

Monarch Awards 2017 entry questionnaire

Please read through all the questions before you start. At the end you'll be asked to attach photos of your garden. If you need help phone (905) 549-0900 (Environment Hamilton office). The photo and privacy rules are found on the last page.

The contest has six main themes: plants, soil, water, materials, aesthetics, and habitat. This questionnaire will help the judges understand what you're doing in each of these areas. Based on this information they'll decide which gardens to visit.

Tell us about yourself.

Name: _____

Are you the gardener? The person who designed and/or made the garden? Y___ N___
If you are *not* the gardener, what is your relationship to the garden?

Street address (of the garden): _____

Phone number _____

Email _____ Date _____

How did you hear about the Monarch Awards?

___ I entered last year

___ Facebook

___ information in my mailbox

___ Ward Councillor's newsletter

___ saw flyer at an event

___ Community Newspaper

Other: _____

Tell us about your garden.

1. What do you consider "beauty" in a garden? Describe in your own words (about 200 words)

2. What is your definition of a “weed”? (about 100 words)

3. What is your definition of a native plant? (about 100 words)

Plants

4. How biodiverse is your garden? Choose one.

- A) very diverse. Too many plant species to count
- B) quite diverse. My garden has many different species
- C) somewhat diverse. I grow only my favourite plants

Comment if you like: _____

5. Please list some of the native plants in your garden-- at least three

5.1 _____

5.2 _____

5.3 _____

5.4 _____

5.5 _____

6. Do you grow milkweed (asclepias) in your garden Y___ N___

Soil

7. What do you do with your garden and yard waste (leaves and cuttings)?

8. Do you compost your kitchen scraps to use in your garden? Y___ N___

9. If you amend your soil or fertilize your plants, what do you use? Check as many as apply.
- a) compost
 - b) manure
 - c) commercial NPK fertilizer
 - d) organic fertilizer(s)
 - e) other: _____

Water

10. Do you capture rainfall to use for watering your garden? Y___ N___
11. a) Do you provide supplemental water to your garden? Y___ N___
- b) If yes, describe how you water your garden. Choose the ONE you do most often.
- ___ by hand (can/bucket)
 - ___ soaker hose
 - ___ sprinklers
 - ___ drip / gravity system
 - ___ I generally don't provide supplementary water
12. How much impermeable surface is in your yard? Impermeable means that water cannot pass through. Include pavement and pool areas as impermeable. Choose one.
- ___ None or minimal
 - ___ Some (paths and edgings)
 - ___ Parts (patio / pool deck)
 - ___ Large areas (driveways/ parking pads)

Materials and Hardscaping

13. a) Do you use mulch? Choose one
- ___ A) Yes, all ground surfaces are covered
 - ___ B) Yes, but there is some bare soil
 - ___ C) No, I choose not to use mulch
 - ___ D) No, because there is no need for mulch in my garden
- b) If you use mulch, what type(s) are they? Check any that you use.
- ___ A) bark chips / shredded bark mulch
 - ___ B) wood chips (from trees)
 - ___ C) gravel or stone
 - ___ D) leaves
 - ___ E) compost
 - ___ F) other _____

14. Describe any hardscaping in your yard. Hardscaping is anything made of wood, metal, stone, gravel, brick, pavers, and decking. Can include: decks, pools, fencing, retaining walls, pathways, structures, built up planting areas.

Habitat / Wildlife Benefits

15. Please list benefits to wildlife that you provide in your garden. These may include food, water, shelter or special features that benefit birds, insects or animals. Here are some examples: bird bath; butterfly puddling area; fruiting trees or shrubs, leaf or log pile to shelter small animals; bee boxes, bat houses..

15.1 _____

15.2 _____

15.3 _____

15.4 _____

15.5 _____

16. When do you clean up your garden? Choose one.

___ 16.1 early fall

___ 16.2 late fall

___ 16.3 early spring

___ 16.4 late spring

___ 16.5 I don't usually clean up my garden

Photos

Five photos are required. Print the photo # on the back of each photo so we can match it with the description below.

Photo 1- Broad View. A shot of your property that shows the entire garden and house. We want to see the garden in context. It can be either your front yard or back yard but it needs to show “the big picture”. No flower closeups. No individual gardens. Show us as much as you can in one frame. Tell us about this photo:

Photo 2- Another Broad View. If you showed the front in photo 1, show the back or side here. Tell us about this photo:

Photo 3. Show us at least one of your **native plants**. Tell us about this photo:

Photo 4. Show us other native plants in your garden. Tell us about this photo:

Photo 5. Show us more of your garden-- choose a photo that shows how your garden meets the contest criteria. Tell us about this photo:

Photos 6 to 10 (all optional) Show us more of your garden-- choose photos that show how your garden meets the contest criteria. Tell us about each photo:

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

Entry deadline is midnight Sunday June 18, 2017.

The selection of finalists happens between June 18 and 25.

Judges' site visits are scheduled between Monday July 10 and 17, 2017

Based on the questionnaire information, we will be forwarding a number of entries to the judging team. The judges will decide which gardens to visit. If your garden is chosen for a visit we will contact you to arrange a mutually convenient time. Good luck!

Thank you for entering the Monarch Awards

Mail or bring (paper entries only) to

Environment Hamilton
22 Wilson Street Suite 4
Hamilton, ON L8R 1C5
Phone: (905) 549-0900

The Environment Hamilton office is located on the second floor of the Sonic Unyon building on Wilson just east of James St.

Privacy Information

We do not share your personal information. If you are selected as an award winner we will publish your name and neighbourhood but not your address. We may ask your permission to feature you and your garden in a print article in order to promote sustainable gardening and/or the Monarch Awards.

Regarding photographs you submit: Copyright of the photo remains with the photographer, and the photographer will not be restricted from any other use of the photo. We do not share your photos with other individuals or organizations without the photographer's consent. By submitting a photo or photos you give Monarch Awards permission to use them, with credit, in the course of our work, for non-commercial, educational purposes. For example, we may use them on our website, in presentations, outreach materials, banners, etc.