

Primroses

Winter 1992
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PRIMROSES

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Winter 1992
Volume 50, Number 1

Editor: Maedythe Martin
951 Joan Crescent,
Victoria, B.C. CANADA V8S 3L3
Designer: Rebecca Nolte

EDITORIAL DEADLINES

Winter issue ... December 1
Spring issue ... March 1
Summer issue ... June 1
Fall issue ... September 1

PHOTOGRAPHIC CREDITS

Many of the black and white photos for this issue were taken from the editor's box of historical black and white photos which are not always credited. A number of these were taken by Cy Happy. The worst photos were taken by the editor experimenting with a new camera. Photos on pages 7 and 9 were taken by Jennifer Lort. Photos on pages 13 - 15 were taken by June Skidmore.

Thanks are extended to Sybil McCulloch for allowing her splendid example of *Primula veris* used on the cover to be photographed last spring in her garden.

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ON THE COVER

Primula veris is one of the species primulas grown in the UBC Botanical Garden which is a feature article in this issue. It is also a parent of many of the garden primroses grown today which can be recognized to some extent by whether they carry the gene for its sweet scent. Look for it in the seed lists — which are out. If seed lists are out, can spring be far behind?

I Did it My Way

by Renee Oakley

At the end of last summer, Dennis, my husband, and I visited Victoria and the editor of the American Primrose Society bulletin, Maedythe Martin. We had a wonderful visit. Naturally, most of the conversation was about primroses — our trials and triumphs — and this included what, for me, was the unusual success I had with growing primroses from seed this year. I should have remembered that I was talking to an editor! She immediately suggested that I share my ideas to help other beginners.

First, I want to explain, just as I always have to tell the American seed companies, while we live in Canada, we are not in the frozen north. The southwest corner of British Columbia has a temperate climate and we are in the same hardiness Zone 8 as the coastal areas of Washington and Oregon. Richmond is situated at the mouth of the Fraser River and is actually on an island. The area used to be known by its name, Lulu Island and, as it gets more sun and less rain than nearby Vancouver, it is affectionately known as the "Banana Belt."

Over the years, I have grown all kinds of things from seed — but alpinas and primulas were a new experience and I am an absolute beginner. Thea Foster and John Kerridge of the Alpine Garden Club of B.C. introduced us to the American Primrose Society and gave us some of their own seeds, along with lots of advice, and we were hooked.

We borrowed back issues of the APS quarterly and learned a lot from the various 'how to do it' articles. I kept experimenting with the growing medium, using granite grit #1 and #2 to help with drainage. Every time that John visits Herb Dickson, he returns with more words of wisdom which he always passes on to me. The latest was that the mix must be so open that if watered from the top it would quickly drain right through.



Renee and Dennis Oakley (in the rain!) outside one of their greenhouses full of primrose seedlings.

In the kitchen, I follow recipes exactly. But in the greenhouse, I have developed a habit of tossing in some of this and some of that until my potting mix looks right. That's not much help to anyone else, so for the sake of this article I measured everything and decided that the combination is approximately equal parts of peat, pumice and granite grit, (sometimes known as chicken scratch) numbers 1 and 2. If washed builder's sand is available, this can be used in place of #1 grit. To these things I add a small amount of pasteurized potting soil to make a little food available for the new roots.

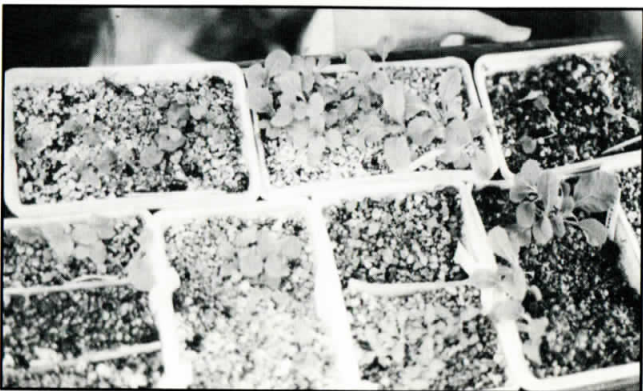
A young friend of ours puts his mix in a large drum with a tight lid and rolls it all over the back forty, using his foot to move the drum and that mixes everything up beautifully. All I have are those tall plastic pails available from doughnut shops and don't have enough faith in the fit of the lid. I have a mental image of my beautiful mix strewn all over the lawn. Instead, I stick to mixing it in the wheelbarrow by hand, using a trowel or a spade.

I Did it my Way continued

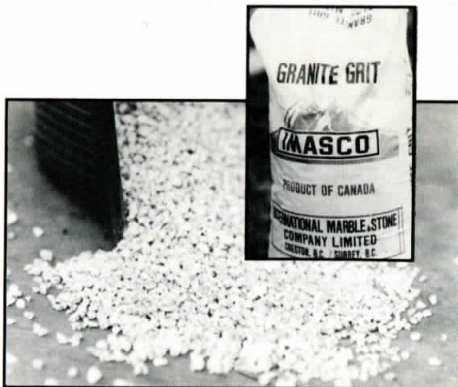
Before describing my containers, I should digress a little and explain that as a new bride in England soon after World War II, I really learned to make do — so I reuse as much as possible. Paper bags were unavailable and newspapers were smaller than most of the flyers we get nowadays. Nothing was thrown away if it could possibly be used again. When we came to Canada in 1957 we were horrified to find that so many things were disposable and felt we had come to a very wasteful continent. So I trust that I shall not raise the ire of those who have only recently become aware of this waste when I say that I love Styrofoam for the greenhouse.

For years I have used, and reused, Styrofoam cups for my seeds and cuttings of geraniums (zonal pelargoniums). In fact, I have proved by using cuttings of the same varieties in the cups and in plastic pots, that the cups win out every time. They retain heat and moisture better than the plastic pots. Incidentally, we bring them home from meetings, coffee shops or other places, so that they can be recycled.

In the local super market I noticed some Styrofoam containers on the meat counter that would be ideal for use as seed starters. When I explained why I wanted to buy them, my friendly meat manager insisted on giving me some. There are two convenient sizes — 6.5 by 4 inches and two inches deep, and a larger size 11 by 6 inches, 2.25 inches deep. I don't do



Trays of Renee's seedlings in the Styrofoam meat containers she finds so useful.



Granite grit #2 is slightly acidic and provides good drainage in a potting mix. Both qualities recommend it for primrose seed culture.

metric! Incidentally, they tell us that the Styrofoam no longer contains the harmful CFCs and, as Dennis says, by the time I have finished with them, they are already disintegrating and will take up less room in the landfills than broken pots.

One of the many perks of belonging to a plant club or society is that the experts are always willing to share their knowledge. I have learned not to hesitate to ask for advice. As members of the Tacoma Chapter of the America Primrose Society, we usually attend the annual spring show. This year I found myself sitting next to Rosetta Jones at lunch. This was a chance not to be missed, so I asked how she starts her seeds.

Now, I really think that this was the reason for my success this year, as she uses Redi-earth (a commercially available mix of milled sphagnum moss and vermiculite), sprinkles the seed on the damp peat and covers them with perlite instead of the usual granite grit. This makes sense to me, as the Perlite, being white, reflects light needed for germination and the seedlings can easily poke their way through as it is so light in weight. I still use my own seed mix. I water it thoroughly, then spread a layer of Redi-earth on top, re-water, sow the seeds and cover them with Perlite.

To use the Styrofoam containers I poke holes in the bottom with an old kitchen fork. For greenhouse use, I put this container inside one without holes, using them double, and if necessary, I can easily water from the bottom.

After visiting a friend in North Vancouver and seeing her rows and rows of flats outside, sitting under trees and shrubs for protection from the sun and heavy rain, Dennis came up with a bright idea. At the east end of our lot there is a narrow space between the house and the fence which is not big enough for anything. Using saw horses and planks of wood, he made a very long bench and higher up on the fence, stapled a length of black fiberglass netting — the kind used for screens and screen doors — to drape over the flats. Some oddments of wood, such as broken stakes, are stapled to the lower side to keep it from blowing around. I later discovered that I needed some nails higher up on the fence to hang the netting on. When I pick up flats, I need both hands. Before putting them outside, be sure to remove the bottom containers, if you've used them double, or they'll soon be floating in water.

I moved the flats outside to this screened bench in the late spring when the greenhouse was too hot, and it really worked. Every day we were out there checking on my babies, which were popping through everywhere. One mistake I made was in spreading the fine seed too thickly so that they came up like mustard and cress! As I don't have any fine sand, next time I will mix

some sugar with the seeds, as this works just as well. I will also try to start them earlier, as it is now November and I have what I usually refer to as forty million seedlings to prick out and don't know what to do with them. In **A Plantsman's Guide to Primulas** the paragraph under *Primula helodoxa* reads to the effect that these seeds do not remain viable in packets, and germination may be poor. Well, that really gave us a good laugh. In one of the containers — as Doretta Klaber says — more seed came up than I planted!

At last count, at least 60 different varieties have germinated, some of which I could not get to germinate before. I should add that when the seeds were from one of the seed exchanges, there were only five or six seeds per packet, so only one or two seedlings may have popped up. But I still look at some of the others and wonder if I will ever manage to prick them all out, and where will I put them when I do?

My Way continued on page 37

Renee's Recipe for Lots of Primrose Seeds

- * Seed potting mix: approximately equal parts of peat, pumice and granite grit #1 or #2.
- * Put this mix in your container and water thoroughly.
- * Cover the potting mix with a thin layer of Redi-earth (or wet milled sphagnum moss), re-water, sprinkle the seeds on the damp peat and cover them with perlite.
- * Watch closely, water carefully from the bottom if necessary and wait for the seedlings to pop up.

American Primrose Society

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The Board of the American Primrose Society met on October 19, 1991 in Chehalis, Washington. Minutes and treasurer's report were presented.

Membership Drive

An open discussion concerning ways to increase the membership resulted in the following suggestions:

- * emphasize selling memberships at shows
- * hold shows in public areas, like malls
- * share plants with others and encourage them to join the society
- * urge each current member to recruit one new member. Put a notice in the quarterly about this
- * set up a membership booth at the International Symposium in April
- * assist in the formation of new chapters
- * adopt a philosophy in the society of putting members first
- * distribute extra issues of the quarterly with an application form for membership enclosed in each one, as a public relations initiative
- * put a membership application form in earlier issues of the quarterly that are distributed free to encourage new enthusiasts to join chapters should have a number of quarterlies to distribute for public relations purposes
- * print an application form in each issue of the quarterly, or enclose one in each issue mailed, or print one on the mailing envelope
- * place advertisements in horticultural magazines and develop agreements for exchange membership ads with other plant societies.

A motion that the president appoint a membership chairman was approved. If anyone has any other ideas, or would volunteer to help in the membership drive, please contact Cy Happy.

Symposium Report

An encouraging number of early registrations have been received. All the registration forms (7500) have gone out. Duncan Lowe is unable to attend. Brian Burrows will speak on European primulas, and Larry Bailey will present the program on show auriculas.

The plant sale will be managed by the Berry Botanical Garden. Members are encouraged to donate plants for the sale. Contact your chapter president. The Japanese cosponsor has arranged for the Twyford Plant Labs to produce and donate 500 Kerrin polyanthus for the symposium.

Volunteers are needed for a number of jobs: setting up the APS display booth, videotaping, acting as extra host staff at open gardens, hosting speakers. Members are also requested to bring any items with primula decoration for the display, to donate door prizes, to lend slide projectors and camcorders. Pitch in and help!

National Show

Chairmen for the National Show are Thelma Genheimer and Etha Tate. Quality plants are needed. Each chapter was asked to designate one member to deliver plants to the show.

The next meeting will be held in Chehalis on Saturday January 18, 1992 at 10:30 am.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Thanks are expressed to John Kerridge for his donation towards the extra cost of producing the 50th anniversary issue of the quarterly. It was received just a bit too late to include in the issue.

Primulas in a Botanical Garden

Primulas in the Garden at the David C. Lam Asian Garden at the University of British Columbia Botanical Garden in Vancouver, British Columbia.
by Bodil Leamy

The University of British Columbia Botanical Garden, found in a unique location near the cliffs at the end of the University peninsula, contain wonderful plant treasures. Bodil Leamy, a horticulturalist at the Garden, is a keen primula grower, both at home, and in the Garden. She describes some of the primulas with which she has first-hand knowledge, hoping to encourage readers to share her enthusiasm.

The Asian Garden

The Botanical Garden at the University of British Columbia is composed of many individual areas, such as the Physick Garden, the Food Garden and the B.C. Native Garden. By far the largest component is the 14 hectare (35 acre) David C. Lam Asian Garden, dedicated to the cultivation of Asian plants with an emphasis on rare and endangered species.

Development of the Asian Garden began in the 1975-76 season and by now about half of it, about 7 ha (17 acres) has been planted. New areas are constantly being cleared and the collections of Asian plants, both woody and herbaceous, are constantly being enlarged.

Set in a Framework of Trees

The 14 ha (35 acre) site was probably last logged about 1910 or 1911, and mature trees of *Abies grandis* (fir), *Tsuga heterophylla* (cedar) and *Acer macrophyllum* (maple) cover the area. Selective thinning of some of these native trees has created a beautiful framework and supplied the high shade necessary for the successful cultivation of the exotic species. Our native sword fern, *Polystichum munitum* flourishes in the Garden, and frequently grows into plants 1.8 x 1.8 m (6 feet by 6 feet) in size. Their distinctive shape is one of the important elements in the Garden, and together with a rapidly expanding



Primula pulverulenta in the U.B.C. Botanical Garden.

rhododendron collection supplies a cohesive background for the Asian plants.

Asia is very rich in climbing plants and vines, and many species have been trained to grow into the native and introduced trees. Many of these have grown to 7.5 - 15 m (35 to 50 feet) and give a lush and exotic effect to the Garden.

Large numbers of herbaceous plants have been planted in recent years, and collections of primula and meconopsis, among others, are constantly being enlarged.

A Unique Micro-Climate

The Garden is situated at the top of a 30 m (100 foot) cliff close to Georgia Straight. This situation close to the sea has created a micro-climate which keeps the summer temperatures three to four degrees Celsius (five to seven degrees Fahrenheit) cooler and winter temperature one to two degrees C (two to four degrees F) warmer than the surrounding areas. The average mean winter temperature at the nearby

Primulas in a Botanical Garden continued

weather station is 5.6 degrees C (about 41 degrees F) with the record low being -18 degrees C (-0.4 degrees F). The average mean summer temperature is 13.8 degrees C (56 degrees F) with a record high of 31 degrees C (87.7 degrees F).

The Garden slopes gently to the southwest and has excellent drainage. After clearing brambles and weeds from the site, the surface of the planting areas is covered with well-rotted leaf mold to a depth of 7.5 to 10 cm (3 to 4 inches). Top-dressing with leaf mold is repeated as necessary.

Primulas in the Garden

Many plants thrive here, and the primulas are no exception. One of my biggest problems, with the *Primula candelabra* section especially, is keeping the species pure, and I have had to plant the different species as far from each other as possible in the Garden.

In the Lam Asian Garden we have a continuous display of primula in flower for over seven months of the year, and there is rarely a month of the year when you cannot find a primula in flower. *P. japonica* 'Postford White' is especially prone to early bloom, and can be found to poke its flowers up even through a light snow cover. Our primula season usually begins in late February or early March,



Primula denticulata
in a garden setting.

depending of course on what the winter has been like. We have several species that compete for the honor, but *P. denticulata* is often the first to show color. We have *P. denticulata* in a wide variety of shades of lavender, from pale to a very dark purple and, of course, white. Some even have farina over the leaves and stems.

The Drumstick Primula

Primula denticulata can be found all over our Garden, often following stream beds, or in large plantings under or near the rhododendrons. The 'Drumstick' primula, as it is popularly dubbed, fits into the landscape when grown in a naturalistic setting, and planted in masses. To my knowledge, it has never produced any hybrids in our Garden, nor have I ever seen any mention of hybridizing in the literature. Last year I bought a plant of *P. denticulata* in a local nursery of a deep reddish-maroon color. It did not survive in my own garden, but succumbed to a bad infestation of spider mites which I was unable to control. I hope to get another plant this spring.

In the Asian Garden, *P. denticulata* flowers at the same time as many of our rhododendron species, especially *Rhododendron augustinii* and *R. lapponicum*. The mauve and lavenders of the primula are exactly the same colors to be found in the rhododendrons and the combinations are very beautiful. A phrase coined at one of our study weekends says it all — "color echo."



A self-sown form of Primula veris at the Garden.

Color Echo

Another color echo in flower at the same time of the year is created by two *Primula veris* subspecies — *P. v. ssp. columanae* and *P. v. ssp. macrocalyx*. At least these are the names shown in our records, but I have my doubts about these names, since both of these subspecies were grown from cultivated sources. I cannot see any differences in our various colonies, and I am convinced that we should simply call them all *P. veris*, drop the specific names and wait for wild-collected seed. But whatever name you call these primula, they look absolutely stunning when planted close to *Rhododendron lutescens*. The color of the primula flowers is a shade darker than the yellow of the rhododendron flowers.

Primula vulgaris ssp. sibthorpii is also one of our early bloomers and it produces lovely mauve flowers over a long period of time. I think the species should be more widely grown, since all you have to do to make it happy is to plant it in any suitable soil that is reasonably moist and cool.

On the highest point, in full sun, in the Asia Minor section of our rock garden you will find another *P. vulgaris* sub-species, namely *P.*

woronovii. G.K. Fenderson, in his book *A Synoptic Guide to the Genus Primula* has merged it with *P. vulgaris ssp. sibthorpii*. All I can say is that it is a plant with the same shape as *P. vulgaris*. and masses of beautiful creamy, white flowers. Our plants are grown from seed from the Pamir area in central Asia.

Another *P. vulgaris* type of plant was imported by the Garden from an English nursery and came under the name of *P. altaica*. So far we have not been able to find its real name, since all the synonyms for *P. altaica* found in the literature refer to species other than the *P. vulgaris* group. Whatever the name, this primula is absolutely beautiful and flowers for at least six weeks in the early spring. The leaves are dark green, overcast with purple, and the flowers are a clear rose pink in the typical *P. vulgaris* shape. It has been suggested to me that this plant could be an old hybrid, and should be called *Primula x altaica*.

At the same time we received *P. altaica*, we also imported plants of *P. juliae* and they have settled down and have grown very well. The form we grow appears to be very a very large-leaved and vigorous plant, and has made itself at home in our Garden. In my own garden, I have some plants of *P. juliae* grown from seed imported from the Caucasus area, and even though these are in a large pot, the leaves are much smaller in proportion to the flowers, even though it is a mature plant and has flowered for two years.

I planted a few plants of *P. amoena* quite close to the path and, within a week, several had been "liberated." These plants were grown from wild-collected seed and I was so pleased to see that there were both purple and cream colored specimen. I find it intriguing to get such a mix of colors from plants in the wild. I wonder if there is some unknown factor that causes some species, such as *P. amoena* and *P. vulgaris ssp. sibthorpii*, to have that particular combination of colors.

Interestingly enough, *Viola altaica* from roughly the same area also produces white,

Primulas in a Botanical Garden continued

cream and blue-purple flowers from the same batch of seed. This species of viola is one of the ancestors of our garden pansies.

Primula rosea is another early and welcome species to flower. Three years ago we planted about 150 plants in a shallow depression quite close to a ditch. We had grown candelabra primula here for quite a few years previously, and these had hybridized to such a degree that we could not find the true species any more. We sprayed the area with "Roundup," a herbicide, to clear the ground completely of both plants and weeds. We then spread four to six inches of leaf mold over the ground, and this is where *P. rosea* was planted. Other companion plants in the area included *Iris siberica* cultivars and rogersias, to give some interest later in the season. After two years, the plants of *P. rosea* are vigorous clumps with many crowns, flowering very well. This last fall I noticed that some self-sown seedlings had appeared. All of our primula beds are weeded by hand and we are often able to maintain and enlarge our planting through this care.



Primula rosea.

A close relative of *P. rosea* is *P. luteola*, and I wish I could say this species is flowering in the garden. *Primula luteola* is a very choice and lovely plant with leaves almost the same shade as *P. rosea* but of a lighter green. The shape of the flowers and the stalks are similar, but the flowers are a very beautiful, pale yellow, and the flowering time is much later than *P. rosea* — not until June. Quite a few years ago, in 1980, I obtained a plant of *P. luteola* and planted it in my own garden. It grew well, creating plants with multiple crowns and many flower stalks and set lots of viable seeds.

Seed from this plant was sent to our nursery and was sown in December 1982. The seed germinated in March 1983 and was planted in the spring of 1984 in a cool and half-shady spot where other species of primula were thriving. The *P. luteola* plants flowered in that first year, but never since. I have moved it to several other new areas, but so far there have been no flowers. This fall I got seeds from a different source and my hopes are high that it will perform better.

To be continued in following issues of Primroses. ❖

Bits and Pieces

from Bill Mason

I am one of the old school — the very old school. Getting on toward eighty, but still a very keen primula grower with a strong leaning toward *Primula auricula* hybrids.

Unrecognized Natives

I have a small front garden with a raised and well drained rockery bed adjoining a public pathway. Passers-by during the spring have frequently stopped to admire and comment on this pride and joy of mine. Quite a few have enquired about the lovely yellow primula on display. No one seemed to know the name. Being Londoners, they did not surprise me a bit. The plants were the common native *Primula veris*, the cowslip. About two dozen plants flowered, and they have been really magnificent. Several flower heads were very multi-flowered.

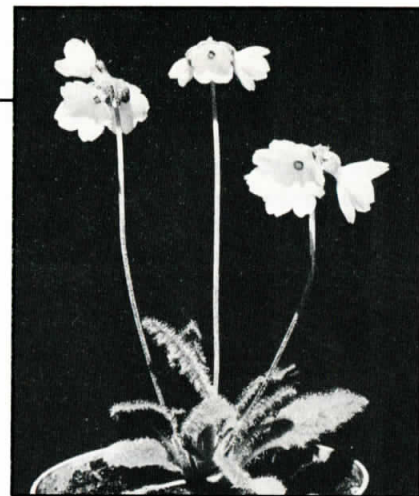
Sakurasoh

Inquires were also made about other primulas growing at the foot of the rockery in partial shade. Once again, these plants were really beautiful. No one had seen the like before. They were 'Sakurasoh,' *Primula seiboldii*, a strain of the Japanese primula of Barnhaven origin. For these, I had created a woodland sort of compost, incorporating leaf mould, old well rotted material from the compost heap, and peat.

I also had a nice display of 'Barnhaven Fireflies' plus some of their other acaulis strains. Also in the front garden were *P. yargongensis*, *P. scandinavica* and *P. frondosa*. In a large terra cotta pot nearby were a couple of androsace, saxifrage and some hybrids of your native lewisias.

Bell Flowered Primula

In the spring of 1990 I received some seed of *P. riedii williamsii* from the American Primrose Society seed exchange. This produced half a dozen plants. For those who have not grown these plants before, I would recommend they have a go. To me, these Asiatic primula are the



Primula reidii.

jewels in the crown. Absolutely magnificent, and the scent — well, it filled my greenhouse. My wife has fallen in love with them.

They over-wintered in my greenhouse where I kept them just a little moist until new growth started. Incidentally, two of the plants were white, and the remainder were shades of blue. The flowers actually remind you of a lovely bell flower or campanula. Needless to say, I did some pollinating and now have a small quantity of seed.

As regards the compost for these primula, I use one more or less based on the mix of elements recommended for this species in the APS cultural chart. However, as a booster, I used a very small amount of seaweed-based fertilizer containing chelated iron. I understand these plants grow adjacent to glaciers in their native habitat.

Auriculas

But on to auriculas. I love to cross-pollinate these and always live in hope of producing a real winner. From last year's seedlings, most of which I used to fill the compost bin, I have four nice plants: two handsome doubles, a lovely rich yellow show self and an alpine, a 'Sirius' cross with very flat flowers.

Bits and Pieces continued

This year my activities have been somewhat curtailed due to an accident to my right hand, but I managed to cross 'Sirius' with 'Applecross' and 'Galen.' All these are gold-centered alpines. I would suggest that those who don't try hybridizing are really missing out. A seedling you have produced from your own efforts is yours and yours alone. And who knows, your may produce IT, a real show stopper.

My London Garden

My rear garden is chock full of *Primula acaulis* types, garden auriculas, alpines (all Barnhaven) plus a sprinkling of 'Universal' pansies. Up against the fence, I have a nice row of named delphinium hybrids. Oh, and I have a pretty little garden pond with just three fancy goldfish — Mark, Mindy and Midge — named by my three grandchildren Mark, Sarah and Rachel.

I forgot to mention that I also grow *Primula allioni* (16 plants), *P. marginata* (12 plants) and *P. x pubescens* (umpteen plants).

News from the Chapters

Eastside

The November meeting featured a program on botanical names and their meanings as they pertain to members of the *Primula* family. At the December meeting there was a discussion of events in the coming year and a dessert pot luck.

The Chapter newsletter also mentioned that primula seeds are available from Peter Atkinson, Dr. John Kerridge and June Skidmore (Field House Alpines seed from England). Contact Don Keefe for more information.

The catalogs are starting to arrive! Don has found Sakata Julian seed listed in the 1992 Thompson and Morgan and in the 1992 DeGiorgi Seed catalog.

We live just a couple of minutes walk from Old Father Thames and a short distance from Kew Gardens which, incidentally, is not as attractive to the locals as it used to be. Not so long ago one could go into the gardens and sit on a bench, watching the squirrels lark about and enjoy the fresh air, all for three pence entry fee. I used to go several times a week. The entry now has been increased to three pound, or around five and a half dollars. So, in common with some other pensioners, I have given it the brush off. (Further inquiries indicate there may be a season's pass. This will entitle you to visit Kew Gardens in the winter and get yourself frozen at no extra cost. I haven't heard of any concession for pensioners, but it is possible there may be a little off.) ❖

Bill Mason, as he tells us, lives in London and is a keen primrose grower. He is very willing to exchange plants or seeds. Don't hesitate to write him if you share any of his particular interests.

Washington State Chapter

The October meeting discussed programs for future meetings.

Tacoma Chapter

Master gardener and former resident of England, Kristine Countryman, presented the November program on cottage gardens. She spoke of the history of some of the English gardens, illustrating her talk with slides.

December was the annual Christmas pot luck dinner. ❖

The Editor wishes to thank all the editors and secretaries who faithfully send the newsletters to her. Please continue to send them, so we can all share the news from the Chapters.

Primulas at Field House Alpines

by Valerie A. Woolley

I suppose it is not surprising that someone who, as a child, spent many happy hours picnicking and walking in the primrose woods of Kent should have a lifelong passion for primulas! It was years later that I offered to grow some plants for Edmund (my brother) and Peter (his father-in-law), little knowing where it would all lead. The autumn of 1985 was spent pouring over endless books and seed lists, and soon a fine collection of primula seed was assembled. I had grown Barnhaven primroses and polyanthus before but had never attempted 'real' primulas — so started a voyage of discovery which continues to this day.

From December 1985 onwards I purchased and set seed of every imaginable primula, but the conditions were all wrong initially and I wasted masses of seed. The first primula species to come up was the lovely *Primula frondosa*. I produced about ten of them and was thrilled to bits! Gradually I got things right and in autumn of 1986 I had about 500 primulas in pots on two simple raised gravel beds — quite a few more plants than Peter and Edmund had envisaged. This called for drastic action! Peter's garden was hastily redesigned and suitable areas were constructed to accommodate all these new treasures.

There were candelabras: *P. japonica*, *P. pulverulenta*, *P. bulleyana*, Inshriach hybrids, Pagoda hybrids, and Oriental Sunrise hybrids; belled primula were represented by *P. sikkimensis*, *P. alpicola violacea*, and *P. florindae* hybrids. *P. capitata*, *P. chionantha* and *P. nutans* flourished and were duly photographed as a reminder of our success. And of course there were the Barnhaven primroses and polyanthuses — Cowichans, gold-laced, Violet Victorians, Harbour Lights, Juliana primroses and many others. I also acquired my first six show auriculas, as my

husband decided he liked the look of them! You don't have only six auriculas for long! We were all well and truly hooked — and there were the lewisias I'd raised as well.

I couldn't stop there. I had to succeed with things like *P. reidii* which sounded so tempting in Jack Drake's catalogue. Luckily, 1987 was a vintage year. By the end of it, my collection of seed-raised primula species had increased to about 30, along with many hybrids and strains. The auriculas, too, were increasing at an alarming rate once I had plucked up the courage to make my first divisions of those old faithfuls, 'Remus' and 'Chorister.' It was quite clear, as 1987 progressed, that we needed somewhere else to grow all these plants as Peter's garden was awash with every conceivable primula.



Pots of Valerie Woolley's *Primula marginata*.

Primulas at Field House Alpines continued

My husband, Jack, took things into his own hands and built a superb shade house — a sort of pergola structure 14' by 21' covered with green shade netting. Inside were neat wooden beds filled with gravel or sand and a network of gravel paths. It all just evolved and, needless to say, was full of plants in no time.

In this cool haven I was able to grow and keep many primulas which I might otherwise have lost to our sticky Midlands' weather. I still have some *P. reidii* plants raised that year. I harvested masses of seed and carefully refrigerated it. Things were developing quickly, and by 1989 we had added a small polytunnel and a large shaded fruit cage to our growing areas. The original shade house was doubled in size. That year I sent some plants to the Alpine Garden Society rock garden at Chelsea. Where would it all end? I now had over 50 species of primula and about 30 named show and alpine auriculas, all madly offsetting and needing good homes.

I was also starting to collect the named European primulas — *marginata*, *pubescens*, *allionii* and so on. I had stock lists on my computer and was compiling a descriptive list for my own interest. An idea to sell these plants by mail order was forming in my mind.

Quite by chance in autumn 1989 I received an exciting auricula list from Field House Alpines in Gotham, Nottingham. Eventually I plucked up the courage to contact Doug Lochhead, the owner of the nursery, and cheekily sent him a copy of my proposed price list! A visit to the nursery followed in January 1990 and I was duly presented with about 60 named auriculas, free of charge. There were all the varieties I had wanted for years! Doug came and inspected our primula collection and the rest, as they say, is history.

By September we had decided to pool our resources and my plants were being sold



The shade house full of primulas for Field House Alpines.

through Field House. In the meantime Jack had erected a new and very large polytunnel for our now enormous auricula collection of over 200 named forms. Doug and I were beavering away over our new catalogues and making plans for what we would grow in the future. It was exciting and exhausting, to say the least.

June Skidmore was in England that autumn and came to visit us at the suggestion of my pen-friend, Don Keefe. We chatted to June for hours and she was clearly very taken with our collection of primula seed. We had already decided to sell seed and it was not long after June returned to Seattle that she kindly agreed to become our agent for the United States and Canada. A few weeks later 300 packets of seed were winging their way across the Atlantic! So when you see adverts for Field House's seed list in the quarterly, you will know who we are and how we started up.

Obviously it is early days and we have to build up our stocks. We have over 90 species of primula in our collection and hundreds of named forms and hybrids. We hope to provide a friendly specialist service and do our best to grow whatever our customers want — within reason, of course. We do not export plants, just

seed through June, and hope to make our list more comprehensive as our collection evolves. The list currently offers 43 Asiatic types and 13 European. The Sections represented are:

Auricula	Muscarioides
Candelabra	Nivales
Capitatae	Sikkimensis
Cortusoides	Soldanelloides
Farinosae	Vernales.

We also supply alpine and rock plant seed, including some good forms of lewisia.

At present all the seed is open pollinated in isolation and comes reasonably true. We get the occasional accident, but this is the exception rather than the rule. Next year we have plans to produce hand-pollinated seed which will be an improvement. Many new plants have been added to our collection this year — concentrating especially on the European species, hybrids and forms. Many of the plants have been raised from reliable wild-collected seed. Hopefully we

shall be able to offer seed from some of these primula in the future — but that is in the laps of the gods.

We are always pleased to welcome visitors from abroad, so if you are on vacation in Great Britain please give us a telephone call so that we can arrange a meeting. ♦

As you may remember from notes in earlier quarterlies, June Skidmore is the local distributor for Field House Alpine seeds. She has a good selection of choice primrose and alpine plant seeds fresh from the nursery this fall. With a few packets of primrose seed, like those Valerie started with, you may end up on your own voyage of discovery. Contact June at: 6730 West Mercer Way, Mercer Island, WA 98040.



Valerie Woolley by one of the small shade houses.

All in the Family

by Cliff Lewis

The family Primulaceae is a large one. All the members are herbs, of which there are 30 genera. Can you imagine cyclamen and creeping charlie in the same family? At this time let's consider two worthy rock garden plants — androsace and soldanella.

Androsace

The androsaces on the whole are not of particularly easy culture, but most of them are so delightful it is worth the extra effort to study their individual needs. You will get good response if you provide perfect drainage or a rocky crevice, and some protection from winter rains.

Most of the species are pink, occasionally white. Nearly all are mat forming. The choicest of the group — the high alpine species — should have alpine house treatment. The following species should respond to a sunny gritty scree:

- * *A. carnea*, and any of its named forms
- * *A. chamaejasme*: good companion plant for *Gentiana verna*
- * *A. hausmannii*: a cushion plant
- * *A. lanuginosa*: effective draped over a rock
- * *A. sarmentosa* (primuloides) and its clones: easier than some
- * *A. sempervivoides*: an easy one to start with
- * *A. villosa*: this one is fragrant.

If you have success with any of these, your appetite will be whetted to try some of the more difficult ones.

Soldanella

The soldanellas are welcome in early spring with their bright blue flowers on three to four inch high stems. Relatively easy to grow in a rich gritty soil, they like a moist cool position. They have a reputation for being shy flowering, but this is most likely due to the fact that flower buds, nestling at ground level, are often eaten by slugs.



Soldanella montana in a deciduous woods.

There are about 20 known species, but the following are the most easy to obtain. And all soldanellas are easier to raise than androsaceae! Nevertheless, they are considered to be choice alpine plants:

- * *S. alpina*: quite dwarf — fringed lavender bells
- * *S. carpatica*: the leaves are reddish on the underside, flowers are deeply fringed and purple-blue
- * *S. montana*: fringed purple bells, slightly taller than the others at six inches and one of the easiest
- * *S. villosa*: purple blue, also easy and one of the tallest at nine inches. ❖

To walk around Cliff Lewis' garden is like a geography lesson. The plants come from all over the world — this one from Greece, that one from New Zealand. A long-time member of the American Rock Garden Society, Cliff grows many of his plants from seed, including a wide variety of species primroses. His garden is not big, but does include an alpine house and some island beds in which are found the little jewels such as the soldanella.

Notes from the Editor

Disaster in the Nursery Business

The Du Pont Company has recalled Benlate 50 DF (dry-flowable), a standard fungicide product used extensively by commercial growers. A "bad" batch has been poisoning any plants on which it was sprayed. In most cases, the plants languish and die. However, there are not problems with the products more commonly used by hobby growers, Benlate WP (wetttable powder) and benomyl. All of this information is reported in the American Orchid Society Bulletin, December 1991 issue, page 1190.

For commercial growers in South Florida, the plant damage has been horrendous. Benlate poisoning causes the plant to look sick, and of course many growers simply applied more of the contaminated fungicide, expecting it to correct the problem. Symptoms of the sick plants mimic other causes, making the problem hard to diagnose. Whole greenhouses of plants had to be dumped. The contamination has not been isolated to date.

There is a hotline to call if you suspect you may have a problem, or if you require any information: 1-800-441-7515.

Primrose Tea Set

Primrose fanciers are always looking for items with a primrose design. There is a real gem available in some gift stores. A tea set, complete with cups and saucers, small plates and a tea pot with two different designs of *Primula seiboldii* has been spotted in The Old House Mercantile Company on Proctor Street in Tacoma.

Soft blues, lavenders and pinks on a white background have been used by designers from the Takehashi company in this pattern called 'Primula.' It may be available in other gift stores that carry fine china. The importer in this case was CTO, San Francisco. Keep your eyes open for this elegant item.

Botanical Prints of Auriculas

"English Garden Favorites" is the billing for two prints of old fashioned auriculas available from the magazine *House Beautiful*. Just the thing for a gift for the auricula lover who has everything. Stephanie Hoppen, dealer in fine arts, has commissioned Luca Palermo, a master of botanical illustration to paint two auriculas which have then been reproduced in "exquisite" color and detail.

Both prints are in the Flemish 17th century fashion. The plants are displayed in blue and white china bowl, the composition completed with peeled lemon and knife in one case, or a sea shell and ink pot in the other. The label on one reads: "Edged auricula 'Colby'" while the other appears to be a yellow ground fancy auricula. They are framed in a golden Florentine-style frame, and available at only \$175 the pair.

Fancy Cushions

Another decorative item with an auricula theme are velvet cushions, seen in London. An auricula design has been printed onto the velvet in an offering by Colefax and Fowler, fine interior designers. Smashing — at 170 pounds a pillow! That's over \$200 each. Well, maybe not this trip.

Primulas in the Bulletins

The Alpine Garden Society *Quarterly Bulletin* for September 1991 has some stunning photographs of *Primula allionii* crosses. There is a controversy about naming hybrids of *P. allionii* and *P. marginata*, one of which was called *P. x 'Miniera.'* The name has at various times been applied to two plants of very different form. However, the form currently in cultivation is shown in this issue in glowing color — with flowers a frilly, soft lavender. If plants like this will arise through crosses of *P. allionii* and *P. marginata*, I wish there were more.

Notes from the Editor continued

The notes in the AGS bulletin about the naming muddle also mention the death of K.R. Wooster, who devoted much of his life to raising *P. allionii* hybrids in England. Glorious color photos of some of his hybrids certainly do his work justice. Included are *P.* 'Beatrice Wooster' and *P.* 'Joan Hughes.' The former plant has been shown in Victoria at the Vancouver Rock and Alpine Shows in the last few years, with a wonderful plant staged by Sybil McCulloch only last year. I wonder how many are grown in the Seattle/Tacoma area? Let's have a display one year at the show.

The Alpine Garden Club of British Columbia Bulletin has two information notes of interest to

primrose growers. One is that John Kerridge, vice-president of the American Primrose Society presented a program at the November meeting. He spoke on propagation of polyanthus and auriculas. Thanks for spreading the word, John.

In the same issue, November 1991, there is a note about the unusual primula grown by the Botanical Garden at U.B.C. I mentioned it in the summer issue of Primroses: a single star-shaped flower of an unusual maroon color, on a long flower stalk. It was grown from seed collected in China. Two names have now been suggested. It could be from the subsection Maximowiczii of the Nivales section, even *P. maximowiczii* itself. Or it could be *P. tangutica*. ❖

Bring a Friend, add a Member

To encourage membership growth.

The American Primrose Society is encouraging new members in 1992. Remember that there are good things in store for members:

- * **Primroses**, the quarterly of the Society, comes to you every three months with news and information on obtaining and growing primroses.
- * **Round Robins**, a unique opportunity to meet friends that share your interest and will exchange information in answer to your particular questions. Write to Elizabeth van Sickle, address inside the back cover.
- * **Seeds, seeds, seeds.** Lists are distributed to each member for 1991 seeds. Make a selection and get started with your own choice of the many types of primula available.
- * **Questions about how to grow primroses?** Back issues of the quarterly are available from the secretary. Address inside the back cover.

* Slides of primroses, so you can see some examples, can be obtained from the slide librarian. Plan a lecture, or an informal evening of slides. Invite the neighbours, and find a new member for the Society. Write to Gerry Flintoff — address inside the back cover.

Remember that each new member gets a set of quarterlies for the past year in which they join, and a free packet of seeds. This year, there is the color issue of the quarterly as part of the set.

The international symposium 'Primula Worldwide' is about to happen in April in Beaverton, Oregon. Bring a friend. After you both are inspired by the speakers, take home a primrose plant or two, and get started growing primroses. There's more to primroses than the bedding plants at the corner nursery. Discover the world of primroses and share it with a friend. ❖

Primula Notes

A Visitor from Alaska

Marie Skonberg, who you will remember from her article in the Spring 1991 issue of the quarterly, was able to get down to the Seattle area for a visit in early December. Don and Mary Keefe and Barbara Flynn were some of her fellow members in the American Primula Society that she was able to visit.

Of course it was rainy, but Don and Mary took her to Molbak's nursery and to the Elisabeth Miller Horticultural Library over at the University of Washington Seattle campus. Barbara says her photo album of the primroses and other flowers in her garden show what a great range of plants she grows. And Don gave her a hose-in-hose primula to take back to Alaska with her.

Disappearing Primrose Seedlings

One of our members has written a note to pass on a helpful hint. "Some of my seedlings were disappearing, so when I read an article that mentioned 'sow bugs' as a possible menace to young plants, it rang a bell. Every time I moved a flat I noticed one or two of these bugs scurrying away. Because we know them as wood bugs, I thought that they were just attracted to the wooden bench.

"Spotting a box labelled 'Sow Bug and Cutworm Bait' in our local nursery, I decided to give it a whirl. It comes in pellet form and I scattered them underneath the bench and near the flats of seedlings. Within a couple of days the bugs were lying on their backs, dead. I did not miss any more seedlings, so am pretty confident they were the culprits."

About to Start Again with Primroses

Ran into Floyd Keller the other day in Tacoma. He was a member of the Primrose Society some years ago, but other things took up his time, and he got away from it. However, he has just bought a new place, in the same general area as Howard Larkin used to grow his primroses. So now he's very interested in building up a collection of primroses to grow on his sunny hillside. Anyone got any primroses to share?

Contact President Cy Happy for Floyd's new phone number.

Barnhaven News

The Society has just received a letter from Barnhaven Primroses in France! Angela Bradford, a former helper of the Sinclairs in England, has taken stock to France and has seed available. You can obtain a catalog from: Barnhaven Primroses, 25 Warstones Cres. Penn, Wolverhampton or Barnhaven Primroses, Langerhouad, 22420 Plouzelambre, France.

Late News Flash

from Renee and Dennis Oakley

Renee has some further cultural directions to pass on. She uses superphosphate in weak solution on her seedlings to help them develop roots. Once they have good roots, she assures me, they'll really grow. Also, she often gives them a shot of 10-52-17, or even mixes this into her potting mix. It's really for wonderful flowers, but she has found it makes for all round vigorous healthy plants.

And another word about pests. Renee has heard recently that if you have those pesky fungus gnats in your soil in the greenhouse or in your pot plants, Diazanone crystals worked into the soil may help. They should control the gnat in its grub stage.

If you happen to get those insidious root mealy bugs (not root aphids, a different problem) Renee says she has good success with Malathion. Drench the plant and, of course, repot it into fresh, clean soil. You can often tell if you have these pests by noticing a blue film around the top of the pot. Once you know what to look for, it is distinctive and easy to see.

And finally, Renee put in this note: "Dennis worries that any handymen reading about the benches he made for me will think that they are pretty 'Mickey Mouse.' As I told him when he said that — the wood was there, just lying around, the saw horses were there, and put them to good use. What is more, they work perfectly and I think they were a wonderful idea!" ❖

50 Years in Print

The last issue of *Primroses* marked the 50th anniversary of the society, but this issue marks the beginning of volume 50 — 50 years in print. The quarterly bulletin began in 1942, the year following the registration of the society the year before, and has continued through all the intervening years. No mean feat for the bulletin of a non-profit, special interest garden club.

To mark the first number of the 50th volume, here are a list of all the editors who have donated so much time and energy to the publication of the society's quarterly. This is a very small tribute to their dedication and the knowledge they have helped us all to share. Thanks are also due to Herb Dickson, who wrote a tribute to all these editors in the Winter 1990 quarterly, where you can find Herb's reminiscences about past editors.

1942 - 1952	Florence Bellis
1952 - 1956	Susan Watson
1956 - 1960	Charlie and Alice Gilman
1960 - 1964	Nancy Ford
1964 - 1967	Anita Alexander
1976 - 1973	Emma Hale
1973 - 1977	Dorothy Springer
1977 - 1981	Cyrus and Rita Happy
1981 - 1984	Larry Bailey
1984 (Commemorative issue)	Cyrus and Rita Happy
1984 - 1989	Richard Critz
1990	Thea Service Foster
1990 - 1991	Larry Bailey
1991 - present	Maedythe Martin

Judges Meetings

Mini-workshops to improve judging skills

Two meetings will be held to review the judging standards and rules, and to gather information that will be helpful in improving the standards. This is also a chance to brush up on our judging skills.

There will be two meetings in 1992:

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| February 8 | Al Rapp's home,
4918 - 79 Ave West
Tacoma, WA |
| February 22 | Thelma Genheimer's home,
7300 - 209 Ave SW
Beaverton, OR |
- Al Rapp, Judging Chairman

1992 Seed Exchange

American Primrose, Primula and Auricula Society

The A.P.S. seed exchange is open to all members in good standing. Any member who has not paid his 1992 dues can renew by including a check or money order for \$15 U.S. dollars, payable to Jay Lunn, A.P.S. Treasurer, with your seed order.

Seed prices are 40 cents (U.S.) per packet, with a minimum order of \$4.00 (U.S.) for 10 packets. Make all remittances payable to American Primrose Society Seed Exchange by personal check, money order or bank draft.

Personal checks from foreign members will be accepted in currencies of the following countries: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Holland, Federal Republic of Germany, Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Japan (Roman Alphabet and Arabic numerals, please) New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, and Switzerland. Please insure that foreign checks are made out to cover the U.S. dollar amount plus 5%.

Mail all orders to Candy Strickland, A.P.S. Seed Exchange, 8518 - 28th Avenue East, Tacoma, Washington 98445.

The seed is listed, first by Primula Section and then the species name. G.K. Fenderson's book "A Synoptic Guide to the Genus Primula" was used for classification and spelling. I chose to list under both the Fenderson listing and the Pictorial Dictionary listing for the benefit of those not having Mr. Fenderson's book.

Abbreviations and symbols used in the seed listing are as follows:

HP = hand pollinated

OP = open pollinated

I = open pollinated in isolation

coll = collected in wild

ssp = subspecies

var = variety

(15) = number of seed per packet

[D1] or [-] = either the person donating the seed or in [-] indicates several donors

B.G. = botanical gardens

The number of seed in each packet varies according to the quantity of seed available. The director reserves the right to limit the number of packets of the scarcer seed to each order. In case you do not list substitutes, the director will substitute with like seed whenever possible.

Orders will be processed in the order they are received with the donor orders being processed first.

Contributions to the seed exchange are welcomed until Oct. 31, 1992 at which time the seed list will be compiled for 1993. Orders for seed this year will be filled until May 15, 1992.

All contributions of seed should be made to:

American Primrose Seed Exchange

P.O. Box 112157

Tacoma, Washington 98411-2157

SECTION AMETHYSTINA

1 kingii [A6] (5)

SECTION ALEURITIA (Farinosae)

2 darialica [A22] (10)

3 darialica [A6] (10)

4 darialica [BG] (10)

5 farinosa [BG] (10)

6 frondosa [A25] (10)

7 frondosa [BG] (10)

8 halleri H.P. [A7] (10)

9 halleri [A22] (10)

10 halleri [A12] (10)

11 halleri [BG] (10)

12 inayati (1990) [A22] (5)

13 incana found in Burke Co.
N.D. [A39] (10)14 laurentiana coll in
Newfoundland [A19] (10)

15 laurentiana [A18] (10)

16 laurentiana [A3] (10)

17 laurentiana [A22] (10)

18 mistassinica (1990) [A19] (10)

19 mistassinica [A12] (10)

20 modesta alba [A25] (5)

21 modesta alba [A22] (5)

22 modesta alba [A12] (5)

23 scandinavica [A18] (10)

24 scandinavica [A22] (10)

25 scotica [A18] (5)

26 specuicola [B7] (5)

27 stricta [BG] (5)

SECTION ARMERINA

28 egaliksensis coll. in Newfoundland
(1990) [A19] (10)

29 involucreta (10)

30 nutans-sibirica (1990) [A23] (10)

SECTION AUGANTHUS (Sinensis)

31 praenitens (sinensis) [BG] (5)

SECTION AURICULA

32 auricula O.P. [A31] (10)

33 auricula coll. in wild in
Austria [A6] (10)34 auricula coll. in Switzerland
(1990) [A19] (10)

35 auricula [BG] (10)

36 glaucescens (syn calycina) [B6] (5)

37 glaucescens [BG] (5)

38 glutinosa [A22] (10)

39 glutinosa [BG] (10)

40 hirsuta [A22] (10)

41 hirsuta [BG] (10)

42 integrifolia [BG] (10)

43 latifolia [BG] (10)

44 marginata [A22] (5)

45 pedemontana [BG] (10)

46 rubra (hirsuta) red alpine [BG] (10)

47 viscosa [B1] (5)

SECTION BULLATAE

48 forrestii coll. in China [A22] (5)

SECTION CAPITATA

49 capitata [BG] (15)

50 capitata ssp glomerata [A3] (15)

51 capitata ssp mooreana [B1] (15)

SECTION CORTUSOIDES

52 cortusoides [A37] [A33] (10)

53 cortusoides [A6] (10)

54 jesoana coll. in Quebec Garden
(1990) [A9] (10)55 cortusoides coll. in Quebec Garden
(1990) [A9] (10)

56 kisoana [A6] (10)

57 polyneura [BG] (10)

58 saxatalis [A21] (10)

59 saxatalis [A2] [A6] (10)

60 saxatalis [BG] (10)

61 sieboldii mix (5)

62 sieboldii deep pink [A37] (5)

63 sieboldii alba [A4] [A12] (5)

64 sieboldii (patens) [A22] (5)

65 sieboldii (patens) [B1] (5)

SECTION CRYSTALLOPHLOMIS

(Nivales)

66 bayernii Rupr. [A28] (10)

67 chionantha (1990) [A23] (10)

68 chionantha [A21] (10)

69 chionantha and sinopurpurea
mix [A15] (10)

70 sinopurpurea (1990) [A13] (10)

71 sinopurpurea [A21] (10)

SECTION CUNEIFOLIA

72 suffrutescens [B7] (10)

73 suffrutescens coll. in 1990 at Lake
Winnemuca [A6] (10)

SECTION DENTICULATA

74 cashmiriana [A22] (25)

75 cashmiriana [B5] (25)

76 denticulata [A22] [A18] (25)

77 denticulata mix [A14] (25)

78 denticulata rubra [A6] (25)

79 denticulata lavender shades [A40] (25)

80 denticulata ruby [B6] (25)

81 denticulata 'Ronsdorf Hybrids
mix' [B1] (25)

82 denticulata alba [B1] (25)

83 denticulata rubin [B1] (25)

84 denticulata 'Dunkle Farben' dark
colors [B1] (25)

SECTION MONOCARPICAE (malacoides)

85 malacoides mix [A22] (10)

86 malacoides mix [A41] (10)

87 malacoides mix [B3] (10)

88 malacoides bright pink [B4] (10)

89 malacoides carmin rose [B4] (10)

90 malacoides white [B4] (10)

91 forbesii from Yunna China
pink [A22] (5)

SECTION MUSCARIOIDES

92 Bellidifolia [A3] (10)

93 concholoba mix [-] (10)

94 muscarioides (1990) [A23] (10)

95 vialii [A22] (50)

96 vialii [B6] (50)

SECTION OBCONICOLISTERI

97 obconica O.P. [A7] (25)

98 obconica [A30] (25)

SECTION OREOPHLOMIS (Farinosae)

99 luteola [A12] (10)

100 macrocarpa [A22] (10)

101 rosea [A4] (10)

102 rosea mix [BG] (10)

103 rosea grandiflora [B1] (10)

104 rosea grandiflora [A22] (10)

SECTION PARRYI

105 angustifolia [B7] (5)

106 parryi [A22] (10)

107 parryi [B7] (10)

108 rusbyi [B7] (5)

SECTION PETIOLARES

109 petiolares [B5] (20)

110 tanneri [A22] (5)

111 tanneri ssp nepalensis from
Nepal [A22] (5)

SECTION PRIMULA (Vernales)

112 amoena [A22] (5)

113 amoena coll. near Borzhomi Cchra
Ckaro pass [A28] (5)

114 elatior [A21] (5)

115 elatior [A12] (5)

116 elatior [BG] (10)

117 elatior (oxlip) (1990) [A24] (10)

118 elatior ssp pallasii [BG] (10)

119 elatior ssp ruprechtii [A22] (10)

120 veris [BG] (15)

121 veris [A21] [A22] (15)

122 veris [B6] (15)

123 veris [A4] (15)

124 veris orange gold O.P. [A31] (15)

125 veris sunset shades [A36] (15)

126 veris coll. from Frampton on
Severn [A33] (15)

127 veris coll. in Finland (1990) [A19] (15)

128 veris ssp columnae [BG] (15)

129 veris ssp macrocalyx [BG] (15)

130 vulgaris mix [B6] (10)

131 vulgaris blue (1990) [Ab] (10)

132 vulgaris red-violet [A5] (10)

SECTION PROLIFERAE

133 anisodora [A12] (10)

134 anisodora magenta China 18" to
24" [A32] (10)

135 aurantiaca [BG] (10)

136 aurantiaca dark orange - dark
stems [A4] (10)

137 beesiana O.P. [A16] (15)

138 beesiana [A22] (15)

139 beesiana [A11] (15)

140 beesiana [A10] (15)

141 beesiana [BG] (15)

142 bulleyana [A10] (15)

143 bulleyana mix [-] (15)

144 burmanica [A3] (15)

145 burmanica [A10] (15)

- 146 candelabra mix O.P. [A7] (25)
 147 candelabra mix [B6] [A11] (25)
 148 candelabra yellow [A2] (25)
 149 candelabra orange [A2] (25)
 150 candelabra pink [A2] (25)
 151 candelabra gold [A2] (25)
 152 candelabra purple [A2] (25)
 153 candelabra salmon [A2] (25)
 154 candelabra reddish purple [A11] (25)
 155 candelabra rainbow shades [A3] (25)
 156 candelabra yellow-pink-orange coll. Van Dusen Park, Van. Canada [A32] (25)
 157 candelabra 'Orient Sunrise' O.P. [A16] (25)
 158 candelabra 'Fuji' O.P. [A16] (25)
 159 candelabra 'Fuji' [A37] (25)
 160 chungensis yellow orange [A17] (15)
 161 chungensis orange [A32] (15)
 162 chungensis [A3] (15)
 163 chungensis [A22] (15)
 164 cockburniana brilliant orange [A17] (15)
 165 cockburniana [A11] (15)
 166 cockburniana [A10] (15)
 167 helodoxa mix [-] (15)
 168 helodoxa [A22] (15)
 169 japonica mix [A6] (25)
 170 japonica mix [A4] (25)
 171 japonica [A42] [A25] (25)
 172 japonica pink [A10] (25)
 173 japonica pink-red eye [A37] (25)
 174 japonica magenta red [A17] (25)
 175 japonica fuschia O.P. in isolation [A38] (25)
 176 japonica rose [A11] (25)
 177 japonica mottled white and purple [A10] (25)
 178 japonica terra cotta [-] (25)
 179 japonica 'Miller's Crimson' [-] (25)
 180 japonica 'Glowing Embers' [-] (25)
 181 japonica 'Postford White' [-] (25)
 182 poissonii mix [-] (10)
 183 pulverulenta from China red and pink [A32] (10)
 184 pulverulenta 'Bartley's Strain' [A25] (10)
 185 pulverulenta mix [A11] (10)
 186 pulverulenta mix [B6] (10)
 187 smithiana [B1] [A22] (10)
 188 wilsoni [-] (10)

SECTION REINII

- 189 tosoensis [A26] (5)

SECTION SIKKIMENSIS

- 190 alpicola [A22] (10)
 191 alpicola alba [-] (10)
 192 alpicola var Luna [-] (10)
 193 alpicola var violacea [A22] (10)
 194 alpicola var violacea [A4] (10)
 195 firmipes [A22] (10)
 196 florindae O.P. [A7] (10)
 197 florindae copper colored [A14] (10)
 198 florindae red select [A22] (10)
 199 florindae mix [A17] [A11] (10)
 200 florindae mix [A41] (10)
 201 ioessa [B2] (5)
 202 secundiflora [A22] (10)
 203 secundiflora [A25] (10)
 204 secundiflora [A9] (10)
 205 sikkimensis [A21] (15)
 206 sikkimensis crimson and gold [A22] (15)
 207 sikkimensis mix [A2] (15)
 208 sikkimensis mix [B6] (10)
 209 waltonii [A21] (10)
 210 waltonii [B6] (10)
 211 waltonii purplepink-yellow mix [A40] (10)

SECTION SOLDANELLOIDES

- 212 flaccida [A22] (10)
 213 reidii williamsii [A22] (5)
 214 reidii williamsii [B2] (5)

SECTION SPHONDYLIA

- 215 edelbergii coll. in Afganistan [A22] (5)
 216 edelbergii [A22] (5)
 217 floribunda var isabellina [-] (5)
 218 verticulata w/ferina [A30] (10)
 219 verticulata [A27] (10)
 220 verticulata [A22] [A21] (10)

SECTION AURICULA HYBRIDS

- 221 auricula alpine mix [A43] (10)
 222 auricula 'Border' mix (1990) [A43] (10)
 223 auricula 'border-Beeshel Strain' mix [-] (10)
 224 auricula Garden mix [A10] (10)

- 225 auricula Garden mix [A11] (10)
 226 auricula Garden mix [A8] (10)
 227 auricula Garden blue [A8] (5)
 228 auricula Garden brown [A8] (5)
 229 auricula Garden red [A8] (5)
 230 auricula Garden white [A8] (5)
 231 auricula Garden yellow [A8] (5)
 232 auricula red show self [A8] (5)
 233 auricula yellow show self [A8] (5)
 234 auricula green edge [A8] (5)
 235 auricula blue show [A34] (5)
 236 auricula picotee outer edge colored [A8] (5)
 237 auricula doubles mix [A8] (5)
 238 x pubescens [A21] (10)
 239 x pubescens gigantic [B6] (10)
 240 x pubescens 'Christine' [A34] (10)

SECTION JULIA AND PRIMULA HYBRIDS

- 241 wanda hybriden mix [B1] (5)
 242 wanda hybriden salmon [B1] (5)
 243 wanda hybriden rose tones [B1] (5)
 244 wanda hybriden rose [B1] (5)
 245 wanda hybriden blue [B1] (5)
 246 wanda hybriden lavender [B1] (5)
 247 wanda hybriden raspberry [B1] (5)
 248 wanda hybriden velvet red [B1] (5)
 249 x pruhoniana F1 hybrid mix [B1] (5)
 250 x juliana Stalked form H.P. [A7] (5)
 251 x juliana Cushion form H.P. [A7] (5)
 252 x juliana 'Little Gem' red [A17] (5)
 253 x juliana 'Dorothy' cream [A17] (5)
 254 juliana 'Cheerleader' [B4] (5)
 255 julia 'Gold Ridge' [B4] (5)
 256 julia miniature acaulis mix [B4] (5)
 257 julia acaulis bicolor [B4] (5)

SECTION PRIMULA HYBRIDS

- 258 acaulis multiflora 'Asteroids' mix [B3] (10)
 259 acaulis 'Spectrum series' coral [B3] (10)
 260 acaulis 'Spectrum series' primrose [B3] (10)
 261 acaulis 'Spectrum series' cameleon [B3] (10)
 262 acaulis 'Spectrum series' stardust [B3] (10)
 263 acaulis 'Spectrum series' red [B3] (10)

- 264 acaulis 'Spectrum series' stereo blue [B3] (10)
 265 acaulis 'Spectrum series' blue [B3] (10)
 266 acaulis 'Spectrum series' mid blue [B3] (10)
 267 acaulis 'Spectrum series' yellow [B3] (10)
 268 acaulis 'Spectrum series' yellow orangeeye [B3] (10)
 269 acaulis 'Spectrum series' golden yellow [B3] (10)
 270 acaulis 'Spectrum series' new gold [B3] (10)
 271 acaulis 'Spectrum series' birdseye [B3] (10)
 272 acaulis 'Spectrum series' pale cream [B3] (10)
 273 acaulis robust mix (1990) [A43] (10)
 274 acaulis double mix [A1] (10)
 275 acaulis 'Pageant' white [B4] (10)
 276 acaulis 'Pageant' wine red [B4] (10)
 277 acaulis 'Pageant' carmine rose [B4] (10)
 278 acaulis 'Pageant' mix [B4] (10)
 279 acaulis 'Pageant' yellow [B4] (10)
 280 acaulis 'Pageant' apricot [B4] (10)
 281 polyantha 'Big ole yellows' H.P. [A7] (10)
 282 polyantha mix [A29] (10)
 283 polyanthus Cowichan mix O.P. [A16] (10)
 284 polyanthus 'Gold Lace' mix [A41] (10)
 285 polyanthus 'Pacific Giants' apricot shades [B4] (10)
 286 polyanthus 'Pacific Giants' bicolor [B4] (10)
 287 polyanthus 'Pacific Giants' blue [B4] (10)
 288 polyanthus 'Pacific Giants' pink [B4] (10)
 289 polyanthus 'Pacific Giants' rose shades [B4] (10)
 290 polyanthus 'Pacific Giants' scarlet [B4] (10)
 291 polyanthus 'Pacific Giants' white [B4] (10)
 292 polyanthus 'Pacific Giants' yellow [B4] (10)

- 293 polyanthus 'Pacific Giants'
mix [B4] (10)
- 294 polyanthus 'Super Giants'
crimson [B4] (10)
- 295 polyanthus 'Super Giants' lemon
yellow [B4] (10)
- 296 polyanthus 'Super Giants'
pink [B4] (10)
- 297 polyanthus 'Super Giants'
pink [B4] (10)
- 298 polyanthus 'Super Giants'
white [B4] (10)
- 299 polyanthus 'Super Giants'
mix [B4] (10)
- 299 primula x poly 'Hose-in-Hose'
H.P. [A7] (5)
- 300 primula x poly 'Exhibition Gold Lace'
H.P. [A7] (5)
- 301 veris mixed hybrids red, bronze, crim-
son, yellow [B6] (10)
- 302 vulgaris 'Orient Star' hybrid [B6] (10)
- 303 vulgaris 'Heterosis Ernst Benary'
mix [B1] (10)

SECTION PROLIFERAE HYBRIDS

- 304 candelabra hybrids mix [A36] (10)
- 305 candelabra 'Aperle Strain' coll. in Stan-
ley park, Van. B.C. pulverulenta x
Lissadel [A35] (10)
- 306 chunglenta chungensis x
pulverulenta [A22] (10)
- 307 cockburniana dwarf (5)
- 308 japonica 'Harlow Carr' [A35] (10)
- 309 japonica 'Harlow Carr' [B6] (10)
- 310 japonica 'Inshriach hybrids' [A10] (10)
- 311 japonica hybrids mix (25)
- 312 'Lissadel' pulverulenta x cockburniana
shocking pink (1990) [A13] (25)

OTHER PRIMULACEAE

- 313 Androsaceae grandifolia [B5] (15)
- 314 Androsaceae lanuginosa [B5] (15)
- 315 Sredinskya grandis [A20] (10)
- 316 auricula Pot-Luck (50)
- 317 Gambler's Choice (50)

COMPANION PLANTS

- 318 Althaea rosea double form [A21] (10)
- 319 Cornus mas [A21] (10)
- 320 Daphne mezereum [A21] (10)

- 321 Gentiana asclepiadea [A4] (10)
- 322 Lewisii cotyledon mix [A1] (10)
- 323 Lewisii cotyledon pink and
white [A10] (10)
- 324 Lewisii cotyledon pink [A10] (10)
- 325 Lewisii cotyledon red [A10] (10)
- 326 Lewisii cotyledon white and
pink [A10] (10)
- 327 Lewisii cotyledon 'Sunset
Strain' [B6] (10)
- 328 Lewisii tweedii [B6] (5)
- 329 Lilium hardy asiatic from Central
Asia [A21] (10)
- 330 Lilium martagon white [A21] (10)
- 331 Pulsatilla violaceae Rupr. coll. near
Kozbegi [A28] (10)
- 332 Pulsatilla vulgaris [A21] (10)

UNIDENTIFIED

- 333 P. briscoi [A22] (10)



Primula polyantha (3/4 natural size)

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- Bon, Margarette E., Ashby Rd., New Ipswich, NH 03071
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- Brown, Katherine I., 2931 Lemons Beach Rd., Tacoma, WA 98466
- Brown, Bill, 43 Middle Rd., Blue Point, NY 11715
- Burch, Ilse & Terry, 21601 S.E. 24th St., Issaquah, WA 98027
- Burger, James C., 2421 W. Garland Ave., Spokane, WA 99205

- Burt, Dr. George M., 1201 14th Ave. N., Fargo, ND 58102
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- Chondo, Emily, 4607 - 140 St., Edmonton, Alberta T6H 4Y9 Canada
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- Conboy, Mrs. Grace M., 5486 S.E. Martine Drive, S. Burnaby, B.C. V5J 3G8 Canada
- Condon, M. Susan, 1121 Hillcrest Dr., Anchorage, AK 99503
- Conklin, Robert B., Timber Press, Inc., 9999 S.W. Wilshtre, Portland, OR 97225
- Conservatoire et Jardins, Botaniques de Nancy, 100, Rue du Jardin Botanique, 54600 Villers-les-Nancy, France
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- Cook, Dr. Philip W., Poker Hill Gardens, P.O. Box 338, Underhill, VT 05489
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- Cooper, Cheri, 676 Lowell Rd., Concord, MA 01742
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- Cox, Mrs. Phyllis, 1728 Maymeview Terrace, Sidney, B.C. V8L 5A9 Canada
- Cox, Teri, Box 311, Merville, B.C. V0R 2M0 Canada
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- Dansdill, Dorothy, 7 Wilderness West, Newtown, CT 06470
- Darstein, Paul & Sue, 10535 S.E. 228th St., Kent, WA 98031
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- Dehler, Juliana M., 13068 Hook Rd. N.E., Mt. Angel, OR 97362
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- Fowler Library, Helen, Denver Botanic Gardens, 909 York St., Denver, CO 80206-3799
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- Deurbrouck, Albert W., 6915 Hilldale Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15236
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- Deyrup, Felicia J., 309 N. Broadway, Nyack, NY 10960
- Dickerson, Tony, 9 Westonbirt Close, St. Peter The Great, Worcester WR5 3RX England
- * Dickson, Mr. Herb, 2568 Jackson Highway, Chehalis, WA 98532
- Diesen, Mr. & Mrs. Charles, 1903 5th St., Kirkland, WA 98033
- Dingle, Frieda H., 1911 E. 64th, Tacoma, WA 98404
- Divita, Cindy Carpenter, P.O. Box 382, Burlington, WA 98233
- Dodd, Richard A., 2211 Chamberlain Ave., Madison, WI 53705
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- Dolphin, Ida, N. 5704 Greenwood Blvd., Spokane, WA 99205
- * Donake, Heather, 732 S. Tyler, Tacoma, WA 98405

Donaldson, Joan, Pleasant Hill Farm, R.R. 4, Fennville, MI 49408
 Donnelly, Mr. & Mrs. K. M., 25 Ellenvale Ave., Dartmouth, Nova Scotia B2W 2W6 Canada
 Doonan, Mary H., Drawer #1, Startup, WA 98293
 Douglas, Evie, 11907 Nevers Rd., Snohomish, WA 98290
 Douglas, Keith J., "Brookfield" Lot 14, Perrins Creek Rd., Olinda, Victoria OZ 3788, Australia
 Dovalina, Sr., Mrs. Mario, 2308 S. Bonnie Brook Ln., Waukegan, IL 60087
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 Duhamel, Christian M., 7 Rue des Patriotes, 59115 Leers, France
 Dupre Jr., L. Joe, 2015 N Avenue, Anacortes, WA 98221
 Duryee, Mrs. Phil, 1115 41st Ave. E., Seattle, WA 98112-4405
 Duthie, Mrs. Ruth, 15 Abbey Rd., Oxford OX2 OAD England
 Eastside Garden Club, c/o Julia Olson, 13513 N.E. 66th, Kirkland, WA 98033
 Eastside Primula Society, Thea Oakley, 3304 - 288th Ave. N.E., Redmond, WA 98053-3111
 Eddison, Sydney, Box 385, Echo Valley Rd., Newtown, CT 06470
 Ehrlich, Ann M. H., Box 475, Fitzwilliam, NH 03447
 Eichhorn, Gary E., E. Lakeshore, Bigfork, MT 59911
 Eisele, Torsten, Pl. 1152, Ranarpestrand, 26091 Forslov, Sweden
 Ekstrom, Nicolas H., 419 East 75th St., New York, NY 10021
 Eldrenkamp, Lowell & Marilyn, 17405 13th S.W., Seattle, WA 98166
 Ellams, Mr. Robin, 296 Cannon Rd., Wilton, CT 06897
 Elliott, Anthony, R.R. 2, Box 782, Wells, ME 04090
 Emig, Lura, 1878 Demorest Rd., Columbus, OH 43228
 Emmons, Jean L., 10322 S.W. 165th St., Vashon Island, WA 98070
 Evans, Anna, Box 1402, Deep River, Ontario K0J 1P0 Canada
 Eveleigh, Pam, 6520 Law Drive S.W., Calgary, Alberta T3E 6A1 Canada
 Farrer, Maurice H., 4205 Arbutus Dr., Raleigh, NC 27612
 Fay, Jerry J., 23 Catro Circle, Scituate, MA 02066
 Felstad, Jo, P.O. Box 213, Morristown, TN 37815
 Fenderson, G. K., Grout Hill, South Acworth, NH 03607
 Fenili, Mr. & Mrs. Vasco, 7102 Citrine Lane S.W., Tacoma, WA 98498
 Ferguson, J. Barry, P.O. Box 176, 62 Cove Neck Rd, Oyster Bay, NY 11771
 Ferreri, Jack, 3118 Timber Lane, Verona, WI 53593
 Ferry, Karen Cline, P.O. Box 1238, Westport, WA 98595
 Fieldstone Gardens, Inc., 620 Quaker Lane, Vassalboro, ME 04989-9713
 Fieseler, Kirk, 1950 Laporte Ave., Fort Collins, CO 80521
 Fischer, Thomas, 308 Pond St., Boston, MA 02130-2430
 Flint, Donna L., 17495 Glacier Hwy., Juneau, AK 99801
 Flintoff, Jerry, 154 N.E. 194th St., Seattle, WA 98155
 Flynn, Barbara E., 1332 232nd Pl. N.E., Redmond, WA 98053
 Fortune, Kathleen, 28405 S.E. Powell Valley Rd., Gresham, OR 97080
 Foss, Janet, 17 - 112th St. S.W., Everett, WA 98204
 Fountain, W. Thomas, Box 516, Easton, MD 21601
 Free, Mrs. Florence L., 4713 - 48th Ave. N.E., Seattle, WA 98105
 Frey, Mary L., 23628 - 172nd Ave. S.E., Kent, WA 98042
 Friberg, Dr. Richard, 2130 Fairways Lane, St. Paul, MN 55113
 Fry, Amy A., 1955 Salzer Valley Rd., Centralia, WA 98531
 Fulcher, Sylvia M., RFD 2, 38 N. Indian Hill Rd., Chatham, MA 02633
 Gage, Mrs. Jesse C., 9999 Pierce Rd., Holland Patent, NY 13354
 Garton, Linda, 10540 Ashworth Ave. N., Seattle, WA 98133
 Getersbach, Mrs. C. L., 6900 Thorne Rd., Horton, MI 49246
 Getsert, Madlyn, 1876 Maple St., North Bend, OR 97459
 Genge, Mr. Geoffrey L., "Marshwood" Leonard Rd., West Plains, 4 R.D., Invercargill, Southland, New Zealand
 Genheimer, Thelma W., 7100 S.W. 209th, Beaverton, OR 97007
 Georgi, Dr. Horst, Niederheidegarten, In de Niederheide 9, DDR - 1403 - Birkenwerder, b./Berlin Germany
 Gerrath, Dr. J. F., 70 Dumbarton St., Guelph, Ontario N1E 3T6 Canada
 Gile, Bonita, P.O. Box 32656, Juneau, AK 99803
 Ginter Botanical Garden, Lewis, P.O. Box 28246, Richmond, VA 23228
 Glick, Barry, #5 Primrose Path, Renick Gardens, WV 24966
 Goodrich, June E., 19 Goodrich Lane, Portland, CT 06480
 Goodwin, Allen, Goodwins Road, Bagdad Sth. 7030, Tasmania, Australia
 Goodwin, Mrs. Nancy V., P.O. Box 957, Hillsborough, NC 27278-0957
 Gordon, Robert B., 3896 W. King Edward Ave., Vancouver, B.C. V6S 1N1 Canada
 Graewin, Joyce, R.R. 2, Box 9, Norwalk, WI 54648
 Graham, Mrs. Duane, Rt. 1, Box 231, Carmel, CA 93923
 Grand Ridge Nursery, 27801 S. E. Highpoint Way, Issaquah, WA 98027
 Gray, Mary, 3210 Debbie Dr., Hendersonville, NC 28739
 Gurin, M.D., David, 4 Grosvenor Pl., Great Neck, NY 11021
 Gustafson, Phyllis, 250 Maple St., Central Point, OR 97502
 Guy, Dr. Rohilah, 2719 Acton, Berkeley, CA 94702-2302
 Hagevig, Rosemary, Box 423, Douglas, AK 99824

Hakkila, Mrs. Carol L., 1284 Union Rd., Waldoboro, ME 04572
 Hale, David, 4431 S.E. 114th Ave., Portland, OR 97266
 Hall, Connie J., Rt. 1, Box 1220, Dexter, ME 04930
 Hamilton, Robert, 2439 Woolsey St., Berkeley, CA 94705
 Hammett, Dr. K. R. W., 488C Don Buck Rd., Massey, Auckland 8, New Zealand
 Hanrahan, Mrs. Evelyn, 12 Ingersoll St., Huntington Station, NY 11746
 Hara, Kazuo, Matsumoto Sakurasoh & Primula Club, Yoshikawa-Koya 647-51, Matsumoto, Nagano 399, Japan
 *Happy Ill, Cyrus, 11617 Gravelly Lake Dr. S.W., Tacoma, WA 98499
 Harrington, Marcia B., 2723 West Barrett, Seattle, WA 98199
 Hartman, Willand & Shirley, 1441 Tuttle Ave., Wallingford, CT 06492
 Heacock, Mary Ann, 1235 South Patton Ct., Denver, CO 80219
 Hehn, Mrs. Constance B., 25 Ash Street, Hopkinton, MA 01748
 Held, Paul, 195 North Ave., Westport, CT 06880
 Heller, Lyle & Darlene, 430 Widnor Dr., Mt. Vernon, WA 98273-4653
 Henderson, Mrs. Mary, 4291 Gordon Head Rd., Victoria, B.C. V8N 3Y4 Canada
 Henson, Janet E., 3734 Pollard Cemetery Rd., Kodak, TN 37764
 Hepting, Rev. Thomas, P.O. Box 75, Emma, MO 65327-0075
 Herold, Roy, 239 Park St., North Reading, MA 01864
 Hershner, James L., 690 Fair Oaks Dr., Eugene, OR 97401
 Heumann, Mrs. Sally, 175 St. Germain Ave., San Francisco, CA 94114
 Hinterwirth, Hubert, Hausmanning 140, A 4560 Kirchdorf/Krems, Austria
 Hitchen, Gerald, 11 Regal Drive, Rishworth, Sowerby Bridge, West Yorkshire HX6 4RW England
 Hobbs, Thomas, 2127 West 41st Ave., Vancouver, B.C. V6M 1Z6 Canada
 Hochheimer, Mrs. Irene, Ridge Farms Rd., Norwalk, CT 06850
 *Hogarth, Mrs. Hanna, Box 477, Terrace, B.C. V8G 4B5 Canada
 Hogg, Margaret D., 3165 Dallas Rd. N.W., Salem, OR 97304
 Holden, Mathilde, E. 3021 Hartstene N., Shelton, WA 98584
 Holland, Beth, P.O. Box 132, Cannon Beach, OR 97110
 Hoogeveen, William J., Rt. 2, Box 35, Middleburg, VA 22117
 Hottel, Mary, R.R. 1, Box 389, Lower Shad Rd., Pound Ridge, NY 10576
 Howard, Lee, 5230 S.W. Custer, Portland, OR 97219
 Howse, Donald, Porterhouse Farms, 41370 S.E. Thomas Rd., Sandy, OR 97055
 Hubbard, Mrs. Norma, 107 Windsor Rd., Hillsboro, NH 03244
 Hudson, Brian & Fanny, 170 Vautier Rd., Sequim, WA 98382-9435
 Huffmon, Catherine J., 5710 Spruce St., Burnaby, B.C. V5G 1Y9 Canada
 Hull, Catherine A., 17 Highland Ave., Manchester, MA 01944
 Humphreys, Mrs. G. H., Newry, Pateena R.D. 931, Longford 7301, Tasmania, Australia
 Hunter, Woodrow W., Box 314, Leland, MI 49654
 Ikeda, Paul J., 2760 N.E. 98th St., Seattle, WA 98115
 *Jackson, Louise H., 471-B Taylor Cut-off Rd., Sequim, WA 98382
 James, Tony, 3936 Braefoot Rd., Victoria, B.C. V8P 3T2 Canada
 Jefferson, Kevin, 9223 - 163rd Ave. S.E., Snohomish, WA 98290-6114
 Jeffrey, James B., 400 E. 59th St., New York, NY 10022
 Johnson, Robert C., 406 N.W. Saginaw, Bend, OR 97701
 Johnson, Mrs. Cassa M., 3116 North Tyler, Tacoma, WA 98407
 Jones, Rosetta M., E. 170 Dunoon Pl., Shelton, WA 98584
 Kabodan, Belinda R., 5007 W. Pond Circle, West Bloomfield, MI 48323
 Kalmbach, Mrs. Vivian R., 6 Canongate Ln., Highlands Ranch, CO 80126-3897
 Kanter, Ita, 120 Babcock Hill Rd., South Windham, CT 06266
 Kawaguchi, Jon, 3524 Bowman Court, Alameda, CA 94501
 Keefe, Donald & Mary Seitz, 22604 N.E. 20th Pl., Redmond, WA 98053-4001
 Kelley, Steven John, 2325 South Watertown Rd., Long Lake, MN 55356
 Kelso, Sylvia, 14 East Cache La Poudre, Dept. of Biology, Colorado College, Colorado Springs, CO 80903
 Kendall, Steve, 8521 Boundbrook Ln., Alexandria, VA 22309
 Kennedy, Mr. Joseph, 20 Drumavoley Road, Ballycastle, Co. Antrim BT54 6PG Northern Ireland
 Kern, Diane D., 20 West 86th St., New York, NY 10024
 Kerridge, John, 2426 W. 47th Ave., Vancouver, B.C. V6M 2N2 Canada
 Kirk, Delores E., Drawer U, 405 Madison St., Griswold, IA 51535-0490
 Kistler, Anita H., 1421 Ship Rd., West Chester, PA 19380
 Kitzmiller, Karen B., 22 North St., Montpelier, VT 05602
 Klady, Mr. & Mrs. S. L., 519 - 36th Ave. Court, Greeley, CO 80634
 Klaveano, Danielle, Rt. 1, Box 49, Thornton, WA 99176
 Kline, Ann E., 3016 Cedar Hill Rd., Falls Church, VA 22042
 *Kloppenbergh, H., Meibergsdijk 1A, Liederholthuis, Ralte 8144RJ, Netherlands
 Knapp, Mr. & Mrs. Fred E., 58 Kaintuck Lane, Locust Valley, NY 11560
 Knippenberg, Mrs. John F., 736 Pines Lake Drive W., Wayne, NJ 07470
 Koch, Terri, 275 Idylwood Dr. S.E., Salem, OR 97302
 Kohlein, Dr. Fritz, Wiesenstrasse 4, 8589 Bmdlach 1, Germany
 Kohout, Christian, Kurzer Weg 3, Prietitz, 8291 Germany
 Koken, Virginia & Morris, 477 Sandy Bend Rd., Castle Rock, WA 98611
 Korde, Mrs. Mary, P.O. Box 403, Ahmeek, MI 49901
 Korn, Lawrence & Ruth, 3606 Robtn View Dr., West Linn, OR 97068
 Kraeft, Harald, Beuzlen 8, D-W-7140 Ludwigsburg, Germany

Kubla, Vladimír, Resovska 515, 18100 Praha 8, Czechoslovakia
 Kueppers, Carol A., 108 Lee Circle, Bryn Mawr, PA 19010
 Kuester, Jacklyn S., 1023 S. 202nd St., Seattle, WA 98198
 Kusey, Julius, 2659 W. Avon Rd., Rochester, MI 48309
 Ladendorf, Sandra, 123 High Hickory, Chapel Hill, NC 27516
 Lady, David G., R.F.D. 1, Box 469 Blebe Rd., Westmoreland, NH 03467
 Lafortune, Michael, 9475 - 113B St., N. Delta, B.C. V4C 5G6 Canada
 Lahmann, Mrs. Wanda, 1437 82nd Ave. S.E., Salem, OR 97301
 Lander, Mr. Eric S., 1 Williams Way, North Walsham, Norfolk NR28 0BA England
 Lang, Magda, 325 East 57th St., New York, NY 10022
 Larkang, Lars, Pl 1870 Bjorboholm, S-440 06, Grabo, Sweden
 Larson, Deanna K., Rt. 1, Box 28, North Branch, MN 55056
 Larsson, Bertil, Brunnsvagen 68, S-464 03 Dals-Rostock, Sweden
 Larus, Charles T., 250 Tranquility Pl., Hendersonville, NC 28739
 Laughlin, Joan E., P.O. Box 63, South Freeport, ME 04078-0063
 Lawrence, James R., Box 304, Jamestown, CO 80455
 Leake, Donald R., 124 W. 80th St., New York, NY 10024
 Lechelt, Carol, 16406 S.E. Market, Portland, OR 97233
 Ledding Library of Milwaukee, 10660 S.E. 21st Ave., Milwaukee, OR 97222
 Lehner, Alice, 23000 N.E. 92nd Ave., Battle Ground, WA 98604
 Lemagie, Susan, 425 E. Dahlia, Palmer, AK 99645
 Lenzner, Joseph J., 33 Gates Circle, Buffalo, NY 14209
 Leth-Moller, Ove, Danmarksvej 41B, 2800 Lyngby, Denmark
 Levy, Sterling R., Box 70 Site 14 R.R. #2, Windsor Jct., Nova Scotia B0N 2V0 Canada
 Lewis, Cliff & Louella, 8238 2nd Ave. N.E., Seattle, WA 98115
 Lewis, Patricia, P.O. Box 69, North Powder, OR 97867
 The Library, Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh EH3 5LR Scotland
 Librarian, Institute of Plant Sciences, Dept. of Agriculture & Rural Affairs, Swan St., Burnley, Victoria 3121, Australia
 * Lill, H., 17 Newton Ave., Newton Hill, Wakefield W71 2PX England
 Lindner, Victor, Bragman Rd., Dover, NJ 07801
 Lloyd, Jacquelyn, Rt. 1, Box 91, Lewiston, ID 83501
 Loder, Patty, 1631 N.W. Steidl Rd., Bend, OR 97701
 Library, Longwood Gardens, P.O. Box 501, Kennett Square, PA 19348-0501
 Lopez, Vernon & Mary, 108 Meeting House Rd., Mashpee, MA 02649
 Lord, Ann W., P.O. Box 557, South Sutton, NH 03273
 Lovejoy, Ann, 13045 Madison N.E., Bainbridge Island, WA 98110
 Lowe, Nicholas A., 4 Hoe Meadow, Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire HP9 1TD England
 Luby, Joan S., 76 Cove Rd., Oyster Bay, NY 11771
 Luce, Roger F., RFD #1, Box 1126, Hampden, ME 04444
 Luechtiger, Th., Hofackerstr. 36, CH-8570 Wetfelden, Switzerland
 Lufkin, Elise B., Wells Hill Rd., Box 1746, Lakeville, CT 06039
 Lunn, Jay & Ann, 6620 N.W. 271st Ave., Hillsboro, OR 97124 — 563 640 4582
 Lupp, Richard C., 28111 - 112th Ave. E., Graham, WA 98338
 Maass, Dr. Wolfgang S.G., General Delivery, Ketch Harbour, Halifax, Nova Scotia B0J 1X0 Canada
 MacDonald, Beatrice, 422 Route 130, Sandwich, MA 02563
 Macdonald, Mrs. Joan, 318 Main Rd., Sunnyvale, Green Island, Otago, New Zealand
 Macfarlane, Dorothy, 5453 S.E. Harlene, Milwaukee, OR 97222
 Maddox, Stephen D., 20040 Rodrigues Ave., No. A, Cupertino, CA 95014
 Maker, Mary, P.O. Box 395, Neffs, OH 43940
 * Maki, Takao, 7-11-6 Kugenuma-Kaigan, Fujisawa-251, Japan
 Malone, Mrs. Therese C., 6009 Westbrook Dr., Brook Park, OH 44142
 Maris, Bill & Marie, 364A Yokeko Dr., Anacortes, WA 98221
 Markert, Irma & Norbert, 102 Proctor Ave., Ogdensburg, NY 13669
 Marsh-Sachs, Rachel R., Zone 4 Perennials, R.F.D. #3, Box 445, Augusta, ME 04330
 Marston, Ted, 13036 Homes Point Dr. N.E., Kirkland, WA 98034
 Martin, Dr. Louis G., 19 Lansdowne Rd., Toledo, OH 43623
 Martin, Mrs. M. J., 951 Joan Crescent, Victoria, B.C. V8S 3L3 Canada
 Martin, Ella J., R. #2, Box 880, Thorndike, ME 04986
 Masley, Dr. A. L., E. 15881 Hwy. 106, Belfair, WA 98528
 Mason, Margaret, 4316 S.W. Bernard Dr., Portland, OR 97201
 Mason, William, 24 Pyrmont Rd., Chiswick, London W4 3NR England
 Library, Mass. Hort. Society, Horticultural Hall, 300 Massachusetts Ave., Boston, MA 02115
 Masuda, Noriyoshi, 943-123 Nibuno, Himeji, Hyogoken P.C. 670, Japan
 Mattingley, John & Wendy, Cluny House, By Aberfeldy, Perthshire PH15 2JT Scotland
 Maurice, Schaeerlaecken, 53, Molenstraat, B2830 Willebroek, Belgium
 Mayhew, Dora, H.C.R. 69, Box 65, East Machias, ME 04630
 Mazuryk, Mr. O. Michael, 69 Delaware St., Komoka, Ontario N0L 1R0 Canada
 McCabe, Nancy, Dublin Rd., Falls Village, CT 06039
 McDole, Ammon C., 1003 - 1st St., Douglas, AK 99824
 McDonough, Tess, Garden Staff, 450 Warren St., Brookline, MA 02146
 McCauley, Mrs. Elaine, Tehkummah, Ontario POP 2C0 Canada
 McGavran, Carla, 11118 - 169th Ave. S.E., Renton, WA 98059
 McGraff, Ruth Ann, P.O. Box 219, Great Falls, VA 22066

McHaney, Randy, 12 Appleton Ave., Leonardo, NJ 07737
 McKinney, Steven C., 2419 North Shore Dr., Delavan, WI 53115
 McMillan, Douglas J., 200 Commerce St., Greenville, NC 27858-5028
 Mehl, Jeanne, P.O. Box 470, 589 Mehlwood Lane, Glendale, OR 97442-0470
 Meredith, Sharon R., 3016 W. Viewmont Way W., Seattle, WA 98199
 Merkl-Greenhill, Jo, 1617 - 204th Pl. N.E., Redmond, WA 98053
 Metsack, Ruth A. (deceased), Rt. 1, Box 92, Ashford, CT 06278
 Metzloff, Bill, 56 Silverview Way N.W., Calgary, Alberta T3B 3J8 Canada
 Michel, Mrs. Susan J., 3, Campert Dr., Ashford, CT 06278
 Miller, Elise, 732 Union St., Brooklyn, NY 11215
 Minch, Fred & Jean, 4329 Chrisella Rd. E., Puyallup, WA 98372
 University of Minnesota, Andersen Horticulture Library, 1984 Buford Ave., St. Paul, MN 55108
 Minnich, Laurienne & Robert, P.O. Box 56, Puyallup, WA 98371
 Mizuno, Shigeaki, 15-6 Kachushinmachi, Tsuruoka, Yamagata 997, Japan
 Moehne, Helen, HCR 61, Box 55, Banks, OR 97106
 Mommens, Jacques, P.O. Box 67, Millwood, NY 10546
 Monson, Mildred W., P.O. Box 211542, Auke Bay, AK 99821-1542
 Montgomery, G. H., 4338 Cypress St., Vancouver, B.C. V6J 3R1 Canada
 Montreal, Ville de, Bblle. du Jardin Botanique, 4101 Est. Rue Sherbrooke, Montreal, Quebec H1X 2B2 Canada
 Moore, Thelma D., 2072 Kelly Dr., Casper, WY 82609
 Morency, Mr. Andre, 4, Lafontaine, Baie Comeau, Quebec G4Z 2L9 Canada
 Morgan, Mrs. Hughann, 4766 Coolbaugh Rd., East Stroudsburg, PA 18301
 Moyer, Elmor, R.R. #4, Warton, Ontario N0H 2T0 Canada
 Mucchiatti, Ernani, Piazza Concordia, 12, 20020 Busto Garolfo (MI), Italy
 Muir, Keith J., R.R. No. 7, Duncan, B.C. V9L 4W4 Canada
 Mulder, Mary Ellen, 23 Holly Hill Dr., Mercer Island, WA 98040
 Muller, Claire, 2001 Ridley Creek Rd., Media, PA 19063
 Multnomah County Library, Periodical Department, 801 S.W. 10th Ave., Portland, OR 97205-2597
 Murphy, Norma, 428 Turley Falls Rd., Hendersonville, NC 28739
 Murray, Jackie & Pete, 21 Aberdeen Close, Stamford, Lincs. PE9 2TN England
 Neel, Larry, 9250 Homestead Ln., P.O. Box 589, Etna, CA 96027
 * Nelson, Mr. Marilyn, 7449 S. Linden Rd., Swartz Creek, MI 48473
 Nelson, Clarence E., 4324 W. 58th Pl., Los Angeles, CA 90043
 Nelson, Maryann, 2401 East Mall, Ardentown, DE 19810
 Nelson, Richard & Jean, P.O. Box 1630, 650 Waldport Heights Dr., Waldport, OR 97394
 New York Botanical Garden Library, Serials Exchange, Bronx, NY 10458
 Newlin, Mrs. Alice G., P.O. Box 66, Freeland, WA 98249
 Nicolle, Geoffrey, Rising Sun Cottage, Noltan Haven, Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire, Dyfed SA62 3NN Wales, U.K.
 Niemeyer, Nancy E., 1435 Park View Ln., Port Angeles, WA 98362-5541
 Niewiarowski, Jerzy, Zgierska 110/120 m. 243, 91-303 Lodz, Poland
 Nikolajsen, Gunnar, Falhedevej 4 Trandum, DK. 7800 Skive, Denmark
 Nilsson, Alf, Lottgarden 2662, S-45193 Uddevalla, Sweden
 Nisso-Tosho Ltd., 1-5-16 Suido, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo 112, Japan
 Nitchman, Mrs. Joseph, 6572 West Smith Rd., Medina, OH 44256
 Nitschke, Kenneth D., 1071 S. Acaule Ln., Midland, MI 48640
 Nyborg, Sigfred, Gronbjergvej 45, 6971 Spjald, Denmark
 Nyman, Terry, P.O. Box 214, Kalama, WA 98625
 Oakley, Thea, 3304 - 288th Ave. N.E., Redmond, WA 98053-3111
 Oakley, Dennis, 10060 Dennis Place, Richmond, B.C. V7A 3G8 Canada
 O'Brien, Sr., John A., 9450 Herbert Place, Juneau, AK 99801
 O'Byrne, Ernie & Marietta, 86813 Central Rd., Eugene, OR 97402
 Odehnal, Sylvestr, 4282 Sugarbush Rd., Mississauga, Ontario L5B 2X7 Canada
 Odess, Robert, RD 1, Box 69, Buskirk, NY 12028
 Odh, Gunnar, Furnvagen 26, Frislad 51300, Sweden
 Ogyama, Tunchiro, 2,860 Taniguchi Mugegawacho, Mugfugan Gifuken 501-22, Japan
 Ohta, Miwako T., 5945 N.E. 201st St., Seattle, WA 98155
 * Oi, Mr. Hiroto, 11-1890 Kami-Okawamae, Niigata-Shi 951 Japan
 Okazaki, Virginia J., Flowerfield, Box 658, Fall City, WA 98024
 Oliver, Charles G., RD 2, Box 110, Scottsdale, PA 15683
 Olmsted, Rosemary R., R.R. 1, Box 149, Plattsburgh, NY 12901
 Olson, Mrs. Frances M., Bostock Mountain Rd., Boiceville, NY 12412
 * Oppen, Mrs. Arthur, 604 Clarman Drive N.E., Salem, OR 97301
 Orchard, Mrs. Beryl W., 17 Skyuka Trail, Columbus, NC 28722
 Ordille, Edith, Hohenstaufenstrasse 48, 7320 Goppingen, Germany
 Oregon Primrose Society, 11112 S.E. Wood Ave., Milwaukee, OR 97222-4586
 Oregon State U. Library, Kerr Library 121 - Serials, Corvallis, OR 97331-4503
 Ornbostad, Even Stenar, N - 6594 Nordheim, Norway
 Osborn, Elodie C., 392 Tacontic Rd., Salisbury, CT 06068
 Owens, Candace H., 102 Jones St., Chapel Hill, NC 27514
 Padavich, Birdie, 710 Maloney Grove Ave. S.E., North Bend, WA 98045
 Palm, Dr. Uno, 17 Spruce Terrace, Fredericton, New Brunswick E3B 2S6 Canada
 Palmer, Edward, 15565 S.W. 114th Ct., #23, Tigard, OR 97224-3383
 Parker, Mrs. Wilhelmina E., West Lake Road, Fitzwilliam, NH 03447

Parsons, Julia H., 'Chiemsee', New Road, Prestwood, Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire HP16 0PX England
 Partridge, Harold, 4512 East Lake Rd., Wilson, NY 14172
 Paulson, Mrs. Sheila, 6960 Leaside Drive S.W., Calgary, Alberta T3E 6H5 Canada
 Peace, Robert, 5 Bon St., Alexandra 3714, Victoria, Australia
 Peavey, Amy, 11424 36th Dr. N.E., Space 15, Marysville, WA 98270-8442
 Peck, Ma. Dee, 8813 Patton Rd., Philadelphia, PA 19118
 Pennington, Mrs. Ruth M., 2121 Wembly Park Rd., Lake Oswego, OR 97034
 Pennsylvania Hort. Society, 325 Walnut St., Philadelphia, PA 19106
 Peters, Sidney B., 14143 166th Ave. N.E., Woodinville, WA 98072
 Petuck, Kathryn, 25 Perley Ave., Lebanon, NH 03766
 Phillips, Kathryn L., 85 Cabbage Lane, Bethlehem, CT 06751-1522
 Plaskota, Roman, Botanical Garden, ul. Wyspińskiego 1 m. 5, Pabianice, PL-95-200, Poland
 Pollard, Dr. & Mrs. Barry, 8937 Revere Run, West Chester, OH 45069
 Porteous, Barrie, 15 Brimwood Blvd., Twh. 25, Agincourt, Ontario M1V 1E1 Canada
 Preston, Roy & Beverlie, 2828 27th Ave. West, Seattle, WA 98199
 Preston, Mrs. S. William, 884 Bluff St., Glencoe, IL 60022
 Preuss, Armin, Lindenweg 4, 8773 Frammersbach, Germany
 Price, Dee, 18921 - 16th N.E., Seattle, WA 98155
 Punnett, Mr. & Mrs. Thomas R., 6635 Wissahickon Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19119
 Quarrington, Leal & Bruce, Box 234, Grafton, Ontario K0K 2G0 Canada
 Raden, Lee M., Alpinflora, 1 Alpin Way, Phoenixville, PA 19460-2936
 Raimonde, Pola, 7369 Valerite Lane, Hudson, OH 44236
 Ratner, James A., 5229 Sonora Dr., North Vancouver, B.C. V7R 3V7 Canada
 Rapp, Al, 4918 79th Ave. W., Tacoma, WA 98467
 Ratcliff, Jr., James E., 300 Montgomery St., Suite 700, San Francisco, CA 94104
 Redfield, R. W. & H. L., 379 Brook Rd., P.O. Box 329, Scotland, CT 06264
 Reed, Jill, 3444 Hunts Point Rd., Bellevue, WA 98004
 Reichle, Dot & Gene, 7140 North Fork Rd. S.E., Snoqualmie, WA 98065-9424
 Renton, Izetta, 7160 North Fork Rd. S.E., Snoqualmie, WA 98065
 * Rettger, Timothy, 426 Shenley Drive, Erie, PA 16505-2232
 Rexrode, Karen Ann, Rt. 1, Box 29B, Aldie, VA 22001
 Rice, Graham, 70 Benefield Rd., Oundle, Peterborough, PE8 4EZ England
 Richardson, Teresa, 30016 Mountain View Rd., Duvall, WA 98019
 Ritch, Mrs. A. J., P.O. Box 624, Chehalis, WA 98532
 Robbins, Irving, 156 Florence Rd., Waltham, MA 02154
 Robinson, Addalme W., 9705 S.W. Spring Crest Dr., Portland, OR 97225
 Robinson, Doreen, Riversdale, Glounthaune, County Cork, Ireland
 Roedel, Wayne, 1900 Highway 101 E., Port Angeles, WA 98362
 Roche, Thomas G., 179 Vidal Blvd., Decatur, GA 30030
 Roden, John, Box 211, Lima, MT 59739
 Rodini, Eleanor M., 1632 Adams St., Madison, WI 53711
 Rokey Flowers, c/o Albert S. Rokey, 7425 Thurston Road, Springfield, OR 97478
 Rosier, James L., 508 Cedar Lane, Swarthmore, PA 19081
 Rothman, Edward S., 216 Station Rd., North Hills, PA 19038-1413
 Rotzien, Laura A., 308 Sycamore, Niles, MI 49120
 Rountree, John J., 6514 Elmhurst Drive, Falls Church, VA 22043
 Routley, Douglas G., R.F.D. 2, 60 Canney Road, Durham, NH 03824
 Library, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 3AE England
 Rozitski, Jean, 5839 Lind Rd., Everson, WA 98247
 * Rozman, H. E., 20341 Chateau Drive, Saratoga, CA 95070
 Russell, Clifton, 725 New Rd., Churchville, PA 18966
 Saïda, Sadatoshi, 3-6-4 Hon-Amanuma, Sugtamiiku, Tokyo 167, Japan
 Sahin, K., Gerard Deustraet 3, 2406 GV Alpen aan den Rijn, Netherlands
 Sagniller, James J., 163 Wilcox Ln., Sequim, WA 98382
 Salandi, M. Lenora, 1127 McKinley Ave., Havre, MT 59501
 Salt, Mr. D.W., Donington House, Main Road, Wrangle, Boston Lincs PE22 9AT England
 Sambrook, Mary, 115C Maryknoll Dr., R.D. #1, Basking Ridge, NJ 07920
 Sandor, Lenore, 3311 Foster Ave., Juneau, AK 99802
 Santose, Steven W., 8232 Old Hwy. 99, Marysville, WA 98270
 Sayre, Lawrence R., P.O. Box 213, Clearlake Oaks, CA 95423
 Schellinger, Karen, 31335 Kalla Lake Rd. (2), Avon, MN 56310
 Schermerhorn, D. L., Peru Road, Hinsdale, MA 01235
 Schiessl, Ludwig, 3342 Seal Rd., Marcellus, NY 13108
 Schiff, Barbara, 129 Washington St., Topsfield, MA 01983
 * Schlieder Jr., Quentin C., P.O. Box 1295R, Morristown, NJ 07960
 Schneider, Mrs. John A., 175 North Cove Rd., Old Saybrook, CT 06475
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My Way

continued from page 5.

By the way, for some small numbers of seed I divide the containers using strips of Styrofoam meat trays to save space. For labels, I cut up large plastic jugs that held bleach or other household products. The base makes a good saucer for larger plant pots and the top section, with the lid on, makes a good scoop — as I said, nothing that can be reused goes in the garbage.

Many thanks to Rosetta for her advice, and also for the gorgeous double primulas we have grown from her seed.

P.S. If your method works, stick with it! ♦

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