



The Scottish Rock Garden Club George Forrest Memorial Medal STIRLING 2011



Trillium rivale 'Purple Heart' shown by Cyril Lafong

Cyril proved he was supreme champion again at Stirling. His ability to produce amazing plants to world class standards is amazing. His other, equally important talent is to maintain these plants over the years and to bring them back to shows bigger and better than they were. Like all of us. Cyril has some casualties among his plants but has the foresight to propagate his prize winners and thus keep his top strains in cultivation. Another talent, shared by Fred Hunt, is the ability to spot a potential winner while it is still a young plant and then grow it on to show size. We all try to emulate Cyril but most of us fail to grow our plants on and giving them the attention and proper care all year round. It is the attention to detail which makes a great cultivator out of a keen one. One forgetful day when you might forget to water or when you allow the sun to scorch a plant can undo months of care. We can however all admire beautiful plants when they reach the benches. In Cyril's case we are drooling as soon as we see the plants carried into the hall.



The picture of the left was taken in 2007 when Cyril won the Stirling Forrest with Trillium rivale 'Purple Heart'. On the right is the plant in 2011 when it won this year! You can see how even a great plant can be improved.

Well done once again Maestro and thank you for your steadfast support at the shows and in setting the standard others have to reach

Trillium rivale is a western American plant from the Siskiyou and Klamath mountains of Oregon and Northern California. Normally it has pure white flowers. The selection 'Purple Heart' has massed maroon dots in the flower centre. I believe it was introduced into cultivation by the late Fred and Roberta Case. I remember Mike and Polly Stone grew it in their Fort Augustus garden and raised several good coloured seedlings from it. Plants are about 10 -12 cm tall with the flowers c 2 - 3 cm across. If you buy it, buy it in flower to ensure getting the true well marked plant.