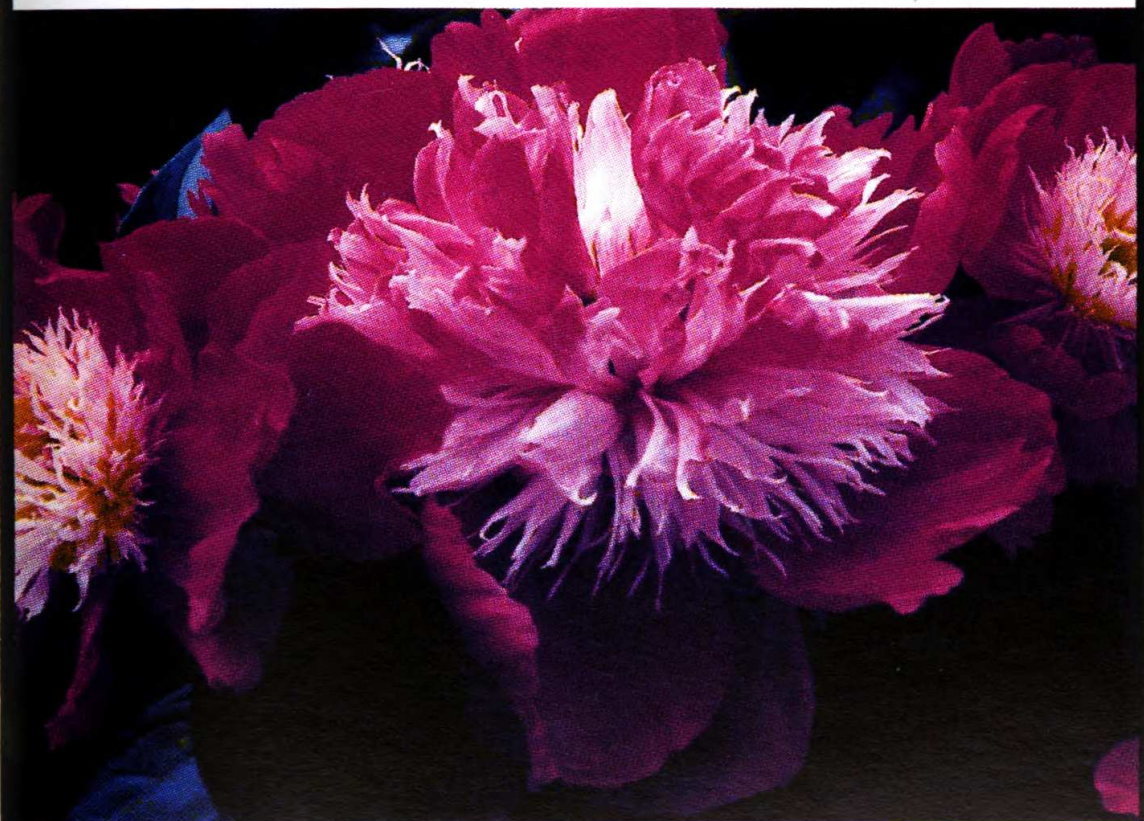
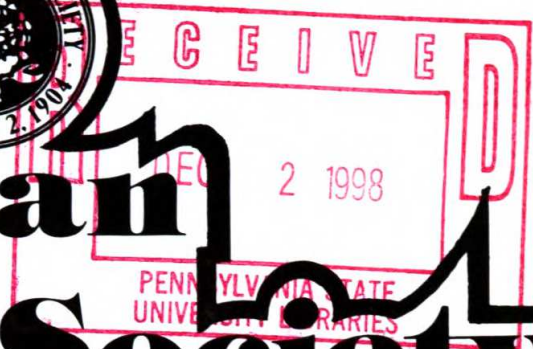


DECEMBER 1998

NO. 308



The American Peony Society Bulletin



New Introduction (R.W. Tischler Tischler Peony Garden, Fairbault, MN)

Almost double anemone, color blending from dark rose pink to pale with white tips. One hundred blooms on the plant the last two years.

See registration, page 9

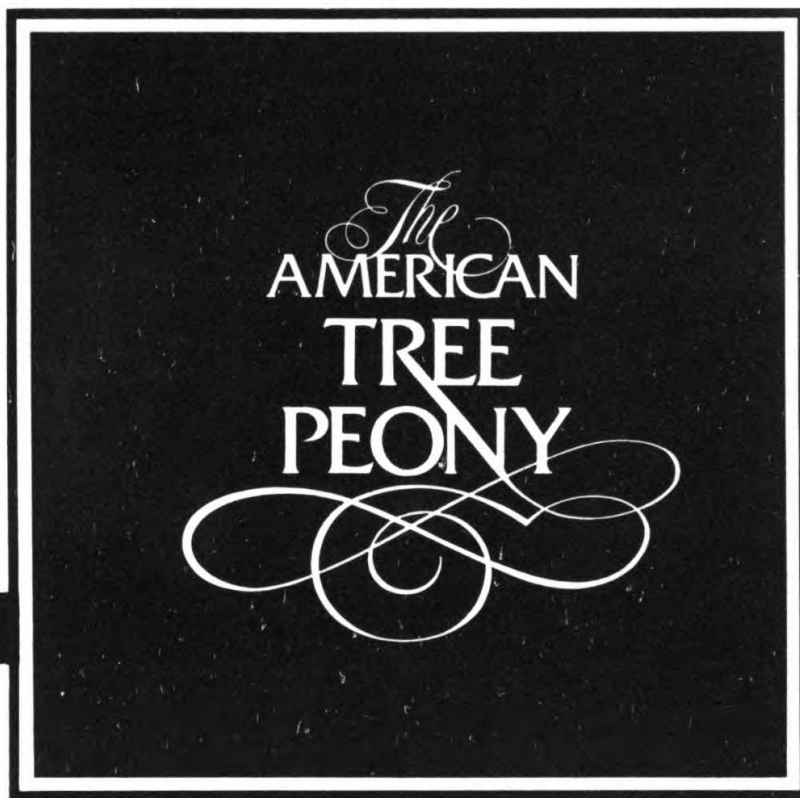
From the garden of Peggy Gilmore, Missouri Valley, Iowa

Photo — Tom Gilmore

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Appended cultural notes cover:

- *Tree Peony history*
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- *Pruning, fertilization, winter protection, etc.*

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

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

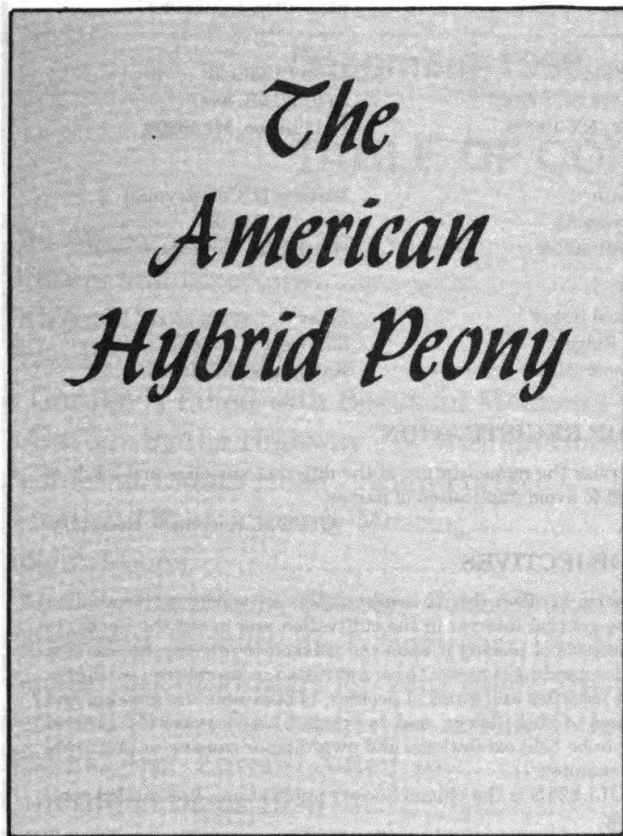
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*Devised and
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DEPT. OF REGISTRATION

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

Greta M. Kessenich, Secretary

OBJECTIVES

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

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

MEMBERSHIP

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

Single Annual	\$7.50	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

December 1998 — NO. 308

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

After missing my first Board of Director's meeting in five years, I was informed in a letter from Greta that I'd been elected President of the American Peony Society. Part of that job is to write a message for the quarterly *Bulletin*. It seems ironic that I'd be elected to this national office after finishing a community theater production in May called "Camping with Henry and Tom."

It is an historical accounting of a camping trip taken by Henry Ford and Thomas Edison to the Maryland mountains, in July, 1921. Ford invited President Warren Harding to accompany them on this excursion. I played the part of Pres. Harding. During the play, Ford announces he wants to be president of the USA, while Harding states he never wanted the job, but would finish his elected term of office as best he could. My sentiments exactly.

A short bio of myself: I live in west central Ohio about halfway between Cincinnati and Toledo, near I-75. My wife, Helen, and I will celebrate 40 years of marriage in August 1999. We are the parents of five daughters and six grandchildren. I retired from the U.S. Postal Service in 1992, after 28 years as a city carrier in nearby Sidney. I now work for a local company that publishes *COIN WORLD* and *LINN'S STAMP NEWS* which have weekly world-wide circulations. They also publish several daily newspapers. I take out-going mail to the Post Office and pick up in-coming mail. Just can't get away from mail delivery.

As you read this—the first week in December—many parts of the northern hemisphere might have snow on the ground. Growing peonies could be the farthest thing from your minds now. However, please take the time and jot down, on the back of your membership renewal notice, some of your successes and/or failures of growing peonies in 1998. It would keep Greta from sending out a *Bulletin* in March with a few blank pages inside. Other members would like to read about your experiences. For some of our newer members, who haven't had much experience in growing peonies, drop me a line, or better yet, give me a call. I'd love to talk peonies with you.

At some national peony shows, I get the chance to talk with some of the visitors about the flower we all joined this Society to learn more about. I remember talking with a man from Oregon at the Royal Botanical Gardens in Hamilton Ontario two years ago. He was so enthusiastic in picking my brain for information about the peony. At the same show, I met a Canadian television personality, Kathy Renwald, who hosts garden shows around Hamilton and is also featured on HGTV, a cable television network in the USA.

When it comes to growing peonies, I'm strictly a hobbyist. If I have time, I weed and fertilize them. If not, it doesn't get done. The same with harvesting seeds, planting them, and caring for the seedlings. I know it's not a good example for all the people who have perfectly manicured gardens without a single weed or flower out of place. But that's my style!

Robert (Bob) Wise




5423 Hardin Wapak, Sidney, OH 45365 — Phone: 937/492-0474



*A Garden is Filled
with Beautiful Moments*



By Corinne L. Duncan

- ~ The moments of a new dawn as the rays of light filter in
and change the shadows.
- ~ The moments of amazement as we see God's workmanship
in the life that springs up from the soil.
- ~ The moment a flower opens and we want to etch its form
and fragrance into our minds.
- ~ The moment an iridescent hummingbird arrives
to give it lively motion.
- ~ The moments of rest as soft warm breezes 
gently touch our faces.
- ~ The moments of thankfulness as first a sprinkle, 
then a shower, makes the air smell fresh
and heaven's water does its miracle.
- ~ The moments of comfort as the birds sing tunes to our souls.
- ~ The moments of quiet serenity as the setting sun
announces evening's arrival, 
and we take the garden into our dreams.



* * * *

A GARDEN BY THE HIGHWAY

C. William Goff, Pittsburgh, PA

For many years now, I have traveled a busy state highway near our house in Pittsburgh. As our suburban community grows and expands through new construction and the inevitable "urban sprawl," I have witnessed this road become more and more congested with traffic, noise—and yes—even road rage. In the last few years, my drive has taken on a more frantic character.

Amid all this frenzy, however, was a favorite visual oasis of mine at an intersection of this highway. I would wait patiently at a stop-light and often had time to admire a border garden happily growing in front of an old, wooden frame house. It was a small rectangular area, neatly placed to one side of the front porch, and its borders were meticulously straight and sharp. Often I would smile to myself as I watched an elderly woman as she lovingly tended this tiny piece of earth. She was bent over, with worn hands and wispy white hair unsuccessfully tied back in a bun, and her homespun appearance was enhanced by the simple apron she wore over her dress. She frequently carried with her a water bucket which contained her many hand tools.

The plants in the garden were common...a clump of bright yellow

daffodils in March, an old rose—with light pink flowers mainly—in June, a dark blue German iris, and right in the center, a large dark pink double peony, blooming in all its splendor and glory. A few annuals provided color until the chill of frost in October.

For me, this small yet significant garden represented a slowing down of life amid the craziness of the outside world, and a small bit of happy anticipation would run through me as my car neared her house. I would watch this frail woman in the minute or so my car waited at the traffic light, and my life would be transformed and refreshed, albeit just for a moment. I then sighed as the traffic light turned green, and my car sped onward into that stream of busyness of the 90's in which we all seem to be trapped.

Several years have passed, and I can't remember exactly when I finally realized that the old woman was no longer in her home. I continued to enjoy her garden, but I saw her no more. Perhaps she is now enjoying a well-deserved rest in a nursing home, or by chance she is now with family, or maybe she has passed on to a greater reward. One will never know, and I now regret that I never knew her name, or told her just how much I enjoyed her special garden.

These days, as I drive by the old house, a large sign near the front porch announces the new home of a sweeper repair center. Yet, that pink peony still blooms amid the tangle and jumble of weeds in what was once a tiny jewel of a garden. And although its owner is no longer there, I silently give thanks for the rough, gnarled hands of the woman who for many years so gently and lovingly cared for this plot of land...a special garden indeed!

★ ★ ★ ★

PEONIES AT INDIAN HEAD, SASKATCHEWAN, CANADA

Brian Porter

Herbaceous peonies have been growing at the Experimental Farm, Indian Head for more than 100 years, although the collection has been revised and replanted many times. While initially grown at the experimental Farm as part of trials to determine what was hardy in the prairie region of Western Canada (US zone 3), today the peonies serve mainly as a demonstration plot and to beautify the grounds.

Recently, the entire peony collection was relocated. This was brought about in part by staff reductions which made it difficult to adequately maintain the peonies and other ornamental plants (lilies, roses and shrubs) in the location where they were growing. The area was highly visible to the public as they entered the grounds of the Experimental Farm. Eventually the decision was made to disseminate as much of the ornamental material as possible, and keep only

the peonies. At the same time, however, it was decided to downsize the peony collection to two plants of each cultivar. Originally, the 1959 planting plan had included 6 of each.

In September of 1995, two plants (if present) were dug from the heavy clay soil with tree movers and the soil then removed manually. A group of volunteers (of which I was part) were recruited to divide the roots. While there were only about 8 of us, we had the incentive of getting some roots for our personal gardens, once the new roots had been planted. Dividing the 36-year-old roots was not easy; in some cases we used huge knives, cleavers and hammers to make the divisions. Two new planting beds had been prepared beforehand, and staked to indicate where the new roots would be planted, so a crew of two were able to quickly plant two of each cultivar in the beds.

The remaining peony roots were divided among the volunteers, and leftovers were later offered to the farm staff. There were still as many as four plants left growing in their former location. The following year, those remaining roots were dug and divided, and offered to several Western Canadian cities. Those taking collections (which weren't 100% complete as some cultivars did not furnish enough divisions) included the Parks Departments of Regina, Saskatoon, Weyburn, Estevan, Wolseley and Yorkton Horticultural Society (all in Saskatchewan), Assiniboine Park Conservatory in Winnipeg, Manitoba, and Anapolis Royal Historic Gardens, Nova Scotia.

A few of the cultivars have been very slow to re-establish themselves at Indian Head, and the cultivar Shaylor's Sunburst was lost. For others, only one of the roots took hold. In part, some of the losses seem to be related to botrytis stem, which attacked a number of cultivars which previously had been healthy. The plants had been mulched for the first winter with flax shives, and this was left around the crowns for the following two years. I believe that the shives held too much moisture around the stems, although only rarely were the peonies irrigated. The shives were removed in 1998 and with a very dry spring, botrytis was not a major problem.

The Saskatchewan Horticultural Association has assisted in the past decade or so with the acquisition of some new peony cultivars. Room for an additional 12 cultivars was provided in the fall of 1997, and these have been planted. Because the collection is largely historic, a few old standbys were added, such as **Festiva Maxima** and **Karl Rosenfield**, which had been grown years earlier, but for some reason had been discarded at some point. **Smouthi** was also added. A couple of new cultivars were graciously donated by Don Hollingsworth.

Now, in 1998, the peonies are starting to bloom again. It is hoped that this collection, the largest public collection in Saskatchewan, will stay intact for many more years. But even if it

doesn't, it is reassuring to know that many of these peonies will be in bloom in other locations in Canada.

PEONIES INCLUDED IN THE COLLECTION ARE:

Albert Crousse	Karl Rosenfield
Alice Harding	La Lorraine
Ama-No-Sode	Lois Arlene
Auguste Dessert	Longfellow
Augustin d'Hour**	Ludovica
Bes Bockstoce	Mandaleen
Betty Warner	Miss America*
Bowl of Cream	Mme. Butterfly
Burma Ruby	Mme. Jules Dessert
Cavatina	Monsieur Jules Elie
Chief Justice	Moonstone
Claire de Lune	Morden 4707
Command Performance*	Morden 4711
Coral Charm	Mother's Choice*
Coral Fay	Mrs. F.D. Roosevelt
Coral Supreme	My Love*
Dakota	Nick Shaylor
Denise	Peter Barr
Do Tell	Philippe Rivoire
Early Scout	Pillow Talk*
Ellen Cowley	Prairie Moon
Elsa Sass	Red Charm
Felix Crousse	Requiem
Festiva Maxima*	Richard Carvel
First Lady	Sam Donaldson
Flame	Sarah Bernhardt
Frances Willard	Smouthi
Gay Paree	Sword Dance
Golden Bracelet	Therese
Harry L. Smith*	Tinka Phillips
Honey Gold	Top Brass
Isani Gidui	White Cap*
John Harvard	

* recent acquisition

** identity not yet confirmed

★ ★ ★ ★

SEVENTH DISTRICT

The Heartland Peony Society, 8871 N.W. Brostrom Rd., Kansas City, MO, held their Fall meeting, October 10 at the Rolling Hills Presbyterian Church, 9300 Nall, Overland Park, Kansas.

The Program was a plant sale, and a talk by Dr. K. Gast on Growing Peonies in Kansas.

REGISTRATIONS

GRETA KESSENICH (R. W. Tischler), Tischler Peony Garden, Faribault, Minnesota, 1998.

Seedling #90. Anemone type, with staminodes so full in the center that it is almost a double. The flower is a striking beauty with the deep center a very dark-rose—almost red. This color radiates up each staminode, from the dark to the pale with the blend reaching the top of the tips, which are white. It truly is a burst of the rainbow in the blending of the rays. The guard petals are a deep pink; the plant is covered with bloom, just above the top of the foliage. Photo enclosed—Bulletin cover #308.

CHESIERES ALEXANDRA (Liselotte Hirsbrunner, Chesieres, Switzerland), 1998.

Seedling #92-11 A, **Miss America x Nice Gal**. Semi-double, opening pink and turning to pure white after two days, showing yellow stamens. Flowers (6-1/4" dia.) with 2-3 side buds, on sturdy stems, just above dark green foliage (26"). Compact plant with stunning purple red foliage in spring (darkest among peonies in this garden). Early to medium, long blooming season.

CHESIERES LA BOHEME (Liselotte Hirsbrunner, Chesieres, Switzerland), 1998.

Seedling #92-11 B, **Miss America x Nice Gal**. Unusual double bright pink. Three rows of guard petals with tufted petaloids in center and a yellow collar of staminodes dividing the two pink sections. Over a period of several days, the petals turn a more delicate shade of pink with the staminodes turning white. (Flowers 5-1/2" dia., on 34" stems). Mid-season. Photo enclosed showing the two above-named peonies.



THE PEONY—C TO CANADA

Published by the Canadian Peony Society

(The Editor, Mr. Monkman, of the Canadian Peony Society, has sent the latest copy [Aug. 1998] of their Newsletter, with the following information that any part or all contents can be published in the American Peony Society *Bulletin*.)

THE PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS, by *John Simkins*

The peony season closed Sunday, June 14 with the first peony show of the newly-formed Canadian Peony Society. The President and Vice President were elected at the inaugural meeting in the afternoon and the constitution was adopted. As the Society's founder, I was pleased to be elected as its first President and to have this opportunity to thank all those hard-working people that made the Show possible—particularly the Prestons. In this space I would also like to extend a special welcome and thank you to our

three new Regional Directors: Lindsay D'Aoust in Quebec, Dorothy Elston in Ontario, and Brian Porter in The Prairies. Without people willing to share the load as these people have agreed to do, we would not have as bright a future as we presently have.

It was decided that meetings would be held once per year in varying locations as requested. An annual show would be held at the RBG, and would be organized by the Prestons who were highly commended for today's show. Articles were solicited for the newsletter which will be mailed 3 times per year.

Chris Graham welcomed the Society on behalf of the RBG, and informed the members of the space available in Pappas for advertisements and feature articles on peonies, the RBG, collection of peonies available for breeding, also nursery space. Members were invited to act as volunteer helpers.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Harry McGee and seconded by Libby Monkman. The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

ORGANIZING A PEONY BREEDING PROGRAM. *Peter Billingsley*

After the founding meeting on June 14, several members met to share their interest in breeding peonies.

Chris Graham, Manager of horticulture at RBG, generously offered growing space, technicians, and access to the Sondra Cornett peony collection for breeding stock. All we have to do is organize and monitor the program. This is an outstanding offer with great possibilities.

Another idea suggested was to create a pollen bank for those who wish to hybridize in their own garden. Each year, we would select several cultivars and make the pollen available to members.

For those who wish to start their own seedlings, we would offer seeds from our breeding program. This fall, I will have a few extra seeds of my own to share.

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★ ★ ★ ★

Note: RBG - Royal Botanical Gardens

CONCERNING PEONIES

Ronald T. Houtman, *Secretary Royal Boskoop Horticultural Society,
The Netherlands*

The last couple of years we judged the Peonies in the Netherlands, as I told you earlier (in 1995).

We now are in a final stage in which we define the number of "stars" we "give" each cultivar. Three "stars" mean "excellent," two stars mean "very good," one star means "good." We can also award some cultivars with an "S"—this means these plants are not for trade in large quantities (for example because of trouble with propagation, culture or late frosts), but they should not be deleted from the catalogs because they have qualities one can't find in other cultivars. The rest of the cultivars will not be awarded, but will be given an "o," which means they can be deleted from the catalogs (and nurseries) without damaging the assortment.

Our report will be published in our yearbook *Dendroflora*, which we publish together with the Dutch Dendrological Society. The issue in which the Peony-report will be published will be *Dendroflora* nr. 35, which is due summer 1999. For writing the article on Peonies, the books we bought from you have proven very helpful, especially "*History of the Peonies and Their Originators*." Thank you again for your helpfulness.



PEONIES AS CUT FLOWERS FOR YOUR HOME ENJOYMENT

The peony has many advantages as a cut flower. The blooming date of the peony has been extended from the early bloom of the tree peony, to the hybrid and on to the bloom of the herbaceous. There are times during this period that we know of festivities far in advance and would like to have some of the beautiful peonies at the particular gathering. If the peony is properly handled, it may be stored for a month and then used for decorative purposes.

In cutting peonies for future bloom, the cutting stage of the buds should be taken into consideration as to the length of time you want to keep them. The longer the time for the date of usage, the tighter the bud should be; if only for a week or two, the bud should be on its way to the opening stage.

In cutting hybrids, cut when the bud is showing stronger color, although the bud will still be firm. Doubles are cut when the buds are enlarged and soft to the gentle pressure of the fingers, or when partially open. When cutting, not every bud will be waiting for you to cut at the proper time. This takes some experience, and you must practice and learn this art of cutting and handling the peony. When you take peonies in the house for your enjoyment, cut them in this bud stage and watch them open. They will unfold and the beautiful natural color can be seen.



PEONIES THAT ARE GROWN FOR CUT FLOWERS IN THE NETHERLANDS

This list was made up in May/June 1996 and only counts the Peonies that were sold at the International Flower-auction Aalsmeer. As you probably know the three largest flower-auctions in the world are in The Netherlands. Aalsmeer is the largest one. The most sold cultivars ('**Sarah Bernhardt**' 3,256.930 Peonies) stand on top of the list—at the bottom are those which were the most least sold ('**Solange**' 450). In total, there were approx. 6,416.000 peonies sold in the above mentioned period.

Sarah Bernhardt	Dr. Alexander Fleming
Karl Rosenfield	Shirley Temple
Duchesse de Nemours	Pink Panther
Monieur Jules Elie	Officinalis
Kansas	Festiva Maxima
Red Charm	Edulis Superba
Catharina Fontijn	Victoire de la Marne
Amabilis	Peter Brand
Felix Crousse	Charlie's White
General MacMahon	Inspecteur Lavergne
Marie Lemoine	Bowl of Beauty
Buckeye Belle	Lady Alexandra Duff
Scarlett O'Hara	Solange

Some peonies were not sold under their names, but just by their color: "pink," "red," and "white." Also, there is a group which is called "others;" this group is formed by a few specialties. Together there were sold approx. 330,000 peonies in "colors" and the "others" group.

★ ★ ★ ★

BUD FAILURE—When buds fail to open, and die, can it be freezing or botrytis, when all the buds on a plant don't die, and when the botrytis does not kill the whole bloom stalk down to the ground? My theory of bud death from freezing is that when a bud is small it has a large proportion of water in it. When that freezes, it makes ice which expands and tears the fibers of the bud which dies. The buds on a plant do not all have the same proportion of water in them at the same time. Some freeze, some don't. But if the freeze is severe, all buds may be killed. One variety that has frozen buds one year might go several years with none.

Edward Auten, Jr

★ ★ ★ ★

CONVENTION 1999

Arrangements have been made for the Convention and Exhibition to be at Kingwood Center, Mansfield, Ohio, June 11-12-13, 1999. The full outline and program will be in the *March Bulletin*. The program as to time and place—also the Director's Meeting on Sunday morning, June 13 at the Gate House—was accepted.

Greta M. Kessenich, Sec'y./Treas.



SUFFRUTICOSA CHINESE TREE PEONY (MOUTAN)

Lately there is a reawakening of interest in the Chinese tree peony (moutan) in the United States, especially among hubridists. Quite likely the reason for this change of events, or change of mind, is the result of the Chinese people's appreciation of the U.S. dollar more than their beloved tree peony. Of late we are stocking up on the best of their named varieties, happy with the quality and price.

Of course, there is a minority report, as always, by Chris Laning (that's me) about these treasures. Most of those offered are the great big doubles I consider shaggy. Many plants have lack stemmed flowers partially hidden by the foliage. Could be that the flowers are just too big to be presented facing outward and upward, but hey, can't we fix that problem in succeeding generations!

Is there an alterior (inferior) motive in writing on this topic? I suppose so. At the cost of \$200 for one kilogram of tree peony seeds of mixed colors and one kilogram of seeds from Rocks Varsity seedlings, distribution may be more than Dr. Crossley and I can handle. Two kilograms equal about four pounds -thousands and thousands of seeds. In taking advantage of our seed distribution program, send an extra dollar for a packet of moutans if so desired.

SEED DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM

Seeds are available from:

1. lactiflora - mixed colors
2. tetraploid - advanced generation - mixed colors
3. macrophylla - open pollinated
4. a few suffruticos T.P.s

Please send \$2.00 to cover the cost of packaging and mailing and \$1.00 extra if Chinese tree peony seeds are wanted.

Contact: Kent Crossley
1245 Delaware Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55118

Chris Laning
553 West F Ave.
Kalamazoo, MI 49004



LETTERS

From Switzerland

Thank you very much for your very nice and encouraging letter, and for returning the 2 photos along with a registration form.

It may be a while before I can register more seedlings, as they need more evaluation. Hybridizing is a fascinating hobby, but when the time comes to decide what to keep, I am in big trouble! The lack of planting space will probably keep me from going overboard. Although my planned crosses did not yield too many seeds, the bees were very busy and I harvested more seeds than I have space to plant them in.

Peonies have become an obsession for which there is no cure and it happened just by accident. The first few plants were supposed to replace the roses which did so poorly at our altitude. Besides, I hated the scratches and the digging out of thorns. The first 5 plants came from Roy Klehm. When they bloomed the following spring, I was enchanted and knew there was no turning back.

The interest in Peonies in Switzerland has improved a little bit since the nursery trade declared 1997 'The Year of the Peony.' Many people have visited the 'Peony Collection' at the Hochschule Wädenswil. Anyway, I am certainly going to do my best to put more of these heavenly flowers into Swiss gardens.

Winter is almost here and I must say, although it can be long here, it never gets as cold as you have it in Minnesota. I loved living in northern Illinois, but do not miss the cold winters. Although we get a lot of snow, the temperatures seldom dip below 10 degrees F., and in the daytime the temps. are usually above freezing. It is the summers when we are cold sometimes. We have had snow in June. Imagine the poor peonies, but they can take a lot.

For now, I wish you a mild and pleasant winter, and thank you again!

Sincerely,

Liselotte Hirsbrunner, Switzerland

★ ★ ★ ★

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

As a 1998, single triennial member of the American Peony Society, I am very pleased to comment on attending and experiencing my first show exhibition, located at the Northtown Mall, in Blaine, Minnesota. I am totally new to the peony world.

I arrived Saturday morning after a long drive from Wisconsin. However, I learned others came from a much longer distance. The number of entries certainly surprised me! I have to confess, it was just great! Saturday was so addicting I had to return Sunday, but this time I brought my camera to help me remember all those outstanding blossoms that I just had to have, or at least consider, for my future peony collection.

As a club member of any organization, it is my belief to try to help the organization as much as I can. At this point, since I am just learning the peony world, I feel I am receiving ten-fold in comparison to my giving. For any organization, the revolving door of giving and receiving is most productive if always in motion, and preferably going in the forward direction.

I believe that there is a peony craze now because there are so many great outstanding, spectacular peonies to choose from. I cannot name drop those peonies which meet the high standards of today's gardeners, with experience. I'll leave that to the more experienced, but I'm learning. Isn't that what this is all about?

I have attained knowledge by just attending the Show and recommend for all member(s) to do so. I also feel very honored to have met some of the organization's distinguished members. Even though I attended the event by myself, I had a great time—thanks to all of you!

Hopefully, the next time I attend a Show, I will bring entries.

Always growing,
Janis Holdridge

(Proudly an A.P.S member, Seymour, Wisconsin)

★ ★ ★ ★

Peony plants secure nourishment in the leaves, so leave at least two sets of leaves on each stem when cutting the bloom for the house or market.

Don't remove foliage of plant after blooming to permit the planting of annuals or perennials. This will eventually ruin your peony plant.

Be patient if your plants do not give you bloom the first season after planting. Many will, while others take longer to establish themselves. Remember, a peony will last a lifetime. A delay for a year or two will give it a chance to develop into maturity. The third or fourth year after planting will see it at its best. Of course, it will develop for years.

★ ★ ★ ★

Hello Greta and fellow APS Members:
From Steve and Margaret Johnson

As autumn falls into winter, we are scrambling here to plant a few more new peony varieties in our gardens. The recent rainfall is welcome and we are looking forward to many new blooms, (new to us), in the spring. Several plants will be three years of age; that magical point where the blooms are true to the dreamy catalog photos in form, number, and size. Our **Golden Dawn** will reach the three year milestone in spring. Having not set a single bud this year, we are hoping for quite a show, as the plant girth is extraordinary. However, our three year old **Karl Rosenfield** bloomed in all its glory this year. It was quite beautiful, with deep burgundy wine color consistent throughout the heavy, fully double blooms.

Other notables included the first blooms of **Delorodell**, a large pink peony with luxuriant foliage. We did not know the true identity of this plant prior to attending the APS Convention this year. On first sight of the distinctive, fluffy pink flower on the Convention show table, we identified our mystery plant. It had been purchased potted at a nursery two years prior, marked "Double Chinese Peony" and banished to the clearance sale table. How glad we are that the three dollar gamble turned out to be a real winner -- the lovely high centered blooms lasted a week in the vase and had a glow that was remarkable.

Our **Highlight** peony set one, smokey red, perfectly rose formed bloom its first spring. This peony should be planted in more gardens; we were impressed by the dark color, ideal rose flower form, and strength of the stem.

While we were not so impressed by the relatively slow growth of the tree peonies planted last year, it is understood that patience shall be rewarded and that **Gauguin, Xu Ta, and Wang's Red** will earn their keep in due time. Many peonies in our gardens will be blooming for the first time this spring, anticipation of the event makes the long winter here more bearable. Best wishes to all in the coming year, may thoughts of your own peonies carry you through to the spring.



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

In the last two months, an exceptional number of new members have enrolled. Many questions came with the applications. Some have never planted a peony, had questions about care and culture, how to start a peony garden, and several wanted to know about peonies as cut flowers for a business, fertilizer, etc. All of the questions were answered. Now these same questions will be answered in detail in this December *Bulletin*.

We begin with Mr. Christman's great article: *A Short Course In Peony Culture*. In his article, he states that the *Bulletin* is really for the beginner. The following articles have been written by successful peony growers that grew the peony for the beauty and their own interest. We hope that all of you will read these articles but if you are only interested in the present, that, too, has been published.

It is now the beginning of winter here. Our gardens have been put to rest. After a turbulent year in most places, the peony so safe underground grew and bloomed with large, perfect flowers. During the growing season, the peonies, grasses, and weeds flourished. Only when the weather permitted, garden work was done. Now we have large plants, excellent foliage, and good healthy tree and herbaceous peonies.

Greta M. Kessenich

A SHORT COURSE IN PEONY CULTURE

By W. F. Christman — 1923

I have been requested by Mr. Saunders to prepare a bulletin for beginners. This, to my mind, covers a wide field, for if progressive even the professional grower of several years' experience often finds he is lacking information that should be known by the amateur. This article, however, is written chiefly for the amateur, the one who cultivates the peony purely from love or attachment and without reference to gain or emolument.

In this class may be found the following—those who have planted the peony because of its hardiness and ease of culture and are satisfied with a few plants. Secondly—fanciers who have admired the peony from childhood and who with maturing years have watched its progress and development and have made considerable progress in accumulating a collection of worthwhile varieties, and lastly, the peony enthusiast or hobbist, who is content with nothing but the best and who is ever on the lookout for new acquisitions of merit and in whose gardens may be found the aristocrats of the peony kingdom.

To the first class I would ask that you make the acquaintance of the second group and with them seek to know the peony enthusiasts, for it is in their company you will experience the greatest delight. The hobby of the enthusiast is not a handicap, for hobbies, if we know their limitations, are the sparks that ignite the oil of endeavor. They sharpen the perception, quicken the pulse and renew the mind.

It is indeed surprising the number of men of big affairs and accomplishments who have made the raising of peonies a hobby. Business cares and anxieties are forgotten or cast aside, tensed nerves are relaxed, and after a strenuous workout in the garden they can enjoy a refreshing sleep and are better prepared for a vigorous day on the morrow.

We, as amateurs, have many advantages over the professional grower, chief among which is our ability to give more individual attention to our plants, and further, our plants can remain undisturbed for any period of time we may see fit, where the commercial grower, to be successful, must transplant and divide frequently. Furthermore, the amateur can let the professional grower experiment with new varieties of unknown quality and profit thereby without any financial obligation. At the peony exhibitions it has been my pleasure to attend, a large number of most desirable prizes have been awarded to amateurs.

Some of the finest peony gardens I have ever seen were owned by amateurs and while this bulletin is written chiefly for the beginner or amateur, I trust there may be some things that the professional grower may find of interest. If progressive and well-informed, the professional grower feels that he has but slightly advanced the beginners' class, as there is always something new to learn and new varieties to

acquire.

LOCATION AND SOIL—This is naturally the first question that arises when we are contemplating any planting, and it is quite essential to know a few important facts concerning the peony to get the best results.

Drainage is very necessary as peonies will resent wet, soggy soil. **Good drainage is imperative.** Select a position where they will have full access to the sun a greater portion of the day. They should not be planted near trees or large growing shrubbery that will impoverish the soil, thus robbing the plant of essential plant food. It is safe to figure that the roots extend from a tree or shrub, a distance equal to the height. If necessary to plant nearer than this, some provision should be made for extra fertilization. The writer was called upon not long since to advise why certain plants of vigorous growth failed to bloom, and if they did bloom, why only meager results were obtained. The variety in question was **Festiva Maxima**, one of the most dependable of all peonies for satisfactory blooming qualities under adverse conditions. Plantings in question were made close to a south wall of a basement that was heated to a temperature of 75 to 80 degrees. The heat from this basement induced early growth before other plants showed signs of life and heavy frosts or freezing completed the work of damage complained of.

Have just received some photographs of the variety **Madam Forel** grown at Mine Centre, Ont., a town located 40 miles west of Fort Francis, Ont., where the temperature reaches 40 to 48 degrees below zero. They show splendid growth and are literally covered with magnificent bloom. There is no perennial flower to my knowledge, unless it be the **iris**, that will withstand the vigors of extreme cold and produce such wonderful bloom and still thrive and give satisfactory results in warmer latitudes. There is not a state in the union where peonies cannot be grown, but they unquestionably do better where they have a long rest with cold temperatures. Canada is now realizing the possibilities of the peony and they are being planted there in large numbers.

TIME TO PLANT—The month of September is perhaps the ideal month in which to plant peonies. The earlier in the fall they can be set the better, as this will give them a chance to become established before winter weather prevents further growth. However, peonies may be planted later in the fall up to heavy freezing weather or even in the spring and give very good results. Late planted peonies should be lightly mulched the first season. Spring planted peonies are best from divisions made the previous fall. If necessary to resort to spring planting, complete the work as soon as the frost is out of the ground or before the divisions have started any appreciable growth. The writer staged a vase of the variety **Mons. Dupont** at the June show of the Northwestern Peony & Iris Society that had been cut from plants planted the same spring and carried off first prize for the best six whites in competition with several other good whites. This, perhaps,

was rather unusual but simply shows the possibilities of spring planting where it is impossible to plant them in the fall. In this case, the divisions were made the previous fall and "heeled in," a sudden drop in temperature which resulted in real winter having stopped our fall planting activities. After growth has started in the spring it is not good policy to disturb the plants and divide them. This should be avoided. Plants taken up in the spring with sufficient earth adhering to them can be moved to another location without any appreciable damage. It is not our desire to recommend spring planting if it can be accomplished in the fall, but experience and observations covering a period of several years have taught us that spring planting can be done if properly handled, and most satisfactory results obtained.

HOW TO PLANT—All peony catalogues contain instructions as to method of planting, but some of these instructions are rather brief. Planting of peonies is an important operation and there is no ONE way to accomplish the work. Before planting operations are commenced the soil in which they are to be placed should have been thoroughly prepared some time in advance. If the ground is well enriched several months before planting time, so much the better. Dig the hole sufficiently large to permit the root to be placed in position without crowding. This is so often overlooked by beginners, and by crowding the roots they are apt to be broken from the crown or otherwise damaged so the best results will not be obtained. The next important step is to see that the crown is not placed too deep (two inches being sufficient), and that the dirt is thoroughly firmed about the roots. Some advocate using a hose or otherwise washing the soil about the roots and avoiding the packing of earth. If your ground has been thoroughly prepared and not too large quantities of dirt placed over the roots at first, pressure of the foot will force the mellow soil firmly about the roots and will also prevent any appreciable settling. Common sense must be used not to tramp on the crown of the plants as this would surely result in injury. In ordinary soil there is sufficient moisture to firm the roots without heavy applications of water which may result in baking if followed by hot weather, especially in heavy soil. If the soil is dry, water freely after the roots have been planted. Later in this article I have explained a method of rapid planting where a large quantity of roots are to be taken care of. In large nurseries they are often plowed in, a still more rapid manner of planting but as this will not be of particular interest to the amateur, raising a limited number, I will not describe it at this time. Many advocate digging a trench at least two feet in depth, placing in a quantity of manure, another layer of earth followed by another layer of manure, continuing the operation until the trench is filled to the depth of actual planting, being careful to see that the last layer applied is earth to at least 6 inches in depth. The root is then placed in position and the balance of the trench filled with earth. By the time the plant has thrown roots down deep enough to reach the manure it will have been thoroughly incorporated with the soil and fine bloom will be produced in this manner. However, to my mind this is

too laborious a task (and I am not adverse to hard work) for the results obtained. I am fully convinced that as good blooms can be secured from the commonly employed method of planting, if watered freely before blooming time and given liberal surface applications of liquid manure, wood ashes, bone meal or other fertilizing elements. The deeper the earth is disturbed the greater it will settle and where trenching is resorted to, care must be exercised to see that the buds are not placed too deep below the surface of the ground, as it may be necessary to apply more earth in the trench after it has thoroughly settled to prevent an accumulation of water which would bring disastrous results to your plants.

FERTILIZATION—The fact that many cultural directions emphasize strongly that the peony is a gross feeder and must be supplied with an abundance of well-rotted manure has led many an amateur, as well as professional, to greatly overdo the fertilization of their soil. I think it would be a safe assertion to make, that one out of ten who have grown peonies to any extent have found to their sorrow that they have over-fertilized their plants at some time in their career. It would be better for the plants to have too little nourishment in the way of enriching the soil than an overabundance of manure or other fertilizing elements. Too much manure will result in diseased plants as their constitutions will resent it. It is one of the serious temptations that beset the amateur in his zeal to attain perfection in bloom, and a word of caution, if adhered to on this subject, may save the inexperienced grower considerable disappointment.

Bone meal is safe to use, and well-decayed manure, not applied too generously and worked in between the rows or around the plants, exercising caution not to let it come in direct contact with the roots or over the crown of the plant will be found very beneficial. Wood ashes are also very desirable.

DEEP PLANTING—The important thing in planting is not to plant too deep. If the buds are placed two or three inches below the surface of the ground it will be found they are planted to a sufficient depth. Some advocate planting an inch below the surface, but after the ground has settled you will find that the buds may actually be only a half inch or less below the surface. There is danger of plants being disturbed by heaving in heavy soil during a period of alternate thawing and freezing and injury or loss of plants results. This is why a light mulch the first year is advocated. After a plant has become established, the danger of heaving is greatly lessened. On light soil there is not so much danger of heaving. See that the ground is thoroughly firmed about the roots when planted. This can be done by a light pressure of the foot after fine earth has been placed over and around the root to prevent injury.

VARIATION IN COLOR—Plants grown on heavy soil will have deeper or more marked coloring than the same variety grown on light soil. Climatic conditions are also a factor to be reckoned with. Varia-

tion caused by these conditions is sometimes misleading. A delicate colored variety will rapidly fade in the sun and be deprived of its natural color entirely. This can be avoided by cutting the bloom as it is about to unfold, taking it in the house and keeping in a cool, dark place, until fully developed. During the blooming period if it happens to be cool and cloudy, you will have much better flowers although their development will be somewhat retarded.

HANDLING ROOTS—When roots are received from your nurseryman, if they have been delayed in transit and appear shriveled, or dried, they can be greatly benefited by being immersed in water for six or eight hours. This will revive them and much better results will be obtained than by planting the dried roots.

Some amateurs object to receiving roots that have been trimmed or cut back, in other words they want the entire length of root. A division with a root six inches long is ample. A division of this kind will throw out from the crown numerous little rootlets that will soon develop into substantial roots, giving added vitality to the plant that will mature into a splendid blooming specimen. There is no advantage in the long root, as it simply lies practically dormant in the ground without the marked development of new root growth that is so desirable and which results from trimmed roots. Proper pruning of roots before planting has the equivalent result of trimming your fruit trees. Much less labor can be expended in planting the shorter roots, which is an added advantage.

All peony plantings should be charted in such a manner that if a stake or label is removed it will be an easy and accurate matter to replace the same. An accurate diagram of your planting will be found useful many times and will amply repay you for the time and trouble expended in securing the same. It is well to have the chart or diagram made in duplicate thus providing a safeguard in case one is lost or inadvertently destroyed.

WATERING PEONIES—Where watering systems have been installed or city water is available, see that it is used generously, especially during May and early June, as your peonies are forming buds. This will be found a tremendous aid in producing fine show flowers. As a usual thing nature is rather lavish in her offering of rain during that period, and it may not be necessary to employ artificial means of water application. Another very important time for watering is during the period the next season's buds are being formed, shortly after blooming time. This feature is often lost sight of, and if a very dry summer prevails and no water is applied, smaller buds will develop with a corresponding weakness of stem the following season, although fall rains, if experienced, will counteract this to some extent. A personal acquaintance of mine who is able to grow the most glorious peonies I have ever had the privilege of examining, tells me he uses no manure of any kind but simply waters copiously. He certainly gets very gratifying results worthy of emulation. With surface fertilization

water readily transmits the fertilizing properties to the roots where they are readily absorbed.

SIZE OF DIVISIONS—This has been a much discussed question during the past few years and a definite solution has not yet been reached, each side producing very convincing arguments to champion their cause. I think it is quite generally acknowledged that the small, one-eye divisions will require more careful handling to insure success than the larger, commonly known standard divisions of from three to five eyes. The small divisions will produce beautiful plants if left undisturbed for two or three years as they will have developed an entire new root growth, but they must be given careful cultural care the first season to insure good results.

Large divisions are recommended for planting in the south. This is due to prevailing hot weather that has a tendency to reduce the vitality of the plant by absorbing the moisture content of the root.

Considerable loss has been noted where late fall planting has been done during a very dry season which was followed by a winter with scanty snowfall. If the ground is thoroughly dry it will absorb the moisture from the root, leaving it in a withered and devitalized condition that easily succumbs to a protracted period of drought. If such a condition prevails at planting time, water should be applied generously to each root planted, this process to be repeated at fortnightly intervals or oftener if deemed necessary or occasion demands.

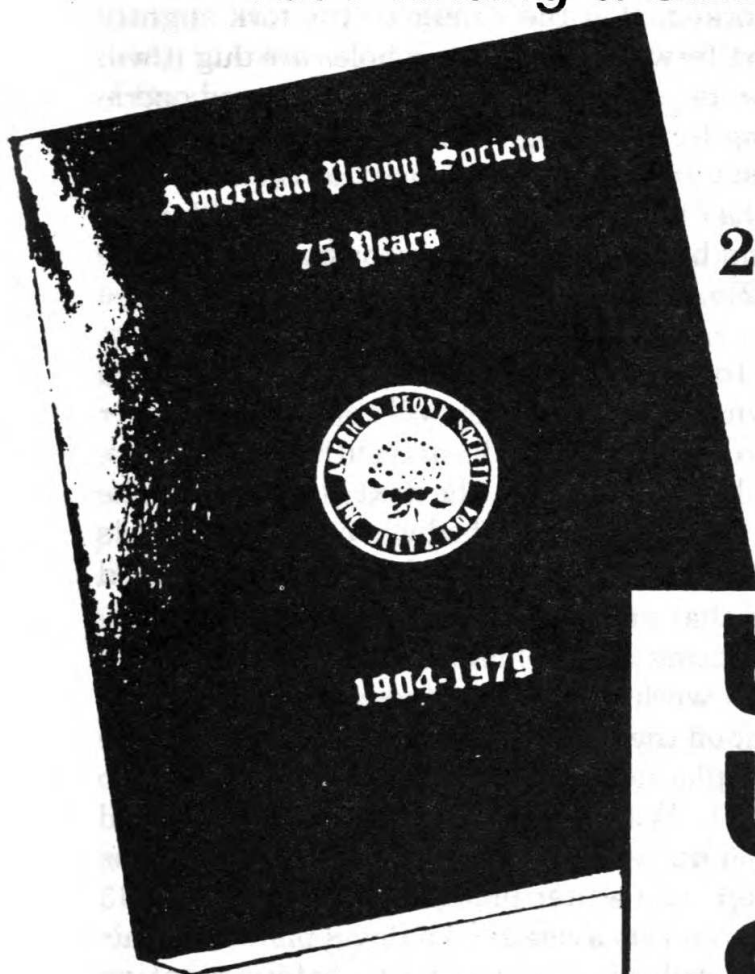
REMOVING TOPS—I would urge the removal of tops late in the fall after the plant has attained its growth for the season. This obviates the possibility of spreading disease if plants are affected. Several forms of disease can be entirely eliminated by this procedure. The stems or tops removed should be burned. After the ground is thoroughly frozen, a well-sharpened hoe is the best instrument for cutting off the tops. If the ground is not frozen and one has but a few plants, a good, sharp knife will be found very satisfactory. Cut as near the surface of the ground as possible. If a hoe is used it must be kept well-sharpened and it is much more preferable to wait until the ground is frozen as there is less danger of disturbing the buds which are near the surface.

PLANTING IN QUANTITY—Where one has a large number of peonies to plant he is naturally interested in getting the work done as quickly as possible and as thoroughly as though slower and more tedious methods were employed. The method I am about to explain will no doubt be very familiar to commercial growers who grow in large quantities, but it can be adopted by amateurs with equally gratifying results. It is not necessary to set roots in a vertical position to insure success, although this is the most natural thing to do. Roots can be planted at a 45 degree angle as described below and prove equally desirable.

The ground should be thoroughly plowed or spaded to a depth of 8



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or 10 inches and sufficiently cultivated until the soil is mellow and perfectly friable. A five-tine spading fork is the best instrument to employ for the purpose. The fork is thrust vertically into the earth the depth of the tines. This can be done without pressure of the foot if the soil has been thoroughly worked. Pull the handle of the fork slightly backwards, throwing the dirt forward. After a few holes are dug it will surprise you how near the proper angle you can get. The second operation is to reverse the spading fork, setting it vertically, as in the first instance, and with the same movement as employed in the first case you will find that the hole has been neatly cleaned and ready for the placing of plant which should be laid with the eyes or buds a distance of two inches, or possibly $2\frac{1}{2}$, from the surface of the ground. By a quick twist of the fork from either side of the opening, sufficient dirt will be thrown over the root to slightly cover it. The foot is then placed over the root below the crown so that the instep will come directly over the root, being careful not to damage the buds, and sufficient pressure brought to bear to thoroughly firm the root. The next step is to fill the hole and complete planting. This is accomplished when the next hole is dug, throwing the dirt from the second hole into the first, as described above. Of course we assume that you have previously marked out the ground as you wish it. In planting in this manner you work with your back to the mark so that your work is always before you. The depth of the hole to be dug depends upon the length of the root planted. Be sure the bottom end of the root is placed as low as possible at this angle so that it will rest in moist earth. With a little experience you will find planting can be accomplished quite rapidly in this manner and at the same time not plant too deep. The writer planted 219 divisions in 45 minutes, and has nearly kept up this average in a day's planting. This included the dropping or distribution of the roots before planting operations were commenced. With the exception of plowing in, this is as rapid a method of planting as I know of.

DISEASE—The peony, while practically free from disease, is not immune, and to be insured of plants free from disease, it is well to be conversant with a few of the indications that are prevalent in diseased plants. It is my intention to touch but lightly on this subject as the Nurseryman is the fellow who must be on his guard and know how to combat these various maladies and should have his stock healthy before disseminating it. The amateur may receive perfectly healthy plants and they may become diseased. Too much fertilization is one of the prevailing and primary causes of disease.

Leaf blotch is quite prevalent in large peony plantings. It is not a serious ailment and does not materially affect the plant. This is more prevalent late in the season as the plants are about to mature. It is a fungus disease and can best be eradicated by cutting and burning the tops before the leaves have dried up and fallen late in the season.

Botrytis blight is one of the most common diseases easily discovered in a peony planting. It affects the stems, buds and leaves.

Stems diseased by this blight are discernible in the early spring after they have attained a height of a few inches, even before the leaves have expanded. These young shoots may appear perfectly healthy upon first inspection but a few days later will be found wilted and lying on the ground. Sometimes the stalks will attain maturity and be about ready to throw a blossom when they are stricken down. A second stage of the disease is shown in the buds, which will turn black and wither. If the stalk is examined it will be found dead several inches below the bud. In very wet seasons this disease is more prevalent and often exceedingly destructive. The leaves are usually the last to show symptoms of the disease by becoming brown and dry due to the tissues being killed. Plants affected must be carefully watched and as soon as a stem shows wilt, dig down an inch or two below the surface of the ground, being cautious to carefully remove the earth directly about the plant, and place it in some container that it may later be removed to the ash can or otherwise destroyed. You will note after the earth is removed that directly below the surface of the ground the stem of the plant will invariably be rotted off or consist of a decayed mass. With a sharp knife remove the stem below the decayed portion, which will be found to extend but a short distance below the surface. In handling this diseased portion exercise caution to see that you do not touch the balance of the unaffected plant, as the disease is readily transmittable. Burn the diseased portion of the plants. This is also a fungus disease and very similar to Sclerotinia Stem Rot. If the plants are badly affected they should be dug up, all tops removed carefully as low as possible without disturbing the bud, and removed to another location. Of course this planting should be deferred to the proper season. This disease, while one of the most destructive, does not affect the root of the plant, and can be entirely eradicated if the above measures are resorted to.

There is no plant that has fewer ailments than the peony that is so entirely satisfying as a flower and general all-round perennial. Reliable growers will not knowingly disseminate diseased plants upon the unsuspecting and uninformed public. Those guilty of such procedure are not worthy of patronage, as the popularity the peony has already attained will suffer in consequence.

MULCHING—Have already referred to the mulching of plants the first season after planting. Mulching heavily to retard spring growth and extend the season of bloom is another feature well worth consideration where one has a number of plants. After the ground is deeply frozen, a mulch several inches deep should be applied to the plants that are to be held back. This can be left on in the spring until after growth starts, in fact can remain until after flowering if desired. When the plants start growth in the spring they can be assisted through the mulch with but little trouble. The earlier this is done after growth starts the better, as the stems will be more firm. Mulching interferes with cultivation but is a splendid medium for the conservation

of moisture. Repeated heavy mulching has a tendency to lessen vitality. Millet cut before maturity, ensilage corn, marsh hay or any coarse material free from weed seeds will make a good mulch.

SELECTION OF VARIETIES—Visiting nurseries where peonies are grown, trial grounds and exhibitions where peonies are displayed, is the very best way to become acquainted with the most desirable varieties. This in connection with a careful study should enable you to make a selection that will be satisfying and in every way fulfill your expectations.

In making your selections bear in mind that a flower of delicate texture and coloring is easily affected by exposure to the sun. Sensitive colors will readily fade and even colors more pronounced are diminished in intensity. Selection generally resolves itself into one of personal taste. Some prefer the singles, others the Japanese types or the loosely built flowers; still others are only satisfied with the fully developed double blooms. As the double blooms usually have more substance they are more often chosen than any other type. Varieties producing large blooms are usually selected, although the smaller blooming varieties should not be overlooked. Quality should be given first consideration. This refers both to the flower and the productivity of the plant. Free blooming varieties are the most desirable. A well balanced selection will compose early midseason, and late blooming varieties in the various shades and colors. If to be planted in a border, dwarf, medium and tall growing species should be selected according to requirements. Period of bloom may be extended several weeks by securing a well-balanced collection of the earliest blooming sorts, continuing through the midseason and comprising the very latest blooming varieties. Where tree peonies can be grown with success, they will add greatly to any collection.

DIVIDING—If for any reason it becomes necessary to divide your plants due to crowding or wishing to make an exchange or contribution to some friend's garden, do not attempt to divide without first digging up the entire plant. If you do, you will not do a satisfactory job and will likely do a great deal of damage to the remaining portion of plant. As soon as the plant is dug the tops can be removed. Dividing should be done in the early fall months as the plants at that period have formed their buds for the following year. If the plants are brittle, let them stand for two or three hours and they will admit of handling without as much breakage resulting. If the plants are old, division is much more difficult. Any earth that adheres to the plant should be removed before attempting to divide. Examine the clump carefully to determine where the weak places exist. These are the places where you should make your initial effort to divide the plant. Use a heavy knife that will admit of considerable prying as you will find necessary in making divisions. Make good, strong divisions. By this I mean divisions consisting of at least three to five eyes. Sometimes it will be found necessary to cut through the fleshy portion of the plant in order

to make your divisions. Do not hesitate to do this. After you have your first division, the remaining ones are usually more easy to make. Dividing plants properly is an artistic accomplishment and takes considerable practice. This is especially true with very rare varieties where one cannot afford to lose a single division. The main object is to see that each division is supplied with three or more eyes with sufficient root to balance. In dividing I use three knives. One with a heavy, stiff long blade to pry the roots apart when necessary, one with a shorter blade of rather heavy material, and a still shorter knife with a flexible or pliable blade that is used in the final work of completing and trimming the divisions. Of the three, the one with the flexible blade is the most used.

FAILURE TO BLOOM—Some of the outstanding reasons for failure of peonies to bloom may be summed up as follows:

Too deep planting.

Over-fertilization causing diseased roots.

Sour or acid soil.

Insufficient moisture.

Lack of fertility.

Damaging eyes in early Spring with rake or fork.

Unseasonable frosts or freezing in late Spring.

Numerous eyes without sufficient root support.

Too deep planting will cause the plant to form buds nearer the surface in an effort to right the wrong. These buds will be formed along the stem at intervals and result in a large number of weak stems with insufficient strength to hold or develop bloom. If a choice variety it can be dug up and cut back to one bud on each main stem and replanted in a new location, or the earth replaced with fresh fertile soil, being careful to plant so the buds will not be deeper than 2 or 2-1/2 inches below the surface of the ground. By careful cultivation a plant may be revived and in time regain its former vigor. With an inexpensive plant I would recommend discarding it.

I have spoken of **over-fertilization** earlier in this article. Heavy and continued applications of manure or other fertilizers will cause your plants to become dyspeptic in resenting the rich diet, and the roots are likely to rot. Especially is this true when manure has been placed directly over the plants. The alternate thawing and freezing during the Spring months will allow the liquid fertilizer to enter the crown of the root through the hollow stems of the plant and come in direct contact with the root. Damage will surely follow in such cases.

* * * *

"This article is in reality a fine small handbook for peony growers and most of it is as applicable today as it was then."—Mr. Peyton. Dec. 1955. Manuscript written 1923.

According to the records, Mr. Christman was elected (not appointed) as Secretary and Editor in 1924 and held these offices until he resigned June 1951. He prepared and published 103 Bulletins.

He was a member of the Society from 1919 until his death—36 yrs.

HOW TO START A NEW PEONY PLANTING

by Clarence Lienau

In starting a new peony planting, the first decisions are about the number of plants you will have, and how and where you will locate them. They make a fine edge to a lawn, either along the back or near the fence in front. Or you might choose the center, make a bed of any size, and fill it with peonies. All these are rather personal matters and will be affected by the size of your place and the number of peonies you are planning to have.

A peony, even after blooming, makes a fine green bush, handsome until heavy frosts.

Check your soil, and if it is a good garden loam that will grow vegetables, and is not too sandy, you can go ahead. If your soil is sandy or is heavy excavation clay, or full of debris such as many builders leave in the ground, you should dig out a hole or a bed. The bigger and deeper you dig, and the finer topsoil you put back into it, the faster and finer your peonies will grow. In any case, a minimum would be two feet square and 1-1/2 feet deep; this leaves no room for stones, so your drainage should be sharp and active.

This may sound like a large chore but remember you only do it once, and it will repay you very handsomely. As we peony men say, "Put your five-dollar peony into a twenty-five dollar hole and it will be a joy to you the rest of your life." It is a good idea to make the holes or beds as long in advance as possible—at least a month or more—so that the ground may be well settled by planting time. Peonies should be set three or even four feet apart, to allow plenty of breathing and growing space.

The time to plant peonies is during their dormant season in the Fall. Therefore this is when Nurseries ship them. The earlier in Fall you can plant, the more time you are giving your peony to get well settled before frost. Peony growers usually send planting instructions, but if these are lacking, proceed as follows:

After having dug the hole, it should have been filled with fresh topsoil, into which bonemeal has been mixed. Two cups of bonemeal to each bushel of earth is not too much. Let us assume the topsoil you put into your holes or bed in June or July has now settled. Perhaps you'll need a bit more, to fill up the hole. Now mound it into a little hill, set the peony root on or into this, with the roots pointing downward, and the pink buds or eyes upward. These should never be deeper than 2 inches below ground level. One inch deep is enough in warmer latitudes like St. Louis, and just at the surface if you live in the deeper South.

Now, as to what varieties to choose! If possible, visit a peony grower in your vicinity during blooming time and make your selections. Ask his advice about the strength and dependability of the

various kinds. There is a very wide variety in peonies, when you take into consideration doubles, semi-doubles, singles and the so-called "Jap" types, plus the fact that there are early, mid-season and late-blooming ones in each group, as well as a great range of colors, from white through all shades of pink, and on into crimson.

A normal blooming season for the lactifloras (our common or garden June-blooming peonies) would be three or even four weeks. By adding a Hybrid or two to your list, you may lengthen out the season of peony bloom by as much as a week or even ten days into May. For those who cannot visit a grower, here is a list that I can highly recommend. These varieties may be purchased from most good growers; they are outstanding peonies, selected from more than 300 varieties that I have grown, over the course of more than 25 years' experience. Many of them have won prizes at our big National Shows.

SOME UNUSUAL VARIETIES

Akashigata, Do Tell, Gay Paree, Golden Bracelet, Hawaii, Neon, Madame Butterfly, Mildred Mae, and White Cap (all mid-season), plus **Lois Kelsey** (late-blooming).

HYBRIDS

These fine new kinds of peonies have added zest to the peony world. The colors are very exciting. Every gardener who grows peonies should try at least two or three of these new wonders. Here is a list of those I consider very fine. **Red Charm** in my opinion is the finest of all. A strong grower and free bloomer; bomb-double type, with a fine form and very unusual red color. It's a good keeper as well.

Ludovica (semi-double coral pink), **Moonrise** (single erect pale ivory), **Lovely Rose** (fine single creamy pink), **Diana Parks** (unusual orange-red), **Sophie** (fine cerise pink), **Red Red Rose** (glistening dark red semi-double), **Cytherea** (very fine coral pink, much in demand), **Prairie Moon** (semi-double pale ivory), **Walter Mains** (the finest dark red-and-gold Jap. type hybrid, strong grower and a good bloomer—very large fine staminodes), **Carolina** (large single pale pink), **Athena** (early large cream single, flared deep pink), **Carina** (fine pure brilliant red single), and **Lois Arleen** (semi-double unusual light red; strong grower).

You may find some of these a bit hard to locate, and some a little costly, but when you consider that peonies last for many years, I feel they are well worth the price.

In ending, let me add some **DO'S & DON'TS** for peony growers. These are very important. **DON'T** plant in low ground or where soil appears to stay damp or soggy at any time or in any season. Drainage is most important.

DON'T over-fertilize: 3 good handfuls of bonemeal mixed in your soil is sufficient for three years.

DON'T cut down foliage right after blooming time, but wait till

Fall. Then cut it to the ground and be sure to throw it well away. (Not on a compost heap.)

DON'T cut blooms for the first two years.

DON'T cut more than two-thirds of the blooms on any one plant. When cutting blooms, leave two leaves on the bottom of each stalk remaining.

DON'T plant in light, sandy soil.

DON'T plant close to large trees or shrubs which will take the nutriment from your peonies.

DO: Water young plants when necessary; give each plant 3-4 gallons of water, and cultivate again after the soil has dried out.

DO: If you wish the main bloom to be large, do dis-bud all side buds when they are as large as marbles or smaller.

DO: Cut off faded blooms and trim plants into nice-looking bushes when the blooming season is ended. (Of course, if you are saving seed, leave the old blooms on the plant).

DO: Mulch the first three Winters.

Finally: Proper soil, good drainage, disbudding—and most of all— frequent cultivation, and you should surely be a most successful grower of peonies. It's as easy as that!

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GROWING AND SHOWING BLOOMS

Clarence O. Lienau

Detroit, Michigan

After the soil dries out enough—in late April in this vicinity (earlier south of here)—so it is workable and the little red shoots protrude out of the ground about two inches, I start to cultivate the soil around each plant.

In about a week I go over the planting again, as some of the later varieties now are coming through the soil and want to be cultivated also. I cultivate my plants about three more times before blooming time. Care should be taken not to cultivate too deeply. It is my opinion that the first cultivation is the most important of all. One will notice the shoots will practically jump out of the ground two or three inches overnight after the first cultivation.

When the plants are 12 to 14 inches tall—or better still—when the buds are as large as peas, one should start to disbud, leaving just one bud on the center of the stalk, which is called the terminal bud. By using the thumbnail and the nail of the second finger, one will find it easy to pinch out the side buds. One should pinch close to the stem, but care should be taken so as not to break off the finest potential bloom. I go over the planting again in about six or seven days, doing the same chore, as I find I have missed some, and the later varieties now need attention.

When the buds grow to about one inch in diameter, I go over all potential varieties and select the buds that are the tallest and have

the thickest stems; these will be the finest blooms. Now I attach a tree label about four inches below the bud. I usually select three or four blooms of each variety to make sure I will have one good one. One should use a weatherproof pencil for marking. Be sure to write the proper name plainly on the label. I also write the name on top of my bags; I find this very helpful. After the buds start to show color, I start to bag them. The reason for bagging is first to keep the hot sun off the blooms so as not to discolor or fade them; second, for storing, carrying, and shipping purposes. I use one-pound brown Manila bags for most single, Japanese, small hybrid, and small double varieties. However, for such single and Japanese varieties as **Imperial Red**, **Pico**, **Largo**, **Westerner**, and **Red Charm**, be sure to use two-pound bags, as too small of a bag may distort the blooms. Write the proper name on top of the bag, then place the opening on top of the bud and bring it down about halfway. Then pinch both sides together at the bottom, then staple. Care should be taken to leave enough space above the bud so the bloom can expand. One may purchase an inexpensive stapler at almost any dime store. I find this is a must!

Wood tree labels 3-5/8 inches long by 5/8 inch wide with a wire twisted around them can be purchased from a nursery, or a florist can purchase them for one from his florist supply house. I suggest purchasing these early, about March or April.

The bags should have a small corner torn off in order to let out the hot air that generates from the hot sun; this prevents cooking the blooms. Each day the plants should be watched; whenever the single and Japanese feel soft to the touch, cut them. It is easy for them to open. I believe it is better to cut these a little too tight than too far open. This also applies to single and Japanese hybrids. In regard to the double varieties, one may wait until the bag feels full before cutting the bloom. I would suggest cutting 16- to 18-inch stems, removing all leaves except two, and then placing in clear water in a cool place for about one hour before placing in a refrigerator or walk-in box. If, after cutting the bloom for any reason, one wants to bag or rebag, this may be done.

The best way is to cut a small hole in the center of the bottom of the bag and insert the stem first; then pull the stem through the bag. Then fold the open end of the bag twice and staple it at the top two places. With regard to refrigeration, for a novice with 5 to 25 blooms, one could put them in one's own home refrigerator. The best temperature would be 34 to 36 degrees. For an amateur with 35 to 50 blooms, it would be advisable to contact a storekeeper, dairy, or florist who has a walk-in box. Two five-gallon cans would hold 50 blooms. I prefer to store my blooms in water, for the all-out peony nut like me. I am sure you open class boys will find refrigeration of some kind.

With regard to placing the blooms in the proper classes, I do not select the class I want to enter until after I have them unpacked and

they are sitting in water bottles for two hours or more. By then, it is a lot easier to make a decision.

With regard to getting the blooms to the site of the show, I use army foot lockers. One locker will hold about 50 blooms. If one is not too far from the Show or wants to ship by air, one may secure, usually for the asking, a large used wholesale flower box from a florist. They hold about 50 blooms. By packing six or eight sheets of newspaper loosely all around inside the box, one will have fairly good insulation.

Now for varieties, for the novice and amateur, I would say to use whatever one has to start with. Three- and four-year-old plants will grow the largest and finest blooms; however, I have won first prizes with eight- and ten-year-old plants, so one can see that this is not always the case.

By showing and attending a show or shows, one will discover by experience what the best varieties are for exhibition. One may also look back in the last several American Peony Society *Bulletins*, September issues, and see the former winners.

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DIVIDING PEONIES

Myron D. Bigger, Topeka, Kansas

First, do your peonies need dividing? If you want bloom and do not need any more plants, leave them alone unless the bloom is scarce or smaller than they should be. It may be that all they need is a little cultivation or a little fertilizer. (Not much; remember I said **LITTLE!**)

Should you want more of a variety, you can divide a three-year-old peony and do very well. After a plant is ten years old, you do not gain very much per year. You get about so much and very little more.

When you do divide, make up your mind as to whether you want the most planting divisions you can get, or do you want flowers quickly?

For rapid multiplication, cut so that you will have one or two eye divisions with several roots. This will be a well balanced division. Plant them in an upright position while the one eye plant should be planted flat. Planting flat is easier and they will not heave out during the first winter.

The first time I divided **SHAWNEE CHIEF**, I planted eighteen new plants. All the divisions were nice one or two-eyed roots. Most other varieties will not increase that much. If a variety makes large club roots, it can be split in two or four pieces and they will grow very well, just as long as each piece has an eye or two.

In dividing peonies, the roots need not be more than four or five inches long. Any longer, the roots have a tendency to branch out at

the end instead of the crown where you get multiplication.

When a peony is dug, be sure to wash the plant very good before you start to divide, so you can see where to cut, otherwise you might end up with all eyes on one piece and all roots on the other.

A peony plant that is more than three or four years old, should never be reset. It should always be divided. You will have a much better plant as a final result.

It is a good idea to divide your plants and let them dry long enough for the cuts to heal. This way there is less chance of disease entering the new cuts.

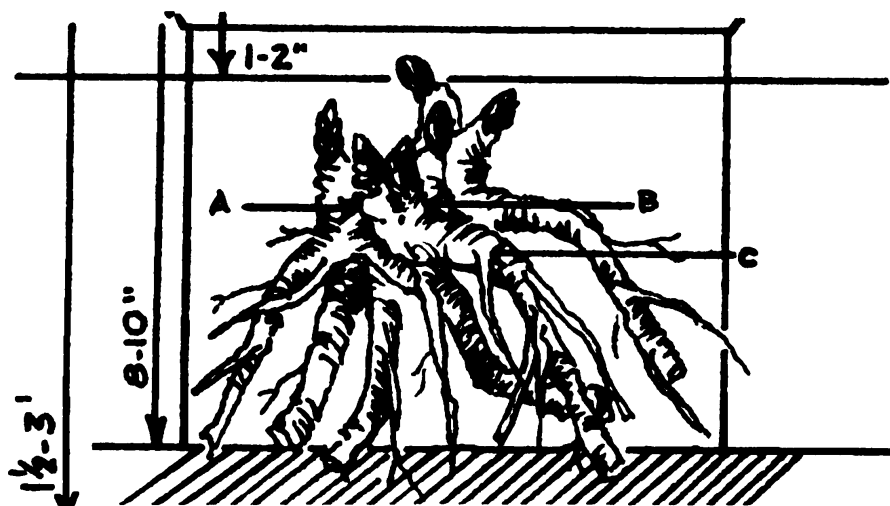
The spring after I sent Mr. Brand his first plant of **KANSAS**, I visited his place. He said, "Let's go out and see how your **KANSAS** is growing."

When we found it, there were three plants. Mr. Brand turned to me and said: "How do you account for that?" The fact is, he had made three good planters out of the one big 2-5 eye plant I sent him, and they all grew.

PEONY PLANTING TO START IN THE EARLY FALL

-ENDING WITH GROUND FREEZE UP FOR THE WINTER.

This illustration indicates proper depth for planting herbaceous Peonies.



Fertilized area of good top garden soil, compost and some commercial fertilizer.

Peonies are easily grown—with a little care you will be rewarded for your efforts. Peonies may be planted anytime when the ground is not frozen, from September through May, if plants are dormant.

1. Select a sunny, well drained place for your peonies; they will tolerate some shade, but should have sun half the day. Do not plant too close to large trees or shrubs that will rob them of moisture and food.

2. Dig a hole 12 inches across and 12 or more inches deep, and place peony root in the hole with top of the eyes (sprouts) pointing up, eyes not over 2 inches below soil level after the soil has been firmed.

3. Fill with loose soil to level, and thoroughly water. If planted in the Fall or Winter, mulch with grass clippings, straw or peat about 4 inches deep. Fertilize peonies with your favorite bulb fertilizer just as the foliage begins to unfurl. Many successful peony fanciers wait until after a hard freeze before cutting off the foliage. As peony tops turn brown in the late summer, they may be cut off level with the ground and burned. This prevents the carryover of any foliage disease, if present, to the next season.



C. S. HARRISON, A MANUAL GIVING COMPLETE DIRECTION FOR THE PROPAGATION AND CULTIVATION OF THE PEONY

3RD EDITION 1915, YORK, NEBRASKA

Propagation

It is highly important to know how to multiply these valuable flowers, for the process is slow at best.

You buy a choice **Syringa** or **Philadelphus**, and you can divide the roots and plant cuttings, and increase them very rapidly. You can, in a few years, run a new kind of a fruit tree up into the millions, but you cannot rush the peony. One of the best on the list originated in 1850, and it is impossible now to supply the demand. If you raise from seed, you never reproduce the original, and it takes from five to eight years to know what you are getting. But with care, by root division alone, you can secure from 500 to 1,000 in ten years. There are four modes of propagation: by division, by roots, from buds, and from seeds.

We have a different system, when we raise for roots, than when we propagate for flowers. By the best of care on the richest ground you can hurry them considerably. But there is a great difference in them. **Edulis Superba** and **Victoria Tricolor** multiply rapidly, while **J. Discaisne**, though a glorious flower, wants about four years to double itself. Others equally as good in bloom are much more profitable. From **Baroness Schroeder**, **La Tulipe** and **Richardson's Rubra** I have cut thirty roots in four years from one. By dividing every two or three years you have perfectly healthy and vigorous plants. I have bought those that must have stood twelve or fifteen years. The buds were partially decayed, and they had great, club-like roots. There is an advantage in such large roots. A two-year-old plant, sound and vigorous, is much to be preferred.

Propagation by Division

Here you have a task which requires much care and patience. At times it would seem as if you were playing a game of chess and were sure of being beaten by the peony. There is no class of plants which shows such a divergence in root formation. Some will have a very distinct cleavage, so that there is no trouble in dividing, and some you can pull apart without the aid of a knife; others grow to a solid mass. Some are very readily separated while young, but if left a few years they become so compact that they must be cut to pieces like a turnip. Take Richardson's **Rubra Superba**, one of the most vigorous kinds. If divided every two years you will be surprised at the result; perhaps you will get from three to six from one. But you let them stay for six or seven years and they become as solid as a squash, and the best you can do is to cut out a bud with a piece of root. **Festiva Maxima**, with good cultivation, may double every year. If left too long, however, it will have great club-like roots, half decayed near the buds. Most European growers divide every year or two and so keep the plants vigorous. There is such a thing, however, as cutting too fine, when they appear to get discouraged, and it takes years for them to recover. In Europe there is one trouble in dividing so often. They do not get to blooming before they are cut up again, and there is no chance to rogue them. Strays of other varieties will often get in. A careful grower can tell the aliens by the flowers, and so weed them out. This is an important matter. But if they are cut up before they show what they are, as the rogues often multiply faster than the others, there will be very serious mixtures, as most of us who have imported know by unpleasant experience.

Three to Five Eyes

It is often the custom of purchasers to demand peonies with three to five eyes. In doing this they often get much smaller roots than if they said nothing about it. It is necessary to have a good root, regardless of the number of buds. We have received roots with this number that would not weigh more than two ounces, and it would take two or three years to attain bearing size. It is easy enough to load a small root with plenty of eyes, so much so that there will be too many stems for the root. Divide often, and your plant will run to buds.

We know one dealer who was putting up a robust lot of roots, and while packing received a supplementary dispatch that they must have three to five eyes. Said he, "That lets me out," and he went and dug some very small roots of half the size, but they met the requirements, and the purchaser could say nothing.

In cutting up, you will find some very peculiar. Instead of having roots that grow straight down, they wind themselves around the neck of the plant like the arms of a child around a mother's neck. Perhaps it will be a valuable sort. There is a little dirt on them, but you are

sure that you can make it. You insert your knife, and lo, the buds fall on one side and the roots on the other. You try again and meet the same results. You are playing chess and the plant is beating you.

Again you find they are very brittle. A slight touch and they snap. You wonder what you will do. Don't do anything for awhile. Let those roots lie in the sun a few hours until they wilt and grow flexible. Now take this one so badly twisted. Gently lift that twining arm. At the upper end there is a bud—you want that bud and root to go together. Insert the knife under the root, lift it gently, now give a careful thrust, and you have root and bud ready for business. Look again. Here is another twisted one with an eye belonging to it, and with care you can get five or six good ones with eyes attached. You feel better, for you are winning in the game, and perhaps each division means a dollar, so you can afford to be deliberate. It does not hurt them a particle to lift a little. Put them in water and they soon resume their plumpness, or plant them in moist earth and they soon send out tiny rootlets. If you are packing, it is much better to have them a little flexible; they do not break so readily; only pack in moist material, and water well, and they will reach their destination in a plump condition.

FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES, the best way is to take a fair-sized root not quite large enough to put into an order, plant it on good ground, and let it grow a year. It will increase its size about one-half. The knife wounds will be healed, and you have nearly a perfect root for your customer. Let it go entire, unless you can nip off a small bud with a root on it, which you can do without injury. I think such plants give the best satisfaction. They are healthy, and when planted make a vigorous growth. We cannot always do this, however, and so in most cases we send divisions.

Raising From Roots

I have watched this process closely for years, and have found one thing, perhaps not discovered by others. The root is small where it joins at the top; it swells in the center and then tapers. Now if a root is broken at the center, the lower portion never can form a head. It will try hard. A callus will be formed at either end. The poor thing will do its best to put a head on itself, but cannot make it. At the end of the first year the root will yet be sound; the second year the top will begin to decay, and the third year it will be rotten. The upper portion of the same root, where it breaks from the plant, will have a good show for forming a head. Kinds differ. I have **Edulis Superba**, and others of its class, stored with vitality. I have often stripped off roots, like fingers from the hand, and planted them, and almost invariably a bud would form the first year and be ready for business the next spring. Sometimes it will take two years to form a head, but in the main you will succeed better to carefully divide and plant root and bud together.

Very often, in cutting up a large quantity, hundreds of roots will be left on the ground. You can gather these and put them in a bed, with the tops up, a layer of roots and a layer of earth. Cover with about two inches of earth. Some throw them promiscuously into a pit. In the Fall you can overhaul them, and you will find many of them have thrown out a bud at the crown. These can be planted, and they will make quite a growth the next year. There are some exceptions to the general rule. **Queen Victoria**, and some other sorts, will form what are termed adventitious shoots, and produce buds from their lower portions.

The two kinds of **Tenuifolia** and **Officinalis** have roots like a sweet potato. The tubers are often separated from the parent stem. Place these in a bed by themselves, planted as directed above, and in about a year they will develop buds, and will be ready for planting.

When you are in great haste to multiply rare sorts, you can take a large root, put it in moist earth and keep it warm, and in a short time it will develop a large amount of buds. Now is your chance to cut a bud with a fair portion of root attached. We have sometimes produced eight or ten plants from roots which, when first chosen, showed no indication of buds, save at the crown. Only some sorts can thus be treated.

Propagating From Buds

Considerable stir has been made about what is termed a new and rapid system of increasing plants. Having tested it, there is something in it, but whether enough to make it pay, is a question. Take off the top and bottom of a box eighteen inches deep, then put it over a strong clump and fill it with earth. The whole plant makes a desperate effort to climb to the sunlight. Both root and top show unwanted energy. In two years the stem will develop well defined buds. These you can cut off, with a piece of the stem, and plant in moist earth in a warm place. After awhile they will take root. At the same time an unusual amount will be formed at the crown. I have counted forty buds on a strong plant treated this way. I do not think plants developed from the stems will be as robust as those secured from divisions, and doubt whether we gain much by the process. The most rapid mode of production probably is to cut up every year or two and give the best of cultivation. Under such a process you multiply rapidly and have fine, healthy roots.

C. S. Harrison was one of the first group of Charter Members joining the Society in 1902. Died Feb. 23, 1919. His peony manuals (out of print) are of interest. Chapters from his books have appeared in past Bulletins.

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WHAT ARE YOU DOING FOR THE CASE OF THE PEONY?

(From Bulletin #1 — "A Bulletin of Peony News" 1914-1915)

Written by A. H. Fawkes, first Secretary of the Amer. Peony Society

Often when the prospective member is approached with regard to becoming a member of the Society, the question is asked, "What will the Society do for me?" and a similar question is often asked by those who are already members, "What is the Society doing for me?" These are very natural questions, but they may be met by another equally pertinent, "What are you, a lover of the peony, doing for the cause of our chosen flower?" If you can answer the last question by showing that you are actually helping the cause along either with your money or your appreciation and encouragement, or by all together, then the other questions will in time answer themselves.

Members who do not see immediate personal returns are too apt to look upon the Society—and this applies to other societies as well as ours—as a combination of a few men, forming a little circle for the exploitation of the flower for their own benefit, at the expense of the other members; or else as a circle on whom has fallen in some way the duty of providing others with everything that can be learned about the special flower for which the Society stands.

It is true that a few have been chosen to do this sort of work in the Peony Society, and they are doing it conscientiously and well, although unremunerated. But it is a tremendous task, and their efforts would have been futile but for the cooperation of the faithful; and future success depends largely on whether you will join the ranks of the faithful and help to hold up the hands of those who are striving to bring forth results creditable to themselves and to the Society. There is much still left to do, and they need your help both materially and morally.

To appreciate what has been done by the Society, one must look backward to the time of its organization and call to mind the condition under which peony growers were struggling. Then, no man could be sure of the name of any variety. Now, the one who is careless [or worse] with his names, is apt to be severely let alone, while trade goes to the man who has been willing to make some sacrifices for plants true-to-name. Then there were but few really good varieties in commerce in this country, and the standard of quality was comparatively low. Now, through the efforts of enthusiasts both in and out of the Society, the most choice varieties have been introduced, and the standard of quality has risen to an astonishing degree. This in all probability would never have been brought about by individual effort alone. The combined efforts of many lovers of the peony were necessary to secure such results.

When we stop to compare the condition and appreciation of the peony even twelve or fifteen years ago with what it is today, we are almost ready to say that if nothing more were to be accomplished, and the Society were to be dissolved, its life would not have been in vain. But the Society is not to be dissolved; its work is far from finished, and it intends to keep right on. But nomenclature work is by no means all that is to be accomplished by the Society. Popularization is an equally important matter both from the commercial standpoint and the aesthetic. The flower must be placed before the public in all possible places, and in the most attractive manner. More amateurs must be encouraged to take up its cultivation and to make it a hobby. To this end the Society must encourage exhibitions of the flower all over the land, for there is no better way of showing its possibilities than by placing it on the exhibition table. In ways like these, the Society will find abundant work to do in the years to come, and the greater the number who are willing to help, the greater will be the benefits both to the public and to those who are helping.

Although the man with his shoulder to the wheel is doing the hard work, this work is made much easier, and is gladly done if those who are standing by will only speak words of encouragement to him, and do their best to help him out. This is no place for the pessimist, the growler, or the knocker. If you feel you are not financially able to become, or to continue, as a member, then speak good words for us and encourage those who are to join, and help the good work along.



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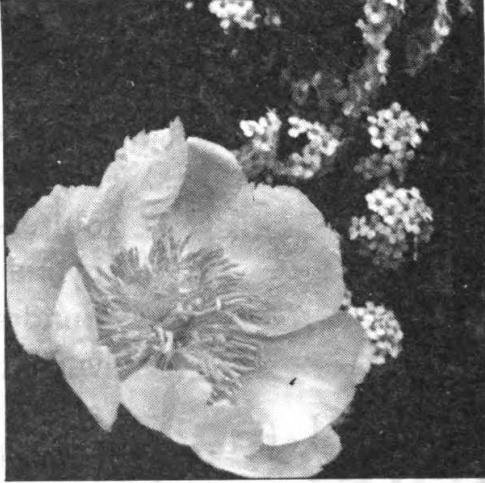
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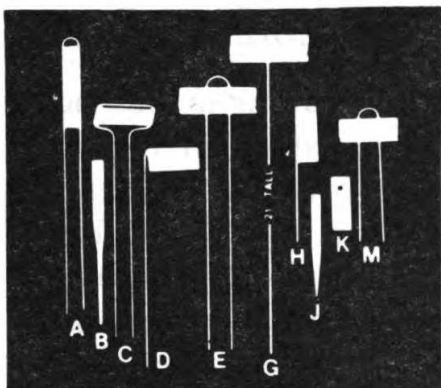
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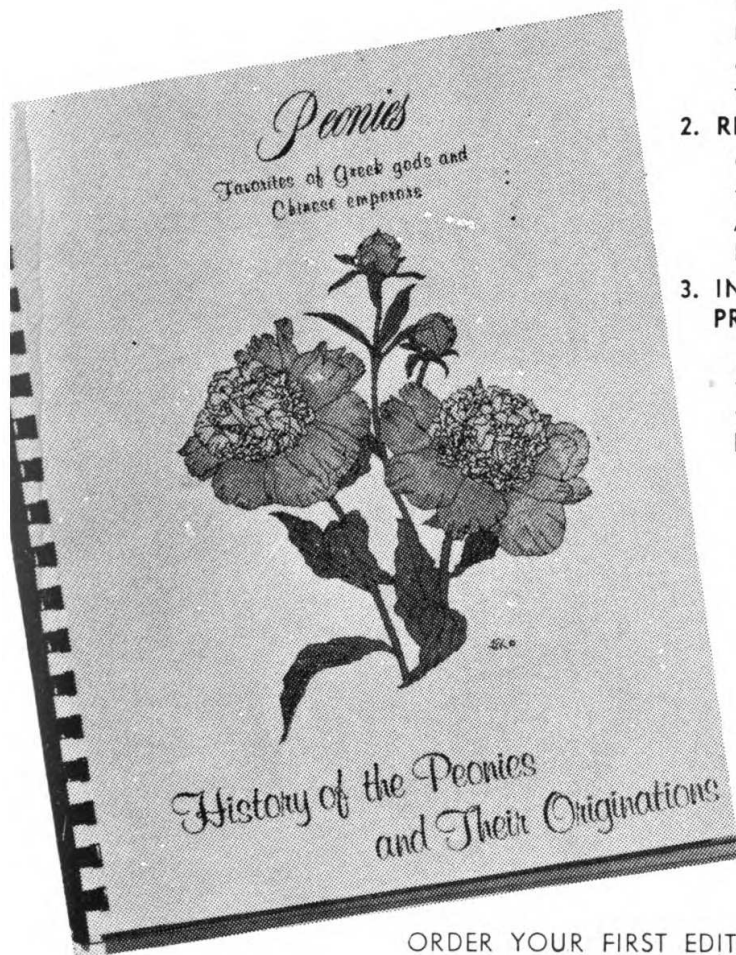
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