



The Scottish Rock Garden Club Forrest Medal - Perth 2019 Pleione Tongariro

Shown by Francis & Margaret Higgins



Usually On this page I put a picture of the plant which won the Forrest Medal along with its growers. This year at Perth however the winning pan was so big that I couldn't ask either Margie or Francis to hold it. I don't know how they got it onto the bench, far less into their car and down to Perth from near the northern end of the A9. However don't despair; the winning plant is in the picture. It is that splash of purply pink at the rear of the show hall. In the picture it is midway between Margie and Francis. The grey beam in the wall points.

Never before have I seen such a huge pan on our benches far less a pan of Pleiones. In 2015 they won the Forrest at the Highland show in Nairn with a smaller panful, although it did look big at the time. Last year the Perth Forrest went to their Soldanella minima.

Pleione 'Tongariro' is a cross first made by Ian Butterfield in 1981. Its parentage is Pleione 'Versailles' x pleionoides. Pleione 'Versailles is

another Butterfield hybrid made in 1978. It is *P. bulbocodiodes* x *P. confusa*.

Francis told me that he repots it every January while the pseudo-bulbs are dormant. This must be quite a task but no doubt keeps him out of trouble.

In nature Pleiones live on tree branches on Chinese mountainsides but in Scotland they form mountains of their own.

Congratulations to Margie and Francis for adding another Forrest to their total.





Three of the Perth judges

