



*Lilium*  
**Trial Report**  
2018–2020



# 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 and the trial results are used to inform its 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](https://www.rhs.org.uk/plants) or using our AGM Plant Search
- Download a list at [rhs.org.uk/agmlists](https://www.rhs.org.uk/agmlists)
- Check the latest edition of the *RHS Plant Finder* book, available to buy at [rhsshop.co.uk](https://www.rhsshop.co.uk)
- Look out for the AGM logo the next time you are in a garden centre or nursery



# Introduction to *Lilium*

Lilies are perennial plants grown from bulbs. They have tall, straight stems covered with narrow, green leaves. The large flowers come in many colours and are often scented. The flowers have six tepals and the form can be open, trumpet-shaped, bowl-shaped or curved backwards (recurved). Since the last trial in 1966 huge developments in hybridisation have changed the range of available cultivars.

## Trial location

This *Lilium* trial was located in the Trials Field at RHS Garden Wisley from 2018 to 2020.

## Objectives

The objectives of the lily trial were to assess and compare a range of 226 *Lilium* cultivars and species for garden worthiness and to recommend the Award of Garden Merit (AGM) to outstanding plants for garden use.

## Judging

The trial was judged by the *Lilium* Trial Assessment Forum who included: Dr N Sterling (Chair), A Aird, C Clennett, J Compton, D Coombs, J Gibson, R Hyde, P Oostenbrink, A Peterse and J Walkers.

The forum viewed and assessed the trial four times in 2018 and three times in 2019. In 2020, the impact of Covid-19 resulted in limited access to RHS Garden Wisley and plant trial operations. However, the *Lilium* Forum was determined to make an independent assessment and record over the summer of 2020 with seven forum members visiting in small groups. This was supported and welcomed by Chris Moncrieff (Head of Horticultural Relations). On the 8th December a meeting was held to summarise and conclude the final results.

The plants were assessed using the following judging criteria:

- Floral appeal and length of flowering
- Stem strength and foliage quality
- Extra cultivation requirements and disease resistance

## Entries and cultivation

The bulbs for the 226 trial entries were submitted by nurseries in the UK and the Netherlands and included seven with an existing AGM. The bulbs were planted over winter 2017 and spring 2018. Mulch was applied and the plants regularly fertilised. Plants were irrigated and treated for pests and diseases as necessary. After dying back, the plants were deadheaded over winter.

Lilies have a varied range of planting and growing requirements. Planting depth can range from just below the surface to preference for a greater depth to allow for the later development of stem roots. Generally lilies prefer acid soil whilst some require alkaline soil. And whilst lilies generally do well in sunshine, others benefit from some shade. Given the nature and location of this trial, the conditions will have suited some entries better than others.

The three years of the trial included some unusually severe weather events, from hard late frosts through drought to heavy storms, and disease pressures were high. Though there were many casualties among the lilies, others proved remarkably resilient. Given these challenging circumstances, those lilies performing well and earning the AGM, can be confidently recommended for general garden use.



ABOVE *Lilium* 'Brusago'

BELOW *Lilium* trial in bud



*Lilium* Trial 2018–2020

# AGM *Lilium*

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, on the other hand, 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.

## Lilium Classification

The Lily naming includes reference to the hybrid or species division it belongs to and flower aspect and form:

I	Asiatic hybrids		<b>Flower aspect:</b>
II	Martagon hybrids	a/	Upward-facing flowers
III	Euro-Caucasian hybrids	b/	Outward-facing flowers
IV	American hybrids	c/	Downward-facing flowers
V	Longiflorum lilies		<b>Flower form:</b>
VI	Trumpet and Aurelian hybrids	/a	Trumpet-shaped flowers
VII	Oriental hybrids	/b	Bowl-shaped flowers
VIII	Other hybrids (not covered in I-VII)	/c	Flat flowers (or with only tepal tips recurved)
IX	Species and cultivars of species	/d	Recurved flowers



## *Lilium* African Queen Group (VI-/a)

AGM (H6) 2002, reconfirmed 2020

**Height:** 1.2-2m

**Flowering period:** July to August

**Forum comments:**

*A good, tall, scented lily. A very old plant that flowered well in 2020.*

## *Lilium* ‘Anastasia’ (VIIIb-c/b-d)

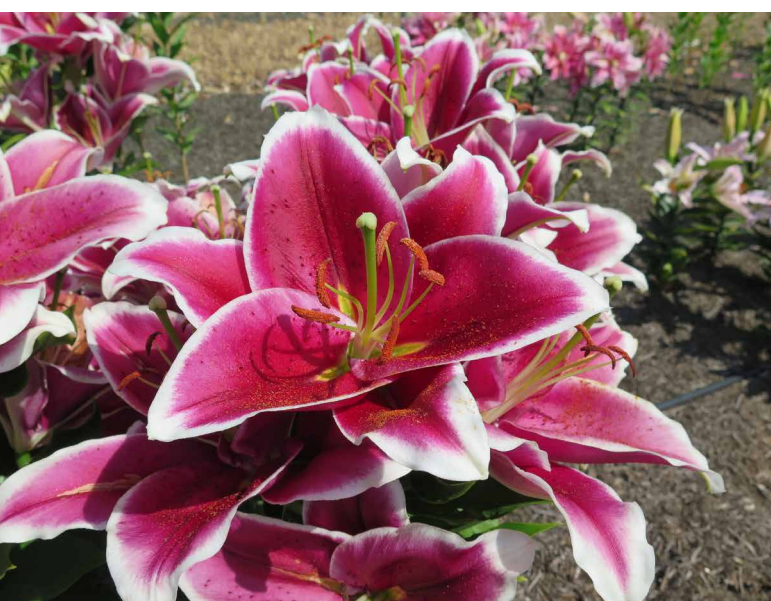
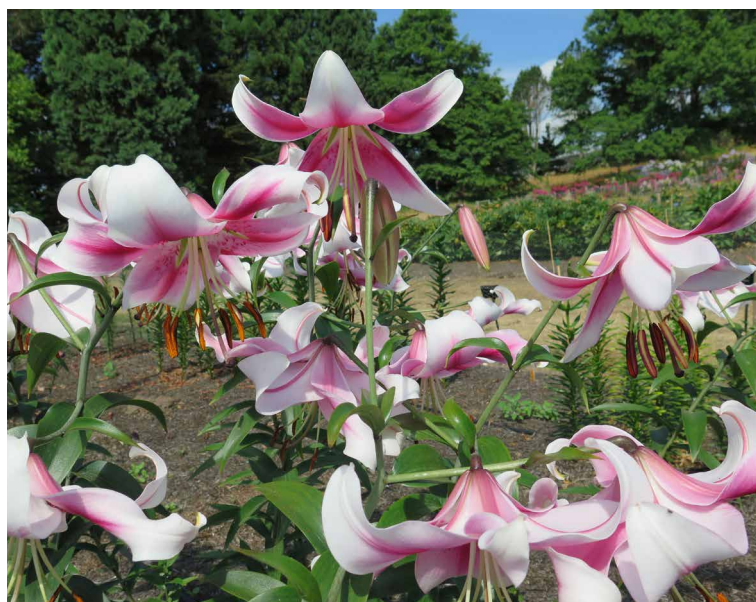
AGM (H6) 2020

**Height:** 1.2-2m

**Flowering period:** Early to mid August

**Forum comments:**

*Great garden performance and early scent of downward facing flowers.*



## *Lilium* ‘Bandiëra’ (VII-/b-d)

AGM (H6) 2020

**Height:** c1m

**Flowering period:** June

**Forum comments:**

*A strong, compact plant with good, deep coloured flowers.*



## *Lilium* 'Brusago'

(VIIIa-b/b)

AGM (H6) 2020

**Height:** 1.2-2m

**Flowering period:** July to August

**Forum comments:**

*Impressive plant. Strong grower with vivid flowers on strong, tall stems.*

## *Lilium* 'Casa Blanca'

(VIIb/b-c)

AGM (H6) 1993, reconfirmed 2020

**Height:** c1.2m

**Flowering period:** July to August

**Forum comments:**

*Elegant and fragrant, deservedly popular for decades. Huge, white, scented flowers, 10cm across with recurving tips.*



## *Lilium* 'Conca d'Or'

(VIIIb/b)

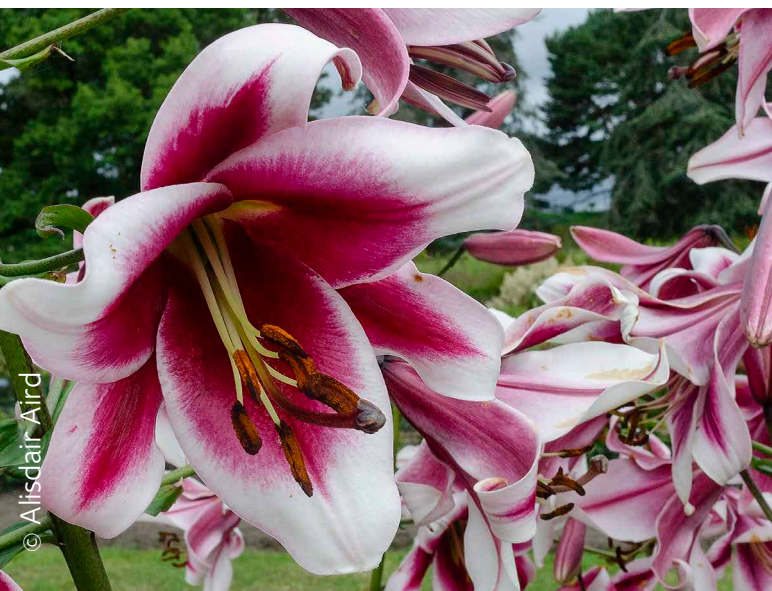
AGM (H6) 2020

**Height:** c1.2m

**Flowering period:** July

**Forum comments:**

*Superb architecture with lots of buds. Good scent.*



## *Lilium* 'Friso' (VIIIb/b)

AGM (H6) 2020

**Height:** c1.3m

**Flowering period:** July

**Forum comments:**

*Imposing pattern of purple flowers with a white edge. Good number of flowering stems over time.*

## *Lilium* 'Fusion'

(IVb-c/b-c)

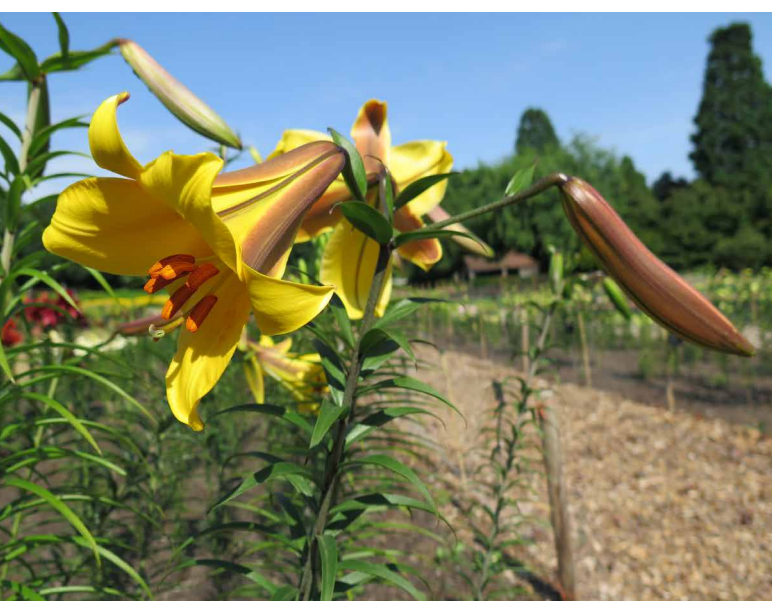
AGM (H6) 2020

**Height:** c1m

**Flowering period:** July

**Forum comments:**

*Strong flower, known to do well outside trial.*



## *Lilium* Golden Splendor Group

(VIb-c/a)

AGM (H6) 2002, reconfirmed 2020

**Height:** c1.5m

**Flowering period:** July to August

**Forum comments:**

*Persistent, fine lily with fragrant orange flowers with darker strip down each petal. Usually long-lived in gardens.*





## *Lilium henryi* (IXc/d)

AGM (H6) 1993, retained 2020

**Height:** c1.5m

**Flowering period:** July

**Forum comments:**

*Good bulb producer, lime tolerant, flowers from seed.*

## *Lilium martagon* (IXc/d)

AGM (H6) 2002, retained 2020

**Height:** 1-2m

**Flowering period:** June

**Forum comments:**

*Speckled flowers. One of the earliest lilies to flower. Likes light woodland providing some shade. Lime tolerant.*



## *Lilium* **Pink Perfection Group** (VIb/a)

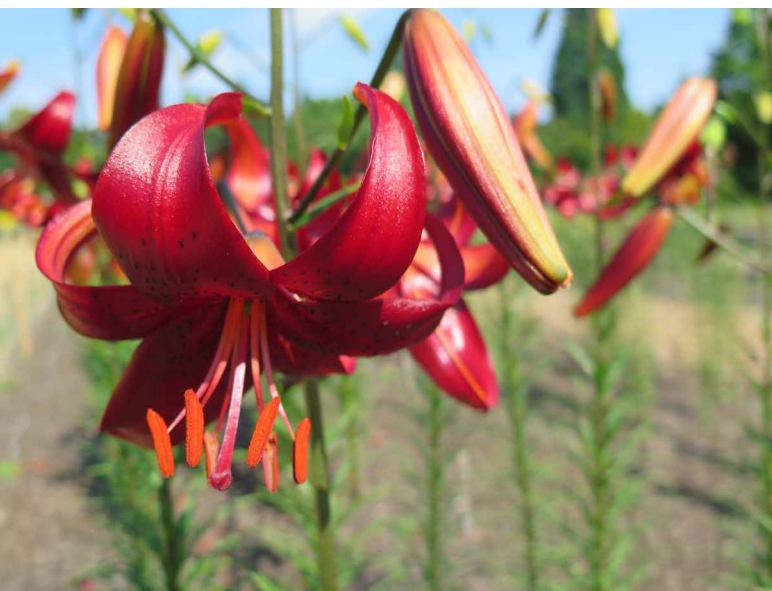
AGM (H6) 1993, reconfirmed 2020

**Height:** c2m

**Flowering period:** July

**Forum comments:**

*A reliable, tall, pink lily, prized for its fragrance. 1960's strain. Large blooms 15cm across.*



## *Lilium* 'Red Velvet' (Ic/d)

AGM (H6) 2020

**Height:** 1.2-1.5m

**Flowering period:** July

**Forum comments:**

*Tall lily with strong foliage, can increase to an imposing group. Smooth, well formed, rich and glowing flowers.*

## *Lilium regale* (IXb/a)

AGM (H6) 1993,  
retained 2020

**Height:** 1-2m

**Flowering period:** July

**Forum comments:**

*Ernest Wilson's discovery in 1903. Seed germinates freely. Wonderful, white, perfumed flowers. Purple coloured buds. The most reliable trumpet lily species - a favourite for over a century.*



## *Lilium* 'Scarlet Delight' (VIIIb-c/c-d)

AGM (H6) 2020

**Height:** 1.5-1.8m

**Flowering period:** Early August

**Forum comments:**

*Sheer elegance of strikingly coloured, downward facing flowers on shapely stems. Rich, rosy pink, reflexed petals look down and out.*



## *Lilium* **'Yellow Bruse'** (Ic/c)

AGM (H6) 2020

**Height:** c1.5m

**Flowering period:** July

**Forum comments:**

*Large flowers with attractive markings.*

AGM subject to availability:

***Lilium* 'Agostini'**

***Lilium* 'Clearwater'**

***Lilium* 'Gaybird'**

***Lilium* 'Gold Class'**

AGM subject to naming and availability:

***Lilium* OR-14-6002**

## List of plants trialled

- *Lilium* 136001
- *Lilium* 136201
- *Lilium* 'Accolade'
- *Lilium* 'African Lady'
- *Lilium* African Queen Group
- *Lilium* 'After Eight'
- *Lilium* 'Agostini'
- *Lilium* 'Amarossi'
- *Lilium* 'Amistad'
- *Lilium* 'Anastasia'
- *Lilium* 'Apricot Fudge'
- *Lilium* 'Arabian Knight'
- *Lilium* 'Arcade'
- *Lilium* 'Aubisque'
- *Lilium auratum*
- *Lilium* 'Bandièra'
- *Lilium* 'Bellaria'
- *Lilium* 'Berbiano'
- *Lilium* 'Big Edition'
- *Lilium* 'Binasco'
- *Lilium* 'Borrello'
- *Lilium* 'Brusago'
- *Lilium* 'Burana'
- *Lilium* 'Cali'
- *Lilium candidum*
- *Lilium* 'Casa Blanca'
- *Lilium* 'Cherry Baby'
- *Lilium* 'Christopher'
- *Lilium* 'Clearwater'
- *Lilium* 'Cleone'
- *Lilium* 'Conca d'Or'
- *Lilium* 'Corsage'
- *Lilium* 'Corvette'
- *Lilium* 'Curiosity'
- *Lilium* x *dalhansonii* 'Guinea Gold'
- *Lilium* 'Dancing Lady'
- *Lilium* 'Dark Romance' (Romance Series)
- *Lilium* 'Delicate Joy'
- *Lilium* 'Diantha'
- *Lilium* 'Dignity'
- *Lilium* 'Dreamline'
- *Lilium* 'Eldoret'
- *Lilium* 'Elegant Joy'
- *Lilium* 'Elodie'
- *Lilium* 'Euskadi'
- *Lilium* 'Fairy Morning'
- *Lilium* 'Fedora'
- *Lilium* 'Felino'
- *Lilium* 'Firebolt'
- *Lilium* 'First Romance' (Romance Series)
- *Lilium* 'Flashpoint'
- *Lilium* 'Flavia'
- *Lilium* 'Forever Susan'
- *Lilium* 'Formia'
- *Lilium* 'Freckled Joy'
- *Lilium* 'Fredo'
- *Lilium* 'Friso'
- *Lilium* 'Fuenta'
- *Lilium* 'Fusion'
- *Lilium* 'Gaybird'
- *Lilium* 'Gizmo'
- *Lilium* 'Glandon'
- *Lilium* 'Gold Class'
- *Lilium* 'Golden Comet'
- *Lilium* 'Golden Romance' (Romance Series)
- *Lilium* Golden Splendor Group
- *Lilium hansonii*
- *Lilium henryi*
- *Lilium* 'Ibiza'
- *Lilium* 'Imola'
- *Lilium* 'Juliets Joy'
- *Lilium* 'Kadango'
- *Lilium* 'Kayenta'
- *Lilium* 'Kendall'
- *Lilium* 'Lady Alice'
- *Lilium* 'Lankon'
- *Lilium lankongense*
- *Lilium leichtlinii*
- *Lilium* 'Leslie Woodriff'
- *Lilium* 'Little Britain'
- *Lilium* 'Little China'
- *Lilium* 'Livingston'
- *Lilium* 'Love Letter'
- *Lilium* 'Madelaine'
- *Lilium* 'Manitoba Morning'
- *Lilium martagon*
- *Lilium martagon* var. *album*
- *Lilium* 'Masterpiece'
- *Lilium* 'Maurya'
- *Lilium* 'Miss Feyta'
- *Lilium* 'Mister Pistache'
- *Lilium monadelphum*
- *Lilium* 'Monsano'
- *Lilium* 'Mountain Joy'
- *Lilium* 'Muscadet'
- *Lilium* 'Must See'
- *Lilium nepalense*
- *Lilium* 'Netty's Pride'
- *Lilium* 'Night Flyer'
- *Lilium* 'Nightrider'
- *Lilium* 'Nomad'
- *Lilium* 'Nymph'

- *Lilium* 'Odyssey'
- *Lilium* OR-14-103
- *Lilium* OR-14-138
- *Lilium* OR-14-6002
- *Lilium* OR-14-6007
- *Lilium* OR-14-6009
- *Lilium* OR-14-6011
- *Lilium* OR-14-6013
- *Lilium* OR-14-6136
- *Lilium* OR-14-6162
- *Lilium* OR-14-6194
- *Lilium* OR-14-6343
- *Lilium* OR-14-6375
- *Lilium* 'Orange Marmalade'
- *Lilium* 'Pearl White'
- *Lilium* 'Peppard Gold'
- *Lilium* 'Perfect Joy'
- *Lilium* 'Petacas'
- *Lilium* 'Pink Comet'
- *Lilium* 'Pink Morning'
- *Lilium* Pink Perfection Group
- *Lilium* 'Pink Romance' (Romance Series)
- *Lilium* 'Portugal'
- *Lilium* 'Praiano'
- *Lilium* 'Primrose Hill'
- *Lilium* 'Provence'
- *Lilium* 'Pulsar'
- *Lilium pumilum*
- *Lilium* QF12003
- *Lilium* QF15017
- *Lilium* QF15024
- *Lilium* 'Rafael'
- *Lilium* 'Rapid Romance' (Romance Series)
- *Lilium* 'Red Eyes'
- *Lilium* 'Red Rover'
- *Lilium* 'Red Twin'
- *Lilium* 'Red Velvet'
- *Lilium* 'Redford'
- *Lilium regale*
- *Lilium regale* 'Album'
- *Lilium* 'Robert Griesbach'
- *Lilium* 'Robert Swanson'
- *Lilium* Roselily Aisha ('DL102085')
- *Lilium* Roselily Angela ('DI 11 1421')
- *Lilium* Roselily Carolina ('DL044040')
- *Lilium* Roselily Celina ('DL041121')
- *Lilium* Roselily Editha ('DL11356')
- *Lilium* Roselily Elena ('DL04581')
- *Lilium* Roselily Isabella ('DL044033')
- *Lilium* Roselily Kendra ('DL112077')
- *Lilium* Roselily Leona ('DI 112773')
- *Lilium* Roselily Natalia ('DL04544')
- *Lilium* Roselily Patricia ('DL1127')
- *Lilium* Roselily Roberta ('DL112598')
- *Lilium* Roselily Samantha ('DL112317')
- *Lilium* Roselily Sara ('DL104034')
- *Lilium* Roselily Thalita ('DL04992')
- *Lilium rosthornii*
- *Lilium* 'Rosy Romance'
- *Lilium* 'Salmon Star'
- *Lilium* 'Saludo'
- *Lilium* 'Salvo'
- *Lilium* 'Sarah Bernhardt'
- *Lilium* 'Scarlet Delight'
- *Lilium* 'Scheherazade'
- *Lilium* 'Secret Kiss'
- *Lilium* 'Smart Romance' (Romance Series)
- *Lilium* 'Snow Comet'
- *Lilium* 'Solution'
- *Lilium* 'Sparkling Joy'
- *Lilium* 'Special News'
- *Lilium speciosum* var. *rubrum* 'Uchida'
- *Lilium* 'Spectator'
- *Lilium* 'Spring City'
- *Lilium* 'Spring Pink'
- *Lilium* 'Spring Romance' (Romance Series)
- *Lilium* 'Star Gazer'
- *Lilium* 'Star Romance' (Romance Series)
- *Lilium* 'Stonehenge'
- *Lilium* 'Sunny Bonaire'
- *Lilium* 'Sunny Keys'
- *Lilium* 'Sunny Martinique'
- *Lilium* 'Sunny Morning'
- *Lilium* 'Sunny Robyn'
- *Lilium superbum*
- *Lilium* 'Sweet Desire'
- *Lilium* 'Sweet Romance' (Romance Series)
- *Lilium* 'Sweet Sugar'
- *Lilium* 'Sweet Talk'
- *Lilium* 'Sweet Zanica'
- *Lilium* 'Tabledance'
- *Lilium taliense* var. *kaichen*
- *Lilium* 'Tangerine Joy'
- *Lilium* 'Tawny'
- *Lilium tenii* (syn. *L. lijangense*)
- *Lilium* 'Terrasol'
- *Lilium* Tiger Babies Group
- *Lilium* 'Tigermoon'
- *Lilium* 'Tiny Bee'
- *Lilium* 'Tiny Dino'
- *Lilium* 'Tiny Double You'
- *Lilium* 'Tiny Epic'
- *Lilium* 'Tiny Orange Sensation'
- *Lilium* 'Tiny Padhye'

- *Lilium* 'Tiny Parrot'
- *Lilium* 'Top Draw'
- *Lilium* Triumphator ('Zanlophator')
- *Lilium* 'True Romance' (Romance Series)
- *Lilium* 'Tsing'
- *Lilium* 'Twyford' (Lotus Lily Series)
- *Lilium* 'Valverde'
- *Lilium* 'Varese'
- *Lilium* 'Virtuoso'
- *Lilium* 'Waverider'
- *Lilium* 'Yamhill'
- *Lilium* 'Yang'
- *Lilium* 'Yellow Bruse'
- *Lilium* 'Yellow Space'
- *Lilium* 'Yin'
- *Lilium* 'Younigue'
- *Lilium* 'Zambesi'
- *Lilium* 'Zelmira'

## Suppliers to the trial

GAV Lilies – [verdegaal.nl](http://verdegaal.nl)

H.W. Hyde & Son – [hwhyde.co.uk](http://hwhyde.co.uk)

Lily Company B. V. – [lilycompany.nl](http://lilycompany.nl)

Mak Breeding – [makbreeding.nl](http://makbreeding.nl)

Vletter & Den Haan – [vletterdenhaan.com](http://vletterdenhaan.com)

Zaboplant – [zaboplant.com](http://zaboplant.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](http://rhs.org.uk/trials-awards)

The *Lilium* 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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