



The Scottish Rock Garden Club Forrest Medal Hexham [Northumberland] 2014



Best Plant in the Show

Trillium rivale 'Purple heart' Shown by Cyril Lafong



scription of the shade] spots on its petals. *T. undulatum* also has purple markings but not spots. It hails from the Siskiyou mountains on the California / Oregon border, where it likes wet or damp seeps and stream sides and according to Fred it grows beside *Darlingtonias* with *Opuntias* not far away! Can you imagine the contrast between the tiny *Trillium* and its neighbours among the giant redwoods ?

It clumps up better in cultivation over here than it does in the wild. Some wild forms are marked but none so well as 'Purple Heart', the name perhaps given to the strain by Mike and Polly Stone. It is certainly a jewel in the rock gardener's treasury.



As the Romans, who ruled from Hexham 2000 years ago, would have said, 'Salute! Cyril'

CYRIL'S TRILLIUM TRIUMPHANT IN HEXHAM

Cyril Lafong demonstrated his prowess at growing rock garden plants by vanquishing all opponents at the Northumberland show, which was held in the Border market town of Hexham. Several of the 'runners-up' plants were also shown by Cyril.

His fabulous *Trillium rivale* 'Purple Heart' just gets better every year. Already, it has earned Cyril at least a couple of Forrest medals. If it were a race horse it would now be renamed 'Red Rum'! Like a thoroughbred race horse, *Trillium rivale* 'Purple Heart' stands out from the herd of 'ordinary' *Trilliums*. This wee plant is unique amongst *Trilliums* in having little madder purple [Fred Case's de-

