



# The Scottish Rock Garden Club Forrest Medal - Glasgow 2019 Saxifraga pubescens 'Snowcap' Shown by David Millward



## TRIUMPH OF THE SNOWCAP KING

I am referring to the plant not to Dave! Saxifrage pubescens 'Snowcap' has become one of the most popular Saxifrages at our late spring shows. David Millward leads the field in its cultivation. With cushion plants like this it is important to start early other wise your plant will never be as big nor have be as well flowered as Dave's plant. There were several Snowcaps on the bench at Glasgow. Dave's was the Everest towering above the foothills. It has won Best in Show before, namely in 2018 at the Highland show in 2018 and 2017. When you compare the pictures from these shows with today's, you can see just how much the plant grows each year.[see next page]. I estimated 450 to 500 flowers now cover the surface and each of these was in perfect condition

There are downsides to size because the bigger it gets the more care is needed in its cultivation. All cushion plants are prone to develop dead patches if scorched by the sun or if part of the branching stem network is damaged. To ensure even growth and even flowering the pot must be turned regularly. Transport must also be a problem. You would not get many of these in your hand luggage!

Dave is holding the plant like he would a target held by a medieval soldier. Nice to have a plant which can defend you just as much as you would defend it.

I have the second picture alongside so that you can judge Snowcap against the plants on the bench. Behind Dave's right shoulder is another Snowcap. From certain vantage points along the bench you could visualise a Snowcap mountain range. It was doubly significant that this plant won because last night there was some snow and a heavy frost and the peaks of Ben Lomond The Cobbler [Ben Arthur] and Ben Ledi were tipped with white this morning. Congratulations Dave! I am looking forward to seeing it next year.





Nairn 2018



Nairn 2017