

Thursday 28 June 2018

GET THE GARDENING GLOVES OUT FOR 2018 SPRING GARDEN COMPETITION

The City of Ryde's Spring Garden Competition is back for 2018. This inclusive community event has been running for more than 30 years and attracts high-quality entries from across the City. Local residents, families, businesses, community and cultural groups are all encouraged to apply and put their gardening creations in the spotlight.

There is also an opportunity for kids to get involved by entering the Children's Seed Growing Competition. This contest is a fun and interesting way for children to learn about biology and gain new skills while enjoying nature. The seed of choice for this year is the stunning Empress of India nasturtium, which is known for its unique blue-green leaves and striking crimson flowers.

City of Ryde is one of only a handful of councils running a garden competition and each year it receives a diverse range of entries across 12 categories.

Categories:

- **Large Gardens:** large private residential gardens - may be the whole garden or just a section
- **Small Gardens:** small private residential gardens - may be the whole garden or just a section
- **Courtyard or Balcony Gardens:** private residential garden using pots, planter boxes, ornaments or walled gardens
- **Edible Gardens:** vegetable gardens, fruit gardens or permaculture gardens
- **Native and Habitat-friendly Gardens:** gardens that feature Australian native plants and include habitat elements to encourage native fauna such as birds, lizards, possums and insects
- **Children's Gardens:** private residential gardens inspired and created by a child, group of children or a family with young children
- **School Gardens:** gardens within local primary or high schools where students and teachers or the community have worked together
- **Pre-School Gardens:** gardens within local pre-schools where students and teachers or the community 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 such as hotels, retirement villages, commercial premises, small and large businesses and universities
- **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, 8-11 years and 12-16 years. Free seeds, pot and growing instructions will be available for collection from Eden Gardens. Note: Entrants in the Children's Seed Growing category are encouraged to enter no later than 31 July 2018 and the seed cannot be planted before 29 July 2018.

City of Ryde Mayor Clr Jerome Laxale said: "This long-standing community event showcases the creativity of our residents and I am proud to be involved in rewarding those who are enhancing our green space and

encouraging native flora and fauna to flourish. I am always blown away by the beautiful entries for our Spring Garden Competition and can't wait to see what comes out of this year's contest."

"I encourage anyone with an interest in gardening to get onboard this year and for young green thumbs to join in by entering our Children's Seed Growing Competition", he said.

Key information:

- Entry is free for residents, organisations and businesses in the City of Ryde local government area.
- Full details, including entry form and judging criteria, are available at www.ryde.nsw.gov.au/gardencomp.
- Entries close on Friday 31 August 2018.
- All entries will be personally judged by a panel of appointed garden judges and horticulture professionals from mid-September to early October.
- Winners and place-getters will be announced at a special Gala Event on Thursday 25 October at Eden Gardens.
- Judging of entries and announcement of winners of the Children's Seed Growing Competition will take place on Saturday 13 October at Eden Gardens.

Gold Sponsors Eden Gardens, SUEZ, Tumbleweed

Bronze Sponsors Sam The Paving Man, Seasol

Media Contact: Michael East, City of Ryde Communications

p • 9952 8083 m • 0466 091 059 e • meast@ryde.nsw.gov.au