

RCMG Outstanding Gardens Scheme

Procedure

1. An application for recognition may be initiated by an RCMG Committee or Plant Committee member, or by the garden concerned, and involves building a dossier that describes in sufficient detail how the garden addresses the criteria for the scheme. The dossier should be sent to the Outstanding Gardens Coordinator who will log it, forward it to the Plant Committee Chairman for assessment and notify the RCMG Chairman for information.
2. The Plant Committee Chairman is responsible for ensuring that the application is assessed by at least two impartial Plant Committee members plus one other member of the RCMG. They may co-opt appropriate RCMG members from outside the committee as needed. Reasonable travel expenses may be requested from the garden.
3. The Plant Committee will make one of the following recommendations to the RCMG Chairman:
 - a. The garden meets the criteria and should be awarded Outstanding Garden status
 - b. The garden does not currently meet the criteria, but is clearly working towards doing so, and should be there within two years
 - c. The garden does not currently meet the criteria and is unlikely to do so within two years.
4. The RCMG Chairman will present a motion to the Committee to approve the Plant Committee's recommendation.
5. The Group will maintain a Register of gardens which have received the award. The Outstanding Garden Coordinator will also work with the Webmaster to ensure each awarded garden is represented on the appropriate section of the website.
6. All gardens that apply but are not awarded Outstanding Garden status will be provided with constructive feedback about what steps they need to take in order to meet the criteria in future.
7. Each garden is to be reviewed every tenth year by the same procedure as in 1) and 4) above. The designation may be revoked by the Committee if the maintenance and operation of the garden are perceived to have fallen below criteria standards.
8. A Committee Member who feels that a certificated garden may have fallen below criteria standards may request the Committee to have the garden reviewed at any time before the ten year review.
9. A list will also be maintained on the website of those gardens that are well on their way to Outstanding Garden status (as in 3b): these gardens must re-apply when they believe they meet the criteria. These entries will automatically be removed after two years, or when the garden is awarded Outstanding Garden status, whichever occurs first.