

Wheaton Garden Club presents

A Century in Bloom



An NGC Standard
Flower Show

Celebrating 100 Years

Friday, October 2, 2026 1:00–9:00 pm

Saturday, October 3, 2026, 9:00 am –2:00 pm

Wheaton Public Library • 255 N Cross Street

Wheaton Garden Club

Member of
National Garden Clubs Inc., Central Region
Garden Clubs of Illinois, Inc. District II

presents

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A Standard
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Wheaton Public Library • 255 N Cross Street, Wheaton IL
Admission Free and Open to the Public

A CENTURY IN BLOOM

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Flower Show Committees

Wheaton Garden Club President: Mary Tupper

Flower Show Chairmen:

Jane Kellenberger, Jane Fleming

Flower Show Committee:

Nancy Ricondo, Gail Bettcher

Schedule: Jane Fleming

Graphic Design: Jane Kellenberger

Staging: Karen Riordan, Jane Kellenberger

Horticulture Entries, Classification and Placement:

Laura Christensen, Diane Koza, Marty Warrick

Design Entry, Classification and Placement:

Lindalee Stuckey

Clerks: Michele Kornhauser, Gail DaVall, Clair Sheldon,
Aline Houston

Publicity: Linda Nelson

Hospitality: Nancy Hensley, Caroline Jacobsen

Library Exhibits: Diane Koza, Mary Tupper

GENERAL SHOW RULES AND INFORMATION

1. Wheaton Garden Club members are the sole exhibitors of the Flower Show. Members are expected to exhibit in two divisions.
2. Entries are to be accompanied by an entry tag which may be obtained from the show chairmen.
3. Entries will be received between 5:00 pm and 8:00 pm on Thursday, October 1 and 8:00 am and 9:30 am on Friday, October 2, 2026.
4. All exhibits must be removed between 3:00 pm and 5:00 pm on Saturday, October 3, 2026.
5. Judging will take place between 10:00 am and 1:00 pm on Friday, October 2, 2026.
6. The Classification Chairmen for each division will check exhibits for conformity to schedule prior to judging. Final determination for conformity is the judge's responsibility.
7. The Chairmen and Classification Chairmen will be available during judging for possible consultations. They, along with the judges and clerks, are the only ones allowed in the exhibit space during judging.
8. Judging will be by National Garden Clubs accredited judges in accordance with *The Handbook for Flower Shows*. The decisions of the judges are final. Awards may be withheld if not merited.

9. There must be an emphasis on FRESH plant material. No artificial plant material is permitted in any exhibit in any division.

10. Each exhibitor is limited to one entry per class, except in the Horticulture Division. Exhibitor may make more than one entry per class if each is different species, variety, cultivar, type or color.

11. The Wheaton Garden Club will strive to assure the safety of all items after arrival and placement but is not responsible for any loss or damage to exhibits.

NGC Awards

The NGC Standard System of Awarding is used in all divisions. Only one 1st place (blue) ribbon, one 2nd place (red) ribbon, one 3rd place (yellow) ribbon will be awarded. One or more Honorable Mention (white) ribbons may be awarded as merited.

- Blue ribbon – 90 points or more
- Red ribbon – 85 points or more
- Yellow ribbon – 80 points or more
- White ribbon – 75 points or more

Judges will write 90+ if merited on entry cards of entries that do not win a blue ribbon.

Division I Horticulture Awards

1. Award of Horticulture Excellence - Division Award

One may be awarded to the highest scoring exhibit in the entire Horticulture Division entered by an exhibitor provided all general and horticulture requirements have been met.

Rosette of green, orange and blue ribbons

2. Arboreal Award – Section Award

This may be awarded to a blue ribbon winning exhibit scoring 95 and over in section J (shrubs) or K (trees). The specimen should exhibit beauty of flower, fruit and/or foliage.

Rosette of 2 values of green ribbons

3. Award of Merit – Section Award

This may be awarded to a blue ribbon winning exhibit of cut, fresh, non-woody plant material scoring 95+. Eligible sections A–H. Up to 4 may be awarded.

Rosette of orange ribbons

4. Collectors Showcase Award – Section Award

May be awarded to a display or collection of fresh plant materials. Eligible section L.

Rosette of brown and green ribbons

5. Grower's Choice – Section Award

May be given to the highest scoring exhibit of container grown plants. Eligible section I.

Rosette of dark green ribbons

Division II Design Awards

1. Award of Design Excellence – Division Award

An award given to the highest scoring blue ribbon exhibit in the entire Design Division.

Rosette of gold ribbons

2. Designer's Choice Award

An award given for the designer's choice of plant material.

Rosette of purple ribbons

3. Centennial Award

Any blue ribbon design scoring 95 or higher not winning a major award.

Rosette of rainbow hues

Division III Education Awards

1. Educational Top Exhibitor Award – Division Award

Only one (1) may be offered to the highest scoring, blue ribbon winner, scoring 95+, entered by one or more exhibitors.

Rosette of Brown and White Ribbons

DIVISION I — HORTICULTURE RULES

*Consultants: Laura Christensen, Diane Koza,
Marty Warrick*

1. The NGC Exhibit Policies are printed in *The Handbook for Flower Shows*, Chapter 6, Exhibiting in the Horticulture Division.
2. All plant material must be fresh and **MUST** be grown by the exhibitor. Cut specimens of annual, perennials must have been in the exhibitor's possession from seeds, cuttings, or immature plants grown to maturity.
3. Exhibitors must provide and complete all information required on the entry card. To be eligible for top ribbon awards, all specimens must be labeled with the correct scientific (botanical) name (genus, species, variety or cultivar). Common names may also be included. In containers with multiple plants, each specimen **MUST** be individually listed on a 3"x5" card placed by the exhibit.
4. All Entries with card will be accepted for placement between 5:00 pm and 8:00 pm on Thursday, October 2 and 8:00 am and 9:30 am on Friday, October 3. Please check with the Classification Committee.
5. Exhibitors may make more than one entry per class, if each is a different genus, species, variety, cultivar, type, size or color.

6. Clear glass containers for display of horticultural cut specimens may be obtained from the Flower Show Chairmen or may be provided by the exhibitor. Wedging material, used for the upright display of cut specimens is permitted. Acceptable wedging materials include clear plastic wrap, clear bubble wrap or white packing peanuts. Top heavy specimens may use marbles or pebbles as ballast.

7. Boadleaf or needled evergreen arboreal specimens may be exhibited without water.

8. Container grown plants of a SINGLE type must have been in the possession of the exhibitor for not less than 90 days prior to the show, however, containers, terrariums, dish gardens and other plantings containing MULTIPLE plants must have been in the possession of the exhibitor for not less than 6 weeks.

9. Each entry must be of show quality, clean, groomed and free of insects.

10. The length of the floral stem of a cut specimen should be in proportion to the bloom. Self foliage is to be included with the specimen bloom only if it is naturally attached to the bloom stem. The number of cut specimens should relate to the size of plant material; larger specimens, one stem, smaller specimens, three stems.

11. Plant material may not be wired, oiled, sprayed or colored.

12. No foliage below the water line.

13. A Collection must consist of at least 5 specimens or 5 different container grown plants in separate containers. They must be linked in one aspect. Each specimen must be named on one 3"x5" card placed by the collection. Only one entry tag is needed. Emphasis is on cultural perfection and attractive showing of the exhibit is a *plus*. The linked aspects may be:

- One family, e.g. Orchidaceae or Rosaceae
- Plants with like characteristics, e.g. ferns
- Different varieties within a genus
- Different cultivars within a genus or species
- Five different cut annuals, perennials

14. Outdoor containers can house single plants or multiple plants and varieties. Containers are to be staged on the floor and are not to exceed 18" in width. All pots are to be clean and their size in proportion to the size of the plant. Each specimen must be named on a 3"x5" card.

15. Classes may be subdivided at discretion of the classification committee.

DIVISION I – HORTICULTURE SECTIONS AND CLASSES

Turn of the Century

*Eligible for the Award of Horticulture Excellence and
Award of Merit*

Section A – Flowering Perennials – Garden Glories

(Need not be in flower)

Class 1. *Alchemilla* (“Lady’s Mantle”)

Class 2. *Amsonia*

Class 3. *Anemone*

Class 4. *Aster*

Class 5. *Chrysanthemum* (“Mum”)

Class 6. *Echinacea* (“Coneflower”)

Class 7. *Eupatorium* (“Joe Pye Weed”)

Class 8. *Helianthus* (“Perennial sunflower”)

Class 9. *Hellebore* (“Lenten Rose”)

Class 10. *Lavendula* (“Lavender”)

Class 11. *Rudbeckia* (“Black-Eyed Susan”)

Class 12. *Salidgo* (“Goldenrod”)

Class 13. *Salvia*

Class 14. *Sedum* (“Stonecrop”)

Class 15. Any other specimen not listed

a. Large flowered, over 3" diameter

b. Small flowered, 3" or under, 3 blooms

Section B – Perennial grown for Foliage – Plant, Fruit and Flower Guild

Class 16. *Hosta*

a. Large (leaves over 6" in width)

b. Medium (leaves between 3" to 6")

c. Small (leaves less than 3")

- Class 17. *Huechera* (“Coral Bells”)
- Class 18. *Polygonatum* (“Solomon Seal”)
- Class 19. *Polypodiopsida* (“Fern”)
- Class 20. *Pulmonaria* (“Lungwort”)
- Class 21. Any other specimen not listed

Section C – Annuals, Flowering - *Tri-color Ribbons*

- Class 22. *Begonia*
 - a. Dragon Wing
 - b. Tuberous
 - c. Wax
- Class 23. *Dahlia*
 - a. Large (over 4” in diameter)
 - b. Small (under 4” in diameter)
- Class 24. *Lantana*
- Class 25. *Salvia*
- Class 26. *Tagetes* (“Marigold”)
- Class 27. *Zinnia*
- Class 28. Any other specimen not listed

Section D – Annuals Grown for Foliage – *Garden Sunday*

- Class 29. *Asparagus setacus* (“Asparagus Fern”)
- Class 30. *Begonia*
- Class 31. *Caladium* (“Angel Wings”)
- Class 32. *Coleus*
 - a. Sunset colors (orange and red)
 - b. Citrus colors (yellow and green)
- Class 33. Any other specimen not listed

Section E – Herbs – *Tea Time*

Class 34. *Mentha* (“Mint”)

Class 35. *Oregano*

Class 36. Parsley

Class 37. *Salvia Rosmarinus* (“Rosemary”)

Class 38. Sage

Class 39. Any other specimen not listed

Section F – Ground Covers – *Plant Sale*

Class 40. *Hedera* (“Ivy”)

Class 41. *Lamium* (“Dead Nettle”)

Class 42. *Pachysandra*

Class 43. *Vinca* (“Periwinkle”)

Class 44. Any other specimen not listed

Section G – Grasses – *Prairie Path*

If small specimen, 3 stalks

Class 45. *Sarex* (“Sedge”)

Class 46. *Erianthus* (“Pampas grass”)

Class 47. *Panicum* (“Switch grass”)

Class 48. *Pennisetum* (“Fountain grass”)

Class 49. Any other specimen not listed

Section H – *Rosa* (“Roses”) – *Library Flower Arrangements and Beautification*

Class 50. Climbing

Class 51. Hybrid Tea and Grandiflora

Class 52. Miniature

Class 53. Shrub

**Section I – Outdoor Containers – *House of Seven Gables*
Eligible for Growers Choice Award**

Class 54. Single species planting

Class 55. Multiple species planting

Class 56. Herb

Class 57. Succulent

**Section J – Shrubs – *Thornhill House at the Morton
Arboretum***

Eligible for Arboreal Award

Class 58. Deciduous Fruited/Flowering, fall bloom

a. *Hydrangea*

1. *Hydrangea macrophylla*

(Large flower head)

2. *Hydrangea normalis* (Lace cap)

3. *Hydrangea paniculata* (Panicle)

b. *Callicarpa americana* (“Beautyberry”)

c. Any specimen not listed

Class 59. Deciduous Flowering, not currently in bloom
or fruited

a. *Hybiscus syriacus* (“Rose of Sharon”)

b. *Viburnum*

c. *Weigela*

d. Any specimen not listed

Class 60. Evergreen Shrubs, broadleaf

a. *Boxus* (“Boxwood”)

b. *Euonymous*

c. *Ilex* (“Holly”)

d. Any specimen not listed

- Class 61. Evergreen Shrubs, Needled
- Class 62. Deciduous shrubs not flowering

Section K— Trees - *Arbor Day*

Eligible for Arboreal Award

- Class 63. Deciduous Flowering
- Class 64. Deciduous Foliage
- Class 65. Evergreen

Section L – Collections - *Scholarships, Growing our Future*

Eligible for Collector’s Showcase Award

- Class 66. Flowering
- Class 67. Foliage

SCALE OF POINTS FOR HORTICULTURE

Cultural perfection:	60 points
Condition and grooming:	25 points
Distinction:	10 points
Correct, complete name, neatly written:	5 points
TOTAL:	100 points

DIVISION II—DESIGN RULES

Consultant: Lindalee Stuckey (630-790-4437)

1. All entries must be registered in advance with the Entries Chairman, on a first come, first serve basis.
2. Classes are open to all members of the Wheaton Garden Club.
3. **ENTRY CARDS:** Exhibitors must provide and complete all information required on the entry card. A 3"x5" white card of all plant material is required. A second 3"x5" card of intent is desirable.
4. Entries must be passed by the Classification Chairman before the exhibitor leaves the floor.
5. The use of artificial plant material and the embellishment or treatment of fresh plant material is prohibited.
6. Fruit and vegetables are permitted but cut fruit or vegetables, beverages, and/or potted plants in soil are NOT permitted. Living plants with roots attached, e.g. leek, bromeliad, moss are permitted.
7. Each design must be created by one exhibitor. All designs must be original and completed before placement.

8. Plant material used in design need not have been grown by the exhibitor.

9. A designer is free to incorporate accessories, unless stated otherwise, in all classes.

10. Landscapes or scenes are not permitted in the Design Division.

11. All exhibits in the Design Division must contain some fresh plant material, unless otherwise stated. Fresh material may include fruits, flowers, foliage, vegetables and branches.

12. Underlay and/or staging panels are permitted except as identified in the Schedule. Underlay and staging panels to be provided by the exhibitor.

Refer to *The Handbook for Flower Shows* and General Show Rules in this schedule for further information.

DIVISION II—DESIGN

Eligible for Designer's Choice Award, Award of Design Excellence, Centennial Award

Designer's choice of material and components within NGC policies.

Class 1 — “Tea for Two”

A functional tea tray for one person, evoking the 1920's, the decade Wheaton Garden Club was founded. Space allotted each exhibit not to exceed 30" wide by 23" deep. The tray must include a decorative unit (a floral design with or without candles or accessories). The decorative unit and all appointments must be placed on the tray. An underlay may be used and may overhang the table. The tray will be provided by the exhibitor.

4 Entries

Class 2 — “Bee my Baby”

A small design, not to exceed 8" in any dimension that celebrates the small pollinators, who inhabit WGC's Pollinator Garden, which could include not just bees but butterflies, hummingbirds and moths. The designs will be viewed from all sides. Plant material and other components must be small, as scale is important.

4 Entries

Class 3 — “Age of Aquarius”

A functional table design for two people, set for actual service of food that evokes the groovy style of the 1960's and 1970's. The exhibit must include a decorative unit (a floral design, with or without candles) or other accessories). Silverware may be included. The design will be staged on a

48" round table with white skirting to the floor. An overlay must be used and provided by the exhibitor. The table will be viewed from all sides.

4 Entries

Class 4 — “Victory Garden”

A standard design interpreting the Victory Garden theme, a patriotic activity the WGC was involved in during WWII. The exhibit will be staged in front of a black background panel 20"W by 30"H on a rectangular table. The background panel may be covered by the exhibitor and the underlay may be used. The table surface and skirt will be in white and will be provided by the committee.

4 Entries

Class 5 — “Green and Growing”

WGC has encouraged past and future generations of gardeners. This standard design is looking to the greening of our environment. The designs are to be staged in front of a black background panel 20"W by 30"H on a rectangular table. The background panel may be covered by the exhibitor and an underlay may be used. The table surface and skirt will be in white and will be provided by the committee.

4 Entries

Class 6 — “Nature’s Artistry”

A small design inspired by the artists of WGC, past and present. The design is not to exceed 8" in any dimension and will be viewed from all sides. Scale of plant material and components is important.

4 Entries

SCALE OF POINTS FOR DESIGN

Conformance (to schedule requirements):	20 points
Design (elements and principles):	42 points
Artistic Concept (selection &/or organization):	12 points
Expression (interpretation of class by exhibitor):	10 points
Distinction (marked superiority in all respects):	16 points
TOTAL:	100 points

DIVISION III—EDUCATION RULES

1. Education Exhibits may be the work of more than one individual or organization unless a Student Judge or Accredited Judge is seeking exhibiting credit for preparing an Education Exhibit.

2. An exhibit must occupy eighteen (18) square feet of surface area.

3. Plant material is not required, although NGC encourages the use of plant material.

DIVISION III—EDUCATION EXHIBITS

Eligible for Educational Top Exhibitor Award

Exhibit 1 - “Invasive Plants of the Midwest”

Exhibit 2 - “Weeds: Friend or For”

Exhibit 3 - “Caterpie’s Cafeteria: the Spicebush Caterpillar”

Exhibit 4 - “Host Plants for Butterflies and Moths”

SCALE OF POINTS FOR EDUCATION

Educational Value

Interest to Viewer	25 points
Clear, concise presentation	15 points
Adequate signage	10 points
Conforms to NGC Objectives	10 points

Staging

Craftsmanship/Technique	10 points
Distinction	10 points
Creativity and Expression	20 points

Total **100 points**

The Purposes of a Standard Flower Show

1. To educate club members and the viewing public.
2. To stimulate interest in horticulture and floral design.
3. To provide an outlet for creative expression.
4. To convey to the community the objectives of the National Garden Club.

Wheaton Garden Club was founded in 1925 by a group of civic-minded women, many of whom summered in Wheaton. For 100 years, WGC has continued to evolve and enriched our community through beautification projects, scholarships, educational programs, and volunteer service. In celebration of its centennial, WGC commissioned and installed a bronze wheelbarrow planter sculpture in Memorial Park, commemorating a century of dedication to Wheaton. Learn more about us at [**wheatongardenclub.org/history**](http://wheatongardenclub.org/history).



www.wheatongardenclub.org