



VIRGINIA
FFA ASSOCIATION

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STUDENT GARDEN COMPETITION

State Fair of Virginia

Meadow Event Park
13111 Dawn Blvd, Doswell, Virginia 23047
Caroline County



Deadline for Entries: September 16, 2022 or until all spaces are filled

2022 Theme: "Blue Jeans and Country Dreams"

2022 Schedule

Install: Garden installation will be Thursday, September 22, 2022 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. All garden installations must be completed by 9:00 am. Friday, September 23rd.

Pick Up: Pick-up of materials/supplies will only be allowed Monday, October 2nd from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Any materials remaining after that time will be considered abandoned and disposed of by the State Fair of Virginia.

Entry Procedures: All entries must be made by September 16th. Entries will be closed when all 10 spots are assigned. To enter click on this link: <https://www.vaffa.org/state-fair-of-virginia>

General Rules and Guidelines

1. These gardens shall be educational as well as artistic.
2. Design and installation of these gardens shall reflect the work of the students as assisted by the instructor and sponsors as appropriate, through the classroom program.
3. The garden designs will be based on the theme "**Blue Jeans and Country Dreams**" Plant materials selected should be both perennials and annuals & relate to both the theme and season and must be labeled, with information and explanations (if any) to be readable by the general public from outside the display space.
4. Each school is responsible for providing a laminated sign for their garden that includes school name, sponsors/donors, explanation of design, participating student names, and a title for the garden.
5. *Signs are to be given to Andy Seibel or Alison Jones to ensure a 'blind' judging process. Signs will be placed on gardens after judging.*
6. Participating schools are responsible for keeping their exhibition gardens attractive, removing and replacing dead plant material, etc. Lights, pumps and fountains must be kept in good working order. Other participating schools can assist those schools that can't attend on a regular basis for upkeep.
7. Awards will be withheld if the garden plot is not cleaned and restored after the Fair.
8. **Each school will be given 8 tickets to be used for checking on the garden** during the fair to assure that it remains attractive.
9. **If power is needed please request at time of entry.**

Exhibition Garden Sites - Plots for the gardens are in the outdoor section of the State Fair Gardens. The spaces are approximately *12 ft. (from front to back) x 10 ft. (from left to right)* Any screening between plots must be provided by the competing school(s).

Judging – SCHOOL MUST PROVIDE SIGN (SEE #6 ABOVE FOR DETAILS):

Judges will be selected to combine expertise in design and horticulture education. The evaluation perspective will emphasize demonstration of commercial design quality by high school students based on the following criteria:

Design Concept: The design is a creative and imaginative solution to the theme for this competition. The use of the principles and elements of design (focus, scale, proportion, harmony of color and materials, rhythm and unity) is evident in the design.

Design function: The design meets the intended purpose in achieving the garden theme and develops the garden plot to its fullest potential for that purpose. Hardscapes, garden ornaments and plants develop and support the garden purpose. Hardscapes (paved and unpaved) are in context with the design, of suitable size and material for their function, and they show a flow or point of destination. Plant materials work together harmoniously and exhibit similar environmental requirements.

Design Execution: All elements of the design create the illusion of reality. The plantings appear to be established. Attention given to finished detail of constructed hardscapes, garden ornaments and plants. Plants are labeled and readable from outside the garden.

The Best in Show: The winning garden excels in design concept, function and execution demonstrating the highest level of design and visual impact.

Cash Awards

1st Place: \$300.00

2nd Place: \$200.00

3rd Place: \$100.00

Ribbons will be awarded through 6th place

All cash awards will be paid to the participating School

State Fair Scholarship Program

Scholarship funds will be divided equally between the participating students representing the winning garden. Please see the State Fair website, www.statefairva.org for more information regarding the scholarship program.

1st place \$1,500.00

**State Fair: Student Garden
Scoring Rubric**

Judge: _____

Plot #: _____

| Scoring Category | Scoring Criteria | High Points 10 - 8 | Middle Points 7- 4 | Low Points 3 - 0 | Score |
|-------------------------|--|--|--|---|--------------|
| Design Concept | <i>Relates to the theme</i> | Creative and imaginative solution to the theme. | Clear interpretation of the theme. | Theme is not represented in the design. | |
| | <i>Elements of Design</i> | Includes many elements of design (focus, scale, proportion, harmony of color and materials, rhythm and unity). | Includes some elements of design (focus, scale, proportion, harmony of color and materials, rhythm and unity). | Very few evident elements of design (focus, scale, proportion, harmony of color and materials, rhythm and unity). | |
| Design Function | <i>Use of Hardscapes</i> | In context with the design, of suitable size and material for the desired function, and shows a flow or point of destination. | In context with design, but lacks cohesion or desired function. | Out of place or disproportionate to the rest of the design, no clear flow or point of destination. | |
| | <i>Plant selection</i> | Plant materials work together harmoniously and exhibit similar environmental requirements. | Plant materials chosen are working well in the environment, but lack cohesion. | Plant materials are not compatible and require different environmental needs. | |
| Design Execution | <i>Creating an illusion of reality</i> | The plantings appear to be established. Attention given to finished detail of constructed hardscapes, garden ornaments and plants. | The plantings appear to be established, but the design lacks the clean finishing touches required for high points. | The plantings do not appear to be established and the design appears unfinished. | |
| | <i>Educational Element</i> | All plants are labeled and visible from the outside of the garden. | Some plants are labeled, and some are visible from the outside of the garden. | Very few, if any plants are labeled. | |

Total: _____/60