



The Scottish Rock Garden Club Alpine Garden Society Forrest Medal - Kendal 2017 Trillium rivale 'Purple Heart' Shown by Cyril Lafong

55th Forrest For Cyril



ONCE AGAIN Trillium rivale 'Purple Heart' stole the show! In recent years the plant has been at its best for the Stirling show where it has won several Forrest medals or the trophy for Best non-European Plant. "This year it is at its best ever," said Cyril. "It is flowering on shorter stems and even all over." Each of these stems is capped by a single flower whose three white petals are generously covered by purple dots. This win was a huge triumph for Cyril as can be judged by the large number of magnificent 'runners up':- huge pans of Primula allionii, Dionysia aretiodes and Cyril's own pan of Tecophilaea cyanocrocus. There can be no doubt that it was at this show that the wee trillium faced its toughest opposition so far.

Trillium rivale is native to a small area of the Siskiyou Mountains on the border of southern Washington State and northern Oregon, quite close to the Pacific coast rather than inland. Fred case noted in his monologue on Trillium that it grows in the company of Darlingtonia and Prickly Pear on the edges of seeps and rivulets. [rivale means stream loving]. It also grows in thickets on the edges of redwood forests. In cultivation it bulks up into clumps but is more often found singly in the wild. Most are white petalled but some are found with purple spots. The winning clone, 'Purple Heart', has much more purpling than most, probably the most of any other rivale. We must thank the eagle eyed collector who rescued this selection for posterity. In the wild its genes would have been diluted and it might well have disappeared completely. My first recollection of the plant was that it grew well at Askival, Fort Augustus for Polly and Mike Stone. It would be wise if when cultivating it to keep some in a frame as it may not survive the most severe of Scottish winters completely unprotected however it seemed to like Fort Augustus. Well done Cyril!



David Rankin, President of the SRGC , presenting Cyril with his Forrest Medal Card

