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SEPTEMBER, 1929

No. 39

Peony Garden at Ann Arbor

By Aubrey Tealdi, Director

Arboretum was opened to the public in June, 1927, five years after work had been begun on the project. It was the outcome of an idea sponsored by Dr. W. E. Upjohn, who offered to secure peony roots by enlisting the co-operation of leading peony growers. It occupies an area of about three acres in the west section of the Arboretum.

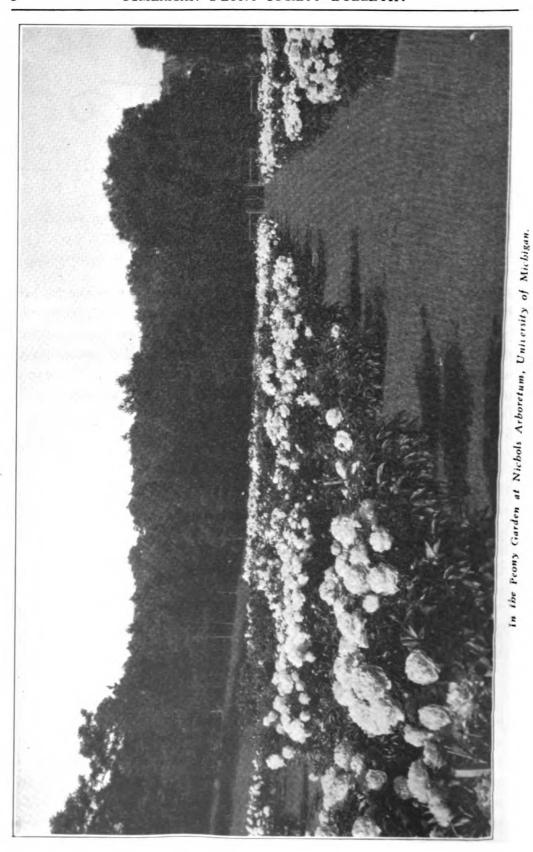
CHOOSING THE SITE

The site was chosen with reference to a suitable pictorial setting for the garden. The finest plants and flowers can not show to the best advantage unless they are given a suitable setting. The land was graded extensively and with great care to develop ground shape that would harmonize with the surroundings and insure convenience and ease in maintenance. While the site was graded to afford proper drainage it was tiled also to take care of surplus surface water and to prevent all washing even in the case of violent rainstorms.

The soil which was heavy clay was limed and subsequently enriched liberally with cow manure. To add more humus peat moss also was incorporated.

THE GARDEN

The garden is divided in two sections: the first consists of a systematic collection arranged according to season in three divisions—early, mid-season, and late, each division being arranged according to color beginning with the whites through the cream whites, flesh, pinks to reds; the second is a garden designed to show the use of the peony as a garden plant together with other garden flowers. This second section has been graded and the soil worked for the past four seasons but except



for some of the boundary planting has not yet been developed. The statements that follow will refer therefore to the first section as shown in the accompanying illustrations.

GARDEN PROTECTION

The site is enclosed by a non-climable wire fence which on one side has been used to support a collection of climbing roses. Plantings of pines and other evergreens on sloping ground are included within the enclosure as well as a still vacant space which is intended for the future collection of tree peonies. It is planned to build here the shelter and garden house to overlook the garden.

WATERING

Water is piped to the garden but dependence is placed upon early and late cultivation and a generous mulch of peat moss during the blooming season for the conservation of moisture.

The planting plan of the collection has been made as simple as possible. It consists of ten rows of square beds occupying a long rectangular area with grass paths eight feet wide. Each bed provides for two specimens each of fifteen varieties spaced sufficiently far apart to insure perfect development of each specimen. The arrangement permits visitors to study each variety at close range without tramping down the soil around the plants.

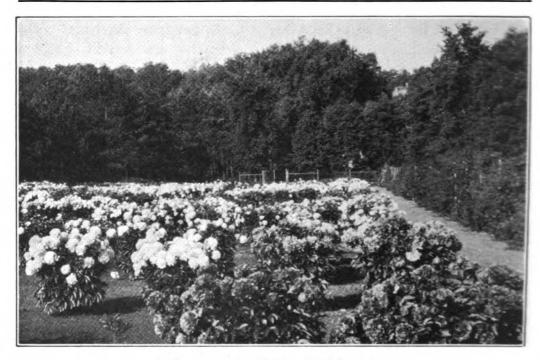
CHARTING AND LABELING

One of the usual troubles in connection with horticultural collections is due to willful or careless handling and misplacing of labels. Apart from the confusion to the visitor and the waste of time involved in replacing and checking them, labels, if conspicuous, are most disfiguring to a garden picture and if inconspicuous encourage people to tramp around the plant. To avoid these difficulties, labels have been dispensed with. To make identification positive and easy each bed has at each corner, flush with the ground, a concrete marker showing its number as it is shown on the identification chart. A copy of this chart is given to visitors at the entrance to the garden and is found very useful for recording notes.

ONLY MERITORIOUS VARIETIES PLANTED

The number of peonies is limited to those varieties of established merit, i.e., those that have some decided claim to be perpetuated for the present at any rate. The collection is intended to be kept up to date.





Looking west at the Arnold Arboretum.

As better varieties are developed older ones are to be discarded and their place to be taken by better ones of similar characteristics. A variety of a certain form and color would therefore give way to one of the same form and color but of more dependable blooming habit.

Places for about 400 varieties have been provided. Inasmuch as in general only those rated 8.0 or more have been included, places have been left open for future introductions to allow for expansion. These spaces are mainly in the early and late sections in accordance with the present need of more early or late blossoming peonies.

TYPES NOT SEPARATED

A possible desirable separation of different types of herbaceous peonies has not been considered necessary. Single, Japanese, and double varieties have been grouped together, allowing for better comparison of their qualifications as garden elements.

When the University of Michigan undertook to develop this Peony Garden, appropriation was made for future maintenance, thus assuring permanent support for the undertaking. This provision for the future should be a basic requirement in the establishment of any such project.

DONORS OF STOCK

All the peony roots have been donated by the following members of

the Peony Society: Messrs. A. M. Brand, L. R. Bonnewitz, A. M. Muehlig, E. C. Shaw, Aubrey Tealdi, T. C. Thurlow's Sons, Inc., W. E. Upjohn, Judge Vories and Northbrook Gardens, Inc.

While the University collection may be considered already a fairly representative one, it lacks a number of distinctive new introductions which would increase its interest and value. Contributions of such varieties would be much appreciated and the donors would be assured of the best care and growing conditions for them.

GARDEN ATTRACTING VISITORS

It is gratifying to be able to report that the garden has attracted already considerable attention. Last year the number of visitors was ten times greater than the year before when it was first opened. In addition to giving pleasure to thousands the garden is justly considered as having a valuable educational function which is not limited to the locality in which it is situated.

AN INVITATION

The interest and moral support of the Peony Society is enthusiastically welcomed. It is hoped that at some future date when the Society meets in this vicinity, a trip of inspection to the Nichols Arboretum will be included in the programme of the meeting.



Richardson's peonies, "Norfolk" and "H. A. Hagen" at the Arnold Arboretum.

Cold Storage of Peonies

By JAMES BOYD, Haverford, Pa.

The Twenty-sixth Annual Exhibition of the American Peony Society combined with the Sixth Annual Spring Exhibition of the American Horticultural Society held in Washington, D. C., June 7 and 8, 1929, was one of the most interesting exhibitions I have ever witnessed and I have attended many during the past fifteen years.

It was particularly interesting because all of the prize winning blooms shown in the Open and Advanced Amateur classes had been kept in cold storage for several weeks. A few of the winning blooms shown in the Novice Amateur classes had been cut the night before, but about 98 per cent of all of the blooms shown had been in cold storage for more than a week.

Some flowers were cut as early as May 5, or 32 days before they were exhibited. All were cut early in the morning or late in the evening and most of the foliage was removed before the flowers were stored.

MANNER OF HANDLING

Most of the exhibitors stored their blooms with the Terminal Refrigerating and Warehouse Company in Washington, but five of them stored privately. The average time that elapsed between cutting and storing was about three hours although some reached storage in two hours and others were in transit fourteen hours. The great majority were kept in water during this interval although two exhibitors shipped their blooms perfectly dry, packed in orange crates and one lot was detained en route sixty hours, but this delay was not considered when estimating average.

The average temperature was about 35 degrees, and in private storage for short time from 45 to 50 degrees. When stored wet, the water was not changed as far as exhibitors know, but sufficient was placed in the container to last throughout the storage period.

MOST BLOOMS STORED DRY

The majority of the prize-winning blooms were stored dry at a temperature of 33 to 35 degrees, but in discussing the question with many of the exhibitors, most of the testimony seemed to favor wet storage, and Dr. White, who had charge of the storage in warehouse at Washington, states that after he observed the conditions at the show, he believes that the best results could be obtained by cutting tight buds and storing wet at a temperature as near 35 degrees as possible. I be-



lieve, however, that if blooms are cut late, when perhaps more than half open and only necessary to store for a few days, it is better to store dry as the flowers will not open as rapidly as they do in water.

The elapsed time between removal from storage and staging of exhibits varied from two to twenty-four hours, with an average of fourteen hours, but in most cases the flowers were kept in water during this interval and apparently suffered little.

COMPILED FROM QUESTIONNAIRE

All of the above information has been compiled from the replies to a questionnaire sent to the prize-winning exhibitors soon after the close of the show. It has been carefully checked by reports from Dr. Earle B. White, chairman of the Exhibition Committee, and by full and interesting letters from George W. Peyton, Howard R. Watkins and Worth B. Stottlemyer.

We must remember that some varieties can be kept in storage much longer than others. Mr. Charles Klehm of Arlington Heights, Ill., keeps peonies in cold storage from six to eight weeks, but he believes that four weeks is the limit on most varieties. He likes to have a temperature maintained as close to 34 degrees as possible. He has stored thousands of blocms successfully. When I say successfully, I mean that they were accepted by florists and generally considered marketable. I can not learn that he has ever competed for prizes at any of our national shows.

Landscaping With Peonies

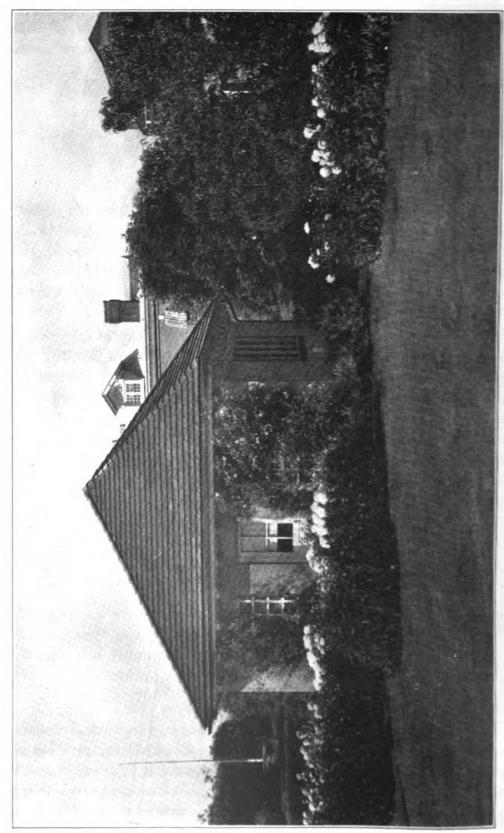
By W. B. STOTTLEMYER, Clarendon, Va.

of the lot, the question of landscaping is in order. And, as a rule, there is a part in this that frequently is neglected or given little consideration.

DESIGNING A GARAGE

A far greater number of two-car garages are being erected now than some years ago. This gives rise to architectural difficulties when the garage becomes an integral part of the residence. It is almost impossible to design a house of modest proportions with a two-car garage or even a one-car garage as a part and produce an artistic effect. The broad





The Beautiful Combination of White and Pink, with the Deep Green Background, and Gray Stucco Walls of the Garage, make a Marvelous Color Picture

expanse of double doors is not so pleasing to the eye of the beholder and even with proper landscaping this condition is not easily improved.

While numerous houses are being built now with the garage attached, yet very many more detached garages are being erected and the landscaping problem becomes an easier task in the latter case. Especially is this true when the garage is located on the extreme rear of the lot on which the residence is constructed.

Prior to the advent of the garage we had the stable and the carriage shed on the rear of the lot and even now in many old communities it is possible to find examples of the evoluted garage, so to speak. In the older sections of cities and in towns and villages in which but few modern residences appear, we find such converted structures in great variety.

CHANGE HAS TAKEN PLACE

In bygone days it was merely a stable or shed on that part of the lot seldom seen and little or no attention was paid to beautification. In fact, no harmony of building structures existed except possibly in rare instances. It was the shed in which Dobbin lived and why should he be considered in the architecture of the buildings or the landscaping of the lot?

A WELL-LANDSCAPED GARAGE

The illustration shows a well landscaped garage, a two-car garage, in which the usual amount of evergreens and shrubbery are used as foundation planting. The lattice designs with climbing roses are quite effective and clumps of iris and narcissi may be found on either side. In front of the foundation plantings, on either side of the brick walk leading to the residence which is not shown in the picture, are irregular shaped beds of fine varieties of peonies. Ten blooms of Therese are to be seen in the picture almost in front of the garage door, and Festiva Maxima shows up near the peach tree. A few clumps of tulips may be observed among the peonies. The tulips bloom before the foliage of the peonies make much progress. The effect when the tulips and peonies are in bloom is quite entrancing. This photo was taken in early June and roses, iris and peonies were in bloom at the same time.

If the part of a lot or lawn that is usually ugly and neglected may be made beautiful through the use of the peony as in the illustration, then truly may the entire landscape be made richer in color and more interesting in detail and general effect by the proper planting of well selected



varieties of peonies. In this way further demands will be made upon the stock of the commercial peony growers.

POPULARIZING THE PEONY

In fact, it is true that wonderful progress has been made in popularizing the peony during the past decade or more, yet there is much more work to be done and if proper efforts were put forth on the part of the commercial peony growers, sales would be enormously increased and the demand for the good varieties would be tremendous.

In many sections of this country where much money is being spent for shrubbery and other flowers the modern peony is hardly known. In a typical town of Pennsylvania with 10,000 inhabitants where more than a hundred thousands dollars has been spent during the past 20 years for shrubbery, there are but three residents who have named varieties of peonies in their gardens or on their lawns. It is such towns as these, in the country districts and in the suburban sections of great cities that special work should be done.

Much may be accomplished through the efforts of the various garden clubs, local flower shows with lectures and lantern slides showing colors of the good varieties of the peony if these addresses are made at a time other than when peonies are in bloom. However, if the season is on when the lecture occurs the audience can be held spell-bound for hours if a few dozen of fine varieties of peonies in bloom are distributed among the audience and explained during the lecture. This work can be done very effectively in small communities.

THE NATIONAL SHOW

The National Show of the American Peony Society is always a great event. Any large city is indeed fortunate to be selected for the holding of this flower exhibition. It has advanced the cause of the distribution of the peony and has accomplished much in popularizing this wonderful flower. It is held in large cities and makes a direct appeal to all flower lovers. It should be and is a sort of clearing house, as it were, for all peony exhibitions in this country. If the time is late enough in the blooming season we get a good cross-section of what is being accomplished in peony culture throughout the entire country. And this method of comparison is of inestimable value to all interested.

But to reach the masses we must go to the hamlets and the suburbs as heretofore mentioned and create a so-called peony fan in each locality. We need to create an interest in the individual who has funds to purchase



perhaps only one, two or five peony roots. And by timely articles in magazines and papers on the subject of peony culture, the distribution will become more popular and by proper method of illustration, the value of the peony as a plant for the lawn will be more deeply appreciated.

Peonies as Money Makers

By N. I. W. KRIEK

This interesting article appeared in the October 10 issue of The Florists' Review and while addressed to the florist is equally applicable to any commercial grower.—Editor.

S VERY once in a while we see a grower making a killing in some particular flower that somehow or other had been overlooked by the trade.

We all know that the florist who gives the best care to his stock is the man who in the long run comes out a winner. Fruit growing may often be considered unprofitable, but the growers who pick out good varieties when they start, give their trees all the necessary care and grade their fruit carefully, always have been able to make money.

Peonies are overlooked by many a florist. They bring good money, not when they are planted in a poorly drained place and left uncared for, but when they are treated as you treat your other stock. Pick out the right varieties, disbud the flowers, manure every one or two years and cultivate the plants.

Peonies do not require costly care and can be left in for many years. Remember that with extra care you get flowers that are surprisingly superior to the average stock that comes to the market.

BUYING PLANTS

When you buy peonies, insist upon receiving healthy plants. There are a great many diseased peonies in circulation. Buy from growers who guarantee their stock to be healthy. The disease of peony roots is not contagious, but once it is in a root, the plant might just as well be thrown away, although, instead, many roots of such stock are offered at so-called bargain prices. The disease in roots is shown by galls, knob root. You should not plant such stock, as it seldom blooms.

Before you plant peonies look for a well-drained spot. From sandy loam to heaviest clay is all right. Work plenty of well decayed manure into the ground before planting and set the plants so that the eyes are not more than two inches below the surface. For goodness sake, do not



plow a furrow and throw the plants in any old way. Better save the trouble and burn them up.

If you set your plants three and one-half feet apart each way they can remain in the same spot for many years.

Do not try to compete with growers who grow for quantity alone. Aim for quality first and then for quantity. Remember there is always room at the top, the best stock sells first. If you grow, for instance, Mons. Jules Elie to perfection, you will be surprised at the price you obtain for your flowers, even when ordinary stock brings little money.

RECOMMENDED SORTS

Do not set out 1,000 peony roots if you have only room or can care only for 250. Be sure that whatever you plant is A-No. 1 and will get care accordingly.

Some varieties recommended for cut flowers are as follows:

RED

Karl Rosefield—Tall stem, early midseason, true red.
Felix Crousse—Light red, midseason to late.
Mikado—Japanese variety, midseason.
Lord Kitchener—Early bright red, with short stem.
Richard Carrela Similar to show but larger and with languages.

Richard Carvel-Similar to above, but larger and with longer stem.

Mons. Martin Cabuzac-Maroon, early.

PINK

Albert Crousse-Light pink, late.

Claire Dubois-Midseason to late, fine pink, splendid keeper.

Mme. Ducel-Early midseason (often called the small Mons. Jules Elie), early mid-season.

Mons. Jules Elie-Early.

Edulis Superba-Early, rose-pink.

Octavie Demay-Early light pink, with short stem.

President Taft-Splendid cut flower, light pink.

Sarah Bernhardt—Probably the best all-around pink cut flower, midseason to late. Walter Faxon—Coral-pink.

WHITE

Baroness Schroeder-Splendid keeper, late.

Mme. Emile Lemoine-Destined to take the place of Festiva Maxima, midseason.

James Kelway-Early.

Marie Lemoine-Late.

Couronne d'Or-Late cream.

Le Cygne-Ivory white.

From the foregoing suggestions you can take your choice in the different price fields.

Modern peonies are young, but the general public is fast becoming familiar with the better varieties. Peony shows are creating tremendous interest and every year more shows are held and, as we all know, there is no greater agent in the promotion of interest in flowers than the flower show.



You, as a florist, consider this: The peony is the most magnificent of all flowers, and does extremely well in northern America. It is in the interest of your business in general that you become acquainted with the finer peony varieties, so that your customers find you up-to-date. Help along the shows, bring in some of the newest peonies. You spend hundreds of dollars in paper advertising. That is all right, but do not overlook the advertising value of new things in your game.

Take an interest in peonies and you will find them one of your most profitable crops, requiring the least upkeep cost.

Problems of Peony Growers

By F. F. WEINARD, University of Illinois

PEONY growers as a group have taken an active interest in the development of new and better varieties. At the same time a commendable effort has been made to avoid synonymy in nomenclature and to eliminate inferior varieties from commerce. Trial gardens, for example, have been established from time to time for the comparison of varieties, and the collective opinion of growers has been set down periodically in the rating lists published by the American Peony Society.

A recent effort along this line has resulted in the planting of a trial garden for the Japanese and single types of peonies only, at the University of Illinois, in co-operation with the American Peony Society. The preliminary check list being prepared will contain over 800 names. One or more specimens of over 400 varieties are now in the garden. Most of these plants are established, and considerable progress in the work of comparison is expected during the coming season.

SOIL FERTILITY

Aside from questions of variety, the commercial grower particularly is confronted with the problems of soil fertility maintenance and plant disease. At the University of Illinois a series of plots containing some 1,200 peonies are being used for the study of problems of this nature. Observations made on these plots have served to bring out some of the points which the grower should have in mind. No doubt most commercial plantings of peonies are located on soils which are fertile, as field soils go. But with an intensive crop such as peonies, care in the preparation of the soil is likely to prove well worth while.



LIME ACID SOIL

In the first place, if the soil is acid it should be limed. Your state agricultural experiment station will test any samples you may send in and recommend the amount of limestone required. Next, because of the length of time that the plants are in the ground, it is important to get as much organic matter into the soil beforehand, as possible. Under commercial conditions, this can be done most economically through the use of green manures. Soybeans, white sweet clover and alfalfa are three of the most useful green manure crops adaptable to conditions in the Corn Belt. Green manures should be plowed under two or three weeks before the time for planting peonies.

APPLYING PHOSPHORUS

In addition to manure or green manure, some phosphorus and potash should be applied. All of our cultivated soils are low in phosphorus, which is, moreover, particularly effective in stimulating root growth and flower production. The response of most crops to phosphorus is as a rule, more marked than the response to any other one element. Superphosphate (acid phosphate) may be worked into the soil of the row before setting the plants, or broadcasted and worked in. A half ton per acre is not an excessive application, once in the rotation. The cost of super-phosphate is considerably less than for bone meal, while the absence of nitrogen in the former is probably not important.

BENEFIT OF POTASH

The benefit from potash may be expected to be found in increased root growth, with some effect perhaps on stem strength. Even though clay soils contain considerable potash, the crop grown thereon may respond to applications of potash in a soluble form. Potatoes, a somewhat similar crop to the one we are considering, show increased yields with potash fertilizers. The effect is more noticeable in sandy soils, but it also holds true for loam soils which have been under cultivation for some time. Muriate of potash is efficient, and it is the cheapest source of potash on the market. Applied at the rate of 200 pounds per acre the cost is about \$5.00. Wood ashes equivalent in potash would cost five times as much. A high grade complete commercial fertilizer, drilled in between the rows at the rate of 500 pounds per acre, is the most convenient and effective treatment for established plantations. This should be done early in the spring.

FOLIAGE DISEASES

The diseases of peonies which affect the foliage primarily, are of much less consequences than those troubles which have their origin in the roots. The Botrytis blight, which appears early in the season, and the several leafspots which are prominent after the blooming period is over, can no doubt be controlled in part by cutting and burning the tops in the fall. Bordeaux spray, 4-4-50 or perhaps weaker, may sometimes be advisable, early in the season while the buds are still small.

ROOT DISEASES

Root-knot caused by nematodes is one of the most widely recognized and perhaps the most serious disease condition of peonies with which the grower has to contend. The problem of control is not a simple one, but with more careful methods in the selection and preparation of roots for planting, and with proper methods of crop rotation, practical control should be possible in the northern latitudes, where peonies are mostly grown. It must be borne in mind that although clean divisions may be obtained by careful trimming and superficial treatment with a disinfectant, or by hot water treatment, this will be of little avail if the roots are replanted in infested soil. At the same time, the disinfection of field soil is not practicable. The nematodes are likely to be present in the soil at depths of 18 inches or more. Methods of soil disinfection which have proved effective in shallow beds or benches, steam, hot water, or chemicals as the case may be, are less effective in the field and the cost is very high. On the other hand, the difficulties in the way of control by crop rotation alone are emphasized when we face the fact that the root-knot eelworm includes in its list of hosts more than 600 kinds of plants, among which are most of our common field and garden crops. The comparatively few varieties which are more or less resistant includes the cereals, corn, wheat, rye and oats, most grasses, certain varieties of soybeans and cowpeas, and velvet beans. Just how to best take advantage of such resistant plants in a rotation which will free the land of peonies for three or four years, will depend largely on local conditions. The following suggestions are made as being applicable in the Corn Belt: Follow peonies with corn for a year or two. The corn should be carefully cultivated to keep down weeds. Iris might be grown in place of Follow with soybeans (Biloxi, Laredo, or O-too-tan varieties), just previous to planting peonies. Keep the field clean cultivated between crops. In growing soybeans or other legumes, inoculation of the

seed is advisable to insure a stand in case the land has not previously produced a crop of the same kind. In certain cases this may not be necessary. If in doubt, or for methods of inoculation, consult the nearest Agricultural Experiment Station.

THE LEMOINE DISEASE

The distorted condition of the larger roots, encountered in certain varieties particularly, and known to growers as "Lemoine disease," may be an after-result of nematode infection. This, however, remains to be proved. In the meantime, definite suggestions for control are lacking. Root and stem rots of the peony caused by at least four different fungi are recognized. Little or nothing is known, however, as to the factors which influence the spread and severity of such troubles. Where strong, clean divisions are properly planted in rotation in well drained soil, it is logical to expect a minimum of trouble from diseases of this kind. The caution of experienced growers against the use of manure, at least as regards its use for mulching, should be kept in mind in this connection. A type of disease of unknown cause remains to be mentioned. In this case occasional plants are found which remain stunted and fail to bloom. The leaves curl and dry up early in the season. The root systems are small, and the crowns show an unusual number of weak, elongated buds. The plants do not recover, but become weaker and die. be destroyed as soon as their condition becomes apparent.

Summary of address delivered before the Commercial Peony and Iris Growers' Association, Hotel La Salle, December 10, by F. F. Weinard, Assistant Professor, Floriculture Physiology, University of Illinois.

Some Suggestions for Our Future Peony Shows

By G. W. PEYTON, Rapidan, Va.

It was my first show I was naturally very eager to see what it would be like and went with great expectations as to what I should see. I thought there would be a large hall full of perfect blooms, that I would see all the finest peonies in the world, blooming in perfection, that all the very newest creations would be shown and that every class would be represented very largely and completely. I thought that all the members of the Society that could possibly stage a bloom would make the effort



of their lives to do so. But alas, like so many of our first expectations, many of mine were doomed to be unfulfilled.

On account of the great heat that attended the show there were no blooms of outstanding quality and I saw none that were better than many I had in my own garden a week or two before. There were few singles or Japs shown, only half a dozen or so of the very new ones, and instead of the members of the Society who were situated so they could make exhibits doing so, few took the trouble to even try to make the show a great success, all honor to these few. My next show was Boston, in 1928, and again I went there with high hopes of seeing new things and especially tree peonies, singles and Japs, and again these classes were only conspicuous by their absence. I say this with reference only to the chinensis and named tree varieties as we all know and remember the very beautiful exhibits put on at both these shows by Dr. Saunders, of his own seedlings in early flowering hybrids and tree peonies. And again weather conditions made the quality of the bloom not what it would otherwise have been. Nor were the members of the Peony Society conspicuous by their eagerness to exhibit and so add to the success of the show.

BLOOMS LACKED QUALITY

My next show was the one in Washington this year and, as it fell to my lot to be a large exhibitor, I made strenuous efforts to remedy some of these defects as far as I could myself and the show committee made equally strenuous ones along other lines, yet again many disappointments awaited us. This time weather had little to do with it, but just inexperience, for again the bloom lacked quality and many members of the Society failed to do anything towards the success of the show. And so it has come over me that we, as members of the Society, must make some effort to change things a little and so remedy these and other defects, if possible.

ARRANGING SHOW 2 OR 3 YEARS IN ADVANCE

In the first place let me say that each of these shows labored under a very serious handicap. Nobody knew that they were expected to stage the show until a few weeks before it came off. They were thus prevented from making any preparation at all so far as planting and preserving what they had already planted is concerned and that has, as everyone knows, a great bearing on the success of the show, for more mature plants might have been left for a year longer insuring better bloom, and if the date had been three or even two years before, plantings



could easily have been made by those interested so that every single class would have been filled to overflowing with exhibits. It will be a great day for our shows when our Board of Directors can get to the point where they can arrange the place for the show three or more years in advance and then we shall have no excuse to offer for not having every class amply represented by blooms from mature plants and so of the best quality. Again it seems to me that every member of this Society who, by any chance could possibly make an exhibit, should take pride in trying his best to make as fine an exhibit as possible in just as many classes as possible and bend every effort to this end. They should realize that it is a great honor to be permitted to stage the greatest peony show in the world and they should be willing to spend their time and their money to the limit to make the show a great success.

It takes time, it takes money, but above all, it takes hard, painstaking work, especially in handling the blooms, but they should be willing to do it for the sake of the honor of their show. The show committee members should be appointed and begin work as soon as they know they will have the show. They should list all prospective exhibitors and get them to promise to exhibit, they should even go so far as to get a very good idea of the classes in which each exhibitor will exhibit and have them prepared to make the very best possible exhibit in these classes. They should be prepared to show everyone how best to prepare their plants for producing the best blooms, they should have every one in the cutting seasons before the show make personal experiments in cutting and storing their blooms so that when the year of the show comes they will know what to do and when to do it, for the quality of the bloom depends very largely on proper cutting and storage. especially locate plantings of singles, Japs and tree peonies and, if possible, have plantings made of these and the new ones so that these very interesting classes may be well filled. The general public goes to these shows to see beauty, many to pick out varieties they would like to plant and so it must be seen to that we have beauty to show them and that they will see the very best of the old and the new shown in the very best way, and only by proper preparation for several years beforehand can this be done. Our peony men go to these shows to see what new thing is worth while and so every effort should be made to have as many of the new things shown as possibly can be and so let all see for themselves the manner of beast it is.



IMPROVED METHODS OF STAGING

Lastly we must put forth every effort to improve our methods of staging the various classes. I freely acknowledge that this is a hard thing to do, but I am sure much improvement can be made in our methods in many instances and classes that are now an eye-sore be made even the central features of the show. For the classes calling for large collections of one bloom each, it seems almost impossible to get away from the milk bottle, but these can be arranged as attractively as possible by raising centers and paying due regard to colors and much improvement will be noted. In the classes calling for three blooms of ten varieties better containers should be provided so that these blooms which are generally among the finest in the show, will be able to display their beauty to the very best advantage. The classes calling for six blooms of one variety, which also calls out some of the most outstanding blooms, can be made exquisitely beautiful if they are properly arranged in an adequate container. The classes calling for twenty blooms of one variety have been abominably staged in every show I have ever seen and instead of adding to the attractions of the show, have been decidedly a liability. Unless very pronounced changes are made in the method of staging them, to my mind, they had better be dropped, for I think it absurd for the Society to pay out approximately one hundred dollars of its good money to exhibitors who take twenty peony blooms of one variety and dump them in a bucket of water, with only the tops showing and set this bucket away in a corner or put it on a table in the center of the room where they only make blots of color in the general scheme and add nothing to the beauty of the scene. Yet, if these same classes were properly staged in an adequate container, large enough to show the blooms to their full advantage, they would be among the most beautiful exhibits in the show.

In my opinion no town should undertake to stage the show unless its committee is willing to take the trouble to see that proper plantings are made if necessary, that those already made are brought into prime condition, that the prospective exhibitors are given instructions in planting, cultivating, selecting the proper buds, disbudding at the proper time, protecting the buds at the proper time and in the proper way, cutting when at the right stage and storing in the best manner, and then that proper and artistic staging of the show is given every attention.

I have made these remarks only with the intention of trying to make our future shows improvements on those that are past and I hope

we shall have much discussion in these columns as to how this may best be done. We should like suggestions from those who are adepts in cultivation, those who have had practical experience in cutting and storing exhibition blooms, and those who can suggest ways of improving the staging of the various classes so that each class will bring out the beauty of the peony to the fullest extent. I hope I have offended no one by anything that may have been said, as that is the farthest thing from my intentions, but I do hope that these thoughts may be the starting point to much better things in the future and that our shows will always be the best ever held up to that time.

NOTE—The suggestions and criticisms are extremely well presented and I think we will all agree with Mr. Peyton that more attractive exhibits will lend greatly to the general beauty of the exhibition. We will welcome further suggestions and criticisms along this line. The securing of artistic containers for a large exhibition entails considerable expense, which might be assumed, in a number of cases, by the individual exhibitor, who could retain the containers as his own personal property. The advisability of the society furnishing such containers is hardly practicable, due to the fact that they would have to be transported for considerable distances each year and the possibility of delay and loss in transit is an important factor to be reckoned with.

—EDITOR.

Peonies

By C. W. BUNN, St. Paul, Minn.

The peony originated in Manchuria or Siberia and its consequent inheritance of hardiness makes it the flower of the North. I think no one has fixed its fartherest north point but we know it flourishes at Winnipeg. The soil and climate of our state suit it. The peony is never injured in Minnesota by the cold of winter. Its greatest climatic peril here is hot weather during bloom or growth before bloom.

The peony does its best in a clay soil and the proportion of clay can hardly be too high. Roots of trees and shrubs are destructive and to be avoided. Before planting prepare the soil two feet deep at least and each plant should have at least $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet of room laterally. After excavating the bed the lower foot of soil should be made quite rich by a mixture of manure or compost. See that the upper foot of soil contains no manure whatsoever. Use clay freely in the upper foot. A peony division set in clay with soil below within the reach of the small roots it will send out is ideally planted and ought to last many years.

PREPARE GROUND FOR YEARS

The professional grower with his large fields can not go to this



trouble and expense, indeed does not need to. He plants to divide and sell his roots within four years; and good soil with a cover crop plowed under gives him an excellent field good for as long as he will need it. But the amateur, not planting for growth and sale of roots, ought to prepare his ground so his plants will be good much longer than four years.

Cover the eyes with two inches of soil as nearly as may be. Commonly a covering of litter is advised for the first winter, not to avoid injury from cold but to prevent roots from being thrown out or moved by the frost. A better cover is a spadeful or two of earth, making a mound above the peony, having all the benefits of litter with the decided advantage of insuring perfect drainage. It throws the water away from the plant. The mound is easily removed in the spring.

CULTIVATE PEONIES FREQUENTLY

After good planting comes good cultivation. Peonies can not be cultivated too frequently and ought to be gone over with a potato fork or hoe at least after every rain.

I think the use of manure as a top dressing can not be too strongly condemned. It is the cause of a great part of peony failure. Mr. Brand is of the opinion, in which I cordially agree, that over-fertilization is the most potent cause of failure. A little dressing of bone meal and wood ashes once a year, not too close to the plants and carefully worked into the soil, will be beneficial; but this should not be overdone.

During bloom and growth before bloom and during August when next year's eyes are being made, supply water if drought demands it.

PRODUCE NEW PLANTS BY BUD DIVISION

No plant is permanent and while the peony is one of the longest lived perennials it will not live forever. New plants must be produced by root division. There is no answer to the question how long a plant should stand without division. It ought to be divided whenever it shows signs of deterioration. Too many and thin stems are the sure sign and such stems mean inferior flowers. An expert peony grower never moves and replants a peony root that has stood for two years. Much better results are obtained by dividing. I think there is no question that a good division is better than a one-year-old plant. A one-year-old plant, unless its fine roots be trimmed off, reducing it substantially to a division, will never produce as good results as a

strong division. The planting of clumps should be utterly condemned and this condemnation should be extended to those dealers and growers who advertise and try to induce purchasers to buy and plant clumps.

The serious diseases of peonies are of the root, either root gall or rot. The security against these consists in planting clean stock in clean soil, preferably clay, and avoiding over-fertilization and bad drainage. Root disease has been cured by planting in clay and dividing and replanting in clay. I know of no case where root disease has cured itself in any soil other than clay. Healthy roots can not be grown and good results can not be obtained from replanting in the same soil where peonies were previously grown—that is until after the lapse of years. Where one must plant where a peony grew before the soil should be taken out and carried away and new soil put in two feet deep and as much as $3\frac{1}{2}$ wide.

For large blooms remove side buds, that is leave only one bud on a stalk. Size can be still further increased by removing all the buds from part of the stalks. Blooms may be greatly improved in quality by putting over them after the bud has softened and partly opened either a one or two pound paper bag fastened with a pin or rubber band. This protects from the sun, the wind, the rain and the dew.

EASY FOR THE AMATEUR TO SHOW FLOWERS

It is easy for an amateur to show flowers and more amateurs ought to exhibit flowers at the shows. A moderate number of flowers can be shown without much difficulty and an amateur who will take pains should be able to produce as good flowers as any one. There is no difficulty in keeping flowers for the show two or three weeks. They should be cut at the proper stage of development and put in a storage room with the temperature at about 40 degrees. With a little experience one learns the proper stage of development, which differs in different varieties. For example, Festiva Maxima, or any loosely built flower, will develop properly in storage from a bud only partly soft to the fingers when cut. But tightly built heavy flowers like La France and Solange must be left on the plant until the flower is half or three-quarters opened. I think the late blooming peonies, as a class, require much fuller development on the plant before cutting than the early peonies.

While one may spend, a great deal of money on peonies, the highpriced varieties are not necessarily the best ones. Low prices indicate an abundance of stock, not inferior quality. The following varieties



are among the best and mostly can be bought for a dollar each—not one costs over two dollars:

White Pink

Avalanche Albert Crousse
Baroness Schroeder Asa Gray
Festiva Maxima Claire Dubois
Grandiflora Nivea Plena Germaine Bigot

James Kelway Gismonda

Marie Lemoine Marguerite Gerard
Mons. Dupont Marie Crousse
Mme. de Verneville Mons. Jules Elie
Mme. Emile Lemoine Mme. Ducel

Octavie Demay Venus

RED

Adolph Rosseau Felix Crousse

Karl Rosefield

The following varieties, than which there are no better, cost from two dollars to five dollars per root:

WHITE PINK

Solange Elwood Pleas
Jubilee Tourangelle
Frances Willard Therese
Enchanteresse Milton Hill
E. B. Browning Walter Faxon

Rosa Bonheur Reine Hortense Phoebe Cary

Mme. Jules Dessert

RED Martha Bulloch

Richard Carvel Le France

Mary Brand Lady Alexandra Duff

Victoire de la Marne Judge Berry

Hybridizing Peony Species

By LYMAN D. GLASSOCK, Elwood, Ill.

I have been able to do in hybridizing peony species. However I will give my experience in order that I may save others from making the same mistakes that I have made.



Here in this section of Illinois, there is a distinct need for an earlier blooming period for Decoration Day cut flower sales. Only about one year in ten will any of the chinensis peonies be in bloom, and while the officinalis varieties are usually in bloom, they are not suitable for cut flowers. It was in the hope of filling this need that the work of crossing these species was started.

THE WORK OF CROSSING

The winter of 1917-18 a plant of officinalis Rubra was banked up with snow and then covered with ashes to hold back the growth in spring so it would bloom late enough to use chinensis pollen upon it. This worked all right except that I think it hurt the plant some. present I would send 100 or 150 miles farther south and get blooms for use in pollenizing.

The blooms were pollenized with pollen from the bloom of a chinensis variety and two pods of seed formed.

DISAPPOINTMENTS ARISE

Shortly after this I was introduced to the first of the long series of disappointments that seem to be a part of this most fascinating game. My five-year-old son saw me disbudding some peony plants and he picked one of the seed pods off thinking he was helping me. seeds were gathered and planted the fall of 1918. Next spring two plants came up, which blossomed in 1923, one deep pink having eight blooms, and one rich red, having eleven blooms, now named Legionaire.

RESULTS OF CROSSES

Each year since 1918 I have tried to secure seed.

1920-Gathered 36 seed resulting in eight plants.

1921-Forty seed, two plants from officinalis Rubra X elatior (decora) gave me one magenta red and one brownish red, semi-double, both plants sterile and bloom with the early to mid-season Chinese peonies. Neither plant of any value.

1922-Three seeds Edulis Superba X tenuifolia (single). Result, one germination, just a club-shaped stem, lasted a few days and then faded away. Also 25 seed Victoria X Pallasi (decora). Edulis Superba X Splendens. Mme. Calot X Pallasi (decora). From these crosses I received no plants.

1923-Three seeds of officinalis Rubra X, double white chinensis seedling. One plant good, double red, bloomed in 1928. Also four seeds officinalis Rubra X single pink

seedling. Result, one plant good single red.

1924-Thirty-five seed from which I secured 14 plants. Seeds were planted in cold

frame and planted out the spring of 1927.

1925—Bought five acres of land facing on concrete road south of Joliet right out on open prairie, exposed to all the rigors of an Illinois winter which sometimes means 15 degrees below zero without any snow protection.

Also got 29 seed from officinalis Rubra crossed with such fine things as Longfellow, Wm. Turner and Phyllis Kelway, only to lose them all by planting in the open ground at the little farm. Moved most of my plants the fall of 1925.



1926—Only got five seed and no plants due to moving the previous year.

1927—One hundred and eighty-eight hybrid seed. Cut blooms furnished by Prof. Willard N. Chute, Butler College, Indianapolis, Ind. Fifty-six hybrid plants in 1928. More may show later. These were planted in cold frames.

1928—Brought seven seed, Otto Froebel X chinensis, may be self fertilized; either way

1928—Brought seven seed, Otto Froebel X chinensis, may be self fertilized; either way will suit me. Cut flowers furnished by Edward Auten, Jr. Also 215 seed, officinalis X chinensis and 170 seed officinalis sent me by Edward Auten, Jr., Princeville, Ill. These are all planted in cold frames.

CHARACTERISTICS DEVELOPED

Of the hybrids that have bloomed all have proved to be sterile. I have never gotten a seed from any of them and what little pollen there is on them has a shriveled appearance. I have always failed to secure seed from using it. Some of the single hybrids are good landscape varieties, also I like them for cut flowers but do not know if they will do for the florist trade. I think they will be valuable for cemetery planting as they have a neat, compact habit, are intermediate in height between the officinalis and albiflora varieties and are in bloom for Decoration Day here.

The officinalis foliage is dominant but is better and remains until frost. The roots are intermediate in character and loosely joined together at the top.

In planting I dig a hole large enough to receive the roots and then build a mound in the center of hole upon which roots are spread sloping outward and downward, as that is the way they grow naturally.

RESULTS OF BLOOMS PRODUCED

Among the ones that have bloomed so far is one single pink and one single pink with an orange tint, a beautiful flower but small and not free blooming as others. This is a result of a cross of officinalis and Mons. Martin Cabuzac.

Two good single reds and one double pink bomb of no value, a result of cross officinalis Rubra X Couronne d'Or.

One good double red. There are a few others, mostly small flowered and of no particular value. The colors in most cases are distinctly different from the Chinese peonies and the time of bloom is from a week before officinalis Rubra to the middle of the chinensis season.

So far I have failed to get seed from officinalis rosea, officinalis rosea superba, officinalis alba, and officinalis mutabilis.

Plants received under the names of elatior (decora), Pallasi (decora), violacea fimbriatia, violacea sphaerica and anamola (this last untrue to name) if left to themselves are interesting, but I have not used them much as the color is atrocious and the few seed I have gathered from Chinese peonies when using this pollen, have failed to grow.

Lucida and splendens have much better color and I have used their pollen quite often and have secured some seed which has shown plainly the influence of the pollen, such as being greatly enlarged, spotted, different color, etc., which, of course, occurs among the seed of straight albiflora crosses but not to the same degree. I have a few plants of these but they have not yet bloomed.

RECOMMENDATIONS SUGGESTED

In the light of what little experience I have gained would say to take the seed as soon as mature and plant in cold frames. Keep slightly moist until they germinate, which will be the next spring with many of them.

Grow the young plants two years in the frames and then plant out early in spring so they will be established by winter. I have tried spring planting in a small way with both species hybrids and chinensis seedlings. When taken without loss of roots and planted at once I could not see any check in their growth.

The surprising thing in these specie crosses is the high percentage of desirable plants among such a small number of seedlings.

Part of the fine work of Prof. A. P. Saunders is known to you through the columns of the peony bulletins and with Mr. A. E. Kunderd of Goshen, Ind., Edward Auten, Jr., of Princeville, Ill., Mr. W. S. Bockstoce of Pittsburgh, Pa., Dr. A. H. Lemke of Wausau, Wis., and Col. Benjamin W. Guppy of Melrose, Mass., and probably others, all working along these lines, I expect to see the next great peony advance to be from these specie crosses.

The June Bulletin

By Mrs. WILLIAM CRAWFORD, La Porte, Ind.

HE June Bulletin is at hand and read with much interest as I was unable to attend the meeting, but the city, the exhibitors and many growers who attended were familiar and my mind pictured the whole scene with much pleasure.

Upon reading further I note the heading Philippe Rivoire and deeply enjoyed the comments. I was surprised and hurt not to have had a chance to express an opinion.

Mr. Shaylor imported one of the first, if not the first one sent out by Riviere and I bought from him in 1913 or 1914. Like Mr. Claybaugh, I wonder if those who wait so long for bloom "have true, healthy stock" for we usually have blooms on our plants the first



year from divisions. When Mr. Shaylor sold it to me he said "It is the only fragrant red." That year Mr. Brand sent me a box of Richard Carvel blooms. When I opened the box, the fragrance was so noticeable that I repacked some of the bloom and sent them on to Mr. Shaylor with a note,—"What do you think of this for a fragrant red?" His reply was prompt and very gracious so I wrote to Mr. Brand, "You too, have a fragrant red."

There are to my knowledge but four fragrant reds: Philippe Rivoire, Tragedy, (Hollis), The Gem, (Pleas) and Richard Carvel. Of course, none have stamens except Richard Carvel.

Tragedy is as fragrant as the old Rose peony, (now called Rosea Fragrans.) It is about the same size and form but a deep, dark, blood red; hence its name. Like Philippe Rivoire it is not large but for both these varieties we would not want them larger. They hold up well, last longer and are a joy forever.

Mary Brand is a great favorite with us. Why not feature that in some future Bulletin?

NOTE—Atrosanguinea (Calot, 1858), a low rated (7.5) peony, is agreeably fragrant. The variety I know by that name is a good early blooming red, not magenta as described in the Manual. Who can name some other fragrant red peonies?

Tragedy is listed as not fragrant in the Manual. This simply means that dissimilar varieties were observed or there is a wide divergence in the sense of smell.—Editor.

A Message From Calgary

By George McKay, Calgary, Alberta, Canada

RECEIVED a letter some months ago asking for information regarding the peony *Philippe Rivoire*. As I did not have any information of value I have delayed my reply. My plant of that variety is only one year old and was a small root when planted. At that it is doing fine and I hope to have a good plant and some bloom next year.

BEAUTIFUL BLOOMS PAST SEASON

I had some beautiful blooms this past season, some of the best I have ever seen. My garden was a show place for about three weeks. People came from all over the city to see it.

Wish to say I am heartily in favor of the idea of featuring some peony in every Bulletin. Much information can be had from each other's experiences.

SOLANGE HAS BEEN OUTSTANDING

In regard to the peony Solange, wherever I have seen it here in



Alberta it has been an outstanding variety, a vigorous grower and blooms to perfection. Blooms open well. My plants bloomed the first year set and have bloomed fine every year since. Buds are somewhat tight but our Alberta sunshine without excessive heat, brings them out to perfection.

POPULARITY OF PEONY INCREASING

The peony here in Western Canada is just begging to be appreciated. There are very few gardens in western cities that do not have a few peonies and a good many have fine collections. One of our members here in Calgary has a collection of thirty-five hundred plants, mostly young, but in a few years will have a place worth going a considerable distance to see.

Would like to say a word in appreciation of the Peony Manual. James Boyd, and those who gave him assistance, surely deserve the praise and gratitude of all who are interested in peonies.

Auguste Dessert

By C. W. Hubbard, Lake Forest, Ill.

ments on peony Philippe Rivoire as published in Bulletin No. 38. It is the symposium brought down to the minute and the reasons "why" given which is what the enthusiast wants. The color plate is good—very good as color plates go in general, but a bit light in color.

My enthusiasm is dampened a bit to read that Solange is next for the spot light of criticism. It, of course, is worthy of its day in court, we all know. However, it is quite well-known being so long in commerce and low in price.

A PLEA FOR AUGUSTE DESSERT

Personally, I want to put in a plea for Auguste Dessert. It has been distributed nine years now which is long enough for a full range of opinions and experiences. The 1925 symposium gave it 8.7, which is not enough, we all know now. Many dealers list it as red, copying Dessert's description of "carmine." Dessert is a peony hybridizer but not an English translator or linguist, as you know if you have corresponded with him. I am pleased to note the Manual describes it as pink.

My plea that Auguste Dessert be next is based on the facts; no confusion exists as to color, etc., of Solange. Solange needs no intro-

duction to the peony public as does Auguste Dessert. To my mind Auguste Dessert is the most distinctive peony introduced in many years. It gives variety to a collection which, aside from a Jap or single, few peonies do. Price is now within reach of the average enthusiast and being a good grower (propagator) a supply is available to take care of an increased demand without hardship on a grower's stock or the buyer's purse.

NOTE—Will say in this connection that we are assembling information on the variety, Auguste Dessert, as well as on Solange, which we will present in the December number of the Bulletin.—Editor.

Tourangelle

By HOWARD R. WATKINS, Chevy Chase, Md.

T MIGHT be of interest to recite a few facts regarding the bloom of Tourangelle which was selected as the best specimen at the Washington, D. C., show.

It was grown on a three-year-old plant and was in storage about ten days, most of the time under dry conditions. It was taken out of storage on June 6, about 1:00 P. M. The stem was cut and the bloom placed in water about two hours later.

After its selection as the best bloom, it was handled several times by photographers. It remained strong and upstanding throughout the exhibit. At the close I took it home and it looked splendid throughout Sunday and Monday, beginning to wilt on Tuesday morning. The bloom measured nine inches in diameter. The color, which was always protected from the sun, remained a clear blush pink throughout its existence.

Notes From New York State

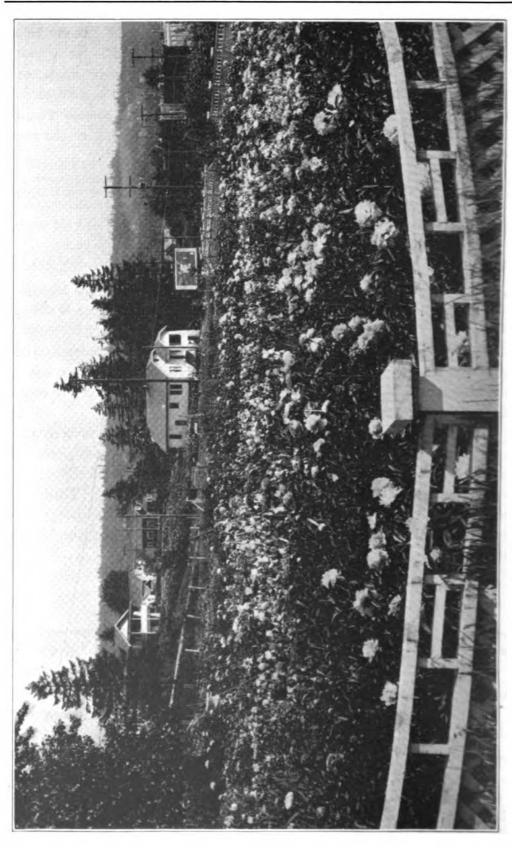
By A. B. CADY, Waverly, N. Y.

that we have twenty-eight varieties rated at 90 to 99 but am sorry to say that Philippe Rivoire is not included. Waiting for some one to offer it to me at a lower price.

Our best all-around red is Mary Brand. Karl Rosefield does well but my plant is younger than the others. Longfellow is good. Richard Carvel, not so vigorous.

Our single Tenufolia flowered May 20. Le Printemps or Maie Fleuri, (we bought one of each from an eastern firm) one opened May 26, the other May 27th. The flowers are the same.





A Pretty View of the Sherbrooke Gardens, Kirkland, Washington

Our *Banski* tree peony opened May 27. It is especially fine this year. Have never seen it better. The buds before they open are about 1½ inches in diameter. We expect continuous bloom now, (May 27) until about July 12 when our last *Grandiflora* will fade.

Sherbrooke Gardens

THE PLEASING view of Sherbrooke Gardens, at Kirkland, Wash., was taken in June, 1928. These gardens are located on a paved highway across the lake from Seattle. Mr. W. E. Sherbrooke, in sending the picture of his garden, advises that blooms from this planting won the American Peony Society's silver medal for the largest collection of peonies at the Seattle peony show, June, 1927.

CLIMATE VERY SUITABLE

I quote from Mr. Sherbrooke's letter as follows:

"Like rose culture, our climate is so very suitable that many varieties considered "indifferent" in the less favorable climates, are so much better here that they are regarded very highly and desirable, and the story is told here that the originator of the rose, Mme. Caroline Testout, did not know his own rose when he saw it growing in such profusion here on the Pacific Coast.

WALTER FAXON

"I note the varied experiences published in Bulletin No. 37 regarding Walter Faxon. With me, this peony is exceptionally good; vigorous in growth, profusion of bloom, good stiff stems and wonderful in freshness of color. I believe it is plenty large enough, and although it does fade in strong sunlight, it is no weaker in this respect than many others. I have never seen a weakling in my experience with Walter Faxon.

PROSPECTING ON A FIND

"I have practically all the high rated varieties, many of which are high priced also and considered the finest in the world. Imagine my chagrin when two years ago some ladies drove up in a dilapidated old Ford and brought me several peony blooms to name. One of these was the most beautiful shell pink with alternate rings of creamy yellow, something after the style of *Henry Avery*, but so much superior to anything of the kind I could show them that I made investigation and found that this lady had eleven, six to eight-year-old clumps and the variety had been in the family for many years. It was a veritable "soul



salad" and I tried not to enthuse too much until I had made a trade with her for one clump which she delivered in September.

"From the soil that I washed out of the clump before cutting or operating on it, I found it was of the poorest of sandy gravel and marveled that such a wonderful bloom could be produced with such material to subsist on. Well, I made eleven divisions and planted in good soil. The following June some of them bloomed and I made up my mind that she had brought me a clump of the old Golden Harvest or Jeanne d' Arc, as the first flowers compared with these varieties.

SOMEWHAT LIKE JEANNE D' ARC

"Last year, (1928), the flowers were much better, of course, but were still somewhat similar to Jeanne d' Arc, but better. I note of the eleven divisions, only four have shown real satisfactory growth and vigor, the other seven are "duds."

"Perhaps because of its erratic behavior, this may be an old variety that has been discarded and I am anxiously looking forward to a careful study of its performance in June and will feel amply repaid if I can realize a few blooms from the four vigorous plants that approximate the ethereal perfection of the bloom brought to me in 1926 to name.

"If successful, I am going to send a couple of divisions to some expert in the East for identification. I showed the bloom to Prof. Ivan W. Goodner, and like myself, he raved over it but could not identify it.

FIVE OR SIX EXTRA GOOD SEEDLINGS

"The point I am trying to bring out here is that some of the old, indifferent varieties grown under favorable conditions with environment ideal, may become superlatively happy and reward us with such soul salads as I refer to and rarely produced by many of our new, high rated sorts.

"I am also experimenting with seedlings and have five or six extra good, though not to be put on the market unless in later seasons they prove to be distinct, as we now have entirely too many novelties to digest, not all of which are really palatable."

A LATER COMMUNICATION

Although I noted considerable improvement in the quality of the 1929 blooms from the four plants referred to, I have not yet realized one bloom of the superlative quality of the first bloom which the lady brought me to name.



Comparing these blooms with the best Jean d'Arc I grow, I find them almost identical and have come to the conclusion that it is an improved strain of Jean d'Arc as it blooms at the same time. It is more double and fresher in coloring, no doubt due to our Puget Sound soil and climate in which they have reveled many years longer than my plants have.

LONG GROWING SEASON

It might also be interesting to state that due to our long season of growth with only a couple of weeks cold weather each winter, peony roots are growing and developing almost without interruption the whole year through so that about five per cent of our seedlings bloom the third season from seed when transplanted at the end of the second season.

Yesterday I transplanted about fifty of the largest from a two-yearold seed bed and the roots and eyes were large enough to assure bloom next June on most of them. I am much enthused with several of my new seedlings, but remembering Mrs. Harding's statement that "the tendency to regard one's own geese as swans seems universal," I shall refrain at this time.

The Duluth Peony Show

The following colorful description written by Dixie Tighe, New York correspondent of the Duluth Herald, of the fourteenth annual peony exhibition, July 11 and 12, 1929, held in Duluth, Minn., can well fit any of our yearly exhibitions. Miss Tighe happened to be a visitor in Duluth at the time and her impressions are summed up as follows:

size, style or color. There are great shaggy ones and little perky ones, large blooms that open so fully you can count their innermost petals, and tight ones that seem reluctant to share their inner loveliness.

And the colors—brilliant blooms of cerise and deepest pink and faint cream tones piped in red. White blossoms that often admit of a suspicion of pink. There are blooms so large they seemed almost too full of themselves, and spilled a few petals and never missed them.

LONG COLORFUL ROWS

These peonies that stood so stately and often so severe in their homes have dipped their heads a little and bend their stems more graciously since they have been gathered. They look so cordial in their long, colorful rows as if they were lined up as a welcoming committee to those who come to visit.



There is "Enchantresse," the first prize award, as regal as a queen and "Sarah Bernhardt," the second prize award, shading in deft beauty from faint pink to a frail rose tone, and the "Solange," third prize award, changing from cream to pink with the most casual grace.

Tables where the blooms seemed to be fashioned from white clouds. Rows where the color was blood red and blooms where the color had suddenly drained from their faces and left them tinted with a mere blush.

Peonies with heads capped with snow and blooms that were frozen beauty with petals as cool and defined as delicate wax; and Nina Secor bold and confident on a rigid stem. Philippe Rivoire red and glowing, cherry-toned flowers. Marie Jaquin, beautifully relaxed with her petals lying open, like a water lily. This bloom with a tufted center of yellow. "Le Cygne" as white and downy as its namesake, the swan.

LIKE COLOR CHART

Flesh pink flowers flecked with deeper notes—royal purples and crimson faced blooms. Frances Willard, a color chart of present-day cosmetics, carmine lips, white cheeks, with a flesh tint peeping through.

Sun-proof these blooms. Longfellow that continues in its vivid crimson through sun and rain. The grandeur of Mme. Emile Lemoine, tall and stately. "Moonbeam," that caught its silver tint from a summer moon.

Rows of the varying colors. Deep orange sliding into delicate cream tones. Peonies that keep step with the times, taking on a sun-burned tone.

Krinkled edges, curled upward in disdain. And on through the aisles of the bank that has been converted into a high-placed field of the flower of Duluth. In Oriental splendor the Japanese peonies are exercising diplomatic immunity. Off on a table by themselves they are doing just as they please. Opening wide their exotic faces, awarding themselves native names that defy pronunciation.

Flag colors in these blooms. Akashigata with its guard petals of carmine-rose. Blooms that looked like rare colored mandarin coats rolled up in a ball—Mikado with its red full petals and its center tipped with golden fringe.

It is all the flower-beauty of Duluth.

NOTE—The 1930 exhibition of the American Peony Society will be held in Duluth and it is hoped that as colorful an array may be on display at that time as is described by Miss Tighe.—Editor.



Secretary's Notes &

of peonies this fall and are looking forward to the coming of spring to determine the success of their venture.

LUCK WITH PEONIES

I can't tell you how many people have approached me this fall with this statement: "I have planted peonies but never have any luck."

To me this sounds ridiculous, for I can not see where there is a factor of chance entering into the transaction if good, clean stock is planted and the planting is properly done.

The most flagrant cause for failure to obtain bloom is too deep planting. In spite of the constant reminders by growers that too deep planting spells disappointment, the enthusiastic gardener so often persists in getting the buds placed so low that the success of the planting can not possibly be realized.

FAILURE TO BLOOM

Hardly a day passes that I am not approached with the question, "Why do my peonies fail to bloom? They seem to be healthy but have a large number of stems that produce small buds which turn black and fail to develop into flowers." If the stock is healthy, too-deep planting may be attributed, in most cases, as the cause for failure to bloom. Plants not properly established will often produce false buds. They do not have the strength to properly develop bloom. Insufficient root growth on plants having a large number of eyes will likewise prove disappointing the first season and possibly the second.

* * * * *

Let us not attribute our failures to luck but rather to lack of knowledge as to the proper handling of this majestic flower. I think the whole thing is splendidly summed up in the introduction of Grace Tabor's article, THE PEONY, appearing in the May, 1925, number of Woman's Home Companion. Miss Tabor states as follows: "It is perhaps not too much to say that the gardener for whom every other flower presents insuperable difficulties, may with confidence turn to the peony, and that the peony, once planted, will grow and bloom for him



however unskilled he may be. Neglected clumps of this flower are characteristic of nearly every old dooryard in the land—and for this reason a great many persons have failed to appreciate its superlative merits and the great possibilities which it holds. But if many ordinary gardeners fall within this category there are plenty of connoisseurs developed and developing; so it is not needful to rescue the peony from oblivion. Rather it is needful to rescue ourselves from our indifference (if we are among the sluggish) and to inform ourselves regarding what is today one of the most sumptuous plants, not only of our gardens, but of the world."

This splendid tribute to the peony we are glad to record in the Bulletin as it clearly describes a point so often overlooked, the superlative value of the peony.

PEONY LITTLE KNOWN IN SOME SECTIONS

It was a surprise to me, and doubtless will be to you, as you read Mr. Stottlemyer's article in this issue wherein he states that in a typical town of Pennsylvania consisting of 10,000 inhabitants, where more than a hundred thousand dollars had been spent for shrubbery during the past 20 years, there are but three residents who have named peonies in their gardens or lawns. This condition doubtless exists in many sections of the country. Observe the beautiful planting of peonies about the garage in the illustration accompanying the article. What could be more charming? Surely a delightful feast of beauty would usher in early June, and the pleasure derived would well repay the effort.

The beautiful green foliage of the peony lends itself so well to the garden planting and produces a continued delight throughout the growing season. There is nothing finer than a perennial garden and the peony ranks among the most desirable of all perennials.

Let us for a moment turn to the splendid poem of Janet Gargan which so beautifully expresses the thought I wish to convey:

MY GARDEN

My garden is the harvest of my toil;
I delved, I sowed, and with each tiny seed
I planted, too, a prayer that it would grow
And blossom for my own and neighbor's need.
Now all its beauty I most gladly share
With those who watched the miracle unfold;
But as for me, my garden is a friend
Of sympathetic mien, of gracious mold.



How sweet the hours that have been daily shared So full of gratitude for favors shown—

The garden grateful for the care I gave,
And I, for all the beauty it has grown.

I cannot view unfeelingly the Rose,
Nor pass, unnoticing the Lily's grace;

Nor fail to heed the fragrance that can drift
The spirit heavenward a little space.

My garden's a retreat from teasing care,
Reincarnation of long cherished dreams;
And in its loveliness I take delight
When morning sunshine gilds it with bright gleams.
With busy hands and little hummed refrains,
I work and play. So pass the quickened hours,
Made rich with light and warmth, with wind and mist,
And in the company of friendly flowers.

-Janet Gargan.

FEATURING SOLANGE AND AUGUSTE DESSERT

We had planned to feature the variety Solange in color in this issue and as good measure we were going to have some comments on the variety, Auguste Dessert. We have been delayed in getting information desired and have held the articles for another issue.

Let this request be a personal one to you and send me at once your observations and comments on these two splendid varieties. Let me have your personal opinion based upon observation in your own garden or that of others. We will have an article by Auguste Dessert, the great French originator, who has very kindly contributed. Your comments may be brief, if desired, but mail them to me promptly and I am sure we can have a most interesting article.

NEW VARIETIES

The work of originating new varieties goes merrily on as attested by the number of new peonies being registered with the Society. I am sure there are many originators who have not taken advantage of registering their new productions. The Department of Registration should be made use of. Bear in mind that the Society has offered \$1,000.00 cash for a full double yellow peony. Who will be the first to win this award and also a small fortune for the stock?



The demand for single and Japanese peonies is growing yearly, and it is not to be wondered at, for a greatly increased blooming season may be secured and a wide range in color combinations realized.

TRIAL GARDENS AT URBANA, ILL.

The trial gardens at Urbana, Ill., will have something of value to offer to all admirers of the single and Japanese types. The work of entangling confused nomenclature is progressing and the results will be made public through the columns of the Bulletin. A number of varieties are under observation and more are being added. The plants are getting excellent care and we feel with the consummation of this work that the Society will have accomplished a wonderful piece of work. An appeal for additional varieties has been made and it is hoped that the response will be generous and result in a considerable increase of varieties under test.

We want to be as sure of varieties in the Japanese and single types as we are the double types, which have become more firmly established. Japanese growers cannot be relied upon to supply what they describe, and in this manner much of the confusion has come about.

PEONY MANUAL

If you have not yet secured the new Peony Manual, you are surely letting a splendid opportunity pass. This Manual will prove a most excellent text book and the study of the peony can be undertaken in a most intelligent manner. Many of our members have procured the Manual and some have taken several to present to peony loving friends. No more desirable gift could be made to an interested peony fan who would find a wealth of valuable information covering all phases of peony culture and care. Remember the price to members is \$5.00, and Christmas just around the corner.

The protracted dry weather during the summer greatly affected the size of the peony buds, especially was this true on peonies dug early in September or the last of August. Fall rains, however, came to the rescue and later dug stock did not show the effects of the drouth.

AUGUSTE DESSERT

Have you ever had the privilege of viewing a long row of the variety Auguste Dessert? If not, you have missed a rare treat. In my opinion, there is more variation in this variety than any other with which I am familiar. At any stage of development it is beautiful and outstand-



ing. It was one of the chief attractions at our local garden show. The flowers are large, beautifully formed, artistically colored, definitely distinct and irresistibly appealing.

Continued cultivation throughout the fall months will insure better blooming plants next spring.

REMOVING FOLIAGE

Do not remove foliage from your peonies until after hard freezes have rendered it useless for further sustenance of the plant. We prefer to wait until after the ground is frozen hard and then take a good, sharp hoe with which the tops can be readily cut off close to the ground. Gather in piles and burn. In this manner, leaf blotch and other diseases affecting foliage can be eliminated. Some prefer to leave the stems as a protection to the plant during the winter. It is true they will accumulate sufficient snow to form a good protection. If this is done, early removal in the spring, before growth starts, is necessary.

Remember we are awaiting your comments on Solange and Auguste Dessert for the next issue. Send them right along as we want to get the December issue on the press in time to reach our members by the first of the year, if possible.

NICHOL'S ARBORETUM

The Nichol's Arboretum at Ann Arbor, Mich., under the able direction of Aubrey Tealdi, is doing a splendid work in popularizing the peony. The Arboretum, as I understand it, is a part of the University of Michigan, and thousands of students from all over the country have an opportunity to study and become acquainted with the plantings of various kinds. A beautiful peony garden is maintained occupying an area of about three acres. We are presenting in this issue an article describing the layout of the planting at the Nichol's Arboretum and some beautiful views of the same.

There is still needed for this fall planting the following peonies and it is hoped that they may be supplied by some of our members who can spare a division or more of the varieties needed. Any donations should be sent to Aubrey Tealdi, director, Nichol's Arboretum, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich. Due credit will be given all donors.

Here is the want list and it is hoped that it may be filled promptly:

Alice Harding Kelway's Gorgeous

Ama-no-sode Libellule Madelon Aureolin

Marjorie Allison Daybreak Eglantine Pride of Langport

Elisa Snow-wheel Florence McBeth Sunbeam Fu-ji-mine Toro-no-maki

Victoire de la Marne Golden Dawn

Helen Yeso June Day Isani Gidui

The article by Mr. Boyd on the cold storage of peonies is full of valuable information and the very latest obtainable data on the subject. This article should be studied carefully as it will be necessary for most exhibitors outside of the vicinity of Duluth, Minn., to store their peonies for a continued period in order to compete.

DEPARTMENT OF REGISTRATION

The Society takes no responsibility as to the quality of the varieties registered here. A system by which new varieties can be officially rated and approved by the Society has been established and it is hoped that the difficulties inherent in dealing with the peony can be overcome.

Edward Auten, Jr., of Princeville, Ill., presents the following nine varieties for registration:

Tarantelle (E. Auten, Jr., 1929). A bright cerise red anemone Jap with occasional petals in center. Carpels tipped and flushed same color. Medium height, slender stiff stems.

Black Magic (E. Auten, Jr., 1929). A "black" red single, with carpels greenish

white. Holds color exceptionally well in hot sun. Medium height.

Moon Mist (E. Auten, Jr., 1929). Palest pink single, practically white, with minute pink dots, contrasting with the center of yellow stamens. Green carpels, medium height. A flower of innate refinement.

High Jinks (E. Auten, Jr., 1929). A very deep and brilliant cerise red anemone Jap, narrow center petaloids same color shading to white. Carpels tipped red. Late, tall.

Louis Joliet (E. Auten, Jr., 1929). A very brilliant dark semi-rose type double, with a few stamens. Blooms large, well carried on stems of medium height.

Nippon Gold (E. Auten, Jr., 1929). A pink Jap with rich golden center, green carpels. Late, tall.

Creve Coeur (E. Auten, Jr., 1929). A brilliant dark red anemone Jap. Center at first darker than guards. Later changes to same color, and a distinct narrow white line appears on the outside of the petaloids, running from the base along the center for about two-thirds length, the stripe widening and irregular at its upper end. Medium sized blooms, rose fragrant, carried on tall, stiff slender stems. A very distinct and beautiful variety.



Dearborn (E. Auten, Jr., 1929). A brilliant medium dark red semi-rose double, with stamens well hidden. Late midseason, medium height. Color holds exceptionally well in hot sun.

Elmer J. Wright (E. Auten, Jr., 1929). A large dark red single carried on a plant of regal bearing, tall stiff stems and leathery foliage. Green carpels.

Mrs. Edward Harding, R. F. D. No. 1, Plainfield, N. J., desires to register the name "Manchu Princess" for one of her seedlings. It is a white single of rare quality and extraordinary beauty. Full detailed description will follow after next year's blooming season. Mrs. Harding is known to most of our readers as the author of two splendid books on the peony. Any seedling that Mrs. Harding would deem worthy of naming must possess superlative merit.

J. V. Edlund, White Bear Lake, Minn., presents the following for registration:

Mrs. J. V. Edlund (Edlund, 1929). A very tall plant with long stiff stems and dark green foliage, very large pure white flowers finely formed, with waxy broad petals without a trace of any other color, fragrant and very late.

Mary Lou Kimmey (Edlund, 1929). Light pink, rose type, very full flowers with yellow stamens among petals, splashes of carmine on central petals, stiff upright stems and very tall, fragrant.

Judge Orr (Edlund, 1929). Extremely large flat flowers of a beautiful pure pink of the old fashioned Duchess rose, petals long and narrow giving the flower a feathery effect.

Mr. O. A. Risk, North Olmstead, Ohio, presents the following seedlings for registration:

Anette Carson (Risk, 1929). Double type, very large, late. Outer petals blush pink, creamy white center. Somewhat fragrant. Tall, good foliage and stems and a free bloomer.

White Prince (Risk, 1929). Very large, late white with cream center. Rather flat bloom when fully opened. Fragrant, medium tall, good foliage and free bloomer.

Pink Perfection (Risk, 1929). Double type, very large, late. Pink, petals incurved, outer petals becoming white with age. Fragrant. Tall, good foliage and stems; blooms freely.

Cerise Beauty (Risk, 1929). Double type, large, late midseason. Color cerise, darker in center. When fully open a flat, cylindrical bloom. Medium height, good foliage and stems. Blooms very freely.

Pink Beauty (Risk, 1929). Double type, large midseason. Bright pink on very erect stems. Fragrant, tall, good foliage and stems and free bloomer.

Daylight (Risk, 1929). Japanese type, large, midseason. White guard petals; center a large mass of straw colored stamenoids becoming nearly white with age. Medium height, good foliage and stems. Blooms freely.

Sunset (Risk, 1929). Japanese type, midseason, very large. Light pink guard petals, center a large mass of golden stamenoids. Tall, good foliage and stems. Free bloomer.

Egypt (Risk, 1929). Single, medium size, early. Very dark red with a darker sheen. Stems quite straight. Medium height, good foliage and stems; blooms freely.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Should you desire any change in your address or if the address where your Bulletin is mailed is incorrect, we will thank you to advise us promptly, giving proper address.

We have received the following changes and corrections since the last issue of Bulletin:

Bixby, Mrs. H. M., R. R. 3, Box 174, Clayton, Mo., formerly R. R. 1, Box 1117. Huntting, J. R., Box 840, Denver, Colo., formerly 19th Ave. and Albion St. Redecker, J. H., Box 226, Elgin, Ill., formerly Arlington Heights, Ill. Taylor, Edward B., instead of Mrs. E. B. Taylor, 97 Main St., Binghamton, N. Y. Wain, Ida F., 1785 Seward Ave., Apt. 115, Detroit, Mich., formerly 68 West Warren Ave.

NEW MEMBERS SINCE LAST ISSUE OF BULLETIN

Barker, Miss Ellen M., East Road, Sheffield, Mass. Bostick, Mrs. W. D., 533 W. Washington Blvd., Fort Wayne, Ind. Church, Chas. F., 436 S. State St., Lamoni, Ia. Darrall, Fred C., R. R. 2, Boise, Ida. Farrar, Guy, Jarbalo, Kan. Faust, Verna, Mercersburg, Pa. Finney, T. T., Edgewood Nurseries, Millersburg, O. Fishburn, Junius P., Box 1139, Roanoke, Va. Healey, Mrs. M. J., Stamford Hall, Stamford, Conn. Henry, Wm. D., Box 263, R. R. 2, Toms River, N. J. Jones Heddens Co., Charles City, Ia. Kelso, G. D., 184 Washington St., Providence, R. I. Kimball, Miss Alice A., Elmbrook Farm, Presque Isle, Me. Milliman, Walton E., Rockford, Mich. Paeth, Louis A., Ogden Ave., Naperville, Ill. Potter, J. Harris, Hoxie, R. I. Rice, Mrs. Frederick C., 726 Lawton St., S. W., Atlanta, Ga. Rosa, E. B., Monroe, Wis. Sil Mar Gardens, Virgil C. Kruschke, Silverton, Ore. Schroeder, Dr. C. H., 114 Louri St., Duluth, Minn. Sheffield, Frank, Jr., Crewe, Va. Steenrod, Mrs. Edward D., 126 S. Sixth St., Delavan, Wis. Truelove, Dr. A. O., 710 Wayne Pharmacal Bldg., Fort Wayne, Ind. Vanderbilt, Co., R. T., 230 Park Ave., New York City, N. Y. Venable, Mrs. S. W., Augusta, Ill.

DEATHS REPORTED

Mitchell, Mrs. Walter S., 5028 Morewood Place, Pittsburgh, Pa. Morse, Robert C., 19 Congress St., Boston, Mass. Uhlman, William F., 1420 N. 25th St., St. Joseph, Mo.





Another view of the peony garden at the Arnold Arboretum, Ann Arbor. We regret that reduction necessary in making reproduction has resulted in loss of detail so outstanding in the original photographs. See article on page three. The Nichols Arboretum is one of the finest kept gardens in the country and is open to the public.

The Good & Reese Company

Largest Growers of Peonies in America

offer at wholesale only for fall delivery two new peonies of intrinsic beauty—

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Refer to the "G. & R. Blue Book for Florists," issued to the trade only, for descriptive data and prices.

Amateur gardeners are requested to write to their dealers for complete information on these two varieties.

For commercial planting, we offer the best standard and rare varieties at extremely reasonable prices.

THE GOOD & REESE COMPANY SPRINGFIELD, OHIO

The New Peony Manual

AVE you received your copy? If not, you are passing up a wonderful opportunity to secure a most valuable addition to your library. This book is an encyclopedia of peony facts obtainable from no other source.

We are glad to have the privilege of quoting from a letter addressed to James Boyd, editor of the Manual, written by Charles E. F. Gersdorff of Washington, D. C. Mr. Gersdorff is perhaps better known to gladiolus growers from his writings in the Gladiolus Bulletin. We are pleased that we can expect contributions from him on the peony in the future. We quote as follows:

I have a hazy recollection of having written you some ten years or more ago about purchasing iris. In all that time I have had a love for the peony, but was never able to gratify the love in the usual substantial way, owing to my many other

social activities.

I feel very much ashamed that I was not a member of the American Peony Society until this year, particularly since receiving that most wonderful piece of work, 'The Manual of the American Peony Society.'

Since receiving the American Peony Society.

Peony Society.'

Since receiving my copy it has accompanied me to my office each day, and believe I have gone over the matter contained therein certainly at least once a day, and perhaps oftener, each time finding some additional matter of interest and value. I feel at this rate I will soon wear out my copy.

Every present member and everyone to come will owe you a lasting debt of gratitude for this fine book.

I am glad for one that you did not realize the amount of work involved until you had gotten 99

This is one of many letters received in praise of Your copy can be mailed promptly. Don't hesitate longer as it will aid you in making your fall selection of planting stock. The book makes an ideal gift to a peony loving friend.

The price to members is \$5.00 per copy; to nonmembers of the American Peony Society, \$6.00; the Manual, including membership, \$8.00.

Address all orders to

W. F. CHRISTMAN, Secretary NORTHBROOK, ILL.