

It's not all about flowers!

We are looking for those of you who can create long-term improvements to your natural space. This could be a formally managed garden that includes careful use of drought resistant plants and some colourful bedding plants, or containers that run riot with colour using non-peat based compost and clever water-saving methods, or you can show that you have used recycled materials, make your own compost and encourage wildlife.

Kingston - what's your footprint?



Visit www.kingstonfootprint.co.uk to find out how you can live better, save money and reduce your impact on the environment.



Judging guidelines what the judges will want to see

Sustainability – use of drought resistant shrubs and perennials plants. Use of edible plants. Plants raised from seed, use of mulches and organic pesticides (if used at all).

Design/volume – balance between permanent shrubs/trees (garden features) and other planting, ensuring a good use of the space.

Maintenance – use of water saving devices, dead heading, regular weeding and hoeing.

Containers – should support the plants throughout the season in terms of size and water retention qualities, use of non peat-based compost.

Innovation – unusual planting schemes, inclusion of vegetables and fruits with flowers and grasses.

Note: Special considerations will be made when judging gardens looked after by people with disabilities.

Hints and tips toward a more sustainable garden.

Water your garden from a watering can in the cool of the morning or evening.

Don't water plants and shrubs too often or their roots will remain shallow, weakening the plant.

Collect rainwater in water butts and use a watering can instead of a hose.

Regularly weed and hoe your garden, so that watering helps plants, not weeds.

Plant flowers and shrubs that thrive in hot, dry conditions such as thyme, evening primrose, rock rose, Californian poppy, pinks, lavender & buddleia.

Mulches such as wood chips, bark and gravel help to prevent water evaporation and suppress weed growth.

Choose plants that attract butterflies, moths and pollinating insects, such as rudbeckia, geraniums, night-scented stocks and salvias.

Choose peat-free compost to protect one of our most precious wildlife habitats or make your own.

For further information on Sustainable Gardening visit www.kingston.gov.uk/sustainable_gardening or call the Council's Contact Centre on **020 8547 5002** and request a copy of our Sustainable Gardening Guide

It's not all about... ...flowers

We are looking for those of you who can create long-term improvements to your natural space.

Make a Difference

The way we use resources in our gardens can have a positive or negative impact on the environment. Request a copy of the Council's new Sustainable Gardening guide, or visit the Kingston in Bloom website to see it on-line, and start to reduce your garden's Ecological Footprint (EF).

For more information about EF visit www.kingston.gov.uk/eco_footprint



ecofootprint
Toward a **ONE Planet** lifestyle

Kingston in Bloom is a gardening competition open to all residents from beginners to experts, the aim is to support and encourage residents who look after their gardens.

- Please apply for yourself or nominate a neighbour who you think qualifies.
- Please pass this application form on to a friend if not suitable for you.



"Think Global, Act Local"

 The greenery in our streets is made of individual gardens that can bring enjoyment to residents and create a better environment for all. Well maintained gardens and green spaces raise the borough's profile, and enhance Kingston's entry to the London in Bloom awards.

There are **7** categories to choose from.

- 1 Best Front Garden** – remember it's not all about flowers; vegetables can be grown in your front garden very successfully.
- 2 Best Back Garden** – your back garden could be a paradise for local wildlife, providing food and shelter all year round. Have a dedicated area for food growing and enjoy the benefits of fresh food.
- 3 Best Containers** – anything that is grown in a container. This category is especially relevant to those of you that don't have access to a garden.
- 4 Best Education Establishment Display** – schools, colleges and universities.
- 5 Blooming Pub's, Restaurants and Café's** – attract customers with your stunning display.
- 6 Best Public buildings and Business Premises** – includes fire stations, church yards and gardens, transport terminals, factory and office buildings.
- 7 Best Community Space / Street** – do you and your fellow residents maintain a space or contribute to making the street look better by keeping your front garden in shape? Remember it's not all about flowers, this is about a litter free and attractive communal area.

Remember! Sustainable practices has now become a key judging criteria for this competition

Entryform

To enter please follow this link:
www.kingston.gov.uk/inbloom or send us the form below

Please tick which category from the list below

- 1 Best Front Garden**
- 2 Best Back Garden**
- 3 Best Containers**
- 4 Best Education Establishment Display**
- 5 Blooming Pub's, Restaurants and Café's**
- 6 Best Public buildings and Business Premises**
- 7 Best Community Space / Street**

Send your entry form to:
Green Spaces, Environment, Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames, Guildhall 2, High Street, Kingston Upon Thames, KT1 1EU

Name:
(this name will be used on any certificates awarded)

Address:

Postcode

Telephone:

Email:

Are you disabled? Yes No

Closing dates for entries will be 30 June 2011. Judging will take place during the last two weeks of July.