

UTAH ORCHID SOCIETY (UOS)

SHOW RULES AND REGULATIONS

Revised March 9, 2026

It is recommended that all exhibitors and show participants read and understand these rules and regulations. Questions may be sent to admin@utahorchidsociety.org.

1) If you wish to **exhibit orchid plant(s)** at a UOS show, you will find instructions on the UOS website under 'Orchid show', including a PDF list of UOS show classes (judging classes). Each plant should be entered in its appropriate class. The show committee will print the necessary tags for registered plants and have those available during show setup.

2) Plant registration(s) should be made no later than 9 a.m. on the Friday before the show, but preferably several days earlier. If you are uncertain whether you will exhibit a particular plant, please register it anyway in case it ends up being shown.

3) Each plant entered will be assigned an **exhibit number**. Each exhibitor entering plants or flowers will be identified on plant tags by their **record number**.

4) Staging and **setup of a show** will be on the Friday afternoon before the start of the show, at Red Butte Garden and Arboretum's Orangerie from approximately 12:30 to 5:00 p.m. (Any changes to these times will be posted.)

5) Takedown will begin at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday. No portion of any exhibit may be removed from the hall before the official takedown time without prior arrangement with the show chair.

6) Any plant showing evidence of being **diseased or having pests will not be accepted**. Plants suspected of being diseased or infested must be removed upon

recommendation by two or more members of the UOS board or show committee. This also applies to plants offered for sale.

7) Orchid **cut-flowers** may be exhibited in their appropriate plant class.

8) A **meristem** will be considered as a vegetative division of the original plant and must be treated as such.

9) **No artificial flowers or foliage** may be used in an exhibit. Artificial logs, moss or grass mats are permitted. **No blooming plants or cut flowers other than orchids** will be allowed.

10) You are welcome to exhibit your registered plants in the **society exhibit**. Prior notification is not required, nor do you need to be a member of the Utah Orchid Society. The society will arrange and display the plants.

11) The UOS Board of Directors determines beforehand whether each show will be a **bench show** (plants grouped by class) or an **exhibit show** (plants arranged for best artistic effect). In a bench show there are no individual exhibits except possibly educational exhibits or terrariums.

12) If you wish to enter your own table exhibit in an exhibit show, please reserve space a minimum of **3 days before the setup day** by contacting the UOS at admin@utahorchidsociety.org. If you *might* be entering your own exhibit for the show, also please contact the show chair to reserve space, even if you are unsure. In addition, give consideration to the number and type of tables you will wish to utilize (Red Butte (RB) round table, RB rectangular table, or supply your own table).

13) The show may have a **theme** to be shown on advertising posters, which may or may not be included in the show registration, as decoration in a bench show, or as the theme of exhibits at an exhibit show.

14) Any person complying with these Rules and Regulations may exhibit their orchids..

15) Neither the Utah Orchid Society nor the Red Butte Garden and Arboretum, nor the show chair(s), nor any other venue which may host an event, will be responsible for damage to plants or flowers, or failure to return plants or flowers. However, **every possible effort will be made to protect your property.**

16) A show hosted by the UOS may be **American Orchid Society (AOS) judged** if it is registered and approved by the AOS, and if at least three AOS judges are able to attend the show. AOS judging for a show may be cancelled without notice if the minimum of three judges is not met.

17) Judging will begin at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday of the show.

- **a)** If the AOS judging chair or vice-chair is not present, selection of an accredited AOS judge as chair will be made by the AOS judges present.
- **b)** Judging will proceed in the following sequence:
 - i) Short briefing of judges by Show Judging Chair
 - ii) Ribbon judging
 - iii) Trophy Award judging
 - iv) AOS trophy awards
 - v) AOS point scoring for AOS plant awards

18) Ribbon judging: All plants entered for ribbon judging must be labeled with entry tags filled out with the name of the plant, class entered and exhibitor number. For an exhibit to be eligible for ribbon judging, it must be entered in the Plant Registration System.

Award	Ribbon
First Place	Blue Ribbon
Second Place	Red Ribbon
Third Place	White Ribbon

Trophy	Trophy Ribbon or rosette

19) Ribbons or trophies will be awarded to the **exhibitor** of a winning plant. If an exhibit as a whole receives a trophy, the award will be given to the **organizer and coordinator** of the exhibit.

20) All plants entered in the show are eligible for AOS judging unless expressly excluded by the plant owner with a tag or sticker stating "**Not for AOS Judging**". Plants must be tagged, showing name, clonal name if known or designated, parentage and any previous awards granted to the plant. Incorrect labeling information can lead to disqualification.

21) No '**made-up**' plants will be eligible for AOS cultural awards (e.g. multiple individual plants potted together to create a specimen plant). **Species** will include natural hybrids. For awards, all plants must be **in bloom** except genera grown for beauty of foliage.

22) Judges may combine or subdivide classes, or add classes or awards, at their discretion. Judges may also refrain from giving any award or trophy if in their opinion no flower, plant, or exhibit warrants the award.

23) The **decision of the judges is final** with respect to all awards. The decision of the show chair or designated representative is final for any other issue excluding judging.

24) AOS fees for processing and publishing of any AOS awarded plant must be paid by the person receiving the award. Failure to pay AOS fees will exclude individuals from future AOS judging (per AOS rules). If you do not want your plants to be AOS judged, attach a label to the exhibit or to the individual plant stating "**Not for AOS Judging**".

25) Award photography costs will be paid by the sponsoring society.

26) A limited number of **observers** may be allowed during AOS judging by permission of the AOS judging chair.

27) AOS Show Trophy - no entry required, no fees entailed

To be awarded only if judges deem an exhibit to be worthy, the Show Trophy award is intended to encourage the improvement of the standards of exhibits. The following stipulations apply:

- a) American Orchid Society judges must officiate the awarding of this trophy.
- b) The winning exhibit must receive a **majority of the votes cast**.
- c) A favorable vote must consist of at least **80 points** based on the following factors
- d) Exhibit minimum size is **25 square feet**.

Factor	Points	
General arrangement (design)	35 points	
Quality of flowers	35 points	
Variety	20 points	
Labeling	10 points	
Total Points		100 points

28) UOS members may be allowed to **sell** their own **personal plants at a show**, at the discretion of the show chair. One table per show may be used for member sales, with its surface space offered on a first come, first served basis. Members wanting to sell plants should contact the show chair in advance to reserve space if available. The number or type of plants offered for sale may be limited.

Members will be charged 20 percent of their sales, payable to the UOS.

29) Commercial vendors wishing to sell items or take orders for goods or services at the show must submit their request to vend **a minimum of 60 days before the show**. A **request to vend** at the show does not automatically receive an invitation to do so. The UOS Board of Directors (board) will determine whether or not to issue an **invitation to vend**, which will then be communicated by the show chair.

30) The board shall **select vendors** it believes will provide positive experiences to show attendees. When selecting plant vendors, the board will consider the following criteria:

- vendor's reputation and long-term experience selling to orchid growers
- vendor's knowledge of the types of orchids they intend to sell
- vendor's ability to explain plant care to buyers and provide continued support and answers after making a sale
- vendor's well-established relationships with their outside suppliers
- vendor's ability to sell accurately-identified and properly-labeled orchids that are free of pests and disease

31) The board shall have **the right to approve or deny any vendor application** and the board's decision shall be final.

32) Vendors selling plants shall purchase the use of standard 6-foot rectangular tables at the rate of \$150 per table (or \$8.00 per square foot of floor space utilized).

Vendors selling items **other than plants** shall purchase the use of standard 6-foot rectangular tables at the rate of \$100 per table (or \$5.50 per square foot of floor space utilized).

33) Vendors shall be responsible for all sales-related activities. The Utah Orchid Society Show qualifies as a special event. All vendors participating in special events are required to obtain a Temporary Sales Tax License and Special Return (TC-790C) from the Utah State Tax Commission. The license/return is only good for the event listed on the form and is sent out by the Utah State Tax Commission. A Special Return (TC-790C) may be requested by phone from The Special Events Unit Utah State Tax Commission. (Special Events Unit Utah State Tax Commission, 210 North 1950 West,

Salt Lake City, Utah 84134, 801-297-6303 or 1-800-662-4335, ext. 6303,
email specialevent@utah.gov).