



Schedule of Rules

**94th CSDS Annual Show
September 19 & 20, 2026**

Hosted by
CENTRAL STATES DAHLIA SOCIETY

Chicago Botanic Garden
1000 Lake Cook Road
Glencoe, Illinois

revised 08/01/2026

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Please refer to this show schedule when completing entry tags.

For more information, contact CSDS Show Chair James Kassner at jkassner44@gmail.com

Schedule of Rules

Rules for Exhibitors

1. No fee will be charged for any entry.
2. All members and non-members may exhibit in this competition. To be eligible for a monetary award, the exhibitor must be a member of Central States Dahlia Society.
3. All bloom entries must be in place on the exhibition tables **before 9:45 a.m. the first day of the show**. Entries found to be placed in improper sections may be moved to the proper section in advance of judging.
4. Entry tags, furnished by society, must be filled in correctly to receive consideration of the judges. No tag should be altered. If tag information needs to be changed, use a new tag. Judges will be instructed to contact a show official if a tag has been altered.
5. Single blooms in Sections A, B, C, D, E, F1, F3, J, K, M, and X that are current year United States New Introductions must have a sticker (provided by CSDS) affixed by the exhibitor in the tag's upper right corner to be considered for this special Honor Table award.
6. An amateur exhibitor may exhibit in only one amateur section for single blooms A, B, C, D, S, and W. Exceptions: All exhibitors may enter disseminated blooms in Sections I, J, K and M. All exhibitors may enter disseminated and undisseminated dahlia blooms (see Definitions) in Sections E, F, G, H, R, V, X, and Y.
7. "Cloth Enclosure" (see Definitions) growers may not exhibit blooms in Sections A, B, C, D, S, and W. If an exhibitor has a cloth enclosure, all AA, A, B, and BB sized blooms must be

exhibited in the section(s) provided for dahlias grown under cloth.

8. The number of dahlia "hills" (see Definitions) planted at the initial time of planting determines the section the exhibitor shall enter. Dahlias lost during the growing season cannot be deducted to gain admittance to a lower section.
9. Any number of entries may be made by an exhibitor in any class in the Section(s) in which he or she is entitled to exhibit, **except in Section X, where no more than two (2) blooms per color are allowed for each form.** All blooms must have been grown by the exhibitor. Exception: Entries in classes devoted to arrangements for artistic effect or which are judged for artistry of design and not solely for perfection of bloom need not be grown by the exhibitor.
10. The use of artificial material to support dahlia stems, such as wire or cord, may subject an entry to disqualification.
11. Standard containers will be furnished for entries in classes for specimen blooms and Section Y. Exhibitors must furnish their own containers for Section R. Exhibitors may reserve containers for Section V entries from the Show Chair.
12. Trade exhibitors are to furnish all containers and accessories for staging their own exhibits and must make advance reservations with the Show Chair.
13. CSDS will not be responsible for loss or damage to exhibits or personal property of exhibitors but will exercise the utmost care for the protection of all exhibits. The Show Committee suggests that exhibitors supplying their own containers, etc. apply their names and addresses in an inconspicuous place.
14. All blooms are to become the property of CSDS, and none may be sold or given away during the show. No exhibits may be removed from the show, except with consent of Show Chair.

15. The Show Committee reserves the right to change or modify any rule(s) if deemed necessary.

16. Winners at this show must arrange to pick up awards at the Annual Awards Banquet or the first regular meeting following the Banquet.

Judging

17. Any entry considered unfit for exhibition may be excluded by the judges.
18. No blooms will be disqualified for being oversize or undersize. Judges will evaluate blooms based on their classification by the American Dahlia Society.
19. The decision of the judges shall be final unless the Show Chair requests a re-judging. Any exhibitor protest must be given to the Show Chair within two hours after judging and a deposit of five dollars (\$5.00) in cash shall be made with such protest. The deposit will be returned to the exhibitor making the protest if the Show Chair finds there has been an error in judging.

Classification

20. All dahlias except for those exhibited in Section R (Artistic Designs) shall be classified in accordance with the current American Dahlia Society's *Classification and Handbook of Dahlias* or the latest edition of the *Composite Listing of Dahlias* using the 4-digit classification system.
21. Any non-ADS entries shall be referred to the CSDS Classification Committee for classification prior to judging. When given a classification, the entry tag of such entry(s) must show the initials of the Classification Committee member. Judges shall be instructed to disqualify such entries when entry tags are not signed by a Classification Committee member.

22. **NEW:** Each exhibitor is limited to six (6) non-ADS entries. **Non-ADS entries** are defined as cultivars not found in the current or the composite ADS *Classification and Handbook of Dahlias* (CHD). This includes any named varieties (whether well-known or unfamiliar, disseminated or undisseminated) that are not in the CHD, a variety with an unknown name, a variety received that differed from what was ordered, and all unnamed seedlings not in the CHD. This limit does not apply to blooms in Sections N, O, P, R, and Y. **If an exhibitor wants to bring more than six (6) seedlings** to exhibit in sections other than N, O, and P, please contact the Show Chair.

23. All entries must be properly named or may be subject to disqualification. A fictitious name or incorrect name may disqualify an entry at the discretion of the Show Chair. Show tags must be completed using the current American Dahlia Society classification system.

Ribbon Awards, Certificates, and Calculating Sweepstakes Winners

24. In all classes, a Blue Ribbon will be awarded to first place, a Red Ribbon will be awarded to second place, and a Yellow Ribbon will be awarded to third place. In the single bloom Sections A, B, C, D, E, S, and W, a certificate will be awarded to the most perfect of each form type. These certificate winners* will compete for most perfect of size in each section. The Largest and Most Perfect in size will be considered Honor Table blooms and will qualify to compete for Largest, Best of Size, and Best of Show.

*For Sections S and W, only exemplary blooms may be moved by a senior judge to the Honor Table for further competition.

25. In all cases, only Blue Ribbon winning blooms may receive consideration for Honor Table Awards.

26. No first-place award need be given for the judges to award a second place. If the judges consider a sole entry to be suitable, a first-place award may be given.

27. For all Sweepstakes except Section V, each first place will count as three (3) points, each second place will count as two (2) points and each third place will count as one (1) point.

For Sections A, B, C, D, E, S, and W, an additional three (3) points will be awarded for the largest A or AA bloom, the most perfect AA, A, B and BB blooms from the Blue Ribbon winners in each section.

For Section G sweepstakes, an additional three (3) points will be awarded to the winner of G7.

For Section H sweepstakes, an additional three (3) points will be awarded to each winner of H15 - H17. **NEW:** Starting in 2026, sweepstakes for G and H are no longer combined.

For Section Q sweepstakes, an additional three (3) points will be awarded for Best Image in Show.

For Section V sweepstakes, points will be allocated as follows:

	1st	2nd	3rd
5 Blooms (V3, V6, V9, V21)	4	3	2
10 Blooms (V2, V5, V8, V20)	5	4	3
20 Blooms (V1, V4, V7, V19)	6	5	4
All Others (V10 – V18)	3	2	1

For Section X sweepstakes, an additional three (3) points will be awarded to each winner of X21 – X24.

If a tie occurs for Sweepstakes, the exhibitor with the greatest number of Blue Ribbons in that section will be declared the winner. If a tie still exists, the exhibitor with the greatest number of Red Ribbons will be the winner.

Definitions

Amateur: An amateur dahlia exhibitor is an individual who raises dahlias for pleasure and does not regularly employ professional help to care for them from planting until digging time. An amateur may sell surplus dahlia tubers or plants without jeopardizing his or her amateur standing, providing he or she sells their surplus only.

Novice: A novice is an individual who is new to exhibiting dahlias in competition. Additionally, to qualify as a novice, the exhibitor may not grow more than 60 AA, A, B, and BB dahlias.

Cloth Enclosure: A “Cloth Enclosure” as referred to in this schedule, is a framework to which is attached or suspended, shade material which covers the top and all or part of the sides.

Hill: A “hill” of dahlias is a plant irrespective of the number of shoots growing directly from the ground. If planting two (2) plants to a stake, this counts as two (2) hills and not one (1).

Class: Four-digit classification number. See [Key to 4-Digit Classification Numbers Table](#) later in this booklet.

Disseminated Dahlias: Dahlias offered in commerce for purchase. See *ADS Classification and Handbook of Dahlias* for a more detailed definition.

Undisseminated Dahlias: Dahlias not marketed nor available to all growers.

Any Other Type: Refers to Stellar (ST), Micro Stellar (MST), Water Lily (WL), Micro Water Lily (MWL), Novelty Double (NX), Micro Novelty Double (MNX), Peony (PE), Micro Peony (MPE), Anemone (AN), Micro Anemone (MAN), Novelty Open (NO), Micro Novelty Open (MNO), Collarette (CO), Micro Collarette (MCO), Orchid (O), Micro Orchid (MO), Orchette (OT), Micro Orchette (MOT), Single (S), Mignon Single (MS)

Specimen Bloom Sections

Refer to the current *ADS Classification and Handbook of Dahlias* for dahlia classification numbers. Refer to the latest *ADS Composite Listing of Dahlias* for cultivars not listed in the current *Classification and Handbook of Dahlias*. Any dahlia not listed in these publications must be classified by the Classification Committee before being placed in the show.

For more information see the current *ADS Classification and Handbook of Dahlias*.

Key to 4-Digit Classification Numbers

Sized Dahlias			
Size	1 st #	Form	2 nd #
AA	0	FD	0
A	1	ID	1
B	2	SC	2
BB	3	C	3
M	4	IC	4
MC	5	LC	5

Color	
Color	Last 2 #s
White	01
Yellow	02
Orange	03
Pink	04
Dark Pink	05
Red	06
Dark Red	07
Lavender	08
Purple / Black	09
Light Blend	10
Bronze	11
Flame	12
Dark Blend	13
Variegated	14
Bicolor	15

Other Forms	
Form	First 2 #s
BA	60
MB	61
P	62
ST	70
MST	71
WL	73
MWL	74
NX	76
MNX	77
PE	80
MPE	81
AN	82
MAN	83
NO	86
MNO	87
CO	90
MCO	91
O	92
MO	93
OT	94
MOT	95
S	96
MS	97

Sections A – E: Single Blooms AA – BB

Sections A through D are for single bloom entries by Amateurs growing the designated number of “hills” of AA, A, B, and BB sized dahlias. Any other size or type of dahlia grown in the exhibitor’s garden may be excluded when counting hills. Section E is open to all exhibitors. Growers with “Cloth Enclosures” are required to enter this section. Seedling and undisseminated dahlia blooms shall be entered in Section E.

Section A - E Definitions

Section A: Amateurs growing from 1 to 30 hills at the time of planting. Dahlias entered in this section must be disseminated.

Section B: Amateurs growing from 31 to 60 hills at the time of planting. Dahlias entered in this section must be disseminated.

Section C: Amateurs growing from 61 to 120 hills at the time of planting. Dahlias entered in this section must be disseminated.

Section D: Amateurs growing 120 or more hills at the time of planting. Dahlias entered in this section must be disseminated.

Section E: Open to all exhibitors. Growers with “Cloth Enclosures” are required to enter this section. Disseminated, undisseminated and seedling dahlia blooms may be entered.

Awards for Sections A through E

The following blooms will win a Certificate for each Section A – E.

Most Perfect AA FD
Most Perfect AA ID
Most Perfect AA SC
Most Perfect AA C
Most Perfect AA IC
Most Perfect AA LC

Most Perfect A FD
Most Perfect A ID
Most Perfect A SC
Most Perfect A C
Most Perfect A IC
Most Perfect A LC

Most Perfect B FD
Most Perfect B ID
Most Perfect B SC
Most Perfect B C
Most Perfect B IC
Most Perfect B LC

Most Perfect BB FD
Most Perfect BB ID
Most Perfect BB SC
Most Perfect BB C
Most Perfect BB IC
Most Perfect BB LC

Sweepstakes winners for Sections A through E will receive a cash award. The Runner-ups will receive a medal.

Honor Table Awards for Sections A through E

The following blooms will win a cash award for each Section A through E. They will be displayed on the Honor Table.

Most Perfect AA
Most Perfect A
Most Perfect B
Most Perfect BB
Largest Bloom

Section F: Micros

Open to all exhibitors. Disseminated and undisseminated dahlias **under 2"** in diameter. Undisseminated dahlias must be classified before being placed in this section.

Blooms may be entered as a single bloom or three (3) blooms of the same variety to be shown in one container. **Small containers will be provided, and blooms must be staged in these for best effect.**

Note: Pompons and Mignon Singles are excluded as they have their own sections in this schedule.

Awards for Section F

The following blooms will win a Certificate for single bloom and triple blooms.

Fully double:

Most Perfect Micro FD
Most Perfect Micro ID
Most Perfect Micro SC
Most Perfect Micro C
Most Perfect Micro IC
Most Perfect Micro Stellar
Most Perfect Micro Waterlily
Most Perfect Micro Novelty Fully Double

Open:

Most Perfect Micro Peony Type
Most Perfect Micro Anemone Type
Most Perfect Micro Novelty Open Center
Most Perfect Micro Collarette
Most Perfect Micro Orchid Type
Most Perfect Micro Orchette Type

Honor Table Awards for Section F

The following blooms will win a cash award. These Honor Table winners will remain in place.

F1 Most Perfect Micro Fully Double Single Bloom
F2 Most Perfect Micro Fully Double 3 Bloom
F3 Most Perfect Micro Open Center Single Bloom
F4 Most Perfect Micro Open Center 3 Bloom entry

Section G: Three of a Kind Miniatures

Open to all exhibitors, three (3) blooms of the same miniature variety to be shown in one container. Disseminated, undisseminated and seedling blooms may be entered.

Awards for Section G

The following blooms will win a cash award.

- G1 Three Most Perfect Miniature FD Blooms
- G2 Three Most Perfect Miniature ID Blooms
- G3 Three Most Perfect Miniature SC Blooms
- G4 Three Most Perfect Miniature C Blooms
- G5 Three Most Perfect Miniature IC Blooms
- G6 Three Most Perfect Miniature LC Blooms

Honor Table Awards for Section G

The following will win a cash award and will be displayed on the Honor Table.

- G7 Three Most Perfect Miniature Blooms

Sweepstakes winner for Section G will receive a cash award. The Runner-up will receive a medal.

Section H: Three of a Kind Balls, Miniature Balls, Poms, and Other

Balls, Miniature Balls, Poms, and all other dahlias with American Dahlia Classification numbers 6001 through 9715 **except Micro Dahlias** (which are exhibited in Section F). Open to all exhibitors, three (3) blooms of the same variety to be shown in one container with no buds allowed. Disseminated, undisseminated and seedling blooms may be entered.

Awards for Section H

The following blooms will win a cash award.

- H1 Three Most Perfect Ball Blooms
- H2 Three Most Perfect Miniature Ball Blooms
- H3 Three Most Perfect Pom Blooms
- H4 Three Most Perfect Stellar Blooms
- H5 Three Most Perfect Waterlily Blooms
- H6 Three Most Perfect Novelty Fully Double Blooms
- H7 Three Most Perfect Peony Type Blooms
- H8 Three Most Perfect Anemone Blooms
- H9 Three Most Perfect Novelty Open Center Blooms
- H10 Three Most Perfect Collarette Blooms
- H11 Three Most Perfect Orchid Type Blooms
- H12 Three Most Perfect Orchette Type Blooms
- H13 Three Most Perfect Single Blooms
- H14 Three Most Perfect Mignon Single Blooms

Honor Table Awards for Section H

The following blooms will win a cash award. These Honor Table winners will remain in place.

- H15 Three Most Perfect Ball, Miniature Ball or Pom Blooms (selected from H1 – H3)
- H16 Three Most Perfect Other Fully Double Blooms (selected from H4 – H6)
- H17 Three Most Perfect Other Open Center Blooms (selected from H7 - H14)

Sweepstakes winner for Section H will receive a cash award. The Runner-up will receive a medal.

Section I: Three of a Kind AA - BB

Open to all exhibitors, blooms may be grown in the open or within shade cloth enclosures. All entries must be from one variety of disseminated dahlias staged in one container.

Honor Table Awards for Section I

The most perfect 3 bloom entry in each category will win a cash award. These Honor Table winners will remain in place.

- I1 3 Most Perfect AA Blooms
- I2 3 Most Perfect A Blooms
- I3 3 Most Perfect B Blooms
- I4 3 Most Perfect BB Blooms

Section J: Six Single Bloom Entries of Different Varieties

Open to all exhibitors. Blooms may be grown in the open or within cloth enclosures. Any color or formation may be entered, but there must be six (6) different disseminated varieties staged in separate containers.

Honor Table Awards for Section J

The most perfect six-bloom entry in each category will win a cash award. These Honor Table winners will remain in place.

- J1 6 Most Perfect Different AA or A Blooms
- J2 6 Most Perfect Different B Blooms
- J3 6 Most Perfect Different BB Blooms

Section K: Ten Single Bloom Entries of Different Varieties

Open to all exhibitors. Blooms may be grown in the open or within cloth enclosures. Any color or formation may be entered, but there must be ten (10) different disseminated varieties staged in separate containers.

Honor Table Awards for Section K

The most perfect ten-bloom entry in each category will win a cash award. These Honor Table winners will remain in place.

- K1 10 Most Perfect Different AA or A Blooms
- K2 10 Most Perfect Different B Blooms
- K3 10 Most Perfect Different BB Blooms

Section M: Four Formations

Open to all exhibitors. Blooms must be from disseminated cultivars and may be grown in the open or in a cloth enclosure. Each entry must consist of four (4) of the six (6) forms: FD, ID, SC, C, IC, or LC and be staged in separate containers.

Honor Table Awards for Section M

The most perfect four-bloom entry in each category will win a cash award. These Honor Table winners will remain in place.

- M1 4 Most Perfect Different Forms AA or A Blooms
- M2 4 Most Perfect Different Forms B Blooms
- M3 4 Most Perfect Different Forms BB Blooms

Additional Honor Table Awards for Section J, K, & M

The most perfect single AA, A, B, and BB blooms from Sections J, K, and M Blue Ribbon winners (four blooms total) will be awarded their own individual Blue Ribbon and taken to the Honor Table for consideration in the competition for Best in Size and Best in Show.

The largest bloom from Sections J, K, and M Blue Ribbon winners (1 bloom total) will be awarded its own individual Blue Ribbon and taken to the Honor Table for consideration for Largest Bloom in Show.

Blue Ribbon blooms from Section J, K, and M that are Current Year United States New Introductions (tag marked by exhibitor with special sticker) or an AA or A ID Dark Red Bloom should also be brought forward for additional consideration.

Section N: Seedlings One Year Old

This section is open to all exhibitors and is for dahlias grown from seed sown this year. One (1) bloom of each seedling to be entered. If the number and quality of entries in this section warrants, the Show Committee may subdivide the classes as to color prior to judging, but no subdivision of classes will be permitted by anyone other than the Show Committee.

Awards for Section N

Blue Ribbons will be awarded to entries judged worthy.

Section O: Seedlings Two Years Old

This section is open to all exhibitors and is for dahlias grown from seed sown last year. Two (2) blooms of each seedling to be entered.

Awards for Section O

Blue Ribbons will be awarded to entries judged worthy.

Section P: American Dahlia Society Seedling Bench Evaluation

Offered in cooperation with the American Dahlia Society. This section is open to all exhibitors. A new variety becomes eligible for evaluation in its third year. Entries consist of three blooms of the same variety. Exhibitors, show officials, and judges must adhere to the Seedling Bench Evaluation Procedures & Rules printed in the current ADS *Classification and Handbook of Dahlias*. Please email James Kassner at jkassner44@gmail.com to register.

Awards for Section P

All entries scoring above 85 will receive the ADS Seedling Award Ribbon. The highest scoring dahlia seedling in Section P will be awarded the ADS Achievement Award and the CSDS Edward Schoenlau Memorial Medal.

Section Q: Photography Competition

Section Q Classes

- Q1 Single Bloom
- Q2 Multiple Bloom
- Q3 Close-up Views
- Q4 Black and White
- Q5 Dahlias in the Garden (may include people and critters)
- Q6 Artistic/Creative Expression

Section Q Rules

1. Open to all photographers. Images must have been taken in 2025 or 2026 and must not have been submitted at a previous CSDS Show.
2. **Maximum of two printed images per class.** The same image may not be submitted to multiple classes.
3. **All entries must be mounted on an 11" x 14" mat provided by the entrant.** The size of the photograph will be the photographer's choice. No glass, plastic or clips are allowed.
4. The entrant's name and address (or email address) must be clearly visible on the rear side of the matting of each entry, along with the class in which the photo is being submitted. In addition, the entrant must complete a standard CSDS entry tag properly identifying the class and attach it to each entry. The tag must be folded closed to conceal the name of the exhibitor. Official entry tags and string for attaching the tags will be available at the venue.
5. A table for receipt of entries will be available at the show venue starting Friday, September 18, 2026. All entries must be brought to the photography exhibit table, labeled, tagged, and **ready for display no later than 8:00 a.m.** on the show's opening day on Saturday, September 19, 2026. (Please note: this cut-off time is earlier to allow for proper set-up.)

6. Images may be edited for basic adjustments including but not limited to brightness, contrast, sharpness, color adjustment.
7. Image manipulation, distortion, or other modifications shall only be allowed in Class Q6: Artistic/Creative Expression.
8. AI-generated images such as those created by text prompts are prohibited in all categories.
9. Photographs will be judged on content, composition, creativity, quality of subject, and overall photographic excellence.
10. Ownership of the images' copyright are retained by the entrant, but CSDS and ADS may post images of entries on their websites and publications.
11. All entries must remain in exhibition until close of the show. Entrants must claim their photos at the show's closing or make his/her own arrangements for return. Unclaimed photos become the property of CSDS and may be archived, sold, or used for any purpose deemed appropriate by its officers. CSDS / ADS is not responsible for lost or damaged entries.

Awards for Section Q

Judges will award 1st, 2nd and 3rd place ribbons in each photography class. The best image in each photography class will win a cash award.

From the six blue ribbon winners, the judges will choose the overall Best Image in Show. This entry will win an additional cash award and will be displayed on the Honor Table.

Sweepstakes winner for Section Q will receive a cash award. The Runner-up will receive a medal.

Section R: Artistic Design

Theme: America the Beautiful

Class 1. For Spacious Skies

Use a blue background and blue underlay for your design.

Class 2. From Sea to Shining Sea

A design with water showing on two sides. This may be achieved with the design in the middle of a large bowl or multiple containers placed near each other. **Must use actual water.**

Class 3. Above the Fruited Plain

A design incorporating one or more pieces of real fruit. **Fake fruit not allowed.** Fruit should not be cut as it might attract insects.

Class 4. Amber Waves of Grain

A design featuring yellow or gold or bronze dahlias and incorporating some type of grass. **Must be real grass, not artificial grass.**

Section R Rules

1. If you intend to enter this competition, please notify Rosemarie Magura at ramagura@comcast.net or text at 847-849-0843.
2. DEADLINE for registration is **September 1**. We ask that you adhere to this deadline so we can make provision for adequate exhibition space at the show.
3. All classes are open to any individual. Only one entry in a class may be made. Artistic designs must be made by the exhibitor. Plant material in this section need not be grown by the exhibitor.
4. All entries shall include at least one dahlia, which need not be identified. However, the dahlia is the queen of the design.

Other plant material may be permitted as indicated in each class. Accessories are permitted in all classes. No artificial plant material shall be allowed. **Fresh material shall not be treated (paint, glitter, or any other objects on the fresh flower or foliage.)** Treatment of dried materials is allowed.

5. Properties furnished by the exhibitor should be marked with the owner's name (not in view). Neither Central States Dahlia Society, Garden Clubs of Illinois, nor the Chicago Botanic Garden will be responsible for loss or damage. However, every care will be taken.
6. Dahlias for arrangements will be made available by Central States Dahlia Society. Tables will be furnished. Each regular design gets half of a six-foot table. Height is unlimited. All other materials will be supplied by the exhibitor. Behind the design is a plastic and wood Japanese inspired Shoji screen. Backgrounds and underlays are permitted because they cover up the design on the other side and any imperfection in the plastic of the screen.
7. Plant material on the *Illinois Threatened and Endangered Species* may not be used. Chicago Botanic Gardens is concerned about Boxwood Blight and requests no boxwood.
8. A 3" X 5" card of intent may accompany the entry. DO NOT put name or address on the front. The People's Choice Award is not chosen until the end of the show so we want the public to choose a design and not a person. You also need a 3x5 card stating what plants are in the design. You do not need Latin name or cultivar/variety names.
9. **Entries can be placed from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. on Saturday.** It will be possible to drop off an entry Friday afternoon. They must be checked by a show official before the exhibitor leaves the building. The exhibit shall be removed between 4:30 and 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, by the exhibitor. The societies named

above shall not be responsible for any exhibits left unless prior arrangements are made with the Show Chairman.

10. Judging will be according to accredited Garden Clubs of Illinois judges. The decision of the judges will be final.

Authority: *Handbook for Flower Shows*, 2017. Judging will begin at 9:45 a.m. on Saturday.

Awards for Section R

Judges will award 1st through 5th place across all the design classes. All five places will win a cash award.

“People’s Choice” winner will be selected by the public. All entries are eligible. People’s Choice will win a cash award.

Section S: Junior Competition

Open to anyone who was age sixteen or younger as of January 1 of the competition year.

Single bloom entries of AA, A, B and BB dahlias. Three same variety bloom entries of Miniatures, Ball, Miniature Ball, Poms, and Any Other Types in a single container. Only disseminated blooms may be entered.

Awards for Section S

The most perfect bloom for each size and form (see list under Section A – E) will win a Certificate for single blooms for AA-BB.

Additionally, the following blooms will win a cash award.

- | | |
|----|-----------------------------------|
| S1 | Junior Most Perfect AA Bloom |
| S2 | Junior Most Perfect A Bloom |
| S3 | Junior Most Perfect B Bloom |
| S4 | Junior Most Perfect BB Bloom |
| S5 | Junior Most Perfect 3-Bloom Entry |
| S6 | Junior Largest Bloom |

If a bloom is exemplary, the senior judge may move the bloom to the Honor Table.

Sweepstakes winner will receive a cash award. The Runner-up will receive a medal or other prize.

Section T: Containers

T1 - Any Type Dahlias Grown in Containers

Open to all exhibitors. Any type of dahlia grown in a container may be exhibited. An entry must be in bloom to receive consideration.

T2 - Border Type Dahlias Grown in Containers

Open to all exhibitors. Any border type of dahlia grown in a container with a top-rim diameter not to exceed approximately 12 inches. The ideal height of the plant should nominally be no greater than 24 inches above the container rim. Entries exceeding this height are subject to points deduction when being judged. All entries will be judged against each other based on the following criteria:

1. General health of the plant, including freedom from disease and insect damage.
2. Quality of bloom and foliage. The attributes of bloom form and color, foliage condition, and how well the blooms and foliage complement each other will be prime considerations.
3. Quantity of blooms in relation to the amount of foliage with a high proportion of bloom to foliage being desirable.
4. Overall appeal of the container dahlia from a distance of not less than 10 feet. The importance of the balance between the size,

form, and color of the plant and the size, form, and color of the container will be a primary consideration.

Awards for Section T

The best container entry in each category will win a cash award.

- T1 Most Perfect Any Type Dahlia Grown in a Container
- T2 Most Perfect Border Dahlia Grown in a Container

Section U: Dahlias Not to be Judged

For anyone who desires to show dahlias but not have them judged. The Show Chair must grant approval for these exhibits prior to show opening.

Section V: Multiple Bloom Entries of Same Variety

Open to all exhibitors. All blooms must be of the same variety, disseminated or undisseminated. No greens are allowed above the rim of the container except those attached naturally to the blooms. No other decorative material may be added to the entry. Exhibitors may use multiple containers if necessary.

Awards for Section V

The best multiple blooms of the same variety in each category will win a cash award.

- V1 20 Most Perfect AA or A Blooms
- V2 10 Most Perfect AA or A Blooms
- V3 5 Most Perfect AA or A Blooms
- V4 20 Most Perfect B Blooms
- V5 10 Most Perfect B Blooms
- V6 5 Most Perfect B Blooms

- V7 20 Most Perfect BB Blooms
- V8 10 Most Perfect BB Bloom
- V9 5 Most Perfect BB Bloom
- V10 20 Most Perfect Miniature Blooms
- V11 10 Most Perfect Miniature Blooms
- V12 5 Most Perfect Miniature Blooms
- V13 20 Most Perfect Ball, Miniature Ball, Pom Blooms
- V14 10 Most Perfect Ball, Miniature Ball, Pom Blooms
- V15 5 Most Perfect Ball, Miniature Ball, Pom Blooms
- V16 20 Most Perfect Blooms of Any Other Type
- V17 10 Most Perfect Blooms of Any Other Type
- V18 5 Most Perfect Blooms of Any Other Type

Honor Table Awards for Section V

The most perfect multiple-bloom entry in each category below will win a cash award. These Honor Table winners will remain in place.

- V19 20 Most Perfect Blooms AA – BB Entry
(selected from V1, V4, V7)
- V20 10 Most Perfect 10-Blooms AA – BB Entry
(selected from V2, V5, V8)
- V21 5 Most Perfect Blooms AA – BB Entry
(selected from V3, V6, V9)

Sweepstakes winner will receive a cash award. The Runner-up will receive a medal.

Section W: Novice Section

Open to novice exhibitors growing 1 to 60 hills of AA, A, B, and BB dahlias. Other sizes or forms of dahlias may be grown by a novice without penalty. Single bloom entries of disseminated AA, A, B, and BB blooms are to be exhibited. Multiple blooms of other sizes and forms may be entered in the other multiple bloom competitions found in this schedule.

Awards for Section W

The following blooms will win a Certificate.

Most Perfect Novice AA FD
Most Perfect Novice AA ID
Most Perfect Novice AA SC
Most Perfect Novice AA C
Most Perfect Novice AA IC
Most Perfect Novice AA LC

Most Perfect Novice B FD
Most Perfect Novice B ID
Most Perfect Novice B SC
Most Perfect Novice B C
Most Perfect Novice B IC
Most Perfect Novice B LC

Most Perfect Novice A FD
Most Perfect Novice A ID
Most Perfect Novice A SC
Most Perfect Novice A C
Most Perfect Novice A IC
Most Perfect Novice A LC

Most Perfect Novice BB FD
Most Perfect Novice BB ID
Most Perfect Novice BB SC
Most Perfect Novice BB C
Most Perfect Novice BB IC
Most Perfect Novice BB LC

Additionally, the following blooms will win a cash award.

Most Perfect Novice AA
Most Perfect Novice A
Most Perfect Novice B
Most Perfect Novice BB
Largest Novice Bloom

If a bloom is exemplary, the senior judge may move the bloom to the Honor Table.

Sweepstakes winner for Section W will receive a cash award. The Runner-up will receive a medal or other prize.

Section X: Single Bloom 4000-9715

This section is open to all competitors and is for single bloom disseminated and undisseminated dahlias which have passed review at the 2026 Show Classification Table or are classified from 4001 to 9715 in the ADS *Classification and Handbook of Dahlias*, **except Micro Dahlias, which are to be exhibited in Section F.** No more than two (2) entries per variety may be made in each Section X class by any one exhibitor.

Awards for Section X

The following blooms will win a cash award:

X1 Most Perfect Miniature FD Bloom
X2 Most Perfect Miniature ID Bloom
X3 Most Perfect Miniature SC Bloom
X4 Most Perfect Miniature C Bloom
X5 Most Perfect Miniature IC Bloom
X6 Most Perfect Miniature LC Bloom

X7 Most Perfect Ball
X8 Most Perfect Miniature Ball
X9 Most Perfect Pompon

X10 Most Perfect Stellar
X11 Most Perfect Waterlily Type
X12 Most Perfect Novelty Fully Double

X13 Most Perfect Peony Type
X14 Most Perfect Anemone Type
X15 Most Perfect Novelty Open Center
X16 Most Perfect Collarette
X17 Most Perfect Orchid Type
X18 Most Perfect Orchette Type
X19 Most Perfect Single
X20 Most Perfect Mignon Single

Honor Table Awards for Section X

The following blooms will win a cash award. These Honor Table winners will remain in place.

- X21 Most Perfect Miniature
(selected from X1 – X6)
- X22 Most Perfect Ball, Miniature Ball or Pom Bloom
(selected from X7 – X9)
- X23 Most Perfect Other Fully Double Blooms
(selected from X10 – X12)
- X24 Most Perfect Other Open Center Blooms
(selected from X13 – X20)

Sweepstakes winner for Section X will receive a cash award. The Runner-up will receive a medal.

Section Y: Market Bunch

Open to all competitors. A "dahlia market bunch" typically refers to a bundle of fresh cut dahlias sold by local farmers or growers at a farmer's or floral market. Dahlia market bunches are prized for their freshness, seasonal variety, for their sustainability and support of local agriculture.

Section Y Classes

- Y1 Similar color 5 stem bunch
- Y2 Mixed color 5 stem bunch

Section Y Rules

1. Use of wire and artificial means of supporting stems and/or blooms will disqualify entry.
2. Minimum stem length of 12".
3. Neatly bound with one rubber band at bottom for security.
4. No external wrapping material around bunch.

5. No additional fillers or flowers other than dahlias (leaves and buds attached to the stems are okay. The buds should add to the attraction, not distract).
6. Leaves may not touch the water in the vase.
7. Bunches must be displayed in vases provided by CSDS.
8. Fully double forms preferred as they are the market standard for best cut flower.
9. Disseminated and undisseminated varieties allowed.
10. Limit two entries per class.
11. All market bunches must remain in exhibition until close of the show.

Learn more about this new section and how a market bunch will be judged at <https://www.dahlia.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/05/Dahlia-Market-Bunch-presentation.pdf>

Awards for Section Y

Judges will award 1st, 2nd and 3rd place ribbons in each class. The Blue Ribbon winner in each market bunch class will win a cash award.

Special Annual Honor Table Awards

The following blooms will win a cash award. They will be displayed on the Honor Table.

Best of Show – The winning entry will be selected from all the Best of Size Court of Honor AA, A, B, and BB blooms. The winning bloom shall receive **CSDS's SUSTAINERS AWARD**.

Most Perfect AA Bloom in Show – Selected from the Court of Honor AA blooms from Sections A, B, C, D, E, J, K, and M. The winner will receive **CSDS's VISIONARIES AWARD**.

Most Perfect A Bloom in Show – Selected from the Court of Honor A blooms from Sections A, B, C, D, E, J, K, and M. The winner will receive **CSDS's BENEFACITOR'S AWARD**.

Most Perfect B Bloom in Show – Selected from the Court of Honor B blooms from Sections A, B, C, D, E, J, K, and M. The winner will receive **CSDS's FOUNDERS AWARD**.

Most Perfect BB Bloom in Show – Selected from the Court of Honor BB blooms from Sections A, B, C, D, E, J, K, and M. The winner will receive **CSDS's MENTORS AWARD**.

Largest Bloom in Show – Selected from the “Largest” Blue Ribbon blooms in Sections A, B, C, D, E, J, K, and M. Will be awarded the **Central States Dahlia Society Traveling Trophy**.

Best Current Year United States New Introduction – Selected from the Blue Ribbon single bloom entries in Sections A, B, C, D, E, F1, F3, J, K, M, and X. Blooms that qualify for this award must have a special sticker affixed by the competitor in the tag's upper right for easy identification.

Most Perfect AA or A ID Dark Red Bloom in Show – Historically CSDS's annual “Flower of the Year.” Selected from the Blue Ribbon blooms in Sections A, B, C, D, E, J, K, and M.

CSDS Presidential Challenge Award

This award is supported by CSDS President James Kassner and will be presented to the best single bloom entry of '**Baron Ron**'. For 2026, to be considered for this award, Baron Ron entries must be placed on a specified table rather than in Section X.

Frank Campise Memorial Award

This award will be given to the best single bloom entry of '**Kelvin Floodlight**' entered in A, B, C, D, E, J, K, and M.

CSDS Awards

All traveling trophies except the “Largest in Show” Traveling Trophy were retired to the archives of the Central States Dahlia Society in 1974.

SUSTAINERS AWARD

The Sustainers Award recognizes the members, past and present, who through their dedication, devotion and hard work have made it possible for the Society to succeed. These have been people willing to “roll up their sleeves” to get the job done. This award recognizes those members who have done what is necessary to sustain the Society.

VISIONARIES AWARD

Central States Dahlia Society owes much to the members who, over the years, recognized the need to move the organization to new heights. The Visionaries Award commends those members, past and present, who have been willing to present positive ideas for change. These people have been essential to our continued success.

BENEFACTORS AWARD

The Society's good fortune has resulted from the special generosity of its members. The Benefactors Award honors our members, past and present, who have gone beyond the basic financial requirements of membership to provide the Society with the extra funds necessary to perpetuate its purposes and programs.

FOUNDERS AWARD

The Founders Award recognizes those individuals without whom there would be no Central States Dahlia Society. They organized the society during the early 1930's. Their original intent was to form the "World's Fair Dahlia Society." They planned and developed a dahlia garden at the site of Chicago's two-year "Century of Progress World's Fair." From this beginning, the Society evolved into a thriving organization. It remains so today.

MENTORS AWARD

Providing instruction and information to new dahlia growers is key to the continued success of our society. The Mentors Award recognizes our experienced grower members, who give their valuable knowledge and time to assist people who are new to dahlias and to anyone seeking to learn more about our flower. There is no higher calling in our society than the willingness to promote the love of dahlias.

Largest in Show Traveling Trophy

Awarded to the Largest Bloom in Show. It is the recipient's responsibility to return the trophy before next year's show.

Edward Schoenlau Award

Central States Dahlia Society is pleased to honor one of its earliest members who contributed much to the success of its Annual Show and to the spreading of dahlia interest worldwide through the cover design of the society's past publication, *The Dahlia*.

Ed's imaginative cover designs depicted the hopes, troubles, and successes of the dahlia grower. They remain a joy to this day.

Ed Schoenlau joined Central States Dahlia Society in 1934. He designed the large emblem which was the focal point of the dahlia display by our society at the First International Horticultural Exposition in 1936. This original emblem still graces our show hall every year.

The official Central States Dahlia Society Medal is a miniature replica of this emblem. A silver version, honoring Ed, is awarded annually to the winner of the highest scoring seedling in the ADS Seedling Bench Evaluation Competition.

Frank Campise Memorial Award

Frank Campise was a mentor to everyone who wanted to learn more about growing dahlias. He often remarked, "Kelvin Floodlight was the dahlia that got me interested in growing dahlias." In recognition of his passion for this variety, CSDS's annual award for the **Best Kelvin Floodlight in Show** is presented in Frank's honor.

An electrician by trade, Frank was a gardener at heart, inspired by his love of flowers and remembered by all as a warm-hearted and genuinely kind person. During a period when the Society was rebuilding, Frank played a pivotal role in growing CSDS's membership. For several years, he meticulously maintained a public dahlia garden, where his Tuesday evening seminars became a favorite gathering place for gardeners of all experience levels. Many who attended those seminars—or simply visited the garden—joined the Society and remain active members today.

Frank's legacy extends far beyond the flowers he grew. He was known for his generosity, his memorable summer club picnics at his lakeside home, and, above all, his unwavering willingness to share his knowledge of dahlias. His enthusiasm, mentorship, and friendship continue to inspire our Society.

EXCHANGE AWARDS FROM OTHER SOCIETIES

Central States Dahlia Society extends sincere THANKS to the societies participating in the medal exchange program:

American Dahlia Society
Badger State Dahlia Society
Central West Dahlia Society of Australia
Dahlia Society of California
Dahlia Society of Wisconsin
Elkhart Dahlia Society
Inland Empire Dahlia Society
Lane County Dahlia Society
Michigan Dahlia Association
Midwest Dahlia Conference
Minnesota Dahlia Society
Portland Dahlia Society
Puget Sound Dahlia Association
Southeastern Michigan Dahlia Society
Southtown Dahlia Club
Tacoma Dahlia Society
Washington State Dahlia Society

2026 Show Committee

Show Co-Chairs	James Kassner, Sonia Harmon
Show Schedule	Sonia Harmon, James Kassner
Show Floor Layout	Mike Hartel, James Kassner
Show Set-Up	Tom Krewenka, Kevin Maloney
Judges and Clerks	James Kassner
Artistic Design	Lindalee Stuckey, Rosemarie Magura
Photography Competition	Jackie Myers
Classification Team Leaders	Marian and Jerry Landerholm
Show Recording	George Koons
Show Signage	Anne Allodi, James Kassner
Show Website	Carol Cichorski
Publicity and Social Media	Jenny Jones

Flower Tower and Centerpiece	Liz Cardella
Show Awards	Sonia Harmon, George Koons
Hospitality	Open
Volunteer Coordinator	Rosemarie Magura

Many thanks to the CSDS Volunteer Team for their support throughout the Show Weekend including Show Set-Up, Membership Table, Hospitality, Bloom Sale, and Show Breakdown.

CSDS Officers

President	James Kassner
First Vice President	Mike Hartel
Second Vice President	Linda Kudelka
Secretary	Lisa Soto
Treasurer	Sonia Harmon
Membership	Anne Allodi
Classification and ADS Representative	Marian Landerholm
Immediate Past President	Rosemarie Magura
Directors	George Koons (2026)
	Anne Koons (2026)
	Ted Magura (2027)
	Laura Matz (2027)
	David Groesch (2028)
	Jackie Myers (2028)

Contact CSDS officers at centralstatesdahliasociety@gmail.com

2026 CSDS Standing Committees

Hospitality	Open
Medal Exchange	James Kassner
News-Line Editor	Dana Clinkman
Publicity and Social Media	Jenny Jones
Sunshine Coordinator	Anne Koons
Website	Carol Cichorski

CSDS Life Members

S. McQuithy "Mac" Boyer	Roger Stevens
Dan Kaplan	Olga Szafranski
Marjorie Kaplan	Barbara Thiermann
Steve Kuiper	Jerry Wittrig
Corny Morgan	Ruth Ann Wittrig
Mary Stevens	Charmaine Wuestenfeld

Past CSDS Presidents and Major Shows Hosted 1932-2025

1932-1933	+ Robert Berlet
1934-1935	+ J. Louis Roberts
1936-1937	+ B.B. Meigaard
1938	+ F. L. Porrington
1939-1940	+ H.J. Blum
1941-1942	+ H.L. Franzen
1943	+ Dr. Stanley Tylman
1944	+ Leo D. Garis
1945-1946	+ Harold L. Cummings
1947-1948	+ David Radke
1949-1950	+ Fred A. Trauth
1951-1952	+ Lewis J. West
1953-1954	+ James E. Marsh
1955-1956	+ Frank C. Grosswiller
1957-1958	+ Bernard Wright
1959-1960	+ N.T. Brunswick
1961-1962	+ Mrs. Clara Grotheer
1963-1964	+ Elmer Andersen
1965-1966	+ Mary K. Wright

1965 Midwest Dahlia Conference

1967-1968	+ Henry A. Kloss
1969-1970	+ Gerald Pennington
1971-1972	+ Harold Brelig
1973-1974	+ Vincent Guasta

1973 First Combined ADS National & Midwest Dahlia Conference

1975	+ Alex Templeman
1976-1977	+ Orville Olson
1978-1979	+ Alfred Marro
1980-1981	+ Rolland Hein

1981 CSDS 50th Anniversary: Combined ADS National & Midwest Dahlia Conference

1982-1983	+ Irwin Sass
1984-1985	+ Russell LaCroix
1986-1987	+ Alfred Marro
1988-1989	+ Irwin Sass
1990-1991	+ Melvin Brandt
1992-1993	Jerry Landerholm
1994-1995	+ Melvin Brandt
1996	James Truelove

1996 Midwest Dahlia Conference

1997-1998	Marian Landerholm
1999-2000	+ Edward Soppi
2001-2002	+ Norman Hines
2003-2004	Daniel Kaplan
2005-2006	Cheryl Feldman
2007-2008	Marjorie Kaplan

2007 Combined ADS National & Midwest Dahlia Conference

2009-2010	+ Nancy Sidner
2011-2012	Henry Carlson

2011 Midwest Dahlia Conference

2013-2014	Michael Cichorski
2015-2016	James Kassner
2017-2018	Linda Kudelka

2017 Combined ADS National & Midwest Dahlia Conference

2019-2021	Rosemarie Magura
2022-2023	George Koons
2024-2025	Rosemarie Magura

2025 Combined ADS National & Midwest Dahlia Conference

+ Deceased

Notes