

AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY

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Northbrook, Ill.

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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.

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AMERICAN Peony Society Bulletin



MARCH, 1950

Some Tree Peony Notes

JOHN C. WISTER

The pages of the Bulletin have, in recent years, reflected the increasing interest in the Tree Peony and have encouraged me to present to the Editor some notes concerning the various growers, old and new, of this magnificent yet still too little known plant.

Like the herbaceous peony, the iris, the hybrid lilacs, mock oranges and deutzias, the tree peony owed its real start to Bertrand H. Farr of Wyomissing, Pennsylvania, although in no case was he the original pioneer with these plants. Mr. Farr was one of the early presidents of our society, and exerted an enormous influence on American horticulture from the early years of the century to his death in 1924. The business he started is still flourishing but has become a general local nursery rather than a mail order house and tree peonies are no longer grown in any quantity.

Thomas J. Oberlin, father of the present R. L. Oberlin of Sinking Springs, Pa., was apparently the real pioneer tree peony grower in this country. He imported plants from Japan about 1890. I have visited the Oberlin farm on a number of occasions, and seen some thousands of his fine plants in bloom. I have also seen Mr. Oberlin's stock in the cold frames and noted the high percentage of success of the grafts in some years and the low percentage in others.

It has not been my privilege to visit Mr. N. I. W. Kriek of Cottage Gardens, Lansing, Michigan, but I am told that his stock of blooming size plants also runs into the thousands. He does not catalog many varieties because most of his sales are local. Much of his young material is pot grown, so that plants may be purchased and planted in any season.

Professor A. P. Saunders of Clinton, N. Y., has been grafting tree peonies for more than 20 years, but now confines himself almost entirely to the hybrid lutea seedlings of his own origination. Notes on these varieties have been published in the Bulletin from time to time.

A more recent grower is William Gratwick of Linwood, New York. 30 miles or so west of Rochester. Mr. Gratwick imported most of his original stock from the Chugai Nursery in Japan, and has selected the varieties which seemed to him the finest. He propagates these in some quantity. He makes his grafts at the usual time in summer, and places them in large paper pots in the greenhouse. They come into early growth in the winter and make a proportionately large growth the first year. The plants, I presume, can be sold from these pots as well as bare root.

Clint McDade of Chattanooga, Tenn., and the Parry Nursery in Signal Mountain near Chattanooga, both have fairly large numbers of young plants being grown for sale. Some of these are of American origin, others imported from Holland and perhaps from Japan. It would be interesting if the Bulletin would print something from these two growers telling of their work.

Toichi Domoto of Hayward, California, grows seedlings only because the *Paeonia albiflora* commonly used as a grafting stock does not succeed in his climate. Flowers of seedlings he has sent east have been of good quality and color, but not unlike the standard varieties. In San Jose, California, W. B. Clarke is having marked success in grafting lutea hybrids on *Paeonia delavayi* potted stocks.

In Oregon, Mrs. F. Warbis of Canby has been growing some thousands of seedlings, and will, I presume, be selling plants if she has not already done so. I should very much like to visit her and other northwestern growers to see exactly what they do have. Before the war there was considerable importation from both the Chugai Nursery and from Wada. It is from their plants and their seeds that most of the present stock in that part of the country has been propagated.

In 1949, three persons who had been collecting tree peonies as amateurs decided to go into the tree peony business, and have issued interesting catalogs. The first of these is Louis Smirnow of Great Neck, Long Island, whose articles describing his tree peony visits and work have appeared from time to time in the Bulletin. Mr. Smirnow was able to interest the late David Platt of Max Schling Co. in bringing in plants for him from Japanese sources. The Schling Co. has published a special Tree Peony catalog. It is my understanding that Mr. Smirnow has brought additional plants from Wada and from Holland. He is growing the plants on Long Island.

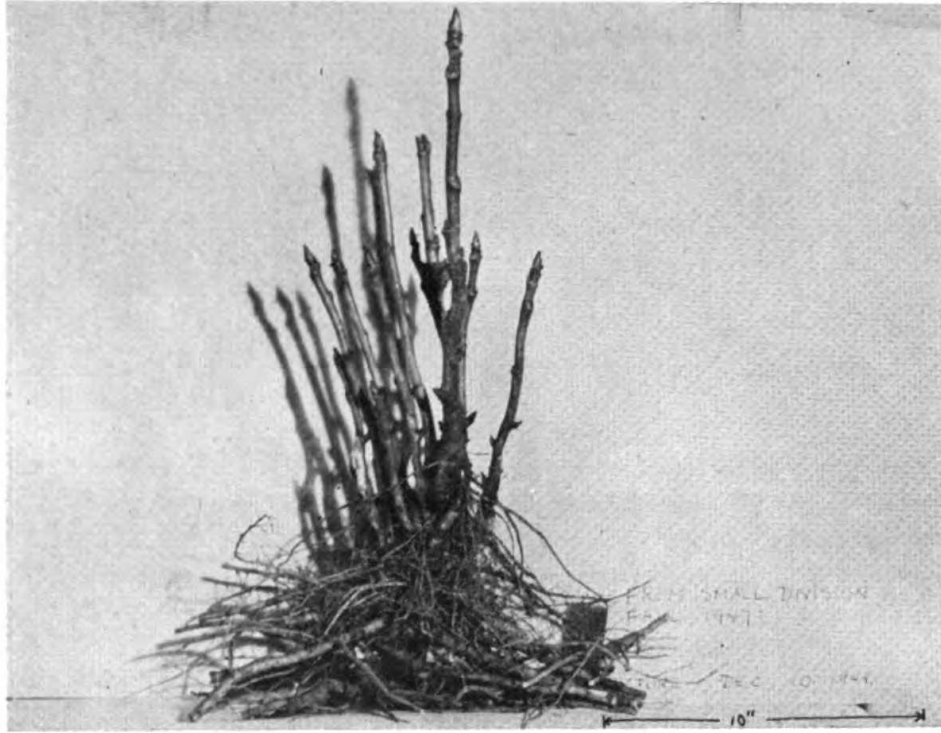
In New Jersey, William Gotelli of South Orange has for some years been collecting tree peony varieties with the help of his landscape architect, John Jennings of Summit. This summer they issued a catalog under the name of Go-Jen Nurseries at Summit. Late last autumn I visited Mr. Jennings and saw some 1600 plants, planted in his cold frames. Most of these had come from Japan through Mr. Smirnow, but some came from Holland. Mr. Jennings hopes in a few years to build up a larger stock. He intends to carry on propagation work and to add additional varieties from Japan.

A recent lecture in Illinois gave me the opportunity to go to Belleville near St. Louis to visit Harold Wolfe. He became interested in tree peonies some years ago through one of his neighbors, Mr. Josiah Whitnel, who had long been a grower of fine varieties. His first plants are now of good blooming size, and look extremely well. What interested me most, however, was the extraordinary success that Mr. Wolfe has had in propagation by division, by grafting and by seed.

Mr. Wolfe's plants are on splendid soil in a small city lot behind his house. He feeds his plants liberally, using both organic fertilizers and good complete 4-8-8 fertilizers, and in addition uses magnesium sulphate, and solutions containing iron and other trace elements. For additional humus he uses leaves and spent hops. Mr. Wolfe's most unusual procedure is the use of hardwood sawdust in great quantities. He buys this by the ton and not only digs it into his soil but mulches heavily with it.*

The result is the formation of the most astounding root systems I have ever seen in tree peonies. The accompanying photograph shows a plant which was a fairly small division in the autumn of 1947 and therefore has had two

years growth since that time. The great number of fibrous roots is shown in the photograph which has marked on it a scale of 10 inches which was the size of the white card used for the legend in the photograph. After this plant had been photographed, Mr. Wolfe split it into six strong divisions each of which he believes will in the autumn of 1951 make a plant as good as the one shown in the picture. In addition, there were some very small divisions which will probably make good plants in a little longer time.



Mr. Wolfe grafts his tree peonies on three to four year old herbaceous seedlings grown in the type of soil described above. I have never grown seedlings big enough for grafting in such a short time. He uses an ordinary splice graft and binds and waxes the graft in the usual way, but rather later than the usual time.†

He deviates entirely from accepted practice from then on. He plants directly into the open ground instead of in pots or cold frames. Most growers plant the graft with most of the cion, or at least the top bud, visible above the ground. Mr. Wolfe digs a deep trench and plants so deeply that the top bud is three to five inches below the ground level. Then he fills in with soil liberally mixed with sawdust. An additional mulch of sawdust is added for the first winter and removed in the spring. He believes that the sawdust maintains an even temperature in the soil. It does not freeze in the winter nor get extremely warm in the summer. The young shoot coming from the top bud of the graft grows upward through the sawdust. It gives rise to young fibrous roots almost immediately so that before the end of the first year the plant is no longer dependent upon the herbaceous rhizome and roots. An ideal graft has an herbaceous rhizome from a quarter to three quarters of an inch or so in diameter and about 4 inches long. On some of the larger roots two cions are used. The cion has three eyes if possible and is also about 4 inches long. Both the cion and the new shoot from the top bud form roots during the first year. The second photograph shows Mr. Wolfe's right fore-

finger pointing to the union of the graft and it shows the length of the cion and the length of the new growth each with young roots.



I have described this method in some detail because I hope others will try it. We may be able to evolve new methods which will make it possible to grow tree peonies with a greater percentage of success than in the past.

Mr. Wolfe is not interested in selling plants at the present time, but I believe that when he has worked up sufficient stock he intends to go into the peony business. I certainly wish him and all others engaged in that business great success. Only through having a good number of skillful growers going into the propagation of tree peonies commercially can we hope to get enough plants to enable a wide distribution to private gardens.

I know of one middle western nurseryman who grafts something like 75,000 lilacs a winter. I have been told that there are rose nurserymen who handle as many as a million plants a year. I use these two figures to note by contrast that none of the tree peony growers I mentioned are in a position to make more than a few thousand grafts a year. This is partly because tree peony grafting is slower work than the grafting of lilacs, roses, apples or pears. It is difficult to cut the pithy wood. This slowness could, of course, be overcome by teaching additional persons the art of this grafting.

What cannot be overcome is the fact that the tree peony does not produce a large quantity of grafting wood compared to the production of grafting wood on an apple, a lilac, or even a rose. It is the nature of the plant to produce relatively few cions of proper length and for this reason we cannot expect wholesale growing in tremendous quantities. We can, however, expect enough propagation in the next decade to make this plant available in many nurseries.

I hope the members of the American Peony Society will do their part to encourage those growers now in the field, and to bring in new persons of skill so that we may have growers in the various parts of the country where this plant can be successfully grown competing with each other as the growers of herbaceous peonies now do. When such competition arises we may be sure that plant breeders will come in who will work on tree peonies as they have worked on herbaceous peonies to get new colors, finer texture, greater substance and more vigorous growth.

With the stocks of fine varieties already in this country we have a good start towards the production of plants which, while they may never equal in quantity the herbaceous peonies now being grown, will at least be sufficient for the relatively smaller number of gardeners who want this little known and very beautiful plant.

* The use of sawdust as a mulch is not new and is to be seen sometimes in commercial blueberry plantings and even in commercial orchards. Sawdust is, of course, acid and will need some application of lime to restore a proper pH balance, but the chief objection to sawdust has always been that it robbed nitrogen from the soil. This fault can be overcome and must be overcome by the addition of soluble nitrates in early spring.

† Most growers prefer August but Mr. Wolfe thinks October better.

TREE PEONY NOTE

Mr. Harold A. Wolfe of Belleville, Ill., attributes much of the dying back of the older stems to leaving exposed ends when pruning. He has found that ends of branches so left are entered by one of the carpenter bees (*Cerativa thipla*) which works its way down and lays eggs which in turn produce larvae which feed on enough of the pith or cambium of the stem to cause the whole stem to die. He advocates as a preventative of this the painting over of the cuts after the tree peony is pruned.

* * *

Further Information on Tree Peony Propagation

Dear Mr. Christman:

It was pleasing indeed to receive your comments on Mr. Wister's article, and on the work I have been doing with tree Peonies. It is just one more reason for me to keep on trying, and devote still further efforts in that field.

You are certainly correct in feeling that the growth of the two-year old plant was unusual. But it is actual, as the stems bear out. Growth for the year '48 is easily identifiable, as is that for 1949. It had two stems and several incipient buds when set out in 1947. The most important feature however, is the number of fibrous roots, and the fact that they are well up on the individual stems, which makes the plant easy of division.

I can attribute this fine growth to no "secret." If there be any secret it lies in keeping the roots cool and moist. Sawdust just happens to be the best material I have found for that purpose. As for cultivation, they had none. Like Topsy, they just grew. As a matter of fact, and I make this statement only after actual experience, realizing it is in contradiction to much I have read on tree peonies, I find tree peonies quite easy of culture. But this culture is different from most of what I have read on how to grow them.

My work with these plants has been largely a matter of a fool walking in where angels should fear to tread. I first became acquainted with them through Mr. Josiah Whitnel. He had quite a few at his home here in Belleville. In 1942, when he moved to a new home, there was not at the new place sufficient room for all his plants. Knowing that I at least loved plants, and had some room, he suggested that I lift the ones he had left at the old place, put them out at my place, and give him divisions of them should he ever change locations again and have room for them.

I lifted the plants in late December of 1942 and put them out (some 30 of them) in my own back yard and in a nearby vacant lot with very poor soil. They were, frankly, not planted so good, as my neighbor and I (he

assisted me) had to work hurriedly. I strawed these plants after the ground froze. Then—early in the spring of 1943 a boy tossed a match into the straw and burned to the ground the stems of all but a few! I thought they were ruined! But, to my extreme gratification, they all came out with fair looking, but short stems, in 1943. In 1944 the ones that had been burned looked better than those which had been spared the flames.

Having been strongly attracted to these plants and their flowers from the time I first saw them, I was by this time becoming more interested in them. I knew of their expensive nature, and resolved at that time to do what I could to find out some way to make their propagation simpler. (Mr. Whitney had told me how difficult it was, both by seed and grafting, and I had read and re-read Wister's article in the Manual.)

When the National Convention of the APS was held at Rockford, Mrs. Wolfe and I decided to attend, and see what we could pick up there on tree peonies. It was at that meeting that I joined the Society. But—and I realize now it could have been otherwise—I came away *sadly* disappointed. No one there seemed interested in talking to me about *them*! And I collared every person I could. I made up my mind that there was either little actually known about these beautiful plants, or what was known was top-secret! As we drove away from Rockford I remarked to Mrs. Wolfe that I was going to find out about tree peonies if it took me all the rest of my life to do it.

The next year we visited Swarthmore (Wister was in New York, where I later saw him for perhaps 30 minutes), Oberlin at Sinking Springs, and Dr. Saunders. I returned home as baffled as ever, feeling almost as though I was on a hopeless quest. *Everyone I met was wonderful* to me, gentlemen all—but I didn't find out much about the way and wherefore of tree peony culture. Missed Gratwick on this trip, and have never yet seen him.

Well, returned home and went through the bibliography in the Manual. good old Manual, and selected every item about tree peonies. Sent this to the Library of Congress and had them make me photostatic copies of all they had. And they had *plenty*! Read these *carefully*. Felt I knew a little more.

In the meantime I had been working with grafts and cuttings and seeds, but was having no luck. Grafts would throw foliage, only to shrivel up and die. Seeds (purchased at 5 cents each) didn't come up and I'd find later their empty, rotted out hulls. I began, too, to try rock mulches on the plants which seemed to help somewhat. I then tried grass and leaf mulching, and found that this helped still more. Organic matter in the soil seemed to be a part of the answer with the plants. But that was not the answer to seeds and grafts! I made grafts from August to November. They, with few exceptions, died.

Then, by accident, I learned how to secure excellent germination from seeds. The year was a quite busy one for me, and I did not have the seed bed prepared in time to put the seeds out when they were gathered in August. So I put them in a large pot, with clay soil, and buried them while still "fresh" about 18 inches deep in a well drained spot. I mulched this heavily. All I expected to do was keep them moist until I could plant them later. *Later* was on Armistice Day. When I lifted the pot, practically all the seeds had germinated, with rootlets varying from $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch to 3 inches. The seeds that had not germinated were all soft and probably had never been viable. My present method is to plant them, as soon as harvested, in rows, about 3 inches deep, in good rich soil, then mulch at once with at least 6 inches of sawdust. This saves a handling, and root systems are not disturbed. Seeds from Japan can't

always be handled that way, due to lateness of arrival. I put them in pots as before, then put out the next year. Have received about 50,000 seeds from there in past two years.

Grafts, as Wister mentions, I now make in October. It seems that when bud development is pretty well along they "take" better. Also, as he mentions, I set them very deep. This gives the scion and stock plenty of time to make union before foliage is put forth. Also, ground temperature is conducive to root formation. This seems to be the key. Lutea hybrids graft with no more difficulty than Moutans. The stock does not appear to be the critical factor at all. As a matter of fact, I have begun to conclude that the scion may actually not receive much strength from the stock. That all we may really need is the *union* with some sympathetic root stock.

Being interested primarily in *culture* and *propagation*, I have paid little attention to varieties. From here on I shall pay them more heed. Their nomenclature is so confused, however, perhaps one is just as well off not to worry too much about them right now.

I want to carry an ad soon in the Bulletin to the effect that I will be in a position this fall to do some custom grafting.

As for the sawdust, I feel that this is the answer, cool roots mean vigorous plants. Cool and moist, that is. And plants grown in this manner in full sun do better than those grown in shade or semi-shade. Soil rich in humus is essential! They are *not* insistent on either acid or alkaline soil so long as neither condition is *pronounced*.

My goal was to help make these beautiful plants available to more people. If what I have done has contributed to that, I am pleased. I have no plants for sale now, want to accumulate quite a few before putting them on the market. In the meantime I am going into hybridization of both tree and herbaceous peonies.

Sincerely,
Harold E. Wolfe

* * *

Multiple Bloom On a Single Stem

Fanny Crosby turned out in harmonious colors, strong stems (on side buds), fragrance and charm to win the blue ribbon in class 19b at the National Peony Show in Milwaukee.

The side buds developed into five blooms measuring 3 inches to 3½ inches across. We cut the stem low to give balance and height to this spray of beauty. This single specimen reminded me of a bursting sky rocket, minus the noise.

The entry I made contained side buds only, the main or terminal bud having been removed a month earlier. The specimen was refrigerated a week or more.

Those who grow super specimens of peonies should aim for this class next year. The schedule should say simply, "Multiple bloom on a single stem." You can prepare this class in no better way than to remove the terminal bud at the time you would normally disbud the plant.

I feel sure it was not intended that this class should be won with a single bloom surrounded by green buds. When a few of the top-notch peony growers, commercial and amateur, begin to enter Multiple bloom on a single stem, some very interesting classes will be seen.

JAMES MASON

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WHAT'S COOKIN' IN REGION NUMBER TWO?

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Holy Cats! Socrates the Younger

It has always been my feeling that any new and useful information should be shared with others who might enjoy their gardens more as a result. The articles of Mr. Van Loon and others have convinced me that I may also be able to contribute. So here goes for the benefit of peony lovers who care to listen.

We are all aware of the renewed interest in so-called organic gardening. The use of manure, composts and various organic wastes and the improvement of soils with humus and peat, is not a new science in spite of the slant

put on it by some publishers. I should know, for I made the subject my specialty while working for advanced degrees between 1920 and 1930. I have analyzed many hundreds of compost samples, and have made and used composts of hundreds of kinds, including some of the weirdest mixtures ever produced.

The organic feature of gardening is not to be sneezed at. Without doubt the humus in soil regulates the availability and retention of minor and major essential nutrients. The replacement and protection of humus is a problem for all of us. And it is also my proven belief that the peony in particular is more responsive to the dark soil than to the worn-out yellow soil. Have you ever seen a normal peony root dug from a worn-out soil (humus-wise)? No, you have not.

Notwithstanding the above facts, it is not yet proved, and I doubt if it will be, that the necessary replacements of fertilizer cannot safely be supplied to a normally rich, black soil through inorganic means. The propaganda we hear so much today, of the danger of inorganic fertilizer, is not based on scientific experiment; is probably false, and also tends to discredit the entire theory of the importance of organic matter in soils. If we recognize the place of each element in the soil and the role played by organic residues, there is no need to develop a phobia against an essential part of our plant food.

However, the above is just by way of introduction. In the study of organic soil building I have discovered that animal remains, mostly overlooked in the ballyhoo for organic gardening, are unique in their ability to do a real job without previous composting. And pursuing the subject further, I find that one type is outstanding. That is the domestic cat.

In experimenting along these lines, the peony is an excellent subject. The number of stems, their height and the size of flowers can be measured accurately to show differences between plants. It does take a few years to obtain certain results but then they certainly show up plainly, which is what we want. In the work I have done, the cat has been placed about six inches under the root. The beneficial effect appears at about the third year.

It is unfortunate that the supply does not permit general commercial use of this discovery. I can hear, without much trouble, the smart remarks some of the members are making—such as suggesting that Mr. Wassenberg send out cats with all orders. However, I leave the idea with you for what it is worth.



Peony, Formulas, Me Eye!

First let me say I am not a peony grower—I leave that to my husband—but I am definitely a peony enthusiast and I lend moral and physical support to all his endeavors. However, I want to relate a peony experience which began several years ago and which set me thinking when I read the “peony rules” for planting, transplanting, cultivating, feeding, spraying this queen of all flowers.

In 1945, which incidentally was a year before we succumbed to the lure of the peony, we changed our residence. We had a hedge of old-time peonies and a few of the modern era among our flower plantings so I promptly changed the residence of my favorite Cherry Hill, too. What I knew about peonies at that time was nil so here is where my story really begins.

I broke every rule in the peony book. I moved Cherry Hill smack in the middle of a hot and dry July. I transplanted it beneath the overhang of

a huge willow that bordered our spring-fed pools, thus assuring a minimum of sunshine to a sun-demanding plant, gave it an extravagant drink of water, and relegated the job to Nature. Now, of course it never entered my impermeable brain to move the plant with any consideration for its reaction—broken roots meant naught to me and I never once dreamed of cutting back the abundant foliage. Moreover a three to five eye division was an unheard of thing in my experience. I moved Cherry Hill in its entirety!

Our soil is a heavy clay loam much like Illinois gumbo but totally unlike any I have ever seen in the East, or even in my own neighborhood. You can wring water out of it two inches below the surface any season, sans rain for two months. It is unusually rich in humus and these factors plus "a fool for luck" were probably my salvation. Cherry Hill wasn't fertilized; Cherry Hill never saw the Bordeaux can; Cherry Hill wasn't cultivated. The aquilegia, the lupines and Canterbury bells, the Oriental poppies, moving close in neighborliness eliminated the latter possibility. Besides the willow tree continued to grow beyond all legal proportions and finally left Cherry Hill almost completely devoid of sunshine.

But did all this create an unfavorable mental reaction on Cherry Hill? By all the laws of reasoning it most certainly should have but—and here is the sequel to my tale. Undisconcerted she sent her shoots three feet tall and topped them—minus disbudding—with powerful, rich red blooms, showy and perfect. Each season she put on an increasingly superior performance reaching the highest pinnacle of perfection in 1949. She was an outstanding beauty and a favorite for the Court of Honor in our local show. Competing in a peony collection she was ineligible for a seat in the Court in spite of which numerous guests insisted upon giving her a vote. Cherry Hill was indeed a queen without a throne.

P.S. Since this unintelligible gibberish first took shape in my mind what do you suppose has happened to me? The fanatics of Sussex County, of which there are not a few, have converted me to the idea of a peony patch of my very own and I have one as of September 1949, small but powerful, so I shall enter the peony race by 1952. I reason that if Cherry Hill can put on such a spectacular exhibition in spite of me, what a potential threat I'll be when I really know the secrets of peony performance! I shall attempt to enthrone her come the next peony show.

EVA M. RODIMER. *Newton, N J.*

* * *

Monakers Horrendous

Who is it names a peony?
I asked one day reflectively.
Pausing in the peony bed
Where each bloom raised a smiling head
And spilt its perfume graciously:
Who is it names a peony?

Who is it names a peony
And hands out indiscriminately
The reprehensible handles that
Some peonies wear, like Medicine Hat?
Or Smudge Pot, Pie Plate, seriously.
Who is it names a peony?

High Jinks, Kip Zoon, Frizzles, do not match
The awakening glory of a peony patch.
Inconsonant names, whose breath offends
The beauty that the peony lends
To a common earth so willingly;
Who is it names a peony?



Peonies for Pleasure

We have called the peony the "Floral Jewel of June" and feel that we are fully warranted in making this assertion. They prove most interesting from the time they peep through the ground until the plants are cut down by killing frosts or freezes in late fall.

Properly cared for they will last a life time, and even much longer, so an investment in peonies is a wise venture, as one cannot lose. They require so little and give so much pleasure and satisfaction in return. As a garden or border plant, they are indispensable and will add beauty throughout the year—in June, with their grand array of bloom and the balance of the year with their diversified foliage in various shades of green and bronze. The stems of some when they first make their appearance, together with the foliage that shortly follows, are strikingly beautiful as they show a decided red or bronze tone that is most pleasing.

With the tree peony, species, hybrids and the well known herbaceous types, we have an extended period of bloom covering six weeks or more. The so called "Tree Peony" (which is not a tree but which eventually develops into an attractive and shapely bush), does not die down during the winter months, and is one of the earliest to bloom. Some of the specie peonies will bloom about the same time. A crossing of these specie peonies has produced the new hybrids that are proving a sensation wherever shown.

In all these various types we have the single, semi-double and full doubles that are appealing to the eye. The Japanese type is extremely popular due to the fact that they make wonderful arrangements that are exotic. We have merely touched on some of the various types, but they all have a place to meet the varying demands of flower lovers.

There are a few fundamental principles that should be followed for real success with peonies. We will mention a few of the outstanding ones. Buy your stock from reliable growers in whom you have implicit faith and who are careful in their garden methods and catalog lists.

Cheap peonies, bargain lots and the like, are very apt to prove they are just that when planted in your garden. Real cheap peonies many times prove to be diseased stock and have no place in your garden, as this disease will spread to other surrounding plants and prove very expensive to you. No reliable grower will disseminate diseased stock.

We recommend the purchase of standard size divisions, three to five eyes for best results, preferably cut from young, vigorous stock.

If at all possible, select a permanent location for your peonies. Choose a well drained, sunny position. Unless it is necessary to move them for building extension or other necessary reasons, let them remain undisturbed for years. If you desire to increase your stock, it would be better to let your plants develop for about three years before dividing them.

Dismiss the thought from your mind that the larger the plant the better results will be obtained. This is not a proven fact. Standard divisions have proven to be best.

In planting, avoid placing chemical fertilizers in direct contact with the roots. This is also true of manure, as it is apt to induce rot or disease of the roots so planted.

Failure to bloom can be often attributed to too deep planting. If the buds are placed two inches below the surface of the earth, they will be O.K. In the far south, slightly more shallow planting is recommended.

Select a position where peonies have not been previously planted.

Disbudding all lateral buds and leaving only the terminal bud is recommended where exhibition flowers or commercial bloom is desired. The flowers will also stand up better than if left to form clusters. On some of the single varieties it is better not to disbud as better results will be obtained. This also applies to some of the semi-doubles.

Do not remove foliage until after the first hard freezes in fall.

Peony roots obtain oxygen and nitrogen through the leaves, and if they are removed too closely when the flowers are cut, or too soon after they are through blooming, they lose this means of strengthening the root growth which will be reflected in the size of the plants. At least two sets of leaves should be left on each stem from which a bloom has been removed. Commercial growers leave at least two or three flowers on an established plant after final cutting is completed.

Newly planted peonies should be mulched with some covering the first winter, at least. This is to prevent heaving and subsequent damage to the root.

The peony is so hardy that it should be planted in every home yard. It surely has our highest esteem for dependability and all around desirability. It has very few insect enemies to bother it and very few diseases, none of which cannot be controlled or entirely eradicated.

There are many other wonderful flowers which I greatly admire but there are very few with less faults than the peony. If you already have them you will verify my assertions—if you do not, it will not take long to convince you our contentions are well founded.

W. F. CHRISTMAN, *Secretary*

* * *

My Seedling

RUTH BERKSHIRE, *Orfordville, Wis.*

You experienced peony growers may well speak of your thousands of seedlings. Today I speak on my ONE that is blooming. Next year I may stutter about the other two that I have been nursing along for three years (next year they gotta bloom!) and the two that were "born" this year, and the handful of seeds that haven't sprouted yet.

In the spring of 1944 I was buying some peonies from Mrs. Margaret Windus of Park Falls, Wisconsin. Mrs. Windus was closing out a city block of peonies and other perennial plants that had been her late husband's hobby. The selection had narrowed down to a few rows of *Therese*, *Walter Faxon*, *Solange* and *Mons. Jules Elie*, by the time that I heard there were peonies for sale. It was amongst the *Mons. Jules Elie's* that I saw two long and lanky stems, some foliage and two enormous single flowers. One bloom

newly opened was still outspread while on the other the over developed petals sprawled down unable to hold themselves erect. Each grotesque petal measured at least 8 inches and had faded to a dirty white washed with streaks of pink.

There wasn't any beauty to the bloom. Believe me . . . it was hideous—a nightmare. No one but a screwball would have wanted the plant even as a gift, and I BOUGHT IT. As big as a sunflower—and homely—so much worse than homely. It was my first seedling. You folks grew up around peonies, I didn't. I never saw a peony until I moved back here—and it was completely a case of love at first sight. Don't misunderstand me—I didn't fall in love with *that* seedling—that is, not until 1947. But it was my first seedling, and by buying it, it was mine. The leaves were lovely and the plant strong and thick and tall.

That fall I moved it and the following year, 1945, it bloomed for me with just the same over developed, too long and lanky a group of petals as before. Truly a flower that only a mother could love.

In the fall of 1945 I moved my peonies (which had been increased by a steady decrease of my check book) to Orfordville.

1946 I waited and watched, more shoots sprouted up—but no bloom.

More growth by 1947. Part of the plant I disbudded (this time to see if the petals would exceed 8 inches). My seedling opened early and I stared in disbelief. I checked my planting guide. My bloom was no longer horrible and grotesque. The 8 inch petals were shortened on ALL bloom to five inches and did not droop at any time. My plant had become lovely and respectable. It stayed pink for days and even then kept much of its pink while the outer part of each petal whitened slowly. No longer did it fade and streak like a cheap garment.

1948 showed an increased growth; a tall plant with blooms carried well above the foliage (as before) and all petals on the main blooms were about four inches in length. My ugly duckling had indeed become a swan. When in the first flush of its bloom it was one of the most outstandingly spectacular and beautiful peonies in the garden. It not only opens early but is still going strong with many blooms when the many midseason peonies have fallen off. I think that I have something . . . anyway, a lot of pleasure!

(Essay Contest Entry)



Pineys & Peonies

F. P. TIKALSKY, *La Grange, Illinois*

My mother had a garden years ago, the location of which is now absorbed by the Chicago Ghetto. The old fashioned "Pineys," like sentinels, guarded the entrance to her garden. When these bloomed, she fondled and caressed the blossoms as she exhibited them with joy to various callers.

Later, I took myself a bride, bought a home with a large lot in a distant suburb, and decided to have a garden. My first thought was to obtain some "Pineys" like mother had grown, and to my surprise I learned that the correct spelling of her flowers was "Peonies," and not "Pineys."

I let my wants and enthusiasms be known to a number of my fellow workers, and one offered to supply me with a few plants. I journeyed to his home one sunny, but muddy afternoon, and we dug out two large barrel head clumps, while wearing our Sunday clothes. I proudly displayed the roots to my wife, but found her more concerned about my soiled "Sunday suit."

As I now recollect, I must have planted my treasured plants, undivided, about a foot too deep. Year followed year and no blossoms appeared, and I felt that my peony benefactor had given the heave-ho to some junk.

I then went to a large department store and bought a pink, red and white. I sought counsel from the clerk, who advised that peonies were gross feeders and recommended very heavy applications of chemical fertilizers. I planted these roots more discreetly, but you may be sure that they were given more than an ordinary overdose of plant food. My efforts were awarded the following spring with several anemic looking plants which became progressively weaker, so more food was added.

I asked advice and got varying kinds, and since my investment in the roots was small, decided to dig one up. In reading a garden catalog I noticed that Mr. H. Lawrence, a grower of peonies (now retired) lived in nearby Elmhurst, Ill., so I took the root to him. Old Harry took one look at the root and told me quite forcibly to "Get it away from here, the root looks diseased."

My determination to successfully grow peonies was undaunted, however, and I began asking him questions, and you may be certain that I got the right answers. I went home with a dozen highly rated roots, carefully planted them as instructed, and patiently waited for Spring. I was greeted with a flower or two on nearly every plant, and my wife and I waltzed around them in glee. I visited Mr. Lawrence and his wife again during the blooming period and must have acted like a one eyed dog in a sausage factory. I picked out fifty or more plants for fall delivery.

When planting in wholesale lots, I got into more trouble than I bargained for. In our town, fences are very bad decorum, yet dogs and children would cut through my yard and often tramp down my most expensive plants. Adults who had studied geometry also realized that the shortest route to church was diagonally through my garden, and over the newly planted roots. It almost seemed that the Maker was taking a hand in disciplining me for playing hookey from church. You may be sure that I almost lost my Christianity as these things occurred. Miraculously, though, in time people seemed to gain respect for my ever expanding garden, and the number of dogs also decreased, due to legislation regarding them. Finally I was able to produce an impressive array of large, sturdy flowers.

It is indeed a joy to give bouquets of the queen of flowers to friends, relatives, the sick, and to the churches. Each year I give a hundred white blossoms to the local school for their exercises on Memorial Day. It is also a joy each year to give roots, that are discarded for better varieties, to those who appreciate them.

One of the most disconcerting things for me is to see a breath-taking new variety in some major exhibition, have it lauded and heralded to the sky by people and periodicals, and then purchase it and have it turn out to be a cabbage, or several degrees below that. My fingers have been burned so often that I am new-variety shy. I now wait until reliable growers in my own local community give their opinions from actual experiences. Old Harry Lawrence, up to the time he retired, kept me so informed on the merits of these new introductions. Recently I sought the advice of Art Murawska. Both of these fine gentlemen have made accurate predictions on what to expect. They are my peony Guinea Pigs and have kept me from acquiring disappointing new varieties.

It is my belief that much could be done by members of our society by speaking more frankly on questionable new varieties. I do realize that there

is an investment involved that sometimes effects a frank expression, but let us assist in extending a helping hand for the greatest good.

My peony garden, so far, has been devoid of disease. Many of my friends marvel at this and ask for an explanation. I only wish that I could give one, and then I could pass it along to all.

I might relate a few factors which may assist in keeping my garden clean, however. First—I always dispose of the peony tops by having them hauled away. Second—I have excellent drainage and maintain a good compost which I dig around the plant every other year. Third—I cultivate very often, keeping the ground free from weeds and the soil loose. I use fertilizer very sparingly, using only bonemeal and superphosphate. Fourth—When buying new stock, I insist on vital, disease-free roots. Probably one of these days all the ills that a peony is subject to will descend on my garden, and I will be sorry that I crowed about a disease-free garden.

I know how every peony lover must feel when a scintillating patch of blossoms is drenched by a pouring rain. The stems of the large, water sodden flowers just cannot support the massive weight. Down go the blossoms into the mud, and that's the end of all the flowers that were in bloom.

Recently I have been adding only the looser varieties, singles, and the Japs, to replace the older ones that I discard. They certainly hold up better, and also the blossoms seem to recover somewhat from the soaking. One of the prime requisites of any new peony acquisition is that it have a strong stem. I like the expression of Old Harry Lawrence, namely "Broom Stalk," or "Ramrod Stalk" when referring to a strong stem.

I have been growing peony seedlings for nearly twenty years, although space prohibits extensive sowing of seeds. About twelve years ago I learned of the possibility of producing seed mutations through the use of X-ray. I have used this method since that time. Since I am dealing with small numbers, however, I cannot state at this time if the artificially produced mutations will result in a larger number of high quality seedlings. The best of my creations can be counted about once around on the hands. I am watching these plants very closely and have no desire to release them to commerce unless I am certain that they are not just cabbages.

I have always grown peonies for fun and have never commercialized on them. My son, who is still in high school, takes just ordinary interest in my garden activities. It is my hope that he will some day acquire interest and pick up where I leave off and carry on some of the experiments I have started.

Now it is only a short time until I shall retire from active work and will be transferred from the pay roll to the play roll. Perhaps I can carry on at even a greater pace when more leisure time is available as I go down life's last lap against the setting sun. But so far it has been joy every inch of the way and still a greater joy to know that others shared in my happiness.

Last, but not least—it is almost sacred to reflect my thoughts back in blooming time to the two sentinels in mother's garden that opened the portals of appreciation of God's work.

(Essay Contest Entry)

* * *

June or September? — And Other Weed Patch Reveries

HAROLD W. WHITE, 1725 Maplewood Lane, Glenview, Illinois

In the first instance, the average peony hobbyist might consider June the most satisfying month of the year—and why not? June is the month of home garden reward, the month of commercial garden display, the month of pageantry in the gardens of Napier, Von Loon, Smirnow and Moots, the month of fulfillment at National and Local shows. June is the month of fruition.

On the other hand, September is the month of promise. In peony catalogs, garden plans, new varieties and dreams of June, there is anticipation never marred by late frost, lashing rains, botrytis or thrips. Late varieties always open, blooms are always large, the stems strong, the color appealing, the form perfect. June is always perfect—in September.

And in this month of promise what new varieties shall I add to my small collection. The dictates of my purse indicate the purchase of *Martha Bulloch* and *Ella Christensen*, but the persuasive pen of the commercial grower, the ribbon and medal records of peony shows, point to a less economical splurge. *Mattie LaFuze*, *Louise Lossing*, *Dorothy J.*, *Ella Lewis* and *Dolorodell* are names that should live in my garden. *King Midas*, *Harry F. Little* and *Moon-glow* would add luster to the company they would join. The one I buy will fit the measure of fully double (no stamens or carpels), rose formed (large petaled), exhibition quality (a potential winner)—and procurable for the meager amount which eludes my creditors.

Since becoming addicted to the peony habit I have often had questions and thoughts which I must relieve myself of, or in my weakened condition. I shall succumb to strain, or instance, just how big is “very large”? When a peony description includes the phrase “very large” is it referring to a seven inch bloom, a nine inch bloom or what? “A flower as big as a pie plate” or “a bud as big as a door knob” are meaningless descriptions unless you know the size of the plate and knob referred to. Why isn’t diameter and depth of typical bloom a requirement of standard description? I might ask. “Why not a standard description?”

“Fully double” means complete transformation into petals of the reproductive parts of the peony. To the careless catalog writer it might mean any flower which isn’t single or semi-double. The distinction is important when you only have room for peonies which “have finished the job,” to use the words of Harry F. Little.

When commercial growers print new catalogs or revise their prices, why don’t they correct the ratings they show? *LeCygne* is listed at 9.9 far more often than at 9.4. The ratings on many other peonies are similarly misquoted. Inaccuracies of this nature detract from the reliability of the firm.

Can DDT and Bordeaux be safely mixed to form a single spray solution? Why is *Mrs. J. V. Edlund* reputed to have a weak stem when it holds up the flower better than the stem of *Kelway’s Glorious* or *LeCygne* which nobody kicks about?

Why are we not more selective in the registration of new varieties? Peony lists are cluttered with varieties(?) which experts cannot distinguish between. Why keep adding to the confusion!

(Essay Contest Entry)

Peony Observations

Hey!

I looked around but couldn't see a soul.

Hey!

The voice came again and I resigned myself to my fate and struggled to my feet. Climbing out from beneath the foliage of the peony bed just as I had started the long neglected job of feeding them was a discouragement that I knew I had to face. The voice that shouted "Hey" in such strident tones was one that I knew, and I also knew that I was in for it. Yes, just as I thought, there he stood. The Man Next Door. And he had that look of accusing anger that I was positive now that I was really going to receive some unwarranted, I thought, punishment. So I waved him over and pointed to a seat and bent my ear to take what I knew was coming.

"I thought you told me" he began, "that I didn't have to be a millionaire to start a collection of good, worthwhile peonies."

"You don't" I insisted. "The best of them are not high priced and you can get an awful lot of good ones for the price of a couple of scotch and sodas."

"Aw, nuts" was what I received for this gem of wisdom. "Nuts."

"Whadda you mean 'Nuts'?"

"Well, I want this here *"Manilla Beauty."* And it says right here in this catalog that *"Manilla Beauty"* will cost me twenty bucks. You mean to tell me that twenty bucks isn't important money to anyone who isn't a millionaire?"

So, that's the rub, I thought and I quickly mustered all my skill for rebuttal. Here goes, I thought, and plunged into my discourse.

"You don't need *Marilla Beauty* to have an excellent collection of peonies" I began. That's one of the troubles that I find with so many people who are interested in peonies or in practically all gardening. They insist upon being exclusive and having something that none or practically none of their friends have. They must have something special—something that "the other fellow" doesn't have, so that they can impress him and lord it over him. But they do not realize—or if they do, they ignore the fact that that sort of thing is expensive. No, you can't have a collection made up of *Victory*, *Dorothy J.*, *Marilla Beauty* and *Tondeleyo* and some of the other, newer, much publicized, recent introductions and still stay solvent. But you can have excellent, sure to bloom, high rated peonies and not spend yourself into the poor house. You can have the very highest rated roots at very reasonable prices and get them, sound, clean and strong from reputable growers. Roots that will last a long, long time and get bigger, better and stronger with each passing year and have plants and bloom that you need never be ashamed to show anywhere with only moderate care and a minimum of effort.

"Take *Kelway's Glorious*—year after year that old timer stands right up and gives bloom of tremendous size, excellent color and blooms prolifically. What more do you want? A good root of *Kelway's Glorious* can be had for just a couple of dollars, and while it is true it doesn't win many prizes on the show table, don't forget that the judges can't convince me that *Kelway's Glorious* isn't a mighty fine peony."

Well, maybe you are right, but how come it's always one of the newer ones that finish "in the money" came the sharp rejoinder. And, to tell the truth, he had me stopped. Just why is it that these ninety day wonders—a good bloom on the day and date, but not in the running next year—always run away with the top honors and receive the pages and pages of publicity in the months succeeding the National Peony Show?

But I waved him away and went on.

"Now take *Eleanor Roosevelt*. Year after year you are hearing more and more about Eleanor (the plant, not the lady of the same name)—and seemingly each year that gorgeous pink gets better and better. You can buy Eleanor (the plant) at a very reasonable price and, after the first year, you can 'point with pride' to a magnificent flower that you have and that you have raised.

"Take *Elsa Sass*. Not what you would call real expensive but a tried and true real doer. Year after year good strong healthy bloom. Lovely color, clean, creamy white and extra size. Takes an awful lot of peony to beat Elsa. Yes I know, that other white, 'What's its name,' won this year, but don't let that worry you. Those judges won't come over to your house to see what's wrong with Elsa, but the people who do come over and you and your family will love this peony and, after all, who cares what the judges at some show a couple of thousand miles from here say about what's on the show table in front of them? Next year, when the show is around here, show *Elsa Sass* and *Myrtle Gentry*, the way you grow 'em and if they don't think they're great, talk it up to them yourself. For my money, they don't grow 'em better than those two ladies and a whole lot of that judges business is in the eye of the beholder anyhow. That's beauty, you know. Some like 'em long and thin but they wouldn't go over in Africa. In Africa they like 'em round. And to tell you the truth, I like 'em both.

"Now for reds. It's a fact, reds are a little difficult. When the whites are at their best and the growing season has been just right for Elsa and *Le Cygne*, the reds don't do so well. But every now and then you have a year that's rough on whites and it's that kind of year that the reds seem to do best. Take this last season as an example. Every white in my yard was spotted and damaged but the reds were great. *Philippe Rivoire*, *Karl Rosenfeld* and even *Mikado* were really a treat to look upon. Sure, I know. *Mikado* was larger last year but the color wasn't as good and it wasn't nearly as prolific. Remember how deep that red was. Why you told me that you were going to get *Mikado* for sure, just because it looked so good in front of that yew with *The Bride* on each side. Why I even dug *The Bride* so that you could have a cut. Yes, I know that the petals were sloppy—but remember how it looked in that deep blue bowl? Better than any water lily that you ever saw. And, best of all, they're reasonably priced. Not as good as *Westerner*? Well, I suppose not. But anyhow, for me and for my money, *Mikado* will have to do. And, to be honest with you, I like it better than the sharper reds.

"Then there's *Duchesse de Nemours*. Never hear of it now, except in a catalogue, but it's a real peony. Early, lots of fair-sized bloom. A greenish white that has true fragrance. With a vase of the *Duchesse* in the house, everyone who comes in knows that you've got peonies. Opens well in water for me and lasts too. Kept some in a cooler at 40 degrees a year or two ago and didn't get them out until late July. You'd be surprised what a treat those peonies were then. Over a month after we'd cut the last ones out in the yard."

"No, I wouldn't be in a hurry about getting *Solange*. To me, it's away overrated. I've had some very, very good blooms from that plant, but it's not reliable. Good occasionally—really excellent once in awhile, but usually not so hot.

"But there's *Nick Shaylor*—doesn't cost a fortune. And then, there's *Minuet*—not very expensive, but one of the best at our house last season and

so on through the whole of every catalogue. There's many a beautiful peony, tried and true, ready to bloom year in and year out that may be had for a mighty small investment in beauty for a long, long time."

But I wondered as I finished my discourse, whether or not it had any effect on my listener and I was soon to get the answer.

"You may be right," said the Man Next Door, "but, this here now 'Manilla Beauty,' I just gotta have," and he got up and walked away, evidently to write the required check. With a sigh I turned back to my peonies, firmly resolved, "*Manilla Beauty*" or no, to feed my plants up and have the best darned "old timers" in the neighborhood.

JEROME E. HOST, 225 East Detroit St., Milwaukee 2, Wisc.



PEONY SHOW of the 5th REGIONAL DISTRICT

of the American Peony Society
June 17th & 18th, 1950

Gas & Electric Building, Main and Jefferson Sts., Rockford, Ill.

Sponsored by the

Men's Garden Club of Rockford

Lee E. Fetzer, President

R. Hallett Shumway, Secretary

Deloss Fell, General Show Chairman

COMMITTEEMEN

G. J. Boehland

Carl Christensen

Dr. Charles Helm

Robert Porter

With the Cooperation of the Officers and Directors of the
FIFTH REGIONAL DISTRICT of the AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY

Marvin C. Karrels, President, Milwaukee, Wis.

Roy G. Gayle, Secretary, Rockford, Ill.

Mrs. R. E. Kartack, Director, Baraboo, Wis.

James Mason, Director, Chicago, Ill.

Ralph Schroeder, Director, Warrensburg, Ill.

*Exhibitors are not required to be members of the Men's Garden Club,
nor the American Peony Society*

OPEN CLASSES

A—20 to 25 different varieties, one bloom each, in separate containers.

60% must be Doubles and/or Semi-doubles.

B—10 varieties of any type or color, one bloom each, in separate containers.

C—5 blooms; alike or assorted, in one container. *Grace and beauty* to be the only criterion. Exhibitor to furnish container.

CHINENSIS VARIETIES

Exhibitor may make 3 entries in each of the following Classes and is eligible to win 3 awards in each Class. Single containers to be used unless otherwise specified.

Each entry must be labeled with name of variety.

DOUBLES

Class 1.—1 White

2.—1 Blush

3.—1 Pink, Light

4.—1 Pink, Medium

5.—1 pink, Dark

6.—1 Red

7.—6, one each of all above colors, in one large container.

SEMI-DOUBLES

Stamens must be plainly visible

- 8.—1 White or Blush
- 9.—1 Pink, any shade
- 10.—1 Red
- 11.—3, one each of all above colors, in one container

JAPANESE

- 12.—1 White or Blush
- 13.—1 Pink
- 14.—1 Red
- 15.—3, one each of all above colors, in one container.

SINGLES

- 16.—1 White or Blush
- 17.—1 Pink
- 18.—1 Red
- 19.—3, one each of all above colors, in one container.

HERBACEOUS HYBRIDS

- 20.—1 Double, any color
- 21.—1 Semi-double, any color
- 22.—1 Japanese, any color
- 23.—1 Single
- 24.—Assortment; Exhibitor's choice. Large container to be used if over three blooms are used.

SEEDLINGS

- 25.—Seedlings must be blooms from plants that have been once divided, and may be entered under name or number.

NEW VARIETIES

- 26.—A *New Variety* is to be defined as a variety that has not been offered for sale prior to 1948.

AMATEUR CLASSES

Open only to amateur gardeners who do not grow more than twenty-five plants and who do not sell flowers and roots.

- D.—10 different varieties; one bloom each, in separate containers. 60% must be Doubles and/or Semi-doubles.

DOUBLES and/or SEMI-DOUBLES

- 27.—3 blooms, White, one variety, in one container.
- 28.—3 blooms, Pink, one variety, in one container.
- 29.—3 blooms, Red, one variety, in one container.
- 30.—1 White
- 31.—1 Pink
- 32.—1 Red
- 33.—3, 1 each of all above colors, in one container.
- 34.—1 Japanese, any color
- 35.—1 Single, any color
- 36.—1 Hybrid, any type, any color.
- 37.—1 semi-double, any color

POPULARITY QUEEN

Flower selected by ballot of public attendance.
Balloting closes at 6:00 P.M. Sunday.

COURT OF HONOR

To be selected by a Committee of Judges from all winners of awards in all Classes and shall consist of 1 each of all types and colors.

BEST FLOWER of the SHOW

The finest specimen in the "Court of Honor" to be selected by a Committee of Judges for this honor.

Prize for best flower in the Show a root of that Outstanding white variety, Mary E. Nicholls. To be supplied by the Secretary of the American Peony Society.

Cash and merchandise will be awarded to all winners.

**Festiva Maxima**

Next year will mark the centennial of the introduction of one of the most beautiful flowers in peonydom, if not the entire flora species. It was introduced by an originator, who, apparently, was little known or recognized for his work with peonies. Try as one may, there is difficulty in finding some of his background—something, anything, about him. His name was not included in the long list of biographical thumb nail sketches in our Peony Manual.

The peony that made its debut into commerce ninety-nine years ago was *Festiva Maxima* and the obscure originator—Miellez. *Festiva Maxima* was the first great peony to be introduced and what a sensation it must have been to growers. It was far superior to anything in existence at that time. This can be attested to the fact that very few names of varieties, if any, that were being grown then, are listed in present day catalogs, whereas good old *Festiva Maxima* still is listed with the loveliest and best. *Festiva Maxima* reigned as the Royal Monarch for thirty-eight years before a variety was brought into being to dispute or challenge its right to wear its kingly crown.

With changes in tastes, that normally come with the vicissitudes of time; *Festiva Maxima* is still regarded as one of the most popular flowers grown, irrespective of specie or variety. The last symposium voted to continue with the high rating of 9.3 and that appraisal by experts should qualify it to be included in the elite circle of the very best peonies in existence to-day. *Festiva Maxima* has every quality necessary to make it a great peony. It is probably, the most widely distributed flower and is found growing in nearly every garden in the temperate zone where peonies are grown. It is not too particular with regard to geographic location, soil or climate. Regardless, it seems, of where it is planted, whether cared for or neglected, rewards one with fine blooms. It is anything but temperamental and few flowers can dispute its claim for reliability. *Festiva Maxima* is still the empiric standard by which we gauge or judge other varieties.

Getting back to the originator, Miellez, who he was or what he did in the way of creating new varieties by hybridization, seems to be a mystery. Even his given name is difficult, if not impossible, to find, whether he received recognition or acclaim by his contemporary growers for the introduction of *Festiva Maxima* or any other creation, seems also to be shrouded in mystery.

Our Society, in the past, has fittingly given recognition, posthumously, to American growers, for outstanding achievements or notable accomplishments. At the coming centennial of the introduction of one of the world's most outstanding flowers, it seems proper that some form of recognition should come from our Society. We could stretch our hands across the Atlantic and vote him a medal, posthumously, and acclaim the originator of a floral gem that has withstood the assault of time and critics. If this expedient is not proper, then by all means, those possessing information about Miellez, should write something about him and his work, and when the next issue of the Peony Manual is published, let us not forget to include him in the biographical section. He rightfully deserves to be included along with other deserving originators.

Francis P. Tikalsky.

La Grange Park, Ill.

Secretary's Notes

During the past few months we have had an opportunity to study catalogs: become better acquainted with varieties and descriptions, and no doubt many have made tentative lists of peonies they may wish to add to their plantings this coming year. We will soon be facing the season's field activities that bring aching backs and sore muscles; but coupled with this temporary torment comes the satisfaction of knowing that we are accomplishing a duty that will blossom into beauty later in the season.

Do not let your enthusiasm get the better of your good judgment. Spring can also be an uneasy season, particularly this Spring, as the winter has been very open and in this particular region we have had considerable rain, instead of snow. There has been constant freezing and thawing of the earth a considerable part of the winter season so far and this does not fill our hearts with rejoicing. Fortunately in our particular case we have gone to the expense and trouble of mulching the newly planted peonies, iris and perennials; in fact we did not stop with the newly planted material but included the established plants as well. This precaution should pay dividends this particular Spring. I am a firm believer in winter protection of plants in this territory. The expense is more than justified as we have learned from bitter experience in the past.

At this writing it is impossible to make any definite prediction as to what February and March weather will be like. There is still ample time for some pretty rugged experiences shoveling snow and battling wintry blasts. Our mild weather so far this winter has not hardened us up for a rigorous and extended season of low temperatures. However, this seems hardly likely in spite of the fact that the old woodchuck did see his shadow.

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SPRING, a magic word of an enchanting season. Soon we will hear the lilting song of the meadow lark, and the happy song of the robin, together with that of the song sparrow and a number of other early harbingers of Spring. To me, there is an enchanting loveliness in the song of the meadowlark that is not surpassed by any other wild bird in early Spring. Later in the season we have the brown thrush, cat bird and other lovely songsters that have a greater variety of song that is also entrancing and perhaps more pleasing to some.

I am very fond of Raymond's essay on Spring covering the second week in May. This applies particularly to the Chicago district.

There is a fringe of green on the roof of the woods on flowering maples and budding oaks, and the catbird sings from a half green thorn. Meadow rue has unfolded its tightly packed leaves, willows are lustrous and the full tented camps of the May-apple have pushed their way up from the soil and are spread.

The wax-white petals of the blood root are dropping, hepatica are fading and violets are in bloom. The chewink sings in the thickets and white throats in the wild grape vines.

The appeal to the perception is that of the dominant, returning green, covering the earth and roofing the woods. Here is delicate fragility and

conquering force combined. A piece of steel, steam driven, could not have come up thru the clay more certainly than the blade of grass which may be flattened under the light feet of a junco.

Beauty of color and of youth thus has the astounding power of great force. The delicacy of green which spreads underfoot and begins to roof the groves is that of a thing irresistible in essence and fragile in form.

Grackles mate and the yellow-hammer cries from the elm. The shad bush prepares its blossoms and the wild rose is red budded along its branches. Honeysuckle is near full leaf. Everywhere the green runs and climbs with the climbing sap.

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We are reminded of our early days when we used to gather sap from the hard maple trees in the Western Reserve of Northern Ohio. Early March usually ushered in that season. The many parties and taffy pulls we had during that season are still doubtless continued by the younger generation. Plant life was about to emerge from its winter's sleep and once more brighten this lovely earth in which we live.

At that particular time, peonies had not found their way into my life and the very few that were to be seen here and there consisted chiefly of the officinalis types. General distribution had not reached a point where we could enjoy many varieties.

How times have changed; things undreamed of and some considered utterly impossible, are now a reality and in everyday use. As we sit in an easy chair watching television, we wonder if anything is impossible. We believe this word will be eliminated from our vocabulary in the not too far distant future. Perhaps with the new bomb they are about to construct everything will eventually be eliminated, including ourselves.

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It is rather difficult to hold back our enthusiasm as we expect some pleasant experiences in meeting for the first time several new peonies that are still strangers to us. The seven new ones that Mr. Smirnow has brought in from Holland and which were advertised in the last issue of the bulletin, as well as registered, will be among the number. They are also advertised in this issue. There are a number of others that we are growing for testing purposes which we hope will give us some fine additions to our already outstanding group.

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We are presenting in this issue an article from Mr. John C. Wister, an authority on tree peonies, that I am sure all our readers will appreciate, particularly those who are interested in tree peonies. It gives us a new idea on the growing and propagating of this beautiful peony that has never been fully realized by many peony lovers. The thought that they could be grown only in a rather mild temperature has been displaced by the knowledge that they will withstand a considerable amount of cold weather and if properly protected will come through O.K. even if they have been entirely frozen back to ground level. New shoots will appear from the crown and these will soon displace the ones lost by freezing. If the new growth during the year gets an opportunity to harden off properly, there will be little, if any loss to the growth made. It is well worth giving them a trial for their beauty will compensate for any extra effort expended in their care. Due to their coming into bloom so early in the Spring, bud growth naturally develops rapidly

after the frost is out of the ground and may require some careful attention if later freezes are encountered after this development has progressed considerably. Covering the plant during a cold spell may save your flowers for that particular year.

We hope to have something of interest in each bulletin during the year covering tree and hybrid peonies. There are many lovely creations in these two types of peony that we want more generally known. Lack of sufficient available stock of either has made it necessary to hold back on publicity, and as a result there is not sufficient knowledge disseminated to enable anyone interested to be prepared to handle them properly. We want to help you and everyone interested in peonies to know more about them so you can enjoy their beauty and worth as an outstanding perennial for your garden planting

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Due to unforeseen circumstances, we were not able to go to Minneapolis this year for our Annual meeting and exhibition as we had planned. Many of the large exhibitors had divided their stock last fall and would not be able to make a display.

This will give us an opportunity to have a show in the Southern section of the peony growing country. As a matter of fact it will be the first peony show held as far south in the history of the Society that I can recall. Sarcxie, Missouri, located in the extreme southwestern part of Missouri, near the Oklahoma, Kansas and Arkansas line, has been selected as our meeting place. Southern growers will have an opportunity to show their wares and we are anticipating a fine display. Schedule will be found in this issue of the bulletin.

This, of course, will mean that the Northern growers of peonies will not be able to compete in any way, as the tentative dates of May 27th and 28th will be entirely too early. Fortunately for us, Region No. 5 will stage a show at Rockford, Ill., at a time when this will be possible and will clarify the situation in every way. Dates and schedules will also be found in this issue of the bulletin.

There will be a peony show in Minneapolis covering that region but the Directors felt that they could not, in justice to themselves, put on a show of their usual high class exhibitions this year.

Those in the East will find the New York and Boston shows to their liking and we feel that the situation is pretty well covered. When we have our Regional Districts working as we hope to have them, there should be a peony show each season in your territory, enabling you to get better acquainted with the finest in peonies. This should greatly increase the popularity of our chosen flower. We urge all peony lovers and growers of this fine perennial to make an effort to patronize some of the exhibitions with your presence as well as your flowers. After making exhibits a season or two you will find it is a pleasure instead of a hard task. To put on a winning exhibit takes experience and considerable skill, but this can only be accomplished by displaying your flowers time after time and profiting by the mistakes you make in previous entries. Study the winning exhibits carefully and you will be able to find out to your own satisfaction what is wrong with your display. It is a case of learning by doing. You must be able to throw off disappointments with a smile and resolve more firmly than ever that you will make a more determined effort to get in the winning classes. Dogged persistence will eventually win if there is a keen desire to acquire the best method of cutting and handling, as well as cultivation of your flowers. Plants that have not

had special attention and care, coupled with frequent cultivation to keep them in good growing condition, will not produce flowers of exhibition quality. This is most essential and will pay good dividends on the exhibition table. It is only in keen competition that we can see where our flowers fall short and are not up to standard. In some cases it is difficult for the judges to determine definitely which is the best class of competing classes of the same number, without examining each flower for defects and tabulating the results. From a casual observance of the entry, these defects may not be apparent to the exhibitor and he feels that he has not been treated fairly. By inquiring of the judges, they are usually very glad to impart information as to how they arrived at their decisions. They should not, under any circumstances, be questioned or disturbed when they are making their decisions. If conditions warrant, protest may be made to the Secretary and the entry in question can be further studied and analyzed and if the protest is found to be in error, no change will be made. On the other hand, if the party protesting is found to be correct a change will be made in the original decision. A protest fee of \$2.00 will be made at the time the protest is made and if the original judging is upheld, the \$2.00 fee will be forfeited. In my experience of many years standing, I have not had more than one or two protests made to me that required a revaluation of the merits of the particular entry. No judge is selected who does not possess ability and fairness in his personality as well as in his decisions. Politics have no place in judging flowers, or other objects, and a judge so inclined will not be tolerated, or given an opportunity to participate in judging.

We have long wanted to go to Cleveland for a National Show and the opportunity came this year, but a little too late, plans already in motion made it necessary to defer our going there until another year when we hope similar arrangements can be consummated. If we can go there, and we believe we can, it will give us ample time to make preparations both with the growers surrounding Cleveland and adjoining states as well as the Garden Clubs who will sponsor the show or assist in the staging of same. You will hear more from us later on this. See Special Notice of both the Sarcoxie, Mo., and the Rockford, Ill., regional shows appearing in this issue. Growers and peony fanciers in these particular territories are requested to assist by their presence as well as exhibiting their finest flowers at these shows. The same applies to the New York Show of Region No. 2 to be held June 13th and 14th.

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Check the address shown on your bulletins carefully and if any errors are found, notify the Secretary's office at once. We want to get this as nearly correct as is possible. If you have zone numbers, show them so that we can correct your membership card.

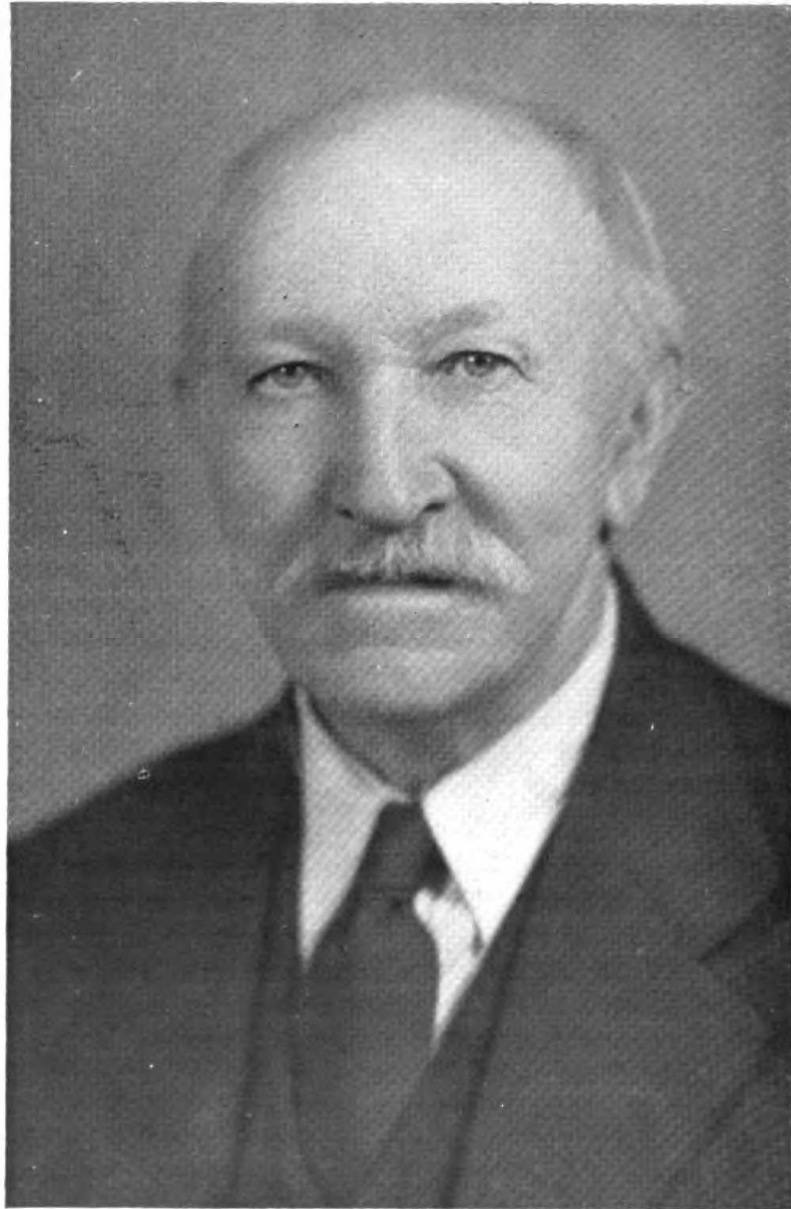
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Also take notes on your bloom this spring so you can report it later and incorporate it in an article for the bulletin. We are doing our best to make them interesting but need your assistance to supply material needed to accomplish our purpose and desire.

W. F. Christman



In Memoriam

We were greatly distressed to learn of the passing of our good friend and one of the greatest iris and peony originators in America. His varieties are known to thousands of flower lovers and his name will ever be before us as we go over lists of fine iris and peonies.

We had the honor of being invited to his home and accepting his most generous hospitality. Together with his brother Jacob, who passed on a few years ago, they formed a great team, working together and sharing each other's introductions as brothers should. They each had a personal interest in what the other accomplished and there was not the least bit of rivalry between them.

Although he had passed his eightieth year he was active up until a few weeks before his death, making crosses during the past iris season and waiting for results which will not be his to enjoy, but we are sincerely hopeful that his nephew Henry E. Sass will carry on the work of his father and Uncle Hans.

His iris *Ola Kala* has won first honors in the coveted list of 100 best varieties for the past three years. This is a record that will stand for some time to come. In peonies *Elsa Sass* is considered one of the finest peonies we have and is a Gold Medal winner. He has been a member of the American Peony Society for many years and has brought out many beautiful originations in peonies that will live on for years to come as a living monument to his skill and knowledge of hybridizing. It would be difficult to go through a representative list of peonies without finding a number of his introductions. His work with iris is perhaps better known as returns from crosses are more easily accomplished and results determined in a much shorter period of time,

Fortunately he was spared many years to carry on the work of hybridizing which he loved. The results of his work will be with us for centuries to come, and will be enjoyed by many still unborn. We will miss that merry twinkle in his eyes and that friendly handshake.

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A Communication From New Zealand

P.O. Box 930
Christchurch, C. 1.
New Zealand
Nov. 24, 1949

Dear Mr. Christman,

Our paeony flowering is now almost over; only the late ones left to flower, and the season has been so excellent that I thought our American friends who grow paeonies might like to hear something of their favourite flower and how it grows in New Zealand.

Unfortunately it is a flower which has for many years been neglected here, people being content to buy and most nurserymen to supply, a "Pink," a "Red" or a "White" and very little was known of the way to plant or the time to plant. There are now signs that this phase is passing and gardeners are enquiring for named varieties and beginning to learn that July (winter in New Zealand) is not the time to set them out.

My own collection, which is quite easily the largest in N.Z., consists of 80 or 90 varieties mainly recruited from Kelways of Langport, England. *Glorious*, *Lord Cavan*, *Queen Alexandra*, *Belle of Somerset*, *Globe of Light*, *Beatrice Kelway*, *Kelway's Queen* are some of them.

Many years ago I had some varieties from Japan, both moutans and herbaceous, these being almost all of the Japanese type, but as they were labelled with Japanese names quite unintelligible to a New Zealander I didn't keep their names. Then about two years ago you sent me half a dozen and these have done very well and this year produced four and five flowers each. Not yet of course up to size but still very nice and giving promise of the immense enjoyment they will give me in years to come.

Our climate here in Canterbury, which is in the South Island of New Zealand, approximates to that of the Yangtse Valley in China and any hardy flowers will grow and flourish. Our rainfall averages about 30 inches per year and our heaviest frost would be about 19 or 20 degrees and few of them. The ground never freezes hard in winter.

Strangely enough the paeonies have done wonderfully well this past year, although the last two years have been exceptionally dry, only a little over half our normal rainfall being recorded. The blooms of one variety, *Bower or Roses*

were over 12 inches in diameter while *Kelways Glorious* went 12 inches and all the others were also very fine.

At our Rose Show held recently I put up a stand 12 feet long by 9 ft. wide, tiered along both sides and at the ends and it created much interest, as it is safe to say that never before in New Zealand has such a collection been shown to the public. It gained an Award for the most meritorious exhibit in the show. I am sending you a photograph of it in case you would like to publish it in the quarterly bulletin.

Unfortunately it is just impossible to forward money to America for the purchase of plants, and the position has deteriorated since the devaluation of the English pound. In fact I have been unable to obtain enough dollars from the Reserve Bank to pay my yearly subscription to the Society and it worries me to think that the very interesting bulletins and other publications will be lost to me through the financial troubles of the World.



There are many varieties I want which are not listed in England but it would appear that I shall have to do without them until some of the gold flies from the U.S.A. and is redistributed throughout the world. It is a real hardship to be unable to obtain *Myrtle Gentry*, *Alice Harding*, *Elsa Sass*, *Nick Shaylor*, *Victory*, *Walter Faxon* and many others, including some of the new crosses made by Mr. A. P. Saunders.

In two days time the people of New Zealand vote for the election of our House of Representatives and it is hoped that the present party in power will be defeated, in which case it is probable that the hampering restrictions on trade will gradually and as quickly as possible be removed.

Then perhaps I will be able to get some dollars per year and gradually build up with some of the very fine peonies raised in U.S.A.

In the meantime I send my best wishes to all peony growers over there.

Yours faithfully,

O. W. B. Anderson

(Note: The labor government was defeated at the last election—Editor.)

A Communication from Washington

January 22, 1950

Mr. W. F. Christman.

Northbrook, Ill.

Dear Mr. Christman:

Enclosed you will find my check for this year's dues to the Bulletin.

We are just thawing out of one of the worst blizzards that I have ever seen in this country, so have had some time to go over the old Bulletins which is an interesting experience as I always find something that did not sink in the first time I read them. I found that there were practically no articles ever sent in from this extreme Northwest section of the U.S. so wondered if the readers would be interested in hearing how we grow peonies out here in this Puget Sound country where we can grow more types of plants than anywhere else in the world except England. Our climate is more like the English climate than any other but we do have drier summers than they do.

We have rather a unique location, just across Lake Washington from Seattle high up on top of a hill about 800 feet above the Lake with a grand view in every direction with mountains on all four sides. On clear days our view seems to be endless for we can see so far. We see Seattle from end to end across the Lake with Renton at the south end. Our land (50 acres) is quite hilly and the main garden is on a knoll at the top of the hill with the ground sloping gently in all directions, giving several levels to the grounds. Our soil is what is known to the miners as a "blowup." Quite rocky with a shale rock high in phosphorus that disintegrates and completely breaks down when turned up to the surface. Sort of air slacks. Although very poor in appearance it produces the finest root systems on all kinds of plants that I have ever seen. We have never purchased plants that have such heavy feeder roots and we have practically no trouble with insects. Naturally we have perfect drainage in both soil and air. Our main problem is getting enough water on the well drained soil, for we go out and work the soil immediately after any kind of rain.

I often have great sympathy for many of the members when I read so many times of the frost damage to their peony buds, for that is something we never have. We are entirely out of a frost area, while down nearer the Lake it is very bad. We do have some freezing weather in December and January: usually not lower than 15 or 20 above. That is rather extreme.

I have always loved Peonies but have never had the right situation for them, for our garden in Seattle was too shady and too full of everything else. My husband retired about 10 years ago and we came out to our "acreage" to develop a hobby garden. Bearded Iris was my hobby for years, later adding the Japanese type. We had very large plantings of both, probably the largest in the West. In my work with the Garden Clubs I naturally became interested in many types of plants and they eventually became collections. We have 170 varieties of Lilacs, over 100 Rhodendrons, 25 var. of Ornamental Crabapples. Day Lilies, every kind of Iris that will grow in this climate (which is most of them), and last but not least our gorgeous peonies. Nearly 40 varieties and a want list as long as your arm. I have always grown a few unnamed varieties but knew I shouldn't plant many when the location was so foreign to their needs.

We have about three acres in our garden and promised ourselves that we will not clear up any more ground as the two of us do most of the work, with a high school boy helping some week ends and part of the summer. We have found our old snow shovel brought out here 30 years ago from St. Paul

is invaluable for weeding. We use it like a shuffle hoe and it sure puts a fine mulch on top in nothing flat. In one day's time one person can do more work than 10 men with a regular hoe.

My husband being of rather an inventive nature has made me some of the best stakes for peony supports and I am surprised that some of you old peony growers haven't spoken of them. He takes quite heavy wire and bends a loop in the top to thread a string through. The wire is cut about 40 inches and so far we have found it quite enough to give support. You can use as many of these stakes as necessary according to the size of the plant. From a distance they have an entirely natural look and never do look like they were tied up in a bundle as most supports do. For small plants two stakes is sufficient, for larger ones six or more. If green string is used, you will be delighted with the effect. For very weak stemmed varieties one support for each blossom is not noticeable and you don't have to worry about your beloved blooms being down in the dirt. We have very little rain during the peony season so we try to give them a thorough soaking before the blooms open as we must water overhead in so large a garden. In emergencies we have a "gang" sprinkler. Many heads on one long hose that may be placed on the ground directly under the plant so the water is not thrown up on the blooms.

This past spring one of our largest Department Stores in Seattle wanted us to put on flower shows every two or three weeks during the summer. These were staged in the china and glassware section to promote publicity for the department. It is a huge undertaking to stage a show for eight hours per day during the entire week, but it was well worth it to hear the comment from hundreds of visitors from all parts of the United States. Very few had ever seen the Japanese type and they were a sensation. The main question was "why don't my peonies bloom like that." Having been connected with the State and District so long in the garden club work I try to find an answer. This question was so commonly asked that the first thing I did was to ask them where they obtained their plants. Ninety-nine out of 100 said a friend took a spade and dug out a piece from her plant that didn't bloom either. We lost many orders from this one practice for they were afraid to try again. I believe the peony is quite exacting as to how it is divided. Many plants will grow and bloom no matter how they are treated. Rarely did I have a complaint where they had purchased a good plant from a reliable dealer. The trouble is that many seed houses don't know a peony from a dandelion and think any old discarded roots will do well and they sell them to the poor public. One wholesale nurseryman told me that when he purchased the nursery he now operates there were many old peonies on the place but he didn't know anything about peonies so he dug them all in the spring and cut them up into small pieces. I hate to admit that Northwest nurseryman took these out and "peddled" them as he said to all the stores for ten cents per root. The customer is partly to blame for they want a bargain and always want a guarantee that they will bloom the first year. Many customers have refused to buy when I tell them the plants must be established two or three years for good bloom, some have said Mr. So-and-so guarantees them to all bloom the first year. We have about 80 per cent bloom the first year but I would just about as leave they didn't for so few are typical. Even the color isn't as it should be.

We have planted at least 1,000 plants in nearly 400 varieties and so far have discarded only four that I thought were not in good health, and strangely, they all came from the same dealer that is no longer in business. We make very thorough preparation of the soil before planting, for any plant is just about as good as the hole it is planted in. We use only raw bone meal in the hole, then the years after that we use what is called "farm" fertilizer that one of

the local firms puts out especially for farmers in this district. It is 5-10-10 as most soils here are greatly lacking in phosphorus and potash. We have had outstanding success with our peonies and the only two varieties that are complete failures so far is *Hansina Brand* and *Mrs. A. M. Brand*. I am still going to give them another year, for 1948 had several days of heavy rain just as these late ones were in bud, then bright sunny days followed. The buds' outer layers were hard as leather. This past season 1949 was so dry that we started our sprinkling system in March and kept it up until late in September. The driest season in history. The late buds partially opened but not entirely. Our cool climate should be good for late bloomers so I want to try them and see if we get a normal season this year.

I notice in many descriptions of colors the writer tries to keep away from "orchid" pinks, etc. As so many peonies have those lovely "sweet pea" shades of pink I think it would be better to play up to those distinctive shades. Two years ago I had an overflow of *Lychnis Viscaria Fl. Pl.* that had to be set out somewhere and there just wasn't another place to put it except at the edge of the peony bed along the path. Any of you that know this flower, would commonly call it Magenta pink. A very vivid intense color. I was afraid of what it might do to my delicate pink peonies but lo and behold it brought out those lovely orchid tints to perfection and made a hit with everyone. They all wanted the peonies that were along that path. The varieties were mostly Mr. Auten's, *Gay Paree*, *Patty*, *Flower Girl*, *Auten's Pride*, etc. By using blue flowers near some of these lovely delicate shades they are simply out of this world. Siberian Iris is a superb subject near all shades of pink peonies. I do not mix other plants in my plantings of peonies, but used as a background or border many lovely effects may be made.

Our Editor probably will throw out most of this article but that is always the Editor's privilege, so here goes for some var. comments, as they appear in my note book rather than in alphabetical form. *Westerner* was by far the lead in the pink Japs. It gave many lovely blossoms on a two year plant. I like *Departing Sun* in both the single and Jap form (the single one acquired by mistake.) *Mrs. Wilder Bancroft* with her "frosted" center was admired by everyone. It is one of my favorites and is very liberal with showy dark red blooms. *Hans P. Sass*, a lovely crinkled creamy white, but stems very weak. The first year I thought something wrong as the foliage was so yellow. I still don't admire the foliage. *Kath. Havemeyer* was magnificent on a three year plant with that lovely "sweet pea" pink that I like so well. I think *Lady Kate* deserves more praise if it blooms other places like it does here. I like its "mum" like form. *Arcturus* and *Pres. Lincoln* were superb. The first year I thought it useless to have both, but the second year they are quite distinctive. Both a must. Many of Mr. Franklin's, such as *Better Times*, *Lav. Pink*, *Gypsy Queen* and *Franklin's Pride* were very fine on three year plants. A profusion of fine blooms, on all of them. So far I am not impressed with *Evening Star* but perhaps when the plant is older it will be better. Just so-so now. *Mrs. Livingston Farrand* is a gorgeous color and fine bloomer here. Twelve huge blooms the second year, but for some reason I don't go back to it like I do *Myrtle Gentry*. She just does something to me. I think if I could have only one pink it would be *Myrtle Gentry*. I find most garden visitors like the deeper shades better. *Dorothy J.* is a heavenly shade and also good producer of many large blooms. *John L. Crenshaw* is a very fine red. I like the form of the center in whorls. *Ella Lewis* was very fine in a delicate sea shell pink. I was much impressed with the abundance of small red blooms on *Red Bird*. A fine dwarf floriferous plant, of great garden value. *Vina* and *Spring Beauty* are both lovely, fluffy shaggy flowers admired by everyone. *Geo. W. Peyton* was as fine as could be

found, with that alluring buff in the coloring. *Pres. F. D. Roosevelt* and *Minuet* were both outstanding. *Sea Shell* was the favorite pink single with *Puritan Maid* and *Dancing Nymph* a close second in near white. I do not disbud some of these singles and they are very ornamental for the garden. *Elsa Sass* was a rich Jersey cream by my note book but I could not detect any pink. Might be wrong name. I have several of the early Hybrids that are just starting to bloom, one year plants. *John Harvard*, *Salmon Beauty* both gave good bloom the first year. For early bloom I am very fond of *Off. Rosea pl.* It blooms over such a long period and has such interesting heavy red stems that are attractive long after the flowers are gone. *Marie Crousse* and *Souv. de L. Bigot* are two of my best pinks, far better than *Walter Faxon*. *Alice Harding*, *Raoul Dessert*, *Le Cygne*, *Lady A. Duff* and *Solange* all do well here. No garden is complete without some of the good old timers.

Victory C. Thierry is like a gorgeous sea shell. I can hardly leave it. *Jubilee* leaves me cold. Blooms well but too flat to suit my taste for beautiful peonies. *Mabel L. Franklin*, *Judge Berry*, and *Lillian Gumm* were all superb. The singles and Japs were all favorites and all seem to do well. *Flamingo*, I think led as it bloomed so early. It might be classed as a semi-double but not enough petals for me to take it out of the singles. *Le Jour* was just loaded with those beautiful goblets. *Mrs. Edw. Harding* and *Old Festiva* both were loaded with huge blooms at least 12 inches across. I cannot imagine anything more beautiful for the garden. *Laura Dessert* is definitely a yellow peony here; even amateurs asked what the lovely yellow one was. Very profuse and long lasting in the yellow color. The reds all seem to do well and hold their color well in our climate. I don't seem to have a favorite, just the one that I look at. *June Brilliant*, *Louis Joliet*, *Felix Crousse* and *Cardinal*. *Mary Brand* is the only red that has been stingy so far. My newer reds are mostly one year plants so I didn't expect much but should have a great thrill this year (1950) as I have most of the new ones. Last, but not least, the beautiful *Victory* that came from our Secretary. It is the only peony root that I would have called beautiful but it really was. Not a division but a strong young plant with all new roots. Placed in a large box with loving care like a queen on a throne. When it started to come up it looked rather weak and the foliage never was very large but it produced five beautiful blooms, two of which were of show calibre. I cut them all and brought them in the house as we wanted to water that section. I like the smooth creamy texture with each petal in perfect place. My first choice for white. What a pity all roots couldn't be grown like that, how much less work when we go to dig them. I sort of fell overboard in buying new high priced varieties this last year but the only reason we are interested commercially is to have these fine things that we could not otherwise afford in a Hobby Garden.

I think our Editor deserves great praise in giving us a fine Bulletin. They make good reading for many years to come for good peonies do not go "out of style" like some other plants do. I hope we can soon have a new Manual. Leave out the expensive column cuts and give more information. From our limited experience it looks as though most varieties are going to do well in our climate and I do not know of another plant that gives so much for so little attention after being well planted. I like all the varied articles in the Bulletin and hope they get bigger and better.

Mr. Christman this has developed into quite a lengthy paper. Use what, if any, that you see fit. Perhaps this will encourage some others in this climate to plant more peonies.

With best wishes,

Very truly yours,

MRS. F. B. EYLAR

Special Notice

This Spring will usher in several Peony Shows throughout the country, chief of which will be the following that have come to our notice.

May 27th and 28th, the first exhibition of the American Peony Society will be held at Sarcoxie, Mo. This is the farthest South we have ever gone to stage a peony exhibition. The Sarcoxie Commercial Club with the assistance of leading citizens and groups will sponsor the exhibition. The dates above are tentative and may have to be advanced if an early Spring is experienced. If this happens, special notice will be dispatched to all who might be interested. Let us make this exhibition really worth while. It must be set up by southern growers and fanciers for the dates are entirely out of line by several weeks for northern growers to participate. Details and fuller information elsewhere in this issue of the bulletin.

For the north-central section of the United States, Region No. 5 will hold a fine peony show in Rockford, Ill., June 17th and 18th.

For the East, Region No. 2 will have a peony show in New York City June 13th and 14th, 1950, held in co-operation with the N.Y. Horticultural Society. Complete schedule and information in December issue of Bulletin.

For the New England States there will be a peony show in connection with the Massachusetts Horticultural Society's June exhibition. Definite dates can be learned by addressing Arno H. Nehrling, Director of Publications, Horticultural Hall, 300 Massachusetts Ave., Boston 15, Mass.

Boston Show dates June 15th and 16th, 1950.

For the mid-west there will be an exhibition of peonies at Minneapolis, Minn., about the third week in June. We have no information as to definite dates at this writing.

For Minneapolis Peony Show dates write R. C. Schneider, Secretary, Minnesota Peony and Iris Society, 708 Osceola Ave., St. Paul 5, Minn.



A Correction

In bulletin No. 115 of December last, the article by R. F. Koby got through without being checked and there are several grammatical errors, commencing with the first line, "Peonies in the American garden is positively established, etc." should have read "were positively established." On page 6, with reference to the contributions of Prof. A. P. Saunders, etc. The statement that Prof. Saunders occupied a chair of biology at Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y. does not agree with my understanding of the facts. Prof. Saunders was deaf of chemistry at Hamilton College, Clinton, N.Y. for many years. A further statement that Prof. Saunders was not a prolific breeder is a misstatement of fact, as he is one of our outstanding originators and has done more for the tree and hybrid peony than any originator in America. His originations are many, and truly outstanding. His exhibitions of tree peonies as well as hybrids at the Boston peony shows, and other peony shows held throughout the country, prove his outstanding ability and discriminating qualifications for making selections of truly distinctive character and worth. We are truly greatly indebted to the tireless work and results obtained by Prof. Saunders. They will stand as a living memory of his genius and untiring devotion to the flower he so dearly admires.

—EDITOR.

In addition to the above comment by the editor, I have the following advice and comment from Mr. John C. Wister, Director of the Arthur Hoyt Scott Horticultural Foundation of Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, Pa., an acknowledged authority on tree peonies, iris, lilacs and other flowers. These corrections should be taken into account when reading Mr. Koby's article in Bulletin No. 115.

Concerning the dates of the Bartrams, John Bartram was born in 1699 and died in 1777. William Bartram was born in 1739 and died in 1823, so may be William was meant, and of course the year 1928 was a printer's error for 1828. I don't know exactly when Col. Carr took over the garden. I think it was long before William's death, but that does not enter into this.

Sir Joseph Banks was at Kew. I have never seen any statement that he travelled but he did have people bring him plants, and he did have *Paeonia moutan banksi*, by a traveller who had expressly looked for it for him. I think the date was 1787. He brought in *Magnolia denudata* about the same time and other plants.

It was a pity that the word "prolific" should have been used because Prof. Saunders made more crosses of more different combinations than any other peony breeder has ever made. In quantity production, of course, he did not compare to Brand who planted 13 acres of seed, but those were not hand crosses and were all of them straight *albiflora* as set in his nursery by the bees. I presume other nurserymen have planted seedlings in great quantity also. I don't happen to know about them, but as you know no one else worked with so many species either in this country or abroad, as Prof. Saunders has.

It is a miserably long job to prepare such a history. You need to go through endless research in libraries. I spent every day for five or six weeks at the library of the Arnold Arboretum preparing that one chapter on Tree Peonies for the Peony Manuel, and although I worked alone I had the constant help and suggestions of E. H. Wilson who was interested in the subject and encouraged me, and of Dr. Rehder and others. I did a little work also at that time in the library of the New York Botanical Garden.

Since that was published I did similar work in those two libraries and the library of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society on various other Peony research, and on Irises, Lilacs and other plants. I can speak with a good deal of feeling therefore about the time and effort that it takes, and I am well aware of the fact that I did not go as deeply into these matters as I should have, although I seemed to cover everything that was available in those libraries.



Department of Registration

Mr. Lyman D. Glasscock of Route No. 1, Elwood, Illinois submits the following varieties of his origination for registration:

ALBIFLORA (CHINENSIS)

MOTHER'S CHOICE (Glasscock, 1950). D. M. W. Seedling of Polar Star. Full double white, very large, stiff stems. Every year every stem is crowned with a perfect bloom, even small divisions having beautiful flowers though small.

CUPID (Glasscock, 1950). S. VE. P. Seedling No. A 1A 102. Otto Froebel x *albiflora*. Second generation hybrid. Single ruffled white edges with pink center, small bloom, medium height.

FLASH (Glasscock, 1950). D. VE. R. Seedling No. 9 R 28. *Albiflora* x Sunbeam Off. Single, very bright red, medium height and size.

INDIAN HILL (Glasscock, 1950). D. VE. R. Seedling No. 1 M 25. Otto Froebel x *albiflora*. Bomb type, black red, stiff, upright stems, medium size and height.

OLD IVORY (Glasscock, 1950). S. VE. W. Seedling No. B 1 B 27. Sunbeam x *albiflora*. Second generation. Single, creamy white, cup shaped bloom. upright stems, very good.

RELIANCE (Glasscock, 1950). D. VE. P. Seedling No. 1 M 24. Otto Froebel x *Albiflora*. Bomb, pure pink, stiff upright stems, fair size, medium height.

Gilbert H. Wild and Son of Sarcoxie, Missouri, present the following varieties of their own origination for registration:

J. C. LEGG (Wild, 1950). Double. Midseason. White and Yellow. Broad white guard petals with a large globular center of long narrow petals yellow fading white. Good stems of good height. Similar in form and color to all the so-called yellow peonies. An excellent variety and good for the garden.

THE MIGHTY MO. (Wild, 1950). Double. Midseason. Red. Rich, lively, velvety, bright red. Medium sized double with many stamens showing throughout the flower. Long lasting as a cut flower. Keeps well in storage. Tall and very floriferous. An outstanding subject for the garden.



Peony Growing in Southern Kansas

MRS. JOHN A. THARP, Rt. 2, Winfield, Kansas

My home is in Southern Kansas, eighteen miles from the Oklahoma line where it rains or doesn't rain by long intermissions. The latter being the case for the peony growing season for this year of 1948. My peonies did their best, but as the season advanced, and not a drop of rain, many of them failed to open.

I might say right here that when another dry season strikes, I will be better prepared, for electricity finally came our way, and an electric motor, on a ninety foot well of never failing water, will give us water to use at any time.

May the first, or a little later, *Kelway's Queen*, my earliest double pink, made an indescribable picture, with cream colored *Snowqualmie* iris draped through and above it.

On May 8th, several were at their best, among them *Le Cygne*, *Kelway's Glorious*, *Karl Rosenfield*, *Felix Crousse*, *Mary Brand*, and *Frances Willard*, *Marie Crousse* and *Sarah Bernhardt* were a few days later. *Flanders Field*, *Fuyajo* and *L'Etincelante* did their best under difficulties.

Last year was a far different story. It rained and rained, exactly as it did this year as soon as harvest started. Our peonies are usually gone by knows, and a great many were blooming on that day, fully three weeks later Decoration Day, but last year was a cool, backward Spring, as everyone than this year.

I will mention the behaviour of a few of my last year's beauties. *Flanders Field* was first to bloom. Its blood-red petals surrounded the gorgeous yellow center. It simply compelled everyone to stop and gaze in wonder. *Fuyajo*, a little darker crimson, with petals cupped around its rose yellow and crimson center, defied description. Both stood up with their heads high and not even the rain could bow their heads. *L'Etincelante* spread her arms wide as if to see how much space she could decorate with her silver edged pink blossoms.

Therese was seen at her best for the first time, and was I ever thrilled when she began to unfold her beautiful baby pink petals. I was simply stunned that so much amazing beauty could come from one plant.

Philippe Rivoire, with his crimson, trim, compact blossoms, not too large, had no equal.

Sarah Bernhardt stood up pink, prim and perfect, and bowed to all passers by.

Kelway's Glorious, my favorite last year, with its arm loads of pure white glistening petals, spread its unattached fragrance, far beyond the confines of the garden.

Six beautifully finished blossoms on a plant of *Felix Crousse* far above the plant and one visitor exclaimed, "It was simply out of this world."

Grace Batson, with her golf sized buds, kept striking me as I passed by. I was greatly amazed as she finally opened up, full nine inches across and half as thick. After it had been opened a week, a miscellaneous Flower Show was held in town; no prizes, only for artistic arrangement. I knew they were too large for much artistic arrangement and in a pouring rain I clipped my big beauty, with two of its brothers or sisters, somewhat smaller, and with the aid of baling wire and wadded newspaper anchored them firmly in a square, green vase, 9x5 inches, the larger in one corner, low near the vase, and the other two slightly behind and above. According to my idea I had a triumphant bouquet and I was sure no one could match it and that its equal could not be found in the show. Even before I was out of the car with it, complimentary remarks started. It was placed in the window of the library basement where the flower show was held, and opposite the entrance door and could be seen from the street as well. It stood up boldly and with no thought of hanging its head.

My brother, entering the room, saw it at a distance, and thought, "Well. Sis should have some of her peonies here," and was he ever surprised when he got to it to find my name on it. So many told me they had never seen anything like it and to this day I am hearing echoes from it; some even want to see the plant on which it grew, but it is a very ordinary plant and not very large at present. This year it could only produce a half sized bloom—a few other buds just stuck and would not open.

Le Cygne defied the cold weather and did its best for the past three seasons. It started out with one sickly blossom. Last year, with all the rain, it only put on a puny show of four blossoms, but this year it opened up ten nice sized ivory blossoms and I think in another year or two, if it continues to improve, it will rank as it is supposed to. It opened early, before the weather was too dry.

To date I have fifty named varieties and some fifteen or twenty unnamed. Early in life I played with grandmother's red, white and pink "pineys." I never had heard of a peony, and when I was married, two big clumps of *Festiva Maxima* graced our front yard. I have divided and subdivided, and given away to all who accept, and still have about three dozen plants of it.

I have slowly accumulated what I have through the help of a borrowed peony manual and the American Peony Society bulletins. I find I have a great many of the good, older ones, and now through this essay contest I find myself aspiring to some of the newer and fancier ones.

Coming back to this dry season, so many visitors this spring kept asking why their peonies did not bloom or even bud. Not knowing their conditions, all I could say was. dry weather.

Let some folks rave over miniatures
 That can hardly be seen in a vase;
 But give me peonies large and clear,
 You can see across the space—

Of living room, dining room or porch,
 Something to be seen with unstinted measure,
 Colors rich and rare, beyond compare,
 And whole armloads of pleasure.

(Essay contest entry)

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Botany

Many of us become confused and somewhat irritated at times by the proper application of Botany in our work and the treatise below by Mr. Homer Brown, Secretary of the New Trier Garden Club of Winnetka, Ill., may be helpful.

WHAT'S THE USE OF BOTANY?

There should be no monotony in studying your botany.
 It helps to train and spur the brain—
 Unless you haven't gotany.
 It teaches you—does botany—to know the plants and spotany.
 And learn just why they live and die,
 In case you plant or potany.
 You learn from reading botany, of woolly plants and cottany
 That grow on earth, and what they's worth.
 And why some spots have notany.
 You sketch the plants in botany;
 You learn to chart and plotany,
 Like corn or oats. You jot down notes—
 If you know how to jotany.
 Your time, if you'll allotany,
 Will teach you how and whatany,
 Of a plant or tree can do or be,
 And that's the use of botany.

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FORTY SIXTH ANNUAL EXHIBITION of the AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY

To Be Held At Sarcoxie, Mo.

May 27-28, 1950

In the Wildwood Auditorium

Under the auspices of the Sarcoxie Commercial Club, The Sarcoxie Lions Club,
Gilbert H. Wild & Son and The Sarcoxie Nurseries

REGION NO. 7

Banquet 6 p.m. May 19th in Wildwood Cafeteria adjoining Exhibition Hall. Tickets \$2.00 per plate. Send reservations in advance to Mrs. Charles Sloan, Sarcoxie, Mo. Members of A.P.S. and friends cordially invited.

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS OF THE AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY

Officers

Frank E. Moots	President	Newton, Kansas
Neal R. van Loon	Vice-President	Newton, N. J.
W. F. Christman	Secretary	Northbrook, Illinois
L. W. Lindgren	Treasurer	St. Paul, Minn.

Directors

A. M. Brand	Faribault, Minn.	Prof. A. P. Saunders	Clinton, N. Y.
Harry W. Claybaugh	Franklin, Pa.	Geo. W. Peyton	Rapidan, Va.
L. W. Lindgren	St. Paul, Minn.	Neal R. Van Loon	Newton, N. J.
Chas. F. Wassenberg	Van Wert, Ohio	Mrs. Earl W. Knapp	Carmel, Ind.
W. H. Thurlow ..	West Newbury, Mass.		

SHOW RULES AND REGULATIONS

(Each Exhibitor should read these carefully.)

1. Entries are open to anyone. Membership in the American Peony Society is not a requirement for exhibiting.
2. Entries of exhibits are open to three classes of exhibitors as follows:
 Novice Amateur—For those who grow peonies solely for their own pleasure and do not sell roots or flowers and do not have more than 50 plants in their collection.
 Advanced Amateur—For those who do not sell peony roots and flowers as a regular business or issue price lists and catalogues. Novice Amateurs may also enter this class.
 Open—This class is open to Novice Amateurs, Advanced Amateurs, and Commercial growers.
3. Entries may be made up to 11:00 o'clock the first day of the show.
4. All exhibitors must register with the secretary of the show before commencing to set up his or her exhibits. The secretary will be at the desk at the entrance to the show room.
5. No exhibitor may make more than two entries in any one class, nor receive more than one award in a class except in the Seedling Class, which see for rules governing them.
6. All varieties of peonies must be correctly named and labelled except in the Seedling Classes which may be either named or numbered. In the arrangement classes neither names or numbers are required.
7. All peony blooms staged for competition must be cut from plants owned by the exhibitor, except in the Arrangement Classes.
8. Any exhibit containing more or less material than specified in this schedule or that in any other way violates the conditions, will be disqualified.

9. All containers except in the Arrangement Classes will be furnished by the Exhibition Committee.
10. In the Arrangement Classes the container must be furnished by the exhibitor at his own risk. Name and address of owner should be placed on the bottom of the container.
11. Length of stem for specimen peonies should not exceed eighteen (18) inches.
12. Any exhibitor may reclaim his own exhibit after the closing time of the show. Exhibitor desiring to so reclaim his bloom must so indicate his desire by reporting to General Chairman of the Show. All flowers remaining unclaimed will be disposed of by the Show Committee.
13. The American Peony Manual will govern type of bloom shown.
14. Three ribbon awards will be made in all classes unless otherwise specified.
15. In collections, duplication of varieties will automatically disqualify the exhibit unless after the removal of the duplicate the exhibit will then conform with rule 8.

Members of the General Show and Finance Committee

Charles A. Sloan, Chairman	Gilbert Roper
Mrs. Roland Engelage	Dale Wild
A. L. Gurley	Allen Wild
	Hoyt Osborn

Advertising Committee

Earl Wright	Dr. I. E. Kilbane
Dean T. Henry	Clyde Fullerton
	Gene Taylor

Housing Committee

Arthur Baker	Mr. and Mrs. Hoyt Osborn
	Dr. I. E. Kilbane

Display Committee

Arthur Poland	Roy Long
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Foods

Mrs. Charles A. Sloan	Bert Bolin
Andre Mills	H. J. Scott

Decorations

Mrs. Kenneth Jackson	Fred Haggard
Mrs. A. L. Gurley	Mrs. Fred Haggard
Mrs. Dale Wild	Mrs. I. E. Kilbane
Mrs. Allen Wild	Jim Wild

Traffic

The American Legion

Contact Committee

Kenneth Jackson	Harry Files
Dr. Leroy Simmons	Nelson Brown

Exhibit Receiving Committee

Clyde Fullerton	Floyd Davis
Kenneth Jackson	Major Bauer
	Harry Files

All Cold Storage shipments are to be sent to the Zero Locker, Sarcocie. Mo., attention Clyde Fullerton, marked plainly "For Peony Show." All shipments to be sent prepaid.

SCHEDULE

(Note: Each bloom must be in a separate container unless otherwise stated.)

Class 1. 50-60 varieties, one bloom each. At least 60 per cent must be doubles or semi-doubles. First prize, Gold Medal of the American Peony Society. Open to all.

Class 101. 25-30 varieties, on bloom each. 60 per cent must be double or semi-double. First prize: Silver Medal of the American Peony Society. Not open to exhibitors in class No. 1 nor to commercial growers.

Class 2. Guests of the City. 15-20 varieties, one bloom each. Open only to exhibitors living over 150 miles from Sarcoxie. First prize: Cash \$10.00. Second: \$5.00. Third: \$3.00.

Class 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. To be judged by a panel of lady judges. Prizes, 1st \$5.00, 2nd \$3.00, 3rd \$2.00.

Class 4. Your favorite reds. Five blooms, any type, alike or different, each in separate container.

SPECIMEN CLASSES. OPEN TO ALL. One bloom

DOUBLE

Class

- 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

- 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.

THREE BLOOMS, ANY TYPE. OPEN TO ALL.

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

SEEDLINGS AND NEW VARIETIES

- 26—a. Seedlings that have never been divided, one to three blooms.

- 26—b. Seedlings that have been divided but not sold. Three blooms.
 27 New varieties that have been named and offered for sale within recent years. Three blooms.

The above classes will be judged by the Standing Seedling Committee of the American Peony Society. Not more than ten varieties in each class may be shown by any one exhibitor. Only Certificates of Honorable Mention will be awarded in Class 26 a. Other classes eligible for any seedling award.

Classes 28 to 34 are open only to those who sell neither blooms or roots and who do not grow more than fifty varieties.

- 28 10-15 varieties, one bloom each in separate containers. 60 per cent must be double or semi-double. First prize: Bronze medal of the American Peony Society. First prize \$10 2nd \$6, 3rd \$4.
 29 Three blooms, one variety, any type or color. 1st \$5, 2nd \$3, 3rd \$2 cash
 30 Three blooms in separate containers, one each, white or blush, pink and red. Any type. 1st \$5, 2nd \$3, 3rd \$2, cash.
 31 One specimen, white or blush. 1st \$5, 2nd \$3, 3rd \$2, cash.
 32 One specimen, pink. 1st \$5, 2nd \$3, 3rd \$2, cash.
 33 One specimen, red. 1st \$5, 2nd \$3, 3rd \$2, cash.
 34 One specimen, either Japanese, single, herbaceous hybrid or tree peony. Any color. 1st \$5, 2nd \$3, 3rd \$2, cash.

COURT OF HONOR

These blooms will be chosen as indicated.

- 35 Best white from classes 5, 6, and 31.
 36 Best pink from classes 7, 8, 9, and 32.
 37 Best red from classes 10 and 33.
 38 Best semi-double from class 11.
 39 Best Japanese type from class 12, 13, 14 and 34.
 40 Best single from classes 15, 16, 17 and 34.
 41 Best herbaceous hybrid from classes 18, 19 and 34 .
 42 Best tree peony from classes 20 and 34.
 43 Best amateur specimen from any exhibit in classes 28 to 34 inclusive.
 44 Any seedling receiving an award in classes 26 a, 26 b, and 27.
 45 Popularity Queen, to be chosen by ballot of all visitors desiring to vote between the hours of the opening of the show until 5 P.M. An appropriate prize will be given.
 46 Champion of the Court of Honor. An appropriate prize will be awarded.
 47 The Best Flower in the Show, selected by all the judges.
 48 The American Home Achievement Medal. Given under the usual rules governing this award.
 49 The winners of any of the following medals if not already in the Court of Honor.

MEDALS TO BE AWARDED (in addition to those announced elsewhere)

B. H. Farr Memorial in bronze. Best double or semi-double flower.

A.P.S. Bronze medal, best Japanese flower.

A.P.S. bronze medal. Best single flower.

A.P.S. Bronze medal, Best herbaceous or hybrid flower.

American Home Achievement medal for best new peony.

The above medals to be awarded by a special panel of judges to be appointed by the Chief Judge with the approval of the President of the Society.

SPECIAL CLASSES

- 50 James Boyd Memorial Medal for the Most Distinguished entry. To be awarded by a special committee consisting of the President of the American Peony Society and the Chief Judge.

- 51 Display by a grower of the varieties he sells and grows. One to three blooms of each variety in a separate container.
- 52 Display of the originations of any one person which may be shown by either the originator himself, or any person who cares to put on such an exhibit for any originator not represented at the show.
Suitable awards will be made for each of the above displays.
They will not be monetary.
- 53 American Home Achievement for most worthy, undisseminated, but named variety of peony, at least 3 years old.
- 54 Best basket arrangement of featuring peonies. Other flowers may be used but peonies to predominate. Basket not over 20 inches in diameter.
- 55 Best dinner table piece, featuring peonies. Other material can be used.
- 56 Handle basket not over 12 inches in diameter.
- 57 Vase of peonies, with or without other flowers or foliage.

**CONDITIONS OF AWARD GOVERNING
THE AMERICAN HOME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

1. The American Home Achievement Medal is offered for award to the originator, amateur or professional, of the most worthy undisseminated, but named, variety of Peony, at least three years old, whether shown by the originator or someone else. At least three blooms must be shown, and entered specifically in a separate, clearly designated class provided in the schedule.

2. The award shall be made only to a new variety of adequate merit, distinction and novelty; one having distinctiveness as compared with existing varieties. It cannot be made to an unnamed seedling; in the event of a successful competing variety being without a name at the time of judging, the award will not be confirmed until a name, satisfactory to, and approved by, the national flower society concerned (A.P.S., A.D.S., etc.) has been given.

3. The winning of this Medal automatically renders the variety winning it ineligible to compete for it in any future year.

**Notes of Interest About the Sarcoxie, Mo., A.P.S. Exhibition
and Meeting, May 27-28, 1950**

The dates of May 27th and 28th have been selected at this time for our annual show and meeting of the Society. These dates are tentative and if conditions make it necessary to advance the dates, notice will be given all concerned.

Those planning to motor to Sarcoxie will find it in the Southwestern part of the state on Highways 166 and 37. St. Louis, Mo., is 287 miles from Sarcoxie, Mo. Take Highway 66 to Springfield, Mo., and then 166 to Sarcoxie.

Kansas City is located 165 miles from Sarcoxie. Take route 71 to 6 miles south of Carthage, Mo., where it intersects 166; then east 11 miles to Sarcoxie.

From Little Rock, Ark., about 250 miles. Highway 65 to Branson, Mo., then Highway 13 to Marionville, Mo., then Hy. 60 to Monett, then Hy. 37 to Sarcoxie.

There are no Hotels in Sarcoxie, Mo., but the Sarcoxie Chamber of Commerce is arranging for accommodations in private homes in Sarcoxie.

Hotel accommodations can be had at Joplin, Mo., at either the Connor or Keystone. At Carthage, Mo., the Drake Hotel. Reasonable rates at both cities. Either Joplin or Carthage is but a short distance from Sarcoxie on good highways.

The Wildwood Auditorium at Sarcoxie where the show will be staged is a new building with an exhibition hall 50 x 90' with a seating capacity of about 400.

There are three good cafes in Sarcoxie and also a school cafeteria in con-

nection with the Exhibition Hall where meals will be served to those desiring them.

Any prospective exhibitor who will have to send bloom in advance can be advised as to cold storage facilities by writing Allen J. Wild, c/o Gilbert H. Wild & Son, Sarcoxie, Mo. Ample storage facilities will be provided. Be sure to advise Mr. Wild the number of blooms you intend to send and in what classes you desire to enter. He can advise you where schedules can be secured.

Everyone growing peonies who can exhibit, is urged to do so. Classes have been provided for all.

Instructions for shipping, storing and staging, as well as show rules and regulation together with instruction to clerks and judges will be found in the official schedule that can be obtained through the Sarcoxie Commercial Club.

We want to make this an outstanding exhibition and gathering of peony lovers and solicit your aid by your presence.

* * * * *

FRANKLIN PEONIES

They are always right at the top in the shows and are "tops" for yard plants and cut flowers. If you haven't grown them, try a few.

LOREN V. FRANKLIN

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

PEONIES OUR SPECIALTY

We have many of the newer and standard varieties to offer in quantity. Send for our price list.

We offer guaranteed clean Alice Harding Roots for \$10.00 each.

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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.

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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

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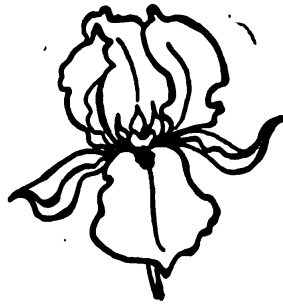
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Nearly 200 acres devoted to the growing of flowers. One of the largest, if not the largest commercial flower farm in the world. Each year 60,000 dozen peony blooms are shipped by us for Memorial day trade.

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.

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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.

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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.

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Prices reasonable and quality to satisfy you.

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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.

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