

## Garden Competition Guidelines

### Objectives

The aim of the Garden Competition is to:

- Encourage the beautification of the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale, with a local character and community benefit
- Support and encourage residents of the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale to achieve excellence and innovation in their gardening practices
- Recognise the energy and enthusiasm put into local gardens
- Reward this dedication with recognition as an award recipient.

### Categories

Eligible gardens will consist of the front garden (the area between a residence and the road), with an emphasis on inclusion of the verge in the general design. There are six categories, as listed below. The first four categories are open to gardens in any area but are particularly suited to urban gardens, while the fifth is specifically for rural or semi-rural areas and the sixth for gardens fronting businesses and commercial properties.

- Native Garden
- Waterwise Garden
- Traditional Garden
- Edible Garden
- Rural Garden
- Commercial Garden

### Eligibility Criteria

Applicants must reside in the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale.

Only one application will be accepted per individual. Applications may be made by landholders or by others, with the permission of the landholder.

Applications not considered eligible for the Garden Competition include:

- Gardens belonging to Selection Panel members, Sponsors, Elected Members, Council Staff or their immediate families
- Gardens which are nominated, but whose owner does not wish to participate in the competition

## Assessment of Applications

### Judging Criteria

Gardens will be judged by the Selection Panel on the basis of:

- Overall design
- Maintenance
- Plantings
- Originality and creativity
- Category specific criteria

### Selection Panel

Final judging will be carried out by a formal Selection Panel, consisting of:

- An Elected Member
- A community representative
- A Council Staff member

The Selection Panel will nominate winners based on the eligibility and judging criteria.

### Terms and Conditions

All prizes are awarded at the discretion of the Selection Panel, whose decision will be final, and no correspondence will be entered into.

The winners of the awards for each category cannot win the same category prize for two consecutive years. Council reserves the right to judge a garden in a different category to the one nominated where appropriate.

First prize will be awarded for each category. A certificate will be presented to all who enter.

Garden owners agree to allow their gardens to be photographed by a nominated person from the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale. Photographs may be reproduced in Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale promotional material to be used by Council at its discretion.

If requested, a successful applicant will also be available or willing to make a representative available for publicity purposes either in the local media or in a Council publication or other promotional material.

By entering the competition, applicants agree to allow the Selection Panel access to view their garden during business hours, upon appointment. Applicants are encouraged but not required to be present during judging. The Selection Panel may ask the applicant some basic questions about their garden and gardening practices.

Applicants will be required to submit a completed Garden Competition Application Form by the due date. Application forms will be made available from Council's website and from the Council offices and may be submitted by email or in person.

Entry to the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale Garden Competition is free.

Multiple category entries are not permitted.

<b>Garden Competition Judging Criteria</b>	<b>Score /10</b>
<b>Verges</b>	
Inclusion of verge in general design	
Presence of street tree	
<b>Overall design</b>	
Visual appeal and impact (colour, texture, unique features)	
Layout (balance, composition, creativity)	
Colour	
Use of line, form and texture	
Attention to detail	
<b>Maintenance</b>	
Neat and clean	
Weed free	
Health of plants (free from pests and diseases)	
Appropriate use of pruning (and mowing for lawns)	
Good horticultural practices	
<b>Plantings</b>	
Plant variety (perennials, seasonal interest)	
Appropriate for environmental conditions	
Hydrozoning (grouping of plants according to similar water requirements)	
Use of feature plants, trees, variety in heights, etc.	
Use of colour, form, composition, variety, repetition, year-round interest, scent etc	
<b>Originality and creativity</b>	
Innovative features	
Originality of design	
Aesthetically pleasing design	
Unusual plant varieties or combinations which work with the general design	
Environmental stewardship (including provision of water, nestboxes, etc. for fauna)	
<b>Comments</b>	

<b>Garden Competition Judging Criteria</b>	<b>Score /10</b>
<b>Category-specific criteria</b>	
<b><i>Native garden</i></b>	
Use of native plants (more than 75%) and local native plants (50%)	
Appropriate mulching (organic, minimum 50mm thick, contained to garden)	
Minimised or preferably absence of lawn	
Potential habitat and food sources for native fauna	
Avoidance of known or potential weed species	
<b><i>Waterwise garden</i></b>	
Most water efficient plant varieties for the environmental conditions	
Appropriate mulching (organic, minimum 75mm thick, contained to garden)	
Efficient and/or flexible watering system/practices	
Minimised area of lawn of a water efficient turf variety	
Minimised inputs (water, chemicals, etc)	
<b><i>Traditional garden</i></b>	
Well presented	
Lawns well maintained	
Well hydrated garden	
Appropriate use of mulch and/or groundcovers	
Plant selection appropriate to location and type of garden	
<b><i>Rural garden</i></b>	
Contribution to character of locality and sense of place	
In keeping with natural / rural environment	
Plant selection suitable for location	
Potential habitat and food sources for native fauna	
Avoidance of known or potential weed species	
<b><i>Edible garden</i></b>	
Use of predominantly edible plants (vegetables, herbs, fruit trees etc.)	
Gardens well maintained (weeded and pruned)	
Soil well hydrated and improved with organic matter	
Recycling of waste plant material via compost, worm farm etc.	
Avoidance of known or potential weed species	
<b><i>Commercial garden</i></b>	
Contribution to character of locality and streetscape	
In keeping with commercial setting	
Plant selection suitable for location	
Contribution to attractive setting for customers	
Avoidance of known or potential weed species	
<b>Total Score</b>	
<b>Total (out of 100)</b>	