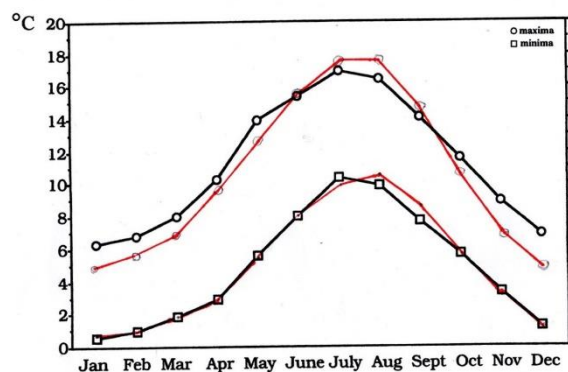


Peter and Tricia Kohn:- Meconopsis in Two Gardens

Peter Kohn's talk came first. He started with two clarifications Namely that they were not really meconopsis specialists but had wide tastes in plants and loved anything that they could grow from seed. Secondly despite what it says in 'Meconopsis for Gardeners', the planting at Kerrachar was almost entirely done by Trish.

Peter explained that he was inspired to try to grow meconopsis after seeing them in the garden of Dr Sue Kohler and later attended her talk on propagating from seed. She was a co-founder of FOBS (Friends of Botanic Gardens, Sheffield) and is their current President. Initially they grew *M. baileyi* in a shady damp corner of our garden at 600' in Sheffield, from the mid 1980's to 1994. They were able to grow blue poppies, plus Himalayan primulas and also *M. quintuplinervia* and *M. 'integrifolia'* in a more open spot.

The Kohns moved to Kerrachar in 1994 where the temperatures were similar but where there was much more rain in every month except May. They experimented with many species most of which grew easily and well. The garden was open to the public from 2000-2009, with over 2000 species and cultivars on display. There were sales of plants propagated in the garden. Meconopsis featured on the garden poster.



The black line shows the maximum and minimum temperatures at Duartmore which is close to Kerrachar for 1981 to 1995. The red lines show the maximum and minimum temperatures for Sheffield from 1980 to 2010.

Examples of the meconopsis grown at Kerrachar included *M. baileyi* and *M. superba*.



Peter and Tricia returned to Sheffield in 2010 where they quickly acquired an allotment and soon after began propagating for Sheffield Botanic Gardens where they now have a small nursery. They are attempting to grow meconopsis in three different locations One is their small suburban garden, one is Sheffield Botanic Garden in the city centre at a low altitude, the third in on their allotment at 600 feet with a north facing slope.

They have had success with *M. 'Lingholm'* in their own garden and have finally found a site in the Botanic Gardens which seems to work well after several previous failures elsewhere in the garden. On the allotment, *M. baileyi* only lasted for one (or at best, two) seasons but in their own garden, despite growing on a rather sunny site, they have now got perennial 'Lingholms' and two *M. baileyi* that are proving perennial. Both produce seedlings which are almost all multi-crown in first season.

The pale purple form of *M. baileyi* nicknamed 'Sue's Violet' is also distinctive in leaf size and colour and appears to come true. It is pictured below and on page 364 of 'Meconopsis for Gardeners'.



The foliage of *M. baileyi* 'Sue's Violet'

Another purple plant ('Margaret's Violet') is also perennial but white *M. baileyi* has proved to be monocarpic.

Two different evergreen rosette formers grown as *M. staintonii* are thriving in Sheffield Botanic Gardens.

An interesting distinctive plant grown from SRGC seed labelled *M. baileyi* x *latifolia*' was monocarpic in both the Botanic Gardens and at home though all three seedlings this year have multicrowned and last year's seed is fat, so is hopefully fertile.



The plant *M. baileyi* x *M. latifolia*

Below; Meconopsis growing in the Kohn's own garden.

