

THE ALLOTMENT COMPETITIONS

The Allotment Competition is judged according to rules published by the Royal Horticultural Society and so is known as the RHS Allotment Competition.

We also hold a second competition called the Alternative Allotment Competition which we hope will encourage allotment holders to garden organically with consideration for the environment.

Both competitions are open to all allotment holders on the six Chiswick sites.

THE RHS ALLOTMENT COMPETITION

In late July, our Allotment Representatives select the most promising allotments on their sites for entry into the competition. **In August**, two independent judges assess each of these allotment and allocate points in accordance with the RHS rules (see below) and the winner will be announced at the Autumn Show.

The following points are summarised from the RHS publication 'The Horticultural Show Handbook' revised in 2008 (pages 151 to 152).

The primary purpose of an allotment is to provide crops of vegetables, fruit, flowers and culinary herbs for household use and, the more completely a plot fulfils this objective, the greater should be the credit accorded to it in competition.

Allotments also allow enthusiasts for one particular plant, or group of plants, to indulge their passion and a plot given over to monoculture of, say, dahlias or carnations must be judged according to the standard and quality of cultivation.

The size of plot should not be a factor in competition. Allotments will be judged against the following criteria:

Condition of the plot	60 points
Good workmanship	50 points
Quality of crops, flowers, fruit and vegetables and plants	150 points
Originality of layout and planning	25 points
Ingenuity in overcoming local problems	25 points
Visual aspect of the plot	20 points
Condition of garden sheds etc	20 points
TOTAL	350 points

THE ALTERNATIVE ALLOTMENT COMPETITION

Allotment holders who wish to enter the Alternative Allotment Competition should advise their **Site Representative or the Allotment Secretary before the end of July** confirming that you wish to be considered and garden organically. Judging by two independent judges will take place in early August and the winner will be announced at the Autumn Show. The winning allotment holder will be presented with the **Debbie Sutherland Award**.

A keen advocate of the alternative approach that respects and nurtures the natural environment, Debbie Sutherland began the regeneration of the Chertsey Road Site and, through her enthusiasm, inspired many of her friends to take on the challenge and enjoy the rewards of allotment gardening. This award, crafted by her friends, celebrates her contribution to the allotments on Dukes Meadows.

Allotments will be judged against the following criteria:

Use of recycled materials (sheds, etc)	50 points
Diversity of plants	50 points
Organic cultivation	60 points
Water conservation	50 points
Composting	50 points
Encouragement of wildlife	50 points
Originality	60 points
TOTAL	370 points