

The Scottish Rock Garden Club

Forrest Medal - Discussion Weekend 2019

in Granttown on Spey

Cyclamen mirabile

Shown by Roma Fiddes



Roma confirmed her position as 'Cyclamen Queen' by taking the top award with her large pan of the beautiful *Cyclamen mirabile*. In previous years she has won the Forrest medal with her *Cyclamen rohlfsianum*.

For people used to florists' cyclamen with their large gaudy flowers *C. mirabile* might just be an unexpected gem. It is the essence of delicacy. The flowers and leaves are about 1—1.5cm in diameter. While Roma's plant is delicate palest pink other forms can be darker pink or even pure white. An added attraction and one that distinguishes *C. mirabile* from its cousin *C. cilicium* is that the flowers of the former have fine feathering on the top edge of the flower petals.

The species has rounded leaves with slightly scalloped edges. Most strikingly they usually have a striking pink pattern on the top surface enclosing a green Christmas tree pattern. The underside of the leaves are usually purple.

Roma's plant has wonderful leaves demonstrating all the features which led to its specific name. 'mirabile' means "amazing, wondrous, remarkable".

There we have a fitting description of the winner!



The pan of *Cyclamen mirabile* which won the Forrest Medal at Grantown on Spey for Roma.

