2027

FLORIDA - FRIENDLY

YOUTH PLANT SHOWCASE & SILENT AUCTION

Growing Florida's Future,
One Plant at a Time.

ENTRY FEE: $10 PER EXHIBITOR
ENTRY SUBMISSION OPENS
NOVEMBER 6, 2026 @ 12 NOON

Florida State Fair
Florida-Friendly Youth Plant Showcase
& Silent Auction Rules

The purpose of the FSF Florida-Friendly Youth Plant Showcase & Silent Auction is:

- **To promote Florida-Friendly Landscaping principles**
- **To encourage the participation and production of high-quality plant material within youth**
- **To recognize the importance of plant science and environmental stewardship**
- **To create entrepreneurship opportunities for exhibitors**
- **To develop skills in communication and marketing practices**
- **To support the Florida State Fair's agricultural and educational mission**

Entry Fee: $10.00 per Exhibitor

Schedule:

Online Registration Deadline -	**November 6, 2026**	**12 pm**
Project Delivery Dates –	**Saturday, February 13**	**8 am – 10 am**
Judging-	**Saturday, February 13**	**11 am**
Showmanship-	**Saturday, February 13**	**2 pm**
Florida State Fair Exhibition Dates – February 13 – 14, 2027		
Showmanship Announcements-	**Saturday, February 13**	**6 pm**
Auction Closes-	**Sunday, February 14**	**3 pm**
Buyer Pick Up -	**Sunday, February 15**	**5 pm – 7 pm**

Age Division:

Junior – 8 to 10 years old as of September 1, 2026
Intermediate – 11 – 13 years old as of September 1, 2026
Senior – 14 and over as of September 1, 2026

Projects will be judged on the following point system:

Plant Entry	40 points
Showmanship	30 points
Marketing Video	15 points
"Seeds to Success" Information Board	10 points
Plant Passport	5 points
	100 TOTAL

Judging Breakdown:

Plant Entry:

- Plant Health
- Grooming and Appearance
- Development
- Presentation
- Market Readiness

Showmanship:

Participants will present their project to judge and answer questions regarding:

- Plant Details
- Plant Care
- Florida-Friendly Principles
- Marketing Strategy
- Environmental Benefits

Marketing Video:

- Length- 60-90 seconds
- Exhibitors should introduce:
    - Themselves
    - Their Plant
    - Benefits of the Plant
    - Plant Function
    - Why buyers should purchase the plant

Plant Passport:

Sheet should document the project from start to finish; this will be given to the buyer.

- Plant Profile
    - Common Name
    - Alternative Name
    - Scientific Name
- Production Records
    - Potting Information
    - Fertilization Schedule
    - Watering Schedule
- Pest and Disease Information

"Seeds to Success" Information Board:

Board should be an educational information board for the public to learn about your plants.

- Plant Profile
    - Common Name
    - Scientific name
    - Plant Description
- Environmental Benefits
    - Pollinator Value
    - Wildlife Value
    - Water Conservation Benefits
    - Common Insects and Diseases
- Reflection
    - Lessons Learned
    - Challenges Encountered
    - Skills Gained

Rules & Regulations:

1. Only Florida residents who are bona fide 4-H or YLPA members (8 years old or older as of Sept. 1, 2026) or FFA members will be eligible to enter. All entrants must be currently active in the 4-H or YLPA Club program or the Vocational Agricultural Program in Florida.
2. Anyone having currently graduated from or dropped out of high school or currently enrolled in an Agriculture Class but not attending class shall be ineligible to show.
3. All exhibitors must be 8 years of age as of September 1, 2026. Exhibitor age as of September 1, 2026, will determine the showmanship class in which the exhibitor will show. (Juniors ages 8-10, Intermediates ages 11-13, Seniors ages14 and up.)
4. The Plant Showcase will be limited to 25 entries on a first-come, first-served basis. Registration will close as soon as the limit is reached.
5. The online registration form will open on November 6, 2026, at 12 noon. The online registration form is located on the Florida State Fair Agribusiness website – www.floridastatefairag.com . No paper or emailed entries will be accepted.
6. There is a $10.00 entry fee per exhibitor. Payments will be accepted online at the time of entry. Entry fees are non-refundable.
7. Divisions:
    a. Vegetable/Herb
    b. Foliage
    c. Annual
    d. Hanging Basket
8. Entries: Only 2 entries allowed. Both entries can be in the same division.
9. Entry Sizes:
    a. Vegetable/Herb – 4 plants in 6-inch containers
    b. Foliage - 4 plants in 6-inch containers
    c. Annual - 4 plants in 6-inch containers
    d. Hanging Basket – 2 plants in 10-inch hanging planters
10. Vegetables and herbs **MUST** be grown from seeds. Foliage, annuals and hanging baskets will be grown from liners or plugs. Exhibitors are not allowed to change plant divisions.
11. Any changes to a plant entry will result in disqualification and forfeiture of all premiums, awards, and sale proceeds. The exhibit must be removed from the fairgrounds immediately upon disqualification.
12. No substitute exhibitors are allowed unless there are extreme reasons and granted permission by the Florida State Fair Agribusiness Department.
13. All Exhibitors participating in their respective division must utilize only the plant that was registered under their name.
14. Exhibitors must be present to check in their plants on Saturday, February 13, 2027. Plant exhibitors will be allowed to set up their plant display area, with the assistance of volunteers, if needed. Exhibitors must be able to lift all individual plants and pots with only minor assistance.
15. Each exhibitor may have a maximum of two entries, both of which must fit on an 8-foot table. Each entry is judged and sold separately.
16. During check-in, the FDACS Plant Inspector reserves the right to reject plants of inferior quality, diseased or infested plants, or invasive plants.

17. Plant entries will be judged following FDACS quality standards by a group of horticultural professionals as volunteer judges. The following and other criteria will be the basis for arriving at the plant grade or rejecting entries: A) Freedom from insects, disease, nutritional stress and excessive cold injury, B) Acceptable size for the container according to Florida Grades and Standards (Appendix 2), (D) When applicable, correct pruning techniques.
18. 4-H, FFA, and YLPA exhibitors will show and be judged together. Each entry will be awarded one of three ribbons: Blue Ribbon Award ($25.00); Red Ribbon Award ($20.00); and White Ribbon Award ($15.00). Division awards will also be given for Grand Champion ($50.00) and Reserve Champion ($35.00).
19. The Plant Passport will be given to the buyer, and it should document the project from start to finish and should include basic care information. The passport must be completed and included with plants at fair check-in. See page 10 for the fillable Plant Passport page. One Plant Passport per entry.
20. Signature page must be signed by exhibitors, parents, and leaders/advisors. They should be emailed or uploaded by December 1, 2026, to ag@floridastatefair.com. See page 9 for the signature page.
21. The “Seeds to Success” Information Board will serve as an educational information board for the public to learn about the plants grown by the exhibitor. The dimensions of the board must not exceed 14” x 22” and should be a tri-fold style. The fair will provide a QR code of your Marketing Video to include on your board. Each entry requires one board.
22. Exhibitors are to seek potential buyers to ensure competitive bidding on their plants for maximum profitability. Relatives, friends, neighbors, and local businesses are examples of potential buyers.
23. All plants must be housed in the state of Florida for the duration of the project.
24. No provision will be made to sell rejected or disqualified plants; only plants that are shown are eligible for auction.
25. Plants must be shown and sold by the registered exhibitor. All qualified plant entries must be sold in the sale. Each entry will be auctioned separately. Once the plants are sold, the buyers must come to pick up at the scheduled time.
26. The Fair, its officers, and its employees cannot and will not accept responsibility and liability for any damage or injury resulting from theft, fire, the elements, accidents, or other conditions or causes, whether to exhibits, property of the exhibitor, vehicles on the grounds and articles left therein or any other property of any nature whatsoever.
27. An online bidding platform will be utilized for the silent auction. Platform information will be developed and available to promote in January.
28. Bidding will begin at 12 PM on February 13, 2027, and will run through 3 PM on Sunday, February 14, 2027.
29. The winning bidder will be provided with 2 tickets to enter the fair to pick up their plants. Tickets, a map, and instructions will be emailed.
30. The exhibitor will receive 100% of the silent auction's proceeds. The Florida State Fair will not withhold any money from the sale.

Buyer Thank You Letters

1. Buyer information will be emailed to exhibitor no later than February 26, 2027.
2. A copy of the thank you letter to the buyer is due to the Agribusiness Office by June 30, 2027.
3. Check for premiums and sale monies will be issued once a copy of the thank you letter is received.
4. Checks will be void after 6 months from the date on the check. Replacement checks will not be issued.
5. No checks will be issued after June 30, 2027.

Plant Entry Divisions

For the 2027 Fair, ALL plant material (seeds, liners/plugs) will be provided to exhibitors via mail. Specific information on plant divisions will also be provided with their plant material.

Exhibitors may select up to 2 entries to showcase at the fair.

Vegetable/Herb Plants: An entry in this section shall consist of 4 plants in 6-inch production containers. Mixing of species in an entry is discouraged. Each entry will be sold individually. Entries containing less than the minimum number of plants will not be accepted.

Foliage Plants: An entry in this section shall consist of 4 plants in 6-inch production containers. Mixing of species in an entry is discouraged. Each entry will be sold individually. Entries containing less than the minimum number of plants will not be accepted.

Annual Plants: An entry in this section shall consist of 4 plants in 6-inch production containers. Mixing of species in an entry is discouraged. Each entry will be sold individually. Entries containing less than the minimum number of plants will not be accepted.

Hanging Planters: An entry in this section shall consist of 2 plants in 10-inch hanging planters. Mixing of species in an entry is discouraged. Each entry will be sold individually. Entries containing less than the minimum number of plants will not be accepted.

Plant Showcase Marketing Video

1. Exhibitors are required to upload a marketing video to YouTube. Videos must be 60-90 seconds in length. See page 8 for instructions and page 9 for the judging rubric
2. Videos should include details, pictures, videos, creative elements, etc., showcasing the progress of the project and why people should come to the Fair to purchase your Florida-Friendly plants. Be creative!
3. Tutorials on how to edit videos and upload them can be found on YouTube.
4. The submission deadline is January 11, 2027.

CHAMPION AWARDS

Grand Champion	$50
Reserve Grand Champion	$35
Blue Ribbon	$25
Red Ribbon	$20
White Ribbon	$15

Florida State Fair
Plant Showcase Marketing Video Instructions

Step 1: Define Your Audience
You should plan your video to market your project to potential buyers and share your experience with fair patrons. Your video needs to be 60-90 seconds long.

Step 2: Set Up
Set up your background, props, and lighting for your video. Take practice clips to work out the shot - don't be so far away that you cannot be seen or clearly heard. Remember that background noise, movement and wind will distract from your video presentation.

Step 3: Practice
Shoot a couple of practice clips and share them with your friends or family to critique.

Step 4: Final Video
Now create your final video. Read the rubric to understand how your video will be graded.

Step 5: Submitting Your Video and Registration Form
Video Submission: YouTube.com

*Upload as Unlisted so that only you and the Florida State Fair have access.
*File Format must be .MP4 or WMV
*Length of any video is 60-90 seconds long
*Instructions are available at
https://youtu.be/jaftEW9WI3U?si=8j2bOHrQkUOhy_2p

Entry Form with Video Submission
* Registration Forms are located under the *Specialty Events* tab on the Ag website https://floridastatefairgrounds.com/competition/specialty-events/
*Open the Competitions & Show Information page, Scroll Down to Specialty Events – Florida-Friendly Youth Plant Showcase & Silent Auction
*Click on the Upload Online Marketing Video Registration Form. Fill out the form electronically and submit the form.
*Make sure all required information is included – especially the *unlisted link* to your YouTube video.

Deadline January 11, 2026

Plant Showcase Marketing Video Rubric

Exhibitor Name: _____

Points Earned	Possible Points	Criteria	Remarks
	5	<u>Introduction/ Content</u> -Formal greeting and introduction -Well groomed -Professional Appearance -Courteous and Friendly -Conveys key concepts of marketing to potential buyers and educational aspects of the project. -Covers challenges and successes during the project -Covers duration of project	
	5	<u>Editing/Directions</u> -Avoid distracting background or wind noise -Avoid visual background distractions -Speakers are heard clearly -Final video has been viewed on YouTube -Video of appropriate length -Correct grammar and sentence structure -Clear closing, not sudden stop at the end	
	5	<u>Creativity</u> -Video was unique and memorable -Contained creative elements -Draws in the viewer -Captivating	
	15	Total Score	

2027 FLORIDA STATE FAIR

FLORIDA-FRIENDLY YOUTH PLANT SHOWCASE & SILENT AUCTION SIGNATURE PAGE

Online Entry Process for the 2027 Florida-Friendly Plant Showcase & Silent Auction:
Step #1: Collect all Mandatory Signatures. (Ag Teacher, 4-H Leader or YLPA Representative, Parent and Exhibitor). For the 2027 Fair - Signature Page MUST be uploaded, emailed, faxed, or postmarked by the time of the corresponding entry due date to qualify for full points for the Achievement Premium program.

Hand-delivered or mailed entries and payments will NOT be accepted for the 2027 Fair.

Step #2: Exhibitors must submit their Signature Page to the Ag Office by December 1st. Exhibitors can upload the document to the Florida State Fair website or email, fax, or mail it to finalize the entry process.
Email Ag@FloridaStateFair.com or fax the page to 813-740-3520.

Name of Exhibitor_____

Chapter/Club_____ 4-H Exhibitor _____ FFA Exhibitor_____ YLPA Exhibitor____

I hereby certify that the entrant is a bona fide paid and active member of the aforementioned organization and I have reviewed the entry form.

For FFA members - Vo. Ag. Teacher_____
** This signature is mandatory if showing FFA!

Print Vo-Ag Teacher Name_____ Phone Number _____

I hereby certify that the entrant is a bona fide active member of the aforementioned organization and I have reviewed the entry form.

For 4-H members – 4-H Leader _____
** This signature is mandatory if showing 4-H!

Print 4-H Leader Name _____ Phone Number _____

I hereby certify that the entrant is a bona fide active member of the aforementioned organization and I have reviewed the entry form.

For YLPA members – YLPA Representative _____
** This signature is mandatory if showing YLPA!

YLPA Representative Name _____Phone Number _____

I hereby certify that this plant is intended for exhibition strictly in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Florida State Fair contained in the 2027 Florida-Friendly Plant Showcase and Silent Auction rules by which I, the undersigned, understand & agree to abide by. I agree and consent to the use of pictures, including but not limited to photographs and video, of me and/or project in any or all publications, TV, publicity brochure, internet site, or other publicity associated with the Florida State Fair. I understand that the 2027 Florida-Friendly Plant Showcase & Silent Auction is held in conjunction with the 2027 Florida State Fair and agree that the Florida State Fair is not liable or responsible for any delay, change of dates or cancellation of the 2027 Florida State Fair due the following force majeure events: (a) acts of God; (b) flood, fire, earthquake; or (c) other potential disaster(s) or catastrophe(s), such as epidemics, or explosion.

_____
SIGNATURE OF INDIVIDUAL EXHIBITOR – MANDATORY!!

_____
SIGNATURE OF PARENT/GUARDIAN OF INDIVIDUAL EXHIBITOR – MANDATORY!!!

**** Upload completed Signature Page using the QR Code, at this link: Livestock Entry Documents OR email to ag@floridastatefair.com by December 1, 2026.** If you have any questions about this form, please contact the office at 813-627-4229.