

NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND MEDIA RELEASE

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Branklyn's rock star blue poppy in bloom

A blue poppy grown at the National Trust for Scotland's Branklyn Garden in Perth has taken a top gardening accolade this week.

The plant – a Himalayan blue poppy species called Bobby Masterton - was awarded the first class certificate from the Royal Horticultural Society's Joint Rock Committee.

Named for the creator of the exceptional Cluny House Gardens near Aberfeldy, the plant is currently at its blooming best at Branklyn Garden.

The Perth garden has been described as 'the finest two acre garden in the country' and is well-known for its fabulous collection of meconopsis, or blue poppies, with 5 species and 25 cultivars on site. The species which originated in the high mountains of Tibet, south-west China, Bhutan, Sikkim, Burma, India and Nepal, was brought back to Britain by plant hunters in the early 20th century. They adapted readily to our Scottish climate and have thrived in the sheltered surroundings of Branklyn Garden.

Head Gardener Jim Jermyn said:

"This is a fantastic accolade for the garden and we are proud to play our part in protecting this important plant collection for the love of Scotland.

"The plants are looking at their best at the moment. If you want to catch our award-winning Bobby Masterton, and our other beautiful blue poppies in bloom, it's best to visit as soon as you can."

Branklyn Garden is one of 38 gardens and landscapes under the protection of the National Trust for Scotland, the charity that is working towards a vision where Scotland's heritage is valued by everyone and protected for future generations.

Every day, the hundreds of thousands of members, donors, volunteers and staff at the charity help to protect Scotland's natural and national treasures for everyone to enjoy.

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