



European Award for Ecological Gardening 2021

Conditions for participation

Version of 12/11/2020

I. Responsibility for the content of the Award and submission office

The initiative Natur im Garten, represented by the Federal Province of Lower Austria as well as the “European Garden Association - Natur im Garten International”, the „Natur im Garten“ GmbH will award the “European Award for Ecological Gardening 2021“ as a recognition of outstanding achievements in the field of ecological gardening. The Award, for which participants from all over Europe are eligible, will be handed over by an international expert jury.

Competition Management

European Garden Association - Natur im Garten International

A-3430 Tulln, Am Wasserpark 1, Austria

award@naturimgarten.at

<http://www.naturimgarten.at/award>

<http://www.naturimgarten.at/award-english>

II. Subject of the Award

It is the objective of the European Award for Ecological Gardening 2021 to award prizes to outstanding, high-quality projects and achievements, which have already been implemented and are based on ecological gardening. We are looking for both innovative and sustainable projects of exemplary character, which are near-naturally designed, ecologically cultivated and can also include social and economic aspects.

III. Objective of the Award and assessment criteria

The objective of the Award is reflected in the assessment criteria and is intended to present excellent ideas, achievements and results in one or several aspects:

- respect for nature and biodiversity, resource conservation
- optimisation of ecological processes and methods in garden management
- the most optimal ecological care and plant selection in accordance with the
- respective location
- implementation of innovative and sustainable ideas
- raising public awareness for ecological gardening
- social aspects with model character

Submissions can be made in the following three categories:

- **Category 1: Promoting biodiversity in gardens and green areas**
Biodiversity means diversity - diversity of different living spaces, diversity of animal and plant species, mushrooms and microorganisms. At the same time, diverse structures also play an important role when it comes to near-natural design and careful soil and environmental management through ecological care - because

ultimately, nature and species protection starts right at our front door.

The projects that can be submitted and have already been implemented have the potential to generate quite colourful mixtures: Consequently, renaturated industrial areas, school grounds, city parks, public green areas, free spaces in company and residential buildings, as well as many other projects can be submitted. In these projects, the promotion of biological diversity is requirement.

Prizes will be awarded to appealing, inspiring and ecologically valuable projects in public, semi-public or private green areas, which - irrespective of their size - create a real added value for humans and the environment and contribute to increasing biodiversity.

- **Category 2: Climate-friendly gardens, green areas and greening of buildings**

Climate change presents new challenges for us. More and more intelligent ways are needed to adapt our gardens and green spaces to climate change. For this reason, we are looking for already implemented projects that create an added value for residents and the environment alike inside settlements. During the assessment process, particular attention will be given to a location-appropriate selection of plants, the intelligent use of rainwater, the improvement of the microclimate, as well as climate-fit gardening. At the same time, the focus will also be laid on the existence of a nursing concept for the sustainability of the given project.

Prizes will be awarded to ecologically valuable projects in public, semi-public or private green areas and building greenings, which - irrespective of their size - can be used for multiple purposes and also integrate the region or their surroundings, such as the origin of materials used (natural stone, wood, etc.). Also aspects of fair environmental conditions, climate protection, as well as the generation and use of energy are intended to reflect the projects in an innovative way.

- **Category 3: Gardens for health, care and therapy**

Gardens and green spaces mean freedom, adventure, recreation and livelihood. Consequently, it is no accident that gardens and green spaces are also increasingly being used in hospitals, rehabilitation and addiction treatment centres, facilities for people with disabilities and residential homes for senior citizens, as well as in schools and kindergartens as a health-promoting or therapeutic tool. This way of extending the living space and spectrum of perception not only contributes to a better quality of life for its users but also offers health-care staff new possibilities in their professional environment. As a result, gardens for health, care and therapy also create a new form of togetherness.

In this category, gardens and green areas belonging to hospitals, residential homes for senior citizens, therapeutic institutions, as well as garden-therapeutic education and similar institutions can be submitted, which additionally promote the health and well-being inside the green areas connected to them. Criteria also include an exemplary quality of stay and care, as well as the involvement of gardens in therapeutic concepts.

Prizes will be awarded to ecologically valuable projects, which have already been implemented in public, semi-public or private green areas, irrespective of their size. Furthermore, these projects can be used for multiple purposes and integrate the region or their surroundings, such as the origin of the materials used (natural stone, wood, etc.).

IV. Eligibility to participate

The competition is open to anyone. The competition particularly targets gardeners, planners, municipalities & communities, educational institutions and associations from all European nations. Participation in the European Award for Ecological Gardening 2021 is free of charge.

Projects can be submitted which have been finalised during the past five years. Submitters are free to make their submissions in as many categories as they wish, provided that all criteria are met. However, the same project can be submitted in one category only. Should a submission be conceivable in all three categories, the submitter(s) select(s) those they consider to be the focus of the given project. The Jury reserves the right to shift submissions to a different category where appropriate.

The competition is not open to:

- employees and relatives of members of the Awarding Authority and organisers, as well as
- projects which have already been awarded with the European Award for Ecological Gardening during the previous 4 years.

V. Competition language

English

In addition, the description of the project can also be enclosed in German.

VI. Documents to be submitted

Submissions can only be made **online at www.naturimgarten.at/award starting from 15 November 2020 until 31 May 2021.** A submission consists of the following:

1. Application for project submission (form)

A fully completed online submission form for project submissions, containing a description of the characteristics of horticultural achievements, taking into account the objective of the award, indicating the location and integration into the environment (approx. 2.000 characters including spaces, in English).

2. Illustrations and photographs

6 to 12 illustrations and photographs, which (in terms of assessment) are of significance for the project, indicating the project name and referring to the idea, location and social aspects; details should be given only if they are of relevance for the application. Use the following formats: A4 as JPG or TIF, resolution: 300 dpi (printable), max. 5 MB per picture. Include statements of copyright / photographic rights and an indication of the photographers' names. The pictures must represent the current status of the project and should not be older than 2 years at most.

For further project documentation, the following are possible and requested:

- Short films and videos (only PC readable formats, 3-5 minutes, max. 30 MB),
- Additional illustration material, such as plans, graphics, etc.
- Further documentation (press-clippings, brochures, etc.)

3. Receipt of documents

All the application documents must be submitted at the latest by **31 May 2021 23:59 hrs** digitally via online form (including the author's name, total data volume: max. 60 MB).

The Jury can exclude a submission from the competition if the documents are incomplete.

The Awarding Authority reserves the right to request additional documentation subsequently in order to provide evidence of facts or to question third parties about the projects submitted. The latter findings can be taken into consideration during the assessment.

VII. Jury and assessment procedure

The composition of the jury is incumbent on the Awarding Authority. All jury members have many years of experience in their field and are renowned and well-known personalities in the international horticultural industry. The jury is independent of the participants and makes a free decision.

After the submission deadline, all submitted projects will be viewed and subjected to a comprehensive assessment. The Jury will nominate the 10 best projects from each category; finally, one award winner will be selected from each of these categories. The 30 best projects selected in this way will be presented in an exhibition. The jury sessions will take place in June and July 2021.

Decisions will be taken by a simple majority of the votes. The decisions of the Jury are final and are not countervailable. Any recourse to courts of law is excluded. No written correspondence can be conducted about the Jury's work.

If, upon evaluation of the dossiers by the Jury, it appears that the submitter was not eligible for participation, or if there is any reason for exclusion, the next submission in the sequence will advance.

VIII. Nominations and prize

The Jury will nominate the 10 best submissions in each category and select the winning project from among the latter. Participants to the competition nominated for the prize will be informed in writing and announced on 15 August 2021 on the website of "Natur im Garten", as well as in social networks and other online and print media. The award winner will be presented to the public only during the prize award ceremony on 6 October 2021.

For each category, a prize will be awarded to the winning project. The prize is made up of the public prize award ceremony, a special plaque, as well as a prize money of EUR 1.000,00. In

addition to that, the winners will be published on the www.naturimgarten.at website, also including press work.

Prizes and certificates will be handed over solely to the submitter(s) of the competition contributions which receive an award. The prize award ceremony, during which the winning projects will be announced, will be held on 6 October 2021 on the island of Mainau in Germany.

IX. Publication of the competition results and prize award ceremony

Participation in the competition and the prize award ceremony is free of charge. Beyond that, no costs incurred can be reimbursed.

The 30 nominated projects will be introduced and presented in the form of an exhibition, during which project submitters will have the opportunity to personally introduce their projects. Submitters will be requested to personally attend the award ceremony. You are kindly requested to register in time at www.naturimgarten.at/award.

The winners will, along with their competition contributions, be published primarily on the website of "Natur im Garten", as well as in social networks and other online and print media.

X. Schedule and important dates

- 15 November 2020:** Start of the submission period
- 31 May 2021** End of the submission period
- June/July 2021:** jury sessions
- 15 August 2021:** Announcement of the nominations on the website of "Natur im Garten" as well as in social networks
- 6 October 2021:** prize award ceremony and announcement of the winning projects

XI. Awarding Authority

Federal Province of Lower Austria
RU3 - Gruppe Raumordnung, Umwelt und Verkehr
Abteilung Umwelt- und Energiewirtschaft
A-3109 St. Pölten, Landhausplatz 1, Österreich
www.noe.gv.at

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www.naturimgarten.at

European Garden Association - Natur im Garten International
A-3430 Tulln, Am Wasserpark 1, Österreich
award@naturimgarten.at
www.naturimgarten.at/european-garden-association

XII. Changes to the terms and conditions of participation

The conditions of participation are conditional and may be subject to change at any time.

XIII. Contact

Questions regarding the submission can be sent to the Awarding Authority at:
award@naturimgarten.at.

XIV. Declaration of consent

The submitter(s) confirm(s) that he/she/they is/are authorised to submit the project for the award "European Award for Ecological Gardening 2021".

The submitter(s) also confirm(s) that he/she/they is/are entitled to hold the usage right(s) and copyright(s) to the materials forwarded in connection with the submission, especially uploaded photos, videos and other photographic materials, and that he/she/they has/have obtained the consent of the persons depicted on these pictures.

The submitter(s) agree(s) to the publication of the competition contributions they have submitted, which is unrestricted in space and time during the exhibition and in the media (presentations, web, print and radio), as well as for the purpose of further publications, by indicating the submitters, photographers and the location.

The submitted documents remain with the awarding authority and will not be returned.

By submitting their competition contributions, all participants to the competition accept all conditions contained in the call for participation. All participants explicitly acknowledge that the decisions taken by the Jury are final and incontestable in all technical matters and matters of discretion. There is no right of appeal.