

A National Garden Clubs, Inc  
**Standard Flower Show**

# **Back to the Future**

Presented by  
South Shore District  
The Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts, Inc (GCFM)

In Collaboration with  
The Marshfield Agricultural and Horticultural Society

Marshfield Fairgrounds  
Agricultural Hall, 140 Main St., Marshfield, MA 02050

**August 15 - 19, 2025**

**12:00 noon to 10:00 pm**

Admission included in Marshfield Fair General Admission Ticket

GCFM is a member of  
New England Garden Clubs, Inc  
National Garden Clubs, Inc.

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## Show Committee

General Show Chair	Lisa Pattinson	<a href="mailto:lisa.pattinson@gmail.com">lisa.pattinson@gmail.com</a>
Schedule	Mariette Wooden	<a href="mailto:mariettewooden@gmail.com">mariettewooden@gmail.com</a>
Design Entries	Lisa Pattinson	<a href="mailto:lisa.pattinson@gmail.com">lisa.pattinson@gmail.com</a>
Design Classification		
Horticulture Placement	Ellen Yuen	<a href="mailto:ellenyuen2@gmail.com">ellenyuen2@gmail.com</a>
Horticulture Classification		
Judges' Chair	Sarah Papajohn	<a href="mailto:spapajohn@gmail.com">spapajohn@gmail.com</a>
Clerks Chair	Jen Mank	<a href="mailto:jenmank4@gmail.com">jenmank4@gmail.com</a>

## General Rules

1. This flower show conforms to the standards established by National Garden Clubs, Inc. (NGC). The *Handbook for Flower Shows* (HB), 2017 Edition and revisions updated on the NGC website is the authority for all issues not covered by this Schedule, which is the Law of the Show. **Handbook** is free to download. See: <https://gardenclub.org/flower-show-school-resources>
2. All classes are open to any member of NGC. Division I Horticulture is also open to any amateur gardener.
3. Pre-registration for Division II Design is required and may be made online through SUG:  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0B4EAFAC29A4FC1-56285983-back#/> or with the Design Entry Chair.
4. Division I Horticulture entry cards are available from the Horticulture Chair, beginning May 1, 2025. Division II Design entry cards will be provided by the show committee when entries are placed.
5. Horticulture entry cards are to be filled out in advance (typed, written in water-proof ink, pencil, or with stick-on labels.)
6. Exhibitors meeting will be at the Marshfield Fairgrounds on Wednesday, June 25, 2025 at 11:00 am.
7. Division I Horticulture entries will be accepted on Friday, August 15, 2025 between 7:00-9:00 am. Division II Design will be accepted on Friday, August 15, 2025 between 7:00- 9:00 am.
8. All exhibits must be removed Wednesday, August 20, 2025 8:00 - 10:00 am. **Exceptions must be preapproved by applicable entry chair.**
9. Judging will be on Friday August 15, 2025 at 10:00 am. Judges will report to the Administration building at 9:30 am.
10. Designers are responsible for keeping exhibits in good condition throughout the show. Designers may refresh designs daily before the show opens.
11. Classification Chair for each division checks exhibits for conformity to the schedule prior to judging, and initials the entry tag/card. Final determination for conformance is the judges' responsibility.
12. The General Chair and Classification Chair for each Division are available during judging for possible consultation. They, along with Judges and Clerks, are the only persons allowed in proximity to judging panels. The decision of the judges is final. Awards may be withheld if not merited.

13. Entry cards of blue ribbon and 90+ exhibits must be signed and dated by an NGC Accredited Judge on the panel. All other entry cards must be initialed by either an Accredited Judge or Student Judge. Top Exhibitor award rosettes must be signed on the back by an NGC Accredited Judge who judged the class.
14. Each exhibitor is limited to one entry per class, **except** in Division I Horticulture. See Horticulture Rules.
15. There must be an emphasis on fresh plant material throughout the show. No artificial or treated fresh plant material is permitted in any exhibit in any division.
16. The Committee will strive to assure the safety of all items after arrival and placement, but the Committee and the Marshfield Agricultural and Horticultural Society will not be responsible for any loss or damage to exhibits.
17. The plants listed on the Massachusetts Department of Agriculture Resources Prohibited Plant list may not be exhibited.
18. Native plants may be entered provided such plants have been legally obtained and grown by the exhibitor for at least three months. The exhibitor must provide a typed card noting that it was not wild collected.
19. Religious symbols must be displayed in a respectful manner. The American flag and other national flags are not permitted in Division II Design, Division IV Botanical Arts and Division III Youth. Living members of the animal kingdom and/or taxidermal representations are not permitted in the show.
20. No solicitation material or brand names may be used in any exhibit.

## **Standard System of Awarding**

**Only one (1) first-place (blue) ribbon per class or sub-class; must score 90 points or more.**

**Only one (1) second-place (red) ribbon per class or sub-class; must score 85 points or more.**

**Only one (1) third-place (yellow) ribbon per class or sub-class; must score 80 points or more.**

**One (1) or more Honorable Mention (white) ribbons as merited; must score 75 points or more.**

The NGC Standard System of Awarding is used in all divisions to:

- Encourage uniform standard of judging
- Ensure fair and objective evaluation of all exhibits
- Ensure no criteria are overlooked
- Compare relative importance of qualities.

## **NGC Top Exhibitor Awards**

### **Award of Horticultural Excellence**

Rosette of green, blue and orange ribbons

One is awarded to the highest scoring, correctly named, blue-ribbon exhibit scoring 95 or above in the entire Horticulture Division I.

### **Arboreal Award**

Rosette of green ribbons

One is awarded to the highest scoring, correctly named, blue-ribbon winner, scoring 95 or above in Division I, Section A and Section F. Two awards are offered

### **Award of Merit**

Rosette of orange ribbons

One is offered to the highest, correctly named, blue-ribbon, scoring 95 or above in Division I, Sections B, C, D, and E. Four awards are offered.

### **Award of Design Excellence**

Rosette of gold ribbons

One is awarded to the highest scoring, blue-ribbon exhibit scoring 95 or above in the entire Design Division II.

### **Designer's Choice Award**

Rosette of purple ribbons.

One is awarded in to the highest scoring, blue-ribbon exhibit scoring 95 or above in each Design Division II, Sections A and B. Two awards are offered.

# Division I – Horticulture

## Cast and Crew

### Horticulture Division Rules

1. All General Rules apply.
2. The rules for a single species cut or container-grown specimen are listed in the HB, Chapter 6 or its supplement *Horticulture Exhibiting and Judging*.
3. In order to receive an NGC Top Exhibitor Award, the exhibitor must identify entry by its binomial name or currently acceptable scientific designation.
4. Entry cards are to be filled out in advance. They may be typed, written in waterproof ink, with stick-on labels, or pencil.
5. All exhibits must be FRESH and in prime condition.
6. All exhibits must have been grown by the exhibitor and in the possession of the exhibitor for a minimum of days: Annuals, 90; Bulbs, 90; Houseplants, 90; Perennials (herbaceous), 90; Arboreal branches (woody ornamentals), 6 months. HB. p. 55
7. Invasive or endangered plants are prohibited.
8. Plant material must be in its natural state and may not be altered by application (treatment) of oil, commercial “shine” products, etc., that change the natural appearance. No wiring of specimens is permitted.
9. Only foliage and/or flowers naturally grown and still attached to the specimen are permitted in the flower show.
10. Only foliage and/or flowers naturally grown and still attached to the specimen are permitted in the flower show. Unattached foliage will not be included with a specimen.
11. All exhibits should be show-worthy and well-groomed.
12. The exhibitor must identify entry by binomial name or currently acceptable scientific designation. Include variety, if known. Common names may be included in parenthesis. Both the genus and species are underlined. Genus is capitalized and species is not.
13. Cut specimens should not have foliage below the water line, except for Gladiolus.

14. If a plant is considered a flowering plant, it should be exhibited as a flowering specimen. Foliage plants may flower, but should be exhibited as foliage plant if grown for their leaves.
15. Specimens with a class designation in the schedule may not be entered in the 'Any Other Worthy' class.
16. The Horticulture Chair and/or General Chair may subdivide classes by color, form, size, cultivar, variety or other distinguishing characteristics. Judges may ask to have classes subdivided. But only the Horticulture Chair and/or General Chair may subdivide classes, per HB, pp
17. Classes may be subdivided by color, form, size, cultivar, variety or other distinguishing characteristics
18. The exhibitor must furnish clean, clear glass containers for cut specimens. The bottles should be free of writing or labels and in scale with the size of the specimen.
19. The show committee will furnish wedging and some bottles.
20. Double potting is permitted but the inner pot must not be visible. Plants must be in clean pots if container-grown.
21. Exhibitors may enter more than one specimen per class if each entry is a different variety, cultivar, or color.
22. Scale of points is in Handbook, Chapter 14, pg. 129.

## **Horticulture Sections and Classes**

All exhibits eligible for Award of Horticultural Excellence

### **Section A. Set Designers - Woody Ornamental Shrub, not including Hydrangea**

Eligible for Arboreal Award, one cut specimen, no longer than 30" from cut end to apical tip, no leaves under water.

Class 1. *Cotinus coggygria* (smoke bush)

Class 2. *Hibiscus*

Class 3. *Spirea*

Class 4. *Viburnum*

Class 5. Any other worthy named specimen

## **Section B. Directors - Cut Herbaceous Flowering Perennial**

Eligible for Award of Merit, one cut stem, no unattached leaves, no leaves underwater

Class 6. *Archillea millefolium* (Yarrow)

Class 7. *Echinacea* (Coneflower)

Class 8. *Eutrochium purpureum* (Joe-Pye weed)

Class 9. *Hylotelephium spectabile* (Showy Sedum, example: Autumn Joy Sedum)

Class 10. Any other worthy named specimen

## **Section C. Costume Designers - Cut Flowering Annual**

Eligible for Award of Merit, one cut stem, no unattached leaves, no leaves underwater.

Class 11. *Cleome hassleriana* (Spider Flower)

Class 12. *Dahlia*

Class 13. *Helianthus* (Sunflower)

Class 14. *Zinnia*

Class 15. Any other worthy named specimen

## **Section D. Leading Roles - Cut Perennial Grown for Foliage**

Eligible for Award of Merit, one cut stem.

Class 16. *Brunnera*

Class 17. *Heuchera* (Coral Bells)

Class 18. *Hosta* 4" or less diameter

Class 19. *Hosta* between 4" and 8"

Class 20. *Hosta* greater than 8"

Class 21. Any other worthy named specimen

## **Section E. Supporting Roles - Cut Annual Grown for Foliage,**

Eligible for Award of Merit, one cut stem.

Class 22. *Begonia rex*

Class 23. *Caladium*

Class 24. *Plectranthus scutellaroides* (Coleus)

Class 25. Any other worthy named specimen



## Section F. Cameos - Hydrangea

Eligible for Arboreal Award, one cut specimen, no longer than 30" from cut end to apical tip, no leaves under water

Class 26. *Hydrangea arborescens*

Class 27. *Hydrangea macrophylla*

Class 28. *Hydrangea paniculata*

Class 29. *Hydrangea quercifolia*

Class 30. *Hydrangea serrata*

Class 31. Any other worthy named specimen

## Division II – Design

### The Big Screen

#### Design Rules

1. All General Rules apply.
2. The rules for Design Exhibits are printed in the HB, Chapter 7
3. Advance registration required through SUG:  
[https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0B4EAFAC29A4FC1-56285983-back#](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0B4EAFAC29A4FC1-56285983-back#/) or with Design Entries Chair.
4. All plant material used in the design must be identified no later Wednesday, August 13, 2025 to [marshfieldfairdesign@gmail.com](mailto:marshfieldfairdesign@gmail.com)  
Common names are acceptable, but scientific names are encouraged (with the common name in parenthesis.)
5. The exhibitor is required to conform to the stated description and limitation of the Design Type if named in the class.
6. Descriptions and for Design Types are printed in the HB, Chapter 7.
7. Some plant material, fresh and/or dried must be used in every exhibit.
8. Exhibitor may enter multiple classes, but only one (1) exhibit per class.
9. The exhibit entered into competition must be the work of only one (1) exhibitor and that exhibitor's name must appear on the entry card provided by the show committee.

10. Exhibitor is responsible for keeping all plant material fresh for the duration of the show.
11. If the designer is unable to fulfill the assignment, it is the designer's responsibility to provide a substitute and notify the Entries Chair.
12. If the designer is unavailable to transport and/or set up completed design, a substitute person may enter the exhibit for the designer.
13. A single flower is not a design. Container-grown plants are permitted where appropriate but are not considered floral designs.
14. Landscapes, scenes or anything representing an actual item of clothing, person, animal, etc., are not acceptable in the Division II Design.
15. Religious symbols used in design must be displayed in a respectfully.
16. Products manufactured from plant material whose natural state has been so altered as to be given a new identity and a specific name, such as rope, basket, mat, etc. are permitted.
17. Decorative wood is allowed.
18. The exterior appearance of dried plant material may be altered.
19. Contrived plant material (fantasy flower, foliage and/or stem) is allowed.
20. Dried man-made components such as grape vine forms retaining their recognizable character are considered dried plant material.
21. Containers must be made by the exhibitor or commercially manufactured. (Vintage containers that may not be readily available for purchase today are acceptable if they were mass produced historically.) Containers that are created as unique design pieces of art are unacceptable unless created by the exhibitor.
22. Structures that are used as mechanics and not design components are allowed.
23. The following are not permitted in the Design Division:
  - a. Painting, flocking, glittering or dyeing of fresh plant material in any manner.
  - b. Silk, plastic or other imitation plant material.
  - c. Manufactured items simulating plant material.
  - d. American and other national flags.
  - e. Food items.
  - f. Cut fruit or vegetables (other than cut at stem).

24. Finished exhibits must be approved by the Design Classification Chair before exhibitor leaves the show room on the day of entry.
25. Scale of Points is in the Handbook, Chapter 14, pg. 130.

## **Design Classes**

Eligible for Award of Design Excellence

Four entries per class

Use of fresh, dried and/or treated dried plant material allowed

Committee provides staging panel (30" W x 40" W) and square underlay (30"), placed on platform 33" H, painted BM 435, Fresh Dew. Designers may not attach anything to staging panel, but may drape over panel.

### **Section A Quotes**

Eligible for Designer's Choice Award.

**Class 1: "Roads? Where we're going, we don't need roads."** Creative Line-Mass Design

**Class 2: "If you're going to build a time machine into a car, why not do it with some style?"** A Design

**Class 3: "So you're my Uncle Joey. Better get used to these bars, kid."** Parallel Design

### **Section B Memories**

Eligible for Designer's Choice Award.

**Class 4: The Clock Tower,** Traditional Line-Mass Design

**Class 5: Enchantment Under the Sea Dance,** Underwater Design

## **Class 6: Marty's Skateboard, A Design**

Draft as of April 14