

**The Scottish Rock Garden Club & Alpine Garden Society**

**Farrer Medal**

**Hexham Show 3 October 2026**

**Michael Wilson**

***Cyclamen hederifolium* 'Album' silver leaved form**



The ivy-leaved cyclamen is the most widespread of the genus in the Mediterranean region, from southern France to western Turkey and on Mediterranean islands. Formerly *C. neapolitanum* as it grows in the Naples area, its colloquial name 'sowbread' reflects how attractive the tubers are to foraging livestock. It is also naturalised farther north, including in many British gardens, being the most hardy and vigorous species in our damper climate. As such it is a main stay of autumn for many alpine gardeners. On the show benches it is alongside several other species usually grown under glass in the UK. However, *C. hederifolium* can make a top class show plant as one example did at Hexham in October 2026 giving Michael Wilson his first Farrer medal ( AGS rules this time ).

Michael raised his winning plant from seed sown seven years ago. It now grows in a mix of John Innes No 2 compost with added grit and slow-release fertiliser. A weak solution of tomato fertiliser is applied soon after it comes into growth in late summer. Although this was Michael's first Farrer, he has won other awards at our joint shows with this and other plants. The silver leaves on this plant have lead to awards in foliage classes, while a year ago Michael won a foliage trophy at this show with another cyclamen.