

RHS PLANT TRIALS BULLETIN

Number 21 May 2008



Clematis alpina & *C. macropetala*

Wendy Wesley

Trials Officer, RHS Garden Wisley

RHS Trial of *Clematis alpina* and *C. macropetala*

Clematis alpina and *C. macropetala* are relatively small-flowered *Clematis* species belonging to the subgenus *Atragene*. Historically the single-flowered cultivars were assigned to *C. alpina* and doubles to *C. macropetala*, but now many are known, or suspected, to be hybrids between the two or with other species in the subgenus such as *C. fauriei*, *C. ochotensis*, and *C. sibirica*. These hybrids are listed without a specific epithet, but are included together with their parents in the *Atragene* Group.

The nodding, bell-shaped flowers of these deciduous, woody climbers are mainly produced in spring on the previous year's growth, sometimes providing a second flush in summer on the new shoots.

Cultivation

These hardy plants are suitable for growing on fences, walls and pergolas, in borders on tripods and wigwams and can also be allowed to scramble through large shrubs or small trees. Most can also be grown successfully in containers. They will grow well in a wide range of soils. The trial at Wisley demonstrated sites subject to late spring frosts and exposed to early morning sun should be avoided. The acid, sandy soil of the trial site also proved to be unsuitable and better establishment might have been achieved by the incorporation of plenty of humus, to increase its water retention, and lime to raise the pH.

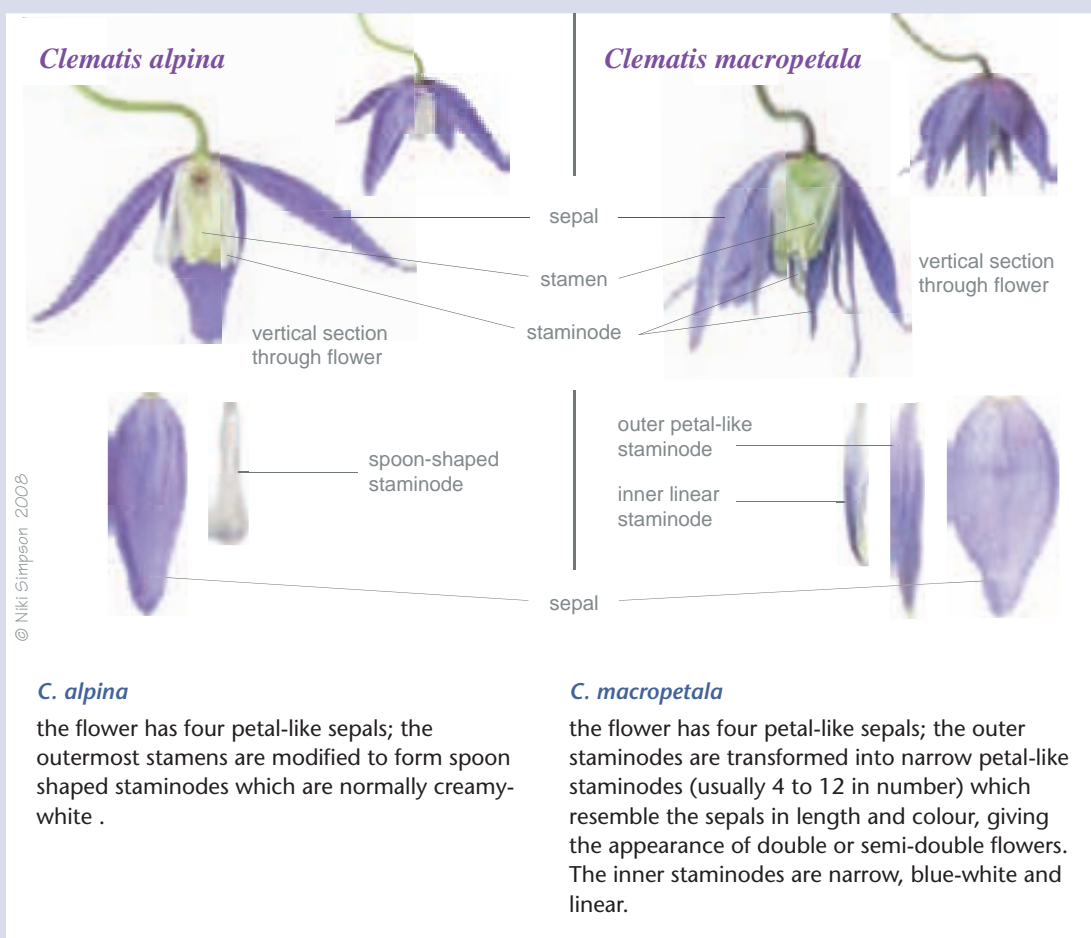
Any pruning should be carried out immediately after flowering has finished so that new growth can take place to provide flowers for the following season. A light annual trim is most effective as they do not always respond well to being cut back into wood which is more than a few years old. It is beneficial to cut the whole plant hard back for the first couple of years in order to build up a well-branched structure from the base. *Clematis* are best planted deeply and the base of the plant protected to reduce moisture loss. The root system of both species are known to be particularly fragile.

The trial was initially grown at a site in Wisley Village, planted in 1997. Plants did not establish well and many suffered from late frost damage. The trial was propagated in 1999 and planted in April 2001 at Howard's Field in Wisley Garden. Even on this site there were deaths.

Objectives

The objectives of the trial were to:

- compare and assess old and new cultivars
- recommend the Award of Garden Merit to those considered to be the best
- check nomenclature
- obtain specimens, photographs and descriptions as a record to be held in the RHS Herbarium at Wisley.



C. alpina

the flower has four petal-like sepals; the outermost stamens are modified to form spoon shaped staminodes which are normally creamy-white.

C. macropetala

the flower has four petal-like sepals; the outer staminodes are transformed into narrow petal-like staminodes (usually 4 to 12 in number) which resemble the sepals in length and colour, giving the appearance of double or semi-double flowers. The inner staminodes are narrow, blue-white and linear.

Front cover:
Clematis macropetala 'Lagoon' (Photo Wendy Wesley)

Far right: *Clematis* 'Frankie' (Photo Wendy Wesley)



'They breathe a wonderful freshness, with their flowers on tip-toe for flight, spangled against newly expanded foliage of palest green.'

Christopher Lloyd in his 1965 book *Clematis*.

Award of Garden Merit (AGM)

<i>Clematis alpina</i>	AGM(H4)1993*
<i>Clematis alpina</i> 'Pamela Jackman'	AGM(H4)2005
<i>Clematis</i> 'Ballet Skirt'	AGM(H4)2005
<i>Clematis</i> 'Constance'	AGM(H4)2002
<i>Clematis</i> 'Foxy'	AGM(H4)2002
<i>Clematis</i> 'Frances Ravis'	AGM(H4)1993
<i>Clematis</i> 'Frankie'	AGM(H4)2002
<i>Clematis</i> 'Helsingborg'	AGM(H4)1993
<i>Clematis</i> 'Jacqueline du Pré'	AGM(H4)2002
<i>Clematis macropetala</i> 'Lagoon'	AGM(H4)2002
<i>Clematis macropetala</i> 'Markham's Pink'	AGM(H4)1993*
<i>Clematis macropetala</i> 'Wesselton'	AGM(H4)2005
<i>Clematis</i> 'Pauline'	AGM(H4)2005
<i>Clematis</i> 'Pink Flamingo'	AGM(H4)2002
<i>Clematis</i> 'Rosy O'Grady'	AGM(H4)2002
<i>Clematis</i> 'White Columbine'	AGM(H4)1993

* Recommended to be rescinded at the AGM Review in 2012

Hardiness rating

H4 = hardy throughout the British Isles

Judging Criteria

The Woody Plant Trials Subcommittee assessed entries in the trial for the Award of Garden Merit using the following criteria:

- size, quantity and quality of flower and seed heads
- foliage
- length of flowering period
- growing habit
- vigour

The AGM is only awarded to plants that are:

- excellent for garden decoration
- available from nurseries
- reasonably resistant to pests and diseases
- of good constitution
- essentially stable in form and colour
- reasonably easy to grow

Award of Garden Merit descriptions



***Clematis alpina* 'Pamela Jackman'**

AGM(H4)2005

Sent by Guernsey Clematis Nursery Ltd.

Description: Nodding, bell-shaped flowers with 4 flat, pointed sepals, slightly recurved, 4.5 × 1.8cm, inside violet blue (96A), outside a little paler. Many central staminodes, outer spatulate, blunt, white flushed purple, green tipped; inner linear, pointed. Ternate, toothed, yellow-green (144A). Nodding ovoid bud with grey, felt-like hairs. Flowering throughout April.

Comments: *A good contrast between lime green foliage and intense violet blue flower. Flowers consistently well. Distinct.*

***Clematis* 'Ballet Skirt'** *Syn. C. macropetala* 'Ballet Skirt'

AGM(H4)2005

Sent by Robin Savill Clematis and Goscote Nurseries Ltd.

Description: Semi-double, bell-shaped, nodding flowers, 4 lanceolate, pointed sepals, red-purple (70A) paling to (77C), 5 × 2cm. Many outer staminodes same length and colour as sepals, 5 × 0.9cm. Yellow-green leaves, opposite and biternate. Flowering late March to end April.

Comments: *Larger flowers than 'Markham's Pink' and more free flowering.*

***Clematis* 'Constance'** *Syn. C. alpina* 'Constance'

AGM(H4)2002

Sent by Guernsey Clematis Nursery Ltd.

Description: Deep pink, semi-double, nodding, lightly scented flowers; 4 sepals 3.5 × 1.5cm, purple-violet (81B). Outer staminodes lanceolate, same length and colour. Opposite and biternate leaves, serrated margin, yellow-green (144A), matt, glabrous upper surface. Flowering throughout April.

Comments: *Best semi-double pink, well covered with flowers from top to bottom.*

***Clematis* 'Foxy'** *Syn. C. alpina* 'Foxy'

AGM(H4)2002

Sent by Guernsey Clematis Nursery Ltd. .

Description: Bell-shaped flower 5.3cm wide and 3.5cm long. Four pale pink, (78B to 78C), lanceolate sepals with darker shading on outside surface, paler margins, to 5cm. Pale pink staminodes; nodding ovoid bud. Yellow-green leaves (147B). Flowering late March to early May.

Comments: *relatively large flower, pretty pink and white bicolour. Nice paler pink edge to sepal. Distinct*

***Clematis* 'Frances Ravis'** *Syns. C. alpina* 'Frances Ravis'; *C. alpina* 'Mrs Ravis'; 'Mrs Ravis'; *C. alpina tibetica* hort.; *C. alpina* 'Blue Giant'; 'Blue Giant'; *C. ochotensis* 'Frances Ravis'.

AGM(H4)1993

Sent by J van Zoest.

Description: Single, nodding, broadly bell-shaped flowers. Sepals violet-blue (96A to 97B) 4.6 × 2cm, white staminodes. Yellow-green leaves (144A). Some plants with longer narrower sepals sold as



Chris Sanders



All descriptions are based on plants grown in the RHS Trial of *Clematis alpina* and *C. macropetala*. Plants grown elsewhere may differ slightly according to cultivation conditions. Colour codes were taken using the RHS Colour Chart. The fifth edition (2007) is available from RHSE Mail Order, Wisley, Surrey GU23 6QB.

C. 'Frances Rivis' in the UK, are probably *C.* 'Blue Dancer'. Flowering throughout April.

Comments: *Distinctive deep blue, broad sepals, and fresh lime green foliage. Floriferous.*



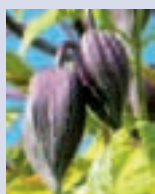
Clematis 'Frankie'
Syns. *C. alpina* 'Frankie' and *C. ochotensis* 'Frankie'.

AGM(H4)2002

Sent by Guernsey Clematis Nursery.

Description: Bell-shaped, semi-double nodding flowers, pale violet-blue (97A) with a bronze tint, fading with age, very slightly fragrant. Sepals lanceolate to broadly elliptical, margin recurved, to 5cm long. Petal-like staminodes creamy white, tinged and tipped with blue. Buds globose to ovoid. Leaves slightly darker than yellow-green (144A). Flowering throughout April.

Comments: *Pretty violet-blue flowers with inner white sepals tipped blue. Displays flower well, good vigour.*



Clematis 'Helsingborg'
Syn. *C. alpina* 'Helsingborg'.

AGM(H4)1993

Sent by Guernsey Clematis Nursery Ltd.

Description: Broadly bell-shaped, nodding, single flowers, 5.6cm wide, 4.2cm long, sepals violet (86A), paler margin, recurved towards tip. Staminodes spathulate, same colour as sepals. Long, ovoid & pointed buds. Fresh yellow-green (144A) leaves, glabrous, matt and fairly deeply veined. Flowering late April to end May.

Comments: *Flowers good dark colour. Attractive chocolate red stems and petioles. Makes a striking display, flowers appearing to drip down the plant.*

Clematis 'Jacqueline du Pré'

Syn. *C. alpina* 'Jacqueline du Pré'.

AGM(H4)2002

Sent by Goscote Nurseries and Bridgemere Nurseries.

Description: Semi-nodding flowers with 4 soft pink sepals, rosy mauve-purple (81C to 80B), margin silver pink, 5–6 × 2.5cm. Pale pink, spathulate staminodes. Flowering from late April to May.

Comments: *A vigorous, cultivar with large, rosy pink flowers, the outer sepals of which are strikingly margined silvery white.*



Chris Sanders

Clematis macropetala 'Lagoon'

Syn. *C. macropetala* 'Blue Lagoon'.

AGM(H4)2002

Sent by Sheila Chapman, Guernsey Clematis, Sussex Clematis Nursery and Treasures of Tenbury.

Description: Semi-double, bell-shaped flowers to 7.3cm wide, 3.5cm long. Sepals, outside violet-blue (93B), inside violet-blue (96B). Twelve sepal-like staminodes, same length and colour as sepals, pale margin. c.50 inner staminodes, white with pale green tips, occasional blue splash. Ovoid, bud, pointed and hairy. Leaves yellow-green (144A), glossy reverse. Flowering mid April to mid May

Comments: *Vigorous, strong colour, good foliage,*



Award of Garden Merit descriptions



***Clematis macropetala*
'Wesselton'**

AGM(H4)2005

Sent by Thorncroft Clematis.

Description: Vigorous with striking, distinctive, double, pendent flowers to 4.8cm. Four narrow, outer sepals violet-blue (94B); 14 outer staminodes slightly longer than the sepals, (94B) with white undertone particularly at base, 40 inner staminodes, half sepal length. Bronze-purple bud with pale hairs on lower half. Mid green leaves, (146A). Flowering late March to late April.

Comments: *Superb. The bluest, largest flowered C. macropetala, excellent leaf, a first class plant. Early.*



Clematis 'Pauline'
Syns. *C. alpina* 'Pauline',
C. alpina 'Paulina',
C. ochotensis 'Pauline',
C. macropetala 'Pauline'.

AGM(H4)2005

Sent by Guernsey Clematis Nursery Ltd.

Description: Semi-double, bell-shaped, nodding flowers. Four sepals dark to bright blue, flushed with violet, 4–7cm long. Outer staminodes blue and white, inner staminodes white tipped green. Flowering mid April to mid May.

Comments: *Useful late flowerer. Attractive dark blue bud becoming a rich blue violet flower.*



Clematis 'Pink Flamingo'
AGM (H4)2002

Sent by Guernsey Clematis Nursery Ltd.

Description: Semi-double, nodding flowers, 3–5cm wide. Sepals red-purple (72A), with darker veining and flush at base, 4–5 cm

long, paler pink staminodes. Yellow-green leaves, (144A). Flowering throughout May.

Comments: *Nodding flowers which are a lovely pale pink with darker pink veins Usually repeat flowers in August.*

Clematis 'Rosy O'Grady'
Syns. *C. macropetala* 'Rosy O'Grady', *C. macropetala* 'Rosie O'Grady',
C. macropetala 'Rosy Oguredeii' and
C. macropetala 'Rosy O'Gready'.

AGM(H4)2002

Not in trial

Description: Semi-double, nodding, mauve-pink flowers, 10–12cm wide. Four lanceolate to oblong ovate, pointed, recurved sepals, 5–7cm in length, outside darker than inside and veined. Outer staminodes 4 long, pale mauve pink (75C), 4 short, creamy white inner staminodes. Flowering mid April to mid May.

Comments: *A vigorous and distinctive cultivar with spiky, lantern-like flowers.*

Clematis 'White Columbine'
Syns. *C. alpina* 'Columbine White', *C. alpina* 'White Columbine'. *C. 'Columbine'* 3 unknown

AGM(H4)1993

Sent by Sheila Chapman Clematis.

Description: Single flower, four pure white sepals, 3.8cm wide × 4cm long, lightly fragrant; drooping, puckered bud. Pale green leaves (146B). Flowering early April to early May.


Comments: *Lovely white flower.*



Chris Sanders



Selection guide by colour

 = AGM = Award of Garden Merit



Clematis 'White Columbine' 

Long narrow sepals, possibly the best white; all white-flowered cultivars have delicate pale green foliage.

Introduced by Treasures of Tenbury in 1986, 'Columbine' × unknown

Early April to early May



Clematis 'Burford White'

Masses of light green buds, good lime green foliage, short white sepals, good vigour.

Chance seedling found in N. Wales by a customer of Treasures of Tenbury who introduced it c.1985.

Throughout April



Clematis 'Snowbird'

A beautiful double flower, but lacked vigour in the trial.

Raised by B Fretwell in 1969, 'Markham's Pink' × unknown.

Late April to mid May



Clematis 'Willy'

Very pale pink, floriferous but in trial had less impact than 'Jacqueline du Pré'.

Raised and introduced in 1971 by Pieter G Zwijnenburg, Boskoop, Netherlands, C. alpina × unknown

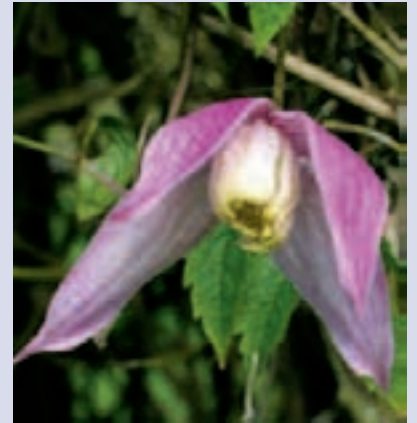
Mid to late May

Clematis 'Rosy Pagoda'

A very attractive flower but plant lacked impact in the trial.

'Ruby' × unknown, raised by M Johnson in 1974 from seed sent by Hans R. Horn-Gfeller in Switzerland.

April to early May




Clematis 'Ballet Skirt' 

Larger flower than 'Markham's Pink'. Consistently freer-flowering.

Raised and introduced in 1981 by Stanley J Zubrowski, Saskatchewan, Canada, introduced by R J Evison. 'Rosy O'Grady' × unknown.

Late March to late April



Clematis macropetala 'Markham's Pink' 

Deeper pink than 'Ballet Skirt' and smaller flowered.

Raised by E Markham, a previous Head Gardener at Gravetye Manor. Introduced in 1935.

Throughout April



Clematis 'Foxy' 

Distinct, pretty pink bi-coloured flower, attractive light edge to darker pink sepals, may produce a second late flush.

A sport from 'Frankie', raised by R J Evison, introduced 1996.

Late March to early May



Chris Sanders

Selection guide by colour



Clematis 'Pink Flamingo'

Pretty, pale-pink, semi-double, nodding flowers with darker veins. Usually repeat flowers in August.

Raised by Elizabeth Jones, Brecon, Wales, introduced by R J Evison c.1993.

Early to late May



Chris Sanders

Clematis 'Rosy O'Grady'

A vigorous and distinctive cultivar with spiky, lantern-like flowers in a pretty mauve-pink.

Raised by Dr F L Skinner Manitoba, Canada, pre 1964.

Mid April to mid May



Clematis 'Jacqueline du Pré'

Eye-catching cultivar with large, rosy pink flowers, the outer sepals of which are strikingly margined silvery white.

Raised by B Fretwell, introduced in 1985, named after the British cellist (1945–87).

Late April to May



Clematis 'Constance'

A seedling of 'Ruby' with flowers of a better size. Distinctive and striking, very free flowering. Attractive contrasting light yellow green foliage.

Raised by Ms K Goodman in 1986, named for actress Constance Cummings (1910–2005).

Throughout April

Clematis 'Ruby'

Similar colour but less impact than 'Constance'.

Raised by Ernest Markham, 1937, *C. alpina* × unknown. Introduced by George Jackman & Son 1952

Mid April to early May



Clematis 'Tage Lundell'

Very distinctive foliage, new growth and foliage margins violet tinged. An interesting flower colour.

C. ochotensis × *C. alpina*, raised by Tage Lundell of Helsingborg, Sweden.

Early April to early May



Clematis 'Jan Lindmark'

One of the earliest, distinct, almost unique in colour. Dark maroon buds opening through shades of violet.

A seedling of 'Bluebird', raised in Sweden by Jan Lindmark.

Late March to late April



Clematis 'Columbine'

A small, elegant flower freely produced; attractive green tipped staminodes.

Raised by E Markham, introduced by George Jackman & Son in 1939.

Throughout April





Clematis macropetala
'Wesselton' 🌸

Largest early, blue flowered *C. macropetala*; a good leaf and a first class plant; has the bluest of flowers.

Raised by James Fisk and named after his home village in Suffolk.

Late March to late April



Clematis **'Frankie'** 🌸

Displays flower beautifully, good vigour.

Raised by Frank Meechan in Lincolnshire, introduced by R J Evison in 1991.

Throughout April



Clematis macropetala

An excellent un-named clone was in the trial, very free flowering and considered noteworthy.

The species was originally brought to Europe by William Purdon in 1910, it is a native of China, Mongolia and Russia.

Throughout April



Clematis **'Pauline'** 🌸

Rich violet blue colour, darker outer sepals result in dark buds.

A chance seedling of *C. 'Frances Ravis'* at Washfield Nursery, Hawkhurst, Kent.

Mid April to mid May

Clematis alpina **'Pamela Jackman'** 🌸

Flowers consistently well. Distinctive narrow buds. Many small blue flowers contrasting attractively with lime green foliage.

Raised by Rowland Jackman of George Jackman and Son; named for his daughter.

Throughout April



Clematis **'Frances Ravis'** 🌸

Floriferous, distinctive broad, deep blue sepals.

Raised by Sir Cedric Morris, introduced by Washfield Nursery.

Throughout April



Clematis **'Helsingborg'** 🌸

Extremely dark, small, shiny buds, a good dark flower. Attractive deep chocolate bronze stems and petioles, contrasting well with yellow green foliage.

C. ochotensis × *C. alpina*, raised by Tage Lundell of Helsingborg, Sweden.

Late April to late May



Clematis macropetala
'Lagoon' 🌸

A good garden plant which performed well.

Selected and introduced by George Jackman and Son in 1958.

Mid April to mid May



Nomenclatural issues from the trial

Clematis 'Frances Ravis'

The first published reference to this cultivar appears in the *Journal of the Royal Horticultural Society* 1966, in which it is announced that it has received an Award of Merit under the name of *Clematis* 'Blue Giant', exhibited by L. S. Fortescue, Esq; The Garden House, Buckland Monachorum, S. Devon.

Clematis 'Blue Giant' is believed to have been derived from a plant grown by Mrs F. E. Ravis in her garden at Rosehill, Saxmundham, Suffolk under the invalid name *C. alpina tibetica*. The seed was thought to have originally come from Tibet or Nepal, however the range of *C. alpina* is not known to extend this far and was probably seed of *C. ochotensis*. Seed was given to Sir Cedric Morris by Mrs Ravis and *Clematis* 'Blue Giant' was one of the seedlings raised. Cuttings were passed to Miss Hilda Davenport Jones of Washfield Nurseries, Hawkhurst, Kent, who renamed it *C. 'Frances Ravis'* in 1968, (the name conserved by the International *Clematis* Registrar), subsequent to giving material to Mr Fortescue.

The short, broad, dark blue sepals are distinctive, clearly seen in the photograph of the Award of Merit 'Blue Giant' and 'Frances Ravis' as sent for trial by J. van Zoest. 'Francis

Ravis' as grown in the Netherlands has shorter, wider, deeper blue sepals and is considered to be the true 'Frances Ravis'. Other accessions received for trial as 'Frances Ravis' were found to be seedlings or were considered to be 'Blue Dancer', having typically long, slightly paler blue, lightly revolute sepals.

Clematis macropetala 'Maidwell Hall'

Confusion in the trade concerning this cultivar was reflected in the trial as only one of the four 'Maidwell Hall' entries was found to be true, two proving to be *C. macropetala* 'Lagoon' and another *C. macropetala* 'Wesselton'.

The history of this cultivar was outlined by G R (Rowland) Jackman in a lecture given on 29 July 1958 and transcribed in the *Journal of the Royal Horticultural Society*:

'In 1956 we started the distribution of a C. macropetala form under the name of C. macropetala 'Lagoon' and it is described in our catalogue as "intermediate in colour between Oxford and Cambridge blue". We now find that an identical mutation was discovered twenty years ago by Mr Oliver Wyatt, of Maidwell Hall, Northampton. In future, therefore this particular form will be called 'Maidwell Hall'. The name 'Lagoon' will be transferred to another form with flowers of a deeper colour.'



Clematis 'Frances Ravis'



Clematis 'Blue Giant'



Clematis 'Blue Dancer'



Clematis 'Lagoon'



Clematis macropetala 'Maidwell Hall'



Clematis macropetala 'Wesselton'

The following five cultivars had their names clarified.

- **Clematis 'Amethyst Beauty'**
Raised in 1975 by M Johnson, the original invalid name was 'Amesthina'.
- **Clematis 'Blushing Ballerina'**
Entered in trial as *C. macropetala* 'Alboresea', an invalid name; it was raised by M Johnson in 1974 from seed of a *C. macropetala* selection sent to him by R Horn-Gfeller, Switzerland.
- **Clematis 'Red Beetroot Beauty'**
Originally named 'Betina', raised in 1980 by M Johnson.
- **Clematis 'Claudius'**
Entered into trial with the unacceptable name of *Clematis koreana* 'Citra', this cultivar ('Blushing Ballerina' × *C. koreana* var. *fragrans*) was raised by M Johnson in 1979.
- **Clematis *macropetala* 'Chili'**
Introduced in Sweden in 1922 from seed collected in Chili Province, China by Harry Smith, renamed *C. macropetala* 'Harry Smith' by M Johnson. However it had not been validly published before the name 'Chili' was established.



Clematis macropetala, Wisley clone

Woody Plant Trials Sub-Committee 2005

Chairman: Peter Catt
Vice-Chairman: John Hillier

Chris Brickell	David Clark	Maurice Foster
John Gallagher	Michael Hickson	John Humphris
Roy Lancaster	Chris Lane	David Masters
Chris Sanders	Archie Skinner	Harvey Stephens

Suppliers of plants to the trial

T H Barker & Son, Baines Paddock Nursery, Haverthwaite, Ulverston, Cumbria LA12 8PF
Bridgemere Nurseries, Nantwich, Cheshire, CW5 7QB
Crowther Nurseries, Ongar Road, Abridge, Essex RM4 1AA
Denscombe Mill Nursery, Shillingford, Tiverton, Devon EX16 9BH
The Guernsey Clematis Nursery Ltd, Domarie Vineries, Les Sauvages, St. Sampson, Guernsey, GY2 4FD
Goscote Nurseries Ltd, Syston Road, Cossington, Leicester
Hewton Nursery, Bere Alston, Yelverton, Devon PL20 7BW
Hillier Nurseries Ltd; Ampfield House, Ampfield, Nr Romsey, Hants SO51 9PA
Liss Forest Nursery, Petersfield Road, Greatham, Liss, Hants GU33 6HA
Robin Savill Clematis, no longer trading
Sheila Chapman Clematis, Ongar Road, Abridge, Essex, RM4 1AA
Sussex Clematis Nursery, 3 Stream Cottages, Horam, Heathfield, Sussex, TN21 0HA
Thorncroft Clematis Nursery, The Lings, Reymerston, Norwich, Norfolk NR9 4QG
Treasures of Tenbury, Burford, Tenbury Wells, Worcs WR15 8HQ
J. van Zoest B.V., Reijerskoop 148, 2771 BT Boskoop, Holland.

Acknowledgements

Particular thanks are due to:

Wendy Wesley (Trials Officer) for all the photographs in this bulletin (unless otherwise stated);

Chris Sanders for his help and advice on the trial and also submitting photographs for this bulletin.

National Collections:

National Collection of *Clematis*, Raymond J. Evison Ltd, Domarie Vineries, Les Sauvages, St. Sampson, Guernsey, GY2 4FD.

National Collection of *Clematis* (Atragene Group), Mr M Oviatt-Ham, Ely House, Green Street, Willingham, Cambridgeshire, CB4 5JA.

Societies and websites

The British Clematis Society www.britishclematis.org.uk
The Membership Secretary, British Clematis Society, Elm Close, Binton Road, Welford-on-Avon, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire, CV37 8PT.

Further reading


Evison, R. J. 1998 *The Gardener's Guide to Growing Clematis*. David and Charles, Timber Press
Grey-Wilson, C. 2000 *Clematis The Genus*. BT Batsford
Jackman, G. R. *Clematis. Journal of the Royal Horticultural Society*, **89(1):11-16**
Lloyd, C. 1965 *Clematis*. Country Life
Matthews, V. *The International Clematis Register and Checklist 2002*. Royal Horticultural Society
Toomey, M. and Leeds, E. 2001 *An Illustrated Encyclopedia of Clematis*. Timber Press

The Royal Horticultural Society

The RHS is the UK's leading gardening charity dedicated to advancing horticulture and promoting good gardening. Its charitable work includes providing expert advice and information, advancing horticulture, training the next generation of gardeners, helping school children learn about plants, and conducting research into plants, pests and environmental issues affecting gardeners. The RHS AGM plant trial scheme is an important part of this work.

The RHS receives no government grants and for every pound received from members' subscriptions we need to raise more than twice as much again to fund our charitable work. We also rely on donations and sponsorship to supplement income from our garden operations, flower shows, shops and plant centres.

RHS Plant Trials

With so many different types of gardener and so many different cultivars available to them in each group of plants, it is important that a system of recommendation is in place to help with selection at point of sale. These recommendations must be clear and reliable to ensure that of the thousands of plants available in the UK, a proportion are known to be excellent garden plants. The RHS provides this information through its extensive programme of plant trials held at RHS gardens in the UK. The RHS Award of Garden Merit  signifies the selection of the best cultivar for general garden use.

RHS plant trials serve the professional gardener who wants to know the range of plants available, including the latest breeding and selection programmes, with their distinctive characteristics and provenance. They also serve the amateur who wants to know which plants will grow and perform well in a particular garden situation.

The RHS has an unrivalled resource of knowledge and expertise and is therefore best placed to conduct plant trials for the UK gardening market.

RHS Herbarium

The RHS Herbarium keeps a record of trial cultivars as dried specimens with detailed descriptions and photographic images. This forms an important reference for the horticultural industry. Any new cultivars are highlighted and a nomenclatural standard specimen is preserved and described.

The RHS Herbarium, stored at RHS Garden Wisley, is the largest active horticultural herbarium in the world. 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 plant trials.

RHS Trials Bulletins

Begonia Rex Cultorum Group: Number 16
Canna: Number 3
Daisies (yellow perennial): Number 6
Delphinium: Number 5
Fuchsia (hardy): Number 12
Geranium (hardy) Stage 1: Number 10
Geranium (hardy) Stage 2: Number 14
Geranium (hardy) Stage 3: Number 18
Hyacinthaceae (little blue bulbs): Number 11
Iris (bearded): Number 17
Lavenders (hardy): Number 2
Miscanthus: Number 7
Peppers (sweet): Number 15
Potatoes (salad): Number 8
Potentilla (shrubby): Number 1
Rhododendron yakushimanum and hybrids: Number 13
Runner Beans: Number 19
Saxifrages (silver): Number 9
Sedum (herbaceous): Number 20
Spiraea japonica (with coloured leaves): Number 4

RHS Plant Trials and Assessments

online publications, to complement the *RHS Plant Trials Bulletins* series
Caryopteris: Number 2
Perovskia: Number 3
Pittosporum tenuifolium hybrids and cultivars: Number 1

Trials indexes can be obtained from The Trials Office, RHS Garden Wisley, Woking, Surrey, GU23 QB, e-mail: trials@rhs.org.uk
Trials reports on the web at www.rhs.org.uk/plants/award_plants.asp

The RHS, the UK's leading gardening charity

RHS Garden, Wisley
Woking
Surrey
GU23 6QB
e-mail: trials@rhs.org.uk

www.rhs.org.uk/trials

Reg charity no. 222879
in Scotland SCO38262



All text and images Copyright RHS 2008 except where otherwise stated.
Illustration copyright Niki Simpson 2008

ISSN 1477-9153 (print)
ISSN 1447-9161 (online)

Printed on paper using elemental chlorine-free pulp from well managed and sustainable forests