Greenwich Dahlia Society

18th Annual Dazzling Dahlia Show

2026 Show Schedule

Saturday, September 26

Final Entries	7:00 am – 11:00 am
Judging	11:30 am – 2:00 pm
Awards	2:30 pm
Public Viewing	2:00-5:00 pm
Sale of Flowers	5:00 pm

Greenwich Botanical Center
130 Bible Street | Cos Cob, CT 06807
greenwichbotanicalcenter.org | 203-869-9242

SHOW PATRONS

In Memory of Ruth Getty Coulter
Carolyn Gilbert
Lisa Moser

Barbara Collier
Casey Cotter
Claire Dunn
Alease Fisher
Lilian Eng Fong
Alex Friedman
Ren Harman
Jacqueline Keeshan
Karen Lamensdorf
Leah Marmon
Sandra Marr
Fran & Elliot Miller
Moira Napolitano
Augusta Perrin
Ken Pojman
Riverside Garden Club
Pamela Schaefer
Karen Tam

GREENWICH DAHLIA SOCIETY

President	Karen Tam
Treasurer	Elizabeth Peyton
Secretary	Jennifer Butler
Membership & ADS Representative	Ken Pojman

SHOW COMMITTEE

Chair	Lisa Moser
Judges & Classification Awards	Barbara Collier Ann Finaly Augusta Merrill
Clerks/Volunteers	Lilian Eng Fong Angie Hartofilis
Floral Arrangements	Augusta Merrill
Sponsorships	Lisa Moser Moira Napolitano
Marketing & Communications	Allison Good Alana Kontos
Sale of Flowers	Ken Pojman
At Large	Antony J. Antony Lilian Fong

Welcome to the Show

The Greenwich Dahlia Society of the Greenwich Botanical Center is delighted to welcome you to the 18th Annual Dazzling Dahlia Show. We look forward to greeting longtime friends and first-time exhibitors as they share their extraordinary blooms in friendly competition for trophies and awards.

Visitors are invited to enjoy the dazzling variety of colors, forms, and abundance on display; and even take a piece of the beauty home, as all blooms will be available for sale when the show closes on Saturday at 5pm. The Dazzling Dahlia Show is open to all exhibitors who present named, homegrown dahlias. New to exhibiting? Our members are always happy to guide and assist you.

We extend our sincere thanks to the experienced judges from the American Dahlia Society, who travel from across the region, as well as to the Greenwich Botanical Center staff, our dedicated volunteers, and our generous sponsors for making this event possible.

Congratulations to all of our 2025 trophy winners! We look forward to welcoming you, your friends, and even more spectacular blooms at the 2026 Dazzling Dahlia Show.

Lisa
Lisa Moser
Show Chair

Phoebe
Phoebe Lindsay
GBC Executive Director

ADS DAHLIA CLASSIFICATION GUIDE

The 2026 ADS Classification and Handbook of Dahlias will be the reference guide used for this show.

OPEN SECTIONS

1 AA	(FD) (ID) (SC) (C/IC/LC)	**3 AA**	(FD) (ID) (SC) (C/IC/LC)
1 A	(FD) (ID) (SC) (C/IC/LC)	**3 A**	(FD) (ID) (SC) (C/IC/LC)
1 B	(FD) (ID) (SC) (C/IC/LC)	**3 B**	(FD) (ID) (SC) (C/IC/LC)
1 BB	(FD) (ID) (SC) (C/IC/LC)	**3 BB**	(FD) (ID) (SC) (C/IC/LC)
1 Min	(FD) (ID) (SC) (C/IC/LC)	**3 Min**	(FD) (ID) (SC) (C/IC/LC)

Ball - 1 & 3 Bloom
Miniature Ball - 1 & 3 Bloom
Pompon - 1 & 3 Bloom
Stellar - 1 & 3 Bloom
Waterlily - 1 & 3 Bloom
Peony - 1 & 3 Bloom
Anemone - 1 & 3 Bloom
Collarette - 1 & 3 Bloom
Single - 1 & 3 Bloom
Mignon Single - 1 & 3 Bloom
Orchid - 1 & 3 Bloom
Orchette - 1 & 3 Bloom
Novelty Open (NO) - 1 & 3 Bloom
Novelty Fully Double (NX) - 1 & 3 Bloom
Micro - 1 & 3 Bloom

SPECIAL SECTIONS

Largest Bloom

Best 2026 Introduction - Large 1AA/A/B/BB Small (All other size forms)

New Seedling 1st, 2nd, 3rd Year

BASKET SECTION

AA, A, B	5 Blooms
BB, BALL, MB, ST, WL	7 Blooms
Miniature, Pom, Novelty (NX)	9 Blooms
Open-centered	9 Blooms
Mignon Single & Micro	13 Blooms
Best Basket in Show	**Best of all tri-color**

Mixed colors of the same formation and extra foliage permitted. Dahlia foliage required with additional dahlia and non-dahlia foliage enhancement permitted. Label basket on bottom for return.

GRAND SLAM BASKET SECTION

Any form, size or color of dahlias may be used. Stage for frontal view. Any complementary foliage can be used. No other flowers or buds allowed. All other basket rules apply. Sponsored by Alease Fisher

COURT OF HONOR

Best Fully Double Bloom in Show
Best Fully Double 3 Blooms in Show
Best Open Center Bloom in Show – Best 3 Open Center Blooms in Show
Best Basket in Show
Largest Bloom in Show **(must be blue ribbon winner)**

King of Show	Best AA in Show	Princess of Show	Best BB in Show
Queen of Show	Best A in Show	Duke of Show	Best Min in Show
Prince of Show	Best B in Show		

Best 3AA in Show
Best 3A in Show
Best 3B in Show
Best 3 BB in Show
Best 3 Min in Show
Best Ball - 1 and 3 Blooms
Best Miniature Ball - 1 and 3 Blooms
Best Pompon - 1 and 3 Blooms
Best Stellar - 1 and 3 Blooms
Best Waterlily - 1 and 3 Blooms
Best Novelty Fully Double - 1 and 3 Blooms

Best Peony - 1 and 3 Bloom
Best Anemone - 1 and 3 Bloom
Best Novelty Open - 1 and 3 Blooms
Best Collarette - 1 and 3 Bloom
Best Orchid - 1 and 3 Bloom
Best Orchette - 1 and 3 Blooms
Best Single - 1 and Bloom
Best Mignon Single - 1 and 3 Bloom
Best 2026 Introduction - 1AA/A/B/BB or smaller
Best Seedling 1st, 2nd, 3rd Year
Best Micro

NEW GROWER OR NOVICE SECTION

Best AA A
Best B
Best BB
Best Min, Micro

Best Ball, Mini Ball, Pom
Best Waterlily, Stellar, Novelty Double
Best of all Open Center

GENERAL RULES

1. This show is open to all. No entry fee will be charged. Membership of either the Greenwich Dahlia Society or the Greenwich Botanical Center is not a requirement for exhibitors.

2. Competitive exhibits will be placed from 7:00 to 11.00am on Saturday, September 26. Judging will start promptly at 11:15am on Saturday, September 26.

3. Any unclassified blooms must be submitted to the classification table ***no later than 10:00 a.m. on September 26 in order to be classified***. An unclassified bloom is one that is not listed in any C&H. Unclassified blooms will not be judged.

4. All entries must have been grown by the exhibitor and accurately labeled.

5. All exhibitors should register at the registration desk.

6. Seedling dahlias may be exhibited in any section. (See pages 134-135 in the 2026 Classification Book.)

7. All entries not correctly labeled with variety name, class and the exhibitor's name and number on the entry tags provided by GDS will be disqualified. An exhibitor's name will be concealed before entry is placed.

8. Baskets: Dahlias may be mixed of the same type and size, except Grand Slam Section. Baskets must have a handle. Dahlia foliage is required with additional greenery permitted. No buds or flowers other than dahlias are permitted.

9. Artificial support of blooms above the top of the container is prohibited.

10. Up to three entries of the same variety may be entered from one garden in any class.

11. Judges will be guided by the latest ADS classification as to type, color, and size in all dahlia classes unless otherwise noted. ADS judging rules will be followed.

12. Judges decisions are final.

13. Only judges and clerks will be allowed on the show floor during the judging.

14. No exhibit may be removed from the hall at any time after judging. All blooms shall be the property of the show committee, to be disposed of at their discretion at the close of the show.

15. **Judges will award blue ribbons if entry is worthy of consideration for contention as a tri-color winner.**

16. Three-bloom classes require three blooms of the same variety to be arranged in container provided by GDS.

17. The Committee reserves the right to make additional rules, classes, or to change the schedule as may become necessary; or to remove from the table, before or after judging, any exhibit it considers to be in poor condition.

18. Judges may not participate in decisions involving their own interests or entries. If a substitute judge is required, that judge should sign the appropriate clerk sheet.

19. **All single and three-bloom entries must have at least one pair of leaves**.

20. The Artistic Dahlia Arrangement must feature dahlias, but other flowers, foliage and props may be used. These entries will not be judged.

21. A New Exhibitor is defined as a grower who has exhibited 5 years or less and won 3 or less tri-color ribbons at an ADS sanctioned show. This restriction pertains to all members of the same family, other than children under the age of 18 years of age.

22. While the Greenwich Dahlia Society and the Greenwich Botanical Center will exercise due caution in safeguarding exhibits, responsibility for damage, loss or personal injury cannot be assumed.

SPECIAL SECTION TROPHIES

Best FD Bloom in Show - Sponsored In Memory of Ruth Getty Coulter

Best Open Center Bloom in Show - Sponsored by Fairfield House & Garden

Best Basket in Show - Sponsored by Barbara Collier

Best FD 3 Bloom in Show - Sponsored by Alease Fisher

Best 3 Open Center Blooms in Show - Sponsored by Alex Friedman

Largest Bloom in Show - Sponsored by Ken Pojman
Blue Ribbon Trophy - Sponsored by Karen Tam
For new exhibitors with the most Blue ribbons.

AMERICAN DAHLIA SOCIETY BRONZE MEDAL

ADS SEEDLING BENCH EVALUATION

The American Dahlia Society seedling bench evaluation for 2026 is offered in cooperation with the ADS and is open to all exhibitors. All must follow the rules for entries and judging, as printed in the latest edition of the 2026 *Classification and Handbook of Dahlias listed on ADS website*.

VISIT US ONLINE TO LEARN MORE

Information about The Greenwich Dahlia Society of Greenwich Botanical Center can be found on GBC's website, **www.greenwichbotanicalcenter.org** or by calling 203-869-9242.

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NOTES

Thank you for attending the 2026 Dazzling Dahlia show!