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Odontoglossum
Orchidaceae.

***O. chiriquense* 'Glasnevin Variety'**

syn: *Oncidium coronarium*, *Odontoglossum coronarium*
Flowers plain yellow (without brown markings); in many-flowered inflorescence, about 6cm across.

Origin: presumably from the Royal Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, but its origins are not recorded; the species comes from central America and Peru.

award: AM (17 July 1900), shown by Royal Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin.

ref: *Journ. Roy. Hort. Soc.* **25** (1900): clii.



Oenothera

Onagraceae. Evening primrose.

***O. fruticosa* 'Lady Brookeborough'**

syn: *O. tetragona* 'Lady Brookeborough', 'Lady Brookborough'
Flowers 'large and brilliant'.

Origin: is this named after the wife of Lord Brookeborough, former Prime Minister of Northern Ireland?

Forms of *O. tetragona* do not remain distinct in gardens and it is doubtful if the true original is still in cultivation.

ref: Thomas, *Perennial garden plants* (1990, 3rd ed.), 276.



Olearia

Asteraceae. Daisy bush.

O. arborescens* x *avicenniaefolia

Shrub with pure white flowers, leaves leathery, to 7 x 2.5cm, tapered at both ends, dark green above, dull white underneath, margins with few, irregularly spaced teeth.

Origin: a chance, spontaneous ('natural') seedling from Rostrevor House, Rostrevor, Co. Down; introduced by Sir John Ross-of-Bladensburg.

ref: Bean, *Trees & shrubs III* (1976, 8th ed), 27.

***O. macrodonta* x *arborescens* 'Rowallane Hybrid'**

syn: Bean (1976) has 'Rowallane Hybrids', 'Rowallane' 'A good free-flowering evergreen shrub'; 'a most attractive free flowering hybrid'; leaves toothed like *O. macrodonta*, flower-heads drooping.

Origin: from Rowallane, Saintfield, Co. Down; introduced by Slieve Donard Nursery, Newcastle, Co. Down. The original shrub still grows in the garden at Rowallane.

refs: Nelson & Deane, '*Glory of Donard*' (1993), 91; Bean, *Trees & shrubs III* (1976, 8th ed), 38.

***O. macrodonta* x *arborescens* 'Rowallane Variegated'**

No published description traced.

Origin: propagated and introduced by Gary Dunlop, Ballyrogan Nurseries, Newtownards, Co. Down. He obtained his material from Fernhill, Co. Dublin, in the early 1990s, from a plant in the walled garden. This was identified as a variegated form of the hybrid from Rowallane, by Michael Lear.

refs: *Ballyrogan Nurseries plant lists 1996, 1997* [without description]; G. Dunlop (*in litt.* 3 April 1998).

***O. macrodonta* 'Gold Splash'**

Leaves with irregular butter-yellow patch in centre of leaves; not stable, and only about a third of the foliage will be variegated, but cuttings with entirely green leaves will develop variegation.

Origin: from Baronscourt Nurseries, Newtownstewart, Co. Tyrone, but the exact history is not recorded. Now rare, but it has been distributed by Gary Dunlop, Ballyrogan Nurseries, Newtownards, Co. Down, who named the plant.

refs: G. Dunlop (*in litt.* 25 January 1998); *Ballyrogan Nurseries plant lists 1996, 1997* [without description]

c. 1900

***O. macrodonta* [dwarf]**

A dwarf shrub ... 'I have never seen bloom on the dwarf *Olearia*' (Praeger 1922).

Origin: from Carrablagh, Co. Donegal, noticed by H. C. Hart. This is said by Praeger (1922) to have arisen 'curiously enough, in the same garden ... at Carrablagh on Lough Swilly' as *Escallonia rubra* 'Woodside' (qv.). Carrablagh and Woodside belonged to Henry Chichester Hart and his family.

ref: *Ir. gardening* **17** (1922): 18-19.

***O. nitida* 'Castlewellan Variety'**

'much better than the type'.

Origin: from Daisy Hill Nursery, Newry, Co. Down; t his would have been obtained from Earl Annesley, who had a remarkable garden at Castlewellan (see Nelson & Deane (1993)). The name appears in manuscript in Smith's annotated copy of catalogue no. **85** [1912].

ref: Nelson & Grills, *Daisy Hill Nursery* (1998), 128.

***O. semidentata* = 'Henry Travers'**

O. traversii

Bushy shrub or small tree; shoots covered with silvery fawn felt; leaves glossy bright green above, silvery fawn underneath; flowers insignificant.

Origin: from the Chatham Islands, South Pacific, and named after Henry Travers (see below).

This is one of the very best plants for making hedges and shelter-belts in coastal areas, especially in the west and south.

ref: Nelson, *An Irish flower garden* (1984), 78.

'Henry Travers'

syn: *O. semidentata*

Shrub to 5m in height in Irish gardens. Foliage evergreen, leaves lance-shaped, to 14 x 4cm, dark glossy green above, silvery white underneath. Flower-heads to 7cm across; ray florets pale lilac, disc flowers rich purple.

Origin: Chatham Island, New Zealand; introduced by Henry Hammersley Travers.

H. H. Travers introduced New Zealand plants into Irish gardens through the Royal Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, from 1908 for a few years; C. F. Ball (1909) mentioned an importation 'with medium success' in the autumn of 1908. One of the plants included in his consignments was *O. semidentata*. But the plant, a clone, currently growing in Ireland is undoubtedly a hybrid and much more vigorous than that species (see Walsh & Nelson, *An Irish florilegium II* (1988), 102, for fuller discussion).

c. 1996
While 'Henry Travers' is almost always sterile, seedlings have been found at Earlscliffe, Co. Dublin (*JGPS newsl.* **51** (January 1994): 11).

award: AM 1916 (as *Olearia semidentata*), Slieve Donard Nursery, Newcastle, Co. Down.

refs: Nelson, *An Irish flower garden* (1984), 78-79 (as *O. semidentata*); *The garden* **122** (1997): 598-601; Walsh & Nelson, *An Irish florilegium II* (1988), 102; Nelson, 'That I may earn a living': Henry Hammersley Travers (1849-1928) and the Royal Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, Dublin', *Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture annual journal* **16** (1989): 60-66; *Gard. illust.* **61** (21 January 1939): 41-42; Nelson & Deane, '*Glory of Donard*' (1993), 91-92; *The garden* **73** (17 July 1909): 347

illust: *An Irish florilegium II* (1988), plate 22.

'Rossii'

Shrub with leaves to 10 x 4cm, tapered at base, at first with hairs on upper surface, becoming glossy, green, with persistent yellowish white felt underneath and coarse marginal teeth, a strong-growing bush.

Origin: another spontaneous hybrid from Rostrevor House, Rostrevor, Co. Down; introduced by Sir John Ross-of-Bladensburg. It may be a hybrid between *O. macrophylla* and *O. argophylla*.

refs: *Moorea* 7 (1988): 25; Bean, *Trees & shrubs* (1976, 8th ed), 38.

'Talbot de Malahide'

syn: *O. albida* [misapplied]

Dense, bushy shrub to 3m tall, to 5m across; stems fawn; leaves alternate, evergreen, glossy dark green above, not toothed, tapering to blunt tip, pale silvery-straw coloured underneath, to 10cm long; flowerheads small with 3-6 white (with purple tinge when mature) ray florets, clustered into umbels, fragrant (the perfume is reminiscent of marzipan).

Origin: uncertain but a hybrid, almost certainly not of Irish origin. However because it is so fine and distinct, it was named after the late Lord Talbot de Malahide who was a champion of this genus and garnered a comprehensive collection at Malahide Castle, Malahide, Co. Dublin, where a national collections (NCCPG) of *Olearia* is now housed.

refs: Bean, *Trees & shrubs* (1976, 8th ed), 28; *Moorea* 7 (1988): 24; *RHS A-Z encyclopedia of garden plants* (1996), 720; Bowe & George, *The gardens of Ireland* (1986), 61.

illustr: *RHS A-Z encyclopedia of garden plants* (1996), 720.

***Omphalodes***

Boraginaceae. Blue eyed Mary.

***O. cappadocica* 'Blue Rug'**

'It forms a blue rug of flowers ... masses of clear blue upturned flowers. Excellent but largely unknown ground cover for sun or semi-shde.'

Origin: 'a new selection that we are offering the public for the first time; from Costin's Nursery, Kilcock, Co. Kildare. This was released in the Spring 1999.

ref: *Ir. garden* 8(2) (March 1999): back cover.

illustr: *Ir. garden* 8(2) (March 1999): back cover.

***O. cappadocica* 'Starry Eyes'**

syn: *O. verna* [published in error]'Starry Eyes'

Flowers rimmed with pale blue, retaining central star-shaped blue centres, and tiny white eye.

Origin: from Rathfarnham, Co. Dublin. This was spotted by Mrs Eithne Clarke, Woodtown Park, Rathfarnham, in a large clump of ordinary blue eyed Mary. In 1987 she brought some offsets to Dr Charles Nelson at the National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, who distributed it.

refs: *Moorea* 8 (1990): 48; Dillon, *Garden artistry* (1995), 157; Nelson, *An Irish flower garden replanted* (1997), 180-181.

illustrs: *Moorea* 8 (1990): 46 (fig. 3); Dillon, *Garden artistry* (1995), back cover; *Ir. garden* 7 (8) (September 1998): 50.

***O. cappadocica* [not named]**

Vigorous perennial herb, with plain green foliage and large, pure blue (celestial blue) flowers.

Origin: grown at Birr Castle, Birr, Co. Offaly, but originally obtained by Lady Rosse from Gloster before 1940. This was spotted by Graham Stuart Thomas during a visit to Birr in 1983, and he was most impressed by its exceptionally fine variety. When planted in his garden in Surrey the Birr plant was far more vigorous and produced larger flowers of a better blue than the forms of blue-eyed Mary then cultivated in England. He enquired about its origins and

learned from Lady Rosse that

unknown

About 45 years ago, I went for the first time to a beautiful neighbouring Carolean house called Gloster, belonging to a charming old recluse Brigadier Hardcross Lloyd – a very cultivated man who had made an exquisite garden. My first sight was an avenue of old trees, with solid carpets on either side right to the house of this celestial blue.

At the time Thomas suspected that the Birr plant was similar to one named 'Anthea Bloom'.

ref: Nelson, *An Irish flower garden replanted* (1997), 180-181.

unknown

***Oncidium***

Orchidaceae.

O. coronarium 'Glasnevin Variety' = ***Odontoglossum chiriquense***

***Opuntia***

Cactaceae

See sub-section **Cacti**

***Orchis***

Orchidaceae.

O. elata 'Glasnevin Variety' = ***Dactylorhiza elata* 'Glasnevin'**

O. latifolia* var. *bartonii

syn: probably a variant of *Dactylorhiza maculata*

'Plant was 14 inches high, and had a close raceme of flowers 3 in. long. ... leaves are short and stout, fully 3 in. wide, and beautifully spotted with purple.'

Origin: This orchid, described as 'the most beautiful of all our Irish orchids', came from Co. Leitrim, and was described as a

quite novel and very remarkable form of the species recently [c. July 1881] discovered by the Hon. Mrs. Barton, Straffan House, Co. Kildare, in an meadow near Glenade, Co. Leitrim, at the base of the Benbulbin range of mountains. The finder forwarded to Dr. [David] Moore the only specimen removed ... Only two plants of this variety were met with by the finder when botanizing in that rich district.

Moore suggested that 'in future it be known to botanists as *Orchis latifolia* var. *Bartoni*'. He noted that the flower spike 'bore more resemblance to the raceme of some of the Indian orchids, that it does to our native Orchids.'

It is very unlikely that this plant survives in cultivation, even if it could be recognized from the brief description.

Subsequent authors equated this Leitrim plant with another orchid known as the Kilmarnock orchid which came from Scotland (*Orchid review* (July-August 1940), 177-179). These include Frederick Burbidge who referred to the plant on two occasions:

It is to the Hon. Mrs. Barton, for example, that we are indebted for the original living bulbs of *Narcissus Bernardi*, ... the giant *Orchis latifolia* from Kilmarnock ... (*Gard. chron.* 19 (ser. 3) (30 May 1896): 680)

On this rockery grows still part of the original clump of *Narcissus Bernardi* ... The great "Kilmarnock Orchis"

was grown here long before it was generally known elsewhere, but that is "another story" and one that would occupy a long chapter to itself.

It is sufficient to say here that it is one of, even if it be not the most stately and beautiful, of all our native varieties of the genus *Orchis*. (*Gard. chron.* 29 (ser. 3)(2 March 1901): 135)

And it should not be confused with *Dactylorhiza elata* 'Glasnevin' (see its entry) which is certainly not a native species, and has unspotted leaves. Nor can it be equated with another plant found by David Moore at Sandyford, Co. Dublin, in the 1850s (see below).

refs: *The garden* 10 (22 July 1876): 75; *Ir. farmers gazette* (n.v.); *Gard. chron.* 19 (ser. 3) (30 May 1896): 680; — 29 (ser. 3)(2 March 1901): 135.

O. latifolia "Praecox Major"

Stems ... upwards of 26 inches from the root to the apex of the inflorescence, with light green leaves, which are two inches wide in the centre, and six inches long; spike of inflorescence five and a half inches from base to apex, among which are wide partially-coloured bracts, longer than the flowers.'

Origin: Dr David Moore related its discovery thus

In May, 1856, when botanizing in the neighbourhood of Sandyford, Co. of Dublin, I observed, in a meadow, plants of a large *Orchis* flowering at that early period of the season. The size of the plant and time of flowering together at once attracted my attention, and led me to dig up some of the plants with their roots, which were planted in the Botanic Gardens, where they have continued to grow ever since that time.

In 1864 Moore returned to the same field to try to find the orchid again; it had been 'grazed very bare ... but, after considerable search, I found [a] small specimen ... which, though not half the size of the larger, is at once recognizable as the same form of the plant.'

Because of its larger flowers and earlier flowering Moore proposed to distinguish it as a variety and called it *Orchis latifolia* var. *praecox major*. The name is not valid. This plant has not apparently survived in cultivation – and it should not be confused with *Dactylorhiza elata* 'Glasnevin'.

ref: Moore, 'Notes on a supposed new variety of *Orchis latifolia* ...', *Proc. Nat. Hist. Soc., Dublin* 4 (1864): 180-181.

O. mascula [not named]

Flowers 'distantly placed in the raceme, which is also considerably longer than in the usual state of the plant, and often lack the labellum or lower lip and spur. The leaves are usually quite devoid of the spots found on ordinary varieties of *O. mascula*, and the coloured petaloid bract next the raceme is wanting.'

Origin: this orchid, now undoubtedly extinct as a garden plants, was

Gathered in the Co. of Wicklow ... in June 1851 by [David Moore] ... The few plant ... were growing in one small field where they were fully exposed to the sun, and had stems two feet high. Some of the roots were dug up and brought to the Botanic Gardens at Glasnevin, where they have been cultivated alongside the common *O. mascula* ever since 1856. The plant retains its characters under cultivation, flowering a fortnight earlier than *O. mascula*, growing a third higher, with the raceme of flowers more lax, spur shorter, stem devoid of coloured bracts, and leaves without spots.

ref: *Supplement to English botany* (1866) pl. 2995.

illustr: *Supplement to English botany* (1866) pl. 2995



Oreopteris (= *Lastraea*)
Thelypteridaceae. Lemon-scented ferns.
See sub-section **Ferns**



Osmunda
Osmundaceae. Royal fern.
See sub-section **Ferns**



Osteospermum
Asteraceae.

1856

'Ballyrogan Pink'

Flowers relatively small (to 5.5cm across) on 10cm stems, rays magenta (purplish-pink), with orange-pink reverse, banded; disc yellow; leaves small; forms a mat about 10cm tall; a hardy perennial.

Origin: raised for seed received from South Africa (as an annual species), and introduced by Gary Dunlop, Ballyrogan Nurseries, Newtownards, Co. Down. This one seedling from the batch proved to be perennial and hardy.

refs: G. Dunlop (*in litt.* 25 January 1998); *Ballyrogan Nurseries plant lists* 1997 [without description]; *The RHS plant finder 1997-1998*; *The garden* 122 (1997): 510.

illustr: *The garden* 122 (1997): 509 (18).

'Irish'

Flowers small but intensely coloured, 'rich pinkish purple ... of some substance'; forms a mat.

Origin: 'our original stock arrived by way of Ireland': introduced by Potterton & Martin, Caistor, Lincolnshire. No further details available. It blooms all summer and is very hardy; a handsome dark-flowered plant.

ref: *Potterton & Martin spring list* 1998, 9.

'Irish Lavender'

Prostrate perennial; leaves rich glossy green, with 3 – 5 prominent marginal teeth, feeling slightly rough; flower-heads to 6cm diameter; central disc rich dark blue (RHS CC 103A), pollen yellow; ray florets opening lavender (RHS CC 78D–75 C), with blue-grey sheen on outer side.

Origin: a seedling (from 'Tresco Purple' x *O. ecklonis*)^{June 1851} raised by Finola Reid, Harold's Cross, Dublin, and introduced in 1989. It was shown at Chelsea Flowers Show in 1990, on the Irish Garden Plant Society's award-winning stand. It was originally sold without any cultivar name about 1989.

refs: *IGPS newsl.* 40 (1991): 7; Dillon, *Garden artistry* (1995), 134-136.

illustr: Dillon, *Garden artistry* (1995), 134-135

'Lady Leitrim'

syn: 'Paleface', *O. ecklonis* 'Lady Leitrim'; the name is frequently misspelled; among variants I have noted are 'Lady Liatrum', and 'Lady Lietrim'.

Rays white aging to pale lavender pink, silvery red-mauve on reverse; disc florets dark blue; leaves long and narrow with a few inconspicuous teeth, green; plant to 20cm tall.

Origin: from Anne, Lady Leitrim (see *Moorea* 3 (1984): 60), Mulroy House, Mulroy, Co. Donegal; introduced by Treseder's Nursery, Truro, Cornwall.

This was brought from Mulroy to Cornwall by Andrew Treseder, son of Neil Treseder. Moira Reid grew it at Liskeard, Cornwall.

refs: *The garden* 122 (1997): 510; Reid, 'Gleaning from Cornwall', *Moorea* 8 (1990): 17, 19.

'Mrs Reside's Purple'

before 1993

Flowers with very dark red-purple ray florets, with pale flecks inside, and blackish purple outer surface; plants low and spreading.

Origin: presumably from the garden of Major and Mrs Reside, Killowen, near Rostrevor, Co. Down; named and introduced by Michael Wickenden, Cally Gardens.

refs: *The RHS plant finder 1997-1998*; Cally Gardens catalogue 1993.

***Oxalis***

Oxalidaceae. Wood sorrel.

'Gwen McBride'

c. 1995

syn: *O. laciniata* 'Gwen McBride'

Flower veined deep purple.

Origin: raised by Harold McBride, Lisburn, Co. Antrim, and named after his wife. This was a seedling raised from the intentional crossing of *O. laciniata* and a deep pink form of *O. enneaphylla*.

refs: *The garden 121* (1996): 278-281; McBride, '*Oxalis laciniata* and its hybrids', *The rock garden 25* (1997): 319.

illustr: *The rock garden 25* (1997): fig. 68 (p. 272).

'Dark Centred Form' [invalid name]

c. 1995

syn: *O. laciniata* 'Dark Centred Form' [invalid name]

Flowers silvery-purple 'pink form may have a dark centre'.

Origin: raised by Harold McBride, Lisburn, Co. Antrim, another seedling raised from the intentional crossing of *O. laciniata* and a deep pink form of *O. enneaphylla*.

ref: McBride, '*Oxalis laciniata* and its hybrids', *The rock garden 25* (1997): 319 [name not used].

illustr: *The rock garden 25* (1997): fig. 67 [caption] (p.272).

Waverley Hybrids

c. 1995

Flowers various.

Origin: raised by Harold McBride, Lisburn, Co. Antrim; a series of seedlings raised from the intentional crossing of *O. laciniata* and a deep pink form of *O. enneaphylla*.

ref: *The garden 121* (1996): 278-281.

