

Grimsby Summer Trillium Program 2017

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Q. What kinds of gardens are included in the Trillium scope?

A, All front gardens and balconies of residential, commercial, condominium, rental and town house properties. Excluded are buildings located on private lanes and roads, not accessible to the public. Condominium complexes are on private roads and are accessible to the public, so are included.

2. Q. Do the judges walk around the front garden to view it?

A, The judges do **not** walk around the front garden. They view it from the street and front sidewalk. They walk along the street or the sidewalk. The Trillium scope is the front garden viewable from the street/sidewalk.

3. Q. Are side gardens included in the judging where there are corner properties?

A. The Trillium scope is the **front garden viewable from the street**. Where the side garden is viewable from a straight-on front street view, it will be included. The judges do not walk around the corner and view the side garden when it isn't viewable from the front street view.

4. Q. How long does it take to judge a garden?

A. Typical viewing/assessment times are between 10 to 20 minutes for a garden. Judges use an assessment checklist and scoring form. They have been trained and are skilled in making an assessment. The checklist for assessment is available on the Grimsby Garden Club website.

5. Q. How do you decide the front garden – it is where the house number is?

A. There are 2 possible front gardens – the part of the house with the number on it, or the part of the house with the front door. The judges look to see where the front seems most likely and use that for judging. This accommodates newer housing sections where the house number is on one street with the garage and the front door is around the corner.

6. Q. Are artificial plants a detriment in the judging criteria?

A. The presence of artificial plants can be a solution for a porch or balcony situation where there is low light. In particular, artificial boxwood is sometimes used in these settings. Artificial flowers can integrate as accent features in the landscape or the container. However, artificial flowers and plants as substitutes for living garden material is discouraged.

7. Q. Is artificial turf allowed?

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- A. Artificial turf is discouraged as a major feature. The Trillium program recognizes beautiful front gardens, and recommends natural, living material in a natural environment. That means it is integrated in the environment and welcome to animals, insects, and other living creatures. Artificial turf is a noticeable as a feature on the landscape. Like artificial trees, bushes, and flowers, it falls outside the program's purpose and is considered a detriment.
8. Q. How do judges assess different sized properties – particularly small gardens?
- A. Judging different sized properties takes skill and expertise. Judges receive training in applying the assessment criteria in a consistent way. One might think that a small garden has a better chance of scoring higher – for example it likely is less effort and time to maintain to high standards. However, in a small plot of say, 15x20 feet, the effect of each plant and element is critical. One plant out of scale has a medium to high impact. This is the case for mismatched or poor colour integration. Each item contributes to balance, unity and harmony. In a large garden, one plant or element out of place would not have a high impact on the design. In this scenario, groupings and flow of plants and elements are evaluated.
9. Q. Can a garden get a Trillium every year?
- A. Yes, there currently are no limitations to the number of trilliums a garden can receive. Beautiful gardens can be awarded a Trillium each year.
10. Q. If a house is recently purchased can it receive a Trillium?
- A. Yes, there are currently no rules disqualifying a garden because it has been recently purchased.
11. Q. Is there a way for the public to choose the best gardens in Grimsby?
- A. There currently isn't a popular choice award. We are looking into the possibility of a popular vote, and will keep you up to date on developments.
12. Q. Can I submit a nomination after the deadline?
- A. There may be special circumstances that cause the deadline to be moved for everyone – power outages, or circumstances that affect everyone in the town. Individual circumstances may also exist: this might be an illness, being away, or a special circumstance. Typically a grace period of a few days will be allowed. We will notify everyone via our website, newsletter, and facebook page of a deadline change that applies to all.
13. Q. My property has been nominated but I am no sure it is “Trillium-worthy”
- A. The Grimsby Garden Club website shows the winning gardens from the last few years to give a sense of what a Trillium winning garden looks like. In addition, the

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detailed and summary assessment criteria are published on the website. A nominated garden owner can decline the nomination – there is no penalty, and it is a voluntary program. To choose to not participate, just contact the chair of the Trilliums published on the website or grimsbygardenclub@outlook.com and ask to be removed from the judging.

14. Q. How do I interpret the assessment criteria and the numerical rating scale?

A. To get a sense of the assessment rating numbers and what they mean, use the following rule of thumb:

5 – excellent to outstanding

4 – very good

3 – good

2 – fair

1 – poor

0 – not present/missing