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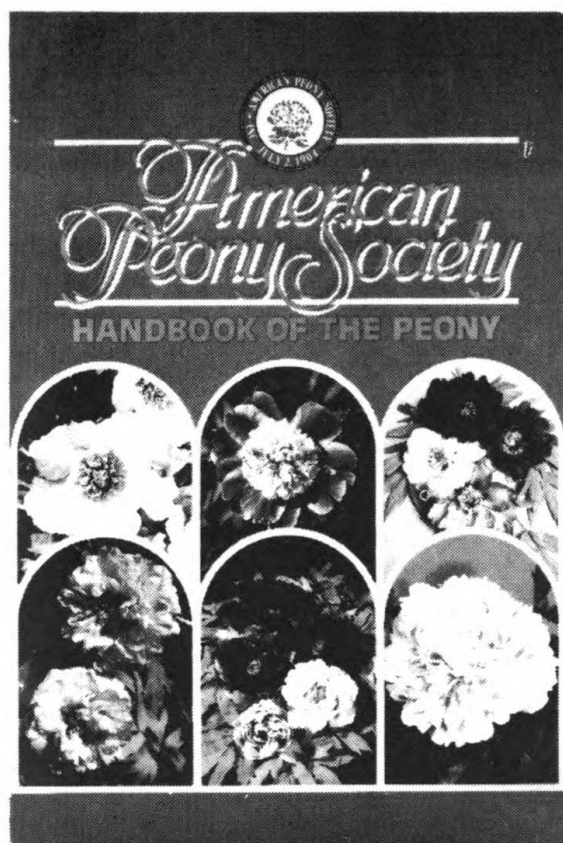
DECEMBER, 1986  
NO. 260

# The American Peony Society Bulletin



Holiday  
Greetings

DEC 8 1986



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edited by J. C. Wister

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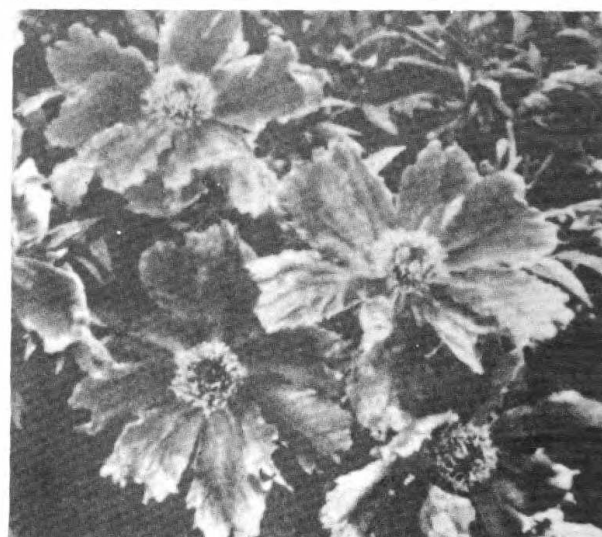
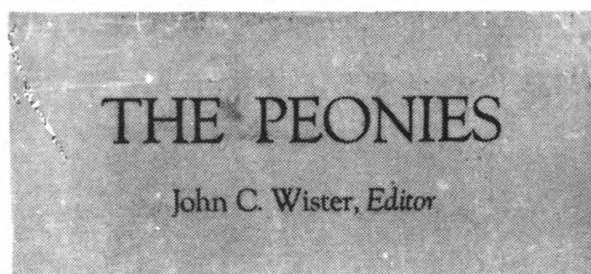
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*Glory to God in the highest  
Peace on earth and good will to all men.*

## THE TREE OF KNOWLEDGE

THE  
Bible has  
in it 3,566,480  
letters, 810,677  
words, 31,175  
verses, 1189 chapters,  
and 66 books. The  
longest chapter is the  
119th Psalm. The short-  
est and middle chapter is  
the 117th Psalm. The mid-  
dle verse is the 8th verse of  
the 118th Psalm. The longest  
name is in the 8th chapter of  
Isaiah, verse 1, and contains 18  
letters. The word "and" occurs  
46,627 times; the word "Lord,"  
1,855 times. The 37th chapter of  
Isaiah and the 19th chapter of 11  
Kings are alike. The longest verse is  
Esther 8:9; the shortest verse is John  
11:35. In Ezra 7:21 are all the letters  
of the alphabet except the letter j. The  
finest piece of reading is Acts, the 26th  
chapter. The name of God is not found in  
Esther. The Bible contains knowledge, wis-  
dom, the mind of God, the state of man, the  
way of salvation, the doom of the sinner, and  
the happiness of believers. Its doctrines are  
holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are  
true, and its decisions are immutable. It con-  
tains light to guide you, food to support you, and  
comfort to cheer you. God was 2,500 years getting  
ready to write the Bible, 1600 years writing it,  
and has been 1900 years fulfilling it. The word  
"boy" occurs in the Bible three times and the word  
"girl" 2 times. Christ is the key to the entire Book.  
Forty men were employed in its making. It was written  
by doctors, farmers, fishermen, kings, shepherds, old,  
young, rich, poor, learned, and unlearned. It is the  
traveler's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass,  
and the soldier's sword. Do not neglect your Bible.  
It is a mine of wealth and health to the soul, and is  
a river of pleasure. It is given to you in this life  
and will be opened to you at the judgment,  
and it is established forever. If you want  
a crown of rejoicing when Jesus re-  
turns to earth again, read your  
Bible and lead souls to Christ;  
and you will have a rich  
reward when He comes.  
11 Timothy 2:15 is  
the key that will  
unlock the sacred  
Book to you.  
Read,  
hear,  
keep  
what  
it con-  
tains, and  
you will always  
be happy and pros-  
perous (Revelation 1:3).  
—Arranged by E. C. Gillentine

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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		

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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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December 1986 — No. 260

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# FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

DON HOLLINGSWORTH

Dear Friends:

Like the endangered species of the birds and plant life, the peony species, too, have given all of us concern, knowing that many could be lost with the passing of time. Articles regarding the species and this problem have been published at various times in the BULLETIN. It is time that we all join together in a quest to save and grow these valuable plants. There are certain species that will grow in the mild mediterranean climate, their natural habitat, but there are plants that will grow in our gardens, and those native to North America.

Mr. Trevor Nottle of South Australia, and Mr. Leo Fernig of France, have contacted responsible growers, nurserymen, and a plant society there, with a favorable response to grow the species in their gardens. At the present time, there are many species being grown in these gardens, with seeds available.

In growing this plant, I quote a few lines from my recent letter:

"I am coming more and more to the view that unless species plants are grown in groups of two or more different clones, to reduce in-breeding, and isolated from other species (or hybrids) to reduce natural hybridizing, then meticulous effort must be made to acquire and apply suitable pollen at the proper time in order to produce strong clones of true species. For our own plants, monitor what we have, and check accuracy of naming if possible with specialist (botanist)—this implies good relations with botanic gardens, many of which may be falling short with their *Paeonia* collection."

For the Europeans living in areas where species are found, they might be able to collect the wild plant and seed.

This is but a brief outline of a plan to safeguard these plants. If you are interested in this network of people and would like to be a part of it, send a letter to Greta Kessenich, American Peony Society. The object of this network is to save the species and have exchange of seed.

Best wishes for a very good winter,  
Don Hollingsworth

# THREE PERPLEXING QUESTIONS FOR PEONY GROWERS AND EXHIBITORS

*By Olin Frazier, Warrensburg, Missouri*

While the number of perplexing questions that peony growers and exhibitors face is by no means limited to three, these three seem to be heard with regularity.

**Why are my peonies smaller than they should be?** As with many questions, no one answer will suffice, but the first that comes to mind is starvation. While peonies will live and grow, and even sometimes flourish, in abandoned properties or cemeteries for years without a hint of fertilizer, the size of the blooms is generally inferior to those that are properly nourished. In my own garden, blooms were smaller last year than they had been in past seasons because I didn't get around to fertilizing the garden at all due to family illnesses. A word of caution is appropriate here—do not get heavy-handed with the fertilizer as too much can be worse than not enough. I usually fertilize each plant in the spring with a cup or two of well-balanced fertilizer, spread a foot or two from the center of the plant. Also, when we were still on the farm, I had good luck with well-rotted cow manure, even though many say it should never be used.

Letting grass grow up to the base of the peony plant will frequently reduce the size of the blooms. In instances where I get lazy and don't keep the sod cut back a couple of feet from the center of the plant, the blooms are smaller than normal. In cases where I have the same variety growing in two places, one in the garden where no grass competes, and one in the yard, the ones in the garden environment are usually larger.

Exposure to chemicals can reduce the size of the blooms because the chemicals adversely affect the foliage. The foliage provides nourishment for the plant, and when it is hampered from doing its job by chemicals, bloom size may suffer. I have had some experience with this; however, I never knew what chemical was specifically poured on my plants in an act of vandalism.

A fourth possible cause of small bloom size is failure to disbud. Folks, in the small town where I have my garden, think I am crazy when I spend hours and hours disbudding plants in the spring in order to have larger blooms. I do this because I like large blooms, and I know with a given root system, a plant can do a much better job pouring all its energy into producing 30 to 50 blooms, than it can in producing 90 to 150 of smaller size. The only plants I don't disbud are the singles, and in the case of the single flowers, I enjoy a longer season of bloom by not disbudding.

**Why do peonies lack the substance or strength to hold up well when cut for the house or show table?** Again, multiple answers may be

appropriate. Over-fertilization can cause blooms to become quite large, but blooms sometime lack the strength to "hold together" once cut for the house or the show table. Larger blooms are usually heavier than small ones, and petals are somewhat longer. When the bloom is cut, or, many times, if still left on the bush, petals droop because of the extra weight. In the case of the cut flower, a container of water does not supply the same kind of nourishment as the plant's system, and the over-fertilized bloom does not compare in quality to the ones that are properly fertilized.

Failure to properly prepare the peony bloom for the house can cause the bloom to droop and not hold up properly. When cut for the house, a diagonal cut should be made on the stem. I then scrape about an inch of the stem on all sides with the edge of the blade of the shears I used to cut the bloom. This procedure seems to prevent blooms from wilting, provided good cultural practices have been followed.

Picking peonies for the house in the heat of the day when they are slightly wilted on the plant will sometimes mean that the bloom never recovers as it would if left on the plant. Picking blooms for the house should be accomplished when the petals are firm—usually in the morning or late in the day after the sun has subsided.

Peonies grown under trees or in excessively shady areas usually never achieve the quality of bloom as do those grown with sufficient sun. Hence, they never seem to have the crispness that is required to make the bloom show up well when cut.

Not to be discounted for either of the above questions as a possible cause is weather conditions. Excesses of moisture or lack of it can affect the size of blooms. Temperatures that are too hot can adversely affect the quality when it comes to holding power.

Why did my peony change color over the years from a lovely rose (or red) until now it is devoid of color? This question is heard less frequently than the other two, but heard, nevertheless. (It is times like these that I think I should have majored in chemistry or one of the other sciences rather than business.) And, the answer is not nearly as simple as when other flowers are being discussed. With phlox, glads, and some other flowers, the explanation is rather simple—but with peonies, the answer is much more complex. In cases where plants seem to be producing a lighter colored bloom than before, the color change usually comes about over a period of time.

With some varieties of hydrangeas, merely changing the ph of the soil will change the color from pink to blue; however, I know of no documented evidence where a change in ph of the soil has drastically changed the color of peony blooms. Some soils seem to produce more deeply colored blossoms of the same variety than others. Members of the hemerocallis society often observe when looking at a plant in your garden that this can't be the same cultivar that you claim it is, based upon their experience of seeing the cultivar growing in their own or

someone else's garden. Frequently, the cultivar will have come from exactly the same source. Therefore, the only possible explanation for color variation seems to be in the soil and cultural practices. Since hemerocallis are seldom left in the same place for many years as are peonies, there has been little chance to observe whether a drastic color change would occur over time. So, it does seem possible that bloom color could change over time due to the changing makeup of the soil in a particular microclimate.

Use of certain chemicals could very possibly suppress the production of color-producing cells of the plant causing them to be colorless. While I can't identify a specific chemical that could do this, some chemicals used to remedy iron deficiency might be a possible cause of this strange phenomenon. Annual use of weed suppressing chemicals might be another consideration. Experience with african violets exposed to a constant diet of liquid fertilizer has changed color on my plant stands; however, in these cases, they seem to get darker rather than lighter. The white in a two-toned blossom disappears or the different colored edge disappears. This color change seems to occur over a period of a year or two, and comes about in the confined environment of a pot—certainly not the case with peonies.

In hosta, the stability of the genetic makeup of the plant is a cause for change in leaf color or pattern; however, this does not seem to be a likely cause in the case of peonies. In my garden, hosta that have been variegated for years, will, in a single growing season, revert to all green. Usually, this change can be traced back to how the clone was selected originally—usually a sport in a group of like-colored plants. I suppose this could happen in the case of peonies; however, the probability seems slim. And, in one case, we are talking about leaf color—in the other, color of blooms.

From reading up to this point, you have no doubt decided that the writer is very evasive and never does say a single problem is always caused by a specific thing. The reason is obvious. In a given instance, sitting at the typewriter is seldom the place to discover the cause of the problem. My suggestion to people having these problems is simple—and the place to determine the cause is on site. This is especially true in the case of question number three. I would suggest moving the clump to a different location in the garden, or if the location is one that pleases, move only a small portion of the clump leaving the remainder intact. While most say this practice should not be followed, I have done it a time or two with very satisfactory results. If color returns, you will know location was the problem. Review your use of chemicals over the past few years. Has the same chemical been used repeatedly for a recurring problem? If so, check other methods of controlling the problem. All else failing, I believe the causes of color changes in peonies would make a good subject for a research project at one of our universities.

# THE FRANKLY FLORIFEROUS LUSTROUS

*Herb Green, Honesdale, Pennsylvania*

If I were a hybrid peony, the last time of year I would show my face would be the very same week that **Cytharea**, **Red Charm** and **Paula Fay** were putting out theirs. If I had no choice and had to do it, well, I'd do it in such unforgettable style and with such flamboyance, that people would forget such trivial things as sheer beauty.

That's the story of **Lustrous**—one of the more under-rated peonies. It has only been in my garden two years, and leaves visitors breathless; and I have several hundred peonies. The first year, it had nine gorgeous red scarlet blooms that were appropriately enough like a lustrous satin—the kind you'd expect in a vamp's evening dress. By the second year, it had 29 gorgeous red blooms. Each and every one discreet, and on its own stem. It has no side buds. I have never seen such indomitable vigor in any peony. If this keeps up exponentially, I shall have to alert the neighborhood. All other plants are in danger of being taken over.

It has some peculiarities. **Lustrous** is floppy—not the way the lactifloras are, but rather, it forms a mound with flowers all around. I use a hoop with it and it sort of contains it into a neater mound, flopping gracefully over the hoop with flowers in every direction. Every flower facing upwards . . . none dragging face down in the dirt.

Now the sad thing is that although everyone who has seen **Lustrous** preen itself with glory as it were, and wants to order it, no one can find it. I discovered it in Wild's Catalogue in 1984 and ordered it because it was a good red, semi-double and one of Saunder's lobatas, and that was quite enough of a recommendation for me. No one prepared me for this distinctive floppiness (which, by the way, I think is a positive feature—enough of the straight up-and-down peonies that are mostly face down after a rain), or this run-away floriferousness, and I am seemingly mean and parsimonious to all my begging friends because I refuse to dig it up and divide. I am fascinated by seeing just how many flowers it can produce from year to year—2000 blooms by the year 1990?

Hopefully Wild's or someone will have it again, soon. You must try this incredible fountain of peonies—but give it room and stand back . . . I am not exaggerating!

## Random Notes:

I was in London early in May and hoping to see English peonies, but after an exceptionally cold winter, followed by an exceptionally cold spring, there was not a peony, species or otherwise, open in the environs of London. The best collection of peonies I came across was at Kew Gardens where they had almost all the species I was familiar with. It was fantastic to see them—trees and herbaceous—if only in leaf. But the one that made a fantastic impression on me was a



specimen *cambessedesi* in Kew's alpine collection. The leaves, silver grey and red purple, were incredibly beautiful. If anyone has any experience growing these in the states, I would appreciate hearing about it.

By the way, I came across an English re-issue of Alice Harding's "*The Peony*." The book was first printed in 1917. I enjoyed reading it—not just because books on peonies are as rare as hen's teeth, but because her enthusiasm is so much like ours. Also, if you are as interested in the history of the aesthetics of peonydom as I am, it is a good rundown on what peonies were considered the "elite" from about 1900 to 1920 and what peonies were "in" before the onrush of hybrids, although, she does discuss early hybrids like *Mai Fleuri*. I would recommend it. I got it through Daniel Lloyd of Kew, my favorite horticultural book dealer in the whole entire world.

**P.P.—**

*We had a great peony season up here this year. Despite the fact we had some on and off frosts right through the first week of June, we had very little damage except possibly to the Itohs.*

*What made the season so exceptional was the fact that we had no heavy rains in May though we did have quite a bit of cloudy weather, and the hybrids and tree peonies were in seventh heaven. Silver Sails, Artemis, Kronos, Haku Jin and Yae Zakura were particularly good. Sprite, America, Lustrous, Firelight, Paula Fay, Red Charm and White Innocence were outstanding hybrids. LeCygne, Gardenia, Mary E. Nichols, Miss America, Douglas Brand were cosmic to say the least.*

## REGISTRATION

### MOON OVER BARRINGTON (Roy Klehm) 1986

Seedling #11E. Double lactifolia, parentage lost. First bloomed 1968. Cream/blush fully rose-type double similar in shape and color to *Moonstone* and *Moon River*. Large 8" blossoms held well on sturdy plants. It is fragrant, no pollen or seeds. 32" in height, excellent foliage, midseason to late with ample amount of bloom. Good show flower.

Bulletin #260

### PAREE FRU FRU (Roy Klehm) 1986

Seedling #79-4. Semi-double Japanese lactifolia. Parentage lost. First bloomed 1979. A most unusual color combination of pleasing pink, rose, cream and white. The flower form is also silly, but attractive array of petals going every which way (sort of like Phyllis Diller's hair). It has ample amount of bloom, fragrant, stamens, pollen and no seeds. 30" height with good stem strength. Midseason. Foliage, a vivid rich green.

Bulletin #260

# PEONIES PLANTED NOW PROMISE BRIGHT SPRING

*By Art Kozelka—with permission*

What flowering plants are truly hardy, yield bundles of showy blooms in spring, endure for years, and get along on little care? **Peonies!**

The pleasure of peonies begins when their stalwart shoots emerge in early spring, then peaks when their big, fluffy, often scented, flowers appear in late May or early June, about the time the tulips and other spring bulbous flowers have had their day. And for the rest of the summer, their bold, handsome foliage is a continuing garden asset.

Autumn is the traditional peony planting time, while the weather and soil are still conducive to proper planting. Commercial growers dig the roots in autumn because the plants have produced plump eyes [buds] for next year and can be divided most advantageously.

For the same reason, this is a good time for home gardeners to lift and divide their own plants to increase display, move them elsewhere or share roots with friends and neighbors.

Unlike most other perennials, peonies need not be divided every few years. Because they will thrive indefinitely in the same location as long as conditions remain favorable, they deserve the best planting site you can provide. It should offer full sunlight and soil that drains well and be highly visible for maximum enjoyment of the flowers.

Avoid planting in places that are too close to large trees or shrubs or near smaller ones that will grow large as they mature, because such plants will compete with the peonies for sun and soil nutrients.

Dig the planting holes deep enough to comfortably accommodate the plant's entire fleshy root system, but the eyes [buds] must not be set any deeper than 1½ to 2 inches below ground level. Deeper placement of the eyes is a common reason for plants failing to produce blooms. Space the plants 3 to 4 feet apart.

After digging the holes, mix some compost, peat moss or other organic material into the subsoil, then add top soil with humus to finish the planting. Water thoroughly, and if the soil settles, add more to bring it to ground level.

Planting can continue throughout the fall as long as the ground can be worked, but the earlier the roots go into the ground, the better chance they have to become established before there is a hard freeze.

While flowers of all peonies are showy, the Estate Series hybrids, developed by Charles Klehm and Son Nursery of South Barrington, peony specialists for more than a century, are regarded by many growers as outstanding for their improved form and livelier colors.

Among them are **Pillow Talk**, glossy pink with a hint of rose; **Honey Gold**, pure white with tufted golden tints; **Dinner Plate**, immense shell pink; **Pink Parfait**, soft pink edged with silver; **Top Brass**,

pink and ivory bicolor; **Raspberry Ice**, red highlighted with silver; **Vivid Rose**, shimmering pink; **Moon River**, pink and cream blend; and **Bowl of Cream**, creamy white.

Selected varieties of these and other peonies are offered through the catalogues of many mail order firms, including Klehm's, Route 5, Box 197, South Barrington, IL 60010; W. Atlee Burpee, Warminster, PA 18974; and Wayside Gardens, Hodges, SC 29695.

## **FRENCH LILACS ADORN THE STATUE OF LIBERTY**

*By Marlene Behle—Tribune Living Page Editor*

The people of France gave our nation the Statue of Liberty in 1884 as a symbol of friendship and freedom. Now over 100 years later, the statue has been repaired and the United States is planning a four-day celebration which will make history.

About the same time that France presented the United States with the statue, a Frenchman, Victor Lemoine, was becoming known as the world's most famous hybridizer and grower of ornamental lilacs.

What's the connection between lilacs and the Statue of Liberty?

Plans are underway for the grounds around the Statue of Liberty Island to be beautiful. What would be more appropriate than to plant French lilacs?

Daniel Ryniec of the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens, and Don Wedge of Wedge Nursery of Albert Lea, Minnesota, are both directors of the International Lilac Society. After a conversation between the two men about the possibility of planting three types of *Syringa* (the family name for lilacs) on the Statue of Liberty grounds in the colors, red, white, and blue, Ryniec called Wedge to see if he would consider sending the necessary plants.

Why call Don Wedge in Minnesota?

Don Wedge is known to people all over the country as the "lilac king." Wedge Nursery raises over 200 varieties of lilacs including the three kinds hybridized by Lemoine in the 1880s and planned for the statue grounds. The nursery has gained national and international recognition for being the largest grower of lilacs.

After Ryniec's call, Don replied by letter to say, "We would consider it an honor to be a part of landscaping the Statue of Liberty grounds. Victor Lemoine lilac introductions of French hybrid lilac in red, white and blue is quite appropriate to be a part of landscaping for a great gift from the French to our country."

Since lilacs are best planted either in early spring or the fall, Ryniec and Wedge decided that perhaps the planting should be delayed until this fall.

The Statue of Liberty will stand proud for many years to come and the French lilacs which come from the Wedge Nursery should beautify the grounds for just as long. As Longfellow said, "Men may come and men may go, but lilacs bloom on forever."

# A VISIT WITH GRETA KESSENICH ON THE PEONY SHOW WEEKEND

*By John Leddick, Montague, Michigan*

Would you like to visit Greta Kessenich some weekend in early summer? See if she grows peonies? The question should be: How does she find the time to grow them? I was fortunate to be able to combine a visit to my brother's home and the Annual Peony Show last June. By chance, Greta and he are near neighbors in Hopkins, a suburb of Minneapolis.

If you visit Greta, you approach her home through the quiet streets of Interlachen Park, tree-shaded and beautiful. Well cared-for lawns and interesting landscaping make it a lovely area. As you come to the end of Interlachen Road, (it dead-ends at the golf course), there on the right is her modest/white Cape Cod Colonial home. Greta's home, still fresh-looking from its painting two years ago (by Greta), is shared with her two old-maid cats.

The house is surrounded by large spruce trees and the borders and beds are filled with big and colorful hosta, iris, ferns, day-lilies and perennials of every kind. In spite of the fact that there was no rain in April and no watering was done, everything flourished.

As you walk to the back corner of Greta's yard, behind the garage wing and visible from the glassed-in breakfast area, you behold the rose garden. One-hundred and fifty roses, six feet tall, with canes the size of broom handles and covered with blooms! The trick is the Minnesota tip. Each fall, every bush is dug loose with roots still intact, tipped sideways, and buried in a trench. Each spring, it is unearthed and set upright again. Hard work and all done by Greta.

The lot is approximately one acre in size and the house and yard occupy about half. To the south and west, wide borders of perennials run down slow slopes and beyond, not a garden but a field of peonies. Here is a peony display to amaze even a professional. Every variety of peony imaginable and although only a few blooms were still out at show time, it was still spectacular. Huge thriving plants, row upon row, many heavy with seed pods, and no support system here.

The garden soil used to be a heavy hard clay, but years of generous applications of compost and Greta's trusty power tiller have converted it to its near perfect condition. Huge compost piles "in the works" and a field of healthy peonies attest to her "compost and little else" method. It is dumbfounding to see the results and staggering to contemplate the years of just plain hard labor that has accomplished all of this.

Greta doesn't ordinarily exhibit blooms because she is too busy, but this year she did pick, bag, mark and refrigerate 300 buds. The Friday morning of the show we tagged and boxed them ready to be taken to Apache Center. We started work at 5:00 AM and by 8:00 AM the buds were loaded in her car, in spite of numerous phone calls from

members—just a preview of the myriad of questions and greetings with which she would be bombarded in the days to follow.

At Apache Center we filled bottles, trimmed stems, and set the buds up for the 4:00 PM de-bagging, finishing up by late morning. A TV interview, and more questions from arriving members. Then a fast return to Hopkins through St. Paul and Minneapolis for another carload of equipment.

I wasn't free the remainder of the weekend, but on Sunday I returned to Apache Center to see the results of the show. The Mall was a mass of glorious blooms, and there was Greta—still circulating and besieged, generous and charming, although she did admit that she was able to squeeze in only three hours of sleep on Saturday night.

It was inspiring and exciting to spend the weekend time with Greta, observing her remarkable energy and a schedule that would destroy most people. Perhaps her habit of rising each morning at 5:00 AM to spend five to seven hours on Peony Society work, and then spending many hours in her garden, agrees with her. It seems that it does! The results are evident in the splendid bulletin we all receive each quarter, and in her own yard and peony garden that just has to be seen to be fully appreciated.

I asked Greta what her favorites were and she confessed that she loved them all. I either saw growing or tagged: Cream Puff, Sparkling Star, Pink Lemonade, Cheddar Cheese, Red Ensign, Rose Bowl, Yellow Heaven, Burma Ruby, Bessie, Romance, Virginia Dare, Coral Sunset, Pillow Talk, Cytherea, Raspberry Sundae to name a few. Greta seems to have them all. Truly a dedicated, devoted, and doing "peony person."

My personal reaction to visiting with Greta was to return home, plow up my garden and try cabbages. On second thought, I'd better get some place ready for the five-dozen peony seedlings that are due out of the coldframe!

## PEONY FRAGRANCE

This is most remarkable, on account of its wide diversity. These flowers emit their delicate perfume just as the buds open; after that it is not as pronounced. Around one there floats the perfume of the violet. The genuine Humei, besides that glorious bloom of varnished pink, sends out a cinnamon odor. Many add the perfume of the rose to the effulgent bloom. One has the delicate aroma of the heliotrope. Another has the form and fragrance of the pond lily. Let all these emanations blend in one great wave of perfume, and billows of it seem to hang in the air and float around you. Some friends once drove sixteen miles to visit our grounds in blooming time, and as they came near they said the flowers could not be far off, for the very air, even at considerable distance, gave tokens of their presence.

(From "*A Manual*" written by C. S. Harrison about 1906. Those were horse and buggy days, driving 16 miles then was quite a trip.)

## THE 1986 - 1987 SEED CORNER

*Bill Seidl, 732 South 19th St., Manitowoc, Wisconsin*

This service to APS members was inherited from Chris Laning, the former chairman of this committee of one. Chris was not fired from his job; he needs more time to tend to his own peony spread (it's too large to call a "patch") and decided somebody of younger middle-age should experience these duties. I hope to continue his standard of excellence while Chris continues as a valuable source of seed.

Listed below are donors (so far) of seed, and a description of seed sent. Cultivar names (or unregistered "garden names"), when appearing alone, indicate the seed-parent. The pollen parent is not known.

*Chris Laning, Michigan:* LACTIFLORA—Pehrson's Red Jap; HERBACEOUS HYBRIDS (HH)—Mixed tets, Pehrson's Best Yellow F<sub>2</sub>, Quad F<sub>3</sub> x Silver Dawn F<sub>3</sub>.

*Robert Geller, Ohio:* LACTI and HH mixed.

*S. H. DeReamer, Indiana:* LACTI mixed.

*Edwin Palmer, Massachusetts:* SUFFRUTICOSA (tree peony)—Tama Fuyo, Yaso-no Mine, Yae Zakura.

*Gus Sindt, Minnesota:* LACTIFLORA—Kay Tischler, Pico, Florence Bruss, Rose Bowl, Liebchen, Miss America; HH—Moonrise.

*Rev. Joseph Syrový, Iowa:* HH—Mixed, Chris and Roy's Best Yellow mixed; SUFF'A—Rock's Variety, Mixed, Seedling SI (white, from Gessekai x Godaishu).

*John Cote, Jr., Connecticut:* LACTI—separated by various seed-parents in small lots.

*Toichi Domoto, California:* SUFF'A—Mixed.

*Harley Briscoe, Illinois:* LACTI—Rivida.

My thanks to the above for their donations. In addition, I have mixed LACTI and HH tets, lobata, and tenuifolia hybrid seed from my own peony patch. If you order seed of some type without specifying any source, I will mix the seed of that type from all sources to ensure greater diversity. Receipts in excess of expenses will go into the APS treasury, but this is not intended to be a profit-making (revenue-neutral?) service. Seed recipients should send \$1 PLUS postage AFTER receipt of seed. Best way would be to round up to nearest dollar and send folding money; otherwise, checks to "WILLIAM J. SEIDL."

**SEED CARE:** Plant outside in well-drained area; wait two years. Whatever doesn't come up after the second spring is not going to come up, probably. (If you collect your own seed and sow fresh under controlled conditions—warm-cold, in that order—you can get "quick" germination by the very next spring, maybe.) Root germination begins during the summer or early fall, with stem-leaf not occurring until the next spring. If the seedbed dries out during this crucial period, GOOD-BYE, SEED! I believe the most common cause of seed failure is this:



carelessly allowing the seedbed to dry out. So keep it moist, preferably with a heavy mulch. You need not worry about smothering new top growth because there won't be any at this time; and weeds can be killed with an herbicide without harming the seed, even if root-germinating. Of course, in spring, make frequent early inspections and lift the mulch to prevent smothering of emerging plants. Flowering should occur within three (with super care) to five years. Double flowers may not show their true form the first-bloom year.

All this demands a lot of patience, and explains why APS members aren't registering new peony cultivars at the rate of 1000 per year as the daylily (*hemerocallis*) people are doing. Remember, the best time to plant peony seed was seven years ago; the next best time is NOW! To kill time while you're waiting, plant daylily or iris seed, and in one-to-three years enjoy the flowers; but be prepared for a lot of competition. In peonies, there are many avenues to explore and the traffic is light. When you get something good, blow your horn, and people will scurry around you to see what's new on the block.

## IT'S SPRING IN AUSTRALIA

*By Helen Kavanagh, P.O. Box 46, Echunga, South Australia 5153*

August 20, 1986—what a glorious day! For the first time in months, my hat has a brim instead of wooly ear covers!

Azaleas, daffodils and wattle blooms cover the garden and assail the senses—totally natural, God-given.

Of course, there is nothing to report from the paeony beds yet, except a very special spot is prepared for some very special occupants. My American paeonies at last! They have been dormant in quarantine for an awesome twenty-one months. Nearly one-half couldn't stand the strain, but my surviving beauties are coming home today. Names that I have read often in the BULLETINS with curiosity and desire, will come to life in my own backyard—wonderful plants like **FLAME**, **ANGEL CHEEKS**, **PILLOW TALK**, **TOP BRASS**, and **TOM EKHARDT**.

However, my chances of collecting anymore are slim, for the moment—I dearly want **RED CHARM** and many others—but the current economic situation in Australia is the major factor. My plants were purchased at an exchange rate of Australia-\$.85, American-\$1.00; now it is: Australia-\$.57, American-\$1.00. Come to Australia for your holiday! This exchange rate, coupled with quarantine costs and losses, makes it astronomical.

I have a hope that seeds will be much more suitable in the present situation. Quarantine is simple and vernalization and planting conditions can be much more easily controlled. At present, I am a frustrated paeonia grower. I would like seeds, particularly the yellow colors, like **DAYSTAR**, and dwarf hybrids. Wouldn't we all?!!

My best wishes are extended to all members. My thoughts will be of you in your winter months, while our balmy days are at hand.

# THE ITOH HYBRID

*Roger F. Anderson, Ft. Atkinson, Wisconsin*

*In 1978, I became very interested in the Itoh cross from articles I had read and at that time I was just wandering aimlessly not knowing which way to go in my hybridizing program. I soon discovered I could be successful crossing lactiflora x tree peonies. At present, I number around 300 seedlings of various ages; and now this has been taken one step further.*

*Last year I extracted a small amount of pollen from one of my Itoh seedlings and placed it on the carpels of a lactiflora. I now have 5 good back cross seedlings.*

*This year I did the reverse and put lactiflora pollen on the Itoh. I now have 8 seeds from this cross—one which appears to be sprouting.*

Here in southern Wisconsin where the winters are cold and the summers hot, the Itoh hybrid is flourishing in abundance. With each passing year the number of Itohs increase and the wonders of nature become more apparent to the common hobbyist hybridizer like myself. What a rewarding experience it is to be successful in a cross that is relatively easy.

In this article, I'll try to convey the steps and care I give these new hybrids from seed to adulthood.

In late May or early June, when lactifloras are in bloom, I start making my crosses for the Itoh hybrid. Several times a day I'll make trips to the garden in order to select the blooms at just the right time. (The right time is just before the bloom opens.) The bud is then maserated, and if it is a single, all pollen is carefully removed. The bloom is now ready for hybridizing with the selected tree peony pollen, tagged and bagged. These crosses will take me almost two weeks and I'll have about 500 crosses when finished.

In Sept., the crosses made in May will be ready for harvest. However, this may vary! Of the 500 crosses made, there will be somewhere near 800 seeds collected. These seeds are taken just when they start to turn brown. Once again, many trips are made to the garden during the course of a day in order to collect seed at the proper time. (The best indication of a true Itoh cross is a few ruptured seeds in each pod.) Once seeds are collected, they are cleaned and soaked in a weak solution of Clorox bleach for about 5 minutes. Here's where your 800 Itoh seeds will start to decrease. All those that float are hollow and will not sprout—out they go. Once this operation is complete, you'll find your 800 seeds have decreased by at least 10%. What's left goes into milled damp spagnum moss and set on a shelf next to the furnace. Here they will stay until the first of Dec. when they will have started to sprout. However, they are all gone over, once a week, to cull out all the rotted ones. This will be another 50% which will now take your seed total down to about 360 seeds.

By December 1st, about 60% will sprout—that is, if seeds are gathered at the right time! Once sprouted, the seeds are taken outside and put directly into the ground that had been previously mulched to keep ground from freezing. Then they are mulched again, heavily. This is the most successful method for me. Once again a high percentage is lost.

In the spring (about the first of May), mulch is removed and the wait is on to see how many survived. It's a long wait because Itohs seem to take longer than lactifloras to poke through the ground. I've waited as long as June. Once through the ground, they are fed with a slow release fertilizer—mag amp 14-14-14, and cultivated.

In their second winter, they are lightly mulched, and once again, by spring, there are a few more missing. What have survived until the second winter are there to stay and will most likely make it till blooming.

At the end of the second year, the seedlings are lifted from the nursery bed and transplanted in rows four feet apart, plants 2 feet apart. This distance is for cultivation purposes only. They can be planted much closer. Once in rows, they are cultivated and fed until they bloom.

Blooming time for most Itohs is 4 years. However, I've had them bloom in 3 years and I have had some 6 or 7 years that haven't bloomed yet. But all in all, 4 years is the average.

Once a plant has bloomed, it is evaluated for a year or two and then divided and replanted for increase. Those not selected are left a few more years and then discarded.

Adult Itohs are cared for the same as any other peony. Feed once a year after blooming and keep cultivated. Itohs are herbaceous and the tops must be removed in the fall as a disease preventative.

Dividing, planting and caring for the adult Itoh hybrid is much the same as with the other herbaceous peonies, with just a few exceptions.

When it comes to dividing the plants, the job is made much easier if you use a saw. Even so, the task is still no pushover. Once divided, the holes are dug and a handful of bonemeal and milorganite added to the loose dirt in the bottom of the hole and mixed in. More dirt is added to the hole until the right level is reached so that the uppermost eyes are no more than an inch below the surface. Now the rest of the division is covered and watered in. This one-inch depth allows for setting.

In the late fall, Itohs, being herbaceous, must have their stems removed to help prevent disease. Care must be taken not to destroy the little eyes at ground level. These will survive the winter months and will be your stems and flowers next year.

On some of my Itohs, I have had a bud as high as three inches from ground surface and it has survived the winter and put out a new shoot when spring came. On occasion, I have tried grafting of these uppermost eyes, but without success.

# GROWING BOTH HERBACEOUS AND TREE PEONIES IN THE SOUTH

*Delano Deen, Alma, Georgia*

During the summer of 1983 while vacationing in Virginia, I met someone who gave me a division of a herbaceous peony. I brought it home and planted it with the tip of the eyes at ground level. The peony was white with a few red streaks in the center of the flower and has bloomed each year with about thirty blooms this past spring. I do not know the name of this plant.

During the fall of 1983, I purchased six Japanese peonies and one Lutea hybrid tree peony, **Souvenir De Maxime Cornu** from Smirnow and Son, N. Y.. The only plant which has bloomed from this group is **Stolen Heaven**. The Lutea is the largest plant and maybe it will bloom for me next spring.

In the Fall of 1984, I purchased about twenty tree peonies from Dr. David Reath, Vulcan, Michigan, and Klehm Nursery, South Barrington, Illinois. These plants were a combination of Japanese and Luteas. The plants which have bloomed from this purchase include **Age of Gold**, **Suffruticosa Vr. Rocks**, **Marchioness**, **Chinese Dragon**, **Hesperus**, **Black Panther**, **Black Pirate**, **Gauquin**, **Kromos**, and **Kamada Fuji**.

Again in 1985, I purchased about twenty more tree peonies from Reath and Klehm Nurseries. This spring some of those plants bloomed including **Tama Fuyo**, **Happy Days**, **Vesuvian**, **Thunderbolt**, **Coronal** and **Amber Moon**. **Amber Moon** bloomed again in late summer from new growth.

I plan to purchase about a dozen more tree peonies this fall to complete my garden and replace a few which never survived after planting.

The plants I got from Dr. Reath are marked for depth of planting which is about 4 to six inches above the grafted scion. I try to judge this depth for other plants which I purchased. In the South, I do not know if the depth should be the same, more, or less than the planting depth in the North.

My tree peonies become shaded by mid-afternoon. I believe they would do better if they became shaded by noon, especially during the blooming season.

Some of the tree peonies start blooming in March. This depends on weather conditions and plant species. I have put a fence around the peonies to protect them from rabbits and other animals. After they become well established, I may remove the fence. The peonies are located South of my rose garden which consists of about 150 bushes.

This past summer has been unusually hot and dry here in South East Georgia and I have watered the peonies periodically. During the hot weather, the peony leaves started turning brown first around the margin, and then the entire leaf would turn brown and the stems would shed from the main portion of the plant.

I do not know if browning and loss of leaves is caused from the heat or from disease. I have sprayed about three or four times this summer, but next year I plan to spray about once a week to see if this will make a difference. I need to know more about spraying and when to fertilize, and how much/what kind of fertilizer to apply to young plants.

I purchased a division of **Martha Bulloch**, a late to midseason double pink herbaceous peony about four years ago. I planted this peony in sandy soil with no shade. Last fall I moved it to rich soil in partial shade. This spring the plant bloomed for the first time with four blooms, and one measured nine inches in diameter.

Two years ago I purchased about seven or eight herbaceous peonies including some hybrids. The plants which have bloomed include **Red Charm**, **Kansas**, **Coral Charm**, **Firelight** and **Paula Fay**. **Coral Charm** and **Paula Fay** were gratis plants from Klehm and Reath Nurseries. The leaves of the hybrids turn brown and the stems die much sooner than the lactifloras. Once again, I do not know if the hybrids are more susceptible to disease than the lactifloras and need to be sprayed more often.

I believe whole plants, three or four years old, will do better in the South than small divisions. I bought **Kansas** as a whole plant and the second year it produced about a dozen blooms. **Red Charm** has done fairly well from a small division with two or three nice blooms.

This fall I plan to get about eight or ten more herbaceous peonies. From my limited experience, I feel that most herbaceous peonies will be productive in the South if the proper site is selected for the particular species. The later the plant blooms and the more double the flower, the more shade you would need for the petals to open properly.

I have planted both herbaceous and three peony seed each year for the past three summers, usually in the month of June. Next fall, I intend to transplant the oldest plants and spread them out. This seed was donated to me from the American Peony Society and I plan to request some more again this year.

## WHY DO LEAVES CHANGE COLOR IN IN THE FALL?

Contrary to the popular belief, frost does not cause leaves to take on thin vari-colored hues; in fact, a heavy frost kills the leaves, leaving them a dull, lifeless brown. Chemical processes in the tree and leaves cause them to burst out in riotous red and yellow. During the summer, sunlight helps the tiny leaf cells manufacture the green substance in the leaves, chlorophyll. During the fall, when decreased sunlight, lower temperatures, and soil changes mark the approach of winter, the tree slows down its manufacturing processes. The chlorophyll is broken into various substances, and the sugar from the leaves is stored in the trunk and limbs of the tree until spring. Only residue substances, a yellow watery content, bits of sugar, and other minute materials remain in the leaves. The resultant chemical compounds produce our autumn colors that range from brilliant yellow to dark reddish brown.

## THE QUEEN OF FLOWERS

### PEONIES

By COLEEN NEUMANN, Staff Writer

It's peony season, and no one realizes it more than the Rev. Floyd Miller of Fergus Falls, Minnesota, Route 1.

Miller has 240 different kinds of peonies—about 280 plants that are now in bloom.

"Peonies have all the shades of red, from real deep red to almost pink and light pinks and white. Most of the white ones have a little red in them," Miller said as he walked through his 14 beds of peonies, each containing 20 plants.

"Here's sort of a novelty," he said as he pointed out a pink peony with a yellow center. And he showed off a rich dark red peony, saying, "This is one of my favorites. It's called Ruth Elizabeth."

Miller said he orders peonies "from all over" to get rare varieties. He has large, ruffly peonies in deep shades, delicate pinks and velvety whites. He has single peonies, Japanese peonies and tree peonies. He even has one peony, his most expensive, that he paid \$40 for several years ago.

"The peonies I have are all developed from the peonies you see around town," Miller said. He explained that the process of hybridizing peonies to produce different varieties is a painstaking procedure that takes five or six years to complete.

"I have been interested in peonies since 1920," Miller said. "We moved to an acreage in Pipestone that had peonies, and that's how I became interested in them."

In 1955, Miller and his wife, Harriet, moved to Fergus Falls, where he served as rector at St. James Episcopal Church until retiring in 1973. You don't have to guess what his favorite altar flower is.

"I brought peonies last Sunday and probably will this Sunday. They show up really well," he said.

Miller has ribbons from showing his peonies at the National Peony Show when it was in the Twin Cities in 1954 and 1971. A member of the national and state peony and iris societies, he has also judged shows.

Judges look for a good circular outline, a symmetrical arrangement of petals and a flower with enough substance for the petals to hold their form, Miller said. He added that the bloom should be fresh and in its prime, and true to the variety.

"Then it boils down to the fact, do you like this one better than that one," Miller said, smiling.

The national peony show is in Minneapolis again this year, and Miller had planned to enter peonies but was unable to do so. He said it



should be a good year for the show.

"The plants this year are quite big because of all the moisture last fall and this spring," Miller said. He explained that he also clips off the small buds that form on each stem so the remaining bud will grow larger.

Other than clipping off the buds and keeping the grass around the peonies mowed, Miller said that there's little work associated with peonies. He said they aren't bothered by pests and rarely by diseases, and they're tailor-made for Minnesota.

"Peonies grow the best where you get real cold weather. They won't grow well in the South," he said. "This is peony country."

A peony plant will live for 50 or 60 years and can "stand a lot of harsh treatment," Miller said. The only extra care he has given them is an occasional dose of bone meal.

"Peonies are said to have exquisite distinctiveness and magnificence," Miller said. "They're the 'King of Perennials' and the 'Queen of Flowers.' "

The peony is said to have been named for Paeon, a physician in Greek mythology. Paeon was a student of Aesculapius who attended the Greek gods and used the peony herb to cure Pluto and Mars of wounds.

Aesculapius became jealous of Paeon's success and plotted his death. But the grateful Pluto heard of the plot and saved Paeon from murder by changing him into the plant that was used in the cure—the plant that now bears his name.

According to "*Peonies Outdoors and In*" by Arno and Irene Nehrling, peonies have a rich history of being used as a medicinal herb and a food source throughout Europe and China.

In China, the peony bears the name "Sho Yo," which means most beautiful. It is linked by legend, history and romance to the golden age of Chinese poetry and love stories.

Buddhist monks introduced the peony in Japan where it is known as the "flower of prosperity" because it was difficult to culture and was first seen only in the gardens of the wealthy.

Now peonies make an excellent choice for anyone interested in gardening, Miller said.

"It's a real good hobby," he said. "There's a rush season in June, but otherwise there's not too much care. It yields good results, and you like what you raise."

—*Country Life*,  
*Fergus Falls Daily Journal*, June 19, 1986

# FLOWER APPRECIATION— A CHINESE TRADITION

*Published in Tokyo*

*From Bulletin of the Asian Cultural Centre for Unesco—1986*

*Submitted by Leo R. Fernig, France*

## **Peony—the king of flowers**

It is regarded as the king of flowers for its large, fragrant blossoms and gorgeous colors. There are more than 300 varieties. Through the centuries, many books on peonies have been written, and some ancient poems portrayed it as the national flower: “Like rosy clouds, the peony blossoms; their brilliant and fascinating color spreads out in the vast field. The blossoms of other flowers greet this national flower.” Some peonies are named after the places where they originated, some for their rare color, such as *zi yan duo zhu* (startling purple overshadowing the shining pears) and *yin shui jin lin* (silvery ripple and golden scale), and some after beautiful women in history. There are such names as *yutian xian* (jade celestials), *xue furen* (snowy lady), *feiyanhongzhuang* (flying swallow clad in red), *fen xiang nu* (delicate maidens in pink costume), and *sui yang fei* (tipsy Concubine Yang).

## **Tipsy Concubine Yang**

*Zui yang fei* is named after Tang Emperor Li Longji's favorite concubine Yang Gui Fei. One day in the late spring of 743, Emperor Li Longji and Yang went to the Chenxiangting Pavilion to admire peony blossoms. The noted singer Li Guixian from the imperial song and dance troupe performed for them. Unsatisfied with his old songs, Emperor Li Longji said, “Now that we are here to admire these precious flowers, how can you entertain my concubine with such old songs?” He ordered Li to bring a piece of paper and asked the poet Li Bai to improvise some new verses instantly. The sight of the garden full of charming peony blossoms in front of the Chenxiangting Pavilion filled the poet with inspiration. He picked up his brush and wrote three poems.

While Li Guixian sang the songs with new verses, the emperor played a jade flute to accompany him. Leaning against the balustrade, Concubine Yang sipped a glass of grape wine. The Chenxiangting Pavilion still exists, and the peony plants *Wei Zi* and *Yao huang* are still grown in Xi'an. However, instead of emperors, concubines, generals and royalty, the admirers are ordinary people.

## **Unyielding to power**

The peony was loved not just in the imperial palaces in ancient Chang'an (today's Xi'an), but it was grown widely in ordinary people's homes also. It was only years later that Luoyang surpassed Chang'an

in the cultivation of peonies. Legend has it that on a snowy day Empress Wu Zetian (624—705) declared that she planned to tour the imperial garden the next morning. She ordered that “spring must come instantly, and the flowers must blossom before dawn.”

Early next morning all the flowers blossomed ahead of season, yielding to the empress’s power, except the peony. Empress Wu was furious and ordered 4,000 peony plants to be removed from Chang’an to Luoyang. But contrary to her expectations, the peony flourished in Luoyang. On learning this, Empress Wu ordered all the peony plants to be burned. But after the fire, the peony blossom took on a more striking red color, a great attraction to people. And it became the new *jiao* (burnt) *gu* (bone) peony.

#### **Luoyan people and peony (960—1270)**

In the Song dynasty, the peony became the biggest attraction of all the flowers in Luoyang according to *The Chronicle of Customs* by Ouyang Xiu. When peonies were in full blossom, a Luoyang tradition for both rich and poor, officials and commoners, was to decorate homes with peony flowers. People toured peony gardens and music could be heard everywhere. Rich and noble families would hold banquets, inviting guests especially to admire the peony blossoms they had grown. Literary figures wrote lyrics, essays and poems to extol the fascinating peonies.

Legend has it that one high official held a banquet in the peony blossoming season. When the guests arrived, they were surprised to find no peony flowers in the banquet hall. After a while the official asked a servant, “Is the fragrance coming?” His man answered, “Yes,” and the host ordered a curtain rolled up. A fragrant smell instantly came from the inner chamber. Ten beautiful young ladies singing and carrying cups of wine and stringed instruments walked gracefully into the hall. The charming women, clad in white and decorated with peony flowers on their collars, danced and sang. When the performance was over, the curtain was lowered. After a while, up went the curtain again and a fragrant smell filled the air. Another ten ladies appeared, clad in peony-patterned costumes. A total of ten performances were presented at the banquet while ten rounds of wine were drunk. All the songs performed at the banquet were related to peonies. This was a rare, grand instance of peony appreciation! Today, peony flowers are grown throughout China, in the south and north. They symbolize the prosperity and bright future of the Chinese people, and also happiness. As an ancient poem says; “The flower blossoms to the will of the people.”



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

## MY PRIZED SEEDLING

*John F. Cote, R.F.D., Brooklyn, Connecticut*

Peony fanciers can get a "high" from various sources, such as a new bloom of certain seeds from a special cross, or other means, that affects them particularly.

What provided me with the extra 'shot in the arm' lately was the advent of an unplanned, unexplained event amongst the peonies. The event was this year when I harvested 393 seeds from 16 plants in one section of the peony patch that had never before produced seeds. True, the plants flowered magnificently and astounded everyone, but seeds were never to grace the stalks of these plants. Suddenly this year, this section of the Heirloom patch had seeds galore.

This is the second year that this event has happened in that particular section . . . last year I harvested less than 100 seeds in that area.

To what can this startling event be due? Can it be attributed to "PAEON" the Greek God of medicine??? Halley's comet??? Fool's luck, or just plain ignorance???

Therein lies a tale that makes peonies a joy, a wonder, a problem, a trial, but never boring. Therein lies a tale that starts out the old-fashioned way—"Once upon a time there was a peony seed that sprouted by natural means, back around 1980 . . . when it was first discovered peeping from the ground, the small fragile seedling was carefully marked, nurtured, and fenced to prevent damage to it. Season went by and the seedling survived all attacks by nature, real and unreal. Finally in 1984, the first bloom appeared, after an expectant wait, long endured. The deep red, bright, double bloom stood out on its tall stalk reaching up to 52". It proudly looked over all the other mature plants and bespoke of its uniqueness and splendor. Only two blooms were admired that year!

1985 came in and, wonder of wonders, there was the seedling taller and bigger standing well above all others with great growth of roots and stalks. From 6 stalks in 1984, 1985 showed 11, and in 1986, 16 stalks bloomed. In the meantime, I had planted Estate peonies in '82 and '83 which did well, finally maturing in 1985.

To describe the SEEDLING is to say that this plant averages between 46-52" tall, is a well formed bush, bears blossoms high above the leaves allowing one to cut blossoms as long as 16 inches long, and still leave a stem growth of 30 plus inches on the bush. One could easily cut blooms with an 18-22 inches length and still leave 3 leaves on the stalk. This year the seedling had 16 stalks above ground level with a ground spread of 14-16 inches and a top spread of 42-48". The bright RED doubles are striking, vivid, and really make an impression when one first sees them. They show reliability in their bloom, being consistently floriferous, dependable, reliable as to bloom and color, semi

fragrant, has no side buds, but bears seeds with pollen showing well. It is open in character allowing bees, etc., or hand crosses with the bloom being an average of 7-8 inches across. The stem strength is very good with dark green foliage. It is vigorous, going from 6 stalks in 1984 to 16 this year. It is a fairly late bloomer, about midseason attaining full bloom with **MISS AMERICA**, **RASPBERRY SUNDAE**, **PINK LEMONADE**, **BOWL OF CREAM**, and others . . . such as **SARAH BERNHARDT**, **JENNY LIND**, **FLANDERS FIELD**, etc.

For the last two years this one 5 row section of the patch really put on its show. A riot of different plants, colors, types and color blends force comments and oohs & ahhs from the visitors who stop by. In 1985, the same thing happened with one difference . . . I harvested less than one-hundred seeds and planted them.

In 1986, I harvested 393 seeds from 16 plants in the near vicinity of the **SEEDLING** that had bloomed in 1984. It was only this year that I got curious as to why this section started to seed out on plants that had never before been pod parents. Even an anenome **BI-Color** that had never seeded since 1957 bore 2 seeds. In fact, all the seeds were produced in the first **FOUR** rows of the peony. Even a few hand-crosses produced seeds, but what is more perplexing to me is that I have two tree peonies: a purple **HANADJIN** and a white **YUKI-ZAZA** which have long passed their blooming when the **SEEDLING** comes into bloom. Yet I have three **TREE** peony seedling from the 1984 seeds harvest that are doing well from open pollination. That is the first time that the tree peonies bore seeds **WHEN THE SEEDLING BLOOMED** . . . 1984. Only 3 seeds matured and sprouted and will provide another thrill soon **HOPEFULLY**.

When I sowed some seeds in a prepared bed, I lost all of them to birds, mice, etc. The few sprouted plants were lost to cutworms, beetles, etc. So in 1984, I planted less than 100 seeds that were open pollinated and now have in the flats 3-yr. and 2-yr. plants totaling over 60 seedlings. I favor the **FLATS** over open ground planting, as you can control them better and take better care of them. The seedlings have shown excellent growth in leaves and roots development in the flats.

I now have 2 & 3-yr. plants with strong healthy roots reaching an average height of 7-12 inches on the 3-yr. plants and 6-7 inches on the 2-yr.-old.

I still have to take care of the peonies and will try **ROUNDUP** as mentioned in the **BULLETIN** last issue. I have a bad quackgrass and witchgrass problem that I must do something about—hoeing, pulling, etc., to no avail. It really has gotten out of hand. Heavy mulching with hay, spoiled ensilage, sawdust, etc. does not eradicate the root deeply buried. The long stolens just keep growing longer and more grass comes along. Even rototilling between rows only chops them into smaller pieces which root all the more.

So I will mow the patch down—spray with **ROUNDUP** carefully, and hope. I have even had **POTATOES** cleanly impaled on the roots of

the witchgrass, and all root vegetables have that happen to them at times. You can't kill it or get rid of it as many have tried, but few have succeeded. The farmer down the road told me that if you HARROWED every 2 weeks you control it, but "GET RID OF IT, NEVER," from his experiences. He uses a pre-emergency weed killer when he plants his corn for silage and still has it . . . it's the bane of all gardens around here.

I can remember my father and father-in-law on their hands & knees going over the patch inch-by-inch and having 7-8—and up to 11—bushels of roots on the small garden of 40x50. Still it came back year after year. So I will try the ROUNDUP and see. All the heavy mulching does is make the ground softer, thus making the weeding easier.

## ORIGINATORS OF THE PEONY IN THE EARLY YEARS OF THE SOCIETY

Along this line the French have done more than any others. Jacques, Calot, Crousse, Lemon, Guerin, Dessert, Lemoine and Mechin are familiar names. The English have added to the family while Holland and Germany have contributed also.

In America, John Richardson of Dorchester produced some of the finest. Milton Hill, Perfection, Grandiflora and Henry Woodard are well at the front.

Father Terry of Crescent, Iowa, gave us one hundred named sorts. The dear, old man gave the West 50 varieties of native plums, many of them of superior merit. When I first visited with him I was reminded of Mr. Bull who originated the Concord grape and others of great merit. Others got hold of them, made fortunes out of them but he died in the old man's home—the poor house. I stood by his grave in Concord. On the granite monument there was something like the following: "He did great things for the public but received little in return."

Mr. Terry's home was a poor, small, dilapidated affair. His barn had been burned. His noble wife was out plowing her sweet corn with the family horse. Everything had a woe begone look except that great field of peonies of which he had the finest collection in the West. I asked him, "How many do you sell a year?" "Only about \$100 worth." It was pitiful, that noble man receiving such a meager pittance. I knew he needed some printers ink so I gave him a cordial endorsement in the first edition of the Peony Manual and wrote him up for the papers. The next time I visited him happened to be his 80th birthday. He seemed hopeful and happy. "How many did you sell last year?" "Thanks to you" was his reply, "I sold \$1,000 worth." Soon after, he sold his whole collection for \$2,500. Giving the worn-out old man a helping hand is one of my pleasant memories. He was bothered to find names for his numerous family of peonies. He had been using the names of all the school teachers he could hear of but there were not enough. Then he



took up the Generals. We were examining one of rare beauty when he asked, "What is your wife's name?" "Carrie." "Then this is Carrie," and he staked it accordingly. I think he died at the age of 84 and he left this a more beautiful world than he found it.

The name of J. F. Rosenfield will always stand prominent among those who love the peony. He has been a careful, accurate and tireless propagator. We are indebted to him for Golden Harvest, Floral Treasure, Karl Rosenfield and others.

The late Mr. Hollis has given us some fine ones of superior merit. I met him at the great peony show at Boston and saw some of his new creations and bought several. I remember I paid him \$10 for his Loveliness.

Others have furnished a few. For instance, W. H. Bruning of Nebraska raised a charming white one from seed of La Tulipe and I bought half of it. Many others have been produced by private parties.

One of the foremost to introduce the Peony was T. C. Thurlow of West Newbury, Mass. He seemed to absorb in his gentle soul all the sweetness of his flowers and the harmonies of nature. He was the dearest friend I ever knew. He had a strong influence on my own life and awakened a passion for the beautiful which has grown with the passing years. What visits we had. We were soul brothers and of the same age. He wrote the first article on the Peony. He had a large collection. The gardener of a rich man in Illinois called on him, looked over his grounds, examined the stakes, took note of the varieties and asked what he would take for the lot. "\$7,000.00." "I will take them." They filled two cars. Mr. Thurlow then proceeded to get up a new collection, better than the first. The business is now carried on by the sons who have inherited the spirit of the father. They are originating new sorts, some of superior merit.

*(From "A Manual" by C. S. Harrison. Rev. Harrison was a charter member of the Society 1904. No date on this writing.)*

## WHY SHOULD WE BE INTERESTED IN PEONIES?

*W. F. Christman, Bulletin #85*

In planning our gardens, we usually have a few outstanding features that we wish to follow out. One is that we desire our garden at all times to have an attractive appearance. There are few perennials that can compare with the peony in this respect. It forms a very beautiful green background as soon as the leaves appear; in June, we are presented with a beautiful display of gorgeous bloom, but this is not all. After the blooming, the plants can be trimmed up in various shapes to conform with the rest of the landscape and present a fine background the entire season until heavy frosts cut them down.

Another desire of most gardeners is to have plants that are hardy

and require minimum attention. In this respect, the peony is unrivaled by any other flower. Reports come to me from far north in the Canadian country where temperatures often drop to 65 below zero and in these very sections we have members who report their peonies never fail them. What more can we say for hardiness? They will survive drought and even exist without civilization. We know no true gardener will permit them to go without cultivation, for in this way they are better able to withstand lack of moisture for extended periods of time. The general thought that peonies will not do well in the south is being disproved by a number of peony enthusiasts who have planted them as far south as Mississippi and they report splendid results. The northern section of the country is ideally suited for their culture as they need rest that winter months afford.

I grant you that peonies do not establish themselves as rapidly as many other perennials, but after the second year, they give a splendid account of themselves; even the first year after planting, some results may be expected. Year after year they increase in beauty and vigor if they are properly cared for. The refinement of the flower and the wide range of color combinations is most pleasing; the long period of bloom, with proper selection, the diversity of foliage formation; the splendid landscape possibilities; and the remunerative prospects are only a few of the scores of reasons why we should be interested in peonies.

The peonies of grandmother's day, while of great beauty, have been relegated to the background in many cases due to the gorgeous new forms and colors produced by hybridization during the past 25 years.

In this day and age, we are obliged to select flowers that are not constantly annoyed or damaged by insect devastation. The peony does not appeal to insects and there are very few diseases with which it is troubled.

The peony has been traced back to a report in Pliny's History A.D. 77. The possibility of its existence long before that time is doubtless true. As early as 1879, Mr. H. Huftelen in Vick's Magazine paid the peony this splendid tribute: "No flowering plants capable of enduring our northern winters are more satisfactory than the peonies. Massive without being coarse, fragrant without being pungent, grand without being gaudy, various in form and color, beyond the possibility of being successfully superseded, they stand in the first rank of hardy flowers."

## WHEN AND HOW TO PLANT PEONIES

During the months of September, October and early November, the peony will be found dormant and this is considered the very best time to plant. However, it has been proved without question, that early-spring-planted peonies will do about equally well. This is particularly true when the roots have been carried over in proper storage conditions. If peonies are to be dug and planted in the spring, there is

considerable danger of damaging the fine feeding rootlets and thereby retarding the growth to some extent. If you are prevented for any reason from fall planting, don't hesitate to plant in early spring, as you will gain considerable growth over plants that have been set out in the fall, if you are anxious to have them become established as soon as possible. Up to within recent years, in fact, at the present time, there are some who do not advocate spring planting. If the growing season is satisfactory, they will make substantial growth and development, and it is this advancement that counts when rapid establishment is contemplated.

In the southern section of the peony belt, fall planting may be continued through November and well into December, or until the ground freezes to prevent any activities of this kind.

There are many different methods employed in planting but for the amateur who has plenty of time to prepare the ground for the reception of the plant, we would recommend digging a hole about a foot or eighteen inches in diameter to a depth of about 18 inches. In the bottom of this hole, place about three or four inches of well-rotted manure and cover with about six inches of good top soil. This will leave about eight or nine inches remaining for planting operation. Roots are usually trimmed back to about six or seven inches which will allow them to be placed in position with the eyes about an inch or so below the level of the ground. The manure and loose earth will settle at least an inch or more and this is why we recommend setting the eyes about an inch below the surface. When the ground has settled, they will be at least two inches below the level of the ground which is alright. It is much better to prepare the holes some two or three weeks before planting is contemplated, and firming the loose soil and manure by either wetting it or tramping it down. If this is done, it will not be necessary to allow for settling and you will be more positive as to the planting depth. If well-rotted manure is not available, a handful or two of bonemeal mixed with the loose soil will be very beneficial. Commercial fertilizers can be used as directed and they will also give good results, and here is another important "don't" that I neglected to speak of and that is: **DON'T OVER-FERTILIZE YOUR PEONIES.** Many directions advise that the peony is a gross feeder and should be well fertilized. It is often overdone to the damage or destruction of the entire plant structure.

## A FEW DON'TS

If there is one word in the English language that stands out distinctly in our recollection it is the word *don't*. We have heard it from early childhood, and one of our first admonitions was summed up in this one word. It is a word that seems to stay with us through life as we are continually reminded don't forget, don't neglect, don't do this and don't do that. We are sometimes fed up on the word, but it still persists to haunt us and often if it is not heeded, it causes us no end of

trouble and suffering.

Some years ago, I received the following list of *Don'ts* with a shipment of peonies I had ordered. I have always considered them worth saving, and in case some of my readers have not seen them, I am having them presented with the hope that some good may come of them as the advice given is sound and well worthwhile remembering.

A few simple words—mostly, “THOU SHALT NOTS,” concerning the planting and care of peonies, although intended primarily for the utter novice, the perusal will not seriously injure those who know all about peony “culture.”

**DON'T, FIRST OF ALL, BE ALARMED AT THESE “DON'TS”** and assume that peony culture must be formidable and difficult—not to say dangerous. It isn't. Peonies are neither orchids nor roses, and are literally easier to grow than a geranium. As a matter of fact, you may stick your peonies in the ground, never give them another thought, and the probabilities are that year after year they will struggle through the weeds and grass and produce a very fair display of flowers. But every growing thing responds to extra care and attention, and these instructions are for those who want extra fine results.

**BUT DON'T BE TOO SOLICITOUS ABOUT YOUR PEONIES** nor overdo the nursing and coddling business. They'll resent it. They don't like much stirring of the ground about their stems. Briefly, about the principal “culture” consists in letting them alone, except to keep them clear of grass and weeds. But of all things, along about the time the first robin becomes insistent in the spring.

**DON'T GO AFTER YOUR PEONIES WITH A RAKE** to remove the light mulch of litter you may have scattered over them the preceding fall. This may be left on to rot; it will serve as a manure. We are quite sure that many disappointments—the appearance of only one or two shoots—are due to some of the eyes having been destroyed, either by hasty or rough planting or a stirring of the ground directly over the plants in early spring. No weeding or raking should be done near the plants until the shoots are well up out of the ground.

**DON'T “EXCAVATE TO THE DEPTH OF 2½ TO 3 FEET”** for the planting of your peonies, unless you want to do it just for your health. It isn't necessary. Some hysterical horticulturist wrote this a hundred years or so ago, and every peony man since has seemed to think it necessary to copy it in his catalog. It has always made us grin. Imagine excavating to the depth of 1½ to 3 feet for a bed of 100 peonies; or even 50. It brings visions of steam-shovels—straining horses—shouting men. The duffer who first wrote that ought to have added, “and if you change your mind about the peonies, and decide to have a house instead, you will have an excavation ready for the foundations.” Simply dig a hole, for each individual root. The hole need not be “as deep as a well, nor as wide as a church door,” as Mr. Shakespeare somewhere remarks, but just large enough for the root to go in, with some little space to spare all around it.

### **DON'T USE MANURE,**

at least, don't use fresh manure in any way, shape, or form, unless as a mulch after planting, and even in this case, it must be kept away from directly over the crown of the plant. Even so-called "well-rotted" manure is, alas, too frequently not *sufficiently* well-rotted to be used in planting. It very frequently—if not always—causes decay in the root when coming in direct contact with it. If your ground has been prepared with manure a year in advance of planting, it will be an excellent thing; otherwise, when you come to set your roots,

### **DON'T USE MANURE AT ALL—**

it's not necessary! Our good aforesaid horticultural friend of 1816 wrote that peonies were "gross feeders." This is not only unpoetic and inelegant, but also, strictly speaking, not true. Peonies can be, and frequently are, over-fed. So assuming that you have just ordinarily good garden soil, we would advise against enriching it in any way, except by the addition of pure raw bonemeal, obtainable at most any seed store or even hardware stores. Mix thoroughly about one pound of this with the ground that is to go with each and every peony you plant; that is, into each hole dug. This fertilizer is perfectly safe, will not burn, and is likely to produce remarkable results in the quality of blooms the very first season. But

### **DON'T DOSE THE SOIL**

with a variety of commercial fertilizers other than the one we have named. We know of a man who, in preparing for his peonies, used four different combinations of commercial fertilizer, and some wood ashes and lime. Just what happened subsequently to those amazed roots, we haven't heard!

### **DON'T PLANT TOO DEEP**

Too deep planting is responsible for many partial to complete failures. If roots are set with eyes much more than three inches below the level of the soil when planting is completed, the plants may fail to bloom for several years, or, the blooms may be of indifferent quality year after year.

### **DON'T PLANT TOO SHALLOW**

Plants with the top-most eyes *less* than two inches below the level of the soil, are likely to be exposed in one way or another. From 2½ to 3 inches is about right, making due allowance for settling of ground after planting.

### **DON'T PLANT TOO CLOSE**

for permanent planting; this is, if you mean to let them remain as you plant them—and we hope you do. Peonies should not be set closer than three feet apart each way. *Four feet is far better.*

### **DON'T WORRY ABOUT "PROTECTION"**

Peonies (all varieties) are literally as "hardy as the oak"—another old expression—and need no protection whatever, even in latitudes where the temperature goes down to any quantity of degrees below zero. Our

experience has been that the best blooming seasons are invariably those which follow hard, "stay-frozen" winters. We therefore advise against much protection: that is, do not smother the roots with great heaps of "mulch." The first winter after planting the roots are, of course, loose in the ground, and for this one reason, a light cover of about two inches of coarse litter—grass, or fine straw—is *necessary to prevent heaving of roots*.

Patrons should remember that the larger the peony root or "clump" is, the poorer it looks from mere point of beauty. The grower who sends out very young plants—from perhaps one year from division—delivers the best looking plant. It is cleaner and fresher in appearance, because there is nothing to the root *but* new growth. It is the natural process in the growth of the peony, for the older portions of the root to disintegrate, and slowly disappear, as they are replaced by new growth. Judge a root—its productiveness—by the vigor of the *new* root growth, and the number and *quality* of the eyes. Never mind what the older portions of the root look like.

### **DON'T PLANT IN LOW WET GROUND**

Peonies require lots of moisture but they will not do well in low and constantly damp ground. A situation where there would be constant supply of water around the roots, they would not tolerate at all.

### **DON'T PLANT UNDER TREES**

Peonies will do admirably in partial shade—the shade cast by buildings or trees when the latter are located at a considerable distance. But in no case should roots be set—say for example—within 30 feet of a tree a foot in diameter, and they cannot do well when planted within 12 feet of a privet hedge.

### **DON'T PLANT PEONIES ALONG THE FOUNDATION WALLS OF A BUILDING**

unless you see to it that the plants get their share of water during the growing season. Frequently, plantings about the base of a house receive no water for many weeks in succession, the rains all coming from the wrong direction—for the plants. Moreover, the soil directly around a house frequently contains too much miscellaneous refuse—often large quantities of lime—for plants to do well.

### **DON'T FAIL TO DISBUD**

To obtain the best results—enormous fancy blooms—plants should be disbudded in early April, or just as soon as the buds can be gotten hold of and pinched off. Usually three or four buds will be found on each stem. Pinch off all but the central or largest bud. Many varieties are described as "blooming in clusters," but these "clusters" are never very satisfactory unless merely a lot of color is desired.

### **DON'T WORRY ABOUT ANTS**

At a certain stage in their development, peony buds exude a sticky substance which attracts ants by the thousands and they swarm all

over the buds and plants. It is scarcely worthwhile to take any trouble to get rid of them inasmuch as they *don't do the slightest injury*, and by the time the buds are ready to unfold, have entirely disappeared.

### **DON'T MOVE YOUR PEONIES**

Some growers have voiced the opinion that roots ought to be taken up and divided every four or five years. In this, we emphatically dissent. Roots should be left undisturbed indefinitely. If this is done, the plants will increase in vigor and productiveness year after year, the blooms growing larger and more fragrant and nearer and nearer to absolute perfection in form. We know of a clump of peonies that has remained undisturbed for 25 years. It measures eight feet across and produces every year from 100 to 130 magnificent blooms.

### **DON'T, DON'T, DON'T, DO THIS**

It seems incredible that it could be so, but we are nonetheless inclined to believe that a great many people thoughtlessly cut down the peony stems after blooming, often close to the ground, to make room for other flowering plants—perhaps annuals nearby. A peony root has actually more lives than the proverbial cat, but this often kills it outright, and if it does not, will at least, in every case, cripple the plant to the extent of its bearing the very poorest sort of flowers for several subsequent seasons. Foliage is necessary to the life of any plant: in other words, it breathes through, and lives by reason of, its leaves, and thus through the summer months the peony is growing below ground, storing up energy, and forming its eyes for the following season's bloom. It is plainly obvious too, that even in cutting blooms, too much stem should not be taken with the flower. *At least two sprays of leaves must be left growing on every stem from which you take a bloom.* This is almost as important as not cutting down the whole plant. By about the first of September, the root has finished its work and has become dormant. The tops may then be cut off, but we advise cutting not right down to the ground, but allowing a few inches of the stems to show, to the end that when the annual garden clean-up comes the following spring, you will know just where the peonies are, and therefore where to *avoid raking*.

### **DON'T FAIL TO KEEP A SHARP EYE**

for Mr. Cut-Worm. This personage, not content with mowing down corn, beans and things, will sometimes take a jaunt into the flower garden, and cut off a thick peony stem or two. Or, he may eat his way just half through it, causing the stem to look sick, and you to suspect that it is the stem disease with which you have to grapple. Observe the plant close to the ground before you send for the (horticultural) physician; and if you find Mr. Cut-Worm, step on him.

### **DON'T BE TOO GREATLY PEEVED**

if your color scheme goes askew. Many people seem to plan their peony

plantings with a certain color effect in mind, or else for a definite succession of bloom. This is the one direction, to our minds, in which peonies sometimes disappoint. For "early," "mid-season," and "late," attached to the description of the varieties in the catalogs, are really very uncertain. Climate, soil, and the vagaries of the season all have an enormous influence on the blooming period. For example, two certain varieties may bloom here in our soil and climate, at the same time, while out in—well, say—Sleepy Eye, Minnesota, they may bloom a week apart. Even here, in our own soil, we have had in certain season, **Couronne d'Or** open very shortly after **Festiva Maxima**, although normally they are ten days and more apart. This illustrates the effect that certain seasons have on some varieties, when planted side by side. This sort of thing makes it incomprehensible to us why any grower should list and offer both **Jeanne d'Arc** and **Golden Harvest** for example. They are practically identical, except that they bloom just about "twenty minutes apart."

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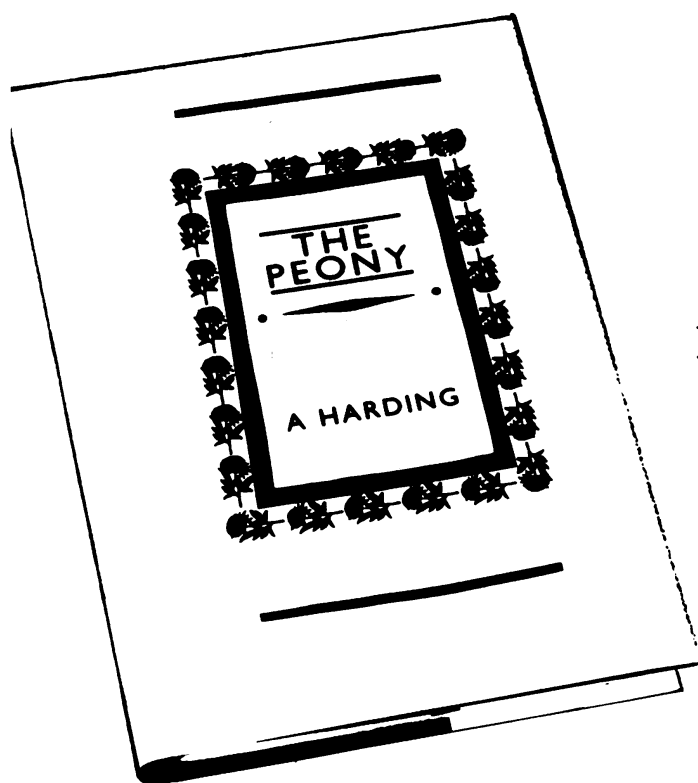
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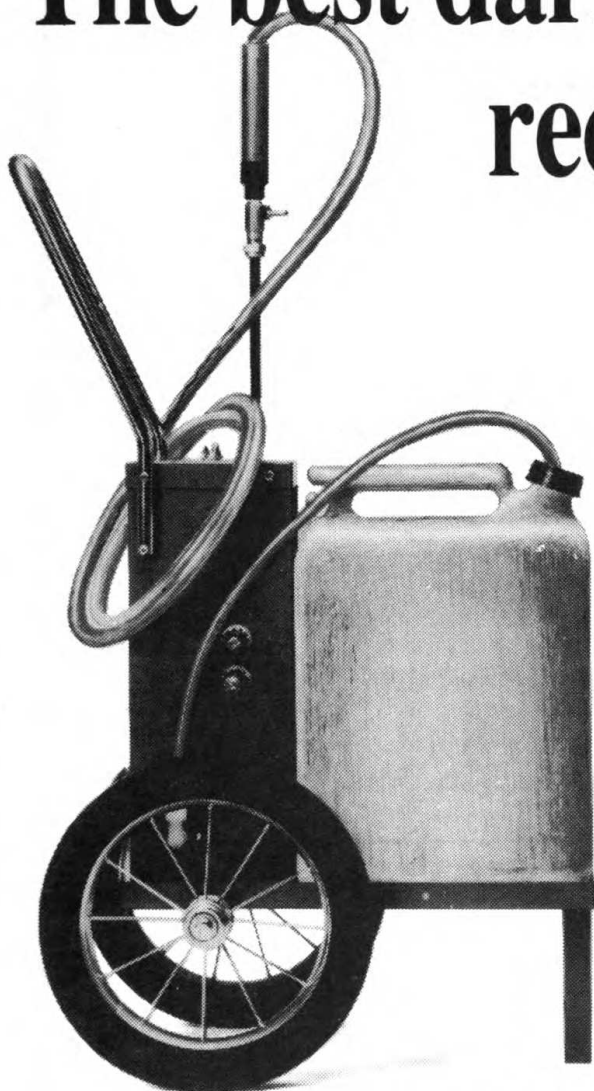
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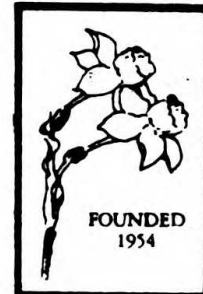
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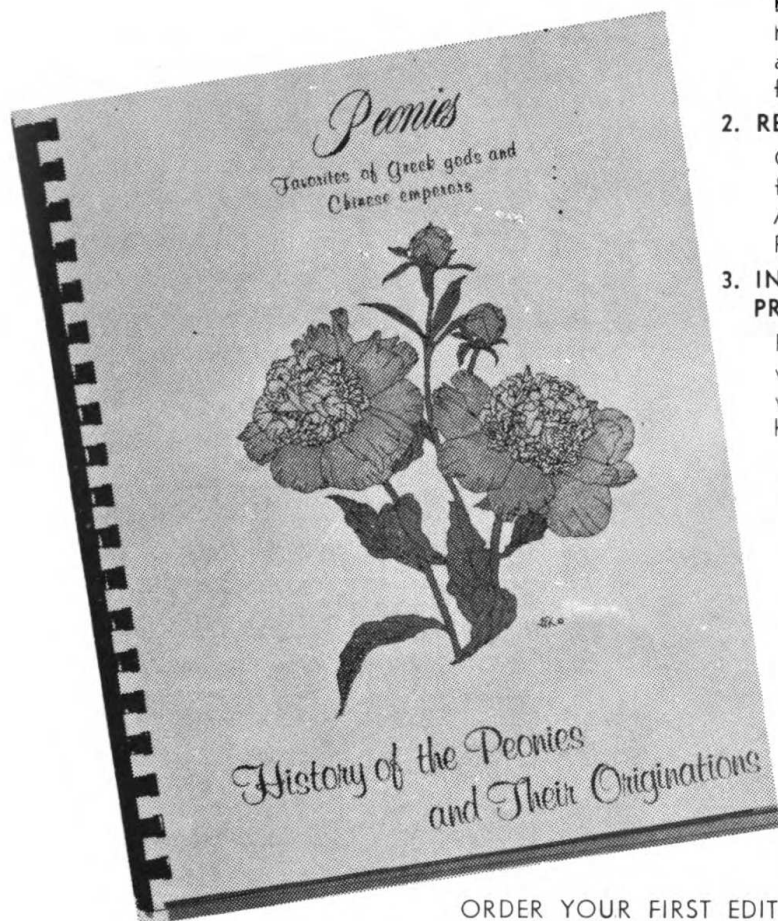
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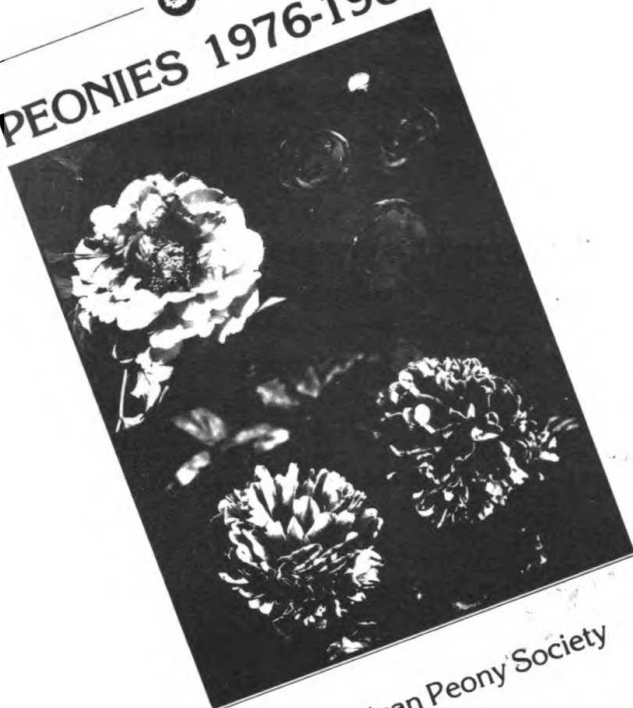
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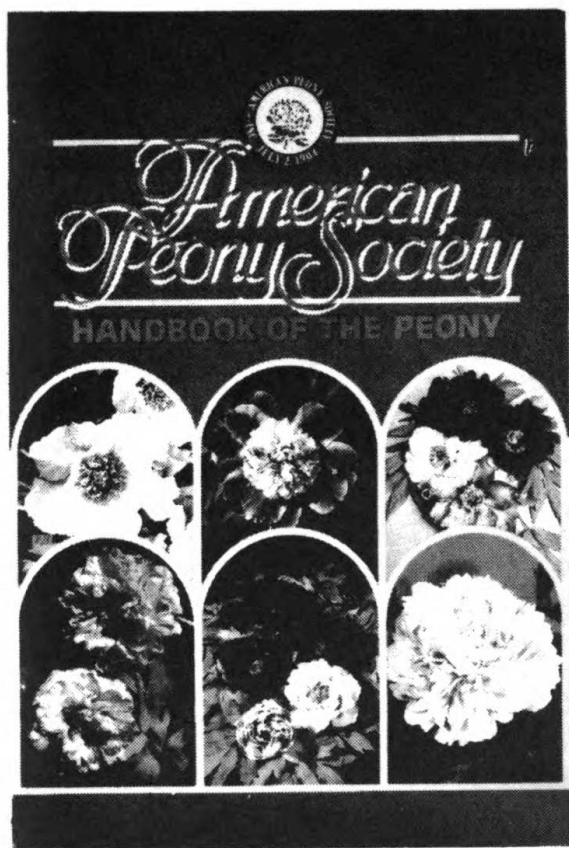
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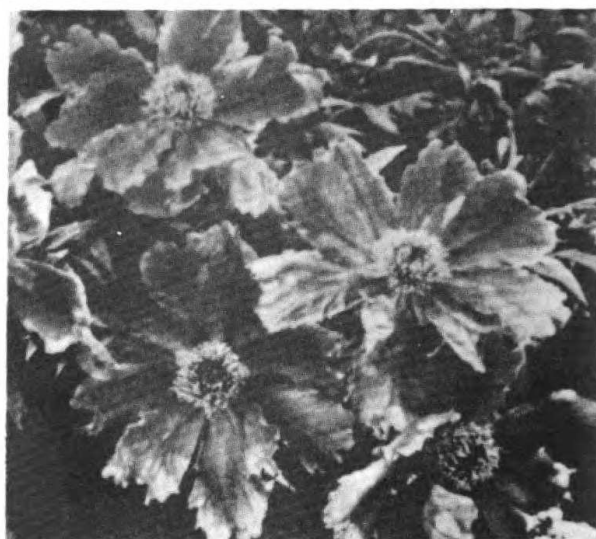
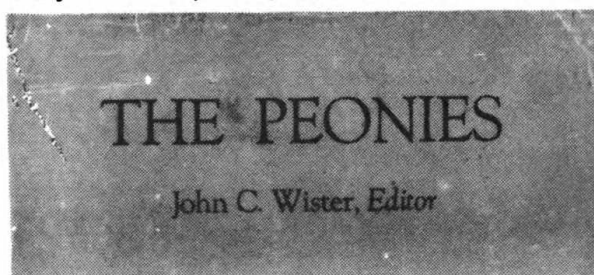
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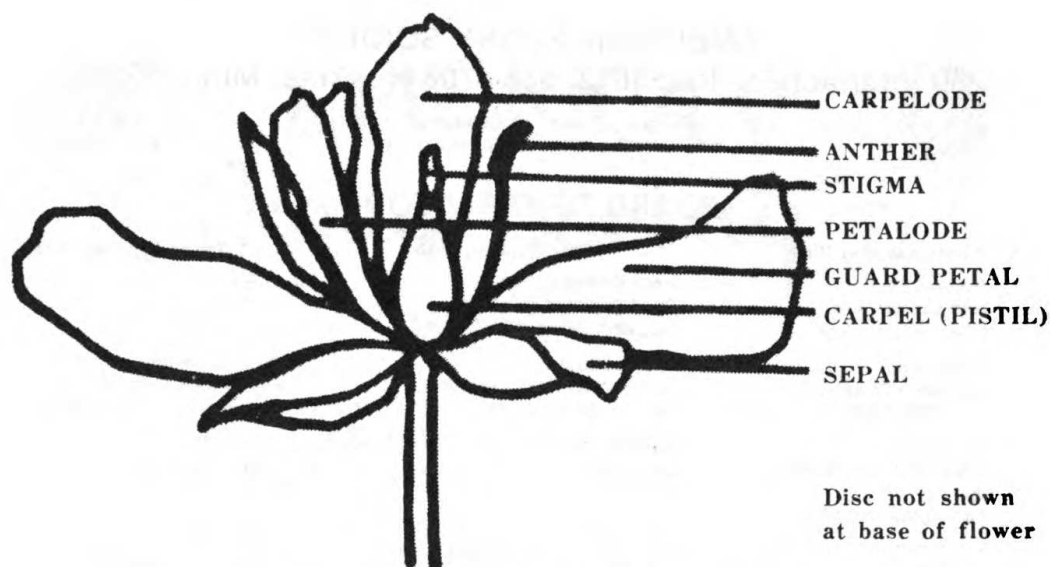
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PARTS OF A PEONY FLOWER

### THE FLOWER

*The peony flower is composed of the following parts: Sepals, the outer green covering of the bud, which is never transformed; Petals, the colored leaves, of which there are five or more, depending on the type of flower. Stamens, the male organs of the peony, consisting of the anthers, (the pollen sacs) and the filaments, which are hair-like bodies that support the anthers. The stamens are usually yellow, though the filaments may be other colors. Carpels or pistils, the female organs, which, when impregnated, form seed pods, and stigmas, the tips of the carpels, which receive the pollen. The carpels are usually some shade of green, but may turn to other colors with age. The stigmas are of many different colors, varying with each variety. Disc, the base to which the petals, etc., are attached and on which often appear seed-like bodies of many colors around the base of the carpels, or a sheath surrounding the carpels as in some hybrid and tree peonies.*

### SPECIES

Some of the prominent species with their color and distribution: **Mlokoewitschi**, yellow; **Wittmanniana** yellowish and its variety, **macrophylla** yellowish, all natives of the region between the Black and Caspian Seas; **Cambessedesii** deep rose; and **Russi** rose, Western Mediterranean islands; **mascula**, red-rose, from England to Russia and south to Asia Minor; **daurica** rose red, Crimea, Asia Minor, Caucasus; **obovata**, white to rose purple, Siberia, Manchuria, China, Japan; and its variety **Willmottiae** white, China; **japonica** white, Japan; **arientina** red, Italy, Greece, Asia Minor; **Broteri**, rose, Spain, Portugal; **coriacea** rose, Spain, Morocco, Algeria; **lactiflora** (syn. **albiflora**), white, siberia, Manchuria, Mongolia, China Tibet; **emodi**, white India, tallest of all; **peregrina** red, and its variety **lobata** vermilion, The Balkans, **officinalis** red, Southern Europe; **Clusii**, white, Crete; **humilis**, red, Spain and France; **mollis**, red, white gardens only; **tenuifolia** (fern leaf), deep crimson, Bulgaria, Caucasus; **anomala**, crimson, Russia, Central Asia; **Veitchii**, magenta, China, and its variety **Woodwardii** magenta, Western China.

All species have only one flower to a stem except **lactiflora**, **emodi** and **Veitchii** and their varieties. The flowers are always single.

## AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY

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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
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