

How to Choose the Correct Seeds

With the Dobies Catalogues in the WAGS store, it is time to think about what you're going to grow next year. How do you choose from the numerous cultivars of popular crops such as carrot or tomato?

- Look for cultivars with the RHS Award of Garden Merit (AGM); their worth has been proven (and reviewed periodically) by trials at RHS gardens. You can find out more at: <http://www.rhs.org.uk/Plants/Plant-trials-and-awards/Plant-awards/AGM-fruit-and-veg>
- Price and number of seeds per packet vary markedly. Big packets with lots of seed usually come from open-pollinated plants. Pollination has been left to nature, so they are relatively cheap to produce and suppliers can afford to be generous.
- Seed of new cultivars often includes F1 hybrid or F1 as part of the name, for example carrot 'Flyaway' F1 or beetroot 'Action' F1. The price indicates the high cost of producing F1 seeds from highly bred parents in controlled conditions.
- F1 seed germinates reliably, and produces uniform plants of higher vigour and yield than the more variable plants raised from open-pollinated seed.
- Seed packets are date stamped at the time of packaging, and have a sow-by date. Buy just enough for the coming season, especially of crops of limited viability such as parsnip.

(adapted from RHS Garden Magazine)



The **2014 subscription rate** is £4.00 per household – valid from January 2014. To **renew** your subscription, please complete the form on the reverse (p. 7) and hand it in to the Store. Please include an **email** if you have one, especially if you live outside Wallingford. As well as the newsletter in electronic format (and colour, where available), you will receive other occasional news. New members are welcome to join at any time.

Next issue: January 2014

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Copies available in store: 4 January 2014

Please send contributions to Frances at wagsnews@gmail.com

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www.wags-wallington.com



Jean Teles' 5 different vegetables, all stunning quality (see page 4)

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Trading Store at Centre 70 **open to members only**
Every Saturday and first Sunday in the month: 10:00 – 12:00
(except August)

Annual subscription £4.00 (per household)

The views expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the Society.

WAGS News

Autumn Show ~ 2014 ~ Trophy Winners

WAGS Top Gardener	<i>The Bill Stickley Trophy</i>	Peter Willis
WAGS Novice Top Gardener	<i>The Talbot Trophy</i>	(not awarded)
Vegetables (Members only)	<i>The President's Cup</i>	Sandra Halstead
Best in Show – Vegetables	<i>Jim Purvey Memorial Trophy</i>	John Hodgson
Flowers (Open)	<i>The Slade Memorial Bowl</i>	William Woodward
Flowers (Members only)	<i>The Vice President's Cup</i>	William Woodward
Best in Show – Flowers	<i>The Joe Gniadek Cup</i>	Jean Teles
Pot Plants (Members only)	<i>The W.A.G.S. Cup</i>	Jean Teles
Fruit (Members only)	<i>Members Trophy</i>	Richard Guppy
Best in Show – Fruit	<i>The Peter Hallett Memorial Bowl</i>	Tom Buckingham
Specialities (Open)	<i>The Arthur Shepherd Trophy</i>	Stella Rance
Wine (Open)	<i>The Johnstone Cup</i>	(not awarded)
Length & Weight (Members only)	<i>The Bob Burrell Memorial Trophy</i>	Jean Teles
Heaviest Four Onions	<i>The MacMower Trophy</i>	Jean Teles
Children (5 to under 9 years)	<i>The Audrey Bosley Trophy</i>	Amy Cole
Children (over 8 but under 13 years)	<i>The Lillian & William Wells Memorial Trophy</i>	Ben Guppy
Floral Art (Open)	<i>The Floral Art Cup</i>	Pat Collier
Container Gardening (Open)	<i>The Mayoress' Trophy</i>	Jean Teles



WAGS Diary

2014:

Friday 4 April	AGM
Saturday 10 May	Plant Sale
Saturday 13 September	Autumn Show

WAGS News

Discounts

Discounts are currently available at the following businesses (if you ask first), on the production of your **CURRENT** WAGS Membership Card, which must be shown before the transaction is started:

- Goring Hardware**, Red Cross Road, Goring – 10% on gardening products
- Norman Cox & Partners**, Scotts Common, Checkendon – 5%
Most items, but check at cash desk – NOT with any other offers
- Root 1**, Brightwell-cum-Sotwell – 10% *Mondays and Tuesdays only*
Shrubs, herbaceous plants, pot plants – NOT with any other offers
- Toad Hall**, Marlow Road (Fawley Court), Henley (Mon–Fri) – 5%
Most items except fencing and machinery – NOT with any other offers
- Wears Nursery**, Brightwell-cum-Sotwell – 10%
Shrubs, plants, trees, alpines, composts, bark and fertilisers
- Woodcote Garden Centre**, Reading Road, Woodcote – 10% on plants
- Yarnton Nurseries**, Sandy Lane, Yarnton, Kidlington – 10%
excluding items already discounted, purchases in restaurant or franchises

[List subject to revision]

Contact wagsnews@gmail.com to receive this Newsletter in PDF format, as well as occasional eNews. This is also the email address to write to if you have opted to receive this newsletter by email, but are still having a hard copy delivered – there may be a problem with your email address.

WALLINGFORD ALLOTMENTS & GARDENS SOCIETY

Membership Application / Renewal 2014

Please complete – **print clearly** – and hand in to the Store.

Membership fee: **£4.00** (per household)

Name:

Address*

Postcode

Tel no.:

I would like to receive the Newsletter by email

Email [please print clearly!].

* If you live outside Wallingford and cannot receive the Newsletter by email, please collect your copies from the WAGS Store or provide a c/o address in Wallingford.

WAGS News

Store News

The Dobies Catalogues are now in the store; the discounts are as follows:

Seeds - 30%

Anything else - 10%

Potatoes

If you require a **25kg bag** let me know so that it can be included in our order. The following seed potatoes will be ordered:

Aaron Pilot	Estima second early
Foremost	
Rocket	Desiree
Kestrel	Picasso
Wilja	Cara
Charlotte	Rooster
International Kidney	

The WAGS Store stocks all the usual variety of **composts, fertilizers** (by the kg), **liquid fertilizers** and **tomato feeds**, not to mention **seed trays, string, labels**, etc., and even **weed control fabric**.

Let me know if there is something you need that is not in stock – we prefer to order specific items on request, rather than have them gathering dust on the shelves.

We are always looking for people to help in the Store for an hour or two on Saturday mornings – if you are interested, or would like to get involved with running the store on a more regular basis, please contact me at the Store.

Please note:

The Store will be CLOSED 14, 21 and 28 December 2013

Colin Timmins
Store Manager

WAGS News

Madam Chairman's Piece

The show was the last event of the WAGS 2013 calendar, and a great day it was. I now have a mountain of carrots and tomatoes to eat up – soup for a month I think. You have to pick a lot to find a set that look the same size, colour, and shape!

Autumn is with us now, but we've had a good summer on the whole. How were your runner beans? Mine were rubbish! Some people have had a bumper harvest and some, like me, the worst ever. Why is that? (Answers on a postcard please, or email if easier!)

We have the 2014 Dobies Catalogue in store, offering a great discount on seeds as usual. We should have the new 2014 membership cards soon too so don't forget to renew.

If you have any ideas for WAGS 2014, I would love to hear from you. Anyone out there want to help us run a trip or support us running the store?

Thank you to all WAGS members for your support of our society; don't forget to recommend us to your green fingered friends.

Sandra Halstead



WAGS News

WAGS Autumn Show

We had a great show this year; when all the exhibits are displayed it really does look good. A big THANK YOU to everyone who helped with the show and to those who exhibited. Thanks also to all our judges who give up their time to share their expertise, and to the mayor Bernard Stone for handing out the prizes and helping with the raffle.

Finally a big thank you to our kind sponsors who support WAGS by covering some of the costs of staging the show, please give them your support:

Our Major Sponsors: Champions, Pettits & Rowse Honey

Sponsor of the Floral Art Section: Keri Harvey The Florists

Sponsors of individual Classes & Children's Prizes:

FeetFirst; Wallingford Bookshop



I thoroughly enjoyed the day and hope that all of you who took part, and those who came to see the exhibits, enjoyed yourselves too.

Picking out a few winners, Jean and Antonio Teles again excelled themselves on fruit and vegetables, as did Pat Collier for her Floral Art. There were some amazing entries for the arts and crafts

and the judges spent a long time deliberating them. The speciality judges and photography were also very pleased with standard of the exhibits to judge. As usual, there is a list of Trophy Winners in this newsletter.

The only disappointment was that only two children were entered for the children's classes. So thank you Amy and Ben for making the effort and I really hope we can get more children entering next year. If you have any suggestions for things the children would enjoy making, please do email them through to me.

WAGS News



For anyone who missed the show, the website has some additional photographs, so do take a look: www.wags-wallingford.com. We didn't capture all the exhibits, so if you have any photos, particularly of winning entries, please email them to me.

All you WAGS members out there, I look forward to seeing you on September 13th 2014. We plan to have Roke and Benson Brass band at the 2014 show.

Sandra Halstead
WAGS Show Secretary
s.halstead2@btinternet.com



Apple Day in Brightwell cum Sotwell

Brightwell cum Sotwell will be holding their 4th Apple Day on Sunday 13 October at the Red Lion pub from 12.00 to 15.00. This free event is a celebration of this year's apple harvest and includes apple tastings, traditional cider, apple juice, jams, honey and cakes for sale and kids' apple-themed games.

The highlight of the day will be retired fruit farmer, Paul Chilton's impressive traditional display of some of the 70 heritage varieties of apple found in the village. This is an opportunity not to be missed as it is rare to see so many varieties together.

There will be juice-making all day using the Village Press. Each pressing will mix and blend different apple varieties so no two combinations will be the same. You can try them all and see if you can taste the difference.

You can follow preparations for the day on the Brightwell Village Orchard Group website: <http://brightwellorchards.blogspot.co.uk/>