



CARE SHEET FOR CYCLAMEN COUM

When we arrived at the garden, there were only two or three *C. coum*, something we remedied early on in our tenure.

More diminutive in every way, compared to *C. hederifolium*, this species starts to flower not long after the winter solstice, when one longs for any sign of spring.

In this paragraph is information that we copied directly from www.cyclamen.org as they say it succinctly. *Cyclamen coum* is found in the mountains and coastal areas that border the southern and eastern Black Sea coasts from Bulgaria in the west through Georgia and the Crimea in the east. It is also found in the Elburz Mountains of northern Iran. In southern Turkey it extends from the Hatay in southern Turkey, down the eastern Mediterranean coast through Syria and the Lebanon into Israel. It grows in shady places in coniferous and broad leafed woodland and scrub, sometimes growing amongst tree roots and rocks.

We've planted this cyclamen near specie peonies, ground orchids (*Dactylorhiza*), lilies and other plants that are easy to step on in the dormant season. The cyclamen clearly mark the area, and one would have to be blind to stand on the emergent peony buds! By the time the various bulbs/perennials grow, the cyclamen are starting their 'decline', going dormant for the summer. And likewise, these companion plants help protect the cyclamen from being dug up, as we've all been guilty of thinking, "oh, there is a blank space" only to find out that it wasn't...

Early on we grew, from seed, 'fancy' leaf varieties. While there is not as much variation, within a leaf, as one would find with *C. hederifolium*-there still is quite a wide range of markings/leaf coloring. However, we noticed that the more silver or variegated the leaf was, the weaker the plant was, overall. Obviously we've kept these weaker plants, as they are beautiful, but generally speaking the lightly marked and solid green grow the largest and flower the heaviest.

And, as with *C. hederifolium*, there are quite a few variations in flower color (within the red to pink to magenta spectrum). Again, early on we selected some that were nearly all white, or other delicate shades and grouped them together in some areas. However, the magenta ones really show up in the landscape. The pale ones are nice but don't make us want to go out in the cold rain, in January, to admire them. Hence our decision that if we end up buying more seed to grow on, we'll stick with the 'hot' colors.

As with *C. hederifolium*, be aware that small caterpillars/cutworms can ravage this plant, thru winter, so consider applying Sluggo Plus, as this product will deal with both cutworms and slugs.