

2019 PHS PHILADELPHIA FLOWER SHOW CHALLENGE CLASS PLANTS

Have you ever thought about entering the PHS Philadelphia Flower Show but weren't sure how to get started? "Challenge" plants are a great way to get your feet wet—or your hands grubby—for the 2019 Show, "Flower Power!" (March 2–10).

In these classes (that is, entry categories), all exhibitors start with the same plants and grow them for competition. Only plants purchased from PHS are eligible to be entered in challenge classes. The 2019 Flower Show *Exhibitor's Guide* contains all the information you will need to enter. The *Guide* will be available starting in September. To receive a copy, contact fsguide@pennhort.org, download a copy (theflowershow.com/get-involved/exhibit-at-the-flower-show), or write to Competitive Classes, PHS, 100 N. 20th St., 5th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19103-1495.

The 2019 challenge plants (\$8 each) are a *Pelargonium*, a flowering rock-garden plant, and a *Syngonium*. Complete plant names will be revealed at pickup time. A handout with advice about growing the plants will also be available.

Picking Up Plants

Challenge plants will be available at the PHS Members' Plant Dividend on Saturday, September 22, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Temple University Ambler, 580 Meetinghouse Road, Ambler, PA 19002. Go to Student & Sports Parking Lot 3. <https://ambler.temple.edu/sites/ambler/files/documents/Ambler-Campus-Map-Fall-2017.pdf>

It is wise to purchase your plants at the Plant Dividend. Any remaining plants will be available at PHS Meadowbrook Farm, 1633 Washington Lane, Meadowbrook, PA 19046. Plant pick-ups will be every Friday in October from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. Call 215-887-5900 and ask for Karen Tyler or email kt Tyler@meadowbrookfarm.org to learn which plants are still available and to schedule the pickup. You can reserve plants when you call her by paying with a credit card. On-site payments can only be paid by cash or check.

Challenge Classes for Novices and Youth

Although anyone can enter the challenge classes, there are separate classes for Novices (exhibitors who have not won a blue ribbon in the Horticulture Classes of the PHS Philadelphia Flower Show [except Bulbs or Orchids] prior to 2019) and Youth (students in 8th grade or under).

Challenge Plants, Revisited

Exhibitors may also enter challenge plants from past Flower Shows in the special Returning Challenge Plant classes on Monday, March 4: *Senecio serpens* (2018), *Cyperus involucratus* 'Baby Tut' (2018), *Hosta* 'Mini Skirt' (2018), *Lavandula multifida* (2017); *Polystichum luctuosum* (2017), *Alsobia* 'Cygnet' (2017). All challenge plants may also be entered in other classes on the remaining entry days.

Programs on How to Grow Challenge Plants

Join growers from PHS Meadowbrook Farm and Flower Show Horticulturists for this informational program on best practices for growing this year's challenge plants. Then, hear expert tips on how to enter your plants into this year's PHS Philadelphia Flower Show. Fee: \$5 Members; \$10 Non-Members

- Wednesday, October 3, 1-3 p.m. at PHS Meadowbrook Farm, 1633 Washington Lane, Jenkintown, PA 19046
- Wednesday, October 24, 1-3 p.m. at Mostardi Nursery, 4033 West Chester Pike, Newtown Square, PA 19073

To register, go to www.phsonline.org/events or call 215-988-1698.