



2026 Dahlia Festival

Presented by the New Mexico Dahlia Society

Sunday, September 27, 2026

1 – 4 p.m.

Albuquerque Garden Center

10120 Lomas Boulevard NE
Inside Los Altos Park
Albuquerque, NM 87112
(505) 296-6020

*Free Parking and Admission
Entries are Encouraged*



The New Mexico Dahlia Society

meets January – April
and in October
on the 2nd Sunday of the month
from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
at the

Albuquerque Garden Center
10120 Lomas Blvd. NE
Albuquerque, NM 87112

During May – August, we tour members' gardens.

For information on the monthly tour contact:

Edith Iwan – (505) 240-2698

*2026 marks the
NM Dahlia Society's
20th Anniversary!*



We welcome visitors and new members at any time.
For information about NMDS or membership contact:
Edith Iwan - (505) 240-2698

Visit the NM Dahlia Society website at
<https://nmdahliasociety.org/>



Notes:

The New Mexico Dahlia Society (NMDS)

A Chapter of the American Dahlia Society (ADS)
Annual National Dues for ADS \$30.00

Membership in the NMDS is open to anyone with
an interest in Dahlia cultivation and exhibiting.
Annual Local Dues for NMDS \$15.00

For information or membership contact:
Edith Iwan (505) 240-2698



SUPPORT the NM Dahlia Society:
Purchase quality dahlia tubers at our spring sale
at the Council of Albuquerque Garden Clubs, Inc.
"Garden Fair and Plant Sale"
held annually on the last Friday & Saturday
of every April.

NOTE:
***NMDS/ADS membership is NOT required
to exhibit entries in the 2026 Festival.***

Dahlia Photography

(Continued)

The Dahlia Show Committee

NMDA President	Edith Iwan
Judges Chairperson	Edith Iwan
Clerk's Chairperson	Joe Gorvetzian
Horticulture Classification and Consultants	Jim Lohkamp Diane Kolb
Horticulture Placement	Padget Family
Floral Design Classification and Consultants	Julie Moss Maureen Carson
Photography Chair	Carla Chirigos
Show Schedule	Diane Kolb Maureen Carson and Julie Moss, Design
Awards Chair	Julie Moss
Publicity and Signs	Aaron Greenwood
Staging and Property Assisted by	David Wimsatt NMDS Members
Hospitality	Sue Isley Jo Ann Miller

Classes/Categories

*ALL entries must feature dahlias.
They MUST be prominent in each image.*

Class 1: Dahlia Portrait or Macro Image

One dahlia bloom or a portion of a dahlia bloom (for macro) of a single cultivar/variety.

Class 2: Multiple Dahlia Blooms or Garden Landscape

Image must consist of multiple dahlia blooms, which may be of a single variety or of multiple/mixed varieties. This category also includes panoramic or landscape images of large numbers of dahlias in a single garden setting.

Class 3: Dahlias and Critters

Image should show a single dahlia or several dahlias with some kind of pollinator, e.g., bee, butterfly, moth, hummingbird, etc. This class may also include non-pollinator insects such as praying mantises.

Photography Awards

1. Ribbon awards will be made in all classes. They are for First, Second, Third Place, and Honorable Mention(s).
2. A Best-in-Class rosette ribbon will be awarded to the exhibit judged best of each of the three classes.
3. A Photography Best-in-Show rosette ribbon and a \$25 gift card will be awarded to the exhibit judged to be best in Division III.

All photographs that are not sold must be claimed by the exhibitor no later than 4:30 pm on the day of the show, or they will be removed by NMDS personnel and will become the property of NMDS for educational/promotional purposes.

Division III – Dahlia Photography

Photography Guidelines

1. Photographs will be judged by professional judges for First, Second, Third Place, and Honorable Mention(s) in each of three classes.
2. No special classes for junior or amateurs.
3. Photographs may be offered for sale at photographer's discretion; proceeds from sales will benefit NMDS. Cost: \$15.00 for 8" x 10"; \$10.00 for 5" x 7" images.
4. Individual photographers may enter one photo per class, for a total of three photographs.

Size and Nature of Photography Prints

1. Prints must be either 5" x 7" or 8" x 10" prior to matting.
2. All prints must be matted, but not framed. Outside dimensions of the mat cannot exceed 11" x 14".
3. Prints may be in color, monochrome, or black and white.
4. Matted images will be exhibited on metal frames, by Class/Category.
5. If possible, please identify the name of the dahlia(s) on the entry tag, if known. This is for educational purposes.
6. Professional printing and matting are permitted. Images may be enhanced using cropping, filters, and other adjustments using post-processing software.

General Rules

1. The 2026 Dahlia Show will be conducted and judged under the general rules of the American Dahlia Society. Any deviation from these rules must be approved by the NMDS membership.
2. Entries will be accepted from members of NMDS as well as from the general public, e.g., anyone who grows dahlias. Entries will be accepted by Classification beginning at 7:00 a.m. on the day of the show. No entries will be accepted after 10:00 a.m. that day.
3. Entry tags will be supplied by NMDS and are available at the Albuquerque Garden Center (AGC) or by contacting Edith Iwan.
4. Entries will be limited to three divisions:

I - Dahlia Horticulture – Single and multiple blooms

Subdivided into:

Open Entries – Experienced dahlia show winners

Novice Entries – Inexperienced in showing dahlias. Can stay in this category until winning three Best in Class awards.

Junior Entries – K through High School, divided by age if needed.

II - Dahlia Floral Design – Floral Arrangements with an emphasis on dahlia blooms. Follow each class's rules in the Design division.

III - Dahlia Photography – Dahlia Portrait or Macro Image, Multiple Dahlia Blooms or Garden Landscape, and Dahlias and Critters. Details in the Photography division.

5. Exhibitors must leave the preparation room as soon as their entries have been presented to Classification.
6. Judging will begin promptly at 10:45 a.m.
7. No person(s) other than those specifically authorized by a member of the Show Committee will be allowed in the Show Room prior to opening the Showroom to the general public at 1:00 p.m.

General Rules

(Continued)

8. Exhibit containers for this show will be provided by the Albuquerque Garden Center for use by all exhibitors. Under no circumstances can these containers be removed from the Albuquerque Garden Center premises.

If containers are brought in by the participants, they must be clear, black, green, or white vases.
9. No exhibits can be moved before the show's end at 4:00 p.m.
10. Earned awards and desired recoverable entries must be picked up immediately after show's end. Entries not claimed at that time will be disposed of by NMDS personnel.
11. Neither the Albuquerque Garden Center nor the NMDS assumes responsibility for damage to or loss of exhibits. NMDS personnel will remove all exhibits left by exhibitors at 4:30 p.m. Floral Designs and Photography left after 4:30 p.m. will be moved to the prep room where they will not be secure.



Floral Design Classes

(Continued)

Section B: Summer Fun

2026 Design Specialty Classes

The featured dahlias for 2026 are

- 1) KETCHUP & MUSTARD; and
- 2) O J Hawkins

Each of the following three designs must include and emphasize the fresh dahlia called for by name.

Class 4: Fireworks Celebration

A Design of any type featuring KETCHUP & MUSTARD dahlia with additional reds and yellows.

Class 5: Picnic in the Park

A Design of any type featuring the O J HAWKINS dahlia.

Class 6: What's Your Flavor Ice Cream Sundae

A Horizontal Design featuring both KETCHUP & MUSTARD and O J HAWKINS dahlias.

Section C: Junior – Let's Play

Class 7: FIFA Frenzy

Design of any type featuring at least one Ball, Miniature Ball, or Pompon dahlia.

Class 8: Hiking With Friends

A Tall Design, minimum 15" tall; must include at least one dahlia.

Class 9: Video Games

Choose your favorite video game to inspire a Design of any type featuring at least two dahlias.

Floral Design Classes

Celebrating American Pastimes

Designs must emphasize and incorporate fresh dahlia(s). Designer's choice of other plant materials and/or components unless specified by class requirements. No artificial plant material.

Section A: Sunny Days

Class 1: Take Me Out to the Ballgame

A Creative Design featuring Ball dahlias.

Class 2: Parade on Main Street

A Design of any type with a patriotic feel, incorporating red, white and blue.

Class 3: Day at the Lake

A Design incorporating water and one or more dahlias. The water must be visible to the viewer. This could be an Underwater Design, but does not have to be. It could be an open container with shallow water.



General Rules

(Continued)

12. Entry Tag

The single most important factor contributing to the smooth conduct of a dahlia show is the entry tag. Please read this section carefully and make every effort to complete your entry tags as indicated:

				○
Division: _____				
Class: _____				
If Horticulture ADS #: _____				
Variety V				
Exhibitor _____				
1 st	2 nd	3 rd	Honorable Mention	

1 st	2 nd	3 rd	Honorable Mention	
Division:		Class:	ADS #:	
Variety:				
Exhibitor:				

Entry Tags are Color Coded:

White – Open Entries
Yellow - Novice Entries
Green - Junior Entries



Enter on both the top and bottom:

Division:

I – Horticulture
II – Floral Design
III – Photography

Class: Refer to the Class List for each Division.

For Horticulture Only:

ADS #: Enter the ADS Classification Number listed in the *Classification and Handbook of Dahlias*.

Variety:

Enter the flower's name. If it is not known, enter *Unknown*.

Exhibitor: Your name

Division I – Horticulture Rules

Dahlia Blooms

There is no limit on the number of blooms exhibited,
but only one (1) exhibit of a specific variety
is allowed per exhibitor.

1. All Horticulture exhibits entered for judging competition MUST be grown by the exhibitor.
2. All entries will be accepted according to the Classification Guide supplied by the American Dahlia Society. Classification personnel will verify the classification written on the entry tag prior to placing the entry on the display table(s). If a named variety is not in the ADS Classification Book, it will be assigned a class by the Classification Chair and displayed for judging.
3. Entries of an unknown variety should be listed as 'Unknown' by the exhibitor. The Classification personnel will assign a classification based on the bloom's size and petal shape.
4. All entries must be disbudded. (Entries not disbudded will be accepted but will be downgraded accordingly for award purposes. Disbudding can be done anytime but are judged higher if disbudded early in bud formation.) Specimens should have one or more sets of attached leaves. Vases are provided in most classes.
5. Entries will be accepted in eighteen (18) classes as defined by the ADS. In addition, entries in six (6) additional classes will be accepted. All twenty-four (24) classes are defined on page 9.
6. Exhibits can be entered into classes AA, A, B, BB, and M in each of the subcategories defined by the ADS, e.g., Formal Decorative (FD), Informal Decorative (ID), Semi-Cactus (SC), Straight Cactus (SC), Incurved Cactus (IC), and Laciniated (LC).
7. Each exhibitor may have as many entries in each class/ subcategory as he/she has available as long as only one exhibit of a specific variety is entered by an exhibitor.
8. Entries in each class will be judged against all entries in that class for awards determination.

Floral Design

(Continued)

10. Designers should pick up their entries at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 27, 2026. Those designs not removed by 4:30 p.m. will be removed to the Prep Room where they will no longer be supervised by NMDS personnel.
11. The Albuquerque Garden Center and the NM Dahlia Society and/or Show Committee assume no responsibility for damage or loss of property, but all reasonable care will be exercised. Containers, bases, accessories, etc., should be inconspicuously marked with the exhibitor's name and phone number.

Floral Design Awards

1. Ribbon Awards will be made in all classes. They are for First, Second, Third Place, and Honorable Mention(s).
2. One Best-in-Section rosette ribbon will be awarded to the exhibit judged best of each of the three Floral Design sections.
3. One Best-in-Show rosette ribbon and a \$25 gift card will be awarded to the entry judged the best Floral Design exhibited.
4. A Sweepstakes rosette ribbon and \$10 gift card will be awarded to the exhibitor receiving the greatest number of First Place ribbons in Floral Design. If there is a tie, the Second Place ribbons will be counted.

Division II – Floral Design

Design Special Rules

1. A dahlia, or dahlias, must be the dominant flower/s in all arrangements. The emphasis is on FRESH plant material, specifically dahlias in the Design Division.
2. Plant material may be grown by the exhibitor, purchased, or obtained from other legitimate sources. No artificial plant materials may be used.
3. All Designs will be staged on a neutral tan countertop and background. Designs are limited to 24” deep and unlimited height.
4. A designer may use staging panels and/or underlays, but they must provide their own.
5. Entries will be accepted from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. only on the day of the show. Entry tags provided by NMDS must be completed for each entry.
6. Designer should list the common or botanical name of all plant materials on a 3” x 5” card. If the dahlia variety is known, please list it.
7. Designs must be the work of one individual and only their name shall appear on the Design entry tag provided by the show committee.
8. An exhibitor may enter as many classes in the Design Division as desired, but only one (1) exhibit per class by a single exhibitor is allowed.
9. Questions regarding Division II – Design, should be directed to Maureen Carson at 203-253-7962 (not available on 9/24, 9/25, or 9/26) or Julie Moss at 505-681-0701.

9. Exhibits entered in 3-of-a-Kind and 5-of-a-Kind may be either all blooms of the same variety or all blooms of a different variety. All blooms in each entry; however, must be the same Classification.

10. **Dahlia Market Bunch** – This class is designed to show off blooms as they would be prepared for markets. Fully double forms are preferred as they are the market standard for the best cut flowers. Rules:
 - a) 7-stem bunch of either similar colors/shades or mixed colors.
 - b) Minimum stem length of 12” from the cut end to the bloom. Any stem shorter than this is considered a major fault.
 - c) Neatly bound with one rubber band at the bottom for security.
 - d) Use of wire and artificial means of supporting stems and/or blooms will disqualify entry.
 - e) No external wrapping material around the bunch.
 - f) No additional fillers or flowers other than dahlias (Leaves and buds attached to the stems are okay. The buds should add to the attraction, not distract.)
 - g) Must be placed in a clear heavy weighted container that will not tip over. The container’s opening should be small enough to sufficiently hold the bunch up without blooms leaning into another entry.
 - h) If the entry is one variety, please identify that on the show tag. If it’s mixed, note that it is Mixed Varieties or Unknown.
 - i) Limit two bunches per exhibitor.

Cut Flower Score Card

Characteristic	100%
Color	15
Condition of petals	20
Harvested at appropriate stage	15
Uniformity of age of blooms	10
Firm bloom attachment	15
Stem firmness & integrity	10
Stem length (minimum 12”)	10
Properly bound with a single rubber band (elastic)	5

Horticulture Bloom Judging Guidelines

Characteristic	100%	90%	85%	80%
Form	30	27.0	25.5	24.0
Color	20	18.0	17.0	16.0
Substance	10	9.0	8.5	8.0
Stem	10	9.0	8.5	8.0
Foliage	10	9.0	8.5	8.0
Bloom Position	10	9.0	8.5	8.0
Uniformity/ Floriferousness	10	9.0	8.5	8.0

Horticulture Awards

1. Ribbon awards will be made in all classes. They are for First, Second, Third Place, and Honorable Mention(s).
2. One Best-in-Class rosette ribbon will be issued to the best exhibit in each class, provided that class has achieved at least one First Place ribbon. Novice and Open entries will be combined for each Best-in-Class award.
3. One Best-in-Show rosette ribbon and a \$25 gift card will be awarded to the entry judged the Best Dahlia exhibited.
4. The Junior entries will be judged separately. A Best Junior rosette ribbon and \$10 gift card will be awarded to the Best Junior Dahlia.
5. The Novice entries will be judged separately from the Open entries for First, Second, Third Place, and Honorable Mention(s). A Best Novice in Show rosette ribbon and \$10 gift card will be awarded.
6. Special rosette ribbons and a \$10 gift card will be awarded to the exhibits judged Best Open Flower of the Year – O J HAWKINS and Best Fully Double Flower of the Year – KETCHUP & MUSTARD.
7. A Sweepstakes rosette ribbon and \$10 gift card will be awarded to the exhibitor receiving the greatest number of First Place ribbons in Horticulture. If there is a tie, the Second Place ribbons will be counted.

Horticulture Class List and Dahlia Classification

Class	ADS # *	Description
AA	0001 - 0515	Giant, over 10" diameter
A	1001 - 1515	Large, over 8" to 10" diameter
B	2001 - 2515	Medium, over 6" to 8" diameter
BB	3001 - 3515	Small, over 4" to 6" diameter
M	4001 - 4515	Miniature, over 2" to 4" diameter
BA	6001 - 6015	Ball, over 3.5" diameter
MB	6101 - 6115	Miniature Ball, over 2" to 3.5" diameter
P	6201 - 6215	Pompon, up to 2" diameter
ST	7001 - 7015	Stellar, over 2" diameter
WL	7301 - 7315	Waterlily, over 2" diameter
NX and NO	7601 - 7615 8601 - 8615	Novelty Double, over 2" diameter Novelty Open, over 2" diameter
PE	8001 - 8015	Peony, over 2" diameter
AN	8201 - 8215	Anemone, over 2" diameter
CO	9001 - 9015	Collarette, over 2" diameter
O and OT	9201 - 9215 9401 - 9415	Orchid, over 2" diameter Orchette, over 2" diameter
S	9601 - 9615	Single, over 2" diameter
MS	9701 - 9715	Mignon Single, up to 2" diameter
MC	See the CHD	Micro, all varieties, up to 2" diameter

* For the classes above, see the ADS *Classification and Handbook of Dahlias* guide for the specific Classification Number for each variety.

SD		Seedling: New varieties grown from seeds
3K		3-of-a-Kind: Same or different varieties of the same classification
5K		5-of-a-Kind: Same or different varieties of the same classification
DMB		Dahlia Market Bunch: 7 stems bound with a rubber band prepared for market
OJH		Open Centered Dahlia of the Year: 'O J HAWKINS'
K&M		Fully Double Dahlia of the Year: 'KETCHUP & MUSTARD'