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The American Peony Society Bulletin



FIRST EDITION

PEONIES

A HISTORY OF PEONIES AND THEIR ORIGINATIONS

Compiled and edited by Greta M. Kessenich in cooperation with the
nomenclature committee of the American Peony Society

In Three Parts

1. VARIETY CHECKLIST

Based on a list compiled and edited by
Mr. & Mrs. Byron Gist, completed in 1951
and kept on file at Kingwood Center, Mansfield, Ohio.

2. REGISTERED PEONIES

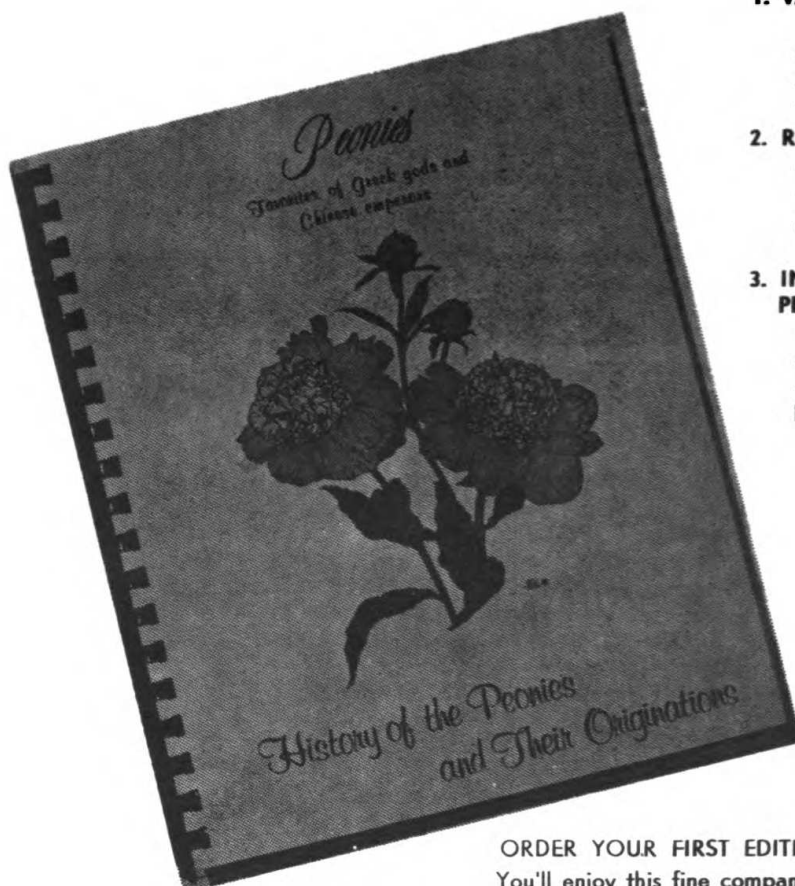
Compiled and edited by Greta M. Kessenich
from bulletins of the American Peony Society.
All varieties registered with the American
Peony Society are listed.

3. INTRODUCERS OF PEONIES AND THEIR PRODUCTIONS

Peony varieties listed by growers and
developers with emphasis on information pro-
vided by George W. Peyton during the years
he was secretary and editor.

5,000 INDIVIDUAL ENTRIES

Peony growers who have had to rely on
fragmented sources for tracking down
peony varieties and their origins can now
avail themselves of this magnificent work
—a spiral bound, 9x12 inch book which
lists and presents a capsule history of
varieties in commerce. It is the result of
monumental research, compilation and
editing effort by Greta Kessenich and the
nomenclature committee consisting of
three American Peony Society past pre-
sidents: Roy G. Klehm, Marvin C. Karren
and Clarence O. Lienau.



ORDER YOUR FIRST EDITION COPY NOW!

You'll enjoy this fine companion to your interest in peonies and will refer
to it many times during the course of your peony gardening activities.
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fine stock. Cover and all artwork contained inside is the work of artist
Joseph F. Kuczek. Price per copy \$10.00



American Peony Society
250 Interlachen Road
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Their Originations" at \$10.00 per copy for which I enclose \$_____

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"If ever a garden offers a refuge, or a brief moment of relaxation from the world of chaos, confusion and conflict, that season is here and now.

The garden is our escape, not from, but into reality!

The gardener's philosophy of "plowshares" and "pruning hooks" is fundamentally correct and while it cannot redeem the world it can modestly point the way and direct our thinking along well worn and friendly paths.

If this protest be feeble, if the challenge be mild, charge it against human limitations but never against hopes and convictions!"



Weather Report from Scandinavia

It's incredible that weather changes generally seem to be the same at the same period in North America as in north of Europe.

Last year, we also had a cold and damp peony season like you did. That favored a lot of diseases here, too. This winter began with an extremely cold December in the northern Europe region. Fortunately, we got a good uniform thick snow cover of one foot only a day before the cold. In contrary to last year's many weather changes, this winter seems more favorable to the perennials, at least for us in Sweden.

—Hermann Krupke, Guldsmesgardens Plantskola,
52030 Ljung, Sweden



A part of Guldsmesgarden. In front, new planted snow covered peonies.

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DEPT. OF REGISTRATION

The department was formed to properly supervise the nomenclature of the different varieties and kinds of peonies. All new varieties should be registered to avoid duplication of names.

Greta M. Kessenich, Secretary

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 kind of the general objects herein specified by holding or causing to be held exhibitions, and awarding or causing or procuring to be awarded, prizes therefor or in any other manner.

The AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY BULLETIN is the official Society publication. It is mailed postpaid quarterly to all members in good standing.

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 for membership. Dues are as follows:

Single Annual.....	\$ 7.50	Junior or member family.....	\$ 2.50
Single Triennial.....	20.00	Life	150.00
Family Annual.....	10.00	Commercial membership.....	25.00
Family Triennial.....	27.50		

Family membership, any two related members in same household.....One Bulletin
Junior membership, any age through completion of high school.....Separate Bulletin

For those who wish to further support the Society, the following special memberships are available.

Contributing	\$25.00	Supporting	\$100.00
Sustaining	50.00	Patron	250.00



AMERICAN Peony Society Bulletin



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FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

The peonies are blooming. This is the time to select varieties for fall planting. There are different types and colors, ranging from white through deep black red, early hybrids to the late blooming lactifloras, not forgetting the tree peony and its early bloom. Some of these tree peony beauties should be in every garden. There has been a wide range of peonies published in the Bulletins with descriptions, so a selection can easily be made.

The main secret in growing good peonies is the soil. They do prefer a clay loamy condition. We all are not so fortunate to have such a place but we can remedy that by digging holes at least twelve inches across and ten to twelve inches deep. Prepare suitable soil, putting some fertilizer in the bottom of the hole. It is advisable to prepare holes in advance of fall planting. This will give the soil time to settle, so roots will remain as placed when planted. Select your site some distance from trees and shrubs in a well drained location. During the dry season, they should be watered like any other perennial.

The bottom line, is to plant your peony roots with the pink eyes pointing up, one or two inches below ground level, depending upon your climatic location. Firm the soil around the dark roots and unless the soil is moist, water them at the time of planting.

It has been my pleasure and honor to be your president the past two years. With this last quarterly chat, I want to express my thanks to all of you for your support of the Society.

To the new President: "Sincere good wishes for every success."

Irvin Ewing

National Convention and Exhibition, Royal Botanical Gardens,
Hamilton Ontario Canada, June 11, 12 and 13, 1982.



**If you cut a tree, plant a tree.
It is nature's replaceable energy.**

— 4 —

HOW TO CUT PEONIES

Peony show time approaches and many new exhibitors have questions in mind which they would like to have answered.

Setting dates for peony shows which would suit all gardens is obviously impossible. Some gardens are early and some are late. Some peonies are early and some late. It is our endeavor to set the show date at a time when the majority of growers can bring their blooms direct from the garden. Those who have extra early locations and those growing the extra early hybrids will have to resort to refrigeration to hold them till show time. In order to do this it becomes necessary to cut the peonies at the proper time and place them in storage. A temperature of thirty six degrees is best but a temperature as high as fifty degrees is satisfactory if the blooms are to be stored for a week or less. Blooms can be kept for over a month when stored at thirty six degrees. A very important point to keep in mind is that blooms should be chilled for several hours before being brought to the show room. This chilling prevents wilting. Peonies are best stored with the stems in about eight inches of water.

Most new exhibitors are also troubled as to what stage of development buds should be cut. The following types may be cut when the bud is showing color or when the first petals begin to unfold: singles, Japanese, semi-doubles. The full double type such as Hansina Brand should not be cut until almost fully open. It is important to place in cold storage as soon as possible after cutting.

It is a good practice to place the buds in paper bags before placing in storage. The procedure is this: cut a hole in the bottom of the bag and slip the stem thru the hole, the open end of the bag is then closed by twisting. The bag gives protection to the petals against bruising. The one pound bag is about the right size for singles, Japs and semi-doubles while the two pound bag is more satisfactory for the larger and fuller blooms.

Cut stems about sixteen inches long and remove all foliage except the top leaf. However the stems should be cut so that at least two leaves are left on the plant. When the buds are brought to the show room, cut off the ends of the stems about a half inch, place in water and carefully remove the paper bag. It's a thrilling sight to see the buds unfold into beautiful blooms and it is even more thrilling to see a ribbon pinned on your exhibit.

PEONY EXHIBITIONS

Fifth District Peony Exhibition June 5-6

Chicago Botanical Gardens, Glencoe, Ill.

Minnesota Peony Society Exhibition:

June 19-20, 1982. Har Mar Mall

2100 North Snelling, Roseville, Minnesota.

Written by one of the great peony growers in Canada. Bulletin #81, December 1940.

Peonies that are on display at the National Exhibition, Royal Botanical Gardens are later distributed to hospitals. A dream realized of Mr. F. Trafford Taylor.

THE PEONY—A GLORIFIED ROSE

By F. Trafford Taylor, K. C.

Past International President, Kiwanis International St. Boniface,
Manitoba, Canada

You may be a peony lover, but in case you are not, here are a few of the highlights and interesting facts about this wonderful flower. The perfect peony is certainly nature's most gorgeous floral masterpiece.

The peony has been aptly named a glorified rose, and is native of the steppes of Siberia, in its single form, where it grows wild.

The Orientals cultivated it many centuries ago, having numerous peony Societies in Japan and China.

It remained for the French specialists, after the French Revolution at Nancy, near Paris, to develop in a peony garden, which is still in existence, the wonderful double peonies. Some of the most striking of these modern double peonies are *Le Cygne* (the swan), a beautiful pure white delicately petalled flower, some nine inches across, as white as the driven snow, *Sarah Bernhardt*, bomb shape, pink, of an enormous size, bearing prolifically year after year, and *Marcelle Dessert*, a delicately tinted flesh pink.

The great French growers at Nancy were Calot, Crousse, Dessert and Lemoine, the garden passing from family to family, and from father to son.

The French growers grew for delicacy of form, producing such exquisite perfect blooms as *Solange*, a dark shaded cream, resembling a typical sunset, and *Philippe Rivoire*, a delicate red of lovely shade, *Emile Lemoine*, one of the latest blooming peonies. The English grower, Kelway, produced enormous peonies called *Kelway's Glorious*, a peony measuring almost a foot across.

The Americans produced some wonderful peonies, particularly *Brand*, the Elder and Junior at Faribault, Minnesota, who have given the world some of the finest reds, including *Brand's Magnificent*. The further north, the better the red color, and the peonies prefer a long closed winter, as a resting period preparatory to producing in a moderately warm summer season, their glorious blooms.

Karl Rosenfeld is a very fine American red—dark crimson, producing particularly fine flowers of good texture, quality and quantity, and most suitable to the home grower.

I have often thought that it would be a splendid, and very useful objective and activity, for Kiwanis clubs, particularly in the North and

North Western parts of the United States and Canada to encourage and popularize the growing of peonies, so as to develop peony shows, and in the blooming season, to distribute as many as possible to the sick and bedridden. I may say that to date this year, Mrs. Taylor and I have cut upwards of 25,000 peony blooms, and distributed them to the hospitals throughout greater Winnipeg and St. Boniface, including the invalid soldiers and apparently they have been appreciated; also YMCA Army Hut at Shilo Camp.

I have a twenty-year-old acre plot, of some 3,500 peonies, of the best varieties, gathered over the year from Europe and the United States and at this time of the year it is a very fitting service activity in my opinion, for Kiwanians to use their surplus flowers to brighten the sickrooms and hospitals. I also grow at home some 20,000 annuals, of different varieties, as a follow-up flower for cutting after the peonies have finished blooming.

The gathering and cutting requires considerable time, but if a number of Kiwanians work together in a group, they could establish a regular flower car to gather blooms of the members, from time to time, throughout the season, and take turns in distributing same to the hospitals and other institutions.

Peonies are probably the best investment one may make, in the line of flowering perennials, as I understand there are peony plants in the states of Massachusetts and Pennsylvania 125 years old, and like Johnny Walker, still going strong.

The Greeks in olden days had the European variety comparable to our quite common early Red Piney, to be found in every front yard behind the white picket fence of the early Americans. The ancients considered the peony as a lucky charm and a good omen, to ward off evil spirits, and no house was without one plant, for this purpose.

The young people often wore the roots around their necks, in necklace style, as a charm and a lucky rabbit's foot, to guard against evil and bad luck. They also considered the peony of considerable medicinal value and generally it has been held in greater respect and reverence throughout the centuries than any other known flower.

Roses may be grown to perfection only in certain states and provinces, but the peony is universal and I sincerely recommend it to every community throughout the domain of Kiwanis on this continent, to bring not only joy and satisfaction to its owner but to brighten the eye of the sick and afflicted.

The greater portion of the peony roots have been imported yearly from Holland, but this market is now closed, and we in Kiwanis might do well to encourage the peony growers and producers in North America, by making it possible for urban and rural flower-loving groups and agricultural societies to obtain and develop this truly wonderful flower, in larger quantities and at a reasonable cost.

The above sketchy outline of the peony is, I realize, a very poor and inadequate description of this truly magnificent flower. I apologize to peony enthusiasts for the lack of detail but I am speaking as a true lover of the peony, as a grower, and as a zealous enthusiasts, for peonies happen to be my particular hobby for the past twenty years.

May Kiwanians everywhere more generally respond to the club activity of "Flowers to the Sick." It has been said that this simple action has an eloquence of thought and feeling which speaks all tongues. May the peony continue to prosper and flourish and thus bring joy and gladness to the world.

The following is a resume of certain helpful suggestions concerning the development and growth of the peony gathered and gleaned by the writer from actual and practical experience over the years.

Here are a few guides to explain in detail the way to plant and care for peonies, so that the most inexperienced may grow them and enjoy their beauty.

The peony is one of the best perennials for this country. It is very reliable, and most varieties continue to grow for years undisturbed, yielding a large quantity of bloom for a short period each year and for the whole season until frost, a low (30 inch) foliage plant, clean and attractive.

The peony is not particular as to soil. It will grow in rich or poor clay, sandy loam or black soil. A fairly rich soil is perhaps the best, but it will thrive in any soil that is not acid. Peony beds should be well drained, so that surplus water in the springtime gets away quickly, because water remaining on beds, even for a few days, is fatal to peonies.

Peonies should be planted in the fall—from September to freeze-up—preferably the last week in September. The reason for this is that if the plants are dug too early, the eyes on the crown, which will be the stems next year, are not sufficiently developed.

Spring planting has at times proved satisfactory, but it is dependent on the condition of the roots. Do not plant in the spring in this country. A percentage of roots will become unthrifty, and, once in that condition, they rarely recover.

Peonies should see the sun for at least half the day. They may be effectively planted in beds by themselves—this is the ideal way—as a foreground to the shrubbery, as a low hedge or dividing line, or to border a walk.

If peonies are planted in front of, or near, shrubs, make provision for preventing the roots from interfering, because peonies will not grow well in soil impoverished by shrub or by tree roots.

Dig soil two feet deep. If the lower foot is a cold, grey clay, remove it and fill in with good garden loam. Remember that the peony plant is

to remain for years in the same location. Don't put any manure under peonies. Peonies must be given a space at least three feet square each, and four feet square is much better. The plant will not entirely fill this space until about the fifth season.

The eyes on the crown of the plant should be two to three inches below the level of the ground. If too deep they will not bloom; if too shallow they will suffer from frost. Dig the soil at least a week or two before planting, and water well to settle the soil. If planted in newly-dug soil, and the eyes are set two inches below the level, by spring the plant would have sunk many inches more. The final depth of the eyes is to be two to three inches, so make allowance for soil settling, and if you are afraid of frost damage, mound soil over each plant for the first winter.

Wood ashes are safest and best, but not always obtainable. Use bonemeal; dig in or hoe in from half to one pound per plant per year. Apply preferably just after blooming, July 1st to 15th, to aid the plant for the following year. Do not put bonemeal in the ground within twelve inches of the stems. Do not use manure.

The ground should be hoed deeply throughout spring and summer. This will supply air and additional vigor and will cause the roots to go deeper.

Non-blooming is sometimes caused by the plant having sunk too deeply into the soil. If any plant does not appear to be a strong, vigorous grower, the soil could be scraped away from the stems to a depth of six inches, so that the condition of the crown could be observed without disturbing the feeding roots. This should be done early in September.

There are two diseases prevalent among peonies in this country, and they are easily detected by the amateur. The first is "Nematode" or root gall. On the large roots it appears like a succession of swollen joints, and on the fine roots like little ball-like adhesions.

The second disease is a rot that starts on the crown at the base of the old leaves and develops like a brown pithy rot running through the center of the thick roots, and finally destroying the whole plant.

Do not plant a peony that shows the least evidence of either disease. Burn diseased plants. Don't bother with them.

Ants visit the peonies in large numbers to obtain the nectar from the buds, but they do not damage the plant or the buds.

Standard divisions have three to five eyes on the crown, which would lead one to believe that three to five stems would show up in the spring. More frequently one to two or three stems will appear the first year, because there is not enough root system or new root growth to supply and support more stems. The ideal root to buy is one that has been grown one year after being divided.

Do not buy large clumps and expect them to bloom the first year.

Experience has demonstrated that large roots never become established or bloom successfully. The peony when transplanted has to make a new root system, and this takes two to five years. This means that too much must not be expected from a peony until the third summer.

The flowers are formed at the top of each stem. Usually there will be a large terminal bud and several side buds. If all these buds are allowed to develop, the strain on the plant is increased, and frequently the side buds will not be open at the time the bloom is cut. It is generally considered advisable to take off all but the terminal bud. These should be nipped off with the fingers when about the size of a pea.

Two leaves must be left on the stem when cutting, as these help to feed the plant and produce eyes for next year. Use a sharp knife, and cut on the slant. Early morning is the best time to cut the bloom, as it has had a cool night to be refreshed after the previous day's sunshine.

As peonies are planted with the idea of blooming many years in one place, and in view of its taking two to three years to bloom, it is highly important that the soundest advice be given in the matter of selection. There are hundreds of varieties and a wide variation in quality. Price does not necessarily indicate quality. Some of the finest peonies are among the lowest priced. Some peonies are exceptional for charm and delicacy of texture and color, but are not consistent yearly bloomers.

This is not for the benefit of the peony specialist; it is meant to be a reliable guide to the beginner.

THE BEAUTIFUL PINK PEONIES

*Selected and recommended by Clarence Lienau,
Lienau Peony Gardens, Detroit, Michigan*

SEA SHELL. Midseason, by far the finest brilliant pink single. Cup shape, strong straight stems, good cut flower, fine yellow stamens, floriferous. Winner at the shows of the best pink single year after year.

SPARKLING STAR. Fine, early, dark pink, large, tall, holds color well and dark green foliage. A wonderful dark pink single.

WESTERNER. I consider this variety the finest medium pink and brilliant yellow Japanese variety. Medium height, large cup shape bloom.

GAY PAREE. Rose and white medium size bloom. Tall, very fine grower, floriferous. When it first opens the staminodes are ivory color, after a day in the sun, the center turns a beautiful snow white color. The large plant of rose and snow white is a beautiful sight to behold.

NEON. Midseason large dark rose petals that do not fade. Wide, deep gold staminodes straight medium height stems. A very fine unusual Japanese type peony.

DO TELL. A very unusual pink on pink peony. Outer petals, light orchid pink. Staminodes center petals much darker with some nearly red.

A very unusual color combination.

KAY TISCHLER. A fine large midseason Japanese type. Bright pink and cream outer petals. Staminodes pink tipped in gold. A very showy variety. Tall and strong grower.

SPRING BEAUTY. A large bright rose pink, very early blooming semi double. Medium height, thick strong stems, golden yellow, inter-mixed stamens.

SILVIA SAUNDERS. An early semi double, medium height. Beautiful small light pink flowers. Cup shape with yellow stamens and bright red stigmas. If this plant is not disbudded, three to five blooms can be cut from a stem. It is a gem for floral arrangements. If you do not cut or disbud, there will be many blooms on a small plant. A very beautiful sight.

LIEBCHEN. A very fine medium pink semi-double, medium height. An excellent variety.

PINK LEMONADE. A very beautiful, semi-double medium height, peach pink yellow and cream color. A fragrant peony.

Double light pinks

MRS. FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT. An excellent gold medal prize winner. Early, cream pink, large ball shape form. Only one other peony has the same beautiful color. Strong grower, often blooms the first season.

TRULY YOURS. A beautiful midseason light pink. Fine for floral arrangements, good keeper, blooms look artificial; also a good garden flower.

RASPBERRY SUNDAE. Large blooms of cream with raspberry color over its top. Unusual, beautiful, large tall plant, midseason. A very worthwhile variety.

DOLORODELL. A beautiful late light pink. Tall, heavy strong stems. Excellent rose form, always opens, a show winner.

Medium pink

WILFORD JOHNSON. Tall medium pink. Stems grow close together. Looking on the top of the plant, all one sees is beautiful blooms, no foliage. A very unusual fine peony.

GOLLY. Double, midseason pink, divided by cream ring. Something different and nice.

MONS JULES ELIE. A good rose pink bomb type, good grower with very large blooms. A most dependable variety, does well for everyone and it should be in every garden. Not a show flower, however, a fine garden and cut flower. Usually blooms the first year. It may be cut just as bud shows color. A fine keeper—'An oldie and a goodie.'

BEV. Very large, early, tall, medium to dark silvery pink. Strong grower, stiff stems. Fine peony.

Dark pink

PRINCESS MARGARET. An exceptionally very large and fine,

beautiful dark pink, cup form peony. A Gold Medal variety, good grower, strong stems, a sensational peony. It is very scarce and in big demand and will be for many years.

EDULIS SUPREME. Fine strong grower, brilliant dark pink rose form, tall. Midseason.

ROSE GLORY. Very large dark rose, nearly lavender. Very unusual rose form. Medium height, strong grower. A favorite by all that grow it.

VIVID ROSE. Dark pink medium height, rose form. Good cut flower, late. Fragrant. A good grower with many flowers.

ENSIGN MORIARITY. Medium to late. A beautiful form, medium height. A fine show flower.

EMMA KLEHM. Fine large, late, rose form, low grower, stiff stems. A very fine peony.

Pink Hybrids

CYTHEREA. Brilliant coral pink, low growing, very large ball type semi-double bloom. Strong stems, a strong grower, always scarce and in demand. A very good keeper when cut. A sensational variety.

LOVELY ROSE. A fine rosy pink, medium height. Rose form not large but a very beautiful flower.

SALMON GLOW. Large upright grower. Medium height. Double vivid, salmon pink color. A very unusual peony.

LAURA MAGNUSON. Large late blooming with vibrant dark pink overtones. A very brilliant peony.

PAULA FAY. Early blooming, vivid deep pink, large blooms. Excellent plant habits. A very worthwhile variety.

Whites, the Queen of the Garden of Exceptional Beauty

Selected by Clarence O. Lienau.

Lienau Peony Gardens, 9135 Beech Daly Road, Detroit, Mich. 48239. Singles.

PICO. Medium height, very fine large cup, pure white petals of firm texture. Carpels pale green, yellow stamens, strong stems. Prize winner many times.

SPELLBINDER. Medium height, very nice medium cup shape. An excellent new single.

LE JOUR. Early, tall, very large white with two rows of long wide overlapping petals. A broad ring of golden stamens with a group of white pistils with red tips, floriferous, strong erect stems. A very fine white single.

VIRGINIA DARE. A beautiful small white single cup shape, medium height, strong thin stiff stems. Good grower, many blooms. Excellent small white for arrangements. May be cut almost in tight bud.

Japanese.

BU-TE. Late midseason tall, strong stems. Very large cup shape

flower. Center consists of very large yellow staminodes. Tall, strong stems. Excellent for garden and show flower. By far, the finest white Jap.

BRIDES DREAM. Medium height, narrow white petals, white on white. Medium size, very unusual.

MOON OF NIPPON. Midseason, medium height, large white Jap. Large deep yellow staminodes, stiff stems. Excellent.

LOTUS QUEEN. Midseason, tall white and yellow Jap. Strong grower, floriferous, makes a large plant with many medium to large fine blooms. All are equally distributed throughout the plant. A good landscape variety.

Semi-double. Each one completely different. The following three are of unusual different types of semi-double peonies.

MISS AMERICA. The finest white semi-double. A Gold Medal peony. Midseason, medium height, large beautiful flower. Many times a show winner. Blush fades to white.

MINNIE SHAYLOR. Very light pink, fades to white. Several rows of fluffy crepe-like petals. Stamens are very prominent, anthers golden yellow, carpels green, pink at base with striking crimson stigmas. One of my favorites. The unusual bloom is like a white zinnia.

SUSAN WHITE. Very large white semi-double, midseason, dome-shaped, blooms with green tint at base of petals. Large spreading plant, thick heavy stems. Floriferous.

Double white

BOWL OF CREAM. Exceptionally fine large pure white. Rose form, medium height, strong stems. Midseason, floriferous. Gold Medal winner. A very fine peony.

MOONSTONE. A large grey pink. After two days in the sun, the color turns pure white, holds its form and white color for a long period of time. A Gold Medal peony, floriferous. A fantastic peony.

SYLVER. Large fine medium height, stiff stems midseason. Blush when opening going immediately into a white. Beautiful rose form. Blue Ribbon winner, many times.

GLADYS HODSON. Very large fine double white. Late, rose form, exceptional. I believe this to be Kreklers best peony.

DR. J.H. NEELEY. A very large beautiful white, medium height, fragrant, strong grower. Beautiful form.

GARDENIA. Blush before opening, large flower, medium height, floriferous. Strong heavy stems. Gardenia form, like a large white ribbon. A very beautiful peony.

FLORENCE NICHOLLS. Blush white before opening. Very large double rose form, very wide and narrow petals intermingled. Strong upright stems, rose form, very vigorous and floriferous, late. Fragrant.

FESTIVA MAXIMA. An oldie and a goodie! 130 years old. There are records of this peony growing over 50 years in one location. A very large rose form, white with flecks of crimson. A fine landscape variety.

Not recommended for a prize winning peony. It is said that more of this variety is growing in this country than any other peony.

White Hybrids

WHITE CHARM. Very magnificent pure white hybrid. Same form as **RED CHARM**, also same characteristics. Very scarce, very hard to find.

CAMPAGNA. Single hybrid. Pure white with gold and green center. Lovely plant. Deep goblet form.

GARDEN PEACE. Very tall, very large single flower. Dark red stems. When disbudded will produce seven to eight inch blooms. Stems need staking. Golden stamens intermingled with center petals add charm to the flower.

POTTING FOR SPRING SALES AND FOR YOUR OWN FUTURE PLANTING

Clarence Lienau

Some years ago, I had some peony divisions left over after planting, late in November. It was then I decided to pot up the remainder, for sales in the spring.

All the divisions were heeled in a trench, three inches in depth. All were tagged with a tree label and a marked stake was placed between each variety. When the frost was out of the ground, in mid April, the divisions were dug and the potting project was underway.

The only pots available in those days were the heavy tar paper variety. We now have thin, green plastic pots that will not rot. Each division was planted in a nine inch tar paper pot, the tree label was removed from the divisions and then pushed into the soil against the side of the pot for insurance, as the name of the variety had been written on a garden stake, with color and price.

Large divisions should be trimmed to about five inches long before potting. I do not recommend large divisions at any time even if it should have two, four or more roots below the crown. Do not fertilize when potting; wait until transplanting to a permanent location.

The potted divisions were then put in a large trench, deep enough so the pot was level with the ground surface, which permitted the soil to maintain the proper moisture.

10% of the potted plants bloomed the first year, depending on the variety. **Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, Mons Jules Elie, Red Charm**, etc., are easy to open. Japs and singles nearly always bloom.

When planting one of these potted plants, the plastic pot must be cut completely around, down one side, across the bottom, then up the other side with a short bladed knife. Potted peonies can be planted any time of the season; however it is advisable to water, then cultivate when the soil is dry enough, every week or ten days for best results.

A good pot to use is the 'Plastic Planters Poly-tainer' of the five quart size. They can be obtained from a large nursery.

LEMOINE DISEASE OF PEONIES

by Don Hollingsworth

This root disease of peonies has been recognized for many years, at least since the 1920's, when it was described in *Peonies* (James Boyd, ed., 1928) and *Tips for Beginners* (Henry S. Cooper, 1924).

Nematode root galls and Lemoine disease of peonies are often confused. This is to be expected, for plant pathologists see nematode galls on many plant species, while the typical symptoms of Lemoine disease are known only on peonies. Upon one occasion I was trying to show some plant pathologists what I understand to be the distinguishing symptoms. Their immediate approach was to see if they could rule out the presence of root knot nematodes. Sure enough, the first gall they sliced into and put under the microscope revealed a mature female nematode. That was the end of my having their attention to deliberate on the differences. The conversation went to a discussion of nematodes, instead.

The symptoms of Lemoine disease are swellings on the storage roots, often in regular spacing, leading to the description "beaded swellings" that is often stated. This is readily seen in photographs which have been reproduced in Peony Society literature. The swellings contain an irregularly shaped area of yellowish-beige tissue which contrasts with the normal, milky-white, starch-rich tissues of the root. The normal tissue surrounds the inclusion in approximately the same thickness as it occurs in the adjacent, "normal" area of the root. These symptoms contrast with those of nematode galls in which the storage tissues look the same milky white throughout except for streaks or spots of dead, blackish tissue. Nematode invasion often kills the end of the root, leading to shorter than normal storage roots in a plant that has been infested for several seasons.

I have had approximately 15 plants show up with Lemoine symptoms during the past 10 years. None of these were "barren and make very little growth" as is sometimes stated in lists of peony diseases. Since all of my plants were received from sources that were growing the plants successfully, I presume these may have a less virulent form of the disease or they are inherently resistant to its effects on growth. There is, of course, the possibility that some or all of the plants became infected after I received them, in which case another old conclusion is suspect. It has been said that there is no evidence that it is transferred upon the knife when dividing. If the disease spread to these plants after I received them, the odds very heavily fall in favor of transfer on a knife used in trimming or further division of the plants.

There is no known treatment for plants affected with Lemoine disease. In fact, the infective agent is not identified nor is the mode of transfer established. Therefore, strict sanitation is indicated when an infected plant is discovered. The plant should be destroyed and the tools used in cutting the tissues should be disinfected. A solution of

one part Chlorox (or similar bleach concentrate) to nine parts water is a suitable disinfectant. In order to know whether the symptoms are present, it is important that all soil be removed from the roots. If you receive plants from other growers that have soil on the roots it is an important precaution to wash the roots clean and inspect them before planting.

The plants in which I have found Lemoine disease symptoms have all been varieties of the Chinese peonies. I would like to know of any instance in which other persons have seen these symptoms on hybrids or plants of other species.

A plant pathologist who works for Mobay Chemical Co. in Kansas City is assisting me to seek investigation of diseased plants using some of the modern techniques. One problem we will have if things go well is having a supply of diseased plants. Therefore, I will appreciate the opportunity to receive plantable pieces of suspected plants. Peony Society members who wish to cooperate in this respect may either notify me and send the material or store the plant and inquire whether there is a current need before sending it.

* * * *

Botrytris Blight that descends on stems and gets established underground will cause root decay, besides damaging leaves, stems and buds.

If blight does get underground, one can carefully scrape away dirt as far as the infection goes, cut it out, and spray the opening with the fungicide, then replace dirt. If this does not work and infection persists from one year to next, best to dig up the plant in the fall, divide it, cut out all decay.

Chinese Develop 'Peony Cola' Drink

PEKING (AP) — China has developed its own "cola," a health drink made from peony roots that could turn into an international best-seller, the People's Daily reported Saturday. The Communist Party newspaper said the drink has been sampled by more than 18,000 foreign tourists, and claimed they found it distinctive yet similar to other cola drinks. The drink is sold here under various names, including "Health Cola" and "Peony Root Champagne."

—From Gene Wild, Sarcoxie, Missouri
World News in Brief, Joplin Globe.

* * * * *

At the present time, retirement is being discussed as to age and length of time of employment. Do you have a hobby?

Peonies as a diverting pastime, offer a field of activity that includes everything for the ideal hobby.

This means open air, sunlight and exercise.

The game of golf may compete with the garden but if one aims to excel in his pastime, he will find the garden offers a generous ally in Mother Nature. It is the human element that ruins a golf score; in a garden, nature corrects our mistakes.

HIGHLIGHTS OF MY PEONY SEASON IN LITTLETON, COLORADO IN 1981

Harry B. Kuesel, 4 Larkdale Dr., Littleton, CO 80123

The first and most spectacular bloom came from *p. Suffruticosa* (Rocks variety) which had a half dozen huge white flowers with a blue purple base around the center. Next to bloom was *Scarlet Tanager* (Saunders) a fine hybrid single in vermilion red. Another single *Roselle* (Saunders), a lovely clear pink triple hybrid from *Mloko x tenuifolia x albiflora*) blooms about a week later. The famous big-leaved large white called *Chalice* (Saunders) bloomed at the same time. A week later *Firelight* (Saunders), a quadruple hybrid (*mloko. x macrophylla*) x *Officinalis*) x *albiflora*, put up fine semi-double rose pink flowers with darker flares and gold centers. Then came the Saunders lobata hybrids—*Cytherea* and *Laura Magnuson* in pink, and *Alexander Woolcott* and *Carina* in red. I had two yellows that bloomed well—*Clare de Lune* (E.B. White), a pale yellow single; and *Yellow Emperor* (Itô), a deeper semi-double yellow which was very bright and sparkling. Then came the *albifloras*—*Mrs. F.D. Roosevelt* (lt. pink dble.), *Nick Shaylor* (white dble.); *Gay Paree* (lavender pink Japanese with very pale yellow center; *Red Charm* (a great hybrid red) and *Mrs. Livingston Farrand* (a double deep pink). To close out my season—the very tall Saunders Hybrid — *White Innocence* — a tall graceful white single with unusual green centers, with several swaying stems was magnificent. This was about five continuous weeks of bloom. I finally got my first peony seeds planted late in the summer, and can hardly wait till next year to see how many will germinate. I understand it will be about four years before I can expect any good blooms on these plantings.

All of my previous plants were started in 1977 when we moved here or in the later years. My peony collection was donated to the Denver Botanic Gardens when I moved in 1976. The tree peonies—*Black Pirate*, *Harvest*, *Age of Gold*, *Argosy*, *Roman Gold*, *Fuji No Akebono*, *Orihime*, *Banquet*, and *Ubatama* were all blooming well on fifteen year old plants down at the Denver Botanic Gardens this year. We were lucky to have a mild winter before the 1981 bloom season which kept late freezes from damaging the tree peony buds.

I enjoy your peony bulletins; keep up the good work, and best wishes. Please keep me posted on any new Peony Society members in my area. We don't have enough members here to justify separate peony meetings, but will try to stimulate some interest when opportunities come during the coming bloom season.



Have you properly labeled your peonies after the long winter?
Some markers may have been lost.

MEMBERS WRITE—

Where peonies are concerned, I am in my Junior years. I purchased seven plants from Klehm in Oct. 1979. The following spring when I saw flowers on every plant, gorgeous beautiful flowers, I knew I was hooked. I have added in the past two years so that I have about twenty plants, all different. This will be the second year for some seedlings. I planted the seed selected from those offered by the Society. I am so glad to have discovered the 'World of Peonies.'

—Wilma Zapka, So. Deerfield, Mass.

* * * * *

The Iowa Arboretum is located SW of Ames, Iowa near Luther, Iowa. It consists of 40 acres with a 99 year lease on adjacent timbered area. Under discussion is a plan for planting peonies for public viewing.

As a member of the Iowa Arboretum, I plan to contribute some of my favorite varieties, **GOLDEN GLOW**, **RED CHARM**, **MRS. LIVINGSTON FARRAND**, **NICK SHAYLOR**, **PHILIPPE REVOIRE**, **CLAIR DE LUNE**, **EARLY SCOUT**, **JOHN HARVARD** and some other varieties.

—Ward Mally, R.R., Elkhart, Iowa 50073

* * * * *

Last year was a wonderful year for the peonies; we had fantastic bloom on both new plantings and old. **WHITE CAP** was never better, neither was **CAROL**, the brightest red in the garden. **PRAIRIE MOON** and **CLAIRE de LUNE** were much yellower in tint than ever. Could it have been the cool weather?

I own and operate a commercial garden, 'Edgewood Gardens,' which consists of 500 peonies, as well as iris and daylilies. I think our garden has made people in our area much more conscious of the superb garden value of the peony. We have tried to show the extended season of bloom that can be obtained by growing the different types and hybrids.

Best in the garden year after year — **RED CHARM**.

—Mrs. Anna Walrad, Edgewood Gardens, Warrenton, Virginia

* * * * *

Vallingby, Sweden—April 12, 1982

We have had a rather good winter but snow is still on our garden. The peonies are 1".5 just over the surface but at our house, in the south of Sweden, the plants are more developed. The peonies are 4". The crocus are through blooming and the Fritillaria have rather large buds.

I am enjoying my membership in the American Peony Society. The articles in the Bulletin are good, instructive and interesting. The opportunity of getting peony seed is very, very valuable. I wish you a nice peony year.

—Allan Dahlbom

E. LeRoy Pehrson

He gave, so the rest of us might enjoy this flower, his achievement — one beautiful/soft yellow herbaceous peony.

Registration. ROY PEHRSONS BEST YELLOW (Roy Pehrson, Lafayette, Minn. 1982)

Parentage — Quad F2 (an off white) x Moonrise F2 (pink)

First bloomed 1971

Medium height, good stems, dark green foliage

Soft yellow color, flower of good size and substance

Satisfactory seed maker, making pods of medium size

Good pollen

Registered by Chris Laning 1982, Bulletin #242

E. LeRoy Pehrson

NEW ULM—Services for E. LeRoy Pherson, 76, Lafayette, who died Sunday, Feb. 21, 1982, will be 2 p.m. Wednesday at First Lutheran Church in Lafayette. Burial will be in Bernadotte Lutheran Cemetery, Bernadotte, Minn.

He was born May 17, 1905, in New Sweden Township, Nicollet County, to Andrew and Anna (Nelson) Pehrson. He lived in New Sweden Township as a child, later moving to Lafayette. He was employed as an engineer for the state highway department, retiring in the early 1970s. Well-known for his flower gardening, he was a member of the American Peony Society and received an award for special hybridizing of peonies.

Survivors include a sister, Edna (Mrs. Axel) Azzine, of rural Nicollet, and nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by a brother and two half-sisters.

TRIBUTE TO ROY PEHRSON

Roy is gone. We've lost a dear friend and a patient teacher. Having no wife or children to care for, Roy's deep caring reached out to all those of us who needed guidance and encouragement. These he gave unstintingly.

When I was thrust into the hybrid peony world all ignorant, I came to rely more and more on Roy's knowledge and on his judgment. He first revealed to me some of the mysteries of genetics and of hybridizing. I never mastered zygotes or unreduced gametes, but Roy persisted, and in his long patient letters, he tried to bring order out of the chaos of my ignorance.

In the Hybridist's Workshop at our Shows, starting in 1969, he was a valuable member and often the leader. In *PAEONIA*, that separate leaflet for hybridists, he was a prime motivator and frequent contributor.

He gave long hours to his own mass hybridizing, reminding himself constantly "You gotta have population!" Taking the Saunders hybrids, he crossed them many ways; for example, Moonrise F-2 by Quad F-2, and came up with a luscious peach quarter-double. "Roy's Best Yellow" and others, are now used by other hybridists in their own search. He worked tirelessly on the Itoh cross, trying not only for beauty, but also fertility. Roy gave away seeds, sprouted seedlings, one and two-year-old seedlings, and even adult plants, all with varied and precious parentages, to anyone willing to give them a home.

In the mid-seventies, his health grew more and more precarious; we heard from him less and less; his absence from our shows created a terrible void. Roy had that inquiring nature that a scientist must have: nothing could be taken for granted. "Let's try it, and find out" was his motto.

Lucky us, to have had him when we most needed him. We still need him, but now he's gone. I think we can best memorialize Roy by going to work on the plants he left us. Some of us are doing this, hoping thereby to return, at least in part, some of his many gifts to us.

Silvia Saunders

I REMEMBER ROY PEHRSON

E. L. "Roy" Pehrson: His avocation was peony breeding, a pursuit which he attacked vigorously and intensely, not only on the home front, but through the American Peony Society, by promoting adoption of the same activity by others. In this connection, he practiced many roles—hybridist, researcher, consultant, writer, promoter, recruiter, sponsor, motivator, coach—all roles which his talents enabled him to carry out well. Unfortunately, his tenure in this capacity was cut short by debilitating illness, but not before he had made unique and valuable contributions to the community of peony growers. His continuing influence has been assured through the many breeder plants which he created, through his writings in published literature of the Society and through his direct impact upon the work of other students of peony matters.

Every contribution to the community of peony growers is valued greatly—ranging from the price of annual membership by many to the devotion of many hours of creative activity in the programs of the society on the part of others—each gives what he or she is able to at the time and earns equal respect. As with most things in life, however, the greatest rewards often go with the larger creative effort.

In the passing of Roy Pehrson, we remember one who has been an extraordinary good citizen in the community of peony growers and whose achievements were undoubtedly of great personal satisfaction to him. I am thankful to have known him.

Don Hollingsworth

GROWING TREE PEONIES FROM SEED

By Harvey F. Stoke, 1879-1977, Roanoke, Virginia

(Reprinted by permission of American Horticultural Magazine)

—Bulletin #169

An as amateur grower of tree peonies for many years, I still find it surprising that this magnificent flowering shrub is so little known and grown by the average gardener. The huge blossoms of many colors, shades and textures lend spectacular beauty of any garden, making the plant worthy of far greater use. Tree peonies are for patient people.

A native of interior Asia, under natural conditions, the plant was a woods undergrowth. Selections have been made and propagated by the Chinese for so many centuries that the identity of the wild native plant, now almost extinct, has been all but lost.

Many generations of cross-pollination and inter-breeding have made the seedlings, even of the named varieties, highly variable in color and type, ranging from pure white to deep maroon and purple, and from singles with their golden stamens to doubles so full that neither stamens or pistils are visible.

The Chinese, whose art and literature concerning the tree peony date back to the sixth century A.D., stressed full doubles in their variety selections. The Japanese, whose period of culture has been somewhat less, appear to favor singles and semi-doubles.

Owing to the great variability of seedlings, the characteristics of the named varieties have been fixed by asexual propagation, which includes grafting, layering and division.

I shall not here enter into the details of asexual propagation, the techniques of which call for skills and training not to be expected of the casual grower. Rather I think it is more interesting to invite the reader to the high adventure of growing the unpredictable seedlings, the area from which the named varieties have been selected. The long period of waiting between the planting of the seed and the unfolding of the flower only accentuates the keenness of anticipation and the climax of satisfaction when ones view for the first time a blossom of unique loveliness, the exact likeness of which has never before been seen by the eyes of man.

Tree peonies begin blossoming several weeks in advance of herbaceous peonies of the same district. Here, in the upper South, the season begins in the latter part of April, ranging northward through May to June. Coincidentally the ripening of the seed occurs in August in southwest Virginia and correspondingly later in the North.

My first attempt at growing tree peonies was with seed imported from Japan. These I planted early in the spring of 1932 but none came up until a year later, a result that can always be expected from dry seed. The seed, hard, black and shining and the size of garden peas, are best gathered as soon as the pods open and while they still retain their

pristine moisture. Never let them dry out. Immediate planting is satisfactory if one takes the pains to provide suitable soil, shade, and vigilant care to see that the soil and seeds do not become too dry at any time before the advent of winter.

My personal preference is immediately to place the seeds in sphagnum, peat moss, or vermiculite, and store in moderate temperatures until sprouting begins a period of about two months. The seed can then be planted, either in a cold frame or out of doors.

The seed of the tree peony has this peculiarity: after the sprouting root appears it definitely will not develop a top until the sprouted seed has passed through a cool or cold "incubation" period of several months. This fact has been demonstrated and scientifically established by the Boyce Thompson Institute. Under natural conditions the acorn of the oak and the nut of the chestnut exhibit similar characteristics, anchoring themselves to the soil by the sprouting root, beneath fallen leaves, and developing the top when they emerge in the spring.

Planting, whether fall or the following spring, should always be shallow, with the seed scarcely more than an inch below the surface. Like the bean and pea, the cotyledons formed by the division of the seed, will rise above the surface, releasing the tender top from the interference of the hard soil. A high humus content and the sand used in the soil covering the seed will help prevent baking and hardening. Mulching is helpful in fall planting, but the mulch should be removed early in the spring, for the little plants are early risers.

In their first year the plants will develop from one to three leaves. When these fall in the autumn the plant will scarcely show above ground. Winter mulching is desirable during the following few years to prevent the heaving, due to alternate freezing and thawing, from tearing the tender roots of the young plants.

Plants may be spaced a foot apart in the row and left thus until they reach blossoming stage, which takes five or more years. They should then be moved to permanent locations, spaced not less than four feet apart.

Tree peonies do best in deep fertile soil with a high humus content and good drainage. Unlike the herbaceous peony, they do best in partial shade, especially in the upper South and the middle West. The usual height of a mature plant under favorable conditions is from three to five feet, with an equal or greater spread. The older stalks age and after ten to twenty years are best removed to give place to abundant new shoots. Under congenial conditions plants are known to survive a hundred years.

Annual growth starts very early in the spring and is completed by June, even in the North. Do not remove leaves or healthy growth during the growing season, for the spring's early and almost explosive growth and blossoming is dependent on the nutrients stored in the

fleshy roots during the previous season.

Tree peonies are very hardy. In the public parks of Rochester, New York, and Milwaukee, Wisconsin, no special protection is necessary in winter, though a good mulch is always helpful.

For a real flower lover never to make the acquaintance of the tree peony is to miss one of life's most pleasing experiences.

PROPAGATION OF PEONIES

From the Handbook of the Peony.

Peonies may be propagated, true to name, only by root division.

Species peonies may also be propagated, true to name, by seed which has been carefully protected from cross pollination.

Seedlings from all other peonies are always new varieties. It takes from four to ten years from pollination to blooming of the mature plant. Then about four more years to be sure your seedling is of any value.

If you wish to try this, you may use seed that has been pollinated by the winds, insects or self pollinated, but the best results will be from seed that has been carefully hand pollinated. The male parent should be one that has pollen bearing stamens, either single or semi-double varieties. The female may be any variety that has its stigmas not transformed. Bag the buds a few days before they will open. Remove all petals and stamens from the female parent before bagging, being careful not to injure the stigma in doing this. As soon as the blooms of the male parent open, cut them, take them into the house, remove the bags and spread out the stamens on a sheet of paper and allow them to shed their pollen. Leave it until it is dry. Then store in small bottles for use, labeling each bottle with the name of the variety. When the female parent is ready to fertilize, apply the pollen to the tip of the stigma with a small brush. The stigma will be sticky at this stage. Bag, at once, and label, with the cross plainly stated on the label. Many transfer the pollen from bloom to bloom with the thumb. Others depend on the "bees." When the seed ripens it should be gathered before it hardens and planted immediately for quick germination. It may be stratified in peat moss, vermiculite or something similar, until it sprouts, if you wish. Then plant in cold frames, or, out in the open, as you prefer. Leave the seedlings in the bed for two years after germination, which may take two years and doubtless will for some of the seeds. Be sure to label the bed carefully to preserve the identity of the seedlings.

Plant at least 18 inches apart in the permanent bed and allow them to bloom three years, before you select those for further trial. Then divide those selected and allow them to bloom for three years after division before final selection. Keep only those that show outstanding, distinctive characteristics. It is useless to go to the trouble of propagating worthless varieties. Be sure to preserve the identity of every variety selected for trial. Plants selected, for final trial, should be

vigorous, with strong stems and attractive foliage. They should bloom every year. The form and color of the flowers should be as near perfect as possible. Compare them with the best existing varieties and discard all that are not better in some respect. If you wish to place your child in commerce, be sure it is outstanding in all respects. Have it tested in several parts of the country with different climates from yours, if possible in the cold North and the South.

TREE PEONY (ANONYMOUS, 618-906)

Trans. from the Chinese by John Marney.

Varieties of "beautiful faces that overturn states"

Blossom abundant in rich and noble households.

By a pavilion, once the enjoyment's over,

Scorned and slighted, ten-thousand, thousand flowers.

[Translator's Note: "Beauty to overthrow cities and overturn states" is a famous line describing a Han (2nd cent B.C.) court lady. The allegory here, of course, refers to the court beauty, or minister, discarded after the enjoyment of her charms, or of his wisdom, has ended. "By a pavilion" is sometimes a kenning for the emperor, here adding a certain political flavor to the poem.]

* * * * *

Too many gardeners are inclined to expect too much from a peony plant, a year old. Be patient, let the plant have a chance to grow. A two year old plant will begin to show fairly well, but a three year old healthy plant should produce wonderful blooms. While slow in getting established, it fully compensates the patient gardener. There is no other perennial possessing such excellence in bloom, with such a long life.

Peony Seeds

Harvest your peony seed in season and send to Chris Laning, 553 West F. Ave., Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007, for the free seed distribution program.

LEARNING BY GROWING

By Ainie Busse

Six years ago, my husband, Norm, and I, decided we wanted to learn more about peonies and to include them in our commercial business. We did not have any idea what was in store for us when we made that decision! Our previous experience with peonies was limited to three beautiful clumps that my parents had planted on our research farm many years ago, one each of pink, red and white. We didn't know they were called doubles . . . we just knew they were peonies. Our education about singles, Japanese, hybrids, species and doubles was to come later, as would our discovery that there were many over 5000 named cultivars. Thinking back on our ignorance makes us smile.

Today, we know much more than we did six years ago when we started out on our peony venture, but the paradox is that the more we

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learn the more we realize we still do not know very much about peonies. We are willing to learn and we glean vicarious satisfaction when we read an article from another beginner who was willing to share his mistakes and experiences with others. For example, in the December 1979 issue of the Peony Bulletin, we relished the article "Errors on Parade"—albeit was written originally in 1942. We could identify with the writer of that article and it is as relevant to us today, forty years later, as it was then and it made us feel better. The article was about exhibiting and I will share our experience in that regard at another time.

We purchased our first peonies from John Buggs, a commercial peony grower in Minnesota City, Minnesota. Mr. Buggs began his professional nursery experience with the old Pfeiffer Nursery in Winona, MN many years ago. They were hybridizers of the peonies, Pfeiffer's Red Triumph, Ann Pfeiffer, and many others. John was an excellent grower and helped us with the basics of growing, planting, dividing, digging, and some important tips about cultivating, weeding, spacing and the like. His enthusiasm was infectious. Another commercial grower was trying to buy John's peony clumps and we assumed that we were no match for their years of experience. Our interest and growing enthusiasm (and innocence?!) prompted John to sell to us and we found ourselves the owners of thousands of divisions and liners.

In studying catalogs, bulletins and looking at pictures of peonies, we found the name of Greta Kessenich in one of Wild's peony catalogs. We were not aware there was a society for peony fanciers, and our thinking was that we were fortunate to have this officer, the secretary-treasurer of the American Peony Society, so close to us in Hopkins, MN—only 65 miles away. I dialed information for Greta's telephone number and called her to ask about these peonies we had bought and did she know of anyone else who could sell us some more varieties that we did not have. Norm and I chuckle about what Greta's reaction must have been after hearing about these two people in Cokato, MN who bought so many peonies without knowing anything about the plant. But, our call to Greta was the smartest move we made! We had a concept of what we wanted to do, but it was Greta who gave it a sense of direction. She is the person who pointed us in the right direction, gave us names of people to contact, where they were located, and literally educated us over the phone. Her patience, calm assurance, courtesy, and helpfulness was endless and we can never thank her adequately. With Greta's encouragement, we read everything we could on peonies, asked questions of anyone whom we found knowledgeable on the subject, and came to the conclusion we had involved ourselves in a venture beyond our first imaginations. Having made the initial investment, we decided it was too late to back out and besides, we had been 'hooked' by this aristocrat of spring blooming flowers.

A name that kept appearing in the bulletins and in peony articles, particularly flower shows, was Gus Sindt. We felt doubly-blessed in

that this man also lived in Minnesota. At a state convention of the Minnesota Horticultural Society in Duluth, I spotted a gentleman wearing that name tag. I recall introducing myself to Gus and asking him his opinion of our venture and his advice was that we include singles and Japanese peonies to our selection. I look back and wonder what Gus must have thought about this lady who is talking about going into the business of growing peonies who hasn't considered whether or not to include all kinds of peonies. To show what a small world this is, my instructor for training as a certified judge for the Minnesota State Horticultural Society was none other than Gus Sindt! Since that first meeting, Norm and I have had the pleasure of knowing Gus and his wife, Charlotte, and see them often at different plant society functions. The problem is that I am intimidated about exhibiting against my mentor in local flower shows. Gus and Charlotte are formidable exhibitors, but I have learned most of what I know about arranging from them.

Greta referred us to Rev. Floyd Miller of Fergus Falls, MN. The Rev. Miller was moving only a few of his choicest peonies to his new home and offered the balance of his large garden to us. Norm and I were giddy by our good fortune since the Miller garden would give us the beginning of our collection of hybrids, singles and Japanese peonies. We spent many hours tagging, bagging, and lifting the established clumps. It was in this garden that we learned the usefulness of a long spade and the necessity of making a map of the garden. The importance of having a map was impressed on us by Rev. Miller and that advice has stood us good stead many times since. Two years ago, a small neighbor boy pulled stakes at random from one of our peony fields nearest the street, and our map of the field was the only record we had of the names and count of the varieties we had put in the rows. The following spring when the peonies bloomed, we were able to replace the stakes in their proper places. Thank you, Rev. Miller, for the sound advice about mapping the garden! Our friendship with Rev. and Mrs. Miller continues to this day and we enjoy having them stop at the garden center to visit with us about once a year as they pass through Cokato to the Twin Cities.

Greta referred us to Clarence Lienau in Detroit, MN. My parents once lived in Royal Oak, a suburb of Detroit, and we have a wealth of relatives still living in the Detroit area. It was only natural for me to visit with the Lienau's when we went to Detroit to visit with relatives. Prior to meeting the Mr. Lienau personally, he wrote long letters of inquiry and gave us his experience with how to fertilize, how to space, how deep to dig each hole in a display garden. He also suggested we have a peony show in our store with names and prices on a card in front of each variety using step tables. He was our house guest when invited to speak at the Iris Society of Minnesota meeting in February, 1980. He wrote comments in our peony garden map and notebooks next to each variety. These notes have been an invaluable source of informa-

tion for reference ever since. Many of our finest 'treasures' have come from the Lienau Peony Gardens. We are deeply indebted to him for his many kindnesses.

She then referred us to Mrs. Mervyn Pees of Belle Center, Ohio. Mr. Pees, who had passed away, had been a close friend of Walter Mains. Mrs. Pees had contacted Greta about finding a buyer for the Pees Garden of over 1500 established clumps of peonies. The Busses were crazy enough about peonies to arrange to move the Pees garden to Minnesota. Although the circumstances were rather unusual, we knew this would be an exciting adventure for both of us. We flew to Dayton, Ohio, and rented a car for the drive to Belle Center. It was exciting to drive down Buckeye Street (Buckeye Belle by Walter Mains) and to see the small town of Belle Center (another name for a Mains peony). Norm was a vocational agriculture teacher so he had contacted the local Vo-Ag department to assist us in our project. Mr. Pees had been the superintendent of the school and the people of the district felt a pride in helping to preserve the garden that had meant so much to their head administrator. Norm arranged with the local Vo-Ag instructor to have the FFA boys lift and bag the clumps as an FFA fund-raising project. The first day we spent tagging clumps according to a coded map of the garden. Norm lifted a few clumps and put them in white poly garbage bags on which we also wrote the name of the clump with a special ink pencil. It was October 31st, Halloween night, and the rows of white bags looked like little "ghosties" dotting the garden in the moonlight. We broke into laughter at the incongruity of the whole project. During the next two days, I tagged clumps and labeled bags, and Norm and his crew of 20 boys lifted and bagged all 1500 clumps. We hired a truck from a national rental agency, and on the last day the boys loaded the white poly bags into the truck. We finished in early afternoon and took off for the first leg of our trip back to Minnesota by way of South Bend, Indiana, where my sister lived. She and her family were amused by the truck full of white garbage bags filled with peony roots parked in their driveway. Norm and I reflected on what a highway officer would think if we were stopped on the way home and had to explain what we were hauling in those bags. We knew that only another peony lover would understand. We did observe that the old adage 'life begins at forty' should be amended to 'life begins at fifty' since our combined ages that fall totaled 100 years.

In the summer of 1981, we visited the Klehm Nursery in Arlington Heights, Illinois, and Roy suggested we drive to Pink Petals Farm in Champaign, IL where they grow their peonies. It was one of the wisest decisions we made on that trip. The Smith's, who manage the Klehm farm in Champaign were gracious and anxious to answer all of our questions. Norm was especially pleased to examine all of the machinery used in the production of peonies. We observed how liners are hilled. Our first reaction was to the cleanliness of the operation and to the weed-free rows of all plants in the field. We were able to see

methods and techniques used in the production of other perennials that has proved helpful and enlightening.

On the same trip, we visited the Andre Viette Farm and Nursery in Fishersville, Virginia. The setting of their home, the landscaping that sets off their perennials, and aesthetic appearance of their business is magnificent. We were shown the peony plantings that Andre's father, Martin Viette, had growing on the 'home' place. Complementing the peonies, beds of daylilies were displayed in the yard. The peony beds were planted along the driveway in short vertical rows that were easy to view and to maintain. We plan to use the same idea for our display beds. Andre and his wife, Claire, and his family, are charming hospitable people, and we found that everyone works like the rest of the families in our business. We anticipate having a collection of the new Viette peonies in our garden.

The Gilbert Wild & Son Nursery in Sarcoxie, Missouri, are next on our list. Gene Wild has been most helpful by offering to sell varieties that they no longer plan to list in the Wild catalog, or some that they did not plan to continue to grow. We share a love for daylilies with the Wild's so a visit to Sarcoxie will have a two-fold purpose.

Another source for many of our older peonies is the Hovland Nursery in Minnesota, MN. We spied an ad in the Minnesota *Horticulturist* that Carrie Hovland had put in about selling her peonies, and followed up by visiting her garden. Carrie lives and gardens on the same place her father began gardening early in the 1900's after moving here from England. The garden is mainly peonies, but boasts English delphiniums and many of the older daylilies and Siberian irises. Nestled among the trees and close to a ravine, the peony garden has a magical quality to it, and reflects the English influence of misty moors and romantic settings, and would make an ideal retreat for my romantic head.

We felt we had found a treasure chest of the 'golden oldies.' We have moved two pickup loads of peonies from the Hovland garden to Cokato and plan to take our time moving these peonies since they are located only 2½ hours away. Carrie gave Norm a division of *Fragrans* for our peony display, which came to this country many years ago from Japan.

Our peony planting is growing by number, but it will take a few more years to get established clumps of all of them. We are very young in the business and young in heart, and we plan to continue our national treasure hunt for peonies. Visitors to the garden will find some very nice young clumps now that are 5-6 years old, a few 3-4 yrs. old, and many new plantings only a year or two old. We welcome visitors at any time. It takes time to collect and grow peonies, but they are the first love of my husband in the garden. We hope we can be as long-lived and dependable as they are.

AND THEN A PROBLEM, "FOUR-LEGGED VARMINTS"

by Ainle Busse

Have you ever waged war on four-legged varmints? We're determined to be overcomers in this battle.

Our garden center and display garden is located close to a creek and wildlife flood plain. We have been tolerant of the pheasants and occasional white-tailed deer that cross our display garden, and we've been amused at the audacity of the rabbits that boldly ignore our presence. But, enough is enough! Last Fall we had to deal with gophers, groundhogs and ground squirrels!

The ground squirrels were pesky and fleet of foot, but our nine-year-old neutered male cat gave them no peace and we'd find the signs of a recent meal in our driveway every day or so. Thanks to "Alfie," our cat, and some poison peanut bait stations, our assault on the ground squirrels ended with us being the overcomers.

The groundhog or woodchuck was another story. Our neighbor across the street had complained about woodchucks getting into his vegetable garden every year for several years and we had listened sympathetically. This year, our neighbor put up a chicken wire fence around his garden to keep out rabbits and woodchucks. That is when our trouble began! A woodchuck moved across the road and decided to use our peony display garden as his salad bowl. It was our first experience with the February 2nd-honored member of the rodent family and it was not a pleasant one. They are bold; they are fighters; they are persistent; they eat peony plants! Our "Alfie" didn't even try to tackle this varmint and would calmly watch the woodchuck enjoy his salad while I watched helplessly from the kitchen window. Yelling didn't do any good. The city ordinance didn't allow the use of shotguns or rifles and we didn't have a trap large enough for a woodchuck. The neighbors' black labrador dog seemed to be a logical answer. I called the dog, sicked him on the woodchuck, and waited to see the dog catch the trespasser. That woodchuck was mean! It turned to bite and claw the dog and the dog jumped back. The woodchuck disappeared. I did not know that the woodchuck had made a burrow alongside of one of the peony clumps and was hiding inside. The dog started digging down into the burrow to reach the woodchuck and there was soil flying all over the place. Pieces of peony roots were flying as well, but there wasn't anything resembling a woodchuck. I chased the dog back into his own yard. I now had a huge hole that was dog damage, a burrow that was woodchuck damage, and two peony clumps that were the innocent victims of both, plus the job of shoveling soil away from some peony clumps covered by the dog and filling the hole made by the dog. I felt defeated, but not conquered. We have a friend who asked permission to trap muskrats along the creek and I called him for help. Our friend had traps big enough for woodchucks. It took over a week, but

one day he called to say he had caught a woodchuck. I do not know if this was "our" woodchuck, but we were no longer pestered with any. Personally, I like woodchucks, but not when they do away with my peonies!

Our next aggressor was pocket gophers! They are far more challenging than any of the other varmints! We are not certain if we are overcomers on gophers yet! Late last fall, we noticed tell-tale mounds of fresh soil popping up in and between the rows of peonies in the display garden. My husband, Norm, went to work at once with the poison peanuts. We noted that new mounds kept appearing so he went to work with gas pellets as well. For about a week, there were no new mounds and we thought we had the problem solved. The weather was closing in on us and we were busy getting two new rows of peonies planted plus our lily bulbs in the perennial section of the display garden. One day we noticed that our gopher friends had just moved to another precinct on the other end of the garden. My husband resumed the gas pellet program since it was the most expedient. Our water hoses had been rolled up and stored for the winter. One previous invasion by a pocket gopher had been handled very effectively by running a water hose down the runway and a shovel strategically held over the hole when the gopher popped up trying to get away. With winter snow promised almost any day, we were busy buttoning-up for the winter doing some last minute planting and mulching. We shoveled away the lovely friable soil dug up by the pocket gopher that would have smothered two clumps of peonies. We had some lily bulbs to plant and we knew they were favorites with pocket gophers. Since the new mounds were on the opposite end of the garden, we went ahead and got the lilies in and labeled. We kept a daily watch for signs of new mounds and when there were none, we relaxed. About dusk of the night before our first snowfall, we noticed an extra large new mound just between our newly planted lily bulbs and two new rows of freshly planted peony divisions! The timing was terrible! The next morning found six inches of new snow on our whole garden and the new mound clearly outlined on an otherwise level landscape. It galled me to think that the gopher had outsmarted us and would be using our peony and perennial display garden as his private root cellar for the winter. My husband did his best to push away the snow from the mound and then placed a full box of gas pellets into the runway. We have no way of knowing if this met with success. Spring will be coming soon and we will be watching closely to see if we have been overcomers over what may have gone on underneath our record-setting snowfall.

Fortunately, the heavy snowfall has kept the rabbits busy elsewhere. We accept rabbits as a reality. We watch them eating the shrubbery around the house, but we'd rather see them eat these than our precious peonies. After all, the peonies are still our priority.

With problems continued . . .
"WRECKED BY ROUND-UP"

The use of "Round-Up" or the Ortho product, "Kleen-Up" has been a boon to gardeners in their war on weeds. It can also be the cause of some shattering experiences in the hands of a novice.

The Spring of 1981 broke early and we were a few weeks ahead of our usual Spring rush of business in the garden center and nursery. Usually my husband does all the spraying with Round-Up in our perennial fields, but because of the demands for his time in the garden center, he delegated this job to one of our most dependable part-time employees. We have a special sprayer for use of Round-Up, completely equipped with a special baffle to prevent any drift or spray getting on plants close to the area being treated. Norm explained to the employee how to use the sprayer and showed him where to spray between the rows of daylily plants in the field he wanted to treat. He specifically showed the daylily plants to the young man so he wouldn't get too close while spraying.

Two years prior to the Spring of '81, we had planted two long rows of some very fine peonies as well as some hard-to-find ones in this particular field so we could give them our special attention. It was closest to our water supply in case of drought, and we could hand weed it while doing the daylilies. Norm cultivated with our tractor or our Ariens 7 h.p. tiller between the rows. Round-Up was used to control the quackgrass and spring weeds.

While Norm showed our employee how to take care in not getting too close to the daylily plants, he did not specifically show him what a peony plant looked like or mention that there were two rows of peonies in the field as well. He assumed our employee would stay between the rows and have sense enough to know that something else was planted in the two rows that weren't daylilies. We learned that we can never assume anything! Since our employee did not see any daylilies in these two rows, the area was given an extra-good drenching with Round-Up . . . even in the rows. We were not aware of what had been done until well after it had happened. We were crushed! We lost 308 clumps of two-year-old peonies . . . 38 were of Cytherea. All of our Alexander Woolcott was ruined. In addition, we lost a clump or two of some of that were very special such as Col. Robert McCormack, Orange Lace, Dresden Pink, Harmony, Helen Hayes, Joe Hanratty, Sharon, Ruth Elizabeth, Montezuma, and many, many more.

We accept full responsibility for what happened. We should not have assumed that our employee would have asked us if something else was planted where there were no daylily plants. We will never ask someone else to spray with Round-Up.

None of our daylilies were lost. After all, we had specifically shown what a daylily plant looked like.

TREATISE ON THE EXALTED AND HUMBLE AMONG TREE PEONIES

By Ch'iu Hsuan (fl. 1040)

Translated by John Marney, Associate Professor, Oakland University

[Translator's Note: Ch'iu Hsuan is located only by the most important date in his career, the year 1027, when he successfully sat the Imperial Triennial Metropolitan Examinations. He thereafter served as an official of the central court bureaucracy.]

This delightful treatise, here translated into English for the first time, is unique in listing tree peonies according to the ranks of the imperial concubines. Says Ch'iu, color alone is inadequate for representing the relative status of these flowers. And so, beginning with the king and consorts of tree peonies, he lists his varieties under ranks of concubine titles. Later in the treatise, he diverges from his subject to the extent of listing other flowers that are in some way comparable or supportive of the peony. Still later, under "fine fragments," he lists some weeds that must be cleared away so that the propitious conditions, the "Gentlemen" may be effective. The "petty fellows" are adverse conditions, like hot sun and insect pests. The last two categories, epigrammatic observations, border on aesthetics, rather in the style of the 14th century Japanese Buddhist monk Kenko's *Tsurezure gusa* (trans. Donald Keene, *Essays in Idleness*, N.Y. Columbia Univ. Press, 1967,) and quickly became arbiters of sensitive taste.

Ch'iu's preface is loyal to the Confucian classical tradition, especially the *Li Chi* (Record of Rites, trans. James Legge, *Chinese Classics*), wherein we read that in antiquity there existed the *liu-kung* "Six Palaces" (i.e., the empresses); the *san fu-jen* "Three Wives;" *jiu-pin* "Nine Concubines;" *erh-shih ch'i shih-fu* "Twenty-seven Noble Ladies;" and *pa-shi-i yu-ch'i* "Eighty-one Imperial Wives." (Note the combinations here of the magical number nine.) The function and attendant morality of these and other ranks are rehearsed in Ch'iu's lengthy syllogisms.]

Preface

In the world of flowers which flourishes 'twixt heaven and earth, none surpasses the tree peony. Its face rectifies the mind. Pliant stem, [regularly] knotted trunk, stamen thrusting up or supine in orderly form and spacing, they are firm and soft in manner. Seeing them from afar, one suspects a handsome husband and wife. In comparison with robes and crown, they stand in front. If they be not the concentration of purity, virtue, chastity, and limpidity of spirit, then by what means are they the eminence of total virtue! Within three months, stupid and doltish, ancient and venerable are created. With their exalted or humble station in mind, I record their circumstances.

There is no risk in making Yao's Yellow king, and Wei's Red consort. Why so? Because their status is already well venerated, they must be conferred with the Nine Concubines. When the Nine Concubines assist, they must be governed by the Noble Ladies.

[Translator's Note: The Li Chi comments that these ladies make heard the inner management of the empire, and make illustrious wifely obedience. In respect to the shih-fu "Noble Ladies," the Li Chi comments that fu "wife," "lady," is also (the homophone) fu "to serve," i.e., that the lady serves her lord and master. However, since she is also noble, so she is called shih "world," "generation." (shih is often used in polite address.) She broadens the posterity of the generation.] When the Noble Ladies broaden [the posterity of the generation], they must be settled by the pao-fu "nursemaids." When the nursemaids are employed, then the tan-kuan "vermeil pens" [women officials who record imperial births and the affairs of the empresses] attain position. When the vermeil pens attain position, then the ming-fu "ladies of mandate" [assistants to the empresses, especially in times of bereavement] are established. When the ladies of mandate are established, then the pi-hsing "favored concubines" are sincere. When the favored concubines are sincere, then the chin-shu "closely related" are peacefully harmonious. When the closely related are peacefully harmonious, then the shu-tsu "outer clan" becomes intimate. When the outer clan becomes intimate, then the wai-p'ing "external screen" [i.e., the emperor and his consort, who guards the empire; as opposed to the "internal screen," i.e., the feudal lords] attains majesty. When the outer screen attains majesty, then the kung-wei "empresses quarters" become correct in conduct. When the empresses quarters are correct in conduct, then the ts'ung-ts'o "fine fragments" are eliminated. When fine fragments are eliminated, then the distinction between the gentleman-ruler and the petty fellow is achieved. When the distinction between the gentleman-ruler and the petty fellow is achieved, then prosperity pervades.

If the omens of accumulated strife ensue, of what ensues after them there is nothing greater than goodness; and of what completes them there is nothing greater than natural disposition. Where endowment lies within, trunk and root flourish; where goodness returns to the self, color and fragrance are rich. This being so, then bestow them with heaven's way; inculcate them with earth's benefits; regulate them with human desires. Then their cutting and grafting will be without exhaustion and without extinction; their growth and their maturity will neither diminish nor become excessive. Then not solely will they be the flourishing of enjoyment for a single season at Loyang, but will become the encouragement of delight throughout the empire.

The Yao Yellow is King

It is called the Yao Flower on account of a name [i.e., the Yao family]. One cannot extend the veneration of a ten-thousand chariot [state, i.e., a powerful country; here, a vastly superior variety] by means of color. Thus, by "king," by "consort" is exhibited superior and inferior, or equality of class.

The Wei Red is Consort [fei: imperial concubine of the third rank; wife of a royal prince].

The Son of Heaven establishes empresses [hou] to rectify domestic management. Thus the "Kuan-chu" was the beginning of the transformation of [proper] public morals. [Note: the "Kuan chu" is the first poem in the Confucian *Shih ching* Classic of Poetry. It describes a properly happy marriage. See James Legge, *The Chinese Classics*, Vol. IV. London: Trubner, 1871.] The fei "consorts," pin "concubines," and shih-fu "noble ladies" are the means by which they are assisted. Chastity and virtue tally therein with their patent of family membership. Only then, the "Ch'ueh Ch'ao" [The Magpie's Nest], the "Ts'ai Pin" [Gathering Duckweed], and the "Ts'ai Fan" [Gathering White Southernwood] [Note: These are three more poems from the *Classics of Poetry*, respectively, nos. 12, 15, 13, Legge, *ibid.*, pp. 20, 25, 22. The "Magpie's Nest" tells of joyous nuptials, and the young bride going to her new home; the other two tell of the duties and demeanor of the young bride, properly performed.] These set forth the wifely duties, which assist the governance of the feudal lords. Now, taking the Wei Flower as consort is consistent with royal ennoblement. It is observed as eminent and lofty, rich and honored, and is one with inner and outer.

Chiu pin "Nine Concubines"

Niu Yellow	Fine Petal Shou-an
Nine-stamen True Pearl	Cranes-in-Harmony Red
T'ing Red	Ch'ien-pool Purple
Cinnabar Red	Adding-Color Red
Lotus-petal Nine-stamen	

Shih-fu "Noble Ladies"

Coarse Petal Shou-an	Kan-ts'ao [Liquorice] Yellow
One-Pinch Red	Fainting Sandal-wood Heart
Tan-chou Red	One-hundred-and-fifty
Deer's Womb	Saddle Red
Multi-petal Red	Presentation Red

(These ten varieties have been supplemented from other sources.)

Yu-fu "Imperial Ladies"

Jade Tablet White	Multi-petal Purple
Petal-base Purple	Tso Purple
Adding-Color Purple	Red Lotus Calyx
Yen-chou Red	Camel Red
Purple Lotus Calyx	Su-chou Flower
Ch'ang-chou Flower	Jun-chou Flower
Chin-ling [i.e., Nanking] Flower	Ch'ien-t'ang Flower
Yueh-chou Flower	Ch'ing-chou Flower
Mi-chou Flower	Ho-chou Flower

(From K'uai-chi in Su-t'ai to Li-yang commandery, the au-courant who, in throngs make cuttings and plant them, are especially numerous, and [tree peony varieties] belonging within the eighty-one [palace-women names] are sure to be among [their holdings].)

[Translator's Note: The various chou (provincial seats) listed here are all in the Kiang-Chekiang area.) — 34 —

Hua Shih-fu "Flower Governesses"

Ming-chieh [a fabulous and auspicious plant which mythically grew in the palace of the legendary sage Emperor Yao. It produced a leaf on the first of the lunar month, and one each day until the full moon; thereafter it lost a leaf each day until the end of the month.]

Flattery Herb [Another fabulous herb associated with Emperor Yao and his court.]

Sha-fu [Another auspicious herb, which grew in the kitchens of Emperor Yao, and gave warning of unpalatable foods.]

Marriage-register Iris

Firefly Iris

Five-color Magic Iris

Green-jade Peach [*Prunus persica*]

[*Ganoderma lucidum*;

Nine stem Iris

Fomes japonicus]

Hua Tan-shih "Flower Vermeil-scribes"

Like a Full Head of Grain

Twin-fork Wheat

Third [month of] Spring Rushes

Morning Sun Lotus

Interlocked Branches Trees

Gardenia Flower

Eternal Happiness Flower

Hua Ming-fu "Flower Ladies of Mandate"

Top Quality Herbaceous Peony

Yellow Tower Sort

Powdered Mouth

Willowed Creek

Crown of Mao Shan [Mao Shan, i.e., Rush Mountain, in southern Kiangsu province, was associated with a sect of Taoism.]

A Tipsy Lovely Lady

Red Silk-skein

White Silk-skein

Yellow Silk Head

Red Silk Head

Cicada Flower

Double-Petal Wild Pear

Thousand-Petal Auspicious Lotus

Hua Pi-hsing "Flower Favored Concubines"

Undyed-silk Fragrance

Middle Quality Herbaceous Peony

Long Life Girl's Flower

White Jasmine

Nutmeg

The Beautiful Lady Yu
(originated in Shu, i.e.,
Ssuchuan)

Cloves

With a Smile

Male and Female Mandarin-duck Herb [these birds were symbols of conjugal bliss] (Originated in Shu)

Male Veracity

Female Veracity

Peperomia Flower (Originated in Shu)

Seven Treasures Flower

Jade Cicada Flower (from Shu)

Hau Chin-shu "Flower Closely-related"

Red-stone Flower

Red Orchid

Cassia Flower [*osmanthus*
fragrans]

Sala [i.e., Buddha] Flower

Kerria Japonica

Welcoming Springtime

Yellow Frost-resister

Yellow Cock's Comb

Forgetting Sorrows Herb

Golden Bells Chrysanthemum

Double-Brew [wine]

Jade Butterfly
Yellow Double-brew
(from Shu)

Camellia [lit. mountain, i.e., wild tea]

Jade Powder [nephertum]
Thousand Petal Pomegranate

Hua Su-Shu “Flower Outer-clan”

Beautiful Springtime
Seven Treasures Flower
(from Shu)

Purple Chrysanthemum
Bashful Heaven Flower
Adding-Color Frost-resister
Lilies [lit. mountain, wild cinnabar]
Tree Lotus Flower

Stone Cliff
Thousand Petal Chrysanthemum

Stone Gourd Flower (from Shu)
Gold Coins [desmodium]
Golden Phoenix
Auspicious Shells [i.e., cotton]

Single Petal Chrysanthemum
Red Cock’s Comb
Yellow Mallow

Dianthus Superbus [lit. stone bamboo, i.e., Pink]
Elecampane (lit. dripping gold)
Dwarf Cock’s Comb
Thousand Petal Plum

Hua Ch’i-li “Flower Imperial Ladies’ Residence”

Waymark
Goose-down Golden Phoenix
Auspicious Fragrance
Elegant Victory

Jade Bowl Gold Cup
Auspicious Sageliness
Zea mays [i.e., maize]
Jade Hairpin

Hua Wai-p’ing “Flower External Screen”

Gold Dust [Climbing Fern]
Yellow Rose
Dense/Fine
Red Fern

Red Rose
Rosa rugosa [meikuei]
Thorn Red
Crape Myrtle [lit. purple fern, i.e., Lagerstroemia indica]

Crimson Hibiscus
Sea Quince
Indian Cuckoo
Chinese Redbud [Cercis chinensis]

White Hibiscus
Embroidered Sash
Gardenia jasminoides
Delegated Gentleman

Trumpet Flower [Campsis grandiflora]

Tree Epidendrum

Lily [lit. 100 Meetings, i.e., Lilium brownii]

Hua Kung-wei “Flower Empresses Chambers”

All-species Peach
All-species Pear
Red Plum
Cherry

All-species Plum
All-species Apricot
Early Plum
Mountain Cherry [i.e., Nanking Cherry, Prunus tomentosa]
Quince [Chaenomeles sinensis]

Jambosa Vulgaris
‘ung [oil] Tree Flower
Aleurites fordii]

Chestnut Flower	Date Flower
Tree Cotton	Red Banana [<i>Musa uranoscopus</i>]

Hua Ts'ung-tso "Flower Fine Fragments"

Red Smartweed	Morning Glory [lit. Leading an Ox, i.e., <i>Ipomoea nil</i> ; <i>Pharbitis nil</i>]
<i>Calystegia zapium</i> [lit. Drummer]	Daphne
Datura	Golden Lantern
Belamcanda	Water Pepper
Boston Ivy [<i>Parthenocissus tricuspidata</i>]	
Violet	Yellow Rhododendron
Wild Rose	Shepherd's Purse [<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>]
Dwarf Magnolia [<i>Magnolia coco</i>]	Reed Flower
Willow Blossom	<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>
Rape Flower	

Hua Chun-tzu "Flower Gentleman"

Warm Wind	Fine Rain
Limpid Dew	Balmy Sun
Wisps of Cloud	Fertile Enrichment
Eternal Daytime	Glossy Curtain
Vermilion Door	Sweet Freshet
Clear Wine	Delicate Savories
Novel Entertainments	Famous Singing-girls

Hua Hsiao-jen "Flower Petty-Fellow"

Wild Wind	Violent Rain
Red [hot] Sun	Bitter Cold
Honey Bee	Butterfly
Mole-Crickets/Ants	Earthworm
Daytime Greenfly	Flying Dust
Malicious Buds	Eventide Bats
Weevils	Musk
Mulberry Chrysalis	

Hua Heng-t'ai "Flower Prosperity Pervades"

Intercalary Third Month [i.e., an extra month inserted seven times every nineteen years to reconcile the solar and lunar calendars].

Five winds, ten rains

The lord [master of the house] much delights in [official] business

The maid-servants can sing and entertain

The men-servants are diligent and capable

The wives and children are tireless in preparations [for feasts, etc.]

The sons are close and mutually reliant

[The flowers] are in bloom just at the time of a birthday

[The flowers] wait until one has sobered up before fading

The monks explain [or release] cutting[s] and grafting
Participating in garden-gazebo picnics
Moving from a poor district into a rich family

Hua Chun-nan "Flower Accumulated Strife"

An ugly woman jealous and nosey [lit. neighbor]
Some rustic fellow grudging and suspicious
A Buddhist [monastery] garden sold to butchers and winesellers
The master of the house stingy and mean
[The flowers] in full bloom at the time of personal bereavement [i.e. the anniversary of the death of a friend or relative]
In the midst of some enjoyment, setting up chess and contesting over tea
Frost and hail during the third month
Upon a feast-mat, holding a ch'ih-pa [eighteen-inch flute]
[The flowers] in full bloom, a creditor comes to the door
A screen blocks off [a view of] the garden
About to cut it, you catch the flowers' eye
Bare-headed, bare-footed, facing a winejar
Just at the moment of delight, becoming drunk
One's hat falls into the privy
Hearing a singing-girl refuse a summons to a family banquet
Encountering a man of power and influence begging for an assignation
[Petals] dried up [butter crisp] fall into some wheat-gruel
A village [Buddhist] monk in a Taoist retreat
After fading and falling, swept up by a besom
A gardener muckspreading

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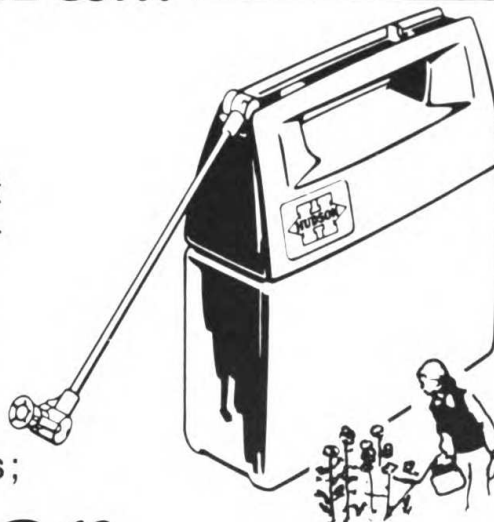
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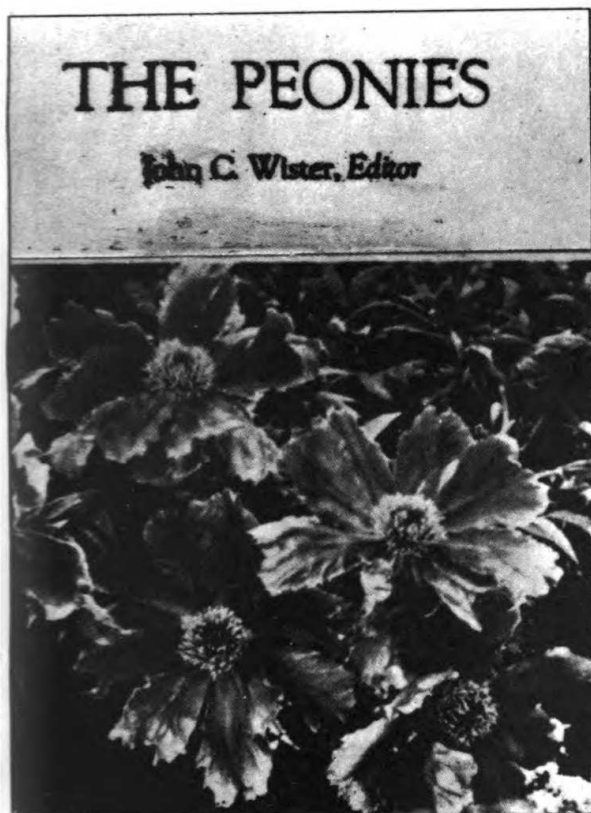
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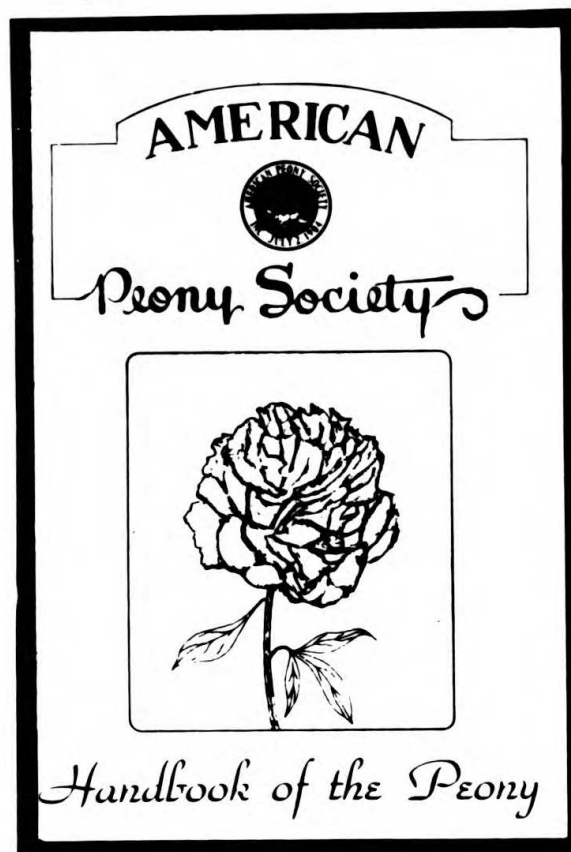
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