



Bleddyn and Sue on Volcán Ruiz in the Colombian Paramo at 4,000m.



## Bleddyn & Sue Wynn-Jones

The Wynn-Jones' are true planthunting professionals. Their nursery, Crûg Farm Plants Nursery in North Wales, is beloved by amateurs and professionals because of the staggering list of wonderful plants they have introduced into cultivation. The couple started the nursery more than 20 years ago and have been planthunting at least once a year since the early 1990s, visiting the Far East, Middle East, South America and, in particular, Asia. "It has become a way of life for us," Sue says.

Although the travel sounds glamorous, the work is demanding. Every evening, instead of unwinding and bathing aching feet, they diligently catalogue and store their plants. Modern technology still has a surprisingly limited part to play. Seeds are dried in kitchen roll and stored in small packets, and rhizomes are kept from drying out by wrapping them in kitchen foil and keeping them in cool boxes.

The Wynn-Jones' are the only collectors to hold a government-approved permanent collecting licence. The terms of the licence are strict and the Wynn-Jones' say they are never tempted to stray beyond it. "If we do take plant material it will be as small an amount as possible," says Sue. "In fact, those we work with are really surprised at just how little we do take."

### Plants introduced by Bleddyn and Sue

1. *Schisandra grandiflora*, collected in the Himalayan foothills in 1994.
2. *Schefflera taiwaniana*, collected in 2003 from Yushan, the highest mountain in Taiwan.
3. *Sarcococca wallichii* GWJ9427 from the Singalila Ridge, northern India, in 2002.

For more details go to [www.crug-farm.co.uk](http://www.crug-farm.co.uk)

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'The intention is to help the country preserve its biodiversity'

## Bob Brown

The extrovert owner of Cotswold Garden Flowers near Evesham, Worcestershire, has explored and collected in South America, the Caucasus and Turkey for many years. He has now given up collecting because of the raft of international regulations, and his own unease around removing the flora of another country for profit. Instead, he is involved in a project with the Lebanese government to catalogue, collect and cultivate the flora and fauna of this war-torn nation. The intention is to help the country preserve its own biodiversity and to encourage Lebanese horticulturists to introduce plants unique to the region to the world market and reap the financial rewards. "It's a good model for others to follow," Bob says. "Collecting is regulated and policed by the government of the country itself."

Bob was once a professional mountaineer, which left him well equipped to cope with the difficult conditions sometimes faced by planthunters. He loves his camera and wild places, and usually photographs any interesting plants he finds in their native habitat. Through Cotswold Garden Flowers, Bob has been responsible for bringing an impressive range of hardy and hitherto obscure introductions that suit British gardens. He describes *Hypseocharis pimpinellifolia*, a South American perennial, as "the finest plant I have ever seen".

### Plants introduced by Bob

1. *Centaurea salonitana*, from the stream below an old Armenian monastery above the Norovank Gorge, southern Armenia, 2005.
2. *Plantago uniflora*, originally collected from Mount Egmont, New Zealand, in 1993.
3. *Mathiasella bupleuroides* 'Green Dream', from the summit of Pena Nevada, northeast Mexico, in 2000.

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