

Meconopsis Group Seed Exchange - Report 2018

The three aims in running the seed exchange are:

- a) to satisfy most of the members, most of the time, by providing them with a good selection of Meconopsis seed;
- b) to balance expenditure and income, so that it is financially sustainable; and
- c) to maintain my sanity.

Meeting the first outcome was a severe challenge this year. The unusually hot weather at the start of the season resulted in many members losing long established plants, and seed production was down dramatically. Luckily there was a little seed kept back from previous years to supplement the seed from the regular donors, and there were some notable items on offer, such as *M.dhwojii*, *M. heterandra*, *M. merakensis*; *M. napaulensis* (true species) and *Meconopsis pulchella*. At the same time, there was no *M. yaoshanensis* seed available this year, and the demand for the three offerings of *M. grandis* greatly exceeded what could be supplied.

A total of 142 batches of seed were dispatched this year (158 in 2017), to 78 UK members, 40 non-UK members, 3 Honorary members and 5 Complementary members, plus 16 requests for additional seed. Seed was sent to Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Russia, Sweden, Switzerland and the USA. Considering that our membership stands at around 200, this bodes well for the continued cultivation of the genus.

We are extremely grateful to the 40 donors for providing such a wonderful choice this year, and many of them having been doing so for many years now. Considering that we are a specialised interest group and that our membership is well over 200, there should be more donors. I do not expect new members nor members in distant places to be able to contribute, but I do urge everyone else to look at what they are growing this Spring and consider what could be harvested for the benefit of the Group.

As always, there have been slight changes to the seed exchange operation. Last year I had complaints from two members whose seed packages had been damaged, or tampered with, and seed was missing. This year I was able to source a supply of cheap, but robust, padded envelopes which I trust has remedied this problem. Secondly I am no longer asking for a 2nd Class Large stamp from those members requesting seed for the Autumn of 2019, as individual stamps are getting increasingly difficult to obtain with so many sub-post offices closing. However, under-payment, or in some cases non-payment, of postage on seed donations has become a problem. This year the seed exchange paid out £11.65 in fines and, as my sub-post office has now closed, I had to drive 16 miles to the main sorting office each time this happened. Consequently, next year, any such packages will be ignored.

A second problem is that some members do not read the instructions which go out with the seed list, and are treating the seed exchange like Amazon.com. There is no point in making 10 first choices without providing any alternatives, as even the donors don't get every first choice. They will get more of their first choices, but I try to be fair to all members in the distribution of the rarer seed. This year I e-mailed those members who had not provided alternatives and put their requests aside until an answer was forthcoming, after which I started making up the allocation all over again. This disrupts the system and next year if no alternatives are indicated it will be assumed that none are wanted.

This is not being petty because the seed exchange has to run like clockwork. My year starts in late August when the Autumn seed is sent out and the letter requesting donations is written. Throughout September and October seed donations are recorded, sorted (in some cases cleaned), packeted, labelled and stored so that by 1st November a seed list and the associated notes are ready. The first seed request usually arrives with 20 minutes of the seed list being circulated and my work doesn't finish until mid December with the last batch of extra seed being dispatched. If everything goes smoothly it is all over before the Christmas postal chaos and I can have a relaxed festive season. So please follow the instructions.

It might be argued that some members are confused about applications when they can also ask for extra seed. So next year the seed request will have an additional 'E' option for those requiring extra seed. (see example below). Anyone wanting extra seed will be given their normal allocation (X and A) and their request sheet will be set aside until the seed exchange has closed. If the requested extra seed (E) is still available it will be added to the normal allocation and all of the seed will be dispatched at the same time.

For members requesting the normal distribution (X and A) there will be no change to the payment procedure. Those requesting their normal distribution (X and A) **plus** additional seed (E) will be invoiced by e-mail for the **total** seed payment. So, for these members only, payment will be at the end of the process and **not** at the beginning.

With regard to companion plants, I am happy to inc second page. Many members do not need 10 packe fulfil a useful function. Companion plants really shc donations of *Deinanthef bifida*, *Eranthis hyemalis at japonica*, *Primula scotica* and *Ranzania japonica*.

these so long as the list does not exceed the Meconopsis seed, so the companion plants be choice or novel, and this year we had *tiaca*, *Omphalogramma delavayi*, *Paris*

Ian D. Scott
4th January 2019

Exemplar MEIOPSIS

Item	Name	X
18/01	<i>M. aculeata</i>	
18/02	<i>M. aculeata</i> (dark form)	
18/03	<i>M. baileyi</i>	
18/04	<i>M. baileyi</i> (Anchorage)	E
18/05	<i>M. baileyi</i> ex Doshong-La	E
18/06	<i>M. baileyi</i> ex Vandusen	E
18/07	<i>M. baileyi</i> MGS#1	
18/08	<i>M. baileyi</i> MGS#2 (cluster form)	
18/09	<i>M. baileyi</i> 'Alba'	
18/10	<i>M. baileyi</i> 'Alba' ex Tibet	
18/11	<i>M. baileyi</i> 'Hensol Violet'	
18/12	<i>M. baileyi</i> (Margaret's Mauve) *	E
18/13	<i>M. baileyi</i> (Sue's Violet)	E
18/14	<i>M. baileyi</i> hybrid (x <i>M. latifolia</i> ?)	
18/15	<i>M. balangensis</i> var. <i>atrata</i> *	
18/16	<i>M. betonicifolia</i> H.P.	X
18/17	<i>M. betonicifolia</i> hybrid MGS#3	A
18/18	<i>M. x complexa</i> (mixed)	
18/19	<i>M. x complexa</i> (from pink flowers)	
18/20	<i>M. x complexa</i> (from red flowers)	
18/21	<i>M. x complexa</i> (from yellow flowers)	
18/22	<i>M. delavayi</i>	
18/23	<i>M. delavayi</i> (for August 2019)	X
18/24	<i>M. dhwojii</i>	X
18/25	<i>M. Fertile Blue Group</i> (blue)	
18/26	<i>M. Fertile Blue Group</i> (purple)	
18/27	<i>M. FBG</i> 'Lingholm'	A
18/28	<i>M. gakyidiana</i>	
18/29	<i>M. grandis</i> ssp <i>grandis</i>	A
18/30	<i>M. grandis</i> ssp <i>grandis</i> 'Himal Sky'	X

Item	Name	X
18/41	<i>M. paniculata</i>	
18/42	<i>M. paniculata</i> ex Zema Valley Sikkim	
18/43	<i>M. prattii</i> ex Hong Shan *	X
18/44	<i>M. pulchella</i> *	
18/45	<i>M. punicea</i>	A
18/46	<i>M. punicea</i> (from a perennial form)	X
18/47	<i>M. punicea</i> (for August 2019)	
18/48	<i>M. quintuplinervia</i>	
18/49	<i>M. quintuplinervia</i> (for August 2019)	
18/50	<i>M. racemosa</i> (of hort)	
18/51	<i>M. racemosa</i> (of hort) white	
18/52	<i>M. rudis</i>	
18/53	<i>M. speciosa</i> *	
18/54	<i>M. staintonii</i> (red)	X
18/55	<i>M. staintonii</i> ex CC 7478	
18/56	<i>M. sulphurea</i> ssp <i>sulphurea</i>	
18/57	<i>M. superba</i>	X
18/58	<i>M. venusta</i> *	
18/59	<i>M. wallichii</i>	A
18/60	<i>M. wilsonii</i> ssp <i>australis</i> *	E
18/61	<i>M. wilsonii</i> ssp <i>orientalis</i>	E
18/62	<i>M. zhongdianensis</i> *	
18/63	<i>M. sp.</i> CC 7714	
18/64	<i>M. sp.</i> CC 7720	
18/65	<i>M. sp.</i> ex BO-15-132	X
18/66	<i>M. sp.</i> ex BO-16-081	
18/67	<i>M. sp.</i> ex CC 3317	
18/68	<i>M. sp.</i> ex Mi La, Tibet (30cm)	X
18/69	<i>M. sp.</i> ex Serkym-La (30cm)	