

Waterford Community Fair – 2nd Annual Hottest Pepper Contest

2024 Entry Guidelines and Testing Procedure

The contest date is Tuesday, September 3, starting at 6:00 pm in the Home Show 1 building.

Contest premiums are 1st - \$10.00, 2nd - \$8.00, 3rd - \$6.00, 4th - \$4.00

ENTRY GUIDELINES:

1. Only entries received on Registration Day, September 1, are eligible for the contest.
2. Only one entry per exhibitor is allowed.
3. Entry must include two specimens of the same variety. One to be used for testing, one to be used for display.

NOTE: If the pepper specimens are small (1" or less in length or small diameter) additional specimens will be required to get sufficient testing sample.

4. Entries must have been grown by exhibitor. Only entries with pepper variety name will be included in testing. The source of the seed (copy of seed packet) or plant source (green house purchased from), is desired.
5. No market purchased peppers are permitted.
6. Only four entries will be included in the testing portion of the contest. If more than four entries have been entered the department judges will select entries to be tested. Selection criteria will be based on the documented Scoville pepper rating scale, entry quality, and cross section of pepper varieties entered.
7. Testing will start with the anticipated hottest pepper entry.

TESTING PROCEDURE STEPS:

1. Entries will be tested separately. Identical testing procedures will be used for each entry.
2. Peppers will be pureed into a pulp. Equal amounts of pulp will be extracted for testing procedures.
3. An initial liquid dilution will be done before testing starts.
4. Heat testers will test diluted pepper pulp. Heat testers will respond "YES" or "NO" to heat being detected.
5. During each round of testing, an entry with at least one "YES" response will continue to the next round of testing. An entry with all "NO" responses will be eliminated from the contest. Results from each round of testing are recorded and used to determine contest results.
6. Heat testers will be given up to a five-minute recovery time between rounds. Heat testers needing to be excused from testing will be replaced with an alternate heat tester.
7. Entries continuing to the next round will be diluted with dilution liquid and the testing will be repeated at step 4 above.
8. Steps 4 through 7 will be repeated for each entry as required.

ADDITIONAL:

1. Dilution rates may be adjusted between rounds to ensure a timely completion to the contest.
2. Spectators are NOT permitted to sample any part of the entries during any part of the contest.
3. In the event of a tie the department 13 – Vegetables – chairperson(s) will select an entry winner for that position.
4. Individuals with an interest in being a volunteer heat tester or an alternate heat tester should contact the department chairperson(s) prior to the contest date.