

Monday 4 July 2016

IT'S TIME TO DIG DEEP 2016 City of Ryde Spring Garden Competition

Are your perennials perfect? Is your balcony blooming? It's time to dig deep, whip out the weeds and cultivate the cauliflowers in preparation for the City of Ryde Spring Garden Competition, the annual celebration of all things botanical and horticultural.

This hands-on community dig-fest has been held annually by the City of Ryde Council for more than thirty years and offers local green fingers, from 3 to 80, the chance to showcase their propagation, design, sustainability and gardening skills.

This year a new Children's Seed Growing Competition has been added, taking the number of categories to twelve. Here are details:

Large Garden: large private residential garden - may be the whole garden or just a section

Small Garden: small private residential garden - may be the whole garden or just a section

Courtyard or Balcony Garden: private residential garden using pots, planter boxes, ornaments, walled gardens

Edible Garden: vegetable, fruit, permaculture

Native and Habitat-friendly Garden: gardens which feature Australia native plants and include habitat elements to encourage native birds, lizards, possums and insects

Children's Garden: private residential gardens inspired and created by a child, group of children or a family with young children

School Garden: gardens within local primary or high schools where students and teachers or the community have worked together

Pre-School Garden: gardens within local pre-schools where students and teachers or the community have worked together

Community Garden: garden projects where the local community, groups or community organisations have worked together

Commercial Garden: gardens within local business and commercial organisations, eg hotels, retirement villages, commercial premises, small businesses, universities

Bushcare Site: for an outstanding contribution made by volunteers to a Bushcare site

NEW for 2016 - Children's Seed Growing Competition: Categories for 3 - 7 years, 8 - 11 years and 12 - 16 years. The seeds to be grown are Sunflower Dwarf Sensations. Entries in this category should be made by 31 July to allow for maximum seed growing time. Free seeds, pot and growing instructions provided.

Gold Sponsors Eden Gardens, SUEZ, Ray White North Ryde | Macquarie Park, RELN Garden

Bronze Sponsor Sam The Paving Man

City of Ryde Mayor, Jerome Laxale said: "Our Spring Garden Competition is a true celebration of community. It is a very hands-on, inclusive community event, showcasing not only what makes our neighbourhoods so attractive but also the people who work so hard to make it happened."

“We encourage entries from everyone, from young and aspiring green thumbs to older, more seasoned seniors, individual gardeners, families, community and cultural groups, gardeners with different abilities, as well as commercial organisations and small businesses.

“It’s very exciting to see so many children getting involved whether it’s with their family, through their school or a community group. I know my girls are very excited about the new Children’s Seed Growing Competition.”

- Free entry for residents, organisations and businesses in the City of Ryde local government area
- Full details, including entry form and judging criteria, go to www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/gardencomp
- Entries close 31 August 2016
- All entries will be personally judged by a panel of appointed garden judges and horticulture professionals during September/October.
- Winners and place getters announced at a special Gala Event 27 October at Eden Gardens.
- Judging of entries in the Children’s Seed Growing Competition and announcement of winners in this category will take place on 8 October at Eden Gardens.

Special note: See the 2015 winner of the Native and Habitat-friendly Garden Category, Fran Reddacliff, on Gardening Australia, on ABC TV on Saturday 16 July at 6.30pm (repeated on Sunday 17 July at 1.00pm).
www.abc.net.au/gardening

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY:

TBC Ryde Mayor Jerome Laxale will be at Eden Gardens to hand out free seeds and pots for the Children’s Seed Growing Competition on (date/time)

Media Contact: Lee Kirkland City of Ryde Media Officer p●99528083 m●0434306444
e●lkirkland@ryde.nsw.gov.au