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Northbrook, Ill.

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

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

The dues are \$3.00 a year, of which \$1.00 is toward a year's subscription to the American Peony Society BULLETIN. *All checks covering membership dues should be made to The American Peony Society and sent to the Secretary with application for membership.* Dues in future are to run from January 1st to January 1st of the following year.

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AMERICAN Peony Society Bulletin

JUNE, 1948

At the Crossroads

The American Peony Society must embark on a program of modernization and progress. The Society is at the crossroads. It is an axiom of time that nothing stands still. We either go forward with new ideas and plans to stay in step with changing conditions, or we slip into lethargy with the past. We must look to the horizon with vision and confidence and plan for the future.

Of greatest urgency is a larger membership. Upon this depends the solution of some of our other problems. Our membership campaign is making some progress but we acutely feel the need of local organizations to call upon in this effort. Due to the work of our committee we shall show the greatest increase in new members that we have had in recent years. The Society will only become as strong as the regional groups, clubs or societies make it. The strength of the Society must begin with the smallest segment of it—the club or group in the local community. We must adopt a sound plan that will provide for the encouragement of these local organizations.

We now have 12 regional Vice Presidential districts. With several exceptions there is little effort to organize local interest or organization. This is not the fault of the vice presidents, but rather the plan under which they attempt to operate. They are almost totally isolated from the parent organization with no voice in the proceedings of the national board. The solution to this is the reorganization or re-districting of our National districts with district representation on the National Board of Directors. Only in this manner will each district, each small club, feel itself a vital component part of the Society. Only then will the American Peony Society make rapid strides in membership. Only then will we generate the widespread enthusiasm and interest that the peony deserves. Only then will regional gardens and regional shows become a widespread actuality.

In 1946, at the Rockford meeting, a plan was proposed to re-organize our regional districts. This plan provided for regional organizations with the President of each regional district representing it on the National Board of Directors. According to our by-laws this proposal could not be acted upon until the following annual membership meeting. It was tabled at Boston because of the small membership attendance and so now becomes an order of business at Guelph. I feel this plan on the whole is highly desirable and with some amendments should be adopted.

We are truly at "The Crossroads" at Guelph. Will the membership react favorably to the "Vision of Progress" this plan offers?

Marvin C. Karrels, President
American Peony Society

A List of Mr. Kelsey's Peony Originations

By W. F. CHRISTMAN

It was our plan some few years ago to have the late Mr. Ernest F. Kelsey of East Aurora, N. Y., prepare a list of his originations, with brief descriptions, for a matter of record. His life ended before he could perform this task, but fortunately he had left complete records of his planting and in most cases a brief description of the varieties with comments on the behavior of the plant. This chart and planting record is at my disposal, and we have made quite an exhaustive study in checking these varieties and assembling descriptive matter that should be of interest and value to a number of peony lovers. In Bulletin No. 91 of Sept. 1943 (which edition has been entirely exhausted), Mr. Peyton listed 31 of Mr. Kelsey's varieties with very brief descriptions. We have listed the year of introduction and added to the descriptive matter in a good many instances but as most of them are of recent origin, they have not been officially rated. As Mission Gardens of Techny, Ill., have purchased one-half of the entire planting of Mr. Kelsey, and removed it to Techny, Ill., under the writer's supervision, we have all these peonies growing in our fields, and this June a most careful and thorough check will be made and the varieties evaluated and a further report written up for the bulletin, if circumstances warrant.

While this list is not complete, as many are still under number and unnamed, it is quite complete as far as the named varieties go. A few of the ones Mr. Kelsey named did not come up to his expectations and were discarded. We have followed Mr. Kelsey's descriptions as closely as possible for he had a very excellent command of the English language and some of his descriptions and comments could not be improved upon. When a variety he had named did not come up to his expectations he would discard it. He was slow to name them until he had satisfied himself that it was worthy of naming. Many of the names he chose were named after some person he held in high esteem. The names given were chosen after careful consideration. Many are very euphonious as indicated in the following: *Exotic*, *Fireplace*, *Harvest Moon*, *Lights Out*, *Party Gown*, *Rare China*, *River Mist*, *The Fleece*, *Ivory Brooch*, *Rare Etching*, *Silver Chalice*, *White Water*, etc. In the descriptions of these varieties it will be apparent why he selected these names.

In the selection of his seedlings, Mr. Kelsey put a great deal of stress on the strength of stem, fine carriage and charm of flower. Colors or combinations of color that were most pleasing to the eye—and he possessed a keen, critical, analytical and observing sense of the composition of a good peony. He adhered to these principles very religiously and instead of easing up on his critical standards he became more exacting. We have had the pleasure of visiting him at work in his field and going over point by point the characteristics he looked for in a good peony. He had a very creditable collection of originations from other growers and was in a position to make comparisons with the best of them. This is mentioned in his field notes on several occasions. For instance we quote as follows:

"A comparison of *Isani Gidui* and *Harvest Moon*.—Blooming time almost identical; stems identical; height of plant, *Harvest Moon* 36 inches, *Isani Gidui* 26 inches; leaves, *Harvest Moon* narrower edges smooth; *Isani Gidui* edges crimped; guard petals both deeply cupped and edges crimped. Size of bloom, *Harvest Moon* 6 inches; *Isani Gidui* 6 inches. Staminodes, *Harvest Moon*, fine with little white giving them a deeper,

clearer yellow; *Isani Gidai*, staminodes coarses with more white, shading down to yellow. Size of cluster of staminodes, *Harvest Moon* 2 3/4 inches; *Isani Gidui* 2 1/2 inches. Seed pods *Harvest Moon*, green, yellow tipped; *Isani Gidui*, green, white tipped. The point that gives *Harvest Moon* the edge is that large, pure yellow ball of staminodes, also the cluster of staminodes is more compact and symmetrical in *Harvest Moon*. Both closely resemble the seedling *Elma* in form, except that *Elma* has red tipped seed pods. Both blooms were selected from mature plants in the same kind of soil.

Here follows another instance of Mr. Kelsey's comments on some of the varieties he had growing in his fields:

"*Dr. Barnsby*. I dislike to write disparagingly about any peony. This red double, to me, is decidedly sour. Long years ago a girl wore a magenta dress and that was sour too. It also reminds me of some of those lurid colored dresses the Indian women wore. To me its like vinegar when I had the mumps. An awful high built crown of vile purple-red."

"*Thor* and *Mrs. Bryce Fontaine*.—Both rubbing shoulders and are in full bloom now, June 15, 1943. Comparisons are odious but sometimes illuminating. These two varieties are almost identical in color, size of stem, foliage and height. *Thor* is not so high built but the petal formation is better and the blooms more uniform. Some of *Mrs. Bryce Fontaine's* blooms are open at the top like a cup, showing stamens. *Thor* has a better bloom."

Mr. Kelsey was deeply interested in his peonies and lived with them during the growing and blooming season, making careful notes of their faults as well as the merits they possessed. He would not hesitate to chastise his own originations if they did not come up to his critical requirements. If a peony had outstanding characteristics, he would not hesitate to praise it in the highest terms if it met with his approval. Being thoroughly familiar with the characteristics of the peony, he did not make final judgment until after the seedling had been divided, grown and bloomed again. We have personally found from most distressing experience, that a most promising seedling refused to live up to expectations after it had been divided. A number of our best originators of peonies have found this to be true. A peony possessing these characteristics should not be introduced. I am growing one in my own garden that gave promise of an outstanding creation but since dividing it has done nothing startling or even produced bloom like the original. On the original plant, all the stems but one, had been broken off in some manner, and there was only one magnificent stem holding erect a glorious bloom, possessing as much or more yellow than is to be found in the *sinensis* or *Chinensis* varieties. I thought I was going to have a yellow *Mons. Jules Elie* and my hopes were very high. It was hard to withhold my enthusiasm from the time I first viewed the only bloom on the plant until the divided plants gave their bloom. I must confess disappointment the first time I saw the bloom after dividing and this disillusion was greatly magnified after a second viewing of the bloom after division. I am living in futile hope that the qualities inherent in that first bloom will again make themselves manifest, and do not as yet have the intestinal fortitude to destroy the few plants that I have propagated.

This digression from my subject is an important feature or condition to consider when developing seedling peonies. Some even seem to respond to the process of separation and do better than in their original state.

We are sure that many of Mr. Kelsey's originations will merit a high rating, and a number of them most creditable ratings when they are more gen-

erally known and grown. I am positive several will rate one or more points above the coveted nine.

In making up this list of varieties we have decided to place them in the various color classes as near as possible. In the whites will be found flesh whites or very delicate pinks that shade to white. White with red or pink markings will be placed in the white class.

White Peonies

Antoinette Heim (Kelsey 1939). Double. Very similar to *River Mist* but colored a bit more. Good, strong grower. Late.

Charlene (Kelsey 1942). Double. Ivory-white with cupped-shaped center resembling the night blooming *Cereus*. Good stems. Late mid-season bloomer. Flowers as large as *Martha Bulloch* and as beautiful as *Kelway's Glorious*.

Footlights (Kelsey 1938). Large, double, *Mons. Jules Elie* type. Broad, pure white outer petals surrounding a closely packed ball of narrow, overlapping and entwined petals, enlivened by golden glow shining through from the depths. Total effect, soft, golden glow.

Fred W. Pratt (Kelsey 1935) Double. Pure white outer petals; inner petals yellow, overcast with pure white. Earlier than *Primevere* which it resembles. Deeper shade of yellow at base of petals. Anemone center.

Grace Gedge (Kelsey 1934). Fully double, cream-white, flushed with a delicate shade of pink. Late bloomer. Flower of excellent refinement. Resembles *Nick Shaylor* in color.

Ivory Brooch (Kelsey 1943). Double, ivory white. Outer petals tightly incurved over a closely packed center. As the flower matures, these outer petals still retain their slightly crimped and incurved formation. Total effect is a medallion like bloom resembling a curved brooch of ivory. Formation very uncommon. The bloom always has a bud like appearance.

E. F. Kelsey (Kelsey 1936). Double, midseason, very large. A full white with fine, strong stems. Extra fine quality bloom. Being his namesake, Mr. Kelsey must have had a high regard for this one.

Mel Gedge (Kelsey 1937) For those who worship bigness, this flower satisfies that ambition. A huge, milk-white double that unfolds into a charming globe of loveliness. Early-midseason bloomer. Rarely do you find such beauty and size so skillfully combined.

Lois Kelsey (Kelsey 1934). A midseason, flat flower of unusual form. If you prefer odd peonies, this is it. Looks something like a cactus dahlia and has the appearance of a flower not fully transformed.

Marilla Beauty (Kelsey 1940). A new beauty, not yet rated officially. A rather late bloomer of rare charm and appeal. Large blush-white double of bewitching loveliness. The blush color is more pronounced toward the center of bloom, radiating to a lighter shade. The large, broad petals have fine substance. A fine show flower.

Miss Innocence (Kelsey 1936). Double flesh-white flowers. Fragrant. Dainty 7-inch blooms, loosely formed. Broad outer petals becoming smaller and incurved as they reach the center of bloom. Perfectly formed, early-bloomer.

Mother's Day (Kelsey 1936). Double, mid-season, very tall, clear white. This is an exceptionally fine peony and we are sure it will go places. The blooms we saw of it in the originators garden prompted us to term it; a glorified *Elsa Sass*, if such a comparison is possible.

- Rare China* (Kelsey 1935). Semi-double, mid-season variety. A lovely flower of blush white with five or six rows of guard petals surrounding a large center of yellow stamens, charmingly arranged like a beautiful China plate with a touch of red and gold in the center. Resembles *Minnie Shaylor* in general makeup.
- Rare Etching* (Kelsey 1939). Double white, rose formed bloom. Delicate shades of pink and gold in the center. Extremely beautiful in form and petal arrangement. Musk odor. Late midseason. Ultimate refinement in formation, bloom and coloring.
- River Mist* (Kelsey 1936). Double. Medium sized ivory white. Edges of central petals marked with fine wire edge of carmine. This marking, not like occasional splashes of red on *Festiva Maxima* is a circular pattern that is on all blooms. The wire edge is fine and is an intense red. Late, midseason. Fragrant. Tall. Those who like the red on white will be delighted with this variety.
- Shirley* (Kelsey 1934). Very large. Flesh-white, double bloom, splashed in center with carmine. Ring of yellow stamens showing. Long, strong stems. Midseason.
- Silver Chalice* (Kelsey 1935). A very delicate blush-white or delicate pink. Gold stamens. Shows carmine on some edges. Faint fragrance. High built crown, cup shaped, like a silver cup with red wine in it. Very beautiful.
- Snow Brook* (Kelsey 1936). Double, flesh-white. A symmetrical dome of clean, neatly arranged petals. Slightly fragrant. It is big if you measure it in any way, particularly in height. Makes a spot in the garden that you will return to time and again.
- Starbright* (Kelsey 1936). Double white. Flowers not large but charming. A very worth while variety. A more detailed description will be given after this season's bloom. Mr. Kelsey did not leave a complete description.
- Stillman* (Kelsey 1937). Cupped shaped white with white guards. Very neat yellow center of narrow petals. Again Mr. Kelsey's description is not complete. We will supply it later.
- The Fleece* (Kelsey 1936). A big, full petaled, fleecy double white with green gold at base of petals. Flowers are very large and fragrant. Stems strong, with light green foliage. Medium height. A strong contender for first honors among the whites. Received Honorable Mention at the A.P.S. Syracuse Show.
- Titania* (Kelsey 1936). Very large, glistening white with yellow stamens. Semi-double. Some bloom full double. Mr. Kelsey states in his garden notes. "change name." Page 69 of the Peony Manual there is listed a variety Titan, described as a "white, origin unknown." This may have been Mr. Kelsey's reason for a suggested change of name so no confusion would arise.
- White Shrine* (Kelsey 1936). Double white with dashes of red. Outside petals pure white. Central petals pink and yellow with greenish tints at base. Early.
- White Water* (Kelsey 1942). Very large, open petaled white. A row looks like the spume on the Niagara Rapids above the falls. Good stems. Golden glow at base of petals. 8-inch blooms not uncommon. Satisfying both in bigness and beauty. Large enough to suit all; beautiful enough to suit the most critical.

Williston (Kelsey 1936). Large white double with extra strong stems. Rose formation. Late-midseason. Very desirable.

Youth (Kelsey 1935). Large double, blush white with ivory tones at base of petals. Good stems and foliage.

Light Pink Peonies

In this group will be included some flesh, salmon and lavender pinks, which are grouped in a general light pink class. It is not practical to try to group each separately and a general classification of the light pinks seems more desirable. We have grouped the darker pinks in order to make it a little easier to make color selections if that is desired.

Alberta Kelsey (Kelsey 1937). Double. Delightfully fragrant. Light rose pink. Gold tipped petals interspersed among the neatly cupped petals. Medium sized flowers. One flower is a bouquet. Combines beauty of petals and delightful perfume. Early-midseason.

Claude Barrow Jr. (Kelsey 1939). One of the largest and finest flowers in the garden. Double pink, informal shape. Very desirable. A profuse bloomer. Long, very large pointed buds. A show flower. The above is Mr. Kelsey's own description.

Coral Isle (Kelsey 1939). Semi-double, late. Real coral color. Makes a striking color splash. Nothing like it in the garden. A real break in peony color.

Daisy Sherk (Kelsey 1938). Large, flesh pink double. Open center of light pink. Outer petals, flesh white. Large bowl shaped flowers. Unusual in form and color combination.

Irving Flint (Kelsey 1935). Late-midseason, double pink. Richly fragrant and lovely. Resembles *Le Cygne* in form. Medium sized bloom. Light green foliage. Holds form and color remarkably well. Rich both in color and odor.

Lancaster (Kelsey 1937). Medium-pink, double. Semi-dwarf, mid-season. Large, heavily petaled, stiff stems.

Little Buffalo (Kelsey 1939). Miniature, semi-double, pink. Very interesting due to its dwarf growing habit. Slender, red stems. Early, midseason bloomer.

Lucy Dunn (Kelsey 1942). Big double, light pink. Attractive in bud and half opened flowers. Not as attractive when fully opened.

Mother Ross (Kelsey 1935). Double, medium to large bloom. Very delicate pink outer petals. Pink in center. Good stems. Petals symmetrically arranged, forming a lovely bloom.

Nancy Bonner (Kelsey 1939). Light pink double with five V-shaped red wedges on the central edges, which are divided, forming a butterfly pattern. Fragrant. Late, midseason. Odd and unusual.

Patrician (Kelsey 1936). Double. A beautiful variety hard to describe. Pink guard petals turning lighter at base, shading toward crown with a deeper pink. A charming combination of colors. Midseason bloomer. Stems medium height and strong. Light colored foliage.

Pink Charm (Kelsey 1936). Early, double, soft flesh-pink. Broad outer petals around shorter, twisted and overlapping petals. Fragrant.

Pink Lustre (Kelsey 1936). Semi-double flower of light pink. Early. Flowers much the same formation as *Marie Jacquin*.

Rare Carving (Kelsey 1936). Loosely formed, medium pink, semi-double. Large yellow stamens. Tall, strong stems. Originally named *Spring Beauty* but Col. J. C. Nicholls had priority to the name.

Tiny Tim (Kelsey 1941). Miniature semi-double light pink. Very interesting due to its small size making it most desirable for arrangements. Flower is formed like the old familiar variety *Marie Jacquin*. Early, midseason. Bloom ranges in size from 1½ to 3 inches.

Vesper (Kelsey 1935) Anemone type. Pink guards. Ivory staminodes tinted pink. A striking color combination. Large and showy. Very attractive in the garden.

Willoughby (Kelsey 1935). Very large, flesh-pink double, showing stamens. Faint red edges on some petals. Good stems. Color changes to white with age.

Dr. O. M. Skinner (Kelsey 1936). Double, medium sized, shell pink. Late midseason. Symmetrical and very lovely.

Laura Kelsey (Kelsey 1941). This variety was formerly named *Myrna Hess* and is one of Mr. Kelsey's finest introductions. Mr. Karrels rates it a couple of points higher than *Marilla Beauty* but I am inclined to think that he will either raise his rating on *Marilla Beauty* or reduce it slightly on *Laura Kelsey*. Then too, after I make a more careful comparison, I may change my view. They are very fine originations that any originator could be proud of.

Fully double, midseason, long pointed buds that open out large. fluffy, delicate light pink flowers, fading lighter with ivory tints at base of petals, some tipped and others splashed with crimson. Blooms simply immense, 7½ to 8 inches in diameter. A very charming flower with strong stems.

Vina Mae (Kelsey 1934). This is a lovely creation of light shell-pink with lavender cast, fading to almost white. Flat flowers, semi-double, rose-pink. Petals cupped. Color holds well. Foliage very robust and flowers are produced in profusion.

Dark Pink Peonies

Armistice (Kelsey 1938). Double, large, rose-pink. Very tall and strong stems. Rose formation. Late midseason. Fragrant. Very good variety.

Ben Cofeld (Kelsey 1934). Pink double, like *Mons. Jules Elie*. Very large petals, closely packed and set in edgewise. Almost ball shaped. Heavy stems. Shorter outer petals.

Buffalo Girl (Kelsey 1934). Double. Wine, or very deep pink color, shading to white at tips of petals. Good stiff stems. Huge blooms.

Donald (Kelsey 1936). A very tall double attaining a height of 54 inches. Rose pink, fragrant. Light green foliage. Stems very wiry, carrying medium sized flowers. Broad, incurved outer petals around closely packed row of shorter petals. Faint tinge of yellow deep in petals. Very attractive blooms.

Ernest Hutchinson (Kelsey 1935). Rose pink, double. Large 8-inch bloom. Row of broad petals open horizontally below a high built ball of closely packed, finely cut petals, twisted and intertwined in a compact ball.

Exotic (Kelsey 1936). Semi-double. Rose pink petals shading lighter towards tips. Midseason. Flowers very unusual and attractive. The semi-double flowers look oriental. It is different and instantly catches the roving eye. Formerly named *Queen Esther*.

J. F. Cooper (Kelsey 1937). Double. Large bloom. Very deep or rose pink bloom shading lighter towards tips of petals. Early bloomer. Tall, strong stems.

Laura Ellen (Kelsey 1936). Light rose. Informal double. 8-inch blooms. Rather dwarf grower. Good stems. Early midseason. Much the color of *Judge Berry* but a shade darker. More dwarf growing and stronger. Very large flowers.

Lights Out (Kelsey 1934). Large, rose-pink double. The very last to bloom in the garden. Due to its lateness, the peony season is considerably lengthened. Good foliage and strong stems.

May Corbin (Kelsey 1934). Very deep, pink double. Medium size. Tall, wiry stems. Midseason bloomer. High built crown. Large flowers. Fragrant.

Old Forge (Kelsey 1936). Rose-pink, double. High built crown. Medium sized flowers on long, strong stems.

Rose Fluff (Kelsey 1938). Double. Very large, rose-pink. Late, midseason variety. Wonderful for those who like a strong rose shade of pink. Stems strong, foliage medium dark green.

The Nathan's (Kelsey 1937). Large, rose-pink double. Semi-dwarf. Pleasing fragrance. Broad outer petals. Center closely twisted and overlapping.

Red Peonies

Mr. Kelsey has not produced as many reds as the other colors in peonies but he has been fortunate in getting some outstanding ones that will make a name for themselves after wider distribution has been accomplished. Of these *Irwin Altman*, *Ruth Clay* and *Noel* are outstanding.

Irwin Altman (Kelsey 1940). A very fine, clear glowing light red that is unlike any other red. Good form and pleasing color. Mr. Kelsey was justly proud of this origination and well he might be. It is a full double with petals symmetrically arranged and it also possesses a fine fragrance.

Fireplace (Kelsey 1936). Double, very dark red. Comparable or superior to *Mons. Martin Cahuzac*. Medium sized blooms, slightly lighter at tips of petals. Flat formation. A better performer than *Mon. Martin Cahuzac*. Very unusual.

Ida Mellinger (Kelsey 1934). Midseason. Very dark red. Fully double. Petal arrangement like *Philippe Rivoire*, a full rose formation. Pleasant odor. Shows some purple in the red. Strong stems. Holds color well.

Noel (Kelsey 1935). Double, midseason. Very large 7-inch blooms perfectly finished on extra tall stems. This is a red double as good as many and better than most. Size as large or larger than any red double. Color clear, but intense.

Ruth Clay (Kelsey 1935). A double, early, midseason variety of great charm. When we visited Mr. Kelsey's gardens we were greatly impressed with this fine red and our enthusiasm was joined by other peony enthusiasts, so we are not alone in pronouncing this a fine red. A rich living red that is different. We hope to see it displayed at our shows this year.

Valor (Kelsey 1939). Very fine red double. Midseason. Good stems and foliage. Mr. Kelsey considered this the best red he had in his garden.

Hybrid Peony

Amelia (Kelsey 1938). This is the only hybrid peony Mr. Kelsey originated. Color a deep, rich red. 3-inch cluster of bright yellow stamens surrounded by cream colored carpels. 5 1/4-inch bloom. Grows to a height of 36 inches or more. Striking and beautiful. Strong stems. Light green foliage. Blooming date late May.

Single Ponies

Early Morn (Kelsey 1936). Single, rose-pink. Very early bloomer. A good variety that should be well received.

Pink Bonnet (Kelsey 1935). Seedling K-5. Single, clear light pink. One of the first to bloom of the sinensis varieties. Petals are mostly cupped and shaped like a tulip.

Seneca Chief (Kelsey 1942). Wine colored with yellow center. Edges of petals crimped and cupped a lighter shade of wine. Medium height. Early. Heavy, dark green foliage. The crimping and cupping of the petals produce a striking effect.

Thelma (Kelsey 1935). Single, early light pink. 8 to 9 inch blooms. Due to good substance of petals it produces a long lasting flower. Fine staminodes with green carpels, white tipped. An intense showy bloom that makes a big splash in the garden.

Japanese Type Peonies

Aureate (Kelsey 1938). Japanese type. A grand flower with pale pink guards. Stamines rich butter yellow. Green carpels, red tipped. One of the clearest and best yellow centered peonies to be found in the garden. 8-inch blooms on semi-dwarf stems. Yellow does not fade in the sun.

Filagree (Kelsey 1938). Japanese type. Large, rose-pink staminodes, self color edged with straw color. Striking plant. Tall and vigorous. Early. Stamines so full they almost cover the petals. Something off the beaten path.

Gold Star (Kelsey 1942). Japanese type. Midseason. Pale pink guard petals with yellow staminodes. Very much yellow in its makeup. Has a tendency to feather on young plants but seems to overcome it when established. Does not fade in the sun.

Glowing Embers (Kelsey 1936). Japanese type, early, midseason. Rose colored guards, lighter on edges. Self staminodes with a tiny sparkle of white on the tips. All one color except the tips of white. Guards crimped and cupped.

Goldfinch (Kelsey 1936). Japanese type. Pale pink guards with pale yellow center. Feathers some. One of the yellowest centers of any I know. Flowers large.

Gold Star (Kelsey 1938). Midseason, Japanese type. Pale pink guards with yellow staminodes. Strong stems. Good grower.

Harvest Moon (Kelsey 1936). A midseason Japanese variety that is similar to *Shaylor's Sunburst*. Cupped white guards and yellow staminodes. This is a very choice variety. It closely resembles *Isani Gidui* with the exception that the cluster of staminodes of *Harvest Moon* are more compact. Blooms at the same time as *Isani Gidui*.

Kathelo (Kelsey 1934). Japanese type. An exotic blending of shades of pink and yellow. Rather difficult to adequately describe. Large central ball of large staminodes with broad petals finely hairlined with red, making a pink approaching orchid. Vigorous grower. Very tall.

Kobe (Kelsey 1936). Japanese type. Rose pink guards. Straw or buff colored incurved staminodes, backed with rose. Center ball shaped. Early. Interestingly different.

Kagawa (Kelsey 1935). Japanese type. Dark rose-pink. Guard petals pink, surrounding a ring of yellow staminodes, edged rose, which are also intermingled, twisted and overlapping larger petals of lighter pink. Early. Medium size. A very interesting flower.

La Pinja (Kelsey 1937). Large pink Japanese type. Stamines yellow tipped. Midseason. A very pleasing and interesting variety.

Oliver Twist (Kelsey 1942). Japanese type. Pink guard petals, with a central cluster of fine, light pink. Stamínodes are curiously curved and twisted like a curly headed boy. Very interesting formation. No other Jap like it.

Pride of Blasdell (Kelsey 1934). Japanese type. Dark rose-pink guard petals. Yellow tipped, pink stamínodes. Green seed pods, rose tipped. Mid-season. Seedling K-26. A variety with increasing appeal from year to year. Named by Mrs. H. A. Blasdell.

Salute (Kelsey 1936). Japanese type. Very large, pink, guard petals with light yellow stamínodes shading to a deeper yellow at base. Midseason bloomer.

Vista (Kelsey 1938). Japanese type, rather dwarf grower. Late midseason. Fine guards and fine yellow stamínodes. Center very large and unusual. Larger and better than *Ama-no-sode* according to Mr. Kelsey. A very showy variety with sturdy stems.

Kuroki (Kelsey 1935). Japanese type. This is a good Japanese variety but it does have a tendency to discolor slightly at tips of stamínodes. Mr. Kelsey made this report and it is just possible that the weather conditions were unfavorable at the time and this is not really a fault of the flower. We will check this season and will be able to report more fully.

This is not intended to be a complete list of Mr. Kelsey's originations but it does comprise most of them. We still have some under name and number that will be reported on later after we have had time to study and appraise them. We do know that the list we have presented is the most complete list ever published and we consider ourselves very fortunate to have had the original records covering both planting of the varieties, showing date of origination, and the field notes made by Mr. Kelsey when he checked his fields. We hold in high esteem his appraisal of any variety for he seemed to be entirely unbiased when making comparisons with his own varieties and those of other originators.

Mr. Kelsey has passed on but his works will remain for centuries to give pleasure to the flower admirers that will always be with us. Not only flowers occupied Mr. Kelsey's attention, but when he was not in the fields with his beloved peonies he would be writing poems. I think it is fitting that we include one in closing.

Many of my readers recall seeing or reading some of Mr. Kelsey's poems in the bulletin. You will recall how "homey" they were as indicated in the following verses entitled:

Aunt Sarah's Frosted Cake

At luncheonettes and restaurants,
From hotel menus grand,
I've tasted many dainty foods
Of our gastronomic land.
The food that stirs my memory,
Keeps boyhood joys awake;
That fluffy piece of food supreme—
Aunt Sarah's frosted cake.

The frosting? Well, I'm telling you,
'Twas thick as family pride;
It overflowed and dribbled down,
A most delicious tide.
The filling was delectable—

Pinch me! Am I awake
And reaching out my grimy hand
For Aunty's frosted cake?

Those busy hands are now at rest,
She crossed to Canaan Land;
And when I ferry over there
And reach that golden strand,
I'll search until I find my Aunt
Those hands in mine I'll take
And say to my Aunt Sarah dear,
"That was a lovely cake."

* * *

A Short Story with a Magnificent Moral

Once upon a time many, many years ago, there lived in a castle, bordering a deep, dark, dark forest, a great nobleman. His life and happiness was centered on his lovely daughter, a divine creature with features as refined as a delicate piece of Dresden-ware. Her silky, golden hair fell loosely about her soft neck and shapely shoulders and glistened in the summer sunshine; her eyes were as segments of the azure skies and as limpid as the waters of the lake that, like a gem in a beautiful mounting, lay deep inset in the valley below. Her graceful actions were counterparts of the lacy movements of a wood-nymph, and drifting breezes pressed the folds of her silken gown against her exquisitely moulded form.

In a nearby province lived a young, virile, unspoiled prince who cared naught for social amenities, nor for the silly maidens than languished about his court. He was a handsome youth, possessed with all the qualities of Apollo combined with the attributes of Achilles. He loved to evade his body-servants and to hunt, unattended, with his cross-bow and his hounds. So one eventful day, while suffering with ennui, he called together his hounds and picking up his sturdiest bow went forth to enjoy a day at hunting the noble stag. Soon he heard the throaty baying of the hounds and suddenly a prize stag, with a stately head of horns leaped out of the woods—and he let fly an arrow. Highly skilled at archery, seldom did his shaft fail to go straight to the heart of his quarry; but this was destined to be an eventful day, and some unseen force deflected the arrow from the vital spot. The stag fell, deeply wounded, but leaped up and darted into the forest leaving a bloody trail. The prince, being a gallant sportsman, refused to permit the hounds to follow the wounded and handicapped beast so he, alone, took up the chase, tracking the beast through the thicket with the sharp eyes of a skilled hunter. Mile after mile he penetrated the forest and the sun was fast receding toward the western horizon when suddenly and unexpectedly, he burst through the tangled underbrush and found himself beside a lovely garden. Gazing about in wonder and amazement, he beheld a sight that caused him to forget the chase for there, quite near to him, was as lovely an apparition of maidenhood as his eyes had ever beheld. He had unwittingly intruded into the garden of the nobleman and there beheld the beauteous daughter who was entirely unconscious of his presence. Surrounding her was a waving mass of divinely beautiful flowers whose genus he immediately recognized as the choice of the gods—the paeonia. Hardly daring

to breathe for fear of destroying the vision he watched her intently as she drifted, like a humming-bird, from flower to flower until suddenly her eyes glistened as she beheld a marvelous specimen of an ivory white flower. As she stooped to pluck it, he marveled at the grace of her movements and the litheness of her body. An amorous gleam illuminated his eyes and romance enveloped his soul.

Now this lovely creature adored peonies, even as you and I, but her adoration was not the natural love of a normal peony-lover. Egads, her's was quite abnormal—she delighted in destroying them—tearing them to pieces! The gallant prince stood aghast as he viewed this unexpected exhibition of moronic delight and for a while he watched with horror and amazement, but finally he could restrain himself no longer, so he quietly slipped from his place of concealment and moving close, he drew back his foot and bestowed upon her a lusty kick in the pants. "Alack," quoth he, "knoweth thou not that you have desecrated a jewel of the Gods; and of all the varieties here about you have selected 'Victory' for your diabolical pleasure!" So forthwith he pulled from his pouch a G.I. shovel, dug up the plant and carefully transplanted it in his royal gardens.

Thus was "Victory" saved for posterity and is now one of the most coveted prizes in the Van Loon essay contest. It is hoped that this charming, exciting and romantic story will develop a keener appreciation of this prize, for few flowers have such a romantic background.

The moral of this story is for you to write your contest essay and also to hustle up new members or you'll get a kick in the pants, too.

(Note: All screen rights reserved by unknown author.)

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Judging Show Exhibits

ROY G. GAYLE, Rockford, Ill.

All competitive exhibitions, whether they be livestock, flowers, dogs, vegetables, or what not, require judges to select the winner of awards. Regardless of the type of product being judged the result is of considerable consequence and a well qualified judge requires a temperament possessed of fairness, sincerity, knowledge of subtle qualities and, above all, an unbiased and unprejudiced mind.

The normal operating procedure in the American Peony Society Shows is for the Supervisor of Judges to select the judging personnel. This duty naturally falls on our very capable National Secretary who is conversant with the ability of available members best quillified to act in that capacity.

The group so selected is then subdivided into sectional groups, each section consists of three judges, who, are assigned to judge a specific number of classes. Classes containing a large number of flowers, such as the Gold, Silver, and Bronze medal classes require considerable time and therefore judges in such classes are limited to fewer classes, whereas judges assigned to classes having fewer exhibits are assigned a greater range of classes in which to judge. The "Seedling" classes are judged by a standing committee appointed by the Board of Directors for that specific purpose.

With each group of judges is assigned two clerks whose duties consist of tabulating and recording the winners in each class, attaching award-ribbons,

and other incidental duties. Clerks are usually members of local Garden Clubs who very graciously volunteer their services. Clerks should be instructed to refrain from making remarks or comments pertaining to exhibits. Comments often influence decisions.

While engaged in the routine duty of class judging the judges "spot" outstanding specimens which, in their opinion, merit being entered as contestants for the outstanding honor of membership in the Court of Honor. Upon locating a specimen of this character the clerks are instructed to attach a special red tag for conspicuousness so that it will not be overlooked when the Court of Honor contestants are collected and assembled at a designated location for final judging. After class judging has been completed the judges should assume the obligation of collecting and seeing that their Court of Honor selections are entered in this exciting group.

All judging personnel then gather to make the Court of Honor selections. Two tellers are appointed to record the votes, and an assistant to collect the ballots. To each individual entry is attached a large numeral for identification, and voting proceeds by the judges marking the number of their individual choice on a ballot which is collected and the votes are then audited by the tellers. The flower with the lowest number of votes is eliminated and balloting proceeds until the final selection is made. The same procedure is followed in selecting the "Best Bloom of the Show" from the Court of Honor winners.

While it has never been adopted in Class judging a similar method should be established. Each judge could privately register his choice on a slip and the three selections could then be assembled for final place award. This would eliminate the possibility of influenced judging as quite often an inexperienced judge is disposed to rely on the opinion of the other judges rather than to venture a personal opinion. From the three selections for awards the judges could then proceed to discuss the merits and demerits of each of the selections, and place-awards made. Right here is the test of the fairness and sportsmanship of a judge. If he lacks these qualities he should be rated as an incompetent judge. He should not be petulant nor endeavor to dominate the group and should whole-heartedly and graciously accept the opinion of the majority. Lacking in the virtues necessary to be an impartial judge, no person should accept the obligation of serving, for decisions made by a person lacking these qualities will produce unfavorable reactions. A seasoned judge is not prejudiced by the snap judgment of an impetuous or biased contemporary nor by the press-agent ballyhoo given some highly publicized flower. Discard all prejudice and register your firm convictions. You are selected to judge because you have recognized ability—use it!

Quick, hurried, and impulsive judging is detrimental and destructive. Such methods result in overlooking many fine qualities that only careful, deliberate, and penterative study will reveal. Take time to see the subtle charm each flower possesses.

Judging can be too severe in connection with superficial minor defects. It does not seem to be equitable that a minor defect such as an insignificant water-spot on an otherwise perfect flower should disqualify it. Utmost care can be exercised by the exhibitor but a thoughtless act of carelessness by others can cause a minor defect. To disqualify an exhibit for insignificant reasons would be discouraging to an earnest exhibitor who has worked diligently to make a Show a success. A reasonable and liberal attitude should prevail rather than hard-shelled orthodox adherence to the letter.

It is a self imposed duty of a judge to automatically disqualify himself from judging in a class in which he has an entry. He should withdraw to an unobtrusive distance. After the two remaining judges have made their selections they shall each select another candidate—making in all four candidates. Provided none of the four are entries of the judge so disqualified he shall re-enter the judging and select one of the two additional entries as one he sponsors. Provided two judges of a group are eliminated a clerk shall notify the Chairman of Judges who will designate judges to make the awards in that particular class. The Seedling Committee would be an ideal reserve group for this purpose. (This procedure is subject to the Show Committee adopting this method of judging.)

Judging by size comparison is evident lack of judging ability. While size is impressive it is not the factor that should determine the final result. Over-size in itself is an abnormal condition and possibly should be regarded as a disqualifying element. However, no judge would dare disqualify a flower that combines both size and perfection. After all—we are not judging commercial meat hogs—and a six foot two “Miss America” would be quite out of consideration.

Color is a vital factor and clarity of tone is a valuable quality. It is unfortunate that judging is not done under natural outdoor daylight. Exquisite and delicate colors, when subjected to artificial light often lose their refinement. By the same token we find harsh colors softened, subdued, and quite pleasing. Red is the color most affected by the amber rays of artificial light as these rays dissolve the purple shades so objectionable in many flowers. Color purity is a quality not to be overlooked. Keen judges rate it high in their appraisalment.

The physical condition of a flower at the time it is being judged is vitally important. A flower which has not arrived at, or has passed, its prime period of perfection **MUST** be disqualified. No judge can redeem its past nor predict its future. Flowers must be judged by comparison of appearance at the exact time they are being compared and judged.

Judges and connoisseurs are disposed to permit newer varieties to monopolize their attention and indifferently pass up the older and more familiar varieties. A perfect specimen of “*Edulis Superba*” is superior to an imperfect “Mrs. Livingston Farrand.”

In judging an exhibition flower a good judge differentiates between flower beauty and plant quality. Show judging must necessarily be based on perfection of attractiveness of flower alone; must by-pass the biological elements of its composition and accept only its visual beauty.

Inexperienced judges are inclined to apply rating points in appraising a show flower. In show judging we are **NOT** rating a peony. Rating lies within the province of our symposium system for that purpose. Inherent qualities, of which odor is one, are not to be considered.

Hypothetically our objective is to exhibit the result of our feeble efforts in developing, to the fullest measure of its possibilities, the most beautiful of God's expressions of floral loveliness and as a judge you are trusted to be fair and to put forth the best you have in you. Each exhibitor is your client and is at your mercy. Do not betray his trust in you.

Secretary's Notes

These notes were written May 6th. I am most hopeful that the June issue of the bulletin will be in your hands in early June.

I am waiting for some last minute information on the Guelph Show in June. Please note that the dates have been advanced one day and the final dates now are set for June 24-25, 1948.

This one day advancement was due to the fact that the new building, where they had originally planned to hold the exhibition, could not be finished in time for occupancy on the tentative dates originally planned. The new location is in an adjoining building where large exhibitions of flowers were staged and will be fully adequate to stage an immense exhibition.

While these notes are being written, it is raining and the thermometer is standing at 40 degrees with a most disagreeable wind howling down from the north. I would not be at all surprised to wake up in the morning and see snow covering the ground. It seems that most anything can happen these days.

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In a long distance phone conversation with Mr. Roy Gayle of Rockford, Ill., this evening, he advised me that he was disbudding his peonies such as *Le Cygne* and others, and expected to have many in bloom by Memorial Day. He was just a little fearful that he would not be able to hold his bloom for the National Show. I assured him that there would be ample storage facilities at Guelph and I am sure Roy will make a fine exhibit. If he does, he will be a challenge to any contestant, and will offer stiff competition to any exhibitor. That is just what we want to make a good show.

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Most of the June bulletin is already set up in linotype and we are most hopeful that we can get the June issue in the mail so it will reach our members early in June. We will then have achieved the goal we started out to accomplish early last fall. It has been a real trial but we have managed to keep plugging away tenaciously and never giving up hope that we would have our bulletins coming to our members nearer on time. We have also attempted to keep up the high quality articles, thanks to our members, and we will leave it up to your good judgment whether or not we have succeeded.

The March bulletin was mailed out a month or more late but we are thankful that there was not greater delay.

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The list of Mr. Kelsey's originations should provide some excellent material for those interested in new peonies, many of which will be offered for the first time this year. I have just completed the preparation of a catalog for the Mission Gardens at Techny, Ill., listing most of them.

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Mr. Smirnow is doing splendid work with tree peonies as well as with *sinensis* varieties and we will doubtless have a report of the peony show to be held in New York City in cooperation with the New York Horticultural Society. This we hope to have for the September issue of peony bulletin.

The membership committee is doing splendid work in getting new members and we hope to have a very imposing list to present soon.

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Articles are coming in for the essay contest; for which we are very grateful. Don't hesitate, get busy and see how much competition we can arouse. I know we have a glittering array of most competent talent along this line and we are hopeful the coming pages of the bulletin may present some of the entries. Your secretary will be exceedingly grateful and thankful for every entry as it will greatly assist me in preparing these bulletins and making them worth while. If you do not get an appreciative letter of thanks from me for your efforts, please take it for granted that my eternal thanks are due you for any effort you make. With the rising cost of living there has been about a 50 per cent increase in correspondence. This we appreciate, but we are only able to accomplish a certain amount in a fourteen hour day, and as the years steadily creep up on me I am beginning to realize that I will have to cut down somewhat on my activities and take a little more time for recreation. I may wear out but I am positive I will never rust out.

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I came across the following definitions of some of the various "isms" that are prevalent this day and age and pass them on for your enjoyment, I hope. They gave me a giggle. They are known as "Cow-isms."

Socialism—If you have two cows you give one to your neighbor.

Communism—If you have two cows you give them to the government and the government gives you some milk.

Fascism—If you have two cows, you keep the cows and give the milk to the government and the government sells you some milk.

New Dealism—If you have two cows, you shoot one and milk the other then pour the milk down the drain.

Naziism—If you have two cows, the government shoots you and keeps the cows.

Capitalism—If you have two cows, you shoot one and buy a bull.

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If we get by this cold spell of weather we have a pretty good chance of seeing some fine peonies this coming June.

Optimistic? Of course we are! We are at the mercy of the elements but we rarely are deprived of peony bloom each June.

Let us have a report of how your peonies bloomed for you this spring. These reports, from various sections of the country, will surely be most helpful in spreading information as to their performance in various sections of the peony growing sections, as well as from parts of the country where peonies are not as desirable as other native plants. This would be from sections in the far southern part of the United States where there is not sufficient cold weather during the winter period to give the peony the needed rest required for proper performance.

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If there are local peony shows held in your section of the country, report them. If there are no peony shows being held, make an effort to stir up some enthusiasm in your garden clubs to have regular schedules calling for a few classes, at least, calling for peony bloom. In the last issue of the bulletin we gave quite a long and detailed article on how to prepare peonies for ex-

Let us do all we can to increase public interest in our chosen flower.

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“Do not lose your bloom after a rain storm. If they bend and get splashed with mud, cut them and immerse two or three times in water.

If this is done soon after the storm, spots will all come off. If you do not wish to cut the bloom, carry a pail of water to the plant and immerse the blooms as indicated above."

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A few have written us that they would like to see a "Question and Answer" Department in each bulletin. Nothing would please us more so let the questions come thick and fast and we will try to provide the answers with the help of qualified talent along this line.

* * *

Here is another informative article that has recently reached my desk and I am presenting it with the hope that it may answer a very important question about spraying. The spraying with 2-4-D is a much discussed issue and I am sure this experience related by Mr. T. R. Mysyk of Hebron, Ill., is well worth remembering.

"Early last summer while spraying the lawn with 2-4-D weed killer I walked over to a large peony plant by the fence, which had come up from seed, and gave it a good soaking of the 2-4-D solution, (lawn strength). Some time later when spraying the lawn again I checked the same peony plant, and imagine my surprise when I not only found the plant still there but healthier looking than ever, with deep green leaves and not a spot on them.

Would like to see some material in the bulletin about the peony and 2-4-D."

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As your Secretary will doubtless report the Guelph Show this year, we would surely appreciate it if every exhibitor would prepare a list of his varieties in each exhibit and hand it to me at the show or to the Secretary in charge who supplies you with entry cards. This will greatly facilitate my making out this report which is quite a task. I can assure you.

W. F. Christman

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Last Minute News of Peony Show

Yours of the 7th of May received. Our President, Mr. William Brown, called me up last night and asked that I get something to you for the June Bulletin regarding the International Peony Exhibition to be held in Guelph, Ontario, Canada, June 24th and 25th.

Our attention has been called to an omission in our Prize List. The name of the Treasurer of the Exhibition does not appear. The Treasurer is Mr. Harry Occomore, Guelph. He is also the Secretary and Treasurer of the Guelph Horticultural Society, the Treasurer of the Ontario Horticultural Association and Chairman of the Guelph Parks Commission. The Committee regrets the omission.

The officers and directors expect our American friends will make a real showing of their bloom. We realize that the dates set will be late for many across the border, however our cold storage committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. J. H. L. Truscott of the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, Ontario, is prepared to handle all shipments that require cold storage and I can

assure our exhibitors that they will receive expert attention. If the grower has no cold storage, forward his bloom when ready to be stored and same will receive every attention (see Prize List for shipping instructions).

The Prize List and announcements have been mailed to all on our list, others will be supplied by addressing their request to Mrs. J. A. Carleton, Secretary, 166 Willow Road, Guelph, Ontario.

All Committees are working hard to make the Exhibition an outstanding success. The candidates for the Peony Queen Competition are all busy securing support for this event. There is no doubt this event will create a lot of interest and attendance at the exhibition. The Prime Minister will be in attendance and crown the successful candidate as the International Peony Queen.

Might I suggest that all who expect to attend the Annual Banquet of the American Peony Society order their tickets from Miss Nellie Stockford, 472 Woolwich St., Guelph, Ontario, as early as possible so that all may be accommodated. Price of Banquet Tickets \$1.50 each.

We expect our American friends will be here in large numbers to see how we Canadians can stage a Peony Exhibition and draw a large attendance. Our Custom Officials at the border will make it very easy for you to bring or ship your bloom. All you have to tell them is that your bloom is being staged at the International Peony Exhibition at Guelph, Ontario. They have their instructions to admit all exhibits. In other words you will be welcomed by our officials at the border.

J. E. Carter,
Chairman Executive Committee
International Peony Exhibition

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Guelph Show Dates Advanced One Day

Dear Mr. Christman:

I received word from Mayor Rife of Guelph yesterday that it was going to be impossible to have the New Arena ready in time for our Show. While I was disappointed it was not unexpected as I had been watching progress pretty close and was doubtful about it. To bring things to a head I wrote the Mayor several days ago asking for a definite answer.

I went down and saw the Mayor today and to say the least he felt worse than I did. We looked at several other buildings and while any one of them would do for our Show we picked one we thought would be the handiest. It is right alongside the New Arena, in fact you could call it part of it. It is where we held our 1939 peony Show.

It is where they held the Winter Fair and the main floor space is 200x70 feet, with an annex of 200x35 feet. They lie right alongside of each other and are connected by several doors. The inside is not as attractive as the others but the Mayor promised he would do his utmost to have it decorated. There is also plenty of space to prepare exhibits. It will be nice and cool even in the hot weather. We will however have to change the dates to June 24-25. Thursday and Friday. the building will be in use on Saturday, June 26th.

Just at present it looks like an early Spring and these dates might be late enough. Last year my peonies were not in bloom until July 1st. It is better, is it not, to err on the late side?

The Prize list is in the printer's hands and will be out in ten days. I hope the way we allotted the prizes will meet with your approval. If not I will be the guilty party as I had most of it to do.

Wm. Brown



Show Your Flowers

By MYRON D. BIGGER

Be sure to plan to show all the flowers that you can in all the shows that are near you this year. You can win just as well as anyone else can if only you will think so.

Remove all trash and dead tops from your peony plants and burn them as soon as you can. Keep the weeds and trash away from the plants so that they can breathe, and keep them cultivated at all times from the time they come out of the ground until the frost kills down the tops in the fall.

When the plants come out of the ground watch them closely and as soon as you can possibly do it, remove all the side buds, leaving only the one large terminal bud on each stem. This is best done by taking hold of the terminal bud and stretching it taut so that it will not break so easily, then with the free hand give the side bud a quick break out sideways. With a little practice this becomes easy. It is easiest just after a rain because the buds are not sticky and are more brittle. As a rule the side buds are not large enough until the plants are about a foot high.

About a week before the peonies bloom you should put a half-pound brown kraft paper bag upside down over each bloom that you wish to take to the show and either tie the top of the bag shut or you may staple, pin or use a rubber band to keep it shut so that it will not come off in the wind and rain. Be very careful to leave the stem and bud loose so that the flower can grow. If you do not the stem might grow crooked. Get some kind of a label and label each bloom with its name so that you and everyone else can see the name all through the show. For this purpose you may use a price marking tag, wooden label or any other label that you may that will stay on. Use a No. 2 pencil, never ink or indelible because they will run.

Watch these sacked and labeled buds and the morning of the day that they feel like they are going to bloom cut them and take them to cold storage as quickly as you can. The sooner you get them to storage the better your blooms will be.

Some growers say that it is better to store your blooms in water and others say that it is better to store them dry, so you may do it which ever way pleases you. The main thing to do is to be sure to store them as near to 34 degrees Fahrenheit as possible.

About 24 hours before the show opens you should take them out of storage and cut about one-half inch off the end of each stem at a very steep angle and put them in water. This is best done in a cool place away from drafts. Three or four hours after they are put into water you may remove the sacks from the blooms. The sacks at this time will be almost full. The blooms will take a lot of water so keep your vases full.

After you have decided into which class you wish to put each bloom, be sure that you have them labeled correctly, classified correctly, and the number of blooms counted correctly. Any of these things wrong might count you out. Be sure to read the rules of the show so that you have them all clearly in mind.

Do not hold back. Take your flowers to some show and try as hard as you can. If you do not win try again next year and correct your mistakes.

The more blooms that are in the show the better the show is and the more interest there is in the show. Bring some flowers even if it is only one bloom. It may win.



A Peony Seed Was Planted

FRANK E. CROSS, *Savage, Minn.*

In August 1923 on one of my many visits to Mr. A. M. Brand at Fari-bault, Minn., while walking about in the field, Mr. Brand suddenly stopped, put his hand in his pocket and drew out a peony seed and told me he was saving it for me. It was very large but sound and hard shelled, a seed from *Le Cygne*, the only one he had ever seen; and talking to him about this seed in 1947 he has never seen one since.

I planted the seed as soon as I reached home. It was placed in a large pot and I set it nearly level in a moist spot in the garden. Then patience was needed. at the end of the fourth year we became serious thinking possibly the seed had rotted, or was otherwise destroyed. The seed was dug up but it was sound, with no sign of germination. The color had changed from brown to jet black.

The earth in the pot was changed and the seed replanted. Late in the spring of the third year after replanting a tiny plant sprouted. It grew very slowly and had the first bloom June 1936. The bloom was small rose color, formed like *Le Cygne*. It has bloomed each succeeding season, improving in size each year up to and including 1943 when the root was divided. I was forced to split the root endwise as there were very few side roots. It was a good deal like a long tap root on an evergreen that had never been transplanted.

After being divided it grew much more vigorously. In two years the blooms averaged over 8 inches. The color is rose; form somewhat like *Le Cygne*. It has a decided rose fragrance. Plant 36 inches tall. Stiff, straight stems; foliage to the ground, of a medium green color.

I have been planting peony seeds for over 30 years and one thing I can cheerfully recommend to gardeners who wish to plant peony seeds and demand quick results, and who do not have an abundance of patience, do not plant seed from *Le Cygne* if you ever get any. In closing I wish to state I have no plants for sale.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Due to the fact that the new building where the Guelph Peony Show was to be held will not be completed in time, a change of location was found necessary. It was also found that this change necessitated advancing the show dates one day to June 24th and 25th, Thursday and Friday instead of the tentative dates originally announced. Please keep these dates in mind in making your arrangements.

W. F. CHRISTMAN, *Secretary*

TREE PEONIES

By LOUIS SMIRNOW, *Great Neck, L. I.*

Tree Peonies like herbaceous are easily grown and will thrive in most of the United States. They have been known to survive cold 20 to 30 degrees below zero. They will bloom with less attention and care than almost any other plant. It is almost impossible to kill them with neglect but a little attention will result in shrubs that are shapely and in good blooming condition.

Tree Peonies are so called because the wood-like structure of the stems do not die down to the ground in the fall of the year as do the herbaceous. Buds appear on the stems in the fall and then sprout and bloom very early in the spring, about two to three weeks before the herbaceous peonies. After this these new sprouts gradually turn to wood during the summer on which eyes are formed and the process continued. The flowers are usually larger than herbaceous types and established plants bloom in great profusion. They are in my mind the most magnificent flowering plants grown and are indeed the aristocrats of the garden. Ancient Chinese called the Tree Peony the King of Flowers. The shapely, finely-cut green foliage has a majestic air not found in foliage of any other flower and the gorgeous large blooms have graceful petals often crinkled resembling crepe paper. The foliage and flowers give the appearance of tropical luxuriance. No garden should be without a few.

They can be planted in almost any good soil in open spaces and in sunlight at least half the day. Plant four feet apart. Full grown plants are four feet high and five feet wide.

Steamed bone meal or a commercial fertilizer low in nitrogen but rather high in phosphoric acid and potash are most commonly used and desirable. Rotted manure if not carefully used may result in botrytis and diseased plants. Experiments have shown that manure injudiciously used has resulted in lush foliage and big stems which could not survive a rain storm.

The propagation of Tree Peonies has long been a matter of dispute and great experimentation. The several methods are grafting, dividing, layering and slips or cuttings. Experts like John C. Wister, Prof. A. P. Saunders, William Gratwick and R. L. Oberlin agree that grafting is by far the most rapid and satisfactory. If grafted on wild tree peony roots as the Japanese do there will be trouble with untrue shoots appearing from the roots and these roots becoming so strong as to kill the original scion. Grafting on tree peony stock makes a strong plant which will be good for several years. But finally the understock will throw suckers and by the time the gardener notices it, the grafted variety will be overcome by the vigorous plant. Grafting on herbaceous roots by the cleft method is much safer and gives better results. The tree peony scion is grafted to the root tip of a herbaceous peony. The herbaceous root tip has no eye which can sucker and just enough vitality to support the tree peony scion until it develops its own roots. If the herbaceous understock should sucker its foliage would be distinct and removable from the tree peony growth. Mr. Wister has over 3500 grafted tree peonies by this method showing a great percentage of success and William Gratwick reports almost equal success by this method of grafting. Dividing is a sure method of quick root growth but considerably slower than grafting. Layering is more practical than dividing. It is slow and uncertain. Experiments with cuttings has proven decidedly unsuccessful. Seedlings are desirable if they are of good quality. Only a small percentage of them are equal to that of named varieties and the balance are not so good.

Most seedlings run mostly to magentas, a few whites and pinks, very few scarlets and almost never any crimsons.

There are three distinct types of tree peonies, European, Japanese and Lutea Hybrids. The European type usually blooms very double and has broad foliage. Many of these varieties are as double and as large as the herbaceous peonies.

The Japanese tree peony blooms vary from a single to a semi-double, nearly always showing a beautiful cushion or circle of yellow or golden stamens in the center. The foliage is much finer and thinner than that of the European type.

The Lutea Hybrids originated from a cross between the wild Lutea and some European types and inherits its yellow color from the Lutea parent. These Lutea Hybrids are the aristocrats of all tree peonies. They are difficult to propagate and are very rare.

The colors of the European and Japanese range from a pure white, through pale pink, rose, salmon and cerise to deepest red, with the Japanese having a much broader color range than the European types. The Lutea Hybrids have colors and shades all their own, from clear yellow through orange yellow to yellow and red combinations which are unsurpassed by any other flowers including the rose. The Japanese are by far the most profuse bloomers.

Of the European varieties, *Reine Elizabeth* is the finest and best. It is a rich salmon pink. *Bijou de Chusan* is the finest of the European whites.

Some of the better Japanese varieties are the following:

Gessekai—a sensational white exquisite immense flower.

Hano-kisoi—a deep cherry pink, waved petals, double enormous blooms.

Shugyo-kuden—a well formed charming bright scarlet, rare variety.

Rimpo—a large, medium, double, deep red with purplish cast.

Hino Tsukasa—immense globular, cherry colored bloom.

The best of the Lutea Hybrids are:

Satin Rouge—full double, broad petals of blood red passing to burnt orange color.

L'Esperance—immense single, round fringed and wavy petals, clear yellow blotched carmine at base.

Alice Harding—full double fragrant flowers of purest yellow—rarest of all.

It was magnificent blooms of *Gessekai*, *Hana-kisoi*, and few others listed above in my garden which created great interest in Tree Peonies among members of the Men's Garden Club of Great Neck. So great was their interest aroused that when the large Tree Peony Collection of Colonel J. C. Nicholas became available, it was divided among many of the members. During the past two years Great Neck enthusiasts purchased other Tree Peonies and today our small community can truthfully be called the Tree Peony center of this area. While we do not have the greatest number of plants we have more individual Tree Peony enthusiasts than any other community. Thus from a glimpse of a few good Tree Peonies grew a tremendous circle of enthusiasts. As a fellow garden club member, it is my pleasure to suggest you buy a Tree Peony now for sheer joy and beauty.

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