



# Horticulture – Society Shows

## Exhibitor Guide & Prize Listing

Entry Questions: 414/405-7995

**Entry Deadline: May 28, 2025**  
**at 7 pm (central time)**

Late Entry Deadline: June 11, 2025  
at 7 pm (central time)



This year, we ask our exhibitors to dig deep into local crops, products, flavors and traditions. Construct your home-grown exhibits brick by brick, from the ground up and inspired by the great state of Wisconsin. As a proud exhibitor, bring the best of your talents to the Wisconsin State Fair and display your hard work for over a million happy Fairgoers to enjoy.

Visitors anticipate seeing your creativity through your entries. Join in the celebration of 174 years of Wisconsin State Fair happenings. We couldn't do it without your passion and contributions!

See you at the 2025 Wisconsin State Fair, presented by U.S. Cellular,  
July 31 – August 10.

Good luck,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Shari Black'.

Shari Black  
Executive Director/CEO  
Wisconsin State Fair

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## Horticulture Schedule

 **Entry Deadline May 28, 2025 at 7 pm (central time)** 

**2025 Theme: Digging Local**

Questions call: Horticulture Superintendent 414/405-7995

Date	Show	Arrival	Release	Judging
<b>Wednesday, July 30</b>	Dahlia I	After 6:00 pm		
	Gladiolus I	After 6:00 pm		
	Ikebana	After 6:00 pm		Display Only
	Milwaukee Bonsai Society	See show schedule		
	Professional (Completed)	By 4:00 pm		Display Only
	Veg./Herb/Fruit I	After 6:00 pm		
<b>Thursday, July 31</b>	Dahlia I	After 7:00 am		10:00 am
	Gladiolus I	After 7:00 am		12:00 pm
	Ikebana Show	After 7:00 am		Display Only
	Veg./Herb/Fruit I	After 7:00 am		11:00 am
<b>Saturday, August 2</b>	Rose Show	After 7:00 pm		
<b>Sunday, August 3</b>	Dahlia I		After 7:00 am	
	Dahlia II	After 7:00 am		10:00 am
	Ikebana Show		After 6:00 pm	
	Rose Show	After 7:00 am		10:15 am
<b>Monday, August 4</b>	Gladiolus I		After 7:00 am	
	Gladiolus II	After 7:00 am		12:00 pm
	Ikebana		7:00-8:00 am	
	Veg./Herb/Fruit I		After 7:00 am	
	Veg./Herb/Fruit II	After 7:00 am		11:00 am
<b>Wednesday, August 6</b>	Orchid Show	After 7:00 am		8:30 am
	Rose Show		After 7:00 pm	
<b>Thursday, August 7</b>	Dahlia II		After 7:00 am	
	Dahlia III	After 7:00 am		10:00 am
	Floral Designers of Wisconsin	After 7:00 am		10:00 am
	Veg./Herb/Fruit II		After 7:00 am	
	Veg./Herb/Fruit III	After 7:00 am		11:00 am
<b>Friday, August 8</b>	Gladiolus II		After 7:00 am	
	Gladiolus III	After 7:00 am		12:00 pm

**No deliveries to the building allowed after 9:00 am. NO EXCEPTIONS.**

# Wisconsin State Fair Competitive Exhibits Code of Conduct

Anyone attending Wisconsin State Fair Competitive Exhibits as an exhibitor, spectator, parent, superintendent, judge or Wisconsin State Fair official must always conduct themselves with honesty and good sportsmanship. Conduct in a competitive environment shall always reflect the highest standards of honor and dignity.

Consequences of violating the Wisconsin State Fair Competitive Exhibits Code of Conduct may include: removal from the Fairgrounds, suspension, reduction and/or loss of prize(s), loss of ribbon(s), loss of future exhibiting privileges, and/or permanent suspension from Wisconsin State Fair. If an exhibitor wishes to protest a decision, one must follow the protest procedures sequence as specified in the Wisconsin State Fair Park Competitive Exhibits Department Decision Review Procedures available online.

## Goal

The goal of the Wisconsin State Fair Competitive Exhibits is to encourage creativity, showcase exhibitors' talents and celebrate the Wisconsin State Fair tradition. Good luck to all!

## Ethics

1. Exhibitors agree to accept all systems/procedures selected by Wisconsin State Fair to verify rule compliance.
2. Exhibitors agree to accept all procedures used by Wisconsin State Fair Competitive Exhibits to select qualified judges for all competitions.
3. Tampering with the competition or judging process will be considered fraud and deception.
4. To maintain a high degree of confidence and integrity in the Competitive Exhibits, Wisconsin State Fair reserves the right to disqualify any exhibitor for intentional tampering, deception or misinformation.
5. All exhibitors involved in breaking rules will be subject to award(s) and prize money forfeiture, which may include dismissal from the Fairgrounds and/or being barred from competition immediately and/or in future competitions at Wisconsin State Fair.
6. The act of entering an exhibit at the Wisconsin State Fair gives verification that the exhibitor has read the Wisconsin State Fair Competitive Exhibits Code of Conduct and understands the consequences and/or penalties for violating any rules. It is further a consent that any action which contravenes these rules and is also in violation of federal, state or provincial statutes, regulations or rules, may be released to appropriate law enforcement authorities with jurisdiction over such infractions.

# Rose Show

**Show Dates: August 3 – 6, 2025**

Sponsored by the Greater Milwaukee Rose Society

President: Diane Sommers

Show Chairperson: Carrie Bergs

Phone: 262/939-7075

## Rules of the Show

1. Entries will be received between 7:00 am and 9:45 am on **Sunday, August 3, 2025.**  
**No entry fee required. Judging to start at 10:15 am.**
2. Entries in each class will be placed alphabetically. Each variety will create its own sub-class and is judged on its own merits, even if only one specimen of a variety is entered.
3. Entries are open to any rose grower. Roses must be grown in the exhibitor's garden.
4. Entries must be correctly named. Judges will disqualify roses for the following reasons: unlabeled/mislabeled entries, misnamed entries and foreign substances used to enhance the bloom. **Any entry found to be enhanced by artificial means such as glue, hairspray, pins, toothpicks, paint/coloring, eye shadow, or any additive that is not natural to the rose itself, will be disqualified.**
5. American Rose Society (ARS) classifications will govern.
6. An exhibitor may enter as many roses as desired, but not more than two per variety.
7. Exhibits will be judged based on their condition at the time of judging. ARS rules and regulations of judging will be followed.
8. **Exhibitors will not be permitted to remove exhibits or awards until after 7:00 pm, Wednesday, August 6, 2025.**
9. New exhibitors are welcome and encouraged to enter the competition. Members of the Greater Milwaukee Rose Society (GMRS) will be available to assist if needed.
10. Ribbons for first, second and third places will be awarded by the Wisconsin State Fair when the exhibits warrant, but the judges may withhold any of these at their discretion.
11. All sections except section E include bush/climbing varieties. Section E is limited to climbers only.
12. The Wisconsin State Fair will exercise all possible care of exhibits but will not assume responsibility for loss or damage.
13. Roses entered in the show must be identified according to the exhibition name approved by the ARS as it appears in the Official List of Approved Exhibition Names (AEN) for Judges and Exhibitors, the Handbook for Selecting Roses, Modern Roses database or other ARS publications. If a rose has two or more names, the AEN should be used.
14. ARS or GMRS certificates will be awarded in appropriate classes.

# Rose Show Classes – Division 460

## Challenge Classes – Section AA (one entry per exhibitor)

### 1. The Arthur R. Boerner Perpetual Founders Trophy

A collection of three stems in separate containers. No more than one stem from any of the following categories: Hybrid Tea, Grandiflora, Floribunda, Old Garden Rose. Shrub or Polyantha.

### 2. English Box

Six large roses, exhibition stage, any combination, no foliage. Shown in an English Box. Boxes will be available at the show.

## Hybrid Tea – Section A

Class 1 – Hybrid Teas, climbing Hybrid Tea or Grandiflora – one bloom per stem, exhibition form

Class 2 – One open bloom per stem, stamens showing

Class 3 – Single Hybrid Teas – one bloom, or spray, classified as single by the ARS

Class 4 – Spray, two or more blooms – one stem

## Grandifloras – Section B

Class 5 – Spray, two or more blooms – one stem

Class 6 – One open bloom per stem, stamens showing

## Floribundas – Section C

Class 7 – One bloom per stem, exhibition stage

Class 8 – Spray, two or more blooms – one stem

## Polyanthas – Section D

Class 9 – Any Polyantha

## Climbers – Section E

Class 10 – Large-Flowered Climbers (LCl), Hybrid Wichuranas (HWich), Ramblers and Hybrid Giganteas. One bloom, or spray. Climbing HTs and FLs should be shown with the HTs and FLs. (No climbing sports of Hybrid Tea, spray or bush type varieties.)

## Shrubs – Section F

Class 11 – Any Modern Shrub (Any shrub rose designated by “S” in ARS references, including groundcovers, English – style and landscape roses). One bloom or spray.

Class 12 – Any Classic Shrub (Kordesii, Hybrid Moyesii, Hybrid Musk, Hybrid Rugosa.) One bloom or spray.

## Old Garden Roses – Section G

Class 13 – Variety introduced before 1867

Class 14 – Variety introduced during or after 1867 or unknown date of origin

## Miniatures – Section H

Class 15 – One bloom per stem, exhibition form

Class 16 – One open bloom per stem, stamens showing

Class 17 – Single miniature – one bloom per stem, classified as single by the ARS

Class 18 – Spray, two or more blooms – one stem

## Minifloras – Section I

Class 19 – One bloom per stem, exhibition form

Class 20 – One open bloom per stem, stamens showing

Class 21 – Single miniflora – one bloom per stem, classified as single by the ARS

Class 22 – Spray, two or more blooms – one stem

### **Novice Entries – Section J**

A novice is one who has never won a blue ribbon or trophy in any rose show

Class 23 – Novice – any rose

### **Junior Entries – Section K**

Restricted to exhibitors 18 years of age or younger.

Class 24 – Junior – any rose.

### **Wisconsin State Fair ribbons will be awarded in the following categories:**

Most Perfect Collection

Most Perfect English Box

Most Perfect Hybrid Tea

Most Perfect Hybrid Tea Open Bloom

Most Perfect Single Hybrid Tea

Most Perfect Hybrid Tea Spray

Most Perfect Grandiflora Spray

Most Perfect Grandiflora Open Bloom

Most Perfect Floribunda

Most Perfect Floribunda Spray

Most Perfect Polyantha

Most Perfect Climber

Most Perfect Modern Shrub

Most Perfect Classic Shrub

Most Perfect Old Garden Rose – Before 1867

Most Perfect Old Garden Rose – During or After 1867

Most Perfect Miniature

Most Perfect Miniature Open Bloom

Most Perfect Single Miniature

Most Perfect Miniature Spray

Most Perfect Miniflora

Most Perfect Miniflora Open Bloom

Most Perfect Single Miniflora

Most Perfect Miniflora Spray

Most Perfect Novice Entry

Most Perfect Junior Entry

**The governor's trophy will be awarded to the best entry of the show.**



# Bonsai Exhibit

## Display Only – Division 480

### Show Dates: July 31 – August 10, 2025

Sponsored by the Milwaukee Bonsai Society

PO Box 198

Brookfield, WI 53008-0198

Contact: Erich Broemser

Phone: 262/989-0875

### Rules of the Show

1. There will be three separate Bonsai Exhibits during the length of the Fair.
2. The schedule for the different exhibits is as follows:
  - First Exhibit** – The first exhibit will be on display **Thursday, July 31, 2025 through Saturday, August 2, 2025.**
  - Second Exhibit** – The second exhibit will be on display **Sunday, August 3, 2025 through Wednesday, August 6, 2025.**
  - Third Exhibit** – The third exhibit will be on display **Thursday, August 7, 2025 through Sunday, August 10, 2025.**
3. The Milwaukee Bonsai Society will coordinate the setup, maintenance, display and supervision of these exhibits.
4. The Milwaukee Bonsai Society will select the Show Coordinator and the judges for the Wisconsin State Fair Bonsai Exhibits.
5. The Milwaukee Bonsai Society and the Wisconsin State Fair will exercise all reasonable care. The exhibitor assumes any liability for damage or loss to any exhibit or exhibitor.
6. Any active member of a Bonsai Society or 4-H club is eligible to exhibit a bonsai.
7. Each exhibit will be judged separately according to the judging criteria listed in Article 17.  
**Judging will be done on the first day of each exhibit.**
8. The decision to award any prize is solely at the discretion of the judges and all decisions made by the judges are final.
9. More than one award may be given in any class at the discretion of the judges.
10. If no specimen in a class meets the criteria necessary for an award, an award may not be made in the class.
11. Additional awards may be given by other bonsai-oriented organizations.
12. There shall be five classes of entries:

#### **Class #**

101. **Novice Class** – Exhibitors with less than five years experience in bonsai.
102. **Intermediate Class** – Exhibitors with more than five years experience in bonsai.
103. **Advanced Class** – Exhibitors that have previously won an Award of Merit in the Intermediate Class or Best of Show in any class at the Wisconsin State Fair.
104. **Open Class** – Open to all exhibitors.
105. **For Exhibit Only** – Not eligible for any award.
13. A tree may be exhibited in only one class. Each class will be judged separately. The “Best in Show” and “Awards of Merit” will be chosen from the blue ribbon winners.
14. All trees submitted for exhibition must be healthy and free of disease and infestation and must be exhibited in a bonsai container.
15. Any tree submitted for judging must have been in the direct care of the exhibitor over two winters. Novice class entries are exempt from this requirement.

16. Exhibitor names will NOT be displayed on any exhibited tree. As a matter of security, the bonsai identification cards will identify only the club affiliation of the tree's owner.
17. Specimens exhibited for judging may be awarded prizes according to the guidelines below.
  - White Ribbon:** A good example of the art of bonsai.
  - Red Ribbon:** A very good example of the art of bonsai.
  - Blue Ribbon:** An outstanding example of the art of bonsai.
  - Award of Merit:** An exceptional example of the art of bonsai, which exhibits unique characteristics or design.
  - Best of Show:** The specimen which best exhibits the highest quality of the art of bonsai.

# Orchid Show

**Show Dates: August 6 – 10, 2025**

Sponsored by the Wisconsin Orchid Society

President: Dr. Richard Odders

Show Chairperson: Bruce Efflandt

3518 N 98 St, Milwaukee, WI 53222

Phone: 262/327-9373

## Rules of the Show

1. Entries will be received at the Wisconsin State Fair in Grand Champion Hall on **Wednesday, August 6, 2025** between 7:00 am and 8:30 am. **No entry fee is required.**
2. Those unable to make drop-off at the Wisconsin State Fair may call the chairperson to arrange drop-off.
3. Entry is open to all members of the four (4) orchid societies located in the State of Wisconsin.
4. Plants must have been the property of the exhibitor for a minimum of six (6) months.
5. Entries must be correctly named or judges may disqualify them.
6. The exhibitor may enter any number of entries per class.
7. No one plant can be entered in more than one (1) class, except specimen and miniature.
8. **Judging will begin at 8:30 am on Wednesday, August 6, 2025.**
9. First, second and third place ribbons may be awarded in each class at the discretion of the judges. Special awards will be given as designated judges may withhold any ribbon or award. The decision of the judges is FINAL.
10. This is a non-AOS (American Orchid Society) judged show, but one or more AOS judge will be present for judging.
11. The Wisconsin State Fair will exercise all possible care, but will not assume responsibility for loss or damage to plants.
12. The Wisconsin Orchid Society (WOS) will have one designated person to secure each exhibitor's entry number, entry information and florist exhibitor car tags from the Entry Department of the Wisconsin State Fair.
13. WOS will furnish judges and clerks and complete entries in the award book.
14. A list of the number of exhibitors and the number of plants exhibited will be given to the Superintendent at the end of the show.
15. **Plants must remain in place until Monday, August 11, 2025.**

# Orchid Show – Division 500

## Class #

### Cattelya Alliance

1. Epidendrum, Encyclia, and Barkeria species, hybrids and intergenerics.
2. Brassavola, Broughtonia, Traditional Laelia, Traditional Sophronitis species, hybrids and intergenerics excluding traditional Cattleya.
3. Cattleya and Allied genera species, hybrids and intergenerics other than above.

### Cypripedium Alliance

4. Paph species
5. Paph hybrids – primary type
6. Paph hybrids – complex type
7. Phragmipedium species
- 7a. Phragmipedium hybrids

### Vanda and Phalaenopsis Alliance

8. Aerangis and Angraecum species, hybrids, and intergenerics
9. All Vandaceous genera species, excluding Phalaenopsis
- 9a. All Vandaceous genera, hybrids, and intergenerics excluding Phalaenopsis
10. Phalaenopsis species
11. Phalaenopsis hybrids and intergenerics

### Oncidium Alliance

12. All Oncidium Allied genera species hybrids, and intergenerics, excluding Oncidium
13. Oncidium species, hybrids, and intergenerics excluding Tolumnias
14. Oncidium Tolumnia species, hybrids, and intergenerics

### Cymbidium Alliance

15. All Cymbidium and Allied genera species, hybrids and intergenerics

### Dendrobium

16. All Dendrobium and Allied genera species
- 16a. All Dendrobium and Allied genera, hybrids and intergenerics

### Miscellaneous Genera

17. Masdevallia, Pleurothallis, and Allied genera species
- 17a. Masdevallia, Pleurothallis, and Allied genera, hybrids and intergenerics
18. Orchid species, hybrids and intergenerics not covered elsewhere
19. Miniature species, hybrids and intergenerics, all classes

### Specimen

20. Specimen Plants

### Artistic

21. Paintings by exhibitor
22. Photographs by exhibitor
23. Art other than above by exhibitor
24. Collectibles

**Orchids in Use**

- 25. Corsages, bouquets, hairpieces, etc.
- 26. Orchid arrangements

**Educational**

- 27. Educational display

**Special Awards**

- I. Best of Cattleya Alliance
- II. Best of Cyripedilum Alliance
- III. Best of Vanda/Phalaenopsis Alliance
- IV. Best of Oncidium Alliance
- V. Best of Cym/Dend
- VI. Best of Specimen Plant
- VII. Best of Show
- VIII. Best Culture
- IX. Best of Art
- X. Best of Orchids in use
- XI. Best Educational
- XII. Best Misc. Genera

# 2025 General Rules and Regulations – Wisconsin State Fair

Exhibitors are expected to read and understand all rules prior to submitting an entry.

## General Rules and Regulations

Wisconsin State Fair management reserves the final and absolute right to interpret these rules and regulations and to arbitrarily settle and determine all matters, questions or differences in regards thereto, or otherwise arising out of, connected with, or incident to Wisconsin State Fair. It further reserves the right to determine unforeseen matters not covered by these rules, to amend or add to these rules as they, in their judgment, may deem advisable.

All exhibitors are expected to conform with Wisconsin State Fair General Rules and Regulations. Any person who violates any of the special rules will forfeit all privileges and prize money and be subject to such penalty as the management may order. Failure to comply may result in award(s) and prize money forfeiture, dismissal from the Fairgrounds, and being barred from competition immediately in the department in which the violation occurred and from all departments entered, and/or in future competition in Wisconsin State Fair. In the event of conflict between the general rules and the special rules governing the various departments, the special rules will govern.

The following due process will be used in the questions of rule violation: the exhibitor and/or parties involved will be questioned by the Department Superintendent. If it is felt that a violation has occurred, the Department Superintendent will make a ruling. The ruling of the Department Superintendent will be final. See Wisconsin State Fair Park Competitive Exhibits Department Decision Review Procedures available online.

## Administrative Offices

Any correspondence should be addressed to:  
Wisconsin State Fair Park, 640 S 84 St, West Allis, WI 53214.

## Admission Tickets

See entry form to order tickets. Ticket orders will be limited to 50 tickets per exhibitor. Tickets will be mailed out beginning in mid-June.

## Entry Questions

For information and questions, please call: 414/266-7052.

## Entry Requirements

Application for entries in all departments must be made on the printed entry form (or online) and must be in full compliance with the printed instructions. **There are no refunds of entry fees or late fees.** Entries will be disqualified if not entered under the name of the person who made the item. All entries must be made by the exhibitor unless otherwise stated in the entry information. Violation of this rule will forfeit any prize money awarded to such exhibitor in all departments at the Wisconsin State Fair. Wisconsin State Fair management reserves the right at any time to refuse entries or items entered. Entry deadlines are specified under each department's rules/schedule. Exhibits that have been erroneously entered in a division, and/or do not meet the specifications of the class can be transferred to a proper class or disqualified by the superintendent prior to judging. If such classes already have been judged, they shall not be reopened. No employee of the Wisconsin State Fair, or member of their immediate family shall be allowed to exhibit in the department in which they are employed. Any exhibitor's check(s) returned from a financial institution for any reason will be charged a \$20.00 service fee.

**Note:** Entry forms will be returned if not filled out completely.

## **Exhibit Release**

Exhibits will be released according to each department's regulations. The Wisconsin State Fair Director or their designee may change the time of release in any department at their discretion. Competitive exhibits which have not been claimed by exhibitors by 6:00 pm on the Tuesday after the Wisconsin State Fair will be disposed of and/or donated by management as they see fit.

## **Judging of Exhibits**

Judges have been carefully selected. All exhibitors submitting exhibits for the Wisconsin State Fair accept these judges and agree to abide by their decisions. The judging schedule is printed at the beginning of each department in the Exhibitor Guide & Prize Listing. If any exhibitor attempts to interfere with the judge in any manner, the exhibitor shall forfeit all prize money awarded and will be excluded from further competition. Judges will not be permitted to show in divisions they judge. Unworthy exhibits will not be placed by the judge. The decision of the judge will be final in all cases.

## **Prize Money/Awards**

Prize money will be mailed starting in September, 2025. In paying prize money, no evidence of awards will be recognized except the signed Judging Sheets. Any prize money discrepancies must be mailed to Wisconsin State Fair no later than October 1, 2025. Exhibitors should contact Wisconsin State Fair in writing at 640 S 84 St, West Allis, WI 53214. Please include your name, department, division, class and explanation of the discrepancy. All checks are void one (1) year after they are issued. Any checks not cashed causes automatic forfeit of prize money won.

## **Liability**

Wisconsin State Fair will take reasonable precaution to protect the safety of the exhibits sent to the Wisconsin State Fair, but owners themselves take the risk of exhibiting them. Should any exhibit or portion thereof be injured, damaged, lost or stolen, Wisconsin State Fair personnel will give assistance toward recovery of the same, but will not be liable or make any payment for the value thereof.

Neither the State of Wisconsin, Wisconsin State Fair, its agents or employees shall be liable for any loss to an exhibitor occasioned by fire, accident, condition of structure, or damage caused by weather to any exhibit, article, item, equipment or commercial exhibit left in the building or on the grounds after the close of the Wisconsin State Fair.

Exhibitors and/or machinery, while stationary or in motion, and any other exhibits or equipment which may cause accidents, injury or damage to persons or property coming in contact with or in proximity to them, shall guard their exhibits or machinery, and protect the public from coming in contact therewith at all times while on the Fairgrounds. Every such exhibitor or owners shall indemnify the State of Wisconsin, Wisconsin State Fair Park Board, its agents and employees from and against claims and demands, costs, charges and expenses which it or they might incur, suffer or be put to by reason of failure to take the precaution above referred to or failure to comply with Wisconsin State Fair rules, policies or directives. Liability insurance to comply with indemnity provisions is required. Presentation of an exhibitor's receipt shall be deemed acceptance of this provision.

**Wisconsin State Fair Park Competitive Exhibits Department Decision Review Procedures**  
available online at: [www.tinyurl.com/25m44xfh](http://www.tinyurl.com/25m44xfh)