



47 *Meconopsis* 'Slieve Donard' (AGM)

Background: In about 1935, Dr Curle of Edinburgh crossed *M. baileyi*. (then known as *M. betonicifolia*) with *M. grandis* ssp. *grandis* and succeeded in raising several seedlings, one of which was subsequently introduced to Slieve Donard nursery in Northern Ireland, whence it acquired its name. The name was later changed to *M* x *sheldonii* 'Slieve Donard', the epithet x *sheldonii* reflecting its hybridity and parentage. *IBG, MG8. Notable features:* **Flowers:** Sky-blue, with broadly overlapping petals and with a prominent long and slender style, merging gradually into a rather slender stigma. **Emerging leaves:** Rosettes, noticeably upright and slender, covered with long, white-tipped hairs. Suffusion with red-purple pigmentation is usually absent. **Mature leaves:** Elliptical with marginal teeth absent or minute. **Fruit capsule:** Slender and ellipsoid, with long, slightly white-tipped, spreading bristles. **Flowering season:** Mid-season. **Compare:** *M.* 'Bobby Masterton', 'P.C. Abildgaard', 'John Mitchell' and 'Ormswell'. **Availability and cultivation:** Specialist nurseries, quite widely available; outstanding sterile cultivar, easily propagated by division.