

2024-25 GROW.TEXAS. CONNECTING GARDENING AND HEALTH *Rules and Guidelines*



TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

Grow. Texas. is designed to promote gardening and healthy eating habits for all ages! Through the process, the goal is for participants to learn, spend time outdoors, engage in healthy eating from the garden, and have fun!

ENTRY SUBMISSION LINK: <https://tinyurl.com/3nsxxy86>

Individual Age Divisions

- Junior Division (Grades 6, 7, 8)
- Senior Division (Grades 9-12)

Team Age Divisions (3-5 youth)

- Junior Division (Grades 6, 7, 8)
- Senior Division (Grades 9-12)

Garden Divisions and Categories

- Division I Organic Gardens
 - Container Gardens
 - Raised Bed Gardens
 - Row Gardens
- Division II Conventional Gardens
 - Container Gardens
 - Raised Bed Gardens
 - Row Gardens

Awards

- Junior Age Division - Individuals
 - *Division I Organic Gardens – 1st through 3rd place winners in each Division Category will advance to the state level contest.*
 - Container Gardens (1st place - \$750 & banner, 2nd place - \$500 & banner, 3rd place - \$250 & banner, 4th-10th place – banners)
 - Raised Bed Gardens (1st place - \$750 & banner, 2nd place - \$500 & banner, 3rd place - \$250 & banner, 4th-10th place – banners)
 - Row Gardens (1st place - \$750 & banner, 2nd place - \$500 & banner, 3rd place - \$250 & banner, 4th-10th place – banners)
 - *Division II Conventional Gardens - 1st through 3rd place winners in each Division Category will advance to the state level contest.*
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- Junior Age Division - Teams
 - *Division I Organic Gardens - 1st through 3rd place winners in each Division Category will advance to the state level contest.*
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Timeline

November 30	Entries Due Online https://tinyurl.com/3nsxxy86
November 30	Contestants should access and view online orientation link.
November – March	Pre-Recorded Online Learning Experiences Shared with Participants
March 15	Preliminary Round Videos Submitted
April 2025	State Level Contests Junior Level – Online Interviews Senior Level – Face to Face Contest and Learning Experiences in Dallas Area

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- Garden must include at least 3 different types of vegetables.
- Garden types include container gardens, raised bed gardens, and 1-3 row gardens (rows must not exceed 20 feet).
- Contest Information
 - Garden Evaluation which will be conducted via video submission. The video must include an audio narrative explaining the process, challenges, and benefits seen. Video may include a combination of video footage, photos, and slides.
 - The Garden Evaluation video will be no more than 15 minutes in length and include the following:
 - Pre-Planting Activities
 - Building Beds
 - Soil addition and amendment
 - Watering plan
 - Other
 - Garden Planning Activities
 - Determine what to plant
 - According to the plant, determine water and fertilizer needs
 - Planting and Maintenance Activities
 - Seeding and/or Transplanting
 - Fertilizing
 - Mulching
 - Water
 - Insect Management and Control
 - Disease Control
 - Harvesting
 - Post Harvest Activities
 - Storage
 - Use
 - Recipe Preparation/Demonstration
 - The Garden Evaluation Video will be ranked by a panel of judges. The rankings will be combined for a cumulative ranking. These cumulative rankings will determine the top three in each Division Category. Those top three will advance to the state level contest.
 - The state contest will consist of interviews. Interviews for the Junior Age Division will be conducted via Zoom. Interviews for the Senior Age Division will be conducted in person in Spring 2025.

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What if I started my garden before the application deadline? Starting your garden prior to the application deadline is acceptable. We understand that fall gardening must occur before November 30.

If I started before the application deadline, how will I talk about all of garden evaluation components? You don't have to include photos, video, etc. of all the steps. You can simply explain what you did.

What if I had help with some of the components because I didn't know about the contest? Having help in your garden is acceptable. Gardening can be a great family or friend project where not only are plants growing, but conversations as well!