



# Open Vegetable Show – New Jersey State Fair

## Sussex Farm and Horse Show

The main characteristics a judge evaluates in each exhibit are quality, condition, uniformity and typical of variety.

<b>HELPFUL HINTS</b> - When evaluating your vegetable exhibit at the fair, the judge will consider the following elements. It is good to keep this in mind when selecting your exhibits.	Blue Ribbon	Red Ribbon	Yellow Ribbon
	Excellent	Very Good	Good
<b>Quality</b> - Vegetables should be at peak market or table maturity. Choose specimens you would select for eating rather than the largest ones in your garden. The vegetable show is not a size contest, nor do you want to choose specimens that are too immature or overripe. One exception to this rule is tomatoes, which are perfectly fine to enter when they are green. Most herbs are past peak when they have flowered, so it is better to select stems that have healthy leaves but no flowers. <sup>1</sup>	Only very minor defects in appearance, if any.  Considered in “prime” eating condition.	Slight defects in appearance.	Definite defects in appearance.
<b>Condition</b> - Your exhibits should be clean, have no cuts or bruises, and be free of insect damage and disease. Wiping with a soft cloth is usually all that is necessary for cleaning exhibits.	Best for market size & quality. There should be no defective or unusable areas/parts. <u>No</u> signs of mishandling	Good size & quality for market. Contains some defective or unusable areas/parts.  Only slight mishandling of the specimens is noted.	Below market standards. Contains a number of defective or unusable areas/parts.  Mishandling of the specimens in the exhibit, such as bumps, knife slices, digs, etc
<b>Uniformity</b> - All specimens composing a single entry should be as similar as possible in size, shape, maturity, and color. For example, do not mix red and green tomatoes even though they are the same variety.	Uniform shape, color & degree of maturity for each specimen in the exhibit.	Slightly detectable variation in shape, color or degree of maturity of the specimens	Noticeable variation in shape, color or degree of maturity
<b>Typical of variety -Trueness to Type-</b> Each exhibit will be judged against the standard for that type of vegetable/herb. For example, sweet peppers and hot peppers have different characteristics. Your exhibit should match the ideal characteristics of its variety.	True to variety characteristics.	The specimens in the exhibit are not typical for the variety listed on the entry form.	Not typical for the variety. It may be too large or too small for the variety listed. Varieties should not be mixed in one exhibit

**Conformity to Rules** Be familiar with and pay attention to the rules and the criteria for the classes you are entering. Be sure to include the correct number of specimens for each exhibit as having too few or too many specimens will result in disqualification. Don't forget to include the variety name on the entry form.

<sup>1</sup> – With the exceptions of bergamot, dill, and lavender, there should be no open flowers on herbs; flower buds are ok