



Trial of Beans, French climbing 2008



Entries receiving The Award of Garden Merit (H3)



'Algarve' AGM (H3) 27 2008, reconfirming AGM (H3) 1993.

Sent by and available from Marshalls Seeds.

Length of pod 24cm, width 1.7cm, cross-section flat 0.4cm thick; flowers white; pods light-green. Average weight of beans picked from one plant 768g.

Good crop of fleshy, flat pods.

Available in three retail catalogues.



'Cobra' AGM (H3) 2008, reconfirming AGM (H3) 2000.

Sent by and available from Marshalls Seeds.

Length of pod 18cm, diameter 0.9cm, cross-section round; colour of flower pale-purple; pods light-green. Average weight of beans picked from one plant 722g.

Reliable high yield of long, fleshy beans with a sweet flavour.

Widely available in retail catalogues.



'Eva' AGM (H3) 2008, reconfirming AGM (H3) 1993.

Sent by and available from Moles Seeds.

Length of pod 25cm, width 1.5cm, cross-section flat to oval 0.5cm thick; white; pods mid-green. Average weight of beans picked from one plant 908g.

Very early and heavy crop of oval beans. Wider than other round-podded cultivars.

Widely available in retail catalogues.



'Golden Gate' AGM (H3) 2008.

Sent by and available from Dobies of Devon.

Length of pod 21cm, width 1.8cm, cross-section flat 0.5cm thick; flowers white; pods yellow, tinged green. Average weight of beans picked from one plant 735g.

Good crop of golden, fleshy, flat pods with a sweet, fresh flavour.

Available in one retail catalogue



'Hunter' AGM (H3) 2008, reconfirming AGM (H3) 1993.

Sent by and available from Mr Fothergill's.

Length of pod 22cm, width 1.8cm, cross-section flat 0.4cm thick; flowers white; pods light-green. Average weight of beans picked from one plant 886g.

High yield of attractive, uniform, flat pods. One of the older cultivars of this type, but still reliably good.

Widely available in retail catalogues.



'Kwintus' AGM (H3) 2008, reconfirming AGM (H3) 1993.

Sent by and available from Moles Seeds.

Length of pod 23cm, width 1.8cm, cross-section flat 0.5cm thick; flowers white; pods light to mid-green. Average weight of beans picked from one plant 820g.

Early and consistently high yields of light to mid-green, long, flat pods.

Available in one retail catalogue



'Limka' AGM (H3) 2008.

Sent by and available from Suttons.

Length of pod 25cm, width 2cm, cross-section flat 0.4cm thick; flowers white; pods light-green. Average weight of beans picked from one plant 872g.

Consistently high yields of good quality, flat, light-green pods with a good flavour.

Widely available in retail catalogues.



'Musica' AGM (H3) 2008, reconfirming AGM (H3) 1993.

Sent by and available from Moles Seeds.

Length of pod 26cm, width 2.4cm, cross-section flat 0.4cm thick; flowers white; pods light-green. Average weight of beans picked from one plant 976g.

Extremely high yield of broad, flat, light-green, flavoursome pods.

Available in one retail catalogue



'Pantheon' AGM (H3) 2008.

Sent by and available from Mr Fothergill's.

Length of pod 23cm, width 2cm, cross-section flat 0.5cm thick; flowers white; pods light to mid-green. Average weight of beans picked from one plant 965g.

Very high yield of broad, fleshy, flat pods with a sweet flavour.

Available in one retail catalogue.

The following entries have been recommended for the AGM 🏆, but cannot receive the award until they are named and available to the public in retail catalogues. It is the responsibility of the sender to inform the Trials Office at Wisley that all queries have been resolved.

SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY:



BB 2515. Sent by Bakker Brothers.
Length of pod 26cm, width 2cm, cross-section flat 0.5cm thick; flowers white; pods light-green. Average weight of beans picked from one plant 886g.

Early to crop, giving a consistently high yield of flat, fleshy, good quality pods.

Not yet available in retail.



BB 2517. Sent by Bakker Brothers.
Length of pod 18cm, diameter 0.9cm, cross-section round; flowers white; pods dark-green. Average weight of beans picked from one plant 694g.

Early and consistently high yield of rounded, dark green beans. Flavoursome.

Not yet available in retail.

H3 = plants hardy outside in some regions or in particular situations or which, whilst usually grown outside in summer, need frost-free protection in winter.

Sources of seed for these cultivars vary from year to year. Please see the Royal Horticultural Society's leaflet *Award of Garden Merit*  *Vegetables* for current stockists.

This leaflet is available on the web at http://www.rhs.org.uk/plants/award_plants.asp

A copy can also be obtained by sending an A4 sized, self addressed envelope with two first class stamps to: 'AGM List', Botany Department, Royal Horticultural Society Garden, Wisley, Woking, Surrey GU23 6QB

Trial Notes

Objectives:

- To compare and assess a range of French climbing bean cultivars grown in various parts of the UK.
- To compare the new with the established cultivars.
- To recommend the Award of Garden Merit [AGM]  to outstanding cultivars for garden use.
- To demonstrate the cultivation of this crop.

Entries:

There were 31 entries submitted by various seed companies in the UK and Europe.

All entries were grown at Wisley and at East Ruston Old Vicarage Garden (Norfolk), with a selection of the coloured-podded cultivars also grown at RHS Garden Rosemoor (Devon). Quality and cropping data was collected from all sites and included as part of the assessment by the Vegetable Trials Subcommittee.

Cultivation:

The plot at Wisley was cultivated and raked by hand, no farmyard manure or fertiliser was incorporated. Three wigwams of each cultivar were grown, with four canes to a wigwam.

Three seeds were sown directly into the soil at the bottom of each cane on the 19 May and later thinned to two plants per cane. The wigwams are spaced 60cm apart in rows 80cm apart. The canes used were either new or had not been used in the previous year to avoid overwintering red spider mite being brought into the crop. The trial was irrigated for the first time during the week of the 21 July and there was also a thunderstorm shortly after this. Plants were regularly inspected for signs pests (bean seed fly, slugs, red spider mite, black fly and aphids) and diseases (rust and virus).

Judging:

The Vegetable Trials Sub-Committee inspected the trial at intervals throughout the growing season. They assessed and tasted the crop on 31 July and on 27 August 2008 for the Award of Garden Merit [AGM] 🏆.

The Subcommittee considered the following criteria:

quality of pods (colour; tenderness; stringiness; smoothness; uniformity) :
taste : earliness : yield

Findings:

The crop remained largely pest-free, with the exception of some aphids found in late July. These were mainly on plants grown at the eastern end of the plot and were controlled with SB Plant Invigorator. Also in July, some distortion was noticed on the foliage of 'Rob Splash' and 'Rob Roy', which Pathology confirmed was due to virus and this then spread to 'Kingstone Gold'. All infected plants were removed and the Sub-Committee noted that the waxy-type cultivars appeared to be more susceptible to virus. There was concern that the virus may have been seed-borne, which would be a serious concern for gardeners. However the plants at Rosemoor and East Ruston Old Vicarage Garden, which were grown from the same batch of seed, were virus-free, indicating that the infection had been carried by insects at Wisley. Light-levels had not been good this year and it was thought that the colour and straightness of the beans may have been affected by this.

The crop was first picked at Wisley on 31 July and then twice a week until 8 September, when the trial was cleared. A record was kept of the weights at each pick and the earliest cultivars to crop were noted by the Sub-Committee. They commented that the golden-podded cultivars are known to be slower to crop than the green ones.

Several of the entries in the trial produced flat pods, sometimes described as "Helda beans" after the first named cultivar of this type. This type of bean is available in supermarkets at times of the year when runner beans are not readily available, as pod-set for French beans is not as badly effected by heat. All French beans are self-fertile and can be grown under protection.

The Sub-Committee noted that 'Blauhilde' was a highly ornamental cultivar, with purple flowers, stems and pods. However, the yield was low and the dark-purple, round pods lacked the quality of green-podded cultivars. Also the pods only developed the dark-purple colour where they were exposed to sunlight, so pods shaded by the foliage had a mottled green and purple colouring.



They noted that 'Borlotto Lingua Di Fuoco' (Firetongue) was mainly grown for the white, red-splashed seeds that are eaten soft like broad beans and also that 'Meraviglia di Venezia a Grano Bianco' produced attractive yellow pods but probably needed hotter weather to develop properly as it was late to start cropping and lacked flavour. 'Rob Splash' was noted as an attractive cultivar of the type that is grown for the seeds and it was agreed that it should be included in a future trial of haricot beans. 'Sultana' and 'Kingston Gold', both of which were awarded the AGM in 2000, failed to produce a good crop in this trial. Pods from 'Sultana' were fleshy and round, but pale in colour and had a poor snap. 'Kingston Gold' was late to start cropping and then erratic and the pods had a poor flavour. The Sub-Committee would reconsider the awards made to these two cultivars at the next AGM Review, which takes place every ten years and is due in 2012.

Trial entries:

AWARDS	NAME	SENDER
AGM (H3) 2008 AGM (H3) 1993	'Algarve'	Marshalls Seeds
AGM (H3) 2008 AGM (H3) 2000	'Cobra'	Marshalls Seeds
AGM (H3) 2008 AGM (H3) 1993	'Eva'	Moles Seeds
AGM (H3) 2008	'Golden Gate'	Dobies of Devon
AGM (H3) 2008 AGM (H3) 1993	'Hunter'	Mr Fothergill's
AGM (H3) 2008 AGM (H3) 1993	'Kwintus'	Moles Seeds
AGM (H3) 2008	'Limka'	Suttons
AGM (H3) 2008 AGM (H3) 1993	'Musica'	Moles Seeds
AGM (H3) 2008	'Pantheon'	Mr Fothergill's
AGM (H3) 2008	STN/A BB 2515	Bakker Brothers
AGM (H3) 2008	STN/A BB 2517	Bakker Brothers
AGM (H3) 2000	'Sultana'	Unwins
AGM (H3) 2000	'Kingstone Gold'	W Robinson & Son
	'Anellino Giallo'	Seeds of Italy
	BB 2514	Bakker Brothers
	'Blauhilde'	Kings Seeds
	'Bobis a Grano Nero'	Seeds of Italy
	'Borlotto Lingua Di Fuoco' (Firetongue)	Thompson & Morgan
	'Empress'	Marshalls Seeds
	'Fasold'	Thompson & Morgan
	'Festival'	Moles Seeds
	'Goldfield'	Thompson & Morgan
	'Isabel'	D T Brown
	'Mantra'	Thompson & Morgan
	'Matilda'	Mr Fothergill's
	'Meraviglia di Venezia a Grano Bianco'	Seeds of Italy
	'Neckarkönigin'	N L Chrestensen
	'Rob Roy'	W Robinson & Son
	'Rob Splash'	W Robinson & Son
	'Rustico'	Bakker Brothers
	'Smeraldo'	Seeds of Italy

STN/A = subject to naming and availability

Addresses of Senders

Bakker Brothers, Oostelÿke Randweg 12, 1723 LH Noord-Scharwoude, Netherlands

D T Brown & Co Ltd, Bury Road, Kentford, Newmarket, Suffolk CB8 7PQ.

www.dtbrownseeds.co.uk

Dobies of Devon, Samuel Dobie & Son Ltd, Long Road, Paignton, Devon TQ4 7SX.

www.dobies.co.uk

Kings Seeds, E W King & Co Ltd, Monks Farm, Kelvedon, Essex CO5 9PG.

www.kingsseeds.com

Marshalls Seeds, S E Marshall & Co Ltd, Regal Road, Wisbech PE 13 2RF. www.marshalls-seeds.co.uk

Moles Seeds Ltd, Turkey Cock Lane, Stanway, Essex CO3 8PD. www.molesseeds.co.uk

Mr Fothergill's Seeds Ltd, Gazeley Road, Kentford, Suffolk CB8 7QB. www.fothergills.co.uk

N L Chrestensen GmbH, Erfurter Samen und Pflanzenzucht GmbH, Postfach 854, 99016 Erfurt, Germany

Seeds of Italy Ltd, Phoenix Ind Est, Unit C3, Rosslyn Crescent, Harrow HA1 2SP.

www.seedsofitaly.com

Suttons Seeds, Suttons Consumer Products Ltd, Woodview Road, Paignton, Devon TQ4 7NG.

www.suttons.co.uk

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

Unwins Seeds Ltd, Elm House Nurseries, Alconbury Hill, Cambs, PE28 4HY. www.unwins.co.uk

W Robinson & Son (Seeds & Plants) Ltd, Sunny Bank, Forton, Nr Preston, Lancs. PR3 0BN.

www.mammothonion.co.uk

Source: Trials Office, The RHS Garden, Wisley, Woking, Surrey GU23 6QB

e-mail: trials@rhs.org.uk.

More information about RHS Trials and other colour illustrated reports can be found on the RHS Website : <http://www.rhs.org.uk/plants/awards2008.asp>