

Report of Trial of *Lobelia* (perennial) 1996 - 1997

- Objectives:** To assess and compare currently available species and cultivars of perennial *Lobelia* for garden worthiness and to recommend the Award of Garden Merit to those plants fulfilling the criteria.
- To determine correct nomenclature. To describe, collect herbarium specimens and photograph the plants which received the Award of Garden Merit.
- Entries:** Twenty nine entries were submitted by individuals, Gardens and nurserymen.
- Cultivation:** Three plants of each entry were planted on 7 June 1996 in the Portsmouth Field. The site had been prepared by digging, incorporating rotted farmyard manure. A general fertiliser was applied at 112g/sqm. All plants were cut back in November 1996. Some plants were removed due to virus. Plants were staked as necessary.
- Judging:** Floral Trials Subcommittee assessed and judged the trial over two years (3 visits in 1996 and 5 visits in 1997)
- Criteria:** habit
impact
colour and size of flower
floriferousness
number of flowering stems per plant
foliage colour
- Records:** Flowering period.
- Results:** Two cultivars received the Award of Garden Merit.

Entries, Senders and Awards

Award	No.	Name	Sender
	1.	<i>siphilitica</i> 'Alba'	RHS Wisley
	2.	<i>siphilitica</i>	RHS Wisley
	3.	'Pink Flamingo'	RHS Wisley
	4.	'Butterfly Rose'	Fisher
AGM (H4) 1997	5.	'Kimbridge Beet'	Higher End
AGM (H3) 1993 not confirmed	6.	'Queen Victoria'	RHS Wisley
	7.	<i>cardinalis</i>	RHS Wisley
	8.	<i>fulgens</i> 'Illumination'	RHS Wisley
	9.	<i>x gerardii</i> 'Blauzauber'	RHS Wisley
	10.	<i>x gerardii</i>	RHS Wisley
	11.	<i>x gerardii</i> 'Vedrariensis'	RHS Wisley
	12.	'Butterfly Blue'	RHS Wisley
	13.	'Eulalia Berridge'	Four Seasons
AGM (H4) 1997	14.	'Pink Elephant'	Four Seasons
	15.	'Spark'	Cotswold

Award	No.	Name	Sender
	16.	<i>cardinalis</i> 'Rose Beacon'	Cotswold
	17.	'Ruby Slippers'	Cotswold
	18.	<i>cardinalis</i> 'Alba'	Cotswold
	19.	'Purple Towers'	Cotswold
	20.	PS 9/1	Cotswold
	21.	Hadspen Hybrid	Schwerdt
	22.	<i>sessilifolia</i>	Cotswold
	23.	<i>cardinalis multiflora</i>	Cotswold
	24.	'Russian Princess'	RHS Rosemoor
	25.	'Will Scarlet'	RHS Rosemoor
	26.	'Dark Crusader'	RHS Rosemoor
AGM (H4) 1997	27.	'Pink Elephant'	RHS Rosemoor
	28.	'Cherry Ripe'	RHS Rosemoor
	29.	'Bees' Flame'	RHS Rosemoor
	30.	<i>laxiflora</i> var. <i>angustifolia</i>	Lowater

Summary of entries recommended for Award:

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

'Kimbridge Beet' AGM (H4) 1997 (Raised by J McMaster; introduced by D J Case; sent by Higher End Nursery, Hale, Fordingbridge, Hampshire, no longer trading). Available from McPenny's Nursery, 154 Burley Road, Bransgore, Christchurch, Dorset BH23 8DB **in 2000**.

Plant erect to 110cm high, 30cm spread. Leaves sessile, lanceolate, margin serrate, 18cm long to 3cm wide, Greyed-Purple Gp. 187A with light green midrib. Flower 3.5cm long, 2.5cm wide, Red-Purple Gp. 61B, lower lip 3-lobed 3cm long, upper two lobes strongly reflexed, stamens Greyed-Green Gp. 188A. Calyx 1.7cm long, colour as leaves. Flowering from 8 August. [5]

'Pink Elephant' AGM (H4) 1997 (Sent by Four Seasons, Fornsett St Mary, Norwich NR16 1JT; and The Royal Horticultural Society's Garden, Rosemoor, Great Torrington, Devon EX38 8PH). Widely available.

Plant erect to 160cm high, 30-40cm spread. Leaves sessile, ovate to lanceolate, margin undulate with fine red teeth, 16cm long, 4-4.5cm wide, green. Flower 3cm long, 2.5-3cm wide, Red-Purple Gp. 57A, lower lip 3-lobed 1.8cm long, 0.9cm wide, upper two lobes erect 1.5cm long, 0.4cm wide. Calyx 2.5cm long, green tinged maroon, hairy. Flowering from 2 August. [14, 27]

H4 = plants hardy outside throughout the British Isles

Names and Addresses of Senders of Plants to the Trial

Bob Brown
Cotswold Garden Flowers
1 Waterside
Evesham
Worcs
WR11 6BS

D J Case
Higher End Nursery
(no longer trading)

Kaytie Fisher Nursery
South End Cottage
Long Reach
Ockham
Surrey
GU23 6PF

Lowater Nrs
Lower Gubbles
Hook Lane
Warsash
Hants
SO3 9HH

J Metcalf
Four Seasons
Fornsett St Mary
Norwich
NR16 1JT

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

Miss P Schwerdt
(Cheltenham)

The Royal Horticultural Society's Garden
Rosemoor
Great Torrington
Devon
EX38 8PH