



# DELPHINIUM INVITED SEED TRIAL FINAL REPORT 2008 (An RHS Invited Trial)



Delphinium Open Day 25 June 2008

- Trial Entries:** There were 46 entries in this invited seed trial of Delphiniums. Entries were submitted by various seed companies in the UK and worldwide, none of which already held the Award of Garden Merit (AGM).
- Objectives:** To assess, compare and demonstrate a range of cultivars, in the open ground, for growth and decorative qualities.
- Judging:** The Joint Delphinium Sub-Committee assessed entries in the trial for the Award of Garden Merit (AGM) using the following criteria: germination, vigour, perenniality, impact, colour, form and quality of flower and foliage. Members of the Committee inspected the 2008 trial at Wisley on 3, 17, 25 June and 9 July, recommending the AGM to 3 entries.
- Recording:** Germination rate; winter survival: start, 50% and end of flowering.
- Cultivation:** Seed was sown on 16 February 2007 into pans of moist peat-free propagation compost, watered in with Revive (a product containing natural soil micro-organisms which encourage soil fertility and healthy plant growth) and covered with 10 mm of vermiculite. A temperature of 18-20°C was maintained during germination and the pans were misted to maintain humidity. Seedlings were pricked out into P84 cells early to mid March 2007 and when large enough moved on into 9cm pots of peat reduced compost on 19 April 2007. The plants were put outside to harden off in the last week of April and then planted out 2 weeks later on 9 May 2007.

Entries 1-15, being smaller plants when established, were planted in

blocks of 25 plants spaced 45cm apart each way and entries 16-46 were planted in blocks of 16 plants spaced 60cm apart. All entries were supported with posts and netting.

During March of 2008 fertiliser was applied as follows: 130g/m<sup>2</sup> sulphate of potash, 80g/m<sup>2</sup> Kieserite. A bi-weekly application of compost tea was applied as a foliar feed, provided some nitrogen whilst also acting as an organic fungicide. Additional fungicide treatments were used to control mildew. Irrigation from drip lines was provided as required.

#### **Entries, Senders and Awards:**

The following entries received an Award of Garden Merit: -

#### **'Centurion Sky Blue' AGM (H4) 2008**

Sent by K Sahin, Zaden BV and available from Plants of Distinction, Abacus House, Station Yard, Needham Market, Suffolk, IP6 8AS.



Vigorous, spreading cultivar to 200 cm. Very floriferous and with narrow, tapering spikes. Flowers semi- double to 5.5 cm diameter. Sepals light purplish blue, closest to 100C. Eye closest to white 155C, and splashed with blue 100C. However there is some colour variation between the florets. Spur to 1.5 cm, slightly hairy. Second year: 50% flowering 9/6/2008.

*Striking clean blue flower colour, with white eye. Very floriferous, making a wonderful garden display. Excellent mildew resistance.*

**'Rosy Future' AGM (H4) 2008**

Sent by, and available from, Mr Fothergill's Seeds Ltd., Gazeley Road, Kentford, Suffolk, CB8 7QB



Vigorous, branching cultivar to 200 cm. Very floriferous with flowers held on tapering spikes to 90 cm. Semi-double flowers, to 6.5 cm diameter, held loosely on long stalks. Rosy pink - mauve sepals closest to purple group 76A. Eye closest to white 155A. Spur to 2 cm, slightly hairy. Second year; 50% flowering 12/6/2008.

*Very uniform in height and structure. Extremely floriferous, with blooms of excellent form. Lovely dusky pink colour, with white eye. Good mildew resistance.*

**'Sweethearts' (New Millennium Series) AGM (H4) 2008**

Sent by Jelitto Perennial Seeds. Available from Plants of Distinction, Abacus House, Station Yard, Needham Market, Suffolk, IP6 8AS. Also available from D'Arcy & Everest, P.O.Box 78, St Ives, Cambridgeshire, PE27 6ZA, and online via [www.darcyeverest.co.uk](http://www.darcyeverest.co.uk). Larger quantities are available from Jelitto Perennial Seeds via their website [www.jelitto.com](http://www.jelitto.com).



Vigorous cultivar, to 170 cm, Free-flowering with strong tapering spikes to 60 cm. Flowers semi-double to 7 cm. Sepals light mauve-pink closest to purple group 75A, fading to 75B. Eye white, closest to NN155A and splashed with deeper mauve, closest to 77A. Spur to 2 cm, slightly hairy. Second year: 50% flowering 6/6/2008.

*Beautiful light mauve-pink flower colour. Excellent uniformity, bloom architecture, quality and colour. Very mildew resistant.*

H4 = plants hardy throughout the British Isles

Photographic records of the AGM winners were made and are kept at Wisley.

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**2008 Delphinium Trial**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Plant Name</b>	<b>Raiser</b>	<b>Sender</b>
1	'White Swan'	Thompson & Morgan	Thompson & Morgan
2	'Magic Fountains Bright Eye' (Magic Fountains)	Bodger Seeds	Johnson Seeds
3	'Magic Fountains The Blues' (Magic Fountains)	Bodger Seeds	Johnson Seeds
4	'Clear Springs White' (Clear Springs Series)	Pan American	Ball Colegrave
5	'Clear Springs Mid Blue' (Clear Springs Series)	Pan American	Ball Colegrave
6	'Clear Springs Lavender' (Clear Springs Series)	Pan American	Ball Colegrave
7	'Clear Springs Rose Pink' (Clear Springs Series)	Pan American	Ball Colegrave
8	'Guardian White' (Guardian Series)	Pan American	Ball Colegrave
9	'Guardian Blue' (Guardian Series)	Pan American	Ball Colegrave
10	'Guardian Lavender' (Guardian Series)	Pan American	Ball Colegrave
11	'Excalibur White' (Excalibur Series)	S&G Flowers	S&G Flowers
12	'Light blue with White Bee' (Excalibur Series)	S&G Flowers	S&G Flowers
13	'Dark Blue with White Bee' (Excalibur Series)	S&G Flowers	S&G Flowers
14	'Dark Blue with Black Bee' (Excalibur Series)	S&G Flowers	S&G Flowers
15	'Lilac Rose with White Bee' (Excalibur Series)	S&G Flowers	S&G Flowers
16	'Aurora White' (Aurora Series)	Takii Europe	Takii Europe
17	'Aurora Light Blue' (Aurora Series)	Takii Europe	Takii Europe
18	'Aurora Blue' (Aurora Series)	Takii Europe	Takii Europe
19	'Aurora Light Purple' (Aurora Series)	Takii Europe	Takii Europe
20	'Aurora Deep Purple' (Aurora Series)	Takii Europe	Takii Europe
21	'Aurora Lavender' (Aurora Series)	Takii Europe	Takii Europe
22	'Petticoat Thrills'	Mr M Woodfield	Mr M Woodfield
23	'Green Twist' (New Millennium Series)	Mr T Dowdeswell	Jelitto Perennial Seeds
24	'Double Innocence' (New Millennium Series)	Mr T Dowdeswell	Jelitto Perennial Seeds
25	'Sunny Skies' (New Millennium Series)	Mr T Dowdeswell	Jelitto Perennial Seeds
26	'Blue Lace' (New Millennium Series)	Mr T Dowdeswell	Jelitto Perennial Seeds
27	'Royal Aspirations' (New Millennium Series)	Mr T Dowdeswell	Jelitto Perennial Seeds
28	'Morning Lights' (New Millennium Series)	Mr T Dowdeswell	Jelitto Perennial Seeds
29	'Pagan Purples' (New Millennium Series)	Mr T Dowdeswell	Jelitto Perennial Seeds

No.	Plant Name	Raiser	Sender
30	'Purple Passion' (New Millennium Series)	Mr T Dowdeswell	Jelitto Perennial Seeds
31	'Misty Mauves' (New Millennium Series)	Mr T Dowdeswell	Jelitto Perennial Seeds
32	'Sweethearts' (New Millennium Series)	Mr T Dowdeswell	Jelitto Perennial Seeds
33	'Blushing Brides' (New Millennium Series)	Mr T Dowdeswell	Jelitto Perennial Seeds
34	'Dusky Maidens' (New Millennium Series)	Mr T Dowdeswell	Jelitto Perennial Seeds
35	'Pink Punch' (New Millennium Series)	Mr T Dowdeswell	Jelitto Perennial Seeds
36	'Double Stars' (New Millennium Series)	Mr T Dowdeswell	Jelitto Perennial Seeds
37	'Centurion White' (Centurion Series)	Mr K Sahin	K Sahin, Zaden BV
38	'Centurion Sky Blue' (Centurion Series)	Mr K Sahin	K Sahin, Zaden BV
39	'Centurion Gentian Blue' (Centurion Series)	Mr K Sahin	K Sahin, Zaden BV
40	'Centurion Royal Purple' (Centurion Series)	Mr K Sahin	K Sahin, Zaden BV
41	'Centurion Lavender' (Centurion Series)	Mr K Sahin	K Sahin, Zaden BV
42	'Centurion Pink' (Centurion Series)	Mr K Sahin	K Sahin, Zaden BV
43	'Centurion Rose' (Centurion Series)	Mr K Sahin	K Sahin, Zaden BV
44	'Phantom'	Mr K Sahin	Thompson & Morgan
45	'Rosy Future' (New Century Hybrids)	Mr K Sahin	Mr Fothergills
46	'Tall Black Knight'		Thompson & Morgan

### **Senders to Trial**

Ball Colegrave Ltd, Milton Road, West Adderbury, Banbury, Oxfordshire OX17 3EY

Jelitto Staudensamen GmbH, Postfach 1264, 29685 Schwarmstedt, Germany

Johnsons Seeds, Gazeley Road, Kentford, Newmarket, Suffolk CB8 7QB

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

K. Sahin, Zaden B.V., Hoofdweg 19, 1424 PC De Kwakel, The Netherlands

S & G Flowers, 17 Summerwood Lane, Halsall, Lancashire L39 8TH

Takii Europe BV, Hoofdweg 19, 1424 PC De Kwakel, The Netherlands

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

C/o The Trials Office: - Mr M Woodfield

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

E-mail: [trials@rhs.org.uk](mailto:trials@rhs.org.uk)

**More information about RHS Trials and other Trials reports can  
be found on the RHS Website at [www.rhs.org.uk/trials](http://www.rhs.org.uk/trials)**