

The following information is intended to aid Competitors in achieving a high standard. Further information is contained in the RHS handbook. Allotment Secretaries are at liberty to copy these pointers and pass on to their members.

Competitors for the **AREA PLOT COMPETITION** please note the following:

- a. Plots must not be watered within SIX hours prior to judging.
- b. Competitors must not be on their plots whilst judging takes place.
- c. CONDITION OF PLOT
 - i. The soil needs to be in a well cultivated condition and of good condition and texture.
 - ii. Little or no evidence of weeds between crops. (Weeding has taken place in the last few days)
 - iii. Well stocked with crops
 - iv. Unplanted areas should be clean and free from weeds.
 - v. Perimeter and internal paths – made from any material, should be straight edged, even, neat, clean and well maintained. (i.e. no weeds mixed in with grass, edges of internal paths clearly defined)
- d. QUALITY OF CROPS
 - i. All crops whether flowers, fruit, herbs, or vegetables should be vigorous and sturdy.
 - ii. All crops free from damage by pests, disease or weather.
 - iii. Evidence of pest and disease control.
- e. CONDITION OF STRUCTURES
 - i. Sheds, greenhouses, poly-tunnels, frames, supports, cloches, compost heaps and netting)
 - ii. Structures should be neat, well constructed and of workmanlike appearance.
 - iii. Greenhouses, poly-tunnels and sheds should be clean and well maintained.
 - iv. Supports properly positioned and sturdy to withstand winds.
 - v. Netting should be properly positioned and undamaged.
- f. VISUAL ASPECT
 - i. The overall aspect of the plot should be neat and pleasing with a balance of cultivation.

Competitors for the **SITE COMPETITION** please note the following:

- a. GENERAL CLEANLINESS AND APPEARANCE OF THE SITE
 - i. The overall view of the site should be visually pleasing and well-balanced.
 - ii. Everything should be in its proper place.
 - iii. Adequate measures taken regarding un-let plots and control of pests, diseases and weeds.
 - iv. Orderly storage of manures, composts, rubbish etc. sheds, greenhouses and poly-tunnels in general neat, clean and of workmanlike appearance.
- b. LETTING SITUATION
 - i. Evidence that measures are taken to keep plots fully let, or that the site has a waiting list.
- c. MAIN AND SIDE PATHS
 - i. Straight edged even and well maintained.
 - ii. Free from all obstructions.