



## 2026 Guidelines for Entering Flower and Photography Shows



# Burlington Horticultural Society (BHS)

## 2026 Show Schedules

### Show Chairs

Connie Bijl    clbijl90@gmail.com

Marie Decker

mardecker12@gmail.com

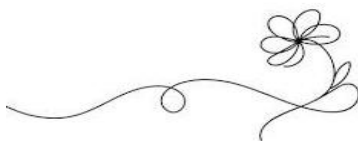
Location: Central Arena, 519 Drury Lane, Burlington, in conjunction with general meetings.

### General Flower Show Guidelines

1. The BHS Flower Shows follow the 2019 Ontario Judging & Exhibiting Standards for Floral Design & Horticulture (OJES). Judging will follow these standards.
2. Competition is open to all members of the Society.
3. **Entries must be placed in the show hall from 6:00 pm to 6:30 - pm.**
4. An entry card should accompany each exhibit. Entry cards are available from the show chairs.
5. Exhibitors will supply their own suitable containers for all exhibits.
6. Specimens should be named if possible. (Common names are acceptable but botanical (latin) and variety names help inform members and visitors.)
7. No invasive, threatened or endangered plant material is allowed on the show table in any exhibit. Any entry using such material will be disqualified. No Trilliums are allowed.
8. Due care will be taken of exhibitors' property, but the Society will not be responsible for any loss or damage.
9. The decision of the judge is final. An entry may not be given an award if the judge considers it lacks sufficient merit, even if it is the only entry in the class.

### Design Guidelines

1. All designs must be the work of the exhibitor.
2. Exhibitors may enter any number of design classes but may enter each class only once.
3. Plant material must be in water or remain turgid for the length of the show.
4. Accessories are permitted unless otherwise stated in the schedule, but they must not dominate.
5. Plant material must predominate except where stated in the schedule.
6. A minimal use of painted material is permitted, but no artificial plant material, soil, or cut fruit is allowed.
7. Plant-based material (paper, cardboard, fabric) is allowed, but, the design must contain some actual plant material; it may not be entirely made of plant-based material.
8. Unless otherwise stated, plant material may be obtained from any source.
9. Except for Miniature design, all designs will be displayed in a table space 60 cm (23.6 ") wide x 60 cm (23.6 ") deep, height unrestricted unless otherwise noted in the schedule.
10. Miniature designs will be displayed in a pale green niche 12.5 cm (5") high x 12.5 cm (5") wide x 7.5 cm (3") deep. A miniature design should fit comfortably in the niche and not crowd the space. (Definition OJES page 145.)



## Horticulture Guidelines

1. All specimens entered must be grown by the exhibitor.
2. Exhibitors may enter each class twice, but the cultivars must be different.
3. Entries must be shown with their own attached foliage only.
4. Potted plants must have been in the possession of the exhibitor for at least three months.
5. Exhibitors must adhere to a definite number, if requested in the schedule.
6. A bud showing colour is considered a bloom.
7. Wiring, tying or staking is not allowed in cut bloom classes but is permitted in potted plants.
8. Classes may be sub-divided at the discretion of the show chairs.

## Special Exhibits Guidelines

1. Entry rules follow horticulture rules except exhibitors are allowed only one entry per class.
2. All Special Exhibits will be displayed in a table space 60 cm (23.6 “) wide x 60 cm (23.6 “) deep, height unrestricted unless otherwise noted in the schedule.
3. Special exhibits are defined in OJES pages 118, 119, 151.
4. Special Exhibits are judged for both horticultural perfection and overall exhibit design.
5. Plants in a Special Exhibit should be chosen with similar cultural requirements, but with variations in colour, form, texture, etc., for visual effect.
6. Accessories are allowed only in the following Special Exhibits; *Dish Garden, Fairy Garden*.
7. All entries must be the work of the exhibitor.

## Photography Guidelines

1. Please note that the photography classes are the same as those designated for the Ontario Horticultural Association (OHA) convention in 2026.
2. Entries are limited to two per exhibitor in each class.
3. All entries must be the work of the exhibitor and must have been taken in Ontario in the last 24 months, unless otherwise stated.
4. Photographs must be 4” x 6” in size and mounted to 5” x 7”. Photographs must NOT be in frames.
5. No name, date, or title of any kind is permitted on the front side of the photograph.
6. All photographs should reflect the theme and MUST have some horticultural content.
7. Digital photographs taken with digital cameras, or still photos taken with a camcorder, may be manipulated (cropped, sharpened, colour adjusted, etc.) by digital means by the photographer.
8. If fewer than three entries are submitted for a class, the prizes will be awarded at the judge’s discretion based on merit.
9. A photograph may be submitted only once in a 24-month period.

### Judging Scale for photographs:

Horticultural value	40%
Photographic value	40%
Appearance and impact	20%



## Photography and Flower Show Schedules 2026

### Wednesday, March 11, 2026, Photography Show

Theme: "Give Your Imagination Free Rein"

*Please note these classes are the same as those for the 2026 OHA Convention in Oshawa.  
All BHS members are encouraged to enter both the BHS and the OHA photography shows.*

- Class 1 "A Winter Scene" - remembering last year's garden
- Class 2 "Still Waters" - reflections in water
- Class 3 "The Beauty of Decay" - photographer's interpretation
- Class 4 "Majestic Trees" - photographer's interpretation
- Class 5 "Leaves of a Different Shape (and Size)" - black and white
- Class 6 "Roadside Flowers" - time for a country drive
- Class 7 "In the Beginning" - germinating seeds (macro)
- Class 8 "Living City" - an urban planting

## Flower Show Schedules

### Wednesday, April 8, 2026

Demonstrations by Marie Decker and Connie Bijl:

- (i) Parallel Design (You can enter a parallel design in Class 3 "My Chosen Path" of the May 13 Show.)
- (ii) Special Exhibit - "Terrarium" (You can enter a terrarium in Class 6 of the June 10 show.)

### Wednesday, May 13, 2026

#### Design Division

Theme: "Our Journey"

- Class 1 "Day by Day" - a design
- Class 2 "It's too Hot" - a design
- Class 3 "My Chosen Path" - a parallel design
- Class 4 "Reach for the Sky" - a fresh miniature design in a niche
- Class 5 "On Butterfly Wings" - a dried miniature design in a niche (No fresh plant material allowed.)

#### Horticulture Division

- Class 6 Collection of spring flowers (no invasive *Scilla siberica*, *Siberian Squill*, allowed)
- Class 7 Iris - 1 scape
- Class 8 Muscari (*Grape Hyacinth*) - 3 stems (should be similar in size, colour and maturity)
- Class 9 Narcissus (*Daffodil*), trumpet, any colour - 1 stem (see OJES pages 88-89)
- Class 10 Narcissus (*Daffodil*), any other - 1 stem
- Class 11 Perennial, any - 1 stem
- Class 12 Tulipa (*Tulip*), species - any colour, - 1 stem (*Show with no more than two sets of leaves.*)
- Class 13 Tulipa (*Tulip*) single, any colour - 1 stem

Class 14 Tulipa (*Tulip*) any other - 1 stem

Class 15 Any Other Cultivar (AOC), not previously listed in the schedule - 1 stem or branch



June 10, 2026

### Design Division

Theme: "Life's Like That"

Class 1 "*High Rise Living*" - a design

Class 2 "*Art in Nature*" - choose a picture or photo and create a design to represent the picture.  
Display the picture beside or above the design.

Class 3 "*Balancing Act*" - a fresh miniature design in a niche

Class 4 "*Balancing Act*" - a dried miniature design in a niche. (No fresh plant material allowed.)

Class 5 "*Repurposed*" – a floral purse (The underlying structure need not be made of plant material.)

### Special Exhibits Division

Theme: "Life's Like That"

Class 6. "*Like Living in a Fish Bowl*" - a terrarium, no accessories allowed. See definition in glossary.

### Horticulture Division

Class 7 Allium, large blooming cultivar, (e.g., Purple Sensation) - 1 stem

Class 8 Annual, any - 1 stem

Class 9 Annual Collection, 3 different cultivars, named - 1 stem of each

Class 10 Hosta, any solid colour - 3 leaves, same cultivar (Leaves uniform in size, colour and shape.)

Class 11 Hosta, any variegated cultivar - 3 leaves, same cultivar (Leaves uniform in size, colour and shape.)

Class 12 Heuchera, Heucherella, or Tiarella - 3 leaves, same cultivar

Class 13 Paeonia (*Peony*), herbaceous, any colour - 1 stem (Must be shown disbudded.)

Class 14 Perennial, any - 1 stem

Class 15 Perennial Collection, 3 different cultivars, named - 1 stem of each

Class 16 Rosa (*Rose*), hybrid tea or grandiflora, any colour - 1 specimen bloom disbudded

Class 17 Rosa (*Rose*), floribunda or polyantha, any colour - 1 spray

Class 18 Rosa (*Rose*), shrub (including Austin), or climber, any colour - 1 specimen bloom disbudded or 1 spray

Class 19 Rosa (*Rose*), miniature, any colour - 1 specimen bloom disbudded or 1 spray

Class 20 Any Other Cultivar (AOC), not previously listed in the schedule - 1 stem or branch



Wednesday, September 9, 2026

Design Division

Theme: "Geometry in Nature"

- Class 1 "Going Around in Circles" - a synergistic design (see definition in glossary)
- Class 2 "*Bent Into Shape*" - a design
- Class 3 "*Curving Edges*" - a design
- Class 4 "*Squares and Cubes*" - a fresh small design
- Class 5 "*An Unexpected Twist*" - a dried miniature design

Horticulture Division

- Class 6 Annual, any - 1 stem
- Class 7 Annual Collection, 3 different cultivars, named - 1 stem of each
- Class 8 Begonia, tuberous - 1 stem
- Class 9 Dahlia, bloom over 3", any color - 1 bloom disbudded
- Class 10 Dahlia, bloom under 3", any color - 1 bloom disbudded
- Class 11 Perennial grown for bloom (must be in bloom) - 1 stem
- Class 12 Perennial grown for foliage - 1 stem
- Class 13 Rosa (Rose), hybrid tea or grandiflora, any colour - 1 specimen bloom disbudded
- Class 14 Rosa (Rose), floribunda or polyantha, any colour - 1 spray
- Class 15 Rosa (Rose), shrub (including Austin), climber, any colour - 1 specimen bloom disbudded or 1 spray
- Class 16 Rosa (Rose), miniature, any colour - 1 specimen bloom disbudded or 1 spray
- Class 17 Potted plant, container 15 cm (6") or less in diameter across the top of the pot, named (Must have been owned by the exhibitor for at least three months.)

Vegetables/Herbs/Fruits: (OJES pages 108 - 116)

- Class 18 Herb Collection, 5-7 stems, all different cultivars, named - in one container
- Class 19 Small Vegetable (e.g., bean, pea, radish, - 5 specimens; beet, potato - 3 specimens, shown on exhibitor's paper plate
- Class 20 Large Vegetable (e.g., turnip, squash, pumpkin) - 1 specimen
- Class 21 Leaf Vegetable (e.g., kale, lettuce, spinach, chard) - shown in water.
- Class 22 Tomato, over 5 cm (2"), calyx left on - 3 specimens, shown on exhibitor's paper plate (Fruits should be uniform in size, shape and color.)
- Class 23 Tomato, small fruited, e.g., cherry type - one truss or 5 specimens, shown on exhibitor's paper plate.
- Class 24 Any Other Cultivar (AOC) not previously listed in the schedule - 1 stem



## Glossary

### ***Annual***

A plant that completes its life cycle from seed to seed in one year.

### ***Accessory***

An inorganic object(s) used in a subordinate manner to enhance a design. (*An object that dominates a design is a Feature*) A design incorporating an accessory should appear incomplete if the accessory is removed.

### ***Biennial***

Herbaceous plant that requires two years to complete its life cycle from seed to seed.

### ***Bloom***

Individual flower, one to a stem. Specimen blooms must be disbudded for exhibition.

### ***Bottle Garden***

A number of different kinds of plants artistically grouped, growing in a transparent container with an opening too small for the hand to enter. Plants should be completely confined within the container and have similar cultural requirements. Normally shown in the Special Exhibits Division.

### ***Bud***

An undeveloped growing point that may become a shoot, leaf or flower.

### ***Bulb***

A specialized, usually underground, structure consisting of a short dominant stem and bud surrounded by fleshy scales - the overwintering structure of many garden plants, e.g., tulip, lily.

### ***Collection***

A specified number of cut flowers, potted plants, fruits, etc. exhibited for cultural perfection.

### ***Corm***

A modified, usually underground, stem, that is thickened, fleshy and solid, e.g., crocus, gladiolus.

### ***Cultivar***

“Coined” term meaning “cultivated variety.” Plants originated and maintained only in cultivation, which retain their distinguishing features when reproduce, e.g., rose - ‘Peace’, petunia - ‘Sugar Daddy’.

### ***Disbudding***

The removal of lateral buds to encourage the terminal bud to develop into a larger, more perfectly formed exhibition bloom.

### ***Dish Garden***

A number of horticulturally compatible plants growing in a shallow, portable, open container and usually included as a class in the Special Exhibits Division.

### ***Disqualify***

Removal of an entry from consideration because of non-conformance to the schedule. The entry tag will be marked NAS (not according to schedule) and a reason given.

### ***Fairy Garden***

A miniature scene in a single container often reminiscent of children’s stories. Plants may be alpines, miniatures or parts of larger plants but must have similar growing requirements. Accessories permitted. Usually included in the Special Exhibits Division.

### ***Feature***

Any object used as a dominant component in a design. A feature may be made of non-plant material, or may have been manufactured or crafted from plant-based material, e.g., rope, cotton fabric, wooden sculptures, woven baskets, milled lumber, paper.

### ***Foliage Plant***

A plant grown primarily for foliage, e.g., coleus.

<b><i>Herbaceous Plant</i></b>	Non-woody plants that die to the ground at the end of the season. Annuals, biennials and perennials can be herbaceous.
<b><i>Lateral</i></b>	A bud or stem growing from the side of another stem.
<b><i>Mass Design</i></b>	A design characterized by the use of large amounts of plant material.
<b><i>Miniature Design</i></b>	A design not to exceed 12.5 cm (5") in any dimension including the container, base and any accessories.
<b><i>Parallel Design</i></b>	A design in which three or more groupings are placed in a parallel manner with open space between the groupings. The parallel direction may be vertical, horizontal or diagonal. The design is in one container or in containers combined so as to appear as one.
<b><i>Perennial, Herbaceous</i></b>	A plant that lives for more than two years. The stem dies to the ground each fall, e.g., Echinacea (cone flower.). Plants from bulbs, corms, rhizomes and tubers are herbaceous.
<b><i>Perennial, Woody Plants and Flowers</i></b>	Shrubs are woody perennials. A combination of growing plants plus cut flowers and/or cut foliage with a water source. Any other plant material may be included. May be in one container or several containers, determined in the schedule. Usually included in the Special Exhibits Division.
<b><i>Pot-et-Fleur</i></b>	A combination of growing plants (foliage and/or flowering), in or out of pots, packed lightly with soil and/or other water-retaining material, plus cut flowers in tubes of water, floral foam or other material, assembled in one container. Moss, decorative wood and rock may be included. No cut foliage is permitted; cut flowering and/or fruited branches may be used. Usually included in the Special Exhibits Division.
<b><i>Rhizome</i></b>	An underground or root-like stem that grows horizontally, usually thickened with stored food, and that bears leaves, flower stalks, and roots, e.g., tall bearded iris.
<b><i>Small Design</i></b>	A design from 14 cm (5.5") to 25.5 cm (10") and not to exceed 25.5 cm (10") in any dimension including the container, base and any accessories.
<b><i>Special Exhibit</i></b>	One of the three main Divisions typically found in a flower show. A Special Exhibit is a combination of rooted horticultural specimens and may include cut plant material and other elements arranged in such a manner to create an artistic whole.
<b><i>Specimen</i></b>	An individual exhibit in a flower show.
<b><i>Specimen Bloom</i></b>	One bloom on a single stem. No side buds permitted, unwanted growth may be removed. Bloom should be ½ to ¾ open in rose classes.

- Spike*** An upright stem carrying several flowers, which are nearly stemless, e.g., gladiolus, snapdragon.
- Spray*** A portion of a plant with a number of flowers on one stem. Ideally it should show all stages of development.
- Stem or Stalk*** A main plant structure which supports flowers, buds, leaves or fruit.
- Synergistic*** A design in which at least three (3) containers or units are used in a composition. At least three of the units must include plant material. Each unit may be a complete or a partial design and the combined units create a unified whole. The design may be further unified by the use of connectives.
- Terrarium*** A miniature landscape using a number of different plants artistically grouped and growing in a covered, transparent container other than a bottle. Plants must be completely confined within the container and have horticulturally compatible requirements. Usually included in the Special Exhibits Division.
- Truss*** A cluster of compact flowers or fruit growing from one stem, e.g., lilac, small fruited tomato.
- Tuber*** A fleshy underground stem that stores moisture and nutrients and bears small eyes for asexual reproduction, e.g., dahlia, potato.
- Uniformity*** Similarity in physical attributes, e.g., size, form, colour, maturity.
- Variety*** The named variation of a plant species, e.g., Trillium erectum var. album, (the white variety of Wake Robin or Red Trillium.)

