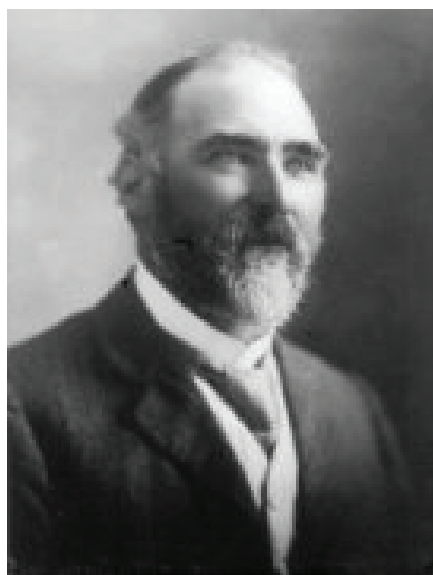


# Profile of a horticulturist: Charles Trevethick (1854–1928), sweet pea grower

*Juliet Trevethick*<sup>1</sup>

My great-great-grandfather Charles Trevethick (Fig. 1) was a pioneer horticulturist who settled in New Zealand in 1878. Among his many horticultural talents, he was a champion sweet pea grower, breeder and exhibitor.



**Fig. 1** Charles Trevethick, 1911. Image courtesy of Lower Hutt Bowling Club.

Charles was a founding member of the Lower Hutt community near Wellington, New Zealand, where he was a local councillor, a member of the Waiwhetu Masonic Lodge, a founder and President of the Lower Hutt Bowling Club and an active member of the Lower Hutt Horticultural Society. It is also documented that he led search and rescue teams in times of need.

## Settling in New Zealand

Charles was an early colonial settler to the Wellington region of New Zealand. He emigrated from Lostwithiel, Cornwall, United Kingdom to Petone, Lower Hutt, New Zealand in 1878 as a young man of 24 with his first wife Louisa and their two young daughters.

He was then a general labourer and worked for the settler Thomas Mason who had, in the early 1840s, purchased and cultivated a large area of land in Taita, Lower Hutt. This was developed into a major botanical garden until the late 1890s (Fig. 2).

In addition to this business, he cultivated a large garden containing many rows of sweet peas, roses and vegetables. His wife's sister, Anita Frethey, recalled<sup>3</sup> that Charles grew sweet peas commercially and had a large area of the garden between



**Fig. 2** The former Thomas Mason Gardens in Taita, Lower Hutt. Thomas Mason's garden, Taita. Blackburn, Misses: Photographs. Ref: 1/2-082446-F. Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand.

The Trevethick family home in Lower Hutt was named 'Restormel' after the 13th century royal castle of the same name near the family's hometown of Lostwithiel, Cornwall.

His family in Cornwall were brush-makers and Charles established this successful trade from a workshop at his home<sup>2</sup> where he produced and patented brushes for sale for household use and for the New Zealand military. He used one of his own fine camel-hair brushes to cross-pollinate his sweet peas.

the workshop and the family home devoted to tall wooden frames growing sweet peas and that Charles regularly packaged many boxes of seeds which were both distributed locally and sent home to the United Kingdom to be sold at Suttons (a seed company established 1806 and still in business).

Sadly, the original 'Restormel' cottage (Fig. 3), built by his second wife's father Thomas Frethey, was destroyed by a fire in the early 1960s. The site of the former farm in Woburn, Lower Hutt is named Trevethick Grove.

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<sup>2</sup> Later, his brother Jonathan joined him in New Zealand and his sons and nephew continued the business in both Wellington and Auckland until both factories were closed in the 1970s.

<sup>3</sup> Anita Frethey, the sister of Charles' second and third wife (Elizabeth "Bessie" and Eliza) was interviewed in 1988 on the history of the Trevethick/Frethey family. This interview is recorded as unpublished notes held by the family.



**Fig. 3** The former 'Restormel' cottage, Lower Hutt. Trevethick house on the corner of Randwick Road and Whites Line, Lower Hutt. Ref: PAColl-8524-1. Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand.

### The Hutt Valley Horticultural Society

Charles was a very active founding member of the Hutt Valley Horticultural Society which held its first flower show in 1903.

The Society awarded National Sweet Pea Society medals and certificates for blooms exhibited at its shows<sup>4</sup>.

From 1910–1926, Charles won many National Society medals for his blooms and was considered an expert in sweet pea cultivation.

Many New Zealand newspaper articles from the early 1900s through to the late 1920s tell a consistent story of his dedication and competition successes exhibiting both sweet peas and roses in New Zealand (<https://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz>). Newspaper articles of January 1910 noted that Charles' sweet peas were the main exhibits of what came to be his most prominent exhibition at any Hutt Valley Horticultural Society flower show<sup>5-7</sup>. One journalist wrote:

*"The Flower Show, held ... at Petone on Saturday, was almost entirely devoted to sweet peas, of which there was a splendid display, and, of these, Mr Trevethick showed by far the greatest number. The various exhibits comprised over 2,000 spikes of bloom, and represented probably one of the finest ever shown in the district. He was awarded the medal of the National*

*Sweet Pea Society for his 24 vases of sweet peas, distinct varieties, a beautiful display, the finest of all being a large pink pale pea, almost shell-coloured, with long stem and flowers set well apart. This is one of Mr Trevethick's own seedlings, and at present has no name, being merely marked 'seedling one'. Another of his seedlings, a bright mauve, 'seedling three,' is considered by judges to be even finer than [his other selection] 'Maori Belle,' very much like it, which Mr Trevethick sent Home for classification by the National Sweet Pea Society, some time ago, and which was accorded a prize as the best lavender pea so far produced. The main attraction of the show was the long table containing 115 distinct varieties of peas, only 24 of which had ever been shown before. Mr Trevethick is to be congratulated upon this exhibit, more especially since the gale of Christmas week wrought great havoc in his garden."*<sup>6</sup>

And a further report on this exhibition with description of his own cultivars:

*"... the display of blooms was far and away the finest of its kind that had ever been staged under the society's auspices. It is doubtful whether anything equal to it had ever been seen in the Dominion. It was Mr C. Trevethick's*

*exhibit that gave the show this distinction. Three hundred and sixty feet of space was required to accommodate it. On one table were ranged sweet peas to the number of 115 ... only twenty-four were included in the catalogues of New Zealand seedsmen last season – a striking tribute to Mr Trevethick's enterprise. Another of the same grower's collections comprised twenty-four, and another twelve varieties. The latter were exclusively seedlings of Mr Trevethick's own producing, and their colouring and form was such as to stamp them as equal to anything ever raised. Some were produced by hybridising, but most are 'sports' on Spencer varieties. One prominent grower present declared one of them – a dark crimson, 'Empress' – to be the finest dark sweet pea ever grown. Others of outstanding beauty were a heliotrope, a cream, a white and a mauve. Several of the varieties have not yet been named. The collection was awarded a certificate of merit."*<sup>7</sup>

The article goes on to note that Charles Trevethick received a National Sweet Pea Society silver medal for his exhibit.

Charles also exhibited his own cultivars at Hutt Valley Horticultural Society flower shows for many years to great success.

In 1916, a review of the Hutt Valley Horticultural Society flower show notes that he went to great effort to arrange his presentation of peas in a "Rule Britannia" formation<sup>8</sup>.

He frequently gave lectures on his techniques to the Society, wrote weekly and monthly newsletters detailing the sweet pea selections he grew, and produced annual bulletins of seed lists of cultivars for sale suggesting methods to achieve the best outcomes.

It is also noted in Society records that one of Charles' daughters (aptly named Flora) also exhibited and was the society treasurer.

<sup>4</sup> 'Hutt horticultural show', *The Evening Post*, 1 December 1917, p. 9.

<sup>5</sup> 'Display of flowers. Hutt Valley Horticultural Society's Show. A wealth of sweet peas', *The Evening Post*, 8 January 1910, p. 6.

<sup>6</sup> 'Petone flower show. An admirable display', *The Dominion*, 10 January 1910, p. 8.

<sup>7</sup> 'Hutt and Petone. Sweet peas and quality', *The New Zealand Times*, 10 January 1910, p. 8.

<sup>8</sup> 'Summer blooms. Hutt patriotic show', *The New Zealand Times*, 7 December 1916, p. 2.



In 1919, Charles Trevethick authored an article<sup>9</sup> for the UK National Sweet Pea Society Annual based on his lectures to NZ National Sweet Pea Society members where he described his techniques for growing and exhibiting sweet peas in New Zealand. In this article, he also reported that he had raised an admirable £62 (some £3,000, or more than NZD\$6,000 today) selling sweet pea seeds fund-raising for the Wounded Soldiers Fund and a further £50 in 1915 for the Belgian Relief Fund<sup>10</sup>. These funds were from both the sales of Charles' own seeds and flowers and the profits of the Hutt Valley Horticultural Society shows from 1914–1919<sup>11</sup>.

The article which appeared in the UK National Sweet Pea Society Annual in 1919 provided the basis of his 1924 book *Sweet Pea Cultivation*, a copy of which is held in the National Library of New Zealand.

### Trevethick selections introduced into the UK

After learning of Charles' history of sweet pea cultivation, I was put in touch with the UK National Sweet Pea Society Chairman Roger Parsons who was able to find records detailing that many of Charles' own cultivars produced in New Zealand were sent back to England for classification. Anita Frethey remembers very clearly with particular emphasis that "very special" sweet pea selections were sent to England to be sold at Suttons. While the exact number of cultivars produced are unknown, Charles' own seed lists indicate that he produced 20–30 new selections each season. None of Charles Trevethick's selections are available today.

A 1911 newspaper article by the Canterbury Horticultural Society of New Zealand recommended a number of Charles' new cultivars (including 'Maori Belle') to be very worthwhile trying to grow in the New Zealand climate and described Charles as one of the most expert growers of sweet peas in New Zealand<sup>12</sup>.

The five new Spencer type varieties Charles introduced to the UK in 1911 are listed below. The naming of these cultivars reflects the influence of Māori culture and indicates that they were raised in New Zealand. In 1911, Mr G.H. Mackereth of Ulverston, Cumberland, introduced in the UK the following cultivars raised by Charles Trevethick (along with my comments on the meanings of the cultivar names):

**Lathyrus 'Kowhai'** – apricot flush on buff ground.

Meaning of cultivar name: Kōwhai is the Māori word for yellow. The native New Zealand kōwhai trees, *Sophora* species, have bright yellow bell-shaped flowers.

**Lathyrus 'Maori Belle'** – lavender.

Meaning of cultivar name: A Māori belle or wāhine is a beautiful young Māori woman. This cultivar was exhibited at the National Sweet Pea Society Show in New Zealand, 8th December, 1910.

**Lathyrus 'Maori Chief'** – maroon.

Meaning of cultivar name: Male Māori chief. This cultivar was exhibited at the National Sweet Pea Society Show in New Zealand, 8th December, 1910.

**Lathyrus 'Rata'** – crimson.

Meaning of cultivar name: Rātā is a name usually associated with *Metrosideros robusta*, a tall forest tree endemic to New Zealand with crimson red flowers.

**Lathyrus 'Rotoiti'** – white, flushed pink.

Meaning of cultivar name: The Māori name Rotoiti is a lake region near Rotorua forming part of the Waimangu Volcanic Rift Valley in the North Island of New Zealand which once contained one of the natural wonders of the world: the famous pink and white silica terraces (Fig. 4). These were destroyed in 1886 by the violent volcanic eruption of Mount Tarawera. Prior to their destruction, they were a popular tourist attraction and many colonial residents visited the terraces. Charles had been residing in New Zealand for eight years before the eruption and this was a significant event in New Zealand's history. I believe there is a strong likelihood that this cultivar was named after the colour of the famous terraces whose colour white, flushed pink, matches both this history of the Rotoiti region and the description of the cultivar. *Lathyrus 'Rotoiti'* was also listed in the 1912 catalogue by Anderson & Co. of Sydney, Australia.

### Recent discoveries

Whilst researching the history of Charles' sweet pea cultivation, I discovered the (previously mentioned) book he authored held in the National Library of New Zealand. In this book, Charles describes his sweet pea growing methods, presents his 1924 selections<sup>13</sup> and illustrates his national society medals (Fig. 5).

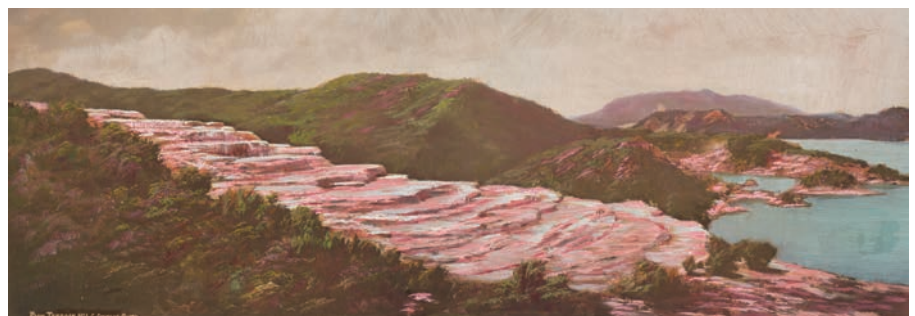


Fig. 4 Pink Terrace, Pink and White Terraces, circa 1900, New Zealand, by Charles Spencer. Purchased 2013. Te Papa (O.041083).

<sup>9</sup> Trevethick, C. (1919). Sweet peas in New Zealand. *UK National Sweet Pea Annual*: 27–31.

<sup>10</sup> 'Roses and sweet peas. A gorgeous display', *The Evening Post*, 16 December 1914, p. 8. This article notes that in addition to an auction, Mr Trevethick's sweet peas will be sold at the show to assist the Belgian Fund. The article 'New Belgium Relief Fund', *The Evening Post*, 5 March 1915, p. 8, records the £50 sum raised.

<sup>11</sup> 'Hutt Horticultural Show', *The Evening Post*, 1 December 1917, p. 9.

<sup>12</sup> 'What sweet peas to grow', *The Press*, 25 February 1911, p. 4. This article also lists selections available in New Zealand (many included in the seed lists Charles produced for sale), including a claim that the wavy-petalled sweet pea 'Countess Spencer' was first shown in New Zealand in 1901.

<sup>13</sup> This list is reproduced from a Lower Hutt Horticultural Society Newsletter.



**Fig. 5** Medals won by Charles Trevethick. Plate reproduced from: Trevethick, C.T. (1924). Sweet pea cultivation. Hutcheson Bowman & Johnson, Wellington, New Zealand.



**Fig. 6** Some historic sweet pea selections, including *Lathyrus* 'Rosabelle' and 'Dobbie's Cream'. From William Cuthbertson, V.M.H. (1915). Sweet peas and antirrhinums (snapdragons). Image: ©2018 <http://chestofbooks.com/>.

Subsequently, in 2017 by happy coincidence, a local historian came across another of Charles' annual lists from 1922 folded in the back of a sweet pea book at a local book fair and containing a list of his sweet pea cultivars for sale (selections raised by Trevethick and other breeders of the day). An advertisement of this was published in *The Evening Post* in April of 1922. His 1922 and 1924 cultivar lists are transcribed here (Appendix 1).

Charles most likely produced annual catalogues of seeds for sale of the selections he cultivated from 1903–1928. It is known that catalogues exist for the years 1910, 1918, 1922, 1924 and 1928. As there are show exhibition records and listed cultivars

demonstrating that he actively exhibited and produced selections from the period 1910–1918, it is therefore presumed that other annual catalogues he produced during this period may be lost. Further demonstrating this is a note from the New Zealand National Sweet Pea Society show in 1910 which states that Mr Trevethick produced a marvellous display and has many further selections forthcoming in his next catalogue<sup>14</sup>.

Other newspaper notices of a similar nature exist and sweet peas in his 1918 catalogue are advertised as "The cream of the world"<sup>15</sup>.

In 1919, he recommended the following cultivars as being of exceptionally good merit which were

published in *The Wanganui Chronicle*: 'Walter P. Wright', 'Lady Florence Willoughby', 'Edna May', 'Mauve King', 'The Sultan', 'Molly Jackson', 'Helen Williams', 'R.F. Felton', 'Maud Holmes', 'Margaret Atlu', 'Rosabelle' and 'Dobbie's Cream' (Fig. 6)<sup>16</sup>.

Another list was produced the year of his death in 1928. *The Hutt News* ran an advertisement stating:

*"In connection with sweet pea growing, a new catalogue by C. Trevethick, the famous pea grower, has just come to hand. There are many new novelties mentioned for the 1928 season, and lovers of these beautiful flowers should lose no time in sending for a copy"*<sup>17</sup>.

<sup>14</sup> 'National Sweet Pea Association [sic., it's always been a Society]. A magnificent show', *The Manawatu Times*, 8 December 1910, p. 5.

<sup>15</sup> 'Sweet peas. Catalogue, 1918, now ready. The cream of the world. Send for catalogue. C. Trevethick, sweet pea specialist, Lower Hutt', *The Dominion*, 22 June 1918, p. 13.

<sup>16</sup> 'The garden. Sweet peas ... Varieties which stand by themselves', *The Wanganui Chronicle*, 17 December 1919, p. 14.

<sup>17</sup> Sweet pea advertisement, *The Hutt News*, 16 March 1928, p. 3.



## New Zealand National Sweet Pea Society

For a short time prior to World War 1 there was a National Sweet Pea Society of New Zealand. Charles was a founding committee member in 1911 and was elected to a subcommittee for drafting rules<sup>18</sup>.

In 1911, Mr G.W. Plummer, one of Auckland's most successful growers, visited other North Island growers to observe the latest methods for growing and exhibiting the finest blooms. He notes in an article to the newly formed New Zealand society members<sup>19</sup> that he is indebted to Mr Trevethick for his advice during a recent trip (implying that he visited Charles' garden in Lower Hutt), including collecting valuable information on cultivation and selection which he hoped would help the Society growers achieve the best possible results.

Charles exhibited at their first show held in Palmerston North, 7th December, 1910<sup>20</sup> and was elected vice-president in December 1912<sup>21</sup>. He won the Weekly Graphic Cup (now known as the Brett Cup) as overall winner of the second annual New Zealand National Sweet Pea Society Show in 1911.

Charles established a cup for sweet peas in his name that was presented for the first time at the Wellington show in 1913<sup>22</sup>. At the same show, he was awarded the Society's gold medal for the Seedmen's and Nurserymen's Class for sweet peas arranged on a table.

## The Trevethick Family

Charles' great uncle was none other than Richard Francis Trevithick (1735–1797) a mine manager and father of the great inventor Richard Trevithick (1771–1833) who invented the steam engine in Camborne, Cornwall, England, in 1804. Charles was born Trevithick and died Trevethick. The New Zealand family name has been spelt with an 'e' since their emigration.

Charles' emigration to New Zealand was not without personal tragedy. His first wife Louisa who emigrated with him from Cornwall died shortly after giving birth to their son Henry in 1884. He had nine children: Clara (1876–1964), Flora (1877–1953), Edgar Charles (1881–1886), Henry John (1884–1957), Rhoda (1887–1968), Edgar (Sidney) Charles (1889–1974), Leonard Vernon (1891–1913), Charles George (Gordon) (1893–1982), and Doris Wilkie (1894–1916).

I am descended from Edgar (Sidney) Charles, his son with second wife Elizabeth ("Bessie") nee Frethey. Bessie died 1899 while the children were young, and Edgar later married her sister Eliza to raise the children.

Charles Trevethick died on the 1st of December 1928 after a long illness and is buried in Taita Cemetery in Lower Hutt, New Zealand.

I am now a resident in the Hutt Valley, and it has been enlightening to discover the rich contribution my great-great-grandfather made to horticulture based in this region.

## 2018 Events

In April of 2018, a version of this article was published in the UK *National Sweet Pea Society Annual*<sup>23</sup>. Charles himself wrote an article for this journal almost 100 years earlier, in 1919, titled 'Sweet peas in New Zealand'.

During Heritage Week in October 2018, Charles' contribution to horticulture was featured as part of a World War 1 era event at the Halfway House in Glenside, Wellington.

Also in 2018, I have been working with the Hutt Valley Horticultural Society to sponsor sweet pea growing in the Hutt Valley. The Society have reinstated their show categories for the sweet pea in his name and have begun the 'Charles Trevethick Sweet Pea Challenge' to celebrate sweet pea growing. The next show will take place on 9th and 10th February, 2019, at the Walter Nash Centre, in Taita, Lower Hutt.

**This article was based with permission on an earlier one published in the UK National Sweet Pea Society Annual.**

<sup>18</sup> 'New Zealand National Sweet Pea Society', *Taranaki Herald*, 24 June 1911, p. 3.

<sup>19</sup> Partly appended in 'The sweet pea boom', *Auckland Star*, 12 April 1911, p. 8.

<sup>20</sup> 'National Sweet Pea Society', *The Dominion*, 8 December 1910, p. 9.

<sup>21</sup> 'The Sweet Pea Society', *Taranaki Daily News*, 21 December 1912, p. 5.

<sup>22</sup> 'Sweet Pea Society', *The Evening Post*, 11 December 1913, p. 2.

<sup>23</sup> Trevethick, J. (2018). Charles Trevethick (1854–1928). *Sweet Pea Annual*: 91–98.

## Appendix 1: 1922 and 1924 Charles Trevethick sweet pea seed lists

### 1922 General List

12 Seeds in packet. Price 6d.

19 Novelties, 20 General list, 24/-

**ALEXANDRA MALCOLM** – Award of Merit, Royal Horticultural Society 1917. A variety of real sterling merit; very brilliant cerise shaded orange scarlet.

**BERYL** – Large size, strong grower, very waved, a lot of duplex blooms, nearly all fours; an intense salmon buff pink.

**BROCADE** – A very distinct and striking sweet pea of a pleasing satin rose tint, shaded mauve, the base of standard being deeply suffused mauve. The plant is of robust growth, producing an immense crop of four blossomed sprays of very large and well-waved flowers; producer's description.

**CHARITY** – Still the top of its class, and very hard to beat, rich brilliant crimson, plenty of fours; large size.

**COMMANDER GODSALL** – Right out on its own in this section, and obtained a well-deserved Award of Merit as the best royal blue; very superior to Jack Cornwall; very waved and large size.

**CONSTANCE HINTON** – Large white, slightly shaded pink; received the unanimous vote of the National Sweet Pea Society as being the best in its class.

**DAISY BUD** – On its introduction it won three Awards of Merit. It is very large and very waved, long stems and plenty of fours; a soft rich rose on a white ground.

**DOBBIE'S MAROON** – Award of Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society as the best maroon in 1919. A pure self maroon, quite free from the purple tinge in the wings.

**EDITH CAVELL** – A large rosy pink on a cream ground, the standard and wings shade off to a bright rosy pink edge, which gives it a delightful fresh appearance, with abundance of five and six blooms to a stem; very fine for exhibition – Raiser's description.

**ELEGANCE** – Award of Merit at Royal Horticultural Society, 1918. A most lovely soft pure silvery pink just like silver dust on a soft pink; large and very waved.

**HAWLMARK PINK** – It received five Awards of Merit on its introduction. The richest coloured pink sweet pea ever seen; rich bright rose pink; deeply flushed and shaded salmon, excelling Audrey Crier in richness of colour; very large; very waved.

**IVORINE** – Colour old ivory, large size long stems, still the best of its class and a prize-taker. Award of Merit National Sweet Pea Society.

**KING GEORGE** – Award of Merit. A giant rosy lavender of exquisite form, large size, long stems, and all the qualities of an exhibition variety.

**LAVENDER** – Still the best in its class. A lovely shade of soft lavender; larger and more vigorous than any other of its colour; indispensable.

**PINK PEARL** – Raisers say the name very accurately describes the colour, which is a charming shade of pearly pink, large blooms and very waved.

**MRS TOM JONES** – Award of Merit at Royal Horticultural Society and still the top of the class. There is not a variety of its colour equal to this delphinium blue. In 1920 it received the unanimous vote of the committee as the best blue.

**MRS WAKEFIELD** – In the Award of Merit voting at the National Sweet Pea Society trials in 1920, this received an unanimous vote of the committee. Cream ground, bright pink edge.

**RED ENSIGN** – A very fine rich scarlet, a deeper shade than the old favourite, Queen Alexandra.

**ROYALTY** – This is still top of its class, and a very fine variety; a most striking colour, quite distinct from all others; right up to exhibition form, colour deep purple.

**VERDUN** – This failed with me last year, but it is too good to pass out; it is the John Ingman class and far superior to either that or Rosabelle; very large blooms, a prize-taker, colour rosy carmine.

**W.H. MASSEY** – It is a prize-taker alright, and worthy of the name it bears; very large, a lot of double standards and very waved, colour rich heliotrope standard, soft lavender wings.

**WHITE MASCOTT** – Still the best in this class in form and size, equal to King White, but much longer and stouter stems, and the colour is more pure.

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### 1924 Sweet Pea Seed List

The Elite of the World: Novelties for 1924

The whole collection – 14 novelties, 24 general list, 20/- All packets contain 12 seeds, Price 1/-

**ADVANCE** – Won First Prize at our show as the best novelty. E.W. King and Co say it is one of the most charming peas we have raised, white ground, richly flushed rose pink, nearly all stems has duplex flowers; it is a great grower and only needs to be seen to become a favourite.

**FAERIE QUEEN** – Alex Dickson and Son say "Great difficulty is experienced in commanding language to justly describe this exquisite sweet pea. The unique placement of the simple colouring of salmon pink on a cream ground give the variety a premier place in the flushed cream colour section of sweet peas. The standard is broad, erect, much frilled, of warm cream colour with a ray of apricot salmon across the centre. The wings are deeper, conveying a whipped panache of cream and pink, thus establishing one of the most distinct and chaste of sweet pea flowers". I may add too, that it is one of the best of the season, and your collection is not complete without it. – C.T.

**JEAN IRELAND IMPROVED** – F.C. Woodcock is very definite in his claim that this is the best picotee that had ever been raised, and a great improvement of the old favourite Jean Ireland.

**LASCELLES** – This has a royal name, and without a doubt it is a Royal sweet pea and a very fine lavender. Next year we will get Viscountess Lascelles which is also a lavender and her favourite flower.

**MAY COWDY** – A fictitious but descriptive name given to a novelty which combines the best characteristics of May Unwin and Edward Cowdy. It has the size of bloom, length of stem and great

vigour of May Unwin but with the fiery "field poppy" colour of Edward Cowdy or President. It is by far the most vigorous brilliant orange-scarlet, and a pea which should be grown by all up-to-date exhibitors.

**MRS NORMAN LAMBERT** – This is quite a new colour, being a deep blood crimson, and resembles the rich shade often found in some of the dark crimson Roses. It is distinct from Charity, Field Marshal, Crimson Glow and all other crimsons. It is absolutely sun-proof, in fact the more sunshine it receives the more brilliant is the colour, and a row of this variety in full bloom is a dazzling sight. It is a strong grower, and produces a large number of four-flowered sprays on long, stout stems.

**MRS H. RICHARDS** – An exquisitely pretty variety. Colour salmon-rose, flushed on a white ground. The wings are heavily suffused, edges of standard lightly flushed, intensifying towards the centre with an almost white base. It does not fade with age, and the combination of colouring is charming, producing a delightful bunch. Very vigorous with large blooms well placed on long, stout stems. A gem for exhibition, home or garden decoration.

**POWERSCOURT** – Award of Merit from both the National Sweet Pea Society and the Royal Agricultural Society. Of the many superb sweet peas it has been our privilege to distribute, in our opinion Powerscourt is one of the most valuable. It is beyond question the best Lavender sweet pea extant. The colour is pure, the flowers are mammoth, refined and nicely placed on the stem, while the plant is of the strongest constitution, and the free-flowing capabilities of the variety are maximum. We predict that Powerscourt will take the premier place in all gardens amongst the Lavender Sweet Peas.

**ROYAL CHERRY** – A lovely variety of bright salmon cerise colouring which expands more intensely as it reaches the edges of the standard, where it eventually assumes a clearly defined deep rose. The plant is of strong constitution, and most free flowering. The variety is a very valuable contribution to the Cerise Section.

**ROYAL FLAME** – This is, without doubt, one of the most charming sweet peas yet raised. The colour is a startling glowing orange self, which cannot fail to attract the eye. This

novelty growing in the open fields, looks nothing more than a blaze of fire. Some experts termed the colour as pillar-box red. It is by far the richest pea for colour yet seen. The plant is vigorous, throwing an abundance of four-flowered sprays.

**SHEILA** – Very fine pale pink on a cream ground; very waved, very large, very lovely.

**SHAMROCK** – This is one of the best of the year, quite distinct in colour, rosy mauve, very long in the stems, a giant in size and very waved. I can only say it is a great sweet pea. – C.T.

**THE SULTAN** – Award of Merit from the National Sweet Pea Society. The colour is a rich black velvet maroon with a glossy sheen, extra vigorous in growth, giving four large blooms nicely placed on long stems. The darkest sweet pea yet raised, and should be in every collection. Extract from "Popular Gardening" York Gala, July 8th, 1922 – The Sultan, the very name suggests – it is the darkest of all the darks. It puts the "night-cap" on Warrior. I'm afraid that on a dull day it will almost require an electric torch to find the flowers.

**WONDERFUL** – At last we have the real Scarlet Sweet Pea, one that keeps perfect colour under all conditions. It does not burn or fade in the hottest sunshine. If cut it still maintains the same bright scarlet colour, unlike other so-called scarlets, which go dull after a few hours in water. The plant is very strong growing, producing in abundance long strong stems carrying four large flowers of ideal form. Wherever exhibited, this novelty caused a great sensation on account of its startling colour. 10 seeds, 1- per packet.

#### **GENERAL LIST**

12 seeds in packet – Price, 6d.

**BUNTY** – This is a very lovely variety, the standard is orange salmon, and the wings rosy salmon. The raiser claims that it is the best in its colour class. It is a strong grower and stands the sun well. It won the first prize in the novelty class at the National Sweet Pea Society show in 1920.

**CAPT. CHARLES BURGESS** – The nearest we have in sweet peas to the true apple blossom. Colour – A bright salmon pink on a white ground, the colour intensifies towards the centre of standard and wings, giving the bunch an exquisite appearance.

**CHELSEA** – One of the most beautiful and distinct sweet pea ever sent out. To describe it fully almost defies description. This lovely variety stands out alone for its delightful and pleasing blend of colours. The standard is a rich buff salmon, while the wings are pink flushed apricot, a remarkable combination of colour, often seen in shot silk. A very vigorous grower, throwing abundance of four and five-flowered sprays.

**COLNE VALLEY** – This has won two awards of merit from both the Royal Horticultural Society and the National Sweet Pea Society. It is a grand lavender self, which will be in great demand for exhibition. The colour is quite distinct from anything seen in sweet peas. This is sure to be a popular variety on account of its pleasing and taking colour. Besides being such a vigorous grower, the flowers are of extraordinary size and well frilled with a large percentage of four and five-flowered sprays.

**CONQUEST** – A distinct and most attractive variety, both for exhibition and house decoration. The large and beautiful waved flowers are flushed and deeply edged rich salmon pink on a glistening and pure white ground.

**CRIMSON GLOW** – I like this the best of the crimsons; it is a better colour than Charity, and the same strong habit of growth. In a collection of twelve it is essential.

**COMMANDER GODSALL** – Right out on its own in this section, and obtained a well-deserved Award of Merit as the best royal blue; very superior to Jack Cornwall; very waved and large size.

**DIGNITY** – One of the best, and must be in every collection. It is the same size and form as Picture, deeper in colour, and quite distinct from it, and it stands on its dignity among others of its kind. Long stems, of the largest size, very frilled and nearly all fours; a rich pink on cream ground.

**GEORGE SHAWYER** – This is a lovely variety. It has been greatly admired in my garden, and on the decorative tables it has won four awards during the year, and it well deserves it. The raiser says of it: "A wonderful flower which stands out above all others in colour and class. The general effect would be accurately described as a giant salmon-rose. The standard is orange salmon with wings rose tinted, and the combination is most delicate".



**HAWLMARK LAVENDER** – Award of Merit at the Royal Horticultural Society (1920). Raiser says: “This is without doubt, the purest lavender Spencer sweet pea that has yet been offered”. The plant is very robust and floriferous, giving abundance of strong long flower stems, carrying four large beautifully waved flowers perfectly placed. I say much lighter in colour than lavender; a gem.

**HAWLMARK PINK** – It received five Awards of Merit on its introduction. The richest coloured pink sweet pea ever seen. Rich bright rose pink, deeply flushed and shaded salmon excelling Audrey Crier in richness of colour; very large, very waved.

**HAWLMARK CERISE** – This is another Award of Merit pea. The raiser says: “The finest cerise self-coloured sweet pea. The flowers are of extraordinary size, of flowing rose-cerise colour on a cream ground, beautifully waved, and borne invariably four to a stem in great profusion”.

**HAWLMARK SALMON PINK** – The most refined and beautiful sweet pea ever offered, a rich pure salmon pink shaded orange. The plant is a vigorous grower, producing flowers of largest size and finest form.

**GLORIOSA** – Another wonderful pea. In the row it is like a flaming fire. Everyone must grow this – it is too good to be missed. The raiser says of it: “This charming novelty is acknowledged by leading experts to be the finest and most brilliant sweet pea yet obtained. The plant is very vigorous, and produces abundance of four-flowered sprays of the largest size. The colour is a fiery orange-scarlet with glowing orange sheen. Award of Merit at National Sweet Pea Society, and Reserve for Gold Medal for best novelty of the year”.

**MATCHLESS** – This is a good pea. Very refined, very wavy and nearly all fours. The raiser says: “In 1908 we introduced the first Cream Spencer’ named Clara Curtis, which easily lead the way as the finest cream till 1916, when we put on the market Felton’ Cream, which was soon on top of the cream section. Now, in Matchless, we have another great advance. This

new variety is out of the same cross as Picture, having the same size and vigour. The colour is deeper than any other cream, and more frilled and sweet scented. There is no difficulty in getting four and five-flowering sprays”.

**MRS GEORGE BLUNDELL** – I don’t sound any uncertainty when I say this is one of the best I have ever grown. Every exhibitor must grow this or they will be left in this colour section. Lavender are not usually strong growers, but this is immense, the flowers are large, the stems are long and strong and the colour lovely. Cannot be excelled for either garden, decorative or exhibition. Colour deep lavender.

**MASCOTT’S INGMAN** – I will verify all the raiser claims for it. It is a dandy pea all right. A gigantic sweet pea, the colour is a rich rosy carmine; no variety can equal this for size, form, substance, and freedom of flowering. This may be termed the King of Sweet Peas. First prize in the novelty class, National Sweet Pea Society, 1921.

**ORCHID** – Award of Merit, Royal Horticultural Society, 1920. Here we have a pea of very high order, and easily the top of its class. It is the same lovely colour as the Orchid of old, but stronger and longer stems and larger blooms, and plenty of fours and as a deep lavender it is unequalled. Everyone must have this.

**PICTURE** – In the opinion of practically all the experts and leading exhibitors, Picture marks the highest development and greatest advance up to date. Its size is such that the term enormous may be used with full justification, but it has more than mere size to its credit, for its form is superb, the outlines of the standards, wings and keel being in every respect those of the very finest sweet peas in existence. The stems are a perfect support for the blooms they carry. They have cut at 22 inches and practically two feet. Four blooms are about the minimum, sixes being frequent, and occasionally as many as eight perfect blooms have been carried on one stem. The colour may be described as fleshy pink with a rosy finish, the whole

being fascinatingly suffused and shaded with creamy apricot; a most delightful and altogether enchanting combination of colours. Fragrance is pronounced and very sweet. Picture is the nearest approach to perfection yet obtained. First Class Certificate, Shrewsbury. Award of Merit, Royal Horticultural Society, Award of Merit National Sweet Pea Society. I say no collection is complete without this.

**RENOWN** – This is a really good pea. The raiser says: “During the last twenty years we have introduced many notable varieties, and we feel sure we are not overestimating its value in placing Renown high up among our many sterling introductions. The plant is very strong growing, and the colour is a most charming shade of carmine rose. The flowers are beautifully waved, very large in size, yet refined and are carried on long stems, four on each and sometimes five, all through the season. The Sweet Pea world has been waiting for a flower to take the place of John Ingman. Renown will be found superior in every way, and a much more pleasing shade”. First Class Certificate, Royal Horticultural Society.

**ROYAL SCOT** – This is the last word in scarlets, quite equalling in brilliance to a soldier’s tunic. It does not fade or burn in the hottest sunshine.

**SUNSET** – This is not an appropriate name for it which suggests a brilliant colour. It is a very fine pea, large size and good form, but the colour of the old favourite, Rosabelle, only it has a dash of orange in the standard.

**SPLENDOUR** – I have compared this with the other maroons, and although this is not an Award of Merit pea, I place it on the top of all in this class. It is quite a self both in standard and wings. It is just like polished mahogany, of immense size and length of stem.

**WHITE MASCOTT** – Still the best in this class in form and size, equal to King White, but much longer and stouter stems, and the colour is more pure.

Mixed seeds, all colours – 2/6 per packet.