Asparagus Trial Report 2009-2012
RHS Trial of Asparagus

There were 12 entries in the Trial, which were planted as one-year crowns in April 2008.

The objectives of the trial were to assess a range of cultivars; to recommend the Award of Garden Merit [AGM] to outstanding cultivars for garden use and to demonstrate the cultivation of this crop.

The trial was assessed for the Award of Garden Merit (AGM) by the Vegetable Trials Assessment Panel over four years, 2009-2012, using the following criteria:

earliness: shoot size: shoot colour: taste and texture: tightness of buds

The Panel recommended the Society’s AWARD OF GARDEN MERIT to:

'Dariana’ AGM (H4) 2012

Sent by Thompson & Morgan Ltd, Poplar Lane, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP8 3BU www.thompson-morgan.com

Bred in France. Sound yield of straight, green spears and tight buds of excellent flavour. Average annual harvest per crown: 0.14kg (9 spears).

Available in various seed catalogues in the UK including: Suttons, Dobies, DT Brown, Kings Seeds.

‘Guelph Millennium’ AGM (H5) August 2012.

Sent by and available from Thompson & Morgan Ltd, Poplar Lane, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP8 3BU www.thompson-morgan.com

Bred in Canada. Excellent cold tolerance. Lateness helps to avoid frost damage. Sound yield of slender stems with pleasing flavour. Average harvest per crown: 0.16kg (10 spears).

Available in various seed catalogues in the UK including: Thompson & Morgan and Unwins.
The Panel **re-confirmed** the Society's **AWARD OF GARDEN MERIT** to:

‘Connover’s Colossal’ AGM (H4) 1993, re-confirmed 2012.

Sent by and available from Thompson & Morgan Ltd, Poplar Lane, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP8 3BU
www.thompson-morgan.com

*Early to crop, producing reasonable yield of good quality spears. Average harvest per crown: 0.1kg (7 spears).*

Available in various seed catalogues in the UK including: Thompson & Morgan, Unwins and Kings Seeds.

‘Gijnlim’ AGM (H4) 2001, reconfirmed 2012.

Sent by Thompson & Morgan Ltd, Poplar Lane, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP8 3BU www.thompson-morgan.com

*Bred in The Netherlands. Heavy cropper, producing mid green spears with purple tips. Average harvest per crown: 0.2kg (11 spears).*

Available in seed catalogues in the UK including: Marshalls, Suttons, Dobies, Unwins and Kings Seeds.

The Panel recommended the Society's **AWARD OF GARDEN MERIT, SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY** to:

‘Cito’ AGM (H4) August 2012.
Sent by Thompson & Morgan Ltd, Poplar Lane, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP8 3BU www.thompson-morgan.com

*Of French origin. Early to crop, producing good crop of flavoursome spears. Average harvest per crown: 0.18kg (10 spears).*

*Not yet available.*
‘Eros’ AGM (H4) August 2012

Sent by Thompson & Morgan Ltd, Poplar Lane, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP8 3BU www.thompson-morgan.com

Of Italian origin. High yield of good quality, tender stems; sweet flavour. Average harvest per crown: 0.22kg (16 spears).

Not yet available.

Harvest records are based on average yields per crown over the three years 2010-2012 inclusive.

H4 = plants hardy through most of the UK; H5 = plants hardy through most of the UK even in severe winters.

Index of Plants in the Trial

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Acknowledgements:
All images RHS/Tim Sandall, except Guelph Millennium courtesy of Thompson and Morgan.