



Call for participation in



European Award for Ecological Gardening 2017

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

The initiative Natur im Garten, represented by the Federal Province of Lower Austria and the association "Natur im Garten", as well as the European Garden Association (Natur im Garten International) will award the "European Award for Ecological Gardening 2017" 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 on 2 September 2017.

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 2017 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
- 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

Submissions can be made in the following three categories:

1st Category: Gardening without a garden

- All projects irrespective of size, accessibility and property situation of the areas cultivated can be submitted.
- Projects that offer an alternative access to gardening, thus allowing to do gardening also in places where there are no "classic garden areas" available, will be awarded.

2nd Category: Gardens for visitors

- Garden projects that are accessible for visitors on a regular basis and stand out from the surrounding green spaces in terms of design and their capacity to organise events and performances can be submitted.
- Gardens that reach those groups of people who are not primarily interested in gardens, or contain clear strategies for reaching these target groups and convey the ecological spirit will be awarded.
- Great emphasis will be placed on the inclusion of the environment / the region.

3rd Category: Community gardens

- Gardens can be submitted that are cultivated by a group of persons who gather for the specific purpose of gardening and who would otherwise not have cooperated in that form.
- Garden projects that focus on community and social aspects with an exemplary character will be awarded.
- All work done within the framework of the community garden is voluntary.

IV. Eligibility to participate

The Award is aimed at gardeners, garden owners, planners, municipalities & local authorities, teams & individuals, as well as their organisations, such as educational institutions, networks and associations from all European nations.

V. Competition language

English

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

VI Documents to be submitted

1. Application for project submission (form):

Completed application form for project submission, including a description of the characteristics of horticultural achievements, taking into account the objective of the Award, with an indication of the place and integration in the surroundings (2000 characters including spaces).

2. Project presentation in A3 format as a basis of assessment for the jury:

Provision of a handout in the form of an A3 format sheet (420 mm x 297 mm portrait and landscape) for the free presentation of the outstanding achievement in ecological gardening with meaningful photographs, views and illustrations of the idea and effect on which the project is based. Furthermore, the name of the applicants and the location of the project are to be made clear.

3. Images

6 to 12 photographs that are meaningful for the project as well as the idea, the location and social aspects in A4 format as JPG file or TIF file, in **300 dpi** resolution, indicating the photographic copyrights and the photographers' names (total data volume **20 MB**).

4. Covering letter and declaration of consent:

A completed covering letter, including information on the author and declaration of consent to the use of the submitted documents for public relations purposes.

VII. Receipt of documents

The documents must be mandatorily submitted both analogously by mail and digitally via mail shipping.

1. By mail

The complete dossier of documents bearing an original signature must be received postage prepaid at the following address no later than 15 May 2017, 06:00 p.m.:

European Garden Association – Natur im Garten International,
Am Wasserpark 1,
A-3430 Tulln, Austria.

2. Datatransfer

The complete documents must be uploaded digitally to the following mail address by 15 May 2017, 06:00 p.m. (including author's name, total data size max. 20 MB, if possible zipped): award@naturimgarten.at

VIII. Jury and assessment procedure

A panel consisting of five expert judges is appointed as Jury. 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. Detailed information coming soon.

Employees and members of the awarding authority and the organisers are excluded from participation.

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.

Prize moneys

For each category, a prize will be awarded for the winning project: a special plaque of „Natur im Garten“, plus a prize money amounting to € 500,-

IX. Announcement of the nominations

The projects nominated for the prize will be announced on 13 July 2017, and nominated submitters will be informed via e-mail. The names of the prize winners will be announced during a public prize award ceremony held on 2 September 2017 at the conference premises of IGA Berlin 2017.

X. Exhibition and presentation of the projects

The 30 projects nominated will be introduced and presented in an exhibition on 1 September 2017 at the conference premises of IGA Berlin 2017. During this exhibition, the project submitters will have the opportunity to personally introduce their projects. Participants will be requested to personally attend the event.

XI. Questions and answers

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

XII. Schedule and important dates

The Europe-wide competition will be accompanied by an impulse-giving expert symposium, as well as an excursion to the IGA Berlin 2017. The prize award ceremony for the European Award for Ecological Gardening 2017 will take place on 2 September 2017 at 04:00 p.m. Detailed information coming soon.

XIII. Prize award

Participation in the prize award ceremony is free of charge

All project submitters will be requested to personally attend the prize award ceremony. We kindly ask you to register on time by 20 August 2017 at the latest at: www.naturimgarten.at/award.

XIV. Awarding Authority

Federal Province of Lower Austria
RU3 - Gruppe Raumordnung, Umwelt und Verkehr
Abteilung Umwelt- und Energiewirtschaft
(RU3 –Regional Development, Environment and Transport Division
Department for Environmental and Energy Management)
3109 St. Pölten, Landhausplatz 1, Austria
www.noe.gv.at

Association „Natur im Garten“
A-3430 Tulln, Am Wasserpark 1, Austria
award@naturimgarten.at
www.naturimgarten.at

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