

Plant of the Month, July 2019

Nomocharis aperta - by Joan McCaughey



Nomocharis aperta, in Yunnan

Unfortunately it is also quite short lived and I had one plant doing very well in the garden for a few years before disappearing. They are susceptible to many pests and diseases including lily beetle.

However the plant on the right, photographed in a pot, is grown from SRGC seed and while it takes several years to flower I think it's a pity we don't see more of them in our gardens.

There are several species of *nomocharis*, all very beautiful in varying shades from white to dark pink, so I hope some Ulster gardeners will take up the challenge to grow more of these uncommon plants.

On seeing *Nomocharis aperta* flowering on a cool wet day in Yunnan, China, I thought it would be a very suitable plant for the climate in Northern Ireland, but alas it is not all that easy to please.

It is a member of the lily family and, as the name suggests, has beautiful wide open saucer-like flowers, usually in shades of rose pink with deeper pink spots and around 20 -40 cm tall.

While it likes cool damp summers it also needs good drainage and cold dry winters which is perhaps why it thrives better in Scotland in places like Glendoick.

