



PHS Philadelphia Flower Show[®]

Entering your plants in the PHS Philadelphia Flower Show is easy!

STEP 1: Obtain a copy of the *Exhibitor's Guide*

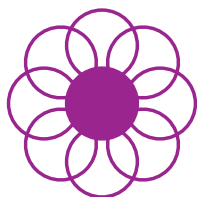
- The 2024 *Exhibitor's Guide* can be downloaded from the Flower Show website (phsonline.org/flowershow-exhibitor-guide) beginning in early September.
- To obtain a free printed copy, email your mailing address to fsguide@pennhort.org.
- Read the *Exhibitor's Guide* carefully; it will lead you through the entry process in great detail. If you still have questions, you can contact the Horticulture chairs and vice-chairs directly; their contact information is in the *Guide*.

STEP 2: Determine which plants to enter

- If some of the plants you care for are knock-outs—for instance, with many blooms or some unusual characteristics—they could be candidates for competition. However, not all of your plants might be “ready for prime time.” Because the Show prides itself on being a showcase for world-class horticulture, all entries must be of “show quality”—for instance, dead or damaged leaves and flowers should be removed, pots and leaves should be clean and free of pests and diseases.
- Most judging categories (referred to as “classes”) are open to all entrants, but some are reserved for those entering for the first time. Beginners’ classes are highlighted in the *Exhibitor's Guide*.
- If your plants are “oldies but goodies,” you might want to look at the classes for plants more than 5, 10, or 20 years old.
- All the plants you plan to enter in the Horticulture and Orchid classes must be in your possession by December 1, 2023.

STEP 3: Enter online beginning in December

- Visit register.theflowershow.com
- You can also fill out a paper entry form found on the Hort Exhibitor Page (phsonline.org/the-flower-show/participate/exhibit/plant-entries).
The deadline for pre-entering the Show is January 31, 2024.



A Horticulture Challenge Plant is a great way to start exhibiting

A “challenge plant” is a great way to start exhibiting—all exhibitors start with the same plant (purchased from PHS) and grow it for competition. Challenge plants are available in the fall. Please check the Flower Show website (phsonline.org/the-flower-show/participate/exhibit/plant-entries) beginning in August for more details.



Frequently Asked Questions

When are the entries judged?

There are three entry/judging cycles during the Show:

- Entered Thursday afternoon, February 29, and Friday morning, March 1; judged Friday afternoon.
- Entered Monday morning, March 4; judged Monday afternoon.
- Entered Thursday morning, March 7; judged Thursday afternoon.

For complete details, including entry times, please refer to the *Exhibitor's Guide*:
(phsonline.org/flowershow-exhibitor-guide)

Do I have to be a member of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, a garden club, or a horticultural organization to enter the PHS Philadelphia Flower Show?

You do not need to be a member of any organization, but if you are, be sure to include that information when you enter, since your group will also get credit for any awards you win! Garden clubs and horticultural organizations often have programs about how to get your plants into shape for competition. There are many benefits of PHS membership, including educational programs, Flower Show tickets with access to preview hours (skip the crowds!) and other Show perks, special events, and much more. To join, visit PHSONline.org or call 215-988-8800.

Is there a fee to enter my plants?

There is no fee, and you will receive complimentary entry into the Show on the days you are entering.

What do the judges look for?

- Cultural Perfection:** Vigorous, healthy appearance including foliage, flowers or fruit, and form characteristic of a well-grown plant. There should be no indication of pests or disease.
- Distinctiveness:** Meritorious in aesthetic appeal; noteworthy in size and relationship to container.
- Bloom:** Quality and quantity of bloom, including freshness and substance; mass effect if appropriate to the class.
- Fruit:** Quality and abundance of fruit, if appropriate to the class, including color and mass effect.
- Maturity:** Size of plant and foliage characteristic of a mature specimen.
- Difficulty:** Challenging to grow (and bring to bloom, if applicable to the class); requiring specialized growing conditions, skill, and care.
- Rarity:** Seldom grown and exhibited by amateur horticultural enthusiasts.

You can find lots of information about entering the Show on the Plant Entries page of the Flower Show website.

For instance, there are videos about exhibitors, growing, grooming, entering, and judging. During the year, the website will be updated with information about challenge plants, special bulb classes, horticulture scales of points, and other topics.

Be sure to check the site periodically: phsonline.org/the-flower-show/participate/exhibit/plant-entries.