



Silviculture Award

Rules

1. The purpose of this Award is to recognise and encourage exemplary best practice in silviculture in commercial woodlands where quality timber production is the primary aim.
2. The Award will be made annually in England, Wales or Northern Ireland. Judging will take place on a regional basis. Entries are invited from all woodland owners, or forest managers, from the private, public or voluntary sectors. All woods, or groups of woods under the same management, of between 20ha - 200ha are eligible. Woodland estates should be entered as a whole and the overall objects of management stated on the entry form. Where the woodland exceeds 200ha, the owner should designate a representative single block, or coherent unit of woods, up to a maximum of 200ha. 65% of the stand area must be over 15 years old.
3. Woodlands should conform to the UK Forestry Standard and its guidelines and UKWAS principles but need not be certified or under a Woodland Grant Scheme: See www.forestry.gov.uk and www.ukwas.org.uk. All entries must conform to all legal requirements such as felling licences.
4. Entrants must submit a written statement with the accompanying form, showing how their woodlands are managed in an optimum way with timber production as the main objective. The completed form should be sent to: Trefor Thompson, Plas Canol, Llanrhydd, Ruthin, Denbighshire LL15 2UU
E-mail: rfscompetition@boyns.net

The closing date for entries is noon on Tuesday 6 March 2012

5. There will be a panel of two judges each year. They will visit the woodlands that have entered in order to select the winner. Should too many properties be entered for proper consideration to be given to them all by the Judges, the RFS may appoint a panel of local Judges to consider entries and draw up a short list for the national Judges to consider. The short listed entries will be selected on the quality and composition of the original written submission.

It is particularly important that the Judges should meet and be accompanied during the woodland inspection by those responsible for both deciding and implementing the forest management and conservation policies and practices. They should be well-briefed and prepared to answer wide ranging questions about the woodlands.

Judging will usually take place in May and when completed, the Judges prepare a report. This comprehensive document is available to all entrants and is published in the Quarterly Journal of Forestry. Individual reports on each woodland are not available.

6. In making the selection, the Judges will seek to ensure that all woodland will be given equal opportunities regardless of their size and composition, and that each property is evaluated in its own context. The Judges decision is final.

7. The Award will normally consist of:

First Prize: A trophy (to be held for one year) with a cash prize of £1,000 and a Certificate.

Second Prize: One second prize of £500 and a Certificate.

Certificates of Merit: In addition, these may be awarded at the Judges' discretion.

The awards will be presented at a high profile event at Westonbirt Arboretum on 5th July 2012

Winning entries may be asked to collaborate with the RFS and/or the FC by using their woodlands as examples of best practice via agreed visits and in the literature.

8. The entry fee is £100 for each property.

9. Both the cash prizes and the entry fees may be modified as the RFS Management Committee sees fit.

10. No member of any Judging Panel and no national officer of the RFS may enter their own woods for the Award during their term of office.

11. The Society reserves the right to:

(a) suspend the competition at its own discretion;

(b) decide against awarding any or all of the prizes if it feels they are not warranted.