GREEN PITCHER Although this plant is like a smaller, not very bright Yellow Pitcher in many of its forms, most of its hybrids are exceptionally fast growing, a quality often carried over to the next hybrid generation. New cultivated variants, particularly the highly coloured Sand Mountain forms and some other strongly veined types, are ideal for breeding with other richly veined species. Their offspring will combine vigour and intense patterning, often over a pale background.

WHITE PITCHER These striking, white-topped and upright pitchers with many vein variations from fine and pure-green, to thick and red have long been a favourite for hybridisation. Pitchers of the wild plants tend to be sparsely produced in two short growth spurts, but this problem disappears in many of the hybrids. Backcrossing any White Pitcher hybrid to its parent (or better still, a similar but not closely related clone) will often preserve hybrid vigour as well as the intense white of the upper pitcher. If the other plant used to create the primary hybrid is also strongly veined, the contrast is often very striking.

PARROT PITCHER Although usually small and lying almost on the soil, the distinctive shape of this species creates some very attractive hybrid pitcher shapes. The primary hybrids tend to be too backward leaning to be useful as cut pitchers, but when these hybrids are crossed again with larger, more upright species the distinctive head and rich colouration are often retained on reasonably upright pitchers. Many of the widely available hybrids from this species were bred from small clones of this species, but giant variants in both green and red are becoming available, and should speed up blending this species into commercial-sized hybrids. Parrot Pitcher produces relatively few seeds, and is best used as a pollen donor.

S. x 'Skywatcher', possibly a variant of S. x umlauftiana with pitchers which last well as cut flowers.

HOODED PITCHER The distinctive hood shape and often prominent windows make this a striking plant for hybridisation, particularly if giant, bronze Okefenokee strains are crossed with other upright and strikingly coloured or patterned species. For cutting purposes, many such crosses are sufficiently close-mouthed that their fine internal colour can't be seen, but this is rarely a problem by the next hybrid generation. This species is usually a poor seed producer, and will produce many more hybrid plants if used to pollinate other species instead.

SWEET PITCHER For hybridisation purposes, this species and Mountain and Canebreak Pitchers can be considered as very diverse colour and pattern variations on a single theme, most of them lending their hybrid offspring a rich and lacy fishnet pattern of red veins. Where this is undesirable (for example, in breeding for green or relatively unpatterned pitchers) the Canebreak Pitcher can be used to produce more golden and less patterned pitchers. Sweet Pitcher itself varies considerably in size from tiny, all-red plants to Chatom giants well suited to cut pitcher breeding. Growers from more temperate areas may want to use Mountain Pitcher to introduce its relative cold hardiness along with the veining pattern of this group. Despite their small size, subspecies *rubra* and *gulfensis* are excellent traps for European Wasps.

PURPLE PITCHER The recumbent habit makes this plant hard to use for cut pitcher production, but its hybrids can reach a large size. They also often carry the deep reds and conspicuous, marbled veins of their parents, and many are relatively upright with wide open, flaring hoods. A second hybrid generation produced against more upright species will often retain the flaring mouth to some degree, plus some hybrid vigour. The northern subspecies *purpurea* gives tighter and less flaring pitchers, also lending its offspring greater cold tolerance. By contrast, the southern subspecies *venosa* gives a more dramatic and flaring hood and the potential to produce hybrids that will thrive in the subtropics without special treatment.

NAMING COMPLEX HYBRIDS

The use of scientific names for natural hybrids seems to have created a fashion for latinised names for complex hybrids, and the best known of these are summarised in the table below. None have much botanical use, and they are probably best ignored as a nomenclatural hiccup from the past. Japanese names have not been included here, as it has never been clear whether these were intended as formal names for all related species crosses, or were intended as cultivar names only.

Other names along these lines can't easily be separated: the so-called *S.* x *catesbaei* is a cross between *S.* x *chelsonii* and *S. purpurea*, while *S.* x *vittata* is the same cross in the opposite order. Similarly,

SOME WELL-KNOWN NAMES OF COMPLEX HYBRIDS BETWEEN A SPECIES AND A HYBRID

Primary hybrid	Parent cross	Synonyms
S. x *comptoniensis*	*S. alata* x *S.* x *willisii*	
S. x *diesneriana*	*S. flava* x *S.* x *courtii*	
S. x *illustrata*	*S. flava* x *S.* x *catesbaei*	
S. x *kauffmanniana*	*S. purpurea* x *S.* x *chelsonii*	*S.* x *wilmottae*
S. x *melanorhoda*	*S. purpurea* x *S.* x *catesbaei*	
S. x *sanderiana*	*S. leucophylla* x *S.* x *readii*	
S. x *superba*	*S. leucophylla* x *S.* x *excellens*	