



The Scottish Rock Garden Club AGS Farrer Medal at NEWCASTLE SHOW in Ponteland 2012



Farrer Medal

Best Plant in the Show

Biarum marmarisense

shown by Bob and Rannveig Wallis



It's not at every show that a plant with no leaves grabs the attention of the judges but this wee or quite honestly not so wee *Biarum* took top honours at Ponteland.. Its flowers are about 9 or 10 cm tall from ground

to the tips of the spathes. You can see a new leaf just peaking through the gravel in the centre of the pan. The dark spadices are a perfect foil for the cream and pink coloured spathes. In fact, some of them look as if they are about to engage their neighbours in a fencing match. ***Biarum marmarisense*** is a super Turkish plant which looks like a much more horticulturally savvy ***Biarum davisii***. It grows in southwest Turkey on hillsides between limestone rocks and scrubby bushes. Unlike other members of its clan this species reputedly has sweet perfume. The long oval leaves will soon follow and persist until spring, when the plant dies down for the summer. Plant it deep to encourage flowers rather than new bulbils.