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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 annual dues are \$3.00 which includes the bulletins. 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



SEPTEMBER, 1949

## My All American Collection of 100 Varieties

ROY G. GAYLE, ROCKFORD, ILL.

Psychologic research has failed to fathom the mystic cause of an apparently normal person adopting peony-growing as a hobby. This 'article' may furnish a clue,—even solve the mystery. So now one can wander, unmolested, down the path that ultimately leads to an attempt to draft a selection of peonies to represent an "All American" collection of his or her favorites.

For your information I will briefly outline the fundamental forces necessary to approach the problem of assembling an "All American" collection. To succeed one must possess forceful qualities of mental confusion, unsophistication, sweet innocence, and ignorance—to which is mixed the infirmity of old age. Unless possessed with these gifted qualities one should not attempt an experience of this kind.

A peony grower is a polygamist at heart. To localize his choice to a limited assortment of varieties is a great strain on his delicate mental mechanism. It is comparable to a demand being made on old Brigham Young and King Solomon that they limit their wives to one blond, one brunette, and one red-head.

My original objective was to assemble a collection of 100 "All Stars"—without consideration of type; the only restrictions was to hold to the *Chinensis* specie and to varieties which I felt warranted a rating of 90 or better. So I listed all varieties, known to me, that had outstanding qualities, and the total was nearly 140. Then came the test—to cull down to the 100 limit. For the purpose of making comparisons they were sorted into types and then into color-classes of the 5 types,—Doubles, Semi-doubles, Decorative, Singles, and Japanese. Assorting each to its proper category revealed the overwhelming preponderance of good Whites, Blush, and Light pinks, and the scarcity of extra good medium and dark pinks,—also Reds. The result was that if I selected so many of the "big-shot" Whites, Blush, and Light-pink, the other types and colors would be absorbed and the type and color range would be sadly out of balance. The thought of a balanced selection, with an equal number of varieties in each type and color-class, then developed and became so intriguing that I dropped the idea of "All Stars" and adopted the more complex problem of an "All American" assortment, so as to include all types. Such a group would be of greater interest and practical value as it would serve as a guide in covering the three major purposes for which peonies are grown:—garden, cut-flower, and exhibition.

The next procedure was to sort and assign each variety of a type and color-class to its ranking position. After getting the Doubles completed I dis-

covered I had taken in too much territory so I reduced the number of varieties in the remaining four types. It is impossible, for instance, to expand one's imagination to a point wherein nine white Singles, or Japs, could be listed as a suitable material for an "All America" collection. The same applies to the Semi-double and Decorative types as both quality and DISTINCTIVENESS enters the picture.

At this point I elect to go on record, without equivocation, to voice a highly controversial opinion; The dominant value of any good peony is DISTINCTIVENESS! Too many good varieties have a variation of but a degree or two from many other good varieties, both in form and color, and that has brought on a state of confusion. On the basis of distinctiveness I predict that the new Canadian introduction, "Ann Cousins" will compete with, and may surpass, all whites before many years. "Distinctiveness" should register up to 50% of rating value as without that quality no peony can hope to attain stardom. Subtract the *color* distinctiveness from Mrs. Livingston Farrand, and then add up the score. "Elsa Sass" and "Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt":—quality plus distinctiveness immediately rated them as stars. Color, is of course, a forceful contribution to high ranking. "Akashigata" is a Jap of exquisite form and pattern—but the color is off and its value reduced by that misfortune. Give it the quality of color purity and what a Jap it would be.

It was my intent to have this "All American" list drawn exclusively from the nearly 300 varieties I have in my gardens. Then I made the fatal mistake of looking at the "All Stars" and in the culling-out process I found, due to the restrictions of balance, that I had been compelled to omit about 40 top-notch varieties, of which I had all but 12. Among these 12 were 5 varieties that I just couldn't omit and still have my "All American" list suitably embellished. These varieties are identified by an asterick (\*) following the name of the variety. I feel certain that anyone familiar with them will not condemn me for deviating from my original intention.

That cruel master, Poverty, has compelled me to gaze at these 12 through a knot-hole, as I feel a moral obligation to provide my dependent offspring with at least one nourishing meal on alternating days and to also provide them with educational advantages sufficient to enable them to escape the stockade of illiteracy that has imprisoned the tumultuous mind, the turbulent soul, and toil-worn body of their father. By that time the price range may be around a buck or a buck-and-a-half.

I do not desire that others be influenced by my selections. Many varieties have done exceedingly well in my gardens but this may be due to three causes: divisions having a high degree of vitality, soil condition, and climate combined with, of course, tender and loving care. From some unknown cause I have been unable to develop up-to-standard plants of such super varieties as "Mrs. J. V. Edlund." "Hansina Brand" and a few others. This may be due to having received devitalized roots or to unfavorable soil reaction. If my more recently planted divisions of these varieties develop satisfactorily they will be included with the royalty. I have about concluded that certain varieties which may be outstanding in the unexplored wilderness of Rapidan, Va., or the dismal steppes of New Jersey, or the barren wastes and rugged highlands of Long Island, or the tropical clime of Tepee Creek, Manitoba, or the misty mountains of Minnesota, or the salty sea-coast of Topeka, or the immoral atmosphere of Chicago, or the beery breezes of Milwaukee, --are not necessarily acclimated to this locality. They have been given the test of careful diagnosis of habits during their stages of development from infancy, through adolescence, and maturity: also scientific, analytical observations have been applied to the annual cycle, from tender shoot to hardened seed-pod.

I pause at this point to reveal the secret by which even the dullest mind is enabled to acquire all necessary analytical ability to determine, to a split degree, both the visible and hidden merits of a peony. By this system, and it alone, you can acquire an intimate familiarity with your plants and the subtle gift to recognize virtues and realize vices. First: get yourself at least 1000 plants; second: get a hoe; third: then proceed to hoe them. By the time you complete a season's work on this modest number you will develop a sort of sixth-sense, which supplants sentimentality and qualifies you, without qualms of conscience, to distinguish and abolish the weak-sisters. It simply becomes a matter of your self-preservation! Spurn any desire that may tempt you to acquire mechanical equipment, as by that sissy method of cultivation you lose that essential quality of the understanding of a plant's temperament which is only acquired by the direct personal touch transmitted through the hoe-handle. Thus you gain an intimate and affectionate regard for the strong and a deep and profound contempt for the weak. Blisters will spell out the correct answer and it is only by the process of blisters will you be able to determine and separate the inferior from the superior. I am the shepherd of 1156 plants and by my blisters do I know them.

It would require far too much space to explain the basis for assignment of ranking position of each variety in each color-class. That is the really difficult problem. Just to illustrate:—Why have I placed "Nick Shaylor" in the #8 position in the "blush" color-class? It is beyond doubt a superlative product but I find it to be exceedingly variable in color as it ranges from light-pink, to blush, to white. The red flecking ranges from heavy, to medium, to light, and is often clear. However—it has power and personality and would be distinguished as "Nick Shaylor" even if disguised by coloring it red. On the basis of its color variability I assign it to the position given, and as "Blush" is the middle of its color range. I arbitrarily class it as such.

Now let us take a gander at red singles: "Flanders Field" "Arcturus", "Kickapoo" and "President Lincoln." All dark reds of top rating. So why is "Imperial Red" in the #2 position? Why "Verdun" in #4? The first mentioned four are so similar that I question the ability of an expert to correctly identify having a sequence of reds so near alike, would lack the value of color interest. Assuming "President Lincoln" and "Arcturus" to be superior to "Imperial Red" and Verdun,—garden and exhibition interest has greater weight. If reducing to four red varieties it would be better to exclude "President Lincoln" rather than "Verdun" due to retaining color interest. Reducing to 3 reds we would then have "Imperial Red" complimenting the other two and also breaking the monotony. With "Flanders Field" very early and "Kickapoo" very late we extend the period of bloom and enjoyment of the richness of their deep color. The stems, foliage, and plant form of "Flanders Field," combined with its early season of bloom, color durability, petal persistence, and weather resistance, are qualities that warrant its #1 position in my estimation.

Hybrids have not been included in this list as my collection is too limited but, if tortured, I might confess that "Flame," "Eros," and "Julia Grant" are hybrid-Singles which make a prized addition to any man's garden. Effen you haint gottem y'd better git 'em fer they shore are nice posies. Cheap too.—woo hoo!

Many of the varieties I have selected as "All Americans" do not warrant a 90 or better rating. I would drop a goodly number from this list and draw on the 35 reserves in order to assemble an "ALL STAR" team of 100 varieties.

To that sturdy group, or possibly I should not be so presumptuous and should dedicate this to some lonely individual with rock-ribbed fortitude suffi-

cient to carry through to the end,—I present for scornful scrutiny—the following list:

Note: The numeral in brackets following "color" represents the number of varieties I have in each color-class, and from which this selection was drawn.

### DOUBLES

#### White (42)

- 1 Elsa Sass
- 2 Le Cygne
- 3 Ann Cousins\*
- 4 Kelways Glorious
- 5 Victory
- 6 To Kalon
- 7 Mary E. Nicholls
- 8 Dr. J. H. Neeley
- 9 Thura Hires

#### Light Pink (51)

- 1 Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt
- 2 Therese
- 3 Myrtle Gentry
- 4 Doris Cooper\*
- 5 Minuet
- 6 Mrs. W. L. Gumm
- 7 Lottie Dawson Rea
- 8 Laura Kelsey
- 9 Mme. Jules Dessert

#### Dark Pink (22)

- 1 Blanche King
- 2 Ann Pfeiffer
- 3 Dolorodell\*
- 4 Helen Hayes
- 5 Tondeleyo\*
- 6 Mme. Emile Debatene
- 7 John Howard Wigell
- 8 Grace Batson
- 9 Souv. de Louis Bigot

#### Blush (26)

- 1 Mrs. J. H. Neeley
- 2 Grace Gedge
- 3 Alesia
- 4 La Lorraine
- 5 Dorothy J.
- 6 Marilla Beauty
- 7 Margaret Lough
- 8 Nick Shaylor
- 9 Mrs. C. S. Minot

#### Medium Pink (23)

- 1 Mrs. Livingston Farrand
- 2 Mrs. Jno M. Kleitsch
- 3 Walter Faxon
- 4 Martha Bulloch
- 5 Sarah Bernhardt
- 6 Rosa Bonheur
- 7 Ella Christiansen
- 8 Lady Kate
- 9 Marietta Sisson

#### Red (23)

- 1 Philippe Rivoire
- 2 Matilda Lewis
- 3 Sir John Franklin
- 4 Carolyn Mae Nelson\*
- 5 Tempest
- 6 Judy Becker
- 7 Shawnee Chief
- 8 Longfellow
- 9 Ruth Elizabeth

### SEMI-DOUBLES

#### White—

- Minnie Shaylor  
Nanette

#### Pink—

- Victory Ch. Thierry  
Phyllis Kelway

#### Red—

- Cherry Hill  
Mons. M. Cahuzac

### DECORATIVE

#### White—

- Mildred May  
La Rosiere

#### Pink—

- Silvia Saunders  
Lady A. Duff

#### Red—

- Rosalie  
Chippewa

### SINGLES

#### White (5)

- 1 Pico
- 2 Le Jour
- 3 Krinkled White
- 4 White Perfection
- 5 Exquisite

#### Pink (9)

- 1 Helen
- 2 Sea Shell
- 3 Elfin Pink
- 4 Angelus
- 5 Pride of Langport

#### Red (8)

- 1 Flanders Field
- 2 Imperial Red
- 3 Kickapoo
- 4 Verdun
- 5 Pres. Lincoln

## JAPANESE

## White (8)

- 1 Moon of Nippon
- 2 Isani Gidui
- 3 Midway Island\*
- 4 Toro-no-maki
- 5 Shaylor's Sunburst

## Pink (15)

- 1 Tamate Boku
- 2 Westerner
- 3 Akashigata
- 4 Ama-no-Sode
- 5 Nippon Gold

## Red (18)

- 1 Nippon Brilliant
- 2 Dignity
- 3 Hari-ai-nin
- 4 Charm
- 5 Some Ganoka



## Peonies—Testimonials

M. J. WEBBER, Arvada, Col.

In Bailey's Cyclopedia of Horticulture we find this reference: "Peonies are among the dozen commonest and best herbaceous perennials; are among the most hardy, showy and easily grown of all the flowers."

In Bailey's Manual of Gardening: "Constitutes one of the very best plants known to cultivation."

In Brittanica: "Remarkable for their gorgeous flowers."

Mrs. Hill in "Forty Years of Gardening": "Peonies have no faults, but have one weakness, they are heavy headed."

M. Bertrand Farr of Wyomissing Nursery: "The modern peony is an aristocrat, whose birth was among the Nobility of France."

Mrs. Frances King in "A Garden Note Book" we find: "There are, I fancy, Peony enthusiasts who exist from one June to the next, but who may be said to really live only in that lovely month; it is easy to feel a sympathy for this group, on first seeing that great peony, Therese."

Mr. Richardson Wright, editor of "House and Garden" says: "The Peony is one of those flowers that it useless to resist, eventually, it will overcome the strongest will: poor or rich, this gardener will eventually debauch himself with them, and blessed is the debauch."

Mr. John M. Good in his time an eminent authority, declares that "No one can convey to another, his impression of a Peony flower, without using adjectives."

Miss Jessie Good, on beholding an eighty acre field of about a million Peony blossoms, declared that "The field of the cloth of gold was a tawdry hand made affair compared to it," one lady on viewing the field said she felt as if heavens had opened and shown her a glimpse of the glories within.

In the book "Peonies in the Little Garden," Mrs. Harding writes in her concluding Chapter: As I read the title of this book, once more before I lay down my pen, I have a vision:

I see a little girl leaning upon the seat of an immense old chair, covered with needle work.

With caressing fingers she traces out the old-fashioned flowers there shown in heaped up richness, stately Lilies and cabbage Roses, imposing Crown Emperials and Lilacs in purple and mauve, blue Irises and dazzling Poppies, all receive her absorbed attention.

As her gaze falls upon a very fat and pink Peony, the little girl catches her breath; some day, when I am grown up, she promises herself, I will have a little garden full of all those flowers, it will be Heaven.

The little girl is now a grown-up; travel, change, a fair share of life's joys and vicissitudes have been hers, but, true to her childish resolves, she has a garden full of those flowers, nor is she disappointed, for it is Heaven. (*Essay Contest Entry.*)

## Planting Peony Seed Out of Doors in Mid-Winter in Northeastern Massachusetts

By BENJAMIN WILDER GUPPY, Boston, Mass.

My advice is DON'T TRY IT.

In a moment of temporary insanity I once ordered some peony seed from Japan. (This was a number of years before W. W. No. 2). With the acknowledgement of the receipt of the order I was told to expect delivery in late January or early February. Then I knew I was crazy for sure. It was late fall but there was still time to get ready, so I set to. First I prepared one of my standard seed beds in a four foot by twelve foot frame made of creosoted pine. The surface was leveled at two inches below the top of the frame and furrowed cross ways at four inch intervals for the rows of seed. I had four special sashes made three feet wide by four feet long and covered the bed with them. Then a heavy hay mulch was put on, held down by boughs. Last, but not least a barrel of screened loam was put far enough back in the shed to be out of the weather.

The seed arrived in midwinter as scheduled and of course my car was in winter storage. I took the Sunday morning train from Melrose to Haverhill with a bus ride across country to West Newbury and a half mile walk up Coffin Street to the place. The snow was about eighteen inches deep on the level and the street had been pretty well plowed out but there was a formidable drift between me and the barn door to be negotiated. Finally I arrived at the bed with a shovel, cleared off the snow and mulch and took up the sashes and stacked them in the barn. I expected to find the soil in the frame frozen stiff but so much upheaval had occurred. After all the care taken with the surface of the bed it looked like a relief map of Switzerland. An old axe was brought into play, the summits were chopped down and the valleys filled and some of the sifted loam used for leveling. The seed was sown broadcast, frame filled to the top with the sifted loam, and the mulch was replaced.

Then I beat it for home to get thawed out. The net result of this strenuous operation was thirty-one plants. Since then I have planted nothing but home grown seed and as soon as ripe. Perhaps if I had left the surface of the bed six inches below the top of the frame and had enough sifted soil on hand so that I could have leveled it to two inches below top at time of planting and then finished off it might have produced better results. (*Essay Contest Entry.*)



### THIRTIETH ANNUAL PEONY SHOW

The Minnesota Peony and Iris Society

With the Co-operation of

The Minnesota State Horticultural Society

The Northwestern National Bank

Seventh and Marquette Avenue

Minneapolis, Minnesota — June 21-22, 1949

#### COURT OF HONOR

CLASS 100 A.

Best double, white: *Elsa Sass*, Glenn H. Greaves.

Flesh: *Nancy Nora*, L. W. Lindgren.

Light pink: *Doris Cooper*, L. W. Lindgren.

Dark pink: *Blanche King*, G. H. Greaves.

Red: *Ruth Elizabeth*, G. H. Greaves.



Japanese: *Isani Gidui*, G. H. Greaves.  
 Single: *Krinkled White*, Roy W. Goddard.  
 Hybrid: *Illini Belle*, G. H. Greaves.

GRAND CHAMPION: Best flower in the show: *Hansina Brand*, R. W. Goddard.  
 CLASS 100 B. AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY SILVER MEDAL AWARD:  
 Best entry of five doubles 1 bloom each: L. W. Lindgren with *Doris Cooper*,  
*Mattie Lafuze*, Mrs. J. V. Edlund, Nancy Nora, *Victory*.  
 OPEN CLASSES.

CLASS NO. 101. Collection 35 varieties 1 bloom each: 1 entry.  
*FIRST*: R. W. Jones with *A. B. Franklin*, *Alice Schneider*, *Anne Nielsen*,  
*Blanche King*, *Chief*, *Elsa Sass*, *Hansina Brand*, *Irene Jones*, *James Pillow*,  
*Jacques Dessert*, *Loren Franklin*, *Franklin's Pride*, *Genevieve*, *La France*, *Late*  
*Festiva*, *Last Rose*, *Marilla Beauty*, *Milady*, *Martha Bulloch*, *Mary E. Nicholls*.  
*Mrs. A. M. Brand*, *Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt*, *Mrs. Frank Beach*, *Mrs. J. H.*  
*Neeley*, *Nancy Dolman*, *Nick Shaylor*, *Odile*, *President F. D. Roosevelt*, *Rosy*  
*Rim*, *Rosalie*, *Sarah Bernhardt*, *Sir John Franklin*, *Sensation*, *Will Rogers*, *W.*  
*L. Gumm*.

CLASS NO. 102. Collection ten varieties 3 blooms each: 1 entry.  
*FIRST*: R. W. Jones with *A. B. Franklin*, *Alice Schneider*, *Loren Franklin*.  
*Martha Bulloch*, *Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt*, *Myrtle Gentry*, *President F. D. Roosevelt*,  
*Rosada*, *Sarah Bernhardt*, *Victory*.

CLASS NO. 103. Five blooms one variety, white or flesh: 6 entries.  
*FIRST*: Riverview Gardens with *King Boreas*.  
*SECOND*: R. W. Jones with *Rosy Rim*.  
*THIRD*: E. H. Lins with *Casablanca*.

CLASS NO. 104. Five blooms, one variety, light pink: 5 entries.  
*FIRST*: Gowen's Gardens with *Myrtle Gentry*.  
*SECOND*: L. W. Lindgren with *Doris Cooper*.  
*THIRD*: E. H. Lins with *Mandaleen*.

CLASS NO. 105. Five blooms, one variety, dark pink. 6 entries.  
*FIRST*: R. W. Jones with *Martha Bulloch*.  
*SECOND*: E. H. Lins with *Dolorodell*.  
*THIRD*: No award.

CLASS NO. 106. Five blooms one variety, red. 4 entries.  
*FIRST*: E. H. Lins with *Burma*.  
*SECOND*: Gowen's Gardens with *Philippe Rivoire*.  
*THIRD*: R. W. Jones with *Irene Jones*.

CLASS NO. 107. Vase of five different varieties, double. 4 entries.  
*FIRST*: R. W. Jones with *Hansina Brand*, *Irene Jones*, *Martha Bulloch*, *President*  
*F. D. Roosevelt*, *Rosy Rim*.  
*SECOND*: Gowen's Gardens with *A. B. Franklin*, *Blanche King*, *Hansina Brand*.  
*Minuet*, *Mrs. J. V. Edlund*.  
*THIRD*: E. H. Lins with *Burma*, *Casablanca*, *Dolorodell*, *King Midas*, *Tondeleyo*.

CLASS NO. 108. One bloom, white. 3 entries.  
*FIRST*: G. H. Greaves with *Elsa Sass*.  
*SECOND*: E. H. Lins with *Casablanca*.  
*THIRD*: Riverview Gardens with *King Boreas*.

CLASS NO. 109. One bloom, flesh. 5 entries.  
*FIRST*: E. H. Lins with *Gardenia*.  
*SECOND*: R. W. Jones with *Hans P. Sass*.  
*THIRD*: G. H. Greaves with *Mary Auten*.

CLASS NO. 110. One bloom, light pink. 3 entries.  
*FIRST*: R. W. Jones with *Hansina Brand*.

**SECOND:** G. H. Greaves with *Hansina Brand*.

**THIRD:** E. H. Lins with *Mandaleen*.

**CLASS NO. 111.** One bloom, dark pink. 6 entries.

**FIRST:** E. H. Lins with *Ensign Moriarty*.

**SECOND:** G. H. Greaves with *President F. D. Roosevelt*.

**THIRD:** R. W. Jones with *Loren Franklin*.

**CLASS NO. 112.** One bloom, red. 4 entries.

**FIRST:** E. H. Lins with *King Midas*.

**SECOND:** R. W. Jones with *Irene Jones*.

**THIRD:** G. H. Greaves with *Mrs. A. S. Gowen*.

**CLASS NO. 114.** Collection of Japanese varieties 1 bloom each. 1 entry.

**FIRST:** R. W. Jones with *Charm*, *Gypsy Rose*, *Isani Gidui*, *King of England*, *Madam Butterfly*, *Nippon Beauty*, *Tamate Boku*.

**CLASS NO. 115.** Collection singles. No entry.

**CLASS NO. 116.** Collection of peonies rating over 8.5. 1 entry.

**FIRST:** R. W. Jones with *A. B. Franklin*, *Alice Schneider*, *Acme*, *Chief*, *Evening Star*, *Franklin's Pride*, *Hansina Brand*, *Jacques Dessert*, *Loren Franklin*, *Martha Bulloch*, *Milady*, *Marilla Beauty*, *Myrtle Gentry*, *Mrs. A. M. Brand*, *Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt*, *President F. D. Roosevelt*, *Rosalie*, *Sarah Bernhardt*, *Sensation*, *W. L. Gumm*.

**CLASS NO. 117.** Handle basket not over 20 inches in diameter. 3 entries.

**FIRST:** Riverview Gardens. **SECOND:** E. H. Lins. **THIRD:** R. W. Jones.

**CLASS NO. 118.** Handle basket not over 12 inches in diameter. 3 entries.

**FIRST:** Riverview Gardens. **SECOND:** R. W. Jones. **THIRD:** E. H. Lins.

**CLASS NO. 119.** Small vase of peonies. 3 entries.

**FIRST:** Riverview Gardens. **SECOND:** R. C. Schneider. **THIRD:** E. H. Lins.

**CLASS NO. 120.** Large vase of peonies. 2 entries.

**FIRST:** Riverview Gardens. **SECOND:** R. W. Jones.

**CLASS NO. 121.** Collection hybrid peonies. 1 entry.

**FIRST:** G. H. Greaves with *Bright Knight*, *Coralie*, *Crusader*, *Eros*, *Gay Cavalier*, *Illini Belle*, *May Delight*, *Red Charm*.

**CLASS NO. 122.** Three blooms, one variety hybrid. 1 entry.

**FIRST:** G. H. Greaves with *Convoy*.

#### ADVANCED AMATEUR CLASSES.

**CLASS NO. 201.** Collection not more than 20 varieties double, one bloom each. 4 entries.

**FIRST:** R. W. Goddard with *Avalanche*, *Ellen Foster*, *Elsa Sass*, *Blanche King*, *Hansina Brand*, *John L. Crenshaw*, *Le Cygne*, *Mary Brand*, *Martha Bulloch*, *Myrtle Gentry*, *Mons. Martin Cahuzac*, *Nancy Dolman*, *Reine Hortense*, *Rose Shaylor*, *Roy W. Goddard*, *Philippe Rivoire*, *Solange*, *Therese*, *Tourangelles*, *Walter Faxon*.

**SECOND:** G. H. Greaves with *Alesia*, *Alice Reed Bates*, *A. B. Franklin*, *Anne Nielsen*, *Alice Harding*, *Dolorodell*, *Ella Lewis*, *Elsa Sass*, *Edith M. Snook*, *Loren Franklin*, *Mandaleen*, *Martha Bulloch*, *Mary Auten*, *Mrs. A. S. Gowen*, *Mrs. Livingston Farrand*, *Minuet*, *Ruth Elizabeth*, *Thura Hires*, *President F. D. Roosevelt*, *Blanche King*.

**THIRD:** Lorene Sedlacek with *A. B. Franklin*, *Defiance*, *Genevieve*, *Florence Macbeth*, *Evening Star*, *Henry M. Vories*, *Loren Franklin*, *Martha Bulloch*, *Marie Lemoine*, *Minuet*, *Mme. Jules Dessert*, *Mrs. A. M. Brand*, *Mrs. Livingston Farrand*, *Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt*, *Mrs. J. H. Neeley*, *Myrtle Gentry*, *Mrs. J. V. Edlund*, *Snowball*, *Victory* (red). 1 unnamed.

**CLASS NO. 202.** Collection 7 varieties, three blooms each. 4 entries.

**FIRST:** G. H. Greaves with *Alesia*, *Alice Reed Bates*, *Dolorodell*, *Elsa Sass*, *King*

*Midas, Milton Hill, Mrs. J. V. Edlund.*

**SECOND:** R. W. Goddard with *Avalanche, Blanche King, Mary Brand, Mrs. A. M. Brand, Myrtle Gentry, Sarah Bernhardt, Souvenir de Louis Bigot.*

**THIRD:** Lorene Sedlacek with *A. B. Franklin, Kelway's Glorious, Mammoth Rose, Mrs. A. M. Brand, Mrs. Frank Beach, Mrs. J. H. Neeley, Myrtle Gentry.*

CLASS NO. 203. Three blooms, one variety, white. 5 entries.

**FIRST:** L. W. Lindgren with *Victory.*

**SECOND:** G. H. Greaves with *Elsa Sass.*

**THIRD:** R. W. Goddard with *Elsa Sass.*

CLASS NO. 204. Three blooms, one variety, light pink. 5 entries.

**FIRST:** L. W. Lindgren with *Doris Cooper.*

**SECOND:** G. H. Greaves with *Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt.*

**THIRD:** Lorene Sedlacek with *Hansina Brand.*

CLASS NO. 205. Three blooms one variety, dark pink. 4 entries.

**FIRST:** G. H. Greaves with *Martha Bulloch.*

**SECOND:** R. W. Goddard with *Martha Bulloch.*

**THIRD:** Lorene Sedlacek with *Loren Franklin.*

CLASS NO. 206. Three blooms, one variety, red. 5 entries.

**FIRST:** G. H. Greaves with *Mrs. A. S. Gowen.*

**SECOND:** R. W. Goddard with *John L. Crenshaw.*

**THIRD:** Lorene Sedlacek with *Mary Brand.*

CLASS NO. 207. Three blooms, one variety, flesh. 4 entries.

**FIRST:** L. W. Lindgren with *Mattie Lafuze.*

**SECOND:** G. H. Greaves with *Florence Nicholls.*

**THIRD:** Lorene Sedlacek with *La Lorraine.*

CLASS NO. 208. Three blooms, one variety, single or Japanese. 6 entries.

**FIRST:** R. W. Goddard with *Krinkled White.*

**SECOND:** G. H. Greaves with *Sea Shell.*

**THIRD:** L. W. Lindgren with *Pico.*

CLASS NO. 209. Basket, main feature to be peonies. 2 entries.

**FIRST:** R. W. Goddard. **SECOND:** Lorene Sedlacek.

CLASS NO. 210. Small vase of peonies. 3 entries.

**FIRST:** Lorene Sedlacek. **SECOND:** G. H. Greaves. **THIRD:** R. W. Goddard.

CLASS NO. 211. Large Vase of peonies. 3 entries.

**FIRST:** G. H. Greaves. **SECOND:** R. W. Goddard. **THIRD:** Lorene Sedlacek.

NOVICE AMATEUR CLASSES.

CLASS NO. 301. Collection not more than ten varieties 1 bloom each. 1 entry.

**FIRST,** Martin A. Eliason with *Argentine, Judy Becker, Le Cygne, Martha Bulloch, Matilda Lewis, Minuet, Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt, Myrtle Gentry, Philippe Rivoire.*

CLASS NO. 302. One bloom white. All entries by two people.

**FIRST:** Martin A. Eliason with *Le Cygne.*

**SECOND:** R. E. Johnson with *Mrs. A. M. Brand.*

CLASS NO. 303. One bloom light pink. 1 entry.

**FIRST:** Martin A. Eliason with *Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt.*

CLASS NO. 304. One bloom dark pink. 2 entries.

**FIRST:** Martin A. Eliason with *Martha Bulloch.*

CLASS NO. 305. One variety red. 1 entry.

**FIRST:** Martin A. Eliason with *Matilda Lewis.*

CLASS NO. 306. Collection 6 varieties, one bloom each. 1 entry.

**FIRST:** Martin A. Eliason with *Argentine, Judy Becker, Lillian Gumm, Martha Bulloch, Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt, Philippe Rivoire.*

CLASS NO. 308. One bloom single or Japanese. 1 entry.

*FIRST*: Martin A. Eliason with *Charm*.

CLASSES NOS. 307 and 309. No entries.

CLASS NO. 310. Vase of peonies. 2 entries.

*FIRST*: Charles E. Lyons. *SECOND*: Martin A. Eliason.

CLASS NO. 400. American Home Achievement Medal for most distinctive new peony shown. Awarded to E. H. Lins for No. R-1-132. *Mary L.* large white double with distinctive red markings on inner petals.

CLASS NO. 401. Seedlings. Honorable Mention to E. H. Lins for R-5-95 rose pink Jap with fiery red center. Carpels tipped pink. Disc white. Since named *Minnekada*.

#### LIST OF JUDGES

OPEN CLASSES: A. M. Brand, Faribault, Minnesota; Frank E. Moots, Newton, Kansas; Roy W. Goddard, Rochester, Minnesota.

ADVANCED AMATEUR CLASSES: E. H. Lins, Cologne, Minnesota; George W. Peyton, Rapidan, Virginia.

NOVICE AMATEUR CLASSES: Glenn H. Greaves, St. Paul, Minnesota; L. W. Lindgren, St. Paul, Minnesota.

COURT OF HONOR: William Anderson, Lake Lillian, Minnesota; Myron D. Bigger, Topeka, Kansas; R. C. Schneider, St. Paul, Minnesota.

SEEDLINGS, AMERICAN HOME MEDAL AND BEST FLOWER IN SHOW: A. M. Brand, Faribault, Minnesota; Myron D. Bigger, Topeka, Kansas; L. W. Lindgren, St. Paul, Minnesota; George W. Peyton, Rapidan, Virginia; R. C. Schneider, St. Paul, Minnesota.

ARRANGEMENTS: Mrs. Fischer, Hastings, Minnesota; Miss Helen Fischer, Hastings, Minnesota.

#### LIST OF EXHIBITORS

ST. PAUL: Glenn H. Greaves, R. W. Jones, L. W. Lindgren, F. W. Nichols, Riverview Gardens, Mrs. Lorene Sedlacek.

OTHERS: Martin A. Eliason, Appleton; Roy W. Goddard, Rochester; Gowen's Gardens, Excelsior; R. E. Johnson, Wayzata; E. H. Lins, Cologne; Chas. E. Lyons, Groveland.

#### WINNERS OF SWEEPSTAKES

OPEN CLASSES: R. W. Jones.

ADVANCED AMATEUR: G. H. Greaves.

NOVICE AMATEUR: Martin A. Eliason.

#### REMARKS

As usual the Minneapolis Show was good. There were many outstanding blooms shown. *Doris Cooper* was seen in all its beauty. *Nancy Nora*, not seen since Topeka, was chosen the best flesh double over very stiff competition. It fully deserved the honor. All of the *Lins* varieties again proved their worth by winning in almost every class in which they were shown. Again, as has happened many times before, *Hansina Brand* won Best Flower in the Show. *King Boreas* was displayed in several classes and was first in the class for five blooms, one variety, white. It is a very fine flower. Some may remember it very favorably from its first showing at Toronto in 1936. *Rosy Rim* seen in many of the exhibits of R. W. Jones, created a very favorable impression with its rather unusual coloring.

Many very nice seedlings were displayed by both E. H. Lins and Martin A. Eliason. A very nice white with distinctive red spots on a few inner petals won the Achievement Medal for Mr. Lins. It is named *Mary L.* for his wife.

He also had a spectacular pink Jap with fiery red center, named *Minnekada*, that was a close contender for this medal. Mr. Eliason had an immense purple pink double in his display. Also a red single, called *Fringy*, with very few petals that are long and narrow making a flower very much on the order of *Lois Kelsey*. He also had a very nice white Jap called *Chastity*.

A new feature of the show was a broadcast on the Florence Murphy Magazine over the N.B.C. station KSTP in which the President of the American Peony Society, Mr. Frank E. Moots of Newton, Kansas, and the writer took part.

George W. Peyton.

Rapidan, Virginia, July 8, 1949.



## Notes of Interest to Peony Lovers

W. F. CHRISTMAN

Do not expect too much of your peonies the first year after planting. Give them a chance to develop before passing final judgment.

Make careful selections of early, midseason and late varieties. This will give you an extended season of bloom.

Use good judgment in selecting a location for your peonies. They will not tolerate a location where water stands for extended periods of time. This means good drainage is necessary.

Peonies are interesting from the time they peep through the ground and make their appearance in the spring until they are killed by frosts in late fall or early winter. Under satisfactory conditions they will outlive a century. Who could ask for more? This is a direct rebuttal of the assertion that peonies are short-lived.

The wide variation of leaf formation, coloring and texture are living examples of the beauty of nature, lasting through the entire growing period, retaining their beauty to the last.

After the blooming period has passed, landscape possibilities are not lessened but rather enhanced by the variegated shades of green predominating in the peony border. As specimen plants they are excellent.

A nice variety can be purchased for less than it would cost you to take your family to a movie. The peony would last for many years; the thrill or disappointment you would get out of the movie would soon be a faded memory.

Peonies are like children or grown people—you soon become attached to them and know them by name. Those that do not perform well will be deleted from your calling list.

There is such a wide variety to choose from. No matter how fussy you are, we have a plant or color to suit your most fastidious taste. The gorgeous *sinensis* varieties, with their gallant array of bloom in June; the exotic tree peonies with their oriental class transports us to distant lands; the breath taking hybrids, derived from various specie importations are the final triumph of the hybridizers fulfilled dreams. There is a fairyland of beauty possible in a large collection of peonies. There is supreme satisfaction with but a modest planting; there is a consoling thought if you can be the possessor of but a very few, so why deprive yourself the untold pleasure of possession of these "Floral Jewels of June."

Follow planting directions closely and carefully and you will not be disappointed. Notwithstanding the fact that careful, personal directions were given to the purchaser, in addition to printed advice as to proper procedure.

we have had several instances where the peony root was placed upside down, the roots being nearly all exposed and the eyes placed the necessary depth, but with the buds pointing down. It would seem common sense would dictate that the natural position of the bud should be upward, not downward, when planting was completed.

Peonies are so easy to grow that they sometimes are grossly neglected and of course the best results will not, and cannot be obtained. Careful supervision and cultivation to keep your plants healthy and in good growing condition is necessary. During extended periods of drought, they should be supplied with ample moisture to keep them growing during the period after blooming has passed, for at that time development of buds for the following year are being produced. This is a feature of cultivation that should not be overlooked.

From early childhood we have all heard the admonition "Don't." This counseling against fault or oversight holds good through life in any vocation we attempt. However, this word seems to have a special significance with the raising of flowers for there are so many "Do" and "Don't's" that it is often confusing to the inexperienced gardener. These peony don't's will be found helpful if followed carefully:

1. Don't buy from dealers who are not careful in their garden methods and their catalog lists, or jobbers who are only interested in the profit they may secure from a sale.

2. Don't buy anything smaller than a standard three to five eye division. Smaller divisions are more difficult to handle and larger ones will not prove as satisfactory as standard divisions.

3. Don't divide plants less than two years old. Dividing is not recommended unless an increase in stock is desired. Plants left for extended periods, if doing well, are the most satisfactory.

4. Don't plant big clumps or big roots. This is one of the most common causes of dissatisfaction. Divide to standard size and cut back heavily.

5. Don't permit manure or strong chemical fertilizers to come in direct contact with the roots when planting. This is apt to induce rot or disease of the roots. They can be burned with this practice.

6. Don't plant too deep or you will have no bloom. Two or three inches from the topmost bud is ample. This is one of the greatest mistakes and is the No. 1 cause of failure to bloom.

7. Don't try to divide the plant immediately after digging. It will not be as brittle after being exposed to the air for an hour or so. Do not let the roots wither. Remove the tops directly before or immediately after digging.

8. Don't split roots when dividing if it can possibly be avoided. If the root is extremely large, splitting or dividing in sections may prove advantageous to the plant. Big, clubby roots are to be avoided when planting.

9. Don't plant peonies where they have grown before without changing the soil. This is exceedingly important. Much dissatisfaction has arisen by not following this practice.

10. Don't plant other than clean, healthy roots. There is danger of infesting plants that otherwise would be free of disease.

11. Don't fail to disbud your plants if you want exhibition bloom. Blooms carrying side buds are disqualified in most shows unless a special class is provided. Some of the semi-doubles and singles are more desirable when not disbudded and are only desired for garden effect.

12. Don't plant peonies without first considering that they should be

planted in a permanent location. Replanting or disturbing them after they have become established, retards their productivity of both roots and flowers and is to be avoided.

13. Don't lose sight of the fact that peony plants secure nourishment in the form of oxygen and nitrogen through the leaves, so leave at least two sets of leaves on each stem when cutting the bloom for the house or market.

14. Don't remove foliage of plant after blooming to permit the planting of annuals or perennials. This will eventually ruin your peony plant.

15. Don't be impatient if your plants do not give you bloom the first season after planting. Many will, while others take longer to establish themselves. Remember, a peony will last a lifetime, so be patient for a year or two to give it a chance to develop into maturity. The third or fourth year after planting will see it at its best. Of course it will develop for years.

16. Don't be perturbed or dismayed by this impressive long list of "Don't's." They should be encouraging and helpful in keeping you posted on the proper procedure to follow in peony culture. Many a peony lover has paid dearly for lack of knowledge of these few essential requirements.

\* \* \*

There are many don't's that we have not touched upon, but as you grow peonies you will find out many of them from experience.

If you have a fine variety of peony growing in your yard or garden, do not be tempted to dig down and break off a section for a friend or relative. Better wait until early fall and then remove the entire plant and divide it, re-planting the portion or portions you do not dispose of.

\* \* \*

In cutting flowers for show purposes it takes experience to know just when the proper time for cutting arrives. A few points to remember follow: Singles, semidoubles and Japanese type varieties can be cut in firmer bud formation than can the full doubles. The experienced exhibitor will place paper sacks over the buds he has selected for his exhibition bloom well in advance of cutting them. This cutting should be done just before the calyx breaks, or when there is a slight feeling of softness under the touch. Bags should not be removed to determine this stage of development, in fact they are not removed until after they have been taken to the show room from the storage room, the stems freshly cut and they are ready to be placed in containers of fresh water. If the specimens are pretty well developed in the sack, it might be left on until ready to remove them to the various classes provided by the exhibition committee. It is most interesting to watch them unfold with all their loveliness, as though they were eager for competition and to display their beauty to the public. The sacking will retain all the delicate tints and shades that the sun would soon dissipate otherwise. It is like cutting a bud about to burst into bloom and removing it into the house for its final dress rehearsal.

\* \* \*

Damage to peonies by alternate freezing and thawing some years is considerable. That is why a slight covering of marsh hay or other mulch should be used to prevent this trouble. If there was but one freeze-up and one thaw, the ill effects would be negligible, but the damage is due to the cumulative effects of a number of alternating freezes and thaws. Even with good drainage, there is always moisture in the ground and when freezing comes, there is an expansion of the soil due to the expansion of the water as it freezes. The freezing begins at the surface and works downward. The only chance for expansion is upward. The top of the root in the grip of the frost is forced upward. The lower part of the root in the unfrozen soil below follows along until finally the frost progresses deep enough to encase the whole root.

When a thaw comes, the process is reversed. The thaw starts at the surface and works downward and as the ground thaws it settles. As the roots are firmly anchored in the soil below, the crown does not settle with the earth. Obviously, it cannot. When the frost is all out of the ground, the entire root is at higher elevation with relation to the surface of the ground than before the freeze came. Given a sufficient number of cycles of alternate freezing and thawing and the root is eventually above ground.

Now supposing the entire root is gripped in the frost and the thaw only extends a few inches below the crown, it stands to reason that no matter how good the underdrainage, the top soil will now be waterlogged and the greater the water content, the greater expansion of the soil as it freezes. As before, the earth will settle and the crown of the plant will not, or cannot; then when the next freeze comes, the unfrozen top soil will again freeze and expand upward, gripping the crown, forcing it up and tearing it away from the roots firmly anchored in the frozen soil below. This means good-bye, peony, unless pieces of crown attached to the remaining roots have the ability to start life anew. In windswept locations, erection of barriers to catch and retain the snow would be beneficial. This would not be necessary if mulching had been done after the first heavy freeze.

\* \* \*

Growing peonies for profit has been practiced for many years and has proven a very worthy venture. It takes quite an investment to get thoroughly established and some years of training to acquire knowledge and sufficient stock necessary to carry on such a business. A dozen varieties in the various colors, white, light and dark pink and a good red is all the varieties that should be needed. Early, mid-season and late varieties in each color class is most desirable.

There are many things to be carefully considered before undertaking this venture. The location of available markets, storage facilities, experienced help, transportation facilities are all necessary adjuncts to such an undertaking. When the flowers are ready for cutting there can be no delay and they must be handled with dispatch, as well as considerable care, to get them on the market in first class condition. Grading, sorting, packing, stripping, tying, boxing, etc., are some of the other features to be considered and given considerable thought.

\* \* \*

Landscape possibilities can be enhanced with a liberal and judicious planting of peonies and color combinations achieved that will add floral beauty to your surroundings. The various colors of green are really most interesting and can be skillfully employed to bring out striking contrasts in the foliage alone. This is a continuous picture throughout the growing season.

As these notes are read, one cannot but be impressed with the possibilities of the peony as a garden flower. It is dependable; hardy; easy to grow; does not require constant attention; is unsurpassed for decorative effects; lends itself nicely with other perennials; will withstand a rigorous growing season throughout all seasons and come up smiling the following year; has withstood temperatures of 75 below zero with no apparent damage; has a blooming season of several weeks by using the hybrid and tree peonies, as well as species to start the season, followed by the *sinensis* varieties in their various seasons. Has come through with temperatures 110 degrees above zero, a variance of 185 degrees from the low temperature reported above. This calls for a test that could not, and should not be expected of any flower.

It gets our nod for dependability and all around desirability. It has everything we could expect in a flower, and even more. What additional merit could one ask?



## Powdery Mildew of Ornamental Plants

By FREEMAN WEISS, formerly senior pathologist, Division of Fruit and Vegetable Crops and Diseases, Bureau of Plant Industry

### Introduction

Toward the end of summer many garden flowers, including annuals-perennials, and flowering shrubs, develop a dirty-white powdery coating on the leaves. This coating is a fungus growth and is known as mildew. Some of the plants that most frequently show this condition are chrysanthemum, perennial aster, perennial phlox, sunflower, and zinnia. Among flowering shrubs, the rose, lilac, crapemyrtle, and spirea are commonly affected.

The term "mildew" is not only applied to the disease but is also used to designate the fungus, or group of fungi, that cause the disease. For mildews of this sort the name powdery or surface mildew is more precise, as it distinguishes this group from the downy mildews, another group of fungus parasites more widely known on certain vegetables and fruits (cucumber, onion, and grape) than on ornamentals.

### The Powdery Mildew Fungus

In the powdery or surface mildews the white coating forms the vegetative and spore-bearing stages and corresponds to the shoot system and fruiting of a higher plant. The vegetative stage of these fungi consists of a mat of branching threads known as mycelium, on which are borne two kinds of microscopic reproductive structures or spores: (1) The summer spores or conidia, which are produced throughout most of the growth period in short columns like a row of beads, and (2) the winter or resting spores, which are produced toward the end of the growth period within minute capsules. The powdery appearance of the mat is due to the presence of conidia, and the gray or black specks just visible to the naked eye are the resting spore cases. There is also an absorbing system analogous to the roots of higher plants, which consists of microscopic threads or tubes. These penetrate into the leaves of the host plant and extract food therefrom. The mildew is a true parasite and not merely a superficial growth. Because of its parasitic action the host plant is weakened. Heavy mildewed leaves turn yellow and fall prematurely.

There are many kinds of surface mildews. One kind is characteristically found only on rose leaves; another occurs on lilacs; still different kinds occur on apple, crapemyrtle, hazelnut, and willow. One kind occurs on cereals and many grasses. The mildew occurring most commonly on garden flowers belongs to one or the other of the two species *Erysiphe cichoracearum* or *E. polygoni*, and these species also occur on a wide range of native plants and weeds including aster, clover, goldenrod, knotweed or smartweed, and ragweed. It is practically impossible to isolate garden flowers from exposure to these mildews, because the host plants are so numerous and because the vegetative spores, or conidia, of the fungi are so widely distributed by air currents.

### Conditions Favorable to Mildew

As summer wanes the aging of foliage and the decline in growth vigor induce internal conditions in plants that are especially favorable for mildew infection. It is not always the older leaves that are attacked; sometimes, particularly in the mildew of roses and crapemyrtle, succulent young shoots are severely injured. A drastic check in growth activity, such as may be caused by drought, intense heat, or depletion of soil fertility, particularly of nitrogen, also tends to make plants susceptible to mildew.

Besides the internal changes that influence the development of mildew, the environmental conditions that prevail toward the end of summer—for example, high humidity, cooler nights, and frequent heavy dews and foggy mornings—

are especially favorable for mildew development and spread. Shady and damp garden sites are especially conducive to mildew, and the disease may develop even in sunny locations if the air circulation is retarded by a wall or hedge, as in a fence corner or adjacent to a building.

A growth of weeds promotes mildew by restricting air circulation and by shading the plants and lowering their vitality through reduction of food and water supplies.

### Control

After mildew has become general enough to be conspicuous, it is usually too late to apply control measures with success, although a change to dry, sunny weather, often imposes a natural check. However, ground sulfur, if it is applied in time—that is, at the first appearance of mildew—will not only prevent further spread but will suppress the development of mildew that has started. This form of sulfur, known also as dusting sulfur, or sulfur flour, is a product specially prepared for dusting plants. Stores that handle plants and spray materials generally carry dusting sulfur, but the drug-store product known as flowers of sulfur and intended for household or medicinal use is not suitable for dusting plants effectively. The value of a sulfur preparation for this purpose depends on the smallness of the particles. If they are small enough to pass a sieve having 300 meshes per inch, the material is suitable for dusting.

A dust gun capable of applying a diffuse and uniform coating of powder to both sides of the leaves is the best means of application. A small plunger type of dust gun holding 1 or 2 quarts will suffice for a small garden; such guns are inexpensive and fairly efficient if only occasional use is required and only a small area is to be covered. In large gardens and commercial plantings a duster operating with a fan or bellows is preferable both from the standpoint of efficient application of dust and saving of labor, as the operating motion is easier and there are no idle strokes. A makeshift method of application, such as shaking the dust from a cheesecloth bag, is wasteful of dust and inefficient because it fails to coat the under side of the leaves.

The best time to apply sulfur dust is in the late afternoon when the air is still and the temperature is falling. The foliage should be dry in order to obtain uniform coverage. It is not necessary to apply the dust so heavily that a conspicuous coating is left. Sulfur should not be applied to plants when the temperature is near or above 90 degrees F. because of risk of sulfur-burn injury.

Sulfur dust alone does not flow easily through a duster; it should be mixed with some other material to act as a flux. Hydrated lime, talc, wheat flour, crude kaolin, or arsenate of lead thoroughly mixed with sulfur in the proportion of 1 part to 10 causes the sulfur to flow more easily, producing a lighter, more uniform coating than can be obtained with sulfur alone.

A sulfur spray may also be used. Sulfur dust will not mix with water to form a spray, but specially prepared dry forms of sulfur known as "wetttable sulfur" spray materials are available for this purpose. The widely used fungicide lime-sulfur, which is obtainable in both dry and liquid concentrated form, may also be employed, provided it is sufficiently diluted; but its odor is objectionable, it is ruinous to painted surfaces, and it is more likely to cause chemical injury to the foliage than wetttable sulfur spray or sulfur dust. The manufacturer's specifications for summer or foliage applications should be followed with each of these materials. Spraying is likely to give better results than dusting on tall shrubs or trees such as lilacs and crapemyrtles, because the air movement may prevent thorough coverage of tall plants from a hand dust gun. The spray coating lasts longer but causes a more conspicuous residue. Dusting gives an effective coating in less time than spraying and is less messy, but it must be repeated more frequently.

Applications of either spray or dust should be repeated at sufficiently close intervals, depending on the frequency of rain and the growth rate of the plants, to keep the foliage coated with fungicide. Ordinarily this will require one or two applications of dust weekly, or one application of spray every 2 weeks.

#### Elimination of Overwintering Sources

The surface mildew fungi live over winter mostly in the form of resting spores that mature on the fallen leaves. In a few instances, for example mildews of rose and of crapemyrtle, the fungus also survives on shoots and in buds of the previous year's growth. The collection and burning of infected plants and fallen leaves at the end of the growing season is an indispensable measure in preventing the recurrence of mildew. In the case of the shrubs mentioned, where the fungus also overwinters on the host, pruning of infected parts and spraying during the dormant season with lime-sulfur at the manufacturer's prescribed rate for winter spraying may also be necessary to attain effective control.

(The mildew effecting the peony is *Erysiphe polygoni* D.C.—Editor)

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE LEAFLET NO. 197



### Comments from Oregon

RENO ROSEFIELD, Tigard, Ore.

Bulletin No. 107 of the American Peony Society is just received and I have been looking it over and wish to tell you I think it shows no lack of interest in the peony. There are very many interesting articles and when one considers that practically every bulletin for many years past has had approximately the same amount of material one would think the subject would soon become exhausted but the opposite is the case.

At this time what I am particularly writing you about is the peony Memorial Queen which has been discussed on page 23 of the present bulletin. There seems to be some doubt of its being a sprout of *Edulis Superba* and I wish to clear this up if possible. As stated this peony was introduced by my father in 1934 and he told me personally it was actually a sprout of *Edulis Superba* and not a seedling. While father was living at Indianapolis and I was at Omaha and later at Des Moines, I made visits to Indianapolis practically every year. This was during the period from 1923 to 1934 when father passed away. On several occasions and during my visits during different years I looked over the plantings of new peonies and each year he would show me the planting of Memorial Queen and among other things would discuss the possible chance that it might revert back to the deep pink of *Edulis Superba* but so far as I know it never has.

I personally had an experience with a portion of a plant of *Mms. d'Verneville sporting* to a light red. I carefully separated the portion that showed the red and planted it by itself and watched for further results but was disappointed when it bloomed again to find it came true *Mme. d'Verneville white*.

The picture of Camilla on page 19 of the Bulletin shows up very nice and, even if I do say so myself, it seems to fit in very nicely in the Peony bulletin. And by the way, this young lady was married last summer and is now living in Providence, Rhode Island. Street address is 51 DaBall Street. If you can spare a copy of this bulletin I would appreciate it if you would send her a copy. Her name now is Mrs. Cleveland Fraser, and address as above. Thank you.

This is St. Patrick's Day, March 17th and we are emerging into real spring now with a number of Camellias in bloom and one Rhododendron just opening. It has been a mild winter with the lowest temperature about 22 degrees, that is above and not below zero. This cold spell lasted about two weeks and since then we have had no frosts to speak of, and flowers have been blooming all through the winter season outside. We have had quite a little rain and little sunny weather through the winter and spring growth seems to have been delayed some as a consequence. Peonies are not up yet but some are showing a little, just coming through. With an abundance of moisture to carry us on through the summer I look forward to a very interesting season among the very many beautiful flowers, including peonies, which we have in such lavish profusion out here.

Please be assured of my keen appreciation of the fine work you are doing in keeping the bulletin up to such a high standard.

With best wishes for your continued success and interest.



### A Report From Minnesota

You have asked me for a short article on my experience with peonies so here it is.

As you no doubt know, I have raised peonies for about 35 years. Retired from business in 1942 and now have all the time needed for the garden. Where I used to get only a fleeting glimpse, we now have days to study each variety and we put on a real show each season in our living room, and are now really enjoying peonies and iris as never before.

My peony collection is fairly up to date with most of the good older ones and quite a few of the very latest, also a few tree peonies such as *Alice Harding*, *Souvenir de Maxime Cornu* and a few tree peony seedlings, and have bloomed several hundred seedling peonies. Have about twenty that have been on test from 5 to 20 years.

01—A pure white. Good, but will never be sent out due to poor root growth.

04—A red that compares with *Matilda Lewis*.

07—A promising white.

020—A very good medium pink.

021—The *Le Cygne* Seedling.

022—Resembles *Ella Lewis* in color but flower is larger, has stems 36 inches or over, stiff and straight; always opens a good, vigorous plant. Stocks of these are all very small, one to five plants of each.

I have been criticized by my friends for not propagating these seedlings. I have what is considered the best of the well known originators except Kelsey. I have none of his.

In iris our collection is fairly up to date. Have several varieties such as *Helen McGregor*, *Chivalry*, *Rocket*, *Pink Cameo*, *Bryce Canyon* and the leaders in all the color classes, about 150 varieties; also blocks of new iris seedlings coming on each season, all of known breeding.

I have been told by several gardeners that tree peonies were not hardy in Minnesota, so thought I would try a few. In five years have not lost a plant.

As to *Victory*—divided one of my plants and made five nice roots. Flowers were good for a two year old. It is a good grower as well.

Frank E. Cross, Savage, Minn.

# GARDEN KEY

*pressing on to better things*

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## WHAT'S COOKIN' IN REGION NUMBER TWO?

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### "More Gaff from Region Number Two" (or What's Cookin'?)

Ben Massey

In planning a bigger and better Peony Society let's not overlook our friends abroad. The fine cooperation and team work with our Canadian friends is an example of what might be attained elsewhere. Who knows but what the historians of the future may reflect that such organizations are greater factors for world understanding than peace treaties and military pacts.

How about an International Peony Show in Europe in 1960? Many practical problems would have to be solved, of course, but maybe that can be

done too. With good air service spanning the Atlantic, in less than twenty-four hours the problem of transporting the exhibition blooms is solved.

Some of our finest old peonies came from England and the continent. Our European friends might be interested to see what the new world has done to their offspring and grandchildren.

\* \* \*

### Let's Not Forget The Old Ones

Much is being said and written about the new introductions and surely we are blessed with some beauties. However, I think some of our so called old varieties will be with us for many years.

Old *Festiva Maxima*, for instance, introduced in 1851. Two more years and it will be a century old. I just wonder how many plants of this variety there are scattered over the world today. One million? Two million? I wonder! It is cultivated in many countries and adds its beauty to so many gardens.

*Le Cygne*, another fine creation that will linger long to beautify the garden. Perhaps all of us have a partiality for those that do best in our gardens, irrespective of their performance elsewhere. For me, a well formed bloom of *Le Cygne* tops the list. Here it comes good every year. The old plants only put up ten or twelve stems but practically everyone has a large well formed bloom and nearly every bud opens. My experience with the giants is that most of them have a poor record for opening.

A row of old *Baroness Schroeder* is hard to beat for a beautiful plant and beautiful blooms. The plants are as bushy and uniform as if they were trimmed with the hedge clippers.

To people who are getting their first experience in growing peonies I can always recommend such old timers as these with confidence. The plant habits are good and clean. I have yet to take up a root of *Le Cygne* that shows any serious sign of rotting.

When two varieties are planted alongside each other, get the same care at the same time, but one of them starts deteriorating in a few years while the other goes on year after year. healthy and vigorous, one cannot help from being prejudiced.

### Local Peony Shows

This season it was my pleasure to see a local show at Newton, New Jersey. This was sponsored by The Sussex Peony Society. The show was staged in the local bank building on a Saturday.

The quality of the blooms would have done credit to a Regional or National show. This just goes to show what some enthusiasm and a bit of hard work will do. It was a challenge to the rest of us to go out and do likewise.

\* \* \*

### How Do You Kill a Peony?

A lot has been written and said about prolonging the existence of these plants but suppose a fellow wants to go in reverse, then what?

Yes I know the books say "Gather up all leaves, roots, etc. and burn them promptly." I wonder if those who write such stuff ever took an old root covered with wet clay and burned it promptly? I doubt it. One time I took some old plants and piled them neatly, with good intentions to "burn them promptly" but the snows came. Next spring I went out to finish the job and there they were with nice green foliage that looked better than some of my prize plants in the display plot. Perhaps some of our western friends who do things on a big scale and have had a lot of experience killing peonies, might offer some suggestions.

\* \* \*

After talking about peace and good will I hate to think about the war clouds that are gathering between the east and the west. With men like Joe Stalin and Roy Gayle on the loose, I guess there can be no peace in this peony world now.

I do know that the Mohawkians, under the leadership of Big Chief Loon, are already mixing war paints and sharpening their weapons for 1952. In the region of the Mohawks we are about to witness a scalping of which there has never been the like before. Me thinks, after one visit to the Garden State, a lot of people will be scurrying back to the Plains to hole up with the badgers and prairie dogs. On to Mohawk!

(NOTE: With all the shameless bragging emanating from unfledged beginners like Mr. Massey and myself, it will behoove us to come up with something good or else get ready to immigrate to Tasmania, or some other place far, far away.

The Mohawkians are indeed mixing up some hideous witches' broth for '52, but they are well aware that the red skinned Mohawks of yesterday "took" as well as gave. Many a shrieking brave met his doom at the hands of soft spoken colonials. Could it be that some of us chattering boy warriors may rush into the fray only to have his torso neatly ripped open by some mild, quiet western with an innocent front? Well, anyhow, what's wrong with having a little fun? Is it not a good thing for somebody to stir up "all our pure minds by way of remembrance," to go valiantly forth and work exploits for Old Siwash, The American Peony Society?

The old world will go right on, round and round, even though it turns out that it is the Easterners who do all the scurrying and holing up.—V .L.)

\* \* \*

### **"Kind Words, Tourangelles and Therapeutics"**

A friend of mine had been spending a few months in Paris. One morning, very early, he told me, he approached a scene which impressed him as about the most dramatic and meaningful he had ever witnessed. He literally ached for a good camera with wide angle lens so he might take what well might have been one of the greatest photos of all time.

The scene included the figure of an old tousled French woman, dressed in rags and dead drunk. She was leaning against the wall of the magnificent Notre Dame Cathedral. While he was telling me the story a powerful thought arrested my attention: "Right there," I said to myself, "was a graphic picture of real life." It was a pitiful picture of weakness and of futility and yet the towers, as they lifted their heads to the sky, spoke of promise and of hope for all.

Everywhere a weak and blundering; a sick and stumbling humanity, including me, is avidly looking all around to see if perchance there is something strong and beautiful nearby against which it may lean.

I am sure I am not alone when I say that right here is where the beloved peony often comes in. Now. Listen to my tale and see if you can match it.

A couple of years back a new family moved into our town and joined my church. This family consisted of a young couple and their two small children. They seemed to be quite a happy lot except for the fact that the little mother was sick a great deal of the time and appeared to be getting worse as time went on. She finally became pitifully bed-ridden and was face to face with utter despair. The doctors were unable to diagnose her case and

it looked as though she could never make the grade. Her mind was as sick as her emaciated body and she seemed to be unable to put up any sort of a fight for her life. She was totally resigned to her hopeless plight.

Now, you will never believe what I am about to tell you, but at this time I had a dozen plants of Tourangelles just breaking strongly into bloom and they were plenty hot. I took the little lady nine fine buds, arranged them carefully in a bowl, and then placed them where she could watch them comfortably from her position in the bed. Then, as the soldier in the fox hole would put it "We had a little talk with the Lord." I pressed her hand, bade her good-bye, and left.

I had a letter from her in her own hand in about a week. It was fairly dripping with happiness. She had begun to mend immediately. She said I would never be able to imagine what those unfolding buds developing into full blow had done to her. Her health was completely restored, her strength came back with amazing rapidity and she was in the best shape ever, and as near as I know it continues this way even to this day.

What did it? You go ahead and make your own guess. I have told you the facts. I know what I believe. Now would not roses or delph or gladdies have done the same thing? I very much doubt it. They would not have been big enough medicine, whereas peonies were. They had the punch that it took, to start her on the right track. She leaned against them in her weakness and they were strong enough to give her the support she so sorely needed.

How many times have not the peony cathedrals bathed my soul and body and healed them in a different, yet similar way! Dealing with the public constantly, and making numberless contacts of all kinds, I frequently get to thinking how mean, how cantankerous, how cheap and ornery some folks can be. Then my spirit goes sour and after so long a time it becomes like a sickness and I know this is no good. But when I get to work in the good old peony patch, it is no time at all before these jaundiced ratiocinations and poisoned mental twists are all gone out of the window! Everything within becomes sweet and clean again. My mind may not have become garnished but it is, at least, swept clean.

I find to my great joy and benefit also, that I can wash my mind and my hands in the soil itself anytime I want to or need to. How I love that dear fellow in the Bulletin who boasted of having black fingernails for fifty years at a stretch! Many nice folks would say that he is careless and untidy but the real fact is that without a shadow of a doubt he has learned many of life's precious secrets to which these others are complete strangers.

The only real dirt there is, after all, is that which sullies the soul and spirit. I am crowding the words "soil" and "dirt" out of my vocabulary and am learning to use the word "earth" instead. "Goodearth" would probably be a better word yet.

Throughout the growing season and beyond, I find that this good earth and my beloved peonies prepare me for the pulpit of the Lord. They make me feel as though I had some inherent right to be there. Of course the pulpit can prepare one to fittingly enter the garden sanctuary also. All these vital and fundamental things cannot be had through proxy. They must be personally and reverently appropriated and appreciated. Who was it that said "The only ownership in the world that will hold water is the ownership of appreciation"?

All flowers can help to wash and heal one but the peony does it the quickest and best.



Right this minute as I look into the vivacious and saucy faces of a bowlful of Gay Paree, my health and my spirits are so good that if they get any better I will have to call in a specialist. What fresh and sprightly flower jewels can these be, all fashioned of angel stuff and lifting me clear to the skies? Can they be borne to me on some kindly seraphs' wing? Whatever they are and wherever they come from, they speak in quiet language of all the lovely things yet to come.

NEAL R. van LOON,  
Newton, N. J.



## Some Old Varieties of Peonies That Are Cheap in Price And Well Adapted for Southern Gardens

POPE M. LONG—1948

*Festiva Maxima* (Mieliez 1851) is the variety that made peonies famous and loved throughout the world. Its lovely white blooms with the red dots are known in every peony section. More peony fans grow it than any other.

Mrs. Edward Harding, one of the greatest peony connoisseurs, wrote in her delightful book, "Peonies in The Little Garden," I quote, 'Festiva Maxima should be in every garden, large or small, lavishly arrayed or economically furnished. It is the standard bearer of beauty, the foundation and beginning of all collections, the one variety that absolutely must not be omitted.' end of quote. After a test of nearly 100 years—the above eulogy by Mrs. Harding was written 25 years ago—Festiva Maxima today retains the high rating of 9.3 and is one of the most valuable and popular varieties. It merits a prominent place in all peony gardens.

*Madame Calot* (Mieliez 1856) is another old and time tested variety admirably suited to Alabama conditions. Here is what I wrote in my Peony Record Book in 1922, and I quote, "Madame Calot is an early light pink peony, which is fragrant, blooms are large. It is free and reliable." end of quote. It usually produces rose type blooms but on well established plants and with good cultivation it sometimes develops a crown of great size and attractiveness. Like all light pink varieties, if blossoms remain on plant they soon fade to white. It is an old but good peony.

*Eduis Superba* (Lemon 1824) is a mauve pink and is one of the earliest to bloom. It has medium size blossoms as fragrant as a rose. It sometimes develops a crown. It is free and reliable making it a good commercial variety, but does not rate high for exhibition.

*Modeste Guerin* (Guerin 1845) is a bright deep pink with ideal stems. It has large blooms of bomb type. It is fragrant and is fine for cutting. It is prolific and reliable. It is well suited for Southern gardens.

*Duc de Wellington* (Calot 1859) There are no true yellow peonies, but there are a few with yellow tints. Primevere and Laura Dessert have creamy white outer petals with canary yellow centers and are more nearly a true yellow than any I ever saw. Both have small to medium sized blooms of anemone type which are quite attractive when blooms first open but soon have a floppy look. Both have poor stems. I much prefer Duc de Wellington which is of bomb type with better stems, more prolific, stronger plant with larger blooms which if cut and opened in house, are of a light sulphur yellow. However if blooms remain on the plants they soon fade into a pure white. Whether the bloom is more attractive as a sulphur yellow or as pure white is a matter of

personal taste. This variety also has the merit of being a good cut flower for commercial purposes.

*Umbellata Rosea* (Dessert 1895) is not an exhibition variety but as a decorative plant on lawn it is the best that peonies have to offer. For a bed I suggest 16 plants in four rows with four in each row. It will make a lovely bed of beauty. It is a semi-double with many side buds. These side buds should be left on stem and when they all open each stem is a bouquet; and the bed is a wonderful ornament for lawn. In color the blooms are a light pink with straw white centers. It has strong stems. It is one of the first to bloom. It is prolific and hardy.

*Monsieur Jules Elie* (Crousse 1888). This excellent peony has and deserves the high rating of 9.2. It is crown type of deep pink with silvery shades. It is free and dependable. It is worthy of the name it is often called, "The King of Peonies." This variety and *Festiva Maxima* are doubtless the two most popular peonies in cultivation. The blooms are of great size on strong stems.

*Gigantea* (Calot 1860) is correctly named for its blossoms are truly gigantic. It is rose type of a lively pink color. It is prolific and reliable of easy culture. It has a spicy fragrance most delightful. If you live in the south plant it by all means.

*Marguerite Gerard* (Crousse 1892) is another peony with immense blooms, which are a very light pink in color. It has good stems and is a healthy plant. It is very prolific. To me, its one great fault is its strong rank odor. However, it will produce each year many blooms of huge size.

*Philippe Rivoire* (Riviere 1911) is the best of the older reds. It is a full flower of deep crimson, hardy and prolific and has a virtue that few or none of the old reds possessed in that it is extremely fragrant. A flower without a soul. You may admire it but you cannot love it. It can be had for a reasonable price. Our climate in Alabama agrees with it. Contrary to the rule it will open every bud and yet it is a late bloomer.

*Venus* (Kelway 1888) is one of very best cut flower varieties, I ever grew. It is tall, free flowering, good stems with fully double blooms of perfect form which open in early mid season. It is fragrant. Its blossoms are a lovely rose pink. It is a great favorite of all visitors to my garden. It is difficult to visualize a better all purpose peony.

*Kelway's Glorious* (Kelway 1909) This has a rating of 9.8 which is the highest given to any peony. It is an enormous shingling white of rose type, with some red markings near center. In fragrance it is unexcelled. No man in America is better qualified to pass on the merits of peonies than is Mr. George W. Peyton of Rapidan, Virginia, and here is what he says in the "Manual of the American Peony Society," and I quote, "Kelway's Glorious is undoubtedly the best peony in existence in the South. It never fails to bloom every year on every stem, on every plant. It has every quality that goes to make the perfect peony—size, beauty of form, freedom of bloom and fragrance that is probably the most delicious of any peony."

I live 40 miles Northwest of Birmingham, Alabama and have successfully grown in my garden all of the peonies named above for 30 or more years.

#### SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR GROWING PEONIES IN SOUTH AND OTHER WARM SECTIONS.

As peonies are more difficult to grow down here than in colder sections I suggest:

1. Select those varieties with strongest vitality. This does not necessarily mean tall growing plants or extra large blooms. It means varieties

with; a strong *plant-constitution* that will overcome unfavorable environments. There is a big difference in the vitality of peonies.

2. Plant only sound clean *healthy roots*. I prefer undivided plants to divisions because they are easier to grow into established plants.

3. Some winter frost is needed by all peonies. Hence plant with buds barely covered—say  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch—so such frost that we have may reach buds and roots. This suggestion is of more importance than some think.

4. Keep peonies abundantly supplied with water while buds are developing and also during droughts we sometime have in summer. I am convinced that the drying out of the roots during these droughts is the most potent cause of peony failures down here. However do not overdo the watering for peonies will not live in water. All that is necessary is to keep ground damp. Nature has taken care of this in my garden for past two years as we have had good rains every week or so during July and August and no artificial watering was needed. *It is not always so.*

5. I have found bone meal and wood ashes the best of fertilizer for peonies. *Well rotted* barn yard manure, if kept from coming in contact with roots or buds, is also good. I hesitate to recommend strong commercial fertilizer because so many will use too much, and this is worse than none. *Moderation in all things* is a good rule to observe in growing peonies.



## Haunted

RUTH BERKSHIRE, Orfordville, Wis.

I haunt a Norwegian graveyard with a shovel in my car.

Probably what saves me from the squad car is that my haunting takes place by day rather than night, and that I do not trespass inside the iron fence.

Three years ago I found a beautiful peony growing. With the best of selfish intentions I killed that peony . . . and I'll haunt the scene of the crime for some time to come.

One of the favorite spots for picking the wild asparagus that is indigenous to this part of the country is back of the graveyard in a tangled hedgerow that borders a hay field. It was there that three years ago I found a peony blooming in a dirt road just off Highway 13.

Two tall straight husky stems, each tipped with a fair sized bloom of red. Which red? I don't know. Although it was deep and dark, without blue . . . without purple, and it cupped around a soft yellow mass.

Beauty, and it was mine for the taking. A seedling that had sprung up amongst the dust covered weeds out of parents in the graveyard.

I picked the two blooms and thought that I had left sufficient stem and leaves to take care of the roots, and surely enough so that I could also locate the plant at digging time. The blooms lasted well over a week and still I didn't throw out my bouquet, for the yellow mass had curled into wires of spun gold and formed an exotic decoration of their own.

In the fall I went back with my shovel and found nothing but weeds. There wasn't a sign of the peony stems or leaves. I sank to the ground and crawled on my hands and knees, parted the weeds and combed through them with my fingers, like a monkey hunting for cooties.

Back again in the spring . . . and each spring since . . . searching . . . hoping that some tiny bit of that beauty could manage to show some spark of life. (*Essay Contest Entry.*)

## The Story of the Medieval Modern Peony of Western Europe

R. F. Koby, *Superior, Wis.*

Nothing is known about the history of the peony by the general public, and very little is known about the history of the peony by the most ardent connoisseur. There is probably a very good reason for this situation. The peony has just been taken for granted for so long that in the average mind no thought is given of whence it came or even why we have this beautiful flower and decorative plant.

A more accurate record has been kept by civilization on through the ages than we are able to trace with many of the grains and fruits. In the Bible we are told how Christ and the disciples on the Sabbath day went through the corn field as told in Matthew 12:1-6, and in the parable of the sower in Matthew 13:1-10. But very little is known of those grains. On the contrary with the peony, we find it has been with man, and the advance of civilization, probably more than seven thousand years. At least there are records in art and literature that firmly establishes the peony back in those early years.

These facts caught Bob Ripley's searching eye, as he relates to us in his copy of "Believe It Or Not," released April 4, 1948, "that the peony was formerly used to cure mental cases and to straighten teeth." It was named after Peon, the Greek physician of the gods.

The brilliant English historian, Arnold J. Toynbee, leads us to believe that the human race has occupied the face of the earth for at least 300,000 years and were organized in some kind of family or tribal life that permitted the race to more than perpetuate itself. Turn to "Life," published February 23, 1948 and leaf over to page 119 and review the more recent high points of the history of man. It is impossible for me to assert in this article that peonies were a part of the human cultivated plants in those early days, but records do depict that the peony has been with man for the past seven thousand years and you will just have to use your imagination as to where the peony made its first appearance in those other 293,000 years.

The facts are recorded in art and literature which will not form a part of this discourse. We hope to confine this treatise to the Medieval and modern period through which there is quite accurate records of the progress of the peony, from the mere herbal plant, to a plant that serves both as a landscape specimen and a producer of most gorgeous flowers.

Asia is the home of the peony. Please accept this assertion, for the limit of this article does not permit the development of the very interesting facts that surround the peony and its progress with man through the centuries. Also please accept this statement that the peony was the first known and recorded plant in the records of human progress. As time wore on it is evident that the individuals moving to the west possessed a strain of inquisitiveness not known to the mind of the orient and soon the European Continent became occident of the Old World and its inhabitants became the aggressive on-going type of people that from their numbers was to come a race of people crazier than the craziest, loonier than the looniest, fantasy was no more than thought of until some crazy person was trying to do it. These crazy people were not satisfied to walk on soil—it was steam boat, submarine, steam railroads, flying machines and jet propulsions, all by those crazy offsprings of those people who moved westward. In spite of all this, the peony too just gradually worked its way out of the Orient and into the Occident following that crazy set of people wherever they might desire to go.

To relate in full what is contained in inference in the above few lines would take many pages and the story would be most fascinating and interesting to the most uninterested person. So you must accept these simple statements, that the peony did travel westward as civilization extended westward and that the peony established itself in the cultural life of man so deeply that it is doubtful that it will soon be discarded.

With this brief introduction of whence the peony came and whence it shall pass we shall settle down to a discourse of the peony in Europe that dates back into the ages where little is known of the life and habits of the people.

In order to hold the length of this article to two thousand words we shall confine our discourse to Europe, England, France and Netherlands, and perhaps Germany.

### The Peony in England

The knowledge of flowers and plants in Saxony from about 477-1017 A. D., and for several subsequent centuries was chiefly based on the works of Pliny and Dioscordides. Apuleius who lived about 150 A. D., referred to their works constantly. His herbaceous, written in Latin, was later translated into Anglo-Saxon, and must have been one of the Horticultural "best sellers" of that day.

Alexander Necham, born in 1157, was an early English writer on gardening. He was educated in Paris, and became an abbot of the Augustine monks at Cirencester. In Necham's *De Naturis Rerum*, he describes what a noble garden should contain, and writes roses, lilacs, turnsole, violets and mandrake, and among other peonies. It seems as though all these plants were cultivated at that time and the peony referred to is *P. officinalis*. In the Fourteenth Century peonies were used for seasoning. In Langland's *Vision of Piers Plowman*, in 1375, an allegorical poem, a priest asks a poor woman if she has any hot spices, and she replies, "I have peppers and peonies."

In 1484, about 300 years after Necham, "The Herbarius" by Arnoldus de Villanova, was published on the continent. The book contained the first wood cut pictures of the peony. The text based on Galens' writings depicts the peony used greatly for medical purposes. Later English writers made use of his works freely. During the time of the Tudors, 1485-1603, contemporary authors mention peonies along with jasmine, lavender, lilies, rosemary, rockets and snapdragon; as being in beds. The peony was known by many names as pie nanny, nan pie, pianet, piano rose, posy, sheep shearing rose, and rose royals.

In 1579, John Gerard, a physician of Holloway, near London, published his *Herbal*, founded on "A History of Plants," by Dedoens, a Hollander (1554). four pages are devoted to peonies and eight illustrations are given. Gerard speaks of the medical virtues of the peony. Shakespeare refers in his "Taming of the Shrew," 1603, to peonies in these lines: "Thy banks with peonies and lilies brims."

In 1629, John Parkinson, King's herbarist wrote of six kinds of peonies in England, stating that these peonies have all been brought from divers parts beyond the sea. He refers to them as having great beauty.

England's first botanical garden was established at Oxford by the Earl of Danby, about 1621. In this nursery were double and single peonies in company with 20 kinds of roses, including York and Lancaster. Robert Morrison (1620-1683), noted as a pioneer, in a systematic botanical Classification of plants, describes several peonies including a flesh colored peony. Parkinson referred to a red double peony and a double white peony that had originated as a sport of the red double peony. Several other works appeared in England prior to the opening of the 19th century. During the latter half of the 18th century several different kinds of peonies made their appearance, we are told, which include *tenuifolia*, *peregrina* and *anomala* and were cultivated in England. In

the early part of the 19th century, some varieties of *albiflora* were imported from China. Until recently they were still offered by growers. Among these are *Fragrans* (Sir John Banks, 1805), *Whitleyi* (Whitley 1808), which the importer had been led to believe was a yellow Tree Peony, and *Humei* (Anderson 1810). *Fragrans* was the earliest sweet scented double variety offered by growers in England.

In 1837, the variety *Pottsii* was described as the most splendid of the five *albifloras* cultivated in the English gardens. It had been introduced from China by John Potts in 1822, an intrepid collector and named after him.

Loddige Hackney, in 1845, made the first large collection of named peonies and sold them eight years later. In 1850, Salter, a nurseryman, began a collection with the *albifloras*, which included *Edulus Superba*, (splendid with edible roots) originated by Lemon in France, in 1824, *Pottsii* and *Reevesii* and some others imported from Belgium. His catalogue of 1855 contained 24 double sorts. At this time peonies came to have such a large sale that Salter was unable to supply the demand of peony *Grandiflora neva plena* (double large snow white) originated by Lemon in 1824, *Peony lutea Plenissima* (very double yellow), originated by Buyck in Belgium in 1824 and several others. Other doubles were offered at this time.

James Kelway of Somersetshire, England, in 1846, made his first attempt in improving existing types. In a modest way he used *P. officinalis* and *P. corallina*, but his work went into growing of peonies on a very large scale. Twenty years later he catalogued two hundred and fifty varieties of which sixty-three were new singles and forty-one were new double varieties of his own raising. Through his energy in introducing and distributing improved forms, he made the peony popular in England. Among his best productions are: *Baroness Schroeder* 1889, *Miss Salway* 1905, and *Kelways Glorious* 1909.

Peter Barr was interested in Hybridising. From his establishment have come *Wittmaniana rosea*, one of the *Wittmaniana hybrids*, and the *albifloras*, *Helena Leslie*, *Lord Rosebery* and *Celestine*.

In 1885 The Royal Horticultural Society granted a first Class Certificate to a Peony named, *Snowflake*.

This was the first award ever to be made.

The influence of French growers and hybridizers had a pronounced effect upon peony growing in England. By 1890, its revival as a fashionable English flower was complete. Since then the peony has gone forward rapidly, both in popularity and improvement. Several large gardens were well maintained and the education of the public followed. The collections were very extensive.

#### The Peony in France

The history of the peony in England is chiefly the history of its cultivation in gardens and the commercial aspect. Contrary to this place in English life, France went in for the improvement of the individual flower early in the 19th century, and has continued with a place of leadership on the continent, in peony improvement even until today. In 1810, there was an account of one famous peony, *P. daurica* (brought from Siberia via England) as a very rare plant and established at Malmaison for the Empress Josephine. A full account of this peony can be found in des Plantes Rares Cultivees a Malmaison et Navarre.

The date 1810 establishes the beginning of an era in which France was to give to the continent many famous growers and hybridizers of the peony, the lilac and iris. Their efforts during the past century and a half have produced the finest varieties found in the best collections at the present time. The work of improving the peony was begun earlier in France than in England, and soon became of great interest to Royal and aristocratic connoisseurs.

Many fine varieties were originated by 1830 and by 1848 many other fine specimens were developed in the garden of King Louis Philippe at Neuilly, under the care of a very careful gardener, M. Jacques.

The gardeners of France seem to have been stimulated by contemporaries laboring in the same field and with the same problem. This is so evident that we shall attempt to set forth a chronicle of gardeners who succeeded one another with their stock of peonies. It is very evident that the experiences of one hybridizer or breeder was transmitted with his garden stock of peonies to his successor.

M. Lemon of Porte St. Denis, Paris, in 1824, raised a lot of seedlings, *nivea plena*. Lemon was probably the first man in Europe to raise peonies from seed and offer them for sale on the continent. Though he is one of the oldest hybridizers many of his creations will be found in plantings today. In 1824, he introduced *P. Edulis Superba*. In 1830, he introduced *P. Sulphurea*, a white tinted with yellowish green. Lemon achieved not only great modification in color and form, but also produced pleasing fragrance which is common in most of his varieties and is very marked in others.

Modeste Guerin, also of Paris, in 1835, began working intently with peonies. He imported plants from China and Japan and between the period of 1835 to 1886 introduced more than 40 new varieties. A few of these are *General Bertrand* 1845, *Modeste Guerin* 1845, *Duchesse d'Orleans* 1846, *Dr. Bretonneau* 1850, *Madame de Vatry* 1853, and *Alexander Dumas* 1862, all are conspicuous for excellence. Guerin was the first to get his peonies to show a trace of yellow, which up to this time, was almost an unknown color in the peony. Some of the varieties that had yellow in them were introduced to commerce before the first yellow peony *Wittmanniana*, was discovered. Three instances are the *Grandiflora lutescens* 1840, fleshy white guard petals and grand stem. *Reine des Francais* 1842, fleshy pink guard petals and white center, shaded yellow; and *Triomphe de Paris* 1850, white with yellow center. Guerin also produced some red peonies with Magenta tints. It is believed that they showed their dark colors to *P. Pottsii*. A large part of Guerin's collection was bought by Mechin.

Prince de Salm Dyck, an amateur horticulturist who was a native of Cologne, but had resided for many years in Paris, imported many very fine plants direct from the Orient. These are believed to have been acquired by the House of Solonge Bodin, also near Paris. From 1845 some very excellent new double varieties were sent out by this establishment, but none are able to be identified now.

The name of M. Jacques must not be lost in this field of early French peony breeders. M. Jacques was the gardener of King Louis Philippe and it is evident did a very splendid service to the King and the flower lovers of his day. This collection, upon dethronement of Louis, passed into the hands of M. Jacques, about 1848. This collection was inherited by a nephew of Jacques, M. Victor Verdier, who had done some breeding and made some introductions prior to his work with the newly acquired stock. Sixteen of his best varieties were introduced between 1855 and 1861. A number of these introductions will be still found in commercial use even today. One of Verdier's best introductions is the incomparable Marie Jacquin.

Comte de Cussy an enthusiastic amateur started with importations from China. He raised a number of distinctive varieties. It was from his large collection, in the hands of others, that a very high point of perfection was subsequently attained. About 1850, M. Calot of Douai, acquired the collection of the Comte. From then until 1872 Calot, who with rare imagination and hard work, originated over twenty new peonies. Many are still found in plantings

in Europe and America and include, *Philomele* 1861, *Solfatare* 1861, the first and nearest approach to a yellow hybrid peony until *Primivere* 1907, by Lemoine. *Duchesse de Nemours* 1856, *Mad. Lemoine* 1860, *Eugenie Verdier* 1864, *Mad. Crousse* 1866, *Couronne d'Or* 1873, *La Tulipe* 1872, *Monsieur Dupont* 1872.

In 1872 the collection of J. Calot passed to the hands of M. Crousse, of Nancy, who continued to send out seedlings from this group until 1879. From 1882 to 1898, he developed from seed of this group over seventy-five seedlings. It seemed impossible to improve upon his work and the name Crousse became synonymous with Merit. A few of his numbers are *Model de Perfection* 1875, *Livingston* 1879, *Mme. Emile Galle* 1881, *Felix Crousse* 1881, *Mme. de Verneville* 1885, *Avalanche* 1886, *Asa Gray* 1886, *Mme. Rousseau* 1888, *Monsieur Jules Elie* 1888, *Marguerite Gerard* 1892.

Etienne Mechin, an ardent amateur, who was tutored by the celebrated horticulturist Bretonneau, began to collect peonies as early as 1840. By 1860 he had acquired a famous collection from China, Japan and seedlings of his own. *Mad. Ducl* 1880, and *Raphael* 1882, are two of his best products.

Auguste Dessert, grandson of Etienne Mechin, joined forces with his grandfather and they introduced *Adolphe Rousseau* 1890, and *Suzanne Dessert* 1890. Mechin was succeeded by Dessert at Chanonceaux, France, who gained in his lifetime the reputation of being one of the greatest peony experts that had lived up to his time. *Mad. D. Treyeran* was introduced in 1889, *Marcelle Dessert* 1899, *Mon. Martin Cahuzac* 1899, *Germaine Bigot* 1902, *Aurora* 1904. The Mechin-Dessert group is one of the most important in France.

Victor Lemoine, of Nancy, who occupied the old establishment of Crousse, is one of the world's greatest hybridizers in peonies as well as lilacs and iris and other flowering plants. His varieties, the most recent of French introductions, that we have accurate information at hand, are notable for their distinction of form and coloring, in addition to their rare beauty. These facts are recognizable in the following of his introductions. *La Fiancee* 1898, *Madame Emile Lemoine* 1899, *Alsace-Lorraine* 1906, *Sarah Bernhardt* 1906, *Le Cygne* 1907, *Primivere* 1907, *Salonge* 1907, and *Lamartine* 1908.

Less renowned contemporaries, yet individuals who contributed much to the peony, should not be omitted from this review. Mieliez, who originated *Festiva Maxima* in 1851, *Millet* 1925, *Retine Baronet*, *Maman* 1924; others, *Pele*, *Delache*, *Gombault*, *Foulard*, *Seneclauze*, *Paillet*, *Brochet Croux*. Species of the latter have not been listed, yet several were extensive breeders.

This article does not permit the relating of some recent information on present day peony breeders of France, however, by close observation it is easily seen that the peony breeders held much in common, and it is evident they visited back and forth and discussed their work in the light of their own experience. By observing Crousse's introductions we find peonies of moderate size, good color in the plant, reasonably strong stems, a medium sized flower that possesses lots of distinction. In the case of Lemoine we find a great similarity in his plants, which in the main are more robust than those of Crousse. Stems may not be as strong, yet strong enough to hold well very large, immaculate blooms. The illustration just used of some of his introductions serve well to illustrate this point. *Madame Emile Lemoine*, *Sarah Bernhardt*, *Le Cygne*, and *Solonge* all have a very similar plant stem, leaf, and plant habit. They all possess a fragrance and today are just about as good as any peony yet introduced by our modern breeders.

If those early French breeders enjoyed a peony fraternity they carried it farther than the fraternal life of today. The growing of the peony seemed to involve whole families for generations. It is interesting to trace contemporary breeders and growers in America but this will be saved for another story.



Not much can be found about peony propagation in Holland. It is evident the plant culturists of the lowland were too busy with their tulips and roses to think of propagating peonies.

There are one or two names that should be shown here. Abraham Nieuwenhuyzen was born in Boskoop, Holland in 1877. He learned the nursery trade under Jack Akerboom in his native city, where he had wide experience in growing various nursery stock, but made a special study of the peony. His origination of *Dr. H. Van der Tak*, was awarded a certificate of merit by the silver cup at the International Flower show, at Antwerp, Belgium.

At about the same time, Mr. Nieuwenhuyzen introduced *Mr. L. van Leeuwen*, a crimson which won by judges, the finest crimson at the National Peony Show in 1923. Mr. Nieuwenhuyzen's interests in peonies drew for him a position with the American Rose & Plant Company at Springfield, Ohio, about the same year.

Van Leeuwen and son, a firm that dates back to 1902, grew the largest collection of single, double, Chinese, Japanese *officinalis*, hybrid and Tree peonies according to an ad. appearing in the last publication of the Peony Manual in 1928. Their home nursery was in Sassenheim, Holland, and they had a large bulb nursery at Stony Creek Mills, near Reading, Pennsylvania. Their New York office was located at 111 Broad Street. This firm introduced several very fine peonies in America.

The name of Buyck is also found as a breeder of peonies in Holland, but the information on Buyck is negligible, and we dare not attempt to give any information about him.

Material concerning peonies in Germany is very scarce. Boos & Koenemann was an old and reliable concern who have made several introductions of beautiful varieties. They took a great deal of interest in their work and their address is Niederwal uf am Rhein, Germany. They introduced *Biebrich* and *Sassmanshausen* in 1912, and *Lorch* soon after.

It would be difficult to carry a chronicle of peony progress further than shown here without a more comprehensive study of the modern growers and their work in western Europe. It is most difficult to keep abreast the rapid strides of our American growers not to think of Europe and their work. The American growers have taken their place with the French in presenting new and better peonies. If time and patience but permits, perhaps we can prepare an interesting chronicle of American producers for this very novel idea of the American Peony Society.

(Essay Contest Entry)

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### Athelstane

In my district, just North and West of Toronto, Ont., May and June were very unfavorable for growing peonies. We had the worst drought I can ever remember,—with this we had early June pests, then 90 degree heat.

I planted Athelstane last September and my plant had fine flower buds this Spring, four of which I cut off. The remaining bud gradually opened up, a beautiful light pink, so I cut it and brought it into my bed room late in the evening. When I woke up the next morning the whole room was delightfully scented with a fragrance that no rose could ever match.

Athelstane has lovely green foliage and flowers are born on strong, erect stems. The flowers are large, double and cup-shaped.

HOWARD STOLLERY,  
R.R. 1. Downsview, Ont., Canada.

# *Secretary's Notes*

Weeks and months have an uncanny way of swiftly passing by and here it is the first of September and planting time of peonies is with us again. In this section we figure on at least three months of plaining weather but we do like to get this work done in late September and early October when it is possible to do so. This will give the freshly set plants an opportunity to throw out some capillary rootlets, or feeding roots that will provide growth of the plant before winter sets in and puts a stop to all growth until early Spring.

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To say the least, we are greatly disappointed that the June issue, with the show reports, was so greatly delayed. Sickness, vacations and numerous other exasperating delays have contributed to this late mailing. I have experienced a great deal of chagrin as I had fully planned to get this in the mail in early August.

This issue will follow closely and will, in a measure, I hope, take off some of the sting to disappointed members. A considerable portion of the September material was set up at the same time the June issue was being prepared, and that will help us out considerably in getting out this issue.

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The past year has not brought out very many new peonies that I have seen. Of course, there is a constant procession of new seedlings displayed but many will not come up to the high standard set up by the American Peony Society. There are, however, many new ones that we are eagerly waiting for sufficient stock to offer to the public. These are being held by the originators and some of them will not be released for a year or more. Perhaps, in the meantime, some new creation will make its appearance and vie for honors among the elite of peonydom. To become famous in the peony world is like attaining fame in life's battle for existence and is well portrayed in the following lines by Frank H. Keith:

## The Lot of the Famous

The tallest fir in the forest  
Has a towering crown of green,  
But often is branchless and ragged  
In the trunk no one has seen.

For the part that kisses the sunlight  
Was born beneath a sheltering snow,  
And its heartbreaking years in the darkness  
Are for only the wise to know.

And such is the lot of the famous—  
The labor and want of the years  
Can be known to only a handful,  
When the flower of life appears.

For fame is the top of the mountain,  
To a man as it is to a tree;  
And only the peak is the portion,  
That folk in life's valleys can see.

The brief report of the Duluth Peony & Iris Society by Mrs. Oscar Anderson, the Show Chairman, was received too late for the June issue and so appears in this number.

There have been many shows of our favorite flower held throughout the country but as I do not get reports we are unable to mention them. The Boston show is always worthwhile but we rarely get mention of it and are not supplied with data so that we can make a worthwhile report. I would deem it a great favor to have these reports for the bulletin as soon after the show is held as possible. A long report is not necessary, nor is it necessary to go into considerable detail. Mrs. Anderson's report of the Duluth show is an interesting one and covers in a comprehensive manner the highlights of the display. In our reports of the annual shows where a large display is generally shown, it is necessary to go into more detail.

I have a communication from Mr. Ralph B. Smith of Keokuk, Iowa which I quote as follows:

"I have written an answer to Mr. Leach asking for more information in regard to sawdust. I am a little afraid of his chemicals to be added. However, I have another one for your book in connection with the one from R. W. Jones of St. Paul, Minn.

The brotherhood of the Congregational Church here have built up a peony sale for Memorial Day. They sell from 500 to 1000 dozen each Spring. They have found that the best place to keep their buds, when they open early, is in the beer room of the local ice plant, and the boys handling the beer are very proud of the fact that the peonies are in their storage.

To date, no one has had any trouble with the beer taste, although they did have an objection to putting the peonies in a room with the eggs some time ago, because Swift & Co. stated that the peony aroma would change the taste of the eggs."

Well—that is one for the books. Perhaps there is also a good hunch for some parties wishing to raise funds for their church, or other good purpose, where they might realize a very fine income for a minimum of effort.

In order to keep our bulletin No. 113 uniform in size, we were compelled to hold over the report of the Minneapolis show by Mr. Peyton. However, it is planned to have this bulletin follow closely the delayed June issue so the report will get to you shortly after the arrival of bulletin No. 113. This peony show in Minneapolis is one of the best staged in the country and the flowers shown there are always of high quality.

We do not have time to comment on the various articles appearing in this issue but will let them speak for themselves. We do hope you will get a great deal of help out of our attempt to send you good, informative bulletins that you can refer to time after time.

A most interesting article, fully illustrated, is planned for the December issue. This deals with tree peonies in China and their treatment. Other very informative articles will also appear in the December issue.

In the meantime we are hoping to receive some reports from our members on the performance of their peonies in 1949. Whether good or bad, write us a letter that we may publish in the bulletin.

*H. F. Christman*

## Raising Peonies From Seed

Edward Auten, Jr.

New peony varieties are obtained by raising plants from seed. However, the new plants almost never come exactly like either of the parents. Most of them will be singles, reverting back to the wild single form, even if their parents were semi-doubles, Japs or doubles. The tendency is for nature to perpetuate the species, not the individual variety, so that the specimen worth keeping is very much the exception and most seedling plants are of no value.

Peony seeds of common *P. albiflora* species are dark brown and about the size of small buckshot; of the *P. officinalis* species, oval and shiny blue-black. Seed ripens in August or early September. One pod from a bloom of a single variety might yield 20 to 50 seeds; from a semi-double, possibly only two or three. So, while it is easiest to collect seed from the big podded types, it is wise to save carefully all seed from doubles or semi-doubles even though it will be found in limited amounts. One grower made the statement that he planted only the largest seeds—most probably a mistake.

Seeds should be planted immediately after picking. If hard and dry when planted, say in September, most of them will lie dormant all the next growing season. In late fall they send down a long root and then the second spring leaf growth appears. However if the seed is picked before it gets hard, planted and kept moist until winter, many of the seeds will send down their root the same fall and send up leaves the first spring. Seed does not ripen evenly and it is impossible to tell just when it is safe to pick it. If too green, it will rot and thus perhaps the very variety that would have paid for your work may be lost. So, if using seed from hand crosses or from extra special kinds, it is safest to let the seed get ripe and take the extra year.

Seed should be planted in well-drained, rich soil, without fertilizer and in the full sun. Sow one inch deep in rows six inches wide, the seeds an inch or two apart. Or, if one has plenty of room, plant in single rows, seeds four or five inches apart. They can then be left until they bloom, saving a year or two, but it means much more work than to plant the seed thickly and then transplant it.

If the ground is dry, soak the bottom of the row before planting the seed and again after covering. A light mulch of lawn clippings will help to hold moisture the first fall and thus hasten germination. Very fine results have been obtained by making the top three inches of soil of the seed bed a mixture of one part small grained Vermiculite with two parts of soil. This works as well as, or better than, a mulch. Any mulch should be taken off very early the first spring. If seed is hard when planted, a rinsing in a mild solution of permanganate of potash, with a complete rinsing afterwards with clear water, will kill any blight spores which might be present. Never plant seed where peonies have been grown.

It is commonly said that it takes five years to get a peony bloom from seed. With a combination of favorable conditions, bloom might be obtained in three or rarely in two years. The first leaves on a seedling come in varying shades of green and red. Occasionally, a plant will appear with white or almost white leaves. These are the runts, those endowed with the poorest factors of the genetic line, and almost invariably die the first year.

Seedlings may be transplanted either the first or the second year after they come up. Unless they are too crowded, it is best to wait until the second or even the third year, as germination is not complete until then and the bed can be torn up too soon, to the detriment of the late comers. They can be transplanted when the root is the size of a match, but the ideal size is when

the root is one-third to one-half inch in diameter. There is great variation in size and vigor of seedlings of the same age. Set them in rows three to four feet apart, the eyes a scant two inches deep, with the plants 10 to 14 inches apart in the row. Do this in early fall and thereafter treat the plants the same as mature peonies. As a preventative, the baby plants can be sprayed once or twice a season with half strength Bordeaux solution to prevent blight.

As the plants increase in size, great difference in plant characteristics will appear in height, color of foliage, stiffness of stems, number of stems, leaf placement on the stem, shape of leaves and time of coming through the ground in early spring. These are all factors to be considered in choosing a new variety for introduction and much study can be given during the years before a block of plants bloom. One is almost certain to find some plants that seem to be ideal in all plant characteristics—then most likely when the plant blooms it is off color, or of poor substance and hopes are all turned to disappointment. But then, some day, right in the midst of a lot of ugly, weak and worthless plants a bloom will appear that seems to be just made to order and one immediately forgets all the disappointments.

When a good one is produced, the first desire is to divide the plant and increase the stock as rapidly as possible. However, a seedling plant during its first year of bloom is somewhat like a youth of high school age, not able to stand the hard knocks, and its full possibilities are not always apparent. Dividing a seedling plant in the fall after it first blooms sometimes seems to ruin the constitution of the plant—a shock from which it does not recover. So, it is best to let new plants bloom two or three years before dividing them. Little time is lost by so doing, as some new kinds never do better than the first year, while others will not show at their best until several years later. Thus more effective selection can be made from older plants.

Seedlings large enough to divide are treated like any other peony. On an average, three to five divisions can be made from the original plant. Once again it is best not to hurry division. It is better to let them grow four or five years rather than two or three. Your rate of increase will be almost as fast and bloom will be much more characteristic.

What proportion of good ones can you expect from a block of seedlings? That varies. There used to be a saying that one could expect one worthwhile specimen out of a thousand plants. Ninety per cent singles might be called average. Many of them are lovely when they open, but soon flop or fade badly. It is just as difficult to get a high class single as a double. My best record was 60 per cent doubles and semi-doubles out of a lot of 98 plants. These came from one seed parent, possibly from two pollen parents. At least 16 of the 98 were named, others could have been had they not been too similar to those already named. One attempt to get new Japs resulted in only three per cent of Japs, all inferior, but with some fine singles and semi-doubles. On the next attempt 25 per cent Japs, some of the very finest, were procured. Seeking new white Japs, 60 plants worth advancing were obtained from 420 plants and five have been named. Some other crosses, many of them in fact, have been complete flops, even though the results should have been outstanding.

Do not try to originate new kinds unless you have patience, persistence and can stand innumerable disappointments. The ultimate in peonies of the pure *P. albiflora* species has not yet been attained. In selecting seed parents, look first to plant vigor, rapidity of increase, resistance of roots to decay, resistance to blight and then to color and type. The whole process is a gamble. you may get a magnificent double where you expected to get a Jap, you may get a hideous color from outstanding parents, good color from poor

color. In other words, you do the work and take what Nature decides to give you. A dozen poor seedlings from one certain cross does not prove the uselessness of that cross. It might take hundreds of that cross to get the best characteristics in one new variety. The only way to make sure of getting good results is to study your kinds carefully when choosing parents and raise in quantity. Do not think all doubles are worth saving, don't worship size and do be familiar with all the fine kinds now in existence so that your standard of judgment will enable you to know a good new peony when you get it.



## Peony Nuts

Ruth Berkshire, *Oxfordville, Wis.*

Eighteen years ago the peony bloomed luxuriously. Each year it had thrust up its mass of bloom for the sun to caress and the wind to gently sweep over its rich green leaves. The silent offering of beauty was a rich thing to behold and the lady of the house sighed . . . for she was leaving her home and her husband.

The years rolled by. The shade trees threw a carpet of leaves between the peony and the sun; shrubbery grew up in a tangled mass and always the visiting children and their mothers jerked and pulled at every blossom. Greedy, sticky paws snatched at flowers and massed them in the tight bundles they called bouquets. The new wife "loved flowers" (on the table) and she waddled out each year to grumble because the peony was failing.

"The ground's no good; nothin's bloomin'," she'd mutter. "There's nothin' fit to pick here any more." The wind in the giant shade trees whistled in vain and rattled the leafy limbs overhead, but she walked on, not understanding.

On a starvation diet, the peony had slimmed down her matronly shape until she was but a wee wisp of a maiden and without bloom for many years. Somehow or other she hung on and saved some portion of her strength each year so that she had a few stems to point skyward . . . a reminder of former glory . . . or to plead for aid?

Then two things happened: the second wife left her room and board for a more flowery pasture . . . and a peony nut moved to the village. The P.N. felt about neglected plants the way we feel about neglected children and hungry kittens and mother dogs searching for food. . . . She offered to move the peony out into the owner's vegetable garden where the sun shown all day.

"'Tis no good," argued the owner, "they killed it picking the blooms all off for so long." Then he offered, "Besides I think it's a male peony and won't have any bloom."

After two years of pestering, the owner volunteered, "Take the peony. I don't want it. It won't never bloom anyhow." Did the wind ruffle the three remaining stalks, or why did the peony tremble?

On June 23, 1947, during a three day rainy spell, the P.N. decided—after due consideration—that it would be a good gamble to move the peony to her garden where it would get the first sunshine in many years. The roots were small, apparently in good condition and were left as undisturbed as possible with their coating of damp soil. The first soaking included three B1 tablets for good measure and the plant was not allowed to wilt.

1948 produced five strong (sun drenched) stalks crowned with a husky crop of fat leaves. The bush is only about a foot high and there weren't any buds, but with such treatment (including the assault and battery charge of being moved in June) who could expect bloom so soon?

## Peony Hybrids

A. P. Saunders

The Chinese peonies have now an established place in the esteem of all who love beautiful garden flowers. For many years there has been great activity among peony growers in the production of new varieties. It began in Europe and in the century and a half that has passed since then, many thousands of named varieties have been produced and distributed. It is a matter of separate discussion and of no little discretion to pick the best from the immense array of beautiful peonies which we now possess. Setting aside the Chinese peonies, however, I propose to devote this article to the consideration of certain new hybrids of various species which have appeared in the past twenty years and which are now competing as candidates for popular favor.

The peony, as a wild plant, exists in about forty different forms—called species. These, in many cases, can be crossed with one another and in this way produce hybrids. The actual process of crossing is not a difficult one. Normally, at a definite time, the flower becomes receptive to pollen and if pollen is dusted on to the stigma, fertilization is effected. If the pollen comes from a plant of the same character as the one on which you are working, the seeds so produced will give the same plant again. Fertilization has been effected but not hybridization. But if the pollen is brought from a different species, then the resulting plants will be hybrids.

Quite a group of peony fanciers have been busy in recent years with the production of hybrids. As well as myself, I might mention Edward Auten, Jr., Princeville, Illinois; W. S. Bockstoe, 2803 Bergman Street, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Mrs. H. A. Dancer, 3131 East First Street, Duluth, Minnesota; Mrs. Mary E. G. Freeborn, Proctor, Vermont; Lyman D. Glasscock, Elwood, Illinois; Benjamin W. Guppy, Melrose, Massachusetts; Ernest F. Kelsey, East Aurora, New York; Dr. Earle B. White, Kensington, Maryland. Some of these growers have produced only a few hybrids but all have earned our gratitude by devoting themselves to this exacting task.

Sufficient detail will not be given to tell what each of these various growers has done, as that would fill too much space. Anyone especially interested will find in the "American Peony Society Bulletin," September, 1943, a very thorough and competent treatment of the whole subject from the pen of George W. Peyton.

Up to the present time there are between 150 and 200 such hybrids on the market and in order to give you the names of some of the best, I will list John Wister's preferences.

Mr. Wister's list is marked x, xx, xxx, xxxx, xxxxx and xxxxxx, and the following are included in the top three groups: *Reward*, *Burgundy*, *Dauntless*, *Patriot*, *Zulu Warrior*, *Bravura*, *Illini Chief*, *Good Cheer*, *Scarlet Tanager*, *Amity*, *Diantha*, *Pageant*, *Little Gem*, *Bordeaux*, *Veritas*, *Postilion*, *Carina*, *Diana Parks*, *Flame*, *Bright Knight*, *Cardinal's Robe*, *Sunbright*, *Red Signal*, *Your Majesty*, *Grace Root*, *Janice*, *Mahogany*, *Black Monarch*, *Coralie*, *Sophie*, *May Delight*.

These are all crosses with *P. officinalis* or something near it as one parent, and *P. sinensis* as the other. In this list will be found beautiful red, crimson, cherry, salmon, light pink and even creamy white varieties.

The distinguishing characteristics of these hybrids are their beautiful colors and their flowering season. Their season lasts in my latitude from about May 10 to May 30, much earlier of course than the Chinese.

There is a group of hybrids which has been produced by crossing the fern-leaved peony, *P. tenuifolia*, with the Chinese peony. These include a

small number of varieties among which *No. 8277*, a fine dark crimson and *Laddie*, a hybrid by Glasscock, also a dark crimson, come up to my standards. This last variety is a cross of *tenuifolia* on an *officinalis* variety, not on a *sinensis*.

A still earlier group of hybrids was produced by crossing *P. macrophylla* and the Chinese peonies. These are mostly pale pink varieties but there is one outstanding white, *Chalice* by name, a very large and handsome bloom. Others, *Garden Peace*, *Seraphim* and *Requiem* are fine plants for their season.

A group of hybrids of very distinct and charming character are those made by crossing *P. Emodi* with either *P. Veitchi* or one of the related forms. When *P. Veitchi* is used, we get the so-called Early Windflowers, whereas if *P. Beresowskyi* is used we get the Late Windflower. These are charming plants, unlike anything else in the whole range of peonies. They are tall-growing plants with rather small, pure white, nodding flowers.

Some beautiful plants have been made by crossing some of the Chinese peonies with the species *P. Wittmanniana*. This cross was made some years ago by Lemoine who put on the market four varieties which are still prized—*Le Printemps*, *Mai fleuri*, *Avant Garde* and *Messagere*. But in recent years a new group has made its appearance and these are plants of great beauty. They include the following: *Ballerina*, *Elizabeth Cahn*, *Green Ivory*, *Magnolia Flower*.

A new race has made its appearance in recent years through using the species *P. coriacea* and crossing it with ordinary Chinese peonies. The flowers in the hybrids are reddish at first but almost immediately fade to a fine lavender color which then persists until the flower falls. This race should be worked more as it possesses character that has not been produced before.

There are a number of other hybrids that may in time become established in popular favor but there are only two further races that I should like to mention. The first has been produced by combining four separate races of peonies, namely, *P. sinensis*, *officinalis*, *macrophylla* and *mlokosewitschi*. The last named species is yellow and this seems to be the reason why blooms in this group are sometimes tinted with yellow. None of these quadruple hybrids is yet on the market but as soon as enough stock can be obtained they will be offered. They are a lovely race in which the flowers show unusual shades of color varying through various cream, yellow, pink and buff tints. They will at first be under numbers, all of them in the 16,000 group.

In closing allow me to mention another race which now claims much of my attention. These are shrubby in growth and are the result of crossing the wild species, *P. lutea* with the Japanese tree peonies. These last are the most beautiful of all the races of peonies and *P. lutea* is perhaps at the other end of the series being the least conspicuous of all the native peonies. Yet the cross of one on the other gives a wonderful race of single or double flowers, many of which are large and in shades of yellow.

Lemoine produced the first of these, and his varieties bear astonishing blooms. These are gradually becoming known so that we even see the huge blooms of *Souvenir de Maxime Cornu* in some of our peony shows. This is an extremely vigorous plant and it will no doubt attain wide popularity in time. There are eight or ten other Lemoine varieties, some of them of great beauty. I am the only other grower who has put any on the market. I have had difficulties with propagation in recent years, but as soon as these are overcome thirty or forty varieties of good color in yellow and red will be offered. A few such varieties have already been disseminated and have been received with favor by peony growers. These include *Argosy*, *Black Pirate*, *Festival*, *Narcissus*, *Roman Gold*, *Silver Sails* and a number of others.



It is evident from what has been said that the peony is now in a critical period of its development. For many years its progress consisted in producing variations of already familiar form, season and color. Now we have arrived at a time when new forms are appearing with an extended blooming season and even additions to the color range.



### List of New Members Since Last Report

Adamson, J. A., 81 McNaughton Ave., Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.  
 Andreas, Mrs. Roderick, 79 High Street, Newton, N. J.  
 Andros, Howard S., Boulder Wall Gardens, Walpole, N. H.  
 Appleyard, Richard A., Box 71, Glenview, Ill.  
 Belk, Mrs. Dean, 112 Johnson Park, Holly Springs, Miss.  
 Bricker, Miss R. H., R. D. 1, Marshallville, O.  
 Brooks, Mrs. Ray C., 1116 Mourer St., New Castle, Ind.  
 Brown, Mrs. A. A. Rt. 7, Box 508, Little Rock, Ark.  
 Bryan, Mrs. Alfred T. G., 250 Heath Street, West Toronto, 10,  
 Toronto, Ont. (Can.)  
 Caldwell, Mrs. Georgia, 308 W. Wilson Street, Cleburne, Texas.  
 Davis, Harris, G., 529 Harris Street, Sharon, Pa.  
 Davis, Donald, M., Rt. 6, Wayne, Ind.  
 Dobbs, Mrs. Clyde, Hudson Street, Gainesville, Ga.  
 Flury, Alfred, Rt. 1, Box 442, E. Toledo, 5, O.  
 Edstrom, Sigward O., Sherwood, Ore.  
 Franklin Farms, R. F. D. 1, Goshen, N. Y.  
 Glowacki, B. F., 4753 W. Outer Drive, Detroit, 21, Mich.  
 Gratian, Mrs. Warren B., 841 E. Johns, Decatur, Ill.  
 Harter, Mrs. W. G., 442 Ruddell Dr., Kokomo, Ind.  
 Harris, Gordon L., Solitude, Royal Oak, Md.  
 Guffy, Dr. Don Carlos, 1008 Valentine Road, Kansas City, 2, Mo.  
 Hamlin, D. M., 404 N. Walnut, Newkirk, Okla.  
 Harding, J. T., Box 13, Red Deer, Alberta, Can.  
 Horn, George, Calgary, Alberta, Can.  
 Jennings, John, 120 Canoe Brook Parkway, Summit, N. J.  
 King, Mrs. Russell, Rt. 1, Box 251, South Bend, Ind.  
 Kirschenbaum, Beatrice V., 41 Von Air Ave., New Rochelle, N. Y.  
 Kobitsky, Mrs. Irving, 950 3d Ave., N. Wisconsin Rapids, Wis.  
 Krekler, Norman R., 710 Maulsby Drive, Whittier, Calif.  
 Kussell, F. Ray, Box 77, Marcy, N.Y.  
 Laney, Mrs. Marie, 4126 Druid Lane, Dallas, 5, Tex.  
 Lewis, George, R. D., Fredon Road, Newton, N. J.  
 Maas, Mrs. Gladys, Hoskins, Neb.  
 Martin, Howard S., 1916-20 Greenleaf St., Evanston, Ill.  
 Meader, Mrs. J. E., 110 N. Burnett, Denison, Tex.  
 Moyer, Mrs. John W., 232 Longheed Bldg., Calgary, Alberta, Can.  
 Moore, O. H. Rt. 1, Box 502, Provo, Utah.  
 Musgrave, Dr. Paul N., 1962 Underwood Ave., Huntington, 1, W. Va.  
 Offenburger, H. L. 1111 Garrell Ave., Sedalia, Mo.  
 Ogle, Alton, Capitola Iris Gardens, Box 221, Butler, Wis.  
 Olson, Christian, Colfax, N. D.  
 Osborne, C. H., R. D. 3, Box 321, Barberton, O.  
 Pate, Jerry C., Rt. 3, Hickman Mills, Mo.  
 Pennell, C. D., The Central Manu. Mutual Ins. Co., Van Wert, O.

Price, Dr. A. B. 1501 Locke Drive, Modesto, Calif.  
 Quetschke, Mrs. Rudy, Box 44, Wren, Ore.  
 Raymond, David A., Box 532, Wood Dale, Ill.  
 Reid, Mrs. Harris, R. F. D. 4, Medina, O.  
 Repasky, Mrs. J., White Pond Drive, R.F.D. 6, Box 510, Akron, 7. O.  
 Rice, M. Robert, 17 Vestry Street, Beverly, Mass.  
 Richardson, Mrs. S. H., 3929 Belvoir Place, Seattle, 5, Wash.  
 Richardson, R. D., Richardson's Greenhouses, Bryn Mawr, Wash.  
 Rissman, Mrs. Ed. Enterprise, Kas.  
 Ritchie Peony Gardens, Lester B. Ritchie, 11036 S. E. Division St.,  
 Portland, 66, Oregon.  
 Safley, Bertha, Traer, Iowa.  
 Sandberg, Mrs. Carl, Superior Peony Club, 1516 E. 5th St., Superior, Wis.  
 Savage, Mrs. Philip J., Rt. 2, Romeo, Mich.  
 Sawyer, Elton G., 20203 S. E. River Blvd., Portland, 22, Ore.  
 Schmitz, Robert, 5013 N. Woodruff Ave., Milwaukee, Wis.  
 Sharretts, Dr. Kenneth C., Greenville, Pa.  
 Snell, Mrs. Donald M., East Haddon, Conn.  
 Sovereign, Will F., 3407 State St., Saginaw, Mich.  
 Spangler, Charles, Marshall Nat'l. Bk. Bldg., Marshall, Tex.  
 Spencer, Rev. R. A., 374 Lake Promenade, Long Branch, Ontario, Can.  
 Stahl, Elbert C., R.F.D. 3, 2646 Albain Rd., Monroe, Mich.  
 Stateler, Mrs. W. L., Dodge City, Kas.  
 Taber, W. D. Bydus, Kingman, Kas.  
 Thomas, Mrs. H. B., R. F. D. 2, Forest, Va.  
 Thorn, Mrs. Joe B., Gordonville, Tex.  
 Vasumpaur, Mrs. Rose, 4138 Garden Ave., Western Springs, Ill.  
 Van Leeuwen, John, Sassenheim, Holland.  
 Wegner, Mrs. Ed., 2186 S. 85th Street, West Allis, 14, Wis.  
 Weiland, M., 913 Chicago Ave., Evanston, Ill.  
 Wiese, Victor R., Blue Peony Gardens, 511 E. First S. St., Carlinville, Ill.  
 Welsch, Kenneth, R. F. D. 1, Miamisburg, O.  
 White, Carl E., 1664 Exeter Ave., Indianapolis, 22, Ind.  
 Wild Brothers Nursery, Sarcoxie, Mo.  
 Wild, Joseph R., 876 Seminary Street, Dubuque, Iowa.

\* \* \*

### Corrections in Addresses

Besbey, Carl, 119 15th Street, Homestead, Pa.  
 Battin, Mrs. Viola, Edgewood, Iowa, formerly Strawberry Point, Iowa.  
 Erickson, Elmer, 3242 W. Foster Ave., Chicago, 25, formerly 5140 N.  
 Bernard, Chicago, Ill.  
 English, Norman, 3350 N. Coit Road, Grand Rapids, 5, Mich., formerly  
 504 Glenwood Ave., Grand Rapids, Mich.  
 Hovland, Carrie, Minneota, Minn., R.F.D. 1, new address.  
 Kaywood, Orrin, A., 2504 Auburn Rd., Rt. 6, Pontiac, 6, Mich., new address.  
 Knighton, Bale, 613 A. Blackburn St., Watsonville, Calif., formerly  
 Farmersville, Texas.

Trubee, Harry A., 981 Beaconsfield Ave., Grosse Pt., 30, Mich., listed as Harry A. Turbee.

Volz, A. L., 1032 S. 23d Street, Milwaukee 4, Wis., change to 636 N. 75th Street, Milwaukee, 13, Wis.

\* \* \*

### CORRECTION

Through oversight, the first article in the last bulletin No. 113 is credited to Clarence H. Hoffman. This should have been Clarence H. Kleffman and we regret the error.

\* \* \*

Duluth, Minn.  
Aug. 6, 1949

Mr. W. F. Christman  
Northbrook, Ill.

Dear Mr. Christman:

The 30th Annual Peony Show of the Duluth Peony and Iris Society was held in the lobby of the Northern Minnesota National Bank July 6-7.

There had been a very severe storm several days before the show that spoiled the peonies in the gardens. Therefore all the blooms exhibited were ones that had been in storage.

The following were chosen as the best peonies in the show:

White— <i>Mrs. Frank Beach</i> .....	Exhibitor, Mrs. W. E. Wipson
Flesh— <i>Nick Shaylor</i> .....	Exhibitor, Mrs. Oscar A. Anderson
Light Pink— <i>Myrtle Gentry</i> .....	Exhibitor, Mrs. A. L. Lathers
Dark Pink— <i>Blanche King</i> .....	Exhibitor, Mrs. W. E. Wipson
Red— <i>Harry L. Richardson</i> .....	Exhibitor, Mrs. W. E. Wipson
Jap— <i>Hari-ai-nin</i> .....	Exhibitor, Mrs. W. E. Wipson
Single— <i>Krinkled White</i> .....	Exhibitor, Mrs. Willis Swanman
Best Peony in the Show— <i>Mrs. Frank Beach</i>	

### Varieties Shown in Winning Class I

*Moonstone, Loren Franklin, Evening Star, Sarah Bernhardt, Duluth, Mattie Lafuze, Mrs. Livingston Ferrand, Milton Hill, Florence Nicholls, Florence Bond, James Pillow, Tempest, A. B. Franklin, Longfellow, Judge Snook.*

### Judges of Specimen Classes

Mr. A. M. Brand, Faribault, Minn.  
Mr. R. W. Jones, St. Paul, Minn.  
Mr. A. J. Wilkus, St. Paul, Minn.  
Mr. H. M. Englund, Minneapolis, Minn.

### Judges of Artistic Classes

Mrs. Verl E. Nicholson, Duluth, Minn.  
Mrs. Walter Salmio, Duluth, Minn.  
Mrs. Oscar A. Anderson, *Show Chairman*

\* \* \*

## A List of New and Very Good Peonies 25 of them

W. T. Coe, Minneapolis, Minn.

*Victory*, white.  
*Ruth Elizabeth*, red.  
*Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt*, pink.  
*Sam Donaldson*, dark red.  
*Caroline Stone*, light pink.

*Sir John Franklin*, bright crimson.  
*Rosy Rim*, white.  
*To Kalon*, white.  
*Dolorodell*, dark pink.  
*Tondeleyo*, light pink.

*Ann Cousins*, white.  
*Doris Cooper*, light pink.  
*Helen Hughes*, dark pink.  
*R. A. Napier*, flesh.  
*Banner Bright*, blush.  
*Dr. John L. Crenshaw*, red.  
*Dorothy J.*, light pink.

*Marilla Beauty*, blush.  
*Bataan*, red.  
*Red Cloud*, a red *Le Cygne*.  
*Edith M. Snook*, soft ivory.  
*Tint o' Dawn*, pink.  
*Dr. L. W. Pollock*, red.  
*Dignity*, Jap.

A group of Minneapolis peony lovers held a meeting on the 27th of October, 1948, and discussed their peonies.

Among other things, they agreed on a list of 25 new, or comparatively new peonies, which they can very readily recommend. The above is the list recommended. A luncheon followed the meeting and the following were present:

Howard M. Englund	L. W. Borne	John Ahlf
W. T. Coe	Prof. James Webb	Robert M. Jones
Judge Robert Johnson	Loren Franklin	A. M. Brand

*Editor's note:* Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Coe arrived in California Nov. 10th and will remain there five months. Mr. W. T. Coe's address is 1256 N. Wilton Place, Hollywood 38, Cal. Mr. Coe's interest in the peony is not diminishing as he has started a new plantation in a new country place about 30 miles N.E. of Minneapolis. He will return to his law office April 15, 1949.

\* \* \*

### A Report from Wyoming 1948 Peony Season

We had a very long, cold winter; plenty of zero weather, as low as 31 below with very little snow. Frost went in about three feet. Was about the 10th of April before any peony shoots showed up. Heavy frost about May 1st. Along about the 12th of May it warmed up regular summer temperature. Temperatures went up to 97 degrees, and peonies came out in bloom all at one time. The blooms did not last long in a hot sun and dry wind. The hybrids stood it the best.

My tree peonies came through in good shape. Had one new seedling bloom. It was a salmon pink, very pretty with crepe like petals. My freak tree peony looked about the same as it did in 1947 only it had five leaves on each stem. No signs of any wood, but had albiflora characteristics: new buds under the ground, leaves are oval.

My Delavayi tree peony did real well this year, about 40 to 50 blooms, on which I used Moutan pollen. I got about six good seeds.

A friend in Belleville, Ill., sent me some Lutea pollen. It worked very well on the Delavayi but was no good on Moutan seeds as they were just empty shells.

My Mlokosewitchi looked very good and should bloom in 1949. I hope to have some second generation plants of albiflora x *P. macrophylla*. They have fairly large glossy leaves and look real robust. I am sending you some colored slides which you may return at your convenience.

Nelson H. James,  
Box 173, Greybull, Wyo.

P.S. The slides were received and Mr. James has some very promising seedlings in his plantings as well as specie and hybrids. His back yard was a mass of all colors and types of peonies making a most impressive sight.

Editor.

**I Quote: "The Peony Season is Too Short"***Roy G. Gayle, Rockford, Ill.*

That oft' heard remark pulls out the stopper and an emotional flood of contempt fills my savage bosom with an almost uncontrollable desire to commit murder in all the various degrees that forms of murder are classified.

Short!—from early Spring until late Fall—is that "short," I ask you? As I reflect on the intensity of my suffering during that long, long period of elapsed time from frost out to frost in again, of my sore back and aching muscles, of the rough callouses that transform my sensitive lily-white hands into gnarled and feelingless appendages, of the seepage of gallons of sweat distilled from honest fat accumulated during that brief period after the frost has migrated from the proverbial pumpkin to seal the earth from further exertion—as I compare all this agony with its only reward consisting of a wretched, worn and emaciated body and a social standing nearly equal to the untouchables of India—can one be unjustly condemned for engendering a desire for vengeance, through the medium of murder, upon repeatedly hearing that remark?

Through a cultivated control I can subdue my natural desire to murder, for my God-fearing parents taught me that one derives a greater sense of satisfaction from mayhem. I was thus most fortunate in receiving this cultural instruction in early youth as few parents are far-sighted enough to realize the possibility of their offspring growing up and acquiring such a vicious hobby as peony growing.

So I take this opportunity to appeal to all parents to instruct their children in the gentle art of mayhem while they are young and susceptible to influence for. should they mature and grow peonies, they are bound to collide with that remark about "the season being too short" and would carelessly commit murder unless they fully comprehended the soulful joy to be found in the skillful performance of mayhem.

\* \* \* \* \*

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

I wish to announce my purchase of the interests of my brother and sister in the Franklin Nursery, a business established by my father, (the late A. B. Franklin,) fifty years ago. I will continue to make it headquarters for vigorous, northern grown plants of the Franklin varieties. A descriptive price list of these and other good varieties upon request.

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1946 Rockford Hansina Brand  
1947 Boston Blanche King

1948

International Show Guelph  
Ontario, Canada

1948 Best light pink,

R. A. Napier

1948 Best medium pink,

Myrtle Gentry

1948 Best white single

Krinkled White

1948 Best red, Ruth Elizabeth

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Faribault, Minn.

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

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

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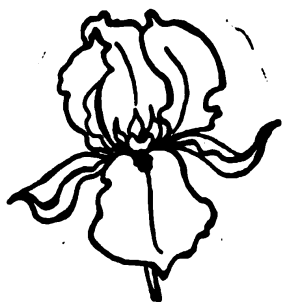
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**Hargrove Hudson (Wild 1949)** A fine, double, light pink, seedling is our first offering. Stock limited. A fine new peony. Introductory offer, \$10.00. Catalog on request.

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