

BASKET OF BLOOMS 2025
Entry: Monday, July 21, 2025
9:00am-11:00am
Jackson County Fairgrounds

The Basket of Blooms contest is being organized and offered by the Jackson County Master Gardeners. The prize money of \$150 is compliment of the Jackson County Fair Association. Entry for the Basket of Blooms contest will be at the east overhead door to Pearson Hall. PLEASE USE THE EAST GATE ENTRANCE TO THE FAIRGROUNDS FROM HIGHWAY 62. This will allow for less traffic congestion at the west entrance. Watch for signs. Rules for the contest are as follows:

1. The contest is open to any 4H Club, FFA Chapter, Civic Club, Church Group, Family (a great grandparent/grandchild project) or other organization, as well as individual, including Garden Club members and Master Gardeners. NO COMMERCIAL ENTRIES ACCEPTED.
2. Flowers, plants, grasses, herbs must all be real but may be grown or purchased. ALL ENTRIES MUST BE LIGHT-WEIGHT ENOUGH TO BE MOVED EASILY BY ONE PERSON. Large containers may be lightened by using Styrofoam in the bottom before adding soil and plants.
3. Additional accessories such as flags, plant sticks, figurines, etc. are acceptable.
4. Entries may not be removed until 7:00am on Monday, July 28, 2025.
5. Entries may be used by the Master Gardeners organization for their entry in the fair parade and will be on display during the fair in Pearson Memorial Hall.
6. Judges will be selected by Master Gardeners.
7. Judges will consider the best use of texture, color, originality, creativity and condition of plant materials.
8. Please name plant varieties on the entry tag if possible. You may use the back of the entry tag if necessary or bring the plant ID tags that come with the plant from the store. This adds to the educational aspect of the entry for the fairgoers.
9. Prize money will be awarded in each class if merited. An overall winner and reserve winner will be selected at the judges' discretion.
10. People's Choice Award. This year the award is in honor of Master Gardener Viola Kilburg who passed away last fall. Viola was a very active Master Gardener who served on several committees, including planning the Master Gardener Fair Booth. Fairgoers are invited to vote for their favorite Basket of Blooms entry as we remember Viola's energy and helpfulness.
11. Classes for 2025 are as follows:
 - a. A container planted with the 2025 Fair Flower – Coleus.
 - i. Any kind of container may be used.
 - ii. One or more varieties of Coleus may be planted, and only Coleus may be in this class!
 - b. Unique container
 - i. Use your imagination for a container that is unusual for growing plants – suggestions are old purses, shells, shoes, tea kettle, etc. The focus on this class is on the container.
 - ii. Plants used are the choice of the exhibitor. (See rule 2 above.)
 - c. Vintage – “Old-fashioned” flowers or old containers (or both)
 - i. Plants suggested are the ones we found in our grandmother's garden such as nasturtiums, petunias, begonias, herbs, geraniums, mini-roses, etc.

- ii. Old or antique containers, such as old wooden box, white enameled dish pan, etc.
 - iii. Be creative! Mix and match old containers and plants. (See rule 2 above).
 - d. Theme Garden
 - i. Size should not exceed 24 x 24 inches.
 - ii. Examples of themes are farming, champing, John Deere, Fairy, etc.
 - iii. Accessories, such as figurines, are acceptable.
 - iv. Can be grown in hypertufa, wood box, bowl, etc.
 - v. Must be light enough to be moved easily.
 - e. Succulent Garden
 - i. Any container featuring one or more succulents
 - ii. Olly succulents must be grown in the garden
 - iii. Size should not exceed 24 x 24 inches
 - iv. Examples of succulents are hen & chicks, aloe, small sedum, small cacti, jade, etc.
 - f. Exhibitor's Choice
 - i. Any kind of container may be used.
 - ii. Choice of plants is up to the exhibitor
 - iii. See rules 2 and 3 above.
 - g. Junior Class
 - i. 12 years of age and under.
 - ii. Rules 1 through 9 apply.
 - iii. Entries can be from any of the classes listed above in A – F.
12. Each exhibitor is limited to 2 entries in each class.
13. All reasonable caution is used to protect entries, but neither the Jackson County Master Gardeners nor the Jackson County Fair Board can be held responsible for theft or damages.
14. Questions about the contest may be directed to the Jackson County Extension Office at 563-652-4923.
15. Having your entry tag filled out beforehand will save you time when you submit your entry. The tags can be obtained at the Fair office. Please fill in information in ALL areas. Class A, B, C, D, E, F, or G. The entry area is for a brief description of your entry. You may include names of plant varieties if you know them. If there is not enough room, continue the back of the tag.

ENTRY TAG

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

NUMBER: _____

DIVISION: _____

CLASS: _____

ENTRY: _____
