

# 2024 OGS Competitive Classes

## DIVISION I CURRENT SEASON GOURDS

### DIVISION NOTES

- Division I contains growers classes. Gourds must have been grown by the exhibitor/entrant (family garden).
- Limited clear wax or oil is permitted in all classes.
- Gourds must be mature, clean and free of “soft spots.” Some evidence of natural drying may be evident.
- Unless described as assorted, displays of three or six gourds should contain gourds that are identical or nearly identical.
- Stems are not included in size measurements. Stems are required in Classes 5, 6, 13, 14, and 29 (AGS Judging Handbook 2/2023 - 13.7.1). In all other Division I classes, stems are encouraged, but not required.

### CLASS

1. Heaviest gourd by weight.
2. Gourd with largest circumference.
3. Longest STRAIGHT gourd (including Dipper gourds), not to exceed 4” gradual curve.
4. Longest CROOKED gourd (including Dipper gourds), must exceed 4” total curve.
5. Three small, assorted Hardshells, under 12” diameter and length.
6. Three large, assorted Hardshells, over 12” in diameter or length.
7. Three short-handled Dippers, 15” and under in length.
8. Three long-handled Dippers, over 15” in length.
9. Three Canteen gourds (not Copper Canyon Canteens).
10. Three small Bottle gourds, 5” or less in height.
11. Three Bottle gourds, over 5” in height. The three gourds should be of the same variety.
12. Any “Arbor-grown” Hardshell (no Dipper gourds).
13. Most unusual Hardshell (oddity or freak of natural growth).
14. One, or more if inseparable, manipulated (hand-trained) gourd(s).
15. Most unusual Ornamental (oddity or freak of natural growth).
16. Three Cannonball or Basketball gourds.
17. Three Tennessee Spinning gourds (aka Tennessee Spinners).
18. Three Hardshell Warty gourds (African Warty, Wartyed Mayo Bule, etc.).
19. Three Hardshell Banana gourds.
20. Three Hardshell Apple gourds.
21. Three, true variety Hardshells not previously listed (e.g. Cheese gourds, Copper Canyon Canteens, Snake gourds, etc.).
22. Three assorted or identical Spoon gourds.
23. Three assorted or identical Crown of Thorns gourds.
24. Three, assorted Autumn Wing gourds.
25. Six, assorted, Ornamental Warties.

26. Six, assorted, Ornamentals, no Warties.
27. Three Luffas (any variety), assorted or identical.
28. Centerpiece (with fresh gourds predominating) in a tray, basket, bowl, plate, dried gourd, etc. Only natural accessory materials are permitted.
29. Most outstanding Hardshell (specimen gourd). Exhibitors are encouraged to display a note with the specimen naming the variety.
30. Most outstanding Ornamental (specimen gourd - no Luffas). Exhibitors are encouraged to display a note with the specimen naming the variety.

## **DIVISION II DRY GOURDS**

### **DIVISION NOTES**

- Clear finish (wax, varnish, oil, shellac or sealer) is allowed.
- No color (paint, stain, ink, etc.) or embellishments are allowed.
- Unless described as assorted, displays of three or six gourds should contain gourds that are identical or nearly identical.
- Division II contains growers classes. Gourds must have been grown by the exhibitor/entrant (family garden). Gourds must be dry, mature and cleaned. Stems are not included in size measurements. Stems are required in Classes 43 and 44 (AGS Judging Handbook 2/2023 - 13.7.1). In all other Division II classes, stems are encouraged, but not required.

### **CLASS**

40. Most outstanding, cleaned Hardshell (specimen gourd). Exhibitors are encouraged to display a note naming the specimen's variety.
41. Longest STRAIGHT gourd, not to exceed 4" gradual curve.
42. Longest CROOKED gourd (any variety), must exceed 4" total curve.
43. Three, small, assorted Hardshells (under 12" diameter and length).
44. Three, large, assorted Hardshells (over 12" diameter or length).
45. Three Hardshell Apple gourds.
46. Three Cannonball or Basketball gourds.
47. Three Dipper gourds (any size).
48. Six, assorted Ornamentals (any size).
49. Most unusual, natural gourd (oddity or freak of natural growth - not hand-trained).
50. Three Luffas (as in Class 27) with outer skin removed.
51. One, or more if inseparable, manipulated (hand-trained) gourd(s).
52. Jim Story Award – single gourd. The entry must be one dried, manipulated gourd that has been cleaned, with no added finish. The AGS criteria and judging process for the Jim Story award will be utilized for this selection. The winner of this class will be eligible to compete in the Jim Story Award at the national level. See the AGS website for details, requirements and competition updates ([www.americangourdsociety.org/jim-story-award.html](http://www.americangourdsociety.org/jim-story-award.html)).

53. Jim Story Award – multiple gourds. The entry must be multiple, inseparable, dried, manipulated gourds that have been cleaned, with no added finish. The AGS criteria and judging process for the Jim Story award will be utilized for this selection. The winner of this class will be eligible to compete in the Jim Story Award at the national level. See the AGS website for details, requirements and competition updates ([www.americangourdsociety.org/jim-story-award.html](http://www.americangourdsociety.org/jim-story-award.html)).

### **DIVISION III GOURD CRAFT**

#### **DIVISION NOTES**

- Stems are optional.
- Gourds must predominate and be of good quality.
- No feathers/parts from protected species are allowed.
- Musical instruments must be functional.
- Accessory materials/embellishments, including bases for gourds, are allowed where not specifically prohibited.
- If opened, gourd(s) must be cleaned on the inside.
- Undecorated gourds may have a clear finish (wax, varnish, etc.).
- Gourds decorated by fractal burning may not be displayed at the Ohio Gourd Show.

#### **CLASS**

##### **Traditional Items**

60. Short-handled Dipper gourd (15” and under in length) similar to those used in early times. The gourd must be opened and clean inside. Corks or plugs in the handle are optional, but no color or embellishment is allowed.
61. Long-handled Dipper gourd (over 15” in length) similar to those used in early times. The gourd must be opened and clean inside. Corks or plugs in the handle are optional, but no color or embellishment is allowed.
62. Decorated Dipper gourd (any length). The gourd must be opened and clean inside. Corks or plugs in the handle are optional. The interior/exterior may be decorated or finished by any technique(s).
63. Undecorated gourd bowl containing whole, dry gourds. No color, accessory material or other embellishment is permitted on the bowl or the gourds. A clear finish or sealer is allowed.
64. Non-holiday centerpiece of whole, dry gourds. Only natural accessory materials are permitted. The centerpiece may be contained in a dish, basket, bowl, gourd bowl, etc., and the gourds may be decorated.
65. Gourd pitcher, vase or bottle. Gourd pieces (such as a handle) may be attached.

##### **Holiday Items**

66. One Christmas ornament (must hang).
67. Christmas item or display (no ornaments as in Class 66).
68. Santa gourd(s).
69. Halloween item or display

70. Easter item or display.
71. Holiday item or display (other than Christmas, Halloween or Easter). Exhibitors are encouraged to display a note naming the holiday.

### **Basic and Advanced Techniques**

72. Whole gourd – Carving (power carving, chip carving, gouging, line work, etc.) must predominate.
73. Whole gourd – Woodburning must predominate.
74. Whole gourd – painting must predominate.
75. Whole gourd - any technique not named in classes 72-74 above, or combination of techniques including those above.
76. Cut gourd (lid optional) – carving/cutting (any technique) must predominate.
77. Cut gourd (lid optional) - woodburning must predominate.
78. Cut gourd (lid optional) – painting must predominate.
79. Cut gourd (lid optional) - any technique not named in classes 76-78 above, or combination of techniques including those above.
80. Cut gourd with decorated rim (pine needles, weaving, coiling, beading, etc.) – lid optional. The gourd itself may be decorated or undecorated, but the rim work must predominate.

✓ NOTE: For Classes 81-82, basketry/weaving/lacing techniques, including pine needle work, weaving, coiling, tenerife, plaiting, etc., must predominate. The technique may be on the rim, through or around the gourd.

81. Gourd basket with handle. A lid is optional.
82. Gourd basket /bowl/container without a handle. A lid is optional.
83. Gourd container (bowl, box, basket, jar, etc.) with a lid. Any decorative technique(s) may be used, including those in classes 81 and 82.
84. Beaded gourd. Any beading technique in or on the gourd.
85. Gourd decorated by pen and ink technique. Color may be added with ink, watercolor, stain etc.
86. Wax Art. Decorate a gourd(s) with melted wax material (e.g. crayons). Entries may include whole gourds, cut gourds, jewelry, etc.

### **Musical Instruments**

87. Stringed musical instrument (chordophone).
88. Drum (membranophone), including water drums and ocean drums (no thunder drums).
89. Thunder drum only.
90. Rattle (idiophone), e.g. shaker, maraca, uli'uli, rain stick, guiro.
91. Thumb Piano only, (e.g. mbira, kalimba).
92. Shekere only.
93. Wind instrument (aerophone) e.g. whistle, flute, trumpet, ocarina.

### **Figures – Animals, Birds, Dolls, Characters, etc.**

94. Gourd doll, character or figure.
95. Realistic gourd bird(s), using one or more gourds or gourd parts. Penguins are not permitted.
96. Gourd penguin(s).

97. Realistic gourd animal(s) (mammal, reptile, fish, etc.), using one or more gourds or gourd parts.  
Birds and insects are not permitted.
98. Fantasy gourd animal(s), dragon(s) or monster(s) using one or more gourds or gourd parts.
99. Gourd Insect(s).

### **Wearable Creations**

100. Jewelry set. A set consists of two or more pieces, and a pair of earrings is considered one piece.
101. Jewelry - single piece. A pair of earrings is considered one piece.
102. Artistic, wearable, gourd name badge. The name badge must include first name and state.  
Additional information is optional, as are the size of the gourd(s) and the decorative technique(s). The name badge must be wearable (pin, neck strap, etc.).
103. Gourd Hat. Gourds and/or gourd pieces may be attached.
104. Mask (must be a functional face mask [may be a hand-held style]).

### **Themed Gourds**

105. Native American theme decorated gourd(s) - no bowls/baskets.
106. Native American theme decorated gourd – bowls/baskets only.
107. Other ethnic theme – single or multiple gourds. (Please attach a note to name the theme).
108. "Ohio Theme." A single item or multiple items utilizing any technique(s).
109. "Show Theme." A single item or multiple items utilizing any technique(s).

### **The Fun Stuff**

110. One toy (may be a set) or game made from gourd(s).
111. Gourd sculpture. Any theme with one or multiple items.
112. Novel article(s) made from gourd(s) (no dippers as in Classes 60-62).
113. Useful article(s) made from gourd(s) (no dippers as in Classes 60-62).
114. Workshop participants from Friday, may enter any class project. Entries in this class only may be removed early.
115. Miniature creations. Any gourd art less than 4" in any dimension.
116. "I did it my way." Any gourd craft. Natural and manufactured accessories, including plastic products, are allowed.

### **Lamps and Luminaries**

117. Usable, electric, gourd lamp. Accessory materials are permitted and a gourd shade is optional. If needed, a base may be used.
118. Gourd luminary or night light. Accessory materials are permitted. If candles or oil are used, the luminary is not to be lighted while on display at the Show. Electric devices should use low wattage bulbs (4 watt or comparable). There is no restriction on battery-powered luminaries.
119. Gourd oil lamp (not to be lighted during the show).

## **Floral Designs**

✓ NOTE: Gourd containers in Classes 120 – 126 may be natural or decorated.

120. Small, dried floral design in a gourd container ( 8” or less total height).
121. Dried floral design in a gourd container (must exceed 8” total height).
122. Floral design using all fresh materials in a gourd container.
123. Floral design incorporating fresh or dried gourds. The arrangement may be in a gourd or any other container.
124. “I did it my way” floral design. Gourds must predominate.
125. "Show Theme" floral design. Portray the Gourd Show theme with a floral design in a gourd container.
126. Silk floral design in a gourd container.
127. Undecorated gourd container with a live plant or plants. All plants must be planted directly into the gourd container. No hidden pots are allowed. A clear finish and/or single-color stain/dye are allowed but no accessories are permitted other than a base.
128. Decorated gourd container with a live plant or plants. All plants must be planted directly into the gourd container. Accessories and a base are allowed.
129. Undecorated, hanging gourd container with a live plant or plants. A clear finish and/or single-color stain/dye are allowed but no accessories other than hanger material. All plants must be planted directly into the gourd container.

## **Decorations to Hang**

130. Gourd wreath.
131. Wall hanging, swag, door crown, etc.
132. Wall pocket.

## **For the Birds**

✓ NOTE: The National Wildlife Federation notes that ventilation and drainage holes are desirable.

133. Birdhouse for Wrens with an entrance opening of approximately 1 1/8” (National Wildlife Federation), but not less than 1”, nor greater than 1 1/4” (NWF). There should not be a perch.
134. Birdhouse for Purple Martins. The gourd should be painted white and have drain holes and vent holes. Entrance hole of 2 1/8” ( may vary from 1 3/4” to 2 1/4”) (Purple Martin Conservation Assoc.). A half-moon or Starling-resistant crescent is optional. A porch (a long, wide, flat perch) or a tail prop board is also optional.
135. Birdhouse (except House Wren or Purple Martin). Exhibitors are encouraged to display a note naming the bird(s) being attracted and stating the opening size.
136. Decorated birdhouse. Gourd must have an entrance hole (size is optional) and be cleaned inside. Painting must predominate.
137. Decorated birdhouse. Gourd must have an entrance hole (size is optional) and be cleaned inside. Any technique(s) other than painting must predominate.
138. Bird feeder (functional).

## **Gallery Display**

✓ NOTE: Judging for Gallery Class 139 will include the following considerations in equal weight: craftsmanship and design of individual gourds, arrangement/staging, and suitability of accessories.

139. Gallery display – 3, 4 or 5 decorated gourds arranged artistically. Accessory material is permitted, including risers. The display must fit within a space that is 2 feet deep and 4 feet long, tables may only be 30 inches wide). A display cloth or table cover is suggested. The gourds may have been displayed in other classes (not the gallery class) at previous Ohio Shows. The gallery display should highlight an artist's work and may depict a common theme, spotlight a technique, or characterize the artist's style.

## **DIVISION IV**

### **PRESCHOOL - THRU AGE 4 AS OF 10/1/2024**

#### **DIVISION NOTES**

- This division is non-competitive. Participation ribbons are awarded for each exhibit.

#### **CLASS**

P1. Any gourd craft design or display with single or multiple techniques.

## **DIVISION V**

### **JUNIOR 5 - 11 YEARS OF AGE AS OF 10/1/2024**

#### **CURRENT SEASON GOURDS**

#### **DIVISION NOTES**

- Classes J2-J3 to be judged on size/weight only.
- Classes J1-J4 are growers classes (AGS Judging Handbook 2/2023) and gourds must have been grown by the exhibitor/entrant (family garden).

#### **CLASS**

- J1. Two assorted Hardshell gourds (different sizes and/or shapes).
- J2. Longest gourd.
- J3. Heaviest gourd.
- J4. Six assorted Ornamental gourds (warties and/or smooth).

## **GOURD CRAFT**

#### **CLASS**

- J5. Novel and/or useful article(s) made from gourd(s). No dippers.
- J6. One realistic or fantasy animal (mammal, bird, reptile, fish, insect, etc.).
- J7. Gourd dipper. A clear finish is optional, but the dipper must be cut open and cleaned.
- J8. Gourd birdhouse, undecorated (stain and/or varnish allowed), with drain holes (perch is optional). The inside should be cleaned and the house must be functional.
- J9. Decorated birdhouse. Perch and drain holes are optional. The inside should be cleaned and the house must be functional.

- J10. Decorated gourd pitcher, vase, bowl, bottle or dipper. The gourd must be cut open and cleaned on the inside.
- J11. Gourd toy, doll or character.
- J12. Gourd musical instrument. Any type of functional instrument.
- J13. Floral design (fresh or dried) incorporating gourds. The arrangement may be in a gourd or any other container.
- J14. "Show Theme." An item or items made from gourds.
- J15. I did it my way. Any other gourd craft not specifically listed.

**DIVISION VI  
YOUTH 12-18 YEARS OF AGE AS OF 10/1/2024  
CURRENT SEASON GOURDS**

**DIVISION NOTES**

- Classes Y2-Y3 to be judged on size/weight only.
- Classes Y1-Y5 are growers classes (AGS Judging Handbook 2/2023) and gourds must have been grown by the exhibitor/entrant (family garden).

**CLASS**

- Y1. Three assorted Hardshell gourds (different size/shape).
- Y2. Longest gourd.
- Y3. Heaviest gourd.
- Y4. Six assorted Ornamental gourds (warties and/or smooth).
- Y5. Arrangement, with fresh gourds predominating, suitable for a centerpiece (natural accessory material only). Arrangement may be in a bowl, basket, tray, etc.

**GOURD CRAFT**

**CLASS**

- Y6. One realistic or fantasy animal (mammal, bird, reptile, fish insect, etc.).
- Y7. Gourd dipper. A clear finish is optional, but the dipper must be cut open and cleaned.
- Y8. Holiday arrangement or decoration.
- Y9. Decorated pitcher, vase, bottle, bowl or dipper (open and clean).
- Y10. Gourd birdhouse, undecorated (stain and/or varnish allowed), with drain holes (perch is optional). The inside should be cleaned and the house must be functional.
- Y11. Decorated birdhouse. Perch and drain holes are optional. The inside should be cleaned and the house must be functional.
- Y12. Gourd toy, doll or character.
- Y13. Centerpiece arrangement of dry gourds in a bowl, basket or tray (dry natural accessory material only).
- Y14. Gourd musical instrument. Any type of functional instrument.
- Y15. Floral design (fresh or dried) incorporating gourds. Container material is optional.
- Y16. "Show Theme." An item or items made from gourds.
- Y17. I did it my way. Any other gourd craft not specifically listed.



## **SPECIAL COMPETITION - MIXED MEDIA**

√Note: Entries are judged with respect to artistic quality, workmanship, originality, and depiction of gourds.

√Note: Actual gourds are not part of this special competition.

### **CLASS**

SC1. Non-wearable Mixed Media. Depict gourds in any non-wearable medium such as photography, painting, quilting, paper art, beading, etc.

SC2. Wearable Mixed Media. Depict gourds in a wearable medium.

For updates and additional information, visit Ohio Gourd Society website at  
[www.ohiogourdsociety.com](http://www.ohiogourdsociety.com)

## Selected Terms and Definitions

**Accessories or accessory material:** This is any material, gourd or otherwise, that is added to the gourd(s) to complete a display. Accessory material is permitted unless specifically prohibited.

**Assorted:** Any class calling for “assorted” gourds should contain gourds of differing shape, color and size, within the limitations stated for the class.

**Base:** Often gourds require assistance in order to sit firmly at the proper angle. A “base” is that support material – wood, rubber, metal, gourd, etc. that holds a gourd at the proper attitude. It may or may not be attached to the gourd.

**Clear finish:** Any finish, such as colorless varnish, shellac, wax, or oil, which enhances the overall appearance of the gourd or gourd craft but adds no color (except the slight darkening that may accompany the clear finish) is considered clear.

**Color:** This is any medium that adds to, or changes the color of a gourd (except slight darkening that may accompany a clear finish). Examples of color that may be applied to a gourd include, but are not limited to, paint (acrylic, oil, watercolor, etc.), stain, ink, dye and color pencil.

**Cut Gourd:** A cut gourd is one in which the shell has been penetrated by cutting, carving, drilling, burning, etc. Bowls, baskets, vases, bottles, etc. are examples.

**Fractal Burning:** Fractal burning (Lichtenberg burning or wood fracking) refers to a technique where a Lichtenberg figure is burnt into wood or gourds using high voltage electricity.

**Gourd Basket:** A gourd with the top cut off and a handle attached, or a gourd cut so that the top serves as the handle. Lids are generally optional.

**Gourd Bowl:** Usually a round gourd that is wider than it is tall. The general appearance is a container that is intended to sit still.

**Hardshell:** These are “white blossom” gourds of the genus *Lagenaria*. They include, but are not limited to the bottles, dippers, canteens, cannonballs, bushels, kettles, bananas, etc.

**Ornamental:** These are “yellow blossom” gourds which are generally very colorful. They represent the genus *Cucurbita* and include, but are not limited to, spoons, eggs, crowns of thorns, spinners, etc.

**Other:** When used in the Show Schedule to define a class, the word “other” indicates a class or technique which has not been previously specified.

**Paint:** In general paint refers specifically to acrylic, oil and water color paints, including water and solvent-based markers. Paint does not include stain, dye, or ink.

**Special Exhibit:** These are non-competitive displays of gourds or gourd-related items that have educational or artistic interest.

**Special Competition:** Those competitive classes not covered by the AGS Handbook, and not part of the Official Show, are noted as Special Competition.

**Whole Gourd:** This is a gourd which does not have holes or openings cut, burned or drilled completely through the shell. It may also be called an “uncut gourd.”

**2024 Entry Form**

**Please Circle the Appropriate Entry or Entries**

**Divisions I, II and III**

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30									
40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49
50	51	52	53						
60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69
70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79
80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89
90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99
100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109
110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119
120	121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129
130	131	132	133	134	135	136	137	138	139

**\*Special Classes (open to all ages)\*** SC1 SC2

**Division IV - Preschool (4 and under, non-competitive)** P1

**Division V (Junior, 5-11)**

J1	J2	J3	J4	J5	J6	J7	J8	J9	J10
J11	J12	J13	J14	J15					

**Division VI (Youth, 12-18)**

Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10
Y11	Y12	Y13	Y14	Y15	Y16	Y17			

**I am requesting Special Exhibit space at the Show \_\_\_\_\_**

**EXHIBITOR:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**STATE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP:** \_\_\_\_\_ **PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail by September 15, 2024 to: Ohio Gourd Show Entry, c/o John F. Martin,  
438 Sardinia Mowrystown Road, Sardinia, OH 45171, or email (by Sept. 23) to:  
martin.jf.kl@frontier.com.**