

The Framingham Garden Club, Inc.

presents



A National Garden Club Standard Flower Show

SEPTEMBER
 **16** 2:00 -
4:00 PM

SEPTEMBER
 **17** 11:00 AM-6:00
PM

2026

**Village Hall on the Common, 2 Oak
St., Framingham, Massachusetts 01701**
Handicapped Accessible



**The Framingham Garden Club is a
member of Garden Club Federation of
Massachusetts and the Western and South
Central District of GCFM**



Free & Open To Public

Supported by the Framingham History Center & The Danforth Art Museum

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COMMITTEE

General Chairperson	Ruth Evans	508-523-6823
Horticulture Chairperson	Aparna Kumar	508-982-5576
Design Chairperson	Shannon Fitzpatrick	612-708-3167
Education Chairperson	Andrea Saari	508-380-2366
Schedule	Design & Horticulture Teams	
Staging	Marie Giorgetti	508-395-1721
	Aparna Kumar	508-982-5576
	Nancy Martin	508-868-8009
	Pam Keeney	516-375-7805
	Andrea Saari	508-380-2366
Entries Design	Betsy Szymczak	617-750-1422
Classification	Betsy Szymczak,	617-750-1422
	Pam Marold	508-877-3573
	Minal Akkad	508-9045321
	Shannon Fitzpatrick	612-708-3167
	Ruth Evans	508-523-6823
Horticulture Placement	Lianne Manzella	508-380-5814
Judges	Minal Akkad	508-904-5321
	Kathy Hoogeboom	508-740-2991
Clerks	Eileen Fialkow	774-270-0503
Graphics/Signage	Shannon Fitzpatrick	612-708-3167
	Sally Vetstein	508-561-7424
Awards	Nancy Martin	508-868-8009
Computers	Donna Nelson	774-777-1667
	Maria Chaput	508-259-6431
	Marie Giorgetti	508-395-1721
Publicity	Marilyn Hanley	774-279-0790
	Sally Vetstein	508-561-7424
Photography	Bob Evans	508-380-5396
Hospitality	Debbie Price	978-758-0711
	Suzanne Fioretti	508-454-2751
Hostesses	Jackie Kenney	508-904-6364
History Researchers	Meg Kelley	508-872-9167
	Jemie Micelli	508-626-2649
	Andy Taylor	508-380-7714
	Susan Whittaker	508-877-4663

GENERAL RULES

1. **“Rooted in History and Still Growing”** is an NGC Standard Flower Show and conforms to the standards established by National Garden Clubs, Inc. (NGC), published in *The Handbook for Flower Shows*, 2017 edition. The most complete and current version can be found online at [/https://gardenclub.org/sites/default/files/2025-07/fs-hanbook-2025.pdf](https://gardenclub.org/sites/default/files/2025-07/fs-hanbook-2025.pdf) and is the authority for all issues not covered by the Schedule, which is the law of the show.
2. All Divisions are open to all members of National Garden Clubs, Inc. Division I, Horticulture, is also open to any amateur grower.
3. Advance registration is required for Division II, Design, with the Entries Chair, Betsy Szymczak **via SignUP Genius** at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C044BA8AD2CA1F4CE9-63336819-flower>. Advance registration is required for Division III, Education, by contacting Andrea Saari, Education Chair, at fgc_andisaari@yahoo.com.
4. **ENTRY DATE:** Wednesday, September 16, 8:00– 9:30 am.
5. **REMOVAL DATE:** Friday, September 18, 10:00–11:00 am.
6. Judging will begin at 10:45 am on Wednesday, September 16.
7. An Exhibitors Meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m. **Monday, August 31** on Zoom. A link to join the meeting will be sent a few days in advance.
8. There must be an emphasis on FRESH plant material. No artificial plant material is permitted in any exhibit in any division. Fresh plant material may not be treated.
9. The General Chair and the Classification Chairs for each division are available during judging for possible consultations. They, along with the judges and clerks, are the only personnel allowed on the floor during judging.
10. The Classification Chairs for each division check exhibits for conformity to the schedule prior to judging. Final determination of conformance is the judges’ responsibility.
11. The decisions of the judges are final. Awards may be withheld if not merited.
12. Judges are required to consider non-blue-ribbon winners for 90+ point recognition.
13. Wild collected plants of species listed by the Massachusetts Natural Heritage program may not be used. Cultivated plant material appearing on the list may be used if the exhibitor provides a typed card noting that it was not wild collected.
14. Plants listed on the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources Prohibited Plant List <https://massnrc.org/mipag/invasive.htm> and <https://www.mass.gov/doc/printable-list-of-endangered-threatened-and-special-concern-species/download> may not be exhibited in this flower show.
15. In all Divisions, the Committee will provide staging unless otherwise noted in the schedule.
16. The Exhibitor is responsible for keeping his/her exhibit in good condition for the duration of the Show. An exhibit may be removed at the discretion of the Committee.
17. Plant materials and non-plant materials permitted and not permitted in the Design Division are listed in the *Handbook for Flower Shows*, 2017 Edition, Chapter 7.
18. It is the Exhibitor’s responsibility to find a replacement if unable to fulfill assignment.
19. The Framingham Garden Club, Inc., and the Framingham History Center will strive to assure the safety of all items after arrival and placement but are not responsible for any loss or damage to exhibits.
20. Each exhibitor is limited to one entry per class, except in the Horticulture Division where the exhibitor may make more than one entry per class if each is a different species, variety, cultivar, type, or color.

NGC STANDARD SYSTEM OF AWARDING

The NGC Standard System of Awards is used for all competitive judging and allows for the following awards in each class or sub-class: only one First Place (scoring 90 points or more, Blue Ribbon), only one Second Place (scoring 85 points or more, Red Ribbon), only one Third Place (scoring 80 points or more, Yellow Ribbon), and one or more Honorable Mention (scoring 75 points or more, White Ribbon).

AWARDS

HORTICULTURE DIVISION I

Division Award

Award of Horticultural Excellence—A rosette of green, blue and orange ribbons will be awarded to the highest scoring blue-ribbon exhibit, scoring 95 or more entered by an individual in the entire Horticulture Division.

All Horticulture Division blue ribbon winners must score 95 points or more to be eligible. Exhibit must be correctly named according to its binomial name or currently accepted scientific designation. For complete requirements, refer to HB pages 40-41. No minimum number of exhibits is required per class.

Section Awards

Award of Merit—A rosette of orange ribbons for the top scoring blue ribbon cut non-woody specimens, including vines. Entries in sections A,B,C,D,E and I are eligible.

Arboreal Award—A rosette of green ribbons for the top scoring blue ribbon cut or container-grown trees and/or shrub. Entries in Section F are eligible.

Grower's Choice Award—A rosette of dark green ribbons for the top scoring blue ribbon container-grown plants (single, multiple, self-multiple and combination plantings). Entries in sections G and H are eligible.

DESIGN DIVISION II

Division Award

Award of Design Excellence—A rosette of gold ribbons may be awarded to the highest scoring blue ribbon exhibit scoring 95 points or more in the entire Design Division entered by an individual. Winners of the Sections A, B, C, and D Awards are eligible.

Section Awards

Minimum of 3 classes per section, minimum of 4 entries per class.

Tricolor Award—A rosette of red, yellow, and blue ribbons. All plant material used must be fresh. Non-plant materials may be included. Section A is eligible.

Designer's Choice Award—A rosette of purple ribbons. Plant material used may be dried, treated and/or fresh. Section B is eligible.

Petite Award—A small rosette of blue and white ribbons. Plant material used may be fresh and/or dried. Offered to the most outstanding design in a show of otherwise full-sized designs. Section C is eligible.

Table Artistry Award—A rosette of burgundy ribbons. Plant material used may be fresh and/or dried. Section D is eligible.

EDUCATION DIVISION III

The Education Division blue ribbon winner must score 95 points or more to be eligible.

For complete requirements, refer to HB pages 43 – 44.

Educational Top Exhibitor Award—A rosette of brown and white ribbons. Plant material used may be fresh and/or dried. All exhibits in Division III are eligible.

SPECIAL AWARDS

The Novice Award—All entrants in Sections A, B,C, & D who have not previously won a blue ribbon in an NGC Flower Show are eligible. The award shall be decided by the entire judging panel. Recipients need not be a blue-ribbon winner. A rosette of burgundy ribbons.

The First Timer Award—Entrants in Division II, Sections A, B,C, & D entering a Standard Flower Show for the first time are eligible. Winner need not be a blue-ribbon winner. One award per section decided by the judging panel for each section. A small rosette of green ribbons.

DIVISION I: HORTICULTURE

HORTICULTURE DIVISION RULES

1. The NGC exhibit policies are printed in the *Handbook for Flower Shows* - Chapter 6 Exhibiting in the Horticulture Division (HB pg. 27). The most complete and current version can be found online at <https://gardenclub.org/sites/default/files/2025-07/fs-hanbook-2025.pdf>
2. Rules for single species cut or container-grown specimens are listed in the *Handbook for Flower Shows* or its supplement *Horticulture Exhibiting and Judging*.
3. All exhibits must have been growing by the exhibitor. All exhibits must be fresh.
4. Plant material must be in its natural state and may not be altered by application or treatment of oil, commercial shine products etc. that change the natural appearance. No wiring of specimens is permitted.
5. All plant material must have been in the possession of the exhibitor for no less than:

Annuals	30 days
Houseplants	90 days
Perennials	90 days
Bulbs	90 days
6. Only foliage and/or flowers naturally grown and still attached to the specimen are permitted in the Flower Show. Unattached foliage is never included with a cut bloom specimen.
7. The rules for single species cut or container grown specimens are listed in the *Handbook for Flower Shows* (HB pg. 27) or in its supplement: *Horticulture Exhibiting and Judging*.
8. In order to receive NGC Top Exhibitor Award, the exhibitor must identify his/her entry by its binomial name or currently acceptable scientific designation (Consult *Handbook for Flower Shows* Chapter 6, page 27).
9. Entry cards are to be filled out in advance if possible. Cards are to be printed or written in waterproof ink or in pencil. Refer to *Handbook for Flower Shows* Chapter 6, p. 57, for correctly filled out entry card. Cards are available from Horticulture Chair Aparna Kumar (aparnakum34@gmail.com).
10. Cut specimens should not have foliage below the waterline, except for *Gladiolus* (HB pg. 27).
11. 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 plants if they are grown for their leaves (HB pg. 27).
12. Specimens with a class designation in the schedule may not be entered in "Any Other Worthy Class" (HB pg. 27).
13. The Horticulture Classification Committee and/or General Show Chairman are free to subdivide classes by color, form, size, cultivar, variety, or other distinguishing characteristics. (HB pg. 27).
14. The scales of points for horticulture are located in Chapter 14 of the *Handbook for Flower Shows*.
15. Exhibitors provide clear, colorless containers and cotton wedging for cut specimens.
16. Double potting is allowed; inner pot must not be visible.

Rooted in History and Still Growing

DIVISION I- HORTICULTURE

"Always Growing"

Eligible for Award of Horticultural Excellence

Section A: "Nipmuc Nation"

Eligible for Award of Merit

Flowering Perennials: Cut specimen $\leq$ to 18"

Class 1: <i>Anemone japonica</i>	Japanese Anemone, fall-blooming
Class 2: <i>Monarda</i>	Bee Balm
Class 3: <i>Sedum</i>	Stonecrop
Class 4: <i>Solidago</i>	Goldenrod

Class 5: *Symphyotrichum* Fall-blooming Aster
Class 6: Any other worthy specimen

Section B: "City Hall Garden"

Eligible for Award of Merit

Flowering Annuals: Cut specimen $\leq$ to 18"

Class 7: *Celosia* Woolflower/Cockscomb
Class 8: *Cosmos* Cosmos
Class 9: *Tagetes* Marigold
Class 10: *Zinnia* Zinnia
Class 11: Any other worthy specimen

Section C: "Cushing Chapel Garden"

Eligible for Award of Merit

Dahlia: Cut specimen $\leq$ to 18"

Class 12: Dahlia with closed center and blossom $\geq$ to 6"
Class 13: Dahlia with closed center and blossom under 6"
Class 14: Dahlia with open center and blossom $\geq$ to 3"
Class 15: Dahlia with open center and blossom under 3"

Section D: "Sax Dam"

Eligible for Award of Merit

Foliage annual or perennial: Cut specimen $\leq$ to 18". One exception for Class 18 : $\leq$ to 30"

Class 16: *Heuchera* Coral Bells
Class 17: *Hosta* Plantain Lilies
Class 18: Ornamental grasses ($\leq$ to 30")
Class 19 *Plectranthus scutellarioides* Coleus
Class 20: Any other worthy specimen

Section E: "FGC Community Giving Garden"

Eligible for Award of Merit

Vegetables - Specimens will be placed on white paper plates supplied by the committee

Class 21: *Capsicum annum* (Hot Chili Pepper)
Class 22: *Capsicum annum* (Sweet Pepper)
Class 23: *Cucurbit* – (Winter Squash)
Class 24: *Solanum lycopersicum* (Tomato) cherry (3)
Class 25: *Solanum lycopersicum* (Tomato) – slicing
Class 26: Any other worthy specimen (if less than 1", must have 3)

Section F: "Callahan State Park"

Eligible for Arboreal Award

Shrubs and trees with flowers or berries

Class 27: *Hydrangea* $\leq$ to 18" Hydrangea
Class 28: *Rosa* $\leq$ to 18" Rose (single bud or spray with 2 open blooms and several buds)
Class 29: *Viburnum* < 30" Viburnum
Class 30: Other worthy specimen $\leq$ to 30"

Section G: "Nature's Pharmacy – Garden in the Woods"

Eligible for Growers Choice

Culinary herb grown in a container less than or equal to 6" in diameter.

- Class 31: *Petroselinum crispum* (Parsley)
- Class 32: *Salvia officinalis* (Sage)
- Class 33: *Salvia rosmarinus* (Rosemary)
- Class 34: Any other worthy specimen

Section H: “Nobscot Park”

Eligible for Growers Choice

Foliage - single plant grown in a container less than or equal to 6” in diameter..

- Class 35: *Begonia*
- Class 36: Cactus/succulent
- Class 37: Fern
- Class 38: Any other worthy specimen

Section I: “Stearn’s Farm”

FGC Member Challenge Class 39 - Eligible for Award of Merit.

Tagetes – Marigold - Cut specimen (≤ to 18”) grown from seedling provided by committee

Please use FGC Challenge Class SUG to reserve seedling. **Pick up on May 13.**

- Class 39: Member Challenge - *Tagetes* ‘Kees Orange’ (orange marigold)
- Class 40: Youth Challenge - *Tagetes* ‘Kees Orange’ (orange marigold)

Deadline for Section I Sign up: May 11, 2026,

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409054EA9AC23A0FF2-63085513-challenge>

DIVISION II DESIGN

DESIGN DIVISION RULES

1. The NGC Exhibit Policies are printed in the *Handbook for Flower Shows*, Chapter 7, Exhibiting in the Design Division, NGC Policies and Guidelines. The most complete and current version can be found online at <https://gardenclub.org/sites/default/files/2025-07/fs-hanbook-2025.pdf>
2. Advance registration with the Design Entries Chair, Betsy Szymczak, is required. via <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C044BA8AD2CA1F4CE9-63336819-flower>
3. Plant material and non-plant material permitted and not permitted in the Design Division are printed in the *Handbook for Flower Shows*, Chapter 7.
4. All plant material used in the design must be identified on a card provided by the exhibitor and included with the entry tag.
5. The Exhibitor is required to conform to the stated description and limitations of the Design Type if named as a class. Rules for Design Types, Advanced Design Types, Table Designs and Table Appointments are printed in the *Handbook for Flower Shows*, Chapter 7.
6. All Designs are judged by the Scale of Points listed in the *Handbook of Flower Shows*, p. 130.

Conformance

To type	7 points
To Schedule Requirements	7 points
Design Principles	48 points
Selection of Components	8 points
Organization of Components	8 points
Expression	8 points
Distinction	<u>14 points</u>
Total	100 points

1. Exhibitor may enter multiple classes within the Design Division, but only one (1) exhibit per class. The exhibit entered in competition must be the work of only one (1) exhibitor and that exhibitor's name must appear on the entry card.
2. If a designer is unable to fulfill the assignment, it is their responsibility to provide a substitute.
3. A single flower is not a design. Container-grown plants are fresh plant material and are permitted in the Design Division where appropriate, but they are never considered a floral design.
4. Religious symbols used in a design must be displayed in a respectful manner.
5. Designer is on his/her honor that the design entered has not been previously entered or judged in an NGC Flower Show.
6. The designer has freedom to choose traditional or creative style with any design listed unless restricted by the schedule.

Rooted in History and Still Growing
DIVISION II- DESIGN
"Always Proud"

Section A. "Pillars of the Community"

Eligible for the Tri-Color Award

Class 1: Christa McAuliffe

A Creative Vertical Line or Creative Vertical Line Mass Design of all fresh plant material staged on a 30" high pedestal with a white 18" round top in front of an off-white background.

Class 2: Meta Vaux Warrick Fuller

A Multi-rhythmic Design of all-fresh plant material staged on a white 30" high pedestal with a 19" round top in front of an off-white background.

Class 3: Henry Knox

A Low-Profile Design of all-fresh plant material staged on a white 15-1/2" high pedestal with a 16" wide x 36" long rectangular top to be viewed from all sides.

Section B. "Gems on the Common"

Eligible for the Designer's Choice Award

Class 4: The Framingham History Center

A Traditional Design of the American Colonial Style staged on a white 40" high pedestal with a 16" round top in front of an off-white background.

Class 5: The Danforth Museum

A Transparency Design staged on a white 40" high pedestal with a 15" round top in front of an off-white background.

Class 6: The Farmers' Market

A Still Life Design staged on a 40" high-top table with an 18" round top, covered by white cloth provided by committee, overlays permitted; in front of an off-white background. Produce may not be cut but must be in whole form.

Section C. "Framingham's Future"

Eligible for the Petite Award Alteration of staging is not permitted in Section C

Class 7: Framingham Public Library

A Creative Design using fresh and/or dried plant materials, including a book or quote, not to exceed 12" in any direction. The committee will provide a white "L" shaped 14" x 14" underlay and backdrop on shelf 40" high.

Class 8: Framingham State University

An Angular Design using fresh and/or dried plant materials, not to exceed 8" in any direction. The committee will provide a white, "L" shaped 12" x 12" underlay and backdrop placed on a shelf 40" high.

Class 9: The Framingham Heart Study

A Creative Design using fresh and/or dried plant materials, not to exceed 5" in any direction. The committee will provide a white "L" shaped 8" x 8" underlay and backdrop, on a 40" high shelf.

Section D. "Then and Now"

Eligible for the Table Artistry Award

Class 10: Remembering Framingham Baking Company's 109 Years. An Exhibition Table staged on one-half of a 6' table 30" high, 30" deep. Exhibitor must provide underlay and backboard not to exceed 40" in height.

Class 11: Chicken Soup from Gerard's Farm. A get-well tray no larger than 12" x 18" staged on one-fourth of a 72" round table, covered by a white cloth and divided into quadrants.

Class 12: Framingham's Rich Cultural Diversity. A celebratory table for two, reflecting one of Framingham's ethnic communities. One pre-registration each for Brazilian, Indian, Spanish speaking, Russian. Staged on a 34" square, 29" high table, table covering provided by exhibitor.

DIVISION III: EDUCATION

EDUCATION DIVISION RULES

1. Education Exhibits may be the work of more than one individual or organization unless a Student Judge, or an Accredited Judge is seeking exhibiting credit for preparing an educational exhibit.
2. An exhibit must occupy a minimum of eighteen (18) square feet of surface area.
3. Some plant material is required.
4. Advance registration with the Education Entries Chairperson, Andrea Saari, fgc_@yahoo.com, is required by August 1.
5. The Scale of Points for Education Exhibits is listed in the *Handbook for Flower Shows*, Chapter 14.

Rooted in History and Still Growing

DIVISION III: EDUCATION

"Always Learning"

Eligible for Educational Top Exhibitor Award

Exhibit 1. Green Therapy: Gardening for Mind, Body and Soul

Exhibit 2. The Power of Plants and Pollen

