



88th Annual Royal Rosarian Rose Garden Contest
A Royal Rosarian Foundation and Portland Rose Festival Community Event

2026 Application Packet

Key Dates:

- **May 22 (Friday) – Applications Due**
Completed applications must be postmarked or emailed no later than May 22rd
- **May 31 (Sunday) – Rosarian Judging**
On-site judging between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm
- **June 1 (Monday) – City of Portland Parks & Recreation Judging** Visual judging by the City of Portland (Division 12 only)
- **June 16 (Tuesday) – Awards Ceremony**
In the Royal Rosarian Garden, at the International Rose Test Garden in Washington Park, beginning at 6:30 pm

Eligibility:

The contest is open to all rose growers within 20 miles of Pioneer Courthouse Square, Portland, Oregon, as verified by electronic mapping system. No garden club membership is required to enter the contest. You need a minimum of 12 rose bushes in your garden, entry is free, and all are invited!

Royal Rosarian Rose Garden Contest

A Royal Rosarian Foundation and Portland Rose Festival Community event

In 1938, the Royal Rosarian Rose Garden Contest was established as the first sponsored citywide event to honor the rose, the “Queen of Flowers.” The contest was so popular that it immediately became an annual event. The Royal Rosarians are committed to continually improving the contest to showcase the best amateur rose gardens and commercial plantings in Portland, the City of Roses. The contest promotes greater appreciation for growing roses, honoring those citizens who help beautify Portland through their rose growing efforts, and upholds the signature Royal Rosarian slogan, “For You A Rose In Portland Grows!” The Royal Rosarians encourage all rose growers in the Portland Metropolitan Area to enter this contest.

The 2026 Application Packet is available on the Royal Rosarian and Royal Rosarian Foundation websites. Select Rose Garden Contest at the Events tabs.

- www.royalrosarians.com
- www.royalrosarianfoundation.org

You may also request an application packet by contacting Dame Kerri Burke at rosegardencontest@royalrosarianfoundation.org.

Contributions to support of the Rose Garden Contest may be made to the Royal Rosarian Foundation at PO Box 8956, Portland, OR 97207-8956. Please write RGC on the memo line of your check. Your contribution is voluntary and will not influence judging in any way.

The Rose Garden Contest Awards Ceremony will be held on Tuesday, June 16, 2026, at 6:30 pm in the Royal Rosarian Garden of the International Rose Test Garden at Washington Park. Winning contestants will be notified in advance, but all contestants and their guests are encouraged to attend this public acknowledgement of their rose growing achievements.

Definitions for the Rose Garden Contest

Rosarian: A person who grows roses or studies the rose in any or all of its forms.

Royal Rosarian: Any member of the organization called The Royal Rosarians, serving as the official greeters and ambassadors of goodwill for the City of Portland.

Rose Garden: An area for displaying roses in a defined setting that does not include other plant material of any kind. A formal rose garden often includes a focal point of a definable manufactured object such as a gazing ball, trellis, or fountain, which may or may not be adorned with roses. Any combination of rose varieties may be used and the uniqueness of that use can be an enhancement to the garden and the judging condition of the rose garden.

Rose Planting: Any piece of ground used for rose cultivation that would not otherwise constitute a rose garden. It may include any random display of roses and may include other plants. English and cottage-style gardens and curb parking areas are perfect settings for rose plantings.

Professionally Maintained: Gardens receiving paid professional services over the course of the season. For example: regular pruning, spraying and clean-up of spent blooms and leaves.

Rose Garden Contest Judges: Royal Rosarians and/or spouses and Rose Society experts and/or spouses perform as judges in a fair and objective manner. An average of all judges' scores, minimum of two, determines the garden's final score

Eligibility: The contest is open to all rose growers within 20 miles of the Pioneer Courthouse Square, Portland, Oregon, as verified by electronic mapping system. No Garden club membership or fee is required to enter the contest.

Commercial: Any commercial or public property such as business and professional buildings, churches, hospitals, nursing and retirement centers, schools, public service agencies. Professional maintenance is acceptable.

Portland City Limits: Boundary of approximately 92,600 acres as verified by: [20 miles from Pioneer Courthouse Square](#)

JUDGING CRITERIA

Design and Layout of Roses (10 points): The rose garden or rose planting layout must meet the definitions discussed on page 3 of this application package. All types of rose display should have adequate sunshine (no less than 6 hours a day) and be designed for ease of maintenance to promote optimum growth and resistance to disease. Spacing should be appropriate to rose type and the overall design of the garden or planting.

Optimum spacing distance between plants:

- Shrubs and Grandifloras: 3
- Hybrid Teas: 30"
- Floribundas: 24"
- Miniature Roses: 12"

Soil Condition (10 points): Adequate mulching is desirable, but it should not be heaped around and above the canes. Soil needs to be cultivated to eliminate weeds and keep the soil loose.

Pruning (20 points): The plants should be trimmed for proper form and structure. Crossing and dead canes need to be removed, and centers opened. The amount of live wood removed during pruning is an individual preference and does not affect the score:

Pruning scoring:

- Plant form and structure: 10 points
- Cane health and vigor: 10 points

Maintenance (40 points): Continued grooming along with a diligent fertilizing and spraying schedule is very important to maintain good health, strong growth, and overall beauty of the roses. Spent blooms should be removed (deadheaded) and fallen petals and leaves picked up. Severe disease infection or insect damage is an indication of poor maintenance. Individuals who have adopted alternative forms of pest management and can effectively keep their gardens clear of pests using methods other than spraying and will be judged the same as those using the traditional spray regimens. More importantly, the cleanliness of the garden will influence the score.

Maintenance scoring:

- Deadheading: 10 points
- Weed control: 10 points
- Disease control: 10 points
- Insect control: 10 points

Vigor (10 points): The size of the blooms, canes and foliage, together with healthy growth on upper canes and the indication of new basal breaks will show if a balanced feeding program is being followed. Vigor also indicates the plant's ability to fend off pests and renew itself during the growing season.

Bloom Quality (10 points): Consideration will be given to the climatic conditions affecting the number and quality of blooms.

PROTOCOLS AND RULES

All rose gardens must be located within 20 miles of Pioneer Courthouse Square, Portland, Oregon, as verified with an electronic mapping system

This contest is open to amateur and hobbyist gardeners. *However (Division 7) “Professionally Maintained” applies to gardens receiving routine professional help - see Definitions, page*

Divisions: Winning addresses may not compete in their winning division(s) for the next two calendar years following their winning year. Exception: First Time Entrants (Division 9 and Division 11D) can only enter once. It is important that everyone understands the restrictions for each Division so entries can be submitted correctly. Example: Winners from 2023 are eligible to enter the 2026 contest.

Records of previous winners will be referenced; however, a participant's sense of fair play is relied on to not enter divisions or sections for the next two calendar years following his/her winning year. The contest hopes to give every qualifying gardener the experience of entering and competing fairly in the Rose Garden Contest. Judges reserve the right to properly recategorize the entries.

Each physical address is eligible for up to two division section entries.

Please do not put unnecessary pressure on yourself. All entrants in each division and section will be judged fairly and objectively.

Good luck!

DIVISIONS AND SECTIONS

Formal Rose Garden (Division 1)

Division 1, section A – 25-75 rose plants

Division 1, section B – 76 and more rose plants

Rose Plantings (Division 2)

Division 2, section A – 25-75 rose plants

Division 2, section B – 76 and more rose plants

Rose Society (Division 3) (*only open to Rose Society members*)

Division 3 – 12 or more rose plants in a garden/planting

Note: *Judging by Royal Rosarian members only*

Miniature Rose Plantings (Division 4)

Division 4, section A – 25-50 miniature rose plants

Division 4, section B – 51 or more miniature rose plants

Visibility (Division 5) – 12 or more rose plants visible from the street

Division 5, section A – outside Portland city limits, west of the Willamette River

Division 5, section B – outside Portland city limits, east of the Willamette River

Honored Citizen (Division 6) (*gardeners 65 years of age or older*)

Division 6, section A – 12 or more rose plants in a garden/planting

(west side of Willamette River)

Division 6, section B – 12 or more rose plants in a garden/planting

(east side of Willamette River)

Professionally Maintained (Division 7)

(Professional help and/or service provided on a regular basis - see Definitions, page 3)

Division 7, section A – 12-24 rose plants in a garden/planting

Division 7, section B – 25-75 rose plants in a garden/planting

Division 7, section C – more than 75 rose plants in a garden/planting

Royal Rosarian (Division 8) (*only eligible to Royal Rosarian members*)

Division 8 – 12 or more rose plants in a garden/planting

Note: *Judging by Portland Rose Society members only*

First-Time Entrant (Division 9)

Rose Garden or Rose Planting for first-time entrants with 12 or more roses.

Commercial Visibility (Division 10) – 12 or more rose plants visible from the street

Division 10, section A – outside Portland city limits, west of the Willamette River

Division 10, section B – outside Portland city limits, east of the Willamette River

Commercial Rose Gardens & Plantings (Division 11) – 12 or more rose plants in a garden/planting

Division 11, section A - Business and Professional Buildings

Division 11, section B - Churches, Hospitals, Nursing and Retirement Centers, Schools

Division 11, section C - Public Service Agencies

Division 11, section D - First-Time Entry

The Frank E. Beach Visibility Award (Division 12)

(within Portland City Limits, see page 3)

The Frank E. Beach Visibility Award is offered by the City of Portland, Parks a Recreation, Healthy Parks, and Healthy Portland. The Frank Beach Foundation established this award within the City of Portland in 1975 for 12 or more rose plants visible from the street. Hedges, fences, or other screening material must not impede the view from the street.



- **Residential Section:** Grand Prize, 1st, 2nd & 3rd place prizes
- **Commercial and Public Agency Section:** 1st & 2nd place

Note: Judging is conducted by representatives of the City of Portland. Judging generally takes place the following day, the Monday after the judging of Division 1 through 11 is completed. Contestants do not need to be home for judging. Contact International Rose Test Garden Curator Rachel Burlington with any questions, (503) 475-1253.

Frank E. Beach was a rose enthusiast co-credited with dubbing Portland as the “City of Roses.” He was an early advocate of the Rose Festival and aided in the formation of the Portland Rose Society.



The Royal Rosarian Prime Minister's Trophy

Highest scorer in all Divisions

Note: Winning addresses may not compete for the Prime Minister's Trophy for the next two calendar years following the winning year.



Terry and Virginia Schrunk Memorial Award

High score of Division 1, sections A and B

Terry Schrunk served as Mayor of Portland for 16 years (1957-72). He and Virginia held the Royal Rosarians, the Portland Rose Society, and the Portland Rose Festival in the highest regard.

Note: Winning addresses may not compete for the Schrunk Memorial Award for the next two calendar years following the winning year.



Pat Troyer Memorial Award

High score of Division 2, sections A and B

Lady Pat Troyer ran a successful floral business in her "retirement". Pat generously gave her time and floral talents to the Royal Rosarians, Portland Rose Society, OSU Master Gardeners, and the International Rose Test Garden.

Note: Winning addresses may not compete for the Troyer Memorial Award for the next two calendar years following the winning year.

88th Annual Royal Rosarian Rose Garden Contest Official Entry Form

There are three ways to apply:

1. Follow the **online link** to submit an Official Online Entry Form, no later than 11:59 on May 22, 2026.
2. Email this completed entry form (page 9) no later than 11:59 pm on May 22, 2026, to: rosegardencontest@royalrosarianfoundation.org
3. Mail completed entry form (page 9), postmarked no later than May 22, 2026, to:
Rose Garden Contest
Attn: Dame Kerri Burke
8986 SW Waverly Drive, Tigard OR 97224

Direct questions to Kerri Burke:

rosegardencontest@royalrosarianfoundation.org

NAME: _____

Address/City/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

Please provide a description of the area of your garden to be judged and the specific directions to the site (on the back of the entry form or on a separate attached paper).

DIVISION _____ **SECTION** _____

DIVISION _____ **SECTION** _____

Are you inside Portland's City Limits? Yes _____ **No** _____

Name of your Neighborhood (if applicable): _____

- A physical address is eligible for up to two Division section entries.
- Entrants do not need to be present on judging day.
- Judges reserve the right to re-categorize your entries.

If I am awarded, the news media may acknowledge me: Yes _____ No _____

Photos taken of my garden and roses may be used on social media: Yes _____ No _____

I hereby give permission to the Royal Rosarian Rose Garden Contest Judges to enter my property on Sunday May 31, 2026, for the purpose of judging my rose garden/plantings.

Signature _____ Date _____

How did you hear about our contest? _____
