

The Scottish Rock Garden Club Forrest Medal - Aberdeen 2016 *Saxifraga pubescens* 'Snowcap' Shown by Cyril Lafong

Another Pyrenean winner!



For the second week in a row a Pyrenean plant was judged best in show. Last week in Glasgow it was *Ranunculus parnassifolius*. This

round and equally well flowered all round. Judges always look for demerits and often emphasise any blemish but this time there were none. All flowers in tip top condition. Leaves? I couldn't tell if it has any!

Saxifraga pubescens grows wild in the eastern Pyrenees where it is a cliff dweller. It is quite common in cultivation. In cultivation it does not like strong direct sunshine, inferring that in nature it may prefer north facing or shady places. Mind you some gorges in the Pyrenees have remarkably steep walls which sometimes seem almost to touch on their way upwards. It should be propagated regularly as older bigger plants are difficult to maintain. Small pieces can be rooted in sand. The subspecies *Saxifraga pubescens iratiana* grows in the western Pyrenees.

A pan of each would make a super two pan entry. There's a challenge for someone.

Well done Cyril. Many congratulations for showing just how many plant gems you make thrive in Fife!

week, *Saxifraga pubescens*. With much talk of 'alpine plants' instead of 'rock garden plants' our thoughts veer towards the European Alps whenever 'alpines' are talked about. We forget just how many splendid plants come from the Pyrenees.

Our maestro Cyril Lafong notched another record at this

year's Aberdeen Show by winning his 54th Forrest Medal. The range of plants with which he wins is outstanding :- orchids, bulbs, shrubs, cushions on and on.....! This fabulous species of Saxifrage is often seen at the Glasgow show as well as at Aberdeen. This year Cyril staged the biggest best flowered specimen we have seen. Dave Millward had another Snowcap in the same class but Cyril's dwarfed it.

The light in the greenhouses at Aberdeen's Duthie Park allowed visitors to appreciate the full beauty of the individual flowers. This specimen might have been named 'Snow mountain' instead of 'Snowcap', such was its size. Perfectly

