

## 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
- Recognize 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 three categories, as listed below. The first two categories are open to gardens in any area but are particularly suited to urban gardens, while the third is specifically for rural or semi-rural areas. Non-residential gardens, such as fronting businesses or within schools, may be entered in the Urban Garden category.

- Native/Waterwise Garden
- Urban Garden
- Rural 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
- The Executive Officer, Landcare SJ Inc.
- A Shire 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.

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>Category-specific criteria</b>	
<i>Native/Waterwise garden</i>	
Use of native plants and local native plants, or water efficient plant varieties	
Appropriate mulching (organic, minimum 50mm thick, contained to garden)	
Minimised or preferably absence of lawn, if present of a water efficient turf variety	
Potential habitat and food sources for native fauna	
Efficient and/or flexible watering system/practices	
<i>Urban garden</i>	
Well presented, contributing to character of locality and streetscape	
Lawns (if present) and gardens well maintained	
Well hydrated garden, improved with organic matter	
Appropriate use of mulch and/or groundcovers and/or edible plants	
Plant selection appropriate to location and type of garden	
<i>Rural garden</i>	
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>Total score</b>	
<b>Total (out of 100)</b>	