

Judging Criteria and Marks for Individual Plots

Individual allotment plots will be judged using the following system and guidelines. Each of the criteria are shown together with the maximum marks available.

The underlying philosophy is to encourage the plot holder to provide a source of fresh vegetables all year round, as well as fresh fruit in season.

A. Cultivation and cropping

1. Types of produce (1/2 point per type): 15 marks
2. Seasonal produce (Winter / Spring): 5
3. Soft fruit (1 point per type): 5
4. Companion planting and flowers: 5
5. Herbs (1 point per type): 5
6. Quality of crops: 15

B. Husbandry

1. Compost or manure heap (quality of): 10
2. Annual weeds (freedom from): 10
3. Perennial weeds (freedom from): 10
4. Rubbish (freedom from): 5

C. Environment

1. Paths and edges around plot (neatly maintained): 10
2. Buildings (quality and condition): 5

NSALG Judging Guidelines

A. Cultivation and cropping

The underlying philosophy which governs the marks 'weighting' is to encourage the plot holder to provide a source of fresh vegetables all year round, as well as fresh fruit in season. This is reflected in:

1. Half a mark is given for each type of vegetable grown, but a full extra mark given for each type of winter/spring (that is, for harvesting from November onwards) vegetable in A1
2. Soft fruits, 1 mark per type, includes rhubarb.

B. Husbandry

1. Compost or manure heap: Neither of these should be a nursery for growing weeds! Judging should make allowances for the various stages of the breakdown into a healthy product. Look for evidence of that on the plot itself if the container is empty!
2. A clear differentiation has been made between annual weeds and perennials, as annual weeds are short-term problems whereas the perennials are a nuisance (or worse) to other plot holders. If couch grass, buttercups, dandelions and docks are there it is indicative of poor husbandry on a continuing basis, whereas annual weeds (which can be eradicated with a hoe) are not as serious. The two types are therefore judged separately. Remember - ten points

means not a single weed anywhere! You should consider the effects on rare (or even common) wildlife to the extent of ignoring small patches of nettles which are used by several butterflies (Peacock, Red Admiral, Tortoiseshell and so on), and also sorrel which is host to various 'Coppers'.

3. Rubbish (freedom from): if it is stacked tidily for future use it is not rubbish. However, if it is just lying around it is!

C. Environment

1. Paths - neatly maintained: if it is grass it should be kept cut and free of 'nasties' and if hardcore it should be weed-free without a neglected fringe!
2. Buildings (quality and condition) This is a teaser! Not everyone has a building so we start from the premise that buildings which are well-built and well-maintained get the same mark as a well-kept bit of plot, that is, 5 points. Fewer marks are awarded for decrepitude! To sum up: no building = 5 points; a wreck = 0 points!

Judging Criteria and Marks for Sites

A. Cleanliness of Site

1. Freedom from Rubbish: 20 marks
2. Freedom from Weeds: 15
3. Individual and communal compost bins well maintained: 10

B. State of Repair

1. Paths and roadways well maintained: 10
2. Fences, hedges and walls sound and tidy: 10
3. Buildings sound, suitable and maintained: 10

C. Notice Board: 5

D. Site General

1. Site entrance: 10
2. Plots numbered and clearly demarcated: 10