

Section B: *Meconopsis* George Sherriff Group

There are about 30 clones of big perennial blue poppies thriving in gardens that fit within the parameters established for the George Sherriff Group. This Group was established by The Meconopsis Group to accommodate the different sterile plants previously known collectively by the name *M. grandis* GS600. GS600 is the collector’s number for seed collected by George Sherriff from an expedition in 1934 to eastern Bhutan. The collector’s name and number “*M. grandis* GS600” should only be used if plants are derived from the original collected seed, or plants derived from them by division. This is very unlikely for the many plants that were being called *grandis* GS600 seventy years later at the end of the twentieth century. A number of clones have been selected and given cultivar names, and the names of some others have yet to be ratified by The Meconopsis Group. Our observations convince us that many of these sterile “*grandis* GS600” cultivars, although very similar to one another, are distinct. Illustrated on this page are some cultivars that are very similar to one another and some that are very different. Interestingly, there are some recent reports of some of the cultivars producing reasonable amounts of viable seed – intriguing, but as yet unexplained – investigations needed!



Top row, from left to right: *M.* ‘Ascreavie’,
M. ‘Susan’s Reward’, *M.* ‘Jimmy Bayne’
Bottom left: *M.* ‘Barney’s Blue’
Bottom right: *M.* ‘Huntfield’