

The Colorado Dahlia Society **2026 ANNUAL SHOW**



American Pride in Bloom: A Semiquincentennial Celebration

This year celebrates the 250th anniversary of the founding of America. It is also the 150th anniversary of Colorado statehood. Bringing these two iconic events together is the theme for the 2026 Colorado Dahlia Society shows.

Our arrangement categories are based on the poem “America the Beautiful” written by Katherine Lee Bates. She was inspired to write this work after a trip to the top of Pikes Peak in Colorado. It first appeared in print on July 4, 1895, in *The Congregationalist*, a weekly journal.

Introduction

Welcome to our show displaying many varieties and forms of our favorite flower, THE DAHLIA. We are delighted to share our flowers with the public.

This magnificent flower originated in Mexico and Central America where indigenous peoples used dahlias as a food source and for medicinal purposes. Spanish botanists first brought dahlias from Mexico to Madrid in ~1789. Although initially studied as a food source, they spread across Europe in the early 1800s becoming popular for their ornamental beauty instead.

At the Royal Botanical Garden of Madrid, the Spanish botanist Antonio José Cavanilles named the genus “Dahlia” in honor of Anders Dahl, a Swedish botanist and student of Linnaeus. There are 35 recognized species today and over 50,000 named varieties.

The dahlia is a natural hybrid, so when grown from seed, it readily changes form; a vast range of bright colors and a multitude of shapes have developed. A blue dahlia is elusive as well as one with scent and one that is frost hardy.

Enjoy the beautiful blooms,
Colorado Dahlia Society

Colorado Dahlia Society 2026 Annual Shows

“American Pride in Bloom”

September 5th and 6th, 2026

The Flower Bin

1805 Nelson Road, Longmont, CO 80501

Saturday

7:30 AM Open to receive entries

9:00 AM Open to the public

10:00 AM Entries close

10:15 AM Start of judging

4:00 PM Close for the day

“American Pride in Bloom”

September 19th & 20th, 2026

Echter's Nursery & Garden Center

5150 Garrison St, Arvada, CO 80002

Sunday

10:00 AM Open to the public

3:00 PM Exhibitor grouping of flowers begins

4:00 PM Show closes

For additional information about dahlias and the Colorado Dahlia Society please visit our website: coloradodahlias.net

DISCLAIMER:

The above-named sponsors nor the CDS will be responsible for the loss or damage to entries or personal property, or for injury sustained by exhibitors or visitors.

COLORADO DAHLIA SOCIETY OFFICERS

President	Michael Rotert
Vice President	Linda Quade
Secretary	Georgeann Venis
Treasurer/Membership	Edith Fehrman
ADS Representative	Jennifer Carpenter
Social Media	Michael Rotert
Web Site	Casey Thomas

SHOW COMMITTEE

Show Managers	Heather Roberts, Priscilla Wright, Linda Quade
Staging & Property	Linda Quade, Michael Rotert, Phil Duclos
Classification	Dennis Cook, Calvin Cook
Records & Section	Calvin Cook, Heather Roberts
Judge Assignments	Calvin Cook, Heather Roberts
Show Book	Priscilla Wright, Heather Roberts, Linda Quade
Show Photos	Linda Quade, Phil Duclos
Exhibitor Assistance	Dennis Cook, Calvin Cook, Linda Quade

GENERAL RULES

1. This is a standard dahlia flower show conducted under the rules for exhibiting and judging established by the American Dahlia Society (ADS). Judging will be in accordance with the *2026 ADS Classification and Handbook of Dahlias*.
2. Membership in the Colorado Dahlia Society (CDS) is not required, and no entry fee will be charged for the first year.
3. The exhibitor must grow the dahlia blooms in all divisions, except arrangements. The “exhibitor” may be the household adults and its youth participants.
4. Entry tags can be obtained from the show manager or other society members prior to the show. Entry tags must be filled out as specified by the latest CDS Show Book *Entry Procedures Section*. The tags must be folded to conceal the exhibitor’s identity and attached to the exhibit.
5. All blooms must be entered as classified in the *2026 ADS Classification and Handbook of Dahlias*, including labeling with color numbers. Improperly classified entries **will not** be judged.
6. Unless prohibited by special rules an exhibitor may make multiple entries in each show class, including multiple entries of the same variety.
7. Each exhibitor is responsible for placing his entries on the show tables. Unless judging has started, exhibits placed in a wrong class may be reclassified with the help of show officials prior to judging. Entries will not be judged if not placed correctly before the “Entries close” time.
8. Show management reserves the right to accept or reject any entry. For example: if the entry is too mature (popped) or improperly labeled.
9. During judging, the judging area is closed to visitors except for new CDS members. New members can learn by helping judges in a clerking capacity or by following a judging team and quietly listening to discussions made by judges.
10. All entries will be judged by accredited dahlia judges. A judge must be thorough, fair, impartial, and unprejudiced with every entry and every exhibitor.
11. Judges may not participate in decisions involving their own entries. They should excuse themselves during judging of this class, section or division, and physically step away. A replacement judge can be asked to assist, as needed.

12. Any dispute will be presented to the Show Manager on the day of the show. With the involved judging team, two or three senior judges will be gathered to review the decision in question. Decisions of the judges are final.
13. The Show Managers reserve the right to interpret the ADS rules and to make additional rulings, as necessary, for the proper conduct of the show.
14. Sticker awards will be awarded to first place (blue) and second place (red) winners in each class where judges deem the entries worthy.
15. In OPEN SHOW, Sweepstakes and Showcase points are totaled as follows:
 - 5 Points per blue ribbon **plus** 15 points per Section winner **plus** 25 points per Court of Honor winner.
 - In case of a tie for *OPEN SHOW* Sweepstakes or Showcase Award, 4 points per red ribbon will be added to the total. If the tie still exists, then a coin flip will decide.
16. In AMATEUR SHOW, Sweepstakes points are totaled as follows:
 - 5 points per blue ribbon **plus** 15 points per Section winner.
 - There are no Court of Honor points awarded. In the case of a tie for *AMATEURS* Sweepstakes Award, 4 points per red ribbon will be added to the total. If the tie still exists, then a coin flip will decide.
17. ADS Bench Evaluation Seedlings, Best Blooper Award, People's Choice, and Junior entries will not be counted toward Sweepstakes points.
18. After judging, the Show Manager may remove from the show tables any bloom or entries that become unattractive.
19. Entries or parts of entries cannot be removed from the show before closing time without permission of the Show Manager.
20. Entries not removed promptly after the show's closing time will be disposed of by the Show Managers.

DIVISION SCHEDULES AND SPECIAL RULES

SPECIAL RULES for SPECIMEN and THREE-BLOOM ENTRIES

1. Vases will be provided by the exhibitor. ADS exhibition vases are preferred. Green, white, or clear vases are also allowed. Please use bud vases for smaller specimens.
2. Wedging is permitted in order to support specimens in a proper pose. Wedging must be neat and inconspicuous.
3. All specimens must be disbudded and have one or more sets of attached leaves.
4. Unless otherwise stated, foliage other than that which is part of the bloom is not permitted.
5. Three-bloom entries must be of same variety shown in ONE container.

IDENTIFICATION OF ENTRIES IN CLASSES

Entry tags are available from the show managers. Tags must be filled out in a manner which clearly shows all required information. The following instructions are for the Sample Entry Tag shown in the general entry procedures.

DIVISION: Refer to the list of show divisions for the proper abbreviation for each division. If left blank, "1-Bloom Division" will be assumed.

CLASS: Entries in all divisions, except "arrangements," must be identified by a two or three element code which designates (1) Type, (2) Size, and (3) Color. Size is required for FD, ID, SC, C, IC and LC types only.

TYPE and SIZE abbreviations must be as shown in the list of official ADS abbreviations.

COLOR must be indicated by number. It is acceptable to show both a color abbreviation and number.

Example: FD-BB-3

Please see the *2026 ADS Classification and Handbook of Dahlias* for the proper Type, Size, and Color for the variety name exhibited.

*Improper classification **may** result in disqualification!*

VARIETY NAME: Enter variety name or title of arrangement class. Seedlings may be identified by a name or code.

AMATEUR/JUNIOR EXHIBITORS: Enter AMATEUR or JUNIOR as applicable. Leave blank if entering in Open class.

EXHIBITOR NAME: Required. The use of pre-printed name/address labels or a rubber stamp is encouraged. Please print legibly.

BOTTOM OF TAG: All required information **MUST** be entered on the bottom of the tag. (Incomplete stubs are the most common problem in tallying of show results.)

ASSISTANCE: To the extent possible, aid will be given to Amateurs/Juniors and first-time entrants. Others are expected to complete their own entry tags with a minimum amount of help. All exhibitors will find it helpful to fill out their tags before they arrive at the show.

ENTRY PROCEDURES

GENERAL

The single most important factor contributing to the smooth conduct of a dahlia show is the entry tag. Please read this section carefully and make every effort to complete your entry tags as indicated.

SAMPLE ENTRY TAG

DIVISION: _____

CLASS: _____

Variety: _____

EXHIBITOR NO: _____

Name _____

Address _____

1st AWARD	2nd AWARD	3rd AWARD	HON MENTION
1st	2nd	3rd	HON

EXHIBITOR NO: _____ DIVISION: _____ CLASS: _____

Variety _____

Name _____

Address _____

Division: Required (1-Bloom assumed if blank).

Class: Required Type -Size - Color#.

Variety: Required Variety name
Please see the *2026 ADS Classification and Handbook of Dahlias* for class and variety name.

Exhibitor No.: Amateur/Junior only.
“Open” assumed if blank.

Name: Required Name of exhibitor.

Address: Optional Needed only if you will not be at the show. Some exhibitors use a **pre-printed name/address label**. Please print legibly.

REPEAT INFORMATION FROM TOP OF TAG: Required

Tags are folded over to hide the exhibitor information before judging and then detached for score accumulation after judging. Colored strips at the top and bottom indicate amateur (pink) or showcase grower (blue).

OPEN SHOW

SHOW DIVISIONS

Single Bloom Division
Three-Bloom Division
Basket Division
Vase Division
Bowl Division
Floating Waterlily Division
Plate Division
Multiple Pompon Division
Club Flower Division
New Introduction Division
Heritage Division
Seedling Division
Mixed Division
Junior Division
Arrangement Division
People's Choice Division
Photo Division
Creative Arts
Dahlia Market Bunch

ENTRY TAG ABBREVIATION

I or 1-Bloom
III or 3-Bloom Basket
Vase
Bowl
Float
Plate
Pom
Club
Intro
Heritage
Seed
Mixed
Junior
Arrangement
People's
Photo
Arts
Market

1. SINGLE BLOOM DIVISION

Formal Decorative (FD) Sections:

AA/A-Size B-Size BB-Size M-Size

Informal Decorative (ID) Sections:

AA/A-Size B-Size BB-Size M-Size

Semi-Cactus (SC) Sections:

AA/A-Size B-Size BB-Size M-Size

Straight Cactus (C) Sections:

AA/A-Size B-Size BB-Size M-Size

Incurved Cactus (IC) Sections:

AA/A-Size B-Size BB-Size M-Size

Lacinated (LC) Sections:

AA/A-Size B-Size BB-Size M-Size

(It is a Court of Honor winner as it competes by size
with the above sections - FD, ID, SD, C, IC.)

Ball (BA) Section

Miniature Ball (MB) Section

Pompon (P) Section

Stellar (ST) Section

Micro Stellar (MST) Section

Waterlily (WL) Section

Micro Waterlily (MWL) Section

Exotic Type (EX) Sections – Disc Showing:

MPE-Peony	O-Orchid	S-Single
MPE- Micro Peony	MO-Micro Orchid	MS-Mignon Single
CO-Collarette	OT-Orchette	
MCO- Micro Collarette	MOT-Micro Orchette	

Novelty (N) Section

NO-Novelt Open (Disc) Center

MNO-Micro Novelty Open

MNX-Micro Novelty Double

MAN-Micro Anemone

MC-Micro

NX–Novelty Double Center

AN-Anemone

2. THREE-BLOOM DIVISION

Same schedule as Single Bloom Division

AMERICAN DAHLIA SOCIETY JUDGING GUIDELINES

CHARACTERISTIC	100%	90%	85%	80%
Form	30.00	27.00	25.50	24.00
Color	20.00	18.00	17.00	16.00
Substance	10.00	9.00	8.50	8.00
Stem	10.00	9.00	8.50	8.00
Foliage	10.00	9.00	8.50	8.00
Bloom Position	10.00	9.00	8.50	8.00
Uniformity	10.00	9.00	8.50	8.00

3. BASKET DIVISION

SPECIAL RULES FOR BASKETS, BOWLS & VASES

- Baskets must be of material commonly used for baskets, i.e. wicker, plastic, etc., **with handles** and are designed to be viewed from all sides.
- All blooms in an entry must be of the SAME variety.
- Exhibitor must furnish their own container.
- All dahlias must be disbudded.
- Additional dahlia and other non-flowering foliage is permitted.
- Multiple entries of different varieties are allowed in each class.
- Novelties (fully doubled) shall be entered by size as grown.
- Judging will be conducted by ballot and based on the following values:
 1. Quality of blooms. 50%
 2. Uniformity of blooms.....25%
 3. Artistic effect 25%

Large Bloom Section:

- A-Size Class, five or more blooms
- B-Size Class, five or more blooms
- N-Novelty Class, seven blooms or more

Medium Bloom Section:

- BB-Size Class, seven or more blooms
- BA-Size Class, seven or more blooms
- N-Novelty Class, seven blooms or more

Small Bloom Section:

- M-Size Class, seven or more blooms
- MB-Miniature Ball Class, seven or more blooms
- P-Pompon Class, seven or more blooms
- Exotic Types Class, seven or more blooms

4. VASE DIVISION

A vase is a container whose height is greater than its width.

Large Bloom Section:

- A-Size Class, five or more blooms
- B-Size Class, five or more blooms
- N-Novelty Class, five or more blooms

Medium Bloom Section:

BB-Size Class, seven or more blooms
BA-Size Class, five or more blooms
N-Novelty Class, seven or more blooms

Small Bloom Section:

M-Size Class, seven or more blooms
MB-Miniature Ball Class, seven or more blooms
P-Pompon Class, seven or more blooms
Exotic Types Class, seven or more blooms

5. BOWL DIVISION

*A bowl is a container whose width is greater than its height.
Bowl entries are designed to be viewed from all sides like a centerpiece.*

Large Bloom Section:

A-Size Class, five or more blooms
B-Size Class, five or more blooms
N-Novelty Class, five or more blooms

Medium Bloom Section:

BB-Size Class, seven or more blooms
BA-Size Class, seven or more blooms
N-Novelty Class, seven or more blooms

Small Bloom Section:

M-Size Class, seven or more blooms
MB-Miniature Ball Class, seven or more blooms
P-Pompon Class, seven or more blooms
Exotic Types Class, seven or more bloom

6. MIXED DIVISION**Mixed Variety Ball**

- Entry requires seven or more blooms
- Display in a single container
- Exhibitor may make multiple entries

Mixed Variety Mini-Ball

- Entry requires seven or more blooms
- Display in a single container
- Exhibitor may make multiple entries

Mixed Variety Pompon

- Entry requires nine or more blooms
- Display in a single container
- Exhibitor may make multiple entries

7. FLOATING WATERLILY DIVISION

- Single Waterlily bloom – no stem
- Freefloating in a clear bowl or brandy snifter. No artificial enhancements such as marbles are permitted
- Displayed with at least two detached dahlia leaves
- Judging based on the following values:
 - A. Quality of bloom.....60%
 - B. Artistic effect.....40%

8. PLATE DIVISION

- Quality of bloom is judged
- Only ONE entry per color class per exhibitor
- Bloom only displayed – no stem or foliage
- Bloom must hide plate when viewed from the top
- Nine-inch display plates are provided by show committee

9. MULTIPLE POMPON DIVISION

- Entry requires nine or more blooms
- All blooms must be of the same variety
- Display in a single container
- Exhibitor may make multiple entries if each entry is of a different variety

10. CLUB FLOWER DIVISION

- Display as single bloom specimen
- Open only to members of any recognized dahlia club
- Single best entry goes directly to Court of Honor
- Eligible for Best of Show Entry; eligible for Best Single Entry
- Founder's Trophy will be engraved with the winner's name and retained by CDS club president to be displayed at the following year's show
- Club flower is voted upon by members of the CDS at the year-end monthly meeting

2026 Club Flower: 20th Avenue Old Major

11. NEW INTRODUCTION DIVISION

- Display as a single bloom specimen
- Entries limited to 2025 and 2026 introductions
- Exhibitor must provide proof of year of introduction
- Listing in *2026 ADS Classification and Handbook of Dahlias* will prevail in any disputes
- The single best entry of all new introduction entries will go to the Court of Honor
- Eligible for Best of Show Entry
- Eligible for Best Single Entry
- Judges reserve the right to subdivide
- New Introductions are included in these size classes:
 - A, B, BB, M, Pompon, Ball, M. Ball, Stellar, Waterlily, Exotic, and Novelty

12. HERITAGE DIVISION

- Entries limited to introduction before 1970
- Display as single bloom specimen of any size, color or form
- Listing in *2026 ADS Classification and Handbook of Dahlias* will prevail in any disputes
- The single best entry will go to the Court of Honor
- Bernard Johansen Trophy will be engraved with the winner's name and retained by CDS club president to be displayed at the following year's show
- Award originally created by Ed Cranson

13. ADS SEEDLING BENCH EVALUATION DIVISION

- ADS Seedling Bench Evaluation is offered in cooperation with the American Dahlia Society
- Open to all exhibitors
- Entries limited to a 3-Bloom entry of four-year or older un-disseminated seedlings and do not count toward sweepstakes
- Show officials and judges must read and adhere to the rules for entries and judging as printed in the *2026 ADS Classification and Handbook of Dahlias*
- Any un-disseminated seedling may be entered in OPEN competition under a code or name of exhibitor's choice

14. JUNIOR DIVISION

The Junior Division is open to any exhibitor under 16 years of age. Entrants in the Junior Division are also encouraged to compete in the Amateur Division or Open Division.

- Judging standards and rules of the Open Division will apply
- Single best entry of all Junior entries will go to the Court of Honor
- Junior entries will not be counted toward sweepstakes points

15. ARRANGEMENT DIVISION

- Single best entry of all arrangements will go to the Court of Honor

SPECIAL RULES FOR ARRANGEMENT DIVISION

- Exhibitor is limited to one entry per class
- Dahlias must be the featured flower or flowers in each entry
- All flowers in arrangement need not be grown by exhibitor, but must be arranged by exhibitor
- Other live and dried material may be used; artificial plant material is not allowed
- Accessories may be used to accentuate the theme, but must be subordinate
- All arrangement classes are interpretive
- Assigned judges will award point scores for section and for Court of Honor
- Judging points will be awarded according to the following values:
 - Artistic effect..... 50%
 - Theme interpretation..... 30%
 - Quality of blooms.20%

JUDGING SCORE CARD- Arrangements

Artistic Effect = 50% with 1-10 points each

Does the arrangement have:

- Symmetry, line to follow or a flowing quality? Some examples are: Triangle, Crescent Mass, Line and Hogarth Curve (Not necessary for Designers Choice.)
- Balance of color throughout?
- Accessories that are **subordinate** to the arrangement and accentuate the theme?
- A container of proper proportions?
- Only live or dried plant material? Buds may be used to add to the artistry.

Theme Interpretation = 30% with 1-10 pts each

Does the arrangement:

- Give you a feeling or mood of the theme?
- Follow the specifications for the class?
- Leave your main focus on the dahlias?

Quality of Blooms & Foliage = 20% with 1-10 pts each

Does the arrangement have obvious faults or damage visible at 3 feet?

- Bloom quality?
- Foliage quality?

“AMERICAN PRIDE IN BLOOM”

INTERPRETIVE DESIGN:

Selection and organization of design elements should suggest the following theme, idea, occasion, mood or atmosphere.

Notes: Dahlias must be the dominant flower in the arrangement. Accessories and minor colors may be used to accentuate the theme but **must be subordinate or secondary**. Dried flower heads and once live animals/birds/fish are not allowed within or around the arrangement. All other natural materials are allowed.

ARRANGEMENT CATEGORIES

“For Amber Waves of Grain”

From the first stanza, “O beautiful for spacious skies, For amber waves of grain, For purple mountain majesties Above the fruited plain!” We celebrate the horticultural bounty of America. This is low, wide, all-around arrangement designed to be viewed from every side, with formal and informal decorative dahlias in all shades of yellow, gold and bronze. It radiates outward from the center to create a balanced, rounded shape that looks complete from any angle.

“Purple Heart”

From the third stanza, “O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife, Who more than self their country love and mercy more than life!” We honor all brave military heroes who have fought to make our great country free. This arrangement features dark red and purple dahlia blooms of any type arranged around an accessory* that represents military service. It is viewed from the front only and has no dimension limits for height or width.

“July 4th 1776-2026”

From the second and fourth stanzas, “O beautiful for patriot dream that sees beyond the years. A thoroughfare for freedom beat,” America’s birthday celebration always features FIREWORKS! This arrangement focuses on this annual tradition with dahlias in the forms of cactus, semi-cactus and incurved cactus in various colors to represent fireworks in the air. Viewed from all sides in a tall vase, the arrangement height should be a minimum 12” of floral material beyond the top opening of the container.

"Lasting Marble Monuments"

From the fourth stanza, "Thine alabaster cities gleam undimmed by human tears." This design takes inspiration from the monuments of Washington, D.C. with tall flowers standing proudly like the Washington Monument and soft rounded shapes that hint at the Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials. Instead of bold patriotic colors, this arrangement uses white, cream, and light blend pastels in formal decorative shapes to resemble the marble and stone of the actual monuments. It is designed to be viewed from all sides.

"Designer's Choice"

This arrangement compliments the theme with a variety of dahlias flowers on display. It DOES NOT need to relate to the America the Beautiful poem; however, it needs to celebrate the semiquincentennial for America. A small card attached details its NAME, varieties included in the arrangement and description of the relationship to the show theme. **"Designers Choice" DOES NOT need to follow "symmetry, line to follow, or a flowing quality" as other arrangements require.**

16. PEOPLE'S CHOICE DIVISION

- A non-competitive entry to encourage the public's participation.
- Please attach top portion of entry tag to entry.
- Single bloom of any class, color or size.
- Winning bloom to be selected by the public by secret ballot. More than one entry per exhibitor is allowed. Open to all exhibitors.
- Points towards sweepstakes will not be awarded.

17. BEST BLOOPER AWARD

- Any strangely formed, out-of-the-ordinary, or not regular show quality dahlia grown.
- Open to all exhibitors.
- No points toward sweepstakes.

18. LARGEST BLUE RIBBON BLOOM AWARD

- Awarded to the largest specimen that receives a blue ribbon.
- It will receive 5 points for the blue-ribbon award, plus 15 additional points as it is moved to the Court of Honor for a total of 20 points toward Sweepstakes/Showcase.

19. CREATIVE ARTS DIVISION

Any traditional handmade work that represents dahlias

- A painting - any medium
- A sculpture
- A quilted, knitted, or crocheted project
- Any needle arts project

Dahlias must be discernible and dominant

1. Artwork must be an original piece, not a copy of another artist's work
2. Original work must have been executed within the last two years
3. The same artwork will not be accepted in consecutive years
4. Digital or computer enhanced work will not be accepted
5. All artist's artwork will be handled with care, but is shown at the artist's own risk
6. There is no formal creative arts judging
7. No points will be awarded towards Sweepstakes or Showcase. The best of show will not move to court of Honor
8. Ribbons for 1st and 2nd place prizes will be based on Dahlia Judges' selections
9. People's Choice Voting will take place throughout the show, with participation from all members and show attendees

The winning piece will be announced as the show closes and will be recognized with a plaque.

20. PHOTOGRAPHY DIVISION

CATEGORIES:

- Single bloom
- Multiple bloom
- Single or multiple bloom incorporating the theme of the show
- Macro

1. Number of Entries – Each exhibitor is allowed 2 entries per category (total of 8)
2. Print Format – Prints must be 8”x10” and matted under an appropriately sized white mat. Prints not matted will not be accepted. **(NO GLASS or FRAMES)**
3. Photo Format – The dahlia bloom(s) must be the dominant image(s) on the print.
4. Entry Tags – Same as for regular show.
5. Eligibility – Exhibitor need not be a member of a dahlia society and need not have grown the dahlia(s) in the photograph.
6. Points awarded in Photography Division will be included in the total point count to determine the high point grower

JUDGING SCORE CARD – Photography

Matting: 1-5 Points

Matting should complement the print and look professional

Subject: 1-75 Points

True to type and variety (1-10 points)

Quality of bloom, leaves, and stem (1-10 points)

Composition (1-30 points)

Should be eye catching – subject is not lost in picture

Use of photographic principles

Lighting (1-15 points)

Correct exposure and lighting used to enhance blooms

Focus (1-10 Points)

Subject should be in sharp focus or if special effects are used, such as a soft filter, multiple exposures, etc., should enhance the quality of the photo

Artistic Effect and Style: 1-20 Points

Includes originality and different perspective, unusual effects, and emotional response felt. Similar to distinctiveness category on the Dahlia Trial Gardens Score Card.

21. DAHLIA MARKET BUNCH DIVISION

Description: 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. This category will focus specifically on these dahlia bunches with no fillers.

Objective: Evaluate the freshness of the blooms with scores that rank marketability and favors good grower management for a commonly found market item.

Judges will be evaluating the following:

Marketability: This bunch needs to arrive in a quality condition, as good as or better than, market standards acceptably with a customer focus.

Grower Management: The grower's ability and skill to produce a healthy plant and process cut stems to maintain quality and freshness.

Color:

- It is okay for blooms to have even and/or uneven distribution of colors.
- All colors are accepted including muted, muddy, vintage, and blends.
- Blends do not need to have even distribution.
- Variegated varieties are allowed to have uneven distribution.
- It is okay for bicolor blooms to have bleeding and uneven distribution. They may also have solid and bicolored ray florets.
- Must be appealing and useful (as in a color that will sell bouquets).

A Few Suggestions for Classes:

- Similar color 5 stem bunch
- Similar color 10 stem
- Mixed color 5 stem
- Mixed color 10 stem
- Fully double forms preferred as they are the market standard for best cut flower

Guidance for the Judges

1. Judges will need to pick up and handle bunches to evaluate characteristics.
2. No crushed leaves and damaged petals on blooms. Leaves may not touch water in the vase.
3. No crushed or torn stems. Leaves below the water line should be cleanly removed.
4. Buds are acceptable as long as they aren't a distraction such as wilting or drooping.

Rules

- Use of wire and artificial means of supporting stems and/or blooms will disqualify entry.
- Minimum stem length of 12”.
- Neatly bound with one rubber band at bottom for security.
- No external wrapping material around bunch.
- No additional fillers or flowers other than dahlias. Leaves and buds attached to the stems are okay. However, the buds should add to the attraction and not distract.
- Must be placed in a container that will not tip over.
- Show tags must be filled out properly.
- It is up to the club’s discussion/decision as to how many entries per person may be entered.

JUDGING SCORE CARD – CUT FLOWERS

Color: 15 Points

- Distribution of colors can be even or uneven. For example: muted, muddy, vintage and blends are okay.
- Blends do not need to have even distribution.
- Variegated varieties are allowed to have uneven distribution.
- Bicolors may have bleeding and uneven distribution and may also have solid and bicolored ray florets.
- Must be appealing and useful (as in a color that will sell in bouquets).

Blooms: 45 Points

- Condition of petals: 20 points
- Lack of damage from insects, processing, handling, etcetc. Has good moisture content (turgid), no shedding petals.
- Harvested at appropriate stage: 15 points
- Appropriate stage is slightly immature, young and still developing, with no pollen present. Green centers are okay.
- Uniformity of age of blooms: 10 points
- Blooms should be relatively the same maturation stage.

Stem Quality: 35 Points

- Firm bloom attachment: 15 points
- Stem Firmness and Integrity: 10 points
- Stems should be strong (able to hold their blooms) and straight. Stems should be proportionate in diameter to the bloom. The cut edge should be a clean, sharp cut.
- Stem length (minimum 12”): 10 points

Properly Bound with a Single Rubber Band (elastic): 5 Points

AMATEUR SHOW INFORMATION

- General and special rules for specimen and arrangement entries of the Open Show will apply.
- Past exhibitors who have entered a Colorado Dahlia Society show for fewer than four years are eligible to enter the Amateur Show.
- New exhibitors may enter the Amateur Show for a total of four consecutive years.
- Points for amateur sweepstakes will be totaled as follows:
 - 5 points per blue ribbon plus
 - 15 points per section winner
 - In case of a tie, 4 points for red ribbon.
- Colored (pink) strips **MUST** be on the top and lower sections of the amateur entry tag. These marked tags will be available at meetings and at the show.
- Amateur exhibitors may also compete in the Open Show.

AMATEUR SHOW SCHEDULE

1. Single Bloom Division

A Size Section
B Size Section
M Size Section
Ball (BA) Section
Miniature Ball (MB) Section
Pompon (P) Section
Stellar (ST) Section
Waterlily (WL) Section
Exotic Types Section
Novelty Types Section
Best of Show

Sections with sufficient entries may be subdivided by the judges.

2. Arrangement Division

Amateur Arrangement Section

(Amateur Show will follow the same rules and classes as the Open Show.)

Open Show Court of Honor

Sweepstakes – High Point Exhibitor
Showcase Award (120 or fewer plants) – High Point Exhibitor
Best of Show – Best Entry in Show
Best Bloom in Show – Best Single Flower
King of Show – Best A-Size Single Bloom
Queen of Show – Best B-size Single Bloom
Prince of Show – Best BB-Size Single Bloom
Princess of Show – Best M-Size Single Bloom
Best Ball – single bloom
Best Miniature Ball – single bloom
Best Pompon – single bloom
Best Stellar Type – single bloom
Best Waterlily – single bloom
Best Exotic Type – single bloom
Best Novelty – single bloom
Best Laciniated Entry – single bloom
Best A-Size – 3 blooms
Best B-Size – 3 blooms
Best BB-Size – 3 blooms
Best M-Size – 3 blooms
Best Ball – 3 blooms
Best Miniature Ball – 3 blooms
Best Pompon – 3 blooms
Best Stellar Type – 3 blooms
Best Waterlily – 3 blooms
Best Exotic Type – 3 blooms
Best Novelty – 3 blooms
Best Basket – large bloom
Best Basket – medium bloom
Best Basket – small bloom
Best Vase – large bloom
Best Vase – medium bloom
Best Vase – small bloom
Best Bowl – large bloom
Best Bowl – medium bloom
Best Bowl – small bloom
Best Floating Waterlily
Best Plate
Best Multiple Pompon
Best Club Flower
Best New Introduction
Best Heritage
Best Seedling
Best Junior
Best Arrangement
People's Choice
Best Blooper
Largest Blue-Ribbon Bloom
Creative Arts
Dahlia Market Bunch

Amateur Show Court of Honor

Sweepstakes – High Point Amateur

King of Show – Best A Size

Queen of Show – Best B Size

Prince of Show – Best BB Size

Princess of Show – Best M Size

Best of Show

Best Ball

Best Miniature Ball

Best Pompon

Best Stellar Type

Best Waterlily

Best Exotic Type

Best Novelty Type

Best Arrangement

COLORADO DAHLIA SOCIETY
“DAHLIAS IN THE SOLAR SYSTEM”

August 23rd and 24th, 2025

Echter's Nursery & Garden Center

5150 Garrison St, Arvada, CO 80002

Show Managers – Janet Cook, Linda Quade, and Heather Roberts

OPEN SHOW (open to all)

Category	Winner	Cultivar(s)
Sweepstakes Winner	Edith Iwan	300pts
Showcase Winner	Calvin & Julie Cook	580pts
Best of Show Single Entry	John Magee	Clearview Edie
Best of Show Overall	Calvin & Julie Cook	Ruskin Diane Medium Basket
Largest Bloom Blue Ribbon	Chuck & Sherry Clark	Arthur Hambley
King of Show	John Magee	Clearview Edie
Queen of Show	Edith Iwan	Just Married
Prince of Show	Adrienne Schaffer	Coorabell Astrid
Princess of Show	Steve & Helen Bressler	Bloomquist Carol Ann
Best Arrangement	Jennifer Carpenter	Dahlias Around the Sun
Best Photography	Adrienne Schaffer	Seedling
Best B-Size 3 Bloom	John Magee	Café Au Lait Rose
Best BB-Size 3 Bloom	Calvin & Julie Cook	Clearview Sarah
Best M-Size 3 Bloom	Calvin & Julie Cook	Glenmarc Skye
Best Lacinated	Edith Iwan	Just Married
Best Ball 1 Bloom	Georgeann Venis & Steve Whitehead	Jowey Winnie
Best Ball 3 Bloom	John Magee	Ivanetti
Best M-Size Ball	Adrienne Schaffer	Odyssey
Best Pompon	Edith Iwan	Frank Holmes
Best Pompon 3 Bloom	Adrienne Schaffer	Hapet Barbie
Best Stellar 1 Bloom	Edith Iwan	Eldon Wilson
Best Stellar 3 Bloom	Calvin & Julie Cook	Sandia Ruthie
Best Waterlily 1 Bloom	Phil & Les Duclos	Kelgai Ann
Best Waterlily 3 Bloom	Calvin & Julie Cook	Cameo
Best Exotic 1 Bloom	Edith Iwan	Lo Grape
Best Novelty 1 Bloom	Jennifer Carpenter	Valley Porcupine
Best Novelty 3 Bloom	John Magee	Bloomquist Ginnie
Best Floating Waterlily	Ron & Shirley Rotert	Janice
Best Plate	John Magee	Café Au Lait Rose
Best Club Flower	Edith Iwan	Bloomquist Jean
Best New Introduction	Adrienne Schaffer	20th Ave. Delicada
Best Heritage	Mary Loftness	Alloway Candy
Best Seedling	Steve & Helen Bressler	Bear Creek Joy
Best Junior	Chistiana Fehrman	Enchantress
Best Blooper	Jennifer Carpenter	Wizard of Oz
Best Creative Arts	Natasha Gorrell	KA's Coral Sea
People's Choice	Calvin & Julie Cook	Robann Creamsicle
Best Large Vase	Calvin & Julie Cook	Bracken Palomino
Best Small Vase	Calvin & Julie Cook	Glenmarc Skye
Best Medium Basket	Calvin & Julie Cook	Ruskin Diane
Best Large Bowl	Jennifer Carpenter	Fire Magic

COLORADO DAHLIA SOCIETY

Amateur Show - Echter's

Category	Winner	Cultivar(s)
Amateur Winner	Edith Fehrman	
King of Show	John Magee	Spartacus
Queen of Show	Natasha Gorrell	Lady Darlene
Prince of Show	John Magee	Bloomquist York
Princess of Show	Carrie Moyer	Blizzard
Best Arrangement	Edith Fehrman	Dahlias Around The Milky Way
Best Ball	Edith Fehrman	Blyton Softer Glean
Best Pompon	Edith Fehrman	Dot Com
Best Waterlily	Marilyn Ellison	Gabbie's Wish
Best Novelty	John Magee	Bloomquist Ginnie

“THE ARTISTRY OF DAHLIAS”

September 6th and 7th, 2025

The Flower Bin

1805 Nelson Road, Longmont, CO 80501

Show Managers – **Janet Cook, Linda Quade and Heather Roberts**

OPEN SHOW (open to all)

Category	Winner	Cultivar(s)
Sweepstakes Winner	Calvin & Julie Cook	750 pts
Showcase Winner	Edith Iwan	300 pts
Best of Show Single Entry	Marilyn Ellison	Gitt's Perfection
Best of Show Overall	Jennifer Carpenter	Dahlia's in the Milky Way Arrangement
Largest Bloom Blue Ribbon	Edith Iwan	Hollyhill Red Funhouse
King of Show	Marilyn Ellison	Gitt's Perfection
Queen of Show	Jennifer Carpenter	Shaggy Chic
Prince of Show	Ron & Shirley Rotert	Colorado Classic
Princess of Show	Colin Krenning	Glenbank Twinkle
Best Arrangement	Jennifer Carpenter	Dahlia's in the Milky Way Arrangement
Best B-Size 3 Bloom	Calvin & Julie Cook	Clearview Lily
Best BB-Size 3 Bloom	Calvin & Julie Cook	Parkland Rave
Best M-Size 3 Bloom	Jennifer Carpenter	Golden Scepter
Best Lacinated	Calvin & Julie Cook	Corellia Furiosa
Best Ball 1 Bloom	John Magee	20th Ave. Old Major
Best Ball 3 Bloom	John Magee	20th Ave. Old Major
Best M-Size Ball	Calvin & Julie Cook	20th Ave. Tradition
Best Pompon	Edith Iwan	Pride of Place
Best Stellar 1 Bloom	Jennifer Carpenter	Bloomquist Blush
Best Stellar 3 Bloom	Calvin & Julie Cook	Sandia Ruthie
Best Waterlily 1 Bloom	Beth Bragg	Hollyhill Serenity
Best Waterlily 3 Bloom	Calvin & Julie Cook	Cameo
Best Exotic 1 Bloom	Edith Iwan	Alpen Cherub
Best Novelty 1 Bloom	Edith Iwan	Sandia Brocade
Best Novelty 3 Bloom	Calvin & Julie Cook	Heartthrob
Best Floating Waterlily	Ron & Shirley Rotert	Janice
Best Plate	Carol Kovner	Café Au Lait Royal
Best Club Flower	Phil & Les Duclos	Bloomquist Jean
Best New Introduction	Edith Iwan	RaeAnn's Altair
Best Heritage	Edith Iwan	Little Beeswing
Best Seedling	Calvin & Julie Cook	Heartthrob Seedling
Best Junior	Caleb Cook	Parkland Rave
Best Blooper	Heather Roberts	Valley Tawny
McAllister Mentoring Award	Jennifer Carpenter	
People's Choice	Edith Iwan	Great Hercules
Best Large Vase	Calvin & Julie Cook	Born Sky
Best Small Vase	Calvin & Julie Cook	Heartthrob
Best Medium Basket	Calvin & Julie Cook	Clearview Sarah

COLORADO DAHLIA SOCIETY

Amateur Show - Flower Bin

Category	Winner	Cultivar(s)
Amateur Winner	Edith Fehrman	
King of Show	Edith Fehrman	La Luna
Queen of Show	Edith Fehrman	Star's Favorite
Prince of Show	Austin Westercamp	Maxime
Princess of Show	Edith Fehrman	Caleb's Orange Crush
Best Arrangement	Edith Fehrman	Dahlia's Around the Sun
Best Ball	Edith Fehrman	Ed Kuhn
Best M-Ball	Austin Westercamp	Sir Richard
Best Pompon	Stephanie Eastman	Little Scottie
Best Waterlily	John Magee	Hollyhill Daydream
Best Novelty	John Magee	Bloomquist Ginnie
Best Exotic	Edith Fehrman	Verrone's Obsidian

