

Tomato Contest Information

Contest Divisions :

- Cherry/Small Tomatoes (first, second and third place prizes)
- Large/Medium Tomatoes (first, second, and third place prizes)
- Heaviest Tomato (one prize)
- Basket of Plenty – Best Vegetable-and-Friends Cornucopia (first, second and third place prizes)
- & More – 22 categories, up to three entries (first, second and third prizes)

Prizes:

- **Cherry/Small and Large/Medium Divisions:**
 - 3rd Place – \$10 Fanick's Gift Card
 - 2nd Place – \$25 Fanick's Gift Card
 - 1st Place – \$50 Fanick's Gift Card
- **Heaviest Tomato:**
 - \$50 Fanick's Gift Card
- **Basket of Plenty – Best Vegetable-and-Friends Cornucopia:**
 - 3rd Place – \$10 Fanick's Gift Card
 - 2nd Place – \$25 Fanick's Gift Card
 - 1st Place – \$50 Fanick's Gift Card
- **& More:**
 - 3rd Place – \$10 Fanick's Gift Card
 - 2nd Place – \$25 Fanick's Gift Card
 - 1st Place – \$50 Fanick's Gift Card
- **Best in Show**
 - \$100 Fanick's Gift Card (Determined from the first-place winners of the Cherry/Small Tomato and the Large/Medium Tomato divisions)

Fanick's Garden Center-

<https://fanicknursery.com>

1025 Holmgreen Rd, San Antonio, TX 78220

Basic Entry Rules:

- Entries will be accepted from 9–11 am at Fanick’s Garden Center on Saturday, June 15.
- Complete the [entry form](#) (one form for each entry) and bring with you on the day of the contest. Entry forms will also be available on the day of the contest.
- Judging will begin at 11 am and winners will be announced when judging ends, around 12 pm.
- **If not present, winners will be contacted. However, it is preferred that contestants are present!**
- All entries must be home grown, planted and maintained by the contestant. **Commercial growers are not eligible.**
- No more than one entry per division (i.e. one Cherry/Small Tomato entry, one Medium/Large Tomato entry, one Heaviest Tomato entry, and one Basket of Plenty – Vegetable-and-Friends Cornucopia entry) per person except for & More Division which allows up to three entries in different categories (i.e. one Broccoli entry, one cauliflower entry and one cucumber entry etc.) per person. **Up to 7 potential entries per person!**
- Open to Texas residents of all ages. **Youth are welcome.**
- Entries not collected by the contestants by 1:00 pm will become the property of Bexar County Master Gardeners.

What Judges Will Be Looking for Criteria:

Cherry/Small Tomatoes

- Entries must include a minimum of 6 tomatoes. • If possible, 1/2” stems (calyx) should be left on and be green and fresh.
- Uniformity in size, color, shape and maturity of the tomatoes is important. Mature tomato color is dependent on the variety of the tomato.
- Tomatoes should be free of blemishes of any type.

Large/Medium Tomatoes

- Entries must include a minimum of three tomatoes.
- If possible, 1/2” stems (calyx) should be left on and be green and fresh.
- Uniformity in size, color, shape and maturity of the tomatoes is important. Mature tomato color is dependent on the variety of the tomato.
- Tomatoes should be free of blemishes of any type.

Heaviest Tomato

- Entry is one tomato only. Must be declared on the entry form to be entered in the Heaviest Tomato contest only.
- If possible, 1/2" stems (calyx) should be left on and be green and fresh.
- In the event of a tie in weight, the circumference of the entry will determine the winner.
- If the weight and circumference are equal then the judges will make the determination by the looks of the tomato.

Basket of Plenty – Best Vegetable-and-Friends Cornucopia

- Basket, or other container, cannot exceed 20" in diameter (or 20" in width and length).
- Arrangement must contain **at least 50%** vegetables, with the rest an optional mix of herbs, fruit, greenery, and/or flowers from your garden.
- Freshness matters. Plan a design that will have your basket contents looking their best. (See our tips section below for ideas on how to keep your entry fresh)
- Examples:



(1)



(2)



(3)

Photo Credits:

(1) – <https://www.southernliving.com/home-garden/holidays-occasions/easter-centerpiece>

(2) – <https://vegebouquet.co.nz/products/zero-waste-bouquet>

(3) – <https://pixabay.com/photos/vegetables-vegetable-basket-harvest-752153/>

*Note: All supplies including wet floral foam, wooden picks, and flower tubes/picks should be available at craft and hobby stores and floral supply stores. The fruit and vegetables pictured above may not be in season for the June Top Tomato Contest & More. **THESE ARE ONLY EXAMPLES.** Many more examples may be found on Pinterest and other sites. **Please follow all Contest rules as stated on the BCMG website.** <https://bexarmg.org>*

& More

- 3 entries per person allowed. One entry per category. Must be declared on the entry form to be entered in the & More division only.
- Requirements dependent on category. See table below.

Vegetable	Quantity	Judging Criteria	Preparation
Beans- Bush or Pole Green, Purple, Yellow	5-10	Straight, fleshy, tender, smooth, well-filled pods with seeds about half mature. Harvest when approx. 4-6" long.	Remove dirt with soft brush or soft dry cloth. Leave stems attached.
Beets w/ tops	3-6	Smooth, round, uniform medium to small-sized roots. 2-2.5" diameter optimum. Longer beets should be the same diameter.	Leave tops in place. Remove small side roots, but do not cut taproot. Remove soil by brushing and gently wash in cold water.
Broccoli	1	Dark, green, crisp heads with tight buds. Mature heads are approx. 6-8" diameter.	Rinse with cool water.
Cabbage Head or Chinese	1	Hard, firm, solid heads; that are heavy with size. Small mid-veins. Bok Choy selections, like Joi Choy, enter plant with healthy petioles and leaf in tacked.	Remove only damaged leaves. Leave at least two layers of outside leaves. Cut stem square, no more than a 1/2" long.
Carrots w/ tops	3-6	Uniform root, true to size and shape for variety. Deep orange color, smooth skin. Mature at 6" length & 3/4 -1" diameter.	Leave tops in place. Remove soil by brushing or wash in cold water. Remove side roots and taproot to a 1/4" diameter.

Cauliflower	1	Firm, white smooth curds at least 4-5" in diameter with 4-6 leaves to protect curd.	Trim outer leaves slightly above head. Brush off dirt.
Cucumber	1-3	Straight, uniform shape and size, typical of variety. Fruit crisp, firm, and free of insect or mechanical damage. 1.5-2" in diameter and 6-8" long.	Trim stem to 1/2" long attachment. Wipe with soft cloth to clean.
Eggplant	1-3	Firm, dark, glossy purple fruit.	Do not wash. Wipe with a damp cloth, if necessary.
Irish Potato (Red or White)	3-5	True to variety in size, shape, and color. Smooth, unblemished skin with uniform color.	Dig tubers without bruising or damage. Lightly wash off soil without damaging or removing the soft skin. Dry with soft cloth.
Kale	1 bunch of 3 to 5 leaves	Clean, fresh, dark, green leaves with bright tender petioles. Harvest when leaves are 5-10" long.	Bundle with a rubber band.
Kohlrabi	1-3	Uniform color and size, 2-3" diameter gobbles preferred. Leaf petioles attached.	Cut stem 1/2" below the ball. Trim leaf stems to 2".
Lettuce	1 bunch of 3 to 5 leaves	Crisp, tender compact plants. Harvest when outer leaves are 4-6" long.	Pull out entire plant, trim off roots to crown; remove damaged leaves and wash.

Onions - Bunching	4-8 onions	Dark green leaves. Long, straight, white shanks. Stems approx. the thickness of a pencil.	Separate onions and remove loose skin. Cut tops 4-5 inches above white shank. Trim roots to 1/2".
Pepper	3-5	Stems should be cut cleanly and level with shoulder of fruit. Size, shape, and color of fruit should be uniform.	Pick mature but firm fruits. Keep 1/2" stems. Clean with soft cloth.
Radish- Crimson Giant, Cherry Belle, Other	2-3	Round, red root, diameter is 1/2 to 1".	Gently wash in cool water and trim tops to 1".
Radish- Daikon	1-3	White, slightly tapered, up to 18-24" long.	Gently wash in cool water. Trim tops to 1".
Turnips w/ Tops Purple top or Shogoin	3-5	True to variety in size, shape, and color. 2-3" diameter preferred size. Smooth skin and firm flesh.	Cut tops to 2", leave 2" of taproot, soak and wash in cold water.
Yellow Squash or Zucchini	1-3	Straight, uniform shape and size, typical of variety. Fruit crisp, firm, and free of insect or mechanical damage. 1 1/2 to 2 inch in diameter and 5-6 inch long.	Trim stem to 1/2" long attachment. To clean, wipe with soft cloth.
Silly Vegetable (Any variety)	1	Misshapen or irregular in size, shape, and/or color. May look like a face, pants, corkscrew, etc.	Rinse in cool water and clean with a soft cloth. Cut tops to 2". Trim off any roots, leave the taproot.

<p>Herbs Sweet Basil, Dill, or Chives</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>A full uniform bunch.</p>	<p>Misshapen or irregular in size, shape, and/or color. May look like a face, pants, corkscrew, etc.</p>
<p>Flower Arrangement</p>	<p>Assorted Bunch</p>	<p>Unusual and beautiful.</p>	<p>Keep cuttings hydrated and out of the sun.</p>
<p>Other</p>	<p>Follow criteria above to the best of your abilities for your submission.</p>	<p>Follow criteria above to the best of your abilities for your submission.</p>	<p>Follow criteria above to the best of your abilities for your submission.</p>

All decisions of the judges, including eligibility at the time of entering, are final.