



RHS Plant Trials and Awards

Perennial Yellow Daisies

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Trials of Perennial Yellow Daisies (1998-2002)

Plant Trials

The Royal Horticultural Society, the UK's leading gardening charity, has conducted plant trials since its foundation in 1804. They are an intrinsic part of the charitable work the RHS does for all gardeners, aiming to inform, inspire and advise. Today, over 60 trials of different groups of plants (herbaceous, vegetable, fruit, annual, bulb, rock garden and woody) are held at RHS gardens each year. Around 3,000 entries are judged for garden worthiness by 13 RHS plant committees, made up of professional gardeners, nurserymen, plantsmen and enthusiasts with the support of RHS staff and scientists.

RHS plant trials are conducted to identify good, reliable garden plants by awarding the RHS Award of Garden Merit 🏆 to cultivars of particular value. Botanists examine the plants to ensure they are correctly named. Each plant is also described in detail, photographed and a dried specimen prepared for storage in the RHS Herbarium.

Perennial Yellow Daisy Trials

The perennial, mostly yellow, daisies can provide wonderful colour in a late summer border, they are tolerant of a range of different conditions and are easy to grow. And yet, for some reason, they have been out of fashion in recent years. To help rekindle their popularity, and provide a vibrant, golden display for the Millennium (2000) and the Queen's Golden Jubilee (2002), the Floral Trials Sub-committee decided that a series of trials (listed below) should be carried out on the Portsmouth Field at RHS Garden, Wisley.



Trial of <i>Coreopsis</i>	(1999–2001)
Trial of <i>Helenium</i>	(1999–2001)
Trial of <i>Helianthus</i>	(1999–2001)
Trial of <i>Heliopsis</i>	(1998–2001)
Trial of <i>Inula, Bupthalmum & Telekia</i>	(2000–2002)
Trial of <i>Rudbeckia</i>	(1999–2002)
Trial of <i>Silphium</i>	(1999–2002)
Trial of <i>Solidago</i> and × <i>Solidaster</i>	(2000–2002)

Objectives of the trials

The aims of each of the individual perennial yellow daisy trials included:

- the identification of the most reliable, distinctive and garden worthy cultivars for the RHS Award of Garden Merit 🏆
- the establishment of the correct nomenclature
- the production of a permanent record, through representative herbarium and photographic records together with written descriptions.

Entries

In total, for the eight trials, three plants of each of 282 entries were obtained from 52 sources. These senders of plants to the trials (listed on page 15) comprised retail and wholesale nurseries, National Plant Collection holders, gardens and private individuals.

The number of entries submitted to each individual trial was as follows:

<i>Coreopsis</i>	38 entries
<i>Helenium</i>	56 entries
<i>Helianthus</i>	48 entries
<i>Heliopsis</i>	20 entries
<i>Inula, Bupthalmum & Telekia</i>	20 entries
<i>Rudbeckia</i>	48 entries
<i>Silphium</i>	3 entries
<i>Solidago</i> and × <i>Solidaster</i>	49 entries



Above: *Rudbeckia* Trial (Mike Sleigh/RHS)

Above left: Aerial view of the RHS Trials, August 2000 (Clive Morris/RHS)

Above right: *Helenium* Trial (Mike Sleigh/RHS)

Front Cover: *Heliopsis helianthoides* var. *scabra* 'Spitzentänzerin' (Tim Sandall)

The Award of Garden Merit



The Award of Garden Merit

The Award of Garden Merit 🏆 requires a plant:

- to be excellent for garden decoration or use
- to be available from nurseries or specialist growers
- to be of good constitution
- not to require specialist care
- not to be particularly susceptible to any pest or disease
- not be subject to an unreasonable degree of reversion

Judging Criteria

The criteria used for judging the perennial daisy trials varied slightly from trial to trial, with each trial being closely examined for a minimum of two flowering seasons. In general the characters that were observed, included:

- habit/uprightness
- floriferousness
- colour
- form
- quantity
- impact
- period of flowering
- hardiness
- vigour
- health
- invasiveness
- weather resistance

AGM Winners

***Coreopsis verticillata* 'Moonbeam'
Coreopsis verticillata 'Old Timer'
Coreopsis verticillata 'Zagreb'
**Coreopsis verticillata* 'Grandiflora'

Helenium 'Baudirektor Linne'
Helenium 'Blütentisch'
Helenium 'Butterpat'
Helenium 'Feuersiegel'
Helenium 'Gartensonne'
Helenium 'Karneol'
Helenium 'Moerheim Beauty'
Helenium 'Ring of Fire'
Helenium 'Rubinzweg'
Helenium 'Sahin's Early Flowerer'
Helenium 'Summer Circle'
Helenium 'Waltraut'
Helenium 'Wesergold'

Helianthus 'Gullick's Variety'
Helianthus 'Lemon Queen'
**Helianthus* 'Loddon Gold'
Helianthus 'Miss Mellish'
**Helianthus* 'Monarch'

Heliopsis helianthoides var. *scabra* 'Benzinggold'
Heliopsis helianthoides var. *scabra* 'Light of Loddon'
Heliopsis helianthoides var. *scabra* 'Sonnenglut'
Heliopsis helianthoides var. *scabra* 'Spitzentänzerin'
Heliopsis helianthoides var. *scabra* 'Waterperry Gold'

Inula magnifica 'Sonnenstrahl'

**Rudbeckia fulgida* var. *deamii*
Rudbeckia fulgida var. *speciosa*
**Rudbeckia fulgida* var. *sullivantii* 'Goldsturm'
Rudbeckia laciniata 'Goldkugel'
Rudbeckia laciniata 'Goldquelle'
Rudbeckia laciniata 'Herbstsonne'

Silphium perfoliatum
Solidago 'Gardone'

All of these plants are **H4** – plants hardy throughout the British Isles

- * AGM reconfirmed during trial
- ** 'Moonbeam' is often raised from seed, leading to great variation particularly in the density of flowers. It is recommended to buy plants in flower, or propagate vegetatively from a free-flowering clone.



Cultivation Notes

- Each entry for each trial consisted of three plants, planted into rotary-cultivated ground in either spring or autumn.
- Top dressing with Vitax Q4 was carried out at the appropriate rates and interval for each particular trial. Requirements did vary between the trials, for example the *Solidago* Trial was only top dressed in its final year, whereas the *Helenium* Trial required a feed every spring.
- Staking requirements for perennial yellow daisies also vary, depending upon the stature of the individual plant. All *Helianthus*, and the taller forms of *Helenium*, *Heliopsis* and *Rudbeckia* do perform better when staked. *Solidago* and the taller *Coreopsis verticillata* cultivars, although it is not essential, benefit from some twiggy support.
- Two trials were found to benefit from the 'Chelsea chop'. *Helianthus* growing to over 2m were cut back to 30cm in height in late May and similarly *Rudbeckia* growing to over 2m tall were cut back to 45cm in late May. This was shown to be an easy method of obtaining shorter, bushier plants.
- No significant pest and disease problems were encountered during the course of these trials.
- All these perennial yellow daisies are excellent for encouraging wildlife in the garden; they are very popular with insects and flower late in the season.
- The *Coreopsis* Trial proved that these are a very useful group of plants with an incredibly long flowering period, benefiting enormously from deadheading. During the trial it became apparent how variable the seed-raised plants can be and how people need to be aware of this when making a purchase. Unfortunately, all the *C. grandiflora* cultivars in the Trial were found to be inconsistently winter hardy and not to have a strong enough constitution to be considered suitable for the RHS Award of Garden Merit.
- The only known variegated *Heliopsis* was included in the trial, but LORAINÉ SUNSHINE ('Helhan'; 'Lorraine Sunshine', in US) did not perform, in this trial, as well as the Award of Garden Merit winning cultivars.
- The *Solidago* and × *Solidaster*, although very attractive when in bud, mostly flower for too short a time period to be considered for the RHS Award of Garden Merit.

Nomenclatural Comments

- *Helianthus* 'Capenoch Star' has an Award of Garden Merit from 1993. However, none of the plants submitted under this name to the trial were considered to be correctly named. There is therefore some doubt as to how widely available the true 'Capenoch Star' now is.
- *Rudbeckia fulgida* var. *sullivantii* 'Anthony Brooks', 'Goldschirm' and 'Pot of Gold', although considered to be of Award of Garden Merit quality, were all very similar to *Rudbeckia fulgida* var. *sullivantii* 'Goldsturm' AGM. As this cultivar is commonly raised from seed, and invariably comes true when raised in such a manner, new cultivars derived from 'Goldsturm' seeds may not differ significantly from the parent.

Recommended for the AGM

Subject to availability in the UK:

Rudbeckia laciniata 'Starcadia Razzle Dazzle'
Rudbeckia subtomentosa 'Loofahsa Wheaten Gold'

Subject to the application of a cultivar name and availability in the UK:

Rudbeckia californica var. *intermedia*
(Sent by Mr A Brooks)

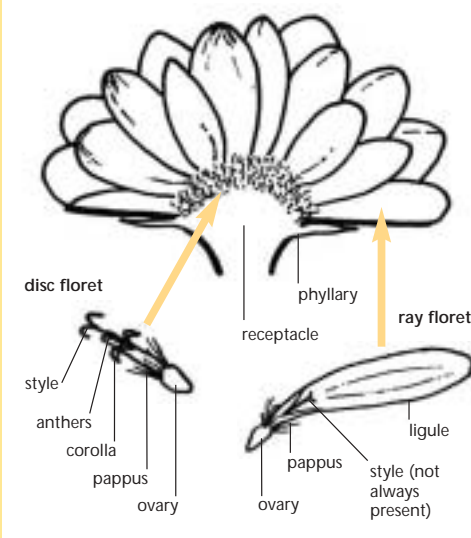
Subject to verification of the correct name:

The submitted plants of *Helenium* 'Golddrausch' and *Helenium* 'Zimbelstern' were considered to be indistinguishable.

List of illustrations on opposite page:

Coreopsis verticillata 'Moonbeam'
Helenium 'Sahin's Early Flowerer'
Helianthus 'Loddon Gold'
Heliopsis helianthoides var. *scabra* 'Benzinggold'
Inula hookeri
Rudbeckia fulgida var. *sullivantii* 'Goldsturm'
Silphium perfoliatum
Solidago 'Gardone'

An example of a daisy flower head



The Genera

The Genera

The yellow daisies included in these Trials are mostly from North America and are all herbaceous perennials. They flower in mid to late summer and are suitable for sunny borders or prairie-style planting. They differ greatly in

habit, especially in size, ranging from 60cm to over 3m. The flower heads, whilst they are predominantly yellow, come in a wide variety of sizes, shades and shapes. Brief introductions to the genera involved are given below:



Coreopsis

The tickseeds have small flowers and are wiry in habit compared with the other genera. They tend to have feathery or ferny foliage and are more suitable for the front of a border or as patio or container plants. Most are short-lived perennials and are often raised from seed and grown as annuals.



Helenium

The sneezeweeds are very useful for providing yellow, orange and red-brown flower colours over a long period. The flower heads often have an eye of a darker colour surrounding the central disc. Botanically they differ from *Helianthus* and *Heliopsis* in having leaves that are always held alternately at the base of the plant and the absence of scales between the ray florets.



Helianthus

The perennial sunflowers are perhaps the most familiar group here, not least because this genus contains well-known garden plants such as the annual sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*) and the Jerusalem artichoke (*H. tuberosus*). The perennial sunflowers exhibit the greatest structural diversity of those trialled; some have semi-double or fully double flower heads.



Heliopsis

The oxeyes are superficially similar to the sunflowers and have similar uses in the garden. Botanically they differ in their blunt-tipped phyllaries (bracts enclosing the base of the flower head), ligules (outer petals) persisting on the seed heads and the ray florets (which bear the ligules) being fertile and possessing a style.



Inula

The harvest daisies are mostly herbaceous perennials, though the genus does contain a few species that are annual or biennial. They are characterised by the multitude of fine, narrow, tubular ligules. *Telekia speciosa* (heart-leaved oxeye) and *Buphthalmum*



Rudbeckia

The coneflowers, as their common name suggests, are typified by their conical or columnar disc at the centre of the flower head. It is usually black or greenish-brown and earns them their other common name of black-eyed Susan. Although predominantly grown as herbaceous perennials, cultivars derived from *R. hirta* are biennials or short-lived perennials that are often raised from seed and grown as annuals. The ligules are often slightly dropping, although this effect is much more pronounced in the related *Ratibida*.



Silphium

Sometimes referred to as prairie dock or rosinweed, *Silphium* are tall, stiff, coarse-leaved perennial herbs that are particularly suitable for naturalistic planting situations in areas with a moisture-retentive soil. Closely related to sunflowers, they differ in having female ray florets and male disc florets and upper leaf pairs that are fused at the base, forming small bathtubs.



Solidago

Garden hybrids of goldenrod are mostly derived from *S. canadensis* and *S. virgaurea*, two species that are now naturalised in Britain; hence their invasive reputation. The garden hybrids however, do not deserve to be tarred with the same brush. Their vibrant yellow plume-like sprays of flowers are easily recognisable and are commonly seen in florists, as they make excellent cut flowers. × *Solidaster*, the bigeneric hybrid between *Solidago* and *Aster*, is more like *Solidago* than *Aster*. It has small, creamy yellow flowers that are slightly larger than that of *Solidago*, but they are held in similar dense sprays.

RHS Award of Garden Merit descriptions



Coreopsis verticillata 'Moonbeam'
AGM (H4) 2001

Sent by Powis Castle.

A very floriferous cultivar with pale yellow starry flowers, that almost hide the feathery dark green foliage. Flowers over long period. Beware of seed-raised plants when buying this cultivar; these can be of inferior quality with fewer flower heads. It is advisable to buy plants in flower or ensure they have been vegetatively propagated from a free-flowering clone.

Flowers early July to late September. Plant 50cm high, 90cm wide; erect habit with stiff, airy, well branched flowering stems. Leaves opposite, sessile, palmately divided into filiform segments, 5cm long and 6cm wide. Flower heads 4cm diameter, single, held in loose inflorescence; disc 0.8cm diameter, 0.3cm high, golden; ligules 8, 1.8-2 × 0.8cm, separate, very pale yellow (4B), tips rounded.



Coreopsis verticillata 'Old Timer'
AGM (H4) 2001

Sent by Great Dixter Nurseries.

A straight-stemmed cultivar, well clothed with feathery foliage and topped with rich golden single blooms; a delicate combination. Very floriferous and vigorous. The use of twiggy supports is advised to retain habit.

Flowers early July to mid September. Plant 80cm high, 80cm wide; tall, erect habit with stiff, airy, branched flowering stems. Leaves opposite sessile, palmately divided into filiform segments, 4cm long and 7cm wide. Flower heads 4.5cm diameter, single; disc 0.8cm diameter, 0.3-0.4cm high, yellow; ligules 8, 2 × 1cm, separate, golden yellow (14B), tips blunt, 3-toothed.



Coreopsis verticillata 'Zagreb'
AGM (H4) 2001

Sent by Hillview Hardy Plants, Madrona Nursery and RHS Garden Rosemoor.

A very floriferous cultivar with rich golden flowers and feathery foliage. Plants grown in the Trial reached 60cm in height, but often this cultivar has a smaller stature than this.

Flowers early July to late September. Plant 60cm high, 70cm wide; tall erect habit with many stiff, well-branched flowering stems. Leaves opposite, sessile, palmately divided into filiform segments, 5.5cm long and 8cm wide. Flower heads 3.5-4cm diameter, single; disc 1cm diameter, 0.5cm high, green-gold to maroon brown on ageing; ligules 8, 1.8 × 0.9cm, slightly overlapping at base, golden yellow (12A/14A), tips blunt, 3-toothed.

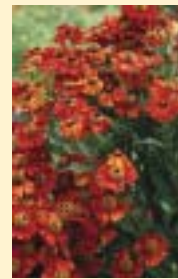


Coreopsis verticillata 'Grandiflora'
AGM (H4) 1993 Reconfirmed 2001

Sent by Beeches Nursery.

This has particularly large bright golden yellow flowers over a long flowering period and fine filigree foliage. The outer petals are larger and overlap more than in other *C. verticillata* cultivars.

Flowers early July to late September. Plant 90cm high, 80cm wide; tall, erect habit with stiff, airy, branched flowering stems. Leaves sessile, palmately divided into filiform segments, 6.5cm long and 10cm wide. Flower heads 6cm diameter, single; disc 0.8cm diameter, 0.4cm high, lemon yellow to dark brown on ageing; ligules 8, 3 × 1.4cm, overlapping at base, deep golden yellow (17B), tips pointed.



Helenium 'Baudirektor Linne'
AGM (H4) 2001

Sent by Heinz Klose Staudengärtnerei and Waterperry Gardens.

Flowers of a sparkling rich warm gold colour, streaked with orange-red. Requires staking for the best performance.

Flowers mid August to early September. Plant 1.7m high; tall, upright, vigorous clumps. Leaves to 18cm long and 4cm wide. Flower heads 6cm diameter, single, ± horizontal; disc 2cm diameter, 1.5cm high, gold-red outer circle and brown-red centre (166A/187A) covered in rich gold anthers (17A); ligules 12-14, 3 × 1.6cm, gaps between near disc, red (45A/42A/34A) flecked with vivid gold (14A) fading to reddish orange brown (171A/B/179A), underside (180A/179A/171A/B), tip reflexed, three lobed.



Helenium 'Blütentisch'
AGM (H4) 2001

Sent by Four Seasons.

A cultivar of uniform height that has brilliant sunny gold flowers flushed red on the underside and with a green, maturing to light brown, disc. A good late season flowerer. This cultivar was raised by Karl Foerster and the name literally translates as flower table. Requires staking.

Flowers early August to mid September. Plant to 1.5m high, vigorous yet compact with much-branched growth. Leaves dense, mid-dark green, sessile, 18cm long and 3.5cm wide, decreasing up the stem. Flower heads <5cm diameter, single, flat with some slight incurve; disc 1.8cm diameter and <1.5 cm high, green-yellow (1A) when young, yellow brown (165A/B) when fully open, turning buff yellow (199A) in old age; ligules c.17, 2 × 1.2cm wide, overlapping, 3-lobed, mostly slightly reflexed, golden yellow (14B) streaked with red (34C/171A) on the underside.

H4 = Plants hardy throughout the British Isles

Colour codes were taken using the RHS Colour Chart. The fourth edition (2001) is available from RHSE Mail Order, Wisley, Surrey GU23 6QB.



Helenium 'Butterpat'
AGM (H4) 2001

Sent by C E & D M Nurseries.

A rich butter yellow, semi-double *Helenium*. It is lower in height than many other cultivars and does not always require staking. There is more than one entity in circulation under this name; incorrectly named plants tend to be taller in height, although similar in flower colour. Bred by Alan Bloom, 1960

Flowers mid July to end August. Plant 90-100cm high, vigorous and densely branched but compact. Leaves lanceolate, mid green (137A-C), surface smooth, both surface slightly hairy, 11cm long and 3.5cm wide, decreasing slightly up the stem. Flower heads 5-6cm diameter, semi-double, reflexed when young, a mix of reflexed, horizontal and incurved with age; disc <2.5cm diameter, 1.8cm high, green tinged with yellow (153A-D) ageing to a vibrant old gold (163B); ligules broad fan-shaped <2.5 × 2cm at broadest point, tip 3-5 lobed, drooping to dancing, overlapping, clear yellow upper (14A) and lower (15B).



Helenium 'Feuersiegel'
AGM (H4) 2001

Sent by Four Seasons.

A striking plant with startling yellow flowers circled with a broad band of red/orange, surrounding a green-yellow, maturing to brown, disc. The name literally translates as fire seal. Bred by Karl Foerster. Requires staking and lengths of bare stem hiding with other plants.

Flowers late July to mid September. Plant 1.2-1.6m tall, erect, densely branched in upper third. Leaves dark green, lanceolate, slightly serrated, to 15cm long and 3cm wide, with lower leaves dying off with age. Flower heads <6cm diameter, single, flat and regularly arranged; disc 2cm diameter and 1.5cm high, green-yellow (N144A) when young, opening to chocolate brown and ageing finally to pale light brown (165A) with golden anthers; ligules 2.5 × 1.2cm, neatly arranged, yellow (12A) towards disc and at margin, with a broad band of orange-red (N34), underside greyed red (180A) tinged orange brown (173A).



Helenium 'Gartensonne'
AGM (H4) 2001

Sent by RHS Garden Wisley.

This cultivar has clear yellow, single, well-displayed flowers, held on stems that are furnished well with leaves to the bottom. The new flowers hide the old ones well and there is a nice



contrast between the dark brown disc and bright yellow rays. The name literally translates as garden sun. Requires staking.

Flowers late July to mid September. Plant to 1.9m high; tall, erect, vigorous, neatly branching in the crown. Leaves light green (138A/143C), shallowly serrated margin, surface smooth, lower leaves 14cm long and 4cm wide, upper stem leaves smaller. Flower heads <5.5cm diameter, single, flat; disc 1.8cm diameter, 1.5cm high, reddish brown (166A/176A) ageing to old gold/brown (163A/166A); ligules 19-22, 2.8 × 1.2cm, mostly 3-lobed and slightly incurved at tip, clear yellow above (14B) and below (12B). Phyllaries light green, <1cm long, very narrow, arching, twisted and quite distinctive.

Helenium 'Karneol'
AGM (H4) 2001

Sent by Four Seasons.

A very floriferous *Helenium* with a solid circle of soft terracotta / warm rust / orange-red rays surrounding a green, maturing to brown, coloured disc. Bred by Karl Foerster. The name literally translates as cornelian. Requires staking.

Flowers early August to early September. Plant to 1.4m high; erect, vigorous and much branched. Leaves mid to dark green, serrated, slightly rough texture, to 13cm long and 4cm wide, decreasing up the stem. Flower heads to 5cm diameter, single, flat to slightly reflexed; disc 1.5cm diameter, 0.8cm high, green (154A) at first, turning mahogany brown (187A/166A) and finishing chocolate brown (166A); ligules 13-16, <2.4 × 1.5cm, overlapping ± full length and with 3 large lobes, mainly in one plane, evenly coloured rich red (46A flushed 44A/42A), turning old orange-gold (170A/171A) with age and increasingly becoming more mottled and uneven in colour, undersurface red-brown (181A). Phyllaries numerous, light green, 2 distinct rings; outer ring folding back almost enclosing the stem; inner ring short.



Helenium 'Moerheim Beauty'
AGM (H4) 2001

Sent by C E & D M Nurseries and Cotswold Garden Flowers.

An excellent cultivar with a long flowering period. The strongly reflexed rays are a uniform rich dark orange-red surrounding a dark brown disc, contrasting nicely with the light green foliage. Bred by Ruys in 1930. Requires staking.

Flowers early July to late August. Plant to 1.3m high, 70cm diameter when staked; erect and densely branched. Leaves light green especially when young, smooth, both surfaces with tiny hairs, to 18cm

RHS Award of Garden Merit descriptions

long and 3.5cm wide, decreasing up the stem. Flower heads to 6cm diameter, single, strongly reflexed and increasingly so with age; disc to 2.3cm diameter and 2cm high, dark chocolate brown (darker than 166A) and covered in golden styles; ligules 3.5×1.4 cm, overlapping, 3-lobed at tip and wavy, edge often incurved, first opening deep rust red (44A/45A) turning rich orange-red (46A/44A) and ageing to old gold-orange (169A), paler dulled tones beneath (178/179).



Helienium 'Ring of Fire'
AGM (H4) 2001

Sent by Mrs F Arnold.

A vibrant flower composed of a rich golden yellow background colour with a striking strong red band, which gives the effect of a wheel. Selected and named by Mrs Arnold. This tall plant requires staking.

Flowers mid August to late September. Plant to 1.7m tall, 80cm wide; erect and strongly branched. Leaves mid green, surface smooth, to an average size of 13cm long and 3cm wide. Flower heads to 5cm, single, flat and solid-looking; disc to 1.6cm diameter and 1cm high, yellow-green (151A) at first progressively turning dark chocolate red (187A) with golden styles (166A); ligules 2.5×1.2 cm neatly spaced, only overlapping at outside edge, 4-lobed with inner 2 being pointed, dark red tinged orange (44A/46A), with a circle of bright yellow (14A) beside disc and at the margin, underside red-brown (179A) turning orange-red (34B) with age. Phyllaries distinctive when in bud, up to 1.2cm long, very narrow and twisted among one another.



Helienium 'Rubinzweg'
AGM (H4) 2001

Sent by Green Farm Plants.

Masses of rich mahogany red flowers surround a green disc that matures to a dark chocolate brown and opens with a halo of golden anthers. The lower stems can have a tendency to be somewhat bare, and therefore it is best planted where they can't be seen. This was bred by zur Linden and the name literally translates as ruby dwarf.

Flowers early August to late September. Plant 1m high, 80cm wide; compact and densely branched. Leaves light to mid green, narrow, surface smooth, 12 cm long and 2 cm wide, decreasing up the stem. Flower heads to 4.5cm diameter, single, flat; disc to 1.7cm diameter and 1cm high, green at first but rapidly becoming dark red (187A) with gold styles and then brown (165A) in old age; ligules 2.3×1.2 cm, neatly spaced, tip



with 3 rounded lobes, strong red (46A/B) with slight orange cast and gold (14A-17A) at extreme base most noticeable when young, ageing to brown-orange (c.171A).

Helienium 'Sahin's Early Flowerer'
AGM (H4) 2001

Sent by Cotswold Garden Flowers.

For a long period, this cultivar is full of good-sized rich bright yellow and orange streaked flowers with dark chocolate coloured discs. Requires staking.

Flowers late June to late August. Plant 1.3m high; erect, vigorous and densely branched. Leaves mid green, rough-textured, lower ones to 18cm long and 6.5cm wide, decreasing up the stem to 11cm long and 3cm wide. Flower heads to 7cm diameter, single, slightly reflexed when young but fully dropping with age; disc to 2.4cm diameter and 1.8cm high, mahogany brown (187A/166A) at first, turning to chocolate brown (166A) with gold anthers as the flower fully opens; ligules 16-18, $<3.5 \times 2.2$ cm, with three large lobes, strongly reflexed but with tips incurved, streaked mixture of yellow (14A) oranges (28A/B/32A/34A/B/42A) and reds (47A/180A), underside has some red colouring, especially in the lobes.



Helienium 'Summer Circle'
AGM (H4) 2001

Sent by Mrs F Arnold.

A late flowering cultivar with large clear yellow flowers and golden yellow to brown discs. The young flower heads are fresh and green and the old flowers are nicely hidden. Selected and named by Mrs Arnold. As one of the tallest cultivars it definitely requires staking.

Flowers early August to late September. Plant to 2.1m high, 80cm wide; much branched in the upper third. Leaves mid green, surface smooth, 19cm long and 5cm wide, decreasing slightly up the stem, well clothed to base. Flower heads <5.5 cm diameter, single, flat to slightly reflexed; disc 2cm diameter, 1.5cm high, green (151B) ageing to gold (14A) and ultimately old gold (163B); ligules, 2.5×1.3 cm, 3-lobed, neatly spaced, intense yellow (9A) and slightly paler below (12A/9B).



Helienium 'Waltraut'
AGM (H4) 2001

Sent by Perryhill Nurseries and RHS Garden Wisley.

Flowers are uniformly golden, overlaid copper-orange-red, with brown discs; the undersides are rusty orange maturing to a soft orange. Raised by Deutschmann, 1947. Requires staking.



Helienium 'Wesergold'
AGM (H4) 2001

Sent by Peter & Bärbel zur Linden.

A sturdy plant that is full of large yellow flowers surrounding a dark disc. Bred by Junge. Generally requires staking, despite its smaller stature, as it can be top heavy.

Flowers late June to early September. Plant to 1.1m high; vigorous and much branched. Leaves light to mid green, lanceolate, rough textured upper surface, smoother on the underside, lower leaves to 18cm long and 3.5cm wide, considerably smaller at the top of the stem. Flower heads to 6.5cm diameter, single, generally flat; disc to 2cm diameter and 1.5cm high, reddish brown (187A-166A) with bright orange gold anthers, ageing to brown (166A/B); ligules 3.2×2.5 cm, wedge-shaped, overlapping, tip with 3-4 rounded lobes, some slightly incurved, bright yellow (12A) ageing slightly paler (9A).



Helianthus 'Gullick's Variety'
AGM (H4) 2001

Sent by L W Plants.

This cultivar has many upwards-facing neat semi-double golden yellow flowers. Matt mid green foliage gives a dense-looking plant. Requires staking.

Flowers late July to late September. Plant 2.2m high; vigorous with many branches and dense flowers. Leaves dull matt mid green, very finely serrated, scabrous on both surfaces, lower leaves 20cm long and 12 cm wide. Flower heads 7-10cm, semi-double, cupped; disc florets <2.5 cm wide and 1.3cm high, a prominent rounded dome, starting dark green-yellow, through to blackish-red and ageing to old gold; ligules c.21, 3.5×1.4 cm wide, overlapping, pointed, straight, bright yellow (9A/14A) and reverse similar (9A). Phyllaries very dark green, almost black in bud.



Helianthus 'Lemon Queen'
AGM (H4) 2001

Sent by L W Plants.

Free-flowering over a long period, this cultivar has lovely lemon yellow, single flowers. Requires staking. One of the parents of this hybrid is *H. tuberosus*, the Jerusalem artichoke, but thankfully 'Lemon Queen' is not invasive like this parent.

Flowers late August to mid October. Plant 2.2m high (or 1.8m if given "Chelsea chop"); tall growth much-branched. Leaves dull mid green, margins serrated and veins indented, apex sharply pointed, scabrous, lower leaves 18cm long and 5cm wide. Flower heads 7cm wide, single, flat, disc 1.5cm wide, prominent but flat, bright yellow (13A) with dark red corolla tubes; ligules 14, 3×0.9 cm, spaced apart, horizontal, yellow-green (6A) with a blunt tip. Phyllaries with long white margin hairs, 3 rows, decreasing in length from outer row (2.2cm) to inner (1.5cm).



Helianthus 'Loddon Gold'
AGM (H4) 1993 Reconfirmed 2001

Sent by J Davies.

Distinctive, fully double, rich golden yellow flowers (with a hint of green) are produced on 'Loddon Gold'. Introduced by Thomas Carlike around 1920. Requires staking.

Flowers late July to late September. Plant 1.9m high; erect much-branched vigorous growth. Leaves dark green, serrate, scabrous on both surfaces, lower leaves 14cm long, 9cm wide. Flower heads <8 cm diameter, fully double; no disc; ligules many, up to 3×1.5 cm, the outer ligules larger than the inner ones and more reflexed towards the rounded tip, rich golden yellow (12-13A).



Helianthus 'Miss Mellish'
AGM (H4) 2001

Sent by Cotswold Garden Plants.

This is a showy cultivar with good foliage and pleasing, slightly quilled, semi-double golden yellow flowers. Requires staking.

Flowers mid August to late September. Plant up to 2.2cm tall; vigorous, tall and dense with a spreading habit. Leaves dull green, very finely toothed, scabrous on both surfaces, lower leaves to 33cm long and 12cm wide, much smaller on flower stems. Flower heads to 11cm cupped to flattened, semi-double, 2-3 rows of ray florets; disc 2.5cm wide and 0.8cm high, prominent, low conical, gold-gold when young ageing to old gold; ligules c.37, 5

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× 1cm, overlapping, convex across their width and slightly twisting, reflexing at tip, yellow gold (9A/14A) tip pointed with a small cleft. Phyllaries dark green almost black, staying closed at the base of the open flower.



Helianthus 'Monarch'
AGM (H4) 1993 Reconfirmed 2001
Sent by Great Dexter Nurseries.

'Monarch' has large semi-double brilliant golden yellow flowers on stout stems. Requires strong staking. Flower size may be increased by disbudding, i.e. pinching out the side buds.

Flowers mid August to late September. Plant to 2.9m; very tall, erect, not densely branched with thick stems to 3cm diameter. Leaves mid green, barely serrated, scabrous, lower leaves <33cm long and 15cm wide, stem leaves smaller and very pointed. Flower heads 10-14cm diameter, semi-double with 2-3 rows of ray florets; disc 3.5cm diameter, flat but becoming raised to 2cm rounded dome in old age, dark red brown when young ageing to old gold; ligules c58, 5 × 1.3cm, overlapping, flat with a slight twist and held slightly cupped, golden yellow (14A), tip pointed. Phyllaries dark green in 2-3 rows, very pointed with hairy edges.



Heliopsis helianthoides var. scabra 'Benzinggold'
AGM (H4) 2001
Sent by Four Seasons.

Tall, floriferous and stately, this spectacular cultivar has flowers that are a touch warmer orange than many. The blooms are semi-double with deep orange-gold discs. Requires sympathetic staking to provide support and yet not spoil the airy sprays of flowers.

Flowers mid June to early September. Plant 1.8m high, 1.1m wide; tall, stately, erect and airy. Leaves large, mid to dark green, scabrous, sharply toothed, 14cm long and 8cm wide. Flower heads 10-12cm diameter, semi-double, 3 rows of ray florets, horizontal with some ligules recurved; disc 3cm diameter, 2cm high, prominent, conical, orange (24A); ligules 6 × 1.9cm, overlapping, vivid yellow orange (23A), becoming paler (14A) at outer edge, tip pointed and bifurcate.



Heliopsis helianthoides var. scabra 'Light of Loddon'
AGM (H4) 2001
Sent by Waterperry Gardens.

A tidy, upright, cultivar that is not too tall, it produces a mass of smallish neat, golden, just semi-double well-

shaped yellow flowers. May require staking. Raised by Carlile Ltd.

Flowers mid June to late September. Plant 1.4m high, 1.3m wide; much branched, airy. Leaves dark green, widely serrate, scabrous, basal leaves 11cm long and 7cm wide. Flower heads 7cm diameter, just semi-double, 1-2 rows ray florets; disc 2.5cm wide and 1.5cm high, prominent, conical and quite pointed, golden yellow (17A); ligules 21-34, 2.5 × 1cm, overlapping, ± horizontal, but slightly recurved when young, golden yellow (17A/14A) with colour intensifying near disc (21A), tip bifurcate and blunt.



Heliopsis helianthoides var. scabra 'Sonnenglut'
AGM (H4) 2001
Sent by Bridgemere Nurseries.

Vigorous and smothered in large semi-double golden yellow blooms this cultivar has flowers with a large prominent central deep gold disc. May require staking. A German cultivar bred by Klose, the name translates as sun glow or sun embers.

Flowers mid June to late September. Plant 1.4m high; moderately tall, erect, crown spreading as much branched. Leaves dark green, scabrous, margins with widely toothed, basal leaves 13cm wide and 7cm long. Flower heads 12cm, semi-double with 2+ rows of ray florets, generally more golden and reflexed when young, flattening and turning paler with age; disc 3cm wide, 1.5cm high, very prominent, conical, rich golden orange (24A) ageing paler (15A); ligules 4 × 1.2m, overlapping, deep rich orange yellow (23A) turning paler yellow (14A/B) with age, tip bifurcate.



Heliopsis helianthoides var. scabra 'Spitzentänzerin'
AGM (H4) 2001
Sent by Bridgemere Nurseries.

Of moderate height, this Karl Foerster cultivar, whose name translates literally as tiptoe dancer, has small, neat semi-double blooms of deep gold. The rays are characteristically reflexed at the tip giving the flower a downward curved outer edge. Bred by Foerster, 1949. May require staking.

Flowers late June to late September. Plant 1.4m high; vigorous, much-branched with stiff growth. Leaves dark green, widely and deeply toothed, scabrous, basal leaves 12.5cm long and 6.5cm wide. Flower heads 7-9cm, semi-double with 2-3 rows of ray florets, reflexed more when younger becoming flatter with age; disc 2.2cm wide and 1cm high, prominent, conical golden yellow (23A) becoming paler with age



Heliopsis helianthoides var. scabra 'Waterperry Gold'
AGM (H4) 2001
Raised and sent by Waterperry Gardens.

An elegant floriferous cultivar, that holds the flowers in sprays, so that they are held in many different angles. The flowers are semi-double and gold, fading to lemon yellow with time. Requires staking.

Flowers mid July to early October. Plant 1.2m high; vigorous with arching, airy growth. Leaves dark green, scabrous, widely toothed, basal leaves 10cm long and 6cm wide, considerably smaller and softer looking higher up the stem. Flower heads 7-8cm, semi-double with many rows, flat but tips reflexing and increasingly so with age; disc to 2.5cm wide and 1.2cm high, prominent, conical, golden yellow (23A) turning to look like old gold (163B) with age; ligules c.30, 3 × 0.9cm, overlapping, opening pale yellow (9A) tinged green, rapidly turning golden yellow (23A/17A/B) before fading back to pale yellow (9A) with age, tips trifurcate, pointed.



Inula magnifica 'Sonnenstrahl'
AGM (H4) 2002

Sent by Green Farm Plants.

This cultivar was raised by Ernst Pagels. It is not too tall and very floriferous with dark green foliage. The flowers have numerous long outer petals giving a shredded appearance. The name literally translates as sunbeam.

Flowers mid July to late August. Plant 2m high, 1.5m wide (when contained by staking); tall, erect habit. Leaves dark green (147A), almost glabrous on upper surface, pubescent beneath, base slightly auriculate, basal leaves 40cm long and 28cm wide. Stem pale green (144C), hairy with purple patches, especially on lower portion. Flower heads c.15cm diameter, single, borne in top third of plant; disc <5cm diameter, 1cm high, golden yellow (13A); ligules numerous, < 7 × 0.3cm, spaced neatly around disc, horizontal to drooping, toothed at tip.



Rudbeckia fulgida var. deamii
AGM (H4) 1993 Reconfirmed 2002
Sent by Waterperry Gardens, & Great Dexter Nurseries.

A tried and tested very floriferous variety with a neat, mounded habit.



Flowers early August to early October. Plant to 1.3m high, though often slightly less, 1.6m wide. Leaves ovate, margin scalloped or shallowly toothed, mid green (137A), somewhat matt on upper surface, rough hairs on both surfaces. Flowering stems yellow-green (144B) with rough hairs. Flower heads <10cm, single, ± flat; cone <1.6cm diameter, 0.8cm tall, dark brown (200A) with yellow pollen ring; ligules <3.9 × 0.9cm, 1-2 overlapping rows, orange yellow (17A) with a paler (15A) lower surface that is lightly veined with green, tip slightly notched and a little reflexed.

Rudbeckia fulgida var. speciosa
AGM (H4) 2002
Sent by Dudley Met. Borough and Beeches Nursery.

A striking variety, with glorious golden orange-yellow flowers on a neatly mounded plant.

Flowers early August to early October. Plant to 1.4m high, though often around 1m, 1.7m wide. Leaves elliptic to ovate, shallowly toothed, matt greyish green on upper surface, densely hairy but basal leaves less scabrous than stem leaves. Flowering stem pale yellow green (145A), thickly covered with patent, stiff hairs, some red striation, especially in lower portion. Flower heads c. 8cm, single; cone <1.7cm diameter, 0.6cm high, brown (200B) with yellow pollen; ligules 3.7 × 0.6cm in 2 rows, overlapping, orange yellow (23A), lower surface paler (21B) with green veins and tips, tips a little reflexed and slightly notched.



Rudbeckia fulgida var. sullivantii 'Goldsturm'
AGM (H4) 1993 Reconfirmed 2002
Sent by Hillview Hardy Plants and Dudley Met. Borough.

A vibrant cultivar that is slightly variable in flower height and habit. Good reliable seed strain.

Flowers from late July to late September. Plant 85-100cm high, 120cm wide. Leaves ovate, sharply toothed, dark green (147A), somewhat glossy on the upper surface, smooth and paler green (147B) beneath, basal leaves only hispid on or near leaf edge, stem leaves lightly scabrous. Flowering stem green (143B), glabrous but with prominent striations. Flower heads 10cm diameter, single, usually only 1 row of outer petals, cone 2cm diameter, 1 cm high, brown (200A) with yellow pollen; ligules 5 × 0.9cm, overlapping at base, neatly spread at tips, horizontal to tips slightly reflexed, orange yellow (17A), paler (14A/15A) on the

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lower surface with green veins and tips, toothed at tip. Phyllaries arranged in three rows, progressively wider and longer.



Rudbeckia laciniata ‘Goldkugel’
AGM (H4) 2002

Sent by P&B zur Linden.

A tight tidy double flower with attractive foliage. A useful plant for the back of the border. Very distinct. Requires staking.

Plant to 1.6m high, tall and erect. Leaves dark to mid green (137A), lower surface slightly lighter (138A/B) and glossier than above. Flowering stem very pale yellow green (14D), glaucous, glabrous, waxy, distinctive dark purple patches in leaf axils. Flower heads to 6.8cm, double; ligules <2.6 × 0.7cm, overlapping, golden yellow (14B) with slightly paler underside (14C), notched at tip; no cone.



Rudbeckia laciniata ‘Goldquelle’
AGM (H4) 1993 Reconfirmed 2002

Sent by Hillview Hardy Plants.

An old cultivar; an extremely good plant with double flowers. Shorter in stature than the double ‘Goldkugel’. Does not require staking.

Flowers from early August to late September. Plant to 95cm high, 90cm wide. Leaves dark green (137A) with paler veins (138B) and a pale green (138B) underside. Flowering stem mid green (145A), glabrous, lightly glaucous on lower stems, slightly ribbed. Flower heads to 9.5cm, double; ligules 2.9 × 0.7cm, bright yellow (12A), slightly paler on the underside (12B), tips mostly entire but a few slightly notched; cone hidden by central petals and very undefined and green, c.0.6cm diameter.



Rudbeckia laciniata ‘Herbstsonne’
AGM (H4) 2002

Sent by Beth Chatto Gardens and Beeches Nursery.

A very tall, late flowering cultivar with good clean foliage. The broad, drooping outer petals present the colour well. The name translates literally as autumn sun. Requires staking.

Flowers early August to late September. Plant to 2.5m high, 1.6m wide; tall and erect. Leaves matt dark green (147A) with lower surface paler (137B), basal leaves hairy on both surfaces, mid and upper leaves glabrous. Flowering stems pale green (145A/B), slightly glaucous, waxy, glabrous, angular. Flower heads to 12.5cm, single, borne in upper third of plant; cone 2.0cm diameter, 1.9cm high,



yellow-green (144A/N144A); ligules 6.4 × 2.5cm, neatly spaced, bright yellow (14A/9A) with upper and lower surfaces almost the same colour, tip margin with a few minute notches.

Silphium perfoliatum
AGM (H4) 2002

Sent by Royal Botanic Garden, Kew.

Excellent tall plant, from the eastern United States, that flowers over a long period. Stems and foliage reminiscent of a dahlia but topped with lots of bright yellow daisies.

Flowers mid July to late September. Plant to 2.3m high and 1.5m wide (when contained by staking); stout and square-stemmed, with little branching in lower half. Leaves large, light to mid green, entire, perfoliate (from half way up stems), margin with large serrations, slightly scabrous on both surfaces, 25-30cm long and 15-20cm wide. Flower heads 6-8.5cm diameter, single, slightly cupped, held in loose inflorescence; disc 2cm diameter, golden yellow with dark maroon anthers; ligules c.33 in ±2 rows, 3.5 × 0.8cm, overlapping, clear yellow (12A) with slightly paler (12B) lower surface, tips pointed; phyllaries glossy yellow-green (144A), short, broad and pointed.



Solidago ‘Gardone’
AGM (H4) 2002

Sent by Farmyard Nurseries.

Attractive yellow stems both in flower and in bud. Relatively clean with only a slight touch of mildew on lower leaves in one season.

Flowers late July to mid August. Plant to 1.2cm high and 90cm wide; erect but requiring support. Leaves lanceolate, shortly hairy on both surfaces, no difference between upper and basal leaves, partially stem clasping, yellow-green (143A), 12cm long and 2cm wide. Stem very pale yellow green (151D), enhancing the colour of the flowers, hairy. Flower heads 0.6cm wide, single; ligules bright yellow (14B). Overall inflorescence width 30cm × 30cm, single central axis with one-sided branching.

Award of Garden Merit winners selection guide

Name	Flower Colour	Height	Flowering Season	
Coreopsis verticillata				
‘Moonbeam’	very pale yellow	1	early July – late September	
‘Old Timer’	golden yellow	2	early July – mid September	
‘Zagreb’	golden yellow	1	early July – late September	
‘Grandiflora’	intense gold	2	early July – late September	
Helenium				
‘Baudirektor Linne’	red & gold	4	mid August – early September	
‘Blütentisch’	yellow flushed red	3	early August – mid September	
‘Butterpat’	bright yellow	2	mid July – end August	
‘Feuersiegel’	yellow & red	3	late July – mid September	
‘Gartensonne’	bright yellow	4	late July – mid September	
‘Karneol’	red & old gold	3	early August – early September	
‘Moerheim Beauty’	rusty red	3	early July – late August	
‘Ring of Fire’	red & gold	3	mid August – late September	
‘Rubinzwerg’	dark red	2	early August – late September	
‘Sahin’s Early Flowerer’	yellow & orange	3	late June – late August	
‘Summer Circle’	yellow	4	early August – late September	
‘Waltraut’	rusty red & yellow	2	mid July – late August	
‘Wesergold’	bright yellow	2	late June – early September	
Helianthus				
‘Gullick’s Variety’	bright yellow	5	late July – late September	
‘Lemon Queen’	lemon yellow	4	late August – mid October	
‘Loddon Gold’	dark golden yellow	4	late July – late September	
‘Miss Mellish’	golden yellow	5	mid August – late September	
‘Monarch’	bright yellow	5	mid August – late September	
Heliopsis helianthoides var. <i>scabra</i>				
‘Benzinggold’	orange yellow	4	mid June – early September	
‘Light of Loddon’	golden yellow	3	mid June – late September	
‘Sonnenglut’	orange yellow	3	mid June – late September	
‘Spitzentänzerin’	golden yellow	3	late June – early September	
‘Waterperry Gold’	orange yellow	3	mid July – early October	
Inula magnifica ‘Sonnenstrahl’	bright yellow	4	mid July – late August	
Rudbeckia fulgida				
var. <i>deamii</i>	orange yellow	3	early August – early October	
var. <i>speciosa</i>	orange yellow	3	early August – early October	
var. <i>sullivantii</i> ‘Goldsturm’	orange yellow	2	late July – late September	
Rudbeckia laciniata				
‘Goldkugel’	golden yellow	3	mid August – mid September	
‘Goldquelle’	bright yellow	2	early August – late September	
‘Herbstsonne’	bright yellow	5	early August – late September	
Silphium perfoliatum	bright yellow	5	mid July – late September	
Solidago ‘Gardone’	bright yellow	2	late July – mid August	
Height 1 = <60cm	2 = 60cm–1.2m	3 = 1.2–1.6m	4 = 1.6–2.1m	5 = > 2.1m

Recommended Awards



Recommended Awards

subject to specified criteria being met

Key:	
STA	Subject to availability in the UK
STACN	Subject to application of cultivar name
STVN	Subject to verification of the name

Helenium ‘Golddrausch’ STVN

Sent by Longin Ziegler.

Plant to 1.6m high. Rich butter gold coloured flowers with rusty coloured smudges on the underside of the petals. Centre discs open lime green and mature through dark chocolate tones to gold. Tall. Stately. Requires staking. Name literally translates as golden ecstasy; raised by Foerster in 1942. Flowers early August to early September.

Helenium ‘Zimbelstern’ STVN

Sent by Green Farm Plants.

Plant to 1.7m high. Name literally translates as Cymbal Star, a musical instrument; raised by Foerster in 1956.

Almost identical to ‘Golddrausch’. A difference in height of up to 10cm has been noted, but this was inconsistent in the different years of the trial. We currently consider the entities we observed to be indistinguishable, but are uncertain of the correct name. One source claims that ‘Golddrausch’ flowers slightly later than ‘Zimbelstern’ and therefore it is possible that these two plants are of ‘Golddrausch’ as their flowering season was identical.

Rudbeckia californica var. *intermedia* STACN, STA

Sent by A Brooks.

This selection, of a variety from northwest California, has persistent flowers over a long period at eye height. A strong stem with good basal leaves. Requires staking.

Flowers late June to late August. Plant to 2m high, 1m wide when staked; erect. Leaves mid green (146A-147A), paler green (147B) beneath, glabrous. Flowering stem pale green (145A) with darker green (147A) markings, glabrous with a slight glaucous bloom, slightly rough immediately below the flower. Flower heads <13cm, single, flowers borne in top third of plant; cone 2.2cm diameter, 2.5cm high, yellow green

(N144A) at first, then dark brown changing to yellow (7A) when open; ligules 5.5 × 2cm, but width variable, neatly spaced single row, drooping habit, sunny yellow (14B) with lower surface slightly paler (9B) and with green tinged veins, tips slightly notched.

Rudbeckia laciniata ‘Starcadia Razzle Dazzle’ STA

Sent by A Brooks.

Clump forming, with sturdy stems and a long flowering period. Good foliage. Although this species can be invasive, this cultivar does not seem to be. Requires staking.

Flowering early July to late August. Plant to 1.6m high, 1.1m wide when staked; erect habit. Leaves dark green (147A), paler green beneath (147B), very shortly hispid with forward facing hairs. Flowering stem striate dark green (137A) on lighter green (137D), sparsely hairy, stem feels rough especially below flower head. Flower heads to 11.5cm, single, borne in top third of plant; disc 2.1cm diameter, 2.4cm high, yellow green (N144A) at first, then black just before opening to pale yellow green (151A); ligules 4.7 × 1.4cm, single row irregularly spaced, sometimes overlapping, drooping, yellow (9A), slightly paler on the underside, tips mostly with a slight notch but some entire.

Rudbeckia subtomentosa ‘Loofahsa Wheaten Gold’ STA

Sent by A Brooks.

Less stiff in habit than is typical for this species, with well-spaced, chocolate brown-centred, flowers. Very clean foliage. Requires staking.

Flowering early August to late September. Plant to 1.7m high, 1.3m wide; erect habit. Leaves mid green (137A), paler (138B) below, slightly scabrous upper, pubescent lower. Flowering stems dull, light mid green (143C), shortly tomentose, darkly striated in places. Flower heads <8cm diameter, single; disc 1.6cm diameter, 0.7cm high, brown/black (166A/200B) with violet sheen in sunlight; ligules 4.3 × 0.9cm, not overlapping, 2 rows, horizontal, golden yellow (14A) above and below, tip pointed, some tips twisted/turned back.

Photographs from top to bottom:

Helenium ‘Golddrausch’ STVN

Rudbeckia californica var. *intermedia*

Rudbeckia laciniata ‘Starcadia Razzle Dazzle’

Rudbeckia subtomentosa ‘Loofahsa Wheaten Gold’

Floral Trials Sub-committee

The Floral Trials Sub-committee is made up of plantsmen, nurseryman, experts and enthusiastic amateurs who give their time voluntarily to promote garden plants for gardeners. Those who judged these trials were:

Chairman:

Tony Lord

Vice-chairmen:

Roy Cheek,

Pam Schwerdt

Bill Boardman

Wendy Bowie

Nigel Colborn

John Coke

Ivan Dickens

Fergus Garrett

Diana Hart Dyke

Tony Hender

Sibylle Kreutzberger

Christopher Lloyd

Alison Mulvaney

John Paton

John Ravenscroft

Graham Rice

Jean Sambrook

Keith Sangster

Terry Smale

Mike Smallwood

Liz Strangman

Brian Talman

Ray Waite

Victoria Wakefield

Stuart Williams

Background notes

RHS Herbarium

The RHS Herbarium (WSY) is one of only a small number in the world dedicated to preserving garden plants and is therefore an important reference point for the horticultural industry. At present the collection contains more than 80,000 herbarium specimens and over 30,000 images of plants and 4,000 paintings of plants together with additional material such as seeds and cones. Material is actively collected from a wide spectrum of sources including RHS trials. Trial cultivars are stored with detailed descriptions and photographic images. New cultivars are highlighted and stored as Nomenclatural Standards. A Standard Specimen demonstrates the diagnostic characters of a cultivar and would act as a key reference point if the application of that name became confused at some point in the future. Further information about the Herbarium and Standard Specimens is available on the RHS Website (www.rhs.org.uk).

Acknowledgements

Photography RHS Herbarium (unless otherwise stated), Mike Sleigh, Tim Sandall and Clive Morris

NCCPG National Plant Collection holders for these genera, particularly Martin Hughes-Jones (*Helenium*) and Anthony Brooks (*Rudbeckia*)

Chrissie Ferrioli, RHS Trials Recorder

RHS Herbarium, Trials Office and Trials Department Staff

Further reading

Clayton, P. (2002) Tears of Troy. *The Garden* 127(8): 622-625

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Hop, M.E.C.M. (2002) *Helenium* – Sortimentsonderzoek en Keuringsrapport. *Dendroflora* 39: 62-93

Hughes-Jones, M. (2004) <http://www.helenium.net>

Offenthal, R., Kaiser, K. & Ward, R. (trans.) (1999) Some perennial sunflowers. *Hardy Plant* 21(2): 38-47

Sutton, J. (2001) *The Plantfinder’s Guide to Daisies*. David & Charles, Newton Abbot

Senders of plants to the trials

RHS Plant Trials rely on nurseries, plant breeders and amateur gardeners to send plant stock for trial. Notices are posted on the RHS website and in the RHS journal, *The Garden*, when a new trial is planned. RHS Trials Office staff supplement this by actively sourcing material. All stock is given free of charge.

Arne Herbs, Limeburn Nurseries, Limeburn Hill, Chew Magna BS40 8QW
Mrs F Arnold, Holland, c/o Trials Office, RHS Garden, Wisley GU23 6QB
Beeches Nursery, Village Centre, Ashdon, Saffron Walden CB10 2HB
Bellhouse Nursery, Bellhouse Lane, Moore, Nr Warrington WA4 6TR
Beth Chatto Gardens Ltd, Elmstead Market, Colchester CO7 7DB
Blooms of Bressingham, Bressingham, Diss IP22 2AB
Bridgemere Nurseries, Bridgemere, Near Nantwich CW5 7QB
Mr A Brooks (NCCPG National Plant Collection Holder, *Rudbeckia*) c/o Elton Hall, Elton, Ludlow SY8 2HQ

C E & D M Nurseries, No longer trading
Claire Austin Hardy Plants, Bowling Green Lane, Albrighton, Wolverhampton WV7 3HB
Cotswold Garden Flowers, 1 Waterside, Evesham WR11 6BS
Danziger Dan Flower Farm, Moshav Mishmar Hashiva 50297, PO Box 24 Beit Dagan, ISRAEL Mr J Davies (NCCPG National Plant Collection Holder, *Coreopsis*, *Helianthus* & *Heliopsis*), 33 Balmoral Drive, Bramcote, Beeston, Nottingham NG9 3FU
Dudley Metropolitan Borough Planning & Leisure (NCCPG National Plant Collection Holder, *Rudbeckia*), Cloughton House, Blowers Green Road, Dudley DY2 8UZ
Farmyard Nurseries, Llandysul, Dyfed SA44 4RL
Farplants (Wholesale), Yapton Lane, Walberton, Arundel BN18 0AS
Feebers Hardy Plants, 1 Feeber Cottage, Westwood, Broadclyst, Near Exeter PL20 7LJ
Feldweber Staudengärtnerei, A-4974 Ort im Innkreis 139, Oberösterreich, Austria
Flaxton House Nursery, Flaxton, York YO60 7RJ
Four Seasons, Forncett St Mary, Norwich NR16 1JT
Future Foods, PO Box 1564, Wedmore BS28 4DP
Gardiner’s Hall Plants, Braiseworth, Eye IP23 7DZ
G Goddard, c/o Trials Office, RHS Garden Wisley, Woking GU23 6QB
Great Dixter Nurseries, Northiam, Rye TN31 6PH
Green Farm Plants, No longer trading
Heinrich Hagemann Staudenkulturen, Walsroder Strasse 324, D-30855 Langenhagen-Krähenwinkel, Germany
De Hessenhof, Hessenweg 41, 6718 TC EDE, Holland
Hillview Hardy Plants, Worfield, Near Bridgnorth WV15 5NT
Hoecroft Plants, Severels Grange, Holt Road, Wood Norton, Dereham NR20 5BL
Heinz Klose Staudengärtnerei, Rosenstrasse 10, D-34253 Lohfelden, Germany
L W Plants, 23 Wroxham Way, Harpenden AL5 4PP
Little Rhyndaston Nurseries, Hayscastle, Haverfordwest SA62 5PT
Lodge Lane Nursery & Gardens (NCCPG National Plant Collection Holder, *Inula*), Lodge Lane, Dutton, Near Warrington WA4 4HP
Longin Ziegler Staudengärtnerei, Oberzelg, CH-8627 Grüningen, Switzerland
Madrona Nursery, Pluckley Road, Bethersden Kent TN26 3DD
Monksilver Nursery, Oakington Road, Cottenham CB4 4TW
Norseco Inc. 2914 Boulevard Curé-Labelle, Chomedey, Laval, Quebec, Canada H7P 5R9
Perhill Nurseries, Worcester Road, Great Witley WR6 6JT
Perryhill Nurseries, Hartfield TN7 4JP
Powis Castle, Welshpool SY21 8RF
Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, Kew, Richmond TW9 3AB
RHS Garden Rosemoor, Great Torrington EX38 8PH
RHS Garden Wisley, Woking GU23 6QB
Rougham Hall Nurseries, Ipswich Road, Rougham, Bury St Edmunds IP30 9LZ
Scalers Hill Nursery, Scalers Hill, Cobham, Near Gravesend DA12 3BH
Sue Strickland Plants, The Poplars, Isle Brewers, Taunton TA3 6QN
Viv Marsh Postal Plants, Walford Heath, Shrewsbury SY4 2HT
Walberton Nursery, Yapton Lane, Walberton, Arundel, BN18 0AS
Mrs R Wallinger, c/o Trials Office, RHS Garden Wisley, Woking GU23 6QB
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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 Award of Garden Merit 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 Bulletins

Canna: September 2003
Delphinium: June 2003
Lavender (hardy): July 2003
Miscanthus: October 2004
Potentilla (shrubby): July 2002
Salad Potatoes: November 2004
Spiraea japonica (with coloured leaves): November 2003

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

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www.rhs.org.uk/trials

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