

West Carleton Garden Club
and Horticultural Society

2026 FLOWER SHOWS



RULES FOR ENTERING - GENERAL

- Show Chair: contact Gay MacQuarrie gardens.gay@outlook.com for any questions.
- Entries to be placed between 6:15 p.m. and 7:15 p.m.
- Entry tags are available when you sign in.
- For info on how to prepare entries, consult *Ontario Judging and Exhibiting Standards for Floral Design and Horticulture* (OJES), The Garden Clubs of Ontario; Ontario Horticultural Association, Second Edition, 2019. This show will be judged by an accredited OHA judge in accordance with this Show Schedule and OJES.
- Any harmful, poisonous or invasive plants, scarce, protected or endangered native plants exhibited either as a specimen or in a design will disqualify the entry. Refer to the Government of Ontario, Ministry of Natural Resources “Endangered Species Act” at www.ontario.ca/specimensatrisk.
- Members of the Show Committee can assist exhibitors in entry placement, however, once entries are placed, they cannot be moved prior to judging without the Exhibitor’s or the Show Chair’s permission.
- The Judge’s decision is final and the Judge may withhold a prize when exhibits are unworthy of a prize, i.e., if there is only one entry in a class, it is not placed 1st by default.
- While the judging is in process, no one shall be present except those in the Flower Show Committee.
- June Show Awards Trophy for “Best in Show” – Horticulture and a \$25 gift certificate from **Browns’ Your Independent Grocer Stittsville**
 Trophy for “Best in Show” Design
 Special Award for Highest Aggregate Points – Horticulture is a \$25 gift certificate from **Gemmell’s Garden Centre**
- September Show Award for Highest Aggregate Points – Horticulture is a \$25 gift certificate from **Browns’ Your Independent Grocer Stittsville**
- An End-of-Year Award is presented to the exhibitor with the highest aggregate points for the year (total two shows), as follows:
 - 1st = 5 points
 - 2nd = 3 points
 - 3rd = 2 points
 - Honourable Mention = 1 point,
 - Best in Show Horticulture (selected from 1st place entries) = 5 points
 - Best in Show Design (selected from 1st place entries) = 5 points
 - Judge’s Choice (need not be 1st place winner in a class) = 5 points

HORTICULTURE ENTRIES

- No more than two (2) entries are permitted per person per class provided each entry is a different cultivar. (Cultivar refers to different cultivated forms [or varieties] of the same species, e.g., Petunia “Happiness,” Petunia “Calypso,” and Petunia “Satin Lace” are three different cultivars.)
- All horticulture specimens must be grown by the exhibitor.
- All cut specimens are to be shown in clear glass provided by the exhibitor. Fruit and vegetable specimens must be displayed on a white (paper) plate. Plates provided.
- When a class calls for a certain number of blooms, stems, etc., the entry must not contain more or less.
- Any bud showing colour will be classified as a “bloom”.
- Unless otherwise specified, flowers should be shown with their own foliage attached.
- To enhance the educational component of the show, please name your specimen with the botanical and/or common name where possible.

DESIGN ENTRIES

- One entry per exhibitor per class in Design.
- Unless otherwise stated, foliage and floral material can be acquired from any source as it is the design ability of the exhibitor that is being judged.
- Novice Exhibitors are those who have never won a 1st place ribbon in each of the two consecutive years entering WCGC shows -- you will enter Novice ‘A’ classes.
- Advanced Exhibitors are those who have received a 1st place ribbon in each of the two consecutive years of showing at WCGC shows -- you will enter Advanced ‘B’ Classes.



→ Ontario Judging and Exhibiting Standards (2019, 160 pp.) is an excellent resource book created by the OHA. It details how to prepare your specimens for a show and how to organize a show. It also describes the different styles of floral design along with the elements of design to create interest in your floral arrangements. The book can be borrowed from WCGC or purchased for \$12 plus shipping by emailing supplies@gardenontario.org.

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SPRING FLOWER SHOW SCHEDULE



WHEN: June 9, 2026

Entries to be placed between
6:15 p.m. and 7:15 p.m.

WHERE: Carp Memorial Hall,
3739 Carp Road, Carp

THEME: “Everything’s Coming Up Roses”

DIVISION 1 – HORTICULTURE			
CLASS	SPECIMENS		
1	Allium	Same cultivar	3 stems
2	Clematis		1 bloom with own foliage attached
3	Coral Bells (Heuchera)	Same cultivar	3 stems
4	Dicentra (Bleeding Heart)		1 stem with foliage
5	Hemerocallis (Daylily)		1 scape
6	Iris, Bearded		1 stalk
7	Iris, Beardless	Same cultivar, e.g., Siberian, Japanese	3 stalks
8	Lupin		1 stem
9	Peony*		1 bloom
<i>*When showing Peonies, please remove side buds and all but the uppermost leaves</i>			
10	Rose	Such as Modern Shrub	1 spray
11	Flowering Branch	1 branch not to exceed 61 cm (24 in) above rim of container, must be named	
12	Collection of Perennials	Minimum 3 different cultivars, 1 stem of each in one container, named	
13	Perennial, A.O.C.	Any other cultivar not listed above	1 specimen stem

DIVISION 2 - DESIGN
“Everything’s Coming Up Roses”

NOVICE “A” Classes – A Novice has not received a 1st place ribbon in Design in each of the two preceding years of exhibiting.

CLASS	DESIGN	
14a	“Summer Solstice” NOVICE Exhibitors	A Transparency Design
14b	Same as above but for ADVANCED exhibitors	
15a	“Wedding Celebration” NOVICE Exhibitors	A design incorporating roses
15b	Same as above but for ADVANCED exhibitors	

DEFINITIONS

A.O.C. meaning “Any Other Cultivar” - i.e., a cultivar not already listed in its own Specimen Class in the Schedule.

Cultivar – Refers to different cultivated forms (or varieties) of the same species, e.g., Petunia “Happiness,” Petunia “Calypso,” and Petunia “Satin Lace” are three different cultivars.

Design – A combination of fresh and/or dried plant materials, with or without objects to create an artistic unit. A design may include container(s), base(s) and/or accessories. The designer uses the elements of design: space, line, form, colour, texture and pattern in the accepted principles of design: balance, rhythm, proportion, scale, contrast and dominance to interpret the theme and/or class and create a design of harmony and distinction.

Transparency Design – A design including a see-through material(s) that permits some components to be viewed through others. The see-through material(s) may be transparent, translucent, diaphanous, open grid or mesh, and may be plant, plant-based or man-made materials. Depth is emphasized by positioning some solid materials in front of and some behind the see-through material(s).



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**FALL FLOWER, FRUIT & VEGETABLE SHOW
SCHEDULE**

WHEN: September 8, 2026
Entries to be placed between 6:15 p.m. and 7:15 p.m.

WHERE: Carp Memorial Hall, 3739 Carp Road

THEME: “Hay Ride at the Orchard”

DIVISION 1 – HORTICULTURE		
CLASS	Section A – Annuals and Perennials	
1	Aster, perennial	1 spray
2	Chrysanthemum, perennial	1 spray
3	Cosmos, same cultivar	3 stems
4	Dahlia	1 bloom
5	Echinacea, same cultivar	3 blooms
6	Grass - Ornamental, same cultivar with or without seeds, named	3 stems or blades
7	Heuchera, same cultivar	3 leaves
8	Hosta, same cultivar	3 leaves
9	Hydrangea	1 bloom including set of uppermost leaves
10	Marigold, same cultivar	3 stems including foliage
11	Rudbeckia, same cultivar	3 stems
12	Zinnia, same cultivar	3 blooms
13	Collection of different annuals and/or biennials, A.O.C. not listed above, named in one container	Minimum 3 different cultivars, 1 stem of each
14	Collection of different perennials, A.O.C. not listed above, named in one container	Minimum 5 different cultivars, 1 stem of each
15	Collection of culinary herbs, named in one container, may include edible flowers	Minimum 5 different cultivars, 1 stem of each
16	Indoor Plant grown for foliage, no cachepot please	1 pot

CLASS	Section B – Fruit and Vegetables Specimens exhibited on a white plate - plates provided	
17	Garlic, same cultivar	3 bulbs
18	Tomato with calyx attached, same cultivar	3 of a kind
19	Squash, winter, e.g., Butternut, Acorn	1 specimen
20	Squash, summer, e.g., Zucchini, Patty Pan	3 of a kind
21	Any other cultivar (A.O.C.) vegetable or fruit not listed above	See OJES for quantity

DIVISION 2 – DESIGN “Hay Ride at the Orchard”		
NOVICE “A” Classes – A Novice has not received a 1 st place ribbon in Design in each of the two consecutive years of exhibiting.		
CLASS	Description	
22a	“Cocoa ‘round the Fire” NOVICE	A design in a mug
22b	Same as above, but for ADVANCED exhibitors	
23a	“Apple Picking” NOVICE	A design incorporating Apples and/or Crab Apples.
23b	Same as above, but for ADVANCED exhibitors	



TIPS FOR SHOWING SPECIMENS

Cut flowers in early morning on the day of the show or late evening the day before the show; immediately put in warm water and in a cool room out of direct sunlight.

Cut the stems again as entries are being prepared.

Use a clean, clear container (a food jar will do) that supports the stem(s) firmly with the bloom showing to its best advantage. Stems should be representative length of growth. If more than one stem, trim so each stem is the same length.

Make a final check of your entries regarding count, class and number.

TIPS FOR SHOWING DESIGNS

Is the plant material fresh and well-groomed? Are the mechanics unobtrusive?



As the designer, have you combined and organized the **ELEMENTS OF DESIGN** to form a complete artistic unit. Consider the following elements when arranging your design:

SPACE – Is the open area around and within a design. It is the background or the space between objects and is a crucial element in the composition, used to draw attention to the main subject and improve balance and visual hierarchy. The total space (which is three-dimensional) is the first element to be considered when planning a design, as it will influence the size, form and direction of the design. Consider the total space allowed, the other components and space(s) within the design including negative space or white space which is defined as the empty area around and between the subject(s) of an image or design.

LINE – Forms the structural framework of the design. It is the visual path along which the eye is led from one point of interest to another. As a primary foundation of all designs, it can convey interpretation, suggest a mood or an idea, etc. Line directions may be vertical, horizontal, diagonal and/or curved. Lines may be composed of linear material or created through the repetition of forms, sizes, textures and colours in a linear direction.

FORM – Is the three-dimensional shape of a design (height, width and depth) and may be open or closed. Each component used has a form of its own which may be linear, spherical, flat or compound. It is the placement of plant material in the design that achieves the three-dimensional shape.

COLOUR – Appeals to the visual sense and is often the most compelling element in a design. NOTE: warm colours such as yellow, orange, red with “advance” in your design and cool colours such as green, blue and violet tend to “recede” in a design.

TEXTURE – Is the visual and physical surface quality of plant material and objects. Texture appeals to sight and touch and is described as rough or smooth, coarse or fine, glossy or dull. Textures add interest, variety and contrast, thus avoiding monotony in a design.

PATTERN – Is the design formed by the repetition of solids, spaces, colour, shape and texture.

Have you considered the **PRINCIPLES OF DESIGN** when making your design? The principles of design are the basic standards used by the exhibitor to organize, define and evaluate the design, its elements and components as follows:

BALANCE – Does the design appear to lean forward, backward, sideways? Has it depth? Does visual weight on one side balance visual weight on the other? Does the base aid or disrupt the design’s balance? Is the balance *too perfect*, resulting in the design appearing *static*?

PROPORTION – Is the design too short, too tall, too wide or too deep for the available space or niche? Designs presented in a niche should, ideally, consume 2/3 of the niche space for the most visually pleasing use of the space. Do the number of colours, forms and textures used in the design balance?

SCALE – Are the plant forms too large or too small for the container? Paying attention to *scale* is particularly tricky when doing a Miniature Design.

RHYTHM – Are the points of interest well placed? Is there too much unrelated movement? Is the flow of the design interrupted? Is the colour spotty or is it imaginative, perhaps daring, or is it just “pretty”?

DOMINANCE – Is the focal area well defined? However, avoid a design with a “bull’s eye” (one flower) that interrupts the eye’s travelling “through” the design therefore giving the design *rhythm*.

CONTRAST – Is there variety, too much or too little (colour, texture, form)?

TIP – Viewing your design through a camera lens sometimes help you see more clearly whether your design is adhering to the principles of design.



Left: Joanne Douwes Proudfoot winner
Gemmell’s Garden Centre gift card for
Best Novice Design, September 2025

Right: Celina Bak winner
Ritchie Feed & Seed gift card for
Best Specimen, September 2025



Below: Reading Garden



Garden Ontario
KEEPING ONTARIO BEAUTIFUL
Photos by G. MacQuarrie