

Why do we breed with Interspecifics by Carrie Kruger - Utopia Clivias?

I consider interspecific breeding as the “new age” of breeding

- ▶ Most of the new and unusual colours in Clivias originate from interspecific breeding
- ▶ We at Utopia Clivias believe that the future of Clivias lie hidden in these genetics.
- ▶ The largest range of colours are found in interspecific flowers.
- ▶ From orange to yellow, pastel peach and pink, bronze and green and now multi colours and versi colours

Interspecific breeding through the years.

- ▶ The term “interspecific” says it all, interbreeding with different species of Clivia.
- ▶ The first crosses were made years ago between Nobilis and Miniata and were named “Cyrtanthiflora”
- ▶ Breeders have since crossed all the various species with miniata and vice versa.
- ▶ Some proven results of F1 breeding are that using miniata as a pod parent will give larger more open flowers in the first generation.
- ▶ We see the F1 generation of interspecifics only as a steppingstone to much better, more diverse flowers in the second and third generations.
- ▶ Advice to beginners: Start your breeding with a good F1.

Comparison between F1 and F2 generations

F2 flowers are larger and more open

F2 flowers have a larger array of colours

Plants flower at different times due to the larger genetic make up

About our breeding lines at Utopia Clivias:

The “Secret” Series

- ▶ These plants were bred from the same cross. Stella Parish Miniata x 5 Star (Gardenii x group 1 yellow)
- ▶ They are all the most beautiful pink F2 interspecifics with large, open recurved flowers.
- ▶ I am currently line breeding with these plants and the first F3 plants flowered in 2016.
- ▶ I have found the F3 flowers larger with softer pink shades.
- ▶ These plants have all been registered on the International Clivia Register

The “Dream” series

- ▶ These are all selfed seedlings of a Nakamura bred interspecific, grown from seed.
- ▶ The first selfing of this plant only produced about 8 -10 seeds which grew into these magnificent plants.
- ▶ The flowers are large and semi-open.
- ▶ These plants all have flowers with Picotee-type edging, and semi to broad leaves, up to 90mm.

Why do we breed with Interspecifics by Carrie Kruger - Utopia Clivias?

- ▶ We are line breeding these plants as well as using them in other crosses.
- ▶ I started with some experimental crosses between the “Secret Series” and the “Dreaming” range of plants.
- ▶ The first one flowered last year. A soft pastel with darker pink outer petals and darker pink blush on inner petals

New Versi Colour Range

- ▶ We are breeding a new range of versi colours from different breeding material.
- ▶ They range from pink versi colours to dark red and brick brown versi colours.
- ▶ Versi colour genes are very dominant and are carried over to the next generation even as only the pollen parent.
- ▶ We have flowered some very special versi colour flowers last season.

“Star Green” breeding

- ▶ The famous “Star Green” is used in this breeding line.
- ▶ “Star Green” is truly a one of a kind flower with dark brick red outer petals and green inner petals which gradually change to a dusty pink as it matures.
- ▶ “Star Green” is not a very fertile plant and has to be pollinated at an early stage as the flower opens. The pollen stays viable for a day or two where you have to be prompted to harvest every bit of pollen as the sacks open. Thereafter, it becomes brittle, dry and unusable.
- ▶ It does not self-pollinate effectively, but in some instances a small number of seed has set on self-pollinations.
- ▶ We have done a variety of pollinations onto “Star Green” as well as using the pollen on many other plants.
- ▶ I think extremely exciting times lie ahead with this beautiful and unusual plant.

Cultivation and care:

- ▶ Interspecifics are no different to miniata when it comes to cultivation requirements.
- ▶ They require water once a week if it does not rain during the hot months.
- ▶ In winter we water sparingly and only if necessary.
- ▶ Our planting mixture consists of a well-drained mix of fine and coarse bark, filter sand, polystyrene and “Flexi Coat” slow release fertilizer.
- ▶ Mature plants are fed with Hyper Feed every 3-6 months
- ▶ Seedlings and young plants are fed with “Kick Start” every 8 weeks.
- ▶ Plants are treated with a systemic insecticide and fungicide once every 6 months

Conclusion:

- ▶ Interspecifics give us a longer flowering period as they start flowering from June to September.
- ▶ They are fast growing and more disease resistant than miniata.
- ▶ They multiply well.
- ▶ The range of colours and forms of flowers are unlimited, and they are therefore a must in any breeder`s collection.
- ▶ I hope I have inspired you all to include a few of these special plants in your collections.