

MPUM Yard of the Month Award Guidelines

What is the MPUM Yard of the Month award?

The Yard of the Month award recognizes the hard work and pride exhibited by MPUM residents who beautify their yard.

What is the objective of establishing a Yard of the Month award?

The objective of the Yard of the Month award is to recognize MPUM residents who have created an exceptional landscape in keeping with the overall nature of our neighborhood and created a positive aesthetic appeal. The award is intended to inspire others to take pride in their yard to improve the overall quality of life in the MPUM.

What are the evaluation criteria?

Judges will use the general criteria outlined below when choosing the "Yard of the Month". These are only guidelines. The final decision is based on evidence of the homeowner's pride and the contribution the yard makes to the neighborhood's appeal.

Criteria for Yard of the Month – January- September

- Yard is well-groomed and maintained while not blocking paths and visibility.
- Tasteful landscaping - Yard is attractive and pleasing to the eye (e.g., green lawn, a variety of plants such as trees, shrubs, ground cover, flowers, wildflowers, plants with a variety of heights, textures, and colors; and free of weeds).
- Buildings, fences, porches, and patios on the property are in good repair (i.e., minimal distraction from the landscape due to deterioration, damage or construction).
- Some consideration may be given for the use of natives, adaptive, rain gardens, pollinators or natural habitat landscapes.
- The property does not violate the Bulky Trash schedule.
- Only the portions of the yard viewed from the street will be judged.
- Proper use of seasonal colors
- The overall appearance is pleasing.

Criteria for Holiday Yard of the Month of October – December

- Yard is maintained.
- Festive yards created through decorative lighting and seasonal decorations
- Creativity is fun and lighthearted, but not cluttered
- Only the portion of the yard viewed from the street will be judged.
- Good use of seasonal color
- Overall appearance is pleasing
- Consideration given for ryegrass lawns which remain green

What are the rules that impact the Yard of the Month Award Program?

- The upkeep of the yard can reflect the efforts of the residents themselves or that of a professional landscaper.
- The judges do not have to give an award each month.
- Other residents may also nominate yards.
- Each yard is limited to winning the award only once in a consecutive calendar year.

How do I nominate a yard?

You may nominate your own yard or someone else's yard by emailing yotm@mpum.com

January – September Nominations must be submitted by the 15th of the month. Submission must include photo.

October - December Nominations must be submitted by the Monday before the holiday of that month to give residents plenty of opportunities to decorate. Submission must include photos.

Only residents, property owners or the sponsor of the MPUM Yard of the Month Award Program may nominate a Yard of the Month.

Who are the judges?

Five judges are Dallas County Master Gardener volunteers that will walk or drive the entire MPUM neighborhood.

What happens if I win?

Winners are honored as follows:

- Winners will be announced and featured using MPUM's email list and posted on Nextdoor.
- A "Yard of the Month" award sign will be posted in your yard for the duration of the award period, which will be placed between the sidewalk and the front of the house or in the side yard. It may not be placed in the right-of-way.
- A gift card will be awarded to the winner, from Brumley's Gardens or current sponsor.
- The award duration is as follows:
 - An entire month or 30 days, depending on when the award is issued.