

**Project Title: Sensory Stages Pop-up Garden**

*(this is a guide only and should form the basis for your design)*

**Overview of Theme and Judging Criteria**

**Royal Bath & West Show 30<sup>th</sup> May to 1<sup>st</sup> June 2024**

**Project Overview:**

Create a captivating 4 x 4 metre display garden that embodies the theme of "Sensory Stages." This garden should provide visitors with a multisensory experience while showcasing the use of sustainable materials and practices. The design should inspire and educate visitors about the importance of sensory awareness and sustainable living. Please note you may choose to focus on specific senses rather than all the senses, but the design should include at least two senses.

**Design Concept:**

The Sensory Stages Garden aims to take visitors on a journey through different sensory experiences while highlighting the significance of sustainable choices. The garden will be divided into distinct sections or "stages," each dedicated to one of the five senses: sight, sound, touch, taste, and smell.

**Key Objectives:**

**Sensory Exploration:** Create spaces that engage each of the five senses, allowing visitors to connect with nature on a deeper level.

**Sustainable Materials:** Utilise eco-friendly and recycled materials throughout the garden to showcase sustainable practices and inspire environmentally conscious choices.

**Educational Elements:** Incorporate informational signage or interactive displays that educate visitors about the sensory experiences and sustainable features of the garden.

**Accessibility:** Ensure the garden is accessible to people of all ages and abilities.

**Design Elements (these are examples only):**

**1. Sight Stage:**

Incorporate visually appealing elements such as colourful flowers, textured foliage, and artistic installations.

Use sustainable landscaping practices, like xeriscaping, to minimize water use.

**2. Sound Stage:**

Include wind chimes, water features, and strategically placed plants to create soothing sounds.

Select plants that attract birds or insects to enhance the auditory experience.

3. Touch Stage:

Feature tactile elements like different textures of plants, tree bark, and stones.

Use sustainable hardscaping materials like reclaimed wood or recycled concrete pavers for pathways.

4. Taste Stage:

Cultivate an edible garden with herbs, vegetables, and fruits for visitors to sample.

Emphasize organic gardening practices and composting.

5. Smell Stage:

Plant fragrant flowers, herbs, and shrubs to create a pleasing aroma.

Use sustainable mulching options like wood chips or recycled rubber mulch.

**Sustainable Features:**

Rainwater harvesting system for irrigation.

Solar-powered lighting to extend visiting hours.

Recycled or repurposed materials for hardscaping and seating.

**Interactive Education:**

**Install signage explaining** the sensory experiences at each stage.

Include QR codes for visitors to access more detailed information on sustainable gardening practices.

**Accessibility (limited due to actual size):**

Ensure pathways are wide and smooth for wheelchair access.

Provide seating areas for visitors to rest and enjoy the garden.

**Conclusion:**

The Sensory Stages Display Garden should serve as an inspiring and educational experience for visitors, emphasizing the importance of engaging with nature through their senses while making responsible choices for a sustainable future.

## Judging Criteria

*(Note that these apply to both student/amateur gardens and professional designers).*

### 1. Thematic Relevance (20 points)

**Alignment with Theme** (10 points): How closely the garden reflects the idea of "sensory stages".

**Creativity** (10 points): Originality and innovative interpretation of the theme.

### 2. Sensory Engagement (40 points)

**Visual** (10 points): Colour harmony, visual interest, seasonal variety.

**Olfactory** (10 points): Presence and thoughtfulness of fragrant plants or features.

**Tactile** (10 points): Incorporation of elements that engage the sense of touch, such as water features, textured plants, or interactive elements.

**Auditory** (5 points): Inclusion of elements that create or augment sound, like rustling grasses, water features, or wind chimes.

**Taste** (5 points): Incorporation of edible plants or features, such as herbs or fruit-bearing plants.

### 3. Design & Functionality (20 points)

**Space Utilisation** (10 points): Effective use of the 4 x 4 metre space without overcrowding or sparse distribution.

**Pathways & Flow** (10 points): How the visitor is guided through the sensory stages, considering ease of movement and logical progression.

### 4. Sustainability & Ecological Consideration (10 points)

**Plant Selection** (5 points): Use of native or adapted plants suitable for the local climate.

**Environmental Footprint** (5 points): Consideration for water conservation, pollinator attraction, and non-use of harmful chemicals.

### 5. Aesthetic Appeal (10 points)

**Visual Balance** (5 points): Harmonious arrangement of plants and features.

**Artistic Components** (5 points): Use of garden art, sculptures, or other creative features that enhance the garden's beauty.

Total possible points = 100



The following medals will be awarded: Large Gold, Gold, Silver, Bronze, and Best in Show as well as a further award for the People's Choice (not judged on the above criteria)