the eight-week period prior to the Show, the exhibitor should document (in writing and with photos) the removed element and the replacement element. The documentation will be part of the Exhibitor Project Log. (See the “Exhibitor Project Log” section below).
- Entries should be complete upon arrival to the Show.
- Entries must be completely set up by 10:00 am. on Sunday, October 2, 2022.
- If the exhibitor is unable to deliver his/her entry, they may allow a designee, to place their entry on the table.
- The entry will be disqualified if, at the sole discretion of the Show, it is determined that the designee has altered the design in any manner.
- Entries should be designed to be viewed from all sides.
- Entries should feature 3 or more different plant species per container.
- Plant selection is at the exhibitor’s discretion.
- Plants may belong to any species.
- Plants must be healthy, free of disease, and bug free.
- Plants are the only living items that may be included with the entry – no other living items are permitted (e.g., animals, reptiles, bugs). Vivarium’s are excluded from the competition.
- Plants should be clearly and attractively potted in a container that is suitable for tabletop display and able to be watered without leaks.
- Select a container that enhances the creative presentation of the entry.
- If submitting a container grown plant, double potting is permitted, provided natural top dressing is used and the inside of the container is not visible. Top dressing must not float when watered.

- If submitting a terrarium, double potting is not permitted.
- If submitting a terrarium, the container may be open air or closed.
- Leaf polish or other commercial foliage enhancers are not permitted.
- Accessories are permitted; however, emphasis should be on the creative use of natural, fresh planted materials rather than accessories to create a scene.
- Containers must fit on the table provided for display.
- Entries must not exceed a size of 30" Wide x 30" Deep.
- Entries may not exceed 50 lbs.

Delivery of Entries: Entries must be delivered to the Austin County Fair on Sunday, October 2, 2022, between 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. Exhibitors must check in at each competition table that they have entered. Exhibitors will access the Austin County Fairgrounds through Gate 1.

Exhibitor Project Log: Each exhibitor must keep an Exhibitor Project Log that will be submitted the day of the competition at the check in table. Questions may be directed to the Horticulture Committee at ACFHorticulture@gmail.com

- Each exhibitor must maintain and submit a project log for each entry, using the Exhibitor Project Log available on the website at [austincountyfair/menu/horticulture/project log](http://austincountyfair/menu/horticulture/project-log).
- Other types of exhibitor logs will not be accepted. Entries without the approved ACF Exhibitor Project Log shown will be disqualified.
- The Exhibitor Project Log is assessed for content, not creativity and should include:
 - A brief narrative describing the source of inspiration for the entry and the steps taken during the creative process (e.g. selection and sourcing of plant materials).
 - A minimum of ten photographs taken during the cultivation of the entry.
 - Photographs must be printed and included with the log.
 - A list of plant materials used, including the genus, specie, common name, cultivar or variety.
 - A timeline journaling/documenting the planting and maintenance activity.
 - ACF will not print logs for exhibitors. Project logs need to be complete, bound in a braded folder with page protectors. No Paper Clips, No staples, or Pocket Folders. Project logs must be ready to be turned in when exhibitors arrive at the check-in table.

Judging: The Show will select qualified judges for each competitive event. Any questions about the judging criteria questions may be directed to the Horticulture committee at email address ACFHorticulture@gmail.com.

- Entries will be judged on the day of arrival.
- Entries will be judged on a 100-point system:
 - Up to 40 points may be awarded for design.
 - Up to 35 points may be awarded for variety of plants used.
 - Up to 15 points may be awarded for staging and quality.
 - Up to 10 points may be awarded for the completion of Exhibitor Project Log.
- Judges may make notes in the Project Log.
- Only judges, Horticulture Committee members will be allowed inside the competition area while judging is in progress.
- Judges' decisions are final.
- Winning entries will be announced on October 2, 2022, and winning exhibitors will be recognized.

- Exhibitors will be asked to bring their projects back to the ACF on Monday, October 10, 2022, from 4 to 6:45 p.m. to be displayed during the fair.
- Grand and Reserve Champions will have the opportunity to donate their prize-winning exhibits to the Country Fair Auction on Saturday afternoon. All proceeds from donated items go to the Austin County Fair Association. Donating to the auction is optional. Note: Due to the sentimental or personal value of items, they may be inappropriate for the auction.

Additional Opportunity: Any Container Plant placing 11th on may be entered into the 4H/FFA/FCCLA Junior or Senior Flower Show. Entry cards are available at the Expo Center on the day of entry. There is a power point online under Home Economics to help explain the entry procedure. There is a charge on \$1.00 per entry. Exhibits must not exceed 30" W x 30" D.

Prizes: Grand and Reserve Champion Container Plants will be awarded buckles for both Junior and Senior Divisions. Placement ribbons will be awarded to exhibitors placing 3rd thru 10th.

