

Life

DECEMBER 1989  
NO. 272

# 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 Daphnis,  
David Reath, Toichi Domoto,  
Don Hollingsworth and Roger Anderson*

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**AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY**  
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## AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY

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### DEPT. OF REGISTRATION

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

Greta M. Kessenich, Secretary

### OBJECTIVES

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

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

### MEMBERSHIP

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

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

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

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

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



# AMERICAN Peony Society Bulletin



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# Holiday Greetings





# FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

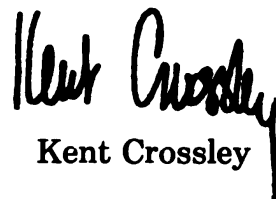
Dear Friends,

At the end of 1989, it is an appropriate time to take stock of our Society and of the year that is coming to a close. I am delighted to tell you that the American Peony Society has never been in better health than it is today.

Membership is at an all-time high. I believe this is because our annual dues have wisely been kept reasonable and because the Society has continued to develop excellent and up-to-date materials for our members. The American Tree Peony book and the updated Checklist are two recent examples. A new volume dealing with herbaceous hybrid peonies is now being written. The BULLETIN continues to be an important source of information for all of us. Color photographs on the Bulletin cover have been a wonderful addition.

The Society is in robust financial health. We have more than adequate resources to continue to produce new books and to disseminate information about peonies to our members. As we continue to grow, it is important to have adequate capital for our members' needs.

The reason we are doing so very well is simple: our Secretary-Treasurer-Editor Greta Kessenich! Greta continues to be innovative, attentive to detail, and devoted beyond measure to the peony and our Society. All of us owe her our deepest gratitude.



Kent Crossley

# PEONIES, ODORS, AND STUFF

*By Anthony De Blasi*

It's October here in West Newfield, Maine, and while maples color the background with bold splashes of red and orange and yellow, I wait for the first hard frost to knock out the tuberous begonias. They are in a spot on the east side of the house where I want to move some tree peonies. I got one in yesterday, that needs some nursing after a nomadic existence due to our moves from New York to New Hampshire, and then to Maine. Not all peonies are as strong as *Festiva Maxima*. I have noticed that the tree peonies nearest the house fair best, where they are protected from the worst of the cold snaps and winds of winter. Snow would be fine, but we haven't had a good snow cover in recent winters.

Roots get bruised in digging releasing a characteristic, sharp, pungent odor. In that primitive, nonverbal language we seem to have lost in our ascent to civilization, the message I seem to get from this odor is: don't ingest; I'm toxic. If I were looking for something to eat in the wilderness, this would definitely not be on my menu. And yet in China these roots are used in medicine and are said to be used in making a Cola-like drink. Quantity must be the key here. A few apple seeds, chewed by some for their almond-like flavor, won't harm, but a cupful is known to have killed a man.

This business of odors and flavors and toxicity is odd. Near where I moved the weak tree peony is a wormwood plant *Artemisia absinthium*, that planted itself from some stray seed. Now wormwood oil is used to flavor Vermouth, but years ago, as the chief ingredient in the drink Absinth, it was blamed for hallucinations and violent behavior and was banned.

And yet from these fleshly roots with their powerful, mysterious odor, come the necessary elements that each variety of peony uses in its unique way to form leaves, stems, and flowers of a special cast, color, and scent. There appears to be some connection between color and odor. That all-time favorite, rose fragrance, seems confined to pink and reddish-purple varieties. It seems totally absent from whites and pure reds, many of which possess that pungent, "piney" smell not pleasant to some noses. And the odorous yellows present us with that citrusy scent inherited from *P. lutea*. With peonies, the nose gets many surprises. In fact, as with *Elsa Sass*, it sometimes gets nothing. But put one blossom of *Philippe Rivoire* in a room, and visitors will swear you have a bouquet of roses in the house.

# THE WEEDS AND I

*By Ned Bayley, Silver Spring, Maryland*

When friends ask me why I chose peonies for my garden specialty, I give them an enthusiastic reply. "Because they're so easy to grow," I tell them. "Once planted, they last forever. They bloom in late Spring, and from then 'til Fall, there is little to do other than keeping the beds free from weeds."

Usually weeds are not much of a problem. I used only a hoe until my plantings increased to more than 200. Then I removed the outside tines of my roto-tiller and by using it, saved time and work. I learned the hard way to be careful with a roto-tiller. If I started daydreaming on the job, the first thing I knew the tines had tangled with one of the wire supports I use to hold the peonies erect during blooming. As often as it happened, I was always amazed at how quickly and how tightly that heavy wire could wrap around an errant tine!

I remembered that about 20 years ago, we had loaned our neighbors a high-wheel hoe. When I inquired, I was pleasantly surprised to learn they still had it — buried under other unused objects below their house. They returned it, and I found that the v-shaped blade was ideal for skimming off weeds and working in close to the plants. From then on, I left the roto-tiller in the garden house except for early Spring work when the peonies are just starting their growth.

In our part of Maryland, winter weeds, like chickweed, try to take over the beds. The ground is usually wet and often frozen so hoeing or tilling can't be done. Taking a cue from Dr. David Reath's comments at the 1986 American Peony Society seminar, I used Round Up while the plants were still dormant. After one treatment, winter weeds ceased to be troublesome.

With a single application of herbicide in the winter, roto-tilling in the Spring and pushing the high-wheel hoe during the rest of the season, weeds, as I said before, usually are not a problem — were not, that is, until this past Summer when invading weeds nearly overwhelmed the plantings.

The trouble started when Joyce, my wife, and I made a two-week trip to Alaska in late June. Because our vegetable and flower gardens are in full production during June and July, we normally take our vacation trips in the Fall and Winter, but unless one likes snow and bitter cold, visiting Alaska has to be a summertime event. So we went.

Weeds, mostly pursley, were ankle high in the peony beds when we returned home. Hoeing was out of the question. I couldn't push the high-wheel hoe through the tangle. The roto-tiller only loosened the ground. The lush growth of pursley had to be pulled and carried off the beds. Even a scrap of it left on the ground would have taken root.

What did I do? Crawling on my knees, I hand weeded the pesky intruders, hauled cartloads away and piled them in the woods.



After several long days, the weeds were once more under control, and I looked forward to the usual August of running through the beds occasionally with the high-wheel hoe. But it was not to be.

In the first week of August, Joyce and I were in an auto accident. Our car was a wreck, but our injuries were relatively minor. Minor, yes, but I couldn't use my bruised shoulders to do vigorous work for more than a month!

And the weeds grew back. Ubiquitous pursley carpeted most of the ground in green and red like a deep piled, shag rug; other hot weather, broad-leaf weeds covered the rest of the soil with ever-spreading, pale mats of infestation; and below the surface, was a continually expanding net of tough, pernicious Johnson grass roots. Because of my temporary disability, I couldn't hand weed. I couldn't push the high-wheel hoe. I couldn't even run the tiller.

Because the peony plants were at full growth, I was reluctant to use herbicides. Despite precautions, such as holding a plywood or plastic shield against the stems and leaves, I was worried about damaging the peonies.

I have a "wand" for using Round Up near foliage. It's a long tube with a device similar to a paint roller on the end and a guard on top of the roller for working under leaves. But the so-called roller doesn't roll; it is held rigid; and the handle is so awkward, I found the wand too clumsy for use in any situation.

As she often does, Joyce came to my rescue. She said there was a paint roller on the market that had a hollow handle for holding paint and a plunger for forcing it out as one painted. Sure enough there was, and I bought one. It sucked up a load of Round Up into the handle, and then as I pushed the roller over the tops of the weeds, the herbicide flowed out and poisoned them. A guard on top of the roller made it possible to work close to the peonies. I covered all the beds in a short time; the work didn't bother my bruised shoulders, and the weeds turned brown and died.

Once again, when friends ask, I can reply enthusiastically, "I raise peonies because they're so easy to grow!"

## REGISTRATION

**BETH ERICKSON** — (R. W. Tischler) 1989.

Seedling number 100. Very early rose/lavender. Japanese type. Blooms about the same time as **Red Charm**. Plant 30" in height, good foliage.

Blooms, 4" to 6" in size. Guard petals and center same color. Center has a fine lacy effect that fades a light pink. Yellow carpels, tipped red. Slightly fragrant.

# BELOVED PEONIES

*By Samuel S. Buranich, Jr., Camillus, New York*

A flower garden simply cannot be complete without peonies. Gardeners can select from a range of singles to doubles and colors from purest white to black-reds. There are two kinds of peonia: the herbaceous or perennial type and the tree or deciduous shrub. The tree forms are woody shrubs.

For the tree form, one must possess patience because actually this is a slow-growing bush of wood stems. With time and patience, one will be awarded with a spectacular shrub for his landscape. Indeed, while in bloom, they make for a breathtaking sight. Even their foliage, deeply-cut leaves, make for a handsome shrub.

After seeing a picture and reading about the culture of the tree peony in the Fall 1989 White Flower Farm catalog, I decided to try one tree peony. (I had been growing the herbaceous for sixteen years, twenty-one varieties.) I chose the Hesperus Saunders Hybrid, a rather dusty rose color with pink veins. The veiny effect is beautiful. Upon seeing it bloom, I could then justify in my own mind the expense and two-year wait in anticipation of a blossom.

On November 11, 1983, I planted three more Saunders Lutea Hybrids, **Renown**, **Black Pirate** and **Banquet**, along with a fourth, **Gauguin**, a Daphnis Hybrid, which is now one of my favorites. These were all from Klehm Nursery. Klehm has numerous varieties from which to select.

On August 15, 1985, I had the high honor of having David J. A. Smith, Director of Horticulture, from the White Flower Farm, Litchfield, Connecticut, present a program on peonies before the Syracuse Men's Garden Club. This excellent presentation included prize-winning slides of peonies and tree peonies. Mr. Smith stayed overnight at my home. He created a further desire on my part to add to my tree peony collection.

The following year, on April 28, I planted **Summer Night**, a Saunders Lutea Hybrid, and **Tessera**, a Daphnis Hybrid. On April 13, 1987, I added **High Noon**, a Saunders, and **Rimpo**. Then, on October 7, I planted **Yachiyo Tsubaki** and **Shintench**, both Japanese moutans. **Savage Splendor** (Saunders), was added to my collection on April 25, 1988. Last of all, I planted **Guardian of the Monastery** from William Gratwick's collection, and **Age of Gold**, another Professor A. P. Saunders Hybrid, on April 21, 1989. My "King of Flowers" collection now numbers fourteen varieties.

To highlight just a few of the tree peonies I grow:

**Renown** amazed me with its height attained last year. I measured it at 64" in October 1988. It did not get any taller for 1989. However, it astonished me with its reblooming ability this year. **Renown** continued

throwing single-form, copper-red blooms here and there in July, August and until the end of September!

Gauguin has been a favorite of mine since 1984 when I first saw it bloom in my garden. From a distance, one would think someone had splashed yellow and red paints on a lush, dark-green bush. However, as distance diminishes, one will readily see very silky muted-yellow, single-form blossoms beaming red veiny lines from the center base of the bloom to the ends of the flower petals. The petals look like they were cut from a fine bolt of oriental silk. It is my floriferous peony. The blooms have the same intense, brilliant colors that Paul Gauguin, 1848-1903, French painter, who lived in Tahiti after 1890, enjoyed in his paintings. It is for him this favorite peony tree of mine is named.

Yachiyo Tsubaki has just a delightful pink, single-form flower. It bloomed the first year planted. In the Spring of 1989, a number of my garden visitors remarked that this was the peony which they liked best because of its beautiful shade of coral pink.

I do love my peonies and eagerly await each Springtime when they light my yard with an enormous amount of color. They are definitely an attraction for visitors. Dr. and Mrs. Harry Fung, Chinese friends, who have visited my garden many times, have mentioned to me that the peony symbolizes good fortune for the Chinese people. I have many friends come by each year to enjoy the never-failing wondrous show of flowers by our beloved peonies!

## PEONIES IN DELAWARE

*Joe Bero, Newark, Delaware*

It was after World War II that I first fell in love with the peony. In my small back yard on Chicago's West Side, I planted four of these beautiful plants. Since then and time has passed until 1964, I am now located in Delaware. The soil here is mostly sandy and clay. Again I planted peonies! Good soil grows good peonies so I purchased black top soil, mixed in some bone meal with peat mulch; planted eighteen plants. They are growing and producing many large and beautiful flowers. Those eighteen plants are now 25 years old, live in the same place as when first planted. All of them are doubles, good varieties, disease resistant. Everyone should grow Nick Shaylor, Mons Jules Elie, Ann Cousins and Red Charm—just to name some good colorful, large, years-tested, varieties.

In my garden, the reds and maroons seem to be the most popular. Blooming period is about the last week in May. At that time, I display my peonies in the local restaurant. They are so enjoyed and this has become an event looked forward to with much pleasure.

I do not see too many peonies in Delaware but across the State line in Pennsylvania, which is not too far distant, is the DuPont Longwood Gardens which has great floral displays.

# PEONIES ARE TOUGH!

*Kent Crossley, M.D., St. Paul, Minnesota*

Every year at this time, I think about the hardiness of my favorite plant—the herbaceous peony. Why? Because I vividly remember an episode that occurred some seven or eight years ago. I was digging roots of Paula Fay. It began to get dark and I packed up my equipment to go home. Two weeks later, I was back at the same spot in the peony field. There on top of the ground were two peony roots. They were cleaned of dirt and sitting there as I had left them. I like Paula Fay a great deal. I simply couldn't throw the roots away. I sent them to my sister in Michigan who would never know their history! They grew the next Spring and have done well since.

When perennials are discussed, accolades for "toughness" usually go to hosta and to hemerocallis. Peonies aren't mentioned probably because of their reaction to being moved while in growth. Although a hosta clump can be relocated any time of the year, moving an herbaceous peony in the Spring or Summer is a guarantee of an unhappy plant for some time to come. Most often, a peony moved in the Summer responds with short stems and no blooms the following year. A year later, however, the plant will be normal in its growth. (Obviously, peonies should be moved in the Fall and a plant that has been in place for more than a year or two should have its roots divided for optimal performance.)

Peony roots—if kept dry—can be amazingly tough. A year or two ago in the Spring, I was in one of the Brand Peony Farm old buildings. There on a bench was a box of planting stock of a lactiflora peony abandoned three or four years earlier. The roots were in dry moss or wood shavings. The roof of the building had begun to leak and water had dripped on the box of peonies. The roots had responded by sending up shoots from their long dormant buds.

Peonies should be stored in material that is barely damp. Even fungicide treated roots stored in sphagnum moss that is too damp will rapidly rot and die. Peony roots can easily be stored over the winter if kept in slightly damp sphagnum moss. (It is more expensive than wood shavings but I have had better luck with this material. Sphagnum is known to produce antimicrobial substances and this may explain, in part, why it seems to work so well). Both hybrids and lactiflora peonies can be kept this way. I usually use closed plastic bags but an open container covered with burlap or plastic also works well.

Peonies do best in the ground and should spend as little time as possible elsewhere. Roots that are promptly replanted begin to produce new roots earlier than those in storage. However, with proper care, herbaceous peony roots can be stored for some time with little or no loss.

# **THE GARDEN**

## **(Put in their place, peonies bloom with a beauty that just won't quit)**

Permission given by Art Kozelka

Peonies are pretty and permanent, the ultimate herbaceous perennials often regarded as "lifetime" plants. Planted now, their extravagant blooms will highlight the Spring garden faithfully for generations to come—all with less attention required than to keep a bed of petunias perky.

For those developing flower beds and borders around new homes or who want to add more plants of the irresistible newer hybrids to established plantings, Autumn is the ideal time to do it, before a freeze prevents digging.

Soil and weather are just right for the task. This is when specialist growers dig their field-grown plants for market and when home gardeners can lift and divide their own plants to relocate them or share roots with gardening friends and neighbors.

Plants dug now already have developed plump new eyes (buds) below the ground after their seasonal growth and will be ready to produce their immense, fluffy flowers next Spring. Once properly planted, peonies require only minimal care and continue to flourish in the same location indefinitely.

Unlike many other perennials, they need not be divided every few years unless maturing trees and shrubs nearby begin encroaching on their share of sunlight, which is essential for good blooms. It is not uncommon to find peonies flowering reliably each Spring where they were planted half a century ago.

Accordingly, they deserve the best planting site available. This should offer full sunlight and soil that drains well. They should be highly visible for full enjoyment of their dramatic blooms in late May and early June and their attractive foliage until frost.

Along with choosing a good site, the importance of proper planting cannot be overemphasized. Here are some guidelines:

- Dig the planting holes deep enough to comfortably accommodate the plant's fleshy root system without crowding it.
- Place the plant in the center of the hole with the eyes on top of the roots facing up. The eyes should be no deeper than 1½ to 2 inches below ground level. The latter is a critical step in planting, because deeper placement of the eyes is a common reason that the plants fail to flower.
- Fill in around the roots with humus-rich topsoil, working it carefully with your fingers until no voids are left below the plant or among the roots.
- Water thoroughly, and when soil settles, add more soil to bring

it to ground level, making sure the eyes remain at the proper depth.

Plants normally can be spaced 3 to 4 feet apart. Some gardeners find them useful as a summer (or temporary hedge) along walks and driveways instead of woody shrubs. The foliage can be cut back to the ground in fall, leaving room for accumulations of shoveled winter snow to be piled safely over the dormant plants.

Though roots can be planted as long as the ground remains workable, early planting allows more time for them to become established before a freeze. Plants set out late in the season should be mulched with straw or leaves for winter protection and to keep roots from heaving. Such protection is not needed after the first winter.

Blooms of peonies are eye-catchers in the landscape, but most of the modern versions boast improved color, form and foliage for truly outstanding garden performance. Among those widely featured in Fall nursery catalogs is the fabulous Estate Series, introduced by the Charles Klehm and Son Nursery of South Barrington, which has been growing peonies since 1852.

New this year in the series are Cheddar Elite, with a golden center surrounded by white guard petals; Festiva Pixie, white with dappled red striping; Reine Supreme, a fragrant apple-blossom pink; and Petticoat Flounce, a delicately speckled soft salmon pink.

Earlier introductions that have proved to be favorites include Vivid Rose, a fragrant, shimmering deep pink; Honey Gold, pure white with tufted golden tints; Susie "Q," bright pink; Raspberry Ice, a red with silver highlights; Dinner Plate, shell pink; and Moon River, a blend of pink and creamy hues.

All Estate peonies are listed in Klehm's 1989 perennial color catalog, available for \$4 by writing Klehm's Nursery, Route 5, Box 197, South Barrington, IL 60010. The catalog cost is fully refundable with an order. Selected peony varieties are offered by many other mail-order firms, including Wayside Gardens, Hodges, SC 29695, and W. Atlee Burpee & Co., Warminster, PA 18974.

## THE ITOH HYBRIDS, DIVISIONS AND ROOTS

*Don Hollingsworth, Kansas City, Missouri*

To obtain divisions of my Itoh Hybrids with smaller diameter roots is that they are taken up and divided after two or three years of growth. The smaller diameter roots are mostly those which have grown since transplanting before.

Part of the reason for being able to take off divisions with young roots has to do with how I placed the parent division when planted. Typically when the division is being grown to produce more divisions I plant a little deeper than for a permanent placement (provided the soil is well aerated) and then hill up around the plant when it grows; usually only a little deeper in my soil and mostly get the depth from hilling.



What happens is that the plant then places the top bud for next year's growth just under the soil surface and other buds develop further down along the stretched out perennial stem underground. Once one of these buds produces a surviving shoot there will also be new storage roots associated with it, making a nice section to be taken off when next divided. Of course, it doesn't always work out ideally.

Large new buds will also continue to develop lower on the parent piece and some of these will continue to support the original roots, leading to their continued enlargement. If one views the enlargement of older roots to be undesirable, this might be combated by replanting smaller pieces, but there will be a possible cost in time until ready to divide. If the chosen practice is to replant small pieces, I would suggest waiting a year to hill up.

The extended inter-nodes, which result from deep covering of replant pieces, are also useful in producing scions for grafting. For nurse roots I prefer to use Itoh Hybrid roots, as compared to Lacti roots, due to the tendency of the latter to break easily when digging.

Hilling up is a preferred Midwest substitute for deep planting as is so enthusiastically advocated by tree peony growers of the North and Northeast who enjoy the comparative advantage of growing their plants on well aerated and well drained moraine soils or equal. (In my area, where the soils tend to be quite clayey and therefore without deep aeration, deep planting is commonly associated with plant decline in tree peonies.)

Uncut roots of Itoh Hybrids are generally typical of what I send out. I see no reason for destroying the storage roots if they are young, except for the convenience of the person digging. When the plants are in a mellow soil and haven't grown too large it is not difficult to save the roots. Any surplus may be used for grafting and the plant which retains more roots will get off to a quicker start.

With respect to a question whether 'Garden Treasure' may grow from blind root pieces, nothing I have observed would support this. On the other hand, some of the plants derived from several generations of the above treatment might be made up of a considerable proportion of stem tissue, as contrasted to root tissue, and may have a good many latent meristems (embedded and inactive stem bud initials). Some sections of such tissue may also contain a good deal of stored food and be capable of supporting first year growth, all that is required to get a new plant. It is notable that underground stems of most peonies readily achieve considerable diameter, much of which can be expected to be food storage tissue. It is noted, 'Garden Treasure' is capable of also making very thick roots, although in anatomy they are similar to tree peony roots which ordinarily do not attain great diameters. However the Lutea Hybrids, of which Itoh Hybrids are derived, do in some cases also make very thick roots.

**If you cut a tree, plant a tree.**

**It is nature's replaceable energy.**

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## PINT SIZE—WHY?

*By Olin Frazier, Ph.D, Cowgill, Missouri*

Many years ago, when I lived in the country, I started growing peonies by planting a row of them in the vegetable garden. The varieties that I planted at that time have long passed from my memory, but I do remember one incident that may be related to what I wish to ask the experts about. One of the peonies in this row, a favorite red, bloomed well for a couple of years, and the next year came up and grew to only six or eight inches in height—no blooms. Since moles had been a problem in the garden, I supposed that the moles might have damaged the root system and caused the peony to grow only to pint size. The next year was not much better; the plant didn't die, but didn't grow higher than six or eight inches. The plant never did come back to its former size before we moved from the farm.

This incident was almost forgotten until a few years ago I started having the same problem in my new location in town. The first peony I ever lost completely was **Valencia**, and I suspect it had phytophthora blight. It just failed to come up at all one year after having bloomed the previous year. Since that time, I have had a similar situation with **Highlight**. This plant was completely absent for a couple of years, but this year a small sprig came up where the plant had been.

Several plants have now succumbed to the pint-size syndrome. One of the first at this new location was **Carina**. It grew and bloomed for several years, and then, all of a sudden, grew to only six or eight inches in height. No moles were in the area, and the plant did not seem to be diseased the year before the stunted growth appeared. The plant has persisted for several years, growing only to the height mentioned, never blooming. The next plant that acted about the same way was **White Cap**. As with the other plants mentioned, it grew and bloomed for a year or two, the next few years pint size, and this year only three or four inches high. Of course, this is the same as lost.

**Dresden Pink** has acted in a similar fashion; however, it has managed to have one or two stalks that have had a bloom during the four or five years the plant has been at pint size. And I could go on with two or three other examples.

Most of my 100-plus plants seem to grow and bloom beautifully, but I am at a loss to know what I should do to treat these plants. I am fond of all these varieties that are no longer blooming, and would like to try again, but I am out of room, and replanting in the same area does not seem wise.

In trying to analyze the situation, several observations seem in order, but I obviously do not know the cause of the problem.

1. To the best of my recollection, all these plants came from the same nursery.

2. All the plants grew and bloomed for at least two years before

the problem occurred.

3. No blight seemed to be present, and no mole damage was evident.

4. The plants do not die completely, but never bloom or gain strength.

5. The pint-size plants do not have a good color—they are green but a lighter green than healthy plants.

6. The majority of the plants affected have been red varieties.

7. No two of these plants were growing close together.

At this point, I have not attempted to dig a part of the affected plant and replant to another area, but perhaps this is a course of action I should pursue. I have not attempted to give the plants fertilizer, thinking that that would only aggravate the situation. In fact, I guess I have been lazy and done nothing.

I would be interested to know if others have experienced similar symptoms, and would certainly appreciate suggestions as to possible causes and appropriate action.

## **DR. MAYNARD DEWEY**

With sadness, we report the death of Dr. Maynard Dewey of New York on August 7, 1989.

Dr. Dewey was a member of the Board of Directors of the American Peony Society.

Obituary will be in a later issue of the BULLETIN.

## **AWARD TO MR. DEEN**

South Georgia College chemistry instructor, Delano Deen, has been named Georgia's Environmental Volunteer of the Year by the Georgia Environmental Council, a state-wide umbrella group for Georgia's environmental and conservation organizations.

Deen was given the Council's highest award on June 11, in recognition of his 20-year effort to protect the wetlands of Hurricane Creek near Alma from the Lake Alma reservoir project, the group noted.

The environmental group said Deen's efforts were successful last December when the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency blocked construction permits on the basis of unacceptable risk to wildlife.

Mr. Deen has been growing tree peonies in Alma, Georgia with success. He has written articles for the BULLETIN regarding his venture with tree peonies in south east Georgia.

He also states that with proper care along with knowledge of peonies, a good many herbaceous can be grown in this area. In cooperation with Don Hollingsworth, Mr. Deen is also growing various herbaceous peonies in effort to identify sources of breeding which may offer promise of better adaptation to the short, mild winters of south Georgia.

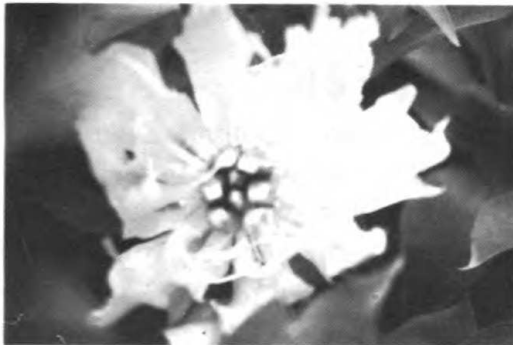
## AN UNUSUAL ITOH CROSS

*John Simkins, Oakville, Ontario, Canada*

Several years ago while I was admiring the flowers of the lutea hybrid, it occurred to me to take a mixture of the pollen and use it on a large number of lactiflora blooms, as Mr. Itoh had done in his quest for a new flower. I phoned Mr. Gilbert of the Gilbert Peony Nursery at Elora, about 50 miles away and asked for permission to pollinate any peonies blooming in his nursery. He gave his permission, so Jennifer, my youngest daughter, and I drove up to Elora.

When we checked the rows, about the only plants in bloom were the Japanese flowering type of lactiflora. We dabbed pollen on those that were open and a few unopened ones. We tagged the stems pollinated but did not bag them. In the Fall, we harvested about 500 seeds. It was not possible to tell those from our cross and bee-pollinated seeds. So we planted all of them. From them we have six or seven Itohs. They are unusual in that the petals are narrow like the center petals of the Japanese type flower.

Some had four or five petals and most were yellow. Two were dazzling red. The three photos will illustrate the flowers obtained.



*Yellow*



*Red*



*Yellow*

## REGISTRATIONS CORRECTED

Due to the incorrect Class of the following registrations, the Nomenclature Committee rejected the registrations as they were presented in June Bulletin #270.

We are correcting the Class and they are now registered as follows:

**VIKING FULL MOON.** (Roy Pehrson; registered by William J. Seidl), April 12, 1989.

Seedling number, received from Roy as "Umbloomed Itoh which I labeled RPWS-21." Class, Itoh hybrid, single. Parentage Lactiflora x Yellow lutea hybrid. First year bloomed 1980-1981.

Light yellow with ten wide overlapping flat petals in two rows. Dull red flares are covered by yellow stamen ring. 5-6 in flowers, strong stems, 30" but barely off the ground for outside stems. Blooms with early lactiflora season. Light grey-green carpels are tipped by cream-yellow stigmas and 2/3 enclosed by sheath of same color.

**WHITE EMPEROR.** (Bill Seidl, Manitowoc, Wisconsin), April 13, 1989.

Seedling # none. Garden name has always been the same. Class, Itoh hybrid, semi-double. Parentage Mutation or sport of **YELLOW EMPEROR.**

First year bloomed, first observed 1977. Semi double white with light purple flares by cream stamen ring. Light grey carpels tipped cream with cream sheath. Plant habit same as **YELLOW EMPEROR**, 30" high, strong stems, blooms early lactiflora season.

**HIDDEN TREASURE.** (Bill Seidl, Manitowoc, Wisconsin), April 13, 1989.

Seedling #HT-4. Class, Itoh hybrid-sometimes double-sometimes single. Parentage Lactiflora seedling (L2), a white-cream anemone x lutea hybrid **Alice Harding**. First bloomed 1976.

Medium yellow with light red flares, very single to very double (single most years), 20" height, 2½-3 ft. wide. Strong stems, flowers often hidden and close to the ground. Stems long for cutting, a poor garden ornamental. The initials of name reflect parentage: Herbaceous x tree.

**ROSE FANTASY.** (Bill Seidl, Manitowoc, Wisconsin), April 13, 1989.

Seedling #HT-1, garden name "Dusty Rose." Single Class, Itoh hybrid. Parentage (probable) Lactiflora seedling, L5, single purplish-red seedling of **Harriet Olney** x **Chinese Dragon**. Bloomed about 1976.

Dusty rose, single with darker flares, silvery picotee, especially as flower ages; 5-6 gray-green carpels enclosed by creamy-white sheath and topped by large, rose red stigmas. Some flowers incomplete with narrowing petals and fringed edges. Infertile, no pollen 30-36". Weak stems make this a good arranger, cut flower, poor garden subject. Healthy foliage. Won CM at National Exhibition, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

sin, 1977.

**LAFAYETTE ESCADRILLE.** (Roy Pehrson; registered by William J. Seidl), April 12, 1989.

No seedling number, labeled "RPWS-19" by Seidl. Class, Itoh hybrid lactiflora. Parentage Lactiflora x lutea hybrid, possibly "Thunderbolt." First year bloomed (guess) 1974-1976. Rec'd from Roy in 1979.

Small 3-4" single black red, 10 petaled terminal flowers, bloom just on top of foliage, followed by a few late stems w/o laterals that bloom still higher. Vigorous plant, 30" height, dense green segmented leaves—young foliage deep red, remaining for some time. Somewhat narrowed petals. No seed, and extremely sparce pollen. An excellent landscape plant for foliage.

**NOTE TO ALL REGISTRANTS:**

In accordance with the bylaws and purposes of the Society and of the International Commission on Horticulture Nomenclature, under which the Society serves as registrar of peony names, the substitution of established names are not permissible in publication of this Society when applied in matters pertaining to the peony nomenclature.

Board of Directors, American Peony Society, June, 1989



**Freak peony stem.**

Stem growing through one bud, another bud on top — 1989 Tischler Peony Garden, Fari-bault, Minnesota.



## LETTERS

As a member of the American Peony Society, I always look forward to the BULLETIN each quarter as I am always interested in our memberships' experience and experiments with our favorite flower, Peonies.

In a past bulletin Mr. Roy Klehm wrote of a tragic mishap involving Roundup when used in a new bed of peonies. I, too, have had devastating results from herbicides and pesticides in my flower beds. I have used Poast this year to kill grasses in the iris areas, which are adjacent to my peonies, with good results. Peonies are not listed as being safe in the brochure that is included with Poast; however, I believe that perhaps it may be used with little danger to peonies as a few plants may have been inadvertently sprayed. My question to you and the expert growers in the Society, is: do you know whether Poast, Balan, Treflan, or any other herbicide is safe in peony beds for pre- or post-emergence control of weeds and grasses?

My experience with both tree and herbaceous peonies has been gratifying here in North Carolina even though we have very hot summers and unpredictable winters. I think that a carefully planted peony in a sunny location rewards the gardener with an experience equaled by few other plants.

Cordially yours,  
Maurice N. Courie, M.D., Raleigh, North Dakota

\* \* \* \*

From South Dakota—

I have added quite a few varieties in the last three years to my peony garden. Dug up good virgin soil in a couple of places and the first year Minnie Shaylor was loaded with many beautiful blooms.

Bessie, too, had many blooms, planted the same time. Kansas, planted a year later, had three lovely blooms. Anxiously waiting for this coming Spring. We had a much better year, winter snow cover, and about normal rainfall this Summer. We have had good Fall rains also.

—Irdene Bonzer, Hecla, South Dakota

\* \* \* \*

Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada, July 19, 1989

I hope the peony season was good for you and that the APS show was successful. We had a dry early Spring, followed by ample rains nearly every day for a while, and it seemed to cause problems with peonies not opening well, or having brown edges (not to mention lots of very ugly buds). I wonder if botrytis is also involved! In my own yard, some of the peonies moved in 1984 are just starting to bloom reasonably, but I still have only a couple of clumps that are really good: Smouthi and Pink Lemonade. This year I had three clumps that didn't bother to emerge, probably due to root rot and poor

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drainage—one was Cytherea; fortunately, I have one other Cytherea. Is Coral Charm extra-prone to botrytis? Some of us have problems with bud abortion on Coral Charm.

At Indian Head, 45 miles east of here, the peonies did fairly well, although the ample rain seemed to produce more lax stems this year. After a winter setback, which nearly wiped out Coral Charm, Prairie Moon, one clump of Burma Ruby, Ellen Cowley and Lois Arlene, the clumps have recovered well. Prairie Moon skipped an entire year without emerging above ground, grew one stem last year and four this year. Ellen Cowley has suckered into a clump with a huge number of shoots (none tall), the suckers have stayed well out of the row. The lone tree peony planted there, Banquet, had about 10 or 12 blossoms on it this year—the best so far!

Sincerely, Brian Porter

## FOLKLORE: PEONY MAGIC, MEDICINAL

*By Katherine Whiteside and Mick Hales, Universal Press Syndicate,  
Grand Forks Herald, North Dakota, with permission*

The peony is princess of the June garden.

Bursting with the beauty, good health and popularity befitting a proper royal, she has garnered adoration from loyal subjects for more than 2,000 years.

The herbaceous peony was described in detail by Greek naturalist Theophrastus (371-287 B.C.) who, as the ancient Greeks usually did, connected this flower with a bit of scandal. It seems that Paeon, a young medic, used juice from peony roots to heal a nasty Trojan War wound suffered by Pluto.

Paeon's success with this innovative prescription received a rather disproportionate amount of attention, and the adulation poured upon the young man eventually irked his mentor, Asclepius. His unheralded teacher threatened to kill Paeon.

Matters escalated to the point that some god had to save poor Paeon from death by turning him into his namesake flower. This, of course, makes the peony the perfect flower to send as a warning message to that someone in your office who always takes all the credit.

The peony is also one of folklore's more magical flowers. The plant was said to glow in the dark and was supposed to have a guardian woodpecker that would drill out the eyes of anyone who wanted to move its roots. This superstition has some basis, since seeds of some species actually have a phosphorescent quality.

An interesting use of the peony was documented in 1387 when the Duke of Lancaster gave a feast for Richard II and served "pigges and maribones" and 100 dozen roasted peony roots. There are many old flower recipes worth trying today, but somehow it seems downright wanton to roast and eat something that has such potential for produc-

ing beauty

The Tudors called their peonies hundred-bladed roses, chesses and pie nannies, and carved the roots into beads for babies' necklaces.

These decorative objects were meant to protect the little ones from epilepsy, convulsions and nightmare. But, as generations of babies simply gnawed on their peony root necklaces, they became known as teething aids and, as such, remained in use until the beginning of the 20th century.

Considering the handsome deep-green foliage and big beautiful blossoms of the peony, its pampered appearance may mislead the uninitiated to think that it is difficult to grow. In fact, the peony has been called the most labor-saving of plants, and one clump may easily outlast the lifetime of the gardener.

For the wee tad of attention you give them, peonies have a long season of delight. They begin pushing up red sprouts through the bare springtime earth. A handsome cluster of foliage will appear, and sometime near the beginning of June promising fat buds will burst into enormous flower. After an almost overwhelming show of regal blossoms, the peony's beautiful foliage will last the rest of the summer, turning a handsome bronze in autumn.

Peony flowers last longer when protected by shade, and these plants are perfect for making an exuberant show in an otherwise somber corner of the garden. Another unexpected yet striking position for these flowers is among the colorful tangles of a well-planned wild meadow garden.

There are plenty of antique peonies to grow and enjoy, including two particularly recommended by William Robinson, author of "The Wild Garden" (1870).

*Paeonia peregrina* was a favorite with Elizabethan gardeners, and its single, deep-red flowers remind one of its southern European home. It is a reliable old cottage flower in England, but is uncommon here in the United States. As it is available only as seeds, one must be patient with *peregrina*, and not expect those fabulous flowers for three years. This peony is for connoisseurs, and is especially worth a try in shaded sections of southern gardens.

But for those royalty watchers who want a princess in their gardens as soon as possible, there is an antique peony that is the epitome of everything wonderful about this genus. Easy to grow, beautiful, and a prolific bloomer, "Festiva Maxima" is for the masses! For once, the gardening catalogs do not exaggerate as they describe its "pearly white poufs of petals" and its old-fashioned sweet scent. A child of *Paeonia lactiflora*, "Festiva maxima" has set all peony standards since its development in 1851.

The fancy white flowers have tiny, attractive specs of ruby red and make wonderful cut flowers. Snip when the buds are heavy and create loose, romantic bouquets that will last up to a week.

# BARONESS SCHROEDER— 100TH ANNIVERSARY, 1989

*Brian Porter, Horticulturist, Dept. of Agriculture,  
Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada*

One hundred years ago the famous peony cultivar BARONESS SCHROEDER was introduced by the firm of Kelway and Son, at Langport, England. Considering that this firm introduced more than 290 cultivars, perhaps it is not surprising that one of them has endured for a century, and a few others, such as Lady Alexandra Duff, James Kelway and Kelway's Glorious are also likely to make this record.

As with most peonies of its day, nothing is known of the parentage of Baroness Schroeder. Most likely the seed was merely collected at random, grown, then evaluated.

Over the years, the flowers of BARONESS SCHROEDER have been prized for cutting. Our Manual describes it as having strong stems, and opening better in water than in the field. It is a very large flowered double white variety, initially having flesh pink tints. It is tall, with good foliage, and floriferous, opening in late midseason. The fragrance is typical of many other cultivars. One other attribute it has is good botrytis resistance. Perhaps this has kept it healthy and vigorous over the last century.

## THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE MODERN PEONY

*By the late James Boyd, Haverford, PA, Bulletin #42, 1930*

Professor Saunders believes that the Chinese peonies are not hybrids in the true sense of the term. He believes that they are straight descendants of the species *albiflora* by mutations and by the intercrossing of the varieties so produced, but not by the interbreeding of species.

Professor Bailey says: "These garden forms are probably the issue of different species, as *P. officinalis* of Europe and *P. albiflora* of Siberia and the far East. The set derived most directly from the former species are mostly earlier-flowering than those from *P. albiflora*. The botanical parentage of the horticultural herbaceous peonies needs to be worked out from living material combined with a study of the historical development. It is commonly understood, however, that the present race of herbaceous peonies is mostly the progeny of *P. albiflora*, but many are from *P. officinalis*."

### Developed subsequent to 18th century

It is generally agreed that the modern large double herbaceous peony has been developed subsequent to the eighteenth century; but the nursery records of the men who produced, previous to that date, the first improved varieties which were the parent plants are not

available; and so the identity of the actual parent species or varieties, as the case may be, cannot be definitely stated. An investigation of literature written on the subject will reveal arguments and supporters for both theories, but the last years the probability that modern varieties are for the major part descendants of the species *albiflora* has been held in favor rather than the possibility that they exist as a result of interbreeding among the different species.

Professor J. Eliot Coit in his admirable article on the history, culture, classification and description of peony varieties which was published in November, 1908, in Bulletin No. 259 of the department of horticulture of Cornell University, writes as follows concerning the antique history of the peony:

"The Chinese author, Hung King, in 536, distinguished two sorts of herbaceous peonies, the white and the red. At this time the herbaceous peony was fairly well distributed over the country. It was used for medicinal purposes, and in some provinces even for food. It was called SHO YO, meaning 'most beautiful.' Mas Ze, an author on natural philosophy, also wrote of the herbaceous peonies in 968 A.D. In the early part of the eleventh century, according to Soo Sung, this Sho Yo plant was distributed all over China, but the most valuable roots came from the country of Hwae Gan Foo. By 1086, according to the botanist Chin Ching, the nurserymen and florists were waking up to the possibilities of this plant for ornamental purposes, and were beginning by extraordinary diligence and powerful manures to produce flowers of very large size. As a result of this heavy manuring, and the continual planting of seeds, new and better varieties sprang up very rapidly; and according to Le She Chin in 1596, at least thirty improved varieties were listed in the Chinese nurserymen's catalogs.

#### Albiflora most interesting species

"*Albiflora* is by far the most interesting and important species of the herbaceous group of peonies. It is a native of a vast range of territory from the northern regions of Siberia down to the dominions of China. Pallas found it in Mongol Tartary and on the borders of Lake Baical. It was found also on Mount Caucasus. The roots are used as an article of food by the Tartars, and the seed reduced to powder is mixed with their tea. It is very hard to withstand cold and has given rise to hosts of valuable varieties. It can be easily recognized from all other common species of peonies by its character of usually bearing more than one flower upon a stem (Dickenson, 1849). A variety of this (*Tartarica*) was imported by Mr. Bell of Brentford, England, and was secured from Pallas, who obtained it in Tartary. The variety *Sibirica* was sent to England from Siberia by Pallas. *Whitley* was imported from China in 1808 by Mr. Whitley, a nurseryman of Fulham. *Humci* was introduced into England by Sir Abraham Hume in 1810 through Captain Welstead. *Fragrans* was brought from China by Sir Joseph Banks in 1805 (Anderson, 1817). Loureiro, in his book 'Flora Cochinchinensis,' states that this species is found now both wild and

cultivated all over the Chinese Empire, but chiefly in the northern provinces, and concludes that a great many valuable acquisitions may yet be secured from that quarter. (Sabine, 1816, Baker, 1884)"

About 1820 the French growers began to raise seedlings. The earliest names associated with the history of the modern peony in France are M. Jacques, gardener to King Louis Philippe, about 1830, and N. Lemon, of Porte St. Denis, Paris. The earliest catalogues were issued by M. Modeste Guerin in 1865, Victor Verdier in 1868, Etienne Mechin in 1860, M. Jacques Calot in 1862, M. Crousse, in 1875, Auguste Dessert (predecessor of Doriat & Son), and Emile Lemoine in 1898.

### Salter Began Work in 1850

England did not produce new varieties until some years later. Professor Coit writes: "While Pallas, Anderson, Sabine, Sir J. Potts, Sir Abraham Hume and others were doing much to arouse interest it was not until 1850 that a nurseryman, a Mr. Salter, began to plant *P. albiflora*, and cross such varieties as *Pottsi* and *Reevsi*. About 1863, Kelway of Langport in Somersetshire, began to make his collection, and at once began hybridizing, but his letter published by Paul, 1890, does not make it at all clear what species he started with. He says he procured a plant of each of the species in an old lady's garden on Somerton Hill, and after adding a plant of *corallina* began work of hybridizing. Soon Kelway began to make a specialty of peonies, and in 1884 offered 250 varieties in his catalog. Of these, 63 were new and single, and 41 doubles of his own raising (Watson, 1904). The first variety of the genus *Paeonia* to receive a floral certificate in England was "*Snowflake*" in 1885 (Journal of Horticulture, Vol. 46, 559).

"Other men whose names have been more or less connected with the history of the development of the peony in England and on the Continent are Fortune, Parmentier, Loddiges, Van Geert, Delache, VanHoutte, Gombault, Pele, Delecourt-Verhille, Paul, Ketelier, Donkalaer, Barr, Wilks, Foulard, Millez, Mechin, Dessert, Mathieu, Hooper, Thomas, Baumann, Hiss, Paillet, Verdier, Kelway, Lemon, and many others."

Concerning the peony in America, Professor Coit says: "The history of the herbaceous peony in America was contemporaneous with that in Europe. We do not know just when the first introduction of herbaceous peonies took place, but McMahon in 1806, in a list of perennials suited to the open ground in the Middle and Eastern States, mentions five kinds: *P. officinalis*, *albiflora*, *laciniata*, *hybrida* and *tenuifolia*; and we infer from this that these existed in America at that date.

### Prince Had 40 Varieties 100 Years Ago

"Prince, in 1828, in his 'Treatise on Horticulture,' in speaking of peonies says: 'Anticipating that a similar taste would be evinced in this country, the author has by a great exertion obtained every possi-



ble kind from Europe, and also a number from China.' He describes at length *Whitleyi*, *Humei*, and *Fragrans*. He also states that at that time (1828) his collection contained forty varieties, combining a great diversity of shades and colors. We find also that in 1862, at great expense, he obtained some twenty varieties of tree peonies from European gardens and introduced them at Flushing, Long Island. He further says: 'I have also originated from seed during the past fifteen years twenty-two most gorgeous varieties, whose flowers are of the largest size, and comprising white, roseate, crimson, lilac, purple, and variegated shades.' (Prince, 1862)."

Some years later new varieties of herbaceous peonies were originated by H.A. Terry of Crescent, Iowa, who Professor Coit says, obtained thirty varieties from Prince. The names of Terry, Richardson, Shaylor, Hollis, Pleas, Brand, and others are well-known to American peony growers. Biographies of these early originators to whom we are indebted for so much and also short sketches of later introducers will be found among the last pages of the manual.

## Mr. Shaylor and His Peonies

By W. C. OTIS, Woburn, Mass.

*"Mr. Shaylor and His Peonies" has been requested for reprint. —Editor  
September 1930, Bulletin #43*

MR. SHAYLOR, who lived to the ripe old age of 83, did not take up the culture of flowers until ill health made it necessary for him to give up his business career. This occurred in 1898 when he was 55 years old. Though born in Ashtabula, Ohio, Mr. Shaylor had come East and for many years before his retirement had traveled for the Meriden Cutlery Company of Meriden, Conn. When Mr. Shaylor retired he looked around for a place where he could specialize in the growing of gladiolus. He finally bought a 20-acre estate in Auburndale, Mass. The purchase of this estate took about all the ready cash he had and when he discovered that a further considerable investment would be necessary if he stuck to his original intention of growing gladiolus, he finally gave up this idea and turned to peonies.

In 1900 he bought about 200 varieties of peonies from American growers and started his career as the dean of American peony originators. At the time that he bought these varieties, the classification of peonies was in a sad state, the Nomenclature Committee of the American Peony Society not being in existence. Apparently Mr. Shaylor was disgusted with the mixture he got for shortly after this he began to import foreign varieties. In order that he might do this it was necessary for him to mortgage his home. This he did in the face of the almost universal disapproval of his friends. He had faith in the peony and he was willing to back this faith to the extent of a \$6,000 mortgage on his home.

That this faith was justified is amply proven by the fact that all of the Shaylor varieties were originated from these foreign varieties and while his own varieties never brought him wealth, they did return his original investment many fold.

Mr. Shaylor did very little hand pollenizing. He believed that the bees and other insects were better able to do the pollenizing than he, but he also knew that the chances for improved varieties of peonies would be far better if the insects had only the finest varieties to work on. Even with the hundreds of seedlings raised, it was not until 1915 that Mr. Shaylor was able to introduce the first of his peonies. In that year he put on the market *Wm. F. Turner*, *La Nuit*, *Le Jour* and *L'Innocence* and for the next five years new varieties were introduced rapidly. There never has been a severer critic of new varieties of peonies than Mr. Shaylor and when he did put out a new one it was only after he had examined it from every angle and felt sure that it was worthy of a commanding place in the peony world.

From all the data in the possession of Mr. Allison, who was Mr. Shaylor's partner and his successor, I have carefully compiled the following table and feel that it is authoritative for dates of introduction:

1915—*Wm. F. Turner*, *La Nuit*, *Le Jour*, *L'Innocence*.

1916—*Le Noir*, *Deborah Sayles*, *Alma*, *Mrs. Chas. Gilbert*, *Wilton Lockwood*, *Rose Shaylor*, *Jessie Shaylor*, *Georgiana Shaylor*, *Frances Shaylor*, *Secretary Fewkes*, *Mary Woodbury Shaylor*, *Aureolin*.

1917—*Shaylor's Dream*, *Mrs. M. P. Clough*, *Luella Shaylor*.

1918—*Nell Shaylor*, *Eunice Shaylor*, *E. J. Shaylor*, *Mrs. Edward Harding*, *Shirley Walker*, *Dorothy Allison*, *Marjorie Allison*, *Cornelia Shaylor*.

1919—*Miss Emery*, *Mrs. Shaylor-Force*, *Will McClelland*, *Minnie Shaylor*, *Mrs. E. J. Shaylor*.

1920—*Doris Shaylor*, *Lucy Shaylor*.

1921—*Ruth Force*.

It is likely that some of these dates may be questioned as Mr. Shaylor sold many of his originations by numbers before he finally had given them names. The Manual gives the date of introduction of *Georgiana Shaylor* as 1908. I cannot reconcile this with the fact that Shaylor did not start to grow peonies until 1900, only eight years before *Georgiana Shaylor* is supposed to have been introduced. The first mention of this variety in his notes is in 1916 so I have given this as the date of introduction. This is the only variety of which I have any doubt as to the accuracy of my table. Of all the other varieties the notes are very definite.

Owing to the fact that Mr. Shaylor needed funds to carry on with, he was inclined to sell his stock pretty short. For this reason, several growers eventually had a larger stock of his varieties than he did him-

self. Just as soon as this happened, the control of prices was taken from his hands. Before this happened a price of \$50, \$65 and \$75 per root for some of his varieties was not at all uncommon. Mr. Shaylor, however, did not always guess the right price to charge as one or two customers who got *Mrs. Edward Harding* for \$30 can vouch for. *Cornelia Shaylor* sold for \$75 per root and quite a few were bought at this price.

Mr. Shaylor's customers included practically all of the principal growers and peony lovers throughout the United States and Canada. With all of these his business relations were always very pleasant as he was absolutely four-square with everyone.

In the year 1915 Mr. Shaylor introduced the first of his seedlings by name. Of the four introduced, three were singles and one a double. The double, *Wm. F. Turner*, rated 84, is a very dark crimson, loosely petaled and without fragrance. It lasts well without burning and is very free-flowering. The plant is tall and strong growing. In spite of the fact that it is a fairly early-flowering variety it is, with me, one of the last ones to break through the ground. The singles were *La Nuit*, rated 77; *Le Jour*, rated 86; and *L'Innocence*, not rated. Of these three *Le Jour* is the best known and to my mind it is still the finest single white peony grown. The flower is large to very large with long rounded petals; the plant is tall and vigorous. *La Nuit*, carmine, and *L'Innocence*, white, are not varieties that are particularly distinctive.

#### 1916 INTRODUCTIONS OUTSTANDING

Mr. Shaylor made his real bid for peony fame in the year 1916 when he introduced such outstanding varieties as *Wilton Lockwood*, *Rose Shaylor*, *Mary Woodbury Shaylor* and *Georgiana Shaylor*. I am prepared to argue the date of introduction of these varieties even against the Manual. My dates are correct and those differing from mine are incorrect, if data in the possession of Mr. Allison means anything.

It is hard for me to control my enthusiasm when I try to write about the 1916 introductions of Mr. Shaylor. Just imagine putting on the market in one year, seven varieties which peony lovers have considered worthy of ratings from 86 to 91. Three, *Jessie Shaylor*, *Frances Shaylor* and *Secretary Fewkes* are rated 86; *Wilton Lockwood*, 88; *Georgiana Shaylor*, 89; *Mary Woodbury Shaylor*, 90; and *Rose Shaylor*, 91. Had Mr. Shaylor never introduced another variety he could well have rested on his laurels.

There seems to be a quite generally favorable opinion of *Jessie Shaylor* and *Frances Shaylor* but I note that the Manual's description of *Secretary Fewkes* is discouraging, to say the least. When Mr. Fewkes expresses disappointment with any variety that variety is lost. I have had no opportunity to talk with Mr. Fewkes but I am wondering if

he may not have changed his opinion of this variety. Last season was a very early one in this section of the country and it was necessary to cut very tight buds to be sure of having anything worth while to display at the Boston Peony Show. On the morning the show opened, Mr. Allison called my attention to an enormous unopened bud of *Secretary Fewkes* and suggested that I watch it. This bud had been in cold storage about two weeks. The first day of the show the bud did not open at all and it was well towards the close of the show before it had opened fully. No peony that I have ever seen surprised me more than this one did; it was very large and of a most wonderful shade of glistening pink. A day or two later, still unconvinced that I had actually seen a bloom of *Secretary Fewkes*, I went out to Mr. Allison's gardens and he pointed out to me the plant from which this bud had been cut. There could be no doubt about its being *Secretary Fewkes* as blooms on this plant, while pretty well gone by, were typical of this variety. I am sure if Mr. Fewkes saw this bloom in the show at the time that I did, he would be proud that it bears his name. To get its full beauty, however, it very evidently must be cut in tight bud and opened away from the sunlight.

*Wilton Lockwood* is the tallest variety originated by Mr. Shaylor. From my observation I should say that of the really excellent peonies it is the most reliably free-blooming one grown. No matter what the season may be it always throws a profusion of enormous rose-pink flowers and it takes a pretty heavy storm to beat them down. I have often seen three-year-old plants of this variety with from twelve to fifteen blooms on them. It is a rapid grower in spite of its profuse blooming habits. Its dark green foliage makes a very attractive plant after the flowers have gone. A row of this variety is a sight to behold and it also makes an excellent showing as a specimen plant.

Probably the best known Shaylor varieties are *Georgiana Shaylor* and *Mary Woodbury Shaylor*. By many *Mary Woodbury Shaylor* is considered Mr. Shaylor's masterpiece. Both can be considered semi-dwarf and both very free flowering. Had last season been a representative one I should say that *Mary Woodbury Shaylor* is the freest blooming of all as I have never seen finer blooms nor more of them of this variety. *Georgiana Shaylor* has the crimson splashes on the petals so characteristic of many of Shaylor's varieties while *Mary Woodbury Shaylor* has the golden light at the center as well as the crimson splashing. Excessive propagation has undoubtedly had something to do with the growth of both of these varieties as neither is really dwarf growing. I do not consider a peony as being a dwarf when, on a well grown plant, the blooms are from two and one-half to three feet above the ground. I am sure that many peony lovers, who have given these varieties a real chance

for development, will agree with me in this. The plants of both of these varieties are exceptionally sturdy and are very desirable for specimen plants.

Of the other 1916 introductions, *Lc Noir*, rated 74 and *Deborah Sayles*, not rated, crimson and pink respectively, are not of sufficient importance to justify any particular attention. *Alma*, rated 85, a pink Jap, was a favorite with Mr. Shaylor. With me, it is a good bloomer and, in spite of the authority of the Manual, I rather like the blooms when the center "feathers." It is a rapid multiplier and the plant is a good strong grower and of pleasing shape. *Aureolin*, rated 89, is, according to the Manual, both of the anemone and the Japanese type. I incline to the Japanese as anemone does not mean much of anything definite. It has a large bloom on well-established plants and the center is undoubtedly the yellowest of any peony grown. With me, it is a medium shy bloomer. To judge by the exclamations of delight by visitors to my garden, it is one of the most attractive peonies there. *Aureolin* attracts the ladies as much as *Fuyajo* does the men. *Mrs. Charles Gilbert*, for some reason unknown to me, was never rated. It is a large, loose flower with a color very much like that of *Therese*. This similarity in color may have served to hide the good qualities of this variety but I think it has enough good qualities peculiar to itself to justify consideration by all peony lovers. With me, it holds its shape very much better than does *Therese*.

Of the varieties placed on the market in 1916, *Rose Shaylor* seems to be the least known. The stock is still scarce with resultant high prices. The Manual gives the date of introduction as 1920 but Mr. Shaylor's notes show that this variety was sold as *Rose Shaylor* in 1916. It is a very large, flat, flesh-pink flower that is strongly held up by its stout stem. It is not as free-flowering as *Wilton Lockwood* but the plant reliably bears a fair number of blooms every season. The plant is a handsome, strong growing one, good for a specimen. As with nearly all of Shaylor's varieties, it is fairly fragrant. It is a relatively slow multiplier which undoubtedly accounts for its scarcity. As this variety becomes better known I feel sure that it will be rated as one of the most desirable peonies grown.

Only three new peonies were introduced by Mr. Shaylor in 1917; *Luella Shaylor*, *Mrs. M. P. Clough* and *Shaylor's Dream*. In the Manual, the one that strikes me as being the most beautiful of the three, is condemned the most severely. I almost wish that the following statement might be printed in very small type as I realize that my knowledge and judgment of a variety are not to be compared with the critic of *Shaylor's Dream*, but I am bound to say that I do not think it is over-rated at all; in fact, I should be glad to see its rating increased to 88 where I think it belongs. In my garden and elsewhere that I have seen it, the bloom, for delicacy of coloring, is hard to beat. It is a large flat flower with outer petals flesh-pink and center creamy-white. This variety

is so delicately colored, it is out of the question to see its full beauty in a bloom the sun has played on. It simply must be opened away from the sun's rays. When properly handled it is very beautiful. The plant growth is strong and the bloom is carried on a good stout stem.

*Luella Shaylor* will appeal only to those who can appreciate delicacy and daintiness in a peony. It is a pure glistening white peony with a yellow center, not extra large and not at all coarse in texture. It is not a striking garden bloom but shows at its best in a vase on the center table. Personally, my tastes incline towards blooms of this size. I think mere size is being too strongly stressed in the newest varieties of peonies. I'll admit that, to the ordinary garden visitor, size seems to be the most important characteristic of a peony but I am sure that this is simply a manifestation of the American craze for size in everything.

*Mrs. M. P. Clough* is a pink variety, large and of rather coarse texture. The plant is not as strong-growing as many of Shaylor's varieties. There is nothing about it to rave over and I certainly favor exchanging the ratings of this variety and *Shaylor's Dream*.

The year 1918 saw eight more Shaylor varieties on the market. Three of these were singles: *Shirley Walker*, pink; *Dorothy Allison*, pink; and *Marjorie Allison*, white. The fact that Mr. Shaylor introduced such a relatively large number of singles is evidence of his intuition. At the time that other growers were generally discarding singles as not worthy of raising, Mr. Shaylor was carefully examining his seedlings to discover, if possible, any worth while singles. In spite of the fact that all three of these singles are rapid multipliers I do not think any of the three is widely disseminated, probably because the demand for singles has not yet reached its height. All three are worth while varieties, particularly *Shirley Walker* with its crepe-like petals.

*E. J. Shaylor*, a dark rose-pink double with tips of the petals shaded lighter, is a variety about which there does not seem to be any unanimity of opinion. The Manual says that it is undoubtedly a good variety but similar to a great many others. One grower, who has opinions of his own about the various varieties of peonies, says he regards this variety as one of the very best of the new Shaylor varieties. I think that when this variety becomes better known its good qualities will cause a revision of the Manual's criticism.

From the generally meager descriptions of *Eunice Shaylor* I am inclined to believe that it has not been grown long enough by many of the growers to permit careful notes being taken. The Manual's description and one by Mr. Little are the only ones that do justice to this fine variety. When properly grown, it is a creamy flesh-pink, showing its full beauty only when cut in the bud and opened away from the sunlight. A good bloom absolutely glows. Its fragrance is that of a tea-rose. The plant is a strong grower with a profusion of light green veined foliage. It was one of Mr. Shaylor's favorites.

*Nell Shaylor* is so little known that it is not described in the Manual nor has it been passed on in any symposium. It is a white if opened on the plant and a delicate pink if cut in the bud and opened indoors. On well-developed plants it is a large semi-rose bloom with petals of heavy, leathery texture. The plant is of sturdy growth, medium tall and the stout stems carry the large blooms to perfection. The bloom is pleasingly fragrant and is a good keeper. No garden can afford to be without this beautiful variety.

A year or so ago I remember reading a description of *Cornelia Shaylor* in which the writer expressed doubt as to whether this variety was worth the price he had to ask for it. I do not remember what this price was but I can assure everyone that *Cornelia Shaylor* is worth any price, within reason, that may be asked for it. It is a very large globular bloom with soft pink guards and the center shaded deeper salmon pink. It opens late but never misses. It has a faint but pleasing fragrance. The plant is a strong growing one with stout stems and dark glossy foliage and makes a handsome specimen plant. It is unquestionably one of the finest of the Shaylor varieties.

*Mrs. Edward Harding*, a wonderfully beautiful white, has suffered from over-propagation more than any other variety with which I am acquainted. This variety, displayed for the first time at the Cleveland National Show, took the peony world by storm. The roots were priced at \$100 and each grower bold enough to pay this price apparently felt that he must cut and cut again in order that his purchase of this root might be a good investment. The result was that all of the vitality of this variety was thrown away. Probably, by this time, there are quite a few peony lovers who have large clumps of *Mrs. Edward Harding* and I look for increasingly fine blooms of this variety at the coming shows. A large clump, however, is by no means proof that the original vitality has been recovered. I have seen plants of this variety of good size, apparently perfectly healthy, with small, weak-looking blooms, indicating that the plant had not yet come into its own. It is a wonder that it was not propagated to death. A bloom from a plant that has not been weakened by propagation is all that has ever been claimed of it. It may be objected that the picture I am showing is not that of a perfect bloom of this variety. I admit this and can only plead, as an excuse, the lateness of the season when I took the picture. A first class bloom of *Mrs. Edward Harding* is a very large, full double, pure white flower of exceptional quality. The plant is a strong, robust grower and carries the tall, stout stems very gracefully. It makes an ideal specimen plant. Unfortunately it is without fragrance. So far as my observations go, this is the only white peony that can in any way dispute the supremacy of *Le Cygne*.



Of the five varieties introduced in 1919 only three have been rated in the symposium and none of them seems to be very well known. Unfortunately there are two, *Miss Emery* and *Mrs. E. J. Shaylor*, of which I have been unable to get pictures. So far as *Miss Emery* is concerned, I do not think I have ever seen a bloom of this variety and I am sure I have never seen a growing plant of it. I understand that it is a salmon-pink, the quality of which I know nothing about. Mr. Shaylor must have sold this variety outright, either because he did not think it of enough value to propagate or because he did not realize its value, as I have been able to find no mention of it in any of the catalogues issued recently by Shaylor & Allison, nor is it mentioned more than once or twice in his notes.

*Mrs. E. J. Shaylor* is a large, loosely built but full flower of delicate pink. The plant is a strong grower and its dark green foliage and stiff stems make it an excellent specimen plant. The plant is tall and a profuse bloomer; light but pleasing fragrance.

*Minnie Shaylor* is just beginning to come into its own. It is a large, semi-double bloom of clear light pink guard petals and a center of yellow stamens. The delicate blooms are carried on wiry stems and the plant is a strong, robust grower. This variety pleases by its delicacy; delicacy of coloring, delicacy of form and its delicate gracefulness. It is far superior to *La Rosiere* to which I have seen it compared. It is still rather high priced, so not as well distributed as it will be when it is possible to sell it cheaper. However, it is well worth the price charged for it now.

*Mrs. Shaylor-Force* may not appeal to everyone as it does to me but I think it one of the most beautiful peonies grown. It is a very large, fully double peony with beautifully arranged petals of creamy-white with a faint glow of pale lemon in the depths of the bloom. An occasional margin of crimson on the petals adds very much to its attractiveness. To add to its other good qualities it is very fragrant and it is an excellent landscape variety.

*Will McClelland* is a variety that is practically unknown in the peony world. Just why this should be, I do not know as it is a very beautiful peony. It is a very strong grower, tall, with strong stems and is an ideal landscape variety. The salmon-pink bloom is very full, holds its color exceptionally well and it keeps well. It has no fragrance. I should say it is worthy of a rating of about 86.

Beginning with 1920, there was a decided falling off in the number of new varieties introduced by Mr. Shaylor. I am not able to assign any reason for this for I know he had many seedlings to choose from nor had his interest in peonies suffered any diminution. I can only suggest that his advancing years may have made it too great an effort for him to give much attention to his peonies. *Doris Shaylor* and *Lucy Shaylor* were introduced during the season of 1920 and *Ruth Force* in 1921 and there his introductions end. I know there were other varieties

which he might have introduced and a little later I shall have something to say about them.

*Doris Shaylor* is a light pink, semi-double peony of large size, fragrant and a mighty good keeper. The plant is a strong grower with dark green foliage. The blooms are carried on medium tall, stout stems.

*Lucy Shaylor* is an ivory white bloom with a very few yellow stamens showing on a well-developed plant. An occasional carmine marking on the edge of a petal adds to its beauty. The buds of this variety are exceptionally beautiful. The plant is a strong grower with dark green foliage. The blooms are carried on stiff stems three to three and one-half feet high. *Lucy Shaylor* is well worth its rating of 90.

*Ruth Force* is a Japanese type peony with bright cerise-pink petals and with stamenodes of petal color edged with yellow. It has a peculiar cinnamon odor which adds to its attractiveness. The bloom is wonderfully beautiful under the electric light. The plant is a very strong grower with dark green foliage and a profuse bloomer.

After Mr. Shaylor's death, all of the stock and seedlings became the property of Mr. Allison, who continues to carry on the business. He has several seedlings which are about to be placed on the market. It has been my privilege to see all of these seedlings and I can assure my readers that, due to my shortcomings as a writer and describer, only an inadequate description of their beauty can be given.

*Nick Shaylor*, numbered 74, is, according to my judgment, the most beautiful of all the seedlings. Something of its beauty can be guessed at when I tell you that it is an improved *Solange*. It is a relatively slow but strong grower with good, clean roots. The fragrance is no more pronounced than is that of *Solange*. It does not have the ugly bud that is so characteristic of *Solange* and, while late, it opens without fail. Its stout stem holds the bloom well above the foliage and, while not a profuse bloomer, a well developed plant carries from seven to ten blooms.

Mrs. George W. Rawson is another seedling that will force itself to the front when it has had an opportunity to show its sterling qualities. It is a globular bloom of the *Will McClelland* type. It opens a delicate pink but soon fades white. Fragrance is strong and it is a wonderful keeper.

*Shaylor's Sunburst*, or his No. 101 seedling, is a pure white Jap of the size and quality of *Isani Gidui*. It is a much stronger grower than *Isani Gidui* and multiplies very much faster. It is very fragrant. I feel sure that *Isani Gidui's* supremacy as the leading white Jap will suffer when this variety is placed on the market.

When Congressman James R. Mann was establishing his peony garden, Mr. Shaylor sold him a seedling, No. 70, which was described as having a peach-blossom color. At the death of the Congressman, this variety was purchased and put on the market as *Peach Blossom*. The

bloom is double, not very fragrant and the plant is a strong tall grower and an early bloomer. It really is a Shaylor variety and, as such, is worthy of a place in every peony lover's garden.

Seedling No. 102 is a flat, rose type, light pink bloom with a very pleasing fragrance. It is a tall, strong grower and a very desirable peony in every way. This variety has not yet received a name.

There are several other seedlings which have not yet proven their worth which may or may not be placed on the market at a later day. These I shall not attempt to describe, but, if they later prove to be worth while, I promise to get pictures and send descriptions for the BULLETIN. I wish all of my readers to understand that I, alone, am responsible for all of the statements and opinions in this article. Some may differ with me but I wish to state that I have given much time and thought in the preparation of this article and hope that I may have clarified much of the information regarding the Shaylor varieties. A very good friend of mine, a man who knows peonies from A to Z, complained to me recently that the Shaylor varieties, while beautiful, seemed to lack substance. Now I happen to know that this man divides his peonies at comparatively short intervals so I might have told him that he had never given them an opportunity to show their true worth. Give them a chance to get good growth and I am sure you will agree with my estimates rather than with those of the Shaylor critics.

The indebtedness of American peony lovers to Mr. Shaylor cannot be stated in words. He was the dean of American peony growers and, it is hoped, will be granted this posthumous honor by all.



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## **THE 87TH ANNUAL MEETING, 85TH ANNUAL EXHIBITION**

**American Peony Society, Kingwood Center, Mansfield, Ohio, June 8-9-10, 1990**

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### **PEONY CULTURE**

Peonies will not tolerate a location where water stands for extended periods of time.

Select varieties of peonies that will give early, midseason and late period of bloom.

Follow planting directions carefully and you will not be disappointed in your selected varieties.

Label your peonies, with a permanent marker and begin call-

ing them by their correct name.

Peonies are easy to grow, plant with buds pointing upward and roots downward. We have seen peonies planted where the peony root was upside down.

During extended periods of drouth, peonies should be given ample water. After blooming, buds are being developed for the following year.

Do not judge the bloom of your peonies the first year after planting, but do give them time to become established.

Peonies are planted for permanence. If conditions of soil and sunshine are correct, peonies should not be divided or moved. A plant will live and produce beautiful large blooms for many years. Records show that some peonies grow in the same location for 50, 75 and 100 years. Moving, replanting and dividing means that again they must become established before enjoying a good bloom.

If a peony plant must be moved, dig the entire plant. The roots will be brittle, so it is advisable to let the plant be exposed to the air and sunshine for a few hours before dividing the roots. The third or fourth year after planting the roots, you will see it at its best, with continuing development over the years.

Three paragraphs taken from an article written for the Bulletin in 1949 by Neal R. van Loon.

"Dealing with the public constantly and making numberless contacts of all kind, I frequently get to thinking how mean, how cantankerous, how cheap and ornery some folks can be. Then my spirit goes sour and after so long a time it becomes a sickness, and I know this is no good. But when I go to work in the good old peony patch, it is no time at all before these jaundiced ratiocinations and poisoned mental twists are all gone out the window. Everything within becomes sweet and clean again. My mind may not have become garnished but it is at least swept clean.

"I find to my great joy and benefit also, that I can wash my mind and my hands in the soil itself anytime I want to or need to. How I love that dear fellow in the Bulletin who boasted of having black fingernails for fifty years at a stretch. Many nice folks would say that he is careless and untidy, but the real fact is that without a shadow of a doubt he has learned many of life's precious secrets to which others are complete strangers. The only real dirt there is, after all, is that which sullies the soul and spirit. I am crowding the words 'soil' and 'dirt' out of my vocabulary and am learning to use the word 'earth' instead. 'Good earth' would probably be a better word yet.

"Throughout the growing season and beyond, I find that this good earth and my beloved peonies prepare me for the pulpit of the Lord. They make me feel as though I had some inherent right to

be there. Of course the pulpit can prepare one to fittingly enter the garden sanctuary also. All these vital and fundamental things cannot be had through proxy. They must be personally and reverently appropriated and appreciated. Who was it that said, 'The only ownership in the world that still holds water is the ownership of appreciation'?"

All flowers can help to wash and heal one, but the peony does it the quickest and best.

## CUT PEONIES

*By the late Clarence O. Lienau*

For many years, I have been growing peonies commercially and varieties for the cut flower trade have always been in demand.

Some commercial growers have eight or ten varieties that they know will produce the type of bloom best suited for their business. For the small cut flower grower, I am recommending 25 varieties of peonies that will meet the need for every occasion.

Cut flowers must be given special attention so as to keep them properly for the trade. A refrigerator unit is very essential. It could be a large used walk in box or a discarded body from a refrigerated truck or build an 8 ft. x 10 ft. cement block room in a garage which must be well insulated with a good refrigerator door.

Cut blooms in the early morning and also in the early evening. Being a small operator, with one or two helpers, I have cut bloom almost the entire day. It is advisable for the owner to do all the cutting, as care should be taken so that the yearly production of bloom would be assured. For local trade, cut the bloom stalks 18" to 20" and only  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the bloom should be taken from each plant. Two bottom separate leaves must be left on each stock as your plants must have foliage for future growth. Blooms cut properly at the correct opening stage will keep 10-15 days or more.

At the time of the cutting, your helpers can carry the blooms to a large table or put them in bushelbaskets, out of the sun.

When a quantity of blooms have been cut, we then strip off the leaves half way from the bottom of the stalk and band twelve blooms together. Put them in five gallon plastic buckets of water for 15-30 minutes. They are then ready to go in the refrigerator, ten dozen to a pail. Shelves may be built along the side and back of a walk in box, increasing the capacity of the box. Use  $\frac{5}{8}$ " plywood for shelves and angle iron brackets.

Mixed colors are the popular demand for walk-in trade. In growing good peonies and the correct care of them, your customers will return year after year.

## RECOMMENDED VARIETIES

### WHITE

<b>Mme. de Vernville</b>	Early white bomb. May be cut fairly tight. Profuse bloomer. Very good keeper.
<b>Charlies White</b>	Early white tall bomb.
<b>Florence Nicholls</b>	Medium bloomer. Large.
<b>Baroness Schroeder</b>	Late, stiff stems.
<b>Elsa Sass</b>	Late. There are two strains of this variety. Purchase the tallest strain.
<b>Mrs. Frank Beach</b>	Late, large profuse bloomer, not tall.

### PINK

<b>Mons Jules Elie</b>	Rose pink, best of all cut peonies. May be cut almost tight.
<b>Sarah Bernhardt</b>	Rose pink, late, fine cut flower. Do not cut tight.
<b>Reine Hortense</b>	Light pink, good keeper when cut properly
<b>Helen Hayes</b>	Dark pink bomb. Late.
<b>Truly Yours</b>	Fine late light pink, fine keeper and excellent for arrangements.

### RED

<b>Big Ben</b>	Early dark red, profuse bloomer.
<b>Rubio</b>	Good early dark red.
<b>Karl Rosenfield</b>	Medium dark red.
<b>David Harum</b>	Medium red bomb.
<b>Mary Brand</b>	Medium dark red.
<b>Dixie</b>	Medium very dark red bomb.
<b>Felix Supreme</b>	Late, medium red
<b>Shawnee Chief</b>	Medium red, fine bud.
<b>Sir John Franklin</b>	Late dark red.

### Single — WHITE

<b>Virginia Dare</b>	Good single white, small, opens from fairly tight, stiff stems, good keeper, excellent cut flower.
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### Single — PINK

<b>Sea Shell</b>	Good brilliant pink.
<b>Mischief</b>	Late pink, all singles open from fairly tight bud.

### JAPS

<b>Neon</b>	Rose and gold.
<b>Rose Valley</b>	Rose and yellow.

# LANDSCAPING WITH PEONIES

*By Charles E. Hammersley, Milwaukee, Wisc.  
Bulletin No. 78*

There is no perennial plant that compares with the peony as a landscape plant. Its use for this purpose is altogether too limited. It has the advantage of a long season of foliage that covers all stages of green with even a red and yellow accent. Attention must be given to the fragrance, as well as the graceful form of the peony, in landscaping plans. Too many peony plants have been planted without thought of height and color.

The reader will ask, how can I get this information? It is the business of the peony specialist to collect and distribute it. One can of course obtain from garden clubs the personal advice and encouragement of more experienced, enthusiasts. One can and should more often visit the nurseries and grounds of the peony specialists, and benefit by their willingness to share this hard won information.

The reason for the lack of more picture peony gardens is due to two things. The average peony enthusiast makes out a list of roots to order and then is afraid he will make some horrible mistake, that he had picked out the wrong varieties.

The other trouble is if you employ a landscape architect he is likely to have a formal complex. He has studied landscaping so long that he has lost sight of the intrinsic beauty of living plants and can see only technical perfection in an arrangement of a multitude of plant material which is really too bad. If you already had a few gorgeously colored peonies that has found a place of comfort and security beside the front steps he would be unyielding and insist that they be discarded to be replaced by shrubs or evergreens. After all the gardener must have a picture in his mind's eye and work out the picture he envisions. It's your garden—have it your way.

As with any other commodity, buy good plants from responsible sources and finally remember that while for each variety there is a best location and a most desirable technique, nature is amazingly co-operative and even forgiving of mistakes, but where a mistake has been made in putting a wrong variety in the scheme, do not hesitate to remove it. A little study of the right variety for the scheme will generally prevent these mistakes.

Peony gardens that are all that we picture them have long been made and are still being made by the trial and error methods, without the benefit of the recorded experience of others. But that is the slow disappointing way. The time has now arrived when the peony grower is entitled to information and assistance necessary to plant his peony for landscape effects, giving the many pictures that can be produced



from this beautiful perennial. Few people realize it is quite possible through a wise selection of peony plants, and the application of a few fundamental principles of good design, to have a completely satisfying, all-season peony garden. The secret is one of scale and color combination.

Peonies for landscape effect should be grown as groups and masses of color arranged with meticulous care to harmonize not only with the background and undertones of green but with adjacent groups. You must work out borrowed and purchased ideas as well as the plants, until they are your own.

The range and variations of the colors of peony is much greater than generally thought. The herbaceous named varieties in there predominant color effect requires over twenty-five classifications. The color effect on the inside and outside of the blooms as well as the fact that some fade must be taken in mind when planting for color effect.

Peonies for landscape effect must have good foliage, strong stems, regular bearing, numerous flowers of good color in sun or shade, rain and windstorms.

There are hundreds of varieties of peonies, with which the garden maker may set his scenes; some may already be in place or merely need rearranging, the others are added season by season through purchase, collection, exchange, good luck, sacrifice, making the peony garden intriguing and often surprising.

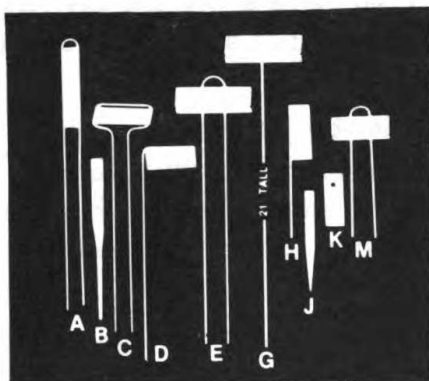
In any peony planting, fragrance must not be forgotten. A scentless garden is a pauperish thing and in forgetting fragrance you commit a sin of omission.

The point is; a peony garden should be show-minded and any planting of peonies is beautiful. We, by our indolence in placing, are wasting marvelous opportunities for far greater delight and further accomplishment. Of course, I still fuss and glory in the fussing with my prize peony blooms, but they are no longer the peony garden; they are just a part of it, a part I subordinate to the cutting garden. The peony garden must be a harmonious unit, not a series of rows or things in front of shrubs. It must be made first of all a green garden blending blue-green, gray-green, yellow and red-green, with the normal light of other plants. Even if there were not a single bloom to be seen, it is still full of color.

If we visualize panoramic photographic films, there will be peonies and still more peonies in our imaginady pictures. The making of these imaginary pictures come true, is the principal reason for this article.

No originality is claimed for this article. Thoughts and sentences have been lifted from other articles as ruthlessly as I expect you to lift your plants to fit in your imaginary peony landscaping.

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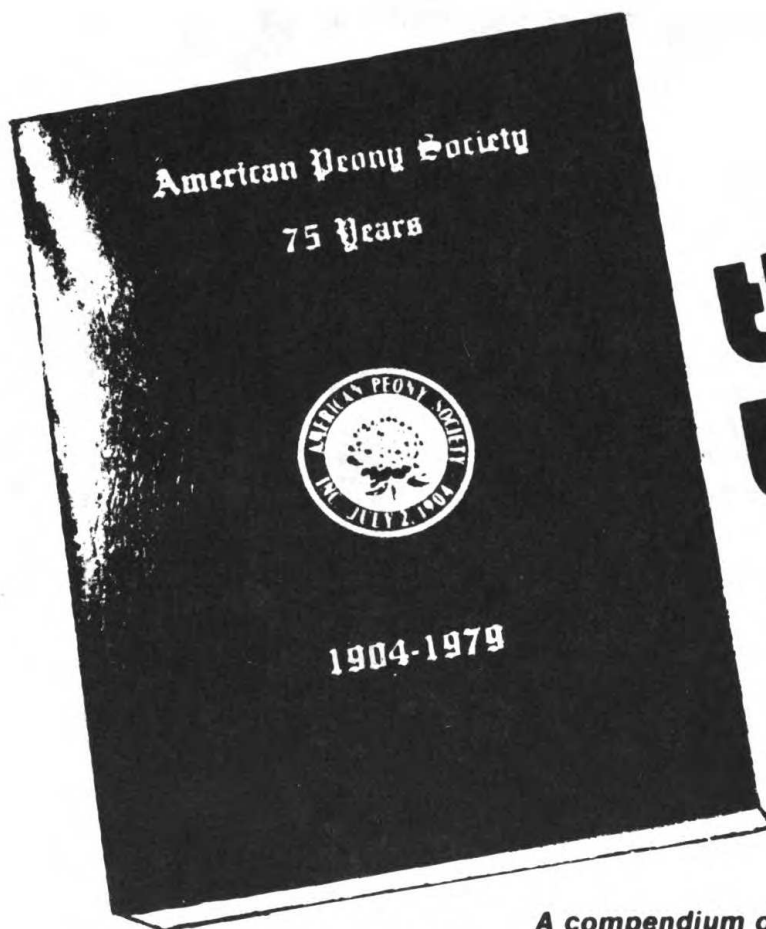
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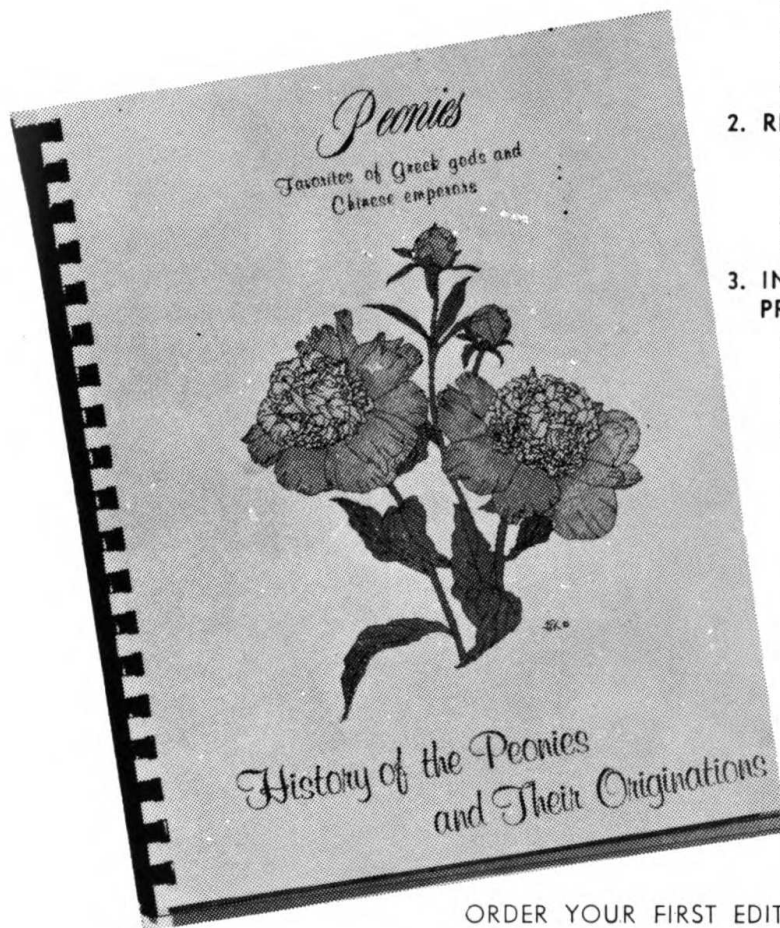
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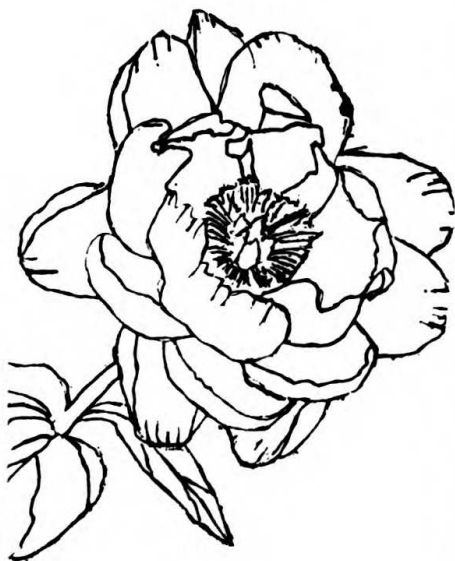
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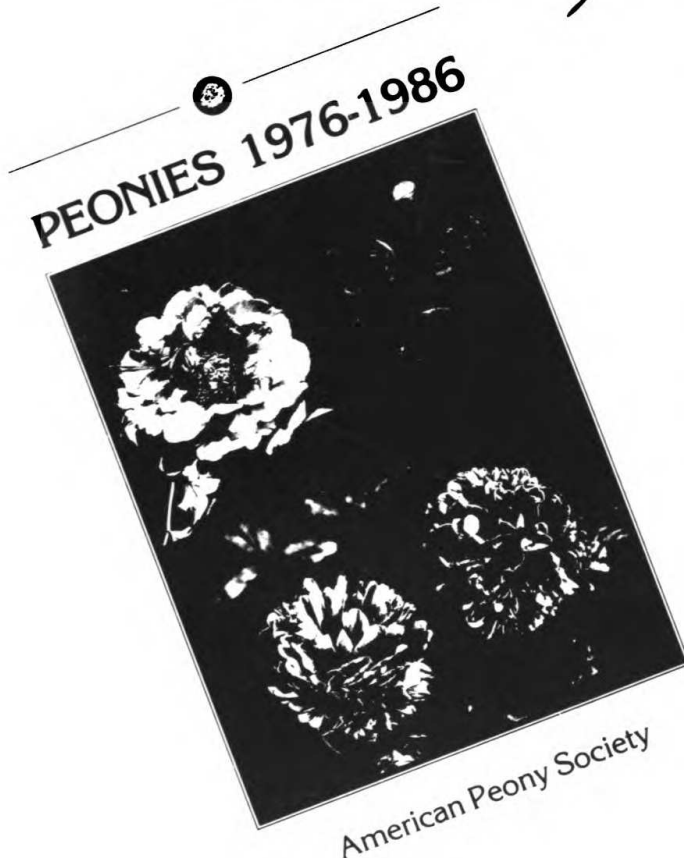
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