



AMERICAN Peony Society Bulletin



March 1993 — NO. 285

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Each of us has his one day he celebrates to mark the passage of time during his journey through life, but an institution, or organization, more appropriately regards a year as the unit of time to be used.

So the American Peony Society now realizes a milestone, celebrating its 90th "birthday," and entering its tenth decade.

And what a journey it has been! The Society has grown, survived troubled times, and thrived. Its influence is felt worldwide.

It has regularized the nomenclature of the Peony, and promoted through its publications, both books and the BULLETIN, the development and improvement of the species. Think of the interest and pleasure provided by the newer varieties with their varied colors, shapes and textures created by our hybridizing members. When asked which peony is my favorite, I am hard pressed and I equivocate because I love each of them for its unique characteristics and personality.

And the prospect for the next ten years is exciting. Our hybridizers are working on exciting new challenges and who knows when they will find something even more exciting than the Itoh hybrids—a blue peony perhaps, or a new fragrance, or an ever-blooming plant.

Ninety is just the beginning!

Robert F. Schmidt

Chinese MOUTAN and Japanese BOTAN

Ryoji Hashida, 1-2-11 Honcho, Tatebayashi, Gunna, Japan

We can recognize separately two growing forms in modern Chinese tree peonies (Moutan). One is a tall upright type, and the other is a widely spreading type. The former grows annually by 8 inches or more, and reaches to more than 6 feet high. The latter has 5-8 branch trunks and grows widely, and is 4-6 feet high. To say more exactly, we can clarify the latter into three groups. Thus, I classify modern Moutan into four groups, and explain them one by one.

Upright type Moutan has single or semi-double flowers, and has narrow and pointed leaflets.

Spreading type Moutan of 4-5 feet height has extremely double flowers with about 200 petals and broad rounded leaflets. This multi-petal flower blooms facing sideways because of its weight. It is a result of breeding through a thousand years, and the Chinese are proud of it as a representative of Moutan.

We can find a middle type between the first and the second type. It grows 5-6 feet high, and has semi-double flowers, and narrow or broad leaflets.

The fourth group grows 3-4 feet high. It is a dwarf type, and its flowers and leaflets are little. This group is seldom cultivated, even in China, and we cannot find everywhere.

I suppose that before cultivation of the tree peony began in China, there existed two species of wild tree peony. They were *Paeonia suffruticosa* var. *papaveracea* and *Paeonia suffruticosa* var. *spontanea*. Rock's peony in the Arnold Arboretum may be a sub-species of *papaveracea*. I think the first group above mentioned with white single flowers holds characteristics of *papaveracea*, and remains approximately unchanged from it.

The fourth group holds characteristics of *spontanea*, and resembles it most closely, I think.

I suppose *papaveracea* and *spontanea* crossed spontaneously in the wild of China at prehistoric time. About two thousand years ago, these wild peonies were dug in wild hills and fields, and their roots were used for medicinal purposes. A herbal book at that time listed roots of tree and herbaceous peonies.

Breeding in China

As tree peonies were cultivated in gardens, they tried to breed flowers of beautiful colors with multi-petals. We can read in ancient literature varietal names of Moutan bloomed in palace gardens at capital city Luoyang in about A.C. 600.

At the time of Tang (618-907) and Sung dynasty (979-1126), Moutan was the most favorite flower, and people crowded into exhibi-

tion gardens of Moutan in capital city. People set a high value on double flower with multi-petals, and so breeding of Moutan aimed at it. There is much literature at that age in which varietal names were arranged, and their flower color, semi-double or double, and other characteristics were explained. Creamy white flower was very much esteemed, and it was called "yellow flower."

We can see paintings of Moutan drawn in the 13th century. In those pictures we can find extremely double flower with 150-200 petals. Breeding toward multi-petal flower was repeated for many many years. I presume there were in the 15th century, almost the same flowers with multi-petals and colors as in modern China.

Breeding in Japan

Seeds of Moutan were brought to Japan in the early 9th century. In Japan, Moutan was called Botan at that time. Its flower was sometimes enjoyed according to circumstance, but it was mainly cultivated to get its roots for medicinal use. Therefore, plant breeding was not carried out.

In the early 16th century, bred varieties of Moutan were imported from China. In later time of this century, Japan was a peaceful country under the reign of Tokugama Shogun. Horticulture was popular among all people, and many horticultural plants were bred. In a horticultural book at that time, Botan was taken up at the first place, and was allotted the most pages among many other plants. In this book, the color and distinctive features of 333 varieties were explained one after another. Moreover, other literatures explaining varietal names of Botan were published at that age.

In Japan, multi-petal Botan was not liked because it bloomed facing sideways or downward. Japanese liked a flower facing upward. They valued harmonized figure of flower, stem and leaves, and did not pay attention to a flower only. They bred a great many varieties of Botan, and were satisfied with single or semi-double flowers.

In another way, they did not like flares at the base of petals, and bred pure white and also pure red flowers without flares three-hundred years ago. Besides, they bred double flower hiding flares among its many petals. In such a way, Botan is created from Moutan.

In later 19th century, the regime of Tokugawa Shogun was ended. Japan opened import and export trade to Europe and America, and introduced their techniques and culture. To say about Botan, its breeding aimed at flowers with vivid color and full-double petals. But they liked flowers facing upward, and did not use multi-petal Moutan as breeding parent.

Difference between Moutan and Botan

In modern China, there are four types of Moutan. That is to say upright, widely spread, middle type and dwarf. Upright Moutan has single flowers facing upward and narrow leaflets. Almost all of them

have no varietal names, and cultivated for medicinal use. Very few improved varieties have names.

Widely spreading Moutan has extremely double flowers with about 200 petals, and has broad rounded leaflets. Its flower faces sideways or somewhat downward. Chinese like and value this multi-petal flower. Botan has not adopted this type of Moutan as breeding parent.

Middle type Moutan has semi-double flowers and narrow or rounded leaflets. Its flowers face upward. It is difficult to distinguish between this type Moutan and widely spreading Botan except the former's rounded leaflets.

Dwarf type Moutan has semi-double or full double flowers and broad rounded leaflets. Botan has not taken in the blood of this Moutan.

In Japan, there are three types of Botan, namely upright, widely spreading and dwarf. Upright type Botan is not different from upright Moutan in point of growing type and leaflet. But with regard to its flower, this Botan has semi-double or full-double flowers. In Japan, breeding has repeated over again in hundreds of years aiming at double flower facing upward. And this type with single flower has no varietal name.

Widely spreading type Botan is not different from middle type Moutan in point of growing type. But with regard to leaflet it has narrow and pointed ones only. Moreover, it has semi-double or full-double flowers as the result of many years of breeding.

Dwarf type Botan has single or semi-double flowers and narrow and pointed leaflets. These flowers and leaflets are different from those of dwarf Moutan. It is weak, and supposed to be dwarf for this reason.

Extremely double flower of Moutan is a combined flower according to botanical formation of flower. We can realize its conjunction above and below because of its stamens remaining among its midway petals between top and bottom of a flower. Spreading type Moutan with this flower does not grow well in Japan. It grows in a small sized, very weak, and bears small and somewhat distorted flowers. This is another reason why it is not liked and not chosen as breeding parent.

At the growing period of tree peony, it is rainy and humid in Japan. It is different from the dry climate of the great Huangho River valley. This type Moutan does not grow well in Shanghai city. I expect this Moutan perhaps grows well in Northern Central states of U.S.A.

★ ★ ★ ★

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

**CONVENTION OF
THE AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY
THE 90th ANNUAL MEETING AND THE 88th
NATIONAL EXHIBITION**

**KINGWOOD CENTER—MANSFIELD, OHIO
June 4-5 and 6th, 1993**

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.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, June 4

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

Saturday, June 5

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

LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

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, Holiday Inn — Annual Meeting

Root Auction — Peony roots to be donated

Sunday, June 6

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, Banquet only, on Sat., June 5 — \$18.00 — no reservations taken on day of banquet. Reservations required by May 28.

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

Robert F. Schmidt

5320 Oaks Road

Brecksville, Ohio 44141 — Make checks payable to Robert F. Schmidt, and mark "Banquet Reservations."

MOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

TRAVELODGE - 137 Park Ave. West, Mansfield, OH 44902
(1-419/522-5142)

Rates: Single from \$42.56 — Double from \$44.80 — Ohio tax: \$12.00,
included in price per room

HOLIDAY INN - 166 Park Ave. West, Mansfield, OH 44902
(1-800/521-6744) — Contact Theresa Sutter — When registering,
state American Peony Society

Rates: \$64.82—one to four people in a room; tax included

BEST WESTERN - 880 Laver Road, Mansfield, Ohio 44905
(1-419/589-2200)

Rates: \$61.46—one to four people in a room; tax included

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 |
| 111 Double blush | | 118A-White, 118B-Pink, 118C-Red |
| 112 Double light pink | 119 | Japanese white or blush |
| 113 Double dark pink | 120 | Japanese pink |
| 114 Double red | 121 | Japanese red |
| 115 Semi-double white or blush | 122 | Single 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 |
| | | 159 | Single red |
| 154 | Japanese, any color | 159A | Itob, 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. | Ittoh 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 | double |
| | 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
186a	Japanese (Moutan) pink, single	186b	semi-double	186c	double
187a	Japanese (Moutan) red, single	187b	semi-double	187c	double
188a	Japanese (Moutan) violet, single	188b	semi-double	188c	double
189a	Japanese (Moutan) maroon, single	189b	semi-double	189c	double
190a	Lutea Hybrid, white to cream, single	190b	semi-double	190c	double
191a	Lutea Hybrid, yellow, single	191b	semi-double	191c	double
192a	Lutea Hybrid, blend, single	192b	semi-double	192c	double
193a	Lutea Hybrid, pink, single	193b	semi-double	193c	double
194a	Lutea Hybrid, red, single	194b	semi-double	194c	double
195a	Lutea Hybrid, dark red, single	195b	semi-double	195c	double
196c	European tree peony				

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 LIFE'S PLEASURES

1. **FAMILY REUNION** - a basket design for a picnic table
2. **DAUGHTER'S WEDDING** - a design for a wedding reception
3. **WALKING THROUGH THE WOODS** - a design using weathered wood and road side material
4. **A WALK ALONG THE BEACH** - a design incorporating sea shells and/or plant material
5. **A ROCK HUNTERS PARADISE** - a design using a rock or rocks
6. **SUNDAY WORSHIP** - a mass design for the church altar
7. **VISITING CHINA TOWN** - a design in the oriental manner using a Chinese art object
8. **REFLECTIONS OF A VACATION TIME** - a reflective design
9. **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** - your own interpretation using candles
10. **WEDDING ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION** - designers choice

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. Other plant material may be used in all classes.
3. Accessories and/or bases may be used in all classes.
4. No artificial flowers or foliage are permitted.
5. Entries must be placed from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday, June 4, and from 7 to 11:30 a.m., Saturday, June 5 in the Kingwood Meeting Hall.
6. While the show management will exercised due caution in safeguarding exhibits, it cannot assume responsibility for injury or loss.
7. Personally owned properties must be claimed immediately after the show closes at 5 p.m. on Sunday, June 10.

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

GROWING PAEONIA BROWNII FROM SEED

Goeffrey B. Charlesworth, Sandisfield, Massachusetts

(Mr. Charlesworth is a long-time member of the American Rock Garden Society and author of the acclaimed book, "*The Opinionated Gardener*.")

The method I have used for many years of germinating species peonies has been quite successful. Normally seeds arrive from friends and the seed exchanges any time from November through March. Instead of sowing them in pots, in January and February as I do with all the other seed, I wait until the ground has thawed in April or May. Then I find a square foot of ground I can spare in the garden, and sow the seeds by pushing them into the soil with my thumb until they are about the depth of the first joint of the thumb, and firm the soil. A label marking the spot is essential. Each species should have its own separate plot to prevent mix-ups.

The following May, these will have made top-growth. If the seedlings are crowded I usually dig up a clump before the roots get entangled, and plant them individually in pots. By the end of the Summer they can be put back in the garden where you want them. If the seedlings are not crowded you might want to leave them in position for another year. This method has worked well with *veitchii*, *obovata*, *mlokosowitchii*, *officinalis*, *lutea*, *caucasica* and a few others. It never worked with *P. brownii*, the only N. American peony.

Last Fall I received a large batch of *P. brownii* seed from Nevada friends, and felt I had enough seed to experiment with. So one batch was put in a moistened commercial peat-based mix in a plastic bag in the refrigerator for a month or so (this must have been late December). After this I inspected them, and not noticing any growth I left them in the cool greenhouse for a couple of weeks. Then they went back into the refrigerator for another spell. It must have been mid-March when I next looked at them and found some roots were showing and some seeds were obviously trying to germinate. I kept the bag in the greenhouse and as the seeds formed roots I planted each one in its own three-inch pot. Eventually all of them germinated. None of them had made any top growth and I was under the impression that it would need another year for the cotyledons to form. So I put most of the pots outside but put six pots back in the refrigerator, hoping to speed the top growth by giving them a second dormancy. This proved to be completely unnecessary because as the weather warmed up, the shoots on the ones I had placed outside started to emerge. It did not harm them either because when I finally took the six out of the refrigerator they, too, started to send up cotyledons. Now, it is the beginning of June and some of them are forming a true

leaf. About a third of them have no top growth showing yet, so growth rate is very variable.

It is possible that the seed of *P. brownii* has never been viable before this year. It is also possible that once the seed germinates, the plant is frost tender. This could account for previous failures. However this method does seem to work and I shall try it with other species next year.



PEONIES OF GREECE

Gian Lupo Osti

Greece not only gave to peonies their name, a place in its mythology, and a medicinal reputé: in the Greek mainland and islands there are more native species and varieties of this genus than in any other single nation. I had some occasions in the past to travel in Greece and to look at peonies in the wild; mostly *Paeonia peregrina* and *P. mascula*. Some years ago, I had the opportunity also to collect some seed on Mt. Parnassus of what I suppose was a *P. parnassica*: I am not sure because the seedlings were destroyed, in my absence, during the repairing of an irrigation pipe in my garden. I found the plant by pure chance: tired by a long walk in a *Abies cephalonica* wood, I lay down on the grass when I saw just within my arm's reach, under the protection of a group of big rocks, a single peony plant with two seed follicles. It was late July, so the follicles weren't opened yet; I searched for other plants, but without success. Anyway, I thanked Apollon Peonios (the god to whom the peony was consecrated who lived on Mt. Parnassus), collected the seed pod and didn't open them until they were dry. I found six seeds, from which I obtained four seedlings; unfortunately, fated to the unlucky end I told you already. From then on, I planned ever since to go again on Mt. Parnassus to collect some seed of that peony. Finally I had the possibility to organize this trip for the beginning of last October and, being in Greece and having the assistance of the Greek Forest Services, I decided to search also for the seed of the other peonies endemic to Greece, that is *P. mascula* var. *hellenica*, *P. clusii* and *P. rhodia*.

The result of this trip is that I didn't find the *P. parnassica* but I was successful with the other three. Anyway, I consider that 75% of success is a satisfactory result. Moreover, I still hope that next year I will receive the seed of the Parnassus peony from the forester who was my mate in the search on that mountain. As a matter of fact, we had awful weather, with a very thick fog which not only limited our view, but also made it very difficult to maintain our bearings. As you may understand, going around between woods and mountains searching for plants is something quite different than just going from one place to another, and makes it very difficult to maintain the sense of direction.

From Parnassus I went to Euboea for *P. mascula* var. *hellenica*, a

peony very similar to P. mascula russii, but with white flowers. With the help of the Greek Forest Services we explored all the areas indicated in the excellent book "*Peonies of Greece*" by Stearn and Davis, published by the Goulandris Natural History Museum in Athens—but without any success. I have to confess that I was disappointed. The people of the Forest Services started a certain discouragement: as success is a great incentive to perseverance, so disheartening is the preamble to retreat. (By the way—in the duties of the foresters—there was surely not the search of peonies.) So when the driver of the jeep [who accompanied us in the unsuccessful previous expeditions] told me that his mother-in-law had seen some white flowers corresponding to the peonies I was looking for near a small house she had in the mountains in Central Euboea, I didn't hesitate to go immediately there with the small car I had rented. The only assistance I had with me was the photocopy of the illustration of P. hellenica, from the already-mentioned book written in Greek, [as this was the plant I was looking for] with the purpose of collecting its seed, so that I could show it to local people asking if they had knowledge of that peony.

My Greek is almost non-existent, being restricted to a few words of classical Greek from my remote school days! And this is what I did when I arrived at a small sanctuary in Central Euboea, between the villages of Ano' Seta' and Kato' Seta', showing the photocopy to an old woman who was collecting the fruits from a wild apple tree. [The apples were delicious & small, but fragrant and sweet; I didn't resist her offer!] The old lady was very interested at my questions, and without hesitation she called a young man, her son, working at a field nearby. They started a long discussion in which I could only understand "louloudi," a very nice-sounding word which, in the past days, I had learned means "flower" in colloquial Greek. The young man went with me across the valley to a brook, bordered by plane trees (*Platanus orientalis*, of course), and in some way told me that he had to go back to his work but that looking around I would surely find what I wanted. Anyway, this didn't happen so quickly, but finally I saw, between the dry plane leaves, something red in the distance. Eureka! there were my peonies with the red caruncles conspicuously shining between the seeds! The leaves were starting to wither, more similar to the common representation of P. mascula triternata than to the usual mascula all around the Mediterranean. I found a few dozen plants with seed so that I could collect enough to also bring seed to the foresters which had assisted me in the previous days, and drink together some glasses of ouzo to celebrate the event.

Comforted by this success, my subsequent search in Crete and in Rhodes was very simple. In both islands, the local Forestry Services knew exactly where I could find the plants and guided me to the spot. Surely it was not so exciting and, in some way, also not so gratifying. In Crete, I found Paeonia clusii in the Samaria Gorge, near the small

church of St. Nicholas; in Rhodos, again near another old church on Mt. Prophet Elias. I was told that both churches were erected on the site of old pagan temples. What is out of discussion is that I found always the peonies in extremely panoramic sites; peonies are very selective in choosing their residence!

Both in Crete and in Rhodos the plants were dry—almost completely dry—but still with the follicles full of seed. Also Stearn and Davis in their book say that *P. clusii* and *P. rhodia* are very similar (the only difference they point out being the firmer textured leaves of *Paeonia clusii*). Looking at the plants (but I have to repeat that they were quite dry), my impression is that they were identical: same size, same leaves, same seed follicles, same pinkish stems, same general appearance, and same habitat. They are identical also in their rootstock, with tapering roots (like in *P. mascula*), but with a straight vertical development reaching, therefore, a far more profound depth than usual in other peonies. The buds on the roots are also set more deeply below the soil surface than in other herbaceous species. Surely, this is a consequence of the extreme drought they have to overcome during the Summer in the *Pinus halepensis* and *Cupressus horizontalis* woods where they usually live. But this characteristic could facilitate not only their cultivation in [e.g.] Mediterranean and Californian gardens, but also their growing in pots.

Now, I have some years of joyful expectation before me, before I may see flowers on the young plants, and try to reach a conclusion on the real differences existing between *P. clusii* and *P. rhodia*!

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GATHERING SEEDPODS

William H. Krekler

In August, the peony seed pods are gathered and shelled promptly, before they mold. This is done before they split open and shatter the seeds on the ground, causing unnecessary work in picking them up. Ripe peony seeds are nearly oblong, with a blue cast.

Plant the seeds at once because if they get too hard, they may take two or three years to sprout. Seed beds are prepared in three feet wide level soil, in full sun where they do not get too wet. Scattering the seeds about one-inch apart saves much weeding. Then cover with an inch of very old sawdust. [New sawdust will heat.] Weed-free soil is most acceptable. Sawdust mulch helps prevent March heaving caused by too much freezing and thawing. In addition, it helps both to prevent weed sprouting, and to conserve moisture.

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When the Peonies Bloom

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

CALIFORNIA GARDEN

Etta Peletz, Merced, California

My peonies came to me through my Mother's garden since she came from Sioux City, Iowa. She had seen them all over the cemeteries and when she found the plants next door to our store, the Woolworth wonderland area of the 1940's, she bought them whenever they had them in stock and continued to plant in her garden. When she died in 1961, I could not let them disappear from my life. We were building a new home so I planned a bed in the front of our house and moved them there.

Not knowing a thing about them, I called U.C. extension service and they sent me the literature they had. I knew they must be raised for drainage and fortunately I live on a creek side. The land had water overflow for years until a dam was built. The peonies were planted in loam silt, good dirt. California, Central Valley, is hot in Summer with 105°, and freezes in Winter. It always rains when my tulip trees are in full bloom; the same thing happens in April and May to my gorgeous peonies, and the wind blows.

The sun is so hot that I cover **FESTIVA MAXIMA** with an umbrella or two. I add liquid iron when the plants yellow. I am thinking of trying epsom salts. It really is great for my roses. Normally I fertilize after they bloom and again in the Fall using fish emulsion. We cut them to the ground after the foliage freezes. I feed them bonemeal lightly in the Spring.

In my notes, I use the automatic sprinkler once a week for five minutes, even in the rainy season. This year it froze so hard, I lost a lemon tree. Peonies were gorgeous. My biggest "disease" has been theft. What a horrible experience we have had. At one time I was sorry I planted them. There is a low-class group around here who steal flowers. Many of my plants were ruined. For nine years the centers were lifted. Finally, I called the police. Now there is a camera covering the plantings at all times. Imagine having to burglar-proof one's flowers.

Thanks for the tips in the **BULLETIN** on ants and aphids. I also grow fruit trees—peaches and apricots—figs, persimmons, cherries, plums and rhododendrons. These are my pride and joy, difficult to grow in this area. I've given plants to several friends, but one forgot to water, another too hot, but when I pot them they grow and bloom the first year. I personally think it's the short, but often, watering time that is the answer.

My mother loved her flowers. When my Dad came home to dinner he went to the yard first to find her. She gardened in a small lot, and I gather vegetables, flowers, and fruit from my acre. She would have loved it all!

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Wishing you the best of holiday seasons, I must start with an apology for not writing before this. It was my intention to write earlier about the beautiful **Raspberry Sundae** bloom (and the best Peony season ever); time just got away—it has a habit of doing that! The garden progressed from colorful bursts of iris, tulips and lovely roses (still blooming at the end of November), to hundreds of day lilies of all colors from scarlet reds, wine, yellow, gold and apricot, to varying shades of pink and near white.

A most unusual one, from New Zealand, called "**Venetian Magistrate**," was given to me by a friend, who had in turn received his plant from an acquaintance who sneaked it into the country! It's difficult to describe the color: petals a shade of blue-purple to mauve with mauve pink sepals. What makes it unique is the golden yellow cup sculpted like the silhouette of buildings of the '30's.

On the 4th of July along with invited guests, we watched from the 41st floor as tall ships from around the world sailed up the Hudson River. Replicas of the Nina, Pinta and Santa Maria, which had sailed down river in the early morning mist to join the parade, later returned to dock adjacent to the aircraft carrier Intrepid, just beneath our windows, and were joined by several of the other sailing ships. That evening we were transported by tender down the East River to Manhattan's inner harbor where the Queen Elizabeth 2, along with several other large ships, was positioned to observe the fireworks near the Statue of Liberty. Climbing aboard from a water level perspective, makes one realize how immense she is.

After fireworks and entertainment, dinner was served at 10:00 p.m., and the harried chef informed us that there had been 10,000 meals served aboard during the weekend celebration. In addition to invited guests from the press and television, the GE2 had a fully booked cruise, receiving three meals a day, plus afternoon tea, snacks, and midnight buffets. Finally calling it a day by 2:00 a.m. Sunday morning, and having been up since 5:30 a.m. the previous day, we got a couple of hours sleep before heading to the Island, and the remainder of our vacation.

While we had been celebrating, a white-tailed Buck got into the front garden and devoured most of the Daylily buds waiting to open, all but two of the ripening Granny Smith apples, and most of the leaves on the Sweet Cherry trees. Two days later it managed to get into the back yard peony sanctuary, leaping a very narrow gate in the back fence, to dine on several tomatoes both ripe and green, and more daylily buds; even the roses! We chased the deer out before too much damage; now a very tall new fence keeps watch over the front garden, and the back gate is deer-proofed. Our peonies escaped unscathed.

Just before closing the house for the Winter, we planted two new

peonies from Klehm's Nursery: **Glowing Raspberry Rose** (Cousins—Roy Klehm) from their early "innerglow" hybrid line, and **Salmon Glory** (Glasscock), another early hybrid. Choosing for color has resulted in a garden with mostly early peonies, and too few later varieties to extend the bloom season, and though the later peony color palate is large, there is too little space left. And yet we are beguiled by the wonderful new varieties introduced by dedicated peony people.

So we keep making room for these lovely obsessions.

Kindest regards,

Vernon Kidd, New York, N.Y.

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MY PEONY YEAR

Patricia Plunkett, Mt. Waverley, Australia

We have had more rain this Spring season, setting a record for rainfall. Consequently, certain plants have practically bounced out of the ground, with exuberant lush growth, and particularly, the peonies.

I never thought I'd live to see some of them flower, many for the first time after years of enduring an unsuitable pollution fall, ultra violet-ridden climate. Worst of all is the hot north wind roaring across the desert and to inland Melbourne, searing all the new growth.

This Spring, with everything in all gardens here so really lush, I countered the north winds and sudden soaring of temperature from pleasant Spring days to desert heat, by putting beach umbrellas over my peonies. I anchored them down with bags of sand as it is necessary to do at the beach. (Sudden gusts of wind at the beach have been the cause of people almost impaled on umbrellas. Now by law, you must anchor your umbrella.) So this saved my flowers from sizzling up in a few hours.

This season started with the old-fashioned Chinese moutan, called **Etinne de France** by someone here. It is definitely not French because it has been around for over 100 years from the time the sailors on the clipper ships brought peonies in pots back with them from Shanghai. This was called the tea run. I don't know why that cargo went over to China, but it could have been wool or wheat. This explains why this peony, an extremely early flowering moutan, came over to Williamstown port. This peony is the only one that flourished and eventually spread around Melbourne and to the gold fields, 200 K west of Melbourne (about 150 miles).

The following tree peonies flowered from Sept. through October: first **TAMA FUYOW** flowered early, then **SOWHEKIMON**. **HOWZAN**, **KOMACHI**, **SHIRO**, **YACHIYO**, **TSUBAKI**, **HOWAL**. (In October and huge!)—**YAE ZAKURA**, **RIMPO** and **KAMADA NISHIKI**. For information, my lutea hybrid flowered after 12 years of

poor growth and never any flowers in sight and now the plant expanded sideways and up-ways about 20 times almost like a miracle with four flowers. All this in six weeks. Unbelievable! This was **BLACK PIRATE**. The Japanese peonies mentioned above came from Mr. Smirnow.

Amidst all this beauty, appeared, one night, a number of cats in my garden. Not your comfortable domestic lap cats, but monsters, called feral cats. They are in plague proportion in Melbourne. They are huge, 36-pound wild animals, and will take your hand off like a crocodile. A huge female cat escorted by a mob of screeching feral tom-cats. I could hear them all night. The next morning, the potted plants were tipped over, all the soil out, bulbs lying on the ground, irises broken off and trampled on, and the vegetable garden a hideous mess. But the worst of all, they had broken an entire branch of lovely new growth from **KAMADA NISHIKI** with a beautiful flower on the end. I picked up the branch with overpowering emotions and threw it on the rubbish heap. It was the new season's branch; the remains of the plant only had a small branch with a gaping wound. Then I picked up the broken branch, wired it back fitting it into the broken hole of the old wood. I supported it with a bamboo stake, wire and raffia, then cut off all the leaves. That was over a week ago. We had one hot day, so I put on a mist for several hours with an umbrella over it. This is a surprise, that this rough and ready primitive graft has taken. The little leaves left on the plant are now bright green. The graft and plant are showing signs of complete recovery. This is my first attempt at grafting. I just hope that this graft is successful. I waited 12 years to see that flower.

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BENLATE UPDATE

Charlie Kroell, Troy, Michigan

In the March, 1992 APS BULLETIN (#281), I authored a note, "**A Concern About Benlate**," summarizing a recent article in the *Wall Street Journal* which pointed to the relatively new DF formulation of the fungicide Benlate as the culprit in "one of the most mysterious, and potentially most costly pesticide debacles the U.S. has seen." I further expressed personal apprehension over what might be expected in the coming season, especially from the many peonies which had been treated for the first time with this chemical the preceding Summer. I even got rid of what remaining WP Benlate I had on the shelf.

Now, one year later, an epilogue is warranted. To begin with, last year was for me one of the best gardening seasons I've had for a long time. There was no hint of any generalized damage which could be attributed to the residual effects of a noxious spray. Then, recently I was handed a copy of the November 16, 1992 issue of the trade journal, *Chemical Engineering News*. At the beginning of the magazine,

under the heading "News of the Week," appeared an article titled "Tests Clear Fungicide—DuPont stops paying Benlate claims." A brief summary of this article follows:

After the payment by DuPont of some \$500 million for 1900 damage claims (mostly in Florida), the results of more than a year of extensive and expensive research seem to have fully exonerated Benlate as the villain. The research study, conducted by DuPont, involved both field and greenhouse testing of some 250,000 plants, involving 35 species of field crops, foliage plants and woody ornamentals. The growing was done in Florida and under the conditions (high humidity, long days, etc.) associated with most of the damage complaints. Also, excessive application rates (up to eight times maximum allowable!) and frequencies were used, with no resulting crop damage. Further, the DF Benlate recalled and examined by DuPont revealed no traces of contamination; and plants in the research study were actually treated with residual Benlate lots which growers had said caused damage.

To help plan the research and review the data, DuPont enlisted the services of six plant pathology experts, all of whom now agree that Benlate cannot be blamed for the widespread crop failures. Asked why DuPont had paid out a half billion dollars in the absence of incriminating evidence of liability, Agricultural Products vice president, William F. Kirk, said, "Based on the information we had at the time, scientists believed that there was a high probability that by the time DuPont completed all testing, Benlate would be found to be a contributor to the damage." He added, "We were certainly aware of the potential for the imposition of legal liability. To meet that challenge, we began a claims process with the objective of addressing our customers' complaints, minimizing the company's ultimate exposure, and expediting resolution of the entire problem."

It would certainly be more comforting had the entire investigation and research study been carried out without DuPont's involvement or even had the scientists been selected and compensated by a totally neutral party. However, if the information be taken at face value, it seems, indeed, that Benlate may have been given a "bum rap."



DISBUDDING

Removing the side buds from a stem will make the center or terminal bud a larger, better flower. This should be done when they are about the size of a pea. Take the bud between the thumb and forefinger and give it a quick outward twist and it will break off with no damage to the stem. If the main stem is damaged in the process, it may cause the center bud to die.

Usually the terminal bud will open before the side buds do which often open all at once.

So, to get a fine bouquet of blooms, remove the terminal bud and you will have from three to five, or more flowers only slightly smaller than the center bud would have made, all on the same stem. The blooming period is often prolonged for a particular plant for from one to two weeks by not disbudding.

TREATMENT FOR SLOW PEONIES

Don Hollingsworth, Kansas City, Missouri

"What can be done for a peony plant that is slowly declining?" or "Those peonies I planted three years ago still haven't bloomed." Questions and comments like these can be heard around most any gathering of flower gardeners, especially when specimens or pictures of exhibition quality peonies are on display.

As a committed advocate of fine peonies, these kinds of statements always disturb me and make me want to help find a solution to the problem. I simply don't want that person to be disappointed in peonies or to be going around sharing such disappointment with other gardeners.

Of course, what I have to go on for helping comes from the same sources as for anyone else—my experience with similar problems and such study of gardening technology as I have been able to make. During the last 10 years or so I've been fortunate to have the experience of growing a great many uncommon peonies, some of which are difficult. Some apparently do not have the robust good health which is inherent in the best of the introduced varieties. At the same time I am not always able to provide uniformly ideal native soil and moisture conditions for best peony growing. Thus I've had a considerably above average opportunity to work through problem cases.

When talking about "slow" or "declining" peonies we are necessarily dealing with chronic disease, rather than an acute disease. The plants affected by acute conditions are usually done for unless taken up promptly with hopes of salvaging a propagation piece. I am using the term "disease" here in its broader sense, meaning that anything which significantly retards the good health and performance of an individual is disease. There are three distinct categories of disease-producing conditions. These are environmental causes; infective agent causes; and genetic causes. Often, our thoughts focus first on infective agent causes, for very good reasons—the marketing activities of the pesticide industry and our general understanding that infectious conditions are something of an emergency or episodic nature.

In slow or declining peonies the conditions are, by definition, chronic. Furthermore, two or three of the causal categories are likely to be involved. For the sake of example, a peony which has an inherent weakness in vigor of growth (genetic), when planted at a less than ideally drained site (environmental), may be periodically dying back due to episodes of crown decay (infective agent). While this may not be a very realistic example, unless the plant also has some inherent resistance to the infective agent, it illustrates the point that a chronic condition may or may not respond to a single remedial action.

What is required in order to have finest quality peony flowers is to have varieties which are genetically capable of producing such flowers

and then to keep them growing well. Established peony plants should be expected to thrive and flower well when given suitable growing conditions. Young peony plants, after they get past the first growing season, should increase in number of stems and in flowering each year until the plant reaches a mature size. At this point it will be more or less in equilibrium with its environment and can be expected to remain more or less stable in performance to the same degree that what it is getting from the environment remains more or less stable. Thus, the limitations in the environment which we provide to our plants can be considered the principle cause of how well or how poorly they perform. While infective agents (such as botrytis) may require regular attention, the control of these factors will not make up for an inadequate growth environment.

When peonies aren't performing well in my plantings, I have learned to look for several sorts of problems which I have previously found associated with chronically slow development. Low soil fertility is a prevalent problem. In the press of work I find it is easy to neglect fertilizing—either to miss putting it on or to delay past the best time. Peonies come into seasonal growth in the autumn, at which time new heavy roots are initiated near the large buds which will grow the following spring (and from other regions of the crown). These roots absorb soluble nutrients from the soil, which will then be already in the tissues when stem growth commences next spring.

Peonies are reported to use unusually large amounts of potash as well as nitrogen and phosphorous. In soils which are low in organic matter and in certain regions around the North American continent, one or more minor elements may also be deficient. Calcium and magnesium are very important and are easily supplemented as dolomitic limestone. Other major nutrients are readily obtainable in refined fertilizers and from organic fertilizer products. Bonemeal is virtually a waste of effort, however, according to my sources, for plants can only take up dissolved minerals. Wood ashes are a good source of potash.

Since I feel most of us are overly sensitive to the risk of "burning" a plant with fertilizer, I only reluctantly mention that a salt condition can be created by putting on too much of a highly soluble material, such as muriate of potash, at one time. Feeding of refined chemicals should be done according to authoritative directions as to quantity and placement. The agricultural extension office in every county of every state will have authoritative information. All progressive gardeners should take advantage of this information resource.

Irrigation practices are another prevalent source of peony growth problems. When peony cultural instructions admonish that "peonies don't tolerate wet feet," it means just that. This is especially true in the summer when it is hot and dry and we are irrigating other plants.

Peonies are, for the most part, not in a good state of growth when temperatures are high. Perhaps the best way to say it is that many species of plants become physiologically debilitated when the tempera-

ture goes above some critical point. Other plants are physiologically adapted for warmer seasons and are not active at cool temperatures. Peonies are, for the most part, cool temperature plants. There does seem to be variation among varieties, since some retain their leaf color better through the summer and even become greener during cooler temperatures of late summer. The point is, peonies rarely are diminished from drought and heat of summer, but they have a tough time resisting invasion by decay organisms if their crowns are kept wet during this time.

Limit watering to fairly long intervals (10 to 14 days) in summer and water deeply if you're going to do it at all. Better yet, just ignore watering. When the foliage gets untidy looking, prune as needed to maintain appearance or ignore it when the plants are in out of view places. You may have less gain in crown and roots some years, but you won't be increasing the loss to rot of what has already grown.

Drainage is also important, both internal in the soil and on the surface around the plants. Whether plants are kept wet by frequent irrigation or by rainfall and poor drainage, the risk of promoting rot in the crowns is the same.

Growth and development of peonies from year to year is obtained in the crown and the storage roots. The growth of the stems is only a reflection of what accumulation of growth had been reached in crown and root at the close of the previous season. However, as the plant is able to make more stem and leaf growth it also has more chlorophyll and is able to carry on the photosynthesis of food in greater volume. This makes possible a larger increment of growth in crown and root than was possible in the previous year.

Anything which destroys crown and storage roots (as crown rot) diminishes the plant. Also, conditions such as crowding, competition from trees and other plants, or interference with root function as in root knot nematode infestation, reduces the plant's ability to extract nutrients and moisture from the soil. When the reductions of growth exceed the gains, plant decline occurs. Steps should be taken to identify and correct the problem.

When a peony plant has not been doing well, one should seriously consider digging it. This will permit the examination of the roots and the chance of confirming the cause. It also enables taking correcting measures for defects in the planting site, as replacement of the soil, fertility treatment, or changing the depth at which the crown is positioned when replanted.

However, if no signs of rot or root parasites are evident, then deficiency of soil nutrients may be the problem. In this case, one has the opportunity of getting nutrients into the root zone by using the more soluble products.

For further information on preparation of planting sites, disease control, and fertilization of peonies, see articles in the American Peony Society publications *The Best of 75 Years*, *Peony Manual*, and previous issues of this *Bulletin*. — 27 —

LETTERS

I moved from my 100' city lot in South St. Paul, Minnesota because it was just too small for my gardening. Now I have a wooded area of five acres, 38 miles north. This move has involved more than a 38-mile drive to the Cities because it involved moving my entire yard of plants. About 40 peonies were potted last May. Most of them were planted the previous Fall, and would have been happy to remain in the ground of the old garden. Many were tree peonies, and all survived the three months in pots and have been successfully transplanted into their new location. The plants that were least affected by the move were those purchased in pots with established root systems. Those purchased bareroot were more difficult to dig, and a few roots were injured.

If you are thinking of moving, don't leave those peonies behind! A 2-year-old **LEDA** survived.

—**Dan Kunz**, Wyoming, Minnesota

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In 1984 I bought my first named varieties of peonies. I had 3 unknown, but probably named varieties for many years—a long row of light pink double, a Japanese red, and a Japanese white.

The purchase of 5 (for \$14.95) varieties in 1984 started the ball rolling. Will I ever stop buying them? I now have 98 named varieties and many others that are no doubt named, but the names were lost.

June 14, before our church started, I asked my husband if it would be OK to have the pastor announce that we would be home that afternoon for a peony tour. Thirty people showed up. One lady, after she had toured, drove home 8 miles (one way) to get her mother-in-law for the impromptu tour. Others called and came during the following week. I learned a little—perhaps tours on the half-hour the next time. Some of the men sat at the picnic table with my husband, and some took the tour. I have several beds, so it involves some walking.

Our Ladies Extension Club has helped sponsor cemetery peony planting. I planted 22 plants there. It makes it easier when getting permission to plant if it is an Extension project.

Some of the 24 peonies I purchased this year are: **Coral Fay**, **Requiem**, **Paula Fay**, **Charm**, **White Sands**, **Mikado**, **Burma Ruby**, **Lois Kelsey**, **Pink Derby**, **Florence Nichols** and **Big Ben**. We have a snow cover, and I mulched the new ones with hay or leaves. 1993 is to be looked forward to.

—**Irdene Bonzer**, Hecla, South Dakota

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For over 20 years I have been growing herbaceous and tree peonies; now it will be designed and completed.

It wasn't until I joined the American Peony Society that this

magnificent flower intensified to the point that now I am going to establish a formal-type garden. I have learned a great deal in the three short years I have been a member just by reading the BULLETINS, the many varieties, types and colors, and I have become acquainted with them. At present, without regard to color or size, I intend to have an interesting planting of all varieties. This Fall I hope to complete this project.

—Donna Robatto, Belford, New Jersey

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I have three peony beds. The main bed has seventy-eight plants which I consider choice plants. In the Spring, there are many seedlings which I give away or transplant into a nursery bed. When the seedlings develop and bloom, a selection is made and I keep them. Anyone that grows seedlings from seeds in this manner knows that 95% of these plants are disappointments. Last Summer, out of 45 plants, there were three worth keeping. One turned out to be a very late pink. It had three flower buds about the size of a golf ball which were very tight, and it seemed like they would never open. Finally, early in July they opened, full double bright pink, nine inches in diameter. I cut and put them in a vase and they lasted two weeks. In October, I transplanted it to my main bed. The root spread was two feet with ten buds, the size of my thumb to the first joint. I trimmed back the roots to six inches of the crown, dug a hole three feet deep—three feet in diameter, filled it with new soil and a compost mixture, and soaked it with a Captan clorox mixture. After a couple of heavy frosts, I mulched it with oak leaves covered with evergreen boughs.

—Walter Kulas, Farmington, Connecticut

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REPORT from Southern Germany—When you travel around southern Germany in late Spring, you can see beautiful clumps of peony officinalis, using slang it is Bareuphingst rose (Farmers peony). This peony is used as decorations in every church. Welshofen is a small village with 900 people. On a little hill between Munich and Welshofen [595 meters], the ground is somewhat clayey, a good soil for peonies. I have about 50 plants. In the older varieties, my favorites are: Alice Harding, Couronne dor, Eugenie Verdier, Festiva Maxime, Madame Ducel, and the newer favorites are: Ballerina, Paula Fay, Carina, Claire De Lune, Coral N' Gold, Cytherea, Moonrise, and White Innocence. I have four beautiful peonies from my grandmother's garden also, but no names. 1992 was my best peony year so far. Hopefully, 1993 will be the same!

—Julie Kraut, Welshofen, Germany

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1992—another superlative season for peony bloom in this location. May came on with plenty of rainfall and temperatures cool enough for the peonies to grow big and tall. The only heavy rainfall in June came late in the month. It was sufficient to waterlog some of the late bloomers: **Casablanca, Elsa Sass, Solange, Myrtle Gentry** and spoil much of their bloom. Nothing though, prevented three old friends from producing beautiful bloom in 1992, after being moved around and replanted until they are now in a location where they seem to be happy again. **Mattie Lafuse, Mrs. F.D.R. and Paul Bunyon** are all great peonies when they are right, and that they were, in 1992. This was after several years of few poor flowers, or none from each.

Regarding the Gold Medal peonies, what is keeping **Mothers Choice** out of the elite group? Based on its performance at peony shows over the years and what I have seen of it in our plantings for the past thirty years, I think it is the best white double.

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

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Last year we planted 155 peonies and will add 50 more this year. Will keep adding 50 or more every year until our space is used to the fullest. Peonies are rather slow to mature in our climate. Our Spring usually begins in April, and our Winter comes pretty fast; first snow usually on the ground by mid-October. By then we have had several hard frosts. We try to get our peonies planted the first week of September.

—**Judith L. Wilmarth**, Anchorage, Alaska

* * * * *

My peonies were the best ever this year. I have 75 plants that are seven and eight years old. In the Spring I spray with Captan as they break through the ground and cleanup the bed in the Fall, so I have not had a problem of any kind. This Fall I planted **CAROLINA MOON, MME. DEVERNVILLE, FAIRY'S PETTICOAT, PINK DERBY, SNOW MOUNTAIN, SHOW GIRL, NORMA VOLZ, THE FERNLEAF** and **JAYHAWKER**. I have had no problem in growing peonies in Alabama.

—**Roosevelt Tuner**, Reform, Alabama

* * * * *

I only have a small garden space in my yard, and peonies are in most of the space available. For many years I have had a great interest in this beautiful plant. I was born and raised in Virginia and it seemed to be a good section for peonies, with ideal weather conditions. In 1950, I moved to Georgia, and each year when I made a trip back to virginia, I would dig and bring back clumps of peonies that were planted there when I was a kid, and some of them are still beautiful today.

—**N. W. Ford**, Smyrna, Georgia

Our peony collection has grown to the point that we are out of planting room, unless we use part of our vegetable garden [or replace some plants we have] to try some temptingly described new varieties. We now have 120 peonies in the upper part of our once-all-vegetable garden, 8 rows about 40 feet long with 15 plants per row; plus 30 other plants. Only a few are duplicates, that is, more than one plant per variety. For example, we have 4 **Red Charm**, 4 **Douglas Brand**, and a few others.

It's hard to pick a favorite. Seven that I rate very high on our list are: **Douglas Brand**, **Diana Parks**, **Red Charm**, **Cytharea**, **Garden Treasure**, **Burning Bright** and **Old Faithful**.

Our season this year started a bit late, and ended very late. **Helen Hays** is always the last to come up, and is also one of the last to bloom, but **Philip Rivoire** persisted until July 2 this year! Usually, my peonies are gone by the 10th or 15th of June, so this was a memorable blooming season for us.

One of the things we usually do is to take 8 or 10 blooms down to our local bank with which we do business. The ladies at the teller windows, and others, really appreciate it. I guess you might call it a one-person show. At any rate, it confirms the adage, "A pleasure shared is a pleasure doubled." We also usually do the same with our daffodils. We put each peony in an individual vase; likewise with our daffodils, except with the daffodils we put two leaves with each daffodil.

Carol and **Scarlet O'Hara** are very good doers. We like **Mrs. Euclid Snow**, **The Fawn**, **Gay Paree**, **Myrtle Tischler**, **Princess Margaret**, **Sweet 16**, **Mother's Choice**, **Louise Marx**, **White Cap**, **First Lady**, **Bowl of Cream**, **Le Cygne**, **Raspberry Sundae** and **Carina**!

We hope to see our **Lora Dexheimer** bloom next Spring. Our **Kansas** is always a favorite. We like **Midnight Sun**, and perhaps **White Charm** is our favorite white double, but for us it is quite a slow grower.

We had two of the fernleaf doubles, but lost one and almost lost the other. Probably too much shade, and too heavy soil, but we put it in a sunny spot, and we hope it blooms in 1993. It always produces raised eyebrows, for its foliage is so unlike that of regular peonies. During its most prosperous seasons it has reached 16 or 17 inches high for us, but it will bloom when only 10 inches in height.

Louis Marx and **Scarlet O'Hara** are our tallest peonies, going 44 to 48 inches, but we have one of Professor Saunder's red singles, **Your Majesty**, which may top that, if the first year's growth is any indication.

King Solomon, writing in Ecclesiastes 3:11, declares of our wonderful God, "He hath made everything beautiful." For this and a myriad other reasons, I want to praise Him.

—**Harold A. Toms**, Tazwell, Virginia

We have had only a minimum snowfall this Winter which tends to leave the garden quite unprotected against the low temperatures. I lost six or more peonies, both tree and herbaceous last Winter when it was similar—open and cold. However, the peony season here in 1992 was spectacular and I have never had more profusion of blossoms. I have tried to plant a mixture of early, Mid and late season, but somehow the weekend of June 20th saw an explosion of a variety of plants at the same time. I enjoyed the spectacle. I had one or more peonies in bloom until July 15th. First bloom opened June 2. So I had six or seven weeks of bloom, one kind or another. Since I always have a couple of new plants each year, it's exciting to see the newest flower.

—Ken Liberty, Bangor, Maine

* * * * *

The peonies were very lovely this year despite the lack of attention. We did the usual Fall clean-up, but beyond that very little. I think the pinks were superb: **Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, Susie Q, Glory Hallelujah**, in addition to white **Bowl of Cream, Elsa Sass, Moonrise and Charlies White**.

—Wilma Zapka, Massachusetts

* * * * *

This was the best year for my peonies. At one time I grew about fifty peonies but since moving to a smaller place, I have about twenty now. This year we had colder weather as the plants started to grow—the flowers were so much better, and we did not have any pests.

Usually we have an early bloom and the flowers are gone by Memorial Day. I have ten graves for flowers, and this year peonies were cut, and we used some early roses with them. **Ruth Gallagher** had eighty blooms and it was a beautiful sight.

After twenty-two years of broadcasting, I retired. I had the talk show on both TV and radio, answering all gardening questions. There were so many calls about peonies failing to bloom. The problem for most of the callers was planting too deep. The directions are for 2-3 inches below the ground level. Over the years, I have found that here the eyes of the new root should barely be covered. My advice for too deep planting was to dig a trench around the base of the plant and flush the soil away from the center into the trench. I have never sprayed for pests, just washed them off with water. Since I have two beautiful BICHON FRISE dogs and my own health, I do not take a chance with spray.

Since we irrigate, it is necessary to fertilize more often but lightly. Chlorosis is a problem on so many plants here; a product with iron and cottonseed meal is good for them.

—Rosalie Doolittle, Albuquerque, New Mexico

* * * * *

It hardly seems like three years since the last time, but I enclose again my membership renewal along with my appreciation of your many good works on behalf of the Society. I still continue to add to our peony collection—now over 160 varieties. Last Fall, I planted **OLD FAITHFUL** and **BURMA RUBY**. The year before **HONEY GOLD**, **AMERICA**, **POSTILION**, **CAROL** and **PINK PARASOL SURPRISE**.

Over the past several years we have had a botrytis problem which we never saw during the many years when we had only three or four dozen of the older varieties. This seemed to start with the hybrids, and they are the most affected. I've sprayed them all with everything under the sun without any apparent effect. It is most disappointing. Even roses, which are subject to every bug and blight on earth, do respond to a spray program, although I hate using any of the stuff. I also expanded my lily planting considerably last Fall; their bloom period fits nicely in-between that of the peonies and gladiolus.

As always at this mid-winter time, we look forward to the beauty of the growing season. Sincere best wishes.

—Roy Campbell, Sherwood Park, Alberta, Canada

* * * * *

Well, another year in the gardening books! I am looking forward to 1993. I retired from the postal service in October, after 28½ years. Planning to travel more, and take care of my peonies, plus enter more peony exhibits. I like seeing all the various blooms at the Shows.

1992 was a normal growing season, with plenty of rain in July and August. That should make for spectacular blooms in 1993. In fact, too much rain on July 12—about six to seven feet of flood waters covered my creekside gardens. Most of the stronger stemmed plants survived without incident, but the shorter, earlier varieties were flattened.

My new neighbor across the creek, was worried that all my beautiful flowers were destroyed. Not being familiar with peonies, she didn't know the plants would grow again next year, as if nothing had happened. That's part of the members' job to inform the neighborhood, or whoever we can, about our beautiful peonies.

Incidentally, the flood waters came into our basement hillside home (creek level), damaging many things including my collection of Society **BULLETINS**, dating back to 1985. I dried them out and saved them, but many are in bad shape, especially the colored pictures.

I would like to hear from peony growers in western Ohio and eastern Indiana. I am not a businessman, just a hobbyist gardener who likes to till the soil and get my hands dirty. Would like to visit other growers' gardens and exchange information, etc.

Sincerely yours, **Robert G. Wise**

5423 Hardin Wapak Rd., Sidney, OH 45365

Phone: [513] 492-0474

PEONY BLIGHT—Phytophthora — Over a 30-year period, I have raised acres of peonies but one certain disease has stumped me over these years, and I had no name or cure for it. Now I saw an article in the last BULLETIN which perfectly describes my symptoms. It was called *Peony Blight*, and written in 1931. It appears after blooming season. Very often here, one-third of the plants get it—the next year one-third, or one-half, and it is dead in a few years. Roots are brown or rotted. About 300 plants of **Sarah Bernhardt** were totally wiped out. **Kansas** seems to have a weakness, also—all other varieties, none.

I have sent samples to the experimental station and just last year discovered that it is definitely "Blight," which is not very specific. They have a media they used for the roots, and I identified it as Phytophthora. This disease of the root is common in orchards and can be fumigated; also, Ridomill 2E is a cure. Next year I may put a spoonful on each affected plant—just hope it works its way down by irrigating. I tried copper and other fungicides but it did not help, and neither does burning of leaves. I removed those two rows of **Sarah Bernhardt**, and last year planted **Edulis Superba** on this same soil without fumigating. It will be interesting to see if they get it also.

—**Nicholas J. Friend**, Sunnyside, Washington

(Editor's note—Spray all plants while in bud, before bloom, and after bloom in July.)

★ ★ ★ ★

BOTRYTIS OR PHYTOPHTHORA BLIGHT—WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE?

(Bulletin #231)

Clyde V. Goodman, Oregon, Wisconsin

Several years ago I had over 150 well-established peonies planted according to the Peony Society's rules. We'd kept them weed-free and maintained the proper distance for air drainage. In spite of all this, I discovered my peonies had a disease. It appeared to be Botrytis. I immediately started to treat them with Benlate 50% WP, which seemed to help but very little.

The following Spring, they were sprayed every week. They appeared to get much worse, and in late Summer I took some of these peonies to the University of Wisconsin Pathology Department. They discovered that it was Phytophthora and recommended the fungicide Bravo WP-75, a product of Diamond Shamrock Chemical Co.

It is true that a great deal of improvement took place, and for the next two or three years I used Bravo WP-75. This Bravo fungicide has been changed twice since that time. They now have a Bravo 6F and Bravo 500. Both are liquids with instructions of one tablespoon per gallon.

Inasmuch as I also grow dwarf apple trees, I started to use one of

the fungicides recommended by the University of Wisconsin for apple scab. The results were unbelievable. Since I moved to this new location, I have obtained more peonies and have had only one plant that was adversely affected, and none this year.

I've found that the best results for control of this disease on peonies is, for a quantity of two gallons spray, use one teaspoon of Benlate 50% WP plus two tablespoons of Dithane M-45 or Manzate 200. (Manzate 200 and Dithane M-45 are different brand names for the same product.) The lower stems close to the ground should always be sprayed.

The above solution is slightly stronger than the apple scab spray, but the results have been fantastic. It seems that the Benlate takes care of the Botrytis and the other chemical controls Phytophthora.

I've found that Phytophthora is many times more destructive than the Botrytis Blight. However, there is a great deal of similarity between the two diseases and they are often difficult to identify.

★ ★ ★ ★

I have run out of space, and now I am planting in five-gallon containers. My last order of peonies was received in October. I had two peonies come up about a foot tall, **HENRY BOCKSTOCE** and **CHIEFTON**, with two buds on each plant. At that time, in October, we had temperatures averaging from 88° to 92° in the heat of the day. We have had 28-30° freezing temperature in November several mornings now. I put the budded peony plants in my Camellia greenhouse to protect the buds. No change has occurred yet in December as of this date, Dec. 10th. I have a **HENRY BOCKSTOCE** and a **FESTIVA MAXIMA** planted in the ground that is growing and in bud. This may not mean anything, but I am anxious to see how early my plants in containers in my greenhouse will bloom.

I hope this may be of interest to someone else.

—Henry J. Cangelos

4332 S. Fairway Drive, Shreveport, Louisiana

* * * * *

Although we have had below normal temps since June, the Peonies were nice. Can't say that for the rest of the flowers. This is the first year that I didn't get a single ripe tomato. They had to be taken into the house to ripen.

From the peony seeds that I received in March 1988, I have had three different ones bloom. The first one bloomed in 1991. So I am looking forward to seeing what the other 2 kinds turn up with.

I have been using the paper towel method and some of the seeds that I received this year are starting to sprout. From there I put them in the frig. in dirt. In the Spring, I take them out and put them in the basement under lights. That way I gain at least a year. Enclosed are two pictures.

—Arlene Ballard, Minnesota

I have a tour garden, "The Griffin Garden," with an arbor at entrance to the back part of it, and truly depend on my peonies to be a big part in May tours of local Iris Society, and also people coming on their own. One man was so astonished at a specimen plant of **Requiem**, single white in 1991. I grow 52 peonies plus 6 tree peonies, and they just grow and get more beautiful each year. In 1992, I only added one which was the early dwarf red, but I also moved and replanted some for better viewing and new landscape ideas. It is so much fun to move and make new interest with perennials. People come to see what is new and where changes are made yearly.

Just a few of my special favorites are **RED CHARM, RASPBERRY SUNDAE, WHITE SANDS, ORANGE GLORY, GLORY HALLELUJAH, LAURA MAGNUSON** and **ALEXANDER WOLLCOTT**. I just could name them all as it is hard to stop. I'm really one gardening nut, I believe. Can't wait until Spring 1993 when I will have a Regional Tour, July 4th, of Daylilies.

Wishing for moderate Winter season and wonderful bloom next year.

—Viola Griffin, Missouri

* * * * *

It must be peony fever as I keep adding more varieties to my collection. I think I have run out of room. This year I added **Jessie, Philippe Revoire, Richard Carvel, Mr. Ed, Felix Supreme** and **Mons Martin Cahuzac**. I also got some seed of **Kansas** and **Cora Stubbs**. They were planted immediately. This is my first attempt, but when I visited Granville Hall he gave me good advice; also seed of **Krinkled White**.

The weather was perfect for tree peonies this year. Two and three years ago, I planted some young tree peony plants, and they had nice bloom this year.

—Ron Chinnock, Virginia Beach, Virginia

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NAME CORRECTION — TREE PEONIES

Sir Peter Smithers

REGISTRATIONS

JOANNA GILBERT (Sir Peter Smithers, Switzerland), Sept. 11, 1992

Seedling #31371, double tree peony.

Parentage, a self-sown seedling—parentage unknown. First bloomed 1988.

Pale pink double, reliable, good substance, no stamens, profuse amount of bloom.

Stem strength, very rigid, blooms in late April, very vigorous. A seedling grown on its own root.

The large full-double flowers are an attractive pale pink, 10" in diameter.

Propagated by Michel Riviere Nursery, France.

LYDIA FOOTE (Sir Peter Smithers, Switzerland), Sept. 11, 1992

Seedling #31352, double white tree peony; red flares.

Parentage, **Suffruticosa Rocks Variety**, U.K. form seedling. Pollen parent, Japanese double white. First bloomed 1978.

This multi-petal white with red flares has pollens, seeds, stamens, good substance with many bloom. Good stem strength, blooms the end of April, vigorous. The foliage has a red line on leaf petioles, red on stems.

This is a pure white flower with many petals varying from semi-double to full-double. Very formal, red flares.

Propagated by Michel Riviere Nursery, France.

ICE STORM (Sir Peter Smithers, Switzerland), Sept. 11, 1992

Seedling #30369, single suffruticosa.

Parentage, open pollinated seedling from **Lydia Foote Q.V.**; first bloomed 1989.

The pure white single flower, 9" in diameter, is distinguished by the very large boss of stamens 6" in diameter. The strongly recurved petals are beautifully sculptured. Blooms in early May, red tips on leaf petiole. Has seeds, pollen and stamens.

Propagated by Michel Riviere Nursery, France.

SNOW THUNDERSTORM (Sir Peter Smithers, Switzerland), Sept. 11, 1992

Seedling #30358, single pure white tree peony.

Parentage **P. suffruticosa Rock's Variety**. Open pollinated, probably by **Godaishu**. First bloomed 1992.

The flower has nine broad petals, opens flat when mature, 9" in diameter, white capsule, a very elegant single flower. Good stem strength, blooms the end of April. Foliage is green, no trace of red. It has pollen and stamens.

To be propagated by Michel Riviere Nursery, France.

BARON THYSSEN BORNEMISZA (Sir Peter Smithers, Switzerland), Sept. 11, 1992

Seedling #30353. Semi-double Mauve tree peony.

Parentage, **p. suffruticosa Rock's Variety** (U.K. form), pollinated by **Kamada Fuji**, first year bloomed 1987.

A very large mauve semi-double with flares, 10" in diameter. Blooms late April, vigorous, floriferous, stamens, pollen and seeds, good stem strength.

Propagated by Michel Riviere Nursery, France.

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UNUSUAL PEONIES OF EXCEPTIONAL BEAUTY

(Bulletin #245)

Clarence Lienau, Lienau Peony Gardens, Detroit, Michigan

In my 40 years of growing peonies and exhibiting about 25 years, the following 15 varieties are unusually beautiful in their own right.

I am appraising and judging each variety as I have seen them growing on the plant and cut for enjoyment. **VIRGINIA DARE**, **MINNIE SHAYLOR**, **GAY PAREE**, **IMPERIAL RED**, **SPARKLING STAR**, **BRIDES DREAM**, **PINK DERBY**, **WHITE CAP**, **CHARM**, **LOIS ARLEEN**, **RASPBERRY SUNDAE**, **DO-TELL**, **NEON**, and hybrids **CYTHEREA** AND **WALTER MAINS**.

VIRGINIA DARE—A beautiful small white single with thin strong whip-like stems. Medium height, excellent for floral arrangements, not over three inches in diameter, cup shape, small tuft of yellow stamens. Good keeper.

BRIDES DREAM—Very fine white Jap, most unusual white on white very narrow twisty pointed petaloids with a wide circle of shorter cream tinted ones underneath.

RASPBERRY SUNDAE—An ivory white bloom with a definite splash of raspberry color appearing on top of the large bloom. A distinct variety with strong stems, floriferous, strong grower and large plant.

MINNIE SHAYLOR—Semi-double light pink to white. Several rows of fluffy crepe-like petals of clear light pink serrated at the tips toward the center. Stamens very prominent. Anthers golden yellow with paler filaments, carpels green, pink at base with striking red stigmas. If one stops to look closely at this beautiful flower and plant, they would be amazed at its beauty.

PINK DERBY—Pink on pink bomb, deeper pink on the outside of the petals. Medium height, strong grower, slightly longer than its diameter. Unusually nice.

GAY PAREE—Very fine deep cerise anemone type Jap. Center opens ivory, a day in the sun, the petaloids turn snow white, good grower, tall, good stems, floriferous. A distinct variety.

WHITE CAP—A very different red anemone type Jap. Center opens ivory, a day in the sun, the petaloids turn snow white, fine grower, tall, good stems, floriferous, a distinct variety. **GAY PAREE** and **WHITE CAP** grown side by side make a fine pair. There is a big difference in color. Give them plenty of room as they grow to large plants.

NEON—Rose and gold Jap. Stands up nicely. Staminodes are tipped and edged with gold. Wide petals, very bright and very nice.

IMPERIAL RED—Excellent, large single medium red like a large poinsettia plant. Thick heavy stems, very floriferous, blooms are very large and evenly spaced.

CHARM—Very late dark red and gold single. A lustrous satiny sheen on the petals. One of the best in its class.

SPARKLING STAR—Early, tall, bright dark pink, single. A strong sturdy and worthwhile variety.

DO-TELL—Pink on pink, outer petals light pink, stamens and inner petals darker pink. A very striking combination, unusual.

CYTHEREA—Hybrid coral pink. One of the most sought after peonies. Low grower, good keeper as a cut flower and on the plant. Admired by all that see it.

LOIS ARLEEN—Hybrid, medium brilliant red, medium height, floriferous. The brilliancy of the bloom can be seen for many yards away.

WALTER MAINS—The finest hybrid Jap. Dark red and gold, very large cup shaped, thick stems, gold medal winner, large plant.

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CORAL SUNSET (Wissing)

CORAL 'N GOLD (Cousins)

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JAPANESE type peonies

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They furnish color contrast in the same flower obtained in no other type and are especially valuable for cutting. —*Edward Auten, Jr.*

Some very beautiful varieties are **DIGNITY**, **CARRARA**, **BRIDE'S DREAM**, **TORO-NO-MAKI**, **AMA-NO-SODE**, **WESTERNER**, **BU-TE**, **DO-TELL**, **KAY TISCHLER**, **TOM ECKHARDT**, **BARRINGTON BELLE**.

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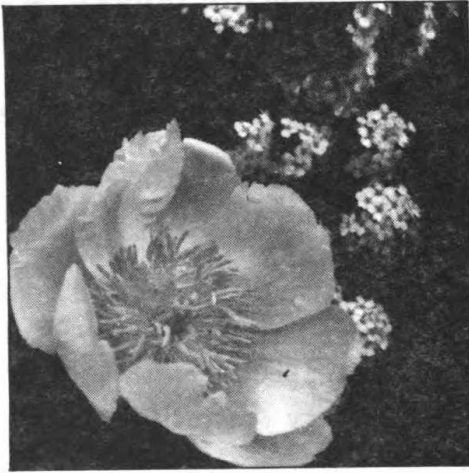
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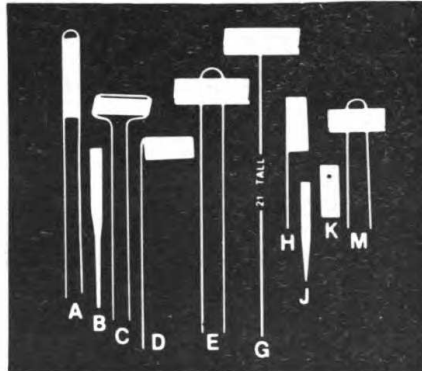
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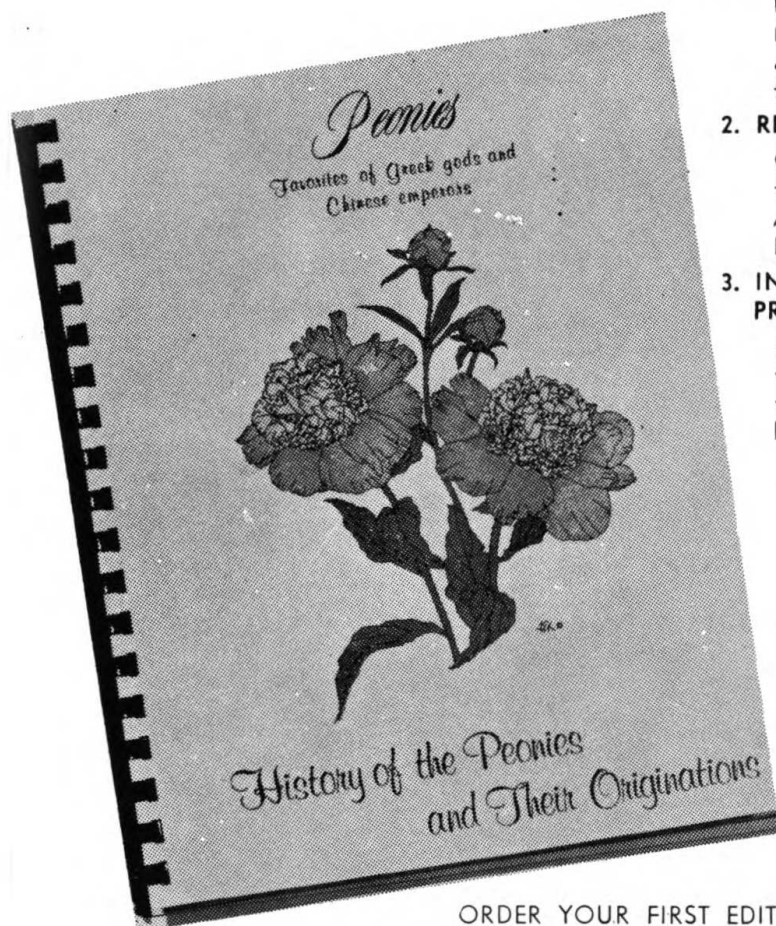
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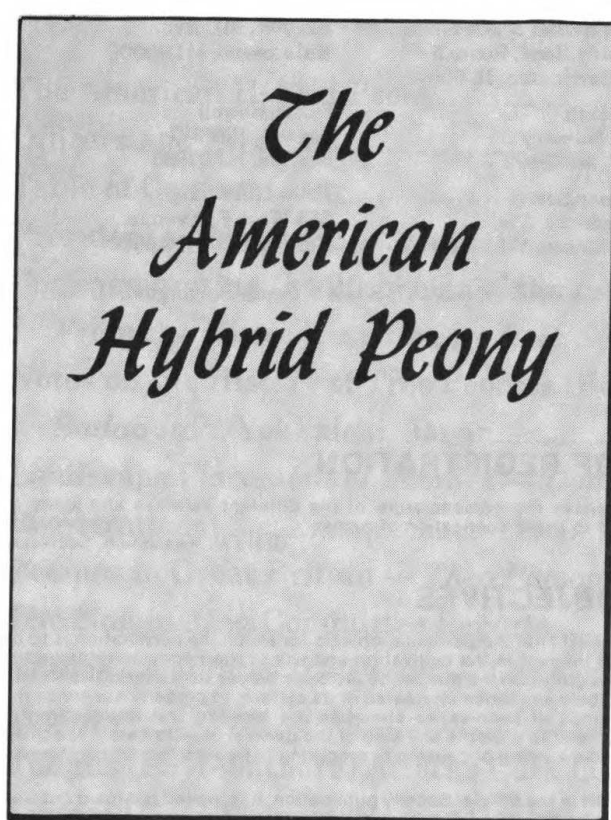
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DEPT. OF REGISTRATION

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

Greta M. Kessenich, Secretary

OBJECTIVES

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

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

MEMBERSHIP

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

Single Annual.....	\$ 7.50	Junior or member family.....	\$ 2.50
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