

2026 Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show

SITE NUMBER: _____

JUDGE: _____

Judging Marking Sheet – Onsite Boutique Garden Competition

Realisation of the Brief (7%)						
<p><i>Best Gardens will:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrate a clear connection between brief and the finished landscape Clear, underlying design intent that is obvious to lay members of the public Will meet all requirement of the brief to a high degree 						
Criteria 1 - Does the finished garden reflect the design intent of the written brief & bring the concept plan to real life?						
Excellent (5)	Very Good (4)	Good (3)	Weak (2)	Poor (1)	Unsatisfactory (0)	TOTAL
No discrepancies	Minor discrepancies	Discrepancies	Ambiguous connection to the brief	Difficult to understand or make connection	No connection	/5
Overall Impression (29%)						
<p><i>Best Gardens will:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draw people in from across the site, make a strong first impression and maintain interest Have a creative and unique design theme The view of the garden changes and reveals to continue to surprise the onlooker Have a strong attention to detail with no visible sub-structure or construction elements All plants and structure detailed to a high level 						
Criteria 2 - Initial Impact of first impression, a striking and creative design combined with a visually appealing 'wow' factor.						
Excellent (10)	Very Good (8)	Good (6)	Weak (4)	Poor (2)	Unsatisfactory (0)	TOTAL
Maximum impact and interest maintained	Impact and interest maintained	First impression has some impact	Weak first impression with little impact	Poor first impression with very little impact	No initial impact	/10
Criteria 3 - Dynamic & innovative design with changing vistas, the element of surprise and the withholding and revealing of focal points.						
Excellent (5)	Very Good (4)	Good (3)	Weak (2)	Poor (1)	Unsatisfactory (0)	TOTAL
Excellent	Very good	Good	Weak	Poor	Not present	/5
Criteria 4 - All works are completed, a high attention to detail with planting & construction and all back of house is tidy and clean with no pots showing.						
Excellent (5)	Very Good (4)	Good (3)	Weak (2)	Poor (1)	Unsatisfactory (0)	TOTAL
Excellent	Very good	Good	Weak	Poor	Not present	/5
OVERALL IMPRESSION TOTAL						/20
Design Excellence (21%)						
<p><i>Best Gardens will:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flow seamlessly and read as a cohesive whole Make the best use of the available space, feeling neither empty nor cluttered/forced and uses the borrowed landscape effectively Have a strong and cohesive plant and materials palette with a strong link back to the underlying themes of the garden Be at a comfortable human scale with a strong sense of proportion (elements looking natural and right) providing variety without too much going on Have a sense of balance achieved either through symmetrical or asymmetrical design Be visually appealing 						
Criteria 5 - Design cohesion & unity has a sense of entry with connection to the whole garden and makes good use of available space & any borrowed landscape. Continuity across planting & materials palette with links back to the underlying garden theme.						
Excellent (5)	Very Good (4)	Good (3)	Weak (2)	Poor (1)	Unsatisfactory (0)	TOTAL
Excellent	Very good	Good	Weak	Poor	Not present	/5
Criteria 6 - Sense of balance achieved via good mass & void relationships & use of focal points with either asymmetrical or symmetrical design.						
Excellent (5)	Very Good (4)	Good (3)	Weak (2)	Poor (1)	Unsatisfactory (0)	TOTAL
Excellent	Very good	Good	Weak	Poor	Not present	/5
Criteria 7 – Appropriate use of scale and sense of proportion with placement of all garden elements well considered.						
Excellent (5)	Very Good (4)	Good (3)	Weak (2)	Poor (1)	Unsatisfactory (0)	TOTAL
Excellent with nothing out of place or over dominating	Very good with nothing out of place or over dominating	Good with very little out of place or over dominating	Weak with some elements out of place or over dominating	Poor with numerous elements out of place or over dominating	No sense of scale or proportion throughout the garden	/5

DESIGN EXCELLENCE TOTAL						/15
Construction Excellence (14%) <p>Best Gardens will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have a high degree of professionalism and attention to detail Include successfully built elements within the design that require a high degree of skill to realise (examples could include high-end paving, water features, high-end timber work and naturalistic rock work) Be structurally sound, without movement or other frailties and able to cope with the rigours of the Show 						
Criteria 8 - Built structures exhibit a high-level of craftsmanship, professionalism, and attention to detail with finish.						
Excellent (5)	Very Good (4)	Good (3)	Weak (2)	Poor (1)	Unsatisfactory (0)	TOTAL
Excellent	Very good only some minor faults	Good with some faults	Weak with notable faults	poor with numerous faults	No attention to detail	/5
Criteria 9 - Suitability of construction, selection of materials that are structurally sound, sustainably considered and can cope with the expected loads throughout the Show.						
Excellent (5)	Very Good (4)	Good (3)	Weak (2)	Poor (1)	Unsatisfactory (0)	TOTAL
Excellent	Very good	Good	Weak	Poor	Inappropriate selection	/5
CONSTRUCTION EXCELLENCE TOTAL						/10
Planting (29%) <p>Best Gardens will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have healthy, quality plants with no pest or disease damage, of good size, not water stressed or scorched Be a strong reflection of real-world good planting design. Plants will be selected with consideration of sun/shade patterns, water usage. Designers may choose to plant existing microclimates Display exemplary planting design with strong attention to form, colour, texture, and accent. Overall effect will be strong and well balanced, a unified design which still displays variation and with an appropriate mix of trees, shrubs, groundcovers, and climbers if appropriate Include innovative plant selections in taxa, associations and how plants are used. They may include unusual plants used in creative ways Have all plants clean, well placed, full in the pot and tidy of appearance. Shaped plants achieve the design intent. Pots will not be visible with complete plant cover in planting areas 						
Criteria 10 - Real world Planting design, with attention to overall composition, using form, colour, and texture. Visually well balanced with unified approach to plant layering. Plant selections connects to intended setting outlined in the brief.						
Excellent (5)	Very Good (4)	Good (3)	Weak (2)	Poor (1)	Unsatisfactory (0)	TOTAL
Exemplary planting design	Very good planting design, with minor imperfections in overall composition	Good planting design, but with inconsistency in overall composition	Weak planting design, with numerous faults in planting composition	Poor planting design, with very little planting composition	No planting design, throughout the garden	/5
Criteria 11 - Plant health & Quality, appropriate size, and plant density.						
Excellent (5)	Very Good (4)	Good (3)	Weak (2)	Poor (1)	Unsatisfactory (0)	TOTAL
Excellent health, size, and quality of all plants with no imperfections and appropriate density.	Very good health, size, and quality of plants with minor imperfections and mainly the right density.	Good health, size, and quality of plants with a small number of imperfections and some inconsistency in plant density.	Weak health and quality of numerous plants with numerous inconsistencies in plant density.	Poor health and quality of most of the plants with undersized stock and insufficient plant density.	Inferior plant stock and plant density throughout the garden	/5
Criteria 12 - Plant selections & groupings reflect a sustainable approach to environmental requirements.						
Excellent (5)	Very Good (4)	Good (3)	Weak (2)	Poor (1)	Unsatisfactory (0)	TOTAL
Excellent plant selection and appropriate environmental groupings of all plants.	Very good plant selection with minor inappropriate environmental groupings of plants	Good plant selection with numerous inappropriate environmental groupings of all plants	Weak plant selection with many inappropriate environmental groupings of plants	Poor plant selection with most plants inappropriately grouped	No appropriate plant selection throughout the garden	/5
Criteria 13 - Creative display of plant material and innovative plant selection, showing attention to detail with pruning, shaping & finish.						
Excellent (5)	Very Good (4)	Good (3)	Weak (2)	Poor (1)	Unsatisfactory (0)	TOTAL
Excellent use of plant innovation	Very Good use of plant innovation	Good use of plant innovation	Weak plant innovation	Poor plant innovation	No sign of plant innovation	/5
PLANTING TOTAL						/20
GRAND TOTAL						/70

Judges’ Comments (optional)