

YARD OF THE MONTH CONTEST GUIDELINES AND PURPOSE

"Maysville Yard of the Month" contest has been established to promote goodwill and reward exemplary lawn and yard care in our community. The purpose of the program is to recognize neighbors who demonstrate above-average efforts in maintaining their property, thereby contributing to the overall appearance of the community at large.

The contest is administered entirely by community volunteers representing the Town of Maysville <http://www.townofmaysville.org/>, Maysville's Green Leaf Garden Club, and the Jones County Center / North Carolina Cooperative Extension. <https://jones.ces.ncsu.edu/>

Starting June through December, the Town of Maysville is partnering with the Jones County Center / North Carolina Cooperative Extension to choose a lawn that best typifies the qualities of: uniqueness, beauty, curb appeal, including front and side yards jointly, as well as the exterior of the house, and consistency with the guidelines. The North Carolina Co-Op Extension will select one residential yard from the list of community nominations.

Maysville's Green Leaf Garden Club will present the monthly winner a Certificate of Appreciation, a yard sign to display for that month, their picture taken for the website /Facebook page and a gift certificate from an area garden center.

GENERAL CRITERIA

- All residential properties within the city limits of Maysville, North Carolina are automatically eligible and will be judged solely on the total exterior appearance of their property and front/side yard as viewed from the street. The criteria and guidelines will be shown in full on the Town of Maysville website: (webpage) and will also be available at the following locations:
 - Maysville library – 601 Seventh Street
<https://www.nccardinal.org/eg/opac/library/MAYSVILLE>
 - Town of Maysville – 404 Main Street <http://www.townofmaysville.org/>
- Award winners are selected based on the recommended judging criteria listed below.
- Key criteria include manicured yard, beautification, originality and creativity.
- The upkeep of the yard can reflect the efforts of the residents themselves or that of a professional landscaper or groundskeeper.
- An award duration term lasts a single calendar month, and runs from the first day to the last day of that same month.
- The same property cannot receive more than one award in a 6-month calendar period. At least 6 months must elapse between awards for the same yard.
- Recipients receiving awards in the middle of the month shall surrender their award at the end of that same month.

- The upkeep of the yard can reflect the effort of the residents themselves or that of a professional landscaper or groundskeeper.
- While an individual's home is being recognized as a "Yard of the Month," they are expected to maintain their yard in the same manner that allowed them to win the title.
- Winners must be willing to have photos of their yard taken and listed on the City of Maysville's website and Facebook page. Winners must be contacted prior to releasing information to said social media sites.
 - Each yard will be chosen from the nominations given to the Maysville Town manager. Nominations can be made by emailing townmanager@bizec.rr.com, or by messaging Town of Maysville Facebook page by the 28th of each month. <https://www.facebook.com/townofmaysville/>
- When submitting a nomination, please provide the following information: Address and name/contact information (if you have it) of the property nominated.
- If no nominations are received by the 28th of each month, the Maysville Yard of the Month committee will nominate and select the award winner.

RECOMMENDED JUDGING CRITERIA

"Maysville Yard of the Month" nominees are judged solely on the total exterior appearance of their property and front/side yard as viewed from the street. General upkeep of the yard and property is paramount.

Factors include the overall appearance, tidiness and neatness of the front of the property as evidenced by pruned, trimmed and shaped foliage, edged and defined lawns, borders & flower beds, and a visually eye-catching curb appeal.

Other than October and December criteria (listed below), judges will utilize the following factors when selecting Yard of the Month winners:

Maintenance

- Healthy lawn, neatly mowed and edged
- Pruned and trimmed shrubs and trees
- Healthy living plants
- Minimum weeds in flowerbeds
- Yard free of debris and clutter

Design and Landscaping

- Use of color and texture
- Creative, unique curb appeal
- Pleasing appearance making the property an asset to the community

LAWN: Grass should be healthy with no bare spots or excessive weeds. Grass shall be mowed and edged, and trimmed around foundations and fences. Debris (garbage, pet feces, etc.) shall be picked up and removed. A unified, simple and balanced landscape design with a neat and natural appearance is preferred.

LANDSCAPE & FLOWER BEDS: Beds shall be weeded and edged, flowers must be deadheaded and dead plants removed, trees and shrubs pruned, natural areas cleaned. Beautification efforts should include new flowers, new trees, and new shrubs, etc., with plantings in scale with the surroundings and limited to a few types of plants rather than enough to confuse the eye.

WALKWAYS & DRIVEWAYS: Walkways and driveways shall be clean (including trash containers or yard products removed from view). The area in front of the curb must be free from debris and dirt. The appearance after dusk including accent lighting, safety lighting, visible interior lighting, etc.

AESTHETICS: The overall look of landscaping (formal versus informal, use of color and textures, garden art) is important. The front entryway should be inviting, with original and creative touches to show personality (hanging baskets, pots, yard art, bird feeders, etc.)

Summary note: While lack of strict adherence to the criteria above does not necessarily disqualify, these principles offer general guidelines that should be recognized by the "Maysville Yard of the Month" Committee.

OCTOBER AND DECEMBER CRITERIA

Holiday Yard of the Month nominees for October (Halloween/Fall decorations) and December (Christmas decorations) will be judged solely on the total exterior appearance of their property and front yard as viewed from the street. There will be one overall winner and two honorable mentions for each of these two events.

OCTOBER AND CHRISTMAS JUDGING FACTORS

Factors for October and December include the overall appearance of the decoration on the front of the property. Judges will utilize the following factors when selecting Holiday Yard of the Month nominees:

Design

- Use of color and texture
- Creative, unique curb appeal
- Pleasing appearance making the property an asset to the community

Holiday Spirit

- Use of materials: lights, sounds, inflatables, figures, etc.
- Creative use of holiday imagery and symbols
- Unique, inventive and thoughtful layout