# *Dahlia Festival 2026*

## Show Booklet (Version 2)

**September 19 and 20, 2026**

Chelsea Depot
125 Jackson St
Chelsea, MI 48114

*Festival Flower of the Year: Any ADS Classified flower introduced by an MDA/MDS member.*
*See MDS Hybridizers - MICHIGAN DAHLIA SOCIETY for the flower list*

Examples: Valentine Lil by Tom Rumple 1996, Nellie & Grace by Bud Ervin 2020, Country Charm by Don Warden 2000, I LOVE LUCY by Russel Propst 2024, KZ Joan's Coffee by Carolyn Zick 2026

# 2026 SHOW COMMITTEE

Sharon Stroh
Coleen Huff
Teri Hamilton
Samantha Sabota
Melissa Koenig
Kathy Knapp
Andrea Strach
Paula Gearin
Fred Blow

# SHOW SCHEDULE

Registration and bloom staging can be done on Friday and/or Saturday during the times shown below.

**Friday, September 18**
Chelsea Depot Set-Up: 2pm
Staging Blooms: 4pm – 10pm

**Saturday, September 19**
Staging Blooms: 6am-10am
Table Organization: 10am – 11am
Judges Meeting: 10:30am
Judging: 11am-1pm
Open to the Public: 1pm – 6pm

**Sunday, September 20**
Open to the Public: 10am – 3pm
Flower Give Away: 3pm
Clean-Up: 3pm -

# SHOW RULES

1. Any dahlia grower can exhibit in the show and receive a ribbon for the appropriate section. To be eligible for a cash prize, a person must be a member of the Michigan Dahlia Society prior to judging. Membership dues may be paid during registration if desired.

2. Exhibitors must first register with the clerk and receive an exhibitor's number to be used on all his/her entry tags.
    a. Must be completely filled out by the exhibitor
        i. using black or blue ink
        ii. placed when exhibits are staged

b. The exhibitor's name, number or any means of identification must be sealed until after the judging.
c. Include the correct “Section” on all entry tags

3. All entries must be completed by 10 AM on the Saturday of the show, after which time they shall be under the exclusive charge of the Show Committee. No exhibit shall be removed before 3 PM on the final day of the show without committee approval. The building will be open to exhibitors at 6:00 AM. All blooms shall be the property of the committee.

4. Single ADS blooms in Sections A, B and C (Dahlia Classifications AA, A, B and BB), the shower must select a category:
    a. **Novice Class:**
        i. An exhibitor inexperienced in showing dahlias
        ii. New exhibitors can exhibit in this category for three years
    b. **Intermediate Class:**
        i. An exhibitor who has previously won several Novice sections and wishes to advance to the next level
        ii. Intermediate Class exhibitors have shown 6 years or less. If they have repeatedly won in this class they will be encouraged to advance to an appropriate level of Experienced Exhibitor Class.
    **c. Experienced Exhibitor Class:**
        i. A seasoned grower and exhibitor of dahlias who has previously won several times and has gained exhibition experience to compete at the highest level

5. Single blooms in the other classifications (Min, Ball, Min Ball, Pom, Stellar, etc), all entries will compete together in “Open to All”.

6. Novices to show in Section H, Non-Classified single blooms

7. **Exhibition Limits:** Due to space constraint of our venue, please use your best judgement when selecting your blooms. If the show runs out of display space, exhibitors with high number of entries may be asked to reduce the number entered.

8. All blooms in a single bloom and 3 bloom class must be grown by the exhibitor. Market bouquet flowers must be grown by the exhibitor. Arrangements can contain flowers <u>not</u> grown by the exhibitor. Photos entries must be photographed by the exhibitor in the past two years.

9. Standard containers shall be furnished for single and triple blooms. Exhibitors must furnish containers for entries in those classes requiring vases, bowls, and baskets and for classes to be judged for artistic effect.

10. Wiring of stems, or artificial support of stems or blooms above the container is not allowed. Blooms must be disbudded and should show at least one pair of

leaves (except in bouquets or arrangements). Fully double flowers will unfortunately be disqualified if their centers are blown open.

11. All blooms become the property of the Society. No blooms may be removed from the show except with the consent of the Show Committee. If you would like to have your container back, please work with someone at the show to have it set aside before flowers are made available to the public to take.

12. The Show Committee reserves the right to interpret and make any decisions pertaining to the rules and make clarifications as they may arise.

# SINGLE BLOOMS AA – BB: Select One Section to Enter

| Section | Class | ADS Classified Entries, ADS Judged<br>ADS Classifications can be found on www.dahlia.org classify | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | **Novice**<br>One Bloom<br><br>Novice wins $5 best each form-> | **AA**<br>**0001-0515**<br>Best of AA size wins $20 | | | | | | **A**<br>**1001-1515**<br>Best of A size wins $20 | | | | | | **B**<br>**2001-2515**<br>Best of B size wins $20 | | | | | | **BB**<br>**3001-3515**<br>Best of BB size wins $20 | | | | | |
| | | FD | ID | SC | C | IC | LC | FD | ID | SC | C | IC | LC | FD | ID | SC | C | IC | LC | FD | ID | SC | C | IC | LC |
| B | **Intermediate**<br>One Bloom | **AA**<br>**0001-0515**<br>Best of AA size wins $20 | | | | | | **A**<br>**1001-1515**<br>Best of A size wins $20 | | | | | | **B**<br>**2001-2515**<br>Best of B size wins $20 | | | | | | **BB**<br>**3001-3515**<br>Best of BB size wins $20 | | | | | |
| C | **Experienced**<br>One Bloom | **AA**<br>**0001-0515**<br>Best of AA size wins $20 | | | | | | **A**<br>**1001-1515**<br>Best of A size wins $20 | | | | | | **B**<br>**2001-2515**<br>Best of B size wins $20 | | | | | | **BB**<br>**3001-3515**<br>Best of BB size wins $20 | | | | | |

# OTHER EXHIBITION SECTIONS

| Section | Class | ADS Classified Entries, ADS Judged<br>ADS Classifications can be found on www.dahlia.org classify | | | | | |
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| D | **Open to All**<br>One Bloom | **M,MC**<br>**4001-5515**<br>Best wins $20 | **BA**<br>**6001-6015**<br>Best wins $20 | **MB**<br>**6101-6115**<br>Best wins $20 | **P**<br>**6201-6215**<br>Best wins $20 | **ST,MST**<br>**7001-7115**<br>Best wins $20 | **WL,MWL**<br>**7301-7415**<br>Best wins $20 |

| D (cont.) | Open to All<br>One Bloom | NX,MNX<br>7601-7715<br>Best wins $20 | PE,MPE,AN,NO,MNO<br>8001-8215, 8601-8715<br>Best wins $20 | CO,MCO<br>9001-9115<br>Best wins $20 | O,MO,OT,MOT<br>9201-9515<br>Best wins $20 | S,MS<br>9601-9715<br>Best wins $20 |
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| Section | Class | ADS Classified Entries, ADS Judged<br>ADS Classifications can be found on www.dahlia.org classify | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **E** | **Open to All**<br>Three Blooms<br>One Variety | **AA**<br>**0001-0515**<br>Best wins<br>$20 | **A**<br>**1001-1515**<br>Best wins<br>$20 | **B**<br>**2001-2515**<br>Best wins<br>$20 | **BB**<br>**3001-3515**<br>Best wins<br>$20 | **M,MC**<br>**4001-5515**<br>Best wins<br>$20 | **BA,MB,P**<br>**6001-6215**<br>Best wins<br>$20 | **ST,WL,NX**<br>**7001-7715**<br>Best wins<br>$20 | **Open Center**<br>**8001-9715**<br>Best wins<br>$20 |
| | | | | | | | | | |
| **F** | **Open to All**<br>Flower of the Year* | *See MDS Hybridizers - MICHIGAN DAHLIA SOCIETY for the flower list*<br>Best wins $25 | | | | | | | |
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| | | **Seedling Bench**<br>Must contact show chair to enter a seedling by Sept. 5th | | | | | | | |
| **G** | **Open to All**<br>3rd year seedlings | *3 individually staged blooms of the 3rd year seedling*<br>3rd year seedlings to be judged for ADS inclusion<br>If points are above 85, receives ADS inclusion and ADS ribbon | | | | | | | |
| | | **Non-ADS Classified Blooms** | | | | | | | |
| **H** | **Novice**<br>Non-classified All Forms* | ***People's choice*** *"most intriguing bloom"*<br>One Bloom, All Forms non ADS classified or seedlings<br>Best wins $20 | | | | | | | |
| | | **ADS or Non-ADS Blooms** | | | | | | | |
| **I** | **Open to All**<br>Arrangement<br>Market Bouquet * | ***People's Choice*** *best Market Bouquet*<br>Arrange flowers in a hand tied bouquet secured with a rubber band (twine or ribbon may be added) and display in a quart size mason jar. 8- 12 dahlia blooms/buds. Foliage not required.<br>Best wins $50 | | | | | | | |
| **J** | **Open to All**<br>Arrangement<br>250 years | Arrangement that embraces our 250 year centennial<br>Filler flowers and foliage allowed but dahlias should be the focus.<br>Best wins $50 | | | | | | | |
| **K** | **Open to All**<br>Arrangement<br>Shades of Pink | Arrangement of shades of pink.<br>Filler flowers and foliage allowed but dahlias should be the focus<br>Best wins $25 | | | | | | | |
| **L** | **Open to All**<br>Arrangement<br>Opposites Attract | Colors and design that invoke the "opposite attracts" theme with contrasting but eye-catching color choices. Filler flowers and foliage allowed but dahlias should be the focus.<br>Best wins $25 | | | | | | | |
| **M** | **Open to All**<br>Photo<br>Artistic Single bloom | Judged Best Single Bloom Photo<br>4x6 photo, photographed in the last 2 years. Single bloom. Close up is allowed (not required to show the entire bloom).<br>Best wins $20 | | | | | | | |
| **N** | **Open to All**<br>Photo<br>"I Dew" | Judged Best "I Dew" Photo<br>4x6 photo, photographed in the last 2 years.<br>One or more "I dew" dahlias: dahlia(s) with water droplets<br>Best wins $20 | | | | | | | |

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| **O** | **Open to All**<br>Artistic Dahlia | Judged Best Art<br>Hand drawing or painting that pays homage to the dahlia<br>Best wins $25 |
| **P** | **Open to All**<br>Best for T-shirt | Club Member Vote: vote for M, N, O for possible T-shirt design. It does not have to be 1st place in M, N or O to win.<br>Best wins $50 |