

Michigan Christmas Tree Association Wreath Contest

Rules and Procedures

All MCTA member growers are encouraged to enter and compete in the MCTA Christmas wreath contest for the opportunity to present a wreath to Michigan's Governor, and will have the option to represent Michigan in the National Christmas Tree Association Christmas wreath contest.

To be eligible to compete in the contests, contestants must be members of the Michigan Christmas Tree Association. You do not need to be a member of the NCTA to participate in the MCTA contest. However, the top four winning wreaths will have the option to represent Michigan in the National Christmas Tree Association wreath contest. You must be a current NCTA member at the time of the state competition to be eligible for the national contest.

General Requirements for Entries

- Wreaths may entered in the following categories:
 - Decorated
 - Undecorated
- Growers may enter a maximum of two wreaths, provided they are in different categories (one undecorated and one decorated).
- All wreaths must be structured on a 12" wire frame.
- Both undecorated and decorated must be made of real Christmas tree conifer material grown within the state of Michigan. No colorant may be applied.
- Wreaths can be made with mixed evergreens.
- Undecorated wreaths will be made of coniferous evergreen material only.
- Decorated wreaths may use natural or artificial decorations. Must have a bow.
- Wreaths can be single or double faced.
- Wreaths will be judged either hanging on a wall or on an easel.

Any wreath failing to comply with these requirements will be disqualified by the contest committee prior to judging.

Entry Procedures

- Official judging will be done by a panel of qualified judges as approved by the MCTA Board of Directors to follow USDA Guidelines.
- Each entrant is solely responsible for delivering contest wreath(s) to the designated contest area.
- All wreaths should be presented to the check-in officials prior to the end of the specified set-up period. In the event of a backlog, the entrant may be granted additional set-up time. Wreaths not in place and ready for judging on time will be disqualified.
- Check-in of all contest wreaths shall be conducted by a member of the MCTA along with additional support team members.
- At check-in, wreaths will be measured for 12" ring size.
- Each wreath will have a sealed envelope securely attached to the wreath containing a card with the grower's name, address and telephone number.
- At the close of the set-up time, all contestants and helpers must leave the contest area.
- All wreaths will remain as originally placed at the start of the contest during the judging and voting process.

Judging Procedures

- A panel of three pre-selected judges will assess and judge the first phase of the contest based on predetermined requirements from a score sheet.
- Completed score sheets for each wreath shall be totaled to determine first, second and third places in each category.

Popular Vote Procedures

- After judging, the first, second and third place wreaths in each category will move on to a popular vote.
- Wreaths placed in the top three in each category will have a voting box placed in front of the wreaths. Wreaths will NOT be marked with any place ribbons before the vote.
- Each farm will receive two votes - one vote for decorated and one vote for undecorated.
- The Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion titles will be awarded based on a composite score, calculated by aggregating the public vote results and the judges' final percentage evaluations

Contest Awards and Recognition

- Wreaths will be awarded their appropriate place ribbons at the end of the voting day.
- Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion wreaths will be required to provide wreaths to the Governor's residence. Grand Champion will provide in the year of the contest with Reserve providing the following year.
- The two undecorated and two decorated wreaths that earn the highest number of points will have the option to represent Michigan in the next National Christmas Tree Association Christmas wreath contest. If any of the top four are unable or ineligible to compete at the national, the option moves to the grower with the next highest point total until the four representative positions are filled. Members must be in good and current standing with the NCTA to be eligible to participate in the National contest.