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American Peony Society Bulletin



JUNE, 1967 — NO. 185



SUISHO-HAKU



AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY

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Van Wert, Ohio 45891
Area Code 419-232-0861

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OBJECTIVES

The Articles of Incorporation state: Section (2) That the particular objects for which the corporation is to be formed are as follows: To increase the general interest in the cultivation and use of the Peony; to improve the methods of its cultivation and methods of placing it upon the market; to increase its use as a decorative flower; to bring about a more thorough understanding between those interested in its culture; to properly supervise the nomenclature of the different varieties and kinds of peonies; to stimulate the growing and introduction of improved seedlings and crosses of such flower; and to promote any of the general objects herein specified by holding or causing to be held examinations, and awarding or causing or procuring to be awarded, prizes therefore or in any other manner.

MEMBERSHIP

The By-Laws state: All reputable persons, professional or amateur, who are interested in the Peony, its propagation, culture, sale and development are eligible to membership.

The annual dues are now \$5.00 a year. The year begins with January 1 and runs the calendar year. Applicants for membership should send check or money order for five dollars payable to AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY to the Secretary. If cash is sent, the letter should be registered. The society will not be responsible for any cash remittances made otherwise. Membership fee is \$5.00, \$3.00 of which is for a subscription to the American Peony Society Bulletin for one year. Subscription to the Bulletin to non-members, \$5.00 for one year.

THE BULLETIN

The Bulletin is issued quarterly. Back numbers when available, will be charged at prices which will be furnished by the Editor. Current year back numbers will be fifty cents to members.

DEPARTMENT OF REGISTRATION

This department was formed "to properly supervise the nomenclature of the different varieties and kinds of peonies". Those who desire to register a new variety, and all new varieties should be registered to avoid duplication of names, should apply to C. D. Pennell, Chairman, Nomenclature Committee. Registration fee is \$2.00 for each variety registered.



AMERICAN Peony Society Bulletin



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President's Message

Time is running short . . . Our 64th Annual Meeting of the American Peony Society will soon be called to order on the evening of Saturday, June 17th, 1967 at Greensfields, located on Greenfield Road, directly across from Northfield Center where our 62nd Annual Peony Exhibition will be held in the Special Events Center.

Clarence Lienau and his committee on arrangements are working over-time to make this one of the **outstanding MEETINGS and SHOWS**. We hope **you** will come and **take part!** Bring your family and your friends. If you plan to go on to Expo '67 in Montreal, Canada, or if enroute home from there, what better place to stop than in Detroit and meet with others appreciative of the beauty of the PEONY.

Stouffer's Northland Inn will be headquarters for the American Peony Society. The picture on page 7 of the March Bulletin No. 184 is proof of the wonderful parking spaces available.

Mrs. Denlinger and I will be looking forward to seeing you there!

—Pharon Denlinger

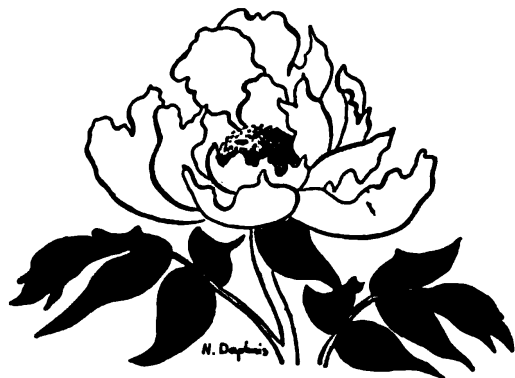
Cover Picture

Suisho-haku is a clear crystal white-Japanese. This lovely flower may be seen in William Gratwick's gardens, Pavilion, New York. John C. Wister, Editor of the book, "The Peonies," states that "The Chugai varieties (this is one) imported in the 1920's and early 1930's proved to be the handsomest to reach this country. Not only that, they were true to description and re-orders brought the same variety under the same name."

Mr. Gratwick stated he considers **Suisho-haku** one of the finest of the whites. He considers the bloom a little like **Gesse'kai**, but states it is a little more full.

The little guest in the Gratwick garden at the time Mr. Nassos Daphnis of New York, N. Y. was taking the picture, looks as though he might be saying, in answer to Mr. Gratwick's statement, "you can't deny it! He's right!"

TREE PEONIES



WILLIAM GRATWICK
PAVILION - NEW YORK

He that gathereth in summer is
a wise son: but he that sleepeth in
harvest is a son that causeth shame.

—Proverbs 10:5

AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY RETURNS TO DETROIT

The History of the American Peony Society written by the late A. P. Saunders, assisted by Messrs. Fewkes and Christman, states . . .

"On June 26, 1902, Charles Willis Ward, then President of the Cottage Gardens Nursery Co., at Queens, Long Island, sent out the following letter to growers of peonies in the United States:

My dear Sir: Referring to the unsatisfactory condition in which the nomenclature of the peony now is, I write to ask you if you would cooperate in the formation of an association for the purpose of advancing the public interest in the peony, and especially straightening out peony nomenclature. Under existing conditions, when one orders a peony under name, a useless mixture of sorts under various names is often received. During the past year, peonies purchased under name from six and eight reputable firms, with few exceptions, proved either mixtures or untrue when the roots came into flower. In several instances each name covered varieties of peonies ranging from pure white through the various shades of pink to the deepest purple and crimson; for instance, a variety described in the catalogue of the nurseryman selling it as a beautiful flesh-pink, contained several plants bearing snow-white flowers, others bearing deep rose-pink blooms, and others bright crimson shade of Rubra Triumphans, but few of the plants proving to be of the variety bought.

The nurserymen in Holland, recognizing the hopeless mixture into which their stock of peonies have been allowed to lapse have undertaken annual peony exhibitions for the purpose of correcting the nomenclature. They hold exhibits at several points throughout Holland and, I am told, are making strenuous efforts to get matters into shape.

The newer varieties which have been introduced, when well grown and well exhibited to the public, will certainly attract great attention, and such exhibits will naturally result in a large increase in the sales of the same. An association devoted to the advancing of the peony could be conducted upon economical lines, and the holding of peony exhibitions under the auspices of local clubs and state horticultural societies could be encouraged by the offering of suitable prizes. There have been accumulated during the past eight or nine years large stocks of peonies which at the present time remain unknown. It only requires the exhibition and advertisement of these stocks to work up public interest to a much greater extent than the peony now commands.

Would you be willing to join in the formation of such an association, in which the annual dues would not exceed \$3 to \$5? My impression is that we could get probably from twenty-five to fifty members as a starter, and that eventually the membership might be worked up to one hundred, and possibly considerably more.

Awaiting your esteemed reply, I remain

Sincerely yours,
C. W. Ward

* * * *

The response to this invitation was general. Twenty-four firms or individuals signified their willingness to cooperate in forming a society for the purposes which Mr. Ward had outlined. A preliminary meeting for organization was held in

Brooklyn, February 18, 1903 at which, according to the proceedings of the Society officers were elected. The **first annual meeting** was fixed to be held during the session of the American Association of Nurserymen, which was to be held in **Detroit during June, 1903.**

The **first annual meeting** was held **June 11 and 12th, 1903.** It was voted at that time the Society be incorporated under the laws of the State of New York. Mr. Frank B. Lown, one of the charter members of the society, offered his services as attorney in the matter and the Certificate of Incorporation was filed in Albany on July 2, 1904, New York County having been chosen by the Society as its legal home.

The records of the Society show with what energy and intelligence the aim of the Society to attack the difficult question of peony nomenclature in order to bring order out of the confusion, which then reigned among the named peonies in commerce, were being pursued. Through the solicitation of President Ward, M. August Dessert, the famous French specialist, was induced to compile a descriptive list of varieties introduced by Belgian and French growers, basing his text on the catalogues of the originators. This was the first and the Dessert manuscript, which included 519 varieties, was no small task. Mr. Fewkes compiled a list of those American commercial varieties which had been originated and from the catalogues of Kelway & Sons, in England, a list of 294 double varieties, covering introductions offered by them from 1884 to 1904.

SIXTY-FOUR YEARS LATER

Now that we are returning to Detroit, sixty-four years later, it is time we took stock of our Society's place in the realm of the flower kingdom. The PEONY is still the

Queen and has proved her superiority as practically a permanent perennial.

NOMENCLATURE

What about **Nomenclature**? It has been said, there are still discrepancies. This we know in the office of the American Peony Society, however, as we have requested, commercial growers are endeavoring to assist us. We still have work to do.

EXHIBITIONS

What about **Exhibitions**? This will be our 62nd Annual Exhibition. We will not stop holding the Annual Society Exhibitions. We all must help in furthering local, state and regional shows. Information must reach the Society office in time for publication and we do need to know results of the judging.

JUDGING and RATINGS

What about **judging and ratings**? On this, our second return to Detroit, it seems significant that there is a time given in the program for further discussion on this subject.

MEMBERSHIP

What about the **membership**? Encouraging, but we still have a long way to go to enable your Editor to do a better job in publishing a good Bulletin. A \$5.00 membership doesn't go as far this year toward the work of the Secretary and rising costs for the publisher as it did 64 years ago. Office supplies, mailing costs have all doubled and in many cases tripled. Let's all help to bring in new members. Our story is an easy one to sell—it simply needs membership salesmen!

—o—

When out in your garden and you see three birds fly in single file tis' said your business will prosper.

HAROLD E. WOLFE — BANQUET SPEAKER

Every member attending the 1963 Annual Banquet and Meeting will be sure to be present this year to again have the privilege of hearing Mr. Harold E. Wolfe, Bellville, Ill. 62223 for he will be our speaker. Mr. Wolfe's subject will be "Polyploids in Peonies." He has said he will have samples of plant material, teach us how to identify and show his Kodachromes that will convey a full picture of what he is doing.

Mr. Wolfe presented not only an entertaining but extremely instructive talk at the 1963 Banquet at Kingwood Center, Mansfield, Ohio. He spoke about his experiments in transforming sterile varieties into fertile ones by increasing the number of chromosomes through the use of the chemical naphthalene acetamid. Mr. Wolfe illustrated his talk with plants he had treated showing the actual growth.

Be sure and send in your reservation as soon as possible!

If you have your March 1958 Bulletin No. 148—turn to page 3 and read "The Mathematics of Hybridizing" by Harold E. Wolfe!!

Mr. Wolfe is a past President of the Society and currently a member of the Board of Directors.

COLOR SLIDE LIBRARY

Garden Club Program Chairmen and others interested in studying the beautiful color studies of Peonies that are available through our Slide Rental department, please take note: We are already receiving requests for dates beginning in August. The catalogued collection is being received enthusiastically.

Pictures of winning varieties will be made at the 1967 Annual Peony Exhibition and included in the sets available for September 1967.

SLIDE RENTAL INFORMATION

- (1) Slides are for a 35 mm. projector. Renter supplies projector.
- (2) Slides must be ordered six (6) weeks in advance.
- (3) Rental fee—Five Dollars (\$5.00) checks made payable to A. P. Society.
- (4) Return Postage must be paid by the renter. Insure for Fifty Dollars (\$50.00).
- (5) A charge of Two Dollars (\$2.00) is made for every slide missing when returned to this office. count sides when received and again before sealing for return.

IMPORTANT CHANGE IN RULES

The Schedule Committee for the 1967 Annual Peony Exhibition has requested the following change be made in the Schedule:

Rule 4. Exhibitors are limited to one entry of a variety in **Division I, Section C.** but may have as many varieties as they desire.

For Example: In Class 11-Double White or Flesh one might have Ella Sass, Festiva Maxima and any others that are white or flesh.

Division II, Section G, Specimens—one bloom any variety as many varieties as is desired. Lactifloras except as noted.

Please make change in your schedules.

A farm journal published in 1875 reports that French horticulturists were using toads in gardens to keep down snails and slugs. Toads were selling at the rate of fifty cents a dozen. "Toads were also kept in vineyards, where they devour at night millions of insects that escape the pursuit of nocturnal birds."

ANNUAL AUCTION IS ALL ACTION AN ADVANTAGEOUS ADVENTURE

An adventure into the realm of actually being able to procure not only new varieties of beautiful peonies donated by the growers, is something you will never for get if you attend the annual auction sponsored by the American Peony Society, to be held at 3:30 Saturday afternoon, June 17th, at Northland Center, Detroit, Michigan.

Fosters pointing the way to the rooms where the auction will be held, will be noted at the Special Events Center where the Peony Exhibition may be visited and at Stouffer's Northland Inn—Society headquarters. The public is invited to the auction!

Here is a partial list of varieties donated by the growers.

MONA LISA—The bloom of this new peony is very large, full double and perfectly formed. The color is col rose pink which fades very little.

PAUL BUNYAN—This very large beautifully formed and richly colored full double peony is regarded by experts as one of the very best. Its color is an unfading deep flame pink.

WEATHERBALL 90—This plant is perfect, the stems strong and straight. The color of the bomb type bloom, which looks like a football chrysanthemum, is an exquisite blend of pastels.

DAD—Big single red (Hybrid)

CRLANDO ROBERTS (NEW)—Double deep red.

CINCINNATI—Tall double pink.

A. KREKLER (NEW)—Deep red double (Hybrid).

PRAIRIE MOON—Light creamy yellow. Hybrid. Semi-double.

MCONRISE—Ivory. Cream single. Hybrid. (Saunders' 1949).

CAROL—Velvety red. Double or Rosette like Formation (Bockstose 1955). Early hybrid. Tall.

ATHENA—Quadruple hybrid; albiflora macrophylla and Mioko-entschi.

CARINA—Semidouble, Red Shining scarlet Hybrid. Albiflora x lobata (Saunders, 1944).

CYTHEREA—Double. Pale pink. Hybrid. Very desirable. (Saunders, 1953).

STOLEN HEAVEN—(Tree Peony) Enormous white double Japanese. 11 in. flowers **exquisite yellow center-fringed, waved petals medium tall.**

NISSHO—Large scarlet Japanese.

HANAKISOI—Large pink Japanese.

YACHIYOTSUBAKI—Large Coral Japanese.

KAMADA FUJI—Large violet Japanese.

SOUVENIR DE MAXIME—Large yellow suffused Lutea hybrid.

LOTTIE DAWSON REA—Lt. P. Late Rose.

HERITAGE—Red Hybrid. Semidouble.

WILFORD JOHNSON—Large fully double bright rose pink. Mid-season. Blooms lie flat on top of bush, completely different from all other peonies. New for 1967.

TERRY GRUDEM—Bright red with staminodes a matching red with a light yellow. Plants 36 to 38 inches tall. Tall sturdy Japanese variety—Eye catching blooms 7 to 8 in. in size—Blooms mid-season.

KAY TISCHLER—Bright pink Japanese type. Large well formed flowers of 7 to 8 inches in size. A very showy Japanese variety. 36 to 38 in. tall.

CLAIRE DE LUNE—Yellow-single-very early-hybrid. 28" tall. 10

petaled, pale yellow, crinkled and rounded at petal edges. Carpels pale. Filament is yellow in color. Foliage pink in spring, similar to Mlokosewitschi.

NANCY—Single. Peach pink—early hybrid. Has excellent plant habit. 28" in height. Very pretty.

HOLLYWOOD—Novelty Jap, unusual shade of creamy cerise pink. Large trim blooms on stiff stem. Late bloom. Medium height (Auten's 1937).

ANGELS DREAM—White. There are flakes of green interspersed throughout this large white flower which seems to have a creamy light shining in it. The large blooms often measure 7½ inches across and

of Mons. Jules Elie but not so compact. Good stiff stems—blooms early mid-season.

DR. SAUNDERS 14400—Yellow multiple Hybrid.

DR. SAUNDERS F2-16264—Yellow-single Hybrid.

LAVENDER BOUQUET—Lilac pink. Medium to large, full double, definite lilac or orchid cast. High built-exhibition form—large well shaped guard petals—center of finely cut thickly set petals and occasionally a crown of narrow bright yellow petals. Definite interglow. Much admired. Flowers hold well when cut and are carried on tall strong stems with a good dark green foliage. Mid-season bloom.

WHY PEONIES DON'T BLOOM

by Harold Tinnappel

(The **BULLETIN** gratefully acknowledges permission granted it by **HORTICULTURE** to use this article. A shorter version of the article appeared in the October, 1966 issue of **HORTICULTURE**.)

To pinpoint a single cause to explain why a live, growing peony does not bloom is not very realistic. Probably several factors contribute to the lack of bloom. However, the difficulties most frequently encountered may be classified under five categories: I. Weather, II. Environment, III. Cultural Practices, IV. Genetics, and V. Disease.

I. Many of us had the unwelcome opportunity to observe the damage caused by unseasonably low temperatures last year. In our area we saw the thermometer drop to 19° on May 10. This freeze killed many buds, and even when some of the buds did develop the petals were malformed, or the stamens were blackened. Some of the early varieties escaped unscathed and most of the late varieties showed no damage; it was those midseason varieties with buds in a critical stage of their development when the freeze occurred that showed greatest damage. This problem and some explanation for the mechanics of the freeze injury has been discussed in earlier issues of the **American Peony Bulletin** by Edward Auten, Jr. ("Bud

Failure", No. 180, p. 21) and by W. A. Alexander ("Peonies and Weather", No. 178, p. 43 and "Effects of the May Freeze", No. 182, p. 15.) Some kind of protection given the plants when such low temperatures threaten may save the flower buds.

II. An ideal environment for a peony plant is a well-drained situation that receives sunshine at least six hours of the day, free from the competition of roots of trees or large shrubs and located in good garden soil. The peony, like most garden plants, will not tolerate wet feet. When planting be sure that you do not locate the plant in a low site. Be sure that the soil has been dug up to a depth of at least twelve inches, and then allowed to settle before planting the root. A good

clayey soil seems to suit the peony better than the sandy type. A soil that is capable of raising a good crop of vegetables is ideal for the peony. It is not particularly finicky about the pH test, but a neutral soil is generally recommended. Heavy fertilization is not advisable, especially on a recent planting, but some fertilizer may be worked in about the plant after it is established. An analysis low in nitrogen (say 5-10-10) would be best for this purpose.

To emphasize the fact that a single unfavorable factor mentioned here does not necessarily spell failure, let me recount a story told me by a well-known commercial grower. He said that his predecessor made it a practice to plant a division of a peony which he particularly wanted to increase much deeper than is usually advised. Since the root would send up stems, along which eyes would develop near the surface, the grower would then have two sets of eyes on the matured plant to use: those growing from the deeply planted crown of the original root and those along the stems.

A peony plant that is tall, spindly and not blooming may indicate that it is receiving insufficient sunlight. Aside from the lack of sun that nearby trees or shrubs cause, the interference with free circulation of air and competition for water and nutrients may explain failure of flowering. The peony plant is a splendid subject for a perennial border, but it should not be crowded by neighboring plants.

III. The peony during the growing season should be given adequate moisture, be kept free from grass and weeds and the foliage should be left on the plant until it has matured. Often the gardener can trace a season of few blooms back to an exceptionally dry summer just preceding when the buds for the

following Spring's bloom should be formed. The foliage (which is especially handsome on some varieties and which enhances the flower border) should be allowed to ripen on the plant. The fastidious gardener will be pleased to know that all growers recommend that after a frost in the Fall the foliage should be cut to the ground and be removed to be burned.

Although some well established plants manage to do well in sod (witness some ancient plants blooming in the Spring in old cemeteries), in the first few years of its life the peony plant should be maintained under clean cultivation.

IV. There are some varieties of peonies which have a record of producing flowers year after year, others present a challenge to the expert to coax into bloom. A catalog from a peony specialist will identify those varieties which can be counted to be reliable bloomers. A very helpful "Recommended List of Varieties" compiled by the expert peony grower and successful exhibitor, Mr. Marvin C. Karrels, may be consulted to find names of varieties which have proved themselves. This list appears in the **Bulletin** No. 183, p. 6.

Good healthy divisions (3 to 5 eyes) should be purchased from a dependable nurseryman or peony grower. The eyes should be planted no more than two inches deep. This distance refers to the depth of cover after the soil has settled, and not just to the depth at the time of planting. Protection in the form of a mound of soil should be provided the first winter.

V. Even if all four of the preceding factors are favorable for the production of blooms, disease may infect the planting and cause the loss of bloom. Two kinds of disease of varying degrees of seriousness are botrytis and nematodes.

Botrytis blight may affect the buds, the stems or the leaves. A stem so affected may turn brown, may become covered with a grayish-brown felt-like coating of fungus spores and be so weakened that it falls to the ground. Although Bordeaux mixture is usually prescribed, its use has the disadvantage of producing discoloration of foliage. Mr. Auten, in the article earlier mentioned, recounts the effectiveness of early removal and burning of affected stems. Such prompt detection and elimination of diseased stems and leaves prevents the spread of the blight.

Greater attention recently has been directed to the seriousness of the infection of the soil nematodes (eelworms). There are two types which damage the peony plant; the gall nematode which affects the root growth and produces small knobs on the roots and one which affects primarily the foliage (*Aphelenchoides fragariae*). The nematodes do not ordinarily kill the plant, their presence is indicated by a general debility and lack of bloom. When the plant is dug the knots on the roots together with the other symptoms indicate the possibility of the presence of the gall nematode; an analysis by a pathologist would be necessary to confirm their presence since the nematodes are not visible to the naked eye.

As mentioned earlier under item II, a heavy soil suits the peony better than a light sandy soil. Nematodes thrive in light soils, warm growing seasons and mild winters. If the root knots are discovered after the plant is dug, they may be removed by the tedious process of cutting off by hand. A hot water treatment is described in the pamphlet "Peony Diseases" by P. Brierley issued by the United States Department of Agriculture with the cautious statement that "most peonies will stand immersion in water

at 120° F for 30 minutes with little or no injury". In **Diseases and Pests of Ornamental Plants** by P. P. Pirone, Bernard Dodge and Harold W. Ricketts a contrary experience is cited. Every peony plant died after being given the hot water treatment by one of the authors of this book.

There are two other types of treatment which rely on recently developed chemicals. One is the method of fumigating the soil before planting the peonies. Great care must be exercised in applying these materials, most require a plastic ground cover or water seal to be effective, and the gasses released are toxic to growing plants, and some require a time elapse before the fumes have evaporated from the soil and so is safe for planting. Some examples are: chloropicrin, ethylene di-bromide, dichloroprene-dichloroprane mixture (DD) and Vapam. Manufacturer's directions should, of course, be strictly observed.

A second type of treatment is a soil drench which is a nematocide and which may be applied to the growing plant without injury to it. Some examples are: Nemagon and VC 13 Nemacide. I have not found anything in the literature giving a detailed report of the use of these chemicals specifically on peonies. (One of the manufacturers does state in its sales promotion pamphlet that peonies have been successfully treated with its product.) Any readers of the **Bulletin** who have used any nematocide on growing peonies or as a pre-planting treatment will contribute to our understanding of this practice if they write of their experience to the Editor of the **Bulletin**.

I should think before undertaking any such drastic treatments growers would consult their county agriculture agents or someone on

the staff of their state agriculture colleges. They will find these people very helpful, as I found to be the case at the Ohio State University. Several members of the staff supplied me with information used in this article. I am grateful for the

assistance of Dr. Blair F. Janson and Dr. R. E. Partyka of Extension Plant Pathology and to Dr. C. Wayne Ellett and Dr. Glenn E. Smith of the Plant Pathology Department at the Ohio State University.

Peony Planting at the National Arboretum

by Leland H. Cole

The American Peony Society's test peony planting at the National Arboretum in Washington, D.C. is ten years old this year.

The idea for the planting was started by an article in Bulletin No. 139, December, 1955 regarding a test planting at Kingwood Center and asking for comments. Several members thought having everything at one place. I suggested Washington, D.C. as a good location because it would give us a chance to find out which varieties do best this far south, and because Washington being such a tourist center, more people would be able to enjoy seeing the blooms.

The reaction to this suggestion was favorable, so in the spring of 1956 I contacted Dr. Henry T. Skinner, Director of the National Arboretum, and Dr. Francis deVos, Assistant Director about having a planting there. They assured me that they had the space and the personnel to maintain such a planting and would welcome it as it would fit in with the research and educational objectives of the Arboretum. Later on, Mr. Peyton also contacted them, and in the Fall of 1957 there were 134 peonies planted there, including 6 hybrids. A list of these plants was published in Bulletin No. 147, December, 1957.

In Bulletin No. 151, December, 1958, an advisory committee was appointed for the planting. The committee consisted of Mr. Leland H. Cole and Mr. Hoyt H. Haddock, both of Silver Spring, Md., and Mr. F. H. Barclay of Baltimore, Md. On May 16, 1959, Mr. Cole and Mr. Haddock inspected the planting and submitted a detailed report to the So-

ciety. Mr. Barclay was unable to participate because of his health. At this time, the plants were in a temporary location until the permanent beds had been designed and prepared.

In the Fall of 1960 the plants were moved to their permanent location, and in May 1961 I inspected them there and reported that they had withstood the move and were in very good condition. Each year at blooming time, Mrs. Cole and I visit the planting and examine the plants. A few plants have died and have been replaced, but the majority are very healthy and bloom profusely. There is ample room for additional plants as you can see from the sketch. Since the relocation 30 tree peonies have been added on the hillside just across the dirt access road, and space is available for more of these also.

Each year from 1960 through 1966, I have selected 12 to 24 of the outstanding blooms and entered them as a special, non-competitive, educational exhibit in the Annual Rose and Peony Show of the Takoma Horticultural Club. Each bloom is correctly labeled and the group is on a separate table, identified as "Special Exhibit, American Peony Society, Test Planting, National Arboretum, Washington, D.C." This

exhibit has proved very popular and has elicited numerous comments and compliments. I am afraid Takoma will not have a Rose and Peony Show this year. It will be the first time they've missed for many a year.

I checked with the Arboretum recently and they gave me a copy of their complete and up-to-date record of the peony planting. I'm enclosing the copy if you can use it or want it for your permanent records. As you can see, the plant-

ing is in a choice location just inside the fence at the new R St. entrance, where it can be seen easily from Bladensburg Rd., a very popular and heavily traveled thoroughfare.

This July, Dr. DeVos is being transferred to Chicago, Illinois as Director of a new Botanic Garden to be established about 5 miles north of The Loop. After he gets settled, I know he would appreciate being contacted by peony fanciers in that vicinity. **See Pages 17-21.**

PERSONALITIES IN THE NEWS

We plan to call your attention from time to time to prominent personalities with whom you should be familiar. We call your attention to the following men, each of whom is serving as a conductor escort this spring on the Garden Tours to South America sponsored by the Horticultural Societies of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Michigan, the Ohio Association of Garden Clubs and The Gardners' and Florists' Association of Ontario.

Dr. Aubrey C. Hildreth

Dr. Aubrey C. Hildreth, recently retired as Director of the Denver Botanic Gardens, and now Director Emeritus, has been most helpful to your Editor in providing information regarding peony growing in the Rocky Mountain States.

For 23 years he was in charge of the Cheyenne Horticultural Field Station, Cheyenne, Wyoming, operated by the U. S. Department of Agriculture for horticultural research on the western Great Plains. Dr. Hildreth served more than 2 years as Horticulturist on a Foreign Aid Team in Afghanistan. He is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, a Member of the Advisory Council of the U. S. National Arboretum, Washington, D.C., and a Director of the American Horticultural Society.

Dr. Hildreth writes a garden column for The Rocky Mountain News, Denver, Colorado, and has traveled extensively in the Orient, Mexico and Central America.

Professor Victor H. Ries

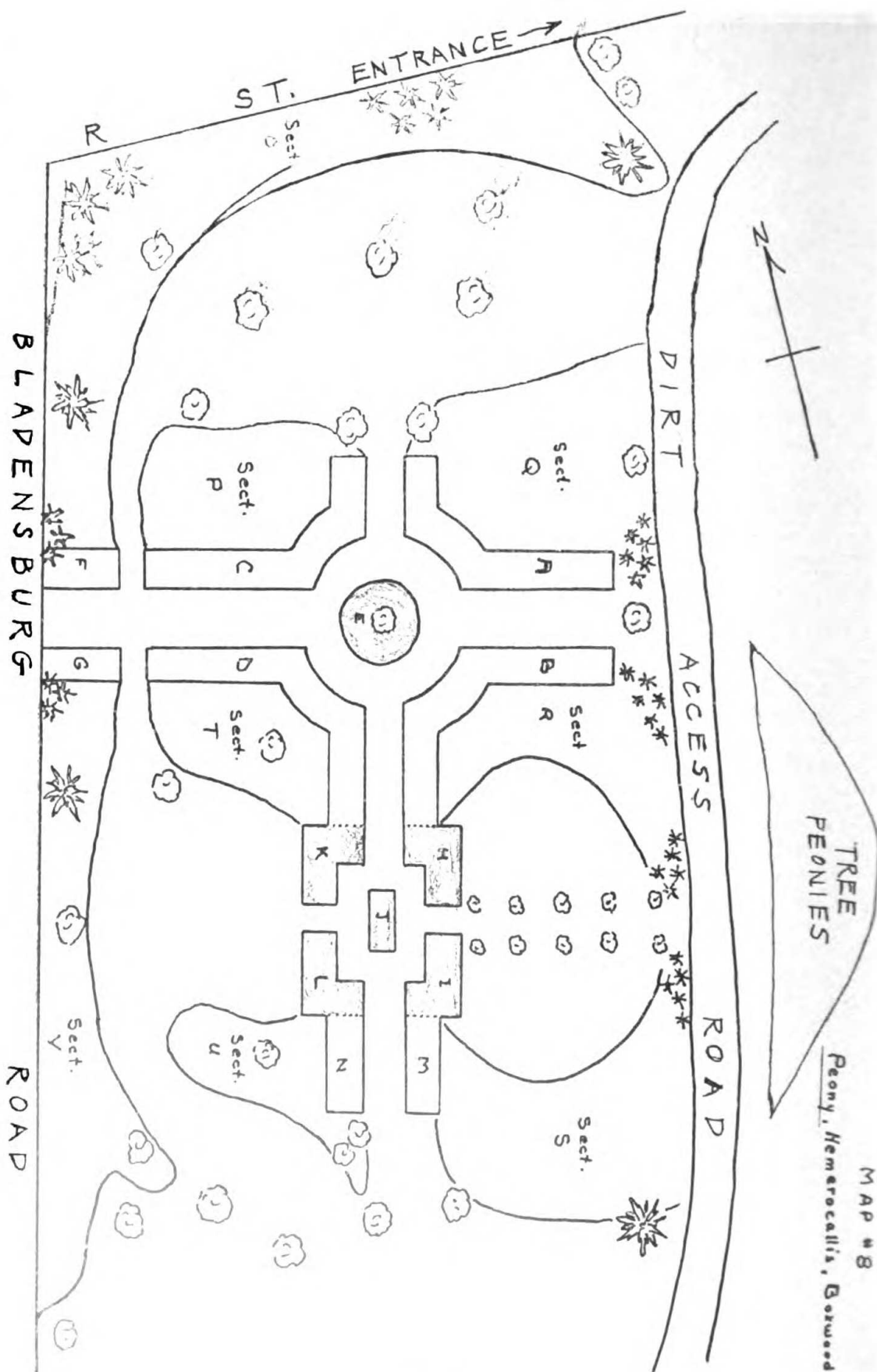
Professor Victor H. Ries, a nationally known authority on gardening, is Professor Emeritus of Floriculture of Ohio State University. He is one of the founders of the Ohio Association of Garden Clubs and for a number of years was its Secretary—they established a \$40,000.00 Fellowship at Ohio State University in his name.

At present he is Associate Editor of the Gardeners Forum of the American Horticultural Society and East-Central Editor of Flower and Garden Magazine. His articles have appeared in numerous magazines and newspapers, and he is the author of several garden books. He is the 1966 recipient of the Garden Writers Award of the American Nurserymen's Association.

Professor Ries has traveled extensively to all parts of the world. He is an expert photographer in addition to his world-wide knowledge of plants—he is also an ardent gardener and outdoors man.

We look forward with anticipation to an article by Professor Ries for our Bulletin.

Scale: 1" = 40'



List of Herbaceous Peonies

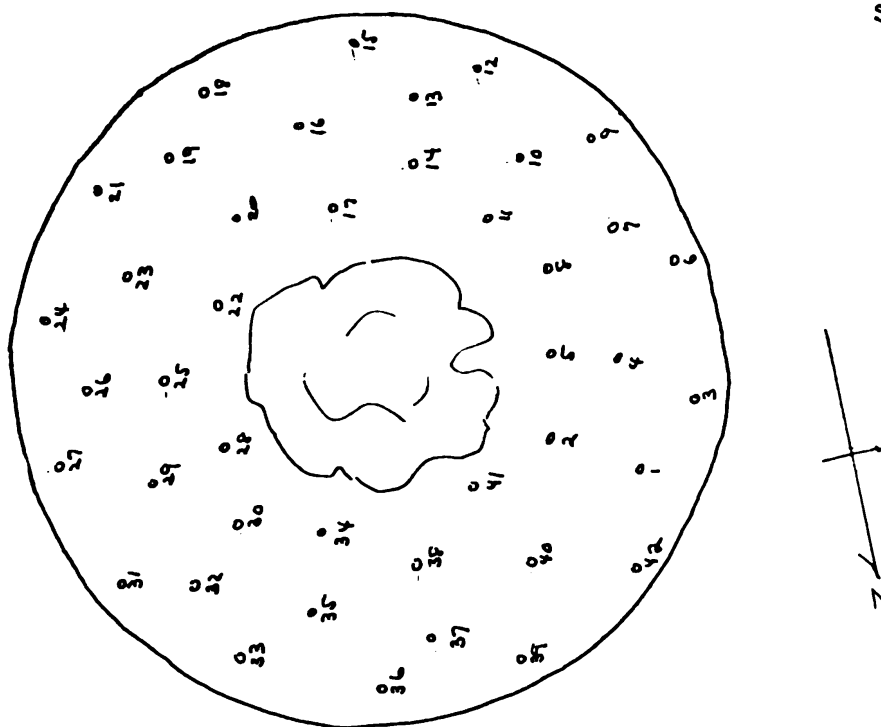
Aerie J-3
 Adolphe Rosseau H-6
 Albuquerque
 Alice Harding J-12
 Alma Hansen L-11
 Amberglow L-1
 Annisquam J-6
 Arthur H. Fewkes J-8
 Auten's Pride K-22
 Ave Maria J-4
 Bonanza
 Break O' Day L-17
 Burma H-19
 Bu-Te H-21
 Carol L-23
 Carrara H-22
 Casablanca K-23
 Charlie's White K-13
 Charm H-12
 Daisy B.
 Dolorodell J-5; L-7
 Doris Cooper J-10
 Dorothea H-25
 Dorothy J. J-7; L-22
 Dr. J. H. Neelen
 Edulis Supreme K-10; 12, 14
 Edulis Superba I-7
 Edwin C. Shaw H-3
 Elizabeth Huntington J-11
 Elsa Sass J-3
 Emma Klehm J-1
 Ensign Moriarty I-24
 Ethel Mars E-6
 Exquisite E-12
 Felix Supreme K-1, 3, 8
 Festiva Maxima L-18
 Flame K-15
 Flamingo E-42
 Florence Ellis E-3
 Florence Nichols E-24
 Frankie Curtis E-31
 Gardenia
 Garden Princess E-8; L-2
 Gold Standard H-18
 Hari-ai-nin H-15
 Helen E-9
 Helen Hayes J-2; L-8
 Isani Gidui I-5
 James Kelway E-2
 Jan van Leeuwen E-20
 Jayhawker K-4
 Jean A. I-6
 June Rose J-13
 Kansas K-11
 Karl Rosenfield I-18
 Kaw Valley K-21
 Kelway's Glorious I-23
 King Gustav
 King Midas I-20
 Krinkled White L-10
 Lady Alexandra Duff I-12
 Le Jour H-7
 La Lorraine H-5
 Largo E-15; L-21
 Longfellow I-1
 Loren Franklin J-14
 Lotus Queen H-16; L-4
 Louise M. I-8
 Lowell Thomas L-13
 Magnolia E-33
 Mandaleen E-18
 Margaret Clark H-2
 Martha Bulloch E-21
 Mary Auten I-13
 Mary Brand I-2
 Mary E. Nicholls K-17
 Mattie Lafuze I-16
 Mid-America J-9
 Midnight Sun I-10
 Mikado I-22
 Mildred May L-16
 Minuet I-9; L-19
 Mischief E-27
 Miss America H-17
 Mons Jules Elie E-39
 Moonstone E-36
 Mrs. A. O. Norton H-23
 Mrs. Edward Harding H-11
 Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt E-14
 Mrs. Harry F. Little H-13
 Mrs. Wilder Bancroft L-12
 Myrtle Gentry E-25
 Nancy Nicholls I-17
 Nick Shaylor E-38
 Nippon Beauty K-6
 Nippon Brilliant
 Philippe Rivoire L-24
 Pink Lemonade
 Pink Wonder H-20
 Plainsman
 President F. D. Roosevelt I-20
 President Wilson I-4
 Pride of Langport H-4
 Rapture H-1
 Rare China K-16
 Rebecca K-20
 Red Goddess L-6
 Reine Hortense L-3
 Richard Carvel K-2
 Salmon Beauty
 Sarah Bernhardt E-30; L-9
 Seashell I-14
 Sparkling Star I-21
 Snow Mountain K-24
 Tempest K-18
 The Mighty Mo L-25
 Threse
 Titania I-15
 Tondeleyo K-25; L-14
 Toro-no-maki H-9
 Vanity K-5
 Victory I-19
 Vivid Rose K-9
 Walter Faxon K-11
 Westerner K-19
 White Gull I-25
 Yosemite H-18
 124 varieties
 135 plants

List of Tree Peonies

lutea Alice Harding W-3
 Black Sea Y-8
 Fuji-no-akabon W-6
 Godaishu X-9
 Haku-banriu Y-6
 Hana-daijin Y-2
 Hana-kisoï X-11; Y-5
 Hanode-sekai W-8; Z-5, 8
 Hino-Tsukasa X-8
 Homei W-4
 Kinkaden X-12
 Kuro-botan Z-1
 lutea 'Argosy' X-5; Z-13
 lutea 'Eldorado' Y-13
 lutea 'Golden Bowl' X-4
 lutea Golden Vanitie X-2; Z-12
 Miyo-no-hikare W-11
 Mitma W-9
 Nishiki-jishi-10, 11; Z-9
 Orsis W-12
 lost Reine Elizabeth H-11
 Renaku W-2; Z-4, 7
 Shichi-fuku-jin Y-14; Z-2
 Tama-fuyo Y-7
 Tameko W-5
 Tekwan Y-1
 Yachyo-tsubaki Y-4
 Yae-Zakura W-1
 Yo-meimon Y-3
 Yomo-zakura Z-10

30 varieties

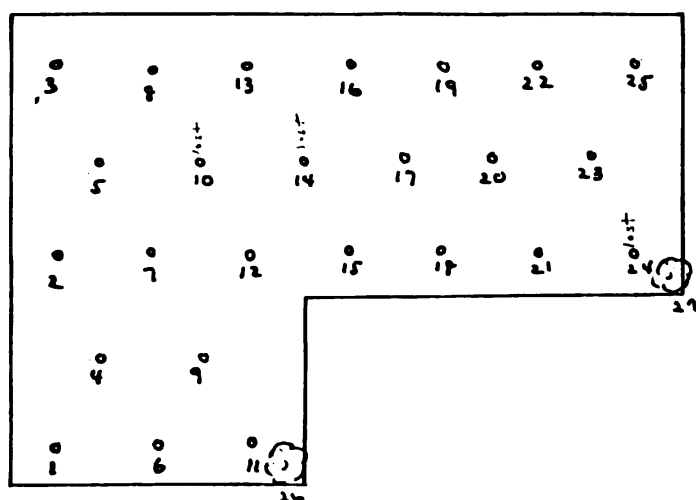
MAP #8
Sect. E.



- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. 15216 Hemerocallis 'Hyperion'* | 22. 15216 Hemerocallis 'Hyperian'* |
| 2. 10374 Peony 'James Kelway'* | 23. 152 Hemerocallis* |
| 3. 10421 Peony 'Florence Ellis'* | 24. 10422 Peony 'Florence Nicholls'* |
| 4. 15158 Hemerocallis 'Artemis' | 25. 10366 Peony 'Myrtle Gentry'* |
| 5. 15216 Hemerocallis 'Hyperian'* | 26. 27403 Hemerocallis 'Buried Treasure'* |
| 6. 10558 Peony 'Ethel Mars'* | 27. 10371 Peony 'Mischief'* |
| 7. 15158 Hemerocallis 'Artemis'* | 28. 15289 Hemerocallis 'Sweet Mystery'* |
| 8. 10831 Peony 'Garden Princess'* | 29. 15300 Hemerocallis 'White Triangle'* |
| 9. 10375 Peony 'Helen'* | 30. 10580 Peony 'Sarah Bernhardt'* |
| 10. 15158 Hemerocallis 'Artemis'* | 31. 10471 Peony 'Frankie Curtis'* |
| 11. 15216 Hemerocallis 'Hyperian'* | 32. 15300 Hemerocallis 'White Triangle'* |
| 12. 10526 Peony 'Exquisite'* | 33. 10381 Peony 'Magnolia'* |
| 13. 15254 Hemerocallis 'Pink Song'* | 34. 15217 Hemerocallis 'Illinois'* |
| 14. 10578 Peony 'Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt'* | 35. 15300 Hemerocallis 'White Triangle'* |
| (Franklin) | 36. 10553 Peony 'Moonstone'* |
| 15. 10513 Peony 'Largo'* | 37. 15300 Hemerocallis 'White Triangle'* |
| 16. 15216 Hemerocallis 'Hyperian'* | 38. 10383 Peony 'Nick Shaylor'* |
| 17. 15254 Hemerocallis 'Pink Song'* | 39. 10362 Peony 'Mons Jules Elie'* |
| 18. 10438 Peony 'Mandaleen'* | 40. 15300 Hemerocallis 'White Triangle'* |
| 19. 15254 Hemerocallis 'Pink Song'* | 41. 15272 'Ruffled Pinalene'* |
| 20. 10423 Peony 'Jan van Leeuwen'* | 42. 10828 Peony 'Flamingo'* |
| 21. 10356 Peony 'Martha Bulloch'* | |

* Metalphoto labels.

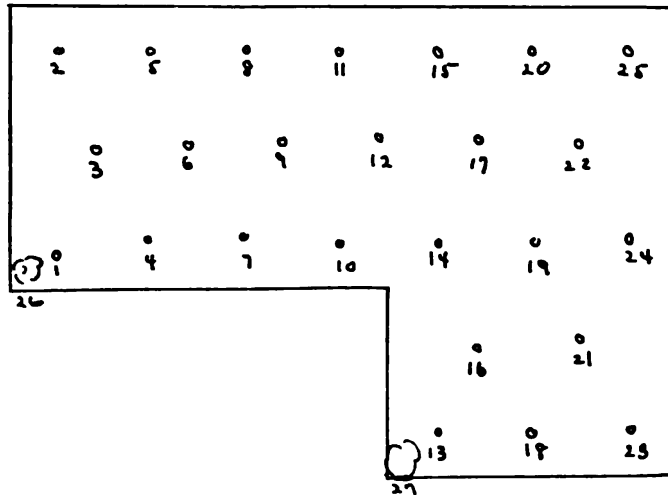
MAP #8
Sect. H



- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. 10379 Peony 'Rapture'* | 15. 10826 Peony 'Hari-ai-nin'* |
| 2. 10351 Peony 'Margaret Clark'* | 16. 10561 Peony 'Lotus Queen'* |
| 3. 10376 Peony 'Edwin C. Shaw'* | 17. 10577 Peony 'Miss America'* |
| 4. 10365 Peony 'Pride of Langport'* | 18. 10442 Peony 'Gold Standard'* |
| 5. 10560 Peony 'La Lorraine'* | 19. 10432 Peony 'Burma'* |
| 6. 10730 Peony 'Adolphe Rousseau'* | 20. 10741 Peony 'Pink Wonder'* |
| 7. 10829 Peony 'Le Jour'* | 21. 10825 Peony 'Bu-Te'* |
| 8. 10565 Peony 'Yosemite'* | 22. 10731 Peony 'Carrara'* |
| 9. 10582 Peony 'Toro-no-maki'* | 23. 10384 Peony 'Mrs. A. O. Norton'* |
| 10. Lost | 24. Lost |
| 11. 10363 Peony 'Mrs. Edward Harding'* | 25. 10556 Peony 'Dorothea'* |
| 12. 10569 Peony 'Charm'* | 26. 7026 Buxus microphylla 'Morris Dwarf'* |
| 13. 10524 Peony 'Mrs. Harry F. Little'* | 27. 7026 Buxus microphylla 'Morris Dwarf'* |
| 14. Lost | |

*—Metalphoto labels

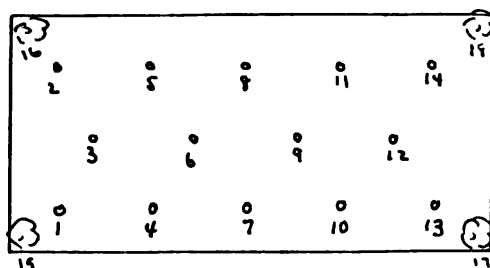
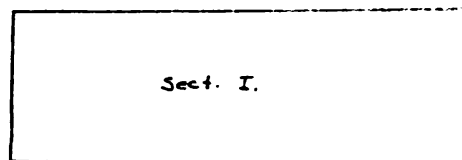
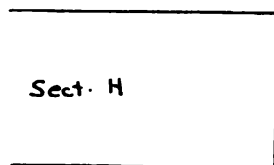
MAP # 8
Sect. I



- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. 10370 Peony 'Longfellow'* | 16. 10576 Peony 'Mattie Lafuze'* |
| 2. 10354 Peony 'Mary Brand'* | 17. 10427 Peony 'Nancy Nicholls'* |
| 3. 10557 Peony 'Elsa Sass'* | 18. 10357 Peony 'Karl Rosenfield'* |
| 4. 10385 Peony 'President Wilson'* | 19. 10441 Peony 'Victory'* |
| 5. 10572 Peony 'Isani Gidui'* | 20. 10437 Peony 'King Midas'* |
| 6. 10350 Peony 'Jean A.'* | 21. 10744 Peony 'Sparkling Star'* |
| 7. 10733 Peony 'Edulis Superba'* | 22. 10827 Peony 'Mikado'* |
| 8. 10562 Peony 'Louise M'* | 23. 10361 Peony 'Kelway's Glorious'* |
| 9. 10740 Peony 'Minuet'* | 24. 10435 Peony 'Ensign Moriarty'* |
| 10. 10563 Peony 'Midnight Sun'* | 25. 10377 Peony 'White Gull'* |
| 11. 10738 Peony 'Kansas'* | 26. 7026 Buxus microphylla 'Morris Dwarf'* |
| 12. 10369 Peony 'Lady Alexandra Duff'* | 27. 7026 Buxus microphylla 'Morris Dwarf'* |
| 13. 10575 Peony 'Mary Auten'* | |
| 14. 10522 Peony 'SeaShell'* | |
| 15. 10431 Peony 'Titania'* | |

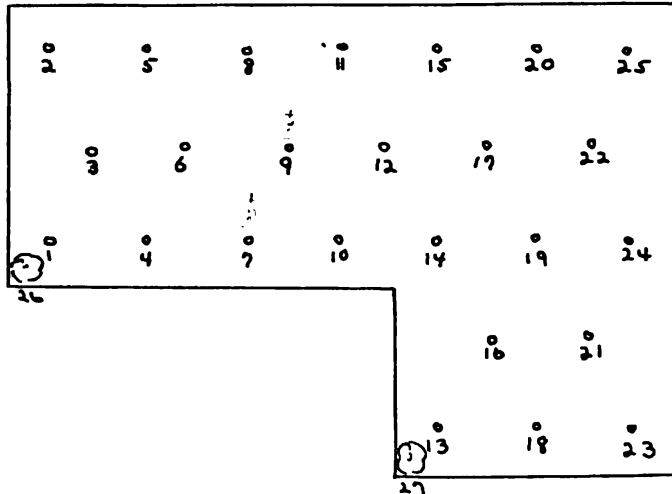
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MAP 48
Sect. J



- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. 10570 Peony 'Emma Klehm'* | 12. 10347 Peony 'Alice Harding'* |
| 2. 10559 Peony 'Helen Hayes'* | 13. 10518 Peony 'June Rose'* |
| 3. 10729 Peony 'Aerie'* | 14. 10574 Peony 'Loren Franklin'* |
| 4. 10567 Peony 'Ave Maria'* | 15. 7026 Buxus microphylla 'Morris Dwarf' |
| 5. 10434 Peony 'Dolorodell'* | 16. 7026 Buxus microphylla 'Morris Dwarf' |
| 6. 10380 Peony 'Annisquam'* | 17. 7026 Buxus microphylla 'Morris Dwarf' |
| 7. 10519 Peony 'Dorothy J'* | 18. 7026 Buxus microphylla 'Morris Dwarf' |
| 8. 10382 Peony 'Arthur H. Fewkes'* | |
| 9. 10732 Peony 'Mid-America' | |
| 10. 10420 Peony 'Doris Cooper'* | |
| 11. 10734 Peony 'Elizabeth Huntington'* | *—Metalphoto labels |

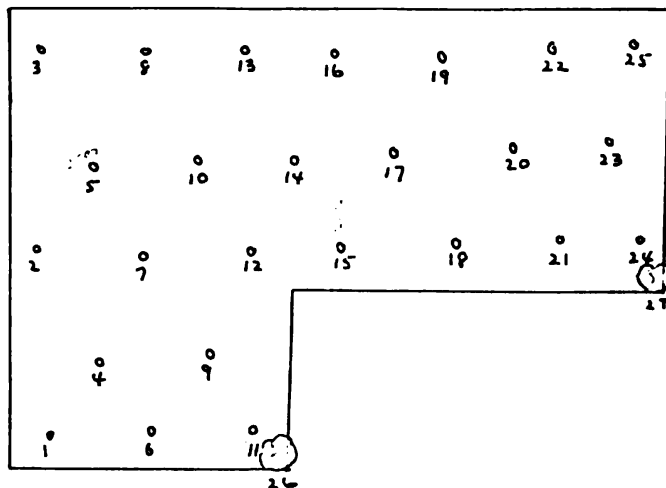
MAP # 8
Sect. K



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|------------------------------------|--|
| 1. 25441 Peony 'Felix Supreme'* | 16. 10428 Peony 'Rare China'* |
| 2. 10353 Peony 'Richard Carvel'* | 17. 10424 Peony 'Mary E. Nicholls'* |
| 3. 25441 Peony 'Felix Supreme'* | 18. 10367 Peony 'Tempest'* |
| 4. 10737 Peony 'Jayhawker'* | 19. 10745 Peony 'Westerner'* |
| 5. 10373 Peony 'Vanity'* | 20. 10824 Peony 'Rebecca' |
| 6. 10830 Peony 'Nippon Beauty' | 21. 10739 Peony 'Kaw Valley'* |
| 7. lost | 22. 10566 Peony 'Auten's Pride'* |
| 8. 25441 Peony 'Felix Supreme'* | 23. 10433 Peony 'Casablanca'* |
| 9. lost | 24. 10743 Peony 'Snow Mountain'* |
| (starting back) | 25. 10440 Peony 'Tondeleyo'* |
| 10. 25440 Peony 'Edulis Supreme'* | 26. 7026 Buxus microphylla 'Morris Dwarf'* |
| 11. 10584 Peony 'Walter Faxon'* | 27. 7026 Buxus microphylla 'Morris Dwarf' |
| 12. 25440 Peony 'Edulis Supreme'* | |
| 13. 10568 Peony 'Charlie's White'* | |
| 14. 25440 Peony 'Edulis Supreme'* | |
| 15. 10265 Peony 'Flame'* | |

*—Metalphoto labels

MAP #8
Sect. L



- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. 10378 Peony 'Amberglow'* | 16. 10564 Peony 'Mildred May'* |
| 2. 10735 Peony 'Garden Princess'* | 17. 10554 Peony 'Break O' Day'* |
| 3. 10355 Peony 'Reine Hortense'* | 18. 10359 Peony 'Festiva Maxima'* |
| 4. 10561 Peony 'Lotus Queen'* | 19. 10740 Peony 'Minuet'* |
| 5. Lost | 20. 10362 Peony 'President F. D. Roosevelt'* |
| 6. 10368 Peony 'Red Goddess'* | 21. 10573 Peony 'Largo'* |
| 7. 10434 Peony 'Dolorodell'* | 22. 10519 Peony 'Dorothy J.'* |
| 8. 10559 Peony 'Helen Hayes'* | 23. 25503 Peony 'Palaiol'* |
| 9. 10480 Peony Sarah Bernhardt'* | 24. 10360 Peony 'Philippe Rivoire'* |
| 10. 10364 Peony 'Krinkled White'* | 25. 10430 Peony 'The Mighty Mo'* |
| 11. 10418 Peony 'Alma Hansen'* | 26. 7026 Buxus microphylla 'Morris Dwarf'* |
| 12. 10426 Peony 'Mrs. Wilder Bancroft'* | 27. 7026 Buxus microphylla 'Morris Dwarf'* |
| 13. 10444 Peony 'Lowell Thomas'* | |
| 14. 10440 Peony 'Tondeleyo'* | |
| 15. Lost | |

*—Metalphoto labels

"RED EMPORER" WINS AWARD OF MERIT

Mrs. Martin Nelson, Wichita Falls, Texas, received the Award of Merit for "Red Emporer" given by the American Peony Society at the Annual Wichita Falls Florama, sponsored by the Council of Garden Clubs of that city, held April 22nd and 23rd.

The Award of Merit was for a Collection of five peony blooms any variety **Correctly** named in the Horticulture section. Mrs. Nelson also won a Blue Ribbon on Class 22-1-C a Double White—"Sister Margaret."

Mrs. Paul Morton won a Blue Ribbon in Schedule Class 22-3-a Single Red—for her specimen of **"Neon."**

According to our Variety Check List in the Nomenclature Division of the American Peony Society, "Red Emperor" is an origination of Auten's 1931. It is a Jap—mid-season bloomer—very large bright red like Mikado, but with fuller center. Mr. Auten stated that it fades at last, but is much admired, has stiff stems, grows to medium height and as a mature plant makes a fine effect.

"Sister Margaret" (Cooper—Wild & Son, 1953) is a double white early mid-season blooming plant of medium height, strong stems, good substance and has large pure white full double flowers. It lasts well as a cut flower. Was shown at Topeka, Kansas in 1942 under seedling No. 23.

"Neon" (Nicholas, 1941) is a large pink Jap—with petals and staminodes light rose—pink in color and does not fade. The staminodes are tipped and edged with gold and form a large hemisphere. Petals are wide and very bright. Wild's, 1955 catalog says it is a midseason blooming plant.

Mrs. Edgar G. Chatterton, Flower Show Chairman, who furnished us with the report of the Show together with appreciation for our participation (we furnished Award of Merit Certificates—together with the A-

merican Rose Society and the American Iris Society) stated that due to the unseasonably hot weather in the early part of the year—'summer-time in January'—peonies had just about bloomed out by the date of our show. Despite the unseasonably warm weather we still had a beautiful show in both the horticulture and artistic Divisions. The thirty-three (33) accredited judges gave the show a 95+ grade."

The Show is in line for district state and National awards and it is the sincere hope and knowledge of your Editor, they certainly should win all three!! Mrs. Hal Mason, Show Chairman is already at work on plans for the 1968 show.

It is our understanding there will be representatives at our big Show in Detroit. We look forward to meeting them!

—o—

FLASH-BILL INTRODUCED

After months of waiting word has finally reached us of the introduction of H-J Resolution 582 in the House of Representatives by Floyd Hicks, M.C. 8th District, Washington. The Bill as you recall is to designate the first full week in October as "Spring Garden Planting Week."

C. D. Pennell is a member of the national Spring Garden Planting Committee formed to interest all people to plant and become more interested, or should we say "beauty-minded."

We urge all of you to write your Congressman in Washington, D.C., urging support of this bill.

OUR READERS WRITE . . .

California

Frank Ruppert's address is now Green Mountain Ranch, P. O. Box 308, Julian, California 92036. He stated in his last letter (April 19th) "my new address is not really so new. The Christmas Tree Hill property did not have a home on it and when we came to build one a year ago we discovered we could buy this place with a modern home for about what we planned to spend in building. It consists of 8 acres, has a small fruit orchard of about an acre of good soil that I am planting to peonies.

Last fall I purchased one of the Mains hybrids (Firebelle) from Mr. W. A. Alexander and these are doing quite well. However just this week we had one of our late winter snows and bent down many of our plants. I purchased 100 of these hybrids and also have about 40 Mrs. Livingston Farrand. I hope to add a few other varieties this Fall. If my venture works out well I will transfer my peonies from Christmas Tree Hill property to this place so that all these little problems will be in one place.

I would love to attend the Peony Exhibit and meetings but that is not possible this year. Perhaps some time I may be able to combine meetings, . . . My plants are all young and I do not expect them to produce any spectacular blooms this year."

Indiana

We know many of you will be interested to know about Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Jones, parents of Mrs. Dorothy J. Knapp. We received word of their having moved to 19 West Logan St., Peru, Indiana 46970. Mr. Jones wrote us May 16th as follows: "After about forty years enjoying a good life at "TUCK-

DAWA"—the years piling up as in every case with humans, we sold out the home and area, moving into Peru on the 3rd. (May) Enid did overdo—likewise me—somewhat in the work and details involved in moving. Necessary to place Enid in Kokomo hospital last Saturday, May 13th. She's to be home last of week I hope.

Louisiana

The Colby's, Monroe, Louisiana 4307 Bon Air Drive, wrote Feb. 20th, "We have had a good winter. No real bad weather but cold enough for the peonies. The tree peony Hindoe Sakai is in a rush, has five big buds, so we hope to have no more hard freezes. We are hoping to make the meeting in Detroit. Would like to urge more amateurs like us to attend. We really saw and learned a lot last year."

We have since received their check for Banquet tickets and we are delighted they are planning to attend.

Mrs. Colby stated in the recent letter "Our Fifth District Garden Clubs had their flower show here a huge success. As far as I know it was the first time that Peonies were listed under separate classes in the Horticulture Schedule-singles, doubles and Japs, by color. Mr. Colby and I had eight (8) entries and received seven (7) blue ribbons and one (1) red ribbon. Also got the Award of Merit for Golden Arrow. What was most gratifying was that **other people had Peonies**. The High School Gardeners awards for Horticulture and Design were won by Peonies, which is a break in our part of the country! Things are looking up.

'Many people who ordered Peonies three years ago called us to tell us of their wonderful blooms. One

man reported thirty-two (32) blooms on a three-year-old **Bute** plant. **Le Cygnes** were wonderful this year, not only for us but for other people in the area. It must have been a good year as our tree peonies had very good bloom, some for the first time.

By the way, we were happy that we won second place in a state-wide competition on a Horticulture paper—"Peonies in the South". Looking forward to seeing you!

Ken and Glen Colby

Note from the Editor: We are looking forward to being permitted to print the paper on "Peonies in the South" in our Bulletin. We sent an American Peony Society poster for exhibitions at the show.

Minnesota

Bob Tischler wrote us early this month from Brand Peony Farms, Faribault, Minn. that it was "Rainy—cold weather here of late . . . We have hopes for many good blooms in our show field."

Ohio

Rev. John L. Fiala, R. 8, 7915 Branch Rd., Medina, O. 44256 although a very busy man, took time to answer our question regarding his work with hybrids (and some tree peonies). Rev. Fiala teaches 'Clinical Psychology' at John Carroll University in Cleveland. We should add that he also teaches some courses in Education and does some Counseling, however every extra hour does go into his hybridizing at "Crabwood." We quote from his most interesting letter.

"Yes, I am working only with the hybrids (and some tree peonies) but I do not believe I am really sufficing along to write a worthwhile article for the Bulletin. You know I am only in the infancy of my hybridizing—only about 5 or 6 years and have been hybridizing

other materials previous to peonies. Have been working with lilacs for about ten years and with the ornamental crabs equally as long—doing a great deal of work with colchicine and now with naphthalene acetamide (results have to be evaluated especially in the lilacs).

'For our Hybridizers' Round Robin I wrote up my method of peony seed germination—it might be of some interest and help to some members—when it arrives back I will send it to you. Have been working with some of the early peony hybrids and species: P. Russi Major: a most interesting and delicate, very early bloomer, pale lavender pink with a hint of green pastel in the flares, small cup shaped blossoms that last for three or four days—generally the frosts do not bother it here at Medina. I have not been able to get it to set seed—but its pollen has been most fertile when dried and used on later blooming hybrids. Perhaps some of its progeny will inherit some of Russi's earliness and who knows maybe even some of its charm and delicate shadings, or some of the ancestry of wittmanniana (Russi Major is itself a hybrid of russi x p. wittmanniana from Lemoine.) The Russi Major crosses have been with hybrids of Albiflora x officinalis hence they will be quadruple hybrids (russi x wittmanniana X albiflora x officinalis (and its reverse). To my knowledge this cross has not been made before or at least written up, if it had been made. These new little quads are pushing out sturdy little roots and only time will tell their future. (Ed. note—this was written in January) Russi Major, itself, for me is a strong plant, richly reddish, purplish green sheened leaves, (which form of wittmanniana Lemoine used to make this cross—who can tell) but I believe we should expect some new surprises in future generations

—not as dramatic as those that came from the master-hand of Dr. Saunder's—but interesting enough. I am deeply indebted to Silvia Saunders for my original plant of Russi Major and the encouragement to cross some of these less known hybrids that were carefully collected and hidden in her father's most wonderful garden! I can only tell you what we are doing here at Medina, the future will make manifest our successes or failures.

There are others, many other crosses that to me are equally as interesting—perhaps you would like to hear about them from time to time. Likewise, I have some cherished new “yellow” hybrids from Smirnow's—I am convinced that they will open up all kinds of new doors!

This work of hybridizing and experimentation is long, patient waiting. I have some colchicine treated lilacs that are seven years old and only a foot high—and have sulked in blooming for all these years! One of the wonderful aspects of working with peonies is that I do not have to screen them from the fiendish, hungry rabbits!

Good luck in your work for the Society—and perhaps some time I may be of help with an article or two.”

Ontario, Canada

Bryce F. Moffat, RR 1, Midland, Ontario, Canada wrote April 23, 1967 in answer to our question about his peonies:

“We actually are located in Midland on main highway into town. Our house is now unique as it is a two story Georgian style squared log house about 115 years old and overlooks the rather pleasant little lake at Midland to our west. Our one problem here is a shortage of water (from town) during dry spells. I should also mention a problem with the peonies, in some years,

which is the rose chafer scourge which when bad makes a real mess of our peony bloom—as well as the early roses. Our early hybrid peony Jewel misses this trouble as it blooms usually 2 weeks earlier than others and before the rose chafers bother us.

I will add a list of peonies now in our garden—Aerie, Ann Cousins, Blanche King, Charm, Doris Cooper, Dresden Pink, Elora, Florence Ellis, Golden Glow, Gilbert Wild, Hazel Lyons, J. C. Legg, Donna Jean, Indian Chief, Jewel, Lady A; ex. Duff, Mary Brand, Massasoit, Mandaleen, Minnie Shaylor, Mons. Jules Elie, Nick Shaylor, Laura Mag-nusen (new 1966) Princess Margaret (new 1966) Ruth Elizabeth, Tokio, plus 2 or 3 names missing.”

Oregon

Mr. Carl T. Morris, Route 1, Box 117, Jefferson, Oregon 97352 wrote to Secretary, American Peony Society, Northbrook, Ill., a request for information. The letter has been forwarded to us and we are glad to be able to include his questions in this Bulletin. We hope he will hear from some of our readers also. His letter follows:

“Can you send me information on grafting tree peonies? Do you know of any Bulletins or books on the subject? I have about one hundred (100) tree peonies, some of them have beautiful double blooms.

* * * *

Mr. Eugen K. Beugler, Star Route, Dexter, Oregon 97431 answered our letter on April 21st as follows:

“Thank you so much for your nice letter of the 25th. I really feel that I am a member of the Peony Society now. Yes, I did receive the back bulletins in good order and I certainly have enjoyed them. I am re-reading them now for the second time. There is so much information in them that it takes several times

going over them to pick it all out.

I would be glad to send you some information for your "Our Readers Write" column. However, I think you should know that I am very new to the peony culture, and can't as yet give much reliable information as to best varieties for this area and the like. I shall be glad to contribute what I have learned so far.

I have been growing peonies for only 2 years. We moved to Dexter, Oregon (just outside of Eugene, Oregon) about 2 years ago from Los Angeles. I always say that the biggest reason I chose this section of the country was so that I could grow rhododendrons and peonies, and it is turning out to be true. The home to which we moved had only one peony plant, which I believe is *Officinalis rubra plena*.

Fortune really smiled on me my first year with peonies. A friend of mine in Seattle, Washington, was dividing his plants that year and very generously sent me a dozen divisions, including one of Red Charm and several Saunders hybrids. These have all done very well so far. Red Charm had buds the first year, but they were caught by a late freeze and didn't develop. However, this year it has three very nice buds, and I am sure it will put on a show for us.

Have bought several peonies in cans from the local nurseries as well as sent away for some—also have written to most of the growers requesting their catalog. I have ordered peonies from Salem Peony Gardens, William H. Krekler, Mrs. Earle Knapp, and Louis Smirnow. The closest peony grower to me is Mr. Henry Hartwig at Salem, Oregon. I did get up to visit his garden last year at peony blooming time and was very impressed with his plants of "Helen Matthews," which I am going to try and get this year. While visiting my friends in Seattle,

we went out to visit the Goldsmith's in Edmonds, Washington. They have a beautiful hillside location and feature quite a few of Saunder's hybrids as well as many of their own seedlings. Have a catalog from Dimmick's in Potland, Oregon, but as yet haven't been able to visit them or had the opportunity to order from them.

This past year I corresponded with Mr. Jones in Peru, Indiana, asking about his peony, "Red Cloud." I found out that he had just retired the year before. Took him up on his suggestion and I wrote his daughter, Mrs. Earle Knapp, and was able to obtain a division of this plant from her. Have also corresponded with Mr. Louis Smirnow and have ordered several plants from him. I was so greatly impressed with the picture of the peony "Silver Swan" in the book **The Peonies**, that I asked Mr. Smirnow to see if he could get it for me. It took awhile, but he finally managed and I shall see it bloom this spring. Also ordered and received the yellow peony "Oriental Gold" and the Tree Peony "Orihime" from him.

In the two years that I have been growing peonies I think I have done rather well as far as collecting varieties. Time will tell about which varieties do well in this area.

Following is a list of the peonies I have so far:

Albert Crousse, Ave Maria, Baroness Schroeder, Floweret of Eden, Gay Paree, Inspecteur Lavergne, Kansas, Kelway's Glorious, Krinkled White, Lowell Thomas, Mrs. F. D. Roosevelt, Octavie Demay, Oriental Gold, Red Cloud, Ruth Elizabeth, Sarah Bernhardt, and The Fleece.

Hybrids: Avant Garde, Coralie, Halcyon, Heritage, John Harvard, Little Dorrit, Madrigal, Red Charm, Red Glory, Silver Swan, and Veritas.

Flus: *Officinalis Lobata*, "Sun-

shine" and Offininalis "Otto Froebel."

Tree Peonies: Godaishu, Jitsugetsu-nishiki, Kinkaku, Orihime and Tama-fuyo.

As far as the 1966-67 season, I shall have to trust to what the natives all say, as well as the weatherman. It has been a very mild winter with much less than the usual amount of rain. According to Mr. Hartwig, excessive rain is the main problem we have to contend with here. If drainage is a problem, it would probably be well to plant them in raised beds. So far, however, none of my plants have shown

any ill effects from poor drainage.

I too would like to be able to attend your Annual Meeting in Detroit this year. Perhaps a meeting in the future I might be able to make it.

One of the features about the bulletin I especially enjoy is the pictures. I would like to suggest that you be sure and put names under the pictures of persons connected with the Peony Society. Most always these are used, but there has been a time or two when I wondered just who was in the pictures.

Thank you again for writing me, and I do look forward to receiving the bulletins. "



TREE PEONIES

by Leo J. Armatys

There is something about tree peonies that strikes a responsive chord in scholars. Fortunately we can all enjoy the King of Flowers, whether our education is forged in the cold world of practical experience or is attested by diplomas and degrees.

Shades of Capistrano:

Bloom dates vary by weeks in this area of uncertain weather. The same applies to arrival dates of our purple martins. When the first scout birds appear, Mlokozewitschi is a week away from opening. Main flocks arrive with the early hybrids. Martins are building nests all over the place just as the first tree peonies bloom.

Growth Stocks:

My oldest (12 yrs.) tree peony, S. De MAXIM CORNU, is now my tallest, at exactly 4 feet. GUARDIAN OF THE MONASTERY is close behind. Considering its tender age, GUARDIAN should take over first place within a year. Yellow RENOWN shows signs of developing into the tallest of all lutea hybrids.

KAMADA FUJI and ALICE

HARDING are at the other end of the scale. These slow growers are as healthy as any, with flowers just as beautiful (smoky lavender and lemon yellow, respectively) as you'd want to see.

Miscellany:

First time bloomers here include deep pink SHINKYO and lutea species LUDLOWI—with one long tapering bud that should open about June 1st. TRIA has buds up and down each stem. Some will open in 3 days, some in 3 weeks, still others in between. Opening day should be something to remember.

COMPANION OF SERENITY bloomed on Mother's Day. You won't believe this flower until you see it!

The dense, dark, finely cut, two-tone foliage of red lutea hybrid

RED DRAGON makes it one of the choice garden plants. Most tree peonies have garden value all year long.

Late winter storms ending May 5th with 10 inches of snow and temperatures in the low 20's gave added proof of Moutan's reliability. No stem was broken. No bud was lost. The herbaceous had a little tougher time, and showed need for supports in time of stress.

Rock's variety won't float in my bowls this spring. It will go to seed, earmarked for gardeners in 6 states and on 3 other continents.

Editorially Speaking:

Moutan ordinarily requires no special attention. Many recommend

bonemeal. Others say it is worthless—that if tree peonies thrive when bonemeal is applied, it merely points up the fact that they need nothing other than reasonably good soil. If you've visited a good fertilizer man lately, you may know that highly sophisticated soil-testing equipment can now pinpoint the presence of boron, copper, iron, zinc and other trace elements. Cobalt has been used to chart absorption and utilization of applied fertilizer elements into the plant structure. Soon an optimum formula will be found for each species. Soil tests will show all elements available, and their proportions. A specialist will write up a prescription to be filled at your corner fertilizer store.



Tree Peonies In Early Spring

by Anthony J. De Blasi

I would like to present some observations on the effects of below freezing temperatures on actively growing tree peonies. (This discussion deals with established plants.)

In my area (Metropolitan New York), in most years, the leaf buds of the Japanese tree peonies begin to swell at the end of February, burst in early March, and start growing rapidly from Mid-March on. The Lutea hybrids start the process 2 to 3 weeks later and thus escape most of the rigors of early spring. It is the Japanese varieties that are most subject to frost during their early growth phase.

Surprisingly, occasional spells of temperatures into the 20's, a typical recurrence in March, have no effect on them except to temporarily slow down their rate of growth. This is rarely detrimental since, with rising temperatures, the plants compensate for the loss in time by growing more rapidly. One is tempted to generalize that a built-in timing

mechanism keeps the plants "on schedule," so that they bloom at nearly the same time every year. With some varieties, the "target" is rarely missed by more than 3 days, in spite of great variability in early spring weather conditions! Oddly, it is the weather of the week before or during the normal blooming time that has the most influence on the actual blooming dates.

This spring has put the tree peonies to a severe test. Early March was typical and buds began to burst, revealing, by Mid-March, embryonic tufts of tightly folded leaves hugging the central growing portions. Not all varieties break at the same time. Aside from exposure and sunlight patterns—variations in which engender variations in the

start of growth—there are varieties that start out sooner than others because of their genetic makeup. One such variety, always the earliest to start—and the first bloom (May 9, one year, name of variety unknown)—was 1½" out of its bud sheath when a prolonged cold snap set in that dropped the temperature into the teens. One windy morning, the mercury registered a frigid 11 degrees—the coldest Mid-March in many years. The shoots were frozen; they were dry and brittle in appearance, with the leaf tips black and the vital life color gone. I concluded that this season would end in failure for the tree peonies. But I was mistaken, for as soon as warmer temperatures returned, the normal coloring returned (with the exception of the leaf tips) and miraculously the shoots continued growing!

At this time I wondered what the leaves could possibly develop into, with so many blackened tips. In a week or so the answer began to grow obvious. At the time of the freeze, a leaflet was about ¾" long; a "burnt out" tip was about ¼" long, or ⅓ of the leaf area. Now while the live portion of the leaflet multiplied in size, the dead portion remained constant in size, so that in time the abnormal tip came to be a tiny fraction of the total normal leaf area—a blemish that was hardly noticeable.

In most cases, then, the severely cold temperatures in Mid-March had no lasting effect on the progress of the tree peonies. There were a few interesting exceptions, however. One or two plants, whose leaf tips were up high and exposed to the full blast of the wind, lost some (not all) entire leaves **but did not lose the flower buds**, which continued developing normally. And in a few cases, some of the growth tips were completely inhibited and

ceased to grow further but were replaced by new growths lower down on the stem. In fact, there are some shoots coming out of wood that is older than last year's, and bearing flower buds!

April brought its share of excitement. One morning in Mid-April, the temperature dipped to 29. By now, the most advanced plant had shoots up to 6" long, with stems, foliage, and flower buds spread out in lush profusion. Well this time I was convinced that I could write off this plant for the season! All of its shoots were limp, dark, with an unnatural waxy sheen. (The others, not nearly as far along, gave no cause for alarm: I knew from experience that they would not be harmed by freezing or slightly freezing temperatures in April.) No other plant in the collection had this deathly appearance and I was sure that this plant had been frost-bitten. But **within minutes** after the sun cast its rays on this plant, the shoots perked up and looked normal again—one of the most amazing events I've witnessed!

Shortly thereafter, unusual wind storms with gusts of over 30 miles per hour began to work on the tree peonies, my plants are all staked). At this stage the growth is succulent and tender and like putty in the hands of the elements. A day—2 days at most—after the winds subsided, and the twisting, writhing, contorted shoots were straight again and standing tall, fresh, and eager!

In summary, 1967's early spring temperatures—well below freezing in March, slightly below freezing in April—had little effect on a collection of tree peonies in the Metropolitan New York area (Climate Zone 7) in spite of a general state of active growth. Also, the tender shoots of the early growth stages can withstand considerable whipping by the wind, without harm.

(Note that the mature stems, however, are relatively brittle and should be staked, unless the plants are in a protected exposure.) General conclusion is that in spite of the delicate appearance of tree peonies at this time of year, they can take quite a beating from the weather and still perform normally.

Their habit of blooming 2 to 3 weeks earlier than herbaceous peonies—and thus forced to face colder temperatures and less settled weather conditions—has given the tree peonies a Spartan constitution that accounts for their remarkable feats of recuperation and regeneration.

PEONY GROWER AND WRITER



L. E. Nichols

Lincoln Evan Nichols has more than 8,000 Peony plants on 8 of his 14 acre property located on East Third Street in Chillicothe, Missouri. Although Mr. Nichols retired a few years ago from his responsibility of maintenance at the Walbrunn Building in that city, he has never actually retired. His gardening keeps him busy many hours of each day for he is not only growing peonies but constantly sharing

them with the churches and sick folk when the flowers are blooming, but also tending his creeping phlox plantings and strawberry patch. Mr. Nichols is a dedicated Christian gentleman and a devoted member of the American Peony Society.

We recently received the second of his booklets—yes—he is a writer also, entitled "Nichols on Discretion in Culture and Other Items". He has taken for his text "The simple

believeth every word; but the prudent man looketh well to his going" and dedicated the writing to "the First Gardener" And the Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden: And there He put the man whom he

formed to dress and to keep it."

Mr. Nichols' first writing was on the subject of mulching. We wish to express our appreciation for his gifts of these publications.

—The Editor

Membership

We welcome the following new members, those who have renewed their membership and those requesting re-instatement after several years. We did not print the list from December 31st until February 28th, in the March Bulletin so are including all names and addresses from that time until publication of the June Bulletin No. 185.

Alexander, W.A., 145 Eberly Ave., Bowling Green, Ohio 43402
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 Fulton, Mrs. Lynn, R.R. 2, Independence, Iowa 50644
 Gilbertson, Ben, Kindred, North Dakota, 58051
 Gracey, M. W., R.R. 2, Blackstone, Virginia 23824
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 Imhoff, Frederick O., R.R. 2, Hanover, Kansas 66945
 Insull, Samuel, 225 S. River St., Geneva, Illinois 60134
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 Richardson, Mrs. Carl, 631 S. Turner, Ada, Oklahoma 74820
 Rogers, Percy L., RFD 1, Front Royal, Virginia 22630
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 Strong, Mrs. Laura P., Rapidan, Virginia 22733
 Sidebotham, John B., 4731 Northwood Ave., Philadelphia, Penn. 19124
 Stavely, Ellis, 602-1st St., Traer, Iowa 50675
 Solberg, Roy, 1071 Udall Rd., Bay Shore, New York 11706
 Schultz, Mrs. Frederick J. Sr., 109 George St., Abbeville, S. C. 29620
 Tharp, Mrs. Fannie, Edgetown Manor, R.R. 3, Winfield, Kansas 67156
 Thompson, Robert A., 3803 W. Main, McHenry, Illinois 60050
 Tinnappel, Harold E. R.R. A, St. Rt. 105, Pemberville, Ohio 43450
 Toland, Mrs. Marie Park, 212 Indiana, Neodesha, Kansas 66757
 Thelin, Paul B., 1220 Ave., A, Gothenburg, Nebraska 69138
 Thee, W. E., 13527 Mogadore, Uniontown, Ohio 44685
 Tikaksky, F., 312 North Spring Ave., LaGrange Park, Illinois 60528
 Thompson, Herschel, 1421 Norfolk Ave., Tulsa, Oklahoma 74106
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 Underwood, John L., 2740 Abingdon Rd., Birmingham, Alabama 35243
 Utah State Library, Logan, Utah 84321
 U. S. Department of Agriculture, Crops Research Division, U. S. National Arboretum, Washington, D. C. 20250
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 Votrian, Lester, 1102 Franklin, Edwardsville, Illinois 62025
 Vandersall, Scott, 118 Perry St., Pemberville, Ohio 43450
 Voss, Mrs. Arthur, 6158 W. 55th St., Chicago, Illinois 60638
 Vaughn, Allan C., 88 Coolidge St., Midvale, Utah 84047
 Wissing, Mrs. Clara S., 93 S. Lombard, Lombard, Illinois 60148
 Wissing, Richard, 824 Hillview, W. Chicago, Illinois 60185
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 Warren, Harold R., 2985 Riverside Dr., Beloit, Wisconsin 53511
 Ward, Roy F., 43 Suzanne Dr., Portsmouth, New Hampshire 03801
 Zajac, Mrs. Elizabeth, R.R. 3, Box 255, Edgerton, Wisconsin 53534

JULY DAY SIGNIFICANT

'Tis said July 15 has rain significance in many countries. St. Swin is honored on this day in England. The well-known verse recalls the prophecy : Rain on July 15 means forty more days of rain. In Ogata, Japan, the villagers go up the mountain to offer sake and cloth for two kimonas to the water god. This is done on July 15 in return for three days' rain in 1504 sent by the water god in answer to the villagers' prayers following a severe drought.

* * * *

Patriotism is easy to understand in America. It means looking out for yourself by looking out for your country. —Calvin Coolidge (1923)

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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK . . .

What about your reservation for the Banquet ? ? ? If you've sent it disregard this question but perhaps a reminder is to those who have not realized how Father Time keeps pushing us, better send them in to us.

Those of you interested in using Peonies in flower arrangements will certainly be challenged at this Show for the members of the Northwestern Garden Club of Detroit, under the chairmanship of Mrs. Elva L. McBryde, have done an excellent job in co-operation with our Vice-President Dr. Harold Tinnappel in making out the Schedule-Division VI for this, the 64th Annual Exhibition.

Mrs. McBryde is a member of The Federated Garden Clubs of Michigan, Inc. and National Council of State Garden Clubs. She is a member of the State Board of the State organization, Chairman of Flower Show Schools and an accredited Master Judge of the National Council of State Garden Clubs. Her interest is not confined to those organizations entirely for she is treasurer of the Detroit Lily Society and a member of the North American Lily Society.

The Federated Garden Clubs of Michigan were extended a special invitation to attend our Meeting and Show when they were in annual session recently. Mr. Clarence Lienau, chairman of our Arrangements Committee furnished invitations to the members of all Garden Clubs in Michigan. These were addressed and mailed by the Detroit women under Mrs. McBryde's leadership. We are delighted with their assistance and look forward to one of the best Shows ever held. Returning to Detroit for the second time

in 64 years should be a real treat for all of the American Peony Society members.

* * * *

Our members make the news again ! ! ! Lerton Hooker, Lombard, Ill., and Herbert Fischer, Hinsdale, Ill., were featured in pictures, and story by Art Kozelka in a recent Sunday issue of the Chicago Tribune. Mr. Hooker was pictured admiring his Iris garden. He is an iris fancier and hybridizer and was to display some of his prize blooms in the Iris Show sponsored by the Northern Illinois Iris Society. If you will check page 15 of your December 1966 Bulletin No. 183 you will see and read about Mr. Hooker. Mr. Fischer is president of the American Iris Society.

* * * *

Gordon H. Binco, a fifth generation British gardener paid an initial visit to Chicago this month. His first impressions of mid-west gardens were interesting and we quote from Art Kozelka's interview—"It seems like there is a house, then a 'green mustache' of evergreens and lawns, and then the sidewalk and the street."

Mr. Binco whose home is in Cranleigh, Surrey, England, has served as head gardener at some of Britain's outstanding public and private estates, was making a national tour to promote garden tools manufactured by Bissell, Inc. of Grand Rapids, Michigan. We were encouraged that Mr. Binco would be aware of the practically permanent performance of peonies if planted in gardens, after our conversation with Mr. A. J. Shaffer, Advertising Manager, of that concern. We were sorry he could not accept our invitation to attend our annual Peony Ex-

hibition due to his return to England the latter part of May.

* * * *

We had thought not to print anything about the weather this month—thinking the September issue would be best. However, seeing the startling headline in one of the metropolitan papers—Earth May Cool to Point of Concern—thought maybe we would pass on to you the thinking of Reid A. Bryson, University of Wisconsin meteorologist. Mr. Bryson said that this is the cool generation in more ways than one and it's likely to get even cooler—cool enough for concern.

Since 1950 the Earth has been cooling off quite rapidly, largely because of solid particles in the atmosphere which are clogging the paths of the sun's warming rays, Bryson said.

There is no reverse in sight to the accumulation of the atmospheric "dust" according to him. An observatory in Switzerland reported an 84 per cent increase in solid particles in the air during the 3-year period, 1957-59, compared with a 3 year period a half century earlier, according to Bryson. He further stated the trend could take the world back to conditions of the 1830's, when summer frosts and crisp winds were common.

That made me recall that I had read last year the National Geographic Society said that the weather 150 years earlier turned New England into a frigid disaster area. The Old Farmer's Almanac said that the cold year of 1816 started with an unseasonably warm January. Then heavy frosts were recorded every month—a blizzard struck in June, ice storms coated trees in July—birds froze—and it really did become serious.

Pendulums do swing back and forth—so let's all take heart that

Mr. Bryson's concern will not be as serious as it would seem and it will swing for good weather.

Keep note of conditions in your areas and write us. It should make a good story for our next two issues!

* * * *

Another of our members has been accorded an honor—one she so justly deserved—Mrs. Herman Emig, Columbus, Ohio, was recently named the Outstanding Gardener of 1966 by the Columbus Citizen—Journal, Columbus, Ohio. Our readers will turn to page 15 of the March 1966 issue of Bulletin No. 180 and re-read her story "PEONIES; The Backbone of Beautiful Gardens."

A picture of Mrs. Emig together with a Salute appeared on the front page of the paper and a full page story together with 4 pictures on page 10 of that issue.

When contacting the staff writer of that paper with a request for pictures, we learned that Mrs. Emig had been ill, suffering from an attack of pneumonia and had gotten out of bed to attend the Tea given in her honor.

We will, through courtesy of Miss Pauline Wessa, staff writer of the paper, and Mrs. Emig, print the story and we hope have the pictures for our September issue.

* * * *

We have just learned as we go to press that fire destroyed a 2-½ story equipment storage barn and two homes for migrant workers at the Charles Klehm & Son Nursery, Arlington Heights, Ill. No injuries were reported but heavy equipment in the 100 x 50 foot barn was extensively damaged.

Our sympathy is extended Carl Klehm who is doing a tremendous job of making the public aware of the PEONY—a true gardener's dream of a plant that is practically a permanent perennial! His 600 acres

are a show place!

* * * *

**IF SNOWBALLS ARE GOOD—
PEONIES ARE BETTER!**

The late Louis Germann, owner of former Wahnfried Gardens, Van Wert, Ohio, watched for the "Snowballs" to burst into bloom each spring and would always say—"When the 'Snowballs' are good, the Peonies will be large and full of good quality."

Mr. Pennell and I have watched this over the years and because of the unusual amount of moisture and the cool weather this year, we feel that unless a rare dry period is in the offing, the Peonies, here in Van Wert, will be colorful, large size and of good quality.

Peony officinalis rubra is flowering profusely (as we go to press) in Van Wert Gardens and this means that our Cemetery will provide a vivid display of their small red blooms. I consider them small.

* * * *

LET US PRAY

As we approach this Memorial Day, May 30th; Flag Day, June 14th, Independence Day, July 4th, let us pause as we work in our gardens and add our prayers for those who are

serving in the protective forces of our country.

The Young Americans who devote their full careers and lives to the freedoms, which most of us take for granted, are dedicated men, spiritually, mentally and physically. Here is an excerpt from the prayer to God which the West Point cadets repeat daily in their chapel at the U. S. Military Academy.

"Make us choose the harder right instead of the easier wrong, and never be content with a half truth when the whole truth can be won. Endow us with courage that is born of loyalty to all that is novel and worthy, that scorns to compromise with vice and injustice and knows no fear when truth and right are in jeopardy."

Another is an excerpt of the prayer repeated by the midshipman in the U. S. Naval Academy at Annapolis:

"Keep me true to my best self, guarding me against dishonesty in purpose and deed, and helping me so to live that I can stand unashamed and unafraid before my shipmates, my loyal ones and Thee. Protect those in whose love I live. Give me the will to do the work of a man and to accept my share of responsibilities with a strong heart and a cheerful mind."

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Recommended List of Peonies For Planting. 65c each non-members. Members price 50c. We are forced to raise our price of this pamphlet. This is due to cost of printing and mailing. Special price if ordered in lots of 25.

Peonies Outdoors and In. Arno and Irene Nehrling. Hearthsides Press Inc., New York. About 300-pages, 100 black and white illustrations and 11 color plates. Contents similar to those of the Handbook with the addition of a section of Peonies Indoors, arrangements and how to stage a show. About 40-pages are devoted to the Tree Peony. Price to members of the American Peony Society: \$4.95 each. To non-members \$5.95.

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The Peonies. Edited by Dr. John C. Wister and published by American Horticultural Society, 1600 Bladensburg Road, N.E., Washington 2, D.C., has over 200-pages and many illustrations. It treats both Tree and herbaceous peonies. Write direct to American Peony Society Office for full information.

GIFTS

Birthday Cards: Attractive cards with colored pictures of peonies that were painted in West Germany and with a verse applicable to any person, may be procured from this office. Packages of 10, 25, 50 or 100. Prices reasonable. Write for price stating quantity and giving four weeks notice prior to date needed.

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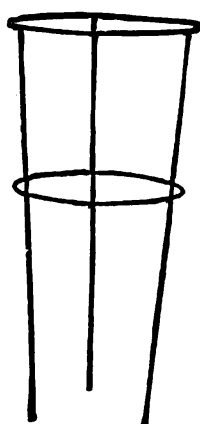
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