



Nemesia Trial Report 2021



The Award of Garden Merit

The Royal Horticultural Society trials a wide range of ornamental and edible garden plants to test their performance. The best may receive a prestigious RHS Award of Garden Merit (AGM). Plant Trials provide the opportunity for multiple selections of the same plant to be grown side by side for the purpose of comparison.

The RHS Award of Garden Merit (AGM) is intended to help gardeners select plants that have good all-round garden value, and 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

The plants may be grown from seed and/or vegetative material as appropriate, and are submitted by nurseries, individuals and breeders. Visitors to RHS Garden Wisley can view ongoing plant trials in the Trials Garden. Trials can also be seen in the dedicated beds in The Old Frameyard at RHS Garden Bridgewater. Individual trials are sometimes held at the other RHS Gardens as well as other gardens and nurseries across the UK.

Plants of all kinds including fruit and vegetables may be considered for the AGM. Currently, more than 7,500 plants have an AGM, with new awards made each year. Awards are made following assessment by a forum of experts, including nursery owners, specialist growers and horticulturists, all appointed by the RHS. The trial results are used to inform the forums' decision to award plants the RHS AGM status. Each assessment is then ratified by the relevant RHS plant committee.

RHS awards can also be given by 'round-table assessment'. An award is given when a forum of horticultural experts meets to debate the characteristics and garden performance of plants that the RHS is unable to trial in one of the RHS Gardens or another location.

To ensure consistent standards are maintained, the AGM is subject to regular review to make sure that every plant still merits its place on the list. Since 2013, reviews have been conducted by each RHS plant committee on a rolling basis.

RHS Horticultural Database and Herbarium

RHS Plant Trials provide an important record for RHS research into cultivated plants and their names, and data is stored on the RHS Horticultural Database.

Trials are also an important source of material for the Herbarium at Wisley. Its primary focus is to acquire and maintain reference material of plants in cultivation.

Buying plants with the AGM

It is easy to find and buy AGM plants:

- Search using the RHS 'Find a Plant' feature on rhs.org.uk/plants or using our AGM Plant Search
- Download a list at rhs.org.uk/agmlists
- Check the latest edition of the *RHS Plant Finder* book, available to buy at rhsshop.co.uk
- Look out for the AGM logo the next time you are in a garden centre or nursery



Introduction to *Nemesia*

Nemesia are small, tender, herbaceous plants that form a low mound usually about 30cm in height. The leaves are typically mid-green with a fine-toothed edge. The flowers are two-lipped and come in a large range of colours with some cultivars having bi-coloured flowers where the two lips are contrasting colours. The flowers are held on stems above the foliage and cover the plant continuously over the summer months and are often sweetly scented. *Nemesia* are typically used as a bedding plants or in a container display.

Trial location

This trial of *Nemesia* took place over summer 2021 and was located in the new Trials Garden at RHS Garden Wisley.

Objectives

The objectives of the trial were to assess, compare and demonstrate *Nemesia* cultivars currently available for ornamental use, stimulate public interest, and based on these assessments recommend the RHS Award of Garden Merit (AGM) to outstanding cultivars.

Judging

The Forum viewed the trial four times over the summer of 2021.

Forum members were:

P Hansord (Chair), D Ford, P Jackson, S Lowen, D Mclean, P Medrano Dell, P Seabrook, M Smith and Y Walker.

The forum assessed the plants using the following judging criteria:

- Habit
- Colour and appeal
- Flowering performance
- Scent
- Pests and disease

Entries

There were 114 entries in the trial submitted by various companies and individuals mainly in the UK, with 104 raised from plug plants and ten from seed.

Cultivation

The young plants were held in propagation for establishment and hardening off before being planted out in late May, after the risk of frost, with a mulch acting as a weed suppressant around the plants. The trial beds were watered regularly and fed weekly.

Other findings

Over the summer, as some entries had seedheads showing and reduced flowering, a few plants of all the entries were trimmed and these trimmed plants came back strongly after a couple of weeks with new foliage and increased flowering.



ABOVE View of trial beds and display beds

BELOW View of trial entries





Displays of mixes of *Nemesia* in containers



AGM *Nemesia*

The following are the plants that fulfilled the Award of Garden Merit criteria during the trial.

RHS hardiness ratings

To help gardeners determine the plants that may be hardy in their locality, the RHS hardiness rating scheme outlined below has been devised as a general guide to growing conditions. Temperatures given are minimum winter temperatures.

Hardiness ratings are as follows:

- H1a tropical: heated greenhouse (warmer than 15°C)
- H1b subtropical: heated greenhouse (10°C to 15°C)
- H1c warm temperate: heated greenhouse (5°C to 10°C)
- H2 tender: cool or frost-free greenhouse (1°C to 5°C)
- H3 half hardy: unheated greenhouse or mild winter (-5°C to 1°C)
- H4 hardy: average winter (-10°C to -5°C)
- H5 hardy: cold winter (-15°C to -10°C)
- H6 hardy: very cold winter (-20°C to -15°C)
- H7 very hardy (colder than -20°C)

Rescinded, reconfirmed, and retained

When an existing AGM plant is included in an RHS Plant Trial or Roundtable, it's assessed and voted on like any other plant, to make sure it still merits its place on the AGM list.

If the decision is that it's no longer worthy of the AGM, the award is rescinded, and the plant is removed from the AGM list. Rescinded plants may no longer be displayed or sold with the AGM trophy symbol on the label.

If the decision is that it's still AGM worthy, the award is reconfirmed. A plant may be reconfirmed multiple times, for instance after separate trials a few years apart. The official award date is still the original date, however. So if the award was made in 2005, for example, and reconfirmed in 2010 and 2014, the award date remains as 2005.

On some rare occasions, there may be insufficient votes either to rescind or to reconfirm the award. This may happen if the outcome of the trial is inconclusive, for instance. In such cases, the award is retained. This means its status is exactly the same as before the assessment, and is not a reflection on the quality of the plant.



Nemesia denticulata

(syn. *N. denticulata* 'Confetti')

AGM (H3) 1999,
reconfirmed 2021

Description:

This species is a taller form at 40cm and more delicate and airy compared to the cultivated varieties. The plant is covered with small, soft mauve flowers with yellow centres, held on stems above the foliage.

Forum Comments:

A garden performing variety that has stood the test of time. Magnificent, good coverage of delicate flowers.



Nemesia Lady Kate (*'Penkate'*) (*Lady Series*)

AGM (H3) 2021

Description:

The scented flowers are bi-coloured with purple upper petals and white lower petals and a yellow centre.

Forum Comments:

Good colour combination and habit. Held its shape and flowers well. Trimmed plants also performed well.



Nemesia

Nemino Yellow (‘Elsner PAC’) (Nemino Series)

AGM (H3) 2021

Description:

The two-lipped, deep yellow flowers have dark striations and a deep yellow/orange centre.

Forum Comments:

The best yellow flowers, which stand out. Plants had a good compact habit and didn't need trimming.



Nemesia

Nesia Bananaberry (‘Dnemnesbb’) (Nesia Series)

AGM (H3) 2021

Description:

The white flowers have a burgundy fleck on the upper petal and soft yellow colouring on the lower petal with a deep yellow centre. The reverse of the petals has deep pink colouring.

Forum Comments:

Large flowers and a compact habit. Has performed well for three months. Benefitted from trimming.



Nemesia
Nesia Denim
(‘Dnemden’)
(Nesia Series)

AGM (H3) 2021

Description:

Stems of deep purple flowers with a white centre held above the good, mid-green foliage.

Forum Comments:

Very clear flowers and nice foliage. Steady performance. Good response to trimming.



Nemesia
Nesia Spring Blush
(‘Dnemsprngb’)
(Nesia Series)

AGM (H3) 2021

Description:

The deep pink flowers with a yellow centre are held on stems that are taller and more upright than is typical.

Forum Comments:

Lovely pink, upright flowers. Plants had good vigour and maintained their habit. Trimmed plants performed well.

The following plants were awarded the AGM, becoming available autumn 2022:



Nemesia
Melody Lilac Blue
(‘Kernemsky’)

(supplied as 17-100-10)

Description:

Upright and vigorous with stems of purple/blue flowers with a white centre.

Forum Comments:

*Upright and well balanced plants with vigour.
Steady performance with good flower coverage.*



Nemesia **Melody Pink**
(‘Kernemrospi’)

(supplied as 19-214-13)

Description:

Upright and vigorous with stems of mauve/pink flowers with a white centre.

Forum Comments:

*Has good vigour and ground coverage.
Flowers stand well with excellent coverage.*

The forum recommended to rescind the Society’s AGM from the following cultivars that are no longer considered available:

***Nemesia* Blue Cloud (‘Penblu’)**

***Nemesia caerulea* ‘Sea Mist’**

***Nemesia* ‘Fleurie Bluebird’**

***Nemesia* ‘Innocence’**

***Nemesia* Melanie (‘Fleuron’)**

List of plants trialled

Nemesia Amelie ('Fleurame')

Nemesia 'Annabelle'

Nemesia Angelart Almond ('Kirine 4')

Nemesia Angelart Orange ('Kirine 15')

Nemesia Angelart Peach ('Kirine 12')

Nemesia Angelart Raspberry ('Kirine 50')

Nemesia Angelart Strawberry

Nemesia Angelart Yellow

Nemesia Aroma Banana Split

Nemesia Aroma Heart of Gold

Nemesia Aroma Plums and Custard

Nemesia Aroma Rhubarb and Custard

Nemesia 'Ayana'

Nemesia Blaze of Glory (mixed)

Nemesia 'Bordeaux'

Nemesia Boysenberry

Nemesia Carnival Mixed

Nemesia 'Cream Surprise'

Nemesia denticulata (syn. *N. denticulata* 'Confetti')

Nemesia 'Easter Bonnet'

Nemesia Escential Bumbleberry ('Penw33')

Nemesia Escential Raspberry Lemonade ('Penyz95')

Nemesia Escential Strawberry ('Penw37')

Nemesia 'Evening Dusk'

Nemesia Citrine

Nemesia Framboise ('Fleurfram')

Nemesia Galaxy Mixed

Nemesia 'Heaven Scent'

Nemesia Honey Bicolour Orange Flame

Nemesia Honey Bicolour Pink

Nemesia Honey Bicolour Wine

Nemesia Honey Blue Eye

Nemesia Honey Dark Blue

Nemesia Honey White

Nemesia Karoo Dark Blue ('Innemkadab')

Nemesia Karoo Soft Blue ('Innkarsofb')

Nemesia Karoo White ('Innkarwhi')

Nemesia Lady Anne

Nemesia Lady Dawn

Nemesia Lady Emma

Nemesia Lady Jane

Nemesia Lady Kate ('Penkate') (Lady Series)

Nemesia Lady Lisa

Nemesia Lady Mary

Nemesia 'Lady Penelope'

Nemesia 'Lilac Queen'

Nemesia Mareto Blue & Cream

Nemesia Mareto Burgundy & Rose

Nemesia Mareto Burgundy & White

Nemesia Mareto Pink & Lemon

Nemesia 'Mirabelle'
Nemesia Myrtille ('Fleurmyr')
Nemesia Nebula Mixed
Nemesia Nemino Purple Rose
Nemesia Nemino Yellow ('Elsner PAC') (Nemino Series)
Nemesia Nesia Banana Swirl
Nemesia Nesia Burgundy
Nemesia Nesia Bananaberry ('Dnemnesbb') (Nesia Series)
Nemesia Nesia Compact Tutti Frutti
Nemesia Nesia Dark Blue ('Dannemes6')
Nemesia Nesia Denim ('Dnemdem') (Nesia Series)
Nemesia Nesia Fantasy Pink
Nemesia Nesia Inca
Nemesia Nesia Magenta
Nemesia Nesia Snow Angel
Nemesia Nesia Spring Blush ('Dnemsprngb') (Nesia Series)
Nemesia Nesia Sunshine
Nemesia Nesia Tropical
Nemesia 'Olivia'
Nemesia Pink Lemonade ('Innempinle')
Nemesia Poetry Mixed
Nemesia Raspberries and Cream ('Fleurras')
Nemesia 'Saint George'
Nemesia 'Sapphire'
Nemesia 'Seventh Heaven'
Nemesia Sundae Forest Fruits
Nemesia Sundae Lavender Sherbert
Nemesia Sundae Raspberry Cream
Nemesia Sundae Vanilla Ice
Nemesia Sundrops Mixed
Nemesia Sunpeddle Painted Rose ('Sunjon 008')
Nemesia Sunpeddle Plum White Bicolour
Nemesia Sunpeddle Raspberry Red Bicolour
Nemesia Sunpeddle White Perfume ('Sunjon 2562')
Nemesia Sunpeddle Yellow White
Nemesia Sunsatia Plus Cherry on Ice ('Innemcheoi')
Nemesia Sunsatia Plus Little Banana
Nemesia Sunsatia Plus Little Cherry
Nemesia Sunsatia Plus Little Coco
Nemesia Sunsatia Plus Little Orange
Nemesia Sunsatia Plus Lychee ('Innemlyche')
Nemesia Sunsatia Plus Papaya ('Innemnewpa')
Nemesia Sunsatia Plus Pomelo ('Innemsunpo')
Nemesia Sunsatia Plus Raspberry ('Innemrasbe')
Nemesia Vanilla Berry ('Innemvanbe')
Nemesia 'Wisley Vanilla'
Nemesia 01758
Nemesia 01760
Nemesia 01763
Nemesia 01921
Nemesia 01963
Nemesia 17-100-10 subsequently named as *Nemesia* Melody Liliac Blue ('Kernemsky')

Nemesia 17-103-3
Nemesia 17-103-9
Nemesia 18-104-11
Nemesia 18-104-7
Nemesia 187
Nemesia 19-214-13 subsequently named as *Nemesia* Melody Pink ('Kernemrospi')
Nemesia 19-218-2
Nemesia 19-235-3
Nemesia 19-237-8
Nemesia 19-249-1

Suppliers to the trial

Ball Colegrave – ballcolegrave.co.uk
Botanics International Ltd – botanicsinternational.co.uk
Chiltern Seeds – chilternseeds.co.uk
Danziger – danzigeronline.com
Dobies – dobies.co.uk
DT Brown – dtbrownseeds.co.uk
Earley Ornamentals Ltd – earleyornamentals.co.uk
Kerley & Co Ltd – kerley.co.uk
Kernock Park Plants – kernock.co.uk
Kings Seeds – kingsseeds.com
MNP Flowers – mnpflowers.com
Mr Fothergill's – mr-fothergills.co.uk
Newey Ltd – newey.com
Stocks Lane Nurseries Ltd – stockslanenurseries.co.uk
Thompson & Morgan – thompson-morgan.com
Volmary Ltd – volmary.com
Other plants sent by individuals – **c/o the Trials Office**

For more information

Details of current and past RHS Plant Trials and other colour illustrated reports can be found online at rhs.org.uk/trials-awards

The *Nemesia* with an RHS Award of Garden Merit (AGM) listed within this report are correct as of July 2022. The Award of Garden Merit is reviewed according to a rolling programme to ensure the standard of garden-worthiness is maintained.

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