



# 2024 VOS SHOW RULES

The theme of the show is: “Orchids: Let’s Celebrate!”

## GENERAL INFORMATION

**Show Location.** The 2024 Virginia Orchid Society Show will be held Friday, February 23 through Sunday, February 25, in the North Wing of the Conservatory at the Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, located at 1800 Lakeside Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23228

### Show Schedule

Thursday	February 22	8:30 am – 5 pm	Show Setup for Exhibitors and Vendors
Friday	February 23	8:00 am – 1 pm	AOS Plant Judging
		1 – 5 pm	Show Open to the Public
Saturday	February 24	9 am – 5 pm	Show Open to the Public
Sunday	February 25	9 am – 3 pm	Show Open to the Public
Sunday	February 25	3 pm – 5 pm	Show Take Down

**Vendor Hours.** Vendor booth and exhibit set-up will take place on Thursday, February 22. Vendor booths will be open to the public during the Garden’s open hours as follows:

Friday	1 pm – 5 pm
Saturday	9 am – 5 pm
Sunday	9 am – 3 pm

Only vendors and VOS officials will be permitted to enter the vendor area before and after sales hours. VENDORS ARE EXPECTED TO BE PRESENT AT THEIR SALES TABLES ON ALL DAYS OF THE SHOW AND TO KEEP THEIR TABLES WELL STOCKED. VENDORS SHOULD NOT LEAVE THEIR TABLES UNATTENDED.

**Safety and Security.** The Virginia Orchid Society (VOS) and Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden will make every effort to assure the safety and security of Exhibits and sales areas but cannot be responsible for any loss or damage of plants or other exhibitor properties. Each competitor agrees, upon making an entry, to abide by the rules and regulations of the show. All questions regarding the interpretation of application of rules shall be referred to the Show Coordinator, whose decision shall be final.

**Garden Access.** Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden is a ticketed venue so society members and vendors will require admission passes to enter the exhibit area for set-up and take-down. A limited number of free admission passes will be available that will allow access without purchasing tickets. During the show, visitors will need to purchase tickets to see the exhibits. The vendor area in the Auditorium in the Kelly Educational Center is easily accessible without tickets so both vendors and potential customers do not need tickets to visit the vendors during the show. Customers can use the driveway in front of the Kelly Center to load their purchases into their cars.

## EXHIBITOR INFORMATION

**Requests to Exhibit.** Everyone is welcome, societies as well as individual society members, to exhibit plants at the show at no cost. Please submit your completed Society or Exhibitor form to either the Vendor Chair by **Friday January 12, 2024** or the Visiting Society Chair by **Friday January 12, 2024** to exhibit at the show. A preliminary floor plan of the exhibit area is included with these show rules. There are opportunities for several specially-shaped floor displays that suit the plan of the exhibit area. Reasonable effort will be made to provide the type of exhibit space requested as well as adjustment of the spaces shown to suit your requests: Spaces will be assigned on a “first come – first served” basis.

**Exhibition Space and Tables.** Exhibition space and tables will be furnished without cost. Exhibitors are responsible for their own exhibit staging; the VOS will provide black fabric covers for 5-foot round and 6-foot rectangular table-top displays. Vendors are responsible for the covers for their sales tables. Vendors please note that you will be located in the Auditorium of the Kelly Educational Center. This is a carpeted space so please exercise care to avoid plant and water spillage onto the carpet. **All plant trays set below the tables on the carpet must be set on plastic sheeting to prevent damage to the carpet.**

**Exhibit Set-Up.** Exhibit set-up for the exhibit area will be from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm on Thursday. All exhibits must be completed by 5:00 pm when the Garden closes for the day. To have your plants judged for ribbons and awards, they must be registered (see Plant Registration below). Access to the exhibit area will be through the rear door of the service wing that connects directly to the North Wing. There is a paved drive that allows delivery directly to this door. Please note that there will be a limited number of carts available so you have the option of providing your own dollies and carts to facilitate transport of your plants and display items. All boxes and crates used to transport your display plants and items must be removed from the exhibit area during the show. Space is available in the service wing to hold these items if you are not able to take them with you.

**Vendor Set-Up.** Vendor set-up for the Auditorium will be from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm when the Garden closes on Thursday. Access to the Auditorium will be through the front doors of the Kelly Educational Center. Temporary delivery parking for unloading can be done on the driveway in front of the Center. Please note that there will be a limited number of carts available so you have the option of providing your own dollies and carts to facilitate transport of your plants and display items.

**Electricity, Lighting, Water Features.** In the North Wing please note that there is limited electric power available and it only can be supplied to those exhibits located along the perimeter of the exhibit area. If power is required, please note this in your Exhibitor form. Any lighting used for effect is the responsibility of and must be furnished by the exhibitor. Defective or damaged lighting or other equipment shall not be used. In the Auditorium, vendors will find outlets along the perimeter walls. Please bring an extension cord: should cords extend across walking paths – the Garden staff will provide a special tape to cover your cord on carpeting: **Do not use duct tape on the carpeting.** If you plan to include a water feature in your display, please indicate this on your exhibit entry form so your exhibit can be located near a floor drain.

**Exhibit Identification.** Exhibitors are encouraged to bring their own identification signs for their displays, however, all exhibits will be identified during the judging process with numbers provided by the show committee. Exhibitor signs must be covered or removed until judging has been completed on Friday.

**Plant and Exhibit Eligibility.** The Show Committee reserves the right to exclude any plant that is not clean or that is not free of insects and diseases. Exhibits should have a sufficient number of blooms to balance and account for the total amount of space it occupies. The appropriateness and tastefulness of exhibit contents is at the sole discretion of the VOS Show Committee.

**Supplemental and Companion Plants.** Foliage plants, moss, etc., may supplement exhibits but no artificial plants or foliage of any kind will be permitted, with the exception of artificial grass used as a floor covering. Orchids are to be the **only** flowering plants in the exhibits.

**Exhibit Take Down.** Exhibits and plants must remain in place until the end of the show on Sunday; this includes any plant sold which is part of an exhibit. All exhibits and plants must be removed after the close of the Show **at 3:00 pm and completed by 4:30 pm on Sunday**, but may not be removed until that time. No boxes/crates may be brought into the show area and no take down may begin until the show is officially closed. Exhibitors are responsible for bagging all mulch/moss used in their exhibits. A limited number of refuse containers will be provided at the close of the show, but you are encouraged to take any refuse with you so as not to burden the Garden staff. The Show Committee and Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden will dispose of exhibits and plants remaining after **4:30 pm**.

## PLANT REGISTRATION

**Plant Registration.** Exhibitors are required to register their plants online prior to show setup day. Approximately ten days before the show you will receive an email from our Show Registrar with complete instructions, entry forms, class list, and general information documents. **Exhibitors are responsible to ensure their plants are properly classified. Plant registration will close promptly at 4 pm on show setup day, NO EXCEPTIONS!!! Additional information will be posted on the Virginia Orchid Society website [vaorchidsociety.org](http://vaorchidsociety.org) in early February.**

Unless otherwise noted, all registered plants are automatically entered for AOS judging. Each plant may be entered in only one plant class, with the exception of first-bloom seedlings that may ALSO be entered in a standard class.

**Show Classes and Awards.** A current listing of show classes and awards will be included in the email package emailed to all registering parties as well as be available on the VOS website [www.vaorchidsociety.org](http://www.vaorchidsociety.org) in late February.

**Plant Preparation.** All plants must be properly cleaned and prepped by the grower with staking as necessary. Pots shall be free of weeds and plants shall be free of chemical and fertilizer residue on the leaves. The grower shall ensure that all plants are free of pests and diseases. Pest-ridden, diseased, or unkempt plants may be rejected. Plants should be sufficiently watered at the time of registration in order to carry them safely through the duration of the show. A light shade cloth will be in place in the North Wing but it is the exhibitor's responsibility to locate sun sensitive plants in the shadier portions of their exhibit.

# PLANT JUDGING

**Judges and Clerks.** Judges and Clerks are expected to familiarize themselves with the show rules, regulations and plant classifications prior to the judging session.

**AOS Judging.** In addition to the ribbons and/or trophies awarded by the judges, plants and flowers may be considered by the judges for American Orchid Society (AOS) awards. Submission of plants or cut flowers for judging shall obligate the exhibitor to accept any award granted and to pay any fees connected with such an award except where he or she has clearly indicated before the judging that the entry is "Not to be AOS-judged".

**Awards.** Ribbons, Rosettes, and Trophies will be awarded in each class at the judges' discretion. Judges will have the final authority on combining or deleting classes as entries merit, or withholding the awarding of any ribbon, rosette, or trophy for any reason. Plants found by the judging team to be classified improperly may be moved to the correct class if that class has not yet been judged. Best-of-Section rosettes and trophies will be awarded to individual plants. **The AOS Show Trophy will be awarded to the best exhibit. The Orchid Digest Show Trophy will be awarded to the best amateur/society exhibit.** There will also be one People's Choice rosette awarded for Best Display.

**Hours for Ribbon Judging and AOS Judging.** Judging will begin at 8:00 am on Friday, and continue until approximately 1 pm. Only judges, clerks, and authorized persons will be allowed in the vicinity of the exhibits during judging.

**Plant Labels.** All plants for judging must be properly labeled by the Exhibitor as to name and/or cross. Labels must be clearly printed. Traditionally, labeling has been with a flat black label with the name of the plant written in silver or gold. Computer generated labels that are legible and tasteful are also acceptable.

**Exhibitors are free to make their own plant labels prior to show setup.** Labels may be displayed using uniform stakes or hangers provided by the exhibitor.

- Open Competition:** Exhibit competition that is open to any group, individual or commercial entity.
- Society Competition:** Exhibit competition with involvement by members and friends of an established orchid society installing an exhibit on behalf of that society.
- Hobbyist Competition:** Exhibit competition that is open to any individual member of a society, or any individual or group not affiliated with an orchid society or commercial entity.
- Educational Competition:** Exhibit competition that is open to any group or individual whose exhibit describes any aspect of orchid culture, nativity, conservation, history, or similar orchid related topic.
- Grower's Choice:** The Grower's Choice table is open to any person that wishes to enter a plant in competition for ribbon and AOS judging but is not part of an exhibit. Grower's Choice plants will be staged by the Show Committee. Grower's Choice plants must be registered by Thursday at 4 pm.

## **VOS Show Committee**

VOS show Chair: Irina Neverova  
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Visiting Society Chair: Robert Rand  
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