

San Francisco Orchid Society Pacific Orchid Exposition 2025 EXHIBITOR RULES AND AWARDS

RULES FOR EXHIBITORS

All rules described below will be strictly enforced in the interests of this show and fairness to its participants. Please review the following carefully:

For AOS judging, specific entry forms must be completed and left with the AOS clerks. Since this is an AOS-sanctioned show, all plants exhibited may be considered for AOS awards unless "NO AOS JUDGING" is written on the entry card or on the display. Plants may not be judged at a later date on the same inflorescence.

Plants must be specifically entered in the online plant registration system in order to be considered for ribbons and trophy awards. Any plant that is placed on display without being specifically entered in the plant registration system will not be considered for a ribbon or trophy award. The exhibitor is responsible for assuring that a plant is entered and the plant entry sticker is placed on the plant. Plant entry staff can assist with checking plant entry information and proper classification. No more than three (3) plants may be entered in a single Class by any exhibitor.

Plants entered in show judging must have been cared for directly by the exhibitor for at least 6 months. Judges may decline to consider a plant if ownership is questioned. Plants incorrectly labeled or entered may be eliminated. To be considered as a specimen, an entry must be one clone, with all growths still connected by an intact rhizome (one individual plant). If a pot or mount contains more than one individual plant, which individual is entered for ribbon judging must be clearly indicated. If a plant is found to be infected or infested, it will be disqualified and isolated, and its exhibitor will be asked to remove it from the show.

Exhibitors will be issued badges and must wear them during take down on Sunday. All plants and items exhibited must remain on display throughout the show. Only those with vendor or exhibitor badges will be permitted in the exhibit area after closing on Sunday to break down their exhibits and remove their plants.

The SFOS will provide some level of security oversight for the duration of the show. Though efforts will be made to safeguard all items entered, **exhibitors assume all risk and liability for their property.**

CLASSIFICATION OF EXHIBITORS

NOVICE: An exhibitor who has won no more than six (6) trophies/awards (other than ribbons) at any AOS-sanctioned orchid show.

ADVANCED: An exhibitor who has won seven (7) or more trophies/awards (other than ribbons) and is not a commercial exhibitor as defined below.

COMMERCIAL/OPEN: Includes any of the following:

1. An exhibitor who is operating a vendor sales booth at the Pacific Orchid Exposition.
2. An exhibitor who grows and/or sells orchid plants or flowers as a business and earns over 50% of his/her income from such sales.
3. An exhibitor who buys space to sell orchid plants or flowers at more than two orchid events, shows, sales, benefits, farmers' markets, etc., in the 12 months prior to the date of this show. This does not include sales at orchid society monthly meetings.
4. A commercial grower is one who may be required to have a California Nursery License even if such a license has not been issued.

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

CATEGORIES are the skill levels for registration: Novice, Advanced, and Commercial/Open

SECTIONS are the main alliances or group of orchids, and are signified with a number (Section 100 for Cattleya Alliance, Section 400 for Oncidium Alliance, etc.)

CLASSES are subdivisions within Sections, and are signified with a number (e.g. Class 101 for Cattleya alliance species; Class 404 for Oncidium Alliance: Odontoglossum species, etc.)

CLASSIFICATION CHANGES: Many orchid species have been reclassified in recent years. Please use the current classification when selecting the section and class for your entry. You may use [the World Checklist of Selected Plant Families](#) to determine the current genus classification.

A plant may be entered in only one Class in Sections 100 through 900. Plants entered in Sections 100 through 900 may also be entered in Section 1100. An exhibitor may enter no more than three (3) plants per Class. Plants entered in the incorrect Class may be disqualified from judging. Questions should be directed to the clerks at the plant entry table.

SECTION 100. CATTLEYA ALLIANCE

101. Cattleya alliance species (Cattleya, Laelia, Brassavola, Rhyncholaelia, Sophronitis, Dinema, Epidendrum, Encyclia, Prosthechea, Broughtonia, Barkeria, Leptotes, Schomburgkia)
102. Miniature cattleya hybrids – plants (including pot) under 15cm/6 inches in height
103. Compact cattleya hybrids – plants (including pot) from 15cm/6 inches to 30.5cm/12 inches in height.
104. Standard cattleya hybrids – plants (including pot) over 30.5cm/12 inches in height.

SECTION 200. CYPRIPEDIUM ALLIANCE

201. Paphiopedilum species
202. Phragmipedium, Cyripedium, Selenipedium, and Mexipedium species
203. Phragmipedium, Cyripedium, Selenipedium, and Mexipedium hybrids
204. Paphiopedilum hybrids - vinicolor, Maudiae, multifloral, successively blooming
205. Paphiopedilum hybrids – Standard/Complex – all colors
206. Paphiopedilum species/hybrids – Parvisepalum and Brachysepalum

SECTION 300. PHALAENOPSIS ALLIANCE

301. Species – Phalaenopsis, Doritis, and Kingiella
302. Hybrids – small flowered (5cm/2 inches or less), all colors
303. Hybrids – large flowered (greater than 5cm/2 inches), all colors
304. Hybrids - peloric and harlequin varieties

SECTION 400. ONCIDIUM ALLIANCE

- 401. Oncidium and Gomesa species and Hybrids
- 402. Brassia species and hybrids, including Ada, Brassidium, Brassostele
- 403. Miltonia/Miltoniopsis species and hybrids, including Odontonia, Burrageara, Vuylstekeara, and Miltonidium
- 404. Odontoglossum and Odontioda species and hybrids
- 405. All other species and hybrids

SECTION 500. CYMBIDIUM ALLIANCE

- 501. Asian species – Jensoa section - ensifolium, forrestii, goeringii, kanran, sinense
- 502. All other Cymbidium species
- 503. Standard cymbidium hybrids, flowers greater than 9cm/3.5 inches
- 504. Novelty cymbidium hybrids, flowers between 2.5cm/1 inch to 9cm/3.5 inches
- 505. Miniature cymbidium hybrids, flowers less than 2.5cm/1 inch
- 506. Hybrids (all sizes) with peloric flowers or other genetic mutation (feathering, etc.)
- 507. Other Cymbidium Allied Genera, species and hybrids - Ansellia, Cymbidiella, Eriopsis, Eulophia, Eulophiella, Grammangis, Grammatophyllum, Thecopus, Thecostele

(Section 600 eliminated)

SECTION 700. PLEUROTHALLID ALLIANCE

- 701. Masdevallia species
- 702. Masdevallia intrageneric hybrids
- 703. Dracula species and intrageneric hybrids
- 704. Masdevallia and Dracula intergeneric hybrids – Dracuvallia, Porracula, Porrovaliia
- 705. Restrepia species and hybrids
- 706. All other Pleurothallid species and hybrids

SECTION 800. DENDROBIUM

801. Species and hybrids – **breviflores** (bicameratum, bifurcatum, dantaniense, farinatum, hercoglossum, linguella, scoriarum, thinhii, trantuanii)
802. Species and hybrids – **callista** (aggregatum, densiflorum, farmeri, griffithianum, jenkinsii, thyrsiflorum)
803. Species and hybrids – **dendrobium** (anosmum, aphyllum, bensoniae, crepidatum, crysanthum, devonianum, fimbriatum, findlayanum, gibsonii, loddigesii, monilliforme, moschatum, parishii, pendulum, primulinum, pulchellum, senile, tortile, unicum)
804. Species and hybrids – **dendrocoryne** (Australian types such as delicatum, gracilicaule, kingianum, speciosum, tetragonum)
805. Species and hybrids – **formosae/nigrohirsutae** (bellatulum, draconis, formosum, lowii)
806. Species and hybrids – **latouria** (aberrans, alexandrae, amphigenium, atroviolaceum, bifalce, biloculare, convolutum, cruttwellii, dendrocolloides, engae, euryanthum, eximium, finisterrae, forbesii, johnsoniae, kauldorumii, macrophyllum, mayandi, otaguroanum, polysema, punamense, rhodostictum, rigidifolium, shiraishii, spectabile, tapiniense, terrestre, woodsia)
807. Species and hybrids – **nobile** (amethystoglossum, nobile, victoriae-reginae)
808. Species and hybrids – **calypstrochilus** (brevicaule, cuthbertsonii, cyanocentrum, delicatulum, hellwigianum, laevifolium, pentapterum, prasinum, subacuale, subuliferum, vexillarius, violaceum)
809. Species and hybrids – **pedilonum** (Bottle brush types such as bracteosum, dichaeoides, smillieae)
810. Species and hybrids – **phalaenanthe** (affine, biggibum, phalaenopsis, williamsianum)
811. Species and hybrids – **spatulata** (Antelope type such as antennatum, canaliculatum, gouldii, lineale)
812. All other species and hybrids, and allied genera species and hybrids and intergeneric hybrids other than above; e.g., *Cadetia*, *Dockrillia*, and *Flickingeria*

SECTION 900. MISCELLANEOUS GENERA

901. *Angraecum* and related species and hybrids
902. *Aerangis*, *Aeranthes*, *Aerides*, *Arachnis*, *Renanthera*, *Rhynchostylis*, *Vandachosylis* species and hybrids
903. *Vanda* species - Includes *Ascocenda*, *Christensonia*, *Neofinetia*, *Vandopsis*
904. *Vanda* hybrids
905. *Lycaste*, *Lysudamuloa*, and *Anguloa*, species and hybrids
906. *Maxillaria* and *Maxillariella* species and hybrids
907. *Zygopetalum* and allied genera species and hybrids – *Cochleanthes*, *Galeopetalum*, *Promenaea*, *Propetalum*, *Tsubotaara*, *Warczewiczella*, *Zygoneria*
908. All Other *Maxillaria* Alliance species and hybrids – *Bifrenaria*, *Xylobium*, *Pescatoria*, *Bollea*, *Chondrorhyncha*, *Huntleya*
909. *Dendrochilum* species and hybrids

- 910. Bulbophyllum, Cirrhopetalum, Megaclinium species and hybrids
- 911. Catasetum, Clowesia, Cycnoches, Fredclareara, Monnierara, Mormodes species and hybrids
- 912. Coelogyne species and hybrids; including Pholidota, Pleione ,and Thunia
- 913. Jewel Orchid species and hybrids **in flower** - includes Anoectochilus, Cystorchis, Dossinia, Dossinochilus, Goodyera, Haemaria, Hetaeria, Ludisia, Ludochilus, Macodes, Macodyera
- 914. Terrestrials not covered elsewhere **in flower** - Bletia, Bletilla, Calanthe, Disa, Epipactis, Eulophia, Habenaria, Phaius, Sarcoglottis, Sobralia, Spathoglottis, Spiranthes, Stenorrhynchus
- 915. Any species or hybrid not found elsewhere

SECTION 1000. ORCHIDS SHOWN FOR FOLIAGE

- 1001. Foliage on any non-blooming orchid from any genus

SECTION 1100. NON-GREENHOUSE GROWN PLANTS (NOVICE and ADVANCED ONLY)

- 1101. Plants grown indoors (natural or artificial light)
- 1102. Plants grown outdoors (Cymbidiums excluded)

PLANT AWARDS - RIBBONS

First, Second, and Third Place ribbons will be awarded in all Classes for which there are entries, at the discretion of the judges. Judges may withhold ribbons if, in their opinion, no suitable material is exhibited. Trophies and Rosettes will be awarded to the winning Novice, Advanced, and Commercial/Open exhibitors for 'Best of Section by Skill Level'. Trophies and Rosettes for overall "Best of Section" will be awarded to winners selected from all the First Place ribbons awarded in that Section, at the discretion of the judges. Winner of "Best in Show" will be selected from all overall "Best of Section" Trophy winners, at the discretion of the judges. Plants must be registered in the show in order to be eligible for any awards.

PLANT AWARDS - TROPHIES

1. Best Plant in Show - \$250 [Selected from skill level winners only, 'Best of Sections 100 through 900']
2. Best Species in Show - \$150 [Selected from any Blue Ribbon/First Place winner]
3. Best Specimen Plant in Show - \$150 [Selected from all skill levels]
4. Best Miniature Plant in Show - \$150- under 8" (excluding inflorescence) [Selected from all skill levels]
5. Best Cattleya Alliance in Show [Selected from skill level winners, 'Best of Section 100']
6. Best Cyripedium Alliance in Show [Selected from skill level winners, 'Best of Section 200']
7. Best Phalaenopsis Alliance in Show [Selected from skill level winners, 'Best of Section 300']
8. Best Oncidium Alliance in Show [Selected from skill level winners, 'Best of Section 400']
9. Best Cymbidium in Show [Selected from skill level winners, 'Best of Section 500']
10. Best Pleurothallid Alliance in Show [Selected from skill level winners, 'Best of Section 700']
11. Best Dendrobium in Show [Selected from skill level winners, 'Best of Section 800']
12. Best Miscellaneous Genera [Selected from skill level winners, 'Best of Section 900']

PLANT AWARDS - by Skill Level

Best Cattleya Alliance by Novice Exhibitor (Section 100)

Best Cattleya Alliance by Advanced Exhibitor (Section 100)

Best Cattleya Alliance by Commercial/Open Exhibitor (Section 100)

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Best Cyripedium Alliance by Novice Exhibitor (Section 200)

Best Cyripedium Alliance by Advanced Exhibitor (Section 200)

Best Cyripedium Alliance by Commercial/Open Exhibitor (Section 200)

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Best Phalaenopsis Alliance Novice Exhibitor (Section 300)

Best Phalaenopsis Alliance by Advanced Exhibitor (Section 300)

Best Phalaenopsis Alliance by Commercial/Open Exhibitor (Section 300)

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Best Oncidium Alliance by Novice Exhibitor (Section 400)

Best Oncidium Alliance by Advanced Exhibitor (Section 400)

Best Oncidium Alliance by Commercial/Open Exhibitor (Section 400)

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Best Cymbidium by Novice Exhibitor (Section 500)

Best Cymbidium by Advanced Exhibitor (Section 500)

Best Cymbidium by Commercial/Open Exhibitor (Section 500)

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Best Pleurothallid Alliance by Novice Exhibitor (Section 700)

Best Pleurothallid Alliance by Advanced Exhibitor (Section 700)

Best Pleurothallid Alliance by Commercial/Open Exhibitor (Section 700)

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Best Dendrobium by Novice Exhibitor (Section 800)

Best Dendrobium by Advanced Exhibitor (Section 800)

Best Dendrobium by Commercial/Open Exhibitor (Section 800)

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Best Miscellaneous Genera by Novice Exhibitor (Section 900)  
Best Miscellaneous Genera by Advanced Exhibitor (Section 900)  
Best Miscellaneous Genera by Commercial/Open Exhibitor (Section 900)  
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Best Orchid shown for Foliage (Section 1000)
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Best Non-Greenhouse Grown Plant – Novice and Advanced ONLY (Section 1100)  
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PLANT AWARDS - Cultural Excellence

Five awards recognizing Cultural Excellence (Blue ribbon/First place not required) [receives POE Rosette]

EXHIBITS - Trophies and Awards

1. American Orchid Society Show Trophy – to most outstanding orchid exhibit. **[Awarded by AOS judges]**
[receives POE Rosette]
2. Orchid Digest Trophy - Best display by a non-commercial grower, demonstrating high flower quality and excellence of culture. Design, educational value and rarity of material are considered. **[Awarded by AOS Judges]** [receives POE Rosette]
3. Best Interpretation of Theme - \$500 [receives POE Rosette]
3. Best Exhibit by an Individual/Group or visiting Orchid Society:
 - a. 1st place - \$500 [receives POE Rosette]
 - b. 2nd place - \$250 [receives POE Rosette]
 - c. 3rd place - \$100 [receives POE Rosette]