



Alpine Garden Society Ulster Group

Plant of the Month, May 2023

Allium karataviense - by Joan McCaughey

The *Allium karataviense* in the upper picture was photographed in the greenhouse on the first of May. It was grown from AGS seed. It is distinguished from other alliums by its short stature and attractive broad leaves.



The name '*karataviense*' derives from 'Karatau', which translates from the Turkic languages as 'Black Mountains'.

Here it is seen in its natural habitat on a dry slope in the Tien Shan mountains in Kazakhstan, not far from the Karatau Mountain Range where we saw it on our 'Greentours' visit in 2008 .

Like all alliums it grows best in a sunny, well drained site. There is a white cultivar *Allium karataviense* '*Ivory Queen*' which is easily obtained.