

AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY

Bulletin



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JUNE, 1928

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JUNE, 1928

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Robbinsdale, Minn.

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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 upon.

Those who make application for membership at any time receive the current publications of the Society as they are issued.

The dues are \$3.00 per year, and *all checks covering membership dues should be made to The American Peony Society and sent to the Secretary with application for membership.* Dues in future are to run from January 1st to January 1st of the following year.

Back bulletins of the Society will be charged for at the rate of 50 cents per copy and \$1.00 for the Symposium Number (No. 14). To non-members these prices are doubled. No bulletins available prior to No. 13.

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The New Peony Manual

By JAMES BOYD, *Haverford, Pa.*

THE editor of the Bulletin has asked me for some data in regard to the Peony Manual, as he believes that many members will be interested to know how the work is progressing.

It is now over two years since I rashly volunteered to undertake this great task. Had I fully realized what was before me, I should have suggested a division of the work, which would have, I know, hastened its completion and perhaps insured greater accuracy.

The work is really divided into four distinct parts: the check-lists; the descriptions; history and biographies; and contributions covering propagation, cultivation, pathology, importation and experience.

If there had been four editors, with perhaps a fifth to act as chairman and to assemble the different parts, the work would have progressed much faster.

CHECK-LIST OF ALL PEONIES

The compilation of the check-list, which is supposed to include the names of all peonies—good, bad and indifferent—that are offered in commerce today, was a task by itself. Many names are misspelled, introductory dates are incorrect, and much information is thoroughly unreliable. I am sorry to say that there are still some growers who purchase peonies and when they find they are not what they ordered, proceed to invent a name for them; such as "Pink Baroness Schroeder," "Kelway's False Queen," "La Verne," etc. These names have been incorrectly credited to the grower from whom the peonies were bought, whereas he was never guilty of creating such names, although he may have been guilty or unfortunate in sending the wrong peonies to fill an order.

Other growers have purchased peonies and apparently have written labels for them according to the sound of the name without taking the trouble to learn its correct spelling.

MANY STILL GROW DISCARDED VARIETIES

Others list peonies with no thought of their origin and when asked in regard to them, simply state that they think they were given to them some years ago, or that they purchased them from a small dealer, or from a private grower who has since left for distant parts. Many dealers continue to grow discarded varieties because they cannot make up their minds to throw them on the dump where they belong.

DESCRIPTIVE PART OF BOTH IMPORTANT

The descriptive part of the book was also a work by itself. Color, form, season of bloom and fragrance had to be much discussed, carefully considered and finally decided. There is probably more disagreement in regard to color than to any other characteristic of the peony, and the correspondence involved in connection with this subject has been tremendous. A new classification of types has been adopted after much consideration.

The history and bibliography required much research, as nothing of the kind had been published before, and no complete records had been kept, showing awards, etc.

The collection of articles relating to propagation, cultivation, pathology, importation, etc., was comparatively easy. Professor Saunders' essay on the officinalis peonies and the various species contains much new and interesting information, and the section devoted to tree peonies is almost a book by itself, giving the history, check-list and descriptions by John C. Wister.

PRACTICALLY EVERY SUBJECT COVERED

Dr. Freeman Weiss has contributed a very complete article on the pathology of the peony, and Messrs. Little, Brand and Fewkes, who are well-known to all peony growers, have written interesting articles on different subjects. Dr. Charles Marlatt, chairman of the Federal Horticultural Board, has written on the importation of peonies. In fact, practically every subject relating to peonies has been carefully covered and it is hoped that this manual will be a reliable book of reference for years to come.

The book is now in the hands of the publishers and the first galley proofs have been carefully amended, deleted and added to. The second proofs are looked for next week and if all goes well, the book should be ready for distribution before the end of July. The book will have many illustrations, some in color, and it will be handsomely and substantially bound.

A limited number of advertisements will be admitted from reputable firms and individuals. These will be found at the end of the book and will be of great value to all purchasers of peonies and supplies connected with their cultivation. Applications for advertising space should be made at once to the secretary, W. F. Christman, at Robbinsdale, Minn.



The Peony in Canada

By J. E. CARTER, *Guelph, Can.*

ON ACCOUNT of my name appearing on your membership list for some years the writer has received several letters from members in the United States asking if it were true that we could successfully grow the peony in Canada. My answer is "yes; we can grow the peony to perfection. Our soil and climate is ideal for perfect bloom production."

While our winters, especially in the northern and western part of Canada are cold and we experience very hard frosts, the ground is generally covered with a good blanket of snow. Our spring and summer comes gradually, thus permitting gradual growth and development. No extreme hot weather to rush development, hence a strong robust stalk and foliage and a perfect bloom which has lasting qualities.

TOO LATE FOR PEONY EXHIBITIONS

The one drawback, our peonies are too late for the famous American peony exhibitions, hence the reason there are few Canadian exhibitors. While on this subject this suggestion to the directors might be in order: Why not hold two shows, one that would embrace the south and middle states and one for the northern states and Canada? We would then be able to demonstrate how good we can grow the peony.

The year the American peony exhibition was held at London, Ont., a most successful one was held. The quality of bloom was hard to beat and there was a very large entry. I am of the opinion that we should at an early date again be favored with the big exhibition.

FINE PEONIES IN NORTH MANITOBA

A friend of mine produces very fine peonies at The Pas, Man., which is on the line to Hudson Bay. This point is very far north and is probably as far north as the plant has been grown in Canada. It would not surprise the writer that, now the Hudson Bay Railway is being completed to the Bay, to find in the next few years peonies grown right to Hudson Bay. One must remember that at The Pas they have in June and July much longer daylight than we who are many hundreds of miles south,

and what they lack in growing days they make up in long sunshine each day. Hence the reason why they should be able to successfully grow the peony up to Hudson Bay.

MANY PEONY GARDENS

In Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island, almost every garden contains a peony or two and in many gardens will be found splendid collections of the rare varieties. This is especially true around Toronto, Belleville, Hamilton, Guelph, Galt, Kitchener, and London, where you will find gardens of several hundred varieties.

Western Canada is coming to the front very fast and the people are planting the peony in ever increasing numbers as they find it thrives in that wonderful western soil. In the city of Winnipeg one will find many fine collections and at their exhibition will be found perfect blooms.

To demonstrate that we Canadians are interested and can grow the peony, we would point out that our membership in the American Peony Society is 40, the largest membership of any country outside the United States and ninth in membership as compared with your 41 states listed. In other words, only eight of your states have a larger membership.

The writer believes it possible to have two hundred members or more in Canada inside of the next two years.

HAMILTON MAN HAS FINE SEEDLING

A Hamilton, Ont., man has produced one of the finest seedling peonies the writer has ever had the privilege of seeing. As soon as it is registered at Ottawa it will no doubt be introduced and will certainly be a prize winner wherever shown.

Dr. F. G. Brethour of Toronto has also produced several very fine seedling peonies and has several more likely to make good.

Splendid experimental gardens for peonies have been established at Galt, Ont., Lindsay, Ont., Canadian Government Farm at Ottawa, and Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, Ont. The first two gardens are under the Canadian Horticultural Council, but are owned by the people of Galt and Lindsay.

Winnipeg, Man., I understand, has also commenced a garden for peonies. In these gardens, which are open to the public, will be found all the standard and new varieties, properly labeled. Thousands visit these gardens each year and they prove to be of a great educational value. American growers should have their new varieties represented. They

can do so by getting in touch with L. F. Burrows, secretary of the Canadian Horticultural Council, Ottawa, Canada.

PRINCE OF WALES SPONSORS PEONY

His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales, also made the peony more popular on account of his generous gift during his last visit to Canada when he gave several fine peony roots to many of the cities and towns in Canada and you can be sure each municipality is giving these peonies a good home and the citizens take pride in having this royal gift.

Our members can readily understand the popularity of the peony in Canada. They can also expect a much larger membership from Canada in the near future.



A Peony Problem

By ERIC FISHER, *Quebec, Can.*

A MEMBER of the society for a number of years, I do not recall ever having noticed an article either in the Bulletin or magazines dealing with the best possible association of varieties from a garden standpoint.

We love our individual blooms, but most of us, too, would like the garden to derive the greatest benefit from our peonies. In view of the plant's dislike of frequent change and the time required for its establishment, this apparent neglect of the association of varieties seems strange, though the problem is a difficult one.

HIT AND MISS PLANTING CLASHES

Probably other members have been more careful than I, but no doubt there are some who have bought a plant or two each of many varieties and planted them as and when purchased in rows, or in any place in the garden where space could be found. This, of course, gives a kaleidoscopic effect not unpleasing as a splash of color in the distance, but on closer inspection, how those various pinks and reds do clash!

Here is a dwarf completely hidden by some giant. There is an early variety, its lateral blooms challenging an unfair comparison with its mid-season neighbor. If by mischance a Jap or single is plumped in the middle of a group of doubles, it immediately becomes soloist and the latter are relegated to the chorus, or if a double competes with a group of singles the reverse is the case.

Lower growing and earlier officinalis are apt to be mixed with albi-flora, and some of us have a tree peony that has survived the rigors of

a northern winter or frosts of late spring looking considerably the worse for wear, beside *Festiva Maxima*.

If grown in rectangular beds and a mistake has been made, it is probably not discovered until the plants have been there a couple of years. Then they have to be removed, the soil renewed, and suitable varieties planted which probably will be smaller and give a spotty appearance to the bed for some years.

The peony, too, should be considered as a foliage plant. Some varieties have light, others dark green leaves, some finely cut, others quite coarse. Where possible this might well be taken into consideration. I have already touched on the effects of height and flowering period. If I make a mistake with gladioli, tulips, or other bulbs lifted annually or plants grown from seed, my sins of commission need only cause me anguish for one season at the most, but if you are riding that hobby, the peony is a horse of quite another color!

CARE IN PLACING IMPORTANT

It is difficult to find well-established plants of new and high priced varieties for purposes of comparison. I have seen one such of *Mrs. Edward Harding* and in the same garden several *Le Cygne*. Both are magnificent whites, and as such might reasonably be placed side by side, but (subject to expert correction) show to better advantage apart. *Lady Alexandra Duff* loses some of her charm if she adjoins the more solid *Claire Dubois*.

I have jotted down a few points as they occur to me in the hope that members may have some valuable suggestions to make. Roughly I have a couple of hundred varieties—doubles, Japs, singles, species, including many novelties and few rated under 8. They are now in rows awaiting (I fondly hope) their ultimate placement.

Mistakes will be numerous, but with your assistance perhaps I can keep them within bounds. Can you and will you help me?



Peonies for the South

By POPE M. LONG, *Cordova, Ala.*

PEONIES certainly grow nicely as far south as Atlanta, Ga., and Birmingham, Ala., and possibly as far south as Montgomery, Ala., but I have never seen any grown there. My home is the same in latitude as Birmingham. I have successfully grown peonies for 25 years. I never plant the late full rose type as they rarely do well over a period



Mr. and Mrs. Pope M. Long in their
Peony Garden

of years. The buds often refuse to open. The semi-rose type, also the bomb and crown type, in the early and mid-season bloomers are more reliable. I plant so that the buds are barely covered with earth. I know of no better fertilizer than a 50-50 mixture of bone meal and wood ashes. The best soil is a clay or a loam with a clay foundation either red or yellow.

I have tested out hundreds of varieties and while it is hard to limit myself to only twelve I know that the following are good for the South:

Kelway's Glorious. All Kelway varieties seem to just suit the South.

Festiva Maxima. Old but nothing better for general planting.

Primevere. The best yellow and white. A most lovely peony.

THERESE. I put this one in capitals as I consider it the best peony of any color.

Edulis Superba. Good deep pink. Cheap in price only.

Marguerite Gerard. This is an exception of all peonies in that it seems to thrive better in the South than in the North. The most vigorous grower I have. It often has stems four feet long. I had a row of six of this variety that produced over 200 perfect blooms. If it had fragrance it would be ideal.

Walter Faxon. A wonderful pink. I rate it as the best peony of American originations. Fine bloomer, too.

Masterpiece. Felix Crousse is equally as good but not as strong in growth.

Mikado. All southern gardens should include several Japs as they are the best bloomers of all. Mikado is a fine red. I have counted 100 perfect blooms upon one extra large clump. King of England is just as good but no better, as they are almost identical.

Fuyajo. A man's peony of deep crimson. Most spectacular peony I have in my garden. It simply will not be ignored.

Isani Gidui. Nothing superior in a white Jap.

The best blossom in my garden in 1927 was from Martha Bulloch.



Peonies in South Two Years from Planting

Other varieties that are special favorites of mine are Miss Salway, Lady A. Duff, Mabel Franklin, Pride of Essex and a red that promises to be my best garden variety, Cherry Hill. For lawn only I consider Umbellata Rosea the peer of them all. For exhibition Le Cygne stands at the head.

Note.—The illustrations speak better than words the success Mr. Long is having with his peonies.—EDITOR.



Pennsylvania Peonies

By HUGH GILMORE, *Williamsport, Pa.*

THE 1927 peony season in central Pennsylvania was a very erratic one; the changeable weather from warm to extreme cold, coupled with the heavy rains and windstorms had a bad effect on floral progress; however, for several peony seasons I have been experimenting and feel that to some extent I have overcome this spasmodic weather.

I keep the ground around each stalk constantly loose, not permitting the soil to cake and harden, thus giving each plant plenty of air. I water these plants, too, in exceedingly dry weather and as the season progresses (when the buds break) of course, I take off all the suckers and never fail to slip over each choice bud so breaking a "night cap," such as an oiled paper sack. This course protects this bloom from the soft coal dust ever penetrating the air in our mountainous section and also from the sun's at times terrific rays, likewise from the dashing rains which usually spoil the "gem" you are so earnestly endeavoring to develop. The pro-

tection so accorded each bloom amply pays the attendant in the gorgeous non-faded bloom developed perfectly. I advise amateurs to try this simple course and get the true color due each flower. This works out 100 per cent on white early Japanese varieties and where the fan desires to get the true bloom, particularly in the peony known as *Primevere* or any delicate colorings. This oiled sack can be taken off at night and replaced, protecting the flower from the fierce burning sun of the mid-day.

I have forced many a peony from three to five days, in moderate weather, forcing the flower to break for Decoration Day, this by taking the cold chill off the mountain hydrant water by neutralizing it with a quantity of warm water and I suggest that some of your peony readers of the amateur ranks try these simple experiments. If your plant is backward try the loosening of the ground process from an imaginary outer circle and working towards the stalk but in no sense to touch the root or bulb. I discovered that this course brings out true colorings and for local peony shows it is a winner nine times out of ten but fails in long distance shipments.

It surely does not cost the enthusiast anything but labor to try out these simple suggestions to their extreme pleasure and delight in the cultivation thereof. The gorgeous *Mons. Jules Elie*, *James Kelway*, *Mme. Rousseau* and *Karl Rosefeld*, *Jubilee*, *Germaine Bigot* and *Sarah Bernhardt* tried out in this manner and subsequently installed in vases, swell in size unbelievable. I might add that the 1927 season was very proficient in middle Pennsylvania. We had varieties from May 31 to June 21, and the late varieties broke even better than the early type, something extremely unusual in this climate.



New Strain of Hybrid Peonies

By PROF. A. P. SAUNDERS, *Clinton, N. Y.*

IT IS NOW eleven years since I began to work on the production of hybrids between the ordinary Chinese peonies and the varieties of *P. Officinalis*. The first blooms were produced in 1924 and since then each year has brought a new group to maturity. This strain is now sufficiently well established so that it may be of interest to discuss some of its characters.

The seedlings which have so far come into bloom with me are these:

Four hybrids using pollen of a single officinalis variety on the single white Chinese peony *The Bride*. These are all single crimsons.

Thirty-one hybrids using pollen of a single officinalis variety on double white or yellowish Chinese peonies (*Primevere*, *Fuji Mine*, a White Jap., and a third plant, a seedling of the type of *Primevere*). These are also without exception single crimsons.

Seven hybrids using sinensis pollen (probably mixed pollen from double and single sorts) on *Officinalis rubra plena*. All these seven are full doubles, six of them double crimsons and the seventh a double pink.

One hybrid using pollen of sinensis on a single officinalis. This proved to be a very small almost black flowered single.

OFFICINALIS PARENT CONTROLS DOUBLENES

It is a curious fact that the character of doubleness or singleness is apparently determined by the officinalis parent in every case. Also, that except for the one case of a double pink in the third group, the officinalis parent determines the color.

With respect to the general habit of the plants, the female parent seems to have most to say. All of the 35 hybrids in the first and second groups are tall plants, quite as tall as the average Chinese peony and much taller than their officinalis parent. Two of them, of which I happen to have measurements, showed a height of 33 and 40 inches respectively, while the two officinalis varieties *rosea plena* and *striata elegans* measured on the same day, had only 26-inch stems; and the effective difference is much larger than these figures indicate, since the officinalis varieties have a sprawling habit, and the actual stature of the plants was not by any means equal to the length of the stem, whereas the hybrids, having thick, stiff, straight stems have an effective height as great as the actual stem length.

BLOOMING TIME SAME AS OFFICINALIS

In the third group the plants are variable in stature, some being quite dwarf, others very tall.

The foliage is in general intermediate, but inclines rather to the officinalis than to the sinensis parentage; it is usually coarser than that of the officinalis varieties.

In blooming time these plants come with officinalis, but they have a longer duration and the height of their season laps over into the beginning of the sinensis season. Some, indeed, go on longer, for in 1927 I cut a bloom of one of the double hybrids on July 12. The year 1927 was, it is true, a very late year; but the Chinese peonies were in full

bloom here before July 1, and very few of them were still hanging on as late as the 12th. This hybrid strain in that year had a total season of more than a month, for the first recorded bloom was on June 10.

The real question, however, for the peony fancier is as to the actual beauty and value of these hybrids. My opinion is that for the garden they will certainly prove an important addition. As cut flowers for the house, the singles have great beauty, but whether they would have any commercial value in that way I am not so sure; it may well be that some of the double form would better meet the exacting demands of the cut flower trade.


SINGLES ARE THE MOST STRIKING

The striking individuals so far in this race are the singles on account of their stature, size, and color. At their best they are immense, upstanding, cup-shaped blooms of the most intense glowing and vivid crimson color with a very effective group of stamens sometimes striped with red. A measurement gave eight inches for the diameter of one of the larger blooms, and on the largest of all nine and one-half inches; but many are smaller. The best of them, and especially those which lean towards the dark mahogany shades, hold their color extremely well until the petals fall, but some unfortunately show a tendency to go off towards the end into inferior purplish tints.

The entire strain is sterile both as to its pollen and also as to its ability to set seed, although most of the singles form immense furry seed-pods capacious enough to hold a heavy crop of seeds if there were such. This sterility no doubt adds to the length of life of the individual blooms and it is true that they last extremely well.

It is strange that this cross was not made long ago, for it is not one that offers any particular difficulty, although the yield of seeds is always small. I have been told that hybrids of this strain have been produced in Holland but I cannot vouch for the truth of the statement.

In this country there have been several growers who have worked on it besides myself during recent years and the beginnings must have been made at almost the same date by all, and quite independently. The first to stage any blooms at an exhibition was Lyman D. Glasscock of Joliet, Ill., who showed a bloom of such a hybrid at the peony show in Des Moines in 1924. Since then they have appeared at several of the Peony Society's exhibitions. W. S. Bockstoce of Pittsburgh, Pa., Edward Auten, Jr., of Princeville, Ill., and A. E. Kunderd of gladiolus fame, in Goshen, Ind., have all achieved success with this cross, and Mr. Kunderd promises to put two of his single varieties on the market this year.



Secretary's Notes



WE HAVE made a change in printer, as well as many other changes, which we hope will merit your approval. We want to constantly improve the bulletin and make it more valuable to our members and your suggestions will be greatly appreciated.

We have a splendid article for the next bulletin that will be illustrated in color and will cover single and Japanese peonies. As interest is steadily growing in these two types, the article will be of unusual interest.

In the last bulletin copy given me for the article on "Some of the Things to Consider When Growing Flowers" had a slight omission which materially changed the second paragraph on page 15. Copy given me read as follows: "When we realize that less than three per cent comes from water and air," etc. This should have read, "When we realize that less than three per cent comes from the soil and that ninety-seven per cent comes from water and air," etc.

With reference to eradication of rose bugs, I have a letter from Prof. A. G. Ruggles, State Entomologist of Minnesota, stating that a new spray material just put on the market by McLaughlin, Gormley, King Co., of Minneapolis, Minn., known as "Evergreen" diluted 1 to 100, to which soap had been added, will control asparagus beetle and potato beetles, as well as rose beetles. This seems much more effective than ordinary sprays generally used for this purpose.

We are looking forward to one of the finest peony shows in the history of the society which will be held in Boston, Mass., June 22, 23 and 24. A copy of the prize schedule appears in this issue. Extra copies or information in regard to the show can be obtained from the Secretary of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, 300 Massachusetts Ave., Boston, Mass. Headquarters and banquet will be at the Hotel Statler, according to present plans. The Quincy Cold Storage Co. of Boston, Mass., will handle exhibition flowers shipped in advance of the show. Let's make the Boston show a record breaker in point of attendance and bloom exhibited. Your hearty co-operation is solicited. Send on your flowers from far and near and the twenty-fifth annual exhibition of the society will stand out in peony history as a most notable achievement.

Send in your questions or answers to the new department we have inaugurated. We believe we can have some very helpful and interesting questions presented each issue.

This is the month to make peony notes and comments on varieties you are growing or that you have observed in other plantings. Splendid material for the bulletin can be obtained and will be gladly received by your Secretary.

Mr. Boyd's article on the manual will answer many queries that have been sent me recently. The manual will soon be a reality and will be well worth the long wait. There has been a great deal of work necessary in compiling the work and great credit is due to Mr. Boyd for the task he has so ably undertaken and completed.



CHANGES IN ADDRESSES

THERE have been a number of changes reported in addresses of our members. These are shown to enable those desiring to correct their mailing lists.

Anderson, Wm., R. F. D. 2, Box 56, North St. Paul, Minn.
 Auten, Edward, Jr., Princeville, Ill.
 Bacon, Nathaniel, R. F. D. 1, Box 90, Fairfax, Va.
 Hampton, Chas. M., R. F. D., Hamburg, N. Y.
 Hicks, Henry, Westburg, N. Y., should read Hicks' Nurseries, Westburg, N. Y.
 Goldsmith, Roy D., 246 Franklin Ave., River Forest, Ill.
 Napier, R. A., Room 1947, 175 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago, Ill.
 Newhard, Chas. H., R. F. D. 2, Wapwallopen, Pa.
 Pillow, Josephine, should read James Pillow Nursery, 25 Horton Ave., Middletown, N. Y.
 Rosefield, J. F., Route B, 1925 Lafayette Road, Indianapolis, Ind.
 Sheriff, Mrs. H. H., 415 N. Ninth St., Oskaloosa, Ia.
 Smith, C. A., Box 880, R. F. D. 3, Milwaukie, Ore.
 Steinbarger, Bert I., Route K, Box 78 D., Indianapolis, Ind.
 Stottlemeyer, W. B., Smithsburg, Md.
 Thomas, Wm. S., 243 N. Main St., Plymouth, Mich.
 Todd, Henry Arnold, Doylestown, Pa.

NEW MEMBERS SINCE LIST WAS PUBLISHED

Artner, Mrs. Lucy, 604 University Ave., Madison, Wis.
 Crittenden, A. F., 517 University Ave., Rochester, N. Y.
 Ehrler, Joseph H., Lancaster, O.
 Everest, Mrs. Josephine, R. F. D. 3, Newberg, Ore.
 Freeborn, Mrs. Mary E. G., Proctor, Vt.
 Hoeckner, Louis, Benton Harbor, Mich.
 Huff, Roscoe, Secretary, American Gladiolus Society, Goshen, Ind.
 Lyman, Mrs. Walter C., 900 Ogden Road, Downers Grove, Ill.
 McCara, John D., 610 Rosedale Cres, Calgary, Alberta, Can.
 MacLennan, A. H., Dept. of Horticulture, Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, Ontario, Can.
 Manning, Mrs. H. W., 1420 Rural St., Emporia, Kan.
 Marshall, R., 2253 La Salle Gardens, N., Detroit, Mich.
 North Dakota Agricultural College, Fargo, N. D.

Kingman, Francis C., Brocton, Mass. Died January 10, 1928.

<i>Class</i>	(JOHN ALLEN FRENCH FUND)	<i>First</i>	<i>Second</i>
No. 152.	Display of peonies arranged for effect, any varieties, not to exceed 300 square feet. First—Silver Medal and Second—Bronze medal and	\$30	\$15
No. 153.	Best collection of double-flowered peonies, one of each, rating 8.5 or over, not less than 25 varieties and not to exceed 50 square feet	20	10
No. 154.	Three blooms of any new double peony not before exhibited. First—Silver Medal. Second—Bronze Medal.		
No. 155.	Basket or other receptacle, not to exceed 25 blooms arranged for effect (any greenery may be used). First—Large Silver Medal. Second—Bronze Medal.		

No. 156.	Basket or other receptacle, not to exceed 15 blooms, arranged for effect (any greenery may be used). First—Silver Medal. Second—Bronze Medal.		
No. 157.	Basket or other receptacle, not to exceed 10 blooms, arranged for effect (any greenery may be used).....	4	2
	<i>Note.</i> —Exhibitors may enter in one only of the three classes above.		
No. 158.	Twenty named varieties, double, one flower of each.....	15	8
No. 159.	Ten named varieties, double, one flower of each.....	8	4
	<i>Note.</i> —Exhibitors entering both above classes of peonies must exhibit thirty distinct varieties.		
No. 160.	Six blooms, pink, on long stems, one variety.....	4	2
No. 161.	Six blooms, white, on long stems, one variety.....	4	2
No. 162.	Six blooms, red, on long stems, one variety.....	4	2

(THEODORE LYMAN FUND NO. 2)

No. 163.	Twelve named varieties, single, one flower of each, Japanese excluded	6	3
No. 164.	Six varieties, Japanese, one flower of each.....	4	2
No. 165.	Six named double varieties, white, one flower of each	4	2
No. 166.	Six named double varieties, deep pink, one flower of each	4	2
No. 167.	Six named double varieties, light pink, one flower of each.....	4	2
No. 168.	Six named double varieties, red or crimson, one flower of each ..	4	2
No. 169.	Specimen peony bloom, any variety. <i>For amateurs only.</i>	6	3

AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY
OPEN CLASSES

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

<i>Class</i>	<i>First</i>	<i>Second</i>
1. Collection of not more than one hundred and not less than eighty named varieties, double, one bloom of each. First—AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY'S GOLD MEDAL and \$50. Second—\$35. Third—\$25.		
2. Collection of ten named varieties, double, three blooms each.....	\$15	\$10
3. Twenty blooms, double, named, white or cream, one variety.....	15	10
4. Twenty blooms, double, named, light pink or pink and cream, one variety	15	10
5. Twenty blooms, double, named, dark pink, one variety	15	10
6. Twenty blooms, double, named, red or crimson, one variety	15	10
7. One specimen bloom, double, named, any variety	15	10
8. Vase of six blooms, Japanese, one variety	10	5
9. Collection of tree peonies, single or double	10	5
10. Collection of early flowering herbaceous species, and hybrids derived from <i>Officinalis</i> , <i>Wittmaniana</i> , etc., but not including Chinese peonies ..	6	3
11. New varieties introduced in the year 1915 and later, one bloom each, no limit as to number.....	10	5

12. Seedlings.

No money prize is awarded for competition in this class. The judging is done by a Standing Seedling Committee and the following may be awarded—Certificate of Honorable Mention, First Class Certificate, Silver Medal, and Gold Medal. The scale of points used in judging will be:

Color	25
Form	15
Size	15
Distinctiveness	15
Substance	10
Stem	10
Odor	10

13. The Garden & Home Builder offers an "Achievement Medal" for the best new peony exhibited at the show. Award to be made by the Seedling Committee.

AMATEUR CLASSES

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 advertise as growers by signs, stationery, price lists or catalogues, and whose expenditures for new varieties exceed all receipts for sales of flowers or plants.

Class

First Second

14. Collections of not more than fifty nor less than forty named varieties, double, one bloom each.
 First—AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY'S SILVER MEDAL and \$25.
 Second—\$15.
 Third—\$10.
15. Collection of ten named varieties, double, three blooms of each..... \$10 \$5
16. Vase of peonies arranged for effect, one or more varieties, not over 25 blooms 5 3
17. Vase of fifteen blooms, double, one variety, named..... 5 3



Some Peony Notes from Puget Sound

By IVAN W. GOODNER, *Seattle, Wash.*

OUR season is much earlier than last year. From present indications the early varieties of peonies will be in full bloom toward the end of May. Today, April 12, finds the *Lemoine Hybrids*, *Officinalis Rubra Plena* and *Officinalis Rosea* with buds as large as walnuts, while such early *Chinensis* varieties as *Le Cygne*, *Luetta Pfeiffer*, *La Fee*, *Judge Berry*, *Therese* and some others, show buds the size of marbles.

This afternoon, as I was about to renew my work of disbudding early varieties, an auto arrived with Miss Nina Secor, of Forest City, Ia., to get some first-hand information about Puget Sound peonies, and among the thrifty plants that I was delighted to show this very modest young

lady, was a fine, strong plant bearing her name, and I am sure she was pleased to see away out here on the North Pacific Coast the lovely white peony that her father originated. I would be greatly pleased if others of the Eastern peony and iris lovers would give me a call when touring the coast. It is only about a 20-minute drive from Seattle, on paved roads, except the last half-mile.

GROWTH SHOWS FIRST IN FEBRUARY

It may be of interest to know when peony growth first shows here in the spring. Stalks were all removed and burned last fall, so that the first little red noses may easily be seen as they poke through the ground. The very first made their appearance late in February, and some of these, such as *La Fee* and *Luetta Pfeiffer*, are now 28 inches high, while *Le Cygne*, *Judge Berry*, *Therese* and *Martha Bulloch* are up nearly two feet. On the other hand, the last to appear this year, and every year, with me, is *Karl Rosefeld*, some plants of which are just breaking the surface of the ground, and none of which is more than three inches in growth. Just a few days ahead of *Karl Rosefeld* were *Mme. Ducel*, *Claire Dubois*, *E. B. Browning* and *Mons. Dupont*. Other varieties, about 240 of them, range all the way from three to 18 or 20 inches in height, and many of them are in bud. Those that are now being disbudded are *Kelway's Glorious*, *Martha Bulloch*, *Umbellata Rosea*, *Le Cygne*, *Judge Berry*, *Therese*, *Mikado*, *Avalanche*, *Cherry Hill*, *Pierre Duchartre*, *Primevere*, *Chestine Gowdy*, *Venus*, *Octavie Demay*, *Duc de Wellington*, *Nymphæa*, *Festiva Maxima*, *Mme. de Verneville*, *Walter Faxon*, *La Fee*, *Jubilee*, *Jeanne Gaudichau*, *Rosette*, *Raoul Dessert*, *Ginette*, *Tourangelle*, *Grace Loomis*, *King of England*, *Isani Gidui*, *Helen*, *Ama No Sode*, *La Fiancee (Lem.)*, *Bayadere*, *W. F. Christman*, *Souv. de Louis Bigot*, *Ruth Brand*, *President Wilson*, *Mary W. Shaylor*, *Milton Hill*, *Mabel L. Franklin*, *Luetta Pfeiffer*, *Tomatbako* and the three Lemoine Hybrids that I have—*Messagere*, *Avant Garde* and *Mai Fleuri*.

WHOLE FIELD LOVELY WITH VARYING SHADES

While there are no flowers now to charm the eye, nor fragrance to delight the senses, the whole field is most lovely with the glow of the reds and pinks of varying shades in the young stalks and lovely greens in the foliage of the more mature growth, while the intoxicating fragrance of a Balm of Gilead tree on the shore of the lake at the foot of the field, compensates in a measure for the absence of the fragrant flowers now fast coming on their annual visit.

Our peonies have their dormant period just the same as in the colder parts of the country, so that all growth ceases above the ground and the stalks and foliage turn brown and die, but since frost never gets down to the roots, they develop more or less all winter and in the spring have a larger field from which to draw nourishment.

PEONIES DIFFER IN DIFFERENT SECTIONS

I was much interested in Mr. Otis' partial analysis of the 1925 symposium, but conclude, from his comments on some of the varieties, that some peonies, and perhaps all, do differently in different sections of the country and in different soils. In fact, I have noticed that they do not act alike, always, when grown in different parts of my own small field. We have two or three months in the summer with little or no rain, this period commencing just before or at about the time peonies begin to bloom, but I seldom irrigate (though I have an electric pump and can do so if necessary), for the field is thoroughly covered with peat moss and this not only holds the moisture by preventing surface evaporation, but it prevents baking of the soil. It is a great help in keeping down weeds, also, and saves much money that would otherwise be required for labor to keep the ground in condition.

PEONIES DO WELL IN CALIFORNIA

By the way, the widespread notion that peonies will not do well in California is fast disappearing, for it is being learned that the early varieties do as well, even in the south part of the state, as elsewhere. The point to guard against is the effect of excessive dry heat on the late varieties, for if the bud does not open before the heat arrives it will either dry up or open into an immature bloom. There is, however, ample time for the early varieties to open properly and do their very best.

Miss Secor told me today that in her travels through California she made many inquiries, and found peonies in many parts of the state, and that all but the late varieties were proving satisfactory. That is splendid! Californians are too fine a group of people to be deprived of the most glorious of flowers.

Mrs. Francis H. McCullagh, of California, would please an army of peony lovers if she would in the next Bulletin give her experiences and observations in growing peonies there. She has a very lovely peony garden, illustrations of which have appeared in several peony catalogues, and is a very enthusiastic peony "fan." I trust, however, that none of the Bulletin readers will bother Mrs. McCullagh with personal letters,

for I am confident that she will generously respond fully to the wish here expressed.

EARLY VARIETIES WILL DO WELL THERE

I feel confident that the vigorous early varieties will all do well there. Some few varieties, both early and vigorous, will there, as elsewhere, require some time to become established and show what they can really do. Examples of this type are *Martha Bulloch*, *Le Cygne*, *Tourangelle* and *Kelway's Glorious*, but, on the other hand, if strong roots are planted early in the fall, such good doers and fine varieties as *Therese*, *Judge Berry*, *Luetta Pfeiffer*, *Edulis Superba*, *Avalanche*, *Mikado*, *Cherry Hill*, *Primevere*, *Venus*, *Octavie Demay*, *Nymphæa*, *Mme. de Verneville*, *Walter Faxon*, *La Fee*, *Rosette*, *Raoul Dessert*, *Helen*, *King of England*, *Ama No Sode*, *W. F. Christman*, *Souv. de Louis Bigot*, *Tomatbako*, *Mabel L. Franklin*, *Milton Hill* and the *Lemoine Hybrids*, should do well and make a quick start. It occurs to me, however, that after they have bloomed and during the balance of the period of growth below ground, there should be a thorough watering once a week, during the time of excessive heat and no rain.



Winter Protection for the Tree Peony

TREE peonies are planted most successfully in September, when the herbaceous varieties are set out. The bed or border where they are to be set should be deeply dug and well enriched and keeping in mind that the plant is to remain in one spot for many years.

One of the chief causes of failure with the tree peony in northern latitudes is neglect of winter protection. The plant is hardy, but its buds are formed very early in the season and are almost sure to be caught by a late freeze or heavy frost unless well guarded.

Protection is readily given with chicken wire set around each plant. The branches should be tied together to prevent breaking and leaves or straw placed in the opening formed by the wire. It is best to cover the entire plant, beginning when the ground has frozen. The leaves will settle and, from time to time, more should be added as necessity may dictate.

With the withdrawal of the winter covering, wire stakes should be set at each plant and if unusually cold weather threatens, it is well to spread a thin covering of cloth or paper on the plants, the covering resting on the stakes.

Peonies in California

By MRS. FRANCIS H. McCULLAGH, *Los Gatos, Cal.*

YOU have asked me to give you some account of my experience with peonies in California. We are situated in Santa Clara County, about 50 miles south of San Francisco.

What I have to say is from 48 years of experience in this climate and more than 30 years of growing peonies, but applies only to this locality. The far-famed "climate" of California is peculiarly varied, according to the trend and the distance from the ocean.

Our soil is gravelly loam, with a clay subsoil. Land slopes gently to the east. Drainage is perfect. This seemed made to order for my beloved peonies. However, on account of sloping land and sharp drainage, I was obliged to build a low retaining wall, to make level the chief peony bed, which is thus 16 feet wide by 90 feet long, across the hillside. The wall was necessary to keep irrigation water around the roots, instead of running down the hill.

LONGER SEASON OF BLOOM

I use no animal manure for peonies, anywhere, or at any time. I plant the eyes two inches below the finished surface, after the 30-inch holes have been thoroughly settled with water and keep the ground bare and clean through the winter.

In my judgment, the absence of frost and snow has no effect on the roots, except to keep them growing and to hasten the early blooms. We have a much longer season of bloom than you seem to have.

The blooming periods of our *Chinensis* varieties, single and double, by record, for the last five years, were as follows:

April 19 to May 25, 1924—36 days

April 19 to June 7, 1925—49 days

April 14 to May 20, 1926—36 days

April 25 to June 5, 1927—41 days

You will notice that the dates of the first blooms are fairly regular for five years, while the last dates are more irregular. This is caused by more or less heat in May.

VARIETIES THAT DO NOT DO WELL

You might like to have a partial list of those I have discarded, and the reasons therefor:

Heat is our one great enemy. Hot sun on the blooms (which is rarely for more than one day at this time of the year) and heated soil. I com-

bat this; first, by preparing very deep holes, 30 to 36 inches; this coaxes the roots down away from the heat. Secondly, plenty of water, followed by shallow cultivation, which preserves an earth mulch. Thirdly, by keeping a circle of leaves (in summer only) around young roots and those which have not enough foliage to shade their own crowns.

I believe we have a distinct advantage in our mild winters—no rain at blooming time—and no rose bugs. Also in being obliged to water the roots and sprinkle the foliage just when the plants need it.

SULPHUREA PROVES BEST WHITE

Some of my flowers are really very fine. *Jubilee* today, May 17, is nine inches in diameter, and a perfect pale blush. *Isoline* (Lemoine) is 7¼ inches in diameter, full, a magnificent white and yellow. But my most beautiful white is *Sulphurea* (Lemoine), 1830. This is the verdict of all who see it here. I hope some day to send you a little note about this very fine and neglected variety (rated 6.6). I would rate it above *Le Cygne* or *Jubilee*.

It seems to me a great pity that some few of the old varieties are being underrated and pushed aside. It will be a loss to future peony lovers if such varieties as *Sulphurea*, the true *Albatrice*, *Pallas*, etc., are no longer recommended.

If a peony is new or difficult to propagate, it should influence the price, but not the rating.



THE ELIMINATION OF THE ROSE BUG

I have seen many suggestions for the alleviation of the rose bug pest, such as spraying with a solution of arsenate of lead, kerosene, and the like. For the past seven years we have been quite free from this pest. When the rose bush is in bud, we place a handful of powdered arsenate of lead under each bush. A very little spreading is all we do to help it in its deadly work.

This powder kills the beetles on their way out of the ground; what beetles survive will be exterminated on their return to winter quarters, so that the pest grows less vigorous each year. I have found this treatment quite harmless to animal or bird life, as no living thing except a bug feeds directly under a rose bush.—ANNE C. ROGERS, *Hyde Park on the Hudson*, N. Y.

Question and Answer Department

LAST MONTH we presented some questions for consideration and the response to our inquiries has been very limited. We are presenting the questions in part, and answers. We hope this will bring out some discussion as to other methods or solutions to the questions asked.

1. (Q.) Why is it not practical to replant peonies in the same location without removing and replacing soil?

(A.) Peonies exhaust the soil of plant food elements they most require.

2. (Q.) What is there in the growth of peony roots that makes it desirable not to grow them in the same location without a lapse of a few years?

(A.) The old story of crop rotation. The same answer will apply as in No. 1.

3. (Q.) We know what constitutes a rating of ten, but what goes to make up a rating of eight or nine?

(A.) A rating of ten is applied to a perfect peony. Some varieties approach this point rating but do not reach it. A slight defect of any kind such as weak stems, erratic blooming qualities, undesirable color, displeasing fragrance, and a number of other things I might mention, any one of which would reduce a point average.

4. (Q.) What is it that *Rosa Bonheur* lacks, for instance, that gives it a rating of only nine?

(A.) This variety did receive a rating of ten by some voting but its behavior under certain trying conditions must have influenced some to reduce their rating value.

5. (Q.) Why isn't it possible to have a description of a peony so written up that it will be apparent what the variety lacks to keep it from rating ten?

(A.) Some varieties of peonies vary considerably under certain climatic conditions and a description to meet all these variations would be impracticable.

6. (Q.) Have you discovered any definite remedy or effective treatment for eel worm?

(A.) The matter is now under investigation and several experiments are being worked out that we feel will insure success in the control or elimination of this pest.

7. (Q.) Have you experienced any trouble with rose bugs on your peonies? If so, what methods of elimination have you practiced?

(A.) The rose curculio is a bright, red snout beetle and is distributed widely throughout the United States. In the northern states the curculios appear on rose bushes and peonies early in June and disappear in August. The beetles inflict their injury by boring holes with their beaks into the unopened buds, leaves and flower stems, resulting in many buds failing to open and those that do expand are riddled with holes. The eggs are laid in the buds and hatch in a week or ten days producing little, white, legless grubs which feed on the seeds or flower until they have attained full growth. Afterwards they enter the ground, change to pupae and hibernate. This species has but a single generation annually.

Shaking the beetles into shallow pans containing kerosene has proved a practical and effective means of control. In case of heavy infestation, spray with arsenate of lead. The destruction of wild roses growing in the vicinity of the garden is beneficial. Cultivation in late fall or early spring kills the insect in the soil. Collect dried buds and burn them, since they contain larvae.

A recommended spray that has been very effective is composed of 10 pounds of arsenate of lead paste and 25 pounds of confectioner's glucose to 100 gallons of water.

Cultivation of the ground in which the immature stages are passed, especially during May and early June, will destroy a large number.

The New York State Agricultural Experiment Station at Geneva, N. Y., has issued a very comprehensive and helpful Circular No. 74 covering the Rose Chafer that it

will be well for you to secure. Farmers' Bulletin No. 1495 issued by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., will also be found very interesting and instructive, covering insect enemies of the flower garden.

Rose bugs have never bothered Minnesota peonies that I am aware of. Mrs. McCullagh of California reports no rose bugs there.

8. (Q.) Is the color of peonies greatly affected by soil conditions?

(A.) Soil conditions greatly affect the coloring of peonies. In heavy, clay soil the coloring is deeper than in lighter soil. Application of certain fertilizing elements will also affect coloring.

9. (Q.) Will the checking of early spring growth by heavy mulch materially affect the quality of bloom?

(A.) Due to rapid growth after mulch is removed the bloom does not possess the lasting qualities. Size may also be somewhat impaired.

10. (Q.) How long can peony blooms be held back in the spring by mulching?

(A.) At least ten days to two weeks.

11. (Q.) When is the proper time to apply mulch for the purpose of holding back growth in the spring?

(A.) After the ground is frozen solid. Mulch can be applied in very early spring before the frost is out of the ground but better in early winter.

12. (Q.) The European corn borer is common here (New York). Has it ever been known to attack peonies? If so, what must be done to check its devastations?

(A.) Have not heard of the corn borer affecting peonies but it does affect gladiolus and may eventually affect peonies if not eradicated. Removing tops in fall and burning will destroy the eggs or insects that might have taken refuge in the stem. The crown of the plant should then be covered to a depth of three or four inches. These mounds can be removed in early spring before growth starts. The borer would be smothered and killed by this method. This pest has not yet reached Minnesota.

13. (Q.) Sometimes the foliage of a peony will wilt, turn brown or black and die down. May this condition not be the result of "irrigation" by dogs running through the peonies?

(A.) Possibly, but more likely the result of botrytis blight or diseased root. Would suggest examining such affected plants in the early fall to see that the roots were clean and healthy.

14. (Q.) Does roadside marketing of peonies prove a success?

(A.) This depends upon a number of conditions, viz.: Location, varieties, proper handling of bloom, advertising, etc. If located on a well-traveled highway near a large city there should be a good field for selling cut flowers, as well as roots.

15. (Q.) We have a field of two-year-old peonies that we wish to dig this fall. They are planted on a piece of ground where the soil is very sandy, underlaid with gravel. About twelve or eighteen inches of sandy loam covers the gravel. Will the use of steamed bone meal on this ground, putting it on about April 1, act quick enough to help out the growth of the peony roots for fall digging about September 1?

(A.) The application of steamed bone meal will undoubtedly stimulate the growth of your peonies but there is a question if you will get the full benefit from the application during the one season. Had the application of bone meal been made last fall you would have received the benefit from it this spring. Would suggest that acid phosphate, 16 per cent strength, be used instead. It will cost less and be of greater benefit since it is more quickly available to the plant. The rate of application should be about 1,000 pounds per acre. In addition, some potash will give you larger roots. This may be used in the form of muriate or sulphate of potash at the rate of 500 pounds per acre.

16. (Q.) Would you like this department continued?

(A.) A number have voted in the affirmative.



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