

Quarterly of the American  
**Primrose**  
Society

VOLUME XIX

SPRING 1961

Number 2



*Primula denticulata*

**1961 Yearbook**

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 All material for the Quarterly should be sent direct to the Editor's Office,  
 2406 Boyer Avenue, Seattle 2, Washington  
 British Subscription price (including membership): 1 pound per year  
 British Representative and Treasurer—  
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THE PICTURE ON THE COVER: Pr. denticula . . . Drawing by Doretta Klaber. This and the drawings on page 35 were used to illustrate an article by Mrs. Klaber in the New York Times, March 13, 1960.

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*Subscription price (including membership): \$3.50 per year, \$10.00 for three years paid in advance. Old Quarterlies available at Editor's Office — see Index in Winter 1959 issue. Treasurer, Mrs. Orval Agee, 11112 S. E. Wood Avenue, Milwaukie 22, Oregon. (Free cultural chart with new memberships.)*

The editor is Mrs. Robert M. Ford, 2406 Boyer Ave., Seattle 2, Washington

It is published at the Seattle Printing & Publishing Company, Seattle, Washington.

Published four times a year: Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall.

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Entered as second-class matter at Seattle, Washington, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

# What To Do Now ... In The East

DORETTA KLABER, Quakertown, Pa.  
(45 miles from Phila.)



What to do now? In April, May and June? These are the months of fulfillment! These are the months when all the thoughts and work that went before come to fruition and your dreams come true. These are the months when frequent tours of the garden are in order, to marvel anew at the freshly opened primrose blossoms, their colors, their forms and in many, their fragrance. Work is at a minimum, for part of their winter natural mulch of leaves is still around them, and the ground is covered with the primroses and their companion plants. Occasional stirring of the ground, and light weeding is all that is needed.

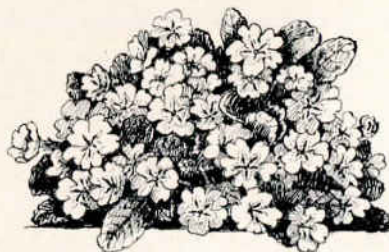
But this is an established garden of which I speak. Perhaps you have only recently become enamored of these plants. Perhaps you saw some of them at a March Flower Show and there and then fell in love with them. If so, the first thing to do is to get better acquainted. Visit friend's gardens, Botanical Gardens, nurseries, and learn to distinguish between the many kinds available. Prepare a home for them, and get at least a small start with purchased plants. Later you can raise quantities from seed.

If you have a bit of woods you may have to do little this first year, other than to clear out rubbish and weeds. Primroses like a rich soil with ample moisture, good drainage, and most prefer part shade. It may be advisable to raise beds above the paths, holding the soil in with stones, logs or any natural looking edging. If you have to prepare the soil for them, make a mixture of any or all of the

following: good loam, compost, woods soil, dried or well rotted manure (preferably cow's), peat, (preferably one of the new treated peats such as "Humall".) If necessary sand, stone chips or cinders can be added to provide good drainage. A sprinkling of any of the soil poisons to take care of bugs and grubs is advisable. The proportions of the mix can vary. What you are aiming at is a nourishing medium that will not pack tight when handled. A foot of such soil is ideal but they will grow in less.

If you are not quite such a brand new primrose grower, perhaps you planted seeds of primulas in January or February (as recommended by Mrs. Klaber or one of those old gardeners). If so, they will no doubt sprout in April and be ready to move into nursery beds in late May or June. Here, they are started in coldframes outdoors. When they are large enough to handle they are lifted out of the bed a row at a time. An asparagus knife is a good tool for this purpose. Your soil should be damp. You can then lift the roots intact and readily shake them apart. They should be planted 3 to 4 inches apart, watered, cultivated and weeded as needed. The soil is approximately the same as in the rest of the garden. The nursery beds should be raised above the surrounding ground and should receive at least half-shade.

You will no doubt want to start with the hardiest and easiest of the primroses. So that you will know what to look for I list and describe those that are easy in this section of the country. In this garden they get



*P. Juliana*



*P. Polyanthus*



*P. japonica*



*P. Sieboldii*

Original drawings by Doretta Klaber. *P. vulgaris (acaulis)*  
—reduced 1/4—on opposite page.

reasonable care but are not pampered.

In April the first to bloom is usually *Primula denticulata*. The flowers appear as a round ball on a sturdy stem, which gradually lengthens as do the leaves, until you have a rather large plant. The flowers are white, pink, lavender or reddish tones and are absolutely hardy. They like moisture but must have a well-drained position in winter, to protect the fat bud at the surface of the soil from rot.

Late April and early May is THE

(See *P. denticulata* on Cover)

Primrose Season. This is when the so-called vernaes or vernal primroses bloom. Among new primrose enthusiasts there seems to be some confusion about the different types. First, we have PRIMULA VULGARIS (acaulis), which have been developed from the wild English primrose and others. The flowers spring individually from the root each on its own footstalk. Because of all the hybridizing that has gone on, we sometimes find stems rising from the same plant with a head of flowers. They come in delicious colors from the original yellow

to soft pinks, blues, reds and whites.

The stem with a head of flowers is the characteristic marking of the POLYANTHUS, all of which are hybrids. They are probably the most popular type of primrose. The colors are endless, from deep bronze or brown, purple or red, to the most delicate pastel colors, and of course, white. Two of the many parents of the polyanthus are the cowslip, *P. veris*, and the ox lip, *P. elatior*. These also have stems topped by clustered flowers. In the cowslip the calyx is baggy, the flowers rather small. The colors are usually yellow, orange or red and the fragrance delightful. Their profusion of small flowers is most attractive. The ox lip calyx is not as large, the flowers usually larger with a tendency to droop, and lacking fragrance. It too is a delightful plant.

There are a number of "old-fashioned" polyanthus, newly popular. These include the *gold or silver-laced*, dark red or almost black flowers with a formal edging of yellow or white around each petal. Then there is the "hose-in-hose" where one corolla protrudes from a second one. These used to be small red and yellow flowers, but the modern ones are large, in many colors, and have lost a bit of their intriguing old-fashioned look. There is also "Jack-in-the-green" where each flower has a ruff of small green leaves framing its face.

The only other vernal primrose generally grown is *P. juliana*. These are all hybrids of *P. juliae*, which is a small creeping plant, with rugose little round leaves and brilliant wine colored blossoms close upon them. It is hard to come by the original species, and it is probably not as hardy as its progeny. The hybrids come in many colors though wine tones predominate. Some of them retain the low mounds

of foliage of the parent plant, covered with flowers on single stems, others have clustered flowers on stalks. The best hybrids all have a refined and delicate look belied by their sturdiness. When you grow them from seed they vary greatly and are sometimes indistinguishable from vulgaris or polyanthus.

The Woodland Section (called *Cortusoides* after one member of the group) follows closely on the heels of the vernal. The easiest and most reliable of these is *P. sieboldii*. Its decorative leaves are not evergreen as are the vernal. In fact, the whole plant disappears from view after going to seed in midsummer. The flowering stems are about a foot high, the flowers airy and graceful in white, pink, lavender or two-toned. In the latter they may be white on the upper surface and lavender below, etc. Sometimes the petals are cut into "snow-flake" patterns. They are charming and indestructible and need less division than other types, soon spreading into pleasant colonies. Good soil, drainage, ample moisture and partial shade encompass their needs.

Next come the candelabras in late May and into June. The easiest of these and the one to start with is *P. japonica*. These like more moisture and shade than those above. If planted along a stream or other favorable spot they will seed themselves around. They make sturdy plants from a foot high to three feet depending on the richness and wetness of the soil. They come in good whites, lovely pinks and varying reds. The flowers open tier on tier so have a long season of bloom.

Many primula growers advocate dividing the plants after blooming, but as I do this in early fall, we will discuss it in the next installment.

## What To Do In The Primrose Garden In The Pacific Northwest—April, May and June

RALPH BALCOM, *Seattle, Washington*

It is difficult to write an all-purpose column that will apply to all growers alike. The problems of one who raises hundreds or thousands of all sorts of primroses are certainly different than those of a housewife who has only a border of *Wanda* plants lining the edge of a garden path. There are those who grow nothing but polyanthus or border auriculas, others keep just the candelabras and other Asiatics. Some grow them along creek banks, some in the woods, and others in rockeries or borders. And there are the florists who have greenhouses and raise the species and show or exhibition sorts of primroses. Each has his own special problems.

This column will be written to fit the majority, which means that it will be more for the smaller grower who raises the more common varieties. The specialist can refer to the many articles published in back issues of the *Quarterly*.

If you have a special method of growing primroses that works well for you don't change, unless you want to test my system. I will write only of the method that has produced the best results for me.

Seasonal weather conditions vary a great deal from year to year. In an "early spring" one might be doing in late March the things that in a normal year he would do in April, or if it were cold and freezing in February and March it could delay April's work until the first of May. Since this column must be done almost two months ahead of time, it will of necessity be written to fit the normal year.

### WHAT TO DO IN APRIL

April is the month when the majority of primroses are at their peak of bloom and is the time we all have been anticipating for a year. What is the sense of growing them unless we now take some time out to enjoy them to the fullest? May I suggest then that the first thing to do is to spend some happy hours looking at and admiring their loveliness. Just sit a while and gaze. After viewing them first as a panorama, with an eye for color blends and arrangement, then examine and admire each plant separately as though it were on a pedestal and the only one in the garden. Some are more precious than jewels and certainly more lovely. What a thrill it is to see a bed of seedlings opening for the first time, especially if they are from an exciting cross that one has waited two years to see. Look for the unusual one, for you may want to use it in some hybridizing scheme and now is the time to pollinate.

If you plan to exhibit plants at the shows look for and mark any that give promise of developing into good show specimens. A pane of glass over those you have selected will protect them from weather damage.

Finally, while you are looking, do not fail to cast a solicitous eye to see if any needs doctoring or attention. You should examine all your plants at frequent regular intervals from now until next winter to see how they are doing. Many, many primroses have been lost because this was not done.

In inspecting plants to see if they

are in trouble do it systematically. Check the foliage first. Are there holes chewed in the leaves? If so, at this time of year, the pest who did it is probably a slug. Adult root weevils also chew holes (usually a half circle on the edges) but it is unlikely that they are around yet, since the first batch of the black species, which is the one most prevalent in the Northwest, usually appears in late May. Then inspect carefully the underside of the leaves. Either aphids or red spider could be living there . . . more likely aphids because the red spider is more prevalent during the hotter weather in the summer. I think everyone recognizes an aphid when he sees one but the red spider is not so well known. It is really a tiny mite, barely visible to the naked eye . . . and it can be other colors besides red, such as green, yellow or black. It sucks the juices of the leaves until they become blotched with pale yellow and reddish brown spots and gradually die. The underside of the leaves appear to have been dusted with a fine white powder, but when examined through a lens this is seen to consist of empty wrinkled skins and minute eggs suspended on strands of fine webbing along which move the tiny mites.

While examining the foliage of the plants be sure and look for those that have *not* been attacked by insects or slugs above ground, but still appear sick and even about ready to die. If there is no trouble in the foliage of course it must be in the roots, and that is where you look. Take a small hand trowel and dig down about six inches alongside the afflicted plant inspecting the roots as you dig. This disturbs only a part of the root system and still gives you a chance to see what is happening. If the roots have been chewed it is almost certain



*Strawberry Root Weevil:* Larvae or grub, pupa stage (both twice normal size), and adult (approx. life size).

(in the Pacific Northwest) that the damage is due to the larvae (or grubs) of the strawberry root weevil. They are probably the worst enemy of primrose plants in this area, but the auriculas seem to be more or less immune to them. In April the grub is full grown and does the most damage to the small fibrous roots on primroses and other plants and shrubs. Look for him in the dirt as you dig around the roots of the plant. He is white or pinkish in color, has a tan head and is slightly less than a half inch long when full grown . . . is legless, thick-bodied and crescent shaped. If the roots of a plant show damage but there are no grubs to be found, it is quite likely they are still somewhere in the same area but have gone into the so-called pupa or resting stage. They remain in this condition about three weeks before emerging as adult weevils. These weevils like to live in groups so, if you have found evidence of the larvae in sick looking plants, examine some of the healthy appearing ones nearby. It may be that they *are* there but haven't yet done enough damage to affect the appearance of the foliage.

Now, if you have thoroughly inspected all your primroses and they are all healthy and pest-free and need no watering or weeding, you can go back to just sitting and admiring. But if you have found any trouble, it is time to quite sitting and go to work.

## SLUGS

There are three ways to fight slugs: (1) Dust the area to be treated with a powder such as one called "SLUGDUSTO" and follow the simple directions on the package. (2) Spray with a liquid such as "SLUGFEST" using either a hand sprayer, a hose-on type applicator, or just a sprinkling can to cover the area. (3) Use one of the so-called apple baits containing Metaldehyde and scatter it over the garden according to directions. I have used all three methods and *they all do kill slugs*. No matter which method you use, do a thorough job of it. Try to pick a time when the weather man forecasts a few days of rainless weather. Do it in the evening and if the ground is dry first take a hose and sprinkle all the area to be treated. Treat the entire garden or any place you think they may be hiding, or any ground they may cross during the night. If your garden is next to a woods try treating a two foot strip as a sort of fence which they must cross to reach your plants. I seem to have better success if I bait my whole place thoroughly and then wait a good interval of time between that and the next treatment.

## APHIDS AND RED SPIDER

The best way to combat these two pests seems to be with a spray containing fifty or more percent Malathion. A hose-on type sprayer is good because it can be operated with one hand. Set the nozzle to a fine spray and, with a rubber glove on the free hand, lift the leaves of each plant and spray the undersides, for that is where they live. It is a tedious job but is the best way I have found to get them. This spraying process should be repeated every week or two until they are eliminated. It is said that dead aphids can still give birth to their young so don't blame your spray if

you find new aphids about a day or so after your application.

## STRAWBERRY ROOT WEEVIL

It is best to keep this pest from your primrose garden by treating the beds *before* the plants are set out. If this were not done it is a bit late, for the grub may be down in the soil chewing lustily at the roots. Dig up any plants that appear to be badly infested . . . wash the dirt from the roots and re-set them in *clean treated ground*. Then treat the entire bed with one of the liquid or dry preparations made especially to kill the root weevil larvae. Sprinkle or dust this preparation over the soil according to directions being sure to cover the area directly under the plants. Follow this with a thorough watering with the hose in order to get the mixture down deeper in the soil where the grub is working. If you have just a few plants you can pour a cupful of the liquid around the crown of each plant or, if using the dry form, work it into the soil around each plant.

The Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station recommends the use of aldrin, dieldrin or heptachlor but they say that chlordane is also good.

As mentioned above, the best control is to treat the beds before setting out the plants. This is done by spraying or dusting one of the above preparations over the soil and then working it into the ground to a depth of 3 to 6 inches. It is claimed that this will give effective control for a period of about three years.

## PREPARING PLANTS FOR THE SHOW

Why not enter some of your choicest plants in the primrose show nearest you this year? There is so much pleasure and satisfaction in displaying one's own flowers for the enjoyment of others and . . . there is always the exciting anticipation of winning a blue ribbon or two, and per-

haps even a sweepstakes award. The preparation of them is not at all difficult. The day before the show, dig and pot up the ones you have chosen to exhibit. Use clay pots and be sure they are clean, of a size in proportion to the size of the plant it contains, and that each one has your name written in indelible pencil or ink on the bottom just in case an entry tag should be lost. A bit of peat moss placed in the bottom helps maintain moisture. In digging the plant, cut a circle around it about the size of the pot, lift and settle it in carefully and then fill all open spaces with peat or soil. A dressing of crushed rock, white sand or tree moss placed on top of the soil helps to dress up the specimen but is not necessary. Some shows do not permit a top dressing.

Then soak thoroughly by standing the pots in a pan of water or in a weak manure or booster solution. Give them a good dunking. After draining, groom each plant by removing any faded blossoms or spotted leaves taking care not to disturb its symmetrical form. Many an otherwise deserving specimen has lost a blue ribbon because of poor grooming. Finally, wash the dirt gently from the foliage with a sprinkler and set the plants in a cool place until the time comes to take them to the show. And good luck! I hope you win the trophy for the best plant in the show.

#### WHAT TO DO IN MAY

During the first week in May the auriculas are in full bloom and about a week or two later the candelabras and other later blooming sorts are in their full glory. One must still watch for signs of pests and take corrective measures if they are present. And of course the beds must be watered and weeded when necessary. Since the adult root weevil (which looks like a beetle and lays the egg that hatches

into the grub) usually appears in the latter part of May, it is well to scatter some bait around. Use one that contains sodium fluosilicate and a brand that states on the label it will kill the strawberry root weevil. Such a bait will not only kill the weevil but will also kill many slugs at the same time. None of the weevils fly so if one can destroy them he has practically eliminated the grub from his garden for the next year. Since other batches of weevils appear at intervals later in the spring and summer, occasional other baitings will help to keep down this weevil population.

May is a good time to start preparing the beds for the coming season which, as mentioned before, should be treated to further aid in the elimination of the root weevil.

#### WHAT TO DO IN JUNE

If you believe in dividing and transplanting primrose plants shortly after they finish blooming (I believe the majority of growers do) this is the month to begin. In preparing the beds remember to treat for root weevil. It is also well to add a bit of fertilizer to the soil at this time. I am not going to recommend any particular kind since soils and conditions vary so much that what will do for one will not be suited for another.

Dividing the plants is a very simple operation. Dig them and wash all dirt from the roots. Cut the ends of the roots off leaving about three inches. Then, either cut or pull the divisions apart so that each little plant has a crown of leaves and a root system of its own. Carefully break off the outside leaves of each division leaving as many center ones as seem to balance the size of the root system. Plant them so that the crown is just above the soil line and finally give them a watering. It is best to do transplanting later in  
(Continued on pg. 62)

## Primroses In The South

CHARLES E. GILMAN,  
*Los Gatos, California*

During the time we operated Primrose Corner in the Seattle area, we sent dozens of Polyanthus plants to various localities in California. Reports invariably said that the plants were doing fine and we wondered then and wonder still why there are not more California members of the American Primrose Society.

Now asked to write about Primroses growing in California, we were given the necessary incentive to visit some of the California A.P.S. members to find out first hand how they grow their primroses. We are so glad we did. Of course we had seen how much *P. malacoides* and *P. obconica* are used in wide planter boxes by public buildings under a wide marquee and by householders for bedding plants, but until we visited some of the members we did not realize that the dedicated Polyanthus growers will hardly admit that these two species are in the same family. Of course they are *Primula* and probably the easiest to grow in this climate.

There are all sorts of growing conditions in California, some of which are ideal for Primroses, but even in the hottest areas we have found that Polyanthus will do very well if given the care you would give to any favorite flower whatever it may be. In our own area of San Jose where most summers are quite warm, Mrs. Corinne H. Kibler, one of the first members of the A.P.S., told us she had actually started a craze for Polyanthus in the '30s. That the craze has since died out is no fault of Mrs. Kibler. The excuse of the lazy gardener that they are "too much work" is not endorsed by her.

Mrs. Kibler first saw Primroses in a bouquet in the office of a friend in San Francisco. She had on a burgundy colored dress and the Polyanthus blended in with the dress and her fair hair so that the friend remarked that she looked like a Primrose herself. She decided then and there that if she ever had a garden of her own she would have Polyanthus growing there. The next time she saw these bright flowers was when, as a practical nurse, she was on the way to a patient and passed by a dump where she saw some Polyanthus blooming away quite unconcerned with their environment. The gorgeous color revived her interest. In 1936 she showed an arrangement in a brass treasure chest. It was described as a "rainbow of Primroses;" a teakwood tray served as elevation and the blossoms were in tiny vases. The display created a craze and for a while the nurseries could not keep up with the demand.

Mrs. Kibler has found that the answer to successful Primrose culture in this mild climate is simply "care." She soon found the Polyanthus do not like chemicals of any kind so she uses plenty of manure. In this dehydrated air they need plenty of water. They need reflected or filtered sunlight. Too much shade is not good and full sun will dry them out. At one address she tried to use the shade of Eucalyptus trees but found that the oil secreted by the Eucalyptus poisons the soil so that nothing will grow under or near them. Mrs. Kibler has proved that picking off dry leaves and giving the care one would give to any other plant and obeying the precepts of good gardening, i.e., good soil, plenty of water, and partial shade, any gardener in this climate can successfully grow *Primula*.

She divides her plants every second year as is the practice in the Pacific Northwest. She has never had the time to hand pollinate but lets the bees and the birds spread the seed. In this way and by replenishing with plants from a good nursery occasionally she is favored with Primroses in profusion year after year.

Another A.P.S. member of long standing, Mrs. H. C. Schulthies of Sacramento, living in a city noted for its hot summers, enjoys her Primroses which she grows in the shade of large Camellia bushes. Mrs. Schulthies renews her plants every two years and gives them the same care as described by Mrs. Kibler. In the hotter dryer sections the main hazard for the welfare of Polyanthus is the red spider mite. Mrs. Schulthies says she uses malathion with the most success for this pest.

Mr. Charles C. Jensen in Carmichael, a suburb of Sacramento, likes the Candelabra section best and has an ideal spot to grow them in. Mr. Jensen's property is extensive and there is a large swale within sight of the highway. It is damp here at all times and Mr. Jensen has improved on the situation by digging out a large pool. This swale had been full of giant blackberries and it is easy to imagine the work required to dig them out before he could start with his landscaping. The Candelabra are planted in drifts among large Rhododendron and shorter Azalea under the high shade of very tall sycamores. As with Polyanthus, the Candelabra must be renewed every two years as the plants will continue to grow until their vitality is exhausted and seldom last for longer than this. This spot in Mr. Jensen's garden should be ideal also for *P. Sieboldii* which we saw just coming up when we were there in early February.

We visited Mr. W. A. S. Clayton in Los Altos on Washington's Birthday and found a large three-cornered bed of Polyanthus in full bloom in his front yard. A magnificent White Oak estimated to be several hundred years old provides dappled shade during the summer months. Although Mr. Clayton is a Primrose grower of long standing from Vancouver, B.C., his interests cover the whole range of horticultural material and he has greenhouse, lathhouse, and cold frame to help in his hobby. He showed us several kinds of Orchids in bloom in the greenhouse and we saw any number of Auricula coming on for use in the rock garden under construction which will appear as a miniature mountain. This should be ideal for the Auricula. Mr. Clayton is retired and enjoys doing all of the work of his garden himself. He uses peat and bone-meal as well as redwood shavings and keeps pests under control with malathion and Isotox. For the greenhouse he finds Plant Fume 130 Smoke Generator to be the best. Mr. Clayton always has his own seedlings coming on for replacements although with care and separating every two years he finds good Polyanthus plants can be grown on for several years.

Mrs. Florence Green of Palo Alto, whom we visited the same day, has precious little time for her Primroses being a private nurse and on duty seven days a week. She does her gardening when she can and finds that conversation about flowers with her patients is not only the safest subject but very good therapy as well. Mrs. Green confirmed what we have long known, i.e., that The Barnhaven Notes alone are worth the price of the Quarterly, when she said that the main reason she reads the Quarterly is the writings of Florence Bellis.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Newman received us very graciously and

showed us around the Millbrae hillside where their Primroses grow. Theirs is permanent shade under live oak with very good air drainage. Mr. Newman has a small greenhouse and gets the most fun out of growing his own plants from seed. He grows several species of Primula and we saw *P. Viali*, *P. denticulata*, Candelabra and Auricula as well as Polyanthus. Mr. Newman says he is not troubled by pests, makes his own potting soil with peat, sand, and garden soil and mulches with redwood shavings. Another reason why we like Mr. Newman is that he is a friend of our Bob Saxe whom we missed on this trip. Mr. Saxe grows mostly Alpine and Show Auricula that are getting ready to bloom in March.

Mrs. Alexander Hill of San Francisco gets the most fun out of growing from seed and has a very neat little back yard in which to grow them.

Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Crockett of Corte Madera are living in a new development and have no Primroses as yet. They grew and loved them for many years in Portland and plan to grow them again as soon as their shade trees and shrubs develop.

On several of our trips we have had with us Polly Chapin who says hello to her many friends in the Pacific Northwest. Mrs. Chapin lives in San Jose and does not grow Primroses as actively as she did while living in Seattle but still has Polyanthus and Auricula in her back yard. She grows the Auricula in the shade of a Jacaranda tree. She replaced her soil with peat, keeps plants in partial shade, waters them regularly and has found she can keep them in her garden for many years if they are also divided regularly.

We had a long talk with Mr. John Zanini of Burlingame, a landscape gardener who has grown Polyanthus

for many years, both for the market and for use in his business. Mr. Zanini has no Primroses this year because the taxes became too high to keep his nursery in the heart of Burlingame but he plans to grow them again as soon as suitable acreage can be found. Mr. Zanini said that many nurseries in the San Francisco area are now growing and selling Polyanthus with success.

Most gratifying, we learned that in Lafayette which is through the tunnel east of Oakland in the Walnut Creek area where the summers are hot and dry, Polyanthus plants shipped from our nursery near Seattle before we moved to California were in excellent condition fully four years after they had left their northwest home.

Our main search has been the amateur Primrose grower, but any article about Polyanthus in California should include mention of the Vetterle and Reinelt plant at Capitola. Capitola is about three miles from the ocean and although it becomes very warm here in summer the nearness of the water probably explains why thousands of Polyanthus can be grown here in full sun. This was the first time we had visited Capitola as early as February. We found the plants in full bloom and already beginning to be lifted for the market. By the end of March they will have been all dug, only selected plants being saved for the seed crop. Mr. Gresham of the Vetterle & Reinelt staff told us that the soil is sandy so plenty of peat is dug in with some fish fertilizer added. Polyanthus is treated as an annual in this area and new plants are set out each summer. The plants are mulched with redwood shavings which Mr. Gresham has found to be the best soil builder. The plants are fed regularly with 10-10-5 liquid fertilizer which

(Continued on pg. 69)

# Primroses And Alpines Are My Hobby

RICHARD LANGFELDER, Chappaqua, New York

I was born a long time ago in Vienna, Austria. As a five year old boy I saw in the suburbs of Vienna my first primrose, at home known only as *Himmelschlüssel* (Key of Heaven) or better known here as *Primula elatior*. The valleys and the edge of the woods were full of them, beautiful sheets of gold swaying in a mild breeze.

Later, as a boy of fourteen and fifteen, I wandered with some friends up the Rax and the Schneeberg (about two hours from Vienna) six to eight thousand feet high. There were the *P. minima* and *P. clusiana* in masses. In the valleys were still the *Schneerosen* (Christmas Roses), *Helleborus niger*, by the thousands in bloom, some white glittering but most already pinkish, and all the blues of the *Enzian* or *Gentiana acaulis*.

But my biggest and most pleasant surprise came later. We began our ascent of the mountains at two o'clock in the morning to hunt the birch cock or heather cock (Birkhahn). Our destination was the crest of the mountain about six thousand feet high where the white glittering snow lay six to

*The Eastern Alps at Maria Zell, Styria, Austria, where the author found lovely primroses and alpines in his youth. Photo courtesy the author.*



nine feet deep. There were numerous big rocks and creeping pine all around. There we waited for the arrival of the birds. When the sun came up in a clear red dawn the cocks came flying in and began their mating ritual, singing and dancing for hours. When the hens arrived the cocks started to fight and chase the hens around.

Long after the hunt was over we walked slowly down through a carpet of the most beautiful primroses ever created, the Petergstamm - *Auricula alpina*. There they were by the thousand—everywhere—over the rocks, over the cliffs and down to the quick-running brook, between the *Seidelbast* (*Daphne mezereum*) filling the air with a heavenly fragrance, gold and gold all over.

At the age of sixteen I got from my father about a quarter acre of land so that I could have my own garden. I raised all kinds of flowers but not the primroses I talked about. I planted and raised all the foreign primulas and alpines which I could get. On the other side usually they do not raise the wildflowers, but the flowers from far away. If they want to admire them, they just get up the valleys and the mountains and fill their hearts with all the beauty and splendor.

Here in Chappaqua, New York, (retired) I raise a lot of alpines and primulas and generally I not only can raise them, but grow them on, too. Only one primula I got as a plant, a *P. Juliana*. All the others I have raised from seed. In spring there is a riot of colors when the masses of primulas start to bloom.

Looking out of my window this December 13, I have my Christmas



*Dwarf iris, primula, and other spring flowers in the garden of Richard Langfelder. (Unfortunately color photos do not transfer well to black and white, but the originals were lovely). Photos courtesy the author.*

roses in bloom, about fifteen plants with over four to five hundred blossoms, against the dark background of *Taxus* and *Hollies*. It is a beautiful sight, but my heart belongs to the primulas and to the wild cyclamen which grow here almost as well as in the Vienna Woods.

My two rock gardens are overflowing with the darlings of the mountains—the dainty *Saxifages*, the blue *Gentians*, the golden bells of the *Onosmas*, the tiny *Androsaces*, the carpet of the *Hypericums*, the beauty of the *Anacyclus deppressus* (the herald of spring), the *Anemones* and wild *Columbines*—In the background the clan of the evergreen, the dwarf *Rhododendron* and *Azaleas*, the *Andromedas*, and so on. Behind the rocks on the north side of the rockeries the fairies of *Soldanellas* and the dark splendor of the *Ramondias* grow.

On the edge of the woods is the heather garden with the *Callunas* and *Ericas*, *Daboecia* and the trailing *Mugho* pines.

The woods around are filled with wildflowers and ferns. I love them all!

There are some flowers that I have not been able to raise, but I do not give up. There are some that I raise

quite well and then they do not like me and disappear—but I won't give up. Some I cannot raise at all, and perhaps an Alpine house is the answer.

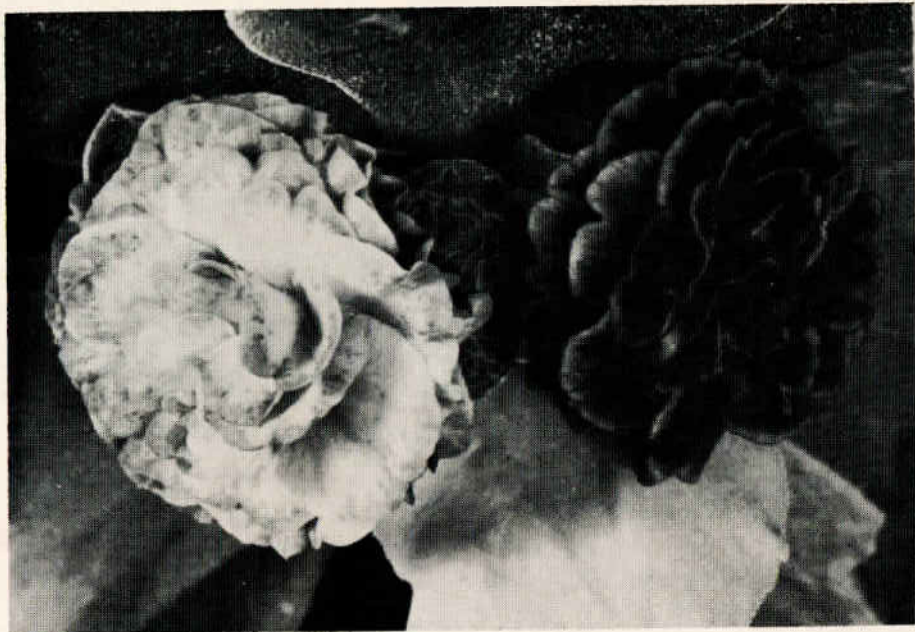
The most important part in raising the difficult ones is, first, to get all the information—Where are they at home? The environment, the soil, the location and the climate? One could create the right location, bring in the right soil, but could you create the right climate too? If you can, you can grow them. . .

Here in the East we can raise almost all the hardy flowers we want, but not all.

I think the most important part to success is that you have to love them and you have to have your heart in it. Then you can do it.

Spring is not heralded by the calendar. If you see snowdrops and crocus lifting their heads and in the little gardens the skyblue *hepaticas* greeting you, then we know that spring is not far away. When the woodcock flies low over the marshes and the moisture-laden valleys—uttering his mating call—then the snow must go. . . little brooks becoming overnight streams, and the streams angry icefilled torrents bringing disaster and death to the lowlands.





Mr. and Mrs. Orval Agee dropped their work and came here to take pictures of this plant so that you could see what a double auricula looks like with two large blossoms . . . one pink and one red.

## A Double Auricula Mutation

DENNA SNUFFER, Bay City, Oregon

Several years ago we took our auriculas for the first time to the Primrose Show in the Journal Building in Portland, Oregon. We had one auricula plant with two different colors in single flowers. One stem of flowers was dark red, the other a tan or light brown color.

The difference in the mutation of the single auricula and the mutation of the double auricula pictured is that the double flowers are on one stem that grew from the side of the plant, not from the center. The state inspectors who visit us tell me that a good mutation in the flowers of the auricula would be rare . . . perhaps once in a hundred years.

Bay City weather could have caused the mutation in the two plants.

It will be interesting to watch this plant and see which color takes over . . . or will it go on blooming with both pink and red double flowers?

At this time there are three small divisions and I am anxious to see their bloom.

### 1961 Seed From DOUBLE AURICULA PLANTS

Seeds — 10c each

Denna Snuffer  
BAY CITY  
PRIMROSE GARDEN  
Bay City, Oregon

## 1961 Primrose Shows

**OREGON PRIMROSE SOCIETY**  
—April 8 and 9 at Wichita School, 6031 S. E. King Road, Milwaukie. Sat. 2-8:30, Sunday, 1-5. Admission Free — Plant Sale. President: Mrs. Raymond Elmstrom, 8715 S.E. 36th St., Milwaukie 22, Ore. Show Chairman: Mrs. Anita Alexander, 11848 S. E. Rhone, Portland, Ore.

**LEWIS COUNTY PRIMROSE SOCIETY**—April 8 and 9 at Fort Borst Park, Centralia. President: Mrs. Reuben Stohr, 1512 Grand Ave., Centralia; Show Chairman: Mrs. Cecil Stewart.

**MT. ANGEL PRIMROSE SOCIETY**—April 9 at St. Mary's School, 2 to 6. President: Mrs. Dave Shepherd, Box 332, Mt. Angel, Oregon, Show Chariman: Miss Juliana Dehler, Rt. 1, Box 136, Mt. Angel: Mrs. Joseph Annen, Chairman Plant sale.

**TACOMA PRIMROSE SOCIETY**  
—**NATIONAL SHOW** — April 15 and 16 at 14th & A. St. Tacoma (Same place as 1957 National Show). Theme: "Country Gardens." Sat. 1-9, Sun. 11-6, President: Mr. Claude Shutt, 10429 So. Brayton, Tacoma; Show Chairman: Mrs. R. A. Guilmette, 4719 So. Union, Tacoma. Admission Free—Plant Sale—Refreshments. (See pages 48, 49 for Banquet Information and Show Schedule.)

**CANADIAN PRIMULA AND ALPINE SOCIETY**—April 14 and 15. Entries accepted evening of the 13th and a.m. of the 14th until 11 a.m. Entry space should be asked for by April 7th, if possible. President: Mrs. F. J. Macey, 4020 Marine Dr., W. Vancouver; Show Chairman: Mrs.

G. B. Boving, 4573 W. 4th Ave., Vancouver, B. C.

**CLARK COUNTY PRIMROSE SOCIETY**—April 15 and 16 at Experiment Station, 1918 N.E. 78th St. Vancouver, Wn. (East of Totem Pole Shopping Center off Hwy. 99.) April 15, 1:30-8, April 16, 10-6. Exhibits will be rec. 8:30 a.m.-12 noon on April 15. Mrs. Seth Barnett, 9219 N.E. St. Johns Rd., Vancouver, Wn.; Show Chairman: Mrs. Laura Jensen.

**EAST SIDE GARDEN CLUB** — April 21, 22 & 23 at the Civic Center, Kirkland, Wn. Friday 2-9, Sat. 12-9, Sun. 12-8 — Theme: A Path Through A Garden—President: Mrs. John Siepman, 3616 N.E. Bellevue-Redmond Rd., Bellevue; Show Chairman: Mrs. V. G. Chambers, 6804 W. Lake Sammamish N.E., Redmond. Admission 50c — Plant Sale — Tea Room.

**FRIDAY HARBOR PRIMROSE SOCIETY**—April 28 and 29 at the Study Club, Friday Harbor. President: Mrs. Robert Blashfield, Friday Harbor; Secretary: Mrs. Raymond Dahl, Rt. 1, Box 48B, Friday Harbor — Plant Sale—Silver Tea.

Schedules may be obtained by writing Show Chairman or Club President (Plastic pots will be allowed this year at the National Show in Tacoma in hopes than entrants unable to attend will ship plants to the show.)

The East Bremerton Garden Club Annual Flower Show April 25, 1 to 3:30 in Sheridan Park Lounge. Theme: "Wings of Spring" Chairman: Mrs Robert Murphy.

# 1961 National Show—April 15, 16

Tacoma, Washington—14th & A Street

The Tacoma Primrose Society invites primrose enthusiasts from far and near to participate in the National Show. To make it more feasible to ship plants they are permitting plastic pots for the first time, according to Show Chairman Mrs. R. A. Guilmette.

The Annual Meeting of the American Primrose Society and Banquet will be Saturday, April 15, 6:00 p.m., at the Olympus Hotel, 815 Pacific, Tacoma (within walking distance of the show). The election of officers will be held at this time. The Banquet is \$3.00 and reservations should be made early with Mrs. Wesley Bottoms, GR 4-3030 in Tacoma, 4815 E. Eye St. or with Mrs. Ralph Balcom, SU 3-2914, 345 W. 88th Seattle.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bellis of *Barnhaven* will present an illustrated account of their recent trip to Australia and the South Seas.

As you know, the Annual Banquet is the place where awards are pre-

sented and this year, in addition to any major awards which may be won, Sweepstakes and other awards will be presented at the dinner.

The nominating committee presents the following list of candidates for your approval. Further nominations may also be made at the meeting.

- President.....Mr. Herbert Dickson  
Seattle, Washington  
Vice President.....Mrs. Rosetta Jones  
Kent, Washington  
Recording Sec'y., Mrs. W. E. Standing  
Portland, Oregon  
Corres. Sec'y.....Mr. Chester Strong  
Loveland, Colorado  
Treasurer.....Mrs. Orval Agee  
Milwaukie, Oregon  
Director.....Mrs. Orrin Hale  
Bothell, Washington  
Director.....Mr. Howard Short  
Seattle, Washington

If you wish to vote, but cannot attend the Annual Meeting please send your ballot to Mrs. P. B. Charles, 1013 84th N.E., Bellevue, Wn.

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All Shades and Colors  
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# 1961 National Primrose Show

## Tacoma—April 15-16

1. Show will be open to visitors Saturday, April 15, from 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., and Sunday, April 16 from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

2. Exhibits will be received Friday, April 14, from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., and Saturday, April 15, from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m., deadline.

3. All divisions and classes except Division VII are open to both amateurs and professionals and no differentiation in judging will be shown, whether the plant be entered by an amateur or professional.

4. All Primulas entered in the show must have been grown out of doors (except Show Auriculas) and have been in the exhibitor's garden for at least three (3) months. Glass covering for protection of bloom (not forcing) is permitted.

5. Only Show Chairman, judging committee, and clerks will be permitted on the show floor during judging. All entries will be placed by the committee.

6. Entries are the property of the show during the show hours and must not be removed until the show closes at 6:00 p.m., April 16, 1961.

7. Exhibitors shall furnish their own pots (of clean clay or plastic) which should bear the exhibitor's name, on the bottom of the pot. No top dressing around plants in pot.

8. All exhibits will be judged according to the standards of excellence established by The American Primrose Society.

9. It is understood that members of the Tacoma Primrose Society will not be held responsible for loss of, or damage to person or property.

10. The show management may make such other rules as it may deem necessary for the proper conduct of the show.

11. The judges' decisions are final.

### DIVISION I—ACAULIS (Vernales Section)

Competitive—One plant in Pot  
Open to all

#### Section A—Hybrids:

- |       |                |              |
|-------|----------------|--------------|
| Class | 1. Light Blue  | 7. Dark Pink |
|       | 2. Medium Blue | 8. Lavender  |
|       | 3. Dark Blue   | 9. Rose      |
|       | 4. White       | 10. Yellow   |
|       | 5. Cream       | 11. Red      |
|       | 6. Light Pink  | 12. Purple   |

#### Section B—Doubles:

- |       |             |                     |
|-------|-------------|---------------------|
| Class | 1. Lavender | 7. Cream            |
|       | 2. White    | 8. Red              |
|       | 3. Yellow   | 9. Striped or edged |
|       | 4. Pink     | 10. Named Varieties |
|       | 5. Purple   | 11. Any other       |
|       | 6. Blue     |                     |

#### Section C—Jack-in-the-Green:

- |       |                     |
|-------|---------------------|
| Class | 1. White and Yellow |
|       | 2. Pink and Rose    |
|       | 3. Tan and Brown    |
|       | 4. Red shades       |
|       | 5. Blue shades      |
|       | 6. Any other        |

### DIVISION II—POLYANTHUS (Vernales Section)

Competitive—One Plant in Pot  
Open to All

Plants in this division must not have more than 5 crowns and not less than 5 open florets.

#### Section A—Hybrids:

- |       |                            |                         |
|-------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Class | 1. Light Blue              | 12. Scarlet to tile Red |
|       | 2. Dark Blue               | 13. Coral               |
|       | 3. Purple                  | 14. Maroon and Dark     |
|       | 4. Light Yellow            | 15. White               |
|       | 5. Deep Yellow             | 16. Peach               |
|       | 6. Orange                  | 17. Pink                |
|       | 7. Chartreuse              | 18. Rose shades         |
|       | 8. Brown shades            | 19. Violet brick shades |
|       | 9. Magenta                 | 20. Lavender            |
|       | 10. Blends                 |                         |
|       | 11. Bronze to brick shades |                         |

Section AA—Hybrids, Large Plants—same as in Section A, Classes 1-20.

Section B—Cowichan Hybrids:  
(Eye small or absent; stems wiry)

- |       |                      |
|-------|----------------------|
| Class | 1. Ruby and Amethyst |
|       | 2. Garnet and Maroon |
|       | 3. Black Garnet      |
|       | 4. Any other         |

Section C—Bizarres:  
(Colors and patterns shaded, striped, picoteed)

- |       |                |
|-------|----------------|
| Class | 1. Light color |
|       | 2. Dark colors |

Section D—Jack-in-the-Green:

- |       |                  |
|-------|------------------|
| Class | 1. White         |
|       | 2. Yellow        |
|       | 3. Pink and Rose |
|       | 4. Tan and Brown |
|       | 5. Red shades    |
|       | 6. Blue shades   |

**Section E—Miniature Polyanthus:**  
(Flower stalk not to exceed 6 inches)

- Class 1. Blue shades  
2. Yellow shades  
3. Red shades  
4. White  
5. Any other

**Section F—Gold and Silver Lace**  
(Show Polyanthus)

- Class 1. Gold laced  
2. Silver laced

**Section G—Doubles:**

Same classes as Division 1, Section B

**Section H—Hose-in-Hose:**

Same classes as Division II, Section A

**DIVISION III—ACAULIS-POLYANTHUS**

Competitive—One Plant in Pot  
Open to All

An Acaulis-Polyanthus exhibits both Acaulis and Polyanthus characteristics by carrying florets both on single stems as acaulis, and in umbels as polyanthus.

**Section A—Hybrids:**

Same classes as Division II, Section A

**Section B—Doubles:**

Same classes as Division I, Section B

**Section C—Hose-in-Hose:**

Same classes as Division II, Section A

**Section D—Jack-in-the-Green:**

Same classes as Division II, Section D

**Section E—Any other Hybrid**  
(*Vernales Section*)

**DIVISION IV—JULIAE**

(*Vernales Section*)

Competitive—One Plant in Pot

Open to All

**Section A—Hybrids (Cushion Forms)**

- Class 1. Blue 6. Magenta  
2. White 7. Red shades  
3. Pink 8. Yellow  
4. Rose 9. Any other  
5. Cream

**Section B—Hybrids (Stalk Forms)**

Same classes as Section A

**Section C—Hose-in-Hose:**

- Class 1. Any color

**DIVISION V—SEEDLINGS**

(*Vernales Section*)

Competitive—One Plant in Pot

Open to All

A seedling is a plant grown by the exhibitor from seed, showing a maiden bloom with not less than three (3) open blossoms. (This division will be judged upon individual merit. Each plant of award quality will receive a ribbon.)

**Section A—Acaulis:**

Same classes as Division 1,  
Section A through D

**Section B—Polyanthus:**

Same classes as Division II,  
Sections A through H

**Section C—Acaulis—Polyanthus:**

Same classes as Division III,  
Sections A through E

**Section D—Juliae:**

Same classes as Division IV,  
Sections A and B

**Section E—Species**

**DIVISION VI—AURICULA**

(*Auricula Section*)

Competitive—One Plant in Pot

Open to All

**Section A—Garden Auriculas:**

- Class 1. Light Blue 8. Chartreuse  
2. Dark Blue 9. Tan  
3. White 10. Brown  
4. Pink and Rose 11. Red shades  
5. Yellow shades 12. Maroon  
6. Lavender and Black  
7. Purple 13. Any other

**Section B—Double Auriculas:**

Same classes as Section A

**Section C—Alpine Auriculas:**

- Class 1. Light center  
2. Gold center

**Section D—Show Auriculas:**

- Class 1. White edged  
2. Grey edged  
3. Green edged  
4. Red selfs  
5. Yellow selfs  
6. Blue selfs  
7. Any other selfs

**Section E—Oddities**

- Class 1. Edged  
2. Green  
3. Hose-in-Hose  
4. Any other

**Section F—Auricula Seedlings**

(Maiden Bloom):

(Not less than 3 open florets)  
Same as Division VI, All Sections

**DIVISION VII—NOVICE**

Competitive—One Plant in Pot

Open to anyone who has never exhibited previously or has never won a ribbon on a primula shown. This division will be judged on individual merit. (Every plant of award quality will receive a ribbon.) Exhibitors shall be limited to 5 entries in each class in this division.

**Section A—Vernales Section:**

- Class 1. Acaulis  
Class 2. Polyanthus  
Class 3. Juliae

**Section B—Auricula Section**

**Section C—Any other Primulas**

**DIVISION VIII—RARITIES**

Competitive—One Plant in Pot

Open to All

Rarities are those plants which are still rare by virtue of limited supply or infrequent occurrence. They include Jack-anapes on Horseback, Gallygaskins, new novelties or any other primula for which no class is provided.

This division will be judged on individual merit. (Each plant of award quality will receive a ribbon.)

**DIVISION IX—SPECIES AND HYBRIDS**

Competitive—One or More Plants

in Pot or Pan

Open to all. This division will be judged on merit. Each plant of award quality will receive a ribbon.

**Section A—Auricula**

- B—Candelabra  
C—Cortusoides  
D—Farinosa  
E—Nivalis  
F—Petiolaris  
G—Sikkimensis  
H—Muscarioides  
I—Soldanelloideae  
J—Vernales  
K—Any Other

**Section L—Denticulata**

- Class 1. White  
2. Pink  
3. Rose  
4. Red  
5. Lavender  
6. Purple

**Section M—Sieboldii**

- Class 1. White  
2. Pink  
3. Rose  
4. Two-toned  
5. Southern Cross

**DIVISION X—DECORATIVE**

Competitive—One Entry in Each Class

Open to All

**Section A—Arrangements in which Primulas must predominate. Foliage permitted:**

- Class 1. Primulas with driftwood, slag, or rocks.  
2. Primulas using a bottle for container.  
3. Primulas with flowering branch, catkins.  
4. Primulas Diminutive (6" overall).  
5. Cup and Saucer.  
6. Primulas arranged in unusual container.  
7. Primulas "As You Like It."  
8. Primroses by men only.

**Section B—Garden Club Arrangements:**

Same as Section A, Class 1 through 8

Open to any garden club—one arrangement to a club—to be entered in the club's name as well as the individual making the arrangement.

**Section C—Corsages:**

- Class 1. Primulas, any type corsage.

**DIVISION XI—GROWERS' EXHIBITS**

Competitive—Open to all Growers

1. Exhibits with primroses must be 40% primulas. The set must be completed Friday, April 14, 9:00 p.m. Plants from these exhibits may be sold but must not be removed from the exhibit until the show closes, 6:00 p.m. Sunday, April 16.
2. Other outstanding exhibits, without primroses, and of award quality will be awarded a Special Ribbon.
3. Best display of six plants in pot, flat or box (same color and type).

The A. P. S. Banquet will be at the

**OLYMPUS HOTEL**

6 p.m., Saturday, April 15

**Make The Olympus Your Home During  
THE NATIONAL PRIMROSE SHOW**

(Within walking distance)

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**MA 7-4161**

# American Primrose Society

## Affiliated Societies

Canadian Primula & Alpine Society.....	c/o Rev. A. Stewart Forbes, 2054 Quilchena Crescent, Vancouver, B.C., Canada
Clark County Primrose Society.....	c/o Mrs. Seth Barnett, Sec.-Treas., 9219 N.E. St. Johns Rd., Vancouver, Wn.
East Side Garden Club of Kirkland c/o Mrs. Helen E. Millar, Treas., 1315 - 7th St. W., Kirkland, Wn.	
Friday Harbor Primrose Club.....	c/o Mrs. Frank Woods, Treas., Friday Harbor, Wn.
Lewis County Primrose Society.....	c/o Mrs. Henry Benberg, Sec.-Treas., 310 E. Pine, Centralia, Wn.
Onondaga Primrose Society.....	c/o Mrs. Darwin N. Camp, Treas., 4 Brae Burn Lane, Syracuse 4, N.Y.
Oregon Primrose Society.....	c/o Mrs. William Tate, Treas., 1006 - 40th St. Milwaukie 22, Ore.
Tacoma Primrose Society.....	c/o Mr. Howard Larkin, Treas., 628 North Prospect, Tacoma 6, Wn.
Washington State Primrose Society..	c/o Mrs. Beth Tait, Treas., 14015 - 84th Ave. N.E. Bothell, Wn.

## MEMBERS 1960 AND 1961 UP TO FEBRUARY 15, 1961

- \* Indicates Sustaining Members  
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Balcom, Mrs. R. W.....	345 W. 88th, Seattle 7, Wn.
Balcom, Mr. R. W.....	345 W. 88th, Seattle 7, Wn.
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 Horticultural Newsletter, H. Gleason Mattoon.....Box 96, Arlington, Vermont  
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### (Primroses in N.W. cont.)

the afternoon and on cloudy days rather than hot sunny ones. If the weather is hot, water them often and shade if possible the first few days until they are established.

It may be that some of your seedling plants are large enough to set outside now. If they are, it is wise to do it because the longer the growing period between now and next winter the better the plants will be next spring.

Be sure to watch the plants to see that they never dry out. They will take a surprising amount of hot sun if given plenty of water.

## A Long Way Around To Foliar Feeding

S. WATSON, *British Columbia*

A very experienced and practical Tom Barber, The Sun Garden Man of Vancouver who tests most of the "latest scientific innovations to assist horticulture," made what he called his most profound statement: "A plant should be treated as a child who cannot walk or talk. Each plant varies according to its environment, its heredity, its care, and the climate. This can be as true of plants of the same types as those of different genera." Tom Barber is a perfectionist and a hard worker who actually *sees* the lovely results of his concepts in his garden which is planned so precisely during the winter months.

Many scoff at the idea that each plant has a measure of individuality—but surely those who have cultivated the Primula and Alpine plants know how various can be their reactions. A keen observer can catch a signal from a plant, and often save it before it expires. Perhaps this is why nurses, who are trained to observe, make such good gardeners.

When buying fertilizer, or anything else, be careful to read the label and to believe not what is *implied*, but what is actually written. The words "available" can mean many things according to the plant's habit. Certainly a rose can derive nourishment from soils where begonias would starve to death, and fuchsias can stand heavier intakes of nutrients than a gentian.

Urea can damage and kill many plants—it can turn a lawn green or straw color. It is the "benzedrene" of horticulture. Urea is probably the way to buy the most nitrogen for the money and should be handled with the same care as a hypodermic needle

filled with a stimulant. Odd drug-like effects can be obtained with the Giberellins. The results are often as haphazard in plants as the actions of a dope addict. The only controlled result I know is that certain large-flowered gladiolus have gained better spacing for florets by carefully timed and measured applications. The other "advantages" claimed are very hard to obtain a second time.

So, when Foliar Feeding, as in all fertilizing, choose your plant FOOD carefully. Chemicals can be used to advantage at times if they are regarded as synthetic vitamins would be for a child. Most chemical gardeners would find their plants more responsive if they fed with lighter solutions using only one-half as much the amount specified on the label and perhaps feeding more often. Most chemicals leach away quickly and *no plant can assimilate more than the most minute amount* at any one time. Thus leaching has saved many plants from "starving in the midst of plenty," because "a plant cannot draw a fluid up into its various parts unless that fluid is lighter than that already in its leaves and stems." When too heavy a chemical solution is applied to a lawn, it may not be "burn" that you see but the *results of starvation*. This is the theory of how many weed-killers work.

We firmly believe that the plant prefers fluids from natural nutrients of whole fish or whole whale. These are expensive to the manufacturer in comparison to the cannery wastes used in products with imitative labels or to the types of chemicals which can be purchased for pennies in any feed



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store. The highest possible analysis for "pure" solubles from whole fish (usually sardines and/or herring) or whole whale (animal-mammal) is at the present time 6-2-1. In spite of much advertising and propaganda to the contrary, these products are more balanced by nature than they would be if the analysis were doubled by adding chemicals. The public at large is more easily sold by a "high analysis" but the plant is happier with solubles which are balanced to the requirements of cell life, both plant and animal. Every complete cell in nature, human, plant or animal, needs calcium, protein and phosphorus replacement in order to thrive. A plant, like a human being is only as healthy as its cells. Life may be maintained synthetically, but subsequent generations of plants thrive and reproduce better when the elements provided for growth are from natural sources.

So, we recommend the use of quality or whole products as being less expensive in the long run and much safer to use for foliar feeding. We use a Syphonex attached between a 25 foot length of plastic hose and our regular hoses. This gives a 25 foot range from the bucket of solution. The directions with the Syphonex are easily followed. One full bucket of solution can cover the average "back yard" city garden.

We use a solution of about a cup of solubles to a bucket of water and turn the water on to suit the plantings. The solution is only faintly cloudy so we can give a good watering to the leaves and the earth at the same time. This syphon method can feed hundreds of pot plants quickly and is a professional way of cleaning and foliar feeding ornamentals. Lawns can be fed with a Syphonex attached to the sprinkler. I do not know the people

who manufacture this product, but it has saved me so much time that this is my way of saying "thank you." I formerly used the mason jar attachment which held enough fertilizer for three or four gallons of solution. The bucket holds at least sixteen gallons, according to the force of the water coming through the hose.

We enjoy the time we spend foliar feeding for we watch the plants for signs that they need special attention. Perhaps a strawberry root weevil has been nicking the edges of leaves; a rabbit has pruned the stems of the little sweet gum tree which blazed with a ball of color in the autumn; perhaps a slug or cutworm is near and can be caught. Even with this very large garden, close to woods, we are able, in our spare time to control slugs and other insects by trapping, hand-picking, and bright hot lights over pans of water and kerosene. (I figure that I earn at least three dollars an hour hunting slugs over the use of pellets.) The underground slugs are quite another thing. Slug-fest is very good for this purpose, especially if used between rains and when the ground is rather dry. Some underground slugs will come up to visit an orange or grapefruit peel or even a saucer of beer. Each or all of these can be hidden under low foliage and watched each day. Old weathered boards do not look too bad, for a month or so in spring, if they are left to line the borders—they provide a congregation place for illusive offenders.

I proved four years ago that, after years of testing, I was not capable of managing the arsenic types of weed-killers and sprays, for I killed my Dalmation and was in a condition for months where death would have been a mercy. How strange it has been to


have a healthy and just as pest-free a garden as when I sprayed regularly. I now use the foliar feeding to discourage red spiders for the cobra-like end of the plastic hose can be several feet from the hand and can nudge under the ground hugging leaves. I wear rubber gloves to bolster my courage and hand-pick all apparent offenders. The wetness from the spray discourages red spiders.

### Take a tip from Webster!

**Phosphorus:** (from the Greek meaning *light-bringer*) Found in all fruitful soils, in most natural waters and in many minerals. Phosphoric acid in the form of phosphates, especially those of calcium, is essential to the life of plants and animals. Phosphorus is especially abundant in bones, but must be soluble in water or plant juices to be of benefit to plant life.

**Protein:** Any of a class of naturally occurring extremely complex combinations of amino acids which are essential constituents of all living cells, both animal and vegetable, and also of the diet of the animal organism. All proteins contain carbon, hydrogen and oxygen . . . the protein molecules combine with both acids and alkalies . . . It may be assumed that most proteins contain approximately 16% nitrogen.

Say *Species* not *specie* . . . when referring to a distinct kind or sort of plant. The word *specie* means hard money.



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*Please mention what other flowers you grow and the type of your soil.*

## Primrose Arrangements

The writer has won many trophies and blue ribbons.

JUNE HARP, Seattle, Washington

Making arrangements for the Primrose Show is a challenge I answer every spring.

First I study the show schedule. After deciding what to enter I assemble my material, keeping in mind the type of arrangement called for I try to picture it.

Condition the primroses by cutting them eight to twelve hours before using and place them up to their flower heads in bottles of water. Grape hyacinths and scillas are excellent to use with yellow primroses and they should be prepared in the same way. Pussy willow, fresh or dried, pear branches and ivy are all good line material. Rocks and pieces of driftwood may be used successfully with an arrangement of primroses.

The show schedule states that the primroses should be *predominate*. Because the primroses are small it is not easy to accomplish this. It is best to use airy line material and rely on your primroses to supply the balance of the composition. Avoid heavy line material that may overshadow your prim-

roses. Primrose leaves used should be hardened in the same manner as the flowers.

Transportation of your arrangements can sometimes be a problem. There is nothing more discouraging than to have a pin holder come loose so be sure it is anchored securely. To insure this your container and pin holder should be dry. Make a roll of florist clay and place this in a circle on the bottom of your pin holder leaving an open space in the middle. Now press this into the container with a slight twist. I tie very lightly any line material that can be tied. At other times I have used pins, all of which have to be removed before the arrangement can be entered.

I use tomato crates with old towels on the bottoms to transport arrangements to the show, and lots of newspaper to pack between containers. I carry a bottle of water and baster with me to replace the water lost in transit.

Don't be afraid to enter a show as they almost always have a novice class. The thrill of winning your first ribbon is, well, is just wonderful!



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**WILL EXCHANGE** some English Gardening publications for copies of APS Quarterly. G. D. Tucker, The Jackdaws, Walliswood, Nr. Ockley, Surrey, England.

Back Issues of the Quarterly may be purchased from Quarterly Editor, 2406 Boyer, Seattle, Wn. Send for Index and price list. Some are out of print and others soon will be.

**PRIMROSE** and other gardening books, both new and used. Send for my list. (See ad in Winter and this Quarterly). Lynn Ranger, 41 Lynn Shore Drive, Lynn, Massachusetts.

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**WOULD LIKE** seed or plants of the following: *Veris Subspecies*: canescens, Columnae, columnae & variety valesiana, genuina, macrocalyx & macrocalyx var. Montana, and Velanovsky. *Elatior subspecies*: carpatica, cordefolia, nitricata, Leucophylla, Lofthousei, Palliasii, psudoelatior and Ruprechtii. *Vulgaris subspecies*: Heterochroma, Balearica, Ingwerseniana. Herbert Dickson, 13347 - 56th Ave. S., Seattle, Wn.

**WANTED:** Seed of *P. Kisoana*, *P. Carniolica* and *P. Clarkii*. Mr. C. A. Ackert, 337 Thames St. South, Ingersoll, Ontario.

**CANDELABRA** and other primrose seeds: **CANDELABRAS**: Bartley Stram pulverulenta, anisadora, Bulleyana, burmanica, heledoxa, Japonica and pulverulenta.

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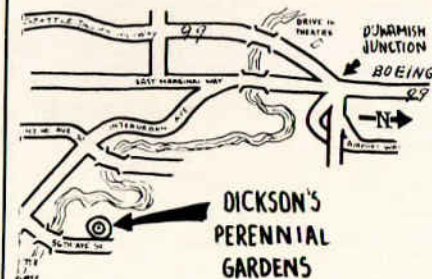
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Lyall, Hardy Primulas. 1959, 88 pp., 27 illustrations.....	4.95
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Sedgwick. The Garden Month By Month. 1907, 516 10¾ x 6¾" pages. Over 200 illustrations, color chart. Much primula information. Color, description, cultivation, height, and time of bloom. One of the most useful garden books.....	4.95

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takes care of any nitrogen problem which might arise with the use of fresh shavings. Isotox is used to keep the plants free of red spider mite and the plants are not allowed to dry out.

Some of the places we visited are noted for their hot summers but we have seen that with care and the same attention given to their needs as given in other areas, Polyanthus can be grown successfully in California. Well rotted manure is best and one member told us that spent soil obtained from mushroom growers was good. Water

well, and provide partial shade during the hot weather and there is no reason why you can't enjoy Primroses in California.

See also Primulas in Southern California by Phillip A. Chandler in Vol. XVII #2 P.Q.

### Seed Exchange Note

It is expected that a short addendum listing will be available. This will contain seed received in quantities too small to list in the regular catalog. Any member desiring more seed may obtain a copy by writing the chairman, Elmer C. Baldwin, 400 Tecumseh Rd., Syracuse, N.Y.

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## People and Flowers

### Mr. Dan Bamford . . .

Honorary life member and famous for his work with Show Auriculas sends a belated Christmas greeting to his many friends. Since before Christmas he has been confined to bed and at this date, February 14, is still very ill. We in America join in wishing him a speedy recovery.

### A Letter From Turkey . . .

To Mrs. Orval Agee from a new member, Mr. Carl Tobey, Samsun Koleji, Samsun, Turkey, states "I am waiting for a good quantity of BARNHAVEN primroses to bloom here this spring."

### Mr. R. H. Briggs . . .

Having passed his eightieth year requested that he be relieved of his strenuous duties as Hon. Secretary of the National Auricula & Primula Society, Northern Section. He has consented to act as overseas correspondent, however, and his many friends will continue to write to him at the same address: "Springfield," Haslingden, Rossendale, Lancaster, England. He has been of great help to the A. P. S. for many years. Just this year he sent three original oil paintings of auriculas to be given as show awards.

### A Library In The Making . . .

An APS member since 1955, Mrs. Dewey H. Ewers, 2615 Ocean Beach Drive, Longview, Wash., is building an extensive library of garden books and magazines. It is her hope to eventually offer it as a "Loan-by-Mail" service. Before throwing out any old sets of gardening magazines, journals or books, both foreign or domestic, drop her a card to see if she is interested.



*Pr. auricula bauhinii*, photo by Baldwin

### Primula auricula bauhinii . . .

No. 350 on the Seed Exchange list, sent by R. Ruffier-Lanche, Grenoble, France, was raised to maturity by Elmer Baldwin. He has sent the photograph and states "Whether my *bauhinii* was the true or type form, I do not know. It was a beautiful flower, richly yellow with a white center. It grew to about 4 inches and was 5 years from sowing to flowering. The seed contributed this year is labelled "Chartreuse" and I am most anxious to see the plant in flower." *Primula vantana* No. 419 is a cross between *P. viali* and *P. nutans*.

### A New Editor

Mrs. Joan Youle is the new editor of the national Auricula and Primula Society (Southern Section). In her recent year book, Dr. E. Lester Smith and Ralph Balcom have written valuable articles on double auriculas. See page 61 for address and send \$1 if you would like to receive a copy.

Mrs. Herbert Dickson would appreciate your taking an extra slide of your choice primroses for the A. P. S. Slide collection.

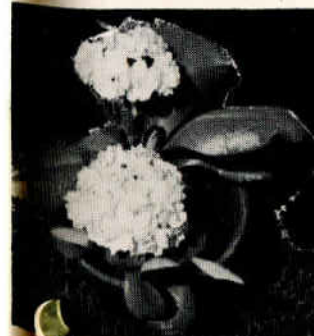
### Dr. Fletcher To Visit America

Dr. Harold R. Fletcher, Ph.D., D. Sc., Director of the Edinburgh Botanical Gardens, and well known to American Primrose Society members, is to represent his Ministry and the Royal Horticultural Society at the International Rhododendron Conference to be held in Portland May 11th to 13th.

Following his participation in the Rhododendron Conference in Portland, Dr. Fletcher will lecture in Victoria, B. C. at the Oak Bay Junior High School on Monday, May 15. He will lecture in Seattle to the Rhododendron Society May 18th and on the afternoon of May 19th will be speaker at a reception sponsored by the Snoqualmie Federation of Garden Clubs.

Word has just been received that on May 17th at 8 p.m., Dr. Fletcher will lecture at the Kerrisdale Community Centre Gymnasium in Vancouver, B. C. This will be in conjunction with the Vancouver Rhododendron Society's Spring Show. Tickets will be available from all secretaries of various Garden Clubs, or Mrs. Hailey (CA 4-5104).

Dr. Fletcher has accepted an invitation to an informal breakfast with members of the APS on the morning of May 19th. For reservations and additional information on the above please call the editor at EA 2-5173 Seattle.



*Double auricula* from Denna Snuffer seed. Winner of the Siepmann trophy at 1960 National Auricula Show.



The Cooper Chinese Ying-Yang Trophy

### CHINESE YING-YANG HYBRIDIZING TROPHY

In his desire to encourage us to develop hybrids from native American species Mr. Roland E. Cooper has established a new perpetual trophy, the Chinese Yin-Yang award.

Mr. Cooper wishes the award given first for a hybrid auricula of purely American blood. Later it will be presented for hybrids of other native American species such as *P. Parryi*, varieties of *P. cuneifolia*, etc.

It is his hope that the combined knowledge of Mrs. A. C. U. Berry, Chester Strong and others like them will be of assistance to those competing for this award.

Mr. Cooper has prepared several articles to be published in the near future. One of these "An Approach to the Field for American Hybridists" will be of great help.

It is true that we in America do overlook our own native species and seem to prefer cultivating equally difficult European species. This new trophy is a challenge to us and one involving much study and thought. Anyone who has access to seed or plants of any native American species is asked to please notify the editor. She has a few seeds of *P. cuneifolia* gathered at 2000 feet in Juneau, Alaska (and may be able to get more this summer) as well as a few seeds of *P. Parryi*.



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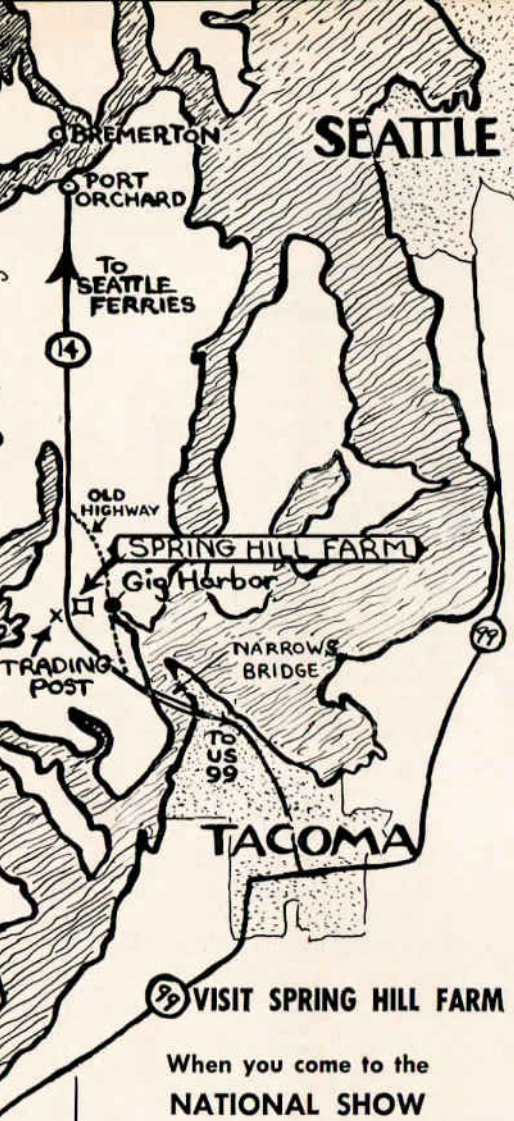
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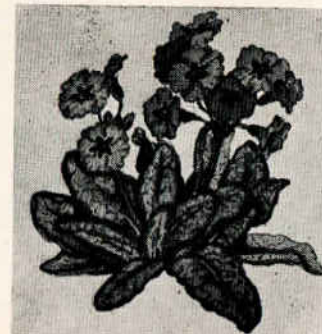
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## AURICULAS

English named varieties of Show and Alpine.

We have a good stock but some varieties are in limited quantity. Dwarf slow growing Conifers that stay dwarf and other shrubs all suitable for Bonsai culture. Large collection of rare plants and Alpines for Rock Gardens as well as unusual plants from the World's far corners are listed in our Free Catalogue.

## ALPENGLLOW GARDENS

13328 Trans-Canada Hwy., North Surrey, B.C.

# PAMPER YOUR PRIMROSES



GROW THEM in soil protected from  
insects and disease with

*Miller's* SOILDUSTO

FEED THEM all necessary food  
including Iron Chelates with

*Miller's* BOOSTER POWDER

PROTECT THEM from slugs with

*Miller's* SLUGDUSTO

At Your Dealer's

MILLER PRODUCTS COMPANY

7737 N.E. Killingsworth  
Portland 18, Oregon



If you are a collector of fine Primulas send for Mrs. Jones' list. Plants will be shipped. See her classified ad on page 67 for seeds of Azaleas, etc.



Rosetta Jones

Introducing

## Rosetta Jones of Jones Nursery

In 1958, Rosetta fulfilled a long-time ambition when she and her husband sold their home in Seattle and purchased Bartoos Gardens south of Kent. She resigned as Supervisor of Purchases and Invoicing for The Seattle Fire Department to devote full time to the nursery. It was decided to change the name to Jones Nursery but was only partly successful because no one has found time to change the signs on the highway.

Rosetta specializes in primroses and azaleas but also carries a large stock of a little of everything else. She is growing Exbury strain azaleas from hand pollinated selected plants, either named or seedlings. This seed will be available for sale in November this year. Her favorite color is a glowing flame-orange which is found only in Exbury strain. She is also propagating her own clematis and will have a good stock available by next spring.

Double primroses is her most absorbing hybridizing work at present. She is working for doubles as hardy as Wanda. All her primroses are raised in plastic pots out in full weather and if they survive this they are pretty hardy. Getting hardiness into the pinks is another current project. She

is trying to get a collection of all the named doubles and would like to hear from anyone that has some of the hard to find ones.

Rosetta is a member of both Washington State and Tacoma Primrose Societies as well as the A.P.S. She is chairman of the Hybridizer's Group. Another very absorbing hobby-business is raising Chinchillas. She has been "hybridizing" these little South American animals for ten years, and belongs to the National Chinchilla Breeders, The Washington Branch, and is assistant-Secretary of the United Chinchilla Research Council.



### PRIMROSES AZALEAS

Glenn Dales  
Gables  
Dutch Hybrids  
Exbury

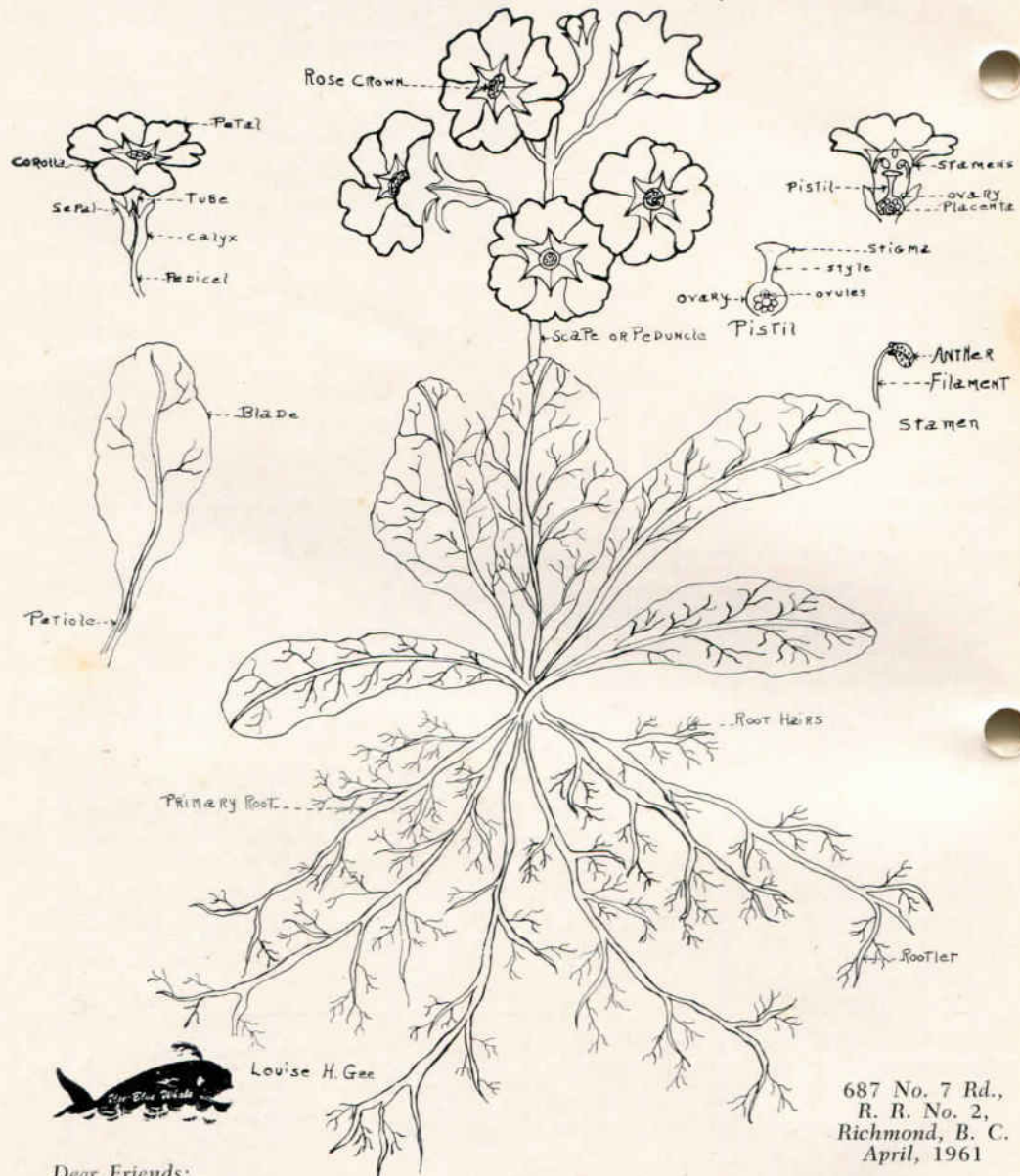
Choice Ornamentals and  
Rockery Plants

## JONES NURSERY

(Formerly Bartoo's Gardens)  
6210 S. 286th—Kent, Wash.  
2½ miles south Kent, West Valley Highway



# Acme Peat Products Limited



687 No. 7 Rd.,  
R. R. No. 2,  
Richmond, B. C.  
April, 1961

Dear Friends:

EVERY FLOWER PART IS BENEFITED by the use of BLUE WHALE, the impregnated sphagnum moss, as a part of the seed, seedling and plant growing medium. Its organic nutrients nourish the cotyledon, make seedling roots strong and well able to carry out their functions. The baleen and bone in Blue Whale which carries both organic and mineral matter—including phosphorus, which is one of the chemical elements essential for all living things since it is a constituent of protoplasm itself. BLUE WHALE stays at the roots of the plants supplying this phosphorus in a readily available form from the time it is needed for the root growth until reserves, greater than those provided by nature alone, are needed for a heavy seed crop. The rest of the elements from the Baleen and Bone, such as calcium and magnesia, help the phosphorus to make the natural nitrogen contained in Blue Whale, available over the long period of the plant's needs.

Sincerely, your plants' best friend,

**The Blue Whale**

(See ad on pg. 65)