

a new introduction from abroad or of garden origin.

**AWARD OF MERIT.** Instituted in 1888, and intended for plants of great merit.

**FIRST CLASS CERTIFICATE.** Instituted in 1859 and given to plants of outstanding excellence.

Once a plant has been given an award, it cannot thereafter receive a lesser award. Furthermore it is not given the same award again, although there is a qualification which must be made here concerning plants which are **normally** propagated from seed. In these cases an AM or FCC of longer than 10 years standing may be confirmed, but not rescinded. When any award made by the R.H.S. is quoted in a book, article or list, the year in which it was given should always accompany the award, e.g. *Crocus robertianus* A. M. 1989.

There is one award which can be recommended for individuals, and this is the **CERTIFICATE OF CULTURAL COMMENDATION**, and is given to growers whose exhibits show evidence of great cultural skill.

Full instructions on how to submit plants to the Committee are printed in the Show Schedule booklet, and it is as well to study these if you are thinking of doing so. There is an R.H.S. entry form which has to be filled in which requires details of the parentage, origin, history, introduction, or peculiarities of exhibits. Therefore it is advisable to obtain it well in advance so that, with the grower's records and notes to hand, as much detail as possible will be made available to the Committee. Show class numbers should not be written on the entry forms, since all forms, whether or not an award has been recommended, are forwarded to the R.H.S. Entry forms can be obtained from me about a week before the meeting by sending an s.a.c. Actually getting the plants in front of the Committee is the job of the Show Secretary, but I am sure no Show Secretary will refuse your assistance with the lifting and carrying if it happens that you have entered any particularly heavy pots or pans.

It is possible that this note has been written a few years late, because the R.H.S. has had a working party looking at the whole question of Awards, and as a result of their report a number of changes are due to be implemented in 1991. However no definitive document is as yet available on how the changes will affect the way the Committee does its job. It may be necessary to provide another article at a later date if these changes prove to be significant, but in any case I hope I have now dispelled some of the mystery surrounding 'that joint committee'.