

Sheet & Tilmore Allotment Association

Allotment Judging & Prizes

Contrary to popular belief, the judging of the allotments is not just based on us standing, pointing and saying “Ooooh, isn’t that a great plot, let’s give it a prize.” We do have categories with specific maximum marks for each.

VARIETY OF PRODUCE {max 12 marks} Half a mark is given for every different thing that is being grown. Remember that potatoes are potatoes – you will only ever get half a mark for potatoes, regardless of how many different types you have. Similarly, squash is squash, beans are beans, fruit trees are fruit trees. If you really do have something extraordinary then just drop us a message to tell us – you can always point things out in case they might be missed because they look like something else. You could also LABEL things.

QUALITY OF PRODUCE (max 20 marks) - Size, lushness, full rows.

PLAN (max 10 marks) You do need a rotation plan: potatoes, alliums, brassicas are the main ones which could end up with disease if always planted in the same place. The Judges will look to see if plants in these categories are grouped together and are being rotated.

COMPOST HEAPS (max 10 marks) You need 3 compost heaps for max marks here. One currently being used, one ‘cooking’ and one being used for compost. Covering the one that’s cooking is a good idea – or grow a squash or courgette in it.

CLEANLINESS (max 20 marks) A high scoring category because it really is important to keep your plot clear of weeds that rob your produce of nutrients and will seed onto other people’s plots. This can be a tricky one – because ‘what is a weed?’ - companion planting can be so beneficial. So, if you are growing clover or nasturtiums round your brassicas to confuse the cabbage white butterfly, you still need to make sure there are no other random weeds in there.

PATHS (max 10 marks) We all have edges that need to be kept under control and defined, and if you have paths on your plot then they also need to be weed free.

WILDLIFE AREA (max 10 marks) Pollinating flowers (not random weeds) and in a clearly defined area. You will also get marks for being Pesticides Free, for bird feeders, insect houses, a pond and/or water for hedgehogs & insects, comfrey and/or comfrey feed. A few cheeky ploholders, on receiving a letter from the council/parish suggesting they may benefit from tidying their plot a bit, claimed it was a wildlife area. Full marks for effort but sadly non cultivation is not what we are encouraging on your allotment.

PRIZES – for Tilmore and also for Sheet

1st prize - £50: winners don’t have to be STAA members because it is a council funded grant

2nd prize - £20 voucher for use in the trading shed; winners must be STAA members

3rd prize - £10 voucher for use in the trading shed; winners must be STAA members

Best newcomer prize - £20 voucher for use in the trading shed; winners don’t have to be STAA members.