

# The Scottish Rock Garden Club Highland show Forrest Medal Francis & Margaret Higgins' Pleione var.

Whether you wanted quality or quantity Francis and Margaret's pan of Pleiones provided both. Their huge pan {it must have been at least 12 inches across} was so packed with perfect blooms that they were spilling over the edge of their pan. Not sure of their clonal name the Pleines were entered as Pleione var. The judges considered several names and thought that they might be a selection of 'Tongariro'. As you can see the blooms are uniform purple pink, with the outside, lower half of the tube much lighter, almost white. Inside the tubes have spectacular red blotches, which lie in parallel lines. Most forms of Tongariro feature these red blotches but to be lying in parallel lines is

rarer. Francis considered repotting the pan this spring but luckily he didn't. The Higgins garden is near the North Sea coast in the far north of Scotland. Pleiones hail from the 'Far East' and we tend to think of them as forest plants, which grow on mossy branches and rocks. It is great to see the Forrest medal being won by 'new' recipients. The fact that the medal has been won by a local member shows proves that widening the SRGC show circuit to include the SRGC. Highland show has been a good idea. It also shows that 'local' is a much bigger area in the Highlands than further south. One person who would definitely have appreciated their Pleiones was the Scottish Plant hunter, George Forrest. Well done Francis and Margaret!

