

THE ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Final Report - Trial of Tender/Container *Lavandula* 1997-1999

This report concerns itself with tender and half-hardy lavenders assessed as container plants; this assessment was an off-shoot of the trial of *Lavandula*, originally planted May 1996 and which included many hardy types.

It should be noted that several of the entries referred to in this report, especially *L. stoechas* cultivars are still undergoing assessment in the open ground.

Objectives: To assess hardiness; judge for garden worthiness -Award of Garden Merit (AGM); determine correct nomenclature and produce a permanent record through herbarium specimens, photographs and written descriptions to be held in the RHS Herbarium at Wisley.

Criteria: The Woody Trials Subcommittee assessed entries in the trial for the Award of Garden Merit giving consideration to floriferousness, length of flowering, foliage and scent

Records: Flowering dates; habit; hardiness

Entries: There were 81 entries in the full trial submitted by National Collection holders, specialist nurseries, general nurserymen, individuals and the Botany Department of Reading University. Of these, 32 entries (including *L. stoechas* forms, subspecies and cultivars) were considered tender or half-hardy. Many of these tender entries were wild collected species from Dr Tim Upson, formerly of Reading University.

These lavenders demonstrated the different habits, foliage and flower type shown by this group of plants which lend themselves well to being grown as container or conservatory plants. Some have long been grown in cultivation but others have only recently been collected in North Africa and the Canaries or are recent introductions, some from New Zealand.

Cultivation: Planted 1996 in open field situation; tender entries propagated and over-wintered. Replanted 1997 in open field; propagated and over-wintered. Tender entries planted in raised beds by glass house complex in 1998. March 1999 new growth trimmed back by half. Lifted into 10 litre pots in September 1998 and over-wintered under glass. Assessed spring/summer 1999 for the last time as tender container plants. Spring 1999, plants given liquid foliar feed once a fortnight and Bio control against thrips. Cut back 24 June 1999 after first flower flush for most, but many failed to produce sufficient bloom for later assessment.

Judging The Floral Trials Subcommittee reviewed the tender plants in the trial on 25.7.1996, 25.3.97, 30.10.97, 12.3.98, 21.8.98, 11.9.98, 5.3.99, 4.5.99, 20.5.99

Findings:

Some entries known to be half hardy did not survive in open ground because of the winter conditions on this cold, open site at Deers Farm, with the exception of *L. stoechas* subsp. *carriensis* (No.46), one clone of *L. stoechas* subsp. *luisieri* (No.48), *L. stoechas* 'Willow Vale'

(No.50), *L. stoechas* subsp. *pedunculata* 'James Compton' (No.51) and *L.* 'Saint Brelade' (No.54). Both 'Helmsdale' (No.53) and 'Marshwood' (No.52) lost one plant as did *L. x allardii* Clone B (No.75).

The *L. stoechas* types flowered earlier than other species each year, commencing in May and continuing for a long time. Some lavenders in the trial set seed quite readily.

Young plants propagated and over-wintered with glasshouse protection were too small to be properly assessed as container/patio plants which is where their main value would lie for the general gardener. Therefore, these plants were over-wintered for a second time for consideration as two-year old plants in 10 litre pots.

ENTRIES, SENDERS AND AWARDS:

Alphabetical List of Entries (and senders) with comments:

No.	Name (Sender)	Awards	Entered as (if different) Committee & Botanist comments
74.	<i>L. canariensis</i> (Dowderry Nursery)		3 planted '96; in open ground all died over winter; cuttings failed; 3 fresh stock planted 26.6.97. Nice contrast of foliage with flower.
62.	<i>L. dentata</i> 'Goodwin Creek Grey' (Mrs D Miller)		3 planted '96; 2 over wintered. Has the long hairs of <i>L. lanata</i> . Very good grey foliage, long flower but late and sparse. Insufficient flowers for award.
58.	<i>L. dentata</i> 'Royal Crown' (University of Reading)	AGM (H2-3) 1999	Entered as <i>L. dentata</i> var. <i>dentata</i> 'Royal Crown' 1 only planted '96, died in open situation. AGM (H2-H3) (6-0) 11 September 1998
55.	<i>L. dentata</i> var. <i>candicans</i> (University of Reading)		Reading No. 006.93 proposed name 'Agadir'. 3 planted '96; all died over winter. Found N of Agadir in Morocco. Keeps white pubescence in cultivation. Would make very good top plants in bedding.
60.	<i>L. dentata</i> var. <i>candicans</i> (The Scented Garden)		3 planted '96; all died over winter; Entered as <i>L. dentata</i> 'Silver Form' ?
57.	<i>L. dentata</i> var. <i>dentata</i> (University of Reading)		3 planted '96; all died over winter;
59.	<i>L. dentata</i> var. <i>dentata</i> (Bowers Hill Nursery)		3 planted '96; all died over winter; Entered as <i>L. dentata</i> .
53.	<i>L.</i> 'Helmsdale' (Blooms of Bressingham)		See comments for 'Marshwood'. Flower colour looks grubby. Slightly better record than 'Marshwood' for over wintering and die-back.
61.	<i>L. latifolia</i> (Arne Herbs)		1 only planted '96; survived over winter. Entered as <i>L. dentata</i> 'Corbieres'
73.	<i>L. latifolia</i> (Jersey Lavender)		3 planted '96; 1 died summer; 1 lifted over winter; in open ground 1 died over winter;
52.	<i>L.</i> 'Marshwood' (Blooms of Bressingham)		1 died over winter; 2 survived over winter. <i>L. stoechas</i> x <i>viridis</i> hybrid. Liked better than 'Helmsdale' as young plants. Marshwood and Helmsdale outstanding in NZ but disappointing in UK.*
71.	<i>L. multifida</i> (University of Reading)		3 planted '96; in open ground all died over winter; Hairy, hispid stems; best as annual. Grow close together; seed raised. Interesting but rather open in habit, small flower heads, too straggly for patio plants.

No.	Name (Sender)	Awards	Entered as (if different) Committee & Botanist comments
72.	<i>L. multifida</i> (The Scented Garden)		3 planted '96; in open ground all died over winter. Too straggly for patio plants.
69.	<i>L. pinnata</i> (Jersey Lavender)		3 planted '96; In open ground all died over winter; From Canary Isles, Madeira, Lanzarote, Las Palmas. Low, good pubescent foliage. Plantsman's plant. Difficult to over winter. Not as striking as No.68, pale lilac, gorgeous foliage, pity it is not more floriferous.
54.	<i>L. 'Saint Brelade'</i> (Jersey Lavender)		Entered as <i>L. viridis</i> x <i>stoechas pedunculata</i> (JL 102). 2 planted '96; both survived over winter in open ground. Parentage unsure.
85.	<i>L. stoechas</i> AGM(H3)1993 (J Bond)		Good dark coloured clone, should it have a cultivar name as many inferior clones.
82.	<i>L. stoechas</i> 'Alba' (Country Garden)		Possibly <i>L. stoechas</i> forma <i>leucantha</i>
44.	<i>L. stoechas</i> subsp. <i>atlantica</i> (University of Reading)		Big, bold, pale flowers; some might regard the colour as insipid or muddy, others say it's smoky lavender and gently contrasts to darker kinds. Nice compact habit. Sterile.
46.	<i>L. stoechas</i> subsp. <i>cariensis</i> (University of Reading)		Sterile. Good ears but floppy open habit
48.	<i>L. stoechas</i> subsp. <i>luisieri</i> (University of Reading)		Both survived over winter. Reading number: 016.93 Provisionally correct; v. upright habit Tall and airy.
49.	<i>L. stoechas</i> subsp. <i>luisieri</i> (University of Reading)		All died over winter in open ground. Reading number: 253.94. Sterile
83.	<i>L. stoechas</i> subsp. <i>pedunculata</i> AGM(H3)1993 (Country Garden)	Reconfirm AGM but with a hardiness rating(H3-4)	1993AGM Reconfirmed but with hardiness rating (H3-4). As Nos.51 & 86. Upright, narrow peduncles & leaves, long comas; looks like 'prayer flags'.
86.	<i>L. stoechas</i> subsp. <i>pedunculata</i> AGM(H3)1993 (J Bond)	Reconfirm AGM but with a hardiness rating (H3-4)	1993AGM Reconfirmed but with hardiness rating (H3-4). Good clone (ex Kew - B Halliwell). Nice medium range in colour, bracts rather skimpy. As Nos.83 & 51
51.	<i>L. stoechas</i> subsp. <i>pedunculata</i> 'James Compton' (Monksilver Nursery)		All survived over winter in open ground. Hardy, always on chalky soil. Upright, narrow peduncles & leaves. Long comas; looks like 'prayer flags' Bushy habit, strong growing, small heads, skimpy bracts but nice shade. In the trial this clone was considered the same as Nos.83 and 86 <i>L. stoechas</i> subsp. <i>pedunculata</i>
45.	<i>L. stoechas</i> subsp. <i>sampaiana</i> (University of Reading)		From Portugal & S. Spain. All died over winter in open ground. Longer peduncles & whorls. Provisionally correct.
50.	<i>L. stoechas</i> 'Willow Vale' (Green Farm Plants)	AGM (H3-4) 1999	Well liked, brilliant, very long flowers. Excellent, healthy good habit, large bracts, lovely shade. Consistently good.
47.	<i>L. viridis</i> (University of Reading)		Marginally hardy.
76.	<i>L. x allardii</i> 'African Pride' (Downderry Nursery)		2 only planted '96; in open ground both died over winter; Late flowers. Forms 9ft high hedges in S. Africa. Hardiness rating H2.
77.	<i>L. x allardii</i> 'African Pride' (J A Head)		3 planted '96; in open ground all died over winter; other comments as above.
75.	<i>L. x allardii</i> Clone B (Downderry Nursery)		3 planted '96; in open ground all died over winter; Flowers late. Hardiness rating H2.

No.	Name (Sender)	Awards	Entered as (if different) Committee & Botanist comments
68.	<i>L. x christiana</i> (The Scented Garden)		1 only planted '96; died over winter; <i>L. pinnata</i> x <i>canariensis</i> (Morocco) = <i>L. x christiana</i> . Plantsman's plant (preferred to No.69) darker colour interesting twist to candelabra type airy flower heads. Architectural, patio plant. Needs deadheading to ensure new flowers. Lovely filigree foliage, compact habit, deep rich blue flower heads though rather small on tall slender (too slender) peduncles. Well liked.

* *L. stoechas* 'Marshwood' in open ground had a straggly habit. Unlikely to be AGM material but habit liked by many. Liked better than *L. stoechas* 'Helmsdale' as young plants. However, 'Helmsdale' had a slightly better record than 'Marshwood' for over-wintering and dieback.

Summary of entries recommended for award:

The number under which the entry was grown is given in brackets after the description.

L. stoechas 'Willow Vale' AGM (H3-4) 20 May 1999

Sent by: Green Farm Plants, Bury Court, Bentley, Farnham, Surrey, GU10 5LZ. Votes 6-0 [Trial No.50]

Erect, vigorous, upright habit to 80cm x 50cm spread (including flower stems). Foliage linear-oblong large entire, lightly hairy, greyish yellow green when young (148C), yellowish green with age (147B). Flower stems erect, sturdy, straight, to 80cm, inflorescence extend 10-15cm clear of foliage, terminating in a compact, slightly squared inflorescence, size 5.5-7cm long x 1.5cm diameter, including sterile bracts (comas); corollas and fertile bracts arranged in a dense whorl length 3-3.5cm x 1.5cm diameter topped with 3-4 large (plus some very small) crinkly, irregularly lightly spiralled and flaring sterile coma bracts 2.5-3.5cm long x 1.5cm wide. Coma colours reddish purples (77A/78A) fading to strong purple (77B). Corollas dark violet. Fertile bracts when young light brownish grey tinged greyed red (201A/184B), becoming yellowish green tinged purple pink with age (147C). In favourable conditions will flower most of the year with short intermittent breaks; in open ground main flowering commences mid May with a second main flush July-August.

Soft grey green foliage with good coloured reddish purple bracts, attractive variance in colour on same plant. Dark calyces fading to light beige green with age. Flowers mixed in the foliage giving a tumbled effect. Form large plants in open ground which can flop open and become straggly.

L. dentata 'Royal Crown' AGM (H2-3) 20 May 1999

Sent by Dr T Upson whilst working at the School of Plant Sciences, Dept of Botany, The University of Reading, ,Whiteknights Park, P O Box 221, Reading, RG6 6AS. He is now Superintendent of Cambridge Botanic Gardens. Votes 6-0 [Trial No.58]

Erect, upright habit 50cm high x 40-50cm wide, to 80cm high including flowers. Foliage medium linear/oblong with very crenate margins, lightly hairy above (more underside). Most flowers held above foliage on straight, sturdy, erect flower stems with no leaves 30-40cm long. Inflorescence compact, dense, narrow, unbranching size 5cm long x 1.5-2cm diameter; tiny single corollas 0.4-0.5cm long, light violet with a white throat (91A/B). Fertile lower bracts 1cm long x 0.9cm wide, rhombic, tomentose, green tinged grey purple. Sterile upper bract 1.2cm long x 1cm wide, small, diamond shaped papery, slightly crinkly, mixed violet tones (90A-91A/B). Flowering May-September, peaking in June and August. Not frost hardy so requires shelter over winter.

The University of Reading is not a retail outlet but this cultivar is available from nurseries listed in the RHS publication, The Plant Finder

Upright in habit with tall unbranched flower spikes held elegantly clear of the deeply toothed lacy greeny-grey foliage. The fertile bracts are green, heavily tinged with purple and the diamond shaped or ovate sterile bracts and corollas are a delightful shade of lavender-blue.

Confirmation of 1993 AGM

***L. pedunculata* subsp. *pedunculata* reconfirmed the 1993 AGM but with hardiness rating (H3-4) 20 May 1999**

Sent by Country Garden Plant Sales (Wholesale) 1 Rempstone Yard, Rempstone, Corfe Castle, Dorset BH20 5JQ and the late Mr J Bond, c/o The Trials Office, RHS Wisley Award 20.5.99 Votes 6-0 [Trial Nos.83, 86]

Compact, erect, upright habit 40-50cm x 40cm spread, to 60cm high including flowers. Foliage linear-oblong medium-small entire, lightly hairy, greyish yellow green (148C), older leaves yellowish green (146B). Most flowers held above foliage, flower stems erect, straight, wiry 20-25cm, terminating in a dense, ovoid inflorescence, size 5.5-7cm long x 1.2-1.4cm diameter, including sterile bracts (comas); corollas and fertile bracts arranged in a dense whorl topped with 3-5 long narrow wavy sterile coma bracts 5cm long x 0.7cm wide. Coma vivid reddish purple veins & background colour (78A) with violet tips & edges (87A). Corollas almost black, darker than violet (86A), 0.8cm long. Fertile bracts greyed purplish red (186A/182A). In favourable conditions will flower most of the year with short intermittent breaks; in open ground main flowering commences late April to early July.

Fine, tight grey green foliage topped with long vivid pinky purple bracts, which wave attractively in the wind like prayer flags. Most flowers held clear of the foliage. Form large plants in open ground which can flop open becoming straggly and woody with age.

(Neither of these sources have retail outlets but this cultivar is available from nurseries listed in the RHS publication, The Plant Finder

The RHS hardiness ratings are defined as:

- H1 Plants requiring heated glass
- H2 Plants requiring unheated glass
- H3 Plants hardy outside in some regions or particular situations, or which whilst usually grown outside in summer need frost-free protection in winter (eg dahlias)
- H4 Plants hardy throughout the British Isles

Names and Addresses of Senders of Plants to the Trial:

Aline Fairweather, Hill Top Nursery, Beaulieu, Hants, SO4 7YR
 Arne Herbs, Limeburn Nurseries, Chew Magna, Bristol, BS18 8QW
 Blooms of Bressingham, Bressingham, Diss, Norfolk, IP22 2AB
 Bowers Hill Nursery, Willersey Road, Badsey, Evesham, Worcestershire, WR11 5HG
 Carlile's Hardy Plants (no longer trading)
 Cheshire Herbs, Fourfields, Forest Road, Little Budworth, Cheshire, CW6 9ES
 Country Garden Sales, Rempstone Yard, Rempstone, CORFE CASTLE, Dorset, BH20 5JQ
 Darthuizer Boomkwekerijen bv, Postbus 2, 3956 ZR Leersham, Holland
 Donderry Nursery, Pillar Box Lane, Hadlow, Nr Tonbridge, Kent, TN11 9SS
 Four Seasons, Forncett St Mary, Norwich, NR16 1JT
 Green Farm Plants, Bury Court, Bently, Farnham, Surrey, GU10 5LZ
 J A Head, c/o The Royal Horticultural Society (Trial Office)
 Jersey Lavender Ltd, Rue du Pont Marquet, St Brelade, Jersey, Channel Islands
 Liss Forest Nursery Ltd, Petersfield Road, Greatham, LISS, Hampshire, GU33 6HA
 Monksilver Nursery, Oakington Road, Cottenham, Cambridge, CB4 4TW
 Mr J Bond, c/o The Royal Horticultural Society (Trial Office)

Mrs D Miller c/o RHS Botany Department

Norfolk Lavender Ltd, Caley Mill, Heacham, Norfolk, PE31 7JE

Notcutts Nurseries, Woodbridge, Suffolk, IP12 4AF

The Royal Horticultural Society, The RHS's, Garden, Wisley, Woking, Surrey, GU23 6QB

The Scented Garden, Gardens Cottage, Littlebredy, Dorchester, Dorset, DT2 9HG

Yorkstock, The Nursery, Clifford Moor Road, Clifford, Weatherby, West Yorkshire, LS23 6LD

Dr T Upson, c/o School of Plant Sciences, Dept of Botany, The University of Reading,

Whiteknights Park, P O Box 221, Reading, RG6 6AS

This information is also available on our website at: www.rhs.org.uk
Trials Office, The Royal Horticultural Society, Wisley, Woking, Surrey, GU23 6QB
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