



# Leaf Patterning in *Cyclamen purpurascens* in Slovenia

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Part of the Garden collections.

## Introduction

Very common, *Cyclamen purpurascens* (Mill.) the only species of this genus in Slovenia, has a wide distribution extending from the sea to high mountain areas. It grows in deciduous and mixed woods, on forest margins and higher lying mountain pastures, in high mountains also amongst rocks. Tubers of different sizes, that can get quite large with age, are sometimes to be seen on the very surface of the ground, fixed by their roots onto shallow soil or rock, whereas in other places the tuber is buried half a meter deep in the ground, then having very long floral trunks.

## Material and Methods

The plants have been collected from different parts of Slovenia. Every plant is first photographed, then dug out, potted and the pot dug into the soil in the Garden. It is described as to its specific leaf pattern. Every pot is given its own locality name. The stability of the special features is checked in the course of the following year.

## Results and Discussion

The monitoring of these plants in the same spot of the Garden has revealed that the shape, size, marbling and colouring of the underside of the leaf are stable, i.e. genetically conditioned and not dependent only on the substrate. Even the entirely green leaves, that have so far been associated with limy grounds, have kept this characteristics also in ordinary humus soil. The flower colour likewise remains stable, ranging from very light pink to very deep purple. The same is of the flower shape. Our collection focuses mainly upon collecting specimens with varying leaf patterns.

## References

Christopher Grey-Wilson, 2002.  
 Cyclamen: A Guide for Gardeners, Horticulturists and Botanists.  
 B T Batsford, London.



Different types of leaves and patterning in the nature.



Different types of leaves and patterning in the Garden collections.