

# BC INSTALLATION JUDGING CRITERIA

Note: half points are acceptable. Where criteria does not apply disregard and adjust total accordingly.

OVERALL IMPRESSION - 35 TOTAL POINTS	Description	Outstanding to Excellent (9 to 10)	Good (7 to 8)	Fair (1 to 6)	TOTAL VALUE
	a) Overall first impression on the general appearance and visual impact	Outstanding Aesthetic Impression; Striking and memorable visual impact with exceptional polish, detail, and harmony that delivers a clear "wow factor".	Good Aesthetic Impression; Visually appealing and cohesive with thoughtful execution that contributes to a strong overall impression.	Fair to poor Aesthetic Impression; Lacks strong visual impact or feels inconsistent, underwhelming and unfinished.	10
		Excellent proportion and scale achieved	Average proportion and scale achieved	Proportion and scale not achieved	
		Impeccably clean and weed free overall	Moderately clean and weed free overall	Untidy appearance; debris and/or weeds.	
		Ideal suitability and creative application for site and purpose	Appropriate suitability and application for site and purpose	Lack of cohesiveness; inappropriate application for site and purpose	
		Outstanding to Excellent (4 to 5)	Good (2 to 3)	Fair (1)	TOTAL VALUE
	b) Degree of uniqueness or difficulty of situation	Excellent ingenuity and unique approach and to landscape issues and challenges	Good ingenuity and approach to landscape issues and challenges	Average ingenuity and approach to landscape issues	10
		High degree of difficulty to the situation or solution with outstanding success	Moderate degree of difficulty to the situation or solution with good success	Little or no degree of difficulty to the situation or solution	
		Outstanding to Excellent (4 to 5)	Good (2 to 3)	Fair (1)	TOTAL VALUE
	c) Harmony of design elements	Excellent harmony and unification of hardscape and softscape design elemnts	Good harmony and unification of hardscape and softacep design elements	Poor harmony and unification of hardscape and softscape design elements	10
		Excellent execution of project style and use of space	Good execution of project style and use of space	Fair execution of project style and use of space	
		Excellent attention to form scale and balance/repetition	Good attention to form scale and balance/repetition	Average attention to form scale and balance/repetition	
		Excellent spatial composition with consideration of use, circulation, traffic flow	Good spatial composition with consideration of use, circulation, traffic flow	Fair spatial composition with consideration of use, circulation, traffic flow	
		Outstanding to Excellent (4 to 5)	Good (2 to 3)	Fair (1)	TOTAL VALUE
	d) Integration and ecological balance of hard and soft landscape elements	Exceptional integration and balance of materials that enhances the style and unifies the space.	Thoughtful use of materials that generally support the intent and spatial cohesion wiht an average proportion of scale.	Basic or mismatched use of materials that appear disconnected or visually disjointed.	5
		Clear and thoughtful choices show an integration and ecological balance between hard and soft elements that clearly support sustainability.	Good integration between hard and soft elements with some evidence of ecological balance and sustainable intent.	Minimal integration or balance between hard and soft elements, with little attention to sustainability.	
		Material selections are both functional and aesthetic, elevating the overall project quality.	Material choices are appropriate but may lack refinement or consistency.	Material choices lack intention or coherence with the project's overall vision.	

HARDSCAPING - 30 TOTAL POINTS		Outstanding to Excellent (9 to 10)	Good (7 to 8)	Fair (1 to 6)	TOTAL VALUE
	a) Quality of hardscape materials	Excellent quality in all hard landscape materials selected, and ideal placement	Good quality in all hard landscape materials selected, and appropriate placement	Fair quality or placement in all hard landscape materials selected that could use improvements	10
		Excellent proportion and scale achieved with balanced integration of well chosen hardscaping elements relative to the site	Average proportion and scale achieved with balanced integration of good hardscaping elements relative to the site	Proportion and scale not achieved; little or no balance of hardscaping elements relative to the site	
		Outstanding to Excellent (9 to 10)	Good (7 to 8)	Fair (1 to 6)	TOTAL VALUE
	b) Construction and Installation techniques and correctness of all hard surfaces (wooden, natural or fabricated)	High standard of quality workmanship in installation evident of hardscape features, including: natural or aggregate rock, stone, pavers; and structures such as fences, decks etc	Adequate standard of quality workmanship in installation evident of hardscape features, including: natural or aggregate rock/ stone/pavers; and structures such as fences, decks etc	Unsatisfactory standard of quality workmanship in installation evident of hardscape features, including: natural or aggregate rock/ stone/pavers; and structures such as fences, decks etc	10
		Excellent attention to detail in finishing of hard surfaces: such as solidity and stability (rock or paver); consistency in joint filling between stones; absence of unacceptable waves	Good attention to detail in finishing of hard surfaces: such as solidity and stability (rock or paver); some inconsistency in joint filling between stones; some unacceptable waves	Poor attention to detail in finishing of hard surfaces: such as solidity and stability (rock or paver); inconsistency in joint filling between stones; unacceptable waves	
		Excellent attention to detail in finishing of wooden structures: proper assembly of wood structure, precision cuts and absence of waves in lumber respect of construction details and job finish	Good attention to detail in finishing of structures: proper assembly of wood structure, precision cuts and absence of waves in lumber respect of construction details and job finish	Poor attention to detail in finishing of structures: proper assembly of wood structure, precision cuts and absence of waves in lumber respect of construction details and job finish	
		Outstanding to Excellent (4 to 5)	Good (2 to 3)	Fair (1)	TOTAL VALUE
	c) Capability and relationship with surroundings	Hardscape elements integrate seamlessly with the existing landscape and natural context.	Hardscape elements are generally compatible with the surroundings, though some transitions may feel less refined.	Hardscape elements feel disconnected from the existing landscape or out of place.	5
		Each element serves a clear, functional purpose that enhances usability or experience.	Most elements serve a clear purpose or function, with minor gaps in usability or intent.	Features lack a clear purpose or function and do not contribute meaningfully to the site.	
		Outstanding to Excellent (4 to 5)	Good (2 to 3)	Fair (1)	TOTAL VALUE
	d) Demonstrates attention to functionality and safety, including stable surfaces, stair dimensions, railings and practical accessibility.	Expertly installed with precise attention to safety and usability, exceeding standard practices for accessibility, stability, and user comfort.	Meets expected safety and accessibility standards, with functional execution and no evident issues in usability or stability.	Safety or functionality is compromised by issues such as unstable surfaces, poor stair placement/sizing, or missing accessibility features.	5
		Features integrate seamlessly into the landscape while prioritizes user comfort, safety, and long-term usability without creating hazards or obstructions.	Some minor details could be improved for enhanced safety, comfort, or usability, but overall installation is sound and practical.	Installation may include elements that pose risks or fail to meet basic practical standards.	

SOFTSCAPING - 35 TOTAL POINTS

	Outstanding to Excellent (9 to 10)	Good (7 to 8)	Fair (1 to 6)	TOTAL VALUE
a) Quality and health of softscape materials	Excellent quality of plant material; excellent establishment rate; new season growth recognizable	Good quality of plant material; good establishment	Fair growth habit; some plants struggling or dead	10
	Plant material appears to be pest free. Absence of deadwood and leaves/broken branches; free of disease and/or insect pests	Plant material may have pests - showing some evidence of deadwood and leaves/broken branches; minor if any incidence of disease and/or insect pests	Evidence of deadwood and leaves/broken branches; some symptoms of disease and/or insect pests.	
	Outstanding degree of weed elimination; high attention to detail on weed eradication through cultural or mechanical means	Good degree of weed elimination; good attention to detail in removal of weeds	Poor degree of weed elimination; high incidence of weed pressure	
	Outstanding to Excellent (4 to 5)	Good (2 to 3)	Fair (1)	TOTAL VALUE
b) Unique use of plant material	Excellent selection of unique or diverse plant material suited to the site and the relationship with hardscaping features	Good selection of diversity plant material suited to the site and relationship with hardscaping features	Average selection of commonly used plant material suited or somewhat suited to the site and hardscaping features.	5
	Presence of broadleaf weeds do not detract from appearance of turf; weed pressure is acceptable for site	Presence of broadleaf weeds somewhat detract from appearance of turf; weed pressure is high for site	Presence of broadleaf weeds detracts from appearance of turf; weed pressure is not acceptable for site	
	Outstanding to Excellent (9 to 10)	Good (7 to 8)	Fair (1 to 6)	TOTAL VALUE
c) Installation techniques and correctness	Excellent attention to proper horticultural practices in site preparation, planting (depth and alignment) and aftercare, including plant supports where needed	Good attention to proper horticultural practices in site preparation, planting (depth and alignment) and aftercare, including plant supports where needed	Fair to poor attention to proper horticultural practices in site preparation, planting (depth and alignment) and aftercare, including plant supports where needed	10
	Excellent attention to appropriate selection and proper application of mulch to the required depth, suitable to the site	Good attention to appropriate selection and proper application of mulch to the required depth, suitable to the site	Fair attention to selection and proper application of mulch; depth may not be suitable for the site; improvements required to the required	
	Medium is properly prepared and applied with consistency; tree wells are correctly formed and no signs of over-mounding.	Medium needs to be appropriately redirected; Tree wells need some modification	Medium is not consistent or improperly applied; Trees have burried flares or volcanoes	
	Outstanding to Excellent (4 to 5)	Good (2 to 3)	Fair (1)	TOTAL VALUE
d) Turf/ground cover: installation techniques, health quality, and condition	Outstanding condition of well groomed healthy turf/ground cover	Good condition of well groomed healthy turf/ground cover	Fair condition of turf/ground cover; shows signs of stress	5
	Excellent attention to proper turf/ground cover cultural/installation requirements	Good attention to proper turf/ground cover cultural/installation requirements	Fair attention to proper turf/ground cover cultural/installation requirements; improvement necessary	
	Flat/even surface; no holes or evidence of wear patterns	No apparent evidence of wear patterns	Some wear patterns in high traffic areas	
	Outstanding to Excellent (4 to 5)	Good (2 to 3)	Fair (1)	TOTAL VALUE
e) Mulch Installation techniques and correctness	Mulch is applied to the correct depth (typically 2–3 inches), demonstrating a strong grasp of best practices: kept clear of plant crowns and trunks, and installed cleanly without burying lighting fixtures exposed.	Mulch is mostly well-applied, with some inconsistencies in depth or placement near plant bases; minor issues may include lighting slightly buried or unevenly revealed.	Mulch is poorly applied - too deep, too thin, or mounded against stems; with lighting fixtures often buried due to inconsistent coverage.	5
	Enhances moisture retention, suppresses weeds, and supports soil health; mulch covers and protects irrigation lines while allowing the system to function effectively and unobstructed.	Generally supports water conservation and weed control; irrigation lines are mostly covered but may be at risk of exposure over time.	Provides limited benefit; exposed irrigation lines or improper coverage interfere with system performance and reflect a lack of proper technique.	

**BONUS POINTS:** These can be distributed as one point for each statement below or any combination there of at the discretion of the judge, up to a max of 5 Total Bonus Points.

Landscape clearly has a dynamic “wow factor” and incorporates innovative selection / use of softscape and hardscape materials.
The install demonstrates exemplary creativity in implementation or achieves success in overcoming site challenges.
The installation/construction promote a concerted effort in sustainability or environmental stewardship.
The landscape permits universal accessibility. (no barriers to accessibility for wheelchairs, strollers etc)
There some evidence of use of recyclable materials, water conservation methods, or other like innovations.