



# THE YAK

Volume 37, Number 1

January 2023

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*R. principis*

Fraser South Rhododendron Society  
is a chapter of the  
American Rhododendron Society

<http://frasersouthrhodos.ca>

Map : <https://goo.gl/maps/ZB1m1jnF9DP2>

In person meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. on  
the third Wednesday of each month (excerpt  
June, July, August) at:

Langley Mennonite Fellowship Church  
20997 40<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Langley, B.C.

## Cover:



**R. principis**

### Elepidote

Height 2-6m (6-20ft). A bushy shrub or small tree; bark rough, greyish, vegetative buds pointed.

Leaves: Leathery, 6-14 x 1.8-5 cm, oblong to ovate-lanceolate, retained for 2 years, margins usually recurved, especially in cultivation; upper surface dark green and shiny, lower surface with a bistrat thick, spongy, white to fawn indumentum.

Flower/Truss Description: white to pink flowers, spotted or unspotted, in rounded truss of 10-30. Corolla more campanulate than most of the subsection, 2.5-3.8cm long, white through pink, rose to reddish-magenta. Calyx minute, c.1mm long, glandular-ciliate; ovary and style glabrous.

Bloom Time: March-April, both foliage and flowers come early, these and be damaged by spring frosts.

Distribution: Widespread in S. & E. Tibet, 2,700-4,600m (9,000-15,000ft), in conifer or broad-leaved forest to above the tree line. It tolerates surprisingly dry conditions in the wild.

One of the most westerly-occurring subsection Taliensia species, this is a distinctive plant in the combination of its pointed buds, the suede-like, plae indumentum and bell-shaped flowers.

Sources: *The Encyclopedia of Rhododendron Species*, by Peter A. Cox & Kenneth N.E. Cox

## This Month

**Date:** Wednesday, January 18 at 7:30 pm. Via Zoom

**Title:** "Our Northern Cascade Rhododendrons: Friends and Family"

David Anderson and Andrew Stern found a mutual interest as naturalists, now taking weekly hikes all over the Northwest exploring and discovering interesting botanical and entomological (insect study) specimens. They will share the results of their plant hunting on the search for the three native rhododendrons found in upper elevations of Washington and Oregon and the plants that typically found accompanying them, along with some fascinating insects. Their primary quest is to answer: Where is it found? How common is it? And what is the health of the stands? What insects use them and what fungi infect them?

Andrew and David are members of the Board of Directors of the ARS Portland Chapter.

## Upcoming Meetings

**Date:** Wednesday, February 15 at 7:30 pm. Via Zoom

**Title:** Meerkerk Gardens (Re McClung (President of Meerkerk) and Meerkerk staff)

Meerkerk Rhododendron Gardens, located on Whidbey Island is an independent not-for-profit organization open to the public and managed by the Meerkerk Rhododendron Garden nonprofit, which was established in 2002.

## 2022 OFFICERS

President:	Gerry Nemanishen	604-826-0166
Past Pres:	Colleen Bojczuk	604-826-4221
Vice Pres:	Jim Worden	604-541-4754
Secretary:	Barbara Mathias	778-580-6404
Treasurer:	Vacant	
Directors:	Robert Talbot	604-720-0134
	Colleen Bojczuk	604-826-4221
Programs:	Vacant	
Membership:	Vacant	
Newsletter:	Maureen Worden	604-541-4754
Librarian:	Gerald Nemanishen	604-826-0166
Website:	Maureen Worden	604-541-4754
Hospitality:	Vacant	
BCCGC Liaison:	Vacant	

## Reminders - !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

**Vacancies** - Please consider contributing to the group by volunteering for one of the vacant executive positions. Contact a member of the executive for further information.

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**Submit articles, photos, or suggestions for the newsletter or else you will be stuck with the editors choices.**

## From the President



Here we are in another new year. We've so far survived the arctic weather and our heavy rains.

We had a sump pump installed because of basement flooding in the past. Boy what a good investment. During the heavy deluge, it was running continuously and our basement has stayed dry.

We still mourn the loss of our dear friend, Harold Fearing. As I dig through the documents he retained during his tenure, I am in awe of his contribution to our group and his knowledge. His passing has left an extremely big hole in our executive.

I urgently request that anyone with some knowledge in managing finances take on the position of treasure in our group.

A happy new year to our membership. The snow drops will be up shortly to brighten our days and lead the way to Spring.

Respectfully, *Gerald Nemanishen*

## *From the Editor*

Today I am enjoying the sunshine and the unseasonable temperature for January. What a change from the sub-zero temperatures, arctic winds, snow and ice storms of only a few weeks ago. The plants along with the birds must find these temperature swings very confusing. Last winter the patio gurgler froze leaving the birds somewhat water challenged but this year I managed to keep it operational by putting a “hat” (just a garden pot actually) on it overnight and even though coated in ice there was enough of a gap to allow the water to circulate. The flocks of Robins we had last month were replaced by flocks of varied thrushes jockeying for a drink. I have never before seen so many varied thrushes in the yard at one time. The overall bird numbers have now returned to normal for this time of year due to the milder weather.

While we suffered some damage from the ice storm, it was not as severe as I anticipated. A few of the larger tree pieces (birch) are being recycled by the in-house wood turner. The “unknown” magnolia that lives off our patio was a lesson in plant resiliency. This magnolia blooms from June well into September most years and during warm summer evenings blankets the patio with a heady fragrance. It also has a tendency to retain some of its leaves well into the winter months. This year, maybe due to the warm fall months it had most of its leaves when the ice hit. The lowest branches on this magnolia are around 6 feet off the ground. When the ice coated all the leaves, the branches were touching the ground. The next day as the ice began to melt, the branches gradually inched upward and when all the ice was gone the branches are back to about 6 feet off the ground, still with most of its leaves, and suffered only a small break on a branch near the crown of the tree. WOW!

Going back to our warm October weather, did anyone get inundated by the “stink bugs”? Every afternoon about 3:00 pm the back of our house had a large number of them, some making their way into the house through the doggie created screen door opening. Thought we had dispatched all of them but some have remained elusive and are still occasionally being spotted by our junior garden team member. Our “bug specialist” has killed a few or identified their location so we humans could dispatch them. Learn about the BMSB garden pest following the editorial.

This month we remember and celebrate Harold Fearing and what Harold meant to the FSRS and its members. My dealings with Harold were primarily website related. Prior to my tenure, Harold moved the website from its old hosting platform to the existing one. A couple of years ago when the website was not functioning correctly, both Harold and I took a deep dive into error files trying to figure out what was wrong. Turns out our host had caused the access issues but it also pointed out that some of the software components used on our site were really out of date. As Harold had all the notes of what he had done to move the site to our existing platform, he volunteered to undertake the long update process. Without his meticulous notes from years ago we would have no doubt encountered numerous challenges. Whenever I grew frustrated at the lack of YAK contributions, Harold would always have something to send me whether it was a detailed well researched article on a rhododendron or pictures of some of his plants. “In the Garden” this month features plants “From Harold’s Garden”. You will be greatly missed Harold.

We also have a new word puzzle titled “Makes you go HMMMMMM!” from Colleen for your enjoyment. Hope to see you at the zoom meeting next week, should be a good one!

*Maureen Worden*



## Garden Pest

### Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (BMSB)



An aromatic insect shaped like a shield is lurking around homes and feasting on stone fruits in parts of southern B.C.

The **brown marmorated stink bug**, an invasive species in Canada, is thriving in the province this season thanks to summer-like weather extending into the fall, experts say. “We’ve had a particularly warm, dry fall, which are perfect conditions for this stink bug,” said Gail Wallin, executive director of the Invasive Species Council of B.C.

Although population counts aren’t readily available, the unwelcome intruder is earning notice across the Fraser Valley, Metro Vancouver and parts of the Okanagan, particularly Kelowna. The Asian insect was

first detected in B.C. in 2015, five years after making its Canadian debut in Hamilton. It has also been spotted in Quebec, Alberta and P.E.I., according to the invasive species council.

The B.C. government describes it online as a “very serious pest” that feeds on more than 100 plant species. In 2010, it caused an estimated loss of \$37 million to the apple industry in the eastern U.S., the province said. The presence of just a few adults at crush can taint wine, creating contamination issues for grapes, it said.

“The stink bug is an excellent hitchhiker and can be moved in shipping containers, wood, packing material, cargo and vehicles. It is also a nuisance to homeowners as the adults aggregate on and in buildings while seeking warm overwintering sites,” the B.C. government said.

Climate change has also eased the adaptation of many new species, Wallin said. The trouble, once they’re introduced, is the way they compete with native species and devastate crops without natural controls on their populations, she said.

“When you introduce any non-native species that become established, it actually disrupts the natural ecosystem, it disrupts the balance of nature,” Wallin said.

The brown marmorated stink bug can be distinguished from its native counterparts by its banded white antennae, Wallin added.

*Source: Text excerpt from Vancouver Sun, October 12, 2022  
Photo by WARREN H. L. WONG /The Canadian Press*

#### **Additional information available at:**

[Brown Marmorated Stink Bug \(BMSB\) Pest Alert - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/spe/bmsb/)



The following article originally appeared in the Fraser South Newsletter, February 2021 by Sean Rafferty

### *R. hodgsonii*

(Epithet: After B.H. Hodgson of the British East India Company)

Although discovered by William Griffith in Bhutan, *R. hodgsonii* was introduced to cultivation by J. D. Hooker from Sikkim in 1850. Hooker recorded it as growing at elevations of 10,000 - 12,000 feet "often forming an impenetrable scrub, through which the explorer in vain seeks to force his way". This is much as it is today, although in west Sikkim a four-foot wide pack-animal trail has been carved from Yuksam to Dzongri to make life somewhat easier, but still arduous. Various *Rhododendron* species dominate the trail according to elevation. As one ascends there are thick bands of different species, often requiring an hour's climb to pass through them. One travels sequentially from forests of *R. grande* through *R. falconeri*, *R. barbatum*,

*R. arboreum*, *R. thomsonii*, *R. hodgsonii*, *R. wightii*, *R. fulgens*, *R. campanulatum* and the alpine *R. anthopogon*. Several other species insinuate themselves where space allows.



*R. hodgsonii*

By Walter Hood Fitch: Curtis's Botanical Magazine

*R. hodgsonii* grows between 10,000 and 12,000 feet and is tree-like, growing to 40 feet with lovely exfoliating bark and obovate leaves up to 14 inches long with a pale indumentum. The compact inflorescence is 15-25 flowered. The flowers

range widely from white to pale pink, deep pink and nearly red. It should be hardy in most areas of southwestern British Columbia.

Hooker notes that in its native home the wood of *R. hodgsonii* is incredibly strong and does not split easily, and is used for firewood, making cups, spoons and Yak saddles. The leaves are used for plates and lining baskets which hold other foodstuffs, such as the mashed pulp of *Arisaema* roots.

More images of *R. hodgsonii* appear on page 10.

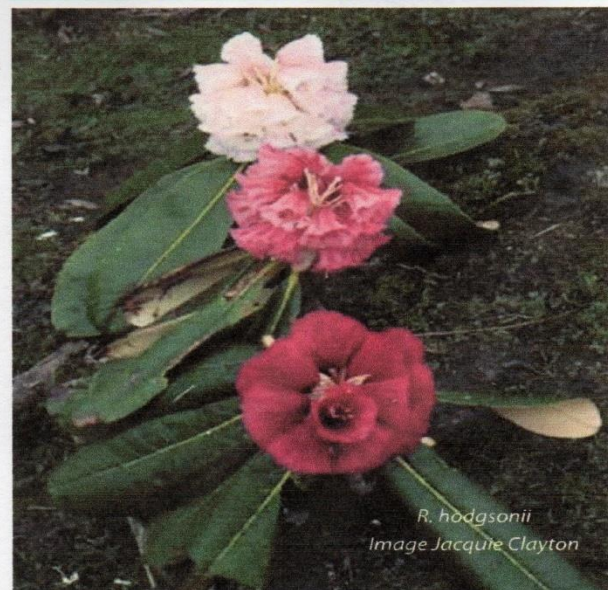
Sean Rafferty

#### *Rhododendrons of Sikkim*



*R. hodgsonii*

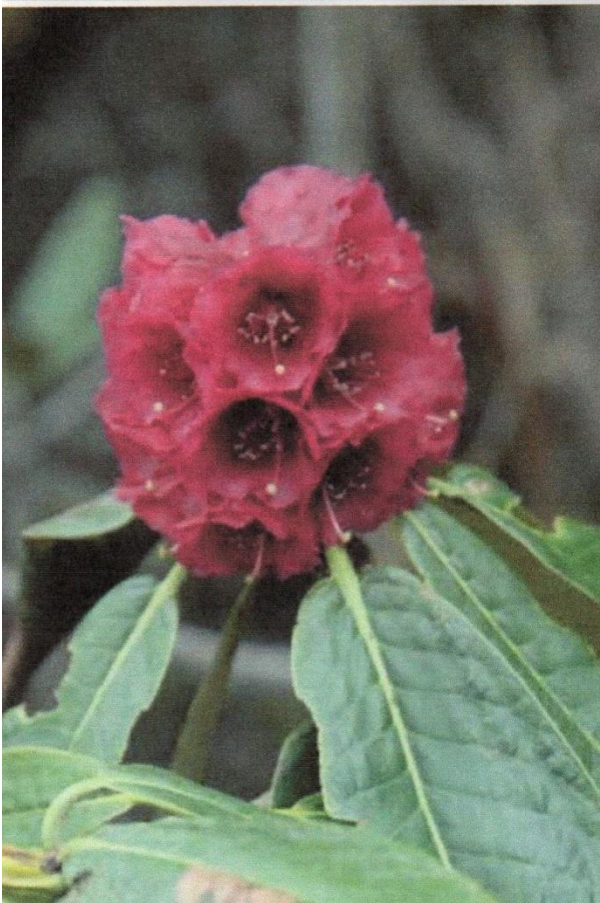
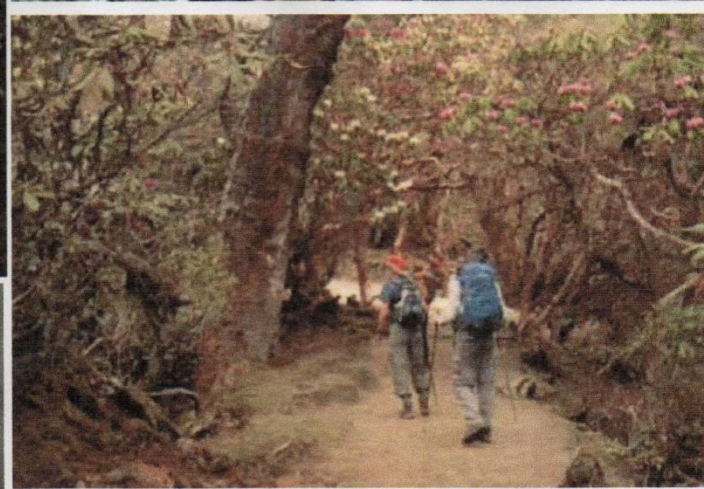
Image: Brenda Macdonald



*R. hodgsonii*

Image: Jacquie Clayton





*R. hodgsonii*  
Trek to Dzongri  
Images: Brenda Macdonald



## Remembering Harold Fearing



“You have been a generous and outstanding member of the Fraser South Rhododendron Society. You have served admirably and faithfully as a Director, President, and Past President, and are presently diligently serving as Treasurer. The knowledge and enjoyment you have shared with all, of growing species rhododendrons from seeds, is immeasurable. You have generously contributed plants to our raffles, enticed us with plants for sale at meetings, made many contributions to the Yak, willingly helped at all club functions to set up, tear down, as well as kitchen duties. We have welcomed every generous invitation to visit your lovely garden. The Chapter is pleased to recognize you for your many contributions. With the highest award that we are able to bestow, the ARS BRONZE MEDAL – 2012”

“I had never met Harold Fearing, but a few years ago a friend made me a gift of a small plant propagated and raised by Harold – Rhododendron tsaii.

It is a lovely little rhododendron species that has grown and thrived in my garden. I imagine there are hundreds of lovely rhododendrons in many gardens throughout the lower mainland and on Vancouver Island that will continue to be Harold’s legacy.”

*Linda Derkach, MARS*

My first introduction to Harold was in the late 1990’s, although he had been a very active member in the Vancouver society for years before. Through the ensuing years of FSRS, his wit and wisdom, and passion for the genus Rhododendron became ever more appreciated. He exhibited great generosity in donating plants for club raffles, opening their beautiful Mt. Lehman garden for spring tours, and offering so many species at our sales – all with accompanying scientific knowledge and personal experience. That rare combination, always spoken calmly and effortlessly, made us imagine that we could succeed as well as he with the plants.

Through his many positions on the executive, he quietly supported all of our members in their endeavors at meetings and sales, and made numerous presentations to enlighten us. Newsletter articles were always insightful and educational, but written as if we were just having a nice conversation. I personally very much benefited from his help and advice during all my years on the executive. There were times I felt rather snowed under, but he invariably offered wise and calming assistance. All that being said, he was also a man of strong convictions and great depth, and was not afraid to make his concerns known.

We will genuinely miss his thoughtful ways and knowledge, and we should strive to support his gentle wife Ginny in any way we can.

*Colleen Bojczuk, FSRS*

Our club has lost a wonderful friend and advocate in the passing of Harold Fearing. His easy smile and sage advice were always a welcome part of our club evening gatherings. He served on the club’s executive in many capacities including an outstanding term as President. In earlier days, he had been a member of the Vancouver rhododendron Society. He introduced a large number of



interesting speakers to our forum with Ginny and Harold often unselfishly hosting these same speakers in their home, some came from as far away as Norway.

Harold was always ready to assist setting up computers and video equipment for our club presentations. During our long isolation throughout the pandemic, he generously orchestrated numerous meetings and kept them flowing smoothly. When it was his turn he would supply the sale table with a steady supply of newly introduced, primarily specie Rhododendrons, most of which he has carefully started from seed. Some were absolute treasures, many coming from the Species Foundation in Washington State, or from numerous personal contacts.

Source: [fearing.ca](http://fearing.ca)



In the early years of the new century, at retirement, the Fearing's moved from Vancouver to their beautiful Abbotsford property. They brought with them truckloads of mature rhododendrons removed from an over planted Vancouver home site. This gave them an accelerated start to a beautiful and very robust garden carefully set in and around a mature forest of large conifers. This beautiful setting, which included lower growing small leaf rhododendron plantings adjacent to their home, is supplemented by a panoramic view of numerous coastal mountains. The garden is perhaps the largest and best maintained collection of species rhododendrons in B.C. A selection of magnolia compliments this planting.

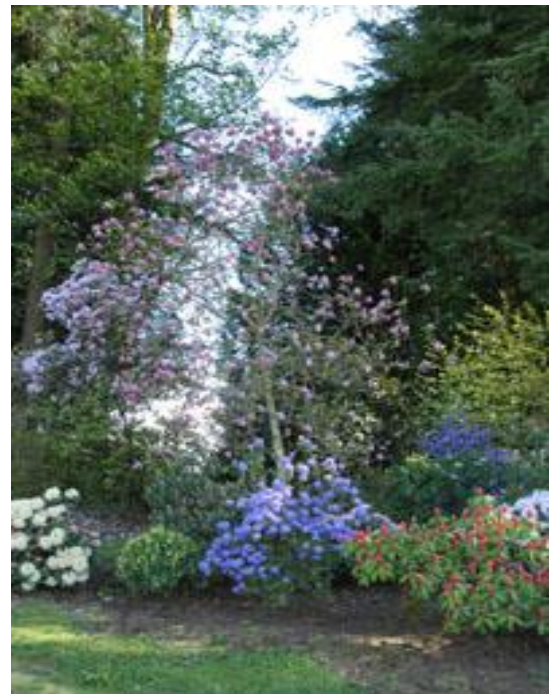
The intelligent arrangement of blossom accents a bounty of harmonious pastels giving a tranquil unity to the setting. Harold and Ginny opened their garden several times to our club, and wonderful experience it has been.

Harold was a meticulous gardener. An acclaimed physicist in his professional life, he methodically recorded and labelled the seedlings he so carefully nurtured, soon he had more than two large greenhouses stuffed with rhododendrons in various stages of maturity. Each carefully labelled and each a treasure waiting discovery as it offered its first blooms. Many of these treasures were planted out in his own garden; the remainder was made available to discerning plant collectors for a small fee.

Our club and indeed the entire rhododendron world is going to miss you Harold. You too were a treasure.

J.D., FSRS

Source: [fearing.ca](http://fearing.ca)



## *From Harold's Garden*

*Credit: Harold Fearing*



*Erythronium revolutum*



*R. nudipes*



*R. cinnabarinum*



*R. anwheiense*



*R. diaprepes* "Gargantua" seedling



*R. cerasinum* 'Cherry Brandy'





*R. brachyanthum ssp hypolepidotum*



*R. dilatatum*



*R. molle ssp japonicum*



*Gentian*



*R. glischrum*



*R. prinophyllum*

**MAKES YOU GO HMMMM !** (Word Puzzle by Colleen Bojczuk, January 2023)

How is it that we need to describe so many problems in our lives with food items?

What do they actually mean?

You want a knuckle sandwich? \_\_\_\_\_

That's the way the cookie crumbles. \_\_\_\_\_

My car is a real lemon. \_\_\_\_\_

We're in a bit of a pickle here. \_\_\_\_\_

It's the best thing since sliced bread. \_\_\_\_\_

My neighbour is salt of the earth. \_\_\_\_\_

That's just sour grapes. \_\_\_\_\_

His goose is surely cooked now. \_\_\_\_\_

Well, that's it in a nutshell. \_\_\_\_\_

This is a fine kettle of fish! \_\_\_\_\_

Alice has got her fingers in a lot of pies. \_\_\_\_\_

This bonus is sure the icing on the cake. \_\_\_\_\_

Don't cry over spilled milk. \_\_\_\_\_

His daughter is the apple of his eye. \_\_\_\_\_

Henry is the best bean counter we've ever had. \_\_\_\_\_

You catch more flies with honey than vinegar. \_\_\_\_\_

Tony sure has a gravy job at that factory. \_\_\_\_\_

That's really not my cup of tea. \_\_\_\_\_

We all work so we can bring home the bacon. \_\_\_\_\_

Fiona really spilled the beans on that new project. \_\_\_\_\_

Bob is a tough nut to crack. \_\_\_\_\_

Anne's secret really was small potatoes. \_\_\_\_\_

There is no free lunch. \_\_\_\_\_

We've got bigger fish to fry. \_\_\_\_\_

You're left with egg on your face. \_\_\_\_\_

Al seems a few sandwiches short of a picnic! \_\_\_\_\_

George will have to eat humble pie after that mean crack. \_\_\_\_\_

Carl acts like he's the big cheese. \_\_\_\_\_

This job is my bread and butter. \_\_\_\_\_

Mary was caught cooking the books. \_\_\_\_\_

That new boss is the cream of the crop! \_\_\_\_\_

Zack is all sizzle and no steak. \_\_\_\_\_



## *Upcoming District 1 Presentation*

When: Thursday Feb 23 at 7:30 p.m.

Where: Via Zoom

Title: Rare Companion Plants at Far Reaches Botanical Conservancy (FRBC)

A look at uncommon to very rare introductions in the FRBC collection which are suitable to accompany Rhododendrons in the woodland garden. Many of these were acquired on joint collecting trips with our good friend, whom you may of heard of, Steve Hootman. Kidding of course! There will be a bit of a plant hunting in the wild as well as seeing how these are performing for us in the Far Reaches of Port Townsend Washington.



Bio for Kelly Dodson and Sue Milliken:

Kelly and Sue have spent their lives learning and working with plants in nurseries, botanic gardens and on plant hunting expeditions. They are owners of Far Reaches Farm whose extensive collection of plants is spectacularly unfocused.

The nursery has been featured in magazines such as Pacific Horticulture, Horticulture, Martha Stewart Living and in 2021, mentioned in the New York Times

as “arguably the best nursery in the country for cool-climate perennials” and in Gardens Illustrated as “one of the best nurseries in the world.”

In addition, they are contributing editors for Fine Gardening magazine. They are also founding directors of Far Reaches Botanical Conservancy, a non-profit whose mission is the acquisition and conservation of vulnerable plants of wild and cultivated origin that are new or rare in North America. Visit them at [www.farreachesfarm.com](http://www.farreachesfarm.com) or [www.farreachesbotanicalconservancy.org](http://www.farreachesbotanicalconservancy.org)

## *Jim Barlup Hybrids*

*Picture credit : Jim Barlup*



*Vanilla Spice (Silk Ribbon x White Cinnamon)*



*Vanilla Torch (Capistrano x Tia)*



*Velvet Dawn (Maverick x Orchid Bouquet)*



*Velvet Dreams (Hotei x Brandst Tropicanna x Hill Low Red)*





*Velvet Morning (summer Sunrise x Plum Passion)*



*Vera Fitzpatrick (Burgundy Mist x Hollis Hope)*

*Velvet Touch (Terra x Bergs Yellow x r.proteoid)*



*Violet Breeze (Fancy x r.yakushimanum x Frank Galsworthy x Purple Splendor)*



*Violet Dreams (Plum High x Jonathan Shaw)*



*Violet Magic (Purple Amethyst x Plum Passion x Hollis Hope)*



*Violet Mist (r.yakushimanum x Frank Galsworthy x Purple Splendor)*



*Violet Touch (Violet Mist x Plum Passion)*