We welcome comments on any aspect of this report.

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The Trial of Lavandula, hardy (1996–2001)

The RHS Woody Plant Trials Committee decided to conduct a trial of lavender (1996–2001), in response to the growing number of new cultivars being introduced to the UK market. RHS trials are conducted as part of the RHS’s charitable mission to inform, educate and inspire all gardeners. The RHS identifies good, reliable garden plants through its Award of Garden Merit (AGM) scheme.

Objectives of the trial

Award of Garden Merit. By bringing together as many different taxa as possible and assessing their merits, the committee could recommend the Award of Garden Merit to those they considered the best.

Correct Names. Due to the popularity of the genus, propagation by seed and micro-propagation is being used increasingly to meet the demand. Both these methods result in variability of the essential characteristics of the original cultivar. The trial enabled botanists (RHS and external) to identify the true characteristics of some of the older cultivars.

Archive To create a permanent record through detailed descriptions, images and herbarium specimens for future reference by any interested parties.

Entries Plants were sourced from National Collection holders and retail and wholesale nurseries (listed on page 9). In most cases three plants of each of the initial 74 entries were received in May 1996. In 1998 it was decided to propagate all the possible contenders for the AGM and plant them in the main trials field at Wisley. Forty-two entries were then planted in 1999 along with ten new entries and assessed for the final recommendations in 2000–2001.

The Woody Plant Trials Committee

The Committee is made up of nurserymen, professional horticulturists and plant enthusiasts. Each has a wealth of experience, knowledge and passion for plants.

Peter Catt Chairman (Liss Forest Nursery)
John Hillier Vice Chairman (Hillier Nurseries)
Chris Bridall (plantman and author)
David Clark (Notcutts Nurseries)
Mauroe Foster (plantman)
John Gallagher (camellia breeder)
Michael Hickson (Knightshayes Garden)
John Humphris (Place Road Garden)
Roy Lamb (plantman and author)
Chris Lane (horticulturist and National Collection holder)
Chris Sanders (plantman)
 Archie Skinner (Sheffield Park Garden)

Cultivation

The initial trial site was a neutral sandy soil (pH 6.5). The plot had been brought into cultivation from grassland and had had no previous crop. After a year’s growth, in 1997, some plants had grown uncharacteristically tall and soft, which caused them to flop or open up. The reason for this may have been the very fertile soil and/or too much irrigation for a genus which in the wild thrives in poor dry conditions.

Pruning

Pruning was undertaken with the Lavandula angustifolia and L. ×intermedia cultivars after their first flowering by removing the flowering stems and at least the first set of leaves. Regular annual pruning of plants by one third kept them compact. L. stoechas type cultivars required pruning back by one half.

Recording

Recording was undertaken throughout the trial and included: hardiness, habit, flowering period, as well as height and spread, colour of flower and foliage.

The Award of Garden Merit

The Award of Garden Merit requires a plant:
- to be excellent for garden decoration
- to be available from nurseries
- to be of good constitution
- not to require specialist care
- not to be susceptible to pest or disease
- not to be subject to reversion.

AGM winners

The Committee gave the Award of Garden Merit to the following entries using the criteria of overall impact of the plant, its habit and vigour; flower colour, foliage colour and freedom of flowering:

L. ×intermedia ‘Alba’ H4
L. ×intermedia ‘Arabian Night’ H4
L. angustifolia ‘Beachwood Blue’ H4
L. ×intermedia ‘Hidcote’ H4
L. ×intermedia ‘Hidcote Giant’ H4
L. angustifolia ‘Imperial Gem’ H4
L. angustifolia ‘Little Lottie’ H4
L. angustifolia ‘Loddon Blue’ H4
L. angustifolia ‘Loddon Pink’ H4
L. angustifolia ‘Miss Katherine’ H4
L. angustifolia ‘Miss Muffet’scholmis’ H4
L. angustifolia ‘Trana Alba’ H4
L. angustifolia ‘Wendy Carlile’ H4
L. ‘Richard Gray’ H3–4
L. ‘Sawyers’ H3–4
L. stoechas H3–4
L. stoechas subsp. pulegium H3–4
L. ‘Willow Vale’ H3–4

Award rescinded to the following:
L. ×intermedia Dutch Group
L. angustifolia ‘Twickel Purple’

H(4) = hardy throughout the UK
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**The true ‘Hidcote’ received its AGM in 1993 and in the trial was considered to be an exceptionally good cultivar for garden decoration. However the problem that many plants in the trade are seed raised was a cause for concern. The Committee recommends that the public be advised to acquire this cultivar from reputable nurseries and request assurance that plants have been vegetatively propagated.

Two great figures of the horticultural world who were closely involved with the trial sadly died before this report was produced. John Bond a great plantsman and Keeper of the Gardens, Windsor Great Park, was the Chairman of the Woody Plant Trials Committee since its formation in 1995 and initiated the trial of lavender. Wendy Bowie carried on the tradition of her father Thomas Carlile in being a stalwart and knowledgeable member of RHS Horticultural Committees. Many of the older cultivars, including those raised and/or introduced by the family nursery, Carlile’s Hardy Plants, were submitted by Mrs Bowie.

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Roy Lancer (plantman and author)

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**The true ‘Hidcote’ received its AGM in 1993 and in the trial was considered to be an exceptionally good cultivar for garden decoration. However the problem that many plants in the trade are seed raised was a cause for concern. The Committee recommend that the public be advised to acquire this cultivar from reputable nurseries and request assurance that plants have been vegetatively propagated.**

RHS Plant Trials and Awards

Hardy Lavenders
A guide to the hardy lavenders from the RHS Trial

Lavandula angustifolia L. spica L. In part, L. officinalis Chaix (English Lavender) has long been cultivated for its high quality lavender oil. Cultivars of this species tend to be compact in habit and have greyish green narrow leaves and relatively short compact spikes of flowers. Flowers from mid June to end July.

L. × intermedia Emeric ex Loisel. (Lavandin) is a hybrid cross between L. angustifolia and L. latifolia. Cultivars are slightly less hardy than L. angustifolia, are taller with mounds of grey foliage and long loose spikes. Cultivars tend to be more tolerant of acidic conditions. Cultivars are commercially grown for their high yield of oil which is however inferior in quality to L. angustifolia. Flowers from mid July to end August.

L. stoechas L. (French Lavender) require sheltered but sunny sites. The sterile bracts, on top of the short dense inflorescence, form a distinctive feature. Flowers from early May to the end of August.

L. stoechas subsp. petuliculata (Papillon or Butterfly Lavender) flower borne on long stems and topped by particularly long sterile bracts. Flowers early May to September.

Awards of Garden Merit descriptions

**L. angustifolia** 'Beechwood Blue'

A low growing plant with rich blue flowers, similar to ‘Loddon Blue’ but with greener stems. Raised by Bechwood Nursery (UK).

Compact dorsi, h. 35cm w. 60cm Overall height including flowers 40-50cm. Foliage grey green. Flowering stems 25-30cm long, held above foliage. Inflorescence 4-5cm long, vivid violet (87A/B); calyx dark violet (83B).

**L. angustifolia** 'Wildblue'

AGM (H4) 1993 under review 2002

A low growing plant with dark violet flowers. Many plants now seed raised and of variable quality. The Committee recommended that the importance of obtaining verified vegetatively propagated plants was highlighted. Introduced by Major Lawrence Johnston of Hidcote before 1950.

Compact, spreading dorsi, h. 30cm w. 75cm. Overall height including flowers 60cm. Foliage grey green. Flowering stems 20-30cm long, spraying outwards. Inflorescence 5-8cm long, dense with rounded tip. Flowers dark violet (87A/B); palate throat (85C); calyx dark violet (83B/A).

**L. angustifolia** 'Imperial Gem'

AGM (H4) 2002

A cultivar very similar to ‘Hidcote’ but of a slightly taller habit. Raised and introduced by Norfolk Lavender (UK) in the late 1980s.

Dome, h. 40cm w. 60cm. Overall height including flowers 60cm. Foliage grey green. Flowering stems 25-30cm long, spraying outwards. Inflorescence 5-6cm long, dense with rounded tip. Flowers dark violet (90B/C); palate throat (85A); calyx very dark violet (86A).

**L. angustifolia** 'Loddon Blue'

AGM (H4) 2002 under review

Low neat plants with dark mid purple flowers. Similar to ‘Loddon Pink’ but with greener stems. Raised and introduced by Carline’s Hardy Plants (UK) 1957. When first introduced this cultivar was described as being a dwarf plant (possibly only 35cm high) suitable for the rock garden. Therefore plants which have been sold for a long time under this name no longer conform to the original description.

Compact dorsi, h. 30cm w. 65cm. Overall height including flowers 50cm. Foliage grey green. Flowering stems 25-30cm long, spraying outwards. Inflorescence 4-7cm long, compact and dense with blunt tip. Flowers strong violet (90A) with golden throat; calyx green (89A).

**L. angustifolia** 'Loddon Pink'

AGM (H4) 2002


Compact, erect dorsi, h. 30cm w. 70cm. Overall height including flowers 65cm. Foliage grey green to green. Flowering stems 30-35cm long, spraying outwards. Inflorescence 8cm long, open and dense with blunt tip. Flowers pale lavender (76C/D) with darker throat; calyx pale yellowish green (139A) tinged purple.
A guide to the hardy lavenders from the RHS Trial

Lavandula angustifolia L. spica L. In part, L. officinalis Chaix (English Lavender) has long been cultivated for its high quality lavender oil. Cultivars of this species tend to be compact in habit and have greyish green narrow leaves and relatively short compact spikes of flowers. Flowers from mid June to end July.

L. x intermedia Emete ex Loisel. (Lavandin) is a hybrid cross between L. angustifolia and L. latifolia. Cultivars are slightly less hardy than L. angustifolia, are taller with mounds of grey foliage and long loose spikes. Cultivars tend to be more tolerant of acidic conditions. Cultivars are commercially grown for their high yield of oil which is however inferior in quality to L. angustifolia. Flowers from mid July to end August.

L. stoechas L. (French Lavender) require sheltered but sunny sites. The sterile bracts, on top of the short dense inflorescence, form a distinctive feature. Flowers from early May to the end of August.

L. stoechas subsp. pedunculata (Papillon or Butterfly Lavender) flower borne on long stems and topped by particularly long sterile bracts. Flowers early May to September.

Award of Garden Merit descriptions

h = height of plant without flowering stems; w = spread of plant.

Colours from the RHS Colour Chart 2001 (available from RHS Mail Order, Wisley, Surrey GU23 6QB)

L. angustifolia 'Beachwood Blue'
AGM (H4) 2002
A low growing plant with rich blue flowers, similar to ‘Loddon Blue’ but with greener stems. Raised by Beachwood Nurseries (UK).
Compact dome, h: 30cm W: 60cm. Overall height including flowers 40-50cm. Foliage grey green. Flowering stems 25-30cm long held above foliage. Inflorescence 4-8cm long, vivid violet (90A/B); calyx deep purple (93B).

L. angustifolia 'Beechwood Blue'
AGM (H4) 2002
A low growing plant with rich blue flowers. Many plants now seed raised and of variable quality. The Committee recommended that the importance of obtaining verified vegetatively propagated plants was highlighted. Introduced by Major Lawrence Johnston of Hidcote before 1950.
Compact spreading dome, h: 35cm W: 75cm. Overall height including flowers 60cm. Foliage grey green. Flowering stems 25-30cm long, spraying outwards. Inflorescence 5-8cm long, dense with rounded tip. Flowers dark violet (87B/88B); paler throat (85C); calyx dark violet (93A/B).

L. angustifolia 'Beechwood Blue'
AGM (H4) 2002
A low growing plant with rich blue flowers, similar to ‘Loddon Blue’ but with greener stems. Raised by Beechwood Nursery (UK). Plant Breeders’ Rights was rejected in June 2002 due to instability, therefore the AGM is now under review.
Dome-shaped, h: 25cm W: 60cm. Overall height including flowers 40cm. Foliage green grey. Flowering stems 20cm long, held above foliage. Inflorescence 7-8cm long, with blunt tip. Flowers very pale purple (86A); calyx pale green.

L. angustifolia 'Little Lottie'
AGM (H4) 2002
Dwarf plants with pink flowers. A sport of ‘Blue Cushion’, raised by Terry Clark and introduced by Notcutts Nurseries (UK) 1997. When first introduced this cultivar was described as being a dwarf plant (possibly only 25cm high) suitable for the rock garden. Therefore plants which have been sold for a long time under this name no longer conform to the original description.
Compact dome, h: 30cm W: 65cm. Overall height including flowers 50cm. Foliage grey green. Flowering stems 20-25cm long, erect, spraying outwards. Inflorescence 4cm long, compact and dense with blunt tip. Flowers strong violet (90A) with golden throat; calyx (90A).

L. angustifolia 'Little Lottie'
AGM (H4) 2002
Low neat plants with dark violet flowers. Many plants now seed raised and of variable quality. The Committee recommended that the importance of obtaining verified vegetatively propagated plants was highlighted. Introduced by Major Lawrence Johnston of Hidcote before 1950.
Compact dome, h: 30cm W: 65cm. Overall height including flowers 50cm. Foliage grey green. Flowering stems 20-25cm long, erect, spraying outwards. Inflorescence 4cm long, compact and dense with blunt tip. Flowers strong violet (90A) with golden throat; calyx (90A).

L. angustifolia 'Loddon Pink'
AGM (H4) 2002
Low neat plants with soft pink flowers and pale green calyces. Raised and introduced by Thomas Carllie (UK) in 1942.
Compact, erect domes, h: 30cm W: 70cm. Overall height including flowers 65cm. Foliage grey green to green. Flowering stems 30-35cm long, erect. Inflorescence 8cm long, open and dense with blunt tip. Flowers pale lavender (76C/D) with darker throat; calyx pale yellowish green (139A) tinged purple.
Awards of Garden Merit descriptions

**L. angustifolia Miss Katherine**
*AGM (H4) 2002*
A cultivar with a dwarf habit. Flowers are white with distinctive silvery blue calyces. A chance seedling found during RHS Trial in 1998 in the entry of *L. angustifolia* ‘Nana Alba’ from Carlile’s Hardy Plants (UK). Named by the Woody Plant Trials Subcommittee.

**L. angustifolia Wendy Carille**
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A cultivar of dwarf habit. Flowers are white with distinctive silvery blue calyces. A chance seedling found during RHS Trial in 1998 in the entry of *L. angustifolia* ‘Nana Alba’ from Carlile’s Hardy Plants (UK). Named by the Woody Plant Trials Subcommittee.

**L. angustifolia MISS MUPPET ‘Scholmis’**
*AGM (H4) 2002*
A very compact plant with lots of mid violet flowers. Raised by Joan Schofield and introduced by Norfolk Lavender (UK).

**L. angustifolia Nana Alba**
*AGM (H4) 2002*
A cultivar with a dwarf, neat habit. The stems of white flowers are held just above the mound of foliage.

**L. intermedia ‘Alba’**
*AGM (H4) 2002*
A very old cultivar known in the 19th century with very long white flower spikes held erect, well above a mound of foliage.

**L. intermedia ‘Arabian Night’**
*AGM (H4) 2002*
A plant with long pointed flower spikes held well above compact dome of foliage. Syntonym of *L.眙terioria* ‘Super’.

**L. vanal Killede Giant**
*AGM (H4) 2002*
Very distinctive plant with solid flowers on long stems. Introduced by Major Lawrence Johnson of Hidcote before 1958.

**L. intermedia ‘Hidcote Giant’**
*AGM (H4) 2002*
Very distinctive plant with solid flowers on long stems. Introduced by Major Lawrence Johnson of Hidcote before 1958.

**L. stoechas ‘Richard Gray’**
(L. vanal × L. angustifolia)
*AGM (H4-3) 2002*

**L. intermedia ‘Willow Vale’**
*AGM (H4) 2002*
A plant of tall upright habit with distinctive long purple-pink sterile bracts. In favourable conditions will flower most of the year, main flowering period from May to August. James Compton collected seed from Sierra Nevada, Spain in 1975, plants from which were grown in the Chelsea Physic Garden, London, and named ‘James Compton’ by Duncan Donald, Curator. In the trial no distinction was found between the entries of the subspecies and ‘James Compton’.

**L. intermedia ‘Arabian Night’**
*AGM (H4) 2002*
A plant with long pointed flower spikes held well above compact dome of foliage. Syntonym of *L.眙terioria* ‘Super’.

**L. intermedia ‘Richard Gray’**
(L. vanal × L. angustifolia)
*AGM (H4-3) 2002*

**L. vanal ‘Hidcote Giant’**
*AGM (H4-3) 2002*
Very distinctive plant with solid flowers on long stems. Introduced by Major Lawrence Johnson of Hidcote before 1958.

**L. stoechas ‘Richard Gray’**
(L. vanal × L. angustifolia)
*AGM (H4-3) 2002*

**L. intermedia ‘Sawyers’**
(L. vanal × L. angustifolia)
*AGM (H4-3) 2002*
A plant with silvery foliage and tall spikes held well above compact dome of foliage. Synonym of *L.眙terioria* ‘Super’.

**L. vanal ‘Richard Gray’**
(L. vanal × L. angustifolia)
*AGM (H4-3) 2002*

**L. stoechas ‘Richard Gray’**
(L. vanal × L. angustifolia)
*AGM (H4-3) 2002*

**L. stoechas ‘Richard Gray’**
(L. vanal × L. angustifolia)
*AGM (H4-3) 2002*
Award of Garden Merit descriptions

**L. angustifolia** *Miss Katherine'*
AGM (H4) 2002
The cultivar forms erect domes of spreading foliage. Lots of pink flowers with silvery calyces are held clear of green, strongly aromatic foliage. Raised and introduced by Norfolk Lavenders (UK).
Erect domes, 80cm high. Overall height including flowers 80cm. Foliage grey green. Flowering stems 80cm; just 10-15cm above foliage. Flowers pale purple (76A/B); slight orange (throat); calyx dark silver grey (181A).

**L. angustifolia** *Wendy Carrie'*
AGM (H4) 2002
A cultivar of dwarf habit. Flowers are white with distinctive silvery blue calyces. A chance seedling found during RHS Trial in 1998 in the entry of L. angustifolia ‘Nana Alba’ from Carlisle’s Hardy Plants (UK). Named by the Woody Plant Trials Subcommittee.
Erect domes, 40cm high. Overall height including flowers 40cm. Foliage silvery grey. Flowering stems 16-20cm above foliage, spraying outwards. Inflorescence 4-5cm long, compact with rounded to blunt tip. Flowers white, with gold in throat, calyx silvery blue green, base (192A) middle (104A), tip (188A).

**L. angustifolia** *Nana Alba'*
AGM (H4) 2002
A cultivar with a dwarf, neat habit. The domes of white flowers are held just above the mound of foliage.
Compact domes, 30cm high. Overall height including flowers 35-40cm. Foliage grey green. Flowering stems 20-23cm long, spraying outwards. Inflorescence 3.5cm long, compact, dome with blunt tip. Flowers strong purple (83B/A); calyx grey green (194B) tinged violet at edges.

**L. angustifolia** *Intermedia* ‘Alba’
AGM (H4) 2002
A very old cultivar known in the 19th century with very long white flower spikes held erect, well above a mound of foliage.
Open domes, 30cm high. Overall height including flowers 80cm. Foliage grey green. Flowering stems 30cm above foliage, spraying outwards, erect. Inflorescence 9-18cm long, compact to slightly open with tapering blunt tip. Flowers white, with hints of pinkish (155D), calyx sage green (190C) with light white hairs.

**L. angustifolia** *Intermedia* ‘Arabian Night’
AGM (H4) 2002
A plant with long pointed flower spikes held well above compact dome of foliage. Synonym L. *x* intermedia ‘Super’.
Upright domes, 35cm high. Overall height including flowers 100-150cm. Foliage grey green. Flowering stems 60cm long, spraying outwards, held high above foliage. Inflorescence 10-15cm long, compact, with pointed tip. Flowers lilac (92A/93C); calyx greyish blue (185A) tinged violet (98A).

**L. × intermedia* ‘Hidcote Giant’
AGM (H4) 2002
Dome, 30cm wide. Overall height including flowers 60cm. Foliage grey green. Flowering stems 60cm long, spraying outwards, held high above foliage. Inflorescence 5-10cm long, dense with pointed to rounded tip. Flowers bright violet (90C); calyx a silvery strong violet (90C).

**L. × intermedia* ‘Richard Gray’
(L. lanata × L. angustifolia)
AGM (H4) 2002
Spreading plant, 30cm wide. Overall height including flowers 60cm. Foliage silver grey. Flowering stems 25-30cm long, soft, grey green, with long white hairs, some held in foliage. Inflorescence 3.5cm long, dense flowers dark violet (88A), throat (88C); calyx silvered strong violet (98A).

**L. × intermedia* ‘Sawyers’
(L. lanata × L. angustifolia)
AGM (H3-4) 2002
A cultivar of dwarf habit. Flowers are distinctive long purplish-pink sterile bracts. In favourable conditions will flower most of the year, main flowering period May to August.
Upright plant, 40cm high. Overall height including flowering stem 60cm. Foliage grey green. Inflorescence 3.5cm long, tapering to blunt tip, 4 terminal bracts to 2.5cm long. Flowers dark purple (83A), bracts vivid purple (80A); calyx grey purple darker than (183B).

**L. × stoechas subsp. pseudocanaliculata**
*‘Papillon’* (L. angustifolia × L. stoechas)
AGM (H4) 2002
A plant of tall upright habit with distinctive long purplish-pink sterile bracts. In favourable conditions will flower most of the year, main flowering period from May to August. James Compton collected seed from Sierra Nevada, Spain in 1975, plants from which were grown in the Chatsworth Phyto-Garden, London, and named ‘James Compton’ by Duncan Donald, Curator. In the trial no distinction was found between the entries of the subspecies and ‘James Compton’.
Erect upright plant, 60cm high. Overall height including flowers 60cm. Foliage grey green. Inflorescence to 2cm long, square, 2-5 sterile bracts 5cm long. Flowers almost black, darker than (86A), bracts purplish red (188A/128A).

**L. × stoechas**
AGM (H3-4) 1993 reconfirmed 2002
Flowers from May to September. Not fully hardy.
Upright plant, 40cm wide. Overall height including flowering stem 60cm. Foliage grey green. Inflorescence 3.5cm long, tapering to blunt tip, 4 terminal bracts to 2.5cm long. Flowers dark purple (83A), bracts vivid purple (80A); calyx grey purple darker than (183B).

**L. × stoechas**
AGM (H1-4) 2002
A plant of tall upright habit with distinctive long purplish-pink sterile bracts. In favourable conditions will flower most of the year, main flowering period from May to August. James Compton collected seed from Sierra Nevada, Spain in 1975, plants from which were grown in the Chatsworth Phyto-Garden, London, and named ‘James Compton’ by Duncan Donald, Curator. In the trial no distinction was found between the entries of the subspecies and ‘James Compton’.
Erect upright plant, 40cm high.

**L. × stoechas**
AGM (H3-4) 2002
A very old cultivar known in the 19th century with very long white flower spikes held erect, well above a mound of foliage.
Open domes, 30cm wide. Overall height including flowers 80cm. Foliage grey green. Flowering stems 30-40cm long, spraying outwards, held high above foliage. Inflorescence 5-10cm long, dense with pointed to rounded tip. Flowers bright violet (90C); calyx a silvery strong violet (90C).

**L. × stoechas**
AGM (H3-4) 2002
A very compact plant with lots of mid violet flowers. Raised by Joan Schofield and introduced by Norfolk Lavenders (UK).
Low domes, 30cm wide. Overall height including flowers 35-40cm. Foliage grey green. Flowering stems 20-23cm long, spraying outwards. Inflorescence 3.5cm long, compact, dome with blunt tip. Flowers strong purple (83B/A); calyx grey green (194B) tinged violet at edges.

**L. × stoechas**
AGM (H3-4) 1993 reconfirmed 2002
Flowers from May to September. Not fully hardy.
Upright plant, 40cm wide. Overall height including flowering stem 60cm. Foliage grey green. Inflorescence 3.5cm long, tapering to blunt tip, 4 terminal bracts to 2.5cm long. Flowers dark purple (83A), bracts vivid purple (80A); calyx grey purple darker than (183B).

**L. × stoechas**
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A plant of tall upright habit with distinctive long purplish-pink sterile bracts. In favourable conditions will flower most of the year, main flowering period from May to August. James Compton collected seed from Sierra Nevada, Spain in 1975, plants from which were grown in the Chatsworth Phyto-Garden, London, and named ‘James Compton’ by Duncan Donald, Curator. In the trial no distinction was found between the entries of the subspecies and ‘James Compton’.
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Open domes, 30cm wide. Overall height including flowers 80cm. Foliage grey green. Flowering stems 30-40cm long, spraying outwards, held high above foliage. Inflorescence 5-10cm long, dense with pointed to rounded tip. Flowers bright violet (90C); calyx a silvery strong violet (90C).

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Low domes, 30cm wide. Overall height including flowers 35-40cm. Foliage grey green. Flowering stems 20-23cm long, spraying outwards. Inflorescence 3.5cm long, compact, dome with blunt tip. Flowers strong purple (83B/A); calyx grey green (194B) tinged violet at edges.
Other lavenders in the trial

L. angustifolia **‘Blue Cushion’**
A small, compact plant which forms a mound of soft mid blue flowers. Bred by Joan Schaffeld and introduced by Blooms (UK) in 1992.

L. angustifolia **‘Bridgwater Blue Mountain’**
A late entrant in the trial, considered to be similar to ‘Hidcote’ but commenced flowering later. Raised by Blue Mountain Nurseries, New Zealand in the 1990s and introduced in the UK by Downderry Nursery.

L. angustifolia **‘Broseley Early’**
An older variety which makes a good medium height hedges of green foliage. Introduced by Amos Perry (UK) in 1913.

L. angustifolia **‘Bridlehead Silver’**
A late entrant to the trial. White flowers with silvery calyxes, similar to L. angustifolia ‘Wendy Carlisle’. Raised and introduced by Chris Yates of The Scented Garden (UK).

L. angustifolia **‘Cedar Blue’**
A cultivar similar to ‘Hidcote’ but with a slightly paler flower. Introduced (inadvertently as ‘Hidcote’) by Monckton Microplants (UK) in 1994.

L. angustifolia **‘Fountains’**
A plant of medium height with a lax habit. Very floriferous, with mid violet flowers, flowering over a long period. Original plants from Arthur Beresford of Fenton Manor, Dorchester and introduced by Anthony Lyman-Dixon of Amo Herbs (UK).

L. angustifolia **‘Heacham Blue’**
Synonym for G4 ‘A commercial oil variety from Norfolk Lavender (UK).

L. angustifolia **‘Jean Davis’**
In the trial could not be distinguished from ‘Loddon Pink’ except for being darker pink in bud.

L. angustifolia **‘Lavender Lady’**
Raised in US by Atlee Burpee and Co in 1993 as a lavender which will flower from seed in six months.

L. angustifolia **‘Munstead’**
An old cultivar with mid blue flowers, often grown from seed. Introduced by Bar & Sons (UK) in 1913.

L. angustifolia **‘Nana Atropurpurea’**
Often sold as ‘Hidcote’ but the foliage is different.

L. angustifolia **‘Princess Blue’**
Raised and introduced by Norfolk Lavender (UK).

L. angustifolia **‘Salisbury Pyramidal’**
A purple-flowered, low growing subspecies from the Pyrenees.

L. angustifolia **‘Royal Purple’**
A cultivar with very long deep purple flower spikes. Raised and introduced by Norfolk Lavender (UK).

L. angustifolia **‘Silver Blue’**
A late entrant to the trial. In the trial proved to be very floriferous with large flowering spikes. Similar to ‘Blackwood Blue’.Raised by Baumschule Fr. Rohn, Germany, introduced by Dorthuizer Boomkwekerijen BV, Leersum, Holland.

L. angustifolia **‘Twisted Purple’**
Originated in Holland before 1922. A good plant, being vigorous with impressive long flower spikes. As there are so many different plants in the trial it was decided that the AGM awarded in 1993 should be rescinded.

L. angustifolia **‘Goodwin Creek Gray’**
(D. gerota. x L. latata). A plant with tall bushy habit with soft grey toothed leaves and not fully hardy. Originated from a nursery in Oregon USA in 1990.

L. *intermedia* **‘Helsdale’**
Originated in New Zealand in the 1980’s. Introduced to the UK by Aline Fairweather.

L. *intermedia* **‘Dutch Group’**
An old cultivar grown for its grey foliage and habit which is suitable for a large hedge. In the trial plants flowered only sparsely. The AGM awarded in 1993 was rescinded in 2001. Originated from Europe before 1930.

L. *intermedia* **‘Fragrant Memories’**
A large plant with pointed flowers, held well clear of dome of silver grey foliage. Introduced by Blooms of Bressingham (UK), from plants grown by David Kemp’s wife family in the 1920’s.

L. *intermedia* **‘Grappenhall Variety’**
Introduced c. 1906 by Clibran Nurseries, UK.

L. *intermedia* **‘Grosne’**
Three quarters of the lavender grown for oil in France is from this cultivar. Very floriferous on particularly long stems, forming an arc of colour. Introduced by Pierre Grosne in France in 1972.

L. *intermedia* **‘Gullspina Castle’**
Very good grey foliage.

L. *intermedia* **‘Old English Group’**
A taller plant with greyer foliage than Dutch Group.

L. *intermedia* **‘Seal’**
Introduced by Herb Farm, Seal (UK), before 1935.

L. *intermedia* **‘Warerood’**
(Stow). Introduced by Herb Farm, Seal (UK), before 1935.

L. *intermedia* **‘Rosies Park’**
A compact neat plant with distinctive large dark pink sterile bracts. Not fully hardy. Raised by Gillian Cayford in New Zealand and introduced into the UK by Norfolk Lavender.

RHS Trials
RHS Trials have been undertaken by the Royal Horticultural Society since its foundation in 1804. This continuous assessment of groups of plants by the leading Horticulturalists of the day has provided a valuable reference for generations of gardeners. Today there are thirteen committees whose members each devote time and expertise to trials of plants in which they have a lifetime’s knowledge. The combination of Committee members and the resources of the Society’s professional horticulturists and scientific staff enables gardeners and the horticultural trade to get sound and useful information. Entries of plants to trials are by open invitation, either directly or through a specialist committee. During each trial not only are the plants and their cultivation details demonstrated but issues of pest and disease prevention and cure investigated, as well as matters concerning the correct naming of plants. Each trial results in the Award of Garden Merit to plants (or seed) which are recommended as being an excellent choice for the general gardener to grow.

The Trial of hardy lavenders provided an opportunity for many people interested in the group to exchange knowledge and their experience over a four year period. Some examples are:

**The Lavender Bag**
A publication with subscribers and contributors which include botanists, growers, collection holders, specialist nurseries and lavender enthusiasts from around the world. The Lavender Bag reorganized an open day in July 1997 at the trials site, a report of which is in issue Number 8. The Editor is Mrs Joan Head. Contact: 6 Church Gate, Clipston-on-the-Wolds, Keyworth, Nottingham NG12 5PA. email: jhead@headfamily.freeserve.co.uk www.headfamily.freeserve.co.uk

**National Collection holders**
An important contact for all RHS trials is the National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens (NCCPG) who have their independent headquarters at the RHS Gardens at Wisley. The National Collection holders who submitted plant material and participated in the assessments were: Simon Charleworth of Downderry; David Christie of Jersey Lavender; Henry Head of Norfolk Lavender; Joan Head of Nottingham; Chris Yates of The Scented Garden

**The Botanists**
Dr Tim Upton (Superintendent of The Cambridge Botanic Garden) and Suayn Andrews (Horticultural Taxonomist at Kew) attended many of the assessments of the trial and provided much valuable information on the taxonomy of the entries.

RHS Herbarium
The herbarium of the RHS is one of only a small number in the world dedicated to horticultural plants. At present the collection contains about 80,000 herbarium specimens and over 30,000 images of plants. Material is actively collected from a wide spectrum of sources, including RHS trials.

Further reading
RHS Advisory Leaflet Lavender – the grower’s guide by Virginia M. Naughton. Garden Art Press

Senders of plants to the trial
Alina Fairweather, Hill Top Nursery, Beaulieu, SO4 7YR
Anne Herbs, Linemead Nurseries, Chieve Magna, BS38 8BW
Bloomings of Bressingham, Bressingham, Diss, IP22 2AB
Bowers Hill Nursery, Bading, Evesham, WR11 8SG
Carlise’s Hardy Plants (no longer trading)
Chedshire Herbs, Little Budworth, Cheshire CW6 8ES
Country Garden Sales, Rempstone, Corfe Castle, Dorset BH20 5JQ
Darthulzer Postbox 2, 3596 ZL Leersum, Holland
Downerry Nursery, Pillar Box Lane, Hadlow, TN3 9SG
Four Seasons, Forncett St Mary, Norwich, NR16 1JT
Green Farm Plants (no longer trading)
J A Head, The Lavender Bag, Jersey Lavender Ltd, St Brelade, Jersey, Channel Islands
Lisa Forest Nursery Ltd, Greatham, Lake, GU33 6HA
Monkivler Nurseries, Cottenham, Cambridge, CB4 4TW
Norfolk Lavender Ltd, Caley Mill, Heacham, PE31 7JE
The University of Reading, Whitknights Park, RG6 6AY
The Royal Horticultural Society, Wisley, GU23 6QH
The Scented Garden, Littleb Bret, Dorchester, DT2 9HN
York Park, Clifford Mill Road, Clifford, Wetherby, LS21 6LD

RHS contributors to this report
Plant illustrations and descriptions by Chrissie Ferriroli (Trials Recorder
Assistance with nomenclature by Diana Miller, Keeper of the Herbarium.
Other lavenders in the trial

L. angustifolia 'BLUE CUSHION'

'Schelch' A small, compact plant which forms a mound of soft mid blue flowers. Bred by Joan Schelfield and introduced by Blooms (UK) in 1992.

L. angustifolia 'Blue Mountain Rainbow'

A late entrant in the trial, considered to be similar to 'Hidcote' but commenced flowering later. Raised by Blue Mountain Nurseries, New Zealand in the 1990s and introduced in the UK by Dowdney Nursery.

L. angustifolia 'Bridehead Silver'

An old variety which makes a good medium height hedge of green foliage. Introduced by Amos Perry (UK) in 1913.

L. angustifolia 'Broomfield Early'

An older variety suitable for Hedging but with a slightly paler flower. Introduced (inadvertently as 'Broomfield') by Monkton's Microplants (UK) in 1994.

L. angustifolia 'Broomfield Pink'

A cultivar similar to 'Hidcote' but with a slightly paler flower. Introduced (inadvertently as 'Broomfield') by Monkton's Microplants (UK) in 1994.

L. angustifolia 'Cambridge Blue'

A cultivar similar to 'Hidcote' but with a slightly paler flower. Introduced (inadvertently as 'Broomfield') by Monkton's Microplants (UK) in 1994.

L. angustifolia 'Cambridge Lily'

A cultivar with a medium height of a low habit. Very floriferous, with mid violet flowers, flowering over a long period. Original plants from Arthur Beresford of Fiston Manor, Dorchester and introduced by Anthony Lyman-Dixon of Arne Herb (UK).

L. angustifolia 'Hainham Blue'

Synonym for 'G4' a commercial oil variety from Norfolk Lavender (UK).

L. angustifolia 'Jean Davis'

In the trial could not be distinguished from 'Loddon Pink' except for being darker pink in bud.

L. angustifolia 'Lavender Lady'

Raised in US by Atlee Burpee and Co in 1913 as a lavender which will flower from seed in six months.

L. angustifolia 'Marstall'

An old cultivar with mid blue flowers, often grown from seed. Introduced by Barr & Sons (UK), in 1913.

L. angustifolia 'Nana Atropurpurea'

Often sold as 'Hidcote' but the foliage is different.

L. angustifolia 'Princess Blue'

Raised and introduced by Norfolk Lavender (UK).

L. angustifolia 'Salpiglossis'

A purple-flowered, low growing subspecies from the Pyrenees.

L. angustifolia 'Royal Purple'

A cultivar with very long deep purple flower spikes. Raised and introduced by Norfolk Lavender (UK).

L. angustifolia 'Silver Blue'

A late entrant of this year. In time proved to be very floriferous with large flowering spikes. Similar to 'Beachwood Blue'. Raised by Baumsluchs Fr. Rothchild, Germany, and introduced by Bartholomeu Boinckweide in NL, Larenso, Holland.

L. angustifolia 'Tivoli Purple'

Originated in Holland in 1922. A good plant, being vigorous with impressive long flower spikes. There are so many different plants in the trial it was decided that the AGM awarded in 1993 should be rescinded.

L. angustifolia 'Goodwin Creek Grey'

A late entrant to the trial. White flowers with silvery bases, wide and flat flowers. Introduced by Green Farm Plants (UK) in 1996.

L. angustifolia 'Loddon Pink'

A late entrant in the trial, considered to be similar to 'Hidcote' but commenced flowering later. Raised by Blue Mountain Nurseries, New Zealand in the 1990s and introduced in the UK by Dowdney Nursery.

L. angustifolia 'Purpureus'

A late entrant in the trial, considered to be similar to 'Hidcote' but commenced flowering later. Raised by Blue Mountain Nurseries, New Zealand in the 1990s and introduced in the UK by Dowdney Nursery.

L. angustifolia 'Twickel Purple'

Originated in Holland in 1922. A good plant, being vigorous with impressive long flower spikes. There are so many different plants in the trial it was decided that the AGM awarded in 1993 should be rescinded.

L. angustifolia 'Goodwin Creek Grey'

A late entrant to the trial. White flowers with silvery bases, wide and flat flowers. Introduced by Green Farm Plants (UK) in 1996.

L. angustifolia 'Loddon Pink'

A late entrant in the trial, considered to be similar to 'Hidcote' but commenced flowering later. Raised by Blue Mountain Nurseries, New Zealand in the 1990s and introduced in the UK by Dowdney Nursery.

L. angustifolia 'Twickel Purple'

Originated in Holland in 1922. A good plant, being vigorous with impressive long flower spikes. There are so many different plants in the trial it was decided that the AGM awarded in 1993 should be rescinded.

L. angustifolia 'Goodwin Creek Grey'

A late entrant to the trial. White flowers with silvery bases, wide and flat flowers. Introduced by Green Farm Plants (UK) in 1996.
## Lavender selection guide

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<td><strong>Flower Foliage Habit Comments</strong></td>
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<td>Blue Flowered Dwarf plants (up to 40cm/16”)</td>
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<td><em>L. angustifolia</em> MISS MUFFET “Scholmis”</td>
<td>violet grey green 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>L. angustifolia</em> subsp. pyrenaica</td>
<td>dark violet grey green 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blue Flowered Short plants (up to 60cm/24”)</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>L. angustifolia</em> BLUE CUSHION</td>
<td>light violet grey green 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>L. angustifolia</em> ‘Cedar Blue’</td>
<td>violet grey green 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>L. angustifolia</em> ‘Loddon Blue’</td>
<td>violet grey green 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>L. angustifolia</em> ‘Munro’s Blue’</td>
<td>violet grey green 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>L. angustifolia</em> ‘Silver Blue’</td>
<td>violet grey green 2</td>
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<td><em>L. angustifolia</em> ‘Blue Mountain’</td>
<td>dark violet grey green 2</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>L. angustifolia</em> ‘Hidcote’</td>
<td>dark violet grey green 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>L. angustifolia</em> ‘Imperial Gem’</td>
<td>dark violet grey green 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*L. ‘Richard Gray’</td>
<td>dark violet silver 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*L. ‘Sawyer’</td>
<td>purple silver 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue Flowered Medium sized plants (to 90cm/36”)</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>L. angustifolia</em> ‘Brockley Early’</td>
<td>violet green 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>L. angustifolia</em> ‘Fortison’</td>
<td>violet grey green 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>L. angustifolia</em> ‘Prince of Blue’</td>
<td>violet grey green 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>L. angustifolia</em> ‘TeCKiL Purple’</td>
<td>violet green 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>L. angustifolia</em> ‘Royal Purple’</td>
<td>violet grey green 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>L. stoechas</em></td>
<td>purple grey green 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<tr>
<td>**White Flowered Dwarf plants (to 40cm/16”)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>L. angustifolia</em> ‘Wendy Carline’</td>
<td>white grey green 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>L. angustifolia</em> ‘Bridhead Silver’</td>
<td>white grey green 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>**White Flowered Large plants (over 90cm/36”)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>L. × intermedia</em> ‘Alba’</td>
<td>white grey green 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>**Pink Flowered Dwarf plants (to 40cm/16”)</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>L. angustifolia</em> ‘Little Lottie’</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>**Pink Flowered Medium plants (to 90cm/36”)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>L. angustifolia</em> ‘Loddon Pink’</td>
<td>pink grey green 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>L. angustifolia</em> ‘Jean Davis’</td>
<td>pink grey green 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>L. angustifolia</em> ‘Miss Katherine’</td>
<td>pink grey green 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Name** | **Flower** | **Foliage** | **Habit** | **Comments**
--- | --- | --- | --- | ---
*Lavandula angustifolia* | MISS MUFFET (Scholmis) | violet | grey green | 2 | Nice habit, neat flowered domes. Good container plant and for small sites
*Lavandula angustifolia* | subsp. *pyreneus* | dark violet | grey green | 1 | Not fully hardy.

**Hard Lavenders**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| *Lavandula stoechas* | 'Miss Katherine' | pink | green | 2 | Bushy open habit largest and boldest of the pinks.
| *Lavandula stoechas* | 'Jean Davis' | pink | green | 2 | As 'Loddon Pink' but darker in bud.
| *Lavandula stoechas* | 'Mia Katharina' | pink | green | 2 | Bushy open habit largest and boldest of the pinks.

---

**Lavender selection guide**

<table>
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</table>
| *Lavandula angustifolia* | BLUE CUSHION (Scholmis) | light violet | green | 1 | Compact mound, pretty, soft mid blue colour good container plant and for small sites
| *Lavandula angustifolia* | 'Loddon Blue' | violet | grey green | 2 | Compactly tight plant, low robust growth, very aromatic foliage. Free flowering.
| *Lavandula angustifolia* | 'Munstead' | grey | green | 2 | Similar to 'Beechwood Blue' but larger flower spike and more open habit.
| *Lavandula angustifolia* | 'Silver Blue' | violet | grey green | 2 | Similar to 'Beechwood Blue' but larger flower spike and more open habit.
| *Lavandula angustifolia* | 'Blue Mountain' | dark violet | grey green | 2 | Similar to 'Loddon Blue' but after flowering.
| *Lavandula angustifolia* | 'Imperial Gem' | dark violet | grey green | 2 | Dark violet flowers covering compact domes of grey green, aromatic foliage.
| *Lavandula angustifolia* | 'Richard Gray' | dark violet | silver | 2 | A little winner, good cushion, silvery foliage. Came through in trial but not fully hardy.
| *Lavandula angustifolia* | 'Sawyeri' | purple | silver | 2 | A gem. Wonderful silver grey foliage with dark pointed flower spikes. Not as hardy as 'Richard Gray'.
| *Lavandula angustifolia* | 'Beecheed Early' | violet | green | 2 | An older variety which makes a good hedge. Not very floriferous in the trial.
| *Lavandula angustifolia* | 'Forston' | violet | grey green | 2 | Lack habit, long flowering spikes, large individual flowers.
| *Lavandula intermedia* | 'Grosset' | purple | green | 3 | Very long flowering stems with long conical spikes. Extremely floriferous. Good as cut flower.
| *Lavandula intermedia* | 'Princess Blue' | violet | grey green | 2 | Long flower spikes.
| *Lavandula intermedia* | 'Teckiel Purple' | violet | green | 2 | Like 'Teckiel Purple' but habit more open.
| *Lavandula intermedia* | 'Royal Purple' | violet | grey green | 2 | Long flower spikes.

---

**Not fully hardy.**

**Blue flowered Dwarf plants (up to 40cm/16”)**

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**Blue flowered Medium sized plants (to 90cm/36”)**

<table>
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</thead>
</table>
| *Lavandula angustifolia* | 'Old English Group' | violet | green | 3 | More vigorous, greener foliage than Dutch Group, not free flowering.
| *Lavandula angustifolia* | 'Blue Mountain' | dark grey | 2 | Similar to 'Hidcote' but paler
| *Lavandula angustifolia* | 'Lullingstone Castle' | violet | grey green | 1 | Handsome brute, similar to 'Arabian Night'.
| *Lavandula angustifolia* | 'Arabian Night' | grey | green | 3 | Not very floriferous in the trial.

<table>
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</table>
| *Lavandula intermedia* | 'Wendy Carlin' | white | green | 1 | Excellent grey foliage. Silvery blue calyces.
| *Lavandula intermedia* | 'Nana Alba' | white | green | 1 | Good light green foliage. Very floriferous. Pale green calyces.
| *Lavandula intermedia* | 'Bridhead Silver' | white | green | 1 | Shiny blue calyces.

**White flowered Large plants (over 90cm/36”)**

<table>
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<th>Name</th>
<th>Flower</th>
<th>Foliage</th>
<th>Habit</th>
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**Blue flowered Large/ tall plants (over 90cm/36”)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Flower</th>
<th>Foliage</th>
<th>Habit</th>
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| *Lavandula angustifolia* | BLUE CUSHION | light violet | grey green | 3 | Lovely long pointed spikes, foliage stands up well, forms large dome of pale violet colour.
| *Lavandula pedunculata* | 'Lodden Pink' | pink | green | 2 | Tidy grower. good habit & foliage. Upright spray of soft pink flowers held well above tight green foliage.
| *Lavandula pedunculata* | 'Joan Davic' | pink | green | 2 | As 'Loddon Pink' but darker in bud.
| *Lavandula pedunculata* | 'Mia Katharina' | pink | green | 2 | Bushy open habit largest and boldest of the pinks.
Hardy Lavenders
Linda Jones
Senior Trials Officer
July 2003

We welcome comments on any aspect of this report.