



HOW TO RECOGNIZE CLACKAMAS FOLIAGE

by Nancy Robitaille

Clackamas County is a county in the state of Oregon named after the Native Americans living in the area, the Clackamas Indians, part of the Chinookan people.

One could speculate that the first hybridizer that found this type of foliage—since it was a sport rather than a hybridized plant—lived in Clackamas County.

Old timers remember it happening something like this:

There is a garden center in Clackamas county, near Portland, Oregon, where mold appeared on all the African violets in the plant room. Hoping to save a few, owner and hybridizer Oppen sprayed with two very deadly products. All plants were destroyed except two. At least one of them had mutated leaves where all lines in the leaves were parallel to the veins of the leaves, similar to that on watermelons. One also had variegated leaves.



Clackamas leaves front and back.

With these, Oppen hybridized the plants which were never spread further than just locally and are probably long gone from the markets of today. This was in the 1960s.

CLACKAMAS RATTLER, purple standard, named for the County of Clackamas and for the train that “rattled” through the town.

CLACKAMAS PINK GIANT

CLACKAMAS DOUBLE PINK

CLACKAMAS RATTLER IMPROVED

CLACKAMAS SURPRISE

It is not likely that any of these hybrids are available now.

You might think Clackamas foliage is a new comer on the scene. This is not true. The first dated plant with Clackamas foliage I could find was probably FOOL’S GOLD, hybridized by C. Phillips in 1983. But another has been named as first with no date.

Possibly this occurred in the 1960s. CLACKAMAS RATTLER, Oppen, purple standard.

Clackamas leaves are different from other African violet leaves. These leaves are stiffer and thicker, smooth on top. The lines in the leaf do not go from middle to the sides such as other African violets do but seem to go parallel to the spine of the leaf. Texture is rough and leaves resemble Chirita leaves somewhat.

No big deal was made of this foliage and very few people even looked for hybrids with the watermelon-lined plant.

Hybridizers are not enamored with this very different type of foliage—at least most are not actively working with this foliage, then or even now. The older hybrids are not very floriferous.



Information on internet is scant. No one to my knowledge has written about the subject of Clackamas foliage. Note the leaves of this Chirita where lines do not go from the middle to the sides as most African violet leaves go. They move almost parallel to the main spine of the leaf.



MAAS' ANGELA

Maas' Angela is a very old hybrid from a hybridizer back in the mid 70s through the 80s. He did not put description of this plant with "weird" leaves on FC 2 so we do not have an accurate description with parents of the hybrid included. It was one of the first of its type. Enough people from his club thought enough of the plant to grow it and share it so that it is still around, although it is considered a rare plant.

MAAS' ANGELA, Max Maas, Double mauve with darker mauve edge. Clackamas semiminiature (user database)

George MacDonald, one of our more recent hybridizers developed an interest in this foliage and began a few years back to produce hybrids showing the foliage. As his hybrids with Clackamas foliage came on the scene this influenced other hybridizers such as Agnetha Wolgast-Widdel from Sweden. She asked members of my club in Montreal if anyone had plants with this foliage and one member sent her leaves of Maas' Angela. A few years later, Agnetha came up with a few hybrids of her own with the special foliage.

I believe Agnetha said that she hybridizes with Clackamas foliage and longifolia. She produced DAME NANCY, DAME MARYSE, TWO-W VERA. Since these have not been introduced to FC2 I am unable to find pictures or descriptions of the new Clackamas foliage plants.

Agnetha did mention that Skart litet moin (Pink Tiny Cloud) is a mini trailer from another hybridizer in Sweden, Ingrid Lindskog. She did not say if this plant had the typical watermelon veins found on Clackamas foliage.



MAC'S WALKABOUT ULURU MACDONALD 2012



MAC'S TIMAT



MAC'S CORAL CLACKAMAS



MAC'S CORAL CLACKAMAS, variegated Clackamas foliage,



MAC'S ZANY ZIDEKA



NIBBLE (LYONS)

OTHER HYBRIDS WITH CLACKAMAS FOLIAGE

PEACOCK

PETITE APPEAL Pittman

DUMAS, Martin, miniature

WINNIE THE POOH

MAC'S CLACKAMAS



FOOL'S GOLD, C. Phillips, semi miniature single blue variegated.



FOOL'S GOLD



MAAS' ANGELA



MAAS' ANGELA

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