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*California*  
**STATE★FAIR**



**CANNABIS**  
**AWARDS**

**OFFICIAL COMPETITION GUIDE**

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AS OF APRIL 2024

# It's your moment to shine!

## Enter today.

For 170 years, the California State Fair has proudly showcased the diverse talents and achievements of Californians. We invite you to participate in the 2024 California State Fair's Competitive Exhibits Program, offering a unique platform to display your skills and celebrate your accomplishments. Historically, participants have represented all counties in California, with entrants from all 58 of the state's 58 counties participating in 2023.

The California State Fair's competitions are a tribute to the excellence of the Golden State, designed to acknowledge and promote the best in our community. Our Competitive Programs not only showcase exceptional Californian talent but also highlight cutting-edge developments in technology, agriculture, and industry.

With an expected attendance of over 750,000 visitors this summer, your participation is a vital component of the State's celebration. We eagerly anticipate showcasing your talents at the annual State Fair, running from July 12 to July 28, 2024. We encourage you to seize this opportunity to create unforgettable experiences for yourself and the multitudes of State Fair attendees. Enter today to be a part of the 2024 California State Fair.

**Tom Martinez**  
CEO  
California Exposition & State Fair Board of Directors



**GOVERNOR**  
Gavin Newsom

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Sandi Hurtgen Montiero

# Welcome to the 3rd Annual CA State Fair Cannabis Awards!



On behalf of our partners at the California Exposition and State Fair, Fair Play Ventures, LLC is proud to present the **Cannabis Awards Competition Guide** for the 2024 event. This Competition Guide has been constructed to provide pertinent and relevant information to help guide licensed California cannabis businesses through an easy, step-by-step submission process. Our goal is full-transparency for all who enter, explain how to enter, provide detail on each Category and Product Type, as well as our science-based Award's criteria for flower, and our new expanded competition for 2024 that includes all other major cannabis product categories with judging powered by Budist. Best of all, we illustrate the exciting exposure and publicity benefits our entrants will receive as Award Winners.

The 10 week Submission Window is generous and extends to May 17, 2024. We recognize that, like all events, new opportunities and modifications, technologies and sponsorships come forward. Rest assured, we plan to seize these opportunities for the betterment of the competition and will notify all entrants immediately of any updates of modifications to the Competition Guide.

A special thank you to SC Labs for their commitment to testing to the highest-standards and consistency, certifying our Award Winners and providing a steady and guiding hand, and our partners at Budist for powering our expanded competition. And last but certainly not least, to all of our Cannabis Industry Ambassadors, partners and sponsors, a heart-felt thank you for your passion and support in the development of these Awards.

The CA State Fair Cannabis Awards represent a watershed moment for the California cannabis industry. This is our opportunity to promote normalcy and education, destigmatize the plant and change the conversation about cannabis for a mainstream audience.

Join us at California's BIG agricultural table in celebration of our craft cannabis cultivators and the finest flower and brands found anywhere on earth.

**James Leitz & Dustin Moore**

Fair Play Ventures, LLC

# Table of Contents

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## Sections

- Important Information* ..... 5
- New Awards for 2024!*..... 6
- Why Enter the Competition*..... 7
- CA Cannabis Experience* ..... 10
- The Competition Team* ..... 11
- Competition Format - Non Flower Categories* ..... 12
  - *Categories & Product Types*
  - *Entry Fees*
  - *How to Register & Submit Product*
- Competition Format - Flower* ..... 14
  - *Format, Categories & Chemotypes*
  - *Science First!*
  - *How to Register & Submit Product*
  - *Entry Fees*
- Overall Competition* ..... 22
  - *Entry Limitations*
  - *Testing & Results*
  - *Evaluation / Detail*
  - *Confidentiality & Privacy*
  - *Disqualification*
  - *Remediation*
- SC Labs Clients* ..... 24
- Competition Rules & Regulations* ..... 28
- CA State Fair – General Rules* ..... 30
- Appendix* ..... 31

# Important Information

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## CALLING ALL FARMERS! CALLING ALL BRANDS!

The purpose of this **Competition Guide** is to provide a complete overview of the 2024 CA State Fair Cannabis Awards, and to outline an easy, step-by-step process for registering and submitting your flower and products for Awards consideration, testing and evaluation. This guide is produced in advance and is subject to any action that may cause revision or curtailment of categories, product types, awards, premiums or regulations as listed.

**Contact**      Official Website: [www.castatefaircannabisawards.com](http://www.castatefaircannabisawards.com)  
Official Email: [info@castatefaircannabisawards.com](mailto:info@castatefaircannabisawards.com)

### Quick Facts

The 3rd Annual CA State Fair Cannabis Awards & Experience is the first-ever, state agency-sanctioned competition and fairgrounds experience for cannabis in the United States. Celebrating California's rich agricultural history, cannabis has joined the State Fair roster of coveted annual competitions, including wine, cheese, olive oil and craft beer.

The 2024 Awards competition continues to celebrate California's cannabis industry with an expanded format:

- The competition is open to all licensed California cultivators and brands
- There will be nine (9) Flower and Product Categories
- Awarding twenty-seven (27) Chemotypes and Product Types
- 100+ Gold and Silver Medals
- Nine (9) Golden Bear Trophies - one per Category
- The Flower Awards format is rooted in quantifiable, science-based criteria with testing certified by official laboratory partner SC Labs.
- Organizers have partnered with Budist and the *Budist Evaluation Method* that utilizes a 100 point rating scale to further evaluate all Flower Gold Medalists to determine the Golden Bear winners for Sun Grown, Mixed Light and Indoor Categories.
- Budist will also judge all other Categories and Product Types to determine Gold and Silver medals, and Golden Bear winners by Category.
- Award winners will be announced in June 2024 and celebrated during the CA State Fair, July 12 - 28, 2024

# NEW AWARDS for 2024!

The CA State Fair Cannabis Awards competition has expanded from Flower only to include six (6) additional Categories of cannabis products.

**Flower Categories**

Flower – Indoor

Flower - Mixed Light

Flower - Outdoor

**Product Categories**

Pre-Roll

Concentrates

Cartridge

Edibles

Beverages

Wellness

**Chemotype**

Terpenes – Limonene, Myrcene, Caryophyllene, Ocimene, Terpinolene, Pinene

Co-Dominant (MCL), Total Terpene Concentration

Major Cannabinoids – CBGa, CBDa, THCa

**Product Type**

Non-Infused, Infused – Solventless, Infused – Solvent

Solvent, Solventless

Solvent, Solventless

Chocolates, Baked Goods, Candies

Ready-to-Drink Beverages, Beverage Enhancers & Mixers

Tablets, Capsules, Topicals, Tinctures

## Key Dates

March 12, 2024	Submission Window Opens
May 17, 2024	Submission Window Closes
Mid June 2024	Results & Winners Announced
Late June 2024	Winners’ Promotion Begins
July 12 - 28, 2024	Awards Celebration at the CA State Fair

# Why Enter the Competition?

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**Social Progress:** The CA State Fair Cannabis Awards is another step towards normalization and starting a new conversation about cannabis.

**Mainstream Reach:** These Awards will reach a new, mainstream audience and serve as a platform for consumer education.

**Cannabis is Agriculture!** The Awards represent recognition, acceptance, and a celebration of our cultivators, large and small, and the communities they represent. We will showcase the diversity of our microclimates, appellations, indoor, sungrown, mixed light farms, and brands, and the role of the cannabis industry as a vital contributor to the California economy.

**Innovation:** The expansion of the competition into other categories expands our reach deeper into the cannabis industry, showcasing a wide-variety of cannabis-derived products and form factors, further showcasing the innovation and diversity of California's cannabis industry.

**Bragging rights!** For sure, but for the cultivator, manufacturer or brand, the reason to enter may be deeply personal, and part of a long and passionate journey. From breeding and the selection of genetics, to creating and sustaining the ideal growing conditions. From nurturing the plant through all its stages, curing and packaging, and potentially turning it into world-class consumer packaged goods. Finally, with a brand to back it up, here is a life's body of work that deserves to be honored.

**Seal of Excellence:** These Awards will recognize and celebrate our Award-winners with publicity programs, and marketing tools to elevate the farmer, the brand, cultivar, methods, place of origin and product type.

## **Bottom Line Impact!**

The CA State Fair Cannabis Awards is proud to welcome **Embarc** as our strategic marketing and Official Retail partner. Embarc has set the gold-standard for cannabis sales and consumption programs inside large-scale events like "Grasslands" inside Outside Lands. Embarc will bring that same expertise to the CA State Fair and will facilitate the CA Cannabis Experience sales and consumption program.

In addition, Embarc will support the Awards and our winners with in-store displays and procurement efforts at their retail storefronts across California, lending further visibility and important retail opportunities for our award-winning farmers and brands.

# Award Winner Benefits & Support

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The Award Winners' Package includes a full-scale promotional and publicity campaign beginning in June as well as marketing tools, exposure benefits and experiential activation onsite during the CA State Fair in July of 2024. Winning submissions will receive award-winning designation, represented by product seals (stickers) and medals; Silver, Gold and the coveted Golden Bear trophies for the "Best of California" winners.

## List of Benefits:

- Public Award Winner Announcements – June 2024
- PR & Publicity – Press Release, Results Listing, Industry & Mass Market Distribution
- Official Website, CA State Fair Website, SC Labs Website, Budist Website
  - Overall Award Winner Listing
  - Award Winner Dossier
- Social Account Promotion & Publicity
- CA State Fair Cannabis Award Winner Digital Medallions for Packaging inclusion
- CA State Fair Cannabis Awards - Logo Usage Rights
- On-Site Display at the CA State Fair 2024 (space/time slot permitting)
  - Award Winner Pavilion, Collateral, Info Graphics & Display
- Opportunity for the sale of Award Winners' products inside Embarc Retail stores throughout California
- Complimentary 2025 Awards Entry Fee waiver for Best of California Award Winners

## Award Seals

CA State Fair Cannabis Awards organizers will make official award seals available in a digital format for easy packaging applications for all award-winning products. These award seals may be affixed only to packaging of State Fair award-winning cannabis cultivars. Only official State Fair award seals are authorized to designate California State Fair award winners.





# Awards Description - Flower & Non Flower Categories

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## Gold Medals

The Gold Medal award and designation will be given by Category to each specific Chemotype (Flower) and Product Type (Non Flower) in each Category.

For Flower Categories, Gold Medals will be awarded to an entrant whose submission achieves the highest levels of primary terpene, co-dominant terpene, total terpene or cannabinoid concentration as indicated by SC Labs PhytoFacts Chemometric Report.

For Non Flower Categories, Gold Medals will be awarded by our expert panel of Budists who will judge each Product Type per category.

**Gold Medalists will immediately qualify for the next round of Budist judging to determine the Flower and Non Flower Category of the coveted Golden Bear Trophy.**

## Silver Medal

The Silver Medal award and designation will be given by Category to each specific Chemotype (Flower) and Product Type (Non Flower) in each Category.

For Flower Categories, Gold Medals will be awarded to an entrant whose submission achieves the second-highest levels of primary terpene, co-dominant terpene, total terpene or cannabinoid concentration as indicated by SC Labs PhytoFacts Chemometric Report.

For Non Flower Categories, Silver Medals will be awarded by our expert panel of Budists who will judge each Product Type per category.

## Specialty Awards

### Unique Category

A Gold Medal award and designation will be given to the Unique Category of rare terpenes and cannabinoids that may be revealed during testing and exist outside the current terpene and cannabinoid Awards categories.

### **GOLDEN BEARS - “Best of California”**

The Best of California designation and coveted Golden Bear trophies will be awarded to one Gold Medalist per Category as determined by our Budist panel of judges.



# The Competition Team

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## About Fair Play Ventures, LLC

The Awards and Experience are produced in a partnership between Cal Expo and Fair Play Ventures, LLC.

Fair Play Ventures is an exciting, new partnership between Cultivar Events, creators and producers of the 2022/2023 competition and exhibit, and Embarc, one of California's leading cannabis retailers and cannabis event specialists:

[www.goembarc.com](http://www.goembarc.com)

FAIR PLAY  
VENTURES

## About SC Labs

Maintaining and progressing the highest standards is a core value of SC Labs. Since the laboratory was established in 2010, we have pioneered and championed rigorous testing standards to improve product safety and quality in a transformative manner. We know that our results empower thousands of companies to make smart and informed decisions about product purity, safety, and consistency. We demonstrate that our commitment to quality is always advocated and maintained ethically and responsibly.

Following industry best practices, we maintain licensure and accreditations from multiple state agencies and governing bodies.

For more information, visit [www.sclabs.com](http://www.sclabs.com)



## About Budist

Budist is the industry's first social review platform for cannabis products and brands. The Budist community is led by a diverse group of cannabis critics, or "Budists", which includes certified Ganjiers, cup judges, subject matter experts, and connoisseurs. Each brings unique perspectives and qualifications to the community, helping to ensure that people from all walks of life find the best cannabis products for their particular needs.

For more information, visit <http://budist.com>



# CA State Fair Celebration - “CA Cannabis Experience”

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**July 12 - 28, 2024 - California Exposition Center - Sacramento, CA**

The 2024 CA State Fair will be the culmination and celebration of the 3rd annual CA State Fair Cannabis Awards. Fair Play Ventures will create a curated cannabis experience that will showcase the Award Winners, sponsors and partners.

Eye catching creative, curated educational and cultural displays will celebrate the agricultural heritage of cannabis in California as well as the societal impact the plant has had on the State over the decades. This display will be the centerpiece of the consumer experience and will be surrounded by industry brands and associations, government partners and sponsors promoting their brands and services.

- Award Winners Infographics & Product Display
- Educational & Cultural Display
- Government Agency Integration
- Cannabis Industry Sponsorship Booths & Activations

The cannabis experience will be for customers ages 21 and older.

## NEW IN 2024!

The CA State Fair Cannabis Awards & Experience has achieved another historical first and will allow for *cannabis sales and consumption* within the CA Cannabis Experience footprints on the fairgrounds. The CA State Fair continues to lead the nation in showcasing the California cannabis industry, it’s history, culture and craft farmers through a unique blend of educational exhibits, experiential activations and commerce. Fairgoers (21+) can now experience cannabis craft much like they do with award-winning wine, craft beer, olive oil and other important agricultural industries celebrated at the Fair.

Award-winning cannabis flower and products will be sold through a centralized sales desk within the CA Cannabis Exhibit inside of Expo Center Building 6 and are allowed for consumption in designated areas.

There will be two, separate consumption areas designated at the 2024 Fair; the “Back Porch” outside the backdoors of the CA Cannabis Indoor Exhibit in Expo Center Building 6 and, the “Cannabis Garden” located near the Exhibit adjacent to the soccer stadium.

The Back Porch will provide beverage and edible consumption and topical applications. Smoking is not allowed on the Back Porch. The Cannabis Garden will allow for the inhalation and consumption of cannabis flower and concentrates.

# COMPETITION FORMAT - Non Flower Categories

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## Overview

Non Flower Categories are new to the CA State Fair Cannabis Awards in 2024. The promotion and recognition of a wide-range of cannabis-derived products and form factors, and the innovative California-based producers who manufacture them, is yet another step towards consumer education and acceptance.

Non Flower Categories will be powered by Budist, the industry’s first review platform for cannabis products and brands backed by professional judges who employ a 100 point objective evaluation. The CA State Fair Cannabis Awards has identified specific product categories for rating and evaluation by the Budist community, which includes certified Ganjiers, cup judges, subject matter experts, and connoisseurs.

Budist cannabis judges will utilize a 100-point rating system to evaluate each entry based on attributes such as Aroma, Flavor, Appearance and Effect. Each of these attributes are assigned point values based on factors such as complexity, intensity, and efficacy, and the total points are averaged to yield the final rating. This 100-point system is on par with internationally recognized rating systems utilized by many specialty goods industries, including wine, beer, chocolate and coffee. This approach will be applied to each category to determine Gold and Silver medalists. The gold medalists of each product type within a category will compete for a coveted Golden Bear trophy. The competition is open to all California licensees and brands.

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>PRODUCT TYPE</b>
<b>Pre-Roll</b>	<b>Non-Infused, Infused - Solventless, Infused - Solvent</b>
<b>Concentrates</b>	<b>Solvent, Solventless</b>
<b>Cartridge</b>	<b>Solventless, Solvent</b>
<b>Edibles</b>	<b>Chocolates, Baked Goods, Candies</b>
<b>Beverages</b>	<b>Ready-to-Drink, Beverage Enhancers &amp; Mixers</b>
<b>Wellness</b>	<b>Tablets, Capsules, Topicals, Tinctures</b>

## Entry Fees - Non Flower Categories

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1st Product	\$350
2nd Product	\$325
3rd Product	\$310
4th Product +	\$300

## How to Enter / Register

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### How It Works

**Submission Window: March 12 - May 17 - 2024**

**Register** online at: [www.castatefaircannabisawards.com/competition](http://www.castatefaircannabisawards.com/competition)

- Select Category
- Select Product Type
- Fill out requested information
- Upload required documents - COA, License #, logo, etc.
- Select desired Embarc Retail location for product drop off
- Pay Registration Fees
- Registration Confirmation and Awards ID Number will be provided
- Entrants must provide ten (10) tested, packaged and retail-ready samples of each product entered in the competition
- Pickup/Delivery Confirmation Email will be sent once product is in hand

# COMPETITION FORMAT - Flower

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The CA State Fair Cannabis Awards competition is open to all commercially licensed cannabis cultivators in California.

There will be no segmentation between specialty cottage, cottage, small, medium to large (industrial) cultivators.

Three primary Categories have been delineated by light source

## **Determining your license type and Division**

**Outdoor licenses** are for cultivators who grow cannabis outside without using any artificial lighting or light deprivation techniques on mature plants.

**Indoor licenses** are for cultivators who grow cannabis in a permanent structure using at least 25 watts of artificial light per square foot.

**Mixed-light licenses** are for cultivators who grow cannabis in a:

- Greenhouse
- Hoop-house
- Glasshouse
- Conservatory
- Hothouse
- Other similar structure

Mixed-light licenses have two tiers based on the amount of artificial light used, however for these Awards, we will not segment Mixed Light by wattage per square foot.

# COMPETITION FORMAT - Flower

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## CATEGORIES BY LIGHT SOURCE



## AWARDS BY COMPOUND

### TERPENES

Six dominant terpenes, one co-dominant profile, and highest terpene content will form the eight terpene-based Gold and Silver medalists by Category (or light source). Winners will be selected based upon the overall concentration of terpenes present in the entries from each class.

**6 Dominant Terpenes:** Myrcene, Caryophyllene, Limonene, Terpinolene, Pinene & Ocimene



*See Appendix on Page 28 for Supplemental Detail*

## AWARDS BY COMPOUND

### 1 Co-Dominant Terpene Profile: Myrcene, Caryophyllene & Limonene

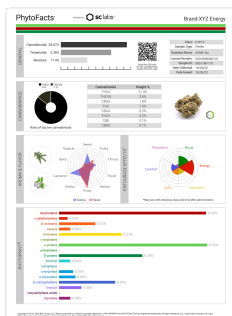


### Highest Terpene Content:

Gold and Silver Medals will be awarded to the samples with the highest overall terpene content in each Category.

### 1 Unique (Rare) Terpene

Separate and distinct from the dominant and codominant terpene profile categories above, gold awards will be given for a unique (or rare) terpene present in a sample. Addressing the trend to evaluate cultivars and strains via terpenoid test data, this award goes to the flower sample that expresses rare or distinctive chemometric attributes.



[Unique Terpene Example](#)



## AWARDS BY COMPOUND

### CANNABINOIDS

#### Laboratory Analysis Scoring

**THCa:** Gold and Silver awards for highest tetrahydrocannabinolic acid (THCa) profile. Test reporting will award contestants with the highest THCa measurements.

**CBDa:** Gold and Silver awards for highest cannabidiol acid (CBDa) profile. Test reporting will award contestants with the highest CBDa measurements.

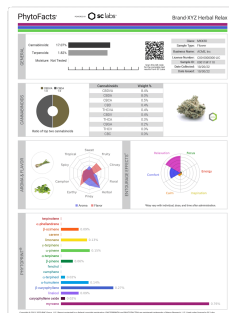
**CBGa:** Gold and Silver awards for highest cannabigerolic acid (CBGa) profile. Test reporting will award contestants with the highest Total CBG measurements.

#### 3 Cannabinoids: THCa, CBGa & CBDa

#### Unique (Rare) Cannabinoid

##### Scoring Unique Cannabinoid Profiles based on Laboratory Analysis

Gold and Silver awards for most unique cannabinoid profile. Generally, THCa, CBGa and CBDa are the cannabinoids that most consumers are familiar with. However, researchers have identified over 100 major and minor cannabinoids—some of which include interesting active compounds with varied attributes and effects. There exist a handful of growers that focus on the more esoteric cannabinoids—cultivars that produce a range of cannabinoids may include but are not limited to: CBDV, CDVA, THCVA, CBCA, etc.



[Unique Cannabinoid Example](#)

# SCIENCE FIRST

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## Scoring Based on Laboratory Analysis



The CA State Fair Cannabis Awards flower categories will be scored objectively through science-based analysis performed and certified by SC Labs, one of California's premier cannabis and hemp testing labs.

SC Labs will provide all entrants with the required Terpene and Cannabinoid testing required and furnish a PhytoFacts® chemometric report that will identify the unique compounds of the

submission to determine the award winners.

## Science-based Philosophy

Instead of sorting entries by Indica, Sativa, Hybrid, these Awards celebrate the chemistry of the plant. Chemotype profiles offer a better method of organizing cannabis strains and predicting effects and organoleptic (aroma/flavor) attributes.

Understanding the variance of chemotypes is central to building an informed relationship with cannabis, and our hope is that this chemistry-first approach will usher in enhanced consumer awareness, interest, and education of cannabis chemistry.

*SC Labs is a registered trademark of SC Laboratories, Inc. PhytoFacts and PhytoPrint is a registered trademark of Napro Research, LLC.*

# FLOWER - Lab Testing Guidelines

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## **New for 2024!**

In an effort to streamline the submission process, provide flexibility and affordability for California cannabis farmers, **the Awards competition now accepts valid Certificates of Analysis (COAs) from SC Labs or any licensed lab in California.**

Accepting COAs from other labs, eliminates a farmer having to ‘test twice’ to fulfill the regulatory compliant test panels that meet the California state requirements established by the Department of Cannabis Control (DCC) and required by the competition.

While we will honor the COA’s from various labs, we still need to maintain consistent laboratory processes, homologation and quality controls for the cannabinoid and terp testing critical to this science-based competition format.

Entrants must provide a copy of the valid COA upon entering the Registration Portal to qualify.

Along with a valid COA, farmers will be required to pay the competition entry fee that will include a Terpene/Cannabinoid testing from SC Labs.

**Note:** As the official testing lab for the CA State Fair Cannabis Awards, SC Labs can perform state compliant laboratory analysis for all entrants. This includes the COA, terpene and cannabinoid test and PhytoFacts®. Incentives for SC Labs current and new clients are available.

# How to Enter / Register

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## How It Works

**Submission Window: March 12 - May 17 - 2024**

**Register** online at: [www.castatefaircannabisawards.com/competition](http://www.castatefaircannabisawards.com/competition)

- Entrant must be a licensed California cultivator
  - All entrants must register on the Official Competition Registration portal
  - Entrant must have a Metric Batch# and a valid COA for the submission
  - Entrant may submit multiple cultivars
  - Entrant has the option to obtain COA from any licensed California cannabis testing lab
  - SC Labs current clients and new clients who have obtained their COA and the proper R&D testing will not be tested again, and the results of that test will be utilized by the competition - **Please see SC Labs Client Section below for details**
  - All other entrants who have obtained their COA's from an alternative lab, and have dropped their "shelf ready product" submission at the Embarc retail location, will be subject to further testing from SC Labs.
  - Organizer will coordinate with SC Labs for pick up of submission immediately, once the product is in hand.
  - Test results will be available within 4 days of sample pick up.
  - All entrants will receive a test from SC Labs, facilitated by Organizer
  - All product will be photographed in HiRes for marketing materials
  - Each entry will receive a PhytoFacts Chemometric Report
- 
- Gold and Silver Medals will be awarded for each designated Chemotype by Category
- 
- All Gold Medal winners product by Category (or Light Source) will be submitted to our expert panel of Budists to determine each Golden Bear winner for Sun Grown, Mixed Light and Indoor categories.

# Product Submission

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## Shelf-Ready Packaged Flower

- Packaged flower to be delivered to Embarc retail location by Entrant's distributor of record
- Product Requirement: Eight (8) 3.5 gram packaged eighths - shelf ready
  - Two (2) for SC Labs Testing
  - Six (6) for Golden Bear judging via Budist panel, marketing and display purposes
- Organizer will facilitate transport and testing with SC Labs and securing PhytoFacts Chemometric Report
- Once determined, Organizer will provide Gold Medal winners by Category to Budist competition panel for judging
- Budist will conduct judging of blind flower samples utilizing the Budist Evaluation Method

## FLOWER - Entry Fees

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<b>1st Cultivar</b>	<b>\$350*</b>
<b>2nd Cultivar</b>	<b>\$325</b>
<b>3rd Cultivar</b>	<b>\$310</b>
<b>4th Cultivar +</b>	<b>\$300</b>

# OVERALL COMPETITION - Evaluation Detail

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## Entry Limitations

No limit on the number of individual samples/cultivars

No entrant will be allowed to submit more than one sample from a particular cultivar from a particular grow unless the samples are from a separate vintage/grow cycles

Your sample entry places your flower into all categories

Remember: The PhytoFacts result report will reveal and document all chemical data and propagate the results within proper Awards categories.

## Testing & Results

SC Labs will test each cultivar for chemometric data and report results using the innovative cannabinoid and terpene reporting platform - PhytoFacts.

This easy-to-understand report characterizes the chemical profile of cannabis through intuitive data visualizations. These visualizations identify the chemical profile, dominant and proportional cannabinoids and terpenes, sensory attributes, and potential entourage effects of the submitted sample.

PhytoFacts allows for accurate sorting of samples into major chemometric families and subcategories that highlight similar sensory and physiological properties. It helps identify aged, immature, or sub-standard cannabis while also flagging unique outliers.

## Evaluation Detail

All Flower submissions will receive a Cannabinoid/Terpene test from SC Labs.

**Important: Not all tests are the same! Your alternative lab may have revealed concentration numbers less than or greater than the SC Lab test. To maintain parity, we must test all submissions from the same lab, utilizing the same methods and technology.**

Upon arriving at SC Labs, entries will be processed and tested for quality, active ingredients, as well as for the presence of contaminants.

After being logged and photographed, each entry will have both the cannabinoid and terpene content and concentrations measured. This information will be used to sort the entries into the various primary terpene categories observed in modern Cannabis, based on the predominant mono- and sesquiterpene content present in each cultivar.

Additionally, each entry will be tested for moisture content, water activity, pesticide residues, microbiological contaminants, heavy metals, as well as mycotoxins. Any entry that exceeds tolerances or action limits established by the State of California for any contaminant will be disqualified from the competition.

## Budist

Once your tested, packaged and retail-ready samples are dropped off at your desired Embarc Retail location, the Embarc team will coordinate with Budist to ensure that your samples are allocated to the appropriate panel of judges for assessment and scoring.

The Budist panel of judges will be assigned to each Category and Product Type based on their qualifications and area of expertise. Their role is to objectively assess the quality and craftsmanship of each entry and determine if the product delivers on its intended use case. Judges are required to follow a standardized methodology to ensure that their ratings are fair, honest, and based on their professional assessment of each entry.

Budist uses a 100-point rating scale and applies this point system to evaluate each entry based on factors such as Aroma, Flavor, Appearance and Effect. Each of these attributes are assigned point values based on factors such as their complexity, intensity, and efficacy, and the total points are averaged to yield the final rating. The Gold & Silver medals (excluding Flower) and Golden Bear trophies will be awarded to the contestants that receive the highest scores in their respective category.

## Confidentiality & Privacy Provisions

By entering the competition you agree that your Certificate of Analysis and PhytoFacts report will be shared with Organizer and the California State Fair.

## Disqualification

List of reasons why a sample will be rejected:

- Any failure of DCC regulations would result in disqualification.

May include but not limited to contamination issues that involve pesticides (herbicides and fungicides), solvents, heavy metals, microbiological contaminants, mycotoxins, and foreign material.

## Remediation

You will have the opportunity for remediation, and resubmission before final results are tabulated.

At any point during the Submission Window, an entrant will be notified of a failed sample.

No re-submissions will be allowed after May 17, 2024. However, for those late submissions that have not been tested or failed prior to May 17, there will be a Remediation Window beginning May 18 extending through May 25, 2024.

In the event of disqualification, an entrant must pay for a new COA for re-submission. However, the entry fees for the Awards will be applied to the new sample submitted.



# SC Labs Clients

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- SC Labs clients (or new clients) who have obtained a COA and the appropriate test will receive a complimentary entry for one submission
- *Existing SC Labs clients:* Contact your SC Labs Account Manager for details of how to submit for the State Fair through your customer service portal.
- *New clients:* You will be connected with a dedicated account manager to set up your account and gain access to your **Customer Service Portal**. They will walk you through the features of the portal and how to submit samples and request a pick up.
- SC Labs clients who tested between December 1 - March 12, 2024, check with your SC Labs rep about your sample's eligibility for submission into the 2024 California State Fair Cannabis Awards.
- Entrants will obtain their **Certificate of Analysis (COA)** and **PhytoFacts Chemometric Report** through the SC Labs Client Service Portal.
- Per DCC Regulations, entrants must move their cultivation batch to their distributor of choice. The Distributor will need to set up an account with SC Labs if they do not have an existing one.
- Entrants may submit multiple cultivars
- The submission process through the Client Service Portal will allow you to submit multiple cultivars at one time. The samples will be scheduled for pick up the following business day.
- SC Labs will sample the batch per DCC regulations/guidelines and test each cultivar for chemometric data. This Compliance COA can be used for retail sales and transfer.
- Results will be available in the Client Service Portal within 2-3 days. SC Labs operates 7 days / week 24 hours a day to ensure consistent turn around times. You will receive an email that the results have been completed. Payment must be received for results to be released.
- Your dedicated account manager will contact you to review your test results and PhytoFacts report. If there are questions more technical in nature you will be paired with a Senior Account Manager to review.

If your batch fails for compliance the Senior Account Manager will hold a call to review the fail and remediation options.

# SC Labs Clients

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## Sample Amounts

Entrants must work through a licensed California cannabis distributor.

Entrants must submit a batch size minimum of 18 grams up to a maximum 50 lbs (per DCC regulations).

Why do we request a minimum batch size of 18 grams?

- The sampling event size for the CA State Fair Cannabis Awards is a minimum 16g, or 0.35% of the total weight of the batch (whichever is greater).
- State Fair Cannabis Awards Compliance testing requires a minimum sample weight of 16 grams
- SC Labs will sample 16 grams and leave the remaining product with the distributor. We request a minimum batch size of 18 grams so that we can leave at least 2 grams in the original package. Any batch size over 18 grams is no issue.
  - Ultimately, test results will be reported and synced with the source METRC package, which requires that there be product left in the original package.
- 16 grams of material allows us to prep for the state compliance panel of testing, including our terpenoid test in Triplicate.
- The Awards are determined by these test results.
- Please note, if the product submitted is underweight when SC Labs goes to sample it, they will not be able to collect enough material, and therefore would have to skip sampling it at that time and until the farmer gets enough sample to the distributor.

To ensure accuracy, efficiency, and ease of processing your sample, we encourage entrants to take a "more is more" approach with the sample you submit. For any questions about the sampling event, please contact Organizer.

## SC Labs Clients – Outdoor Flower Submissions

For the Outdoor Flower Category, we will honor submissions from SC Labs outdoor cultivators who obtained their COA and the proper testing between October 1 and December 31, 2023. All other SC Labs client submissions are subject to the retroactive January 1, 2024 test allowance.

The Submission Window closes on May 17, 2024.

# ALL ENTRANTS

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## Notice for Preservation

The Competition has added a subjective judging component for 2024. SC Labs testing and PhytoFacts will determine our Gold and Silver medalists for all eleven chemotypes in Sun Grown, Mixed Light and Indoor Categories. All Gold Medalists by Category will then be judged by Budist to determine the Golden Bear winners.

For SC Labs clients who wish to submit a cultivar from a test taken outside the Submission Window, please note that if you win a Gold Medal, we will require two (2) 3.5 gram shelf-ready jars for further evaluation by our Budist judging panel to determine the Golden Bear by category. Samples must match METRC batch of original test. Preserve your crop, set some aside and best of luck in the first round. If you do not have any flower set aside and preserved properly, then you may want to consider another submission.

# COMPETITION - Rules & Requirements

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By registering your cannabis online through the official CA State Fair Cannabis Awards Registration platform, an entrant certifies and promises that the information is accurate and that the entries meet all of the eligibility provisions, requirements, and limitations. It also certifies that the entrant agrees to abide by all regulations of the Department of Cannabis Control (DCC) and rules as established by the CA State Fair Cannabis Awards.

## Disqualification

- Entrant will be disqualified for misrepresentation of Light Source/Division
- Entrants inability to provide valid and current California cultivators or manufacturers license.
- Awards Organizers may, at its option, require that any cannabis receiving an award be reviewed and qualified by representatives of the Organizing Committee who shall verify that all entry requirements have been met.
- Awards Organizers will check and verify the accuracy and validity of each entry.

## Advertising Provision

The California State Fair reserves the right to revoke an award or disqualify an entrant from this and future competitions for any misleading advertising or information connected to the CA State Fair Cannabis Awards or for violating any of the following rules:

- No (awards designation) representation will be made that is misleading or deceptive to the trade or the consuming public.
- No misleading advertising or labeling will be allowed with any connection to the CA State Fair Cannabis Awards.
- No representation will be made that states, implies, or permits the inference that cannabis is identical to an award winner unless this is the case.
- Award Winning product is substituted or mislabeled.
- No entrant or representative may disparage awards of other cannabis entrants to the trade or public.

## **Enforcement of Rules**

- The entry requirements, as printed herein, will be strictly enforced.
- Any entries found not to comply with the entry requirements will be rejected.
- Any entry form found to contain untrue information may result in disqualification from all awards and may also bar the cultivator from entering the CA State Fair Cannabis Awards in future years.

## CA State Fair - General Rules

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General Rules are subject to any action that may cause revision or curtailment at any time before each competition or judging. Upon submission of online entry and signature on detailed receipt if applicable, the exhibitor acknowledges that they have read and understood these rules and all others of the competition in which they enter and are further responsible for viewing, reading and understanding all revisions or curtailments on the State Fair's website before the competition. Exhibitors may request an additional copy of the most current rules by contacting the entry office:

*email:* **[entryoffice@calexpo.com](mailto:entryoffice@calexpo.com)**.

# Appendix

## Supplemental Format Detail

### Category Definitions

**INDOOR:** Flower grown indoors under artificial light

**MIXED LIGHT:** Covers Mixed Light 1 & 2. Flower grown with light deprivation, utilizing tarps, greenhouse, shade structure.

**OUTDOOR:** Also known as sungrown, flower that is grown 100% outdoors

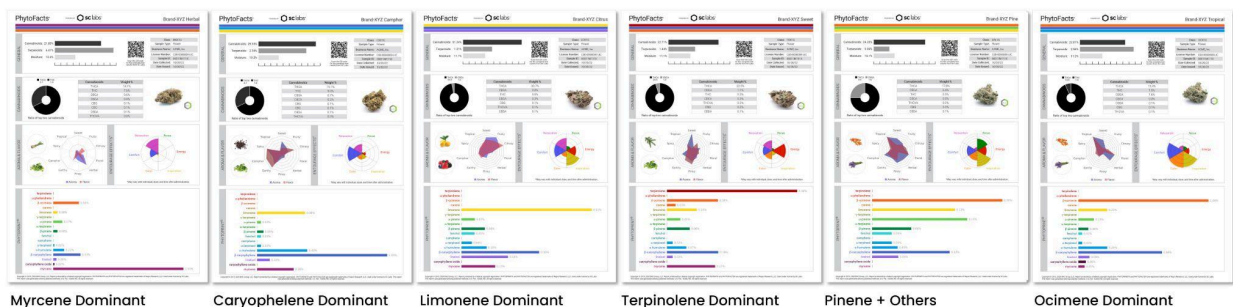
### Chemotype Definitions

Cannabinoids and terpenes in cannabis can represent upwards of 40% of the mass of a female flower. It is the profile of these highly potent compounds that is the best predictor of the aroma, flavor, and effects of a particular strain. This profile is referred to as the plant's chemotype; the identification and measurement of the cannabinoids and terpenoids in a strain.

### Dominant Terpenes Based on Laboratory Analysis

Gold and Silver awards based on dominant terpene profiles. Analysis of SC Labs' data base of terpene testing results indicates that, with few exceptions, cannabis expresses one of six possible terpenes in the highest concentration (dominant terpene), oftentimes a particular cultivar has two or three of those terpenes in nearly equal concentrations (co-dominant). These six dominant and one co-dominant classes will form the seven terpene-based awards categories. Winners will be selected based upon the overall concentration of terpenes present in the entries from each class.

[Learn more](#)



**1. Myrcene ~43% of overall data**

Myrcene is the terpene most frequently found in cannabis, and is described as earthy and herbal. Myrcene is found in hops, thyme, lemongrass and mango. Cultivar/strain in which Myrcene is the dominant terpene represent the largest proportion of cultivar/strain currently available in the market.

- Suggested Effects: Sedative and Relaxation
- Cultivars: Cherry AK, Forbidden Fruit, Tangie and Blueberry

## Myrcene

REPRESENTS 43% OF OVERALL DATA

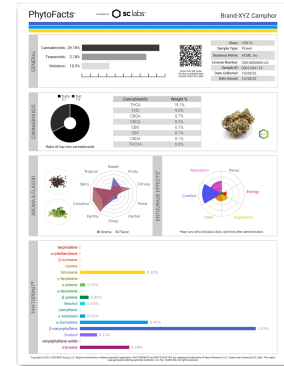
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**Strains: Cherry AK | Forbidden Fruit | Tangie | Blueberry**

A monoterpene with a fragrance described as peppery, spicy, herbal, floral and woody. Typically used by the perfume industry as precursor for developing other fragrances.

**Also found in:**  
Thyme  
Mango  
Lemongrass

SUGGESTED EFFECTS: Relaxation, Sedation, "Couchlock"



PhytoFacts-Myrcene.png

**2. β Caryophyllene ~23% of overall data**

A sesquiterpene with a fragrance that can be described as spicy, dry, woody, dusty, and mildly sweet. β-Caryophyllene is found in black pepper and cloves and is used as a flavoring agent to add spicy and herbal notes.

- Suggested Effects: Comfort and CB2 Receptor Agonist
- Cultivars/Strains: Cookies, Gelato, Runtz, Sour Diesel and Purple Punch

## β Caryophyllene

REPRESENTS 23% OF OVERALL DATA

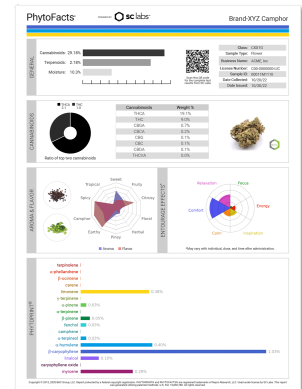
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**Strains: Cookies | Gelato | Runtz | Sour Diesel | Purple Punch**

Has a fragrance that can be described as spicy, woody, dry, and mildly sweet. Plays a role in the endocannabinoid system as it is a functional CB2 receptor agonist.

**Also found in:**  
Black Pepper  
Cloves  
Cinnamon

SUGGESTED EFFECTS: Comfort, CB2 Receptor Agonist



PhytoFacts-Caryophyllene.png



### 3. Limonene ~16% of overall data

A monoterpene with a fragrance that can be described as orangey, citrusy, sweet, and tart. Limonene is common to the lemon and other citrus essential oils, and is the second most widely distributed terpenoid in nature.

- **Suggested Effects:** Inspiration, Uplifting and Antidepressant
- **Cultivars/Strains:** Banana OG, Strawberry Banana, Berry White and MAC

# Limonene

REPRESENTS 16% OF OVERALL DATA


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**Strains: Banana OG | Berry White | Strawberry Banana | MAC**

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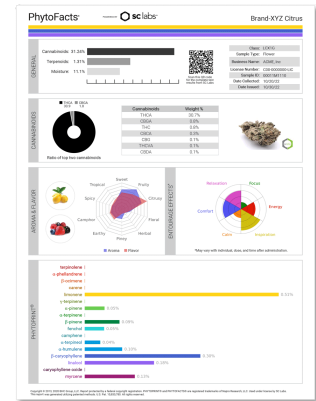
A monoterpene with an orangey, citrusy, sweet and tart fragrance. Primary contributor to the distinct scent of orange peels, from which it is commonly derived.

**Also found in:**  
Lemon Rind  
Juniper  
Orange Rind



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SUGGESTED EFFECTS: Inspiration, Uplifting, Antidepressant



PhytoFacts-Limonene.png

### 4. Terpinolene ~10% of overall data

Terpinolene has a complicated organoleptic profile with a nose described as woody and herbaceous yet floral. It can be found in nature in lilac, tea tree, apples, cumin, and nutmeg. Terpinolene is common in cultivars/strains but usually in small amounts. Cultivars/strains in which Terpinolene is dominant are much less common.

- **Suggested Effects:** Creative, Cerebral, Uplifting and Energy
- **Cultivars/Strains:** Train Wreck, Super Lemon Haze, Dutch Treat and Jack Herrer

# Terpinolene

REPRESENTS 10% OF OVERALL DATA


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**Strains: Train Wreck | Dutch Treat | Jack Herrer | Super Lemon Haze**

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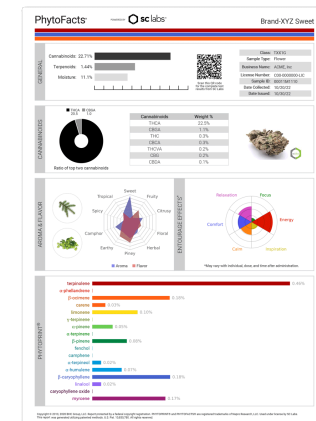
Has a fragrance that can be described as sweet, spicy, tropical, woody and oily with a hint of citrus. One of four isomers of the monoterpene Terpinene.

**Also found in:**  
Lilac  
Nutmeg  
Cumin



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SUGGESTED EFFECTS: Energy, Creativity, Cerebral, Uplifting



PhytoFacts-Terpinolene.png

### 5. α Pinene ~6% of overall data

One of two isomers of the monoterpene Pinene, the most abundant terpene in the natural world. It is responsible for the distinct aroma of many coniferous trees, particularly pines, from which it derives its name.  $\alpha$ -Pinene is found in dill, basil, rosemary, and parsley, in addition to pine needles and other conifers.

- **Suggested Effects:** Stimulating and Focus
- **Cultivars/Strains:** Black Lime Reserve, Fruit Stripe, Sour Carmello and Taffy

# $\alpha$ Pinene

REPRESENTS 6% OF OVERALL DATA


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**Strains: Taffy | Black Lime Reserve | Fruit Stripe | Sour Carmello**

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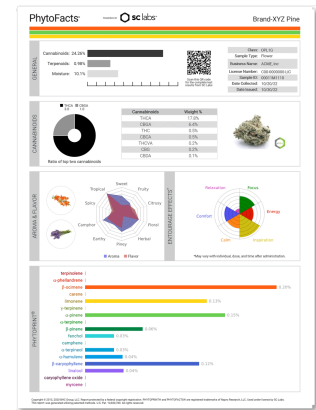
The most abundant terpene in the natural world. It is responsible for the distinct aroma of many coniferous trees, particularly pines, from which it derives its name.

**Also found in:**  
Rosemary  
Basil  
Pine Needles



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SUGGESTED EFFECTS: Focus



PhytoFacts-Pinene.png

## 6. Ocimene ~1% of overall data

Ocimene imparts a sweet, floral and woody scent. Although present in many cultivar/strains, Ocimene dominant cultivar/strains of cannabis are rare. It can be found in a wide variety of plants including hops, kumquats, mangoes, basil, bergamot, lavender, orchids, and pepper in varying quantities. It is used extensively in the perfume industry due to its aromatic profile.

- **Suggested Effects:** Relaxation and Comfort
- **Cultivars/Strains:** Harmony Rose, Tropical Sleigh Ride, Pineapple and Mango

# Ocimene

REPRESENTS 1% OF OVERALL DATA

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**Strains: Harmony Rose | Tropical Sleigh Ride | Pineapple | Mango**

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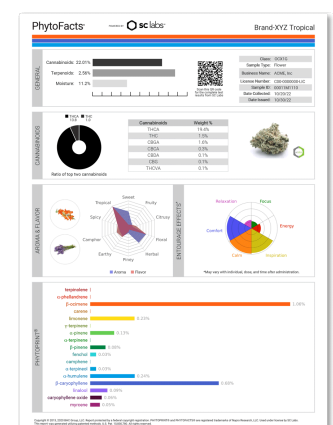
A monoterpene with a fragrance that can be described as herbal, earthy, sweet with a hint of citrus. It displays antifungal properties.

**Also found in:**  
Mint  
Parsley  
Orchid



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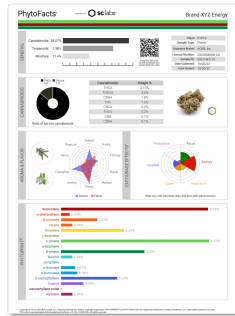
SUGGESTED EFFECTS: Calm



PhytoFacts-Ocimene.png

### Scoring Unique Terpene Profiles based on Laboratory Analysis

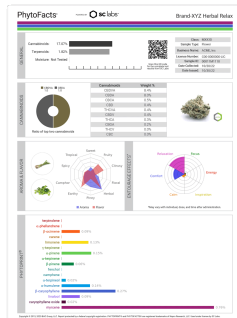
Gold and Silver awards for most unique terpene profile. Addressing the trend to evaluate cultivars and strains via terpenoid test data, this award goes to the flower sample that expresses rare or distinctive chemometric attributes. With several test reports available to highlight organoleptic and physiological properties, this division awards exceptional terpene outliers and cultivars based on their unique flavors, aromas, and effects.



[Unique Terpene Example](#)

### Scoring Unique Cannabinoid Profiles based on Laboratory Analysis

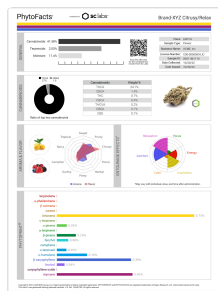
Gold and Silver awards for most unique cannabinoid profile. Generally, THC and CBD are the cannabinoids that most consumers are familiar with. However, researchers have identified over 100 major and minor cannabinoids—some of which include interesting active compounds with varied attributes and effects. There exist a handful of growers that focus on the more esoteric cannabinoids—cultivars that produce a range of cannabinoids may include but are not limited to: CBGA, CBDV, CDVA, THCVA, CBCA, etc.



[Unique Cannabinoid Example](#)

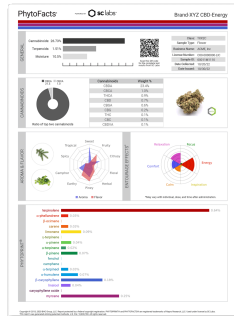
### Laboratory Analysis Scoring

Gold and Silver awards for highest tetrahydrocannabinol acid (THCa) profile. Test reporting will award contestants with the highest THCa measurements.



### Scoring CBD based on Laboratory Analysis

Gold and Silver awards for highest cannabidiol acid (CBDA) profile. Test reporting will award contestants with the highest CBDA measurements. CBD is the second most common cannabinoid found in cannabis (behind THC). CBD offers relaxing, non-intoxicating effects that lend themselves to a variety of personal and therapeutic uses. CBD has tremendous medical potential. This is particularly true when the correct ratio of CBD to THC is applied to treat a particular condition.



[High CBD Example](#)

### Related Links

Learn more about Cannabinoids: [Explore Cannabinoids](#) | [Type I-III Cannabinoids](#)

Learn more about Terpenes: [Primary and Prevalent Terpenes](#) | [How Terpenes Inform our Understanding of Cannabis](#) | [Terpene Analysis: The Chemistry Behind Terpenes](#) | [PhytoFacts Chemometric Reporting](#)

### Disclaimer

#### *Statement on Cannabinoid and Terpene Effects and Health Related Claims*

Suggested effects may vary based on individual, dose, time after administration, and composition of cannabinoids and terpenes. The suggested effects and health potential for cannabis derived terpenes are seemingly endless. However, we've only scratched the surface of terpene research. While studies into therapeutic benefits and psychoactive effects have been performed, some of the evaluations were based on animal models or research of an isolated compound. It is generally accepted that the synergies of cannabinoids and terpenes can effectively amplify effects as a whole. However, industry professionals will need to continue to invest more time and effort into researching these complex interactions and how they affect the human body.