



**The Scottish Rock Garden Club
Forrest Medal - Edinburgh 2018**

Trillium rivale 'Purple Heart'

Shown by Cyril Lafong





Once again Cyril vanquished the opposition and his fabulous multi-Forrest medal winning *Trillium rivale* 'Purple Heart' was once again judged to be the best plant in the show. He has nurtured this plant for many years, watching it slowly increase in size. In previous years it flowered for the Stirling show but in this cold, snowy spring of 2018 its flowering time has been delayed by a couple of weeks. As you can see the flowers are as magnificent as ever and if anything, the whole plant is a bit more compact. Perhaps the low temperatures this spring reminded 'Purple Heart' of its home in Oregon's Siskiyou Mountains, where it was found by Boyd Cline, of the famous Siskiyou Rare Plant Nursery. According to Professor John Richards, who accompanied by Boyd, visited the spot where it was found, in 2012, there are still many *Trillium rivale* plants in the area with similar purple spotted flowers. As *Trillium rivale* 'Purple Heart' is a clone it cannot be raised from seed but I understand seedlings of the plant will come with various degrees of purple spotting. *Trillium* seedlings take a year to show after they germinate, as in their first year they remain underground, growing a root and a mini rhizome. In their second year they show above the ground. *Trillium* seed should be sown fresh as it quickly loses its viability. In their third year they will produce their characteristic three leaves and may flower in a further two years. If you get seed sow it immediately and keep the pot outdoors in a safe cool spot. It benefits from a period of chilling.



Once again we must congratulate Cyril on his excellent cultivation, in growing this wee treasure from the wild Oregon and northern Californian mountains, into this magnificent plant. This winner is a beautiful extraordinary selection a genus which is mainly white or some times pink-flowered. In the wild it is found as single specimens or perhaps small groups of flowers.

Since it is increasingly difficult to collect and introduce plants from the wild into cultivation, it is important that those already in cultivation are well cared for, propagated and spread around. For this we need dedicated amateurs and specialist nurseries. It is equally important that we support these nurseries by buying their plants. Large garden centre will never offer the gems available from the specialists.

One more thing, Californian botanists have suggested renaming it as

Well done Cyril. Thank you for bringing 'Purple Heart' to Edinburgh, along and meticulously presented plants.



Pseudotrillium rivale.

with your other equally well grown

Boyd Kline passed away Saturday, June 14, 2014. he was 96 years old.

Boyd founded Siskiyou Rare Plant Nursery near Medford in Oregon.