



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Marlina Harrison (707) 545-4200 ext. 202

publicity@SonomaCountyFair.com

OR

Sheila Quince (707) 545-4200 ext. 201

CALLING JUNIOR GARDENERS TO EXHIBIT AT 2010 SONOMA COUNTY FAIR

(Santa Rosa) Junior gardeners (ages 9 – 18) are invited to show off their green thumbs—and their creativity—at this year’s Sonoma County Fair, which will be held July 27 – August 8 at the Sonoma County Fairgrounds in Santa Rosa.

Groups are encouraged to enter this highly popular feature of the annual Fair, but youngsters may also participate as individuals. Junior exhibitors get to not only design and plant their gardens, but they also create painted backdrops, allowing for all types of artistry. Gardens can include props, fountains, and other features to add to their array of flowers and other living plants.

“Designing and maintaining a Junior Garden at the Fair is a great way for youngsters to learn new skills while letting their imaginations run free,” explains entry Office manager Sheila Quince. “Awards include plaques, ribbons and a cash award for each garden.

“The youngsters also do all the work—planting and maintaining their gardens throughout the run of the Fair--which also is a great learning experience,” she adds.

The Fair's renowned flower show is the largest show of its kind in the United States and for decades has drawn visitors from throughout the state and beyond. In keeping with the Fair's "Grape Escape" theme, this year's flower show is titled "In Our Own Backyard, The Gardens of Sonoma Wine Country". Fairgoers will tour Sonoma County's famed wine appellations, from the Sonoma Coast to Dry Creek, from the Russian River to Los Carneros-Sonoma, while learning about the history of this industry that is so integral to the Sonoma lifestyle.

Themes for the junior gardens will range from "I Heard It Through the Grapevine" to "Thompson Seedless Terrace."

Deadline to enter the Junior Garden competition is Friday, March 26. Entry fee is just \$15 per garden, and exhibitors are provided with admissions to the Fair as well as vehicle passes to come and water each day.

Complete information on entering the Junior Garden exhibit is available by calling the Sonoma County Fair Entry Office at (707) 545-4203. The 2010 Exhibitor's Guidebook, which covers all type of entries from Lego structures to poetry, will be available May 3 at all Sonoma County public libraries, on the Fair website www.SonomaCountyFair.com , and at the Fair Entry Office, 1350 Bennett Valley Road, Santa Rosa.

