

AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY

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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

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Some Laggard Comments C. M. CLARKE, *Teepee Creek, Alberta*

WINTER KILLING AND DROUGHT.—In "Odds and Ends" (Bulletin 86) Colonel Nicholls tells us he has "never dug from the ground any peony root that was so lacking in moisture content as to preclude the possibility of such freezing." It may seem over-daring in a mere dabbler in peonies like myself to question any statement concerning peonies by so high an authority in the peony world as Colonel Nicholls, but I think he probably does that very thing every year because I believe it is precisely so that, like other plants, "peonies naturally adjust themselves to normal conditions, however harsh." Both quotations are from the same paragraph.

Briefly, as I understand it, this is the process—With the gradual approach of cold weather, the plant having completed its normal growth, the water content of the cell-sap is reduced, leaving a stronger solution that freezes less readily, and as they lose turgidity, the cell walls become more elastic and can stretch to accommodate expansion of the cell sap when it does freeze, room for the expansion being provided in the inter-cellular spaces, so that the cells remain uninjured. Water content of the protoplasm is also reduced at the same time, rendering it less liable to coagulate.

In this condition cells and tissues retain their normal size and shape. There is no shrinkage, nor any change in appearance that can be detected by the naked eye. The plant is dormant and is capable, wherever it may be grown, of enduring the lowest temperature that may occur within its natural range, provided there is no wide and sudden variation; for even a dormant peony root may be injured by abnormal changes of temperature, though not to the same extent as one that is active. "It is not the intensity of the cold alone which is the danger, but, and perhaps of even greater importance, the suddenness of its application." (F. Stoker.)

When abundant moisture and abnormally high temperature in fall result in unusually late growth, plants may be caught unprepared by a sudden sharp frost, with cells completely filled with sap of normal strength required by the growing plant; the protoplasm will coagulate—and that means the cell is dead—and expansion of the sap as it freezes will rupture the cell walls and complete the destruction of the cell. If the injury is extensive the plant will be severely damaged, or it may be killed outright.

The same thing may take place in winter if the temperature should go high enough for a sufficient length of time to make the plant active and then drop suddenly; but I believe most of the so-called winter killing takes place in late

winter and early spring as sharp variations of temperature are more frequent at that time—at least it is so in the places that I have lived—and having gone through their period of dormancy, plants are more readily stirred to activity then.

Another form of winter injury, of a purely mechanical nature, is described by Mr. B. W. Guppy in "How Alternate Thawing and Freezing Will Damage a Peony Root" (Bulletin No. 60) and it seems likely the loss reported by Dr. Crenshaw—"Ravings of a Peony Maniac" (Bulletin No. 86)—was caused in this way. Both types of winter injury can be prevented by mulching.

In the Peace River District we always expect each year, and frequently get, temperatures as low as 60 degrees below zero, but I have often picked up in spring small pieces of root with a bud, or crown tissue, that had been left all winter on the ground where peonies had been divided the previous fall—and they have always grown when planted. Outdoors, they are protected by the snow, and if they do shrink in the fall before the snow comes, they must absorb enough moisture from the thawing snow in spring to regain their normal shape before the ground dries as they have generally been quite plump when found.

Two years ago however, I found in spring on the floor of an empty barn where a few plants had been divided the preceding fall, a small root, about 4 inches long and as thick as a pencil, with a single bud. Lying all winter (nearly seven months) on the dry floor it had shrivelled badly, and after soaking it for a day it still remained shrunken and the bud scales had turned black. It seemed unlikely to grow, but it was planted, and it did—a single small leaf on a two inch stalk the first season and not much bigger this year. On examining it last fall there were three strong buds, so it seems to be well away.

The foregoing would indicate that Colonel Nicholls is correct when he says drought does not cause winter killing of peonies, and further evidence in support can be offered.

175 clumps, each a different variety, are growing here on a sharp south slope. The soil is a rather heavy loam with a clay subsoil, and both shrink as they dry, causing deep and wide cracks to open in every direction. During very dry weather in 1940, the leaves of many plants in this plot suddenly began to wilt. Not feeling quite sure that the drought was the sole cause, a depression was made around a clump of *Marguerite Gerard*, the first that wilted, and six pails (about 18 gallons) of water poured in. Next morning, most of the leaves had begun to open out and by evening of the same day all, even the oldest, were quite fresh and fully expanded and remained so for the balance of the season.

None of the others were watered, and none showed any injury the following spring. Blooms were only fair in 1941 however, and *Marguerite Gerard* bore none at all. The lady is an unreliable character here and was probably pleased to have the previous season's drought as an excuse for going on strike altogether.

Toward the middle of June this year, another dry summer in the Peace River District, the leaves of a plant of *Miss Eckhart*, growing in another bed, began to turn purple and a month later they had nearly all withered. On digging it in late July, a wide fissure that did not show on the surface was found to pass under the middle of the clump, three-quarters of which was spongy and shrunken when dug, the other quarter being plump and crisp. Bud formation had only begun when growth ceased and those that were visible were merely small, white dots on the crown. Evidently, the earth as it shrunk, had drawn away from three-quarters of the roots, stripping them of small roots and root hairs, leaving the large roots free, and they were soon exhausted by the demands of the growing top. The other quarter had remained firmly anchored, the earth clinging more tightly to it as it shrunk. Four divisions were made and planted in a hospital row. Examination in October showed that all of them had developed good buds and new roots, and I expect to see them emerge in due time next May.

The destroyer of Plant Products—beg pardon, I mean the Inspector of Plant Products, of course—also provides examples of the ability of peonies to endure much drying and still go through a hard winter without injury.

In 1939, for instance, roots received from Mr. Edward Auten were very much shrunken, dry and brittle and hard as glass up to an inch or so from the crown, and when broken they were bluish in color inside and glassy in appearance. They had obviously been first class stock when mailed, and the very light brown color of the scars indicated clearly that the divisions had been made quite recently. Under normal conditions a peony root becomes limp as it loses moisture and only hardens when, through long exposure to sun and air, it has become quite dry. Once it has lost the crispness of a freshly dug root it never becomes brittle again until conditioned by planting in earth, nor does it ever get as hard as these roots were.

It is my belief that the damage was done by placing the roots on a hot surface and leaving them there till they were thoroughly cooked up to an inch from the top. Whether that is so or not, they were all planted and had no protection but the natural snow cover that winter, and all made good growth the following spring though none bloomed this year. The baked roots on one of these plants which was taken up for examination at the end of the first season had all rotted away.

There is a *Bryophyllum pinnatum*, a branch of which, or even a leaf, laid on a wall or other dry surface, fully exposed to sun and air in warm, dry weather, will fight grimly for life for weeks, withering slowly and springing into life again with the first shower of rain, leaves freshening and roots appearing as if by magic; and the roots of peonies appear to be almost as drought resistant. I can think of no garden plant that can equal it in its resistance to drought and also to Arctic temperatures, though there may be many that will do so in one respect or another.

Under only one condition known to me will a sound peony root fail to withstand ordinary weather conditions. Commenting on a statement in an article on peonies intended primarily for Peace River gardeners (Bulletin No. 77) to the effect that the plant will die if the crown is left exposed when planting a peony, Mr. Benjamin Auten remarked—"May be so in Canada, but not here. Here, a clump can lie on top the ground all winter and be ready to grow in the spring. We get temperatures below zero too." (Bulletin No. 78—As already stated, it will do so here quite as well as in Missouri. We get 60 degrees below zero temperatures too.

It was not intended to give the impression that the injury was caused by winter's cold. It is really due to summer's heat. Leaving a dormant root, or clump, exposed on the ground for a single winter is by no means the same as planting it permanently with the crown exposed, and with all due deference to Mr. Auten's wider experience, I think it will die in that case as certainly in Missouri as it will here. Not in a single season, but surely, if slowly.

The roots we get with a new division make very little growth—none at all if cut from an old root—an entirely new root system is built up from rootlets springing from the crown. If these tender rootlets are exposed to scorching sun and drying air, or even only lightly covered with a thin layer of hot soil, they will shrivel as soon as they appear and the plant, being unable to develop new roots to support a growing top, will die slowly unless replanted at the proper depth, or covered with a mound of earth.

Incidentally, the 2 inch earth cover usually recommended for protection of the crown also serves to brace the stems against wind, and in an exposed position an inch more would probably be very much better than an inch less. I have seen wind strip all the stems from a young plant in such a location that had the crown fully exposed.

JAPANESE PEONY, OR ORIENTAL?—I agree with those who think the name Japanese Peony should not be changed—certainly not because of present feeling and for reasons in no way connected with horticulture. If the change were made there is no assurance that, twenty or thirty years from now, another generation wouldn't want it changed back, or to something else, for some equally irrelevant reason. Only yesterday, leaving out the Communists, one would have had to comb public opinion in Canada and the United States pretty thoroughly to find a word in praise of the Russians. Today, we have for them nothing but respect and admiration.

Mr. Peyton has stated the valid objections to the present name—"Japanese Peonies," Bulletin No. 86)—and if it should be decided to change it, I would suggest *Staminode Peony* as an appropriate substitute. Of botanical origin, it is quite as accurate as a description of this type as are Single, Semi-double and Double of the types to which they are applied. By its use, any doubt as to the origin and botanical status of Japanese peonies that may arise from the use of the present name would be obviated, and we would also avoid the confusion that now exists regarding the so-called double Japs, like *Aureolin*, which are really anemone type doubles. In the Japanese type, in spite of some distortion, the staminodes are readily recognizable for what they are,—sterile stamens. In *Aureolin*, the change has gone further, and if anyone should balk at calling them petals, I think all will agree that they are at least petaloids.

RATINGS. To me, some of the suggestions for reform of the rating system seem like top-heavy bridges that must fall of their own weight. The difficulty in rating peonies is due to (1) the length of time required for wide dissemination of a new origination; (2) size and permanence of the plants.

Comparatively few amateur growers have space for a very large number of plants, and after spending thought, time and cash in securing the best varieties available at the time of planting, having found them satisfactory, no one would be willing to discard them to make place for new, widely advertised originations, merely on the chance they may prove better than those he already has. We would prefer to wait for proof.

One should have a variety for at least three blooming seasons after it has reached full maturity, before venturing to vote on it, and, as according to Mr. Edward Auten, a good variety does not drop to a popular price till it is about fifteen years old, it is useless to expect a just, popular appraisal of any new origination within twenty years of its introduction, and then it should have at least twenty votes. Earlier ratings are useful indicators, but since a small number of votes may mean a variety has only been observed under conditions specially suited to it, such ratings should be regarded as approximations rather than definite valuations of the varieties to which they are given.

As standards change, there can be no fixed and immutable ratings. If today's membership decide that ratings should always remain unchanged, tomorrow's membership will say "They did as they pleased and so will we."

WINTER DAMAGE

Trees, shrubs and other plants with living parts exposed may die before spring if allowed to go into winter in very dry condition as transpiration continues throughout the winter. Being half dry to begin with and unable to replace further loss of moisture by transpiration, they are likely to die of prolonged drought just as they would die from the same cause in summer.

In a bad condition, of course, for the kind of plant, as top growth will begin to die as soon as the weather is warm enough, and if moisture is not available at that time the plant may be exhausted before the roots can function.

Just read Dr. Lemke's account of his losses and you would have noticed, that the injuries described by himself and Col. Nicholls are identical

and that they differ from the damage reported by Dr. Crenshaw. In the latter case there was a horizontal break, eyes above the break and roots below it being quite sound, with about two inches of decayed material between.

I think the condition and attendant circumstances make it clear that the loss was caused by the mechanical action of frost, (freezing)—when the plants were dormant, the disintegrated part being the remains of tissues damaged when crown and roots were torn apart.

Dr. Lemke's roots were "black and mushy" throughout their length in the case of young plants and to "about six inches down" in the case of old ones. Dr. Nicholl's roots were "split and their tissues disintegrated". Weather conditions were essentially the same in both cases,—a thaw followed by hard freezing. My guess would be that the injury was caused by a sudden hard freezing when the plants were not quite dormant.

Snow is the best insulation our garden plants can have. Unfortunately, in most places where gardens are grown, it can't be counted upon to remain all winter, and there would be a very sharp drop in earth temperature as soon as the thaw that swept away Dr. Lemke's snow cover came to an end. A mulch of wheat straw, or similar coarse material, applied soon after the ground had frozen, or even while the thaw was in progress, would have broken the flow of temperature and saved the plants. That is reasonably certain in Dr. Lemke's case, at least, as the comparatively inefficient protection given by a ground cover of weeds was enough to save many of the plants in a neighbor's garden.

The idea contained in the following lines may bring Dr. Lemke a small measure of belated consolation:

"Not all who seem to fail have failed indeed,
Not all who fail have therefore worked in vain.
For out of earnest purpose, pure and plain,
Enforced by honest toil of hand, or brain,
The Lord will fashion in his own good time
Such ends as in His wisdom fitliest chime
With His vast love's eternal harmonies.
What though the seed fall by the wayside
And the birds snatch it? Yet, the birds are fed,
Or they may bear it far across the waves
To give rich harvests after thou art dead."

J. R. Brickdale.

The time and thought Dr. Lemke gave to his peonies must have inspired many of his friends and neighbors to do likewise and so reap for themselves a rich harvest of pleasure and profit.

I ought to take the lesson to heart and mulch my own, as this sort of thing need happen only once. Occasionally, we have lost our snow cover up here in February, but the warm wind that takes it away has never yet lasted long enough to thaw the earth, and even though the earth temperature would be much lower than before the thaw, hardy plants escape injury as dormancy would not be broken.

A FLOWERY FLOWER DESCRIPTION—Apparently, the writer of that 1890 description of *Mons. Jules Elie* (Bulletin No. 83, page 36) was attempting to parody Lily's *Euphies* (late sixteenth century) and fell down badly. A description of *Mons. Jules Elie* in that style ought to cover at least two full pages. Perhaps he was restrained by visions of the printer's bill! How is this for a plain "Good night"—"And now, having wished to my fairest Discretion those pleasant dreams which wave their opinions around the couch of sleeping beauty, and to this comely damsel the beauties of Morpheus, and to all others the common goodnight, I will crave your leave to depart to my place of rest."

(Sir Percie Shafton in *The Monastery*. Walter Scott)

COLOR IN PEONIES—The causes to which Mr. Wigell attributes poor color of Illinois peonies in 1941 could scarcely apply here as, although peony colors often seem light to me up here, normal conditions are, in many respects, the reverse of those indicated in his article (Bulletin No. 83, page 4). We have a comparatively light precipitation, a dry atmosphere and lots of sunlight in summer—about 17 hours between sunrise and sunset at mid-summer, and daylight for most of the remaining 7. Towards midnight, a luminous strip on the horizon, just west of north, marks the end of one day and, at the same time, a similar strip east of north proclaims a new dawn. And that is our mid-summer night.

The earliest albiflora varieties begin to open here about the time I believe they are finishing in Illinois, i.e., the last week of June; the garden is usually at its best for a week from July 4th, and if we should get cool weather and a little rain a few good blooms can often be found up to the beginning of August.

If I remember rightly—no time to look it up now—our mean annual temperature is 32 degrees Far., and 80 degrees is a very hot day—like 100, or over, in the tropics. Color of peonies here is always light on opening in warm, dry years, and much deeper when we have cool weather and an abundance of rain before and during blooming time—at least it is so in gardens like mine where only a few plants can be watered. With me, varieties like *Nanette*, *La Lorraine* and *Baroness Schroeder* are pure white in most years, but in seasons when we get cool weather and plenty of rain at the right time *La Lorraine* may almost be called light pink, and the other two blush.

Top dressing and poor drainage are also out in my case. Some years ago, a plot was started in which it is intended to place a single plant of each variety I have so as to compare them readily, and to make sure that conditions are as nearly equal as possible for all varieties, the ground was specially prepared. Unfortunately, I have never been able to complete it—stuck fast it seems after setting out 175. Drainage is very good, even sharp. This plot has had only one light top dressing of 11:48 ammonium phosphate and wood ashes, in 1938, and the other plants have never had any, but the above statement holds true for all plants. Deficiency of moisture would seem to have a lot to do with light color of peonies under Peace River conditions.

I can't be sure of this as I have never discussed it with any one, but I think the article would leave the impression with most of us that exposure of the buds themselves to *direct sunlight* is essential, though I doubt that that was Mr. Weigell's intention. The tightly folded petals, closely wrapped in their sepal covers, seems expressly designed to exclude sunlight during bud development.

With many late varieties I can only be sure of getting a few good blooms by bagging the buds here when quite small—not at the stage recommended for show blooms by Mr. Peyton (Bulletin No. 86, pages 3), they would be ruined before then—and keeping the plants well watered. Uncovered buds would be worthless when bagged buds on the same plant will usually open well.

I believe it is a common practice in Great Britain to shade rose buds in order to produce show blooms, and I've never heard or noticed, that flower color is adversely affected when plants are grown outdoors under cloth covers. That may be the case however, as I have only used them here for a short period in spring to protect a few very early blooming plants, like pansies, that are easily damaged by spring frosts. The same kind of plants growing in open air at that time would not be in bloom, and as the covers are removed as soon as danger of frost is past, it was never possible to make any comparison, even if I had thought of doing so. Someone who has had occasion to use such covers throughout the summer can tell us if it makes any difference.

Next summer, if I should be well enough and the season is clear, warm and dry, as it often is when the buds are developing and at blooming time, I will try

shading a few plants of late peony varieties with cloth frames, leaving the sides open.

It may not be practicable to sack a large number of buds at the early stage I do, especially in districts where there is a good deal of rain, where the sacks would have to be inspected after every heavy shower and raised where necessary as the bloom will be discolored if the bud is left in contact with the sack, which is very loosely held with a rubber band. I have never had to take any precautions here other than those two, but where humidity and temperature are high, it may be necessary to tear the sacks below and around the buds to allow ventilation.

1941 was an unusual year with us too, the earliest spring since I've been here. *Paeonia teunifolia*, fl. pl., the earliest I have, came into bloom on May the 30th, the first time I've ever had a peony in bloom in May up here, and flower colors were stronger than usual.

LATE PLANTING—Our secretary writes that (Bulletin No. 85, page 15)—“In the southern section of the peony belt, fall planting may be continued through November and well into December.”—In the extreme northern section too, if necessary. Roots from England and continental Europe usually arrive in November and on one occasion on December the 10th. These last were soaked in water for a day and planted on December the 12th, and not one was lost.

The ground is kept open for their reception by mulching it heavily in September, before it freezes. Sometimes there is a two-inch crust of frozen earth under the snow and mulch, but soil for covering the crowns can always be had from the space between plants. The mulch, being on hand, is replaced after planting, but when the work is done at the usual time the plants are not mulched, having found them quite hardy, and we are not troubled by heaving in the Peace River District as, once the earth has frozen, it remains so until spring.



Special Notice

The Fortieth Annual Exhibition and Meeting of the American Peony Society will be held in Minneapolis, Minn., June 21st and 22nd, 1943, in the lobby of the Northwestern National Bank. We anticipate a great showing of peonies that will be worth your time and trouble to study and make comparisons for future additions to your present planting. The Directors Meeting will also be held on one of the above mentioned dates, to be decided upon later. Send in your peonies for exhibition if you are unable to be present in person, but come, if at all possible, and let's make this a banner showing of our favorite flower. Read the schedule carefully and you will surely find just the class to cover your particular display.

A Regional Show of District No. 5, comprising the states of Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Wisconsin, will be held in the Garfield Park Conservatory, Chicago, Ill., June 12th and 13th. A beautiful setting for such an exhibition will be afforded, and with the grand exhibition of tropical verdure, as well as plants, trees and flowers of every kind and description, it will prove a flower lovers' paradise that cannot be found in any other location I know of. Mr. Roy G. Gayle of Rockford, Ill., is Regional Vice President of this District and M. F. C. Lambert of 5445 Iowa Street, Chicago, Ill., is Show Chairman. Schedule may be obtained from Mrs. Lambert shortly after May 1st.

Peonies In The Berkshires

ROBERT D. BARDWELL, *Pittsfield, Mass.*

In many of the articles I have read on the cultivation of peonies there is no mention made of the location, weather, and age of the garden. I take the liberty of making such statement as my introduction.

Pittsfield is the Heart of the Berkshires, in western Massachusetts, altitude about 1200 feet, winter temperatures frequently around zero, 26 degrees below today, summer temperatures occasionally reach the high eighties with dry spells broken by thunder storms.

My garden soil is mostly not over two feet of gravel loam above hardpan. Soil analysis shows it to be just about normally good. It has been under cultivation twenty-seven years and some of the best plants of *Festiva Maxima* are still in their original locations during that period. Many of this old variety yield twenty-five to thirty blossoms to a plant.

I have about one hundred and fifty plants three to four feet apart, not counting my own nursery stock of seedlings and first year bloomers. I find the blooming season invariably starts by June seventh and lasts twenty-one days, during which time I cut for home use or to give away over a thousand blooms and discard two or three hundred imperfect bloom and rain-storm casualties. The lateral buds are all nipped off as soon as they have stems long enough to cut. No blossom is left on the plants after it has developed fully except where seeds are desired.

About once a season I spread a trowelful each of bone meal and sheep manure above the roots of each plant and scratch it in. Last fall I spread a generous amount of wood ashes over the crowns just for a try. It can't do any harm and it might show results.

Last year I had the first blossoms from my own seed. I do not care for the single varieties for indoor decoration, so several were discarded, but four or five fragrant doubles more than rewarded me for my three year's patience. Each year I plant fifty seeds and the next year transplant twenty or more sturdy seedlings. There is an inexpressible thrill of anticipation in the first blooms and maturing development of my own varieties. I wanted to pass this on as an objective to bring similar pleasure to other gardeners so I placed several blooms in the Flower Show of Pittsfield. There was no competition. The reward was honorable mention. Apparently the local garden club objective is not to promote originality in gardening, but to promote the artistic arrangement of weeds in vases, and fruits by the side of breakfast dishes. Peonies are homey personalities and should not be forced into the presence of the unresponsive public.

I don't think it pays to dig up and divide very old roots. When an old plant gets down to blighted buds and only a blossom or two I take the grub hoe and out it comes with a feeling of gratitude and regret on my part. I replace it from my reserve plants which were two or three eyed roots when I bought them.

My method of planting is to dig a hole a foot to eighteen inches deep, put in a trowelful of both bone meal and sheep manure, pour in a quart or two of water and slosh it all around adding some dirt to the consistency of puree into which I set the new roots, covering them with soil and watering. When the wet soil has settled I add a bit more soil. My plants are not wintered over, although I find the seedlings come along more rapidly if they are wintered in a cold frame and covered with glass wool.

A Perfect Peony?

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

Is the origination of a perfect Peony an impossibility? If one was originated would that be cause for regret on the part of the originator, he feeling that incentive for further work was withdrawn? We have heard these questions raised more than once.

Let me answer the second one first. Speaking for myself, I have kicked many thousands of Peony seedlings in the face, and kissed quite a few others an affectionate goodbye. And were I to originate a perfect Peony, I would not feel disappointed to have attained a goal where labor might stop, but rather would feel like the baseball player who comes to bat in the last half of the ninth inning with his team three runs behind, the bases full, gets two strikes and no balls called on him and then knocks a home run! Getting just one perfect Peony should not end the efforts of the hybridizers. We need several different perfect varieties. And there would still remain an unlimited amount of work to be done improving other flowers.

Can any person originate a perfect Peony? The answer depends somewhat on your definition of such a flower. If you demand that one obtain certain qualities which are not even minutely inherent in the Peonies of today, then no one can attain the goal. If you say that a Peony to be perfect must be immune to all bugs and blights, waterproof, several distinct colors on each plant, starting to bloom before Mothers' Day and going right on into September when it will automatically climb into a pot, walk into the house and keep on blooming until after Christmas, well, if you demand all that, you are doomed to disappointment.

But if you call a perfect Peony one which combines at their possible best all the good points found in different Peonies, all into one variety, then I believe we have an attainable goal, or so nearly so that we imperfect humans would scarce be qualified to call it other than perfect.

I do not believe that a perfect Peony can be obtained through the use of colchicine or the X-ray. Those are destructive processes, and anything of value from them is obtained only by stopping the treatment before too much damage has been done. Rather, I believe, we must continue along the lines of selective breeding which has been the basis of most of our improvement of all flowers. The use of chance pollenized seed seems to me to be a very inefficient method now since we have so many fine outstanding kinds. I believe the perfect Peony will come, not from the one good seedling out of a thousand, but from one good one out of a strain that produces a very high proportion of fine new seedlings.

From my 400 series of 98 seedlings I have named at least fifteen kinds, and could have named more. One of these named kinds now stands with only one or two rivals for top honors in its class. And from this fine kind I have just obtained another new seedling which seems to answer nearly all the requirements for that type, and certainly is much better than its fine parent.

In another small lot of seedlings from hand pollenized seed every plant has shown the highest quality of red color. That line gives an advanced base from which to work for better form, stem, substance, etc. It takes many years to get results definitely sought for, and we have advanced far enough already that careful planning should save time and effort. And on the other hand, I feel that our most advanced varieties should also be bred back to some of the outstanding ancient kinds which have been with us for forty years or more. Careful and sincere planning is after all partly guess work, and if we do a certain amount of "prospecting" we may strike the best pay dirt that way. But let's do our own prospecting and not leave it to the wind and bees.

Let me close by asking another question. How far short of perfection some of the fine new kinds fall? Preferences differ—you may answer that for yourself.

What Are The Better Peonies?

MABEL L. FRANKLIN, Minneapolis, Minn.

Making lists is profitable planning as well as a pleasant indoor sport when the thermometer registers 20 below. Whether we grow peonies for pleasure or profit, or both, we want the greatest possible satisfaction for our efforts, our space and our money. We want to grow the better peonies. We want the longest blooming season. We want continuous bloom from the very earliest to the latest. We should be able to do this by careful selection.

Too many peonies crowd the market and bid for our attention. Over 600 varieties have been described and registered by the A. P. S. and the registration goes on merrily. Certainly 150 kinds, approximately one-fourth, should be better than the others. But which ones? Shall we choose only those varieties which have received the highest ratings? Then sorts like *Edulis Superba* would be omitted. We must have *Edulis*, one of the most fragrant of all peonies, for the earliest dark pink. We would also find that there would be too large a percentage of late light doubles among the high rated varieties if the collection is to represent all colors equally in continuous bloom.

Shall we choose to grow only the varieties that have received high honors at recent shows? Among these prize winners there would be a very large number of new and expensive sorts, some of which may not be really better than older ones, but better grown and better exhibited. The emphasis at the shows is properly on the newer kinds which many of us see there for the first time. We should continue to look for new and good varieties, but they will have to prove their worth. *LeCygne* in perfect form is still a prize winner. And we have seen both *Reine Hortense* and *Sarah Bernhardt* that were hard to beat. Also among the show varieties one could not find some favorites that are floriferous and charming in the garden.

Lists of better peonies have been published by growers of 20 to 50 kinds. Choices from these collections are of course rather limited. What of the hundreds of varieties not grown and not known? On the other hand it is doubtful whether any grower can know hundreds of kinds well. The season is too short and too hurried. I confess that the many Franklin varieties on my list are there because I know them better than the newer sorts of the other originators, and not for the purpose of advertising our varieties. Outstanding new things of other growers are included.

My selections are for continuous bloom over the longest season possible in Minnesota where only the *Chinensis* varieties are really hardy. 25 double peonies in each color group are listed in the order of bloom. We followed this plan of selection when we planted 210 varieties in our new sample patch this Fall.

DOUBLE PEONIES—EARLY TO LATE

Red—*Pioneer* (F), *Richard Carvel*, *W. F. Turner*, *Adolphe Rousseau*, *Henry Webster*, *Mons. Martin Cahuzac*, *Red Bird*, *Dixie*, *Defender* (F), *Hiawatha*, *Princess Pat.*, *Victoire de la Marne*, *Longfellow*, *Felix Crousse*, *David Harum*, *Karl Rosefield*, *Mary Brand*, *Grover Cleveland*, *Matilda Lewis*, *Chic* (F), *Eugene Bigot*, *Rose Red* (F), *Philippe Rivoire*, *Mark Twain*, *Sir John Franklin*.

Dark Pink—*Edulis Superba*, *Modesta Guerin*, *Mammoth Rose*, *Lamartine*, *Silver*, *August Dessert*, *E. G. Hill*, *Mme. Geissler*, *Berlioz*, *Souv. de Louis*, *Edulis* (F), *Loren V. Franklin*, *Martha Bulloch*, *Mrs. J. M. Kleitch*, *E. J. Shaylor*, *Phyllis Kelway*, *Clemenceau*, *Blanche King*, *Diadem*, *Edulis* (F), *Better Times* (F), *Alice Reed Bates* (F), *Pres. F. D. Roosevelt*.

Pink—Mons. Jules Elie, Gigantea, Therese, Georgiana Shaylor, Mary P. King, Gloriana, Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt, Acme, Mabel L. Franklin, Reine Hortense, LaFrance, Walter Faxon, Pres. Wilson, Winnie Winkle, Rosa Bonheur, Chief, Sarah Bernhardt, Primadonna, Edith Scovell, Franklins Pride, Nancy Dolman, Albert Crousse, Lady Kate, Ideal (F).

Light Pink—Dainty Lass (G), Judge Berry, Mary Ellen, Apriglow (F), Victory Chateau Thierry, Lady Alexandra Duff, Mme. Jules Dessert, Minuet, Mary Eastman, Alice Harding, Solange, Myrtle Gentry, Lucile Hartman, Tourangelle, T. C. Thurlow, W. F. Christman, Peach Glow (F), Cherokee (F), Milady (F), Hansina Brand, Merrill K. Franklin, Nick Shaylor, Grandiflora (R), Peerless (F), Ultima (F).

White—Festiva, Frankie Curtis, New Era, Mrs. Edw. Harding, LeCygne, Ball o' Cotton, Alsace Lorraine, Kelway's Glorious, Laura Dessert, Snowball, Primevere, Duluth, LaLorraine, Avalanche, Crusader (F), Mrs. A. B. Franklin, Grace Loomis, Resplendent, Alesia, Mrs. A. M. Brand, Mrs. J. M. Good, Mrs. J. V. Edlund, Richfield White, Elsa Sass, A. B. Franklin, Late Festiva.

SINGLE AND OTHER FORMS

Red—Vera, Imperial Red, Flanders Fields, Pres. Lincoln, Jimmy Franklin, Jean Ann, Charm, Nippon Brilliant.

Dark Pink—Ama-no-sode, Gypsy Rose (F), King of England, Mikado.

Pink—Sylvia, Mme. Butterfly, Eva, Tomato Bokū.

Light Pink—Mrs. Mac. Marguerite Dessert, Fairy Pink.

White—LeJour, Polar Star, Isani Gidui.

THE REDS

Pioneer is the earliest with us, blooming almost a week before any other *Chinensis* variety we grow. As it is very new I will say that it is a semi-double with stamens, a mild pleasing fragrance, a good shade of deep red with tall strong stems.

W. F. Turner may not be as good as *Louis Joliet*. We have not grown the latter long enough to know.

Felix Crousse, an old favorite for cutting, keeps long in storage and opens quickly when taken out. We prefer *Chic*, which in addition to these desirable qualities, has a better stem. We have grown *Chic* for our own cut flower trade and this is the first time we have told about it.

Eugene Bigot will probably yield place to *Tempest*.

Those interested in fragrance in peonies will find that *Henry Webster*, *Rose Red*, the *Franklin Defender* and *Philippe Rivoire* please them best. These four will bloom in succession and are to be depended on from year to year.

Showy reds that stand up well in wind and storm are: *Henry Webster*, *Red Bird*, *Rose Red*, *Matilda Lewis* and *Philippe Rivoire*.

DARK PINKS

Berlioz has been a favorite for many years with our customers. Rated low, many have stopped growing it. We have not found any newer variety to take its place.

The dark pinks include among their number two of the most fragrant peonies: *Edules Superba*, the earliest, and *Lavender Pink*, the latest. For showy landscape effect, *Edules Superba*, *Lake O' Silver*, *Mammoth Rose*, *Better Times* and *Lavender Pink* carry their bloom most proudly.

MEDIUM AND LIGHT PINKS

M. Jules Elie is the first choice in this color in any collection.

Therese, *Solange*, *Tourangelle* and *LaFrance* are so lovely when they "come good" that it is hard to leave them out.

Ultima ends the season, a cream white.

Mid-season pinks are plentiful. We wish there were more good ones either very early or very late.

THE WHITES

The most glaring omission in this list of white doubles is perhaps *Alesia*. There are so many good whites when *Alesia* is in bloom that we can't choose between them. And we shall have to add *Alesia* to the company of the select. *Late Festiva* extends the season and is good for cutting. Mrs. A. B. Franklin is the most fragrant white we know and *Crusader* (F) the showiest.



Peonies In 1942

FREDERICK E. SNYDER, Convoy, Ohio

Spring of 1942 in Ohio was a wet season, and while not an ideal peony year, it did give some varieties, such as *Tourangelles*, a chance to develop fine colorings. It is interesting to notice how much peonies differ in their order of blooming. This year, *Therese* and *Onondaga* were the very first to open, May 22nd, even before officinalis. *Therese*, though its rating has been lowered, still is as imposing in the garden each year as any variety. Mrs. Deane Funk once suggested planting *Therese* beside *Mons. Martin Cahuzac*, and having done so, I can report that they are splendid garden neighbors, as well as an excellent cut flower combination.

Tall *Onondaga* is a good dark red when first open, though unfortunately it quickly fades and loses its youthful form, becoming quite middle-aged by the third day. However, it is useful on account of its early season.

Pallas opened the next day, and this is a variety of real merit. Its fine stems and its habit of opening all its flowers at the same time, make it one of the finest of peonies for landscaping. The large flowers are loose enough to weather the usual storms, and last a long while; the petals expanding longer and longer each day. A little lighter than *Therese* in color, it makes an evenly rounded mass of color almost hiding the foliage. Still more, it is a most dependable variety.

Harry Burden did well as an attractive light pink, fluffy flowers, but was outdone by *Victor's Crown*, which is larger, has better stems, and an unusual deep pink center which is retained even after the rest of the flower has faded white. Each year it shows good quality and its "two-tone" coloring should make it a good exhibition flower.

Luetta Pfeiffer gave fine, large, rich pink blooms as a delightful surprise, since in previous years it had been only ordinary. A good many varieties require age to do really well.

Garden Princess showed the qualities of a superb landscape plant, having the strongest stems I have ever seen on such a very tall variety, standing straight and erect through all the rains and winds of the season. It opened as deep pink as *Walter Faxon* and Mrs. Deane Funk; later fading to near white. Its large, flat blooms were outstanding and it is reliable.

New Delight, *Heart's Idol* and *Allure* were other Neeley introductions that evinced real quality and promise.

Rich, deep red *Tempest* has for several years been the best red in my garden, and if Mr. Auten had given us no other peony, he would still deserve our continued gratitude. It is entirely different from *Philippe Rivoire* and the two are the finest double reds in my acquaintance, though some newer ones have aroused my curiosity. *Dearborn* is another of Mr. Auten's good reds and in red Japs. he really stands alone. Dark red *Charm*, glowing duskily from wherever one sees it, is the only red Jap. by another originator that, in my (amateur) opinion, is in the same class with *Nippon Brilliant*, *Nippon Beauty* and *Sword Dance*.

Single *Imperial Red*, as usual had good stems. Otherwise I see little to recommend it. Its color is common and its petals are badly notched, coarse and shapeless. Another single, *Krinkled White* is a real acquisition.

Goddess is admired for its very different color,—a pastel lavender pink. *Genteel Kukeni Jishi* too is really different with petals somewhat fluted and of finest texture and quality. When well grown there is no more aristocratic Jap; even including my favorite *Isani Gidui*.

King of England, with weak stems, grew so tall as to become almost a vine, damaging other better neighboring plants, so it had to be removed.

Thomas C. Thurlow again gave a fine account of itself with good plant habits, size, a rare salmon pink shading and delightful fragrance.

Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt has each year drooped its petals down, leaving its stem end exposed. I should like to know if others have this same experience.

Mme. Jules Dessert, really perfect, and *Lady Alexandra Duff* are always so excellent that newcomers must be "on their toes" to measure up.

Several commercial growers and judges of peonies have said that *Minnie Shaylor* is their favorite peony, and I always wonder that its rating is not much higher. For refinement and charm, none can excel it. Its cousin, *Nick Shaylor*, polished to perfection, is ever among the super elite.

Alice Harding is always as good as the best, while *Harry L. Little*, *Mrs. J. V. Edlund*, *Elsa Sass*, *Judge Snook*, *Dr. J. H. Neeley* and *Mrs. John M. Good* are all such wonderful whites that one wonders how any one of them could surpass any other, yet they are all different and indispensable.

Some of the best, if not the best flowers I have had in the past two seasons are *Mrs. J. H. Neeley*. There is no quality in which this one does not rate highly. Its color contains some tan, in the manner of *Solange* and *Tourangelle*, being of indescribable richness. In addition, it has fine stems and foliage, texture and dependability. Time will rate it highly.

While peonies are ideally suited for full sun it is interesting to note that they will give excellent results when planted on the North side of a building, provided that they are not too close to it. In fact, some years, better flowers are provided there because of the partial shade, which protects them from the burning sun, leaving the delicate colorings unspoiled. Also, they will bloom nearly a week later, thus considerably extending the season. A plant of *Mme. Jules Dessert* North of our home began blooming after another plant of the same variety in full sun had finished blooming.



The Peony, King of Kings

JOHN E. MARQUIS, *Nelson, B. C.*

We are situated in the little city of Nelson, British Columbia on the West arm of Kootenay Lake, twenty miles West from the main Kootenay Lake. The Kootenay River runs its westward journey two miles West of Nelson. It is a very turbulent stream and in a distance of twenty-two miles West of Nelson is situated the City of Nelson's power plant, and four hydro plants of the West Kootenay Power & Light Company, with another 25,000 H. P. plant being built.

You peony fishing fans would just itch to get the fly rod out and try your luck. In the years gone by I have had my share. From Nelson, to a point twenty-four miles West, where the Kootenay empties into the mighty Columbia River is a real paradise for fishermen. The fish, rainbow trout.

The coldest weather recorded in many years came the middle of January. It got down to 17 below zero. We had a week of zero weather. The two previous seasons the thermometer got down to zero. As a rule, we have fairly mild winter. We have had a fairly heavy fall of snow so far this winter. The poor deer

having quite a time. Trains are killing scores of them. I recall an engineer telling me that they killed seven on one run, Cranbrook to Nelson, a distance of 138 miles. There have not been so many killed West of Nelson.

This part of British Columbia is a real hunters paradise; goat, caribou, deer, brown, black and grizzly bear are quite numerous. Further East near Cranbrook, elk, moose and sheep are quite easily procured. We have geese, ducks and pheasants, besides willow grouse and the huge blue grouse.

Getting down to peonies, which is the ideal flower for this temperate zone. They do remarkably well here.

The buds expanded to almost the bursting point and then they would remain dormant for days. Then, when what little sun that did shine, did so with such fury that it literally burnt the outer petals and they would fail to open. Nevertheless, there were some good blooms.

The peonies which I thought did the best last season were the following: White—*Cornelia Shaylor*, even though it has a faint glow of pink in the center of flower; *Mme. Edouard Doriat*, *Genevieve*, *Odile*, *Kelway's Glorious*, and my best by far, *Le Cygne*. It is my choice of the lot.

Pinks—*Therese*, *Sarah Bernhardt*, *Souv. de Louis Bigot*, *Martha Bulloch*, huge, but very good, *Elise Renault* and *Edulis Superba*. Don't see how it ever got such a low rating. It comes good every year. I have several plants of *La Fee* and every year it comes up it resembles a moulting hen. It has such few flowers, I have it marked for discard. Another good pink was *La France*.

Among my reds, a double *Lord Kitchner* arrived first. The only redeemable feature about this creation is that it is extremely early. *Adolphe Rousseau*, as usual, was good. *Victoire de la Marne* comes good each season. I like it very much as it is so showy. Rain doesn't seem to affect its blooming qualities.

My best red, by far, was *Philippe Rivoire*. *Longfellow* and *W. F. Turner* were also good. These are just a few of the several hundred varieties I have growing in my peony planting.



When June Comes Smilin' Through

ERNEST FLINT KELSEY, *East Aurora, N. Y.*

June, the glamor girl of the months, will soon be leaving her home under the palm trees to visit our Northland gardens. Can we look forward to Miss June of 1943 with pleasurable anticipation? Yes we can, for "what is so rare as a day in June" and what is more beautiful than a field of peonies in full bloom under an azure June sky. The march of fighting men can not halt the march of the months and June will come at her appointed time in spite of belching guns with their hot breath of hate. Her army with pink tipped spears will come out of their trenches and defiantly fling their many colored banners into a war weary world.

Another, viewing the beauties of nature and the beastly natures of men, writes "where every prospect pleases and only man is vile." Next June we probably will have the "vile man" with us but will surely have the "pleasing prospect" of peonies from nations in the grip of war, Japanese and Chinensis, in their loveliest dresses demonstrating "garden peace."

Doubtless it will be true that "full many a flower is born to blush unseen," owing to the rationing of gasoline. Our government may deny us "pleasure driving" but it can't deprive us of *pleasure looking*. The lights of the world may have gone out but the garden will bloom, unafraid of bombs, bayonets or the tread of army boots. Bomb shelters are for men, not blooms.

Of course we shall miss the fringe of cars on the old Four Rod Road. The ancient cut leaf maple may perhaps wonder what has become of the little picnic groups beneath his shade. We shall not see the garden dotted with folk wandering among the flowers, reading the labels and taking notes. There will be no cars unloading excited flower lovers and other cars filled with friends waving farewells, happy with their arms full of Tri-Terrace blooms. We will surely miss those yearly visitors who sit and chat a while before going into the gardens. The Garden Clubs will not be able to have their yearly "dates" with us and although we shall miss many familiar faces, we shall have more time to leisurely watch the miracle of the opening bud unfolding its masterpiece of color fresh from the brush of the Great Artist.

Garden lovers are the most gracious and interesting folk in this "blooming" world. Furthermore, a garden in bloom is an effectual leveler of human kind. Here, rich and poor, wise or otherwise, meet in a common brotherhood. The flower fringed garden path is the multi-colored cord that binds us together. The magic alchemy of peonies' petaled loveliness transforms our base metal of hate and intolerance into gentleness and friendliness.

Spring will take no heed of the "hate and greed and clannish pride" of war, but will wrap her bronzed arms around this troubled world, press her warm breast against the naked clay and lo, millions of tiny fingers will point upwards, saluting the "Giver of every good and perfect gift."

When June comes smilin' through, I'll be smilin' too.



Harry F. Little (Nicholls, 1933)

This photograph was taken by Mr. J. F. Styer of the variety *Harry F. Little* which was the Grand Champion of the International Peony Show at Lansing, Mich., 1938. It has a rating of 9.4 and is one of Col. Nicholls fine originations.

Peonies In A Peace River Garden

C. M. CLARKE, *Teepee Creek, Alberta*

"Behold the flowers are diverse in stature, in quality, in colour and smell and Virtue, and some are better than some," *The Pilgrims Progress*—John Bunyan.

Those who are concerned only with the newest peony sensations will find nothing of interest in this contribution, as *Hiawatha*, (Franklin 1931) added in the spring of 1940, is the latest variety in this garden, and many excellent introductions of fifteen to twenty years ago are still lacking.

To me, every peony that blooms well is a fine flower, and peonies can only be considered poor when compared with better peonies, for to use Bunyan's phrase "some are better than some." As we grow them for their flowers, a very highly rated variety than cannot be induced to bloom in my garden, or one that won't bloom well, is considered very much inferior to one of low rating that gives a generous quantity of well formed flowers each year. Bearing this in mind, those who continue to read this item must not be surprised to find that a few officially top notch varieties have been discarded; two or three discarded ones reinstated on the writer's sole responsibility, and a few others promoted from the nebulous regions of the not-quite-good-enoughs of 7.5 to 7.9 ratings, to the safe haven of the 8.0 and overs.

The first planting was made here in the fall of 1923 when one plant each of 16 well known varieties were ordered from a Manitoba Nursery, and thereafter, a few have been added each year till 1939. Some of the first plants ordered didn't bloom till they were four years old and it was shown then that three, at most of the sixteen, were correctly named, and two of these had not been ordered. In this first lot were five plants of *Albâtre*, each under a different name, of which *Avalanche* was not one, and although there were in all eight of the varieties ordered, seven had been misnamed.

With the exception of one firm, which has since gone out of business, so general at that time was the practice among nurserymen of the Prairie Province of sending their customers anything that came to hand, apparently on the assumption that purchasers never know anything about the stock they order, or keep no records, that when all of the 40 varieties I imagined had been planted by the fall of 1926 came into bloom, there proved to be in reality only 14 that I could be sure were correctly named. Another, (*Louis van Houtte*, previously unknown to me and not ordered)—has been accepted since there is no reason to question its naming, though the vendors record in this respect is worst of all, and four other red varieties that have never been identified, two of which have been discarded. The remaining 21 plants all duplicated some of the other 19 varieties, which included such unsatisfactory discards as *Francis Ortegat*, *Zöe Calot*, *Linne* and *Prince Imperial*. After that I went further afield for my stock.

Two of the discarded varieties sent me on those early days have been retained and are quite satisfactory here and deserve reinstatement. *Berlioz*, with a rating of 7.0 is one of the most reliable bloomers, has strong stems and good foliage and is a desirable landscape variety that always attracts attention when in bloom. It merits a rating of 8.0. The other is *Louis van Houtte*, if it is correctly named, rating 6.9 to which I would give a rating of 7.6. It has a red flower of no particular distinction, but it keeps well when cut, and the plant has good stems and foliage and is a very regular and consistent bloomer. So many fine reds have been introduced in recent years, however, that it is unlikely to find a place in a new rating list unless it is wanted by growers of cut flowers.

There are in all at present a little over one thousand plants, representing 226 named albiflora varieties, 13 of other species and hybrids and a few unnamed seedlings—one of Mr. Auten's, the others chance seedlings originating here. No

hybridizing has been done, and unless something happens to prevent it, faded flowers are always cut before seed has set. A few of these have not yet bloomed and of many varieties I have only a single plant.

The 13 varieties of hybrids and species other than albiflora may be reduced to ten in spring as they include seedlings, grown here from imported seed, of *Paeonia lobata*, *P. lutea* and *P. Mlokošewitschi* which are now going through their first winter, and there is no knowing in advance how they may fare. The hybrids are Lemoine's *Avante Garde*, *Le Printemps* and *Mai Fleuri*. *Peter Barr (anomala)*, *P. tenuifolia*, fl. pl. and the officinalis varieties *alba plena*, *Fire King*, *Lize van Veen*, *rosea superba* and *rubra plena* make up the thirteen. I have had stock of *P. officinalis alba plena* from two different sources and both were badly infected with ring spot, a virus disease. It is my intention to discard the last plant of this variety in Spring. The stock of *P. officinalis rubra plena* isn't quite satisfactory either. The plants show no signs of disease but are dwarf, very shy bloomers, and are late in blooming, flowering with the earliest albifloras. A plant was obtained last fall from another source and if it should give better results, plants of the old stock will be discarded.

The blooming season begins the first week in June with *P. tenuifolia* fl. pl. and is continued by the officinalis varieties, which are followed in the last week in June by the albifloras; *Mons. Jules Elie*, *Edulis Superba*, *Victory Chateau Thierry*, *Judge Berry*, and *Festiva Maxima* leading the bright procession of glorious forms and radiant colors. Early and mid-season varieties do better, as a rule, than late ones. Spring is late in coming to us and the season advances so rapidly that, with a few notable exceptions which seem able to stand more punishment than the majority, the late bloomers are often badly damaged, sometimes quite ruined by hot, dry weather. Perhaps that is why early, midseason and late varieties often come tumbling into bloom in a great rush, paying no heed to the very precise placing given them by the Peony Society's manual and in dealers catalogues as early, early midseason, midseason and late. Kelway's method, "early to late," or even "very early to late," "midseason to late," would suit them better. A two-year-old plant of *Edulis Superba* which, for some unknown reason, didn't emerge till near the end of June last year, opened its flower on August 4th. A very early to very late variety.

The following table shows dates on which sixteen selected varieties opened their first flowers each year for the last five years and will give an idea of the time and duration of our blooming season. The 1935 dates have also been added as that is the latest blooming season for which I have records. It would appear from the table that 1938 was the earliest blooming season, but blooming dates of other flowers do not confirm that. All peonies were disbudded in 1938, the only year it was ever done, and that is probably why they were a little earlier than in 1941. No notes have ever been made of the dates on which the varieties finished blooming for the season, but the dates are given on which the last flowers were cut in each year, shown in the table and the name of the variety, or varieties. It goes without saying that, at that time, only a few scattered plants would have one or two good blooms, and they are often small flowers borne on weak stems that are heavily shaded by the foliage of the plants that bore them, or by that of neighboring plants.

BLOOMING DATES OF PEONIES AT TEEPEE CREEK, ALBERTA, 1935 and 1938 to 1942

Season as given in		First Flowers Opened					
A.P.S. Manual	Varieties	1942	1941	1940	1939	1938	1935
Early.	<i>Edulis Superba</i>	6-26	6-29	6-30	6-29	6-25	7-7
	<i>Festiva Maxima</i>	6-24	6-24	7-2	6-28	6-24	7-1
	<i>Modeste Guerin</i>	6-27	6-23	7-1	6-29	6-22	7-1
	<i>Mons. Jules Elie</i>	6-26	6-25	6-29	6-25	6-21	7-1

Early	{ Cherry Hill	6-26	6-25	6-30	6-25	6-21	Date
Midseason.	{ Mons. Martin Cahuzac	6-27	6-25	7-1	6-26	6-24	Missed
	{ Lady Alexandra Duff	6-27	6-21	6-30	6-29	6-25	7-7
	{ Longfellow	6-27	6-24	6-30	6-25	6-27	7-13
Midseason.	{ Reine Hortense	6-28	6-26	7-1	6-29	6-24	7-11
	{ Thérèse	6-28	6-27	7-1	6-27	6-24	7-12
Late	{ Felix Crousse	6-30	6-28	7-9	7-6	6-30	7-13
Midseason.	{ Madame Jules Dessert	7-4	6-28	7-8	7-1	6-25	7-15
	{ Couronne d'Or	6-30	7-1	7-7	7-1	6-29	7-15
	{ Marie Lemoine	6-30	7-2	7-11	Missed	7-4	7-22
Late.	{ Sarah Bernhardt	7-1	7-2	7-3	6-30	6-28	7-14
	{ Solange	7-6	7-3	7-14	7-11	Missed	7-26
Not listed	{ Alba Superba (?)	7-4	7-3	7-11	7-6	7-7	7-17

*The only plant of *Festiva Maxima*, of blooming age, in the garden in 1935, (one of those planted in 1923) behaved that year much like the abnormally late plant of *Edulis Superba* in 1942. Only three varieties were later in bloom in 1935.

The tabulated blooming dates show that early and early midseason varieties bloom here at the same time; *Longfellow* and *Lady Alexandra Duff* bloom regularly with the early varieties and *Reine Hortense* and *Thérèse* about a day later, so there is little difference between early and midseason varieties.

DATES ON WHICH LAST PEONY BLOOMS WERE CUT AT TEEPEE CREEK, ALBERTA, 1935 and 1938 to 1942

1942	1941	1940	1939	1938	1935
Asa Gray	July 21st	August 10th	August 5th	July 22nd	Aug. 16th
Cornelia	Edwin C.	Claire Dubois	Albâtre	Alba Superba	Alba Superba
Shaylor	Shaw	Cornelia			Solange
August 4th	Enchantresse	Shaylor			
Louis Barthelot	Geneviève	Louis			
Mme. Jules	Louis	Barthelot			
Dessert	Barthelot	Loveliness			
Mary Wood-	Loveliness	Mont Blanc			
bury Shaylor	Mrs. Frank				
Mrs. Frank	Beach				
Beach	Tourangelle				
Solange	July 30th				
	Louis				
	Barthelot				

Alba Superba was added to the varieties in the table of blooming dates in the hope of getting some information about it. The variety was bought from The Hine Nursery Co., of Brandon, Manitoba, (not now in business) on the recommendation of the Manager, Mr. H. Hine, who told me it was one of the best whites known to him, and its performance here fully justifies his high opinion of it. The name is not found in the American Peony Society's check list and Mr. Hine could give me no information as to its origin. I once thought it might be a seedling of some unknown originator, but in 1939 I saw it at the Dominion Experimental Station at Beaverlodge, Alberta, where it was received several years earlier from the Central Experimental Farm at Ottawa. Unfortunately, the Beaverlodge record of its planting has been lost and its real name is unknown.

It agrees in every respect, including the comparison of its blooming season, with that of *Duchesse de Nemours*, with Mrs. Frances McCullagh's description of *Sulphurea* (Lemoine 1830), in Bulletin No. 35, page 40, and if it really is that variety, I share her high opinion of it, and like her, I think it was very badly treated by eight of the nine persons whose votes gave *Sulphurea* its low rating of 6.6 on the 1921 symposium. At Teepee Creek it is one of the reliable late bloomers and never fails to attract the attention of visitors, though most Peace Riverites show a marked preference for reds and dark pinks. I would give it a rating of 9, or very close to it.

Miss Salway is another variety that has been treated harshly. As grown here it is entirely free of the fault for which it was criticized by Mr. Bonnewitz, as quoted by Mr. Long in bulletin No. 18, page 25, and I think it deserves quite as high a rating as *Jubilee* and *Madame Emile Lemoine*. Its stems here lack the strength with which they are credited by Mr. Long.

Charles McKellip is a good red, a strong, healthy grower and an unfailing bloomer that deserves promotion. The Directors of The American Peony Society have already recognized the claims for promotion of *Eduhis Superba*, *Madame de Verneville* and nine other old, low rated varieties by including them in the descriptive list. All of them merit promotion on the basis of their performance here. So does *Felix Crousse*.

These varieties, and two that were mentioned earlier, all received their low ratings in the 1921 symposium and I do not doubt that they will all be advanced if they are ever re-rated. Of the newer varieties, I think *Henry Webster* received too sharp a reduction in the 1939 Symposium and I would restore to *Denise* its old rating of 9.0 and to *Red Bird* its original 8.6.

The highly rated varieties which I would consign to the rubbish pile are nearly all late, and that may account, in a measure, for their failure here; still some late varieties give a very good account of themselves, so the recalcitrants seem to merit their harsh sentence.

First on the list for demotion is *Elizabeth Barrett Browning*. I have sometimes wondered how it came by its high rating of 9.2. In this garden it is quite worthless and its rating is a big 0. As grown here, it has a weak, sprawly stem that seems anxious to hide its shamed head under the foliage of neighboring plants, and for ten consecutive years of patient tolerance before it went on the rubbish heap, accorded in the hope that it would one day bear a flower worthy of its high rating, it never once bore a single, good bloom,—only buds that opened lop sided, or not at all; yet it won its high rating on 29 votes; ten voters giving it 10, two marking it 9.5 and ten awarding it a score of 9, the other seven being lower. Each member voting in a symposium is expected to rate a variety according to its performance as grown or observed by him, or her, or the vote is of no value. How would the Directors determine that my vote of 0 for this variety is "unfair and inaccurate"?

Mrs. C. S. Minot stands up and could hold up its head, I dare say, if it had ever developed one, but that was just brazen impudence, as it has as much cause to be ashamed of itself as *Elizabeth Barrett Browning*. It was discarded after five years and its consistent record for that time was "no bloom." It will be given another trial, however, when the removal of present war time prohibition of the importation of peonies gives an opportunity to secure stock from another source.

Red Knight has never been rated. It blooms sometimes, but only one or two flowers in a season. Stock was obviously diseased and we parted without regret, except for the time and cash that had been spent on it.

Milton Hill is the most exasperating variety I know. Recollection of the gorgeous blooms it bore in another garden before I came here earned it a reprieve year after year, for nine years, before it bore a worthwhile flower. That was in 1938 when it was disbudded and all buds bagged when all buds were about a half inch in diameter, and the plant carefully watered. In 1941 it produced the prize blooms of the garden without any special care, and in most years a few small flowers may be found on weak, well shaded stems, but good blooms are so rare, I doubt if it is worth the space it fills. The plant is healthy and each year it bears fine, large buds that make great promises, only to have the sepals and outer petals wither about the time the buds begin to show color. I would rate it 7.5.

Loveliness is worse. Even in 1938 when nearly all varieties did well, although it was given very special care, only two of the biggest buds opened. Like *Milton Hill*, it has borne on weak stems a few small flowers of good form each year since 1936, but it was here several years before it even did that. It is billed for the fire next fall.

E. G. Hill has been retained up to now because of its unusual color, but it has not done much better than *Red Knight*. Two of the three plants I once had have been discarded and the other will probably follow them this year.

Tourangelle is another disappointment. I know of no peony of lovelier color and its form is first class, but the plants I now have are weak growers and are nearly as stingy and miserly with their blooms as *Milton Hill* and *Loveliness*. Stock from two different sources has been tried and both have given the same results. Sentence is suspended, however, till a more vigorous stock can be found.

Stock of *Mons. Martin Cahuzac* from three different sources has been tried and all have behaved the same way, but judgment will be reserved until it has had another trial. It blooms each year but very few flowers, and they are often small and the plant is weak. I never recommend it to anyone.

Edwin C. Shaw is not on the list for discarding, or for demotion, but my only plant of this variety has had an unusual run of bad luck that makes its record to date look quite as bad as any of the above mentioned. Planted in the fall of 1935, it was very nearly killed by a bad cut worm outbreak the following summer. In its second year trespassing stock very nearly accomplished what the cut worms failed to do in its first. No bloom in 1938 and a single small one in 1939. In 1940 it bore two good blooms of fair size, and I wish it hadn't. Visitors who had permission to cut anything they cared to have didn't cut these two. Having failed to break the stem by twisting, they tried to snap them off by jerking and broke off nearly all the crown as well and left it lying on the ground. Visitors are sometimes visitations. The prayer I said on finding it was of the kind Langland's "Hermit Unholy of Works" might have said. A single small bloom in 1941 and in 1942 exactly the same thing that happened in 1940. This time I said no prayer, and the things I thought cannot be printed. The remainder of the plant was divided last fall and I hope to have it in good form in 1945 for the first time, nearly ten years after buying it.

Observations so far have been of a general character and comments on varieties based on several years of experience. The remainder of this article is an account of the 1942 season.

The fall of 1941 was cold and very wet and being far from well, much of the usual fall work had to be left undone. Stems are always cut and burned as soon as frost puts an end to their usefulness, but before it could be done in 1941, a horde of rabbits fell on the garden and leaves and stems were cut into small pieces that were difficult to pick out of the mud, and the short, frayed-out stubs were hard to cut, so that work had to be left until the ground dried in spring. After removing the stems, the position of each clump is marked by two inclined sticks, one on each side, like an inverted V, so that cultivation may be done in spring before the peonies emerge, without injuring the crowns, but that also was left undone in the fall of 1941, and by doing so, I discovered that the sticks served another useful purpose to which I had paid no heed before.

During the winter rabbits trampled the snow on all beds thoroughly missing no single inch, making it hard and compact and much less efficient as an insulator than the untrampled snow, and it was literally plastered with excreta. When the sticks are in position, they make runways between the rows and here and there, between the plants, leaving the mass of snow in good condition, and the crowns, at least, are not besprinkled with their excreta.

There may have been some botrytis or other infection from the dead leaves and stems, though it was not noticeable; or the trampling of the snow, which resulted

in the formation of ice caps over the crowns in many places in spring, may have been harmful; or it may have been due simply to the liberal application of fresh rabbit manure, liquid and solid. Whatever the cause may be, many plants showed severe injury in the spring of 1942 for the first time since peonies have been grown here.

Near the end of June, several plants had not yet come up and were noted as dead, but with the exception of two, all came to life again, and of the blooming age plants, only *Argentine*, *Dr. H. van der Tak*, *Fuyajo* and *Unbellata Rosea*,—of each of which I have only a single plant,—failed to bloom, though some of the injured plants that bloomed were greatly weakened. A three year old plant of *Walter Faxon* was the only one lost. A two year old one of *June Day*, which never emerged, is still alive. When about to replace it with another plant last fall, the crown was found to be quite sound and there were several good buds, and being busy at the time, it was covered again. I wanted to see what the roots were like, but the ground froze before time could be found to take it up.

Another unusual occurrence last Spring was a severe attack of tent caterpillars which did considerable damage to some of the plants before they were checked by adding arsenate of lead to the Bordeaux mixture spray. *Peonia tenuifolia* fl. pl. seemed to be a very special favorite and all plants of this variety were completely stripped of leaves before I knew that the fight was on.

Precipitation in Spring and early Summer was light and none at all from mid-Summer till Fall. These conditions had an adverse effect on the quantity and quality of blooms generally, and particularly on those of the late varieties.

First prize for 1942 blooms goes to *Rose Shaylor* for flowers that were perfect in every way. The plant that bore them is a young one and didn't have many. It was difficult to determine whether it or *June Day* should be given first place. The latter bloomed later than usual and could not be compared with the flowers for which *Rose Shaylor* was placed first as these had all been cut before the best flowers of *June Day* had opened. *Alsace Lorraine* was nearly of equal size and quality. Its blooms are often much larger than last year, but the only plant I have of the variety is a self Spencerized one, (See Bulletin No. 83, page 43.) that may disappear at any time unless divided. Six years old, it has never had more than a half dozen stems; stout, strong ones, and bears a single, magnificent bloom on each of two or three. It probably has only two or three overgrown old roots.

Of the old plants that bloomed heavily, *Maman Millet* probably had the largest flowers in 1942. It is a very reliable variety. *Lady Alexandra Duff* was also fine. It always is. *President Wilson* and *Sarah Bernhardt* were also in their usual good form. *Thomas C. Thurlow*, *Wilton Lockwood*, *Queen Wilhelmina*, *Princess Juliana* and *Madame Emile Debatene* were all first class. The last three named deserve special credit as the only plant I have of each of them is in a very dry location. In wet years and in dry, *Reine Hortense* is an unfailing joy, literally covered with flowers in its season. If it had fragrance, I would place it high among the highest. *Elise Renault* and *Miss Salway*, both consistent with fine flowers in great profusion, fully maintained their record. Flowers of the former are a little too massive for my liking, a fault shared by many other fine varieties.

The younger plants of *Thérèse* all bore very good blooms, but an old one in a bed specially prepared for comparison of varieties didn't do so well. The location is too dry. *Livingstone* was among the outstanding late varieties. Every bud opened and all were good flowers. *Judge Berry* and *Mons. Jules Elie* are reliable standbys and, as usual, both were good. So was *Madame Calot*, but it is never a heavy bloomer. *Cornelia Shaylor* was prolific and opened well, but the flowers were not large and they lacked substance.

Other pink varieties that did well, but were not quite up to the mark of already mentioned were *Auguste Dessert*, *Madame Auguste Dessert*, *Rose*.

heur, Madelon, Lillian Gumm, Rachel (Lemoine), Clemenceau, Elwood Pleas, Georgiana Shaylor and Luetta Pfeiffer. Myrtle Gentry opened only three fine blooms. The others were all ruined by the dry weather.

A six year old plant of *Martha Bulloch* bloomed for the first time. It is the only one I have of that variety and only the very bad fall weather of 1941 prevented me from discarding it at the time. Color and form of flowers were already mentioned were *Auguste Dessert*, *Madame Auguste Dessert*, *Rosa Bonfine*, but they lacked the size for which the variety is famous. As this was a particularly bad season for late varieties, I cherish the hope that it may be among the reliable late ones.

Passing over the varieties that were only fair, some mention must be made of a few that are usually among those of outstanding merit, but are missing from the list of last year's notables. *Mabel L. Franklin* was not up to its usual form. One of the two plants I had was divided in 1941 and the other is in too dry a location to do well in a season of light precipitation. Flowers of *La Fee* were smaller than usual and less numerous. *Jeannot* had an off year for the first time since it came into bloom here. This variety is one of my favorites, but there are so many of them, "favorite" does not seem quite the right word. With me, it has borne very few side buds in any year, usually none, and as disbudding is not a regular practice, that may account in part for the consistently high quality of its blooms as compared with those of many other highly rated late varieties. On the other hand, the period of its blooming is greatly shortened by the lack of side buds. *Miss Eckhart* and *Souvenir de Louis Bigot* were also below par last year. *Walter Faxon* and *Marie Crousse* had very few blooms. Some plants of each of these two are sickly things that will be discarded in spring. *Victory Chateau Thierry* was divided in the fall of 1941 and the year old plants bore only a few blooms late in the season,—late for the variety, that is.

Hansina Brand is another self Spencerized variety, but it derives no benefit from the process, as it often fails to open its buds. The 1941 season being wet, it was fine, but in 1942 it didn't open a single bud. As it was divided last fall and planted in a location that is not so dry as the one it had, I am hoping for better results in future.

Of white varieties, *Kelway's Glorious* and *Le Cygne* were both very good and so nearly equal I have never been able to decide which of the two was better. They played tricks with me and made me look again, frequently, and with a different result each time, reminding me of Lewis Carroll's "Hallucinations":

"He thought he saw an elephant
That practiced on a fife:
He looked again and found it was
I letter from his wife."

Sometimes I thought *Le Cygne* was best, but when I looked again I'd find 'twas *Kelway's Glorious*; or the other way about. *Le Cygne* varies considerably in its performance from year to year. It has never really been poor, but it is not always among the best.

La Lorraine, *Denise* and *Festiva Maxima* were in excellent form and *Mme. Emile Lemoine* was nearly, if not quite as good. Like *Le Cygne*, the quality of its bloom is unpredictable.

Next to *Longfellow*, *Mrs. Frank Beach* is the best Brand variety I have, and the two plants that flowered this year had an unusually long blooming season. Two good flowers were cut on August 4th from a plant that came into bloom on July 4th. When in bloom, it and *Madame Claude Tain* always dominate their corner of the garden by the profusion of their blooms. More prolific than any of the white varieties already mentioned, their flowers were smaller, on the average, than those of the others, but could have been made fully equal in this respect by disbudding. Much the same thing may be said of *Jubilee*.

though its flowers were not in the same class as those of *Mrs. Frank Beach* and *Mme. Claude Tain*.

Alba Superba(?), *Solange*, and *Couronne d'Or* were among the outstanding late white varieties though some of their late flowers, especially of the first two, were spoiled by drought and heat. Flowers of *Couronne d'Or* are not as fine as those of *Solange* and *Alba Superba*, but they are good and it is an unfailing producer.

The only blooming age plant of *Alice Harding* was among those injured last winter and bore only a few of its superb blooms. Stock from *Mrs. Edward Harding* has been obtained from an American and from a European dealer and both are weak growers, slow in establishing themselves, and bear few flowers. The variety did much better in 1942 than before,—foreshadowing still better results to come, I hope.

Marie Jacquin deserves honorable mention and so do *Monsieur Dupont*, *Mont Blanc* and *Lorch*. *Madame de Verneville* also merits a place here. *Frankie Curtis* and *Nina Secor* had some fair flowers.

Enchantresse, usually among the good late varieties, was not up to the mark last year. *Louis Barthelot*, a very late variety that generally bears a few good flowers, had two fine ones, a notable achievement considering the very unfavorable season and the severe injury it suffered during the preceding winter. It is one of those that came to life again after it had been given up as dead. *Frances Willard* has bloomed here for seven years and has never been in the front rank, though it has always had some fine flowers. It was divided last fall and planted in a less arid location and may give better results. *Frances Shaylor* was literally covered with flowers that withered suddenly about the time the plant reached full bloom. Too dry. *Mary Woodbury Shaylor*, another variety that had a resurrection after its obituary notice had been written, bloomed late and had only three flowers. *Mrs. A. M. Brand*, which is not in the dry bed and was not injured during the winter, failed to open a perfect flower, but like *Hansina Brand* it was good in 1941. *Nimbus* and *Priscilla Alden* bloomed for the first time, but their flowers are hardly worth a comment.

Longfellow was the outstanding red variety and *Karl Rosenfield* and *Felix Crousse* next. I would rather raise the rating of *Felix Crousse* and restore to *Red Bird* its original rating of 8.6. The last is a very reliable bloomer, and its flowers are always fine, though not very large. *Inspecteur Lavergne* was, as it always has been, a prolific bearer of good flowers and an unusual shade of red, but it needed disbudding. *Matilda Lewis* and *Hiawatha* were both fine but bore few blooms. Flowers of *Henry Webster* were largest of the good reds and I think it was the most fragrant peony in the garden. *F. Koppius*, *David Harum* and *Souvenir de A. Millet* were also good and bloomed plentifully, especially the first, but they were not as prolific as *Inspecteur Lavergne*. I think *Charles McKellip* should have the 8.2 rating of *Brand's Magnificent*, and I would drop the latter to 8.0. *Brand's Magnificent* has finer flowers, but up to now, the plant has been decidedly less vigorous and a poor bloomer as compared with *Charles McKellip*. *William F. Turner* was also good, but not a heavy bloomer.

Mary Brand bore some good flowers but it didn't do as well as usual. *Cherry Hill*, *Adolphe Rousseau*, *Richard Carvel*, *Winnifred Domme* and *Victoire de la Mare* were all below par. I would rather have *Madame Gaudichau* than *Mons. Martin Cahuzac*, but that is not high praise and it is not intended to be so. Both are shy bloomers here, but the plant of *Madame Gaudichau* is healthy and attractive, and in Spring and Fall it can easily be singled out among the others for quite a distance. I am looking to the time when I will be able to replace them both with some of Mr. Auten's reds.

Mr. L. van Leeuwen has been very slow in establishing itself here and bore few flowers. It has improved the last two years but still has a long way to

in order to meet its 8.6 rating. My only plant of *Grover Cleveland* was a persistently self Spencerized one that was divided last year. If it should do no better in a new location, the present stock will be discarded when another is available. *Lora Dexheimer* and *Marian Pfeiffer* failed to bloom. The former has never been satisfactory.

I first bought *Philippe Rivoire* from an Eastern Canadian firm that has always been meticulously exact in filling orders and had never misnamed or substituted a single item in any order, and so great was my confidence in their labelling that in spite of my great disappointment when the plant bloomed, I did not doubt that it was correctly named, and came to the conclusion that *Philippe Rivoire* was a very much over rated variety, and the stock has never been increased. The stems of the plant they sent me seem weaker than those of *Eugène Bigot* but I can find no other difference between the two.

Some years later, when ordering from another firm, *Philippe Rivoire* was included on the chance of getting something different, and I did. The very small plant received didn't bloom till it was four years old, but it was the real *Philippe Rivoire*. It was divided in 1940 and although the two year old plants all bloomed in 1942, flowers were too few and too small for comparison with those of mature plants of other varieties.

I have very few singles and Japanese; only three of the former,—*Othello*, *Rosy Dawn*, the only ones of blooming age, and *Mischief*, which has not yet bloomed.

Of the Japanese,—*Mikado* and *King of England* bloomed. *Fuyajo* was badly damaged during the preceding winter and didn't flower. *Isani Gidui*, *Kukeni Jishi* and *Tokio* are new additions which have not yet bloomed.

I consider *Aureolin*, which always blooms well, a double.



My Home Peony Garden

JUDGING OF PEONIES MADE BY W. T. COE

June 7, 1942, at Garden in Minneapolis, Minnesota

- 9.3 *White Eagle* (H. P. Sass). Very early, strong stems, vigorous, very large and very white, some fragrance. Through blooming today. Opened May 30th.
- 9 *Marietta Sisson* (H. P. Sass). Earliest of all, one day earlier than *Edulis Superba*. Lovely light pink, much like a rose if cut in bud and allowed to open indoors. Later, the flowers are large. Some fragrance. Stems not strong. Three blooming today. Opened May 30th.
- 9 *Henrietta Huntington* (H. P. Sass). Light pink turning to white. Slightly fragrant. Vigorous grower. Very floriferous. Stems not strong. Flowers very large and they fall down. Early. Opened May 31st.
- 9 *Gleam of Gold* (H. P. Sass). Light pink. Opening stems very strong and flowers do not fall down, although very large. Little fragrance. A few stamens show from which it gets its name. Desirable on account of its sturdiness. Medium period of bloom. In full bloom June 7th.
- 9.2 *Priam* (H. P. Sass). Early. Very big, 8 inches, dark red, floriferous, no perfume. Stems none too strong.
- 9.8 *Ann Pfeiffer* (Pfeiffer). A brilliant pink. Very large perfect flowers. Stems very strong. Needs no support. Not very tall. Medium. In bloom June 7. Not much fragrance. A marvelous peony.
- 9 *Marian Pfeiffer* (Pfeiffer). Red. Later and more brilliant than *Mary Brand*. Floriferous, but flower not large. Stems stand up well. Good cutter. No fragrance. A very good red peony.

- 8.8 *Adonis* (H. P. Sass). Pink with yellow collar. Strong stems and flower good size. A little fragrance. Foliage good.
- 9.2 *Grace Batson* (H. P. Sass). Medium pink. Stem strong. Flower large and well formed. Floriferous. Late middle period of bloom. Good foliage. A very desirable peony. Reliable bloomer.
- 9.1 *Sass Imperial Red* (H. P. Sass). Single. Very large with strong stems. Color a brilliant cerise red. One of the very best single peonies. It makes a brilliant show in a garden.
- 7 *Flowret of Eden* (Neeley). Pink. A reliable bloomer but blooms are irregular in form and indifferent in quality. Should be discarded.
- 9.3 *Mary Brand*. About the most reliable red. If I could have but *one* Red peony, it would be *Mary Brand*.
- 9.3 *H. P. Sass Seedling 20-35*. A hand hybridized cross *Cahuzac* x *Fuyajo* (Jap). Dark as *Cahuzac* but a coarser and larger bloom. Extremely floriferous. Some stems 4 feet tall. Early medium. In full bloom June 7th. Stems strong. None ever fall down. Stands up in wind and rain. Odor a bit rank. It bears seed. A marvelous garden ornament.
- 9.8 *Elsa Sass* (H. P. Sass). Opens opalescent but turns white in the sun. Medium. Flowers perfect in form and large, tall. Stems strong. Stands up well. Very floriferous. Slight fragrance. One of the greatest of peonies.
- 9.5 *Alice Harding* (Lemoine). Opens blush. Turns white in the sun. Strong grower. Flowers perfect in form and large. Much like *Le Cygne*, only taller and stems stronger. A great peony.
- 9.8 *Mrs. J. V. Edlund* (Edlund). Pure white. Form perfect. Tall, vigorous, floriferous, large. Very sweet fragrance. Stems not strong. Needs support. N. B. An almost perfect peony in Minneapolis, but tender in my Northern garden. Winterkilled there.
- 9 *Mammoth Rose* (Franklin). A giant deep pink flower, coarse in texture. Medium early. No fragrance. Desirable on account of its extreme vigor and size. Stems very strong.



Raising Peonies to get to Heaven

W. E. FOORE, *Sexsmith, Alberta*

Away back in the early days here in the Peace River country there lived a man,—yes, a very good man, who raised his family, paid his debts, (including taxes) died, and when he arrived at St. Peter's Portals, knocked. St. Peter wanted to know of him who he was, where from and by what right he wished to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. After giving his name, residence and occupation, he mentioned the fact that he had raised some very fine peonies. "Yes," said St. Peter, "that is all very well, but that does not entitle you to heaven."

"Well," said the man, "there was Foore, he was a peony man and you've taken him in." "But," says St. Peter, "he only thought he knew something about peonies. I will have to put you to a further test," said St. Peter. "You go back to the country from whence you came, take up a brush quarter section of land as a homestead, cut, pile and burn all the brush and report back to me." After years and years of faithful toil he had accomplished his task and reported back to St. Peter. St. Peter seeing the task had been fully accomplished said, "That was very good, but you will have to be put to a still further test. Go back, get yourself a yoke of oxen, grub out all the stumps, burn them, break up the land and then report back to me."

After more years of toil and hard work he had the land in a high state of cultivation and to "cinch" his place in heaven, he planted the entire 160 in peonies. Then, feeling sure of his ground, he reported back to St. Peter.

when St. Peter heard his knock at the Great Pearly Gates he inquired as to who was there. On being informed he said, "I remember you, you are that fellow from the Peace River Country," and St. Peter taking his great magnifying glasses looked down, and there he saw waving from corner to corner of the field, the most beautiful peonies he had ever seen. "Well!" said St. Peter, "that is very good, but I want to put you to just one more little test. You go back this time to the U.S.A., get all the principal peony growers to agree on which is the finest peony grown." "Oh!" said the waiting candidate, "you might just as well sentence me right now to the other place."

The moral of this story is my idea of the futility of getting anything like a unanimous opinion on the grading or rating of peonies.



Comments From Canada

WILLIAM BROWN, *Elora, Ont.*

The 1942 Peony season in this, the central part of Ontario, was marked by almost daily rainfalls. If part of this rain had fallen before the blooming period it probably would have saved some disappointments. The peonies however proved again that they could take it and did splendidly.

In glancing over our notes we notice that about fifty varieties seemed to stand the excessive rainfall better than the rest. Among these were a large number of Japs which withstood the wet weather much better than the doubles. No doubt this was on account of their looser petalage which lets the rain seep through instead of holding it as is the case with the doubles.

At the top of the list of our best double varieties we would unhesitatingly place *Le Cygne* and *Nick Shaylor* with *Myrtle Gentry*, *Mrs. A. M. Brand* and *Mrs. J. V. Edlund* in the order named. We quite agree with all the nice things Mr. Peyton has said about *Nick Shaylor*. It has taken its place in our affections right along with *Le Cygne* which again has excelled itself this year.

At the 1942 Guelph Peony Exhibition a perfect eight inch bloom of *Myrtle Gentry* was judged the best in the entire show. Beautiful specimens of *Nick Shaylor*, *Mrs. A. M. Brand* and *Mrs. J. V. Edlund* were also in the running. Unfortunately *Le Cygne* had been cut wet and spoiled in storage or no doubt it also would have been heard from. Three gold medalists and one silver were in this group. That should help prove that these honors have not been undeservedly conferred. While on this subject we believe that any peony which has stood at the top for so many years as *Le Cygne* should also have this coveted award. *Kelway's Glorious*, which in the opinion of forty-six peony experts is the best of all should also have this recognition. Not that we believe these medals should be given indiscriminantly, but if a peony is good enough to be placed above gold medal varieties why should it not have the same award.

In our humble opinion the procedure followed in giving *Nick Shaylor* a Gold Medal at Syracuse was the best. It was earned not by a single exhibit in a show room but rather by its performance in many different gardens over a number of years.

In my garden we have some 250 varieties among which are three doubles to which we would give this honor, namely, *Le Cygne*, *Nick Shaylor* and *Myrtle Gentry*. I would also be tempted to give *Nippon Brilliant* and *Isani Gidui* the same award. *Myrtle Gentry* never fails to give a large perfect light pink bloom which gradually turns to white. Its lasting qualities and fragrance are all that are to be desired in a really great peony.

In the Japs, *Auten's Nippon Brilliant* and *Franklin's Charm* were two of the best. Visitors simply raved about them. *Isani Gidui*, *Antwerpen*, *Onahama* and *Tamate Boku* were equally good and also received their share of homage.

It is a pity that *La France* does not open better. On a six year old plant only three out of fifteen buds opened perfectly and the others just quit in various stages of development. This happens every year and spoils what otherwise would be a great Peony.

Blanche King in the dark pinks and *Ella Christiansen*, a lighter pink, were among the élite. These two, which in my garden, never fail to give wonderful bloom, this year were no exception. Two others of Mr. Brand's that also do extra well here are Mrs. John M. Kleitsch and *Victory Chateau Thierry*. A visitor to our garden who wanted one good peony for a particular purpose on looking over our collection selected *Victory Chateau Thierry* for that honor.

When attending the A.P.S. annual show at Lansing, Michigan, several years ago one variety we thought outstanding in Mr. Little's great collection was a lovely bloom of *Phoebe Cary*. This peony does not get a great deal of advertising but since then we have had it bloom in our own garden and think it is one of the best.

Garden Princess, Mrs. J. H. Neeley, *Elsa Sass* and *Evening Star* gave some very fine bloom on two year old plants. We shall look forward to seeing them perform as three year olds.

While we are short on good reds, *Commander* gave some very good bloom late in the season and *David Harum* is always a favorite with its bright red flowers.

When disbudding this spring we paid particular attention to *Mons. Martin Cahuzac* with the result that the blooms were of the largest and best color we ever had from this variety. *Philippe Rivoire* as usual was also very good, while *Cornelia Shaylor*, *Victoire de la Marne* and *Mons. Jules Elie* vied with each other in seeing which could give the largest bloom, the honors going to the latter. All were exceedingly fine.

Nancy Dolman, President Wilson and *Susan B. White* were all strong growers and gave very large bloom. *Nancy Dolman* lasted longer than any other variety in our garden. The old standbys, *Sara Bernhardt*, *Therese*, *Felix Crousse*, *La Lorraine* and *Mme. Jules Dessert* were right up with the best and it will be a long time before any newcomers will oust them from their niche in peonydom. A few other doubles that were extremely good were *Argentine*, *Armance Dessert*, Mrs. Edward Harding and *Marie Lemoine*. The latter is still one of the very best late whites we have and holds its large pure white bloom erect in all kinds of weather.

Three of our own seedlings we have named *Athelstane*, *Fairleigh* and *Maryan*. *Athelstane* gives a large bloom of unusual shade of lavender pink; *Fairleigh* a large loose built bluish pink and *Maryan* is a very good medium pink. None of these are world beaters but they are very satisfying. The former two have the healthiest foliage and strongest growth of any in our garden.

Among the Japs not previously mentioned which were particularly good were *Nippon Beauty*, *Nippon Chief* and *Hari-ai-nin*. These three varieties rivaled *Nippon Brilliant* in the bright reds. While many of these reds are somewhat alike to the casual, all are different and all very beautiful. *Margaret Atwood*, Mrs. Mac, *Prairie Afire*, Mr. G. F. Hemerik, *Ama-no-Sode* and *Shaylor Sunburst* were also very fine in the lighter colors.

A newcomer to our garden which bloomed this year was *Imperial Red*. To say it was large and striking is putting it mildly. Along with *Krinkled White*, *Pico* and *Josette* it forms a quartette that would raise any collection of singles out of the ordinary.

Some day we hope to acquire a still finer collection of Japs and singles as these varieties, to our mind, have a special appeal which the double varieties seem to lack. However in all fairness to the latter they still appear to be favorites of the many who visited our garden during the blooming season.

Fragrant Peonies

JAMES MASON, *Chicago, Ill.*

The best flower in the Topeka, Kansas National Peony Show was Mrs. R. M. Bacheller, a fragrant variety of good size and beauty.

One of the judges saw me sampling the fragrance of almost every double peony in the exhibit and he suggested a list of the fragrant ones for the bulletin.

With Bulletin No. 87 (September) at hand, I have just dotted down the varieties which took ribbons as recorded in Mr. George W. Peyton's report of winners. From this list were segregated the ones that are fragrant to me.

Among peony fans I have found some who say that Jap varieties have a pleasing odor. Not to my nose, except *Prairie Afire*, (more anemone type than Jap). *Mikado* is decidedly unpleasant to my nose, but I like that flower anyway.

Here is the list of fragrant kinds which appeared at Topeka. It is not complete because there were some with pleasant odor which did not win ribbons, and were not recorded. Two fragrant winners are omitted from this list because they are temperamental in Chicago, being good about one year in ten in this climate. There are many excellent fragrant peonies which did not appear at Topeka. All of the following are well worth growing:

A. B. Franklin, Alice Harding, Avalanche, Ball O'Cotton, Belle, Blanche King, Clemenceau, Dr. J. H. Neeley, Duchesse de Nemours, Duluth, Edulis Superba, Ella Christiansen, Fanny Crosby, Flower Girl, Grace Batson, Hans P. Sass, Hansina Brand, Hazel Kinney, John M. Good, Kelway's Glorious, La Perle, Last Rose, Mabel L. Franklin, Martha Bulloch, Mme. Calot, Mme. de Verneville, Miriam Napier Rowe, Mons. Dupont, Mont. Blanc, Mrs. Eva Barron, Mrs. F. A. Goodrich, Mrs. Frank Beach, Mrs. John M. Kleitsch, Mrs. J. V. Edlund, Mrs. R. M. Bacheller, Myrtle Gentry, Nina Secor, Philippe Rivoire, Phoebe Cary, *Prairie Afire*, President Coolidge, Richard Carvel, Sistie, Splendida, Tourangelle, W. F. Christman.

We hope the above short list may be greatly supplemented during the coming flower season. Take your pad and pencil with you when you pass through your peony planting and make a note of what to you appear to be fragrant varieties. Our ideas of what constitute fragrance may be slightly at variance but send in your lists for compilation or presentation. Editor.



Selections of the Best Peonies

A group of five peony growers met at the Hotel Radisson, Minneapolis, on January 30th, at noon, for a luncheon. The object of the meeting was to work out the fifty best peonies, but that was not possible, we could not agree, but four of us have worked out the following lists, which explain themselves, of what we regard as the best peonies in their respective colors.

W. T. Coe.

R. W. JONES' LIST

St. Paul, Minn.

WHITE

- 9.42 1. Harry F. Little
- 9.46 2. Elsa Sass
- 9.14 3. Mrs. John M. Good
- 9.34 4. W. L. Gumm
- 9.50 5. Evening Star

BLUSH

- 9.27 1. A. B. Franklin
- 9.43 2. Geo. W. Peyton
- N.R. 3. Edith M. Snook
- 9.01 4. Odile
- 9.41 5. Mary Auten

MEDIUM PINK

- 9.40 1. Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt
- 8.85 2. Lady Kate
- 9.00 3. Chief
- 9.00 4. Ella Christiansen
- 9.10 5. Nancy Dolman

DARK PINK

- 9.08 1. Loren Franklin
- 9.36 2. Mrs. Livingston Farrand
- 8.85 3. Pres. Franklin D. Roosevelt
- 8.9 4. Blanch King
- 8.93 5. Last Rose

LIGHT PINK

9.35	1. Nick Shaylor
9.04	2. Ella Lewis
N.R.	3. Lottie Dawson Rea
9.19	4. Hans P. Sass
9.23	5. Judge Snook

REDS

N.R.	1. Sir John Franklin
9.20	2. Philippe Rivoire
N.R.	3. Mark Twain
8.69	4. H. L. Richardson
8.92	5. Onandaga

J. F. JONES' PEONY LIST

Minneapolis, Minn.

1939 Rating	WHITE	My Rating	MEDIUM PINK	
9.42	<i>Le Cygne</i>	97	9.40	<i>Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt</i> 95
9.46	<i>Elsa Sass</i>	96	9.10	<i>Martha Bullock</i> 94
9.51	<i>Mrs. J. V. Edlund</i>	95.5		<i>Lady Kate</i> 93
9.56	<i>Kelway's Glorious</i>	95	9.00	<i>Raoul Dessert</i> 91
9.01	<i>Mrs. A. M. Brand</i>	94	9.00	<i>Sarah Bernhardt</i> 90
	FLESH			DARK PINK
9.36	<i>Alice Harding</i>	95	8.9	<i>Blanche King</i> 95
9.17	<i>A. B. Franklin</i>	94	9.36	<i>Mrs. Livingston Farrand</i> 94
9.27	<i>Mrs. H. F. Little</i>	93	8.85	<i>Pres. Franklin D.</i>
9.17	<i>La Lorraine</i>	92		<i>Roosevelt</i> 92
9.01	<i>Odile</i>	90	9.01	<i>L. W. Pollock</i> 91.5
	LIGHT PINK		9.08	<i>Loren Franklin</i> 91
9.06	<i>Myrtle Gentry</i>	96		RED
9.04	<i>Hansina Brand</i>	95	9.20	<i>Philippe Rivoire</i> 94
9.35	<i>Nick Shaylor</i>	94	9.13	<i>W. E. Blanchette</i> 92
	<i>Josephine Hope Healy</i>	91		<i>Ruth Elizabeth</i> 92
9.00	<i>Milton Hill</i>	90	9.00	<i>Longfellow</i> 91
			9.05	<i>Mrs. Bryce Fontaine</i> 91

C. R. JENK'S LIST

Stillwater, Minn.

Official Rating	WHITE	C. R. Jenk's Rating	MEDIUM PINK	
9.56	1. <i>Kelway's Glorious</i>	1 9.73	9.40	1. <i>Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt</i> 1 9.40
9.42	2. <i>Le Cygne</i>	2 9.63	9.10	2. <i>Martha Bullock</i> 2 9.28
9.46	3. <i>Elsa Sass</i>	3 9.55	9.30	3. <i>Walter Faxon</i> 3 9.25
8.94	4. <i>Minerva</i>	4 9.54	9.00	4. <i>Ella Christiansen</i> 4 9.20
9.60	5. <i>Mrs. A. M. Brand</i>	5 9.48	8.85	5. <i>Acme</i> 5 8.85
	BLUSH			DARK PINK
9.27	1. <i>A. B. Franklin</i>	1 9.27	9.36	1. <i>Mrs. Livingston</i>
9.27	2. <i>Mrs. H. F. Little</i>	2 9.27		<i>Farrand</i> 1 9.36
9.22	3. <i>Mrs. John H. Neeley</i>	3 9.22	8.90	2. <i>Blanche King</i> 2 9.10
9.27	4. <i>Solange</i>	4 9.20	9.10	3. <i>Souv. De Louis Bigot</i> 3 9.00
9.50	5. <i>Alice Harding</i>	5 9.10	8.85	4. <i>Pres. Franklin D.</i>
	LIGHT PINK			<i>Roosevelt</i> 4 8.85
9.54	1. <i>Therese</i>	1 9.40	8.93	5. <i>Last Rose</i> 5 8.84
9.35	2. <i>Nick Shaylor</i>	2 9.35		REDS
9.10	3. <i>Hansina Brand</i>	3 9.20	9.20	1. <i>Philippe Rivoire</i> 1 9.55
9.10	4. <i>Myrtle Gentry</i>	4 9.20	2. <i>Sir John Franklin</i> 2 9.40
9.06	5. <i>Gloriana</i>	5 9.10	3. <i>Mark Twain</i> 3 9.20
			9.00	4. <i>Longfellow</i> 4 9.10
			8.69	5. <i>H. L. Richardson</i> 5 8.69

W. T. COE'S LIST

Minneapolis, Minn.

WHITE

1. *Le Cygne*
2. *Mrs. J. V. Edlund*
3. *Elsa Sass*
4. *Mrs. A. M. Brand*

BLUSH

1. *A. B. Franklin*
2. *Mrs. J. H. Neeley*
3. *Tourangelle*
4. *Alice Harding*
5. *Mary Eastman*

LIGHT PINK

1. *Acme*
2. *Walter Faxon*
3. *Minuet*
4. *Hans P. Sass*
5. *Chief*

Rating

9.8
9.8

9.4

9.3

MEDIUM PINK

1. *Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt*
2. *Martha Bulloch*
3. *Nancy Dolman*
4. *Mrs. J. M. Kleitsch*
5. *La France*

DARK PINK

1. *Blanch King*
2. *Ann Pfeiffer*
3. *Pres. Franklin D. Roosevelt*
4. *Queen of Hamburg* 9.2
5. *Franklin's Seedling E 41* 9.4

REDS

1. *Philippe Rivoire*
2. *H. L. Richardson*
3. *Mary Brand* 9.3
4. *Sir John Franklin*
5. *Priam*

* * *

The American Peony Society

Annual Show

JUNE 21-22, 1943

NORTHWESTERN NATIONAL BANK — MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.
IN COOPERATION WITH MINNESOTA PEONY AND IRIS SOCIETY

SHOW RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. Entries are open to anyone, regardless of membership in local or National Societies.
2. Entry list giving name and number of classes to be entered should, if possible, be in the hands of the registration chairman, on or before June 15, so that proper space may be provided for exhibits. However, entries can be made prior to time of judging.
3. All exhibits must be entered in place, ready to be judged by 11:00 A.M., June 21, and must remain in place up to time of closing, 9:00 P. M., June 22.
4. All entries must be staged under a number obtained from the Show Committee. The entry card showing the exhibitor's name may be displayed after the awards are made.
5. No exhibitor can make more than one entry in one class, except in the seedling classes where the number of entries and awards is as shown for the respective classes.
6. All peony blooms staged for competition must have been cut from plants owned by the exhibitor.
7. All varieties of peonies, except in the seedling and arrangement classes must be correctly named and plainly labelled. Seedlings must be either named or numbered.
8. Any exhibit containing either more or less material than specified in this schedule, or that in any other way violates the conditions, shall be disqualified.

9. Prizes will not be given to unworthy exhibits, even if they are the only ones in their class, and the judges may reward either first or second prizes, or make no award at all, at their discretion. The judges' decision must be accepted as final.

10. All containers, except in the arrangement classes, will be furnished by the Exhibition Committee.

11. Double or semi-double varieties are to be shown unless otherwise indicated.

12. The American Peony Society color classification will be found at the entry desk to assist exhibitors in getting their entries into the proper color classifications.

13. The American Peony Society Manual to govern type of bloom.

14. In the arrangement classes the container must be furnished by the exhibitor at his own risk. Name and address of the owner should be placed on the bottom of container. The Show Management assumes no responsibility in case of loss or breakage. Containers will be furnished for all other classes.

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES NATIONAL PEONY SHOW Minneapolis, Minn.

GROUP ONE—Open to Professional Growers, Advanced Amateurs and Amateurs.

GROUP TWO—Advanced Amateur Class. The classes in this group are open to those who grow peonies primarily for pleasure and whose expenditure for new varieties equals or exceeds all receipts for sales of flowers and roots.

GROUP THREE—Amateur Class. Open only to those who sell no flowers or roots. Not open to exhibitors in Groups ONE and TWO.

GROUP ONE — OPEN CLASSES DIVISION I

Class No. 1 30-20-10

A collection of 50 named varieties, one bloom each in separate containers.
Double or semi-double.

1. Gold Medal
- 2.
- 3.

Class No. 2 20-10-5

Collection of not more than 25 named varieties, any type, double, semi-double, Jap, or single, one bloom each in separate container by an exhibitor from any State other than Minnesota.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Class No. 3 20-10-5

Collection of 10 named varieties, double or semi-double, three blooms each, in separate containers.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Class No. 4 10-5-3

Ten blooms, one named variety, double or semi-double in one container.
White or flesh.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Class No. 5 10-5-3
Ten blooms, one named variety, double or semi-double in one container.
Light pink.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Class No. 6 10-5-3
Ten blooms, one named variety, double or semi-double, in one container.
Medium or dark pink.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Class No. 7 10-5-3
Ten blooms, one named variety, double or semi-double, in one container. Red.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Class No. 8 5-3-2
Three blooms, one named variety, double or semi-double, in one container.
White or flesh.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Class No. 9 5-3-2
Three blooms, one named variety, double or semi-double, in one container.
Light pink.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Class No. 10 5-3-2
Three blooms, one named variety, double or semi-double, in one container.
Medium or dark pink.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Class No. 11 5-3-2
Three blooms, one named variety, double or semi-double, in one container.
Red.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

DIVISION II Japanese Peonies

Class No. 12 15-10-5
Collection of 10 named varieties, Japanese type, one bloom each, in separate
containers.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Class No. 13 5-3-2
Three blooms, one named variety, Japanese type, in one container. White
or blush.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Class No. 14 5-3-2
Three blooms, one named variety, Japanese type in one container. Pink.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Class No. 15 5-3-2
Three blooms, one named variety, Japanese type, in one container. Red.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

DIVISION III Single Peonies

Class No. 16 15-10-5
Collection of 10 named varieties, single type, one bloom each, in separate containers.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Class No. 17 5-3-2
Three blooms, one named variety, single type, in one container. White or flesh.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Class No. 18 5-3-2
Three blooms, one named variety, single type, in one container. Pink.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Class No. 19 5-3-2
Three blooms, one named variety, single type, in one container. Red.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

DIVISION IV GROUP TWO—ADVANCED AMATEUR CLASSES Double and Semi-double Peonies

Class No. 20 30-20-10
Collection of 25 named varieties, double or semi-double, one bloom each, in separate containers.

1. American Peony Society Silver Medal
- 2.
- 3.

Class No. 21 20-10-5
Collection of 10 named varieties, double or semi-double, one bloom each, in separate containers.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Class No. 22 10-5-3
Three blooms, one named variety, double or semi-double, in one container. White or flesh.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Class No. 23 10-5-3

Three blooms, one named variety, double or semi-double, in one container.
Light pink.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Class No. 24 10-5-3

Three blooms, one named variety, double or semi-double, in one container.
Medium or dark pink.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Class No. 25 10-5-3

Three blooms, one named variety, double or semi-double, in one container.
Red.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

DIVISION V
Japanese Peonies

Class No. 26 15-10-5

Collection of five named varieties, Japanese type, one bloom each, in separate containers.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Class No. 27 10-5-3

Three blooms, one named variety, Japanese type, in one container. Any color.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

DIVISION VI
Single Peonies

Class No. 28 15-10-5

Collection of five named varieties, single type, one bloom each, in separate containers.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Class No. 29 10-5-3

Three blooms, one named variety, single type, in one container. Any color.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

DIVISION VII
GROUP THREE—AMATEUR CLASSES
Double and Semi-double Peonies

Class No. 30 15-10-5

Collection of ten named varieties, double or semi-double, one bloom each, in separate containers.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Class No. 31 10-5-3
Collection of five named varieties, double or semi-double, one bloom each, in separate containers.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Class No. 32 5-3-1
One specimen bloom, named variety, double or semi-double. White or flesh.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Class No. 33 5-3-1
One specimen bloom, named variety, double or semi-double. Light pink.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Class No. 34 5-3-1
One specimen bloom, named variety, double or semi-double. Medium or dark pink.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Class No. 35 5-3-1
One specimen bloom, named variety, double or semi-double. Red.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

DIVISION VIII Japanese Peonies

Class No. 36 10-5-3
Collection of three named varieties, Japanese type, one bloom each, in one container.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Class No. 37 5-3-1
One specimen bloom, named variety, Japanese type. Any color.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

DIVISION IX Single Peonies

Class No. 38 10-5-3
Collection of three named varieties, single type, one bloom, in one container.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Class No. 39 5-3-1
One specimen bloom, named variety, single type. Any color.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

DIVISION X
GROUP FOUR—OPEN TO ALL
Tree Peonies, Specie and Hybrid Peonies

Class No. 40

Collection of tree peonies, named and/or unnamed varieties, any type, one bloom each, in separate container.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Class No. 41

Collection of herbaceous species and/or species hybrids, named varieties, any type, one bloom each, in separate containers.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Class No. 42

One bloom, named hybrid variety, double or semi-double. Any color.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Class No. 43

One bloom, named hybrid variety, Japanese type. Any Color.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Class No. 44

One bloom, named hybrid variety, single type. White or flesh.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Class No. 45

One bloom, named hybrid variety, single type. Pink.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Class No. 46

One bloom, named hybrid variety, single type. Red.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

DIVISION XI
GROUP FIVE—ARRANGEMENT CLASSES
Open to all

Class No. 47

Basket of peonies with or without foliage or flowers.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

15-10-5

Class No. 48

Basket of peonies, with or without other foliage.

15-10-5

Class No. 49 15-10-5
Floor container of peonies, with or without other foliage or flowers.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Class No. 50 15-10-5
Basket of red peonies, with or without other foliage.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Class No. 51 15-10-5
Vase of Jap or single peonies, with or without other foliage or flowers.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Class No. 52 15-10-5
Vase of double peonies, with or without other foliage or flowers.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Class No. 53 15-10-5
Bowl of peonies, with or without other foliage or flowers.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

DIVISION XII ADVANCED AMATEURS

Class No. 54 15-10-5
Basket of peonies, with or without foliage or flowers.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Class No. 55 15-10-5
Basket of peonies, with or without other foliage.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Class No. 56 15-10-5
Floor container of peonies, with or without other foliage or flowers.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Class No. 57 15-10-5
Basket of red peonies, with or without other foliage.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Class No. 58 15-10-5
Vase of Jap or single peonies, with or without other foliage or flowers.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Class No. 59 15-10-5
Vase of double peonies, with or without other foliage or flowers.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Class No. 60 15-10-5
Bowl of peonies, with or without other foliage or flowers.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**DIVISION XIII
AMATEURS**

Class No. 61 15-10-5
Basket of peonies, with or without other flowers or foliage.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Class No. 62 15-10-5
Vase of peonies, with or without other foliage or flowers.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Class No. 63 15-10-5
Bowl of peonies, with or without other flowers or foliage.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**GROUP SIX—DIVISION XIV
Seedlings and New Varieties**

All entries in these classes shall be considered for recognition and awards from the American Peony Society, and will be judged by the standing SEEDLING COMMITTEE of the Society. Any new peony not yet offered for sale in general commerce, shall be recognized as a "Seedling." New peonies that have been named and offered for sale shall be recognized as "New Varieties." No exhibitor may make more than ten entries in any one of Classes 65 to 69 inclusive.

Class No. 64
Seedlings shown from original seed plants that have never been divided and propagated. Not more than five blooms. Certificates of Honorable Mention only may be awarded.

Class No. 65
Seedlings from plants that have been divided once or more. Three blooms in one container. Seedlings that may have been shown before may be entered in this class for higher awards. Certificates of Honorable Mention, First Class Certificates, Silver Medal, or Gold Medal may be awarded.

Class No. 66
New varieties that have been named and offered for sale. Three blooms in one container. New peonies of special merit that may, or may not have been shown as Seedlings may be entered in this class for higher awards. Certificate of Honorable Mention, First Class Certificate, Silver Medal or Gold Medal may be awarded.

Class No. 67
Herbaceous Hybrid Seedlings from original seed plants that have never been divided. One or more blooms. Certificate of Honorable Mention only may be awarded.

Class No. 68
Herbaceous Hybrid Seedlings from plants that have been divided and propagated. Three blooms in one container. Certificate of Honorable Mention, First Class Certificate, Silver Medal, or Gold Medal may be awarded.

Class No. 69
Tree Peonies. Seedlings that may or may not have been propagated. One or more blooms. Certificate of Honorable Mention, First Class Certificate, Silver Medal, or Gold Medal may be awarded.

DIVISION XV
GROUP SEVEN—COURT OF HONOR
Albiflora Varieties—Doubles and Semi-doubles

Class No. 70

A committee of three judges will choose the color champions from this class: (A) White; (B) Flesh; (C) Light Pink; (D) Medium or dark pink; (E) Red. All exhibitors are urged to enter their best blooms in this class, but are limited to six blooms, not more than two blooms in any one color, one bloom to a vase.

Class No. 71

The best specimen bloom, Japanese type, any color to be selected by the judges from collections or color classes.

Class No. 72

The best specimen bloom, single type, any color, to be selected by the judges from collections or color classes.

Class No. 73

The best specimen bloom, double or semi-double herbaceous hybrid, any color, to be selected by the judges from collections or color classes.

Class No. 74

The best specimen bloom, Japanese type herbaceous hybrid, any color, to be selected by the judges from collections or color classes.

Class No. 75

The best specimen bloom, single type herbaceous hybrid, any color, to be selected by the judges from collections or color classes.

DIVISION XVI
SPECIAL MEDAL CLASSES

Class No. 76

The **BEST BLOOM IN THE SHOW**, to be selected by the standing Seedling Committee from the Court of Honor or any other class in the show with exception of arrangement classes. The B. H. Farr Memorial Medal in Bronze.

Class No. 77

The **MOST DISTINGUISHED ENTRY IN THE SHOW**, to be judged by the members of the standing Seedling Committee. The James Boyd Memorial Medal in Silver.

Class No. 78

The **BEST AND MOST DISTINGUISHED NEW PEONY**.

To be eligible for award in this class, the following conditions must be strictly adhered to. A special entry must be made by the exhibitor for the award. At least three blooms in one container must be shown. Any type of bloom, any color, any class may be shown. The **AMERICAN HOME ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL** in silver will be awarded to the originator, whether an amateur or a professional grower, of the most worthy new peony shown, which has not been offered for sale more than three years prior to this exhibition. The award will be made by the standing Seedling Committee of the American Peony Society only to a new variety of adequate merit, distinction and novelty—one having distinctiveness as compared with existing varieties. It can not be made to an unnamed seedling and the award will not be confirmed unless the name is accepted under the rules of the American Peony Society, and the variety has been registered with the Society. The winning variety cannot compete for this medal in any succeeding year.

SHIPPING DIRECTIONS

1. No exhibit can be staged at the showroom before three o'clock P.M. of June 20th.

2. All exhibits to be staged by the owner should be addressed to himself in care of Peony Show, Northwestern National Bank, Seventh and Marquette Ave., Minneapolis, Minn., and sent by prepaid express.

3. All exhibits to be staged by the Staging Committee, should be addressed to the Staging Committee, Northwestern National Bank, Minneapolis, Minn., and sent by prepaid express. Each specimen in these shipments should be carefully and permanently labelled, and the class in which they are to be entered indicated. A complete list of the contents of the shipment should be included with it and a duplicate copy mailed to the Staging Committee.

4. Exhibits to be placed in cold storage should be addressed to Booth Cold Storage Co., 40 W. Kellogg Blvd., St. Paul, Minn., and marked for Peony Show, and sent by prepaid express. Notice of shipment and duplicate list of contents should be sent to L. W. Lindgren, 1787 W. Minnehaha Ave., St. Paul, Minn. If it is to be staged by the Staging Committee, full instructions must accompany the shipment. No charge is made for cold storage for exhibition blooms not exceeding twenty-five square feet of floor space.

5. Cold storage will be available any time from the beginning of Peony blooming season. All exhibits sent to cold storage will be taken to the Northwestern National Bank, Sunday, June 20th, unless arrangements are made for later delivery.



Reports Wanted

In an article headed "The Official Rating Lists" published in Bulletin No. 88, December 1942, an appeal was made to our members for reports on the 1943 blooming season. Last year a similar appeal was made with but little response; all honor and thanks to those who did. Will the members please make a very sincere effort this year to make such reports? They will be of inestimable value to us in determining the true worth of so many of our new varieties the rating of which has been questioned by some of our members.

If you will refer to Bulletin No. 88, December 1942, you will find on page 16 an article by Mr. W. T. Coe of Minneapolis giving his rating, description and estimate of the worth of a number of varieties. This is a good model to go by. First give your rating, then the variety, name and introducer, followed by as complete a description of the variety as you can give with its color, height and season of bloom. Then your estimate of its value, being sure to mention any distinctive features you have found it possesses. Especially important is the color and this should be noticed if possible just as the flower opens for it often fades badly after exposure to the sun.

Please list all of the recent introductions you have and also any you may see in other gardens that you would like to mention, stating that they were seen and not grown. Likewise please list all varieties you think are not rated correctly and be sure and give your estimate of the correct rating. There are a number of older varieties that should possibly be rerated, some like *Edulis superba* and other old friends that many think are rated entirely too low. We want your opinion. Send the list in to me just as soon as you can after your season is over. I shall compile the results and publish them as soon as the job can be correctly done.

These reports are not only valuable to us but also to the ones making them, for we are often able to correct bad errors in naming. For instance in Mr. Coe's

report we were able to tell him that the plant he has under the name *Carolynae Mae Nelson* is obviously incorrect. He says it is light pink while the true variety is a very fine red, one of the best we have and one which will probably have an honored seat when we come to know it. Also the variety listed as *New Delight* is probably *Leto*. Dr. Neeley named only one Jap and that answers exactly to the description given of *New Delight* and its name is *Leto*. Again, Dr. Neeley, so far as I have been able to find out, never named a peony *Delight*. This name belongs to a very nice pink Jap originated by Mr. Hans P. Sass. And so the one reported by Mr. Coe as *Delight* is probably *New Delight*, as its description answers the one of that variety.

So, please all who possibly can do so, send in your report even if it has only a very few varieties in it. It will be very much appreciated.

George W. Peyton.

Rapidan, Virginia,
April 1, 1943.

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Supplying An Omission

Just recently it has come to my attention that in making out the list of members who sent in Rating Lists, which was published in Bulletin No. 86, March 1942, the name of Mr. C. M. Clarke of Teepee Creek, Alberta, Canada, was accidentally omitted. It should be added to the list making sixty-six who sent them in. My humble apologies are due Mr. Clarke for my seeming carelessness.

George W. Peyton.

Rapidan, Virginia,
April 1, 1943.

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Japanese Peonies

Referring to the advisability of changing the designation of the type of bloom we now know as Japanese as being rather confusing in some ways, the suggestion comes from two of our members, Mr. C. M. Clarke of Alberta, and Mr. Ernest F. Kelsey of New York that the correct botanical designation of this type is "Staminode Peony." What do our members think of the advisability of giving this name to this type? There are some very serious objections to the name mainly because of its unfamiliarity to most people, but it is really the true name of that type, just as much so as "Single," "Double," "Semi-double," "Anemone" are of these types.

George W. Peyton.

Rapidan, Virginia,
April 1, 1943.

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LIST OF NEW MEMBERS SINCE LAST BULLETIN

Bauer, George M., Piqua, Ohio.
 Browning, Mrs. J. L. Browning, R. R. 1, Pewaukee, Wis.
 Bruss, Edward J., 7100 W. Cold Spring Road, West Allis, Wis.
 Coup, Charles R., 1402 Craig Street, McKeesport, Pa.
 Hagerman, L. W., Supt., Lombard Park District, Lombard, Ill.
 Iris, Peony and Rose Society of Greater Cincinnati, President, Mrs. D. W. McNeil, Box 33, College Hill, Cincinnati, Ohio.
 Kleffman, Clarence H., Attorney at Law, Hibbing, Minn.
 Koch, Udell, Koch's Cash Store, Hartford, Wis.
 Lienau, Clarence, 25804 Joy Road, R. R. 1, Garden City, Mich.
 Norris, Clair G., 5049 Main Street, Williamsville, N. Y.
 Porter, Lt. Col., F. B., Field Artillery Board, Ft. Bragg, N. C.
 South Dakota State College, Brookings, S. D.
 Spreitzer, John, 4841 Goethe Ave., St. Louis, Mo.
 Stearns, John B., 3 Downing Road, Hanover, N. H.
 Streichert, E. J., 1817 N. Newland Ave., Chicago, Ill.
 Woods, Roy G., 6911 Avondale Ave., Oklahoma City, Okla.

CORRECTIONS IN ADDRESSES

W. Ormiston Roy, 1050 Mt. Royal Blvd., Outremont, Montreal, Canada.
 Mr. Howard Wigell, c/o C. I. Electric & Gas Co., 301 N. Main St., Rockford, Ill.

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Silver King (Auten, 1936)

This picture was sent to me by Mr. Auten some time ago but it was misplaced and we did not get a chance to have it shown. Mr. Auten writes as follows: "I am enclosing a picture of my late white double '*Silver King*'. This has received an Honorable Mention from the Seedling Committee. It is one of my 400 series out of which I have named 15 varieties, singles, doubles and semi-doubles, early and late. It is tall, has a stiff stem and makes a fine clump. The bloom is a very refined white, is exquisitely rose fragrant and of good size. Just how large it can be grown I do not know. It is so late and so full petaled that it needs cool weather to open properly and will not stand a sudden spell of 95 degree weather."

Secretary's Notes

We have purposely delayed the printing of this issue of the bulletin so that we might incorporate the schedule for the fortieth annual exhibition and meeting of the American Peony Society. This year we are meeting under conditions which have never before been experienced. It is true we had our regular meetings during the first world war but we did not have the restrictions in travel and rationings that now confront us. We are urged not to give up our garden activities, which mean both flower and vegetable gardening, with emphasis on the vegetable portion of our gardens. We urge all peony lovers to make it a point to exhibit, if at all possible, or attend this exhibition as we feel confident it will be one of the highlights of our career. Forty years of activity is a good long record and we want to retain this record without impairment as long as it is possible to do so. If conditions justify, and restrictions prohibit the holding of flower shows, we will, of course, comply fully, but we believe an exhibition of this nature is a morale builder and will not in any way detract from our efforts and determination to win this war.

We are unable at this time to give complete details of the schedule as to awards but suitable awards will be given. At this writing I do not have a report of the various committees but they will soon be appointed and will be functioning to make this exhibition one of the highest quality. With this end in view, Class No. 1 you will note has been reduced to 50 varieties instead of the usual 80 to 100 varieties. There has also been a reduction in Class No. 20 to 25 varieties. This formerly called for 40 to 50 varieties. This will afford an opportunity for more exhibitors to get into these classes and will doubtless result in higher rated varieties appearing on these two particular classes.

It is a foregone conclusion that we will see some grand bloom shown at this exhibition, as Minnesota has a reputation for growing and displaying fine peonies and it is hoped the surrounding states will be well represented. Storage facilities have been secured and will be available to all who wish to use them. This will be particularly valuable to growers in a more southern latitude where peonies are in bloom considerably in advance of the Minneapolis show dates.

After one of the longest and most severe winters we have experienced in some years, at this writing, March 27th, there is a breath of spring in the air, in fact it has been mild in this particular section for the past three days. On the 15th of March we saw our first robin, and heard the familiar song of the kildeer and meadow lark. Other spring birds have also made their appearance but I would not be at all surprised to see snow and inclement weather before Spring days are really with us. There is still frost in the earth in places and freezing weather is still to be experienced.

After reading a letter from Mrs. Mary Prentiss of Grande Prairie, Alberta, reporting a low of 68 below at Slave Lake that they experienced on their way home from a trip to Edmonton, Alberta, and of a temperature of 51 below at Saskatoon, Saskatchewan for over a week, reported by another of our members. Mr. James Neilson, I have concluded we haven't seen any cold weather. Mind you, peonies do marvelously well in that country. Many other sections of that country were as cold and colder than Saskatoon.

In spite of uncertain weather conditions, hundreds of gardeners are busily engaged in making plans for their Victory Gardens, knowing that in a short time we will be able to plant and till the soil and raise many of the vegetables that contain vitamins in generous quantities to build up our bodies to withstand the strain we may place upon them.

Speaking of vitamins, we are reminded of the following verses about old man Methuselah.

Methuselah ate what he found on his plate,
And never, as people do now,
Did he note the amount of the calory count;
He ate it because it was chow.

He wasn't disturbed as at dinner he sat,
Devouring a roast or a pie,
To think it was lacking in granular fat
Or a couple of vitamins shy.

He cheerfully chewed each species of food,
Unmindful of troubles or fears
Lest his health might be hurt by some fancy dessert—
And he lived over nine hundred years.

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I do want to remind each one of our members to take the time and trouble to make notes of the best peonies they have in their garden so that they can later incorporate these notes into an article for the bulletin. If you have anything new or unusual, remember we will all be glad to hear about it. If you have had any unusual experiences with your peonies, perhaps we can help you. We will at least make a noble effort to do so.

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Please refer to your last bulletin, No. 88, page 34, and read again Mr. Peyton's appeal for your ratings on the new varieties, or varieties that have been introduced since 1925. We do want to keep these ratings up to date and a compliance with this request will greatly assist in accomplishing this aim. Mr. Peyton is giving the Society a great deal of his valuable time for which he receives no monetary remuneration whatever. He is doing it for the welfare of the Society and we, as members, should assist him all possible, for we will receive the benefit of his labors in our behalf.

I also wish to call attention to the cut on page 34 of this same bulletin, (No. 88). The measuring stick doubtless was based on the metric system, and the size indicated would be a little misleading as compared with our system of measurement.

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The addition of new members during the past year has indeed been gratifying and we will be able to report a healthy increase in our year's report of activities. In the past, a great percentage of this work has been left to your secretary, who is still responsible for the lion's share of this increase, but we have been ably assisted by a few members who have sent in one or more. Some of these members have suggested names of prospects we might be able to interest, and we have succeeded in adding them to the fold. I want to make particular mention of Brand Peony Farms of Faribault, Minn. This one firm has disposed of a considerable number of Manuals and also secured several new members through a notice in their fine catalog calling attention to the American Peony Society. This is cooperation that we feel we have a right to ask of every dealer and also every member of the Society. By getting busy this spring and during the blooming season, you will be able to induce many peony lovers to become members of the Society.

Members have been quite prompt, in many cases, in remitting their yearly dues. This saves us the trouble and expense of sending notices. Dues for the year 1943 are now due and we will appreciate payment as early as possible. To those who have already remitted we wish to thank you most heartily and while time does not permit me to write you each a personal letter expressing our gratitude, we take this opportunity to thank you for your promptness and cooperation.

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We have been receiving a number of very good compliments about the bulletins and we want to keep them coming to you in such a way as to merit a continuance of this commendation. We have some interesting and instructive articles in this bulletin, and will follow them with others of equal interest.

Send us some good, clear photographs, (gloss finish) of your best bloom, either specimen or group subjects. We will endeavor to have cuts made of the better ones and present them through the forth-coming issues of the bulletin. These cuts cost considerable money and we will have to be governed accordingly, but we do think they add greatly to the appearance of the bulletin.

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We wish to call attention to an error in spelling the name of peony illustrated in the last issue of the bulletin, (No. 88). The proper spelling is Streichert, not Steichert, as shown.

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We wish to call your particular attention to the Special Notice appearing in this issue of the bulletin with reference to the Annual Show of the American Peony Society to be held in Minneapolis June 21st and 22nd, also to the Regional Show of District No. 5, to be held in Garfield Park Conservatory, Chicago, Ill., June 12th and 13th, a week prior to the National Show. Also the Annual Meeting of the Society, together with the Directors' Meeting, will be held in Minneapolis at a time to be set at a later date. This should appear on the regular Schedule of Classes that may be obtained through our President, Mr. L. W. Lindgren, 1787 W. Minnehaha Ave., St. Paul, Minn. We anticipate these schedules will be ready for general distribution to those who desire them, and who expect to exhibit, shortly after May 15th.

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In response to my appeal for articles, we have received several, making this bulletin possible, but we still have use for many more. Let's have repeat articles from some of our former contributors and also we will most enthusiastically welcome articles from new comers into the Society. Send in your problems and let us help you with them. That is one way to get the most out of your membership. We can learn by helping others, as we all make mistakes in our efforts to work out our own salvation, and possibly you can avoid much disappointment and get a satisfactory solution to your problems by opening up and giving us a chance to help you. Mr. James J. Metcalfe has summed it up pretty well in his poem entitled, "We Never Learn."

It seems to take a lot of years to grow a little wise,

And even then we make mistakes that are no great surprise.

We grope around for some support to stand upon our feet

And when we can get up and walk, we stumble on the street.

We try our best to conquer speech, to let our needs be known;

And then we utter words we wish had never been our own.

By learning how to write our thoughts, we fill another void,

Then wish some paper we have signed would somehow be destroyed.

And while we seek perfection and the blessing it will bring,

We go right on and make mistakes in spite of everything.

We may not all agree on the proper method of doing certain things but

expression of these opinions often leads to valuable conclusions. In looking through a little magazine recently the following came to my notice, and as it relates to differences of opinion, I am repeating the same:

When the other fellow is set in his way, he's just plain obstinate; when we are, it's just firmness.

When the other fellow doesn't like our friends, he's prejudiced; when we don't like his friends, it's simply that we're shrewd enough to see through them.

When the other fellow tries to treat someone especially well, it's the "old oil"; when we do it, we're merely being tactful.

I recently received a communication from Mr. Frederick E. Snyder of Convo, Ohio, dated Feb. 9th. I quote the last paragraph of his letter:

"In the last copy of Flower Grower is an article, 'Roses in My Memory' by J. Horace McFarland. I wish one of our 'old timers' would write a similar article for the bulletin about peonies."

Now this is an excellent idea. We have a number of "old timers" in the peony world who could write such an article and it would be interesting information, and valuable in making comparisons with the newer originations. Will some one take up this challenge?

On February 15th the Minnesota Peony and Iris Society had their annual meeting in St. Paul, Minn., and it was our good fortune to be able to attend. The following officers were elected:

President, Louis R. Fischer, Hastings, Minn.

First Vice-President, Robert Schreiner, St. Paul, Minn.

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

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

Directors for two years

Glen H. Greaves

L. W. Lindgren

T. E. Carpenter

Directors for one year

Mrs. J. S. Taylor

Mrs. A. S. Gowen

R. C. Schneider.

It is gratifying to note that all the above officers and directors, with but one exception, are members of the American Peony Society.

The invitation for holding the 1943 show in Minneapolis, Minn., this year was presented and discussed. It was decided that under these trying conditions it would be better to hold the annual exhibition and meeting rather than pass it up. The newly elected President, Mr. Fisher, and your secretary were appointed to look over the possibility of having space sufficiently adequate to accommodate a national show in the spacious lobby of the Northwestern National Bank in Minneapolis, Minn. I might add that this matter was investigated and found adequate, and while the building is air conditioned, it will not have the air control conditioning that we have been fortunate in experiencing at both Rochester, Minn., and Topeka, Kansas.

The meeting closed with a showing of some fine Kodochrome slides by Mr. Carpenter. A splendid luncheon preceded the meeting which was well attended. Reports of the Secretary and Treasurer indicated a most healthy condition of finances, and the cash balance would be the envy of the National Society. What they lack in membership is made up in enthusiasm and faithfulness of members, many of whom were charter members. Here is wishing them continued success in their future efforts.

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I hope this issue of the bulletin will come up to your expectations, and let me remind you once more that we greatly appreciate hearing from you. Let us have your views in the form of an article and see how attractive it looks in print. Don't forget the dates of the Annual Exhibition and the Regional Shows that may be staged in various parts of the country. I regret to state at this writing I have not been informed of definite dates of some of the shows that may be staged.

Have an inquiry for the two color charts, *Répertoire De Couleurs*. Anyone having a copy for sale, please communicate with Dr. H. C. Cooper, 206 N. E. 31st Ave., Portland, Oregon.

The following are the words of Henry E. Sheets, Vice-President of the Shelby Sales Book Company in his patriotic booklet, "If Hitler Wins," and is worth repeating:

"If Hitler wins you won't be troubled with gasoline rationing, or rationing of every description. Your troubles about getting a new car or new tires will be over.

"Nothing will win this war except the complete abandonment of self-interest. . . . The sordid industrialists, the unsatisfied union, the farm leadership, the average man in the street must realize that milking the public treasury is an added burden to all the people and future generations . . . Denial will be the rule; economy must be the watchword.

"Complete and final victory must be a constant thought. Sacrifices of every kind must be made if it is our desire to live as we have lived, in the shadow and protection of the Constitution of the United States."

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I wish to call attention to article in the December bulletin by Mr. W. T. Coe of Minneapolis, Minn. I notice that in both his articles on pages 7 and 17 he spoke of the Sass peony "*Caroline May Nelson*", which is incorrectly spelled. It should be "*Carolyne Mae Nelson*".

Since I am the one for whom it was named, I am qualified to criticize on that score.

Also, in both places he describes it as pink, while in reality it is a deep crimson, a splendid red with no trace of purple.

Again Mr. Coe refers to "*Delight*" as a Neeley production, whereas it is a production of H. P. Sass, and is a flesh colored Japanese type, with very pale yellow, full center of stamenoides; a very dainty and most floriferous variety which was known as No. 69 for several years.

I am familiar with all the Sass peonies and have had both of these I mention since they first came into prominence in the garden of Mr. Sass.

I do not know where Mr. Coe obtained his plants, but they were either from plants parading under the wrong name, or became mixed with other labels in handling.

I believe we should use great care in keeping all peonies true to name, or we shall eventually find them in the same confusion which existed when the American Peony Society was organized, and which our leaders worked so hard to rectify.

Mrs. Carolyne Mae Nelson,
Lincoln, Nebraska.

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I should like to write to Mr. W. T. Coe, regarding his article, but not having his address will send my question to you instead.

In his very good evaluation of new varieties, Mr. Coe lists Neeley's "*New Delight*" as a white Jap, which I believe is in error. I received six "*New Delight*" from Mr. Lee R. Bonnewitz several years ago and they are a good double pink; this year being cloudy they were a salmon pink color, with good stems and foliage (light green). Also in the 1939 rating list, this peony is to be found listed with the doubles. I wonder if Mr. Coe could have it confused with *Leto*? I am not acquainted with the one named "*Delight*". Also, I was glad to see that he spoke well of "*Trails End*". It has shown such poor quality for me that I had decided to discard it next year unless it gave a much better account of itself. Now I shall watch it this spring with a great deal of interest.

Princess Victor's Crown and *Ward Welsh* were not mentioned. As that they are among the best, I wonder if Mr. Coe has them in his gardens? *Matchless Beauty* is a little over-rated, though popular, and I fully agree the 9.5 rating he gave "*Mrs. J. H. Neeley*" as it is really one of the choicest peonies.

I hope that the error, wherever it is, will not result in any confusion in the nomenclature of the Neeley peonies.

Frederick E. Snyder, Convoy, Ohio.

bulletin No. 88 of Dec. 1942, on page 17, I reported one *Carolyn Mae* as a pink. That is erroneous as it is a red. The peony described is probably *Hans P. Sass*. The peony described as *New Delight* is *Leto* (Neeley). The peony described as *Delight* was produced by Hans P. Sass and not Dr. Neeley. The error was due to a mistake in labelling of the plants I received. I hope to have made the error.

W. T. Coe, Minneapolis, Minn.

EDITOR'S NOTE:—These errors escaped our attention in editing the material for bulletin No. 88. As I understand this matter, "*Delight*" is one of Mr. Sass's originations and is a Japanese type, light pink or "*New Delight*" is a Neeley introduction and is a double pink. In the rating list the former rated 8.8, the latter 8.86, or identical, as far as practical usage is concerned. "*Delight*" received 1 vote and "*New Delight*" 5 votes, which are not at all conclusive as to the real value until a wider vote is established.

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.

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.

NORTHBROOK GARDENS
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.

BRAND PEONY FARMS

Faribault, Minn.

Send for Full Catalogue in Colors

A REAL OPPORTUNITY

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.

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