RHS AWARD OF GARDEN MERIT

Asparagus, celeriac, chard, Chinese cabbage, fennel, melon, pak choi, rhubarb 2011

The AGM criteria

Intended as a practical guide for the gardener, the AGM is awarded only to plants that are:

- excellent for ordinary use in appropriate conditions
- available in the trade
- of good constitution
- essentially stable in form and colour
- reasonably resistant to pests and diseases

AGM hardiness ratings

Each award includes a hardiness rating, which is an integral part of the AGM, and should be included in any citation of the award:

H1 requires heated glass
H2 requires unheated glass
H3 hardy outside in some regions; needs frost-free protection in winter
H4 hardy throughout British Isles

AGM material online

For information about RHS trials, go to: **www.rhs.org.uk/trials.** For a full list of AGM plants, go to: **www.rhs.org.uk/AGMplants**

Cultivation

For more information, go to **www.rhs.org.uk/growyourown** and look under **A to Z**.

Descriptions

All descriptions have been drawn up by members of the RHS Fruit, Vegetable and Herb Committee, for the most part after trial.

ASPARAGUS (*Asparagus officinalis*)

01 **'Backlim'** (H4)
~ F1 hybrid; consistently high yield of large spears

93 **'Connover's Colossal'** (H4)
~ AGM awarded to Sore's maintenance only. Early; heavy yield of good quality spears. Reconfirmed after trial 2001

01 **'Gijnlim'** (H4)
~ F1 hybrid; early. Consistently high yield of mid green spears with purple tips

93 **'Lucullus'** (H4)
~ F1 hybrid; later cropping. Good yield of medium-sized spears

CELERIAC (*Apium graveolens* var. *rapaceum*

00 **'Diamant'** (H3)
~ clean, white, medium-sized

00 **'Ibis'** (H3)
~ neat round ball, very uniform, fairly small

00 **'Kojak'** (H3)
~ flattened ball shape, clean and white; very smooth

93 **'Monarch'** (H3)
~ white-skinned, bold and smooth

00 **'Prinz'** (H3)
~ smooth, small to medium, flattened and round

CHARD (*Beta vulgaris* subsp. *cicla* var. *flavescens*) – see also spinach beet

00 'Bright Lights' (H3)
~ good colourful mix, including reds, yellows and whites; very ornamental and decorative

00 **'Bright Yellow'** (H3)
~ bright golden-yellow petioles and mid green puckered leaf

00 **'Charlotte'** (H3)
~ striking red colour, nice upright leaf, neat plant habit

00 **'Fordhook Giant'** (H3)
~ attractive shiny green, puckered leaf with long succulent white petioles

00 **'Lucullus'** (H3)
~ plenty of tender, light green leaf with long succulent white petioles

00 **'Rhubarb Chard'** (H3)
~ good red colour; uniform

CHINESE CABBAGE (*Brassica rapa* Chinensis & Pekinensis Groups)

03 **'Early Jade Pagoda'** (H3)
~ cylinder-shaped or 'Michihili' type. Uniform tall plants; dark green, clean outer leaves; later-maturing, short internal stem

03 **'Green Tower'** (H3)
~ intermediate between barrel and cylinder. Above average height; uniform, clean outer leaves; well-filled heads of good weight; short internal stems

03 **'Kasumi'** (H3)
~ barrel-shaped, small-framed; solid heads, good yield, well-blanched, with short internal stems; attractive green outer leaves

93 **'Kingdom 65'** (H3)
~ F1 hybrid; medium, green barrel-shaped heads

93 **'Mariko'** (H3)
~ F1 hybrid. Barrel-shaped, small-framed. Slower-maturing, attractive green outer foliage, well-blanched, stands well. Reconfirmed 2003

03 **'Mirako'** (H3)
~ barrel-shaped. Attractive, neat, good internal blanching; slower-growing than some others in trial; nice green outer foliage; stands well

93 **'Nerva'** (H3)
~ F1 hybrid; early, dense, barrel-shaped heads

03 **'One Kilo SB'** (H3)
~ barrel-shaped. Early-maturing, medium to pale green outer leaves; slow to bolt; solid heads; short internal stem

03 **'Yuki'** (H3)
~ barrel-shaped. Medium green, slightly savoyed outer leaves; very short internal stem; medium-sized heavy head; well-blanched

For more information, please write to:
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Asparagus, etc. 2011 (cont.)

FENNEL (Florence)

05 **'Amigo'** (bulb) (H3)
~ F1; early-cropping. Vigorous, uniform foliage; attractive, medium-sized, well-filled bulbs with good white colour

96 **'Atos'** (bulb) (H3)
~ quick-maturing with uniform, medium to large round bulbs

96 **'Carmo'** (bulb) (H3)
~ F1 hybrid. Quick-maturing with medium-sized, round, fine quality bulbs

96 **'Dover'** (bulb) (H3)
~ early with large roundish bulbs. Moderate uniformity

96 **'Heracles'** (bulb) (H3)
~ quick-maturing. Medium large, slightly flattened bulbs of excellent quality

05 **'Pronto'** (bulb) (H3)
~ early-cropping; attractive, medium-sized, flat, well-filled bulbs with good white colour

05 **'Victorio'** (bulb) (H3)
~ F1; good crop of solid, well-filled, attractive bulbs with uniform shape; tends to be greenish-white in colour

96 **'Zefa Fino'** (bulb) (H3)
~ quick-maturing. Medium large, round, very uniform bulbs of excellent quality

MELON (*Cucumis melo*)

09 **'Alvaro'** (H2-3)
~ big crop; attractive pale green skins with dark green stripes and salmon-orange flesh. Good flavour

93 **'Amber Nectar'** (H2)
~ oval fruit of good size. Ripe fruit flesh is orange with very good flavour

99 **'Durandal'** (H2)
~ F1 hybrid; early to mid season. Flattened globe-shaped fruit with faint grooves and heavy cork netting; flesh orange when ripe

99 **'Early Dawn'** (H2)
~ F1 hybrid; early ripening. Oval fruit with dark green grooves and heavy cork netting; flesh orange when ripe

99 **'Edonis'** (H2)
~ F1 hybrid; early ripening. Oval to globular fruit with dark green grooves and heavy cork netting; flesh orange when ripe

09 **'Emir'** (H2-3)
~ good crop of netted Chanentais type fruits with orange flesh

93 **'Ogen'** (H2)
~ oval-round fruit with yellow-green flesh

93 **'Sweetheart'** (H2)
~ early ripening; globular, medium-sized, cream-coloured fruit with orange flesh

PAK CHOI (*Brassica rapa* Chinensis Group)

10 **'Baraku'** (H3)
~ good germination rate. Little bolting. Compact and uniform, attractive dark green leaf and petiole. Good size for cooking

10 **'Choko'** (H3)
~ good germination rate. Very little bolting. Stands well. Compact, uniform, clean, healthy crop. Good hearting. Tender leaves and stem. Ideal size for cooking

10 **'Ivory'** (H3)
~ good germination rate. Very little bolting. Stands well, Taller type with narrow petioles. Large heart, tender stems of pure white. Mid green leaves. Clean, healthy, appetising crop

10 **'Red Choi'** (H3)
~ good germination rate. Very little bolting. Stands well. Attractive purple leaves and tender green stem. Good hearting, uniform clean, healthy crop. Ideal size for cooking

10 **'Summer Breeze'** (H3)
~ good germination rate. Very little bolting. Stands well. Shorter compact type, tight stem, uniform, clean crop. Good hearting. Tender leaves and stem. Mid green leaves. Ideal size for cooking

RHUBARB (*Rheum × hybridum*)

03 **'Fulton's Strawberry Surprise'** (H4)
~ maincrop. Very attractive bright red colour. Strong plant, but not too vigorous for the garden

03 **'Grandad's Favorite'** (H4)
~ first early. Vigorous plants, high yield, thick, fairly sweet stem, bright colour, good leaf to stem ratio. Suitable for showing

03 **'Hawke's Champagne'** (H4)
~ second early. Compact plants; high yield potential. Attractive , bright red, medium-length, uniform stems

03 **'Mac Red'** (H4)
~ maincrop. Strap-shaped stems; clear; whole stem has bright red colour; good flavour. A vigorous plant of good size and shape for the garden

03 **'Reed's Early Superb'** (H4)
~ maincrop. Long, straight, medium to thick stems; bright red colour grading to dark green; succulent and tender. Vigorous plant. Good exhibition potential

03 **'Stein's Champagne'** (H4)
~ maincrop. Very bold, bright red stems, with the colour along the full length. Medium vigour

03 **'Timperley Early'** (H4)
~ first early. Thick stems, early, high yield. Bred for forcing; performs very well outside, but even better colour when forced

SPINACH BEET (*Beta vulgaris* subsp. *cicla* var. *cicla*) – see also chard

00 **'Perpetual Spinach'** (H3)
~ mid to pale green with fairly soft texture, medium vigour