



RHS Community Engagement Award – Criteria, 2024

Community gardening is a great way for people to connect with others and improve where they live and can provide people without gardens with access to green space. The whole community benefits from improved public spaces that people can take pride in, a healthier, greener environment, safer streets and healthier people.

This award recognises the efforts that groups are making to engage their wider communities, creating positive and long-lasting benefits.

Assessment Key

Each entry assessed on its own merits, with no medal levels awarded. The scores are to help each Region/Nation select a winner for each category, and to help the RHS select an overall winner from across the UK. The scores are not be shared with groups.

Please score against each aspect, with a mark out of 5, using the following key.	
• 0	Criteria not met;
• 2	Criteria somewhat met, but with significant scope for improvement;
• 3	Criteria well met, but with some scope for improvement;
• 4	Criteria very well met, with only small scope for improvement;
• 5	Criteria fully met.
Please note any examples given are for illustration only, and groups might meet the criteria in many other ways.	

Community Engagement Criteria and Score Card

A: Engaging With Local People – 40% of marks, out of 20	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to contribute or participate, e.g. there are range of activities throughout the year, such as gardening, plant swap events, litter pick days, learning opportunities, art, crafts and storytelling, etc. 	/5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The group encourages inclusivity and diversity and is reflective of the local community, e.g. achievable by creating targeted engagement opportunities for people that are traditionally under-represented in gardening, or local marginalised groups, such as those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), refugee communities, or new migrants, etc. 	/5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Everyone is able to be involved in consultation, co-creation, planning and implementation of projects, e.g. consulting different groups on how to create a welcoming and safe gardening space suited to their needs etc. 	/5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A range of communication methods used to engage the local community, including tailoring communications for specific audiences, e.g. translated newsletters, social media, or ensuring open days are accessible etc. 	/5
<u>Section Total</u>	<u> /20</u>

Engaging With The Wider Community – 30% of marks, out of 15	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating strong local partnerships, e.g. with councils, Business Improvement Districts (BID), local businesses, residents associations, schools, or other voluntary groups or clubs. 	/5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Securing funding from a range of different sources, e.g. fundraising from the local community, local business sponsorship, plant sale events, grants, etc. 	/5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivering long-term social engagement, e.g. establishing or influencing wider networks, or empowering people to take ownership over and pride in local projects. 	/5
<u>Section Total</u>	<u>/15</u>
Promoting Gardening – 30% of marks, out of 15	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating activities that promote gardening best practice, so people feel part of and care for their community and local environment, such as planting hedges to increase local biodiversity. 	/5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating learning opportunities suitable for people of all ages and abilities, e.g. workshops for children, holding open days targeted at new residents, wildlife talks, guided walks etc. 	/5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enabling people to give to others in their community by sharing their own skills and knowledge, e.g. by creating opportunities to mentor other people, share knowledge about growing food from other countries, or promote the health and wellbeing benefits of gardening, etc. 	/5
<u>Section Total</u>	<u>/15</u>
<u>Overall Total</u>	<u>/50</u>

Assessor's Report	Between 150 – 600 words

Visual Evidence
Please submit this entry, along with up to 4 labelled images, or a link to a video of up to 2 minutes. Please see RHS guidance around photos and permissions. If including a video link, please add here: