

Yard of the Season Selection Criteria Matrix

Matrix: Criteria Selection for Yard of the Season

Criteria	Poor	Fair	Average	Good	Excellent	Total
Use of creativity	1	2	3	4	5	
Use of color	1	2	3	4	5	
Use of plants	1	2	3	4	5	
Trees-healthy, well maintained, pruned.	1	2	3	4	5	
Fencing- well maintained	1	2	3	4	5	
Garden artwork- hardscape element or ornamental objects, pots	1	2	3	4	5	
Trimming, edging	1	2	3	4	5	
Use of Textures	1	2	3	4	5	
Curb appeal/overall effect	1	2	3	4	5	
Driveway/paved areas	1	2	3	4	5	
Bonus						
Yard Lighting (Bonus)	1	2	3	4	5	
Xeriscaping (Bonus)	1	2	3	4	5	
Reclaimed Water Irrigation System (Bonus)	1	2	3	4	5	
Overall Total						

1= Poor, 2= Fair, 3= Average, 4= Good, 5= Excellent

Criteria Categories Defined

- Use of Creativity: Personalizing your yard.
 - Use of Color: Variation of colors. This can be monotone or colorful.
 - A unified, simple, and balanced landscape design with a neat and natural appearance.
- Use of plant materials.
 - Plants not exclusively indigenous to the state of Texas but can thrive in the state's soil.
- Garden Art
 - Consisting of fountains, ornamental objects, pots, etc. Personal touch is encouraged.

- Trees
 - Well maintained, trimmed and are disease free.
- Trimming-the grass by the edge of the pavement so that an edge is visible.
 - Grass should be healthy with no bare spots or excessive weeds.
 - Grass mowed, edged, and trimmed around foundations and fences.
 - Guide for tree trimming: [Tree Pruning to ANSI Standards \(tcia.org\)](https://www.tcia.org)
- Curb appeal/overall effect
 - The overall look of landscaping (formal versus informal, use of color and textures, garden art).
 - The front entryway should be inviting with original detail.
- Sidewalk/walkway/pavement
 - Debris free and maintained.
- Fencing
 - A well-maintained fence or no fence will receive an automatic scoring of 5.
- Lighting (Bonus)
 - Highlight landscaping and materials.
 - Unique lighting that does not cause a nuisance.
- Irrigation System water conservation: Reclaimed Water Systems or xeriscaping (**Bonus**)
 - Xeriscaping: The process of [landscaping/gardening](#), that reduces or eliminates the need for [irrigation](#); unique landscaping such as bioswale or innovation landscaping.
 - Reclaimed Irrigation Water System: The process of converting [wastewater](#) into water that can be [reused](#) for other purposes such as garden irrigation.

To learn more visit: [Reclaimed Wastewater \(usgs.gov\)](https://www.usgs.gov)

- List of indigenous plants. [Search The Native Texas Plant Database - Texas Smarts cape \(txsmartscape.com\)](https://www.txsmartscape.com)
- Use of a rain barrel to collect water with proper procedures to element harboring of mosquitos.
 - This applies to birdbaths, fountains, and items that collect water.
 - Please refer to mosquito management. [Mosquito Management Program & Information | Rowlett, TX - Official Website](#)

Records

Neighborhood Planning will keep photos of the winning yard archived for a year on the Rowlett Neighborhood Planning website.

Season's timeline

Seasons	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
Time period	<i>March 21-June 20</i>	<i>June 21-Sept 20</i>	<i>Sept 21-Dec 20</i>	<i>Dec 21-March21</i>

Nominations start at the beginning of each season and run for a month. The Yard of the Season committee has a 2-week period to select the winners. After winners are selected, Neighborhood Planning has 2 weeks to contact the season winners. During the last month of every season a physical City sign, acknowledging the winning yard, will be posted, if permitted by the homeowner, on the recognized yard until the new season commences (in about a one-month period).

Restrictions

A participant/nominee cannot be chosen again until a full calendar year has lapsed.