

RHS AWARD OF GARDEN MERIT

Fruit (with descriptions) 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
- of good constitution
- essentially stable in form and colour
- reasonably resistant to pests and diseases

Key to codes & 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

Figures to the left of the name give the year of the award.

Names in SMALL CAPITALS are trade designations. See foot of inside pages for key to other codes.

AGM material online

For information about the AGM and RHS trials, go to: www.rhs.org.uk/trials. For a full list of AGM plants, go to: www.rhs.org.uk/AGMplants

Cultivation

See back page for notes on cultivation. For more information, go to: www.rhs.org.uk/advice-search and click on the A–Z link.

APPLE (*Malus domestica*)

98 **Alkmene'** (D) (H4)²

~ aromatic, Cox-like flavour. Good, regular crops; some resistance to scab and mildew. Season: late Sept.–late Oct.

'American Mother'

~ see 'Mother'

93 **'Arthur Turner'** (C) (H4)³

~ flavoursome cooker. Large, golden exhibition fruit. Good, regular crops; prone to mildew; some resistance to scab. Striking, deep pink blossom, for which AM 1945. Season: Sept.–Nov.

93 **'Ashmead's Kernel'** (D) (H4)⁴

~ intense, fruit-drop flavour. Cropping erratic; prone to bitter pit. Season: Dec.–Feb.

93 **'Belle de Boskoop'** (C/D) (H4)*‡³

~ needs little or no extra sugar when cooked; mellows to brisk eating apple. Good, regular crops; very vigorous tree. Season: Oct.–Apr.; keeps well

93 **'Blenheim Orange'** (C/D) (H4)*‡³

~ characteristic nutty flavour. Use early for cooking. Some resistance to mildew; very vigorous tree; partial tip-bearer; light crops. Season (C): from late Sept. (D): Oct.–Dec./Jan.

93 **'Bramley's Seedling'** (C) (H4)*‡³

~ cooks to very sharp, savoury purée; retains acidity to spring. Heavy crops; prone to bitter pit and scab; partial tip bearer; can bear fruit parthenocarpically; tendency to be biennial if over-cropped; blossom susceptible to frost. Very vigorous tree. Season: Nov.–Mar.; stores well

93 **'Charles Ross'** (C/D) (H4)*³

~ quite rich flavour; needs no sugar when cooked. Handsome exhibition fruit. Good, regular crops; hardy tree; some resistance to scab. Season: Oct.–Dec.



93 **'Claygate Pearmain'** (D) (H4)*⁴

~ rich and nutty flavour. Good, regular crops, but can be poorly coloured. Season: Dec.–Feb.

98 DELBARESTIVALE **'Delcorf'** (D) (H4)³

~ bright, attractive fruit; sweet, honeyed taste. Heavy, regular crops. Season: Sept.–Oct.

93 **'Discovery'** (D) (H4)*³

~ bright red, crisp, juicy; keeps longer than most earlies. Ornamental tree. Good, regular crops; partial tip bearer; good resistance to scab and mildew. Season: mid Aug.–Sept.

93 **'Dummellor's Seedling'** (C) (H4)⁴

~ previously listed as apple 'Dumelow's Seedling'. Cooks to well-flavoured, juicy purée; retains acidity to spring. Good, regular crops, but fruit can be small for a cooker. Season: Nov.–Apr.

'Early Victoria'

~ see 'Emneth Early'

Above. Apple **'Dummellor's Seedling'** (top), drawn by Alice B. Ellis, from Robert Hogg's *The Herefordshire Pomona* (1878–1884).

For more information, please write to:
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- 93 **'Edward VII'** (C) (H4)*⁶
 ~ cooks to well-flavoured purée, not as acidic as 'Bramley's Seedling'. Large, regular, exhibition fruit. Deep pink blossom; flowers very late so escapes frosts; needs late-flowering pollinator. Good, regular crops; resistant to scab; some resistance to mildew. Season: Dec.–Apr.
- 93 **'Egremont Russet'** (D) (H4)*²
 ~ characteristic nutty flavour. Good, regular crops; fruit resistant to scab, but prone to leaf scab; very prone to bitter pit and woolly aphids. Season: Oct.–Dec.
- 93 **'Ellison's Orange'** (D) (H4)⁴
 ~ rich, aniseed flavour. Good, regular crops; some resistance to scab, but susceptible to canker. Season: late Sept.–late Oct.
- 93 **'Elstar'** (D) (H4)³
 ~ intense flavour, honeyed, crisp. Heavy regular crops. Season: late Oct.–Dec.
- 93 **'Emneth Early'** (C) (H4)*³
 ~ codlin type, cooking to fluffy purée; needs hardly any sugar. Heavy but biennial crops; needs thinning for size. Some resistance to scab and mildew. Season: Aug.–Sept.
- 'Epicure'**
 ~ see 'Laxton's Epicure'
- 93 **'Falstaff'** (PBR) (D) (H4)³
 ~ attractive, crisp fruit. Heavy, regular crops; frost-resistant blossom; some resistance to scab. Good pollinator. Can show poor fruit colour; 'Red Falstaff' is more highly coloured clone. Season: Oct.–Dec.
- 93 **'Fiesta'** (PBR) (D) (H4)³
 ~ aromatic, Cox-like flavour. Heavy, regular crops; frost-resistant blossom; less prone to disease than Cox, but can be susceptible to scab and develop canker in some sites. Season: Oct.–Dec./Jan.
- 'Fortune'**
 ~ see 'Laxton's Fortune'
- 93 **'George Neal'** (C/D) (H4)²
 ~ brisk eating apple; sweet, delicate taste when cooked. Striking, deep pink blossom. Good, regular crops. Season: late Aug.–Sept.
- 93 **'Golden Delicious'** (D) (H4)⁴
 ~ honeyed, very sweet when well ripened. Heavy, regular crops; prone to scab. Good pollinator for other trees; stores well. Season: Nov.–Feb.
- 93 **'Golden Noble'** (C) (H4)⁴
 ~ cooks to a well-flavoured purée, not as acidic as 'Bramley's Seedling'. Attractive blossom. Good, regular crops; partial tip bearer; some scab and mildew resistance. Season: Oct.–Dec. and longer
- 93 **'Greensleeves'** (PBR) (D) (H4)³
 ~ crisp, brisk, becoming sweeter. Very precocious and heavy, regular crops; needs thinning for good fruit size. Blossom has some frost resistance. Can be susceptible to scab. Season: late Sept.–Oct.; short season once picked
- 93 **'Grenadier'** (C) (H4)*³
 ~ cooks to sharp purée. Heavy, regular crops; good disease resistance. Season: Aug.–Sept.
- 93 **'Idared'** (D) (H4)²
 ~ crisp apple, with moderate flavour; keeps very well. Good, regular crops; prone to canker, scab; very prone to mildew. Season: Nov.–Mar.
- 93 **'James Grieve'** (C/D) (H4)*³
 ~ savoury, crisp to melting flesh; when cooked keeps shape, with juicy, delicate flavour. Good, regular crops; fruit bruises easily. Prone to scab, canker; resistant to mildew; requires well-drained soil. Season: Sept.–Oct. and longer
- 93 **'Jonagold'** (D) (H4)*³
 ~ attractive, crisp, honeyed taste; large fruit. Heavy, regular crops; prone to canker. Fruit can be poorly coloured, but many more colourful sports exist. Vigorous. Season: Nov.–Jan./Feb.; stores well
- 93 **'Jupiter'** (PBR) (D) (H4)*³ ‡
 ~ Cox-like flavour, but sharper. Heavy crops, but biennial if allowed to over-crop; fruit can be irregular shape and heavily russetted. Vigorous. Season: late Oct.–Jan.
- 93 **'Kidd's Orange Red'** (D) (H4)³
 ~ very attractive; rich aromatic, perfumed taste. Good, regular crops; fruit prone to coarse russet. Season: Nov.–Jan.
- 93 **'King of the Pippins'** (C/D) (H4)*⁵
 ~ well ripened, good flavour. Cooked, keeps shape, flavoursome; suited to open tarts, etc. Heavy, regular crops; upright habit; good resistance to disease; keeps well. Season: Oct.–Dec.; can store to Feb.
- 93 **'King Russet'** (D) (H4)³
 ~ russetted form of 'King of the Pippins'. Improved eating quality; good distinct 'russet' flavour. Not as heavy cropping. Season: Oct.–Dec.

Above. Apple 'Blenheim Orange', drawn by Elizabeth Dowle, 1986.

H1 requires heated glass H2 requires unheated glass H3 hardy outside in some regions; needs frost-free protection in winter
 H4 hardy throughout the British Isles * suitable for northerly, colder, higher rainfall areas ‡ triploid (C) culinary (D) dessert
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- 93 **'Lane's Prince Albert'** (C) (H4)*³
~ cooks to brisk purée, not as acidic as 'Bramley's Seedling'. Large fruit. Good, regular crops; fruit easily bruised. Hardy; makes neat small tree. Resistant to scab; very prone to mildew; prone to canker on all but very well-drained soils. Season: Nov.–Mar.; stores well
- 93 **'Laxton's Epicure'** (D) (H4)*³
~ delicate, aromatic, Cox-like flavour. Heavy, regular crops; needs thinning for size; prone to bitter pit, canker. Season: late Aug.–Sept. Awarded as 'Epicure'
- 93 **'Laxton's Fortune'** (D) (H4)³
~ sweet, lightly aromatic flavour; needs to colour well for good quality. Good crops, but tendency to be biennial. Fruit bruises easily, can be poorly coloured. Prone to canker, good resistance to scab. Season: Sept.–Oct. Awarded as 'Fortune'
- 93 **'Lord Lambourne'** (D) (H4)*²
~ sweet, juicy, attractive flavour. Skin can become greasy when stored. Good, regular crops. Partial tip bearer; resistant to mildew. Season: late Sept.–Nov.
- 93 **'Merton Charm'** (D) (H4)²
~ sweet, crisp to firm flesh, lightly aromatic. Crops heavy, but fruit small unless thinned; can be poorly coloured. Semi-weeping habit. Season: late Sept.–Oct.
- 93 **'Mother'** (D) (H4)*⁵
~ sweet, perfumed, distinctive flavour. Crops can be erratic, light; good resistance to scab and mildew. Season: Oct.–Dec.
- 93 **'Newton Wonder'** (D/C) (H4)*^{†5}
~ cooks to juicy, brisk, well-flavoured purée, but with much less acidity than 'Bramley's Seedling'. Matures to brisk eater. Heavy crops but strongly biennial; prone to bitter pit. Vigorous tree. Season: Nov.–Mar. and longer
- 93 **'Peasgood's Nonsuch'** (C/D) (H4)³
~ cooks to sweet, delicately flavoured purée; needs no or little extra sugar. Exhibition apple with large, handsome regular shape. Good, regular crops; resistance to mildew and red spider; moderate resistance to scab. Season: late Sept.–Dec.
- 93 **'Pixie'** (D) (H4)*⁴
~ intensely aromatic, Cox-like flavour, but sharper and firmer-fleshed. Good to heavy crops, but small fruit unless thinned. Season: Dec.–Mar.
- 93 **'Ribston Pippin'** (D) (H4)^{†2}
~ intense, rich, aromatic flavour; more acidity and more robust than Cox. Good, regular crops; resistant to scab; prone to mildew and canker. Season: Oct.–Jan.
- 93 **'Rosemary Russet'** (D) (H4)³
~ sweet-sharp acid-drop taste, resembling 'Ashmead's Kernel'. Crops good, regular; vigorous tree with upright habit. Season: Nov./Dec.–Mar.
- 93 **'Royal Gala'** (D) (H4)⁴
~ more highly coloured form of 'Gala'. Sweet, quite honeyed flavour. Heavy, regular crops; fruit can be small. Prone to scab. Season: Oct.–Jan.; stores well
- 93 **'Saint Edmund's Pippin'** (D) (H4)*²
~ very attractive; richly flavoured when fully ripe. Good, regular crops; fruit bruises easily. Prone to mildew. Season: late Sept.–Oct.
- 09 **'Scrumptious'** (D) (H4)
~ regular cropper, good fruit size, attractive ornamental fruit. Good tree habit; easily managed. A good dessert apple: sweet, good flavour, crisp, juicy
- 93 **'Sunset'** (D) (H4)³
~ aromatic, like small early Cox, but sharper. Heavy, regular crops, but small fruit. Resistant to scab; prone to mildew and canker. Season: Oct.–Dec.



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- 93 **'Suntan'** (D) (H4)^{†5}
~ intensely flavoured, aromatic, but can be over-sharp; needs keeping to Dec. to mellow. Good, regular crops; prone to bitter pit, canker. Late-flowering. Season: Nov./Dec.–Feb.
- 93 **'Warner's King'** (C) (H4)^{†2}
~ cooks to well-flavoured purée; not as acidic as 'Bramley's Seedling'. Attractive, deep pink blossom. Heavy, regular crops; fruit can be very large. Prone to bitter pit. Vigorous. Season: late Sept.–Dec.
- 93 **'Winston'** (D) (H4)*⁴
~ aromatic and rich. Good, regular crops; fruit can be rather small; good disease resistance. Season: Dec.–Apr.; keeps very well

Above. Apple 'Ribston Pippin'; watercolour by William Hooker from one of ten volumes known as 'Hooker's Fruits', which were commissioned by the RHS to help standardise the nomenclature of cultivated fruit. The painting is dated 1816.

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- 93 **'Worcester Pearmain'** (D) (H4)³
 ~ intense strawberry flavour when well-ripened and scarlet. Tip bearer; heavy, regular crops. Resistant to mildew; some susceptibility to canker. Season: late Sept.–Oct.

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

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

Above. Cherry 'Morello'; watercolour by William Hooker (1779–1832) from 'Hooker's Fruits'. Date: 1818.

- 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

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

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

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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

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

LOGANBERRY (*Rubus x 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

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.

PEAR (*Pyrus communis*)

- 93 'Beth' (D) (H4)⁴
~ attractive; good quality and flavour. Small fruit. Heavy, regular crops. Season: mid/late Aug.–early Sept.; short season once picked
- 93 'Beurré Hardy' (D) (H4)^{*3}
~ very melting and fragrant with rose-water perfume. Good, regular crops. Very hardy, vigorous tree; slow to bear; resistant to scab. Season: Nov.–Dec.
- 06 'Beurré Superfin' (D) (H4)³
~ an excellent September-cropping cultivar for the amateur gardener, with a lovely cinnamon-russet colour and an exquisite flavour. Gives a good, consistent yield and is not over vigorous. Mid-season
- 93 'Catillac' (C) (H4)^{†4}
~ large fruit, but culinary only; with long, slow cooking, slices soften and turn red. Large attractive blossom. Good, regular crops. Vigorous tree. Season: Dec.–Mar./Apr.; keeps very well



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- 93 'Concorde' (PBR) (D) (H4)⁴
~ sweet, buttery, fragrant flavour, similar to 'Conference', but superior. Heavy, regular crops; frost-tolerant blossom. Young trees very precocious. Season: late Oct./Nov.–Dec.
- 93 'Conference' (D) (H4)^{*3}
~ sweet, buttery, quite rich taste. Heavy, regular crops. Can produce fruits without pollinators, but resulting fruits often misshapen. Season: Oct.–Nov./Dec.
- 93 'Doyenné du Comice' (D) (H4)⁴
~ very rich flavour; very juicy, buttery, perfumed. Excellent quality, but moderate crops, although older trees more regular. Vigorous tree; prone to scab. Season: Nov.–Dec. Not compatible with 'Onward'

Above. Colour-printed, hand-finished stipple engraving of an unnamed peach variety, engraved by Langlois (fl.1800s) after an original by Pierre Joseph Redouté (1759–1840). From P. J. Redouté's *Choix des plus belles fleurs*, published in Paris from 1827 to 1833.

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- 06 **'Gorham'** (D) (H4)⁴
~ a beautiful green pear with a good covering of russet. Has an excellent flavour; a good reliable cropper and readily available to the amateur gardener. Late
- 93 **'Joséphine de Malines'** (D) (H4)³
~ very rich, buttery and perfumed. Crops good, reliable, but needs warm site. Fruit easily bruised. Tip-bearer; resistant to scab. Season: Nov.–Dec./Jan.
- 03 **'Louise Bonne of Jersey'** (D) (H4)²
~ richly flavoured, buttery and juicy. Good, regular crops. Hardy tree; blossom shows some resistance to frost; susceptible to scab. Season: Oct.–Nov. Not compatible with 'Williams' Bon Chrétien'
- 93 **'Onward'** (D) (H4)⁴
~ sweet, rich, buttery, somewhat like an early Comice. Good, regular crops. Prone to scab. Season: Sept.–early Oct.; short season. Not compatible with 'Doyenné du Comice'
- 93 **'Pitmaston Duchess'** (C/D) (H4)‡⁴
~ quite sugary and melting; sweet delicate flavour when cooked. Large, handsome exhibition fruit. Attractive blossom. Vigorous tree; susceptible to scab. Season: late Sept.–Oct.; short season
- 93 **'Williams' Bon Chrétien'** (D) (H4)*³
~ sweet, melting, juicy flesh with distinctive musky flavour. Good, regular crops; good disease resistance, but susceptible to scab. Season: late Aug.–Sept.; picking right time is essential—usually mid/late Aug. Not compatible with 'Louise Bonne of Jersey'
- 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; 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 **'Pershore'** (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 earliest. 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.
- RASPBERRY (*Rubus idaeus*)**
Raspberries crop from late June–early Aug. Autumn primocanes from late July–early Oct.
- 09 **'All Gold'** (D) (H4)
~ for autumn cropping
- 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 for autumn cropping after trial 2009

H1 requires heated glass H2 requires unheated glass H3 hardy outside in some regions; needs frost-free protection in winter
H4 hardy throughout the British Isles * suitable for northerly, colder, higher rainfall areas ‡ triploid (C) culinary (D) dessert
Figures to the left of names give the year of the award • Figures in superscript after the name denote the pollination group

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Fruit 2011 (page 7)



- 09 **'Caroline'** ^(PBR) (D) (H4)
~ for autumn cropping
- 00 **'Glen Ample'** ^(PBR) (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 for summer cropping after trial 2009
- 09 **'Glen Magna'** ^(PBR) (D) (H4)
~ for summer cropping
- 93 **'Glen Moy'** ^(PBR) (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'** ^(PBR) (D) (H4)
~ medium-sized, firm fruit. Moderate vigour; good crops; suited to wet regions. Season: mid
- 09 **'Joan J'** ^(PBR) (D) (H4)
~ for autumn cropping
- 93 **'Leo'** ^(PBR) (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 for summer cropping after trial 2009
- 93 **'Malling Jewel'** (D) (H4)
~ good flavour and crops. Season: early to mid. Reconfirmed for summer cropping after trial 2009
- 09 **'Polka'** ^(PBR) (D) (H4)
~ for autumn cropping
- 09 **'Tulameen'** (D) (H4)
~ for summer cropping
- 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'** ^(PBR) (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'** ^(PBR) (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'** ^(PBR) (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

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RHS AWARD OF GARDEN MERIT

Fruit 2011 (page 8)



Cultivation

All fruits are best grown in sheltered sites, with protection from spring frosts and cold winds. Brief guidance is given below on suitability for different locations, rootstocks, pollination and storage.

Location

Most of the **apple** cultivars listed here succeed all over the country, including the north of England. Those which have been found to be particularly successful in higher-rainfall and colder areas are marked with an asterisk; this is also used to highlight other fruits that have been found to be successful in northern regions. **Pears** crop best in sheltered warm situations; in the more exposed areas and northern counties, some pears will benefit from the protection of walls. **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. **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). **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. **Apples** and **pears** listed as triploid (‡) are poor pollinators and require a normal (i.e. diploid) pollinator to set fruit. Gardeners should be aware that this diploid pollinator will not itself set fruit unless pollinated by another diploid tree. Many *Malus* species and crab apples, such as 'Golden Hornet' and 'Evereste', are also a good source of pollen for dessert and culinary apples. 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, as are the **soft fruits**, except that **blueberries** may need a pollinator.

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. For example, **apple trees** on 'M9' rootstock are suitable for small gardens, while those on 'M25' will produce large, standard trees. The size of the tree will also be determined by the vigour of the cultivar. It is often advisable to obtain a very vigorous cultivar, for example 'Bramley's Seedling', on a more dwarfing stock. Apples are available on 'M27' (very dwarfing), 'M9' (dwarfing), 'M26' (semi-dwarfing), 'MM 106' (semi-vigorous), and 'M25' (vigorous) rootstocks. **Pears** are available on 'Quince C' (dwarfing), 'Quince A' (semi-vigorous), 'BA 29' (semi-vigorous) and seedling



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pear (vigorous) rootstocks. Some pear cultivars are incompatible with a quince rootstock and these are sold with a pear interstock (usually 'Beurré Hardy'). **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).

Storage

Early **apples** and **pears** will not store, but many more of the apple and pear cultivars listed will store to Christmas and some to the spring. This calls for good storage conditions, i.e. a cool, dark, frost-free place that is not subject to fluctuating temperatures. Often this can be achieved in sheds and garages, but in general centrally heated houses are not suitable for long-term storage.

Above. Hand-coloured stipple engraving of a plum variety described as the Green Gage Plum, engraved after an original by William Hooker, from William Hooker: *Pomona Londinensis*. London: 1818.