

General Rules of the Show

Registration: Exhibitors shall register at the registration table. This is done beforehand by filling out the registration form and paying all of the fees. Set-up will be available until 11pm on Friday and resume on Saturday morning at 5:30 AM, but anyone needing to get in beforehand should contact Jo Jepsen, as special arrangements can be made. Jo's cell phone: 616-915-2806. Blooms should be in place at 8:30 AM with the judging beginning at 9:00 AM.

Grower Classification: There are four classes of growers for the Show.

Novice growers are growers who feel they have not yet gained sufficient experience to show as a Small, Middle, or Large Grower. This section is really designed for the dahlia grower who is beginning to exhibit. In any case, a grower may not exhibit in this section for more than 3 years. The novices must show all of their single-entry blooms in the Novice Section (classes 0001-9715). However, they are free to enter any of the multiple bloom classes as well as the Sponsorships & Memorial classes, and the Artistic Design & Photography sections.

Small Grower is one who has a garden with 60 AA-BB size dahlia plants or less.

Middle Grower is one who has 61 to 200 AA-BB dahlia plants.

Large Grower has 201 or more AA-BB dahlias. Those growers who use cloth/lath houses or are a commercial grower must enter in the Large Grower section.

Exhibition: The exhibitors must use the standard Midwest Dahlia Conference Show tags and correctly enter the proper section, the name of the dahlia, and its class. This is to be done in writing, using blue or black ink. On the bottom of the tag, the exhibitor's name is placed. This area is to be covered until such time as the judging has been completed. No entry shall be judged unless the tag is properly completed and readable.

Judges and exhibitors shall use the 2019 edition of the American Dahlia Society Classification and Handbook of Dahlias. All flowers for exhibition must be named varieties, except for seedlings. Those *named dahlias* that are not listed in the present or past Classification manuals of the ADS must be placed on the Classification Table. The Classification Committee will determine the class, and the tag will bear the mark of this Committee. The exhibitor is responsible for placing the bloom in the proper area. Seedlings must contain the proper numerical identification as outlined by the ADS. *Please do not use the Classification Table as a means of identifying an unknown dahlia.*

Wiring of stems or artificial support of stems or blooms above the container is prohibited. Oasis blocks and wedges that are above the rim of the container will be regarded as part of the container. Containers for the single and triple bloom categories are available from the WMDS and will be at the show. For large entries, the WMDS will have several containers on hand, but if the entry is particularly large, then the exhibitor may wish to bring his or her own. Containers not owned by the WMDS will be returned to the owner if at all possible. Floral foam will be supplied.

The blooms from the show will be given away free to the public at 4:30 PM on Sunday.

The exhibitor must have grown all specimen blooms except for the Artistic Design Section (T), Photography Section (V), and the ADS Bench. An exhibitor may place as many entries in a class as desired except as otherwise stated. Should an entry be found to be misplaced, it may be moved to the proper area. However, if the proper area has already been judged, the entry is not to be considered for judging. The judging teams will not go back and re-judge misplaced entries.

Judging: The judges may award a first, second, and third place ribbon in each class as they deem the entries deserve. No first need be given in any class, even in classes where a second or third are awarded. Blooms will be judged with no penalty or premium points for being oversize or undersize. When judging miniatures, miniature balls, poms, and mignon singles, judges should consider and may reward diminutiveness in a dahlia. Judges should reward those growers that use their horticultural skills to grow dahlias within the size range as classified. Only first place entries will be allowed on the Honor Table. The Show Management and the judges reserve the right to remove any unworthy entry.

Stems on single and multiple bloom entries must contain at least one pair of leaves above the container in order to be judged. This must be the initial pair that forms beneath the bloom. There is no height limitation to any entry. Fully double dahlias that exhibit a blown center (whether single or multiple bloom entries) are ineligible to be judged, except for Section T.

In judging AA-Micro sections, judges are to judge each color class, and from all the blue-ribbon entries in the section (ie. 0001-0015) pick the best of the section. This winner is then given a Special Award. Judges then select the section winners of the five other sections of that size group (ie. 0101-0115, 0201-0215, 0301-0315, 0401-0415, and 0501-0515). Finally, up to six section winners may be available for selecting the best bloom of the size category (ie AAs). This winner gets a second Special Award and goes to the Honor Table.

In all other sections (E-R) judges will judge to color class and then select the best entry of the blue-ribbon winners in that section. This entry is given a Special Award and sent to the Honor Table. If there is only one blue ribbon entry in a Section, that entry will be given a Special Award and will be sent to the Honor Table.

Judges will judge the three bloom entries from Section S in an identical fashion to the single entries in sections A-Micro.

In matters of judgment, the decisions of the judges shall be final. Protests will not be considered.

Awards: Monetary prizes are given to all entries on the Honor Table. In order to assure accuracy, the awards will be mailed or handed to the exhibitor a few days after the close of the Show.

Responsibility: The Show Management and Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park will not be responsible for the loss or damage to exhibits or personal property of the exhibitors, but will exercise the utmost care in the protection of all exhibits. No blooms may be removed from the Show except with the consent of the Show Chairman. All blooms shall become the property of the Show Management. All suitable exhibits will remain in place until close at 4:30 PM on Sunday.

Exhibition Sections

Section A: Novice Growers. A single bloom entry is required. The bloom is to be placed, with its completed tag, into its proper class (0001-9715). Judges will judge to color class. A Special Award is given to the Best Large Bloom (0001-3515) and the Best Small Bloom (4001-9715). Then the judges will pick the better of the two, give it a second Special Award, and take it to the Honor Table as the Best Novice Bloom. \$50 sponsored award.

Section B-1: Small Growers. A single bloom entry is required of sizes AA-BB. The Best AA, A, B, and BB blooms go to the Honor Table.

Section B-2: Middle Growers. A single bloom entry is required of sizes AA-BB. The Best AA, A, B, and BB blooms go to the Honor Table.

Section C: Large Growers. A single bloom entry is required of sizes AA-BB. The Best AA, A, B, and BB blooms go to the Honor Table.

The Honor Table judges will pick the King, Queen, Prince, and Princess of Show from the best AA-BB blooms of the Large, Middle, and Small Grower winners.

Section D: Single bloom entries of Miniature dahlias are entered here (4001-4515).
The Best Miniature bloom will go to the Honor Table.

Section E: Single bloom entries of Ball dahlias are entered here. (6001-6015)
The Best Ball bloom will go to the Honor Table. This is a sponsored award.

Section F: Single staged entries of Miniature Ball dahlias are entered here. (6101-6115)
The Best Miniature Ball is sent to the Honor Table.

Section G: Single entries of Pompon dahlias are entered here. (6201-6215)
The Best Pompon will go to the Honor Table.

Section H: Single entries of Stellar dahlias are entered here. (7001-7015)
The Best Stellar dahlia will be placed on the Honor Table.

Section I: Single staged blooms of Waterlily dahlias are entered here. (7301-7315)
The Best Waterlily will go to the Honor Table.

Section J: Single bloom entries of Fully Double Novelty dahlias are entered here. (7601-7615).
The Best Double Centered Novelty dahlia is placed on the Honor Table.

Section K: Single bloom entries of Peony dahlias are entered here. (8001-8015)
The Best Peony will go to the Honor Table.

Section L: Single staged blooms of Anemone dahlias are entered here. (8201-8215)
The Best Anemone will go to the Honor Table.

Section M: Single blooms of Open Centered Novelty dahlias are entered here. (8601-8615)
The Best Open Centered Novelty dahlia is placed on the Honor Table.

Section N: Single bloom entries of Collarette dahlias are entered here. (9001-9015)
The Best Collarette dahlia bloom will be sent to the Honor Table.

Section O-1: Single staged blooms of Orchid dahlias are entered here. (9201-9215)
The Best Orchid dahlia is sent to the Honor Table.

Section O-2: Single staged blooms of Orchette dahlias are entered here. (9401-9415)
The Best Orchette dahlia is sent to the Honor Table.

Section P: Single staged blooms of Single form dahlias are entered here. (9601-9615)
The Best Single dahlia is sent to the Honor Table.

Section Q: Single staged blooms of Mignon Single dahlias are entered here. (9701-9715)
The Best Mignon Single is sent to the Honor Table.

Section X: Single staged blooms of Micro size dahlias are entered here. This includes MST, MWL, MFD, MNX, MPE, MPE, MAN, MNO, MCO. The Best Micro from each form will be judged, and then the best overall Micro dahlia is sent to the Honor Table.

Section R: Multiple bloom entries are placed in this section. Any suitable container may be used, and it may have a handle if desired. The exhibit is to be viewed from the front. No non-dahlia foliage, wiring, or artificial materials may be used. All of the blooms must be of the same variety. The exhibit(s) must contain the following number of blooms according to classification:

R-1	AA-A	5 or more blooms
R-2	B	5 or more blooms
R-3	BB	5 or more blooms
R-4	Min; Ba; MBa	7 or more blooms
R-5	Pom; PE; AN; NO; CO; O; OT; S; MS; MC	7 or more blooms
R-6	Stellar; WL; NX	7 or more blooms

Judges will be evaluating the exhibits for proper staging of the blooms, considering height, balance, structure, and bloom placement. They will also consider individual size, shape, and facing of the blooms. Remember that each bloom must have its first pair of leaves present. Any or all of the other leaves may be removed in order to allow for proper staging and elimination of leaf crowding.

Each entry is to be judged to color class, and then the best entry in each of the R-1 to R-6 sections will be placed in the Court of Honor.

Section S: Three bloom entries from the same variety are exhibited here. The blooms will be judged by individual color class, identical to the judging procedure for single blooms. The best blooms from the following classes will be placed on the Honor Table: 3 AA, 3 A, 3 B, 3 BB, 3 Miniatures, 3 Balls, 3 Miniature Balls, 3 PomPons, 3 Stellars, 3 Waterlilies, 3 Novelty Doubles; 3 Peonies; 3 Anemones; 3 Novelty Open; 3 Collarettes; 3 Orchids; 3 Orchettes; 3 Singles; 3 Mignon Singles

Section T: Artistic Design

This section is sponsored by ADS

Rules and Regulations

The artistic design competition is open to all. Participants must register in advance by contacting Kathy Stevenson, 3543 Raven SW, Wyoming, MI 49509, 616-299-8182. Kastevenson2@aol.com. Registrations accepted through August 25, 2019. This deadline allows planning for adequate exhibition space. Contact Kathy with any questions.

1. Floral designs must be made by the exhibitor making the entry. Dahlias must predominate and be used in all designs. Do not use any artificial plant material. Flowers or other plant materials need not be grown by the exhibitor.

2. Containers and other materials used to create the design must be furnished by the exhibitor and marked with the owner's name (not in view). While all possible care will be taken, WMDS will not be responsible for any loss or damage
3. All entries must be in place by 9:00am on Saturday, August 31st. Entries may not be removed until the closing time, without the permission of the Show Chair. The exhibitor is responsible to remove the entry upon closing of the show.
4. First place winners in each class will compete for best overall Artistic Design of Show which will be placed on the Honor Table
5. Judged by National Garden Clubs Accredited Judges

An exhibitor may enter only one design in each class, but may enter more than one class.

Smitten with the Mitten, a tribute to Michigan

Class 1 Michigan Moto “If you seek a pleasant peninsula, look about you”

A creative design using 2 containers connecting in unity.

Class 2 A tribute to “Motown”

“It’s your thing” A design of your choice

Class 3 Summer in the Great Lake State

Arrangement containing water and/or beach summer theme

Class 4 Winter Wonderland in Michigan

Arrangement with white dahlias and winter theme

Class 5 “Fall” in love with the colors of Michigan

Arrangement with fall color dahlias and fall theme

Class 6 A Tribute to Meijer Gardens

A natural garden arrangement

Section U: Midwest Origination.

Sponsored by MI Dahlia Association

A three-bloom entry of any dahlia originated in the Midwest is required for this section. The best exhibit goes to the Honor Table.

Section V: Photography

1. Photos must be of the exhibitor's own work, and the images must be no older than the growing season of 2018.
2. All photographs must be **unmatted**, and no larger than 8x10 inches. More info on WMDS website.
3. The exhibitor is allowed no more than one image in each of the five classes.
4. Each image must have the name and address of the exhibitor and the class number placed on the back.
5. All images must feature the dahlia.
6. Images must be in place by 9:00 AM on Saturday, 31 August.
7. Judging will be conducted by prominent members of local photography clubs, each having judging experience.

Class 1 Single Blooms of a Dahlia. Petals may or may not extend beyond the edge of the picture. No animal life to be present in the images.

Class 2 Multiple Blooms of Dahlias. More than one dahlia must appear in the photo.

Class 3 Dahlia Gardens. Any dahlia garden with or without people.

Class 4 Kids and Critters. Dahlia pictures showing birds, insects, arachnids, and the like. Children may also be featured with dahlias.

Class 5 Darkroom Creativity. Dahlia photography using Photoshop or other software applications to enhance the image of a dahlia(s).

Photos may be collected @4pm Sunday, or become WMDS property. Pictures will not be returned.

Questions? Contact Rob Berger 616-481-7151

Section W: Originator Sponsorships and Memorial

Best entry of show	ADS Memorial award	\$200
Best Artistic Design	ADS Giant's	\$100

The 'Giants' are all those who have been growers/showers/mentors in the dahlia family, without whom we wouldn't be able to continue to share our love of the dahlia.

Best Stellar	ADS	\$50
Best Collarette	ADS	\$50
Best 3 bloom Midwest Origination	Midwest Dahlia conference	\$100
Best Single Michigan origination	Michigan Dahlia Association	\$100

This section honors those Michigan dahlia growers who have originated dahlias that have been registered by the ADS. This is an open section. A single bloom entry shall be required.

Best Bloomquist introduction on honor table	Paul Bloomquist	\$50
Best "Nellie's Rose"	Bud Ervin	\$100

in honor of his mother and aunt.

Best "Nellie and Winnie"	Bud Ervin	\$100
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In honor his mother and 100-year-old neighbor, who allows him to plant dahlias in her garden!

Best Boeke origination on Honor Table	Eugene Boeke Award	\$1,400
Best "Marcella Louise"	Jim Chuey & Harriet Chandler	\$100
Best "Carl"	Harriet Chandler & Jim Chuey	\$100
Best ball in honor of Harold Buxton	Richard and Nancy Peters	\$50
Best Novice AA/A bloom	Jo & Gary Jepsen	\$50
Best "Badger Twinkle"	Rusty and Anita Ritchie	\$50
Best Rock Run Origination in honor of the lifelong contributions of the Boyers and Wittrigs	Rusty and Anita Ritchie	\$50
Best "Parkland Rave"	Richard & Sue Lamberts	\$25
Best Waterlily	Alan and Hannah Fisher	\$100
Best Islander	Lil Eitniear	\$50

Flower of the Year: *Islander* (class 1105) has been selected by the WMDS. This will be a single bloom entry. Just place your entry in the respective 1105 class of Novice, Small, Middle, or Large Grower. The best from all four exhibitor sections will be placed on the Honor Table.

ADS Bench Evaluation: American Dahlia Society seedling must have 3 blooms for the entry. Show officials and exhibitors must read and adhere to the rules for entries and judging as printed in the current ADS Classification and Handbook of Dahlias. Those wishing to enter this area are asked to contact Rick Peters prior to the show.

Largest in Show: The single-entry bloom that has won a blue ribbon and has the greatest numerical value by multiplying the depth by the diameter is the largest bloom in the show. It will be placed on the Honor Table.

BEST ENTRY OF THE SHOW: Evaluating all the entries on the Honor Table, all judges at the Show will select the finest entry for this award. The method of deciding this award is a majority judges vote. The West Michigan Dahlia Society members have designated that the Best Entry of Show be granted the ADS Memorial Award with a \$200.00 prize.

Eugene Boeke Award: The Boeke Prize goes to a single Boeke origination winning a section award or higher. Winning an award for the best in an individual class is not sufficient to win the award. If there is more than one equal honor table winner then the cash award will be equally divided among the winners, *or* the highest- ranking bloom will receive the \$1,400.00 cash prize. Only Small, Middle and Large Grower blooms will be eligible

Sweepstakes and Awarding of Points

All growers are eligible. Points are awarded as follows:

	Sections A-Q	Section S	Sections R & T
First place	3	6	9
Second place	2	4	6
Third place	1	2	3
Special Awards	5	5	5

Best Entry of Show, Flower of the Year, Largest Bloom in Show, Best Midwest Origination, Best Arrangement, King, Queen, Prince, & Princess: 5 points each.

Court of Honor

King of Show	Best Entry of Show*
Queen of Show	<u>Small, Middle, and Large Grower</u>
Prince of Show	Best AA
Princess of Show	Best A
Best Miniature	Best B
Best 3 Miniature	Best BB
Best Ball*	Largest Bloom of Show
Best 3 Ball	Flower of the Year
Best Miniature Ball	Best Disc Novelty
Best 3 Miniature Ball	Best 3 Disc Novelty
Best Pom Pon	Best Collarette*
Best 3 Pom Pon	Best 3 Collarette
Best Stellar*	Best Orchid
Best 3 Stellar	Best 3 Orchid
Best Waterlily	Best Orchette
Best Single	Best 3 Orchette
Best 3 Waterlily	Best 3 Single
Best Double Novelty	Best Mignon Single
Best 3 Double Novelty	Best 3 Mignon Single
Best Peony	Best Midwest Origination
Best 3 Peony	Best Artistic Design of Show*
Best Anemone	Best Photograph of Show
Best 3 Anemones	Small Grower Sweepstakes
Best Micro	Middle Grower Sweepstakes
Best Novice bloom	Large Grower Sweepstakes
	Grand Sweepstakes

*Sponsored award