



RHS Plant Trials and Awards

Hardy Geraniums – Stage 3 and Geraniums Suitable for Rock Gardens

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Stage 3 of the Trial of Hardy Geraniums and Geraniums Suitable for Rock Gardens

The first two stages of the Trial of Hardy Geraniums included plants suitable for general border use. However, Stage 3 of the Trial and the Trial of Geraniums Suitable for Rock Gardens featured plants with more specialised cultivation requirements. Stage 3 dealt with plants that thrive in some degree of shade and the Rock Trial with plants that require a well-drained soil that provides a sufficiency of water in the summer but protects from damp conditions in winter. Both trials began in 2004 and concluded in 2006.

Entries

There were 136 entries in Stage 3 and 105 entries in the Rock Trial, submitted by nurseries in the UK and Holland, National Collection Holders and individuals (listed on page 19).

There were far fewer hybrids among the Stage 3 plants than in the previous stages and most were selections of *Geranium macrorrhizum*, *G. maculatum*, *G. nodosum*, *G. phaeum* and *G. sylvaticum*. However, several cultivars of *G. × cantabrigiense* (*G. dalmaticum* × *G. macrorrhizum*) and *G. × monacense* (*G. phaeum* × *G. reflexum*) were included.

Many of the plants in the Rock Trial were selections of *G. subcaulescens* or hybrids of that species included in *G. × lindavicum* and Cinereum Group. Other important species were *G. sanguineum*, *G. dalmaticum*, and its hybrid *G. × cantabrigiense*, and *G. sessiliflorum* which has given

rise to numerous dark-leaved hybrids. Several other miscellaneous species were grown, a number of which proved too large for most rock gardens.

Cultivation

Entries in Stage 3 were planted in the spring of 2004 and were provided with shade netting above and on the south side to aid their establishment. The netting was removed in November 2005. One plant of each *G. phaeum* and *G. macrorrhizum* entry was cut back after flowering to stimulate a second flush.

Plants in the Rock Trial were grown in a raised bed filled with equal parts of sterilised loam, peat and grit that was top-dressed with grit. The pH of the medium was 6.8. Plants were dead-headed after flowering.

Pests and Diseases

Leaves of *G. sylvaticum* affected by rust were removed and plants were sprayed to control mildew.

Plants in the Rock trial suffered with a number of pests and diseases including powdery mildew, vine weevil larvae and eelworm. Members of the Cinereum Group suffered badly with rust. Casualties throughout this trial were high.



Front cover: *Geranium phaeum* 'David Bromley' (photo: Wendy Wesley)
Above: General view of the Stage 3 Trial (photo: Wendy Wesley)
Above right: Rock Geranium Trial (photo: Jacquie Gray)



Stage 3

See pages 4–11

Award of Garden Merit (AGM) 🏆

<i>Geranium</i> 'Danny Boy'	AGM (H4) 2006
<i>Geranium</i> 'Jolly Bee'	AGM (H4) 2006
<i>Geranium macrorrhizum</i> 'Bevan's Variety'	AGM (H4) 2006
<i>Geranium macrorrhizum</i> 'Mytikas'	AGM (H4) 2006
<i>Geranium macrorrhizum</i> 'White-Ness'	AGM (H4) 2006
<i>Geranium maculatum</i> 'Elizabeth Ann'	AGM (H4) 2006
<i>Geranium phaeum</i> 'Our Pat'	AGM (H4) 2006
<i>Geranium</i> ROZANNE 'Gerwat'	AGM (H4) 2006
<i>Geranium macrorrhizum</i> 'Album'	AGM (H4) 1993 reconfirmed
<i>Geranium wallichianum</i> 'Buxton's Variety'	AGM (H4) 1993 recommended to be rescinded at the next AGM Review in 2012

(H4) = hardy throughout the UK
(date after the name denotes year AGM was given)

Objectives

- To recommend the Award of Garden Merit 🏆 to those plants considered the best for garden decoration
- To demonstrate the range and use as garden plants
- To compare new with old cultivars
- To assess for border decoration and ground cover
- To ascertain which require staking
- To determine correct nomenclature

Judging criteria

- Habit
- Vigour (health)
- Floriferousness
- Length of flowering period
- Foliage

Records

- Flowering dates, mildew if relevant
- Height and spread
- Habit
- Winter leaf retention
- Staking

Rock Trial

See pages 12–16

Award of Garden Merit (AGM) 🏆

<i>Geranium</i> [Cinereum Group] 'Ballerina'	AGM (H4) 1993 reconfirmed
<i>Geranium</i> (Cinereum Group) ROTHBURY GEM = 'Gerfos'	AGM (H4) 2006
<i>Geranium dalmaticum</i>	AGM(H4)1993 reconfirmed
<i>Geranium</i> × <i>lindavicum</i> 'Gypsy'	AGM (H4) 2006
<i>Geranium sanguineum</i> 'Little Bead'	AGM (H4) 2006
<i>Geranium sanguineum</i> 'Shepherd's Warning'	AGM (H4) 1993 reconfirmed
<i>Geranium sanguineum</i> var. <i>striatum</i>	AGM (H4) 1993 reconfirmed
<i>Geranium subcaulescens</i> 'Giuseppii'	AGM (H4) 2006
<i>Geranium subcaulescens</i> 'Splendens'	AGM (H4) 1993 reconfirmed
<i>Geranium subcaulescens</i>	AGM (H4) 1993 recommended to be rescinded at the next AGM Review in 2012

(H4) = hardy throughout the UK
(date after the name denotes year AGM was given)

Objectives

- To recommend the Award of Garden Merit
- To determine correct nomenclature
- To ascertain suitability for rock gardens

Judging criteria

- Habit suitable for rock gardens
- Floriferousness
- Foliage
- Vigour (health)

Records

- Flowering dates

The Award of Garden Merit

To gain this award a plant must be:

- Excellent for ordinary garden use
- Generally available
- Of good constitution
- Reasonably easy to grow
- Reasonably resistant to pests and diseases
- Essentially stable in form and colour

The species included in Stage 3



Geranium maculatum
'Elizabeth Ann'



Geranium sylvaticum
'Lilac Time'

Geranium maculatum

An open, upright plant, growing to about 70cm tall from a compact rootstock, native to eastern parts of North America. Its leaves are up to 20cm across with 5 or 7 deep divisions and sometimes have faint blotches. The flowers are upward-facing usually in rather washed-out shades of pink. Not the finest member of the genus but there are some good selections for the border or wild garden. Worthwhile clones include 'Beth Chatto', with large lilac flowers, 'Elizabeth Ann', with lilac flowers on brown leaves, 'Espresso', with dark leaves and small flowers, and 'Vickie Lynn' with good autumn colour. There is also an attractive white-flowered form: *G. maculatum* f. *albiflorum*.

Geranium sylvaticum

An upright, middle-sized geranium growing from a compact rootstock. A native of Europe including the north of England and parts of Scotland. The leaves are deeply divided into 7 or 9 and much toothed, growing to about 20cm across. The flowers are quite small, usually about 25mm across and bluish with a white eye though other colour forms are often found in gardens. Hybrids with this species are rare but selections include 'Album', with white flowers and pale leaves, 'Amy Doncaster', with blue flowers, 'Angulatum', an old cultivar with deep pink veins, and 'Mayflower' with large, lavender flowers.



Geranium phaeum
'Lily Lovell'



Geranium macrorrhizum
'White-Ness'

Geranium phaeum

An upright plant with large basal leaves, sometimes blotched with maroon at the nodes. The small flowers are often drooping with flat or reflexed petals. The dark-flowered plants are sometimes called mourning widows but there are many other colour variants. This species crosses with *G. reflexum* to form a hybrid named *G. × monacense*. It is an interesting species rewarding close scrutiny of the delicate blooms and includes some of the best foliage plants in the genus. Cultivars include 'Lily Lovell', with large violet flowers, 'Rose Madder', with dark blotched leaves and curious pink-brown flowers, 'Samobor', with heavily blotched leaves and dark flowers, and 'Variegatum' with leaf margins unevenly edged in cream.

Geranium macrorrhizum

A spreading, rhizomatous plant forming good ground cover and growing to only 30-50cm in height. It is a sticky and sickly aromatic native to mountainous places around the Mediterranean. The leaves are square to rounded in outline with 7 deep divisions. The flowers are usually pink emerging from reddish calyces with spreading petals and long filaments. It hybridises with the closely related *G. dalmaticum* to give a sterile hybrid named *G. × cantabrigiense*. Cultivars include 'Bevan's Variety', with large, magenta-pink flowers, 'Ingwersen's Variety', with light pink flowers and glossy leaves, 'Variegatum', with cream-edged leaves, and 'White-Ness', which produces small, white flowers in profusion.



Geranium wallichianum
'Buxton's Variety'



Geranium wlassovianum
'Lakwijk Star'

Geranium wallichianum

A spreading or trailing species lacking rosette leaves. The stem leaves are divided into 5 and are 5-sided in outline, in opposite pairs along the stems, often attractively marbled and with large, fused stipules at the base. The flowers are usually large and in a shade of blue with a white eye. A native of the Himalaya, it is a variable plant which can be spreading or mound-forming. Not a first rate garden plant except in its cultivars. It is starting to prove a valuable parent of gardenworthy hybrids such as ROZANNE ('Gerwat') and 'Jolly Bee'. The cultivars are often seed-raised and include 'Buxton's Variety', with long stems and violet-tinged flowers, and 'Syabru', with magenta-pink flowers without a white eye.

Geranium wlassovianum

A bushy, hairy species from eastern Europe and western Asia, with quite small leaves cut into 7 divisions, not too heavily toothed, that colour well in autumn. The flowers are magenta-purple and have a white eye. *G. wlassovianum* 'Blue Star', with late, lavender-blue flowers is becoming popular and it crosses with *G. sanguineum*, which has given rise to the cultivar 'Kahn'.



Geranium nodosum
'Whiteleaf'

Geranium nodosum

A rhizomatous, upright species from central Europe. Grows to a height of about 50cm with glossy green, broad leaves, cut into 3 or 5 divisions, little-lobed but with regular teeth. The upper stem leaves have 3 divisions, giving the plant its characteristic appearance. The flowers are pinkish to magenta, paler in the centre with notched petals. Cultivars are seed-raised and may vary a little. 'Svelte Lilac' has mauve flowers, 'Swish Purple' has starry flowers, magenta with a lilac base, 'Whiteleaf' has dark leaves.



Geranium erianthum
'Calm Sea'

Geranium erianthum

A wide-ranging species growing to 60cm tall with basal leaves cut into 7 to 9 overlapping divisions. The flowers are large and range from white to deep lavender in colour. It is found in the wild from Siberia, Japan and Canada as well as islands in between, and plants from different parts of its range can differ considerably. There is a cultivar called 'Calm Sea' with lavender flowers and smudged blue veining on the petals.

RHS Award of Garden Merit descriptions



Geranium 'Danny Boy'

AGM (H4) 2006

Sent by Coombland Gardens

A stunning plant with a light and airy habit that carries flowers of a most intense purple. A recent introduction and a valuable garden perennial of the future.

Spreading perennial to 50 × 160cm in trial. Basal leaf blades to 90 × 120mm, borne on long petioles to 300mm, with short, adpressed, rough hairs on both surfaces and at the margins, rectangular in outline, divided to two thirds into 7; divisions widely spaced, little overlapping, broadest just above the middle, lobed to almost half way, sometimes with teeth lower down; lobes coarse with jagged, irregular teeth culminating in a minute tip. Stem leaves paired, decreasing in size towards the apex. Stems green, paler at the nodes. Inflorescence of paired flowers on pedicels to 30mm. Sepals narrow-ovate, 9 × 4mm with scarious margins and a mucro to 1.5mm. Flowers to 35mm across, vivid purple (78A), finely veined red (60A); petals 17 × 12mm, truncate at the apex, overlapping only at the base.



becoming patent and gland-tipped on pedicels, upper stipules red (181B), lower stipules green. Flowers borne singly, in pairs or small groups towards the tips of the branches. Sepals ovate 10 × 4mm, mucro to 2mm. Flowers to 40mm across, bluish violet (82B) with a pinkish purple blush, white at the base with red (60B) veins.

Geranium macrorrhizum 'Bevan's Variety'

AGM (H4) 2006

Sent by Beth Chatto

A luscious ground cover plant giving rise to clouds of vibrant purple-pink flowers. A wonderful underplanting for flowering trees and shrubs.

Sprawling perennial to 25 × 80cm in trial. Basal leaf blades rhubarb scented to c60 × 80mm, borne on petioles to 150mm, covered with short, adpressed hairs on both sides, greyish yellow-green (147B), divided to about three quarters into 5 or 7; divisions widest towards apex, the lowest pair only overlapping, lobed in the top third; lobes rounded, more or less regular with short mucronate tips and shallow teeth. Stem leaves in 2 or 3 pairs, decreasing rapidly in size towards the apex. Stem quite thickly covered with soft, patent hairs of variable length. Inflorescence a dense umbel of short-stalked flowers. Calyx swollen, bladdery, glandular hairy; sepals suborbicular with a mucro to 1mm. Flowers to 25mm across, purplish pink (74A/B); petals strongly clawed, claw strongly wedge-shaped, blade orbicular, 10 × 10mm; filaments c15mm, much exerted, curved; style 15mm at anthesis, curved.



Geranium 'Jolly Bee' & ROZANNE ('Gerwat')

AGM (H4)2006

Sent by Beeches, Blooms, Cotswold Garden, Rougham Hall, Van Noort

These entries were found to have no characters which could be used consistently to distinguish them and are therefore described together.

Superb border plants starting to bloom as many geraniums are finishing but then smothering themselves in large, bright blue, saucer-shaped flowers into the autumn.

Vigorous, spreading perennial, to 70 × 160cm in trial. Basal leaf blades dark green (147A), lightly blotched yellow-green (146B/C), especially at the notches, covered with short, adpressed white hairs, sparse on the undersides except along the veins, c110 × 90mm on petioles to c130mm, pentagonal in outline, divided to three fifths into 5 or 7; divisions diamond-shaped, lobed to the base, long-ovate, with a short acute tip, basal lobes toothed. Stem leaves at regular intervals, paired, decreasing in size towards the apex. Stems red-flushed on pedicels and nodes with short, adpressed hairs



Geranium macrorrhizum 'Mytikas'

AGM (H4) 2006

Sent by Jan Spruyt

An ideal ground cover specimen with a spreading habit and very neat foliage that lasts the summer well. Flowers small but prolifically borne and a stunning purplish pink.

Carpet-forming perennial to 30 × 160cm in trial. Basal leaves rhubarb-scented, small, to 60 × 80mm, borne on long petioles to 220mm, covered with short, glandular and eglandular hairs, yellow-green (146A), divided to about three



All descriptions are based on plants grown in Stage 3 of the RHS Trial of Hardy Geraniums. Plants grown elsewhere may differ slightly according to cultivation conditions. Colour codes were taken using the RHS Colour Chart. The fifth edition (2007) is available from RHSE Mail Order, Wisley, Surrey GU23 6QB.



quarters into 5 or 7; divisions widest above halfway, little overlapping, lobed to about half way; lobes regular, triangular with a small acute tip with occasional, sharp teeth. Stems subglabrous with usually 2 pairs of leaves very reduced at the apex. Flowers profuse, borne in dense umbels; pedicels short. Calyx swollen, bladdery, reddish; sepals suborbicular with a mucro to 2mm. Flower to 20mm across, purplish pink (pinker than 80B); petals clawed to long cuneate, blade broad obovate, 10 × 9mm, sometimes obscurely notched at apex; filaments c16mm, much exserted, curved; style c16mm at anthesis, curved.



***Geranium macrorrhizum* 'White-Ness'**

AGM (H4) 2006

Sent by Lodge Lane

A neat and robust plant with pale, fresh leaves. The pure white flowers, carried in remarkable abundance, impart a ghostly glow to a gloomy spot.

Low mound-forming perennial with an upright habit to 50 × 110cm in trial. Basal leaf blades rhubarb-scented, small, to c50 × 70mm, borne on long petioles to c200mm, covered with short, glandular and eglandular hairs, greyish yellow green (147B), divided to about two thirds into 5; divisions widest towards apex, little overlapping, lobed to about half way; lobes shallow, rounded with small rounded, sharp-tipped teeth. Stem leaves in 2 or 3 pairs decreasing rapidly in size towards the apex. Stems with very short hairs, few of them glandular. Flowers profusely borne in dense umbels; pedicels short. Calyx swollen, bladdery, pale green; sepals suborbicular with a mucro to 2mm. Flowers to 15mm across, pure white, petals strongly clawed, claw strongly wedge-shaped, blade orbicular 8 × 9mm; filaments c18mm, much exserted, curved; style c16mm at anthesis, curved.

***Geranium maculatum* 'Elizabeth Ann'**

AGM (H4) 2006

Sent by Cotswold Garden

One of the best foliage geraniums with its rich bronzy leaves and elegant posture. The flowers are purplish-pink and fall to reveal lime-green calyces.

Upright perennial to 60 × 70cm in trial. Basal leaves to 120 × 100mm borne on long petioles to 220mm with short, white, adpressed hairs, strongly associated with the veins on the underside, dark reddish brown (redder than 200B), divided almost to the base into 5; divisions widely spaced, not overlapping, lobed to about half way, sometimes with teeth lower down; lobes coarse, irregular, rounded-triangular, acute with occasional teeth. Stem leaves paired, with lowest almost as large as the basal leaves, the upper bract-like. Stems green, tinged orange-brown (176A), darkest toward flower.

Pubescence tight to moderate, hairs mostly down-curved. Inflorescence of a few very long, peduncled lower flowers and clusters of upper flowers with very short pedicels. Sepals long ovate covered with gland-tipped hairs; mucro to 2mm. Flowers to 35mm across, pale pinkish-purple (81C/D); petals 15 × 12mm, broad obovate.

***Geranium phaeum* 'Our Pat'**

AGM (H4) 2006

Sent by Robin Moss

A strange and dramatic plant with purple-black flowers on upright stems. An eye-catching presence in the border.

Upright perennial, to 110 × 90cm in trial. Basal leaf blades to 100 × 180mm, borne on long petioles to c45cm, unblotched, with short, white, eglandular hairs, sparse on the underside except along the veins, rectangular in outline, divided to about two thirds into 7 or 9; divisions overlapping in top half; rhomboid, lobed to about half way; lobes rounded-triangular, tip acute with occasional teeth. Stem leaves solitary becoming paired in the inflorescence, upper leaves with very narrow, acute lobes. Stems with short, glandular and long, patent eglandular hairs. Inflorescence diffuse, inclined to one side, flowers upward pointed. Sepals narrow-oblong with a fringe of long hairs; mucro absent or minute. Flowers to 25mm across, dark purple (79A/B) with a silvery white eye. Petals level to slightly reflexed, broad obovate, lightly frilled to obscurely notched at the apex.

***Geranium* ROZANNE ('Gerwat')**
see 'Jolly Bee'



Stage 3 selection guide



<i>Geranium phaeum</i> selections and hybrids in alphabetical order					
Name	Colour	Habit	Dimensions	Flowering	Notes
<i>G. x monacense</i> 'Claudine Dupont' (1)	Dull purplish red (183D)	2	100 × 160cm	Late April – early June	Leaves with dark brown blotches.
<i>G. x monacense</i> 'Muldoon' (2)	Dark purple (83A)	4	130 × 110cm	Late April – mid June	Yellowish leaves with prominent blotches at nodes.
<i>G. phaeum</i> 'Album' (3)	White	4	100 × 120cm	Early May – late June	Long-flowering and reliable.
<i>G. phaeum</i> 'Calligrapher' (4)	Dull purple (79D) around a pale grey eye	3	50 × 70cm	Late April – mid June	Leaves lightly marked with purple. Flowers with a dark rim around the eye.
<i>G. phaeum</i> 'Golden Spring' (5)	Dark reddish purple (N79B)	3	70 × 100cm	Mid April – mid June	Leaves pale with strong reddish brown mottling.
<i>G. phaeum</i> 'Lily Lovell' (6)	Dark violet(79B/C)	2	110 × 150cm	Early May – mid June	One of the best flower colours amongst the <i>G. phaeum</i> entries.
<i>G. phaeum</i> 'Our Pat' 🏆	Dark purple (79 A/B) with a silvery eye	4	110 × 90cm	Mid May – late June	Excellent upright habit and very dark flowers.
<i>G. phaeum</i> 'Rose Madder' (7)	Unusual reddish, grey washed with a grey eye	3	40 × 70cm	Late April – mid June	A very striking flower colour. Possibly of hybrid origin.
<i>G. phaeum</i> 'Samobor'	Dusky purple (N79B)	3	40 × 70cm	Mid April – mid June	Leaves very strongly blotched purple in a ring around the centre.
<i>G. phaeum</i> 'Séricourt' (8)	Very dark red (187A)	3	50 × 70cm	Early May – early June	Leaves very pale yellow.



Habit 1 = Groundcover
2 = Spreading
3 = Mound-forming
4 = Upright



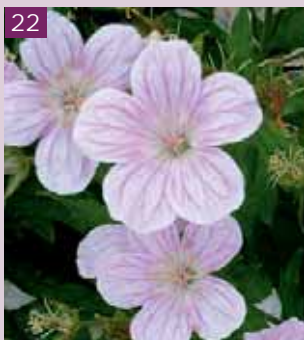
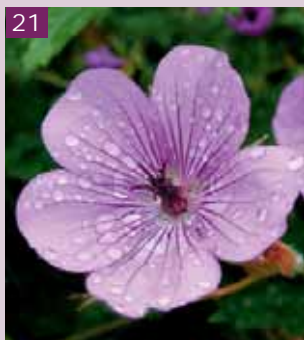
Geranium macrorrhizum selections and hybrids in alphabetical order					
Name	Colour	Habit	Dimensions	Flowering	Notes
<i>G. × cantabrigiense</i> 'Blondie' (9)	Pale Purplish pink (74D)	1	30 × 70cm	Mid May – mid June	Leaves pale. Plant very floriferous.
<i>G. × cantabrigiense</i> 'Cambridge' (10)	Purple (N80B)	2	40 × 65	Late May – late June	Floriferous with attractive purple flowers.
<i>G. × cantabrigiense</i> 'St. Ola' (11)	White, pinkish (57D) on the veins	1	20 × 50cm	Late May – mid July	A good low, flat habit.
<i>G. macrorrhizum</i> 'Album' 🏆	White with a hint of pink	2	35 × 60cm	Early May – mid June	Not as vigorous as most but does better in deeper shade.
<i>G. macrorrhizum</i> 'Bevan's Variety' 🏆	Purplish pink (74A-B)	2	25 × 80cm	Early may – early June	Effective groundcover, flowers held well above foliage.
<i>G. macrorrhizum</i> 'Czakov' (12)	Dark pinkish purple (74A-78A)	2	30 × 50cm	Early May – early June	Beautiful in flower but becoming ragged later.
<i>G. macrorrhizum</i> 'Mytikas' 🏆	Purplish pink, pinker than 80B	1	30 × 160cm	Mid May – mid June	Forming a delightful floriferous carpet.
<i>G. macrorrhizum</i> 'White-Ness' 🏆 (13)	White	1	50 × 110cm	Late May – late June	Lovely pure white flowers with green calyces.
Geranium sylvaticum selections and hybrids in alphabetical order					
<i>G.</i> 'Prelude' (14)	Pale violet (88C) with purple veins	3	90 × 120cm	Late April – late May	An unsophisticated plant good for a naturalistic setting.
<i>G. sylvaticum</i> 'Afrodite' (15)	Very pale pink (69D)	3	60 × 80cm	Early May – early June	A good compact Scandinavian selection.
<i>G. sylvaticum</i> 'Album' (16)	Faint pink in bud opening white	3	80 × 110cm	Early May – early June	An excellent white-flowered plant falling just short of an AGM.



Stage 3 selection guide



Name	Colour	Habit	Dimensions	Flowering	Notes
<i>G. sylvaticum</i> 'Angulatum' (17)	Pale pink (69B/C), purplish veins, white at base	3	100 x 130cm	Early May – early June	The largest-flowered of the <i>G. sylvaticum</i> entries.
<i>G. sylvaticum</i> 'Birch Lilac' (18)	Purple (82A) tinged (81A)	4	90 x 90cm	Early May – early June	Plentiful flowers.
<i>G. sylvaticum</i> 'Lilac Time' (19)	Purple (80A), stamens blue	4	80 x 80cm	Early May – early June	Flowers small but profuse.
Geranium wallichianum selections and hybrids in alphabetical order					
<i>G. 'Jolly Bee'</i> 🏆 / <i>G. ROZANNE</i> ('Gerwat') 🏆	Blue (88B), veined red, white at base	2	70 x 160cm	Early June – late October	Outstanding plants smothered in delightful flowers over a long period.
<i>G. wallichianum</i> 'Buxton's Variety' 🏆 (20)	Violet (88C), white in basal half	1	30 x 130cm	Early July – late October	A beautiful and reliable groundcover.
<i>G. 'Wisley Jewel'</i> (21)	Purple (80B) with white at base	1	40 x 170cm	Mid June – late October	A vigorous plant found as a seedling on the Rock Garden at Wisley.
Selections and hybrids of other species in alphabetical order					
<i>G. 'Arnoldshof'</i> (22)	Pale pink (70A), veined pink (75A)	4	60 x 50cm	Early May – late May	Second flush of flowers from late June – early August.
<i>G. 'Danny Boy'</i> 🏆 (23)	Vivid purple (78A), veined red	2	50 x 160cm	Late May – early August	Airy habit with flowers of a stunning colour.
<i>G. erianthum</i> 'Calm Sea' (24)	Pale violet (85A)	3	80 x 90cm	Late May – early June	Second flush of flowers from mid July – early August.
<i>G. gracile</i> 'Blanche'	White, flushed light purple (76A)	3	90 x 90cm	Late May – early July	Attractive flowers but a short season.



Habit 1 = Groundcover
2 = Spreading
3 = Mound-forming
4 = Upright



Name	Colour	Habit	Dimensions	Flowering	Notes
<i>G. gracile</i> 'Blush' (25)	Light purple (74C/D)	3	90 × 120cm	Late May – mid June	Sparse second flush produced late in the season.
<i>G. maculatum</i> 'Elizabeth Ann' 🏆	Pale purplish pink (81C/D)	4	60 × 70cm	Early May – early June	Bronze leaves combine well with purplish pink flowers and other foliage.
<i>G. maculatum</i> 'Espresso' (26)	Pale purplish pink (76A)	4	60 × 60cm	Late April – early June	Bronze foliage but not as dark as 'Elizabeth Ann'.
<i>G. nodosum</i> 'Svelte Lilac' (27)	Pale lilac (82C/D)	2	50 × 110cm	Late May – late June	Spreading by rhizomes and good for indifferent soils.
<i>G. nodosum</i> 'Whiteleaf' (28)	Light purple (74C), heavily flushed purple	3	60 × 80cm	Late May – mid July	Glossy foliage and unusual white edge to the petals.
<i>G. platyanthum</i> 'Genyell'	Violet purple (88B) with dark veins.	3	50 × 110cm	Early May – mid July	Heavy black veining on bluish flower. Originally circulated as <i>G. ibericum</i> .
<i>G. platyanthum</i> 'Russian Giant' (29)	Violet (88C)	3	70 × 100cm	Late April – mid May	Insufficient flower.
<i>G.</i> 'Salome' (30)	Pale purple (80A)	2	60 × 170cm	Mid June – late July	Rampant growth with lots of colour in flower.
<i>G.</i> 'Silva'	Pale violet (85B)	3	80 × 140cm	Early June – late July	Flopped badly when flowering.
<i>G. soboliferum</i> var. <i>kiusianum</i>	Pinkish purple (78A/B), veined red	3	60 × 90cm	Mid July – early October	Fresh foliage and flowering generously.
<i>G. wlassovianum</i> 'Blue Star' (31)	Violet (brighter than 87A)	2	40 × 70cm	Mid June – late September	Pinkish bronze foliage when young.
<i>G. wlassovianum</i> 'Lakwijk Star' (32)	Purple (81A) lined purplish red	3	70 × 150cm	Early June – late September	Dislikes dry conditions.



Species included in the Rock Trial



Geranium
(Cinereum Group)
'Laurence
Flatman'



Geranium
subcaulescens

Geranium cinereum

A small, sparsely hairy species with often grey or silver leaves 5cm wide cut into 5 or 7 divisions. The stems have about 5 pairs of leaves with up to 10 flowers. The flowers are large compared to the plant and pale pink with a network of darker veins. It is native to the central Pyrenees. There is a white-flowered cultivar named 'Album'. Hybrids with *G. subcaulescens*, such as ROTHBURY GEM ('Gerfos'), 'Ballerina' and 'Laurence Flatman', occur freely and are included in *G. Cinereum* Group.

Geranium subcaulescens

A variable species native to the Balkan peninsula and parts of Turkey. It bears leaves to 5cm wide, divided into 5 or 7, sometimes hairy and darker green than *G. cinereum*. The inflorescence has 6 to 8 flowers. The flowers have very bright purplish-red petals with a darker zone at the centre around a black eye. Cultivars include 'Giuseppii', with brightly coloured flowers and a small basal spot, and 'Splendens', with a blackish basal blotch and white margins in the lower half of the petals. *G. subcaulescens* forms hybrids with *G. cinereum* which are included in *G. Cinereum* Group and *G. argenteum* which are called *G. × lindavicum*.



G. × lindavicum
'Alanah'



Geranium
dalmaticum

G. × lindavicum

Garden hybrid between *G. argenteum* and *G. subcaulescens* first raised in 1912. The leaves are grey and velvety, divided into 5 or 7, each division with 3 lobes. The flowers are numerous and a garish purple-pink with dark veins becoming diffuse at the centre. Cultivars include 'Alanah', with crimson-purple flowers, and 'Gypsy', with brilliant cerise flowers with a maroon blotch.

Geranium dalmaticum

A rhizomatous perennial with small leaves to 4cm across which are shiny and hairless. The long stems are carpet-forming with a rosette of leaves at the end. The flower stalks are upright with the coral pink or white flowers held horizontally. From the coast of Montenegro and northern Albania, it is closely related to *G. macrorrhizum* with which it crosses to form the hybrid *G. × cantabrigiense*. Cultivars of *G. dalmaticum* include 'Album', with white flowers, and low-growing 'Croftlea'.



Geranium sanguineum
'Shepherd's Warning'

Geranium sanguineum

A low-growing, bushy, rapidly spreading plant found throughout most of Europe, the Caucasus and Turkey. The stems emerge from underground rhizomes and carry paired leaves that are rather small and deeply divided into 5 or 7. The flowers are a striking shade of purple-red, upward-facing, to about 40mm wide. *G. sanguineum* var. *striatum* is native to Walney Island and other places on the Cumbrian coast and are low-growing plants with very pale pink flowers, of which the cultivar 'Splendens' is a fine selection. Other cultivars include 'Album', with white flowers, and 'Shepherd's Warning' with deep coloured flowers and a compact habit. Hybrids include 'Tiny Monster' and 'Little David', which are crosses with the much larger *G. psilostemon*.



Geranium sessiliflorum subsp.
novae-zelandiae
'Porter's Pass'

Geranium sessiliflorum

An underwhelming species native to New Zealand, Tasmania and South America, with rosettes of little round leaves on long stalks. The flowers are small and white to about 1cm across in diffuse inflorescences. Most of the plants in cultivation are *G. sessiliflorum* subsp. *novae-zelandiae*, with leaves divided to about half way with oblong leaf divisions. Of most horticultural interest are the dark-leaved variants such as 'Nigricans', which has olive green to brown foliage, and 'Porter's Pass', which has leaves of a bronzey-red colour. Seedlings arise freely and often come true. A range of hybrids with this species have been developed.



Geranium 'Dusky
Crüg'

Geranium sessiliflorum hybrids

G. sessiliflorum has been crossed with a number of other species to try to combine its colourful leaves with larger plants with bigger flowers. Hybrids with *G. traversii* from the Chatham Islands have been given the name *G. × antipodeum* and include the cultivar 'Sea Spray' which has greenish brown leaves and pale pink to almost white flowers. Hybrids with *G. × oxonianum* are becoming common. They are generally low-growing plants with murky coloured leaves and coral pink flowers. Cultivars of this cross include 'Coffee Time', 'Sea Fire' and 'Sea Pink'. There is also a cross between *G. sessiliflorum* subsp. *novae-zelandiae* 'Nigricans' and the little-grown *G. suzukii* which has been named 'Welsh Guinness'.



Geranium orientalitibeticum

Geranium orientalitibeticum

A low-growing perennial plant from screes in south-western China. It spreads quickly on the rock garden by underground runners and also has small tubers which can be difficult to eradicate from the soil, so careful siting is essential. The basal leaves grow to about 10cm across and are cut into 5 divisions, lobed towards the apex. They are strongly marbled which is a distinctive feature of the plant. The flowers are about 40mm across, the basal third being white, the rest purplish pink.

RHS Award of Garden Merit descriptions

All descriptions are based on plants grown in the RHS Trial of Hardy Geraniums Suitable for the Rock Garden 2004-2006. Plants grown elsewhere may differ slightly according to cultivation conditions. Colour codes were taken using the RHS Colour Chart. The fifth edition (2007) is available from RHSE Mail Order, Wisley, Surrey GU23 6QB.



JG

Geranium (Cinereum Group) **'Giuseppii'**

AGM (H4) 2006

Sent by Allan Robinson, Coombland

Cheerful and reliable with bright, almost magenta flowers and a small, black eye. Deserving a prominent place in the rock garden.

Mound-forming perennial, 100 × 250mm in trial. Basal leaf blades to c25 × 30mm on petioles to 80mm, mid green (137B/C), sparsely hairy on the upper surface, thicker below, circular in outline, divided to three quarters into 7; divisions little overlapping, 3-lobed for about one third of their length; lobes more-or-less equal, ovate, obtuse with occasional teeth. Stem leaves in unequal pairs, much reduced, usually 1 pair per stem. Stems lax to upright, pale green, tinted reddish-brown, minutely pubescent. Flowers borne in pairs at the tips of the branches. Sepals narrowly ovate to elliptic, 7 × 3mm with hyaline margins, mucro to 1mm. Flowers 25-30mm across, vivid reddish-purple (slightly stronger than 74A), finely veined purplish-red (71A) the colour fading just above the small black centre; petals obovate, 14 × 12mm, the apex truncate to faintly notched.



BP

Geranium (Cinereum Group) **ROTHBURY GEM ('Gerfos')**

AGM (H4) 2006

Sent by Blooms

A charming little geranium forming a mound of delicate leaves above which float large pale purple, red-eyed flowers. A valuable recent introduction.

Mound-forming perennial, 100 × 200mm in trial. Basal leaf blades c20 × 25mm on petioles to 50mm, mid green (bluer than 137B) with an even covering of short, adpressed hairs, circular in outline, divided to three quarters into 7; divisions overlapping, 3-lobed for about one third of their length; lobes more-or-less equal, ovate, obtuse, lacking teeth. Stem leaves in pairs, few, much reduced. Stems upright, green with a hint of brownish-grey with short adpressed hairs. Flowers borne in pairs at the tips of the branches. Sepals ovate, 7 × 3mm with fringed, hyaline margins, mucro to 1mm. Flowers 30mm across, pale purple (75B/C), main veins dark purplish red (71A) converging at the centre to form an eye; petals obcordate, 15 × 10mm.

Geranium × lindavicum 'Gypsy'

AGM (H4) 2006

Sent by Hon Anne Baring

Lost from cultivation for several years but re-discovered and available once more. Strikingly vivacious flowers of a colour unlike any other geranium to date.

Mound-forming perennial, 150 × 200mm in trial. Basal leaf blades c20 × 25mm on petioles to 80mm, mid green (138A) with an even covering of short, adpressed silvery hairs, rectangular in outline, divided to three quarters into 7; divisions little overlapping, 3-lobed for about one third of their length; lobes more-or-less equal, ovate, obtuse with occasional teeth. Stem leaves single or in unequal pairs, few, much reduced. Stems lax, green with red nodes and short, adpressed hairs. Flowers borne in pairs at the tips of the branches. Sepals ovate, 8 × 3mm with fringed, hyaline margins, mucro to 1mm. Flowers 30mm across, vivid purple (74A), veins dark purplish red (71A) fading to white above a dark maroon blotch at the centre; petals obcordate to obovate with a shallow notch, 15 × 15mm.



JG

Geranium sanguineum 'Little Bead'

AGM (H4) 2006

Sent by Waterpump, Penlan

Ground-hugging cultivar with lovely saucer-shaped, pinkish to purple flowers. One of the members of its species best suited to the domestic rock garden.

Spreading, rhizomatous perennial, 14 × 55cm in trial. Rosette leaves few, soon disappearing. Stem leaves paired c25 × 35mm, mid green (137B), evenly covered with short, adpressed hairs, longer on the underside, divided almost to the base into 5 or 7; divisions clearly distinct, cuneate, widest near the apex, acute, margins revolute, 2-3 lobed; lobes lanceolate, lacking teeth, with a minute acute tip. Stems prostrate, pale green flushed red, especially beneath the nodes, covered with long and short, patent, eglandular hairs. Flowers mostly borne singly on peduncle to 60mm; pedicels to c30mm. Sepals elliptic-ovate, 8 × 4mm with 3 prominent veins and hyaline margins, mucro to 2mm. Flowers 40mm across, pinkish purple (78B), finely veined purplish red (61A/B) with a small, white eye; petals broad obovate 15 × 20mm, crimped with a very shallow notch at the apex.



JG

Rock Trial selection guide

Habit 1 = Groundcover
2 = Spreading
3 = Mound-forming
4 = Upright

Geranium Cinereum Group selections in alphabetical order					
Name	Colour	Habit	Dimensions	Flowering	Notes
G. (Cinereum Group) 'Ballerina' 🏆 (1)	Pale purple (74D), veined purplish red	3	8 × 15cm	Mid May – late July	Plants from micropropagated stock lost compact habit.
G. (Cinereum Group) 'Carol'	Purplish pink (74A/C), veined dark purple	2/3	14 × 25cm	Mid May – mid July	Flowers held nicely above plant.
G. (Cinereum Group) 'Giuseppina'	Vivid purple (74A), finely veined red-purple	2/3	20 × 40cm	Mid May – mid June	Stems become rather diffuse.
G. (Cinereum Group) 'Lambrook Helen'	Reddish purple (74B), veined purple with an eye	3	10 × 25cm	Mid May – mid July	Quite small flowers but of a strong colour.
G. (Cinereum Group) 'Laurence Flatman' (2)	Pale purple (74D) with patches of white	3	10 × 25cm	Mid May – mid July	Distinctive arrow-shaped darker patch on each petal.
G. (Cinereum Group) ROTHBURY GEM ('Gerfos') 🏆	Pale purple (75B/C), veined purplish red	3	10 × 20cm	Mid May – early August	Very neat foliage and a splendid lavender-purple eye to the flowers.
Geranium sanguineum selections and hybrids in alphabetical order					
G. 'Little David'	Vivid purplish red (78A) with purplish veins	3/4	30 × 50	Early June – late July	An unusual hybrid with <i>G. psilostemon</i> but proving too big for most rock gardens.
G. sanguineum 'Album' (3)	White to very faintly pink	2/3	50 × 70m	Late May – late June	An attractive and reliable plant but too vigorous for a small rockery.
G. sanguineum 'Droplet'	Reddish purple (78A)	2	17 × 45cm	Mid May – late June	Uninspiring but with dainty little leaves.
G. sanguineum 'Little Bead' 🏆	Pinkish purple (78B), finely veined purplish red	1	14 × 55cm	Late May – mid July	Ground-hugging plant with lovely rounded flowers.
G. sanguineum 'Shepherd's Warning' 🏆	Vivid purplish red (67C)	2	12 × 33cm	Mid May – early July	Deep purplish pink flowers combine well with dark foliage.
G. sanguineum var. striatum 🏆	Very pale pink (69C), veined purplish pink	2	30 × 70cm	Early May – mid July	AGM reconfirmed for rock garden use.
Geranium sessiliflorum selections and hybrids in alphabetical order					
G. 'Cally Variety'	Pale pink (69C), fading to white	2	10 × 25	Mid May – mid June	Unimpressive in trial with small flowers.
G. 'Dusky Crûg' (4)	Pale pink (75C), white towards base	3	32 × 55cm	Died in trial	An untidy plant best suited to the front of the border.



JG

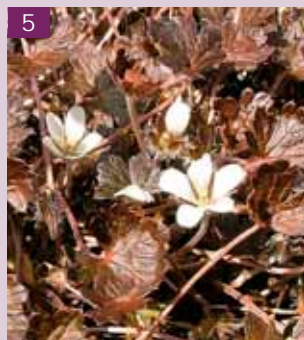


JG

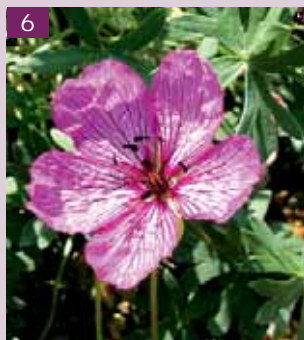


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Name	Colour	Habit	Dimensions	Flowering	Notes
G. 'Nunykirk Pink'	White and pale purplish pink (74D)	2	15 × 80cm	Died in trial	Sparsely flowered and too spreading for the rock garden.
<i>G. sessiliflorum</i> subsp. <i>novae-zelandiae</i> 'Nigricans'	White	2	5 × 20cm	Mid May – late June	Attractive brown foliage but with small flowers.
<i>G. sessiliflorum</i> subsp. <i>novae-zelandiae</i> 'Porter's Pass' (5)	White	3	10 × 28cm	Mid May – late June	Short-lived but seeding around freely. Deep bronze foliage excellent.
Geranium subcaulescens selections and hybrids in alphabetical order					
<i>G. × lindavicum</i> 'Alanah' (6)	Purplish pink (74C), white in lower half	3	13 × 30cm	Mid May – late July	Flowers with a nice dark edge. Foliage silvery and neat.
<i>G. × lindavicum</i> 'Gypsy' 🏆 (7)	Vivid purple (74A), dark eye with white surround	3	15 × 20cm	Mid May – late July	Superb airy inflorescence. Plants in trial benefited from light shade.
<i>G. subcaulescens</i> 'Giuseppii' 🏆 (8)	Vivid purple (74A) with a dark eye	3	18 × 40cm	Mid May – mid July	Compact plants with strikingly clear, dark-eyed flowers.
<i>G. subcaulescens</i> 'Splendens' 🏆 (9)	Bright pink (67B) with a dark eye	2	17 × 20cm	Mid May – late June	Wonderful bright pink flowers with a delicate eye.
Other species in alphabetical order					
<i>G. caeruleatum</i>	Pale violet (87/D)	2	10 × 35cm	Died in trial	An unusual, floriferous plant with a good habit.
<i>G. dalmaticum</i> 🏆 (10)	Purplish pink (74A/B)	3	12 × 23cm	Early June – early July	A delicate aromatic plant, there is also a white-flowered cultivar called 'Album'.
<i>G. orientalitibeticum</i> (11)	Pinkish purple (78B), white patch at base	2	28 × 50cm	Mid May – late June	A suckering, vigorous plant with marbled foliage.
<i>G. potentilloides</i> (12)	White blushed pale pink (65D)	1	5 × 80cm	Died in trial	A very invasive plant but also succumbing to disease.
<i>G. pylzowianum</i>	Reddish purple (78A) veined red	2	20 × 50cm	Late May – early July	Too invasive for the rock garden.



JG



JG



JG



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Findings

Stage 3

Botanical and nomenclatural notes

Several entries were found not to be correctly named. Some plants submitted as *G. sylvaticum* 'Birch Lilac' were identified as 'Mayflower', *G. pylzowianum* proved to be *G. orientalitibeticum* and *G. phaeum* 'Majus' was *G. × monacense* var. *anglicum*. Other incorrect entries included the *G. macrorrhizum* cultivars 'Ingwersen's Variety' and 'Pindus' and *G. × cantabrigiense* 'Biokovo'.

During the period of the trial the plant that had been submitted as *G. platyanthum* giant was given the cultivar name 'Russian Giant' and a hybrid between *G. sylvaticum* and *G. pratense* was called 'Richard Nutt'.

The cultivar 'Silva' was found not to be a selection of *G. sylvaticum* as usually reported but, more likely, a hybrid between *G. pratense* and *G. collinum*.

Cultivation

The benefit of cutting back cultivars of *G. phaeum* and *G. macrorrhizum* was shown. This practice results in tidier plants and often a second flush of flowers. After the removal of the shade-netting variegated and golden-leaved selections of *G. phaeum* became prone to scorching and it is best to grow these permanently in semi-shade.

Geranium ROZANNE ('Gerwat') & 'Jolly Bee'

No consistent characters could be found to reliably distinguish these two beautiful cultivars. However, as both plants have the legal protection of Plant Breeders Rights it is not currently possible to synonymise the two names. Since the appearance and performance of the plants were identical in trial the AGM was given to both.

Rock Trial

Botanical and nomenclatural notes

Some plants entered as *G.* (Cinereum Group) 'Ballerina' proved to be 'Laurence Flatman' and some plants submitted as *G. sanguineum* 'Little Bead' were 'Droplet'.

Cultivation

Plants that had been grown in peat tended to establish very badly and it is advisable to wash the roots of plants received in this way before planting.

A number of the entries were found to be too large for the site and for most domestic rock gardens. Particularly vigorous were *Geranium* × *riversleaianum* 'Russell Prichard', *G. renardii*, *G. tuberosum*, *G. potentilloides*, many of the dark-leaved plants and a number of selections of *G. sanguineum* as well as its hybrid 'Tiny Monster'.

Micropropagation

Micropropagated plants of *G.* (Cinereum Group) 'Ballerina' were found to be inferior to vegetatively raised stock in their weaker flower colour and more lax habit. Where possible it is recommended to purchase plants grown from cuttings or division as these are considered true to the name.

Geranium ROZANNE ('Gerwat')



Overview

The RHS Trial of Hardy Geraniums, including the Rock Trial, ran from 2002 to 2006 and was the largest ever trial of the genus. Over the course of four years more than 500 entries were recorded, described and judged.

Plantswoman and nursery owner Elizabeth Strangman had originally recognised the need for a trial to try and select the really worthwhile plants from the great number of named also-rans that had appeared over the preceding decade or so. Between 1997 and 2002 alone, the number of *Geranium* listed in *RHS Plant Finder* had shot up by 172. Now that the Trial is over there can be little doubt that it has succeeded in identifying the genuinely excellent plants. The list of AGMs is an impressive one, a reliable guide to the best crane's-bills from across the entire range of these varied plants.

Stage 1 featured some of the more tender, less conventional members of the genus such as *Geranium palmatum*, the *G. traversii* hybrids and the South African species. In addition to these, the spectacular blue-flowered hybrids of the Pratense Group, some of the finest geraniums of all, were judged. These included the AGM-winning cultivars 'Blue Cloud', 'Brookside', 'Nimbus' and 'Orion'.

Stage 2 offered the chance to study the lurid hybrids of *G. psilostemon* such as 'Anne Thomson', 'Ann Folkard', 'Ivan' and PATRICIA ('Bremplat') as well as the less typical, but strikingly individual, derivative BLUE SUNRISE ('Blogold'). These dazzling plants were in marked contrast to the bland ranks of *G. × oxonianum* cultivars that also appeared in Stage 2 with their barely distinct, pastel-coloured flowers.

Stage 3 demonstrated what extremely good plants hardy geraniums are as ground cover for a shady spot. It also featured possibly the most magnificent geraniums of the whole trial, ROZANNE ('Gerwat') and 'Jolly Bee', which, in unison, both smothered themselves with large blue, white-eyed flowers well into autumn.

The Rock Trial proved to be a record of just how few rock geraniums are reliable, healthy plants suitable for domestic gardens. However, the AGM winners were among the daintiest and most appealing of any of the plants in trial.

The Trial of Hardy Geraniums was a tremendous effort of organisation, co-operation and plantsmanship and its legacy is a greater awareness of the best cultivars to plant, a more accurate nomenclature and a fuller appreciation of this fascinating and beautiful genus.

Floral Trials Committee

Chairman:	Tony Lord
Vice-chairmen:	Roy Cheek, Pam Schwerdt
Bill Boardman	Bob Brown
Marina Christopher	John Coke
David Creese	Ivan Dickings
Fergus Garrett	John Gibson
Diana Hart Dyke	Tony Hender
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Christopher Lloyd (RIP)	Alison Mulvaney
John Paton	Graham Rice
Chris Sanders	Keith Sangster
Terry Smale	Mike Smallwood
Brian Talman	Ray Waite
Victoria Wakefield	
Co-opted members:	
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Senders of plants to the trial

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Aline Fairweather, Hilltop Nursery, Beaulieu, Hampshire SO42 7YR
www.fairweathers.co.uk
Beeches Nursery, Ashdon, Saffron Walden, Essex CB10 2HB
www.beechesnursery.co.uk
Beth Chatto Gardens Ltd, Elmstead Market, Colchester, CO7 7DB
www.bethchatto.co.uk
Binny Plants, Ecclesmachan, West Lothian, Scotland EH52 6NL
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Birchwood Plants, 10 Westering, Romsey, SO51 7LY
www.birchwoodplants.co.uk
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www.blackcottonnursery.co.uk
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Border Belles, Old Branxton Cottages, Innerwick, East Lothian, EH42 1QT www.borderbelles.com
Coen Jansen, Ankummer Es 13-15, NL-7722 RD Dalfsen, Holland
www.coenjansenvasteplanten.nl
Coombland Gardens, no longer trading
Cotswold Garden Flowers, Sands Lane, Badsey, Evesham, WR11 5EZ
www.cgf.net
Elworthy Cottage Plants, Lydeard-St-Lawrence, Taunton, TA4 3PX
www.elworthy-cottage.co.uk
The Flower Bower, Woodlands, Shurton, Stogursey, Nr Bridgwater, Somerset TA5 1QE
Hardy's Cottage Garden Plants, Freefolk Priors, RG28 7NJ
www.hardys-plants.co.uk
Hellyer's Garden Plants, no longer trading
Hoo House Nursery, Gloucester Road, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire GL20 7DA
Jac Th De Vroomen BV, PO Box 25, 2160 AA Lisse, Holland
www.devroomen.com
Lodge Lane Nursery, Dutton, Cheshire WA4 4HP
www.lodgelanenursery.co.uk
Meadow Cottage Plants, Pitt Hill, Ivybridge, Devon PL21 0JJ
MGW Plants, 45 Potovens Lane, Lofthouse Gate, Wakefield WF3 3JE
Millrace Nursery, 84 Selby Road, Garforth, Leeds LS25 1LP
www.millrace-plants.co.uk
Norwell Nurseries, Norwell, Nottinghamshire NG23 6JX
www.norwellnurseries.co.uk
Notcutts Nurseries, Woodbridge, Suffolk, IP12 4AF
www.notcutts.co.uk
Out of The Common Way, Penhyddgan, Boduan, Pwllheli, Gwynedd LL53 8YH

Plants for Europe Ltd, Croftway Hall, Barnham, PO22 0BQ
www.plantsforeurope.com
 RHS Garden Wisley, Woking, Surrey, GU23 6QB
 The Plantsman's Preference, Hopton Road, Garboldisham, IP22 2QN www.plantpref.co.uk
 Rougham Hall Nurseries, Rougham, Suffolk IP30 9LZ
www.roughamhallnurseries.co.uk
 Jan Spruyt, Mostenveld 30, 9255 Buggenhout, Belgium
www.vasteplant.be
 Tir Mab Cynan Nursery, Brithdir, near Dolgellau, Wales LL40 2RW
 Usual & Unusual Plants, Magham Down, East Sussex BN27 1PL
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 Van Noort, NL-2361 HG Warmond, Wasbeeklan 13, Netherlands
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Croftway Nursery, Yapton Road, Barnham, West Sussex, PO22 0BH www.croftway.co.uk

Crûg Farm Plants, Griffith's Crossing, Nr Caernarfon, LL55 1TU
www.crug-farm.co.uk

Darwin Plants, PO Box 40, 2180 AA Hillegom, The Netherlands
www.darwinplants.com

Howard Nurseries, Wortham, Diss, Norfolk, IP22 1PX
www.howardnurseries.co.uk

Margery Fish Gardens, East Lambrook, Somerset, TA13 5HL
www.eastlambrook.co.uk

Monksilver Nursery, Cottenham, Cambridgeshire, CB4 8TW
www.monksilver.com

Penlan Perennials, Penrhiwpal, Llandysul, SA44 5QH, Wales
www.penlanperennials.co.uk

Rosie's Garden Plants, Aylesford, Kent, ME20 7EB
www.rosiesgardenplants.biz

Royal Botanical Garden, Kew, Richmond, Surrey, TW9 3AB
 Sarastro-Stauden, Ort 131, A-4974 Ort im Innkreis, Austria
www.sarastro-stauden.com

Secret Seeds, Cove, Tiverton, Devon, EX16 7RU
www.secretseeds.com

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Wendy Wesley (Trials Officer) for recording flowering, measuring plants and collating all the information for Stage 3;

Jacque Gray (Trials Officer) for recording flowering, measuring plants and collating all the information for the Rock Trial;

Andrew Norton (*Geranium* National Plant Collection® holder) who has been so very generous with his plants, time and expertise throughout the trial;

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All photographs are by Wendy Wesley, unless otherwise indicated. Others are by Jacque Gray (JG) or Barry Phillips (BP).

Further reading

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Societies and websites

The Hardy Geranium Group: Secretary: Tricia Fraser, 16 Hallam Grange Croft, Sheffield S10 4BP

The Geraniaceae Group: Richard Clifton, 7 Crabble Road, Dover, CT17 0QD

www.hardygeraniums.com website of *Geranium* National Plant Collection® holder, Andrew Norton.

The Royal Horticultural Society

The RHS is the UK's leading gardening charity dedicated to advancing horticulture and promoting good gardening. Its charitable work includes providing expert advice and information, advancing horticulture, training the next generation of gardeners, helping school children learn about plants, and conducting research into plants, pests and environmental issues affecting gardeners. The RHS AGM plant trial scheme is an important part of this work.

The RHS receives no government grants and for every pound received from members' subscriptions we need to raise more than twice as much again to fund our charitable work. We also rely on donations and sponsorship to supplement income from our garden operations, flower shows, shops and plant centres.

RHS Plant Trials

With so many different types of gardener and so many different cultivars available to them in each group of plants, it is important that a system of recommendation is in place to help with selection at point of sale. These recommendations must be clear and reliable to ensure that of the thousands of plants available in the UK, a proportion are known to be excellent garden plants. The RHS provides this information through its extensive programme of plant trials held at RHS gardens in the UK. The RHS Award of Garden Merit 🏆 signifies the selection of the best cultivar for general garden use.

RHS plant trials serve the professional gardener who wants to know the range of plants available, including the latest breeding and selection programmes, with their distinctive characteristics and provenance. They also serve the amateur who wants to know which plants will grow and perform well in a particular garden situation.

The RHS has an unrivalled resource of knowledge and expertise and is therefore best placed to conduct plant trials for the UK gardening market.

RHS Herbarium

The RHS Herbarium keeps a record of trial cultivars as dried specimens with detailed descriptions and photographic images. This forms an important reference for the horticultural industry. In addition new cultivars are designated nomenclatural standards.

The RHS Herbarium, located at RHS Garden Wisley, is the largest active horticultural herbarium in the UK. At present the collection contains about 70,000 herbarium specimens and over 30,000 images of plants.

RHS Trials Bulletins

Begonia Rex Cultorum Group: December 2006

Canna: September 2003

Daisies (yellow, perennial): September 2004

Delphinium: June 2004

Fuchsia (hardy): December 2005

Geranium (hardy) Stage I: June 2005

Geranium (hardy) Stage 2: June 2006

Hyacinthaceae (little blue bulbs): September 2005

Iris (bearded): May 2007

Lavenders (hardy): July 2003

Miscanthus: October 2004

Peppers (sweet) November 2006

Potatoes (salad): November 2004

Potentilla (shrubby): July 2002

Rhododendron yakushimanum & hybrids: May 2006

Saxifrages (silver): May 2005

Spiraea japonica (with coloured leaves): November 2003

These bulletins can be viewed at a larger size on the RHS Website:

www.rhs.org.uk/plants/trials_bulletins.asp

RHS Plant Assessments

The first of what will become a series of online publications, to complement the *RHS Plant Trials and Awards* series, was published in July 2006:

Pittosporum tenuifolium hybrids & cultivars

Support the RHS, secure a great future for gardening

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RHS Garden
Wisley
Woking
Surrey GU23 6QB
e-mail: trials@rhs.org.uk



www.rhs.org.uk/trials

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