

Young Amenity Horticulturist 2025



Contestant Prospectus

Kyla Mathewson, Dunedin Botanic Gardens
2024 Young Amenity Horticulturist Year 2024



Young Amenity Horticulturist 2025

Auckland Botanic Gardens
Monday 19th May 2025

Why Apply for the Young Amenity Horticulturist Competition?

Shape Your Future

- Build your leadership potential and career in Amenity Horticulture.
- Develop skills that contribute to a skilled, innovative workforce shaping New Zealand's parks, gardens, and open spaces.

Take Centre Stage

- Represent your organisation on a national platform.
- Showcase your expertise and passion for elevating the Horticulture industry.

Unlock Opportunities

- Gain access to industry mentors and career-enhancing networks.
- Open doors to long-term success in the growing Amenity Horticulture sector.

Be Part of Something Bigger

- Compete in a prestigious event designed to celebrate the talent and innovation of New Zealand's future horticulture leaders.
- Build connections, represent your employer, and shape the future of the sector.



Kieran Smith,
Recreation Aotearoa



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Commitments

Time Commitment

- Availability on competition days, including travel
- Winner attends the Young Horticulturist of the Year Grand Final – this includes a familiarisation trip (4 days in total)
- Preparation time recommended, with employer support for training opportunities

Participation Costs

- **NO ENTRY FEE** + lunch is provided on Finals Day
- Subsidized ticketing for Green Pavlova Conference (\$400+GST), including Parks Awards Gala (lunch provided both days and dinner on awards night)
- Employers cover travel and accommodation costs (including during Green Pavlova Conference)
- Participants supply own wet weather clothing, smart comfortable clothing for Finals Day

Dress Code for conference

- Smart casual for Green Pavlova conference
- Gala dress code recommended for the Parks Awards Gala Dinner

2024 Parks Awards Gala Dinner
Te Pae, Ōtautahi Chrsitchurch



2025 Location, Dew
Drop Events Centre
Tāmaki Makaurau,
Auckland



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The Event

Online Component

Content: Tasks given to contestants to submit via an online portal to test business acumen and leadership skills.

Date: Tasks delivered, and portal opens for a fortnight March 31st – April 11th, 2025

Finals Day (in-person)

Venue: Auckland Botanic Gardens

Date: Finals Day – Monday May 19th, 2025

Supported by our industry working group partners:



Renee Johnson, Bark
2023 Young Amenity Horticulturist &
2nd Place at Young Horticulturist of the Year 2023



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Competition Highlights and Criteria

Comprehensive Testing

Participants undergo assessments in career development, business acumen, personal interviews, and public speaking.

National Representation

The Young Amenity Horticulture winner earns the chance to represent Amenity Horticulture at the prestigious Young Horticulturist of the Year, competing against finalists from six other industry sectors.

Participant Criteria

- Individuals under 30 years old (as of December 31, 2025)
- Currently working towards a National Certificate in Horticulture Level 4 **or** equivalent qualification/experience
- Engaged in employment within Botanic Gardens, Open Spaces, Parks, Native Reserves,
- Demonstrates practical implementation of amenity horticultural skills
- Displays maturity and a long-term commitment to the industry



2018 Young Amenity Horticulturist Competition
Christchurch Botanic Gardens



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APPLY NOW

By supporting the Young Amenity Horticulture Competition, you contribute to the growth and success of the Amenity Horticulture Industry in New Zealand.

Invest in the future leaders who will shape the standards of quality, integrity, and innovation in this vital sector. Together, let's cultivate excellence in Amenity Horticulture!

Contact the Parks, Play and Open Space Programme Manager

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