

Gardens and Allotments

Each year there is the chance for any resident of the parish of Loddiswell to include their garden (amenity or vegetable growing, or mixed) for scrutiny by RHS qualified Judges. The judging criteria for the different types of garden and display are shown below. We have been particularly grateful to Avon Mill Garden Centre for donating generous prizes for the winners and runners up.

Hanging baskets and other outdoor containers

- Initial impact of colours, and/or textures, and/or scent
- Presentation, balance and symmetry of display
- Quality, health, vigour and appropriateness of planting
- Potential for long-term display

Amenity gardens - less than 20% devoted to fruit and vegetables

- Health, vigour and suitability of plants
- Suitability of design to its site and usage
- Maintenance of paths, structures, lawns and other grassed and working areas
- Cultivation and freedom from perennial weeds
- Harmonious blending of colours, shapes and textures

Utility gardens - more than 50% devoted to fruit and vegetables with a small amenity area.

- Health, vigour, cultivation and arrangement of vegetables, and/or flowers, and/or fruit and/or culinary herb crops
- Planning for regular rotations, and successional plantings to give optimum use of space, year-round produce and to minimise the build-up of pests and soil born diseases
- Maintenance of paths, crops, supports, cloches, frames and other structures
- Utilisation of boundary walls or fences or other supports for training soft or top fruits or climbing vegetables
- Neatness, practicality, planting and design of amenity area and the suitability of its siting within the overall garden area

Allotment - an area separate from the household or where the household has no garden

- Condition of the plot. Plots should be well stocked with crops free from obvious signs of excessive damage by pests, disease or weather.
- Good workmanship. Soil between crop should contain little or no evidence of weeds. Paths and leisure areas where included should be neatly edged, even and well maintained.
- Quality of crops, flowers, fruit, vegetables and plants. All plants should be vigorous, sturdy and free from excessive damage by pests and disease or weather.
- Visual aspect of the plot. The overall appearance of the plot should be neat and pleasing.