

# BULLETIN OF PEONY NEWS

No. 8

Edited by the Secretary of the Society  
A. P. Saunders, Clinton, N. Y.



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Published by the  
**AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY**

**May, 1919**

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## OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

President, JAMES BOYD      1617 Sansom St., Philadelphia, Pa.  
Vice President, A. H. FEWKES      Newton Highlands, Mass.  
Secretary, A. P. SAUNDERS      Clinton, New York  
Treasurer, A. H. SCOTT      Front and Market Sts., Chester, Pa.  
Directors, B. H. FARR      Wyomissing, Penna.  
                 L. R. BONNEWITZ      Van Wert, Ohio  
                 R. T. BROWN      Cottage Gardens Co., Queens, L. I.

## CONDITIONS OF MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Society is open to both professional and amateur growers. Nomination is not necessary for those desiring admission, but a list of applicants for membership is presented to the Society at its annual meeting and the names are there voted on.

Those who make application for membership at any time receive at once the publications of the Society, so far as they are available.

The dues are \$3.00 a year, but applicants for membership are required to accompany their application, which should be sent to the Treasurer, by a payment of \$5.00, of which \$2.00 is an initiation fee and \$3.00 a payment for their first year's dues. When the application is made before January of any year, the \$3.00 is considered as applying to the current year—June to June—but when the date of application is later than January first the payment is applied to the following year—June to June. Thus anyone making application in May 1919 and paying \$5.00 would be clear of dues until after the annual meeting in 1920.

The publications of the Society include the following:

- 1907 A Peony Checklist,  
   (in co-operation with Cornell University.)  
1908 Descriptive Bulletin No. 259 (with Cornell University.)  
1909 Proceedings of the American Peony Society  
   for the Years 1903-1908 (out of print.)  
1910 Descriptive Bulletin No. 278 (with Cornell University.)  
1911 Descriptive Bulletin No. 306 (with Cornell University.)

- 1914 Proceedings of the American Peony Society  
for the years 1909-1913.
- 1915 Bulletin of Peony News No. 1. (out of print.)
- 1916 " " " Nos. 2 and 3.
- 1917 " " " Nos. 4 and 5.
- 1918 " " " Nos. 6 and 7.

It is planned in the future to issue four News Bulletins a year. These contain the Proceedings of the Society, and articles on different phases of peony culture.

## REPORT OF DIRECTORS' MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Directors of the Society took place at the Hotel Astor, New York City on March 24, 1919.

The meeting was called to order at 11 a. m. Those present were Messrs. Boyd, Fewkes, Scott, Farr, Bonnewitz, Saunders. Mr. Philip Breitmeyer of Detroit was to have been present to talk over the details of the coming exhibition, but through a misunderstanding he was absent, and it was not until the evening that it was possible to take up with him that part of the day's business.

At the morning session a number of matters were disposed of which had been discussed at earlier meetings but upon which no action had so far been had.

It was decided to have identification buttons made so that members in attendance at our meetings and shows may more easily recognize each other. The preparation of such buttons was authorized a year ago, but the work was never done. The buttons will be numbered, each number corresponding with a place in a printed list of the members of the Society arranged in the order of seniority. These lists and buttons will be sent out as soon as ready by Mr. Boyd who was commissioned to have them prepared.

Mr. Boyd was further authorized to have a set of addressograph plates made for the membership list, in order to facilitate the addressing of envelopes for bulletins, due bills, etc.

Reporting for the special committee appointed a year ago for the purpose of extending the membership, Mr. Boyd stated

that a large number of circulars had been sent out to the leading growers with the request that they should slip them into their catalogues before mailing. The Secretary was able to report some few new members who had come in in this way, though the number was not large.

On motion of the Secretary, it was decided to issue four bulletins a year in place of two as at present. It is not the intention materially to increase the cost of the bulletins, hence the four under the new arrangement will contain only about as much material in the aggregate as has appeared recently in the two issues. But it is very desirable to have a number come out in the early summer giving an account of the meeting and exhibition in June; and if the summer number contained no other material than this it should be possible to get it out promptly. An effort will be made to do so.

The Treasurer read a lengthy report on the financial condition of the Society, showing that a rather large sum is still due from members who are in arrears with their dues. Mr. Scott has done much towards straightening out such cases, but there still remain not a few.

The expenditures for the past year exceeded the income by something more than \$100. It is therefore plain that we must either cut down expenses or increase our income. Of these alternatives the second appeared much the less disagreeable, and it was therefore decided to renew our efforts to enlarge the membership list. To this end Mr. Bonnewitz was made chairman of a new committee created for the purpose, and was given power to add other members on his own judgment. He expects to inaugurate a campaign for new members in the near future.

Mr. Boyd brought up the question of the engraving of plates for the Certificate of Merit and the Award of Merit. On reconsideration of these designations, it was decided that they were too much alike and they were changed to read Certificate of Honorable Mention in place of Award of Merit, and First Class Certificate in place of Certificate of Merit. The intention is in general to apply the first in cases where an exhibit of special interest or quality is staged; whereas the

First Class Certificate is to be given to important new seedling varieties. Thus the Honorable Mention goes, as it were, to the exhibit, or to the exhibitor, but the First Class Certificate primarily to the variety. Furthermore the Judges are authorized to award a silver medal, or even a gold medal, to seedlings which in their opinion are entitled to some unusual mark of distinction. The gold medal of the Society being its highest mark of recognition is of course reserved for varieties that are in one way or another of unique importance.

It was voted to have a new and handsomer die made for the medals of the Society, the design to be submitted to the President and Secretary for their approval.

It was moved and carried that applications for membership shall in future go to the Treasurer instead of the Secretary as heretofore; and that the Treasurer shall send the various publications of the Society to the applicants.

The prize schedule for the coming exhibition was then taken up, and its main features decided on. As it is given in full below, the action of the Directors need not be given in detail.

The Directors adopted a protest against the quarantine order issued by the Federal Horticultural Board under the title Quarantine No. 37. The exact wording of the protest was left to be worked out, but the substance of it was contained in a memorandum submitted by the Secretary. That officer was, under the action taken, instructed to prepare a protest, and to send copies to the Secretary of Agriculture, Chairman Marlatt of the Board, Congressman J. R. Mann; and also to all members of the Society, suggesting that they communicate with the Representatives and Senators in their respective States. Such a document has already been mailed to our membership list as well as to the others named above.

In a later session of the Directors at which Mr. Breitmeyer was present, details of the Detroit meeting and exhibition were discussed and although no final arrangements were made, the principal points were settled; so that we may look forward to a successful exhibition.

## PREMIUM LIST FOR THE DETROIT SHOW

The following is a preliminary list of the prizes to be offered at Detroit. There may be additions or corrections made to this list, but no substantial changes are likely to be made in it.

The official prize schedules will be sent out by the local committee in Detroit well in advance of the show. Detroit has a rather late season and from present appearances the show will probably not be before the middle of June. The date will be fixed as soon as possible.

### Open Classes Herbaceous Peonies—Cut Blooms

The following classes are open to all who grow peonies, whether for pleasure or profit.

Class	1st	2nd	3rd
1. Collection of not more than 100 named varieties, one bloom of each American Peony Society's Gold Medal and	\$25	15	10
2. Vase or basket of peonies, not less than 100 blooms, arranged for effect	15	10	
3. Collection of twenty-five varieties, double, three blooms of each	15	10	
4. Collection of single varieties, one bloom of each	10	6	
5. Collection of Japanese varieties, one bloom of each	10	6	
6. Twenty-five blooms, white or cream, double, one variety	8	5	
7. Twenty-five blooms, light pink, or pink and cream, double, one variety	8	5	
8. Twenty-five blooms, dark pink, double, one variety	8	5	
9. Twenty-five blooms, red or crimson, double, one variety	8	5	
10. Six specimen blooms, double, any variety	10	6	
11. One specimen bloom, double, any variety	10	6	
12. Collection of new varieties, double, introduced since 1900, one bloom of each	10	6	
13. Specimen bloom, new seedling of American origin, not yet in commerce. One prize only	10		

On recommendation of the Judges to the Directors of the American Peony Society, any new seedling staged at the Society's Exhibition may be awarded a Certificate of Honorable Mention, a First Class Certificate, or a Gold Medal. It should be understood that these marks of distinction will only be given to new varieties of exceptional merit, the award of the Gold Medal being the highest honor within the power of the Society to bestow.

14. The Harrison Memorial Prize of \$100 for a new Yellow Peony.  
Founded by Mr. L. R. Bonnewitz.

#### Conditions of Competition

1. The winning variety must be better in color and form than any yellow variety now in commerce. By this is meant that the winning blooms must not only be better than any other yellow peony shown in the same exhibition, but they must, in the opinion of the Judges, be superior to the best specimens staged in previous exhibitions.

2. At least six blooms must be shown, with not less than 15-inch stems, with foliage.

3. The winning variety is to be named C. S. Harrison.

4. The prize is to be awarded by the Nomenclature Committee of the American Peony Society for blooms shown at an annual exhibition of that Society.

5. The prize is open for competition from May 15, 1919, until July 15, 1924, unless it is awarded before the latter date.

15. Most artistic arrangement of not more than twenty-five peonies in vase, bowl, or basket.

Two prizes: The Garden Magazine Achievement Silver and Bronze Medals.

16. Ten prizes of \$2.00 each are offered for the best vases of not more than three blooms of each of the following American varieties:

Milton Hill  
Grandiflora  
Walter Faxon  
Standard Bearer  
Karl Rosenfield  
Martha Bulloch  
Longfellow  
Pleas' Jubilee  
Georgiana Shaylor  
Cherry Hill

#### Advanced Amateur Classes

##### Herbaceous Peonies—Cut Blooms

The following classes are only for those who grow peonies mainly for personal pleasure or satisfaction, who employ no



skilled labor in their care or handling, who do not advertize as growers by signs, stationery, price lists, or catalogues, and whose expenditure for new varieties exceeds all receipts for sales of flowers or plants.

17. Collection of not more than 100 named varieties, double, one bloom of each. American Peony Society's Silver Medal and	12	8	5
18. Collection of not more than fifty named varieties, double, one bloom of each. Competition in Class 18 not open to exhibitors in Class 17	12	8	5
19. Collection of ten named varieties, double, three blooms of each	10	6	
20. Vase of single peonies arranged for effect, one or more varieties; not over 25 blooms	5	3	
21. Vase of fifteen blooms, double, one variety	5	3	
22. Collection of Japanese varieties, not more than three blooms of each variety	8	5	
23. Collection of white varieties, double, one bloom of each	8	5	
24. Collection of light pink or pink and cream varieties, double, one bloom of each	8	5	
25. Collection of dark pink varieties, double, one bloom of each	8	5	
26. Collection of dark red or crimson varieties, double, one bloom of each	8	5	

### Novice Amateur Classes

The following classes are open only to those who grow peonies for personal pleasure or satisfaction, who employ no skilled labor in their care or handling, and who have grown less than fifty plants during the season of this exhibition. These classes are not open to exhibitors in the preceding sections.

The prizes in these classes are offered by Mr. B. H. Farr of Wyomissing, Penna. One prize only is offered in each class, and consists of \$5.00 worth of roots to be selected from Mr. Farr's catalogue. The winner may select one root to the full value of his prize, or he may choose several roots at lower prices.

27. Collection of six varieties, double, one bloom of each.
28. Vase of three blooms white, double, one variety.
29. Vase of three blooms light pink or pink an cream, double, one variety.
30. Vase of three blooms dark pink, double, one variety.
31. Vase of three blooms red or crimson, double, one variety.

## NEW VARIETIES FROM CHERRY HILL

Four new seedling peonies are to be put on the market from the well-known Cherry Hill Nurseries, T. C. Thurlow's Sons, Inc. The following descriptions were made by Mr. A. H. Fewkes, from blooms supplied to him during the season of last June.

### James Boyd

Form: Rose

Size: Large

Color: Total effect, flesh fading to nearly white. Guards, flesh with greenish tinge, sometimes streaked with carmine and green. Center, flesh tinged with salmon as it fades. Collar next guards, fleshy white, inconspicuous. Secondary collar near center, flesh, tinged yellowish salmon at base.

Petals: Guards very short and rounded, less than one half length of inner petals. Collar next guards, short and undeveloped. Inner petals, between first collar and center, medium width, long and notched ends. Secondary collar nearly as long as other petals but narrower and fringed. Center petals nearly as long as the outer, gradually diminishing in size towards the center.

Remarks: The peculiarities of the flowers are the remarkably short guard petals, primary and secondary collars, and extreme length of petals between. All petals have a more or less fringy appearance except the guards. Stamens and carpels are completely transformed, leaving no trace of stigmas in the way of markings on the edges of center petals. The odor is very pleasant and strong.

**Edwin C. Shaw**

Form: Rose

Size: Medium (probably much larger from older plants.  
Apparently cut from a weak plant.)

Color: Total effect, clear rose. Guards rose, lighter at ends, sometimes streaked with carmine. Center clear deep rose. Collar next guards delicate rose.

Petals: Guards very large and prominent, but slightly differentiated. Mostly rounded at ends. Collar next guards hardly distinguishable, being nearly as long and as large as inner petals. Petals in extreme center much shorter than the outer.

Remarks: The peculiarities of this bloom are its smooth and imbricated appearance, beautiful color and elegance of form. Stamens and carpels completely transformed but no trace of stigmas remains in the way of crimson edges.  
Odor not unpleasant.

**Thomas C. Thurlow**

Form: Semi-rose

Size: Large

Color: Total effect, salmon flesh fading to white. Guards flesh white. Center salmon flesh. Collar next to guards flesh white, some of the petaloids with yellow edges.

Petals: Guards broad, somewhat rounded and notched, not differentiated. Collar next to guards is very heavy, made up of wide petaloids, mostly with lacinated tips; those next the center are shorter and narrower, much fringed, and many edged with yellow, the remnants of transformed anthers. Center petals are broad and quite long, almost forming a crown, with several

marked with carmine, remnants of stigmas. The extreme center is made up of many short yellow petaloids, like partially transformed stamens with fringed ends. The guard petals reflex, while the center stand erect.

**Remarks :** The peculiarities of this flower are its reflexed guard petals, heavy fringed collar made up of petaloids, many fully as long as the guards, intermixed with smaller and shorter ones, the inner circle with yellow edges surrounding a cup-shaped center, at the bottom of which the central golden filaments intermixed with short flesh colored petaloids are a marked feature.

### **A. P. Saunders**

(This analysis was made from flowers cut at West Newbury, Mass., June 14, 1918, and kept in cellar until June 23, 1918.)

**Form :** Rose

**Size :** Large

**Color :** Total effect flesh white. Guards nearly white, with flesh tinge, often streaked with carmine. Center extreme nearly white. Collar next guards, flesh pink, very light. Petals inside and next to collar clear flesh.

**Petals :** Guards very long but not differentiated ; comparatively narrow, with rounded tips, and incurved, not reflexing. Collar next guards hardly distinguishable. Extreme center composed of mostly broad and short petals which remain incurved and forming a ball in center of flower until the petals are nearly ready to drop.

**Remarks :** The peculiarities of this bloom are its incurved form, like a huge Magnolia bloom, and its ball-like center. The outer guard petals are very prominently streaked with deep carmine and green. The principal petals of the flower are very long in proportion to width, with edges slightly rolled inward, giving them

a boat-like form, which is retained until they drop with age. The flower is completely transformed, with no trace of stigmas on edges of inner petals. There is a gradual gradation in length of petals from the guards to the center, and all are incurved.

Odor not unpleasant.

A variety of peony was put on the market some years ago under the name of T. C. Thurlow, by Messrs. Kelway and Son in England. That variety has now gone, so far as is known, completely out of commerce, if indeed it was ever disseminated. The other names employed for the above described varieties have not been used before, so far as our records show, for any varieties that have been in commerce.

## HOW TO MAKE THE MOST MONEY OUT OF AN ACRE OF PEONIES

By Wm. A. Peterson, Chicago, Ill.

(The following article appeared in the May issue of the Minnesota Horticulturist. Mr. Peterson has kindly consented to my re-printing it here. I am sure that no peony grower can fail to be interested in what Mr. Peterson says, for his words carry the authority that only a keen judgment and years of experience can give. Ed.)

I do not propose to discuss isolated cases of extraordinary profits obtained by producing new varieties of Peonies or even by cornering the market on a rare sort. In fact stocking up heavily on some new "queen bee" of a Peony Show frequently finds the grower five years later, offering the same at twenty per cent of the original cost.

There may be a dozen American growers whose extensive catalogues and large advertising of several hundred varieties make their profit on their acre of soil a bonanza.

There are just two ways to make money out of peonies—either by selling the roots or the flowers.

Leading up to the subject of profits, let us consider the three contributing factors thereto; first, the *root*; second, the *soil*; and third, the *labor*.

The *roots* should be young and healthy. If divisions are used have them cut from plants not over four years old and remove all but two strong eyes to each piece of sound tuber. The use of one or two year old plants saves some time, but on a given investment the divisions are more economical.

Most people prefer blooms of solid colors, and mass together in lawn planting or in bouquets those of the same shade. The number of varieties carried, therefore, depends on the amount of land available, as one must cut enough blooms of a kind to make a shipment worth while, and furnish enough similar material to carry out a decorative color scheme. For example, a florist might want five hundred Eugénie Verdier, the famous "baby pink" for a reception.

The possible range of varieties comprise four very distinct colors; namely, white, light pink, deep pink, and red, which is the usual classification adopted for exhibitions and by the cut flower trade.

In each of these four classes are three well defined blooming periods, the early, midseason and late. This makes twelve sections to be represented, as the goal set before each grower in selecting his varieties, and testing out the sorts to finally grow. Ultimately one may find it necessary to carry two absolutely indispensable sorts in some sections.

This building of a master list into which each tested variety must fight its way by sheer demonstrated worth is very absorbing. In comparing the painstaking records which we annually make, we sometimes find an outstanding variety, like Madame Forel, should be finally dropped, because other kinds have superseded it. In my personal study in order not to be too exacting and give new varieties every chance, I have really seven colors to divide the sorts into, viz.: 1. paper white, 2. cream or yellow, 3. blush or delicate flesh, 4. light or medium pink, 5. deep pink, and rose, 6. red, 7. crimson and deep red.

In this way we have tried out some fourteen hundred varieties and at the present time are carrying less than eighty.

Recommending varieties for other localities is not a very safe proposition and I shall only give a few notes on how certain sorts conduct themselves at our nursery. We have discarded Meissonier because of its crooked stems; Madame Emile Gallé because of having no low lateral leaves, which prevents cutting it with a long stem. Whereas Octavie Demay, a dwarf-growing delicate pink, admits of cutting with a fairly good stem without injuring the plant, and is a wonder. So far with us the prize-winning Jubilee has a very weak stem. Golden Harvest is one of the mixed colored kinds that florists cannot send on a definite color order, unless the customer knows it by name.

Madame Crousse is tender in our climate and often skips a season in blooming. Because Richardson's Rubra Superba has proven very shy, we no longer carry it; while Richardson's Grandiflora is all that its name implies and a very free bloomer besides. This is one of those unusual sorts that come into bloom over a long period, so one must have a good many plants to cut from to get a fair quantity of flowers at any given time.

Adolphe Rousseau is a wonderful "black" but too loose and shows the yellow stamens too much. The greatly talked-of pink, Lady Alexandra Duff, is on the same order.

Single blooming varieties attract some, but are not very suitable for shipping.

La Tulipe is objectionable in bud as the florists call it a "candy bud," whereas the bud of Kelway's Venus leaves nothing to wish for.

No matter how fine a sort may ultimately develop on the plant, if in the early stages of opening it is likely to "water-log" like Charlemagne, it is not worth carrying. Probably more Delicatissima are used at June weddings than any other light pink sort.

The most popular selling red is Felix Crousse, with its perfect bomb shape and large guard petal which always indicates a good storage variety.

Many will be surprised that we have finally dropped *Edulis Superba*. It does so well in many places, but on our records which we have kept annually since 1888, it is not nearly as dependable as *M. Jules Elie* and generally not more than a day earlier. In some quarters *Madame Ducel* is grown, but with us it is smaller and so similar in shade and time of blooming to *M. Jules Elie*, that we do not need it.

We notice an increasing emphasis laid on the desirability of the fragrant varieties.

Having settled what roots to carry we will now discuss the best soil conditions. The soil should be rich, deep, well drained and with plenty of sunshine. For root propagation a loose loam makes the tubers admit of better dividing, but the heavier soil, with even clay subsoil, produces the best blooms. Not only plenty of well rotted manure before planting should be plowed in but also an annual mulch thereafter in the fall, but not covering the top of the crown or touching the stem. Pigeon, sheep or cow manure and even some hard-wood ashes make the best fertilizer for our prairie soil. Peonies are such gross feeders that a large quantity of fertilizer if worked in thoroughly can be well taken care of, but no manure should ever touch the roots. For most favorable results there should be plenty of water during the blooming period, and toward the end of August to make large eyes for the next season. Some of the foregoing remarks might be classified as labor rather than soil.

*Labor.* The planting should be done during the early part of September, in rows three feet apart by a foot between plants down the row. In two years' time if the bed is to stand for blooming, every other plant should be lifted, divided and planted elsewhere.

If there is any question of the plants having any stem disease, during the month of September, cut off the old leaf tops level with the ground and burn them up. The surest method of keeping the roots free from disease is to dig out and destroy every large plant among blooming ones that has no flowers. In fact we have made it a practice for years, in all our stand-



ard sorts, of destroying June first every peony plant two or more years old that has no buds. This avoids the possible spread of disease, and also prevents the perpetuating of shy blooming strains of peonies. As long as plants bloom we need not worry.

The young shoots as they push up in the spring are quite beautiful and differ decidedly. At this stage of their development we go over our fields and dig out and throw away every plant differing in appearance from others in the same variety. This gets rid of any possible mixtures and is the last check in our system of keeping every plant true. I may be pardoned in mentioning here our ten-year old, unique guarantee of giving three for one for every plant blooming untrue to description.

Every three weeks from May to September we run a horse cultivator down every row and just before freezing up a "V" shaped potato plow to trench a furrow to draw the water away from the crown. Sufficient hand-hoeing during the summer must be done to keep the land free from weeds.

The labor of *marketing* the roots is mostly done in September, which is the proper time to move peonies. It is preferable for customers to do their own dividing as then the cut surfaces are fresh and wither less when put into the ground.

However, many purchasers do not know how, and for that matter we ourselves are often surprised at the poorly cut plants we sometimes receive.

After digging, the tops are at once cut off, which prevents the roots withering and in this dormant condition they can travel safely for several months. In all handling of the roots great care should be taken to not injure or break off any of the eyes.

Regarding the *marketing* of peony blooms.

Long straight stems are essential but the cutting must leave the plant to grow the balance of the summer with at least one, and better two lateral leaves on each stalk left standing. Where every stalk has a bud it is a good plan

when disbudding the side buds for the cut flower trade, to also roll off a terminal bud on one or two of the weakest stalks, and thus give the plant more leaf area with which to breathe. The disbudding of all lateral buds, when the size of a pea, makes the terminal bloom develop larger.

Just at what stage of unfolding to cut a bud depends on the variety and how soon it is expected to open. Several car-loads of peony blooms come annually to Chicago before Decoration Day from points fully six hundred miles away.

As soon as the stalks are cut and most of the lateral leaves stripped off in order to give more of the sap remaining in the stem to the bud, they are gathered together in bundles of thirteen of the same variety and size of bud. In units of thirteen they can be sold either by the dozen or the hundred. The buds cut when the dew is on them carry better but if they are to be wrapped in paraffin or other paper, the petals must be thoroughly dry.

If possible it is a good plan after the bundles are tied up to stand the stems in water for an hour before shipping in boxes.

For the benefit of those who want peony blooms much later than their normal season, and really one of the recent developments of this industry, it has been found that certain varieties of peonies when cut in bud will keep in cold storage for six to ten weeks, and upon their being taken out will unfold in all their usual glory.

We have now followed our lady-love from the cradle to the grave. The subject under discussion naturally eliminated many other interesting features pertaining to the peony, all equally fascinating, such as the ancient history and use of the peony; the renaissance of its culture in Europe; some of its famous hybridizers; a comparative study of the different shapes and types of its blooms; the various styles and shapes of its petals; a classification of its fragrance; the duration of the individual bloom when cut and also on the plant.

All of these subjects will be handled later under the title of the Golden Harvest of a Midsummer Nights Dream by a Welcome Guest.

## PEONY PROFITS

Not consider breeding new roots  
 " " cornering the market  
 " " carrying several hundred varieties

From propagating and sale of roots	From growing and selling flowers
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Roots to plant</b></p> <p>Young healthy two eyed divisions size most economical</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Best varieties</b></p> <p>solid color relation of number of varieties to land used four distinct color divisions three distinct blooming periods Master List test for each locality avoid crooked stems " short " " weak " " mixed color varieties " tender varieties " shy blooming " " loose petaled " " varieties with many stamens " single varieties " candy bud varieties " water-logging " bomb shape desirable dependable blooming fragrant</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Soil to grow in</b></p> <p>Rich deep well-drained sunshine loose loam for propa- gating purposes (heavier soil for pro- ducing blooms) well-rotted manure annual mulch desirable fertilizers quality of " no fertilizer ever touch roots or be over crown when water needed</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Labor to produce and sell</b></p> <p>Plant September distance apart diseases shy blooming strains young shoots ornamental detect mixtures unique guarantee horse cultivating hand hoeing</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Marketing Roots</b></p> <p>How and when divide removing tops dormant condition shipping long distances avoid damaging eyes</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Marketing Blooms</b></p> <p>Long straight stems essential do not cut all leaves on a stalk how to disbud what stage to cut the bud shipping long distances stripping lateral leaves tying in bundles of 13 cut with dew on wrapping in paper soaking stems in water cold storage</p>

## A FINE GARDEN OF PEONIES IN MICHIGAN

Mrs. Francis King writes under a date in last September, of her pleasure in seeing Mr. Will McClelland's garden at Saginaw, Michigan, and incidentally pays a tribute to that city.

"Peony growing" Mrs. King says, "seems to have taken such a hold in the city that a drive into, or out of, or through it in June, is becoming a thing to look forward to. I fancy that some of this general interest in the flower is due to Mr. McClelland; some too to Mr. C. W. Ward, who I believe was a Michigan man before he went to Long Island and California.

In Mr. McClelland's garden I made notes of the peonies then in bloom which most quickly caught and held my eye. These were, without any regard to an order of excellence, Martha Bulloch, Mme. de Galhau, Milton Hill, Mme. Jules Dessert, Asa Gray, Venus, L'Etincelante, Alsace Lorraine, Lady Alexandra Duff, Primevère.

With an ever-watchful eye for flower-arrangement it seemed to me that a planting of Primevère with Marie Crousse for June color effect was a thing that could not be surpassed for beauty. The two flowers are, together, beautiful beyond words."

## LATE BLOOMS ON PEONIA LUTEA

Mrs. Wm. Crawford of LaPorte, Indiana, reports some late flowers on *Peonia lutea*. Writing under the date September 15, 1918, she says :

"This morning I find *P. lutea* in bloom. As this is so unusual I am sending you a flower. I found that out of six plants one is in bloom and one budded. The other four are normal."

The bloom was received a few days later in fairly good condition. Perhaps others can report similar late blooms on this species. I have had it in bloom in Clinton, N. Y., in early August. Our climate here is to be sure rather northern. It would be interesting to know what the season of *lutea* would

be in the real north, say in northern Quebec. I find in an old note-book of some years back a record of having seen a purplish colored Chinese peony—perhaps *Fragrans*—in full bloom on August 12 at the little village of Ha Ha Bay on the Saguenay River, north of the St. Lawrence.

It looks as if one could have a happy five months of peonies by beginning with Mr. Long in Alabama, whose season opens up about April 10th, and working north from there to Hudson's Bay or the coast of Labrador, where I presume they would be in bloom until September. Life would be almost worth living on those terms.

A suggestion for some of our members who have leisure and the other requisites: A chain of peony gardens from Louisiana to Labrador.

## HOW TO HYBRIDIZE PEONIES

By A. P. Saunders

Let us assume first that we had the task of instructing someone who knew nothing of the structure of a flower, as to what the parts of a peony bloom are, and how it is to be hand-fertilized with pollen from another variety.

We should, I suppose, take a single variety, as being the simplest, and show him first the petals, which, though so conspicuous, take no direct part in the development of the seed, but are there only to make the flower visible and attractive to insects. So, since we are to see to the fertilization of the flower ourselves, they may just as well be removed.

The next layer of structures inside the petals are the stamens. These are the pollen producing organs, and each consists of a thread-like stem, the filament, and a yellow sac filled with pollen, the anther. When the anthers burst, thousands upon thousands of microscopic, wheat-shaped pollen grains are scattered about, and any one of these may bring about the fertilization of a seed.

At the very centre of the flower are the seed pods them-

selves. There are generally three of these. They are called carpels, and upon the top of each of them is a sort of ridge; this is the stigma, and it is here that fertilization occurs. When a pollen grain is placed on the stigma, it sends out a process called a pollen tube, which penetrates down through the substance of the stigma into the pod itself, and there penetrates into one of the individual seeds. Through the pollen tube the contents of the pollen grain are emptied into the seed, fertilizing it and causing it to grow into a mature seed.

In cross-fertilization therefore, we must remove the stamens of the flower on which we intend to produce seed, and bring pollen from another variety with which to effect fertilization. The seed-bearing plant which receives the pollen, is called the female, and the one from which the pollen comes is called the male.

Our pupil will now want to know something of the technique of the process. This involves three steps, which I shall describe under separate headings:

**Stripping the flower.** The bloom on which pollination is to take place must first be "cleaned up." When this is done, nothing is left of it but the seed pods themselves. We first remove with the forceps all the petals, because they are of no use and get in our way; then we remove all the stamens, because if we do not, the flower will probably fertilize itself. Furthermore we must see to it that we get the stamens stripped off before any of them have burst. That means that the flower must be stripped early in its history. With double blooms containing few stamens or none, we are generally safe if we strip off the petals at about the time when the bud is unfolding enough to show the inside. With single flowers it is usually then too late; these must as a rule be stripped well before the stamens are visible. When you think the bloom might open out about the following day, tear off the petals and you will find a tight mass of stamens on the inside. Take a look at these with the magnifying glass, and see whether any have burst. If they have, you will almost surely find pollen grains adhering to the stigmas. At the time when the

anthers begin to scatter their pollen grains, the stigmas become covered with a sticky fluid to which pollen grains tightly adhere. Hence if you find any pollen grains there, give up that flower and take one not so far along.

When you get one that shows the stigmas apparently free from pollen, and with no anthers that have split open, clean it up, being very careful to remove every stamen. Then take a critical look at the stigmas and see that they are (1) free from pollen grains, and (2) sticky. If they are not sticky you should put a bag over the flower and work on it the following day. But assuming that they are in good condition proceed to the next operation.

**Getting the pollen and pollenizing.** This is a simple matter if you have decided from what flower to take the pollen. Rather the best plan in my opinion is to have a glass vessel in which to place the anthers of the variety you wish to use as the male parent. What the biologists call a Petri dish, in a small size, is excellent, as it has a cover; but an ordinary little watch crystal does very well.

Pull off a few of the anthers and set them in the glass vessel, then tap it underneath so as to shake the anthers up and down. If they are in the right condition they will shake out a quantity of pollen on the surface of the glass. Now carry this back to the stripped flower, pick up some of the spilled pollen on the end of a very small sable brush, and dab it on to the stigmas until their sticky surfaces are well powdered over. If you have no brush, the best plan is to pick up an anther in the forceps, and rub it on the stigma until some of the pollen comes off; but you will find it all much easier and quicker using a brush. Our task is now accomplished, and all that remains is to protect the bloom from contact with any other pollen, and to mark it with a label.

**Bagging and labelling.** Very small paper bags may be had for almost nothing. One of these drawn gently down over the fertilized bloom and tied about the stem, will protect the bloom from further dangers, and may remain until the seed is ripe. So far as protection from other pollen is con-

cerned, a few days would suffice for that ; for the stigmas dry up very soon after fertilization has taken place, and when they are dry, fertilization is impossible. But if the bags are removed, there is danger in the autumn that the pods may burst and scatter the seed before it is gathered. I generally therefore tie the bag on tight and leave it until the time of ripe seed. A little peep-hole may then be cut in the top and the pod can be watched every few days until it is seen to open and disclose the brown seeds within.

For labels I use the little cardboard "string tags." They usually remain legible through the summer rains if the writing is done with a good black pencil.

The process of doubling in a flower is considered to be really a transformation of the other parts into petals. First the stamens are transformed, and finally the alteration may even extend to the carpels. In such cases it is often impossible either to get pollen from a bloom or to effect fertilization on it. Sometimes however when transformation has been almost complete so far as the stamens are concerned, a few petals may be found towards the centre of the flower, possessing thick yellow edges. If these thickenings are split open with a small knife blade or a pin, pollen will be found inside—not much, but enough to work with.

Different sorts show great variations as seed producers; some which apparently possess seed pods rarely if ever produce seeds. Duchesse de Nemours (Calot) is one of these. I have crossed on it several times and have never got anything. In some blooms it is almost or quite impossible to find any stigmas on which to place pollen. Richardson's Grandiflora is a flower where the process of transformation seems to have sacrificed everything to the production of petals; and so with many others. I have never been able to do anything with Thérèse; but Mr. Ringle of Wausau, Wis., reported some time ago having got a few seeds from it after repeated trials.

There are some varieties on the other hand that are conspicuously good seed bearers. One of these is Primevère. I think I have never found any pollen on it, but I use it every year as female parent and it sets such grand pods of seed that the



stems have to be staked to keep them from being broken by the weight of the seed. I mentioned in Bulletin No. 5, a bloom of Primevère from which I had taken 61 good seeds.

Other good female parents are Venus, and Marie Crousse, neither of which ever show pollen of their own. James Kelway, M. Martin Cahuzac, Adolphe Rousseau, are also good seed producers, but they all have stamens, and should be carefully examined before being used. The Japanese blooms almost always set seed well; and though it is very unusual to find any free pollen on them, some may almost always be had by opening up the thickened edges of the central petaloids.

A curious case is that of the Wittmanniana hybrid, Le Printemps. It happens to be the only one of these hybrids in my garden of which I have large and robust plants. It is a single, with stamens and carpels apparently well developed. Yet in spite of repeated efforts through several years, I have never had a fertile cross either on the plant itself with other pollen or on any other sort where the pollen of Le Printemps was used. It is, I suppose, a sterile hybrid.

Generally speaking the singles yield large quantities of seed. Most of them came themselves out of double strains, and from their seed there comes a large percentage of double progeny. Hence they ought to prove pretty satisfactory as seed parents for crosses.

Last year I had a strange disappointment in connection with *P. lutea* as female parent. I had made some crosses on this species using pollen from Chinese peonies, and was rewarded with half a dozen immense pods of seed. When the pods burst, there they were,—two or three dozen big black glossy seeds. But when I got them out, I noticed that they gave a little under pressure between the fingers, and on breaking one open, I found that the seed was nothing but a tough shell, there was nothing inside. And so it proved with all of them. Now generally speaking, when a cross fails the seed pod soon shrivels and dries up, but these had all the appearance of the most successful crosses. What sort or degree of fertilization was brought about here that would produce big

seed pods, and fine looking seeds, yet all only a hollow pretense?

I have spoken of several little implements that the hybridizer needs, and now for the sake of those who do not live in large cities, I shall tell where these things may be had.

Magnifying glass. Get what is called a doublet magnifier, giving 14 diameters magnification. They cost about \$1.25 to \$1.50, and may be had from the Kny Scheerer Co., 404 West 27th St., New York, from the Scientific Materials Co., Pittsburg, Penna., or from any scientific supply house. In using, the glass must be placed very close to the object, and the eye almost touching the glass.

Pincers. I like what are called Denton Forceps, but any small sized pincers will do. Carried in most drug stores. The Denton Forceps may be had from the Kny Scheerer Co., for about 50 cents.

Petri Dishes or Watch Crystals (Watch Glasses) may be had from either of the above firms. Petri Dishes, 2 inch, about 20 cents each; watch glasses cheaper.

Small Sable Brush, at any art store or large stationer's.

Tags for Labelling. I use Dennison Marking Tags 36 B. They are of a good comfortable size.

## THAT QUARANTINE

It is hardly necessary now to launch into explanations regarding Quarantine No. 37. A special pamphlet on the subject, embodying the protest framed by the Directors of the Society, was issued to our members a week or more ago; it set forth what seemed to them the obvious objections to the measure.

Some of our members have been inclined to think kindly of the regulation, believing that some general quarantine would probably prove to be worth what it cost, by affording horticulture in America protection from the introduction of foreign pests and plant diseases. That would be a reasonable

point of view if the measure were framed to give a maximum of protection at a minimum of cost. But just there is where Quarantine No. 37 fails, as was set forth clearly in the Directors' protest.

Furthermore, it does not appear from anything that has transpired in the discussion, that there is any absolute need for the immediate application of drastic quarantine measures. Circumstances are much as they have been. A delay of another year or two would not, so far as one can see, make very much difference. There is therefore no adequate reason why the matter should not be given a much more careful consideration than it has had—a consideration in which the other side should be heard, and not only heard, but listened to.

But apparently we can only make the Board listen by speaking very loud; and the loudest way is through our representatives at Washington.

## **FROM THE SECRETARY'S OFFICE**

### **Mr. Bonnewitz' Prize for a Yellow Peony**

Readers of the prize schedule in the earlier pages of this number will have been glad to find that through the kindness of Mr. L. R. Bonnewitz a prize of \$100 is open for competition during the present and five following years, for a yellow peony. The prize is offered under the name of the Harrison Memorial Prize.

It is the sort of memorial Mr. Harrison would himself have liked, and it is very much to be hoped that the prize may bring out a seedling worthy of the name it is to bear.

### **Welcome Home to Mr. Thurlow**

Everyone in peonydom will be glad to hear that Winthrop H. Thurlow is safe home from France, and back again at the peony business. He writes under the date of

April 15,— “I was mustered out last week and am home again now, and am going to try to learn more about peonies than ever before.” Mr. Thurlow is not the only one of our members who has been over there, and we shall hope to hear of the return of the others as well, safe and sound, before long.

### Seedling Tree Peonies at Rochester

Mr. Farr visited Highland Park in Rochester last spring, and reports that the sight of Mr. Dunbar's seedling tree peonies in bloom was so wonderful it made him want to plant an acre of tree peony seedlings. That is exactly what has been preached early and late in these pages, not perhaps that everyone should have an acre of tree peony seedlings, but that the great and tragic difficulties in dealing with these marvellous plants would for the most part disappear if we grew our own plants from seed instead of using the grafted stock commonly sold.

### Why Monsieur Martin Cahuzac?

Would it not be a desirable simplification of certain French names if the Monsieur were dropped from them? It is unnecessary. Martin Cahuzac, Jules Elie, would be just as good as the present more cumbrous forms. The older names could not so easily be changed, but those that have been given by growers still living might very well be pruned to the briefer form, and if authorized by the originators, the change would find immediate acceptance.

### Humor in the Catalogues

Here is a gem from a recent catalogue—no names mentioned!—under the heading “Peony Seed”—“They are very easily grown, and bloom the second year after planting.” Speedy young plants, those must be.

### The Matter of Labels

There is room for improvement in the matter of labels, and I propose that at our annual meetings we have label

shows, each member to bring a specimen of his pet breed of label, so that we may all be in a position to judge for ourselves what kind we should prefer to adopt. There seems to be a strong drift towards a zinc strip with the name recessed into it in one way or another, and the strip then hung on a galvanized iron rod. Mr. McClelland described such an arrangement at our last meeting, and Mr. E. P. Wheeler has recently sent me one of the same pattern taken out of the ground where, he says, it has been to his knowledge for 12 years at least. It shows almost no deterioration. Such a label is an immense improvement on anything in wood that I have ever seen.

Another sample has recently come in from Mr. A. L. Kelley of Springfield, Ohio. This is made with zinc tape, the name stamped in it and the strip then tacked onto a cypress stake.

Both of these will be on exhibition at Detroit, and it would be very much to the point if each of our members who has a good label will either slip one into his bag when he is packing up for one of our shows; or, if it is not possible for him to get there, perhaps he will send a specimen to me, so that I may take it along with others I may have.

Would it not be a good plan for the dealers to offer permanent labels with the varieties they sell? It should be possible to have a stock of labels made for about five cents each. I am sure such an offer would be appreciated by many customers, and they would be of great use especially to the beginner, who never uses anything better than a wooden label, with the result that in a few years he does not know one of his varieties from another.

### **An Appeal from France**

The following appeal has been received at the office of the Secretary, and is recommended to the attention of the readers of this bulletin. No argument is needed to convince anyone regarding the evil plight in which the French horticulturist must now find himself; and surely any one who will

respond to this appeal and send what help they can to the address given, will be contributing to a good cause.

Paris, February 1919

DEAR SIR,

We beg to inform you that the Société Nationale d'Horticulture de France has decided in its meeting of the 12th of December to open a subscription in favour of all those who, *at the horticultural point of view*, have been victims to the invasion and who have suffered material damages owing to the war.

La Société d'Horticulture de France sends you its most earnest entreaties, and hopes that you will be kind enough to help it in its work, by informing the members of your Association of the decision which has been taken and by collecting the subscriptions which will enable it to answer to the urgent needs which have already been pointed out to it.

The beautiful industrial solidarity which has always been shown clearly in the French Horticulture as well as in the International one in painful circumstances must not fail when it comes to make up for such terrible ruins.

The subscription is now opened and we beg you to send the amount of the gathered subscriptions to the "Trésorier de la S. N. H. F.", 84 rue de Grenelle, Paris.

We beg you to receive, dear Sir, with our best thanks, our kindest regards.

Le 1<sup>er</sup> Vice-President de la Société,  
President de la Commission,

ABEL CHATENAY

Le President de la Société,

VIGER

### A Method of Reviving Wilted Flowers

In one of the interesting little leaflets of peony gossip which Mr. Christman as Secretary of the N. W. Peony and Iris Society, contributes to the "Minnesota Horticulturist," he calls attention to the fact that peonies which have wilted may be revived and made as fresh as when cut from the plants, if the stems are placed in very hot water. This trick, already familiar to some, is worth knowing by all. It has been also particularly recommended for Dahlias in a recent number of a horticultural paper.

## Hollis Varieties in the Trade

In connection with an article soon to appear on the Hollis varieties, the Secretary is compiling a list of these varieties that are now in the Trade. All who have Hollis varieties for sale will confer a great favor by sending in a full list of those that they can supply.

## NECROLOGY

It is with great regret that the following deaths among our members are here recorded:

Mr. C. H. Chandler of the Chandler Nursery Co., Cedar Rapids, Iowa, died on January 11, 1917.

Mr. H. J. Mullen of Westfield, Mass., died in September 1917. The administrator of his estate reports that his peony garden is being kept up in accordance with his book records and blue prints. The blossoms have been sold the past two years for the benefit of the Red Cross, realizing between four and five hundred dollars.

Mr. Robert Whyte, of Ottawa, Canada, died in April 1918. Mr. Whyte was a well known enthusiast in matters horticultural, an active member of the local horticultural society, and for many years interested in raising new varieties of fruit and flowers, some of which have proved of permanent value. Mr. Whyte's garden in the centre of the city was packed full of the plants he was especially fond of, and a visit to it was always an event of interest.

The Rev. C. S. Harrison of York, Nebraska, died on February 23, 1919, at the age of 87.

A great loss has fallen on the peony world in the passing of Mr. Harrison. Few men have done so much in promoting public interest in any flower as he did for the peony. His enthusiasm, combined with an unusual gift for expressing the warmth that was in his heart, made him a prophet of power and influence. It was not alone on the indifferent public that he worked, but even in those who already loved the peony his words awakened new ardor. If his enthusiasm sometimes

carried him into over-appreciation of new varieties, which did not fulfil the expectations he aroused for them, that should be a fault easily forgiven; the more so as it never sprang in him from sordid motives. Further, in his later years he himself became more wisely critical of the charms of his own and of others' seedlings, and discarded a good many of the sorts on which in his earlier years he had lavished too much praise.

He had, as all men, the defects of his qualities, and one of the best of his qualities was his whole-hearted devotion to the beautiful in flowers.

His Manual of the Peony was probably the first work in English dealing with the peony alone. It appeared in 1904 and has since passed through four editions. The little book was a godsend when it first appeared, and in spite of some inaccuracies it still has real value, and finds a place on the shelves of every grower of peonies.

Mr. Harrison was elected to Honorary Membership in the American Peony Society in 1912, and in 1918 was made Honorary President for life, of the Northwestern Peony and Iris Society.

It would lead us too far here to sketch either his long and varied life or to attempt an appreciation of his work in the many fields of activity in which he played a part. But in his death we mourn the loss of a warm-hearted and good man, bound to all of us by the ties of a common enthusiasm, and to many of us by those of personal friendship.

This note would indeed be incomplete if it did not include his own farewell message to his fellow-laborers in horticulture:

"Good-bye grand old mother earth; good-bye majestic mountains, fertile plains, forests, singing brooks and sparkling lakes.

Good-bye you thousands of Horticulturists. Thank you for your kindly words and appreciation of my labors. We have had a good time trying to lift our calling to a higher plane.



Good-bye all my personal friends who have given me kindly cheer on my way.

My crowning work is the Gospel of Beauty lately published with sketch of my life and a photo. The price is \$1.00 for the cloth binding and fifty cents for the paper.

My life work was founding and helping sustain Franklin Academy. The proceeds of my book will go to help the Academy which has done such heroic work, benefitting thousands of young people.

I die thanking God I have lived and known you all. May you succeed in your glorious work here, and then be exalted to the higher Horticulture of God, whose everlasting spring abides, and never withering flowers.

Ever yours,

C. S. Harrison."

#### APPLICANTS FOR MEMBERSHIP IN 1919

The following is a list of those who have applied for admission to the Society since the last annual meeting. These names along with others which may be added in the meantime, will be voted on at the Detroit meeting.

Prof. L. C. Glenn	.	.	.	Nashville, Tenn.
James E. Russell	.	.	.	Paulding, Ohio
L. S. Ream	.	.	.	Paulding, Ohio
C. H. Hall	.	.	R. F. D. No. 2	Wexford, Penna
David C. Stranger,	Cherry Hill Nurseries,	W. Newbury,	Mass.	
(Life Membership)				
Mrs. Mabel W. Turpie	1954 E. Main St.	Columbus,	Ohio	
W. D. Williams	.	.	.	Van Wert, Ohio
Benjamin Ireton	.	.	.	Van Wert, Ohio
Harmel Peony Company	.	.	.	Berlin, Maryland
James S. Wallace	12 Wellington St. E.	Toronto,	Canada	
Mrs. Crosby McDougal	92 Brinkerhoff St.	Plattsburgh,	N. Y.	
Carl L. Pratt	.	.	Marion,	Wayne Co., N. Y.
John M. Robertson	813 Wyoming Ave.,	Moosic,	Penna.	
John Heiss	403 University St.,	Lafayette,	Indiana	
A. L. Kelly	The O. S. Kelly Co.,	Springfield,	Ohio	
A. B. Cunningham	Orinoco Nurseries,	Columbus,	Indiana	

Harry F. Little . . . . . Goodland, Indiana  
 Herman O. Zielsdorf . . . . . 840 McIntosh St., Wausau, Wis.  
 H. M. Rolph . . . . . Markham, Ont., Canada  
 W. H. Phipps . . . . . Paulding, Ohio  
 Clarence W. Hubbard . . . . . 6144 Lakewood Ave., Chicago, Ill.  
 F. H. Barclay 3205 Oakfield Ave., Forest Park, Baltimore, Md.  
 Prof. U. S. Grant . . . . . 627 Library Place, Evanston, Ill.  
 C. E. German . . . . . 531 Colborne St. London, Ont.  
 Frank B. Garman . . . . . care Edwin C. Shaw, Akron, Ohio  
 Colonel Robert C. Eddy, Coast Artillery, Ft. Washington, Md.  
 W. A. Sisson . . . . . Ripon, Wis.  
 Mrs. W. H. Mercur . . . . . S. Dallas Ave., East End, Pittsburg, Pa.  
 Miss May J. S. Oleson . . . . . Ripon, Wis.  
 A. B. Franklin . . . . . Station F., Minneapolis, Minn.  
 P. E. Smith . . . . . 13 Jewett Place, Utica, N. Y.  
 Chester H. Moon . . . . . Latham, Kansas  
 R. S. Crawford . . . . . First Trust and Savings Co., Cleveland, O.