

Building Block

***Miltonia spectabilis* Lindl., Edwards's Bot. Reg. 23: t. 1976 (1837).**

The Outstanding Miltonia

Synonyms

- *Oncidium spectabile* (Lindl.) Beer, Prakt. Stud. Orchid.: 293 (1854).
- *Macrochilus fryanus* Knowles & Westc., Fl. Cab. 1: 93 (1837).
- *Miltonia spectabilis* var. *purpureoviolacea* Hook., Bot. Mag. 75: t. 4425 (1849).
- *Miltonia spectabilis* var. *porphyroglossa* Rchb.f., Xenia Orchid. 1: 130 (1856).
- *Miltonia spectabilis* var. *radians* Rchb.f., Xenia Orchid. 1: 130 (1856).
- *Miltonia bicolor* B.S.Williams, Orch.-Grow. Man., ed. 2: 118 (1862).
- *Miltonia spectabilis* var. *rosea* Lem., Gard. Chron. 1867: 1239 (1867).
- *Miltonia spectabilis* var. *virginalis* Lem., Ill. Hort. 15: t. 573 (1868).
- *Miltonia spectabilis* var. *aspersa* Rchb.f., Gard. Chron., n.s., 24: 70 (1885).
- *Miltonia spectabilis* var. *bicolor* G.Nicholson, Ill. Dict. Gard. 2: 369 (1886).
- *Miltonia spectabilis* var. *lineata* L.Linden & Rodigas, Lindenia 2: 31 (1886).

Miltonia spectabilis is the type species of the genus *Miltonia* and it was discovered near the coastal mountain ranges of central Brazil.

The two flower scapes rise very early in the spring from the base of the pseudobulb to the length of eight to twelve inches. Sepals and petals are elongate lanceolate, usually paper white or uniformly tinged with a cream color, occasionally with a shadowing of pale purple along the mid-ridge. The two upper petals are apt to curl somewhat backwards. The lip, up to two and one-half inches long, is wide, roughly diamond-shaped or obovate, lightly wavy, basically white with considerable variations of bright splashes of purple, and darker veins fanning out from a light orange three-ridged disc. The head of the column expands into a pair of bright purple diminutive wings. (De Tomasi 1950).

The most beautiful variety of the species is *rosea*, this form has white sepals and petals tinged with pink and shaded a deep rose at their base. The white labellum with rich rose-red blotch at the base or center of the flower. This *rosea* must be distinguished from the subvariety *rosea* under variety *moreliana*. The most floriferous of the varieties is *lineata*. This plant is a much more compact grower and with more new growths at any time than the type. The leaves are short and often ridged. The flower is not as flat as the type; the sepals and petals are of a sort of eggshell color when opening and soon curl backwards but later straighten out but do not

flatten and become white; the labellum has several long lines of deep purple radiating out to the edge of the flower from the crest.

The variety *moreliana* has an all over deep red purple flower and is the parent giving dark flowered hybrids. Its flowers have a sheen as if it had just been waxed and polished. It, too, opens and turns back its sepals and later unfurls them. It has two sub-variety forms, *atrorubens* and *rosea*. (Moir 1961).



Miltonia May Moir 'Carl' AM/AOS (82 points)
Miltonia spectabilis x *Miltonia Goodale Moir*

Reviewing OrchidWiz x8.2, *Milt. Spectabilis* was used to produced 95 offspring (First Generation) and 1,821 total progenies. About awards, 48 had been granted with the following details: 1 AQ, 1 JC, 2 FCC, 6 AM, 7 HCC, 1 CCE, 7 CCM and 1 CBM.

References

- Baker Charles and Margaret. 1993. American Orchid Society Bulletin. *Miltoniopsis* Part II. How to grow the species. Pp. 905.
- De Tomasi J. 1950. American Orchid Society Bulletin. *Miltonia spectabilis*, Lindl. – Portraits of Botanical Orchids. Vol. 19 January No 1 Pp 14 – 16.
- Manzur D. 2005. Orchid. *Miltoniopsis vexillaria*. Distribution and Variation Vol. 74(1). Pp 26.
- Moir W. W. G. 1961. *Miltonia spectabilis* and its Hybrids. American Orchid Society Bulletin Vol 30. No 6. Pp 478 – 482.
- Rohrl H. 2004. Part VII – *Miltonia* and its intergeneric hybrids 1. Orchid Digest. Vol. 68 (1). Pp. 28 – 29.
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