The Scottish Rock Garden Club
Glasgow show May 2026
Forrest medal
Cypripedium ‘Ursel’
Cyril Lafong



Cyril Lafong’s best in Show Forrest Medal plant was the large *Cypripedium* ‘Ursel’, a hybrid between two Chinese species: the high-altitude *C. fasciolatum* and the large-flowered, multi flowered *C. henryi*. A veteran of the show bench, it received a Certificate of Merit at Perth the previous week, where it was also considered for the top award. It also won the Charles M Simpson Orchid Trophy. In previous years, it has received five Forrest Medals at shows in Perth and Glasgow.

The plant has grown in the same 30 cm pot for 13 years, and moving it into a larger container is unlikely, given its considerable weight. This year, it produced 25 stems, many bearing twin flowers, a characteristic inherited from *C. henryi*. The compost consists of 90% drainage materials (a mixture of coarse perlite, Seramis, 3–6 mm grit and pumice) and 10% John Innes No. 3. During the growing season, the plant receives a balanced liquid feed at half strength, approximately three times.

‘Ursel’ is one of a series of Frosch hybrids developed in Germany to be easier to grow than their species parents. The award-winning plant, however, came from Peter Corkhill and began life as an in-vitro-raised seedling, flowering for the first time in 2008.

These hybrids are very hardy and need a period of cool winter temperatures to flower well. However, emerging growth can be damaged by frost, while plants grown outdoors are also vulnerable to slug damage.

