



Celeriac

Final Trials Report

2011



Trials Office
The Royal Horticultural Society Garden, Wisley, Woking, Surrey, GU23 6QB

RHS Trial of Celeriac

Introduction to Celeriac

Celeriac is a root crop very closely related to celery. The crop is actually the stem which swells during growth so that it is half in the ground and half on the surface. Celeriac is a native crop of Europe and Asia and reaches a diameter of 12-15cm. Celeriac plants are generally more disease resistant than celery, but with a similar flavour and aroma.

Objectives

The objectives of the trial were:

- Assess a range of celeriac cultivars
- Recommend the Award of Garden Merit to outstanding cultivars for garden use
- Demonstrate the cultivation of this crop in the UK

Judging

The trial was assessed for the Award of Garden Merit by the Vegetable Trials Assessment Panel on 22 September 2011, using the following criteria:

Yield : appearance : taste : bulb colour : smoothness of skin : uniformity : size and shape of bulb : texture

Entries

There were 12 entries in the trial submitted by various seed companies in the UK and Europe.

Cultivation

The trial was held at West Dean Gardens in Sussex. The soil at West Dean is light and flinty over chalk and had been worked for some 200 years. The ground selected for the trial had been left bastard trenched with dairy manure over the winter of 2009-10, having been the site for soft fruit since 1994.

Seeds were sown in modules on 11th March 2011 over gentle heat and potted into 9cm pots on 14th April. All seeds had been pre-treated with a fungicide soak against *Septoria apricola*. Vitax Q4 at half the recommended rate was applied prior to planting on 9th May. Plants were well watered with Maxicrop after planting. Side leaves were removed during the period 20-24th June. Regular weeding and checks for celery leaf minor, celery leaf spot and slugs were carried out. The crop was watered during dry periods in May, but subsequently rainfall was sufficient.

Plants Receiving AGMs During Trial

The following are the plants thought to fulfil the Award of Garden Merit criteria during the trial and to be worthy of receiving the award. The criteria which a plant needs to fulfil in order to receive the award are:

- excellent for ordinary garden use
- available from nurseries
- reasonably resistant to pests and diseases
- of good constitution
- essentially stable in form and colour
- reasonably easy to grow

Hardiness ratings are as follows:

H3 – hardy outside in some regions; needs frost-free protection in winter

H4 – hardy throughout the British Isles

Plants Awarded AGM

'Rowena' AGM (H3) 2011

[Trial No.8] votes 8-0

"Attractive, uniform crop of white skinned, deep globes. Healthy, attractive foliage."

Sender: Elsoms Seeds



Reconfirmed AGMs

'Monarch' AGM (H3) 2011

[Trial No.5] votes 7-0

"Attractive white skinned, smooth, deep globes. Good interior. Healthy, attractive foliage."

Sender: Unwins Seeds Ltd





'Prinz' AGM (H3)2011

[Trial No.7] votes 8-0

"Compact plant. Healthy foliage. Deep globe, smooth, white skinned."

Sender: Shelly Seeds

AGM Subject to Availability

'Neon' AGM (H3)2011

[Trial No.6] votes 8-0

"Deep globe, slightly oval. Smooth, white skinned variety, attractive. Healthy mid-sized foliage.."

Sender: Pro-Veg Seeds Ltd



'Cisco' AGM (H3)2011

[Trial No.9] votes 8-0

"Vigorous plant producing deep, white skinned globes. Smooth skin, dense interior. Healthy foliage."

Sender: Rijk Zwaan De Lier



AGM Not Reconfirmed During the Trial

'Ibis'

[Trial No. 12]

Sender: Demeter Seeds

Trial Index and Senders Details

No.	Name	Sender
1	Apollo	Pro-Veg Seeds
2	Brilliant	DT Brown
3	Claire	Pro-Veg Seeds
4	Magnificent	Western Hybrid Seeds
5	Monarch	Unwins
6	Neon	Pro-Veg Seeds
7	Prinz	Shelley Seeds
8	Rowena	Elsoms Seeds
9	Cisko	Rijk Zwaan
10	President	Rijk Zwaan
11	Maxim	Pro-Veg Seeds
12	Ibis	Demeter Seeds

Sender Details

Demeter Seeds, Stormy Hall Farm, Botton Village, Danby, Whitby, North Yorkshire YO21 2NJ

D T Brown & Co, Bury Road, Kentford, Newmarket, Suffolk CB8 7PQ

Elsoms Seeds Ltd, Pinchbeck Road, Spalding, Lincs. PE11 1QG

Pro-Veg Seeds Ltd, 6 Shingay Lane, Sawston, Cambridge, CN2 4SS

Rijk Zwaan De Lier, Burgemeester Crezeelaan 40, 2678 KX De Lier, Netherlands

Shelley Seeds, 5 Speedwell Close, Huntington, Chester, CH3 6DX

Unwins Seeds Ltd, Elm House Nurseries, Alconbury Hill, Huntingdon, Cambs, PE28 4HY

Western Hybrid Seeds Inc, P O Box 1169, Hamilton City, CA 95951, USA

Source: Horticultural Trials and Relations, RHS Garden Wisley, Woking, Surrey GU23
6QB

E-mail: trials@rhs.org.uk

More information about RHS Trials and other colour illustrated reports can be found on
the RHS Website: <http://www.rhs.org.uk/trials>