

GREAT PLANT PICKS

Hebe Field Evaluation Report 19 June 2003

North Willamette Research and Extension Center, Oregon
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All plants were given a numerical score from 1 (worst) to five (best). Scores on this report reflect the average of 4-7 individual scores.

Hebe	Overall Score	Habit	Foliage	Bark/Stem Color	Flower	Fruit	Disease Resistance	Pest Resistance	Comments
<i>H. albicans</i> 'Snowcover'	4.16	3.86	4.65				3.92	4.2	low, loose spreading habit, 8" x 24"; rich blue grey foliage with pale green stems, some old brown leaves show. <u>Strongest ornamental contribution</u> : foliage color
<i>H. anomala</i> ¹	4.14	4.79	4.79		2.29		4.42	4.4	low spreading mound with upright shoots, 10" x 24"; bright yellow green foliage with yellow stems; ugly white flws; brown persistent fruit is a distraction. <u>Strongest ornamental contribution</u> : neat bun-like habit and "cheerful" foliage
<i>H. anomala</i> 'Purpurea' ²	4.16	4.09	4.84		2.84		4.5	4.5	handsomely open or too open textural habit with erect stems; attractive blue green foliage flushed red purple at tips; sparse, small white flws; 30" x 30". <u>Strongest ornamental contribution</u> : original plant still alive at WPA in Seattle—appears exceptionally hardy

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<i>H. brachysiphon</i>	3.64	3.75	3.29		3.79		3.34	4.0	rounded habit; unexciting chlorotic foliage a drawback; white flws with dark anthers; only one of three plants healthy
<i>H. carnosula</i>	4.76	5.0	4.84				4.5	4.67	tidy, densely rounded habit—"a perfect bun"; bright rich-green architectural foliage with yellow stems; 24" x 24"
<i>H. carnosula</i> 'Mt. Stewart' ³	4.31	4.5	4.7				3.67	4.34	tight, compact mounded habit; waxy, almost sedum-like grey blue foliage that hugs stem; 6" x 8". <u>Strongest ornamental contribution:</u> unique rock garden plant
<i>H. cupressoides</i> 'Boughton Dome'	4.75	4.86	4.86				4.67	4.6	stiff, dome-like habit; tiny, scalelike green foliage like a conifer; 12" x 18". <u>Strongest ornamental contribution:</u> habit--attractive in rock garden or with dwarf rhodies, could possible be shaped for topiary
<i>H.</i> 'Denise' ⁴	3.43	2.97	3.0		4.18		3.2	3.8	open upright habit, 24" x 24"; unremarkable foliage; large (to 4") pinkish purple fading to white flws give nice two-tone effect but old flwrs hang on plant; some dieback in center of plant. <u>Strongest ornamental contribution:</u> flowers

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<i>H.</i> 'Emerald Green' ⁵	4.8	5.0	4.86				4.67	4.67	tight compact bun, 12" x 24"; small heather-like bright green, almost chartreuse leaves, <u>Strongest ornamental contribution</u> : habit and foliage color; "One of my favorite hebes"; "What would wet slushy snow do to plant?"; AGM
<i>H.</i> 'Halifax Hardy' ⁶	4.17	4.17	4.09	4.0			4.3	4.25	attractive loose mounded habit, 18" x 18"; finely textured sage green foliage (some thought too dull); dark red stems contrast nicely with foliage; <u>Strongest ornamental contribution</u> : would make nice low hedge
<i>H.</i> 'Hinerua'	4.83	4.84	5.0				4.7	4.75	irregular open habit with upright shoots, 18" x 24"; bright yellow green scalelike foliage (whipcord type); <u>Strongest ornamental contribution</u> : foliage and form; "awesome"; "really nice"; "would recommend for GPP Short List"
<i>H.</i> 'Icing Sugar' ⁷	3.35	2.79	3.59				3.0	4.0	loose, open habit, 24" x 24"; long, med to dark green leaves; dark brown stems; pretty dark rose flwr buds, dead flws from last year not attractive; may have some leaf spot

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<i>H. 'Josephine'</i> ⁸	4.33	4.36	4.5				4.25	4.2	full rounded uniform habit, well-branched to base, 24" x 24"; clean dark green foliage; too early for flws but loaded with buds; <u>Strongest ornamental contribution</u> : nice habit and foliage; "good GPP Short List candidate"
<i>H. 'Maori Gem'</i>	4.75	5.0	5.0				4.5	4.5	young plant--a bit early to evaluate; tight compact habit, 5" x 10"; bright green scaly foliage; looks like dwarf version of <i>H. 'Emerald Green'</i> ; <u>Strongest ornamental contribution</u> : rock garden or trough
<i>H. 'Midsummer Beauty'</i>	3.71	3.1	3.0	3.34	4.8		3.67	4.34	upright open habit, 36" x 24"; dark red stems; large but sparse light to med green foliage; huge attractive purple fading to white flws; <u>Strongest ornamental contribution</u> : flowers; "fabulous flws--handsome!"; "one of my personal favorites"; "too big, open"; "attractive flws but not a nice plant"; AGM

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<i>H. odora</i> 'New Zealand Gold'	4.65	5.0	4.86				4.42	4.3	well branched dense mounding habit, 12" x 18"; deep green foliage with clean and uniform branches, gold??—perhaps in different soil conditions; no flws seen in three years; <u>Strongest ornamental contribution</u> : foliage; "would recommend for GPP Short List"
<i>H. 'Oswego'</i>	4.03	3.72	3.58		4.15		4.0	4.67	upright vase-shaped habit, 30"x 30"; gray green foliage; showy large flws with interesting purple anthers, pink in bud opening to white, dying older foliage detracts from overall appeal; <u>Strongest ornamental contribution</u> : flowers; "good plant in the bloom season, afterwords looks messy"
<i>H. pimeleoides</i> 'Quicksilver'	3.73	3.43	4.5	3.67	3.15		3.6	4.0	interesting angular habit with windswept look, 14" x 24"; small blue gray leaves fade to gray making nice contrast; dark stems contrast well with foliage; small sparse purple flws attractive on plant; <u>Strongest ornamental contribution</u> : unique foliage plant; "one plant looks awful but two look good"; "haven't seen any look consistently nice in gardens"; "combo of foliage and flwr outstanding, but <i>each</i> quality is not as good"; AGM

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<i>H. pinguifolia</i>	4.06	4.6	4.2		3.0		4.25	4.25	low compact mound, 6" x 8"; blue foliage with yellow edge; small white flws; <u>Strongest ornamental contribution</u> : small groundcover or trough plant; "a must!"; "don't love it"; "nothing special other than size"
<i>H. pinguifolia</i> 'Pagei'	3.72	3.8	4.2		2.34		4.0	4.25	low spreading habit, quite full at first but seems to open with maturity, 6" x 24"; blue gray foliage with thin red edge; white flws with persistent brown fruit; <u>Strongest ornamental contribution</u> : trailing in a rockery; AGM
<i>H. pinguifolia</i> 'Wardiensis'	4.14	4.15	4.15				3.9	4.34	compact bun habit, 8" x 24"; small gray green leaves; <u>Strongest ornamental contribution</u> : low compact habit
<i>H.</i> 'Red Edge'	4.27	4.8	5.0		3.17		4.1	4.25	very young plant; low compact habit with stiff appearance—"sedumlike", 12" x 15"; gray green foliage with thin red margin; attractive dark stems; sparse lavender to white flws with purple stamens; one of three plants showing dead areas; <u>Strongest ornamental contribution</u> : foliage and habit; "GPP material"; "Lack of heavy bloom a problem"; "winter color is very nice"; "personal favorite"; AGM

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<i>H. rupicola</i> ⁹	4.4	4.6	4.6				4.2	4.2	low compact habit with clean appearance, 8" x 15"; light gray green textural foliage; <u>Strongest ornamental contribution</u> : foliage and texture; "another great, well-behaved plant"; "just another dwarf"
<i>H. 'Sapphire'</i>	3.56	2.93	3.22	3.25		4.17	3.75	4.0	open, upright habit, 24" x 30"; small "semi-ratty" green flushed purple foliage; dark purple red stems; spent flws from previous year a distraction; some evidence of leaf drop; <u>Strongest ornamental contribution</u> : winter color; AGM
<i>H. strictissima</i> ¹⁰	4.06	4.15	4.43		3.65		3.84	4.2	upright open habit, 24" x 24"; med green glossy foliage; yellow stems; floriferous small white flushed purple flws; some yellow spotting on leaves
<i>H. subalpina</i>	3.64	3.7	3.1				3.75	4.0	seedling grown so quite variable; in general--rounded compact habit, 15" x 15"; bright green foliage with unhealthy looking spotting on older leaves; "not as nice as others"

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<i>H. topiaria</i>	4.84	5.0	5.0				4.67	4.67	outstanding flat-topped mound, almost appears clipped, 15" x 30"; gray green leaves with yellow margins; stems gold—"wonderful color play!"; tiny white flws beginning to open; <u>Strongest ornamental contribution</u> : habit; "I really like this one!"; "one of my favorites"; "need to see bloom—could be a 5.0 if showy"; "one of the best looking"; AGM
<i>H. 'Wingletye'</i>	3.71	3.5	3.88		3.63		3.75	3.75	young plant; open creeping habit; good gray green foliage; small purple fading to white flws; <u>Strongest ornamental contribution</u> : habit good for rock wall or pot; AGM

Notes:

About the site: The Hebe trial began in 2000. Lowest temperature recorded at this site since then is 22°F. All plants are growing in full sun in a soil pH of approximately 6.0.

¹ *RHS Plant Finder, 2003-2004*, lists name as *H. 'Imposter'* or *H. odora*.

² See note above.

³ Cultivar name not listed in *RHS Plant Finder*.

⁴ Listed in *RHS Plant Finder, 2001-2002*.

⁵ Evaluated as *H. Emerald Gem* = *H. 'McKean'*, but according to *RHS Plant Finder, 2003-2004*, the correct name for *H. Emerald Gem* is *H. 'Emerald Green'*. *Plant Finder* lists *H. 'McKean'* as a separate plant.

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