

# Dothan Area Botanical Gardens

## Scarecrows In the Gardens

### 2022 Information & Rules

1. Entry Fee is \$20 per entry and Entry forms should be received by **September 23.**
2. **Set up** will be at the Gardens between **9/19 and 9/30 from 9am.- 5 p.m.** **You must have an appointment time to set up your 'crow. Please call 793-3224 to make an appointment.** Each scarecrow will be assigned a location and a sign indicating the name and builder of the scarecrow will be provided and installed by the Gardens. Please bring all tools and supplies needed to install your 'crow. **All entries must be kept on display until Monday, October 31. Each entry is responsible for installing, maintaining, and taking down their scarecrow.**
3. Scarecrows must be in good taste. Entries reflecting controversial social or political subject matter or in poor taste for family viewing will not be accepted. Scarecrows must be constructed to withstand weather conditions. The Dothan Area Botanical Gardens reserves the right to remove any scarecrow that does not meet these standards as determined by the Gardens. Do not include any signage, handouts, or promotional material with your scarecrow. Please check on your Scarecrow periodically and freshen it as needed, especially after inclement weather.
4. Dothan Area Botanical Gardens is not responsible for any loss or damage to entries.
5. **The judging will take place September 30.** Decisions of the judges will be final.
6. You are responsible for removal of your scarecrow from the Gardens if you wish to keep it. Take down will be **Tuesday, Nov. 1 through Sunday, Nov. 13.** No appointment time is needed. **Any Scarecrows left in the Garden on November 14 will be disposed of.**
7. Dothan Area Botanical Gardens reserves the right to use photographs of the scarecrows for future publicity.



### TIPS FOR MAKING SCARECROWS

Scarecrows will be subject to the weather for over a month so they need to be constructed with weather-resistant materials. Clothing that does not fade easily, such as nylons and polyesters, holds up better than cottons.

Scarecrows may be either freestanding or built around a PVC form provided by the Gardens. The standard form is 6 feet high but can be built pretty much to your needs. All joints **must** be secured with **PVC cement**.

Stuffing can be anything however loose newspapers or straw will not work. These items can be placed inside plastic bags for stuffing and pool "noodles" or plastic soda bottles make great arms and legs. Duct tape works best for securing bags to the form.

Facial expression is the first thing a viewer will notice. You can use an old milk or bleach jug, pot, ball, gourd, pillowcase, or burlap bag (with painted or sewed on face).

Ideas for hair include a wig, shredded plastic or cloth, yarn, broom, moss, raffia, or old mop head. Or you can just use a securely placed hat or cap.

Clothes are usually the easiest part and **FREE**—or nearly so. Check out thrift stores for colorful and cheap clothing and accessories.

Latex gloves quickly disintegrate outdoors. Cloth or leather works well. Do not use live plant material or fresh pumpkins in your display.

Remember the details—a glittering pair of high-heeled shoes, dramatic hat or oversized earrings, for example, will make all the difference.

These 'crows stay out in the Garden so make sure everything is secure. Sewing or large safety pins work well to hold clothes together and adhesive caulk is great for securing accessories.

**THEME:** The theme for this year's competition is "A Funny Thing...". Scarecrows should bring a smile to the faces of viewers. They can reflect a funny movie, cartoon characters, or something completely original. \$100 cash prizes will be awarded to the top 5 overall winners and the best school entry. Judging will be based on creativity, originality, and adherence to this year's theme.

**QUESTIONS??**

**Call the DABG  
Office**

**At 334-793-3224  
Between 8 a.m.-5  
p.m. Mon. - Fri.**