

Heathcote Botanical Gardens Fall Garden Fest 2023 Scarecrow Contest

We invite you to participate in Heathcote Botanical Gardens' inaugural Scarecrow Contest to coincide with the 2023 Fall Garden Festival. Scarecrows will be on display from mid-September through October 16th. Our theme this inaugural year is "ScareGrow", believing that growing gardens doesn't have to be scary, but fun and beautiful. Let your imagination run wild with scarecrows decorated with gardening in mind.

Rules and Regulations

- One entry per individual, family, group, or organization.
- Entries after September 15th will NOT be accepted.
- Scarecrows must have a GARDEN theme representative of Heathcote's annual Fall Garden Festival and must be handmade using the provided frame of 3-feet by 7-feet, must be moveable (25 lbs. or less), and must be self-supporting to handle Florida weather.
- No commercial costumes, rubber, or plastic masks, etc. will be allowed.
- No perishable goods, glass or appliances may be used in construction or display.
- No electricity will be available.
- All decorations and props must be firmly attached.
- Scarecrows must be assembled prior to arrival and set up at Heathcote Botanical Gardens during the hours of 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. from September 13th through September 15th. Volunteers will be on hand to direct you to your scarecrow's location.

Heathcote Botanical Gardens' annual Fall Garden Fest and the Scarecrow Contest are family friendly and Heathcote representatives reserve the right to disqualify entries they feel to be distasteful or not family friendly.

- Scarecrows should be whimsical, humorous, mischievous, and/or loveable – staying within the "ScareGrow" theme.
- Entries should NOT be frightening - monsters, gruesome, bloody, or especially scary entries will be disqualified.
- Name your creation. This, along with your name (or your group's name) and assigned number will be displayed next to your entry. Heathcote will provide signage.

Voting

- All entries will be on display from **September 15th through October 16th**, but voting will be allowed ONLY during the 2023 Fall Garden Fest being held on October 14th & 15th.
- Voting ballots will be available in the Gift Shop along with an Entry Drop Box.
- Votes will be counted by Heathcote officials.
- Winner will be notified by phone on the morning of October 16th.
- All scarecrow entries **must be picked up no later than 4 p.m. on October 18th**.
- When you bring your entry for setup, you will be asked to sign a release form stating that if you do not pick your scarecrow up by 5pm on October 18th, you will forfeit the right to have your scarecrow returned and it will become the property of Heathcote Botanical Gardens. We will

have the right to dispose of leftover scarecrows and their respective props at the Gardens' discretion.

Ideas to get your creative juices flowing:

- Remember that all ScareGrows must have a garden theme!
- Traditional Harvest Figures: these scarecrows are typically old-fashioned figures constructed from “throw-aways” from home. Clothing, hay, stuffing, burlap, farm implements are a few ideas of the traditional scarecrow items.
- Humorous Scarecrows: these scarecrows should at a minimum evoke a smile! Current events, storybook characters, cartoon characters, or out-of-the-ordinary situations are just a few ideas. These characters should be fictional.
- Celebrity Scarecrows: use your imagination! These can depict a modern-day celebrity or one from your past.



It is understood that Heathcote Botanical Gardens may use photographs of, stories about, and the actual ScareGrow entries for publicity and promotion of the event.



Participant Name: _____

Phone #: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Name of your scarecrow creation: _____

The display will be exhibited from September 15th- October 18th. I understand that my entry must be in place by September 14th at 4:00 p.m. and removed after Fall Garden Fest and no later October 18th at 4:00 p.m.

Signature: _____ Date: _____