

Meconopsis x sheldonii - New Crop Summary & Recommendations

By Nick Grebe,

2007

Series: New Floricultural Crops: Formulation of Production Schedules for Wild, Non-domesticated Species

Part of the requirements for  
Horticultural Science 5051: Plant Production II  
University of Minnesota

## **Floritech**

**To:** Grower Staff, Technical Staff, Sales Staff, and the President

**From:** Nick Grebe, New Crops Specialist

**Re:** New Crop Summary & Recommendations

### **Taxonomy**

- *Meconopsis x sheldonii* ‘Lingholm’ (*M. betonicifolia* x *M. grandis*.)  
<http://www.alaskabg.org/meconopsis.pdf>
- Himalayan Blue Poppy
- *Papaveraceae*  
<http://www.meconopsis.org>

### **Geographic Distribution**

- Asia
- Qinghai, Gansu, Sichuan, Hubei, and Yunnan China
- Kashmir and Sikkim India
- Myanmar
- Nepal
- Bhutan
- Tibet

<http://www.meconopsis.org>

- 3,000-5000m
- Cool summers and cold winter  
<http://www.fao.org/docrep/X5335E/x5335e07.htm>
- Noninvasive  
<http://www.meconopsis.org>

### **Native Habitat**

- High altitude with cool summers
- Mostly herbaceous, some shrubs, but generally higher altitude than most trees  
<http://www.fao.org/docrep/X5335E/x5335e07.htm>

### **Taxonomic Description**

- Rosette growth, flowering at 2 feet
- Fibrous root system with rhizomes

- Lanceolate, hairy leaves
- Sky blue four petals, yellow anthers  
<http://www.meconopsis.org>
- July-August flowering  
<http://www.fao.org/docrep/X5335E/x5335e07.htm>
- No known indigenous uses

### **Propagation**

- Seed
- 30-70 seed per flower
- Cold Stratification possible, but may not necessary
- 75 F Day 55 F Night
- 2-4 Weeks  
<http://www.meconopsis.org>

### **Product Specifications**

- Already fairly marketable
- ‘Lingholm’ does vary from different sources so selecting a high even germinating line that produces sturdy plants should be a priority. Also cold hardiness.
- <http://www.meconopsis.org>

### **Market Niche**

- Target sales date of end of June beginning of July
- 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday (Blue)
- Not likely to be forced, but may be possible
- Possibly compete with Bachelor button, Bell flower
- Rare. Himalayan flower
- Yes, already one of the best cultivars of blue Himalayan poppy
- Needs cool Summers
- Not currently identifiable
- 1 year

### **Anticipated Cultural Practices**

- USDA zone 6-8
- No heat tolerance

- 75 F Day 55 F Night
- High light as long as plant is kept cool
- Prefers rich organic soil so I would guess nutrition is fairly high
- Neutral to acidic soil
- No known PGR's
- 128 plug , 4 inch
- Largest problem is getting cool enough summers while still having soft enough winters.  
<http://www.meconopsis.org>

### **Production Schedule**

- Stage 1 14-18d 65-55 F
- Stage 2-4 6 weeks 75 F Day 55 F Night
- Grow on in 4inch 12 weeks
- Possible fungicide treatment at planting to prevent dampening off  
<http://www.meconopsis.org>
- 20 weeks
- Two batches should be produced one that is in bloom on mothers day and one that is in bloom for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

### **Genetic Improvement**

- Selection of a better growing "line" should be the base of improvement. Then possibly heat tolerance and cold tolerance. Selection for annual line also a possibility.