RHS PEOPLE AWARDS: AWARD CRITERIA AND FAQs

The Victoria Medal of Honour

The VMH may be awarded to British horticulturists deserving of special honour by the Society and is awarded for life. Only 63 medals may be held at any one time, in recognition of the duration in years of the reign of Queen Victoria.

The Veitch Memorial Medal

The Veitch Memorial Medal may be awarded annually to persons of any nationality who have made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of the science and practice of horticulture. The Veitch Memorial Medal is held for life and there is no limit to the number of medals that may be awarded.

Associate of Honour

An Associate of Honour may be awarded to persons of British nationality who have rendered distinguished service to the practice of horticulture either as employers, or employees during the course of their working career. The Associate of Honour is held for life and the number of Associates may not exceed 100 at any one time (excluding those Associates who also hold the Victoria Medal of Honour).

Harlow Carr Medal

The Harlow Carr Medal may be awarded for life to those who have made a significant contribution to horticulture in the North of England, through length of service, commitment to projects or unique capabilities, combined with reliability and professionalism.

Roy Lancaster Award

The Roy Lancaster Award is open to those under 35 on the date of nomination who have achieved an exceptional contribution to the practice, science or promotion of horticulture.

Reginald Cory Memorial Cup

To encourage the production of new hybrids of garden origin, the Reginald Cory Memorial Cup may be awarded to a raiser whose hybridisation programme has resulted in the recent introduction and availability of new hybrids of merit. This award is not limited by plant hardiness or to the breeding of a particular genus or species, though fruit and vegetables are excluded. The Cup is held for one year and awarded annually.
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. RHS LONG SERVICE AWARDS
   Applications for Long Service Awards should not be made through this process. For more information, or to request the appropriate application form, please contact secretary@rhs.org.uk

2. WHO CAN MAKE A NOMINATION?
   Anyone can make a nomination by completing the Nomination Form but the nominator and seconder should have first-hand knowledge of the candidate and their work. Nominations should be sent to the RHS Secretariat at secretary@rhs.org.uk by 5 pm, 31 August 2020.

3. WHO CAN BE NOMINATED?
   Nominations should ideally be made while the candidate is still active in his or her field of horticulture. Candidates remain eligible for awards even if they already hold an RHS award in another category. Awards are not usually given posthumously. Restrictions on age and nationality may also apply (please see criteria above).

   Members of the RHS Council and current employees of the RHS are ineligible to receive RHS People Awards. Members of RHS Horticulture Board and Awards Committee are eligible for the Victoria Medal of Honour only.

4. NATIONALITY
   Non-UK citizens are eligible to be nominated for the Veitch Memorial Medal, Harlow Carr Medal, and Reginald Cory Memorial Cup. Please note that non-UK citizens are ineligible for the Victoria Medal of Honour or Associate of Honour.

5. DATA PROTECTION
   All nominations for awards are treated in the strictest confidence. If a nomination is successful, the nominator will be contacted to provide contact details for the nominee who will then be informed that they have been awarded an RHS People Award. All data provided will be recorded by Secretariat for the purpose of administering the RHS People Awards only. Data will be held for a maximum of three years as nominations will be rolled over for a maximum of two years. A Privacy Notice explaining about how their personal data was obtained and processed will be issued by Secretariat to the nominee at the time of the first contact.

6. COMPLETING THE NOMINATION FORM
   It is important that you clearly explain the candidate’s contribution to horticulture. Strong applications will demonstrate how the candidate’s outstanding qualities and achievements meet the criteria for the relevant award.
7. ATTACHMENTS TO THE NOMINATION FORM
Information provided in excess of the word limits set out in the Nomination Form or attached to the Form will not be considered. Please do not submit examples of the candidate’s work. The RHS cannot be held responsible for the safekeeping of such items and will not consider them as part of a nomination.

8. SELECTING THE AWARD
The RHS ask those nominating a candidate to select the award they believe to be most appropriate. Please be aware that the RHS reserves the right to consider candidates for other categories. We regret that it is not possible to enter into correspondence about this process.

9. CHANGES TO NOMINATION FORMS AFTER SUBMISSION
In the event of any significant changes to the information supplied on the Nomination Form the RHS Secretariat should be informed (E: secretary@rhs.org.uk T: 0207 821 3068).

10. HOW ARE NOMINATIONS JUDGED?
Nominations are assessed by the RHS Awards Committee which is comprised of experienced horticulturists from across the horticultural world. The Committee recommends the strongest applications to the RHS Horticulture Board and RHS Council for decision. Please note that the RHS’s decision is final with regard to all nominations. We regret that it is not possible to enter into correspondence concerning the merits of a particular nomination.

11. SUCCESSFUL NOMINATIONS
We will write to successful nominators as soon as possible after the RHS Council’s decision requesting the nominees details. This is usually in the January or February following the year in which the nomination is made. Successful candidates are invited to the RHS Awards Ceremony, which usually takes place in London during March. We ask award winners and their nominators to keep their award confidential until a public announcement has been made in the press.

12. UNSUCCESSFUL NOMINATIONS
We will email or write to those nominators whose candidates are not granted an award before the Awards Ceremony. Unsuccessful nominations will be carried over for two years.

If you have any further queries, please contact: secretary@rhs.org.uk or 0207 821 3068