

Potato: first-early; salad-use; for containers. Trials Report 2013



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RHS Trial of Potato; early, salad, suitable for containers

Introduction:

There were 21 entries in the Trial submitted by various seed companies in the UK. The objectives of the trial were to assess a range of cultivars; to recommend the Award of Garden Merit [AGM] 🏆 to outstanding cultivars for garden use and to demonstrate the cultivation of this crop in containers.

Judging and Recommendation for the Award of Garden Merit:

The over-arching criteria for recommendation of plants for the RHS Award of Garden Merit (AGM) are:

- Excellent for ordinary use in appropriate conditions
- Available
- Of good constitution
- Essentially stable in form and colour
- Reasonably resistant to pests and disease

This trial was assessed for the Award of Garden Merit (AGM) 🏆 by the Vegetable Trials Assessment Forum on 26 June and 10 July 2013 using the following criteria:

appearance: yield: resistance to pest and disease: earliness: uniformity: appearance, texture and taste when cooked

Cultivation:

During the week-commencing 11 February 2013 the tubers were placed in trays for chitting in the propagation glasshouse. Chitted tubers were planted-up during the first week of April; two bags per entry. Each container was planted with 5 seed potatoes in 20 litres of peat free compost with 125 grams of slow-release fertiliser added. On 14 June the planters were mounded with an additional compost and slow-release fertiliser mix. Drip line irrigation was used throughout. One bag of each entry was harvested, recorded and assessed on 26 June, whilst the second bag was similarly harvested and recorded on 10 July. The Forum also assessed entries for appearance, taste and texture after cooking.

The trial was duplicated at RHS Hyde Hall, although late entry Ambassador was not included. Here the trial was recorded and assessed on 11 July.

Harvest Records:

The following table summarises harvest records at Wisley on 10 July 2013, per single planted bag of 5 tubers.

<u>Cultivar</u>	<u>Harvest (kg)</u>	<u>Tuber Count</u>	<u>Cultivar</u>	<u>Harvest (kg)</u>	<u>Tuber Count</u>
Accent	2.1	26	Maris Bard	2.15	52
Accord	2.28	32	Maris Peer	2.34	35
Belana	2.26	66	Pentland Javelin	1.95	51
Casablanca	2.34	53	Piccolo Star	2.16	56
Charlotte	1.9	48	Rocket	2.45	43
Elisabeth	1.85	45	Sharpes Express	2.45	66
Foremost	2.3	44	Swift	2.14	43
Golden Nugget	2.1	80	Vales Emerald	2.35	64
International Kidney	1.9	< 25	Trixie	2.5	85
Jazzy	2.25	90	Ambassador*	1.54	42
Lady Christl	2.54	70			

*late addition to the trial.

The Panel recommended the Society's AWARD OF GARDEN MERIT (H2) to:

'Casablanca' AGM (H2) 2013. [Trial No 4]

Sent by and available from Thompson & Morgan, Poplar Lane, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP8 3BU www.thompson-morgan.com

Yield from 5 tubers 2.34kg, Tuber count 53. Clean crop, white flesh, uniform size.

Available from seed catalogues in the UK

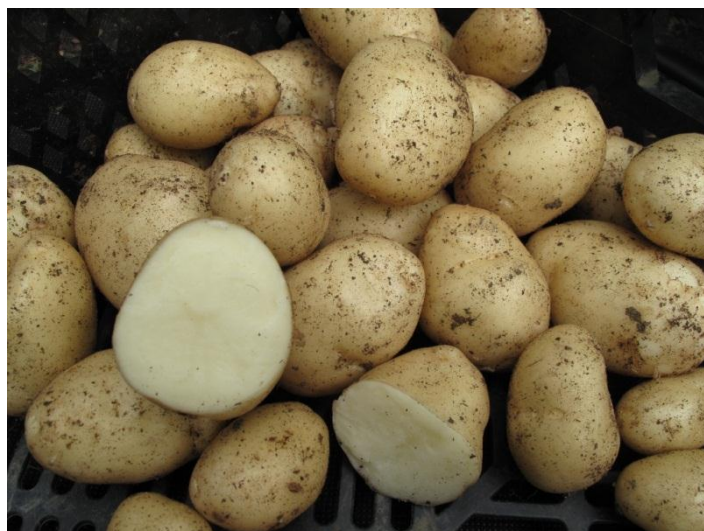


'Maris Bard' AGM (H2) 2013. [Trial No 12].

Sent by and available from Thompson & Morgan, Poplar Lane, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP8 3BU www.thompson-morgan.com

Yield 2.15kg, Tuber count 52. White flesh, thin skin, good flavour and texture, fairly uniform crop.

Available from seed catalogues in the UK



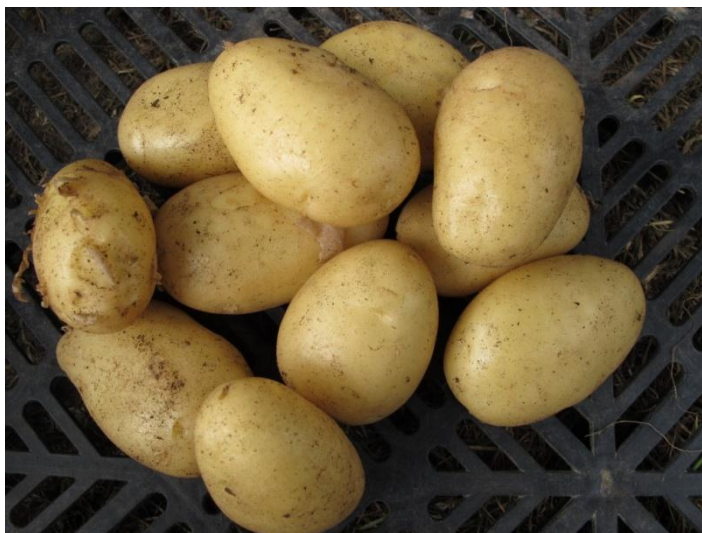
'Sharpes Express' AGM (H2) 2013. [Trial No 17].

Sent by and available from Marshalls Seeds, Alconbury Hill, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, PE28 4HY

<http://www.marshalls-seeds.co.uk>

Yield 2.45kg, Tuber count 66. Heritage variety, white skin, uniform crop size. Slightly waxy, good flavour.

Available from seed catalogues in the UK



The following entries have been recommended for the AGM, SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY.

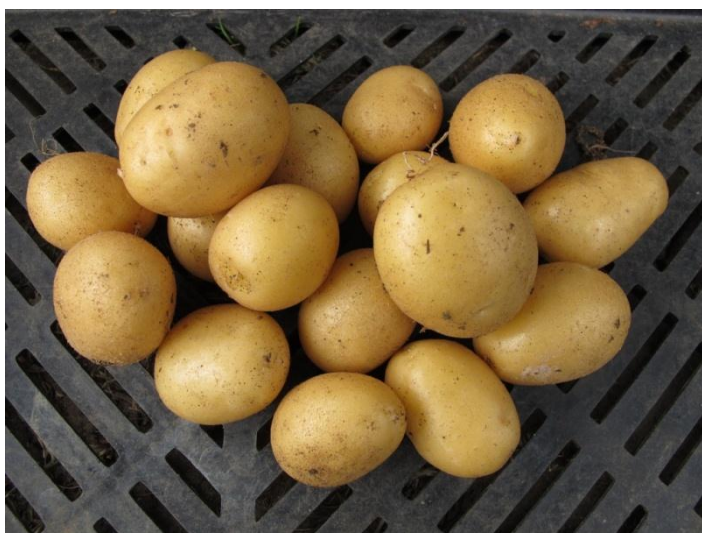
'Golden Nugget' AGM (H2) 2013. [Trial No 8].

Sent by Thompson & Morgan, Poplar Lane, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP8 3BU

www.thompson-morgan.com

Yield 2.1kg, Tuber count 80. Small tubers, firm, waxy texture, superb taste, no disintegration on cooking.

Not yet available.



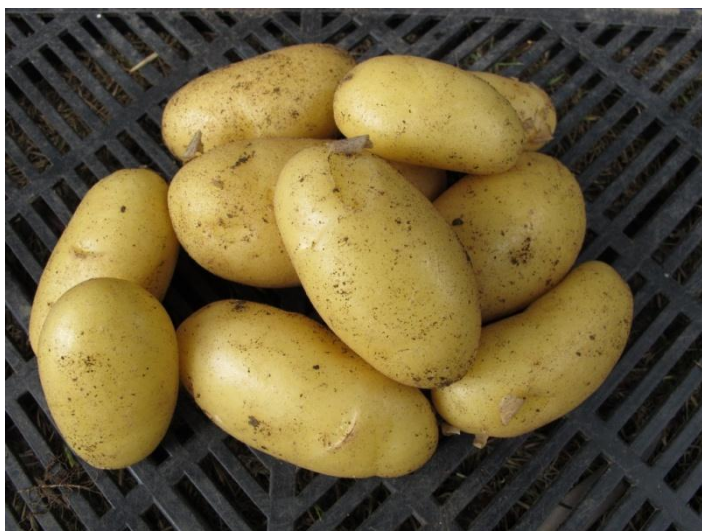
'Jazzy' AGM (H2) 2013. [Trial No 10].

Sent by Thompson & Morgan, Poplar Lane, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP8 3BU

www.thompson-morgan.com

Yield 2.25kg, Tuber count 90. Attractive, oval, uniform crop. Yellow- skin and flesh, waxy tubers with sweet taste.

Not yet available. Will be offered by Thompson & Morgan in their 2014/15 range.



The Forum reconfirmed the Society's AWARD OF GARDEN MERIT (H2) to:

'Charlotte' AGM (H2) 1998. [Trial No 5]. Sent by and available from Thompson & Morgan, Poplar Lane, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP8 3BU www.thompson-morgan.com

Yield 1.9kg, Tuber count 48. Uniform tubers, midsize, yellow skin, waxy texture. A good show variety.

Available from seed catalogues in the UK



'Lady Christl' AGM (H2) 1998. [Trial No 11]. Sent by and available from Thompson & Morgan, Poplar Lane, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP8 3BU www.thompson-morgan.com

Yield 2.54kg, Tuber count 70. Very early, uniform, yellow skin and flesh. No disintegration when cooked, good texture and taste.

Available from seed catalogues in the UK



'Vales Emerald' AGM (H2) 2007. [Trial No 19]. Sent by and available from Thompson & Morgan, Poplar Lane, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP8 3BU www.thompson-morgan.com

Yield 2.35kg, Tuber count 64. Even crop, good size for salad, skins nicely. Buttery yellow flesh, good flavour, mid waxy to waxy, quite firm, holds texture well on cooking.

Available from seed catalogues in the UK



Entries, Senders and Awards

AGM = RHS Award of Garden Merit

H2 = Tolerant of low temperatures, but not surviving being frozen. Except in frost-free inner-city areas or coastal extremities requires glasshouse conditions. Can be grown outside once risk of frost is over.

Acknowledgements:

Cover photo courtesy of Tim Sandell, RHS.

Vegetable Trials Forum Members:

J Barker, C Randel, Dr P Dawson, M Day, J England, Dr M Fletcher, I Gillott, T Hewitt, D I Jeffery, S Mercer, C Moncrieff, B Smith, S Wain, R White.

Curatorial Team Member: Lisa Waters

Index of Plants in the Trial

Trial Entry	Name	AGM	Sender
1	Accent	1998	Thompson & Morgan
2	Accord		Thompson & Morgan
3	Belana		Thompson & Morgan
4	Casablanca		Thompson & Morgan
5	Charlotte	1998	Thompson & Morgan
6	Elisabeth		Thompson & Morgan
7	Foremost	1998	Thompson & Morgan
8	Golden Nugget		Thompson & Morgan
9	International Kidney		Thompson & Morgan
10	Jazzy		Thompson & Morgan
11	Lady Christl	1998	Thompson & Morgan
12	Maris Bard		Thompson & Morgan
13	Maris Peer		Thompson & Morgan
14	Pentland Javelin		Thompson & Morgan
15	Piccolo Star		Thompson & Morgan
16	Rocket		Unwins

Trial Entry	Name	AGM	Sender
17	Sharpes Express		Marshalls Seeds
18	Swift		Unwins
19	Vales Emerald	2007	Thompson & Morgan
20	Trixie		Thompson & Morgan
21	Ambassador		Thompson & Morgan

Sender contact details:

- **Thompson & Morgan:** 0844 248 5383; www.thompson-morgan.com
- **Marshalls Seeds:** 0844 557 6700; www.marshalls-seeds.co.uk
- **Unwins:** 0844 573 8400; www.unwins.co.uk

Source: Horticultural Trials and Relations,
RHS Garden Wisley, Woking, Surrey GU23 6QB
Tel: 01483 224234 & Email: 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