

BERGENIA

Final Trials Report

2007 – 2009

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

RHS Trial of *Bergenia*

Introduction to *Bergenia*

Genus of evergreen perennials which form distinctive rosettes of leathery, glossy leaves many of which colour well throughout the winter months. Panicles of funnel or bell shaped 5-petalled flowers are produced mainly in spring on red or purple stems. *Bergenia* originate from Central and East Asia where they grow in meadows, rocky moorland and moist woodland.


Common names include Elephant Eared Saxifrage and Elephant's Ears.

Objectives

The objectives of the trial were:

- To assess entries for the Award of Garden Merit.
- To demonstrate the range and use as garden plants.
- To compare established and new cultivars.
- To assess for border decoration.
- 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 in the trial for the Award of Garden Merit  on 22/8/07, 27/11/07, monthly between 8/1/08 and 9/12/08, then on 6/1/09, 3/3/09, 8/4/09, 21/4/09, 6/5/09, 26/5/09, using the following criteria:

- Foliage
- Frost resistance at various stages of foliage & flower development
- winter colour
- flower impact
- flower flushes

Entries

There were 102 entries in the Trial, submitted as plants by nurseries and individuals in the UK and the Netherlands. Six further seed raised entries were planted out later in August 2007.

Cultivation

The plot was rotivated and raked in preparation for planting in late March and early April 2007. It was agreed that deadheading would improve the display, but acknowledged that the trial was too large for deadheading to be practical.

Pest and Disease

The following pest and disease problems were noted on some plants during the trial:

- *Colletotrichum gloeosporoides*, fungus known to cause leaf spot
- Mullein Moth caterpillars


Other Findings

The flaking of plant tissue on some entries suggested that damage was caused by cold growing conditions during a period of heavy frost.

New cultivars raised through tissue culture appeared bigger and more vigorous than some of the older cultivars.

It was noted that the spacing between entries was not sufficient.

Plants Receiving AGMs During Trial

The following are the plants thought to fulfil the Award of Garden Merit  criteria during the trial and to be worthy of receiving the award. The criteria which a plant needs to fulfil in order to receive the award are:

- excellent for ordinary garden use
- available from nurseries
- reasonably resistant to pests and diseases
- of good constitution
- essentially stable in form and colour
- reasonably easy to grow

Hardiness ratings are as follows:

H3 – hardy outside in some regions; needs frost-free protection in winter

H4 – hardy throughout the British Isles

Plants Awarded Award of Garden Merit

***Bergenia cordifolia* ‘Rosa Zeiten’ AGM (H3-4) 2009**

[Trial No. 9] votes 7-2

Flowers March to October

Height 50cm; Spread 60cm

Reddish blushed pink flowers with moderately sized, tidy bronzed leaves.

“Quite a lot of flowers, good show foliage with quite a lot of colour, living up to AGM well.”

Sender: Binny Plants





Bergenia 'Biedermeir' AGM (H3-4) 2009

[Trial No. 34] votes 14-0
Flowers March to October
Height 50cm; Spread 60cm

Robust pale pink flowers with deeper blush over small foliage, green with red margins.
"Large luscious clean pink flowers foliage quite good."

Sender: The Beth Chatto Gardens Ltd

Bergenia 'Britten' AGM (H3-4) 2009

[Trial No. 35] votes 7-0
Flowers March to October
Height 40cm; Spread 50cm

Flowers starting white with pink blush ageing to pink. Foliage small and sparse, mid-green with lightly bronzed red margins.
"Spectacular in flower, floriferous, best of pale pinks, good foliage."

Sender: Binny Plants



Bergenia 'Claire Maxine' AGM (H3-4) 2009

[Trial No. 36] votes 13-4
Flowers March to October
Height 50cm; Spread 60cm

Strong purple-pink flowers hidden beneath shiny yellow mid-green foliage with some red flushing.
"Not a lot of flower but very spectacular dark foliage."

Sender: Binny Plants

Bergenia 'Eric Smith' AGM (H3-4) 2009

[Trial No. 83] votes 8-0
Flowers March to October
Height 50cm; Spread 60cm

Purplish-pink inflorescences skulking under yellow-green flushed bronze-red heavy foliage.
"Quite vibrant red tips, some frost damage to foliage, underside veins quite red."

Sender: Bridgemere Nurseries





Bergenia 'Eroica' AGM (H3-4) 2009

[Trial No. 39 & 40] votes 7-0

Flowers March to October

Height 65cm; Spread 60cm

Tall deep purple flowers over short leaves, dark mid-green in colour with slight upper surface bronzing.

"Dark flowers stand out well on excellent foliage. Stem colour excellent – has everything going for it. One of the most floriferous in trial, the best of the dark entries."

Sender: Binny Plants and Monksilver Nursery

Bergenia 'Frau Holle' AGM (H3-4) 2009

[Trial No. 42] votes 6-2

Flowers March to October

Height 70cm; Spread 80cm

Pale pink flowers with deeper pink flush. Foliage yellow-green with red flush towards margins.

"Pretty. Flower heads not dense, quite dainty on slender stems of varying height. Flowers quite small and light pink."

Sender: Bridgemere Nurseries



Bergenia 'Glasnevin'

[Trial No. 43] votes 7-0

Flowers March to October

Height 30cm ; Spread 60cm

Pink flowers over vibrant foliage with strong red veining and soft peach-red underside

"One of best for foliage. Very neat. Not many flowers and tend to not open fully. AGM is for foliage."

Sender: Binny Plants

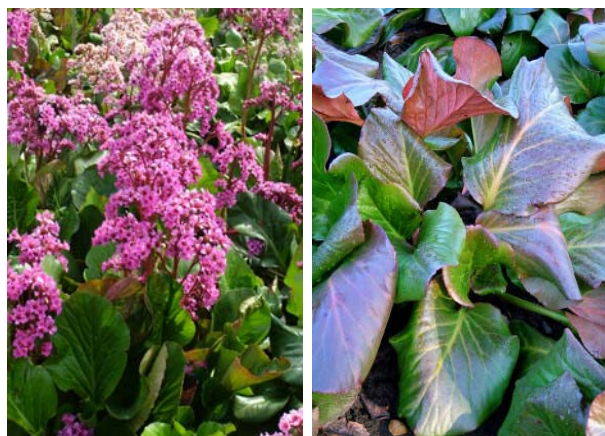
Bergenia 'Magic Giant' AGM (H3-4) 2009

[Trial No. 85] votes 14-0
Flowers March to October
Height 80cm; Spread 80cm

Pale pink flowers with pink blush poking through large rhubarb like leaves, dark green with red flush in colour.

"Outstanding. Flowers are very attractive, frilly, upright facing, mid pink with bright red stems."

Sender: Marco van Noort Vasteplanten



Bergenia 'Pugsley's Pink'

[Trial No. 53] votes 7-0
Flowers March to October
Height 70cm; Spread 70cm

Purple-pink flowers with red central stripe branching over large yellow to mid-green leaves with fine red edge.

"Flowers very showy, good stem colour and foliage."

Sender: The Beth Chatto Gardens Ltd

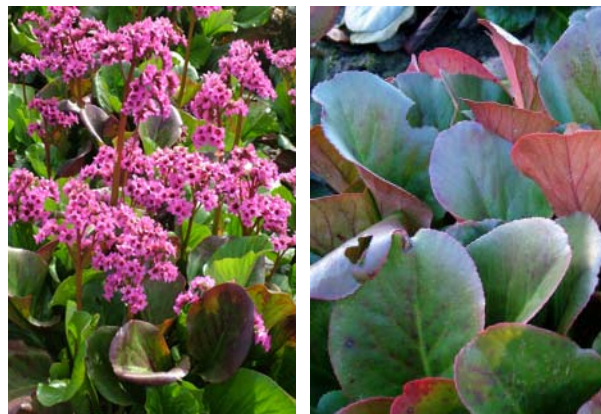
Bergenia 'Sunningdale' AGM (H3-4) 2009

[Trial No. 59] votes 14-0
Flowers March to October
Height 70cm; Spread 80cm

Deep pink flowers with redder centres, over yellow-green leaves with red toothed margins.

"Holds itself well, shows a range of colour, foliage erect, showing striking leaf underside."

Sender: The Beth Chatto Gardens Ltd



Bergenia 'Wintermärchen' AGM (H3-4) 2009

[Trial No. 60] votes 6-1
Flowers March to October
Height 55cm; Spread 55cm

Pink, pale-pink to white upright flowers over small, dark green flushed red foliage.

"One of the least frost damaged. Has good foliage and flowers. Flowers late."

Sender: The Beth Chatto Gardens Ltd

Reconfirmed Awards of Garden Merit

***Bergenia purpurescens* var. *delavayi* AGM (H4) 1998**

[Trial No. 20] votes 16-0
Flowers March to October
Height 45cm; Spread 50cm

Pinkish purple pendant flowers with fairly open, strongly purple-bronzed foliage.

“Excellent foliage with very attractive nodding flowers.”

Sender: Bridgemere Nurseries



The following previously awarded Awards of Garden Merit were not reconfirmed and will be considered during the Sunset Review 2012.

***Bergenia cordifolia* 'Purpurea' AGM (H4) 1993**

[Trial No. 6 & 7]

Sender: The Beth Chatto Gardens Ltd & Howard Nurseries

***Bergenia purpurascens* AGM (H4) 1993**

[Trial No. 18]

Sender: Beeches Nursery

***Bergenia* x *schmidtii* AGM (H4) 1993**

[Trial No. 22]

Sender: Cotswold Garden Flowers

***Bergenia* 'Ballawley' AGM (H4) 1997**

[Trial No. 29, 30, 31, 64 & 72]

Sender: The Beth Chatto Gardens Ltd; Binny Plants; Great Dixter Nurseries; J Archibald & RHS Garden Wisley

***Bergenia* 'Silberlicht' AGM (H4) 1993**

[Trial No. 57]

Sender: Cotswold Garden Flowers

***Bergenia* 'Bressingham White' AGM (H4) 1993**

[Trial No. 88]

Sender: Birchwood Plants

***Bergenia* 'Morgenröte' AGM (H4) 1993**

[Trial No. 94]

Sender: Macplants

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Trial Index and Senders Details

Trial of *Bergenia* 2007 – 2009

No.	Cultivar	Sender
1	<i>Bergenia ciliata</i>	Great Dixter Nurseries
2	<i>Bergenia ciliata ligulata</i>	Kayes Garden Plants
3	<i>Bergenia ciliata</i> 'Wilton'	Cotswold Garden Flowers
4	<i>Bergenia cordifolia</i> 'Tubby Andrews'	Mr G W Nicholson
5	<i>Bergenia cordifolia</i>	Binny Plants
6	<i>Bergenia cordifolia</i> 'Purpurea' AGM (H4) 1993	The Beth Chatto Gardens Ltd
7	<i>Bergenia cordifolia</i> 'Purpurea' AGM (H4) 1993	Howard Nurseries
8	<i>Bergenia cordifolia</i> 'Rosa Schwester'	The Beth Chatto Gardens Ltd
9	<i>Bergenia cordifolia</i> 'Rosa Zeiten'	Binny Plants
10	<i>Bergenia cordifolia</i> 'Tubby Andrews' (v)	Monksilver Nursery
11	<i>Bergenia cordifolia</i> 'Walter Kienli'	Binny Plants
12	<i>Bergenia crassifolia</i>	Monksilver Nursery
13	<i>Bergenia crassifolia</i> DF 90028	Binny Plants
14	<i>Bergenia crassifolia</i> 'Autumn Red'	The Beth Chatto Gardens Ltd
15	<i>Bergenia cyanea</i>	Cotswold Garden Flowers
16	<i>Bergenia emeiensis</i> hybrid	Cotswold Garden Flowers
17	<i>Bergenia pacumbis</i>	Great Dixter Nurseries
18	<i>Bergenia purpurascens</i> AGM (H4) 1993	Beeches Nursery
19	<i>Bergenia purpurascens</i> ex. Helen Dillon	The Beth Chatto Gardens Ltd
20	<i>Bergenia purpurascens</i> var. <i>delavayi</i> AGM (H4) 1998	Bridgemere Nurseries
21	<i>Bergenia purpurascens</i> 'Irish Crimson'	Cotswold Garden Flowers
22	<i>Bergenia x schmidtii</i> AGM (H4) 1993	Cotswold Garden Flowers
23	<i>Bergenia stracheyi</i>	Great Dixter Nurseries
24	<i>Bergenia stracheyi</i> Alba Group	The Beth Chatto Gardens Ltd
25	<i>Bergenia stracheyi</i> Alba Group	Kayes Garden Plants
26	<i>Bergenia</i> 'Abendglocken'	The Beth Chatto Gardens Ltd
27	<i>Bergenia</i> 'Admiral'	The Beth Chatto Gardens Ltd
28	<i>Bergenia</i> 'Baby Doll'	The Beth Chatto Gardens Ltd
29	<i>Bergenia</i> 'Ballawley' clonal AGM (H4) 1997	The Beth Chatto Gardens Ltd
30	<i>Bergenia</i> 'Ballawley' clonal AGM (H4) 1997	Binny Plants
31	<i>Bergenia</i> 'Ballawley' clonal AGM (H4) 1997	Great Dixter Nurseries

32	<i>Bergenia</i> Ballawley hybrid	Kayes Garden Plants
33	<i>Bergenia</i> 'Barcock'	The Beth Chatto Gardens Ltd
34	<i>Bergenia</i> 'Biedermeier'	The Beth Chatto Gardens Ltd
35	<i>Bergenia</i> 'Britten'	Binny Plants
36	<i>Bergenia</i> 'Claire Maxine'	Binny Plants
37	<i>Bergenia</i> 'Croesus'	Binny Plants
38	<i>Bergenia</i> 'David'	Monksilver Nursery
39	<i>Bergenia</i> 'Eric Smith' 'Eroica'	Binny Plants
40	<i>Bergenia</i> 'Eroica'	Monksilver Nursery
41	<i>Bergenia ciliata</i> hybrid	Monksilver Nursery
42	<i>Bergenia</i> 'Frau Holle'	Bridgemere Nurseries
43	<i>Bergenia</i> 'Glasnevin'?	Binny Plants
44	<i>Bergenia</i> 'Glockenturm'	Binny Plants
45	<i>Bergenia</i> 'Herbstblute'	Monksilver Nursery
46	<i>Bergenia</i> 'Jo Watanabe'	The Beth Chatto Gardens Ltd
47	<i>Bergenia</i> 'Margery Fish'	The Beth Chatto Gardens Ltd
48	<i>Bergenia</i> 'Mrs Crawford'	The Beth Chatto Gardens Ltd
49	<i>Bergenia</i> 'Oeschberg'	Binny Plants
50	<i>Bergenia</i> 'Opal'	The Beth Chatto Gardens Ltd
51	<i>Bergenia</i> 'Pink Dragonfly'	Binny Plants
52	<i>Bergenia</i> 'Pinneberg'	Binny Plants
53	<i>Bergenia</i> 'Pugsley's Pink'	The Beth Chatto Gardens Ltd
54	<i>Bergenia</i> 'Pugsley's Purple'	Kayes Garden Plants
55	<i>Bergenia</i> 'Rosi Klose'	Bridgemere Nurseries
56	<i>Bergenia</i> 'Schneekonigin'	The Beth Chatto Gardens Ltd
57	<i>Bergenia</i> 'Silberlicht' AGM (H4)1993	Cotswold Garden Flowers
58	<i>Bergenia</i> 'Simply Sweet'	Cotswold Garden Flowers
59	<i>Bergenia</i> 'Sunningdale'	The Beth Chatto Gardens Ltd
60	<i>Bergenia</i> 'Wintermärchen'	The Beth Chatto Gardens Ltd
61	<i>Bergenia</i> 'Admiral'	Mr J Archibald
62	<i>Bergenia</i> 'Abendglocken'	Mr J Archibald
63	<i>Bergenia</i> 'Bach'	Mr J Archibald
64	<i>Bergenia</i> 'Ballawley' AGM (H4) 1997	Mr J Archibald
65	<i>Bergenia</i> 'Bartok'	Mr J Archibald
66	<i>Bergenia</i> 'Beethoven'	Mr J Archibald

67	<i>Bergenia</i> 'Brahms'	Mr J Archibald
68	<i>Bergenia</i> 'Britten'	Mr J Archibald
69	<i>Bergenia ciliata</i>	RHS Garden Wisley
70	<i>Bergenia ornata</i>	RHS Garden Wisley
71	<i>Bergenia x spathulata</i>	RHS Garden Wisley
72	<i>Bergenia</i> 'Ballawley' AGM (H4)1997	RHS Garden Wisley
73	<i>Bergenia</i> 'Borodin'	RHS Garden Wisley
74	<i>Bergenia</i> 'Bressingham Bountiful'	RHS Garden Wisley
75	<i>Bergenia</i> 'Profusion'	RHS Garden Wisley
76	<i>Bergenia</i> 'Purpurglocken'	Howard Nurseries
77	<i>Bergenia</i> 'Red Beauty'	RHS Garden Wisley
78	<i>Bergenia</i> 'Schneekissen'	RHS Garden Wisley
79	<i>Bergenia</i> 'Summer Mountain'	RHS Garden Wisley
80	<i>Bergenia</i> 'Sunshade'	RHS Garden Wisley
81	<i>Bergenia</i> White	RHS Garden Wisley
82	<i>Bergenia</i> 'Apple Court White'	Apple Court Nursery and Garden
83	<i>Bergenia</i> 'Eric Smith'	Bridgemere Nurseries
84	<i>Bergenia cordifolia</i> 'Winterglut' Winter Glow	Bali-hai Mail Order Nursery
85	<i>Bergenia</i> 'Magic Giant'	van Noort Vaste Planten
86	<i>Bergenia ciliata</i> 'Patricia Furness'	Mr A Furness
87	<i>Bergenia pacumbis</i> CC1793	Birchwood Plants
88	<i>Bergenia</i> 'Bressingham White' AGM (H4) 1993	Birchwood Plants
89	<i>Bergenia</i> 'Purpurglocken'	Kayes Garden Plants
90	<i>Bergenia</i> 'Abendglut'	Southon Plants
91	<i>Bergenia</i> 'Autumn Magic'	Southon Plants
92	<i>Bergenia</i> 'Bressingham Ruby' (PBR)	Southon Plants
93	<i>Bergenia</i> 'Bressingham Salmon'	Macplants
94	<i>Bergenia</i> 'Morgenröte' AGM (H4)1993	Macplants
95	<i>Bergenia</i> 'Overture'	Orchard Dene Nurseries
96	<i>Bergenia</i> 'Rotblum'	MacPlants
97	<i>Bergenia</i> 'Oliver'	Monksilver Nursery
98	<i>Bergenia</i> 'Jessica'	Monksilver Nursery
99	<i>Bergenia</i> seedling	Monksilver Nursery
100	<i>Bergenia hybrida</i> 'Reitheim'	De Hessenhof
101	<i>Bergenia</i> Gensingen Glory 'Genglo'	Innovaplant

102 *Bergenia emeiensis* hybrid Waterperry Gardens

Seed raised entries

103 *Bergenia cordifolia* Jelitto Perennial Seeds
104 *Bergenia cordifolia* 'Rotblum' Jelitto Perennial Seeds
105 *Bergenia purpurascens* Jelitto Perennial Seeds
106 *Bergenia cordifolia* 'Winterglut' Jelitto Perennial Seeds
107 *Bergenia crassifolia* Jelitto Perennial Seeds
108 *Bergenia cordifolia* Wildform Jelitto Perennial Seeds

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

Sender Details

Apple Court Nursery & Garden, Hordle Lane, Hordle, Lymington, Hants SO41 0HU
Beeches Nursery, Village Centre, Ashdon, Saffron Walden, Essex, CB10 2HB.
Binny Plants, West Lodge, Binny Estate, Ecclesmachan, West Lothian EH52 6NL
Birchwood Plants, 10 Westering, Romsey, Hants SO51 7LY
Bridgemere Nurseries, Bridgemere, Nr Nantwich, Cheshire CW5 7QB
Cotswold Garden Flowers, Sands Lane, Badsey, Evesham, Worcs WR11 7EZ
Great Dixter Nurseries, Northiam, Rye, East Sussex TN31 6PH
Howard Nurseries Ltd, Wortham, Diss, Norfolk IP22 1PX
Innova Plant GmbH & Co KG, Bingeland Strasse, Postfach 113, 55457 Genzingen, Germany
Jelitto Perennial Seeds, Meadows (Fenton) Ltd, PO Box 78, St Ives, Cambs PE27 6ZA
Kayes Garden Nursery, 1700 Melton Road, Rearsby, Leicestershire LE7 4YR
Long Acre Plants, South Marsh, Charlton Musgrove, Nr Wincanton, Somerset BA9 8EX
Macplants, Berrybank Nursery, 5 Boggs Holdings, Pencaitland, East Lothian EH34 5BA
Monksilver Nursery, Oakington Road, Cottenham, Cambridge, Cambs CB4 4TW
Orchard Dene Nurseries, Lower Assendon, Henley on Thames, Oxon RG9 6AG
Southon Plants, Mutton Hill, Dormansland, Lingfield, Surrey RH7 6NP
The Beth Chatto Gardens Ltd, Elmstead Market, Colchester, Essex CO7 7DB
Van 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
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the RHS Website: <http://www.rhs.org.uk/trials>