

> International 3-Minute Horticultural Thesis (3MHT) competition at IHC2026, Kyoto, Japan



(updated)

not only by the regional ISHS Board members,
also by relevant ISHS Council members

We are pleased to announce that the “My 3-Minute Horticultural Thesis (3MHT) competition” will be conducted as an integral part of the XXXII International Horticultural Congress (IHC2026), with the final to be held on August 23, 2026, in Kyoto, Japan. Building on the success of the inaugural competition at IHC2022 in Angers, France, the competition seeks to recognize the efforts of up-and-coming scholars who stand out in their ability to effectively and engagingly summarize their research findings in just three minutes. The competition’s primary goal is to challenge participants to articulate their research results in a manner that, while accessible, remains intellectually stimulating to a specialist audience with diverse backgrounds in the field of horticulture.

The presentation must demonstrate how their research contributes to the overarching theme of IHC2026, “Exploring the Diversity of Horticulture,” and should align with one or more of the congress’s secondary thematic areas:

- Stimulate the increased use of plants to improve the health and wellbeing of society, the enhancement of the environment and the strengthening of economies;
- Clearly demonstrate society’s need for horticulture and the role it plays in linking people with their environment;
- Bring together horticultural excellence from different countries to promote the best knowledge and practice from all over the world and to celebrate cultural and horticultural diversity;
- Promote productivity and international co-operation in professional horticulture.

The competition is organized into three sequential stages, as outlined below:

Stage 1: National preselection (July 2025 – March 15, 2026)

This initial competition phase is conducted by the ISHS Country/Region members, either by leveraging the existing national horticultural

society or **by the relevant regional ISHS Board member**. Candidates eligible for participation must complete or be scheduled to complete their PhD between September 2024 and August 23, 2026. Candidates are preselected in the country where their university or laboratory is located, but they do not have to be citizens of that country. The selection criteria focus on academic achievements, including the quality and impact of the research and contribution to the themes of IHC2026. Each ISHS Country/Region member is encouraged to nominate two candidates (one male and one female) for the next stage by submitting their applications to the international jury. These submissions must be endorsed by a representative of the ISHS Country/Region member on the ISHS Council by March 15, 2026.

Stage 2: International preselection (March 15, 2026 – May 15, 2026)

An international panel, formed by the IHC2026 Organizing Committee, will include experts and professionals from around the world. This unbiased panel is responsible for the preliminary screening of PhD candidates. Applicants are required to submit a package that includes a curriculum vitae, a personal video highlighting the research’s contribution to horticulture, a 1,500-word abstract, and an announcement of thesis defense dated before IHC2026. The evaluation will consider the quality of communication, English proficiency, and the innovation potential of the research. Six candidates (and three alternatives) will be selected for a primary list. Those on the primary list will be notified by mid-May 2026, and will receive a COMPLIMENTARY REGISTRATION for IHC2026, and must attend the congress IN PERSON.

Stage 3: Competition at IHC2026 (August 23, 2026)

The selected PhD candidates will deliver three-minute oral presentations on their

research during the congress’s opening ceremony. These presentations, designed for a broad audience of horticulturists, should summarize the key points of their research and its practical implications. The winners will be decided through a vote by the audience in attendance. The final winners (3) will receive the ISHS Young Minds Award, as well as the following prizes with the financial support of GREEN×EXPO 2027, BIE recognized International Horticultural EXPO held at Yokohama, Japan, in 2027: Gold: JPY 500,000; Silver: JPY 300,000; Bronze: JPY 200,000.

This competition presents a remarkable opportunity for PhD candidates to showcase their ability to distill complex scientific ideas into compelling, concise presentations tailored to an audience of specialists from various disciplines within horticulture. We warmly encourage national horticultural societies and universities that include horticulture in their curricula to actively promote student participation. For detailed information about the competition, including guidelines for participation, we invite interested candidates to visit www.ihc2026.org. The Organizing Committee will distribute the competition guidelines to all ISHS Country/Region members.

> Contact

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