



Primroses

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On the cover

P. cuneifolia var. fauriei, photo by Mr. Kazuo Mori, editor of the Japan Alpine Rock Garden Society, co-author of 'The Wild Flowers of Japan' and proprietor of K. Mori Alpines, Trinity Garden in Japan. Mr. Mori was extremely generous in contributing to the APS his slides of primula used in his presentation to the American Rock Garden Society's Winter Study Weekend at Portland, Oregon 1982.

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Correction

Fall 1981, Vol. 39, No. 4, page 19, the name of the Show 'edged' Auricula in the photograph is not 'Fleminghouse' as noted. Fleminghouse is a green-edge not a grey-edge. The auricula shown is not identified.

President's Message

I think primroses are somewhat like people. After a few warm sunny days in winter or very early spring they start growing, thinking winter is over, only to get nipped by a sudden return of cold weather. Here in the Pacific Northwest we had a nice mild December with many things starting to grow, then the first week of January temperatures dropped almost to zero. Everything survived because of a snow cover until it warmed up again with spring like weather for over a month. Another week of cold nights came not nearly as cold as before, only in the lower 20's, but with no snow. This proved too much for some of the quick growing primroses. Seldom do we have a regular winter when it gets cold and stays cold until it warms up and stays warm. Sometimes we get warm spells (false springs) followed by severe freezes three times in one winter. That is why we have difficulty in growing some of the rated hardy primroses here. Worst of all is when we have a totally mild winter followed by a heavy freeze down into the teens during March or April.

We are like our primroses, so anxious for spring to get here that after a few weeks of warm weather we think 'this is it,' winter is over. Sometimes that is true, but most often we get fooled by a sudden cold snap as discouraging to one's spirits as it is damaging to the health of our primroses.

Somehow when spring really gets here we always have a good display. More plants survived and recovered than we expected. Spring is here and everything is right again. The enthusiasm and hope of a gardener is never dampened for long, even by the severest of winters.

In the APS we are looking for the best display ever in our gardens and at the shows. This year let us make this incurable disease of primrose fever contagious so many more people can suffer the woes and enjoy the pleasures of growing primroses.

Herb Dickson

Thrums and Pins

*news of the society
assembled by the editors committee*

Good news from the Rare Plant Nursery in Chehalis, Washington indicates that Herb Dickson is recovering from the second knee transplant. Things are moving just a little slower than from the first transplant, but Herb is planning on attending the National Show in Milwaukee.

Orpha Salsman writes about a friend.

Fayme Haverty

Born 1898, Cincinnati, Ohio

Died February 10, 1982, Seattle

"Those words give little indication of the character of Fayme Haverty, whom I was privileged to call my friend. Coming to Seattle as a child, she lived in the area where Harborview Hospital now stands. Many the stories she could tell of Seattle in the early 1900's. During a twelve year stay in San Francisco, she developed a deep interest in gardening which continued until she suffered a stroke in 1977. She leaves many friends who will miss the passing of this gentle lady."

Members still remember Fayme's notable achievements as director of the APS seed exchange for many years. Dorothy Dickson recalls the wonderful seed socials Fayme organized for packaging seeds as well as the interesting hours spent with her in the Northwest Hybridizers of the APS. The editors committee hopes to publish some of Fayme's challenging notes from the Hybridizers in future issues of the Quarterly. Fayme was a very active member of the Washington State Chapter of the American Primrose Society, as well as other organizations, including the American Rock Garden Society. Fayme Haverty will be missed indeed.

All members of the society are reminded that the seed exchange is just what the name implies - an exchange. Special crosses, species and native collections should be done or planned now for a fruitful fall. The APS seed exchange is in desperate need of more donations of seeds from those members who have 'special' primula.

Primrose growers in the Portland region lost a good and wonderful friend when William Aaron Tate died suddenly after a very short illness in a hospital on the 5th of March. He was only 73 years old. He was born in Etna, Washington, but lived most of his life near Portland.

He wasn't a great grower of primroses, in fact he claimed to be a specialist in growing dandelions, but his wife, Etha, must have been greatly helped by his support and encouragement, because whenever help was needed, Bill was always there. The Valley-Hi Chapter made him an honorary life member in gratitude for his cheery helping hand. He was a member of the Oregon Primrose Society, a chapter of the APS, for 26 years, and for the last ten years was the treasurer. Members will always remember his reports ending with the amount of money in the treasury and "give or take a little" with that merry twinkle in his eye which he always seemed to have. He will be very sadly missed for he touched each one of us and left us with a smile.

Why Name a Primrose

*by Dorothy Dickson
Chehalis, Washington*

Why would anyone want to name a particular primrose plant and propagate it vegetatively as a clone when primroses (*primula*) grow so easily from seed? Several good reasons come to mind.

Even in the wild, sometimes a superior plant stands out above all the others. This plant may be because of its color, size, fragrance, time of blooming, or due to a more attractive foliage. Notably, it would be almost impossible to ever reproduce another plant like it from seed. Reasons for this different appearance may be a species selection, mutation, or a natural hybrid. Similar variations can happen in cultivated primroses and horticultural hybrids.

Before giving a plant a name, there are other things to consider. A primrose must not only be different, but demonstrate that it is superior to any other plant of its type under cultivation. Named primroses should lend themselves to propagation in commercial quantities and have merchantable values.

Oftentimes a person will name a plant they have produced just because they happen to like it; or the primrose is the result of their personal efforts and are prejudiced in its favor. Far too often a plant that has been named is not superior in any respect, or in fact, even be inferior to unnamed primroses already under cultivation by commercial growers.

Some horticultural societies have official registries to keep plant names classified and in a format that allows for quick reference. Most floricultural societies have procedures for registering superior specimens. There are

organizations that have test gardens where the plant under consideration must be grown, rated and compared with others before being allowed to be named and registered. The American Primrose Society has a procedure for naming show and exhibition alpine auriculas (Volume 15, No. 1; pp. 15-16, winter quarterly 1955); when the description and name is published in the Quarterly, it serves as a registry.

At present there are no guidelines or procedures for naming any other cultivated *primula* plant by the APS. A person can now have a plant they like and give it any name they want, and that is all there is to it. Someone else can give a different title to the same plant and sell it under their own name without penalty, payment of royalties or any recognition to the original grower whatsoever.

The APS needs a registry for all named primrose plants, one or more test gardens and some published rules and procedures for naming primrose (*primula*) plants.

First, the APS, must find a dedicated volunteer who will research and compile a list of named *primula* plants now cultivated in the U.S. and be willing to take charge of future registrations and, if possible, find one or more individuals or botanic gardens to serve as test gardens.

When these volunteers are located, procedures and rules can be worked out by cooperation between them and the APS board.

Volunteers please communicate with the APS president or the Quarterly editor.

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Primroses Spontaneous and Cultivated in Romania

by Dr. Gheorghe Turcu
Bucharest, Romania

Genus *Primula* has hundreds of species spread all over the world, particularly in the temperate zones. Their taxonomy often varies with the authors because their natural variability and because these species readily cross and provide an unlimited number of transitional forms. Some of these forms are very interesting and unexpectedly beautiful, especially the cultivated ones.

According to the *Flora Europea* (vol. 3, London 1972) there are 33 spontaneous species in Europe; they are found on the grasslands of forestry hilly and mountain zones and on the alpine grasslands.

In Romania there are nine spontaneous and four cultivated species.

All the spontaneous species in Romania are perennial scapigerous herbs with a basal rosette of leaves. They blossom in the early spring and have bright colored flowers, especially light yellow flowers, a cheerful botanical replay for the ever shining sun of spring. The majority of the species are known in Romania as "The Cuckoo's little boot." One says that if the cuckoo's song comes from the front side when you hear it for the first time in the spring, then everything will be all right for you all along the year. Maybe that's why people prepare for Cuckoo such beautiful little boots.

The nine spontaneous species found in Romania are different from a geographical point of view. Three of them are European species:

Primula vulgaris Hudson (*P. acaulis* (L.) Hill) with pale yellow flowers, *Primula elatior* (L.) Hill, with yellow flowers and *Primula minima* L., with

pale violet to almost white flowers. Two species are Eurasian: *Primula veris* L. (*P. officinalis* (L.) Hill) with bright yellow flowers, usually sweet-smelling and *Primula Halleri* J.F. Gmelin, with lilac flowers. One species is holarctic (Eurasia + N. America): *Primula farinosa* L., with lilac-pink, rarely purple or white flowers.

Three species are endemic to the region, having consequently a very reduced area: *Primula auricula* ssp. *serratifolia* (Roch) Jav. (*S. Carpathians*), with yellow flowers, usually sweet-smelling, *Primula leucophylla* Pax (*E. Carpathians*), with yellow flowers and *Primula Baumgarteniana* Degen et Moesi (*S. Carpathians*), with lilac flowers.

The cultivated primroses in Romania are: *Primula malacoides* Franch., annual herb, with pink or red flowers, originated from China, *Primula sinensis* Lindl., perennial herb with white, pink or red flowers, originated from China, *Primula obconica* Hance, perennial herb, with pink or pale purple flowers, originated from China.

Besides these three species, many decorative cultivars of some hybrid species, particularly of *Primula hortensis* Wettst. (*Primula auricula* × *P. hirsuta*) are cultivated in early spring gardens.

Editor's note: Dr. Turcu is with the Agriculture Institut 'N. Balcescu', Department of Botany, Bucharest, Romania



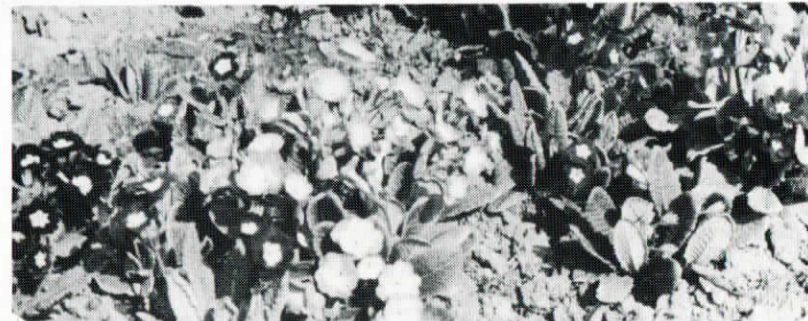
Primula veris - in native habitat



Primula veris - in native habitat



Primula vulgaris - in native habitat



Primula × *hortensis*

photos by Dr. G. Turcu

Gold Laced Polyanthus in the United Kingdom

by Bernard M. Smith
Kent, England

Where-as in the United States the American Primrose Society has a National body who sets the Standards and organizes the Shows on a National Basis (as apart from the local Chapter's own Shows), here in the United Kingdom which consists of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, we have the National Auricula and Primula Society which unfortunately has three Sections (Northern with shows in Sale and Bradford, Midland with Shows in Birmingham and Southern with Shows in London) which run as autonomous bodies so that in fact it is anything but National.

Judging Standards vary from one Section to another and only the Southern sticks rigidly to 'Gold' and does not accept Silver Lacing other than in classes for ordinary polyanthus.

The Southern has a cup for the Highest points in the Gold Lace Polyanthus classes at both the Primula and the Annual (Auricula) Show but the other two English Societies have only one at their Annual Shows. The Southern Section also has Premier Cards for the Best Gold Lace Polyanthus in the Show.



Bernard Smith at London Show

Since I myself belong to all three Sections but only show in London, I can only judge the U.K. growers by the Show Reports in the three Year Books.

Accordingly I have taken the period 1976 to 1981 (the last six years) and listed the winners of the Gold Lace Polyanthus. Classes and awarded points as follows: (3) points for a First, a Cup or a Premier Card. (2) points for a Second and (1) point for a Third. The leading nine winners in each Section are as follows:

NORTHERN

42 pts H.V. Calvert
24 pts W. Deere
11 pts Dr. D.A. Duthie
9 pts Mrs. G. Baker
8 pts J. Ollerenshaw
7 pts K. Ellerton
6 pts A. Stubbs
6 pts J.N. Gibson
6 pts A.K. Guest

MIDLAND

29 pts Mrs. G. Baker
11 pts H.A. Cohen
10 pts A. Delbridge
7 pts C.R. Burrows
6 pts Mrs. N. Tye
4 pts Dr. D.A. Duthie
4 pts A.K. Guest
3 pts Mrs. W. Hull
3 pts R.G. Rossiter

SOUTHERN

46 pts B.M. Smith
27 pts L.E. Wigley
24 pts Mrs. G. Baker
17 pts Dr. C. Jones
15 pts A. Edmondson
13 pts E.R. Smale
10 pts C.R. Jamieson
9 pts B. Walker
8 pts C. Gayfer

I included the late C.R. Burrows who was a good grower. His Stanbury strain lives on.

Mrs. Gwen Baker of Wolverhampton - the Midland Winner - shows with all three Sections and is the Champion with a total of 62 points from the lists above. Mrs. Baker also grows and shows Primulas and is at present successfully breeding Double Auriculas. Gwen, who is also a member of the American Primrose Society, is truly one of the Modern Florists.

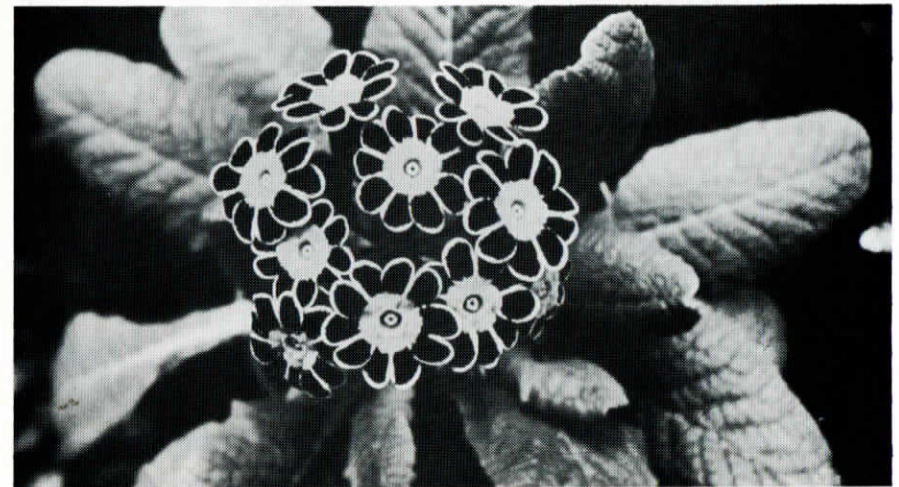
Mr. Hubert V. Calvert of Wakefield tops the Northern list. A former secretary of the Wakefield and North of England Tulip Society has been interested in Gold Lace Polyanthus for over 30 years but in 1963 he started line breeding a reselected strain from Tompson and Morgans seed and today his Calvert Strain is highly respected by growers everywhere. It is, I believe, the only strain not to contain Barnhaven blood. Mr. Calvert has contributed to the Quarterly and was featured in the Summer 1979 (Vol. 37, No. 3) issue.

Whilst I came top of the Southern list, it is Mr. L.E. Wigley of Carshalton Beeches and Southern Section Secretary and who came second, who is, in my opinion, the better plantsman. Whilst I only took five cups, he was awarded three Premier Cards, a

distinction I have yet to achieve once. Lawrence Wigley had the last remaining plant (now gone) of Warriner's Wonder which was the only Gold Lace Polyanthus to be awarded the Award of Merit. (See Vol. 37, No. 3 again). His is a keen grower and exhibitor of Auriculas and Primulas and writes a monthly column in 'Specialist Corner' in the Garden News which is one of our leading garden papers.

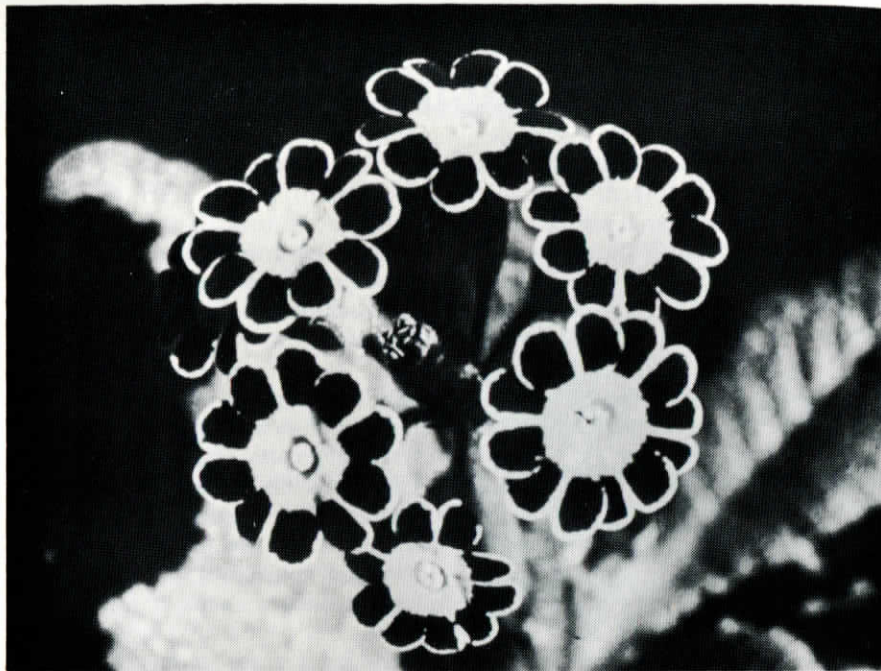
Dr. Cyril Jones of Llanelli whose Penlan Strain has yielded 2 Premiers, is also a grower of excellent Double Primroses. His latest success was a Double Blue - Jack in the Green - Primrose. Alas the good Doctor grows his plants as annuals whereas most of us are trying to raise a long living strain.

It is for this reason that some of us are crossing Gold Lace Polyanthus with P. Juliae hybrids in an effort to get a stoloniferous rooted good quality Gold Lace Polyanthus. I have first generation seedlings just germinating and hope in time to swap seed with Jim Menzies of Fox Island, Washington and others who are working towards the same goal.



Mr. H.V. Calvert's 'Pennington Lady'

photo by H.V. Calvert



Mr. H.V. Calvert's 'Pennington Gem'

photo by H.V. Calvert



Mr. H.V. Calvert's 'Cross 24/5'
First award at Bradford - 1980

photo by H.V. Calvert

Primula Kisoana - Secrets of Success

by Etha Tate
Milwaukie, Oregon

Growing *P. kisoana* in Milwaukie, Oregon has been a real success story for me. After a little prompting from Orpha Salsman, I will try to explain how I am able to have a large bed of between fifty to seventy-five plants.

A plot of *P. kisoana* was planted on the east side of a mature fir tree in our backyard. This immense tree has about a sixty foot spread. The only sun the *P. kisoana* plants used to receive was early morning. The branches were so thick you could not see through them.

Each year the fir loses some big limbs due to the weather, but two years ago an ice storm really stripped the middle of the tree. Although the *P. kisoana* plants now have more light as the result, I haven't noticed any ill effect. In fact, the plants were previously creeping to the south side of the tree, so maybe they did want more light. Since planting, *P. kisoana* now cover about halfway around the tree in a cultivated bed built up about a foot in height.

Very little fertilizer was utilized on the *P. kisoana* — mostly Millers Booster Powder. This year I did employ a little Peters 20-20-20. On testing, the soil was found to be neutral.

Cedar tow has been applied for years to protect these primula in the winter. Covering the plants with this mulch is delayed until the weather begins to get severe. I have often been out putting Cedar tow on *P. kisoana* when the temperature is beginning to freeze.

Use a light covering of Cedar tow, as this mulch does not pack down. The Cedar tow is removed when growth starts in spring.

A problem with the Cedar tow as a mulch is, the soil gets very loose and friable; this makes it hard to dig a plant for the primula show and still retain its beauty.

In dividing, some people take a trowel and separate the *P. kisoana* roots, as they creep underground, without lifting the plant. I do not do this. I cut the roots to separate offsets and then dig a plant out. Slicing the roots as the plant spreads, without digging, might let the individual cuttings mature faster. Although I can find no benefit to that method — commercial growers may find it an advantage.



P. kisoana

photo by F. Levy

Rock Creek's Prospering Primulas

by Gordon Emerson
Rock Creek, Ohio

Rock Creek is located in northeast-ern Ohio, not an ideal area for growing a wide range of primula. Normally heavy snow cover provides protection during January and February when temperatures may stay below freezing for weeks on end and occasionally dip as low as -20°F. But the only hedge on the vagaries of spring and summer is gardening experience and experimentation. Spring may arrive the end of March, or the end of April, but frosts may continue until the first week of June. The month of May can be cold and rainy, or it can be hot and humid. June is almost certain to be the opposite. July and August are guaranteed to be hot and very humid with several extended periods of 90° weather with humidity above 80%. Any plant with an alpine constitution will suffer. Fall generally is super, allowing many sufferers an interval for recovery.

Interest in plants dates to early teens when I roamed the woods and fields and dreamed of being a naturalist. Interest in gardening dates to about age 20 while still living at my grandmother's home. A wine-colored polyanthus was given to her by an acquaintance along about that time. It was among the first plants brought into my own garden which had its beginnings at this location 26 years ago.

I call my gardening philosophy "naturism." In a nutshell, I attempt to study the needs of the particular plant and prepare a site for it which will take care of its needs, permanently, without ever the use of fertilizer or watering. Outside the vegetable gardens, I have no insect problems and only there use any kind of insecticide.

Slugs, rabbits and the occasionally deer create a nuisance but most plants come back nicely.

Primula species have been more difficult to satisfy than any other group of plants but are such a joy that I have devoted more effort to satisfy than any other group. Part of the problem is that much that has been written about the culture of primula has been vague or does not apply to climates and soils comparable to those here. I have had to learn from scratch. For example, that humus enriched soil often cited as necessary for the health of bog primroses will only guarantee heaving and broken roots here and exposure of the roots of the birdseye group. Here the humus had better be fully integrated into a heavy stable loam.

My nursery-grown Primula Rusbyi bloomed beautifully last summer after over-wintering in the open. I will be surprised if it reappears, however. The foliage never matured to a normal appearance, but dried up in mid-summer.

I expect more positive performances from most of the other 41 Primula species represented in my garden, these plants having endured the vagaries of this harsh climate two years or more. High hopes are given for another dozen or so species, either new or being given a second trial.

My first primroses were gifts from gardening friends more than 25 years ago. Beginning first with the small-flowered, wine-colored polyanthus given to my grandmother some 30 years ago, second a yellow hose-in-hose *P. Veris* hybrid, a gift from the wife of a gentleman who had been a professional gardener in Cleveland.

Both, I suspect, are very old plants but are exceptionally vigorous and floriferous. Over the years individual plants and groups of various types of *P. polyanthus*, *P. vulgaris* and *P. × Julianas* have been added. Several *Vernales* species in various forms, and many seedlings have been grown. Some 15 named *P. × Julianas* have been rounded up, also a few treasures like the old Elizabethan double mauve and a reputed Garryarde Genevieve. (Here, incidentally, all the *P. Vernales* do best in heavy clay loam that stays moist enough to ball in hand.)

In the late 1960s I received several *P. japonica* from a wildflower specialist. These were lost during a severe winter, the roots sheared off by heaving of the soil. Seedlings carry on a fine pink strain. White, red and purple forms were subsequently added. This species grows happily as a weed here, as does *P. Sieboldii*, acquired from Far North Gardens in 1971. I can't imagine either species performing better any place on earth; both increase rapidly and self sow. Equally happy though not around as long are *P. pulverulenta*, *P. Beesiana*, *P. Bulleyana* and *P. × Bullesiana*.

Plantings from the 1979 APS Seed Exchange of *P. chungensis* and *P. burmanica* flowered this past summer and are increasing nicely. *P. Cockburniana* the same age bloomed prettily but three of the eight plants vanished shortly afterwards.

Several *P. secundiflora*, had made clumps with six to ten crowns each but failed to flower. Separated and replanted, these started into vigorous growth, then in late summer began to collapse. Two moderately vigorous plants, along with one which had lost all but one tiny root, were moved to another site in early fall. All perked up immediately and the "rootless" one was anchored firmly by mid-November.

P. florindae has been growing here for six years. It has increased slowly and flowered nicely in three locations, all seeming to offer optimum conditions, but has not attained the giant proportions for which the species is noted.

Two years ago *P. apicola*, in several forms, were lost when the plants heaved entirely out of the ground when heavy freezing arrived before snow cover. Prior, they had grown and bloomed freely for a number of years. Two *P. sikkimensis* in the same location survived after losing all but the barest stubs of roots. A second group of this species bloomed nicely this year.

Several color forms of *P. denticulata* have been added over the years. When the flowers are not eaten by slugs or spoiled by frosts before the ball is fully open, the display is delightful.



P. japonica in Rock Creek

Conventional *P. kisoana* refused to establish in two tries. Dr. Benedict's tetraploid form, however, made itself at home immediately. A couple of small divisions taken from the initial planting and located in rich, moist woods soil literally ramped. In two growing seasons the tetraploid form spread into a dense cover about three feet in diameter. A group of *P. polynura* in a duplicate site persist and flower but look healthy for only a few weeks in early summer.

continued

Slugs have found several species in the section *P. cortusoides* especially tasty. Despite continuous baiting, plantings of more than a dozen each of yearling *P. geranifolia* and *P. saxatilis* were wiped out in the course of one summer. One stray *P. saxatilis* in a dry site survives and flowers. Fresh plantings of *P. saxatilis* and *P. cortusoides* went safely into winter.

Two *P. yuparensis* barely survive, being another favored slug food. Ringed by slug bait they get growing nicely. Comes a rain and overnight the foliage is gone.

Mixed success has been had with the birdseye group. The fault, I'm sure, has been in the handling, and I have started over with fresh batches of seedlings of *P. farinosa*, *P. frondosa*, *P. darialica*, *P. decepiens* and *P. algida*, all fat and happy going into winter.

P. modesta and *P. Fauriae* date back to 1973 and 1974, respectively. Both are content in this climate and flower profusely, but they're difficult to keep fastened down — both freezing and growing out of the soil. The same happens with *P. × Peter Klein* obtained about the same time and now about a 3 × 4 foot patch of brilliant color in earliest spring.

P. Clarkei arrived in 1975 and increases nicely in a site rather too shady to allow much bloom; elsewhere it vanishes after a season. Slugs often get to the flower buds before they rise. *P. rosea* seems content here, and in one site has self sown. Several *P. longiflora* (Halleri) have bloomed a second season but are survivors of perhaps as many as two dozen. One *P. luteola* out of a dozen survived after flowering a second season and has made offsets. A group of *P. scotia* are increasing nicely after two summers and a winter in the open.

A number of garden auriculas have been around since 1974. Tried in

various situations, these auriculas react about the same in one place as the other: Leggy growth and few flowers, with a tendency to crawl out of the soil in the course of the summer.

P. Clusiana has been here five years, flowering modestly. *P. × Berninae* "Windrush" has flowered three years and increases nicely. *P. × Bileckii* was acquired in 1974 and although appearing healthy, has neither increased nor flowered. *P. minima* grew healthily for six or seven years, developing into a 3-inch wide bun, before being entirely eaten by a rodent last summer, along with several veteran Lewisias. *P. marginata* was acquired in 1975, has grown decently and flowered lightly, but is not an especially attractive plant; perhaps a poor form. Several other alpine Primula species and *× Pubescens* forms have spent one full year here, have flowered and seem happy, but really too soon to evaluate or mention by name.

A number of species have stayed long enough to flower once or twice: *P. Viali*, *P. nutans* (flaccida), *P. capitata* in several forms, *P. melanops*, *P. chionantha*. All will be tried again, and perhaps yet again, until a site favorable to permanence is found. This would be an area in the yard that would moderate the mid-summer heat-humidity factor (which results in sudden collapse and decay soon after flowering). *P. integrifolia* and *P. Reidii* survived two full years without flowering; vanished without a clue to cause. The only species to obviously just plain winter-kill was *P. ioessa* - twice this happened.

Species in the records that never were in the garden - *P. glutinosa*, received as small seedlings from a rock garden specialist, which grew up to be *P. sikkimensis*, and *P. helodoxa*. The plants grown from the 1979 APS seed under the label proved to be *P. veris copper shades*.

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A Quest Of Flowers, Harold R. Fletcher

by Trevor Cole
Ottawa, Canada

This Book, which tells of the plant explorations of Frank Ludlow and George Sherriff, is a must for every serious grower of the genus *Primula*. Never mind that many of their discoveries are unavailable to the would-be grower, the hints that can be gleaned about those which can be obtained from seed exchanges make this book invaluable.

"The valley was hot and dry and this a most welcome change from the eternal wetness of Pachakshiri. . . Ludlow's camp at the head of the third lake, on a small grassy islet with a splendid clump of the fragrant yellow *sikkimensis* primula within a few feet of his tent door, was one of the most beautiful in all his Himalayan wanderings."

The book traces their expeditions in Tibet and Bhutan as plant and bird collectors, from 1933 to 1949. During this time they made over 21,000 plant collections for the British Museum and were the first to air-lift live plants from their native habitats to the gardening centres of the world.

They often had other botanists working with them on their expeditions, thus George (later Sir George) Taylor was with them in 1938. His main interest was *Meconopsis* but he also collected many primulas. He was Director of Kew Gardens when I was a student there and it is strange to read of the younger days of one who was held in awe.

During the war years, both Sherriff and Ludlow worked for the army in Tibet, Sherriff and his wife as ambassadors to the Dalai Lama. They still collected plants, including *Primula tibetica*, *waltonii*, *sikkimensis* and *sinopurpurea*.

Two expeditions were staged after the war, one each in Tibet and Bhutan, before the Chinese invasion made plant hunting no longer possible. In many ways these were the richest collections of all. They were able to find several species new to science, as well as extending the known range of many others.

"The rhododendrons, of course, were the most prominent plants, but there were many other fine things Ludlow and Elliot could not resist collecting including the new *Primula tayloriana* as well as another primula . . . (with) each blue flower sitting on a short stalk. This interesting plant also proved to be a new species and was named *laxiuscula*."

There are three indexes; one to the footnotes, giving the dates of the various Journal entries quoted, one to all the plant names and including 32 *Gentiana*, 26 *Meconopsis*, 139 *Primula* and 112 *Rhododendron*, and a general index.

As a professional horticulturist, I tend to use all my books as works of reference. This one I read from cover to cover and I think any keen plantsman will be affected in the same way.

Limited copies of this book are still available from the Scottish Rock Garden Club at a discount. Contact the Publications Manager, Mr. Don Stead, Esk House, Bishop's Park, Thorntonhall, Glasgow, Scotland, G74 5AF. The cost of this book is 12.00 pounds sterling post paid. If you remit in the dollar equivalent please add \$2.00 to cover bank charges.

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Diary of a Primroser

by Cy Happy
Tacoma, Washington

Another beautiful winter sunrise—grey velvet streaked with orange—the mountain dark against such brilliance. All framed by frost-etched oaks and steaming lake.

We had a visitor from Belfast, Northern Ireland, this last winter. His home is in the Falls Road area. Most of his schoolmates are dead or in jail. Dwell for a moment on the difference between starting a day at his home and at mine.

Shirley Kessell, 5251 Strathmore Ave., Kensington, MD 20895, asks for sources of lesser known varieties of primulas. The winter issue should help answer her request. Is it really 30 years ago I was asking the same question?

Seed exchanges then as now are the best sources. Alpine Garden Society in England, Scottish Rock Garden Club, Royal Horticultural Society, American Rock Garden Society and, of course, our own APS provided a wide selection varying from year to year.

Then there always seemed to be a few specialists around like Klein in Tacoma and Berry and Levy in Portland. Sometimes you had to be a detective to find them. Watkins in Olympia was a gifted grower, lived on a quiet country road and hardly ever advertised.

Made the first trip of the season to Gibson's greenhouse in Tacoma. Some of the big polys were showing color in January, but the "dwarf jewels" were holding back. Looks as if they have more than 100,000 plants in 4-inch pots. What an opportunity to look for desirable mutations!

If you buy plants like these, don't just knock them out of their pots and drop them into a hole. Break up the root ball or, better yet, shake off all soil and carefully spread the roots and replant in fresh soil. They will recover quickly and should settle down to be hardy perennials.

Lawrence Wigley, 67 Warnham Court Road, Carshalton Beeches, Surrey, England, hopes to locate a source of the difficult Oregonian, *Primula Cusickiana*—seeds or plants. Orval Agee knows of several attempts to civilize this species (including his own). Usually lilac, *P. Cusickiana* also comes rarely in shades of violet. It is a gem.

I've enjoyed using Instant Greenhouse, a clear plastic material with a fine wire netting imbedded. Available in rolls at the local hardware store, it is great for covering a coldframe or making cloches. The wire makes it self-supporting and easy to nail to a frame. But it sure needs to be anchored in a wind!

Bernard Smith sent four British primrose catalogs of the 1950s. Glazeley Gardens, Bridgnorth, Shropshire (still in business) in 1955 offered 38 varieties of double primroses and a selection of hose-in-hose and jack-in-the-greens. Included are a short history of double primroses and notes on their culture.



Quaker's Bonnet - one of the oldest double P. vulgaris photo by Cy Happy

Mrs. McMurtrie, Springbank Lodge, Craigton Road, Aberdeen, offered 25 doubles, 19 julianas, a fine selection of garden auriculas, rockery primulas, 40 laced and cottage pinks plus a long list of hardy plants for the rock garden. She is still in business but on a much reduced scale. In those days she offered dark velvety crimson Madam Pompadour, queen of the double primroses, for one pound. More reasonable was the double form of Wanda, Our Pat, a dark purple-blue julia hybrid for 3/6. Hose-in-hose Wanda was also listed.

T.A. Townsend, Forest Town Nursery, Mansfield, Notts., offered seven bronze-leaved Garryarde primroses—Crimson; Enid, deep pink; Guinever, pale pink; King Arthur, burgundy red; The Grail, brick red; Sir Lancelot, blue; Victory, peony purple, plus Buckland Primrose, a polyanthus form with flowers the color of old yellowed parchment. This last beauty is in a few gardens in the Puget Sound country. Townsend had a long list of double and other named primroses.

On a smaller scale Mrs. Cecil Beevor, Ivy House, Fritton, Nr. Gt. Yarmouth, Norfolk, offered 25 double primroses, three jack-in-the-greens, four hose-in-hose plus Irish green (green flowered) and Tawny Port, a dark red with bronze leaves. Townsend and Beevor are probably out of business. Perhaps someone will report on this.

Glazeley Gardens catalog included cultural notes.

"It is desirable to plant the beautiful double primroses in slightly shaded and sheltered positions in borders of light, rich vegetable soil; and to keep the earth from being dried up too rapidly, spreading leaf-mould on it in summer."

They advise dividing the crown every other year in May, cutting off all the old, dark, woody root and leaving only the white, young roots at the top of the crown. Old and damaged leaves should also be removed. In case of a spell of hot weather, newly set-out plants should be shaded from the sun.

They suggest dividing Our Pat, a vigorous juliana hybrid, in September instead of May. This may be the best way to get more flowers from the larger, leafy julies.

The last frost spoiled the blossoms on the primroses, but more buds are ready to open. Could feel a sense of satisfaction when I looked at my big healthy plant of Buckland Primrose and a thrill at the big pink buds in the hellebores. Spring is coming!

Blue Ridge Mountain Notes: Border and Garden Auriculas

by James F. Long
Marion, Virginia

It would seem time to start getting serious about establishing some guidelines for judging two important groups of primula, the border and garden auriculas.

The National Auricula and Primula Society, Southern Section, of England has drawn up some standards they felt were needed. Adding them to this article will let members of the American Primrose, Primula and Auricula Society make up their own mind on whether the APS should pursue this suggestion or not.

As long as there is no definite direction in this controversy of establishing guidelines for points of achievement, there will be a lack of progress in their cultivation improvements.

Since auriculas can be easily grown in the garden, the improvements of the various strains should be of interest to many growers. I am writing these in hopes that various ideas from APS members will flow to the editor's committee in response to these initiating suggestions.

Border auricula blood can be found in Mr. Balcom's doubles, from which a good race of borders can be worked up. This is especially true if seed of a few old border varieties can be added into the crosses.

Seed of border auriculas can be ordered from Barnhaven and other sources for primula seeds. Many of the seedlings will not be suitable for border or garden stock, but there should be enough for a start in cross pollinations.

Personal feeling for what constitutes a border auricula plant now differs in great variances from person to person,

so in many ways, it is now a personal choice. If definite ideas, standards of achievement, and rules for judging points can be laid down, everyone should be able to identify with these groups of plants.

I tend to think of the garden auriculas as plants that tend toward the alpine shading side of the auricula family, with or without meal. Borders, on the other hand, have a look of their very own without meal and are surely not throw out selfs from the show varieties. Borders that come to mind are more on the pastel shades of a single layer of color tissue, not the multi-layer found in the show varieties.

It is very nice to have plants that can endure all kinds of weather elements, and still bloom beautifully out of doors. Since everyone does not have a greenhouse, or indeed want one, both the border and garden strains should be of interest to quite a large group of primula enthusiasts.

Now I am suggesting that we all send in our ideas for standards to the editorial staff and then let this group assemble together the various ideas that cover the subject. After which, a consensus can be recommended to the APS board for consideration. Opinions of several people are needed to make this an effort of a wide spectrum of members and not a limited dialog of a few isolated enthusiastic supporters.

Some of the ideas that English growers have had on this subject:

Border Auriculas: 1. Robust plants able to survive out of doors. 2. The foliage has a coat of meal that does not all wash off in rain. 3. Absolutely

no shading of petals. 4. Coloring tending to pastel shades. 5. Generally scented.

There are, however, mealless plants that possibly may be considered border. The Borders seem to have a look all their own and are very beautiful.

The following is reprinted from the 1982 winter issue of the English publication "Offsets," the newsletter of the Southern Section of the National Auricula and Primula Society:

Border Auriculas

For the benefit of those members interested in exhibiting plants in the Border Auricula classes at the 1982 Shows, we once again publish below the recommended standards for these plants. The Society's co-ordinator for Border Auriculas - Mr. R. Feline and the Secretary are concerned that these classes are still tending to attract plants which do not conform to these standards, e.g. failed Show and Alpine types.

Merit Points

1. The plant and truss should possess symmetry.
2. The whole plant should present an appearance of freshness and vigour.
3. A strong stem should hold the truss above the foliage.
4. Pips should be carried on footstalks that prevent overcrowding.

Garden Auriculas: 1. No meal on leaves. 2. Shading on petals showing possible connection to Alpine Auricula. 3. Able to survive out of doors.

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5. The plant may be shown with more than one truss, but any extra trusses should add to the overall appearance.
6. Preference will be given to thrum-eyed flowers, all other points being equal.
7. Possession of scent desirable.

Penalty Points

1. Lack of symmetry.
2. Foliage and pips that lack freshness and vigour.
3. A weak stem.
4. Murky colouring of petals, or shading and centre of a kind associated with Alpine Auriculas.
5. Overcrowded pips.
6. A weak appearance, without the vigour to withstand the demands made upon a plant in the open garden.
7. Pin-eyed pips, all other points being equal.

L.E. Wigley

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Garden Auricula

photo by O. Agee

In Search of Treasure

by Allan Hawkes

Rabley Heath, Hertfordshire, England

To astonish the horticultural world with some floral pioneering - a new colour break or a flower of unapproachably perfect form - must be a rewarding and exhilarating experience, which few people indeed are skillful enough or lucky enough ever to achieve. In this world, George Russels are rare.

Surprisingly full of interest, though, is the reverse process of re-tracing horticultural footsteps to try to rediscover and then re-create some floral form which over the centuries we have allowed to slip away and vanish completely - rather like seeking the chest of treasure buried many years ago and whose exact whereabouts have been completely forgotten, although clues may exist. The iron-bound chest I have been probing for, though, these last dozen years contains not precious metals but just one simple flower - the Striped Auricula.

Now according to various books dating from the present day back over the last couple of centuries, the Striped Auriculas were at one time very popular and much sought after. Certainly, various coloured illustrations of them do still exist, dating from over three hundred years ago and as various forms and colours were taken depicted, it seems that they were probably, even then, flowers of some antiquity. To judge by the surviving illustrations and records, they were at the peak of their popularity about two hundred and forty years ago and thereafter they seem very quickly to have faded into limbo.

These old flowers were of recognizably auricula form, some having the central circle of white farina - which we would now refer to as the 'paste' -

and some not; all, however, over the remainder of the flower had the bold radial stripes of contrasting colours which were, of course, their characteristic patterning. Any one wishing to see these auriculas, as depicted by contemporary artists, should have no great difficulty. Penn Prints of New York published in 1964 some very fine prints of Robert Furber's 'Calendar of Flowers.' These were originally intended, when first published in 1730, to advertise a nurseryman's wares but the illustrations are obviously authentic portrayals. Probably the best drawings of all are watercolours by Georg Ehret; the originals, dated around 1742, are in the Victoria and Albert Museum in London but coloured prints of them have been widely made and distributed.

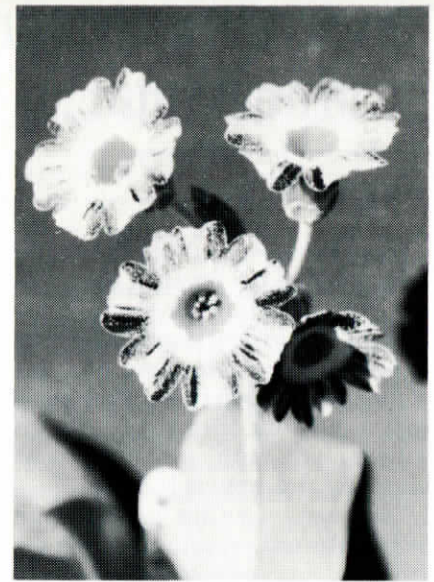
Other people have, in fairly recent times, been searching for this vanished Striped Auricula. Most of them, after a short spell, clearly became wearied and abandoned the search. One man, though, the late Sir Rowland Biffen, did actually succeed in raising a few 'Stripes' and even had printed a photograph of one in his book, "The Auricula," published in 1949 shortly after his death but there is little doubt that his plants survived him by only a very brief time.

Now, it may be asked, what is the point in continuing the search when the vanished flower was in being - albeit in somewhat primal form - not all that many years ago? The answer is that it had slipped away from us yet again and the current quest is not merely to re-create it on an experimental basis - as did Sir Rowland - but to re-establish it as a current type of acceptable florist quality.

The starting point was to trace present-day auriculas which did show some slight tendency towards striping. Most raisers of Show or Alpine Auriculas from seed will know that an occasional odd plant does display this trait. The great difficulty lies in the fact that auriculas are primarily exhibition flowers bred for competition on the Show-bench; whether they are actually exhibited by any given owner is beside the point, the potential has to be there otherwise they are merely nondescripts. While it seemed possible (and several years' experience proved that *was* possible) to breed *in* stripes of a kind, the great problem was to breed *out* the undesirable characteristics which seemed to be inseparable from striping - ragged outline, pointed petals, poor or sparse 'paste' and so on.

It would be tedious to detail the vicissitudes of the search or to detail the names of the varieties used in pollinations with these errant seedlings which had indicated a vague tendency towards stripes. It is sufficient to say that after something like fourteen years, just a few plants have been retained which do show some of the points sought after. Stripes they have and also a paste which is just passable in texture and size; the main fault present in some is that the darker stripes tend to project just beyond the otherwise rounded edge of the petals. It is just as if tiny caterpillars, finding the stripes unpalatable, have left them alone while concentrating their appetites on the other parts of the edge. It is a sad fact, too, that some plants seem inherently unstable; they can be striped one year but not another. Something of the same perversity was shown by the early modern Doubles.

The foregoing does bring the story reasonably up to the present time. What are badly needed are other growers, preferably short in years but



Mohawk Stripe grown by C.A. Hawkes - Spring 1977

long in dedication and patience, to enter the arena. It may well be that the idea of striped flowers does not appeal to all, but there are consolation prizes. The crossing of errant seedlings does inevitably produce plentiful mongrels - many just rubbish but the odd occasional *one displays a bloom which is yet another ghost face, peering out from behind the years that have passed* since its like was last seen. Several have there been which could fairly be described as 'Pures,' the un-shaded Alpine Auriculas which existed until around fifty years ago. A few others, and they are now in a small border by the shrubbery here, have the characteristics desired in Border Auriculas plus the bright colours of Alpines but without the petal shading which has been declared undesirable in Borders. Starting points here for other quests back over the years; undoubtedly, there are other treasure chests to be found.

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Rewarding Primula Culture in Minnesota

by Steven John Kelley
Long Lake, Minnesota

Of all the woodland wildflowers we grow, perhaps the Primulas reward us the most, in return for the minimal amount of care they require. They are vigorous growers, providing a bounty of divisions year after year. They easily withstand our harsh Minnesota winters, are fairly pest free, and bloom over an extended period.

Years ago, when the gardens were being planned, great quantities of leaf mold and some coarse sand were tilled into the soil, providing a rich, well-drained situation. Our flower gardens are planted beneath high maple, elm, and basswood cover, so leaves that fall each year are left on the gardens to rot and supply further nourishment. We are now growing the *Primula japonicas*, many *P. × polyanthus* varieties, a few *P. auriculas*, *denticulatas*, many candelabras, *P. chionanthas*, *roseas*, *saxitilis*, *Sieboldii* and *Florindae*. We also add to our collection by trying a few new varieties each year from the APS seed fund.

Winters generally provide us with ample snow cover, so the plantings are protected by nature from the sun and the most severe fluctuations in temperature. Still, after we are sure that the cold weather is here to stay, we like to cover the primulas in early winter with a couple inches of pine needles. This gives a little added protection and insures against a snowless season, such as we had last year. Leaves seem a bit touchy if the mulch is not applied and removed at just the right time. One year we put a leaf cover on too early and experienced a lot of rot on the plants. Pine branch-

es are satisfactory as a cover, but we prefer using pine needles and like the added benefit of retaining them as a mulch throughout the following summer.

In early spring, when the ground begins to thaw and bud activity commences, we will remove the needle cover gradually over a period of several days, letting the plants beneath acclimatize themselves to the sunshine. The needles are left around the plants to help conserve moisture, help prevent weeds from germinating and to add tilth to the soil. If there is time, a balanced 10-10-10 fertilizer is added. This task is complicated somewhat by having to fertilize through the mulch, but, nonetheless, we try to work a little fertilizer around each plant. Sometimes this doesn't get done every spring, so then we substitute a foliar feeding of fish emulsion several times during the summer.

From this point until they finish blooming, nothing more is done to the primulas other than enjoying their display. Spent blooms are removed unless seeds are to be saved for collection. If any division is necessary, it is taken care of right after blooming has ceased. We haven't established any hard rule on how to divide. Certainly it should be done when a plant's blooming ability declines. In addition, we don't like the appearance of huge mats of plants, so this is a consideration as well. We try to pick a cool, overcast day for dividing. The plants are dug taking care to maintain as much of the root system as possible. Next, the soil is worked away from the roots and then, using a

hose or swishing them around in a bucket of water, the remaining dirt is cleaned off. Then we trim back the leaf mass by about half as this seems to get the plants reestablished easier. The plant is then teased apart, using a sharp knife if needed. When replanting, leaf mold and bone meal may be mixed into the soil. A hole is dug large enough to spread out the roots, the plant is positioned, and soil is packed tightly around it and watered well. We like to pull a little of the pine needle mulch over the reset plants for a few days to give added protection until the plants get settled in. Sometimes we don't get all the dividing done in the spring. If not, it is finished in late summer. Of the two times, spring division is preferred, although late summer divisions seem to survive equally well.

Ample moisture is provided throughout the season, whether the plants have been divided or not. This is accomplished with a sprinkler set out very early in the morning and left in place long enough to give a good soaking. One question we ask ourselves every fall is how long to continue watering the Primulas. It is a question we haven't answered to our satisfaction. We usually end up watering as long as the plants seem to need it, perhaps gradually tapering off until the first hard freeze comes.

By fall, the pine needle mulch has pretty well rotted away. We take the opportunity to top dress around the plants with a half inch or so of leaf mold in an effort to make sure all the roots are covered before winter comes once again. In early December we rake up quantities of needles from beneath the old white pines and reapply the mulch/cover.

For years, slugs were the worst enemy of our Primulas, which used to look like swiss cheese by summer's end. At the time, we used a lot of wood ashes sprinkled about, which seemed to work as well as anything.

Of course, it had to be renewed after a rain or after the sprinkler had been used. We also used to leave little handfuls of cut foliage around the garden, then came out each morning to collect the masses of slugs that would be resting beneath the cover. Still, they never seemed to diminish. Were they increasing as fast as we could gather them up? However, during the last few years our slug problem has all but ceased on its own accord. We've yet to hear an explanation; perhaps it's a cyclical phenomenon. Spider mites are rarely a problem, although once in a while they will be unwittingly introduced with a plant brought into the garden. Daily squirts from the hose seem to take care of this problem.

In addition to the gardens, we have several raised beds constructed of lumber made from the elms which are rapidly dying off around us. These 24" high beds are used to accommodate seedlings set out in the spring and for stock plants and surplus plants. The beds are marvelous for working in, especially since there isn't as much stooping required and it is so handy to have all the plants together that require special attention.

We enjoy starting plants from seed, so we collect pods as they ripen, making daily checks of the plants to collect the seed before they fall to the ground. The cleaned seed is stored in sealed coin envelopes in a spare refrigerator until early winter. At that time the seed flats are prepared. We're not terribly fussy about the soil mix used, but generally whip up a concoction of two parts leaf mold, one-half part peat and one-half part perlite. This mixture is tamped into plastic packs and set in water to soak. The seed is sprinkled onto the moistened flats and firmed into the soil. Only the very largest seeds are given a bit of cover with a little peat. After given a gentle spray of water, the flats are placed outside and covered with a

quarter inch wire mesh screen, which helps to keep mice and birds at bay. In early March the flats are brought into the greenhouse and given bottom heat to hasten germination. By late spring, the seedlings are generally large enough to be transplanted into the raised beds where they will grow for a year or so. After we have seen them bloom, we can decide which we want to plant in the garden.

Upon rereading this, it sounds as though our Primulas, unlike the statement in my first sentence, do

indeed take a lot of time to maintain. If that is so, we never feel it is drudgery. For an avid gardener, just being out in the garden, no matter what the task at hand, is pure delight. And we can hardly wait for the snow to melt away so we can get back to gardening.

Editor's note: Steven Kelley lives in Long Lake, Minnesota, located in east central Minnesota just outside Minneapolis. He has been growing Primula for twenty-five years.

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Seed Sowing Hints

by L.S.A. Goodwin and Sons
Bagdad, Tasmania, Australia

Regal Polyanthus and Primroses

Sow seeds any time of the year excepting the very hot months. The ideal times are the early Spring and late Autumn. Seed is preferably sown in a cool shady place. Sow seeds in trays (4"). Shallow trays are to be avoided. Place a layer of compost or rotted straw in the bottom. Sieve some river loam through half inch mesh. Place a layer of the coarsest soil over the compost and level this off. Now place a layer of the finest soil on top of the soil in the tray and firm this down really tight with a flat board. Mark eight lines across the narrow width about 1/16th of an inch deep. Sow seed thinly about 25 seeds per row. Fill in rows with some fine soil and firm down as before. Place tray up on two bricks and drench with Benlate or Zineb to prevent damping off. Cover box with polyethylene but keep this an inch above the soil. Inspect daily and water if necessary. Seeds should appear in from three to six weeks. 2 1/4" Jiffy square pots can

be used with advantage. Sow three seeds in each pot and if all come transplant the others leaving only one. The great advantage is faster growth and no transplanting shock.

Never allow seeds to dry out and never sow out in the full sun. Use Baysol to destroy slugs and snails. MetaSystox for aphids. Sevin for earwigs. Lannate for caterpillars. Benlate for leaf spot.

Soil Preparation

To grow the very best flowers and vegetables it is essential the soil be dug over to a depth of 6" or more. Preferably twice or more. A loose friable soil should be your aim. Dressings of blood and bone can be dusted over the surface before hoeing it down. Use about 2.6 oz. for ten square feet. The longer the soil is left up in the rough the better. Animal manures, straw or compost are all valuable dug into the soil sometime before sowing. Prize winning flowers and vegetables are the good rewards for a properly and thoroughly prepared soil.



From the mailbox

I note that the Quarterly has been carrying more information about simpler varieties, and that there is a bit less about the choice rarity collected by a travelling member while hanging by his toes from a remote outcrop in the Caucasus. The advanced grower will appreciate such recollections, but it does little to improve the growing skills of the beginner who can hardly get past seed germination. I most certainly am NOT advocating turning the Quarterly into a beginner's guide, just that there be a happy medium struck to satisfy the needs of growers at all levels. I think I'm seeing this balance in the more recent issues, and I appreciate it.

One of our members has been growing juliae hybrids successfully under lights all year round; I will contact her and ask if she could briefly document her method. I am about to try it myself and will certainly keep notes for you. My success with starting primroses under lights is entirely the result of a lecture by APS member Esther LeGeyt Bailey, who has been doing it for some time and has far more experience than I.

There is one comment I can make about starting primroses under lights—the method is almost TOO successful. Given the natural losses one gets when starting them outside, I spared no effort in sowing all the seed I could obtain. I really had no room for 200 P. rosea, and what is one to do with 50 P. parryi during an August heat wave? I swear not only did every seed come up, but I'm sure I ended up with more plants than I had seed. Kudos to Ross Willingham and his seeds!

*Irene Ebert, President - Indoor Light Gardening Society of America
39 Mabel Avenue, Danbury, Conn. 06810*

Botanists of the Main Botanic Garden yearly visit different regions of our vast country and bring a good deal of seeds, Primulas among them.

What Primulas and from where interest you most of all? Let us know and we'll willingly send you some newly-collected seeds. On our part, we are very interested in the seeds of forest primulas of the United States.

*Dr. P.I. Lapin, Main Botanical Garden, Botaniceskaja 4, 127276 Moscow,
N-276, Russia*

We are no primrose specialists, but have the alpine variation next to many other alpine plants in our rock garden. We can send you genuine wild seeds of our native kinds and details about location and culture. We are looking for seeds of alpine (or mountain) plants of North America (Lewisia, Primulas, Douglasias, Etc.). Maybe there is a possibility of exchange.

Siegfried Schub Amraserstrasse 128 A, A-6020 Innsbruck, Austria

I've just got the 1981 Fall copy of Primroses and found it extremely interesting with your article and the articles from the American members and also the one from Moscow, as I have tried for some time to find out more about *P. Komarovii* since I looked after one for a year for a member who went to Australia. It did not satisfy my curiosity by flowering when it was in my care and I cannot remember the "small thorns" so perhaps it was really *P. woronowii*. It had made the journey in seed form I understand and although one sometimes gets seed from the Eastern European botanical gardens via the Alpine Garden Society, the seeds are not always correctly labelled and may be hybrids, as may mine. I've got a lusty little purple European pubescens from Dr. Lennon's white.

Our hard winter has wreaked havoc in some areas of gardens, shrubs and evergreen bushes particularly, but the auriculas appear to have survived and most of the primulas. Still the winter isn't over yet—we've a hard frost today.

Margery Thompson, 4 Eastlands Crescent, Dulwich, London SE 21, England

APS/Q Spring '81 issue: article p. 12 'P. Inverewe: striking red' was a surprise. It so happens that I traced the story of this cv. in 1974 and at that time being in contact with the gentlemen i/e the National Trust for Scotland, Bronklyn, Perth, garden, passed the info onto him—he said he'd pass it on to their garden at Inverewe and apparently kept his word! In same ARTICLE primrose cv. 'Old Port' is mentioned. I have only once seen this plant listed under that name (in Ponton's catalogue); it is syn. 'Tawny Port' which is the name it is commonly known by.

At the meeting of the National Auricula and Primula Society, Southern Section it was announced by Lawrence Wigley that FRANK FAULKNER had died. He was noted for raising several fine cv's of Alpine auriculas. He was a successful exhibitor at all the shows and was a judge in later years until his sight became not so good as it was. Latterly he just retained a small collection of Alpines to interest and amuse him but regularly attended the Northern shows with his wife.

From something (I forget what or where or when!) in an APS/Q of 1981 or 1980 (? I think) I gathered that the manner in which the shows are conducted on either side of "the pond" differs—I recall I think mentioning this to Maedythe Martin, doubtless causing her to feel that I'm slow on the uptake in not quite grasping the system used in N. America or possibly that I'm just downright thick. The system common throughout GB seems to me to be so obvious and simple and logical that to write an article describing it would cause any readers to suspect the writer of thinking of them as simpletons!!! (not to mention the writer as being a complete idiot). To be fair to everyone I would think whoever wrote such an article would have to have knowledge of the principals and practice behind the N. American show organization. Perhaps one day I'll be enlightened regarding the latter!

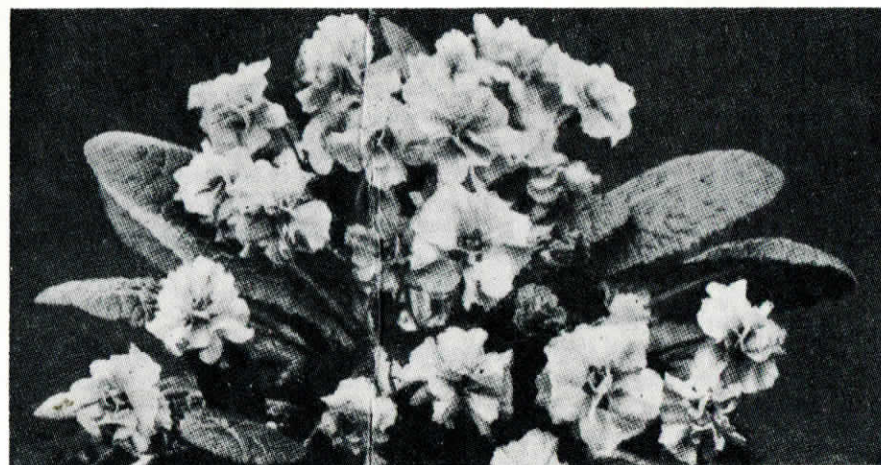
John M. Barlow, 83 Tattersall Gardens, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex SS9 2QS

mailbox continued

We have almost ideal conditions here in Northern Ireland for growing a wide range of primulas. Cool moist summers and cool moist winters! It can become somewhat dreary for humans at times. Our climate would be similar to your Northwest Pacific region, I suppose, but not nearly so warm in summer. Moscow has a similar latitude but is very cold in winter due to it's being so far inland. We are kept warm in winter by the Gulf Stream, a current of warm water which starts in the Gulf of Mexico and crosses the Atlantic to benefit the western coasts of Ireland and Scotland. I live on the north coast of Ireland and can see the west coast of Scotland from my house. We have just had one of the coldest spells of weather of this century. Most of the British Isles had a deep blanket of snow and many parts had temperatures of more than twenty degrees below zero. Our local area escaped the snow but many tender shrubs were damaged. This is not surprising as there are many winters when we get virtually no frost here. Some of my primroses are looking rather mushy too. It was my first experience of the frost-heaving phenomenon.

Ireland has produced some of the loveliest primroses over the years. The old doubles including Our Pat, the Garryarde hybrids, Tawny Port, Lady Greer, etc. I am worried about the future, as many of the old growers who were so good have now died and have not been replaced. Many of the old doubles have vanished and it is now quite difficult to find some of the Garryardes. I have been collecting as many of the old doubles as possible. It would be sad if plants which have come down directly from the time of the first Queen Elizabeth and Shakespeare were now allowed to disappear forever. I love the Juliae hybrids too and do some hybridizing amongst them. I am delighted that there is such interest on your side of the Atlantic. We all look forward to the next few months when the primroses will brighten our lives. *Primula vulgaris* is rampant in this area, thousands grow along the roadsides and in the hedgerows and fields. Long may they continue to do so.

Joe Kennedy, Pine Valley, 20 Drumavoley Rd., Ballycastle, Co. Antrim, N. Ireland



Double-flowered lilac-mauve Primrose 'Arthur du Moulin'
(photo from the scrapbook of Georgia L. Shorett)

Meeting of Officers & Board Members

January 23, 1982

American Primrose Primula and Auricula Society

Chehalis Rare Plant Nursery, Chehalis, Washington

Ross Willingham, director of the APS Seed Exchange, reported approximately 1000 seed lists were mailed out this year. Expenses for this year's Seed Exchange totaled \$600-700 and income to date is about \$400. All members are urged to plan to donate seeds for next year's list; particularly polyanthus and acaulis separated by color.

Larry Bailey, chairman of editors committee, announced that the membership list is now on a computer. Members will be asked to check their mailing labels for accuracy in names, addresses and membership dates. The editorial committee has changed printers, so some changes in the format of the quarterly may be seen. At the present time the editors are looking for articles for the summer and fall issues, especially articles on individual species and their cultivation.

Ruth Huston noted that the Round Robins are continuing despite some problems with mailing. She will pass along informational excerpts from the letters to the editors committee to publish in the quarterly. Herb suggested that the Round Robin membership list be published in the quarterly.

The April issue of "horticulturist" magazine will include an article on Primroses written by Herb Dickson.

Forms for show reports and for information on individual chapters and affiliated societies were discussed and approved. The show reports should be sent to the editor's committee of the quarterly no later than two weeks following the show. Society information reports should be sent to the secretary, and updated each year.

The Board agreed to have 2000-3000 new "Invitations to Membership" printed. The new form will consist of one page and will include the words, "Printed in 1982." These Invitations, along with surplus back issues of the Quarterly, should be handed out at all shows to encourage new membership.

Four record sets of the Quarterly are being organized. One of these complete sets will be kept by the president, one by the editor and the third by the officer or member who could put it to the best use. The fourth set will be kept by the Society as a historical record. The person who has custody of a set will be responsible for keeping it current and should, therefore, be included on the mailing list. It was suggested that a notice be put in the Quarterly asking for donations of back issues.

A motion was approved that chapters may collect APS dues, if they so desire. If the chapter treasurer sends the dues in all at one time before December 15, the chapter need remit only \$9 per paying member.

Ross Willingham suggested that part of the payment for lifetime memberships be put into a reserve account to aid budgets in future years. It was pointed out that if the money were put in a high interest account, the treasury would realize more from this interest than from the current yearly dues.

Dorothy Dickson is planning to send out questionnaires to all people who have taken the judge's test. The letter will include the following questions as well as a reminder that one must be a member of APS to judge at a national show:

1. Do you want to remain an APS judge?
2. Are you willing to travel to shows?
3. Do you grow Primulas? What kinds?
4. Do you show Primulas? What kinds?

Cy Happy proposed that a National Trophy for Juniors be awarded every year. It was agreed that such a trophy not be of the perpetual type. This year Herb will provide a "President's Trophy for Juniors." The recipient must be 18 years old or younger.

The meeting ended with a unanimous Thank You to Herb and Dorothy for their hospitality and delicious lunch.

Ann Lunn
Secretary

•••••

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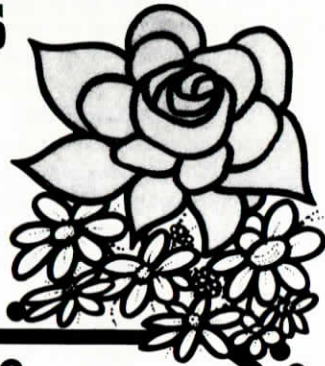
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Vice President: Frank Berthold, 1614 NE 128th, Portland, OR 97230
Recording secretary: Ann Lunn, 3040 N.W. Parkview Lane, Portland, OR 97229
Treasurer: G. K. Fenderson, Grout Hill, South Acworth, NH 03607
Corresponding secretary, east: Alice Hills Baylor, Stage Coach Rd., Stowe, VT 05672
Editor emeritus: Florence Bellis, 2835 N. Oar Ave., Lincoln City, OR 97367

Directors

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Elizabeth Van Sickle, Sequim, Wash. 1978	Eileen Trzynka, Hillsboro, Ore. 1980
Ruth Huston, Gig Harbor, Wash. 1979	Presidents of affiliated societies and chapters
Loie Benedict, Auburn, Wash. 1979	Cyrus Happy, Tacoma, Wash., editor, ex officio.

Membership

Dues of \$10 a year are payable Nov. 15. Membership includes four issues annually of the Quarterly, cultural chart and seed exchange privileges. Three years for \$25. Life membership, \$100; garden club affiliated societies, \$10 a year; library and horticultural societies, \$10 a year; second member in family, \$1 a year. Overseas members, \$10 a year; please send by international money order. Send dues to the treasurer.

Publications

Back issues of the Quarterly are available. Order from the secretary.
Manuscripts for publication in the quarterly are solicited from members and other gardening experts, although there is no payment. Please send articles and photographs to the editor's committee at 1570 - 9th Ave. N., Edmonds, WA 98020.
Advertising rates per issue: full page \$60; half page \$30; quarter page \$15; eighth page and minimum \$10. Submit advertising to the editor.

Seed Exchange

Ross Willingham, chairman, 2248 S. 134th Seattle, WA 98168.

Did you remember?

Members are again reminded that spring is the time to look ahead for seed collections to share in the APS Seed Exchange. The Exchange is critically short of seed from unusual species, special crosses, doubles and specific colors.

P.S. - Don't forget to photograph your primulas for the APS slide collection and for the Quarterly to use in future articles.

Primroses

