



The Scottish Rock Garden Club George Forrest Memorial Medal PONTELAND 2011



Nerine humilis shown by David Boyd

Another bulb winning the top prize in 2011! [see Edinburgh 2011] *Nerine humilis* is a South African bulb found growing over a 'wide' area of the Cape mountains. It is a winter growing species, flowering in the UK in September and October.

In the wild it flowers in April / May, with blooms varying in colour from pure white to dark pink. It tends to clump up in the wild and flowers particularly well after veldt fires.

The medal winning form had quite narrow, smooth, shiny strap shaped leaves with a concave upper surface. I like the way the leaves tend to reflex, & become more prostrate opening up to let the flowering stems explode from their midst. The mid-pink flowers are candy floss umbels on straight green stems, 25 - 30 cm tall, the whole being nearly 40 cm. *N. humilis* is a more delicate species with shorter stems than the much more



common garden flower, *N. bowdenii*. Each flower is subtended by pinky purple keels which enhance the flower colour. The petals themselves are irregular in shape with wavy margins. Cultivation requires it to be kept dry in summer and moist over winter until April. It is probably sensible to keep the bulbs frost free. In pots the neck of the bulbs should be just at soil level.

Well done David a well deserved medal for a beautiful plant

