



Grand Valley Orchid Society Show

Event Schedule, Rules and Regulations

2026 GVOS Show Schedule of Events	
Friday, Jan 23rd	
12:00 PM	Exhibit Setup Begins
1:30 PM	Vendor Setup Begins
3:00 PM	Registration Begins
6:00 PM	Dinner for Setup Crews
7:00 PM	Registration Closes
9:30 PM	Setup Ends
Saturday, Jan 24th	
7:15 AM	Judges Breakfast
7:30 AM	Clerks Breakfast
8:00 AM	Kick-off Meeting for Ribbon Judging; AOS Judging to follow
9:00 AM	Sales Area Open
12:00 PM	Display Area Opens (following completion of ribbon judging; this is an approximate time)
5:00 PM	Show Closes
Sunday, Jan 25th	
11:00 AM	Display and Sales area opens
5:00 PM	Show Closes; Tear Down Begins

ENTRY RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. The Annual Grand Valley Orchid Society Show will be held at the Frederick Meijer Garden & Sculpture Park, 1000 East Beltline Avenue NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49525 on January 25th-26th, 2025.
2. The Sales area will be open to the public from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 24th and 11:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Sunday, January 26th, 2025. The Display area will open on Saturday at approximately 12 p.m. following the completion of ribbon judging and close at 5 pm. The Display area will be open Sunday from 11:00 a.m until 5:00 p.m.
3. Admission is free and there are no fees to the exhibitor for entries or setting up exhibits.
4. Each exhibitor agrees, upon making entry, to abide by the rules and regulations set forth by GVOS, AOS Judging Handbook as an AOS-Sanctioned Show and the Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park(FMG). It is the responsibility of all exhibitors to familiarize themselves with all rules and regulations.
5. All questions regarding the interpretation or application of these rules shall be referred to the Show & Judging Chairperson. All decisions are final.

REGISTRATION

6. All exhibits, plants and cut flowers must be officially entered by class on Mid-America Orchid Congress Registration Tags and submitted to the Registration Committee.
7. All exhibits must also be entered on Mid-America Orchid Congress Registration Tags and submitted to the Registration Committee.
8. No entries will be accepted for late judging after 7:00 p.m. on Friday January 23, 2026. Late entries may be exhibited but will not be judged.
9. The exhibitor may enter as many plants or cut flowers in any one class. Blooming plants and cut flowers placed in that are registered or used in exhibits must belong to the Orchidaceae family.
10. The same exhibit cannot be entered in more than one class.

11. No cut flowers will be permitted in flowering plant exhibits and no flowering plants will be permitted in cut flower exhibits.
12. Cut flowers and flowering plants shall be considered equally in judging.
13. A meristem plant or cut flower may not be entered as a seedling blooming for the first time.
14. For the purpose of this schedule, the word "hybrid" means a cross made within the genus listed, unless preceded by the word "intergeneric" in which case two or more different genera are used in the cross.
15. For the purpose of this show, an amateur is defined as any person who has not sold more than a total of two hundred plants and/or flowers in the last year.

SETUP

16. Exhibits may be set up beginning at 12:00 p.m. on Friday, January 23th, 2026. All exhibits must be in place and people ready to exit the facility at 9:30 PM.
17. Entries not in accord with the schedule shall be disqualified. The Show Chairperson reserves the right to remove all inferior exhibits, or any part of them. No dyed flower will be permitted. Entry listings must use proper orchid nomenclature.
18. All cards displaying the exhibitor's name will be provided by the Show Hosts. No other identification/Exhibit signs will be permitted.
19. All plants or cut flowers exhibited for competition must be properly labeled without identification of owner until judged.
20. Neither the Host Society nor Fredrick Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park is responsible for loss or damage of any plants, blooms, corsages, containers or other property of the exhibitors.
21. Tables and skirts will be furnished by GVOS/FMG for the exhibitors. All other cloth, foliage plants, etc. must be furnished by the exhibitors. Backdrops will NOT be provided and are prohibited. Exhibitor backdrops are not allowed per the Safety requirements imposed by Meijer Gardens Safety protocols. As all displays can be viewed from all sided, the backs of the display must be covered to hide the mechanics.
22. Foliage, plants, moss, etc. may supplement exhibits but no artificial or dyed moss or foliage of any kind will be permitted, with the exception of artificial grass used as floor covering.
23. Electrical will be provided to each exhibit. Any lighting used for effect is the responsibility of and must be furnished by the exhibitor. Effect lighting not color corrected may be turned off during judging.
24. In the event the exhibitor of a cut flower cannot be present, the Show Committee will display the material to the best advantage.
25. If return of materials is required, it will be returned at the exhibitor's expense. The Show Committee will make appropriate disposal of any exhibit or plant material not claimed by exhibitor after the end of the exhibition period.

JUDGING

26. There will be three or more judges accredited by the American Orchid Society, Inc. The most current Mid-America Orchid Congress Schedule will be used for ribbon judging. American Orchid Society judging will follow the Handbook on Judging and Exhibition. Lay Judges are permitted for ribbon judging and is up to the discretion of the Registration Show Chair and the Head Judge. All decisions of the judges are final.
27. Show Trophy Ballot Judging will begin at 7:45 a.m. followed by the kick-off/general meeting beginning at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 24th, 2026. Upon completion of ribbon judging, American Orchid Society award judging will begin.

27. No one other than properly authorized persons will be permitted in the display area during judging.
30. Judges and clerks are expected to familiarize themselves with the rules and regulations.
31. Judges have the right to award or withhold any scheduled prize and may subdivide any class where warranted.
32. First, second and third place ribbons may be awarded in each class at the discretion of the judges. Additional second and third place ribbons can be awarded upon the discretion of the ribbon judging team. Trophies are awarded as designated by the GVOS show schedule.
33. Improperly entered plants/exhibits may be either reclassified or disqualified at the discretion of the judges.
34. All plants, cut flowers and exhibits must be correctly entered in the appropriate class, or reclassified by a judge, to be eligible for ribbon judging.
35. This show has been approved for A.O.S. judging. All flowers, whether entered for ribbon judging or not, will be considered for A.O.S. awards unless otherwise marked by the exhibitor.
36. In order to be eligible for any special trophies, plants, exhibits, and art entries must be entered for ribbon judging. **No separate entry is required.**

TEARDOWN

37. The show closes on Sunday, January 25th, 2026 at 5 PM. **ALL** exhibits must remain up until Sunday's closing time. Exhibitors are **NOT permitted** to pull out any packing materials until 5 PM.

Revision History

1st Edition- Jan 13th, 2025
2nd Edition- Dec 21, 2025