

Hyacinth

Final Trials Report

2012



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

Introduction to Hyacinths

Hyacinths are bulbous perennials from rocky, limestone slopes and cliffs in West and Central Asia. They prefer well drained, moderately fertile soil and perform best in sun or part shade. Contact with bulbs may aggravate skin allergies. Hyacinths are cultivated for their flowers and produce loose, dense racemes of fragrant flowers in spring.

Objectives

The objectives of the trial were:

- To draw attention to the range of colour and form in hyacinths currently available in the UK and The Netherlands.
- To assess which should be recommended for the Award of Garden Merit

Judging

The entries were judged by the Hyacinth Forum on 20 March, 27 March and 3 April 2012 for the Award of Garden Merit (AGM), using a scoring system out of 50 points based on the following criteria:

- Category A: The visibility of flower above and amongst leaves. – max 10 points
- Category B: Form of the flower, number of florets, their regularity, colour and clarity of colour. – max 20 points
- Category C: Sturdiness and weather resistance. – max 10 points
- Category D: All other aspects and overall impact in the garden. – max 10 points

After considering the cumulative scores on 15 May 2012, the Trials Assessment Panel recommended the Award of Garden Merit (AGM) to 7 entries.



Trial Assessment 20 March 2012

Entries

There were 27 entries in this trial. Entries were submitted by nurserymen and individuals from the United Kingdom and The Netherlands.

Cultivation

Bulbs were planted on 21 October 2011 into raised beds with a pH around 6.3. Two inches of extra soil was added to the beds after the last trial, it was then rotovated and manually cultivated.

Blocks of 25 bulbs were planted for each entry and bulbs were planted with 12cm between bulbs and 80cm between entries. The trial was not watered.

Pest and Disease

Entries were examined for viruses in spring and affected bulbs removed. A small number of bulbs were removed due to tobacco rattle virus, symptoms of which show in the foliage as yellow mottling changing to brown.

No pest problems were encountered during the trial.



Tobacco rattle virus

Meteorological Report and Findings

Meteorological report for March 2012: Just 16.6mm of rain fell which is well below the long term average of 47.4mm. The total number of sunshine hours during the month (179.7 hours) was significantly higher than the long term average of 70.7 hours. Whilst the maximum temperature (21.1 °C) almost equalled the long term maximum for the month (22.8 °C), the minimum temperature (-2.0 °C) did not drop as low as last March (-5.3 °C) or the long term record (-8.3 °C), resulting in a mean daily temperature of 8.8 °C. Over 26 out of 31 days, a below zero °C temperature at grass level was recorded, well in excess of the long term average of 16.8 days.

Meteorological report for April 2012: The highest monthly rainfall total was recorded in 53 years. Although a very heavy month of rainfall (117.7mm compared to the long term average for April of 47.5), this has only brought the cumulative total (163.5 mm) to just above the long term average of 150.3mm. Whilst the maximum temperature reached (16.1 °C) was well below the long term record of 28.1 °C, the minimum temperature of -4.5 °C meant a significant air frost, but almost matched the long term record for the month (-4.6 °C). Notable was the minimum grass temperature of -11.2 °C, although the number of days below zero (14 days) matched April of 2011 and was only slightly above the long term average of 13.2 days. The soil temperature at 10cm depth was also less than the same period last year.

The plants performed very well despite the dry weather and sunny conditions in March. However sun scorch did cause the tips of some bells to turn brown on a number of entries.

A very small number of bulbs in the trial aborted their flower spikes. This happens when the bulb takes up too much water. This results in too much stretching between the stem and the bulb base, causing the flower spike to abort. It can be caused

when too much fertiliser is added (although no fertiliser was added to the trial), or when the temperature changes too quickly (likely cause in the case of this trial). It is, however, very unusual for hyacinth flower spikes to abort.



Sun Scorch



Aborted flower spike

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
- reasonably resistant to pests and diseases
- of good constitution
- essentially stable in form and colour
- reasonably easy to grow

Hardiness ratings are as follows:

H4 – hardy throughout the British Isles

***Hyacinthus orientalis* 'Fairy White' AGM (H4) 2012**

Sent by C G vd Berg [Trial No. 7]. Available.

Trials Assessment Panel Comments: *Perfect flowers. Low foliage. Flowers stood up well, nice strong stems. Brilliant, clean, pure white florets. Florets were quite loose. Outstanding. Also known to be excellent for forcing, growing in pots and as a cut flower. Weatherproof.*

Flowered from 19 March to 13 April, with 10 flowering stems per 10 bulbs.

Description to be completed in 2013.



***Hyacinthus orientalis* 'Chicago' AGM (H4) 2012**

Sent by M C Zonneveld [Trial No.9]. Available.
Trials Assessment Panel Comments: *A very good, distinctive colour. Stood up well, the stems didn't collapse. Well finished flowers.*

Flowered from 22 March to 13 April, with 10 flowering stems per 10 bulbs.

Description to be completed in 2013.



***Hyacinthus orientalis* 'Aida' AGM (H4) 2012**

Sent by M C Zonneveld [Trial No.10]. Available.
Trials Assessment Panel Comments: *Lovely rich, dark blue flower colour. Performs well.*

Flowered from 20 March to 13 April, with 10 flowering stems per 10 bulbs.

Description to be completed in 2013.



***Hyacinthus orientalis* 'Dynasty' AGM (H4) 2012**

Sent by M C Zonneveld [Trial No.12]. Available.
Trials Assessment Panel Comments: *Perfect shaped flower spikes. Good form. Stood up well. Attractive flowers. Leaves were flat to the ground, so displayed the inflorescences very well. Held its colour well.*

Flowered from 22 March to 16 April, with 10 flowering stems per 10 bulbs.

Description to be completed in 2013.



***Hyacinthus orientalis* 'Royal Navy' (formerly Seedling 8711-1) AGM (H4) 2012**

Sent by J S Pennings [Trial No.25]. Available.

Trials Assessment Panel Comments: *A lovely, deep, rich colour. Every floret is a real double. Stands up very well.* Flowered from 26 March to 18 April, with 11 flowering stems per 10 bulbs.

Description to be completed in 2013.



Hyacinthus orientalis 'Royal Navy' was entered for the 2012 RHS Chelsea Flower Show Plant of the Year competition and came third.

***Hyacinthus orientalis* 'Pink Angel' AGM (H4) 2012**

Sent by J S Pennings [Trial No.26 & 22]. Available.

Trials Assessment Panel Comments: *A gorgeous colour.*

Flowered from 22 March to 13 April (entry 26), with 11 flowering stems per 10 bulbs.

Description to be completed in 2013.



The following entry has been recommended for the AGM but cannot receive the award until it is available. It is the responsibility of the sender to inform the Trials Office at Wisley that all queries have been resolved.

***Hyacinthus orientalis* 'Aqua' AGM (H4) 2012
Subject to Availability**

Sent by W W v Haaster [Trial No.8].

Trials Assessment Panel Comments: *A good, clear colour. A lovely compact variety. Stood up well to the weather.*

Flowered from 16 March to 2 April, with 10 flowering stems per 10 bulbs.

Description to be completed in 2013.



Public Voting

The Curatorial team conducted a public vote at the hyacinth trial between 26 March and 3 April and a total of 352 votes were cast. The top 5 favourite hyacinths as voted for by visitors to the trial at RHS Garden Wisley were as follows:

- 1st = 'Chicago' (trial entry 9) with 81 votes
- 2nd = 'Aida' (trial entry 10) with 52 votes
- 3rd = 'Dynasty' (trial entry 12) with 47 votes
- 4th = 'King of the Blues' (trial entry 1) with 35 votes
- 5th = 'Royal Navy' (trial entry 25) with 32 votes

Trial Entries and Flowering Records

25 bulbs planted per entry unless otherwise stated

No.	Name	Award	Sender	Flowering start & end	No. of flowering stems per 10 bulbs
1	'King of the Blues'		A Shipp	s. 22 March f. Main flush 14 Apr f. 2 nd flush 2 May	13
2	'Fresco'		Gebr. Kapiteyn	s. 16 March f. 10 April	10
3	'All Stars'		Gebr. Kapiteyn	s. 12 March f. 29 March	11
4	'Sky Planet'		Gebr. Kapiteyn	s. 16 March f. 5 April	10
5	'Firelight'		Kapiteyn Speciale Culturen	s. 16 March f. 2 April	12
6	'Woodstock'		Th A Pennings	s. 16 March f. 2 April	10
7	'Fairy White'	AGM (H4) 2012	C G vd Berg	s. 19 March f. 13 April	10
8	'Aqua'	AGM (H4) 2012 Subject to Availability	W W v Haaster	s. 16 March f. 2 April	10
9	'Chicago'	AGM (H4) 2012	M C Zonneveld	s. 22 March f. 13 April	10
10	'Aida'	AGM (H4) 2012	M C Zonneveld	s. 20 March f. 13 April	10
11	'Miss Saigon'	AGM (H4) 2008	M C Zonneveld	s. 16 March f. Main flush 2 April f. 2 nd flush 13 April	10
12	'Dynasty'	AGM (H4) 2012	M C Zonneveld	s. 22 March f. 16 April	10

No.	Name	Award	Sender	Flowering start & end	No. of flowering stems per 10 bulbs
13	'Blue Pearl'		N de Wit	s. 16 March f. Main flush 2 April f. 2 nd flush 13 April	16
14	'Firelight'		Kapiteyn Speciale Culturen	s. 19 March f. 2 April	10
15	'Spring Field'		Kapiteyn Speciale Culturen	s. 22 March f. Main flush 2 April f. 2 nd flush 18 April	13
16	'Spring Joy'		Kapiteyn Speciale Culturen	s. 16 March f. Main flush 2 April f. 2 nd flush 13 April	12
17	'Spring Beauty'		Kapiteyn Speciale Culturen	s. 26 March f. 16 April	10
18	'Midnight Mistique' 'Midnight Mistique'		Kapiteyn Speciale Culturen	s. 19 March f. 2 April	11
19	'Spring Colour'		Kapiteyn Speciale Culturen	s. 19 March f. Main flush 2 April f. 2 nd flush 13 April	12
20	'Louvre'		Th van Haaster	s. 16 March f. 10 April	8
21	'Johanna'		N A Dames	s. 14 March f. Main flush 3 April f. 2 nd flush 13 April	16
22	'Pink Elephant' 'Pink Angel'	AGM (H4) 2012	J S Pennings	s. 22 March f. 16 April	10
23	'Blue Eyes'		J S Pennings	s. 16 March f. 5 April	8
24	'Blue Tango'		J S Pennings	s. 19 March f. 2 April	9
25	Seedling 8711- 4 Named 'Royal Navy'	AGM (H4) 2012	J S Pennings	s. 26 March f. 18 April	11
26 *	'Pink Angel'	AGM (H4) 2012	J S Pennings	s. 22 March f. 13 April	11
27	'Sky Planet'		Gebr. Kapiteyn	s. 19 March f. 10 April	10

* only 20 bulbs of 'Pink Angel' received

N.B Names that are struck through / shown in blue font have been checked by RHS Botanists / corrected during the course of the trial

Sender Details

C.G.vd Berg, Middenweg 7a, 1761LC Anna Paulowna, The Netherlands

N.A.Dames, Loosterweg Z. 18, 2161DT Lisse, The Netherlands

Th van Haaster, Parallelweg 57, 1759LK, Callantsoog, The Netherlands

W.W.v Haaster, Koningsweg 15, 1764MJ Breezand, The Netherlands

Gebr. Kapiteyn, Middenweg 65/a, 1764 KM, Breezand, The Netherlands

Kapiteyn Speciale Culturen, Grasweg 38, 1761LJ Anna Paulowna, The Netherlands

J.S.Pennings, Schorweg 14, 1764MC Breezand, The Netherlands

Th.A.Pennings, Molenvaart 250, 1764AX Breezand, The Netherlands

A. Shipp, 9 Rosemary Road, Waterbeach, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, CB5 9NB

N.de Wit, Grasweg 28a, 1761LH Anna Paulowna, The Netherlands

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