

Erin D. Guide Walk (Oct.13, 2021)

Meconopsis Dell expansion

- Added two new areas
- Seed exchange with the Meconopsis Group (Edinburgh, Scotland), membership worldwide, since 1998, set up to study the genus and promote its cultivation and conservation

Meconopsis:

- *Meconopsis* (Himalayan Blue Poppy) (Papaveraceae)
- Over 90 species, and many hybrids and cultivars
- Meconopsis Dell will focus on species
- *Meconopsis* have monocarpic- flowers, sets seed and dies, most biennial, therefore difficult to maintain in cultivation
- Difficult to germinate
- Colours, not just blue, also red, orange, purple, white and yellow
- Native to the Himalayas, Pakistan, India, Nepal, Bhutan and the Tibetan Autonomous Region, from Myanmar, and the Chinese provinces of Yunnan, Sichuan, Qinghai, Hubei, and Gansu (Sino-Himalaya)

Natural environment of *Meconopsis*:

- Shady, humid forests in the Himalayas
- High altitudes, covered by lots of snow in winter and exposed to monsoon rains in summer

Meconopsis cultivation:

- Germinate seed in spring, plant out in August, should bloom the following year
- Remove any first-year flowers so they can put energy into developing foliar growth and root development
- Need protection from slugs, wind and too much direct sun
- Dislike transplanting
- Thrive in high humidity, dislike drying out, very hungry plants (need rich, high nutrient soil), and dislike full sun

Meconopsis ‘Lingholm’

- One of the few fertile hybrids
- Resulting from a doubling of chromosomes
- Early 1960’s, sterile hybrids, probably *M.* ‘Slieve Donard’, purchased from Jack Drake Inshrich nursery in Scotland was planted in a garden in Brampton, Cumbria. One of these previously sterile plants produced variable seeds. Seeds were given to Lingholm Garden, also in Cumbria, where it was mistakenly sold as *M. grandis* for many years.
- When Mike Swift became head gardener in 1984, he realized the plants were different and named them *M. Lingholm*

M. paniculata (Golden Himalayan Poppy)

- yellow flowers, felted golden leaves

M. betonicifolia (& var. *alba*)
- large blue flowers, 3-4' tall

M. baileyi
- large blue flowers, 3-4' tall

M. balangensis
- did not germinate well, very rare
- black purple to violet flowers

M. horridula
- did not germinate well
- spiny looking stems
- striking cobalt-blue with ivory eyes

M. rudis
- did not germinate well
- bristly, spiny stems and leaves
- frilly cobalt-blue flowers with ivory eyes

M. gakyidiana
- national flower of Bhutan
- blue flowers

M. wilsonii subsp. *Australis*
- a large head of blue flowers with yellow eyes
- hairy leaves

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Meconopsis>

<https://www.westcoastseeds.com/blogs/how-to-grow/how-to-grow-meconopsis>

<https://themeconopsisgroup.org/>

<https://www.gardenia.net/plant/meconopsis-betonicifolia>

<https://www.gardenia.net/plant/meconopsis-baileyi-himalayan-blue-poppy>