

Friday 22 July 2022

ENTRIES OPEN FOR 2022 SPRING GARDEN COMPETITION

Local green thumbs are encouraged to take up their trowels and enter the 2022 Spring Garden Competition. This popular community event gives residents, businesses and families with a common love of gardening the chance to showcase their skills and creativity.

There are 10 entry categories:

- **Front gardens:** a garden area adjacent to the street which may include an entry gate or pathway leading to the front of the residence.
- **Back gardens:** a garden area, away from the front of the residence, which may include a swimming pool, children's play area and a deck or terrace for relaxation or entertaining.
- **Courtyard or balcony gardens:** private residential garden using pots, planter boxes, ornaments, walled gardens, etc.
- **Edible gardens:** vegetable gardens, fruit gardens, permaculture gardens, etc.
- **Native and habitat-friendly gardens:** gardens which feature Australian native plants and include habitat elements to encourage native fauna such as birds, lizards, possums and insects.
- **Local school gardens:** gardens within local primary schools, high schools and pre-schools where students and teachers have worked together.
- **Community gardens:** garden projects where the local community, groups or community organisations have worked together.
- **Commercial gardens:** gardens within local businesses and commercial organisations, for example, hotels, retirement villages, commercial premises, small and large businesses, universities, etc.
- **Bushcare sites:** for an outstanding contribution made by a group of volunteers at a recognised Bushcare site.
- **Children's seed growing competition:** Children can enter in the following age brackets: 3 – 7 years and 8 - 12 years. Entries in the Children's Seed Growing category are encouraged to be made before **Wednesday 31 August** to allow for maximum seed growing time.

The sunflower is in the spotlight this year as the pick for the Children's Seed Growing Competition. Free dwarf sunflower seeds, a pot and growing instructions are available from Eden Gardens from Sunday 31 July, providing a wonderful opportunity for children to learn about biology and gain skills.

City of Ryde Mayor Cllr Jordan Lane said: "We are lucky to have so many residents, schools and bushcare volunteers working hard to keep our City green and provide habitats for our native animals."

“I am looking forward to all the creative entries in this year’s competition and would encourage all those with a passion for gardening out there to enter.”

All entries will be personally judged by a panel of appointed garden judges and horticulture professionals, with judging based on maintenance, design and intent, with extra focus on enthusiasm and how families and communities created and maintained the garden.

Entrants will be invited to attend a Gala Presentation Evening at sponsor Eden Gardens for the announcement of the 2022 Spring Garden Competition winners.

Competition entries close on 31 August 2022.

Further information can be found at www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/gardencomp.

Media Contact: Helen Simpson, City of Ryde Communications
m • 0466 627 637 e • helens@ryde.nsw.gov.au