

Allotment judging guidelines. (adapted from RHS guidelines for judging gardens and allotments)

General Considerations:

Allotments are plots of land separate from a household garden cultivated to provide crops of vegetables, fruit, flowers and culinary herbs for household use.

Allotments also allow enthusiasts for one particular plant or group of plants to indulge their passion, and a plot given over to the monoculture of, for example, dahlias or chrysanthemums must be judged according to the standard and quality of cultivation.

The size of the plot should not be a factor in judging the competition.

- **Condition of the plot:** Plots should be well stocked with crops free from obvious signs of excessive damage by pests, disease or weather. Any unplanted areas where crops have just been harvested or that are about to be planted up should be clean and free from weeds and the soil should be of a good, well cultivated condition and texture: **60 points**
- **Good Workmanship:** Soil between the crops should be weeded well. Paths and leisure areas should be neatly edged, even and well maintained. Evidence of planting for a constant succession of crops should be given credit. Intelligent use of organic methods of pest control such as the pinching out of broad bean tips to inhibit black fly or the use of barriers against carrot root fly should be given credit. Support for those plants that need them should be properly positioned and sturdy enough to withstand bad weather: **50 points**
- **Quality of crops, flowers, fruits and vegetables and plants:** Plants should be vigorous, sturdy and free from obvious signs of damage by pests, disease or weather. A broad range of food crops should be in cultivation and flowers grown for cutting or decoration should also be assessed for their health, skill in cultivation and suitability to the site. The inclusion of culinary herbs is a positive: **150 points**
- **Originality of layout and planning:** Judges are looking for intelligent adaptation of the layout to suit the needs of the plot-holder, the use of companion planting to reduce damage by pests and a pleasing overall visual effect. The cultivation of less common crops and the use of no-dig or deep bed methods of cultivation should be given credit: **25 points**
- **Visual aspect of the plot:** The overall appearance of the plot should be neat and pleasing, with the balance of cultivation as broad as possible: **20 points**
- **Condition of garden sheds etc.:** Any sheds should have a neat and workmanlike appearance. Frames, cloches and greenhouses should be clean and well maintained. Supports should be sturdy enough for the weight of their crops and bird netting should be properly positioned and undamaged: **20 points**

TOTAL: 325 points

Front Gardens, Pubs and Community gardens (adapted from RHS guidelines for judging gardens and allotments)

General Considerations:

In judging the gardens credit should be given to the best use of the space, the quality of the plants (including grassed areas), design and the placing of plants in suitable locations and aspects.

The overall size of the garden should **not** be taken into account.

The diversity of the plants should not, in itself, be taken into account. Fewer healthy, well-grown plants making best use of the space available should have more credit than a wide variety of plants which are poorly grown and overcrowded or sparsely planted.

The relative immaturity of some trees or shrubs should not, in itself, be considered a fault provided that the plant is appropriately sited and, where necessary, properly staked and/or protected.

FRONT GARDENS

- **Section 1** For general scheme, 30; tasteful arrangement 20; cultivation and cleanliness, 20: **70 points**
- **Section 2** For shrubs and trees, climbers, rock garden, lawn, paths, greenhouses, fences and hedges: 8 each, but only four of these to receive marks: **32 points**
- **Section 3** For hardy herbaceous perennials, annuals and biennials, roses, tender plants, window boxes, window plants etc: 8 each but only four of these to receive marks: **32 points**
- **Section 4** For special features: **16 points**

TOTAL 150 points

COMMUNITY GARDENS AND PUBS

- Health, vigour and suitability of plants: **100 points**
- Suitability of design to its site and usage: **75 points**
- Maintenance of paths, structures, lawns and other grassed areas and working areas: **50 points**
- Cultivation and freedom from perennial weeds: **50 points**
- Harmonious blending of colours, shapes and textures: **75 points**

TOTAL 350 points