

× *Amarine*
Roundtable Report
2021



The Award of Garden Merit

The Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) 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

AGM by Roundtable is a method of awarding the AGM when the genus or plant group in question exhibits any or all of the following criteria:

- Impractical or not possible to trial
- Not in the trials plan for the next 5 years
- Proposing plant committee does not contain the expertise to recommend AGM's 'in house'
- Small or very large number of plants to assess

And has the following attributes:

- Current lack of AGMs
- Relevant to today's gardener
- Outside expertise is identified

An award is given when a forum of horticultural experts meets to debate the characteristics and garden performance of the plants.

RHS Horticultural Database

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

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, using the 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

The × *Amarine* Roundtable was created by the RHS Bulb Committee and the RHS for assessment in 2021.

It was felt that this new group of plants was due for review but as there were already three earlier, separate plantings (a trial under the auspices of the Nerine Society), the initial assessment would be by Roundtable rather than duplicating it with a planted trial.

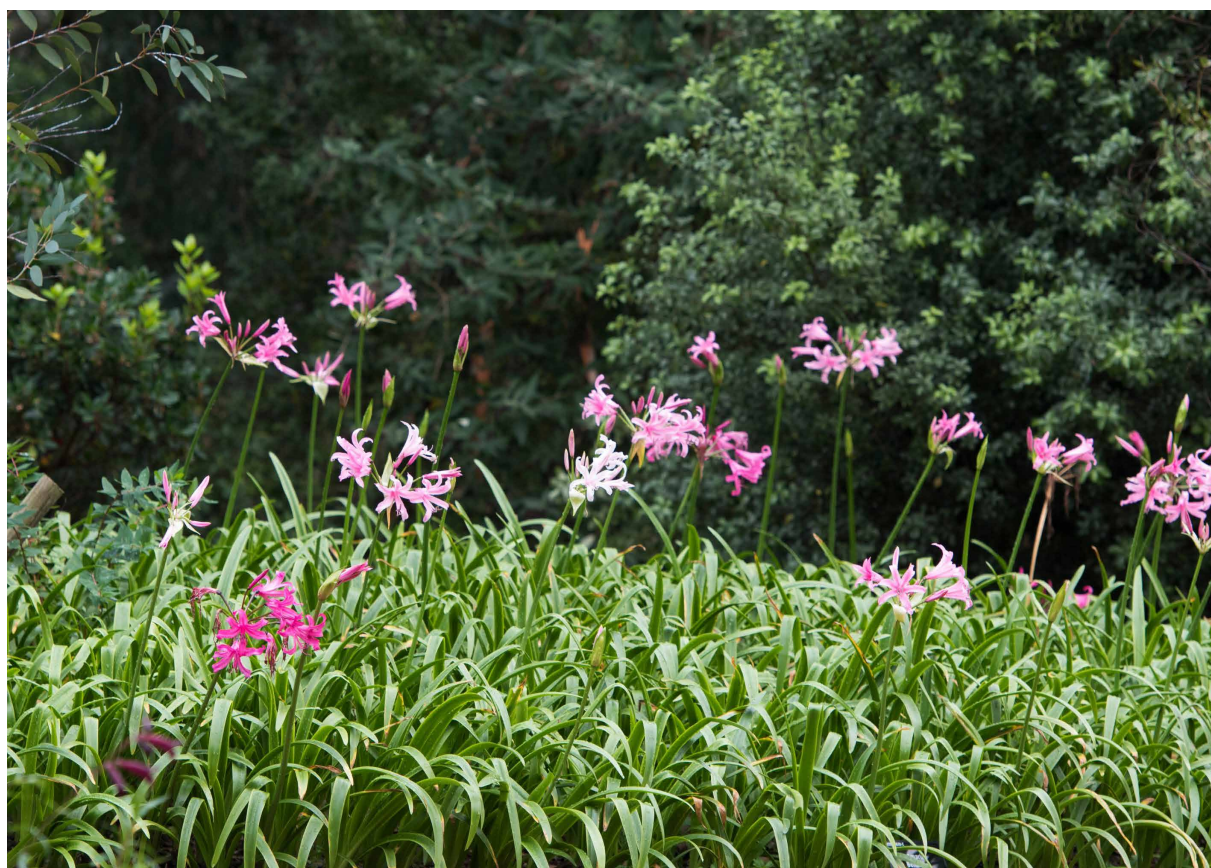
Trial location

A meeting was organised and held at Exbury Gardens on 19 October 2021. Exbury Gardens is home to a very large private collection of nerines, and where a selection of × *Amarine* cultivars are grown in a sheltered courtyard within the gardens and planted at other locations in the garden. There were seven plants being assessed at this Roundtable.

Judging

It was considered that the forum made up from members of the RHS Bulb Committee, nursery specialists, private collection holders, RHS Staff, members of other RHS Plant Committees and specialist plant societies, had sufficient experience and comprehensive knowledge to arrive at a sound conclusion on the cultivars awarded.

Forum members were: C Skelmersdale (Chair), J David, Lady R Fitzgerald, J Hartwell, M Heath, T Herselman, S Hickman, P Jones, C Saunders and A Street.



× *Amarine* Belladiva Series on Battleston Hill at RHS Garden Wisley.

AGM × *Amarine*

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

RHS hardiness ratings

To help gardeners determine which plants 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 is 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 is 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 is 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 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 example. 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.

× *Amarine tubergenii* ‘Anastasia’ (Belladiva Series)

AGM (H4) 2021

Description: Bulbous perennial with basal, strap-like leaves. The inflorescence is a loose umbel of trumpet-shaped flowers. ‘Anastasia’ is one of the earliest to flower, with well-formed flowers of a deep pink.

Forum comments: *The size of flowerhead is very good. Proving to be early-flowering and growing well. Seems to bulk up well and be true to type. Proved good in North of England too.*





× *Amarine tubergenii* 'Emanuelle' (Belladiva Series)

AGM (H4) 2021

Description: Bulbous perennial with basal, strap-like leaves. The inflorescence is a loose umbel of trumpet-shaped flowers. 'Emanuelle' is late-flowering with very large heads of pale pink.

Forum comments: *Flowers over a long period, some still in bud at viewing. A nice plant and does well in a pot. Beautiful colour.*



The × *Amarine* Roundtable forum.

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

First published in 2022 by the Royal Horticultural Society:
Trials Office, RHS Garden Wisley, Woking, Surrey, GU23 6QB
Email: trials@rhs.org.uk

Prepared by Kirsty A Angwin

RHS Registered Charity No: 222879/SC038262

rhs.org.uk

© Royal Horticultural Society