



## ***The Gardeners of America/Men's Garden Clubs of America***

Gardening Education and Excellence in Horticulture since 1932

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### **YOUTH GARDENING GENERAL RULES FOR THE NATIONAL CONTEST**

#### ***“CONTAINER GARDENING”***

1. Any club, club member or member-at-large can sponsor youth (up to/including age 18) for the contest. The youth do not have to be in a club.
2. Choose three or more plants to grow in a container for at least six weeks prior to judging. Plants may be the same type or different types, but must require the same cultural needs (light – sun or shade plants, soil, fertilizer, water). Plants may be from flower groups, vegetable groups, foliage groups, or an interesting combination of flowering and foliage.
3. The container can be any type (be creative – basket, boot, sand pail, etc.) It should be clean and the color should enhance the plant materials. Plant material must be in proportion and scale to the container. Plant materials should be equal to or more than the container size and fill the container so it shows it has been grown for six weeks together. Keep it lightweight by using professional potting mix, and/or putting packing peanuts in the bottom third of the container and then add mix or soil. Rotate the container weekly by a quarter-turn so all plants get equal light and grow straight and full.
4. Youth need to start their record and result form when they begin their container. At least three photographs are required, one of the youth preparing/planting the container, one during the growing, and one toward the end or when flowering plants are in bloom.
5. Before entering the container for judging, groom the plant material by removing any dead leaves, dirt or fertilizer spots. Water a day or two before the judging with a soft shower to clean both plants and container. Make your exhibit look as good as possible to win.
6. Each club or sponsoring member may set up their contest and follow the progress any way they wish, and end the contest whenever and however they choose. Set your date and time for the containers to be brought in for judging. Invite parents to this meeting of recognition, celebration and/or rewards. Be sure the youth get a chance to talk about this experience and answer questions.
7. By November 15, TGOA Youth Garden Chair Cheri Kessen must have the name, age, address, email, record and result form and the three photographs from all entering this contest. Please send it to Cheri Kessen, 1205 Limberlost Trail, Rome City, IN 4784 or [ckessen2001@yahoo.com](mailto:ckessen2001@yahoo.com)