

AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY *Bulletin*

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Northbrook, Ill.

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

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

The dues are \$3.00 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 per copy and 50 cents for the Symposium Number (No. 14). To non-members these prices are doubled. No BULLETINS available prior to No. 13.



AMERICAN Peony Society Bulletin

MARCH, 1941

The Rating List - Symposium 1939

The ratings listed below were selected by Mr. Harry F. Little and myself from the total submitted as being fair and accurate enough to be published as official. This list was sent by Mr. Little to each director for approval, and since it has been approved by a majority it will be considered official until further notice. The number of votes counted is given in the first column and the average rating from these in the second. Additional tables are presented as being of interest. In them to save repetition ratings of nine or better are graded A, 8.5 to 8.99 B, 8 to 8.49 C, and all below 8 D.

Albiflora Varieties						Herbaceous Hybrids					
	A	B	C	D	Total		A	B	C	D	Total
Doubles	58	91	30	2	181	Doubles	3	1	1		5
Japanese	14	33	4		51	Japanese	1				1
Singles	12	7	7		26	Singles	5	4	3		12
Totals	84	131	41	2	258	Totals	9	5	4		18

Totals A 93, B 136, C 45, D 2, Grand Totals 276

There are now 150 herbaceous peonies rating nine or better (A). Listed by colors they are as follows:

	White or Blush	Pink	Red	Totals
Doubles	46	54	8	108
Japanese	5	8	10	23
Singles	3	2	14	19
Totals	54	64	32	150

The originators of these are as follows:

United States	Dou- bles	Japa- nese	Sin- gles	Totals		Dbl.	Jap.	Sgl.	Total
Allison	1	1		2	Auten-Glasscock	2			2
Andrews	1			1	Babcock		1		1
Auten	5	6	8	19	Brand	18		2	20

	Dbl.	Jap.	Sgl.	Total		Dbl.	Jap.	Sgl.	Total
Edlund	1			1	Nicholls	4	1		5
Franklin	9	2	1	12	Richardson	2			2
Glasscock	1	1	2	4	Roberts	1			1
Good and Reese	3			3	Sass	4		1	5
Gumm	6			6	Saunders	4	1	3	8
Lewis	1			1	Secor	1		1	2
Little	2			2	Shaylor	4			4
Minot	1			1	Thurlow	6			6
Neeley	4			4	Vories	1			1
Totals United States Dbl. 82, Jap. 13, Sgl. 18, Total 113									
Canada (Norton)	2			2	England (Kelway)	5	1	1	7
France	Doubles	Japanese	Singles	Totals		Doubles	Japanese	Singles	Totals
Crousse	1			1	Lemoine	8			8
Dessert	7			7	Mieliez	1			1
Doriat	1	1		2	Millet		1		1
					Riviere	1			1
Totals France 19 Dbl., 2 Jap., 0 Sgl., 21 Grand Total									
Japan (Most of these were introduced by Dessert.)		6		6	Unknown (Yellow King) (Sent out from Mrs. Harding's garden but not originated by her.)		1		1
Totals 108 Dbls., 23 Japs., 19 Sgls., 150 Grand Total									

From the above it is seen that the United States now leads all countries in the production of fine varieties. Notice the woeful lack of fine red doubles and the preponderance of red in the Japs and singles.

If space permits a list of the 150 grade A peonies will be published at some future time. It is regretted that more of the older varieties were not included for rerating, especially in some instances where the present ratings are so manifestly unfair. Take the variety *Blanche King*. It is now rated 8.9. From a number of lists sent in of "Best Peonies" it was listed in seven and rated and the average was 9.44. Quite a change. Suggestions for other varieties that need rerating will be gladly received. A probable explanation of the high ratings many varieties received in the old lists may be that in those lists no fractional ratings were sent in. The best varieties were rated 10, the next best 9, the passable 8, and the rest lower. Now almost no 10 ratings are received and almost all are fractional.

Some of the highest rated peonies are given in order: *Kelway's Glorious*, *Therese*, *Mrs. J. V. Edlund*, *Evening Star*, *Elsa Sass*, *Nippon Brilliant*, *A. B. C. Nicholls*, *Rose Marie*, *George W. Peyton*, *Harry F. Little*, *Le Cygne*, *Mary Auten*, *Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt*, *Madame Jules Dessert*, *Tourangelle*, *Tamate-Boku*, *Alice Harding*, *Oliver F. Brand*, *Mrs. Livingston Farrand*, *Nick Shaylor*, *W. L. Gumm*, *Man o'War*.

Much very interesting information was received along with the fifty-odd lists received. I hope to tabulate much of this and present it at some future time. Especially interesting were the favorite peonies (almost all

different), the most magnificent, the most beautifully colored, etc. Likewise over twenty lists of Best Peonies were included, many of them rated.

It is to be hoped that this process of rating will be continued in the manner deemed best by the Society as there are errors to be corrected in both old and new. Meanwhile it would help a lot if every member of the Society would make up a list with ratings of the peonies that he thinks best and send them in after this coming blooming season. All new varieties that have been put out in the last fifteen years or so should be listed regardless of whether they are best or not and as much information given as possible about them. From such lists much information of great value can be gleaned for the benefit of the members. How many will do this? Let the lists be your answer.

GEORGE W. PEYTON

Rapidan, Virginia, March 6, 1941

RATING LIST-SYMPOSIUM 1939

No.	Variety	No.	Variety
Votes Avg.	Doubles and Semi-doubles	Votes Avg.	Doubles and Semi-doubles
4 9.45	A. B. C. Nicholls (Nicholls, 1937)	5 8.51	Dixie (Franklin, 1931)
14 9.27	A. B. Franklin (Franklin, 1928)	12 9.27	Dr. J. H. Neeley (Good and Reese, 1930)
6 8.85	Acme (Franklin, 1931)	8 9.03	Duluth (Franklin, 1931)
10 8.73	Adonis (Sass, 1930)	4 8.73	Ecstasy (Brethour, 1926)
9 8.91	A. G. Perry (A. M. Brand, 1933)	4 8.70	Edith E. Gumm (Gumm, 1930)
11 9.05	Alesia (Lemoine, 1927)	5 8.70	Edith Scovell (Franklin, 1928)
9 8.30	Alex D. Vories (Vories, 1924)	4 8.30	Edouard Doriat (Doriat, 1929)
6 8.75	Allure (Neeley, 1936)	10 8.72	Elise Renault (Doriat, 1927)
15 8.76	Anna Sass (Sass, 1930)	13 8.98	Elizabeth Huntington (Sass, 1930)
6 8.80	Apollo (Sass, 1930)	5 9.04	Ella Lewis (Lewis, 1925)
4 8.75	Armance Dessert (Doriat, 1929)	4 8.70	Eloise (Auten, 1934)
5 9.18	Auten's Pride (Auten, 1933)	16 9.46	Elsa Sass (Sass, 1930)
9 8.54	Aviateur Lindbergh (Doriat, 1927)	6 9.50	Evening Star (Sass, 1937)
5 9.06	Belle (Glasscock, 1928)	3 8.43	Excelsa (Franklin, 1931)
3 8.20	Betty Barnes (Franklin, 1928)	4 8.48	Fanny Lee (Vories, 1924)
6 8.35	Bishop Burke (Vories, 1925)	5 9.28	Florence Bond (Gumm, 1936)
5 8.54	Chabannes la Palice (Doriat, 1928)	3 9.27	Flower Girl (Auten, 1935)
7 8.37	Charlot (Doriat, 1924)	11 8.88	Frank E. Good (Good and Reese, 1929)
5 8.50	Cherokee (Franklin, 1931)	11 8.95	Franklin's Pride (Franklin, 1931)
6 9.00	Chief (Franklin, 1931)	6 8.30	Freckles (Neeley, 1926)
8 8.29	Commander (A. M. Brand, 1928)	10 9.15	Garden Princess (Neeley, 1930)
4 9.05	Cornelia Stone (Gumm, 1929)	3 8.20	Garnet (Gumm, 1926)
5 8.70	Crystola (Andrews, 1932)	8 8.56	Gene Stratton Porter (Rosenfield, 1925)
3 8.73	Dance Caprice (Auten, 1933)	4 9.43	George W. Peyton (Nicholls, 1938)
10 8.91	Daniel Boone (Auten, 1931)	3 8.63	Gilberte (Lemoine, 1927)
4 8.60	Dawn Flush (Neeley, 1936)	10 8.58	Golden Dawn (Gumm, 1923)
5 8.50	Deedie May (Vories, 1927)	5 8.86	Good's Dream (Good and Reese, 1930)
9 8.67	Denis Debatene (Doriat, 1926)		
6 8.90	Diadem (Franklin, 1931)		
8 8.85	Diana (Sass, 1930)		
9 8.16	Directeur Ursat (Doriat, 1925)		

No.	Votes Avg.	Variety	No.	Votes Avg.	Variety
		Doubles and Semi-doubles			Doubles and Semi-doubles
8	8.66	Governor Fuller (Thurlow, 1930)	7	8.79	Maman Millet (Millet, 1924)
16	8.88	Grace Batson (Sass, 1927)	5	8.70	Manitou (Andrews, 1923)
7	9.19	Hans P. Sass (Sass, 1937)	7	9.27	Margaret Lough (Gumm, 1929)
10	9.42	Harry F. Little (Nicholls, 1933)	3	8.47	Margaret Vierheller (Wettengel, 1924)
8	8.93	Harry L. Burden (Neeley, 1930)	5	8.52	Marian Pfeiffer (Pfeiffer, 1925)
13	8.69	Harry L. Richardson (Rosenfield, 1925)	10	9.02	Marietta Sisson (Sass, 1933)
3	8.06	Harry Moore (Franklin, 1928)	6	9.41	Mary Auten (Auten, 1933)
5	8.56	Heart's Idol (Neeley, 1936)	10	9.07	Mary B. Vories (Vories, 1924)
8	8.25	Henri Core (Doriat, 1925)	9	8.99	Matchless Beauty (Neeley, 1936)
8	8.60	Henry M. Vories (Vories, 1924)	3	9.07	Merrimac (Thurlow, 1937)
4	8.45	Henry Webster (Franklin, 1928)	9	8.94	Minerva (Sass, 1930)
9	8.80	Hermione (Sass, 1932)	13	9.19	Minuet (Franklin, 1931)
6	8.18	Hesperola (Andrews, 1923)	8	8.94	Miss Eckhart (van der Meer, 1928)
5	8.80	Hiawatha (Franklin, 1931)	3	8.90	Miss Minneapolis (Franklin, 1931)
5	8.38	Jacques Dessert (Doriat, 1929)	10	8.89	Modella (Betscher, 1921)
7	8.51	Janes Oleson (Oleson, 1926)	13	9.28	Mrs. A. B. Franklin (Franklin, 1928)
4	8.78	Jennie E. Richardson (Hollis, 1909)	5	9.05	Mrs. Bryce Fontaine (A. M. Brand, 1936)
6	8.40	Jocelyn (Lemoine, 1923)	3	8.77	Mrs. Eugene Secor (Secor, 1924)
9	9.23	Judge Snook (Good and Reese, 1930)	4	8.60	Mrs. E. J. Shaylor (Shaylor, 1920)
46	9.56	Kelway's Glorious (Kelway, 1909)	9	8.93	Mrs. Eva Barron (Glasscock, 1932)
26	9.17	La Lorraine (Lemoine, 1901)	11	8.94	Mrs. F. A. Goodrich (A. M. Brand, 1925)
12	8.93	Last Rose (Sass, 1930)	7	9.17	Mrs. Fern Lough (Gumm, 1930)
9	8.82	Laura Vories (Vories, 1924)	13	9.40	Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt (Franklin, 1933)
3	8.30	Lavender Pink (Franklin, 1931)	7	8.84	Mrs. George Rawson (Allison, 1931)
9	8.91	Laverne Christman (A. M. Brand, 1925)	6	9.27	Mrs. Harry F. Little (Little, 1936)
45	9.42	Le Cygne (Lemoine, 1907)	7	9.24	Mrs. James Kelway (Kelway, 1926)
4	8.60	Lewis' American Beauty (Lewis, 1921)	4	7.87	Mrs. Jennie R. Gowdy (Brand, 1920)
6	8.02	Libellule (Dessert, 1922)	12	9.22	Mrs. J. H. Neeley (Neeley, 1931)
9	9.01	Liberty Belle (Neeley, 1926)	11	9.14	Mrs. John M. Good (Good and Reese, 1929)
5	9.08	Loren Franklin (Franklin, 1931)	21	9.51	Mrs. J. V. Edlund (Edlund, 1929)
4	8.70	Louis Barthelot (Doriat, 1927)	7	9.36	Mrs. Livingston Farrand (Nicholls, 1935)
3	9.00	Louis Joliet (Auten, 1929)	4	8.98	Mrs. R. M. Bacheller (Vories, 1930)
3	8.37	Lucile Hartman (Franklin, 1931)	8	9.29	Mrs. W. L. Gumm (Gumm, 1929)
7	8.77	Luxor (Sass, 1933)	5	8.87	New Delight (Neeley, 1930)
7	9.01	L. W. Pollock (A. M. Brand, 1936)	19	9.35	Nick Shaylor (Allison, 1931)
8	8.79	Madame Claude Tain (Doriat, 1927)	12	9.03	Nimbus (Andrews, 1923)
16	8.85	Madame Emile Debatene (Doriat, 1927)			
8	8.48	Madame Escary (Lemoine, 1922)			
4	8.78	Mahal (J. Sass, 1934)			
7	8.79	Majestic (Andrews, 1932)			

No.	Variety	No.	Variety
Votes Avg.	Doubles and Semi-doubles	Votes Avg.	Doubles and Semi-doubles
6	8.57 Ninon (Doriat, 1925)	13	8.73 Ward Welsh (Neeley, 1929)
9	8.42 Odalisque (Lemoine, 1923)	4	9.13 W. E. Blanchette (A. M. Brand, 1936)
7	9.37 Oliver F. Brand (A. M. Brand, 1928)	4	9.15 Westhill (Little, 1938)
6	8.92 Onondaga (Little, 1935)	5	8.53 Winnie Winkle (Franklin, 1931)
7	8.98 Peach Blow (Shaylor, 1938)	12	9.34 W. L. Gumm (Gumm, 1929)
7	8.90 Pink Opal (J. Sass, 1934)	5	8.85 Zus Braun (van der Meer, 1928)
6	8.81 Pink Solange (Auten, 1933)		Japanese
4	9.20 Plymouth (Auten, 1931)	8	8.74 Akashigata
8	8.89 President Coolidge (A. M. Brand, 1928)	9	8.81 Antwerpen
8	8.85 President F. D. Roosevelt (Franklin, 1933)	5	8.52 Buttercup (Glasscock, 1928)
11	8.90 Priam (Sass, 1930)	4	8.63 Calypso (Andrews, 1925)
7	8.34 Pride of Paulding (Neeley, 1920)	12	9.22 Charm (Franklin, 1931)
10	9.05 Priscilla Alden (Roberts, 1926)	6	8.90 Creve Coeur (Auten, 1929)
5	8.96 Queen of Hamburg (Sass, 1937)	6	8.72 Currant Jap
5	8.75 Ramona (Franklin, 1928)	6	8.65 Emma
7	8.38 Reine Baronet (Millet, 1924)	4	8.45 Eva
5	8.98 Resplendent (Franklin, 1931)	6	8.73 Fuji-zome-gorono
8	9.00 Rev. H. N. Tragitt (A. M. Brand, 1928)	6	8.88 Goddess (Kelway)
4	8.30 Rita (Dessert, 1922)	3	8.60 Good's Gem (Good and Reese, 1930)
7	9.00 Robert E. Lee (A. M. Brand, 1928)	6	8.93 Hakodate (Millet)
3	8.77 Robert Lee Davis (Vories, 1924)	12	9.13 Hari-ai-nin (Babcock, 1929)
8	8.78 Rosalie (Auten, 1927)	10	8.55 Henri Potin (Doriat, 1924)
3	8.47 Ruby (Auten, 1927)	4	8.55 Hubert Degris (Doriat, 1929)
8	8.94 Sarah M. Napier (Vories, 1930)	3	8.97 Jan van Leeuwen (van Leeuwen)
4	8.60 Scarf Dance (Auten, 1927)	6	8.85 Jean Ann (Franklin, 1928)
6	8.95 Snowball (Franklin, 1933)	7	8.60 Jeanne Lapandry (Doriat, 1925)
40	9.27 Solange (Lemoine, 1907)	5	8.74 Joseph Plagne (Doriat, 1928)
6	8.68 Souvenir de A. Millet (Millet, 1924)	13	9.09 Kukenu Jishi (Dessert, 1921)
4	8.88 Splendor (Sass, 1932)	5	8.98 Largo (Vories, 1929)
4	8.43 Spring Beauty (Nicholls, 1933)	5	8.84 Leto (Neeley, 1930)
7	8.94 Star of Beauty (Neeley, 1930)	4	8.88 Madame Butterfly (Franklin, 1933)
6	9.00 Susan B. White (A. M. Brand, 1933)	5	9.26 Moon of Nippon (Robert Auten, 1936)
5	8.20 Sylviane (Lemoine, 1924)	5	8.96 Mr. G. F. Hemerik (van Leeuwen)
7	8.26 The Disc (Sass, 1926)	3	8.70 Mrs. A. L. Chapin (Home Garden Company)
48	9.54 Therese (Dessert, 1904)	3	8.83 Mrs. Ward Welsh (Good and Reese, 1933)
4	8.95 Thor (Sass, 1937)	5	9.08 Mrs. Wilder Bancroft (Nicholls, 1935)
4	8.85 Trail's End (Neeley, 1936)		
4	8.85 Victor's Crown (Neeley, 1936)	16	9.27 Nippon Beauty (Auten, 1927)
22	9.24 Victory Chateau Thierry (A. M. Brand, 1925)	7	9.46 Nippon Brilliant (Auten, 1933)
4	9.10 Walter Lindgren (A. M. Brand, 1936)	5	9.02 Nippon Gold (Auten, 1929)
		4	8.95 Nippon Parade (Auten, 1935)
		5	9.06 Nippon Splendor (Auten, 1931)

No.	Variety	No.	Variety
Votes Avg.	Doubles and Semi-doubles	Votes Avg.	Doubles and Semi-doubles
5	8.57 Noonday (Kelway)	13	9.04 Krinkled White (A. M. Brand, 1928)
4	8.58 Ohanagasa	4	9.08 La Salle (Auten, 1931)
11	8.87 Polar Star (Sass, 1932)	3	8.43 Louise Ann (A. M. Brand, 1936)
8	8.83 Prairie Afire (A. M. Brand, 1932)	4	9.33 Man o'War (A. M. Brand, 1936)
4	8.45 Rose of Nippon	5	8.40 Minnehaha (Pleas)
8	8.58 Ruigegno	4	8.78 Mr. Thim (van Leeuwen, 1926)
3	8.57 Shavano (Andrews, 1925)	2	8.40 Nympe (Dessert, 1913)
6	9.10 Shaylor's Sunburst (Allison, 1931)	8	8.93 President Lincoln (A. M. Brand, 1928)
2	8.50 Shiro-sangai	7	8.64 Shirley Walker (Shaylor, 1918)
4	8.78 Silver Plume (Andrews, 1932)	2	8.00 Taikoon
3	9.07 Solo Flight (Saunders, 1933)	8	8.88 Verdun (Doriat, 1927)
12	8.88 Soshi (Millet)	4	9.18 White Perfection (Auten, 1931)
3	9.03 Surugu (Millet, 1917)		Herbaceous Hybrids
5	9.10 Sword Dance (Auten, 1933)	10	8.50 Avant Garde (Lemoine, 1907)
3	8.47 Takaradama	4	9.25 Birthday (Saunders, 1935)
8	9.06 Yellow King	5	9.00 Buccaneer (Saunders, 1929)
3	8.10 Yoochi-no-tsuki	5	9.22 Challenger (Saunders, 1929)
	Singles	4	8.28 Charity (Saunders, 1935)
3	9.17 Angelus (Auten, 1933)	4	8.65 Corinth (Saunders, 1929)
8	9.30 Arcturus (Auten, 1933)	4	9.25 Dainty Lass (Glasscock, 1935)
2	8.35 Balliol	4	8.28 Faith (Saunders, 1929)
2	8.53 Betty Lou (A. M. Brand, 1936)	6	9.15 Golden Glow (Glasscock, 1935)
5	8.12 Edith West (Brand, 1920)	5	9.00 Hope (Saunders, 1929)
4	9.15 English Elegance (Kelway, 1926)	10	8.76 Jewel (Glasscock, 1931)
9	8.96 Flanders Fields (A. M. Brand, 1928)	11	8.67 Legionaire (Glasscock, 1928)
7	8.69 Harriet Olney (Brand, 1920)	5	8.30 Le Printemps (Lemoine, 1905)
14	9.05 Imperial Red (Sass, 1932)	3	9.00 Mchogany (Glasscock, 1937)
6	8.47 Jeanne Ernould (Doriat, 1926)	6	8.44 Mai Fleuri (Lemoine, 1905)
4	9.15 Kankakee (Auten, 1931)	3	8.80 Man of War (Saunders, 1929)
3	9.07 Kaskaskia (Auten, 1931)	3	9.03 Red Monarch (Auten-Glasscock, 1937)
3	9.07 Kewance (Auten, 1930)	2	9.45 Rose Marie (Auten-Glasscock, 1936)
3	9.17 Kickapoo (Auten, 1931)		

TREE PEONY RATINGS-SYMPOSIUM 1939

The ratings here given for tree peonies have NOT been officially approved by the Board of Directors of The American Peony Society and are not to be considered as established. They are published as interesting information for our members.

Four fairly complete lists were received and a few other scattered votes. Column A contains the ratings sent in by Mr. John C. Wister of Germantown, Pennsylvania. He has been growing tree peonies practically all his useful life and has one of the largest private collections in the world. He is also manager of the large planting at Swarthmore College. If anybody knows them, he should. He is the author of the section of the Manual

dealing with them and his articles have appeared a number of times in our bulletins. Column B contains those sent in by the Oberlin Peony Gardens of Sinking Spring, Pennsylvania. They have one of the largest commercial plantings in this country and have made them a specialty for many years. They speak with authority. Column C is from Mr. Newhouse of the Cottage Gardens, Lansing, Michigan, who make the propagation of tree peonies in pots a large part of their business. Mr. Newhouse has known them well throughout a long life and so his opinions must be held as those of an expert. The ones in Column D are from Mr. Toichi Domoto of Hayward, California, where he has a large planting of them. As he is from the country where tree peonies have been grown and improved for hundreds of years, he likewise knows what he is doing. We are fortunate in having four such complete lists and from such authoritative sources. Their ratings may certainly be taken with full confidence in their value.

GEORGE W. PEYTON

Rapidan, Virginia, February 19, 1941

Individual Ratings

No. ratings rec'd.	Avg.	A	B	C	D	Scat- tered	Variety
2	6.10		9.2		3.		Aboukin
3	6.63	8.5	8.4		3.		Adzuma-Shibori
2	9.00	9.			9.		Akashigata
2	8.85	9.	8.7				Akatsuki-no-yuki
1	8.80		8.8				Albert Crousse (Oberlin)
4	9.33	9.5	9.5		9.	9.3	Alice Harding (Lemoine)
2	8.70		8.4		9.		Anyo-no-hikari
1	8.60			8.6			Archiduc Ludovico
3	9.07	9.	9.			9.2	Argosy (Saunders, 1928)
3	7.27	5.	7.8	9.			Athlete
1	8.50	8.5					Auguste Dessert
2	8.75	8.5	9.				Aurore (Lemoine)
4	6.35	5.	8.5		3.	8.9	Banksi
3	7.27	6.	7.	8.8			Baronne d'Ales
1	9.00		9.				Beikoku (Syn. America)
1	9.00					9.	B. H. Farr (Farr Nursery Co.)
3	8.33	8.	9.		8.		Bijou de Chusan
1	9.20					9.2	Black Pirate (Saunders, 1935)
1	8.50	8.5	(Tentative)				Canary (Saunders, 1939)
3	8.53	8.5	8.5	8.6			Carolina d'Italie
3	8.80	8.	8.8		9.6		Chojyuraku
5	9.38	9.	9.8	9.2	9.5	9.4	Chromatella (Lemoine, 1928)
1	9.00			9.0			Colonel Malcolm
4	8.05	8.5	8.7	9.0	6.0		Comtesse de Tuder
1	8.40		8.4				Coquette des Blanches
2	8.50	8.5				8.5	Delavayi (Species)
1	7.50	7.5					Emile Debatene (Dorlat, 1930)
2	9.25	9.0	9.5				Flambeau (Lemoine)
3	7.53	5.0	8.6	9.0			Fragrans Maxima Plena

No. ratings rec'd.	Avg.	A	B	C	D	Scat- tered	Variety
2	8.90	8.5	9.3				Fuji-no-akebono
2	8.75	8.5	9.0				Fuji-no-mori
3	7.40	8.0	9.2		5.0		Fuyoren
3	7.27	7.0		8.8	6.0		Georges Paul
3	9.23	9.0	9.7		9.0		Gessekai
2	9.00	8.5	9.5				Gumpow
3	9.00	8.5	9.5		9.0		Gunpoden
3	9.00	9.4	9.6		8.0		Hakubauriso (Haku-banryo)
1	9.50	9.5					Haku-raku-ten
1	7.50	7.5					Hana-guruma
3	9.23	8.5	9.7		9.5		Hana-kisoi
3	8.33	8.0	9.0		8.0		Hana-no-nishiki
2	8.95		8.9		9.0		Haru-no-akebono
1	9.00	9.0					Hatsu-hinade
2	7.50	9.0			6.0		Iro-no-seki
2	8.50	9.0			8.0		Iwato-kagami
2	8.10	7.0	9.2				Jeanne d'Arc
2	7.75	7.0	8.5				Josephine Seneclosure
2	7.95	7.0		8.9			Jules Pirlot
3	8.20	8.0	9.6		7.0		Kamada Fuji
2	9.65	9.8	9.5				Kokkoshi
3	7.90	9.8	9.0		5.0		Kokuhow
2	8.50	9.0	8.0				Kumoma-nishiki
2	8.95	9.0	8.9				Kyokko
3	7.20	5.0	8.6	8.0			Lactea
5	8.96	9.5	9.3	8.8	8.0	9.2	La Lorraine (Lemoine, 1913)
2	7.40	6.0	8.8				Lambertinae
2	6.90	5.0	8.8				La Ville de St. Denis
3	9.63	9.8	9.6		9.5		L'Esperance (Lemoine, 1909)
2	6.50	5.0	8.0				Louise Mouchelet
3	6.33	8.0	8.0		3.0		Lutea (Species)
1	8.00		8.0				Madame Amand
2	8.50		8.0	9.0			Madame de Vatry
3	8.90	8.5	9.2			9.0	Madame Louis Henry (Henry, 1919)
3	8.43	8.5	8.8		8.0		Madame Stuart Low
2	9.00	8.5	9.5				Miyo-no-hikari
2	8.70	8.5	8.9				Miyuki-nishiki
5	7.78	8.0	8.0		5.0	9. 8.9	Moutan (Species)
1	8.50	8.5					Nippon-ko
1	9.60		9.6				Nira (Oberlin, 1934)
2	8.85	8.5	9.2				Nishiki-jishi
2	8.65	8.0	9.3				Ohgonsome
2	9.05	9.0	9.1				Osiris
1	9.80		9.8				Panama (Oberlin, 1920)
1	8.00		8.0				Princess Mathilda
3	7.67	6.0	8.0	9.0			Reine des Violettes
6	9.23	9.5	9.6	9.6	8.0	9.2 9.5	Reine Elizabeth
2	9.55	9.5	9.6				Rein-kahu
2	8.90	8.8	9.0				Rimpo

No. ratings rec'd.	Avg.	A	B	C	D	Scat- tered	Variety
3	6.70	5.0	9.1		6.0		Robert Fortune
1	8.80		8.8				Rococo
1	9.50	9.5	(Tentative)				Roman Gold (Saunders, 1940)
3	8.53	9.0	9.1		7.5		Ruriban
4	9.38	9.8	9.5	9.2	9.0		Satin Rouge (Lemoine, 1926)
2	8.75	8.5	9.0				Seidai
1	8.00	8.0					Shiko-den
3	8.27	8.0	8.8		8.0		Shikowden
1	8.80		8.8				Shin-toyen
1	9.70		9.7				Shiro-kagura (Oberlin, 1922)
1	9.20		9.2				Shishi-no-tategama
3	8.77	8.5	9.8		8.0		Shugyokuden
3	9.07	9.0	9.0	9.2			Souvenir de Ducher
8	9.21	9.0	9.7	8.9	9.0	9. 9.2 9.5 9.4	Souvenir de Maxime Cornu (Henry, 1919)
3	8.40		9.6	8.6	7.0		Surprise (Lemoine, 1920)
2	8.75	8.5	9.0				Taibow
2	8.00	9.0			7.0		Tama-usagi
1	9.60		9.6				Tatio-shishi
4	7.25	5.0	8.0	9.0	7.0		Triomphe de Vandermaelen
2	9.00	9.0	9.0				Tsuya-tsugata
1	9.30		9.3				Ukaregi-ohi
4	9.05	8.5	9.3	8.9	9.5		Yoyo-no-homare
1	8.50	8.5					Yuki-doro

Three varieties in the list, *Princess Louise*, *The Marchioness* and *The Dragon*, received no ratings.



My Best Hundred Doubles - 1940

L. E. FOSTER, York, Nebr.

Milady has often remarked, "All peonies are beautiful." I completely agree. Yet, some are more beautiful than others, have better habits, stronger stems, nicer foliage, more substance, more stamina — in fact, are superior varieties.

After ten years of growing this King-of-all-spring-bloomers, my selection of the best all 'round hundred as grown in my gardens is listed below. This selection, which is not infallible, is chosen from over five hundred good doubles. Next year with fifty choice new ones to bloom well for the first time, perhaps this list will be altered, newer varieties superseding some of the old reliables. Such varieties as *A. B. C. Nicholls*, *Evening Star*, *Darling O'Mine*, *Edith M. Snook*, *Helen Hughes*, *Judge Snook* and *Tempest* will be hard to keep out. It is my regret that a few choice peonies like *Milton Hill*, *Tourangelle*, *Walter Faxon*, *Kelway's Glorious*, *Lillian Gumm*, and *Georgiana Shaylor* have never consistently sparkled

for me like the champions they are and as I have seen them many times at National shows. After seven years in one location, I have replanted them and other moody ones in a choice spot and hope for better results.

Six years ago I wrote an article for the bulletin mentioning eighty of my best peonies during that drouth year. Ever since then I have recorded my one hundred best blooms and, strange as it seems, many of this group of oldsters are still in my present court of honor. Mighty hard to push aside some of those good varieties.

I am sure if I grew Franklin's *Mark Twain*, Brand's *Ruth Elizabeth*, Auten's *Mary Auten*, Lemoine's *Alesia*, Nicholl's *Harry F. Little*, they would be bright stars in this heaven of peony celebrities.

We all know that some seasons favor certain varieties. That is why a list like this will constantly change. Variable soils, latitudes and longitudes make all gardens somewhat unlike and in each case the judgment of the gardener is only human.

The season of 1940 was cloudy, cool and late. Consequently the blush and light pinks held their delicate tints unusually long and late openers gave us their beauty. My two gardens were never more beautiful. The north field, planted on very rich black soil, is located on a farm and on the south and west is guarded by tall trees which break the hot winds. The entire plot can be irrigated with creek water and as a result peonies grow very rapidly, attaining their full development in a short time. This field is two or three days later than my home garden and many varieties are more beautiful. During busy days when peonies are blooming, I find it quite a task to be in both gardens at the same time.

In the following list all varieties marked 4X are indispensable.

Tall, dark and handsome red *Adolphe Rousseau* is first on this alphabetical list and almost gets the high rating. *Allure*, Neeley's yellow sheened white, after two years has proven to be worthwhile. Lemoine's great *Alice Harding*, the thrill giver, always exquisitely formed and creamed, is 4X. *Adonis*, one of H. P. Sass's finest last year was enormous, held its light-pink and yellow collar in a perfect glow for over a week through wind, sun and rain — 4X. While I like *August Dessert* but moderately in the showroom, its vivid cherry-red tinged lilac color edged with silver is striking in the field and the plant has such excellent habits that all visitors exclaim at its beauty. At sundown it is most beautiful.

No planting is complete without *Avalanche*, the white that won best flower at Boston in 1935. *A. B. Franklin*, 4X, is the fine blush-white that tied on the first ballot for the best flower at Lincoln in 1937. Brand's greatest dark pink, *Blanche King*, another 4X, was the best pink of that show and is always a continual surprise in my garden. The plant is not large and as the flower unfolds itself and continues to grow one wonders how such a smallish bush can support so many large blooms.

Charles McKellip, a red by Brand, seems to have been sold short by the peony manual which rates it at 7.8. So far it continues to be very good. It has size, beauty, nice stems, and always blooms. Thurlow's very early and very tall maroon *Cherry Hill*, 4X, is a remarkable variety. For several years I did not like it. Rather apologized to the visitors. But as it became established I have come to love it. Wonderful stems, sheen, stamina, size and color. It is the more remarkable because it comes early.

Clemenceau was one of my first loves. It still is. I like its stems for cutting, too. *Chief*, with a rating of 9.21, is of 4X quality — a good strong-stemmed large pink with lots of "oomph." Two years ago I had a show-display in my house of about two hundred varieties. *Dr. J. H. Neeley*, 9.35, a marvelous variety, was chosen the best white by the visitors. It has almost everything. The form is outstanding and it has unusual size and color. I would like to see this in perfect form at a national show sometime. Am sure it would be among the best — 4X. For a number of years *Doris* was only mediocre but last season was quite striking with its fine flowers of a different pink. If Hans P. Sass had introduced but *Elsa Sass*, 4X, his name would remain immortal to peony fans. With a texture of velour and the color of Jersey cream it will always remain in my mind as a superlative white. Am anxious to see this one become established. Its form and color in garden or showroom is sensational. With me it seems to lack a little in size for a grand champion but a few more years will tell. Another one from this originator that is tops and receives 4X is *Elizabeth Huntington*, a very tall and large light pink with plenty of IT written all over bloom, stalk and foliage. One rated only 7.8 which I seldom read about, is *E. G. Hill*. This deep rose lovely garden clump makes visitors gasp when first seen. I like its garden beauty and its sparkle of freshness. *Elsie Renault*, although short stemmed, deserves 4X because of the silvery lilac spherical bloom of giant proportions. *Ella Christiansen* is a very tall, large, medium pink and every year I think it a better flower. It has excellent petalage, produces numerous blooms, and is a fine cutting sort. One of Brand's best — 4X. *Fanny Lee* deserves 4X rating too, because of its striking red bloom and its height, as does old *Festiva Maxima*, pure white flecked with crimson, a flower of great size and beauty. Sometimes this flower sparkles and outshines many of the highly praised newer varieties. Appreciation of *Francois Rousseau* must be given because it is a free and reliable bloomer with silky sheened rich crimson blooms that last for days and do not burn. It is never sulky with me but is always fully double and quite large. *Floweret of Eden*, *Frances Willard*, *Frank E. Good*, *Florence McBeth*, *Frankie Curtis*, *General Gorgas*, and *Governor Fuller* get in by a narrow margin and this does not mean they do not possess real class. *Gleam of Gold* bloomed well last year and it is exciting enough to receive its place of honor. The yellow collar on the white bloom gives it exquisiteness. Rich deep pink, mammoth, *Grace Batson*, glistening pink-salmon *Hansina Brand*, light-pink *Hans P. Sass*, and pinkish-white *Hazel Kinney* all rate 4X and pages could be used to extol their charms. Lovely *June Day*, 4X, in her delicate light-pink robe has never missed a season of bloom in seven years.

Whenever I pass the center of the garden I want to tip my hat to regal *Karl Rosenfield*, 4X. Here is a high-class red with so many good qualities that if it said, "Good Morning," I would not be surprised. Mammoth *La France* so queenly in her rose-pink dress, *La Lorraine* adorned in pink-white, *Lady Alexandra Duff* with light-pink colors, and almost perfect pink *Lady Kate* stately and tall, are all 4X champions.

White *Le Cygne*, 4X, is one of the best when it comes good and out of eight years it has been that way six times. It has considerable substance,

the bloom is solid, and ideal for a peony. Mons. Lemoine must have been quite mad with excitement when he first beheld his remarkable origination. Every year Milady and I give away hundreds of bouquets. Special folks, get a baker's dozen of pure white *Le Cygne* and dark-red Mons. *Martin Cahuzac* which blooms here huge, very dark red and perfectly lovely. A real 4X variety. A week or so later our finest is *Philippe Rivoire*, my best of all reds, and Mons. *Dupont*, both 4X. This combination is striking because of contrast and sheer loveliness and is very fitting for church altars. By the way, if you really want to get enjoyment out of the blooming season, try donating two or three hundred blooms to each of a couple of churches. Not only donate them but help do the arranging. Do not forget to include several small vases filled with singles and Japanese because these are ideal for placing on pianos or pedestals. Solid pink bouquets, like *Therese*, large and colorful, really make the audience marvel.

A dandy large dark 4X pink is *Loren Franklin*, with its long strong stems and good habits. *Livingston* 4X last year probably on account of the cloudy skies is really an outstanding pink. I have one lone specimen of *Longfellow*, a large ten-year-old clump that is "the talk of the town." For two whole days it was boss of its corner. Three years ago *Lora Dexheimer* was the garden's best red for several days — beautiful as a rose. This variety is really delightful when in the mood and when established usually is. One of my big surprises came when *Lucy Dunn*, 4X, bloomed as a two-year-old. Had never heard any glowing reports on it, but for me every year it seems more beautiful, a fine large strong-stemmed pink — a jewel of the finest water. And *Luella Shaylor* gave me another beauty surprise when it first bloomed. It always blooms well and for several days in perfection of bloom is exquisite, having white petals with a yellow center. There is nothing just like it. *Madame Claude Tain* with rosy-white petals is especially attractive. Old *Madame de Verneville* is seldom heard from but it is still clinging tightly to its place among my choice varieties. *Mary Brand* is a trifle variable but usually is a very commendable red crimson, and *Madame Jules Dessert* is always worthy of special notice. Lemon-white, very large and late *Marie Lemoine* is one of the handsomest of all peonies and gets the high score. Another 4X is *Matchless Beauty*, quite well named by the originator, Dr. Neeley, and is creamy-white with good stems and real quality petals.

Certain varieties hold me spellbound and one of these is 4X *Minnie Shaylor*. If I could have but one variety I would consider lovely *Minnie*, the semi-double. There are few sights more beautiful than a ten-year-old clump of these pinkish-white blooms centered with gold. An excellent very early beauty is *Modeste Guerin*, dark rose-pink with a violet tint. Very strong stems and large blooms.

Here are the namesakes of eight ladies, all of 4X caliber, that are among the world's best. Dainty colored *Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt*, pale pink with cup-shaped center; *Mrs. C. S. Minot*, flesh-pink dwarf; *Mrs. Edward Harding*, the lacy beauty; *Mrs. F. A. Goodrich*, gigantic deep bright pink; *Mrs. J. H. Neeley*, who needs to bow to no other delicate pink; *Mrs. W. L. Gumm*, a coming pink winner; *Mrs. A. B. Franklin* and *Mrs. A. M. Brand*, two top-notch whites; and *Mrs. J. V. Edlund*, a proven champion. Six other Mesdames are not far behind this year in excellency — *Mrs.*

..

Dean Funke, prolific pink; *Mrs. Harriet Gentry*, *Mrs. Frank Beach*, *Mrs. J. M. Good*, *Mrs. Shaylor Force*, and *Mrs. Bryce Fontaine*. The last variety is a new red by Mr. Brand that has proven to be very desirable. Reliable *Mons. Jules Elie*, 4X, the amateur's delight, must not be forgotten; nor *Minuet*, an interesting light pink; *Myrtle Gentry*, 4X, which should be sacked; *Mr. L. van Leeuwen*, 4X, a very interesting red that never fails to open and to attract attention; and *Marie d'Hour*, 4X, that should rate higher than 7.9. The best late bloomer is *Nancy Dolman*, 4X, a tall vigorous stately pink possessing charm rating 100% with me. *Onondaga*, on a two-year plant displayed fine red blooms of good size and substance. *Nick Shaylor*, 4X, performed well as did very tall *Phoebe Cary*, 4X. *President Wilson*, for a number of years has been growing in my esteem, broke into the select list this year. It is one of Thurlow's best. *President Coolidge* also deserves honorable mention. *Priam*, a midseason brilliant deep crimson is an asset to any garden and in a new location soon it may be quite consistent. *Reine Hortense*, 4X, is always good. It is so large and fine that it will be difficult to replace. And there is nothing that can quite come up to brilliant red *Richard Carvel*. Sweet lovely *Rosa Bonheur* with the divine form! How it stands out in any bouquet! And another nearly perfect one is *Rose Shaylor*. I like its flesh-pink tint and rose-pink brightness. Then *Rev. Tragitt*, making a trio of superb 4Xers. Here is a second *Le Cygne*, dwarfed in stem but not in bloom, which is heavy-substanced, and which never fails to open. Pretty *Redbird*, is usually seen only in the garden and never fails to stop visitors by its different beauty. Now come seven 4X pinks. A large number of peony lovers classify *Therese*, so deep-toned and large, as perfect, and some years I agree with them. It pops open as rapidly as *Mons. Jules Elie* and is ideal as a bud-cutter. Don't see how I could part with the other six — silver-tipped *Sarah Bernhardt*, *Souv. de Louis Bigot*, dainty *Silvia Saunders* early and bewitching, *Solange*, hard to grow but easy to look at, *Victory Chateau Thierry*, another 100 percenter, and *Wilton Lockwood*, the red-splashed pink of considerable size. Two newcomers made the grade, *Star of Beauty* and *W. L. Gumm*, 4X. The latter variety looks like one of the great originations.

If any of you amateur growers who are not politically-peony-minded (if you know what is meant) have read this far, the following sentence is directed to you. Why not describe YOUR best one hundred or best fifty doubles? Personally I would like a comparison with other gardens.



Closing The Flower Show

By LOUIS SANDO, *University Farm, St. Paul, Minn.*

Although much time is devoted at meetings of garden clubs and horticultural societies to suggestions for staging and judging flower shows, little or nothing has been written concerning the closing hours.

The ideas embodied in this article are prompted by reports of "a mad rush for flowers" by the public in spite of the protest of superintendent.

exhibitors, show chairman and others. It appears to the writer that much of the responsibility for such conditions rests primarily with exhibitors themselves.

It might not be amiss to quote from the premium book a few of the rules regarding the status of exhibitors at the State Fair. Following Rule 5 is a note giving instructions as to size of exhibitors' name cards as follows: "Exhibitors' cards shall not exceed 10x12 inches in size and shall be white with plain black letters and no other coloring. Nothing but the words 'grown by' or 'exhibited by' and the name and address, if desired."

Rule 8 is explicit in its statement that after exhibits are arranged they shall be under the exclusive charge of the superintendent and no one shall touch or remove them except with his consent. From this one may safely assume that after flowers, for example, have been arranged they pass from the ownership of the exhibitor to the sponsoring organization of the show, in this case the State Fair board.

Exhibitors all too often forget this rule and remain under the impression that the flowers are loaned, which is not true. Should the exhibit become unsightly, it is the superintendent who has the right to remove any exhibits or parts of exhibits from the floor. And (see rule 10) each person who becomes an exhibitor thereby agrees to conform strictly to the rules and regulations.

American Florists' Plan

In spite of the fact that Rule 12 says that no flowers shall be given away by exhibitors, it is not unusual for them to promise their exhibit or parts of it to friends. As far as the State Fair is concerned, the rules are certainly clear and explicit, but then who reads rules anyway?

Grabbing of flowers on the part of the public could be avoided if the rule enforced by the Society of American Florists at its national shows were put into effect at all flower shows. In this case flowers are not given away by exhibitors, as the floor is cleared entirely, even exhibitors being ushered out of the show and not re-admitted without proof of their right to re-enter. The multitude of friends, the host of persons who are sick, or have sick friends in the hospital, etc., have absolutely no weight or effect on the show chairman of the national flower show, and this, to the writer, appears to be the crux of the whole matter.

If everyone but bona fide exhibitors were compelled to leave the floor, and exhibitors were warned not to give away even one petal to any person whatsoever, there would be no rush or snatching of flowers from vases or baskets. The disposition of the flowers would then be up to the organization staging the show.

Up to the Organization

To exhibit flowers, win prizes of various kinds, and still remain under the impression that the sponsoring society has no right to impose conditions for the final disposition of the flowers, would seem to be an altogether untenable position for any exhibitor. For commercial florists who are invited, sometimes urged, to stage a basket or vase of flowers artistically arranged to help out, as it is called, the position is decidedly different. Often a florist will use material he can ill afford to lose and he certainly should have the right to remove such material undamaged, and it is the

duty of every floor chairman to see that this is made possible.

Possibly one of the worst effects of this general picking of flowers is that all too often the identifying marks, or entry tags, are taken with the flowers.



Singles and Japs as Cut Flowers

EDWARD AUTEN, JR., *Princeville, Ill.*

There is sore need for missionray work to be done striving to increase the use of single and Japanese type Peonies as cut flowers. Granted that the love of a great many people for flowers that are big should not be opposed, the big double peony blooms do not by any means exhaust the possibilities for effective and artistic use of the species. The less bulky singles and Japs combine better with almost all other flowers than the doubles, especially with all those that are smaller or that do not come in large bunches or on a long stalk. The large double blooms are rather difficult for all table decorations, and for small baskets, while the singles and Japs are charming when so used. They also furnish more color contrasts, the yellow of the stamens in the singles, the all-yellow petaloids of some Japs, the yellow-edged petaloids of others, and the two-tone effects in others all give them added value that the doubles do not have, except the few yellow-centered doubles.

Commercial florists, both retail and wholesale, are very loath to handle singles and Japs. Demand to date is rather restricted, buyers want a big show for their money, and they can get it in the doubles. Most of the singles introduced in the past have been very poor keepers, lacking in substance, but that difficulty has been at least partially overcome. Some singles, of which *Mischief* is one, will last as well when cut as most of the doubles. And it is easier to find Japs which have good substance than singles. I very much doubt whether single peonies will ever become standard in the cold storage, wholesale trade, as the stamens are apt to turn black in cold storage, and in order to hold them for any length of time they must be cut so tight that the blooms do not always open well. Petals overlap so tightly that they cannot open out so easily as a bomb type which is stuffed full of center petals all able to push the outer petals open when brought into heat.

To most people the odor of the stamens in a single peony is objectionable. This fault does not apply to the Japs, and in fact, many of the anemone type Japs are quite fragrant with a true rose fragrance. Also, many Japs will open out properly from cold storage. The anemone type especially, being in reality a sort of low bomb, will as a rule open well.

I do believe that the better Japs will prove on thorough trial to have sufficient substance and carrying power to be handled commercially as the doubles are now, but it will take much work to convince the trade that they are safe to handle. The public will have to be educated as well. Florists who raise their own peonies or who buy from local growers should use both singles and Japs. I feel sure the public is going to appreciate these types when they have a chance to obtain them from the florists.

Popularizing The Peony

Is Price a Factor?

By J. W. FRENZ, *Baraboo, Wis.*

The peony is not so popular and not so generally grown as most of us would like. It is difficult to understand this for the peony is admired and praised on every hand, but still it is not planted to the extent that many flowers are, such as the dahlia, gladiolus, iris and rose. The peony is much more satisfactory in every way than the rose, for instance, and yet I dare say that there are dozens of roses planted to every peony that is planted.

Those of you who read this article need not be told that more favorable things can be said about the peony than about any other flower. Why, then, is it not more generally grown? I am not certain what the answer is. I have asked a number of growers for their opinions, but none seem to have a very good answer. It is probably due to a combination of reasons.

About three years ago Mr. Styer had an article in the Bulletin pleading for more popularity for the peony, especially in the East (see Bulletin No. 70, page 5). Mr. Styer took the position that because of climatic conditions in the East peonies do not grow so well as in other parts of the country and that as a result the gardeners are discouraged and do not plant peonies. I am not acquainted with the situation in the East and therefore am not in position to discuss Mr. Styer's argument, but Mr. Peyton, at least, disagrees with him (see Bulletin No. 74, page 17). Mr. Peyton, while agreeing with Mr. Styer that the peony is not so popular as it should be in that section, seems to think that the lack of popularity is due more to the fact that not enough publicity is given the peony in flower magazines. It is certainly true that there are very few articles appearing in flower magazines of interest to peony growers, while page after page in almost every issue is devoted to the dahlia, gladiolus, iris, rose and other flowers. The reason for this is that there are many more gardeners interested in other flowers than in peonies, and the publishers naturally print what their readers want.

And that brings us back to the point we started from. Why are there not more people interested in planting and growing peonies? It seems to me that price has much to do with it. I believe that prices of some peonies are too high. If that is so, then until prices are materially reduced we cannot expect people to plant the peony to the extent we would desire.

Let us take the peony Philippe Rivoire, for example. Almost all agree that it is the best red peony. It has been on the market for thirty years. The average price asked for this variety is \$2.50. Some growers sell it for a little less than that and some charge more for it. Now let us take what many consider the best red rose, Etoile de Hollande. It can be bought from almost any grower for 75c, and some list it as low as 25c. It must be admitted that there is quite a contrast in the prices of these two flowers. The commercial grower will at once say that this is not a fair comparison because rose stocks can be increased so much more rapidly than stocks of peonies. There is no doubt of that and the point is con-

ceded, but the fact remains that more roses are bought and planted than peonies. And it seems to me that something ought to be done about it.

Many similar examples could be given, but enough has been said to bring out the point I am trying to make. If the price of peonies is compared with that of the dahlia, gladiolus and iris, the contrast is much more marked. One can have a garden filled with comparatively new varieties of iris, for instance, for the price that some growers ask for a peony that has been on the market for a quarter of a century. You can buy 100 Picardy gladioli for \$1.00. Unless the buyer is peony-minded, he most certainly would take the iris or the gladioli, or both, as he would get more flowers for his money. And if he is simply looking for something to bloom in his garden, that is just what he does.

If we are to make gardeners of the country peony-conscious, I believe that we must reduce the prices of many peonies to the level at which they will buy. If we can get them to make their initial purchases, no doubt as times goes on they will want more and better peonies and will go in for the higher-priced ones, which the dealer can sell to them at a satisfactory profit. I have not taken the time to check the peony list, but believe it is safe to say that there are at least sixty-five so-called standard varieties on the market which are desirable kinds to have that could be sold for less than fifty cents a division. This will doubtless provoke a storm of protest from the commercial growers, but it does seem to me that it would be better to sell some peonies at a low price and thus get rid of huge stocks on hand and avoid having to dig and divide each season and then replant because there have not been sales enough to take up the slack. My thought is that it would have three results; first, it would help the dealer sell his surplus roots; and secondly, it should result in the more general planting of peonies and create an interest that will make steady customers of the buyers. And last, but by no means least, it might result in a substantial increase in the membership of the Society.

The beginner is the one we want to interest in peonies. We want him to plant a few and become an enthusiast. After he once gets the "habit," he will desire new and rare kinds and price will not mean so much to him then. It is in the beginning, when he wonders if he can afford to plant any peonies, that price is important to him. All too often he decides that he cannot spend the money necessary to give him a representative peony garden. If he could buy a dozen good peonies for four or five dollars, the idea might appeal to him. It may be said that such a buyer would make only his first purchase and never buy more. That could happen, and doubtless would in some cases, but judging from the experience of most of us, peonies growing in our gardens stimulate our interest and we desire to have more and better ones. I think that is the general experience. Most of us started by buying a few of the cheaper peonies and planting them with not a few misgivings. And then we got the "fever" and added to our plantings each season, and we did not always hold back because of price. Peony growing is a progressive game. Very few start with large gardens. If we are to gain more popularity for the peony we must get more people to make their first purchases.

It seems to me that this suggestion should be tried out by the commercial growers. While I have no desire to pry into the affairs of any of our

friends, I feel that many, if not all, the commercial growers have been greatly disappointed in the amount of their sales in recent years. I do not like that condition. I want them to prosper. Many of them have given liberally of their time, knowledge and experience to the development of the peony and of the Society. The success of the Society depends in a large measure on the success of our commercial growers; our interests are quite closely interwoven. Or so it seems to me.

It would probably serve me right if some one would write in to say that I had better mind my own business and let the commercial growers attend to their affairs. My answer to that is that I am only trying to be helpful.



A Few Don't's

By THE SECRETARY

If there is one word in the English language that stands out distinctly in our recollection is it the word *don't*. We have heard it from early childhood, and one of our first admonitions was summed up in this one word. It is a word that seems to stay with us through life as we are continually reminded don't forget, don't neglect, don't do this and don't do that. We are sometimes fed up on the word, but it still persists to haunt us and often if it is not heeded it causes us no end of trouble and suffering.

Some years ago I received the following list of *Don't's* with a shipment of peonies I had ordered. I have always considered them worth saving and in case some of my readers have not seen them, I am having them presented with the hope that some good may come of them as the advice given is sound and well worth while remembering.

A FEW SIMPLE WORDS — MOSTLY, "THOU SHALT NOTS," CONCERNING THE PLANTING AND CARE OF PEONIES. ALTHO INTENDED PRIMARILY FOR THE UTTER NOVICE, THE PERUSAL WILL NOT SERIOUSLY INJURE THOSE WHO KNOW ALL ABOUT PEONY "CULTURE."

DON'T, FIRST OF ALL, BE ALARMED AT THESE "DON'TS"

and assume that Peony culture must be formidable and difficult — not to say dangerous. It isn't. Peonies are neither orchids nor roses, and are literally easier to grow than a geranium. As a matter of fact you may stick your Peonies in the ground, never give them another thought, and the probabilities are that year after year they will struggle through the weeds and grass and produce a very fair display of flowers. But every growing thing responds to extra care and attention, and these instructions are for those who want extra fine results.

BUT DON'T BE TOO SOLICITOUS ABOUT YOUR PEONIES

nor overdo the nursing and coddling business. They'll resent it. They don't like much stirring of the ground about their stems. Briefly, about the principal "culture" consists in letting them alone, except to keep them clear of grass and weeds. But of all things, along about the time the first robin becomes insistent in the spring.

DON'T GO AFTER YOUR PEONIES WITH A RAKE

to remove the light mulch of litter you may have scattered over them the

preceding fall. This may be left on to rot; it will serve as a manure. We are quite sure that many disappointments — the appearance of only one or two shoots — are due to some of the eyes having been destroyed, either by hasty or rough planting or a stirring of the ground directly over the plants in early spring. No weeding or raking should be done near the plants until the shoots are well up out of the ground.

DON'T "EXCAVATE TO THE DEPTH OF 2½ TO 3 FEET"

for the planting of your Peonies, unless you want to do it just for your health. It isn't necessary. Some hysterical horticulturist wrote this a hundred years or so ago, and every Peony man since has seemed to think it necessary to copy it in his catalog. It has always made us grin. Imagine excavating to the depth of 2½ to 3 feet for a bed of 100 Peonies, or even 50. It brings visions of steam-shovels — straining horses — shouting men. The duffer who first wrote that ought to have added, "and if you change your mind about the Peonies, and decide to have a house instead, you will have an excavation ready for the foundations." Simply dig a hole, for each individual root. The hole need not be "as deep as a well, nor as wide as a church door," as Mr. Shakespeare somewhere remarks, but just large enough for the root to go in, with some little space to spare all around it.

DON'T USE MANURE

at least, don't use fresh manure in any way, shape, or form, unless as a mulch after planting, and even in this case it must be kept away from directly over the crown of the plant. Even so-called "well-rotted" manure is alas too frequently not *sufficiently* well rotted to be used in planting. It very frequently—if not always—causes decay in the root when coming in direct contact with it. If your ground has been prepared with manure a year in advance of planting, it will be an excellent thing; otherwise, when you come to set your roots,

DON'T USE MANURE AT ALL

It's not necessary. Our good aforesaid horticultural friend of 1816 wrote that Peonies were "gross feeders." This is not only unpoetic and inelegant, but also, strictly speaking, not true. Peonies can be, and frequently *are*, over-fed. So assuming that you have just ordinarily good garden soil, we would advise against enriching it in any way, except by the addition of pure raw bone-meal, obtainable at most any seed store or even hardware stores. Mix thoroughly about one pound of this with the ground that is to go with each and every Peony you plant; that is into each hole dug. This fertilizer is perfectly safe, will not burn, and is likely to produce remarkable results in the quality of blooms the very first season. But

DON'T DOSE THE SOIL

with a variety of commercial fertilizers other than the one we have named. We know of a man who in preparing for his Peonies used four different combinations of commercial fertilizer, and some wood-ashes and lime. Just what happened subsequently to those amazed roots we haven't heard.

DON'T PLANT TOO DEEP

Too deep planting is responsible for many partial to complete failures. If roots are set with eyes much more than three inches below the level of the soil when planting is completed, the plants may fail to bloom for several years, or, the blooms may be of indifferent quality year after year.

DON'T PLANT TOO SHALLOW

Plants with the top-most eyes *less* than two inches below the level of the soil, are likely to be exposed in one way or another. From 2 ½ to 3 inches is about right, making due allowance for settling of ground after planting.

DON'T PLANT TOO CLOSE

for permanent planting; that is, if you mean to let them remain as you plant them — and we hope you do. Peonies should not be set closer than three feet apart each way. *Four feet is far better.*

DON'T WORRY ABOUT "PROTECTION"

Peonies (*all varieties*) are literally as "hardy as the oak" — another old expression — and need no protection whatever, even in latitudes where the temperature goes down to any quantity of degrees below zero. Our experience has been that the best blooming seasons are invariably those which follow hard, "stay-frozen," winters. We therefore advise against much protection; that is, do not smother the roots with great heaps of "mulch." The first winter after planting the roots are of course loose in the ground, and for this one season, a light cover of say two inches of coarse litter — grass, or fine straw — is *necessary* to prevent heaving of roots.

FERTILIZE BUT ONCE PER ANNUM

"Once planted all is done" — another bromide — is almost a literal truth about Peonies. Assuming that you have followed us thus far in planting, etc., the after-culture or fertilization consists *only* — in our opinion — of the following: Annually in late June, or directly after the blooming season is over, apply to every plant, one pound of bone meal, and one pound of pulverized sheep manure, mixed together. The latter has been "treated," is old and will not burn if properly used, and like the bone meal, may be had in packages of various sizes — as you may require — from most seed houses. The application should be dug *lightly, and with a hand-trowel*, into the soil around the plants, to the depth of only an inch or two, but not too close to the stems.

DON'T USE LIME

in preparing beds. A certain grower reports the death of several acres of plants due to excessive liming of the soil.

DON'T FAIL TO WATER PLANTS PLENTIFULLY

during the blooming period, unless of course Jupiter Pluvius should be operating frequently and freely. But don't use manure water at this time, or at any time, unless you are careful not to get it close to stems of plants.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT PEONY DISEASES

There aren't any that need give you any concern whatever, eminent horticultural professors to the contrary. An article appearing in a gardening magazine some time ago, about diseases of the Peony, was quite enough to frighten off any novice who contemplated going in for this great flower. It is true there is a fungus disease, with an unpronounceable name, which attacks the leaves of the plants. This usually occurs only during very wet summers, and follows the blooming period. Purple blotches appear on the leaves, and though a great ado has been made about it, it does not seem to us that it even renders them especially unsightly. The trouble does not extend to, or affect the root in the slightest degree. There is

another "disease" of a like character which attacks the stems and sometimes causes them to wilt rather suddenly; but this, except in rare cases also follows the blooming season, and although we have observed its operation with the greatest care, we have been unable to find that it affects the root in any way. The Peony root itself is subject to no disease that is either fatal or even of temporary seriousness. *There are times when plants become "sulky" (we refuse to dignify it by the use of any stronger term) and refuse to bloom for a season, sometimes even two successive seasons. There are also times when the buds do not mature, and sometimes they turn brown or blast before opening, but*

DON'T ASK US TO EXPLAIN THIS

for we can't, and any grower who undertakes to do so is just groping in the dark. Some of the above difficulties may be due to the plant's method of taking a season off — a rest; the fruit trees in your orchard do no less. Or it may be caused by over fertilization, or the use of strong manure. We know that the latter *can* cause it. *But of this we are positive; that it is due to no organic disease, if we may so express it. We say this because in an experience covering a period of more than twenty years, we have never had a sulky plant that did not "come right" again of its own volition after a season, or two seasons, at the most, and without any assistance from us.*

DON'T BE LIKE THIS MAN

Up to this writing we have had so few complaints since we have been in business that we're vain enough to fancy we hold the record. Recently however, we made a shipment of roots to a patron, including a very heavy root — about six years old — of Madam de Verneville; and without extra charge. This customer rewarded us by writing that the "roots were all wonderfully fine, except the large Madam de Verneville, which was black in portions and showed signs of decay." Patrons should remember that the larger the Peony root or "clump" is, the poorer it looks from mere point of beauty. The grower who sends out very young plants — only perhaps one year from division — delivers the best looking plant. It is cleaner and fresher in appearance, because there is nothing to the root *but* new growth. It is the natural process in the growth of the Peony, for the older portions of the root to disintegrate, and slowly disappear, as they are replaced by new growth. Judge a root — its productiveness, by the vigor of the *new* root growth, and the number and *quality* of the eyes. Never mind what the older portions of the root look like.

DON'T PLANT IN LOW WET GROUND

Peonies require lots of moisture but they will not do well in low and constantly damp ground. A situation where there would be constant supply of water around the roots they would not tolerate at all.

DON'T PLANT UNDER TREES

Peonies will do admirably in partial shade — the shade cast by buildings or trees when the latter are located at a considerable distance. But in no case should roots be set — say for example — within 30 feet of a tree a foot in diameter, and they cannot do well when planted within 12 feet of a privet hedge.

DON'T PLANT PEONIES ALONG THE FOUNDATION WALLS OF A BUILDING

unless you see to it that the plants get their share of water during the

growing season. Frequently plantings about the base of a house receive no water for many weeks in succession, the rains all coming from the wrong direction — for the plants. Moreover, the soil directly around a house frequently contains too much miscellaneous refuse — often large quantities of lime — for plants to do well.

DON'T FAIL TO DISBUD

To obtain the best results — enormous fancy blooms — plants should be disbudded in early April, or just as soon as the buds can be gotten hold of and pinched off. Usually three or four buds will be found on each stem. Pinch off all but the central or largest bud. Many varieties are described as "blooming in clusters," but these "clusters" are never very satisfactory unless merely a lot of color is desired.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT ANTS

At a certain stage in their development, Peony buds exude a sticky substance which attracts ants by the thousands and they swarm all over the buds and plants. It is scarcely worth while to take any trouble to get rid of them inasmuch as they *don't do the slightest injury*, and by the time the buds are ready to unfold, have entirely disappeared.

DON'T MOVE YOUR PEONIES

Some growers have voiced the opinion that roots ought to be taken up and divided every four or five years. In this we emphatically dissent. Roots should be left undisturbed indefinitely. If this is done the plants will increase in vigor and productiveness year after year, the blooms growing larger and more fragrant and nearer and nearer to absolute perfection in form. We know of a clump of Peonies that has remained undisturbed for 25 years. It measures eight feet across and produces every year from 100 to 130 magnificent blooms.

DON'T, DON'T, DON'T, DO THIS

It seems incredible that it could be so, but we are nonetheless inclined to believe that a great many people thoughtlessly cut down the Peony stems after blooming, often close to the ground, to make room for other flowering plants — perhaps annuals nearby. A Peony root has actually more lives than the proverbial cat, but this often kills it outright, and if it does not, will at least, in every case, cripple the plant to the extent of its bearing the very poorest sort of flowers for several subsequent seasons. Foliage is necessary to the life of any plant; in other words, it breathes through, and lives by reason of, its leaves; and thus through the summer months the Peony is growing below ground, storing up energy, and forming its eyes for the following season's bloom. It is plainly obvious too, that even in cutting blooms, too much stem should not be taken with the flower. *At least two sprays of leaves must be left growing on every stem from which you take a bloom.* This is almost as important as not cutting down the whole plant. By about the first of September the root has finished its work and has become dormant. The tops may then be cut off, but we advise cutting not right down to the ground, but allowing a few inches of the stems to show, to the end that when the annual garden clean-up comes the following spring, you will know just where the Peonies are, and therefore where to *avoid raking*.

DON'T FAIL TO KEEP A SHARP EYE

for Mr. Cut-Worm. This personage not content with mowing down corn, beans and things, will sometimes take a jaunt into the flower garden, and cut off a thick Peony stem or two. Or, he may eat his way just half through it, causing the stem to look sick, and you to suspect that it is the stem disease with which you have to grapple. Observe the plant close to the ground before you send for the (horticultural) physician; and if you find Mr. Cut-Worm, step on him.

DON'T CUT TOO SOON

We have always thought that the ideal Peony garden should consist of two plants of each of the varieties desired — one plant for cut flowers, the other for outside display. For while a bed, or row of high-grade Peonies in blossom outdoors is a sight worth traveling some little distance to see, beyond question the only way the individual flower may be had at its best, is to cut it in the bud and open it indoors. But it is quite an accomplishment to know just *when* to cut the many varieties, for scarcely any two sorts may be treated exactly alike in this respect. Roughly speaking, the bomb type may be cut much earlier in its stage of development than the rose type, although there are some exceptions to the latter sort, such as *Edulis Superba* and *Festiva Maxima* which open easily and quickly. These varieties and like kinds, together with the bomb type, such as *Felix Crousse*, *Madam Ducel*, etc., should be cut when one or two of the outer petals begin to unfold, and when the bud feels soft all through, when pressed between thumb and finger. But varieties like *Eugene Verdier*, *Claire Dubois*, *Madam Geissler*, *Marie Lemoine*, *Livingston*, etc., etc. — the massive solid sorts with petals densely packed to the heart of the flower, *must not be cut until the whole bloom is fairly well expanded*. Cut much earlier than this they will just refuse to "proceed," and finally wilt without opening further. It is far better to err on the side of letting them remain on the plants a bit too long, than not long enough. The buds should be brought in the house, kept away from currents of air, and opened rather slowly in a dark cool room. Managed thus, the blooms last, when brought into the light, from five to twelve days, according to the variety.

DON'T BE TOO GREATLY PEEVED

if your color scheme goes askew. Many people seem to plan their Peony plantings with a certain color effect in mind, or else for a definite succession of bloom. This is the one direction, to our minds, in which Peonies sometimes disappoint. For "early," "mid-season," and "late," attached to the description of the varieties in the catalogs, are really very uncertain. Climate, soil, and the vagaries of the season — all have an enormous influence on the blooming period. For example, two certain varieties may bloom here in our soil and climate, at the same time, while out in — well, say *Sleepy Eye*, *Minnesota*, they may bloom a week apart. Even here, in our own soil, we have had in certain seasons, *Couronne d'Or* open very shortly after *Festiva Maxima*, although normally, they are ten days and more apart. This illustrates the effect that certain seasons have on some varieties, when planted side by side. This sort of thing makes it incomprehensible to us why any grower should list and offer both *Jeanne d'Arc* and *Golden Harvest* for example. They are practically identical except that they bloom just about "twenty minutes apart."

Outstanding Peonies In 1940

GEO. W. PEYTON, *Rapidan, Va.*

It is not my intention to take up much space with comments on my garden for the 1940 season as none of my plants were set longer than September, 1938, and so were not mature. My older planting was completely demolished the fall of 1939, most of it having been plowed under by a new owner of the land, though I was able to rescue the best of them from the tractor juggernaut.

Following a winter of unprecedented severity in many ways, I had hoped for a spring that would be devoid of late frosts, but alas! it was not to be so, for we had thirty or more hard frosts and freezes after the peonies came out of the ground from mid-March to mid-May.

The Japanese types seem to have been more seriously damaged than any of the others. The doubles were least affected, though many fine ones did not bloom.

The first peony that gave me hope of really having some fine things was one of the new ones sent me by my good friend Kelsey. With a heart full of gloom and disappointment after viewing for morning after morning the ruin wrought by the cold, sudden joy came into my life when this flower, which he calls so aptly *Rare China*, opened its enchanting blooms. It is a large white with maybe five or more rows of well rounded guards spread out flat and a center of glowing yellow stamens. It was truly a shining beacon out of the early darkness.

Following that came many that were exceptionally good for the hardships they had endured. Many of our old friends came to life with surprising beauty.

As usual, *Kelway's Glorious* was uniformly about the best flower in the garden, for it has everything down here that it takes to make the best flower — beauty, form, stem, color, fragrance, and dependability. What more could be asked? It never disappoints, so it has taken its place, in my humble opinion deservedly, as the highest rated of all by the combined votes of nearly fifty members of our Society whose gardens are scattered all over the peony-growing country. I know of no other peony that combines in one flower all the excellent qualities that go to make the one best. Others equal it in beauty of form, or coloring or stem, but they all seem to lack at least one of the characteristics.

Probably the most perfect flower in the garden was *Alesia*. When one looks at its perfect formation, words cannot express its appeal.

The two peonies, however, that gave me more satisfaction than any others probably did so because they were surprises, for where I had looked for no great results I had superlative flowers. They both opened at the same time and were just a few feet apart.

The first was *Edith M. Snook* from the gardens of that most modest of men, Judge Snook of Paulding, Ohio. I had never had an inkling even of the merits of the flower. It grew on forty-two inch stems from a very small division set in 1938. The flower itself was a perfect hemisphere of beauty of quite an unusual sort. The guard petals seem to have been entirely overpowered by those in the collar which have taken pos-

session and formed this unusual flower of charm. The color is white with tints of blush, cream, yellow and even green in its depths, giving it a lure we do not often find. Though it has some stamens in its depths, yet the fragrance is pleasant, though not strong. I am wondering whether it will keep this definite form or whether on more mature plants these collar petals do not assume a different form. Time will tell.

The second of those surprising peonies was from another literal one-eye division set in 1938 and is a peony that had won fame in its native home, Mr. Brand's gardens and their neighborhood; but a disturbing rumor had reached me that it just would not often open, so imagine my amazement and delight to find full nine-inch blooms opening on *Oliver F. Brand* to full perfection in one of the most discouraging seasons it has ever been my lot to experience. Its beautiful form and exquisite coloring made it one of the five most perfect flowers I had. May it never have an off season for me. It is a rare blush or light pink.

Blooming also at the same time was a peony that the more I see of it the better I like it. It was probably in my garden as soon as it was in any others outside its home, as I added it the first season it was released, and from its very first bloom the next spring after it was planted I have been sounding its praises to all my many friends, and they have also been, to a man, convinced, and so they are also preaching its virtues far and wide. That peony is *Nick Shaylor*. All it lacks of being another perfect flower is fragrance. It has almost, if not quite, a complete lack of any odor, pleasant or unpleasant. It seems to have done well everywhere and is now thought to be one of the finest grown. It varies quite a lot in the amount of pink in its make up. In extremely hot weather it may be almost pure white, then it may be a beautiful blush or a grand light pink. In every stage it is beautiful.

Another one I was glad to see in great beauty was the one friend Bongers named for our mutual friend *Dr. F. G. Brethour*. This peony has a very unusual petal arrangement sometimes in the middle, the petals resembling cut strips of thin paper, but on another bloom close by they had the form of a perfect white *Solange*. This form, I expect, is the one it will usually take.

Of Dr. Brethour's own introductions, two were this year of unusual beauty. *Aldine*, a heavy-stemmed plant with great blush flowers of fine form, and *Etienne Brule*, often hard to open, but a perfect creamy rose when it does.

Of Col. Nicholls grand creations I shall mention only two. *Florence Nicholls* was a flower of immense size on very strong, rather dwarf stems, with a great ball of blush petals in the center almost overshadowing the guards. It was very fine.

The other one is one he is just naming, his No. 116, *Nancy Nicholls*. Tall, vigorous in growth, well appearing, free flowering, it is captivating in its dress of blush white.

Not so very different in coloring but of somewhat different form and habit is Mr. Brand's 33-83, which has been named after that outstanding grower of fine peonies *Mr. R. A. Napier*. The flower is a beautiful one and will make its name among the finer peonies.

Two others among Mr. Brand's new ones will be briefly mentioned, and they are to me two of the outstanding red peonies of recent years.

One is quite dark and almost devoid of stamens, *Mrs. Bryce Fontaine*, and the other is *W. E. Blanchette*, a great fluffy flower of glowing red with many stamens intermingled. Both of these seem to me to be worthy to be placed alongside those other superlative reds, *Longfellow*, *Mary Brand* and *Richard Carvel*.

Of Mr. Auten's new ones, few flowers can excel *Mary Auten* in delicacy of coloring, beauty of form and good habit of plant. Ed may well be proud of his daughter. To see her is to love her.

Eloise is a darker shade, a heavier grower and almost as fine a flower. Long may they both live.

For a downright good red there are few that can reach the perfection of *Tempest*. We look for a long and successful life for this one. For airy grace, delicacy of tint and charm of presence, *Dance Caprice* trips along to the top. Those of you who admire the semi-doubles can get this one with all confidence that it will not prove fickle.

Of a color that few have is Mr. Jones's *June Rose*. More brilliant than *Edulis Superba*, and with some stamens, this flower looked to me to have promise of helping to fill quite a need in the peony world.

Conquistador, *Dorothy J.* and *Ethereal* were likewise very notable flowers, though they were somewhat damaged by the cold.

Making bold spots of color and spectacular in size was Sass's *Queen of Hamburg*. Tall and imposing, this one will hit you in the eye as will the other Queen, *Queen of Sheba*, though the latter is not so tall.

Of a soft, quiet, appealing beauty *Arthur H. Fewkes* looked as though it might prove worthy of the name we have tentatively given it. The only seedling the late, beloved Mr. Fewkes ever gave from his garden that I am aware of; it is a flower that has more than an ordinary appeal to me. Several of his friends have it.

From a garden in Illinois comes one that looks as if it might prove another of those very charming semi-rose type flowers that so many of us think possess a charm only found in them. The name is *Mentor Graham* and the introducer is Mr. W. E. Lanigan, Lincoln, Ill.

For a bloom on a one-year plant, few flowers have impressed me more with their grace and pure loveliness than did *Moonglow*. Mr. Rosefield certainly chose the right name for this flower of soft moonlight.

The only Japanese flowers I shall mention are *Oriental Pearl* and *Lulu Cliffe* from Mr. Wright and *Yamagoochi* from Mr. Chase. Of varying shades of pink and different forms of centers they look very promising to me.

In the singles, *Sea Shell* and *Josette* were the pinks par excellence and Mrs. Freeborn's *Pico* still held its place in my estimation as the finest new white I have seen.

If all goes well and my rather ambitious hopes are realized, I may have to ask for some space in a later bulletin to recount my 1941 experiences. Just at present, the outlook is very promising.

Disbudding Peonies

EDWARD AUTEN, JR., *Princeville, Ill.*

Disbudding peonies usually consists only of removing all side buds from a stem in order to increase the size of the terminal bloom. Last year the importance of disbudding early was impressed upon me several times. The stems of the side buds should be only about an inch or an inch and a half long. If left until later, much of the advantage fails to materialize. On the other hand, disbudding when the buds are very small is apt to damage the bud that is left, even though it and the main stem do not seem to be wounded in the process.

Other advantages of disbudding are as follows:

1. Usually the disbudded stalk opens its one bloom ahead of those not disbudded.

2. By pinching out the center bud and leaving all the side buds, or perhaps the best three or four, a fine cluster of later blooms is secured, running more even in size than when an entire cluster blooms.

3. By leaving the center bud and only one side bud, sometimes a fine bloom will be secured, but later than when only the terminal bud is left.

4. Then to obtain the longest possible season of bloom, some stalks should not be disbudded at all.

5. In the case of a very late variety which seldom opens out perfectly, one can often get a surprisingly good bloom by leaving only the largest side bud, these often coming after the regular display of bloom is past.

Commercial cut flower growers like to have the side buds and their stems jerked off at junction with main stem. This looks better, but there is always danger of wounding the main stem, with resultant bud blasting. A safe way to disbud is to take the bud to be removed between the thumb and one finger, turn bud sidewise and then pull. This leaves the side stem still attached to the main stem, but it is usually not objectionable. If it is, the side stem can be snipped off after the bloom is out. This way, also, one need never touch the bud that is left, thereby lessening the danger of spreading blight with the fingers.

Disbudding time at my ten acres is quite an event. Of course, only a portion of the field is disbudded, but with so many kinds one has to go over the field several times. I used to hire boys only, those in grade school, but girls kept applying, and finally, after a referendum among the boys, girls were added to the force. Peace is maintained by keeping the boys in one gang, the girls in another. I found that if allowed to work together too many fights ensued, and they were not always started by the boys, either. Coming after six hours in school, a certain amount of obstreperousness seems inevitable, such as bud throwing fights, verbal matches, spilling the other fellows pail of lysol, or putting dirt into it. Among the prize offenses was that of the boy who pulled off a stalk with a perfectly enormous hybrid bud on it and started to belabor his fellows (no show bloom on that), and the boy who insisted on kicking off the label every time he finished a row (he was fired). But there is lots of good fun as well, some of the wisecracks are side splitting. They have

tried rubbing their hands in the dirt to get rid of the stickiness from the buds, but eventually decide to use the lysol solution (a spoonful to a quart of water) which they carry around with them, and half the time lose somewhere behind them.

A real love of flowers is evident among most of them, and it takes a good many blooms of *Anomola*, in bloom when they work, to satisfy the pleas for some flowers "for mother."



Increase

JAMES MASON, *Chicago, Ill.*

Here are some data on increase of young peonies during twelve months from the spring of 1939 to the spring of 1940.

I simply counted the number of stems in 1939 (small divisions planted in the fall of 1938). Twelve months later the number of stems were counted.

This is the comparison.

Variety	1939	1940	Variety	1939	1940
Mischief	4 stems	6 stems	Blanche King	2	3
Darkness	1	5	Auguste Dessert	1	5
Darkness	2	3	Mme. Ducel	1	5
Mme. de Verneville	3	10	La Lorraine	1	2
Mons. Dupont	2	4	Duchess de Nemours	1	2
Fuyajo	2	6	Nymphaea	2	3

All the above were allowed to produce one blossom each the first spring, 1939. Please note that Mme. Ducel, Darkness and Auguste Dessert as one eye infants produced a bloom each, and then proceeded to develop five eyes for the next season. They are rowdy growers.

Variety	1939	1940	Variety	1939	1940
Therese	6 stems	4 stems	Albert Crousse	2	4
Mischief	2	6	Sarah Bernhardt	6	11
Octavie Demay	1	3	Souv. de Louis Bigot	1	2
Miss Salway	1	2	Couronne d'Or	1	3
Rauenthal	1	1	Judge Berry	1	4
Avalanche	2	11	Last Rose	1	3
Mons. Martin Cahuzac	2	3	Marie Lemoine	1	3
Philippe Rivoire	1	3	Solange	4	6
Philippe Rivoire	1	3	Felix Crousse	1	4
Albatre	3	5	Mme. Calot	1	2
Auguste Dessert	3	9	Biebrich	3	4
Albert Crousse	1	3			

Of this second group, none tried to bloom in 1939 except *Therese*, which looked unusually vigorous from the start. *Therese* gave six fine stems, and produced five perfect blooms, about one half normal size. In 1940 this plant sent up only four stems, each topped by a normal bloom. not large.

In a spring planting *Mons. Jules Elie* had three stems and produced one small flower. Twelve months later it sent up only one stem, which I beheaded when the bud was about the size of a pea.

This is inadequate research but some ideas are suggested. Perhaps we should not allow spring planted peonies to bloom at all the first season. When we plant in the fall it is not harmful to the peony plant to allow one blossom the next spring.

When five blooms were produced on one plant the first season, there was a definite set-back to the plant, with a sharp reduction in the number of stems to follow in the next season.

These small divisions were planted in a very deep soil which seems to be ideal for peonies, because it is heavy, well drained and naturally rich. Three-year-old plants gave well grown blooms. Only wood ashes were added, generously, each fall. No manure or other fertilizer was used because I have virgin ground, but I shall use Vigoro, applied in May for the purpose of getting exhibition blooms. A hose will reach every part of my garden when drought threatens.



That Hobby

L. E. FOSTER, York, Nebraska

Mighty oaks from little acorns grow, and mighty hobbies from little catalogs develop. Just how a fellow catches this peony-growing fever is as mysterious as how one contracts the flu. But there is one difference. The man with the flu has a chance. He usually becomes normal, but a peony fan, never! He is a man set apart from his earth-bound fellows in a mysterious world of marvelous form and color, great expectations, and French names he cannot pronounce.

He has a library of books, bulletins, catalogs and garden charts which he mulls over all winter. At this period he becomes rational enough to write letters, burning with flower lore, to his colleagues. Spring, summer, and fall, instead of gossiping about his neighbors in good old American fashion, he is busy as a beaver in his garden, digging the rich earth, coaxing forth rich blooms which he will probably give away. He becomes drunk not with wine but with the intoxicating perfume and glory of his peonies.

No matter how full his garden is packed with the world's best, he is forever obtaining new varieties, laboring perhaps under the theory that the more he has the more enjoyment he will receive. Should he develop an origination, he, like a doting parent, calls *Le Cygne* lousy in comparison.

Sometimes he attends a National Peony Show. He spends hard cash to reach the exhibit and there for two days straight views this crescendo of color and breathes the perfume of the peonies. He talks the language of his hobby, which might be called the parlance of the petals, with his fellow florists and becomes mellow with the ecstasy of the occasion.

Should he weaken and promise to exhibit, he is as one in a delirium. For weeks he has been coddling his fields; for days cutting, tagging, and storing his choice blooms for the big event. Then for a day and a night feverishly unsacking, watering, and entering his flowers. Hard work? Much harder than a horse could do! Why? Perhaps to win a ribbon, perhaps to be a good sport, but mainly because he cannot help himself. He does not even try to defend his position. He is a peony hobbyist. He is YOU!



This and That About Peony Ratings

RALPH M. SCHROEDER, *Warrensburg, Ill.*

Why should a peony, with an almost perfect rating twenty years ago, be considered as near perfect today. I do not disagree with Messrs. Frenz and Bongers because I do not like *Le Cygne*. In my garden it does very well and I still class it among the three best whites. However, to get back to the subject, not much more than twenty years ago, newspapers refused to send reporters to see the Wright Brothers fly. WHY? Because it was impossible. My, but opinions do change! Would it not be possible that we should have a better opinion today of what a perfect peony should be?

Now from a numerical standpoint how many have stopped to think what a 9.9. rating means? Do we go out and pick 100 blooms and say that 99 of them are perfect? I think it more likely that many inferior blooms were discarded before those were selected on which such a rating would be possible. Maybe someone can explain to me how to pick a number of blooms, from any sort of plant, and say that they were perfect on all points of judging but one, and only one point off there. I am much afraid that the human factor is too much in error for that.

Mr. Bongers suggests that the sulkiness of a variety in some section should have no bearing on its rating. On such a basis I could claim that the *Delphinium* is the finest flower of all. They are almost that on the West Coast. Try raising them in the black soil of central Illinois where they surely raise fine corn. I believe that we should judge our peonies on how they perform wherever peonies do well. I am still trying to find a beautiful bloom of *Solange* (my rating? — * \mathcal{G}) in my garden. I have seen all kinds including GREEN, but none beautiful. I have seen them doing very well at other places.

Having seen *Mrs. Livingston Farrand* bloom on only one year old plants, I believe the best peony that I have seen is *A. B. Franklin*. I would rate this fine variety at about 95. Wherever I have seen it, the uniformity of quality of all the blooms on any one plant has been hard to believe. The finest single bloom that I saw last year was a bloom of *Nick Shaylor*. *President Roosevelt* is my favorite pink to date. I am still looking for the best red, but *Philippe Rivoire* will do until it comes along. Art Murawska may have it in a seedling which I liked very much last year, when very few reds were doing well.

Let's rate the peonies every ten years.

NOTE: Mr. Schroeder is growing over 100 varieties of the better peonies as well as iris and makes extended journeys all over the country at blooming time to study both peonies and iris, and is well qualified to judge either of these flowers. — EDITOR



Guilty!

EDWARD AUTEN, JR., *Princeville, Ill.*

In Bulletin 81, Mr. William Brown in an article says, "On different occasions I have noticed the claim of some American growers that their introductions of the Japanese type of Peony have far surpassed the foreign introductions of this kind."

I hereby plead guilty as follows. In my catalogue I have said that my red Japs "far surpass all the red Japs ever sent from Japan" and in the Flower Grower, "the new Japs of American origin now lead the world." I can think of no other grower who has been making such statements. I am willing to take full responsibility for my statements.

Any person has a right to like or dislike any peony he may see. I would be the last one to deny that right. But Mr. Brown's assertion that "in my belief, the only way this claim can be substantiated is by competition at the annual show of the American Peony Society," is so uncalled for and founded on such an obvious misconception that, much against my own preference, I feel compelled to make this reply.

In judging blooms at a flower show one of the most important points considered by the judges is *condition* of bloom. For instance, any competent judge would without hesitation place a perfect bloom of *Festiva Maxima* ahead of an imperfect or passé bloom of *Le Cygne*. That one factor rules a show out as the final means of appraising a variety. Plant habit, erectness of stem, sureness of bloom, freedom of blooming are not determined at a show, but they are vital points to consider.

Mr. Brown makes a summary of recent winnings at shows, and then says, "the results should convince us that we still have a long way to go before making good our claim of superiority in this particular type of Peony." Mr. Brown should realize that before a new peony is introduced it has been carefully studied in the field at blooming-time by experienced observers for from three to ten years, and compared with the well known kinds. If he will come to my fields in blooming time, I can show him Japs of American origination which I feel sure will impress him as being fairly good; and just so that there be no doubt in the matter, I will promise to show him a set of red Japs of my own origination which I have marked for discard, not so good as my named kinds, but which "far surpass the red Japs that came from Japan." I can show him white Japs in some respects better than the "incomparable" *Isani Gidui* and in total points very "comparable" to *Isani Gidui*, and just to show that they are not yet all before the public, there will be over sixty new white Japs, advanced trial seedlings, on three-year clumps from the first division. Seeing is believing.

Comments From Ohio

WALTER MAINS, *Belle Center, Ohio*

I like the enlarged size of the printed page as shown in Bulletin No. 81. You can get in an extra article or so.

The blooming season here last year was very satisfactory, although quite late. Even the early hybrids were late for Decoration Day.

Our large planting of *Alice Harding* was the most beautiful of all. It consists of several hundred plants ranging from two to ten or more years old. In our community, this variety never fails to produce blooms of the highest quality in form, color and texture.

If Mr. Frenz could have seen this planting he might change his opinion that *Le Cygne* deserves rating as the best peony.

I have a few seedlings from this variety almost identical in flower but not so good in stem. They are also a couple of days later. Have also many beautiful new seedlings, including hybrids and tree peonies.

I notice that the tree peony gives a far greater percentage of good plants than the *Chinensis*. Also find this true with the hybrids, but can't see that these red shades are as beautiful as the lighter *Chinensis*.



COMMENTS FROM OHIO

MRS. J. F. EMIGHOLZ, *Cincinnati, Ohio*

I do not agree with Mr. J. W. Frenz about the rating of *Le Cygne*. Standards of excellence vary and what would be considered a superlative variety in 1921 would not be rated as such twenty years later, when improved forms are introduced.

Iris ratings change as newer and better varieties are brought forth, and why should peony ratings be exempt? A symposium held every twenty or twenty-five years would bring the value of any variety up to date.

When I began to grow peonies, *Le Cygne* was one of the first ones purchased, because of its high rating. So far I cannot become excited about it and prefer *Kelway's Glorious*, *Alice Harding* and *Baroness Schroeder*. Peonies are grown without disbudding on our place, as that provides a longer blooming season. Many people come so late that they see only the last buds of the earlier varieties.

Attended a couple of peony shows and have no record of *Le Cygne* among the notes made on these occasions. Either I did not see it, or the bloom did not impress me. Surely a 9.9 peony should be in the limelight. Perhaps it grows better in the North.

I would like to see at the next American Peony Society show, a fine bloom of *Le Cygne*, as Harry Little grows them, placed with the newer whites, such as *Mrs. J. V. Edlund*, *Harry F. Little* and other fine new varieties, all unlabeled and known only to the grower, and have the public vote on them.

People are influenced by a name, and in this way every variety would be voted on its excellence; then we will see if *Le Cygne* holds its own.

Preparing Bloom For Exhibition

By THE SECRETARY

Those of you who have the Peony Manual are urged to turn to page 184, and if you have already read it, re-read it again. There is no one to my knowledge who can stage peonies better than our old friend Harry F. Little. This article alone is worth the price of the Manual.

Mr. Little says, "The first essential in staging good show peonies is to have well established plants from which to cut the flowers. It is not possible to get the finest blooms from young or immature plants." How true this is and some exhibitors slip up on this feature. He goes into the various phases of handling the flowers from the time the plants are developing until the flowers are taken into the show room and exhibited. After reading this article you will have facts before you that will aid materially in staging a fine exhibit. Mr. Little has helped thousands, he can help you.

If you do not possess a copy of the manual, by all means secure one at once so you will get a good start and be properly prepared to stage your flowers to the very best advantage.



CORRECTION

In a report of the Rochester, Minn., show, Bulletin No. 79, third award in Class No. 1, won by the Franklin Nursery, Minneapolis, Minn., we have reported the variety *TITANIA* as among the number, which is correct.

On page 23 of the same Bulletin in reporting Honorable Mention to this same variety it is listed as *TIRCINIA*. This was taken from the report of the Seedling Committee. I reported it in like manner in Bulletin No. 81, page 20, showing awards made in 1940.

This matter has been taken up with Franklin for verification and I find *TITANIA* is correct, and the name should be spelled accordingly. (EDITOR)



The National Peony Show of 1941

E. L. BISDEE, Syracuse, N. Y.

June 20 and 21 are the dates set for the 1941 National Peony Show, which will be staged in the new Horticultural Building at the New York State Fair Grounds, Syracuse, N. Y., next door to Harry Little's home town. Syracuse, with its population of 200,000 is a garden-minded city. This garden-mindedness reaches out to the neighboring towns whose garden clubs together with the Syracuse Clubs have formed the Garden Center Association of Central New York.

With a total membership of 700, this Association is also Flower Show minded. One of the oldest and largest of these clubs is the Syracuse Rose Society which has staged annual Rose Shows since 1911. Among the

most rapidly growing clubs is the three-year-old Men's Garden Club which has a membership of 200. Aside from the many shows staged by individual clubs, six consecutive Association shows have been held.

With this background, the Association welcomes the holding of the 1941 Peony Show in Syracuse in conjunction with its own show and the show of the Syracuse Rose Society. These several shows combined should create a true festival of flowers — The Syracuse Flower Festival by name.

Syracuse, the Rose City, is also Syracuse, the Convention City, and in June, 1941, will be host to representatives from Men's Garden Clubs from all over the country. Three days of business, pleasure, and garden "bull sessions" have been planned, with a fourth day of garden visits for those who wish to stay over Sunday. And, of course, a little social life for the ladies who accompany their lords and masters. As the slogan adopted by the national association — "More Pants in the Garden" — originated in Syracuse, it is only fitting that the Directors should have chosen Syracuse for the 9th Annual Convention of this young but lusty organization.

Men's Garden Clubs in Albany and Binghamton have enthusiastically endorsed the June meeting in Syracuse and have promised to send sizable delegations to the affair. A number of delegates are also expected to come from New York City, whose Men's Garden Club has the distinction of having among its members some of the best editors and horticultural writers of the country. All told, there will be delegations from about 40 Men's Garden Clubs attending the Men's Garden Clubs of America Convention, the National Peony Show, and the Syracuse Flower Festival.

Syracuse can provide ample accommodations for the convention, the exhibitors, and the guests. It is easily reached by train, bus or airplane. The new spacious Horticultural Building on the State Fair Grounds may also be easily reached by bus, taxi, or private car. The State Fair Boulevard (Route 43) is a four-lane highway running northwest out of Syracuse directly past the main entrance gate to the State Fair Grounds. These grounds are at the left of this boulevard and a left turn must be made to enter the main gates. At this point, the Horticultural Building may be seen directly across an expanse of lawn and ornamental flower beds.

A few of the interesting places to visit are. The Mills' Rose Garden, a rose garden of about 9000 bushes, one of the largest in the country; The Burlingham — garden of very rare Alpine plants — (both gardens in Syracuse); the Cornell Test Gardens at Ithaca; and the Jackson Perkins Test Gardens at Newark (either Newark or Ithaca are about an hour and a half's drive from Syracuse). Many private gardens in Syracuse and its surrounding towns will be open to visitors. The Garden Center Association of Central New York will exert every effort to make this Flower Festival Syracuse's greatest garden event.

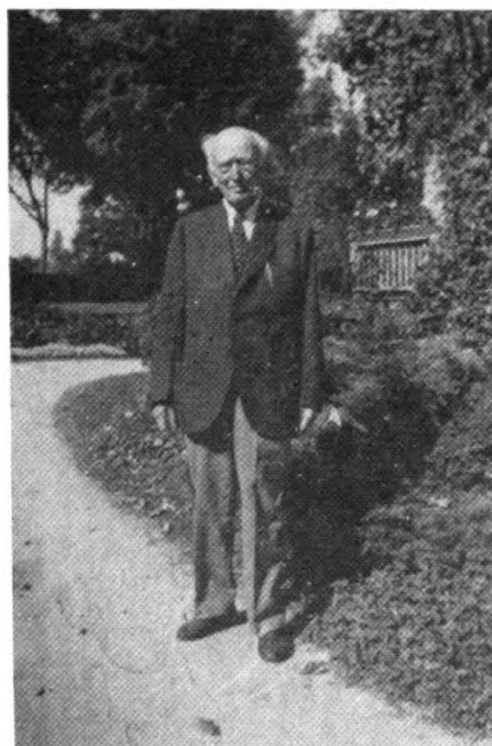


A Tribute to a Great Peony Lover

Charles W. Bunn, former General Counsel and Vice-President of the Northern Pacific Railway, died in St. Paul, January 2, 1941, at the age of eighty-five years. He was born in Galesville, Wisconsin, May 21,

1855, and in 1874 he was graduated from the University of Wisconsin. He practiced law in La Crosse before coming to St. Paul in 1885.

Mr. Bunn was considered one of the outstanding lawyers of the country and a recognized authority on constitutional law. When the Northern Pacific Railway was reorganized in 1896, Mr. Bunn was appointed General Counsel and Vice-President and held that position until his retirement as General Counsel in 1925. From 1925 to 1937 he held the position of Special Counsel.



The late C. W. Bunn

He was a great lover of flowers, especially peonies and lilacs. He maintained a summer home on Manitou Island, White Bear Lake, and here he grew his favorite flowers to perfection. Only the finest varieties were given space in this lovely garden. Mr. Bunn won many honors in the show room with his peonies. Probably his outstanding exhibit was made at the Chicago World's Fair in 1933, when he was awarded both the B. H. Farr and the James Boyd Memorial medals.

Mr. Bunn was an esteemed member of the Minnesota Peony and Iris Society. His counsel during the formative period of the Society was most valuable. His exhibitions at our Twin Cities shows have been an inspiration to us all. We have lost a friend.

L. W. LINDGREN

St. Paul, Minn., February 8, 1941

Mr. Bunn Passes On

There is something about the growing and love of flowers that seems to prolong life as is evidenced by the many members in our Society who have attained an unusually long span of life. If it does not assist in prolonging life, it certainly makes it more beautiful and worthwhile.

This is clearly illustrated in the life of Mr. C. W. Bunn whose love for flowers extends back many years. It was indeed an inspiration to talk to him, as I have on many occasions, about his peonies, and watch his eyes light up and a broad smile encompass his face as he spoke with special pride of some particular variety that was outstanding in his beautiful garden.

For many years he would bring his beautiful blooms to our shows held in the Northwest and the central part of the country. To win over his bloom was some achievement, and many aspired for this distinction alone, but often had to be satisfied with second or third honors while he carried off first prize.

We will never forget when he exhibited at Chicago during the World's Fair. He brought a large consignment of beautiful blooms to Chicago and when he reached the exposition grounds they would not permit him to enter as the guards, for some reason, did not clearly understand the circumstances and were trying to follow out their instructions not to admit anyone. Fortunately the show committee, of which I was a member, was able to get him through the gates without a great deal of delay and he was able to properly stage his exhibit and carry off first honors in the outstanding exhibits.

We missed him at the Rochester show last year and knew his health would not permit him to go to the trouble necessary to make an exhibit but did not know he was so near the end of life's trail.

One had to personally know Mr. Bunn to thoroughly enjoy him, for the general impression gained on a casual acquaintance might lead one to feel that he was gruff and stern; having a certain hardness or severity of nature or aspect of life. This, however, was far from the truth, as he thoroughly enjoyed friendly competition in the staging of his beloved peonies, and one could count as a special blessing the privilege to call him friend. His was a busy life, and in the eighty-five years he was permitted to live, he wasted not a moment.

The name of Mr. Bunn has been known to the writer for the past 40 years, as he was Vice-President and General Counsel of the Northern Pacific Railroad Company when I was a struggling stenographer in the local freight office in Minneapolis and was later promoted to private secretary of the Division Superintendent, an uncle of Mrs. Christman's, who later was made General Manager of the western division of the same road, and who recently passed away at the age of 86 years of age. I did not know Mr. Bunn personally until about 25 years ago when I met him at a local peony show in the Twin Cities.

Mr. Bunn has been a member of the American Peony Society for some years, but I always found him too busily occupied with his duties to take time off to write about his favorite flower, the peony. I am sorry that

we did not get some expression from him during his life on the peony as he was eminently qualified to prepare a most illuminating article. Had his health permitted, I know he would have gotten a great thrill out of the Rochester show last year and it is more than likely some of the winning contestants would have had to take a back seat for his display, for he was a master showman.

W. F. CHRISTMAN, Secy.



Unchangeable Ratings

It seems to me that there are two reasons why no Peony rating should be considered final and unchangeable. Progress and improvement is a fundamental factor in the present age. Since we have given *Le Cygne* a rating of 9.9 already, there is no room above that figure to place some variety which might be worthy of a five or ten per cent higher rating than *Le Cygne*. It is entirely within the limits of possibility that we may sometime obtain a variety entitled to the higher rating, if we have not already done so. If we were using a scale of total points instead of a percentage basis, this objection would not apply, for the new variety might then be rated at 105 or 110.

Now let me add that a person's opinion may change. I feel pretty certain that if those 56 people who voted an average of 9.9 for *Le Cygne* in 1921 were all alive today, and had kept up with peony progress in the meantime, their present votes on this variety would show some pretty definite change from 1921. Let's look at "pinies" and "sniff" them, and not worry too much about ratings!

EDWARD AUTEN, JR.



Department of Registration

Mrs. Mary E. G. Freeborn of Proctor, Vermont, has sent us the following description of two of her peony originations she desires registered.

RED SIGNAL (Freeborn, 1941) — Brilliant, scarlet single, officinalis hybrid. Large, firm petals with matching filaments and stigmas. Foliage distinctive, drooping to the ground. Stems upright.

RED HARMONY (Freeborn, 1941) — Large, deep crimson Chionensis single, with filaments and stigmas matching the satiny cupped petals. Foliage and stems good.



Secretary's Notes



The March issue of the Bulletin will, of course, be the last one you will receive before the blooming season of your peonies, and I am sure many of the readers of these notes will have seen a number of new ones for the first time this year. That is one thing with me that makes the dull, winter days go by swiftly, as we have great hopes for the many highly described varieties, a number of which we have in our garden, and can study for the first time. We feel quite sure some of them will not live up to their "build-up" and again we are hopeful that some will even out-shine their advance descriptions and give us a real thrill. We cannot be too hasty in making our final decisions knowing full well that they must have ample time to establish themselves thoroughly before we can pass final judgment upon them.

I have received a number of complaints that the growers of peonies ask too much for their varieties. They refer us to the rose, and gladiolus as examples. There can be no comparison in the price of a rose and a peony. From one large rose bush, perhaps a hundred or more cuttings can be taken in one season, and while not a rose man I do not believe I have overestimated this amount of propagation. From a peony plant two or three years old, perhaps 3 per cent to 5 per cent of this amount can be obtained in the way of increased stock. The same proportion could be expected with continued propagation of these two flowers that would bring this percentage down to the fraction of 1 per cent. So much for the propagation of stock of these two particular, most desirable flowers.

Nature has taken care of this feature to a considerable extent, for anyone raising roses in any quantity knows that considerable losses are experienced each season and numerous replacements are found necessary if he wants to keep his rose garden looking presentable. The hardiness of the peony enables it to withstand abuse that would ruin a rose, and while the rose can be grown in southern sections of the country where the peony is not so satisfactory, in turn we can grow the peony in the far North where rose-growing is not looked upon favorably.

Take a new gladiolus, for example. While Picardy is not new, it still remains a grand variety and one good bulb has been known to produce from 250 to 300 cormels in one season. Some of these cormels, under most favorable planting conditions and season of growth, will produce bloom the same year as planted. Those that do not bloom have increased sufficiently in size to give bloom the following season. New varieties of gladiolus are sold at prices comparing quite favorably with standard peonies and often far in excess of this amount. It does not take long to get gladiolus blubs that will produce bloom from seed.

Dahlia seed may be planted early in the spring when conditions permit, and in many cases wonderful bloom can be gathered the same season. Peony seed sometimes takes two years to germinate, depending on the

care it receives or the handling before planting. After it does germinate and produce plants, one cannot expect bloom of a typical nature before three or four (often many more) years. In a dahlia catalog received to-day I find a number of \$10.00 and \$15.00 dahlias.

We could extend this manner of reasoning for some time and consume volumes, but the final analysis could be summed up in a few words; viz. "Slowness of propagation." I am sure this point is overlooked by many when they come to compare prices of the peony with other flowers.

There are good arguments on both sides of this question and Mr. Frenz has started the ball rolling in this issue with his article. Let's have your comments both for and against this measure. It should develop some really worthwhile information. I wish we had some fancy prizes to offer for answers to the following:

To Popularize the Peony

I think peony prices should be reduced because — and then let the reasons be stated in fifty words or more.

I think peony prices should be maintained about as they are at present because — and then follow with your ideas and arguments.

I believe some definite action should be taken to get a more general planting of peonies, and here are my thoughts on the matter.

I believe some slogan could be adopted and followed out as follows:

In what manner are the growers of peonies deficient in their methods of distribution?

The above are a very few of scores of interesting viewpoints that could be discussed with profit. We will hope to get a number of papers pro and con covering the subject.

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Our June Bulletin should have many reports of local peony shows. We are aware that there are a number held throughout the country each year of which we make no report in the Bulletin. This is simply because we get no report from these shows. It is perfectly obvious that I cannot attend all these shows to get reports and will, therefore, have to depend upon our members or others to get the reports for me, so if you live in the vicinity where any of these shows are held, we would like a brief report outlining the outstanding features. You need not feel that you have to be commissioned from this office in order to do this and if you will get these reports, you will have my most appreciative thanks. If there happens to be more than one for the same show ("which is such an exceedingly remote contingency as to be entirely out of the question" — an old worn-out phrase that one of my former bosses used to use in every other letter he dictated to me), it would be an easy matter for me to consolidate them in a combination that would make an interesting report. It will not be necessary to give a full detailed report of the exhibition as we attempt to do at our annual shows, but give the highlights, the outstanding varieties and the names of the winning varieties in the various classes. I will help advertise your local show and will also show our members what progress is being made to promote interest in the peony.

Now please don't neglect to make notes when you are attending your local shows or any of the larger shows, and when you have an opportunity, write them up and mail them to me. This also applies to our An-

nual Show, as we would like many different viewpoints. We don't always see things alike and what some person might entirely overlook, another would feature.

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Under date of February 10, I received a letter from one of our members located in Iowa stating that he had just received a 1941 catalog from one of the big mail order houses listing the variety Black Beauty, stating that it received the highest rating ever awarded by the American Peony Society.

In 1924 Mr. E. J. Berneche of Portland, Oregon, named a red single Black Beauty which is now growing in the trial gardens at Urbana, Ill., and is described in the bulletin issued on this garden by the University of Illinois.

Have written this particular company and asked them where they got the information relative to rating of this peony and will await their reply. To my knowledge the peony has never been officially rated. Not having as yet seen the catalog in question, I do not know whether this is the particular variety referred to or not. Doubtless some one has renamed a peony and placed it on the market under a false misrepresentation of facts. Knowing the company's sound business principles I cannot feel that it was a deliberate attempt to mislead the public and am sure they will retract the statement. We want to see more peonies sold and distributed, but we do not want them sold under misrepresented terms or descriptions.

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Received a letter February 19 from a former member of the Society who stated she had bought an order of peonies at an annual show of the A.P.S., paid for the order, but had never received the peonies, although she had written about the matter several times. She is not now a member of the Society due to this occurrence which has just been brought to the writer's notice. We will, of course, investigate the matter and determine, if possible, where the trouble lies and try to have it rectified. It is hard for us to believe that any of our members would be guilty of such action. It is possible some impostor has been working on our peony lovers at our shows and taking money under false pretenses. This is the only case I have ever heard of, and we hope to trace it to its source before we are through with the matter. If any similar deals were "pulled off" by impostors, we want to know it and will be prepared for them at any future show.

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To make our Bulletin more interesting and attractive, don't forget to take photographs of outstanding plantings, specimen bloom or plantings of peonies combined with other flowers. Most interesting views can be obtained and if you send them in we will have a good selection from which to make up illustrations. It is expensive to do this, but we will do the very best we can as far as finances will permit.

If you have a real fine one of which you would like to have a cut made, and are willing to pay for the actual cost of the plate, we will have it made up by experts, use it in the bulletin and then send it on to you. The picture must be on gloss paper to get a good reproduction.

This issue of the Bulletin is new from cover to cover. We have had a new drawing made, and while it is very similar to what we had, we think it is an improvement. Then again, we have a new printer doing the work, entirely a new face of type, a better grade of paper, more efficient linotype operators, and best of all, no marked increase in the cost of the Bulletin. We have slightly widened and considerably lengthened the size of the printed page, permitting us to get in additional articles without increasing the size of the Bulletin and adding to the cost of mailing. We would appreciate your comments as to whether or not our efforts to improve the Bulletin meet with your approval. We do want more illustrations and will eventually have them.

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Have you invited any one of your peony loving friends to become a member of the American Peony Society? I received a letter from one of our older members who has retired from work and has felt that he must resign as a member. He did not want to do so without suggesting a peony lover as a possible member of the Society. A letter from me has secured this party as a member who will make a splendid addition to our already fine line-up of members. If you have some one in mind and are too timid to ask him, send in his name and address and we will be glad to send him a copy of the Bulletin and extend an invitation to him to join us. We are making an effort to greatly add to our membership, and I hope to be able to tell you more about it in the next Bulletin.

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What great strides science is making in developing new materials, foods, etc.! We are told that a new food from wood is being perfected. When this is done, the expression "Room and Board" will have added significance.

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I just haven't the time to write all who have remitted dues for 1941 to thank them personally, but I want to take this opportunity to thank you most sincerely.

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The Third Annual Exhibition of the Fifth Regional District under the leadership of Frank M. Drake will be held at the Garfield Park Conservatory, Garfield Park, Chicago, Ill., June 13 and 14. The trouble experienced by the heat last year will be avoided this season as much as possible. We hope to have this objection entirely overcome. Mrs. F. C. Lambert, 5445 Iowa St., Chicago, Ill., will be General Show Chairman and it is urged that all who raise peonies will make an effort to display their bloom. Ample space will be provided. This show will be held in co-operation with the Midwest Horticultural Society.

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On February 25 the annual meeting of the Minnesota Peony & Iris Society was held in St. Paul, and the following officers were elected:

President, R. C. Schneider, St. Paul, Minn.

Vice-President, Louis R. Fischer, Minneapolis, Minn.

Second Vice-President, A. M. Brand, Faribault, Minn.

Secretary and Treasurer, Mrs. H. B. Tillotson, Minneapolis, Minn.

The Peony Show of the Minnesota Peony & Iris Society will be held in the Northwestern National Bank, Minneapolis, Minn., the third week

in June. The Iris Show in St. Paul, Minn., the first week in June. No definite dates as yet arrived at.

Boston, Mass.; Van Wert, Ohio; Topeka, Kans.; Grand Forks, N. D.; Duluth, Minn.; Saskatchewan, Canada, and many other points will hold peony shows, but this office has not received notice of dates.

You will find a write-up of the Syracuse Flower Festival at Syracuse, N. Y., where the annual exhibition of the American Peony Society will be held. This is to be a grand event and promises to outshine any previous exhibition we have ever had. It is not only a peony show but a rose show and also a show of garden flowers; in other words, a three-ring floral exhibition that will give all flower lovers a great thrill.

There are many peony growers in the State of New York and adjoining states and we are expecting a great display. There will be more new peonies than have ever been exhibited at any of our shows from what we are able to learn at this time. There will also be a great display of hybrid peonies and we hope many tree peonies if the dates are not too late to hold them.

Schedules for the exhibition can be obtained from this office or from the Manager of the show at Syracuse. A schedule is enclosed with this Bulletin giving all details, showing the various classes and making it an easy manner to exhibit.

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The New Rating List in this issue will be of interest and value to all peony lovers. There will doubtless be some surprises. Several changes have been made. At a later date some of the ratings listed will be presented for a new rating as the votes at present are not sufficient to establish a definite rating. They will, however, be a fair guide to use in making selections.

Space will not permit our going into the merits of the many articles presented in this issue and we will let them speak for themselves.

We hope you will like this issue as we have gone to considerable trouble to gather the information contained therein and our members have been most gracious to supply it. Your articles will make each issue as interesting, so let them come.

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I am sure if we had a few more newspapers like *The News Champion* of Gunnison, Colorado, whose enterprising Editor, Henry F. Lake Jr., is one of our new members, there would be many more peonies planted. Mr. Lake writes me under date of January 7 in part as follows:

"Have now 150 varieties of peonies at this altitude of 7,700 feet. They are under a foot of snow and will probably get a foot or two more. Seem to do very well at this high altitude.

"Have through the newspaper (*The News Champion*) been promoting peonies for several seasons. The town has above a thousand planted, the majority of which are doing well."

Mr. Lake also advises that the temperature occasionally reaches a low of 45 to 50 below zero. They have an exceedingly dry atmosphere but often get three feet of snow. They are also promoting French lilacs and they are proving very successful in that high altitude.

I have asked Mr. Lake to give us an article for the Bulletin covering

their work there and may prevail upon him to do so at some time in the near future.

It has always been an accepted fact that the peony will tolerate very severe temperatures and come through without any impairment and produce an abundance of bloom, but it is now becoming better known that it will do very well in many points in the South where a few years ago its planting was discouraged. I have reference to Mississippi, Texas, California, and some of the other southern states. The beauty and desirability of the peony is readily recognized wherever it is grown, and while it is at its best where severe winter weather is experienced, it also gives a good account of itself in milder climates. It is now a rather easy task to select peonies for one's particular location.

It is said there is nothing new under the sun, but to this I cannot entirely agree, for constantly new things are being developed, new thoughts expressed and new problems faced, even new jokes come to light quite frequently.

Here is one that my little granddaughter, three and a half years of age, sprung on her parents the other day. She asked her mother — "Mamma, why do you say grace at the table every day?" Her mother replied, "We thank the Lord for our food, for His many blessings such as health, friends, etc." Little Georgiana hesitated a moment in thoughtful attitude and then said — "I guess the Lord don't think very much of us for I notice we are still buying our own groceries."

The Best Gift

If I should place a value on
The bounty of the earth,
Which would I say of all its joys,
Has quite the greatest worth?

Would I name education, gold,
Or fame that fortune lends?
No — this I think the best of all —
The priceless gift called "friends."

H. F. Christman

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JOIN THE AMERICAN DAHLIA SOCIETY

All Dahlia "fans" are cordially invited to join this great organization which is devoted solely to spreading information about and the improvement of the Dahlia.

Read the quarterly Bulletin, a sample copy of which will be sent on request, giving all the latest information and cultural hints on Dahlias. Membership includes the Bulletin, a season ticket to our National exhibitions and all other privileges of the society.

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Lansing, Michigan

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An exceptional opportunity to secure fine peonies will
be offered this fall as we find it advisable to reduce our
acreage.

We particularly invite users of large quantities of
peonies or those contemplating making plantings this
fall to get in touch with us at once. We will be glad to
figure with you on your requirements and quote prices
that we feel will interest you.

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GEORGE W. PEYTON
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Rapidan, Virginia

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.



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 Horticultural 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. Lelia M. Bach, 1111 E. Grove St., Bloomington, Ill.
Sydney B. Mitchell, School of librarianship, Berkeley, California.

Lantern Slides Rental Fee (to members) \$10.00. Apply to Mrs. Herman E. Lewis, 180 Grove St., Haverhill, Mass.

The American Horticultural Society

invites to membership all persons interested in any phase of gardening. As specialists in peonies you will certainly want to know about all the other sorts of plants that go into a good garden. In the quarterly NATIONAL HORTICULTURAL MAGAZINE you will find authoritative articles on many kinds of plants and superb illustrations. We can also supply a reprint of peony species, pictures only, for fifty cents. Membership is by the calendar year. The annual dues are three dollars, and should be sent to the Society in care of the Secretary, 821 Washington Loan and Trust Building, Washington, D. C.

BRAND PEONY FARMS

**of Faribault, Minnesota
333 E. DIVISION ST.**

At the 1940 National Peony Show just held at Rochester, Minnesota, and pronounced by old timers "the best show the Society ever held."

Brand Peony Farms Won

1st. in Class I, the 100 Class; 6 other first, 6 seconds and 4 thirds

Bringing to them a total of 7 Gold Medallions, 6 Silver Medallions and 4 Bronze Medallions, from the American Peony Society.

THEY ALSO WON

2 Bronze Medallions from the Minnesota Peony Society.

1 American Peony Society Medal on their new red peony, "Ruth Elizabeth."

The Dr. Christopher Graham Gold Medallion for best single in the show on their President Lincoln.

The T. E. Carpenter Gold Cup for the Grand Sweepstakes of the Show winning 115 points out of a possible 300.

And a Brand Peony—"Martha Bulloch" grown and exhibited by Mr. A. B. Franklin, was awarded "best flower in the show."

New Catalog in Colors Now Ready and Free.

We also specialize in Own Root French Lilacs, having probably the largest stock of these in the world.

AN EXCEPTIONAL OFFER

With a time limit covering the balance of 1941, the Directors of the Society have reduced the price of the Peony Manual and supplement to \$2.25 delivered. Membership for one year and Manual for \$5.00.

This is truly an exceptional bargain which should promptly place this valuable Manual in the hands of every peony lover. If you already possess a copy, secure another one for a peony loving friend or persuade them to send for one at once before the limited supply is exhausted.

There are only a few hundred copies available and this offer will be withdrawn promptly at the end of this year, or at any time before that period if available stock has been depleted to a point beyond our actual requirements.

Supplements will be prepared, which may be obtained at a nominal cost to cover preparation, printing and mailing, that will keep the Manual constantly up-to-date.

Send in your order for as many books as you can use while they are still available. All checks should be made to the American Peony Society and sent to:

W. F. CHRISTMAN, Secretary.
American Peony Society.
Northbrook, Ill.

To members who do not have the manual whose 1941 dues are paid, manual will be sent them for \$2.00.

Dealers, why not offer the manual as a premium for a certain sized order?