Cultivar registration submission: *Sarracenia* 'Highland Plaid'

Dave Browne
CPS Vice Chair & Trustee

Our vice-chair, Dave Browne, has submitted a registration of a new *Sarracenia* cultivar to the ICPS Cultivar Registrar, named 'Highland Plaid'.

This plant is a complex hybrid bred from: [(*Sarracenia* oreophila × *Sarracenia* minor) × *Sarracenia* oreophila] × *Sarracenia* × catesbaei ('Big Red')

The plant was initially hybridized in Lincolnshire, England, and has spent the last 30 months being extensively evaluated for stability and hardiness in the Highlands of Scotland. It has proven to be a highly vigorous grower that holds its deep color brilliantly late into the autumn season.

ETYMOLOGY AND FORMAL DESCRIPTION

Cultivar Name: *Sarracenia* 'Highland Plaid'
Registrant Dave Browne
Location: Altass, Sutherland, Scotland
Etymology: The cultivar name 'Highland Plaid' commemorates the plant's current home in the Highlands of Scotland, where it has been successfully cultivated and evaluated for over 30 months after its initial hybridization in Lincolnshire, England. 'Plaid' references the traditional Scottish Gaelic term for a heavy woolen cloak or mantle, directly mirroring the prominent, wide, draping red hood that wraps around the neck of the mature pitchers.

Description: *Sarracenia* 'Highland Plaid' is a vigorous, tall, complex hybrid that exhibits an outstanding late-season color transformation, excellent cold hardiness, and exceptional pitcher structural durability.

- **Pitcher Structure & Stature**: Pitchers grow tall and strictly erect, reaching an average height of 53 cm from the soil line. They inherit their elegant height, robust vertical stature, and widely flaring upper pitcher tube from S. oreophila.
- **The Hood (Operculum)**: The hood is heavily influenced by the S. minor parentage, curving forward and dipping downward into a sharply defined, distinctive presentation beak. The lateral edges of the operculum flare outward into

broad, undulating 'wings', giving the impression of a classic cape or mantle draped elegantly over the shoulders of the column. The lid width ranges from 12 cm on established growths up to 15 cm on vigorous rhizome divisions.

- **Coloration Lifecycle**: Emerging spring and early summer pitchers open primarily green to coppery-bronze with a prominent network of crimson veins across the interior and exterior surfaces. As the pitchers mature under full sun, intense anthocyanin production causes the pigment to bleed uniformly across the plant tissue. The mature pitcher eventually bakes into a solid, deep, uniform maroon-burgundy or velvet-plum red finish across the entirety of the outer tube, column, and hood. Unlike pure S. oreophila lines which deteriorate early, *Sarracenia* 'Highland Plaid' maintains its rich, dark coloration and firm structural tissue late into autumn prior to winter dormancy.
- **Flowers**: Blooms in late spring in the Scottish Highlands; detailed floral morphology and coloration are currently unrecorded.
- **Vegetative Characteristics**: The plant is a vigorous grower that reliably propagates via sturdy rhizome divisions while faithfully maintaining its signature downward-dipping hood and deep color saturation across separate clonal divisions.

All photos: Dave Browne