

RHS AWARD OF GARDEN MERIT

Tree fruits (excl. 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

Location

All fruits are best grown in sheltered sites, with protection from spring frosts and cold winds. **Plums** are susceptible to spring frosts and also need warm summers to ripen fully. Only early ripening plums can be relied upon in the shorter season of northern counties. **Nectarines, peaches, apricots** and **figs** can crop satisfactorily in sheltered, warm situations in southern England. In northerly areas they will need protection such as a south-facing wall, or to be grown under glass or in polytunnels.

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. A number of the **plums** listed are self-fertile or partly self-fertile and will produce crops without a pollinator, but a pollinator is needed for all other plums. **Cherries** listed as self-fertile will crop without a pollinator, but otherwise cherries need a pollinator. **Peach, nectarine** and **apricot** cultivars listed are self-fertile.

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. **Plums** are available on 'Pixy' (semi-dwarfing) and 'Saint Julien A' (semi-vigorous) rootstocks; cherries on 'Tabel' (very dwarfing), 'Gisela 5' (dwarfing), and 'Colt' (semi-vigorous). **Peaches, nectarines** and **apricots** are available on 'Saint Julien A' (semi-vigorous) and 'Pixy' (semi-dwarfing). **Apricots** are also available on 'Torimol' (semi-vigorous).

Recommended cultivars

APRICOT (*Prunus armeniaca*)

98 'Moorpark' (D/C) (H3)

~ good quality fruit. Can crop well in southern England in sheltered site. Blossoms very early. Prone to die-back disease. Season: late July–early Aug. 'Early Moorpark' often sold under this name

CHERRY, MORELLO (*Prunus cerasus*)

93 'Morello' (C) (H4)

~ dark red, acid cherry; excellent for preserves, tarts, etc. Regular, good crops; very attractive in blossom; self-fertile. Crops on north-facing site. Season: late July–early Aug.

CHERRY, SWEET (*Prunus avium*)

03 'Colney' (D) (H4)

~ late, regular cropper. Excellent flavour; not self-fertile. Season: late July–early Aug.

04 'Hertford' (D) (H4)

~ late/mid season. Large black fruit with pink-red flesh; excellent flavour. Very heavy crops. Some resistance to bacterial canker. Upright, spreading habit. Not self-fertile

95 'Merchant' (D) (H4) ³

~ early black cherry; well-flavoured. Regular crops. Pollination: universal donor, but not self-fertile. Season: early July

93 'Stella' (H4) ⁴

~ black cherry; large, rich, high quality. Heavy, regular crops; self-fertile. Prone to splitting in wet weather. Season: late July

04 'Summer Sun' (D) (H4) ⁴

~ late (July). Produces firm, well-flavoured, red to black fruit. Very good crops. Some resistance to bacterial canker. Attractive, upright, spreading habit; moderate vigour. Not self-fertile

For more information, please write to:
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Tree fruits 2011 (cont.)



DAMSON (*Prunus insititia*)

- 00 'Farleigh Damson' (C) (H4)⁴
~ excellent flavour. Regular, heavy crops. Blossom shows some resistance to frost. Season: late Aug.
- 98 'Prune Damson' (C) (H4)⁵
~ larger fruits than 'Farleigh Damson', but typical damson flavour. Regular, good crops. Season: late Aug.

FIG (*Ficus carica*)

- 93 'Brown Turkey' (D) (H3)
~ fruits regularly in the open in southern England and in many parts of the Midlands and East Anglia in a warm position. For good crop, root restriction advisable. Season: mid Aug.–mid Sept., depending on site

GRAPE (*Vitis*)

- 04 'Boskoop Glory' (D) (H4)
~ black grape. Good outdoor vine for the amateur, both dessert and wine; crops reliably; disease-resistant. Moderately good flavour, but better than many shop-bought grapes. Awarded as 'Gloire de Boskoop'
- 04 'New York Muscat' (D) (H4)
~ black grape. A good dessert Muscat with blackcurrant flavour. Disease-resistant. Best when grown on a warm site or wall

NECTARINE (*Prunus persica* var. *nectarina*)

- 98 'Early Rivers' (D) (H3)
~ good flavour. Season: mid July
- 98 'Lord Napier' (D) (H3)
~ good flavour. Season: early Aug.

PEACH (*Prunus persica*)

- 98 'Duke of York' (D) (H3)
~ white-fleshed; good quality and flavour. Needs protection to crop and grow well. Season: mid–late July
- 98 'Peregrine' (D) (H3)
~ white-fleshed; good quality and

flavour. Crops in open in southern England, but best protected. Season: mid Aug.–early Sept.

- 98 'Rochester' (D) (H3)
~ yellow-fleshed; reasonable flavour and quality. Grows well with some protection; can be grown in open in south. Season: mid Aug.

PLUM (*Prunus domestica*)

- 00 'Blue Rock' (C/D) (H4)¹
~ quite well-flavoured blue plum. Regular, good crops; not self-fertile. Neat tree. Season: mid Aug.
- 95 'Blue Tit' (C/D) (H4)⁵
~ pleasant flavour; blue plum. Regular, good crops. Self-fertile. Season: mid Aug.
- 98 'Cambridge Gage' (D) (H4)⁴
~ honey, sweet, excellent greengage quality, but more reliable than most greengages. Reasonably regular crops in favourable situations. Partly self-fertile. Season: mid Aug.
- 93 'Czar' (C/D) (H4)³
~ well-flavoured; early blue plum; use for jam but also moderate eating quality. Heavy, regular crops. Self-fertile. Season: mid Aug.
- 93 'Early Laxton' (C/D) (H4)³
~ red, early plum; good for jam and reasonable eating quality. Heavy, regular crops. Not self-fertile. Season: late July–early Aug.

- 94 'Edwards' (C/D) (H4)²
~ handsome, large, exhibition plum; light crops; prone to blossom wilt. Season: late Aug. to early Sept.
- 93 'Imperial Gage' (C/D) (H4)²
~ gage quality but not as rich as 'Cambridge Gage'. Regular crops. Partly self-fertile. Season: mid Aug.
- 94 'Jefferson' (D) (H4)¹
~ yellow flushed with red; rich, gage quality. Moderate, regular crops. Not self-fertile. Season: mid to late Aug.
- 95 'Laxton's Delight' (D) (H4)³
~ large, yellow, attractive plum; good

rich flavour. Good, regular crops. Partly self-fertile. Season: mid to late Aug.

- 00 'Mallard' (D) (H4)¹
~ medium-sized, red plum; quite good flavour. Good, regular crops. Moderate vigour; not self-fertile. Season: mid–late Aug.
- 93 'Marjorie's Seedling' (C) (H4)⁵
~ late, blue plum. Good for jam. Reliable good crops; vigorous, upright habit. Self-fertile. Season: late Sept.–early Oct.
- 95 'Opal' (D) (H4)³
~ small, purple plum; good flavour. Reliable, heavy crops; needs thinning. Partly self-fertile. Blossom buds very prone to bird damage. Season: early–mid Aug.
- 93 'Oullins Gage' (D) (H4)⁴
~ large, yellow flushed with pink. Not typical gage quality, but quite rich. Heavy, regular crops. Partly self-fertile. Season: mid Aug.
- 93 'Persnore' (C) (H4)³
~ large, yellow plum. Bottling favourite. Heavy, regular crops. Self-fertile. Season: mid Aug.
- 95 'Reeves' (D) (H4)³
~ very attractive, yellow-orange to pinky red plum; good, rich dessert quality. Not self-fertile. Mainly light crops, occasionally heavy. Needs warm site. Season: mid–late Aug.
- 93 'Sanctus Hubertus' (D) (H4)³
~ large, blue plum; the largest of the earlys. Good, regular crops. Not self-fertile. Season: early Aug.
- 95 'Valor' (C/D) (H4)²
~ blue, medium-sized plum. Good quality. Moderately good, regular crops. Not self-fertile. Season: late Aug.
- 93 'Victoria' (C/D) (H4)³
~ red plum; reasonable to good eating quality; excellent for bottling, jam and tarts. Heavy, regular crops. Self-fertile. Season: mid to late Aug.