

Special Awards Guidance Notes

An entry for a Special Award may be considered only if it is situated within an entry in the main competition. If it does not fall within a main entry, then it may instead be suitable for an It's Your Neighbourhood (IYN) award.

All special award entries should be agreed with your judges by 31 May, following discussions at the spring visit. Judges may advise that an entry is not suitable or would benefit from additional time to mature.

Entries are limited to one special award per category up to a maximum of ten. There are seventeen categories of entry.

There is no fee for entering a special award, with the exception of business parks. Entries will be assessed during the judges' visit in July, and will receive their awards at the main NiB presentation which usually takes place in September. Extra time may be added onto the judges' visit for each special award where required.

If the proposed entry is within a main NiB entry and falls within a special award category, it would normally be entered as a special award unless the maximum number allowed had been reached. In that case, consideration could be given to entering it for an It's Your Neighbourhood award. If the proposed entry does not fall within one of the special award categories, then it may be eligible for entry as an IYN.

The balance of points emphasises horticultural achievement. There will be three criteria with points out of 50:25:25. Details of the criteria in each category are set out elsewhere in the website.

No entry may be put forward for both a special award and an IYN unless a volunteer group has a specific area of responsibility within a wider entry such as a public park.

Bloom groups of main entries may not be entered for special awards or IYN's.

Entrants will need to provide one digital photograph for each special award, in landscape format, for use during the presentation at the Awards Ceremony.