

CORTADERIA

Final Trials Report

2007 – 2009

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

RHS Trial of *Cortaderia* 2007 – 2009

Introduction to *Cortaderia*

Genus of evergreen or semi-evergreen perennial grasses which form tussocks of stiff, flat, narrow leaves. Plume like flower panicles varying in colour from gold through silver to pale pink, are borne on stout stems well above foliage. *Cortaderia* originate from New Zealand, New Guinea and South America where they grow on grasslands often near water.


Common names include Pampas Grass and Tussock Grass.

Objectives

The objectives of the trial were:

- To clarify nomenclature of taxa within the genus
- To assess entries for the Award of Garden Merit

Judging

The Floral Trials Subcommittee assessed entries in the trial for the Award of Garden Merit  monthly between 30/5/07 to 27/11/07, 8/1/08 to 9/12/08 and 6/1/09 to 29/9/09, using the following criteria:

- Floriferousness
- Inflorescence persistence
- Colour and form
- Habit
- Foliage

Entries


There were 32 entries in the trial, submitted as plants by nurseries in the UK, The Netherlands and the USA.

Cultivation

The bed was cultivated, raked, marked out and planted with two plants per entry in April 2006. Small entries were planted with 1.5m between plants whilst large entries were planted with 3m plants. Plants were watered with a lance to assist establishment during hot weather.

In March each year the foliage was cut back to the new growth. One plant of each entry was left un-pruned in 2008 and 2009 in order to assess how the plants self clean and how quickly new growth masked old foliage. The trial was also mulched with bark chippings to suppress weed growth.

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
- H3-4 – intermediate between H3 and H4
- H4 – hardy throughout the British Isles

Plants Awarded the Award of Garden Merit

***Cortaderia fulvida* (Buchanan) Zotov AGM (H3-4) 2009**

[Trial No. 30] votes 12-3
Flowers August to October
Height 1.2m; Spread 2m

Silvery brown panicles, 45cm in length, borne over graceful and arching foliage.

“Excellent plumes and good colour.”

Sender: Madrona Nursery



***Cortaderia selloana* 'Evita' ^{PBR} AGM (H3-4) 2009**

[Trial No. 32] votes 11-2
Flowers late June to September
Height 1.7m; Spread 2.7m

Thick cones of silvery yellowish white panicles, 50cm in length, borne over fine foliage.

“Masses of not too big flowers, very good upright plants.”

Sender: Luc Klinkhamer

Cortaderia 'Highfield Pink' AGM (H3-4) 2009

[Trial No. 10] votes 8-1

Flowers June to October

Height 3.6m; Spread 3.2m

Yellowish silvery grey panicles, 60cm in length, borne over upright to arching foliage.

"Very statuesque, foliage quite good, sheer bulk of plant is impressive!"

Sender: Liss Forest Nursery



Cortaderia selloana 'Monstrosa' AGM (H3-4) 2009

[Trial No. 2 & 3] votes 14-0

Flowers August to November

Height 2.4m; Spread 2.5m

Greyed white with hint of greyed yellow panicles, 65cm in length, borne over high, arching foliage.

"Fluffy plumes which are very white. Spectacular with lots of movement."

Sender: Madrona Nursery and RHS Wisley

Cortaderia selloana 'Patagonia' AGM (H3-4) 2009

[Trial No. 18] votes 9-0

Flowers October to November

Height 2.4m; Spread 1.5m

Silvery yellowish grey panicles, 37cm in length, borne over large drooping and arching tussocks of foliage.

"Consistently good, nice long flowering period. Looks good in autumn."

Sender: The Plantsman's Preference



Cortaderia selloana SILVER FEATHER 'Notcott' (v) AGM (H3-4) 2009

[Trial No. 23] votes 11-2

Flowers late August - November

Height ; Spread

Silvery, yellowish grey panicles, 50cm in length over high arching foliage.

"Spectacular flowers, quite dense but not congested."

Sender: Notcutt Nurseries

Reconfirmed Awards of Garden Merit

***Cortaderia selloana* 'Aureolineata' (v) AGM (H3) 1993**

[Trial No. 26] votes 12-1

Flowers August

Height 1.1m; Spread 2.2m

Silvery greyed white panicles, 48cm in length, borne over a low yellow mound of arching foliage.

"Magnificent bright foliage, glowing."

Sender: Liss Forest Nursery



***Cortaderia richardii* (Endl.) Zotov AGM (H3-4) 2002**

[Trial No. 29] votes 14-0

Flowers June to August

Height 1.5m; Spread 2.8m

Silvery pale brown-yellow panicles, 60cm in length, borne over arching foliage.

"Very elegant and early."

Sender: Madrona Nursery

***Cortaderia selloana* 'Sunningdale Silver' AGM (H4) 1993**

[Trial No. 4] votes 6-2

Flowers April to November

Height 3m; Spread 2.5m

Dense plumes of silvery white panicles borne on strong erect stems.

"Very distinct flower colour."

Sender: Dingle Nurseries and Garden



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

***Cortaderia selloana* 'Pumila' AGM (H4) 1992**

[Trial No. 11, 12, 13, 14 & 15]

Sender: The Big Grass Company; Bridgemere Nurseries Ltd; Dingle Nurseries and Gardens; St Bridget Nurseries and Green's Leaves.

Trial Index and Senders Details

Trial of <i>Cortaderia</i> 2007 – 2009		
No.	Cultivar	Sender
1	<i>Cortaderia selloana</i>	The Big Grass Company
2	<i>Cortaderia selloana</i> 'Monstrosa'	Madrona Nursery
3	<i>Cortaderia selloana</i> 'Monstrosa'	RHS Wisley
4	<i>Cortaderia selloana</i> 'Sunningdale Silver' AGM (H4) 1993	Dingle Nurseries & Garden
5	<i>Cortaderia selloana</i> 'Rosea'	The Big Grass Company
6	<i>Cortaderia selloana jubata</i> 'Pink Feather'	Dingle Nurseries & Garden
7	<i>Cortaderia selloana</i> 'Roi Des Roses'	Cotswold Wildlife Park & Gardens
8	<i>Cortaderia selloana</i> 'Rendatleri'	RHS Wisley
9	<i>Cortaderia jubata</i> 'Candy Floss'	Knoll Gardens
10	<i>Cortaderia</i> 'Highfield Pink'	Liss Forest Nursery
11	<i>Cortaderia selloana</i> 'Pumila' AGM (H4) 1993	The Big Grass Company
12	<i>Cortaderia selloana</i> 'Pumila' AGM (H4) 1993	Bridgemere Nurseries Ltd
13	<i>Cortaderia selloana</i> 'Pumila' AGM (H4) 1993	Dingle Nurseries & Garden
14	<i>Cortaderia selloana</i> 'Pumila' AGM (H4) 1993	St Bridget Nurseries Ltd
15	<i>Cortaderia selloana</i> 'Pumila' AGM (H4) 1993	Green's Leaves
16	<i>Cortaderia selloana</i> 'Splendid Star' ^{PBR} (v)	Bridgemere Nurseries Ltd
17	<i>Cortaderia selloana</i> 'Icalma'	Pennard Plants
18	<i>Cortaderia selloana</i> 'Patagonia'	The Plantsman's Preference
19	<i>Cortaderia selloana</i> 'Cool Ice'	Pennard Plants
20	<i>Cortaderia selloana</i> 'Andes Silver'	Kurt Bluemel Inc
21	<i>Cortaderia pilosa</i> var. <i>minima</i> 'Chile Rose'	Roger Grounds
22	<i>Lamprothyrsus hieronymi</i> RCB RA-K2-2	Cotswold Garden Flowers
23	<i>Cortaderia selloana</i> SILVER FEATHER 'Notcort' (v)	Notcutts Nurseries
24	<i>Cortaderia selloana</i> 'Silver Fountain' (v)	Liss Forest
25	<i>Cortaderia selloana</i> 'Albolineata' (v)	Liss Forest
26	<i>Cortaderia selloana</i> 'Aureolineata' (v) AGM (H3) 1993	The Big Grass Company
27	<i>Cortaderia selloana</i> MS059616 'Pink Phantom'	R A Meredith & Son (Blooms)
28	<i>Cortaderia richardii</i> (Endl.) Zotov AGM (H3-4) 2002	Cotswold Garden Flowers
29	<i>Cortaderia richardii</i> (Endl.) Zotov AGM (H3-4) 2002	Madrona Nursery
30	<i>Cortaderia fulvida</i> (Buchanan) Zotov	Madrona Nursery
31	<i>Cortaderia</i>	Tregothnan Gardens
32	<i>Cortaderia selloana</i> 'Evita' ^{PBR}	Luc Klinkhamer

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

Sender Details

Bridgemere Nurseries Ltd, Bridgemere, Nr Nantwich, Cheshire CW5 7QB

Cotswold Garden Flowers, Sands Lane, Badsey, Evesham, Worcestershire WR11 5EZ

Cotswold Wildlife Park & Gardens, Burford, Oxon OX18 4JP

Dingle Nurseries & Garden, Welshpool, Powys SY21 9JD

Green's Leaves, Leba Orchard, Lea Bailey, Ross-On-Wye, Herefordshire HR9 5TY

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

Kurt Bluemel Inc, 2740 Greene Lane, Baldwin, MD 21013, USA

Pennard Plants, The Walled Garden, East Pennard, Somerset BA4 6TU

The Big Grass Company, Hookhill Plantation, Woolfardisworthy East, Nr Crediton, Devon EX17 4RX

Liss Forest Nurseries Ltd, Petersfield Road, Greatham, Liss, Hants GU33 6EX

Luc Klinkhamer. P O Box 350, 2180 AJ Hillegom, The Netherlands

Madrona Nursery, Pluckley Road, Bethersden, Kent TN26 3DD

Notcutts Nurseries, Woodbridge, Suffolk IP22 4AF

R A Meredith & Son (Blooms) Ltd, Bressingham, Diss, Norfolk IP22 2AB

RHS Garden Wisley, Woking, Surrey GU23 6QB

Mr R Grounds – c/o Trials Office, RHS Wisley

St Bridget Nurseries Ltd, Old Rydon Lane, Exeter, Devon EX2 7JY

Tregothnan Gardens, Truro, Cornwall TR2 4AN

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>