

SPECIAL AWARDS: CATEGORIES AND CRITERIA

CATEGORY NUMBER	CATEGORY	50% OF MARKS	25% OF MARKS	25% OF MARKS
1	Business and out of town retail parks	Horticultural Overall impact, choice and variety of plants, use of permanent and structural planting. Encouragement of wildlife, responsible use of resources, peat, water, etc. Recycling initiatives	Accessibility Access and use by site users, paths and sitting areas	Cleanliness, tidiness and maintenance Control of litter, graffiti, dog fouling, weeds. General tidiness
2a	Community champion	For outstanding contribution over several years by individuals, whether salaried or volunteer, in support of Northumbria in Bloom. Nominations may be initiated by judges or entrants (excluding the individual concerned) but it is the decision of the judging team as to whether the nominee is put forward for consideration for an award. If so, a written appreciation and up-to-date photo of the nominated individual is required, and should be submitted by the nominating entry to Colleen Ashwin Kean (entries@northumbriainbloom.com) by 24 July. Individuals may receive the award only once and nominations are limited to one per entry. Once submitted, nominations will be considered by the trustees, and awards made at their discretion. Awards will only be made to those who have made a truly outstanding contribution over a sustained period and will be limited to a maximum of five for each calendar year.		
2b	Young community champion Aged 18 years or under			
3	Schools	Horticultural and educational Overall appearance and standard of horticulture, appropriate choice of plants including permanent planting, condition of plants; educational value including links to the curriculum; accessibility, standard of cleanliness and maintenance	Conservation Recycling, recognition of environmental issues, sustainability and use of resources; encouragement of gardening in the future; creativity and originality	Involvement of pupils, and the wider community In design, growing and maintenance

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4	Care/residential/convallescent homes, hospices and day centres	<p>Horticultural</p> <p>Visual impact, quality of planting; choice of plants for lasting effect. Encouragement of wildlife, conservation and sustainability, recognition of environmental issues</p>	<p>Accessibility</p> <p>Provision of hard landscaping, sitting and other areas appropriate to residents and visitors</p>	<p>Cleanliness, tidiness and maintenance</p> <p>Control of litter, graffiti, dog fouling, weeds. General tidiness</p>
5	<p>Religious establishments</p> <p>For grounds of places of worship, cemeteries and crematoria</p>	<p>Horticultural</p> <p>Visual impact, quality and choice of plants, appropriateness of planting; accessibility to visitors, sensitivity</p>	<p>Environmental</p> <p>Encouragement of wildlife, recognition of environmental issues</p>	<p>Design, tidiness and maintenance</p> <p>Control of litter, graffiti, dog fouling and weeds. General tidiness</p>
6a	Small commercial premises	Horticultural	Appropriateness to the building and surroundings	Cleanliness, tidiness and maintenance
6b	<p>Large commercial premises</p> <p>For sites where a single business is carried out</p> <p>Allocation between the two categories is at the discretion of the judges</p>	<p>Choice of plants, colour schemes, quality and choice of plants, plant condition. Overall effect</p>	<p>Use of colour and its relationship to the building ; design and creativity – originality, structural planting,</p>	<p>Control of litter, graffiti, dog fouling, weeds. General tidiness. Recognition of environmental issues</p>
7	<p>Pubs</p> <p>Rear garden/beer garden may be included</p>	<p>Horticultural</p> <p>Choice of plants, colour schemes, quality and choice of plants, plant condition. Overall effect</p>	<p>Appropriateness to the building and its surroundings</p> <p>Use of colour and its relationship to the surrounding area. Design and creativity – originality, colour combinations, structural planting. Recognition of environmental issues</p>	<p>Cleanliness, tidiness and maintenance</p> <p>Control of litter, graffiti, dog fouling, weeds. General tidiness.</p>

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8	Hotels and guest houses	<p>Horticultural</p> <p>Choice of plants, colour schemes, quality and condition of plants. Overall effect</p>	<p>Appropriateness to building and surroundings</p> <p>Use of colour and its relationship to the building, design and creativity – originality, structural planting. Recognition of environmental issues</p>	<p>Cleanliness, tidiness and maintenance</p> <p>Control of litter, graffiti, dog fouling, weeds. General tidiness.</p>
9	<p>Conservation projects</p> <p>The conservation work should relate primarily to the natural environment and the majority of the site should be within the entry's boundary.</p>	<p>Horticultural and conservation</p> <p>Introduced plants should be appropriate to the conservation nature of the project. Recognition of a range of environmental issues</p>	<p>Community involvement</p> <p>Friends' group, other volunteers, litter pickers etc. Educational value – benefit to and use by the community. Interpretation material, contact with schools etc</p>	<p>Cleanliness, tidiness and maintenance</p> <p>Control of litter, graffiti, dog fouling, weeds. Condition of information boards etc. General tidiness.</p>
10	<p>Bus, metro and railway stations</p> <p>Applies to platforms and clearly defined forecourt/station car parks</p>	<p>Horticultural</p> <p>Choice and condition of plants, use of colour, relationship to buildings. Originality and creativity. Recognition of environmental issues.</p>	<p>Community involvement</p> <p>Station staff and/or volunteers; local businesses</p>	<p>Cleanliness, tidiness and maintenance</p> <p>Control of litter, graffiti, dog fouling, weeds. General tidiness.</p>
11	Parks	<p>Horticultural</p> <p>Annual and permanent planting, grass cutting, colour selection and coordination. Quality of planting and design, plant condition, appropriateness to the site, features. Recognition of environmental issues</p>	<p>Range of uses and activities for the public</p> <p>Education, recreation, relaxation, conservation, wildlife areas etc. Accessibility.</p>	<p>Cleanliness, tidiness and maintenance including furniture and play areas</p> <p>Control of litter, graffiti, dog fouling, weeds. General tidiness and state of repair. Appropriate signage/ interpretation</p>

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12	Town centre retail areas, and Business Improvement Districts For shopping precincts, arcades and Business Improvement Districts within a clearly defined area and under a single administration	Horticultural Overall impact, appropriate choice of plants including structural and permanent planting; creativity, innovation and special features; standard of maintenance. Recognition of environmental issues; sustainability	Business community involvement Funding and practical support, local initiatives, special events to encourage visitors	Cleanliness, tidiness and maintenance Control of litter, graffiti, dog fouling etc; condition of street furniture and hard landscaping. Recognition of local heritage. Appropriate signage/interpretation.
13	Private gardens For gardens visible to the public from a public thoroughfare	Horticultural Use of colour in annual and perennial plants; appropriate choice of plants; plant condition; creativity. Recognition of environmental issues	Structure and features Hard landscaping; use of contours, art and architecture, trees and shrubs, use of height, borrowed landscape.	Cleanliness, tidiness and maintenance Control of litter, graffiti, dog fouling, weeds. General tidiness
14	Grounds of hospitals, universities and other public buildings	Horticultural Overall appearance and floral impact. Appropriateness and sustainability of planting, plant condition. Recognition of environmental issues	Accessibility Provision of hard landscaping, sitting and other areas appropriate to residents, employees and visitors. Appropriate signage and information boards.	Cleanliness, tidiness and maintenance Control of litter, graffiti, dog fouling, weeds. General tidiness.
15	Sports grounds	Horticultural Overall impact and standard of horticulture: floral, trees and shrubs, grass cutting. Quality of planting and design. Quality and condition of playing surfaces. Recognition of environmental issues.	Community Involvement of members, volunteers and local businesses.	Cleanliness, tidiness and maintenance Control of litter, graffiti, dog fouling, weeds. General tidiness.

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16	Residential communities For discrete residential communities, eg cul de sac, street	Horticultural Overall impact and standard of horticulture . Appropriate choice of plants. Plant condition. Recognition of environmental issues	Community Community involvement, cooperation with and support of each other. Creativity and innovation.	Cleanliness, tidiness and maintenance Control of litter, graffiti, dog fouling, weeds. General tidiness
17	Allotments For allotment sites with three or more individual plots on a single site	Horticultural Overall appearance and standard of horticulture; appropriateness and quality of planting; resources, recycling	Community Involvement of allotment holders in the horticultural achievement, communal schemes, and in maintenance.	Cleanliness, tidiness and maintenance Control of litter, graffiti, dog fouling, weeds. General tidiness
18	Tourist and visitor attractions, and country estates For gardens at sites and buildings whose main function is as a tourist or visitor attraction, and significant country estates	Horticultural Overall impact and standard of horticulture; appropriateness to the site of the planting; quality of design. Recognition of environmental issues; sustainability and use of resources, recycling.	Range of uses and facilities for visitors Accessibility, education, recreation, relaxation. Facilities, signage and information boards	Cleanliness, tidiness and maintenance Control of litter, graffiti, dog fouling, weeds, hard landscaping and general tidiness
19	War Memorial	Horticultural Choice of plants and appropriateness for the location. (There is a tradition of using bedding displays around war memorials so this should not be penalised). Quality of the plants and their maintenance. Any aspects of design/ originality/ colour theming/story telling etc in the displays. Any environmental aspects in the	Cleanliness, tidiness and maintenance. Control of litter, graffiti, dog fouling, weeds, general tidiness and upkeep. Quality of any seating, gates, fences, paving, paths etc Does the site have a sense of value, respect and worth to its community?	Condition of actual memorial The condition, cleanliness and maintenance of the actual War Memorial stone/statue/memorial. Are any inscriptions/plaques clear and easily visible. Is it clean and in good repair?

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		<p>design: eg, drought resistant, insect friendly etc</p> <p>Overall impact of the site/ impression/ does the planting invoke in the mind of the visitor appropriate feelings of respect, value and worth?</p> <p>If there are surrounding shrubs, hedges etc, are they in good condition?</p>		