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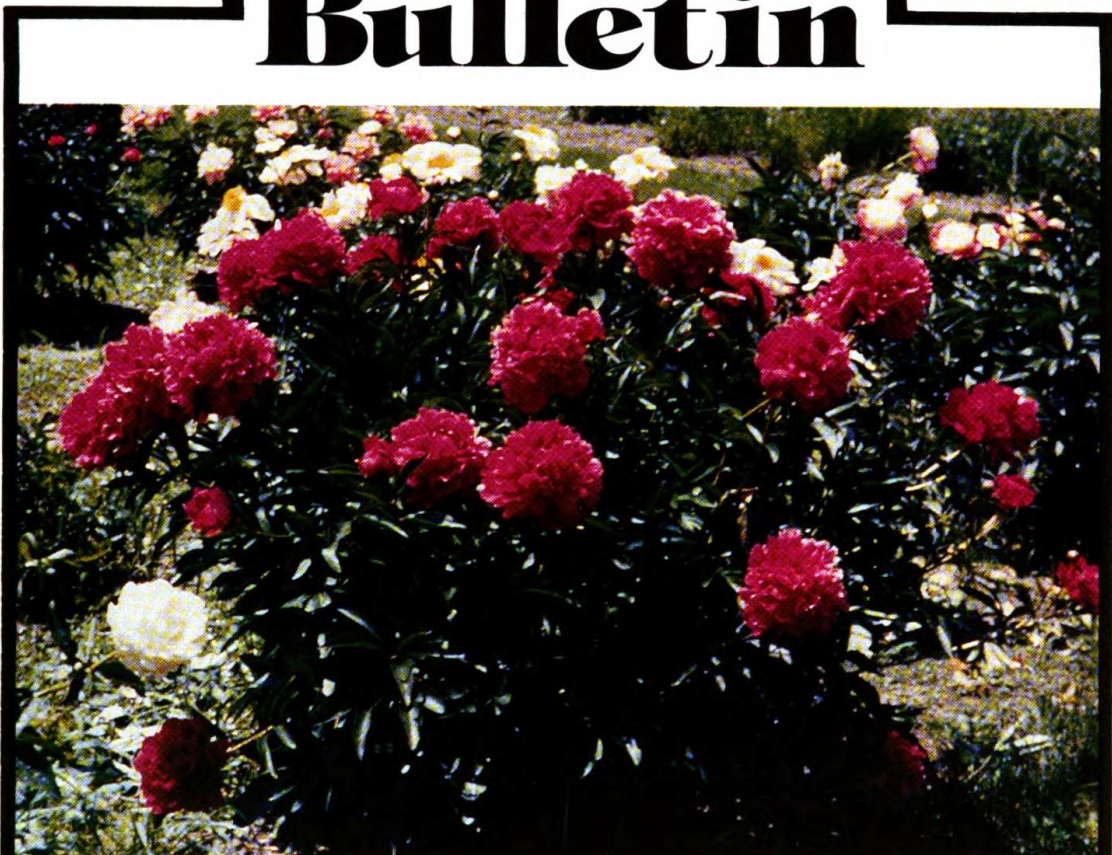
September 1993

NO. 287



The American Peony Society Bulletin

AUG 30 93



*Shawnee Chief (Bigger 1940)
Double dark red; holds its color until frost. Good grower, stiff stems.
One of the first introductions of Mr. Bigger.*

Photograph—W. G. Sindt in his field of peonies.

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Announcing

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

**AMERICAN
TREE
PEONIES**



Appended cultural notes cover:

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

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

The
**AMERICAN
TREE
PEONY**

**63 BRILLIANT FULL
COLOR PHOTOS**

True, tree peonies with their 1400 year history are not native to America. But a class of exceptional HYBRID tree peonies are. Efforts by seven world renowned American hybridizers* who successfully cross-pollinated *P. Lutea* with *P. Suffruticosa* are covered in this limited edition. Photos are razor sharp in detail and reflect all the brilliance and subtle hues of these native Americans, including the new generation of ITOH's.

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

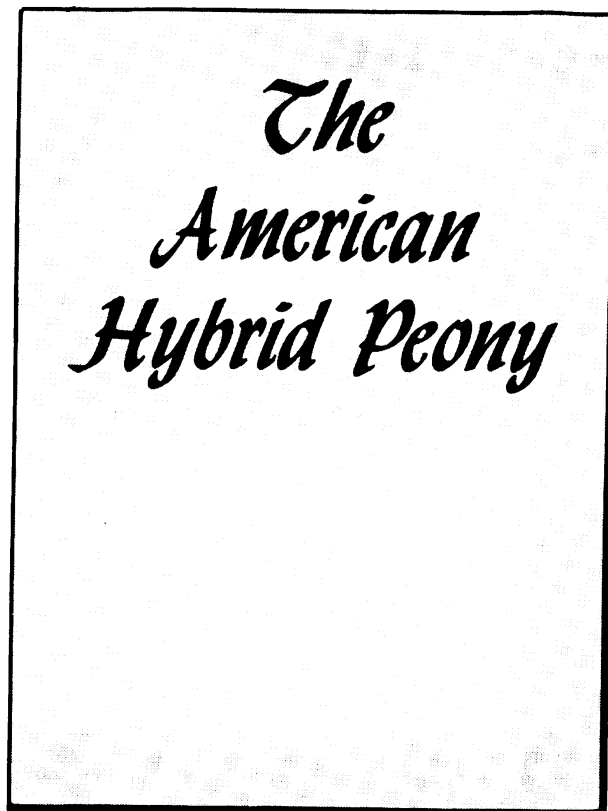
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REFERENCE VOLUME HIGHLIGHTING**

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 9 1/4"**
- **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

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AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY

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DEPT. OF REGISTRATION

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

Greta M. Kessenich, Secretary

OBJECTIVES

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

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

MEMBERSHIP

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

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

Family membership, any two related members in same householdOne Bulletin
Junior membership, any age through completion of high schoolSeparate Bulletin

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

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



AMERICAN Peony Society Bulletin

September 1993 — NO. 287

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends:

This 1993 season will long be remembered by everyone because of the unusual weather that has touched our lives from east to west and north to south.

Drought in some parts of the peony-growing world, and excess rainfall in other areas. Here, in the vast Mississippi basin, rain has caused rivers to overflow and cover the rich agricultural farmland, crops destroyed, land so water-soaked—there is no place for the water to go, and much destruction of homes. In other areas, drought prevailed with damage to crops and vegetation.

We that grow the peony are effected as much as the farmer that grows corn, soybeans and cotton. The peony is one of the tough perennials. It will survive this treatment, if water can be drained to some extent from your planting. In drought areas, they will go dormant. With the coming of Spring, we will see the eye of the peony coming through the soil, and we will have bloom as in the recent past.

This year the peonies were as beautiful as I have ever seen. The Spring was late and cold which gave time for the flower to develop in the bud, resulting in very large blooms with deep color. If you were able to spray your peonies with a good fungicide in the early Spring, you were spared this peony blight, botrytis. Cold, wet weather makes conditions right for this blight.

The Fall season is here and this is the time to plant peonies—many new members will be planting peonies for the first time, while others are interested in growing peonies for cut flowers. Then there are those that long for the peony like "I remember at home."

Prepare your planting area with enriched soil; this is the secret of growing good peonies.

Don Hollingsworth

COMMERCIAL PEONY CULTURE

(Observations and Suggestions)

By *E. R. Honeywell*,

Department of Horticulture

Purdue University Agricultural Experiment Station

Lafayette, Indiana

A planting of peonies is a long-time investment. It should increase in value over a period of many years. For this reason, careful attention should be given to the selection of a desirable location, soil preparation, and varieties.

Location: Peonies seldom winterkill but the flowering buds are susceptible to late frosts, often resulting in severe damage. The proposed site should have elevation and if possible an outlet to lower lands. Low, flat areas are usually frost pockets which should be avoided.

The direction of slope should be considered. Plants grown on a southern exposure often bloom as much as four to ten days earlier than when grown on a northern exposure. This fact should be carefully considered in selecting varieties and growing cut flowers for special dates or occasions. A windbreak of evergreen or other trees on the windward side of the planting often stimulates better quality and earliness of bloom.

Soil and Its Preparation: The peony will thrive upon a wide range of soils. For commercial culture, however, a heavy clay loam which is deeply prepared, well enriched, and made friable through cultivation is best. It must be well drained and yet retentive of moisture. Soil preparation in advance is indispensable.

Commercial fertilizers may be safely used in soil preparation. This is especially true if there is evidence of lack of proper fertility. A complete fertilizer such as a 2-12-6 applied at the rate of 500 pounds per acre should be ample.

Lime should not be used unless the soil is very acid.

VARIETIES

Although there are several hundred peony varieties, only a few seem to respond favorably to commercial cutting and handling. Even these respond differently under different cultural conditions, localities, and seasons. Great care should be exercised to select only those varieties that have been tested and proven worthy of commercial culture. The essential features of a good commercial peony are:

1. It must be a flower of good color and attractive form through all stages of development.
2. A double flower is preferable; desirable fragrance is important.
3. A free and reliable bloomer from year to year.
4. Stiff, wiry, straight stems of uniform length (20 to 32 inches) and low set foliage of good color and quality.

5. Varieties which produce a single bud, or with few laterals per stem are best. Less labor is required for disbudding.

6. A good shipper, tolerant to abuse, and responsive to storage and water treatments.

PLANTING

Time of Year: It is commonly agreed that Fall planting (September and October) is to be preferred. Arguments in favor of Fall planting are:

1. More attention can be given to soil preparation.

2. Weather conditions are usually more favorable.

3. Plants are more dormant, therefore, less sensitive to injury.

4. Plants are freshly dug, therefore, there is less damage due to storing and handling.

5. Plants which become well established in early Fall make a vigorous growth the first growing season.

Distance to Plant: Peonies grown for commercial purposes should be given adequate room for development. They should be planted four feet apart each way. Plants so spaced are generally more productive, are of better quality, and may be cultivated and harvested with greater ease.

Setting Plants: Planting consists of more than merely digging a hole, dropping a plant into it, covering its roots, and expecting it to grow. Each plant should be given closer attention. The hole should be dug sufficiently deep (10x12 inches) and large enough that the plant may be placed and its roots spread out in a natural manner. A small amount of fertilizer thoroughly mixed in the loose soil in the bottom of each hole may be safely applied. Moist, mellow soil should then be worked in about the roots and well firmed. The uppermost buds (eyes) should not be covered more than two inches deep. Too deep planting is a common cause of peonies failing to bloom.

Protection: It is advisable to protect peonies with a mulch for the first Winter. A small amount of coarse straw or hay placed over each individual plant is recommended. Such material aids in preserving moisture and preventing alternate freezing and thawing which results in soil heaving. Manure should not be used, as it stimulates the growth of excess foliage, weak stems, and has a tendency to foster diseases, insect pests and weeds.

SUBSEQUENT CARE

Three growing seasons are required to bring a new peony planting into commercial production. During these three years, and thereafter, careful attention must be given to all cultural and marketing problems.

Cultivation: Peonies respond favorably to frequent cultivations during the Spring and early Summer. This aids in keeping weeds in check and provides for aeration of the soil, and assists in regulating proper moisture conditions. Deep cultivation should be practiced for the first two or three years but as the plants become older should be

avoided as there is danger of disturbing the roots. *The soil should not be pulled up around the plants.* Such a practice results in deeply covered crowns and failure of plants to bloom. Cultivation should be discontinued during midSummer and Fall in order that the plants may have adequate time to mature.

Fertilizers: Undoubtedly, the most perplexing question confronting commercial growers is the subject of soil fertility.

The best time to apply fertilizers is in early Spring, just as growth starts or immediately after the flowering season. This should enable the plants to make a rapid, sturdy growth and develop strong buds for flowering the succeeding Spring.

Fertilizers which are low in nitrogen, but rather high in phosphoric acid and potash, are believed best.

Disbudding: Peonies grown for the market must be carefully disbudded. This may be considered an annual chore which, if properly done, will show definite response and pay adequate reward. Varieties vary greatly in the number of lateral and terminal buds produced and ease in which such buds may be removed. All lateral buds should be removed as soon as they become large enough to handle. Terminal buds which are inferior in any way or which are produced on weak succulent growth should also be removed. Timeliness and accuracy are timesavers in this accomplishment.

Heavy cutting of long stemmed flowers year after year, affects the health and vigor of plants. For this reason it is customary to cut the stems in such a manner that two or three leaves will remain with each shoot.

WHAT RESULTS MAY BE EXPECTED FROM YOUR PEONIES

The first Spring after planting, a standard division will make one or more stems six or more inches high. Do not be discouraged if the growth is low and only one stem appears. It may bloom and it may not. There is nothing to worry about if it does not. Many of the most successful growers never allow a plant to bloom the first year. If you cannot resist the temptation to let it bloom, cut the flower as soon as it fades, immediately below the bloom. Do not allow seed to form. These first-year blooms are often not typical of the variety. If they are not, do not write the grower that the plant is untrue to name. You are probably mistaken. They rarely give you a true picture of the variety.

The second year, the number of stems is usually double the number that came the first year, and the growth is taller. The blooms, if any, are nearer normal. Cut all blooms immediately after flowering, with short stems. Some varieties take several years to make normal flowers or even any kind at all. The third-year growth, also, generally doubles that of the second year and the blooms should be normal in every way. Do not cut the stems too long. After the third year, the increase is slower.

**AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY NATIONAL
EXHIBITION
90TH ANNUAL MEETING
88TH ANNUAL EXHIBITION
KINGWOOD CENTER, MANSFIELD, OHIO
JUNE 4-5-6, 1993
COURT OF HONOR**

Grand Champion—**Yellow Emperor**—Robert Schmidt
Double white—**Mother's Choice**—Don Hollingsworth
Double blush—**Norma Volz**—Don Hollingsworth
Double light pink—**Hargrove Hudson**—Don Hollingsworth
Double dark pink—**Prairie Princess**—Don Hollingsworth
Double red—**Matilda Lewis**—Don Hollingsworth
Bomb any color—**Mr. Ed**—Carl Klehm
Semi-double any color—**Lowell Thomas**—Carl Klehm
Japanese any color—**Golly**—Carl Klehm
Single any color—**Sparkling Star**—J. R. Glocka
Double hybrid any color—**Summer Glow**—Don Hollingsworth
Semi-double hybrid—**Illini Belle**—Floyd Kimball
Single hybrid—**Scarlet O'Hara**—Carl Klehm
Japanese—**Sword Dance**—Don Hollingsworth
Lutea tree peony—**Hephestas**—Carl Klehm
European tree peony—**Prof. Maxine Cornu**—Carl Klehm
Japanese tree peony—**Shinome**—**Gho-Juraka**—Carl Klehm
Itoh hybrid—**Yellow Emperor**—Robert Schmidt
Number of peonies exhibited = 591

DIVISION I. — OPEN TO ALL EXHIBITORS

Class 101 — Won by Carl Klehm — Twenty five varieties, any color or type

Honey Gold, Mr. Ed, First Lady, Moon River, Red Charm, Helen Hayes, LeCharm, Lowell Thomas, Betty Warner, Yachiyo Tsubaki, Heritage, Coral Supreme, Scarlet O'Hara, Dawn Pink, Friendship, Miss America, Prairie Moon, Garden Peace, Gold Standard, Souvenir de Maxine Cornu, Zephyrus, Golden Hind, Leda, Nike, Hephestos

Class 102 — Fifteen varieties, herbaceous only

Class 103

—**First** won by Robert F. Schmidt — Ten varieties, herbaceous

hybrids

Mahogany, Cytherea, Langley, Etched Salmon, Walter Mains, First Lady, Coral Supreme, ZuZu Warrior, Crusader, Eventide

—Second won by Carl Klehm

Coral Supreme, Coral N' Gold, Paula Fay, Ann Berry Cousins, Scarlet O'Hara, Garden Peace, Prairie Moon, Claire de Lune, Horizon, Buckeye Belle

—Third won by Joseph Glocka

Red Charm, Illini Belle, Firelight, Heritage, Athene, Edward Steichen, Rushlight, Laddie, Liebechen, Firelight

Class 104 — Ten varieties, tree peonies

—First won by John Simkins

Fuji no Akebonus, Rocks Variety, Kamikaze, Guardian of the Monastery, Hatsu Hinode, Muensai, Akatsuki no yuki, Rimpo, Shihi, Gashira, Mure Garasu

—Second won by Carl Klehm

Age of Gold, Terpsichore, Banquet, Kamada Fuji, Hephestos, Harvest, Vesuvian, Schinome, Cho-Juraka, Haku Benryu

—Third won by Robert Schmidt

Yellow Queen, Hesperus, Tekan, Age of Gold, Howki, High Noon, Shintenchu, Artemus, Hani Daijin, Golden Hind

Class 105 — Five varieties, Japanese

**LeCharm, Gold Standard, Evelyn Tibbitts, Ray Payton
THREE BLOOMS, ONE VARIETY LACTIFLORA ONLY, IN
ONE CONTAINER**

Class 110 — Double White

1. **Florence Nicholas** — Robert Schmidt
2. **Mother's Choice** — Don Hollingsworth
3. **Avalanche** — Carl Klehm

Class 111 — Double blush

1. **My Love** — Don Hollingsworth
2. **Norma Volz** — Don Hollingsworth
3. **Lady Alexander Duff** — Don Hollingsworth

Class 112 — Double light pink

1. **President Taft** — Don Hollingsworth
2. **Frances Mains** " "
3. **Hargrove Hudson** " "
- H.M., Alice Harding** " "

Class 113 — Double dark pink

1. **Prairie Princess** — Don Hollingsworth
2. **First Lady** — Carl Klehm
3. **Glory Hallelujah** — Carl Klehm

Class 114 —

1. **Paul M. Wild** — Don Hollingsworth
2. **Kansas** — Don Hollingsworth
3. **Cherry Hill** — Robert Schmidt

Class 115 — Semi-double white or blush

1. **Miss America**
2. **Miss America** — Carl Klehm

Class 116 — Semi-double pink

1. **Nice Gal** — Carl Klehm
2. **Sweet Melody** — Don Hollingsworth

Class 117 — Semi-double red

Class Bomb — 118A — 1. **Charlie's White 2. **Charlie's White** 3.**

Honey Gold — ALL Carl Klehm

- 118B** — 2. **Helen Hays** — Carl Klehm
3. **Schafe** — Carl Klehm

Class 119 — Japanese white or blush

3. **Gold Standard** — Carl Klehm

Class 120 — Japanese pink

1. **Garden Lace** — Don Hollingsworth

Class 121 — Japanese red

1. **Trafford Bigger** — Don Hollingsworth
2. **Sword Dance** — Don Hollingsworth
3. **Ray Payton** — Carl Klehm

Class 122 — Single white or blush

1. **Spellbinder** —
H.M., **Ala Mode** — Carl Klehm

Class 123 — Single pink

1. **Sparkling Star** — Joe Glocka
2. **Sparkling Star** — Joe Glocka
3. **Dawn Pink** — Carl Klehm

Class 124 — Single red

1. **Gratis** — Carl Klehm
2. **Gratis** — Carl Klehm

ONE BLOOM LACTIFLORA ONLY

Class 130 — Double white

1. **Mother's Choice** — Don Hollingsworth
 2. **Amalia Olson** — Don Hollingsworth
 3. **Florence Nicholls** — Robert Schmidt
- H.M., **Festiva Maxima** — Carl Klehm

Class 131 — Double blush

1. **Norma Volz** — Don Hollingsworth
 2. **LaLorraine** — Don Hollingsworth
 3. **Lady Alexander Duff** — Don Hollingsworth
- H.M., **Lady Alexander Duff** — Don Hollingsworth

Class 132 — Double light pink

1. **Hargrove Hudson** — Don Hollingsworth

- 2. **Mrs. F.D.R.** — Robert Schmidt
- 3. **Therese** — Robert Schmidt
- Class 133** — Double dark pink
 - 1. **First Lady** — Robert Schmidt
 - 2. **Bev** — Robert Schmidt
- Class 134** — Double red
 - 1. **Kansas** — Don Hollingsworth
 - 2. **Cherry Hill** — Robert Schmidt
- Class 135** — Semi-double white or blush
 - 1. **Miss America** — no name
- Class 136** — Semi-double pink
 - 1. **Nice Gal** — Carl Klehm
 - 2. **Sweet Melody** — Don Hollingsworth
 - 3. **Nice Gal** — Carl Klehm
- Class 137** — Semi-double red
 - 1. **Robert Auten** — Robert Schmidt
- Class 138** — Bomb—White or blush
 - 1. **Charlie's White** — Carl Klehm
 - 2. **Charlie's White** — Carl Klehm
 - 3. **Carolina Moon** — Robert Schmidt
- Class 139** — Bomb pink
 - 1. **Mons. Jules Elie** — Carl Klehm
 - 2. **Mons. Jules Elie** — Robert Schmidt
 - 3. **Sweet 16** — Carl Klehm
- Class 141** — Japanese white or blush
 - 1. **Louise Marx** — Don Hollingsworth
 - 2. **Evelyn Tibbitts** — Carl Klehm
- Class 142** — Japanese pink
 - 1. **Garden Lace** — Don Hollingsworth
 - 2. **Golly** — Carl Klehm
 - 3. **Butterball** — Robert Schmidt
- Class 143** — Japanese red
 - 1. **Commanche** — Carl Klehm
 - 2. **Trafford W. Bigger** — Don Hollingsworth
- Class 145** — Single pink
 - 1. **Sea Shell** — Robert Schmidt
 - 2. **Dawn Pink** — Carl Klehm
- Class 146** —
 - Single red — **Gratis** — Carl Klehm
 - Gratis** — Carl Klehm

THREE BLOOMS, ONE VARIETY HERBACEOUS HYBRIDS

- Class 150** — Double or semi-double, white, blush or yellow
 - 1. **Summer Glow** — Don Hollingsworth
 - 2. **White Charm** — Don Hollingsworth
 - 3. **Summer Glow** — Don Hollingsworth
- Class 151** — Double or semi-double coral

1. **Etched Salmon** — Robert Schmidt
 2. **Salmon Glory** — Robert Schmidt
 3. **Coral Charm** — Robert Schmidt
- Class 152** — Double or semi-double pink
1. **Cytherea** — Robert Schmidt
 2. **Paula Fay** — Carl Klehm
 3. **Lovely Rose** — Robert Schmidt
- Class 153** — Double or semi-double red
1. **Heritage** — J. R. Glocka
 2. **Red Charm** — Don Hollingsworth
 3. **Red Charm** — Don Hollingsworth
- Class 154** — Japanese any color
1. **Walter Mains** — Robert Schmidt
 2. **Walter Mains** — Robert Schmidt
 3. **Show Girl** — Don Hollingsworth
- Class 155** — Single yellow
1. **Claire de Lune** — Floyd Kimball
 2. **Claire de Lune** — Floyd Kimball
 3. **Claire de Lune** — Carl Klehm
- Class 156** — Single white or blush
1. **Horizon** — Carl Klehm
 2. **Carolina** — Carl Klehm
- Class 157** — Single coral
1. **Coral 'N Gold** — Carl Klehm
- Class 158** — Single pink
1. **Honor** — Deborah Heinzman
 2. **Friendship** — Carl Klehm
- Class 159** — Single red
1. **America** — Robert Schmidt
 2. **Scarlet O'Hara** — Carl Klehm
 3. **Dad** — Carl Klehm
- H.M., **Illini Warrior** — Carl Klehm
- Burma Midnight** — Robert Schmidt
- Class 159A** — Itoh hybrid
1. **Garden Treasure** — Don Hollingsworth
 2. **Full Moon** — Don Hollingsworth
 3. **Viking Full Moon** — Don Hollingsworth
- H.M., **Prairie Charm** — Don Hollingsworth
- Class 160** — Double or semi-double yellow
1. **Summer Glow** — Don Hollingsworth
 2. **Summer Glow** — Don Hollingsworth
 3. **Sunny Boy** — Carl Klehm
- H.M., **Prairie Moon** — Carl Klehm
- Class 161** — Double or semi-double white or blush
1. **White Charm** — Don Hollingsworth
 2. **Camellia** — J. Simkins

3. Sunny Boy — Carl Klehm

Class 162 — Double or semi-double coral

1. Etched Salmon — Robert Schmidt

2. Ann Berry Cousins — Carl Klehm

3. Coral Charm — Carl Klehm

H.M., Pink Hawaiian Coral — Carl Klehm

Cytherea — Robert Schmidt

Class 163 — Double or semi-double pink

1. Langley — Robert Schmidt

2. Cytherea — Don Hollingsworth

3. Paula Fay — Carl Klehm

Class 164 — Double or semi-double red

1. Red Alert — Robert Schmidt

2. Postilion — Robert Schmidt

3. Mandarin — Robert Schmidt

H.M., Liberator — Robert Schmidt

Illini Belle — Carl Klehm

Class 165 — Japanese any color

1. Walter Mains — Robert Schmidt

2. Mahogany — Don Hollingsworth

3. Walter Mains — Don Hollingsworth

Class 166 — Single yellow

1. Claire de Lune — Floyd Kimball

2. Claire de Lune — Floyd Kimball

3. Claire de Lune — C. F. Spangler

H.M., Athena — J. Simkins

Class 167 — Single white or blush

1. Carolina — Carl Klehm

2.

3. Horizon — Carl Klehm

H.M., Athema — Carl Klehm

Class 168 — Single coral

1. Soft Salmon Saucer — Carl Klehm

2. Coral Charm — Robert Schmidt

3. Soft Salmon Saucer — Carl Klehm

H.M., Nose Gay — Carl Klehm

Class 169 — Single pink

1. Frances — Robert Schmidt

2. Roselette — J. R. Glocka

3. Rosy Wreath — Robert Schmidt

H.M., Friendship — Carl Klehm

Allen Lewis — Carl Klehm

Class 169A — Red single

1. Dad — Carl Klehm

2. Dauntless — Robert Schmidt

3. Bright Knight — Robert Schmidt

H.M., **Scarlet O'Hara** — Carl Klehm
Golden Glow — Robert Schmidt

Class 169B — Itoh hybrid any color

1. **Yellow Heaven** — Chris Laning
2. **Garden Treasure** — Don Hollingsworth
3. **Viking** — Don Hollingsworth

H.M., **Garden Treasure** — Don Hollingsworth

**THREE BLOOMS, TREE PEONIES ONLY, IN ONE
CONTAINER**

Class 170B — 1. **Haku Benryu** — Carl Klehm

Class 170C — 1. **Hakudo Jishi** — Carl Klehm

Class 171A — 1. **Companion of Serenity**; 2. **Lilith**; 3. **Gyohu Ryok** — all Carl Klehm

Class 171B — 1. **Yachiyo Tsubaki** — Carl Klehm; 2. **Hana Kisoi** — Carl Klehm; 3. **Shintenshi** — Robert Schmidt; H.M., **Shentenshi** — Carl Klehm

Class 171C — 1. **Tama Fuyo**; 2. **Shimani-Otono-Mai**; 3. **Higuri**; H.M., **Higurii** — all Carl Klehm

Class 172A — H.M., **Red Rascal** — Carl Klehm

Class 172B — 1. **Howki** — Carl Klehm; 2. **Hinode Seki** — Carl Klehm

Class 172C — 1. **Toichi Ruby**; 2. **Twato Kaguri** — Carl Klehm

Class 173A — 1. **Ezra Pound**; 2. **Guardian of the Monastery**; 3. **Ezra Pound** — all Carl Klehm

Class 173B — 1. **Kamada Nishika** — J. R. Glocka; 2. **Hana Daijin** — Carl Klehm; 3. **Hora Kumon** — Carl Klehm; H.M., **Hora Kumon** — Carl Klehm

Class 173C — 1. **Kamada Fuji**; 2. **Kamada Fuji** — both Carl Klehm

Class 174A — 1. **Murad of Hershey Bar** — Carl Klehm

Class 174C — 1. **Rimpo** — Carl Klehm

Class 175B — 1. **Infanto** — Carl Klehm

Class 176A — 1. **Golden Bowl** — Carl Klehm; 2. **Tria** — Floyd Kimball; 3. **Golden Bowl** — Carl Klehm; H.M., **Tria** — Carl Klehm

Class 176B — 1. **High Noon**; 2. **High Noon**; 3. **Aurora** — all Carl Klehm

Class 176C — 1. **Age of Gold** — Carl Klehm; 2. **Golden Mandarin** — Carl Klehm; 3. **Age of Gold** — D. Andrew Heinzman; H.M., **Golden Hind** — Robert Schmidt

Class 177A — 1. **Gauguin** — Carl Klehm; 2. **Niki** — Carl Klehm; 3. **Mystery** — Carl Klehm; H.M., **Chore** — Carl Klehm

Class 177B — 1. **Summer Night**; 2. **Harvest**; 3. **Harvest** — all Carl Klehm

Class 177C — 1. **Yellow Queen** — Robert Schmidt; 2. **Zephyrus** — Carl Klehm; 3. **Zephyrus** — Carl Klehm

Class 178A — 1. **Themus** — Carl Klehm

Class 178B — 1. **Leda**; 2. **Marie Laurencin**; 3. **Marie Laurencin**

— all Carl Klehm

Class 178C — 1. **Rose Flair** — Carl Klehm

Class 179A — 1. **Chinese Dragon** — Carl Klehm; 2. **Icarus** — Carl Klehm; 3. **Chinese Dragon** — Carl Klehm; H.M., **Icarus** — Carl Klehm

Class 179C — 1. **Hestia**; 2. **Regent** — all Carl Klehm

Class 180 — 1. **Iphigenia**; 3. **Thunderbolt**; H.M., **Black Pirate** — All C. Klehm

Class 180B — 1. **Black Panther**; 2. **Boreas** — both Carl Klehm

Class 180C — 1. **Vesuvian** — Carl Klehm

ONE BLOOM TREE PEONY ONLY

Class 185A — 1. **Rocks Variety** — J. Simkins; 2. **Kogyo Zome** — J. Simkins

Class 185B — 1. **Godaishu** — Robert Schmidt; 2. **Godaishu** — Carl Klehm; H.M., **Hakuo Jishi** — Carl Klehm

Class 185C — 1. **Fuso no Tsukasa** — Robert Schmidt; 3. **Haku Benryu** — Carl Klehm

Class 186A — 1. **Kimbukeron** — Carl Klehm; 2. **Shintenchi** — C. Spangler; 3. **Companion of Serenity** — Carl Klehm; H.M., **Gyoku Ryoku** — Carl Klehm

Class 186B — 1. **Howki** — J. R. Glocka; 2. **Yachiyo Tsubaki** — Carl Klehm; 3. **Fuji No Nore** — J. Simkins; H.M., **Marie Laurencin** — Robert Schmidt

Class 186C — 1. **Shimani Otono Mai** — Carl Klehm; 2. **Teikan** — Robert Schmidt; 3. **Teikan** — Carl Klehm; H.M., **Bush double** — J. Simkins

Class 187A — 1. **Red Rascal**; 2. **Red Rascal** — both Carl Klehm

Class 187B — 1. **Howki** — Carl Klehm; 2. **Howki** — Carl Klehm; 3. **Jitsu Getsu Nishiku** — Carl Klehm; H.M., **Aya Goromo** — Robert Schmidt

Class 187C — 2. **Kao** — Robert Schmidt; 3. **Toichi Ruby**; H.M., **Iwato Kagura** — Carl Klehm

Class 188A — 1. **Guardian of the Monastery** — Carl Klehm; 3. **Ezra Pound** — Carl Klehm; H.M., **Ezra Pound** — Carl Klehm

Class 188B — 1. **Shinome-Cho Juraka** — Carl Klehm; 2. **Horakumon** — Carl Klehm; 3. **Hanna Daijin** — Carl Klehm

Class 188C — 1. **Kamada** — Carl Klehm; 2. **Kamada Fuji** — Carl Klehm; H.M., **Hinode Gumo** — J. Simkins

Class 189A — 1. **Murad of Hershey Bar** — C. Klehm; 2. **Kokamon** — Carl Klehm

Class 189B — 1. **Kokamon** — Carl Klehm; 2. **Kokamon** — Carl Klehm

Class 190A — 1. **Infanta** — C. Klehm

Class 191A — 1. **Tria** — Floyd Kimball; 2. **Tria** — Floyd Kimball; 3. **Golden Bowl** — Carl Klehm

Class 191B — 1. **Persephone**; 2. **Aurora** — both Carl Klehm

Class 192A — 1. **Mystery**; 2. **Niki** — both Carl Klehm
Class 192B — 1. **Harvest**; 2. **Harvest**; 3. **Summernight** — all Carl Klehm
Class 192C — 1. **Zephyrus** — Carl Klehm
Class 193B — 1. **Leda** — Carl Klehm
Class 193C — 1. **Rose Flame**; 3. **Rose Flame** — Carl Klehm
Class 194A — 1. **Chinese Dragon** — C. Spangler; 2. **Icarus** — Carl Klehm; 3. **Icarus** — Carl Klehm
Class 194B — 1. **Banquet**; 2. **Banquet** — both Carl Klehm
Class 194C — **Hestia** — Carl Klehm
Class 195B — 1. **Hephestas** — Carl Klehm; 2. **Thunderbolt**—Carl Klehm; 3. **Bereas** — Carl Klehm; H.M., **Thunderbolt** — Deborah Heitzman
Class 196C — 1. **Souv. Maxime Cornu**; 2. **Mme. Andre de Villers**; 3. **Souv. Maxime Cornu** — all Carl Klehm

Division II. Amateur

THREE BLOOMS IN ONE CONTAINER

Class 205 — Double white or blush — 1. **Susan B. White** — Robert Wise
Class 206 — Double pink — 1. **Mrs. F.D.R.** — Robert Wise
Class 207 — Double red — 1. **Detroit**; 2. **Diana Parks** — both Robert Wise
Class 208 — Semi-double any color — 1. **Minnie Shaylor**; 2. **MightyMo** — both Robert Wise
Class 209 — Bomb, any color — 1. **Eastern Star**; 2. **Mons. Jules Elie** — both Robert Wise
Class 210 — Japanese any color — 1. **Yellow King**; 2. **White Sands** — both Robert Wise
Class 211 — Single, any color — 1. **Krinkled White** — Robert Wise
Class 212 — Hybrid, any color — 1. **Prairie Moon** — Nancy Mihocik; 2. **Claire de Lune** — James Holberg; 3. **Claire de Lune** — James Holberg

ONE BLOOM, IN ONE CONTAINER

Class 222 — Double light pink — 1. **Peppermint**; 2. **Mrs. F.D.R.** — both Robert Wise
Class 224 — Double red — 1. **Detroit** — Robert Wise
Class 226 — Bomb any color — 1. **Top Brass** — Robert Wise
Class 227 — Japanese, any color — 2. **Alstead** — Robert Wise
Class 229 — Hybrid, any color — 1. **Cytherea** — Alice Hacker; 2. **Paula Fay** — Robert Wise

Division III Novice

Class 301 — Five varieties any type or color in separate container

1. **Thunderbolt, Age of Gold, Canary, Hino Tsukasa, Shishi No Tategami** — Dale and Andrew Heinzman

Class 305 — Double any color

1. **Old Faithful** — Dale Bovin; 2. **Florence Nicholls** — Dale Bovin; 3rd place & H.M. place flower not recorded, but won by Harry McNew

Class 307 — Japanese, any color — name not recorded but won no. 1 — Nancy Mihocik

Class 309 — Hybrid any color; 1. **Prairie Moon** — Nancy Mihocik

Class 315 — Double any color — no variety name but Barry McNew won first and second

Class 316 — Double pink — no variety name but Mr. McNew won first on the flower

Class 319 — Bomb, any color — 1. **Sweet 16** — Barry McNew

Class 322 — Hybrid any color — 1. **Coral Charm** — Nancy Mihocik; 2. **Cytherea** — Nancy Mihocik; 3. **Alexander Woolcott** — Dale and Andrew Heinzman; H.M., **Cytherea** — Nancy Mihocik

Class 323 — Tree, any color

1. **Thunderbolt** — Dale and Andrew Heinzman; 2. **Hesperus** — Nancy Mihocik; 3. Name not recorded — Dale and Andrew Heinzman; H.M., **Hesperus** and **Shintenchi** awards to Nancy Mihocik

Division IV. Seedlings

Class 401 — Variety #1647 — Don Hollingsworth — Honorable Mention

Class 401 — Variety #990 — Don Hollingsworth — Honorable Mention

Class 401 — Variety Seedling — Chris Laning — Award of Merit

Class 401 — Variety #1820 — Don Hollingsworth — Award of Merit

Division V. Special Entries

Class 502 — Visitors from the greatest distance. Five varieties any type or color.

2. **Tria, Clare de Lune, Edward Steichen, John Harvard, Lanings seedling** — Floyd Kimball

Class 503 — Single stock, not disbudded. Must show three open bloom.

2. **Garden Peace** — Carl Klehm

Class 504 - 505 — North Dakota Memorial Award. Five full

doubles—any color.

1. **Moon River, Festiva Maxima, La Lorraine, Pink Jazz, First Lady** — Carl Klehm

Division VII. Artistic Class

Class 1 — **Family Reunion**; 1. Johanna Bodiford

Class 2 — **Daughters Wedding**; 3. Johanna Bodiford

Class 3 — **Walking Through the Woods**; 2. Johanna Bodiford

Class 4 — **A Walk Along the Beach**; 1. Johanna Bodiford

Class 5 — **A Rock Hunters Paradise** — H.M. Johanna Bodiford

Class 8 — **Reflections of a Vacation Time**; 1. Johanna Bodiford

Class 10 — **Wedding Anniversary Celebration**; 1. Johanna Bodiford

Class 8 — **Grand Champion** — Johanna Bodiford

REGISTRATIONS

TRANQUIL DOVE (Professor A.P. Saunders)

Seedling # Halcyon F2, parentage Halcyon

This hybrid is a white, rosy pink overlay single. It has good substance, stamen and pollen. An early flower 20-24 inches in height, good stem strength with 4-5 inch bloom. Small dark green foliage.

This plant was a gift to Chris Laning from Silvia Saunders.

Registered, and distribution by Caprice Farm Nursery.

LOIS' CHOICE (Chris Laning), Sept. 1993

#102. Parentage—Quad F3 x Silver Dawn F3

First bloomed May, 1977. This is a first class plant with a flower of two colors divided into three sections, a pink one-third, then a yellow one-third and the final third pink. The pink is a warm pink and the yellow is a bright yellow; should be described as unique. This is a tetraploid that is fertile as a pod and pollen parent.

OLD ROSE DANDY (Chris Laning), Sept. 1993

No seedling number. This is a lutea hybrid—parentage P. lutea pollinated by a purple double flower, pollen of suffruticosa seedling. This plant is very big and robust of dark green color. The flowers are very heavy double of old rose color which intensifies (darkens) with age (unusual color). It drew a very good response at the 1993 Show and received an Award of Merit.

If you cut a tree, plant a tree.

It is nature's replaceable energy.

MINNESOTA PEONY EXHIBITION
SIGNAL HILLS MALL, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA
JUNE 11-12-13, 1993

Best double white—**Martha Reed**—Carl Klehm
Double blush—**Moonstone**—Carl Klehm—Grand Champion
Double pink—**Dinner Plate**—Carl Klehm
Double dark pink—**Rhapsody in pink**—Carl Klehm
Double red—**Jaycee**—Carl Klehm
Bomb—**Mons. Jules Elie**—Kent Crossley
Semi-double—**Nice Gal**—Carl Klehm
Single—**Pico**—W. G. Sindt
Japanese—**Cream Puff**—Greta Kessenich
Best Hybrid—**Coral Charm**—Carl Klehm
Best tree peony—**Leda**—Carl Klehm
Best Itoh hybrid—**Yellow Crown**—Greta Kessenich
Number of peonies exhibited = 1283

MINNESOTA 1993

Greta M. Kessenich

All the flowers on the show tables were exceptionally large, with colors so vivid. The season was cold and late. The flowers had more time to develop in bud—some of the deep reds were almost black and other colors were shades deeper than usual. The doubles came from the Klehm Nursery in Illinois, while in Minnesota—400 miles to the West and North—only the hybrids were beginning to open. All peonies were at their best. The judging was difficult because of the perfect and fresh flowers displayed, so only a select few could take the prestigious place on the Court of Honor—while every flower displayed could have had this honor. The most perfect bomb ever seen at a Show was that grand old jewel, **Mons Jules Elie**, exhibited by Kent Crossley. The flower was huge, a perfect bomb, with colors of light rose and pink. This flower is ageless in its magnificent beauty.

A few days after the exhibition, the gardens here became ablaze with bloom, and very soon after, the rain came. The Japs and singles remained in their stately form. It is good to know that flowers of this stature exist during a prolonged rainy season. Bob Tischler of Faribault, Minnesota, has a Jap that is exactly what the name infers '**Fantastic**.' There is so much gold on the long staminodes, surrounded by rose pink petals, grows as straight as an arrow, and it defies the rain. He has a new one as pretty as a baby's pink bonnet, just the size for company table arrangements, a beautiful cup-shaped with long stems. The name will be **Leona Weinburger**.

Autens Do Tell was a beauty. This Japanese peony has a center of rose colored staminodes with some gold intermingled, surrounded

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by vivid pink petals. The white Japs put on a show. **Brides Dream**, a gorgeous peony, as white as the snow, with **Carrara** an equal—only gold is showing in the center but turns white in a few days. The popular **Bu-Te**, white with yellow center, catches the eye of the passersby, with **Toro-no-maki** another ageless beauty making itself known in the white class.

In the singles, **Krinkled White** looks like a plant covered with pretty white butterflies when in full bloom. **Virginia Dare**, is an equal, only the plant is more stately; both have strong stems and holds the flowers erect. One of the most beautiful singles in a color is **Topeka Garnet**. The single flower completely covers a 32-inch plant—it is a spectacle. **Sparkling Star** is a good bright pink single. Both of these peonies come from Mr. Bigger in Topeka, Kansas. Bill Krekler's **Miss Mary** was on the show table and what a beauty it is—a blood red.

In the hybrids, we look to **Paula Fay** and **Firelight** for the early bloom. They never fail to have flowers for Memorial Day; is so dependable, and in demand by friends and neighbors. Another early bloom is **Prairie Moon**, with its delicate creamy white flowers. This is one of the dependable hybrids—also, everyone can grow **Lovely Rose**. It is a strong plant and the name implies the color. **Rose Tulip** is a beauty, noted by A & D Nursery, in their ad. It is a single hybrid, beautiful form, and opens like, and resembles, a large tulip.

For so very long, a voice was always heard for a yellow peony. We have such a peony—a good solid deep yellow. These peonies are good strong herbaceous peonies. They grow in a bush form but have the leaf of a tree peony. Also the root resembles that of the tree peony, but they are herbaceous, that is: the top or foliage dies in the Fall. Cut it off, and in the Spring the peony will form a new plant, with yellow bloom.

All the peonies you grow are classed as to type: Single, Japanese, Semi-double, anemone and double. There is a class for this peony known as Itoh Hybrid. Why that class? This cross was originated in Japan—the name of the man or nursery from which it came was Itoh. This class has been accepted all over the peony-growing countries and it is known as the Itoh Hybrid, but grown by individuals and recognized as such. This peony can be purchased from the Klehm Nursery, Reath Nursery, Don Hollingsworth Nursery, and Chris Laning.

★ ★ ★ ★

Report from—**Judy Wilmarth**,
Anchorage, Alaska

1992 found us planting 155 peonies, 5/93 found us out counting those lovely growing tips. 6/93 we were real pleased with all of the peony foliage and buds appearing, and as of 7/93 we have approximately 145 promising buds on our plants. Our peak bloom period runs from the last week of June through the last week of July, depending on the season.

BUDDING DREAMS

(Son aims to preserve father's achievements)

Nancy Smith, Lawrence Journal-World, Kansas

TOPEKA—Ninety-two-year-old Myron D. Bigger pushes the screen door open on the white clapboard farm house he's called home since 1942, and greets a visitor with a firm handshake and a keen gaze.

Dressed in bib overalls, crisp shirt, work boots and a straw hat, he heads for the peony field west of the house, pointing out his favorite beauties among more than 125 varieties, some 30 years old.

"It's like women," he said slipping between the rows like a cat through grass. "If you don't find one pretty enough to bring you back to it, it's not worth it."

The unusually late blooming season may seem especially sweet to Bigger, for he is retiring as a commercial peony grower after 63 years in the business.

In a recent interview, he said he's sold his three-acre farmstead at 201 N. Rice Rd.—including all the flowers—to his son, 64-year-old Calvin V. Bigger. Myron's wife, Annie, whose health is failing, already has moved to a care home, but Bigger will continue to reside at the farm.

Calvin Bigger, retired from the Fleming Co., said his goal was to preserve what his father had done by continuing to reproduce the elder Bigger's personal varieties. He sells the plants, along with daylilies and hardy amaryllis, retail on the farm and by mail order customers in a number of states.

The younger Bigger noted his father's "**Kansas**" peony, a deep red variety which won a gold medal from the American Peony Society in 1942, grows in many northeast Kansas cemeteries and yards. It is listed in many major flower catalogs, including "The Garden Book" of White Flower Farm in Litchfield, Conn.

Of peonies growing around Lawrence, Calvin Bigger noted, perhaps 30 percent are derived from his father's hybrids.

Looking back over the years, the elder Bigger said he's grown 5,000 to 6,000 hybrids and introduced 50 new ones of his own, including "**Kansas**," his personal favorite, and one other gold-medal winner, "**Western**," which dates from the late 1940s.

"Some are alike," he noted. "All you've got is red, white and pink to fool with."

He joined the Peony Society, headquartered in Hopkins, Minn., in 1928, is a life member, and has served on its Board of Directors since the 1950s.

Greta Kessenich, secretary-treasurer of the Society for the last 22 years, described Bigger as "one of the grand men in the Peony Society" and advised, "He has the *best* peonies."

In retirement, Bigger remains as smitten as ever with his fluffy, fragrant blooms of choice.

"They're the most spectacular flower in the Northern Hemisphere," he said, noting peonies are even finer flowers than the rose.

"There's not a thorn in that field," he declared.

Nonetheless, Bigger also lamented the dwindling interest in growing peonies commercially. At one time, there were hundreds of major U.S. growers—nine-tenths of them men, he recalled. Now, only about a dozen remain.

"Peony growers are almost extinct," Bigger said. "You can't do it with a computer."

Later, he added, "I don't think you could invent a machine to divide a peony. Every one's a Chinese puzzle of its own."

Hands are Bigger's tool of choice.

He started raising peonies, which originated in China, in 1924, when his flower-loving mother gave him four plants as a gift. She got them from Dr. C. F. Menninger, he said, a peony fancier, as well as the founder of Menninger Clinic in Topeka.

Bigger's mother died before those peonies got big enough to bloom, but he liked them so well, he kept on growing them.

Calling himself a "chooser" rather than a "peony breeder," Bigger said, "I let bees do the work" when it comes to creating new hybrids.

He also credited Lady Luck with helping out, noting that from a handful of seeds he planted in 1928, 12 good new varieties emerged—when the norm is more like 1 in 1,000.

One of Bigger's early favorites, and the first he ever named, was "Shawnee Chief," a dark red peony like "Kansas," which also is favored for cemetery plantings, and as a cut flower.

Bigger started growing peonies commercially in 1935.

It's a slow process. The seeds don't emerge until 18 months after planting, which should be done in the Fall—"Flowers that bloom in the Spring, you plant in the Fall; flowers that bloom in the Fall, you plant in the Spring," Bigger chanted the adage.

The first Spring a peony does emerge, he said, it stands only an inch high, and not until about the fourth year will it start to bloom.

Looking at the blooms, a grower decides which ones are different enough to propagate as new varieties, and then more years begin of dividing the roots to get more plants.

The blooms, called "bombs," burst open between the first of May and the first of June, depending on the weather, he said, adding, "It takes about 70 to 80 degrees."

For cut flowers, they should be picked when the blooms just begin to open—Bigger called it the "marshmallow" stage.

As recently as last year, he introduced yet another new hybrid, "Topeka Statue," described on his two-page peony list as 'goblet shaped, light pink to white, Japanese type with yellow staminodes,

white carpels and very stiff stems.

A photograph of his "Pink Derby," introduced in 1966, graces the cover of the September 1992 "American Peony Society BULLETIN."

Among other peony hybrids to his credit are two with family names: a big fluffy, fragrant, pinkish-white one named "Myron D. Bigger"—"They finally convinced me to name one after myself"—and an exotic-looking Japanese variety in a deep brownish-red shade named after his brother, Trafford W. Bigger.

He named one of his daylilies, a deep orange, after his wife, and there's also a white peony called "Eastern Star," named after the Masonic organization, which the couple have been active in for many years.

There's a light pink "Jayhawker" among his early introductions.

Dr. Kent Crossley, another Peony Society Board member and a commercial grower, as well as a physician in St. Paul, Minn., said Bigger had produced a lot of important peonies over the years.

"Kansas' is the most talked about," Crossley said, noting the interest it has drawn from growers in this country as well as in Holland, "but he has a number of other ones that are almost as good."

Noting he has visited the Bigger farm at least four times during blooming season, Crossley added, "He's got a very good eye."

In retirement, Bigger said, although his knees were "groaning," he planned to continue helping his son and enjoying the flowers.

"You don't have to be crazy to do it," he said of the work, "but it sure helps."

IN REMEMBRANCE . . .

Dr. Raymond C. Allen, Director Emeritus and Kingwood's first director, died on May 8, 1993 in Tucson, Arizona. The Kingwood Staff and Administrative Board express their sincere sympathy to his family.

In 1952 Dr. Allen came to Kingwood as the first director, and through his leadership made it into an internationally known garden. He formed Kingwood into a cultural oasis for gardeners, as well as musical, theater, and arts groups. With the assistance of the Administrative Board and a dedicated staff, he turned Mr. King's vision into reality.

A lot of hard work and direction was necessary to turn a private estate into a growing horticultural center. Many people were skeptical of all this but he made it all work. Trees came down, flower beds went in, driveways, walks, and walls were rebuilt and constructed; parking lots were installed; the garage became the Gate House with space for meetings; the lower buildings became exhibit, lecture, and show rooms. The original greenhouse was tripled in size by the addition of modern units. A new Service Building for housing equipment, supplies, and machinery was constructed.

Educational programs were also initiated under his direction.

The American Peony Society was invited by Dr. Allen to hold their Convention and Exhibition at Kingwood, every third year.

ANNUAL MEETING AND BANQUET

The annual meeting of the American Peony Society was held in a banquet room of the Holiday Inn in Mansfield, Ohio, on the evening of Saturday, June 5th. Chris Laning delivered the invocation. The banquet was served buffet style. The business meeting was called to order by President Robert Schmidt, at 8:30 p.m. We were honored by the presence of three peony growers from Holland—H.M. De Ruiter and associates.

The financial report was distributed to the members present at the meeting. Mr. Schmidt noted the continuing improved state of the Society's finances. Publication sales have continued at a strong level. The Society currently has \$77,805.55 on hand. The report was accepted with gratitude by the membership.

To replace two Board members with terms that had expired, the names of Alvin Sevald of Minneapolis, and Robert Wise from Ohio were placed in nomination. President Schmidt asked for additional nominations from the floor. There were none, and the names submitted by the nominating committee were unanimously approved.

The list of Court of Honor flowers and the exhibitors was read by Lois Laning.

No additional new or old business was forthcoming. The meeting was adjourned.

Following the meeting, an auction was held of donated peony roots. Gus Sindt and Chuck Klehm were the auctioneers. It was financially very successful.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The meeting of the Board of Directors was called to order by President Schmidt in the gatehouse at Kingwood Center, at 8:00 a.m., June 6, 1993.

The Directors present were: Lois Klehm and Chuck Klehm—Illinois, John Simkins—Canada, Joe Glocka and Carroll Spangler—Wisconsin, Leila Bradfield and Chris Laning—Michigan, Robert Wise and Bob Schmidt—Ohio, Don Hollingsworth—Missouri, and Kent Crossley—Minnesota.

President Schmidt called the meeting to order. The Board unanimously approved the Minutes of the 1992 Board of Directors meeting which were read by Kent Crossley (who was serving as Secretary for the meeting).

Conversations about audiovisual materials continued from the 1992 meeting. Joe Glocka indicated that his son had equipment to prepare videos. Don Hollingsworth moved and Chuck Klehm seconded that the Society investigate preparing a video and allowing Joe and his

son to be reimbursed (and advanced funds if needed) for a trial video. Unanimously approved. Joe Glocka will report back to the Board next year.

Discussion was held of future meeting dates and cities. Chuck Klehm noted that the Chicago Botanic Garden has recently expanded and is holding the first weekend in June next year for us. The Board unanimously agreed to hold the show there. For 1995, Van Wert, Ohio was proposed. Mr. Schmidt and Mr. Wise will discuss this option with the planners there. In 1996, the meeting would be in Mansfield or Minneapolis.

The Board reviewed recent correspondence related to issues of terminology and decided to not change its position. A letter about tissue culture of peonies was read by Don Hollingsworth who had received it from Wye College, London.

Considerable discussion was held about the Gold Medal peony. The Board did not select a Gold Medal winner for 1993. It reaffirmed its position that Gold Medal peonies should be widely grown and available, and that they should be affordable. **Paul M. Wild, Roselette, Vivid Rose, Old Faithful**, the Itoh hybrids, and **Prairie Moon** were all discussed.

The Board unanimously agreed that a Class 196C should be added to be a three-bloom equivalent to Class 181C.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

Kent Crossley, acting secretary

★ ★ ★ ★

— SEED —

Partial list of seed for distribution—December issue of the **BULLETIN** may have more. Seed will be ripe in September—harvest some of your seed. Write the name of the pod parent on your packet and send to Chris. In turn, he sends your seed to many countries—seed is free, but postage is required.

LACTIFLORA from dark red clones
from mixed colors
from **Minnie Shaylor**

TETRAPLOID from dark red clones
from mixed colors
from #114 (**Crimson Classic**)
from Roy Pehrson's **Best Yellow**

and a few Nosegay F4's which are mlokosewitschi x tenuifolia,
and a few T.P. (suffruticosa) seeds

Address: Chris Laning
553 West F. Ave., Kalamazoo, Michigan 49004

★ ★ ★ ★

REPORT

The 1992-1993 Winter has been a long one for almost everyone who grows the peony; from east to west, north to south, the storms have been vicious. Winter came early here in the Midwest, in October, which made it impossible to get all the Fall work done. One of the nice features about the peony is that they are underground in the Winter and unaware of the weather conditions of Mother Nature. Even though Spring has been slow in coming, it is now May 18th and the peonies look the best, with their pretty green foliage.

The business of the Society continues daily with letters asking for information regarding the peony, culture, varieties, types for planting and for cutting. Fond memories are recalled about the peonies that grew in their mother's garden, and they visualize the same for their own.

Our publications have been well received. From time to time, it is necessary to reprint the books, especially The Handbook of the Peony, as it is very popular. At the present time, the book "*The Best of 75 Years*" has been updated as to pertinent information regarding the list of Gold Medal Peonies, Grand Champions, and also dates of the national conventions and a record of the deaths up to the present time. This reprint will be completed this early Summer.

All commitments have been met this year, all bills have been paid, and there are no outstanding accounts. It is with appreciation and thanks for your payment of dues and interest in our informative books, that has made it possible for us to present this most satisfactory financial report.

Greta M. Kessenich
Secretary/Treasurer

THE GOLD MEDAL PEONIES

No Gold Medal awarded from 1975 until 1980.

CYTHEREA (Saunders, 1953), Ithaca, New York, 1980
BOWL OF CREAM (Klehms, 1963), Kingwood Center, 1981
WESTERNER (Bigger, 1942), Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, 1982
CHINESE DRAGON (Saunders), Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 1983
DOLORODELL (Lins, 1942), Kingwood Center, 1984
BURMA RUBY (Glasscock, 1951), Mahomet, IL, 1985
CORAL CHARM (Wissing, 1964), Minneapolis, 1986
NORMA VOLZ (A. L. Volz, 1968), Kingwood Center, 1987
PAULA FAY (Fay, 1962), Chicago Botanical Gardens, 1988
HIGH NOON (Saunders, 1952 TP.), Janesville, Wisconsin, 1989
SEA SHELL (Sass, 1937), Kingwood Center, 1990
WHITE CAP (Winchell, 1966), Royal Botanical Gardens, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, 1991
AMERICA (Rudolph, 1956), Des Plains, Illinois, 1992
No Award—1993

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

June 1, 1992 - June 1, 1993

BALANCE ON HAND, JUNE 1, 1992.....\$ 71,146.48

RECEIPTS:

Membership Dues.....	\$ 8,807.60
Advertising.....	804.50
A.P.S. Auction.....	1,349.90
Nomenclature Registrations.....	<u>75.00</u>
	\$ 11,037.00

PUBLICATIONS:

Handbooks.....	\$ 783.10
Bulletins.....	50.40
"The Peonies".....	132.00
History of Peonies and Their Originations... Book, A.P.S. "75 Years".....	475.00 360.00
Book, Peonies 1976-1986.....	260.00
American Tree Peony Book.....	1,600.00
American Hybrid Peony Book.....	<u>1,552.50</u>
	\$ 5,213.00

INTEREST ON SAVINGS.....\$ 1,292.46

TOTAL RECEIPTS.....\$ 17,542.46
\$88,688.94

DISBURSEMENTS:

Publications - Four Bulletins (June, Sept., Dec., March).....	\$ 6,927.54
American Peony Society Postage.....	2,719.71
Office Supplies.....	302.14
Exhibitions.....	192.54
Printing.....	664.79
Miscellaneous.....	19.17
Refund.....	57.50

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS.....\$ 10,883.39

BALANCE ON HAND, JUNE 1, 1993.....\$ 77,805.55

Greta M. Kessenich,
Secretary/Treasurer

1993 PEONY SEASON

G. D. Whitsett, Columbus, Ohio

The season is at an end in my garden. The bloom was good but there was more rain and wind than they needed. I'm sure you know what the results were. Beautiful as the lactiflora doubles are, from year to year I get more displeased with their inability to stand up under adverse weather conditions. I have begun to plant Japs, which weather better (though not as well as I would like). On the whole, because of the lighter petalage, my hybrids do best, although some of them flop, also—**Postilion** and **Red Charm**, for instance. **Robert Auten** was probably my best all-around peony this year. **Old Faithful**, so far, has been excellent. It stays up and looks spruce under all weather—it has had to endure here. The heavy substance makes the bloom long lasting. **President Lincoln** turned in a winning performance, too, in a very large clump.

One of the surprises of the season was the performance of a plant I bought for **Otto Froebel**, which is not true to name. It obviously belongs in the species or hybrid category—probably I will never identify it! The small orangy flowers lasted a very long time on the plant, with no flopping or weather damage.

Some of the older Japs have turned out to be very durable. I moved three from Illinois in 1960; unfortunately, the person that dug them did not label them so I no longer can identify them. They have lasted amazingly well.

Now it is clean-up time, and quite frankly I am always relieved when I get all of these tired beauties made presentable again.

I have made many crosses again this year—all hybrid crosses of one kind or another. The seed yield will no doubt be small, but that is fine. I am cramped for space and must reduce my iris planting by at least one-half, and also pitch and give away numerous tree peony seedlings.

FOR SALE

A complete set of American Peony Society Bulletins. Beginning with #1, and including the present Bulletin #286.

Will sell to the highest bidder.

Write to:

Myron D. Bigger

201 N. Rice Road

Topeka, Kansas 66616

★ ★ ★ ★

PAEONIA: WILD PEONIES

Geoffrey B. Charlesworth

HO 66, Box 114, Norfolk Rd., Sandisfield, MA 01255 U.S.A.

Peonies are rock plants. That is they come from the mountainous regions of Europe, Asia and North America. If you have room you could plant the species peonies in a rock garden or in association with a rock garden. The hybrids, selections, and the doubles are so sumptuous, majestic and conspicuous that they need very careful placing even in borders, and make good specimen plants, singly or in groups. And they would be totally out of place in a rock garden.

The 'garden' types are of three kinds: 1. The many good forms and hybrids of *P. officinalis* (for instance '**Rubra Plena**'), which would include doubles, forms in which the stamens formed a petaloid boss as well as hybrids with similar species; 2. The Chinese hybrids descended mostly from *P. lactiflora* (e.g. **Festiva Maxima**, **Felix Crousse**, etc.); 3. Tree peonies, the woody plants not exactly shrub-like, and certainly not tree-like, that retain their stems above ground all Winter and produce fabulous large flowers and are descended from *P. suffruticosa* for the most part. Many other species have been used to produce all three kinds of familiar garden plant. Buy them from Nurseries as mature plants cloned from a named form. Self-sown seed is sometimes ok, but it would be a fluke to get anything better than the parents.

All the species are worth trying from seed. A few species are probably tender in Mass., but there may not be enough accumulated experience to say for certain which are definitely not worth the trouble. Seed is available in every seed list. A good way to germinate it is to find a suitable spot in the garden and push the seed into the soil with your thumb, about an inch down. If you do this in March when the ground has thawed, by the following Spring you may get leaves showing. If not, wait another year before you pull out the label. Once they start growing you could expect flowers in a couple of years. After germination, I usually dig them up and pot them to over-winter in a cold frame because they are sown close together and must be transplanted in any case. This gives you a few months to consider where you want to grow these large plants. Don't keep them in pots too long because the roots grow quickly and need room to grow straight.

The species have a lot of mixed up names and the European *P. officinalis* has many relatives. In the list that follows I grouped the species related to *officinalis* together, although *mascula* and *peregrina* are probably valid species with their own entourage of satellites. *Veitchii* also has its own group of relatives.

I haven't grown enough of them or for long enough to write full

descriptions and prescriptions. My information comes from Thomas, Farrer, RHS, and Hortus. The distinguishing identifiers appear to be: leaf shape and color, number of carpels (when the seed is ripe you can see the seed pod is divided into a number of segments and the seed sits very attractively exposed in the carpels), color of seed, color of filaments (stamens).

Until recently I had no success with the only US peony, *P. brownii*. Not even one germination in ten years of sowing seed. All the others have been satisfactory. If I had to recommend a selection of easily available, easily grown species I would say: *officinalis*, *peregrina*, *obovata alba*, *potaninii*. This would reflect my own experience but you should grow whatever you can get hold of. But now I think I know how to germinate *P. brownii*, but I have no tips yet about how to keep them alive once they have germinated.

List of Species Peonies

anomala (sometimes called *lobata*) allied to *veitchii*, glabrous leaves divided-like

veitchii — 18"/crimson (= *laciniata*)

anomala v. *intermedia* — hairy carpels

bakeri: — 2 ft.

beresowskyi — = *veitchii*

broteri: like *daurica* — 16"/rose crimson/glittering glabrous green, glaucous underneath/2-4 woolly carpels/filaments yellow/anthers yellow

broteri v. *obovatifolia* = *anomala* = *lobata* — 2 ft. rose

brownii: dark red flowers don't open wide/glabrous leaves tipped with scarlet/10-18"/stamens yellowish/5 carpels

brownii ssp *californica*: purplish/3 carpels. Sometimes given species status as *P. californica*.

cambessedesii: (seedlings) tender, rare, 15"-18"/pink, purplish under leaves/undivided leaflets/filaments red/anthers yellow/5-8 carpels

caucasica = *mascula* ssp *mascula*

clusii: ?tender ?shortlived/= *officinalis cretica*

daurica: round greyish leaves with undulate margin/cerise/yellow stamens

emodi: white/gold stamens/12-30"/glabrous green

humilis: = *officinalis* v. *humilis* — 10-18" red magenta/hairy stalks/filaments red/carpels 2-3

humilis v. *villosa* = *paradoxa*/carpels hairy

kevachensis:

kesrouanensis: like *mascula* but with glabrous carpels

lactiflora: = *albiflora* = *edulis* = *fragrans* = *reeuseiana* = *chinensis* (hort). Chinese hybrids parent/dark green, hairy on veins/white. X *smouthii* = *lactiflora* X *tenuifoila*.

mlokosewitchii: early/lemon yellow/soft downy grey foliage

mollis: = *pubens*?/hybrid/greyish/magenta/spreads/sad crimson

officinalis: dark green/spreads/downy beneath/rosy/filaments red
anemonae flora: deep pink, crimson/color form/filaments crimson,
twisted, edged with yellow

ssp banatica: tall rose red, pink/20"/glabrous/filaments
red/anthers yellow

coriacea: downless *corallina* — close to *cambessedessii*/2
carpels/undivided leaflets

corallina: = *officinalis mascula* = *mascula ssp mascula*. *ssp*
humilis: q.v.

mascula: *ssp* of *officinalis*/2-3 ft./dark green above, glaucous
below/rose red/filaments red/carpels 3-5

mascula ssp arietina: = *cretica*, includes *bakeri*/spreads/magenta,
deep red to bright purple/leaves hairy below/30" (= *peregrina* accord-
ing to the new RHS)

mascula ssp russii: 'form of *corallina*.' magenta/cream boss/glossy
brown-green

triternata: *ssp* of *mascula*

peregrina: species but related to *officinalis*: spreads/bluish-green,
shiny green above, glaucous below/red, pink

decora: *ssp* of *peregrina*, smaller segments

peregrina v. humilis

paradoxa: dwarfer *peregrina*/purplish/ = *officinalis humilis*

villosa: *ssp* of *officinalis* (= *microcarpal*): stems, petioles, carpels
hairy

obovata: = *japonica*

obovata alba: grey-green + copper/white/blue seeds/gold sta-
mens/crimson center

obovata alba v. willmottiae: earlier/more robust

pallassii: pink

rhodia: 1 ft./white/red filaments/2-5 carpels

sterniana: 1-3 ft./white/white filaments, yellow anthers/5-10 indi-
go seeds in pale green carpels

tenuifolia: 1-2 ft./finely divided, ferny/intense crimson/yellow sta-
mens/spreads

triternata: = *daurica*, dark foliage/pink

veitchii: 8-20"/fresh green, long fingered/nodding, deep
magenta/pink filaments/cream anthers/bluish seeds

v. alba: white

v. berosowskii: cream to light pink

v. woodwardii: clear light pink/dwarfer, 1 ft.

wittmanniana: = *tomentosa* — downy carpels/shining, little divided,
coarse/pale yellow, white, fleeting, single, tinted yellowish green at
first/reddish filaments/crimson stigma/jet-black seeds

v. macrophylla: immense leaves/yellow/rare

Shrubs

delavayi: 3 ft./dark red/filament dark crimson/golden anthers/no

down/leaves, doubly pinnatifid, persist in winter/black seed (name used for superior form of *lutea*)

lutea: dark green above, glaucous below/yellow/3 ft./fragrant

lutea v. ludlowii: 6-8 ft./larger flowers/hardier/earlier/only one or two fertile capsules

moutan = *suffruticosa*

potaninii: 5 ft., small flowers/suckers from root/rich maroon nodding/conspicuous fleshy disk at base of carpels/filaments red (sometimes a ssp. of *delavayi*) (= *delavayi v. angustiloba*)

trollioides: yellow form/not opening wide

X lemoinei - lutea X suffruticosa

suffruticosa: tree peony, moutan peony/6 ft./"King of flowers" (Hua Wang)/uncommon in wild. Domesticated since 7thC. It isn't likely you will get seed of the 'original' species. You had better regard the tree peonies as cultivated plants unsuitable for the rock garden whatever Farrer says.

Care

Books recommend deep digging, soil improvement (limestone, bonemeal not manure), never move, never divide. We have moved hybrid peonies in full bloom and have divided ruthlessly when they were crowded. The roots are massive and confused but nothing bad happened. One school of thought is: you can move anything at any time if you take enough dirt. The soil seems to fall away from peony roots and it certainly will drop off if you divide them. The hole must be large in order to accommodate the roots. I have never done this with tree peonies or with species.

Nearly all my peonies are in full sun but *P. obovata alba* grows and flowers in dappled shade in the wood. Partial shade is usually recommended for tree peonies but I don't think that is vital in New England. Peonies fail in southern gardens because they don't get a long enough period of Winter dormancy. Perhaps the more tender species would grow there: *P. cambessedessii*, *P. arietina*, *P. officinalis cretica*. Since species are not available commercially and most gardeners are 'afraid' of growing from seed there is probably not enough experimentation done to know.

With hybrid peonies bred for huge double flowers, the stalks may need supporting with a peony ring. I don't support any of the species and very few hybrids. If a wet period arrives as the flowers of the hybrids open fully (this would be quite usual!), the heads fill with water and the stalks bend over gracefully or fatally depending on the rainfall and speed of drying. This gives you an excuse to have cut flowers in the kitchen. Species don't do this because they are single and also short lived. The colorful seeds are a bonus, so deadheading is unnecessary, but obligatory for the hybrids. The self-sown offspring are never very exciting although they could be used in a wild area. It may seem obvious that you shouldn't cut down the stalks of

the woody peonies but I have managed to do just that a couple of times in a frenzy of clearing up. The herbaceous types are usually cut down before the Winter to avoid their nuisance value in Spring. After the leaves are frosted brown they cease to be decorative. The shrubby types are not decorative either but they provide minor excitement during the Winter displaying their new buds. If tree peonies get leggy, try chopping down before the Winter. Judging from my errors, growth will return in Spring.

To return to the legitimacy of peonies in a rock garden: *P. potanini* is from the hills around Yungning in China; *peregrina* from "under the wooded rock walls and bluffs of Mt. Baldo"; *japonica* from the "copsy slopes above Shoju"; *P. brownii* from Yellowstone and the Grand Tetons west to the coast. These are not the world's highest places and not 'alpine,' but then you are not going to put a peony in a trough with androsaces or even in a raised bed with eriogonums. But a species peony would work wherever you think a low shrub would look good in a large rock garden.

The only other member of the family *Paeoniaceae* is *Glaucidium*. This assumes you split the family *Ranunculaceae*. *Glaucidium* may or may not go with the peonies. There is only one species *Glaucidium palmatum*. This has flat winged seeds as distinct from peonies which have arils and are fat thick skinned seeds. Think about the scarlet covering of a euonymus seed. This 'aril' is a leftover from the stalk that holds the seed. In the case of a peony there is only a lumpy collar around the place where the seed was attached. *Glaucidium* seed looks more like a flattened Saturn with papery rings. *Glaucidium* is hardy in Massachusetts. Like peonies, it requires cold Winters but doesn't like hot Summers. It looks very much like a single peony but has an indescribable elegance and only four petals so you couldn't mistake it for *Paeonia obovata alba* which has five. All peonies have at least five petals. Also the 'petals' of *Glaucidium* are really sepals, whereas peonies have petals and sepals. The sepals don't fall off as they do in most *Ranunculaceae*. Another difference is that peony pistils are on a disk, but that isn't something you want to examine since the whole point is to enjoy the flowers and not pull them apart.

★ ★ ★ ★

"I am pleased to note that my last registration 'Aimee's Pink' has lived up to my fondest expectations—the fragrance is superior; it kept my study perfumed for eight days. We had the best blooming season here that I have ever experienced—cool and wet, wet, wet! I cut my buds for market, only about two or three times in dry weather. Best I can remember and the plants, to this day, seem healthier than at any time in the past; green and vigorous, with no brown or discoloration."

Granville Hall, Gloucester, Virginia

PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS ON GERMINATION OF PEONIES SPECIES

By Irmtraud und Gottlob Rieck, Germany

This Spring we had the honor to be the German hosts of Prof. Hong Tao. His personality impressed us very deeply, especially his modesty, patience and enthusiasm for peonies. We learned a lot about Botany, also, in this week, as you can imagine. We really missed him after his leave, and feel this visit was a highlight in our life.

He encouraged us to publish our observations, and here you see our first attempt to describe our observations in English.

This Spring we had the third very warm Spring in a row with light like in the Mediterranean countries, and the weather forecasts say another hot Summer. It doesn't rain enough anymore and the traffic produces such an amount of pollution, that on clear sunny days there develops a high ozone-pollution. Three of our species from last year's planting look like burnt, where last year they were okay. Besides that, we noticed more fungi at the hybrids than ever before. Are these signs for the climate-catastrophe we're expecting? Nevertheless, our peony bloom was outstanding.

Over the last 10 years, my husband and I have tried to germinate as many peony species we could get from different sources.

During our first attempts in peony raising we've tried every method we could find in literature, and to confess the truth it still hurts how many seeds we've lost. We learned that the peony first needs a warm period to develop the hypocotyl (root) followed by a cold period to let the epicotyl and the cotyledons grow.

Over the years we have become convinced that only one method is acceptable for our garden and our personal situation: **Let nature do it!** We have to observe and to imagine what nature does. In Fall, parts of the seeds fall off the carpels to the ground. Neighboring plants may die and cover the seeds, but we suppose there will be not more cover than one centimeter or a third of an inch.

So what kind of method did we develop? As soon as we receive the seeds, we're sowing them immediately in earthenware pots. The germination rate is higher if you get fresh and moist seeds. We take normal flowersoil (vegetable mould?) from the supermarket, because it is free of weeds, and sow as deep as one centimeter or about a third of an inch. The pots we dig nearly as deep as their height in a special sand bed. In former times, we just took our loam, but there, too many snails hide under the pots. This bed is located on the North-side of our water cistern in the vegetable garden in the shadow. During Summer, as often as we water the vegetables the peony seeds get a shower. Next to the cistern there is a huge bamboo which loses

part of its leaves during Winter. These dry leaves, which do not rot, cover the species seed pots during Winter and give protection to our kind of Winter (frost and thawing, frost and thawing, nearly no snow). Somewhere we read that bamboo leaves do not have a substance that protects against fungus (cannot find this information anymore) and we have never observed fungi at the seedlings. For instance, this Winter '92/'93, at the middle of January was a very warm period, and seedlings of *P. ruprechtii* raised their leaves. We covered them with more bamboo leaves because there followed a bare freezing of more than minus 15 degrees Celsius. We were afraid they wouldn't survive but they did. It's incredible what these tiny plants can stand. We raised all our plants this way, even *P. cambessedesii*, *clusii*, *emodi obovata* and *brownii*, which are more adapted to a warmer climate than ours. We lost the *brownii* that we kept in the refrigerator after taking them out of this artificial medium. We are sure that some peony-lovers are more skillful in using unnatural germination methods. Nevertheless, our germination rates of the last 5-6 years show our method in our climate is a fairly safe one and adapted to our personal situation.

The next step which seems important to us is how to get the seedlings out of the earthenware pot, because all these faint little roots stick to the pot. For this procedure we place the whole pot in a bucket filled with water. As soon as there are no more air bubbles we turn the whole pot upside down and start wiggling it until the plants come off. This might be compared with giving birth under water. It is very easy to separate them from one another if you work below water level, also. Then we plant the seedlings immediately in the prepared loam of our former vegetable beds. The time to do this best is about the middle of May, when the seedlings are strong enough to handle and there will be no more frosts. To plant the seedlings later is not advisable because they do not have enough time to develop new roots. It is good to protect the seedlings against sunburn on clear days. Our Lux account is lesser than the Lux account of most origins of the species (we live between 49 and 50 degree of latitude, about Vancouver, Canada). But in Crete or Italy, where we have seen species growing in the 'wild,' we noticed that most little seedlings are growing in the shade.

Another important rule in raising peonies from seeds is: **Be patient.** Do not stir in the seedpots before two or three years are over. After this time you cannot expect anymore to be alive. Especially dried seeds might need one year more to germinate.

The next and most important rule is: **Keep records.** If we would have kept the same records from the beginning as we keep now, we would have been able to learn even more than we already have.

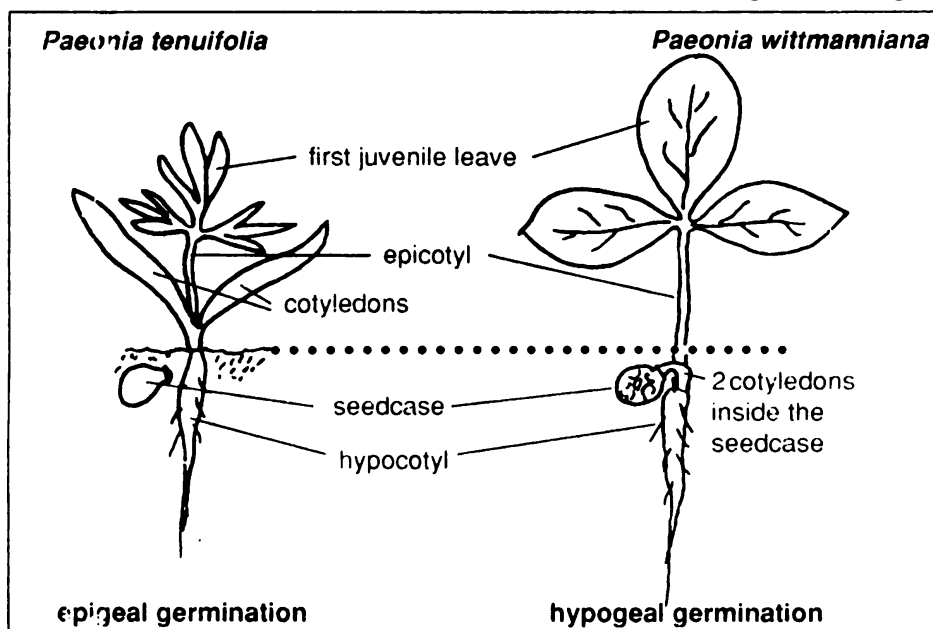
(But back to our experiences in germination of peonies!)

Some of the received seeds turned out to be something else and

were never true to name. Especially those seeds were very helpful to learn by the object, and we wouldn't have missed the experiences we've had. These experiences made us suspicious and forced us to observe the seedlings much more exactly than we would have done if we were sure about the subject. We started to take pictures of the seedlings and to make drawings and descriptions, and hoped to be able one day to recognize a species as a peony true to name or not, just by inspiring the seedling.

These observations we published in 1989/90 in the Bulletin of the German Perennial Society (Gesellschaft der Staudenfreunde) and with the botanical knowledge of a member of this Society we noticed that peonies germinate in two different ways.

The first group germinates **epigeal**: first the cotyledons are raised above the surface of the ground, then the first true leaves develop from the plumule between the cotyledons. To describe it more commonly—the seedling looks similar to a parsley. As far as we could observe *P. tenuifolia* and *P. brownii* belong to this group.



We have not been successful with *P. californica*, but we assume it belongs to this group, also, as it is so closely related to *P. brownii*.

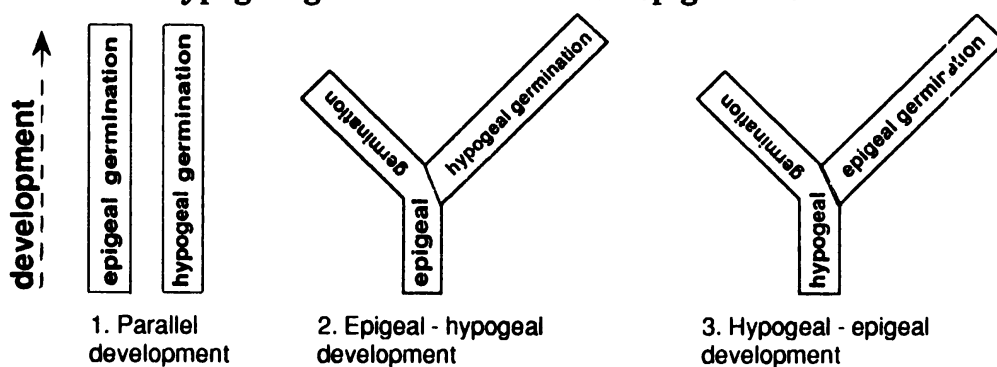
The second group germinates **hypogeal**: the cotyledons remain protected in the seed case and the first juvenile leaf appears above the ground. Under this category come the following peonies: *P. rockii* cv., *P. lutea* var. *ludlowii*, *P. delavayi*, *P. suffruticosa* cv, *P. mlokosewitschi*, *P. wittmanniana*, *P. ruprechtii*, *P. cambessedessii*, *P. mascula*, *P. obovata*, *P. japonica*, *P. lactiflora*, *P. emodi*, *P. peregrina*, *P. officinalis*, *P. clusii*, *P. tenuifolia*, *P. veitchii*. The seedcast sticks very tight to the seedling.

In this stage of germination the seedlings are in danger of snail cut. Nevertheless, it is surprising how some seedlings are able to

survive. Some *P. tenuifolia* seedlings were cut down by snails, the cotyledons gone but the plumule remained. This developed to a primary leaf in the same way as the other undisturbed seedlings. In the hypogeal group we noticed snail damage at seedlings of *P. rockiii* cv., the primary leaf gone. To our wonder, the epicotyl opened vertically and did bear another substitutional leaf.

Since the observation of the two ways of germination, we have the following questions: What is the reason why peonies germinate in two different ways? And why do peonies of so different origins like *P. brownii* from America, and *P. tenuifolia* from the Caucasus region germinate in the same epigeal way? Is it possible that their chromosomes are more closely related to one another than the peonies of the hypogeal group? Is this question important to evolutionary history of the peonies? Is it more efficient of a hypogeal peony to leave the cotyledons inside the protecting seedcase? On the other hand, did the epigeal peonies have lesser enemies, so they were not forced to hide their cotyledons? Which germination developed first? There are three different developments to speculate about:

- a parallel development of epigeal and hypogeal germination
- first epigeal germination and later a departed hypogeal germination
- first hypogeal germination and then epigeal one



We're hoping somebody with more botanical background and knowledge than we have is willing to teach us. It would be greatly appreciated. To receive further information about this subject would be most interesting.

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PEONY SALE

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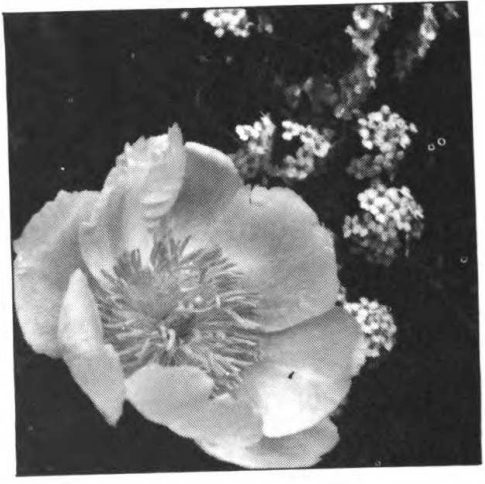
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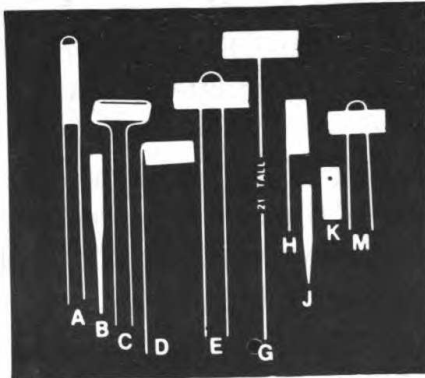
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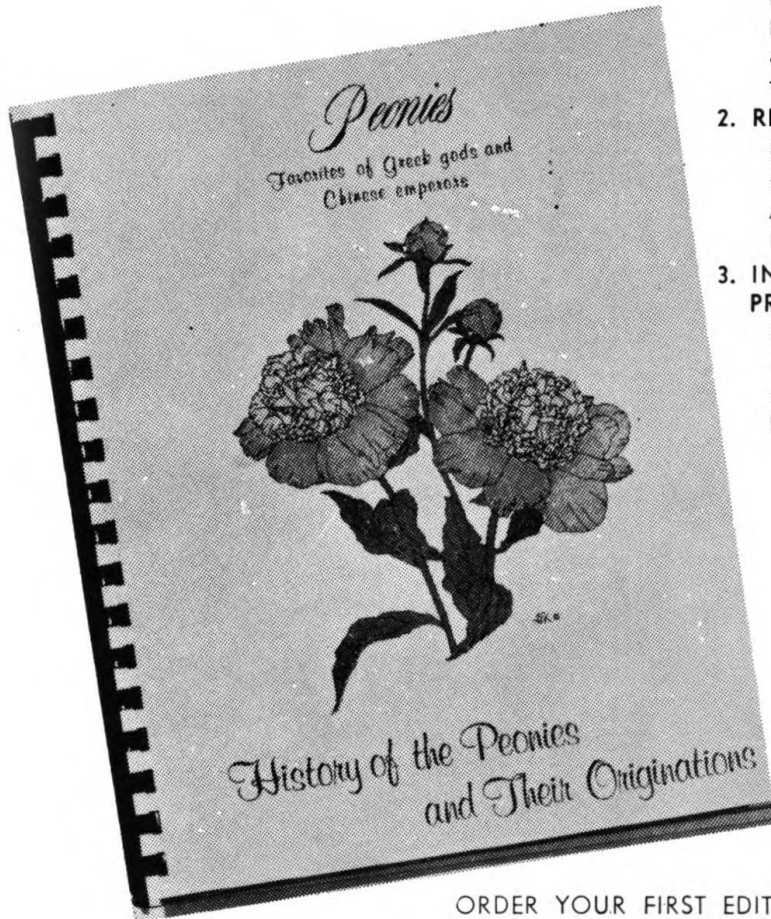
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