

Meconopsis Group Seed Exchange

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Dear Colleague,

It is my pleasure to manage the seed exchange for The Meconopsis Group, and invite you to donate seed. The seed exchange has been running for over a decade and most members have reported excellent results from the seed which has been distributed. Even so, we still need to ensure that we can maintain these high standards. I, therefore, respectfully ask donors to add any supporting information about their seed donation if it comes from significant taxa. This is particularly important with *Meconopsis grandis*, *M. simplicifolia*, *M. latifolia* and *M. 'Lingholm'*. If you can supply digital photos of the mother plant (e.g. flower, leaf, seed head), this would be most helpful.

A word of warning! If a well-known cultivar (other than *M. 'Lingholm'*) should set seed, as for example 'Willie Duncan', 'Evelyn' or 'Jimmy Bayne' can do – please do not submit this seed. The resulting seedlings may only add to the confusion that the Group is endeavouring to sort out. However, if any members feel that they would like to carry out a private trial of such seedlings, that is a matter of personal choice, and we would welcome hearing about the results.

Most fertile, large, perennial blue poppy hybrids will probably be 'Lingholm' (Fertile Blue Group). If you are not sure of its status, please label it "Meconopsis, Fertile blue Group", or if you are sure that it is distinct from *M. 'Lingholm'* please make this clear.

In addition to Meconopsis seed we would be delighted to receive seed of desirable 'companion plants' to augment the seed list. In 2012 there was a very high demand for *Glaucidium palmatum*, *Lilium mackliniae*, *Lilium oxypetalum*, *Primula ioessa*, *Primula reidii* and *Sondanella dimonieii*.

Please send your seed donation by 1st November to the above address, together with a stamped self-addressed envelope if you normally **do not** get Meconopsis Group information sent by e-mail. Seed can be accepted after this date if a list of promised seed is sent by e-mail prior to the deadline.

A seed-list will be produced in early November, posted out to those who have provided a stamped SAE and e-mailed to all other Group members by the end of the month. If you have altered your e-mail address, please e-mail me so that I can update my data-base. Each member will be entitled to request single packets of up to 10 items for a payment of £5 to cover the costs incurred by the seed exchange (Non-UK members have prepaid for the seed through their annual subscription). Additional packets, subject to availability, may be requested at 50p each. As is normal practice with seed exchanges, priority will be given to donors. All of this information is on the seed exchange web-page.

As intimated at the AGM, seed of *M. delavayi*, *M. punicea* and *M. quintuplinervia* was distributed in August to those members who correspond by e-mail. A proportion of the seed was retained for the main seed exchange so that other members should not feel disappointed. This was an interim step as, in future, all members will be able to request seed of these three species (if available) to be delivered for an autumn sowing.

Yours sincerely,

Ian Scott