

AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY *Bulletin*

DECEMBER, 1942

Number 88

AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY

PENNSYLVANIA STATE COLLEGE

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W. F. CHRISTMAN, Editor
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

DECEMBER - 1942

Our President's Message

These are indeed momentous days. We have passed through one year at war, a year which has wrought a great transformation in our lives. Young men and women have joined the armed forces; men and women have changed their employment due to war demands; curtailment of travel has been imposed; in fact there have been changes in every walk of life.

Nothing definite has been decided regarding our show for 1943. Our first concern is to win the war. However, it may be possible to make satisfactory arrangements so that the show may be held. May our beloved nation and our allies have the good fortune of ringing the bells of victory during 1943.

With gas rationing in effect, many of us will have to stay at home and enjoy the blooms in our own gardens. I am sure that this will be no hardship as we may make new discoveries in our gardens. We may see chances for making many improvements and again there may be that urge to use a camel's hair brush in hopes of creating even something better than the fine blooms upon which we now feast. We are indeed fortunate in sponsoring a flower of such rapturous beauty. It seems that our varieties of Chinensis origin have reached such a state of perfection that they cannot be improved, but every year new varieties make their appearance and become "must haves".

Hybridizers are making rapid strides in the crossing of species and with third and fourth generation crosses making their appearance, I am sure we have much to look forward to. These new hybrids are most interesting and bring us a new color range. Yes, we peony lovers have much in store for us; the possibilities seem to be boundless.

I feel that I must make an appeal to every peony lover that each and every one of us do our utmost to help increase the membership in our Society during 1943. An increase in membership is of the greatest importance and we all benefit from it. With a larger membership our Society will be in a position to do things which we cannot do at present.

In closing I wish to thank all those who have cooperated so willingly to increase the popularity of the peony. Our bulletins have been interesting and instructive, thanks to our contributors.

I also wish to thank those who helped to make the Topeka show the fine show that it was, and for the hospitality accorded us. Our Secretary deserves much credit for his untiring efforts to serve the Society.

May the coming year bring health and happiness to all, and may those who have loved ones in the service be comforted by the thought that happier days are coming.

L. W. LINDGREN, *President.*
American Peony Society,
St. Paul, Minn.

How To Keep Diseases Out Of Peonies

LOUISE DOSDALL,

Division of Plant Pathology, University of Minnesota

Four different fungus diseases have been severe on peonies during the growing season of 1942 as a result of the continued wet weather. First the *Phytophthora* blight caused the sudden collapse of the young shoots, leaves and branches. During every rainy period early in the season this diseased tissue was covered with tiny spore cases which released myriads of swimming spores to be splashed or washed to new shoots or branches causing these to become diseased. These spores were also capable of attacking young lilac shoots, lilies, and many other common garden plants. Buried in the black and brittle tissue of the dead shoots are very resistant spores which will become incorporated in the soil if the diseased material falls to the ground. These spores are probably capable of remaining in the soil for many years if conditions are not favorable for their germination.

Bad Season for Disease

As the weather became warmer *Botrytis* blight made its appearance causing whole stalks to wilt and turn brown when the stems were attacked near the soil line. Buds and leaves also turned brown on other stalks. This tissue became covered with clusters of spores on short wiry stalks. These spores were blown about by the wind. Inside this diseased tissue, especially in the stems, black, resistant, bead-like bodies, the sclerotia, were formed. These will remain in the soil until conditions are favorable for their development.

During midsummer more leaves became disfigured by large purplish blotches on the upper side and brown spots on the under due to the *Cladosporium* blotch disease. Leaves and stems also became disfigured by smaller spots with bluff centers and reddish margins due to *Septoria* blight. The last three diseases attack only peonies.

Practical Control

For practical control it is not necessary to distinguish between these four fungus blights. The end result has been that many of the leaves and stems are dead and all of this tissue contains the fungi which will perpetuate the diseases in years to come. None of these diseases is new. Each has been present in many peony plantings to some extent almost every year. It is because of the excessive moisture throughout the growing season and because small amounts of diseased peony tissue were not destroyed in previous years that these diseases have been so serious this year.

The most important step in controlling all of these diseases is rigid sanitation. This means cutting down the stems in fall as close to the buds as possible without injuring them, and burning the debris. Next spring any earlier infections that appear should be cut out and burned. In most years these two measures alone will keep the diseases under control. Since there is always some *Phytophthora* blight if the weather is cool and wet while the peony tissues are soft and succulent it is advisable to spray or dust with Bordeaux mixture when the shoots are about six inches high. If the wet weather continues, repeat the treatment at weekly or ten-day periods until the flower buds begin to show color. New infections of this disease do not occur after the blooming period. However, the other three diseases do develop on the leaves and stems during the summer so that it is usually a good policy to spray at least twice after the flowers are cut.

During a wet season weekly applications may be necessary.

4 Root Rots

Phytophthora and *Botrytis* blights are often followed by root rots. In such cases it is necessary to take up the plants and put them in a new location. If the roots have been cleaned, divided, and the rotted parts cut away they

should be soaked in a one-fourth of one percent Semesan solution before replanting. The location is important. The plants should be in full sun, the soil should be well drained, and there should be good air circulation around the stems of the plants. The *Phytophthora* blight especially will be severe in a low, wet, shaded place. To make conditions less favorable for the development of the *Phytophthora* and *Botrytis* blights it is well to have two or three inches of coarse sand around the stems of the plants.

There seems to be considerable difference in the susceptibility of different varieties to these diseases. If some varieties have been diseased year after year discard them and try other varieties. When selecting varieties in a nursery buy only those with healthy foliage—*From Minnesota Horticulturist*.



Bordeaux Mixture Good Fungicide

Of the many fungicides on the market the oldest and most widely used is Bordeaux mixture. Prepared mixtures in either paste or powder form are obtainable. They require only the addition of water.

In large quantities it can be mixed at home by using 4 lbs. copper sulphate, 4 lbs. hydrated lime and 50 gallons of water. To make a small quantity mix 2 oz. copper sulphate in 1 gallon of water, in another container mix 2 oz. hydrated lime in 2 gal. of water; pour the first solution into the lime water, stirring constantly. Use within a few hours after mixing. To give more adhesiveness mix 2 oz. flour with dry lime.

One oz. powdered arsenate of lead may be added to control chewing insects, and 1 tablespoon nicotine sulphate to control sucking insects.

To make a weak mixture use one-half of the materials and the same quantity of water. This is effective against certain blights. Standard strength Bordeaux mixture may burn the leaves of some crops.



Bandit Plants of Field and Garden

By E. C. TORREY, *Saint Paul*

Dodder

While plants, bandit or beneficent, toil not neither do they spin, they have the ability and equipment, not to say the common decency, to provide for themselves—to manufacture from air, sunshine, moisture and the constituents of the soil the food that keeps them from starving and more often brings them into full flower and perfection.

Not so the dodder. Possessing neither leaves nor true roots, with no green coloring matter of its own, and with no power to store up energy and heat as found in the manufactured sugar and starch of other plants, it is a true parasite, the low down of all plants.

But it will be asked, how can a plant get a start without roots? The answer is that the seed of dodder germinates a stem but no roots, and contains sufficient food to supply the first needs of the seedling. When the seedlings, looking more like a bit of yellowish red hair than anything else, have attained a height of half a foot or more, they sway about pliantly while searching for a host plant. If they find none they soon die, but if they touch one they quickly twine about it, developing the while, tiny wart-like suckers at every point of contact.

The plant is now established. It severs its connection with the soil and thereafter "sponges" its living by drawing from the host plant the food assimilated by the green leaves of the host for its own growth. Without leaves, because it

no use for them, the whole plant is only a yellowish or reddish colored thread or string which branches freely, each branch carrying on after the fashion of the original filament.

Host Plants Limited

Fortunately, the host plants of the dodder are limited in number. In the north-west they are chiefly red clover, alfalfa and flax. Raspberry stalks, the sweet pea and certain weeds possess the quality that will support the pest. Wheat, barley and other cereals lack these elements, and such fields are not troubled by dodder.

While dodder awakens late, nearly a month after the green leaved plants on which it depends for existence have started growth, and while it lives but a single short season, it has the peculiar ability of propagating itself by broken stems as well as by its seed. A broken bit of stalk, dropped where it can seize upon a host, promptly takes hold and starts a new center of infestation. Seed of dodder is about the same size, weight and shape as the seed of clover and the twain cannot be separated. Hence it is the most to be dreaded of all impurities of clover seed. Furthermore, the seed has such vitality that it will live in the ground six or seven years.

Dodder grows so rapidly that a single plant may in one season branch and spread sufficiently to cover a square rod of ground. With a strangle hold that cannot be broken it sucks the life from clover, flax or alfalfa and binds them into a tangled mass. The damage is in proportion to the degree of infestation.

Profitable Crops Destroyed

For a decade following 1900, says A. H. Larson, a plant pathologist of the University of Minnesota, the region immediately north and northwest of the Twin Cities was the chief producing clover seed section of the state. Farmers grew clover because it increased the fertility of sandy soils and because the seed made a good cash crop. Then dodder, the despoiler, appeared, and seedsmen began to look askance at the seed supplies offered them. Farmers bought seed of each other and dodder waxed mightily, because it was sown with clover seed. One result of the widespread infestation was the marking off of this territory from the seedsmen's lists. Now they go farther north, to Beltrami, Koochiching, and other counties, for their supplies.

In fighting the dodder too much emphasis cannot be placed on the use of clean clover, alfalfa and flax seed. Infested areas should be mowed close to the ground and burned over. If fields are seriously infested, they should be plowed before the dodder seeds develop. Spraying with arsenite of soda or iron sulphate will kill the parasite and apparently the crop also, but the latter will recover and make new growth from the roots after being relieved from the strangler's grip.—*From November 1941 Minnesota Horticulturist.*



To Remove Rust

Tools, machinery and the like, when exposed to the action of the weather, and sometimes even when stored away, may become covered with rust. If it is difficult to remove these accumulations, particularly when they are in ordinarily inaccessible parts, a rust-remover, made with glycerine as a major ingredient, will often prove helpful. Recently, Dr. C. F. Mason, writing in *Chemical Industries*, described such a compound:

Oxalic acid, 20 parts; phosphoric acid, 20 parts; glycerine, 10 parts; ground silica, 50 parts.

The paste which results is placed on the rusted parts and allowed to act, preferably in a warm place, for 15 to 20 minutes. The paste can then be washed off, carrying the rust with it. —*From Wisconsin Horticulture.*

My Northern Peony Garden

By W. T. COE, Minneapolis, Minn.

The 1942 blooming season of my garden of peonies on the North Shore of Lake Superior has passed. There was no snow on the North Shore during the past winter, and as a result there were some peony casualties. Late frosts destroyed many terminal buds and the secondaries had to supply the bloom. The blooming stalks were fewer on many clumps. This limiting of the number made for larger blooms. There were no blooms until July 4th, and then only four, viz.: *Frankie Curtis*, *Silvia Saunders*, *Trails End*, *La Fee* were in bloom. Soon after that, however, the clumps began opening their flowers in rapid succession, and by July 10th fully 100 varieties were in bloom and the hillside looked like a great artist's palette. It was a riot of color.

On July 15th the blooms were at their best. On the 16th a high wind scattered many petals and the peonies passed their prime. On that day, the following varieties had not opened a bud yet: *Mary B. Vories*, *Harry L. Richardson*, *Maud L. Richardson*, *Anna Sass*, *Duluth*, *Albert Crousse*, *Enchantress*, *Fragrans*, *Irene Coe (Pfeiffer)*, *Nancy Dolman*, and *Rubra Superba*. Later, these all opened without a single bud falling.

Tourangelle, *Solange*, *Baroness Schroder*, and *Marie Lemoine* opened on July 15th. Of these, *Solange* was the most beautiful. It came perfect. *Tourangelle* was sweetly pink but the stems were delicate.

It has ever been so in this garden. For the 30 days preceding July 16th there were only two little sprinkles of rain. The roots relied on the subterranean percolating water down the small mountain chain which skirts the North Shore of Superior for its irrigation. The blooms were abundant and very large. All colors were darker than the standard calls for. There were several days of bright sunshine and high winds which were hard on the flowers.

The Queens of the Garden were *Le Cygne* and *La France*. Each had blooms 6 to 8 inches in diameter. *Sarah Bernhardt*, *Martha Bulloch*, *Grace Batson*, and *Walter Faxon* were close rivals. Neeley's *Trails End* is an outstanding early pink and *Liberty Bell* an unusually fine pink midseason.

There were 23 new varieties of Sass, Neeley and Franklin that were in their second season of bloom. Each had from 4 to 10 flowers of much beauty and quality. Of the Sass production, *Queen of Hamburg*, (pink) *Apollo*, (blush white), *Mt. Everest*, (pure white), *Queen of Sheba*, (deep pink), *Caroline May Nelson*, (pink), and *Jap Beauty* a charming little floriferous red, with delicate edgings of gold, were very meritorious.

Mr. Franklin's, *Acme*, *Chief* and *Crusader* are varieties that will make a name for themselves in the peony world. *Duluth* is a very high grade late white. Three of Franklin's unnamed seedlings, especially *E 41*, are splendid flowers. I regret that Sass's *Evening Star* did not bloom.

The Neeley varieties are much diversified. Mrs. J. H. Neely, very late, is a splendid flower. It was floriferous with five flower stocks 42 inches high, topped with blooms 6 to 8 inches in diameter. The outer petals are broadly striped with red. It is his best and there is none better. *Lotus Cup* is remarkable. When cut it resembles a great Lotus flower and not a peony at all.

Delight and *New Delight* are very unusual. *Matchless Beauty* is what the name implies.

Many of these new varieties bore blooms 7 to 8 inches in diameter in their second years. Much can be expected when the clumps develop.

I planted some forty varieties in 1941, most of which did not bloom. As I write this article, three great blooms produced by my classmate A. M. Brand stand in a vase before me, *Martha Bulloch*, *Mary Brand* and *David Ha*

Martha is eight inches in diameter. *Mary* is seven inches, and *David* as large as a tea plate. The blooms lasted until August tenth.

The very last to bloom were *Nancy Dolman*, *Enchantress*, *Fragrans* and *Rubra Superba*.



Consider The Peony

God is lighting up the garden
When the pineys start to bloom.

So writes the "Plain Dirt Poet", whose vocation and avocation is growing this beautiful perennial. In June it certainly does "light up the garden" with masses of bloom, some nine inches in diameter and many delightfully fragrant. This is the modern peony, developed in recent years by the painstaking work of hybridizers and as yet not fully appreciated by garden lovers. Among these originations are huge glistening whites, some tinted ivory or cream or bewitching blush whites in various formations, many resembling mammoth roses. *Kelways Glorious*, admired for its form and fragrance, is a good representative of the white company. The pinks are well represented, light and dark and intermediate shades. *Mrs. Livingston Farrand*, a recent introduction, stands at the head of the pinks. *Walter Faxon* is another exquisite pure pink that has been a favorite for many years. If you prefer red or crimson the selection is ample. *Karl Rosefield*, an inexpensive variety, is a very bright crimson with very little blue in it and a universal favorite. The darkest red of all, sometimes called the black peony, is *Mons. Martin Cahuzac*. This is a favorite with the men. There are several near yellow peonies, *Primevere* and *Laura Dessert* being popular.

Not only are peonies beautiful in color and petal formation but also in their widely varying types. Single peonies with their graceful wide spreading petals surrounding a spun gold center make charming bouquets as well as effective garden decoration. *The Bride*, adorned in her shimmering gown of white, is a good example. The fluffy semi-doubles brightened with colored stamens interspersed among the petals appeal to those of artistic temperament. The Japanese type is unusual and decorative with its curiously twisted and multi-colored staminodes, surrounded by a ring of gaily colored petals. *Mikado* with its waved cupped petals of dark dull crimson is the most popular of this type.

Not only do peonies reward the gardener with a wealth of beautiful bloom but they are the joy of the amateur by reason of their hardiness, comparative freedom from disease and insect pests, ease of culture and adaptation to different kinds of soil. Its will to live and bloom under adverse conditions and the decorative value of both plant and flower make it one of the "must haves" of the garden. The peony does not become bedraggled and unsightly when its blooms fade. Snip off the seed pods and watch the autumn tints make your peony row a thing of beauty. From the time they push their ruddy noses through the loam until Mr. Killingfrost breathes his chill breath they help to make your garden look vernal.

Fall is the best time to plant. Directions for planting are simple. Make a hole large enough so that the roots are not crowded. Stir a handful of steamed bone meal into the hole. Have it deep enough so that the eyes are not more than two inches below the surface. Heap a cone-shaped mound of dirt over your plant. Level this off in the spring. This protection is necessary for the first season only. Don't plant them too near big trees or shrubbery or where the water stands on the ground for a part of the year. Do not remove and burn the tops until they are dead and dry.

Mrs. Alice Harding in her book on Peonies says, "If I had only ten square feet of garden I would plant a peony in the middle of it and proceed to worship."

When the wintry days are over
 And the robins start to wing
 Past the swiftly melting snowbanks
 And the Mistress of the Spring
 Wakes again her cradled children
 In their cradled sleeping-room,
 Then you know the time is coming
 When the pineys start to bloom.

ERNEST FLINT KELSEY,
 For the Marilla Garden Club.



Comments

COMMENTS FROM CANADA

O. A. KUMMER, *Preston, Ontario*

Accepting your invitation for an article for the December issue of the bulletin I am taking the liberty of contributing something which probably may look better in a Horticultural publication than in the American Peony Society Bulletin, yet I believe all peony enthusiasts are flower lovers and are sufficiently interested in hearing what others are doing to keep the public flower minded.

The holding of Flower Shows and exhibitions is one of the features of our local Society, holding three main exhibitions during the season, namely Peony and Rose Exhibit, Annual Flower Show and Dahlia and Gladiolus exhibition.

Besides three main exhibitions we stage window displays, staging the bloom in a window given over to us for this purpose by our local merchants; and I may say there is keen competitions as to who shall donate the window. These window displays, or shows, are usually made up with seasonable bloom, commencing with tulips and including, as the season advances, delphinium, lilies, roses, peonies, Summer annuals, dahlia, gladioli and late Autumn bloom.

Our Peony Show is a real feature for a local society and is quite outstanding, as many as one thousand to fifteen hundred bloom are on exhibition, and this year in some sections, as high as seven were competing. The entries numbered over one hundred and seventy-five. The exhibition is open to anyone who desires to show, with no entry fee charged, and is usually judged by a competent judge when silk ribbons are awarded for first, second and third prizes.

This show lasts two days, usually Friday and Saturday. No admission is charged and it is viewed by hundreds of our citizens. One of our local garage owners donates his show room for the purpose, which is ideally situated for the purpose.

We believe this exhibition is a good advertisement for us and the merchant, and gives our local people an opportunity to see the peony at its best. This year, 1942, the writer turned over his garden to the local society at peony time when a Garden Fête was staged. No admission was asked to visit the garden and view the bloom which were at their best, though the weather might have been more favorable, yet for the societies' efforts \$31.00 was contributed by the scores who entered, which amount was turned over to the British War Victims fund.

Our local flower show in August is usually very good and this year was exceptional with gladiolus being predominant in the cut flower section. As many as fifteen hundred entries were in competition. Included in this were school children's exhibits of school work and flowers and vegetables grown by them.

Our dahlia and gladioli exhibition was good, though gladioli were a bit below the average as it was rather late for them, though we had some eighty entries altogether, with some wonderful fine dahlias from the wee pompoms to the massive decoratives as large as dinner plates.

We concluded our Summer activities with a wonderful fine indoor display of Autumn bloom and dahlias in one of our local furniture dealer's large show windows. This proved to be the finest show window of the season and was a fitting climax to a very active and successful season.



COMMENTS FROM SOUTH CAROLINA

WALTER B. MEACHAM, *Fort Mills, S. C.*

"It is a healthy idea, ever so often, to hang a question mark on the things we have long taken for granted," but to accuse our Judges of "being a closed corporation of breeders charged with grave responsibilities and misdemeanors," is most unfair.

Ninety-one years ago, Mieliez introduced *Festiva Maxima* and today it is the largest planted and best loved of all. Thirty-five years ago, Lemoine gave us *Le Cygne* and *Solange*. Thirty-four years ago, Kelway gave us *Glorious* and Dessert gave us *Therese* in 1904 and *Tourangelle* in 1910. Three Frenchmen and one Englishman and it is around their introductions the battle rages. This being the case, how can we accuse our Judges of prejudice in their own behalf when the very ones we accuse have consistently voted "top honors" to foreign introductions by foreign masters long since dead.

In all Nature, perhaps the Peony is the slowest to produce. From a seed to a truly specimen plant requires from six to ten years, and one is not privileged many spans of this duration. So far, we have only Reds and Whites with their intermediates, which, both we and nature have failed to "break." Roses, Gladiolas, Iris, Orchids and countless others have had their break and sport colorings that rival the rainbow, yet, Mother Nature continues to withhold her palette of colors, waiting, no doubt to bestow on the Peony her greatest triumph.

Year after year, our modern master and accused judges, from Andrews to Wister, present the results of their labors. They know Peonies far better than I, yet, I have never heard their claim of perfection or finding fault with our present ratings. Each year, they and countless amateurs are making it more difficult for *Glorious*, *Le Cygne* and *Therese* to retain their well earned crowns, which, I am sure, will be graciously surrendered to the new victor, who, perhaps is yet unborn.

There are many good Peonies, each with a certain characteristic of its own and has ardent supports whose personal preferences makes many honestly prejudiced. Far from me to say all varieties advertised or introduced are good or even fair. Out of the many hundred named varieties, many could be discarded on account of similarities, but in discarding there is the probability of destroying a blood line that might be the exact combination of heredity for which we strive. That these lines will be caught up there is no doubt, perhaps in a year, ten years or a century. It may be in a garden of many hundred varieties, or some amateur will be privileged to find a seedling that will herald the break for which we are all waiting.

Seventeen years ago, I, like countless others, purchased my first peony collection -- "three for a dollar." Since that time I have paid from twenty dollars to twenty-five cents for "three to five eye." (I have never received a five eye) and I have several hundred plants in almost as many varieties. With me, the old maxim, "The fairest flower is the first to fade" is literally true. If I were permitted to make a suggestion, it would be to designate a good cut flower. Most lists fail, but with me I rate a "CUT" -- tops, and any variety, regardless of its high or low rating that stands up to room temperatures for days or holds its color in the sun, is my highest rating. I can cut two dozen blooms from

certain varieties of medium to low rating that will stand up fresh from three to five days and a similar number from many of my highest ratings never recover from the shock and lose their freshness in a few hours. *Cathedral* (8.1) a unique bloom, is good for nearly a week, *Asa Gray* (8.1) holds up equally as well as do many others, while *Glorious* and *Therese*, whose delicate shadings are unsurpassed for a very few hours after opening, fade quickly. Were I limited to only one variety, without a doubt it would be *FESTIVA*. I have seen it everywhere I go, even in old gardens forsaken for years. On old plants it will produce three distinct varieties of blooms, flat full double, bomb and crown, some without markings, other splashed with varying amounts of crimson. If she only had the stem of *Le Cygne* to support her massive head.

As to fertilizers and cultivation,—I find the most important information, is omitted, viz., type of soil, precipitation and temperatures. Certain varieties do well in certain locations and fail miserably in others, for the same reason California oranges will not grow in Florida, and this should be self evident, as no two soils are alike and generally the person giving information is correct in so far as his particular soil and climate needs the deficiencies supplied by the particular fertilizers they recommend, but to advise the use of a certain fertilizer as a universal plant food is erroneous. My experience with a heavy clay overlaid with several inches good brown top soil, an annual temperature variation from 95 to 25 degrees with an annual precipitation of sixty-two inches fairly well distributed,—any well balanced neutral fertilizer such as *VIGORO*, and I use it liberally. In the Fall, I scatter from one to ten pounds (fine ground) Bone Meal to each plant, depending on size. In the Spring when plants are several inches high I use *VIGORO* liberally and work in well, followed in a couple of weeks with (commercial) *POTASH*, and during a rain spell, I scatter builder's lime around each plant. I have very little trouble with Blight which I easily control by burning all diseased stems and spraying with Bordeaux, and strange to say, my reds have been the only varieties so affected. I never permit but one bud to the stem and each stem that fails to produce a bloom bud, I cut back one-half. I never cut more than half the blooms from large plants, on small plants from three to five blooms, I may cut one, never more.

As for labels,—I purchase from the Drug Store standard "Lip Vials" in one dram size, the vial used by Doctors for blood specimens. They are one and a half inches long and half an inch in diameter complete with stoppers and cost me \$1.25 per gross. I cut the stoppers flush with the mouth of the vial, then cut a small angle just large enough to insert the end of an eighteen inch length of regular No. 10 galvanized telephone wire. I seal the end where the wire passes through the cork with parafine wax to exclude moisture and find this the cheapest and most satisfactory way of keeping varieties by name. They are large enough to hold the printed descriptions as usually contained in catalogues and by numbering each vial, using permanent ink or record typewriter ribbons, descriptions, habits and blooming dates are easily kept and through the years prove most interesting. Inserting the wire as close to the center as possible, leaving about a foot from the ground to the top of the vial, they are inconspicuous, low enough not to punch you in the face and no amount of rain or mud can damage them. The first I put out years ago are now in the middle of large plants, and when foliage is cut in the Fall I can always tell where the center of the plant is.

Each year I gather and plant all seed as soon as the pod begins to open. I keep no record of these plantings whatsoever. Many have bloomed, several have produced blooms different from anything I have in my garden, but so far, nothing outstanding. Each year I select pollen from a particular plant and attempt to pollenize every other plant with this same pollen. It is a long, tiresome, tedious

job, but who knows, even I may challenge the winners, or, some other rank amateur that plants his seed and smears his brush of pollen. Sure, I am not satisfied with our present Peonies or their ratings, but I am not complaining because I have nothing better to offer, but I am trying to do something about it in my own humble way and the more I try, the more respect I have for Mieliez, Lemoine, Kelway and Dessert, not to mention our modern masters from Brand to Vories.



COMMENTS FROM WISCONSIN

LOUIS R. POTTER, *Milwaukee, Wis.*

I have been away most of the winter in Mexico, so I didn't get around to my garden until now. There is one thing which has been running through my mind for a number of years and which seemingly has bothered the peony nursery men and all other peony lovers considerably, but no one seems to have done anything about it. The problem is this:

There are so many peonies which are lovely but which are erratic in so far as growth and bloom are concerned. *Le Cygne* is a good example of that. Another is *Madam Gaudichau* and another is *James Kelway*, and still another is *Reine Hortense*. There are many others amongst the finest that seemingly have the same difficulty. This condition existed as far back as I have been growing peonies, that is, that it was a known fact that certain peonies were poor do-ers but no one seemingly has tried to remedy the situation. All each one has done is to wait for the next year in hope that a good bloom will come on the plant.

I remember how Mr. George W. Peyton remarked about the peony *Odile*. His patience is typical of peony lovers, but neither he nor any other peony lovers should be compelled to go through any such ordeal. To my mind there is no such thing as an erratic, poor-blooming, or poor-growing peony. Every peony will grow to the best of what it has shown at any time if put in the proper place under certain conditions. The thing which must be done is to experiment.

For instance, I have had *Le Cygne* for a number of years. It didn't do well for me. I thought the plant was a good one so I bought three more and planted them in different places. For a number of years only one did well; the others were erratic. The one that did well still does well. I have had bloom, not so many, but everyone perfect. Seemingly that is the only *Le Cygne* in its proper place. The soil in this particular spot is very limy and contains medium clay mixed with sand and gravel. It gets plenty of water but is always well-drained because of the nature of the soil underneath.

I have had this particular one clump of *Le Cygne* growing side by side with a clump of *Kelway's Glorious*, and *Priscilla Alden* for six years. For the past three years I have regularly gotten perfect bloom from all three of these. *Kelway's Glorious* will do well anywhere, of course, but *Priscilla Alden* from what I heard is erratic. Yet the *Le Cygne* and *Priscilla Alden* in this particular spot both have done themselves proud.

Now possibly that is not the best spot for *Le Cygne*. A better spot may be found. But what applies to *Le Cygne* applies to all other peonies. Find the spot for them and they will do well. The only way you can find the spot, of course, is to keep on trying. If the particular peony doesn't do well in one spot, it should be tried in two, three, or even four other spots, and once the right one is found, then all the divisions of that particular peony should be put in that place.

I mentioned *James Kelway* and *Reine Hortense* because years ago I found that each had to be in a different soil--*James Kelway* in a light soil, *Reine Hortense* in a heavy soil. I think someone remarked about that in one of the annuals many years back, but didn't it occur to the peony lovers at that time that if those two

particular peonies had their dislike for all but one kind of soil, that all other peonies, except the most vigorous, had their similar dislike?

I said before that *Kelway's Glorious* would grow anywhere and do well, but even *Kelway's Glorious* has its best soil. I found that *Kelway's Glorious* did much better in an extra heavy clay after a couple of years than did any other *Kelway's Glorious* in any other soil. The color of the bloom was richer and more intense; the bloom was a bit more perfect and the stems were much heavier.

In this connection I did something else three years ago. By chance I tried it again last year and found it to be true. I tried it out only on one peony but it may work on others. The peony in question was *Adolphe Rousseau*. It had heaved up very slightly over the winter with the result that its crown was even with the top of the soil. The shoots were up about four inches when I noticed the condition of the plant. I mounded more loose, medium heavy soil to within one inch of the top of the shoot all around and packed it by hand fairly well. The plant grew thereafter but was about a week late in coming into bloom in comparison to the other of my clumps of *Adolphe Rousseau*. To my surprise, however, although the bloom was just as large as any mature bloom on *Adolphe Rousseau*, the four shoots which did bloom all bloomed fully double, as double as *Felix Crousse*.

I tried the same thing again last year on another *Adolphe Rousseau* which had heaved up and had the same result. I wonder if that will work on all other peonies of a semi-double or almost single nature in the same way, and I wonder what effect it will have on fully double peonies.

While it is true that some plants have to be coddled, it seems to me that if, when coddled, they bring a very fine result, they are worthwhile. Certainly it isn't worthwhile coddling a plant which is not high grade.

Soil does seem to make a difference with peonies, first, as to color, and next as to vigor. Here is an extremely interesting experiment in connection with this.

Mignon without exception suffers from the so-called Lemoine's disease. In spite of such disease it blooms sparsely. The hot water treatment did not help this particular peony. I planted it in medium-heavy clay and for three years it did beautifully and performed much better than before. I then planted it in very heavy clay and in three years the six plants that I put in grew smaller and smaller with the result that I have now roots about an inch long, tiny infinitesimal, clean plants. I planted these in a medium clay last week because that is when I dug them up to examine them, as they had come out of the ground only about a half inch. They are like tiny little seedlings but they are genuine. What they will do now that they are reborn as clean infants is something I don't know.

This whole thing is related to you to give you an idea of what relation soil has to the peony or to any other plant for that matter.

Also, I find that when old divisions are cut up, they must be planted a little higher in a medium clay than younger divisions. They must not be planted in loose soil because being a bit weak because of age, they are very susceptible to nematodes. I find from experience that thus planted and heavily mulched the first two seasons that by the fourth season they are good, vigorous young plants again.

A dry summer and an erratic winter, of course, will raise havoc with divisions from old plants or even small divisions from young plants.

Speaking of *L'Etincelante* and some of the Japs, you must bear in mind that these particular peonies generally have a hard top crown which never rots, and consequently, these peonies never become old, as the crown on a ten to fifteen years from division plant is no different than the crown on a plant two years from division.

I wouldn't call these varieties temperamental. They require certain

They are like human beings whose blood has become thin from living in one climate and who, transplanted to an entirely opposite climate, don't do so well there. When transplanted back to their own or similar climate, they immediately perk up. In view of the fact that no field or garden is wholly of the same soil, it seems a simple thing to experiment on different soils with peonies which are poor do-ers to see if a different soil is the answer. In my experience on a number of occasions I have found that to be so.

Regarding Mexico, I have made many a trip there. I go every year, either once or twice. The country is both interesting and beautiful. Everything is different. It is always a pleasure to go there, and it is always a pleasure to come back home and realize that you are an American.

I read with much interest the article by Mr. Roy G. Gayle in the December, 1941, bulletin and have waited up to now for a reply. Mr. George W. Peyton's reply in the March bulletin regarding the 1939 rating list is very appropriate and much to the point.

The following comment is in addition, not in subtraction to what he said there:

It seems to me that the reason that Mr. Gayle and so many others can't comprehend why there should be less than ten votes ten years after a peony has been distributed by the originator, or the nursery man, is due to the fact that Mr. Gayle and those thinking like him have overlooked the fact that no peony gives a perfectly true bloom to the best of its ability until it has been in the ground in the best spot for it at least five or six years. Very few of those who purchase new, fine peonies allow the original division to remain in the ground that long. Generally they are allowed in three years and then divided and again after another three years they are divided again, with the result that the bloom is never at its best, although it has shown enough at the end of three years to tell the owner thereof that the peony is high grade and is worth-while dividing and having more of.

It is a very difficult thing to find many people who have had any certain peony or peonies growing under ideal conditions in the same spot for six years or more. Consequently, it is always going to be difficult for the American Peony Society or any other organization or group to obtain at least ten votes for any good variety.

There is a solution to this problem, however. Peonies which have merit and on which there are less than ten votes should be planted in a number of test gardens throughout the country. After being in these gardens for six years, they should then be appraised for rating purposes. Only in this or some similar way will you ever be able to correct the apparent but not actual difficulty which exists with the rating now.

Furthermore, inasmuch as experts, people who know peonies and know bloom and their value, voted on the particular peonies rated, it seems to me that a vote of three or four is a vote of thirty or forty. The only difficulty with less than ten voting occurs when a new peony comes out which is much in demand. It is then cut up and divided so much that quite often even in six years it does not show at its best by way of bloom and otherwise as to such particular peony no true rating can be given even at that time.

One such I have in mind is *Mrs. Edward Harding*. Certainly, that should be re-rated. It never had a fair test. Undoubtedly, there are others such.

In closing let me say to those that doubt the efficacy of the ratings as made, that it might be well for them to try to get a better result. I doubt if it could be done, unless the raters were on a continuous go with fast automobile or airplane and could go from garden to garden throughout the country to find the peonies that yielded at their best. This would entail a tremendous amount of expense, a great deal of time, and even that wouldn't satisfy everybody because of the many factors which enter into the growing of a peony, all of which have been covered in Mr. Peyton's article.

Winter Resorts of Some Common Garden Pests

E. I. McDANIEL, *East Lansing, Mich.*

The following insects are particularly destructive on small plantings and a careful clean up of crop residue even now will materially reduce the numbers ready to attack our garden crops next season.

Cabbage aphid: Winters in egg state in cabbage stump left in the field after harvest.

Tarnished plant bug: Winters as an adult tucked away under leaves and dry vegetation along the edges of gardens and fields. The eggs are usually laid in weeds early in the spring and winged adults appear on cultivated crops in early summer.

Garden flea hopper: Similar in habits and life history to the tarnished plant bug, seems to prefer its wild hosts to cultivated plants, but occasionally it migrates into gardens and is capable of doing much damage.

Squash bugs: Winter as young adults under boards, stones, and in the same quarters frequented by the tarnished plant bugs. Immature nymphs will complete their development on green squash or pumpkin left in the field. If crop residue of this character could be removed from the field and destroyed immediately after harvest, the population of this pest would be materially reduced.

Squash vine borer: Winters as a pupae for the most part in the soil. Many immature larvae are present in the vines even after frost. Immediate destruction of the vines after harvest pays dividends and a clean up now is good practice.

Common stalk borer: The slim larvae with stripes running lengthwise cut by a band on the front quarter, winter in the egg stage on weeds along the edge of the garden.

Iris borer: Winters in the egg stage on the foliage of iris; trim your foliage early next spring to dispose of the eggs.

Columbine borer: Winters in the egg stage on the soil immediately under infested plants. Careful cultivation of the soil will eliminate many eggs.

Corn borers: Winter as mature larvae in weeds and corn stubble. Where corn stubble and infested weeds are plowed under before the middle of May, these over-wintering individuals will not be a problem.

Onion maggots: Winter as larvae or in pupal stage in cull onions left on the ground around storage or in fields. The proper disposal of all culls will materially reduce the maggots population for 1943.

Mexican bean beetle: Winters as an adult beetle. They are gregarious and congregate in protected dry retreats along fields and gardens.

Potato flea beetle and a number of its close relatives winter as adults under rubbish in quarters very similar to those selected by the tarnished plant bug as a winter resort.

In other words, it is practical to practice good housekeeping in and around your garden—and next year, if possible, move your garden site as far as possible from the old plot—crop rotation in the garden pays dividends in the garden just as it does in farm practice.

Clean up and rotate.—*Horticultural News, Michigan Horticultural Society.*



Good Bulletins

HARRY L. SMITH, *Redkey, Ind.*

Every issue of the A. P. S. Bulletins are interesting, but I liked the last two, especially for the cuts of bloom and pictures of so many of "Who's Who" in the American Peony Society. Many of us know these people by reading their articles

in the Bulletin; some of us know them by correspondence and some by personal contact, and it is good to see their pictures.

I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Peyton and several others of the peony celebrity at Van Wert and Paulding, O. this year as Mr. Peyton was on his pilgrimage to the National Show.

I saw many beautiful bloom of the newer varieties. Dr. Neeley and Mr. Auten's varieties were very attractive in Mr. Bonnetwitz's fields. A bright spot one hundred yards away caused me to investigate and I learned it was *Hari-ai-nin*. At Paulding, the bloom I liked best were *Lottie Dawson Rea*, *George W. Peyton*, *Nick Shaylor*, *Mrs. W. L. Gumm*, and *Edith E. Gumm*.

Denise Debatene, while not as fine a finished flower as others, made a fine showing.

We beginners should not be too discouraged if we cannot have the newer introductions, for many of the older ones are still very desirable. On my way home I passed a planting of about one acre and a few plants near the road caused me to slow down for a better look. These bloom of maize or buff in the light of a setting sun, were held high on good stems. The farther I drove the more I wished I had investigated and after fifteen miles I did turn back and found the owner and learned they were *Lamartine* (*Lemoine* 1908) and another row of an old variety with bloom almost as exciting as some of the aristocrats, was none other than *Rosa Bonheur*. Some buds of these opened on my display table were quite as attractive as anything else I have. So it is not always the latest introductions that are best. If many of the old varieties had been introduced recently, they too would command a high price and a half page in the bulletin, and justly so.

I think the finest plant I had this year was a four year old *Marietta Sisson*. Fifteen of the sixteen buds opened to full bloom the same day. We beginners will profit by going to the fields to make our selections.



A Description of Certain New Peonies of Sass, Neely and Franklin

W. T. COE, Minneapolis, Minn.

In my garden on Lake Superior, on July 14, 1942, I made the following estimates of certain peonies in their 2nd year's bloom.

My
Estimate

- 9.1 *Mt. Everest*, (Sass) 30 inches tall, white with slight cream shade, strong stems, 4 large flowers.
- 8.8 *Liberty Bell*, (Neeley) 36 inches, pink, loose flowers showing some stamens, floriferous, 11 flowers. Stands up well, slight fragrance. Fine spot of color in the garden.
- 9.1 *Apollo*, (Sass) 30 inches, white with pink center, full double, but a little flat, slight fragrance. Strong stems. Stands up well. Blooms large. 4 flowers.
- 9.2 *Queen of Hamburg*, (Sass) 36 inches, light pink showing some red. No perfume. 4 very large blooms. Very choice. Strong stems.
9. *Matchless Beauty*, (Neeley) 24 inches. White, slightly yellow in centre. 5 large flowers, no perfume. Stems strong.
9. *Milady*, (Franklin) 15 inches, white, pink center, 3 blooms. Large and fine. Stems strong. No fragrance.
- 9.3 *Chief*, (Franklin) 36 inches, white, pink center. 4 large blooms. Only two left. 8 inches in diameter. Strong, vigorous plant. Slight perfume. Very choice peony.

Damaged Peony Plants

DR. JOHN L. CRENSHAW, *Rochester, Minn.*

As a result of the severe storm of Armistice Day, 1940 I lost a great many peony plants, and there were many others that in '41 and '42 put up only three or four shoots where there had been twenty-five or thirty. In the spring of '42 four of these plants, that is two of *Le Cygne* and two of *Priscilla Alden*, in addition to the sprouts which came up directly from the crown sent up additional shoots from lateral roots, some of which were 2½ ft. away from the crown. Upon digging down on these unusual sprouts I found that they came from lateral roots ten or twelve inches under the ground with but little or no crown formation. Those sprouts that bloomed were true to type. Apparently this is another attempt of nature to perpetuate a plant where serious damage has been done to threaten its existence.

In the spring of '42 there were about one-half dozen seedling peony plants that had been transplanted the fall before that were cut off at the ground by cut worms, and I naturally supposed that that was the end of them. Later in the summer, however, in looking over the rows, I was astonished to find that each plant that had been cut off had put up several minor sprouts from the original stalk and looked as healthy as if nothing had happened to them.



French Names

DR. JOHN L. CRENSHAW, *Rochester, Minn.*

While I have some knowledge of the French language, it is very hazy and far from accurate and I have often wondered as to the exact name of some of my French peonies. Consequently, when I recently had the opportunity to go over the list with a French relative, I got her to give me the translation of many of them and a check on those that I thought I knew. As there are doubtless many readers of the Bulletin who have wished for the same information as I did, I am enclosing the translation as applied to Lindgren's color list, and I believe it is fairly accurate:

Alesia—Alice; *Couronne d'Or*—Crown of Gold; *Enchantresse*—Enchantress; *Le Cygne*—The Swan; *Franchiseur*—Freshness; *Odalisque*—Harem Dancer; *La Tendresse*—Tenderness; *Libellule*—Dragon fly; *Odile*—proper name; *Solange*—proper name—"The chosen one"; *Tourangelle*—a female native of the French Province of Tourain; *La Fee*—The fairy; *La Fontaine*—The fountain; *La Perle*—The pearl; *La Tulipe*—The tulip; *Mignon*—proper name—"Cute"; *Lamartine*—French poet; *Benoit*—proper name; *Le Jour*—The Day; *Perle Blanche*—White Pearl; *Tarantelle*—Italian dance; *Torpilleur*—Torpedo; *L'Etincelante*—Brilliant.



Renaming Peonies

GEORGE W. PEYTON, *Rapidan, Va.*

Near the bottom of page 48 of Bulletin No. 87, June-September, 1942, we find this sentence: "A friend of mine in Fargo has a good suggestion. She has changed the name of her *Mikado* peony to 'MacArthur'. Perhaps we should rename some more of our Japs."

I hope Mrs. Kannowski will pardon me for most emphatically disagreeing with her.

About forty years ago this Society was founded, and one of its main objects was to put a stop to the habit of renaming peonies, which had become so general that some varieties were being sold under as many as twenty-four different names. The Society spent much time and money in establishing the Cornell Test Garden to identify and correctly name all varieties then known, and succeeded.

When Japanese varieties were first introduced, some misguided individuals, both in Europe and in this country, attempted to rename them, resulting in more confusion, which led to the establishment of the Urbana Test Garden, whose work has not been altogether completed yet.

America has kept sane in music, as Deems Taylor so well pointed out in his December 6th broadcast. Let us not be less sane in peonies.



Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt (Franklin, 1933)

This peony rates 9.4 and as the picture indicates it is a beautiful creation. A full double, with extra long, loose petals of soft rose color. Of large size, exquisite form and attractive color. A good grower and free blooming variety. Won H.M., A.P.S., Des Moines, 1932. First Class Certificate, Chicago, 1933.



Secretary's Notes



There is one thing that should be uppermost in our minds at present and that is that we are at war. As I am writing these lines this fact is indelibly impressed upon me as I gaze out into the night and observe that the skies are lighted up with many powerful rays of high powered search lights as they scan the skies in every direction for an elusive object in the form of an airplane that has stealthily made its way into the upper strata in an effort to avoid, if possible, detection by these alert observers stationed at a near by naval and army base. However, these searchers of the skies were not to be denied for long the object of their attention, for soon the ship was detected and suddenly all the lights were focused upon the object, making it an easy target for the aircraft gunners at their various posts.

While we are thousands of miles from the battle front in Europe, Africa and the far flung islands of the Pacific, we daily see the marching soldiers, the training of pilots as they do all kinds of maneuvers over our heads in battle formation in various types of combat planes, and the roar of cannon from a near by fort makes the office tremble and windows rattle as they blast incessantly at certain periods at an imaginary or real target. It is 9:30 P.M. and this cannonading has been going on since early morning showing the intensive and incessant training of prospective soldiers and marines who will soon be going out to do battle with the foe of civilization and a peace loving people.

This is war and its importance is being impressed upon us each day more firmly as the rationing of some of the luxuries we have been permitted to indulge in are being allocated in varying amounts. This is as it should be if we are to win this struggle, and win it we must, and every effort and resource of this country must be put to the acid test to supply the needed necessities for carrying on this titanic struggle for freedom, decency and democracy. Some of us older men must take the places of the younger ones to allow them to go forth to do battle against maddened and ruthless killers who have been able to delude others into thinking that might alone will rule the world. It will not be a sacrifice for the older generation to replace the younger offspring but a duty, and here is a chance to show the stuff we are made of and inspire Uncle Sam to have every reason to be proud of his subjects.

The cost of this war right now, while staggering, is not important. If we were to lose it we would lose everything of value for which America stands. Tire, gasoline, food and other rationing may greatly inconvenience us for the time and make it necessary for us to make other plans that will conform to these regulations. We have great depots of supplies with which we can feed the world and with our natural, national resources we will soon be able to substitute newly developed processes and materials that will take care of our requirements until we have crushed dictatorship beyond all possibility of returning to power in the future. Our future existence will bring about some startling and revolutionary developments due to this national emergency, that will bring us into a new era of life and living. Possibilities that are now in the embryo stage of development will emerge into perfected realities.

In our efforts to keep in line with our nation's demands and requirements, we need not lose sight of the fact that we can spend some time with the development of our flowers. I honestly feel that flowers help in the morale of our people and prove a stimulating influence in our war effort.

Last June of this year Joseph B. Eastman, Director of the Office of Defense Transportation, issued a widespread request to associations, asking them to defer their conventions. A little later in the year this order was somewhat eased. We are told to put war needs first. Conventions which provide representatives of Government agencies a chance to speak are viewed as "essential to furtherance of war effort", and to my knowledge some flower exhibitions are turning over a part or all their receipts to some worthy war cause. With tire and gasoline rationing, and with the possibility that these restrictions will be tightened still further before another year passes, it is a question of considerable importance to know just what action we should take in our own particular case. Your views would be appreciated.

Here is a summary of the survey.

SURVEY OF NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS' CONVENTION POLICIES AND TRENDS UNDER PRESENT WAR CONDITIONS

(An Analysis Representing 26% Return of Questionnaires Mailed)

Cancellation of National Conventions

Question Asked: Should REGULATION or RATIONING of travel be instituted, what effect would result in your convention plans? Everyone answered this inquiry. The replies indicated:

Will hold	69%
Will cancel	24%
Have canceled	4%
Canceled for duration	3%

It is important here to note that 69% would proceed with plans to hold their regular scheduled convention under regulatory or rationing orders and 31% would abandon their plans. These percentages are reflected in all classifications.

Detailed analysis of classification reveals the following average information:

Classification	Will Hold	Will Not Hold
*Commerce, Trade and Industry.....	69.5%	30.5%
Fraternal Societies	62.	38.
*Professional, Scientific, Engineering	77.5	22.5
*Educational	75.	25.
Labor	64.25	35.75
*Financial, Banking, Insurance	78.	22.
*Medical, Dental, Hospital	71.5	28.5
Athletics, Sports	50.	50.
*Social Welfare	71.5	28.5
Civic, State, Government	65.	35.
*Church, Religion	83.	17.

Please note that the majority of associations (with asterisk) relating to the economic matter have indicated a policy to proceed with plans to hold the regular national convention.

Substitution of Regional Conventions and Meetings

Question Asked: In the event of cancellation of regular national convention would regional conventions or meetings be substituted?

The 58.9% answering this inquiry indicated:

Yes	80.5%
No	19.5%

Detailed analysis of classification reveals the following average information:

Classification	Substitute Regional Conventions or Meetings	
	Yes	No
*Commerce, Trade and Industry.....	98. %	2. %
Fraternal Societies	81.5	18.5
*Professional, Scientific, Engineering.....	75.	25.
*Educational	79.5	20.5

dens as famous as their mountains and climate. A library of garden catalogs, magazines, books and encyclopedias is available for ready reference, and a full time consultant is on hand at the garden center to answer garden questions without cost or obligation of any kind. For those wishing to buy garden books, there is a plentiful supply arranged for by a local book store.

The nature and prevention of plant diseases. With the advent of so many new diseases of plants and lack of knowledge on the part of most of us to know how to combat them properly and efficiently, it is most gratifying to know that a splendid book with this very subject has been prepared and is now for sale by the Blakiston Company, 1012 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, Pa., and is priced at \$4.50 per copy. Copies can be secured through this office for that price, if desired, or can be ordered direct.

The author, Dr. K. Starr Chester of the Department of Botany and Plant Pathology, Oklahoma Agricultural Experiment Station, has had many years of experience along this line and speaks with authority. The book is substantially bound and within the 584 pages there are 207 illustrations. It is both a text book for an elementary course in plant pathology and a manual of detailed and specific directions for controlling the more important plant diseases throughout the United States. The book was published July 23rd, 1942 and is right up to the minute with much needed information. The effects of environment in influencing plant diseases are emphasized, together with the modifications in epiphytology of plant diseases under conditions of warm climates, dry land and irrigation. Wherever possible, lists of disease resistant crop varieties, trade names and compositions of fungicides, and working directions are included.

Each subject is taken up and described so it can be understood by the layman as well as the more advanced pupil in Pathology or Botany.

Now that we are urged to do everything possible to increase our crop production to the fullest extent this work comes in very timely.

Diseases caused by Eelworms and Nematodes is alone worth the price of the book to any peony lover who has a large collection.

The following subjects are each taken up in the order presented and fully explained and in most cases illustrated.

CONTENTS

The Significance of Plant Disease in Agriculture; Types of Plant Disease; Fungi; Diseases Caused by Basidiomycetes; Rusts; Smuts; Fleshy Fungi; Mycorrhizae; Diseases Caused by Ascomycetes; Diseases Caused by Imperfect Fungi; Diseases Caused by Phycomycetes; Damping-off and Related Troubles; Diseases Caused by Bacteria; Diseases Caused by Viruses; Diseases Caused by Parasitic Seed Plants and Algae; Epiphytes; Diseases Caused by Nematodes or Eelworms; Physiogenic Diseases; Methods of Studying Plant Diseases; Environment and Parasitic Disease; Etiology and Epiphytology of Plant Disease; Principles and Procedures in the Control of Plant Diseases; Control of Plant Diseases by Regulation; Control of Plant Disease by Inducing Resistance; Control of Plant Diseases by Cultural Methods.

The question of conventions and meeting of various sorts during the duration of our present conflict has been gone into very thoroughly by the New York Convention and Visitors Bureau. A questionnaire was sent out to 1424 organizations of all types as per classification in the following survey listed below. The gist of the question was, What, in your opinion, would be the effect on your organization's convention plans "IF THERE SHOULD BE REGULATION OF REGISTRATION OF TRAVEL."

And when they seek that crimson streak,
 It's not there any more;
 By driving slow they've come to know
 'Twas red barns by the score.

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Winter days crept upon us a little earlier than usual this fall and while we did enjoy some beautiful weather, am afraid we are a little spoiled. With the early advent of spring we should reasonably expect that winter would be making a call a little earlier than is its usual custom in this section. December started right in earnest with some zero weather, giving us a taste of what we may expect within the next few months. Personally I would like to see Indian Summer time carry on for several months for it is such a beautiful time of the year and that great poet of the people, Edgar A. Guest has summed it up beautifully in the poem he has recently written, one verse of which follows:

"When the busy year is closing and the harvest tasks are done,
 When the frosts of early morning show that Winter's coming on,
 When the last brave leaves have fallen, comes that extra touch sublime
 As a sort of farewell gesture known as Indian Summer time."

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Even though war's stern grip engulfs us, it cannot entirely dampen or throttle the spirit of Christmas that prevails all over the land at this period of the year. Some fifteen years ago I received the following Christmas greeting from a friend that I have retained as I like the sentiment very much. It is worth repeating.

"Hidden away in a small valley in the Bald Eagle Mountains of Penn's Woods is a curious spring that lies dormant for eleven months of the year. Then, with the generousness of the Christmas spirit it gushes forth its sparkling waters of magic virtue, for it is reputed to possess almost magical health-giving qualities, and the natives come from miles 'round about to receive of its beneficence!

"And, philosophizing at this joyous and gladsome season of the year, methinks how like this wonderful spring we mortals are. For an eleven-month we keep our deeper and finer feelings buried in the great within, and only with the provocation of mob psychology at the approach of Christmas do we voice our sentiments!

But, as the natives await the coming of the lavish flow of living waters from this hidden spring, we welcome the coming of the Christmas celebration that we may, with unquestioned exuberance give expression to our sentiments. So with much enthusiasm do I at this time rejoice in my friends and take this opportunity of extending to you one and all, hearty seasons greetings."

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This is the beginning of a new year for the Society which is entering its thirty-ninth year of activity. Our progress has been made possible by our advertisers and many other whole hearted members who have supplied articles for the bulletins so that our entire membership might be benefited. The American Peony Society, as you may doubtless know, is a non-profit organization whose sole purpose is to diffuse information about the peony that may be helpful and valuable to any peony lover. We have no endowment and have not solicited gifts or financial donations of any kind, although they would prove very helpful in carrying on our work more earnestly. We must depend upon growth of the Society in membership and maintenance, as far as possible, of our present membership. We most heartily want to thank each member of the Society for his co-operation in retaining membership and assure you that it will be our purpose to send you bulletins that will be of interest and value during the coming years. When our members do not respond with articles in sufficient number to take

care of our requirements, we have to present articles taken from other publications. This is the first number that I can recall where we have presented several items in one issue that have not come directly from our members but we feel that the articles presented will be found of interest and value.

I feel certain that many of our members have something in their minds about the peony that they would like to write about or would like information on and we will just be delighted to get these articles or questions that we may pass them on and get the impressions and opinions of those having had many years experience with our chosen flower. Those with the less experience will have the most questions to propose and these are the very ones we want to assist.

While this request will not reach you in time to procure a copy of the Manual for a Christmas gift to a peony loving friend, or to present him with a year's membership in the Society, in order to get a quick response to this offer, we will give a 1943 membership in the Society for \$3.00 and in addition, for the first hundred memberships received, we will supply copies of the 1942 bulletins. In other words we will give two years' bulletins for one year's membership. This is open only to new members and is made for the purpose of getting them acquainted with the wide scope of our activities, and the nature of the bulletin material.

We have had several requests for the Manual for Christmas gifts and for \$1.65 delivered, what more appropriate gift could be supplied? It will be a source of constant help throughout the year. This does not necessarily have to be Christmas gift but will be gratefully received at any period of the year. When the remaining copies of this Manual are disposed of, there will not be a reprint of the issue, so you had better get one or more while the getting is good.

In closing I want to quote a poem by B. L. Bruce appearing in one of our Chicago papers, entitled, "Credit Entries."

Our world's in a muddle, there's much that is wrong,
Still the birds keep on singing a mighty sweet song.

We never shall fathom each wherefor and why,
But over us stretches the bonny blue sky.

The war's passing fury its burden must bring
The meadows will always grow green in the Spring.

For each there is something of wormwood and gall,
But there's more sweet than bitter along with it all.

Give thanks that while tyrants spread heartache and woe,
There's a heap of fine folks we are lucky to know.

*The
Season's
Greetings*

H. F. Christman

Department Of Registration

Mr. Howard E. Wigell of Rockford, Ill., sends us in the following description of his origination.

John Howard Wigell (Howard E. Wigell, 1942). Medium tall, (34"). Flower well above foliage on very strong stem. Color, deep pink, similar though darker than *Blanche King*. Bud, round, large with very large smooth guard petals opening around inner ball of guard petals arranged in symmetrical whorl. Partial open, flat cup rose form. Finishing form lifts inner cup of petals, similar to guards, with center well filled with massed inner petals. Yellow stamens concealed throughout petals give rich glow to the self color of all petals. Early midseason bloomer.

NOTE: We have seen this bloom and have three plants in our garden and can attest to its beauty and desirability. EDITOR.

Mr. E. H. Lins of Cologne, Minn., sent in descriptions of two of his originations as follows:

King Midas (E. H. Lins, 1942). Color pure red. Medium to large size of bloom. Of medium height with stiff stems. Foliage dark green and stems well foliated. Outstanding characteristic is its beautiful form, fully double, perfect rose form. An occasional petal is edged with gold filament. Awarded Home Achievement Medal for best and most distinguished new peony at Minneapolis Peony Show, June 22nd, 1942. See illustration in this issue. Seedling No. R-3-84.

Mandaleen (E. H. Lins, 1942). Seedling No. R-4-7. Received First Class Certificate Minneapolis, 1942. Color, medium light pink. Very large bloom. Medium height, foliage dark green. Very sweet rose fragrance. Full double, no stamens, perfect rose form. Outstanding characteristics are that it will not fade out in the sun, is very fragrant and a very good keeper as a cut flower. Held bloom, cut after opening on plants, 60 days in refrigerator.

Mr. Arthur L. Murawska of River Grove, Ill., gives us the following brief description of one of his originations. It is also illustrated in this issue of the bulletin.

Mrs. E. J. Streichert (A. L. Murawska, 1942). Deep pink, fully double, similar in coloring to *Blanche King*. Midseason bloomer, height 40". Stems strong and sturdy. Free bloomer, very floriferous. Foliage dark green.

New Members

Bournival, Dr. L. O., 338 Notre Dame Street, East, Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

Campbell, J., 206 10th Ave., N.E., Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

Crossley, O. C., 97 Jubilee Road, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.

Dunham, Howard F., River Ridge, Hanover, New Hampshire.

Foore, W. E., Sexsmith, Alberta, Canada.

Fulton, Grace, R.F.D. 2, Farmington, Mich.

Goodman, Mrs. Ward, 338 State Street, Madison, Wis.

Helm, Dr. Charles S., 710 Talcott Bldg., Rockford, Ill.

Howe, Mrs. Francis W., Bentwood, Brompton Road, Williamsville, N. Y.

Mashburn, R. M., 501 Dunlap Ave., Chattanooga, Tenn.

McKee, F. O., Birmingham, Iowa.

Owen, James, Belton, Missouri.

Page, Leo M., 4112 Ave., G., Fort Worth, Texas.

Pritchard, Dr. Wm. W., Lake Hughes, California.

Smith, Harry L., Redkey, Indiana.

Stephens, Donald W., The Woodlands, R.R. 4, Marion, Indiana.

Underwood, Irving A., Bayport, Minn.

Warrick, L. C., 1610 Wildwood Road, Toledo, Ohio.

Change Of Address

Helme, James B., P.O. Box 2100, Southport, Conn., change to 170 Cherry St., Bridgeport, Conn.

Duluth Peony & Iris Society, Duluth, Minn., change to Duluth Peony & Iris Society, Mrs. A. D. Ludden, Sec'y, 5115 Dodge St., Duluth, Minn.

J. Elliott Coit, 11447 Albata Street, Los Angeles, Cal., change to Fallbrook, Cal.

Popp, T. E., Route 5, Box 992, West Allis, Wis., change to 2756 S. 76th Street, West Allis, Wis.

Rutger University, New Brunswick, N. J., change to The Library, N. J. Agricultural Experiment Station, New Brunswick, N. J.

Smirnow, L., 11 E. 26th Street, New York City, change to 4556 Bedford Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y.



King Midas (E. H. Lins, 1942)

This variety originated by Mr. E. H. Lins of Cologne, Minn., is a very brilliant red, has good strong stems and is a very symmetrical formed flower, as the photo indicated. It won the Home Achievement Medal at the Minneapolis Show staged last June. The flowers are large, the plant of medium height, with red stems and good, green foliage. Known as seedling R-3-84.

Obituaries

FRANK M. DRAKE, 60, NOTED LAWYER, DIES

Frank Mortimer Drake, 60, of 2550 Grinstead Drive, prominent lawyer and former assistant commonwealth's attorney, died at 1:15 p.m. yesterday at the Kentucky Baptist Hospital. He was stricken with a heart attack three days ago and taken immediately to the hospital.

He was a lifelong Republican. From 1921 to 1923 he was assistant commonwealth attorney for Jefferson County, and in 1934 unsuccessful Republican candidate for Congress from the 3d District. He managed several political campaigns. He was a member of the executive committee of the Louisville Legal Aid Society from the time of its founding.

Dr. Drake was born in Washington, D. C., August 25, 1882, the son of George M. Drake and Mary Clarke Smith Drake. He attended grade and high schools in Washington and Chattanooga, graduating from the University of Chattanooga Law School and Jefferson School of Law, Louisville.

He was in the Second Training Camp at Fort Benjamin Harrison during the World War, graduating with the rank of captain in November, 1917. In October, 1918, he was promoted to the rank of major in the Infantry.

He began his business career as office boy of a Chattanooga insurance firm when he was 16 years old. After graduating from law school and being admitted to the Tennessee bar in 1903, he was in the insurance business until 1912, when he moved to Louisville to practice law. He later became associated with the firm of Bruce and Bullitt. After the last war he established his own law office in the Kentucky Home Life Building.

Mr. Drake was married to Maidee Ledovree of Lyons, France, June 30, 1922.

Mr. Drake was a member of the Pendennis Club, the Louisville, Kentucky and American Bar Associations.

Until a year ago, he was the Kentucky representative in the house of delegates of the American Bar Association. Dr. Drake was a specialist in fire insurance law. He was considered an expert gardener and had followed his hobby for years, having as many as 300 varieties of peonies.

In 1936 Mr. Drake wrote, "I have had numerous opportunities, involving financial benefit, of leaving Kentucky, but Mrs. Drake and I—both adopted Kentuckians—prefer to remain here."

Besides his wife, he is survived by two sisters, Miss Ella C. Drake and Miss Lucy T. Drake, St. Petersburg, Fla., and a brother, Ellis Drake, Chattanooga, Tenn. Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday at Lee Cralle's Chapel, 1330 S. 3d. Services will be conducted by the Rev. Dr. Teunis E. Gouwens, pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church, where Mr. Drake was a member. Burial will be in Zachary Taylor National Cemetery.

* * * * *

It was a fine privilege to have known Mr. Drake and to have shared his enthusiasm for the flower he loved most, the peony. When he called at Northbrook Gardens about three years ago, we gave him the charts of the fields and he was so excited that he forgot his meals entirely and had to be called from the fields by his family who called for him. His collection of peonies will be disposed of by the estate, I am told. He was Regional Vice President of District No. 5 for several years, up to the time of his death. We will miss that cheery smile his undaunted enthusiasm as he would extol the virtues of the different varieties of peonies. We are happy to have had the pleasure of a personal acquaintance with a man of his character and knowledge and his loss will be keenly felt by all who knew him. (Editor)

GUY A. BRYANT

Guy A. Bryant died at his home, at Princeton, Ill., August 1 at the age of 73, after an illness of a year and one-half.

He was born at Princeton, December 12, 1868. After graduating from high school there in 1888, he joined his father in Bryant's Nurseries, founded by his grandfather, Arthur Bryant, Sr., in 1845.

He was one of the founders of the Illinois State Nurserymen's Association and its first permanent president, serving two years. He was also one of the founders of the American Peony Society and its first vice-president. He was a member of the city council for six years and mayor of Princeton in 1907 and 1908. He served on the high school board for twenty-seven years, acting as president for nineteen years.

Two sons continue the business, Miles W. Bryant, who served two terms as president both of the American Association of Nurserymen and of the Illinois State Nurserymen's Association, of which he has been secretary for the past eleven years, and Robert B. Bryant.

One other son survives, Dr. Louis R. Bryant, of the department of horticulture at Colorado A. & M. College, Fort Collins, Colo., as well as one daughter, Mrs. Edgar S. Perkins, Princeton, and the widow. The couple celebrated their golden wedding anniversary February 26, 1941.

Mr. Bryant served as elder of the First Presbyterian church at Princeton for thirty-seven years and as clerk of the session for twenty-nine years, until illness forced his resignation. A member of Princeton Masonic lodge, he received a 50-year jewel in 1940 and was a member of the Shrine of Peoria. Funeral services were held at the home August 3.

* * * * *

DR. H. D. WEAVER

In the passing of Dr. Herbert D. Weaver on September 12th, 1942, Canada's Middle-West lost one of its horticultural pioneers.

Dr. Weaver was born in England, but came to Canada at an early age, where his parents settled in Ontario. He received his professional education at Trinity College, Toronto, where he graduated with the degree of M.D. After graduation he lectured for a time in Histology at the Medical College of Dalhousie University, in Halifax, Nova Scotia. In 1907, however, he came west to Saskatchewan, and located in Saskatoon, where he built up a large and successful medical practice.

But while busily engaged in the practice of medicine he found time to devote to nature study, and more particularly to horticulture. To him every growing plant or shrub, whether found wild on the prairie, or in a cultivated garden, was an object of keenest interest. He was passionately fond of flowers, and loved to steal away a quiet hour from his daily duties and spend it among his trees and plants. In later years he established Weaver's Nursery and Experimental Grounds as a "side-line", where he kept a general nursery stock, including a choice selection of peonies.

At the Peony Shows he was a prominent exhibitor, and stood high in the awards. Although he produced from time to time quite a number of seedlings he did not consider any of them of a sufficiently high standard of excellence to introduce them commercially. I cannot say that any particular flower was his favorite. Lilies, irises, delphiniums, gladiolus and peonies all found their places in his garden, but certain it is that the peony ranked very high in his estimation.

Dr. Weaver was one of the organizers of the Saskatoon Horticultural Society and one of its chief supporters at a time when it was difficult to arouse an inter-

in horticulture in this new and growing province. In addition to being a man of sterling character, and an enthusiast in all he undertook, he was most kindly and courteous, and many a beginner in horticulture received the benefit of his assistance and encouragement.

As one of the many personal friends of Dr. Weaver the writer will miss his friendly smile and his wise counsel.

JAMES NEILSON, *Saskatoon, Sask.*



AWARDS AT PEONY SHOWS, 1942

Gold Medal, awarded Myron D. Bigger, Topeka, Kans., for best exhibit in Class No. 1, calling for 80 to 100 varieties, Topeka, Kans., June 6th, 1942.

Silver Medal, awarded A. Murdoch, Calgary, Alberta for most outstanding exhibit at Calgary Horticultural Society's Peony Show, July 5th, 1942.

Silver Medal, awarded Frank E. Moots of Newton, Kans., for best collection in Advanced Amateur Class, Topeka, Kans., June 6th, 1942.

Silver Medal, awarded L. W. Lindgren, St. Paul, Minn., for best entry of five varieties, Minneapolis, Minn., June 22nd, 1942.

B. H. Farr Bronze Medal, awarded Judge Vories Peony Farms, St. Joseph, Mo., for the best bloom displayed at Topeka, Kans., American Peony Society Exhibition, June 6th, 1942. Variety, *Mrs. R. M. Bacheller*.

James Boyd Memorial Medal, awarded Lyman D. Glasscock of Elwood, Ill., for his outstanding exhibit of hybrid peonies, at Topeka, Kans., June 6th, 1942.

American Home Achievement Medal, awarded Myron D. Bigger, for the variety *Kansas*.

Senator Capper's Silver Cup, won by Frank E. Moots, Newton, Kans., for Sweepstakes prize.

Seedlings and New Varieties at Topeka, Kans.

Honorable Mention was awarded by the Seedling Committee to the following:

A. L. Utz, St. Joseph, Missouri, for Seedling No. 145 X a full rose type flower, medium bright pink, fading lighter to the edges, style of *Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt*. The color is a light lilac pink in direct sunlight. It is exceptionally beautiful under artificial light.

J. W. Bernstein, Lincoln, Nebraska, for *Nancy Nora* a full rose type, light pink, flower rather flat, no stamens, rose fragrance. Similar to *Myrtle Gentry* in color.

A First Class Certificate was awarded to the Judge Vories Peony Farm, St. Joseph, Mo. for the variety *Mrs. R. M. Bacheller* introduced by the late Judge Vories in 1931.

Honorable Mention was awarded Lyman D. Glasscock of Elwood, Illinois for his seedling No. 7 N 153 a Japanese type flower.

First Class Certificate was awarded to Lyman D. Glasscock for *Crusader*, single type.

COURT OF HONOR AT TOPEKA, KANS.

The best specimen bloom, double or semi-double.

- A. White. *Grace Loomis* shown by Frank E. Moots.
- B. Flesh. *Mrs. R. M. Bacheller* shown by Judge Vories Peony Farm.
- C. Light pink. *Minuet* shown by Joe Warner.
- D. Medium or dark pink. *Blanche King* shown by Myron D. Bigger.
- E. Red. *Mabel Gore* shown by Judge Vories Peony Farm.

The best specimen bloom, Japanese.

- A. White or flesh. *Isani Gidui* shown by Mrs. Lee Brown.
- B. Pink. *Largo* shown by Judge Vories Peony Farm.

C. Red. *Rashoomon* shown by John A. Bongers.

The best specimen bloom, single.

A. White or flesh. *Le Jour* shown by John A. Bongers.

B. Pink. *Sea Shell* shown by John A. Bongers.

C. Red. *President Lincoln* shown by John A. Bongers.

Herbaceous Hybrids

The best specimen bloom, double or semi-double, any color.

Black Monarch shown by Lyman D. Glasscock.

The best specimen bloom, Japanese, any color.

Dainty Lass shown by Lyman D. Glasscock.

The best specimen bloom, single, any color.

Crusader shown by Lyman D. Glasscock.

THE REGIONAL PEONY SHOW, JUNE 22 - 23, 1942

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

COURT OF HONOR. A bronze medal was awarded to the winner in each color class and a silver medal to the Grand Champion (Best Bloom in the Show) in honor of the late C. W. Bunn, as follows:

White. *Elsa Sass*, shown by Glenn H. Greaves.

Flesh. *A. B. Franklin*, shown by Glenn H. Greaves.

Light pink. *Milton Hill*, shown by Cherokee Gardens.

Medium or dark pink. *Martha Bulloch*, shown by Mrs. H. B. Tillotson.

Red. *Victoire de la Marne*, shown by Cherokee Gardens.

American Peony Society Silver Medal Class. The best entry of five varieties, one each, in a vase. Five entries.

Awarded to L. W. Lindgren showing *Ella Lewis*, *Hansina Brand*, *Le Cygne* Mrs. J. V. Edlund, *Nick Shaylor*.

Grand Champion—*Elsa Sass* shown by Glenn H. Greaves.

SWEEPSTAKES—Trophy awarded to winner of most points in Open Classes won by R. C. Schneider.

Prize awarded to winner of most points in Advanced Amateur Classes won by Glenn H. Greaves.

Prize awarded to winner of most points in Novice Amateur Classes won by Mrs. M. J. van Wagenen.

A collection of fifty named commercial varieties, one bloom each in a vase. Bronze Medal.

To R. C. Schneider.

The Best and Most Distinguished New Peony. The American Home Achievement Medal awarded to E. H. Lins, Cologne, Minnesota, for his seedling *King Midas* (No. R-3-84).

Honorable Mention was awarded to E. H. Lins for his seedling R-4-49.

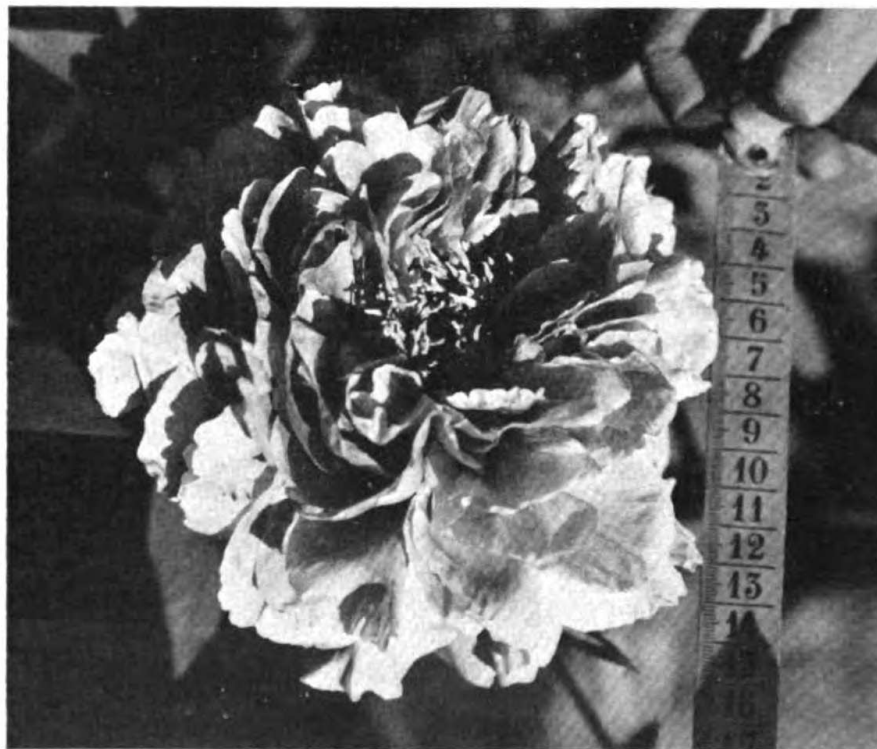
First Class Certificates were awarded the following:

E. H. Lins for his seedling No. R-4-7 to be named *Mandaleen*.

Dr. H. C. Cooper, Portland, Oregon, for his seedling No. 101 also known as the *Salmon Seedling*.

At Grand Forks, N. D. the Grand Champion of the Show was awarded to the variety *La Lorraine* exhibited by R. J. Darling, President of the North Dakota Peony Society, June 19th, 1942.

In Court of Honor the winning varieties were as follows: Best red, *Marv Brand*. Best dark pink, *Martha Bulloch*. Best light pink, *Therese*. Best white, *La Lorraine*.



Tree Peony—*Reine Elizabeth*

This fine specimen of bloom was grown in the garden of E. Arras, Tallin, Estonia. Photo was taken June 11th, 1938, and the yard stick to the right of the picture shows clearly the size of the flower. The war has changed the geography of that particular district and Estonia has been absorbed. I quote from Mr. Arras' letter of transmissal as follows:

"I read in the June Bulletin that the Spring in your country was very cold (1938). We also had severe frosts until the end of May and I had much trouble to save my tree peonies, protecting them with straw mats, but when the weather changed I was awarded with very good flowers from some plants."

We have not been able to contact Mr. Arras for many months and fear for his safety in that section of the country.



The Official Rating Lists

GEORGE W. PEYTON, *Rapidan, Va.*

In looking over the current peony price lists, I find that about half of them do not give the ratings. Of the other half that do, only a third used the latest official ratings, one or two used some of the latest and some of the obsolete ratings while the balance used the obsolete ratings entirely.

It would seem that if correct information is to be given customers, care should be taken to have the ratings brought up to date. Maybe some were a little doubtful as to what is now the official rating of some varieties, so it may be wise to give the following facts as a guide in determining the correct rating to use.

The Society has published six official rating lists. The first four were issued in 1916, 1918, 1921 and 1925. The Manual issued in 1929 gave the correct ratings as determined by these lists up to the date of its publication. These ratings are still official for nearly all peonies introduced up to 1920.

In 1933 the fifth list was issued. This contained ratings on the new varieties up to date of publication and revised the ratings of many that had not received as many as ten votes when the Manual was published.

The sixth list was sent out in 1939 and the results published in Bulletin No. 82, March 1941, and has since been issued in pamphlet form. This list has the official ratings of the new varieties introduced after publication of the fifth list, and revised ratings of many that had not received the required ten votes previously. It also gave the revised ratings of five old varieties, *Kelway's Glorious*, *La Lorraine*, *Le Cygne*, *Solange* and *Therese*.

Now in order to find the present official rating of any variety, first examine this last list and if it is found there it is official. If not found there, look in the 1933 list. This one contains the majority of the ratings introduced from 1920 to 1928, if they received a minimum of ten votes. For the ratings of the older varieties, consult the Manual. If you do not have the Manual, better get one from the Secretary, (\$1.65) delivered. The 1925 and 1921 lists give a majority of these ratings though a few go back to 1918.

If you find this all too complicated, send me your list and I shall be glad to rate it for you.

With reference to future ratings and revision of present ratings, as we all should know, it was decided to allow Mr. Harry F. Little to select a jury of twenty men, tried and true in peony knowledge, to perform this duty in the future. So far Mr. Little has found it almost an impossible task to find the desired twenty men. While that is being done, we wish to gather as much information as we can about the new varieties and also what old varieties should be rerated, and so we are asking the members of the Society to make a list of all the new varieties they grow and during the coming blooming season, *rate* each one and also note its special excellencies and faults. Also list and *rate* (with remarks if you wish) all of the older varieties you think should be rerated.

A variety may be considered new if introduced, say in 1925 or later. Please note we wish these rated by you whether they have been rated officially or not. We are especially anxious to find out how many think some of our old faithful friends now labor under the handicap of incorrect ratings, so do not fail to speak your mind.

We shall not issue any printed forms. They are too expensive for these times. Make your own, and above all do not fail to send in your list. We know you are busy so it will not be necessary for you to tell us that. We all are, but we need some relaxation and change so *do not fail us*.

The list should be sent to George W. Peyton, Box No. 1, Rapidan, Va.



CLOSING OUT SALE

Due to anticipated airport enlargement that will include a considerable portion, if not all of our planting acreage, and our added desire to discontinue business due to the labor situation, we are closing out our complete stocks of peonies and iris.

We want to accomplish this task as early as possible in 1943. Will be able to quote some most attractive prices. Write for particulars.

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The New Ratings

The new ratings appearing in Bulletin No. 82, together with
additional data, has been bound in pamphlet form and is now
ready for distribution. A small charge of 50c per copy has
been made to cover cost of printing, handling, etc. In the
new form it will make a neat supplement for the Peony Manual
if you already have a copy.

All orders for this rating list should be sent to the address
below.

W. F. CHRISTMAN, *Secretary,*
Northbrook, Ill.

We have just received word that

MYRTLE GENTRY (*a Brand Peony*)

Won Best Flower in the Show at the
GUELPH ONTARIO REGIONAL SHOW

Runners up were Mrs. A. M. Brand (*a Brand Peony*), Mrs. J. V. Edlund
and Nick Shaylor

AT THE NATIONAL SHOW HELD AT TOPEKA, KANSAS

In the Color Classes

Mrs. A. M. Brand was best white, with Mrs. Frank Beach second.
Myrtle Gentry was best pink. President Lincoln was best single red.
Blanche King best deep pink in entire show.

NORTH DAKOTA STATE SHOW

Mary Brand and Martha Bulloch were in the Court of Honor.

MINNESOTA STATE SHOW

Martha Bulloch was best deep pink.

IN OUR OWN SHOW

Martha Bulloch and Myrtle Gentry were the outstanding
flowers of the season.

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Last year when the Directors reduced the price of the Manual to \$2.25 per copy postpaid we thought the bottom in price had been reached.

To move the entire stock of Manuals as quickly as possible the Directors this year again have made a drastic cut in price of this most valuable book and it can now be obtained at the remarkably low price of \$1.50, plus 15c mailing charge, or a total of \$1.65. This is less than half the actual cost of preparing and printing the edition and when this price becomes known will result in a rapid reduction of the stock on hand. Better get in on this while they are still available. If you already have a copy, give your peony loving friend a copy. A brief descriptive circular will be sent upon request.

Make all checks payable to the American Peony Society and mail to,

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

THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

The American Iris Society, since its organization in 1920, has published 83 Bulletins which cover every phase of iris growing. These bulletins go four times each year to all members, who may also purchase any back numbers in stock for 50c a copy. Because the bulletins are not for sale except to members a

SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY OFFER of SIX for ONE DOLLAR is made to non-members. The six are our selection from surplus stock.

THE ALPHABETICAL IRIS CHECK LIST, edited by Ethel Anson S. Peckham and published in 1940, is an invaluable reference book for all who grow irises or wish to know about irises. The book lists about nineteen thousand names of irises (including synonyms and mis-spellings) and contains as nearly as is humanly possible all the old species and varieties as well as the new ones, with added information about obsolete varieties, species, section, season, color and fragrance. There is a long list of names of breeders, introducers, dealers and authors, with brief biographical details. The binding is durable, water-proof cloth, and in spite of its 582 pages the book is of a size comfortable for holding and carrying. The price to A.I.S. members is \$3.00, to non-members \$4.00.

Orders should be addressed to the office of the Secretary, 821 Washington Loan & Trust Building, Washington, D. C., and checks made payable to the American Iris Society.

The American Horticultural Society

OFFERS TWO NEW YEARBOOKS

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