

LIFE!



MARCH 1990
NO. 273

The American Peony Society Bulletin



*P. Nice Gal in landscape design with Columbine.
Garden and Photo Wilma Zapka. Page 17.*

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*

\$25 Postpaid

Send check or money order to—

AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY
250 Interlachen Road, Hopkins, MN 55343

AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY

250 Interlachen Road (612) 938-4706 Hopkins, Minn. 55343

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DEPT. OF REGISTRATION

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

Greta M. Kessenich, Secretary

OBJECTIVES

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

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

MEMBERSHIP

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

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

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

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

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



AMERICAN Peony Society Bulletin



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FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

I want to encourage every member of the AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY to make an effort to attend our Annual Meeting and Show in Mansfield, Ohio in June.

While our Society is in excellent financial health, I believe that more of our members need to be actively involved in its affairs. There are far too few new faces each year at our meetings. If we are going to continue to be a success, you (yes, you!) need to be an active participant and contributor to the AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY.

Exciting developments continue within the genus *Paeonia*. The color range continues to broaden among both the herbaceous and tree peonies. Spectacular new Itoh hybrids have been seen at both of the last two shows. In addition to the show, there is an educational meeting, an enjoyable banquet, and an exciting auction.

Please make an effort to be at the meeting. It is a wonderful weekend!


Kent Crossley

PHYSIOLOGY OF THE PEONY PATCH

By J. Franklin Styer, Bend, Oregon

After 80 years of growing peonies (*Paeonia lactiflora*), I may be able to help some younger gardeners. My father, Jacob Styer, sold the first cut peonies in the New York market about 1902. The firm has continued and is still in business in Virginia, Pennsylvania, and New York.

The species came from China and probably all that got to America were bred from Chinese garden cultivars. We bought French, English, and later American selected seedlings after each cultivar had been named. We did sow seed in the 1950 years but our selections are not on the market except two or three. It is clear that almost all in cultivation differ from the original species and much diversity, and even hybridity have occurred. Thus, we may speak of averages or mention cultivars.

Let me suggest that most cultivars can be safely used for cut flowers. A grower needs to test a number of them for his market, for storage holding, and for his soils.

The plant can be grown in most soils, the main problem is rainfall. In light soil, it can be a little deeper, but in heavy clays it may better be hilled up to keep it drier. It came from clay soils on mountain sides. It dislikes shade. It detests weeds. Let me say right now that peonies need not be cultivated if Roundup (a very safe herbicide) is applied just before the stems emerge in Spring, after blooming, and after you cut down the stems in the Fall. Roundup kills all green plants but nothing in the soil. I made the first trials on it in peony culture, and it has been depended upon for three treatments each year since, the first and last a complete spraying; and the middle one a spot application to the weeds only.

The peony exhibits dormancy, which is a physiological syndrome. A stem comes from the ground with a bud or more at the top. At this time, all tissues are growing; the crown in the soil and the buds carry reproductive tissues. After blooming, the leaves produce chemical substances which slowly terminate new growth—leaves and roots continue functioning, but not growing.

As this condition develops, an expansion of crown growth and formation of buds gradually ends and the plant is dormant, but now, new roots can form as long as temperature permits, during winter.

The crown tissues grow around the old herbaceous stems, up to a point in the ground about to the well aerated level (1 to 3 inches), and form eyes (buds) at that level. Eyes grow quite slowly, often into late Fall, but dormancy then protects them from developing further.

A grower may divide plants or transplant two to four-year plants any time from late July into winter taking advantage of dormancy. If planting is immediate, there is advantage in saving all roots possible.

In commercial nurseries roots of less than a year old are removed as they are likely to be killed, and often the division is cut back to roots an inch thick, but this is not desirable.

The plant, now dormant, will not grow from its eyes as long as it is warm, nor if too cold. But when the weather becomes cold, the causative chemical is broken down, slowly, of course. This requires about 720 hours at 30 to 40F. Then, the plant will grow when the weather becomes warm enough. We must remember that this syndrome can keep a plant dormant even for years if this moderate cold treatment does not occur.

It is the crown which must receive the effect, not the roots; roots may grow all winter. This means that the plant should be uncovered during winter, at least in the southern range; and in the extreme south the plant must be planted with the crown near the soil surface.

Plants being transplanted must not be kept in any place below 40 degrees; dormancy may be broken and the divisions start growth in the Fall. Plants planted dormant in the Spring cannot grow the first year, unless deliberately treated to cold as required before planting.

A cultivar, *M. Jules Elie*, is the earliest to bloom in our New York fields; it follows *Festiva Maxima* by one day in southern Pennsylvania; and is so late in tidewater Virginia so as to be useless. This is due to the very long time required to break dormancy. This character is seen in a mild way in many cultivars originating in the north; these need to be tested for use in southern gardens.

Peonies can be grown in containers. Whole plants to fit the containers are selected and lifted carefully to save all small roots and planted at once to prevent injury. These roots are essential to supply the flowers with water the first year. The container metal must be protected from direct sun. We are inclined to water too much, and that is very important in Fall and Winter, when the species is accustomed to dry weather while dormant.

Peony roots spread to 8 or 10 feet across, and so should be fertilized to that width. The formula should be a multiple of 1-2-1, more nitrogen will produce a taller and weaker stalk. Application before planting of enough for five years is wise. Lime is essential, and the land may be dosed heavily before planting. We seldom see any gain from the use of peat moss, or any other mulch. If used, remove during winter.

The peony seed is a little plant, becoming doubly dormant in its formation. The first layer breaks dormancy in a certain period and is capable of producing a root, timed for the first Spring. The rest of the seed consists of stem reproductive tissues and breaks dormancy the second Winter. Experts carry out these periods in refrigerators to gain time, but find it wise to get the root first.

As soon in Spring as the secondary buds on each stem are growing, they should be removed. This gives the main bud more food and

makes it better in appearance in bloom. Welcome the ants—they remove the excess sugar from the bud's surface.

The common peony may live over fifty years; its crown grows outward on a level, and tissues in the center live until starved or deprived of water. If soil is added, the center crown tissue may grow upward and live, but it does not often profit to attempt that. In truth, all divisions of a cultivar are part of the same plant, even to becoming world-wide, and far over a hundred years old.

There are diseases which affect peony stems or leaves, usually controlled in the garden by meticulous removal of every sign of the plant above the soil level in the late dormancy in Winter. We have found cases of fungus attacks about blooming time, but these are controlled in the same way; they occur in wet periods and in closely confined gardens. One cultivar very inclined to be so attacked is *Nancy Nicholls*; the fungus is able to produce a bud rot in cold storage of the flowers of this cultivar.

Diversity in cultivars is easy to obtain; most catalogs list many. In growing at least a hundred, we have only discarded a few for cultural reasons. In 1935, we had a patch of one thousand of three-year-old plants of a prize red cultivar. They all died within one week in mid-summer. But five of other cultivars (weeds so-called) mixed through the field were not hurt and are alive today. Looking back, we realize that red-flowered cultivars have given us more trouble than others.

Growing peonies for nearly a hundred years has been pleasant, has taken up little time, and has been profitable. We owe *Paeonia* a great deal.

NOTE: Stylers peonies are blooming in Port Royal, Virginia, Tannersville, Pennsylvania and Geneva, New York. Its new owner, Sandra Evaninek, is selling [cut flowers] peonies in Washington; she has connections with the White House. Her peonies dominate the New York market. Sandra has 30 or more of my seedlings, up to 300 or more of each, selected for cut flower use. She is connected with Dr. Heuser of Penn State for research.

—Frank Styer

(Mr. Styer—for your 89th birthday, Nov. 28, 1989, we send greetings of health and happiness with thanks for sharing your peony knowledge over the years.)

REGISTRATIONS

RED WINDFLOWER (William J. Seidl, Manitowoc, Wisconsin)—Jan. 18, 1990.

Seedling #76LSW-3, herbaceous hybrid, lactiflora, single.

Parentage, **Laddie x Sparkling Windflower**. First year bloomed, 1981.

Red, single hybrid, has good substance and stem strength. Fertile both ways. It has stamens, pollen and seeds. Height 18-24", early bloom. The foliage is narrow, deeply divided, similar to its seed parent and other clones of the **Windflower** strain. This is probably a tetraploid.

Happy Birthday, Mr. Krekler—your 90th Birthday on Feb. 18th. Thank you for giving the peony world so many beautiful peonies, for your support, loyal devotion and dedication to the American Peony Society, over the years.



P. Silver Daubed (Krekler) Late double pink



Blanche King (Brand), medium tall, full double/dark pink, incurved petals with a silvery sheen. It has received the Award of Merit, B. H. Farr Bronze Medal, also Silver Medal.

**CONVENTION OF
THE AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY
THE 87th ANNUAL MEETING AND THE 85th
NATIONAL EXHIBITION**

**KINGWOOD CENTER—MANSFIELD, OHIO
June 8, 9 and 10th, 1990**

MANSFIELD WELCOMES YOU!

For the benefit of those wishing to attend the Convention, Mansfield, Ohio is located on U.S. Highway 42, about halfway between Cleveland and Columbus. It lies just west of Interstate 71 and just south of U.S. 30. No air service directly to Mansfield, Ohio. Air service to Cleveland and/or Columbus, Ohio. Car rentals available or contact Larry Goldsmith, Custom Transport—419/524-2050—regarding bus service to Mansfield from Columbus or Cleveland, Ohio. This service may be available.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, June 8

Center opens at 8:00 a.m. — prepare show entries — work room will be open as needed Friday evening.

Saturday, June 9

7:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. — set up and enter exhibits

8:00 a.m. — Registration

11:30 a.m. — 1:30 p.m. — Judging

1:30 p.m. — Luncheon at Kingwood Hall, Assembly Room

2:00 p.m. — Exhibition opens to public, closes at 5:00 p.m.

3:00 p.m. — Seminar, Kingwood Hall, Service Room

7:00 p.m. — Buffet Banquet, Kingwood Hall, Assembly Room

Annual Meeting

Root Auction — Peony root to be donated

Sunday, June 10

9:00 a.m. — Board of Directors meeting, Gate House

10:00 a.m. — Show opens to the public

5:00 p.m. — Show closes to the public

Reservations include Lunch, and Banquet on Sat., June 9—\$15.50.

Makes reservations early for preparation of service. Send reservations directly to:

Greta M. Kessenich
250 Interlachen Road
Hopkins, Minnesota 55343

MOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

TRAVELODGE - 137 Park Ave. West, Mansfield, OH 44902

(419) 522-5142

Rates: Single from \$40.00 — Double from \$48.00 — Ohio tax: 11.75%

HOLIDAY INN - 166 Park Ave. West, Mansfield, Ohio 44902

(419) 525-6000 — Contact Ms. Lois Miller

Rates: Single \$53.55 — Double \$58.00 - \$60.00 — Ohio tax: 11.75%

BEST WESTERN - 880 Laver Road, Mansfield, Ohio 44905

(419) 589-2200

Rates: Single \$45.00 — Double \$51.00 — Ohio tax: 11.75%

RULES FOR SPECIMEN EXHIBITS

1. All entries must be completed and in place by 11:30 a.m. on opening day.
2. All entries must have been grown by exhibitors.
3. Entry tags supplied by the Society must be filled out completely as to class, variety, and name and address of exhibitor. In addition, each variety must be identified with a small wood tag with the variety name legibly printed thereon. Entry tags may be obtained in advance from the secretary of the American Peony Society. The exhibitor or his agent shall be responsible for proper completion of the entry tags.
4. Stems should be approximately 12" long (tree peonies excepted.)
5. Exhibitors are limited to one entry each in classes 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 201, and 301. In all other classes up to two entries of each variety are permitted; however, any number of different varieties may be entered.
6. The show committee may combine or divide classes if the number of entries warrants it.
7. Correct varietal labeling is mandatory in the Open and the Amateur classes. It is recommended in the Novice classes, but no entry shall be disqualified for failure to identify.
8. Standard containers will be furnished by the show committee and must be in all classes.
9. The American Peony Society Handbook will govern bloom types and color.
10. Anemone types such as Gay Paree shall be shown as Japanese.
11. Awards need not be given to unworthy exhibits.
12. Flowers are to remain as placed on the show tables by the exhibitor, moved only when necessary, and then the exhibits must be kept in the same position.
13. The decision of the judges is final—NOTE: See Page 14. Division VI—COURT OF HONOR CANDIDATE CLASS

14. The best seedling judged by the seedling committee will be displayed on the Court of Honor.

DIVISION 1. Open to all Exhibitors.

- Class**
- 101 American Peony Society Award
Twenty-five varieties, any color or type.
One bloom each in separate containers.
- 102 American Peony Society Award
Fifteen varieties, herbaceous only, any type or color
One bloom each in separate containers.
- 103 American Peony Society Award
Ten varieties, herbaceous hybrid only, any type or color
One bloom each in separate containers.
- 104 American Peony Society Award
Ten varieties, Tree peonies only, any type or color
One bloom each in separate containers.
- 105 Five varieties, Japanese Type lactiflora only, any color
One bloom each in separate containers.
- 106 Five varieties, single type lactiflora only, any color
One bloom each in separate containers.

Three Blooms, one variety lactiflora only, in one container.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Class | 117 Semi-double red |
| 110 Double white | 118 Bomb any color |
| 111 Double blush | 119 Japanese white or blush |
| 112 Double light pink | 120 Japanese pink |
| 113 Double dark pink | 121 Japanese red |
| 114 Double red | 122 Single white or blush |
| 115 Semi-double white or blush | 123 Single pink |
| 116 Semi-double pink | 124 Single red |

One Bloom Lactiflora Only

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Class | 138 Bomb white or blush |
| 130 Double white | 139 Bomb pink |
| 131 Double blush | 140 Bomb red |
| 132 Double light pink | 141 Japanese white or blush |
| 133 Double dark pink | 142 Japanese pink |
| 134 Double red | 143 Japanese red |
| 135 Semi-double white or blush | 144 Single white or blush |
| 136 Semi-double pink | 145 Single pink |
| 137 Semi-double red | 146 Single red |

Three blooms, one variety Herbaceous Hybrids or Species in one container.

Class

- | | | | |
|-----|--|------|------------------------|
| 150 | Double or semi-double white, blush or yellow | | |
| 151 | Double or semi-double coral | 155 | Single yellow |
| 152 | Double or semi-double pink | 156 | Single white or blush |
| 153 | Double or semi-double red | 157 | Single coral |
| | | 158 | Single pink |
| 154 | Japanese, any color | 159 | Single red |
| | | 159A | Itoh, hybrid any color |

One bloom Herbaceous Hybrid or Species

Class

- | | | | |
|-----|--------------------------------------|-------|------------------------|
| 160 | Double or semi-double yellow | | |
| 161 | Double or semi-double white or blush | | |
| 162 | Double or semi-double coral | | |
| 163 | Double or semi-double pink | | |
| 164 | Double or semi-double red | | |
| 165 | Japanese, any color | | |
| 166 | Single yellow | 169 | Single pink |
| 167 | Single white or blush | 169A. | Single red |
| 168 | Single coral | 169B. | Itoh hybrid, any color |

Three blooms, one variety, tree peonies only, in one container.

Class

- | | | | | | |
|------|--|------|-------------|------|--------|
| 170a | Japanese (Moutan) White, Single | 170b | semi-double | 170c | double |
| 171a | Japanese (Moutan) Pink, Single | 171b | semi-double | 171c | double |
| 172a | Japanese (Moutan) Red, single | 172b | semi-double | 172c | double |
| 173a | Japanese (Moutan) Violet single
(Really purple lavenders) | 173b | semi-double | 173c | double |
| 174a | Japanese (Moutan) Maroon single | 174b | semi-double | 174c | double |
| 175a | Lutea Hybrid, white to cream, single | 175b | semi-double | 175c | double |
| 176a | Lutea Hybrid, yellow, single | 176b | semi-double | 176c | double |
| 177a | Lutea Hybrid, blend, single | 177b | semi-double | 177c | double |
| 178a | Lutea Hybrid, pink, single | 178b | semi-double | 178c | double |
| 179a | Lutea Hybrid, red, single | 179b | semi-double | 179c | double |
| 180a | Lutea Hybrid, dark red, single | 180b | semi-double | 180c | double |

One bloom tree peony only.

Class

185a	Japanese (Moutan) white, single	185b	semi-double	185c	double
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186a	Japanese (Moutan) pink, single	186b	semi-double	186c	double
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187a	Japanese (Moutan) red, single	187b	semi-double	187c	double
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188a	Japanese (Moutan) violet, single	188b	semi-double	188c	double
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189a	Japanese (Moutan) maroon, single	189b	semi-double	189c	double
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190a	Lutea Hybrid, white to cream, single	190b	semi-double	190c	double
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191a	Lutea Hybrid, yellow, single	191b	semi-double	191c	double
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192a	Lutea Hybrid, blend, single	192b	semi-double	192c	double
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193a	Lutea Hybrid, pink, single	193b	semi-double	193c	double
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194a	Lutea Hybrid, red, single	194b	semi-double	194c	double
------	---------------------------	------	-------------	------	--------

195a	Lutea Hybrid, dark red, single	195b	semi-double	195c	double
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196c	European tree peony
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DIVISION II AMATEUR: Open to exhibitors who raise peonies chiefly for pleasure, sell plants or cut flowers only casually, and do not grow more than 200 plants.

Class 201 American Peony Society Award
Ten varieties, any type or color
One bloom each in separate containers.

Three blooms, one variety lactiflora only, unless otherwise stated, in one container.

Class 205 Double white or blush

206	Double pink	210	Japanese any color
207	Double red	211	Single any color
208	Semi-double any color	212	Hybrid any color
209	Bomb any color	213	Tree any type or color

One bloom lactiflora unless stated otherwise.

Class	220	Double white	225	Semi-double any color
	221	Double blush	226	Bomb any color
	222	Double light pink	227	Japanese any color
	223	Double dark pink	228	Single any color
	224	Double red	229	Hybrid any type or color
			230	Tree, any type or color

DIVISION III NOVICE: Open to all amateur gardeners who exhibit peonies only at local shows.

Class 301 American Peony Society Award
Five varieties any type or color in separate containers.

Three blooms one variety lactiflora, unless otherwise stated, in one container.

Class 305 Double any color

306 Semi-double, any color

308 Single, any color

307 Japanese, any color

309 Hybrid, any color

One bloom lactiflora, unless otherwise stated, in one container.

Class 315 Double white or blush

316 Double pink

320 Japanese any color

317 Double red

321 Single any color

318 Semi-double any color

322 Hybrid any color

319 Bomb any color

323 Tree any color

DIVISION IV: Seedlings and New Varieties.

Class 401 Seedlings.

Three blooms, one variety in one container, not currently introduced.

Variety must have been divided at least once.

Must be shown under name or seedling number.

402 New Varieties:

Three blooms, one variety in one container. Limited to varieties named and registered with the American Peony Society and introduced no earlier than five years prior to show date.

Awards given in the two preceding classes may be Certificates of Merit or Honorable Mention at the discretion of the judges, but no ribbon awards. Varieties having won either award in previous competition may not be shown again in that class, except that varieties shown in class 401 may be shown again in class 402 regardless of awards.

403 Seedlings:

One bloom. This class is for display only.

No awards will be given and any seedling entered in class 401 is ineligible.

DIVISION V: Special Entries.

Class 501 Commercial Exhibit.

Collection by commercial grower of 25 to 50 varieties in separate containers. A placard approximately 9" x 14" may be furnished by the exhibitor to identify his display.

502 Visitor from greatest distance.

Five different varieties any type. Mileage verified on entry tag.

503 Multiple bloom.

Single stalk not disbudded. Must show at least three open blooms.

Class 504 North Dakota Memorial Award

Five full doubles, named varieties, any color.

One bloom each separate container.

One entry per family.

This class not considered for Class VI.

DIVISION VI: Court of Honor Candidate Class

Court of Honor blooms will be selected from this Division.

Exhibitors are urged to enter their best bloom and are limited to two in each class.

Judges may select two blooms from the floor in addition to placements, for consideration of Grand Champion on the Court of Honor.

One bloom Lactiflora

Class 601 Double white

602 Double blush

603 Double light pink

604 Double dark pink

605 Double red

606 Bomb any color

607 Semi-double any color

608 Japanese any color

609 Single any color

One bloom Hybrid or Species

Class 610 Double any color

611 Semi-double any color

612 Single any color

613 Japanese any color

One bloom Tree

Class 614 Lutea any type or color

615 European any type or color

616 Japanese any type or color

Class 617 One bloom Itoh Hybrid any color.

Grand Champion

The best flower in the show will be selected from all named entries in the show.

DIVISION VII. ARTISTIC CLASSES

Section A IT'S PEONY TIME

1. **TIME TO MEDITATE**—a religious interpretation
2. **TIME TO REFLECT**—a reflective design using:
 - a. water
 - b. mirror(s)
3. **TIME OUT FOR LOVE**—a traditional design suitable for a wedding reception
4. **TRAVEL TIME—A TRIP TO JAPAN**—a design in the oriental manner
5. **VACATION TIME—A TRIP TO THE MOUNTAINS**—an arrangement using peonies and weathered wood
6. **TEA TIME**—an exhibitional table segment to depict a summer tea; a 40" h. x 32" w. x 30" maximum depth niche will be provided; all cloths must have an 8" drop; appointments and decorative units should be in proportion to space allowed; an exhibition table segment is not related to actual service of food; no flatware should be used.
7. **SHOPPING TIME**—a basket design
8. **A STITCH IN TIME SAVES NINE**—a rhythmic design

ARTISTIC DIVISION RULES

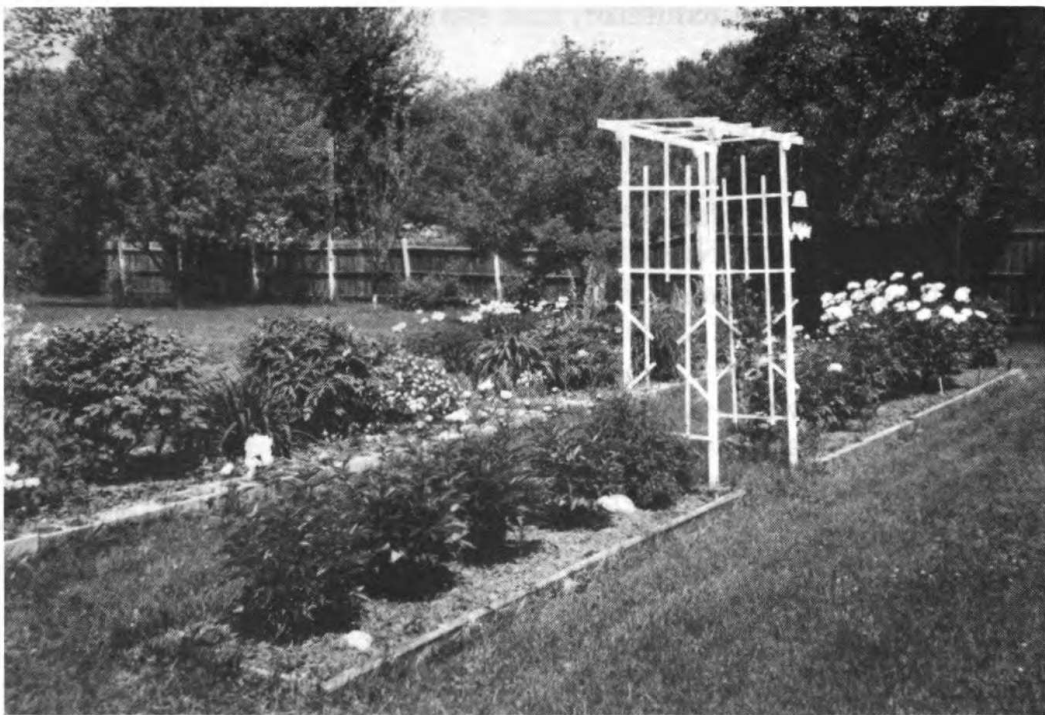
1. An exhibitor may make only one entry per class. All must be the work of the exhibitor.
2. Peonies should be featured in all arrangements. Peonies need not be grown by the exhibitor, and some will be available from the committee.
3. Accessories and/or bases may be used in all classes.
4. No artificial flowers or foliage are permitted.
5. A minimum of treated plant material is permissible.
6. Entries must be placed from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday, June 8, and from 7 to 11 a.m., Saturday, June 9 in the Kingwood Meeting Hall.
7. While the show management will exercise due caution in safeguarding exhibits, it cannot assume responsibility for injury or loss.
8. Personally owned properties must be claimed immediately after the show closes at 5 p.m. on Sunday, June 10.
9. Reservations are requested for class 6 only. Contact the Kingwood Center receptionist (900 Park Avenue West, Mansfield, Ohio 44906, or 419/522-0211) by June 5.

**Bill Collins
Kingwood Center
900 Park Avenue West
Mansfield, Ohio 44906**

Landscape garden of Wilma Zapka



Border of Iris, roses, Bridal wreath, foxglove, P. ROSEDALE. P. in bud, Fairies Petticoat. Monkshood and Potentilla



Raised peony beds

LANDSCAPING WITH PEONIES, COMPATIBLE SHRUBS AND PLANTS

By Wilma Zapka, S. Deerfield, Massachusetts

My first attempts at gardening started over fifty years ago when packets of seeds sold for ten cents, sometimes even five cents. I would buy several kinds of annuals, sow the seeds in short rows, and then transplant the seedlings to places where color was needed. I kept to annuals only for many years, because it was necessary for us to move quite often, and I didn't feel that perennials were anything I wanted to get involved with.

Twenty eight years ago I thought that where we then lived, would be our permanent home; it proved not to be, and though there were shrubs and some perennials there, there were no peonies.

Sixteen years ago we moved into our present home, an 1892 Greek Revival two-story house with an ell extending to the back, where the pantry, kitchen, and back entry are located. Stretching on still more is the garage area where two cars can fit, and stretching on still further is my husband, John's, work shop, which once was a stable. There is plenty of space for all our garden equipment, tools, carts, mowers, etc. John's birthday present this year was a Homelite garden tiller-cultivator, and is he ever happy with that! This makes gardening a snap, so he says!

This rambling home of ours sits on slightly more than an acre of land. Fortunately, the inside of the house was in much better condition than the yard, which left me more time to plant the flower gardens. That wasn't so easy because what we have here is heavy clay soil. With all the leaves, clippings and garden wastes, a compost pile was started immediately and the following year all the compost was put on the vegetable garden. Later, though, there was enough for me to use in the flower gardens, also. The area I selected for my first flower bed took longer to get into workable condition than I had anticipated—we kept adding and digging in compost, dried manure, peat moss and sand. I thought there must be a better way. The next area was going to be a raised bed. Some old R. R. ties were available which had been sawed in two, making them easy to handle. Then we bought loam—yards and yards of it. This first raised bed is 18 ft. long/8 ft. wide at the center, tapering to 4 ft. at the ends. Blue Boy Holly is at the left side with Blue Girl Holly at the other end. Peony, Mr. Thim, is a bit left of center with fill-ins of Columbine, Foxglove, tulips, perennial geraniums, and later on, shade-loving impatiens in light and dark pinks.

Back tracking just a bit, I want to mention that, besides the usual shrubs seen around old New England homes, the lilacs, purple and white, Mockorange, Hydrangea, Flowering Almond, and a variety of Hostas, there was one lone Peony bush. A bush that produced copious amounts of large white double flowers with red flecks at the center. Perhaps it is *Festiva Maxima*. In some years, this flower had a lovely rose-like fragrance. I decided I must have more peonies for the flower

beds and began looking through my flower magazines for an address. I settled on Klehm Nurseries and sent for their catalog. I had a wonderful, though difficult, time trying to choose from all those beautiful flowers pictured in the catalog, finally paring my wish list of 20 to a more realistic 8. My first order for peonies was in 1979 and consisted of Red Charm, Charm, Robert W. Auten, Dawn Pink, Santa Fe, Doreen, Susie Q, and Mr. Thim.

Dawn Pink, Santa Fe, and Susie Q are planted in the same general area and look great amidst some clumps of blue and purple Iris, purple Azalea, Columbine and pansies. This planting is part of what I call the free-form bed to the left of the driveway where you'll also find a low-growing Juniper, Golden Barberry, Variegated Euonymous, Burning Bush, Cotoneaster, Japanese Iris, a clump of Pink Daylilies, and fill-ins as I go along.

Work continued on the raised beds until there were six. The second was planted completely with J.P. roses (testing). The area was outlined with R. R. ties as before and filled with the new loam; this bed measures 25' long by 7' wide. The third area was made into a corner or angle-shaped bed with one side being 15' long by 3' deep; the other side is 17' long by 6' deep. The shorter side starts with a Blue Lilac, then Peony Red Charm, Spirea "Gold Flame," P. Barrington Belle, Veronica, Blue Lake, a plant from the seed of peony Rivida, Columbine and in the corner a white lilac and a native wild purple aster that stays neat in its own corner, and blossoms in Sept. On the longer side of this garden at the back is a Pink Rhododendron, Baptisia, Dwarf Alberta Spruce and Red Bar berry. Toward the front starting back at the corner, White Astilbe, (grown from seed), Dicentra 'Spectabilis' and Dicentra Pantaloons. In this area, I have Peonies Krinkled White, May Lilac and Rivida. Earlier in the season daffodils and some of the earlier tulips put on their show. Later the fill-ins will have their turn to put on a show. A good combination for August-September display is Hosta 'Grandiflora' (white flowers) and Sedum 'Autumn Joy' and Sedum 'Meteor.' This combination is at the end of the long side of the angle bed.

There is no need to describe each of the flower gardens in detail; it would be somewhat repetitious and unnecessary. I think I have shown that for me at least, peonies are as versatile as any other plants. Perhaps I have ventured into No-No land merely because I didn't know any better, but so far, things have worked out just fine—and later, if need be, a plant can be moved from here to there if conditions indicate a change would benefit.

Two of the raised beds are planted mostly to Peonies. These are seen from the patio and act as a hedge or divider from the vegetable garden. The bed to the left from the patio starts off with peony Angel Cheeks, then Emma Klehm, Brides Dream, Moonglow and Spirea Anthony Waterer—there a trellis separates the beds with a two-foot wide path. On the other side is Clematis 'Blue Bird' climbing the right side of the trellis, and a few feet away is Peony Mrs. F. D. R., Bowl of

Cream, Jay Cee, Raspberry Sundae, Elsa Sass and a pink Peony that was given as a gift, a very nice double, but I do not know its name—and last in this row is Clethra 'Rosea' or Sweet Pepper Bush.

In reading the March 1980 BULLETIN, I learned that seeds were offered to anyone asking for them. I decided to try growing seeds. I made some choices from Gus Sindt's list and asked for Krinkled White, May Lilac, Gay Paree, Faribo Gold and Rivida. I planted the seeds in short rows in a section of the rose bed where they would not be disturbed. I planted the seeds June 6, 1980. In the fall of 1982, I transplanted the young plants into two rows several feet apart both ways, allowing enough room for them to mature. I kept five or six of the best looking plants to put in more featured positions in the gardens. Not all of the seedling plants are winners, and I suppose someday they will be removed, but for now they do nicely as a second divider to the vegetable garden. En Masse, and from a distance, they look nice and give a lot of color.

Individually, I have three 'May Lilac' plants that have nice large pink pom poms for blossoms. Krinkled White has given three worthwhile plants, as have Faribo Gold and Rivida. I expected all seedlings grown from Rivida seed to be red, but that was not the case. All but one out of 35 seeds, 18 plants have rose-red to medium pink blossoms. The one exception in the lot is a red single that resembles Scarlet O'Hara in color. In June of 1983, some of the stronger plants of Rivida, May Lilac, Krinkled White and Gay Paree produced several blossoms. I was very pleased to have results that quickly; I expected a much longer wait.

The final border garden (and I do mean final) was planted in 1984. This garden is not a raised bed, it hugs the west side (back) of the yard and runs north and south; it is 87' long and at the South end is 11' deep, tapering to 3' at the North end. John roto-tilled this area several times, waited several days, then tilled some more. When we decided the ground was ready I started to plant. Large plants went in first, a Carolina Spice Bush at the South end, a pink Honeysuckle at the North end. A third of the distance from each end, I planted a 'James MacFarlane' Lilac and a White Lilac. I then halved each of those sections by planting (from the South) Mt. Laurel 'Olympic Fire,' which is still too small to blossom, then a Flowering Quince which is a light apricot color, then a Bridal Wreath Spirea, which takes care of the taller background plants.

I started at the South end of the garden because it is the widest part, and filled in as I went. Under the Spice bush I planted some blue Tradescantia (Spider Lily), and at the front Potentilla 'Red Ace,' Peony Coral Charm and P. Fairies Petticoat, two bushes of white potentilla 'Abbottswood,' Peonies Rosedale and Santa Fe, Phlox maculata 'Omega,' several colors of Tiger Lilies, Peony Best Man, Foxglove, in shades of pink, lavender, buff and white, Monkshood 'Sparksii,' Peony Susie Q, Iris 'nan Rogers,' Baptisia, Monkshood 'Fischeri' and Coreopsis 'Sunburst.' Where there are gaps I like to put

in Perennial Geraniums, the purplish-red 'Bloody Cranesbill' (18" tall), and the 8" 'Striatum,' a light pink.

Early in the Spring there are scattered patches of crocus daffodils, a few hyacinths, and the ever-delightful pansies, which have come back ever since they were planted, from self-sown seed.

After the Spring flowers have gone, the remaining bare spots are filled with favorite annuals which last year were Ageratum 'Blue Mink,' Petunias, several types of white, Salvia 'Blaze of Fire' and the blue 'pratensis,' yellow marigolds 'Moonbeam,' and 'Susie Wong.'

I think the over-all favorite peony of family and friends would be **Red Charm**—it is gorgeous, with its rich red color and texture. There are many others crowding second place such as **Mrs. F. D. R., Bowl of Cream, Moonstone, Coral Charm, Emma Klehm, Rosedale** and **Kansas**. I think I could go through all forty or so varieties; each one is special to me. I regret that it took me so long to discover this wonderful world of peonies, and I thank Klehm's for introducing me to the BULLETIN.

I puzzle a bit about the plants that I have grown from seed. Do I refer to them as seedlings of **Rivida**, or do I dub them **Ruby, Garnet** or whatever?

Each year that goes by seems to magnify the workload and I'm sure I will ask John to try his birthday gift in the flower gardens and if it is as versatile as he says it is, it will be much easier to keep up with the garden chores.

One last thought about colors. Almost all colors of flowers go well together, but I do have something of a problem with orange—which reminds me of reading a passage in '*Garden Wilardry*' by Richard Davids. He had a seedling of Butterfly Weed growing near his red log house—he considered moving the plant (which resents being moved), but instead, decided to paint the house a more compatible color. Orange can be difficult!



Peony MYRON D. BIGGER, full rose type, white double, slight pink flushing center, when first open. Strong stems, height 30"

PEONIES IN SEATTLE

By James W. Waddick, 3233 McGee, Kansas City, MO 64111

I had the recent opportunity to visit the University of Washington Arboretum in Seattle, Washington, in November of 1989. This is not the very best time to see peonies by anyone's standards, but since I was there it was the only time. I talked to Timothy Hohm, the Curator of Plant collections, and looked at their plant records for peonies. I was also given excellent information by their Emeritus Director, Mr. Brian Mulligan. Naturally, an arboretum would give some extra consideration and effort to woody plants, and their tree peony collections were their main effort. The woody species were as follows:

P. delavayi
P. xlemoinei hybrids (28 named selections)
P. lutea
P. utea ludlowii
P. potaninii
P. potaninii trolliodes
P. suffruticosa
P. suffruticosa spontanea
plus eleven named hybrid selections

I was pleased and surprised to find a number of herbaceous species and Saunders hybrids, the latter acquired from Miss Saunders during the years 1966-1970. These herbaceous peonies included:

P. coriacea (from seed collected Mt. Tissuka, Morocco)
P. emodi
P. mlokosewitchii
P. veitchii woodwardii
and the Saunders hybrids: **P. broteri x mlokosewitchii**
P. emodi x P. mlokosewitchii
P. macrophylla x willomottia
P. mlokosewitchii x P. macrophylla
P. veitchii x P. mlokosewitchii - F2 hybrid

All the peonies are planted in one major area of the arboretum readily accessible from the main drive. The herbaceous species and hybrids are interplanted among the woody species. At least six large clumps of *Paeonia lutea ludlowii* dominate the collections. Some of these easily reach seven feet in height and, in November, still displayed their large bold foliage to advantage.

Plans are being made to place some of their peonies into more natural landscapes instead of planting them all together in a collection. I suggested specimens could go into their large Japanese garden. They are eager to see peonies used in a variety of ways to exhibit their best characters and to provide the visitors with ideas for planting in home gardens. The Center for Urban Horticulture is a new unit there and they intend to make their collections and planting ideas more accessible to gardeners.

MUTAN (Tree Peony) IN LUOYANG, CHINA

By Li Juan, engineer work in Luoyang Administration of Cultural Relics and Gardens

Luoyang is a very beautiful ancient city. It was the capital of nine dynasties, as Eastern Thou, Eastern Han, Wei (one of the tree kingdoms), Western Jin, Northern Wei, Sui, Tang and later Liang, later Tang. It is the nation's culture and economic center.

Luoyang is located 112.24°E, 34.46° N, in central China. It is endowed with fertile soil, a mild climate and moderate rainfall. All of which is ideal for peonies.

Mutan cultivation in China goes back about 1500 years (according to the records). Luoyang Mutons became well-known as early as the Tang Dynasty (618-907).

Luoyang people have been flower lovers since ancient times. Elegant, dignified tree peonies tended by local horticulturists have inspired poets and painters for years. According to historical records, the Muton was first grown in Luoyang in the Sui Dynasty (581-618) but became best known during the Song Dynasty (960-1279). Ouyang Xiu, a celebrated man of letters from the northern Song Dynasty, (he is the great literature writer) wrote several works on Muton. While working in Luoyang, he composed notes on the Muton in Luoyang, vividly describing Muton cultivation, the local species and their characteristics. He made comparisons with other species grown other places and wrote "*Mutan from Luoyang are the best.*" In the time of Emperor Ren Zong, Ouyang Xiu revisited Luoyang and noted astonishing progress in Muton cultivation. Full of emotion he composed a long poem entitled "The Muton in Luoyang." He recorded 24 famous varieties: Yellow Yao-Mutan King, Purple Wei, Muta, Queen, Yu banbai (white), Twin Red (red and pink in one flower), green and black Mutan. All of these good varieties are still growing in Luoyang. These graceful flowers are larger and beautifully colored with a profusion of petals that are highly ornamental.

PEONY FAIR

Luoyang people love the peony very much. After the founding of New China (1949) it gave the peony a new lease on life. The Luoyang municipal government has attached great importance to restoration and development of peony cultivation. Horticulturists and technicians, collected species and did breed new varieties. In 1982, Luoyang municipal people's Congress agreed that since the tree peony was the city flower, a peony fair should be held every year between April 15th to the 25th.

In response, factories, government organizations, schools and everyone began planting tree peonies. The tree peony increased from 30 varieties (in 1940's) to more than 250 (not including the unnamed new varieties), and the quantity from 1000 to more than 300,000.

In 1983, the first peony fair was April 17th. Wang Cheng Park had 220,000 visitors in a day. In the fair, the streets were decorated and 100,000 tree peonies were blooming in the parks, flower beds, and nurseries. Horticulturists, artists, writers, photographers, journalists, and visitors came to Luoyang from other parts of the country, also from other countries.

Statistics show that visitors number in the millions each year during the fair.

A Chinese lantern show is held and hundreds of novel lamps are selected from neighboring districts, and countries are on display. At night, the colorful lanterns add to the festive atmosphere. You can also enjoy sports, concerts, painting shows according to your desires.

As an ancient capital, Luoyang is noted for its parks and gardens and plants. Today, its thousands of peonies make Luoyang even more charming.

In 1990, the China national city flower exhibition will be held in the Peony Fair, April 15-25. A warm welcome to the U.S. peony people and experts to come and visit Luoyang.

PLANT COMBINATIONS WITH PEONIES

Double pink and white tulips, double white narcissus, cheiranthus allioni, Siberian wallflower against a background of peony plants.

A mass of Oriental poppies between two large bushes of Harrison's yellow roses.

Clematis recta, lemon lilies, and a large flowered, tall growing, deep blue columbine.

A background of Dorothy Perkins and Excelsa roses, then a generous planting of regal lilies, gypsophila, and henchera or coral bells.

Spirea, Bridal Wreath, Iris Mary Frances, a beautiful blue variety, interspersed with a clear yellow columbine, and bordered with the early daisies.

Regal lilies springing up from a mass of the low growing Chinese delphinium.

Regal lilies planted in front of a mass of pink Valerian.

The regal lily grows in so many gardens. It is a really satisfactory garden lily, hardy and sure to bloom.

A mass of the light colored sweet rocket as a background for the old fashioned "Bleeding Heart," and Mertensia virginica.

Double blue Centaurea, "Bachelor's Buttons," with the perennial Coreopsis used as a cover when the iris are through blooming.

Tall blue and white Delphiniums with the old fashioned scarlet Lychnis. It is usually in bloom July 4th.

DRYING PEONIES FOR WINTER BOUQUETS

by Roberta Moffitt



A wreath of dried flowers: Peonies, Lilies, Roses, crested Celosia, Zinnias and Japanese Anemones on base of Artemesia and Lambs Ear.

Peonies are my favorite flower. Some years ago I visited the peony gardens at Kingwood in Mansfield, Ohio, and fell in love with the newer varieties and wanted to begin drying them. I started a peony collection with plants from R. W. Tischler, David Reath and Louis Smirnow. All are now mature plants and breathtakingly beautiful dryers.

People seeing a box of dried peony blossoms for the first time say over and over, "They are gorgeous!" They can be used in English and Colonial bouquets, classic Japanese arrangements and in lovely wreaths for winter decoration. They are so real that one man at the Williamsburg Garden Symposium said, "They are not dried flowers. They are real peonies with the water removed."

Peonies have a short blooming period at a time when sudden wind and rainstorms are apt to ground them, so drying some perfect blooms, partially open buds and leaves for winter bouquets is just common sense. I call them my flower treasury. Anemone types, Japanese with chrysanthemum centers, Singles and some Tree peonies (especially the golden yellows) and specie hybrids in pastel pinks, whites and rose shades dry best. Deep reds tend to dry very dark in color, almost purple.

I recently dried "Vera Tischler," a gorgeous dryer as beautiful as my old favorite, "Westerner." "Hazel Brand" is an outstanding dryer and sized well for bouquets. "Beth Erickson" is deeper colored than I normally would try, but dried an outstanding shade of mauve. My best results with singles are "Krinkled White," though "Pico" and "Sea Shell" dry very well. The hybrid yellow, "Roman Gold" is unusual and lovely when combined with apricot roses and white Anemone Japonica.

YOU WILL NEED:

Pan for drying, with cover,
OR heavy-duty aluminum foil and masking
tape to secure it.

#20 floral wire cut in 2" lengths
(one for each flower)

Silica gel for drying (Petalast),
amount depends on number of flowers.

Small scoop (5").

Covered storage box lined with
½" thick sheet styrofoam.

5" pliers for handling dried flowers.

Step 1.

PLACING & WIRING PEONY FLOWERS IN PAN:

To dry 6 peonies 5" in diameter requires a pan approximately 18"x12"x4½" deep and 18 lbs. Petalast (silica gel). For fewer peonies, scale down size of pan and amount of Petalast. Cut peonies after sun has dried them of dew, plunging stems in water to avoid wilting. Pour 1" Petalast in layer in pan. Remove flowers from stems one by one, cutting them off with ½" stem on flower heads. Insert 2" wire into stem end up through calyx, leaving about ¾" wire extended. Bend wire horizontally and bury flower as deeply as possible in pan as shown. Add more Petalast beneath each flower to support in natural position and fill any space under petals to prevent flattening. Continue until all flowers are in pan.

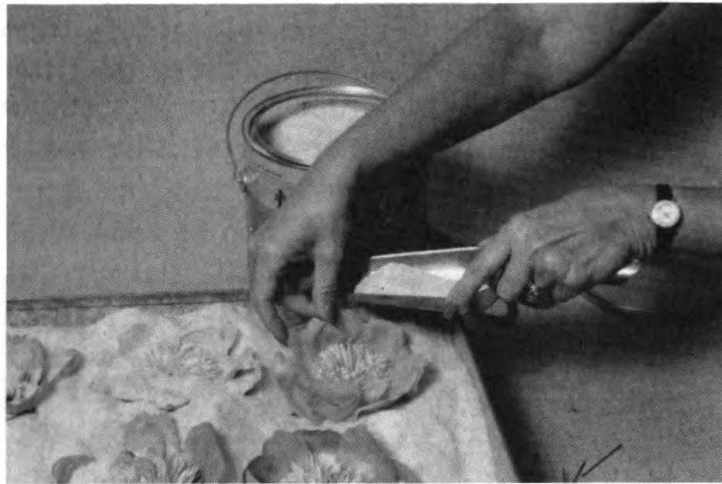


*Inserting wire in peony stem
and placing in petalast*

Step 2.

COVERING WITH PETALAST:

Using scoop, rotate Petalast around flowers; hold outer petals to separate them and seep Petalast into and on sides of petals letting some seep into centers. Continue rotating scoops of Petalast until all six flowers are entirely covered. Now cover pan with lid or heavy aluminum foil, taped tightly with masking tape and place in dry place for 4-5 days. (Singles 4 days; semi-doubles 4½ days; doubles 5 days).



Surround and cover, letting Petalast crystals seep between petals

Step 3.

POURING OFF PETALAST:

When time is up, remove cover or foil, tip pan over another container and gently pour Petalast off flowers. As flowers become exposed, hook two fingers under flower head and lift out, shaking to free it of Petalast crystals; set aside until all are removed. **NEVER** pull flower out when still immersed or petals will break.



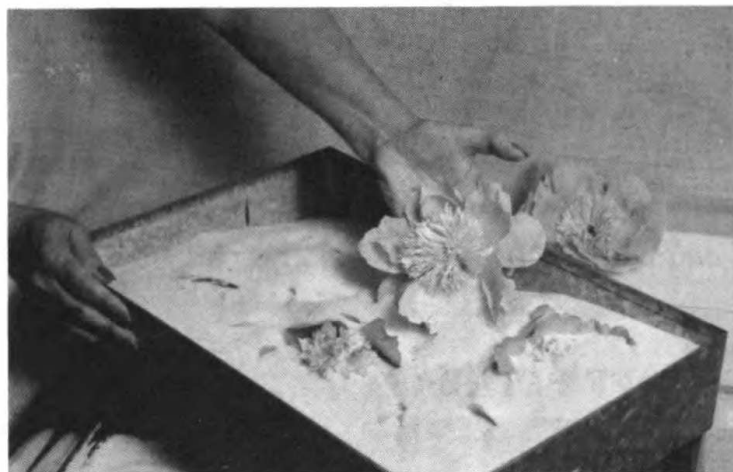
Pouring off Petalast after 4-5 days drying

Step 4.

STORING PEONIES UNTIL FALL:

Straighten bent wires extending from stems with small pliers;

then place flowers in styrofoam lined storage box with wires piercing styrofoam so flowers stay upright. Box must be deep enough to clear flowers; this box is 15"x12"x3½" deep. When box is filled, add ½ cup Petalast around flowers in open spaces. If lid is not airtight, place sheet of aluminum foil tightly over filled box, then cover. Place box inside a plastic bag, seal tightly so no moisture will get into box. Label and store in dry place until fall or winter.



Lifting dried peony flowers from Petalast

Step 5A.

GLUING & ADDING STEMS WHEN READY TO USE:

Peonies should be reinforced with a ribbon of DuPont cement (glue) around back of petals where attached to flower center. Let flowers dry about 15 minutes face down, turn face up. Gluing adds support to petals, extending the life of the flower and preventing collapse of petals.

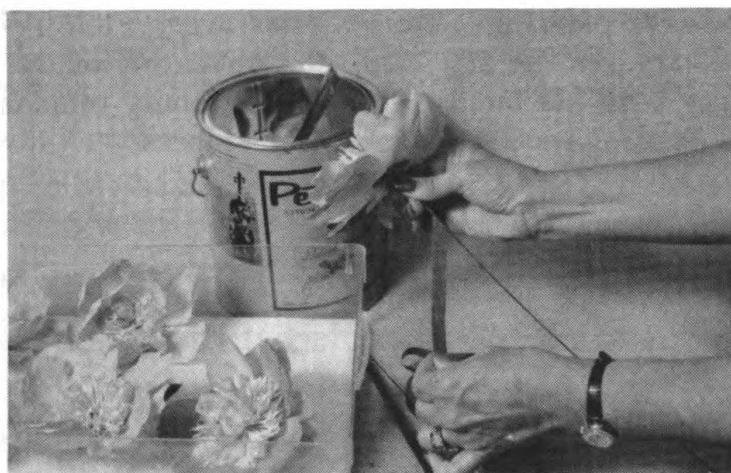


*Straightening bent wires beneath flower heads in stems
to store in boxes lined with ½" styrofoam*

Step 5B.

Extending stems of peonies is simple due to the wires embedded in stem end. Hold a 12"-15" long piece of #20 wire against wire on flower; wrap floratape around both wires at flower head and pinch to hold. Using right thumb and index finger, roll tape around wire in a smooth overlapping movement, holding tape taut and holding wires with left hand. DON'T go over and over the same tape; overlap preceding tape edge just enough to cover it. The key to florataping is holding tape taut so it stretches and clings to wire. Pull tape away, tearing it off about 5" from end of wire, give stem another twist to fasten cut edge in place.

LEAVES: Leaflets from peony plants may be dried in 2 layers in Petalast. Some leaves are especially lovely and add both greenery and natural beauty to bouquets. They may be glued into bouquet or wired to stem. Leaves require 4 days drying time.



Extending stems with wire and floratape

NOTE:

All information in this article has been taken from Roberta Moffitt's Step-By-Step Book of PRESERVING FLOWERS, 4th Ed. 1989 and Step-By-Step Book of Dried Bouquets, 2nd Ed. 3rd printing 1988. Expanded, updated show and tell directions are profusely illustrated, making it easy to learn techniques used in flower drying and arranging. Both books \$19.90 PPD. Sent stamp for free Newsletter of supplies, flowers, useful information.

Robert Moffitt, P.O. Box 3597, Wilmington, DE 19807.

In Memoriam

MAYNARD DEWEY 1932 - 1989

Port Jefferson, New York

Maynard M. Dewey, 57, chairman of the Department of Anatomical Sciences of the State University at Stony Brook, New York, died of natural causes at his Belle Terre Home yesterday.

Mr. Dewey, who held a doctorate in anatomy from the University of Michigan, had chaired his department from 1971 until the end of June, when illness forced him to discontinue. Mr. Dewey came to Stony Brook's Health Sciences Center in 1971 after working as a teacher and researcher at the University of Michigan and chairing the anatomy department at the then-Women's Medical College of Pennsylvania, now the Medical College of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Dewey's research focused on intercellular communication and the molecular basis of muscle contractions. He authored more than 70 research publications and was the co-creator of a neuroanatomy atlas used widely throughout the country. For two years at Stony Brook he also had served as dean of basic health sciences. He was director of the microanatomy course for all its medical and dental students.

When away from his work at Stony Brook, he was in his garden. He loved the big beautiful bloom of the peony. He had a very choice collection, always planting more varieties every Fall. This was his recreation. Every year he attended the Convention of the American Peony Society with his family. This was a family reunion with the Deweys and Stantons coming from various places.

He was elected to the Board of Directors and served up to the present time. His passing leaves a very big void in the organization.



Mothers Choice (Glasscock), full double white, very large, stiff stems — dark green foliage, prolific bloomer

DR. HENRY LANDIS, Q.C.

Henry Landis died on January 15, 1990, at his home in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, at the age of 61.

Prior to his retirement he was Chief Counsel for the Ministry of the Environment of the Government of Ontario.

He was a graduate of the University of Toronto and received his Doctorate in Law from Harvard University.

Henry began growing and collecting peonies about 1965, purchasing tree peony grafts from Japan. In the next few years he visited many public and private tree peony gardens to obtain tree peony scions of rarer varieties. These were grafted at a local nursery and formed the basis of a large and varied collection. In subsequent years, he visited Japan. There he met Takahara Somei who is a Buddhist monk in charge of the Sekko-ji temple at Narra. Somei is a major Japanese collector, breeder, and writer on peonies. He and Henry visited each other and traded many peonies and other plants over the years.

Henry had a major collection of tree peonies including the "best" of the suffruticosa, most of the American lutea hybrids and the Itoh hybrids—also a good collection of modern herbaceous hybrids. He has supplied many peonies to the Mount Pleasant Cemetery and Edwards Garden in Toronto and to the Royal Botanical Gardens in Hamilton, Ontario. His garden also contains major collections of hostas and dwarf evergreens.

Henry was a perfectionist and strived to grow the best varieties as well as possible in a carefully designed garden. He was known, and consulted most of the experts in their field to further his horticultural knowledge. He shared his knowledge and plants so that many are growing in gardens throughout the world.

Henry was an avid promoter of tree peonies and lectured throughout the community. He was selected as the tree peony expert to speak at the Florales International Garden Show in Montreal in 1980.

Together with his sister, Rhoda, other relatives and friends, we mourn his sudden passing.

John E. Simkins

1246 Donlea Crescent, Oakville, Ontario L6J 1I V7, Canada

* * * *

IN TRIBUTE

In Memory of Mrs. Lydia Franklin

From Mr. and Mrs. L. M. Polley, Plymouth, Minnesota

* * * *

PEONIES AS A POTENTIAL FORCING CROP

T. G. Byrne, University of California, Davis
Perennial Plants Quarterly, Winter, 1989

The genus *Paeonia* (Family Paeoniaceae) consists of over 30 species most of which are of European or Asian origin. There are two horticultural groups: the woody "tree" types and herbaceous peonies. The latter are derived principally from *P. lactiflora* (Siberia) and *P. officinalis* (Europe), and consist of a large number of cultivars developed over many years and grown mainly as garden plants in cold winter climates. These are very hardy, bushy perennials 2 to 4 feet tall that die back in the winter but develop new flowering stems each Spring from a tuberous crown. The blooms make excellent cut flowers. They store well and exhibit much the same vase characteristics as cut roses. Interest in herbaceous peonies as a commercial crop in this country apparently was abetted by the establishment of a large variety garden at the University of Illinois in 1926; by 1935 some 2000 acres of the plants are reported to have been in production in the vicinity of Evansville, Indiana, and horticulturists at Purdue University were investigating a number of cultural and postharvest concerns of local growers. One of their more important conclusions was that flowers harvested when the buds first show color maintain their quality when stored dry for 3 to 4 weeks at 1°C (34°F). Field-grown cut peonies continue as a minor floriculture commodity in the midwest, although today's total acreage is greatly reduced.

Locally, herbaceous peonies were grown as a cut-flower field crop in the Mission San Jose district of the city of Fremont, CA, for many years, even though freezing temperatures in that particular locale are rare. Although this planting has been moved to a nearby coastal valley where it is exposed to more extreme temperatures, it is still subject to production problems related not to climate but to the timing of the harvest period: it lasts only from late May until early June and misses most of the prime Spring market. A solution to this problem may be to force the plants, since it has been reported that peony clumps may be forced successfully after a period of natural cooling.

Preliminary research at Davis indicates that herbaceous peonies do indeed have potential as a late Winter/early Spring low-energy greenhouse forcing crop. One obvious question is: How much chilling is required to break dormancy? To answer this, large dormant plants were dug from the field in Sunol during the Winter, divided at Davis into crown segments of about 20 cm diameter, planted in a sand/peat/redwood sawdust medium in 15.2 liter plastic containers and maintained outdoors. Sufficient natural cooling was received by 'Festiva Maxima' the following Fall and early Winter to allow flower forcing as early as mid-December, but increasing the duration of the natural cold treatment before forcing resulted in longer shoot growth and more flower beds per shoot (Table 1).

Table 1. Growth characteristics of 'Festiva Maxima' peonies grown outdoors and forced at different times during the winter (Davis, 1983-84).

Date forced	Shoots/plant			Date first harvest
	Total	>10 cm	Flowering	
15 Dec	3.2	2.6	2.6	19 Feb
15 Jan	13.8	7.6	4.6	19 Mar
15 Feb	20.0	11.0	7.2	28 Mar
Not forced	14.0	10.8	11.0	29 Apr
SE	1.4	1.8	1.5	

Table 2. Growth characteristics of 'Festiva Maxima' peonies after storage at 6°C for 0, 2, 4, 6, or 8 weeks (Davis, 1983-84).

Cold storage (weeks)	Shoots/plant			Forcing time (days)
	Total	>10 cm	Flowering	
0	0.6	0.0	0.0	—
2	1.2	0.0	0.0	—
4	8.4	6.8	4.6	67.2
6	11.0	7.2	4.8	66.8
8	13.4	9.8	7.8	68.9
SE	1.4	1.3	1.3	

Table 3. Growth of 'Festiva Maxima' peonies after 6 weeks of storage at greenhouse ambient and four cool-store temperatures (Davis, 1983-84).

Storage temperature (°C/°F)	Shoots/plant		
	Total	>10 cm	Flowering
Greenhouse ambient	0.6	0.0	0.0
14/59	0.4	0.0	0.0
10/50	3.8	3.4	2.4
6/42	11.0	7.4	4.8
1/34	17.0	9.4	4.4
SE	1.1	1.3	1.2

Experiments with artificial cooling at Davis indicate that peony flower bud dormancy can be broken by storing dormant plants for a minimum of four weeks at 6°C, or about the temperature of a typical household refrigerator (Table 2). However, increasing the storage time at this temperature to six weeks, or reducing the storage temperature to just above freezing for four weeks, increased the total number of shoots that grew during forcing (Table 3).

Peonies appear to initiate flower buds regardless of the environment, so every shoot is potentially a harvestable flower. Initiation probably occurs soon after the current season's flowers bloom; developing flower buds were observed at Davis in the larger basal buds of 'Sarah Bernhardt' in late June. On the other hand, initiation in 'Festiva Maxima' has been reported as occurring in late August in Japan. Long days do not appear to promote senescence and dormancy in herbaceous peony as they do in many other plants. The evidence is

unclear, however, because plants given 24 hours of light (natural day plus supplemental incandescent light) at Davis during the Summer and Fall were also subjected to declining temperatures. Plants were observed to be dormant as early as late September regardless of photoperiod.

Days to first flower (48-52) in the greenhouse appears also to be unaffected by photoperiod; temperature seems to be the controlling factor in the development of peony flowers. Dormant plants must receive a minimum amount of chilling to break dormancy, but generally do not grow when dormancy has been broken naturally because the Winter temperature is too low. Bud break and development occurs only when temperatures warm up in the Spring. The time of bud break can be advanced by forcing, which takes about eight weeks at typical rose greenhouse temperatures (night minimum = 17°C).

Peony flower buds are highly susceptible to Botrytis infection. The underlying cause appears to be bud atrophy (withering), which could be due either to low shoot water potential (unlikely, because plants were well irrigated), metabolite insufficiency, competition between leaf and flower bud, or sensitivity of young flower buds to high temperature. The degree of bud sensitivity appears to vary with cultivar, and single flowers have not been affected at Davis.

It may be that simply lowering the forcing temperature will result in less flower bud atrophy. This would certainly save on fuel costs! However, this would also result in longer crop time and perhaps infringe upon other seasonal crop space. A better approach might be to evaluate available cultivars and select those that are adapted to forcing as well as being otherwise suitable for commercial use. Using such selections, it may be feasible to grow peonies in the field and to dig, divide, and force them in the greenhouse for earlier markets. A possible shorter-term alternative might be simply to grow them in the ground and force them in place under cold plastic.

(Reference: Byrne, T. G. and A. H. Halevy, 1986. *Forcing Herbaceous Peonies*. J. Amer. Soc. Hort. Sci. 111:379-383.)

* * * *

Just a note about my garden. I have 54 peonies and they were just beautiful this year. Sometimes a plant will surprise us with such odd flowers of which I do not understand. This year we had one peony plant that bloomed with three different kind of flowers—single, double and Japanese. I have 24 of the 54 planted in red clay. When planting, we use one cup of bonemeal and one half cup ash. Old sawdust is used between the rows to keep down the weeds.

Our garden also has many gladiolas, dahlias, Iris and roses. All the plants were very nice this year except the roses. They seemed to look better in the Fall. Here is a picture of one of the yellow dahlias, which is eleven inches across. Please send two emblems.

—Roosevelt Turner, Reform, Alabama

LETTERS

My most fragrant peony? Easy, it's **Edulis Superba**. Bunched somewhat behind **Edulis** are, **Mandaleen**, **Myrtle Gentry**, **Philippe Revoire** and **Florence Nichols**.

Ann Cousins, **Mrs. J. V. Edlund** and **Baroness Shroeder** are all fragrant peonies as well as **Kelways Glorious**.

In dark pink, I find **Martha Bullock** and **Blanche King** to have above average fragrance.

We had too much rain and cloudy weather for a good peony season here. Also, a new insect pest that bothers the late bloomers—earwigs. This wretched bug has been a real nuisance in this area for the past three years. They appear late in June and we are not free of them until frost time.

Enthusiasts of the deep pink double regular herbaceous peony should try **P. Oklahoma** and **P. Judy Ann**. I like them as well as **P. Princess Margaret**, although they do not have any great record as show type flowers, as far as I know. Best wishes for a successful 1990.

—*Leslie J. Wiley, Cobleskill, New York*

* * * *

Enclosing my membership dues for 1990; Please send me the emblem of the American Peony Society. I have read all the books that you sent about peonies. Last summer, one of my tree peonies flowered after seven years, in my garden in the Baltic where I live in the summer. It was a double white. Since then, I have sent for catalogs because I am very impressed with American peonies. In Sweden, **P. officinalis** (red/white) was popular about 1850-1900. We call them "bondpioner" (farmer's peonies). We can see them in old gardens. Other species are not known.

Now I will build up a good collection of species and begin to hybridize. I am an amateur gardener but I have studied in the Baltic and have some knowledge in pigments of plants. I am starting late and it will take the rest of my life but peonies are fascinating flowers. I have the opportunity to brush up on my English, I hope; it has been dormant for twenty years.

I got some seed from the seed pool and after four weeks some have germinated with controlled temperature and light.

I am waiting for the next BULLETIN.

—*Sincerely, Ulf Lunden, Mariestad, Sweden*

* * * *

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

— 35 —

Thanks for your letter and reminder of dues. **VIKING VALOR** was an outstanding bright red double herbaceous hybrid this year. It has excellent strength of stems as does **SUPERIOR** and **OLD FAITHFUL**. Also **APACHE**, **AMERICA**, **ELIZA LUNDY**, **CORAL CHARM** and **RED CHARM**. Last year, I had root germination on the 43 seeds resulting from hundreds of crosses on **RED CHARM** with **SUNNY BOY** pollen. Still do not have any seedlings to maturity of **RED CHARM**, but I believe any resulting plants will be valuable breeder's tools.

I continue to use my numbered tree peony seedlings in breeding with good seed production. I'm heavily into hem breeding but '87 and '88 seed production was almost nil, with drought and hailstorms devastating me. Even with drought again this year, I have thousands of Hem seeds. Many are already planted in pots, in the basement under lights.

Missed the Convention, but family health and grandchildren's graduation took priority. I enjoyed a unique identification of antique peonies experience as Mr. and Mrs. Ed Smith and I were asked to go to the 'OLD HELEN TRENCHARD' estate garden at Deland, Illinois, and the University of Illinois, **ROBERT ALLERTON** Park west of Monticello, Illinois. I believe we were able to identify correctly all that were in bloom.

ALLERTON PARK has since made a new planting of peonies from their beds planted decades ago. My favorite peony for fragrance is **PRAIRIE AFIRE**.

—*Steve Varner, Monticello, Illinois*

* * * *

My peonies were really beautiful this year. For Memorial Day, I think at least forty dozen were cut, and one could not tell they were missing. People would come by to see the peonies and always asked for plants.

The weeds were so bad this year. I bought a Mantis and will gradually get my peonies in rows. The daylilies were very lovely also, and the iris were really a sight to see! All this is so much work, but it is something that I enjoy.

—*Pearl E. Jones, Dayton, Ohio*

* * * *

I am involved with a local museum and designing demonstration gardens to represent some of the plant material that was grown commercially in the Baldwinsville, New York, area in the last 200 years. We were very fortunate to have the Indian Springs Peony Farm in the early 1900s. We are now doing research on the varieties of peonies that were distributed.

—*Doris Cross, Baldwinsville, New York*

* * * *

Enclosing my membership dues and your suggestions for comments on our gardens and peonies. Inspired by visits to the National Peony Shows in Milwaukee and Minneapolis. We have increased our peony garden to well over 150 varieties. We have always grown some peonies and they were always disease-free until the last two years when we have experienced what is apparently botrytis. This is a major disappointment as we will have to treat them next Spring and I object to chemicals.

As to fragrance, I believe The Fleece (Kelsey) is one of the best. **Red Charm** is my favorite; I guess it is near the top of almost everyone's list. **Firebelle** and **Red Red Rose** are nice bright reds. **White Cap**, **Bowl of Cream**, **Marilla Beauty** and **Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt** are great. **Angelo Cobb Freeman**, is one of the longest lasting. **Sarah Bernhardt**, is the most prolific. We are particularly enjoying many Japs and singles which we obtained only over the last five or six years. It is very difficult to pick favorites. We also plant about one thousand gladioli each year. We enjoy a rose bed and hundreds of annuals as well as many perennials.

We look forward to each issue of the American Peony Society Bulletin, and congratulate you on an excellent job.

—*Roy H. Campbell, Sherwood Park, Alberta, Canada*

* * * *

I am a flower co-ordinator for my church and my peonies are used during the bloom season. The bouquet of **Karen Gray** caused a wide spread, jaw-dropping phenomenon. After the service there was a mad rush to the front to see those flowers in the arrangement. My plant is four years old and it produced 40 blooms.

This is one of Mr. Krekler's great peonies.

—*Muriel Parker, Vernon, Connecticut*

* * * *

My favorite peony for fragrance is **La Rosiere** (Crousse 1888). I bought it from a local nursery several years ago and am always thrilled by its fragrance. The blooms are always so large even though I do not always dis-bud.

For two years I have been intending to get seed of **P. Brownii**, as I have located a good stand of plants but both years the forest fires have prevented me from going into the area.

—*Mrs. Louis Koehler, Boise, Idaho*

* * * *

My peonies always bring wonderful comments. It is always 'the house with the peonies.' Many people passing by stop and ask the name of the flower that is so beautiful. The neighbors enjoy them so much. They are an easy flower to grow, but are not always as manicured as I would like them to be. They are lovely in the Fall with their winter colors.

—*Ruth Brandt, Portland, Oregon*

Enclosed is my check for membership plus \$2.00 for a peony patch. I received 87 seeds from the seed pool. Of these, I have 23 plants that survived. I am looking forward to seeing what the various crosses develop. We had a very dry summer, with about half of our normal rainfall.

I raise the red double Fern Leaf Peony, more or less as a hobby. I was given a small root about 30 years ago. It took about 5 years to really develop. I was wondering why they are described in catalogs as only growing 12 to 15 inches high. Mine are at least 25 inches and have as many as 100 blossoms.

I belong to the Lake Park Garden Club, so this Fall I donated 3 plants that were planted at a local nursing home.

In May, I have to give a talk on how to plant a peony. I plan on taking some catalogs along to show some of the newer peonies. I hope that this will interest them in planting more peonies.

—Arlene Ballard, Lake Park, Minnesota

* * * *

I am enclosing my annual dues and \$25.00 more for a copy of the *American Tree Peony Book*. In the past six years, I have accumulated 84 herbaceous peonies and 24 tree peonies. We are retired nursery owners of a retail and landscape nursery here, now operated by our son. The nursery was established 96 years ago, this year, and was started by my late father-in-law, George King, Sr.

I am a professional artist, working in oils and pastels, so I use all sources to fill in my own slides of peonies, when I need a different view. I enjoy the BULLETIN, and read it cover to cover when it comes. I've been a lecturer for 35 years on gardening and also a landscape designer.

—Mrs. Geo. W. King, Jr., Santa Rosa, California

* * * *

1989 was a memorable year! It was both a good year and a bad year. First, the good news.

We had planted about 14 or 15 new peonies, some of which bloomed. Our Alexander Woolcott was a lovely deep scarlet red with lovely gold center, but no glossy foliage.

Fern Leaf (2 plants) are lovely. It grows about 17" for us, and each had a dozen or more blooms. Red Charm and Carol—always great, with Carol putting out 25 or 30 blooms this year.

One of my favorite new varieties is America—18 blooms, all out at the same time and at about the same level. Scarlet O'Hara grows about 42 to 44 inches tall for us—a great plant and a great flower. Gay Paree and White Cap always draw raves. Louise Marx, lovely, tall, large white with gold center. Old Faithful is a very fine late red. Cytherea, Burma Ruby and Coral Sunset—excellent. Garden Treasure

so unusual and draws surprises. **Carina** one of our brightest red singles, large, too. **Roselette**, lovely light pink and very early. **Helen Hays** dependable very late pink double. **Bowl of Cream** probably our best white double, but **Moonstone** a charming huge flesh pink.

We have ordered a few new ones: **Raspberry Charm**, **Nellie Saylor** and **Sunbright**.

Our peonies came up early, but we had some late hard freezes that froze many buds apparently, for many buds turned brown and did not open. Then we had a very wet summer, which was great for most of our vegetable garden, but very bad for our peonies—the foliage of many turned brown, and many stems dried up. Botrytis probably! We did some spraying with Benlate, but we were gone about a month in July and August visiting family in Missouri and Washington state. So at this time, I'm not sure how much damage was done. We do have Benlate (new pkg.) and Dithane M-45, so we are prepared for 1990. Our Benlate which we used this year was several years old, so I'm not sure how effective it was. Dr. Reath told me that Botrytis often is a problem after a late spring freeze. Well, we shall see in a few more months how things fare.

I can't help thinking how great it must have been for Adam and Eve in Eden with no insect or fungus problems—no thorns or thistles. When we get into our heavenly home with no problems—Satan destroyed, sin, sickness, pain, disease and death—all a thing of the past. But best of all to place our hands in the hand of our dear Savior, the hand that will ever bear the print of the cruel nails, and look into His lovely face, and express our gratitude for the love that purchased our redemption. What a thrill that will be!

Merry Christmas and a new year with health, happiness, peace, and joy in Jesus.

—*Dottie and Harold A. Toms, Virginia*

* * * *

When the Peonies Bloom

May and June are the months to select your peonies for fall planting.

See hundreds of peonies exhibited at the National Convention, Kingwood Center, Mansfield, Ohio, June 9-10,

or

visit peony gardens and commercial nurseries that grow the peony.

WHEN AND HOW TO PLANT PEONIES

During the months of September, October and early November the peony will be found dormant and this is considered the very best time to plant. However, it has been proven without question that early Spring-planted peonies will do about equally well. This is particularly true when the roots have been carried over in proper storage conditions. If peonies are to be dug and planted in the Spring, there is considerable danger of damaging the fine feeding rootlets and thereby retarding the growth to some extent. If you are prevented for any reason from Fall planting, don't hesitate to plant in early Spring, as you will gain considerable growth over plants that have been set out in the Fall, if you are anxious to have them become established as soon as possible. Up to within recent years, in fact at the present time, there are some who do not advocate Spring planting. If the growing season is satisfactory, they will make substantial growth and development, and it is this advancement that counts when rapid establishment is contemplated.

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

There are many different methods employed in planting but for the amateur who has plenty of time to prepare the ground for the reception of the plant, we would recommend digging a hole about a foot or eighteen inches in diameter to a depth of about 18 inches. This will leave about eight or nine inches remaining for planting operation. Roots are usually trimmed back to about six or seven inches which will allow them to be placed in position with the eyes about an inch or so below the level of the ground. Loose earth will settle at least an inch or more and this is why we recommend setting the eyes about an inch below the surface. When the ground has settled, they will be at least two inches below the level of the ground, which is all right. It is much better to prepare the holes some two or three weeks before planting is contemplated and firming the loose soil and either wetting it or tramping it down. If this is done, it will not be necessary to allow for settling and you will be more positive as to the planting depth. A handful or two of bone meal mixed with the loose soil will be very beneficial. Commercial fertilizers can be used as directed and they will also give good results. Use plenty of humus or compost.

In size, in form, and in color, modern peonies may be said to have reached a state bordering on perfection. Every shade of crimson, rose, and coral pink from the deepest to the most delicate of hues, besides pure white, primrose and cream, may be looked for in an up-to-date collection of these plants. As to variety and beauty of form, you may have large full double flowers with petals of glistening silk, or you may have those cup-like blooms with huge centers of threaded tufts. But if your choice rests with single kinds, there are those enchanting varieties

with centers of gold threads resting in a surrounding of wondrous shell-like guard petals. Finally, instead of the somewhat unpleasant scent which characterized the flowers of the old-fashioned species you have in many kinds a fragrance which equals that of any tea rose.

Of the utility of peonies there can be no question. Their proved hardiness and general immunity from insect pests renders them excellent subjects for the permanent border. Even when out of flower they have their handsome foliage to recommend them. They do well among shrubs, and even under trees so long as their rooting medium is in no way encroached upon. Peonies are also well adapted for growing in beds on lawns with spring-flowering bulbs planted freely among them.

Although the old double red peony has been superseded it is still often seen in cottage gardens.



TORO-NO-MAKI, a beautiful white Japanese variety with a center of white staminodes. Very large and slightly fragrant.

THE INTERNATIONAL GARDEN AND GREENERY EXPOSITION

Osaka, Japan, 1990 — April 1 to Sept. 30, 1990

Exhibits of tree and herbaceous peonies—dates are:

Tree — April 14-April 22 — Exhibition Hall B., Exhibitor, Yatsuka Town

Tree — April 28-May 6 — Exhibition Hall B., Exhibitor, Japanese Tree Peony Society

Tree — May 12-May 20 — Exhibition Hall B., Exhibitor, Japanese Tree Peony Society

Tree and Herbaceous — May 1-May 15 — Place—Japanese Government Plaza, Exhibitor, Japanese Government

Herbaceous — May 26-June 3 — Exhibition Hall B., Exhibitor, Nakano City

“Yatsuka Town” is the place of many nurseries in Shimane Prefecture.

Members of the Japanese Peony Society exhibit in Hall B.

In the Culture Hall in Japanese Government Plaza, potted “Higo peonies” will be displayed with tree peonies.

“Nakano City” is the producing center of cut flowers. Cut peonies will be exhibited.

TREE PEONIES AND TREES

Chris Laning, Kalamazoo, Michigan

Tree peonies are supposed to like some shade, especially at flowering time, but don't like to fight with the roots of the trees that provide the shade.

Sometimes a bright idea turns out to be a bright idea! This idea being developed is simply planting alternate rows of tree peonies and rows of flower tree seedlings both of which are grown from seed right here. Maybe none of the trees will be as elegant as named varieties but I think they are just great! Here is a list of trees:

Magnolia—*soulangiana*, Dr. Merrill, *virginiana*, *stellata*, and *macrophylla*

Dogwood—*Cornus florida*, the native dogwood; C. Kousa, a June blooming variety—excellent

Lilac—seedlings from very good named varieties

Hibiscus—*Althea*—Rose of Sharon; Blue Bird gives seedlings ranging from blue to lilac pink—outstanding and a pure white flowered form

Malus—Crab apple, always lots of blooms in early Spring (and for your information, crab apples are not crabby—they are happy little trees!)

Pyrus—Bradford pear F₂—just seedlings

And a few trees such as: ginkgo, larch, Chinese chestnut, and Black Hill Spruce at the sides of the garden.

Complete contentment can be found in caring for trees and plants that are devoted to their gardener. This project is five years old and progressing nicely. Maybe in a couple of years “you all” would like to come and visit at bloom time—April 15 to September 15.

* * * *

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

CUTTING OFF PEONY FOLIAGE

“When do I cut the tops of my peonies down in the Fall?”—that is a question so often received—so this year I wrote to Bob Tischler of Faribault, Minnesota, for an answer. Bob Tischler was owner and manager of the 100-year-old Brand Peony Farm for many years. Several years ago, he sold the farm and now the land has been subdivided into city lots for homes to be built, as the land is within the city limits. Bob has continued in the peony business with acreage in Faribault known as The Tischler Peony Garden. His peonies are beautiful, huge, healthy specimens, and his field is always full of peony bloom.

—Editor

* * * *

Many years ago, Mr. Brand would dig and replant his older peony fields the later part of July. Surely, the eyes were very small and all tops were removed. I think he did this during the slow time of nursery work. From what I have heard, his plantings of these crops turned out OK. I do not wish to start my digging until late August and then it is the Fern Leaf, as this is the first one to have the foliage die back.

I have had people ask me why their peonies never bloomed again, after years of good blooming. When questioned, they stated that they cut the tops off soon after the bloom period. To me, this is completely wrong. I feel that as long as the top is green, it is growing and thereby furnishing the roots with strength. How many articles do we read where the writer says to always leave two leaves on the stems when cutting the bloom.

Frankly, I like to leave the foliage on my peonies until after the freeze period. Better yet, leave them on all winter as I feel that they act as a catcher of leaves and snow for more winter protection. However, as you well know, there are many different thoughts on this subject. This is only mine.

—R. W. Tischler

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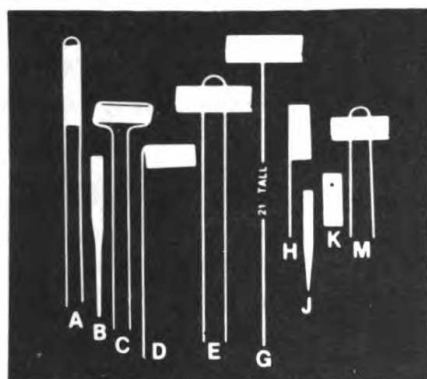
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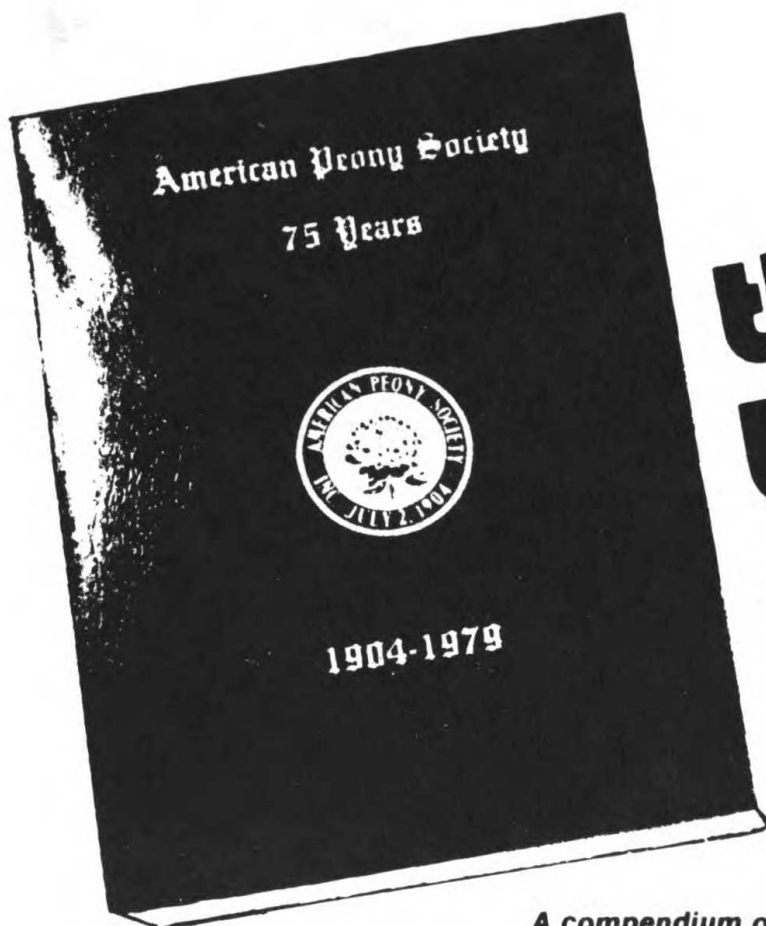
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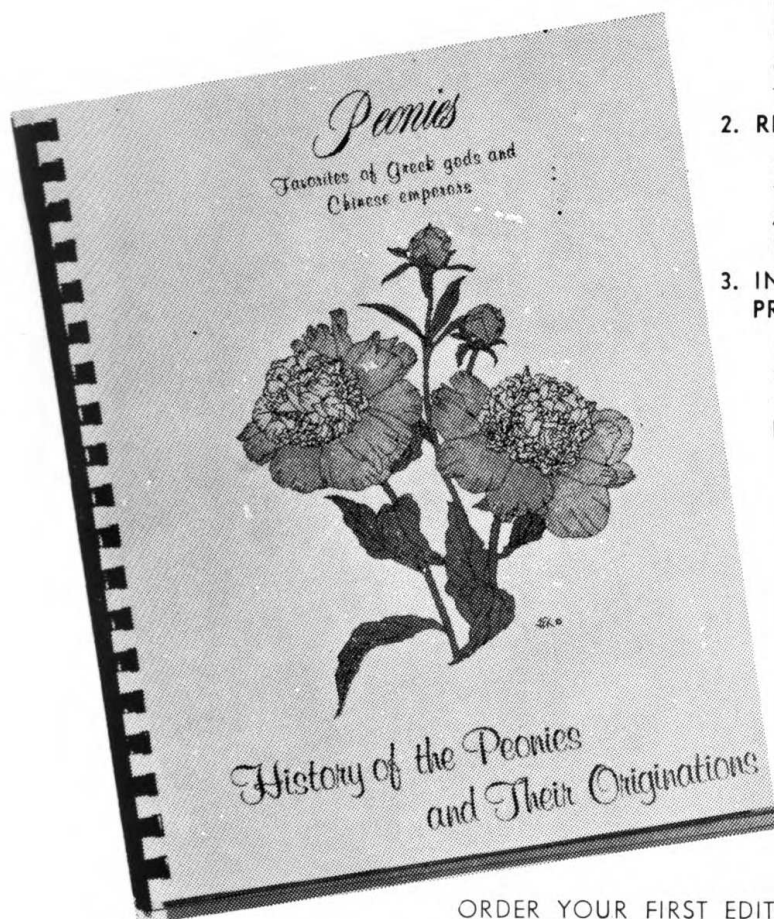
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