



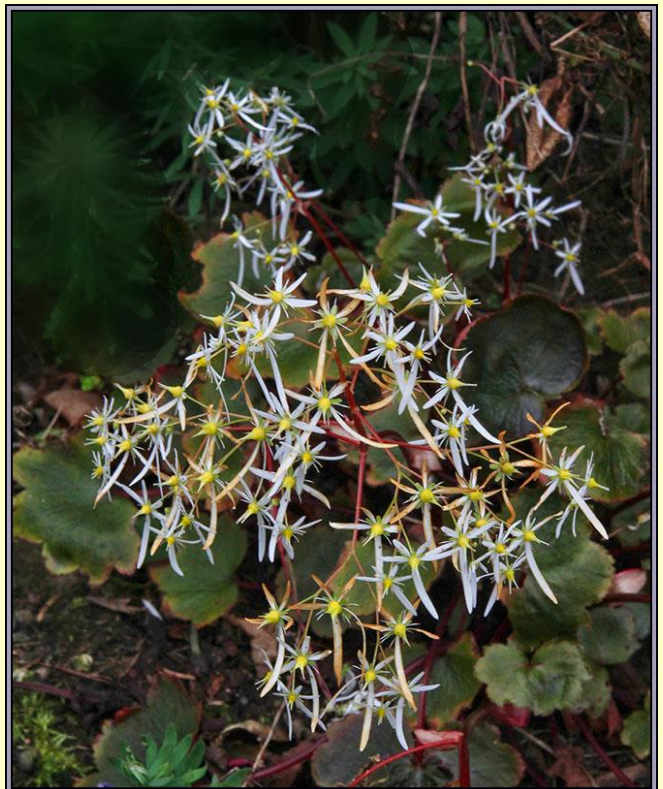
## Alpine Garden Society Ulster Group

Plant of the Month, November 2019

### ***Saxifraga fortunei* v *Rubrifolia* - by Joan McCaughey**

*Saxifraga fortunei* with its many cultivars and hybrids is unusual and valuable in being an alpine that flowers from September into winter in shady sheltered corners of the garden or alpine rockery.

It is named after Robert Fortune, the Scottish botanist and plant hunter who introduced many plants from China but is best known for bringing the secrets of the tea trade from China to India.



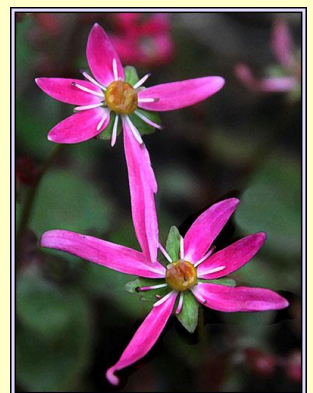
Originally coming from rocky mountainous areas of China, Korea and Japan, these saxifrages have both beautiful starry flowers and attractive shiny red and green leaves.

My first plant was *saxifraga fortunei* 'Rubrifolia' which I found the easiest, but the Japanese are

introducing lots more hybrids, ranging in colour from white through pink to red, some of which might be more tender.

They do need moist, well drained shade sheltered from frost and need a little time to get established but well worth it as they are so pretty flowering with me from October onwards.

I first saw them at the Scottish Rock Garden conference on the show bench but you can see the wonderful range for yourself by checking online.



"Pink Fairy"