

S

Salix

Salicaceae. Willows.

S. x grahamii nothovar. *moorei*syn: *S. x moorei*

Creeping, prostrate plant, leaves deciduous, glossy, dark green; clone female, catkins short, grey.

Origin: collected among moss on the summit of Muckish Mountain, Co. Donegal, by David Moore, in September 1866. Propagated at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, Dublin.

Our plant has been cultivated since the autumn of 1866, and appears in perfect health, producing abundance of female catkins, yet none of the branches are more than four inches long. In its native habitat only the points of the branches with two or three leaves on each were visible above the moss and stones among which it grew.

Despite many searches, this had never been rediscovered in the wild. It is still grown in gardens and is propagated vegetatively by cuttings.

The origins of the plant are perplexing. Desmond Meikle suggests that it is a triple hybrid between *S. aurita*, *S. herbacea* and *S. repens*. Moore's plant differs from a similar British hybrid (*S. x grahamii* nothovar. *grahamii*) in the shape of the scales in the catkins.

refs: Moore, 'On a form of *Salix arbuscula* L. in Ireland', *Journ. bot.* **8** (1870): 209-210; — 'Notes on some Irish plants', *Journ. bot.* **9** (1871): 299-300; Synnott, 'Notes on *Salix phylicifolia* L. and related Irish willows', *Glasra* **7** (1984): 1-10; Nelson, *An Irish flower garden* (1984), 22-23; Meikle, 'Nomenclatural notes on some willow hybrids', *Watsonia* **15** (1985): 274; —, *Willows & poplars in the British Isles* (1984); *Ir. garden* **2** (6) (November-December 1993): 13; *The garden* **122** (1997): 598-601; *Moorea* **10** (1993): 35-40.

*S. hibernica*syn: *S. phylicifolia*

Shrubby tree with oval, deciduous leaves, emerging appl-green and darkening with age, greenish-white underneath; male catkins with long silky hairs.

Origin: from two isolated cliffs on limestone in counties Leitrim and Sligo. This willow is now generally placed with *S. phylicifolia*. First collected and brought into cultivation in June 1854 by David Moore, curator of the Royal Dublin Society's Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin.

This willow remains small (bonsai-like) when its roots are severely restricted as in a flower-pot, or when it is grazed by animals as in its natural habitats in Sligo and Leitrim. Allowed free root-run and with no grazing, it will form a vigorous bushy tree.

refs: *Yb. Int. Dendrol. Soc.* 1982: 112-114; *IGPS newsl.* **6** (1982): 5; Synnott, 'Notes on *Salix phylicifolia* L. and related Irish willows', *Glasra* **7** (1984): 1-10.

illusts: Irish postage stamp 1984; *An Irish flower garden replanted* (1997), fig. 1

*Salvia*

Lamiaceae. Sage.

S. officinalis 'Volutum'

'A very curious form. The leaves are rolled up from the apex towards the base, some in a regular manner and others obliquely, giving the whole plant as most curious appearance.'

Origin: 'It originated here' – from Rodger, M'Clelland & Co.,

Newry, Co. Down.

refs: Nelson, *The new plantsman* **4** (1997): 98-114; Nelson & Grills, *Daisy Hill Nursery* (1998), 144.

*Sambucus*

1866

Caprifoliaceae. Elder.

S. nigra f. *porphyrophylla* 'Guincho Purple'syn: *S. nigra* 'Foliis Purpureis', 'Purpurea'

Mature foliage purple sometimes streaked with green; flowers pink fading almost to white, anthers rose-pink; stems stained with purple.

Origin: from Scotland; introduced by Mrs Vera Mackie, Guincho, Helen's Bay, Co. Down.

Mrs Mackie found the purple-foliaged elder in Scotland and propagated it - the original plant still grows at Guincho. Harold Hillier introduced it into commerce under the invalid name 'Foliis Purpureis'.

Krussmann (1978) stated that 'Purpurea' came from Yorkshire – that clone was collected by Robert Howat, and was not necessarily indistinguishable from Mrs Mackie's one.

award: AM 1977.

refs: Sir H. Hillier (*in litt.* 29 April 1983); Nelson, 'Purple leaved elders: a nomenclatural note', *The plantsman* **8** (1986): 189-190, 192; Walsh & Nelson, *An Irish florilegium II* (1988), 166-167; Nelson, *An Irish flower garden* (1984), 122-123; Krussmann, *Handbuch der laubgehölze* bd III (1978), 320; Connolly & Dillon, *In an Irish garden* (1986), 88; Nelson & Walsh, *Trees of Ireland* (1993), 78.

illusts: *An Irish florilegium II* (1988), plate 38; Connolly & Dillon, *In an Irish garden* (1986), 76.

*Sanvitalia*

Asteraceae (Compositae).

S. procumbens 'Irish Eyes'

Annual herb with daisy-like flowers.

(1854)

Origin: as an annual herb this is offered by seed companies, but the name is not indicative of an Irish origin.

ref: *The seed finder 1997-1998*.

*Saraca*

Fabaceae (Caesalpinaceae).

S. indica x ? *triandra*

Flowers 'brilliant pink'; leaves with glandular apices.

Origin: Hybrids between *S. indica* and a plant originally obtained as *Amherstia nobilis* are recorded as having been produced in Cork before 1888 at Lakelands, the garden of William Horatio Crawford. One of these plants, which were bequeathed to the Botanic Garden attached to the Queen's College, Cork (now University College, Cork), was described by J. J. Lawlor as having 'brilliant pink flowers and distinct glandular apices to the leaves'. Lawlor suggested that the other parent was '*S. triandra* (misnomer *tetrandra*)'. Unfortunately this hybrid was lost before 1913.

Crawford also produce hybrids of *Brownea*, also tropical trees of the legume family, and at the Cork Botanic Garden, hybrids of *Abutilon* were raised (qv).

ref: *Moorea* **7** (1988): 17.

c. 1880

*Sarracenia*

Sarraceniaceae. Pitcher-plants.

In 1866 David Moore wrote correcting a comment in *The gardeners' chronicle* that seedlings of *Sarracenia* were 'unknown in this country':

On two occasions seedlings of *Sarracenia*s have been raised at Glasnevin, first in the autumn of 1850, and again in the spring of 1851. ... Mr. D. Orr, ... sowed the seed and managed the young plants until they were distributed pretty freely in exchange for other plants ... (*Gard. chron.* (8 December 1866): 1166).

We may now mention the hybrid varieties, all of which have been raised in British gardens, the late Dr Moore, of Glasnevin, and Mr. Stevens, of Trentham, having set the example. It may be mentioned that ... Mr. F. Moore, of Glasnevin, [has] many crosses not yet made public, indeed the plants have not as yet fully developed themselves ... (*Gard. Chron* 16 99 July 1881): 40).

S. x moorei

syn: *S. x mooreana*

'A very lovely and very remarkable plant ... flowers are about 4 inches in diameter, pendulous, fragrant ... The sepals are ... greenish tinted with rose outside, greenish within. The petals are about 2¼ inches long ... rounded at the ends, deep rosy-pink on the outside, pale creamy pink within. ... pitchers are about 2 feet, erect, trumpet-shaped, winged, 4 inches in diameter at the mouth, green, with prominent veins ...'.

Origin: an artificially induced hybrid raised in 1870 at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, Dublin; the seed parent was *S. flava* and the pollen parent was *S. drummondii* (now *S. leucophylla*).

Subsequently this was also found in the wild in the south-eastern USA.

This hybrid was named after Dr David Moore, who brought a plant to the International Botanical Congress and Horticultural Exhibition, Firenze, Italy, in May 1874.

The late Dr. Moore was as happy in his treatment of these plants as he was in almost everything he took in his hand – a man of extraordinary sagacity in all that appertained to gardening – the sort of man required in a public establishment. To Glasnevin we are indebted for the first hybrid *Sarracenia*, as well as for others of more recent raising ...

Veitch & Sons of Chelsea, London, marketed the same hybrid (as *S. mooreana*) in 1877, at 105 shillings each. There is a pressed specimen of this plant in the herbarium at the National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin (collected in 1881). The original plant was still at Glasnevin in July 1883 when Miss C. M. Owen of Gorey wrote about it.

There is a special interest in seeing the first plant of the first hybrid *Sarracenia*, *S. Moorei* (*S. Drummondii* x *S. flava*) still grown at Glasnevin, and about 2 feet high. It was exhibited by the late Dr. Moore at the Botanical Congress at Florence in 1874. Few people could have guessed that in less than ten years there would be such a number of varied and beautiful hybrids as are now to be found. At Glasnevin alone there are hundred of hybridised seedlings from one to four years old ...

refs: *Gard. chron.* 1 (new ser.)(1874): 702-703; — 16 (new ser.) (9 July 1881): 40; — 20 (new ser.) (28 July 1883): 117; *The garden* 23 (14 April 1883): 341; *Flora & sylvia* 3 (1905): 304; Nelson, 'Sarracenia hybrids raised at Glasnevin Botanic Gardens, Ireland: nomenclature and typification', *Taxon* 35 (1986): 574-578; —, 'A carnivorous plant on an Irish postage stamp: David Moore and *Sarracenia* hybrids at

Glasnevin Botanic Gardens', *Carnivorous plant newsletter* [1999 in press]; Nelson & McCracken, 'The brightest jewel' (1987), 142-143, 188, 190; *Ir. garden* 4 (3) (May/June 1995): [26-27]; *The garden* 122 (1997): 598-601.

illusts: *The garden* 34 (16 October 1886): plate 566; Irish postage stamp 1995 (see *The Irish stamp year book 1995-1996*, and *Carnivorous plant newsletter* [1999, in press]).

S. x popei

'One of the most beautiful we have seen, the velvety-crimson pendulous petals being margined with a narrow border of pale-yellow, and of a creamy-pink colour within. The pitchers are erect, trumpet-shaped, winged; the margins recurved, glossy-red, the lid ovate acuminate, 3½ inches across, glossy, with red veins.'

Origin: an artificially induced hybrid raised at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, Dublin, before May 1878 when it was shown (without a name) at a meeting of the Royal Dublin Society; the pollen parent was *S. rubra* and the seed parent was *S. flava*. The date 1872 is in a manuscript list of *Sarracenia* hybrids in the archives of the National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin.

Subsequently this was also found in the wild in the south-eastern USA.

This hybrid was named after William Pope, foreman in the Botanic Gardens: he

has for many years been connected with the establishment at Glasnevin, where he has secured the respect of all who know him. Mr Pope has had charge of the *Sarracenia* during the curatorship of the late Dr Moore, and now during that of his son, Mr. F. Moore.

There are several pressed specimens of this plant in the herbarium at the National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin (collected in 1881)

refs: *Gard. chron.* 9 (new ser.) (1 June 1878): 696; — 15 (new ser.) (28 May 1881): 691; *Flora & sylvia* 3 (1905): 304; Nelson, 'Sarracenia hybrids raised at Glasnevin Botanic Gardens, Ireland: nomenclature and typification', *Taxon* 35 (1986): 574-578; —, 'A carnivorous plant on an Irish postage stamp: David Moore and *Sarracenia* hybrids at Glasnevin Botanic Gardens', *Carnivorous plant newsletter* [1999 in press]; Nelson & McCracken, 'The brightest jewel' (1987), 142, 189; *Ir. garden* 4 (3) (May/June 1995): [26-27]; *The garden* 122 (1997): 598-601.

illusts: *Gard. chron* 16 (new ser.) (9 July 1881): 41 (fig. 8) (line drawing); *The garden* 34 (16 October 1886): plate 566 (colour)

'Rosamond Pollock'

No description traced.

Origin: a hybrid raised at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, Dublin; named after one of the lady gardeners. My only records for this are the Glasnevin donations register; a plant was sent to Hortus Botanicus, Leiden, Netherlands, in October 1920.

refs: Ms register of donations from the National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin; Nelson, 'A carnivorous plant on an Irish postage stamp: David Moore and *Sarracenia* hybrids at Glasnevin Botanic Gardens', *Carnivorous plant newsletter* [1999 in press].

'Rosamond Pollock' x 'Dr Masters'

Origin: presumed to be a hybrid raised at the National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, whence a plant was sent to the University Botanic Garden, Cambridge, in November 1925.

ref: Ms register of donations from the National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin.

Other hybrids were also raised at the Royal Botanic

Gardens, Glasnevin, during Sir Frederick Moore's Keepership. While no descriptions have been traced, the following are recorded in a manuscript list (see Nelson, 'A carnivorous plant on an Irish postage stamp: David Moore and *Sarracenia* hybrids at Glasnevin Botanic Gardens', *Carnivorous plant newsletter* [1999 in press]), or as watercolours by Lydia Shackleton (see Morley, *Glasra* 2 (1978): 30-31).

Frederick Moore's contemporary and colleague, Frederick Burbidge (*Flora & sylvia* 3 (1905): 298) provided a short commentary on the work at Glasnevin before 1905.

Very fine crosses between [*Sarracenia*] *flava* and *rubra*, *purpurea* and *rubra*, and *purpurea* and *Drummondii*, were also raised by Mr. Moore – a strain with highly-coloured pitchers and handsome wine-coloured flowers. Mr. Moore found *S. rubra* especially valuable as a pollen parent, its pollen "taking" upon nearly every flower to which it was applied, whether those of the true species or the garden hybrids of Veitch and the late Dr. Paterson. ... At the Botanic Garden at Glasnevin, Dublin, there is ... a very fine collection, with many unnamed seedling crosses raised there during the past 25 years.

- S. x chelsonii* x *S. drummondii* ☹
- S. x chelsonii* x *S. drummondii* alba ☹
- S. x chelsonii* x *S. flava* ☹
- S. x chelsonii* x *S. x moorei* ☹
- S. x chelsonii* x *S. x patersonii* ☹
- S. x chelsonii* x *S. x popei* ☹
- S. x chelsonii* x *S. purpurea* ☹
- S. drummondii* x *S. x chelsonii* ☹
- S. drummondii* x *S. flava* ☹ [= *S. x moorei*]
- S. drummondii* x *S. purpurea* ☹
- S. drummondii* alba x *S. x moorei* ☹
- S. flava* x *S. drummondii* ☹

S. flava x *S. purpurea* ☹ [= *S. x patersonii*]

Lydia Shackleton painted this hybrid in May 1885 (no. 65 in Morley, *Glasra* 2 (1978): 30).

- S. flava* x *S. x stevensii* ☹
- S. flava* x sp. ined ☹
- S. flava maxima* x *S. x chelsonii* ☹
- S. flava maxima* x *S. purpurea* ☹
- S. x madissoniana* x *S. drummondii* ☹
- S. x madissoniana* x *S. rubra acuminata* ☹
- S. x moorei* x *S. flava maxima* ☹
- S. x moorei* x *S. purpurea* ☹
- S. x moorei* x *S. x stevensii* ☹
- S. x moorei* x *S. x williamsii* ☹
- S. x moorei* x sp. ined.

Lydia Shackleton painted this hybrid in May 1887 (no. 64 in Morley, *Glasra* 2 (1978): 30).

- S. x patersonii* x *S. x moorei* ☹
- S. x patersonii* x *S. rubra acuminata* ☹
- S. x popei* x *S. x chelsonii* ☹
- S. x popei* x *S. purpurea* ☹
- S. x popei* x sp. ined ☹

This plant may be the one painted by Lydia Shackleton (no. 66 in Morley, *Glasra* 2 (1978): 30).

- S. purpurea* x *S. flava* ☹
- S. purpurea* x *S. flava maxima* ☹ 1884
- S. purpurea* x *S. x moorei* ☹
- S. purpurea* x *S. x popei* ☹
- S. purpurea* x *S. rubra* ☹ [= *S. x chelsonii*]

Lydia Shackleton painted this hybrid in May 1885 (no. 63 in Morley, *Glasra* 2 (1978): 30).

- S. purpurea* x *S. rubra acuminata* ☹

- S. purpurea* x *S. x stevensii* ☹
- S. rubra acuminata* x *S. x chelsonii* ☹
- S. rubra acuminata* x *S. purpurea* ☹
- S. x stevensii* x *S. flava* ☹
- S. x stevensii* x *S. x moorei* ☹
- S. x stevensii* x *S. x popei* ☹
- S. x williamsii* x *S. x popei* ☹



Saxifraga

Saxifragaceae. Saxifrages.

Important work on saxifrages has been carried out in Irish gardens during the past 150 years. James Townsend Mackay grew many of the native species gathered from various localities, to try to determine their correct names. Later, also at the Trinity College Botanic Garden, Ballsbridge, Professor H. H. Dixon supervised experiments creating artificial hybrids, again to assist in unravelling the complicated nomenclature of the native plants (for an account of this see R. Scully, *Flora of County Kerry* (1916)) Latterly the late Professor David Webb, also of Trinity College, Dublin, studied saxifrages and named several new species; his monograph, written jointly with Richard Gornall is the standard work on the genus at present (1998). Webb's taxa include

- S. biflora* subsp. *epirotica* 1884
- S. cuneifolia* subsp. *robusta* 1884, 1885
- S. hartii* = *S. rosacea* subsp. *hartii* (see below) 1881, 1883
- S. moncayensis* 1881
- S. praeterissima* 1881
- S. umbrosa* var. *hirta* 1878
- S. x urbium* (see below) 1880

S. x andrewsii

'Attractive green rosettes with saw-edged leaves beaded with silver. Flowers which are borne profusely in loose panicles on long stems are white, thickly spotted with crimson.'

Origin: supposedly found in Co. Kerry by William Andrews, and brought into cultivation at the same time. Named in 1848 after William Andrews by William H. Harvey (1848) and likely to be a hybrid between *S. paniculata* and *S. spathularis* (see Webb & Gornall 1989). In other words this is a hybrid between a native Irish species – *S. spathularis* or St Patrick's cabbage – and another species that has never been found wild in Ireland. The nearest colonies of *S. paniculata* are in northern Spain.

To say that this is a mysterious plant, is to understate the problems with its history. Andrews claimed that he had gathered the plant from 'damp cliffs in a gully near the head of Glen Caragh', in Co. Kerry. On the same occasion he made an 'extensive gathering' of other saxifrages (generally known as Robertsonian saxifrages). He removed some rosettes of 'this then flowerless plant' and planted them in his garden 'where after a lapse of nearly three years it produced flowers in June 1848' (Scully 1916). Harvey described it as a new species, and botanists trekked to the head of Glen Caragh many times to try to find it again – but it has never been found there by anyone other than Andrews.

The general opinion, held since the mid-1800s, is that Andrews' saxifrage is 'a garden hybrid', to quote David Moore & A. G. More (*Cybele Hibernica* (1866), 116), who added

- 1881, 1882, 1883
 - 1882, 1883
- but this question cannot be considered solved until something more is known of the parent species. If we may judge from cultivated specimens, *S. Andrewsii* appears closely allied to *S. Guthrieana*, which is often

1884

cultivated in gardens.

Scully (1916) wrote that

A possible explanation of this unfortunate mistake appears to be that during the three years the Saxifrage remained in Mr. Andrew's [sic] garden either his plants or his labels became disarranged.

That is certainly the tactful explanation, for as Webb & Gornall also noted there are other unreliable records of native Irish species due to William Andrews, whose other claim to fame was the discovery of the spotted Kerry slug (*Geomalachus*)! On the other hand, this is an elegant little plant and still in cultivation.

refs: Harvey, 'Account of a new British saxifrage', *London journal of botany* 7: 569-571 (1848); Scully, *Flora of Co. Kerry* (1916), 106; Webb & Gornall, *Saxifrages* (1989), 72; *Ballawley Alpine Nursery catalogue* 1940, 37.

illust: Harvey, 'Account of a new British saxifrage', *London journal of botany* 7: 569-571, plate xix (1848).

S. burseriana 'Sir Jocelyn'

No description traced.

Origin: from Lissadell, Sligo, Co. Sligo.

ref: *McConnell's catalogue*.

S. callosa 'Albertii'

syn: *S. lingulata* var. *albida*.

'Especially fine'; '12 to 18 in high, leaves broader than in type, greyer, flowers numerous, white.'

Origin: 'A fine form which possibly originated in Mr. Beamish's garden at Queenstown, and possibly a hybrid with *S. cochlearis* or *S. longifolia*. Thus this is perhaps from Ashbourne House, Glounthaune, Co. Cork, the garden of Richard Beamish.

This cultivar is still listed by several British nurseries (1998).

refs: *RHS dictionary of gardening* (1956): 1888; Lamb & Bowe (1995): 198.

S. callosa var. *australis* 'Lissadell Variety'

syn: *S. lingulata* Lissadell variety; *S. lingulata* (Lissadell)*, *S. lingulata* var. *lantoscana* 'Lissadell Variety', *S. callosa* 'Lissadell'

Sturdier, greener rosettes of shorter leaves, with denser shorter arching spikes of pure white flowers.

Origin: from Lissadell, Sligo, Co. Sligo. Offered by Ballawley Alpine Nursery in its 1930-1931 catalogue, and offered (as seed) by Lissadell at least in the late 1930s.

A plant obtained from Lissadell, which was mentioned in *The Irish garden* March-April 1995, may be this cultivar.

refs: *Price list of fresh Lissadell seed* (Autumn 1937-Spring 1938), 8; *Ballawley Alpine Nursery catalogues* 1930-1931*; — 1937; *Ir. garden* 4 (2) (March-April 1995): 33.

S. cotyledon var. *pyramidalis* 'Glasnevin Variety'

No description traced.

Origin: from the National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, Dublin; its history is not recorded.

ref: *McConnell's catalogue*.

S. decipiens = *S. rosacea*

S. hartii = *S. rosacea* subsp. *hartii*.

S. x hornibrookii

Perennial, making mound-shaped cushions, each erect stem bears 1-5 dark wine-red to purple flowers.

Origin: named by Horny, Soják and Webr after Murray Hornibrook who lived until 1922 at Knapton, Abbeyleix, Co. Laois. There are several named cultivars (e.g. 'Riverslea') of

this hybrid between *S. lilacina* and *S. stribrnyi*.

refs: *European garden flora* IV (1995), 262; Horny *et alii*, *Porophyllum saxifrages* (1986).

S. lingulata (Lissadell) = *S. callosa*

S. lingulata var. *lantoscana* 'Lissadell Variety' = *S. callosa*

S. longifolia 'Walpole's Variety'

'This is a good form that produces offsets, and a very fine plant it is'; 'handsome hybrid producing offsets'. Rosettes blue-grey; flowers in a short spike.

Origin: 'I originally got it from Lissadell in 1915, where, most likely, it found its way from the famed garden at Mount Usher, Co. Wicklow.' Available from Ballawley Nursery, Dundrum, in the 1930s, and still in cultivation

refs: *Gard. illust.* 59 (6 March 1937): 128; *Ballawley Nursery catalogue* 1936.

S. longifolia x *paradoxa*

'A handsome hybrid ... long narrow leaves, many of them three inches long, are thickly dotted on the margins with characteristic lime pits. From the stronger rosettes arise fine 950 branching spikes of solid white flowers ... Though, like *S. paradoxa*, a shy flowerer, the plants are nevertheless interesting when not in flower ... The rosettes increase freely, many offsets formed annually.'

Origin: from Knapton House, Abbeyleix, Co. Laois, home of Murray Hornibrook. It may have been a chance seedling – no other details of its origins are recorded.

ref: *Ir. gardening* 12 (1917): 100.

S. rosacea var. *hartii*

Mossy saxifrage, distinguished mainly by the presence of glandular hairs on leaves and stems; rosettes flattish; flowers with pure white petals.

Origin: from Arranmore, Co. Donegal; a one time thought to represent a distinct species. It has been in cultivation since about 1942.

The story of its introduction is fascinating:

The history of *Sax. hartii* is this. It was sent by c. 1930 O'Sullivan, the lighthouse-keeper, to Stelfox, probably about 1942, give or take a few years. It consisted of about six shoots which had been pressed, but when Stelfox took them out of the press they seemed rather lively, so he planted them, and they took. About 1944-5 I removed a couple to the old T.C.D. garden [in Ballsbridge] and had it there in cultivation for a number of years. Round about 1950 or 1951, probably, I gave plants to Kew, and they later gave them to Cambridge. It seemed to remain pretty constant in cultivation.

refs: D. A. Webb (*in litt.* 18 October 1984); Nelson, *An Irish flower garden replanted* (1997), 169.

illusts: Irish postage stamp 21 June 1988 (28p); *Proc. Roy. Ir. Acad.* 53B (1950): 219.

S. rosacea 'Alannah'

syn: *S. decipiens* 'Alannah'

No description traced.

Origin: for Lissadell, Co. Sligo; the nursery listed, as seed, a number of plants bearing its distinctive names, e.g. 'Alannah', 'Asthere', but their origins are obscure.

ref: *Price list of fresh Lissadell seed* (1937-1938), 8.

S. rosacea 'Asthere'

syn: *S. decipiens* 'Asthere'

No description traced.

Origin: for Lissadell, Co. Sligo; the nursery listed, as seed, a number of plants bearing its distinctive names, e.g.

'Alannah', 'Asthore', but their origins are obscure.
ref: *Price list of fresh Lissadell seed* (1937-1938), 8.

S. rosacea 'Clare Island'

syn: *S. decipiens* 'Clare Island Variety'

No description traced.

Origin: for Lissadell, Co. Sligo; the nursery listed, as seed, a number of plants bearing its distinctive names, e.g. 'Alannah', 'Asthore', but their origins are obscure.
ref: *Price list of fresh Lissadell seed* (1937-1938), 8.

S. rosacea Lissadell Strain

syn: *S. decipiens* Lissadell strain

No description traced.

Origin: for Lissadell, Co. Sligo; the nursery listed, as seed, a number of plants bearing its distinctive names, e.g. 'Alannah', 'Asthore', but their origins are obscure.
ref: *Price list of fresh Lissadell seed* (1937-1938), 8.

S. x urbium

Origin: I include these because the name was published by Professor David Webb. This is the common London pride of gardens, often incorrectly called *S. umbrosa*.

'Avoca Gem'

syn: *S. decipiens* 'Avoca Gem'

Large flowers, petals rose-madder; a mossy saxifrage, 4 inches tall; 'A fine hybrid with very large flowers of a particularly pleasing shade of rose madder.'

Origin: this mossy saxifrage was raised by Miss Winifred Wynne, Tigrone, Avoca, Co. Wicklow. As she herself sold plants she may have introduced it, otherwise, I have traced it in the 1942 catalogue ('New to commerce') of Ballawley Park Nursery, and several later ones, including the 1955-1956 catalogue of Slieve Donard Nursery.

refs: *IGPS newsl.* 25 (July 1987): 5; *Ballawley Nursery catalogue* 1942; *McConnell catalogue*.

'Ballawley' – see '**Ballawley Seedling**'

'Ballawley Guardsman'

'Of strong constitution and very free-flowering, it keeps its glowing turkey red hue for a long period with fading'; a mossy saxifrage, 4 inches tall.

Origin: from Ballawley Park, Dundrum, Co. Dublin, and introduced in 1941.

The outcome of hybridising to procure a deep red mossy which does not fade to a pale colour in the sun. Of strong constitution and very free flowering, it keeps its glowing crimson-scarlet hue for a long period.*

Apart from *Bergenia* 'Ballawley' this is perhaps the most famous of the nursery's plants.

Ballawley Park was bought by the Shaw-Smiths in 1906 – it covered 50 acres. Mrs Shaw-Smith was a very keen gardener, a member of the council of the Royal Horticultural Society of Ireland, and an expert propagator. She did all the propagation herself to begin with. The first catalogues appear to have been issued in the late 1920s, and the last one that I have traced is dated Autumn 1952-Spring 1953.

This mossy saxifrage is still in cultivation, but like so many excellent plants, it is often now replaced by inferior seedlings and hybrids.

refs: *Ballawley Nursery catalogues* 1941*; —1943, 37; *IGPS newsl.* 9 (July 1983): 6.

Ballawley Hybrids

Mossy saxifrages. 'Better than many named varieties. Colours only guaranteed at season of flowering. Deep reds. Pinks. White.'

Origin: a mixed bunch, from Ballawley Park, Dundrum, Co. Dublin.

ref: *Ballawley Nursery catalogue* 1940, 40.

c. 1937

'Ballawley Red'

Mossy saxifrage. 'Good crimson flowers, String habit.' 6 inches tall.

Origin: from Ballawley Park, Dundrum, Co. Dublin.

refs: *Ballawley Nursery catalogues* 1942; — Autumn 1943-Spring 1955, 37.

'Ballawley Seedling'

c. 1937

syn: 'Ballawley'

Mossy saxifrage; flowers pale pink, on tall, 7 inches, branching stems.

Origin: from Ballawley Park, Dundrum, Co. Dublin.; 'a fine seedling'. Offered as 'Ballawley Seedling' in 1928, but as 'Ballawley' in 1940 and again (this time with 'Ballawley Guardsman') in 1943.

refs: *Ballawley Alpine Nursery catalogues* 1928-1929; 1940, 40.

'Bridget'

Upright, free, small frosted rosettes, white flowers on hairy pink stems, 6 inches tall; 'pale pink petalled flowers on hairy light red stems.'*

c. 1940

Origin: from Lissadell, Co. Sligo; a hybrid, *S. coreophylla* x *stribrnyi* (i.e. *S. marginata* x *stribrnyi*). 'An outstanding upright variety.' 'Of our own seedlings 'Bridget' is, we think, a very pretty plant, free flowering and apparently well doing ... appreciated by all who know her.'

Still in cultivation.

refs: *Lissadell price list* Autumn 1930, 32; — 1931-1932, 4; *Ballawley Nursery catalogue* 1940, 39*; *Horny et alii, Porophyllum saxifrages* (1986), 226.

'C. F. Ball'

No description traced.

Origin: from the National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin; Dublin; distributed to Miss Fanny Geoghegan in May 1923, and to Sir Josslyn Gore-Booth in July 1923.

As this was named after the late C. F. Ball, it may have been raised by him before 1915.

ref: Ms register of donations from the National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin.

'Clare Island'

syns *S. decipiens* (Clare Island)*; *S. decipiens* Clare Island variety.

Close grey-green rosettes, white flowers on red stems.

Origin: this is presumably from Clare Island, Co. Mayo, but who collected it and introduced it is not known. A plant with a cognate name was being offered in the late 1930s by Lissadell Nursery, Co. Sligo (cf. *S. rosacea* 'Clare Island') but it is not known if these were the same plant.

refs: *Ballawley Nursery catalogue* 1928-1929*; *Pattens catalogue* (1951); *IGPS newsl.* 9 (July 1983): 6.

'Clare Island Pink'

Compact, dense mat of fresh green foliage, with pale pink flowers; 'a pretty rosy form'.

Origin: Another mystery! There is unlikely to have been a wild, pink-flowered saxifrage on Clare Island, so could this have come from an island garden? Offered as early as 1935 by Ballawley Alpine Nursery, Dundrum, although an entry for *S. decipiens* pink form in the 1932 catalogue may be for this cultivar.

refs: *Ballawley Nursery catalogue* no 12 (1935); *Pattens catalogue* (1951); *IGPS newsl.* 9 (July 1983): 6.

c. 1940

'Gabrielle'

Small heavily frosted rosettes, white flowers on pink stems, 3 inches tall.

Origin: from Lissadell, Co. Sligo; hand-pollinated, perhaps *S. diapiensoides* x *stribrnyi*. 'Offered for the first time' in the Autumn 1930 catalogue. 'It is a smaller, sturdier edition of Bridget, not so floriferous, but with a much frosted rosette.'

refs: *Lissadell catalogue* Autumn 1930: 5, 32; Horny *et alii*, *Porophyllum saxifragas* (1986), 325.

'Glasnevin Beauty'

No description traced.

Origin: from the National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, Dublin; distributed to Daisy Hill Nursery, Newry in October 1936.

ref: Ms register of donations from the National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin.

'Glasnevin Red'

No description traced.

Origin: from the National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, Dublin; sent to Mount Usher in April 1918.

refs: Ms register of donations from the National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin; *IGPS newsl.* 9 (July 1983): 6.

'Glasnevin White'

'A fine mossy saxifrage with particularly large, pure white flowers'.

Origin: from the Royal Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, Dublin; distributed to Perry in November 1919, and H. D. M. Barton in June 1920.

refs: Ms register of donations from the National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin; *Ir. gardening* 15 (1920): 88; *IGPS newsl.* 9 (July 1983): 6.

'Knapton Pink'

Mossy saxifrage; late-flowering, forming hummocks; flowers large pale pink.

Origin: presumably from Knapton House, Abbeyleix, Co. Laois, the home of Murray Hornibrook until 1922. A plant with this name has recently been available in England, but I do not know anything of its history.

ref: *The RHS plant finder 1997-98* [name only].

'Knapton Red'

Mossy saxifrage; flowers red.

Origin: presumably from Knapton House, Abbeyleix, Co. Laois, the home of Murray Hornibrook until 1922. A plant with this name has recently been available in England, but I do not know anything of its history.

ref: *The RHS plant finder 1997-98* [name only; deletions].

'Knapton White'

Mossy saxifrage; flowers white.

Origin: presumably from Knapton House, Abbeyleix, Co. Laois, the home of Murray Hornibrook until 1922. A plant with this name has recently been available in England, but I do not know anything of its history.

ref: *The RHS plant finder 1997-98* [name only].

'Lissadell'

Encrusted saxifrage (*Euaizoonia* Sect.)

Origin: from Lissadell, Sligo, Co. Sligo.

ref: *McConnell catalogue*.

'Mossy Irish'

'Beautiful compact domes of pale green mossy foliage, and lovely pink flowers', 10cm tall.

Origin: 'discovered growing in an Irish garden, and given to us by Mr. Jim Jermyn' (of Edrom Nurseries, Coldingham, Berwick-on-Tweed); introduced by Potterton and Martin, The Cottage Nursery, Caistor, Lincolnshire.

refs: B. Potterton (*in litt.* January 1998) *Potterton & Martin Spring lists for 1996*, 13.

'Myra'

Flowers pink (Kabschia)

Origin: presumably from Lissadell, Co. Sligo: 'so far appears to be the best of the so-called pinks.' 'Of the pink Kabschia Saxifragas, 'Myra' is still the deepest colour.*' Horny *et al.* (1986) attributed it, but with a question mark, to Reginald Farrar.

refs: *Lissadell price list* Autumn 1930: 5; — 1931-1932, 1936; Horny *et alii*, *Porophyllum saxifragas* (1986), 185.

'Rosaleen'

'Hard, dull green cushion, white flowers.

Origin: from Lissadell, Co. Sligo; *S. burseriana* x *rocheliana* (i.e. *S. burseriana* x *S. marginata* subsp. *marginata*).

ref: *Lissadell price list* Autumn 1930: 32.

before 1918



Scabiosa

Dipsacaceae. Scabious.

S. alpina = *Cephalaria alpina*

before 1919

S. columbaria 'Butterfly Blue Beauty'

syn: 'Irish Perpetual Flowering', Butterfly Blue®

Flowerheads large, lavender blue, foliage grey-green, to 16 inches tall; flowers from mid- to late summer; florets mostly male.

Origin: I was told that this came originally from an Irish garden, but I had no further information about it until I enquired about a plant named 'Irish Perpetual Flowering'. This revealed the story.

David Tristram, who worked for Arthur Guinness & Co,

lived and gardened near Dublin from 1952 to 1972 and got to know, and of course exchange plants with, many of the keen gardeners in the area. One or two friends had this scabious, and I'm not quite sure who I got it from (but I think the most likely one was Nora O'Connell of Shankill, and the date probably around 1954). I never found a name for it, but I like it because it always seemed so very free-flowering, and I grew it in my garden in Ireland until 1972 and then brought it to my garden in England. ... In 1973 I started a small nursery growing shrubs as a part of the newly-formed Fargro Plants cooperative in West Sussex ... about ten years later we wished, in cooperation with another wholesale supplier, Blakedown Nursery, to try out a new idea which was to launch a plant into the garden centre market which was new to the market ... it had to be a plant of considerable merit that could perform well in any garden and look good in a fairly small pot so that it would not need to be too expensive. So I proposed the scabious ... and it was chosen for the first "promotion" of this sort. ... Before we could promote it we needed a name and so I asked Wisley to look into it, but all they came up with was that it was a variety of *Scabiosa columbaria*. So our marketing consultants 1950 asked me to suggest a name. Because it was always loved by butterflies, I suggested "Blue Butterfly". However they felt (and I agreed) that "Butterfly Blue" sounded better, so it became *Scabiosa columbaria* 'Butterfly Blue Beauty'. before 1998

'Butterfly Blue Beauty' has made world record sales. The name Butterfly Blue is a registered trade mark, but the plant itself is not protected by plant breeders' right. *Scabiosa* 'Butterfly Blue', like *Veronica* 'Royal Candles', was probably grown in Ireland for many years before David Tristram obtained it, and would have been passed over the garden wall many times! The history of its marketing campaign is told by Dunnett

(1987).

refs: D. Tristram (*in litt.* 24 February 1998); Dunnett, 'The story of scabious Butterfly Blue', *Proc. International Plant Propagators' Soc.* **36** (1987): 61-65.

illusts: *Proceedings of the International Plant Propagators' Society* **36** (1987): 63 (black-&-white); *RHS A-Z encyclopaedia of garden plants* (1996).

S. succisa nana

'deep blue flowers scarcely rise above the leaves and in no instance more than 3 or 4 inches'.

Origin: from Daisy Hill Nursery, Newry, Co. Down.

This is curious! Smith listed it as having been found on Howth, Co. Dublin, and I strongly suspect that the plant was *Jasione montana* (sheep's bit) which is abundant on Howth and fits the description. If it was not *Jasione*, the plant was a variant of *Succisa pratensis* (devil's bit scabious).

ref: Nelson & Grills, *Daisy Hill Nursery* (1998), 144.

'Irish Perpetual Flowering'

Flowers 'pale soft' blue; to 30cm tall. In flower for most of the year.

Origin: presumed to have come from Ireland; offered in 1998 by Cotswold Garden Flowers, Evesham, Worcestershire,

ref: *Cotswold Garden Flowers catalogue* 1998, 41.

"Roebuck seedling"

Origin: a seedling evidently raised at Roebuck Castle, Co. Dublin which belonged to the Westby family (see also *Prunus*). The only record I have found of this is an entry in a list of Lady Moore's garden at Rathfarnham, Co. Dublin; Lady More obtained this from the Westbys in October 1924.

ref: Lady Moore ms.



Schizostylis

Iridaceae. River lily; Kaffir lily.

S. coccinea 'Ballyrogan Giant'

Flowers rich pink, 'good size'; stems to 1m in height.

Origin: raised, selected and introduced by Gary Dunlop, Ballyrogan Nurseries, Newtownards, Co. Down.

refs: G. Dunlop (*in litt.* 25 January 1998); *Ballyrogan Nurseries plant list* 1997 [without description]; *The RHS plant finder* 1997-1998.

S. coccinea 'Mrs Hegarty'

syn: various misspellings have been noted including 'Mrs Heggerty'.

Petals 15-18mm wide, 28-30mm long, deep rose-pink (RHS CC 62C), anthers yellow.

Origin: This was the first of the pink-blossomed cultivars of Kaffir lily. It arose in the garden of Mrs Blanche Hegarty, Poleska, Clonbur, Co. Galway. Propagation material was in the Royal Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, as early as January 1919, and the cultivar was being distributed as pink *Schizostylis* from the Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, as early as November 1919, to H. D. M. Barton.

'Mrs Hegarty' is now very confused in gardens and the trade, because there are many newer pink cultivars, some admittedly better. From 'Viscountess Byng' it may be distinguished easily because that cultivar has narrow (10-12mm), short (22-28mm), pale pink (RHS CC 65B) petals, and dark purple-brown anthers. There are differences in flowering time, 'Mrs Hegarty' coming into blossom in September, before 'Viscountess Byng'.¹ Concerning Mrs Hegarty's garden, and Katherine Tynan's poem 'The garden at Poleska', Barrington Quinan wrote that 'My mother [Lady Quinan, née Hegarty] always made a fuss about the poem composed by K. T. [sic] but perhaps it

was never published.' Simmonds's account in the *Journal of the Royal Horticultural Society* was 'composed in consultation' with Mrs Hegarty's daughter, Mr Quinan's mother.

refs: B. Quinan (*in litt.* 7 June 1984, 14 June 1984); B. Hesketh (*in litt.* 6 June 1984); *NCCPG Manx newsletter* no. 3 (May 1984): [7-8]; *Gard. illust* **43** (17 December 1921): 795, 804; Simmonds, *A horticultural who's who* (1948), 42-43; Pankhurst, *Who does your garden grow?* (1992), 58-59; 1900 Nelson, *An Irish flower garden* (1984), 152-153; *IGPS newsl.* **15** (January 1985): 6.



Sedum

Crassulaceae. Stonecrops.

The eminent Irish naturalist Dr Robert Lloyd Praeger prepared and published a monograph on *Sedum* in 1921. He undertook this work at the suggestion of the Rev. Canon 1998 Ellacombe, because plants in cultivation in the 1910s were very confused.

Stonecrops do not make good herbarium specimens; Praeger noted that such specimens were virtually useless. Thus he preferred to study living specimens, and established a substantial collection. He 'begged, borrowed and bought' plants for his work, and eventually acquired about fifteen hundred different stonecrops. These he 'brought down' to about 130 species. Some of the plants were grown at the National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, Dublin, and some in Praeger's own garden, Lisnamae, Zion Road, Rathgar, Dublin.

Thus, during the progress of his work, Praeger must have introduced many new stonecrops into cultivation in Ireland. Praeger named several new species, and some cultivars, because no list of his introductions survives, the plants I have listed below are just a few of those directly connected with Praeger, merely as examples.

S. adenotrichum - see *S. anoicum*

c. 1997

S. alboroseum var. "foliis margine-variegatis"

syn: the species name is now a synonym of *S. erythrostictum*.

Plant 1-2 feet tall; leaves with variegated margins, grey-green; flowers greenish white.

Origin: the name is not valid as a botanical name, and the plant is probably no longer in cultivation. Praeger commented that this was 'of no great merit'. He had obtained it from, among other places, Tully Nurseries 1919 Kildare.

refs: Nelson, 'Robert Lloyd Praeger's Crassulaceae...', *Bradleya* **11** (1993): 91-106; Praeger, 'An account of the genus *Sedum* ...', *Journ. Roy. Hort. Soc.* **46** (1921): 90.

S. anoicum

syn: *S. adenotrichum*

Leaves light green, in rosettes; flowers white, on long stalks covered with glandular hairs; plant with runners.

Origin: Praeger obtained living plants from Murray Hornibrook, Knapton, Abbeyleix, Co. Laois, but whence Hornibrook obtained it is not recorded. It was then assumed to be a North American species, from British Columbia, but proved to be from the Himalaya.

refs: Nelson, 'Robert Lloyd Praeger's Crassulaceae...', *Bradleya* **11** (1993): 91-106; Praeger, 'An account of the genus *Sedum* ...', *Journ. Roy. Hort. Soc.* **46** (1921): 1-314.

S. bhutanense

syn: *S. bhutanicum*, *S. cooperi*; now sometimes placed in the genus *Rhodiola*, as *R. bupleuroides* (= *Sedum bupleuroides*)
Leaves 'pseudoternate', toothed towards the tips, about 1½ inches long; flowers unisexual, male flowers purple.

Origin: the species was described from plants that flowered in the Royal Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, and in Praeger's own garden, during 1918. The plant was discovered in Bhutan by Roland Cooper who collected seed (no. 3517) in 1914.

refs: Nelson, 'Robert Lloyd Praeger's Crassulaceae...', *Bradleya* **11** (1993): 91-106; Praeger, 'An account of the genus *Sedum* ...', *Journ. Roy. Hort. Soc.* **46** (1921): 1-314.

S. crassipes* var. *cholaense

syn: sometimes placed in synonymy under *Rhodiola wallichiana*.

Leaves grey-green, 1-1½ inches long; flowers green; more robust than the species.

Origin: this variety was another of Roland Cooper's discoveries and introductions, from Sikkim. Praeger saw living plants, including material cultivated at Lissadell, Co. Sligo.

refs: Nelson, 'Robert Lloyd Praeger's Crassulaceae...', *Bradleya* **11** (1993): 91-106; Praeger, 'An account of the genus *Sedum* ...', *Journ. Roy. Hort. Soc.* **46** (1921): 1-314.

S. dasyphyllum* var. *suendermannii

syn: *S. dasyphyllum* 'Suendermannii'

Leaves densely covered with glandular hairs, overlapping; flowers larger than those of the species, and opening several weeks later.

Origin: this was introduced by Praeger. He grew a large number of *S. dasyphyllum* plants, and the 'most distinct [was] a plant distributed by F. Sundermann, of Lindau, ... collected ... I believe in the Sierra Nevada', Spain.

refs: Nelson, 'Robert Lloyd Praeger's Crassulaceae...', *Bradleya* **11** (1993): 91-106; Praeger, 'An account of the genus *Sedum* ...', *Journ. Roy. Hort. Soc.* **46** (1921): 1-314.

S. mairei

Leaves ??; flowers ??.

Origin: this is one of a series of Chinese species, raised at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, from seed collected in Yunnan by the Revd. E. E. Maire. Praeger told the story thus:

The plants flowered, one in October, 1916, and the rest in August, 1917. They died in the autumn of 1917. ...

refs: Nelson, 'Robert Lloyd Praeger's Crassulaceae...', *Bradleya* **11** (1993): 91-106; Praeger, 'An account of the genus *Sedum* ...', *Journ. Roy. Hort. Soc.* **46** (1921): 1-314.

S. spathulifolium* var. *majus

Rosettes twice as large as those of the species, each with about 20 leaves; leaves larger and broader, green (not grey or tinged red); flowers yellow.

Origin: Praeger obtained plants of this from E. H. Walpole, Mount Usher, Ashford, Co. Wicklow, so it was already in cultivation in Ireland.

In cultivation today, plants are often misnamed; this name does not apply to very glaucous, mealy specimens.

refs: Nelson, 'Robert Lloyd Praeger's Crassulaceae...', *Bradleya* **11** (1993): 91-106; Praeger, 'An account of the genus *Sedum* ...', *Journ. Roy. Hort. Soc.* **46** (1921): 1-314.

S. triphyllum

Leaves ??; flowers ??.

Origin: this is another of the series of Chinese species, raised at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, from seed collected in Yunnan by the Revd. E. E. Maire. Plant flowered at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, and in Praeger's own garden in August 1917.

refs: Nelson, 'Robert Lloyd Praeger's Crassulaceae...', *Bradleya* **11** (1993): 91-106; Praeger, 'An account of the genus *Sedum* ...', *Journ. Roy. Hort. Soc.* **46** (1921): 1-314.

S. varicolor

Leaves ??; flowers ??.

Origin: this is yet another of the Chinese species, raised at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, from seed collected in Yunnan by the Revd. E. E. Maire.

refs: Nelson, 'Robert Lloyd Praeger's Crassulaceae...', *Bradleya* **11** (1993): 91-106; Praeger, 'An account of the genus *Sedum* ...', *Journ. Roy. Hort. Soc.* **46** (1921): 1-314.

c. 1918

S. viscosum

syn: *S. drymarioides*

Leaves ??; flowers ??.

Origin: this Chinese species was raised at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, from seed collected in Yunnan by the Revd. E. E. Maire. It bloomed at Glasnevin and in Praeger's own garden in 1917.

refs: Nelson, 'Robert Lloyd Praeger's Crassulaceae...', *Bradleya* **11** (1993): 91-106; Praeger, 'An account of the genus *Sedum* ...', *Journ. Roy. Hort. Soc.* **46** (1921): 1-314.

Other species and botanical varieties named by R. Ll. Praeger, and still in cultivation, according to *The European Garden Flora* **IV** (1995) are

S. brevifolium var. *quinquefarium*
S. cauticolum
S. ewersii var. *homophyllum*
S. floriferum
S. griseum
S. pseudospectabile
S. verticillatum var. *nipponicum*

S. praegerianum is a synonym of *S. hobsonii* now *Rhodiola hobsonii* (a species native in China and Bhutan)

c. 1915



Selenicereus

Cactaceae

See sub-section **Cacti**



Sempervivum

Crassulaceae. Houseleeks.

After completing work on *Sedum*, Dr Robert Lloyd Praeger starting studying the genus *Sempervivum*, and collected numerous living specimens, which were grown for him at the National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin. Undoubtedly, among these plants were several – perhaps many – that had not been cultivated before. Thus Praeger may be deemed to have introduced many houseleeks into cultivation in Ireland and elsewhere. As with *Sedum*, no list of his introductions survives, but he named several new species and I list a few of these below, merely as examples. Concerning *Sempervivum* in its broadest sense (see also *Aeonium Aichryson* and *Monanthes*), Praeger was explicit:

[because] much herbarium material is of little assistance in the naming of [*Sempervivum*] species ... the use of living material, full descriptions, comparative notes, and figures acquires a special value.

Praeger made several length field trips to collect living specimens. Among the places he visited were the Canary islands and Madeira, The Balkans and The Alps. He handed most of this material to the National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, but kept some in his own garden. At the National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, today none of the cultivated specimens of stonecrops and houseleeks can be traced

directly backed to Praeger, although a few plants survive that *probably* represent his original introduction.

The species and botanical varieties listed are just an example, directly connected to Glasnevin, of Praeger's houseleeks. Most of the plants named as new in the *Sempervivum* monograph belong to separate genera – see *Aeonium*, *Aichryson*, *Monanthes*

S. kosaninii

Leaves in dense rosettes, dark green with red stripe, 4-8cm in diameter, with glandular hairs on both sides; flowers purple-red.

Origin: this species found only in Macedonia (former Yugoslavia) flowered in Dublin in 1929. Praeger had obtained plants from Nedelyko Košanin of the Botanic Garden in Belgrade, Serbia (former Yugoslavia), during his visit to the region in 1926.

As noted above, there are still plants of this in the National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin. As there is no evidence of any subsequent introduction of this species, I believe the material still growing in the Gardens represents Praeger's introduction.

On the same visit to Belgrade, Praeger also obtained a species which he later named *S. macedonicum*.

refs: Nelson, 'Robert Lloyd Praeger's Crassulaceae...', *Bradleya* **11** (1993): 91-106; Praeger, An account of the *Sempervivum* group (1932).

S. macedonicum

Leaves in small rosettes, 2-4cm in diameter, often tinged red, hairy; flowers dull purple-red.

Origin: Praeger had obtained plants of this from Nedelyko Košanin of the Botanic Garden in Belgrade, Serbia (former Yugoslavia), during his visit to the region in 1926. On the same visit to Belgrade, he also obtained *S. kosaninii*.

refs: Nelson, 'Robert Lloyd Praeger's Crassulaceae...', *Bradleya* **11** (1993): 91-106; Praeger, An account of the *Sempervivum* group (1932).

S. montanum subsp. *stiriacum* 'Lloyd Praeger'

syn: *Sempervivum* 'Lloyd Praeger'; *S. montanum* var. *stiriacum* 'Praeger's Form'; *S. montanum* var. *stiriacum* 'Lloyd Praeger'.

Leaves forming flatter rosette than the species; tipped with red.

Origin: from Dr Robert Lloyd Praeger, the Irish naturalist; renamed by the Registration and Nomenclature Committee of the *Sempervivum* Society in 1979.

refs: *Houslekes* **10** (1979): 13; *SFAN* **8** (3) (June 1982): 19; Beckett (1992).

illustr: *SFAN* **8** (3) (June 1982): 19.

S. x praegeri

note: this name is not valid because no type specimen was cited in the protologue.

Small rosettes, open; leaves densely covered with glandular hairs; petals greenish yellow, with tips flushed red.

Origin: a hybrid between *S. ciliosum* and *S. erythraeum*, named by Gordon Rowley as recently as 1974. This occurs in the wild in Bulgaria, while plants offered under this name may be another hybrid (*S. erythraeum* x *leucanthum*)

refs: *European garden flora* **IV** (1995), 234; G. D. Rowley (*in litt.* 27 March 1998); *Regnum vegetabile* **22** (1974): 11.

illustr: *Journ. Sempervivum Soc.* **7** (1976): 28.

'Mount Usher'

No description traced.

Origin: according to the *Sempervivum* cultivar register, this came from Hugh Armytage Moore, and was marketed by Stocklands Estate Nursery. No longer listed (1998) in *The RHS plant finder*.

refs: G. D. Rowley (*in litt.* 27 March 1998); *The RHS plant finder* 1997-98 [name only; deletions].



Senecio = *Pericallis*



Sequoia

Taxodiaceae. Redwood

c. 1926

S. sempervirens 'Nana Pendula'

Branches pendulous, almost prostrate, leaves linear, with short, very abrupt point, 'both upper and lower sides are very glaucous grey-green, and the tips of the young shoots are frequently pale yellow or white.'

Origin: 'I found this plant growing in the Rock Garden at Curragh Grange, Co. Kildare'. It had been there for more than fifteen years when Hornibrook noticed it 'sprouting out from between two rocks and flowing down their sides in a close mat-like formation. It had no name then, and no history was recorded. Murray Hornibrook commented in the second edition of his book:

It made no attempt to throw up a leading shoot, and the last time I saw it – in 1925 – it was increasing its "spread" fairly fast and I should think would soon cover a large space. Unfortunately, Curragh Grange, like so many other important gardens in Ireland, is now a garden of the past, the house has been shut for some time, and I have no idea what became of the many interesting dwarf conifers that used to furnish the large cliffs of its rock garden.

ref: Hornibrook, *Dwarf conifers* (1939, 2nd ed.), 230-231.



Sequoiadendron

Taxodiaceae. Giant redwood, Wellingtonia.

before 1970

S. giganteum 'Aurea'

syn: *S. giganteum* 'Aureovariegatum'

Smaller shoots, at first amber coloured, turning deep golden yellow, the colour uniform over the entire tree.

Origin: received at the Lough Nurseries, Cork, Co. Cork, in 1856, and introduced by Richard Hartland.

The original plant was a seedling, which Hartland of the Lough Nurseries, Cork, received in 1856. It began to show colour when it was about a foot high, and after it had attained 8 feet, a large number of golden Wellingtonias were propagated from it by grafting.

Henry gave the above account based on a letter from Hartland to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew.

refs: *Florist & pomologist* (1867): 40; Elwes & Henry, *Trees of Great Britain & Ireland* **III** (1908), 701; *Moorea* **3** (1985): 38; Bean, *Trees & shrubs* **IV** (1980), 362-363.



Sidalcea

Malvaceae.

'Donard Queen'

before 1988

'Tall spikes of amaranth-red flowers'; 'deep rosy red flowers, produced on strong spikes', 3-4 feet.

Origin: 'a fine new variety of our own raising'; from Slieve Donard Nursery, Newcastle, Co. Down.

ref: Nelson & Deane, *'Glory of Donard'* (1993), 108.

'Lissadell Purple'

'Fine upstanding purple', 4 feet tall.

Origin: from Lissadell, Sligo, Co. Sligo.
ref: *Lissadell price list* 1931-1932: 44.

'Rose Beauty'

'The counterpart of 'Rose Queen', but slightly dwarfier and flowers a month earlier.'

Origin: from Daisy Hill Nursery, Newry, Co. Down.
refs: Nelson, *The new plantsman* 4 (1997): 98-114; Nelson & Grills, *Daisy Hill Nursery* (1998), 145.

'Rose Queen'

'It grows 5 to 6 ft. high, and produces sheaves of branching spikes of large clear rose-coloured flowers - June to August.'

Origin: 'one of the finest plants ever raised at Daisy Hill'; introduced by Daisy Hill Nursery, Newry, Co. Down. In the Spring 1917 catalogue it is clearly stated that 'Seedlings from "Rose Queen"... vary in colour from blush to crimson ...'.
refs: Nelson, *The new plantsman* 4 (1997): 98-114; Nelson & Grills, *Daisy Hill Nursery* (1998), 145.

'Ruby'

'A deep rich shade of ruby red, a most telling and distinct colour.'

Origin: from Daisy Hill Nursery, Newry, Co. Down.
refs: Nelson, *The new plantsman* 4 (1997): 98-114; Nelson & Grills, *Daisy Hill Nursery* (1998), 145.



Sisyrinchium

Iridaceae. Blue-eyed grass.

S. striatum 'Aunt May'

syn: *S. striatum* 'Variegatum', *Phaiophleps nigricans*.
Leaves striped with cream; flowers pale creamy-yellow.

Origin: Mrs Ludovic Amory, the aunt of Sir John Amory of Knightshayes, brought this cultivar from Ireland, as I was informed by Graham Stuart Thomas: 'it was hoped to call it 'Aunt May', but as a variegated form got AM 1973 [and] was mentioned in RHS [journal] as 'Variegatum; this apparently has to stay. Pity.'

As to the *Sisyrinchium*, it is in very good taste & a credit to Ireland. ... Jimmy Platt got the plant from Aunt May who got it from Ireland, Jimmy proposed it should be called 'Aunt May' but was overruled by [an expert] ... who said it was named 'Variegatum' many years ago, I think in the 1880s.

In fact the epithet 'Variegatum' is not acceptable being in Latin form – no trace of its publication in the 1880s has been found. Thus 'Aunt May', after Mrs Amory, is the correct name.

A mysterious plant; no other history is recorded.
refs: Graham Stuart Thomas (*in litt.* 27 January 1988, 9 February 1988); Hardy Plant Society, *Look who's in our garden* (1998).
illustr: *Ir garden* 7 (8) (September 1998): 50.



Solanum

Solanaceae. Potatoes, potato vines.

S. crispum 'Glasnevin'

syn: *S. crispum* 'Autumnalis'
Flowers star-shaped, with 5 petals, a good rich blue, with yellow anthers; style white; a vigorous sprawling shrub which blooms in Spring and early Summer and again in Autumn.
Origin: from the Royal Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, Dublin.

As early as 1882 an account were published of a plant of this species 'that used to be very fine' at the Glasnevin Botanic Gardens with bluer, larger flowers than others – no doubt it was this cultivar. At the beginning of the present century, the Glasnevin form of *S. crispum*, more vigorous and floriferous than normal, was distributed from Glasnevin and it was by then named *S. crispum* 'Glasnevin', although in later years it was often labelled *S. crispum* 'Autumnale'.

S. crispum 'Glasnevin' was exhibited by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, in 1955 and gained an award of merit from the Royal Horticultural Society. before 1917 This beautiful shrub was one of three plants used on the stamps issued in Ireland during October 1995 to celebrate the bicentenary of the National Botanic Gardens.

refs: *The garden* 21 (29 April 1882): 286; Walsh, Ross & Nelson, *An Irish florilegium* (1983), 162-163; *Ir. garden* 4 (3) (May/June 1995): [26-27]; *The garden* 122 (1997): 598-601.
illusts: *An Irish florilegium* (1983), plate 33; *Ir. garden* 4 (3) (May/June 1995): [27]; *The garden* 122 (1997): 598; Irish postage stamp 1995 (see *The Irish stamp year book 1995-1996*). before 1930

S. tuberosum – see separate section on **Potatoes**.



Sorbus

Rosaceae. Rowans, whitebeams.

S. aria 'Glasnevin Gold'

Leaves pale golden yellow when unfurling, and retaining this colour well into mid-Summer.

Origin: a seedling raised in the National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin. Pat Suttle, one of the horticulture lecturers, gathered seed from whitebeams in the Gardens and had these sown by the students. One of the seedlings had pale golden leaves.

The original tree is still in the National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, but as of 1997 the cultivar had not been released commercially.

ref: *The garden* 122 (1997): 598-601.

S. aucuparia 'Fastigiata'

syn: *Pyrus aucuparia* var. *fastigiata*
The branches upright and rigid.

Origin: plants received by the Horticultural Society of London in the early 1800s came from Hodgins' nursery at Dunganstown, Co. Wicklow. This cultivar is assumed to have arise – or at least been noticed and propagated – at Dunganstown, which also was the original sources of several hollies and an ivy cultivar.

refs: Loudon, *Arboretum & fruticetum Britannicum* (1844), 916; Elwes & Henry, *Trees of GB & Ireland* VI (1912), 1577; Nelson & Andrews, 'The origin of *Ilex x altaclerensis* (Loudon) Dallimore 'Lawsoniana' and a confusion of Hodginses', *Glasra* 1 (n.s.) (1992): 111-114; Nelson & Walsh, *Trees of Ireland* (1993), 182, 234.

S. hibernica

Tree to 7 m tall, often shrubby; leaves 8-10cm long, broadest above middle, dark green above, silvery white underneath; fruits broader than long, scarlet, speckled with lenticels.

Origin: an endemic (micro)species of whitebeam found only in the central counties of Ireland. It makes a handsome garden subject. before 1882

refs: Nelson & Walsh, *Trees of Ireland* (1993), 184-188; Walsh, Ross & Nelson, *An Irish florilegium* (1983), 34-35; *Yb. Int. Dendrol. Soc.* 1982: 112-114; *IGPS newsl.* 6 (1982): 5; *Watsonia* 22 (1998): 153-161.

illusts: *Trees of Ireland* (1993), plate 23; *An Irish florilegium*

(1983), plate 1; Irish postage stamp 1 March 1984.

'Molly Sanderson'

Rowan; a slow-growing shrubby plant, reaching perhaps 3 m in height; leaves compound with c. 13 small rounded leaflets (like those of *S. prattii*); fruits white (like those of *S. cashmiriana*); flowers pinkish, young stems and leaf axis reddish.

Origin: Dr Molly Sanderson distributed this from Ishlan, Ballymoney, Co. Antrim, and obtained it, she decided, from Mrs Terence O'Neill (Lady O'Neill).

It must have been about the late 1950s that I was escorted round Castlewellan Garden by the then head gardener John Keown. There was a large grove of *Sorbus* trees in full fruit. It was a fairly young planting & each tree had its original name plate intact. A number of berries of several species were bagged & labelled. Many germinated & were distributed around Ishlan & Northern Ireland generally.

When Ken Hulme [University of Liverpool Botanic Gardens, Ness] saw them growing at Ishlan – must have been about 1974, he was interested in many of the trees which were then in fruit, because one of his colleagues was working on the genus – Hugh McAllister. ... I couldn't be sure, even at the time, all the tree he took bits of, because there were many other things of interest. ... *S. cashmiriana* ... was the only white berried species in fruit at that time that I remember.

Continuing her letter, Molly wrote:

It was only within the last hour or so that things are beginning to fall into place! There was another white fruited specimen, very slow growing & the same age as the Castlewellan plants but a different provenance. It was given to me all those years ago by Jean O'Neill [Lady O'Neill], as she was then ... She called it *Sorbus oligodonta*. I feel sure now that this was the plant now named 'Molly Sanderson' ...

'Molly Sanderson' is a tetraploid apomict, probably originating in China. Given this, it can be raised from seed.

Ken Hulme informed Dr Sanderson that 'no attempt has been made to publish a full botanical description. The name [*Sorbus* "Molly Sanderson"] has simply been used in our seed list in the way Wisley referred originally to *Sorbus* "Joseph Rock". Someone might inspire Dr McAllister to publish a proper account – should he then call it *Sorbus sanderianum* or *S. sandersoniae*?

At one stage in the Spring of 1976, Dr McAllister suggested that this white-berried clone 'is probably identical with *S. kinkiangensis*' which Tse-Tsun Yu described from Forrest's material. Later (December 1978) he informed Dr Sanderson that 'I'm now sure it is not *S. kinkiangensis*'.

refs: Dr Molly Sanderson (*in litt.* 14 February 1986); K. Hulme (*in litt.* to Dr M. Sanderson 10 February 1986); Dr H. McAllister (*in litt.* to Dr M. Sanderson, 29 April 1976, 5 December 1987); *The garden* **111** (1986): 19; McAllister, Supplement to *The rowan and its relatives* (*Sorbus* spp.) (1986); *Moorea* **10** (1993): 35-40.



Spiraea aruncus = *Aruncus sylvestris*



Stauntonia
Lardizabalaceae.

S. hexaphylla

Vigorous, far-reaching climber with handsome, glossy green leaves, each leaf usually with six leaflets; flowers fragrant, unisexual, usually one sex only on an individual plant, in clusters of three to seven, with 6 petal-like sepals, white tinted with purple. Male flowers with 6 stamens, female with 3 style. Fruits red, walnut-sized.

origin: from China. The genus is named after Sir George Staunton, a native of Co. Galway, who accompanied Lord Macartney on his famous embassy to China in 1793.

award: AM RHS (July 1954).

ref: *The garden* **114** (1989): 336-338.

illust: *The garden* **114** (1989): 337 (fruit).



Stenocactus

Cactaceae

See sub-section **Cacti**



Stokesia

Asteraceae.

S. laevis 'Nebula'

Leaves with very distinct gold veining.

Origin: Gary Dunlop (Ballyrogan Nurseries, Newtownards, Co. Down) purchased this plant from a garden centre. It was labelled 'Blue Star', but that is not a variegated cultivar. It was named in *The sport*, but does not appear to have been made available commercially, yet.

ref: *The sport* **13** (Winter 1994-1995): 8.



Stranvaesia = *Photinia*



Strelitzia

Musaceae. Bird-of-paradise flower.

S. x nivenii

No description traced.

Origin: recorded as 'this remarkable hybrid raised in Glasnevin Gardens many years ago' by Professor W. R. McNab in his *A guide to the Royal Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin*. There is no description and I have been unable to trace any other record of this plant.

It is assumed that it was raised by Ninian Niven, perhaps while he was curator of the Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, between 1834 and 1838, but there is no contemporary record, and Niven himself seems to have made no reference to it.

There is a plant in the National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, labelled *S. x nivenii* but it cannot be certain if the plant is true to name. It has not flowered for many years, and appears to be just a small form of *S. reginae*. In any case the parentage of the purported hybrid is not known.

ref: Nelson & McCracken, *'The brightest jewel'* (1987), 85, 258 (note 7/6).



Strombocactus

Cactaceae

See sub-section **Cacti**



Symphytum

Boraginaceae. Comfrey.

***S. x uplandicum* 'Axminster Gold'**

c. 1995

Leaves edged with primrose yellow, far superior to the "normal" form.

Origin: named by Gary Dunlop, Ballyrogan Nurseries, Newtownards, Co. Down. He noticed the plant when visiting R. D. Plants, Axminster, Devon, obtained material and grew it at Newtownards, before naming it.

ref: *The hardy plant* **18** (1) (1996): 38-39

illustr: *The hardy plant* **18** (1) (1996): 42.

