

Southwest Florida & Lee County Fair Home Gardening & Horticulture

February 24 – March 6, 2022



Welcome to the Home Gardening and Horticulture Department! This Department is for Container Grown Ornamental Plants, Vegetable & Fruit Plants, and Citrus, Fruits, and Nuts.

The primary purpose of the Fair is to provide a place to display livestock, agriculture, crafts and the like. The Southwest Florida & Lee County Fair is a special annual event of limited duration, with a specific objective of providing thousands of attendees an educational and entertainment experience, serving a main audience of family and youth, in a safe, family-oriented environment.

If you, or your group would be interested in volunteering or performing a demonstration in the Horticulture Department, or if you have questions or suggestions concerning entries, please call the Fair Office at 239-543-8364.

Registration is FREE and open to residents of Charlotte, Collier, Desoto, Glades, Hendry and Lee Counties.

Quick Tips for entering a competition at the Fair:

- All entries will be made online at www.swflcfair.com , go to the Horticulture tab and click on the link. Don't wait till the last minute to enter. At 11:59 pm on the day of online registration, no one will be in the office to answer your phone call if you have trouble entering. Don't procrastinate, enter early!
- Print and/or read all the entry information provided before entering online. This information will aid you with the entry process and help to ensure you are entering the correct classes. Remember when you click "submit" at the end of the online entry process, you are agreeing that you have read, understand, and will abide by all rules and regulations found in the entry information.
- Take your time with the entry process. Double-check your typing to confirm that all the information you have entered is correct before moving on to the next step. The information entered here will be printed on the entry tags that will go on your work during the Fair. Please make sure your name, address, and email address are correct.
- When registering online, please don't hit "Check Out" until you are done with all of your entries and ready for the Fair to receive them. Once you check out you won't be able to make changes. Hit "Save Cart" to come back and enter or edit your entries later. However, you must "Check Out" before the deadline, or you will not be registered.

Registration and General Rule Information – Registration is FREE and open to residents of Charlotte, Collier, Desoto, Glades, Hendry and Lee Counties.

Entries should be made via online registration located at www.swflcfair.com. Online registration will close at **Midnight on Wednesday, February 16, 2022. Online registration is mandatory.** When registering online you are granting the Fair Association permission to use information about your entry at the Association's discretion without compensation or further approval. No exhibitor passes are given.

Entry Dates:

Wednesday, February 23rd Noon to 5pm

Release Date:

Sunday, March 6th 4pm – 7pm – **Entries may not be picked up until after 4pm**

Claim checks must be presented in order to claim items. The Fair Association is not responsible for and will dispose of any remaining articles not picked up by 2pm on Tuesday, March 9th. Please remember, items and ribbons will not be available until after 4pm on Sunday, March 7th. Premium monies will be mailed to exhibitor after close out of Fair.

General Rules applying to Home Gardening & Horticulture Department:

1. This Department is for home gardeners only – no business entries allowed.
2. This Department is for Container Grown Ornamental Plants, Vegetable & Fruit Plants, and Citrus, Fruits, and Nuts. Sale of exhibit item(s) is prohibited during the Fair.
3. Entries must be visibly free of insects.
4. Any item that does not meet the requirements will not be accepted. If an item is accepted as an oversight, it may later be disqualified and/or not judged or displayed.
5. Entries will be accepted at the Southwest Florida & Lee County Fairgrounds, inside the Lee Civic Center, on Wednesday, February 24, 2021 between the hours of 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm, with a limit of 3 items per Division.
6. All entries **must** be made via the online system, no registration accepted on drop off day. Online registration is required. (Note online registration closed Midnight on February
7. Entry items cannot be picked up without the claim check you receive when dropping off your item. The Fair Association is not responsible for and will dispose of any remaining articles not picked up by 2pm on Tuesday, March 9th. Please remember that items and ribbons will not be available for pickup after 4pm on Sunday, March 8th. Premium monies will be mailed to the exhibitor after the closeout of the Fair.
8. Each entry will be judged on its own merit using the Danish System of Judging. Judging is done by the most qualified judges available and their decision will be final. The name of the exhibitors are concealed during judging so that each entry will be judged fairly on its own merit. The entry of only one item in a division does not necessarily guarantee the top award for that entry.
9. All protests must be made in writing or by email to the Southwest Florida & Lee County Fair Association and mailed/emailed to: Fair Manager, 11831 Bayshore Rd, North Fort Myers, Florida, 33917 or fcrone@leeciviccenter.com
10. All Exhibits in this Department are under the management of the Fair Association. The Fair Association will take every precaution to protect exhibits, however the Association, it's Officers or Agents will not be responsible for accident, loss, or damage of any entry. The Fair Association reserves the right to display or not to display any time.

Volunteering and/or Demonstrations:

We would love to have you volunteer with us! If you, your hobby, arts or crafts group would be interested in volunteering or demonstrating Horticulture Department, or if you have questions or suggestions concerning entries, please contact the Fair Office at 239-543-8364. Volunteers will need to register online at www.swflcfair.com; or complete the Volunteer Request Form and submit it prior to the Fair beginning. All volunteers are required to have a background check.

2021 Horticulture Entry, Drop-Off and Pick-Up Calendar

2022 Dates	Time	Description
	8:00 am	Online Registration is mandatory and open. Register at www.swflcfair.com
Wed. Feb. 16 th	Midnight	Registration Closes
Wed. Feb. 23 rd	Noon – 5pm	Entry Drop-Off for this Department at Lee Civic Center
Sun. Mar. 6 th	4pm – 7pm	Pick-Up for all entries, premiums and ribbons (Must have claim check in order to pick up items)
Tues. Mar. 8 th	10am – 2pm	Final pick-up ends. All remaining items will be disposed of.

Entry Drop-Off is located on the Fairgrounds, inside the Lee Civic Center. Enter through the Main Gate on Bayshore Road and follow the signs.

Age Categories for all Divisions

Category I	Category II	Category III	Category IV
Junior Youth	Senior Youth	Adult	Senior Adult
6 to 12 years	13 to 20 years	21 to 64 years	65 and older

Premiums

Blue Ribbon - \$5.00 / Red Ribbon - \$3.00 / White Ribbon - \$2.00 / Red, White & Blue Participant Ribbon - .00

Best in Division - Blue Rosette \$6.00

Best of Show - All American Rosette - \$10.00

Horticulture - Green Thumb Award - .00 (one in each age category)

People's Choice - Purple Rosette - .00

ALL PREMIUMS WILL BE PAID BY CHECK AND MAILED TO THE EXHIBITOR FOLLOWING THE CLOSE OUT OF FAIR

Judging Standards, using the Danish System of Judging

1. Overall general appearance of item	25
2. Use, choice, difficulty & creative use of compatible materials	25
3. Attention to detail & craftsmanship	30
4. Appropriate presentation of item	10
5. Correctly completing exhibitor entry form with accurate information	<u>10</u>
	100

About the Danish System of Judging

The Danish System of Judging is based upon established standards of quality for each type of product. In this system each exhibit is judged according to how well it meets that standard rather than how it compares with other exhibits.

The judge evaluates whether the requirements have been met. Ribbons are awarded according to the degree that the exhibitor's project meets the standards. Also, in the Danish System, everyone whose work fulfils the minimum qualifications receives a ribbon.

"Excellent" Blue Ribbon Award - Exhibits that rank "Excellent meets the standards and fit well within the ability of most of the exhibitors." Excellent does not indicate perfection, but indicates a high degree of achievement toward the elements in the standards for the exhibits. \$5.00 Premium

"Good" Red Ribbon Award - Exhibits that rank "Good" in relation to the project standards or expected achievement. Red indicates good quality; however, there is room for improvement in the exhibit. \$3.00 Premium.

"Fair" White Ribbon Award - Exhibits that barely meet the product standards and need improvement. \$2.00 Premium.

"PARTICIPANT" Red, White & Blue Ribbon Award - no premium monies, does not meet judging standards, but is displayed. .00 Premium.

Best in Division - The very best of the exhibits. There is no limit to the number of Blue Rosettes awarded. Best of Show awards will be chosen from the Blue Rosette winning exhibits. \$6.00 Premium.

Best of Show - One "Best of Show" awarded in some areas of the Creative Living and Home Arts Department for both Youth and Adult. \$10.00 Premium.

People's Choice, Purple Rosette - This award is determined by votes from the public. .00 Premium

Green Thumb Award - This award is determined by Master Gardeners. .00 Premium

Horticulture

Registration is open to residents of Charlotte, Collier, DeSoto, Glades, Hendry and Lee Counties.
No entry fee required.

Entries:

Wednesday, February 23rd

12:00 pm - 5:00 pm – Plant entries in all Divisions accepted

Limit three (3) items per Division.

Please read General Rules and Division Rules

Registration

Pre-Registration is required, and located at www.swflcfair.com. Online registration will close at 4:30 pm on Wednesday, February 16th. Online registration will ensure your entry tags and forms will be completed and ready when you arrive with your articles. When registering you are granting the Fair Association's permission to use information about your entry at the Association's discretion without compensation or further approval.

Entries are under the Management of the Fair Association. Management will take every precaution to protect exhibits, however, the Association, it's Officers or Agents will not be responsible for accident, loss or damage of any entry. Management reserves the right to display or not display any item.

Entries Released:

Sunday, March 6th from 4pm – 7pm. Entries may not be picked up until after 4pm.

Claim Checks must be presented in order to claim items. The Association will not be responsible for and will dispose of any remaining articles not picked up by 2 pm on Tuesday, March 8th. Premium will be paid by check to the Exhibitor after the close out of the Fair.

Home Gardening & Horticulture Rules:

- All General Rules apply, see page 3.
- Limit of three (3) entries per Division.
- All plant material must be fresh and have been grown by the exhibitor.
- When entering, include plant species & if known, variety. Indicate how plant was grown: Seed (S), Graft (G), Cutting (C), Division (D).
- If your entry has to be watered, please include tray or saucer to prevent water drips. Entry MUST include WRITTEN watering instructions – on an index card - or your plants WILL NOT be watered.
- Invasive plants accepted only if grown in controlled containers. If not in controlled containers, they will not be judged or receive ribbons or premiums.

Standards for all Judging:

- A. Judging will be done on appearance and health of leaves, stems, and overall health. Also, if the plant is free from injury, is clean, and uniform in size, shape and color.
- B. Choice of container and planting medium – does the container chosen fit the plant.
- C. Does the plant have dead leaves, dry soil, dead flowers, etc.
- D. Is the overall presentation pleasing and appropriate for the plant you are exhibiting?
- E. Correctly completing exhibitor entry form with accurate information.

Container Grown Ornamental Plant Rules:

- The variety name, common & Latin, must be noted on the entry form.
- Only one plant type in a container, except Dish, Herb Garden or Terrariums.
- All entries must be clean, free from insects and diseases, and in good condition.
- If your entry has to be watered, please include tray or saucer to prevent water drips. Entry MUST include WRITTEN watering instructions – on an index card - or your plants WILL NOT be watered.

Division # & Description	Class	Item Type / Method	Specifics for Division
Division 1001 – Container Grown Ornamental Plants	A	Bonsai	
	B	Bromeliad or Air Plant	
	C	Dish Garden	List the plants
	D	Evasive Plants	
	E	Ferns	
	F	Florida Native Plants	From Outdoors – Foliage
	G	Florida Native Plants	From Outdoors – Flowering
	H	Geranium	Any color, must be in bloom
	I	Hanging Baskets	List the plants
	J	Herbs	
	K	Hydroponics	Plants grown in this manner
	L	Orchid	
	M	Rose	
	N	Succulent or Cactus Plant	Can be a group or 1 item
	O	Terrariums	List the plants
	P	Tropical Exotic Plants	

Vegetable & Fruit Plant Rules:

- The variety name is to be noted on the entry form.
- All entries must be clean, free from insects and diseases, and in good condition.
- If your entry has to be watered, please include tray or saucer to prevent water drips. Entry **MUST** include **WRITTEN** watering instructions – on an index card - or your plants **WILL NOT** be watered.
- One plant per container - except Herb Gardens.
- All entries must be displayed on an 8-inch or 9-inch paper plate, except for entries in pots.
- No glass, ceramic or plastic plates

Division # & Description	Class	Item Type / Method	Specifics for Division
Division 1002 –Vegetable & Fruit Plants	A	Vegetable	Eggplant, Broccoli, Squash, Zucchini, Cabbage, Lettuce, Spinach, Chard, etc.
	B	Herb Dish Garden	
	C	Herb Plant	
	D	Pepper Plant	
	E	Seedling/Propagation	Multiple plants in container
	F	Tomato	

Citrus, Fruits, and Nut Rules:

- Fruits entered in this category would be fruits that are not considered to be vegetables in any part of their growth, ie. Peaches, Oranges, Tangerines, Grapefruit, Nuts.
- Each entry must consist of two (2) examples of each fruit displayed. Exception to this rule, due to the size and nature of the display, are pumpkins, watermelons, etc.- need only one (1) example.
- Each entry must be of comparable size.
- All fruits must be displayed on sturdy 8-inch or 9-inch paper plate.
- **No** glass, ceramic or plastic plates accepted.
- All fruits entered must be cleaned, free from insects and diseases, and in good condition.
- One fruit may be cut and examined. Entries may be washed, but not waxed, oiled or polished with any additive. Entries may be removed at the discretion of the chairperson for reasons such as insects, etc. after judging.

Division # & Description	Class	Item Type / Method	Specifics for Division
Division 1003	A	Citrus	
	B	Fruit	
	C	Nuts	