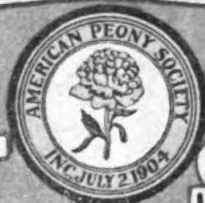


AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY



Bulletin

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THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE COLLEGE

STATE COLLEGE, PA.

September 1937

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W. F. CHRISTMAN, Editor
Northbrook, Ill.

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STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, CIRCULATION,
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Of American Peony Society Bulletin published quarterly at St. Paul, Minn.,
October 1, 1937.

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Before me, a Notary Public in and for the state and county aforesaid,
personally appeared R. S. Wilcox, who having been duly sworn, according to
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can Peony Society Bulletin and that the following is, to the best of his knowl-
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Notary Public.

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Membership in the Society is open to both professional and amateur
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and the names are there voted upon.

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

The dues are \$3.00 a year, of which \$1.00 is toward a year's subscription
to the American Peony Society BULLETIN. *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 25 cents
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AMERICAN Peony Society Bulletin



SEPTEMBER, 1937

Peony Studies

E. R. HONEYWELL and F. C. GAYLORD
Department of Horticulture
Purdue University Agricultural Experiment Station
Lafayette, Indiana

In southwestern Indiana, in the region adjacent to Evansville, some two thousand acres of peonies are grown commercially and the blooms cut in the bud stage and shipped to markets throughout the country. For the past two years the Horticulture Department of Purdue University Agricultural Experiment Station has attempted to assist the growers in their cultural and marketing problems. This has been done largely through the co-operation with the growers in the vicinity of Evansville, Indiana.

For convenience of presentation, only a brief report of a few of the major problems will be discussed.

Maturity Studies

Peony growers have often experienced considerable loss in handling peonies because they were not cut in the proper stage of maturity. They realize that if the buds are cut too small, hard, and green, they will fail to open properly. If too fully expanded they will bruise readily in transit and the petals will shatter when taken out of storage, placed in water and exposed to warm room conditions.

During the peony season of 1937, one hundred uniform, normal buds of each of eleven varieties were tagged. Tagging of the buds of each variety was done one to several days previous to the time the calyxes had expanded sufficiently to expose a portion of the color of the outer petals. For six succeeding days at a regular stated hour, twelve peony

stems of each variety (22 to 26 inches in length, depending on the variety, with buds uniformly expanded) were cut and placed in storage.

These peonies remained in storage at 31° to 34° F. for about three weeks. At this time they were uncrated, photographed, the stems shortened two inches, and each bunch placed in individual vases of uniform size, which contained eleven inches of water. The room temperature was maintained at 66° to 74° F. The peonies were again photographed after they had been in water for two days.

It is difficult to describe accurately the proper stage of maturity at which peonies should be cut. Many factors, such as variety characteristics, soil treatments, weather conditions, time of day, and method of handling, must be carefully considered. Data thus far obtained seems to indicate that the buds of full, double flowering varieties should be more fully expanded and showing more color when cut than those which are less double or single. Also, the buds of most red or dark pink varieties should be more fully expanded than a white or light pink variety of the same type.

The buds should be uniform in shape, normal, and the calyxes normally expanded, exposing the true color of the outer petal. The size of buds, at the proper stage of maturity for cutting, will vary with varieties and cultural conditions. Large buds which are properly developed are best.

The best time for cutting is in early morning and late in the evening. Those cut during the heat of the day should be cut in slightly tighter buds than those cut during the cooler portion of the day. Each field should be cut over carefully at least twice or three times daily. As soon as the flowers are cut they should be taken to a cool, shady room (basement if possible), graded and packed.

Fertilizers and Their Effect on Peony Quality

Undoubtedly the most perplexing question confronting commercial growers is the subject of soil fertility. For years, barnyard manure and bone meal have been highly recommended and freely used. The results obtained from such materials have, in the most part, been satisfactory. Under certain conditions, however, it has been commonly observed that in fields where manure has been freely used, the plants produce excess foliage, weak stems, inferior flowers, and were more susceptible to certain diseases. Commercial fertilizers have not been popular with peony growers in the past, but more attention is now being given to them.

(Continued on Page 7)

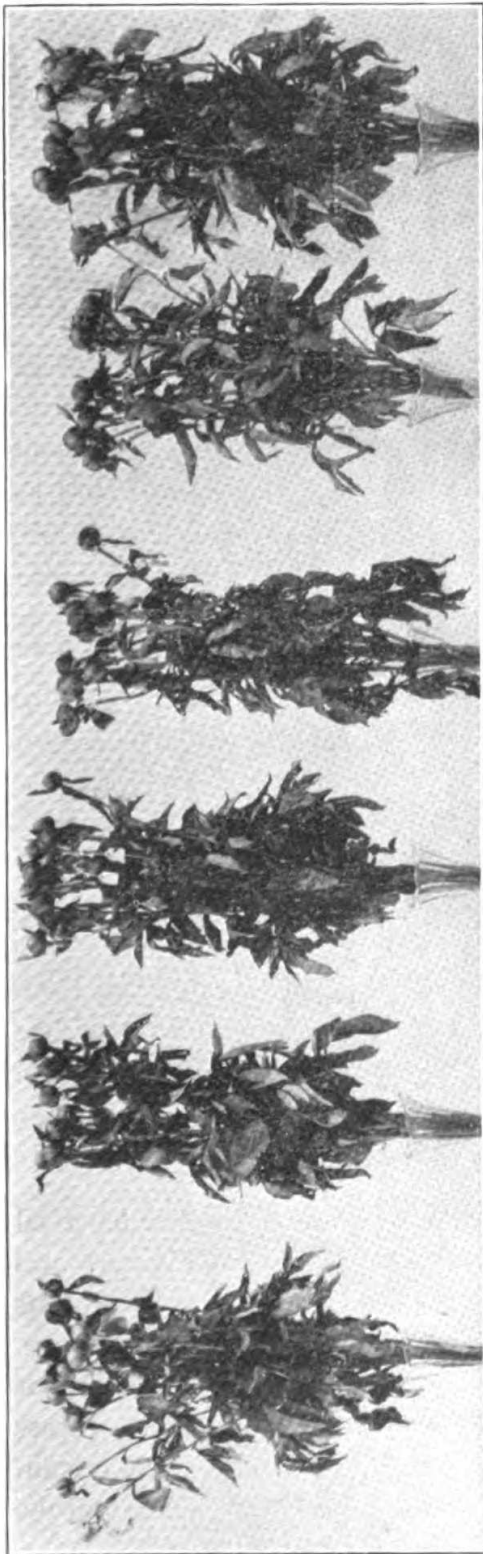


Figure 1

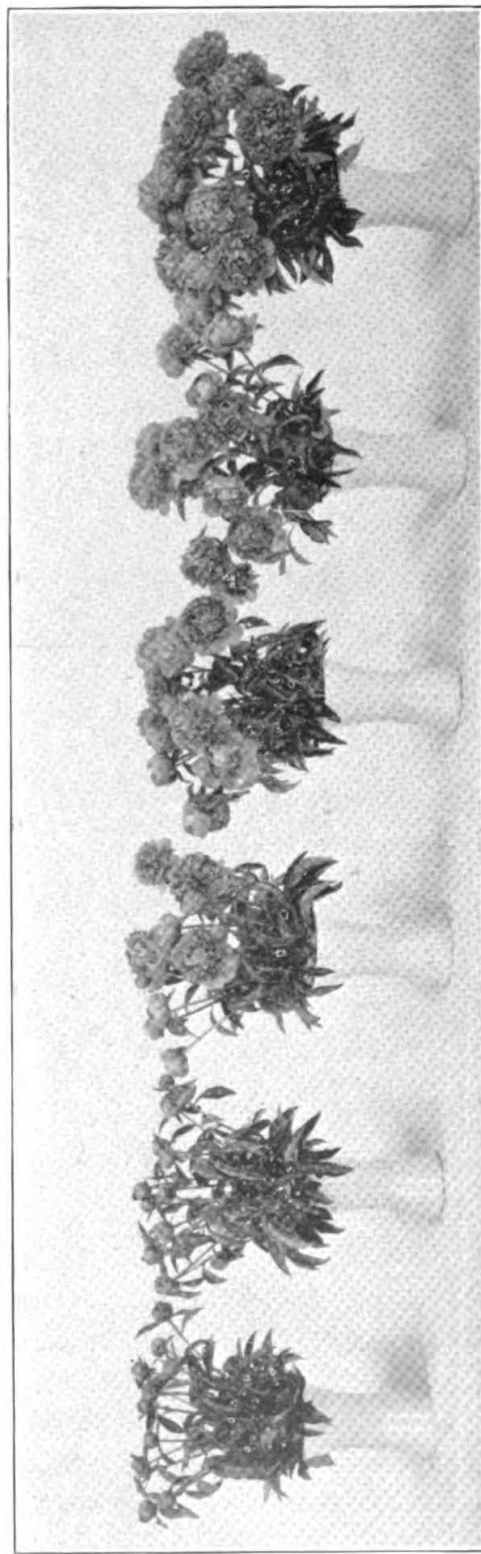


Figure 2

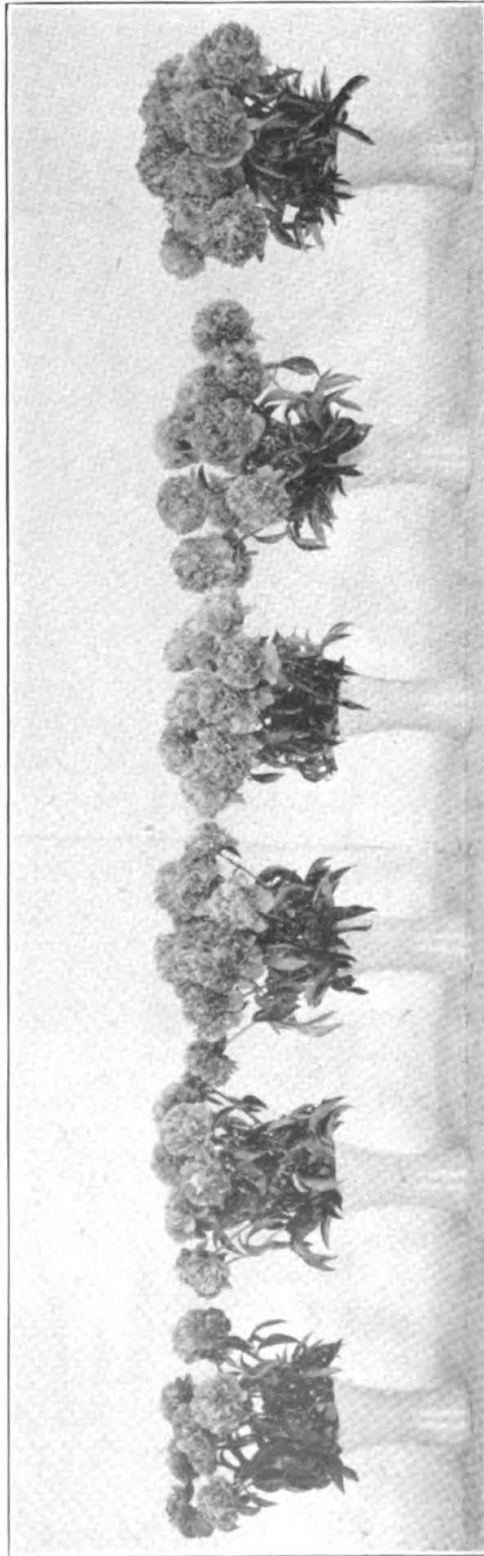


Figure 3

Maturity Studies: Variety, Felix Crouse. See Figs. 1, 2, and 3.

One hundred uniform, normal buds of this variety were measured and tagged in the field May 15. Twelve buds with 26-inch stems were cut on May 20th, and for each five succeeding days, and placed in storage at 31° to 34° F. They remained in storage until June 7, at which time they were uncrated, photographed (Fig. 2), the stems shortened two inches, and each bunch placed in individual vases of uniform size, which contained eleven inches of water. The peonies were again photographed June 9 (Fig. 2) and June 14 (Fig. 3). The peonies which were cut on May 24 and May 25, vases Nos. 5 and 6, respectively, were of the best quality. Buds of this variety should not be cut until they are medium soft in texture.

Three peony fields in the vicinity of Evansville, Indiana, were selected where peonies were being grown under different fertilizer treatments, consisting of commercial fertilizer, manures, and a combination of commercial fertilizers and manures.

Peony buds from the three plots were tagged, cut, placed in storage and subjected to the same general treatments as those described for maturity studies. From the data obtained, it is apparent that soil management and fertility has a definite influence on the habit of growth and quality of peonies.

Peonies grown on soils which were deficient in fertility (especially nitrogen) produced small foliage, hard, brittle, wiry stems, and comparatively small buds. Such peonies did not respond favorably as they were slow in absorbing water, and did not open rapidly and uniformly when brought out of storage and placed in water.

Plants which were heavily fertilized with commercial fertilizers or manure, produced excess foliage and in many cases the stems were crooked, due in part to high winds. There was considerable more evidence of Botrytis injury to the leaves and Thrip injury of the flower buds in fields where manure had been freely used. Thus far there is considerable evidence in favor of commercial fertilizers in place of manure for commercial peony production.

Moisture Relationship to Keeping Quality

There has been considerable argumentation among growers and wholesalers regarding the proper moisture condition of peonies when they are crated and placed in storage. Some have contended that the foliage should be void of all excess (free) moisture and preferably that it be slightly wilted. Under such conditions it is believed that the growth of molds and fungi may be less prevalent. Contradictory to this belief, some growers, through consultation with their wholesalers, have been influenced to place all cut peonies in containers of water for a short period previous to crating. They believe that such conditions are more conducive to flowers and foliage of superior quality and uniformity of flower opening.

With these contradictory beliefs in mind, efforts are being made to determine the best moisture conditions for packing and storing peonies under commercial conditions.

During the past season, uniform bunches of several peony varieties have been subjected to different water treatments. The varying factors have been the time of treatment, depth of water in which stems were placed, temperature of water, and length of treatment.

The results of this experiment indicate that peonies of the varieties treated seem to be tolerant to considerable variation to moisture conditions when placed in storage. From general observations and data thus far obtained of peonies which have been dry packed, under good commercial practices, there seems to be no evidence in favor of soaking the stems in water or sprinkling the foliage previous to packing and placing them in storage. *It is important, however, that as soon as the flowers are cut they be taken to a cool, shady room (basement if possible), graded, packed and placed in storage as soon as possible.*

Grading, Standardizing, and Marketing Indiana Peonies

In 1935, the first efforts were made to co-operate with the Peony Growers Association in Southwestern Indiana, in the establishment of grades for the buying and selling of this crop. Tentative grades were prepared and the crop of 1936 was graded and shipped accordingly. As a result of the 1936 investigations, Indiana grades for peonies were established in the spring of 1937 and the entire crop of this Association was sold on the basis of these grades with Federal-State inspection. The Indiana grades as established for 1937 production season were as follows:

INDIANA STANDARDS FOR CUT PEONY BUDS

Indiana No. 1. Shall consist of well-trimmed stems of peonies of similar varietal characteristics, which are fresh and firm for the variety; which are free from broken stems; not overmature, but with calyxes normally expanded, exposing the true color of the outer petals; which are free from damage caused by moisture, discoloration, freezing injury, sunburn, disease, insect, mechanical or other means.

SIZE TERMS

Stems shall be fairly uniform in length, with a minimum length of 24 inches. Buds shall not be less than 1 inch in diameter.

STANDARD BUNCHING

Each bunch shall contain twelve stems of reasonably uniform size and development. Each bunch to be held intact with two rubber bands of suitable strength and elasticity; one (No. 18 band, not doubled)

placed around the bunch approximately 5 inches below the buds; one (No. 30 band, doubled) placed around the lower portion of the bunch approximately 3 inches from the end of the stems.

TOLERANCES

In order to allow for variation incident to proper grading and handling not more than 5%, by count, of any lots, may not meet the size and bunching requirements of this grade. In addition, not more than 5%, by count, of any lot, may not meet the remaining requirements of this grade, but no part of this tolerance shall be allowed for decay on the buds at shipping point.

Indiana Standard. Shall consist of stems of peonies which meet all the requirements of the No. 1 grade except that the stems shall be not less than 20 inches in length and that a tolerance of 10%, by count, shall be allowed for variation incident to grading and packing, other than the 5% tolerance allowed for bunching and sizing requirements.

DEFINITION OF TERMS

1. "Stem" means a flower stalk with attached leaves and bud.
2. "Well trimmed" means that the lower 6 to 8 inches of the stems are to be free from leaves and that the remaining leaves shall be free from appreciable injury from any cause.
3. "Similar varietal characteristics" means that the stems in any bunch shall have the same characteristic leaf growth and the same general color buds (outer petals).
4. "Fresh" means that both leaves and buds are fairly crisp and turgid for the variety.
5. "Firm" means that the stems are fairly stiff and sturdy; that the buds are fairly compact, but may yield slightly to moderate pressure except for loose flowered varieties which shall be approximately one-third open.
6. "Overmature" means that the outer petals have started to unfold from the bud.
7. "Damage" means any injury which materially affects the appearance or shipping quality of the stems. Inconspicuous Anthracnose spots shall not be considered as damage.
8. "Diameter" means the average transverse distance through the bud.

In connection with this work, Mr. R. G. Hill, of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, spent two weeks in the Evansville area co-oper-

ating with the workers from the Agricultural Experiment Station, in studying the Indiana grades as promulgated for 1937.

At the close of the season, R. G. Hill and F. C. Gaylord made a trip to Chicago, New York, and Philadelphia to see the peonies on the market that had come from the Evansville district and compare them with the quality of flowers from other sections. The opinion of commercial handlers of peonies in regard to the nature of grades, as well as the standards that had been established was also secured.

Several points were under question in the establishing of grades for 1937. One of the most important of these was the minimum length of stem for No. 1 peonies. Another was the minimum size of buds for No. 1 grade. Still another point that opinion differed on was the place to put the rubber bands.

From observations made, and from contact with commercial distributors of peonies, it is evident that a more general use of a uniform grade or method of standardization of cut peony buds is desirable. Buds from almost every section of the country were found with almost every length of stem, size of bud, degree of maturity as well as type of package.

It seems evident that a straight No. 1 grade should carry about a 24-inch minimum stem. However, it would be desirable to have a minimum length stem of 20 inches, for any No. 1 buds under 24 inches should be specified as to length of stem, as for example "No. 1, 22-inch minimum." As to size of buds the 1-inch diameter seems about right for No. 1's, with a possible minimum of $\frac{7}{8}$ inch along with an 18- to 20-inch minimum for No. 2's.

Most distributors want rubber bands around each bunch and there is variance of opinion as to the method of placement.

Growers should use more care in packing, grading, and there is urgent need for growers to do a better job in connection with labeling and branding packages sent to market.

The Indiana grade for cut peony buds will be changed for 1938 in light of the investigations and grading work carried on during the past two years.

Some Possible Features of Interest in Connection With The Work of The Peony Enthusiast

MRS. DEANE FUNK, McLean, Illinois

With the seemingly ever-increasing complexities of human experience, men and women in all walks of life, including professional and business men of large affairs, are everywhere seeking relief from the stress and strain of modern living through some form of recreation or avocation, and it is interesting to note that many are turning their attention to gardening with this purpose in mind.

Looking back over the years in which my garden has played such an important part in the sum total of my happiness, I am impelled to point out some of the things I have found particularly enjoyable and interesting, in the hope that it may help others to a greater enjoyment, and richer experience in their work.

It took several years after making my first rather extensive planting, to fully convince me that the peonies in my garden gave not only the most beautiful flowers, but that they were the only plants it contained which could be depended upon to come year after year with increasing beauty, and which could, with a reasonable amount of care and attention, be grown to perfection in our climate. The intervening years have certainly served to justify this opinion, for although I have managed, by means of great effort and considerable expense, to maintain a fairly satisfactory all-season garden, the repeated disappointments, great losses, and only occasional and very temporary successes with other plants have made me glad, indeed, that I early determined to depend upon peony time as the real event of the year, thus insuring a considerable season of gorgeous bloom, affording through the great variety of types represented, with their wonderful range of exquisite coloring and interesting characteristics, a study, fascinating beyond measure.

My first few really choice peonies proved such a source of great delight, that I soon removed the commoner kinds, for I had already tasted of the pride every gardener takes in the really choice things he grows—a characteristic probably wholly foreign to his nature and peculiar only to his peony treasures and their attainments!

I recall with pleasure the long winter evenings with the wonderful word pictures of various catalogues and the articles in the Peony Association Bulletins as my guides in planning the next season's planting, and as rapidly as possible these borders were filled, overflowing later into the tennis court, then into the vegetable garden, and today even the adjoining pasture has been turned into a peony field! The rather common tendency of the peony enthusiast to enlarge his collection is very noticeable in the transformation of many vegetable gardens, throughout the country, into peony gardens.

In the spring of 1922, before I had ever attended any of the large exhibitions of peonies, I carefully studied instructions concerning the proper handling and preparation of blossoms for exhibition, and from the borders alone, gathered hundreds of blossoms, using my basement as a cold storage and conditioning room, and succeeded in staging a really beautiful exhibit in one of the leading banks of a neighboring city, fifteen miles distant. This effort met with such success and seemed to give so much pleasure to the hundreds of people who saw it, and brought so many requests that it be made an annual event, that I decided to invite all flower lovers to come to my home on appointed days each year when I would have arranged in my house my choicest blossoms, and my garden would be thrown open to all visitors. These affairs have grown more and more interesting and successful, and I have experienced such joy in the delight and appreciation of the many who come from far and near that I would urge every grower of even a few good peonies to plan to share their beauty with your friends, in your home, in the exhibits of your garden club, and eventually in the National Shows. A little experience will convince you that it is quite as possible for you to produce and exhibit prize-winning blossoms as it is for the expert or large grower, and you will be thrilled by the fascination of every step of the work necessary to success. It is impossible to really know peonies in any other way, and white peonies so handled will be a veritable revelation to you. A table in my living room, displaying specimen blossoms of Kelway's Glorious, Le Cygne, Mrs. Edward Harding, Mme. Jules Dessert, Festiva Maxima, E. B. Browning, Frances Willard, Baroness Schroeder, Jubilee, Avalanche, Marie Lemoine, and Mons. Dupont, not only called forth expressions of greatest admiration, but gave convincing proof that among white peonies may be found almost as great variation in type and effect as among the pink or reds. Many who had thought they did not care particularly for white peonies were most extravagantly enthusiastic about them.

Although attractive in the garden, you will find that all of the rarely lovely, delicately-shaded pink peonies are much more beautiful as cut flowers than in the borders, and as such, may be preserved for many days in all their perfection, with proper care. If this sounds like too much trouble to you, I ask you to try it just once, knowing that you will find it so delightfully interesting that you will never again lose any of the beauty of your wonderful peonies. Therese, Tourangelle, Solange, Walter Faxon, Lady A. Duff, Eugenie Verdier, President Wilson, LaFrance, Milton Hill, Marie Crousse, Luetta Pfeiffer, Judge Berry, Jeannot, and Grandiflora are peonies of this class. Henry Avery, Miss Salway, and Primevere are delicately shaded peonies showing yellow effects, with Henry Avery, to my mind, the most beautiful of the three. Therese, a great favorite of mine, planted with Mons. Martin Cahuzac, gives a lovely effect in the garden, and Therese, planted in different sections of my grounds, gives a real succession of bloom covering at least ten days, and comes with much stronger color when grown in partial shade.

Among varieties I have found particularly good in the garden as well as in the show room are: Martha Bulloch, LaFee, Phyllis Kelway, Kelway's Exquisite, Reine Hortense, M. Jules Elie, Phoebe Cary, Sarah Bernhardt, and Souv. de Louis Bigot—the last mentioned variety, a marvel in the garden and referred to by visitors who have watched this variety for several years in my borders, as a peony that does not fade.

By all means, have a clump of the old-fashioned red peony, officialis Rubra to start the season in reds, and let it be followed by Richard Carvel, a stunning, early red peony with such strong rose fragrance that a single vase of it when it first opens, perfumes the whole house. Karl Rosenfield, Cherry Hill, Mary Brand, the greatly underrated Charles McKellip, and the rather dwarf Winnifred Domme are excellent landscaping varieties, while the dark red peonies, M. Martin Cahuzac, and Adolphe Rousseau are attractive both in arrangement with pale pink and cream peonies and as lawn specimens. Longfellow and Philippe Rivoire are outstanding reds in richness of color.

The peony game is a progressive one, and I would urge every member of the Society to attend the National Show, if possible, and to further acquaint himself with some of the interesting things that are being accomplished, by visiting any of the places where good peonies are extensively grown. I am sure he would come away greatly delighted with his visit and with renewed enthusiasm and interest in his work.

As I review the years which have been so immeasurably enriched

by the real joy that has come to me in my gardening experience—even to the extent that I have grown to look upon it as one of the finest things that has come into my life—I send a mental message of congratulation to each new member of the American Peony Society, believing, as I do, that he will find in his garden, peace and joy which will lighten his burden and give him renewed strength to carry on with a song in his heart of thanksgiving and praise that will be of inestimable value to him in his attitude toward all the affairs of life.



Favorites of our 1937 Season

MABEL FRANKLIN CHRISTILAW, Minneapolis, Minn.

The season of 1937 began a week later than it did in 1936 because of unusually cold weather the first week of June. It ended the same day each year. There were several rains during this season and some very high temperatures, both making it rather hectic for cut flowers and for making observations. On the whole, it seemed that blooms were a bit smaller than usual and there were very few good ones. Probably the effect of the 68 days of no rain and intense heat of 1936 were being felt. Certainly the peony plants made little growth last summer and these difficult weather conditions seemed hardest on the reds.

The selecting of our favorites this season from among the later Franklin introductions results in a list of 20, each one of which has too much character and distinction to be left out. Twenty more were certainly especially attractive—most of these still unnamed—that may be written about another year if they continue to prove as worthy.

Our Best Whites This Season

Four white doubles were outstanding and *Snowball*, *X 10*, *W 198* and *D44* were almost too good to leave out. The whitest of the four chosen is *Duluth*, which shows delightful soft pale lemon tones in the depths of its petals on opening. It is a full double of radiant texture and with petals closely packed to make a large flower of excellent form. There is no central point for radiation of the petals. All the center ones, long and short, are irregularly arranged, the longer ones curled over the shorter, and this arrangement holds until the petals fall. The center is evenly and moderately rounded. The longer center petals are not noticeably shorter than the guards. This gleaming white is borne about

16 inches above fairly heavy deep green foliage on a bush above medium height. The stem is stiff and straight. The fragrance is pleasing. On the whole, *Duluth* is an exceptionally desirable late white.

Mrs. A. B. Franklin is the whitest of the three which open with a hint of pinkish cream. When classed as a flesh bloom for the Minnesota Peony Show in Minneapolis this year, it became champion of this color group. We have always thought of this variety as pure white, yet next to *Mrs. J. V. Edlund* and *Mrs. A. M. Brand*, which have yellow and sulphur tones, respectively, the Franklin variety does seem to be a little off white. In form it is unique. There is no other white double that we know of which has such a definite rose-bud form or holds it so long without spreading. Our visitors often exclaimed: "Just see that overgrown white rose." Judging from our secretary's notes which he made in Toronto last year, this variety seems to be Mr. Christman's choice of all the later Franklin originations. In size this flower is a little smaller than *A. B. Franklin*, a little whiter, grows a little lower and blooms a little earlier in late midseason. The bush is medium tall and bears the flower about 16 inches above medium green, medium fine foliage on a good straight stem. It possesses the rose fragrance. In gracefulness, beauty and charm this variety is not surpassed.

The largest of the Franklin white doubles is *A. B. Franklin*, also the highest rated peony of the 1933 symposium. It opens with a faint rosy flush and retains this tinge of pinkish cream in the center when first expanded. Its rose-like center opens to display shorter petals in the extreme center. Closely packed petals in the rose arrangement spread gracefully yet vigorously and remain in curved position without bending back against the guards as the flower ages and the guards fall. A bold, showy white with perfect form, great substance, it is refined in texture and delightfully fragrant. The flower grows about 20 inches above medium tall, medium fine, medium green foliage on a stiff straight stem. Though very late, it opens well. A specimen bloom from a 3-year plant won the blue ribbon for the Interstate Nurseries of Hamburg, Iowa, this year at the National Show at Lincoln over 20 other entries. *LeCyne* was second and *Diana* third. The other entries were: *Mrs. John M. Good*, *Mrs. J. V. Edlund*, *Mrs. A. M. Brand*, *Grace Loomis*, *Jubilee*, *Enchantress*, *Kelway's Glorious*, *Frances Willard*, *Festiva Maxima*, *Alice Harding* and *Baroness Schroeder*. The Franklin variety also tied for the distinction of being the best flower of the show on the first vote of the judges. Certainly it is without a peer among the late white doubles.

“A dainty rose, the Cherokee,
A fairer rose you’ll never see,
Her waxlike petals pure and white
With satin finish give delight.”—*Old Rhyme*

This fourth prize-winning double white among the top-notchers of the later Franklin introductions has a deeper tinge of creamy pink on opening than any of the foregoing. The rose center is distinct and entirely surrounded by a ring of petals taller than the inner ones. This ring of longer petals is slightly irregular and stands up above the others. The flower is somewhat flat, the petals cupped and spreading. The form is fine and compact with no suggestion of raggedness such as in *Kelway's Glorious* and *Jubilee*. The fragrance is very pleasing. This is a real full double and not a semi-double with a few stamens showing in the center as the illustration on the cover of the December, 1930, A. P. S. Bulletin seems to show. The flower grows high and upright over good tall foliage. The blooming time is early midseason. *Cherokee* is a gem of first water and particularly pleasing this year.

This Year's Best Franklin Pinks

Eight light pinks demand to be included in this list of our 20 favorites. The palest is *Mary Ellen*, a joy of the early season, and more beautiful than ever this year. It is almost indescribably delicate and ethereal in color and texture, a semi-double with all its petals long and curled, covering the center and filling the huge bloom with extreme lightness and fluffiness. One might be reminded of a whipped marshmallow meringue with a hint of strawberry if one could imagine anything to eat when contemplating this delicate, billowy, pink-tinted summer cloud. A few of the central petals have a wire-edge of carmine. Since comparatively few long petals are curled to make a huge flower, it is very light in weight for its size and borne erect on a stiff straight stem about 14 inches above deep glossy foliage of a moderately tall bush. The petals are more curled than *Alice Harding*, and it is a better flower than *Lady Alexandra Duff* for it does not spread to show a center. Very dainty and distinct.

Also a dainty pale pink but not so delicate in appearance as *Mary Ellen* is *Lucile Hartman*, which moved up into the first class this year and took its place among the front-row beauties. There is a hint of cream in its delicate pink coloring, and a pleasing regularity in the arrange-

ment of its slim 1,001 petals which radiate from a low center of deeper creamy pink, spreading away in precise order to the guards, and held just so until the petals fall. The open flower is somewhat of the dahlia type except for its low center. It blooms proudly erect on a tall bush in midseason. Fragrant.

Minuet, a pale pink double with a rose center, more opalescent than *Acme*, is exquisitely clear in color and translucent in texture. It is a favorite among the lighter pinks. In color it is *the* pink. In substance and form it has the character of the ideal flower. Dr. Earle B. White, of Washington, who has many of the later Franklin introductions, considers *Minuet* his favorite of them all. The flower grows 20 inches above a medium tall bush on a stiff straight stem. It blooms in midseason and is pleasingly fragrant.

Acme is just a little darker than *Minuet*, a creamier pink with a more opaque texture. It is a rose-type double with deeper tones of pink in its rose-like center. Its petals spread and curl back in the manner of the old-fashioned cabbage rose, yet it is not a flat flower. In form it is similar to *Myrtle Gentry*, but it is deeper pink and has more substance. It grows from 16 to 20 inches above medium tall foliage on a stiff straight stem in midseason. The fragrance is rose-like. The plant multiplies rapidly and is very floriferous.

Chief is larger than *Acme* or *Minuet* and the largest of the named pink varieties among the later Franklin introductions. It is a deep tea-rose pink, full double and very compact, not quite so creamy as *Acme* nor so opaque in texture. It won the championship among the dark pinks at the Minnesota Peony Show in Minneapolis this year, though it really isn't a dark pink in the sense that *Louis Bigot*, *Blanche King* and *Dia-dem* are. The petals give a ruffled effect over a slightly rounding surface while the flower is opening. *Chief* opens slowly and keeps well as a cut flower. It blooms high above good foliage in midseason.

A deep *Therese* pink is *Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt*, a full double with extremely long overlapping cupped petals which enfold a rose-bud center. The petals open to show a creamy center as does *Therese*. The Franklin variety has more regular rose-like form, more substance, keeps better as a cut flower, is larger, more floriferous and more vigorous and just a shade more blue in its pink. Two blooms which were picked in the field and taken to Rochester, Minn., from Minneapolis, were on the show table two days and then sold for 25c each at the close of the

show. This variety received an Honorable Mention in Des Moines in 1932, and a first class certificate in Chicago in 1933. "Especially beautiful in its exquisite tints of pink," writes Geo. W. Peyton in Peony Bulletin No. 63. He also writes us this year that it is his favorite of all the later Franklin introductions. It blooms in midseason on a moderately high bush above good deep foliage. It has the rose fragrance.

Blushing Beauty has the color and form of the old-fashioned blush rose as well as its fragrance. The light rose-pink flower is rather flat and pleasing in form. The rose center is clearly defined and surrounded by a ring of high incurved petals. The bush is tall and stately, bearing its blooms erect, a bush of enormous flat pink roses. But for a peony it lacks the size required. It has been justly admired, however, by our visitors who appreciated its quality and did not demand enormous size. In form it is unusual, in size a little small. Many turned from our biggest flowers to admire this variety for its exquisite color and form.

Franklin's Pride is a somewhat deeper and brighter pink than is the foregoing variety. It is a deeper pink than *Walter Faxon* with less orange in it. This is the most brilliant pink of all the later Franklin introductions, much the same pink as *Mabel L. Franklin* but deeper. Many small closely packed fringed petals form a very compact flower. Around the center there is a ring of buff-colored petals when the bloom opens, but later they blend to form a globular shape of even color. Its brilliance holds well as the flower ages. There is a light spicy odor. It blooms late and high on a medium tall plant with good foliage.

Edith Scovell is a little darker than *Franklin's Pride* and has more violet in its color, a full rose double with longer petals ringed round a true rose center, and holding this form until it ages. In color and form it is like *Livingston*, but it is a larger and a better flower without a trace of stamens. The bloom is heavy and the petals closely packed. It grows upright on a shapely bush of medium height and not far above the good medium foliage. Though often having a homely bud, the plant is exceptionally beautiful when in bloom. It is very late and fragrant.

The Deep Rose Pinks*Pres. Franklin D. Roosevelt*

Darker and bluer than *Edith Scovell* is *President Franklin D. Roosevelt*. Here is an extremely heavy flower very densely packed with petals arranged in whorls about a center. It is striking and bold in appearance, growing high over a moderately tall plant, vigorous and late. It is the largest of our dark pinks, lighter in color than *Loren Franklin* or *Diadem*. Extremely late. The illustration shows the denseness of its petalage.

Loren Franklin, an unusually bright deep clear pink full double, is a "dahlia" flowered peony. Its petals radiate from a center in the style of the double cactus dahlia and seem to be pointed at the tips but this is only in effect. All its petals are much the same size and rather narrow. The color is even throughout and the texture is opaque. It blooms late in midseason on a tall plant with a very good stiff straight stem. Pleasingly fragrant and unusually good this year. A flower of unusual distinction admired by all who saw it.

Among the dark pinks is *G 26*, a unique flower without a name, unless its nickname, "Fluffy Ruffles," stays with it, the most unusual bloom in the large collection of later Franklin originations shown at Toronto last year. In color it is outstanding, easily spotted in a field of peonies. It is a deep coral pink, intense and luminous, a semi-double having all long petals which stand up stiffly and have ruffled edges with very narrow silver tips. There are no stamens but it spreads to show light green carpels as it ages. Very light for its large size, it is borne erect on a tall bush and rather low above the foliage. Both color and style of growth make this variety excellent for the landscape. Personally, we

wouldn't have a collection of peonies without this attractive number, even though some judges do object to the way its carpels are exposed when the flower grows old.

The darkest of this group of deep rose-pinks is the rose-type double, *Diadem* with petals in the rose arrangement cupped about a rose-like center. It is a large flower with much substance, deep flat color and very late. It grows upright not far above good foliage on a moderately tall and shapely bush. One of the best deep late pinks and several shades lighter than *Victoire de la Marne*.

Our Best Reds This Season

Henry Webster is an early light red full double, very fine in form and texture and of medium substance. It is not too heavy for its stem so it grows erect on a shapely bush of medium height. Very showy and delightfully fragrant, this is a splendid flower and a good landscape variety.

R 38, a fine late red double just a trifle brighter than *Phillipe Rivoire*, more of a bomb in type and with more substance. It is brighter than *Dixie* and more compact. The fragrance is spicy though faint. It grows about 12 inches above medium foliage on a plant of medium height. Many think it is the best Franklin red double to date. Usually it is too late for showing but it should be looked for if a late show date is set for next season.

A deep maroon, probably the darkest and best of all the Japs is *Charm*, much admired by our visitors and considered by Mr. Alexander Cardle, of the Brainard Nursery, to be the best Jap in existence. It is certainly an improvement on *Fuyajo* and it is rated higher, being darker and richer in color, larger in size, with more interesting and attractive petaloids, grows taller and keeps better. *Charm* has self-colored petaloids edged at the tips with ruddy gold and its pale green carpels show only as the flower ages. Borne erect about 4 to 6 inches above the medium foliage of a tall and shapely bush, its many flowers make it an attractive and decorative plant for 10 days to 2 weeks. This variety stands up well under extremely hot and unfavorable weather conditions. The color does not fade, and it does not bruise easily in high, hot winds. As a cut flower *Charm* keeps better than any Jap we know, and better than many of the doubles. There is a mild water-lily fragrance. It blooms mid-season.

Why?

By BENJAMIN WILDER GUPPY

Let us pause long enough in our mad scramble for novelties to consider some of the ancient and honorable varieties of an earlier generation. I here bring to your notice:

Mme. Ducl (Mechin, 1880) 7.9 and

M. Jules Elie (Crousse, 1888) 9.2

and the question is, why the great difference in the ratings?

The following descriptions are taken bodily from the catalog of the Cherry Hill Nurseries. The proprietors write the descriptions from their own observations and I think they are dependable.

.... "*Mme. Ducl (Mechin, 1880)* 7.9, extra large globular blooms of beautiful rose-pink with silvery reflex, resembling a mammoth chrysanthemum. Very fine. Midseason."

"*M. Jules Elie (Crousse, 1888)* 9.2, immense globular blooms, guard petals recurved, resembling chrysanthemums. Clear medium pink with a silvery tinge. Midseason."

Well, you know the saying about Tweedledum and Tweedledee. Each of these descriptions seems to fit the other variety pretty well and there does not appear to be a difference of thirteen points in quality.

Now let us see what our Manual has to say about them.

"*Mme. Ducl (Mechin, 1880)* 7.9

Double type; medium size; midseason.

Broad flaring guards and a compact, incurved center of pale old-rose with a lustrous silvery sheen; not very fragrant. Dwarf; floriferous; stiff stems. Good foliage. Almost identical with *M. Jules Elie* in color and shape, but smaller and never feathers in the center. Included in this list by vote of the directors in spite of its rating."

"*Mons. Jules Elie (Crousse, 1888)* 9.2

Double type; very large; early. Light rose-pink of the dull opaque quality seen in pink chrysanthemums; broad smooth guard petals; center incurved and silvered with light grayish pink; moderately fragrant. Tall; very free flowering; stems lax and loose. Foliage light green. One of the most popular of all peonies. Its stems are bad for garden use; but it is most effective when cut."

"Always finishes crown type."—Little.

"As the flower expands these petals also expand but still retain the same general shape."—Thurlow.

It seems to me that except in the matter of size the points are in favor of *Mme. Ducel*. Moreover she is discriminated against in the description by being compared to *Elie*. Being the first in the field, and that by eight years, the shoe should be on the other foot and *Elie* should be described as being almost identical in color and shape with *Mme. Ducel* but a little larger. Give the lady all the credit that is her due.

As to my own experience. These two varieties have grown side by side in my garden for over twenty years. *Ducel* makes a better garden plant on account of the stiffer stems. To my astigmatic eyes the blossoms appear to be the same when first opening, but *Elie* is a little larger while *Ducel* holds her form better. In the matter of foliage, floriferousness and fragrance there seems to be no choice between the two. *Elie* generally blooms one day earlier than *Ducel*. I have found *Ducel* to be the better seed producer of the two. Frankly I think the lady "has been done dirt" in the matter of rating.

Now how will the experts answer my question?

FOOTNOTE: This article was written long before I received Bulletin No. 67 containing Mr. Garner's appreciation of *M. Jules Elie*. But, as he mentions the "strong, sturdy, upright" stems of *M. Jules Elie*, I wonder if by any chance he has got the babies mixed.



North Dakota Peony Society 1937 Show

After a late start, peonies in North Dakota came through to a fine finish and the sixteenth annual show of the Society was in every way a credit to the organization. It was held in the lobby of the Ryan Hotel in Grand Forks on June 24 and 25. E. J. Lander, of Grand Forks, was judge of the peonies and Mrs. H. E. Johnson, of Northwood, judge of the garden flower exhibit.

The Grand Champion was an immense and perfect bloom of Sarah Bernhardt entered by P. R. Fields, of Grand Forks. The runner-up for this honor was LeCygne, but the blooms were not representative this year of the true beauty of that flower. Sweepstakes went to Mrs. B. P. Chapple, of Bathgate, who had a splendid exhibit of the better varieties.

Walter Faxon was unusually fine this year; Souvenir de Louis Bigot and Therese were hard to beat. Acme was a lovely newcomer to the show. In the reds there were very striking blooms of Adolph Rousseau and M. Martin Cahuzac. Mary Brand and Longfellow were fine. Frances Willard, Mrs. Edward Harding, Avalanche and Jubilee were very beautiful in the white class. Mrs. A. M. Brand, Hansina Brand and Solange were all too late for the show.

The most encouraging factor in holding these annual shows is the way people are becoming interested in the newer and finer varieties of peonies. Each year the exhibits are of a higher class, and more people are buying peonies of quality, realizing the loveliness of this beautiful June flower, and the fact that it grows particularly well in North Dakota.

Officers for the coming year are: President, Miss Helen Hamilton; Vice-President, Mrs. H. E. Johnson; Secretary, Mrs. M. B. Kannowski; Treasurer, W. W. Blain. Directors are: Franklin Page, Hamilton, N. D.; Mrs. B. P. Chapple, Bathgate, N. D.; C. M. Conroy, Devils Lake, N. D.; Dr. H. D. Benwell, Mrs. H. O. Ruud, Frank Kent, E. J. Lander, Dr. W. H. Witherstine, P. R. Fields, all of Grand Forks.

Displays were made by Franklin Page, who did not enter for competition this year, and Mrs. Kannowski.



Organic Matter Improves Soil Texture

MONROE McCOWN, Agricultural Extension Division
of Purdue University

According to H. J. Page, "long," unrotted manures are applied in the fall to heavy soils and "short," well-rotted manures are applied to sandy soils in the spring. The humus colloid serves as a binding agent, binding smaller soil particles into larger aggregates, producing a crumblike structure to a clay soil or cohesiveness and "body" to a sandy soil the organic material promotes conditions which are conducive to adequate drainage and aeration in the clay soils and in sandy soils, evaporation and leaching are reduced.

Acid clays, if lacking in organic matter content, are highly dispersed or divided into extremely fine particles which pack closely, inter-

fering with free movement of water and air. The addition of a small amount of humus to such a soil may serve only to aggravate this condition. Large additions of humus tend to flocculate dispersed soils forming the crumb-like structure.

The addition of lime to a dispersed soil improves texture also by flocculation. Best tilth is obtained through the judicious use of both organic matter and lime. However, lime should be added to soils upon which horticultural crops are to be grown, only after a test has given some information concerning the amount to be added. Most horticultural crops grow best on a slightly acid soil.

Green Manure Crops

The beneficial effect of green manure crops is due in part to the effect of the root system upon the soil structure. There is no known practical method by which organic matter can be as well distributed in the soil as through the growth of roots. The roots ramify the soil and as they decay, the colloidal products of decomposition tend to cement the finer soil particles into aggregates or crumbs. The efficiency of blue grass as an orchard cover is considered to be due in part to the modification of the soil structure by the root system and the consequent effect upon the movement of soil water and air and the release of mineral elements. The gradual decomposition of a mulch of straw or a similar organic material and the mixing of the products of its decay with the soil results in improved tilth.

Cultivation Destroys Humus

The clean cultivation system of orchard soil management which was so widely practiced a few years ago resulted in rapid depletion of the organic matter in the soil. With the depletion of the organic matter, desirable soil structure was broken down. The same condition results from continuous growth of crops which are removed from the soil.

The general adoption of the short sod rotation and wider use of mulch in orchards; the plowing down of green manure crops in the preparation of the soil for berries and vegetables, and the judicious use of lime will result in a gradual improvement in soil tilth of horticultural farms.

NOTE: The above article appeared in the Wisconsin Horticulturist, and while it relates in particular to the growing of orchard stock, it can be applied, in a large measure, in the cultivation of peonies.—EDITOR.

Green Manures

Green manures are valuable as a means of improving soil conditions. The benefits from green manure crops, said Prof. L. C. Chadwick, are (1) supplying organic matter, which, upon decomposition, releases plant food and indirectly increases the availability of plant nutrients in the soil; (2) increasing nitrogen supply, especially if a leguminous crop is chosen; (3) conservation of soluble compounds by preventing leaching; (4) increasing the beneficial effect of micro-organisms; (5) improvement of the subsoil, especially if legumes are used in that the roots extend much deeper into the soil, often as much as thirty to forty per cent of the root system is below thirty inches; (6) protecting the soil from surface erosion; (7) improving the structure and water-holding capacity of the soil; and (8) increasing the yield and quality of the succeeding crop.

The approximate per cent of nitrogen in the tops and roots at the time they are plowed under varies from 1.30 to 1.75 with rye to 3.75 with hairy vetch and sweet clover. Soy beans run approximately 2.65 per cent. This would mean that a good crop of soy beans, for example, would add nitrogen equivalent to an application of 400 to 600 pounds of ammonium sulphate per acre.

A suggested sequence of green manure crops for nurserymen was given, as below. It is not necessary that the schedule be followed as given, as it can be modified to fit the individual conditions. Some of the crops might be omitted, for example, oats, as a spring crop.

Season	Crop	Time of Seeding	Time of Plowing Under
1. Fall	(a) Rye	Aug. 15—Sept. 15	April 1—May 1
	(b) Rye and vetch	Sept. 1—Sept. 15	April 15—May 10
	(c) Wheat	Sept. 1—Oct. 1	April 1—May 15
2. Spring	Apply sulphate of ammonia or syanamid after disking at rate of 100 to 200 pounds per acre.		
3. Spring	Oats	March 15—April 15	May 1—June 1
4. Summer	Apply complete fertilizer (especially on poor to medium soils) such as 2-12-6 or 4-12-4, at rate of 600 to 800 pounds per acre and disked into the soil.		
5. Summer	(a) Soy beans	May 15—June 10	Aug. 15—Sept. 10
	(b) Sudan grass	May 20—June 20	Aug. 1—Aug. 20
6. Fall	(a) Rye	As suggested in 1 above.	
	(b) Rye and vetch		
	(c) Wheat		
7. Spring	Apply sulphate of ammonia or cyanamid as suggested in 2 above.		
8.	Allow two weeks to elapse before nursery crops are planted.		

—American Nurseryman.

Choosing Fertilizers

In discussing fertilizers, Prof. Alex Laurie described the making of artificial manure by the use of cyanamid. To one ton of straw or other organic refuse are added 100 pounds of cyanamid and fifty pounds of superphosphate. Make the pile five to eight feet high and about ten feet square. The material should be packed in layers about six inches deep and watered. An equal portion of the fertilizer is added between consecutive layers. The pile should be forked over every four to six weeks and the top left concave to hold water.

Choice of carriers of nitrogen usually is between nitrate of soda and ammonium sulphate. Based on availability, ammonium sulphate is best on alkaline and slightly acid soils, and nitrate of soda is somewhat better on highly acid soils. Phosphorus may be obtained from bone meal, superphosphate or Ammo-phos. Phosphorus in bone meal is slowly available and is relatively expensive. Superphosphate gives a more highly available source under general conditions. Ammo-phos gives a relatively inexpensive source of phosphorus, and it is more readily available than either of the other two carriers and adds nitrogen in addition.

Nurserymen should become more familiar with soil tests. Such tests will give an indication of whether a complete fertilizer or single elements are necessary. Many nurserymen spend more money than necessary by using a complete fertilizer when only a single material, such as nitrogen or phosphorus, is needed.

Nationally advertised complete fertilizers have certain advantages in that they are generally more thoroughly mixed and more gradually available, and they contain some of the minor elements.—*American Nurseryman*.



Friendly Comment

I take exception to a portion of one paragraph in Mr. Foster's article in the June Bulletin.

Surely Mr. Foster is aware of the fact that this was the poorest peony blooming year we have ever had, at least within the scope of my memory, the effects of our four-year drought reflecting in fewer and smaller flowers.

In all justice to us and to our state, the paragraph should be amended to read, "If they never bloomed better than they did this year in Nebraska, it would still be a great battle for supremacy."

MRS. A. C. NELSON,
President, Lincoln Garden Club, Lincoln, Neb.



My Ten Best Peonies

W. W. COLES, Kokomo, Ind.

I am sending you a list of my best ten peonies that bloomed for me in order of their preference: *Le Cygne*, *Therese*, *Mad. Jules Dessert*, *Walter Faxon*, *Philippe Rivoire*, *Lady Alexandra Duff*, *Solange*, *Reine Hortense*, *Jeannot* and *Primevere*.

These ten were the most outstanding of the thirty-two varieties I am growing here. Have grown *Le Cygne* ten years. This year, however, was the first it gave me a real show bloom. Many were simply gorgeous. Heretofore it has been more or less subject to thrips.

The beautiful rose pink *Therese* was close second. A very fine (one bloom) of *Mrs. Edward Harding* was noted from a one-year division. The old standby, *Festiva Maxima*, as always, held its own. All of our *Kelway's Glorious* were divided in the fall of 1935 and 1936. Will not expect best results for a year or two.



Galt Peony Plot

WALTER OGDEN, Secretary, Galt, Ont.

You will perhaps be interested to know that the Galt Peony Plot was a wonderful show during the latter part of June. Owing to favorable conditions, the bloom was excellent.

We may say that the "Plot" is well known to peony lovers in Ontario, and it is becoming well known in various states. During the peony season we had upwards of 50,000 visitors, many of whom came long distances.

This year, through the kind co-operation of the Public Utilities Commission the Plot was flood-lighted each evening.

The Peony Plot is a part of the Galt Horticultural Society's work and at present we have about four hundred varieties, two thousand plants in sixty-four beds.

The financial resources of our Horticultural Society are quite limited and as this peony plot of two acres causes an extensive annual outlay to keep it in good condition for show purposes, we have great difficulty in raising enough funds to do the necessary work of planting and upkeep.

We have beds donated by various growers and a brass plate tells the name of the donor. We do not sell from any of the donated beds, they being strictly for exhibition.

We have blue prints of the grounds, each section being lettered and numbered. We also have blue prints of each bed with the location of each variety. Each variety is marked with an aluminum tag stamped with the name.

As we have not planted any new varieties for some time, we shall be glad if you can kindly donate a few new varieties to our collection, and we can assure you they will be tagged in the proper manner.

The peony is the civic flower of our city and from a personal knowledge of the many inquiries made by interested visitors we can assure you that interest in the peony is spreading rapidly in this section of the country.





Secretary's Notes

The planting and propagating of peonies is now in full swing and many peony plantings will contain for the first time some coveted variety that the owner has been watching or has read about in catalogs or magazine articles. In our own exhibition garden we have added at least a dozen new ones which have given promise, in most cases, of being worthy to share a place with other fine originations. We can now look forward to another blooming season with renewed pleasure and inspiration, and while we welcome each year the tried and true peonies, we also are glad to make the acquaintance of new originations.

During the month of July and as late as August 17th, we picked peony bloom from the field. My namesake, *Felix Crousse* and *Albert Crousse* were the three varieties picked August 17th. This unseasonable blooming was induced by the heaving of roots last winter and some of the blooms did not materialize until late in the season. The blooms mentioned were of normal size in most cases and were a pleasing sight to behold.

I have contended for years the peony manual of the American Peony Society was a text book or encyclopedia of peony knowledge that should be in the hands of every peony lover, and to get letters like the one quoted below is a source of considerable satisfaction. I quote as follows:

“When Dr. Brethour, of Toronto, steered me towards the Peony Manual he said it had ‘everything.’

“After rather hastily looking through its contents I am almost compelled to agree with him. Anyway, I do not recollect any book bought in the past ten or more years (and I have purchased quite a few) that I feel surer of the investment being returned to me more times. Certainly no other book could be of more interest to a gardener than the Peony Manual.

“Have been vacationing in a garden the past ten years.

Have about an acre of ground. Do most of the work myself. Have over two hundred peonies and intend to have more. My best peony—*Therese*, bar none.

"As you know, this is about the most easterly part in North America—the jumping-off place for Europe. Here it is never too warm and never too cold—always just right. Peonies love this climate.

"Thanking you for your courtesy in sending me the Manual, I am,

"Yours faithfully,

"WILLIAM MACDONALD,

"755 George Street,

"Sydney, Nova Scotia, Canada."

Every reader of this bulletin should possess a copy of the manual and while it was edited and originally printed some years ago, the supplement which has been bound into recent issues of the book brings it up to within a short time of the present. You will find it a source of frequent reference and many a peony problem can be solved by consulting its contents.

The following communication has been received from the Inter-State Nurseries under date of August 2nd:

"Permit us to compliment and congratulate you upon your splendid report of the last National Peony Show at Lincoln, Bulletin No. 68. Mighty fine piece of work. It seems to us that there are two slight errors in the report, and if we are correct you might wish to correct your records accordingly.

"Page 31, Class No. 10, White. The bulletin gives first prize to Hans Peter Sass. This should be Elsa Sass.

"Page 32, Class No. 14 (L-37) was officially named '*Thor*.' Among the varieties P. W. Sisson should be Marietta Sisson."

We are glad to have any such corrections called to our attention as it is our purpose to get them correct. We do have a double check on

the winners but not on the names of the varieties. We did notice a few errors in the spelling of peony names which escaped our notice in reading the proof rather hurriedly.

Under date of August 4th the following communication was received from Mr. L. H. Foster, of York, Neb.:

"This letter will need no answer. It is just a word of appreciation for the wonderful job of writing and editing you did on Bulletin No. 68.

"I have a faint idea that the rank and file of the members do not realize how much of a job it is to write and edit the amount of material you have grouped together.

"I know, because I have done considerable of that kind of work, and I shudder to think how much time it has taken from your regular duties as a peony grower, and in this particular year, just when your fields were at their best.

"In my estimation there could not have been a better selection of new directors and regional vice-presidents. It looks to me like the Society is set for a real boom."

We hope Mr. Foster is a true prophet and that the Society will forge ahead and regain some of the lost membership during the depression years.

You can be a party to this renewed activity by bringing in one new member. If you can bring in more than one, more power to you.

I have made mention in my previous notes that we would some day soon see a real yellow peony in the *Chinensis* class.

We are again taking the liberty to quote from a letter received from the originator of a "yellow peony" in reply to an inquiry I made relative to the bloom this year. I quote as follows:

"The yellow peony bloomed again, but I am sorry to say there was a fringe of white petals around the canary yellow center this year. Last year it was all a canary yellow. The yel-

low is the most intense and brilliant yellow that I have ever seen in the peony line. I am sorry that the white petals showed up this year, but even at that I think we have a peony that will be much different from anything that I have ever seen, at least."

It won't be long now before some enterprising originator will be bringing out that rare yellow peony that we will all be eager to see and possess. Patience and continued crossings with likely varieties will bring this to pass.

In order to effect a material saving in the cost of the bulletin, we have changed printers with this issue. We have not cheapened the quality of stock used, in fact, we have improved it, and we think you will find the set-up just as desirable.

Peony Studies by Professors Honeywell and Gaylord bring up a subject that is of much interest to commercial peony growers and should be to the amateurs as well. We refer to definite grades in cut flowers. You will hear more about this at a later date. We have had the cuts made the actual size of the photos, or nearly so, in order to bring out as clearly as possible the points discussed. Much work has been accomplished along the line of grading and we will welcome further observations.

Mrs. Deane Funk, of McLean, Ill., tells in an interesting and enjoyable manner some possible features of interest in connection with the work of the peony enthusiast.

Favorites of our 1937 season by Mrs. Christilaw gives a vivid description of some of Mr. Franklin's newer originations. I quote from Mrs. Christilaw's letter enclosing manuscript:

"The news element in this copy may commend itself. My father has read it and approves of the statements. The observations are my own, made this year from studying the flowers. I have tried to be unprejudiced and fair, withholding praise unless praise was due."

Mr. Guppy has brought up a question that has often been in the writer's mind. Would like to hear expressions from others on the merits of these two varieties.

We were obliged to hold over from the last bulletin a report on the Grand Forks Peony Show and present it in this issue.

Preparation of soil for the proper reception of plants is a matter well worth study and observation. For that reason we are including an article on organic matter for the improvement of soil texture and also one on the merits of green manures.

Mr. Coles, of Kokomo, Ind., has given us his "best ten." Would like to hear from many members what they found best in their peony garden the past year. It is not necessary to confine it to ten.

We are always glad to hear peony news from other parts of the country than the United States. The short article on the Galt Peony Plot is interesting indeed. Plantings of this kind can add great interest to the peony cause and doubtless will make many converts to our chosen flower.

Let us have your peony experiences the past season, telling us of your favorites.

From the Department of Registration it will be noted a number of new peonies recently named. If you are aware of any duplicate names we will appreciate a letter from you giving the facts in the case.

Lansing, Michigan, has been selected as the next meeting and exhibition site for the 1938 American Peony Society. This should be a splendid location, and we are hoping to see a fine exhibition of glorious peonies. We will have more to say about arrangements in the forthcoming issues of the bulletin.

Department of Registration

A number of peonies have been introduced and the following names and descriptions have been presented for registration. If there are any peonies on the market at the present time bearing any of the names listed, we will consider it a favor if you will write the Secretary at once, giving any available information. The purpose of registration is to avoid duplications of names, and as some growers fail to present names for registration and we have no record in the office of the names so selected, it is not unlikely that some of these names may have been previously selected. We want to avoid any duplication and ask your co-operation in helping us to attain this goal.

The Interstate Nurseries, of Hamburg, Iowa, present the following list for registration in a letter dated June 19th. Due to large amount of copy for the June bulletin, we were obliged to hold it over for this issue :

Cordelia. No description supplied.

Coral Queen. (H. P. Sass, 1937.) Late. Large blooms of blush pink with faint rose dots. Tall, strong stems. Profuse bloomer.

Carolyn Mae Nelson. (H. P. Sass, 1937.) Late midseason. Named in honor of the President of the Lincoln Garden Club. Large flower. Very dark, crimson maroon. Tall, strong stems. Free blooming.

Crimson Glory. No description furnished.

Delight. (H. P. Sass, 1937.) Japanese type. Apple blossom pink.

Evening Star. (H. P. Sass, 1937.) Late. Flowers large and perfectly formed. Color a rich, lively glowing white with occasionally a bloom showing crimson edging.

Gaiety. (H. P. Sass, 1937.) Japanese type. Extremely late blooming variety. Color a gay, bright red, with full golden center.

Gleam of Gold. (H. P. Sass, 1937.) Late midseason. Color pure white with a broad yellow collar creating an exquisite combination of gold and white.

Hans P. Sass. (H. P. Sass, 1937.) Late. Very large flower of rich satin blush white, suffused shell pink. An exceedingly attractive and promising variety.

Japanese Beauty. (H. P. Sass, 1937.) Late midseason. Color a rich, carmine red of great carrying power. Tall, free bloomer.

Moonglow. No description supplied.

Mount Everest. (H. P. Sass, 1937.) Late. Very similar to Solange in form, but pure white. The flower is high built, very double and extremely large.

Pink Beauty. (H. P. Sass, 1937.) Late midseason. An enormous flower, somewhat flattened but full to the center. Similar in color to Hans P. Sass, but deeper pink. Tall, strong stems. Free bloomer.

Pink Pearl. No description given.

Queen of Sheba. (H. P. Sass, 1937.) Late midseason. Full bomb type. Color sparkling bright rose, almost cerise. Medium height born on strong, upright stems.

Queen of Hamburg. (H. P. Sass, 1937.) Late midseason. Color a bright, gleaming pink. Flower extremely large. Stems tall and strong. Free, dependable bloomer, with heavy, dark green foliage.

Rose Triumph. No description given.

Red Satin. (H. P. Sass, 1937.) Late midseason. A true cerise. Flower full rose type, good stems, blooms freely and most dependable. Color very unusual in peonies.

Rosabel. (H. P. Sass, 1937.) Midseason. Color real rose red. Free bloomer on strong stems.

Ruby King. No description furnished.

Seashell. No description furnished.

Thor. (H. P. Sass, 1937.) Midseason. Deepest maroon. Holds its color. Never blues. Good stems, extremely double and free bloomer.

Viking. No description supplied.

White Eagle. (H. P. Sass, 1937.) Early midseason. Large flowers of purest white. Full rose type.

White Emperor. No description given.

Sensation. (H. P. Sass, 1937.) Late. Large flower of perfect form. Light pink in color. Wonderful glower, fine stems. Outstanding.

Mr. Edward Auten, of Princeville, Ill., has presented the following named peonies for registration:

Beacon Hill. Officinalis X Chinensis Hybrid. Large dark red single on tall stiff stems. My earliest hybrid to bloom.

Blazing Star. Very brilliant dark red semi-double which holds its color. Medium sized bloom sure to open.

Dress Parade. Light red Jap, lighter center, one of first Japs to bloom.

El Capitan. Large light red semi-double. Late midseason, good stem.

Elfin Pink. Single. A soft even pink that holds its color unusually well, medium size.

Hollywood. Novelty Jap. Unusual shade of creamy cerise pink. Large trim blooms on stiff stems of medium height. Late.

Mendota. A very large, high built red semi-double on tall stiff stems. Color lasts well, carries a little rich purple.

Nauvoo. Flesh white double, high built, fragrant. Late.

Nippon Triumph. Red Jap, best described as a much improved Mikado. Larger blooms on better stems, better color, lighter than Nippon Brilliant.

Red Glory. Officinalis X Chinensis hybrid. Under No. 2225 awarded first class certificate, 1937. Very large "five-layered single," rich unfading dark red.

Red Monarch. (Auten-Glasscock) Officinalis X Chinensis Hybrid. Under number 5D4 awarded first class certificate, 1937. Large red bomb on tall stiff stems, has some purple in it.

Santa Fe. Brilliant red semi-double, unfading, medium sized blooms on very stiff stems.

Sun-up. Dark red single, rather late. Color holds, plant and stem good.

Yukon. Late pure white double, fragrant, spotless, charming petal-age. Tall stems, good for cutting.

New Members

Carpenter, T. E., Arcade and County Road, St. Paul, Minn.

Carver, G. L., Kearney, Neb.

DuMont, Mrs. W. G., 676 44th Street, Des Moines, Iowa.

Edens, K. T., Halls, Tenn.

Henderson, Mrs. M. S., 801 9th Ave. S. W., Rochester, Minn.

Johnson, Mrs. Hans, Northwood, N. D.

Krippendorf, Carl H., Sycamore and New Streets, Cincinnati, O.

Long, J. D., Boulder, Colo.

Moles, Mr. Orley, R. R. 2, Dixie Heights, Middletown, Ohio.

Niehous, G. G., 1100 W. Maumee Street, Angola, Ind.

Resor, Mrs. Stanley, Round Hill Road, Greenwich, Conn.



AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

THE American Iris Society has, since its organization in 1920, published 45 Bulletins which cover every phase of Iris growing and should be useful to all gardeners.

The society has copies of all but three of these Bulletins for sale. A circular giving list of contents of each Bulletin, price, etc., may be secured from the Secretary, B. Y. Morrison, Room 821, Washington Loan & Trust Bldg., Washington, D. C.

In order to dispose of surplus stocks of some numbers we offer 6 Bulletins (our selection) for \$1.00.

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Through an endowment given as a memorial to the late Bertrand H. Farr, the American Iris Society is able to offer free to all Garden Clubs or Horti-

cultural Societies the use of our traveling library. This library contains all books ever published on Iris and a complete file of the Bulletins of this society and the English Iris Society, and miscellaneous pamphlets.

The library may be borrowed for one month without charge except the actual express charges. Organizations desiring it should communicate with the nearest of the following offices:

Horticultural Society of New York,
598 Madison Ave., New York City.
Mrs. Katherine H. Leigh, Missouri
Botanic Garden, St. Louis, Mo.
Sydney B. Mitchell, School of Librarianship, Berkeley, Calif.

*Mrs. Leigh also has charge of the Society's collection of Iris lantern slides, which can be rented for \$10.

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