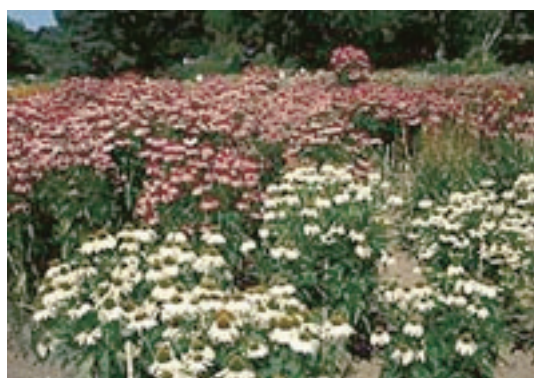


Trial of *Echinacea* from seed 2002 - 2003

An Invited RHS Trial

The objective of the trial was to demonstrate and assess the habit and flowering performance of a range of *Echinacea* grown from seed.

Seed was sown on 25 January 2002 but failed to germinate due to the cold temperature. Seed was re-sown on 12 February under glass into pans containing modular compost that had been drenched with Revive at a concentration of 1 ml/l [Revive being a soil treatment of natural micro organisms which suppresses soil borne plant diseases]. The trays were then covered with 10 mm of medium vermiculite and black plastic and germinated at 20°C. The seedlings were pricked out into 9 cm pots using a standard bedding mix, were watered in with Revive and were grown on at a minimum temperature of 10°C. The plants were regularly sprayed with an insecticide against aphids. The plants were placed outside from May onwards to harden them off.



Nine plants of each single colour entry and 18 plants of each mixed colour entry were planted out on 17 June 2002 with 60 cm between plants and 100 cm between the entries. To encourage establishment, any flowering stems produced in 2002 were removed down to the base where basal leaves were present, and down to the first stem leaf if no basal leaves were present. The plants were routinely sprayed against powdery mildew. A top dressing of Vitax Q4 was applied at 56 g/m² in spring 2003.

There were 19 entries in the trial submitted by various seed companies in the UK and abroad. Members of the Floral Trials Sub-committee inspected the trial in July and August 2003 and recommended the Award of Garden Merit to one cultivar based on the following criteria:

flower (form and uniformity of shape) : colour : vigour : habit

Pathology

Stem lesions combined with a significant decay of the roots on a few plants led to investigation by RHS plant pathologists. *Phytophthora* was suspected, but was not successfully isolated.

Findings

Though most seed strains contained some attractive individuals, only one cultivar was sufficiently uniform to be recommended.

Index of Trial Entries

Name	Mix	Sender	No.
<i>Echinacea angustifolia</i>		Suffolk Herbs	13
<i>Echinacea pallida</i>		Thompson & Morgan	7
<i>Echinacea paradoxa</i>		K Sahin	4
<i>Echinacea paradoxa</i>		Jelitto Perennial Seeds	5
<i>Echinacea paradoxa</i> var. <i>paradoxa</i>		Thompson & Morgan	6
<i>Echinacea purpurea</i>		E W King & Co Ltd	14
<i>Echinacea purpurea</i> 'Alba'		Jelitto Perennial Seeds	2
<i>Echinacea purpurea</i> 'Amado'		K Sahin	3
<i>Echinacea purpurea</i> 'Bravado'		K. Sahin	16

<i>Echinacea purpurea</i> 'Clio'		Pro-Veg Seeds Ltd	15
<i>Echinacea purpurea</i> Lustre hybrids	M	K Sahin	17
<i>Echinacea purpurea</i> Lustre hybrids	M	Mr Fothergills Seeds Ltd	18
<i>Echinacea purpurea</i> 'Magnus' AGM (H4) 2003		Jelitto Perennial Seeds	9
<i>Echinacea purpurea</i> 'Magnus' Incorrect		Thompson & Morgan	8
<i>Echinacea purpurea</i> 'Primadonna Rose'		Ernst Benary Samenzucht GmbH	10
<i>Echinacea purpurea</i> 'Rubinstern' (Ruby Star)		Jelitto Perennial Seeds	11
<i>Echinacea purpurea</i> 'Satellite Mixed'	M	Unwins Seeds Limited	19
<i>Echinacea purpurea</i> 'Verbesserter Leuchstern' (Bright Star Improved)		Jelitto Perennial Seeds	12
<i>Echinacea purpurea</i> 'White Swan'		Thompson & Morgan	1



AGM

Summary of entries recommended for the Award of Garden Merit (H4)



AGM

Echinacea purpurea 'Magnus' AGM (H4) 29 July 2003

Sent by and available from Jelitto Perennial Seeds. Votes (14-2). [Trial No. 9]



Plant 95-130 cm tall, spread 80-110 cm. Vigorous, erect but required staking. Main inflorescence stem stiff and erect, Yellow-Green Group 144A, speckled with Greyed-Purple Group 187A. Leaves 15 cm long, 7 cm wide, entire near top of plant, toothed lower down, hairy, medium dark dull green, matt. Flowers 13 cm diameter, single, flat. Ray florets c. 25, to 5.5 cm long and 1.5 cm wide, Greyed-Purple Group 186A. Ray floret tip pointed. Cone 4.5 cm wide and 4 cm deep, Red Group 46A and Greyed-Orange 169A. Flowering from mid July.

Stiffly upright. Lots of flowers. Very uniform.

H4 Plants hardy throughout the British Isles.

Addresses of senders to this trial

E W King & Co Ltd, Monks Farm, Pantlings Lane, Coggeshall Road, Kelvedon, Colchester CO5 9PG

Ernst Benary Samenzucht GmbH, Petersweg 72, 34346 Hann, Münden, Germany

K Sahin, Zaden B V, Postbus 227, 2400 AE Alphen aan den Rijn, The Netherlands

Meadows (Fenton) Ltd, Jelitto Perennial Seeds, P O Box 78, St Ives, Huntingdon, Cambs PE27 4UQ

Mr Fothergills Seeds Ltd, Gazeley Road, Kentford, Newmarket, Suffolk CB8 7QB

Pro-Veg Seeds Ltd, 6 Shingay Lane, Sawston, Cambridge, Cambs CB2 4SS

Thompson & Morgan, Poplar Lane, Copdock, Ipswich, Suffolk IP8 3BU

Unwins Seeds Limited, Histon, Cambridge, Cambs CB4 9LE

If you would like further information on this trial contact

The Trials Office, The Royal Horticultural Society, Wisley, Woking, Surrey GU23 6QB

Fax No. 01483 211750

Tel No. 01483 212439

E-mail: trials@rhs.org.uk