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JUNE 1988  
NO. 266

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# The American Peony Society Bulletin





## *Announcing*

The limited  
publication of  
a "TABLE TOP"  
edition devoted  
exclusively to

AMERICAN

TREE  
PEONIES



### **Appended cultural notes cover:**

- *Tree Peony history*
- *Planting and general culture*
- *Propagation by root grafting of scions*
- *Pruning, fertilization, winter protection, etc.*

Compiled and edited by  
Greta M. Kessenich;  
photos by Roy Klehm  
and David Reath

# *The* AMERICAN TREE PEONY

## **63 BRILLIANT FULL COLOR PHOTOS**

True, tree peonies with their 1400 year history are not native to America. But a class of exceptional HYBRID tree peonies are. Efforts by seven world renowned American hybridizers\* who successfully cross-pollinated *P. Lutea* with *P. Suffructicosa* are covered in this limited edition. Photos are razor sharp in detail and reflect all the brilliance and subtle hues of these native Americans, including the new generation of ITOH's.

\* A.P. Saunders, William Gratwick, Nassos Paphnis,  
David Reath, Toichi Domoto,  
Don Hollingsworth and Roger Anderson

**\$25 Postpaid**

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**AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY**  
250 Interlachen Road. Hopkins, MN 55343.



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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
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Family membership, any two related members in same household ..... One Bulletin  
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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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June 1988 — No. 266

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Officers and Directors .....	1
Table of Contents .....	2
From Your President .....	3
Growing Both Herbaceous and Tree Peonies in Georgia — <i>Delano Deen</i> .....	4-5
All For the Love of the Peony — <i>Robert F. Schmidt</i> .....	6-7-8
People Peonies — <i>Henry Halverson</i> .....	9-10
1987 Seed Counter — <i>Bill Seidl</i> .....	11
In Memoriam — Lydia Franklin William Gratwick .....	12-13-14-15
Its Culture, Soil, Drainage — <i>The late John M. Good, 1925</i> .....	16
Registrations .....	17
First Things First — <i>Anthony DeBlasi</i> .....	18
My Heirloom Patch and Seed Produced — <i>John F. Cote</i> .....	19
Peony Shows of the Past — <i>Kent Crossley</i> .....	20-21-22-23
The Pioneer Woman of the World, Mrs. Sarah Pleas — <i>From The Good and Welsh peony catalog 1925</i> ....	23
Tree Peonies in Missouri — <i>Olin Franzier</i> .....	24-25
Send Peony Seed .....	25
Describing Peonies — <i>The Good and Welsh peony catalog 1925</i> ...	26
Nominating Committee Report .....	27
Save the Species .....	27
Nomenclature of the Peony Species from Boyds Manual — <i>by A.P. Saunders</i> .....	28-39
Select Peonies for Fall Planting Now and List of Peonies — <i>by the late Clarence Lienau</i> .....	40-41
Letters .....	42
Advertisements .....	42-48





# FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

DON HOLLINGSWORTH

Dear Friends:

I am delighted to learn that the Society's new book, *American Tree Peonies*, is now a fact. With full color reproductions of excellent photographs, artistically arranged, this book is not only a long-wanted reference, but a joy to relax with, as well.

It is timely to have this publication. Tree peonies are being propagated in much better numbers and there are so many of the new hybrids available for planting. We also have widespread contemporary experience in the culture of tree peonies. It is no longer an experience in research to become successful in the culture of tree peonies when under less than ideal natural circumstances. The publications of this Society bring this widespread contemporary experience within reach of all who are interested.

Yet tree peonies remain rare in gardens and continue to be the subjects of special attention and admiration wherever they are well grown.

My own experience growing tree peonies under less than ideal circumstances—heavy soils and harsh summers in the Midwest—suggest that the most crucial consideration is that the soil must be open and aerated deeply. While our literature has often quoted veteran growers suggesting heavy clay loam soils for the Lactiflora peonies, it is the advocates of deeply prepared, amended soils to whom we must listen when preparing for tree peonies, or else we have to be where these conditions occur naturally, as the gravelly, sandy glacial tills of the Northern U.S. These conditions foster excellent root development, deeply penetrating, which is necessary for drought tolerance. If you want to do something more for your tree peonies, give them shelter from dry winds, and shelter from morning sun for frost tolerance of flower buds.

If you are not now growing tree peonies, start getting a place ready!

Sincerely, Don Hollingsworth



# GROWING BOTH TREE AND HERBACEOUS PEONIES IN SOUTHEAST GEORGIA

*Delano Deen, Alma, Georgia*

There are fifty-four tree peonies growing in my yard and at least seventeen of them will bloom this year. Three of the plants have buds already opened, which began about April 1, namely: LEDA, YAE ZAKURA and MYSTERY. The remaining plants with buds are: Vesuvian, Souvenir De Maxime Cornu, Hana Kiso, Chinese Dragon, Jitsu Getsu Nishiki, Boreas, Harvest, Domoto Hybrids, Golden Era, Kronos, Hesperus, Princes and High Noon. Almost all of the tree peonies are different varieties.

In the beginning of my venture, I planted only six tree peonies, in the late Fall of 1983 and have continued to plant other varieties each year, including last year. Some of the tree peonies are growing quite vigorously, while others are getting off to a slow start. From my experience, plants planted in the Fall may bloom early the next Spring, then will not bloom again the following few years. However, when blooming starts again, the blooming season will be a little later.

About two years ago, I bought two dozen un-named tree peonies, only by color, from a local store. They were going to ship them back since peonies are almost unheard of in the South. I decided to take a chance and buy them, paying just over three dollars each which was their wholesale price.

These tree peonies were planted in pots and transferred to larger pots the following year. Seven of these plants will bloom this Spring. Five of them are in bloom now, which started the first of April. Two of the plants that are blooming are a double purple, two are semi-double dark pink, and the other one a semi-double medium pink. Last year, a full double with a picotee edge bloomed and it looked like SOUVENIR DE MAXIME CORNU. Anxiously, I await to see the others bloom. Only two of these plants have died. Most of the plants look healthy and I have been pleased with the results of the experiment.

I have thirty-seven herbaceous peonies and sixteen of them promise to bloom, at least they have one or more buds. One of the herbaceous hybrids, RED RED ROSE, is in bloom now. It opened the last of March. Others to bloom are SOPHIE, MIKADO, and SHOW GIRL. DELAWARE CHIEF was going to bloom but the bud was broken or picked off, possibly by a bird. Other herbaceous in bud include MARTHA BULLOCH, PAULA FAY, SUSIE Q, KELWAYS GLORIOUS, KANSAS, FIRELIGHT, RED CHARM and two white varieties given to me while visiting in Virginia. Two others that may bloom this year are RAY PAYTON and GAY PAREE.

The first seeds I planted three years ago, sent by Chris Laning, have produced some plants which hopefully will bloom next year. Also, I have some younger plants coming along from seeds planted since



then, sent by Bill Seidl.

I would especially like to thank Greta Kessenich, Don Hollingsworth, Chris Laning and Bill Seidl for all the help given me in my effort to be successful in growing peonies in Southern Georgia.

**Questions asked Mr. Dean about growing peonies in the South.**

1. Do you recommend herbaceous peonies for Southern growing, and if you do, please name varieties and why?

Answer: I need more time to give a good answer to this question. In general, any early to mid-season variety would be a good suggestion. However, testing over a period of time for named varieties should be carried out. So far, I have had good results with **MARTHA BULLOCK, RED CHARM, SUSIE Q, KANSAS** and a double white with some red markings in the center given me by a friend in Virginia (possibly **Festiva Maxima**).

2. Are your tree peonies and also herbaceous peonies planted out in the direct sun?

Answer: No; they get sunlight at least half of the day for most of the plants. Some of them get less sunlight, while others get more sunlight. I believe the best situation is morning sun and afternoon shade, or shade through the middle of the day, to protect the blooms.

3. How are your tree peonies this year?

Answer: Overall, most of them look fairly good. I believe if I had the ideal soil mixture and the correct amount of fertilizer to use, with plants located in the proper location here, tree peonies would grow and bloom as good in my yard as they would in the Northern climate. Naturally, the blooms last longer in a cooler environment than in this warmer climate. This is true for other flowering plants due to increased chemical processes.

**NOTE:** I am anticipating digging a trench about three feet deep around my peony garden to keep roots of other plants from invading my peonies. These roots rob the peonies of nutrients and moisture. If anyone has any suggestions as to what to use as a barrier, please let me hear from you. Any other suggestion from the experienced growers will be greatly appreciated.

**ADDRESS:** Delano Dean, Rte. 1, Box 50, Alma, Georgia 31510

Editor—Dr. Dean is a teacher in the schools, active in the preservation of wildlife, and at present is trying to save a creek from being destroyed by a dam being proposed by developers.

\* \* \* \* \*

## ***HANDBOOK OF THE PEONY***

Official Handbook of the American Peony Society (Fourth Edition). Designed to provide informational basics on all peony subjects. Simple step-by-step culture instructions made this work indispensable for the novice, and a great “refresher” source for the professional.

—\$4.50



# ALL FOR THE LOVE OF THE PEONY

*Robert F. Schmidt, 5320 Oakes Rd., Brecksville, Ohio*

My love affair with the peony goes back more than 50 years to the day at age 15 I saw my first named variety **THERESE** in full bloom with the sun shining through its petals. I had sent away to the Oberlin Peony Gardens of Sinking Springs, PA, for their catalog, which I still have, and my Mother had allowed me to select 15 to 20 plants at the great expense of \$1.00-\$1.50 each, for a driveway border planting. At that time each variety was rated for good qualities by the A.P.S. on a scale of 1-10, and I chose nothing rated lower than 9, among those that I recall: **Philippe Rivoire**, **Mons. Jules Elie**, **Le Cygne**, **Solange**, and, of course, **Therese**. After all these years I can still feel the astonishment I experienced at the beauty revealed by that one first perfect blossom.

Many years later I noticed in our Sunday papers that there was to be a Peony Show at a department store auditorium in downtown Cleveland, whether sponsored by the APS or not, I do not recall, but I went during lunch hour and again was stunned by the impact of so many beautiful blooms in one room. Also, my Father had a friend who was Vice President of one of the large banks who had 4-5 acres of peonies, who used to bring buckets of peonies to fill the bank lobby which is a large Greek classic style, 2 stories high, and it was wonderful to walk through that lobby which was filled with that all-pervasive familiar peony perfume.

Thus, when we moved to our present location over 30 years ago, where we had enough land to satisfy my craving for more than 2 or 3 plants, within a few years I had about 25 plants, once again along a driveway. This was not too successful because of weed and Johnson grass invasion. It was some years until we had finish grading done and a real lawn put in, and then with my wife's blessing, somewhat hesitantly given at first, until she saw her first display of what peonies can be at the APS show in Mansfield, Ohio (1968?), that I installed my first real bed.

It was about 40 x 60 and I planned to use a spacing of 3-1/2' between rows and 3' between plants. I now know this is really too close—but I was greedy and felt I had to cram plants in to get the maximum possible—140-150 plants ultimately, to be planted in 2 years. I had the area excavated to a depth of 18", the clay removed and replaced with silt from a pond over the hill behind our house, and then found that since it was colloidal soil particles, it would not dry. It had to be trucked away and replaced with ordinary bank dirt. There was great time pressure because 96 roots had arrived two weeks earlier. After I got home from work the whole family helped plant, and the elaborate plan I had spent hours creating, utilizing color, blooming dates, etc. was discarded in the haste. And then, the next Spring I was appalled to find that I had lost half of the roots because the hard pan beneath the new soil had prevented drainage, and I had been planting



in effect, in a shallow pond. This meant lifting the surviving plants, once again removing the soil (which was really very poor) and reordering. But before replacing the soil with so-called "topsoil," I rented a trencher and installed 4 lines of plastic draitile. This time the plants survived and I am pleased that many of the roots which I had ordered from Sylvia Saunders, for historic reasons, are still flourishing. I wanted roots from as many growers as I could find at the time and secured them from the late Clarence Lienau, David Reath, Wild, as well as Saunders. I have found all the growers who advertise in the APS Bulletin to have excellent stock and to be very reliable.

Ten or twelve years later another bed was started about 30' x 150', later enlarged to 30 x 200". In this case, I spent 2 seasons preparing the soil, had drainage installed before turning the sod, discing, and planting buckwheat as a green manure. I installed the drainage even though the bed is on a 3°-4° slope. Then I thought I would further enrich the soil—can't be too good to my favorite plants—and I bought 100 cu. yds. of medium priced soil (penny wise, pound foolish) which turned out to have a heavy percentage of colloidal (again) river sand, and heavily permeated with rocks of all sizes, which had not been apparent when I checked the soil out at the yard before delivery. An enormous amount of effort and labor went into trying to correct this mistake, only to find that of the 250 plants planted the first year, half died because of excessive wetness in spite of the drain tile. I believe that soil with colloidal size particles acts like a sponge and holds too much water. It took 2 more years of renting a trencher and putting in more drain tile to correct the problem. I estimate that over 200 plants did not survive. Since this bed was larger I used a spacing of 4' between rows and 3-1/2' between plants, permitting better air circulation and cross cultivation with my rototiller.

The lessons I have learned at great cost of time, labor and money are to be absolutely certain that drainage is as good as it is possible to provide, and that better soil will produce better blooms. In our area I never plant with the eyes on the roots more than 1" below the surface and have been successful with holes comfortably large enough to receive the root into which I have mixed about 1/4 cup of 6-24-24 fertilizer, being careful that it is mixed well in the bottom soil where the roots will not touch it. Our temperatures have gone as low as 15-20°F below zero occasionally and I have never mulched the roots the first year, and have never attributed my plant losses to low temperature or frost heaving, but to drainage problems only. My aftercare is fairly standard: cultivation 3-4 times a season, pinching off sidebuds, spraying with Benlate plus one of the other fungicides 3 or 4 times, very light fertilization with 6-24-24 close to the plant after bloom is completed, and cutting to the ground and removing stems and foliage after the first frost. To do this I use a Weedeater with the flat cutting disc and find that it takes about 6 hours to take care of my 500 plants—probably 475 different varieties. Then there follows the



endless wait and the anticipation of the next season's bloom.

It is very hard for me to pick out any 1 or 2, or 3 or 4 favorites. I love them all, but realize that the average gardener would have room for only perhaps 6-10 plants, and in the past have recommended in the doubles and bombs: Moonstone and Elsa Sass (white); Mrs. F.D.R. and Dolorodel (pink); Red Charm and Kansas (red); Singles or Japanese: Carrara and Starlight (white); Dawn Pink, Sea Shell, Orange Lace and Westerner (pink); Akashigata (red); hybrids: Prairie Moon (cream); Cytherea and Paula Fay (pink) and Fayette and Postilion (red); Japanese Tree Peonies (my favorites of all the peonies): Gessakai (white), Yae Zakura and Shintenchi (pink); and a yellow hybrid, High Noon which has a wonderful lemony fragrance.

There have been many pleasures that have come to me through my infatuation with the Peony: experiencing the sheer beauty, almost overwhelming, of the masses of blooms in the large beds, only to be surpassed by the contemplation of the individual blossoms in the home with their aura of oriental mystery; the joy of sharing this bounty with friends, seeing their astonishment at such beauty if it is their first sight of a modern peony; the fun of supplying blossoms for 3 weddings where peonies were used exclusively, where everyone agreed the flowers were the most beautiful ever seen at a wedding and still being commented on 10 years later; and to supply blossoms for church where the fragrance adds another dimension to the service; finding that with a good deal of patience florists can be persuaded that peony blooms are sturdy and if properly handled will hold up for 7-10 days and can be induced to buy the blossoms; and last, but certainly not least, have been the many friendships formed among members of the APS at the annual shows, and the fun of the competition in exhibiting at the shows. My life has been far richer and more interesting because of the Peony.

I urge all readers to experience these joys and pleasures of the Peony, to plant them in groups, in borders, as single specimen focal points, planting as many as possible, with the expectation of 25-50 years of low effort beauty and fascination to be enjoyed; to show the results of their efforts, no matter how few or seemingly insignificant at the APS shows, and to share and spread to friends and neighbors the good news of the beauty, ease of growing, and minimal care of this most beautiful of all the flowers.

## ***THE PEONIES***

*John C. Wister*

A most outstanding authority on both herbaceous and tree peonies. Provides full details on peony history, botany, culture, hybridizing, plant illnesses and remedies, plus descriptions of popular varieties and their originations.

—\$5.50



## **"PEOPLE PEONIES"**

*by Henry Halvorson, Minneapolis, Minnesota*

People Peonies! — a somewhat intriguing title! I have a very great love for all flowers and the peony—the Queen of all—has a special meaning and appreciation from me because I have associated them with special people I have known throughout my life.

For example: my first group of peonies (about fifteen) were given to me by a very dear lady—Frances Rood. She had been a neighbor to my folks out on the prairies of North Dakota, homesteading side by side way back in 1910. Mrs. Rood and her husband moved back to Minneapolis in 1915 and started a grocery and butcher shop on Bloomington and Lake. They lived at 3346 2nd Avenue So. until Mrs. Rood had to give up her beautiful home for Highway 35 South. It was in 1960 that I acquired my first collection from her. They were all of the same variety and color—a double rose colored old-fashioned type edged in silver, almost translucent to look at. They don't last as long as my hybrids—acquired later—but are really a lovely sight at their best; as regal as the lady who gave them, Frances Rood. She had known me from the cradle up and through the years had become a wonderful friend. I saw her almost every year at some time—usually during the summers when she would come out to North Dakota to look after the land interests. She was a great story teller and would tell me some very interesting stories about the early days and her childhood home in Norway [also my folk's former home!] I planted these peonies in a garden to the right as you enter my driveway on Quail Ave. and Golden Valley Rd. In her later years, she lived at Westwood Nursing Home in St. Louis Park. I used to bring her to my home to see her flowers when they were in bloom.

When she was no longer able to come I would take a bouquet to her Westwood home. She lived to be 104 years old—died only three years ago. I became her adopted son for many years—we were very close. So I thank her for the beautiful memories she has given me. I call this garden the "Frances Rood Peony Garden."

Then I joined my first garden club—the Iris Society of Minnesota, and it was there I became acquainted with another dear lady, Greta Kessenich. She was instrumental in promoting my keen interest in gardening—especially the iris and the peony. She later urged me to join the Peony Society of Minnesota. It was then that I became interested in getting newer varieties—especially hybrids. Greta had a wonderful way of transmitting her love of the iris and peony to others—especially gardeners. I ordered two red fern-leaved peonies which I placed on either side of the entrance to my driveway on Quail Avenue. They are the first to bloom—very beautiful! They look like beautiful long-stemmed roses in the morning, and then open up to single-petaled peonies with a yellow center in the afternoon. Then they close again at night. They last for about a week to ten days—all bloom-



ing at once. The bush itself has such beautiful foliage that it becomes a very lovely plant the rest of the summer. They are an eye-catcher in the Spring, just following the tulips and the iris.

In 1962, I ordered eight Japanese tree peonies by color from Tri-State Nursery in Iowa. I lost one, but seven of them have been my pride and joy for 25 years or so. I moved them once from one location to another in my yard. Now I have them along the right hand side of my driveway as you drive in. They have such large silky blooms—almost unbelievable in their beauty. They have become among my favorites! I have a pure white, a blush pink, a pink, a deeper pink, a deep rose, a purple and a yellow (double)—seven in all. In the Winter, I give them special protection by putting chicken wire around them and filling with dry leaves—completely covering them. This keeps the stems dry and protected from the bitter wind and cold temperatures. In early April, when I uncover, the leaf buds have begun to break, and soon after the large flower buds appear. It is really a thrill when you see them come through the Winter like this. They usually bloom in late May and last about ten days. The blooms are staggered so I can have blooms for a couple or more weeks. The purple and yellow bloom the latest. I'm really proud of these tree peonies!

Then as the years went on, inspired again by Greta, and seeing new varieties at the peony shows I ordered several hybrids from Klehm's Nursery in Illinois. Among them I have had some prize-winning blooms. Among these hybrids I have Flame, Red Flame, a choral Cerese (my choicest), The Westerner, Clair de Lune, Princess Margaret, Raspberry Sundae, Red Charm (a beautiful double)—really an eye-catcher! Then I have a beautiful single pink Sea Shell. Most of these I have in a garden to the south in my yard. I call it the hybrid garden. These bloom the latest and are a spectacular sight. I have had these about ten to twelve years and people driving or walking along Quail Avenue by my property really get a glimpse of Peony beauty!

About 15 years ago, my neighbor across the street from me sold their home and moved up to Pine City to live, and she, Effie Newgaard, had about 15 hybrid peonies growing in her yard. She wanted me to keep them for her in my yard until she was able to transplant them to her new home in Pine City. So I put them right across the street from her on my property. Although I didn't have the names for these, they were all truly beautiful in bloom.

Later, Effie was stricken with cancer and was unable to do any gardening, so I acquired these also, from a very dear lady and wonderful neighbor and friend. She, too, inspired me in my gardening. She had earlier given me some of her choice irises to begin with, and now her lovely peonies. Effie passed away several years ago, but the iris and peonies she gave me live on and give me very pleasant memories. Thanks for her memory and the legacy of flowers she left me.

As for culture: I spade around my peonies every Spring. I give



each plant a cup or more of bonemeal—a little 10-10-10 mixed in and compost now and then, and keep the soil loose. I water when necessary—especially in the blooming season. It all adds up to a lot of tender loving care for my peonies and in return I have not only the beauty of the Queen of all flowers, but also each year the memory and love that these people have given to me. That is the most beautiful legacy of all.

Thanks for reading my true story. You may have had similar experiences with your beautiful flowers.

## 1987 SEED COUNTER

*Bill Seidl, 732 S. 19th St., Manitowoc, WI 54220*

All seeds of the 1987 crop were distributed by March 18 which was, although later than planned, several months in advance of their proper outdoor planting time...in the northern hemisphere. Southern hemisphere patrons received theirs first, probably with summer-autumn temperatures of sufficient warmth and duration to initiate root-germination. Fifteen orders were filled from New Zealand and Australia, and one each from five European countries (UK, Switzerland, Sweden, Belgium, Iceland). Overall, orders doubled over the previous years. The most requested seeds were of shrub (tree) peonies, followed by tenuifolia hybrids and "yellow" herbaceous hybrids. Most requesters received some of what they wanted.

This manager of the seed distribution program is now stepping down. I've enjoyed the new contacts made in the past two years and hope they will continue. I shall continue to distribute seed, hand-pollinated only, but on a private basis and at a price (10/\$1) to anyone interested.

Because it takes 3-6 years for seedlings to bloom, many are discouraged from starting. If you are among this group, take heart from one of this year's seed requesters, Ben Gilbertson. A successful and innovative hybridizer of peonies in the past (and other plants), at age 90 he is still planting some peony seed—this at a time when many other oldsters would not plant petunia seed or buy green bananas.

While waiting for your peony seed to bloom, I recommend that you plant daylily seed to satisfy your creative horticultural urges. They'll bloom in two years (one year in mild climates or with winter artificial lighting) and their blooming period will not compete with that of peonies. You cannot go back into the future, so take steps now to ensure a bright and exciting peony future, not one filled with regretful looks at the past.

**The seed program will be under the management of Mr. Chris Laning again. When the seed pods are ready for harvest, send the seed to Mr. Chris Laning, 553 West F. Avenue, Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007. Requests for seeds have increased.**



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## IN MEMORIAM

LYDIA FRANKLIN

1900 - 1988

*Greta Kessenich*

Lydia Franklin lived her life with and among peonies. She was soft spoken, full of love for her family, friends, and the peony.

She attended every peony show with Loren, her husband, always had a friendly greeting and smile for all present. One would always see them walking up and down the aisles looking at every specimen. At one of the national shows, there was a few days of rain when the peonies were in their prime for cutting. Disregarding weather conditions, Loren and Lydia were out in the fields cutting peonies. They brought 75 Red Charm, all in beautiful condition. Lydia had taken the blooms into the house and had prepared them for the tables at the show. This was a joy to her as she told of the problems and desire to display this group of peonies.

After retirement from their Nursery, every winter was spent in Arizona. She always wrote asking about friends and the Society. She had a special interest in the Handbook of the Peony and never failed to comment about it.

This winter when she was confined to her chair and could use the telephone, she would call and we talked about many varieties of peonies. At Christmas, I sent her the new cover of the Handbook and one of her beloved peonies was featured. It was Bonanza, and that flower brought on reminiscence of all her favorite Franklin peonies.

Lydia was a big part of the nursery; she was always present, always greeting people and telling them to go out into the field and there they would find Loren.

Lydia passed away January 20th of this year; Loren preceded her death in 1985. She lived a full and interesting life. Both Lydia and Loren Franklin are a part of Minnesota peony history. The great peonies that were originated by A. B. Franklin and the nursery continued by Loren, will always be in peony gardens everywhere.

Those of us that knew Lydia will always have a remembrance of this kind, gentle, lady as we see the bloom of the beautiful Franklin peonies.

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## WILLIAM GRATWICK — 1904 - 1988

*(John Simkins of Oakville, Ontario, Canada wrote this account of William Gratwick and his love for the tree peony in 1981.)*

*In the new book "The American Tree Peony," just published 1988, Mr. Gratwick and his work, his dream, and his association with Prof. Saunders and Mr. Nassos Daphnis make up a part of the American Tree Peony history.*

*His own account of the History of the Tree Peony and its use in the garden is published, as well as his own beautiful flowers, in full color.*

Along the north edge of the ridge overlooking the Genesee Valley, one of the great tree peony nurseries of the world was born. Here lives the custodian of the best Japanese tree peonies from the Chungai Nurseries, the complete list of Professor Saunderson's luteas, and the repository of the Daphnis-Gratwick hybrids and breeding stock. The man who put together this storehouse of treasures is William Gratwick, an engineer, author, artist, breeder, and farmer all in one.

Bill is a breeder of horses and sheep as well as tree peonies, so he has the practiced eye and genetic knowledge to select the best characteristics for the offspring and locate the parents to provide it.

His eye is unerring. Many seedlings I would have discarded he kept because he saw a required characteristic that could prove to be useful. His ruthless culling of the "dogs" from his breeding programme I'm sure made them try harder. Last year we looked over some plants that were planted alongside the road after being sent in disgrace from the favoured few. Some had over the years improved so much that he is now considering planting them back in the breeding ground.

The eye and hand of the artist are best experienced by watching Bill in the trial rows. The loving touch as the flowers are caressed and admired, their good points elucidated and the poor ones mentioned, is an education in itself. The other way is to watch the care and design of the picture when peony photos are made. Many of these pictures were used in a one-man show in Rochester in 1978.

Bill Gratwick's contribution to tree peonies is four-fold. His care in





locating and by re-ordering and testing and selecting he obtained many correctly named Japanese tree peonies. These he reduced to a stock of the best fifty varieties. He also grew seed from Chungai Nurseries and introduced four magnificent single peonies: Garden of the Monastery, Dark of the Moon, Companion of Serenity, and Captain's Concubine.

He brought a complete selection of Saunder's tree peonies to Gratwick's. These were planted against a four-foot-high circular mound about one hundred feet in diameter. The peonies were planted in alphabetical order around the edge. In the centre is the Saunders Chair, where the professor was led to be honoured on his visits. Another group was planted around the fountain pool and others in the formal water garden.

He has done much to publicize the tree peony with the great peony "open houses" at his nursery. Thousands visited the acres of peonies in bloom. Japanese type structures, gates, and other ornaments built along the route lent even more beauty to the show. He also contributed many collections to public areas. The best one I know is at the Eastman Kodak museum in Rochester.

Bill's fourth contribution is his partnership with Nassos Daphnis in the production of the Daphnis-Gratwick hybrids. Many of these were registered in 1979 and are now in production at the Charles Klehm Nurseries in Barrington, Illinois. They will in the future handle the sales of Gratwick peonies.

Bill Gratwick and tree peonies are a symbiotic pair. The tree peony is large, flamboyant, and majestic, and Bill is all of these with a great sense of humor.

## **WILLIAM GRATWICK, 84, SCULPTOR, STORYTELLER**

*By Bob Bickel, Democrat and Chronicle, March 13, 1988*

**YORK** — William Gratwick was the Genesee Valley's Renaissance man.

He wrote, sculpted, did photography, farmed, produced community theater productions—and did them all extraordinarily well, said the chairman of the state University College at Geneseo's art department.

"He was an incredible person," said the art professor. Paul Hepler, who also was Mr. Gratwick's friend. "I can think of no one to compare him to."

Mr. Gratwick died in his sleep Sunday at his home at 1912 York Road in York, after he suffered a heart attack. He was 84.

Whatever Mr. Gratwick tried seemed to come out right.

For example, he was a nationally known breeder of tree peonies, a rare bush form of the early-summer flowers. They are exquisite—some of the finest tree peony hybrids ever made.



Mr. Gratwick' peonies were the centerpiece of the garden at his home here.

A poem written about the garden by the American poet William Carlos Williams, who visited often, is in one of Mr. Gratwick's books.

His home on York Road—built by his father, the scion of a Buffalo lumber family—at one time had many distinguished visitors. Most of them were artists of one sort or another.

And it was through other arts, not horticulture, that Mr. Gratwick became noted locally.

Hepler became acquainted with Mr. Gratwick in the late 1950's. "He and his family had developed the York Opera, an incredible organization which did a children's playhouse and workshop, and a summer choral recital series."

In the 1960's, Mr. Gratwick built a collection of carriages, and Hepler credits him with being one of the first persons in the area to start restoring historical artifacts systematically and accurately. "He had a magnificent collection," Hepler said.

In October 1986, SUNY Geneseo organized an exhibit of Mr. Gratwick's small animal bronzes, larger sculpture and photographs.

"That exhibition got more extensive coverage, more attention, than any exhibit we ever held," Hepler said.

Up to the moment of his death, Mr. Gratwick retained his interest in art. "The last time I talked to him," Hepler said, "he told me he had gotten a little grant from someplace and was designing some cases with a revolving platform for a traveling exhibit of the bronzes. He was all excited about it."

Mr. Gratwick had other enthusiasms during his life, however.

At one time, Mr. Gratwick got interested in sheep breeding and was so successful at it that Hepler said it would be fair to call him a farmer's farmer.

He bred horses and had hopes at one time at producing one capable of Olympic competition.

"He was the first person I talked to when I became town historian, "and what a great storyteller he was. I was writing everything down and he said, 'Hey, wait a minute, Jan, you don't believe everything you hear, do you?' "

In York, on the streets of Geneseo, he was a man who caught and held the eye, an upright, imposing figure with a big, unkempt beard, clothes that looked as though he had grabbed the first thing to come to hand.

Mr. Gratwick's two books, *My, This Must Have Been a Wonderful Place When It Was Kept Up*, a mocking reference to the way the 350-acre estate on York Road had run down; and *The Truth, Tall Tales and Blatant Lies*, are collectors items. The books are compilations of reminiscence, informal essays, and pictures of Mr. Gratwick's work.



Apart from his accomplishments, Mr. Gratwick was a personable and humane man, Hepler said.

"If there ever was a true country gentleman, it was he. He had a capacity for listening to people and being intrigued by them and by life. He took time to deliberate on the important things.

"Most of us know the right way to act, but he practiced it, every darn day. I never saw him in a panic. He had a common touch. It was a marvelous thing."

Mr. Gratwick is survived by three daughters, Lee, at home; Emilie Lewis of North Carolina; and Lucy of Vermont; a son, Timothy, of Victor; eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

## **ITS CULTURE, SOIL, DRAINAGE, ETC.**

The Peony is of such easy culture that it is not at all particular as to the soil, like most plants. It will grow in rich, poor, clay, or in black soil, and thrive in all of them. We prefer a sandy loam such as we have here in the fertile lands of the great Miami Valley of Ohio. Prepare your ground by digging at least 2 feet deep; your beds should be well drained so that all surplus water gets away quickly. Peonies will not stand wet feet.

Peonies may be planted effectively in several positions: in beds by themselves, as a background in perennial borders, as a foreground for shrubbery groups or borders, in single rows. Indeed, they make a delightful hedge effect where one sort is planted, so that they all bloom at one time. A hedge of Peonies is fine when used as a division-line between city lots or to act as a screen along alleyways or unsightly fences or buildings, for after they are through blooming the plant itself is desirable for foliage effect. Simply cut away the seed-pods and trim in the tips of branches that may be longer than the others so as to make a uniform hedge. Peonies are very effective when planted to border a walk. Where planted in beds, set at least 3½ to 4 feet apart each way; if in rows for hedge effect, 2 feet apart, setting the eyes in the ground 2 inches below the surface.

A covering of forest leaves, held in place by evergreen boughs or other weight to keep the leaves from blowing away, will be found very beneficial during the severe cold weather of winter. Peony roots are perfectly hardy but this covering keeps the newly-planted roots from being lifted out of their places by frost. Do not apply this covering until the ground is frozen, and remove after hard freezing weather is over, in early spring. It is the freezing and thawing that does the damage. Freezing the roots does no damage, but every freeze and thaw lifts the roots a little. Let Nature keep repeating this operation and you will find your roots on top of the ground.

—By the late John M. Good, 1925



## REGISTRATIONS

**STRAWBERRY DELIGHT** (David Reath, Vulcan, Michigan, March 1988)

Tree peony, first bloomed 1985. Parentage Lutea #14 x Shintenchi.

Near double, ruffled petal, subdued strawberry red with a deeper strawberry maroon flare. Slender but strong stems, 36" in height with deep green foliage and bronze overlay. Fragrant, no pollen or seeds. On F1 hybrid, therefore not fertile.

Picture in the new American Tree Peony book.

**WAUCEDAH PRINCESS** (David Reath, Vulcan, Michigan, March 1988)

Lutea hybrid tree peony. Seedling #M-222-D. First bloomed 1985.

Parentage Lutea #14 x Shintenchi. Lavender pink, semi-double, ruffled petals with deeper lavender-red flares. A mound type plant, very floriferous with bloom of 40 or more petals. Slender but strong stems. On F1 hybrid, therefore not especially fertile.

Picture in the new American Tree Peony book.

**RUFFLED SUNSET** (David Reath, Vulcan, Michigan, March 1988)

Tree peony, Seedling #A-226, first bloomed 1980. Parentage Age of Gold x A198 (Golden Isles x Daphnis pollen). Blend of rose and yellow, a single flower with two or more rows of petals with deeper rose flares. Height 36" with good sturdy stems, pod, and pollen fertile. Fragrant. Excellent amount of bloom.

Picture in the new American Tree Peony book.

**ALICE IN WONDERLAND** (David Reath, Vulcan, Michigan, March 1988)

Tree peony, first bloomed 1980. Seedling #A-225. Parentage Alice Harding x Golden Era. Nearly full double with thirty petals. Bright yellow with reddish maroon flares. Petals are of heavy substance. 36" in height with strong stems. Good color from Alice Harding and strong stems from Golden Era, wide leaves, deep green foliage. Pod and pollen fertile. Produces excellent seedlings. Strongly recommended for Itoh type hybridizing.

Picture in the new American Tree Peony book.

**LITTLE RED GEM** (David Reath, Vulcan, Michigan, March 1988)

Hybrid, first bloomed 1980. Seedling #G-9. Parentage Gwenda F2 x self.

A new rock garden peony, a single light red; blooms very early with tenuifolia season. 12-18" in height, fine cut foliage, dwarf, mound type, blooms above dwarf plants. Slender strong stems.



# FIRST THINGS FIRST

*by Anthony De Blasi, West Newfield, Maine*

If peonies needed coddling, we'd grow them anyhow for their incomparable beauty. That they do not tells us that these plants make themselves at home in a diversity of situations. We should not take this, however, as a signal to treat them with indifference.

It would be presumptuous to define the exact set of conditions that qualify as "ideal." There is always room for experimentation, discovery, and improvement—not to mention the fact that a given set could vary from place to place. But between the extremes of neglect and obsessive attention to cultural details lies the middle ground of common sense, easily overlooked. Even experts need to walk through it, on occasion, to help solve a problem that eludes standard procedure.

For those new to peony culture, getting basic planting and growing information is Job One. Experienced growers of peonies tend to do things by instinct, which is difficult to explain and follow. We may, however, summarize what they have learned, as follows.

Proper planting is critical to success: follow instructions faithfully. You've heard them before, but the essentials bear repeating: good soil, good drainage, lots of sunshine, and plenty of room.

ROOM needs emphasis. Crowding causes trouble, not only by hampering the full development of a plant, but by reducing the available light and free circulation of air and increasing the demand for fertilizer, which the plant then cannot take proper advantage of. This opens a window on disease. It is much easier to give plants adequate room than to orchestrate a program of feeding and spraying that ultimately is self-defeating. I recommend a spacing of five feet on center for herbaceous and seven feet for tree peonies.

Years ago, a rumor circulated that peonies were heavy feeders. Not so. However, while opinions vary on specifics, most growers agree that some regular feeding is important to the continued welfare of a planting. Peonies basically fend for themselves and resent tampering. So, the idea here is to assist them, not overwhelm them, which is why heavy fertilizing is not recommended. Raw manure and high-nitrogen fertilizers should not be used. My own preference is for one scattering of bonemeal each year around each plant, after the blooms fade.

Strong as they are, peonies do not compete well with weeds, which must be kept in control. If you mulch, keep the bed shallow (about two inches). Peonies appreciate deep watering in long periods of dry weather.

With the weather cooperating, these measures deliver good bloom on healthy plants. As insurance against the vagaries of weather, include as wide an assortment of peonies in your garden as you have room for, so that there will always be "a good year," in some sense.

A philosophical attitude towards insects is useful. Ants on a bud



mean it's a good one or it wouldn't exude the sap they're after. Until biological controls become as widespread and cheap as microchips, rose chafers mean: be diligent and pick them off, or cut the blooms and enjoy them indoors; and arboreal cutworms in the spring mean: nightly forays with a flashlight.

Peonies are essentially trouble-free, but if you encounter problems, walk through the basics before you seek more exotic solutions.

## MY HEIRLOOM PATCH AND SEED PRODUCED

*by John F. Cote, Jr., Brooklyn, Connecticut*

The '87 season proved to be one of exhilarations and frustrations, anticipation and dashed hopes, success on one hand and despair on the other. This was all due to the wet, cold, unsettled Spring weather after a warmer than normal Winter.

With little snow covering, a deep freeze registering below zero temp., and the drought conditions still existing, compounded the problem. Not much was expected from my new seedlings. The hardiness of the peonies and their ability to withstand extreme stressful conditions are sometimes forgotten. My heirloom patch was a success, the late Spring delaying the blooming about 10 days. The new plants did flower for the first time. The seed harvest was unexpected as the insects and bees were not in evidence from early on. I did collect 1137 total seed of which 800 were sent to the seed pool. I planted 200 and sent the rest to my nephew who is interested in them. He already has over 200 seedlings and has a profound interest in the peony. The highlight of my season was the first time blooming F2 hybrid from my own cross. From this plant, I hoped for open pollination and it did happen, giving me 5 F3 seeds. The F2 is a vivid bright red single with a halo-like circle of yellow around the center. More seedlings will be coming in bloom this year.

I will be adding three more plants to my heirloom friendship patch. They are from my friend that grows many peonies. She is noted for growing healthy, large plants, with spectacular bloom. Her 70 plants are always disbudded and she cuts over 1200 blooms every year. Her garden is always on tour with visits from Garden Clubs.

One of my seedlings that appeared from an unknown source is noted for the number of seed produced. It bloomed in 1984 and every year since then, more seed production has happened in the vicinity of that particular seedling. In 1986, it produced 93 seed, in 1987, 377 seed.

This year, I will make bagged crosses using herbaceous hybrid pollen, hoping to get seed that will produce super varieties.



## PEONY SHOWS OF THE PAST: Ithaca, N.Y., 1912, and Cleveland, Ohio, 1913

*Kent Crossley, St. Paul*

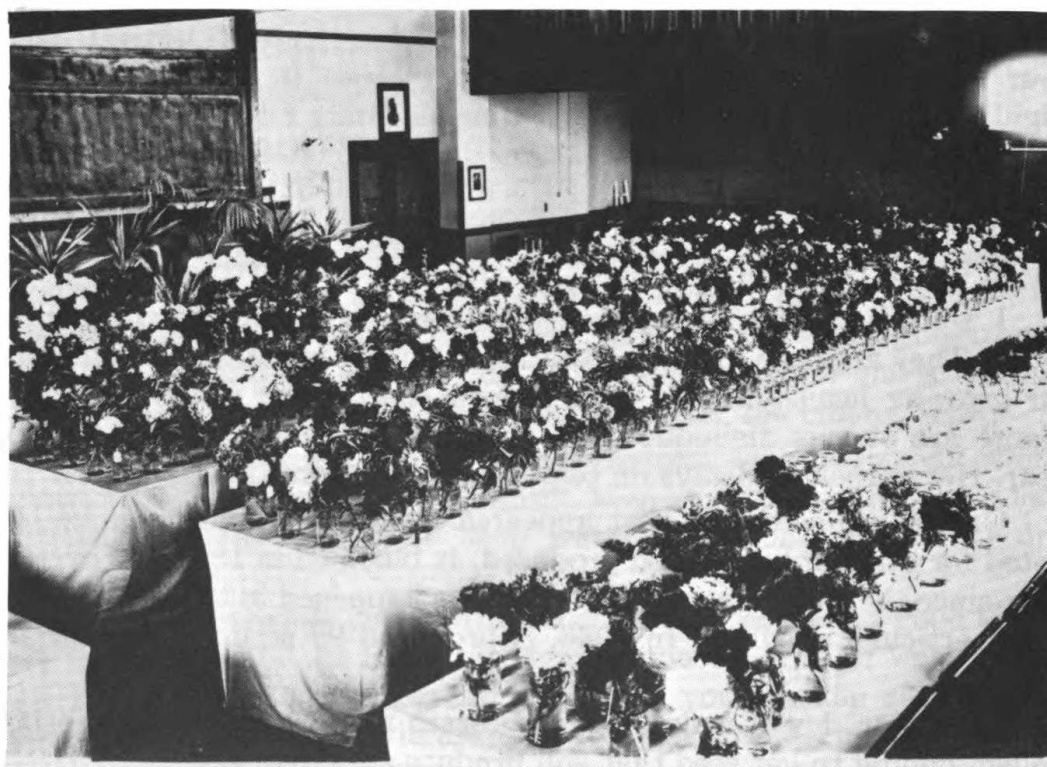
At one of the first peony shows I attended a number of years ago, Miss Sylvia Saunders gave me a large folder of heavy cardboard and instructed me to take it back to Minneapolis. Inside, bound for our Secretary's archives, was information about a number of our Society's first shows.

The folder contains a collection of articles from *The Florists' Exchange* and *The American Florist* about American Peony Society Shows during the period from 1905 to 1917. There are also a number of photographs of two early shows: those in Ithaca, New York, on June 19-20, 1912, and in Cleveland, Ohio, the following year. I arranged for several of the original photographs to be copied and they are included with this article.

I thought that it would be interesting to describe these two shows from the materials available in the folder. I hope, at a later date, to summarize some of the information about the other early shows contained in the articles in this folder. (Should anyone in the Society have information or photographs from other early shows, it would be nice to be able to include as much information as possible in future articles. Please let me know if you have materials that you would consider sharing.)

### Ithaca, 1912

This show was described as "very successful from every point of



*Figure 1. Show at Ithaca, New York — 1912*  
— 20 —

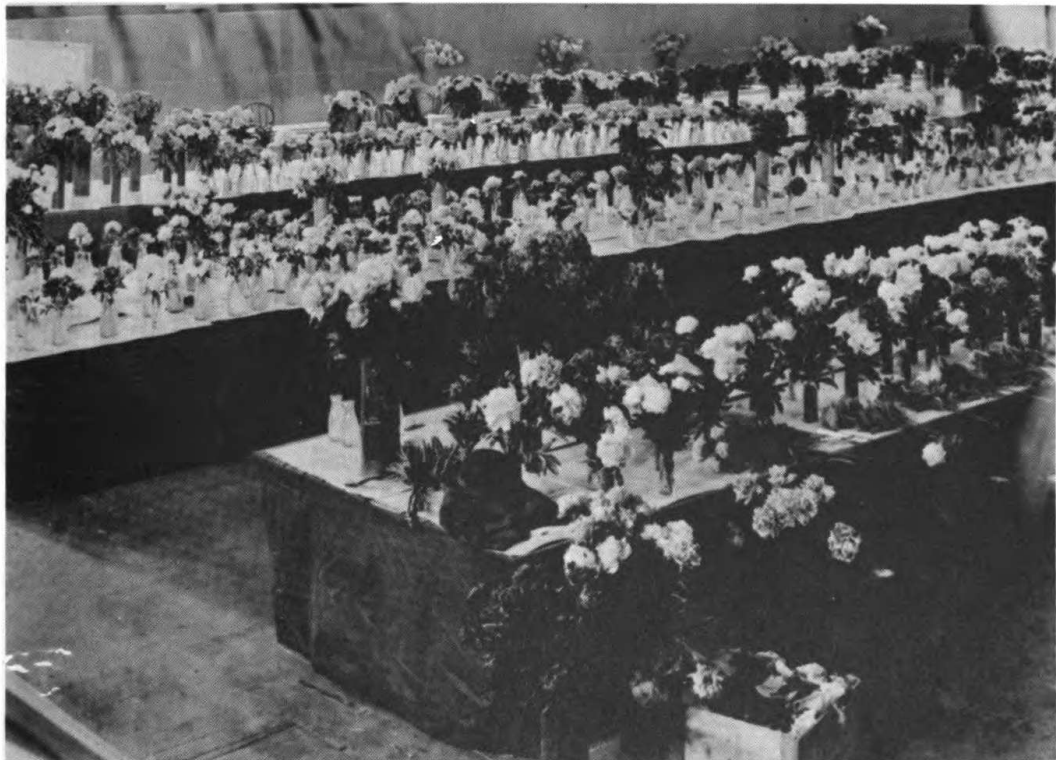


view" in the June 29, 1912 issue of *The Florists' Exchange* (pages 1376-1377). The photograph (figure 1) shows part of the exhibit of T. A. Havermeyer in the foreground, and blooms from the Cornell plot to the rear.

The large planting of peonies at Cornell was established to correct major errors in the nomenclature of the peony that had developed over the years. The Society, in 1912, was meeting at the Cornell plot for the third time in the ten years to evaluate and compare the thousands of peonies supplied by growers from North America and Europe. At the 1912 meeting plans were made for a permanent peony garden at Cornell and it was agreed that the surplus plants would be sold and the profits used to finance printing of "an illustrated peony manual."

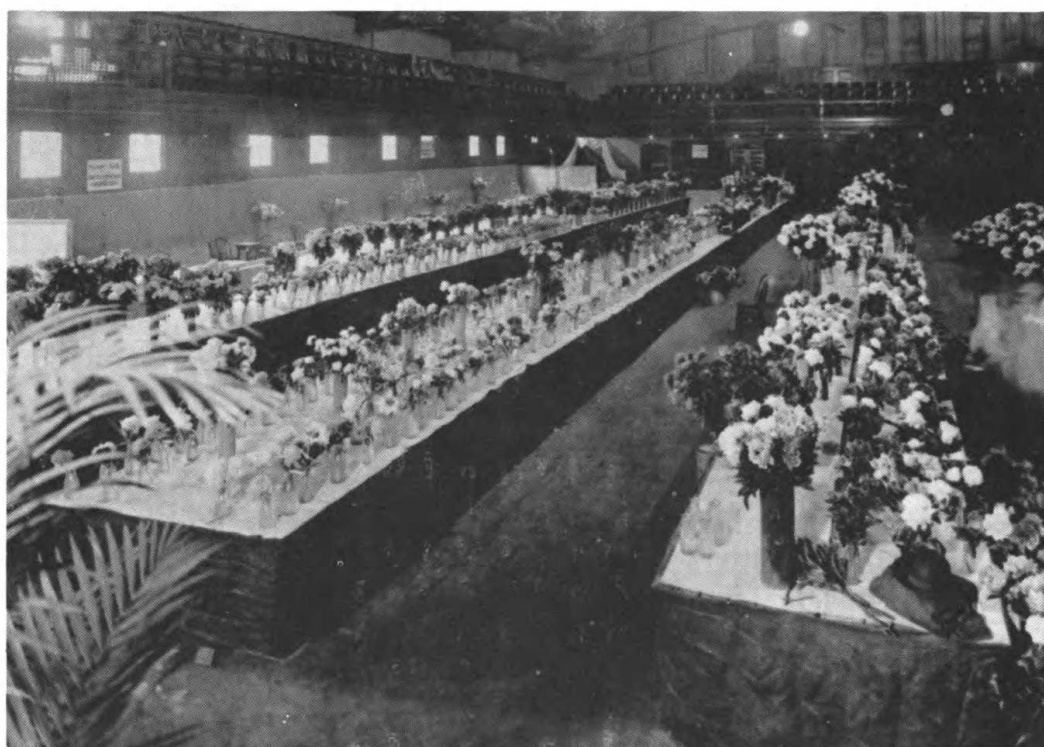
The address of the Society president and the secretary are reprinted in full and contain a number of interesting comments. I was surprised to learn that, ten years after its founding, the Society had only sixty-six members (most of whom were commercial growers.) The article reports winners in only two classes: the best collection of not less than twenty-five varieties (A. P. Saunders and Mrs. F. S. Kellogg), and the best new American seedling (Jean Bancroft, exhibited by A. P. Saunders).

The report concludes his comments about the meeting by noting that "It was the general opinion of the members that the Ithaca meeting was the best yet; there was good fellowship in the air and even politics could not disturb the general cordial feeling."

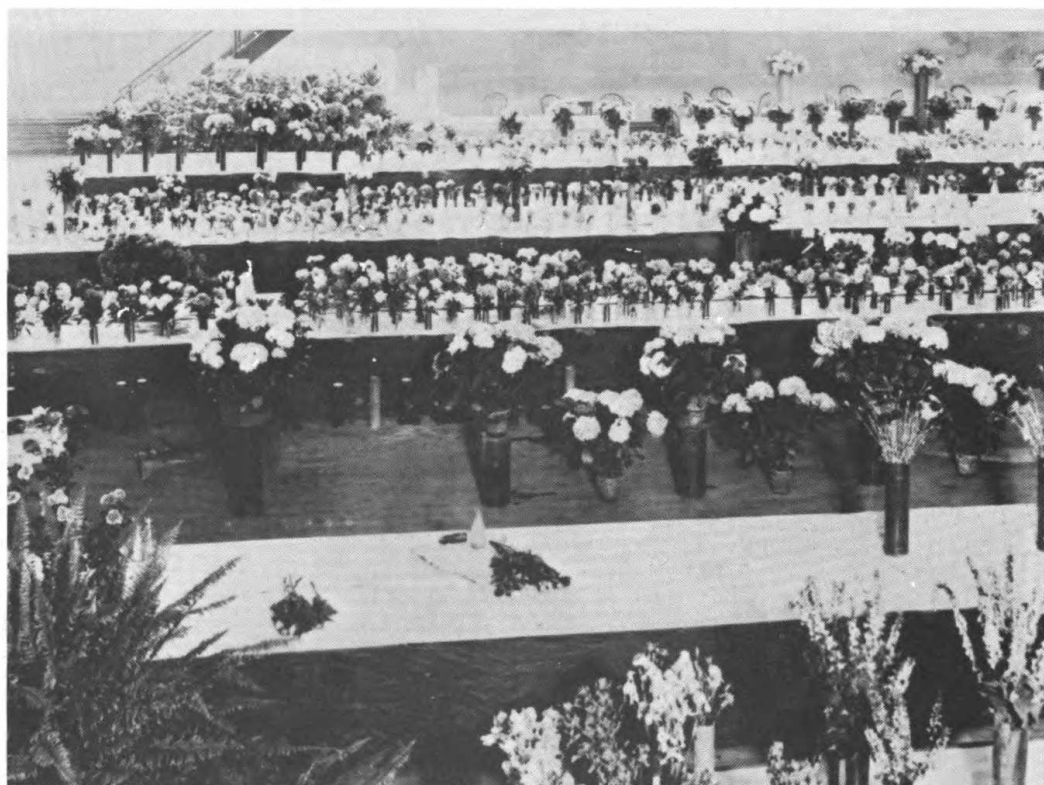


*Cleveland, Ohio show — 1913*





*Cleveland, Ohio — 1913*



*Cleveland, Ohio — 1913*



## Cleveland, 1913

The other three photographs with this article are from the Cleveland Show in 1913. Although it is hard to get an exact idea of the size of the show from the photographs, it would appear that at least one large room was filled with blooms.

One exhibitor (E. A. Reeves of Cleveland) had 3000 blooms included in this Show. He was given the Society's gold medal for his collection of 100 named varieties. A. P. Saunders again won the seedling awards for the peonies Jean Bancroft and Edith Grant.

President Farr reported in the business meeting that the Society had over \$1500 in its bank account and discussed additional plans for the peony manual. (Interestingly, Doubleday was the intended publisher of the manual and they brought many of the peonies from Cornell for the grounds of their offices and factory in Garden City). Although there were several additional delays, the 1928 manual was the eventual outcome of these efforts.

## THE PIONEER WOMAN PEONY ORIGINATOR OF THE WORLD, Mrs. Sarah A. Pleas

We take very great pleasure in presenting to the Peony world the introductions of Mrs. Sarah A. Pleas, formerly of Indiana, now of California.

Mrs. Pleas has the distinction of being the first woman in the world to introduce new varieties of Peonies, and good ones, too. She has been working for a number of years practically unnoticed and unheralded. In February, 1916, the writer suggested her name to the Secretary of the American Peony Society for honorary membership, which at the next meeting of the Society, held in New York City, June 1916, was conferred on her "in recognition of her services to Peony culture in America," an honor well merited.

Mrs. Pleas has been giving her attention to Peony culture for upwards of forty years. There have been a number of her Peonies going under synonyms. The list we name is intended to be authentic and is compiled from information supplied by Mrs. Pleas and from her friends who have been interested in her Peonies. We here present a list of her Peonies most talked about, although by no means complete. In future editions of "Our Glory Bloom" it is expected to add to this list: Alpha and Omega, Altar Candles, Bouquet of Flowers, Dr. Edgar Pleas, Elwood Pleas, Golden Nugget, Golden Wedding, Hettie Elliott, Joseph Griffin, Ivanhoe, Jubilee, Lady Emily, Mabel Clare, Mme. Pleas, May Davidson, Midsummer Night's Dream, Mrs. M. B. Beckett, Multiflora, Opal, Walter Morgan, Pearled Rose, Queen of the Pleasance, Quaker Lady, Ralph, Rosy Dawn, Sarah, The Gem, The Jewel, and White Swan.

—The Good & Welsh Peony catalog, 1925, "*Our Glory Bloom, The Peony.*"



# TREE PEONIES IN MISSOURI

*by Olin Frazier*

When I first became interested in trying to grow tree peonies in mid-Missouri, naturally, I inquired about them and my possible chances of success. Asking several people about whether they had tried them or not did not yield much information. A visit to a well-known peony nursery in Missouri did not even produce a sighting of the reclusive tree peony. While visiting a daylily garden in Kansas, some friends had a few, but they were less than excited about the ones they had and they said that they didn't bloom much. At that time, I had never seen a tree peony "in the flesh."

Still lacking substantial information on tree peonies, I bravely ordered four—Shima Daijin, Hatsu Hinode, High Noon and Souvenir De Maxime Cornu. When they arrived, giants they were not! In fact, I inadvertently threw one away with the packing materials not really distinguishing the plant from the packing. Probably no one else could have committed such a blunder, but I salvaged three of the four plants, and now, 15 or so years later, they are all doing well. Poor Souvenir De Maxime Cornu (the one thrown away) was never located.

Success was not instant; however, as an uninitiated beginner with tree peonies, I more or less expected instant success. Hatsu Hinode did bloom the second year with one huge pink bloom. Since at that time, I was a weekend gardener (and still am), I missed the bloom when it was at its peak, but the remnants were enough to encourage me to add additional plants as the years passed. The second year, Shima Daijin bloomed, and the number of blooms on the plant that had bloomed the first year increased. The plant that bloomed the second year has really been my most vigorous tree peony to date. Now it regularly has many many blooms. The third plant of the original planting did not bloom until its fifth year, and since that time, has continued to bloom each year.

My second order of tree peonies was much more successful, and all of the plants produced at least one bloom the first Spring after planting. These plants came from a different source and were giants compared to the first planting. This group has not been without problems. One of the plants (Banquet) that bloomed nicely the first year, seemed to sulk the second year. The leaves came out and were quite green in the Spring, but soon faded until they were laced with yellow and looked as if the plant had an iron deficiency. Treatment with iron did not produce a substantial change that year or the years that followed. Other tree peonies, planted four to five feet from the sulking one, have not seemed to be affected. However, last year my tallest and most successful tree peony looked exactly the same way. Suggestions for treatment would be appreciated.

In the interim between my first and second order, our current presi-



dent, Mr. Don Hollingsworth, was most helpful. He wrote to me several times giving me helpful information about culture of these Queens of the garden. It seemed that our schedules never did jibe so that I could visit his garden. He did suggest that someone in Richmond, Missouri was growing tree peonies, and I did stop to see his collection at bloom time.

Additional orders since the original have increased my collection to several plants, most of which seem to be doing well. Occasionally, we have winter damage to some plants, but in most cases, no permanent damage. One of my early plants was frozen to ground level during its early life, but it promptly sprouted from below the ground. Pests have not proved to be a problem in Missouri. All of the literature on tree peonies seems to suggest that some plants occasionally rebloom during the Summer. I had decided that this was a myth. However, a couple of years ago, one of the luteas produced a couple of blooms during a very hot week in mid-summer thus proving that the literature was correct.

Care of tree peonies in Missouri is minimal except for the regular spraying with fungicides. Fall cleanup is not as easy as for the regular peonies since the leaf stems do not seem to want to come loose from the woody stems. Many times this has to wait until Spring. Some of my tree peonies are grown in full sun and some with one-half a day's shade. Both plantings seem to do equally well. The problems that I mentioned earlier have occurred in an area that does receive some shade from mid-day on. Plantings in full sun have not exhibited any of the chlorosis.

Since I have been growing tree peonies for a number of years now, I find that a few other people are growing them, also. Several members of the daylily society also grow tree peonies. Most seem to be enthusiastic. But, in general, people in Missouri just are not aware of tree peonies. When people visit my garden, they always ask what that is when pointing to tree peonies. When the answer is given, they get that blank stare that seems to say, "Surely you jest!"

\*\*\*\*\*

## **PEONY SEED — SEED — SEED — SEED**

**Save and send to**

**Chris Laning, 553 West F. Ave., Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007**

**Hybrid — Herbaceous — Species — Tree Peonies**

**for the Seed Distribution Program.**



## DESCRIBING PEONIES

Another matter that has been discussed and that some decry is the using of adjectives in describing a Peony. Dear friends, that is where we shine, for we make the statement without fear of successful contradiction that no person on God's green footstool may convey to another his impression of a Peony flower without the use of adjectives and plenty of them. Try without their use to describe Mons. Jules Elie with its enormous ball of loveliness before you, and you will be compelled to admit at once that it cannot be done.

"Neither inability to make rhyme; lack of sequence in thought; carelessness with the king's English, or absence of sentiment will bar us from using adjectives in describing Peonies. We step right in and air our muse; nobody has to read it unless desired and it gets it out of our system."

To satisfy yourself on this point, try to convey, in cold type, the beauties of a Peony flower so that anyone may form an impression of what it is like in color, form, fragrance, etc., then you will realize how futile the attempt. Overpraise? Why, this is the veriest folderol. Listen to this description of Mons. Jules Elie, the King of Peonies: "What shall we say of it? Enormous size, richest coloring, sure, free bloomer, deliciously perfumed, the form so opulent of charm, so perfect in chiseling as to be beyond compare, the overlapping convex petalage, a marvel of curves and sinuosities like fairy convolutions. The sunburst of color, eloquent of divinest passion, radiating from a core of glossy pink as from some mystic fountain concealed under fluffy laciness, silvery pink here, pearl-pink there, and baby-pink everywhere, the colors blending and intermingling to a sheen of satiny pink, lit by a sunset glow, a tiny flame from the lambent furnace of some angel's heart; the form combined with the color in a harmonious whole difficult to describe; the petals winding in and out and curved jauntily as if consciously recurving from the mass of marvelous bloom and foliage around it; shimmering silvery tones heightening up to a climax of richest pink in a natural and indeed inevitable inflorescence. If you love beauty, this flower shoots through you an unwonted thrill; you turn again and again that you might verify and prolong the pulsing wave of poetry by excluding the surroundings from your vision. The colors gleam with light as if it were burnished clouds touched by morning. It is indeed a wonder of fragrant loveliness. Great is the King!"

Overpraise? Why, the above with its numerous tones and shades of pink does not tell half the story.

—The Good & Welsh peony catalog, 1925

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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



## REPORTING ON THE NOMINEES FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 1989

The 1988 Board of Directors have served their three-year term. A letter was sent to the retiring members, asking for confirmation or rejection to serve another three years. The names of Joseph Glocka, Myron D. Bigger, Dr. Maynard Dewey, Edward Lee Michau and Greta Kessenich will be placed in nomination for another three-year term. Roy Klehm has asked to be retired.

The nominating committee presents the name of Lois Klehm to fill the vacancy of the retiring member.

Lois Klehm has been attending the conventions for years. She is very knowledgeable of all varieties of peonies, has worked with peonies and began growing them herself, at an early age. Two years ago at the Convention, she was instrumental in selling peony blooms to visitors of the peony exhibition, with all proceeds going to the Society. Last year at Kingwood Center, Ohio, she was the auctioneer of the peony roots.

Lois is a businesswoman, has her own business, and is active in public affairs.

## SAVE THE SPECIES

*It took one little flower, just the pollen, to change the colors in the tree peony.*

*Prof. Saunders began crossing his Japanese semi-doubles with a strain of LUTEAS. He gave to the peony world an exciting new race of flowers, hybrids with colors so beautiful, they can only be described as exotic.*

*It just takes one interested person to do something about saving the species. Mr. Leo Fernig of France has taken it upon himself to find a few interested people to locate plants and seeds in the wild, to grow them, and exchange the seed to be grown in private gardens. His address is: Leo Fernig, La Fougere, Lucinges, 74380 Bonne, France.*

*With the interest at the present time, it is of benefit to publish a nomenclature of Peony Species by A.P. Saunders from the Boyds Manual. Species that are not familiar to many are described, which answers some questions that have been received in this office. —Editor*



## PEONY SPECIES

(Other than *albiflora* and *moutan*)

By A. P. SAUNDERS

**M**ANY SPECIES of the genus *Pæonia* are practically unknown to American gardens. Some have received attention from the plant-breeder in past times, especially in England, and today there is far more appreciation of their value there than among American growers. But it must be admitted that among the garden varieties which have been introduced there were a good many of not very conspicuous value; some of these have gradually disappeared from the catalogues of nurserymen, while other forms have never been appreciated at their true worth or have fallen into undeserved neglect. There are varieties which could never be adequately neglected—with flowers of such a muddy purple color as only a perverted color-sense could tolerate. Yet who can say? Perhaps from some of the most dull and lowering magentas the magic wand of the hybridist may one day call forth, as it has done with many another plant, glowing and glorious crimsons, cerises, and pinks.

Far be it from me to attempt to unravel the knotty questions of synonymy and the delimitation of species. I shall indicate what the best authorities have said, but I shall not seek to add to their utterances.

The chief monographs on the peony are those of Anderson (1817), Baker (1884), and Lynch (1890). In connection with these must always be consulted the *Index Kewensis*. There are also short monographs in Nicholson's *Dictionary of Gardening* and in Bailey's *Cyclopedia of Horticulture*, but neither adds anything to the much more complete treatments of Baker and Lynch. The monograph of Anderson, the most detailed of all, now more than a century old, must be considered somewhat out of date, but it should not be lost sight of, for it is a mine of interesting information.

Through the photostat service maintained in many of the larger libraries, copies of these monographs may be had at a moderate cost by anyone who wishes to have them for consultation. For further information regarding them, see the chapter on Bibliography in this volume.

References are made in the following pages to good illustra-

(277)



tions of the various species where I have found any in the gardening magazines. Some of these are black and white, some in color. In addition there are color plates of a great many species and some varieties in *Curtis' Botanical Magazine*, *The Botanical Register* (later Edwards'), in *Andrews' Botanists Repository*, and in *Loddige's Botanical Cabinet*. These are often very unsatisfactory as illustrations, but with the accompanying text they are useful, and they are therefore indicated under the respective species.

The species are here taken in alphabetical order without paying direct attention to their affinities from the botanical point of view—a subject on which there has been much discussion and on which there will be much more before any final conclusions are reached. Here, too, will be found the varieties of species other than *albiflora* and *moutan* which have been introduced into commerce.

It is to be remembered that many varietal forms have been found wild and therefore only a part of the varieties listed under a species may be the result of the work of plant-breeders.

I insert here, for convenience of reference, a check list of species and varieties included in this chapter. The designation "suppl. list" refers the reader to the supplementary list at the end of the chapter. In the case of all well-established species where the name appears without reference in the following list, the species is to be sought in its proper alphabetical position in the later detailed list. The varieties will be found under the species indicated in brackets after the varietal name.

alba (decora, Delavayi, obovata, triternata)	atlantica (suppl. list)
alba mutabilis (officinalis)	atrorubra plena (officinalis)
alba plena (officinalis)	Avant Garde (Wittmanniana)
albiflora	Bakeri
algeriensis (suppl. list)	banatica (suppl. list)
Alpha (Wittmanniana)	Barri
amaranthescens sphaerica (officinalis)	Baxteri (arietina)
Andersoni (arietina)	Beresowskyi
anemoneflora (officinalis)	Biebersteiniana (suppl. list)
anemoneflora elegans (officinalis)	bifurcata (suppl. list)
anemoneflora aurea ligulata (officinalis)	blanda (officinalis)
anemoneflora pompadoura (officinalis)	Blushing Maid (peregrina)
anemoneflora rosea (officinalis)	Brilliant (peregrina)
angustiloba (Delavayi)	Broteri
anomala	Browni
arborea	Byzantina
arietina	



- californica*  
*Cambessedesii*  
*carnea plena* (officinalis)  
*carnescens* (officinalis)  
*Ceres* (officinalis)  
*Charmer* (officinalis)  
*chinensis*  
*commutata* (suppl. list)  
*compacta* (peregrina)  
*corallina*  
*coriacea*  
*corsica*  
*cretica* (arietina)  
*Crown Prince* (arietina)  
  
*Daniel Dewar* (peregrina)  
*daurica*  
*daurica flore pleno* (officinalis)  
*decora*  
*Delavayi*  
*Diogenes* (arietina)  
  
*Eclair* (officinalis)  
*elator* (decora)  
*Emodi*  
*Emodi forma*  
*Erigone* (officinalis)  
*Etoile de Pluton* (officinalis)  
*Excelsior* (arietina)  
*Exquisite* (peregrina)  
  
*fimbriata* (officinalis)  
*fimbriata plena* (officinalis)  
*Fire King* (officinalis)  
*flavescens* (corallina)  
*fulgens* (officinalis)  
  
*Gertrude Jekyll* (decora)  
*glabrata* (Emodi)  
*glabrescens* (suppl. list)  
*Grevillei rosea* (peregrina)  
*Grevillei rubra* (peregrina)  
  
*Hartwissiana* (suppl. list)  
*hirsuta*  
*humilis*  
*hybrida* (under H, but also under Wittmanniana and tenuifolia)  
  
*Ianthe* (decora)  
*incarnata plena* (officinalis)  
*insignis* (anomala)  
*intermedia* (anomala)  
  
*japonica*  
*Jonathan Gibson* (microcarpa)  
  
*Kavachensis* (suppl. list)  
  
*L'Espérance* (lutea)  
*La Brillante* (officinalis)  
*La Lorraine* (lutea)  
*La Mauresque* (officinalis)  
*La Nègresse* (officinalis)  
*laciniata* (tenuifolia)  
*latifolia* (tenuifolia)  
*ferocarpa* (suppl. list)  
*Lemoinei*  
*Le Printemps* (Wittmanniana)  
*Lize van Veen* (officinalis)  
*lobata* (officinalis)  
*Lucida* (officinalis)  
*lutea*  
  
*Madame Louis Henry* (lutea)  
*macrophylla*  
*Mai fleuri* (Wittmanniana)  
*Mairei* (suppl. list)  
*major* (Russi)  
*Matador* (arietina)  
*maxima rosea plena* (officinalis)  
*Max Leichtlin* (arietina)  
*Messagère* (Wittmanniana)  
*microcarpa*  
*Mlokoewitschi*  
*modesta* (suppl. list)  
*mollis*  
*monticola* (suppl. list)  
*moutan*  
  
*Nemesis* (officinalis)  
*Noble pourpre* (officinalis)  
*Northern Glory* (arietina)  
  
*obovata*  
*officinalis*  
*Ophia* (officinalis)  
*oreogeton*  
*Oriflamme* (officinalis)  
*Otto Froebel* (officinalis)  
*Ourika* (officinalis)  
*oxoniensis* (arietina)  
*oxypetala* (suppl. list)  
  
*Pallasi* (decora)  
*paradoxa*  
*Penelope* (arietina)  
*peregrina*  
*Peter Barr* (anomala)  
*pomponia striata* (officinalis)  
*pomponia violacea* (officinalis)  
*Potanini*  
*Proserpine* (officinalis)



## 280 MANUAL OF THE AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY

pubens	Smouthi (anomala)
pulchella plena (officinalis)	Souvenir de Maxime Cornu (lutea)
Purple Emperor (arietina)	splendens (officinalis, Wittmanniana)
purpurea plena (officinalis)	striata elegans (officinalis)
Reine de Mai (Wittmanniana)	Superba (lutea)
Revelieri (suppl. list)	suffruticosa
rosea (officinalis, tenuifolia, Wittmanniana)	Sunbeam (officinalis)
rosea pallida plena (officinalis)	Surprise (lutea)
rosea plena (officinalis)	Tartarica (officinalis)
rosea superba plena (officinalis)	tenuifolia
Rosy Gem (arietina)	The Sultan (officinalis)
rubescens plena (officinalis)	triternata
rubra plena (officinalis)	Veitchi
rubra striata (officinalis)	Venusta (Wittmanniana)
Ruby Queen (peregrina)	Villarsii (suppl. list)
Russi	villosa
Sabini (officinalis)	violacea fimbriata plena (officinalis)
sanguinea plena (officinalis)	violacea sphaerica (officinalis)
Satin Rouge (lutea)	Willmottiae
Seraph (peregrina)	Wittmanniana
sinensis	Woodwardi

*P. albiflora*, or *sinensis* is the source of most varieties in American commerce, treated fully in other parts of this Manual.

*P. anomala*. "Occurs as a wild plant in Europe, sparingly in Lapland, and in Asia it is spread all through the western half of Siberia, especially in the Ural and Altai ranges of mountains and round Lake Baikal. It is a well-marked type midway between *P. tenuifolia* and *P. officinalis*."—*Baker*.

Flowers bright crimson, 4 inches in diameter. (Bot. Mag., Pl. 1754. Andrews Bot. Rep., 514.)

### Varieties:

Smouthi	intermedia
insignis	Peter Barr

The last, which we may assume to be a seedling raised in the Barr Nurseries, is a good plant with flowers of a brilliant and effective crimson.

*P. arborea*. Syn. *P. moutan*.

*P. arietina*. Referred by Kew to *P. peregrina*. "Not distinct from *peregrina* in a broad sense."—*Baker*.

Flowers dark red, 4 inches in diameter. (Bot. Reg., Pl. 819, var. *cretica*.)

### Varieties:

Andersoni	Matador
Baxteri	Northern Glory
cretica	oxoniensis. Syn. <i>cretica</i>
Crown Prince	Penelope
Diogenes	Purple Emperor
Excelsior	Rosy Gem
Max Leichtlin	



Such of these varieties as I have had in cultivation have not shown themselves to be particularly desirable, the shades of red inclining too much toward a dull and purplish color.

The variety *cretica* has been sometimes given specific rank. It often goes under the name *P. arietina oxoniensis*. It is said to be one of the first peonies to bloom, coming even before *P. tenuifolia*. The flowers are pale rose or nearly white. The plant occurs wild in the mountains of Crete.

*P. Bakeri* (*P. peregrina byzantina*, Hort. Barr), Lynch. Flowers 4-5 inches in diameter, deep rose. This species was first recognized by Lynch in his monograph. It is regarded by Kew as distinct.

*P. Barri*. See under *P. Russi*.

*P. Baxteri*. See under *P. arietina*.

*P. Beresowskyi*. Referred by Kew to *P. anomala*. The plant is alluded to by Farrer who found it, or something which he took for it, in the mountains of western China. He describes it as a species "of singular charm and delightfulness," the flowers being "in all sorts of clean tones of rosy pink, light or dark, with a golden eye of stamens and so intoxicating a fragrance of roses that all the hill becomes a rose-garden as you go by its generous jungles of large and lovely blossom in May and June." (English Rock Garden, Appendix.)

The plant is not in commerce. It was named and described by Komarov in the notes of the Botanical Garden of Petrograd, 1921. It belongs in the group including *anomala*, *intermedia*, *Veitchi*, and *Woodwardi*.

*P. Broteri*. Referred by Kew to *P. corallina*. "Intermediate between *P. officinalis* and *P. corallina*."—Baker.

A native of the mountain and sub-alpine regions of Spain and Portugal. Flowers rose-red, sometimes white.

*P. Browni*. (Bot. Reg. 1839, Pl. 30.) Found up to the snowy region on the Sierras of California. The only American species. Flower dull red, about 1 inch in diameter, the petals scarcely longer than the very leafy calyx. The bloom is not conspicuous for beauty.

Variety:

Californica. Specific rank has sometimes been claimed for this variety, but it is probably not sufficiently distinct from the type.

*P. Byzantina*. Syn. *P. decora*. Kew. See also *P. Bakeri*. (Bot. Mag., Pl. 1050.)

*P. californica*. See *P. Browni*.

*P. Cambessedesii*. Referred by Kew to *P. corallina*. (Bot. Mag., Pl. 8161.) Native to the Balearic Islands and Corsica. Flowers deep rose-pink. Leaves bright purple beneath. There is a fine color plate of this plant in Sir Herbert Maxwell's "Garden Notebook," where it is highly praised.

*P. chinensis*. Syns. *P. sinensis*; *P. albiflora*.

*P. corallina*. A native of southern Europe and Asia Minor. Flowers



## 282. *MANUAL OF THE AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY*

crimson or rose-red. The species is found on the Island of Steep Holm in the Bristol Channel, England, and therefore has sometimes been claimed as a British species, but the weight of authority is against such an assumption.

Variety:

*flavescens*

*P. coriacea*. Alps of Granada; mountains of Morocco and Algeria. Flowers bright crimson.

*P. corsica*. Referred by Kew to *P. corallina*. Native to Corsica. Considered by Baker and others as a distinct species.

*P. cretica*. Syns. *P. arietina cretica*, *P. arietina oxoniensis*. This variety, along with the whole of *P. arietina*, is referred by Kew to *P. peregrina*.

*P. daurica*. Referred by Kew to *P. corallina*, but by Baker to *P. trilobata*. (Bot. Mag., Vol. 35, Pl. 1441.) Native to Siberia.

*P. decora*. "The alliance of this is to *P. arietina*."—Baker.

Native to Anatolia, Serbia, etc. Flowers crimson.

Varieties:

*alba*

*Ianthe*

*elatior*

*Pallasi*

*Gertrude Jekyll*

*Decora of Monte Gear*

*P. Delavayi*. (1886.) Western China. Introduced 1904. A shrubby species closely allied to *P. lutea*, but the flowers instead of being clear yellow as in *P. lutea*, are stained with dull red or are sometimes red throughout. Also the foliage is more finely divided than in *P. lutea*. The plant is conspicuously handsome for its foliage, but the blooms, which hang down among the leaves, are rather unnoticeable. They have the same lily-like fragrance as those of *P. lutea*.

Very good illustrations in Gard. Chron., 3d. ser., Vol. 68 (1920), pp. 97-98.

Varieties:

*angustiloba*, having narrower foliage. Introduced by E. H. Wilson.

*alba*

*P. Emodi*. A common temperate Himalayan plant from Kumaon to Kashmir at altitudes from 5,000 to 10,000 feet.

Flowers white, 3 to 4 inches in diameter, the petals about 2 inches broad. Several flowers are borne on one stem, a peculiarity shared only with *P. albiflora*, *P. Veitchi*, and *P. Woodwardi*.

The plant is generally considered to be akin to *P. albiflora*, but it is referred by Kew to *P. anomala*. The name is from the Greek Emodos signifying the Himalayan range.

A fine color-plate of this beautiful flower appeared in *The Garden*, Vol. 45 (1894), p. 70.

Varieties:

*glabrata*

*Emodi forma*



These varieties have, I think, only been made the subjects of notes in gardening papers and have never been, in any sense, distributed.

*P. hirsuta*. Referred to *P. peregrina* or to *P. corallina*. Probably not a true species.

*P. humilis*. South of France, and Spain. (Bot. Mag., Pl. 1422.) "Not distinct from *P. officinalis* and *P. peregrina* in any broad sense." —Baker. Flowers bright red.

*P. hybrida*. According to Lynch, this species which is near *P. tenuifolia*, is a true species and not a hybrid. Not stoloniferous. Flowers dark crimson. Baker considers it a variety of *P. tenuifolia*, with which Kew agrees. It is said to have originated in the St. Petersburg Botanic Garden, where it was found by Pallas growing near to its two parents (*anomala* and *tenuifolia*). This does not agree with Lynch's statement that it occurs wild in the Caucasus region.

*P. intermedia*. See *P. anomala*.

*P. japonica*. (Miyabe and Takeda, Gard. Chron., 3d. ser., Vol. 48 (1910), p. 366. See *P. obovata*.)

*P. Lemoinei*. This name is applied to the hybrids obtained by Lemoine through crossing *P. lutea* with *P. moutan*.

*P. lobata*. See under *P. officinalis*.

*P. lutea*. Considered by some as a variety of *P. Delavayi*. Native to China. Introduced in 1886. A shrubby species with very handsome foliage something like that of *P. moutan* but more finely divided. Flowers bright yellow, very fragrant, 2 to 4 inches in diameter. The plant is hardy, but in northern regions is apt to die back to the ground each winter, and is thus practically herbaceous in habit. In addition to the spring flowering, blooms are occasionally set in August or September.

There is a good picture of *P. lutea* in *The Garden*, Vol. 76 (1912), p. 416, and a beautiful color plate in Mrs. Harding's "Book of the Peony," p. 114.

#### Varieties:

*superba*, with flowers somewhat larger than the type.

#### Hybrids with *P. moutan*:

*Argosy*. (Saunders, 1928.)

*L'Espérance*. (Lemoine, 1909.) Very good picture, *Revue Hort.*, 1912, p. 300.

*La Lorraine*. (Lemoine, 1913.) Good color plate in *Gard. Chron.* 3d. ser. Vol. 57 (1915), p. 56. Black and white in *The Garden*, Vol. 77, p. 292.

*Madame Louis Henry*. (Henry, 1919.)

*Satin Rouge*. (Lemoine, 1926.)

*Souvenir de Maxime Cornu*. (Henry, 1919.) Good picture *Revue Hort.*, 1908, p. 322. Also color plate *Revue Hort.*, 1911, p. 472.

*Surprise*. (Lemoine, 1920.)



These hybrids are plants of the highest merit, the beginning of a magnificent race of yellow tree peonies.

Rehder has separated this group of hybrids under the name *P. Lemoinei*.

*P. macrophylla*. (1897.) A white-flowered species from the Caucasus region. The flowers in the bud stage are often greenish or yellowish, but the expanded flower is white. I have raised a number of seedlings and they all agree with this description. A very handsome plant. The leaflets, which are entire, are much larger than those of any other species. The terminal leaflet is usually about 6 inches long by 3 to 4 inches broad, but I have seen it as large as 9 inches in length by 6 in breadth. The leaves have a characteristic odor, not unlike that of box, which is particularly strong on bright sunny days when it may sometimes be noticed at a distance of 10 to 15 feet.

This is a very early-blooming species, coming with, or sometimes two to three days before the single *P. tenuifolia*, and about ten to twelve days before the beginning of the *P. officinalis* varieties.

*P. microcarpa*. Mountains of Spain. "A very near ally of *P. humilis*."—*Baker*. Flowers bright crimson. Not attractive.

Variety:

Jonathan Gibson.

*P. Mlokoewitschi*. (1897.) Native to the Caucasus region. (*Bot. Mag.*, Pl. 8173.) This is a fine species with flowers of a clear light yellow which is retained unaltered until the petals fall. The color is a shade deeper than in *P. Wittmanniana*. Seedlings show not much variation in color. The foliage is also handsome and very individual. Altogether a most desirable garden plant. Two good pictures in *Revue Hort.*, 1911, p. 431.

*P. mollis*. (*Bot. Reg.*, Vol. 6, No. 474. *Lod. Bot. Cab.*, Vol. 13, No. 1263.) "Not distinct from *P. paradoxa* in any broad sense."—*Baker*. But Lynch considers it a good species. Flowers small, purple-red.

*P. moutan*. The parent plant of the great race of Chinese tree peonies. See the special discussion of these plants by Mr. J. C. Wister elsewhere in this Manual.\*

*P. obovata*. Native to northern China and Japan. Flowers purplish red.

Variety:

*alba*. Good picture in *Gard. Chron.*, 3d. ser., Vol. 70 (1921), p. 147, and in *The Garden*, Vol. 89 (1925), p. 319. Said to be a very desirable plant.

The wild peony of Japan is *P. obovata*, with its variety *alba*. There is also a peony in Japan to which the name *P. japonica* has been given, but from the description this appears to be at least very near *P. obovata alba*. Then there is the species *P. oreogeton* which is native to Corea, and this appears also to be closely related to the *P. obovata* of Japan.

In western China there is a white peony which has also been

\*Page 219.—EDITOR.



called *P. obovata alba*. This is probably the same plant as *P. Willmottia*, or at least is very near it, and E. H. Wilson believes it is different from the *P. obovata* of Japan.

There is a confusing situation here which can only be cleared up by a comparison of the living plants. I have had none of them so far under observation. As for the illustrations mentioned in the text in connection with these various forms, the uncertainty attached to the names is inseparable from the pictures that accompany them.

*P. officinalis*. Southern Europe. This species has been cultivated in European gardens for centuries, and has given rise to a number of brilliant and lovely varieties. There is much confusion regarding those which are to be traced back to *P. officinalis* and those derived from *P. paradoxa*.

Vilmorin ("Fleurs de Pleine Terre") separates two groups under these two specific names; and he states that those derived from *P. paradoxa* are easily distinguished by the *glaucescence* (bluish greenness) of the foliage. Unfortunately, Vilmorin does not include in his list by any means all of the varieties which are, or have been, in commerce.

Since these forms when offered in nurserymen's lists are usually grouped all together under *P. officinalis*, I have listed them all here, making a separate group of those which, according to Vilmorin, should be referred to *P. paradoxa*.

A further complication arises from the fact that several varieties have been produced from *P. lobata*. This is itself to be considered as a variety of *P. officinalis*, and it is not always possible in the case of named varieties to say whether they should be referred to *P. lobata* or to the broader species *P. officinalis*.

Varieties probably referable to *P. officinalis*:

alba mutabilis	lobata
alba plena	Otto Froebel
atrorubra plena	Sunbeam
anemoneflora	maxima rosea plena
blanda	Ophia
carnea plena. Syn. alba	Oriflamme
mutabilis	purpurea plena
carnescens	rosea (single)
Ceres	rosea pallida plena. Syn. alba
Charmer	mutabilis
Eclair. Syn. alba mutabilis	rosea plena
Fire King	rosea superba plena (rated 8.2
fulgens	in symposium, 1925)
incarnata plena. Syn. alba	rubra plena (rated 8.6 in sym-
mutabilis	posium, 1925)
Lize van Veen. Sport from	Sabini
<i>P. rosea superba</i> , which	sanguinea plena
has been recently intro-	splendens
duced into commerce in	striata elegans
Holland.	The Sultan



Varieties probably to be referred to *P. paradoxa*:

amaranthescens sphærica	La Nègresse
anemoneflora elegans	Nemesis
anemoneflora aurea ligulata	Noble pourpre
Erigone	Proserpine
Etoile de Pluton	pulchella plena
fimbriata	rubra striata
fimbriata plena	violacea fimbriata plena
La Brillante	violacea sphærica
La Mauresque	

Varieties for which reference to *P. officinalis* or *P. paradoxa* is doubtful:

anemoneflora pompadoura	pomponia striata
anemoneflora rosea	pomponia violacea
daurica flore-pleno	rubescens plena
Lucida	Tartarica
Ourika	

A great many of the above varieties are now unobtainable, or at least have disappeared from catalogues. Of those which I have grown, the best are: rubra plena (the old double crimson), rosea plena, Sabini, striata elegans, anemoneflora aurea ligulata, and particularly the variety of *P. lobata* called Otto Froebel which has large single flowers of an almost salmon-rose color. Mr. Franklin Mead also praises very highly the variety Ophia, and the late Reginald Farrer described the variety Sunbeam in glowing terms.

*P. oreogeton*. (S. Moore in Journ. Linn. Soc., Vol. 17 [1880].) See *P. obovata*.

*P. paradoxa*. Native to the Levant. "Like *P. peregrina*, of which it is not in any broad sense more than a variety."—*Baker*.

Flowers purple-red.

Varieties:

A good many garden varieties have been produced from this species. As they are confused with those belonging to *P. officinalis*, I have listed them all under that species.

*P. peregrina*. South Europe. (Bot. Mag., Vol. 26, Pl. 1050.) "Not distinct from *P. officinalis* as a species in any broad sense. I do not know how to distinguish it from *P. pubens* or *P. banatica*."—*Baker*.

Flowers bright crimson.

Varieties:

Blushing Maid	Exquisite
Brilliant	Grevillei rosea
Byzantina	Grevillei rubra
compacta	Ruby Queen
Daniel Dewar	Seraph

*P. Potanini* (Komarov). Syn. *P. Delavayi angustiloba*.

*P. pubens*. Referred by Baker to *P. peregrina*. Considered a true species by Lynch.

Flowers rosy red. (Bot. Mag., Vol. 48, Pl. 2264.)



*P. Russi*. (Bot. Mag., Vol. 62, Pl. 3431.) There are two forms under this name. The one usually called *P. Russi* is referred by Kew to *P. coriacea*. Lynch makes a new species of it, calling it *P. Barri*.

The other form usually called *P. Russi Bivona* is referred by Kew to *P. corallina*.

"Scarcely more than a variety of *P. corallina*."—*Baker*.

Sicily, Corsica, Sardinia, Algeria.

Variety:

*major*. A hybrid between *P. Russi* and *P. Wittmanniana*.

"A tall and vigorous sort; large obovate leaflets, bronze-green, hairy on the under side. Very large flowers, carmine-rose shaded mauve; carpels villous. One of the earliest. May 1."—*Lemoine's catalogue*.

*P. sinensis*. Syn. *P. albiflora*.

*P. Smouthi*. See *P. anomala*.

*P. suffruticosa*. Syn. *P. moutan*.

*P. tenuifolia*. (Bot. Mag., Vol. 24, Pl. 926.) Transylvania to the Crimea, Caucasus, and Armenia. The fern-leaved peony. One of the earliest peonies to bloom. The single form, which blossoms earlier than the double, usually antedates the first Chinese peonies about a month. The flowers are not large, but they are fine clear crimson—brighter and cleaner than most of the red-flowered species. The plant is stoloniferous. The single form rated 7.8 in the symposium of 1925.

Varieties:

*hybrida*

*laciniata*

*latifolia*

*rosea*

*flore-pleno*. There is a good color plate of the double variety in Mrs. Harding's "Book of the Peony," p. 106. (Rated 8.5 in symposium, 1925.)

*P. triternata*. (Andrews Bot. Rep., 486.) "A near ally of *P. corallina*."—*Baker*.

Caucasus region, Asia Minor, and the Crimea. Flowers rose-red.

Variety:

*alba*

*P. Veitchi*. Introduced from western China by E. H. Wilson in 1904. The plant is dwarf-growing and bears somewhat nodding purplish red flowers of a rather unattractive shade, several on one stem.

There is a very good picture of the species in *The Gardener's Chronicle*, 3d ser., Vol. 46, p. 2, and also in Vol. 81 (1927), p. 425.

*P. villosa*. Lynch considers that this is a distinct species, closely related to *P. mollis*. Flowers white.

*P. Wittmanniana*. (Bot. Mag., Vol. 108, Pl. 6645. Bot. Reg., 1846, No. 9.) Caucasus and northern Persia, 1842.

This species and *P. Mlokosewitschi* are the only known herbaceous peonies having yellow flowers. The color in *P. Wittmanniana* is paler than *P. Mlokosewitschi*, the general habit quite different.



## Varieties:

Alpha. (Arends.) Hybrid of *P. peregrina* with *P. Wittmanniana*.

Avant Garde. (Lemoine, 1907.) *sinensis* × *Wittmanniana*.  
(Rated 8.6 in symposium, 1925.)

hybrida. *P. peregrina* × *P. Wittmanniana*.

Le Printemps. (Lemoine, 1905.) *sinensis* × *Wittmanniana*.  
(Rated 8.6 in symposium, 1925.)

Mai fleuri. (Lemoine, 1905.) *sinensis* × *Wittmanniana*. (Rated  
8.4 in symposium, 1925.)

Messagère. (Lemoine, 1909.) *sinensis* × *Wittmanniana*.

Reine de Mai. (Arends.) Hybrid of *P. peregrina* with *P. Wittmanniana*.

rosea. Probably a hybrid.

splendens. *P. Wittmanniana* × *P. Officinalis*.

Venusta. (Lemoine, 1916.) Hybrid?

Of these hybrids Le Printemps, Mai fleuri, and Avant Garde are plants of great beauty for the garden. They are very early bloomers, coming well before the *P. officinalis* varieties. A good picture of Le Printemps will be found in Mrs. Harding's "Book of the Peony," p. 108.

*P. Willmottiae*. "In Bot. Mag., Pl. 8667, Dr. Stapf made *P. Willmottiae* a distinct species; he regarded *P. obovata alba* as its nearest ally."—Kew.

Considered by some authorities as identical with *P. obovata alba*. The flowers are white and are said to be very beautiful. Originally sent to England from China by E. H. Wilson, and named in 1916.

Good picture in *The Garden*, Vol. 83 (1919), p. 253.

*P. Woodwardi*. Referred by Kew to *P. Veitchi*. Originally collected in Kansu between China and Tibet, and first flowered in England in 1915.

In foliage and general character it is very similar to *P. Veitchi* but the flowers are rose-pink instead of magenta-red, as in *P. Veitchi*, and come about a week earlier.

## SUPPLEMENTARY LIST

Forms sometimes listed as species but doubtfully distinct; and like! to be referred to one or other of the species treated above:

<i>algeriensis</i>	<i>Kavachensis</i>
<i>atlantica</i> ( <i>P. corallina</i> , Kew.)	<i>leiocarpa</i> ( <i>P. peregrina</i> , Kew.)
<i>banatica</i> ( <i>P. officinalis</i> , Kew.)	<i>Mairei</i>
<i>bifurcata</i>	<i>modesta</i>
<i>Biebersteiniana</i> ( <i>P. tenuifolia</i> ?)	<i>monticola</i>
<i>commutata</i>	<i>oxypetala</i>
<i>flavescens</i> ( <i>P. corallina</i> , Kew.)	<i>Revelieri</i>
<i>glabrescens</i>	<i>subternata</i>
<i>Hartwissiana</i> ( <i>P. Wittmanniana</i> , Kew.)	<i>Villarsii</i>

Consult the Index Kewensis for many names which have been applied to various forms now displaced or referred to established types.



# SELECT PEONIES FOR FALL PLANTING NOW

*By the late Clarence Lienau — also descriptions of peonies listed.*

This is the time to plan your peony garden. The location is most important as it must be in full sun, with good drainage. Peonies will grow in partial shade but they will have sparse bloom and the plant will not be strong and robust. Consider the perimeter of your lawn, with your planting two feet from the fence or edge of the location. A design artistically planned in your lawn would be added beautification to your home, or plant a long row along your driveway.

The peony plant makes beautiful, attractive bushes after blooming. With the coming of cool weather, the foliage is colorful with red and bronze until heavy frost. It is then the entire plant should be cut to the ground.

In planting leave three feet between each plant, measuring from the crown. If space is no problem, four feet would be better.

Soil is the secret for good peonies. A good garden loam that is suitable for vegetables will also grow good peonies. If soil is sandy or full of heavy excavation clay and debris such as most builders leave in the ground, it is imperative that a hole be dug 2 feet in diameter and one and one-half feet deep; then replace with clay loam (heavy fertile top soil) for each plant. This work will repay you many times, with abundance of bloom and a strong, healthy bush. Prepare the holes or planting area several weeks in advance, so the ground will be settled before planting time.

We advise planting in September, October and November or up to the time the ground freezes. Directions for planting are always included with your order by the commercial growers.

If at all possible, try to visit a commercial garden at blooming time and select your plants. There are early, midseason and late blooming varieties in all types. The blooming period can be extended by selecting the correct varieties. In a normal season, blooms will usually last three or four full weeks.

## DOUBLES

KANSAS — Early light red, tall with strong stems.  
BONANZA — Dark red, medium height, midseason bloom.  
PAUL M. WILD — Brilliant medium dark red, late.  
HIGHLIGHT — Dark, dark red, midseason bloom.  
DOUGLAS BRAND — Brilliant full double red, midseason, very strong stems, blooms 9-10 inches in size.  
PRINCESS MARGARET — Dark pink, medium height, midseason.  
EMMA KLEHM — Late, medium height dark pink.  
ENSIGN MORIARTY — Large bloom, good strong stems, late midseason, beauty, dark pink.  
MRS. FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT — Large, light pink, a most attractive peony.



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**GARDENIA** — Large beautiful gardenia form, medium height.  
**DR. J. H. NEELEY** — A gorgeous large beautifully formed late white.  
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### SEMI-DOUBLE

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**MINNIE SHAYLOR** — medium size, many petals, a beauty, white.  
**MARGARET LOUGH** — Low grower, excellent, white.  
**THE MIGHTY MO** — Medium to large light red.

### JAPANESE

**BU-TE** — Very large, tall, late long yellow staminodes, white.  
**POLAR STAR** — tall white late, strong stems, yellow staminodes.  
**WESTERNER** — Beautiful shade of medium pink, center is filled with golden staminodes.  
**KAY TISCHLER** — Bright pink and cream, tall, large plant, bright pink staminodes.  
**NEON** — color of rose and gold, late to midseason.  
**DIGNITY** — medium height, dark red — more gold in its staminodes than any other flower.  
**CHARM** — A dark red and gold, medium to tall, many blooms.

### SINGLES

**PICO** — Large pure white cup shaped, center full of stamens, tall.  
**SPELLBINDER** — Late, medium cup size, yellow center medium height. White.  
**SEA SHELL** — Pink, tall, midseason to late bloom.  
**SPARKLING STAR** — Tall, large, deep, pink early.  
**PRESIDENT LINCOLN** — Late, tall, large deep dark red.

### HYBRIDS

**RED CHARM** — Strong grower, unusual red color, medium height, bomb type.  
**WALTER MAINS** — Japanese hybrid. Large, tall, strong grower, deep red, gold staminodes.  
**CARINA** — Large, semi-double, brilliant red.  
**CYTHEREA** — Peach pink — some call it coral pink, semi-double hybrid, medium height, good strong stems.  
**PAULA FAY** — Radiant deep rose pink, semi-double, medium height.  
**FLAME** — Bright coral pink, semi-double, medium height.  
**PRAIRIE MOON** — Large clear cream yellow, semi-double, medium height.  
**CORAL CHARM** — Semi-double — a true coral color, strong stems, profuse bloomer.



# Letters

"I live on a farm and have some peonies and daylilies. When we moved here in 1954, there were many pink double peonies, all the same variety. They were unnamed; I have added about 20 named varieties, and want to add more good varieties, so I have enjoyed the BULLETIN very much. This March issue is a treasure!"

—Irdene Bonger, South Dakota

\* \* \* \*

Nancy Watson Dean of Rochester, NY, 6 Sibley Place, writes:

"We have about fifty tree peonies; some are taller than we are. We welcome visitors!"

\* \* \* \*

From Ward Molly, Elkhart, IA, R.R.:

"The Iowa Arboretum has about a dozen peonies such as JOHN HARVARD, MOONSTONE, MONS JULES ELIE, PHILIPPE RIVOIRE, FERN LEAF, MRS. LIVINGSTONE FERRAND, SEA SHELL, DORIS COOPER, and RED CHARM.

They have pea gravel around the peonies. This I am concerned about, since it might tend to draw heat. The peonies do look healthy."



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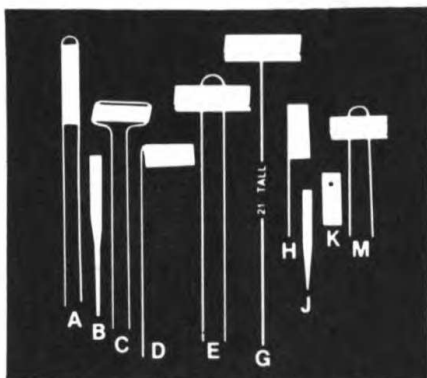
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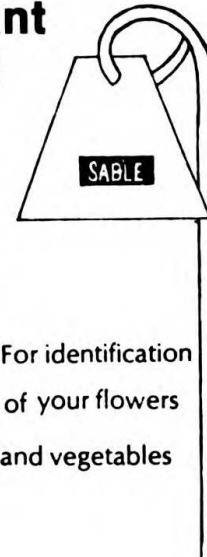
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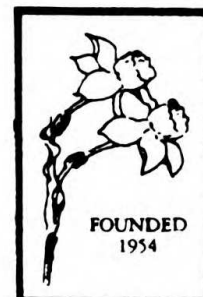
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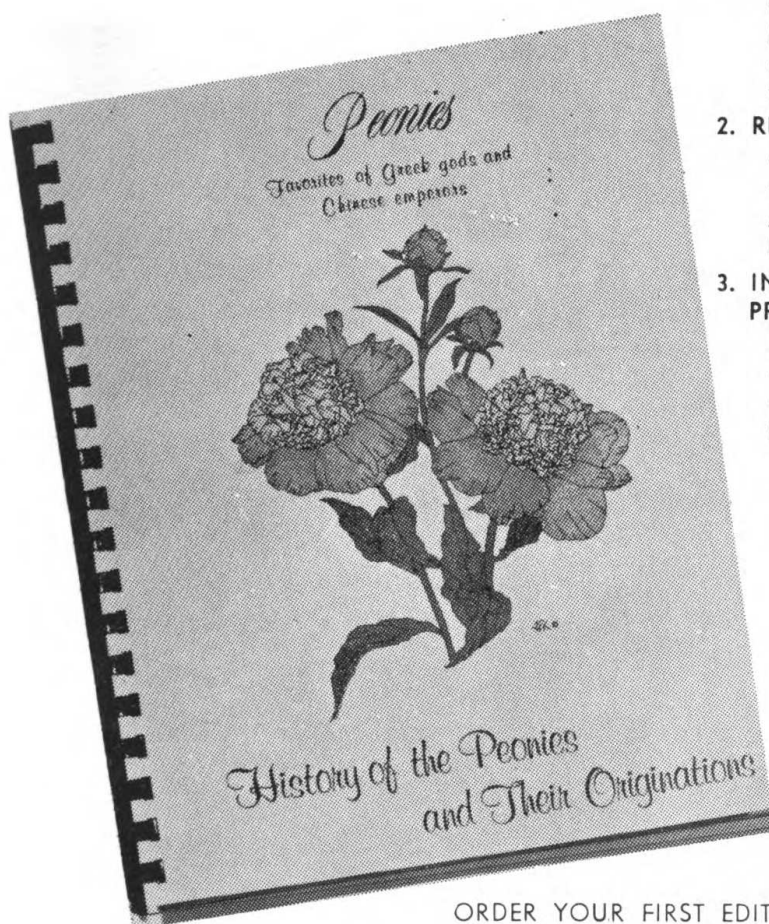
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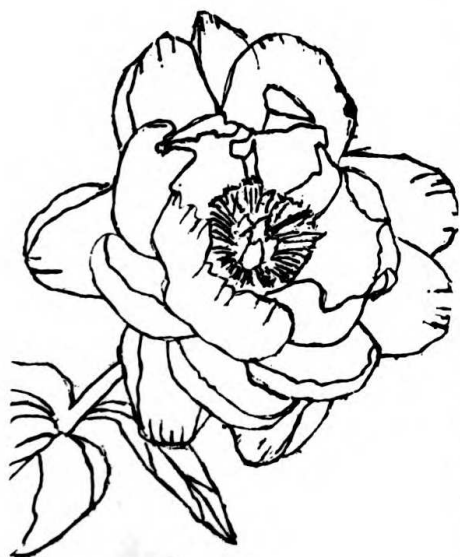
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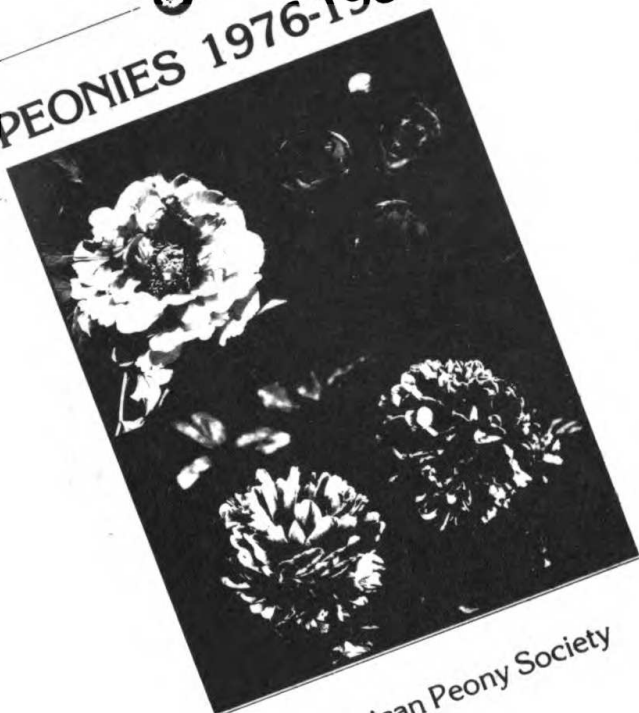
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