

RHS AWARD OF GARDEN MERIT

Apples & pears 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 a full list of AGM plants, and more information about the award, go to: www.rhs.org.uk/AGMplants

Cultivation

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

RHS Trials

For more information about RHS trials, go to: www.rhs.org.uk/trials

Fruit cultivation

All fruits are best grown in sheltered sites, with protection from spring frosts and cold winds. Brief guidance is given below on suitability for different locations, rootstocks, pollination and storage.

Location

Most of the **apple** cultivars listed here succeed all over the country, including the north of England. Those which have been found to be particularly successful in higher-rainfall and colder areas are marked with an asterisk; this is also used to highlight other fruits that have been found to be successful in northern regions. **Pears** crop best in sheltered warm situations; in the more exposed areas and northern counties, some pears will benefit from the protection of walls.

Pollination

Most tree fruits need to be pollinated by another tree of the same kind growing reasonably close by, which flowers at approximately the same time. Figures in superscript after the name denote the flowering group: for good pollination, choose cultivars from the same group, though those from adjacent groups will also serve as pollinators. **Apples** and **pears** listed as triploid (♯) are poor pollinators and require a normal (i.e. diploid) pollinator to set fruit. Gardeners should be aware that this diploid pollinator will not itself set fruit unless pollinated by another diploid tree. Many *Malus* species and crab apples, such as 'Golden Hornet' and 'Evereste', are also a good source of pollen for dessert and culinary apples.

Rootstocks

All tree fruits are grafted onto rootstocks of varying vigour. Choice of rootstock will

determine the ultimate size of the tree and hence needs to be borne in mind when selecting new trees for the garden. For example, **apple trees** on 'M9' rootstock are suitable for small gardens, while those on 'M25' will produce large, standard trees. The size of the tree will also be determined by the vigour of the cultivar. It is often advisable to obtain a very vigorous cultivar, for example 'Bramley's Seedling', on a more dwarfing stock. Apples are available on 'M27' (very dwarfing), 'M9' (dwarfing), 'M26' (semi-dwarfing), 'MM 106' (semi-vigorous), and 'M25' (vigorous) rootstocks. **Pears** are available on 'Quince C' (dwarfing), 'Quince A' (semi-vigorous), 'BA 29' (semi-vigorous) and seedling pear (vigorous) rootstocks. Some pear cultivars are incompatible with a quince rootstock and these are sold with a pear interstock (usually 'Beurré Hardy').

Storage

Early **apples** and **pears** will not store, but many more of the apple and pear cultivars listed will store to Christmas and some to the spring. This calls for good storage conditions, i.e. a cool, dark, frost-free place that is not subject to fluctuating temperatures. Often this can be achieved in sheds and garages, but in general centrally heated houses are not suitable for long-term storage.

For more information, please write to:
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Recommended Cultivars

APPLE (*Malus domestica*)

- 98 **Alkmene'** (D) (H4)²
~ aromatic, Cox-like flavour. Good, regular crops; some resistance to scab and mildew. Season: late Sept.–late Oct.
- 'American Mother'**
~ see 'Mother'
- 93 **'Arthur Turner'** (C) (H4)³
~ flavoursome cooker. Large, golden exhibition fruit. Good, regular crops; prone to mildew; some resistance to scab. Striking, deep pink blossom, for which AM 1945. Season: Sept.–Nov.
- 93 **'Ashmead's Kernel'** (D) (H4)⁴
~ intense, fruit-drop flavour. Cropping erratic; prone to bitter pit. Season: Dec.–Feb.
- 93 **'Belle de Boskoop'** (C/D) (H4)*‡³
~ needs little or no extra sugar when cooked; mellows to brisk eating apple. Good, regular crops; very vigorous tree. Season: Oct.–Apr.; keeps well
- 93 **'Blenheim Orange'** (C/D) (H4)*‡³
~ characteristic nutty flavour. Use early for cooking. Some resistance to mildew; very vigorous tree; partial tip-bearer; light crops. Season (C): from late Sept. (D): Oct.–Dec./Jan.
- 93 **'Bramley's Seedling'** (C) (H4)*‡³
~ cooks to very sharp, savoury purée; retains acidity to spring. Heavy crops; prone to bitter pit and scab; partial tip bearer; can bear fruit parthenocarpically; tendency to be biennial if over-cropped; blossom susceptible to frost. Very vigorous tree. Season: Nov.–Mar.; stores well
- 93 **'Charles Ross'** (C/D) (H4)*³
~ quite rich flavour; needs no sugar when cooked. Handsome exhibition fruit. Good, regular crops; hardy tree; some resistance to scab. Season: Oct.–Dec.
- 93 **'Claygate Pearmain'** (D) (H4)*⁴
~ rich and nutty flavour. Good, regular crops, but can be poorly coloured. Season: Dec.–Feb.
- 98 DELBARESTIVALE **'Delcorf'** (D) (H4)³
~ bright, attractive fruit; sweet, honeyed taste. Heavy, regular crops. Season: Sept.–Oct.
- 93 **'Discovery'** (D) (H4)*³
~ bright red, crisp, juicy; keeps longer than most earlies. Ornamental tree. Good, regular crops; partial tip bearer; good resistance to scab and mildew. Season: mid Aug.–Sept.
- 93 **'Dummellor's Seedling'** (C) (H4)⁴
~ previously listed as apple 'Dumelow's Seedling'. Cooks to well-flavoured, juicy purée; retains acidity to spring. Good, regular crops, but fruit can be small for a cooker. Season: Nov.–Apr.
- 'Early Victoria'**
~ see 'Emneth Early'
- 93 **'Edward VII'** (C) (H4)*⁶
~ cooks to well-flavoured purée, not as acidic as 'Bramley's Seedling'. Large, regular, exhibition fruit. Deep pink blossom; flowers very late so escapes frosts; needs late-flowering pollinator. Good, regular crops; resistant to scab; some resistance to mildew. Season: Dec.–Apr.
- 93 **'Egremont Russet'** (D) (H4)*²
~ characteristic nutty flavour. Good, regular crops; fruit resistant to scab, but prone to leaf scab; very prone to bitter pit and woolly aphids. Season: Oct.–Dec.
- 93 **'Ellison's Orange'** (D) (H4)⁴
~ rich, aniseed flavour. Good, regular crops; some resistance to scab, but susceptible to canker. Season: late Sept.–late Oct.
- 93 **'Elstar'** (D) (H4)³
~ intense flavour, honeyed, crisp. Heavy regular crops. Season: late Oct.–Dec.
- 93 **'Emneth Early'** (C) (H4)*³
~ codlin type, cooking to fluffy purée; needs hardly any sugar. Heavy but biennial crops; needs thinning for size. Some resistance to scab and mildew. Season: Aug.–Sept.
- 'Epicure'**
~ see 'Laxton's Epicure'
- 93 **'Falstaff'** (PBR) (D) (H4)³
~ attractive, crisp fruit. Heavy, regular crops; frost-resistant blossom; some resistance to scab. Good pollinator. Can show poor fruit colour; 'Red Falstaff' is more highly coloured clone. Season: Oct.–Dec.
- 93 **'Fiesta'** (PBR) (D) (H4)³
~ aromatic, Cox-like flavour. Heavy, regular crops; frost-resistant blossom; less prone to disease than Cox, but can be susceptible to scab and develop canker in some sites. Season: Oct.–Dec./Jan.
- 'Fortune'**
~ see 'Laxton's Fortune'
- 93 **'George Neal'** (C/D) (H4)²
~ brisk eating apple; sweet, delicate taste when cooked. Striking, deep pink blossom. Good, regular crops. Season: late Aug.–Sept.
- 93 **'Golden Delicious'** (D) (H4)⁴
~ honeyed, very sweet when well ripened. Heavy, regular crops; prone to scab. Good pollinator for other trees; stores well. Season: Nov.–Feb.
- 93 **'Golden Noble'** (C) (H4)⁴
~ cooks to a well-flavoured purée, not as acidic as 'Bramley's Seedling'. Attractive blossom. Good, regular crops; partial tip bearer; some scab and mildew resistance. Season: Oct.–Dec. and longer
- 93 **'Greensleeves'** (PBR) (D) (H4)³
~ crisp, brisk, becoming sweeter. Very precocious and heavy, regular crops; needs thinning for good fruit size. Blossom has some frost resistance. Can be susceptible to scab. Season: late Sept.–Oct.; short season once picked

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H4 hardy throughout the British Isles * suitable for northerly, colder, higher rainfall areas ‡ triploid (C) culinary (D) dessert
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- 93 **'Grenadier'** (C) (H4)*³
~ cooks to sharp purée. Heavy, regular crops; good disease resistance. Season: Aug.–Sept.
- 93 **'Idared'** (D) (H4)²
~ crisp apple, with moderate flavour; keeps very well. Good, regular crops; prone to canker, scab; very prone to mildew. Season: Nov.–Mar.
- 93 **'James Grieve'** (C/D) (H4)*³
~ savoury, crisp to melting flesh; when cooked keeps shape, with juicy, delicate flavour. Good, regular crops; fruit bruises easily. Prone to scab, canker; resistant to mildew; requires well-drained soil. Season: Sept.–Oct. and longer
- 93 **'Jonagold'** (D) (H4)‡³
~ attractive, crisp, honeyed taste; large fruit. Heavy, regular crops; prone to canker. Fruit can be poorly coloured, but many more colourful sports exist. Vigorous. Season: Nov.–Jan./Feb.; stores well
- 93 **'Jupiter'** (PBR) (D) (H4)*‡³
~ Cox-like flavour, but sharper. Heavy crops, but biennial if allowed to over-crop; fruit can be irregular shape and heavily russetted. Vigorous. Season: late Oct.–Jan.
- 93 **'Kidd's Orange Red'** (D) (H4)³
~ very attractive; rich aromatic, perfumed taste. Good, regular crops; fruit prone to coarse russet. Season: Nov.–Jan.
- 93 **'King of the Pippins'** (C/D) (H4)*⁵
~ well ripened, good flavour. Cooked, keeps shape, flavoursome; suited to open tarts, etc. Heavy, regular crops; upright habit; good resistance to disease; keeps well. Season: Oct.–Dec.; can store to Feb.
- 93 **'King Russet'** (D) (H4)³
~ russetted form of 'King of the Pippins'. Improved eating quality; good distinct 'russet' flavour. Not as heavy cropping. Season: Oct.–Dec.
- 93 **'Lane's Prince Albert'** (C) (H4)*³
~ cooks to brisk purée, not as acidic as 'Bramley's Seedling'. Large fruit. Good, regular crops; fruit easily bruised. Hardy; makes neat small tree. Resistant to scab; very prone to mildew; prone to canker on all but very well-drained soils. Season: Nov.–Mar.; stores well
- 93 **'Laxton's Epicure'** (D) (H4)*³
~ delicate, aromatic, Cox-like flavour. Heavy, regular crops; needs thinning for size; prone to bitter pit, canker. Season: late Aug.–Sept. Awarded as 'Epicure'
- 93 **'Laxton's Fortune'** (D) (H4)³
~ sweet, lightly aromatic flavour; needs to colour well for good quality. Good crops, but tendency to be biennial. Fruit bruises easily, can be poorly coloured. Prone to canker, good resistance to scab. Season: Sept.–Oct. Awarded as 'Fortune'
- 93 **'Lord Lambourne'** (D) (H4)*²
~ sweet, juicy, attractive flavour. Skin can become greasy when stored. Good, regular crops. Partial tip bearer; resistant to mildew. Season: late Sept.–Nov.
- 93 **'Merton Charm'** (D) (H4)²
~ sweet, crisp to firm flesh, lightly aromatic. Crops heavy, but fruit small unless thinned; can be poorly coloured. Semi-weeping habit. Season: late Sept.–Oct.
- 93 **'Mother'** (D) (H4)*⁵
~ sweet, perfumed, distinctive flavour. Crops can be erratic, light; good resistance to scab and mildew. Season: Oct.–Dec.
- 93 **'Newton Wonder'** (D/C) (H4)*‡⁵
~ cooks to juicy, brisk, well-flavoured purée, but with much less acidity than 'Bramley's Seedling'. Matures to brisk eater. Heavy crops but strongly biennial; prone to bitter pit. Vigorous tree. Season: Nov.–Mar. and longer
- 93 **'Peasgood's Nonsuch'** (C/D) (H4)³
~ cooks to sweet, delicately flavoured purée; needs no or little extra sugar. Exhibition apple with large, handsome regular shape. Good, regular crops; resistance to mildew and red spider; moderate resistance to scab. Season: late Sept.–Dec.
- 93 **'Pixie'** (D) (H4)*⁴
~ intensely aromatic, Cox-like flavour, but sharper and firmer-fleshed. Good to heavy crops, but small fruit unless thinned. Season: Dec.–Mar.
- 93 **'Ribston Pippin'** (D) (H4)‡²
~ intense, rich, aromatic flavour; more acidity and more robust than Cox. Good, regular crops; resistant to scab; prone to mildew and canker. Season: Oct.–Jan.
- 93 **'Rosemary Russet'** (D) (H4)³
~ sweet-sharp acid-drop taste, resembling 'Ashmead's Kernel'. Crops good, regular; vigorous tree with upright habit. Season: Nov./Dec.–Mar.
- 93 **'Royal Gala'** (D) (H4)⁴
~ more highly coloured form of 'Gala'. Sweet, quite honeyed flavour. Heavy, regular crops; fruit can be small. Prone to scab. Season: Oct.–Jan.; stores well
- 93 **'Saint Edmund's Pippin'** (D) (H4)*²
~ very attractive; richly flavoured when fully ripe. Good, regular crops; fruit bruises easily. Prone to mildew. Season: late Sept.–Oct.
- 09 **'Scrumptious'** (D) (H4)
~ regular cropper, good fruit size, attractive ornamental fruit. Good tree habit; easily managed. A good dessert apple: sweet, good flavour, crisp, juicy
- 93 **'Sunset'** (D) (H4)³
~ aromatic, like small early Cox, but sharper. Heavy, regular crops, but small fruit. Resistant to scab; prone to mildew and canker. Season: Oct.–Dec.

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- 93 **'Suntan'** (D) (H4)†⁵
~ intensely flavoured, aromatic, but can be over-sharp; needs keeping to Dec. to mellow. Good, regular crops; prone to bitter pit, canker. Late-flowering. Season: Nov./Dec.–Feb.
- 93 **'Warner's King'** (C) (H4)†²
~ cooks to well-flavoured purée; not as acidic as 'Bramley's Seedling'. Attractive, deep pink blossom. Heavy, regular crops; fruit can be very large. Prone to bitter pit. Vigorous. Season: late Sept.–Dec.
- 93 **'Winston'** (D) (H4)*⁴
~ aromatic and rich. Good, regular crops; fruit can be rather small; good disease resistance. Season: Dec.–Apr.; keeps very well
- 93 **'Worcester Pearmain'** (D) (H4)³
~ intense strawberry flavour when well-ripened and scarlet. Tip bearer; heavy, regular crops. Resistant to mildew; some susceptibility to canker. Season: late Sept.–Oct.
- PEAR (*Pyrus communis*)**
- 93 **'Beth'** (D) (H4)⁴
~ attractive; good quality and flavour. Small fruit. Heavy, regular crops. Season: mid/late Aug.–early Sept.; short season once picked
- 93 **'Beurré Hardy'** (D) (H4)*³
~ very melting and fragrant with rose-water perfume. Good, regular crops. Very hardy, vigorous tree; slow to bear; resistant to scab. Season: Nov.–Dec.
- 06 **'Beurré Superfin'** (D) (H4)³
~ an excellent September-cropping cultivar for the amateur gardener, with a lovely cinnamon-russet colour and an exquisite flavour. Gives a good, consistent yield and is not over vigorous. Mid-season
- 93 **'Catillac'** (C) (H4)†⁴
~ large fruit, but culinary only; with long, slow cooking, slices soften and turn red. Large attractive blossom. Good, regular crops. Vigorous tree. Season: Dec.–Mar./Apr.; keeps very well
- 93 **'Concorde'** ^(PBR) (D) (H4)⁴
~ sweet, buttery, fragrant flavour, similar to 'Conference', but superior. Heavy, regular crops; frost-tolerant blossom. Young trees very precocious. Season: late Oct./Nov.–Dec.
- 93 **'Conference'** (D) (H4)*³
~ sweet, buttery, quite rich taste. Heavy, regular crops. Can produce fruits without pollinators, but resulting fruits often misshapen. Season: Oct.–Nov./Dec.
- 93 **'Doyenné du Comice'** (D) (H4)⁴
~ very rich flavour; very juicy, buttery, perfumed. Excellent quality, but moderate crops, although older trees more regular. Vigorous tree; prone to scab. Season: Nov.–Dec. Not compatible with 'Onward'
- 06 **'Gorham'** (D) (H4)⁴
~ a beautiful green pear with a good covering of russet. Has an excellent flavour; a good reliable cropper and readily available to the amateur gardener. Late
- 93 **'Joséphine de Malines'** (D) (H4)³
~ very rich, buttery and perfumed. Crops good, reliable, but needs warm site. Fruit easily bruised. Tip-bearer; resistant to scab. Season: Nov.–Dec./Jan.
- 03 **'Louise Bonne of Jersey'** (D) (H4)²
~ richly flavoured, buttery and juicy. Good, regular crops. Hardy tree; blossom shows some resistance to frost; susceptible to scab. Season: Oct.–Nov. Not compatible with 'Williams' Bon Chrétien'
- 93 **'Onward'** (D) (H4)⁴
~ sweet, rich, buttery, somewhat like an early Comice. Good, regular crops. Prone to scab. Season: Sept.–early Oct.; short season.
- Not compatible with 'Doyenné du Comice'
- 93 **'Pitmaston Duchess'** (C/D) (H4)†⁴
~ quite sugary and melting; sweet delicate flavour when cooked. Large, handsome exhibition fruit. Attractive blossom. Vigorous tree; susceptible to scab. Season: late Sept.–Oct.; short season
- 93 **'Williams' Bon Chrétien'** (D) (H4)*³
~ sweet, melting, juicy flesh with distinctive musky flavour. Good, regular crops; good disease resistance, but susceptible to scab. Season: late Aug.–Sept.; picking right time is essential—usually mid/late Aug. Not compatible with 'Louise Bonne of Jersey'

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