

SEASONAL NOTES from 1987

It is always a challenge to communicate qualities of various seedlings from one's observations of the previous season. A great many come to mind, and a few of those which stand out in our experience will be noted. Several have been consistent for a period of years and they crop up in each year's notes. Others are blooming for the first and second time.

The cyclamineus hybrids are the anticipated herald of spring, for they are among our favorites. The developments over the years have shown tremendous improvement, but it is a welcome point of truth that there are countless goals yet to be achieved.

The little reverse bicolor, UU26 (Glisten x cyclamineus) was as lovely as it was in 1986 and with intense contrast.

Cotinga has been one of the most reliable parents among our division 6 flowers. It was crossed onto a bright pink seedling and gave 2R37/6 which is an unusual flower, most pleasing in appearance. The white perianth is well reflexed with a mid length pink cup. It is a bit larger and shorter cupped than the traditional class 6, but has been most useful for hybridizing. WH175 is from the previously mentioned Cotinga seedling crossed with cyclamineus. A smaller 6W-P was the obvious goal, but a pure white classically formed division 6 small enough to be a miniature was the result. Only time will tell if it will be consistent, but with cyclamineus in both its parents it would appear that it carries potential.

An unusual flower of interest, TEH51 (Jetfire x Dawncrest) has been observed for a few years now. A bit larger than Jetfire it is a perfectly formed flower with a well reflexed white perianth and a bright orange crown rolled at the margin.

Pink and yellows have been a serious goal for many years. Before Memento or Lorikeet were introduced it seemed logical to cross the two seedlings in hopes of intensifying colors and smoothness in division 1. SEH21/5 (pictured on the ADS Journal) was one of the progeny. A number of others are being observed as well.

Widgeon seedlings continued to hold our attention in 1987. Widgeon x Pink Silk (UH19) rather unexpectedly gave a seedling with an intense yellow perianth and a rich pink crown. Widgeon x Memento, VH18, also bears observation with a number of quality progeny.

A split corona containing deeper pink and yellow than heretofore seen, from Milestone x Square Dancer, bloomed for the first time last season.

II73/1 (Arctic Doric x Birthright) seemed to us to be a selection worth keeping to hybridize for two special traits: 1.

a flat (not comanulate) perianth and 2. a green area at the juncture of the corona to the perianth.

Some beautifully smooth white trumpets are coming from Whetstone x seedling II73/1. Heavy substance, green eyes and flat perianth are goals which were realized in two of these.

Chaste 1W-W drew attention again this year with very heavy substance and purity of white. A few other seedlings are being observed which open pure white. Angel Silk again was a favorite, living up to its name.

The red pinks are appearing in a number of classes. Magician is carrying its color well to split coronas and doubles as well as Division 2. TT3 2W-R (a Magician seedling) is an exceptional flower which my father feels is an improvement on Laser. Unfortunately, TT3 opened during 80 degree weather, but even then it was bright red with a pure white perianth. Laser was seriously affected by the 1983 climatic disaster. Apparently it was planted in such a position that year that it was affected more extremely than some of the others. It had been planned for introduction much sooner, but 1983 delayed its introduction time.

Reverse bicolors were exceptionally nice last season with contrast and durability. A new one called Swedish Fjord (KK42/1), a Chiloquin seedling is being introduced in 1988. It is considerably larger than Chiloquin and just missed trumpet proportion.

F153/1 and F153/2 both Silver Bells x Triandrus aurantiacus, yellow and white respectively, are consistently small. F153/1 is planned for introduction as Ice Chimes in 1989 as is M-4 an extraordinary large well formed double from Murray Evans. The petaloids are very broad and heavy with substance and has attracted much attention from people who have seen it here.

Dr. Throckmorton's seedlings have been of particular interest the last few years. Walden Pond, a sibling to Golden Pond and a bit lighter is planned for 1989 introduction. Class Act (Pigeon x Green Hills) a very lovely white with a large yellow green eye is planned for next year as well.

One of the highlights of the season was when Night Music bloomed, a 4W-P with very lovely deep coloration and heavy substance; the double my father Grant Mitsch considers his best to date.

It is our hope these few comments have been of interest and that next season will prove to be an excellent season as well.