

Primroses

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PRIMROSES

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American Primrose Society

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All photos are credited.

CHANGES IN THE EDITORIAL STAFF

The editor of Primroses has acquired the help of a managing editor. Rod Deacon of Victoria, British Columbia, will assist me in the production of the next two issues. Rod has spent a number of years as a journalist, editor and communications expert, and we are fortunate to have his assistance. Maybe now we can meet the publication deadlines!

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THANK YOU FRANK CABOT

A special thank-you goes to Frank Cabot, Cold Spring, New York (who also gardens in Quebec), for the donation to cover the cost of the color photographs in this issue. The species primula are featured, as we all know how much Frank likes them and how well he grows them.

ON THE COVER

Primula acaulis one of the North American species is featured in "Plant Portrait" on page 13. Cover photos by Jay Lunn.



Primula acaulis, "harbinger of spring," a charming European species has been the parent of many modern strains. See article on page 19.

In Memorium Etha Tate

The American Primrose Society has lost a stalwart supporter, advisor and friend. Etha Tate passed away March 23, 1994, at the age of 83.

Etha has been a member of the American Primrose Society for over 42 years. She often said that to be a contributing member of an organization, one must remain involved. Her actions matched her words.

Over the years, Etha held the offices of regional vice-president, recording secretary, judging chairman, and served several terms as director. In every position, she worked tirelessly for the benefit of the society. In 1992, the American Primrose Society recognized her valued and enduring participation by presenting her with the Dorothy Dickson Memorial Award for Outstanding Service.

Photo by Orville Agee



This green-edged show auricula 'Etha Tate' was named by Ivanel Agee, the hybridizer, after her good friend.

Photo by Orville Agee



Etha joined the Oregon Primrose Society in 1959 as a charter member. Here, too, actions matched words: she held every office in the chapter and was show chairman several times. Etha's name became synonymous with that of the Oregon Primrose Society. Its members honored her efforts by awarding her sergeant's stripes and later giving her a "battlefield promotion" to captain. Etha was also an active member of the Valley-Hi Chapter for 11 years, most recently as president.

It is difficult to describe Etha Tate in a paragraph or two. She was a feisty lady who often spoke her mind. When she did, however, it was to dispel nonsense and urge members to get on with the business of the society. Etha was generous to a fault. Much of her time was spent helping other people. When asked how she was doing, the answer was always the same, "Pretty good!"

Etha was more than a member of the American Primrose Society; she was a "presence." Her advice and friendship will be missed.

Oregon Chapter, APS ❖

The Use of Simulated Stone Troughs

by Karen Schellinger, Avon, Minnesota

The use of troughs was developed by English gardeners trying to grow alpine plants that required special conditions. Alpine and rock plants need sharp drainage. Their roots like to grow next to rock surfaces and often need special

around and in front of the trough to soften its angular edges in the garden.

In the more formal setting of a patio or terrace the trough garden takes on a dramatic or sculptural quality, where it can be viewed more frequently and cared for more conveniently.

Winter care for some of my troughs has been to place the smaller ones on the ground under the trees out of the south or west sun's rays and to shovel snow on them. If I think the plants need more protection, I'll cover them

"The trough, a garden in miniature, is an artistic creation but, unlike a painting, is a living ornament that provides within its framework a series of delightful pictures ever-changing and evolving with the passing of the season."

James MacPhail, Vancouver

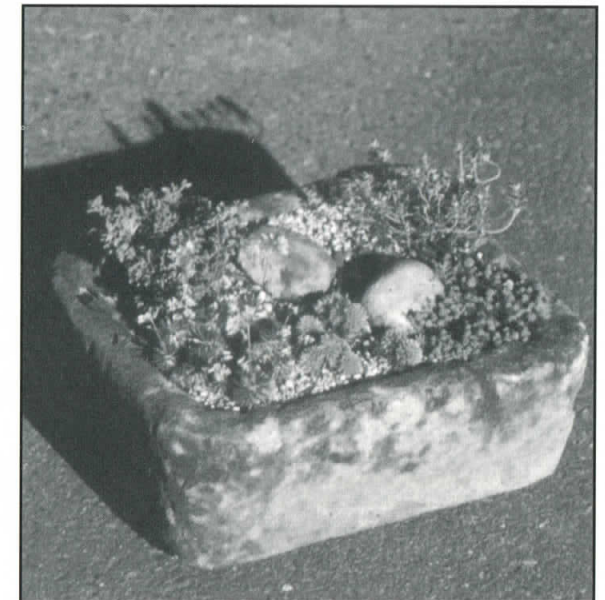
soil mixes different from those found in the garden. Mini rock gardens were used to create the needed conditions. These miniature gardens were planted in simulated stone containers or "troughs." A mix of cement and other ingredients was put into forms or molds to create the trough.

with leaves, but first I place a few moth balls on them or spray them with Hinder for mice protection. I pretty much let Mother Nature take its course with the ones too large to move or else shovel snow on them, too, if I think of it.

The trough garden can be displayed in many places in our home landscape. It is usually raised up on a pedestal so that its tiny plants can be seen to better advantage. Placed at the end of a garden path, it becomes an interesting focal point. Sinking it partially into the rock garden is another way to try those harder-to-grow plants by giving them a special soil mix but still keep them in the garden proper.

One of my larger ones is snuggled into a rock garden facing east. I positioned the trough so that its back side is "buried" into the bed, with the top edge still visible. The trough sides and front have the soil of the bed spilling over them. I have also planted bulbs and dwarf plants

Photo by J. Skidmore



The trough - a garden in miniature.

Simulated Stone Troughs continued

TROUGH CONSTRUCTION

The old method was to shape a piece of chicken wire to fit inside the trough walls and bottom as you were making it to keep it from breaking apart from the freezing temps of winter. I have made some using the chicken wire but now much prefer using a product called Fibermesh, available from your local home building center, along with the cement. This had been successful for

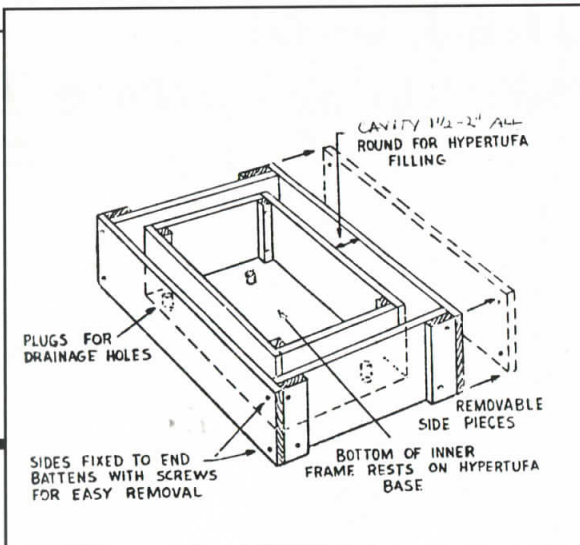


Illustration from handout by Pat and Francis Mason.

Making a Trough

Recipe #1

- 1 part portland cement
- 1 part builder's sand, perlite, or vermiculite
(I prefer vermiculite — I don't like the "white beads" of perlite. Sand also makes the trough much heavier)
- 2 parts peat moss (rubbed through sieve to remove sticks)

Fibermesh or other re-enforcing fibers — a couple of hands-full per trough

Recipe #2

- 1 1/2 parts peat moss
 - 1 part portland cement
 - 1 1/2 parts builder's sand, perlite, or vermiculite
- Fibermesh or other re-enforcing fibers — a couple of hands-full per trough

Figuring each "part" in the above recipes to equal 5 qts., each recipe will make a trough 13 x 19 x 5 1/2 inches.

Instructions

1. Spread heavy plastic on surface. Placing on a piece of wood will allow you to move newly-made trough before it is cured or set.
2. Mix all ingredients (**dry**) thoroughly and add only enough water to made a **dry** "cottage cheese" mix.

3. If using a form fill the bottom with two inches of mix tamping it in firmly. (Small flat board works well.) With other molds, make sure the bottom and sides are all two inches thick, packing the mix firmly so there are no air holes. If using a chicken wire reinforcement, put down one inch of mix, the chicken wire, and the other one inch of mix.
4. Place the dowels in the bottom for drainage holes.
5. If using a wooden form, place the inside form in and fill in the walls, making sure you tamp the mix in **firmly**.
6. Cover the trough with heavy plastic so it doesn't cure or set too fast. The slower it cures, the stronger it will be.
7. Wash tools.
8. In three to seven days, remove the plastic and the form, gently using the steel brush to scratch the outside sides and top so it looks more "natural" or textured.
9. Remove dowels, making sure the holes are all the way through — open them if not open all the way.
10. Place the plastic over the trough again and keep it covered for at least a week for more strength.

Karen Shellinger

gardeners in other parts of the country with winters like the ones in Minnesota. And it is so much easier on the fingers than those sharp chicken wire edges! The choice is yours!

Equipment needed: rubber gloves, mold for each trough, large plastic garbage bags for each trough, steel brush, wheel barrow or tub to mix materials together and two or four wooden dowels for the drainage holes in the bottom.

Examples of molds:

dishpan, heavy cardboard boxes (one 2 inches smaller so it can fit inside the other), oven roaster, a pile of damp sand to make one free form over or else two sectional wooden frames **lined with heavy plastic** so it will slip off easily. (Some people take the frame apart, oil the wood or use Vaseline. This didn't work for me, and my frames were even built with a slant to them to make removal easier. I line them with plastic.)

I turn the trough upside down on two narrow lath pieces and gently drop the trough on them, easing the trough out of the mold. The lath pieces are placed under the two ends and the "trough" clears them as it slowly slides out. Lift the form and trough only two inches or so to drop it; gently and slowly is the secret to removing it safely. (These are directions for a rectangular wooden form.)

PLANTING YOUR TROUGH GARDEN

After the trough has set or "dried," cure the trough before planting by letting it sit out in the elements for a month, or soak it in water for a few days, changing the water a couple of times.

Tip:

Place large troughs where desired before planting!



Photo by J. Skidmore

"A trough . . . is a living ornament . . ."

Suggested soil mixes:

For most alpiners, dwarf conifers and bulbs:

Compost #1

- 1 part loam
- 1 part flaked leaf mold
- 1 part coarse sand
- 1 part granite grit
- 1 TBSP bonemeal for each cubic foot of mix

Extremely fast draining mix for rare and difficult alpiners, including most of the cushion type:

Compost #2

- 2 parts granite grit
- 1 part coarse sand
- 1 part flaked leaf mold
- 1 TBSP bonemeal for each cubic foot of mix

Moisture retentive soil for dwarf rhododendrons and other ericaceous and woodland plants:

Compost #3

- 4 parts flaked leaf mold
- 1 part loam
- 1/2 part coarse sand
- 1/2 part granite grit

The Use of Simulated Stone Troughs continued

Cover each drainage hole with a piece of fine wire mesh, making sure that whatever you set the trough up on to elevate it doesn't block the holes. Next, put a one inch layer of fine gravel over the bottom, and one-half inch layer of sphagnum moss, dried leaves or something organic that will keep the soil mix above from clogging the gravel drainage layer and will also be a moisture storage layer. Fill the rest of the trough with one of the above mixes depending on what kind of plants you wish to plant.

The trough should be filled and compacted almost to the rim as you are planting. Using small and interesting pieces of weathered stone, place them in groups creating small cliffs or ledges on which small plants can make cushions on or cascade over. Place most of each rock

piece below the soil surface, just as you would in the large garden.

SOME PLANTS FOR TROUGHS

Choose alpines that don't become too tall or rampant. They should be in scale with the miniature garden.

Dwarf conifers are dominant plants in a trough garden and should be placed carefully in regard to the other dominant element in the trough, the rock groupings.

A feeding each spring of a balanced organic plant food such as liquid fish fertilizer and a top dressing of bonemeal would be a good idea, as the plant roots will be confined in the trough with no access to food. A chemical fertilizer

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Photo by J. Skidmore



A trough garden created by June Skidmore demonstrates a successful planting.

Wild Primula Seed, 1990-1992

by Ian Scott, Fife, Scotland

When, a few years ago, I started collecting and cultivating hardy primulas, I had no idea that the momentous changes in world politics would herald the dawn of a new age for growers like myself.

The opening up of China and large parts of the Himalayas has resulted in a deluge of wild collected seed, the like of which we have not seen in our lifetimes. After a gap of 50 years we are seeing plants that we have only read about as a distant memory. Now, for us in Scotland, there is the challenge of re-learning how to cultivate these species so that they are not lost to cultivation again.

The following list of wild collected primula seed is not comprehensive but it indicates what has become available recently through specialist nurseries or through the seed exchange of the Scottish Rock Garden Club (SRGC). It does not include the many species that are restricted in distribution to the botanic gardens.

Chungtien-Lijiang-Dali Expedition (1990)

- P. beesiana* CLD 1018
P. bulleyana CLD 920
P. forrestii CLD 738

Also 1242, best in a cool greenhouse but will survive outside if winter protected.

- P. pinnatifida* CLD 1092
 Quite variable in leaf shape. A white flowered variant will come from this seed.
P. poissonii CLD 193
 Also 485 and 1404. CLD 193 is a medium pink color, not the usual plum color.

- P. polyneura* CLD 351
 Quite variable in eye color. One form has pink petals with magenta eye rather than the usual yellow.

- P. secundiflora* CLD 362
P. serratifolia CLD 1365

Rather small flowered with deep yellow

petals, bi-colored with cream on the edges.
P. sino-purpurea CLD 220

Edinburgh Makalu Expedition (1991)

- P. barnardoana** EMAK 926
 An incorrect collection number could have been printed in the SRGC seed list.
*P. caveana** EMAK 547
*P. dickieana** EMAK 317
 A tricky plant.
P. klattii EMAK 362
 Sold as *P. uniflora*. Collected a few seed in autumn 1993 but has not yet germinated.
*P. macrophylla** EMAK 560
*P. megalocarpa** EMAK 512
 No germination recorded.
P. obliqua EMAK 319
 Slow growing and difficult.
P. prenantha EMAK 956
 A nice miniature candelabra with several whorls of yellow flowers.
P. primulina EMAK 491 also 683
P. reticulata EMAK 691

The smallest of the sikkimensis group. Seeds fairly easily.

- P. rotundifolia* EMAK 926
 A super plant with indigo buds that open to a rich pink. Mainly inside.
P. wollastonii EMAK 475
 Difficult to seed, but secondary plantlets grow from surface roots.

Those marked with an asterisk were available through the SCRC 1991/92 seed list.

Chadwell & McKelvie Expedition (1992) - Upper Indus and Ganesh Himal

- P. buryana* C&McK 890
 Yet to flower.
P. cachmeriana C&McK 715
 Grew for Alastair McKelvie but failed to germinate with me.

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In Memorium John Skupen

John Skupen, whose home and garden were always open to Tacoma primrose growers, died March 19, 1994, at age 95.

A little after World War II, John and Clara Skupen purchased an old two-acre mill site in a gulch a few hundred feet from Puget Sound in Tacoma. They diverted seven little streams and channeled them into ponds. They built foot paths and bridges and scattered candelabra primrose seed which grew to perfection in this welcoming damp environment.

Growers' surplus flats of azaleas and rhododendron seedlings provided hundreds of background plants. The garden was a masterpiece and provided this photographer with many perfectly designed vistas. And John and Clara had done it all.



Illustration by D. Klüber

P. japonica

A few years ago, the City of Tacoma acquired the property for use as a park and John and Clara moved to a smaller place on Leach Creek, where Clara still grows primulas. John was a hard worker in his garden and a cheerful host. He will be missed and we extend our love and sympathy to Clara.

Cyrus Happy

Wild Primula Seed

continued from page 7

- P. edgeworthii* C&McK 1028
Single seed which did not germinate.
- P. elliptica* C&McK 735
No germination recorded, but did germinate for previous collections.
- P. glomerata* C&McK 1061 and 1069
Sown in January 1993 and flowered the same autumn.
- P. involucreata* C&McK 758
Flowered autumn 1993 with a pink tinge to the white petals.
- P. macrophylla* C&McK 734
This appears to be var. *moorcroftiana* but as yet unflowered.
- P. rosea* C&McK 716
Yet to flower.
- P. rotundifolia* C&McK 1033
Grew for Alastair McKelvie in Aberdeen.

- P. sikkimensis* C&McK 1022 and 1024
Yet to flower.
- P. primulina* C&McK 892
Grew for Alastair McKelvie in Aberdeen.

Numbers 715, 716, 734, 735, 890 and 892 were collected by several people on behalf of Chadwell & McKelvie from various locations: Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Utter Pradesh and Nepal. Number 758 was collected in the Upper Indus. Numbers 1022, 1024, 1028, 1033, 1061 and 1069 were collected in Ganesh Himal.

Ian Scott is a new APS member from Scotland. He has contacted some APS members in the Pacific Northwest about growing species primulas from wild collected seed. ❖

The Miniature *Primula Denticulata*

by Roger Eichman, Juneau, Alaska

In the summer of 1993, Don Keefe asked for more information about John O'Brien's miniature *Primula denticulata*. John is my mentor on primroses, so it was a delight to have anything worth trading back for some of the starter plants he gave me. His miniature *denticulata* that took first place in rarities at the 1992 national show in Portland came from a plant in my yard.

For several years I have been interested in semi-commercial propagation and have supplied most of the *denticulatas* sold around Juneau, Alaska, by the local nurseries. Most of the propagation has been from rudimentary divisions, with the extra plants sold, traded and given away as they reached a proper size.

One plant never seemed ready to sell. It remained smaller than the rest, so I kept allowing it more time to "grow up." After a few years of this, I noticed it was spreading and making divisions but still did not grow to size. I might have sold it off if Don Keefe and John O'Brien hadn't made note of the rarity of a miniature *denticulata*. Such are the serendipitous exploits of a rank primrose neophyte.

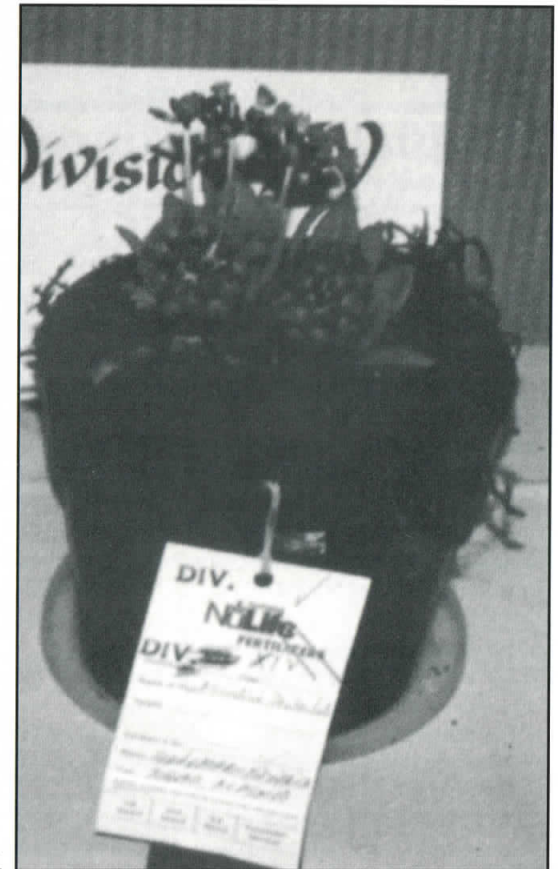
Primula denticulata "mini" has a flower ball 1 1/2 to 2 inches in diameter, dark purple in color, on a stem of four to six inches. The stem is covered in farina, mainly on the upper half of the stem. There is commonly more than one stem per crown.

The miniature *Primula denticulata*.

The crowns divide readily each year, soon growing into clumps. When the plant emerges in the spring, it is one-quarter the size of a standard *denticulata* plant.

The miniaturization shows more clearly in older clumps than in fresh divisions. The leaves are two to four inches at flowering, later growing to 10 to 12 inches by late fall. The roots are shorter than in a standard plant and not as coarse. This description is based on growing conditions normal to Juneau.

Photo by R. Eichman



The Miniature Primula denticulata continued

A confirmation that this is a variety of *P. denticulata* and not some other similar primula is needed. I will gladly trade a division for a plant of another primula species of any hardy section.

To raise more primula plants, I have lately changed from strictly asexual propagation to seed production. It seems cheaper and more fun, with the element of surprise each spring. In trying this, I have been using sections of the lawn for different varieties.

In the fall, the lawn — grass AND weeds — is mown as usual, the clippings are removed and the seed is sown directly on the lawn. After the seedlings get to one-half inch or larger the next spring, they are pricked out into a wheelbarrow with some water in it. I then transfer them to growing beds for one year.

Feeding Your Primroses

by A.C. McDole, Douglas, Alaska

Here is a feeding solution for primulas — except auricula! — which I have used for several years with good success.

Primulas like soil which is slightly acidic. (Auriculas don't. They're the exception.) The ph factor for primulas should be 5.5 to 6.5. The feeding formula I use is:

3 tablespoons Miracle-gro
1 tablespoon Miracid
2 tablespoons of 5-50-17 (The high phosphoric acid P_2O_5 is essential for good root growth and abundant blooms)

Add this mixture to five gallons of water, this will feed an area of approximately 60 square feet.

I feed my plants after the ground stops freezing in the spring with subsequent feedings every two weeks throughout the growing season.

Some Miracle-gro, sprayed through the garden hose, seems to help the seedling get well started in the lawn. The cover crop method of planting allows the seed several years to germinate, if it needs that long and does not restrict the lawn use while waiting. One MUST NOT use Weed-and-Feed, nor let the lawn get too dry. Strange, but I have also noted an occasional plantain where a primrose should be.

I'm pleased so far with my success with *P. denticulata*, the candelabra and sikkimensis groups and now am trying *P. x Juliana*, 'Wandas', and polyanthus in limited plantings. We'll see.

For a division of the miniature *P. denticulata*, contact:

Dr. Roger Eichman,
P.O. Box 20765,
Juneau, Alaska 99802 ❖

If you are lucky enough to have a collection of double primroses, this mixture is great for them, too. However, the doubles have an insatiable appetite and should be fed weekly. While speaking of the doubles, I advise you to divide them every two years, right after blooming. If you fail to divide them, they may be lost due to die-back from the center out.

Auriculas like soil which has a ph factor of 7.0 to 8.5. The mixture above is good for them **except the Miracid must not be included!** Use the same feeding program as for primulas — every two weeks.

About two weeks before the first frost is expected in the fall, give your plants a good feeding of 0-50-0 to harden them up for the long winter.

P.S. Primula seedlings thrive on a weak solution of 5-10-5 with each watering. ❖

Primrose Notes

by April Boettger, Vader, Washington

OSMOCOTE

I have recently had several nurseries tell me not to use Osmocote as my source of fertilizer because it breaks down as it warms up. If it gets hot quickly, it is possible to have a total meltdown. This may result in severe nitrogen burn or death to your plants. However, when I mentioned this to others, the idea was booed. I am not saying not to use Osmocote, but at least be aware that this can happen and know that just because you are using a slow-release fertilizer, it doesn't mean it's okay to overdose with it.

It also made me wonder: we seem to start having fungus or root rot problems with the auricula mid-to-late summer. Many of the books say that over-fertilizing can aid in these problems. Might this be from nitrogen surges or just because it's re-potting time for auricula anyway? Anyone have any ideas about this?

SOIL MIXES

Having read some of the English books on primula, I am sure you have wondered what made up the John Innes soil mix always referred to in these books. I know I have.

When I found it written down in the book, **Auriculas & Primroses**, by W.R. Hecker, I thought I would pass it along for others who also may have wondered.

STANDARD JOHN INNES POTTING COMPOST NO.1:

7 parts by bulk of sterilized loam
3 parts by bulk of peat moss
2 parts by bulk of sand or grit

To each bushel * of this mixture is added:
1/4 lb. John Innes base fertilizer
3/4 oz. chalk

JOHN INNES BASE FERTILIZER MIX:
2 lbs. hoof & horn, 1/8 grist (13% nitrogen)
2 lbs. superphosphate (18% Phosphoric acid)
1 lb. potassium sulphate (48% pure potash)

JOHN INNES NO 2:

The same as above except that 1/2 lb. of the John Innes base fertilizer is used.

JOHN INNES COMPOST FOR SEEDS:

2 parts by bulk of sterilized loam
1 part by bulk peat moss
1 part by bulk of coarse sand or grit

To each bushel of this mix is added:
1 1/2 oz. superphosphate
3/4 oz. chalk

* 8 gallons = 1 bushel

So now all I need to know is this: is the "chalk" referred to the same as lime? And what is the grit?

GROW, GROW, GROW

We need more growers — hybridizers. I plan to be one of the new ones, working particularly with Herb's garden auricula, but more are needed. Many of the ones I have read about in the older quarterlies are gone or have slowed down or their priorities have changed.

What are you interested in growing?

Much work has been done with the exhibition auricula (edged, selfs and alpine) and the doubles. Many have worked with section *Primula* (formerly *Vernales*) and a few have worked on candelabras.

Ooops! Did I just list everything you thought of doing?

Did you know that there are between 400 and 600 species of primula and that these are divided into at least 30 sections, depending on which books you might read? Obviously, not

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American Primrose Society Bookstore

American Primrose Society members are still able to get a special price on the new Richards book, **Primula**: \$36US plus postage. Send your order directly to Thea Oakley, Librarian.

Barbara Shaw's **A Book of Primula** is available for \$17US plus postage. Send your orders to Thea Oakley.

Older titles that are out of print will be made

available if used copies are found. You may want to send a list to Thea with your requests.

Send for a list of all titles presently available.
Thea Oakley
American Primrose Society Librarian
3304 288th Ave. N.E.
Redmond, WA USA 98053
Phone: 206-880-6177 ❖

Primula Notes

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all of these are available, but a fairly good choice remains — from the hardest to the non-hardy that need to be grown inside.

I would love to see growers working with the blue show auricula. I actually think it's harder to get a good blue show than a good edged auricula. Herb grows both every year and we usually get at least several worthwhile edges, but it's rarer to get even a half-decent blue. Think of the challenge!

The striped auricula would be fun! I have saved several plants that I thought would be great to use as a cross in working with the stripes.

The green, gray, and white-edged auricula are exquisite, though the doubles are enchanting. We could use some good true reds in the exhibition auriculas.

Obviously, I have a penchant for the auricula, but the section *primula* are delightful and are an easy place to start. Rosetta Jones has done so much with the double acaulis that she is written

up in English magazines and seed lists. Does this mean that this is a closed area? No, it just means that this is a good place to buy your first seed to get started.

Peter Atkinson is interested in section *Primula* too, but the anomalies are his specialty. He also grows double acaulis, as well as others. (He has seed for sale.)

But whichever primula(s) you decide to specialize in, have fun, and don't forget: grow a few species along the way.

P.S. If you get a good red double auricula, let me know right away!

SECTION PRIMULA

Rosetta Jones's double acaulis, John Kerridge's gold lace polys, and Pete Atkinson's anomalies are some of our many wonderful primula, hybridized from the section *Primula*.

It is most heartening that Dorothy Springer is providing a much needed work with the *Juliae* hybrids getting them properly identified, since many names have been erroneously passed

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Plant Portrait

by Ann Lunn, Hillsboro, Oregon

PRIMULA ALCALINA

Idaho's Birch Creek meanders south through a broad, flat valley at an elevation of approximately 6,500 feet. The Lemhi Range rises sharply to 11,000 feet on the western flank, the Continental Divide on the east. The vista encompasses thousands of acres of sagebrush desert.

A rock gardener's paradise grows in scabland pockets among the sagebrush above the creek. Tiny yellow drabas scarcely an inch tall, a diminutive cactus, *Coryphantha missouriensis*, prostrate wine-colored *Astragalus purshii*, a small compact blue penstemon and many other gems bloom in profusion. Nearer the creek, *Iris missouriensis*, *Dodecatheon pulchellum* and *Phlox kelseyi* make their presence known among the rushes and sedges. It seems an unlikely place to find a primula.

This is the home of *Primula alcalina*, an endemic of east central Idaho. Once thought to be a white form of *P. incana*, further study proved the plant to be a distinct species that was described in 1984(1). *P. alcalina* differs from *P. incana* in having white rather than lilac flowers, lacking farina as a mature plant and by having a lower chromosome number. Both are members of the *Aleuritia* section.

The rosette is relatively small, about three inches across. In contrast, the flower stalk may be as tall as nine inches, almost as if it needs to raise the flowers above the surrounding sedges. The flowers are pure white with a bright yellow eye and throat. From a distance, the many-flowered umbel resembles a cotton ball waving in the breeze.

continued on page 14

Photo by Jay Lunn



Primula alcalina's white flower heads on tall stems resemble cotton balls waving from a distance.

Primula bellifolia

Primula bellidifolia takes its name from its leaves which resemble those of the common daisy. From the *Muscaroides* section, the plant at the flower bud stage is exotic and attractive due to the silver farina on the calyx surrounding the amethyst blue-violet furled petals of the flower buds.

The plant was first collected in 1877 by King on his expedition to Tibet, where it grows on alpine slopes in wet meadows and snow fields, according to Josef Halda. He advises that the plants set seed readily if grown in cool, half-shaded location with plenty of moisture in the summer and dryness in the winter.

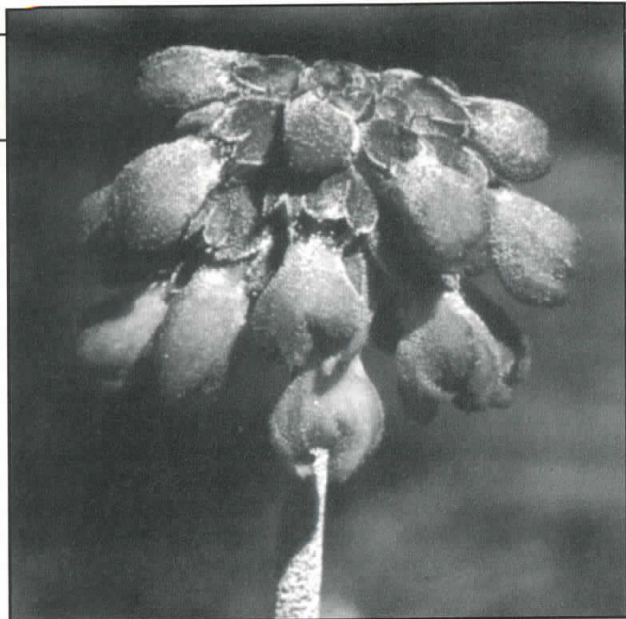


Photo by J. Lunn

Here's another Asian species, a cousin of *Primula vialii*, which you can grow from seed if you are lucky and find it on a seed exchange list. ❖

Plant Portrait

continued from page 13

While there are miles of creek bank, *Primula alcalina* grows only in unique areas. The preferred habitat is an alkaline boggy area away from running water, but in which water will stand throughout the flowering season — similar to the conditions favored by marsh grasses.

Primula alcalina is a hardy plant: summer temperatures in this area often exceed 90 degrees F and winter temperatures can drop to -50 degrees F. Although I know of no one who has grown this bird's-eye primrose, it appears that one would have to provide exacting conditions for it to thrive.

Primula alcalina is designated as Category 2 on the List of Endangered and Threatened Plants. This means that "there is some evidence of vulnerability, but ... there are not enough data to support listing proposals at this time." Like many of the western American native primulas, this is one that is best enjoyed in the wild.

Literature cited:

- (1) Cholewa, A. and Henderson, D. "Primula alcalina (Primulaceae); A new species from Idaho." *Brittonia*, Vol. 36 (1984), pp. 59-62.
- (2) Bower, L. and Bailey, L. "From Idaho - Primula Alcalina." *Primroses*, Vol. 43 (1985), pp. 13-17.
- (3) Lunn, J. "Wild Primulas of Western America." *Bull. Amer. Rock Garden Soc.* Vol.49 (1991) pp. 125-131. ❖

Primroses and Perennials in the Garden

by Ann E. Kline, Falls Church, Virginia

Who says that late winter is dull? Once the Christmas decorations have been put away and the annual orders from the seed lists of the plant societies I belong to have been mailed out, I have roughly two months to sit back and think about my garden — past, present and future.

As long as there isn't snow on the ground, by the end of February I can enjoy a garden full of the "harbingers of spring" — crocus, cyclamens and snowdrops, as well as the earliest shrubs, chimonanthus, witch hazel, jasmines, *Prunus mume*, *Spiraea thunbergii*.

I am growing many kinds of plants in an attempt to have something blooming every day of the year. There are quantities of cyclamens and hellebores — which I distribute locally to friends and one retailer — and over 300 varieties of narcissus. I concentrate on the smaller flowered forms that are best suited for my garden.

Any bulb capable of surviving in Falls Church, Virginia, I am willing to try, again mostly from seeds, coming from the following families: *Amaryllidaceae*, *Iridaceae*, *Liliaceae*, *Orchidaceae*, and *Zingiberaceae* and their many varieties. I have bought plants or started seed of more than 4,000 varieties, but that doesn't mean that I have that many growing right now. Many plants have died, and about 30 percent of the seeds planted never came up.

ARTISTIC PRINCIPLES

Thanks to my early training in fine art, the principles used to create a beautiful picture are never far from my mind. I am aware of color, trying to have pleasing relationships for the short time that each plant blooms.

I move the successful ones around to fill in spaces left by unsuccessful ones, provided they meet the criteria necessary for that particular

spot. I no longer have the mini-botanic garden I had a few years ago but a pleasing arrangement of shapes, textures and colors year-round with enough rhythm to harmonize the whole picture from whichever angle it is viewed.

When I seriously started gardening in 1986, I divided my garden into seven areas. I grow primroses somewhere in all but two areas.

The seven areas were developed according to their geographical orientation, their exposure to winter winds, summer sunshine and the shade of four rapidly growing 40-year-old native beech trees on our neighbor's property within five feet of the property line and, thankfully, to the north of us.

I have few sunny areas and they are becoming less so over the years. Beech forest shade areas are good for European plants, while our other shade-producing trees are native mixed deciduous trees, dogwoods, tulip poplars, black gums, red maples and persimmon that give us a wonderful acid-shade garden.

RAISED BEDS

Most of my garden consists of raised beds built into a gently sloping one-third acre hillside lot so that the plants are closer to the eye and easier to care for by one no longer young.

These beds were made by digging down rather than building up. We filled them with the soil from the paths as well as grit, pinebark mulch, sand and composted cow manure and then walled every bed with either dry walls of Pennsylvania blue stone or unmortared brick. The bricks need a certain amount of re-laying every spring, but it is minimal.

Perennial herbaceous plants and bulbs are planted only as far as I can comfortably reach from the edge of the bed, about 30 inches, with

Primroses and Perennials continued

very few plants taller than 18 inches, again to make things easier for me in years to come. A wide selection of choice shrubs are planted behind, concentrating on broad-leaved evergreens with occasional deciduous shrubs and trees selected for outstanding flowers and/or foliage.

However, because of the relatively small areas to be planted, scale is probably my most important consideration. My primroses are perfectly in scale with everything. I have had to remove many plants that I thought would be acceptable when I found their leaves were just too big and awkward looking.

FOLIAGE AND COLOR

After scale comes attractive foliage, preferably evergreen or nearly so, and finally, color of foliage, color of flower and season of bloom.

The two areas of my garden where I do not grow primroses are not described in this article. Area III of my garden is dominated by huge old magnolias and holly trees, *Prunus mume* 'Kobai', four cultivars of Japanese maple, winter blooming *Prunus subhirtella* 'Autumnalis', *Stewartia pseudocamellia*, the dogwood *Cornus kousa*, two very large *Fagus grandiflora* and a *Carpinus caroliniana*.

Under these trees are planted many primulas in the section *Primula* and numerous bulbs for year-round bloom in addition to many perennials, including aquilegia, Japanese arisaemas, arum, varieties of carex, a number of cyclamen species, various epimediums, many ferns, sweet woodruff, hellebores, assorted tiny and small hostas, *Iris foetidissima* and *I. tectorum*, *Lamium galeobdolon* 'Hermann's Pride', *Meconopsis cambrica*, *Oxalis regrellii*, *Prunella grandiflora* 'Loveliness', pulmonarias, several varieties of sedum, several varieties of tricyrtis and *Viola odorata*.

Area IV is in the shade of some lovely large trees, including a 25 foot *Magnolia x soulangeana* and an equally tall *Magnolia*

liliflora nigra, a huge 40 foot, 40-year-old *Magnolia grandiflora*, several large *Ilex opacas* and *Taxus medias*, six different cultivars of *Acer palmatum*, *Cornus florida*, and a 40 foot native persimmon. In this area are found my patch of *Primula kisoana*, a large bed of mauve polyanthus and a long border of *P. veris* mixed colors.

Other plants among, beside and behind the primula are *Ajuga reptans* 'Gray Lady', *Astilbe chinensis pumila*, and other dwarf astilbies; *Bletilla striata alba*; *Campanula poscharskyana*; *Carex conica* 'Hime Kasuga', cyclamen; disporum; assorted epimediums; helleborus; hostas large, medium and small, blue, gold and variegated; *Kirengeshoma palmata*; saxifraga; several varieties of thalictrum; tricyrtis; and *Viola labradorica*.

Area V curves around the rear and windward side of our house. This area is shaded by several *Cornus floridas*, now 40 years old and showing signs of the latest ailment that the family is subject to, several large *Taxus medias*, a huge 30 foot *Ilex opaca*, six cultivars of *Acer palmatum* and three 40-year-old *Rhododendron maximum* that are pruned as low trees.

SHADE

Around the edge of this area in shady places I grow various patches of primulas in the Primula section, acaulis and polyanthus, an expanding patch of *Primula kisoana*, and a poor collection of *Primula japonica* in my boggy area. The remaining empty space is filled with another selection of perennials: acorus; *Anemonopsis macrophylaea*; *Arisaema sikokianum* and other arisaema varieties; astilbe in various dwarf forms; *Begonia grandis alba*; *Carex morrowii* variegated and *C. stricta* 'Bowles Golden,' various dwarf cultivars of *Cryptomeria japonica*; *Dicentra spectabilis*; *Euonymus fortunei* 'Gold Tips,' ferns deciduous and evergreen; *Gentiana scabra*; *Hemerocallis minor* and *H. 'Stella d'oro'*; dwarf hostas in green, blue, yellow and variegated; *Kirengeshoma koreana*; *Liriope muscari* cultivars, thalictrum species; tricyrtis species and *Viola dissecta*.

Area VI is sunny for most of the day with a little shade under two *Fagus grandiflora* and afternoon shade provided by a forest consisting mainly of *Liriodendron tulipifera* to our west, while a fence covered with a plant of *Rosa* 'Climbing Cecile Brunner' and a plant of *Ampelopsis brevipedunculata* 'Elegans' protects it from our terrible northwest winds. Here I have a half-dozen double primroses that seem very happy. Behind them are additional perennial plants, including bergenia; box; *Carex filiosa* variegated; the ivy 'Goldheart,' hostas in several small golden varieties; mahonia; *Phlox divaricata* 'Bruce's White,' *Sarcococca hookeriana humilis* and *Thalictrum javanicum*.

Area VII is at the eastern edge of a dense forest of deciduous trees. It is made up of an occasional *Acer rubrum* but mostly *Liriodendron tulipifera* with a few assorted oaks and hickories here and there. Along the property line we planted 40 years ago *Ilex opaca*, *I. aquifolium* and a single *Rhododendron maximum* that is now over 10 feet tall.

This whole area gets the morning sun and most of it is in the shade from 11 a.m. on. Again, I have most of my heavily shaded areas bordered with patches of *Primulas acaulis*, *P. x polyanthus* and *P. juliae* grouped by single colors to make more of an accent.

IN THE WOODS

Deep in the woods is my little patch of *Primula sieboldii* of mixed color combinations. Here I have my woodland garden with the beautiful spring ephemerals and many rare plants from the Balkan Peninsula and Japan. These are some that are growing there: anemone, asarum, carex, cyclamen, bleeding hearts, epimedium, ferns large and small, deciduous and evergreen, ivies *Hedera helix* 'Goldheart' and *H. h. 'Buttercup'* on the six foot cedar fence along the property line and dwarf varieties clipped into shapes in the beds, helleborus, hostas, dwarf bearded iris, liriopie, and viola.

My primroses are happy in the settings I have developed for them and do as well as can be expected here in northern Virginia. ❖

Photo by D.S. Kline



A wide selection of choice shrubs fill in a circular brick raised bed in Ann Kline's garden.



Under the Overhang

by Rick Lupp

PRIMULA MINIMA AND ITS COUSINS

If you are looking for a primula for trough or alpine house culture, it is difficult to do better than *Primula minima* and its natural hybrids. This is perhaps the primula with the most wide-spread range of any member of the *Auriculastrum* section, and, no doubt, accounts for the relatively large number of natural hybrids in cultivation. The plant ranges from the Swiss Alps through the Carpathian Alps and the Balkans, where it is normally found growing in rich, gritty soils that are relatively dry in winter due to snow cover and damp in spring with the plant sometimes growing right in springtime rivulets.

As long as we take care to provide perfect drainage to get the plant through winter, culture is quite simple. A growing medium of approximately 50 percent grit and 50 percent peat or humus, combined with a feeding of chemical fertilizer during the growing and blooming period, will provide well for the plant's needs when combined with plenty of water during the spring growing season. *Primula minima* is not at all fussy about acid or lime soils, thriving in both types as long as its other needs are met. Poor bloom is usually the result of starvation or insufficient sun. A good sun exposure is necessary for proper bloom.

Primula minima is a beautiful little primula with tiny, glossy-green, wedge shaped foliage heavily toothed at the tips. The rose-purple blooms are usually held singly and feature deeply notched petals and a white eye. There is also a lovely pure white form. The whole plant

in bloom is only about one and one-half inches high but is capable of forming extensive mats over a period of many years. The plant is easily propagated from seed or cuttings.

My favorite natural hybrid of *Primula minima* is *P. x bileckii*. This is a cross of *Primula minima* as the seed parent and *P. hirsuta (rubra)* as the pollen parent. This is the perfect trough primula with foliage and blooms much the same as *P. minima* only a bit larger and with a much longer bloom period often blooming for us from early spring off and on all the way through to fall. The plant looks good in a trough or pot year round with pretty, glossy-green foliage. It occurs as a natural hybrid in the Alps.

Primula x juribella is another fine plant with first rate foliage — dark-green, acute, toothed and compact. The parentage of this plant is *P. minima x P. tyrolensis*, and it is found in nature in the Dolomites. It also has large, rose-purple blooms on short stems.

The last of the natural hybrids that I am familiar with is *P. x deschmannii*, which is *P. minima x P. wulfeniana*. This, too, is a plant with wonderful foliage of dark green, blunt-tipped and lightly toothed. It is another wonderful performer for the trough or pot where it will reward your efforts with an early and long bloom of rich rose-purple flowers with notched petals.

All the hybrids have about the same cultural requirements as *P. minima*. Why not give this excellent group of miniature primula a try in your alpine house or scree? ❖

Primulas Through the Seasons

by Maedythe Martin, Coordinating Editor

This issue of the quarterly focuses on species primula. Thanks to a generous donation from Frank Cabot, the color photographs display a variety of species that extend the primula season from spring through summer.

In the early spring the European species, including *Primula vulgaris*, from which so many garden varieties have been developed, break the winter spell. The harbinger of spring, the charm of the wild primrose of England is beautifully captured in the slide by Barbara Flynn.

Following smartly on the heels of *Primula vulgaris*, another European ancestor of modern garden primroses, *P. veris*, the cowslip, displays its classic profile in the garden. The sweet scent is necessary in every spring season. Both the more typical yellow variety, and the less commonly found, but more flamboyant, red color — intensified by selection in breeding — fairly shout, "It's spring!"

North American species are found tucked away in folds in the landscape. Capturing them in photographs is a major expedition of discovery in itself. Jay Lunn has a talent for finding and photographing North American natives. For this issue he has sent photos of *P. alcalina*, one of the species with white flowers — less common than those with pink or magenta. Ann Lunn has provided an insight into this species through her "Plant Profile."

The late spring brings the Asian primula species into prominence in the garden. The vibrant color of *P. cockburniana* brightens a garden — in this case the garden of Jim Menzies, president of the society in 1976. Cy Happy recalls when he photographed this plant:

"*Primula cockburniana* is the smallest of the candelabras of which I am aware. The farinose

stem starts blooming its first whorl of flowers at six or eight inches and finishes its second or third whorl at 12 or 15 inches.

"The flowers are a shocking coppery orange-red, darker at the center and always pin-eyed. If your plant is of paler shade and thrum-eyed, it is probably a hybrid — the product of a surprisingly promiscuous nature.

"A native of marshy alpine meadows, it prefers a light, cool, moist soil and afternoon shade. To encourage its modest perennial nature, the gardener should divide *P. cockburniana* when multiple crowns appear. The plant should be put in fresh soil. Otherwise, after a hearty blooming season, it will expire. Take heart, however, there should be countless seedlings around the gravesite."

Many candelabras are in the pink-magenta-rose range of colors but some Asiatic species bloom in an eye-catching array of yellow, gold and orange. APS President John Kerridge captured this vibrant display at Van Dusen Gardens in Vancouver, B.C. This group of plants is best grown in masses where they present a fine display that will last into summer.

For true summer display look to *P. florindae*. A giant of the family, *P. florindae* will grow to three feet in ideal, damp conditions. One gardener in Victoria, Terri Suttill, tells me she pulled it out of her "damp" garden because it had become a weed! But the exotic fragrance, coupled with the dusting of farina, gives the plant a charm that is all the more welcome by blooming so late in the season.

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The cowslip, Primula veris, a European species occurs in both the common yellow and a red form. It is one of the ancestors of modern hybrid polyanthus.

The shocking coppery orange-red color of its flowers identifies Primula cockburniana.

Yellow cowslip
Photo by J. Kerridge



Red cowslip
Photo by Cy Happy



Primula cockburniana
Photo by Cy Happy



Primulas through the Seasons

continued from page 19

A more elegant summer-blooming cousin, *P. alpicola* comes from southwest China or southeast Tibet and again enjoys moist, cool conditions. The scent of this plant contributes to its attraction, as does the dusting of silvery meal over the stem and flowers.

In early fall some recurrent blooming plants of *P. vulgaris* and auriculas again appear, reminding us that spring is just around the corner. Another year of primroses lies ahead. ❖

Collect seed for the APS Seed Exchange

Send it to :
Marie Skonberg
P.O. Box 70
Ouzinkie, Alaska
by October 1, 1994

Primula Notes

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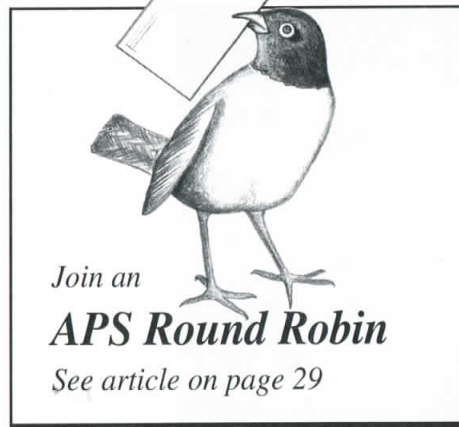
around in this group — whether home-grown or foreign.

AURICULA

Many folks have worked on the auricula besides Herb: Cy Happy, Rosetta Jones, Ivanel Agee, Howard Larkin, Ralph Balcom and numerous others.

Needless to say that I will be following Dorothy Springer's example in collecting, preserving and attempting to keep correctly identified my collection, especially the auricula — where my heart is — most particularly those grown in North America.

And I plan to make special notes in my catalog of the primula grown here and encourage folks to share these treasures, get them passed around: the more growers, the less chance of plants disappearing — forever. Many of the ones that I have managed to find are one-, or perhaps, two-



of-a-kind. That's scary and an awesome responsibility.

Indeed, it may be well worth the effort to collect some of the best of our home-grown treasures and, if possible, get them into the English collections. I noticed Cy's double auricula 'CH103' has recently appeared in Brenda Hyatt's catalog in England.

In any case, if you have grown something special, share it. Pass it around and hopefully, if it's really special, it will still be here in 100 years or more.

P.S. I am looking for a brown double grown by Earl Welsh and sold for a while by Bailey's. Also looking for some of Rosetta's older double acaulis, especially if it has noticeable *Juliae* rootstock in it — a creeping, quickly multiplying plant. ❖

Beginner's Corner

Help!

December 14, 1993

Dear Editor,

I find a lot of good information in **Primroses**. It is one of the best horticultural printings I've seen. Nicely done! In response to your request for input, here is mine:

I am a professional horticulturist but a new primula grower. I manage a private estate in eastern Massachusetts.

I need information in the following areas: starting seeds; physical structures that keep pests out while exposing seed flats to the elements; seed and potting-on media (have already read a variety of information on ones that work for different primula growers. I'll experiment with our own seed this year — some with sifted compost, some with only sterile medium — and report our results); potting-on successes and failures; cultural similarities and idiosyncrasies of different species and hybrids; best dividing times and practices; and companion plants.

In short, I need lots of information! Nitty-gritty information is best. For instance, where do you get a starter-size supply of Gran-I-Grits that Anita Kistler talks of? I'd much prefer information on culture and growing to the too detailed "this hybrid's slight difference from that hybrid's" type of information.

I am also interested in alpine house growing mediums, temperature, media and top dressing used. Does anyone use sphagnum in mix for water retention and sterility?

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,
Tess McDonough,
Millis, Massachusetts

APS board member Karen Schellinger of Avon, Minnesota, replies:

January 31, 1994

Dear Tess,

On behalf of APS, I shall attempt to answer your questions. I'm always glad to correspond with another interested primula grower!

I live in central Minnesota where, on rare occasions, the temperature can reach 40 below zero. We sometimes have insufficient snow cover in March, which, in my opinion, is the most lethal month for the primulas in this climate.

To protect against this harsh weather, I make sure the primulas in the woodland are covered with leaves in fall. This happens naturally since they are planted under the trees. The idea is to keep them frozen and dormant during that critical month, especially where the late winter sun may linger long enough to partially thaw the soil.

SOIL MIX

I've enclosed two sheets of "starting-from-seed" information from the APS. Everyone has his or her own soil mix for this; it just has to be well drained and not dry out too quickly. The auricula section plants like a more gritty mix and some like limestone chippings mixed in the soil for transplanted seedlings. Most will do okay without the limestone though. (They do better with it, I believe.)

I put my pots inside plastic bags and put them in the shady side of my greenhouse, except for the *Auricula* section, which I always put outside when I get the seed January - March. Also any *sieboldii* seed. Some people say to also pour 120 degree F water over the planted *sieboldii* seed. It can be stubborn, taking a year to germinate well.

Beginner's Corner continued

A good potting-on mix is: 1 part loam, 2 parts oak leaf mold, 1 part cow manure, 2 parts sieved peat (maybe 4 parts for primula — I experiment), 2 parts coarse builder's sand, 5 parts granitic grit (3 parts for alpine primula or alpinas).

The Gran-I-Grits Anita Kistler talks of is small granite rock available at farm feed stores or wild bird feed stores. It is available in three sizes: #1 fine, #2 medium and #3 large size rock. I use only the #1 and #2 myself. They usually come in 50-lb. bags. Chickens use it in their gizzards to grind up their food, as do the wild birds in the winter when the ground is frozen. The primula need light to germinate, in my opinion. Primula rosea and reidii must be the current year's seed or they aren't viable.

TRANSPLANT

I transplant the seedlings from the original pot when they have good healthy sized first leaves. Transplant too soon and the fine hair roots will complain and the plant won't progress nicely. It seems that the roots aren't strong enough to mess with until the first leaves.

I always divide my primula right after they are done blooming or right as they are starting growth in very early spring. They should be divided at least every three years, as the crowns on most when they multiply creep out of the ground, causing you to lose them in a rough winter. They must not suffer any drought during their growing season and I do not recommend planting after August.

Spring is the best time for planting, allowing the roots to become well established. I once planted out 400 seedlings in September and lost every one when there was poor winter snow cover. It helps to make sure there is sufficient mulch around their crowns going into winter. During the summer, watch that the watering doesn't wash away the soil from the shallow-

SOME SEED-STARTING MIXES

from Karen Schellinger

Palmer's

- 2 parts Fison's Sunshine Mix #1
- 2 parts Vermiculite
- 4 parts pumic (screened through 1/4 inch sieve) Perlite could sub.
- 1 part washed mason's sand
add 1 1/2 oz. superphosphate per bushel

Jim Jermyn of Edrom Nursery, Scotland

- 3 parts topsoil
 - 1 part river sand
 - 1 part Perlite or turface
- add per bushel: 1 oz. phosphate, 2 oz. dried seaweed

Steve Kelley

- 1 part coarse sand
- 1 part coarse peat
- 1 part Perlite

Steve advises that the mix should be porous and well drained, yet retain moisture without drying out too quickly. The mix must be able to avoid extremes and never be allowed to dry out or to get soggy.

rooted primula, especially those planted on a hill. I have found that, where you do not have access to leaves, excelsior is a good covering agent. (It is fine thin strings of wood, sold in bales.) I store it in a dry place after it has dried upon removing it in the spring. It is especially nice for the alpine primulas, which will rot with leaf cover.

The only "critters" that I have trouble with are the slugs — damn things! Never had too much trouble with them until some came in with a load of nursery stock from Nebraska. Now, my banty chickens are thrilled with them! Some say I should get ducks as they don't scratch up the mulch looking for things. I've had ducks in the past (70 actually) and have seen them try to eat a hard carnation bud, so they aren't trouble-

free either. I use ashes where I can and slug bait and poison all over, but the slugs still go after special things. I have to squeeze a line of slug killer/bait around the plant to keep them from cutting it off. Even our three years of drought a while back didn't do them in. I do go out at night with a flashlight and shish kebab — something Paul Held from Connecticut told us about at the primula convention a couple of years ago. Rather satisfying killing them — if it weren't for the mosquitoes out at night!

I rather suspect the slugs eat a number of my seedlings in pots as well, so try to put them up off the ground as well. Spread ashes around any pots on the ground in a wide path, as slugs don't like to crawl over the dry ashes. But as soon as it rains, it is not as effective.

SCREENS HELP

I put all the pots that go outside in plastic bags and in the shade so the sun's rays don't heat up the pots. As they germinate, I open the tops of the bags and remove them if it is damp and rainy outside. Otherwise, leave the bags on and open at the tops if it is windy and dry. I also use an old window screen on top of the pots. The mesh helps breaks the force from heavy rains and my watering wand and the soil and seeds don't get washed out of the pots. Ann and Jay Lunn told me about the window screen tip. (I was in a rather wealthy neighborhood in the Twin Cities helping with the ARGS seed exchange one day when I noticed four large screens put out for the garbage pickup. They were light aluminum ones so I picked them up and put them in my trunk!) They work perfectly and keep critters such as squirrels from digging in the pots. One of our APS members in Minnesota has beautiful cold frames with built-in screens so that the critters stay out of their pots and plants. I have to improvise.

At the end of May, I remove the bags from the pots that have not germinated. I feel that the summer's heat can do damage to the seeds. I water these pots along with the germinated ones.

WATCH TEMPERATURE

I do use a fine screened sphagnum called No-Damp-Off to put on the top of the seedling mix for a quarter inch deep or so. Have to watch that you don't overwater when they are small. They can't take much, just as with other plants. I think high heat temperatures in the greenhouse kill a lot of plants as well. "Close-to-freezing" conditions are better tolerated than "too hot" for primulas. The cooler the better when growing-on — 50 to 60 degrees F is best. My greenhouse is so small (10 feet x 12 feet) that it heats up very quickly in spring so I have to watch it closely.

I am not much of an alpine house grower because of my small greenhouse. We also start a lot of vegetables, so I am really limited for space about April 1.

For growing-on, I also use Pro-mix with about 1/4 Perlite or granite grit added for drainage. I try to get the plants in the nursery beds as soon as possible because they don't like to stay in the Pro-mix too long. If I must keep them in pots, I pot them into larger pots as soon as they outgrow their pots. I like the long narrow 2 1/2 inch deep pots that fit 32 to a flat. The roots really like the extra length and the pots don't dry out so fast. I also throw some bonemeal into the soil mix and liquid fertilizer with a siphonex and hose twice a month. Any organic matter you can mix into the nursery beds also helps and the primulas love it. We are lucky enough to live near friends who raise mushrooms for sale. We use their sterilized straw everywhere, in the soil and as a mulch on top in the nursery rows. Of course, that's just fine with the slugs, too!

I don't throw out any pots until the third year because sometimes they surprise me.

Hope I have been able to answer some of your questions.

Sincerely,
Karen Schellinger,
Avon, Minnesota

Primula x kleinii is a hybrid of *P. rosea* and *P. clarkei*, both species from Kashmir in northern India. The cross was made by Peter Klein who lived and grew primula species as well as other primroses, auriculas, alpines and exotic garden plants for many years in Tacoma, Washington.



Photo by J. Lunn

Beginner's Corner

continued from page 25

For APS members who live in areas with cold, snowy winter, here's a list from Karen Schellinger of the most successful primula for her in Minnesota.

P. acaulis, Barnhaven strain
P. alpicola
P. amoena
P. auricula
P. x bileckii
P. capitata (short lived)
P. carniolica
P. clusiana
P. cortusoides
P. darialica
P. denticulata
P. elatior
P. ellisiae
P. farinosa
P. florindae
P. frondosa
P. x 'Garryard'
P. glaucescens
P. halleri (short lived)
P. heucherifolia

P. hirsuta
P. integrifolia
P. japonica
P. jesoana (new last year — we'll see)
P. juliae
P. x 'Julianas' (not all of them)
P. kisoana
P. marginata
P. mistassinica
P. modesta
P. pedemontana
P. x 'Peter Klein'
P. polyneura
P. pulverulenta
P. reidii (short lived)
P. rosea
P. saxatilis
P. sieboldii
P. sikkimensis (short lived?)
P. vialii (short lived)
P. warshenewskiana (lose in a no-snow winter)
P. x pubescens
P. spectabilis
P. x venusta
P. veris
P. vulgaris ssp sibthorpii ❖

Primroses at the Eastern ARGS Study Weekend

Report by Fred Knapp, Locust Valley, New York

This decennially (at least!) dreary winter was relieved by a three-day plant preview of spring, as has come to be a tradition in the northeast corner of the U.S.A.

The American Rock Garden Society Eastern Winter Study Weekend, held January 28 to 30, 1994, was hosted by the Connecticut chapter and called "Alpines, Glorious Alpines." It turned out to be a glorious weekend! Primula and primulaceae were part of every lecture, save one on dwarf shrubs or "woodies," and primula held an honorable place in the 274 entries in the plant show.

One of the lectures was by Kris Fenderson, for many years one of the most prominent and eminent growers in the Northeast and author of **A Synoptic Guide to the Genus Primula**, published in 1986. His lecture was entitled "Alpine primulas — the survivors."

Its theme was oriented, as might well be for any long-time primula grower, more toward the survivors than just the alpines. It was of particular interest to me, since I have not seen Kris's garden for some years now and have ventured into more kinds of primula myself. Survivors and survival are certainly key issues for me.

I did not take notes, not realizing I would be making this report until after the study weekend, so — relying on what I remember — this article will be mercifully brief. The outstanding feature of Kris's commentary was his extensive use of half whisky-barrel containers rather than prepared garden beds.

Many of the best known European alpine species and hybrids perform well in New Hampshire in containers filled with compost straight from the compost heap laced with

Osmocote. Others are happy in bank-run gravel in half-barrels with no drainage holes drilled in the bottom. *Primula marginata* to my surprise is one of these. Others, fond of water in the growing season, such as *P. rosea* and *P. farinosa*, can be set in water.

Analogous to this procedure were some conventional hypertufa trough plantings described by another lecturer, Ward Vanderpost of Barrington, Illinois. He described plants of the same group similarly placed in water.

Kris said he fortified the mix for both *P. rosea* and *P. farinosa* tubs with calcite crystals (marble/limestone chips) sold for chicken grit in his area. In our area, chicken grit is granite and hard to find.

The point of this technique was that the plants survived better with less caretaking effort than they had in the ground. Many questions were left unanswered in the time allotted to his lecture, but there can never be any effective argument against success, which was evident from the slides. Clearly this is a technique we should all investigate in our own conditions.

On a more familiar note, there was an interesting discussion of *P. x 'Juliana'* cultivars and cultivation, especially emphasizing the need for regular division but with restraint — not going all the way to single crowns. In this group, Kris mentioned the old cultivar 'Springtime', which may or may not share the Juliana parentage, suggesting instead that it seemed identical with *P. sibthorpii* as found in gardens. I certainly agree, based on plants I have had, and would

continued on page 36

The Use of Simulated Stone Troughs

continued from page 6

may burn roots if the trough soil lacks for moisture at all.

You will have to water more often than the regular garden, of course, unless the plants in the trough demand a summer dry/dormant period as do some bulbs, *Lewisia rediviva*, as well as others from areas with dry arid summers. I put these latter plants under the overhanging leaves of the house so that no rain hits them and I can control the watering that way.

Androsace carnea
Androsace sempervivoides
Androsace villosa
Antennaria dioica
Aquilegia bertolonii
Aquilegia discolor
Aquilegia jonesii
Aquilegia saximontana
Armeria caespitosa
Aubrieta gracilis
Campanula allionii
Campanula arvatica
Campanula aucheri
Campanula betuleafolia
Campanula piperi
Campanula pulla
Campanula raineri
Campanula zoyssii
Centaureum scilloides
Dianthus alpinus
Dianthus glacialis gelidus
Dianthus microlepis
Dianthus pavonius
Dianthus simulans
Douglasia montana

Douglasia viatliana
Draba
Erigerons, dwarf species
Erinus alpinus
Erodium chamaedryoides (winter inside)
Dwarf rock ferns
Eunomia oppositifolia
Gentiana, dwarf species
Globularia cordifolia nana
Iris, dwarf species
Lewisia
Linum olympicum
Linum perenne ssp. alpinum
Narcissus species
Papaver alpinum
Papaver miyabeianum 'Takewoki'
Penstemon, dwarf species
Phylox douglasii and hybrids
Phlox 'Laura' and 'Schneewichen'
Potentilla cinerea
Potentilla verna nana
Primula auricula
Primula farinosa
Primula frondosa
Primula hirsuta
Primula marginata
Primula modesta
Ramonda
Saxifraga
Sedum, dwarf, non-invasive
Sempervivum
Silene acualis 'Pedunculata'
Silene keiskei minor
Talinum
Thlaspi bellidifolium
Thlaspi montanum
Thlaspi rotundifolium
Townsendia
Veronica caespitosa

Information for this article comes from: **Bulletin** of Alpine Garden Club of B.C., by James MacPhail; ARGS **Bulletins** and handouts (Brinckerhoff Method); ORGS **Bulletin**, 1992, page 5354, by Nicholas Klise. ❖

Round Robin



This note highlights the newly reorganized Round Robin privilege to which every APS member is entitled. Information is shared in circulating packages of letters from members. This is a great way to make new friends and learn more about primulas.

second person on the list, and so it goes, with each member adding a letter.

TYPES OF ROUND ROBIN

The Robin Chairman attempts to place new members in a group that hold common interests. These groups could focus on hybridization, named primulas, writers on primulas, international corresponders on primulas — what ever you indicate you prefer.

ROUND ROBIN OPERATORS

Elizabeth Van Sickle operated the American Primrose Society Round Robin for nine years. However, Elizabeth died recently. A new Round Robin Chairman has been appointed: Don Keefe.

PURPOSE OF THE ROUND ROBIN

To bring APS members together who are interested in making new friends, in sharing and increasing their knowledge and enjoyment of primula in areas such as growing, breeding, collecting, cultivating, exchanging, exhibiting and doing research on primulas. Interesting information that comes to light may be forwarded to the APS editor at the end of the round for inclusion in the quarterly bulletin.

SIZE OF ROUND ROBIN

I plan on having a maximum of eight members in each Round Robin. There will be more than one Robin circulating at any given time.

SEND YOUR NAME NOW!

I will match you up with other APS members sharing your interests. Once I hear from you, I will send you a form to fill in specifying your interests and preferences.

OPERATION OF ROUND ROBIN

Robins are facilitated through the use of a circulating letter system, where an initial letter from the Robin chairman is sent to the first Robin member on the list. This person sends the first letter and his or her letter to the

Write or phone:

Don Keefe
 22604 NE 20th Place
 Redmond, WA 98053-4001
 Phone (206) 868-5150 ❖

Sakurasoh Reminder!

Did you purchase a Sakurasoh plant at the symposium in Oregon in 1992? Do you still have it, and did it flower this year?

The Sakurasoh Inventory is collecting descriptions of plants that flower. Please send a photo and a description of the plant — the size, flower color and shape, type of leaf — to the editor to enter into the data base.

Board of Directors' Meeting

Held January 29, 1994 at Chehalis, Washington

This is a summary of the board meeting minutes.

The treasurer reported that she is receiving 15 to 30 letters a day, of which a third are being sent to Thea Foster, corresponding secretary. Statements of the society's current financial status were passed out. As a result of articles in **Horticulture** magazine, the **New York Times** and the **Baltimore Sun** the society has received over 200 letters and many new members.

The APS quarterly bulletin editor sent a report with June Skidmore. The color edition was well received, and the editor has letters from Calgary, Montana and New York. The winter edition is expected at the end of February. The spring edition will again be in color. Thea Oakley made a motion that, finances permitting, every other issue be a color one.

The editor stated that this will be her last year.

A list of judges was circulated by Allan Jones for Rosetta. Corrections to the list were made to update it. A judge must be a member in good standing with the society.

The seed exchange coordinator sent a report. The list was mailed December 13 and orders started arriving December 17. More than 200 orders have been received, many large ones requesting 40 to 50 packets. Most people are delighted the seed list was distributed so early and orders are being sent out so fast. Many sections are sold out. An excess seed distribution list is planned for late spring.

Don Keefe has agreed to take over the Round Robin coordination for the society.

John O'Brien sent a report on the new slide programs he has put together. A motion was made to cover the out-of-pocket expenses of the slide librarian and Misty Haffner.

The president reported that Anita Kistler has sent some historical plates used to print photographs in

the quarterly, and Alice Baylor Hills has some slides. Some of Florence Bellis' original notes have also been sent to him.

Chapters reports: The Oregon Chapter reported the national show plans are on track. The Seattle Chapter had a lecture by Steve Doonan in the fall and April Boettger will speak at the meeting in March. Washington State Chapter will hold a show April 16-17, 1994, at the Southcenter Pavilion. Eastside will have a one-day show in May. The Tacoma Chapter participated at the Home and Garden Show at the Tacoma Convention Center. The British Columbia group had well attended meetings through the winter. The Doretta Klaber Chapter sent a report to the president. They would like to meet other primula enthusiasts. They are looking for information on plant pathogens. The Alaska members sent a report of their many activities: their enthusiasm is stimulating to us all.

Thea Oakley, librarian for the society, has books for sale at reasonable prices. Thea is also organizing volunteers for the Northwest Flower and Garden Show.

Micro-propagation project: APS President John Kerridge has taken a green-edged auricula for micro-propagation and will report on progress.

The election ballot for officers was distributed with the seed list, not the quarterly as the APS constitution states, but many more than usual have been returned.

A life membership was awarded to Candy Strickland on the proposal by Herb Dickson. This is in recognition of her many years of dedicated service to the society. The motion was passed unanimously.

The next meeting will be April 9, 1994 in conjunction with the national show.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Flynn, Recording Secretary ❖

Notes from the Editor

Information received at the Editor's desk

IN THE NEWS

Florence Bellis is receiving a lot of attention in England. In January I was asked to send a photo of her from the 1953 quarterly bulletin. It forms one small part of a fine article in the **Gardens Illustrated** February/March 1994 issue. The development of Barnhaven is chronicled by Graham Rice, and the watercolor illustrations by Elizabeth Blackadder add an attractive and original whimsy to the piece. The society library has a copy of this issue and can make it available to you for reference if you want to read it. Contact Librarian Thea Oakley.

James Ebdon from the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) in London called me early one morning in March. They are doing a short clip on Florence Bellis in one of their television garden programs soon and asked permission to use the photos of the barn at Barnhaven in Oregon (is it still there?) and also of Florence Bellis from the quarterly. Maybe, if we're lucky, we'll get a copy of the clip.

SLUG CONTROL

Off on another topic of interest to almost all gardeners — slug control. The Rainforest Nursery catalog lists a product I haven't seen before: slug strips. Apparently you lay them around the plants to discourage the ravenous pests. This may be available in other catalogs. If you don't find it, write to Rainforest Gardens, 13139 224th St., R.R. #2, Maple Ridge, B.C., Canada, V2X 7E7.

TWINNING SUCCESS

Dennis Oakley has matched up three sets of primula enthusiasts who want to belong to a British society and the APS. If there are others interested in being matched with a "twin" in the United Kingdom — they pay your dues to the U.K. society, and you pay theirs to the APS — write to Dennis Oakley, 10060 Dennis Place, Richmond, B.C., Canada, V7A 3G8.

DOUBLE AURICULAS

I see in the Winter 1993/94 **Offsets** no. 32 from the National Auricula and Primula Society, Southern Section that some American double auriculas from earlier decades have made their way to England. Bernard Smith has a short article detailing his acquisition of American double auricula seed:

"Ralph Balcom and Mrs. Denna Snuffer both planted out large numbers of Border Auriculas (each independently of the other) and by careful selection chose those plants which showed an extra petal in the centre. By crossing these, the double flower was developed, giving us the Double Auricula. Ralph Balcolm said that as Mrs. Denna Snuffer started before him and she helped him, his Balcom strain should really be named the "Denna Doubles" in her honour. As far as I know this issue was never taken up by the American Primrose Society, who still refer to the "Balcom Strain."

"Just before he retired Balcom asked Cyrus Happy of Tacoma to come and repot all his (Balcom's) plants. This Happy did and in return Balcom gave him one each of his plants.

"When I was an APS member I bought seed from Cy Happy of his Balcom strain. From this seed in 1981 came the following: 'Little Rosette', 'Frank Edgar', 'Mabel Ditton', 'Morning Cream', 'Mishmash' (the name means apricot in Arabic); 'Iris Taylor'."

Bernard Smith goes on to tell of later developments, some from APS seed obtained in 1988 and some from his own crosses. ❖

**Join an
APS Round Robin**
See article on page 29

Journal Report

by Ann Lunn, Hillsboro, Oregon

Primulas certainly have received much attention in the popular press recently. Following a beautiful article on auriculas in the December, 1993, issue, *Horticulture* magazine published "Primulas from Seed" in their January issue.

The author, Thomas Fischer, describes an interesting method for sterilizing soil that does not involve an oven or smelling up the house for days.

Fischer suggests filling four-inch plastic pots with any standard peat-based potting mixture one would use for planting primula seed. The pots are set on a rack in the sink and boiling water is poured slowly through the medium until it is thoroughly soaked. Excess water is allowed to drain from the pots, and the procedure is repeated twice more. Before planting, the soil should be cooled completely. This method, advocated by Norman Deno, should also be used with soil-less mixes, which may be contaminated by mold spores.

Fischer says that the seedlings should be potted up individually when they have developed their first true leaves and are two to four inches tall. That may be true for some species, but the size of the seedling should not be a determining factor. The most successful time to transplant is when the seedlings have four or five true leaves and the weather is conducive to fast growth.

Speaking of propagation, a review of micropropagation of primulas appeared in The National Auricula and Primula Society (Northern Section) 1993 *Yearbook*. Dr. Frank Taylor began work on propagating auriculas by this method at Wye College in England in 1988. One of the goals of the project was to propagate rare varieties as a means to conserve named clones and return them to general cultivation.

The procedure involved using a small bit of leaf tissue and allowing it to grow and multiply in a nutrient and hormone-enriched gel medium.

Eventually the small (one-quarter inch by one-quarter inch) piece of leaf will yield many small plantlets genetically identical to the parent plant. That is the theory, at least. The vast majority of plants produced in this way were true copies of the parent plant. There were, however, some variations noted.

In some instances, 'Orb', a thrum-eyed, green-edged variety, became pin-eyed. 'Chorister', an unusual dark yellow self, had changed to a lemon color.

Some variations may be attributed to the juvenile stage of the plantlets and will return to the parent characteristic as the plantlet matures. Some changes proved to be more permanent. It appears some varieties of auriculas are more stable genetically when being propagated by tissue culture. The edged varieties are more likely to show variation than other exhibition auriculas. Age and health of the variety may also be a factor in producing variants.

In March look for an article in *Home* magazine on "Passion for Plants." It is well known that many gardeners become "hooked" on a particular family or genus of plants. The article gives such gardeners a list of plant societies and sources of information. The American Primrose Society is included. Also this spring, a Canadian magazine, *Harrowsmith*, will publish an article on primulas. ❖

Correction

The *Primula* x 'Juliana' labeled 'Lady Greer' in the fall issue, 1993 was actually one called 'Rosalinda'. I didn't think it looked quite like 'Lady Greer' but it wasn't until I saw the label on the slide returned from the printer that I realized what it was.

'Rosalinda' is a less well-known stalked 'Juliana'. ❖

News from the Chapters

A summary of the chapter meetings

ALASKA

Several programs were held by John O'Brien and the Juneau group:

January, candelabras and sikkimensis; February, Alpine Rock Garden Society primrose slide program and video by Dr. Molly Sanderson; March, Hose-in-hose, Jack-in-the-Green and varied polyanthus; May, primrose slide show at noon.

Special thanks to John for all the hard work compiling these programs. Thanks to local growers for speaking and handouts: Dr. Roger Eichmann, Clay McDole and Caroline Jensen.

John even went to Sitka to show a general APS program. The program was well received; we had six new members sign up. Then, due to the unpredictable weather, John visited with them for five more days! He ended up taking the ferry home because of the fog. Special welcome to the Sitka group!

John reports he has been busy sending out lots of slide programs to the various APS chapters and to individuals. There is still a need for slides of gardens throughout Alaska and photos of *Primula auricula*, Hose-in-Hose and indigenous North American Primroses. There is room to build on the Alaskan slide program.

The Southeast Alaskan Gardening Conference and Trade Show is being held May 13 to 15. There will be APS visitors and an APS booth. There will be a display and sale of primula plants.

Thanks to Marie Skonberg who reports that the seed exchange is winding down. This was her first year; there was lots to learn — a momentous task. We really appreciate all the work that you have done. All of Alaska is proud of you.

Marie reports that the Kodiak Garden Club has proclaimed this "The Year of the Primrose."

Several programs will be held. We'd like to have an APS booth at the Crab Festival May 26-30. We could also tour Marie's garden on Spruce Island.

For slide programs, contact Slide Librarian, John O'Brien, Sr., 9450 Herbert Place, Juneau, AK 99801 or call (907) 789-7516.

Excepts from the Newsletter of the Alaska contingent of the American Primrose Society from Misty Haffner.

PENNSYLVANIA

Doretta Klaber Chapter

No report

OREGON

Oregon Chapter

The Oregon Chapter meets every third Friday from September through May at 1 p.m. at the Milwaukie Community Club (42nd and Jackson Sts.) in Milwaukie. For more information on meetings and programs, please call Ann Lunn at (503) 604-4582.

WASHINGTON

Eastside Chapter

Meets the first Monday of every month at the Universal Savings Bank, 6615 132nd Ave. NE, Kirkland at the Bridal Trails Mall at 7:30 pm. February program: Beth Tait discussed seed germination. March program: Roy Eaton, owner of a nursery in Duvall, discussed perennials.

Seattle Chapter

Meets four times a year. Contact June Skidmore, president, for information. April Boettger spoke on "Growing auriculas for pleasure," and June Skidmore presented slides from a primula show in the north of England last year.

*News from the Chapters continued***Tacoma Chapter**

Meets the first Tuesday of each month, except July and August, in the Fireside Room of the United Methodist Church, 1919 West Pioneer, Puyallup at 7:30 p.m.

January program: Dwarf conifers.

February program: Shrub and tree root pruning.

March program: Cy Happy spoke on "Primroses from the Spring Shows."

Washington State Chapter

Meets the second Friday of each month except July and August at the United Good Neighbor Center at 305 S. 43rd St., Renton at 7:45 p.m.

January: Thea Oakley on primrose seeds, seeds and more seeds.

February program: General discussion on primula plant growing methods, led by Rosetta Jones with contributions by Peter Atkinson, Thea Oakley, Herb Dickson, April Boettger, Elda, Don, Therese, Darlene, Gladys, Mary Frey and everyone else.

March program: Alaska native primula program from the APS slide library.

BRITISH COLUMBIA**British Columbia Primrose Group**

Meets every two months on the third Wednes-

day, at Southlands Nursery, 6550 Balaclava, Vancouver, B.C.

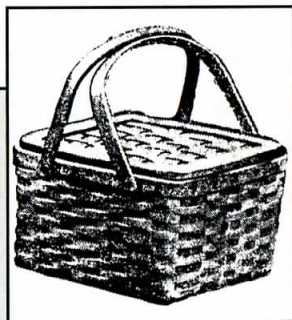
The first spring newsletter reports the meetings over the winter were enjoyable and useful. Bodil Leamy demonstrated root cuttings, Renee Oakley talked on how to prepare soil mixes for primulas, growing species primula from seed was covered by Bob Bunn and John Kerridge showed slides indicating the standards for exhibition gold-laced primroses.

The January meeting showed the video of Ron McBeath's lecture on alpine primula "Primulas of the Clouds" from the 1992 symposium.

The group received a generous donation, which will help with spring show plans. The group's seed order from Barnhaven was received and distributed.

The March program will be a show-and-tell with the identification of plants brought in. The second exhibition show will be held April 23 and 24 at Southlands Nursery in Vancouver.

The group now has a fine reference library due to donations. Stan Cryan looks after the library. Dennis Oakley is the new treasurer. ❖



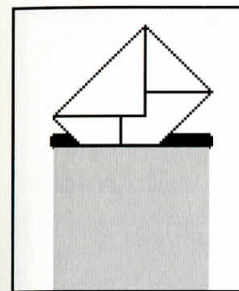
APS ANNUAL SUMMER PICNIC

Saturday, July 9th
At John Kerridge's
2426 West 47th Avenue
Vancouver, B.C.

Board Meeting at 11 am – Picnic at 1 pm
Bring your own basket!
For more information please contact
John Kerridge at 604-263-2956

From the Mailbox

Letters from our readers



Fred Knapp wrote about Primula marginata at this time last year and mentioned the classic problem with marginata, the leggy growths that result in "tree-form" plants. He's had a response to the problem.

Dear Fred,
Bless you for writing about your "tree-form" marginata dilemma.

My *Primula marginata* 'Agee's' tree form can be made quite decent by arching the branches



The plant shown consists of eight divisions of the leggy 'Agee' cross seedling. They are already out more than the sketch shows. Leaves are less jagged than 'Agee'. Four pieces are pegged down; four are tied down.

continued on page 36

Officers of the Chapters

Doretta Klaber Chapter

President, Dot Plyler
18 Bridle Path, Chadds Ford, PA 19317

Eastside Chapter

President Marilyn Dapses
12607 84th Ave. NE, Kirkland, WA 98034

Oregon Chapter

President, Ann Lunn
6620 NW 271st Ave., Hillsboro, OR 97124

Tacoma Chapter

President, Candy Strickland
8518 28th Ave. E., Tacoma, WA 98445

Valley-Hi Chapter

President, Orville Agee
11112 SE Wood Ave., Milwaukie, OR 97222

Washington State Chapter

President, Peter Atkinson
16035 SE 167th Pl, Renton, WA 98055

Seattle Chapter

President, June Skidmore
6730 W. Mercer Way, Mercer Island, WA 98040

The Berry Botanic Garden

Director, Dr. Linda McMahan
The Berry Botanic Garden
11505 SW Summerville Ave., Portland OR 97219

Alaska Group

Contact John A. O'Brien, Sr.,
9450 Herbert Place, Juneau, AK 99801

British Columbia Primrose Group

Contact John Kerridge,
2426 West 47th Ave., Vancouver, B.C.
Canada V6M 2N2

COLLECT SEED FOR THE APS SEED EXCHANGE

Send it to:

Marie Skonberg
P.O. Box 70
Ouzinkie, Alaska 99644
by October 1, 1994

From the Mailbox

continued from page 35

For seven or eight years I've pegged down and weighted 'Agee's' over-leggy growths. By the way, weights come off for showing and it doesn't take long for these to shape the branches, anyway. Put on in the fall, they can come off by March or April.

Today, after mentioning my leggy 'Agee'-like seedling, I brought it in from the greenhouse. There wasn't wire at hand, but it really needed arching over. It made me think of alternatives. Here's one I've now devised — today — and it's easier! A strip of panty-hose fabric is tied tightly under the pot rim. The growths are tied to the circle of fabric with more panty-hose strips and can be tightened later.

Thea Foster,
North Vancouver, B.C. ❖

ARGS Study Weekend

continued from page 27

include one other cultivar called 'Lilac Cottage'. I would appreciate any comments from other growers.

By the time this report reaches publication, its readers, especially in the Northwest, will be sated with the spring round of meetings, shows and garden bloom. Would that you were all as close to Long Island as Stamford, Connecticut. But it will not be too late to drink some whisky and plant primulas in the barrels. There will surely be some enjoyment in one or other of these pastimes. ❖

Matsumoto Sakurasoh and Primula Club Invites you to join

- ❖ Japanese society for lovers of all primulas.
- ❖ Yearbook, with English summary.
- ❖ Seed exchange.

Send US \$20 in cash, registered mail for one year's subscription (April to March)

Write to: Mr. Kazuo Hara, Secretary
Yoshikawa-Koya 647-51
Matsumoto, Nagano,
399 Japan

National Auricula and Primula Society

Invites all auricula and primula lovers to join in this old society.
Membership includes yearbook.

Northern Section

D.G. Hadfield
146 Queens Road, Cheadle Hulme, Cheadle, Cheshire, England

Midland Section

Hon. Sec., Mr. P. Green
Primrose Hill, Bell's Bank, Buckley, Worcs., England

Southern Section

Lawrence E. Wigley
67 Warnham Court Road, Carshalton Beeches, Surrey, England

The APS Primula x 'Juliana' Registry - Don't Forget

The American Primrose Society Board of Directors decided at the "Primula Worldwide" symposium in 1992 to establish a registry system for the identification of the many *Primula* x 'Juliana' hybrids, both old and new.

If you raise a new variety you feel is worth naming, write to me for a registration form, making sure to include a photograph.
Dorothy Springer
7213 South 15th St., Tacoma, WA 98465

CHEHALIS RARE PLANT NURSERY
2568 Jackson Hwy., Chehalis, WA 98532
Herb Dickson, Prop.

After 30 years of selecting and breeding, I have developed an improved strain of Garden Auricula with a complete palette of color.

Garden Auricula - 75 seeds per packet
Mixed Brown Yellow
Red Blue Picotee
White Petite Hybrids

Exhibition Alpine - 75 seeds

Hand pollinated Double Auricula
15 seeds

Hand pollinated Show Auricula
20 seeds

Red Self, Yellow Self - Green Edge

Primula Florindae - 150 seeds or more

Mixed Candelabra - 200 seeds or more

All packets \$2.00 each

50 cents postage & handling in U.S. & Canada

Other foreign orders \$1.00 postage & handling

Washington residents add 7.5% sales tax

MINIMUM ORDERS 3 packets

A PLETHORA OF PRIMULA

April E. Boettger
244 Westside Hwy - Vader, WA 98593
1-206-295-3114

PRIMULA LOVERS DELIGHT

- because -

A PLETHORA OF PRIMULA

is now shipping

• We have been most fortunate to have obtained Herb Dickson's & Larry Bailey's auricula collections to add to our stock.

THIS YEAR WE WILL NOT BE OPEN TO
THE PUBLIC

Catalog available after March 1 - \$1.00

◆ U.S. & Canada only ◆

SEED OF DOUBLE ACAULIS AND DOUBLE AURICULA

NEW SEED CROP IN AUGUST
MINIMUM ORDER
40 SEEDS - \$5.00

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SHELTON, WA 98584
PHONE: 206-426-7913

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Time for a change ... APS needs a new Editor!

Maedythe Martin has resumed her career and also plans to attend university classes in the fall. The combination of events will not allow time for the preparation of the quarterly **Primroses** after the fall issue, and a new editor must be found.

Volunteers for the job should write to president John Kerridge post haste.

John Kerridge, President
American Primrose Society
2426 W. 47th Avenue
Vancouver, B.C. Canada
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A SPECIAL THANKS to Corresponding Secretary, Thea S. Foster, for answering the many hundreds of letters of inquiry about the American Primrose Society.

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*Asian species extend the primula season.
See article on page 21.*

P. alpicola

Photo by J. Lunn

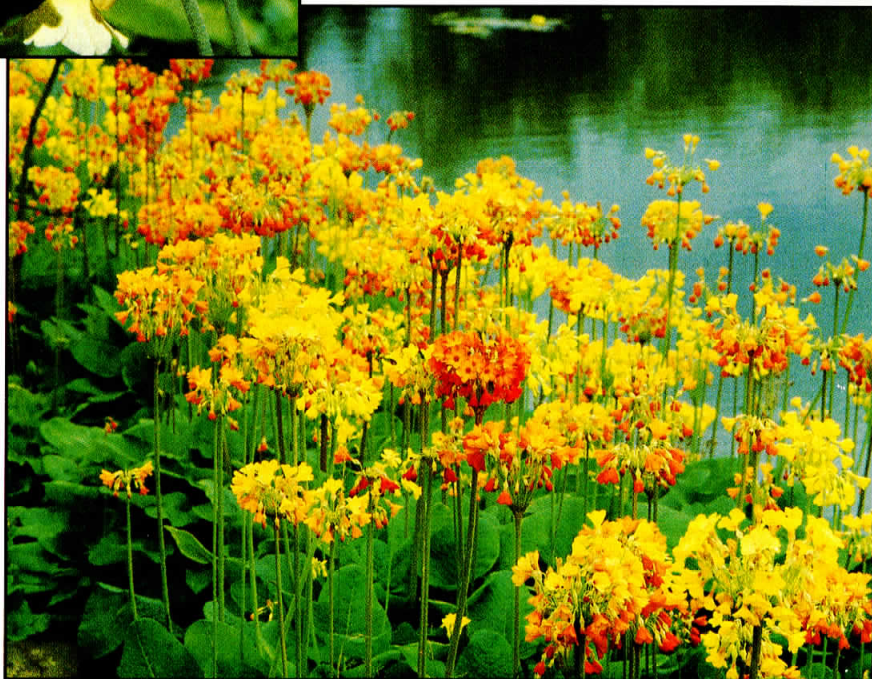


P. florindae

Photo by Cy Happy

Yellow candelabra

Photo by J. Kerridge



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Dues for individual or household membership in the American Primrose Society, domestic and foreign, are \$15 U.S. per calendar year (\$16 for renewals postmarked after January 1); \$40 for three years; or \$200 for an individual life membership. Submit payment to the treasurer. Membership renewals are due November 15 and are delinquent at the first of the year.

Membership includes a subscription to the quarterly **Primroses**, seed exchange privileges, slide library privileges and the opportunity to join a Round Robin.

PUBLICATIONS

Back issues of the quarterly are available from the secretary.

Manuscripts for publication in the quarterly are invited from members and other gardening experts, although there is no payment. Please include black and white photographs if possible. Send articles directly to the coordinating editor.

Advertising rates per issue: full page, \$60; half page, \$30; quarter page, \$15; eighth page and minimum, \$10. Artwork for ads is the responsibility of the advertiser, and camera ready copy is appreciated. Submit advertising to the editor.

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