

**By-Laws of the
Rio Grande Valley Horticultural Society**

ARTICLE I. NAME

This organization shall be known as the Rio Grande Valley Horticultural Society.

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Society shall be the advancement and development of horticulture from a scientific and practical standpoint in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas. The horticultural crops shall include citrus, vegetables, ornamental plants, and special fruits such as avocados, grapes, peaches, berries and nuts.

ARTICLE III. YEAR

The fiscal year shall begin January 1 and close December 31.

ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

1. *Eligibility and Election.* Any person or firm interested in any of the phases of horticulture may become a member of this Society upon payment of prescribed annual dues to the Treasurer.

2. *Classification.* There shall be four classifications of annual active membership: Individual, Sustaining, Patron, Special Contributor. Upon payment of dues such members are entitled to vote and to receive publications of the Society for the calendar year.

3. *Dues.* Annual dues shall be:

Individual/Small Businesses	\$ 10.00
Sustaining	25.00
Patron	50.00
Special Contributor	100.00

Dues are payable at the time of application for membership and become due and payable in January each year.

4. *Good Standing.* Only members whose dues are paid shall be entitled to vote at meetings of the Society, and only such shall be eligible for office.

5. *Termination of Membership.* The membership of any member may be terminated for cause by a two-thirds vote of the members of the Board of Directors, and the accused shall be given an opportunity to appear before the Board of Directors to give reasons why his membership should not be terminated, prior to final action by the Board.

6. *Honorary Membership.* Individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the science and practice of horticulture or to the Society may be elected to honorary membership upon recommendation of the Board of Directors and

approval by two-thirds of the members present and voting at any regular meeting of the Society. Such honorary members shall be exempt from payment of dues.

7. *A.T. Potts Award Recipient.* Each year a distinguished horticulturist may be elected to Honorary Membership in the Society and presented with The Professor A.T. Potts Life Membership Annual Award, consisting of an appropriate plaque, at the Annual Horticulture Institute. These persons shall compose the list of A.T. Potts Award Recipients as well as being on the list of *Honorary Members*. The award recipient being an honorary member shall be exempt from the payment of dues.

ARTICLE V. SECTIONS

1. The Society shall be divided into Sections representing the various interests of horticulture in the Rio Grande Valley as follows:

- Citrus and Special Fruits
- Vegetables
- Ornamentals
- Gardening and Landscape.

2. Other Sections may be added at any annual meeting by an affirmative majority vote of the membership present when such has been approved and recommended by a majority of the entire Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VI. MEETINGS

1. An Annual Horticultural Society Institute shall be held, preferably in January, to present the latest developments in scientific and practical horticulture to all interested persons.

2. The schedule for other meetings shall be developed by the President and a majority of the Board of Directors.

3. The various Sections of the Society will be in charge of the programs throughout the year. Ample notice of meetings shall be given to the members of the Society.

4. The meetings of the Society and the Annual Horticultural Society Institute shall be devoted to horticultural topics from scientific and practical standpoints (ARTICLE II). The presiding officer shall rule out of order all motions, resolutions, and discussions tending to commit the Society to partisan politics or commercial ventures.

5. Twenty-five members entitled to vote shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of the members of the Society for the transaction of business. In matters of procedure, unless otherwise indicated in the by-laws, Roberts Rule of Order shall be observed.

ARTICLE VII. DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

1. *Board of Directors.* The government of this Society, the direction of its work, and the control of its property and funds shall be vested in a Board of Directors

consisting of eleven members. These members shall include the President, President-elect, a Vice-President and a Director from each Section and a Director-at-large for a total of eleven.

2. *Nomination.* The President, not less than thirty days before the Institute, shall appoint a nominating committee of five persons, including one from each Section. This committee shall make nominations for officers and Directors at the annual meeting of the Society. Such nominations by the committee, however, shall not preclude nominations from the floor.

3. *Election.* The President-elect and the Directors shall be elected by a majority vote of the members present at the Annual Institute and shall assume duties following termination of the Institute.

4. *Term of Office.* The term of office of President shall be for one year. The President-elect shall serve for one year prior to assuming office as president. A Director of each Section shall be elected for a term of two years. His second year in office shall be as Vice-President of his Section. Thus each year there shall be elected one Director for each Section. Directors-at-large shall serve two years. Directors' term of office shall be staggered so that one-half will be elected in each year in order to provide a continuing Board of Directors.

5. *Secretary and Treasurer.* The Board of Directors shall elect a Secretary and a Treasurer who may or may not be a Director and who shall hold office during the pleasure of the Board.

6. *Journal Editor and News Letter Editor.* The Board of Directors shall elect a Journal Editor and a News Letter Editor who shall hold office subject to the pleasure of the Board of Directors.

7. *Gratis Members.* In appreciation for services rendered the Society, the following appointive officers are gratis members during their terms in office: Secretary, Treasurer, Journal Editor, and News Letter Editor.

8. *Succession.* The Board of Directors shall appoint a line of succession of Vice-Presidents.

9. *Meetings of the Board.* The meetings of the Board may be called at any time by order of the President, or by the Vice-President first in succession, acting in his absence, and shall also be called at the request in writing of three members of the Board. A majority of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE VIII. DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS

1. *President.* The President shall preside at all meetings of the members of the Board of Directors. The President shall preside over all meetings of the Society and submit an annual report of the doings of the Board of Directors and officers and operation of the Society during the preceding year, at the annual meeting.

2. *Vice-President of the Sections.* Each Vice-President shall be a member of the Board of Directors, shall serve as a member of the program committee for meetings, and shall recommend to the Board of Directors the appointment of a sectional committee which he deems desirable to carry on the work of his Section.

3. *Treasurer.* The Treasurer shall be the financial officer of the Society. He shall collect the dues of the members, receive all monies that may be paid to him by virtue of this office, have charge of the funds and make a report of receipts and disbursements at meetings of the Board of Directors and a complete report to the members at the annual meeting of the Society.

4. *Secretary.* The Secretary shall have charge of general correspondence, keep minutes of the meetings, and other secretarial duties. He shall be authorized to hire secretarial help at the discretion of the Board.

ARTICLE IX. COMMITTEES

2. *Vice-President of the Sections.* Each Vice-President shall be a member of the Board of Directors, shall serve as a member of the program committee for meetings, and shall recommend to the Board of Directors the appointment of a sectional committee which he deems desirable to carry on the work of his Section.

3. *Treasurer.* The Treasurer shall be the financial officer of the Society. He shall collect the dues of the members, receive all monies that may be paid to him by virtue of this office, have charge of the funds and make a report of receipts and disbursements at meetings of the Board of Directors and a complete report to the members at the annual meeting of the Society.

4. *Secretary.* The Secretary shall have charge of general correspondence, keep minutes of the meetings, and other secretarial duties. He shall be authorized to hire secretarial help at the discretion of the Board.

ARTICLE IX. COMMITTEES

1. *Nominating Committee.* (prescribed in ARTICLE VII, Section 2.)

2. *Editorial Committee.* The President, with the approval of the Board of Directors, shall appoint an Editorial Committee consisting of an Editor, who shall serve as Chairman of the Committee, and one or more Associate Editors. This Committee shall be responsible for assembling and publishing an annual proceedings (JOURNAL) of the Society. The Journal shall include reports of Committees and articles of scientific and practical nature pertaining to horticulture. The Journal shall provide a continuing record of progress in horticulture in the Rio Grande Valley.

3. *Sectional Committees.* These Committees, appointed by each Vice-President with the approval of the Board of Directors (ARTICLE VIII, Section 2), shall consist of three or more members and shall carry on the work of the Sections including the arranging of programs for meetings held under the auspices of the in-

dividual Sections. These Sectional Committees shall be known as the Citrus and Special Fruits Committee, the Vegetable Committee, the Ornamentals Committee, and the Gardening and Landscaping Committee, etc.

4. *Annual Horticultural Society Institute Committee.* This committee shall be appointed by the *President* of the Society (ARTICLE VI, Section 4). This committee shall plan the activities of the Annual Institute and shall appoint such subcommittees as shall be deemed necessary.

5. *Advisory Committee.* The President, with the approval of the Board of Directors, may appoint an Advisory Committee to the Board of Directors consisting of certain members of State and Federal Agencies concerned with research, education, extension, and regulatory matters in Rio Grande Valley horticulture.

6. *Publicity Committee.* The President, with the approval of the Board of Directors, shall appoint a Publicity Committee consisting of certain members of the Press, Radio and TV, and other people who may be helpful.

1. *Auditing Committee.* The President, with the approval of the Board of Directors, shall appoint an Auditing Committee which Committee shall confer with the Treasurer in preparing an audit to be presented by the Treasurer at the annual meeting.

8. The President shall appoint such other committees as may be deemed desirable and advisable by the Board of Directors and approved by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE X. AMENDMENTS

These by-laws may be changed or amended at any regular meeting of the Society by a two-thirds vote of all members present at such meeting when approved by the Board of Directors.

The above revised by-laws were approved 18 January 1983 by the Horticultural Society.