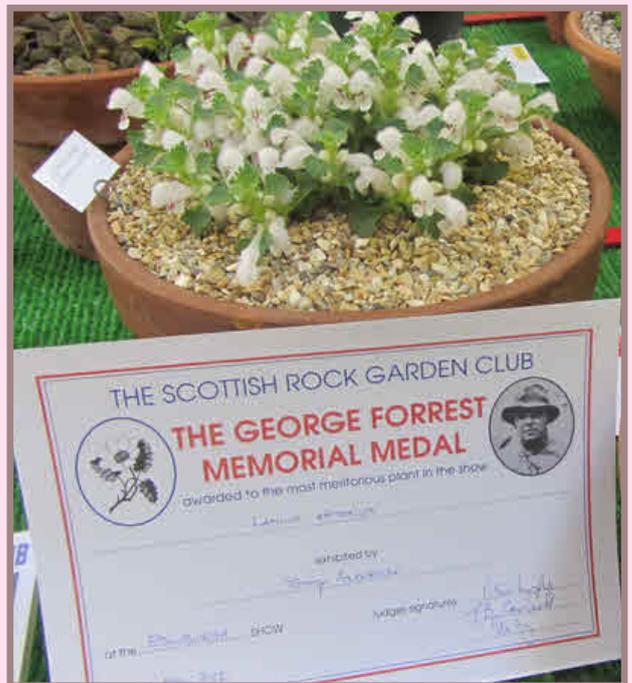




SRGC / AGS Forrest Medal Edinburgh 2012



Plant name **Lamium armenum**
shown by **Tommy Anderson**



I first admired this plant at the Hexham show the week before but it took that extra week for it to develop into the magnificent specimen we saw at Edinburgh. The plant was placed near the stage end of the central show bench and it was not until you reached that end of the hall that the Lamium came into view, obscured as it was by Rhododendrons. When you reached it, it shouted 'admire me. I am the most beautiful dead nettle in the world'. To use the colloquial name 'dead nettle' is to do the plant a great injustice because it is a very desirable plant. Tommy raised it as one of 6 seedlings but told me it is difficult to propagate because nearly every stem flowers, so cutting material is in short supply. He has lost most of the other seedlings which literally flowered themselves to death. The leaves are unusual in shape, textured like nettles but sculpted smoothly concave laterally and convex with a serrated edge along the top edge. The typical nettle flowers are pure white with furry white helmets over a prominent purple striped lip. It needs to be grown under glass in this country.

Lamium armenum is native to Turkish screes and it grows rapidly and requires frequent repotting to keep it going. Tommy is to be congratulated for overcoming all the difficulties of cultivation and I hope he gets lots of seedlings to keep it going. Tommy takes the Forrest Medal back to Kendal, reinforcing the cross border friendships encouraged by the SRGC. Well done Tommy!