



# POINTS SYSTEM FOR JUDGING BURY IN BLOOM CERTIFICATES OF MERIT

RHS issued new guidelines for 2022 to encourage gardeners to give more consideration to wildlife when deciding planting options. This has been included in the revised scoring system which also reflects judges feedback over the last few years.

Traditional formal front gardens will still score well but other criteria have been included to encourage residents with minimal front gardens to create floral displays and to reward wildlife friendly gardens.

This guide is just that, a guide. We do not expect great gardens to tick all the boxes. We hope you will use your judgement, in consultation with your fellow judges, and our marking guide to decide whether a garden deserves a Certificate of Merit (8-12 points) or those exceptional gardens a Highly Commended Certificate (minimum of 13 points)

## SCORING CRITERIA: EFFORT, PLANTING AND GREENER GARDENS

### EFFORT

Most important criteria is how much **EFFORT** and **ENTHUSIASM** has been put into the garden in the zone you are judging.

#### Reward for effort

**3 points**

#### Attention to detail in maintaining garden

**2 points**

- Shrubs
- Lawns

Is it obvious that plants are cared for?

- Hanging baskets
- Planters/ containers/ window boxes

#### Is it a stand out garden on that road?

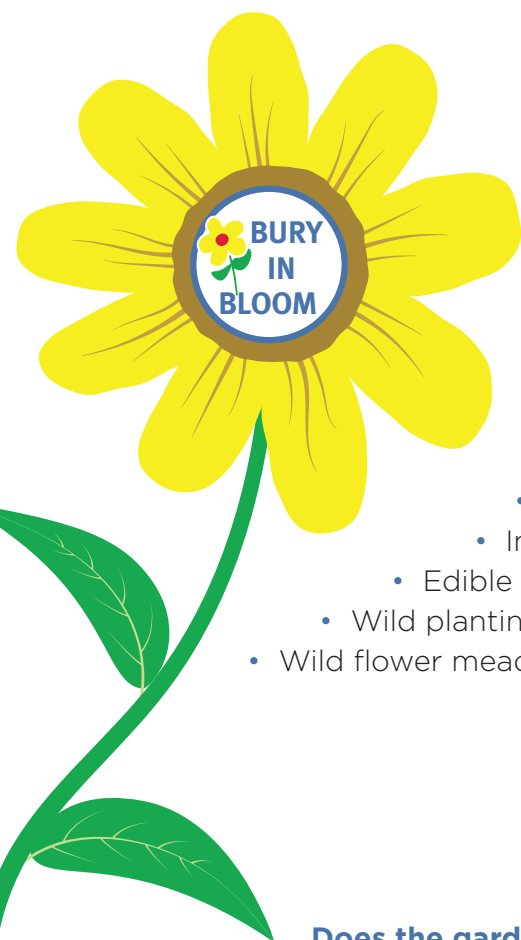
**2 points**

If the area is also functional eg parking has the resident created planting opportunities?

If property does not have a front garden has the resident created planting opportunities

**If answer is yes to either of these questions then award**

**2 points**



## PLANTING

**Are the plants healthy?**

**2 points**

**Does the planting include some of the following elements?**

- Colour
- Texture and foliage
- Perennials
- Successional planting
- Disease resistant plants
- Bee friendly plants
- Butterfly friendly plants
- Insect friendly plants
- Edible planting eg herbs, strawberry, nasturtiums hanging baskets
- Wild planting eg flowers, grasses
- Wild flower meadow

**Maximum of 5 points**

## GREENER GARDENS

**Does the garden include water?**

**1 point**

- eg birdbath or bowl of water for wildlife or small pond

**Does the garden encourage wildlife?**

**2 points**

- eg bug hotel, hedgehog highway, bird table, nest boxes.
- Planting attractive to insects/ bees / butterflies rather than astroturf or artificial plants.
- All round planting to support wildlife.

**Has recycling of containers been optimised?**

**1 point**

- Has use of plastic been minimised ?

## MAXIMUM 20 POINTS

0-7 points: no award

8-12 points: Certificate of Merit

13-20 points: Highly Commended Certificate



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