Flowers and Horticulture

Specimens and Indoor Plant Evaluation and Judging

Haddam Garden Club
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WHAT'S NEW?

Miniature Arrangements
We are pleased to introduce the "Jane Aldieri Award" for Best in Show Miniature Flower Arrangement in honor of Jane for the many years she managed the Flower & Horticulture Competition.

The size requirement of 6 inch-by-6 inch-by 6 inch will be ***strictly*** enforced. If your arrangement does not meet this requirement, it will not be eligible for competition in the category. You will be offered the option to compete in the Flower Arrangement category with your entry.

Policy on Use of Endangered and Invasive Plants
Plant material listed on the following websites is prohibited. Simplified lists of these materials may be found on the HNF & Haddam Garden Club websites.

> **https://cipwg.uconn.edu/invasive_plant_list**
>
> **https://portal.ct.gov/deep/endangered-species/endangered-species-listings/endangered-threatened---special-concern-plants**

Any entries containing flowers listed on these sites will automatically have 5 points deducted from the score.

COMPETITION CATEGORIES and GUIDELINES

Artificial foliage and artificial flowers are not permitted. Accessories are acceptable and floral material may be used for Flower Design and Garden Bouquet Classes only. All entries are comprised of two subclasses: Adult (A) Juniors (J) ages 15 and younger.

Flower Design, Miniatures and Garden Bouquet Class entries need to present color harmony, design balance & proportion, condition, how well the arrangement reflects the theme, distinction & originality, and construction. Any entry including flowers listed on the Invasive or Endangered lists will automatically have 5 points deducted for the entry score.

Fresh Flowers and Potted Plants are judged on cultural perfection, presentation, and condition.

Plants must be disease, insect, and dust free or cannot be accepted as an entry.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Flower Arrangement, Miniature and Garden Bouquet Classes

Award of Excellence – Perfect Score: 100 points

$10 Gift Card to a local nursery from Haddam Garden Club

Fresh Flowers and Potted Plants

Nature's Perfection – Perfect Score: 100 points

$10 Gift Card to a local nursery from Haddam Garden Club

Complete details on factors that will be judged are listed on the HNF and Haddam Garden Club websites. A list of common flowers in bloom at Labor Day, can also be found on the sites.

www.haddamneckfair.com
www.haddamgardenclub.org

DISPLAY

Covered tables and shelves for entries will be provided.

****The Haddam Neck Fair will make every effort to care for all exhibits but cannot be held responsible for damage.***

2026 Theme – *America 250!*

The Fair joins in the celebration of the 250th Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Our floral themes are inspired by key moments in our history and symbols of independence.

FLOWER DESIGN and GARDEN BOUQUET CLASSES

Prizes are awarded based on judges' points:

1st	Displays earning point values of 90 – 100	$5.00
2nd	Displays earning point values of 80 – 89	$3.00
3rd	Displays earning point values of 70 – 79	$2.00

Flower Arrangements

Best in Show *will receive the Chris Harris Award and $15, sponsored by the Haddam Garden Club.*

Class I ***America the Beautiful***

You may choose a literal interpretation of the song: grasses ("amber waves"), purple flowers and/or foliage ("purple mountains majesty") and fruits ("above the fruited plain"). Or you may prefer your own, very individual celebration of our beautiful country. Either is welcome.

Class II ***Victory Garden***

During wartime, gardeners eked out skimpy rations with home-grown produce. Flowers were included, not just because they are pretty, but because they are essential to attract pollinators, and, in fact, many were edible. A design incorporating both flowers and fresh vegetables honors the efforts of people on the homefront.

Class III ***Statue of Liberty***

Tall and our symbol of freedom! Use shades of green, and perhaps silver and white, to evoke the famous lady who stands on Liberty Island in New York Harbor.

Miniature Flower Arrangements

Best in Show *will receive the Jane Aldieri Award and $15, sponsored by the Haddam Garden Club*.

REMINDER: Your miniature entry, including the container and the tallest stems, should not be larger than 6 (six) inches in any direction.

Class MI ***Midnight Ride of Paul Revere***

According to legend, the dark night of the patriot's frantic ride was lit not only by the lanterns in the Old North Church—and remember, the signal was "Two if by sea"-- but also by a full moon. You're encouraged to use high contrast for your design. Dark flowers and foliage would be especially appropriate, but your own imaginative ideas are invited.

Class M2 ***Boston Tea Party***

In 1773, angry colonists hurled crates of tea into Boston Harbor. Create a mood of rebellion and chaos, or a cheerful teatime after the fight – your choice.

Class M3 ***Dawn's Early Light***

Choose from the rose-gold, blue, and pearly white colors and shapes of the early morning sky – images that inspired out National Anthem.

Garden Bouquets

Best in Show *will receive the Susan Rutty Award and $15, sponsored by Haddam Garden Club.*

Class A ***Star Spangled Banner***

Red, white & blue, of course, but that's only the beginning. Star-shaped flowers and suggestions of stripes will add to your score. Another way to create your 'flag' is to arrange your plant material to suggest star- or stripe shapes. That way, any flowers in the right colors can be included!

Flowers themselves need not be striped. Flowers that bloom on spikes, like gladiolus, snapdragons, and liatris can suggest stripes. So can ribbon-like grasses.

For ideas for striped flowers, start here:

https://www.urbangardengal.com/striped-flowers

https://www.backyardboss.net/striped-flowers-and-plants-you-should-grow-in-your-garden

For star-shaped flower ideas, start here:

https://simplybeyondherbs.com/start-shaped-flowers

Class B ***Colonial Kitchen***

A design incorporating a container or object that may have been found in a kitchen centuries ago, using some (not necessarily only) flowers and herbs.

Class C ***Fireworks***

Exuberant color & excitement.

HORTICULTURAL CLASSES

CONTAINERS

Exhibits must be displayed in containers. Please remember that judging includes presentation, which means the container is part of your entry. There will be a limited number of glass containers available at the check-in.

Prizes are awarded based on judges' points:

1st	Displays earning point values of 90 – 100	$3.00
2nd	Displays earning point values of 80 – 89	$2.00
3rd	Displays earning point values of 70 – 79	$1.00

We are unable to take specimens of those substances deemed controlled substances by the State of Connecticut and/or those restricted to those age 21 or over (i.e., Cannabis, Marijuana)

Unless otherwise specified, ***only one specimen*** may be entered per category.

FRESH FLOWERS

ADULT	*JUNIOR 15 & UNDER*	
101	**201**	Calendula – 3 blooms
102	**202**	Celosia (Cocks Comb)
103	**203**	Sedum – 1 spray
104	**204**	Cosmos – 1 spray
105	**205**	Marigold
106	**206**	Salvia
107	**207**	Snapdragon – 1 spike
108	**208**	Zinnia
109	**209**	Sunflower – 1 spray, each flower not to exceed 6”
110	**210**	Dahlia
111	**211**	Gladiola
112	**212**	Rose
113	**213**	Cone Flower (i.e., Echinacea)
114	**214**	Hydrangea
115	**215**	Rudbeckia (includes Black-Eyed Susans)
116	**216**	Any worthy annual, other than listed categories
117	**217**	Any worthy perennial, other than listed categories

POTTED PLANTS

ADULT	*JUNIOR 15 & UNDER*	
121	**221**	Succulents
122	**222**	Dish Garden
123	**223**	Bonsai
124	**224**	Topiary
125	**225**	Any Other Houseplants

HERBS

ADULT	*JUNIOR 15 & UNDER*	
126	**226**	Single potted herb
127	**227**	Collection of annual and/or perennial specimens