

SEASONAL NOTES--1989

The 1989 spring was very unusual indeed. I felt very privileged to have the opportunity to go to the RHS and Solihull shows in England with Eve Robertson. Her endless stamina and energy along with her wealth of knowledge and experience greatly enhanced the trip for me. All of the people involved were just wonderful and we made many new friends. We saw a good many high quality flowers at the shows as well as at the Reades, Barbara Abel Smiths, Duncans, Richard Brook, Campbells and the Postles. It was interesting to compare our methods of planting. At each place it was thoroughly enjoyed.

Some very exciting seedlings were observed last season, among which are a few classically formed division 6 whites and reverse bicolors. One of the Division 6 whites comes from a Cotinga seedling crossed with *N. cyclamineus*.

A long sought after goal is to breed high quality flowers which truly open at their best color. We are observing a number of beautifully smooth whites whose buds are white upon opening.

The realization of initial pink/red has come, and breeding is being done toward other pink classes which open pink. Also work is in progress for the reverse bicolor which opens reversed.

Pink perianths, at one time seemed to be a remote goal, but with Music and Riot (a future introduction), a deep pink large flat cup with the perianth being heavily suffused with pink, along with other seedlings, it is coming to fruition.

Pink and yellow is another field of endeavor where a great deal of work is being done. SEH21/5 (Lorikeet x Memento) is very consistent thus far and a number of others, silken smooth and with intense coloration are showing promise. This color combination is beginning to appear in other divisions as well. A division 5 pink and yellow and division 6 with a considerable hint of pink and cream yellow is causing some interest and encourages more progress to be made. A division 11 of pink and yellow is being used for hybridizing as well.

Novelties are always of interest and when they are observed long enough to ensure consistency in our climate, a few have been offered. This year, a double cupped cyclamineus, called Viennese Waltz is being introduced. It has attracted attention for a number of years, being very early as well as consistent in its unusual form. Shrike will be offered this year and a sibling to it called Mission Impossible, a more rosy color, is being considered for next year.

Later in the season, we are observing Hillstar's progeny. They have only bloomed for a few years and will reserve judgement until consistency can be established, but there are a number of great interest in form, color and flower count/ stem.

The Division 3 pinks are one of our specialty areas and hope to confirm consistency in a few of them from Everpink x Jewel Song within the next couple of years. Again some promising flowers are appearing.

It is very important to us to express our appreciation to all of you who make our operation possible. Thank you again.