

# AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY *Bulletin*



**DECEMBER - 1949**

**Bulletin No. 115**

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Northbrook, Ill.

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### CONDITIONS OF MEMBERSHIP

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



DECEMBER, 1949

## President's Message

May the year of 1950 be the best ever for all peony fans.

The excellent shows of 1949 should spur us on to bigger and better exhibitions during the coming season. The National Show at Milwaukee was a great success and so were the shows at New York and Minneapolis. Many other groups also had outstanding exhibitions. The Peony Society and its individual members face a challenging goal in trying to excel the record of the past year.

But in addition to the accomplishments of the past year, many new possibilities were revealed. The better performance and the wider acceptance of the new hybrids open a broad new field for the progressive grower. And the new tree peonies, especially the Japanese varieties which Mr. Louis Smirnow has done so much to popularize, are setting new standards of perfection.

Let no one say that the peony has reached its full development. It is just getting started and the prospects for the future of the peony are just as good as or better than those of any other flower.

The American Peony Society demonstrated that it is a growing organization and that it is doing a good job in getting a wider knowledge of the peony to the general public.

That the membership of the society has increased and its influence is more widely felt is due principally to the efforts of Mr. Marvin Karrels, president for the past two years. Mr. Karrels has spent much time and energy in behalf of the society and all peony lovers are indebted to him for the publicity and popularity which has come to our favorite flower recently.

At the annual meeting in Milwaukee the reorganization of the society was completed and we now have a firmer base on which to build for the future. The new officers need the hearty cooperation of all our members in order to assure the continued success of our society.

Let us all keep in mind the great possibilities of the peony and of the society and make 1950 the best year in our history.

FRANK E. MOOTS, Pres.

## A Brief History of Peonies in America

R. F. Koby, Superior, Wis.

Peonies in the American Garden is positively established at the opening of the 19th century. They may have been grown by Americans prior that date but there seems to be no record of it that can be found. Shortly after 1800 the sciences of Agriculture and Horticulture were divided into separate groups. Horticulture taking over the field of tree and flowing plant life. With this change literature arose dealing with the art of horticulture which helped to distinguish it from agriculture. and with this literature we find the peony mentioned.

Bernard McMahan in his *American Gardener's Chronical*, published in 1806, includes five kinds of peonies grown in the Middle and Eastern States. They are as follows: *P. Officinalis*, common peony; *albiflora*, white flowered peony; *lacinati*, jagged: leaved peony; *hybrida*, mule peony; and *tenuifolia*, slender leaved peony. Presumably all these existed in America when the book was printed. Other critics suggest that this list was constructed from English sources.

John Bartram and Son included in their catalogue of 1807, *Foreign Plants Collected from Various Parts of the Globe*, and cultivated at their Botanic Garden at Kingsessing, near Philadelphia. In 1928, five years after John Bartram's death, the catalogue carries six peonies in addition to tree peonies. The listing and their prices are as follows:

<i>Paeonia officinalis</i> , Crimson officinal peony .....	\$.25
<i>Paeonia albicans</i> , Double white .....	.25
<i>Paeonia rosea</i> , Rose coloured .....	.25
<i>Paeonia rubra</i> , Double Red .....	.25
<i>Paeonia carnescens</i> , Flesh coloured .....	1.00
<i>Paeonia albiflora simplex</i> , Single white .....	1.00

Green's *Treatise on Ornamental Flowers*, published in Boston in 1828, includes peonies as "Leading Plants" of that day. The same year Thomas Hogg exhibited *P. Officinalis* in New York Horticultural Society.

Walter W. Cunningham writes in *The Christian Science Monitor*, April 5, 1947 of Joseph Banks, an explorer who smuggled peonies out of China and into Europe prior 1805. This seems to supersede any other information on the peony in this country.

Without a doubt some of this same stock reached America as well as England and France and became parent stock later for American breeders. One variety, *Frangrance*, which was very fragrant and which could be cut in tight bud and opened perfectly four weeks later, still possesses its great fragrance.

Cunningham's story of W. Ormiston Roy of Montreal, Canada, who attempted in 1926 to have Canada adopt the Peony as its national flower, because it could be grown any place in the Dominion, is an incident we must not lose track of as we write this history of the Peony in America. Five minutes of your time spent in reading this article of Cunningham's will again retell the story of how the love for the peony becomes most fascinating to the ardent peony lover.

William Prince of Flushing, Long Island seems to be the motivating spirit for early peony planting in this country. In 1829, in his annual catalogue of trees and plants, says, "No class of flowers has recently attracted more attention in Europe than peonies . . . Most of the varieties are extremely splendid and others possess striking peculiarities. Anticipating that a similar taste would be evidenced in this country, the proprietor has by great exertion, obtained every variety possible from Europe and also a number from China." He lists forty

kinds with a great diversity of shades and colours. Prices range from fifty cents to twenty dollars, but most of the plants were quoted under two dollars. Other works appeared from time to time. Dr. A. B. Strong was the first to publish a Botanical work using coloured cuts, hand coloured. No two of the same species were coloured alike.

By 1850, new species of the unique and fragrant types were coming on the market and created a demand for the new Chinese Peony.

From here on the next century of progress of the peony centers around personalities. Individuals not necessarily professional nursery men, contributed greatly to the advance of the peony and its present high esteem is the result of very arduous and painstaking work by American, European and Asiatic growers. Until the opening of the twentieth century, the French Breeders probably lead the procession of fine peonies. However, the last half century the American growers have taken their place in the life of the peony and today the American Breeders lead the world in their output of rare and fine peonies. Briefly we shall try to trace the work of the pioneer and the modern breeder who hold a place in the spot light of peonydom.

H. A. Terry of Crescent, Iowa, seems to be the first pioneer in America to attempt growing peonies from seed for improvement of stock. In about 1848 he secured from William Robert Prince, who inherited the Linnean Botanic garden, at Flushing, Long Island, thirty varieties of *P. Albifloras*, including *Humei*, *Pottsii*, *Reevesii*, *Comte de Paris*, *Fragrans*, *Festiva Maxima*, *Lutetiana*, *Edulus Superba*, *Plenissima Rosea*, and *Queen Victoria*. Many of these produced seed which he planted. In evaluating his work he indicated that perhaps only five out of a thousand plants would be worth saving and sometimes only one would be worth cultivating. This story is repeated over and over as we watch the work of the breeder, his crowning efforts are the result of not days, or months of painstaking work, but runs into years and decades. Just don't think you are going to get rich raising peonies from seed and introducing them to a critical public. In terms of pay, no labor today draws so little for the hours spent as does the peony breeder. So it is something beside remuneration that urges on and on the breeders. Mr. Terry introduced *Stephanis*, *Grover Cleveland* and *Mrs. McKinley* shortly before his death in 1909. He sold his collection for \$2,500.

The peony in the hands of John Richardson, Dorchester, Mass., found a lover of ornamental plants. He brought out many fine peonies in his small garden beginning about 1857. His foundation stock was *Festiva Maxima*, *Festiva* and *Pottsii plena*, and a double white seedling originated by Mr. Carter of the Harvard Botanic Garden. Forty mature albiflora plants constituted his entire stock for breeding, but he took very careful care of their descendants, which he termed "Candidates For Fame." Most of Richardson's seedlings were introduced after his death and named by friends, John Hoovey and Professor Robert Jackson of Cambridge, Mass. A few of his outstanding creations are: *Walter Faxon*, *Milton Hill*, *Perfection*, *Dorchester*, *Charles Sedgwick Minot* and *Richardson's Grandiflora*.

George Hollis of South Weymouth, Mass. originated about a hundred new varieties during the nineties. Standard bearer 1906, *George Hollis* 1907, *Loveliness*, 1907, and *Maude L. Richardson*, 1904, one of the tallest, often attaining the height of five feet, a beautiful pink that is still listed in catalogues of peonies and may be found in plantings of the finest peonies.

T. C. Thurlow, started a planting in 1875, at West Newbury, Mass. James Hartshorn of Chicago purchased all but two plants each of one hundred, of Thurlow's plants for \$9,000.00. Two freight cars were required to ship the roots. Mr. Thurlow then started a new collection to be better than even the first

one. According to Winthrop H. Thurlow who succeeded his father at West Newbury, they had gathered a great deal of seed from the stock that was sold and had upwards to 100,000 seedling plants. When they bloomed they went through and selected 40 or 50 of the outstanding flowers and replanted and then reselected so that only about a dozen from that planting was ever introduced. Most of the varieties introduced were from later selections. Mr. Thurlow imported many other varieties of species than *Chinensis* but never hybridized these. His only introductions were of varieties that were superior qualities of color of plant habit. T. C. Thurlow passed away in 1909, leaving a record of great peony achievement.

E. J. Shaylor, born in Ashtabula, Ohio, in 1843, and died in Auburndale, Mass., October 24, 1926, was a peony lover who never heard Horace Greeley's caution, "Go west young man, go west." Mr. Shaylor, a salesman, purchased a tract of land in Auburndale, Mass. in 1898, and established his own company. Mr. Shaylor, in the 28 years following, produced many outstanding varieties that are today, patterns of perfection. Shaylor's background of salesmanship gave him the much needed approach to this new and coming business, peony marketing. Shaylor's ideas live on in the firm of Shaylor's and Allison Nursery, Auburndale, Mass.

The contribution of Professor A. P. Saunders of Clinton, New York, had a far reaching effect. He approached the matter of peony breeding from the standpoint of the scientist and biologist; his background of plant culture; for he occupied a chair of biology in Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, and his subsequent work with the American Peony Society founding, helped him transplant ideas into living organisms that have been accepted as excellent and different from those of other breeders. Prof. Saunders was not a prolific breeder, at least his introductions have not been as great in numbers as contemporaries. This is probably due to the fact that he made his living as a teacher, and his breeding was but a hobby.

Destined to be a contemporary of somebody was a young man, who also as a salesman of fruit trees stock, established his own business at Fairbault, Minnesota, the edge of the hardwoods of the great Northwest. This was none other than O. F. Brand who heard the call of Greeley and obeyed it. He left Fon du Lac, Wisconsin, in 1867 and sold nursery stock on his pilgrimage west to the pioneers along the way. In the fall of 1870, he purchased the land where the offices and buildings of the Brand Peony Farms, now stands, and established what was known as the Fairbault Nursery. His business thrived. In 1894 Oliver Brand became interested in the peony, which had proved to be a hardy annual in that Northwest climate. At that time he started to build what was to be one of the World's largest Collection of peonies. His stock was shipped from far and near, with many importations coming to his collection.

In 1899 Archie M. Brand, completed his course in Law at the University of Minnesota. And it is evident that Archie Brand, one of several children of the O. F. Brand family, heard the silent call of a father engrossed in supplying the Northwest with fine trees and beautiful flowers and heeding this call went into business with his father. Or it could have been the great love for the peony and lilac that turned young Brand's attention to this opportunity, for he reiterates a story in the following lines that may have been the focal point about which his little being early in life recognized the beauty and fragrance of both the lilac and peony, and wanted to help develop its popularity.

"One evening, the latter part of May 1876, or 1877, (I think it was 1876) my mother was sitting out on the front door step of the old home and my father was puttering around among the trees and shrubs in the front yard. I, a little fellow of 5 or 6, was running around bare-

footed when my mother called to me to come and sit beside her. I did so and asked my mother what made the air smell so sweet. She answered, "you smell the lilacs, the lilacs are in bloom," and she pointed out 6 big lilac bushes in the front yard, which were in full bloom at the time. And then I noticed among the lilac bushes, several plants about two feet high, covered with great big, dark, red blossoms and asked her what they were, and she told me they were peonies. Peony *Teniifolia Flora Plena*, the early fern leaf peony."

This satisfied young Brand, and the memory of that incident remained fresh in his mind even to the present day, and it could have been such an incident that motivated Archie Brand during his life time to spend it with propagating and breeding his childhood fascinations.

Upon the affiliation of young Brand with the nursery, the work of breeding became intensified, and great plantings of seed, washtubs full to be exact, were planted and the best selected. The Brands relied upon the work of the bees and insects to give them crosses in their plantings. Segregated plantings of two or three select species would be made a great distance from other stock. Using an illustration in a three row planting, the two outside rows would be of one stock and the center row would be of a stock strong in pollen. This system brought out many fine plants and the Brand introductions between 1900 and 1930 ran into scores of new plants. Diversity in varieties with no end was in result of the system employed in breeding. Visualize the difference in Brand's stock such as: Brand's Magnificent, Chestine Gowdy, Richard Carvel, Mary Brand, among the earlier introductions of the Brands, and Blanch King, Dr. John Crenshaw, Hansina Brand, Mrs. Frank Beach and Krinkled White of the later introductions, and their Prairie Afire, and you can easily see that different parent stock was used for each new variety. Many closely alike in plant habit, size, color and shape of leaf yet with such a different flower, indicate that Mr. Brand was employing ideas all of his own in his breeding. His creations were outstanding for they now have been shipped to the four corners of the earth.

The formation of the American Peony Society in 1902 brought to a close the chaotic condition that existed in the peony world. Charles Willis Ward was the motivating spirit, and great assistance was given by Cornell University, Ithaca, New York through the help of Prof. J. Eliot Coit, Prof. John Craig and Dr. A. P. Saunders, three outstanding biologists. This led Cornell University to take the leadership in peony culture and eventually to publish information pertaining to the peony. Cornell University still has in print, Bulletin 321. Published April 1935, revised edition September 1941, which may be secured by writing to the Office of Extension Education at Cornell for a copy and enclosing 35¢. The influence of the American Peony Society has been far reaching and through the combined efforts of the peony connoisseur order was established out of a very chaotic condition and the peony was again established with a heritage of good repute.

EDITOR: This article will be followed by an article, "LOW AND BEHOLD WOMEN APPEAR."

(Essay Contest)

\* \* \*

## Growing Peonies in Texas — 1948

Living in Nebraska awhile I was familiar with the PEONY, having visited many times the Hans P. Sass field and the Rosefield nursery. Now in Texas for years I missed these most beautiful of all flowers. So believing that this beautiful flower should be planted in the proper manner to survive here, I dug trenches



three feet wide and two feet deep, gathered old sods, old manure and mixed well with large amounts of compost, superphosphate and gypsum and tamped them down hard in elevated rows. This will enable the plants to have food for years to come and because of the moderate climate here all plants were planted with eyes just showing through the soil and all watered in good and solid at that level.

Although I have around twenty-four (24) Peonies here in town, where the soil is real black and fertile, the ones I am writing about are in the country in sandy soil with clay sub-soil. I have over 300 plants, all one year old there, most all in the sun all day. Those in partial shade bloom later with better blooms. On April 25th the first color pushed through on *Marguerite Gerard*, *Tempest* and the Japs. The last to bloom, *Mme. Jules Dessert*, about May 22nd.

#### RED DOUBLE VARIETIES

*Philippe Rivoire*, 20 plants, not one bud.

*Veritas*, is Dwarf with me.

*Sam Donaldson*, and *Jean Cooperman* show fine promise.

*Topeka* and *Shawnee Chief* were good ones.

*Tempest* with three large beautiful blooms is among the best of all reds, it is extra fine.

*Big Ben* very prolific, beautiful plant. This is a very vigorous plant, dark scarlet in color, dark green leaves, immense and spectacular by far my best red.

My three one year old plants had four and six large blooms.

#### DOUBLE DARKER PINK

*Mons Jules Elie*, was good.

*August Dessert*, good growth. no buds.

*Blanche King*, Buds blasted.

*Queen of Sheba* and *Grace Baston*, no buds.

*Gigantea*, was very fine with four very large blooms.

*Souvenir-de-Louis Bigot*, bloomed with four wonderful flowers of brilliant rose.

*Mme. Emile Debatene*, the prolific first year growth of this wonderful Peony was no less than a miracle, opening from two to eight large beautiful dark Pink blooms, the color is clean and the plant fine, covered with dark green leaves by far the finest dark Pink and most beautiful of all my 18 different dark Pinks.

#### DOUBLE LIGHTER PINK

*Marguerite Gerard*, *Virginia Lee*, *Mme. Calot*, were all very good.

*Nick Shaylor*, *Myrtle Gentry*, buds blasted.

*Therese*, *Venus* and *Reine Hortense* were excellent for one year plants with two and four fine blooms on each plant.

*Mme. Jules Dessert* was especially fine.

*Marietta Sisson*, absolutely as prolific in growth and beauty in its field as

*Debatene* is superior in the dark Pinks, had from two to six beautiful large blooms of glowing Pink. Why is this not more popular?

#### DOUBLE WHITE

*Festiva Maxima*, *Mme de Verneville* were both very fine with large fine blooms. *Kelway's Glorious*, all three plants died in July.

*Nebraska* turned out to be some kind of double red.

*Francis Willard*, very fine blush white, this is far better than the price indicates. opens well in Texas, but the most beautiful double white of all is—

*Elsa Sass* with glorious tints of pink and velvet like texture, it's a soft warm large white and produced three wonderful blooms on each one year plant. I am ordering many more.

#### RED JAPS

Japs do well in Texas. Especially fine is *Autens*, novelty red Jap, *Fire Chief*, first year plants with four to eight blooms very fine color and fine plant.



*Nippon Prade* is another beauty, doing better for me than *Nippon Beauty* and *Nippon Brilliant*, no blooms on *Mikado* and *Mrs. Wilder Bancroft* for first year.

#### PINK JAPS

*Prairie Afire* was of great beauty but it does not last with me.

*Ama-No-Sode* was excellent as was *Nippon Princess* and *Gay Paree*, which have an odd shade of deep cerise, which, to me, is beautiful. They are very unusual.

#### WHITE JAPS

I have 6 plants only of a white Jap, *Isani-Gidui*, and it is all that the high rating gives it.

I also have two of *Autens* twice advanced seedlings No. 2379 and No. 2384 which did not bloom.

JAMES FUGARD



### Cast Your Bread . . . .

At the National Show in Guelph in '48, I learned a lesson in salesmanship which I feel should be passed on to other Peony enthusiasts. This is the way it happened.

While we were waiting for the banquet to get under way, I fell into conversation with a man who was a complete stranger to me. After some casual remarks about the show, we introduced ourselves and exchanged business cards. Then began what I recognized later as one of the cleverest selling approaches I have been subjected to. The conversation ran about as follows:

New Friend: Do you have Hems.?

Alex, (with mind still full of Peonies): Hens? No, I haven't had any chick . . . Oh! Hems. *Hemerocallis*. Yes a few. Ten or 12 of the old standard varieties such as *Hyperion*, *Ophir*, *Mikado*, and such. Nothing new. But I do have some seedlings due to bloom this summer that are supposed to be red. mahogany and other new colors.

N. F.: I suppose you have *Rosalind*?

Alex: No, I have never had that one.

N. F.: Well, that is a "must" for Hem. growers. It is the species *Fulva rosea* and is used in breeding the new reds and pinks. I'll send you one.

Alex: I'll certainly appreciate that.

N. F.: How about *Persian Princess*?

Alex: No.

N. F.: I'll send you that too. It is one of the better dark colored ones.

True to his promise, my New Friend sent me a nice plant of both varieties a short time later, and the *Rosalind* bloomed that summer. Following my letter of acknowledgement and thanks, he wrote me suggesting that I would find membership in the *Hemerocallis* Society most interesting and helpful, and offered to handle my application. I found myself hooked and being neatly landed before I realized what was happening. In view of the fact that catalog prices at that time were \$2.50 for *Rosalind* and \$4.00 for *Persian Princess*, I could hardly refuse to pay three dollars for membership in the Society. Furthermore, I found I had no inclination to refuse. The gift plants together with my New Friend's enthusiasm had awakened in me an interest in Hems. and a desire to learn something about a flower I had never paid much attention to. (Incidentally, I was able to supply my Friend with an old variety which I had checked in the originator's nursery so that he could check his own for authenticity. Thus I was able to reciprocate in small degree.)

So, the Hemerocallis Society acquired a new member and Hem. growers a new prospective customer. Or it would be more accurate to say ONE Hem grower, for I give you one guess as to whom I will buy Hems. from (after my most pressing Peony wants are satisfied).

The Peony Society, in common with all flower specialty clubs, needs members. Not only because more money is needed for the Bulletin and all activities, but because a steady influx is necessary for existence. Any organization which gets too few new members dies of old age sooner or later. To sell memberships in the Society, we must, first of all, sell the Peony as a flower worth getting steamed up about. True Peony enthusiasts are relatively few, and most of us are already members of the Society. So if we think of Peony fans only as prospective new members, we won't get far. Every flower lover, every backyard gardener, every householder who likes a well-landscaped home, should be looked on as a live prospect. But the first job is to sell him on Peonies. What better way than by giving him a sample? It is a cheap and most effective way of advertising if your product is good.

I am not suggesting that we go around giving away Peonies indiscriminately; discriminating judgement must be applied. Nor am I suggesting that we give away any Victory or Mattie Lafuze. But Festiva Maxima, Sarah Bernhardt, M. Jules Elie and many other old varieties are top notch, cheap and plentiful. A few of the leftovers (and what grower doesn't have some surplus now and then) judiciously placed as "samples" are likely to do both the grower and the Society much more good than they will on the trash heap. "Cast your bread . . ." is good advice in more than one sense.

W. A. ALEXANDER  
Bowling Green, Ohio



### "The Lorch"

Some peonies of recent origination have failed to live up to their campaign promises, for me at least, however, some really fine varieties introduced earlier have been badly neglected.

Such a peony is the Lorch, a German introduction of 1916, that evidently never got as widely distributed in America as it deserved.

Of the peonies I have grown, it is the one of which I can find no fault. There is a finish and refinement of the flower which is found in few peonies. It is classed as a white, but on opening or when handled as a cut flower indoors, the coloring is a gorgeous combination of white, pink, and yellow. The full double bloom, on a stiff stem, has overlapping petals around a rose center, and the fragrance is a delight.

Both the flower and plant of Lorch are medium size, but of perfect proportions. The root is healthy and clean and divides easily. It has bloomed regularly and abundantly the ten years I have grown it, every flower opening well.

I have wondered why this excellent peony is so seldom listed by growers. I believe Mr. Brand has cataloged it two or three times during the past twenty years.

As a show flower, it probably would be pushed aside by some of the giants. It was not shown at Rockford, nor, did I see it at the Milwaukee show last June.

F. O. HUBERT  
Beloit, Wisconsin

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# WHAT'S COOKIN' IN REGION NUMBER TWO?

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## Jake Rodimer Answers Some Questions

Dear Jake:

We need some dope for the December bulletin, our Gard-Em-Key section, that is?

I am writing out a few questions concerning various phases of peony experiences as viewed from where you are.

I will leave ample space for your answers. When I hear from you I will send in the whole shebang to W.F.C. hoping he will consider all our baloney interesting enough to broadcast it through the medium of the printed page.

I know I am always glad to hear of the mischief that the other growers are up to.

**QUESTION:** I have been carefully observing the grade of stuff you have entered in the three shows now; your flowers seem to have what it takes, the size is ample, the colors are clear and good and what I have seen of your plants they seem to be happy. What do you think are the main factors that account for this?

**ANSWER:** I think the first thing is proper soil preparation. Early in summer I dig a trench two feet wide and about twenty inches deep. A heavy layer of sod is placed in the trench and firmly packed. The soil is then replaced. Bone meal and wood ashes are worked into the ground at planting time. In the spring a couple of sprays consisting of a weak solution of bordeaux are used. All through the growing season a weekly hoeing keeps the soil loose and weed free.

**QUESTION:** Your soil is darker than any possessed by our other Sussex County growers. I note that the foliage of your plants is extra dark. Do you think dark soil has any particular bearing on foliage or bloom color? Are you willing to use a little Scotch soot on a few of your plants to see if that will accentuate the deep color further? I had a *Splendor* that won its way, I think because of its color, into the Court of Honor in Milwaukee. It surely was rich and dark and I'd give a lot to know why and how it got that way.

**ANSWER:** My soil is dark and deep, rich in humus. It is a heavy clay loam which is constantly wet. When this is further enriched by using compost it is an excellent soil and will grow plants much larger and stronger than the ordinary soil which is found in my locality. I noticed that my *Burma* which is only a year old bore one flower last spring which was exceptionally dark. As a matter of fact I couldn't conceive a flower so dark red that it was nearly black. As far as Scotch soot is concerned I would be willing to use it on some of my plants to see if it really did improve the color.

**QUESTION:** Have you made any use at all of that little brooklet you have on your place to keep the peonies going through our fearful drought of 1949?

**ANSWER:** No. I have observed that in the driest weather I have sufficient moisture and I find that moisture increasing the deeper I go below the surface. My peonies are fairly close to the brook and I think capillary attraction may bring the water up to the peony beds. The fact that my soil is a heavy clay loam and does not break up easily accounts for its ability to hold moisture for a long time.

**QUESTION:** Have you any occasion to state a preference between home grown or Western grown roots?

**ANSWER:** No. I have bought both Western and home grown roots and I find one does as well as the other. The only advantage, if there is one, is that the home bought roots are only out of the ground for a couple of days before they are planted whereas the Western ones are out of the ground for a longer period of time and dry out some.

**QUESTION:** Tell me a little about your disbudding refrigerator experience. What would be your idea of the model refrigerator set up for use in connection with show flowers?

**ANSWER:** My first year I did not disbud but I did the following year, leaving five to seven blooms to three year plants, and was quite surprised at the results obtained. The flowers were much larger and stronger stemmed. Without refrigeration one would not be able to hold many flowers, particularly early and mid season varieties. I have kept some of my early blooms twenty days and when brought out of refrigeration a day or two before the show they burst out in all their glory and were in perfect shape at judging time. The peony grower who

is fortunate in having a walk-in box could refrigerate his peonies to perfection as he would have plenty of floor space for tables plus room above for shelves and racks. I find the best temperature is 32 to 36. I think it would be impossible to get good results from the ordinary house refrigerator because of lack of room to properly place your flowers.

**QUESTION:** Have you lost any plants since you got into the peony game and what seemed to be the trouble?

**ANSWER:** Yes. I have lost two, *Hansina Brand* and *Daniel Boone*. In both cases the plants weakened and died. When the roots were removed they were completely dry and withered. I have no idea what caused this condition but would welcome information on root disease. I have a *Mrs. John M. Kleitsch* that developed beautifully for two years but in 1949 it sent up a few spindling shoots and I expect to lose this plant. 1950 will decide the matter.

**QUESTION:** What about the big fellows that are slow hard openers? Do you have any varieties that refuse to open at all?

**ANSWER:** Yes I have one, *Grace Loomis*, that gives an enormous hard bud and then very reluctantly opens up and is seldom ready for mid June shows. It eventually opens up and would make an excellent show bloom. I do not have any that refuse to open at all.

**QUESTION:** What were your honest to goodness impressions of the New York show last year? Do you feel like offering any criticisms that might be helpful in running our next Sussex effort which will be in conjunction with the N. Y. Horticultural Society people and their Rose show? I think you know this is to be the first Regional Show for our Number Two Area also.

**ANSWER:** I think the New York show was an excellent one. There are several improvements, however, that I should like to suggest. Having to set up the entire show in the morning and get ready for judging by noon made a mad-house out of the place. There were only four or five people to get everything ready and it was a physical impossibility for them to be everywhere at the same time which was what everybody seemed to expect. As it turned out, there were several distant exhibitors who did not get their blooms in the show. Personally, I like the idea of setting up the show early in the morning so as to be ready for the judging by noon. By 2 o'clock the show should be ready to open to the public. There were so many people milling around when the judging was in progress that I was surprised the judges could do it at all. Another thing was the shifting of the exhibits after they were placed to make room for a mass display which had not been planned for until the last minute. Then the last minute changes in rules were very discouraging. The new exhibitors seemed scared to put their stuff in, probably due to the ponderous schedule, which would really scare you silly. There was no plan laid out for the most effective display of the peonies, just rows of tables with all displays arranged on one level. There were so many classes in the schedule that only half of them had any entries and the balance had none at all or only one.

**QUESTION:** It always seems to me that the fellowship that one has with all the peony fans at the shows is as delightful as the treat of studying the flowers themselves. Is this your experience also?

**ANSWER:** I have met some very wonderful people at the peony shows and I value this experience just as much as I do the actual show itself. The give and take of a show, the renewing of peony acquaintances and the acquisition of new friends is a real adventure never to be forgotten.

**QUESTION:** Do you care to tell us of any mistakes you have made in your peony venture?

**ANSWER:** He who has not made mistakes has not achieved. As for mistakes I have probably far exceeded my quota. My worst problem has been accurate timing to have blooms in perfect condition on the day of the big show. I had a number of potential winners for 1949 that failed to make the grade because I refrigerated them before the buds had reached the "mushroom" stage. Although I moved them to a warm room several days before the show they failed to open until several days after the show ended. They proved to be the finest blooms of the season for me. You can well imagine my disappointment and chagrin.

**QUESTION:** What are your actual reactions to the shindig we have at the van Loon dump every winter? Give us the low down on this proposition Jake, and candidly, as I have contended that one get-together for the American Peony Society in a year is not enough.

**ANSWER:** My wife and I look forward to this shindig as one of the bright events of a cold Sussex County winter. When the snow lies deep and white and the peony plants are snugly covered with a soft blanket it is fitting that we look into the future, both ours and that of the peony plants. The give and take of this meeting as we lay the plans for our June show, the fellowship involved, the delicious food, make the meeting unforgettable. I do, however, feel that in view of the enormous project ahead of us in 1952, quarterly meetings would be advantageous.

**QUESTION:** Now Jake, you old scoundrel, who really scares you the most when you think of the free-for-all, drag-em-out affair in 1952 A.D.? Or are you not scared of anybody? Now don't bluff like I do. I do a lot of bragging when I am really scared stiff, and I have noted for some time that as soon as I start to brag at the bowling alley or on the golf course that old pill, whether she be large or small, will not mind me anymore.

**ANSWER:** I don't scare—at least visibly. Seriously I am not going to let any of the old-timers and first raters buffalo me one little bit. As for bluffing you know, Neal, like you, I'm very much of an open book and definitely make a poor bluffer. By 1952 I will have an established five and six year old planting. I have some real hot stuff that ought to make a few of the big fellows jump. Anyhow I will have my heart and my best blooms in the show, and let the other fellow put in better blooms and a bigger heart if he has them.

**QUESTION:** I note with pleasure that your wife is building up a swell collection of peonies. Does her prospective thunder at the future shows sound ominous to you? Supposing she should white-wash you. What do you intend to do? I think if I know you at all it will mean nylons or a new gown and not floggings. What are the triple threat varieties she leans on most?

**ANSWER:** Well, Neal, you know my wife's enthusiasm, and that she packs a big wallop. She threatens me periodically and when I read her list of plantings I can hear some dangerous rumblings. She is an avid peony reader, a never-say-die creature and very show conscious. This coupled with the fact that she has the same soil conditions that I have (plus some planting assistance from her husband) and a list of peonies that includes such numbers as *Sky Pilot*, *Miss America*, *Tondelyo*, *Chocolate Soldier*, *Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt*, and *Dancing Nymph*, makes me look the situation over seriously. However, I do not anticipate too much of a beating. Why not suggest that I do the white-washing instead and become the recipient of a new pipe or a twenty dollar peony root?

**QUESTION:** There are several hellions out in the middle west that are the real battle-scarred and hard-bitten veterans. I know, for I have plenty of bruises to prove it. Bigger, Lindgren, Volz, Karrels, Gayle and Goddard are a few of them. Wow! kazoeko! How these gentlemen can kick you in the shins! What do you suggest as the most effective means to head them off in '52 the red letter year

of all history? Now do not dodge by saying "Get there fustest with the mostest and bestest," that was just about what William Tecumseh Sherman said; remember? Now give me a sensible answer.

*ANSWER:* I expect to see all of the fellows you mention get something out of the 1952 show even though it is only an honorable mention. We can't be too rough on them or they will never condescend to be participants in any more of our shows. Names really mean nothing, it is the plants produced and the results obtained from them that counts. Enough badinage. I honestly hope that some of these fellows will be able to put in some exceptional blooms and receive an occasional blue ribbon. At any rate I'm for putting on some shin pads and wading in. As to the best means of heading these fellows off in 1952, I would like to suggest that we act as a team and not as individuals for it is perfect teamwork that really wins the game. We should pay special attention to keep our plants healthy, cultivate more intensely and fertilize lightly and often. We should also try to help one another in the little details of perfect showmanship. Finally we must remember that "Trifles make perfection but perfection is no trifle." There is no doubt in my mind that if we all get together and work toward this goal we will reap a rich reward.

*QUESTION:* Just because of your great love for me will you not stick your neck out a minute and make some predictions of things to come, the outcome for example, of the East-West tussle. Win, lose or draw? Who? What? Why? How? And now, Jake, finally thanks for the good answers I know you will have for all my questions. I sure hope the rest of the tyros will get a bit of fun or enlightenment out of our gab concerning the doings in Region Number Two and about peonies in general. And I am warning you personally that I am going to sic my heavy weights—*Edulis Superba* and *Alba Surphurea* on you next year and again in '52.

So long then,  
V. L.

*ANSWER:* Never having been in a joust with the western tyros it is a little difficult for me to predict the outcome for 1952. Judging from the way you have been taking blue ribbons in the past few years in competition with them and the enthusiasm of the peony fans of Region 2, I think the East has an even chance of getting the majority of wins. I have observed the class of flowers we have had in our shows and they reveal a steady improvement. If this continues, Messrs. West & Sons watch out! We are definitely on our way. As for *Edulis Superba*, if you sic that creature on me I'll chase you off with *Festiva Maxima*, my special in the heavy weight class.

Jake Rodimer

✻   ✻   ✻

**The Annual Peony and Rose Show of the  
OF THE  
New York Horticultural Society  
COMBINED WITH**

The First REGIONAL SHOW for New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania—  
The American Peony Society.

ASSISTED BY

The Great Neck Men's Garden Club

The Sussex County Peony Society

To Be held in the Colonades Ball Room of the ESSEX HOUSE

Fifty-ninth Street, New York City, N.Y. June 13-14th, 1950



*SCHEDULE PEONIES*

1. 25-30 varieties, one bloom each in separate containers. 60% must be double or semi-double. Prize, the Silver Medal of the American Peony Society.
2. *Boost your State*. Ten varieties, any type, one bloom each, in separate containers. First prize \$10.00 cash, second prize \$3.00. This class sponsored by the Sussex County Planning Board.
3. *Grace and Beauty*. Five blooms, alike or different, in separate containers. any size, type or color. Grace and Beauty will be the only criterion.

Prize—\$10.00 cash donated by the President of the Regional Board.  
Mr. N. R. van Loon.

4. *Your Favorite Reds*. Five blooms, any type, alike or different, each in a separate container.

Prize—\$10.00 cash, donated by Mrs. Margaret Losey for the Sussex County Peony Society.

*GROUP II.*

Specimen Classes, one bloom. Open to all. Double and/or semi-double.

5. White
6. Blush or flesh
7. Light pink
8. Medium pink
9. Deep pink
10. Red

Semi-double, stamens must be plainly evident.

11. Any color

*Japanese type.*

12. White or blush
13. Pink
14. Red

*Single*

15. White or blush
16. Pink
17. Red

*Herbaceous Hybrids*

18. Double or semi-double, any color.
19. Japanese or single, any color.

*Tree Peonies*

20. Any type or color.

*Group III*

THREES, three blooms in separate containers. any type. Open to all.

21. White or blush, one variety.
22. Light pink, one variety.
23. Deeper pink, one variety.
24. Red, one variety.
25. One each, white, pink and red.

*Group IV*

*Seedlings and New Varieties. Open to all.*

26. Seedlings, never divided, one to three blooms.
27. New variety, under name or number, stock has been offered for sale since 1948, or is now offered. One to three blooms.

*Group V*

*Miscellaneous*--Open only to amateurs who sell neither blooms nor roots, and who grow not more than thirty plants.

28. 10-15 varieties, one bloom each, in separate containers. 60% must be double or semi-double.
29. Three blooms in separate containers. One variety, any type, or color.
30. Three blooms in separate containers, one each white, pink and red, any type.
31. One specimen white.
32. One specimen pink.
33. One specimen red.
34. One specimen, either Japanese single, herbaceous hybrid or tree peony, any color.

#### *Court of Honor*

These blooms are all automatically chosen during the regular judging, except for the Popularity Queen and the Champion of the Court of Honor.

35. Best white and blush from classes 5 and 6.
36. Best pink from classes 7, 8, and 9.
37. Best red from class 10.
38. Best semi-double from class 11.
39. Best Japanese from Classes 12, 13 and 14.
40. Best single from classes 15, 16 and 17.
41. Best herbaceous hybrid from classes 18 and 19.
42. Best tree peony from class 20.
43. Best amateur specimen from classes 21 to 24.
44. Best seedling or new variety from classes 26 and 27.

\* \* \* \* \*

45. *Popularity Queen.* The most popular specimen as decided by public ballots, given out between the hours of 1 and 4 P.M. the first day. Placed at 5 P.M. The champion of the Court of Honor is not to be considered.

Prize—The Silver Trophy of the Regional Board, donated by Mr. Louis Smirnow.

46. *Champion of the Court of Honor.*

Prize—The Silver Trophy of the New York Horticultural Society.

\* \* \* \* \*

Special notes and rules of immediate interest to prospective exhibitors.

1. You may win one, two or three awards in each class as the case may be.
2. Do not enter more than a total of about fifty blooms unless you can bring them yourself and care for them.
3. Ship so that your box will arrive the day before the show, if possible, and only by air or railway express. All shipments must be fully prepaid and directed to the address furnished in the complete schedule of the New York Horticultural Society available later.
4. Label every bloom in the shipment plainly.
5. Send Mr. Smirnow, 6 Hartley Road, Great Neck, L.I., N.Y. an approximate listing of what you will try to send us, several days before the show.
6. For the good of all of us and for the good of the show, no flowers will be staged if crushed or injured, or past their prime, or not open.
7. We urge you to ship in a box of double walled construction, using light wood for a frame and corrugated pasteboard or plywood for the covering. Packed cold and air-tight, and buds bagged for a protecting cushion, your flowers should arrive in perfect condition.
8. All Court of Honor Winners will receive suitable prizes.

LOUIS SMIRNOW, General Chairman

NEAL R. VAN LOON, Chairman of  
Committee in charge of schedule,  
floor and staging.

## Tree Peony Thoughts

During the last two years I received tree peonies in young and old plants from France, Belgium, Korea, China and Japan. As I examined these plants I was amazed at the different methods of grafting used by the growers in every country. In one shipment of two year old plants received from Japan, it was surprising to observe that the scion grafted on herbaceous root was barely joined at the union. It appeared to be pasted on instead of the usual wedge shaped graft.

Another item of interest was the observation that the herbaceous understock on the better plants were young stock instead of the half inch or one inch thick understock used here. The development of the root system on the young understock was superior to the thick, heavier understock seen in this country. It therefore, seems to me the ideal understock is young plants no more than two or three years old of varieties such as *Mons. Jules Elie*, *Baroness Schroeder*, *Marietta Sisson* and other vigorous varieties. I grafted a few plants two years ago using as understock *Nancy Dolman*, *Florence Nicholls* and *Grace Batson* the results are really promising. I prefer understock of thick upright stems.

\* \* \* \* \*

Speaking of young plants, the Tree peony purchaser should understand that a two year old graft is a small plant and will not bloom before the second spring after planting. Too often the purchaser expects a big blooming size plant when he purchases a two year old or pot grown plant and is disappointed. Some of my best plants were purchased as small grafts of two or three years and are now fine young specimens. A good way to add to your collection is to purchase two year old plants; set them out and wait for them to mature.

\* \* \* \* \*

I have just received from a secluded spot in Japan two fine plants of *Gessekai* grafted on *Paulonia* understock—the grower speaks highly of this cross, and next October I will bring in to my garden over one hundred Japanese tree peonies grafted on *Paulonia*, *Camellia* and other plants and shrubs. Seems difficult to believe that these crosses can be effective, but seeing is believing. When I go to Japan in May I shall visit this garden and see for myself.

\* \* \* \* \*

With the popularity of the Tree Peony on the increase constantly, new methods of propagation are continuously tried. John C. Wister is now trying to propagate at Swarthmore by cuttings. In a recent letter to me he reported poor results but is continuing on with the hope for success. Another method used by Lewis S. Blyth of Medford, Oregon is by means of leaf cuttings. I quote from his letter to me of Sept. 19, 1949.

“Regarding the rooting of tree peonies: I took the entire leaf stalk or petiole, trimmed the leaves slightly and put under double glass with about sixty-five degrees heat in half peat and half sand. I watched the moisture closely, not allowing the cuttings to get too damp. Next year I will insert each cutting in a five inch pot, using the same bench medium. The roots are too long and too brittle for open rooting. Also they are hard to get out of five inches of sand.

In about thirty days after they bloom, or whenever the axil bud has fairly well developed, take the entire petiole, including, of course, the axil bud with as small a piece of wood possible and inset immediately. They will root in a little less than four months. You can see this will be a fine way to propagate these plants as they will be true to parent stock.”

\* \* \* \* \*

Two or three Tree Peony nurserymen have taken issue with me because I have mentioned *Gessekai* and *Hanakiso* as the outstanding white and Pink Japanese varieties. They are absolutely correct about this for *Tamasudare*.

*Suishohaku*, *Hira no yuki*, *Renkaku*, *Haku banriu*, *Genkimon*, *Okina jishi*, *Haku raku ten* are equally good whites and *Momoyama*, *Shintenchii*, *Sakura jishi*, *Yae Zakura*, *Yachiyo tsubaki*, *Kasuga yama*, and *Horen* are magnificent pinks.

1. *Higurashi*—One of the best of the full deep rose type with shades of scarlet at the base of the petals.
2. *Hodai*—A vivid carmine, full double.
3. *Yachiyo toubaki*—A beautiful semi-double, petals of heavy texture of purest bright pink holding its color while in the sun. This variety lends itself to forcing.
4. *Nissho*—Perhaps the best of the scarlet, a true bloomer, very popular variety.
5. *Ima Shojo*—A deep red semi-double of the very finest free bloomer, great favorite.
6. *Hinode sekai*—A low growing plant, free blooming brilliant bright red, full double bloomer.

\* \* \* \* \*

Am happy to report I received plants of *Coriacea* from Morocco. The plants arrived in poor condition and am striving to keep them growing.

\* \* \* \* \*

The *Lutea* hybrids grown in Japan prior to World War II bearing the following names: *Kinshi*, *Kintei*, *Kinkaku*, *Kinko* and *Kinyo* are in reality the French *lutea* hybrids. *Alice Harding*, *L'Esperance*, *Chromatella*, *La Lorraine* and *Souvenir de Maxime Cornu*. There is a difference of opinion as to which is which but I will unscramble these names in the near future. The Japanese growers in the early 1920's imported these from France and gave them Japanese names.

\* \* \* \* \*

Tree peonies were grown in Japan for medicinal purposes before the War. It seems the pulverized roots secrete a substance which adds a sweet flavor to the medicines in Japan. Tree peonies raised from seed were used for this purpose.

\* \* \* \* \*

A heavy thick paste of Bordeaux mixture applied in April and early May on Tree Peony plants have been helpful to prevent Botrytis. This should be applied again after blooming and early September.

\* \* \* \* \*

Tree peonies thrive in soil with good drainage, not too rich in humus.

\* \* \* \* \*

This matter of nomenclature is in need of adjustment. In the near future the American Peony Society should undertake this task. It is my intention to do some real work on this matter and will endeavor to bring back some information from Japan when I get there in May.

LOUIS SMIRNOW

\* \* \*

## Putting the Garden to Bed

### A. PROTECTING PLANTS IN WINTER

#### 1. *Hardiness of Plants*

Hardiness is not only the ability to withstand low temperature. It includes the capacity to stop and start growth at the most opportune time in fall and in spring and to resist effectively the fatal loss of moisture which may be caused when the winter sun or drying winds act upon the frozen twigs, buds, or evergreen leaves.

Hardiness implies the ability to remain dormant or at rest during prolonged warm spells in the later part of winter and to send the roots down deep enough to reach beyond the destructive influence of violent changes in temperature which are frequently in the upper exposed layers of soil.

## 2. *Winter Protection*

The winter protection of plants is not an effort to keep the plants warm by wrapping them up. A plant has no body heat which might be preserved by a warm covering. It will be just as cold a few hours later as if it had never had protection. A plant which dies from the effect of frost at a temperature near the freezing point cannot be kept alive outdoors. Only artificial heat in a greenhouse will sustain it over winter.

- a. The real danger to perennial plants does not come in winter, but in spring with its alternate freezing and thawing.
- b. A covering which protects the plant against the drying effect of our sun or wind if applied to the ground around the plant will prevent violent changes of temperature and in the moisture content of the soil mean the life or death of the plant.
- c. A mulch covering of the ground around the plant applied after freezing actually keeps the plant cool during periods of warm weather to follow. This stops any early growth that might be killed by later frosts.
- d. Plants should not be closely covered around the roots or crown. This prevents circulation of the air and creates a moist condition conducive to the decay of the plant.

## B. TYPES OF PROTECTION

### 1. *Mulches*

- a. *Soil Mulch*—Soil banked up around rose and similar plants, 6-10 inches after the first light frost and before the ground freezes too hard to work protects the plant from extreme changes in temperature and moisture.
- b. *Straw*, marsh hay—applied after ground is frozen.
- c. *Corn Cobs*, ground, buckwheat hulls (1 bushel to 10 square feet. 1 cubic yard to 300 square feet)—excellent for light mulch.
- d. *Evergreen boughs*—Excellent, especially where air circulation is important.
- e. *Leaves*—apt to pack too close when used alone.
- f. *Ashes*—Excellent—applied after ground is frozen two or three inches deep over delphinium plants.
- g. *Corn stalks*.
- h. *Green mulches* such as wheat, rye and clover.
- i. *Screens*.
- j. *Wrapping* such as straw and corn stalks.

## C. PROTECTION OF COMMON PLANTS, TREES AND SHRUBS

1. *Perennials*, especially if newly planted, require a mulch of loose texture material such as straw or leaves. No material which will mat down should be used on perennials such as foxgloves, hollyhocks, sweet william, and violas.

It is better to use cornstalks or watertight boxes filled with leaves and inverted over the plant. Apply the mulch after the ground is frozen.

2. *Bulbs* require a mulch of leaves, manure or litter. If bulbs are planted early, they may be mulched after the ground freezes. Late planted bulbs should be mulched immediately after planting to keep the ground warm as long as possible to help root growth.

3. *Roses* such as hybrid teas and hybrid perpetuals can be carried over by hilling up the soil about the plants to a height of six or eight inches, then covering the plants with hardwood leaves to a depth of 24 inches.

4. *Trees and Shrubs* will be benefitted by a mulch of strawy manure. Tender plants may be protected by screens or by completely covered with straw or burlap, the covering being bound with raffia or twine.

5. *Evergreens* are benefitted by mulches of straw or leaves. If the fall season is a dry one, it is advisable to water evergreens before the ground freezes.

6. *Water Lilies*—The one condition necessary for safe wintering of hardy water lilies is to see that the roots are not actually frozen. Under normal conditions hardy water lilies, lotus and native aquatics winter in the ponds under water and seldom need protection unless the water gets very low. In small pools where the hardy plants are planted in boxes or in the bottom of the pool, it is advisable to drain the pool and fill it with leaves. If the roots are planted in boxes, remove from the boxes and store in a cool basement, leaving them covered with moist burlap until spring.

**PEONIES**—Newly planted peonies should be mulched the first season to prevent heaving. Marsh hay, straw, and any other loose mulch will be satisfactory. After the plants are established it will not be necessary to mulch them.

**WINTER CONDITIONS**—The use of winter protection from the weather can be divided into the elements and their effects during the winter months; sun, wind and cold are the ones that are important. Water, unless the soil is flooded, usually has little effect in normal seasons or unless there is a severe fall drought.

**SUN**—Winter sun can be disastrous to many plants. Actually we are closer to the sun during the winter season than in the summer, but the angle of the rays makes its heat less intense. There are times and situations when even the low winter rays can be very damaging. Bright sunlight, following hard freezing of the soil, can cause such a drying of the leaves on evergreens that bad cases of sunscald result. This is the so-called winter burn. Generally, only the south side of the plant or tree will be effected, or the greatest damage will occur there. This is the reason why rhododendrons should be planted for winter shade. Other evergreens can, and do suffer, in many winters, especially when planted on the south of foundations where the sun is reflected and the heat is held.

Sun may also be trapped in pockets, as in southeast exposures, and cause an excessive heating of the soil and plants, resulting in an early growth that is killed by night frosts.

Where there is reason to suspect that winter sun can create trouble, a screen of burlap, evergreen branches, wattle fencing, or some other device to cast shade will do the trick.

Perennials and bulbs in southeast exposures may be held back by shading the soil heavily after it has frozen. In many cases, however, the sun is not the worst offender.

**WIND**—Wind has some of the same effects as sun, but again it is usually in some special spot. The effect of the wind is to dry plants, and a continuous blast of wind, when the ground is frozen, will act in the same way as a drought. Usually it is only evergreen located in drafty spots that will be hurt by normal winter winds. Treatment for these spots is similar to that for sun. Use a wind-break of some material to protect the plants. Generally plants that are affected by winter winds will also be affected by hot summer ones, and some permanent treatment should be done to correct these windy spots, or to plant plants that are tough enough to absorb this punishment.

**COLD**—Low temperatures may be disastrous to some plants. We are proud to say that this is not true of peonies. We all know that palms, tomatoes, oranges and many other plants will perish from the effects of low temperatures. In some plants the tops are more sensitive to cold than the roots, and they will die back to the ground if the temperature goes too low. Clematis, buddleia, some climbing roses, many hybrid teas, duetzia and occasionally forsythia fall into this group, some of these will only be injured in very exceptional winters.

Ripeness of the wood is also a factor in surviving cold. Young wood is much more sensitive than full matured wood. This is one of the big reasons against fall planting of many plants, and especially roses. They generally do not ripen sufficiently for proper fall planting in this particular climate. In an occasionally bad winter they will perish completely. Better one season of bloom than the risk of none.

The effects of cold can be mitigated somewhat by the protection of the soil. That is why banking up is practiced with plants that die back to the roots. The soil is less cold than the air.

Mulching is good protection as it slows up the changes in the soil temperature. Black, or other dark colors, absorb heat rapidly and become very warm. This is true of dark soils when the sun shines. Mulching, by preventing the sun from shining on the dark soil will prevent the rapid thawing of the surface during a bright day that will then freeze during the night. It is the expansion of the ice in the upper frozen layer of soil over the thawed portion that lifts the tops of perennials and tears off the lower roots that are still embedded in the frozen lower soil. This is known as heaving, and its prevention is simple. Keep the sun from shining directly on the soil. Any loose or light colored material will do. Hay, straw, excelsior, vermiculite, glass wool, leaves of kinds that do not pack, evergreen branches are some of the materials employed. Shades of boards or burlap will also serve to shade some plants.

Mulching also has an advantage in that the insulating qualities of a layer of material on top of the soil will prevent the soil from becoming warmed up too rapidly on a warm winter day.

Mulching may be done at any time. If there is apt to be trouble from rodents, delay mulching until the ground is frozen and mice and other rodents have found winter protection, but if you are not bothered with mice, rabbits, etc., then the mulches can be put on at any time. Mulches do not warm the soil but merely slow up the changes so that brief, warm spells do not penetrate and thaw the soil.



## Announcing

Paul F. Frese, Charles M. Winchester, Jr., and Frank A. Hodges, Jr., formerly with Flower Grower magazine, announce that they are now associated in publishing an entirely new magazine for home gardeners titled.

## Popular Gardening

Mr. Frese is editor; Mr. Hodges is advertising manager; and Mr. Winchester is publisher.

The editorial and advertising offices are at 141 East 44th Street, New York 17, N. Y.; the executive office of Mr. Winchester is at 90 State St., Albany, N. Y.

The first issue of POPULAR GARDENING will appear about February 20, 1950.



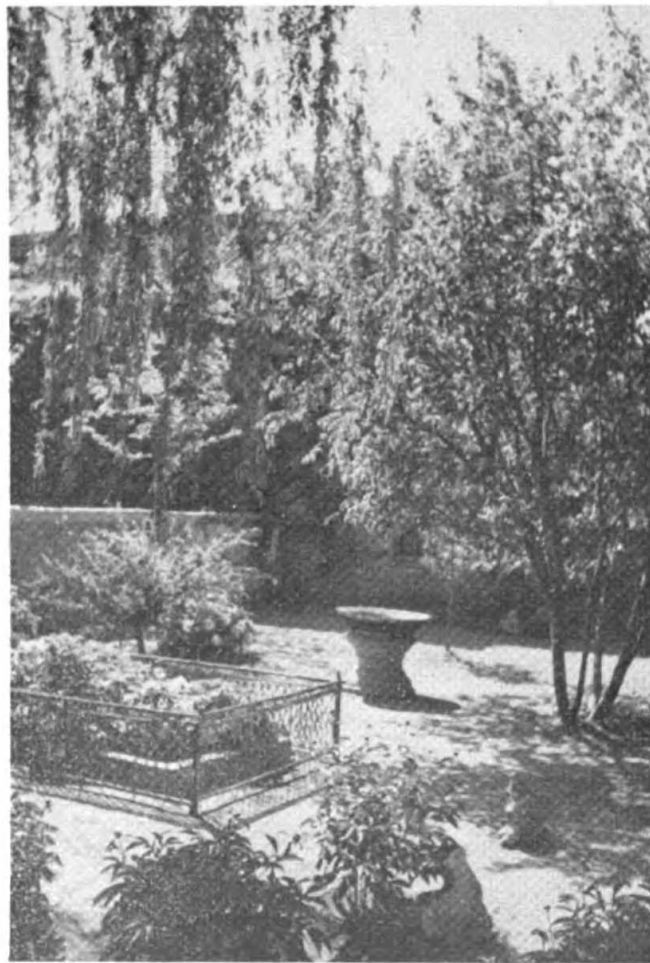
## Peonies in China

Tales of a green peony sent a visiting Gardener in Peiping to the Peony Temple. There he found it, sure enough. A Tree Peony the color of green pea soup with a luscious golden cluster of stamens in the centre. In one sense, however, the comparison to pea soup is a libel. For the green petals were thin and transparent with the faintest silvery sheen.

Over it bent an old Chinese gentleman, watching and waiting while a bud slowly spread and opened under his eyes. It did not move too slowly for his Chinese tempo of appreciation. He stayed by it with no more motion than the unfolding flower itself. His face was hidden. Yet his inner joy, his oneness with the flower, were transmitted like excitement to his neighbors.

Overhead a canopy on temporary stilts protected both man and plant from the midday sun. Tree peonies falter in hot sunlight and in China it is common to raise awnings over whole beds of favorite plants. Moreover, it is not unusual to see a sort of private tent put up around a peony of particular merit when it develops among other, less valued specimens.

Low trellis fences, too, defend favorite peonies in the garden. One plant or a small bed will be enclosed, a signal mark of esteem for individuals where most of the plants get along with no more guarding than is provided by the high surrounding garden wall.



Bamboo fence surrounding bed of valued peonies in Peiping. Otherwise the planting appears haphazard. As usual, picturesque stones are associated with peony plants.

It is the Tree Peony which receives most reverent attention in China. It is kept down to three or four feet in height; pruned back to very few picturesque stems and often painstakingly "arranged" like a flower picture, with one or two fantastic, pitted rocks alone in the open courtyard. Up in the mountains near Wu T'ai Shan, the wild Moutan grows twice as high as a man, becoming a coarse, rugged shrub with hundreds of flowers.

The perennial "Chinese" Peony is much grown, too. And it provides the gardener with opportunities for "Flower Arrangements" which are a lesson to American gardeners. In Central Park in Peiping, a promising plant is examined. The best blossoms of the day are spread out and held on bamboo stakes. Yesterdays faded flowers are released from their supports and are forgotten. Heavy buds are straightened and tied to practically invisible bamboo tubes, just pliable enough to support but not stiffen the stem. The whole plant is made a "Flower Arrangement" for the day. And it is observed and admired by the multitude.

Aside from their specialized protection and arrangement, the most remembered use of peonies in Chinese design is the manner in which they are planted in narrow "Peony Terraces" along the base of temples and sometimes out in open gardens. These shelves are rarely more than three feet wide, often one back of another on stone retaining walls two feet high. This brings the flowers to the height of a man's eye and banks plants up one behind another in splendid fashion. Moreover, the strong stone walls provide fine architectural steps up to the major terraces on which the buildings are set.



A Peony Garden in China showing tent set over one specially valued plant during the blossoming period only.

Other shrubs and perennials are grown in Chinese gardens. But none is remembered which compares with the Peony for garden use everywhere. Evidently it has won deep affectionate regard through the centuries until now it is the one indispensable companion to the gardener.

FLETCHER STEELE  
Landscape Architect  
Boston, Mass.



Temporary canopy built over Tree Peonies during the flowering season. An old Chinese gentleman watches an opening bud. *Rosa Lugoniz* in the background.



"Flower Arrangement" made of a living Peony in the Chinese garden. Various flowers are held out or recessed with the aid of slight bamboo stakes as shown in the photograph.



Arrangement of Tree Peonies and picturesque rocks in a Chinese courtyard garden.



Peony Terrace built against the foundation walls of a temple at Tan C'hih SSu

# Secretary's Notes

## WINTER COLORS

A pale loveliness cloaks the plains in winter—  
 Pale blue the sky and like pale honey are the barren fields.  
 Pale in the thin dry air—sun washed.  
 Pale, pale colors born of the western sun.

Willows by the creek stand etched in gold,  
 And lavender-grey low growing shrubs add soothing tones.  
 Cottonwoods raise branches grey as weathered bones  
 That shine with an eerie light when drenched with winter sun.

Shall I be thankful for the beauty there.  
 Or for the power to see and feel this loveliness?  
 Some see it every day yet sense it not—  
 This miracle they take for granted.

(Louise Black)

How lovely winter is summed up in the above verses. Many of us fail to see the loveliness that winter brings. We have put our gardens to sleep for a few fleeting months; we can now formulate our plans for the coming year, the year 1950. We will soon step over the threshold of the coming year with varied reactions. Some of us may have experienced failures with our garden projects; some of us more fortunate are elated on our success and are planning greater triumphs for the coming year. To those of you who may not have achieved your ambition, let me say that this is a great challenge to your ability as a gardener, and I trust you will meet this challenge with a firm determination and a definite purpose in mind to be successful the coming year. Often these failures are the stepping stones to future successes that are beyond our present power to visualize.

It takes unlimited patience and years of hard work to be a successful gardener—one cannot achieve this ambition over night. It has been my privilege to speak to many thousands of gardeners in my span of life and it always affords me great satisfaction to meet the gardener who is not easily discouraged, but who smiles at his failures and tries, tries again. This fellow is bound to succeed.

Life is not always easy, it wasn't intended to be so by our Maker. Ruskin has beautifully expressed it in the following lines:

"God has lent us the earth for our life. It is a great entail. It belongs as much to those who are to come after us as to us, and we have no right by anything we do or neglect, to involve them in any unnecessary penalties, or to deprive them of the benefits which was in our power to bequeath."

By passing on the knowledge we have acquired during our life time, we can enrich the lives of others and make the road to success just a little easier to travel. I have yet to meet the man or woman who has not experienced failures in their garden activities, or as a matter of fact I have never met the



person who has not experienced failures in their lifetime. They are scattered along the journey of life as stepping stones to greater achievement and perseverance.

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As I am writing these notes Christmas presents are piled up all around me, all of them beautifully wrapped and ready for the mail, as some of them will go across the country to California and other distant points. Christmas carols are being sung on radio and television sets. It is the time of year when it is rather hard to think of peonies but we can sneak in a few thoughts about our favorite flower.

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I have planted a considerable amount of seed and am hoping to get at least one that I can approve. The chances are very much against my being successful in this venture but I can try, can't I? You see I am not very optimistic at the present time for I did not have the time to hand pollinize this seed, which is the only real way to get results. Even hand pollination leaves much to be desired, but it is the best method I know of. I also planted several new varieties that I have never seen. This consists of both *Sinensis* and *Specie* peonies. I am adding these *specie* hybrid peonies to extend the season of bloom and to also enjoy their beauty. Have some tree peonies and expect to add a few more to my collection another year. With the thousands of new seedlings that will make their appearance in my garden next year, tree peonies and hybrids, there should be many things of interest to meet the eye. Of course I do not expect the seedlings to show any bloom for another year or two, but what a lot of pleasure I will get out of waiting to see them when they do appear.

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While we exercise considerable care in trying to avoid errors, they do creep in unnoticed. I am just in receipt of a letter from Mr. Pope M. Long of Cordova, Alabama relative to his article in bulletin No. 114 from which I quote as follows:

"I thank you for publishing my article, but an error occurs in my comments on *Philippe Rivoire* that completely changes my meaning. After saying that *Philippe Rivoire* was extremely fragrant, I intended to say, (and my copy does say), "A flower without fragrance is a flower without a soul. You may admire it but you cannot love it." As published in bulletin it leaves out, "A flower without fragrance is a flower without a soul, etc." and reads, "A flower without a soul," etc., making me say *Philippe Rivoire* was a flower without a soul, you may admire it but you cannot love it, which is the opposite of what I intended. *Philippe Rivoire* certainly has a delightful fragrance and I love it, as one of the most esteemed reds. Very old but still rated near the top of reds."

We regret this error very much. Mr. Pope has been very gracious in supplying us with very informative articles on the behavior of peonies in the southland and we do have many inquiries covering this particular subject.

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As in the past we are content to let the articles in this bulletin speak for themselves without any appraisal or comments from me. We have had practically nothing from our members on the performance of peonies in their gardens the past year. There should be a flood of comments on this interesting phase of peony growing and it would make our bulletins so much more interesting. We know we have scores of members who could write most interesting articles on their experiences the past year, naming their favorites and giving their reasons for accepting their particular pets. I know we all have them, and this is surely true of the writer of these notes.

This is *your bulletin* so help me to make it as you would like to see it. The pages are open for your communications.

I had hoped to announce the selection of a site for the June 1950 exhibition, but as yet plans have not been formulated to a point where this announcement can be made. Frankly we are looking for a sponsor, and this should not be too hard to get. It is just possible that before this issue goes to press we will be able to announce the site.

These bulletins are costing the Society a considerable outlay and unless dues are paid promptly, we will be unable to carry on as we would like. Those who have not paid their 1949 dues should do so at once, adding their 1950 dues as well. This will save us a great deal of unnecessary labor in sending out notices as well as additional expense for postage, etc. I am pleased to report that many of our members are very prompt in this respect, and this admonition is not intended for them, but there are others who seem to want the bulletins but neglect to remit their dues covering same. It is to these members I am appealing. Many other flower societies have raised their dues to meet increasing costs but at our last meeting this Society voted down even a 50¢ increase per member which was proposed. The bulletins are not our only expense. We are obliged to hold up the supplying medals that should have been prepared some months ago. This is not the fault of this office as some of the winners are prone to believe. It places me in a rather embarrassing position as I am helpless to do otherwise than to wait the time when it is possible to take care of this important matter. I have personally carried the burden for some months covering certain expenditures that are necessary in the conduct of our affairs, but I do not feel that I should be asked to do this. Prompt payment of dues will eliminate this state of affairs and also relieve me of the perplexity that now exists. I dislike very much to "harp" on this subject in nearly every issue of the bulletin and I sincerely hope that one of the New Year resolves for many will be **PROMPT PAYMENT OF DUES.**

While it is early in December as these notes are written, I am positive that it will not be possible to get the bulletin in the mails this month. My Christmas Greetings and New Years wishes will be tardy in reaching you, but nevertheless they are just as sincere and heart-felt. We do hope the year 1950 will bring you one of your best peony seasons and that you will resolve that during the year you will add at least one member to our membership list. We are now obliged to print 1300 issues of each bulletin to have a small surplus on hand for prospective members, etc. over our regular mailing list.

I would like very much to write each one of you personally extending greetings and acknowledging those received, but this is not possible at this time.

Wouldn't it be grand if the spirit of Christmas would remain with us throughout the year instead of a very few days—I mean the spirit of friendliness and good will to all we meet. We live in a wonderful country where we can all enjoy freedom from fear and are allowed to worship as we were taught in childhood, or acquired in later life. When the light of this freedom is more generally known among those held down by oppression, we can hope for better things in every way. May the Savior of mankind hasten the day when this end may have been attained.

The passing of the year 1949 will soon be history and with its passing many things have transpired. Happiness has come into many lives while sadness has also found its way. We are hopeful that the coming year 1950 will be a grand one that will mean much to us all. We want to extend our heartfelt greetings to you all, and only regret that it is impossible for us to write you



each a personal letter thanking you for your co-operation and continuance as a member. We will attempt to give you very interesting and helpful bulletins throughout the coming year. With the twilight of 1949 fast approaching we will be entering the dawn of a new year and let each one of us strive to strengthen our Society by adding new members to our mailing list.

### TWILIGHT

*There's a restfulness in twilight that is beautiful and deep,  
For the sky is making ready to unfold the sun in sleep.  
The heaven's soft tranquility descends on earth below,  
Till only shadows cast by trees move gently to and fro.  
The world in silent stillness lies when at the close of day,  
The tired body gathers strength to wend its homeward way  
Across the city, covered by a scenic overflow  
Of twilight; and the sun's descent into the moon's first glow!*

—Lorraine Good.

*N. F. Christman*

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## A Garden Performance Score Card for Peonies

Dear Mr. Christman:

Thanks for your letter in which you were kind enough to give me the various score cards for rating peonies. However, I am one of those chaps who is completely disinterested in flower shows and I grow perennials only for their garden value.

As a matter of fact, the characteristics of the plant and stalk are just as important to me as is the flower. I want a good, thrifty, vigorous plant; disease and insect resistant; a strong, well branched stem of the right height; and the usual good substance, form and texture in the flower, with good color, quality and fragrance.

I haven't given the subject enough consideration, but just to start discussion, what about a performance score card something like this?

A. Plant	Vigor of growth .....	15%	50%
	Rate of increase .....	10	
	Flower stalk frequency .....	10	
	Hardiness .....	15	
B. Stalk	Strength .....	10	25%
	Branching .....	5	
	Stalk, height and flower ratio .....	5	
	Number of flowers .....	5	
C. Flower	Color quality .....	10	25%
	Substance .....	5	
	Form .....	5	
	Fragrance .....	5	
		100%	

ROBERT E. ALLEN  
White Plains, N. Y.

## Department of Registration

Messrs. H. den Ouden and Son of Boskoop, The Old Farm Nurseries, Holland, submit the following varieties originated by Mr. Aart Hoogendoorn, Boskoop, Holland, for registration:

**BLUSH QUEEN** (Hoogendoorn, 1949). D.M. F. C. of M. Lovely creamy white double, very slightly tinted rose, height about 3-3½ feet, blooms large 8-10 inches, foliage normal green. Free flowering and good constitution. Mid-season.

**BORDER GEM** (Hoogendoorn, 1949). D.E.R. C. of M. Distinct compact, bushy grower, rather dwarf, height about 28 inches. Flowers double, medium size (8 inches). Outer petals shrimp red (HCC 161/3), inner petals chartreuse green (HCC 663/3), foliage dark green. A real gem for the flower border. Early flowering.

**BOWL OF BEAUTY** (Hoogendoorn, 1949). J.E.P.C. of M. Guard petals fuchsine rose (HCC 25/2), staminodes pale lemon yellow (HCC 601/3). Flowers Japanese type about 12 inches in diameter on strong stems, foliage normal green, height about three feet. Very outstanding variety. Early flowering.

**GAYBORDER JUNE** (Hoogendoorn, 1949). D.E.P. C. of M. Flowers large (10-12 inches in diameter), fuchsine rose in color, thickly petalled double. Foliage light green, height about 3½ feet. A perfect flower for the market. Early flowering.

**SNOW CLOUD** (Hoogendoorn, 1949). D.E.W.C. of M. Flowers large (10 inches), double, ivory white slightly tinted rose on opening, base of petals empire yellow (HCC 603/3), height 3 feet, foliage normal green. An outstanding variety. Early flowering.

**VOGUE** (Hoogendoorn, 1949). D.M.P.C. of M. Flowers double, exceptionally large (12-14 inches), height 3-3½ ft., foliage normal green, color very soft rose with a silvery white reflex. A delightful variety. Mid-season.

**WHITE WINGS** (Hoogendoorn, 1949). S.M.W.C. of M. Very large white single flowers up to 12 inches in diameter. Foliage dark, glossy green, height about 3 feet. Mid-season.

All of the above are of 1949 introduction and were originated by Mr. Aart Hoogendoorn of Boskoop, Holland, whose father was a very large Peony grower. They have been tested over a period of twenty years for perfect bloom, free flowering and vigorous growth. The color descriptions are from the Color Chart of the Royal Horticultural Society of London. They were shown at several shows in 1949 with the following results:

Progressive Peony Show, Royal Horticultural Society of the Netherlands Boskoop, Holland, June 11th, 1949. Gold Medal to entire group. Certificates of Merit to Border Gem, Gayborder June and Snow Cloud.

Certificates of Merit awarded to Blush Queen, Border Gem, Bowl of Beauty, Snow Cloud, Vogue and White Wings at Regular Flower Show of the General Association of Bulb Growers of Holland at Haarlem, June 13th, 1949.

Certificate of Merit to Vogue at The Royal Horticultural Society Show, Amsterdam, June 14, 1949.

All shown Royal Horticultural Society Show in London and selected for trial at Wisley by the R. H. S. Committee.

## New Members Since Last Bulletin

Bonawitz, Henry, 14 Silver Court, Staten Island, N. Y.  
 Butler, Mrs. Pauline, Kipling Ave., R. F. D. 1, Weston, Ontario, Canada.  
 Cochran, John T., 13130 Tuller, Detroit, 4, Mich.  
 Corcoran, Sexton P., 701 E. Main, Greenfield. Ind.  
 Cremer, Mr. Bernard, 2116 Cornwall Ave., Bellingham, Wash.  
 Heitmuller, W. Chas., Silver Spring, Md.  
 Irving, John W., Maple Road, Brewster, N. Y.  
 Johnson, A. F. 10113 Medill Ave., Melrose Park, Ill.  
 Johnson, Milford & Ruby, Canton, Minn.  
 Larson, Mrs. L. H., 648 16th Ave., N., S. St. Paul, Minn.  
 Lindblom, Fred., 1312 S. 3rd St., Mt. Vernon, Wash.  
 MacKillop, D. J., 11 Avondale Road, Decatur, Ga.  
 Mee, John R., Box 147, Beachwood, N. J.  
 Middleton, Mrs. John, R.F.D. 2, Athens, Texas.  
 Molenda, Edward, 3275 S. 45th Street. Milwaukee, 15, Wis.  
 Oates, Forest C., Jr., Cedartown, Ga.  
 Orgo, Ernest F., 160 Plane Street, Newark, 2, N.J.  
 Palmer, M., Nanton, Drawer 10, Alberta, Canada.  
 Siebert, Mrs. V. Augusta, 31 10 th St., Racine, Wis.  
 Stenton, Joseph, R. R. 3, Peterborough, Ontario, Canada.  
 Williams, Mrs. Charles A. II, 838 Bryce Road, Kent, Ohio.

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## CORRECTIONS IN NAMES AND ADDRESSES

Andress, Mrs. Roderick, 79 High Street. Newton, N. J. Name listed as Andreas in bulletin No. 114.

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## Corrections in Addresses

J. E. Bernstein, 1439 S. 28th Street, change to  
 4900 S. 48th Street. Lincoln 2, Neb.  
 J. Elliott Coit, P.O. Box 698 Fallbrook, Calif. to  
 690 Oceanview Drive, Vista, Calif.  
 Dr. John L. Crenshaw, 832 9th Ave., S.W., Change to  
 832 10½ St. S. W., Rochester, Minn.  
 Norman English, 504 Glenwood Ave., Grand Rapids, Mich., change to  
 3350 N. Coit Road, Grand Rapids, 5, Mich.

## Brand Peony Farms Are Offering For the Year 1950

Their usual fine assortment of first class Peonies, Irises, and French Lilacs on their own roots.

### FRENCH LILACS

Are now one of our main specialties. We propagate these so that they come to our customers 100% on their own roots. There is no finer stock in the entire world.

### FLOWERING CRABS

We are also working up an entirely new, absolutely hardy line of flowering crabs.

Our Latest Catalog, the most beautiful we have ever sent out, in color, is free.

During the last 15 years the following Brand Peonies have been awarded Best flower in the National Show.

1933 Chicago Hansina Brand  
1934 Minneapolis

Hansina Brand  
1940 Rochester Martha Bulloch  
1941 Syracuse Blanche King  
1943 Minneapolis

Mrs. A. M. Brand  
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

**BRAND PEONY FARMS**  
Faribault, Minn.

## JOIN the American Dahlia Society

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

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

Dues \$3.50 per year.  
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Andrew J. Mulcahy, Sec'y.  
Floral Park, L.I., N.Y.

## LIKE ROSES?

Then you should become 'a member of the American Rose Society and receive:

1. The 1948 American Rose Annual.
2. The bi-monthly American Rose Magazine.
3. Use of the Rose Society's Lending Library.
4. Personal help on your individual rose problems.

*Write Today. You'll Enjoy Being A Member.*

### AMERICAN ROSE SOCIETY

Dues \$4.50 a year  
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3 years for \$13.00  
Harrisburg, Pa.

## 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.

**LOREN V. FRANKLIN**

Franklin Nursery, 6119 Elliot Ave., Minneapolis 17, Minn.

\* \* \* \* \*

## NEW HERBACEOUS PEONIES EXCLUSIVE WITH US

We take great pride in offering first class new introductions of herbaceous peonies. All seven are of European origination—worthy of the exhibition table.

1. All are 1949 introductions, **raised and selected about twenty years ago**, tested thereafter for strength of stem, general vigor and freedom of bloom.
2. The color descriptions given are of the Color-chart of the Royal Horticultural Society, London, England.
3. Shown at progressive Peony Show at Boskoop, Holland, in June 1949: **the only exhibit which received a Gold Medal.**
4. Shown at the R.H.S. Show, London, England and **all selected for trial at Wisley by the R.H.S. Committee.**
5. Shown at Haarlem, Holland, June 1949 and awarded **first class certificates** by a special Committee.

**BLUSH QUEEN:** a lovely creamy white double peony, tinted every slightly rose, free flowering, excellent substance—\$7.50.

**BORDER GEM:** a distinct, bushy and compact double Peony. Outer petals shrimp-red (HCC 161/3), inner petals chartreuse-green (HCC 663/3). A real gem for the flower border — \$7.50.

**BOWL OF BEAUTY:** very fine Japanese type. The larger outer petals are fuchsia rose (HCC 25/2) and the inner small toothed petals are of a pale lemon yellow color (HCC 601/3). The flowers are 6-8 inches on strong stems. The best variety of this type is Mrs. G. F. Hemerik and is a great improvement on that variety. \$10.00.

**VOGUE:** Indeed a delightful variety, very soft rose with a silvery white reflex. Exceptionally large flowers, full double. \$6.00.

**GAYBORDER JUNE:** Another free flowering full double vigorous new Peony. Flowers fuchsia rose, thickly petalled, a perfect variety for the flower market and for exhibition. \$10.00.

**SNOW CLOUDS:** Ivory white, base of petals empire yellow as of Adonis (HSS 603/3). When opening very slightly rose shaded. Outstanding double. \$6.00.

**WHITE WINGS:** An enormous, graceful, pure white single—beautiful yellow center—largest single of all. \$6.00.

**Special Offer All Seven—\$45.00 — Large Divisions**

**DELIVERY EARLY SPRING & FALL**

**LOUIS SMIRNOW**

**6 HARTLEY ROAD — GREAT NECK, L. I.**

**After April 1, 1950 — Linden Lane, Upper Brookville, L. I.**

# THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY

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

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

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

All orders should be sent to the office of the Secretary, Sam Y. Caldwell, 444 Chestnut Street, Nashville, 10, Tenn.

## Cherry Hill Strain

of PEONIES embraces the FINEST VARIETIES in PEONYDOM and their consistent winnings of GOLD AND SILVER MEDALS prove beyond doubt that they have intrinsic value.

Please ask for catalog showing varieties and list of awards.

**CHERRY HILL NURSERIES**  
(Thurlows and Stranger, Inc.)  
WEST NEWBURY, MASS.

## The Cottage Gardens Lansing, Michigan TREE PEONIES

Pot-grown. We can ship almost any time. Also large collections all other types of peonies.



Peonies, Iris,  
Poppies,  
Hemerocallis,  
Mums, Bulbs  
*Color catalog free*

**C. F. WASENBURG**  
Van Wert, Ohio

## River Drive Peony Garden

Prices Reasonable  
Send for price list

Growers and originators of the world's finest Peonies and Iris.

**RIVER GROVE, ILL.**

## GOOD, BETTER and BEST PEONIES

Write for list

J. W. BERNSTEIN  
1439 S. 28th St., Lincoln 2, Neb.

## TREE PEONIES

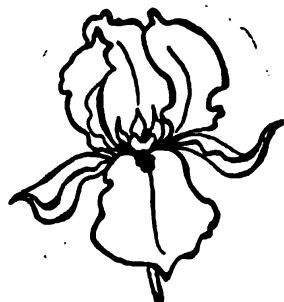
FINEST NAMED VARIETIES

—ALSO—

HERBACEOUS PEONIES

**OBERLIN PEONY GARDENS**  
P. O. Box 115 Sinking Springs, Pa.

**135 Acres of Peonies — 40 Acres of Daffodils  
10 Acres of Iris — 5 Acres Hemerocallis**



Nearly 200 acres devoted to the growing of flowers. One of the largest, if not the largest commercial flower farm in the world. Each year 60,000 dozen peony blooms are shipped by us for Memorial day trade.

**Visitors Welcome.** Words fail to express the beauty of our huge fields in bloom during May and early June. Last fall we added an exceptional lot of *Nicholls Select Seedlings*. These will be offered in another year or two.

**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.

**GILBERT H. WILD & SON**  
**SARCOXIE, MO.**

**PEONIES - IRIS - HEMEROCALLIS**

Our selection of the above named perennials will compare most favorably with any offering made. The Kelsey and Nicholls originations have proved their worth and in addition we have the finest offerings of other originators.

Our stock is young, true to name, vigorous, state inspected and prepared by experienced growers and handlers. We feel sure a trial will convince you of our claims. We send out only quality plants.

If you do not have our catalog listing many new varieties of these fine perennials, it is yours for the asking.

**MISSION GARDENS, Techny, Illinois**

**BIGGER PEONIES**

**Jayhawker** (Bigger 20-37). This fine seedling of Mons. Jules Elie is very much like its parent variety except it is very much lighter in color. It is a full double bomb and light pink. The bud, guards and bomb are all the same smooth light pink. The bomb holds its shape very well as the flower ages. The stems are tall and stiff with smooth, clean, light green foliage.

**PRICE EACH "NET" \$10.00**

Remember other "Bigger" peonies such as **Kansas, Westerner, Aerie, Anne Bigger, Plainsman, etc.**

**MYRON D. BIGGER**

**1147 OAKLAND AVENUE**

**TOPEKA, KANSAS**

**PEONIES**

We grow only the best, 20 acres of them for cut flowers and for show. No inferior varieties. Our cut flowers are famous at the New York market. List and information on request.

**CHAUTAUQUA FLOWERFIELD CO.**  
**Greenhurst, N.Y.**

**Choice New and Rare  
Peonies**

Offering collection formerly owned by Lee R. Bonnewitz and my own planting.

Prices reasonable and quality to satisfy you.

**Ernest I. Stahly, 912 5th 8th Street,  
Goshen, Ind.**