

PRESS RELEASE

Tuesday, 22 May 2007

NEWS JUST IN FROM THE RHS CHELSEA FLOWER SHOW 2007.....

HILLIER NURSERIES WINS A RECORD 62ND CONSECUTIVE CHELSEA GOLD MEDAL

HILLIER OVERCOMES HUGE CHALLENGES TO PRODUCE A GOLDEN RESULT

John Hillier, President of Hillier Nurseries, and a member of the staging team, is delighted: "Our Gold Medal success this year has been a tremendous team effort. Staff from our nurseries, garden centres and head office have all contributed to this superb result. I am extremely proud of their achievement."



"We faced huge challenges this year" admits Andrew McIndoe, who designed Hillier's Gold-medal winning garden, and is also Deputy M.D. of Hillier Nurseries and Garden Centres.

"April was such a hot, dry month that hundreds of plants started to come into flower 3 weeks earlier than usual. Our cold store was packed full of plants to try and slow them down. And then the Chelsea build-up phase was blighted by torrential downpours and blustery winds. No, it hasn't been the easiest year by a long shot! We are truly delighted and relieved to maintain Hillier's Golden Legacy and our place in the Guinness Book of World Records."

Our focus on 'Planting with Trees' was a real departure for us this year", explains Andrew. "Chelsea is so dominated by the smaller new plants, that it was great to get thousands of visitors and millions of BBC viewers to look up and appreciate the sheer beauty of trees and their versatility in all sizes and styles of garden."

(Above: Ricky Dorlay and Andrew McIndoe with the 62nd Gold medal)



Hillier's exhibit used a colossal 3000 trees and plants, 16 tons of cement and ballast, 700 concrete blocks to raise terraces and ponds, 10 tons of paving and walling, 10 tons of bark chips, 5 tons of birch log edging and even 750 hand-written labels.

The Hillier stand took a year to prepare, 10 days to build, is on display for 6 days, and will take just 10 hours to dismantle.

(Pictured left: The Hillier team enjoying their record-breaking success.)



Certain specimen trees are returned to the nursery for much needed rest and recuperation, whilst the rest of Hillier's gold-medal winning Chelsea stock is sent to Hillier's Sunningdale garden centre for a Chelsea sale bonanza. Early on Sunday morning, queues of excited bargain hunters will be awaiting the Hillier lorries, as they arrive in from Chelsea direct.

(Pictured left: Ricky Dorlay of Hillier Nurseries, who has had the heavy responsibility of preparing plants for Chelsea for the past 42 years.)

Notes to Editors

Hillier Nurseries was founded in 1864 by Edwin Hillier, and has an unrivalled and unbroken run of 62 Gold Medals at the Chelsea Flower Show since 1945. Hillier has 3 divisions:

Hillier Wholesale Nursery: supplies a network of UK stockists, producing around 2 million container-grown hardy plants, shrubs and herbaceous perennials per year.

Hillier Amenity Nursery: is Britain's largest tree nursery, growing semi-mature trees for commercial projects and local authorities in the UK on 500 acres at Liss in Hampshire, and 20 000 trees a year in containers ranging from 45 litres to a staggering 2000 Litres at the Broadmead Nursery beside the Company's head office in Hampshire. Projects have included Highgrove, RHS Wisley, Savill Garden, Kew and Birmingham's Bull Ring.

Hillier Garden Centres: are specialist garden centres at 13 locations in England where the focus is on premium plant quality and range, gardening advice and customer service. Hillier has the largest membership of any garden society other than the RHS with over 200 000 members, who receive the Hillier Gardening Club Magazine three times a year. Hillier Garden Centres are in Bath, Newbury, Hemel Hempstead, Sunningdale, Chichester, Eastbourne, Horsham, Redditch, Botley, Braishfield, Liss, Romsey and Winchester.

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