



# Trillium Awards Program Judging Criteria

## **New this Year, Biodiversity Excellence:**

Do you:

- Grow native species to Ontario, the host plants and pollinator plants to support visiting bees and all stages of butterflies?
- Have a water feature like a bird bath or mud puddle station to support visiting pollinators?
- Practice wise water use like using a watering can or installing rain barrels?
- Know how toxic neonicotinoids are to our bees?
- Have bird houses, seed libraries or bird feeders?
- Practice innovative gardening when it comes to curb appeal and biodiversity?
- Know invasive species outcompete and reduce available native plants for pollinators? Is your garden pesticide free? Is your garden free of invasive species?

Does your garden include native species to Ontario, do you grow open pollinators to support visiting bees and butterflies? Do you have a water feature like a bird bath or mud puddle station to support visiting pollinators, and do you practice wise water use like using a watering can or installing rain barrels? Is your garden pesticide free, do you know how toxic neonicotinoids are to our bees? Are you innovative when it comes to curb appeal and biodiversity, have you installed bird houses, seed libraries or bird feeders? Is your garden invasive species free, as they devastate native species and their ecosystems?

## **Landscape Maintenance:**

### **Curb Appeal and Focal Area:**

Curb appeal: the attractiveness of the garden from the street. There is a good first impression that catches your attention. The exterior looks inviting and welcoming. Is there naturalization, artistic expression, or innovation in biodiversity? Curb appeal can be accomplished by any number of methods including new design elements, exterior decorations, colour scheme and extensive attention to the landscaping. Plants or structural elements that compliment the garden, such as an entry way, bench, mural, statue, pond, fountain, rain barrel, arbour or trellis's for climbing plants and vegetables.



# Trillium Awards Program Judging Criteria

## **Softscape/Hardscape:**

- *Softscape* comprises live horticultural and biodiverse elements, ornamental grasses, and naturalization of plants and shrubs. The purpose is to lend character to the landscaping, create an aura, support pollinators and provide ambience within the ecosystem. *Groundcover* should be well maintained.
- *Hardscape* refers to a built environment: stones, rocks, pavers, structures, water elements and mulches (should be clean and well kept)

## **Flowers (Annual & Perennials):**

Flowers should be well maintained, with healthy colour and foliage and part of a colour scheme. They should be of proper size and proportion in containers and planters. There should be native species and plants to support pollinators.

## **Property Maintenance:**

Property is maintained; walkways, driveways, fences and porches are in good order and contribute to the overall appearance of the property. Landscaping is maintained and free of litter. Elements and structures compliment a biodiverse landscape and are in working order.

## **Trees, Evergreen & Shrubs:**

Trees, evergreens and shrubs should be pruned, shaped and maintained (deadwood, weak, diseased or damaged branches and stems should be removed)

## **Landscape Design: Elements and Principles:**

### **Elements:**

These are tools which are used to achieve Principles of Design. The following information will help with:

**Line:** This is eye movement or flow. This can be achieved by bed arrangement, or vertical changes in heights of plants, trees or shrubs. Line can be straight, curved or free flowing.

**Form:** Individual plant growth or planting arrangement in a landscape (upright, oval, columnar, spreading, weeping, etc.)



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**Texture:** Describes the surface quality of an object that can be seen or felt. It includes buildings, rocks, walls, groundcovers, and plants. Texture can be fine, coarse, bold, or medium. Texture adds interest to the garden throughout the seasons.

**Colour:** Should have a strong effect on the landscape. Using green for continuity along with some colour variety in foliage adds interest. Colour should direct attention to the landscape and compliment the property. Consideration should be given to year-round interest not just seasonal colour.

## Principles:

**Unity/Harmony:** The repetition of objects or elements that are alike (repetition of plants, vegetables, shrubs, or colour scheme).

**Balance:** Can be symmetrical or asymmetrical. Is your eye attracted to both sides of the property?

**Scale/Proportion:** The size of an object in relation to the house and property or the size of parts of the design in relation to each other and to the design as a whole.

**Rhythm/Sequence:** Smooth blending of different elements. Garden is one unified scene. Does the property have all year-round appeal?

<b>Judging Criteria</b>	<b>POINTS 100</b>
<p><b>Biodiversity Excellence:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does your garden include native species to Ontario, do you grow and support pollinators?</li> <li>• Do you have a water feature to support visiting pollinators, and do you practice wise water use?</li> <li>• Is your garden pesticide free?</li> <li>• Is your garden invasive species free?</li> <li>• Are you innovative when it comes to biodiversity, have you installed bird houses, seed libraries or bird feeders?</li> </ul>	<b>10</b>
<p><b>Curb Appeal and Focal Area:</b> Curb appeal: the attractiveness of the property from the street. There is a good first impression that catches your attention. The exterior looks inviting and welcoming. Is there naturalization, artistic expression or innovation in biodiversity? Curb appeal</p>	<b>10</b>



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<p>can be accomplished by any number of methods including; innovation, new design, exterior decorations, colour scheme and extensive attention to the landscaping.</p> <p>Plants or structural elements that compliment the garden, such as an entry way, bench, mural, statue, pond, fountain, rain barrel, arbour or trellis's for climbing plants and vegetables.</p>	
<p><b>Landscape Maintenance: Softscape/Hardscape</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Softscape</u> comprises live horticultural and biodiverse elements, ornamental grasses, and naturalization of plants and shrubs. The purpose is to lend character to the landscaping, create an aura, support pollinators and provide ambience within the ecosystem. <i>Groundcover</i> should be well maintained.</li> <li>• <u>Hardscape</u> refers to a built environment: stones, rocks, pavers, structures, water elements and mulches (should be clean and well kept)</li> </ul>	<b>10</b>
<p><b>Landscape Maintenance: Flowers: (Annuals and Perennials)</b></p> <p>Flowers should be well maintained, with healthy colour and foliage, dead headed and part of a colour scheme. They should be of proper size and proportion in containers/planters. Are there any native species or plants to support pollinators?</p>	<b>10</b>
<p><b>Landscape Maintenance: Property Maintenance,</b></p> <p>Property is maintained; walkways, driveways, fences and porches are in good order and contribute to the overall appearance of the property. Landscaping is maintained and free of litter. Elements and structures compliment a biodiverse landscape and are in working order.</p>	<b>10</b>
<p><b>Trees, Evergreens and Shrubs</b></p> <p>Trees, evergreens and shrubs should be pruned, shaped and maintained (deadwood, weak, diseased or damaged branches and stems should be removed)</p>	<b>10</b>
<p><b>Landscape Design: Principles&amp; Elements</b></p> <p><b>Unity/Harmony:</b> Unity is achieved by repeating objects or elements that are alike. <b>10</b></p> <p><b>Balance:</b> Can be symmetrical or asymmetrical. Is your eye attracted to both sides? <b>10</b></p> <p><b>Scale/Proportion:</b> Scale refers to the size of an object in relation to the surroundings (house &amp; property). Proportion refers to the size of parts of the design in relation to each other and to the design as a whole. <b>10</b></p> <p><b>Rhythm/Sequence:</b> Blending one element or area to another in a smooth fashion. Sequence helps to tie the garden composition into a cohesive unified scene. <b>10</b></p>	