



Trial of Dahlia 2008 Final Report

The following entries were given the Award of Garden Merit (H3) following assessment of the 2008 trial.

Dahlia 'Magenta Star' AGM (H3) 2008 (Single) Registered 2007 [Trial no. 124]

Raised by Dr K Hammett (New Zealand)

Sent to trial by Mr J Wheatley

Available from Winchester Growers Ltd

Plant height 130cm. Flowers 13cm in diameter, florets long, broad, separated and pointed, vivid pink-purple (brighter than 72A, darker than N74A). Central disc 2 cm in diameter, disc florets very dark red (N187A) when in bud, stigmas golden orange (21A-23A). Foliage very dark purple black / very dark green, almost black (202A but greener), broadly triangular and pinnate. Each leaflet ovate with serrate margins. Flowering from 11 August 2008

Very nice, strong magenta pink colour flowers. Foliage is excellent; it's crisp; has a good texture. Has a long flowering season. Flowers are nicely above the foliage.



Dahlia 'Mayan Pearl' AGM (H3) 2008 (Double Orchid) Registered 2005 [Trial no. 134]

Raised and sent to trial by Mr K Stock

Available from Gilberts Nursery, Dandysford Lane, Sherfieldenglish, Romsey, Hampshire, S051 6DT

Flowers 12cm in diameter. Outer florets long, mainly blunt and partly incurved, inner florets shorter. Florets moderate purplish pink (65A), paling to near white at the apex.

Small area at base of florets vivid greenish yellow (2A). Leaves moderate olive green (c.147A), mainly ovate with serrate margins. Flowering from 15 August 2008

Clear pink flowers; has plenty of flowers and has flowered consistently well through the season; flowers are delicate but showy; flowers have good weather resistance. Plants are 2'6" to 3' in height.



Dahlia 'Trelyn Daisy' AGM (H3) 2008 (Collerette) Registered 2006 [Trial no. 77]

Raised and sent to trial by Mr R Tudor

Available from Winchester Growers Ltd

Plant height 140 cm. Flowers 10cm in diameter. Outer florets long, broad, separated and mainly blunt. Inner florets white. Central disc florets golden yellow (17A - 21A) when in bud, stigmas slightly darker (23A). Green (147A) foliage. Flowering from 11 August 2008

A white collerette with green foliage, 3-4 feet high. Flowers have pure white ray and disk florets and the blooms are consistent. Has a long flowering season. Suitable for garden decoration and exhibition.



Dahlia 'Woodbridge' AGM (H3) 2008 AS A FOLIAGE PLANT (Single) Registered 2008

[Trial no. 125]

Raised by Dr K Hammett (New Zealand)

Sent to trial by Mr J Wheatley

Available from Winchester Growers Ltd

Plant height 110cm. Foliage moderate olive green (137A), broadly triangular and pinnate. Each leaflet mostly pinnatisect. Some leaves finely edged and veined with dark red (paler than N186C). Stems greyed purple (paler than N186C).

Sparse flowering. Flowers 10cm in diameter, florets long, broad, separated and pointed.

Flowers light purple (N81C) at apex darkening to vivid purple (N81B) towards disc with small area of moderate red (181A) adjacent to disc. Disc florets vivid yellow (c.13A) when and golden yellow (c.13A – 21A). Flowering from 28 August 2008.

Very interesting foliage; topped with some single, lilac flowers.



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.

The following three cultivars received **AGM recommendations in 2006** subject to availability / registration. Those queries have been resolved and the AGM recommendations have now been confirmed.

'Cascade Ken' AGM (H3) 2006 (Collerette) Registered 2006

Sent to trial by Mr DJ Jones, raised by J Thompson [Trial no. 80].

Plant height 170cm. Inflorescence 12cm in diameter, outer florets long, broad and blunt, velvety dark red.

Flowering from end of July 2006.

Vigorous and spreading, good cut flower with long slender stem.

Available from:

Dan's Dahlias, 994 South Bank Road, Oakville, WA 98568, USA

www.dansdahlias.com

Corralitos Gardens, 295 Alitos Drive, Corralitos, CA 95076 USA

www.cgdahlias.com





'Northwest Cosmos' AGM (H3) 2006

(Single flowered) Registered 2006

Sent to trial by Mr G Carey [Trial no. 117].

Plant height 180cm. Inflorescence 14cm in diameter, outer florets long, broad, separated and blunt, purple/pink.

Flowering from end of July 2006.

Excellent tall and airy plant, prolific flowering over long period.

Available from:

The National Dahlia Collection, Winchester Growers Limited, Varfell Farm Long Rock, Penzance, Cornwall, TR20 8AQ

www.national-dahlia-collection.co.uk

'Proche Ami' AGM (H3) 2006

(Dwarf bedder, Miscellaneous) Registered 2006

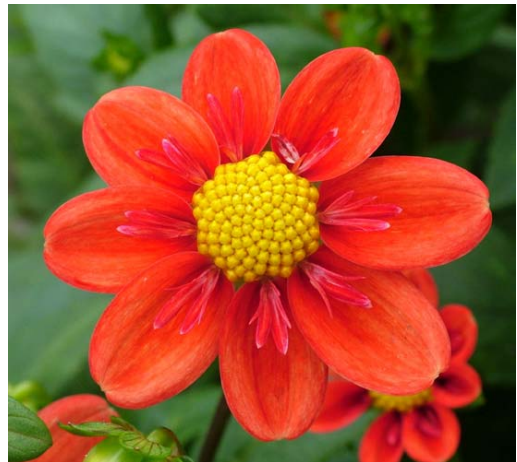
Sent to trial by Mr E H Collins, raised by Mr K Larkin [Trial no. 1].

Plant height 70cm. Inflorescence 5cm in diameter, outer florets short, broad and blunt and reflexed, orange red.

Flowering from end of July 2006.

Vigorous, compact and erect plant.

Available from: Corralitos Gardens, 295 Alitos Drive, Corralitos, CA 95076 USA www.cgdahlias.com



Trial Notes

Objective: To assess, compare and demonstrate a range of cultivars, in the open ground, submitted by professional and amateur growers.

Cultivation: Cuttings are taken from the plants already on trial during late September. When the shoots have reached 7.5cm in length they are removed as cutting material, making sure that the base of the cutting is taken just below a leaf node. Cuttings are rooted in modules of a peat free propagation mix, but most proprietary potting composts with added sand or vermiculite are equally suitable. Young plants can also be raised by placing several cuttings in a 15cm half-pot.

The cuttings are kept under mist until they are rooted, usually in 14 to 21 days, then potted up individually in 9cm pots. These are kept in a warm greenhouse under supplementary lighting until April. Cuttings are taken from these secondary mother plants in April in the same way as detailed above. Once rooted, these are potted up into 2 litre pots and grown under glass. The plants

are "stopped", by removing the main growing tip, to promote bushy growth and are hardened off for 1-2 weeks ready for planting out in early June.

Preparation and Planting:

The dahlia is a very accommodating plant that will grow well in most types of soil.

Manure was dug into the planting bed in autumn 2007 and then spading and rotovating was done in spring 2008. Sulphate of ammonia was applied at 65g/sqm and raked into the surface. The Dahlias were planted out during the week commencing 16th June.

The plants were "stopped" again in early July to encourage them to bush out and hasten the development of the side branches that will bear the flowers. The plants grown at Wisley are cultivated for garden display and most, depending on their classification, are lightly disbudded to give numerous flowers and an adequate length of stem. To demonstrate the effect of disbudding, with the exception of the Giant and Large classifications, the first plant in each of these entries was not disbudded at all and the remaining 2 plants continued to be disbudded in the usual way.

Dahlias are mainly healthy plants, but they may be susceptible to virus. The limited number of infected plants in the trial were removed and destroyed. Dahlias are liable to attack by a variety of pests – red spider mite, aphids, caterpillars and earwigs - which can be troublesome from July onwards and may require control by approved sprays.

Dahlias are also susceptible to mildew and spraying of the trial was undertaken regularly.

Dahlias need regular watering to obtain the best results and all of the plants in the trial had the benefit of a drip irrigation system. The plants were fed through the irrigation system with a liquid nitrogen feed and occasionally with SB Plant Invigorator to aid establishment and boost the performance of the plants.

Entries: There were 134 entries in this long term trial of Dahlias which were assessed by the Joint Dahlia Committee in 2008 and a further 15 entries grown for interest only.

Records: A record was made of first flowering dates.

Findings: Plants began flowering later this year than in 2007 and this meant that some of the giant and large classifications didn't begin flowering until very late in the season. Despite this, on the whole, the trial produced a good flowering display during the summer months.

Entomology

Following a letter from a visitor to the *Dahlia* Trial RHS Principal Entomologist Andrew Halstead visited the Dahlia Trial at lunch time on 20th, 21st, 22nd, 26th and 27th of August. He found that on all of those occasions, except the 21st of August, the flowers of *Dahlia* 'Topmix Yellow' [Trial Number 28] did seem to be much more attractive to honey bees than other cultivars in the Trial.



Dahlia 'Topmix Yellow'

Not all dahlias are of value to bees and other flower visiting insects; multi-petalled types of dahlia, such as the cactus and pompon varieties are generally of no benefit at all as the extra petals are produced at the expense of the pollen-bearing parts of the flower head. It is open-centred, single flowers, such as 'Topmix Yellow', that are likely to attract bees. There were two other varieties in the Trial that had pale yellow petals and open centres, but these were not attracting bees in any greater numbers than other open-centred flowers of different colours. This suggests it is not the colour of 'Topmix Yellow' that is responsible for attracting the bees.

Bees visit flowers in order to collect nectar and/or pollen. In this case the bees appeared to be foraging for nectar, as there were no signs of pollen being accumulated on their rear legs. It may have been that 'Topmix Yellow' was producing nectar either in greater quantities or with a better sugar content than the other varieties. Bumblebees were also seen visiting these flowers and these were mainly the species *Bombus pascuorum*.

Honey bees, and also some bumblebees and species of solitary bee, have declined in abundance in recent years. In the case of bumblebees and solitary bees, it is species that have fairly specific requirements in the types of flowers that they forage from that are most likely to be affected. These are generally species that are not capable of utilising garden flowers. The honey bee and the more common species of bumblebee use a wide range of both cultivated and wild flowers and are generally not likely to be short of suitable plants from which they can feed. The problem that is affecting the honey bee is a combination of a parasitic mite that became established in this country 16 years ago and various viral diseases. The varroa mite has a direct adverse effect on bees by sucking juices from the larvae, pupae and adult bees. While doing so they can also help spread certain virus diseases within the hive. Some of these diseases have the effect of reducing the longevity of adult bees. This may mean that insufficient numbers of adult bees survive the winter months, so the colony either peters out during the winter or by spring is in such a weakened state that the colony is no longer viable. When varroa first arrived in this country, it was relatively easy to control it by inserting some insecticide-impregnated strips into the hive at the end of summer. The mite has now gained resistance to these pesticides and the replacement treatments

that are currently in use are not as effective as the earlier ones. This means that varroa is surviving in greater numbers in hives and this is adding to the viral disease problem.

Judging: Members of the Joint Dahlia Committee inspected the trial at Wisley on the 12, 19, and 26 August, 2, 16 and 29 September.



The Committee considered the plants using the following criteria:

quality of bloom : flowering period : floriferousness : vigour

Plants, Senders and Awards:

AGM = Award of Garden Merit

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.

Entry	Name	Awards	Sender	Raiser
	Dwarf Bedder			
1	'Proche Ami'		E H Collins	K Larkin (USA)
2	'Keith's Pet'		J Wheatley	Keith Hammett (New Zealand)
3	'Harriet Carter'		E A Carter	E A Carter
4	'Tangerine Pathfinder'		J R Gott	J R Gott
5	'Orange Pathfinder'		J R Gott	J R Gott
6	'Brighteyes Pathfinder'		J R Gott	J R Gott
7	'Mayan Blood'		K Stock	K Stock
8	'J. R. G.'		J R Gott	J R Gott
9	'Pulp Fiction' (Dark Angel Series)		Verwer Dahlia's	Verwer Dahlias BV
10	'Gallery La Tour'		Verwer Dahlia's	Verwer Dahlias BV
11	'Exotic Dwarf'		W Gott	Nuyens (Holland)
12	'Maxi Colima'		Delamore	Delamore
13	'Maxi Toluca'		Delamore	Delamore
14	'Maxi Tampico'		Delamore	Delamore

Entry	Name	Awards	Sender	Raiser
15	'Maxi Topia'		Delamore	Delamore
16	'HS Kiss' (Happy Series)		Young Plants Ltd	Verwer Dahlias BV
17	'HS First Love' (Happy Series) Back left plant is correct. The other 3 plants are rogues named 'HS Romeo'		Young Plants Ltd	Verwer Dahlias BV
18	'HS Juliet' (Happy Series)		Young Plants Ltd	Verwer Dahlias BV
19	'HS Romeo' (Happy Series)		Young Plants Ltd	Verwer Dahlias BV
20	'HS Party' (Happy Series)		Young Plants Ltd	Verwer Dahlias BV
21	'HS Flame' (Happy Series)		Young Plants Ltd	Verwer Dahlias BV
22	'Littledown Calypso'		K Stock	K Stock
23	'Spanish Conquest' Back right plant is a rogue named 'Spanish Soldier'.		K Stock	K Stock
24	Sdg. HS-VD-272		Verwer Dahlia's	Verwer Dahlias BV
25	'Festivo'		Winchester Growers Ltd	Gebr. Bergman (Lisse, Netherlands)
26	'Littledown Waltz' Front right plant is correct. Back left and back right plants are rogues named 'Littledown Valletta'		K Stock	K Stock
27	'Moonfire'	AGM (H3) 1998	RHS Wisley	Unknown
	Lilliput			
28	'Topmix Yellow'		W Gott	Unknown
29	'My-nute Blend'		D Walker	D Walker
30	'Gallery Art Nouveau'	AGM (H3) 1999	P Dalby	Verwer Dahlias BV
	Anemone flowered			
31	'Freya's Paso Doble'	AGM (H3) 2000	Winchester Growers Ltd	Unknown
32	'Ryecroft Jim'		P Godsmark	P Godsmark
33	'Ryecroft Marge'	AGM (H3) 2006	P Godsmark	P Godsmark
	Pompon			
34	'Rhonda Suzanne'	AGM (H3) 2005	D G Kent	B Knight
35	'Will's Ringwood Rosie' Right hand plant is a rogue named 'Rhonda Suzanne'.		D G Williams	D. G. Williams

Entry	Name	Awards	Sender	Raiser
36	'Storrs Julie' Cultivar name being checked		A Barlow	A Barlow
37	'Pacific Revival'		J Wheatley	Whittington (New Zealand)
38	'Lakeland Polly' Right hand plant is a rogue called 'Red Carol'		J G Elliot	B Warriner
	Small Ball			
39	'Blyton Softer Gleam'		L Stothard	L Stothard
40	'Charlie Briggs'		D Jones	Kershaw
41	'Cherwell Linnet'		P Godsmark	Mrs J Davis
42	'Josie Gott'		K Stock	K Stock
	Miniature Ball			
43	'Dikara Kent'		R Rogers	R Rogers
44	'Pembroke Levenna'		Halls of Heddon	A G Davies
45	'Megan Dean'		Halls of Heddon	Mrs O. Baldry
46	'Nuland's Josephine'		J R Gott	J R Gott
	Giant Cactus			
47	'Jeanne d'Arc'		J Wheatley	
	Small Cactus			
48	'Lakeland Sunset'	AGM (H3) 2005	B Warriner	B Warriner
49	'Oreti Bliss'		Halls of Heddon	W Jack (New Zealand)
50	'Devon Temptation'		Winchester Growers Ltd	
	Miniature Cactus			
51	'Weston Pirate'	AGM (H3) 1999	T E McLelland	T McLelland
52	' Falkirk Gold ' All 3 plants are rogues named 'Anna Cozens'		D Buchanan	D. Buchanan
53	'Weston Tea-time'		R Ainslie	T McLelland
54	'Weston Stardust'		R Porter	T McLelland
	Large Semi-Cactus			
55	'Littleton'		H G Moody	H G Moody
	Medium Semi-Cactus			
56	'Staleen Condesa'	AGM (H3) 2006	D G Kent	F Hoey
57	'Clearview Irene'		D G Kent	R Parshall (USA)
58	'Kenora Majestic'		G Carey	G Leroux
59	'Julie's Delight'		E A Carter	E A Carter
60	'Ruskin Bride'		F Taylor	
	Small Semi-Cactus			
61	'Trelyn Rhiannon'	AGM (H3) 2005	G Carey	R G Tudor
62	'Oakwood Goldcrest'		D G Kent	S Silver
63	'Dikara Kelly'		R Rogers	R Rogers

Entry	Name	Awards	Sender	Raiser
64	'Rockliffe Billy'		T E Thompson	T E Thompson
65	'Trelyn Kiwi'	AGM (H3) 2006	Winchester Growers Ltd	R Tudor
66	'Mayan Swan'		K Stock	K Stock
67	'Parkland Rave'		J Wheatley	Rowse (USA)
	Miniature Semi-Cactus			
68	'Peach Delight'		G Carey	Scobie (Australia)
69	'Badger Twinkle'		K Stock	J Thiermann
	Fimbriated			
70	'Intombi Yum' Left hand plant is a rogue named 'Jax'		E Collins	C Higgs
71	'White Lace'		G Carey	Eckhoff (USA)
72	'Fidalgo Climax'		E Collins	R Matthies (USA)
73	'Snoho Wonder'		E Collins	W Bonneywell
74	'Pineland's Pet'		E Collins	C Higgs
75	'Anna Cozens'		E A Carter	E A Carter
	Collerette			
76	'Don Hill'	AGM (H3) 2005	D A Reid	D A Reid
77	'Trelyn Daisy'	AGM (H3) 2008	R G Tudor	R G Tudor
78	'Carreg Cyril's Girl'		Ms C Bright	Ms C Bright
79	'Pooh'		Winchester Growers Ltd	Swan Island Dahlias (USA)
80	'Ann Breckenfelder' Right hand plant is a rogue named 'Ryecroft Rainbow'	AGM (H3) 2004	G Carey	Geerlings
81	'Scarlett Claire'		J Wheatley	I Kitchener
82	'Edith Jones'		Ms C Bright	I Kitchener
83	'Teesbrooke Red Eye'	AGM (H3) 2005	P Orley	P Orley
84	'Twynning's Pink Fish'	AGM (H3) 2005	Winchester Growers Ltd	M Twynning, Winchester Growers Ltd
85	'Cascade Ken'		D Jones	J Thompson
86	'Will's Carousel'		D G Williams	D G Williams
	Giant Decorative			
87	'Hamari Gold'	AGM (H3) 1993	J & I Cruickshanks	W Ensum
	Miniature Decorative			
88	'Dikara Apricot'		R Rogers	R Rogers
	Giant Decorative			
89	'Bryn Terfel'		F Taylor	K Sherlock
90	'Sir Alf Ramsey'		J & I Cruickshanks	P L Cleaver
	Medium Decorative			

Entry	Name	Awards	Sender	Raiser
91	'Tren Grove Millennium'		Winchester Growers Ltd	Woolcock UK
92	'Kea Lyn'		J Wheatley	
93	Sdg Ryecroft 325		P Godsmark	
	Small Decorative			
94	'Fusion'	AGM (H3) 2004	Winchester Growers Ltd	Fa Gebr Verwer
95	'Stevie D'	AGM (H3) 2003	The late Mr Hewlett	Unknown
96	'Bicentenary'		D A Reid	D A Reid
97	'Texas Moon'		K Stock	K Stock
98	'Oakwood Royale'		G Carey	S Silver
	Miniature Decorative			
99	'Lilac Marston'	AGM (H3) 2005	F B Taylor	J Digweed
100	'Ryecroft Jan'	AGM (H3) 2006	P Godsmark	P Godsmark
101	'Ryecroft Laura'		P Godsmark	P Godsmark
102	'Rossendale Lewis'		D Kershaw	D Kershaw
103	'Toy Boy'		A T Hayes	A T Hayes
104	'My Neddy'		K Stock	K Stock
105	'Rossendale Joshua'		D Kershaw	D Kershaw
106	'Dikara Midnight'		R Rogers	R Rogers
107	'Ryecroft Dave's Choice'		P Godsmark	
108	'Eastwood's Roulette'		J Eastwood	J R Eastwood
	Waterlily			
109	'Shep's Memory'	AGM (H3) 2006	P Godsmark	A Bunting (Hertfordshire)
110	'Marissa'		D Reid	C Geerlings
111	'Charlie Dimmock'	AGM (H3) 2006	K Stock	K Stock
112	'Bracken Lorelei'		Station House Nurseries	Naumann (Australia)
113	'Pam Howden'		Station House Nurseries	Davidson (Australia)
114	'Blue Wish'		R & L Evans	Q Van Nuland
	Miscellaneous			
115	'Le Castel'	AGM (H3) 2006	Winchester Growers Ltd	Laurent
116	'Tally Ho Double'		Bridgemere Nurseries	Sport of 'Tally Ho', identified on the Wisley Trials Field in 2006, propagated by Wisley
117	'Kyoto'		Winchester Growers Ltd	Turc.
118	'Rita Shrimpton'		I Kitchener	I Kitchener
	Single flowered			
119	'Twynning's After Eight'	AGM (H3) 2004	Winchester Growers Ltd	Mark Twynning, Winchester Growers Ltd

Entry	Name	Awards	Sender	Raiser
120	'Northwest Cosmos'		Winchester Growers Ltd	Ellison (USA)
121	'Bishop's Children Selection'		RHS Wisley	From 2005 Gardeners World Display at Wisley
122	'Twyning's Chocolate'	AGM (H3) 2005	Winchester Growers Ltd	Mark Twyning, Winchester Growers Ltd
123	'Dovegrove'		J Wheatley	K Hammett (New Zealand)
124	'Magenta Star'	AGM (H3) 2008	J Wheatley	K Hammett (New Zealand)
125	'Woodbridge'	AGM (H3) 2008 AS A FOLIAGE PLANT	J Wheatley	K Hammett (New Zealand)
126	'Brantwood'		J Wheatley	K Hammett (New Zealand)
127	'Twyning's Candy'	AGM (H3) 2004	Winchester Growers Ltd	Mark Twyning, Winchester Growers Ltd
128	'Twyning's Smartie'	AGM (H3) 2005	Winchester Growers Ltd	Mark Twyning, Winchester Growers Ltd
	Single Orchid			
129	'Honka'	AGM (H3) 2000	T E McLelland	J A Kieffer (USA)
130	'Red Stargazer'		Winchester Growers Ltd	RHS Garden Wisley
131	'Sophie Taylor'		J R Gott	J R Gott
	Double Orchid			
132	'Pink Giraffe'	AGM (H3) 2006	Winchester Growers Ltd	Burrows
133	'Giraffe'		Winchester Growers Ltd	Hoek (Netherlands)
134	'Mayan Pearl'	AGM (H3) 2008	K Stock	K Stock
	FOR INTEREST ONLY 2008			
135	'Jeanette Carter'	AGM (H3) 1994	E A Carter	E A Carter
136	Pink Giant Decorative		Mrs B Wolstenholme	
137	'Hamari Accord'	AGM (H3) 1994	J & I Cruickshanks	W Ensum
138	'Narrow's Tricia'		J & I Cruickshanks	K & M Walton
139	Un-named seedling, dark foliage		J Wheatley	
140	'Blackberry Ripple' 'Raspberry Ripple'		J Wheatley	Willoughby

Entry	Name	Awards	Sender	Raiser
141	'Franz Kafka' Left hand plant is a rogue, name unknown		J Wheatley	Maarse
142	'Stans White' 'Steve's White'		J Wheatley R Newberry	
143	'Twynning's Revel'		J Wheatley	
144	'HS Wink'		J Wheatley	Verwer Dahlias BV
145	'Candy Eyes' Candy Eyes ('Zone 10')		John Woods Nurseries	
146	'Ruskin Amanda'		F Taylor	S Pennington
147	'Stevan's Vanda'		P Godsmark	Steve Cox
148	Rogue from 2007 'Rita Shrimpton' entry		I Kitchener	I Kitchener
149	Rogue from 2007 'Shirley Pillman' (Sdg. S3434) entry		Winchester Growers Ltd	I Kitchener

Name and Address of Senders to the Trial:

Mr R Ainslie, Garo Burnside, Pitlessie by Cupar, Fife KY15 7SZ.

Mr A Barlow, Waterways, Storrs Park, Windermere, Cumbria, LA23 3LT
Bridgemere Nurseries, Bridgemere, Near Nantwich, Cheshire CW5 7QB

Mr D Buchanan, 18 Cruachan Court, Hallglen, Falkirk, FK1 2QA

Mrs C Bright, 4 Kingsbury Close, Flint, Flintshire, N. Wales, CH6 5TT

Mr G Carey, 30 Dylan Avenue, Cefn Fforest, Blackwood, Gwent NP12 3NQ

Mr E A Carter, 23 Norfolk Road, Feltham, TW13 5BX

Mr E H Collins, 19 Sunnybank, Marlow, Bucks SL7 3BL

J & I Cruickshanks, Ridgeview Nursery, By Longridge, Fauldhouse, West Lothian EH47 9AB

Mr P Dalby, The Willows, 1 Bowshotts Cottages, Cowfold Road, West Grinstead, West Sussex, RH13 8LY

R. Delamore Ltd, Station Road, Wisbech St Mary, Cambridgeshire, PE13 4RY

Mr J Eastwood, 15 Dartnell Park Road, West Byfleet, Surrey, KT14 6PN

Mr J G Elliot, 4 Togston Crescent, North Broomhill, Morpeth, Northumberland, NE65 9TP

R & L Evans, 3 Pentwyn Gowerton Road, Three Crosses, Swansea, SA4 3QH

Mr P Godsmark, Ryecroft Dahlias, 21 Spierbridge Road, Storrington, West Sussex RH20 4PG

Mr J R Gott, 22 Summerville Road, Milnthorpe, Cumbria, LA7 7DF

Mr W Gott, Sunnyside, Woodhouse Lane, Heversham, Milnthorpe, Cumbria, LA7 7EW

Halls of Heddon, West Heddon Nursery, Heddon-on-the-Wall, Northumberland, NE15 0JS

Mr W Hawkins, 1 Farleigh Rise, Basingstoke, Hampshire, RG21 3BS

Mr A T Hayes, 49 Mortimer Road, Kenilworth, Warwickshire, CV8 1FR

The late Mr Hewlett - Plants of this entry, or information on how to obtain them may be available from the National Collection holder:- Winchester Growers Ltd., Varfell Farm, Long Rock, Penzance, Cornwall, TR20 8AQ

John Woods Nurseries, Main Road, Pettistree, Woodbridge, Suffolk, IP13 0HH

Mr D Jones, 46 Hill Street, Blaenavon, Gwent, NP4 9EP

Mr D Kent, Surrey Dahlias, 48 Vickers Road, Ashvale, Surrey GU12 5SE

Mr D Kershaw, 15 Hamer Avenue, Loveclough, Rossendale, Lancashire BB4 8QH

Mr I Kitchener, 10 Higher Loughborough, Tiverton, Devon, EX16 5AE
 Mr T E McLelland, 32 Long Street, Bulkington, Bedworth, Warwickshire CV12 9JZ
 Mr M G Moody c/o Trials Office, Wisley
 Mr R F Newberry, Portal, Publow Lane, Pensford, Bristol, BS39 4HW
 Mr P G Orley, 82 Spalding Road, Hartlepool, TS25 2JP
 Mr R Porter, 'Willowbrook', 58 Stanley Road, Halstead, Essex, CO9 1LA
 Mr D A Reid, 28 Manor Road, Barlestone, Nuneaton, Warwicks CV13 0HY
 RHS Garden (Curator), Wisley, Woking, Surrey GU23 6QB
 Mr R Rogers, c/o Trials Office, Wisley
 Station House Nurseries, Station Road, Burton, South Wirral, Cheshire CH64 5SD
 Mr K E Stock, c/o Trials Office. Plants from this sender are available from Gilberts
 Nursery, Dandysford Lane, Sherfieldenglish, Romsey, Hampshire, S051 6DT
 Mr L Stothard, 88A High Street, Blyton, Gainsborough, Lincolnshire, DN21 3LA
 Mr F B Taylor, Taylor's Dahlias, 12 Shawbury Grove, Sale, Cheshire M33 4DF
 Mr T E Thompson, 4 Cae Coch Cottage, Kielsterton Road, Flint, CH6 5SJ
 Mr R Tudor, 34 Victoria Road, Fleur de lys, Blackwood, Gwent NP12 3UG
 Mr B Warriner, 27 Beckerment Gardens, Barrow in Furness, Cumbria LA14 4NF.
 Mr D Walker, 3 Cleveland Crescent, Borehamwood, Herts WD6 2EW
 Mr J Wheatley, Stonebarn, Moorledge Farm, Chew Magna, Bristol, Avon BS40 8TL
 Mr D G Williams, 104a Woolsbridge Road, Ringwood, Hants BH24 2LZ
 Mrs B Wolstenholme, c/o Trials Office, Wisley
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 Young Plants Ltd, Whitehill Farm, Alderminster, Stratford Upon Avon, Warwickshire, CV37
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Dahlia Open Day 9th September 2008

The open day took place in the Garden Hall at the Wisley Hillside Events Centre. The day featured these wonderful talks and demonstrations:

- Fergus Garrett from Great Dixter - Daring dahlias in the garden
- Hans Hansen from the Botanic Garden, University of Copenhagen - Dahlia taxonomy
- Jon Wheatley – A showman's demonstration/talk
- Wisley botanist, James Armitage – Modern Dahlia Breeding

The following displays were also featured:

- Dahlias and the RHS by Brent Elliott
- Herbarium: What is a standard specimen? by Susan Grayer
- Registration: Why register a dahlia? by Sharon McDonald

Visitors were also able to tour the Dahlia Trial with members of the Dahlia Sub-Committee and find out the following:

- how Award of Garden Merit plants are judged
- how to disbud
- how to deadhead
- how to stake
- how to propagate



Dahlia Open Day

Synopsis of Dr Hansen's talk

Native (wild) Dahlias – taxonomy, historical review, and the derivation of cultivars Hans V. Hansen, Assoc. Prof., Ph.D., Botanic Garden, University of Copenhagen

The genus *Dahlia* has been thoroughly analysed with respect to taxonomy, chromosome numbers, phylogeny, biosystematics, chemical constituents, inheritance of ray colour pigments, and early domestication history to which of course shall be added a wealth of horticultural information published during more than two centuries. But only two botanists have attended the species within the genus, E.E. Sherff in 1949 for the Flora of North America, and Paul Sorensen (1969) in an excellent and easily comprehended monograph. Sorensen had personally collected native material in Mexico before publishing his monograph (practically all *Dahlia* species are endemic to Mexico, and the dahlia is the national flower of the nation), but he was much antedated by the 'wild potato' specialist J.P. Hjerting, who travelled in Central and South America for no less than 37 years (1948-1995), a.o. visiting Mexico seven times. In 1995, Sorensen, Hjerting, and a student of Sorensen, Dayle Saar, made a joint expedition to Mexico collecting practically all the native species plus six new ones among which were three that Hjerting already had detected years before. This comprehensive collection of material has been grown in the Botanic Garden, University of Copenhagen, Denmark since 1996 along with Hjerting's samples of dahlias brought in between 1958 and 1993. It has enabled Hjerting and me to make a comprehensive taxonomic and biosystematic study of the genus, elaborating on results obtained by various earlier workers.

Already four centuries ago, double headed forms of dahlias were known in Mexico. This must imply that at least some species within the genus are prone to hybridize, since the double headed condition is a result of inter-specific hybridization. The Indians surely did not actively make breeding, so 'nature' must have ensured that hybrids could develop. Why is this so?

Dahlia is divided into four sections by Sorensen, the three dahlias (sect. Pseudodendron, $2n = 32$, 3 spp. + *D. excelsa*, status uncertain), sect. Epiphytum with the climber *D. macdougalii* ($2n = 32$), sect. Entemophyllon ($2n = 34$, 7 spp.), and the type section sect. Dahlia ($2n = 32$ or 64, but *D. merckii* $2n = 36$, 24 spp.). We have studied biosystematics within the latter section, while there are no experimental data for the poorly known sects.

Epiphytum and Entemophyllon. Several *Dahlia* species flower very late in Copenhagen, if flowering at all, but Keith Hammett and his study group in Auckland, New Zealand, have managed to cross some of these species from material sent to him by Hjerting.

Our biosystematic conclusions are remarkable. *D. merckii* cannot cross. But practically all dahlias with $2n = 32$ cross without barriers (incl. the tree dahlias, as shown by Hammett), all offspring are perfectly fertile, and a range of parental species can be combined into complex, fertile hybrids. However, a few diploid lines do not cross freely (as documented from tests during many seasons), although they usually will cross if placed pairwise in isolation from all other plants; one hybrid, *D. tubulata* x *D. coccinea*, is sterile. All tetraploids ($2n = 64$) cross 100 per cent freely, always giving origin to fully fertile offspring, no matter how many parents are involved. Chromosome doubling rarely may take place in a diploid mother, and then the offspring behave like all other tetraploids. All garden forms are tetraploids, and they also cross freely with all native taxa. Selfing is observed in *D. merckii* and those diploids which are less easy to hybridize, but never elsewhere.

In other words, the *Dahlia* species have retained a surprisingly high level of inter-fertility, on the large pertaining to a diploid ($2n = 32$) level and a tetraploid ($2n = 64$) level. The dahlias 'aim' at reaching the tetraploid level, since $2n = 64$ is clearly the optimal condition with respect to fertility. W.J.C. Lawrence showed around 1930, in his pioneer study of ray colour inheritance, that there are up to 8 factors for ray colour pigment production in tetraploids (if a given pigment is called A, then one example of a genetic constitution could be AAAAaaaa (four dominant, four recessive states)). It seems that these factors are on 8 different chromosomes, implying that a $2n = 64$ plant in fact is an octoploid (a term which I for simplicity have avoided above). In the hybrid (parent A x parent B), hence schematically AAAABBBB, when meiosis takes place, chromosome mating would therefore be A-A, A-A, B-B, B-B rather than A-B, A-B, A-B, A-B, ensuring perfect pairing of the chromosomes. But that model is not enough to explain how a whole series of parental species can be combined into fertile, complex hybrids. The secret seems to be that all chromosomes in *Dahlia* are very similar in morphology, generally leading to perfect pairing, and this somehow must be the background for the extreme amount of inter-fertility between species.

Notwithstanding the extreme inter-fertility in *Dahlia*, it seems granted that only *D. coccinea* ($2n = 64$) and *D. sorensenii* ($2n = 64$) have given origin to all the cultivars. Only these species have leaves which are recovered in the cultivars, both are distributed close to the area, where the old Aztec gardens were centred (near Mexico City), and *D. coccinea* is, by the way, the only species which may have lend the yellow, orange and red ray colours. *D. pinnata*, the first species described, by Cavanilles in 1791, was in fact a semi-double hybrid. Hence *D. pinnata* (or *D. x pinnata*) is the correct name for all the cultivars. *D. pinnata* has been referred to the native species which is now named *D. sorensenii*, but as will be seen, *D. pinnata* is actually the outcome of *D. coccinea* x *D. sorensenii*.

Dr Hansen's visit to the RHS Wisley Herbarium

Dr Hansen visited the Herbarium, the day following his talk and spent the morning verifying and correcting the holdings of *Dahlia*. His most exciting find was a topotype (one of the specimens upon which a species name is founded) of *Dahlia moorei* that had been collected in the 1940s. This specimen had been misrecorded in the database as *Dahlia* 'Moorei' (i.e. a cultivar rather than a species) and staff were completely unaware of its significance. What made the find particularly exciting was that *D. moorei* is now probably extinct in the wild, (though it is still grown in some Botanic Gardens) so that it represents

one of the few reliable sources which tells us what this critically endangered species should look like.

Public Voting

The *Dahlia* trial was extremely popular with visitors to Wisley Garden and, with the help of the Wisley Trials Garden Staff, the Trials Office conducted a public vote between 9th and 26th September 2008. A total of 167 votes were cast. The votes and comments were collated by the Trials Office and the top 5 favourite dahlias as voted for by garden visitors were:

'Twyning's Revel' 16.17% [Trial No. 143] with 16.17% of the votes

'Magenta Star' AGM 2008 [Trial No. 124] with 8.38%

'Blue Wish' [Trial No. 114] with 4.79%

'Ann Breckenfelder' AGM 2004 [Trial No. 80] with 4.19%

'Raspberry Ripple' [Trial No. 140] with 4.19%



'Twyning's Revel'



'Blue Wish'



'Ann Breckenfelder'

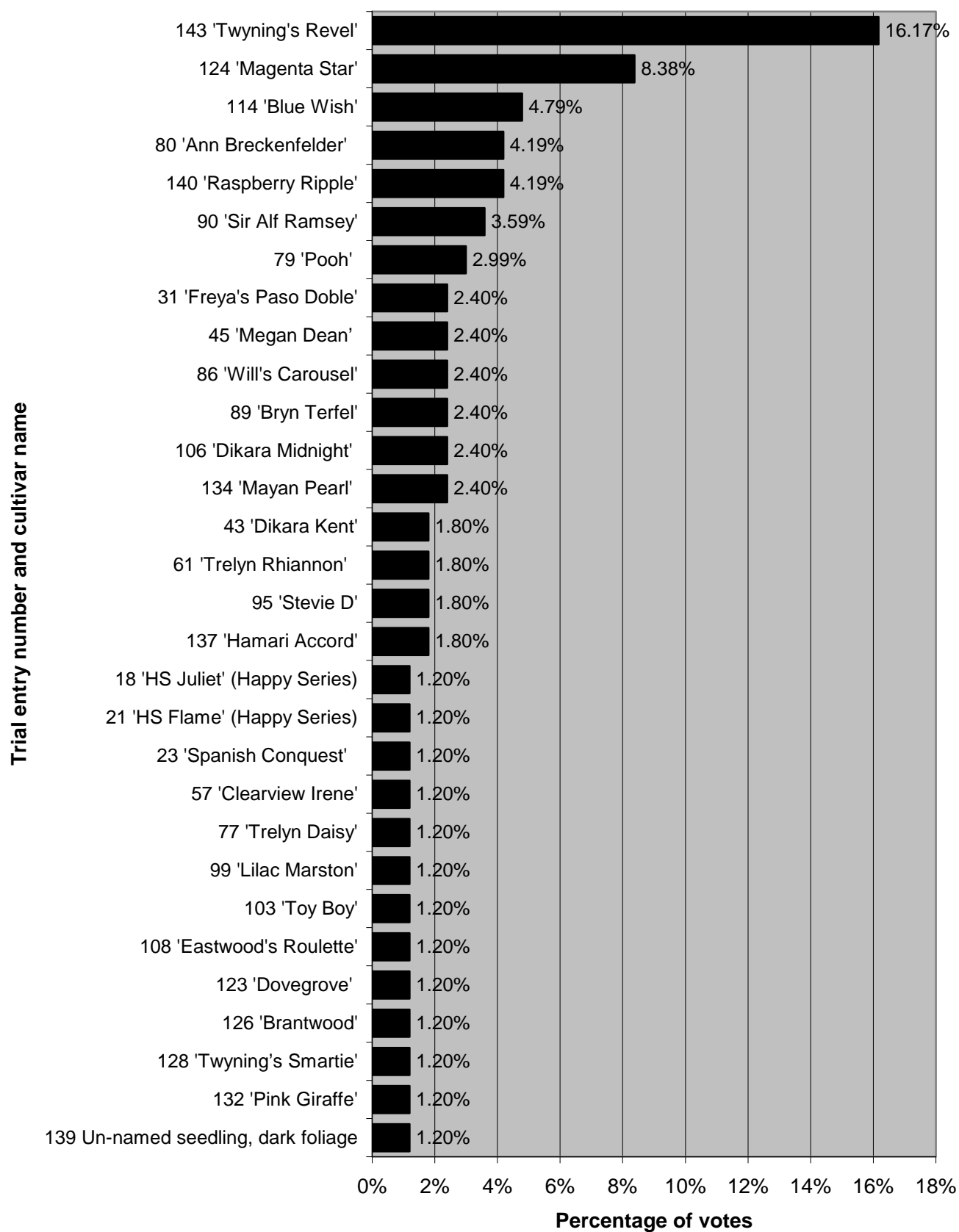


'Raspberry Ripple'

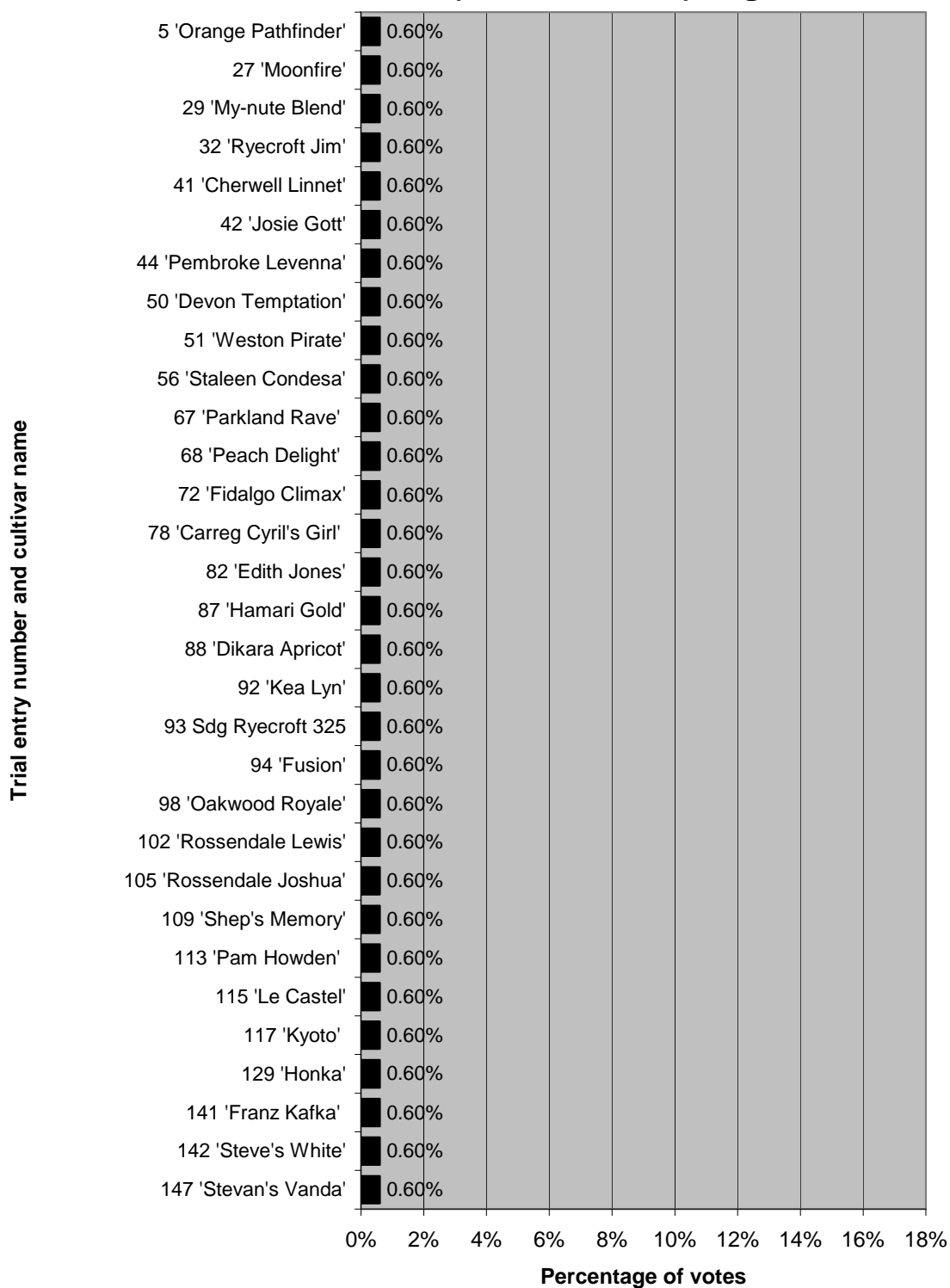
Dahlia Trial 2008

'Vote for your favourite' 9th - 26th September

General Public Results (total 167 votes) Page 1 of 2



Dahlia Trial 2008
'Vote for your favourite' 9th - 26th September
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Classification:

Group 1: Single - flowered



Single outer ring of florets, which may overlap, the centre forming a disc

Group 2: Anemone - flowered



One or more outer rings of generally flattened ray florets surrounding a dense group of tubular florets, showing no disc.

Group 3: Collerette



A single outer ring of generally flat ray florets, which may overlap, with a ring of small florets (the collar) the centre forming a disc.

One or more outer rings of generally flattened ray florets surrounding a dense group of tubular florets, showing no disc.

Group 4: Waterlily - flowered



Fully double. Broad ray florets are straight or slightly involute or revolute. Blooms from under 102mm (4 in.) up to 220mm (8¾ in.) in diameter.

Group 5: Decorative



Fully double showing no disc. The ray florets are generally broad and flat and may be involute for no more than 75% of their length (longitudinal axis) or slightly twisted, and usually bluntly pointed. Bloom size from under 102mm (4in.) to over 254mm (10 in.)

Group 6: Ball



Fully double, ball-shaped or slightly flattened. The ray florets blunt or rounded at the tips, with margins spirally arranged and involute for at least 75% of the length of the florets. Blooms usually between 52mm (2 in.) and 152mm (6 in.)

Group 7: Pompon



Fully double spherical blooms of miniature size, not exceeding 52mm (2 in.) in diameter, with florets involute for the whole of their length (longitudinal axis)

Group 8: Cactus



Fully double. The ray florets are usually pointed, the majority narrow and revolute for 50% or more of their length (longitudinal axis) and either straight or incurving. Blooms from under 102mm (4 in.) in diameter to over 254mm (10 in.)

Group 9: Semi-Cactus



Fully double. The ray florets are usually pointed, and revolute for more than 25% and less than 50% of their length (longitudinal axis), broad at base and either

straight or incurving. Blooms from under ;102mm (4 in.) in diameter to over 254mm (10 in.)

Group 10: Miscellaneous



This group contains dahlias which do not fall into any of the previous groups. An example is the orchid-flowered dahlia – flowers as in single dahlias except the rays are involute, their margins meeting or overlapping for at least two-thirds of their length from tip towards base.

Group 10: Miscellaneous

Any dahlias which do not fall into one of the listed groups e.g. Peony-flowered dahlias.

Group 11: Fimbriated dahlias

Ray florets should be evenly split or notched into two or more divisions, uniformly throughout the bloom creating a fringed effect. The petals may be flat, involute, revolute, straight, incurving or twisted.



Group 12: Single-Orchid dahlias

Single outer ring of florets surrounding the disc. Ray florets are uniformly either involute or revolute.

Group 13: Double-Orchid dahlias

Fully double blooms, showing no disc. Ray florets are narrowly lanceolate and either involute or revolute.

Further information on this trial is available from:
Trials Office, The Royal Horticultural Society, Wisley, Woking, Surrey GU23 6QB
Tel: 01483 224234 & Email: trials@rhs.org.uk
More information about RHS Trials and other illustrated final reports can be found on the
RHS Website at www.rhs.org.uk/trials