



2026 Outstanding Varieties Competition Rules and Regulations

Please read the following carefully. SAF reserves the right to exclude any entry from the competition that does not meet all conditions as specified below.

WHEN: August 18-20 at the 141st Annual SAF Convention
WHERE: The Ritz Carlton Amelia Island, Amelia Island, Florida
INFORMATION: Contact Celeste O'Keefe at 703-213-5797; cokeefe@safnow.org

Entries must be received by Tuesday, July 21 with full payment. No entries will be accepted past this date, no exceptions.

- There are two ways to enter the Outstanding Varieties Competition:
 - Growers can enter varieties that are currently available on the commercial market.
 - Breeders can enter varieties that have not yet been introduced (known as “codes”).
- Grower entries are separated into categories by plant or flower type (ex. Cut Rose, Cut Alstroemeria, Decorative Foliage, etc). Breeder entries will all be judged in their own Breeder category, regardless of the type of plant or flower, and are not eligible to win Best in Show. No Breeder entries may be judged in any of the grower categories or vice versa. **SAF reserves the right to remove or disqualify, without refund, entries that attempt to be judged in an incorrect category.**
- In order for a Breeder to enter a variety in the Grower category, the stems that are sent have to be grown by a commercial grower, not by the breeder or propagator, and the name of the grower must be included in the entry. This will be seen and entered in the “Grown by: XXX” section. For the breeder category, this is not a requirement; the blooms sent can either be grown at the breeder facility or by a grower – the breeder is the sole entrant.
- Chrysal Americas is the official sponsor of the 2026 Outstanding Varieties Competition. Chrysal Americas hydrating and preservative products are available for use by exhibitors during the duration of the competition. **The Chrysal Americas products supplied are the only products of this kind that can be used during the competition.**
- It is recommended that exhibitors prepare and set up their own entries. Company representatives responsible for setting up entries are required to check-in with the Outstanding Varieties coordinators upon arrival at the hotel to receive instructions.
- Printed materials of any kind supplied by exhibitors are prohibited during the competition. This includes but is not limited to promotional materials, props or special signage. Only SAF approved and designated materials may be displayed.
- Decorative materials or other non-perishable supplies of any kind used in floral design are prohibited during the competition. This includes but is not limited to paints, sprays, foam, wire, ribbon, dyes, tints or other similar supplies.
- Entries that have been dyed or tinted in any way will not be permitted to enter the competition.
- Knives and cutting tools generally found in any floral industry business may be used during set-up of the competition. Mechanical devices or tools of any kind are prohibited during the competition.
- Fresh flower and decorative foliage entries will consist of no more than 24 stems of the variety. SAF reserves the right to admit and display the entry if less than the maximum number of stems (24) are available.
- Flowering, foliage and bedding plants must be displayed in non-decorative packs or pots. Three samples of the variety must be provided, and samples may be of mixed form at the discretion of the exhibitor. SAF reserves the right to admit entries if less than the required number of sample (3) are available.
- SAF will provide adequate workspace, knives, access to water, floral preservatives and standard containers for preparing and displaying fresh flowers and foliage.
- SAF will maintain the product during the duration of the competition according to currently accepted procedures for proper care and handling of floral products.

- SAF reserves the right to withdraw from the competition any product deemed unacceptable for display. No refunds will be made for product that is determined to be unacceptable.
- SAF reserves the right to not issue Best in Class Ribbons when there are less than 3 entries in a class.
- SAF and the Outstanding Varieties Coordinators have the final authority to resolve disputes in a way they feel supports & honors the integrity of SAF, the Outstanding Varieties Competition & individual exhibitors.

2026 Outstanding Varieties Competition Procedures

- There is ***NO LIMIT*** to the number of varieties that can be entered in the competition.
- Preparation for the competition will take place on Sunday, August 16 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Monday, August 17 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. All entries must be completely set up by 10 a.m. on Tuesday, August 18. ***There are no exceptions to this rule.***
- SAF will decide on the final placement of entries in the competition.
- Any entry not set up by an exhibiting company by 10 a.m. on Tuesday, August 18 will be set up by SAF. The exhibiting company will be charged an onsite set-up fee of \$125 for each entry SAF must set up.
- All entries set up by SAF will be done by a floral professional.
- Products entered into the competition will be delivered to the hotel in the late afternoon on Saturday, August 15 in a refrigerated truck where they will be stored until set up begins.
- Delivery method and delivery expenses for shipping products are the responsibility of the exhibiting company.
- Upon receipt of entry forms and payment, exhibitors will receive neon green labels that should be placed on the outside of the shipping boxes. These labels will help SAF quickly identify product for the competition versus product being donated for the SAF Amelia Island 2026 convention. ***Please be sure to display these neon green labels on the outside of your boxes.***
- Entry fees are payable with submission of the entry forms to SAF. Fees for entries canceled on or before July 21, will be refunded less a 15% administrative charge. ***No refunds will be made after July 21.***
- Substitutions for paid entries will be accepted until July 21. ***Absolutely no substitutions will be accepted after July 21 or on site in Amelia Island.***
- Refunds or credits will not be issued for damaged product, product not exhibited or product that does not arrive before set up deadline.