

ACONITUM

Final Trials Report

2007 – 2009

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


RHS Trial of *Aconitum*

Introduction to *Aconitum*


Genus of perennials and biennials with either tuberous or fibrous roots. The erect stems bear lobed, kidney shaped to rounded leaves of rich green. Hooded flowers in racemes of 30-60cm long are borne in summer. *Aconitum* originate in mountainous grassland and scrub in the Northern hemisphere. Contact with foliage may irritate skin.

Objectives

The objectives of the trial were:

- To judge for garden worthiness (Award of Garden Merit)  for both foliage and flower.
- To demonstrate the range and use as garden plants.
- To compare established and new cultivars.
- To assess for border decoration and ground cover.
- To observe foliage condition.
- To produce a permanent record through herbarium specimens, photographs and written descriptions for the RHS Herbarium at Wisley.

Judging

The Floral Trials Subcommittee assessed entries during 2007 and 2008 for the Award of Garden Merit  using the following criteria:

- Flower colour
- Floriferousness
- Foliage
- Length of flowering
- Habit (whether staking is required)

Entries

There were 72 entries in the Trial, submitted as plants by nurseries and individuals throughout the United Kingdom and the Netherlands.

Cultivation

The plot was rotivated and raked in preparation for planting in November 2006 when three plants per entry were placed 50cm apart with 60cm between rows. In 2008 the trial was mulched with Strulch® to retain moisture and reduce water usage. The plants were supported using posts and a layer of netting, two layers of netting were be used for the taller entries.

Pest and Disease

The Pathology department confirmed that the *Fusarium oxysporum* found in the *Aconitum* trial was not host specific and as a result could transfer to other trials. Subsequently it was agreed that the trial should be lifted and destroyed.

Eelworm was suspected in some entries, but could not be confirmed due to the stage of growth at the time. It was also stated that hot water treatment was not usual in this genus and so could offer no temperature or time details.

Other Findings

Although the trial ended prematurely, the Floral Trials Assessment Panel voted unanimously for the awards given in the time the plants were in the ground to stand as it would not be possible for a re-trial to be held in the near future.

Plants Awarded AGM

***Aconitum carmichaelii* (Wilsonii Group) 'Spätlese' AGM (H4) 2008**

[Trial No.15] votes 11-2

Sender: Monksilver Nurseries

***Aconitum krylovii* AGM (H4) 2008**

[Trial No.70] votes 10-2

Sender: De Hessenhof

***Aconitum napellus* 'Gletschereis' AGM (H4) 2008**

[Trial No.49] votes 12-1

Sender: Binny Plants

Trial Index and Senders Details

Trial of <i>Aconitum</i> 2007 - 2009		
No.	Name	Sender
1	<i>Aconitum altissimum</i>	RHS Garden Wisley
2	<i>Aconitum burnatii</i>	RHS Garden Wisley
3	<i>Aconitum napiforme</i> B&SWJ 943	Crûg Farm Plants
4	<i>Aconitum x cammarum</i> 'Grandiflorum Album'	Phoenix Perennial Plants

5	<i>Aconitum carmichaelii</i>	Cotswold Garden Flowers
6	<i>Aconitum carmichaelii</i> sent as <i>Aconitum wilsonii</i>	van Noort Vaste Planten
7	<i>Aconitum carmichaelii</i> 'Arendsii' AGM(H4)2002	Perryhill Nurseries
8	<i>Aconitum carmichaelii</i> 'Arendsii' AGM(H4)2002	Properplants
9	<i>Aconitum carmichaelii</i> 'Arendsii'	Ms A Maubech
10	<i>Aconitum carmichaelii</i> 'Arendsii'	Rougham Hall Nurseries
11	<i>Aconitum carmichaelii</i> 'Blue Topaz'	Kayes Garden Plants
12	<i>Aconitum cammarum</i> 'Pink Sensation' <i>Aconitum carmichaelii</i> 'Pink Sensation'	Darwin Plants
13	<i>Aconitum carmichaelii</i> 'Royal Flush'	Cotswold Garden Flowers
14	<i>Aconitum carmichaelii</i> (Wilsonii Group) 'Kelmscott' AGM(H4)1993	Great Dixter Nurseries
15	<i>Aconitum carmichaelii</i> (Wilsonii Group) 'Spätlese'	Monksilver Nurseries
16	<i>Aconitum carmichaelii</i> (Wilsonii Group) 'The Grim Reaper'	Monksilver Nurseries
17	<i>Aconitum carmichaelii</i> Wilsonii Group	Mr I R Dickings
18	<i>Aconitum carmichaelii</i> (Wilsonii Group) 'Barker's Variety' Sent as <i>Aconitum carmichaelii</i> 'Barker's Variety'	Knoll Gardens
19	<i>Aconitum carmichaelii</i> hybrid 4	Cotswold Garden Flowers
20	<i>Aconitum carmichaelii</i> hybrid 5	Cotswold Garden Flowers
21	<i>Aconitum carmichaelii</i> hybrid 12	Cotswold Garden Flowers
22	<i>Aconitum fischeri</i>	Mr S Jessup
23	<i>Aconitum forrestii</i>	RHS Garden Wisley
24	<i>Aconitum grossedentatum</i>	RHS Garden Wisley
25	<i>Aconitum japonicum</i> var. <i>eizanense</i>	The Beth Chatto Gardens Ltd
26	<i>Aconitum krylovii</i> sent as <i>A. kirylovii</i>	Cotswold Garden Flowers
27	<i>Aconitum kusnezoffii</i>	RHS Garden Wisley
28	<i>Aconitum</i> 'Alexandra'	Mr G Ware
29	<i>Aconitum lycoctonum</i>	Cotswold Garden Flowers
30	<i>Aconitum lycoctonum</i> 'Dark Eyes'	Cotswold Garden Flowers
31	<i>Aconitum lycoctonum</i> 'Graupe'	Cotswold Garden Flowers
32	<i>Aconitum lycoctonum</i> 'Langhuso'	Cotswold Garden Flowers
33	<i>Aconitum lycoctonum</i> 'Russian Yellow'	RHS Garden Wisley
34	<i>Aconitum lycoctonum</i> subsp. <i>moldavicum</i>	Cotswold Garden Flowers
35	<i>Aconitum lycoctonum</i> subsp. <i>lycoctonum</i> sent as <i>Aconitum lycoctonum</i> var. <i>lycoctonum</i>	Kayes Garden Plants
36	<i>Aconitum lycoctonum</i> subsp. <i>lycoctonum</i> Sent as <i>Aconitum septentrionale</i>	van Noort Vaste Planten

37	<i>Aconitum lycoctonum</i> subsp. <i>lycoctonum</i> pink flowered sent as <i>Aconitum septentrionale</i> Pink	van Noort Vaste Planten
38	<i>Aconitum lycoctonum</i> subsp. <i>neapolitanum</i> Sent as <i>Aconitum lamarkii</i>	van Noort Vaste Planten
39	<i>Aconitum lycoctonum</i> subsp. <i>neapolitanum</i> 136 Sent as <i>Aconitum lamarkii</i> 136	van Noort Vaste Planten
40	<i>Aconitum lycoctonum</i> subsp. <i>neapolitanum</i>	RHS Garden Wisley
41	<i>Aconitum lycoctonum</i> subsp. <i>vulparia</i>	Properplants
42	<i>Aconitum lycoctonum</i> var. <i>vulparia</i> Sent as <i>Aconitum lycoctonum</i> subsp. <i>vulparia</i>	Kayes Garden Plants
43	<i>Aconitum lycoctonum</i> subsp. <i>vulparia</i> sent as <i>Aconitum vulparia</i>	van Noort Vaste Planten
44	<i>Aconitum lycoctonum</i> subsp. <i>moldavicum</i> Purple sent as <i>Aconitum moldavicum</i> Purple	van Noort Vaste Planten
45	<i>Aconitum napellus</i>	Waterperry Gardens
46	<i>Aconitum napellus</i> 'Bergfürst' sent as <i>Aconitum</i> 'Bergfürst'	Bridgemere Nurseries
47	<i>Aconitum napellus</i> 'Blue Valley'	Garden Green Herbs
48	<i>Aconitum napellus</i> 'Schneewittchen'	Southview Nurseries
49	<i>Aconitum napellus</i> 'Gletschereis'	Binny Plants
50	<i>Aconitum napellus</i> subsp. <i>napellus</i> Anglicum Group	Mr I R Dickings
51	<i>Aconitum napellus</i> subsp. <i>vulgare</i>	RHS Garden Wisley
52	<i>Aconitum napellus</i> subsp. <i>vulgare</i> 'Albidum'	RHS Garden Wisley
53	<i>Aconitum napellus</i> subsp. <i>vulgare</i> 'Albidum'	Kayes Garden Plants
54	<i>Aconitum paniculatum</i>	Cotswold GardenFlowers
55	<i>Aconitum paniculatum</i>	Bridgemere Nurseries
56	<i>Aconitum platanifolium</i>	van Noort Vaste Planten
57	<i>Aconitum</i> from Nepal collected by Kath Dryden	Beggar's Roost
58	<i>Aconitum</i> 'Bressingham Spire' AGM (H4) 1993	Waterperry Gardens
59	<i>Aconitum cammarum</i> 'Eleonora' sent as <i>Aconitum</i> 'Eleonara'	Kayes Garden Plants
60	<i>Aconitum</i> 'Ivorine'	Beggars Roost Plants
61	<i>Aconitum</i> 'Ivorine'	van Noort Vaste Planten
62	<i>Aconitum</i> 'Newry Blue'	Monksilver Nurseries
63	<i>Aconitum</i> 'Spark's Variety' AGM (H4) 1993	Perryhill Nurseries
64	<i>Aconitum</i> 'Stainless Steel'	Perryhill Nurseries
65	<i>Aconitum</i> B&SWJ 864	RHS Garden Wisley
66	<i>Aconitum</i> x <i>cammarum</i> 'Bicolor' AGM (H4) 1993	Harveys Garden Plants
67	<i>Aconitum jaluense</i> B&SWJ 8741	Crug Farm Plants
68	<i>Aconitum napellus</i> subsp. <i>vulgare</i> 'Albidum'	Harveys Garden Plants

69	<i>Aconitum laciniatum</i> GWJ 9324	Crûg Farm Plants
70	<i>Aconitum krylovii</i>	De Hessenhof

N.B Names that are struck through have been checked by RHS Botanists

Sender Details

Beggars Roost Plants, Lilstock, Bridgwater, Somerset TA5 1SU

Binny Plants, West Lodge, Binny Estate, Ecclesmachan Road, Nr Broxbourn, West Lothian EH52 6NL

The Beth Chatto Gardens Ltd, Elmstead Market, Colchester, Essex CO7 7DB

Cotswold Garden Flowers, Sands Lane, Badsey, Evesham, Worcs WR11 7EZ

Crûg Farm Plants, Griffith's Crossing, Nr Caernarfon, Gwynedd LL55 1TU

Darwin Plants, PO Box 40, 2180AA Hillegom, The Netherlands

Garden Green Herbs, 13 West Bank, Carlton, Goole, N Yorks DN14 9PZ

Harveys Garden Plants, Great Green, Thurston, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, IP31 3SJ

Kayes Garden Nursery, 1700 Melton Road, Rearsby, Leics LE7 4YR

Knoll Gardens, Hampreston, Nr Wimborne, Dorset BH21 7ND

Perryhill Nurseries, Edenbridge Road, Hartfield, East Sussex TN7 4JP

Phoenix Perennial Plants, Paice Lane, Medstead, Alton, Hants GU34 5PR

Properplants, Penknight, Lostwithiel, Cornwall PL22 0JD

RHS Garden Wisley, Woking, Surrey GU24 6QB

Rougham Hall Nurseries, A14 Rougham, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk IP30 9LZ

Southview Nurseries, Chequers Lane, Eversley Cross, Hook, Hants RG27 0NT

Marcovan Noort Vaste Planten, Wasbeeklan 13, 2361 HG Warmond, The Netherlands

Waterperry Gardens Ltd, Waterperry, Nr Wheatley, Oxfordshire OX33 1JZ

Source: Horticultural Trials and Relations, RHS Garden Wisley, Woking, Surrey GU23
6QB

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More information about RHS Trials and other colour illustrated reports can be found on
the RHS Website: <http://www.rhs.org.uk/trials>