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PRIMROSES



Winter 2003

Primroses

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The purpose of this society is to bring the people interested in *Primula* together in an organization to increase the general knowledge of and interest in the collecting, growing, breeding, showing and using in the landscape and garden the genus *Primula* in all its forms and to serve as a clearing house for collecting and disseminating information about *Primula*.

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plant and photo by Derek Lockey

Back Cover Photo: 'Tantallon'
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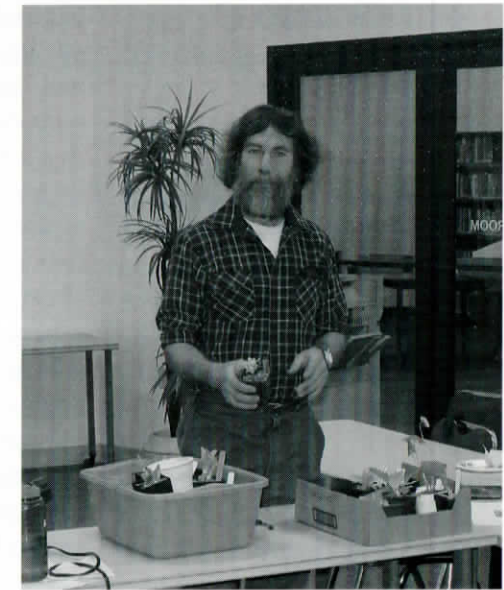
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President's Message

It's winter in Alaska, though you wouldn't guess it by looking out my windows. As I write this on January 17th, it is 40F, pouring rain and our local ski area is closed for lack of snow. Is it just me or does every season seem less seasonal the last few years? Is that why the Christmas season starts in September now? "Normal" weather doesn't seem to happen much anymore. When there are primulas, delphiniums and colchicums blooming in December in my garden, surely that is not the new normal garden display! More shelter from the rain and improved drainage are essential improvements every year here while some of you have had to install more irrigation systems in your gardens. Along with these climatic changes may come new planting opportunities but the loss of some cherished old friends.

With this time of year comes an election ballot and some new faces. Though you may have to put up with me for two more years, Michael Plumb from the BC Group is going for Vice President and Diana Pederson

PETIOLARIDS

by Derek Lockey

Being asked by the Editor for the latest on my Petiolarids I had to think seriously in which direction to go following my article on *P. bracteosa* Primroses Vol.59 No. 2 Spring 2001. I still grow it in increasing numbers. I also like *P. bhutanica* and its hybrids, 'Tantallon' and 'Arduaine' and, yes, I also grow 'Netta Dennis', which here in England is an absolute must. After a successful flowering in Spring 2002, when ill health curtailed my exhibiting, the Asiatics did not let me down. They provide such long lasting beauty.

My main problem has been Vine Weevil. I only know it keeps appearing and as I use Provado twice a year, in early Spring and again when the plants have started growing in the Autumn. "From whence it cometh I do not know!" My pots and utensils are regularly washed in Armillatox, as are the greenhouses and frames.

Contrary to my usual procedure I split a large number of plants during our long wet Spring when the rain persisted until the beginning of July. This move proved to be totally unsuccessful. I normally recommend a September splitting and potting on.

In 2001 my compost was again modified by incorporating more composted pine needles and again cutting down on the John Innes content. The current compost is: Ericaceous loam base one 7 inch pot (approx. 3 litres); Cambark fine one 7 inch pot; Perlite one 7 inch pot; Coarse Grit one 7

inch pot. To this amount of approximately 12 liters I add 2 ounces of Blood Fish and Bone. In comparison to the 2001 compost there is approximately twice as much feed in this mixture. I have now imposed a total ban on peat as my belief is that it attracts Vine Weevil. I have omitted leafmould this year as it is in very short supply and this is one of the experiments I am undertaking at present. I intend to use a liquid humus which is applied when watering and feeding. The only problem I envisage could be a lack of nitrogen due to the decomposition of the Cambark which I will monitor very carefully by observing the color of the foliage.

Yes, I do lose plants for no apparent reason and this year has not been an exception. My biggest loss has been *P. scapeosa*, closely followed by *P. gracilipes* and *P. petiolaris*, and the plant that was labeled 'Tinney's Moonlight'. I do not know why they did not survive our "so called Summer." Bearing in mind that we had a long wet Spring and from mid July to early September when the weather was dry and warm my plants were sprayed six times a day between 9am and 6pm by my Gardena Computer controlled system. My only conclusion was that the high temperatures we experienced, particularly in August, did not suit even though my frame never receives direct sunlight.

October 26th 2002, outside temperature 9 deg.C., and very wet, the greenhouse glass is always moist inside despite maximum ventilation. This year's compost seems to be suiting *P. gracilipes* and especially *P. bracteosa*,

as well as the hybrid Redpoll, all of which have budded even offsets in a communal pot. I have never experienced Redpoll budding so early in previous years. 'Netta Dennis' is proving difficult this year as its roots are filling my 6 inch clay pans which are now plunged. Unfortunately, its top growth is very slow.

P. scapeosa is very slow and my expectations are that it will need a change in compost even at this late stage. *P. bhutanica* and its allies are all at the tight bud stage, obviously awaiting some very cold weather and reduced light levels. I received two plants of *P. aureata* from Terry Mitchell this Summer. As most people know Terry exhibits a very good strain of *P. aureata* and mine are progressing very well, showing lots of lovely farina and I am hoping for lots of offsets!!!

November, 12th, 2002. Some of my more mature plants are still not growing as well as I would like, being three to four weeks behind last year's growth pattern. They have had two foliar feeds of Miracid, and one feed of half strength Tomorite (a high potash fertilizer used for feeding tomatoes). Looking at this year's growth I cannot foresee there being sufficient new growth on the mature plants to try some more leaf cuttings. The majority of my plants are in bud, but until *P. bhutanica* and its hybrids open their large egg shaped buds I will not know what quality of flowers to expect. 'Arduaine' and 'Tantallon' are very slow to move this year, but patience is a virtue and January usually sees the large buds start to unfurl. My best 'Arduaine' is the plant in the original pot

which I was told to "put its feet in heavy clay and incorporate leaf mould and pine needles". It has been in the same pot for four years and appears to be OK, having survived a number of Vine Weevil treatments. *P. scapeosa* is still very slow and will have to be re-potted within the next few days. I believe that having had the same treatment as last year it is quite obvious that this year's compost is not to its liking.

Petiolarid Seed

This is renowned for being erratic in germination. Three years ago I sowed *P. whiteii* and I now have nine *P. whiteii* type seedlings which have been potted into 3.5 inch pots. These seedlings germinated in mid September, 2002, which really surprised me. Unfortunately, I dumped all of this year's pots which did not show germination so I cannot look forward to any miracles in 2003! This year's seed set is very poor due to the very wet and cold Spring and I shall only have Nana to sow from my own stock. By the time you read this I expect I will be looking at some beautiful blue flowers of *P. bhutanica* and its hybrids. The reason for the Ericaceous formula was to further eliminate any lime content as I do believe that lime is a hindrance in growing Petiolarids.

Tuesday, 19th November, 2002, cold overnight but the low level sun is warming up the greenhouse a little. A little wren is up to its tricks again – digging into pots and picking off buds. I have re-potted *P. scapeosa* today into a different compost. The trial I am running on the peat free compost which has been developed by a friend who runs her own

Nursery is the basis for the re-potting of *P. scapeosa*, i.e. two parts of this humus rich compost, one part cambark, one part perlite: half part leaf-mould. The root action of *P. scapeosa* was certainly not as good as normal on all six plants. They are now in the moist plunge in the greenhouse after re-potting. Terry's *P. aureata* has just shown its first buds and I can now see some very small offsets starting to grow. There appears to be a very fine circular example of *P. bracteosa* which seems unusual, as I find *P. bracteosa* is quite uneven in the production of its buds. Now that the plants appear to be in full growth I can only be vigilant and observe the rapid growth which Petiolarids make at this time of year.

19th December, 2002. It is now four weeks since *P. scapeosa* was repotted into the modified compost and off it has taken. The color of its leaves has changed and signs of new growth are quite obvious. 'Netta Dennis' still gives me concern as its progress is far too slow compared to past years. On the bright side, two small crowns of 'Tinney's Moonlight' have come into growth, still very small but a nice little project for the long dark days. Still, only another week and the days will start to elongate and the buds will start to open and it will soon be Spring.

As a conclusion, I have to admit that I still have a preference for composted pine needles in Petiolarid compost. Also, it seems that leaf mould is an essential element. One other observation must be to be more careful with the use of Provado, as Petiolarids do tend to hug

the surface of the composts and it may be wiser to stand plants in the solution for a while rather than apply directly to the surface of the pots. This is only a thought at present, but future applications to Petiolarids will be done this way.



Above is Derek's backyard, below is what he calls 'Asiatic Corner'. Derek resides in 'Heddon on the Wall' in Northumberland on the England Scotland Border



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Renovating an Old Bed Or: A Place for More Primula by Gene E. Bush

My garden is now almost 15 years old. Since I taught myself gardening and design as I went along over the years, much of the original efforts remain. Some of those efforts remain to haunt me with their evident lack in design and thought. Other sections have matured into sights that still bring contentment to the eye. One bed had reached maturity a while back and has needed serious re-working.

Located toward the front and center of my wooded hillside garden is a raised bed between two paths that frame front and rear. When the bed was first created a white-blooming redbud (*Cercis canadensis* 'Texas White') was transplanted to one corner of the bed. The small tree now reaches a bit over 15 feet in height and about 25 feet across. A perfect fit to filter the light reaching the bed. It is also covered with snow-white blooms in the middle of April, looking as though an early spring snow storm just passed through.

Beneath the redbud, however, my soil was depleted of nutrients and had been taken over by one perennial. I had made the mistake of transplanting lily of the valley (*Convallaria majalis*) given to me by a fellow gardener. Since the bed was located with an "in the round" design, many small plants were originally located around the outside dimensions of the bed. All had been choked out with

lily of the valley, the only remaining plant dominating the entire bed.

This past fall I began digging the bed to a depth of about one foot and sifting each spade of soil through my fingers for lily of the valley plants and roots. To leave a piece of root was to invite an instant return performance. I repeated this until every square inch of the bed had been turned over and sifted, piling the thugs to one side for discard.

Once the bed was clean of unwanted plants, I spread a layer of composted manure about two inches in depth over the bed. Next another two inch layer of discarded potting medium from my nursery was added. Had this not been available I would have used compost or hardwood mulch fines. Since my base soil is heavy clay I want to get a fairly high percentage of humus incorporated. Humus is the only amendment that truly works to lighten heavy soil to my satisfaction. About four inches mixed into the first eight to twelve inches of soil is all that is needed for good plant performance in the bed.

I turned and mixed the soil and amendments heading across my bed going side to side, one "row" at a time. When the bed was completely dug in that one direction, it was turned over a second time digging end to end one "row" at a time.

During breaks from digging I would go to my holding area where I keep plants in pots waiting for their turn to find a permanent home in my garden. I would dig for a while, stop, and then carry some plants over for consideration. Dig some more, take a

break, and bring over a few more. Occasionally a pot or two got returned to the holding area. With the white-blooming redbud blooming in mid-April that meant the bed had to have plenty of *Primula*.

While I am a plant collector at heart, and have numerous collections in progress, none are all in one area of the garden. While this bed may lend itself to being the "perfect" place for primula, there will be other companion plants in the bed, just as my primula collections are scattered throughout the rest of the garden.

I used *Helleborus x* garden hybrid "White Lady Spotted" for large accents that remain evergreen. I used three of them and wove primula in sets of six among and through the hellebore plants. *Primula vērīs* 'Katy McSparron' takes one corner of the bed leading to the first hellebore. Since this has double blooms I want it closest to the path. *Primula vulgaris* 'blue' is next in order, falling between two hellebores. Next is *P. veris* 'Sunset Shades' between hellebore and the opposite path.

There is also a set of three Japanese beech ferns (*Phegopteris decursive-pinnata*) for foliage texture and contrast later in the season. Several more species of primula such as Juliana types and *P. rosea* dot the edges of the bed, drifting in and out of early blooming perennials. Hepatica are there in two species and a couple of selected forms. There are also Dutchman's breeches (*Dicentra cucullaria*), *Trillium grandiflora*, Asian gingers, and select forms of Jack in the Pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*).

The main show in this bed will be from March through the end of April, with textures and contrasting foliage following into the fall. The newly renovated bed flows into a second bed along the same path containing plants with later bloom and foliage interests carrying the garden display into the winter.

In November I used chopped leaves to mulch the bed. Now I wait for March of 2003 for the first year results of my new old bed. I am also waiting for the new nursery catalogs to arrive so I can order more primula to fill in the spaces opened in the holding area.

Gene Bush is owner/operator of Munchkin Nursery & Garden Inc. in Southern Indiana. The plants and gardening experiences described in this article are grown in his hillside garden. Gene can be reached at: www.munchkinnursery.com For a free hard-copy catalog mention this article. 323 Woodside Dr. NW Depauw, IN 47115-9039

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POTTING MEDIA FOR PRIMROSES

Diana Pederson (Lansing,
Michigan, USA)

One of the first questions newcomers to growing any plant species asks is "what potting media should I use?" I asked this same question on the primula email discussion list and in the primula chat room at www.suite101.com. I received only three replies but it was very interesting to note that each primrose grower uses a different potting medium. This just proves that if you ask x number of people what potting media to use, you will get at least x number of answers. Each grower should look at these recipes, consider things such as the alkalinity or acidity of their local water supply, the species they are growing, their yearly rainfall levels or watering habits, and choose the recipe most suited for their conditions.

Judith Sellers researched some older issues of Primroses and provided the following information from those journals.

Laura M. Sykes, La Jolla, California recommended the following John Innes formula for seeding soil in *Primroses*, Volume 9, Number 2, October, 1951 (page 29). It consists of 2 parts loamy soil, 1 part peat, and 1 part coarse sand. After sterilization, she added per bushel, 1 1/2 oz. of superphosphate, 3/4 oz of ground chalk or gypsum.

Charles E. Gillman provided the following seed starting recipe "Let's Plant Some Primrose Seed", *Primroses*,

Volume 9, Number 4, April 1952. "Seeding mixtures vary greatly according to the grower's preference and at one time were quite complicated formulas with each successful grower guarding his own recipe with his life. A good seeding medium should be porous, must not dry out quickly, and be as free from weed seeds and bread-mold spores as possible. One-third sharp sand, one-third peat and one-third screened garden soil mixed with leaf mold will make a very good seeding mixture and can be sterilized by steaming, baking in the oven, or with boiling water. The latter method may be the simplest. Just pour the boiling water over the mixture, making sure that it is thoroughly wet and let drain for twenty four hours before you sow."

Derek Salt lives in East Lincolnshire, England. He describes his location as "a rather sunny (for the UK that is) area and fairly dry in a normal year. We are two miles from the sea and there is little between us and the arctic when the northeast winds blow, which it does every so often. Our bungalow is called East View; we are fully exposed to all the wind and sun." He submitted the following potting media recipes. Note that the brand names may be known only in England. Auriculas: 1 part John Innes No.2; 1 part sharp grit (should mark your hand if held tightly); 1 part Levington C2 (coarse peat, standard pH, standard fertilization). Derek Salt says "This has been developed over twenty years for use in plastic pots. I have won many firsts and premiers with it. Drainage is sharp as I am an over-

waterer!!! For clay pots 2 parts John Innes No.2 would be better, as clays dry out quicker. I repot every year during May, all my plants are treated with Bio Provado (iminocloprid) against vine-weevil and root aphid every year. While plants are growing, I feed at every watering with a high potash feed at 10% of the rate given on the label. This produces a hard plant with strong stems and footstalks. Too much nitrogen makes soft plants prone to rots."

Primroses and Polyanthus: 2 parts John Innes No.2; 2 parts Levington C2; 1 part sharp grit. He states "Use in plastic pots. I have used this for about ten years mainly for Gold Laced Polyanthus. Plants are fed as for the auriculas."

Primula Sieboldii: "I use Levington C2 (a), coarse peat, low PH, with clay granules to give weight. (Made for shrubs in pots over 1 litre). I use it in 5 inch pots. With a little live sphagnum moss and sharp grit will grow *P. reidii* fairly well. For Primulas of the Petiolares Section add a pinch of blood, fish and bone to every 5 inch pot full, and feed as for auriculas.

Rick Lupp, owner of Mt. Tahoma Nursery

Rick Lupp wrote me a nice letter explaining that he uses his standard alpine mixture for Section Auriculastrum species (covering most European species and the Auriculas). This consists of 9 parts coarse sand, 5 parts of coarse peat, and 4 parts of pumice or grit. He also uses this mixture for American primrose species. He adds

two parts of peat to this mixture for *P. Sieboldii*.

Primula sections Vernaes and Petiolares are also grown by Rick Lupp. He uses his Ericaceae potting media for these primrose sections and all of his woodland plants. This mix consists of 5 parts of aged sawdust, 3 parts of coarse sand, and 2 parts of pumice. Rick also says that he uses a 9 month slow release fertilizer on all of his plants and that he replants everything on a yearly basis.

Hopefully this article will give you an idea about what potting media to use for your plants. May I encourage everyone to ask questions of other primrose growers and then to experiment with the various media to learn which works best for you. No two growers will ever have exactly the same climate and success with each potting medium recipe.

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Primula aureata

By T. Mitchell

My first encounter with *Primula aureata* was some years ago at the NAPS Northern Section Primula show in the UK in early April. Seeing this plant for the first time had pretty much the same effect on me as it does most folks, it stopped me in my tracks. I looked in amazement at this vision of incredible beauty and my first thoughts were "I have to get one of those". I was soon informed by those more knowledgeable that they were impossible to get and even more impossible to keep alive. Not to be deterred, I had already decided I would do whatever it took to get hold of one and cross the bridge of keeping it alive when I got to it.

In the book *Asiatic Primulas* by Roy Green, he says this species was first known only in cultivation in 1935 when seed of *Swertia purpurea* was sent by a Botanical Garden in Darjeeling, India to Edinburgh Botanical Garden. In the pan of seedlings a rogue Petiolarid primula appeared which when it flowered was named *Primula aureata*. Not til 1952 was it first seen in the wild by Mrs. D. Proud who found it growing at 3800m under overhanging rocks on the Gandaki-Kosi watershed in central Nepal.

In their natural habitat they may start flowering around November and up to as late as May, growing in shade on vertical banks and in rock crevices and requiring abundant moisture during their growing season. Plants are heavily

farinose when they have cover from winter wet and rain which gives them the attractive frosted appearance that most find so appealing. The flowers are a pale creamy yellow with a deep yellow to orange center. They look so delicate and fragile but must be as tough as old boots to endure the harsh climate they naturally grow in. So about the time I first saw this plant they were still pretty rare and expensive, even if you were lucky enough to find any for sale.

A few years later I was at the same show venue and couldn't believe my eyes. A tray containing about a half dozen *P. aureata* plants were placed on the sales table right in front of me. I was in the right place at the right time it would seem. Hands appeared from every direction but I found myself holding one plant and looking at an empty tray. I saw they had all been snapped up by others just as eager as I to own one of these delightful plants. Now that I had it, a sort of fear set in from what I had heard about how difficult they were to grow or even keep alive. I read all I could find on them, which wasn't much at that time, and it didn't instil any confidence that it was likely to still be alive the following year. I had a cold frame at the side of the greenhouse that I had at that time, so I decided to tap the plant out of its plastic pot [root ball intact] and put it in clay, then plunge it in the sand in the cold frame. In truth I didn't do much to it over the next year, it got very little water for fear of rotting it off, but it slowly filled the pot and looked well. Around January the following year it had

multiplied and there were 4 crowns in the pot and buds in them. I couldn't believe my luck. It flowered around April and was a joy to see. Once the flowers had gone the foliage began to grow and the pot became full to overflowing with elongated straggly foliage and more crowns. In thinking what my next step was to be, I realized they needed dividing and re potting desperately, but I was trying to find the courage to do the job.

When I finally decided to get on with it, I found to my horror that when I got hold of the foliage to ease the plants from the pot it all came away in my hand. Vine weevils had eaten right through the main root below the crowns. I tipped the root ball out and sure enough there were several big fat grubs in the root ball, my initial thought was "that's it then, it's all over". I doubt I could describe my feelings at that discovery and I came away leaving them where they were, with thoughts flashing through my mind as to where I could get another plant. When I returned and looked at what I had left, there were cropped crowns but a few had wisps of root still visible that the grubs hadn't had a chance to finish off. Others had no root left at all. Probably out of desperation more than anything else, I got a 5 inch clay pot and mixed some lime free peat with some very coarse grit sand, about 70 percent sand and 30 percent peat. I filled the pot and stuck the cleaned up crowns into the gritty mix around the edge of the pot and one in the middle for luck. I watered around the crowns well and plunged the pot in

the cold frame thinking this is crazy but I've nothing to lose.

I kept looking at the pot over the next few months at irregular intervals and administered water occasionally; surprised each time I did to find them looking much as they did when first put there. I thought I noticed new growth in a few but hardly dared believe it. A tentative gentle tug at a leaf on one found resistance instead of it coming out of the pot as I was half expecting it to. It had put down new roots and the others were the same. New growth could definitely be seen in future weeks and I decided to ease them out of the pot and pot them up individually in small clays of about 3 inch. I mixed more compost and this time made it about 50\50 peat and sharp sand. They went into their own pots and were plunged. They overwintered well and every single one produced a fine strong healthy plant by the following spring. I just couldn't believe my luck. Looking back, that disaster was probably the best thing that could have happened to me. It taught me more about these plants than any book could have done, I am sure.

I now re pot in June every year and break them down to individual crowns, except for an odd pot or two that I replant leaving about 3 crowns together. These usually give a better result for use on the show bench than individual crowns. I usually let them almost dry out before re potting. I then knock them out of the pot, strip most of the compost and roots from the plants; then tear, yes tear, them apart into individual plants. Bad or dead foliage is removed and most

of the roots. This leaves a very sorry spindly excuse for a plant. The roots are then washed and left to dry a little. I use 3 to 4 inch clay pots depending on the size of plant or offset going into them when re potting. Vigorous plants can be transferred to bigger pots without disturbance early in the New Year if needed. I have settled for a compost mix of a good golden brown lime free peat compost. About 60 percent of this and sharp grit at about 40 percent which I mix myself every year, by eye more than measure. To this I add a sprinkling of blood fish and bone meal and mix well. I crock the pot, then add grit to the bottom of the pot of about 1 inch in depth, then compost to just under half way up the pot. I hold the plant or offset with one hand seating the plants roots on the compost and then I trickle a little sharp sand around and over the roots. The pot is then filled almost to the top and lightly firmed and given a tap to settle it. I then water well into the pot around the sides then plunge into damp sand in the cold frame that is very well shaded. The Perspex lid is always propped open in all but extreme weather, i.e. driving rain or snow. Given the minus 5 and 6 degrees we get here in West Yorkshire in an average winter, it is nothing compared to the severe conditions that I am sure they endure in the wild in their native habitat. I never close it because of cold or freezing weather.

In general I find them easy going now, though around show time they have a habit of sulking here if taken from their frame to the greenhouse which is never

heated but usually a few degrees warmer than the frame. I find they hate the wet and should any water settle in the crown for any length of time it's certain death very quickly. I believe, in my experience with them, this probably explains why they are found in the wild growing on steep banks, to allow water to run away from them. I try to keep the sand plunge damp to wet all year round and administer very little water into the pot. Most of the year I try to keep the compost in the pots on the dry side of damp. This is mainly achieved by water permeating through the clay pots into the compost from the sand plunge. Through the main growing and flowering period they receive additional water into the pots. Care needs to be taken on warm days or if the sun touches them through negligent shading. They wilt as if they require water desperately and I am sure many are killed by the unwary by giving water when what they actually want is to be shaded and cooler.

They are easier to obtain these days generally, as seed grown plants from a few specialist Nurseries here in the UK are available, mainly further north than where I live in West Yorkshire. I understand they appear to be easier to grow further North and harder to the South of me. The main factor of succeeding with them to my mind is temperature. Cooler temperatures to the North and especially up into Scotland give better conditions more to their liking, and growers up there seem to do well with them.

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You CAN Grow Petiolaris Primulas

by Bob Goalby, Walsall, England

The following article first appeared in Primroses, Volume 45, No. 2, Spring 1987

Over quite a number of years now, I have been successfully growing Petiolaris section primulas in my garden in Walsall, a town situated in the center of England, a region known as the "Black Country" from its association with coal-mining, iron and steel making, and engineering. Now that most of these activities have finished, nature has returned to heal the wounds of industry, and many of our native flora flourish once more. A mile and a half from my home cowslips (*P. veris*), bluebells, and violets are found in abundance, growing along railway embankments, canal towpaths, and disused limestone workings. In my garden I grow many primulas - European, Asiatic and American species - in a rock garden, border and peat beds.

When I first began to grow Asiatic Primulas, I read, and was told by nurserymen and experienced growers, that Petiolaris Section primulas would be difficult to establish in this area of England. It seemed to be a universally held opinion that they grew best in Scotland, with poor results elsewhere. It is true they do grow well in Scotland. This, I feel, is because in the first instance it was Scotsmen who discovered them and collected them in the wild, (e.g. Forrest, Ludlow and Sherriff), and so they seem to be present

here in larger quantities than anywhere else. Over the years, however, I have discovered them growing well in all parts of Britain - North, South, East and West - which has led me to suspect that the greatest problem facing these plants is often the grower. Wherever one may be situated, when deciding to grow these plants, their two essential needs must be kept in mind, namely, shade and moisture. This I am sure is the key to success, closely followed by the need to protect them, with lights, from wintery cold, wet, conditions.

The first two Petiolaris primroses I ever grew were two very small plants, one of *P. gracilipes*, and one of *P. bhutanica*, which I collected from a nursery on my way back from a holiday in Scotland. During the holiday my wife Joan and I had visited both the Edinburgh Botanical Gardens, and Branklyn Gardens, Perth, where we saw these plants growing well in peat beds planted beneath shrubs like Rhododendrons, Pieris, Magnolia etc. Fortunately, soon after buying them, we heard a talk, given during a meeting of our Midland Branch of the National Auricula and Primula Society, at Birmingham. The subject "Constructing a Peat Bed" was exactly what we needed. The talk was given by a young committee member called Howard Drury, who it turned out, had trained at Edinburgh.

Inspired by the challenge this offered, I set about making my first peat bed, preparing to find out, by trial and error how best to grow my favorite plants. Remembering what had been done at

Edinburgh, and what it looked like, I tried to imitate, in miniature, that type of landscape. Using peat blocks I terraced them down into a tiny "valley", about a meter deep. This, of course, meant excavating the middle of the area out to the depth of a meter, and building up the other side, with more peat blocks, which I filled in with peat. All over the area, a stride apart, I put small platforms of paving stone, so that I could stand firmly on them, to weed and plant at any angle, without treading on the peat bed itself. This also provides stability for small lights to cover individual plants, or (hopefully) clumps of plants, for winter protection. At the top of these terraces, I then planted my small rhododendrons, pieris etc., and in the Autumn, I planted spring bulbs, crocus, species tulips, and narcissi, and others, and the wet weather of that season soaked the peat bed well. My two little treasures I had planted at the base of the peat blocks, where they were shaded from the sun. In the same situation, I also planted *P. florindae*, *P. alpicola*, *P. pulverulenta*, *P. juliae*, and *P. frondosa*. About that time I also collected *P. edgeworthii*, *P. whitei*, *P. bracteosa*, *P. boothii*, and *P. scapigera* and extended them along the base of the peat bed terraces.

The first Winter brought its damp and cold, much rain and even snow, but I had already covered the plants with glass and they came to no harm. Indeed, by January some of them were flowering. The only plant I found did not like this treatment was *P. boothii*. I have come to the conclusion that this species is not truly hardy, and in fact,

read somewhere that it comes from further down the altitude range than most other Asiatic primulas. The experience of losing it that year, decided me when I next obtained it, to lift it from the garden in October, plant into a 4" pot in a soil-less ericaceous (lime-free) mixture, and keep in the Alpine house until the following March. I also tend to do this with my *P. aureata*, mainly because although I know it is hardy, I have found it responds so well to pot culture, and because of the outstanding beauty of its foliage, even during its rest-time. I like to have it there to cheer me in the depth of winter time.

One thing must be born in mind when growing Petiolaris primulas: They will not tolerate lime. So if there is any doubt or danger, it is as well to isolate the plants by under-lining them with polythene sheets. This, of course, is if you do not have a peat bed. The soil ph. must be less than 7 or they are unlikely to thrive. The ph in my peat bed ranges from 6.0 to 6.6, and ever year I top up with a dressing of peat and leaf mould to about 1" and include approximately 1 ounce to the square yard of sterilized bone-meal.

From my first hit and miss attempts, I have learned to know my plants and their needs, and in fact, I now have three peat beds which take up a good third of the garden. The original plants, having grown and been split, are now good clumps in all peat beds. Having "got the bug" I began to look for more species to collect. I next acquired some of the dwarf Petiolaris species, *P. deuteronana*, small with fresh green crinkly leaves, and tiny pink cup-shaped

flowers, with a distinct cream eye. Then came *P. cunninghamii* and *P. gracilipes* 'Minor'. These are very similar, the only difference between them being a botanical one. Another similar one is "Linnet" which I obtained from Edrom Nurseries, of Eyemouth. More recently I was given *P. boothii* 'Alba', a pure white form, from a friend in Scotland, and a most beautiful Chinese form of *P. sonchifolia*, collected on an expedition to China in 1982-83 by members of the Scottish Rock Garden Club, and others from Edinburgh Botanical Gardens. This tends to be a paler blue in flower than the ordinary *P. sonchifolia*. It has a deeper golden eye and a red stem to its leaves, which are flatter, and to me, more beautiful. I consider it to be a very nice plant in leaf as well as in flower. Friends and fellow growers, knowing of my fanatical enthusiasm have encouraged me even further. Seeing and appreciating the plants I show, they have helped me to add to my collection with *P. calderiana*, *P. tsariensis*, and its albino form, *P. griffithii* hybrids, and the real *P. griffithii*, which is such a wonderful blue colored flower, the delightful primrose shade of *P. strumosa*, and golden *P. tanneri*. All these last mentioned species are herbaceous, and the resting bud is found completely underground, as with the plants of the section *Nivalis* or the section *Parryi*. A word of caution here, be sure to mark the spot and do not try, as I did, to fill in a "bare" space with another rhododendron bush.

There are three stages in the growth year of *Petiolaris* primroses. First is the

flowering stage, where the plants produce their new flowers, with little observable leaf growth. The second is the fruiting stage, when seed is produced and the leaves are extended into their Summer growth. The resting stage occurs in Autumn when they contract down into resting buds, or tight little farinose rosettes with the flowering buds already formed in the center. This is the stage when the greatest care must be taken to protect them from those damp conditions where *Botrytis* can so easily set in.

About four years ago I read an article by Mr. Alf Evans, then Curator of Edinburgh Botanical Gardens. He mentioned that he believed that *Petiolaris* primroses, along with other Asiatic plants, grew better in close association one with another. I must agree with him, for I have found that my plants grow happily and profusely in close proximity.

Whenever or wherever I am asked to talk about these plants one question is always raised. How do I propagate, and which method do I find most successful? There are four approaches to this: a) division, b) from seed, c) by leaf cuttings, d) by layering. I would say that the most reliable method for me, as for most people is by division. I take one good clump, and pull it apart into its individual little plantlets. One can sometimes get as many as 15 to 20 plants from one clump. I twist off all the top growth with my hands, and plant the remaining crowns in a mixture of silver sand and soil-less compost, even parts. I keep it moist and well shaded until new growth appears from the crown, when they can be safely planted back into the peat bed.



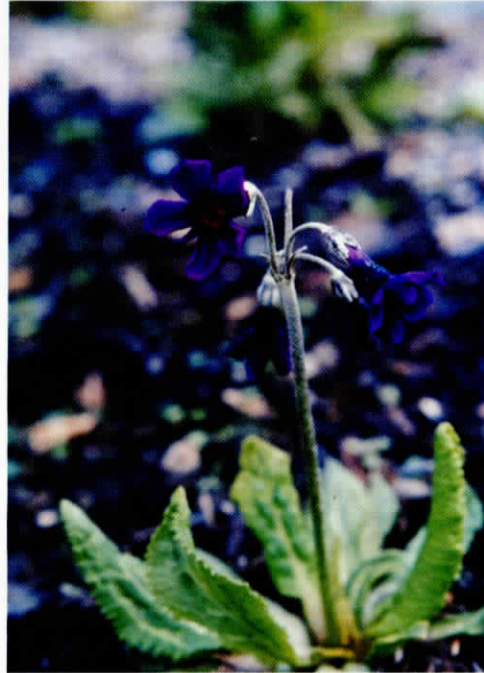
Primula nana, Derek Lockey plant and photo



'Netta Dennis' Derek Lockey plant and photo



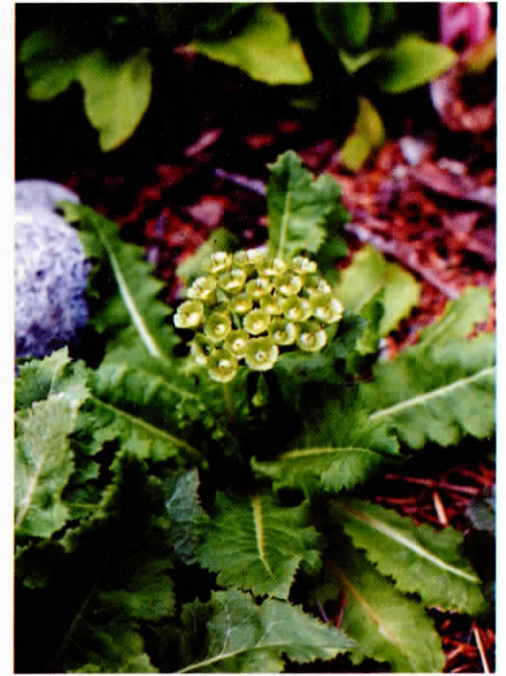
P. sonchifolia, EB plant and photo



P. griffithii, EB plant and photo



P. aureata, Bob Mackie photo



P. sonchifolia seed capsules, EB photo



'Tantallon' plant and photo Derek Lockey



P. bhutanica, Peter Klein plant Orval Agee photo



'Arduaine' John Richards plant, Judy Sellers photo, Loughborough Show



P. tanneri, APS File Photo



P. scapigera X *P. bracteosa*, Orval Agee photo 1957



P. whitei, Bob Mackie photo



P. moupinensis, Ed Buyarski plant and photo



P. petiolaris, APS archive photo, origin unknown



P. aureata X *deuteronana* cross, EB plant and photo



P. scapeosa = *bracteosa* X *scapigera*, EB plant and photo



P. strumosa EB plant & photo



P. petiolaris X *P. nana* P. Klein -Agee 1957



P. scapigera APS archive photo, origin unknown

It is always possible, of course, to plant them straight back into your peat bed, but I say better safe than sorry. If I am lucky enough to get seed I collect and sow it as soon as it is ripe. However you do need to keep a careful eye on your seedpods, as they have a very thin membrane which can disintegrate in a very short time, so that your precious seed is scattered and often lost. Sow any seed you may obtain in the same mixture mentioned above, which you have previously moistened well, in a seed tray which you will cover with a sheet of glass, and a piece of newspaper, and you should find that they begin to germinate in about a week from that time. I prick mine out when they develop their second leaves.

You can take leaf-cuttings from all the species in this section, with the exception of *P. sonchifolia*, and the herbaceous Petiolarids. At about the end of June, I take each plant and pull each leaf back from the base. At the bottom of the stalk you find that a tiny bud has grown. I insert these buds about a quarter of an inch deep, into the same basic sand mixture I have already given, then I cover with a piece of polythene or glass, until new growth begins from the basal bud, and proceed exactly as with seedlings. The layering approach I have used only with *P. bracteosa*, when I peg the bracts down into the peat, and sprinkle my sand mixture around it. When I can see they have rooted, I sever the stem and the plants grow on.

From my own experience I have discovered that all kinds of Primula

species like peat bed conditions. The other Asiatic Primulas, the European species, the American ones all grow happily there. I mention in passing *P. suffretescens*, which is now growing into its fifth year and doing very nicely. I would say honestly that yes, the Petiolarid primroses are a challenge for Primula growers, but not, I would say, more than many other kinds of Primula. The most important thing is the depth of care you are willing to give them. It is well worth finding out about them, discovering what conditions they like, experimenting within your own environment. Perhaps my way may not be yours, but your way could still work for you. So don't be afraid to have a go, they will grow happily in many places given shade and moisture, even in spite of you!

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National Auricula and Primroses Society

[http://freespace.virgin.net/
peter_galvin.ward/index.htm](http://freespace.virgin.net/peter_galvin.ward/index.htm)

Primulas Auriculas Alpines and Shows

<http://www.wilkin94.fsnet.co.uk/>

(Our good friends across the pond)

Growing Petiolarids in Juneau, Alaska

by Ed Buyarski

Plants in the Section Petiolaris are some of the most beautiful and desirable of the Genus, but are also reputed to be some of the most difficult to grow. I first admired *P. bhutanica* and *P. sonchifolia* in Phillips and Rix book and wondered how I could get such beautiful plants. I had just joined the APS and was doing well growing *P. denticulata* and *P. florindae* that supposedly came from a similar neighborhood. Their cultural description: "Its main danger is dry heat in the summer, and it should be planted so that the sun never shines directly on the leaves..." sounded promising for Southeast Alaska's maritime climate. Most of them are native to areas of the Himalayas with cool moist summers and good snow cover for winter protection. Cool climate habitats in Scotland and Britain are places where they have been grown outdoors under cultivation. Others have been grown in cool alpine houses, well shaded in the summer.

Some time after I had mentioned my interest in the petiolarids, a strange envelope bearing stamps with the Queen's picture arrived from Ian Scott with a small flat plant of *P. moupinensis* enclosed. His suggestion that this might prove to be a good one to start with has certainly been true. Shortly after I planted it into my garden that spring about six years ago, it sent out runners like a strawberry plant and made itself at home. I babied the plants that first

winter, set a pane of glass over them for some protection, and the following year, each plant had one or two pale pink flowers, then sent out even more runners. If I hadn't given away and sold a few hundred of them since, they might have taken over my garden! They remain mostly evergreen for the winter and begin to grow and send up their flower buds as soon as the snow disappears. They can begin to bloom when the soil around them is still frozen. I have not gotten seeds from my plants as I only have a pin-eyed clone. If anyone has a thrum-eyed plant, please contact me for swapping and future romance. Rick Lupp's article (*Primroses* Winter 1998) gives more information about this species and nice photos on the back cover of *Primroses* Spring 1998.

Another clone or variety is shown in Phillips and Rix 1991 from Sichuan Province, China and was awarded a Preliminary Commendation at an AGS Show in England in 2001, (*AGS Bulletin*, December 2001). This plant has 10 or more deep pink flowers in an umbel but does not form runners; possibly putting its energy into seed rather than vegetative propagation.

Many authors mention that the seeds of petiolarids ought to be planted in the green as the plants bloom very early and their capsules disintegrate quickly, spilling the seeds to sprout the first summer (*Primroses* Winter 1965). This is in fact the main distinguishing characteristic separating the Section Petiolaris from other Sections which have a more persistent capsule. Drying

the seeds, as we do with most other Primulas to save for winter planting or for donation to seed exchanges, usually results in extremely poor germination. Some growers may use GA-3 to improve these germination rates. See *Primroses* Winter 2000 for specifics. Of course then the difficulty lies in bringing them through their first winter.

Primula sonchifolia is familiar to many of us from the cover of Richards' book *Primulas* and again, Ian Scott provided me with some fresh seeds in late summer five years ago. They really did germinate quickly and I managed to keep the tiny seedlings alive through that first winter. They were planted out the next spring in my garden in several more or less sheltered locations. Others were shared with friends with a request for survival stories (unfortunately none). Mine did take about 2 ½ years to bloom and they have been worth the wait! The beautiful light blue flowers with a white and yellow eye and white petal edge are usually in bloom with snow drops, *Galanthus nivalis*, and *Crocus* in March and April here in Juneau.

When the plants are protected from the rain, the leaves have beautiful farina. Ian mentions seeing the cabbage like leaves of them growing along stream banks at Cluny Abbey in the summer and the plants do need spacing of 30-45cm or more in rich moist soil (*Primroses* Summer 1994). The plants form large nearly egg sized resting buds as their summer leaves deteriorate. Since many of their roots also rot away in late summer, I place some coarse sand or fine gravel around these buds to hold

them in place. My plants have had the protection of panes of glass for the winter and spruce boughs over all to reduce the damage from our freeze/thaw cycles. Since *P. sonchifolia* wants to bloom very early, the buds can be damaged or killed by frosts, unlike those of *P. moupinensis*. Mine have been shy to bear seed so I have been helping the bees in pollinating the flowers, again because of their early bloom.

During the Alaska Rock Garden Society Expedition to Yunnan, China in the fall of 2000, (*Primroses* Spring 2001), we were fortunate to find *P. sonchifolia* growing in a number of locations and I did bring some of the resting buds back to grow. Their native growing conditions varied from deep shade under firs and rhododendrons to damp road gravel near a stream to well drained partly sunny road banks. The flower color has varied from the standard blue with a white and yellow eye to near purple with only a tiny yellow eye (see photos), rather like the Cowichan Primrose. Some have a white edge to the petal and some not.

Two plants of *Primula griffithii* are growing well for me, again from Ian Scott's seed (thanks Ian); have magnificent royal purple flowers and are growing next to the *P. sonchifolia*. These may also be hybrids with *Pp. caldariana* or *strumosa* as that subsection of the Petiolaris Section easily crosses. For the taxonomist's benefit, Section Petiolaris has been divided into subsections (Richards 1993 and Green 1976), and much hybridizing between species within a subsection has been successful.

See the photos of 'Netta Dennis', 'Tantallon', *P. scapigera x bracteosa* 'scapeosa', and *P. aureata x deuteronana* for examples. The latter was described and photographed as a natural hybrid in *The Rock Garden*, January 2001.

The hybrid between *P. bhutanica* and *P. edgeworthii* named 'Tantallon' was first made by Henry and Margaret Taylor, (Richards); has beautiful sky blue flowers in March and April here and leaves covered with meal if protected from the rain. My plants are showing buds under cover in the garden as is a plant of *P. aureata* from Terry Mitchell as I write this January 13th.

Other species I am trying came from Fred and Monika Carrie's Tough Alpine Nursery in Tough, Aberdeenshire, Scotland. Three years ago I lost most of those plants that were shipped bare root and washed because I planted them into an overly rich potting mix. Last spring's shipment grew well outdoors during our wet summer and many of them; *Pp. bhutanica*, *deuteronana*, *gracilipes*, and *scapeosa* began blooming in September and some still are flowering in my cold greenhouse. Perhaps since our weather seems like the monsoon season and perpetual spring all summer and fall they do not get the signal of drying and cooling to go dormant as they would in their native habitat.

To have a chance to succeed with Petiolarids, one needs to live and grow in a cool summer climate. Finding plants to start with is a challenge but once acquired, they should be grown in a rich well drained soil in part to full shade with plenty of moisture in the summer

and dryer conditions in the winter. Rae Berry near Portland, Oregon had success with them started in a north facing cold frame and planted out in areas shaded by trees to the south, (*Primroses* Winter 1956). Grace Dowling (*Primroses* Winter 1964) mentions successfully growing *P. winteri*, (now *Edgeworthii* or *nana*) in the Seattle area and on Vancouver Island. Propagation by regular division is important after flowering or by sowing fresh seeds immediately. New plants may also be obtained from leaf bud cuttings of certain species, see Robinson 1990 pp60-61. Articles in *Primroses* Fall 1956 have more suggestions for seed starting, growth and propagation.

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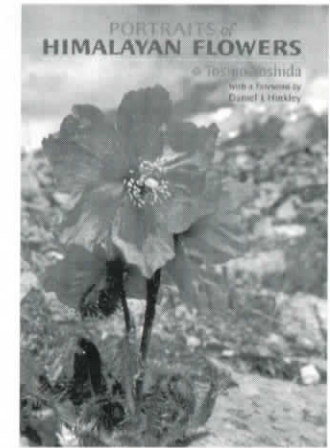
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Portraits of Himalayan Flowers Book Review by Ed Buyarski

Author and Photographer: Toshio Yoshida 124 pp, 108 color photos, 1 map, hardcover. ISBN 088192-551-9, US \$39.95 October 2002 Timber Press

Any book with a perfect photo of a blue poppy on its cover cannot be avoided by anyone calling himself a gardener. The author and photographer of *Portraits of Himalayan Flowers* has combined pictures of flowers many of us only dream of growing with scenery we dream of seeing. Mr. Yoshida's technical expertise has produced a fine work that also gives us hints of habitat and other plant associations along with some personal experiences of the hardships he endured to make it

possible; "Leeches lurking under the leaves... tried to climb onto my boots as I took the photograph".

A range of plants from the circumpolar *Potentilla fruticosa* and *Papaver nudicaule* in these exquisite surroundings to some of the endemics of a single mountainside shows us how fortunate we are to be able to enjoy these pictures from the comfort of our homes. *Primulas* and *Saussureas*, *Pedicularis* and *Meconopsis*; all must be seen in their ancestral homes among the mountains.

A small point for correction would be the translations of country names on the map on pages 14 and 15 just as the towns, passes and peaks have been.

Gardeners who may only dream of growing or visiting such alpine treasures of the Himalayas should have this book on their coffee table for encouragement. Botanical tourists may want to see what they have missed by trekking in the Himalayas during the dry season. We could only hope for another edition from this author with even more fine beauties to admire.

My Thirty Year Battle with Root Aphid By Derek Salt

Anyone who has grown any number of primulas in pots will have seen this pest. I first grew primula (polyanthus) in pots in the nineteen sixties. I grew them from seed as an annual crop, this way I could grow all available strains trying different ones each season. I grew them in peat compost. Root aphid was not a problem. However when I started to select the best and propagate them I started to see root aphid. I tried to control it with a dimethoate/permethrin product (PBI Crop Saver). It did a reasonable job, but it was never completely controlled. Even if I washed the roots I could never keep my plants free for more than a month or two. I lived with it for about ten years.

About 1980 I began to grow auriculas again (I had first grown them about 1958 but gave up when I went south to work). After a few years root aphid became a real problem, with about 10% of my plants affected at any one time. Root aphid does not normally kill a plant (winners at shows sometimes had root aphid). But, after a few years vigor is greatly reduced. There are a number of theories as to how root aphid is spread from plant to plant. It is often in plants we buy or are given. Often, even if you examine the roots carefully and don't see any, it will be there in small amounts. Some weeds also carry similar root aphid. In the UK groundsel is most often affected, the humble lettuce can also carry root aphid. Other plants affected

are *Sempervivum*, *Saxifrage* and possibly others. Good hygiene is essential.

The only way to keep clear of root aphid is to treat each plant before it is put with your collection, also keep weeds down as far as you can.

I lived with root aphid for many years until 1987 when Peter Ward told me of a product called "Chlorophos" that he and a few friends had been using with great success. This was a PBI product for the control of root pests of brassicae. Primula root aphid was not on the label, so its use was off-label and strictly speaking illegal under UK rules.

Chlorophos is a granular product containing 2.4% chlorophos and is applied to the soil from its sprinkler pack. The rate is as for brassicae on the label. No water is needed as the chemical is leached from the granule by the moisture in the compost. This is very useful in winter as most of us like to keep our plants rather dry at this time. The results were quite astonishing. The root aphid was controlled within a couple of months. In the next two years I cleaned up all my plants completely, the increase in vigor was quite obvious. Chlorophos is no longer manufactured so I had to find another way of keeping clear of the dreaded aphid.

About 2000 PBI launched Provado (PBI claim six months control of vine-weevil and one months control of greenfly, whitefly, blackfly and sciarid fly) to control vine-weevil, a serious pest in most of the UK, which eats roots from primula and a number of other genera. Peat composts seem to attract this evil

pest. The first thing you notice is a plant wilting. It is then often too late to show the plant that year and sometimes the plant will die. Provado completely controls vine-weevil and as a bonus it also controls root aphid very well indeed. A number of very big growers have told me that that they have cleaned up their plants with one application. The label carries no recommendation for root aphid use, therefore is strictly speaking illegal, but it is argued that if you apply to control vine-weevil, control of root aphid will also be achieved as a bonus. Most growers in the UK now use Provado and have not only got rid of the vine-weevil, but primula root aphid as well.

I replot in May and treat with Provado in August. It is fairly expensive. A pack of the product to make 250 liters costs £7. At the label use rate of 35 ml per three and a half inch pot that is about 1 pence per plant (calculated from label rate of 50 ml per four inch pot.). In dollars this is about 1.5 cents.

Provado is a formulation of iminocloprid and is marketed as "Marathon" in the USA. This article was written at the suggestion of April Boettger after we had had a discussion on her article in the Fall 2002 edition of *Primroses*. It was apparent that I did things rather differently than most growers in the USA.

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issue. It is easily removed for mailing!**

Continued from page 1

of Michigan for Secretary. Diana has offered suggestions for youth membership and for an electronic chapter via the internet. Please contact her for more information. New Board member candidates are Richard Austin from the UK and Rodney Barker from Massachusetts.

Thanks from all of us are due to Cheri Fluck for her many years as an officer, Board, Quarterly Librarian and now APS judge. Robert Tonkin has served as Secretary and continues as Quarterly Editor; a major job all by itself. Julia Haldorson is willing to continue as our treasurer and has kept a close watch on our finances for the past two years; Thank you Julia. Terry Mitchell has helped to bring an overseas balance to our Board while helping in the Primula e-group and chat where we have been having stimulating discussions and gaining new members. Judith Sellers has driven four hours to attend meetings of the New England Chapter, has bought or begged contributions to the Seed Exchange, helped to edit the Quarterly and participated in finding candidates for the ballot; great job Judy!

With the lengthening days comes seed to be planted, programs to be given, and promotional opportunities for primulas and the APS. Let's all go out and share our plants and our knowledge with others in our neighborhoods. Don't miss the National Show in Juneau this May or local Shows in the Northwest or Northeast either!

Ed Buyarski

American Primrose Society 2003 National Show

May 16th, 17th and 18th
Juneau, Alaska

Speakers and Workshops: Ann Lunn & Dorothy Springer
Friday Picnic, Saturday Potluck Dinner, Plant Sales and Garden Tours
Contact: CoChairPaul Dick (907) 586-3469 or
CoChair Kerri Tonkin (907) 463-3155 email kerri@gci.net

American Primrose Society 2003 Tacoma Chapter Show

April 10th, 11th, 12th, and 13th
Puyallup State Fairgrounds, Puyallup Washington
Setup April 9th and entries the same evening
or from 10am to 11am the 10th
Judging noon on the 10th

Contact: Thea Oakley (425)880-6177 email: thea@halcyon.com
or Candy Strickland (253)841-4192

American Primrose Society 2003 New England Chapter Primrose Flower and Plant Display

Saturday, May 10th, 10am to 3pm
Berkshire Botanical Gardens
Rt 102 & 83, Stockbridge, Massachusetts
Contact Elaine Malloy

PO Box 38, South Salem, NY 10590 email: elaineprim@aol.com

APS Board Minutes January 11th, 2003

In attendance were Diana P., Mike P., Richard A., Rodney B., Judy S., Mary I., Elaine M., Mary K., Pam E., Phyllis P., Pam F., Terry M., Thea O., Ed B., Julia H., Kerri T., Robert T. The previous minutes were read and approved as recorded.

Our Treasurer reported \$23,320.46 in assets, \$9,684.91 in our cash account and \$13,635.55 in our investment account. With the addition of credit card receipts of \$1,044.25 reported in the 1st quarter, the 2001-2002 Seed Exchange made a profit of \$972.11. Membership renewals seem to be lagging behind prior years' activity. It was agreed that the Treasurer should send out a postcard reminder to 2002 expiring members who have not yet renewed.

Our Editor reported costs for printing and mailing remain constant with previous issues. The Winter issue will focus on the Peteliolarids. The Editor was asked to look into the most cost efficient way to print our membership lists and report back to the Board. Opinions differ as to whether to keep the existing format or print our membership list separately. We mail using the USPS periodical rate, separate inserts are charged as first class mail.

Pam E. reported the transition of Webmasters went smoothly. She has redesigned our website and encourages all to visit the new features and expanded content. The number of visits to the site averages 18 per day.

Seed Exchange reported \$1,330.18 in expenses to date. Approximately 150 seed orders have been received. Repackaging of individual packets will soon be completed, and mailing will begin as soon as possible, but not before the 15th of January. Pam E. volunteered to help improve the forms used by the seed Exchange. Thea O. was asked if the Eastside/Tacoma Chapters would host next year's Seed Exchange. She will reply to the Board's request after discussion with members.

The Slide Library reported activity has been quiet. The slide library currently has \$51.00. An Asiatic Slide show by Terry Mitchell from 2002 of 15 slides is available now. Thank you so much Terry! Terry plans to have slides to add in coming years. We so appreciated his dedication and contributions to the slide library. Pam F. volunteered to begin the process of digitizing our slides for use and distribution electronically.

The Judging Committee reported they are in the process of updating and editing APS Show Rules for Board approval by the end of this year.

A motion was made and passed to remove the signature line from the APS ballot for Officers and Board members. Youth membership was discussed and tabled for additional information to be brought to the Board by Diana P. Additional discussion centered on proxy voting and the formation of internet based APS groups, with no action taken.

Respectfully,
Robert Tonkin
APS Secretary

A PLETHORA OF PRIMULA

April E. Boettger
244 Westside Hwy
Vader, WA 98593
(360) 295-3114

apopprimula@toledotel.com

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The primula of choice for us is the auricula - but we do or will do as many species as we can find as well as some choice hybrids. We are also establishing a nice collection of some of the other primulaceae such as dodecatheon and soldanella. We are mail order and also do assorted plant sales. We hope to have our catalog online for the 2002 season.

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Primulas On-Line

Primula Discussion Group
APS Membership not required.
Members from around the world!
Novice to highly experienced.
Email message boards, 2 weekly
on-line chats, photo archive and
more!



For more information go to:
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/primulas>
or email:
terry@auriculas17.freemove.co.uk

American Primrose Society On-line Website

**If you have not visited the
APS Website recently you
may wish to do so! Our
web-site has a new look,
all the information has
been updated, and new
content is being added
regularly. Come Visit!**

www.americanprimrosesoc.org

Want More Primroses?

Back issues of the A.P.S.
quarterly, Primroses, are
available from the A.P.S.
Quarterly Librarian. Prices
depend on the issue date:

1996-2002	\$6.50/copy
1990-1995	\$4/copy
1970-1989	\$2.50/copy
1990 & before	\$1.50/copy

**For availability or for order-
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USA
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American Primrose Society
P.O. Box 210913
Auke Bay, AK 99821

The purpose of this society is to bring the people interested in Primula together in an organization to increase the general knowledge of and the interest in the collecting, growing, breeding, showing and using in the landscape and garden the genus Primula in all its forms and to serve as a clearing house for collecting and disseminating information about Primula.

Membership in the Society includes a subscription to the quarterly publication *Primroses*, Seed Exchange privileges, Slide Library, and the opportunity to join a Round Robin. Membership renewals are due November 15th and are delinquent at the first of the year.

Membership and Renewal Rates

(Membership runs on the calendar year. Renewals are always due 11/15)

- ___ Individual, Domestic and Canada, One Calendar Year at \$25.00
- ___ Individual, Domestic and Canada, Three Calendar Years at \$70.00
- ___ Individual, Overseas One Calendar Year at \$32.00
- ___ Individual, Overseas Three Calendar Years at \$90.00
- ___ Individual Life Membership at \$350.00

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Please make checks payable to the American Primrose Society. Receipts will not be sent unless requested (S.A.E. Please)

American Primrose, Primula and Auricula Society
2003 Ballot for Officers and Board Members

For your vote to count, your ballot must be postmarked by April 30th, 2003.
 Please be sure to write "Ballot" on the outside of your envelope.
 Please tear out this page, complete the ballot and mail to:
 Robert Tonkin, APS Secretary, 3155 Pioneer Ave., Juneau, AK 99801

The following names have been submitted by the APS Nominating Committee.
 Biographies of these Nominees are on the back of this ballot.

___ For President **Ed Buyarski**
 ___ For President **Write in Candidate** _____

___ For Vice President **Michael Plumb**
 ___ For Vice President **Write in Candidate** _____

___ For Treasurer **Julia Haldorson**
 ___ For Treasurer **Write in Candidate** _____

___ For Secretary **Diana Pederson**
 ___ For Secretary **Write in Candidate** _____

___ For Board of Directors Position 1 **Richard Austin**
 ___ For Board Position 1 **Write in Candidate** _____

___ For Board of Directors Position 2 **Rodney Barker**
 ___ For Board Position 2 **Write in Candidate** _____

Comments and/or Suggestions for APS Officers, Board or Editor

APS Officer and Board Member Biographies

Ed Buyarski, Juneau, AK. Gardening is my life and the American Primrose Society has been a big part of it for the past few years. I have enjoyed leading the APS and believe that I can continue to promote this group of plants and people for two more years as President. Please help me to retain and increase our membership while providing more educational and social activities, continuing to improve both the Quarterly and Seed Exchange.

Michael Plumb, B.C. Canada. I was introduced to the joys of gardening by my wife, Rhondda, about twelve years ago. Without the existence of the American Primrose Society and the work of its members over the last half century, the world of gardening and exhibition growing would be greatly impoverished. I believe my enthusiasm and what knowledge I possess will help the APS Board to further the interests of the society and its members, and to promote the love of the genus *Primula*.

Julia Haldorson, Juneau, AK. I am a professional accountant who enjoys gardening in Southeast Alaska. The challenges of gardening in the country's largest rainforest are more than offset by the natural beauty that surrounds us. Lucky for me many species of *Primula* thrive in the thin, acidic soil and cloudy, rainy conditions of the region.

Diana Pederson, Lansing, MI. Diana Pederson is a garden writer and gardener living in Lansing, Michigan. She is a member of numerous plant societies including NARGS and APS. Diana was a member of APS in 1998 and rejoined in 2001. She is an avid gardener eager to bring both children and adults into the exciting world of gardening.

Richard Austin, Hants, England. I live in southern England on the edge of the New Forest and have always been interested in growing plants. Having bred fushias and lewisias, not with too great a success, I turned to growing auriculas about 15 years ago. Having managed to kill a few, I decided to find out why. Several hundreds of plants later I have decided to specialize in breeding double auriculas. I feel that members should be willing to help as well as receive benefits and if I can help in any way I will be only too happy.

Rodney Barker, Newton, MA. I have grown primulas in my garden in Newton, Massachusetts for the past 8 years. I have concentrated on varieties grown from seeds from Barnhaven, but have been branching out lately into some of the Asian species such as *Kisoana*, *Polyneura*, *Secundiflora* and *Florindae*.

Officers of the Chapters

British Columbia Primrose Group

President, Maedythe Martin
951 Joan Crescent
Victoria, B.C Canada
mjmartin@pacificcoast.net
(250) 370-2951

Doretta Klaber Chapter

President, Ann Hudnall
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Co-President, Lucille Koenig
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Eastside Chapter

President, Thea Oakley
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Redmond, WA 98053
Tel: (425) 880-6177 othea@mindspring.com

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President, Pam Finney
P.O. Box 23096, Juneau, AK 99801
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Co-Chairperson, Elaine Malloy
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Tel: (253) 841-4192
Co-President Cy Happy III
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(253) 588-2585

APS COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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