

# **URMSTON ALLOTMENTS AND GARDEN SOCIETY Ltd.**

## **ANNUAL COMPETITION 2014**

The Urmston Allotments and Garden Society hold an annual competition to which all plot holders are automatically entered, (unless advised otherwise).

The competition aims to encourage plot holders to consider how they plan and cultivate their plots and to reward those who take good care of the land.

1. During the first two weeks of July individual ground committees will judge the plots on their site, to choose;
  - The best full plot (over 125 sq metres or 150 sq yards )
  - The best half plot (under 125 sq metres or 150 sq yards)
  - The best full plot flower border
  - Best half plot flower border
  - The best full plot onions (100 onions)
  - The best half plot onions (50 onions)
2. These results are then submitted to UAGS, to be entered for the Society Competition.
3. During the last week of July independent judges from other membership sites will visit the submitted plots to judge the best overall in each category.
4. All judging will follow the set criteria using a points system, to ensure as fair and consistent judging as possible.
5. A prize of £5 will be awarded to the best in each category at each ground. These prizes will be given to site representatives, at the UAGS committee meeting, following the judging, for distribution on their site.
6. The top 3 in each category for the UAGS competition will receive a cheque as follows;
  - 1<sup>st</sup> prize £15.00
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> prize £12.00
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> prize £10.00The first in each category will also receive a certificate.

**Awards will be presented at the following AGM**

**URMSTON ALLOTMENTS AND GARDEN SOCIETY Ltd.**  
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**GUIDANCE FOR JUDGING**

**Ground committees may identify 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in their own ground competition if they wish, but ONLY THE FIRST in each category should be submitted for the UAGS competition. Names and plot numbers should be submitted on the form provided. (6 in total from each ground). Along with any nominations for the Chairs Special Award.**

**BEST FLOWER BORDER Full or Half plot**

To be considered for Best Flower Border, the plot must first meet the following criteria:

1. The plot number must be clearly displayed.
2. Border should be a minimum of 3 foot deep and should run the width of the plot.
3. The border should be fully cultivated.
4. The border must be weed free and dead headed.
5. The perimeter of the border must be neat and tidy.
6. The majority of flowers should be in bloom and in a good condition

**BEST PLOT or HALF PLOT**

To avoid listing every crop on every plot, each plot should first be assessed to see if it meets with the following requirements:

1. The plot number must be clearly displayed.
2. The plot must be clean and tidy.
3. The plot must be well cultivated and weed free, however consideration should be given to some vigorous weeds that may have only shown in recent days, and a small amount of nettles may be beneficial).
4. Any sheds or greenhouses should be tidy and well maintained.
5. **Paths and borders must be weed free, clean and trimmed/or swept.**
6. **The plot should have a variety of produce.(veg.fruit.herbs).**
7. **All crops should be vigorous and healthy.**

- **When these requirements are met then each plot should be scored using the sheet provided.**
- **Points are scored against each item, the columns are then added and then totalled.**
- **Spaces are provided to add any additional crop not listed.**

**BEST ONIONS full or half plot**

To be considered for the award the onion bed should meet the following criteria;

1. The plot number must be prominently displayed.
2. There should be at least 100 onions in the bed.(? 50 for half plot)
3. Onions will only be judged if left in the ground and still growing.

**Scoring**

**0 = No evidence of this system (e.g. composting) or particular crop.**

**1 = System or crop in place but not very good**

**2 = System or crop good**

**3 = Excellent/exceptional system or crop**

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**Chairs Special Award Criteria**

This category is for those plot holders who are not always recognised in the UAGS competition.

The Chair and Judging Secretary will judge this category based on the information supplied by their committee or nominator. Please note the nomination must involve allotment based activities.

The judges will be look for supporting evidence, for example:

- 1 Details of charity fund-raising
- 2 Encouraging disadvantaged groups to take up a plot
- 3 School partnerships assisting/encouraging school children to "grow their own"
- 4 Striving to improve their site and facilities
- 5 Members involvement in site activities, fund raising, site management, creating areas of special interest

Other – please feel free to nominate any individual who has done something we have not covered but you feel deserve a nomination.

Sites may make more than one nomination on the form below.

The prize will be £20 for an individual and £50 per site plus a certificate and trophy.

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**FORMS**

**Judging on site by ground committees.**

**1 Chairs special Award**

To be completed by ground representatives and sent to UAGS. This will then be judged by the Chair of the Society.

**2 Criteria for judging flower borders.**

To be completed by the ground representatives for initial judging. The ground committee will then identify first place and add this information to form **6**.

**3 Criteria for judging Onions**

To be completed by the ground representatives for initial judging. The ground committee will then identify first place and add this information to form **6**.

**4 Criteria for judging best plot and half plot**

To be completed by the ground representatives for initial judging. The ground committee will then add these results to form 5b.

**5a/b Crops Assessment**

To be completed by the ground representatives for initial judging. The totals should then be added with the total from form **4**. The ground committee will then identify first place and add this information to form **6**.

**6 Site Results**

To be completed by ground representatives and passed to UAGS to be entered into the Society competition.

**Independent judging**

Form **6** will be passed to independent judges, who will then visit each site to judge all the entrants to the UAGS competition, using the same criteria and forms 2, 3, 4 and 5a & b.

**Forms 7, 8 & 9 will be used to identify the overall winners in each category.**

## TRAFFORD MBC ALLOTMENTS COMPETITION

Every year representatives from Trafford Council judge each allotment on every site in Trafford. The judges are usually the Trafford Allotments Officer with independent volunteers.

**This is completely separate from the UAGS competition.**

Judging for the Trafford competition takes place in the first 2 weeks of July, weather permitting.

The categories are:

- Best Allotment Site in Trafford
- Best Allotment Site in our area Stretford/Urmston/Flixton
- Best Flower Border (full and ½)
- Best Individual Plot (full and ½)

As well as the above prize categories, certificates are awarded for Very Highly and Highly Commended Plots.

The judges need to know which plot is which so ensure your plot is clearly marked with your plot number, ensure all the paths, roadways and borders to your plot are also weed free.

### **The Allotment Environmental Award**

This is open to allotment holders who grow their fruit and vegetables organically. See a member of your committee for guidance and an application form. Only plots which have completed the entry form are judged for this competition. This is judged by the Trafford Allotment Officer and volunteers.