

CELOSIA

Final Trials Report

2009

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


RHS Trial of *Celosia*

Introduction to *Celosia*


Genus of annuals, perennials and shrubs with brightly coloured plume-like or crested inflorescences. Commonly used in summer bedding designs or as container plants. *Celosia* originate from subtropical and tropical regions or Asia, Africa and the Americas where they grow on dry slopes, stony soils and scrubland. Common names include Cockscomb.

Objectives

The objectives of the trial were:

- To recommend the Award of Garden Merit (AGM)  for cultivars considered excellent for ordinary garden use
- To demonstrate the range of *Celosia* currently available from seed
- To evaluate weather tolerance
- To judge how floriferous different cultivars are

Judging

The Floral Trials Subcommittee assessed entries in the trial for the Award of Garden Merit  on 21/7, 18/8, 1/9, 15/9 and 29/9 (2009), using the following criteria:

- Earliness of flowering
- Length of flowering period
- Colour
- Impact
- Habit
- Uniformity of single colours
- Balance of mixtures
- Trueness to flower shape and form

Entries

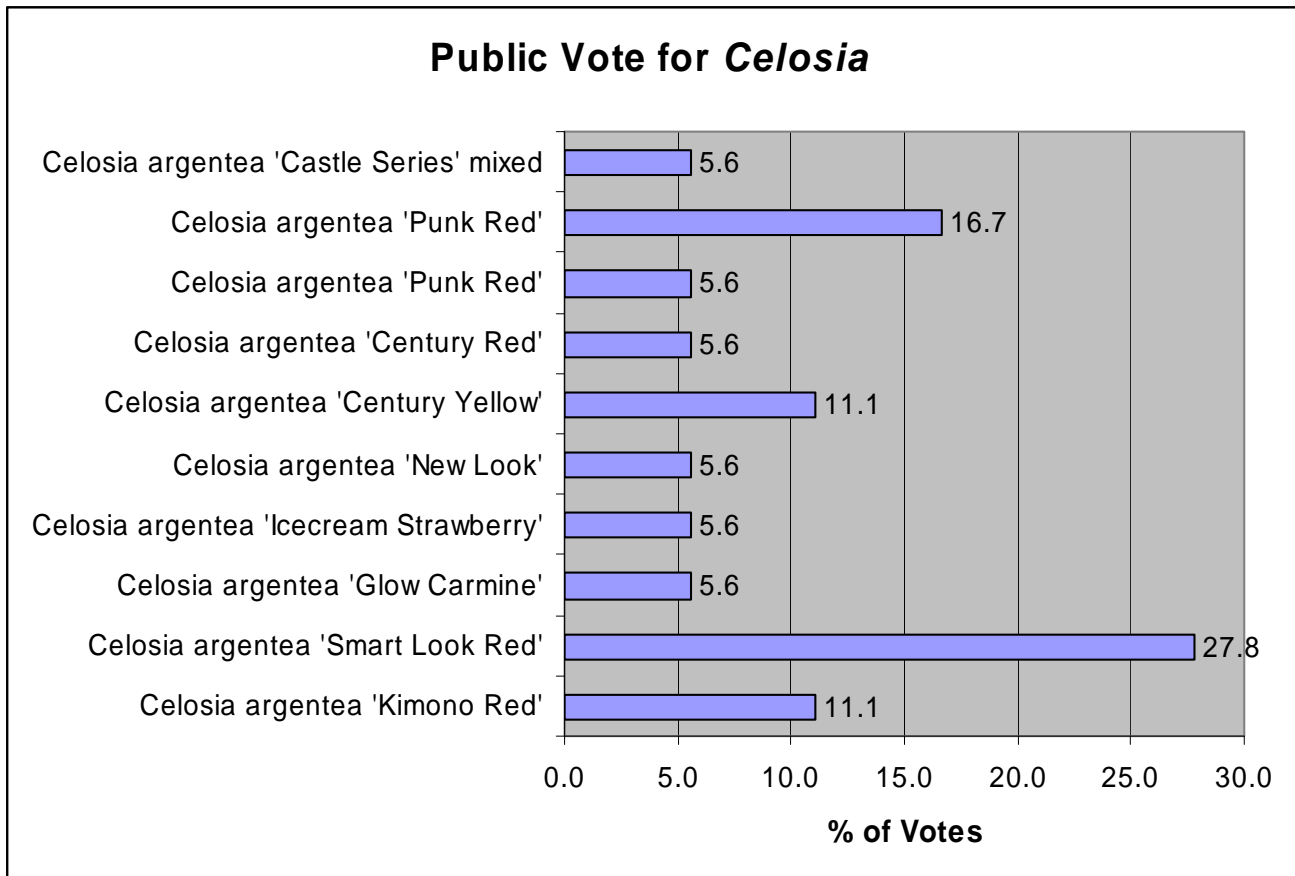
There were 48 entries in the trial, submitted by various seed companies throughout the United Kingdom and Europe.

Cultivation

Seed was sown under glass at a temperature of 25°C in the last week of March 2009. Seedlings were pricked out in early April into 9cm pots to encourage good root establishment prior to planting outdoors. Pricked out seedlings were moved to a glass house kept at 10°C to harden them. During the first week of June 2009 25 plants of each entry were planted outside. Entries were planted with 30cm between each plant in an entry and 50cm between rows.

Public Votes

The public visiting the trials field were invited to vote for their favourite *Celosia*. Voting slips were available between 11th September and 9th November 2009. 10 cultivars were voted for during this time and these were distributed as follows:



Both *Celosia argentea* 'Smart Look Red' and *Celosia argentea* 'Century Red' were awarded an AGM during the trial, however none of the other cultivars voted for by the public were successful in obtaining the award.

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 AGMs

***Celosia argentea* var. *cristata* (Plumosa Group) (Century Series) ‘Century Rose’ AGM (H3) 2009**

[Trial No. 41] votes 14-1
Flowers July to September
Height 60cm; Spread 32cm

Plume-like inflorescences of purplish-red flowers held on pale pink stems above bright green, pink tinged foliage.

“Good, soft, consistent colour which lasts well.”

Sender: Sakata Ornamentals UK Ltd



***Celosia argentea* var. *cristata* (Plumosa Group) ‘Glow Red’ AGM (H3) 2009**

[Trial No. 18] votes 13-0
Flowers July to September
Height 34cm; Spread 30cm

Plume-like inflorescences of vivid purplish-pink to red flowers held on light green stems above bright green foliage with slight pink edging.

“Very even, stable foliage with beautifully coloured vivid pink-red inflorescences.”

Sender: Ball Colegrave

Celosia 'Century Red' AGM (H3) 2009

[Trial No. 44] votes 6-1

Flowers July to September

Height 54cm; Spread 32cm

Plume-like inflorescences of bright red flowers held on red stems above dark purple foliage.

"Vibrant flower and foliage colour combination. Quite an early flower display. Outstanding."

Sender: Sakata Ornamentals UK Ltd



Celosia 'Flamingo Feather' AGM (H3) 2009

[Trial No. 47] votes 13-0

Flowers July to September

Height 86cm; Spread 33cm

Plume-like inflorescences of purplish-red fading to orange-yellow flowers held on green stems above medium green foliage.

"Excellent upright habit with good two-tone flowers."

Sender: Thompson & Morgan Ltd

Celosia 'Fresh Look Orange' AGM (H3) 2009

[Trial No. 28] votes 12-1

Flowers July to September

Height 54cm; Spread 36cm

Plume-like inflorescences of vivid yellowish-pink flowers held on light greenish-yellow stems above bright green foliage.

"Tall, vibrant marmalade orange spikes. Bushy yet not too tight in form."

Sender: Ernst Benary Samenzucht GmbH



Celosia 'Smart Look Red' AGM (H3) 2009

[Trial No. 15] votes 12-1

Flowers July to September

Height 42cm; Spread 33cm

Plume-like inflorescences of vivid red flowers held on red-purple stems above broad dark-purple foliage.

"Vivid colouring with flowers which last well over a long period of time. Uniform with good foliage."

Sender: Ernst Benary Samenzucht GmbH

Trial Index and Senders Details

Trial of <i>Celosia</i> 2009		
No.	Cultivar	Sender
1	<i>Celosia argentea</i> var. <i>cristata</i> (Plumosa Group) (Kimono Series) 'Kimono Cream'	Sakata Ornamentals UK
2	<i>Celosia argentea</i> var. <i>cristata</i> (Plumosa Group) (Kimono Series) 'Kimono Rose'	Sakata Ornamentals UK
3	<i>Celosia argentea</i> var. <i>cristata</i> (Plumosa Group) (Kimono Series) 'Kimono Salmon Pink'	Sakata Ornamentals UK
4	<i>Celosia argentea</i> var. <i>cristata</i> (Plumosa Group) (Kimono Series) 'Kimono Salmon'	Sakata Ornamentals UK
5	<i>Celosia argentea</i> var. <i>cristata</i> (Plumosa Group) (Kimono Series) 'Kimono Orange'	Sakata Ornamentals UK
6	<i>Celosia argentea</i> var. <i>cristata</i> (Plumosa Group) (Kimono Series) 'Kimono Yellow'	Sakata Ornamentals UK
7	<i>Celosia argentea</i> var. <i>cristata</i> (Plumosa Group) (Kimono Series) 'Kimono Red'	Sakata Ornamentals UK
8	<i>Celosia argentea</i> var. <i>cristata</i> (Plumosa Group) (Kimono Series) 'Kimono Scarlet'	Sakata Ornamentals UK
9	<i>Celosia argentea</i> var. <i>cristata</i> (Plumosa Group) (Kimono Series) 'Kimono Cherry Red'	Sakata Ornamentals UK
10	<i>Celosia argentea</i> var. <i>cristata</i> (Plumosa Group) Kimono Series, mixed	Sakata Ornamentals UK
11	<i>Celosia argentea</i> var. <i>cristata</i> (Plumosa Group) Kimono Series, mixed	Florensis
12	<i>Celosia argentea</i> (Spicata Group) 'Kosmo Vanilla'	Florensis
13	<i>Celosia argentea</i> (Spicata Group) 'Kosmo Pink'	Florensis
14	<i>Celosia argentea</i> (Spicata Group) 'Kosmo Purple-red'	Florensis
15	<i>Celosia argentea</i> var. <i>cristata</i> (Plumosa Group) 'Smart Look Red'	Benary Samenzucht GmbH
16	<i>Celosia argentea</i> var. <i>cristata</i> (Plumosa Group) Dwarf Geisha Series, mixed	Samuel Dobie & Son
17	<i>Celosia argentea</i> var. <i>cristata</i> (Plumosa Group) 'Glow Pink'	Ball Colegrave
18	<i>Celosia argentea</i> var. <i>cristata</i> (Plumosa Group) 'Glow Red'	Ball Colegrave
19	<i>Celosia argentea</i> var. <i>cristata</i> (Plumosa Group) 'Glow Carmine'	Ball Colegrave
20	<i>Celosia argentea</i> (Spicata Group) (Icecream Series) 'Icecream Peach'	Kieft Seeds Holland
21	<i>Celosia argentea</i> (Spicata Group) (Icecream Series) 'Icecream Banana'	Kieft Seeds Holland
22	<i>Celosia argentea</i> (Spicata Group) (Icecream Series) 'Icecream Mango'	Kieft Seeds Holland
23	<i>Celosia argentea</i> (Spicata Group) (Icecream Series) 'Icecream Orange'	Kieft Seeds Holland

24	<i>Celosia argentea</i> (Spicata Group) (Icecream Series) 'Icecream Strawberry'	Kieft Seeds Holland
25	<i>Celosia argentea</i> (Spicata Group) (Icecream Series) 'Icecream Cherry'	Kieft Seeds Holland
26	<i>Celosia argentea</i> (Spicata Group) Icecream Series, mixed	Kieft Seeds Holland
27	<i>Celosia argentea</i> var. <i>cristata</i> (Plumosa Group) (Fresh Look Series) 'Fresh Look Gold'	Benary Samenzucht GmbH
28	<i>Celosia argentea</i> var. <i>cristata</i> (Plumosa Group) (Fresh Look Series) 'Fresh Look Orange'	Benary Samenzucht GmbH
29	<i>Celosia argentea</i> var. <i>cristata</i> (Plumosa Group) (Fresh Look Series) 'Fresh Look Red'	Benary Samenzucht GmbH
30	<i>Celosia argentea</i> var. <i>cristata</i> (Plumosa Group) Fresh Look Series, 'Fresh Look Red' and 'Fresh Look Yellow' mixed	Thompson & Morgan
31	<i>Celosia argentea</i> var. <i>cristata</i> (Plumosa Group) 'New Look'	Ernst Benary Samenzucht GmbH
32	<i>Celosia argentea</i> var. <i>cristata</i> (Plumosa Group) Look Eternal Flames	Mr Fothergills Seeds
33	<i>Celosia argentea</i> var. <i>cristata</i> Plumosa Group, Prince of Wales feathers, mixed	Johnsons Seeds
34	<i>Celosia argentea</i> (Spicata Group) 'Spiky Pink'	Florensis
35	<i>Celosia argentea</i> (Spicata Group) 'Spiky Purple'	Florensis
36	<i>Celosia argentea</i> var. <i>cristata</i> (Plumosa Group) (Castle Series) 'Castle Pink'	Takii Europe
37	<i>Celosia argentea</i> var. <i>cristata</i> (Plumosa Group) (Castle Series) 'Castle Orange'	Takii Europe
38	<i>Celosia argentea</i> var. <i>cristata</i> (Plumosa Group) (Castle Series) 'Castle Yellow'	Takii Europe
39	<i>Celosia argentea</i> var. <i>cristata</i> (Plumosa Group) (Castle Series) 'Castle Scarlet'	Takii Europe
40	<i>Celosia argentea</i> var. <i>cristata</i> (Plumosa Group) Castle Series, mixed	Takii Europe
41	<i>Celosia argentea</i> var. <i>cristata</i> (Plumosa Group) (Century Series) 'Century Rose'	Sakata Ornamentals UK
42	<i>Celosia argentea</i> var. <i>cristata</i> (Plumosa Group) (Century Series) 'Century Yellow'	Sakata Ornamentals UK
43	<i>Celosia argentea</i> var. <i>cristata</i> (Plumosa Group) (Century Series) 'Century Fire'	Sakata Ornamentals UK
44	<i>Celosia argentea</i> var. <i>cristata</i> (Plumosa Group) (Century Series) 'Century Red'	Sakata Ornamentals UK
45	<i>Celosia argentea</i> var. <i>cristata</i> (Plumosa Group) Century Series, mixed	Sakata Ornamentals UK
46	<i>Celosia argentea</i> (Spicata Group) 'Punky Red'	Kieft Seeds Holland
47	<i>Celosia argentea</i> (Spicata Group) 'Flamingo Feather'	Thompson & Morgan
48	<i>Celosia</i> 'Thompsonii Magnifica Mixed'	RHS Wisley

Sender Details

Ball Colegrave, West Adderbury, Banbury, Oxfordshire OX17 3EY

Benary Samenzucht GmbH, Petersweg 72, D3436 Hann, Munden, Germany

Florensis UK, Hamer Flower Seeds Ltd, Remah House, Anderson Road, Swavesey, Cambridgeshire CB4 5GG

Johnsons Seed Ltd, Gazeley Road, Kentford, Newmarket, Suffolk CB8 7QB

Kieft Seeds Holland, PO Box 63, 1606 ZH Venhuizen, The Netherlands

Mr Fothergills Seeds Ltd, Gazeley Road, Kentford, Newmarket, Suffolk CB8 7QB

RHS Wisley, Woking, Surrey GU23 6QB

Sakata Ornamentals UK Ltd, The Wilgro Nursery, York Road, Thirsk, North Yorkshire YO3 7AA

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

Takii Europe B.V., Hoofdweg 19, 1424 PC De Kwakel, The Netherlands

Thompson & Morgan Ltd, Poplar Lane, Ipswich, Suffolk IP8 3BU

Source: Horticultural Trials and Relations, 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/trials>