

## **RHS PEOPLE AWARDS: AWARD CRITERIA AND FAQs**

### **The Victoria Medal of Honour**

The Victoria Medal of Honour (VMH) enables the RHS Council to confer conspicuous honour on those British horticulturists deserving of special honour by the RHS 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 Elizabeth Medal of Honour**

The Elizabeth Medal of Honour (EMH) enables the RHS Council to confer conspicuous honour on UK non-horticulturists and international horticulturists that have significantly impacted the advancement of the science, art or practice of horticulture for the benefit of all generations and the environment. In recognition of the duration of Queen Elizabeth's reign, only 70 medals will be held at any one time.

### **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 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 UK residents 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

Awarded annually 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.

### Carew Pole Community Award

The Carew Pole Community Award may be awarded to anyone in the UK who has made an outstanding contribution to a community gardening programme over a period of time, including community gardens, orchards, urban and rural programmes that bring value to the wider community that they are based.

## **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](mailto: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](mailto:secretary@rhs.org.uk) **by 5pm, 31 August 2026.**

### **3. WHO CAN BE NOMINATED?**

Nominations should 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, RHS Horticulture and Sustainability Board, RHS Awards Group and current employees of the RHS are ineligible to receive RHS People Awards, with the exception of the Roy Lancaster Award which is open to RHS employees.

### **4. NATIONALITY**

Non-UK citizens are eligible to be nominated for the Elizabeth Medal of Honour, 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, Associate of Honour, Carew Pole Community Award and Roy Lancaster Award.

## **5. CONFIDENTIALITY**

All nominations for awards are treated in the strictest confidence.

## **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 AND LETTERS OF SUPPORT**

Information provided in excess of the word limits set out in the Nomination Form or attached to the Form will not be considered. This includes letters of support. 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](mailto:secretary@rhs.org.uk)).

## **10. HOW ARE NOMINATIONS JUDGED?**

Nominations are assessed by the RHS Awards Group which is comprised of experienced horticulturists from across the horticultural world. The Group recommends the strongest applications to the RHS Horticulture and Sustainability 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. This is usually in December of the year 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**

Unsuccessful nominations are automatically considered for one further year of award nominations. If they are unsuccessful within those two years, nominators will be asked to wait a further two years before re-submitting a nomination for that individual.

### **13. OTHER AWARDS**

The RHS presents a large number of cups and trophies that are not included in this application process. These awards encompass a variety of horticultural achievements, including awards to plants and show gardens. Further information regarding these awards can be found at <https://www.rhs.org.uk/plants/trials-awards> and <http://www.rhs.org.uk/shows-events>

**If you have any further queries, please contact: [secretary@rhs.org.uk](mailto:secretary@rhs.org.uk)**