

## **ALLOTMENT PLOT COMPETITION ENTRY CRITERIA**

If you wish to enter your allotment plot, here are some of the criteria that the judges will be applying.

### **Quality of planting and diversity of use:**

The variety, health and quality of the vegetables, fruit, flowers and herbs will be examined. Any unplanted areas should be where crops have just been harvested or are about to be planted up and should be clean and free from weeds.

### **Imaginative lay-out and evidence of crop rotation:**

There should be good use of the entire plot and planting for a constant succession. Skill and originality should be evident in the layout and planting, and ingenuity shown in overcoming local problems. The layout should be intelligently adapted to suit the needs of the plotholder.

### **Green issues:**

Intelligent use of organic methods of pest control should be evident, such as companion planting and the pinching out of broad bean tips to inhibit black fly, or the use of barriers against carrot fly. Sustainability should be practiced, eg. water butts, recycling and green manure. There should be opportunities for shelter and feeding of wildlife, eg. nest boxes, log piles, stones and hedges as well as plants that will attract wildlife. Good composting techniques should be employed.

### **Visual appearance and cleanliness:**

The overall appearance of the plot should be neat and pleasing to the eye. It should be free from litter and all waste disposed of appropriately. The paths, walls and seating areas should be well maintained.

The judges will also be looking for something different that demonstrates individuality.

The criteria are intended as guidelines to help you develop your plot as well as you can. The competition is intended to improve the standard of allotments city-wide. Taking part is more important than winning. This is an opportunity to enjoy your plot and participate in something bigger.

Have fun!