

THE SCOTTISH ROCK GARDEN CLUB

ABERDEEN SHOW 13 5 23

Paris quadrifolia

Shown by John Lee



April in Paris is now Paris in May

John Lee's fabulous multi-stemmed plant of Paris quadrifolia took top honours at Aberdeen. Each apparently simple flower demands close examination to appreciate its intricacies. Closely related to Trillium, Paris is less frequently seen at our shows despite it being found over much of the Northern Hemisphere. It is not easy to keep a plant in such perfect condition as John has done. The Aberdeen spring sunlight brought out the details in its leaves. I would have been proud to have grown this one. Well done John!

A NOTE FROM WIKIPEDIA

TRUE LOVERS'S KNOT IN DECLINE

Paris quadrifolia, the **Herb Paris** or **true lover's knot**, is a species of flowering plant in the family Melanthiaceae. It occurs in temperate and cool areas throughout Eurasia, from Spain to Yakutia, and from Iceland to Mongolia. It prefers calcareous soils and lives in damp and shady places, especially old established woods and stream banks.

P. quadrifolia is in decline in Europe due to loss of habitat. In Iceland, for example, it is on the red list.

P. quadrifolia is a perennial herbaceous plant that is 25 to 40 cm (10 to 15.5 in) tall. It may have 3–8 leaves but typically there are four leaves arranged as opposing pairs. The flowers are wispy and inconspicuous.

The plant flowers during the months of June and July. It has a solitary flower with four narrow greenish filiform (threadlike) petals, four green petaloid sepals, eight golden yellow stamens, and a round purple to red ovary. The flower is borne above a single whorl of four leaves.

Each plant produces at most one blueberry-like berry, which is poisonous, as are other plant tissues. Poisonings are rare because the plant's solitary berry has a repulsive taste that makes it difficult to mistake for a bilberry.

WE MUST CHERISH THOSE WE HAVE

