



Pleione Catalogue

2023-2024

Dear Grower,

We are delighted to present our second catalogue with a wide range of flowering sized *Pleione* pseudobulbs for sale from the 'Butterfield Collection'. We hope that last years' collection proved a success, we certainly appreciated everyone's support.

Ian Butterfield's Collection

Ian Butterfield's *Pleiones* have been grown and bred for over fifty years in the UK. They include line bred species as well as the results of innovative breeding by Ian and other experts. The Mathers Foundation acquired the collection from Ian in 2021 and all of the *Pleiones* for sale have been grown under the expert care of our Nursery Manager, Jim Durrant, in a dedicated greenhouse in West Sussex, UK. We continue to benefit from Ian's generous support and wisdom on all aspects of *Pleione* care. We are also working closely with Ian to continue to develop his breeding lines. Every day, we learn something new about these fascinating 'window sill' orchids. In 2023 we were delighted to be awarded National Plant Collection status for *Pleiones* from Plant Heritage.

The Mathers Foundation

The Mathers Foundation was established as a UK charity in 2019 to conserve collections of orchid species and hybrids and to support ex-situ and in-situ conservation. We are the holders of the National Collection of *Oncidiums* with over 5,000 plants and also have collections of a variety of genera including in 2023 new collections of *Stanhopeas* and *Bulbophyllums* from Dick and Denise Hartley. When Ian approached us, we were proud to take on the responsibility for his *Pleiones*. His collection is one of the finest in the world and by buying plants from our breeding programme, you will be supporting our mission of conserving, researching and breeding orchids. All profits from the sale of these plants go the Foundation and support its work. Furthermore, by buying plants that have been professionally raised in the UK, you reduce the pressure on the remaining populations of these plants in the wild.

Our Plants

It can take more than six years from pollination to flowering size plants which explains why new hybrids can be expensive as to make the most delicate and appealing flower takes skill and time. Selecting clones with distinct characteristics by name ensures unique plants are recognised. Plants awarded an Award of Merit by the RHS Orchid Committee have benefited from years of dedication and expert care and deserve the accolade of being simply the 'best of the best' in the world.

Many of the Pleiones in the collection are easy to grow in the UK as they enjoy the seasons and can be grown on a windowsill making them ideal for beginners. Some species, such as Pleione formosana, have been awarded the RHS Award of Garden Merit (H3), meaning they can be grown outside in mild, sheltered areas. We do offer a beginner's collection that have been recommended for their ease of growth and will be a perfect start. We also offer a connoisseur's collection to delight collectors.

We take pride in ensuring the images are accurate, the packaging environmentally friendly and the bulb the best quality possible. To ensure quality all bulbs are hand harvested, hand cleaned and hand packaged. All pseudobulbs are sold when in the dormant state.

Where can you see our plants

We welcome visitors to our Guided Tours to see the collection and tickets can be booked via our website. We will also be displaying our plants at the annual orchid show at RHS Wisley from 15-17 March 2024.

Pricing & Collections

All of the plants in catalogue are divided into five pricing categories for UK customers. The price per flowering size pseudobulb is as follows:

- A.....£10.00
- B..... £16.00
- C.....£27.00
- D.....£33.00
- E..... £54.00

We offer two Collections:

- 1) Beginners Pleione Collection: 6 bulbs, 2 each of 3 vigorous varieties including compost for £50 – a saving of over £10.
- 2) Connoisseurs Pleione Collection: 6 mixed bulbs , 3 from selection of C and 3 from D for £150 – a saving of over £30 (to include P&P).



Early flowering



Limited availability



Ian Butterfield hybrid



Late flowering



New this year



Beginner friendly

Pleione Hybrids

A



P. Asama 'Red Grouse' (*P. pleionoides* x *P. Vesuvius*)

Large reddish pink flowers with a vibrant orange red lip with yellow keels.



C



P. Askia 'Bee Eater' (*P. Egmont* x *P. Keith Rattray*)

Purple red flower; distinct yellow-orange lip with red markings.



C



P. Askia 'Goldfinch' (*P. Egmont* x *P. Keith Rattray*)

Long lasting brownish gold flowers which get darker pink as they age.



D



P. Betty Arnold 'Firefinch' (*P. Orizaba* x *P. Marion Johnson*)

Flowers open red and slowly change to reddish purple. The lip is heavily marked with red and yellow.



D



P. Betty Arnold 'Palm Swift' (*P. Orizaba* x *P. Marion Johnson*)

Coral pink flowers with orange lip marked with yellow and brown spots.



A



P. Britannia 'Doreen' (*P. formosana* x *P. Tongariro*)

Large flowers with extra broad sepals and petals of purplish pink and yellow on the lip.

D



P. Bromo 'Yellow Weaver' (*P. yunnanensis* x *P. x confusa*)

A rare and unusual yellow flower with deep red markings on the lip.



A



P. Captain Hook (*P. hookeriana* x *P. formosana*)

Pale mauve sepals and petals with a large white lip heavily blotched red-brown.



B



P. El Pico 'Pheasant' (*P. Versailles* x *P. bulbocodioides*)

Dark mauve pink flowers with crimson spotting on the lip.



D



P. Jake Butterfield 'Hornbill' (*P. Caroli* x *P. Betty Arnold*)

Red bronze flowers with yellow and red on the lip.



B



P. Katmai 'Crossbill' (*P. Etna* x *P. Matupi*)

The petals and sepals are dark purplish red with a yellow lip heavily spotted with red.



A



P. Kenya 'Bald Eagle' (*P. Brigadoon* x *P. Keith Rattray*)

Reddish flowers with a purple sheen. Inside the lip is brownish orange with red spots and yellow keels.



E



***P. Krakatoa 'Wheatear' AM/RHS* (*P. yunannensis* x *P. forrestii*)**

Flowers are held on long stems and can last for up to four weeks. They open pale yellow, and eventually change to pale lavender.



A



***P. Lhasa 'Blushes'* (*P. Britannia* x *P. Eiger*)**

Large very pale pink flowers. Inside the lip is yellowish with strong red spots.



D



***P. Lyn Butterfield 'Rhodes' AM/RHS* (*P. Adams* x *P. Katmai*)**

Dark purple pink with crimson spots on the lip.



D



***P. Michael Butterfield 'Crowned Eagle' AM/RHS* (*P. Kenya* x *P. Betty Arnold*)**

Dark red flower with a red lip marked with red spots, and a yellow keel.



C



***P. Michael Butterfield 'Red Kite'* (*P. Kenya* x *P. Betty Arnold*)**

Red bronze flowers with yellow and red on the lip.



E



***P. Pete Chew* (*P. Krafla* x *P. Makian*)**

Very unusual and sought after pale orange flowers with dark spots on the lips.



B



***P. Phillip Cribb* (*P. Betty Arnold* x *P. Whakari*)**

Flowers vary from rosy mauve to purplish red. A few are orange bronze. All have orange and red on the lips.



D



***P. Quizapu 'Peregrine'* (*P. Rakata* x *P. Matupi*)**

Almost gold flower with very few lip markings.



A



***P. Rakata 'Redwing'* (*P. pleionoides* x *P. Shantung*)**

Large, dark mauve pink flowers with orange and brown on the lip.



B



***P. Rakata 'Shot Silk'* (*P. pleionoides* x *P. Shantung*)**

Orange-apricot flowers overlaid with a mauve sheen. Lip marked with red. Keep cool in winter to flower.



D



***P. Red Colobus 'Forest Weaver'* (*P. Askia* x *P. Kenya*)**

Flowers vary from dark reddish mauve to almost red. Very colourful lips of red and yellow.



C



***P. Santorini* (*P. Soufriere* x *P. coronaria*)**

Large flowers of white shaded lavender with the ends of the lips heavily marked with plum, buff or brown.



B



***P. Shantung 'Silver Anniversary'* (*P. formosana* x *P. x confusa*)**

Very vigorous clone with white flowers



D



***P. Sharon Ann Winter 'Marsh Owl'* (*P. San Salvador* x *P. Keith Rattray*)**

The sepals and petals are mauve pink. The lip is yellow with many red spots.



B



***P. Shasta* (*P. Sajana* x *P. aurita*)**

Violet mauve flowers with large open lips spotted with red.



E



***P. Suswa 'Sand Plover'* AM/RHS (*P. Orizaba* x *P. Edgecombe*)**

The sepals and petals are pale orange with a pink sheen and the large yellow open lip has brown spots.



D



***P. Vesuvius 'Leopard'* AM/RHS (*P. bulbocodioides* x *P. x confusa*)**

Large reddish pink flowers held on tall stems. The heavily frilled lip is orange flushed red with red spots.



A



***P. Volcanello 'Honey Buzzard'* (*P. Soufriere* x *P. bulbocodioides*)**

Large purplish pink flowers, which are fragrant at night.



C



***P. Whakari 'Cardinal'* (*P. Caroli* x *P. Kenya*)**

Red flowers with a very colourful lip of red and yellow.



B



***P. Whakari 'Mountain Pipit'* (*P. Caroli* x *P. Kenya*)**

Dark reddish pink flowers with a dark orange lip and red blotches.



C



***P. Whakari 'Natal Robin'* (*P. Caroli* x *P. Kenya*)**

Brownish red flower. The lip is yellow with heavy red spotting.



D



***P. Zeus Weinstein 'Egret'* AM/RHS (*P. formosana* x *P. forrestii*)**

The flowers are white with a very faint lavender flush. The white lip is heavily marked with purple red.

Pleione Species and Natural Hybrids

A



P. bulbocodioides

Original wild stock which has been propagated vegetatively in Ian Butterfield's nursery. Mauve pink with dark lip markings. Variations in the flowers and markings of ones in nursery.



A



P. formosana 'Pitlochry'

White flowers with petals shaded mauve.



A



P. x taliensis

A natural hybrid between *P. yunnanensis* and *P. bulbocodioides*. Light to dark mauve flowers having lips spotted with purplish red or red, mostly on long stems.

Winter Flowering Pleione Hybrids

Why not enjoy pleiones in flower through the winter. The following will flower from November through to February if given temperatures around 40- 45°F (5-7°C).

A



***P. Barcena* (*P. formosana* × *P. praecox*)**

The flowers vary from pale mauve to dark pink with various brown or reddish spots on the lips. Several clones have been used to produce this cross resulting in flowers with very variable colour. Starts flowering in November.

C



***P. Confirmation* (*P. maculata* × *P. praecox*)**

This is the artificially made form of the natural hybrid *P. lagenaria*. White to pale mauve flowers. The lips are heavily blotched with yellow and red. Needs extra warmth in the winter

Note that these Winter flowering Pleiones can only be sold when dormant so if interested in either of these hybrids these orders will be despatched to customers separately to the main collection when available and be subject to P&P.

Terms and Conditions for UK customers

All pseudobulbs are offered subject to being available at the end of the growing season and will be supplied with a UK Plant Passport.

Prices are for dormant, flowering sized pseudobulbs, which have been grown in our nursery. Unfortunately, it is impossible to guarantee flowers and as your growing conditions are beyond our control, we cannot assume responsibility for lack of performance. All photographs in the catalogue have been taken during the flowering seasons since we acquired the collection but some natural variations in colour can occur between hybrids and also over the flowering period. We hope that any mistaken identity will be rare but we are human so do contact us if you think we have made a mistake as we do aim for satisfied customers. We will include culture notes on request.

There is a minimum order of £50 (excluding postage) and orders over £100 will be delivered post free. P&P for orders under £100 will be £12 for UK standard mainland weekday delivery provided by DPD. Some delivery areas maybe subject to a higher rate but you will be notified if this is likely to be the case depending on your postcode. Packaging is important and we will aim to use renewable, recyclable products without any plastic.

Orders should be sent by email to: admin@orchid.foundation marked as Pleione and with your name.

The order should include:

- Your name, posting delivery address and telephone number (in case of queries)
- The varieties you require including the number of each
- If applicable any preferred substitutes in case the varieties you require are sold out.

We will acknowledge the order by return email. Please ensure you check your Junk Mail in case our reply goes to spam as a new sender. To ensure fairness, we will allocate our bulb supply in December based on our total order book. We will then send an email confirming your allocation, together with an invoice and our banking and PayPal details.

Payment will then be due by 31 December. Once payment has been received, we would anticipate dispatching the bulbs in January and we will notify you by e-mail once the bulbs are mailed. If the weather is unsuitable, orders will be held until it improves. All orders must be received in person at the delivery address and a signature

provided. Please unpack bulbs immediately on arrival. If any difficulties are experienced it is important to let us know within 5 days of receipt of order by email and send us photographs of your plants. Any refund in case of an issue will only be for the original cost of the bulb purchased.

Orders received after 1 January 2024 will be held over until the following year (if the plants are offered).

Pleione Culture in the UK

Pleiones are quite easy to grow in spite of the fact that they are orchids and most people assume that they need a lot of heat in the winter. In fact the reverse is true as they rest for most of the winter, and grow during the spring and summer, which fits in with the UK seasons very well.

In the wild in Asia they are found growing in the moss and debris on fallen trees and logs, in pockets of soil between rocks on almost vertical cliff faces, and on steep slopes in humus and moss. They therefore enjoy a very free draining compost with a shallow root run so are best grown in half pots or pans about 3"-4" (8-10cm) deep. Single bulbs are best in a 2½" (7cm) pot.

Pleiones start to go dormant around September/October, so by December they should all be resting. They can then be repotted after the old shrivelled pseudo-bulbs have been discarded and the dead roots trimmed to about ½" (1cm) long. In the nursery we use a shallow layer of hortag for drainage in pre-cleaned pans or small pots.

The compost mix we use is a mix of 4 parts medium grade bark, 1 part sphagnum moss, and half part super coarse perlite. This mix is layered over the hortag and then the pseudo-bulbs placed upright on top on the compost allowing about ¾" (2cm) between each and then the pan or pot is lightly infilled to the point where the tops of the bulbs just show.

The temperature in the winter, while they are dormant, can go as low as 34°F (1°C) and they will come to no harm providing the compost is dry. As the sun gets stronger towards the end of February, and the temperature starts to rise, the compost should be moistened with rainwater (rather than tap water), but only just, in order to make the new roots grow strongly looking for water. Before the flower buds get too large, spray with a systemic insecticide to remove the problem of greenfly on the flowers. While growing, Pleiones enjoy fresh air so give plenty of ventilation. Do not ever repot Pleiones while they have live roots as it will almost certainly kill them.

Depending on which species or hybrids are being grown, flowers will appear from early October until May. The main batch of flowers will be March and April. As the flowers begin to fade the leaves will begin to grow fast so this is the time to begin liquid feeding. Feed should be given at half normal strength every other time they are watered. A balanced feed of nitrogen (N), phosphate (P) and potash (K) in the ratio 1:1:1 is best until the end of July, and then switch to a feed with a ratio of 1:1:2. If the liquid feeds contain trace elements so much the better.

From about the middle of March, Pleiones need to be shaded from direct sunlight as their leaves are tender and scorch easily.

During June and July they like plenty of moisture in the compost and in the atmosphere. After a hot summer day, they love to be sprayed over the leaves in the evening, and also to have plenty of water on the floor of the greenhouse so that the atmosphere around them is moist overnight. They do not get many pests so an occasional spray is all that is needed.

By September/October the leaves begin to go yellow, and the amount of water the pseudo- bulbs receive has to be gradually reduced as they are now starting to go dormant. The leaves eventually go brown and then drop off. The roots take a little longer to die but by the middle of December the pseudo-bulbs should be completely dormant.

Most Pleiones increase easily, usually making two new flowering size pseudo-bulbs from the previous years, which is of annual duration. They also usually produce bulbils at the apex of the old pseudo-bulb. These can take two to three years before they are big enough to flower.

Most Pleiones flower in the spring as they start to grow but there are a few that flower in the autumn and winter. The winter flowering hybrids are the easiest of these to grow, with some flowering as they go dormant while others flower later on through the winter. These prefer a higher winter temperature of 40°F (5°C).

Pleiones can be grown outside in the garden in the UK, but shelter is needed. Position them perhaps at the base of a tree, or under a shrub, in a humus rich very well drained soil. They need plenty of moisture during the summer, and also feeding. Most appear to be hardy during milder winters but do need to be protected from winter wet with a sheet of glass or a cloche.

Pleiones, like many orchids, can be susceptible to viruses. In our experience it is important to keep any new plants acquired separate from an existing collection and monitor everything carefully. In Pleiones virus infection may show on flowers or leaves as streaks and/or colour breaks and the flowers maybe malformed or mis-shaped. Any suspected plant should be isolated and if virus is suspected it can be necessary to throw away a plant rather than risk it spreading.

