

Meconopsis ‘Crewdson Hybrid’ & ‘Mrs Jebb’ (Infertile Blue Group)



M. 'Crewdson Hybrid'

Background

These are two closely related cultivars within the Infertile Blue Group of big blue poppies. The main difference is in flower shape. In *M. 'Crewdson Hybrid'* the flowers are rather open cup-shaped, whilst in *M. 'Mrs Jebb'* they are saucer-shaped.

M. 'Crewdson Hybrid' first appeared in Cicely Crewdson's garden in Cumbria in 1938. Originally it produced fertile seed and large numbers of plants were raised. But it has been sterile for many years and does not now set viable seed.

It seems clear that *M. 'Mrs Jebb'* is a selection of *M. 'Crewdson Hybrid'*. Both have very similar leaves and seed-capsules, these clearly distinguishing them from other big blue poppy cultivars.

Cultivation

Plant in moist, humus-rich, well-drained soil in an open situation or in partial shade. Avoid close proximity to tree roots. Keep well-watered in hot, dry weather. Summer drought is the worst “enemy” of these plants. But also avoid boggy conditions.

To keep in good heart, divide every few years in early spring by lifting and carefully prising the clump apart. Try to avoid damage to the new shoots (off-sets). Replant divisions in freshly cultivated soil with added compost or well-rotted manure. Take particular care to water well until re-established.

The height of the plants at flowering is about 1m and the peak flowering period 2-3 weeks in late May to early June.



M. 'Mrs Jebb'

The Meconopsis Group For much more information on *Meconopsis*, particularly on the big blue poppies, see The Meconopsis Group web-site: www.meconopsis.org. This Group is primarily a study group. We welcome information, enquiries and applications for new membership. Present membership is over 150. A print-friendly membership form is available on the web-site, or apply to Dr. Evelyn Stevens, The Linns, Sheriffmuir, Dunblane, Perthshire, FK15 0LP Tel/fax 01786 822295.