

Exhibitor Guidebook

for Entering Homegrown Items in the Fair

DESERT DREAMS ON DESERT SAND

October 17 - 19, 2025

**Desert Empire Fair
75th Anniversary Year
Ridgecrest, CA**

Oasis Garden Club of Indian Wells Valley

Sponsored by

Board of Directors of the Desert Empire Fair
Oasis Garden Club of Indian Wells Valley
Members of Desert Empire District
With special assistance by
Desert Rose Garden Club, California City

TIME TABLE OF EVENTS

October 10, 2025 (Friday) Deadline for ALL Flower Show Entry Forms
Entry Forms and Tags may be picked up at club meetings or at the Fair Office.

Desert Empire Fair Office
520 S. Richmond Road
Ridgecrest, CA 93555
(760) 375-8000

Entry forms and fees must be received by Oasis Garden Club on or before October 10, 2025 (Friday).

Flower Show Schedule, Entry Forms, and Entry Tags may be picked up at club meetings or at the Fair Office.

Please mail **HORTICULTURE/FLORICULTURE** entries to

Wanda Hewett

7927 N. Bull Run, Inyokern, CA 93527-2013

Cell: (760) 793-5248

Please mail **DESIGN** entries to

Donna Thomas

8158 Panorama Trail, Inyokern, CA 93527-2036

Cell: (760) 977-7967

October 10 (Friday) 9:00 am	Staging and Set Up Joshua Hall
October 15 (Wednesday) 1:00 pm to 4:30 pm	Entries Received in Place Joshua Hall
October 16 (Thursday) 8:00 am to 10:00 am	Entries Received in Place Joshua Hall
October 16 (Thursday) 1:30 pm	Judging Joshua Hall

Show Open to the Public

October 17, Friday4:00 pm – 11:00 pm

October 18, Saturday.....2:00 pm – 11:00 pm

October 19, Sunday.....2:00 pm – 10:00 pm

October 20 (Monday) 8:00 am to 9:00 am Dismantle until complete	Pick Up Exhibits and Dismantle Show Joshua Hall
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GENERAL RULES

- Competition is open to all amateur gardeners within Fair boundaries.
- **Entry forms, and tags are available at the Desert Empire Fair Office, (760) 375-8000.**
- Entry donation of 25 cents per entry must be prepaid for Adult entries. Make check payable to Desert Empire Fair and indicate Horticulture-Floriculture. **Fee is waived for Youth entrants.**
- **All entries must be preregistered.** Use forms for each type of entry: Horticulture, Design, Special Exhibit Youth. Additional forms are available from the Fair Office, and at Oasis club meetings. All entry names (common and botanical names) should be referenced from *Sunset Western Garden book 2012 Edition* only.
- **Liability:** In no case will the sponsoring organizations, Committee members and/or Desert Empire Fair Board be responsible for any loss, injury of any character, to any article or persons while at the show or enroute. Every reasonable precaution to ensure safety of exhibits and persons shall be taken. Mark all property in a concealed place with name, address, and phone numbers.

YOU BE THE JUDGE!

Everyone is a judge! We want you to vote for your favorite flower arrangement or table arrangement in the Division II Design entries categories. As a judge, you will receive 2 tickets. No rules to follow – just pick what you like. Put your ticket(s) in the container in front of the item you are voting to win. Tickets will be counted at the end of Saturday and awards will be on display for Sunday.

ENTRY PROCEDURE

- Entry forms and fees must be **received** by Oasis Garden Club on or before **October 10, 2025**.
- Forms are to be mailed as listed on page 1. Please keep a copy of your entry forms for your own records.
- Bring complete exhibits to Joshua Hall
October 15, 2025, 1:00 pm to 4:30 pm or
October 16, 2025, 8:00 am to 10:00 am.
(Please unload your car quickly and move it to make room for other exhibitors).
- **All exhibits must be in place by 10:00 am Thursday, October 16, 2025**

DIVISION I HORTICULTURE FOLIAGE PLANTS “Desert Dreams On Desert Sand”

GENERAL RULES – DIVISION I.

- All plant material(s) must be fresh and must be grown by the exhibitor. Container-grown plants in one's possession at least 90 days, and combination plantings for at least 6 weeks.
- Exhibit must be named, giving genus and species, variety/cultivar, where available.
- All horticulture classes are open to any amateur gardener.
- All entries must have an entry tag/card that describes the entry and includes exhibitor's name.
- Clean, clear, brown glass bottles or jars appropriately sized (to specimen) are to be provided by the exhibitor.
- Entry tags are to be placed with exhibits, with exhibitor's name hidden and entry information exposed. (Attach tag to bottle with a rubber band.)
- Note: Rosemary (*rosmarinus officinalis*) is to be entered in Herbs only!

SECTION A. TREES AND SHRUBS – DECIDUOUS AND EVERGREEN “CALIFORNIA DREAMING”

Foliage, and/or berried, fruited, or coned branch. One fresh, named tree or shrub branch with several nodes. The exhibit must be no longer than 30 inches, measured from cut end to tip of branch.

Class

1. Deciduous tree
2. Evergreen tree
3. Deciduous shrub
4. Evergreen shrub

SECTION B. CUT FLOWERING SPECIMENS “DESERT VISIONS”

Annuals, biennials, perennials including modified stems, corms, rhizomes, and other bulbs.

Class

5. Zinnia
6. New England Michaelmas Daisy (*Symphotrichum novae-angliae*) – common perennial
7. Chrysanthemum, Garden Mum (*Chrysanthemum morifolium*)
8. Blanket Flower (*Gaillardia aerostata*) (3 blooms)
9. Marigold (*Tagetes* sp.), name species if known
10. Sage (*Salvia* sp.) (name species and/or cultivar if known, ex. “Blue Bedders,” “White Porcelain”)
 - a. Russian Sage
11. Common Garden Sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*)
12. Society Garlic (*Tulbaghia violacea*)
13. Verbena
14. Vinca (not vine)
15. Four O’Clock
16. Sweet William
17. Other worthy specimen

SECTION C. NATIVES

“DESERT DAYDREAMS”

Branches must be no longer than 30 inches, measured from cut end to tip. Exhibits **MUST** be homegrown. Picking specimen from the “open desert” is prohibited (the fines are substantial).

Class

18. Trees (one branch, not to exceed 30 inches in length)
 - a. Deciduous
 - b. Evergreen
19. Shrubs (one branch, not to exceed 30 inches in length)
 - a. Deciduous
 - b. Evergreen
20. Flowers (up to 3 stems)

SECTION D. ROSES

“COLORFUL DREAMS”

Judged for blossom form and color, stem, and foliage. For exhibition, the rose is usually one-half to three-fourths open, with petals spiraling symmetrically to a well-defined pointed center that is centered and not split. Discolored or deformed petals may be removed from the back leaving no tab.

Class

21. Floribunda (flowers in clusters; often not fragrant; bushy habit), one naturally- grown spray with foliage
22. Hybrid Tea (long straight stems; single on stem; often fragrant; often repeat flowering), one disbudded bloom and foliage
23. Grandiflora (cross between Floribunda and Hybrid Tea; large bush; single or clustered flowers)
24. Miniature rose with foliage (dwarf version of a full-size variety)
25. Other worthy rose with foliage

SECTION E. DECORATIVES

“UNDER DESERT SKIES”

Seeds, pods, bracts, foliage. Flowers not required or desired. Height limited to 4 feet. Up to 5 stems in appropriately sized container.

Class

26. Umbrella Plant, (*Cyperus alternifolius*)
27. Muhlenbergia, Deergrass
28. Ferns
29. Other worthy decoratives not listed above

SECTION F. HERBS

“DESERT GROWN SPICES”

To be shown as cut specimens, one stem to a bottle.

Class

30. Basil (*Ocimum basilicum*)
31. Mint (*Mentha*), name species if known
32. Oregano (*Origanum vulgare*)
33. Parsley (*Petroselinum crispum*)
34. Rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*), name cultivar if known – enter in Herbs only
35. Sage (*Salvia officinalis*)
36. Tarragon (*Artemisia dracunculus*)
37. Thyme (*Thymus* sp.), add cultivar name if known, ex.: *Thymus* sp. “Lemon Scent”
38. Lavender (*Lavandula* sp.), name species if known, ex.: Spanish Lavender, *Lavandula stoechas*. Name species and cultivar if known, ex.: English Lavender, *Lavandula angustifolia* “Hidcote”
39. Other worthy herb not listed above

SECTION G. CONTAINER-GROWN PLANTS

“INDOOR VISIONS”

May be double-potted.

Class

40. Container Grown Plants

SECTION H. VINES

“FREE TO ROAM”

Stem no longer than 20 inches, with or without flowers.

Class

41. Honeysuckle (*Lonicera* sp.), name species and cultivar if known, ex. *Lonicera sempervirens* “Major Wheeler”
42. Ivy (*Hedera* sp.), name species if known
43. Other worthy vine

SECTION I. COLLECTIONS

“DESERT ADVENTURES”

Class

“KEEPING COMPANY”

44. Specimens within a collection of 5 may consist of flowers or plants that are related.

SECTION J. VIGNETTES

“SOUVENIRS AND MEMORIES” “FOLLOW YOUR DREAMS”

Personal collectibles for display (with some plant material included.) (May include Fairies and Gnomes)

Will accept anything you would like to enter as long as we have room to display.

Class

45. Remember When

SECTION K. FRUITS, NUTS, AND BERRIES

“SWEET DESERT DREAMS”

Fruits, to fulfill State Fair policy, should be of marketable size as one would find in a grocery store. Flower Show Committee to provide containers for display.

Class

46. Fruits, Nuts, and Berries

SECTION L. VEGETABLES

“DESERT BOUNTY”

Vegetables, to fulfill State Fair policy, should be of marketable size as one would find in a grocery store. Flower Show Committee to provide containers for display.

Class

47. Vegetables
48. Monstrosities

DIVISION II DESIGN “DESERT BEAUTY”

GENERAL RULES – DIVISION II

- All exhibits must contain some plant material – fresh and/or dried (foliage, blooms, fruits and/or vegetables, etc.). Flowers may be homegrown, borrowed or purchased for use. Living plants (growing plants with roots) are not permitted in designs.
- No artificial flowers, fruit, or foliage are permitted.
- Fresh plant material **cannot** be treated in any manner, including artificial coloring.
- Cut fruit or prepared foods are not allowed. Natural bird's nests, stuffed birds, butterflies, or other insects, fish, birds, or animals are not permitted in design classes.
- Frames, backgrounds, and constructions may be used, if appropriate.
- Accessories **permitted** in any class.

SECTION M.

“OFF ROAD VIEWS”

Using all dried material: may be sprayed, treated, or painted. Accessories permitted. Individual entries.

Class

49. “DUSTY TRAILS” – Designer's interpretation.
50. “PINNACLES” – Designer's interpretation.

SECTION N.

“DINING WITH A DESERT FLAIR” “MOONBEAMS AND SWEET DREAMS”

Designer's choice of functional style Table settings or Exhibition style using fresh and/or dried plant materials and other components. Individual entries unlimited in numbers accepted as long as space is available

Class

51. Functional Table Set for Two. Include a completed decorative unit. To be staged on a card table, supplied by exhibitor.
52. Type II Exhibition Table. May not include a decorative unit, but must include some plant material. Exhibit only with a setting for One. Staged on a card table, provided by exhibitor or on a covered table in a space 24" x 24", height unlimited.

SECTION O.

“DREAMS OF BEAUTIFUL BOUQUETS” FRUIT JAR ARRANGEMENTS

Arrangement done in a canning / fruit jar. To be staged on a table. Table space is 24 x 24 inches. Individual entries.

Class

53. “SWISH AND SWIRL” – Designer's choice. Fresh, dry, or fresh and dry materials

SECTION P.

“DREAMS FOR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS” FUN ARRANGEMENTS

Homestyle arrangements for dining or home décor. To be staged on a table. Table space is 24 x 24 inches. Individual entries.

Class

54. “DESERT DELIGHTS” – Designer's choice of container and materials

SECTION Q.

“TINY MAGICAL DELIGHTS” FAIRIES AND GNOMES

Miniature and small designs. Plant material and other components must be small, as scale is important.

Class

55. “BRIGHT LIGHTS” – A miniature design, not more than 3 inches in any dimension, all dried plant material.
56. “TINY WONDERS” – A miniature design, not under 3 inches nor over 5 inches overall, fresh, and dry plant materials.
57. “BLOWING IN THE WIND” – Small design, no more than 8 inches in any dimension, all fresh plant material.

DIVISION III SPECIAL EXHIBITS

“DESERT AND MOUNTAINS AROUND US”

EDUCATIONAL EXHIBITS

Exhibit I – Penny Pines.

SECTION R. SPECIAL EXHIBITS (SPOOKY DREAMS)

“PUMPKINS AND GOURDS AND BATS – OH MY!”

58. Each exhibit using a pumpkin (homegrown or purchased) decorated or carved, gourds and bats to display a Halloween theme. Set up in a 24-inch by 24-inch space on a table. Individual entries. Open to all ages.

SECTION S. YOUTH HORTICULTURE

“KIDS’ DREAMS”

Fruits, vegetables, and other worthy produce to be shown on staging provided by Committee. Cut specimens to be shown in clean, clear brown glass bottles, one spray or bloom with foliage (if present) attached. Youth Division: (1) Juniors, preschool through age 7; (2) Intermediate, ages 8 to 12.

Class

59. “GARDEN GOODIES” – Vegetable, fruit, or sunflower (seed head).
60. “WHAT DO YOU GROW” – Container-grown plant (one per pot)
61. “NEON BRIGHTS” – Cut flowering specimens up to 3 stems

SECTION T. YOUTH DESIGN – “FAIRIES AND GNOMES”

“DESERT CREATIONS WITH FLAIR”

Artistic design made by exhibitor. Unlimited number of entries. Table space allowed is 12 x 12 inches each.

Class

62. “DESERT BLOOMS” – Flower arrangement no larger than 12 x 12 inches using bright flowers to be displayed in a small pumpkin.
63. “DUST DEVILS” – Flower arrangement no larger than 12 x 12 inches using all dry material. May use accessories.