

*The Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts and its Northern and  
Northeastern Districts Present*

# **Sing Me A Song**



At the Topsfield Fair Grounds  
Topsfield Fairgrounds 207 Boston Street, Route 1 North  
Topsfield, MA 01983

**An NGC Standard Flower Show  
October 2 – October 12, 2026**

Free and Open to the Public with admission to the Topsfield Fair

Member of:  
National Garden Clubs, Inc  
And New England Garden Clubs, Inc

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## COMMITTEE

|                                   |                                               |                                                  |
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| Design Entries –<br>SignUp Genius | Cathy Fochtman                                | lcfochtman@gmail.com                             |
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**Special thanks to the personnel of the Topsfield Fair!**

## GENERAL RULES

1. This Small Standard Flower conforms to the standards established by National Garden Clubs, Inc. (NGC). The Handbook For Flower Shows (HB) with revisions printed published in The National Gardener (online) magazine (TNG) is the authority for all issues not covered by the schedule, which is the Law of the Show. The most complete and current version can be found online at <https://gardenclub.org/sites/default/files/2025-07/fs-hanbook-2025.pdf>
2. Division I and Division II and are open to members of National Garden Clubs, Inc.
3. All exhibits must be the work of individual exhibitors.
4. Entry cards for horticulture will be available at the time of entry and at the Exhibitors meeting.
5. Entry dates for Horticultural and Design are Friday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, and Wednesday, October 7<sup>th</sup>. Entry times for Horticulture are from 7-9 am, for Design from 7-9 am. Designs must be completed by 9 am. Judging will begin at 10:00 am on both entry days.
6. An exhibitors' meeting will be held at the Fairgrounds in the Flower Building at 10:00 am on September 2, 2026
7. There must be an emphasis on FRESH plant material. Artificial plant material is not allowed in any division.
8. The General Chairman and the Classification Chairmen for each division are available during judging for possible consultation. They, along with the judges and clerks, are the only personnel allowed on the floor during judging.
9. **Before the exhibitor leaves the show area, the Classifications Chairmen for each Division checks for conformity of the schedule prior to judging.** Final determination of conformance is the judges' responsibility.
10. The decisions of the judges are final. Awards may be withheld if not merited. Judges are required to consider non-blue-ribbon winners for 90+point recognition.
11. Wild collected plants of species listed by the Massachusetts Natural Heritage Program may not be exhibited in Standard Flower Shows of the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts, Inc. or its member clubs. Cultivated plant material appearing on the list may be exhibited if the exhibitor provides a typed card noting that it has not been collected.
12. Plants listed in the Massachusetts Prohibited Plant List are not permitted in any Division. Full list found here <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massachusetts-prohibited-plant-list>
13. All entries from **Day 1** must be removed, 7 to 8 pm on Tuesday, October 6. Entries from **Day 2** must be removed on Tuesday, October 14 between 9 am and 2 pm. No designs will be allowed to be stored overnight in the Flower Barn.
14. The Committee, The Garden Club of Massachusetts, Inc. and The Topsfield Fair will endeavor to protect all exhibits but cannot be responsible for loss or damage to the Exhibitor's property.
15. In all Divisions, the Committee will provide staging. All staging is on a platform/riser 6" high from the barn floor.
16. Exhibitors are responsible for keeping their exhibit in good condition for the duration of the Show. An exhibit may be removed at the discretion of the Committee.
17. It is the Exhibitor's responsibility to find a replacement if unable to fulfill assignment.

# AWARDS

## The Standard System of Awarding is used in all divisions

- First Place (one – 90 points or above),
- Second Place (one – 85 points or above),
- Third Place (one – 80 points or above), and
- Honorable Mention (one or more – 75 points or above in each class). A design, if merited, may receive 90+ recognition. Above awards are judged by the scale of points in the Handbook For Flower Shows.

## Horticulture Division Top Exhibitor Awards

- **AWARD of MERIT** is offered to the highest scoring blue ribbon winner in Sections A, B, and C.
- **GROWER'S CHOICE AWARD** is offered to the highest scoring blue ribbon winner in Section D.
- **ARBOREAL AWARD** is offered to the highest scoring blue ribbon winner in Sections E and F.

## Horticulture Division Award

- **AWARD OF HORTICULTURAL EXCELLENCE** is offered to the highest scoring blue ribbon winner in the entire Horticulture Division for each entry date.

## Design Division Top Exhibitor Awards

All Design Division blue ribbon winners must score 95 points or more to be eligible. For complete requirements refer to the Handbook for Flower Shows.

- **DESIGNER'S CHOICE AWARD** is offered to the highest scoring blue ribbon winner in Classes 1, 2, and 3.
- **PETITE AWARD** is offered to the highest scoring blue ribbon winner in Classes 4, 5, and 6.
- **GEORGIA McHUGH AWARD:** A plaque given annually to the Novice with the highest point score in the Design Division at the Topsfield Fair. An exhibitor who has never won a blue ribbon in an NGC Standard Flower Show is considered a Novice. All classes are eligible. There will be one award given for both entry days.
- **PAULINE D BOWDEN AWARD:** The designer receiving the highest scoring Blue Ribbon Design for both entry dates using the scale of points will be eligible for the Pauline D. Bowden Award. All classes are eligible.

### Scale of Points for the Pauline D. Bowden Award

Design 40

Color Selection 25

Creativity 20

Distinction 15 **Total 100**

## Design Division Award

- **AWARD OF DESIGN EXCELLENCE:** is offered to the highest scoring blue ribbon winner in the entire Design Division for each entry date.

# DIVISION I: HORTICULTURE

## Horticulture Rules

1. The NGC Horticulture Policies are printed in the Handbook For Flower Shows (2025 Revision), Chapter 6, and the Horticulture Exhibiting and Judging Supplement.
2. The rules for a single species or container grown specimen are listed in the Handbook For Flower Shows (2025 Revision) and the Horticulture Exhibiting and Judging Supplement.
3. All exhibits must be fresh and grown by the Exhibitor for at least 90 days. Maximum length of a branch is 30” for Section E.
4. Exhibitors will submit their entries in their own appropriately sized, clean, colorless glass containers. Wedging material (small scale bubble wrap or plastic wrap) is permitted. Anchoring is not permitted.
5. Cut specimens should not have foliage below the water line.
6. Foliage plants may flower but should be exhibited as foliage plants if they are grown for their leaves.
7. Specimens with a class designation in the schedule may not be entered in the “any other worthy specimen class”.
8. The Classification Chairman and/or General Show Chairman are free to subdivide classes by color, form, size, cultivar, variety or other distinguishing characteristics.
9. In order to receive an NGC Top Exhibitor Award, the exhibitor must identify her/his entry by its binomial name or currently acceptable scientific designation.
10. Entry cards are to be filled out in advance, if possible. Cards are to be typed, or printed, using waterproof ink or pencil. Refer to the Handbook For Flower Shows (2025 Revision). Chapter 6, for a correctly filled out entry card.
11. Due to space limitations, exhibitors may be limited to a maximum of four entries at the discretion of the horticulture Chair. Exhibitors will be allowed to choose submitted entries if over the limit allowed.
12. Double potting is permitted but the inner pot must not be visible.
13. All entries must be approved for conformance to the schedule by a Classification Chairman before placement by the Committee.
14. Division I Exhibits are eligible for the Award of Horticulture Excellence. One award may be given, if merited, to the highest scoring exhibit with a score of 95 or more in the entire Horticultural Division.
15. Horticulture entries will be judged by the appropriate Scale of Points found in Chapter 14 of the Handbook For Flower Shows (2025 Revision).

# **DIVISION I: Horticulture**

## **Sing, Grow, Garden**

**Section A: “You Don’t Bring Me Flowers” by Barbara Streisand & Neil Diamond**

**Annuals - Cut specimen in bloom.**

**Eligible for Award of Merit**

Class 1: Helianthus annuus (sunflower)

Class 2: Tagetes (marigold)

Class 3: Zinnia

Class 4: Any other worthy specimen

**Section B: “Endless Love” by Lionel Richie & Diana Ross**

**Dahlia - Cut specimen in bloom, 1 stem with 1 set of leaves.**

**Eligible for Award of Merit**

Class 5: Dahlia, large and giant - diameter of bloom exceeds 8”

Class 6: Dahlia, medium – diameter of bloom 4” – 8”

Class 7: Dahlia, miniature – diameter of bloom less than 4”

**Section C: “Vegetables” by the Beach Boys**

**Vegetables - Specimens on a white paper plate (supplied by the Committee)**

**Eligible for Award of Merit**

Class 8: Capsicum (pepper) (3 specimens)

Class 9: Cucurbita (Squash) (Large specimens -1, small specimens – 3)

Class 10: Solanum (tomato) (3 specimens)

**Section D: “Just Me and My Plants” by Rocce Elliot**

**Container Plants - Container not to exceed 10” in diameter**

**Eligible for Grower’s Choice Award**

Class 11: One flowering plant

Class 12: One foliage plant – variegated leaves

Class 13: One foliage plant – non-variegated leaves.

**Section E – “Here Comes The Sun” by The Beatles**

**Woody Plants (Fall Foliage, Bloom or Berried) - Cut specimen, 1 branch, 30” or less**

**Eligible for Arboreal Award**

Class 14: Callicarpa (Beautyberry)

Class 15: Ilex verticillata

Class 16: Hydrangea

**Section F – “The Dreaming Tree” by Dave Matthews Band**

**Needled Evergreens - Cut specimen, 1 branch, 30” or less – will be staged on a peg board or lying flat**

**Eligible for Arboreal Award**

Class 17: Chamaecyparis (False Cypress)

Class 18: Juniperus

Class 19: Pinus

# DIVISION II: DESIGN

## Design Division Rules

1. Entries, the work of ONE exhibitor, are open to members of an NGC Club.
2. All entries are made through SignUp Genius <https://tinyurl.com/topsfield2026>
3. All designs must be completed in the show area or at home
4. The exhibitor is required to conform to the stated Class description and limitations of the Design Type if named in the class as stated in the Handbook for Flower Shows, Revised 2025, Chapter 7.
5. An entry card listing all plant material by Botanical name and common name, in the design must be given to and initialed by the Classification Chairman before the exhibitor leaves the show area. Exhibitors are encouraged to send in their plant material list the day before your entry date to Karen Brockelbank [karen.e.brockelbank@gmail.com](mailto:karen.e.brockelbank@gmail.com). The exhibitor need not grow plant material.
6. Fresh plant material may not ever be treated in any manner. Dried plant material may be treated.
7. Rules for Design Types are printed in the Handbook for Flower Shows, Revised 2025, Chapter 7.
8. Exhibitors are responsible for keeping their designs in good condition for the duration of the show.
9. If a designer is unable to fulfill their assignment, it is the designer's responsibility to find a replacement. Designs may not be a copy of a previously entered or judged entry in an NGC Flower Show.

**There are TWO entry dates** - Friday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> and Wednesday, October 7<sup>th</sup>

**Entry Day 1** - Friday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Design entries accepted from 7 - 9 am.

Horticulture entries accepted from 7 - 9 am.

Removal is October 6<sup>th</sup>, from 7 - 8 pm.

**Entry Day 2** - Wednesday, October 7<sup>th</sup>.

Design entries accepted from 7 - 9 am.

Horticulture entries accepted from 7 - 9 am.

Removal is October 13<sup>th</sup>, from 9 am - 2 pm.



## DIVISION II: DESIGN

### **Class 1: “Purple Rain” by Prince**

#### **Eligible for Designer’s Choice Award**

**Tubular Design** – A creative Design having dominant cylindrical forms throughout, composed of any material. Plant material and other optional components complete the design (HB, pg 77). Fresh and/dried plant material may be used. Staged on a black 17” square pedestal 37” tall, in front of a sage green wall.

### **Class 2: “La Vie en Rose” by Edith Piaf**

#### **Eligible for the Designer’s Choice Award**

**Angular Design** – A Creative Design emphasizing strong angles that may be acute, obtuse, reflex, right angles, or a combination of angles (HB, pg 73). Fresh and/or dried plant material may be used. Staged on a black 17” square pedestal 37” tall, in front of a sage green wall.

### **Class 3: “Here’s to the Farmer” by Luke Bryan**

#### **Eligible for the Designer’s Choice Award**

**Still Life Design** – A traditional grouping of functional and realistic objects and fresh plant and/or dried plant material with a theme (HB, pg 76). Staged on a 30” round table, 31” tall, in a sage green niche 40” wide, 35” deep, 5’ high. The committee will provide a floor length white tablecloth for the table. Underlays permitted.

### **Class 4: “Firework” by Katy Perry**

#### **Eligible for the Petite Award**

**A Petite American Traditional Mass Design** using all fresh plant material not to exceed 10” in any direction (HB, pg 71). Staged on a black 17” square pedestal, 37” tall. Underlay permitted.

### **Class 5: “Shake it Off” by Taylor Swift**

#### **Eligible for the Petite Award**

**A Multi-Rhythmic Design** – A creative design not to exceed 8” in any direction using fresh and/or dried plant material with emphasis on two (2) or more rhythms in the design with one (1) rhythm dominating (HB, pg 75). Staged on 16” wide white shelf placed on a table with a black tablecloth. The white shelf is 16”w x 96”l. Exhibitors will be allotted 24” x 16” space. Viewed at 45” height.

### **Class 6: “Imagine” by John Lennon**

#### **Eligible for the Petite Award**

**A Spatial Thrust Design** using fresh and/or dried plant material not to exceed 5” in any direction consisting of two (2) parallel placement of similar components (HB, pg 75). Staged on a 16” white shelf placed on a table with a black tablecloth. The white shelf is 16”w x 72”l. Exhibitors will be allotted 18”l x 16”w space. Viewed at 45” height.