

***West Michigan
Dahlia Society
23rd Annual Dahlia Show***

August 24-25, 2024



Flower of the year:

Baron Ron

Important Changes to Show Schedule

Table Numbers – Each grower classification (Novice, Small, Middle and Large) has been assigned a color. Table Numbers for entries in Sections A, B-1, B-2 and C are now color coordinated. Please make sure your entries match your grower classification color.

Novice Grower Section A table numbers are **YELLOW**

Small Grower Section B -1 table numbers are **RED**

Middle Grower Section B -2 table numbers are **ORANGE**

Large Grower Section C table numbers are **BLUE**

Youth Grower Section X table numbers are **GREEN**

All other table numbers will remain white

Flower of the year is in its own category. If you wish to enter a Baron Ron for consideration for flower of year, it must be entered in Section Z. All other entries of Baron Ron will not be considered for flower of the year. You need to decide where to enter your bloom!

Farmer's Market Bunch We have an exiting new category for cut flowers! See **Section Z** for the description, rules, judging characteristics and categories for the FARMER'S MARKET BUNCH!!!

General Rules of the Show

Registration: Exhibitors shall register with the Show Secretary. This may be done beforehand or at the Show. An exhibitor must be a member in good standing in the **West Michigan Dahlia Society** prior to judging. The dues are \$10.00 for a yearly membership. Blooms can be received from 12:00 PM – 11:00 PM on Friday August 23th, 2024. On Saturday morning, the gates will be open at 5:30 AM, but anyone needing to get in beforehand should contact Jeff Miner at 408-203-9987 for special entry arrangements. Blooms should be in place by 9:00 AM with the judging beginning shortly thereafter.

Grower Classification: There are four classes of growers for the Show. **Novice** growers are growers who feel they have not yet gained sufficient experience to show as a Small, Middle, or Large Grower. This section is really designed for the dahlia grower who is beginning to exhibit. In any case, a grower may not exhibit in this section for more than three years. The novices must show all of their single entry blooms in the Novice Section (classes 0001-9715). However, they are free to enter any of the open multiple bloom classes as well as the Arrangement section.

The **Small Grower** is one who has a garden with **60 AA-BB size dahlia plants or less**. A **Middle Grower** is one who has 61 to 200 AA-BB size dahlias. A **Large Grower** has 201 or more AA-BB dahlias. Those growers who use cloth/lath houses or are a commercial grower must enter in the Large Grower section.

Exhibition: The Exhibitors must use the standard Midwest Dahlia Conference Show tags onto which they must correctly place the section being entered, the name of the dahlia, and its class. This is to be done in writing, using blue or black ink. On the bottom of the tag, the exhibitor's name is placed. This area is to be covered until such time as the judging has been completed. No entry shall be judged unless the tag is properly completed and readable.

Judges and exhibitors shall use the 2024 edition of the American Dahlia Society Classification and Handbook of Dahlias. All flowers for exhibition must be named varieties, except for seedlings. Those named dahlias that are not listed in the present or past Classification manuals of the ADS must be placed on the Classification Table. The Classification Committee will determine the class, and the tag will bear the mark of this Committee. Once classified, it is the duty of the exhibitor to place the bloom in the proper area. Seedlings must contain the proper numerical identification as outlined by the ADS. Please do not use the Classification Table to identify a dahlia bloom. Only properly named dahlias are put on this Table.

Wiring of stems or artificial support of stems or blooms above the container is prohibited. Oasis blocks and wedges that are above the rim of the container will be regarded as part of the container. Containers for the single and triple bloom categories are available from the WMDS and will be at the show. For large entries, the WMDS will have several containers on hand, but if the entry is particularly large, then the exhibitor may wish to bring his or her own. Labeled containers not owned by the WMDS will be returned to the owner if at all possible.

The blooms from the show will be given away free to the public at 4:30 PM on Sunday.

The exhibitor must have grown all specimen blooms except for the Arrangement Section (T) and the ADS Bench. An exhibitor may place as many entries in a single class as desired. Should an entry be found to be misplaced, it may be moved to the proper area. However, if the proper area has already been judged, the entry is not to be considered for judging. The judging teams will not go back and re-judge misplaced entries.

Judging: The judges may award a first, second, and third place ribbon in each class as they deem the entries deserve. No first need be given in any class, even in classes where a second or third are awarded. Blooms will be judged with no penalty or premium points for being oversize or undersize. When judging miniatures, miniature balls, poms, and mignon singles, judges should consider and may reward diminutiveness in a dahlia. Judges should reward those growers that use their horticultural skills to grow dahlias within the size range as classified. Only first place entries will be allowed on the Court of Honor. The Show Management and the judges reserve the right to remove any unworthy entry.

Stems on single and multiple bloom entries must contain at least one pair of leaves above the container in order to be judged. This pair must be the initial pair that forms beneath the bloom. There is no height limitation to any entry, but judges often need to fully view the top of the bloom. Be aware that this may necessitate moving the entry to place it on the floor. Fully double dahlias that exhibit a blown center (whether single or multiple bloom entries) are ineligible to be judged, except for Section T.

In judging AA through Miniature sections, judges are to judge each color class, and from all the blue ribbon entries in the section (ie. 0001-0015) pick the best of the section. This winner is then given a Special Award. Judges then select the section winners of the five other sections of that size group (ie. 0101-0115, 0201-0215, 0301-0315, 0401-0415, and 0501-0515). Finally, up to six section winners may be available for selecting the best bloom of the size category (ie AAs). This winner gets a second Special Award and goes to the Court of Honor.

In all other sections (E-Q) judges will judge to color class and then select the best entry of the blue ribbon winners in that section. This entry is given a Special Award and sent to the Court of Honor. If there is only one blue ribbon entry in a Section, that entry will be given a Special Award and will be sent to the Court of Honor.

Judges will judge the three bloom entries from Section S in an identical fashion to the single entries in sections A-Q.

In matters of judgment, the decisions of the judges shall be final. Protests will not be considered.

Awards: Monetary prizes are given to all entries on the Court of Honor. In order to assure accuracy, the awards will be mailed or handed to the exhibitor a few days after the close of the Show. Anyone wishing to sponsor an award should contact Jo Jepsen.

Responsibility: The Show Management and Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park will not be responsible for the loss or damage to exhibits or personal property of the exhibitors, but will exercise the utmost care in the protection of all exhibits. No blooms may be removed from the Show except with the consent of the Show Chairman. All blooms shall

become the property of the Show Management. All suitable exhibits will remain in place until close at **4:30 PM** on Sunday.

Exhibition Sections

Novice Grower Section (A) Yellow Table Numbers: A single bloom entry is required. The bloom is to be placed, with its completed tag, into its proper class (0001-9715). Judges will judge to color class. A Special Award is given to the Best Large Bloom (0001-3515) and the Best Small Bloom (4001-9715). Then the judges will pick the better of the two, give it an additional Special Award, and take it to the Court of Honor as the Best Novice Bloom.

Small Grower Section (B-1) Red Table Numbers: A single bloom entry is required of sizes AA-BB. The Best AA, A, B, and BB blooms go to the Court of Honor.

Middle Grower Section (B-2) Orange Table Numbers: A single bloom entry is required of sizes AA-BB. The Best AA, A, B, and BB blooms go to the Court of Honor.

Large Grower Section (C) Blue Table Numbers: A single bloom entry is required of sizes AA-BB. The Best AA, A, B, and BB blooms go to the Court of Honor.

Section D: Single bloom entries of Miniature (4001-4515) are entered here. The Best Miniature bloom will go to the Court of Honor.

Section E: Single bloom entries of Ball dahlias are entered here. The Best Ball bloom will go to the Court of Honor.

Section F: Single staged entries of Miniature Ball are entered here. The Best Miniature Ball is sent to the Court of Honor.

Section G: Single entries of Pompon dahlias are entered here. The Best Pompon will go to the Court of Honor.

Section H: Single entries of Stellar dahlias are entered here. The Best Stellar dahlia will be placed on the Court of Honor.

Section I: Single staged blooms of Waterlilies are entered here. The Best Waterlily will go to the Court of Honor.

Section J: Single bloom entries of Double Centered Novelty dahlias are entered here. The Best Double Centered Novelty dahlia is placed on the Court of Honor.

Section K: Single bloom entries of Peony types are entered here. The Best Peony will go to the Court of Honor.

Section L: Single staged blooms of Anemone types are entered here. The Best Anemone will go to the Court of Honor.

Section M: Single bloom entries of Open Centered Novelty dahlias are entered here. The Best Open Centered Novelty dahlia is placed on the Court of Honor.

Section N: The single entry Collarette dahlias are entered here. The Best Collarette dahlia bloom will be sent to the Court of Honor.

Section O-1: Single staged blooms of Orchid dahlias are entered here. The Best Orchid dahlia is sent to the Court of Honor.

Section O-2 Single staged blooms of Orchette dahlias are entered here. The Best Orchette dahlia is sent to the Court of Honor.

Section P: The single entry of Single blooming dahlias is entered here. The Best Single dahlia is sent to the Court of Honor.

Section Q: The single entry of Mignon Single dahlias are entered here. The Best Mignon Single is sent to the Court of Honor.

Section R: Multiple bloom entries are placed in this section. Any suitable container may be used, and it may have a handle if desired. The exhibit is to be viewed from the front. No non-dahlia foliage, wiring, or artificial materials may be used. All of the blooms must be of the same variety. The exhibit(s) must contain the following number of blooms according to classification:

R-1	AA-A	5 or more blooms
R-2	B	5 or more blooms
R-3	BB	5 or more blooms
R-4	Min.; Ba; MBa	7 or more blooms
R-5	Pom; PE; AN; NO; CO; O; OT; S; MS	7 or more blooms
R-6	Stellar; WL; NX	7 or more blooms

Judges will be evaluating the exhibits for proper staging of the blooms, considering height, balance, structure, and bloom placement. They will also consider individual size, shape, and facing of the blooms. Remember that each bloom must have its first pair of leaves present. Any or all of the other leaves may be removed in order to allow for proper staging and elimination of leaf crowding.

Each entry is to be judged to color class, and then the best entry in each of the R-1 to R-6 sections will be placed on the Court of Honor.

Section S: Three bloom entries from the same variety are exhibited here. The blooms will be judged by individual color class, identical to the judging procedure for single blooms. The best blooms from the following classes will be placed on the Court of Honor : 3 AA, 3 A, 3 B, 3 BB, 3 Miniatures, 3 Balls, 3 Miniature Balls, 3 PomPons, 3 Stellars, 3 Waterlilies, 3 Novelty Doubles; 3 Peonies; 3 Anemones; 3 Novelty Discs; 3 Collarettes; 3 Orchids; 3 Orchette; 3 Singles; 3 Mignon Singles; 3 Micros.

Section T: Dahlia Arrangements Rules and Regulations: The artistic design competition is open to all. Participants must register in advance by contacting Kathy Stevenson at kastevenson2@aol.com or 616.299.8182. Registration accepted through August 23, 2024. This deadline allows planning for adequate exhibition space.

1. Floral designs must be made by exhibitor making the entry. Dahlias must predominate in all designs. Do not use any artificial plant material. Dried flower materials may be used. Flowers and plant material need not be grown by the exhibitor. Size not to exceed 24"x28". No height limit.
2. Wire may be used to stabilize but not visible in design.
3. Containers and other materials used to create the design must be furnished by the exhibitor and marked with the owner's name (not in view). While all possible care will be taken, WMDS is not responsible for loss or damage.
4. All entries must be in place by 9:30 am on Saturday, August 24, 2024. Entries may not be removed until the end of show Sunday, without permission of the Show Chair. The exhibitor is responsible to remove the entry upon closing of the show.
5. First place winners in each class will compete for best overall "Artistic Design of Show" which will be placed on the Honor Table.

Judged by National Garden Clubs Accredited Judges. Judges will judge each class separately.

An exhibitor may only enter one design per class but may enter more than one class.

The ABCs of Dahlia Design

Class 1: A is for the "ART of Dahlia Design"

A design that uses a frame.

Class 2: B is for Basket.

A design using a basket with dahlias and greenery (may contain other varieties of supporting flowers).

Class 3: C is for Children's books.

A design that reflects any children's book of choice. Please denote on tag what book theme is used.

Class 4: L is for Leaves.

A design with dahlias that incorporates leaf manipulation.

Class 5: M is for Meijer Gardens.

A design that reflects Meijer gardens. Explain on tag how design is a tribute to Meijer Gardens.

Class 6: N is for Novice Design.

Designers who feel they haven't gained enough experience against seasoned designers and has not won a blue ribbon in this category before. You may enter this class utilizing any of the Class 1-5 categories.

Section U: Midwest Origination. A three bloom entry of any dahlia originated in the Midwest. The best exhibit goes to the Honor Table.

Section V: Photography

1. Photo competition is open to everyone. Be creative, show us your best.
2. Photo must be the work of the exhibitor and no older than 2 years.
3. Each entry must be on 8.5 x11 paper or card stock. Larger prints not acceptable; smaller images must be mounted on 8.5x11 card in either horizontal or vertical format.
4. No more than 3 photographs per exhibitor.
5. You must have your name and address on the back side
6. All images must feature a dahlia
7. Images must be in place by 9 am Saturday, Aug 26
8. Judging will be by local creative professionals
9. Grand prize is \$25.00 1st-3rd ribbons awarded for each category
10. Winning images will be shown at next month's meeting and remain property of exhibitor.

Categories

1. Single or primary bloom
2. Multiple blooms or groupings
3. Dahlias with the kids
4. Dahlias with insects, wildlife or pets
5. Special effects in camera or computer generated

Section W: Originator Sponsorships and Memorials

\$50 for the best novice artistic design in the arrangements section sponsored by Kathy Stevenson.

\$25 for the best AA-A Novice bloom sponsored by Joanne and Gary Jepsen.

\$50 for the best JoJo's Morphette sponsored by Joanne and Gary Jepsen

\$50 for the best youth bloom sponsored by Louie Houseman and Dennie Loedeman

Section X: Youth

All youth (18 and younger) entries will be placed in this section. To qualify for entry in this Section, the blooms must be planted, cared for and staged by a youth grower. Blooms cultivated from a garden where the youth assists do not qualify for this Section as the blooms must be primarily tended by a youth. If chemical treatments are required, it is acceptable for an adult to apply the chemical.

Section Y: Flower of the Year: *Baron Ron* has been selected by the WMDS as our flower of the year. This will be a single bloom entry. Only blooms entered in this section will be considered for winning this section. Blooms entered in general competition will not be in the running for winning flower of the year. You will need to decide which section of the show you want to show your bloom!

Section Z: Farmer's Market Bunch

A "farmer's market bunch" typically refers to a bundle or arrangement of freshly cut flowers sold by local farmers or growers at a farmer's market. Farmer's market bunches are prized for their freshness, seasonal variety, and often for their sustainability and support of local agriculture. This category will focus specifically on these bunches utilizing dahlias.

Objective: Evaluate the freshness of the blooms with scores that rank marketability and favor 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, acceptable market standards 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 ok for blooms to have even and uneven distribution of colors.
- Muted, Muddy (brown), Vintage & Blends are ok.
- Blends do not need to have even distribution.
- Variegated varieties are allowed to have uneven distribution.
- It is ok for Bicolors to have bleeding and uneven distribution. They may also have solid and bicolored ray florets.

Categories:

- 1) Single color or single cultivar bunches
- 2) Mixed bunch category – a variety of colors, cultivars and shapes

Each bunch must contain 10 stems

Guidance for the Judges

Judges will need to pick up and handle bunches to evaluate characteristics.

No crushed leaves and petals on blooms. There may or may not be leaves, however if they do have leaves they need to be outside of the water.

No crushed or torn cut-ends of stem

Buds are fine as long as they aren't wilting/drooping and they do not count towards the 10 blooms.

Rules

Use of wire and artificial means of supporting stems and/or blooms will disqualify entry.

Minimum stem length of 16''

Bound with one rubber band for security

No wrapping

No additional foliage, filler or non-dahlias

Must be placed in a clear container. Exhibitor must provide container!!! We will gather them at the end of the show and return them to you if you are not present.

If it's one variety, please place that on the show tag. If it's mixed, please note that it's mixed or unknown.

Limit of 3 entries per person per category.

Cut Flower Score Card

Color.....25

(It is ok for blooms to have even and uneven distribution of colors. Muted, Muddy (brown), Vintage & Blends are ok. Blends do not need to have even distribution. Variegated varieties are allowed to have uneven distribution. It is ok for Bicolors to have bleeding and uneven distribution. They may also have solid and bicolored ray florets. Must be appealing & useful (as in a color that will sell in bouquets).)

Stem Quality

Firm blossom attachment.....20

Firmness & Integrity.....10

(Blooms are not bruised or crushed. Stems should be strong with a stem that doesn't arch and is not weak. Stems aren't too large in diameter. The cut edge is clean, fresh and straight.)

Stem length (min 16'').....10

(long strong straight stems preferred)

Freshness

Condition of petals.....15

(lack of damage and good moisture content, no shedding petals)

Harvested at appropriate stage.....10

(appropriate stage is slightly immature, young and still developing, no pollen present, green centers ok)

Uniformity of age of blooms.....10

(Blooms should be relatively the same maturation stage.)

ADS Bench Evaluation: American Dahlia Society seedling must have 3 blooms for the entry. Show officials and exhibitors must read and adhere to the rules for entries and judging as printed in the current ADS Classification and Handbook of Dahlias. Those wishing to enter this area are asked to contact the show chair prior to the show.

Largest in Show: The single entry bloom that has won a blue ribbon and has the greatest numerical value by multiplying the depth by the diameter is the largest bloom in the show. It will be placed on the Court of Honor.

BEST ENTRY OF THE SHOW: Evaluating all the entries on the Honor Table, all judges at the Show will select the finest entry for this award. Judges should obtain the paper ballot for voting for the best of show, preferably with the judging sheets. After all entries are in place on the Court of Honor, voting will commence and papers are to be returned to the Court of Honor chair.

Sweepstakes and Awarding of Points

All growers are eligible. Points are awarded as follows:

	Sections A-Q	Section S & U	Sections R & T
First place	3	6	9
Second place	2	4	6
Third place	1	2	3
Special Awards	5	5	5

Best Entry of Show, Flower of the Year, Largest Bloom in Show, Best Midwest Origination, and best photo: 5 points each.

Court of Honor

King of Show	Best Entry of Show
Queen of Show	<u>Small, Middle, and Large Grower</u>
Prince of Show	Best AA
Princess of Show	Best A
Best Miniature	Best B
Best 3Miniature	Best BB
Best Ball	Largest Bloom of Show
Best 3Ball	Flower of the Year
Best Miniature Ball	Best Disc Novelty
Best 3Miniature Ball	Best 3Disc Novelty
Best Pom Pon	Best Collarette
Best 3Pom Pon	Best 3 Collarette
Best Stellar	Best Orchid
Best 3 Stellar	Best 3 Orchid
Best 3 Orchette	Best Orchette
Best Waterlily	Best Single
Best 3Waterlily	Best 3 Single
Best Double Novelty	Best Mignon Single
Best 3 Double Novelty	Best 3 Mignon Single
Best Peony	Best Midwest Origination
Best 3 Peony	Best Micro
Best Anemone	Best 3 Micro
Best 3 Anenomes	Best Arrangement of Show
Best 3 AA	Best Photograph of Show
Best 3 A	Small Grower Sweepstakes

Best 3 B

Best 3 BB

Best Novice Bloom

Best Youth Bloom

Large Grower Sweepstakes

Middle Grower Sweepstakes

Grand Sweepstakes