



california state floral association

**Top Ten Designer of the Year Competition
will consist of two separate categories:
“Surprise Package” & “Designers’ Theme Composition”**

Friday, November 6, 2026

The following are the rules for the competition

“Top Ten Surprise Package”

1. The “Surprise Package” will consist of one part of the competition.
2. All competitors will receive identical materials, excluding the basic tools and supplies allowed. Absolutely no other materials may be supplied by the contestants or anyone else.
3. The theme will be announced five (5) minutes before the competition begins; these five (5) minutes will be considered ‘idea time’ and contestants may use this time to review and separate their materials and start planning their compositions.
4. Thirty minutes (30) will be allowed for the completion of the surprise package.
5. Tools & Supplies Allowed: See the enclosed list for the allowed tools and supplies.
6. All designs will be judged on the overall composition. Competitors may use as little or as much of the materials provided.
7. One (1) assistant will be allowed to assist in moving your compositions to the judging area. No rearranging of any materials will be permitted in the judging area.
8. All designs in this category are the property of CSFA.

“Top Ten Designers’ Theme Composition”

1. The “Designer’s Theme Composition” will be allowed forty-five minutes (45) for construction.
2. Fresh flowers, greens, and plant material should be the primary focus in the composition.
3. Props should be original and not previously used in a floral competition. Props, accessories and containers will be limited to forty (40) percent of the overall composition. An automatic twenty (20) point penalty will be applied for any violations of this rule.
4. The entire composition may not exceed six (6) feet in height, four (4) feet in width, and four (4) feet in depth. Any materials extending beyond these dimensions will result in an automatic ten (10) point penalty. The composition cannot be comprised of more than 10% fruit.
5. There is no cost limit on any materials used in this design. However, all fresh product (for this purpose defined as fresh cut flowers, foliage and plant material) must have been grown in California.
6. The qualifying judges will review all fresh product to be used. Contestants must present at the time of qualifying, written proof (original invoice and statement from the grower or wholesaler) where the fresh product was grown. All product not grown in California will be disallowed and confiscated.
7. If any questionable materials are found in the finished composition, the competitor will be informed and have the opportunity to remove it before the judging. If it is not removed, a 15 point penalty will be assessed by a qualifying judge.
8. Containers and/or props for the “Designers’ Theme Composition” may be pre-assembled, and pre-painted. Floral foam may be attached to the container and/or prop. No other fresh product may be added, inserted or attached to the container and/or prop.

9. All fresh flowers must be in their original length (NOT CUT) and state as received from the grower or wholesaler. All pre-cut or processed fresh floral product (except foliage and plants) will be disallowed and confiscated.
10. Precut foliage and plants from the “garden” will be allowed.
11. Glue guns and glue pans will not be allowed.
12. No assistance nor communication with anyone in the audience will be allowed during the competition.
13. Each contestant will be required to move their composition to the judging area and may use one assistant if necessary. The designer is fully responsible for the movement of the design. No rearranging of any materials will be permitted in the judging area.

The theme selected for the 2026 “Top Ten Designer of the Year Designer’s Theme Competition Composition” will be:

“BOTANICAL BRILLIANCE: CaliFlora 2026”

The scale used for judging for “The Designer’s Theme Composition will be 40% and 60% for “The Surprise Package”

The CSFA Top Ten Designer of the Year Competition Committee therein will resolve any questions regarding the contestant’s participation. All decisions of the committee, judges and jury are final.