

Sarracenia 'Chris'

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Origins

This *Sarracenia* originated from a cross pollination I did between *Sarracenia* 'Juthatip Soper' and *Sarracenia* 'Hummer's Hammerhead' and so the parentage is $(((\textit{leucophylla} \times \textit{purpurea}) \times \textit{leucophylla} \textit{ pink}) \times ((\textit{psittacina} \times \textit{rubra} \textit{ alabamensis}) \times \textit{rubra} \textit{ alabamensis}))$. The cross was made in 2008 and the seeds sown in spring 2009.

Characteristics

I am quite a fan of small, stocky and colourful *Sarracenia* hybrids. S 'Hummer's Hammerhead' has a nice shape in late summer, but for me in northern England it is quite weedy in spring and early summer, and not very colourful. The intention with this cross was to capture some of the shape of 'Hummer's Hammerhead', and but with more of the colour of 'Juthatip Soper'.

The cross produced two potfulls of quite varied seedlings, many with intermediate characteristics between the two parents, and interestingly most of the seedlings were green like the Hummer's Hammerhead parent. Several seedlings had more red colouration, and this one in particular was selected out and grown on due to its notable shape, colour and vigour.

The pitchers are almost intermediate between the two parents. Summer pitchers are self-supporting and stand upright at about 30 cm high, with a long, floppy lid which varies in angle from just below horizontal to (usually) dipping downwards, resting on the rim of the pitcher mouth. The pitchers open pale pink, with a mostly white lid, colouring quickly to fluorescent pink like the 'Juthatip Soper' parent, and then eventually turning dark purple in part with lots of sun. Early spring pitchers can be less upright, with a wavy ala (wing), but are still self-supporting.

Pitcher production is summer-long, with a late summer flush characteristic of *S.leucophylla*. The pitchers are pubescent, and feel velvety to the touch. The plant has yet to flower.

Cultivation

This cultivar appears to have inherited much of the vigour of the 'Hummer's Hammerhead' parent, and is quick to divide and proliferate.

To preserve the unique characteristics of the plant, *Sarracenia* 'Chris' should only be propagated vegetatively.

Etymology

The cultivar is proposed as *Sarracenia* 'Chris', named after my father.

Photos

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