

## **Sinocalycalycanthus raulstonii ‘Hartlage Wine’ Is this the star plant of Chelsea 2010?**

To the great surprise and delight of the Hillier team, five ten litre specimens of the exquisite *sinocalycalycanthus raulstonii* ‘Hartlage Wine’ have come into full flower just in time for this year’s RHS Chelsea Flower Show.

**Surely set to be the star plant of Chelsea**, this rare shrub has glossy green foliage and carries delicately scented semi-double flowers up to 7.5cm from May right through to September. The flowers are a rich wine colour with a cluster of cream, central petals around a deep burgundy centre. In autumn, the leaves turn butter-yellow before falling.



There is great excitement amongst the Hillier set-up team, as this is the plant’s debut on the Hillier exhibit. “This is the first year we have ever had specimens at the right stage to show,” says Andrew McIndoe, Managing Director of Hillier Nurseries (pictured right). “It’s such a stunning plant that you just know that it is going to be love at first sight for thousands of Chelsea visitors.”

A cross between *sinocalycanthus chinensis* and *calycanthus floridus*, *sinocalycalycanthus raulstonii* ‘Hartlage Wine’ was developed at JC Raulston Arboretum in North Carolina by Head Gardener, Richard Hartlage, and is very rare in the UK.

Even Hillier Nurseries, the UK’s largest hardy plant nursery, only has 500 plants for sale next spring. All 500 will all be available exclusively through Hillier Garden Centres and the Hillier Online Shop at [www.hillier.co.uk](http://www.hillier.co.uk)

**Size:** The plant grows to 3m x 2m and responds well to pruning to maintain the desired size.

**Position & Use:** The plant will thrive in any good, moist, but well-drained soil in full sun to light, dappled shade. It requires protection in winter from very cold winter winds.

**Price:** It will retail at around £16.99 for a 3 litre pot.

**Media Contacts** [www.hillier.co.uk](http://www.hillier.co.uk) For hi-res scans or to arrange interviews, contact:

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