

Dept # 82 - Open Vegetable Show

2023



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Exhibits will be on display **Saturday, August 5th – Saturday, August 12th**, in the Greenhouse **Judging will take place on Sunday August 6th.**

Rules and Information

1. Entry is open to all who wish to exhibit.
2. All exhibitors are encouraged to preregister their entries. **Each** exhibitor must enter on his or her own entry form.
3. **\$10.00 FLAT FEE** - Entry will not be processed without entry fee. Make checks payable to New Jersey State Fair, Agriculture Division. **There is NO entry fee for CHI (Children's) or the CHB (Children's Basket, Garden, Sculpture) sections.**
4. Entries will be accepted at the fairgrounds at the greenhouse near Gate # 1 on **Friday, August 4th from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm and on Saturday, August 5th from 7:00 am to 10:00 am.** **NO exhibits will be accepted after 10:00 am on Saturday August 5th and all entries must be placed on the qualifying tables by 11:00 am.** *Please indicate on entry form which day you are planning to bring your exhibits. – Delicate vegetables such as leafy greens will be placed in the onsite refrigerator and the judges will take in consideration the "extra" time the vegetables will be in the greenhouse as judging will again take place on Sunday.*
5. **Judging will take place on Sunday, August 6th early in the morning.**
6. The show area will be closed to both exhibitors and the public during take-in and judging and will reopen as soon as possible following conclusion of judging. Only Vegetable Show officials will be allowed in show area during take-in and judging.
7. Exhibitors will prepare their entries and place them on the **qualifying table.** **Vegetable show committee members will place qualified entries on the show tables.**
8. The decision of the judge(s) is final.
9. Ribbons and premiums may be picked up from **10:00 am to 12:00 noon on Sunday, August 13th ONLY.** Unclaimed premiums will revert to the New Jersey State Fair, unless prior arrangements are made for delivery of premiums. ***Please check the box on the entry form if you do or do not wish ribbons. If left unchecked, no ribbons will be issued.**
Rosettes (Best in Show) are placed with the exhibit after judging and it is the responsibility of the exhibitor to retrieve the rosettes on Sunday, August 13th as they will NOT be assembled with the Excellent, Very Good or Good ribbons. NO Ribbons or Rosettes will be mailed. Premium checks will be mailed to exhibitors if not picked up on Sunday, August 13th.
****Removal of exhibits, ribbons or rosettes prior to the specified time will result in forfeit of premium checks****
10. Exhibits may be picked up from **10:00 am – 12:00 noon on Sunday August 13th.** Produce unclaimed as of 12:00 noon on Sunday, **August 13th**, if still in useable condition, will be donated. ***Please check the box on your entry form if you will or will not pick up your exhibits on Sunday August 13th between 10:00 am and 12:00 noon. If left unchecked, the committee members will place the exhibits in the donation boxes starting at 10:00 am on Sunday August 13th.**
11. All exhibits must be grown and selected by the exhibitor.
12. Entries not meeting the criteria as set forth in the rules **will be disqualified** and will not be judged.
13. An exhibitor may make more than one entry in a class provided each entry is a different variety. If entering more than one variety in a class, the **variety names must be listed on the entry form.**
14. **For Classes OTHER – HER (class 18), OTHER-VEG class (23), OTHER-FRUIT (24)– the Name/Variety of your exhibit MUST be listed on your entry form. Please do not enter in any "other" category without stating what the exhibit will be.**
15. All specimens displayed must be wiped clean but **not washed.** Onions, shallots and garlic are **not to be peeled beyond very outer wrappers.**
16. Vegetables should be of uniform size, shape, and maturity and be free of blemishes, and **MUST BE** in the number specified for each class. Greater or lesser numbers of specimens will result in disqualification.
17. Leafy vegetables and herbs must be displayed in a **glass container** with water. Bottles/jars will be provided.
 - Leafy vegetables must be submitted with 5 leaves.
 - Herbs with 3 stems except for chives & thyme.
18. Tomatoes: **Cherry & cluster-type tomatoes** must be submitted as 3 clusters on stem, at least 3 in a cluster. **Plum type** tomatoes may be entered as 3 clusters (minimum 3 in a cluster **OR** 3 individual tomatoes) – your choice. All tomatoes must have stem attached. Green tomatoes are acceptable.
19. Tops of root crops must be trimmed to approximately 1 inch, except for garlic, which must be trimmed **between 1-2"**.
20. The committee defines heirloom varieties as those meeting the following criteria: a named variety that is open pollinated (nonhybrid), possessing a history of its own and having been in existence for at least 50 years.
21. The miscellaneous (other) class may be subdivided if warranted by number of entries of any one type of vegetable.
22. To be designated as **Best in Show (Class)**, an exhibit must have been judged excellent regardless of number of entries in the class.
23. Specimens showing signs of deterioration through the course of the week will be discarded at the discretion of the committee.

OPEN VEGETABLE SHOW SECTIONS & CLASSES

Any named variety is acceptable. Please include variety names on entry form.

This aids the judging process and enables us to answer questions from fairgoers during the fair.

Entry Fee Table for VEG, HER, GAR, BAS, CHI, CHB	
Flat Fee – individual entry form (whether you enter 1 exhibit or 100 exhibits)	\$ 10.00
CHILDREN’s entries (classes CHI & CHB only) <i>Exhibitor must be 13 or under</i>	FREE

Section VEG – Vegetables

Class number and description

1. Beans, snap – bush or pole, any color – 10 pods constitute one exhibit
2. Beets – 3 roots, tops trimmed to approximately 1"
3. Carrots – 3 roots, tops trimmed to approximately 1"
4. Sweet Corn – 3 ears, with window approximately 1" x 1 ½ " cut through husk so that kernels are visible
5. Cucumber, slicing – 3 specimens
6. Cucumbers, pickles – 6 specimens
7. Eggplant – 1 specimen
8. Kale and/or Swiss Chard – 5 leaves, see rule # 17
9. Onions–3 bulbs, not peeled, tops trimmed to approximately 1"
10. Peppers, sweet, any color – 3 specimens
11. Peppers, hot, any color – 3 specimens
12. Peppers, frying, any color – 3 specimens
13. Potatoes, any color – 3 specimens
14. Summer Squash, yellow, straightneck, crookneck or yellow zucchini– 1 specimen
15. Summer Squash, zucchini (green variety)– 1 specimen
16. Winter Squash (includes acorn, buttercup, butternut, Hubbard, spaghetti or other winter varieties) – 1 specimen
17. Tomatoes, standard round varieties– 3 specimens, see rule # 18
18. Tomatoes, beefsteak type – 3 specimens, see rule # 18
19. Tomatoes, cherry – 3 clusters, see rule #18
20. Tomatoes, plum* –may be entered as 3 clusters (minimum 3 in a cluster or 3 individual tomatoes)., see rule #18
*Plum tomatoes may be entered as 3 clusters or 3 individual specimens. If entering as 3 individual specimens, they need to be removed from the cluster.
21. Tomatoes, cluster type – 3 clusters, see rule #18 (cluster “on vine” type tomatoes that are not typically a cherry or plum type) Examples: Early Cascade, Garden Peach, Cluster Goliath or any type of tomato displayed on a cluster (minimum 3 tomatoes/cluster & 3 clusters must be submitted).
22. Heirloom Tomatoes, any type – 3 clusters of cherry, plum* or cluster type varieties, 3 specimens of standard, beefsteak and plum*, see rules 18 & 20. *Plum tomatoes may be entered as 3 clusters or 3 individual specimens. If entering as 3 individual specimens, they need to be removed from the cluster.
23. Other Vegetable –any named variety except for herbs, for which no class is listed. Vegetables only for this class. Please be specific on your entry the name/variety of your entry (Examples: Rhubarb, Turnip, Leeks, Peas). Class items from prior years such as gourds, shallots, patty pan squash and heirloom vegetables should be entered in this class. For larger vegetables such as squash, pumpkins, cabbage or melons (1 specimen), Others (3 specimens), Smaller vegetables such as peas (10 specimens). Broccoli may be placed in a jar with water.
24. Other Fruit – Fruit entries will be in their own category this year. Exhibit your homegrown fruit (all types of berries, grapes, peaches, pears, apples) Apples, Pears or Peaches (3 specimens); All Berries (10 specimens) and Grapes (1) Grape Cluster.
25. Most Unusual – show off a vegetable oddity and give it a creative name or caption on which to be judged.
26. Show us your **GIANTS** – *Think you grow the biggest produce on the block – then show it off!!*

• Giant Tomato	• Giant Onion	1 specimen is considered an entry – you may enter one specimen in any or all of these subcategories All entries in this class will be judged on weight, NOT size
• Giant Pepper	• Giant Potato	
• Giant Cabbage	• Giant Eggplant	

Section HER – Culinary Herbs

The following rules pertain specifically to the herb classes:

- Must be in a clear glass jar with no accessories. Bottles/Jars are provided
- Three stems constitute one exhibit unless specified otherwise.
- Herbs are to be a **minimum of 3”** and a **maximum of 12”** in height **except for Bergamot (Bee Balm) – maximum height 18” and Dill -maximum height up to 24”**.
- With the exceptions of bergamot, dill, and lavender, there should be **no open flowers** on herbs; flower **buds** are ok
- Herbs will be deemed culinary or not culinary at the judge’s discretion. Any disputes will be referred to online herb references available. If any reference notes “that the variety is not a culinary herb”, the entry will be disqualified.

Class number with description

1. Basil, sweet green
2. Basil, any other
3. Bergamot (Bee Balm)* **may have open flowers – maximum height up to 18”**
4. Catnip (**no Catmint** aka flowering nepetas)
5. Chives – 8 – 12 stems – **stems may have more than 1 leaf**
6. Dill – 3 seed heads, * **may have open flowers - maximum height up to 24”**
7. Lavender * **may have open flowers**
8. Lemon Balm
9. Marjoram or Oregano
10. Mint, green types (peppermint, spearmint)
11. Mint, citrus/fruit varieties
12. Mint, other types
13. Parsley, curly leaf
14. Parsley, flat leaf
15. Rosemary
16. Sage – perennial (no Russian Sage)
17. Thyme – 8 – 12 stems
18. Other Culinary Herb – any culinary herb for which no class is listed, **up to 10 entries per exhibitor. No strictly medicinal or poisonous herbs. Class items from prior years such as French Tarragon & Tropical Sage should be entered in this class.**
19. Herb Bouquets - bouquet consisting of 3-5 culinary varieties listed above and no taller than 15”. All herbs in this class may be flowering. Each variety should be an exhibit of 3 stems or as listed above. Jars will be provided.

Section GAR – Garlic

- The outermost layer of garlic bulbs may be removed, but the bulb is not to be peeled to the extent that individual cloves are either distinguishable or exposed.
- Roots should not be trimmed to less than ½”

Class number and description

1. Garlic, softneck varieties - 3 bulbs, tops trimmed between **1 – 2”**. Please see note above.
 2. Garlic, hardneck varieties - 3 bulbs, tops trimmed between **1 – 2”**. Please see note above.
- Garlic will be displayed in a secured area to avoid problems with “missing” garlic during the show.**

Premiums for Vegetable (VEG) – Herb (HER) – Garlic (GAR)	
Excellent	\$3.00 & blue ribbon
Very Good	\$2.00 & red ribbon
Good	Yellow ribbon
Best in Show	Additional \$1.00 & rosette
Grand Champion Exhibitor for Sections: VEG-HER-GAR	\$10.00 & rosette
Beverly Post Memorial Award	VEG Section only - \$10.00 & rosette to top three (3) exhibitors receiving the most excellents

Section CHI – Children’s Division *Entry is open to children through the age of 13.*

There is NO entry fee for this class.

Class number with description

1. Beans – 10 pods
2. Cucumbers – 3 specimens
3. Tomatoes – 3 specimens
4. Cherry, Grape or Plum Tomatoes:
Cherry or grape: submit 3 clusters,
Plum: 3 clusters OR 3 individual specimens (see rule # 19)
5. Squash, any – 1 specimen
6. Peppers, any – 3 specimens
7. Other Vegetable – any other vegetable not listed in CHI 1-6 (Limit of 5 entries in this category). May include classes listed in the VEG or GARsection. **Please enter the number of specimens that are listed in the adult VEG & GAR class.**

8. Other Herb – limited to the following herbs:

Three stems constitute one exhibit unless specified otherwise

Herbs are to be a **minimum of 3”** and a **maximum of 12”** in height unless otherwise specified

- **Basil** – sweet green or any other variety
- **Chives** - 8 – 12 stems – **stems may have more than 1 leaf**
- **Dill** - 3 seed heads, * *may have open flowers* - maximum height up to 24”
- **Mint** – green types or any other variety
- **Parsley** – *may be curly or flat leaf variety*

Premiums for Children’s (CHI)	
Excellent	\$3.00 & blue ribbon
Very Good	\$2.00 & red ribbon
Good	Yellow ribbon
Grand Champion CHI	\$5.00 & rosette

Section CHB – Children’s Division Baskets, Garden & Sculptures *Entry is open to children through the age of 13.*

There is NO entry fee for this class. (See premium table below)

All Exhibits are to be the work of the child entering and assembled at home and brought into the fair on Friday, August 6th (4pm to 8pm) or Saturday, August 7th (7am to 10am)

Class number with description

Veggie Sculptures - let your imagination grow wild and construct a sculpture using all vegetable components must contain at least 3 different vegetables. So, get your creative hat on; Make a sculpture with potatoes, carrots, peppers, tomatoes, green beans, onions, eggplant, garlic, cucumbers, or any other vegetable, fruit or herb needed to complete your veggie creature.

1. **Veggie Sculpture (up to age 6)**
2. **Veggie Sculpture (ages 7-13)**

Premiums for Children’s Basket (CHB) Section	
Excellent	\$3.00 & blue ribbon
Very Good	\$2.00 & red ribbon
Good	Yellow ribbon
Best in Show each class in CHB	\$5.00 & rosette

Section BAS – Baskets

Note: Herbs will be deemed culinary or not culinary at the judge's discretion. Any disputes will be referred to online herb references available. If any reference notes "that the variety is not a culinary herb", the entry will be disqualified

Class number with description

1. **Small Herb Garden – 5 varieties or less** of culinary herbs labeled; The herbs must be rooted in a Strawberry Pot i.e. possess "root integrity". Inclusion of nonculinary herbs will be cause for disqualification. Pot Size and number of pockets at exhibitor's discretion, but more than 5 varieties will move you to the Large Herb Garden class. No Plastic Pots. *Include a saucer to allow us to easily water your herb garden during the fair.*
2. **Large Herb Garden – 6 or more varieties** of culinary herbs labeled; The herbs must be rooted in a Strawberry Pot i.e. possess "root integrity". Inclusion of nonculinary herbs will be cause for disqualification. Pot Size and number of pockets at exhibitor's discretion. No Plastic Pots. *Include a saucer to allow us to easily water your herb garden during the fair.*
3. **What's for Dinner Basket** – Fresh from the garden to your plate with at least 5 or more different varieties of vegetables, **labeled and attractively displayed** in a basket – 3 specimens of each variety (except large vegetables such as cabbage and eggplant or melon etc. 1 specimen is acceptable). Showing us what's fresh from the garden tonight, your choice of what is bountiful in the garden and ready for dinner.
4. **"Creative Container" Small Space Garden 3-7 varieties:** Show us your creative side by entering a garden planted in a "creative" container. Garden should **contain 3 or more** edible Vegetable varieties and/ or Herbs (**but no more than 7**). A minimum of 3 varieties must be included. We want to see **unusual containers** for this class. Think outside of the box; such as don't use terracotta pots, barrels or boxes that would be typical for planting flowers or veggies). *Label your entries with either a card indicating what vegetables/herbs are included in the display or small tags by each specimen.*
5. **"Creative Container" Small Space Garden 8 or more varieties:** Show us your creative side by entering a garden planted in a "creative" container. Garden should **contain 8 or more** edible Vegetable varieties and/ or Herbs. A **minimum of 8 varieties** must be included. We want to see **unusual containers** for this class. Think outside of the box; such as don't use terracotta pots, barrels or boxes that would be typical for planting flowers or veggies). *Label your entries with either a card indicating what vegetables/herbs are included in the display or small tags by each specimen.*

Exhibitors are limited to entering 1 entry per class for the BAS Section; you may enter in all 5 classes.

There will be People's Choice Voting for the Creative Container Small Space Gardens

Premiums for Basket (BAS) Section	
Excellent	\$15.00 & blue ribbon
Very Good	\$10.00 & red ribbon
Good	\$5.00 & yellow ribbon
Best in Show for each class above	\$10.00 & rosette

Section ZUC - Great New Jersey Zucchini Contest

Sponsored by the Phillips Family

Largest zucchini by weight

Rules

1. Entry is open to anyone who wishes to participate.
2. Preregistration is encouraged but not required.
3. There will be an entry fee of **\$3.00 per zucchini**
4. Zucchini must be grown by exhibitor.
5. Zucchini must be presented for entry at the greenhouse on Friday, August 4th 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm **or** Saturday, August 5th 7:00 am to 10:00 am. Remember zucchini lose weight through moisture evaporation after they are picked.
6. Weighing will take place early during entry.
7. Zucchini are to remain on display through Sunday, August 13th. Exhibits and ribbons may be claimed on **Sunday, August 13th between 10:00 am to 12:00 noon and are not to be removed prior to this time or the premium will be forfeited.**

Premiums for Great NJ Zucchini (ZUC) Contest	
1 st Place by weight	\$15.00
2 nd Place by weight	\$10.00
3 rd Place by weight	\$5.00
All others	Participation ribbon

Section SCA - Scarecrow Contest

Rules and Information

1. The Scarecrow Contest is open to families and organized groups.
2. Entries for this contest **must** be preregistered and must be received by **July 15th**.
3. There will be an **entry fee of \$5.00 per scarecrow entry**. Entry fee must be included with the entry form. Make checks payable to New Jersey State Fair, Agriculture Division.
4. Scarecrows are to be dressed and accessorized to illustrate the theme listed below.
5. Scarecrows will be constructed at the greenhouse at the fairgrounds on **Friday, August 4th from 6:00 – 8:00 pm** OR on **Saturday, August 5th from 12:00 noon - 2:00 pm** and will be judged Sunday, August 6th.
6. Scarecrows will remain on display through Sunday, August 15th. Premiums, ribbons, and scarecrows may be claimed on **Sunday, August 13th between 10:00 am – 12:00 noon** and must be claimed by 12:00 noon or scarecrows will be dismantled, and premium will be forfeited unless prior arrangements are made for delivery of premiums.
7. A wooden stake and straw for both stuffing and support of the stake will be provided for each scarecrow. The exhibitor must provide clothing and all other accessories. The use of props and/or accessories to carry out the theme is encouraged. **** All stakes provided by the Vegetable Show Committee must be returned intact and without alteration or premium will be forfeited.**
8. All scarecrows must use straw as a major component.
9. Scarecrows will be judged for both quality of construction and use of the theme and
10. **All Scarecrows will be eligible for the People's Choice Scarecrow Rosette.** Voting for People's Choice will begin following judging on August 6th via Text Message (limit 5 votes/phone number)

THEME: Looney Tunes

Class number with description


1. **Traditional Scarecrow – Scarecrow must be on a wooden frame & must include a horizontal bar (wood cross frame).**
2. **Non-Traditional (Sculptured) Scarecrow - A non-traditional scarecrow made with items such as chicken wire, hay bales, paper mache – “anything goes”!!**

Premiums for Scarecrow (SCA) Contest	
1st Place	\$15.00 & blue rosette
2nd Place	\$10.00 & red rosette
3rd Place	\$5.00 & yellow rosette
Honorable Mention	White Rosette

2023 Vegetable Show Events in the greenhouse

<p>Saturday August 5th through Saturday August 12th Scarecrow Contest and People's Choice Voting for Scarecrows & Creative Container Small Space Gardens</p>	<p>Vote for your favorite Scarecrows & Creative Container Small Space Gardens for the People's Choice Awards.</p> <p>Voting will run from Saturday August 5th after 5 pm through Friday August 11th at 9 pm. <i>People's Choice Rosette will be awarded Saturday following tallying of the votes.</i></p> <p>Vote via: Text message (limit 5 votes/phone number)</p>
<p>Scarecrow Photo Op</p>	<p>Come into the greenhouse and take a photo with any or all the scarecrows that have been constructed for the Scarecrow Contest. Starting Saturday August 5th after 4 pm to the end of the fair.</p>
<p>Tuesday – August 8th Children's Day</p>	<p>Fun activities will be run during the day in the greenhouse.</p>

OPEN VEGETABLE SHOW CALENDAR 2023

					Friday August 4	Saturday August 5	
					<p style="text-align: center;">July 15th</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Deadline for entry form to be received to receive a FREE pass to the fair</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Open Vegetable Show Exhibit Entry 4 pm - 8 pm</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Scarecrow Entry- Construction of Exhibits 6 pm – 8 pm</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Open Vegetable Show Exhibit Entry 7 am - 10 am</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Scarecrow Entry- Construction of Exhibits 12 noon– 2 pm</p>
Sunday August 6	Monday August 7	Tuesday August 8	Wednesday August 9	Thursday August 10	Friday August 11	Saturday August 12	
<p>Open Vegetable Show Judging prior to start of fair admission</p>		<p>Children's Day @ the Fair</p> <p>Open Vegetable Show Fun activities in the greenhouse</p>	<p>Celebrate America Day @ the Fair</p> <p>Reduced admission*</p>	<p>Senior Day @ the Fair⁺</p>	<p>Open Vegetable Show People's Choice voting ends @ 10 pm</p>	<p>All Open Vegetable Show entries MUST remain on display to SUNDAY 8/13</p>	
August 13							
<p>Open Vegetable Show Pick up Exhibits & Premiums 10:00 am - 12 noon</p>	<p>Facebook https://www.facebook.com/veggieshow/</p> <p>Email veggieshowsussex@gmail.com</p> <p>Website www.eieiosussex.com</p> <p>Phone 973.988.3732</p>						

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

<p>HELPFUL HINTS - 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.</p>	<p>Blue Excellent</p>	<p>Red Very Good</p>	<p>Yellow Good</p>
<p>Quality - 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.¹</p>	<p>Only very minor defects in appearance, if any.</p> <p>Considered in “prime” eating condition.</p>	<p>Slight defects in appearance.</p>	<p>Definite defects in appearance.</p>
<p>Condition - 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.</p>	<p>Best for market size & quality.</p> <p>There should be no defective or unusable areas/parts.</p> <p><u>No</u> signs of mishandling</p>	<p>Good size & quality for market.</p> <p>Contains some defective or unusable areas/parts.</p> <p>Only slight mishandling of the specimens is noted.</p>	<p>Below market standards.</p> <p>Contains a number of defective or unusable areas/parts.</p> <p>Mishandling of the specimens in the exhibit, such as bumps, knife slices, digs, etc</p>
<p>Uniformity - 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.</p>	<p>Uniform shape, color & degree of maturity for each specimen in the exhibit.</p>	<p>Slightly detectable variation in shape, color or degree of maturity of the specimens</p>	<p>Noticeable variation in shape, color or degree of maturity</p>
<p>Typical of variety -Trueness to Type- 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.</p>	<p>True to variety characteristics.</p>	<p>The specimens in the exhibit are not typical for the variety listed on the entry form.</p>	<p>Not typical for the variety. It may be too large or too small for the variety listed.</p> <p>Varieties should not be mixed in one exhibit</p>

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.***

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