

# BC MAINTENANCE JUDGING CRITERIA

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

OVERALL IMPRESSION - 20 TOTAL POINTS	Description	Outstanding to Excellent (18 to 20)	Good (14 to 17)	Fair (1 to 13)	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.	20
		The site demonstrates a high standard of quality maintenance through consistent care and a polished, well-managed overall appearance.	Maintenance is adequate, with generally acceptable upkeep across the site, though some areas show minor inconsistencies or less attention.	The level of maintenance is unsatisfactory, with noticeable signs of neglect, inconsistent care, and an overall lack of attention.	
		Impeccably clean site, weeded, and debris free overall	Moderately clean site, but has some debris and weed free	Untidy appearance; debris or weeds present	
TURF / GROUNDCOVER - 25 TOTAL POINTS		Outstanding to Excellent (9 to 10)	Good (7 to 8)	Fair (1 to 6)	TOTAL VALUE
	a) Impression of the ground cover and turf	Outstanding condition of well groomed healthy turf or groundcover	Good condition of well groomed healthy turf or groundcover	Fair condition of turf or groundcover; shows signs of stress	10
		Excellent attention to proper turf or groundcover cultural requirements	Good attention to proper turf or groundcover cultural requirements	Fair attention to proper turf or groundcover cultural requirements; improvement necessary	
		No apparent evidence of wear patterns or bare areas	No apparent evidence of wear patterns or bare areas	Some wear patterns in high traffic areas, or bare areas in groundcover	
		Outstanding to Excellent (4 to 5)	Good (2 to 3)	Fair (1)	TOTAL VALUE
	b) Acceptable weed pressure within turf or ground covers in lieu of pesticide bans	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	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 (4 to 5)	Good (2 to 3)	Fair (1)	TOTAL VALUE
	c) Mowing, trimming and edging of turf or ground cover	OUTSTANDING attention to detail in mowing and trimming; hatch lines evident	Good attention to detail in mowing and trimming; some improvement possible	Needs more attention to detail in mowing and trimming	5
		Mowing height appropriate for cultural conditions of site	Mowing height somewhat appropriate for cultural conditions of site	Mowing height inappropriate for cultural conditions of site	
		Excellent maintenance techniques; no scalping, uniform edging height along bed edges	Good maintenance techniques; no scalping, somewhat uniform edging height along bed edges	Fair maintenance techniques; some evidence of scalping, or trimming to close or not uniformly along bed edges	
		Outstanding to Excellent (4 to 5)	Good (2 to 3)	Fair (1)	TOTAL VALUE
	d) Uniform color	Excellent even colour, no signs of stress; evidence of proper application of water and nutrient requirements.	Good even colour, no signs of obvious stress; evidence of application of water and nutrient requirements.	Fair colour, shows signs of stress; evidence of lack of or improper application of water and nutrient requirements	5

SOFTSCAPE - 40 TOTAL POINTS		<b>Outstanding to Excellent (13 to 15)</b>	<b>Good (10 to 12)</b>	<b>Fair (1 to 9)</b>	<b>TOTAL VALUE</b>
	a) Appearance and Impression of softscape maintenance	Excellent selection of unique or diverse seasonal plant material suited to the site and design; healthy, growing well and correct maintenance techniques clearly evident	Good selection of diversity seasonal plant material suited to the site and design; healthy, some maintenance improvements possible	Average selection of commonly used seasonal plant material suited or somewhat suited to the site and design; may show signs of stress; improved maintenance techniques required	15
		Right plant in the right place; excellent plant cultural maintenance, in addition to the relationship with hardscaping features	Good display of plant material; some improvement on plant maintenance culture relative to hardscaping features	Improvements in attention to cultural maintenance relative to the hardscaping features would benefit the overall impression	
		<b>Outstanding to Excellent (9 to 10)</b>	<b>Good (7 to 8)</b>	<b>Fair (1 to 6)</b>	<b>TOTAL VALUE</b>
	b) Healthy, pest and disease free plant material	Excellent cultural maintenance and care of plant material; free of disease or insect pests	Good cultural maintenance and care of plant material; minor if any incidence of disease or insect pests	Fair cultural maintenance and care of plant material; some symptoms of disease or insect pests, but within threshold levels	10
		Excellent even colour, no signs of stress; evidence of proper application of water and nutrient requirements.	Good even colour, no signs of obvious stress; evidence of application of water and nutrient requirements.	Fair colour, shows signs of stress; evidence of lack of or improper application of water and nutrient requirements	
		<b>Outstanding to Excellent (9 to 10)</b>	<b>Good (7 to 8)</b>	<b>Fair (1 to 6)</b>	<b>TOTAL VALUE</b>
	c) Weed free or low weed pressure in garden display areas	Outstanding attention to weed eradication in landscape display areas, including ponds, tree wells, or containers	Good attention to weed eradication in landscape display areas, including ponds, tree wells or containers	Fair attention to weed eradication in landscape display areas, including ponds, tree wells or containers	10
		<b>Outstanding to Excellent (4 to 5)</b>	<b>Good (2 to 3)</b>	<b>Fair (1)</b>	<b>TOTAL VALUE</b>
	d) Use of organic or inorganic mulch in display areas	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 site	5
		No evidence of overcrowding or burying crowns with mulch	Some mulch needs to be appropriately redirected.	Depth of mulch not consistent or absent of mulch	
		Tree wells are wells not volcanos! (proper tree well technique used)	Tree wells need some modification	Tree wells require appropriate application	

HARDSCAPE - 15 TOTAL POINTS		Outstanding to Excellent (9 to 10)	Good (7 to 8)	Fair (1 to 6)	TOTAL VALUE
	a) Impression and appearance of the hardscaping	Outstanding Aesthetic Impression	Good Aesthetic Impression	Fair or poor Aesthetic Impression	10
		High standard of quality in maintenance evident regarding hardscape features, including: natural or aggregate rock, stone, pavers; and structures such as fences, decks etc	Adequate standard of quality in maintenance evident regarding hardscape features, including: natural or aggregate rock/ stone/pavers; and structures such as fences, decks etc	Unsatisfactory standard of quality in maintenance evident regarding hardscape features, including: natural or aggregate rock/ stone/pavers; and structures such as fences, decks etc	
		Outstanding to Excellent (4 to 5)	Good (2 to 3)	Fair (1)	TOTAL VALUE
	b) Maintenance of hardscape materials and features	EXCELLENT attention to weed eradication in hardscape features such as pathways, flagstone walkways or interlock driveways, rock retaining walls, or any aggregate mulches used such as river rock or other inorganic materials	GOOD attention to weed eradication in hardscape features such as pathways, flagstone walkways or interlock driveways, rock retaining walls, or any aggregate mulches used such as river rock or other inorganic materials	FAIR attention to weed eradication in hardscape features such as pathways, flagstone walkways or interlock driveways, rock retaining walls, etc or any aggregate mulches used such as river rock or other inorganic materials	5
		No sign of debris/weeds	Little or no signs of debris/weeds	Some sign of debris/weeds	

**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 3 Total Bonus Points.

Landscape clearly has a dynamic “wow factor” and incorporates innovative selection / use of softscape and hardscape materials.
The maintenance promotes a concerted effort in sustainability or environmental stewardship
There some evidence of use of recyclable materials, water conservation methods, or other like innovations.

<p><b>FOOTNOTE:</b></p> <p>The following definitions apply to the terms above, with the exception of aggregate mulches, where it is included for ease of evaluation within the maintenance category.</p> <p><b>Ground Cover:</b> Low-growing plant (such as turf, clover, or creeping time) or low-pile material (such as mulch or gravel) used to protect soil, reduce weeds, retain moisture, and unify the landscape.</p> <p><b>Softscape:</b> Is the living plant elements of design, installation and maintenance of any landscape project. The living plant element includes vegetation such as: trees, shrubs, vines, woody tropical plants or herbaceous plants (annuals, perennials, bulbs, vegetables, tropical or aquatic plants).</p> <p><b>Hardscape:</b> Is the inanimate element of design, construction and installation of any landscape project that includes a diversity of materials and respective technical requirements. It may include brick, stone, rock, wood, metal, or other natural (landscape construction aggregates) or fabricated materials used in landscape structures, furnishings, or features and includes, but is not limited to: walls, walkways, driveways, curbs, patios, living walls and green roof systems, pools, ponds, water features (waterfalls or fountains), fences, decks, structures or features (edging, plant supports, arbors, gazebos or other like décor features), drainage systems, landscape lighting and irrigation.</p>
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