

American 18199 Peony Society Bulletin



BEST MAN (Carl G. Klehm) Klehm Nursery

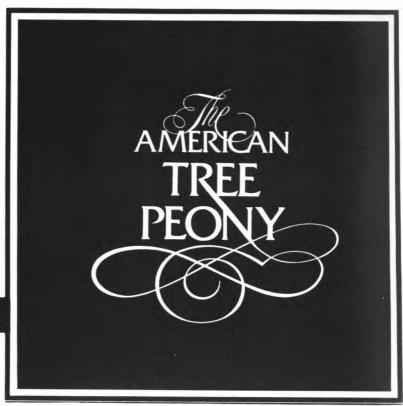
This double deep red peony adds charm and garden value to your garden as the foliage of dark green is the full length of the plant. The strong stem holds its large flower upright. The height is ideal, especially for windy areas. This plant has the vitality to grow under any conditions and never fails to bloom.

Announcing

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

AMERICAN

TREE PEONIES



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-pollenated 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.



Appended cultural notes cover:

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

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

\$25 Postpaid

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

Send check or money order to—

AMERICAN PEONY

AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY 250 Interlachen Road, Hopkins, MN 55343



HYBRID PEONIES

The American Hybrid Peony Herbaceous Peonies in

FULL COLOR!

- Photos—
 130 Herbaceous
 Hybrids
 32 Species
- All Named
- Biographical Data
- 208 Pages
- 6 5/8" x 91/4"
- Hard Cover —
 Embossed in Gold

Devised and Compiled by Greta M. Kessenich,

Don Hollingsworth Hybridizing and Bibliography Ever since contemporary hybridizers unraveled the mysteries of cross pollinating peony species, hybrid crosses have received spellbound attention. This long-awaited effort adds to the excitement of growing peonies. Photos permit comparing your hybrids with those authenticated by the hybrid committee plus scores of sideline notes and general information. Be one of the first \$25.00 to own this premiere edition, just Postpaid

Send check or money order to-

AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY 250 Interlachen Road, Hopkins, MN 55343

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AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY

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

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DEPT. OF REGISTRATION

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

Greta M. Kessenich, Secretary

OBJECTIVES

The Articles of Incorporation state: Section (2) That the particular objects for which the corporation is to be formed are as follows: To increase the general interest in the cultivation and use of the Peony; to improve the methods of its cultivation and methods of placing it upon the market; to increase its use as a decorative flower; to bring 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 post-paid 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	Family Triennial
Single Triennial	Life
Family Annual	Commercial membership25.00

Family membership, any two related members in same householdOne Bulletin





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CONVENTION OF THE AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY THE 96TH ANNUAL MEETING AND THE 94TH NATIONAL EXHIBITION

KINGWOOD CENTER—900 PARK AVE. WEST MANSFIELD, OHIO 44906 JUNE 11-12-13, 1999

DIVISION VII — ARTISTIC DESIGN CLASSES

THEME: Container Mania

Class 1:	Container—Antique vase—a vertical line design
Class 2:	Container—Pitcher—a line mass design
Class 3:	Container—Sprinkling can—a mass design
Class 4:	Container—Oval—a triangular line design
Class 5:	Container—Oblong—a design in the Oriental manner
Class 6:	Container—Utilitarian basket—a colonial Amer. design
Class 7:	Container—Compote—a colonial Williamsburg design

ARTISTIC DESIGN RULES

- 1. All artistic exhibits must be made by the exhibitor.
- 2. An exhibitor may make only one entry per class; however, he or she may enter as many Classes as desired.
- 3. Peonies must be used in all designs. Peonies need not be grown by the Exhibitor. Other plant material may be used in all Classes.
- 4. Accessories and/or bases may be used in all Classes.
- 5. No artificial fruit, flowers or foliages are permitted.
- 6. Entries must be placed from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday, June 11, and from 7 to 11:30 a.m., Saturday, June 12, 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 13.
- 9. Qualified judges will be used in the Artistic division, and the decisions are final.

SCHEDULE—Miriam Gross
INFORMATION—Bill Collins, Kingwood Center



MOTELS

COMFORT INN - 500 N. Trimble Road, Mansfield, OH 44906

(1-419/529-2953)

Call Holly Eckstein—Confirmation of rates.

Standard doubleroom—\$51.95

There is an additional tax of 15.75%.

Make early reservations.

TRAVELODGE - 90 Hanley Road, Mansfield, Ohio 44903

(1-419-756-7600)

Rates: Double—\$70.00, plus tax 15.25%.

RULES AND CLASSES FOR SPECIMEN EXHIBITS—BULLETIN #309

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, June 11

Center opens at 8:00 a.m.—prepare show entries—exhibit hall and work shop

Saturday. June 12

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

8:00 a.m. - Registration

11:30 a.m. - 1:30 a.m.—Judging

LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

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

2:30 p.m. - Seminar, Kingwood Hall, Service Room

7:00 p.m. - Banquet, Comfort Inn—Annual Meeting

Root Auction—Peony roots to be donated

Sunday, June 13

8:30 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, <u>Banquet only</u>, on <u>Sat., June 12</u>—\$17.00—no reservations taken two days before banquet. Reservations required by June

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

Mrs. Eloise Kimball

Telephone: (612) 439-7953

4290 Northbrook Blvd. N. Stillwater, MN 55082-1204.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The annual peony exhibition is upon us. If you didn't plan to exhibit, please stop by and look at the blooms in Kingwood Center. There is always plenty of parking spaces available, and the exhibit hall is at ground level which means it's wheelchair accessible. And, as in past years, there is no admission charge to the hall or the grounds.

Many visitors spend as much time walking the spacious ten-acre grounds, viewing the various rose gardens, iris and peony gardens and the many annual beds, as they do in the exhibit hall. Two large greenhouses are open to the public. There are many benches overlooking the gardens for sitting and enjoying the beauty of Kingwood Center.

There is a pond where you can feed the ducks, squirrels, peacocks and other animals inside the fenced area. There are at least two formal garden areas featuring large fountains with bubbling water to soothe and calm your nerves. If you have never been to Kingwood Center, please make an effort to attend. You will enjoy a pleasant afternoon. The dates are June 12 and 13 at 900 Park St., Mansfield, Ohio.

As you read this message, the American Peony Society is at a crossroads in its nearly century of existence. Times are changing for plant societies. Our long-range goals need to be analyzed to see if they fit the current trends in our culture. Many people join plant societies for different reasons. We need to be aware of these reasons, plus still maintain the original purpose for founding the American Peony Society.

The purpose, in 1904, was to increase the use of the peony as a decorative flower; to improve the standard of excellence, and improve the methods of its cultivation and marketing; to dispense more information for those interested in its culture; supervise nomenclature of kinds and varieties, and stimulate the growing and introduction of improved seedlings. All are valid reasons to continue into 2000 and beyond.

The Board of Directors met in a special session on March 6, 1999, to discuss and resolve some important issues concerning the American Peony Society as an organization to perpetuate peony use and culture into the next century.

One item of interest to all potential new members is the arrival of the American Peony Society on the Internet. This Web site should be up and running by the time you read this article. The size and content will be limited, but can be expanded as the need arises.

Many other items were put into the hands of committees. Our June Director's meeting in Mansfield will be a time that many tough decsions have to be made. As your President, I expect to make the final decisions, when necessary.

This group of Directors is very knowledgeable, not only about peonies, but other areas of running an international organization. Our goal is to make the American Peony Society a household word. Come on board as we prepare for the year 2000, in six short months.

Robert Wise



FRANK E. MOOTS

The following article was written by a peony man of vast experience. He wrote this information for the cut flower grower that cannot afford to take chances on the variety of peonies selected for planting.

Frank E. Moots of Newton, Kansas, a great peony man, is recognized for his cut flower business as well as his genuine interest in peonies. He started with thirty peonies in his backyard, his small business flourished, he purchased more land, and planted more peonies. He continued, and one season he planted 20,000 divisions. He was shipping cut peonies in vast numbers. He was successful in hybridizing, naming, and registering three hybrids: Lois Arlene, Joyce Ellen and Frank Keith. All three have a best rating in hybrids.

Biography—American Hybrid book

I met Mr. Moots in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, in 1974, when his picture was taken for the hybrid book.

Greta Kessenich

* * * *

PEONIES FOR THE CUT FLOWER TRADE

Frank E. Moots, Newton, Kansas

A comment in the *Bulletin* some time ago concerning varieties of peonies for cut flowers, deserves some discussion. It is true that only a few varieties, mostly of the so-called bomb type, dominate the cut flower market. But there is a very good reason for this.

Any peony which, before it is ready to cut for market, is open on top to the extent that moisture can get into it, is a poor risk in storage. Rain or even a little dew inside a bud can cause mold and rot, destroying the value of the flower. Bomb types like: Snow Mountain, Charley's White, Mons. Jules Elie, Edulis Superba, and Felix Crousse, or those with extra long guard petals such as: Sarah Bernhardt and Reine Hortense usually do not open enough to take moisture before they are ready to cut.

Another reason that this form of peony makes a better cut flower to store and cut is its ability to open into a good flower from a tighter bud than the heavier, more fully double kinds. Anyone who has tried to store the fully double varieties has discovered that most of them must be at least half open and some fully open when cut. A bloom that is half or more open is sure to be crushed or mangled in shipping unless treated as an exhibition flower, and that kind of handling is much too expensive for commercial cut flowers.

If one is selling peonies direct from a garden or for immediate use, these factors are not so important, but to any producer who stores and sells wholesale they are vital.



Most of the smaller cut flower growers, those who cut perhaps five to twenty-thousand dozen a year, cannot afford to take chances on new varieties which have not been tested for keeping qualities. The largest cut flower producers, while always interested in improved varieties, still use the tried and reliable kinds for the bulk of their crop.

There is also the matter of cost. Planting an acre of peonies is a considerable investment. Older kinds may be bought at a lower figure, while newer varieties cost five times as much. Land and planting costs count up; cultivation costs are high the first few years when hand weeding is necessary. New varieties seldom command a premium price in the cut flower market, so there is really not much incentive to plant the more expensive ones.

Experience can quickly temper the enthusiasm of a grower trying out new varieties. Some which seemed very good for local sales from the hobby garden, did not prove satisfactory when field grown and held in commercial cold storage for shipping. It is devastating to find that a thousand plants which have been cared for carefully for four or five years, will not produce flowers that can be stored and shipped.

All these things have a bearing on the planting of peonies for cut flowers and I think that that explains at least part of the reasons for the older, well tried varieties still dominating the market.

A few varieties such as **Myrtle Gentry** and **Felix Supreme**, are showing up in the larger plantings, but they are still too expensive for the small grower to plant in large quantities.

Most growers would welcome a better red cut flower. At present, the most promising seems to be **Renato**, introduced by Art Murawska. It is similar to **Felix Crousse** in color and form, but a much stronger grower, producing larger and better filled-out blooms on stronger stems. It also appears to be less susceptible to disease.

But while we are all looking for that new one which will be ideal, we must use what is available, and most growers are getting quite good results.

<u>Peony e-mail Discussion Group</u>. Jose Alamandoz of coastal Northern Spain, has sent word that subscription to the peony discussion group is free of charge. He writes, "nothing easier: they will be immediately subscribed if they just send a blank message to: <u>peony-subscribe@onelist.com."</u>



Peonia

THE QUEEN OF FLOWERS

in its season.

From R. W. Tischler

From old Catalog of Brands, Faribault, MN

It is only within the past twenty years that the public began to realize the great superiority of Peonia over all other flowers of its season. Now, the whole floral world seems to be going crazy over them, and well they may. The first point in their favor is hardiness. It may be truly said of them that they are "hardy as an oak." In the severest climate the plants require no other protection than that which they afford themselves. Then their vigorous habit and healthy growth, freedom from all diseases and insects, are important arguments in favor of their cultivation; when once planted, all is done. Each succeeding year adds to their size and beauty. The foliage is rich and glossy, and of a beautiful deep green color, thus rendering the plants very ornamental even when out of flower. No other flower is so well adapted for large, showy bouquets. The peonia may be planted either singly on the lawn or in borders. Where the lawn is extensive, a large bed makes a grand show, surpassing all other flowers. It is really a flower for the million.

Since 1867 we have made much of this beautiful class of flowers, sparing neither time nor money to get the best there was to be had in Europe and America. With nearly three-hundred distinct varieties in bloom in the summer of 1902, and about four-thousand new seedlings from seed planted in 1899, and 200,000 from seed of 1904 and 1905, we believe we have the finest stock in America.

As it usually requires from 4 to 9 years from the time the seed is planted for peonies to blossom and then 3 years more to prove their permanency of character, there are but few people in the world with patience to undertake it. No one in America has met with the success that has been our reward, and not a half-dozen have tried it!

* * * *

SEEDLING PATCH

R. W. Tischler, Faribault, MN

Douglas Brand worked all of his life with Brand's. He really knew his peonies. I learned a lot from him. He came to the Nursery in the 30's. Even then he told me of planting three water pails of seeds. The most I planted when here was one water pail full. In the Fall we picked at random. If we found any seeds on a double we grabbed all. Better than ninety-five percent came out single or Japanese.



I loved the seedling patch and I would spend many an hour there. Mr. Bigger and his wife were also visitors to this patch. What a wonderful man he was! I also learned from him. Mr. Peyton was also a visitor to the seedlings. We had one variety that he always had to see. He said call it Nanny, as sooner or later it will get your goat—and it did! Never amounted to much. Just this past summer, I dug up a wonderful full double dark pink, good foliage and everything. I had grown this variety for over twenty years. The problem was—I could get only two to three blooms per well-established plant. That is what growing seedlings is all about. I have some early photos of the seedling beds of Brands, from years ago. They grew them in beds and under shade.

It takes years of experience to judge a seedling and its flower.

Goodbye, Old Friend

Marion DeReamer, 5360 W. 73rd Ave., Schererville, IN 46375

There are many decisions to make in a lifetime, and one of heartbreak is to downsize a beloved garden.

We think of the joy of past years selecting new varieties to add to a garden. It is a pleasure seeing it grow from month to month, year to year from a few rows to over an acre of peonies.

My garden served to work off stress of raising five active children and a stress job, to the pleasure of sharing plants and information with others. It carried me through the death of my husband, and gave purpose to a lonely life. Sooner or later you, too, must downsize your garden. Health is failing, as is mine. Good garden help is practically non-existent, and it is so true that no one will give the care for the plants as you cared for them.

You must decide on the plants to keep, where to move plants for ease of upkeep, and yet retain old favorites. Do you keep some of the heritage plants that have been in the family for generations—some of the seedlings? Some of the newer unusual varieties with the pastel colors with textured petals? How much space do you have room for? Which plants are temperamental and which plants can live and flourish in spite of partial neglect? Which peony will retain the most memories? All of this is to be considered, as well as what to do with leftovers.

Always, the sale of the bloom of my plants went to Charities. My decisions have been made, and soon another growing season will be in progress, and we will see how good my decisions were.

What I will miss most are the people and their questions. It was my pleasure to share information about peonies that was learned in my lifetime with new gardeners. Since we have so many new members in the Society, the review of past articles is very good and most helpful. I shared the December *Bulletin* with several new gardeners. There are people that grow the peony and know about peony culture, but will not give out any information to new gardeners.

* * * *

LIST OF PEONY GARDENS

(Plantings, etc. open to the public) COURTESY CALL

Arnold Arboretum—The Arborway, Jamaica Plains, Mass. 02130 **Heritage Plantation**—Sandwich, Mass.

The Greenwich Garden Center—Bible St. Cos Cob, Connecticut Public Peony Planting—University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich.

Congregational Church at Birmingham, Mich.—1000 Cranbrook Rd. Bloomfield Hills, Michigan

The George Landis Arboretum—Experance, New York

Royal Botanic Gardens-Hamilton, Ontario, Canada

U.S. National Arboretum—Washington, D.C.

Kingwood Center-Mansfield, Ohio

Alfred L. Boerner Botanical Gardens—Whitnall Park Hales Corner, just south of Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Charles Klehm and Son Nursery Production Farm—4210 North Duncan Rd., Champaign, IL 61822

Gilbert H. Wild and Son—Sarcoxie, Missouri, peak bloom about May 25-June 19

Caprice Farm Nursery—15425 Pleasant Hill Road, Sherwood, Oregon

Reaths Nursery-Vulcan, Michigan, Co. Rd 577, N 195

The Tischler Peony Garden—1021 East Division St., Faribault, Minnesota

Longwood Gardens-Kenneth Square, Pennsylvania

Winterthur—Wilmington, Delaware

Swarthmore College—Swarthmore, Pennsylvania

A and D. Peony and Perennial Nursery—6808 - 180th S.E., Snohomish, Washington

Columbus and Franklin County Metro Park System—999 Park Road, Columbus, Ohio

Inniswood Botanical Garden and Nature Preserve—940 Hempstead Road, Columbus, Ohio

Home of Andrew Jackson—Nashville, Tenn.—garden laid out in 1836

Stan Hywet Gardens—Akron, Ohio—Stan Hywet Hall

Denver Botanic Gardens—Denver, Colorado

Twentieth Century Gardens-Hot Springs, Arkansas

Hollingsworth Nursery—RR #3, Maryville, Missouri

Iowa State University Science & Technology—Ames, Iowa—tree peonies

South Dakota Arboretum, McCrory Gardens—Brockings, South Dakota

Linda Hall Library—5109 Cherry St., Kansas City, Missouri peonies

White Memorial Gardens—Woodbine, Iowa—one acre of peonies—over the years, name tags have been lost



Botanica, The Wichita Gardens—701 Amidon, Wichita, Kansas Zoological Garden of Detroit, Michigan located at Royal Oak White Flower Farm—Litchfield, Connecticut

Weston Nurseries—Route 135, Hopkinton, Mass.

Cornell University—Ithaca, New York

Linwood Gardens—1912 York Road, Pavilion, NY 14525. Tree peony bloom May 22.

Cricket Hill Gardens—670 Walnut Hill Rd., Thomaston, CT 06787 Brothers Herbs and Peonies—27015 SW Ladd Hill Rd., Sherwood, Oregon 27140

- The New Peony Farm—Faribault, Minnesota—by appointment only—write: P.O. Box 6105, St. Paul, MN 55118
- Roger Anderson—Route 4, W. 665B Sunset Lane, Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin
- Sedgwick Gardens—(Long Hill) Beverly, Massachusetts—114 acres—tree peonies—species—gateway to the gardens located on Essex Street
- Countryman Peony Farm—RD #1 Northfield Vermont—Beautiful landscape on a rocky slope in Connecticut—R. Kennard Bak er, Redding Ridge, Conneticut.
- Chris Lanning Peonies—553 West F. Ave., Kalamazoo, Michigan

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HEARTLAND PEONY SOCIETY

By Dr. James W. Waddick, Kansas City, MO

Spring 1999—Although I hate to sound too snobbish, my first peony has opened. This is the old and very early variety known as **Smouthi**, but it has many unofficial names including **Fern Leaf Peony** which it isn't, but it is a hybrid between the common *P. lactiflora* and the true fern leaf peony (*P. tenuifolia*). Its origins are in the distant past of peonies, but may have originated around 1843 by a Monsieur Smouth. This is also known incorrectly in some circles as *P. laciniata*.

The single deep magenta red flowers are always among the first to bloom, followed shortly by a similar hybrid **Early Scout** which I find hard to distinguish from **Smouthii**. **Early Scout** is a newcomer from 1952 by Edward Auten and of the same parentage as **Smouthii**. They both do very well in our area and welcome the start of the peony season.

I recommend either—or both—for your garden to extend the season as early as possible. Both have fine fern-like foliage and deep red single flowers.

But this start of peony season is also the start of the Heartland Peony Society season which promises to be very busy.

Our meeting will be May 15th and the 22nd.

* * * *



LINWOOD TREE PEONY FESTIVAL

1912 York Rd., Pavilion, NY 14525

JAPANESE VARIETIES—SAUNDERS HYBRIDS GRATWICK INTRODUCTIONS—DAPHNIS HYBRIDS

We invite you to enjoy the Tree Peonies in bloom in the Linwood Gardens. Open to the public May 22-23 & May 29-30, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Tree peonies have been grown and hybridized at the Linwood Gardens for over sixty years. Each spring, the flowers are in bloom during the Festival weekends.

Linwood Gardens are located on the western ridge of the Genesee Valley. Surrounded by woods and open fields, the property features a dramatic view of the valley, and an historic landscape design created at the turn of the century. An old summer house sits on the quiet hillside with gardens, pools, and a distinctive arboretum.

Linwood has the quality of an island set apart from the everyday world. It offers a peaceful sanctuary for repose, healing, and creative work.

The Linwood Gardens are listed on The New York State Register of Historic Places. Linwood Workshops and Gardens are not-for-profit.

The Linwood Gardens also serve as a private residence, and are open only for the Tree Peony Festival and Workshop participants.

Contributions toward garden preservation are appreciated.

DIRECTIONS: From East: Take Route 20 West from Avon. Take Route 36 South to the town of York. Take York Road West 2.9 miles. At the top of the hill turn left at the stone pillars—1912 York Road. From Northwest: Take Route 63 South from Batavia to Pavilion. Continue through Pavilion, turn left at top of hill (opposite school) onto York Road. Go 3.8 miles. Turn right at stone pillars—1912 York Road.

INFORMATION: Lee Gratwick 716/584-3913—please bring your own lunch for all-day workshops.

LODGING SUGGESTIONS:

Hillside Inn Wyoming 716/495-6807
Days Inn Geneseo 716/243-0500
★ ★ ★ ★

Minnesota Peony Society Peony Show

June 5, 1999

Northtown Mall, Blaine Minnesota



IN A CALIFORNIA YARD

Irene Tolomeo, Sonoma, California

The Sunset Western Garden Book classifies us as Zone 14 as they describe the 24 Climate Zones in the West. That book says that "Marine air moderates parts of Zone 14 that otherwise would be colder in Winter and hotter in Summer." (I guess that accounts for the fog and the seagulls we sometimes see.) The coldest it has been here this year is 12°F, and that's unusually cold for this area. Winter rain, but no snow in the 10 years we've been here. Summers are very hot and very dry. Peonies want to grow, but sometimes the sudden shifts in weather play havoc with them. I've lost some tree peonies. Halcyon's strong red shoots are already showing (mid-February), as are a few other herbaceous hybrid. There is evidence of slug damage. I've tried putting out cabbage leaves to divert them, but some other small critter snacks on the cabbage leaves. Frequent rain makes it hard to protect the plants with bait. Other concerns: how's the drainage?—how about snails, and fungus, and gophers?—will some full moon in March or April herald a damaging frost? Despite all the problems, I'm confident Spring will bring some beautiful bloom.

Information about Itohs induced images of seedling Itohs with beautiful flowers, excellent foliage, and hybrid vigor. There would certainly not be enough seeds to be overwhelming, and the end results were unpredictable. Hybridizing for Itohs sounded like a great project.

Among the first peonies to grow here were a row of immature lactis grown from APS seed. Several published accounts suggested Martha W and Golden Era as useful Itoh seed parents. For good measure I bought Minnie Shaylor. My first pollinating effort involved placing Golden Era pollen on Martha and Minnie blossoms, without protecting the blossoms from unintended pollination. That Fall I planted several carpelheads of seeds from the two lactis. The following Spring there appeared numerous lacti seedlings, and one appealing little Itoh. (That Itoh, the first I'd ever seen, bloomed three years later with a lovely many-petaled blossom but with foliage which became unsightly immediately after bloom-time). Some of the lacti seedlings from Martha and Minnie blossomed, too, with several of them proving quite receptive to tree hybrid pollen. Home-grown seedlings may provide valuable breeding material. (Maybe that has something to do with their youthful vitality.) A row of seedlings representing a Mons. Jules Elie and Minnie cross might prove very rewarding.

If one wants to hybridize for Itohs, tree hybrid pollen is essential. Alice in Wonderland and Golden Era give abundant fertile pollen. Icarus on lacti may give a delightful lavender color. One seedling has inherited its color from Boreas. Age of Gold has mothered sev-



eral F-2 hybrid tree seedlings and, like **Helios**, promises someday to mother a viable reverse-cross Itoh seed here. Itohs grow well. Some must be culled, but frequently the foliage is outstanding and the flowers have been encouraging. Each seedling plant represents a small triumph. Individual differences are great—not surprising if you consider the smorgasbord of genes available in an Itoh cross. Good or bad, if one of these hybrids bloom, it is pollinated, but so far no Itoh-by-Itoh seed has germinated here.

Early on, I should have spent more time trying for second generation tree hybrid crosses. One F-2 tree hybrid growing from seed originating here is quite excellent—and very fertile. Another F-2 hybrid tree, grown here from a seed received as a gift, contributes generous and excellent pollen.

A generous paeonian sent me seeds of lutea and ludlowii which germinated and quickly matured into pollen and seed-bearing plants. In the ensuing years, these healthy smaller-flowered tree peonies and several of the **potaniniis** and one **delavyi** have been relatively carefree. (Ludlowii makes a huge plant but I doubt there will be blooms this year because of weather related problems.) Presently, if a tree species or tree hybrid blooms, hybridization is attempted. Nothing has proven wonderful so far—but maybe this Spring!

Colors and patterns among the herbaceous hybrids are delightful, and the potential for parenting interesting seedlings is tempting. White Innocence is a fine tall plant all season, and lovely in bloom. It has been worthless for hybridization. Paula Fay has been a joy, rewarding hand pollination most years with several strong seeds; although, probably because of a build-up of boron from the well water, Paula now tends to throw a disappointing number of whitish flowers. (I have wondered if the boron, which does damage some plant, might be an asset for seedset, but I really have no solid evidence for such speculation). Red Charm, Picotee and other herbaceous hybrids have bloomed beautifully and reliably. Not many herbaceous hybrids are grown here because most of my time, energy, and money is invested trying for Itohs, but I wish I had more—more time—more energy—more money.

I haven't been smart about seeds. Over-eagerness has led me to take seeds prematurely, ensuring their death. I've lost labels and neglected watering. I lost one batch of seedlings by over-fertilization. I wish I had planted all seedlings in raised beds.

Right now I believe there are at least three factors which threaten pollen viability: lack of maturation, drying winds, and moisture from dew or rain. Advanced flower buds are often brought into the house for maturation in a jar with water. A container is made by folding and stapling sides of a small rectangle of glossy paper. Stamens are cut or pulled from the mature flowers and dried in the paper boxes, usually under a 60-watt light bulb for about 24 hours. A



few grains of rice and the ripe stamens are placed in a two-piece plastic egg (the kind used in children's Easter baskets), the "egg" is shaken, and hopefully the rice frees the pollen from the stamen. An article published in *Paeonia* said that collected pollen should be refrigerated. That additional small effort seems to pay off. Hard plastic egg cartons are useful for transporting the pollen containers to the yard and back to the refrigerator as needed. These same containers are also useful for overwintering pollen in the freezer.

The paper-towel technique has proven useful for germinating seeds in lightweight plastic food storage bags. The bags are either kept on top of the refrigerator for a couple of months before transfer to an unheated garage or the bags of seeds are taken directly to the garage. I don't know which method is more productive. Subsequently, rooted seeds are individually placed in pots (bottom-vented orange juice cans), filled with potting soil, and held in the garage to develop until Spring when they are planted outside in a small raised bed, shaded when threatened by the Summer sun. After one Summer, or sometimes two, they are planted out with their older relatives.

In this yard, mushroom compost seems to be a helpful addition to the heavy clay soil. Since Summer sun blisters down from directly overhead, partial shade is desirable. If weeds have taken over (and they usually do), December is a good month to use <u>Round-up</u> here. I've read John Oeltzen's articles in the September and December 1998 *Bulletins* and realize how little I know about soils and their amendments. Watering, fertilizing, and spraying are other important subjects I haven't come close to mastering.

If one were to compare flowers from this yard with those in their yard, theirs might well be the better. No dinnerplate-sized flower here. Maybe my plants are shorter and less lush than theirs. Still, there are some (**Mikado** is an inexpensive example) which are truly satisfying. While our blooms may never be exhibition quality they are certainly worthwhile. (Our children wish there were more dried flowers for their homes!)

At some point one is bound to get caught up in the enchantment of peony species—contact SPIN. Small successes here have been tempered by a number of failures but one day I may be able to tell you what some of them look like in a California yard. In turn, I hope you will write about the successes and failures in your yards.





A MINNESOTA GARDENER

Jack Nordick, P.O. Box 24, Ortonville, Minnesota 56278

Dear Greta,

Happy to hear from you so soon. Included is a sheet with a publication order. I'm not going to get much sleep from here to Spring if I get them all read before the peonies appear.

I was delighted to get the materials on what happened to be my day off, so I could spend an hour going over the things while sitting in the greenhouse and gazing fondly at the garden where the bright red shoots of early peony growth will soon be making their appearance. I am able to pick roses and lemons nearly year 'round (as I did yesterday), but the fragrance of peonies is only available for one month each Spring. Perhaps I will yet learn to keep a tree peony or two in pots for early forcing, but right now my garage is filled all Winter with tulips and daffodils (just moved into their own little greenhouse) for Easter forcing; and the root cellar, besides the usual vegetables, holds enormous pots of hybrid-tea Roses and Nectarines, that I have not found any other way to keep alive out here.

I would like to enter into a couple of discussions that appeared in the last *Bulletin*.

I also have a couple of plants whose buds blast before opening. This happened to all of the tenuifolia last Spring. Thrips might be the culprit here, and I had not thought of that before. I am familiar with thrips in the greenhouse, and have had problems on Gladioli, as well in the garden. The ferny foliage might make it more difficult to recognize the usual tell-tale streaking in the foliage. But the same problem occurred on a couple of others, all new plantings, only 2 years in the ground. They were vigorous plants but the buds, some after growing larger than the diameter of a dime, rotted and fell off. There was no sign of insect damage anywhere, and also no blight of any sort on any of the rest of the foliage. Most surprising was that all of the buds on these plants were lost, but none of the buds failed on neighboring plants. I wondered if they were planted too deep, so when the foliage went dormant in the Fall, I carefully dug around the plants and found the eyes just at the depth they should have been. Then I wondered if perhaps the roots had not stored enough food yet to have the energy to push the buds all the way. I have a few other very late varieties that will blast if the weather is pretty hot, but that is expected with those. The others are early mid-season varieties and I haven't gotten that figured out yet. I will look forward to more discussion of the topic in the future.

My one *Itoh* hybrid (**Yellow Crown**) looks too much like a tree peony. Although it is rather bushy, it does not die back to ground level, but keeps woody stems above ground where new buds form. Is this normal or do I have a challenge here? The flower is bright yel-



low and looks like the picture, but then, so does my yellow tree peony! Is there any way to know for sure?

I also have a tree peony with herbaceous shoots. So far, I have cut them off as you suggested. I was thinking this year to let it go. I want to see what variety was used for grafting. Most likely it is some non-descript cultivar, but some tree peonies are grafted in China with unusual herbaceous species, and I just have to know for sure. (It's not the one the deer got!)

I also have used <u>Roundup</u> to control invasive grass in the peonies. Usually, I put some of it in a pail, and then with good rubber gloves and a sponge, crawl through the rows of peonies and soak the grass only in the middle, taking care not to come too close to the peony plants. Because the rhizomes of these grasses spread so far, one swipe down the middle seems to kill the grass a long way back, and so far has done no harm to the peonies. I do the same in Hybrid Lilies and Irises, as well as Hemerocallis. In those areas where the grass is so thick that a sponging seems not to help, I wait until the peony foliage is dormant, and there has been a hard frost, then cut. Those Indian Summer days when the temps get into the 60's, are just fine for a final application of <u>Roundup</u>. Otherwise, I do believe those little pests grow roots all Winter under the snowbanks.

* * * *

Sequel—Jack Nordick, April 1999

Thank you so much for your last letter. Not only did I appreciate your response but it was full of so much information that I was happy to use.

I have also received all of the materials I ordered, and have surveyed them with delight. The comment from Mr. Auten that you included for me was also in one of the books, so I will have to take that under consideration.

For right now, it is such a thrill to walk through my gardens every day and see the progress of the different perennials. Some 2000 tulips and daffodils are either in bloom or ready t spring upon me. The weather has been just perfect, with gentle warmth and rains. Most of my gardens are in fairly protected areas, so that the constant winds do not affect them as much as they might. In addition to the Peonies; Irises, Lilies and day Lilies, which are my other favorites (it has taken years to devise a plan to foil the deer in the Lilies, and believe me they know which are the most expensive, usually the orientals) are also in high gear. But the peonies are the dearest to me. So far only four of the new plantings from last fall have not yet emerged. Some ground repair work was needed where the dear hooves in the soft earth unburied parts of the roots, but all seem to be faring well in spite of it all.

The earliest (fern leaf and Scarlet O'Hara) which are showing full buds I have sprayed with a systemic insecticide just in case any thrips



or mites might be prowling as well as a systemic fungicide. We hope they will bring their buds to full development this year.

Of the strangest stories to tell, three root divisions of the cultivar Joyce Ellen (ordered from Van Bourgondien) arrived in late September already sprouted and leafed out. I didn't know what to think of that. I suspect that they had been put in cold storage for the previous spring delivery, and had broken dormancy immediately when removed after so long a sleep. I wrote the company to say so, and suggested that they let their supplier know. They sent three replacements, in exactly the same condition. I potted them up and put them under florescent lights in the basement along with other plants I grew there. A few shoots stayed green until February 1, when I put them in a mild garage for a cold treatment, and then outside in March 1. I dumped them out the beginning of April and found two roots with nicely developed hair roots and eyes. Those I planted and they are now emerging from the ground. The other four were totally rotten, which takes a lot for peony roots. I do not plan to order more from them, although I have gotten most of my tree peonies there with very good success.

The other matter is the question of the changeling. Yes, I am pleased to have another yellow tree peony, but not pleased to know that I did not get what I purchased. I have found three catalogue suppliers which offer "Yellow Crown," and give the same picture and description. I suspect that each has the same supplier. One is the above mentioned Van Bourgondien, another is Jung, and Milaeger is the third. I purchased mine from them. I have written to them and enclosed a copy for you.

I eagerly await the next issue of "The Bulletin" as well as the first flush of Peony blossoms.

Thanks again.

Jack Nordick

Election

*

Business Meeting—June 12, 1999

All the Directors whose term are expiring in June 1999 namely: Chris Lanning, Leila Bradfield, William Countryman, Floyd Kimball, and Robert Wise will return for another three year term and ask hat their name be placed in nomination.

After serving on the Board of Directors for 26 years, John Simkins will not return. He is now President of the Canadian Peony Society and has asked that a joint meeting of the two Societies, convention and exhibition be held at the Royal Botanical Gardens, Canada in 2001. He will host this event.

Roger Anderson has invited the convention and Exhibition to be held in Madison Wisconsin the year 2000. He will host the Convention and Exhibition at the Olbrich Botanical Gardens.

Both requests have come in early and both dates were open according to information received.



LETTERS

Dear Greta,

I enjoy your magazine very much—especially the color photos. A few of the peonies I grow are: Bess Bockstoce, Topeka Coral, Doreen, Charles Burgess, Fancy Nancy, Butterbowl, Red charm, Lord Cavin, and Mary Eddy Jones. Where we live—on a farm—about 100 miles northwest from Toronto, the soil is just right for peonies. I have planted some late in the Fall (Nov.) and some of those bloomed the following year in June. Red Charm had three huge, strong stemmed flowers, which just thrilled me.

Fern Cliff Gardens from British Columbia are the best people for peony roots. I agree, a few handsful of bonemeal, mixed with a little sheep manure, is ideal for peonies. The sheep manure is given to me from a good neighbor, who has a flock of sheep.

I will send you photos later on. Thanks so much!

Ruth Helwig Neustadt, Ont. R.R. 1 No C 2MO, Canada

Dear Greta & Peony Assn.:

Yes, I do remember when I planted my first peony. It was in Harvey, ND in the Spring of 1953. This was Festiva Maxima, followed by Golden Wedding, Octavia Demay, Phillipe Rivoire, Baroness Schroeder, LeCygne, Red Star, Souvenir, De la Expo 1898. In 1968 we moved to Bismarck and most were moved to our other place near Velva, ND, not far from Frontier Gardens, and Fredrick Wolhowe.

Since then, we have added Hawaiian, Coral Sunset, Walter Faxon, Miss America, Edulis Superba, Gay Paree, Mary Brand, Edward Flynn, James Hoard, Karl Rosenfield, President Taft and some other names that don't come to mind without the maps.

We do this mainly for our own enjoyment, and share blooms with friends and neighbors. Have thought to show at Minot Fair, but that isn't until late July, and too late!

Hope you can read this—this thing gets sort of lazy now & then!
Sincerely,

Frank P. Zidon

303 Shady Ln., Bismarck, ND 58501-1781

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

Digitized by Google

Dear Mrs. Kessenich:

Dottie and I are so thankful that the great and loving Creator of our world has given us peonies, among all the other wonderful things.

As I think back, the peonies that I recall from the days of child-hood are the double pinks and whites.

The first peony that flowered for me was Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, while we lived in Hinckley, Minnesota, and what a lovely flower it was!

The first peony that we planted here in Tazewell, Virginia, back in the 1970s, was **Red Charm**. Through the years it has been one of my top favorites. Mr. Klehm gave us a bonus division of **First Lady**. Both varieties are still doing well.

About 10 years ago, we purchased a division of **Garden Treasure**, and it is a dependable bloomer, and is very beautiful—a favorite!

Among our favorite red doubles are: Red Charm, Kansas, Diana Parks, Carol—and Douglas Brand—probably our largest red double, strong & reliable. We have other red doubles: Felix Crousse and Highlight. We like Carina and Cardinal's Robe, Midnite Sun, White Cap.

Myrtle Tischler is probably our favorite deep pink double, and Princess Margaret is very good.

Mother's Choice is a great and dependable white double—also Le Cygne.

We have about 150 different peonies, with few duplicates. We have lost some in the past several years.

We like Alexander Woolcott, The Fawn, Skylark. We like Pink Derby, but it has not done as well as we had hoped. Kansas, of all our red doubles, has had the strongest foliage and stems that last throughout the season.

May our Lord who gave to the flowers their beauty, fragrance, and charm make our lives beautiful and fragrant, through His matchless grace and self-renouncing and transforming love.

Cordially yours, **Harold and Dottie Toms** Tazewell, VA

SAVE YOUR SEED PODS.

*

Both herbaceous and tree. Send seeds to Chris Lanning—533 W. F. Ave., Kalamazoo, Michigan for the seed bank.



FROM GERMANY

Carl H. Stichling

I was really so happy about your letter of February 15th that I'd like to answer again.

My first peonies received were from the most well-known German herbaceous plant market garden Grafin von Zeppelin, South Germany.

Up to this time the highlight had been a visit of peonies field during main blooming with family Klose in Lohfelden near Kassel iff mid-nineties. There had been rain the night before. On the following day, there was nice sunny weather.

Mr. Heinz Klose possesses the greatest collection of peonies in Europe. We were very impressed by that excellent collection. It was an unforgettable day.

Moreover, I bought peonies from Mrs. Irene Hoch in Berlin. Mrs. Hoch imports permanently from USA.

My problem is I can't take part in annual conferences of German Peony Society. This time, at the end of May or early in June, we have still the main season in plants, selling out of my greenhouses.

The day with family Klose was an exception. Besides, the distance is not far away (70 km).

I've even gotten a catalog from my grandpa (1856-1944). It contains 30 peony sorts, at turn of century. My mother had often told me she had to cut fresh peony stalks from the field when she was young.

I think our rich limestone is very suitable for cultivating peonies.

I ordered all books on peonies that were offered in *Bulletin* of American Peony Society. One book I ordered is even autographed by Mr. Roy G. Klehm.

Now, in March, peonies are starting to bloom again, and season has begun!

Kind regards.

Peonies in my Garden Leslie Wiley, New York

The peony season was good here in 1998; however, our plantings are mature and the peonies are slowly declining in size and number of blooms produced. We lose a plant or two most years now, and we do not replace all our fatalities each year.

Reds that have died here include: Karl Rosenfield, Richard Carvell, Philippe Rivoire, Officianalis Rubra Plena.

Strong producers among the reds are Red Charm, Convoy, Burma Ruby, Walter Mains, Kansas, Paul M. Wild and Sir John Franklin. The best producer among the reds is Highlight. It may be my best red; so I grow three plants of Highlight.



Some random observation about the eleven Lins varieties that we grow...King Midas has never done well here. If it doesn't have a good year in 1999, we'll move it! Ensign Moriarity died—Paul Bunyan was most highly praised by Mr. Lins in his catalog. They are difficult to keep happy, but they are so great that I work a little extra with them. Very nice dark pinks when they have a good year. Dolorodell and Mercedes are the best performing. Lins varieties grown here, and Marcella is close behind them, and superior in our garden to the great Casablanca. Tondelego begs to be moved. We'll accommodate it this Fall. They've been growing and blooming for 40 years in the same location.

All best wishes for a great peony season in '99.

 \star

REGISTRATIONS

(The following five **Registrations** are from <u>Theresa Snelson</u>, Pacific peonies and perennials, 1401 South Fir, Canby, Oregon.—Feb. 18, 1999. These peonies were purchased from Mr. Peck of Tigard, Oregon. His father-in-law did his own hybridizing. These varieties have been popular with our visitors, as well as other growers. We know they are worthy of Registration.)

ADA NIVA (Originator—Albert Niva, Pacific Peonies, Owner.)

Seedling number, parentage and first bloomed—unknown. Beautiful deep burgundy red Japanese with a touch of gold on edge of center petaloids. Glossy and lustrous foliage. Interesting as it is emerging in early Spring, 18" in height with good stem strength. Late lactiflora, has seeds, no pollen, slight fragrance. This variety is short, and especially good for landscape.

ADRIENNE (Originator—Albert Niva, Pacific Peonies, Owner.)

Seedling number, parentage and first bloomed—unknown. Tall scarlet red single lactiflora with several layers of petals surrounding bright yellow stamens. Excellent foliage, 36" in height, moderate stem strength, blooms at mid-season. Has pollen and seeds, reliable, with excellent amount of bloom.

ALBERT NIVA (named after the Originator, Albert Niva, by Pacific Peonies.)

Parentage is unknown—also year bloomed unknown. Scarlet red, double, ball form, reliable, many side buds. It has seeds and is fragrant. 24-36" in height, with moderate stem strength. Early lactiflora.

LAUREN (Originator—Albert Niva, Pacific Peonies, Owner.)

Seedling number, parentage and first bloomed—unknown. Light pink and yellow lactiflora. Japanese, that is reliable, many side buds, has seeds & is fragrant. This unique light pink Japanese has a canary yellow center of petaloids, tall stems, good vigor, good foliage, 36" in height, blooms mid-season. Strong.



LESLIE PECK (Originator, Albert Niva, Pacific Peonies Owner.)

Parentage, seedling number, first bloomed—unknown. Deep pink, Japanese lactiflora, seeds, reliable, with many side buds. 36" height, moderate stem strength, early lactiflora, vigorous with excellent foliage. Blooms are held above the foliage. This early flower, is deep pink with pink center petaloids, etched in peach.

FROM CALLIE'S BEAUX JARDINS NURSERY

Roger and Sandra Anderson, W6658 Sunset Lane, Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin 53538—Roger F. Anderson, Plant Breeder

ANGEL CHOIR (Anderson) Roger F. Anderson, Fort Atkinson, WI, 1999.

Semi-double white Jap. tree peony. <u>Pollen parent</u>, <u>Shintenchi</u>. <u>Seed parent</u>, <u>Rocks Variety</u>. First bloomed 1989. First divided—grafted. Height 32-36". Large white blooms, semi-double with purple flares. Strong large plant with good form. Looks much like a double Rocks Variety.

ANGEL GOWN (Anderson) Roger F. Anderson, Fort Atkinson, WI, 1999.

White semi-double Jap. tree. <u>Pollen parent, Shintenchi</u>. <u>Seed parent, Companion of Serenity</u>. First bloomed 1992—height 38". Very large semi-double, white with pink flares. Has good foliage, good plant habit. Good blooming habit, and very reliable.

ANGEL'S VEIL (Anderson) Roger F. Anderson, Fort Atkinson, WI, 1999.

White, semi-double, Jap. tree. <u>Pollen parent, Shintenchi</u>. <u>Seed parent, Companion of Serenity</u>. First bloomed 1992—24-26" in height. Very large white and a very ruffled flower with pink flares, short plant, good foliage, reliable.

CHALICE DROPS (Anderson) Roger F. Anderson, Fort Atkinson, WI, 1999.

Double purple Jap. tree. <u>Pollen parent, Shintenchi</u>. <u>Seed parent, Shima Di Jin</u>. First bloomed 1992—height 26-28". Large purple flower on a short plant, good plant habit, good blooms, reliable.

COMMUNION WINE (Anderson) Roger F. Anderson, Fort Atkinson, WI, 1999.

Double purple Jap. tree. <u>Pollen parent, Shintenchi</u>. <u>Seed parent, Shima Di Jin</u>. First bloomed 1992—height 30". Large double blossom with good plant habit. Reliable with good foliage.

HEAVENLY BOUND (Anderson) Roger F. Anderson, Fort Atkinson, WI, 1999.

Blend, semi-double Jap. tree. <u>Pollen parent, Shintenchi</u>. <u>Seed parent, Guardian of Monastery</u>. First bloomed 1992—48" height. Large blossom with blends of pink, white, and purple. Very tall



plant, good foliage, good plant habit. Very floriferous and reliable. **LIME PHOSPHATE** (Anderson) Roger F. Anderson, Fort Atkinson, 1999.

Lime green color, double herbaceous hybrid. Pollen parent, Anderson seedling. Seed parent, Anderson seedling. First bloomed 1986, divided 1989, height 28-30". Tight double tetraploid of light lime green color (hard opener) foliage has dark green color with leaves that wrinkle. No seed, but slightly fertile pollen. As blooms age they fade to cream.

MADELIN TERESA (Anderson) Roger F. Anderson, Fort Atkinson, WI, Jan. 19, 1999.

Salmon red, double, ball-type herbaceous hybrid. Pollen parent, D-4. Seed parent, Anderson Tetraploid seedling. First bloomed 1991, first divided 1994. Height 28-30". Large pompom-type double that fades to salmon and then cream. Fades very much like Mary Joe Legare. Has good plant habit and good foliage. A real eyecatcher!

WATERMELON WINE (Anderson) Roger F. Anderson, Fort Atkinson, WI, 1999.

Red pink single, lutea tree hybrid. Pollen parent, Chinese Dragon. Seed parent, Martha W. First bloomed 1989. First divided 1991. 28-30" in height. Red pink single blossoms with strawberry flares. Good plant habit, good foliage, dependable bloomer. Very floriferous. Set a lot of seed—none fertile, as yet!

COURT JESTER (Anderson) Roger F. Anderson, Fort Atkinson, WI, Jan. 19, 1999.

Single gold, herbaceous x tree. <u>Pollen parent</u>, <u>D-256 Tria seedling</u>. <u>Seed parent</u>, <u>Martha W. seedling</u>. First bloomed 1988. Divided 1991—height 24-26". Small bloom, color yellow-gold with dark red flares surrounding a group of yellow stamens with red tipped stigmas. Primary blooms are showy, but the main show comes when the secondary buds open as there are many. No seed or pollen noted.

HILLARY (Anderson) Roger F. Anderson, Fort Atkinson, WI, Jan. 19, 1999,

Semi-double to double red blend—herbaceous x tree hybrid. Seed parent, Bartzella, open pollinated. First bloomed 1990. Divided 1993—24-26" height. Red and yellow blend, with yellow fading to cream on outer facing petals. Inner petals remain red and give the bloom that inner glow effect. Excellent plant habit. One of my six favorite herbaceous tree hybrids. No fertility noted.

JOANNA MARLENE (Anderson) Roger F. Anderson, Fort Atkinson, WI, Jan. 19, 1999.

Semi-double bi-color—herbaceous x tree hybrid. <u>Pollen parent</u>, <u>Golden Era</u>. <u>Seed parent</u>, <u>Gay Paree</u>. First bloomed 1991. Divided 1994—24-26" height. 4-6" semi-double flower having dark pink guard petals and golden inner petals. Great plant habit and good foliage.



<u>CALLIE'S MEMORY</u> (Anderson) Roger F. Anderson, Fort Atkinson, WI, Feb. 19, 1999.

Yellow cream semi-double—herbaceous x tree hybrid. Pollen parent, **D-74.** Seed parent, **Martha W. seedling SD19.** First bloomed 1990. Divided 1993—height 28-30"—width 40"—6-8". Blooms yellow cream color with maroon flares and picotee edge. Good plant habit and foliage. Has long stems. Should make for a cut flower.

CANARY BRILLIANTS (Anderson) Roger F. Anderson, Fort Atkinson, WI, Jan. 19, 1999.

Yellow, semi-double to double—herbaceous x tree hybrid. Pollen parent, **D-75.** Seed parent, **Martha W. seedling**. First bloomed 1989. Divided 1992—height 26-28". Light beige in bud, opening to semi-double to full double. Some blooms remain light yellow while others become very brilliant in color. This is a very deceiving plant. It has long stems and good green foliage. Should make a good cut and drying flower. No pollen or seeds.

LOLLIPOP (Anderson) Roger F. Anderson, Fort Atkinson, WI, Jan. 19, 1999.

Semi-double to double blend—herbaceous x tree hybrid. <u>Pollen parent</u>, <u>D-79</u>. <u>Seed parent</u>, <u>Anderson's seedling</u>. First bloomed 1989. Divided 1992—height 26-29". Semi-double to double yellow with red candy stripes through flower giving these blooms the appearance of an all-day sucker. Good plant habit and very floriferous as are all the herbaceous x tree peony hybrids.

COPPER KETTLE (Anderson) Roger F. Anderson, Fort Atkinson, WI, Jan. 19, 1999.

Tri-color semi-double to double—herbaceous x tree hybrid. Pollen parent, Golden Era. Seed parent, Martha W. First bloomed 1992. First divided 1995—height 26-28". Semi-double to double blooms of red, yellow and orange, giving the bloom a copper color look from a distance. Handsome dark green foliage supported by a sturdy well-shaped plant.

LEMON DREAM (Anderson) Roger F. Anderson, Fort Atkinson, WI, Jan. 19, 1999.

Yellow single to semi-double—herbaceous x tree hybrid. Pollen parent, Golden Era. Seed parent, Martha W. First bloomed 1987. Divided 1990—height 28-32". Semi-double yellow, excellent plant habit. Every now and then, a bloom or two will open half lavender, half yellow. A real novelty. These blooms are the most photographed flower in the garden. Very much like Bartzella, but not as double or not as dark in color.

MORNING LILAC (Anderson) Roger F. Anderson, Fort Atkinson, WI, Jan. 19, 1999.

Fuchsia color, single to semi-double—herbaceous x tree hybrid. Pollen parent, Golden Era. Seed parent, Martha W. seedling. First bloomed 1990, divided 1993—height 26-28". Fuchsia in color



with dark purple and white streaked-running petals. Has good plant habit and dark green foliage. A very popular seller, and is also on my six favorite list. No fertility noted.

NORWEGIAN BLUSH (Anderson) Roger F. Anderson, Fort Atkinson, WI, Jan. 19, 1999.

Light pink single to semi-double—herbaceous x tree hybrid. Pollen parent, **D-74**. Seed parent, **Martha W. seedling**. First bloomed 1990. Divided 1993—height 28-30". Pink single with dark pink flares. Heavy textured foliage of dark green color. This plant sets seeds, under certain conditions. Out of the hundreds collected, only 2 or 3 have been variable with none reaching planthood yet.

SAFFRON INNOCENCE (Anderson) Roger F. Anderson, Fort Atkinson, WI, Jan. 19, 1999.

Clear yellow, single to semi-double—herbaceous x tree hybrid. Pollen parent, **D-79**. Seed parent, **Miss America**. First bloomed 1988. Divided 1993—height 30-32". Clear yellow, bloom with no red flares, white with yellow stamens. Dark green foliage on excellent plant. No fertility noted.

SCARLET HEAVEN (Anderson) Roger F. Anderson, Fort Atkinson, WI, Jan. 19, 1999.

Red single—herbaceous x tree hybrid. Pollen parent, Thunderbolt. Seed parent, Martha W. seedling. First bloomed 1989. Divided 1992—26-28" height. Single scarlet red 4-8 bloom, setting on top and around a spherical-shaped plant. Handsome foliage. A popular plant.

SEQUESTERED SUNSHINE (Anderson) Roger F. Anderson, Fort Atkinson, WI, Jan. 19, 1999.

Yellow single to semi-double—herbaceous tree hybrid. <u>Pollen parent</u>, <u>D-74</u>. <u>Seed parent</u>, <u>Miss America</u>. First bloomed 1987, divided 1990—30-32 inches height. Blooms 5-7" with red stigmas, and a ring of yellow stamens. Plant has long stems, making for a good cut flower. Brightest of all yellows to date.

<u>UNIQUE</u> (Anderson) Roger F. Anderson, Fort Atkinson, WI, Jan. 19, 1999.

Red single—herbaceous x tree hybrid. Pollen parent, Potanini, tall yellow. Seed parent, Martha W. First bloomed 1986, divided 1989—height 30-34". Red single with very fine cut foliage of a dark green color. Plant has excellent plant habit and very vigorous. Not many side buds. No fertility noted.

YELLOW WATERLILY (Anderson) Roger F. Anderson, Fort Atkinson, WI, Jan. 19, 1999.

Yellow semi-double to double—herbaceous x tree hybrid. <u>Pollen parent</u>, <u>D-79</u>. <u>Seed parent</u>, <u>Martha W. seedling</u>. First bloomed 1992. Divided 1995—30-34". Large semi-double to double yellow with lavender flares and petals like those of a water lily. Very floriferous, and also having good strong color popular with our garden visitors. No fertility noted.



August—Tree Peony Grafting

For information we refer you to Dr. David Reath's grafting technique with illustrations on page 25 in Handbook of the Peony.

The page following was written by John Simkins, Oakville, Ontario, Canada. He grows many beautiful tree peonies. His experience will be of interest because of the various ways of grafting.

An Effective Measure Raising Graft Survival Rate of Tree Peony Nursery Stock

By Wu Jingxu, General Manager and Senior Agronomist
Luoyang Huafeng Horticulture Co., Ltd., No. 50 Kaixuan Dong Rd.,
Luoyang, Henan, 471000, China

Grafting is the main method that propagates tree peony of young nursery stock. Usually people plant them in nursery or field as soon as they have grafted the branches or buds (scion) of tree peony plants on the roots of herbaceous & tree peony, or on tree peony seedlings in August to September (suitable day average air temperature is 22°C or so). So done, the grafting survival rate is lower (generally 70-80%) as the soil is more poorly aerated and has unsuitable humidity, as well as the management being not so convenient and careful. In addition, the stimulus picking scion from plants may cause the branches or plants to sprout early (e.g. abnormally sprout in Autumn) so that this situation is very harmful to plants because the shoots are easy to be frozen to death in winter.

In order to solve the problem, in recent years we researched and practiced a new, effective measure. Grafts are grown in soil after they are stored in moist sands for some days (over 20 days and until the grafts have healed and survived) when the grafting is finished. Adopting this way can raise about 20% survival rate of grafting tree peony, and lengthen grafted & growing period as the condition in sands are easy to be controlled and adjusted artificially and be better to surviving plants. Also, if grafting in a later period, it can also avoid plants sprouting earlier. Therefore, we think that this is a very good way for grafting tree peony, and it would be worthwhile to be popularized energetically.

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28



PROPAGATION OF TREE PEONIES

John E. Simkins, Oakville Ontario, Canada

Tree peony growers are at a disadvantage compared to the herbaceous enthusiasts because the tree peony is difficult to propagate vegetatively. The herbaceous peony produces larger roots each year. These can be dug and divided into several pieces.

The tree peony does not behave so well. Many of the Japanese, (suffruiticosa), keep a single stem for years. Others look like they have several stems but when dug the stems all attach to a single underground root.

The lutea hybrids sometimes produce clumps of stems which have roots. These can be dug up, cut off and planted. When this is done both the mother plant and the off shoots take four or five years to recover and produce reasonable plants.

Christopher Lloyd, a garden writer in England described a method of producing tree peonies from cuttings. He used shoots of the current season's growth taken just after flowering is over. He cut the wood at the junction with last year's wood and cut the top just above a leaf. Each piece was five to six inches long. The tip leaf and two lower leaves were removed and the top leaves left were cut around to reduce their size to one half. The bottom was trimmed and dipped into rooting compound. These were inserted in a mixture of coarse sand, peatmoss and soil to a depth just below the lowest leaf. The container was placed in a cold frame which was left closed. Seven of nine cuttings formed root and eventually plants.

I have tried this several times without success but each time a few weeks after flowering. Next year I will give it a good try. If we leave out these two methods we are down to layering, and grafting.

Layering is the pulling down of a limb, attaching it to the ground and covering it with earth. A variation is to dig up a plant with several stems and bury it a foot or so deeper. Other ways are to remove an inch or so of bark on the underside of the buried branch before burying it or cut into the bark of the stems before burying them. There are other variations where the stem is passed through an open-end tin can full of horticultural charcoal which is covered with earth.

Most of these methods are relatively slow and limited by the number of limbs that can be bent to the ground. The least disturbing to the plant and most efficient is the grafting of pieces of the stem onto herbaceous roots. The herbaceous roots grow and supply a nurse root until the stem can send out roots of its own.

There are two secrets to success in grafting tree peonies. One is to get the cambrian layer of the stem to unite with the herbaceous root. The second is to get the root to grow rather than rot. No one to my knowledge has developed a technique that will give 90% success year after year.



Rootstock

Traditional lore is that a four-year-old lactiflora rootstock is best and this is probably a pretty good rule. I have used rootstock from many species and hybrid herbaceous plants from two to ten years old. On old plants, use the new roots around the perimeter or the ends of old roots.

Any size root works sometimes but I find the best chance of a union of root and stem is with half-inch to one-inch size roots. These roots are flexible so even if the match of rootstock and stem are not exact, the elastic band will make a snug join over most of the cut areas. The root length can range from four inches for a one-inch piece to six inches for a smaller diameter root.

The Stem or Scion

The stem must be this year's wood. I have grafted a few older stems each year but have never had one take. This can be a whole stem cut at ground level or the side or top shoots from an old stem.

Stems are cut in my area, Zone 6, on the USDA map starting the last week in July to December. The early flowering Japanese, then early luteas in early August—the later Daphnis lutias in mid-August followed by the Itohs in September.

Even the earliest plants can be grafted right through to December. When the bark is changing from green to tan, this seems to be the best time. I start them even a little earlier and do a few each week until January. The earlier stems are much easier to cut.

The Graft

Tools—Single edged razor blades. These have a heavy metal top. They are sold in paint and wallpaper stores for stripping paint from windows and trimming wallpaper. They cost about \$7.00 per 100 blades.

Piece of Pine three-quarters-of-an-inch by six inches wide and twelve inches long.

Box of grafting elastic pieces. These are a quarter-of-an-inch wide by three inches long elastic pieces available from specialty nurseries that propagates trees or shrubs or gardening stores.

Carborundum Stone to touch up razor blade. Professional grafters use a knife rather than the razor blade but I found that keeping the knife sharp and getting straight cuts is so much easier with the razor blade.

How many buds to graft? Along the stem in the axils of the leaves are the buds which will produce the new plant. Each bud on the stem can be grafted to a root producing several plants or one graft can be made on the lower bud to make one plant per stem. Anything in between is another option.

The usual graft is one or two buds except when grafting the tip and the buds are so close together there is no wood to cut. So the tip



may contain four or more buds. The choice often depends on how many buds are available vs. how many roots, or how many plants are required vs. how fast you want them.

The limit on the size of stem grafted is usually the size of the rootstock. Very often the rootstock will not have any roots next spring when the buds start to grow. There is a limit to the amount of top growth the root can supply while it tries to grow some roots.

The more buds on the stem the faster a new plant will develop. Somewhere between these two limits lies the optimum. Two or more bud grafts succeed more often than one bud grafts. I think this is because with two buds one often gets a join just even with or above the first bud. It is too high for the lower bud but satisfactory for the top one. This will get the sap running and the lower bud will then take its share.

The Graft—I start by laying the stem, or half the stem, depending on the length, on the board with the lower bud up. The razor blade is held vertically over the center of the stem with the lower tip on the lower end. The top tip is placed on the right edge of the stem even with the bud. The tip is pivoted to the right about thirty degrees from vertical. The blade is pressed through the stem with a slight cutting motion. This cuts off a triangular part of stem from the right hand side.

The top tip of the blade is placed on the left edge of the stem even with the bud and the lower tip again placed in the center of the stem to make a point with the right cut edge. The blade is inclined thirty degrees from the horizontal and pressed down to cut a triangular piece from the left side of the stem.

This has produced a point at the bottom of the stem from which three planes emerge to meet the stem at the bud. This three-sided pyramidal stem is laid on the rootstock with the bud just above the top of the root. By looking at the rootstock an estimate of where to start the root cut can be made and the width and depth required at the top of the root. I hold my finger where the cut should start and take off the scion. Then holding the blade about twenty degrees from the vertical cut into the rootstock making matching cuts to receive the scion. I fit the stem into the root. If it sits a little deeper it doesn't matter but if the top of the stem is above the root the cambrian layer will have nothing to unite with.

There is no need to struggle for fit along the lower edge. This is of some benefit but the difficulty of making a perfect fit all over is too time consuming for the increased probability of success.

When the fit is satisfactory the elastic is wrapped around to hold the scion and root together. It seems better to have the elastic loop up over the stem just above the bud.

There are other types of grafts in the book . . . I've tried budding which is a common method for roses, also side grafting without any success. Where the diameter of the scion and root are nearly the same,



I've had success with a straight wedge graft.

The grafted area can be wrapped with green plastic tape to keep the water and bacteria away. Gary Seaman and David Reath both used this method but I hear it is no longer considered necessary. I have never tried it.

The first step in a successful graft is to have the cambrian layers start to grow together. This takes about two weeks under ideal conditions.

I get the best results when the grafts are placed in a warm, humid atmosphere. If they are grafted early, say August-September when the sun shines and it is warm, I find placing them in sand in a cold frame is the best method. The top of the root is about even with the sand level. The sand is six to eight inches deep. The frames are shaded with window screening and the tops left closed. The sand is damp but not soaking wet. They can be left in the frame all winter with the addition of covering in January and February. This is the method used by Sheridan Nurseries who are large scale propagators. I tried putting a heating cable under the sand to keep it warm for October, November and December grafts. This failed as the cable heat made the roots rot.

During cool weather I have placed the grafts in a plastic sandwich bag, tied the end and put it on top of the refrigerator at the back where it is warm.

With this method it is better to soak the roots in a chlorox solution (1 tablespoon per gallon), for about an hour before grafting. Another method is to place the grafts in the solution before putting them in the bags. If they are left over a week in a warm place in plastic bags mildew will appear and usually this means failure. I've also placed the grafts on top of a layer of perlite in an aquarium with a glass top which sits at the back of the greenhouse. Sunshine deters mildew and this method was pretty good. Gary Seaman and David Reath bury the grafts right in the ground. Gary used a raised bed which he did not cover. David covers the area with plastic and a heavy mulch. Gary had a good success record and David probably has as high a level of success as anyone.

A way to tell if the graft has taken is to push down on the leaf petiole which is attached to the stem below the bud. If it breaks away easily the join has probably occurred. Be careful; pushing too hard will break a new joint apart and ruin the graft.

Winter treatment. If the grafts are in sand in the cold frame, covering is all that is needed. If they are in bags in the house or green house they can be put in the frame if it is not too cold. If it is below freezing I use pots of sand in the cool greenhouse to store the grafts. The root is placed level with the sand or a half-inch deeper. This must be kept just moist. I usually put the pots in an aquarium with a plastic lid over it as an aid to prevent further watering. They can also be kept in the cellar but care must be taken to prevent them from drying out.



I have also put the grafts, after they have joined, directly outdoors. This has worked reasonably well but the clay in my back plot heaves them so much they are above the surface. Very often in early spring the rootstock has not grown any roots although the bud shows signs of breaking. They could be planted out in the field at this timefrom four to six inches below the top of the wood. This would hold back the bud growth until roots form.

Grafts in the frame are usually left until next fall with the top off after April. Then they are planted in the garden. I plant the grafts with the top of the wood just even with the soil level. In the low-lying clay they are heaved each year and I have to replant them to obtain tree peony roots.

How to measure success. If I get 50% of the grafts to grow into plants I'm quite happy. The majority of losses occur in the joining of the cambrian layer. Very high losses occur due to poor drainage or to high moisture levels during the fall and winter and early spring. One cool, wet spring I lost over 50% of the 1-year grafts in the low-lying clay field. When I tried the heater in the frame I lost them all.

Try to get moist, warm conditions for the joining phase and cool slightly moist conditions for the winter. If one method fails try another until one that suits your temperament and grafts will work. David Reath describes his techniques in the Bulletin 213, 1975 which is also in the Tree Peony Society 75 years, page 61.

Questions

Every year, at about this time I get very disgusted with Mons Jues Elie peonies, about 5-10% of their buds look like onion domes on old foreign building's spires. I would appreciate if someone would tell me the cause.

—Graneville Hall 7294 Shackleford Ave. Gloucester, Virginia 23061

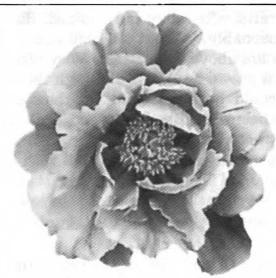
Some of my tree peonies are 20 years old and always enjoyed many blooms. Last year no bloom—I covered and mulched them with leaves this last fall and now only two buds. They have not been affected by frost.

Years back, the gardener used manure but have now discontinued because of what is written about its use.

I would appreciate any advise.

—Mrs. Alexander Phillips 1296 Virginia Trail Youngstown, Ohio 44505





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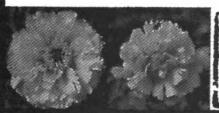
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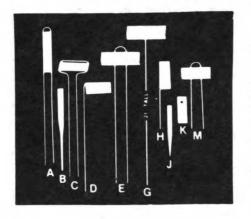
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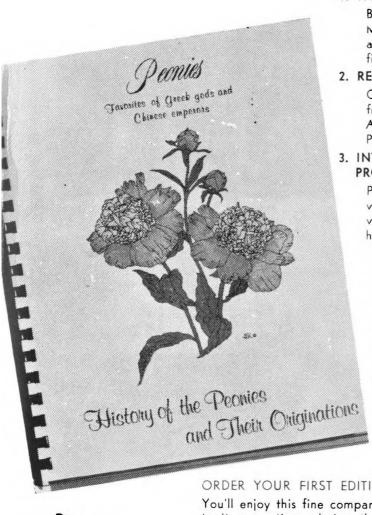
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Callies Memory (Anderson 1990) Ft. Atkinson, WI It's New!

Callies Memory is another one of Rogers classic peonies with the foliage of the tree peony but herbaceous plant and style. This plant produces yellow cream semi double flowers. Picture shows a shade of orange. It has 6-8"flowers with long stems for cutting.



Bartzella (Anderson 1986)

Photo—Dave Cartwright. 1998.

The new peonies from the Anderson Nursery. Foliage of the tree peony but herbaceous plant and style. Bartzella was registered in 1986. Picture showing a five year old plant with 81 blooms, with plant size 48x48. The bloom across primary 9½ of golden yellow.