

AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY



Bulletin

DECEMBER, 1941

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W. F. CHRISTMAN, Editor
Northbrook, Ill.

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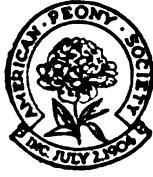
CONDITIONS OF MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the Society is open to both professional and amateur growers. Nomination is not necessary for those desiring admission, but a list of applicants for membership is presented to the Society at its annual meeting and the names are there voted upon.

Those who make application for membership at any time receive the current publications of the Society as they are issued.

The dues are \$3.00 a year, of which \$1.00 is toward a year's subscription to the American Peony Society BULLETIN. *All checks covering membership dues should be made to The American Peony Society and sent to the Secretary with application for membership.* Dues in future are to run from January 1st to January 1st of the following year.

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Control of Peony Measles by Ground Spray

The widespread peony disease commonly called measles, or rust, frequently causes considerable losses in peonies cut for the flower market. It discolors and disfigures stems and leaves and, during seasons that are extremely favorable for the development of the disease, damages buds and even the flowers of the most susceptible varieties. Infected plants show an abundance of small red or reddish-brown spots (figure 1). On the stem, the spots are pimplelike and remain quite minute throughout the season, but on the leaves some of the spots can increase in size, forming large blotchlike lesions. Hence, the name "blotch" is often applied to this same disease.

Peony measles is caused by a fungus called *Cladosporium Pæoniæ*. The fungus overwinters on old stems and leaves and when new shoots develop in the spring spores from the old leaf and stem debris initiate new infections.

Most commercial peony growers remove the old tops late in the fall or early in the spring before new growth appears. Stems are cut within an inch or so of the ground level with a hand scythe or power mower, and the tops are raked from the field and burned. This practice removes a large quantity of infective material, but not enough of it usually can be removed to give satisfactory control of measles. There still are left in the field many stem stubs and broken bits of leaf and stem debris on which the fungus can overwinter and cause much damage in the new crop.

GOOD IN APPLE ORCHARD

During recent years Elgetol, a proprietary compound containing the sodium salt of dinitro-ortho-cresol, with penetrating agents, has been reported from Wisconsin and other parts of the United States to be giving good control of apple scab when used as an orchard floor spray. The apple scab fungus overwinters, for the most part, on the old fallen leaves, and when the sodium dinitro-ortho-cresylate preparation comes in contact with such leaves the fungus is killed or spore formation is abated. Consequently, scab infection in the new crop is materially reduced by spraying the ground in apple orchards with this preparation.

Since this sodium dinitro-ortho-cresylate compound had given such satisfactory results in control of apple scab by eradicating the scab fungus in leaf debris on the ground, it was thought that possibly the same preparation might act in a similar manner on the measles fungus in peony fields. Accordingly, a preliminary test on the effectiveness of the compound in the control of peony measles was

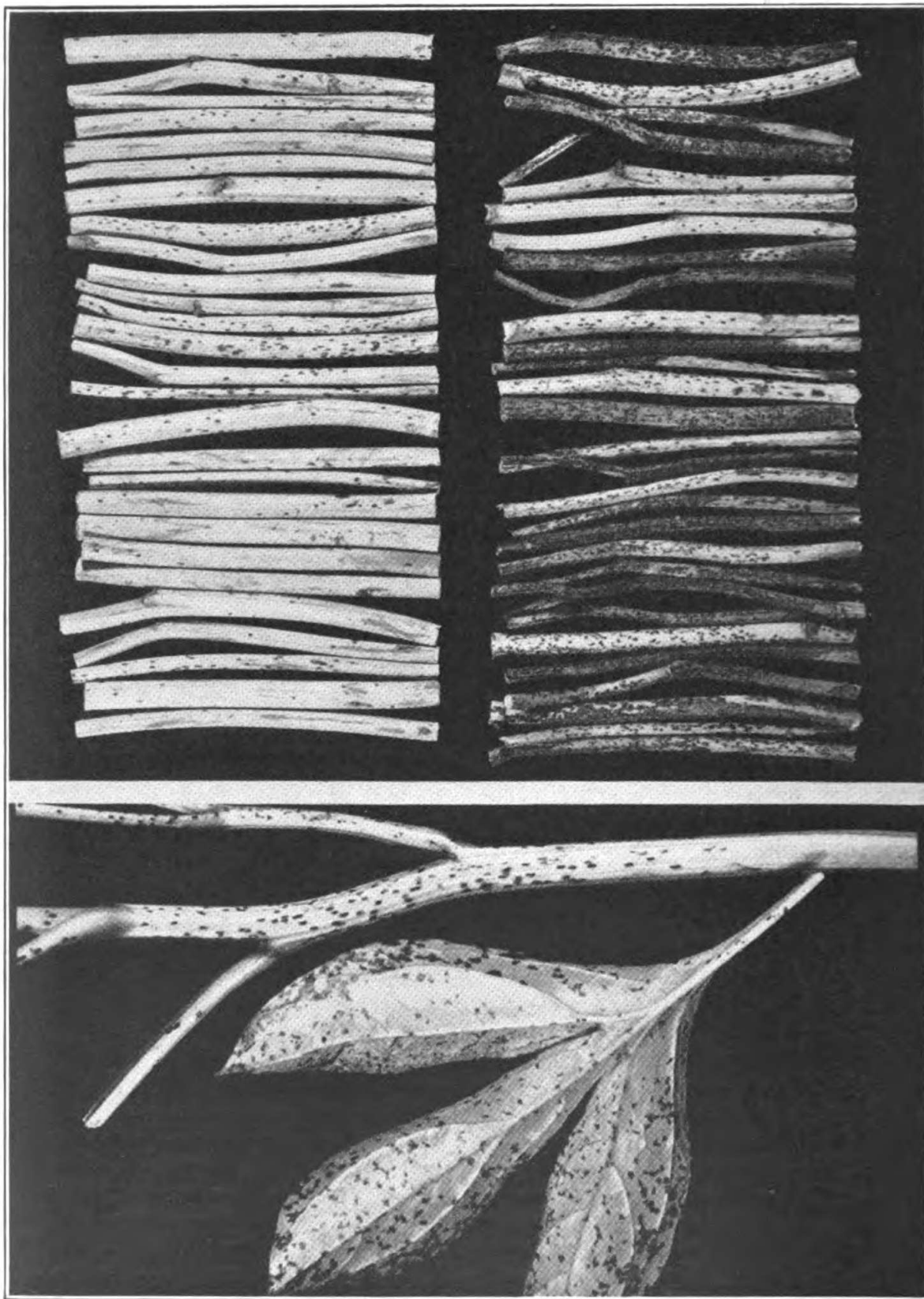


Figure 1. Peony Affected by Measles. Figure 2. Peony Measles Controlled by Spray (Above), Unsprayed (Below).

conducted last spring. The proprietary compound used in this test is said to contain thirty-four per cent active ingredients, consisting of twenty-two per cent sodium salt of dinitro-ortho-cresol, eleven per cent penetrating agent and one per cent active material merely referred to as "X"; the chemical constitution of the penetrating agent, as well as the "X" material, is not disclosed by the manufacturers.

A planting of *Felix Crousse* variety in which peony measles was severe during the preceding year was selected for the test. April 2, while the plants were still dormant, two widely separated plots in the planting were arranged. The old tops previously had been removed in the usual manner by the grower, leaving the usual stem stubs and the usual quantity of leaf and stem debris on the ground. One of the plots covered an area of 500 square feet and the other 1,200 square feet. In each plot, half of the ground area was sprayed with one per cent of the sodium dinitro-ortho-cresylate compound at the rate of one gallon to 200 square feet and the other half of each plot, as well as the remainder of the planting, which received no spray, served as checks. In applying the spray, care was exercised to cover uniformly all stem stubs and all scattered bits of old leaves and stems on the ground, as well as to cover uniformly the soil surface within the area.

The results of this preliminary test showed a striking reduction of peony measles infection in the sprayed areas in both plots. In figure 2 are illustrated at the top the most severely infected stems taken from each plant or hill in the sprayed plot and at the bottom from the unsprayed areas of the plots in the experiment. The results, even though based on limited experimental evidence, clearly indicate the practical possibilities of using this sodium dinitro-ortho-cresylate preparation in a peony disease control program.

DONALD B. CREAGER,
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Rating Peonies

ELMER A. CLAR, *Wilmette, Ill.*

The ratings used by the various floral societies to give comparative values of the various flowers are ordinarily helpful. However, in some instances I have found them misleading. I have found some very highly-rated Iris not hardy in my garden, some that were shy bloomers, some that were slow growers and some that faded too quickly. I have found some very highly-rated Peonies that will not bloom for me, some that very seldom bloomed for me, some with weak stems, some that faded quickly in the sun. I believe that if a few fundamentals were considered these ratings could be made much more helpful.

The American Iris Society, the American Peony Society and the American Amaryllis Society, which Society has a Daylily Committee, rate Iris, Peonies and Daylilies with a numerical system. I think the numerical method of evaluation is partially responsible for misleading those who depend on the ratings and even though it is used by so many important floral societies I should like to state my objections to this plan.

First: The numerical method of evaluation is an abstract perfection plan in which 100% is a perfect flower and a certain percentage is allotted for each of a number of characteristics of the flower, for example: 12% for form, 5% for floriferousness, 5% for vigor, etc. I cannot seem to make sense out of this plan. If an Iris grows well in California but is not hardy in Illinois, under the above plan it is penalized 5% because it is not hardy; in other words it could possibly

be marked 95% perfect and not be hardy. If it is not hardy in my garden it is 100% useless to me instead of 95% perfect. IF A FLOWER EMPHATICALLY LACKS ANY ONE IMPORTANT CHARACTERISTIC AFFECTING THE FUNDAMENTAL PURPOSE FOR WHICH IT IS TO BE USED, FOR EXAMPLE IF IT IS TO BE USED AS A PERENNIAL IN MY GARDEN AND LACKS EITHER HARDINESS, VIGOR, SUBSTANCE, CLARITY OF COLOR, FLORIFEROUSNESS, BRANCH BALANCE, OR FORM OF FLOWER OR PROPORTION, I THINK IT SHOULD BE RATED VERY, VERY LOW. On the other hand a flower may be bad in all others but have one outstanding characteristic that makes it a perfect delight to a hybridizer. How much would a hybridizer give for a pink Iris of the color of *Dianthus* or an Iris with a color like the tulip *Scarlet Emperor*, no matter what else it lacked? The thing that makes a plant impossible or undesirable for my garden is to me 100% important. The quality that makes a plant desirable is important to the man that wants it even if it lacks many other things.

Second: Many of the old introductions and some of the new ones are rated well over 90 and some of them very near 100, which would indicate they are nearly perfect. In the first place I can't imagine just what kind of a flower a 100% perfect Iris, Peony, or Daylily would be. Will we ever have perfection in a flower? I hope not. Would that not take away a lot of fun from our hybridizers when they have nothing for which to work? Great progress has been made in Iris but there is much to be done. Many Iris, Peonies and Daylilies are rated above 90 today that leave much to be desired. I believe there will be a greater improvement in these flowers in the next decade than there has been in the last.

Third: The allotment of percentages for each of the many details of a plant, for example, 12% for "form," 5% for "floriferousness," is purely arbitrary. These percentages have been changed many times. 11% or 15% might just as well be used for "form" or "floriferousness."

Fourth: Another theoretical difficulty with this method of evaluation is that one class of flower is often much further developed than the flowers in another class but even then we find the ratings very similar. For example, let us consider color classes. We have had good purple Iris for so long that you can now buy some of the best for a trivial sum and they are rated very high. Examine the yellow, pink and red Iris and you will find that tremendous advances have been made in recent years but the best red, yellow and pink Iris available today at any price leaves much to be desired in color and most of the best ones are very expensive. The same thing is true of daylilies. In the yellow and orange classes we find large numbers of offerings of very desirable and superior plants grown under similar conditions as established plants so that we can compare them. The pink, red, raspberry, maroon and rose classes have few members and there is little chance to make comparisons of established plants grown under similar conditions—but they are so rare that one's enthusiasm over them is boundless.

In rating plants there are two major points of view among the judges. The first has to do with the judges standard or idea of perfection of the flower; that is—what is a perfect flower? The second has to do with the reason why the judges and other people are or should be interested in the flower. The judges standard of perfection changes from year to year and from judge to judge because the numerical method of evaluation is not a definite standard or yard stick with which to measure a flower or a plant.

The manner in which the standard of perfection changes from year to year is so well known that I believe it needs no illustrations to prove the point.

The standard of perfection or yardstick of measurement of a plant changes from judge to judge. There are four different views possible and each one is found among our flower society judges.

The first judge is looking for a perfect flower. The flower must have all the best features of all other flowers. There is no such flower. A judge with this view always marks a flower very low.

The second judge is seeking a perfect Iris, Peony or Daylily. Take the Iris; he wants the best features of any and all Iris that he knows. Here he wants "the clarity of color of *Spun Gold*, the finish of *Early Mass*, the flower proportion of *Charlotte Millet*, the substance of *Copper Crystal* and the stalk and branch balance of *Stella Polaris*." There is no such flower in either Iris, Peony or Daylily. This judge has a high standard and he, also, always marks a flower low.

The third judge is looking for the best Iris, Peony or Daylily in existence either in commerce or in the seedling beds of our hybridizers in the various classes, i.e. various blooming seasons, various heights, shapes, color and price classes. In Daylilies his search among yellow and orange would be fairly well satisfied, but, in looking for the new variations in color in the early or intermediate bloomers, he will find them in very few places. If he seeks out the rose, pinks, raspberries, reds, maroons or purples in any season, there are only a few plants in the world that are available. Most of these are novelties, obviously expensive and not available generally for years. They are very difficult to compare for they are seldom found under similar conditions. For example, Mrs. Nesmith has a deep maroon hemerocallis seedling with large white lines in the middle of each petal and sepal. It is seedling No. 38-345. It is gorgeous. I took a very good color photograph of it so that I have something to help my memory, but one will not be able to get this plant for years because she has only one plant. I would like to grow it next to Mr. Hayward's *Emperor Jones* which is the only thing that I can remember with which it might even be compared. Both her plant and *Emperor Jones* are very superior plants, but nowhere in the world will you find them grown under similar conditions as three year old plants. The only thing I can do is to compare photographs and try to remember what each looks like one thousand miles apart. This is not at all a satisfactory method of comparing flowers. It's nice to know about the best daylily in each of the various classes but most of these will be found in the gardens of different hybridizers and will not be available for comparison under similar growing conditions for some time. The same thing is true of Iris and Peonies. These flowers are rated at present by the Iris and Peony Societies but I think they should not be.

The fourth judge is concerned with the best plants in commerce, plants that he can grow in his garden, plants in general distribution, plants listed in a commercial catalogue for at least three years so that a number of people know them and can compare them by actually seeing them grown under substantially similar conditions. It might be better to restrict all rating to this kind of plant.

So we see that when the judges try to use this plan there are four different points of view and no standard or staple method of comparison.

As a matter of fact, while it appears that certain judges can be found each of which uses one of the above four different standards of measurement of abstract perfection, in reality I do not think the judges use the plan at all. I have never seen an Iris judge with a voting schedule in his hands allotting definite percentages for each detail in a flower. What the judges really do is make comparisons with the existing plants in each class, i.e., a judge compares a white tall bearded Iris seedling with the best white tall bearded Iris that he knows, for example, *Mount Washington*, *Matterhorn*, *White Goddess*, *Mount Cloud*, *Stella Polaris*, *Snow Flurry*, *Patricia* or *Snow King*. This is also true of Peonies and Daylilies. A further definite proof that this plan is not used is furnished by the fact that there is a very little difference between the very best and the worst ratings in recent introductions in Iris.

Another matter that has impressed me about the present rating system is that different people may be interested in flowers for many different reasons but the numerical plan used by these societies assumes that they are or should be interested for one all-important reason. It appears to me that the American Iris Society, for example, is rating Iris as a perennial bed flower and they restrict the rating to a specific type of perennial bed, one where the flowers are grown at their best, in the sun. On the other hand it looks to me as if the American Peony Society bases its rating on the flower as it appears when well grown and well shown in a show-room.

I handed this article to Mr. David Hall to read and he said that he agreed with me about some of these ideas but the present plan, while not 100% successful, is the best we have had in use and he said, "Why not try to offer something better?" I therefore wish to submit a plan which I think would be better.

First—I would not rate a flower until it had been in commerce at least three years or long enough so that it could be found growing typically in a number of different gardens. I have done this with Daylilies in my private poll but it has not been adopted by the Society.

Second—I would not publish a rating as that of a national flower society until the flower received a certain minimum number of rating votes, 10 or certainly not less than five. I have so limited the ratings with Daylilies but it has not been adopted by the Society.

Third—I would have the society copyright its rating and insist that if the rating was used that the year the rating was given be published. Too often an Iris, Peony or Daylily which has been superseded or outclassed will be described in some catalogs with a very old rating. If there is a subsequent higher or lower rating this should be used.

Fourth—I would get back to some elementary fundamentals for the rating of plants. The most general reason why people are interested in plants is, I suppose, that people want to grow the flowers because they have some use for them. They must therefore be hardy. If California Iris grow well in California there is no reason for their not being rated high in that region. If certain California Iris do not live in Illinois there is no reason for their being rated high in Illinois. The American Iris Society and the American Peony Society should first create geographic districts so that the flowers can be rated high where they are grown well and rated low where they will not grow well or at all. This has been started with the Daylily and adopted by our Society.

Fifth—Why assume that all people are interested in these flowers for the same reason or reasons when this is not true. *To rate is to compare, with the objective of satisfying some given purpose for the person who is making the comparison.* What are the most obvious reasons why people are interested in Iris, Peonies and Daylilies? Is it not better to set out the most obvious reasons why people are interested in these flowers and help them acquire what they want by rating the flowers within these given classes?

Some of the most obvious reasons why people are interested in Iris, Peonies and Daylilies are as follows:

- 1—One person may want the flowers for hybridizing purposes. Let our judges tell us some of the flowers that are best for this purpose. Color in any flower is very important. In Iris, *Sea Shell* is a lovely pink and good for hybridizing but evidently it has nothing else. The Sass Brothers have a red flower which is used a great deal by the hybridizers for its color even though it has nothing else but color. Certain flowers are good for branching and floriferousness. Sterility would be a consideration in this group. Set out the qualities which would interest a hybridizer then rate the flowers. Let's help these people by rating flowers with this purpose in mind.

- 2—Another individual wants the flower for naturalizing. He wants something that will have a vivid coloring at a distance, will grow without care and he wants something that he can secure at a low cost because he wants them in quantities. Let's help this person by rating flowers with this purpose in mind.
- 3—Another individual wants the flowers so he can sell them to make a living. He may want to sell the flowers, the roots or the seeds. He wants something that is surely hardy. He wants something that is a dependable bloomer, something with a lot of blooms, something that will stand up and will keep a long time, in the fields, bouquet or cold storage room. He wants something to sell reasonable so he can find a market. I understand the peony *Edulis Superba*, which was so uninteresting in my garden that I took it out, is tops as a cut flower because it blooms very early. Let's help this person by rating flowers with this purpose in mind.
- 4—An individual may be interested in flowers for bouquets and arrangements. He has a special point of interest. Let's help this person by rating flowers with this purpose in mind.
- 5—An individual may want flowers for the showroom or for exhibition purposes, to win prizes with them. To do this you must know, grow, and show. Showing involves a real technique. For example, in a Peony show I saw a lady lose first prize because her delphinium was de-budded. If you are going to exhibit flowers for show purposes you must learn the technique. Which flowers are best for shows, how should we prepare them and show them? Let's help these people.
- 6—Some people are interested in daylilies to use them as food. Which are the best daylilies for this purpose?
- 7—Some individuals want these flowers for their perennial beds. One person wants them for specimen plants and another as part of a garden picture. As part of a garden picture one is interested in:
 - a—The time of bloom—early, medium, or late, everblooming, etc.
 - b—The color—I suggest dividing Iris and Daylilies into:
 - 1—Monochromes (Selfs or one color flowers)
 - 2—Bi-colors (two colors)
 - 3—Polychromes (three or four colors)
 - 4—Blends (combination of any two or more colors) (Yellow need not be a part)
 - c—The height
 - 1—Dwarf
 - 2—Medium
 - 3—Tall
 - d—The price
 - 1—One person wants the best flower in its class irrespective of price.
 - 2—Another person wants a good flower but modest in price.

I would first classify the plants for each given purpose and then indicate which is first, second and perhaps third best in each given class and forget the percentages.

The classification of flowers according to some particular quality or characteristic for example—color has been done by a number of individuals. Junius Fishburn, Treasurer of the American Iris Society, a man who has perhaps the largest collection of bearded iris of anyone and who has traveled as far as 10,000 miles in one year inspecting irises discusses iris in the April, 1939, Bulletin of the American Iris Society. He discusses them from three points of view: (1) Geographical, (2) Varietal notes listed alphabetically and (3) Discussions by color groups, using the color groups that Robert Schreiner uses in his catalogue. Under color groups he picks out the best in each given class. This is one of the most helpful articles on bearded iris that I have ever read. I believe he improved on this good work this year when he subdivided his color groups into novelties which are obviously

expensive and inexpensive but good iris. In that article Mr. Fishburn says, "The most useful commercial catalogue is that of Robert Schreiner's and its added usefulness come primarily from the fact that he lists iris both alphabetically and by color groups."

Robert Schreiner's catalogue has always been a favorite with me. It does not set out the American Iris Society ratings. He first divides it into a group of iris distinguished by their date of bloom as the Early bloomers or dwarfs, the Intermediates, the bearded iris and the Fall bloomers. The bearded iris are divided into three groups: 1—his new introductions for the current year, 2—the general list of iris and 3—the standard list of inexpensive varieties. He also has a list of table iris. In the second part of his catalogue the iris are grouped according to color classes with complete data about each variety, i.e., height, price, performance, season of bloom, hybridizer and year of introduction. He lists the more recent introductions which he has not seen in bloom in his garden as on trial. I believe his color classes could be improved and simplified.

Another feature of his catalogue is that he selects the 100 best iris. This list has always received my most careful consideration. I usually grow nearly all of them. He again excludes the iris on trial from this list. I believe this list would be better if it were divided into two groups; novelties and inexpensive varieties.

Kenneth Smith compiled an unofficial list of the 50 best iris as selected by a select list of judges in the various regions of the United States. These iris cost over \$500.00 or an average of \$10.00 each. This fact would somewhat limit its usefulness. However he also classified these selections according to color. It would have been much more useful if he had taken a poll on the best novelties and a poll on the best inexpensive varieties in various classes.

David Hall compiled a very helpful list of iris a few years back based on color classes by having the American Iris Society members in his region vote on the favorite iris in each color class. He then compiled the votes for each iris.

If you must stick to the percentage method of rating, a flower should have several ratings. For example, the peony *Philippe Rivoire* in my perennial garden is a very shy bloomer. Therefore I will rate it 7 as a perennial plant as I grow it; I'll rate it 8 as I have seen it grown by Mr. Christman in his nursery. If you have enough plants to secure a fine bloom and cut one and prepare it properly and show it well it will very likely win a prize for you in the showroom. Therefore for this purpose I will rate the prize winning bloom 9.2. It is a rare and expensive plant. Therefore a commercial grower who wants to raise the flower and sell the flowers will not make any money with it. Therefore for the purpose of florists selling the flower I will rate it 2 at the present time. From the point of view of naturalizing it is expensive and rare and its rating for this purpose is very low. From the point of view of selling its roots it is highly advertised and the price has been kept staple, so the roots must be in great demand for a commercial grower. Here it gets a high rating.

Isn't it rather obvious that from the point of view of uses of the flower many different ratings are necessary. It might be said that these various ratings would cause too much work to get them together. If the present ratings are sometimes misleading, it isn't too much to ask the judges to adopt a plan in which none of the ratings are misleading and all of the ratings would be more helpful.



Why Not Grow More Peonies?

W. F. CHRISTMAN, *Secretary*

As I drive through the country and pass by city homes I am surprised to see the many fine places where peonies have not been made a part of the landscape or home planting. It has always seemed very strange to me that this wonderful and satisfactory perennial did not find a place in the home of every flower lover, and the question, why not grow more peonies has been a very vital one to me for many years.

I have always held in high esteem the small group of enthusiastic peony lovers who on Feb. 18, 1903, answered the call of Mr. C. W. Ward, then President of the Cottage Gardens Nursery Co., Queens, Long Island, and formed the American Peony Society, holding their first annual meeting in Detroit, Mich., June 11th and 12th, 1903.

At that time peony nomenclature was hopelessly mixed and if one ordered a peony by name they were apt to get anything in variety and most anything in existing colors.

They had a task on their hands but they met the issue with a determination that was not to be dimmed in any way. Many years were required to bring about the present order of things. Test gardens were established and careful check made to determine true varieties. Nurserymen were educated to know the true varieties and where they could be obtained from occasional bulletins disseminated by the young Society. The membership grew, (from twenty-three charter members in 1902) rather slowly at first but as years passed and the efforts of their labors began to bear fruit, the Society grew steadily until several hundred members were added. The quarterly bulletins of the Society and the splendid peony manual with supplements that has been issued and distributed to peony lovers, has been the means of helping many thousands to know the true merits of the peony.

Why should we be interested in peonies?

In planning our gardens we usually have a few outstanding features that we wish to follow out. One is that we desire our garden at all times to have an attractive appearance. There are few perennials that can compare with the peony in this respect. It forms a very beautiful green background as soon as the leaves appear; in June we are presented with a beautiful display of gorgeous bloom, but this is not all; after the blooming the plants can be trimmed up in various shapes to conform with the rest of the landscape and present a fine background the entire season until heavy frosts cut them down.

Another desire of most gardeners is to have plants that are hardy and require minimum attention. In this respect the peony is unrivalled by any other flower. Reports come to me from far north in the Canadian country where temperatures often drop to 65 below zero and in these very sections we have members who report their peonies never fail them. What more can we say for hardiness. They will survive drought and even exist without civilization. We know no true gardener will permit them to go without cultivation, for in this way they are better able to withstand lack of moisture for extended periods of time. The general thought that peonies will not do well in the south is being disproved by a number of peony enthusiasts who have planted them as far south as Mississippi and report splendid results. The northern section of the country is ideally suited for their culture as they need rest that winter months afford.

I grant you that peonies do not establish themselves as rapidly as many other perennials, but after the second year they give a splendid account of themselves, even the first year after planting some results may be expected. Year after year they increase in beauty and vigor if they are properly cared for. The refinement

of the flower and the wide range of color combinations is most pleasing; the long period of bloom, with proper selection, the diversity of foliage formation; the splendid landscape possibilities; the remunerative prospects are only a few of the scores of reasons why we should be interested in peonies.

The peonies of grandmother's day, while of great beauty, have been relegated to the background in many cases due to the gorgeous new forms and colors produced by hybridization during the past 25 years.

In this day and age we are obliged to select flowers that are not constantly annoyed or damaged by insect devastation. The peony does not appeal to insects and there are very few diseases with which it is troubled.

The peony has been traced back to a report in Pliny's History A.D. 77. The possibility of its existence long before that time is doubtless true. As early as 1879 Mr. H. Huftelen in *Vick's Magazine* paid the peony this splendid tribute. "No flowering plants capable of enduring our northern winters are more satisfactory than the peonies. Massive without being coarse, fragrant without being pungent, grand without being gaudy, various in form and color, beyond the possibility of being successfully superseded, they stand in the first rank of hardy flowers."

Wide range of varieties extends booming period

One of the common criticisms we generally hear voiced about the peony is its short season of bloom. If one can only find room for one or two plants, this may prove true, but if you have the space, and most of us have, plant a number that have been carefully selected for their blooming habits and you will be able to enjoy several weeks of delightful bloom. When I tell you that you can have at least six weeks of bloom or more by the proper selection of species, I am stating a fact that many flower lovers do not know.

This is accomplished by selecting a number of different species. *P. tenuifolia* is among the first to bloom in the spring, followed by *P. Witmanniana* hybrids in May, and a little later by *P. officinalis*. Early in June the shrubby *P. Moutan* makes its debut with a wonderful mass of large flowers. This is closely followed by another shrubby form of *P. lutea*—a somewhat rare and recent introduction with large golden yellow flowers. The last to bloom are the numerous varieties of early, midseason and late types of *P. albiflora*.

With the new hybrid peonies we are brought into an entirely new phase of the peony. In these new hybrids we have colors that are not now possible in the *Chinensis* varieties. If you have not seen them, you surely have a surprise in store for they are truly aristocrats and with their early blooming habits fill in a period that make them most welcome visitors to our gardens.

The tree peony, *P. Moutan*, is a native of China, its discovery dating previous to the sixth century. It is greatly admired and a great favorite with the Japanese. It grows in the form of a small shrub and does not die back like *P. albiflora*. During the past few years considerable splendid progress has been made in the propagation of new varieties of this specie and some of the remarkable colors such as yellows, mauve, blue and many other unusual colors and blendings may be found. There is a growing demand for the tree peony and the few commercial growers who feature this splendid addition to our floral world should have a very fertile field to distribute their products. Their propagation is considerably more difficult than other varieties mentioned. The propagation can be left to the professional grower who has the proper facilities and is conversant with the proper method of procedure. The commonest method is by grafting upon the fleshy roots of herbaceous types. The operation is performed in August or September, so that new roots will be developed before winter.

A healthy root of *P. albiflora* is selected and slit about two inches from the crown downward. A scion with at least two buds is cut wedge-shaped and inserted into

this slit and then bound tightly with raffia. The grafted plant is potted, leaving one eye of the scion above ground, and the pot is plunged into a cold-frame where it remains over winter and the following season. Other methods of propagation are layering, division of roots, cleft grafting and cuttings. With the new chemicals that are being used to promote root growth on cuttings, it would seem that a greater degree of success could be secured with cuttings than was formerly achieved. When we read of the wonderful success being obtained with some flowers in some parts of the country with the use of vitamin B₁ we are wondering what, if any, success it will prove in the propagation of peonies. It will doubtless promote root growth, and with splendid root growth, the development of the plant will be assured. Experiments will be made this coming year and results will doubtless be available within the next year or so. Personally I feel that this chemical, Thiamine Hydrochloride, will work wonders in the floral world, and with this thought the question arises in my mind, whether or not undue revitalization or rejuvenation of plant cells may not result disastrously as is often done by over-fertilization to a point where nature rebels. We will personally do some experimenting along this line and only await the opening of spring to turn ourselves loose on some unsuspecting plants where we can give full sway to our pent up ambitions.

Following the various hybrids and tree peonies, we come to the most common and better known of all peonies, the *Chinensis* varieties of our present day. During the past twenty-five years, wonderful advance has been made and it would seem that the ultimate goal had been reached when we view these beauties at our annual exhibitions, still every year one or more new ones make their bid for fame. Many new ones are named yearly but only a small percent ever get above the mediocre varieties now in existence. Now and then a new color or color combination is brought out, but we find in the final analysis it is varieties that have been originated some years back that the judges select for the best flower in the show, as a general rule. They must be tried and true and pass the acid test of analytical comparison with originations long considered the standard of excellence. This is rather discouraging and heart breaking to some originators who feel that their product cannot be excelled or duplicated. I am referring to those new in the work and who have not learned from long years of experience what a task it is to produce something really worth while and superior or excelling varieties now in commerce. I would not for a moment discourage propagation, because from these extended experiences and efforts there often arises a new variety of outstanding class that will find its way with the very select originations. What I do want to warn against and to discourage most heartily is the indiscriminate naming and putting into commerce varieties new in name only and without anything of merit to recommend them.

Making choice of varieties

There are a number of ways one can follow in making a collection of desirable varieties. We have mentioned three types of peonies, the specie-hybrids, the tree peonies and the commonly known *Chinensis* varieties. In this article we will not be permitted to go into detail covering any of the three. Anyone desiring more information regarding any or all of the above types should secure a copy of the *Peony Manual of the American Peony Society*, that is now being offered for a limited time to any flower lover for a greatly reduced price of \$2.25, far under actual cost of production. Full details may be received by writing the Secretary of the Society at Northbrook, Ill.

Read all the books you can find in your library on the peony and obtain a general knowledge of the most desirable kinds. As a matter of fact, all peonies offered to the public by reliable growers are good. True, some are better than others.

Attend peony shows whenever possible and learn first hand your preferences as to color and type. Visit peony plantings in your neighborhood, and if there are none, make a peony pilgrimage to some of the larger growers of peonies in your vicinity. Many peony lovers who already have large plantings of peonies think nothing of traveling several hundred miles to attend the annual exhibition of the American Peony Society or the extensive fields of some commercial grower. The annual 1942 exhibition of the American Peony Society will be held in Topeka, Kansas in early June. In addition to the annual exhibitions, there will be regional peony shows and numerous local peony shows throughout the peony growing section of the country. Field visitation will doubtless afford the very best means of making pleasing selections of color and growth of plant. As in coloring, there is a wide variation in the formation of plants and foliage. There are the dwarf growing kinds; those attaining medium height and again those towering above all others. In this deviation of plant formation is to be found a still wider range in leaf variation. Most all are pleasing while some are especially attractive and appealing to the eye. There is also a wide variation in foliage coloring that is interesting. We can find just the plant we want to fit our landscape arrangement, be it color, size of plant or other qualifications. Later on we will give you a list of what is considered a very desirable selection. Many of the very recent and high priced varieties are not listed but they should eventually be added to your collection if you desire to possess the best.

Landscape possibilities

I feel that every yard and garden, either private or public, has a place for peonies. There is no other perennial that I know of that will be found more satisfactory.

Landscape design, a most important factor in the completion of any home, is receiving more consideration each year. Ornamental shrubbery and graceful shade trees in decorative combinations; curving walks and driveways diverging in all directions; charming lily pools and exquisite sunken gardens; the winding, shaded pathways bringing one abruptly into new visions of beauty at every turn; the fountains with their flowering streams and placid pools of sparkling water; the peony, the rose gardens; the gay perennials borders portraying delightful visions and contentment throughout the growing season are but a few of the things that can be accomplished in landscape design. Landscape architects each year are using more peonies for they can be used in great profusion and will produce a bewildering field of fragrance and delight. They can be used as specimen plants in the lawn or in group plantings with striking effect. Checkered with sunlight and shadow they will call forth unqualified admiration. In hospital grounds the perfect riot of color to be obtained will lend a soothing and healing influence to the convalescent. When planted near public buildings or establishments where workers have little time for relaxation, these people will be benefitted, as the peonies will replace the sordid things of life and give those viewing them a new conception of the beauty of nature. Their freedom from disease and insect pests is another admirable trait of the peony. While they are not entirely immune, compared with other perennials they are practically free. The ease of culture of the peony is one of its soundest attributes. They can be almost entirely, if not entirely neglected and still push their way through the tough sod environment to which they have been subjected and bring forth radiant bloom as if to challenge man for his indolence and indifference. This is doubtless one of the reasons it has not been planted as generally as it deserves. Gardeners and flower lovers like to fuss over plants and coddle them along, as a usual thing, to get results. Don't think for a minute that the peony will not permit this affection and care. It will, respond most graciously.

When and how to plant peonies

During the months of September, October and early November the peony will be found dormant and this is considered the very best time to plant. However it has been proved without question that early spring planted peonies will do about equally well. This is particularly true when the roots have been carried over in proper storage conditions. If peonies are to be dug and planted in the spring, there is considerable danger of damaging the fine feeding rootlets and thereby retarding the growth to some extent. If you are prevented for any reason from fall planting, don't hesitate to plant in early spring, as you will gain considerable growth over plants that have been set out in the fall, if you are anxious to have them become established as soon as possible. Up to within recent years, in fact at the present time, there are some who do not advocate spring planting. We have planted many thousands in the spring and if the growing season is satisfactory, they will make substantial growth and development, and it is this advancement that counts when rapid establishment is contemplated.

In the southern section of the peony belt, fall planting may be continued through November and well into December, or until the ground freezes to prevent any activities of this kind.

There are many different methods employed in planting but for the amateur who has plenty of time to prepare the ground for the reception of the plant, we would recommend digging a hole about a foot or eighteen inches in diameter to a depth of about 18 inches. In the bottom of this hole place about three or four inches of well rotted manure and cover with about six inches of good top soil. This will leave about eight or nine inches remaining for planting operation. Roots are usually trimmed back to about six or seven inches which will allow them to be placed in position with the eyes about an inch or so below the level of the ground. The manure and loose earth will settle at least an inch or more and this is why we recommend setting the eyes about an inch below the surface. When the ground has settled, they will be at least two inches below the level of the ground which is all right. It is much better to prepare the holes some two or three weeks before planting is contemplated and firming the loose soil and manure by either wetting it or tramping it down. If this is done, it will not be necessary to allow for settling and you will be more positive as to the planting depth. If well rotted manure is not available a handful or two of bone meal mixed with the loose soil will be very beneficial. Commercial fertilizers can be used as directed and they will also give good results and here is another important "don't" that I neglected to speak of and that is **DON'T OVER-FERTILIZE YOUR PEONIES**. Many directions advise that the peony is a gross feeder and should be well fertilized. It is often overdone to the damage or destruction of the entire plant structure.

The above method of planting is quite in contrast to the commercial method employed by the writer this past fall when we figured from 5 to 8 seconds to complete the planting of one root; the five seconds was when we started out and the eight seconds after we had planted for a few hours. Sounds like machine planting but it was not. A good spade and an equally good physical body accomplished the trick. Considerably over 40,000 were planted and speed was essential in accomplishing the task.

A brief list of desirable varieties

After reading and studying what peony information you can obtain, you come to the point where selections of varieties are to be made.

One of the perplexing and confusing problems that confronts the novice or amateur who contemplates the planting of peonies is to be faced with an extended list of varieties, each alluringly described with flowery adjectives, and attempt to

select a few for his own planting. It is much easier to make selections from the field or show room, but if this is not possible, it is necessary to make selection from descriptions or ratings. The reading of each description usually adds to our confusion and creates indecision in selection. As one acquires knowledge of the peony, it is easy to make selection with positive assurance of getting what you desire, as any reliable grower will stand back of his stock and assure satisfaction.

As the price varies with different growers and in different locations, it is not deemed expedient to quote them. We have included both the cheaper and the higher priced varieties as well as some of the older and well established varieties along with the more recent acquisitions. Some of the medium priced varieties will possess as much merit and charm as much more expensive varieties. In most cases, price is established due to rareness of the variety or in some cases from the fact that the particular variety is slower to propagate. We recommend the standard three to five eye divisions offered by nearly all growers. One year plants from division are also very fine and also have our hearty endorsement. Slightly older plants, say two years, from the divisions, are also desirable if quicker results are desired, and such plants can be secured at a slightly higher price, usually one-half or double the amount is added to the price of the standard division. In our list will be found only desirable varieties that have proved their worth. We cannot in this list include all the good ones nor is it our intention to do so, because it is impossible unless an extensive list is presented. We have shown the ratings as well as the color and season and this may be of assistance in selecting varieties. Peonies marked with an (*) are new and unrated varieties as yet.

Double Varieties

<i>Early White</i>	<i>Midseason White</i>	<i>Late White</i>
8.1 <i>Duchess de Nemours</i>	9.2 <i>A. B. Franklin</i>	9.0 <i>Alesia</i>
9.3 <i>Festiva Maxima</i>	9.1 <i>Frances Willard</i>	8.6 <i>A. P. Saunders</i>
8.7 <i>James Kelway</i>	8.7 <i>Betty Blossom</i>	8.6 <i>Argentine</i>
8.9 <i>Frankie Curtis</i>	8.5 <i>General Gorgas</i>	9.0 <i>Baroness Schroeder</i>
8.9 <i>Jubilee</i>	9.4 <i>Harry F. Little</i>	8.1 <i>Couronne d'Or</i>
9.1 <i>Lady Alexandra Duff</i>	8.9 <i>John M. Good</i>	9.0 <i>Duluth</i>
8.3 <i>Perette</i>	9.5 <i>Kelway's Glorious</i>	9.4 <i>Elsa Sass</i>
* <i>Florence Nicholls</i>	9.1 <i>La Lorraine</i>	9.5 <i>Evening Star</i>
	9.4 <i>Le Cygne</i>	9.2 <i>Grace Loomis</i>
	8.3 <i>Marie Jacquin</i>	8.5 <i>Marie Lemoine</i>
	8.6 <i>Mme. Edouard Doriat</i>	9.0 <i>Mary B. Vories</i>
	8.9 <i>Mme. Emile Lemoine</i>	9.2 <i>Mrs. A. B. Franklin</i>
	9.4 <i>Mme. Jules Dessert</i>	9.0 <i>Mrs. A. M. Brand</i>
	8.5 <i>Mons. Dupont</i>	9.0 <i>Mrs. Frank Beach</i>
	9.3 <i>Mrs. Edward Harding</i>	9.5 <i>Mrs. J. V. Edlund</i>
	9.2 <i>Mrs. W. L. Gumm</i>	9.0 <i>Nina Secor</i>
	9.1 <i>Myrtle Gentry</i>	8.9 <i>Resplendent</i>
	9.3 <i>Nick Shaylor</i>	9.0 <i>Rev. H. N. Tragitt</i>
	9.0 <i>Odile</i>	8.6 <i>Secy. Fewkes</i>
	9.0 <i>Priscilla Alden</i>	9.2 <i>Solange</i>
	8.5 <i>Shaylor's Dream</i>	9.4 <i>Tourangelle</i>
	9.0 <i>Susan B. White</i>	9.3 <i>W. L. Gumm</i>
<i>Early Light Pink</i>	<i>Midseason Light Pink</i>	<i>Late Light Pink</i>
8.6 <i>Eugenie Verdier</i>	8.6 <i>Albert Crousse</i>	9.0 <i>A. M. Slocum</i>
8.6 <i>Ginette</i>	9.0 <i>Chief</i>	* <i>Blushing Beauty</i>
8.6 <i>Judge Berry</i>	8.9 <i>Daphne</i>	8.4 <i>Chestine Gowdy</i>

DOUBLE VARIETIES (Continued)

- | | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 8.7 <i>Luetta Pfeiffer</i> | 8.6 <i>Denis Debatene</i> | 9.1 <i>Cornelia Shaylor</i> |
| 9.0 <i>Marietta Sisson</i> | 8.7 <i>Elise Renault</i> | 8.9 <i>Franklin's Pride</i> |
| 8.5 <i>Octavie Demay</i> | 8.9 <i>Elizabeth Huntington</i> | 8.8 <i>Grace Batson</i> |
| 9.5 <i>Therese</i> | 8.9 <i>Eunice Shaylor</i> | 8.8 <i>Grandiflora</i> |
| 8.4 <i>Venus</i> | 9.2 <i>Florence McBeth</i> | 8.6 <i>Henry M. Vories</i> |
| | 8.9 <i>Georgiana Shaylor</i> | 8.8 <i>Henry Avery</i> |
| | 9.1 <i>Hans P. Sass</i> | 8.9 <i>James Boyd</i> |
| | 9.1 <i>Hansina Brand</i> | 8.8 <i>Lady Kate</i> |
| | 9.0 <i>Hazel Kinney</i> | 8.5 <i>La Perle</i> |
| | 9.0 <i>June Day</i> | 8.1 <i>Livingstone</i> |
| | 9.0 <i>Katharine Havemeyer</i> | 9.0 <i>Mary Woodbury Shaylor</i> |
| | 8.9 <i>Lillian Gumm</i> | 9.1 <i>Minuet</i> |
| | 9.0 <i>Mabel L. Franklin</i> | 8.5 <i>Mme. Emile Galle</i> |
| | 8.9 <i>Marie Crousse</i> | 9.2 <i>Mrs. C. S. Minot</i> |
| | 9.0 <i>Milton Hill</i> | 8.3 <i>Mrs. Geo. Bunyard</i> |
| | 8.9 <i>Minnie Shaylor</i> | 8.8 <i>Phoebe Cary</i> |
| | 8.8 <i>Mme. Emile Debatene</i> | 9.3 <i>President Wilson</i> |
| | 9.1 <i>Mrs. Romaine B. Ware</i> | * <i>Sensation</i> |
| | 9.1 <i>Nancy Dolman</i> | 9.1 <i>Souv. de Louis Bigot</i> |
| | 8.9 <i>Pride of Essex</i> | |
| | 8.7 <i>Reine Hortense</i> | |
| | 9.0 <i>Rosa Bonheur</i> | |
| | 8.8 <i>Rosette</i> | |
| | 8.4 <i>Strassburg</i> | |
| | 8.8 <i>Wilton Lockwood</i> | |
| | 9.0 <i>Phyllis Kelway</i> | |

Early Dark Pink

- 9.2 *La Fee*
 9.2 *Mons. Jules Elie*
 9.0 *Silvia Saunders*
 8.5 *Standard Bearer*

Midseason Dark Pink

- 8.7 *Claire Dubois*
 9.1 *Edwin C. Shaw*
 8.7 *E. J. Shaylor*
 8.8 *Ella Christiansen*
 8.2 *Gigantea*
 9.0 *Gloriana*
 8.7 *James R. Mann*
 8.9 *Laverne Christman*
 8.7 *Mary P. King*
 8.9 *Miss Eckhart*
 9.0 *Mrs. Deane Funk*
 9.4 *Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt*
 9.3 *Mrs. Livingston Farrand*
 9.0 *Raoul Dessert*
 8.5 *Sarah Carstensen*
 8.2 *Susette*
 9.3 *Walter Faxon*
 9.2 *Victory Chateau Thierry*

Late Dark Pink

- 8.9 *Blanche King*
 8.5 *Clemenceau*
 8.3 *Evening Glow*
 8.6 *Eugenie Verdier*
 8.5 *Exquisite*
 9.0 *La France*
 8.4 *Lamartine*
 9.0 *Loren Franklin*
 9.1 *Martha Bulloch*
 8.8 *Maud L. Richardson*
 9.0 *Mrs. John M. Kleitsch*
 8.8 *President Coolidge*
 8.8 *Pres. F. D. Roosevelt*

<i>Early Reds</i>	<i>Midseason Reds</i>	<i>Late Reds</i>
8.5 Adolphe Rousseau	8.7 Auguste Dessert	8.2 Brand's Magnificent
8.7 Cherry Hill	8.4 David Harum	8.2 Commander
8.8 Mons. Martin	8.4 Felix Crousse	8.2 Grover Cleveland
Cahuzac	8.8 Grace Ott	8.6 Harry L. Richardson
8.8 Richard Carvel	8.6 Inspecteur Lavergne	9.2 Philippe Rivoire
	* Jean Cooperman	8.2 Victoire de la Marne
	8.8 Karl Rosefield	8.4 Wm. F. Turner
	9.0 Longfellow	
	8.4 Lora Dexheimer	
	8.5 Marian Pfeiffer	
	8.7 Mary Brand	
	9.1 Matilda Lewis	
	8.6 Mr. L. van Leeuwen	
	9.0 Mrs. Bryce Fontaine	
	8.2 Mrs. John M. Lewis	
	8.6 Red Bird	
	8.3 Winnifred Donme	

Note: We have listed some flesh and cream colored varieties as whites.

YELLOW TONED PEONIES

- * Golden Bracelet, a new sensation
- 8.5 Golden Dawn, midseason
- 7.5 Fanny Crosby, midseason
- 8.6 Frances Shaylor, midseason
- 8.9 Laura Dessert, early midseason
- 7.7 Philomele, midseason
- 8.6 Primevere, midseason

SINGLE PEONIES

<i>Early White</i>	<i>Midseason White</i>	<i>Late White</i>
8.2 Albiflora, (The Bride)	8.1 Clairette	Duchess of Bedford
8.6 Le Jour	8.1 Eglantine	* June Moon
8.5 Marguerite Dessert	* Puritan Maid	
* Pico	8.9 Queen of the Belgians	
* Queen of May	9.1 White Perfection	
	* White Swan	
<i>Early Light Pink</i>	<i>Midseason Light Pink</i>	<i>Late Light Pink</i>
Clio	8.5 Madeline Gauthier	8.6 Mischief
* Dancing Nymph	8.6 Nellie	
* Flamingo	* Pink Delight	
8.9 Helen	7.9 Wild Rose	
8.9 Pride of Langport		
<i>Early Dark Pink</i>	<i>Midseason Dark Pink</i>	<i>Late Dark Pink</i>
8.7 Harriet Olney	8.0 E. St. Hill	
	* Etienne Dessert	
	King Albert	

<i>Red Singles, Early</i>	<i>Red Singles, Midseason</i>	<i>Red Singles, Late</i>
* Black Magic	9.3 Arcturus	
8.4 L'Etincelante	Defiance	
8.2 Mafeking	La Nuit	
8.8 Vera	R. W. Marsh	
	7.6 Toreador	
	Vesuve	

JAPANESE TYPE PEONIES

<i>Early Whites</i>	<i>Midseason Whites</i>	<i>Late Whites</i>
	Exquisite	8.9 Hakodate
	Iroka	* Yokohama
	9.3 Isani Gidui	
	8.6 Jeanne Lapandry	
	8.7 Margaret Atwood	
	Oimatsu	
	8.0 Snow Wheel	
	9.0 Toro-no-maki	
	8.5 White Lady	
	Yeso	
<i>Early Light Pink</i>	<i>Midseason Light Pink</i>	<i>Late Light Pink</i>
	8.5 Alma	
	8.8 Antwerpen	
	8.1 Arlequin	
	8.9 Aureolin	
	* Apple Blossom	
	9.0 Kukeni-Jishi	
	8.9 Mr. G. F. Hemerik	
	* Rose Valley	
	<i>Midseason Dark Pink</i>	<i>Late Dark Pink Japs</i>
	8.7 Akashigata	
	9.2 Ama-no-sode	
	8.1 Cathedral	
	8.4 Gold Mine	
	8.5 Noonday	
	8.5 Ohanagassa	
	8.2 Ohirama	
	8.7 Princess Duleep Singh	
	* Sunrise	
	9.4 Tomato-Boku	
	8.9 Tokio	
<i>Early Red Japs</i>	<i>Midseason Red Japs</i>	
8.9 Nippon Parade	8.1 Akalu	9.4 Nippon Brilliant
	8.5 Departing Sun	9.0 Nippon Splendor
	9.2 Fuyajo	Onahama
	* Gaiety	8.8 Prairie Afire
	9.1 Hari-ai-nin	8.5 Ruiegnno
	* Josephine	9.0 Some Ganoko
	8.6 King of England	8.8 Soshi
	8.6 Mikado	9.0 Surugu
	9.0 Mrs. Wilder Bancroft	8.0 Torpilleur
	9.2 Nippon Beauty	

This list is considerably longer than I intended to make it when I started to write it up and in it will be found the cream of the crop. There are possibly two dozen more that are now being tested out and I am sure a number of them will be found in the foremost ranks of peonydom.

In compiling the list we have taken the general color classification. Some varieties in the list of whites are flesh white or possibly cream white. In the pinks the blush pinks have been placed with the light pinks.

There are 180 doubles, 38 singles and 51 Japs in the list, or a total of 269 varieties.



Minnesota Peony and Iris Show

REPORT OF MINNESOTA PEONY AND IRIS SOCIETY ANNUAL EXHIBITION

L. W. LINDGREN, *St. Paul, Minnesota*

The twenty-second annual peony show of the Minnesota Peony and Iris Society was held in the lobby of the Northwestern National Bank in Minneapolis, June 16-17. Due to the warm weather in April and May the peony season was very early, in fact the earliest on record. A large percentage of the blooms exhibited were cut in May, something unheard of in this section. The quality of the blooms was not as high as last year although there were some very fine blooms on display.

The most spectacular class in this show is the "Court of Honor". This class is divided into two groups, single specimens in class 100A and collections of five varieties in 100B. As the grand champion is selected from this class the exhibitors (both amateur and commercial) enter their finest blooms in hopes of winning this coveted prize. A champion is selected for each color class and from these is selected the grand champion. The color champions were as follows: White, *Alesia* shown by Louis R. Fisher, Flesh, *A. B. Franklin*—shown by A. B. Franklin, Light Pink—*Hansina Brand* shown by Glenn Greaves, Dark Pink—*Mrs. John M. Kleitsch* shown by Louis R. Fischer, Red—*Victoire de La Marne*—shown by Louis R. Fischer.

Mrs. John M. Kleitsch was chosen grand champion. This is one of the top notch peonies but is so late that it is seldom seen in the show room. The color is very pleasing and the form good.

Louis R. Fischer was the winner of Class 100B, his varieties were as follows—*Alesia*, *A. B. Franklin*, *Hansina Brand*—*Mrs. John M. Kleitsch* and *Victoire de La Marne*. All of these blooms were outstanding. Other fine blooms shown in these two classes were *Nick Shaylor*, always good—*Myrtle Gentry*, also very dependable, *Harry F. Little* one of the finest whites, *A. E. Rowe* a fine dark pink and *Blanche King*.

Mr. E. H. Lins of Cologne, Minnesota, showed several very fine seedlings—*R-3-110* was voted the American Home Achievement medal. This peony is a very fine red, very full, no stamens, good stems. The broad guards are held horizontal. Seedling *R-3-86* was awarded the Minnesota Peony and Iris Society's bronze medal. This is also a red, large, very dark and petals glossy. Both of these reds are very good.

In the open classes the following exhibitors were winners: A. B. Franklin, R. C. Schneider, Louis R. Fischer, Marcus Holter, L. W. Lindgren with A. B. Franklin winning the most points. In the advanced amateur class the following were winners: T. C. Carpenter, Glenn Greaves, L. W. Lindgren, Jos. Novotny, Mrs. H. B. Tillotson, Mrs. J. S. Taylor, John Ahlf, with Mr. Carpenter winning the most points.

In the novice amateur class the following exhibited: Marcus Holter, J. Etis, Mrs. Van Wagoner.

Among the outstanding blooms were: *Mrs. J. V. Edlund* which won again in the class for 3 whites. I believe this is the sixth consecutive year this has happened. *Blanche King* in a class by itself in the dark pinks. *Mark Twain* a fine red. *Lavender Pink*, *Milady*, *Alice Schneider*, *Martha Bulloch*, *Princess Pat*, *Defender*, *Milton Hill*, *Pres. Roosevelt*, *Crusader*, *A. E. Rowe*, *Harriet Gentry*, *W. L. Gumm*, *Acme*, *Ideal*. *Galathea* was also shown and probably for the first time because of its very late blooming habit.

Dr. John L. Crenshaw was the finest red of the year in my estimation. The color is very good both in the garden and under artificial light. The form is also very good.



Peony Ratings

ROY G. GAYLE, *Rockford, Illinois*

It is my honest opinion that the A.P.S. has made a vital mistake in accepting and publishing the new (1939) symposium.

Preliminary to entering into a dissertation, and as evidence that I am duly qualified to register an opinion as to what constitutes an object of merit, I will proceed to rate myself. My "IQ" in peony parley is 8:13 (members voting: 1).

I trust the subject on which I am about to dissertate will not be construed as a willful or malicious desire or intent to set up a class distinction between commercial growers and the body politic of peony-fanciers, however:

Look ye to the new symposium and count ye the number of varieties that rate 9.0 or better—150. Of these 150 varieties receiving the "Distinguished Service Cross" a total of 79 varieties received TEN OR MORE votes.

Now gaze upon the other 71 varieties and see the number of votes that escorted them into this hallowed circle and let us see if we are pinning the "Distinguished Service Cross" on sham battle heroes.

38—have been on the market for more than ten years and were unable to muster 10 votes.

17—were introduced by one originator and the average number of years they have been on the market, not including the year of introduction, is over 8 years.

The average number of votes received was 4.5 votes.

16—were the introductions of all other originators. The average number of years they have been on the market, not including the year of introduction, is over 6 years.

The average number of votes is 5.4 votes.

That's the illustrious record of nearly one-half of our glorified 9's!

It may be said that it is not the fault of the plant that members do not exercise their privilege to vote. *Kelway's Glorious*, *Therese*, and *Le Cygne* received 46, 48 and 45 votes, respectively, so it is apparent that a goodly number of votes were cast. Now—what does it all mean? Are the originators and commercial growers developing a rating "build up"? There certainly is no evidence of widespread distribution when only three or four votes are cast to express enthusiasm over an exceptional creation.

Is limited ownership and knowledge due to the price element? Is the price too high for the rank and file of peony-lovers?

Or is it due to skepticism of potential buyers who have had their fingers burnt before? Are A.P.S. ratings of the past sufficient to warrant the confidence of the members?

I do not think that the 1939 rating warrants confidence and I am happy to know of the appointment of a 20 man Rating Committee to establish an authentic rating to guide our destiny. That plan savors of sense and good judgment.

In our courts we select competent judges who are well versed in the intricacies of their profession and their ability is acquired through years of experience. It is only human that a few errors creep in for no method of judging people or peonies can be infallible.

To attain full confidence of the membership this "Supreme Court" should be composed of 10 commercial growers and 10 amateur growers. An amateur grower should be construed to be a member who does not wholly depend on peony and flower growing for a livelihood. Such a group would remove any question of commercial bias. It should be mandatory on each judge to refrain from voting on any variety that he has not grown and observed its habits for a period of not less than three years. To judge on show flower alone is, as we all know, entirely wrong. For instance:—at the 1940 Duluth Show a variety in the 70's, and discarded by the A.P.S. 20 years ago, was chosen the "Queen" of the show. And Duluth is, I am told, peony heaven.

In the original listing of varieties in the "Manual"—certain varieties were included "by action of the Committee." I refer to "*Edulus Superba*" in particular. Rated on the voting of the membership this plant was relegated to the discard. In the opinion of the Committee (well qualified judges), this peony must have deserved a better rating or it would not have been included. Let our "Supreme Court" decide on these issues and rate a peony to the full measure of its merit. Put the purge on anything that does not merit a rating of 8.0 or better. Having over one hundred twenty-five varieties. I personally rate *Edulus Superba* as lousy but still hold for her a certain affection for she was one of my first loves—the glamour gal of my peony puppy-love period.

Show me the man who has not cast amorous eyes upon some good lookin' gal and later found her a different sort than he would choose to devote his life-time interests to. The point is—we unsophisticated peony-lovers seek the advice of the "Sages" rather than the miseries of unsuspecting innocence, and that's why we want them rated right.

Certainly any variety receiving less than ten votes should go unrated until some future rating clinic is held and varieties should be rated and re-rated every five years at least.

Now why should I spend a "lovely", soggy, Saturday afternoon expounding philosophy, or satire, on how the A.P.S. should run its affairs? I should be sitting beside some babbling brook dreaming dreams of bigger and better peonies. All night long I heard the rain beating down on my thatched roof and, as I gazed out upon the dawn, my heart was distressed as I thought of you groping around in the mud—a martyr—that we drones might be supplied with glorious flowers to brighten our erstwhile dull existences.

So in the spirit of charity cast aside your withering scorn for the preceding paragraphs and harken unto these words of wisdom:—It is the sacred duty and responsibility of the American Peony Society through the consolidated judgment of a 20 man "Supreme Court", to establish an equitable rating,—a verdict from which there is no appeal. Bold would be the man who would deign to question their decisions when once rendered.

Peony Laughs and Boners

ERNEST FLINT KELSEY, *East Aurora, New York*

One just can't help commenting on that article in the June Bulletin by the Secretary, through the courtesy of Mr. Harry F. Little of Camillus, N. Y. This ancient description is certainly illuminating—perhaps startling. It leaves me in a dither as to whether "the female of the species is more deadly than the male". Perhaps the "heady Scent" might give us a cue as to who is boss, although both have "horns". Perhaps he meant thorns—this thrust is at the Rosarians. The "yellow Thrums about the head" might indicate that Dame *Officinalis* had just had a permanent. My sex gets a crumb of comfort from the Doctor's pronouncement "Male peony roots are best". Had the M.D. lived in these days of the flight of the female he would not have dared to issue this statement. That the female peony "has more leaves than on the male" shows that she lived long before these disrobing decades. Come to think of it Eve had only one leaf so it's a toss up between the Gay Nineties and the Garden of Eden. I am on thin ice so will skate off this pond.

We Americans swing completely from one opinion to another. We never seem to strike a "golden mean". Take peony descriptions as an example. We gush with an exuberance of fantastic verbosity in describing blooms only to swing to the other pole making our descriptions about as dry and uninteresting as a statistical report of garbage collections. That *Mons. Jules Elie* description has all the "gingerbread" of the day in which it was written. Modern streamlined descriptions, may I suggest, are inclined to be drab, lacking in color, sort of "a rag and a bone and a hank of hair" portrayal. One shouldn't describe a "thing of beauty" as you would a turbine engine. Suppose we describe a beautiful girl in the same way we picture a bloom, our beautiful *Jules*: Fine blond. Broad convex forehead. Symmetrical body. High built coiffure. One of the leanest and best strutting maidens in existence. Let's have the description of *Jules* for comparison with the above and see if we haven't in our zeal pulled all the ribbons and feathers from the bonnet. Here it is: "Fine pink. Broad, reflexing guards with high pyramidal body of semi-quilled petals, converging to an apex. One of the largest and best cutting varieties in existence." Add some color to your descriptions brother, at least as much color as their wonderful blooms unfold on a June morning, of course not dirt sweeping skirts and leg-of-mutton sleeves, but a bit like a 1941 daughter all dressed for the ball.

Will some peony oracle inform this simple one through the medium of this Bulletin Of Better Peonies why our fine old perennial gets such a "raw deal" in the magazines. We can excuse those ancient writers about the peony, but have little patience with present day muddlers. Here are a couple of examples. Our Secretary in the June number called our attention to an article in Horticulture giving some advice about peonies. In simple language it is to slash off a lot of the tops to get "stronger and healthier plants and better and larger blooms". Well burn my dog earned note book, if that isn't front page news. Physicians of earlier days drew pints of blood from patients "having divers diseases". Their formula seemed to be less blood more health. Fortunately the old M.D. with his lancet has gone to be with his well bled patients. Unfortunately some peony doctors still believe in blood letting. What puzzles me is that the writer does not advocate digging down and slashing off half the peony roots—just as sensible a proceeding. We have laws against docking horses' tails and snipping off puppies' appendages, yet a celebrated floral Magazine wants us to make "one lungers" peonies. Believe me they need those leafy lungs, all of 'em and especially RIGHT AFTER BLOOMING. Peonies have a will to live

and will make a brave effort, even after part of their lung tissue has been "collapsed", by producing larger blooms. Remember this, however, the peony is not an annual and that this method of producing big blooms one year will mean bigger disappointments in future seasons. Let 'em breathe; "cut out" your cutting out.

Here is a "boner" in another magazine. In the October number of *Better Homes and Gardens*, page 29, under the heading "peony divide" is this sage information, "the little red shoots for next year's growth should be sticking above the ground". Well bump my peony bean, if that isn't screaming headlines for me. *Better Homes* better brush up on peony culture. Two inches under ground is the information of peony experts everything for planting. Some say three inches and one nationally known peony grower says four inches. Two inches is about right. This "sticking up" practice will not make your peonies stick.



Minute Jumping

From atop the Empire State Building you can look across at the giant clock in the Metropolitan Tower. The minute-hand on this clock is seventeen feet long and weighs a ton. Each minute it jumps a foot! Watching it, you can see it jump. Each hour it jumps 60 feet—each day 1440 feet.

That minute-hand is a reminder that life is a matter of minute-jumping. How high we jump in a year, or a lifetime, simply is the grand total of our minute-jumping!

Each minute gives you an opportunity to jump toward your goal. Jump upward by using that minute to push your work, start an important letter, begin a friendship, learn something new, or renew your faith. Let each minute find you a jump ahead on the path to your heart's desire.

Where you are today depends upon the minute-jumping you did during your yesterdays. Where you will be tomorrow depends upon the minute-jumping you do from now on! Use each minute to jump toward the bigger, broader, finer life that can be yours!

—*The Silver Lining*



My Northern Peony Garden

By W. T. COE, *Minneapolis, Minnesota*

I have a peony garden at Beaver Bay, Minnesota, 225 miles northeast of Minneapolis and 56 miles from Duluth on the north shore of Lake Superior. The 1941 blooming of my peonies may be of enough interest to merit publication. It is situated in the coldest spot in the United States. In 1940 the snow came before the ground froze and it kept on snowing until fully six feet of snow covered my peonies. With all this covering, it is doubtful if the ground froze at all. At any rate, the season was ten days earlier than usual. In 1941 the blooms started June 25th and by July 1st forty varieties were in bloom. I was able to enter my blooms in the Duluth Peony Show. It was my first attempt at showing and, as beginner's luck, I won three "first's", one "third" and "Best red" in the show. My winning varieties were *Inspecteur Lavergne* (red), *James Kelway* and *Silvia*.

I started this plantation with 100 choice varieties in 1937, which I have since increased to about 200. The later plantings are of the best and newest production of H. P. Sass, Neeley A. B. Franklin, Pfeiffer, Edlund and Brand, with a few odds and ends from other producers.

No bud failed to open on any plant. This is probably due to the cool nights. The temperature during July varies from 60-70 by day and 50-55 by night. There is always a heavy dew and a little mist in the morning. Evidently the mist takes out the violet ray from the sun so that all colors are a little darker and richer than their official description calls for. The most beautiful bloom was on two clumps of *La France* that stood by a boulder too large to remove. *Miriam Napier Rohe* (formerly H. P. Sass's No. 42½ seedling) stood side by side with *Le Cygne*. She was white as the driven snow, the blooms stood up strong and sturdy and is a close rival of *Le Cygne*. *Rosabel*, although a yearling, produced a wonderful and unusual red flower. *Mrs. J. H. Neeley* opened the color of a Mexican opal and later turned white. *Elsa Sass* did the same. *Franklin's Chief*, also a yearling, produced an immense pink flower. Another year it should be a winner in the show room. The very last clump to open her flowers was *Marie Lemoine*. It was a rare beauty. She opened July 25th. Brand's *Martha Bulloch* opened late also and the flowers were immense and on stems fully 40 inches long.

No disease developed on any clump. Nearly all bloomed profusely. *Kelway's Queen*, about the most beautiful bloomer in 1940 did very little in 1941. I dosed her too heavily with hardwood ashes and commercial fertilizer; I just killed her with kindness. I have ashes a plenty as we burn birchwood for heat. The soil is a glacial silt with much rock in it. This I sifted out through a plasterer's screen at the time of planting. No artificial watering is required as the garden is situated at the bottom of a small mountain, on what was the moraine of an ancient glacier. The melting snows and spring rains as well as a rather abundant rainfall give ample water. It seeps down through the rock and comes up below. The soil is always moist enough. When the temperature of July becomes unendurable the brethren are invited to visit the north shore of Lake Superior where it is always cool and have a look at this peony garden in full bloom during July. It is situated at Silver Bay, about three city blocks from one of the best highways in the world, on the lake shore. The Norwegian fishermen of the north shore have built many tourist cabins and fish dinners of the delicious Lake Superior trout and herring are served nearly every mile. Besides it is a haven for hay fever sufferers. Thousands of tourists now come every summer for relief from the heat. Lake Superior is really an inland sea, the largest and coldest body of fresh water in the world.



Growing Exhibition Bloom

H. L. SMITH, *Redkey, Indiana*

Too often I have read in the Bulletin that only a master hand or a magician can make this and that variety produce a good bloom.

Commercial growers and the Bulletin have given ample instructions (and I am sure no secrets reserved) on how to grow exhibition bloom and if one will follow these instructions and have the energy to cultivate, fertilize and water your plants, I am sure you will grow as fine bloom as anyone, at least I am not ready to admit anyone can grow finer bloom than I can grow in my garden.

No doubt, skill and experience are an advantage in showing bloom but I don't believe it is a big factor in growing them.

So this spring, use the hoe frequently and I am sure you too will grow exhibition bloom.

Secretary's Notes

I had fully planned to have the December issue of Bulletin in the mail by this time (Dec. 19th) but circumstances over which I had no control prevented my doing so. I wanted to get the Bulletin in your hands by Christmas, or at least by the first of the year.

Planted some peonies today and found the ground in perfect condition for their reception. It is dry on the surface for possibly a half inch and then there is an abundance of moisture, the result of heavy rains all fall.

I know you will excuse me if my notes are brief this issue as my heart is heavy.

On March 30th, 1924 there came into our home a lovely baby boy whom we named William Frank Christman, Jr. This boy was carefully cared for through childhood, and nursed through a severe case of Scarlet Fever, after he had attained the age of 6 years. He passed through the grades in regular order and entered High School. He was in his Senior Year and would soon have graduated with the rest of his class. On the night of Dec. 9th at 10 P. M. his life was snuffed out through the carelessness of a driver who did not observe a stop sign and crashed into the side of our son's car. We had spent two days in Minneapolis and were all prepared to leave for home Wednesday morning when we were notified of the tragedy.

In the immediate family to mourn his passing are the father, mother, a brother, Elvin T. Christman of Minneapolis, and a sister, Mrs. Laverne Smith of Northbrook, Ill.

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A Father's Tribute to His Son



My son, we will greatly miss you, as we had planned our lives to conform with your desires for future education and advancement. You were so talented. Your happy smile, your outstanding wit and your consideration for others has left you countless friends to mourn your passing. Your nimble fingers and keen musical ear brought forth lovely melodies from the piano or the guitar. You seemed to have the ability to get music out of anything you attempted. Your promising voice gave us hope for great advancement along that line of endeavor

and in our parental pride we visualized you making many people happy through this medium. We knew you were ambitious, and mother and I planned to give you every opportunity to pursue your studies in this direction as well as Radio Engineering. Hundreds of letters of condolence have been received; magnificent floral creations made a beautiful setting on that heartbreaking day, Dec. 12th, when we laid you to rest; loyal friends by the hundreds have made every effort to take off some of the burden we are carrying at present and all of these friends were your friends and admirers. Your life long friend, Mr. A. M. Brand of Faribault, Minn., left home in a howling blizzard to be present at the services, making a trip of nearly 900 miles. He knew you when you were but a few weeks old until you had grown to young manhood.

You have never caused us a moment's anxiety. The worry and grief young men often bring to their parents was spared us. You were a noble son, ever mindful of your parents' comfort; ever ready to do as you were told; taking admonition in a manly way; never showing arrogance. Insolence had no part in your makeup. When you could make your parents happy, you did it.

In the few years you were spared us, you crowded in much more than is to be found in many lives of more mature years. In the public Memorial Service in the High School Gymnasium where hundreds of your schoolmates were in attendance, the glee club rendered most appropriate selections and most of these members were so overcome with grief that it proved a trying experience for them; yet their voices sounded like that of an angelic choir as they sang with saddened hearts and eyes bathed in tears. At the church where you were in regular attendance and where your lovely voice was to be heard every Sunday, the harp music that you loved so well and the very same artistic and masterful fingers of Miss Florence Lambert rendered beautiful selections. The beautiful voice of your choir leader, Orian Galitz, added sincerity to the service as it came from a heart that was bowed in grief. Your pastor Rev. Armin H. Bizer, who had confirmed you and taken you into the church, paid you many splendid tributes in the several services he conducted, and his comforting words and counsel has been a source of great help to us in our sorrow.

Thank God, you never suffered grief, other than that you experienced when you laid one of your puppies away that had met with violent death on the highway that proved to be your end. We can cherish only beautiful memories of your life that was lived to the fullest measure of sincerity and accomplishment. Your life was a happy one. We never refused to grant any of your requests that were reasonable, and still you were not spoiled by this indulgence. We were not possessed of sufficient means to encourage you to practice willful extravagance. You wanted to earn your own way and was reluctant to ask for funds when you needed them in your regular school routine. You were a leader in your classes and the various activities in which you engaged your talents. Your Superintendent in High School spoke in his eulogy of you at the School Memorial Service, stating that when any activity lagged and was losing ground, you were delegated to bolster it up and you accomplished the work in a comparatively short space of time.

You were courageous, with a will to carry out any enterprise you attempted. You were honest, which was characterized by integrity and straightforwardness. You were loyal, loving, congenial; possessing all the manly attributes that are to be found in an ideal son. You have left us with a rich heritage in beautiful memories.

Good Bye, Son. We now fully realize more than we ever did before what you meant when you said, "See these hands;—they are going to make a home for you, mother and dad, so you will not have to work so hard." We will be expecting to meet you in that home and enjoy a happy reunion with those who have gone on before.

At the present writing there is some speculation as to whether or not the June show planned for Topeka, Kans., can be carried out as scheduled. We will have definite advice in our next Bulletin. The present condition of our country and the possibility that some of the outstanding exhibitors may be called into the service before that time has temporarily halted our plans for future action. It is sincerely hoped that we may be able to carry on as originally planned. There is also a possibility that the Auditorium may not be available.

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Two protests have been received in the mail very recently with reference to the name Jap or Japanese peony. The name Oriental Peony has been suggested to supplant the name commonly used.

Personally I do not feel that a change is necessary. I do not feel that the name should react against the flower or plant in any way, no matter how strong our feeling may be against the people of any nation. The name has gone down through many, many years and is so strongly established and so universally accepted that it might be a futile gesture to change it. Would like to have the expressions of others of our members on this point.

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Despite world conditions, the Christmas spirit is fully active and that is as it should be, for the Prince of Peace does not condone the shortcomings of man. I wish to extend the Season's Greetings to each and every one of you and let us all hope and pray that peace may soon reign supreme in this wonderful country of ours.

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For the March issue of the Bulletin I would like to have several articles on "How I Grow Exhibition Bloom". I would also like to hear from a number on the subject "How I Store and Handle Exhibition Bloom." Valuable suggestions can be made that will be helpful in staging our forthcoming exhibitions.

Mr. Homer Jameson, 930 Cambridge, Topeka, Kans., will be General Chairman of the 1942 National Peony Show if it is held according to schedule. Any information regarding this exhibition may be secured by writing Mr. Jameson.

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We trust you will find this issue of the Bulletin helpful, instructive and interesting. We will let the articles speak for themselves as they need no comment from me.

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Let us carry on our work of dispensing beauty through our flowers as best we can and as far as we are permitted to do so, not inconsistent with our duty to our country, which comes first in times like these.

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MEDALS AWARDED BY THE AMERICAN PEONY SOCIETY FOR THE YEAR 1941

GOLD MEDAL—Awarded H. F. Little, Camillus, N. Y., best collection peonies, Class No. 1. Syracuse, N. Y., 6-20-41.

Awarded F. H. Allison, Weston, Mass., for outstanding excellence of variety *Nick Shaylor*, Syracuse, N. Y., 6-20-41.

SILVER MEDAL—Awarded Frank E. Moots, Newton, Kans., best collection advanced amateur, Syracuse, N. Y., 6-20-41.

Awarded R. A. Napier, Blue Island, Ill., best collection 100 varieties, Chicago Regional Peony Show, 6-7-41.

Awarded Louis R. Fischer for five best varieties, Minneapolis, Minn., 6-16-41.

- B. H. FARR BRONZE MEDAL**—Awarded Harry F. Little for best bloom exhibited, Syracuse, N. Y., 6-20-41. Variety *Blanche King*.
- JAMES BOYD MEMORIAL SILVER MEDAL**—Awarded Harry F. Little, Camillus, N. Y., for the most distinguished peony entry at the Syracuse, N. Y., Peony Show, June 6, 1941. This medal awarded and supplied by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society.

Certificates of Award Issued

- HONORABLE MENTION**—Henry H. Reineke of Defiance, Ohio, for a large, fine white double No. 406.
- Col. J. C. Nicholls of Ithaca, N. Y., for a very large, pink double known as No. 149.
- R. S. Crawford of Lakewood, Ohio, for a distinctive red Japanese type flower. Distinct and outstanding.
- Ernest F. Kelsey, East Aurora, N. Y., for a new fluffy white named *The Fleece*.
- Lyman D. Glasscock of Elwood, Ill., for the following three herbaceous hybrid peonies: No. 22-G-1, No. 1-G-26 and No. 2-E-14. No. 22-G-1 is a bright red single. No. 1-G-26 is a white red single with white stigmas. No. 2-E-14 is a brownish red single that was selected for the Court of Honor.
- Prof. A. P. Saunders, Clinton, N. Y., for new herbaceous hybrid peony No. 12244 named *Legion of Honor*. This is a very brilliant, light scarlet red single. Prof. Saunders also received Honorable Mention on his variety *Marta*, a distinctive, brilliant red double.
- Prof. A. P. Saunders for tree peony *Banquet*. This is a double, bronzy red, showing stamens in the center of flower. Very attractive.
- Note:—The above ten certificates of award were given at the Syracuse, N. Y., exhibition of the Society.

The following five awards were given at the Chicago Regional Peony Show, June 7th and 8th:

- FIRST CLASS CERTIFICATE**—Lyman D. Glasscock, Elwood, Ill., for seedling 66-G-5, a large double white fragrant peony. A seedling of pure *Albiflora* species.
- Lyman D. Glasscock for specie cross No. 1-G-37.
- Lyman D. Glasscock for specie cross No. 42-K-4.
- HONORABLE MENTION**—Miss Mabel Maxon of Harvard, Ill., for seedling No. M-9-2 a large, dark pink single.
- Lyman D. Glasscock for specie seedling No. 7-N-102.



Obituary Notes

Just a few days late for notice in the last Bulletin we received news of the passing of John M. Kleitsch of Duluth, Minn., who had been a faithful member of the American Peony Society for many years. Mr. Kleitsch had lived in Duluth for 38 years. He had served several terms as President of the Duluth Peony Society, and was also President and Board Member of the Minnesota Peony and Iris Society for several years.

John, as he was affectionately known to me, was a keen judge of the peony which was his favorite flower. He was a good showman and took great delight in exhibiting his bloom or judging at our shows held through the country. When we held the National Peony Show in the Twin Cities, John was responsible for the collection of finances, and how well he performed his duties is well known to many of our members. In all, considerably over \$9,000.00 was collected, which amply financed the exhibition and left a considerable sum to be divided among flower societies participating.

Any duty assigned him could be forgotten, for he carried out his work to the letter. He was extremely modest and unfortunately we were not able to get him to express himself in an article for publication, although he possessed the ability and knowledge to have given us some valuable information.

John was a tireless worker and did nothing that might hinder the smooth performance of the staging of any peony show.

He had spent the greater part of his life representing the American Spice Mills, of which he was a partner.

Next to his family and home, he loved his flowers and particularly the peony. Last June his namesake, the peony *John M. Kleitsch*, carried off the sweepstake prize at the Minnesota Peony and Iris Show held in Minneapolis June 16th and 17th. This pleased him very much indeed, as he was proud of this grand peony and well had a right to be.

His passing was sudden. He was ill less than three hours. He suffered no pain and did not realize the end was so near. A blood clot was the cause of death.

His call came Sept. 27th, after he had been at work among his beloved peonies. Mr. Kleitsch was born in Iowa in 1876, was married in 1906 and moved to Duluth, Minn. The immediate family mourning his passing is his wife, Donald U., of St. Louis, Mo., and Jack H. of Madison, Wis., a sister Mrs. John Eilenbecker of La Mars, Iowa and a brother Frank of Omaha, Neb.

His passing will mean a personal loss to all who knew him and to me I feel I have lost one of our most ardent peony fans and boosters for the Society and the work it is doing.

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A brief letter from Mr. Edw. Auten, Jr., of Princeville, Ill., advised me of the passing of his father Edward Auten, Sr., who had attained the age of 102 years, having been born May 27th, 1839. I know every member of the American Peony Society expresses sympathy in his loss. How few of us could expect to have a father that long with us. I never had the good fortune to meet him and have no information at hand other than the brief announcement.

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New Members

Helme, Mrs. James B., P.O. Box 2100, Southport, Conn.

Marquis, J. E., Box 107, Nelson, B.C., Canada.

Rankin, Albert H., Woodside Drive, Milbrook, Greenwich, Conn.

Thorne, Frank E., 2750 Washington Street, Lincoln, Neb.

Weaver, Geo., Box 222, Denton, Texas.

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Change of Address

Mrs. Jane DuMont, new address 405 N. Cleveland, Arlington, Va. until further notice.

Carl Higgenbockham, South Farm, Willoughby, O., removed to R.R. 6, Medina, O.

Carl A. Parsons, 374 Victoria Blvd., Kenmore, N. Y. Removed, left no forwarding address.

Mrs. Jean De C. Brouillette, 3 Newport Rd., Cambridge, Mass., removed to 151 Longwood Ave., Brookline, Mass.

Joe Warner, 1015 Taylor St., Topeka, Kans., removed to 2200 N. Central, Topeka, Kans.

M. C. Karrels, Box 237, R.R. 5, West Allis, Wis., removed to 3272 S. 46th St., Milwaukee, Wis.

- J. A. Staudenbauer, Dee & Talcott Roads, Park Ridge, Ill., removed to 116 S. Owen Street, Mt. Prospect, Ill.
- Wilbur C. Otis, Jr., 58 Pine Street, Stoneham, Mass., removed to Hempstead, Mass.
- Carl A. Parsons, 374 Victoria Blvd., Kenmore, N. Y., removed to 89 Chestnut Street, Gowanda, N. Y.
- Dr. Henry L. Grant, Anchorage, Ky., change to 412 Oread Road, Louisville, Ky.
- T. E. Popp, R.R. 5, West Allis, Wis., change to 2756 S. 76th Street, West Allis, Wis.
- Mrs. Raymond G. Heim, 126 E. Main Street, change to 5558 Broadway, Lancaster, N. Y.
- J. W. Bernstein, new address, 1439 S. 28th Street, Lincoln, Nebr.



Peony Seedlings - A Few Canadian Gems

O. A. KUMMER, *Preston, Ontario*

Growing your own plants from seed, either annual or perennial, is the most satisfactory and profitable method of securing plants. It is also a very fascinating venture, and I have a very vivid picture of the hybridist or others, rising very early in the morning when the first buds appear to get their first glimpse of a new flower.

Especially is this true of the peony, either it is a hobby or vocation, yet the desire and urge in humans for always something better; something new and the anticipation over a period of years makes it a joy.

Some say it is not worth while as it takes too long. True, it does take some time, yet the first five or six years are the longest and if seed is planted each succeeding year it becomes a perennial pleasure indeed.

Those who grow peonies from seed know that nature is rather tardy and will not, from each seed planted, give us something good or outstanding either in color or form, yet it is the law of nature to improve, and thus from somewhere, and not infrequently from some obscure corner, we hear of a fortunate break in color and form.

Growing peonies from seed and the uncertainty of it all may be likened to a group or multitude of people sitting in at a game of "Bingo", each player expecting the crier shaking the box of numbers to withdraw their lucky one.

My own experience is limited to a small private garden, growing about eighty-five different varieties. My seedlings are counted by numbers and not by the rows; yet, is it not true that many of our top notch peonies were produced by those growing them in a very small way? It is also true that seed from the choicest varieties does not always produce the best new ones. This is also true of other flowers as many will testify.

Before mentioning any of these gems of the peony world I should like to say a word or two about soil. It is agreed, I think, that the greatest requisition in growing anything well is to grow it in good soil. We know that peonies will not thrive in sand, but good drainage and good loam seem to suit them best. To replenish this supply of vegetable mould in my plantings, I previously purchased well rotted stable manure, but having to contend with so many weed pests and concluding that many of these came along with the manure purchased, I turned my attention to composts.

I have for sometime adopted this method of fertilization and find it very beneficial, economical and clean and is conducted somewhat along similar lines advocated by the Bio Dynamic method of agriculture.

Well, here I have been rambling along about nature, Bingo games, soils, etc., but what I really wanted to write about is some outstanding Canadian seedling peonies, so with indulgence I will ask you to accompany me on a journey some twenty-five miles north of here to a small town and peony garden. Not a large peony planting but an overflowing private garden which extends onto two adjacent fields, the one newly planted, quite extensive to say the least. This particular peony planting is the property of Mr. Wm. Brown of Elora, Ontario, and it was my pleasure last summer to see his peonies when, I believe, they were at their best.

I had the pleasure a few years ago of attending the National Peony Show at Lansing where it was reported quality was a feature, and may I say that what I saw at Elora would compare quite favorably with anything exhibited there.

Several of his seedlings are, I think, valuable acquisitions to any peony garden. *Athelstane*, an unusually delicate shade of lavender pink and pleasing fragrance. A large bloom held erect on stalwart stems, its petals not too compact to give it lasting qualities is outstanding. The unique form stamps it as a peony to covet.

Fairleigh, a large blush pink, with a center of creamy tint which seems to give the whole flower life, is another good one. This received Honorable Mention at the Regional Peony Show held at Guelph, Ont., in 1939. This one will be admired wherever shown as it is different.

Maryan, a beautiful pink, large bloom and plenty of them, will make a name for itself when better known.

Others, too, not yet named, that any peony lover would envy having. A yellow that would make *Primevere* look very pale in comparison and others that peony lovers will learn more about as the years advance.

I also had the pleasure of seeing Mrs. Evelyn Lossing's new white seedling, *Louise Lossing* with what I would term a three XXX fragrance. It is a perfect rose type and the flower is compact with good form. This one also received a mark of distinction at the Regional Show. I do not know of its garden performance but judging it by its other qualities I would say it was one of the best.

Speaking of whites, I would, without any desire to boast, like to mention a word or two about another white which happens to be one of my own, recently registered under the name *Clara May Bernhardt*. Here is a white that is WHITE. The buds while opening seem tinted or illumined but when open it is as pure as white can be without any yellow or green cast in the depth of the bloom. The flower is informal in character, has size and proportion. Petals not too compact with plenty of substance. Too much compactness in many fine bloom results in weakness to withstand inclement weather, hot sun and sudden changes in temperature. This peony has strong stiff stems with dark, broad leaved foliage and is moderately fragrant. What more is desired? I have yet to see a whiter white and considering that this peony was a runner up as the best peony in the entire show at Guelph, Ont., in 1939, I do not think I have made too loud a toot.

Another seedling, just registered, which I chose to name *Ruth Lockie* is also good. A dark pink of the *Mons Jules Elie* color, but darker. Not so large but more refined. In this bloom the transformation of stamens and stigmas to flower petals is complete and when these fall the stems are barren. The buds half open resemble a large rose but many times more fragrant, in fact I have yet to find one possessing more fragrance unless it be *Louise Lossing*, for both of which I have marked XXX fragrance.

I have two others which I am watching with optimism; one a darker red than *Mons. Martin Cahuzac* and the other a large pink, similar to *Lillian Gumm*, but darker and larger. It has tall, stiff stems and really looks promising.

Well, I believe these peonies are in the picture and as the artist includes a few highlights which stand out as diamonds in his picture, so has nature, the master painter, distributed a few gems in this corner of the painting to make it more interesting and attractive.

Probably you will come and see us some time. Touring it grand and the scenery is even better. Follow the trail of the old Conestogo and pay a visit to the valley of the Grand. Here there is beauty long to be remembered and probably it may prompt you to even more appreciate the wisdom and thoughtfulness of the pioneers of your middle states who blazed this trail over a century ago.



Why do leaves change color in the Fall?

Contrary to the popular belief, frost does not cause leaves to take on thin vari-colored hues; in fact, a heavy frost kills the leaves, leaving them a dull, lifeless brown. Chemical processes in the tree and leaves cause them to burst out in riotous red and yellow. During the summer sunlight helps the tiny leaf cells manufacture the green substance in the leaves, chlorophyll. During the fall, when decreased sunlight, lower temperatures, and soil changes mark the approach of winter, the tree slows down its manufacturing processes. The chlorophyll is broken into various substances, and the sugar from the leaves is stored in the trunk and limbs of the tree until spring. Only residue substances, a yellow watery content, bits of sugar, and other minute materials remain in the leaves. The resultant chemical compounds produce our autumn colors that range from brilliant yellow to dark reddish brown.



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