

# **EDMONTON HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**



## **2011 GARDEN COMPETITION**

**Entry Deadline:  
Wednesday, July 6<sup>th</sup>**

**Judging:  
Monday, July 11<sup>th</sup> and  
Tuesday, July 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Awards Presentation  
Monday, September 26<sup>th</sup>**

**Winners of this year's competition may be invited to open their gardens for the EHS Garden Tour at a future date.**

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## Garden Competition Entry Categories

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## ***Welcome to the EHS 2011 Garden Competition***

The purpose of the annual garden competition is to promote excellence in gardening in Edmonton (whether through the use of rare and unusual plants or in the overall design and effect of a garden) and good horticultural maintenance practices.

The continued enthusiasm and support for this annual event is the result of a small, hardworking team of volunteers. We sincerely appreciate the efforts of everyone involved in the competition, especially the judges, presenters and photographers. Their dedication to the task is inspiring.

Information regarding the competition may be found on the EHS website, [www.edmontonhort.com](http://www.edmontonhort.com), or by contacting the Garden Competition Director, Greg Polkosnik, at 780-904-9334.

### **EHS 2011 Board of Directors**

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**COMPETITION GUIDELINES: To ensure that the garden competition is judged both fairly and objectively, the Society has approved and will adhere to the following guidelines:**

The competition is open to both Society members and non-members. However, only gardens within the Edmonton metropolitan area are eligible (within 30 km of city centre). Acreages may enter.

Only amateur gardeners who maintain their own private gardens may enter. **The garden must be completely designed by the homeowner and at least fifty-percent built by the homeowner.** Maintenance must also be carried out by the owner. Gardens that have been professionally designed, constructed or maintained are not eligible to enter. Professional services and labour in tree care and construction of buildings, sidewalks, or retaining walls is permitted (hard landscaping).

If you have won **first place** in a particular category for two consecutive years, you must stand aside for three consecutive years immediately afterwards to let others have a chance to win. For example, **first place winners** in the same class in 2009 and 2010 cannot enter the same class again until 2014.

You may enter as many classes as you wish except if you enter the *Grand Challenge*. If you do, only other limited classes will be available for entry (specialty categories). The entry fee for all classes is \$12 per class (\$10 for EHS members).

Any garden found to contain a restricted or noxious weed will be judged, but assessed a 25 point penalty. This includes all species and cultivars of Lythrum. For a list of restricted and noxious weeds visit [www.agric.gov.ab.ca](http://www.agric.gov.ab.ca).

You may meet the judges when they arrive but you must not be in the garden when it is judged. You may be assessed a 10 point penalty or disqualified if you disregard this rule.

The decision of the judges is final. Interference or influence of judges is highly discouraged. Judging will take place over TWO days. Your garden may be visited by more than one set of judges over the two days. Photography may involve other days close to the judging dates.

After the competition judging a representative of the EHS will contact you within one week regarding the results. At a later time, each entrant will receive a detailed assessment of the judging based on a compendium of judge's reports and examination of the entry by qualified EHS representatives.

First, second and third place prizes are awarded in each category that has at least five entries. **First and second place only are awarded with three to four entries.** Awards will be presented as announced in the newsletter, on the website and in the media.

Photographs will be taken for the audio/visual presentation to be included in the program of the *Awards Ceremony*. You may be required to sign a photography release form to allow us to use photographs taken for either judging or promotional purposes.

**JUDGING CRITERIA:** Judges are looking for gardens that are **above average**. Carefully consider the class that you enter because you may lose points for entering in an inappropriate class. If you are competing in the *Grand Challenge*, *Older Home Garden* or *Newly-Designed Garden*, the judges will look at the complete yard, including front, back and sides. Individual gardens or beds such as *Perennial Bed*, *Annual Bed* and *Container Garden* will be judged on their own merits.

**PRIZES:** Each winner will receive a certificate and a photograph of their garden presented at the EHS meeting on September 26<sup>th</sup>. First place winners in the *Grand Challenge* will have their name inscribed on the *Grand Challenge Trophy*. They will also receive a keepsake plaque, a certificate and a photo of their winning

garden. Other first place winners receive a plaque. Second and third place winners will receive a certificate and a photograph of their front garden. **Other prizes, including the Lois Hole Award, may be awarded at the discretion of the judging panel and EHS representatives.**

## **2011 NEW CATEGORY**

### **Class 12: Vegetable Garden**

Renewed interest in vegetable gardening has inspired the EHS to include a Vegetable Garden category in the 2011 competition.

When vegetable gardens were eligible in previous years, marking criteria sometimes included intangible standards such as evidence of composting and crop rotation. Because it is difficult for our judges to ascertain that these standards have been met, the new judging criteria places emphasis on plant health, vigour, variety and aesthetic appeal. Entrants are encouraged to creatively display the “fruits of their labours” so that the judges can evaluate the developing crops without disturbing the soil. Additional marks can be earned by planting new and/or unfamiliar varieties, and by clearly labelling plants.

For a detailed breakdown of scoring, refer to the CLASS 12 section of this booklet.

## **CLASS 1: HOME GARDEN GRAND CHALLENGE**

**1A: Small Garden (up to 3,000 sq. ft.)**

**1B: Large Garden (over 3,000 sq. ft.)**

Gardens will be judged on total horticultural effort, which can include trees, shrubs, lawns, annuals, perennials, vegetables, containers, hardscaping and recreation areas, including both the front and back yards. **People entering this category cannot enter the following classes: 2; 3; 4; 5; 7A; 13.**

### **SCORING** **POINTS**

*Design and Overall Effect*, includes:

First impression - Visual impact - Rhythm/Flow 15

*Use of Space*, includes:

Proportion - Layout and balance - Transition 15

*Focal Point/Scale*, includes:

Visual appeal - Placement/Location 10

*Plant Material Variety*, includes:

Combinations - Use and arrangement  
Four season interest - Colour and texture 20

*Condition of Plant Material*, includes:

Health/Vigour - Hardiness - Maturity 15

*Maintenance*, includes:

Grooming/Staking - Mulch/Condition - Pruning 20

*Lawns/Hardscaping*, includes:

Maintenance/Health - Effective use of hardscaping 5

**TOTAL 100**

## **CLASS 2: OLDER HOME GARDEN**

**For homes twenty years old or more.** It can be an established or newly-renovated garden. Gardens will be judged on total horticultural effort, which can include trees, shrubs, lawns, annuals, perennials, vegetables, containers, hardscaping and recreational areas, including both the front and back yards.

<b><u>SCORING</u></b>	<b><u>POINTS</u></b>
<i>Design and overall effect</i> , includes: First impression - Visual impact - Rhythm/Flow	15
<i>Use of Space</i> , includes: Proportion - Layout and balance - Transition	15
<i>Focal Point/Scale</i> , includes: Visual appeal - Placement/Location	10
<i>Plant Material Variety</i> , includes: Combinations - Use and arrangement Four season interest - Colour and texture	20
<i>Condition of Plant Material</i> , includes: Health/Vigour - Hardiness - Maturity	15
<i>Maintenance</i> , includes: Grooming/Staking - Mulch/Condition - Pruning	10
<i>Lawns/Hardscaping</i> , includes: Maintenance/Health - Effective use of hardscaping	5
<i>Special Historical Age Consideration</i> , includes: Property has some historical aspect	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>

### **CLASS 3: NEWLY-DESIGNED GARDEN**

This is a category for gardeners who have moved into a new home or have inherited an existing landscape and have redone the landscape within the last four years. Gardens will be judged on total horticultural effort, which can include trees, shrubs, lawns, annuals, perennials, vegetables, containers, hardscaping and recreation areas, including both the front and back yards. There are no size restrictions.

<b>SCORING</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
<i>Design and Overall Effect</i> , includes: First impression - Visual impact - Rhythm/Flow	15
<i>Use of Space and Focal Point/Scale</i> , includes: Proportion - Layout and balance - Transition Visual appeal - Placement/Location	20
<i>Plant Material Variety</i> , includes: Combinations - Use and arrangement Four season interest - Colour and texture	20
<i>Condition of Plant Material</i> , includes: Health/Vigour - Hardiness - Maturity	15
<i>Maintenance</i> , includes: Grooming/Staking - Mulch/Condition - Pruning	20
<i>Lawns/Hardscaping</i> , includes: Maintenance/Health - Effective use of hardscaping	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>

## **CLASS 4: DECORATIVE FRONT GARDEN**

The garden should be welcoming and have curb appeal while still displaying a flair for the challenges of horticulture. Entries will be judged on the balance of the house to the planting of flowerbeds, trees, shrubs, walkways, originality of design and decorative effect.

<b><u>SCORING</u></b>	<b><u>POINTS</u></b>
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*First Impressions*, includes:

Curb appeal - Visual impact - Wow Factor	10
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*Overall Effect*, includes:

Welcoming - Balance - Rhythm/Flow	10
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*Use of Space*, includes:

Proportion - Layout and balance - Transition	15
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*Special Features*, includes:

Placement/Location	5
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*Plant Material Variety*, includes:

Combinations - Use and arrangement	
Four season interest - Colour and texture	20

*Condition of Plant Material*, includes:

Health/Vigour - Hardiness - Maturity	15
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*Maintenance*, includes:

Grooming/Staking - Mulch/Condition - Pruning	20
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*Lawns/Hardscaping*, includes:

Maintenance/Health - Effective use of hardscaping	5
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**TOTAL 100**

## **CLASS 5: DECORATIVE BACK GARDEN**

Judging criteria includes the balance of the house to the planting of flower beds, trees, shrubs, walkways, etc. The originality of design, decorative effect and suitability for outdoor living are also considered.

<b>SCORING</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
<i>First Impressions</i> , includes: Visual impact - Wow factor	10
<i>Overall Effect</i> , includes: Balance - Rhythm/Flow	10
<i>Use of Space</i> , includes: Proportion - Layout and balance - Transition	15
<i>Special features</i> , includes: Placement/Location	5
<i>Plant Material Variety</i> , includes: Combinations - Use and arrangement Four season interest - Colour and texture	20
<i>Condition of Plant Material</i> , includes: Health/Vigour - Hardiness - Maturity	15
<i>Maintenance</i> , includes: Grooming/Staking - Mulch/Condition - Pruning	20
<i>Lawns/Hardscaping</i> , includes: Maintenance/Health - Effective use of hardscaping	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>

## **CLASS 6: PERENNIAL BED**

An entry in this class must have a minimum of **twenty-five different species of perennials**. Plant material, excluding trees, shrubs and lawn, must consist of **at least seventy-five-percent herbaceous perennials**. Emphasis is placed on the design elements and variety of plant material.

<b>SCORING</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
<i>Design and Overall Effect</i> , includes:	
First impression - Visual impact - Rhythm/Flow	20
<i>Integration</i> , includes:	
Balance and proportion - Creativity	
Integration - Use of colour	20
<i>Plant Material Use and Variety</i> , includes:	
Combinations - Textural contrast - Variety of foliage	15
<i>Uncommon Varieties</i> , includes:	
Unusual plants - Borderline hardiness - Identification	15
<i>Condition of Plant Material</i> , includes:	
Health - Vigour - Maturity	15
<i>Seasonal Appeal</i> , includes:	
Succession of bloom - Four season interest	10
<i>Cleanliness</i> , includes:	
Free of debris and clutter	5
<b>TOTAL 100</b>	

## **CLASS 7: LIMITED GARDEN**

**CLASS 7A: POCKET GARDEN** – Gardens of town-homes, condominiums, zero lot-line homes or duplexes.

**CLASS 7B: SPECIALIZED AREA OF THE GARDEN** – An area of the garden judged on its own merits. Examples include *Side Garden, Alpine Garden, Bog Garden* and *Mixed Border*.

**Entrants must designate type of specialized area to be judged on their entry form.**

### **SCORING**

### **POINTS**

*Design and Overall Effect*, includes:

First impression - Visual impact - Rhythm/Flow 15

*Use of Space*, includes:

Integration - Balance/Proportion

Transition into adjacent garden 15

*Focal Point/Scale*, includes:

Visual Appeal - Placement/Location 10

*Plant Material Variety*, includes:

Combinations - Use and Arrangement

Four season interest - Colour and texture 20

*Condition of Plant Material*, includes:

Health/Vigour - Hardiness - Maturity 15

*Maintenance*, includes:

Grooming/Staking - Mulch/Condition - Pruning

Free of debris and clutter 20

*Lawns/Hardscaping*, includes:

Maintenance and health – Effective use of hardscaping 5

**TOTAL 100**

## **CLASS 8: WATER GARDEN**

### **CLASS 8A: LARGE POND BY HOME OWNER**

**CLASS 8B: SMALL POND BY HOME OWNER, including barrels and preformed ponds up to 1 square metre.**

A water garden is an environment that supports water-loving plants. This class may include fish, amphibians, waterfalls, marginal plants and marshes within the water garden. An array of plants in the pond (**at least three aquatic varieties**) is required.

### **SCORING**

### **POINTS**

*Design, Arrangement, Sound*, includes:

Visual impact - Site choice/Integration

Movement/Water sound

15

*Use of Space*, includes:

Proportion - Layout and balance

10

*Special Features/Focal Point/Scale*, includes:

Visual appeal - Placement/Location - Living fish

20

*Plant Material & Variety of Aquatic Plants*, includes:

Combinations - Minimum three varieties - Contrast

15

*Physical Condition of Aquatic Plants*, includes:

Health - Vigour - Maturity

15

*Bank Edge Plant Material*, includes:

Variety - Health/Vigour - Integration

15

*Maintenance and Cleanliness*, includes:

Clarity of water - Control of algae

Free of debris and clutter

10

**TOTAL 100**

## **CLASS 9: CONTAINER GARDEN**

**CLASS 9A: PLANTER, TUB OR WINDOW BOX** – One container or a set of matching containers with at least four species of flowers or non-flowering plants in each container.

**CLASS 9B: HANGING BASKETS OR CONTAINERS** – One hanging basket or a matching set of baskets with at least four species of flowering or non-flowering plants.

**NOTE:** Clearly label the container(s) to be judged “EHS Competition” or your entry may be disqualified.

<b><u>SCORING</u></b>	<b><u>POINTS</u></b>
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*Design and Overall Effect*, includes:

First impression - Visual impact	
Proportion and balance	15

*Originality*, includes:

Intrigue - Choice of containers - Creativity	
Textural contrast - Visual appeal	20

*Relationship with the Surrounding Area*, includes:

Placement/Location - Integration into the garden	15
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*Plant Material*, includes:

Choice of plants - Combinations	
Colour and texture - Choice of flowers and foliage	20

*Condition of Plant Material*, includes:

Health - Vigour - Maturity	15
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*Maintenance*, includes:

Grooming - Deadheading - Free of debris and clutter	15
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**TOTAL 100**

## **CLASS 10: ANNUAL BED**

The annual bed may be a separate bed or a clearly designated area of the garden that contains **at least seventy-five percent annual plants**. Please label beds to be judged “EHS Competition” or your entry may be disqualified.

<b>SCORING</b>	<b>POINTS</b>
<i>Design and Overall Effect</i> , includes: First impression - Visual impact - Rhythm/Flow	15
<i>Use of Space</i> , includes: Proportion - Layout and balance - Transition	15
<i>Focal Point/Scale/Special Interest</i> , includes: Visual appeal - Placement/Location	10
<i>Plant Material</i> , includes: Variety of plants - Succession of bloom Variety of foliage - Colour contrast Textural contrast - Combinations	30
<i>Condition of Plants</i> , includes: Health - Vigour - Maturity	15
<i>Maintenance</i> , includes: Deadheading - Mulch - Free of debris and clutter	15
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>

## **CLASS 11: ROSE COLLECTION**

**A minimum of fifteen rose varieties is suggested.** Emphasis is placed on the variety, vigour, maturity and maintenance of the plants. *Rosa* genus is the key. Distribution through the garden is encouraged – the whole property may be included. Because this category may include more than one location in the garden, it is recommended that entrants use signage to indicate location of the designated bed or beds, tagging individual plants to be judged. A complete listing of varieties should be provided to the judges.

<b><u>SCORING</u></b>	<b><u>POINTS</u></b>
<i>Design and Overall Effect</i> , includes: First impression - Visual impact - Rhythm/Flow	20
<i>Plant Material</i> , includes: Variety of rose plants - Various cultivars	30
<i>Physical Condition</i> , includes: Health - Vigour - Free of pests and diseases	30
<i>Maintenance of Shrubs</i> , includes: Pruning - Support	10
<i>Cleanliness</i> , includes: Free of debris, clutter and weeds	10
	<b>TOTAL 100</b>

## **CLASS 12: VEGETABLE GARDEN**

The vegetable garden may be a separate bed or a clearly designated area of the garden that contains **at least seventy-five percent edible plants**. Other plants may be incorporated into the garden for aesthetic appeal or as companion plants. As this category is judged early in the vegetable-gardening season, entrants are encouraged to display their developing produce so that judges do not disturb crops. Please label beds to be judged “EHS Competition” or your entry may be disqualified.

<b><u>SCORING</u></b>	<b><u>POINTS</u></b>
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*Design and Overall Effect*, includes:

Aesthetic appeal - Integration - Decorative features	15
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*Use of Space*, includes:

Layout for maximum production - Adequate spacing between plants - Adequate work area	15
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*Plant Material*, includes:

Variety of plants - New, uncommon or rare varieties - Seasonal variety	15
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*Condition of Plants*, includes:

Health - Vigour - Maturity	30
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*Maintenance*, includes:

Deadheading - Mulch - Free of debris and clutter - Adequate support and/or staking - Thinning	25
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**TOTAL 100**

## **CLASS 13: VOLUNTEER-MAINTAINED GARDEN**

Any garden that is planted and maintained through the support of volunteers is eligible to enter this category, excluding gardens that are affiliated with the EHS and local businesses. Church grounds, seniors' homes and community gardens, for example, will be judged on the merits of the gardens themselves. Since there is no way to gauge the amount of volunteer participation, the EHS will trust that entries in this category are neither professionally designed nor maintained. Please label the area or areas to be judged or your entry may be disqualified.

<b><u>SCORING</u></b>	<b><u>POINTS</u></b>
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*Design and Overall Effect*, includes:

First impression - Visual impact - Rhythm/Flow	15
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*Use of Space*, includes:

Proportion - Layout and balance - Transition	15
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*Focal Point/Scale/Special Interest*, includes:

Visual appeal - Placement/Location	10
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*Plant Material*, includes:

Variety of plants - Succession of bloom	
Variety of foliage - Colour contrast	
Textural contrast - Combinations	30

*Condition of Plants*, includes:

Health - Vigour - Maturity	15
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*Maintenance*, includes:

Deadheading - Mulch - Free of debris and clutter	15
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**TOTAL 100**

## **TIPS FOR JUDGING DAY**

***YOUR GARDEN MUST BE READY FOR JUDGING BY 7:30 A.M.***

Competitors cannot be in the garden during the judging. Judges may assess a 10 point penalty if the entrant does not comply with this guideline.

All pets should be restrained.

Water sprinklers should be turned off and the garden areas to be judged should remain accessible to the judges throughout these two days.

***SOME OF THE MORE IMPORTANT TASKS THAT YOU WILL HAVE COMPLETED BY JUDGING MORNING ARE AS FOLLOWS:***

The garden has been watered and looks fresh.

Hoses, garden equipment and general clutter are out of sight.

Dead flower heads have been removed from most annuals. If you are saving seeds for next year, keep only a few spent heads.

Dried branches, twigs and yellow leaves have been removed.

The garden is free of weeds and debris.

The plants have been staked or supported using unobtrusive materials.

## **GLOSSARY: Terms used in this Booklet**

**Cleanliness and Tidiness:** Gardens should be free of debris, clutter, litter, and non-essential items. Paths and walkways should be swept and weed free. Garden equipment should be stowed away on judging day.

**Cultivar:** A cultivated plant variety, usually developed by a plant breeder to achieve more-desirable characteristics, such as a new colour or increased disease resistance. A cultivar may revert back to the parent species when propagated.

**Focal Points:** Focal points are special interest items that highlight an area of the garden. A focal point can be a statue, an obelisk, a gazing ball, a showy specimen plant or even a group planting. A focal point may be enjoyed by more than one point-of-view.

**Four Season Interest:** Four season interest implies colour and textural interest, usually in the winter and other less-floriferous seasons. It may include autumn foliage colour, bark and stem qualities, seed heads, early blooms, fruit, etc.

**Hardscaping:** Hardscaping is a term used to describe the permanent elements of the garden, including decks, walls, pavement, gravel, rock layers, walkways and paths.

**Integration:** To integrate various elements into the design, including the architectural features of the house, the plant material, the natural landscape, adjacent landscape, etc.

**Layout:** The physical arrangement of the elements in the garden. A good layout should emphasize balance, flow, accessibility, scale, etc.

## **Maintenance:**

Pruning where and when appropriate – See guidelines for specific plant requirements.

Deadheading of flowers – Removing spent flower heads to encourage further flower production while inhibiting seed development.

Lawn – Free of weeds, edges trimmed, adequately watered and fertilized.

Garden beds – Weed free with soil freshly turned or mulched, and watered early in the day, before the arrival of the judges.

Staking – Tall plants should be staked unobtrusively or provided adequate support using screens, pergolas, arbours, etc.

Pest management – Reduction of aphids, ants and other common pests as deemed appropriate for plant health.

**Mulch:** Any material used to cover soil in beds, including wood chips, bark, gravel, compost and lawn clippings. Mulch is useful in suppressing weed growth and reducing surface evaporation.

**Overall Effect:** What you see when you first look into the garden. The first impression, intrigue, visual impact and wow factor should have a profound impact on judges and visitors alike.

**Point of View:** The view from a commonly used window inside the house or from a common point outdoors, such as a patio, a doorstep, a garden path, a bower, a swing, or a significant turn in a pathway.

**Proportion:** Proportion refers to the size of the beds, plants and hardscaping elements, in relation to each other and the surrounding elements. A garden in good proportion seems to fit together, with no elements out of scale.

**Special Features:** Pergolas, gazebos, archways, arbours, birdbaths, sculptures and water features are considered to be special features. Unusual plants, shown in a surprising or unexpected context, can also be special features.

**Specialized Area of the Garden:** A defined area which stands apart from the rest of the garden because of specialized plant requirements, or because of a specialized function. This category can include garden rooms or themed areas of the garden.

**Species:** A subdivision of a genus considered as a basic biological classification and containing individuals that resemble one another and may interbreed. For instance, a *rugosa* rose.

**Use:** Where plants are placed in the garden. The location should be where the plants will thrive. It can also provide a specific function, including screening, shading, contrast, specific season of bloom, etc. Judges are often impressed when viewing a plant used in an untraditional or unexpected manner.

**Variety:** A specific variety of a species, recognized as breeding true. May involve different foliage characteristics, growth habit and/or flower colour than the parent plants.