



Parish Council Allotment Judging

Objective

To set out rules for judging CSNPC allotments in the interest of transparency and fairness.

The following comments and rules are extracts of recommendations by the RHS relating to the judging of allotments and tailored to suit our locality, allotment locations and varying sizes.

“The primary purpose of an allotment is to provide crops of vegetables, fruit, flowers and culinary herbs for household use and the more completely a plot fulfils this objective the greater should be the credit accorded to it in competition.”

The judges will be mindful that allotments in CSNPC are of varying sizes and make allowances when judging the following criteria.

Rules & Guidelines for the ideal plot.

1. Quality of crops. Maximum points available = 40

Plants should be free from disease, pests and damage, A broad range of food crops and flowers should be in evidence with the available growing space taken into account.

2. Condition of the plot. Maximum points available = 20

Unplanted areas where crops have been harvested or about to be planted should be free from weeds and the soil should be of a good well cultivated condition.

3. Good Handiwork Maximum points available = 15

Soil between crops should be weed free, paths and other areas should be neatly edged and well maintained. Evidence of successional sowing will be given credit as so should good practise such as pinching out broad bean tips, protection from carrot fly. Intelligent use and sturdiness of plant supports where appropriate.

4. Condition of sheds, greenhouses and other structures. Max points available = 10

Structures, including cold frames and cloches, should be neat, clean and well maintained. Use of plant supports crop protection also attract credit.

5. Environment friendly practises. Maximum points available = 10

Good use of compost bins, rainwater collection where possible and any other environmental/animal friendly practices will be given credit.

6. Originality of layout and planting. Maximum points available = 5

Intelligent adaptation of the plot layout to suit the plot holder's needs, use of companion planting, overall visual effect, cultivation of less common plants and use of no-dig or deep bed methods will all be given credit where evident.

Maximum total points available = 100.

Judging timing:

A well-maintained plot is attended to all year round, weather permitting.

However, the trophies are to be awarded at between August/Sept, after which much of the allotment season is still to come. The judging period, therefore, needs to be 1st August to 31st July.

Allotment will be judged three times:

1. Autumn.
2. Spring
3. Summer before 1st August.

All allotments will be looked at during the first and second visits. The top cumulative scoring 5 (plus close scoring places) on each of the allotment sites will then be judged at visit 3. Following visit 3 the top scorer on each site will be the site winner with the next highest scorer the site runner up. The highest scoring plot of all the sites will be awarded the 'Allotment of the Year' Trophy.

The judges are prepared to award a Certificate of Merit to any newcomer (new within 12 months of the start of the judging cycle) should the Allotment Manager be willing to inform the judges/committee of the names and contact details of new tenants and date of commencement.