

# RHS AWARD OF GARDEN MERIT

## Soft fruits: berries & currants 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](http://www.rhs.org.uk/AGMplants)

### Cultivation

For more information, go to [www.rhs.org.uk/growyourown](http://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](http://www.rhs.org.uk/trials)

### Cultivation

All fruits are best grown in sheltered sites, with protection from spring frosts and cold winds. **Currants, gooseberries, raspberries** and **berry fruits** are generally satisfactory in most parts of the country, but cold winds at flowering time can be a problem. **Strawberries** can be grown all over the country, but will need some protection in exposed sites and from spring frosts. **Blueberries** are hardy plants but require light, well-drained, moisture-retentive, acid soil (pH 4.0–5.5). All cultivars listed are self-fertile, except that **blueberries** may need a pollinator.

### Recommended Cultivars

#### BLACKBERRY (*Rubus species*)

*Season extends from late July to early Sept.*

##### 93 'Fantasia' (PBR) (D/C) (H4)

~ good size; well-flavoured fruit when fully ripe. Excellent for pies, tarts, etc. Very heavy crops; very vigorous

##### 93 'Loch Ness' (PBR) (D/C) (H4)

~ large, well-flavoured berries. Thornless; heavy cropping; moderate vigour; hardy. Good resistance to purple blotch and botrytis, but prone to downy mildew

##### 94 'Silvan' (D/C) (H4)

~ attractive large, well-flavoured fruit. Early ripening. Very vigorous; thorny

#### BLACKCURRANT (*Ribes nigrum*)

*Season extends from early July to mid Aug.*

##### 95 'Ben Connan' (PBR) (C) (H4)

~ large fruit; medium long strigs. Heavy crops; compact habit. Good resistance to mildew, leaf-curling midge. Season: early

##### 93 'Ben Lomond' (PBR) (C) (H4)

~ large fruit, good flavour. Heavy crops. Some resistance to frost. Season: mid

##### 93 'Ben Sarek' (C) (H4)

~ large fruit. Heavy crops; compact plant. Resistant to frost, mildew and leaf-curling midge. Season: early/mid

#### BLUEBERRY (*Vaccinium corymbosum*)

*Blueberries begin to ripen in mid July and continue to late Aug.*

##### 03 'Duke' (D) (H4)

~ good flavour, medium to large fruit. Crops well; easy to grow. Flowers late; good for frost-prone sites; partly self-fertile. Season: early

##### 03 'Spartan' (D) (H4)

~ excellent flavour; medium-sized fruit. Quite good crops; not self-fertile. Vigorous; upright habit. Good autumn colour. Season: early–mid

#### GOOSEBERRY (*Ribes uva-crispa*)

*Season extends from early June to mid Aug. For culinary use, pick from early June. For ripe fruit pick from about early July*

##### 93 'Careless' (C/D) (H4)

~ green fruit. Reliable, good crops. Good for tarts, jam, etc. Prone to mildew. Season: mid

##### 94 'Greenfinch' (C/D) (H4)

~ green fruit; compact bush. Some resistance to mildew and leaf spot. Season: mid; similar to 'Careless'

##### 93 'Invicta' (C/D) (H4)

~ green fruit; quite good flavour. Heavy crops; very vigorous; spreading habit; large thorns. Some resistance to mildew. Young shoots can be damaged on exposed site. Season: mid; slightly earlier than 'Careless'

##### 93 'Leveller' (C/D) (H4)

~ large, yellow fruit; good dessert quality. Season: mid to late

##### 93 'Whinham's Industry' (C/D) (H4)

~ red fruit; quite good dessert quality. Heavy, reliable crops. Very susceptible to mildew. Season: mid

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## Soft fruits: berries & currants 2011 (cont.)



### LOGANBERRY (*Rubus × loganobaccus*)

- 93 'Ly 59' (C) (H4)  
~ large, dark fruit; typical loganberry taste. Season: July
- 93 'Ly 654' (C) (H4)  
~ large, dark fruit; distinctive flavour; good crops. Thornless. Season: July

### RASPBERRY (*Rubus idaeus*)

*Raspberries crop from late June–early Aug. Autumn primocanes from late July–early Oct.*

- 09 'All Gold' (D) (H4)
- 93 'Autumn Bliss' (D) (H4)  
~ primocane-fruiting (fruiting on current season's canes). Excellent flavour; large fruit. Good crops. Resistant to aphid vectors of virus disease and phytophthora root rot. Season: crops late July to early Oct. Reconfirmed after trial 2009
- 09 'Caroline' <sup>(PBR)</sup> (D) (H4)
- 00 'Glen Ample' <sup>(PBR)</sup> (D) (H4)  
~ large fruit, excellent flavour. Recommended for freezing. Heavy crops; spine-free canes. Resistant to main aphid vector of virus disease; some tolerance to phytophthora root rot; some susceptibility to leaf and bud mite. Season: mid. Reconfirmed after trial 2009
- 09 'Glen Magna' <sup>(PBR)</sup> (D) (H4)
- 93 'Glen Moy' <sup>(PBR)</sup> (D) (H4)  
~ medium-sized fruit, good flavour. Heavy crops; moderate vigour; spine-free canes. Resistant to main aphid vector of virus disease; susceptible to midge blight and phytophthora root rot. Season: early
- 93 'Glen Prosen' <sup>(PBR)</sup> (D) (H4)  
~ medium-sized, firm fruit. Moderate vigour; good crops; suited to wet regions. Season: mid
- 09 'Joan J' <sup>(PBR)</sup> (D) (H4)
- 93 'Leo' <sup>(PBR)</sup> (D) (H4)  
~ large, firm fruit; excellent flavour. Good crops. Very long laterals. Season: late

- 93 'Malling Admiral' (D) (H4)  
~ good quality; medium to large, attractive fruit. Consistent, moderate to good crops; tall canes; withstands wet conditions, but laterals easily damaged in exposed sites. Good disease resistance. Season: mid to late. Reconfirmed after trial 2009
- 93 'Malling Jewel' (D) (H4)  
~ good flavour and crops. Season: early to mid. Reconfirmed after trial 2009
- 09 'Polka' <sup>(PBR)</sup> (D) (H4)
- 09 'Tulameen' (D) (H4)

### REDCURRANT (*Ribes rubrum*)

*Redcurrants crop from mid July to early Sept.*

- 93 'Jonkheer van Tets' (C) (H4)  
~ large, handsome fruit; long strigs. Heavy crops. Season: early
- 93 'Red Lake' (C) (H4)  
~ good quality medium to large fruit; cropping on long trusses. Prone to wind damage in exposed sites; in summer prune early. Season: mid to late
- 93 'Stanza' (C) (H4)  
~ medium-sized fruit; good quality. Compact habit; heavy crops. Season: mid to late

### STRAWBERRY (*Fragaria × ananassa*)

*In an early season, strawberries begin to crop mid June; in a late season, mid to late June*

- 93 'Aromel' (D) (H4)  
~ everbearer. Good flavour; crops over long period, but can be erratic. Few runners produced. Season: July–Oct. (only few berries per plant at any time)
- 06 'Alice' <sup>(PBR)</sup> (D) (H4)  
~ a good consistent cropper, with a high percentage of mid to large, bright orange-red, sweet, juicy fruit. Scored well in taste tests and performed well at different

geographical locations (Stafford, Kent, Dundee) in HDC trials. Has good resistance to verticillium wilt; very useful to home gardener. Mid to late season

- 93 'Cambridge Favourite' (D) (H4)  
~ good flavour; medium size, but rather soft berries. Moderate crops; excellent resistance to disease. Good runner production. Season: mid
- 94 'Hapil' (D) (H4)  
~ large glossy berries; good flavour. Heavy crops; vigorous. Susceptible to verticillium wilt. Season: early/mid. Reconfirmed after trial 2004
- 93 'Honeoye' (D) (H4)  
~ excellent flavour. Heavy crops; susceptible to verticillium wilt. Season: early. Reconfirmed after trial 2004
- 94 'Pegasus' <sup>(PBR)</sup> (D) (H4)  
~ good flavour; quite soft flesh. Good disease resistance; tolerance to verticillium wilt. Season: mid. Reconfirmed after trial 2004, 2006
- 94 'Rhapsody' (D) (H4)  
~ good flavour; medium to large berries. Resistant red core; some resistance to verticillium wilt and mildew. Season: late. Reconfirmed after trial 2006
- 95 'Symphony' <sup>(PBR)</sup> (D) (H4)  
~ good flavour; bright, firm berries. Vigorous; good resistance to red core; susceptible to mildew. Good runner production. Season: mid to late. Reconfirmed after trial 2006

### TAYBERRY (*Rubus Tayberry Group*)

- 93 Tayberry Group (H4)  
~ distinctive flavour. Larger fruit; heavier crops than loganberry. Excellent for cooking, freezing, jam, etc. Season: July

### WHITECURRANT (*Ribes rubrum*)

- 93 'White Grape' (D/C) (H4)  
~ attractive, translucent berries; good flavour. Season: mid July