

An invitation to residents of
Wards 29 and 31

East York Blooming Contest 2009



The East York Blooming Contest is back for 2009 and we want you to show us your stuff!

Nominations are now being accepted for the East York Blooming Contest 2009. This is East York's way of recognizing the efforts of residents, businesses and other property owners in making their neighbourhoods beautiful, and your chance to showcase your beautiful gardens. Each garden nominated will be judged by a panel of experts from community horticultural societies. Winners in each category will be honoured at an Awards Ceremony in the Fall. These winners will go on to compete in the City of Toronto's City Wide Garden Contest 2010.

Nomination forms are to be sent to the addresses listed on the back of this form by **Thursday, July 2, 2009**. All winners will be contacted and the results will be announced in August.

Coordinating committee:

Toronto Parks, Forestry & Recreation
East York Garden Club
Councillor Janet Davis
Councillor Case Ootes

Nomination form

Deadline date:

Thursday, July 2, 2009

Form may be copied for additional nominations.

Please print

I nominate:

Name _____
(optional)

Address _____

Category _____

Name _____

Address _____

Category _____

Name _____

Address _____

Category _____

Nominated by:

Name _____
(optional)

Telephone _____



Who may nominate a garden?

You may nominate your own garden or someone else's. You do not have to be a resident of Toronto to nominate a garden.

How to nominate:

Just fill out the attached nomination form in this brochure. Nomination forms may be copied and written facsimiles and e-mails will be accepted. No more than three gardens may be nominated by any one person. Visit our website at www.eygc.ca.

Completed nomination forms must be submitted by **Thursday, July 2, 2009** to:

Return by mail:

East York Blooming Contest
c/o Councillor Janet Davis
East York Civic Centre
850 Coxwell Avenue
Toronto, ON M4C 5R1

Return by fax:

416-397-9289

Return by email:

blooming@eastyorkgarden.ca

Drop-off:

East York Civic Centre
850 Coxwell Avenue
Drop-off box in main lobby



Garden Award Categories

Residential Gardens

Residential Gardens will include only the front and side yard which can be judged from the sidewalk (backyards are excluded). The gardens will be judged in one of the following categories.

Traditional

This is a garden with a predominance of grass. First, second and third place winners will be named.

Environmental/Alternative

An 'Environmental/Alternative Garden' for the East York Blooming Contest is a garden that substitutes plants for lawn, or significant areas of lawn, utilizes environmentally sensitive gardening practices and uses no synthetic pesticides or fertilizers. The use of organic gardening methods, including the elimination of garden chemicals, is essential. Although points are awarded to gardens that have native plants and help create wildlife habitat by providing food, shelter and water for indigenous birds and animals, an alternative garden does not have to include these components. A first, second and third place winner will be named.

Commercial and Industrial Gardens

These properties will be viewed from all sides and from within property limits. A first, second and third place winner will be named.

Other Properties

This category may include apartment buildings, churches, townhouse complexes, schools and any other properties that do not fall into the above categories. This category may be subdivided if there are significant numbers of entries. **These properties will be viewed from all sides and from within property limits.** A first, second and third place winner will be named.

What will the judges be looking for?

The judges will look for the gardens that reflect an effective and creative use of available space. The size of the property is not important. The judge will evaluate the garden based on inspiration and creativity and the garden's contribution to the surrounding community. Upon arriving at an address, the judge will take a few moments to get an overall view and feeling of the space and will then evaluate the garden using the criteria listed on the next panel. Bonus points will be awarded for the planting of native species and the use of environmentally friendly gardening practices.

Judging Criteria

Scale of Points for All Gardens:

Design:

Creativity and originality of design. Balance and scale of garden to building. Selection and arrangement of plant material including placement of trees & shrubs giving the garden overall year-round appeal. Use of colour and texture in relation to building (at time of judging). Design of traffic flow, both pedestrian and vehicular.

Use of Plant Material:

Use of plant material that is suitable to the location. Use of perennials and annuals as to diversity, suitability, spacing and balance. Use of plant material that encourages beneficial insects, butterflies, birds, toads etc., indigenous plant species.

Condition & Maintenance:

Overall cleanliness of property including driveways, parking areas with respect to weeds and garbage. Hedges, flowerbeds, borders with respect to pruning, edging of beds, control of weeds, disease and insect damage. Lawn or ground covers - good colour, dense growth, well maintained. Some unobtrusive weeds may be considered acceptable.

Hard Landscaping:

Condition of driveway surface and walkways. Appropriate use of stones, rocks, walls, fencing, statuary, garden art, containers, water features, outdoor structures and furniture, bird houses and toad houses etc.

Environmental Practices:

Use of good environmental practices such as mulches, rain barrels, compost, etc. Overall reduced pesticide use.

Community Contribution:

How the property contributes to the beautification of the neighbourhood as viewed from the street.

Distinction:

Impact and special overall appeal and special features.