

**“ORCHID HARVEST”
2026 CONNECTICUT ORCHID SOCIETY SHOW
EXHIBIT/PLANT RIBBON JUDGING REGISTRATION GUIDE**

Welcome Exhibitors! We’ve prepared this Guide to help you with the registration process.

To be eligible for any COS Show Ribbon, Trophy or Special Award, a plant, exhibit or exhibit item must be registered.

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED. The pre-registration deadline is on Wednesday, October 7, 2026 at 5 PM (no exceptions). There will be NO ability to register plants at the venue on the day of setup. Only deletions will be accepted on the day of setup.

The Basics:

- A new spreadsheet-based method is being used for registration entry this year. To register your plants, please use the “2026 COS Show Registration Form.xls”. Specific instructions on how to register your plants are described in the ‘Show Registration’ tab of the registration form.
- All classes in which a plant, cut flower, artwork, exhibit, etc. may be entered are detailed and described in “COS 2026 Classification Schedule.pdf”.
- Pre-register all plants you hope to show. Judging number stickers and a list of what plant goes with each numbered sticker will be provided on setup day for all registered plants. If you pre-register a plant and then decide not to show it, just return the judging list with the deleted plant(s) clearly marked to the Registration Desk. Deletions MUST be provided by 5 PM on setup day.
- Email completed registration forms to Dave Tognalli at dtog54@sbcglobal.net, Anna Tydniouk at anna.tydniouk@gmail.com and Rebecca Schwartz at rebecca.r.schwartz@gmail.com. In addition, **COS members must also send their registration forms to Mary Rampone at rampone@earthlink.net.**
- All artifacts related to judging, including this Guide, are available on the COS website, www.ctorchids.org, using the Show and Sale link on the home page. If you have a problem with any of the artifacts please contact the registrar or registrar support at the bottom.

General DO’S AND DON’TS

- **DO register all plants early please.**
- **DO read the classification schedule carefully to find your classes.** If you are not sure, contact the registrar.
- **DO enter your no-name plants** (instructions for naming below) as they are just as beautiful and worthy of ribbons, rosettes and trophies as named plants.
- **DON’T register your plant in multiple flower classes hoping one of them is the right color class.** If you are unsure, either use the lowest flower class in which it might qualify or contact the registrar. You may run the risk of your plant not getting judged at all if it is in multiple color classes.

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- **DON'T register your plants in only the miniature, home grown on windowsill or home grown under lights classes.** Any plant registered in one of these classes must also be registered in a flower class for the specific Alliance.
- **DON'T register your plants in any shaded categories in the Classification Schedule.** Shaded sections are informational only.
- **DON'T register a plant with pests or include it in a display.** It is unfair to the other exhibitors to bring a plant that has bugs. If found the plant will be pulled anyway and its presence may jeopardize the ability of the exhibit it is in to win any exhibit awards.

NOTE: There have been many name changes to historical genera in many alliances. For ease of registration some of the older genera names are included/retained in the Classification Schedule. For registration purposes, you may use the name that is currently on your plant label. If the label has an old name and the plant is pulled for AOS judging and is awarded, AOS judges will inform you of the new genus name so the record, and the new label, are correct.

Here are some definitions to use with the Classification Index:

- **Color:** the background color of the flower. With multiple overlays, the reverse or back side of the bloom determines the base or background color.
- **Genus:** A natural group of closely-related species. Dendrobium is a genus. Genus name is capitalized.
- **Species:** A plant that is distinct from other plants within a genus. It is not the product of a cross. Species names are not capitalized and are printed in *lower case italics*. Example: *Cattleya mossiae*.
- **Hybrid:** Offspring of a cross between two different species or hybrids. Hybrid names are capitalized.
- **Intragenetic Hybrid:** A hybrid with parents from more than one species but only one genus; it is typically referred to as a “Hybrid” omitting the word intragenetic.
- **Intergeneric Hybrid:** A hybrid with parents from more than one genus.
- **Natural Spread:** the horizontal measurement (side to side) of a flower made without manipulating the flower.

Examples of Registered Plants

Species: *Vanda denisonia* 'Tim' CBM/AOS - species names are always lower case and italicized.

Registered Hybrid: Bc. Maikai 'Lea'

If known, include the parents on the form, ex: B. nodosa x Guarianthe bowringiana

Unregistered Hybrid: Phal. (Tinney Honey x Chia Xen Magpie) – this is a plant with known parent names but the hybridizer had not registered the hybrid when the tag was created. Register the plant as you see on your plant tag. You can look up your hybrid at <https://apps.rhs.org.uk/horticulturaldatabase/orchidregister/parentageresults.asp> to see if it has a registered name. If so, you should register your plant with the correctly registered hybrid name.

No name/No ID/lost tag plants: *Vanda ign* 'Green Genie' or *Vanda NOID* 'Green Genie'

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- Use the genus for the plant
- As species or hybrid name use either ign or NOID. This indicates that the actual name is unknown
- Make up a descriptive label in quotes. ‘Green Genie’ is an example of a name you, the owner, should make up. Please try not to use just the color as there can be multiple “ign ‘Pink’” plants in the show. Be creative!!

Registering in multiple classes: For example: A red, miniature Cattleya hybrid grown in the home on a windowsill without supplemental lighting is eligible to be entered into three classes as follows:

1. Class A.16 - Cattleya and Guarianthe Hybrids & Intergenerics – RED / RED SHADES
2. Class A.18 - Cattleya Alliance - MINIATURE
3. Class A.19 - Cattleya HOME GROWER – WINDOWSILL ONLY

All plants in any display (registered or not) may be considered (pulled) for AOS Judging. If awarded, the exhibitor bears responsibility for payment of any fees associated with such award. If you have a plant that you specifically want to have judged by the AOS, please ask for an AOS entry form or download one from the Judging & Forms page of the AOS website, aos.org. If you do not want a plant considered for AOS Judging, please ask the registrar for a “Not For AOS Judging” card.

We look forward to a smooth registration process and a great show! **If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the registrar team listed below.**

Best regards,

Dave Tognalli, 2026 COS Show Registrar – dtog54@sbcglobal.net or 860-299-5647

Anna Tydniouk 2026 COS Show Registrar Support - anna.tydniouk@gmail.com

Rebecca Schwartz 2026 COS Show Registrar Support - rebecca.r.schwartz@gmail.com