



Trillium Awards Program Criteria

Landscape Design - Elements and Principles:

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, color schemes and extensive attention to the landscaping. Plants or structural elements that complement the garden, such as an entry way, bench, mural, statues, pond, fountain, rain barrel, arbour, or trellis's for climbing plants and vegetables.

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

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

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.)

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.

Landscape Maintenance:

Annuals & Perennials: Flowers should be well maintained, with healthy color and foliage and part of a color scheme. They should be of proper size and proportion in containers and planters. There should be native species, plants to support pollinators and should be free from invasive species.

Trees, Evergreen & Shrubs: Trees, evergreens and shrubs should be pruned, shaped, and maintained (deadwood, weak, diseased, or damaged branches and stems should be removed. Should be diverse, providing structure and proportionate to the setting.

Hardscape / Softscape:

Hardscape - refers to a built environment: stones, rocks, pavers, structures, water elements and mulches that enhance both beauty and function of the space (should be clean and well kept).

Softscape - comprises live horticultural and biodiverse elements, ornamental grasses, and naturalization of plants and shrubs. The purpose is to lend character to landscaping, create an aura, support pollinators, and provide ambience within the ecosystem. *Ground cover* should be well maintained.

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. Plants are properly staked, pruned, and spaced. Elements and structures complement a biodiverse landscape and are in working order.

Biodiversity Excellence:

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? Is your garden invasive species free, as they devastate native species and their ecosystems?

Native Plants: Garden is filled with primarily native plants, offering high diversity of forms and layers, with at least three species blooming to provide nectar, berries and habitat for wildlife species blooming. Little to no invasive species should be present, including no pesticide use.

Biodiversity Support and Water Management: Rain gardens, rain barrels, permeable surfaces, downspouts directed to plant beds; reliable water and shelter options for insects and birds (logs, bare soil, native shrubs); pollinator activity clearly supported.

Landscape Design - Judging Criteria and Allocated Points

Category	Criteria Description	Points
Curb Appeal & Focal Area	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 can be accomplished by any number of methods including innovation, new design, exterior decorations, colour scheme and extensive attention to the landscaping. Plants or structural elements that complement the garden, such as an entry way, bench, mural, statue, pond, fountain, rain barrel, arbor, or trellis's for climbing plants and vegetables.	5
Unity / Harmony / Balance	Unity is achieved by repeating objects or elements that are alike and balance can be symmetrical or asymmetrical. Is your eye attracted to both sides?	5
Scale / Proportion	Scale refers to the size of an object in relation to the surroundings (house & property). Proportion refers to the size of parts of the design in relation to each other and to the design.	5
Rhythm / Sequence	Blending one element or area to another in a smooth fashion. Sequence helps to tie the garden composition into a cohesive unified scene.	5

Landscape Maintenance - Judging Criteria and Allocated Points

Category	Criteria Description	Points
Annuals and Perennials	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?	5
Trees, Shrubs and Evergreens	Trees, shrubs, and evergreens should be pruned, shaped, and maintained (deadwood, weak, diseased, or damaged branches and stems should be removed)	5
Hardscape / Softscape	Hardscape refers to a built environment: stones, rocks, pavers, structures, water elements and mulches (should be clean and well kept). 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.	5
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.	5

Biodiversity Excellence – Judging Criteria and Allocated Points

Category	Criteria Description	Points
Native Plants	Garden is filled with primarily native plants, offering high diversity of forms and layers, with at least three species blooming to provide nectar, berries and habitat for wildlife species blooming. Little to no invasive species should be present, including no pesticide use.	5
Biodiversity Support and Water Management	Rain gardens, rain barrels, permeable surfaces, downspouts directed to plant beds; reliable water and shelter options for insects and birds (logs, bare soil, native shrubs); pollinator activity clearly supported.	5