

# RHS Award of Garden Merit

Tropical, temperate & hardy orchids March 2020



## The AGM criteria

Intended as a practical guide for the gardener, the AGM is only awarded to plants that are:

- excellent for ordinary use in appropriate conditions
- available
- of good constitution
- essentially stable in form and colour
- reasonably resistant to pests and diseases

## Key to 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:

**H1a** tropical: heated greenhouse (more than 15C)

**H1b** subtropical: heated greenhouse (10C to 15C)

**H1c** warm temperate: heated greenhouse (5C to 10C)

**H2** tender: cool or frost-free greenhouse (1C to 5C)

**H3** half hardy: unheated greenhouse or mild winter (-5C to 1C)

**H4** hardy: average winter (-10C to -5C)

**H5** hardy: cold winter (-15C to -10C)

**H** Suitable for use as houseplant

**R** Suitable for rock & alpine use

For information on orchid cultivation, go to [rhs.org.uk/advice](https://rhs.org.uk/advice) and search on "orchid". Please email [agmaward@rhs.org.uk](mailto:agmaward@rhs.org.uk) with any queries.

## FOR CULTIVATION UNDER GLASS OR AS HOUSEPLANTS

See page 4 for hardy orchids

### × ALICEARA

#### Peggy Ruth Carpenter gx (H1a) **H**

A reliable and tolerant plant, found regularly at orchid nurseries and shows and occasionally in supermarket and DIY stores. Compact grower and suitable as a houseplant. Pink sepals and petals marked with deep red and an attractive white lip.

### BRASSIA

#### Eternal Wind gx (H1a) **H**

More compact and manageable hybrid spider orchid. Yellowy petals and sepals with chestnut barring and chestnut spots on a frilly lip. Good next step after *Phalaenopsis*.

### COELOGYNE

#### *cristata* (H1a) **H**

Can be grown as a houseplant when small and young. Does not need much heat or attention during winter. Can form a very large clump with several hundred fragrant flowers displayed on pendulous racemes.

### CYMBIDIUM

#### Dorothy Stockstill gx (H1c)

Pendent racemes of numerous small, pink-brown flowers with a maroon lip.

#### *erythraeum* (H1c)

An easy to re-flower species with green flowers, striped bronze, and a white lip in autumn or winter.

#### Golden Elf gx (H1b) **H**

Summer-flowering. Vibrant yellow blooms, fragrant and tolerant.

#### *lowianum* (H1c)

Larger-growing *Cymbidium* species. Clear green sepals and petals. Dramatic shape of the flower is quite unlike



**Paphiopedilum Pinocchio gx. Photo**  
© RHS / Sarah Cuttle.

that of a modern hybrid. Blooms are produced on long, arching stems. Strong grower.

#### Nagalex gx (H1c) **H**

A very floriferous and compact oriental-style *Cymbidium*; the flowers are an attractive yellow-green with a contrasting white lip and are sweetly scented. Can flower continuously for up to three and a half months; easily re-flowered.

#### Sarah Jean gx 'Ice Cascade' (H1c)

Very floriferous, with attractive white flowers; an excellent example of a pendulous mini *Cymbidium*. The plant is best kept outdoors in semi-shade after the frosts have finished and brought indoors again to a cool position before winter.

#### Tiger Tail gx (H1c)

Attractive olive-green flowers with contrasting white-tinged pink lip; very floriferous, holding its flowers above the medium-sized leaves.



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For the full list of AGM plants visit  
[rhs.org.uk/AGMplants](https://rhs.org.uk/AGMplants)

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# RHS Award of Garden Merit



## Orchids (page 2)



*Oncidium Jungle Monarch gx.* Photo © Johan Hermans.

### DENDROBIUM

#### Berry gx (H1b) H

Easy to grow; suitable as a houseplant. Regularly available. Stays fairly compact. Produces sprays of long-lasting flowers in deep mauve from cane-like stems.

#### *kingianum* (H1b) H

Widely available; divisions often found for sale at local orchid society meetings. Good plant to share and very tolerant for the beginner.

### LUDISIA

#### *discolor* (H1a) H

Grown for its velvety leaves highlighted with contrasting veins. Can be propagated by stem cuttings.

### LYCASTE

#### *aromatica* (H1a)

Yellow flowers, strongly cinnamon-scented; needs good light and intermediate temperatures; must be kept dry when resting in winter.

### × ONCIDESA

#### Sweet Sugar gx (H1a) H

Widely available. Has branching spikes with masses of brilliant yellow flowers. A good grower and ideally suited to centrally heated homes.

### ONCIDIUM

#### Jairak Fragrance gx (H1a) H

Well suited for growing indoors as a house plant, its purple blooms are chocolate-scented and have a distinctive central white spot on the lip. Plants can produce displays of flowers twice a year.

#### Jungle Monarch gx (H1a) H

Fragrant flowers, light yellow-brown with large purple-brown blotches and a white lip with a large purple-brown spot at the centre.

#### *naevium* (H1a) H

Sweetly scented, star-shaped white flowers, each spotted with red and with a yellow spot at the centre.

Mature plants may produce six or more 30cm spikes for an impressive display.

#### Sharry Baby gx (H1a) H

Sometimes called the chocolate orchid, as its small burnt-red flowers have a cocoa fragrance.

#### Twinkle gx (H1a) H

Compact, undemanding plant in several colour forms varying from cream through pinks to a soft red. Blooms have a spicy vanilla fragrance. Most plants will have several inflorescences, giving a frothy effect and successional flowering.

### × ONCIDOPSIS

#### Nelly Isler gx (H1a) H

Freely produces spikes of long-lasting, fragrant, bright red flowers with spotted lips and yellow centres. Makes an ideal pot plant. Also sold under *Burrageara*.

### × ONCOSTELE

#### Midnight Miracles gx 'Masai Red' (H1a) H

Available in the UK under the trade name of Masai, sometimes with cultivar epithet 'Red'. Compact grower with a solid red lip, and suitable for growing as a houseplant.

#### Midnight Miracles gx 'Masai Splash' (H1a) H

Available in the UK under the trade name of Masai, sometimes with cultivar epithet 'Splash'. The amount of white on the lip will vary according to the temperature and light levels under which it has been grown.

#### Wildcat gx (H1a) H

Found in many colour variations from ruby-red to yellow with brown markings. Often sold as a "Cambria". Can be grown successfully as a houseplant throughout the UK.

### PAPHIOPEDILUM

#### Clair de Lune gx (H1a) H

Made and registered by Sanders in 1927, this has stood the test of time.

Classic *Paphiopedilum* in apple-green and white with stiff upright stem. Popular with flower arrangers. Generally available as a young plant of single or two growths.

#### *insigne* (H1b) H

To 30cm tall, with narrowly lance-shaped green leaves and solitary



*Dendrobium Berry gx.* Photo © RHS / Sarah Cuttle.

flowers to 10cm across, the petals and pouch golden-brown, the upper sepal yellow with red-brown spots and white upper margin.

#### *Leeanum* gx (H1a) H

Dorsal sepal pure white, with purplish red dotted lines down the middle; emerald-green at base, with mauve spots. Petals with reddish brown stripes; pouch a shiny brownish red.

#### Pinocchio gx (H1a) H

Unusual colour combination of rosy pinks, yellows and green. Easy to grow; makes a good houseplant; flowers sequentially and can be in bloom for six to nine months.

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## Orchids (page 3)



*Phalaenopsis* 'Picasso'. Photo © Johan Hermans.

### PHALAENOPSIS

#### *amabilis* (H1a) H

Evergreen epiphytic orchid to 90cm, with oval leaves and pendent racemes of rounded white flowers.

#### *Ariadne* gx (H1a) H

Also available commercially as PINK DANCER. The petals and sepals are pink with dark red spots at the edges, the lip white, yellow-red at throat. Flowers long-lasting with good colour, form and substance.

#### *Be Tris* gx (H1a) H

Miniature orchid; white flowers flushed pink at the centre, with a darker pink lip.

#### *Brother Little Amaglad* gx (H1a) H

Floriferous, small, extremely long-lasting pink flowers. Shorter variety. Can be grown in many places throughout the home.

#### *Brother Pico Sweetheart* gx (H1a) H

Reliable hybrid with masses of flowers. White base, pink centre and strong deep pink-red lip. Ideal houseplant and suitable for a beginner.

#### 'Chengdu' (H1a) H

Pale pink flowers with a round shape, with faint spotting on sepals; heavily spotted orange lip. Very floriferous.

#### *Chingruey's Goldstaff* gx (H1a) H

Very floriferous, yellow striped red, with a pink-orange lip.

#### 'Diffusion' (H1a) H

Pink-mauve flowers with yellow on the lip; pleasantly scented when ambient

temperature high enough with an attractive marbled leaf. Compact *Phalaenopsis* with unusual coloration.

#### 'Dover' (H1a) H

Plain white flowers with a yellow lip, mauve at the throat. Floriferous, often with 3 spikes.

#### Hsinying Yenlin gx 'Purple Princess' (H1a) H

A compact, very floriferous and attractive *Phalaenopsis*. Sepals and petal dark pink-violet with a white edge and a darker purple lip with central yellow callus spotted red.

#### 'Kleopatras 4' (H1a) H

Cream flowers with purple spots, more numerous on the petals, with a plain purple lip.

#### 'New Life' (H1a) H

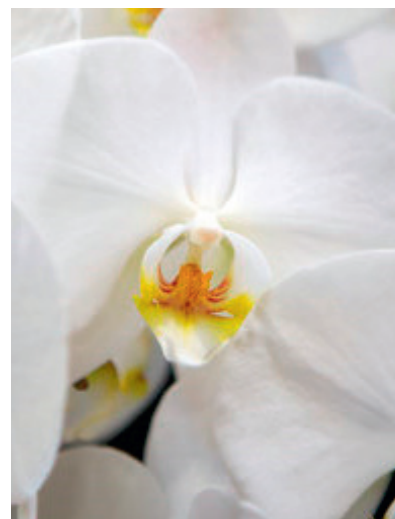
Floriferous and compact; small white slightly scented flowers mauve on the back with a yellow centre to the lip and red spots. Also sold as Pisco.

#### 'Picasso' (H1a) H

A large-flowered 'harlequin' *Phalaenopsis* (a form where no two flowers are identical). White flowers, with a burgundy centre and scattered burgundy spots. The burgundy-orange lip has a white-yellow edge on the side lobes.



*Prosthechea cochleata*. Photo © RHS / Carol Sheppard.



*Phalaenopsis amabilis*. Photo © RHS / Andy Paradise.

#### Rong Guan Peacock gx (H1a) H

A compact plant with many flowering spikes and a large number of flowers on each spike. Sometimes sold as ROTTERDAM.

#### 'Sunshine' (H1a) H

Small pale yellow flowers with an orange lip. Compact, with a high flower count.

#### Taida Sweet gx 'Stripe Beauty' (H1a) H

Flowers medium in size, cream striped pink, on a compact plant. Sometimes sold in the trade as HAPPY MINHO or PINK BALANZ.

#### Tiny Tim gx (H1a) H

A compact plant, producing many spikes of white crystalline flowers with contrasting yellow lip.

#### 'Violet Queen' (H1a) H

Striking violet flowers, faintly striped, with a plain darker violet lip. A uniquely coloured compact *Phalaenopsis*.

#### 'White Apple' (H1a) H

Small white flowers, mauve on the reverse, with a yellow lip spotted red at centre. Compact and floriferous.

#### Yellow Lightning gx (H1a) H

Easy-growing and very floriferous, with attractive bright yellow flowers edged in red and with a purple lip. Sometimes sold in the trade as BEE STING or PAPAGAYO.



# RHS Award of Garden Merit

## Orchids (page 4)



*Cypripedium Hank Small* gx. Photo © RHS / Joanna Kossak.

### PROSTHECHEA *cochleata* (H1b) <sup>H</sup>

Unusual hooded flowers bloom successively, providing a long flowering period. Mature plants may flower for most of the year. When small can be grown on a windowsill in indirect sunlight.

### PTEROSTYLIS *curta* (H2) <sup>H</sup>

Its common name (blunt greenhood) describes its flower shape. Robust; easy to grow and increase.

### STENOGLOTTIS *longifolia* (H1b) <sup>H</sup>

Very floriferous light to medium lavender flowers with darker spots. Undemanding. Well-grown plants can carry up to 60 flowers per inflorescence.

### VANDA

#### *Princess Mikasa* gx (H1a) <sup>H</sup>

Available in pink, white and blue forms, and suitable for growing in the home in a bright position away from direct sunlight. In the right conditions, plants can flower up to three times a year.

### HARDY ORCHIDS

Including those for Rock & Alpine use

#### BLETILLA *striata* (H4)

Hardy and reliable garden plant. Fragrant flowers, usually vivid rose-pink/magenta but can be found in shades of purple/lavender. The white form is not quite as vigorous. Plants grow to 30–60cm.

### CYPRIPEDIUM

#### *Dietrich* gx (H5) <sup>R</sup>

Large flowers with twisted brownish burgundy laterals and a cream pouch.

#### *formosanum* (H3) <sup>R</sup>

Creeping herbaceous perennial, with stems to c.150mm, and two fan-shaped, untoothed but wavy-edged, pleated leaves. A solitary nodding flower, white, with reddish speckling towards the base; white inflated labellum blotched reddish purple, mostly showing through from the inside but spilling out around the almost closed mouth, through which yellow streaking is visible.

#### *Gabriela* gx (H5) <sup>R</sup>

Burgundy petals and sepals, with cream pouch overlaid with burgundy veins and suffusions. Sold under the Garden Orchids brand as KENTUCKY MAXI and widely available.

#### *Hank Small* gx (H5) <sup>R</sup>

Deep yellow lip, with dark brown twisted petals and sepals. Forms a compact and floriferous clump.

#### *kentuckiense* (H5) <sup>R</sup>

Stems 80cm; 1–2 flowers with twisted drooping laterals spotted purplish red; lip c.60mm long, pale yellow, much inflated and in profile resembling a rather deep, blunt-nosed boot.

#### *Michael* gx (H5) <sup>R</sup>

Cream with pink coloration and veins. Often produces two flowers per stem. Prefers slightly alkaline growing media.

#### *Philipp* gx (H5) <sup>R</sup>

Large flowers with white purple-dotted pouch and pink to purplish sepals and petals. Sold as KENTUCKY PINK.

#### *reginae* (H5) <sup>R</sup>

Late-flowering, to 50cm tall; sepals and petals white, contrasting with white rounded pouch heavily dotted and suffused with magenta. Quite easy to grow. Forms large clumps.

#### *Sabine* gx (H5) <sup>R</sup>

To 35cm tall. Cream lip with pink coloration and strong red veins in the petals and upper sepals. Quite easy to grow.

#### *Ulla Silkens* gx (H5) <sup>R</sup>

Late-flowering, to 45cm tall, sometimes with two flowers per stem. Variable lip colour of white and pink. Needs deep soil.

### DACTYLORHIZA

#### *elata* (H5) <sup>R</sup>

A robust herbaceous perennial with erect stems to 1m tall, bearing narrowly oblong leaves. Flowers reddish purple, 2cm wide, opening in a dense spike to 20cm long in late spring and early summer.

#### *foliosa* (H4) <sup>R</sup>

An erect herbaceous perennial to 70cm tall, with spirally arranged lance-shaped leaves and bright rosy purple flowers 2.5cm wide, in a dense spike to 12cm long.

### PLEIONE

#### *formosana* (H3) <sup>R</sup>

Deciduous perennial to 15cm in height, with globose pseudobulbs, each bearing a single lance-shaped leaf and solitary pale or rose-pink flowers 8cm in width, the lip blotched with red or brown.

#### *limprichtii* (H3) <sup>R</sup>

Deciduous perennial with ovoid pseudobulbs, each with a single lance-shaped leaf and solitary or paired, deep rosy pink flowers 8cm wide, the lip paler, ridged and with reddish blotches.

#### *Shantung* gx 'Muriel Harberd' (H3) <sup>R</sup>

A deciduous perennial to 15cm in height, with dark green pseudobulbs, each bearing a single lance-shaped leaf and 1 or 2 very pale yellow flowers 8cm wide, tinged pale pink; lip yellow, marked with orange.