

Federation of Northwest Dahlia Growers

2026 Show Schedule

General Rules

CLASSIFICATION OF EXHIBITORS

All exhibitors will be classified by their home society and will remain in that exhibitor classification for the current season regardless of winnings. The following are the classifications of exhibitors to be used by the home members of this society.

JUNIOR DIVISION: Any exhibitor aged 16 or younger. Juniors do not need to have and maintain a separate garden but should actively participate in the growing and showing of dahlias. They must stage and should attend and place their own exhibits in Federation dahlia shows. Juniors will show in the junior section and use blue tags.

JUNIOR NOVICE DIVISION: Exhibitors under the age of 17 who have and maintain their own garden can choose to participate in the junior novice division. They may elect to be a junior novice at the beginning of a show season and must remain in that division throughout that show season. The first show season after their 17th birthday, they must move up to the novice division. Junior novices will show in the novice division and therefore will use pink tags.

NOVICE DIVISION: Exhibitors entering dahlias in this division are inexperienced in the showing of dahlias. They may remain in this division for up to ten dahlia shows regardless of winnings. They will end the show season in the same exhibitor category as they started, instead of moving up in mid-season. Will use pink tags.

AMATEUR DIVISION: This division is for advanced exhibitors who show dahlias for fun and experience. Those entering this division are encouraged to remain until they consistently win head table and special awards for three consecutive show seasons. Will use yellow tags.

OPEN DIVISION: Experienced exhibitors, who have been consistent winners of head table and special awards during prior show seasons, are required to enter in this division. Exhibitors who have not consistently won head table and special awards during the immediate past three show seasons are encouraged to return to the amateur division. Will use white tags.

NOTE: Persons showing blooms grown in the same garden must enter in the same division.

FEDERATION RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. **EXHIBITORS:** Each exhibitor without Federation show numbers must register before making entries and will be given an exhibitor's number. There is no entry fee.
2. **NUMBER OF ENTRIES:** There will be no limit on the number of entries an exhibitor may enter in any class unless otherwise specified.
3. **CLASSIFIED DAHLIAS:** Dahlias will be exhibited as classified in the most recent issue of the ADS Classification and Handbook of Dahlias or the Federation's supplemental listing in the most recent ADS *Classification and Handbook of Dahlias* or the current year's Federation *Dahlia Annual & Combined Show Schedule*. The Federation supplement will take precedence in cases of conflict. A minor fault will be assessed for undersized or oversized blooms.
4. **UNCLASSIFIED DAHLIAS:** Dahlias not listed in the classification books will be shown in the appropriate size, type, and color class. The size categories are:

Giant (AA) Dahlias	over 10"
Large (A) Dahlias	over 8" to 10"
Medium (B) Dahlias	over 6" to 8"
Small (BB) Dahlias	over 4" to 6"
Miniature (M) Dahlias	over 2" to 4"
Ball (BA) Dahlias	over 3 1/2"
Miniature Ball (MB) Dahlias	over 2" to 3 1/2"
Pompon (P) Dahlias	2" and under
Mignon Single (MS) Dahlias	2" and under
Micro Dahlias (MCO, MPE, MC)	2" and under

Exhibitors unsure of proper classification should have the entry tag signed by the CLASSIFICATION COMMITTEE or ANY SENIOR JUDGE. An entry cannot be disqualified for incorrect classification if it is so marked.

5. **SUPPORTING STEMS:** The use of any material above the top of the container to support dahlias will disqualify the entry.
6. **SHOWING RULES:** Except in the arrangement and seedling sections, all blooms shown in competition can be entered with either a name or number, and must be grown by the exhibitor. Blooms must be shown disbudded and with at least two leaves that complement the bloom.
7. **ENTRY TAGS:** Entry tags supplied by the show committee must be completely filled out (including true name of dahlia) by the exhibitor and attached to each entry. Exhibitors will use the following color code: Novice - Pink Tags; Amateur - Yellow Tags; Open & Advanced Amateur - White Tags
Junior - Blue Tags

8. **JUDGING INSTRUCTIONS:** The judges' chair shall instruct each judge which classes s/he shall judge. The judges will follow the standard system of judging as defined by the American Dahlia Society (refer to the Guide to Judging Dahlias, a Manual of the American Dahlia Society) unless other provisions are stated in this schedule. No person shall judge any class in which s/he has a special interest, but shall step aside until judging of such class is complete.
9. **DECISIONS OF THE JUDGES:** The decisions of the judges are considered final; however, the judges chair may call for the re-judging of any class. This can be done within two hours following the conclusion of judging and only if a signed complaint has been registered with the judges chair.
10. **FILLER:** Each exhibitor will be responsible for the filler used in his containers.
11. **RIBBON PRIZES:** The ribbons will be blue for first and red for second except in seedling sections. (The judges may give no award or only a second award if no entry merits a first, per current judging standards.) Only blue ribbon winners will be eligible for further awards. Best-of-type and section champion ribbons will be awarded where designated.
12. **BEST DAHLIA IN SHOW:** The Best Dahlia in the Show will be selected from the best single entry in all sections except undisseminated, baskets and arrangements. Best triple entry in show will be selected from the best triple entry (of same variety) in all sections except ADS bench, baskets and arrangements.
13. **MULTIPLE-BLOOM ENTRIES:** All blooms in any multiple-bloom entry such as triple entries or five-bloom entries (arrangements not included) must be one variety unless otherwise stated.
14. **BASKETS:** No minimum number of blooms is required in any entry, unless otherwise specified, but the number of blooms must be in proportion to the size of the basket. The blooms in a basket are not required to have a set of leaves; other greens are allowed. One or more varieties are allowed in all classes. A balance of blooms is desirable, with a minimum of at least 3 blooms of each type or size in a mixed basket. Baskets are required to have a handle.
15. **SEEDLINGS:** Seedlings and undisseminated dahlias entered in the seedling sections shall be judged on their individual merits and not in competition with each other. The judges shall award a SEEDLING OF MERIT ribbon to each worthy entry in undisseminated dahlias. American Dahlia Society ribbons will be awarded in ADS seedling bench evaluation competition. Once a seedling is entered in ADS competition at any dahlia show, it is no longer eligible to compete in undisseminated dahlias. There is a 1/4" tolerance for size on mignon single and micro dahlias.
16. **REMOVAL OF ENTRIES:** No exhibit or any part of an exhibit may be removed at any time during the show; however, the show committee reserves the right to remove any exhibit which is inferior in condition, detracts from the general quality of the show, or is exhibited in a leaking container.
17. **RESPONSIBILITY:** The club shall not be responsible for loss or damage to the exhibits or the exhibitor's personal property; however, the utmost care will be exercised for the same.
18. **ADDITIONAL RULES:** The show chair may make additions or changes to the rules which are deemed necessary for the proper conduct of the show. Any rules so made shall be as binding as though they were a published part of these rules.

HORTICULTURAL SECTIONS

Novice - Pink Tags; Amateur - Yellow Tags; Open - White Tags

Novice, Amateur, and Open Divisions will use the following show schedule. In Horticultural Sections, each division will be judged separately.

For triple entries, place a T in front of the Section.

NOTE: CLASS NUMBER IS THE SAME AS ADS CLASSIFICATION NUMBER

SECTION	Entry	Description	ADS Class
1	Single Entry	Giant (AA) Dahlias	0001 to 0515
2	Triple Entry	Giant (AA) Dahlias	0001 to 0515
3	Single Entry	Large (A) Dahlias	1001 to 1515
4	Triple Entry	Large (A) Dahlias	1001 to 1515
5	Single Entry	Medium (B) Dahlias	2001 to 2515
6	Triple Entry	Medium (B) Dahlias	2001 to 2515
7	Single Entry	Small (BB) Dahlias	3001 to 3515
8	Triple Entry	Small (BB) Dahlias	3001 to 3515
9	Single Entry	Miniature (M) Dahlias	4001 to 4515
10	Triple Entry	Miniature (M) Dahlias	4001 to 4515
11	Single Entry	Ball (BA) Dahlias	6001 to 6515
12	Triple Entry	Ball (BA) Dahlias	6001 to 6515
13	Single Entry	Min Ball (MB) Dahlias	6101 to 6115
14	Triple Entry	Min Ball (MB) Dahlias	6101 to 6115
15	Single Entry	Pompon (P) Dahlias	6202 to 6215
16	Triple Entry	Pompon (P) Dahlias	6202 to 6215
17	Single Entry	Stellar (ST) Dahlias	7001 to 7015
18	Triple Entry	Stellar (ST) Dahlias	7001 to 7015
19	Single Entry	Waterlily (WL) Dahlias	7301to 7315
20	Triple Entry	Waterlily (WL) Dahlias	7301to 7315
21	Single Entry	Novelty (NO/NX) Dahlias	See current CHD
22	Triple Entry	Novelty (NO/NX) Dahlias	See current CHD

SECTION	Entry	Description	ADS Class
23	Single Entry	Peony (PE) Dahlias	8001 to 8015
24	Triple Entry	Peony (PE) Dahlias	8001 to 8015
25	Single Entry	Anemone (AN) Dahlias	8201 to 8215
26	Triple Entry	Anemone (AN) Dahlias	8201 to 8215
27	Single Entry	Collarette (CO) Dahlias	9001 to 9015
28	Triple Entry	Collarette (CO) Dahlias	9001 to 9015
29	Single Entry	Orchid (O) Dahlias	9201 to 9215
30	Triple Entry	Orchid (O) Dahlias	9201 to 9215
31	Single Entry	Orchette (OT) Dahlias	9401 to 9415
32	Triple Entry	Orchette (OT) Dahlias	9401 to 9415
33	Single Entry	Single (S) Dahlias	9601 to 9615
34	Triple Entry	Single (S) Dahlias	9601 to 9615
35	Single Entry	Mignon Single (MS) Dahlias	9701 to 9715
36	Triple Entry	Mignon Single (MS) Dahlias	9701 to 9715
37	Single Entry	Micro Peony (MPE) Dahlias	8101 to 8115
38	Triple Entry	Micro Peony (MPE) Dahlias	8101 to 8115
39	Single Entry	Micro Collarette (MCO) Dahlias	9101 to 9115
40	Triple Entry	Micro Collarette (MCO) Dahlias	9101 to 9115
41	Single Entry	All Other Micro (MC) Dahlias	See Current CHD
42	Triple Entry	All Other Micro (MC) Dahlias	See Current CHD

HORTICULTURAL SECTIONS

SECTION 55 - FIVE BLOOM ENTRIES

OPEN TO ALL - Use White Tags

ENTRY

Giant (AA) Dahlias
Large (A) Dahlias
Medium (B) Dahlias
Small (BB) Dahlias
Miniature (M) Dahlias
Ball (BA) Dahlias
Miniature Ball (MB) Dahlias
Pompon (POM) Dahlias
Stellar (ST) Dahlias
Waterlily (WL) Dahlias
Novelty (NX or NO) Dahlias

ENTRY

Peony (PE) Dahlias
Anemone (AN) Dahlias
Collarette (CO) Dahlias
Orchid (O) Dahlias
Orchette (OT) Dahlias
Single (S) Dahlias
Mignon Single (MS) Dahlias
Micro Peony (MPE) Dahlias
Micro Collarette (MCO) Dahlias
All Other Micros (MC) Dahlias (See CHD)

SECTION 56 -UNDISSEMINATED DAHLIAS

Use 1-10 Scorecard for Judging

SINGLE BLOOM ENTRY

OPEN TO ALL - Use White Tags

ENTRY

Giant (AA) Dahlias
Large (A) Dahlias
Medium (B) Dahlias
Small (BB) Dahlias
Miniature (M) Dahlias
Ball (BA) Dahlias
Miniature Ball (MB) Dahlias
Pompon (POM) Dahlias
Stellar (ST) Dahlias
Waterlily (WL) Dahlias
Novelty (NX or NO) Dahlias

ENTRY

Peony (PE) Dahlias
Anemone (AN) Dahlias
Collarette (CO) Dahlias
Orchid (O) Dahlias
Orchette (OT) Dahlias
Single (S) Dahlias
Mignon Single (MS) Dahlias
Micro Peony (MPE) Dahlias
Micro Collarette (MCO) Dahlias
All Other Micros (MC) Dahlias (See CHD)

SECTION 57 - ADS SEEDLING BENCH EVALUATION

TRIPLE BLOOM ENTRY - Use White Tags

This class is offered in cooperation with the American Dahlia Society. Open to all exhibitors. Show officials and exhibitors must read and adhere to all rules for entries and judging as posted on the ADS website. For mignon single and micro dahlias, there will be a 1/4" tolerance on size, as long as they have the overall look of a mignon single or micro dahlia.

SECTION 58 -BASKETS

Novice - Pink Tags; Amateur - Yellow Tags; Open - White Tags

A novice is someone who has shown baskets in 10 or fewer shows. Exhibitors continue as an amateur until they have won a total of 10 Best in Show basket awards, at which time they move up to open.

(One or more varieties are allowed in all classes)

ENTRY

Giant (AA) Dahlias
Large (A) Dahlias
Medium (B) Dahlias
Small (BB) Dahlias
Miniature (M) Dahlias
Ball (BA) Dahlias
Miniature Ball (MB) Dahlias
Pompon (POM) Dahlias
Stellar (ST) Dahlias
Waterlily (WL) Dahlias
Novelty (NX or NO) Dahlias

ENTRY

Peony (PE) Dahlias
Anemone (AN) Dahlias
Collarette (CO) Dahlias
Orchid (O) Dahlias
Orchette (OT) Dahlias
Single (S) Dahlias
Mignon Single (MS) Dahlias
Micro Peony (MPE) Dahlias
Micro Collarette (MCO) Dahlias
All Other Micros (MC) Dahlias (See CHD)
Mixed Dahlias (MIXED)

A balance of blooms is desirable, with a minimum of at least 3 blooms of each type or size in a mixed basket.

1. Foliage must be natural.
2. Staging material must be concealed.
3. Basket must have handle.
4. Exhibitor must grow the blooms (#6 Showing Rules)

SECTION 59 - SPECIAL ENTRIES

Open to Novice, Amateur, & Open unless otherwise designated by individual club.

See individual "driving directions and special entries" pages for each club.

SECTION 60 -ARRANGEMENTS

Novice - Pink Tags; Amateur - Yellow Tags; Advanced Amateur - White Tags

A novice is someone who has shown arrangements in 10 or fewer shows. An exhibitor then moves up to amateur and continues as amateur until s/he is winning consistently in the arrangement section; they will then advance to advanced amateur.

Rules governing entries in the arrangement/floral art section are:

1. Check each society's rules for registering ahead of time.
2. Use the appropriate color tag for novice, amateur, or advanced amateur.
3. Plant material need not be grown by the exhibitor, but all exhibits must be arranged by the exhibitor.
4. Any flower, foliage, and accessories including dried, treated, or painted material may be used. Artificial flowers and/or foliage may not be used.
5. All arrangements must feature dahlias as the predominant flower.
6. Dahlias must have good color and substance and be free of insect and mechanical damage.
7. Designs should be finished on all sides.

For glossary of terms and line descriptions please go to www.nwdahlia.org

See individual "driving directions and special entries" pages for each club's classes.

JUNIOR ARRANGEMENTS

Use BLUE Tags

Check for individual society show schedule to determine if this section is offered.

Must follow the Arrangement Rules

SECTION 61 - JUNIOR SECTION

Use BLUE tags

Open to exhibitors 16 years and under.

All worthy entries will receive a blue ribbon.

The best of each class will win a Best of Type ribbon.

Junior Section Judging Instructions

Organize the entries by class.

Award a blue ribbon to every worthy entry. Note: virtually every entry will be worthy and will receive a blue ribbon. There will be multiple blue ribbons in each class; there may be a few red ribbons.

Award a best-of-type or section champion ribbon (whatever is allocated by show officials) to the best entry in each class.

Choose the best entries from among the class winners; these will include:

- Best Junior Fully Double Single Dahlia
- Best Junior Open-Centered Single Dahlia
- Best Junior Fully Double Triple-Bloom
- Best Junior Open-Centered Triple-Bloom

All four entries described above will go to the head table as Best Junior Entries and will be considered for best-in-show awards.

The overall effect will be a sea of blue ribbons, perhaps a few reds, and when necessary, a few no awards.

The purpose of this section is to encourage junior exhibitors.

SECTION 61 - JUNIOR SECTION

Use BLUE tags

Junior Section Classes Junior Section Specials

Entry	Color & Form	CLASS
Single Bloom Giant (AA)	Any color or form	Class G
Single Bloom Large (A)	Any color or form	Class LG
Single Bloom Medium (B)	Any color or form	Class MED
Single Bloom Small (BB)	Any color or form	Class SM
Single Bloom Miniature (M)	Any color or form	Class MIN
Single Bloom Ball (BA)	Any color	Class BA
Bloom Miniature Ball (MB)	Any color	Class MB
Single Bloom Pompon (P)	Any color	Class POM
Single Bloom Waterlily (WL)	Any color	Class WL
Single Bloom Steller (ST)	Any color	Class ST
Single Bloom Novelty (NO/NX)	Any color	Class NO/NX
Single Bloom Peony (PE)	Any color	Class PE
Single Bloom Anemone (AN)	Any color	Class AN
Single Bloom Collarette (CO)	Any color	Class CO
Single Bloom Orchid (O)	Any color	Class OR
Single Bloom Orchette (OT)	Any color	Class OT
Single Bloom Single (S)	Any color	Class S
Single Bloom Mignon Single (MS)	Any color	Class MS
Single Bloom Micro Peony (MPE)	Any color	Class MPE
Single Bloom Micro Collarette (MCO)	Any color	Class MCO
Single Bloom All Other Micros (MC)	Any color	Class MICRO

Junior Section Specials

ENTRY	DESCRIPTION	CLASS
Triple-Bloom Fully Double	Same Variety, Any Color or Form	Class 3-DBL
Triple-Bloom Open Center	Same Variety, Any Color or Form	Class 3-OC
Basket of Dahlias	Color Variation Allowed	Class BASKET
Five Bloom	Same Variety, Any Color or Form	Class 5-Bloom
Arrangements	See Arrangement Section from each show for Junior details—if offered.	