



RHS *Plants*

Profiling seasonal plants that have gained the RHS Award of Garden Merit (AGM), the Society's highest plant accolade

RHS Kale Trial 2015



THOMPSON & MORGAN

Colin Randel, member of the RHS Vegetable Trials Forum and vegetable expert says:

'Historically, kale (or borecole) is a mainstay winter brassica for fresh greens. Modern breeding has introduced a range of cultivars with many year-round uses: as salad leaves, as "midi-sized plants" and as fully mature plants in the traditional way.

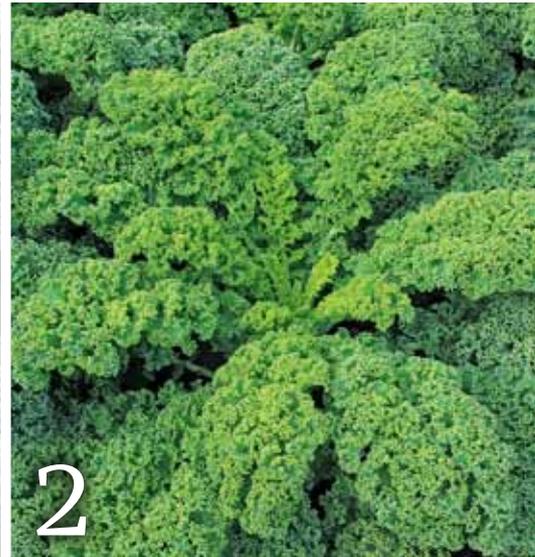
'Of 20 different cultivars in the trial at RHS Garden Wisley, each grown in three rows, five earned an AGM, and three AGMs were reconfirmed. Average heights of the cultivars were measured; the tallest, 'Redbor' **7**, averaged 88.6cm (35in) and the most dwarf AGM winner was 'Starbor' **5** which averaged 30cm (12in).

Judging criteria included disease tolerance, leaf texture and yields, but warm autumn weather and subsequent soft growth prevented a winter harvest. The trial concluded at the end of October 2015.'

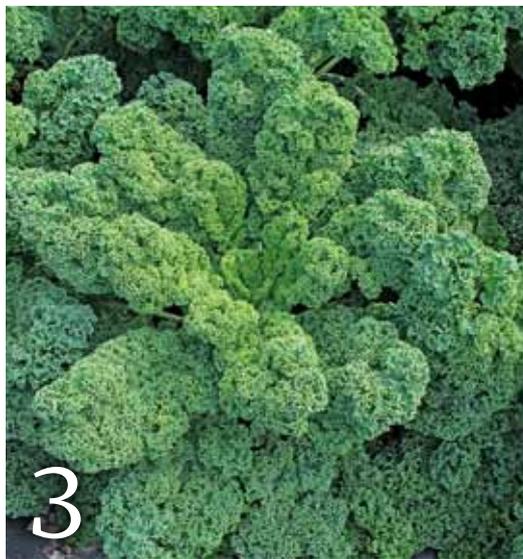
❖ RHS hardiness rating: H5 (-15 to -10°C / 5 to 14°F). ●



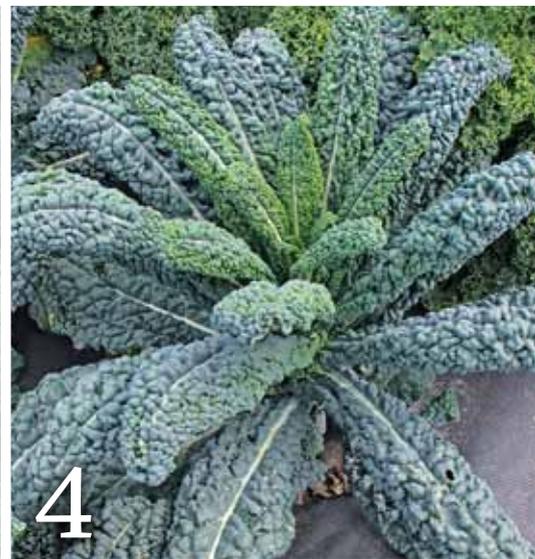
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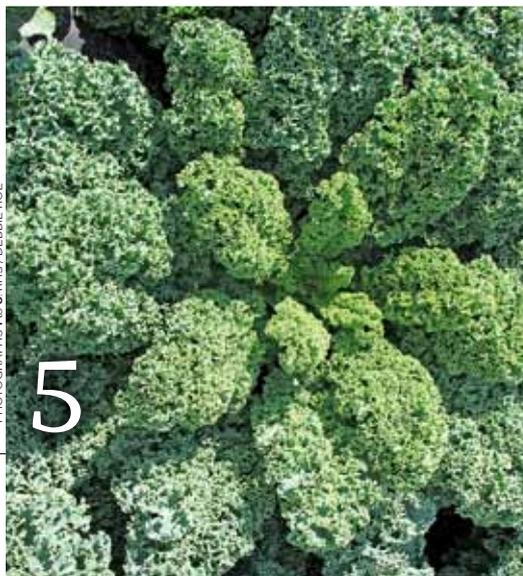


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Netting over kale cultivars protected them from bird damage on the Trials Field at Wisley.

PHOTOGRAPHS 1 to 8: RHS / DEBBIE ROE

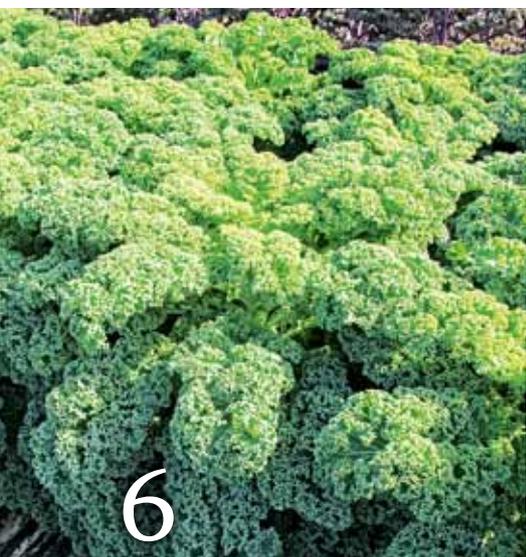


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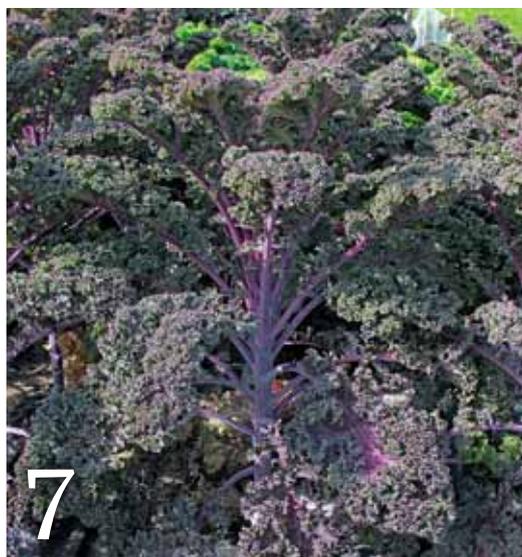
New AGMs after trial

- 1 'Black Magic'**: strap-leaved type with small blisters. Yield (av of 5): 970g (34 oz).
- 2 'Darkibor'**: medium-height and curly-leaved type. Leaves usually darker, but sunshine during the trial lightened foliage. Yield: 1,120g (39 oz).
- 3 'Kapitan'**: a tight plant, medium height and curly-leaved. Yield: 670g (24 oz).
- 4 'Yurok'**: AGM subject to availability. Good yield for compact size: 740g (26 oz).
- 5 'Starbor'**: small curly leaf, suitable for container growing. High yield for a smaller cultivar: 490g (17 oz).

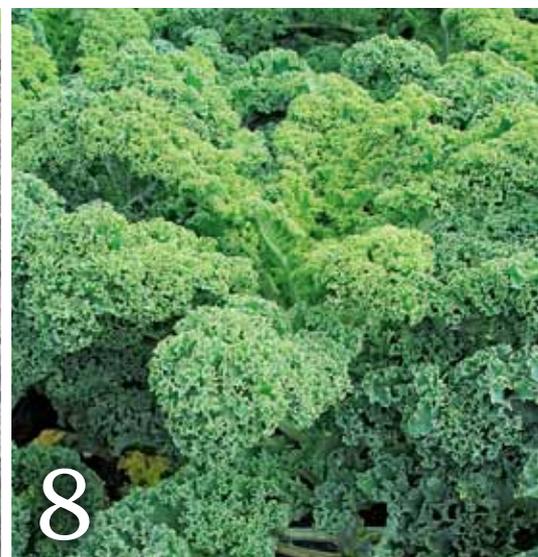




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7



8

Reconfirmed kale AGMs after trial

- 6 'Reflex'**: medium-height cultivar, curly-leaved type. Heaviest yield in the trial: 1,210g (43 oz). Original AGM 1999.
- 7 'Redbor'**: tall cultivar with uniform red curly leaf. Good salad leaf; also has ornamental value. Yield: 600g (21 oz). Original AGM 1999.
- 8 'Winterbor'**: tall plant with curly leaves. Yield: 1,030g (36 lb). Original AGM 1993.

More online

For further information about growing kale search 'How to grow kale' at www.rhs.org.uk.
 ❖ Find out more about Plant Society events at: www.rhs.org.uk/plantevents



A selection of AGM winter vegetables

RHS HARDINESS RATINGS: H3 (-5 TO 1°C / 23 TO 34°F); H4 (-10 TO -5°C / 14 TO 23°F); H5 (-15 TO -10°C / 5 TO 14°F)



RHS / CAROL SHEPPARD

Turnip 'Tiny Pal' H3
 Round, golf-ball-sized roots with smooth skin.



RHS / JACQUE GRAY

Brussels sprout 'Igor' H5
 Vigorous plants producing well-spaced sprouts.



RHS / JACQUE GRAY

Leek 'Blauwgroene Winter' - Bandit H5
 Harvest from winter to spring.



THOMPSON & MORGAN

Cabbage 'Tundra' H5
 Solid, sweet and crisp heads, easy to grow.



RHS / TIM SANDALL

Broccoli 'Red Fire' H5
 Early, purple-sprouting cultivar with a tall and open habit.



RHS / PHILIPPA GIBSON

Cabbage 'Winterjewel' H5
 Grown as greens. Develops leafy hearts, loose habit.



RHS / CAROL SHEPPARD

Celeriac 'Prinz' H4
 Smooth, white-skinned, small to medium-sized cultivar.



GAP / MAXINE ADCOCK

Parsnip 'Gladiator' H5
 Smooth skin and uniform shape. Fast to mature.