

Melona Chapman

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American Primrose Society

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THE PICTURE ON THE COVER: 1961 Kirkland Primrose Show. Center area displayed show auriculas of John Shuman. *Photo by Agee.*

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Polyanthus Seedling
 . . . Photographed by Orval Agee

PRIMROSES

"Tentatively the infant year returns. With a handful of Primroses he slips into your garden and suddenly a slope or a path is blue. Blue as if bits of sky had fallen among cornflowers. Then here, in a sheltered spot, a patch of snow has been pushed aside. It is as though you looked into the eyes of a child and, like a child, you feel again the wonder of the first flower of the year. You know one more beginning . . . one more spring. One more spring of color and fragrance. An early spring bringing blues and pinks and pastels of every tint. One of sparkling, brilliant colors and lustrous, subtle shades". . . *Florence Bellis* . . . From *Barnhaven's* 1962 catalog.

Twenty years ago Florence Bellis of *Barnhaven* published the first Quarterly of the American Primrose Society. From her inspiration and efforts

as a hybridist and writer the society has gained memberships and friends throughout the world. A look at the membership list reveals members in Egypt, Japan, Turkey, So. Africa, Sweden, The Virgin Islands, Central Europe, Great Britain and other countries.

Through the Seed Exchange, under the capable direction of Elmer Baldwin, we have seed of *Primula* from otherwise unavailable sources . . . Seed of species that adapt themselves to cultivation with ease.

Members of the English Auricula and *Primula* Societies have been most helpful in sharing their experiences with us, and their encouragement has been of great help.

To past editors, officers, those who have contributed articles, and to our members, goes much credit. May the next decade bring similar progress.

Candelabra Hybrids

ANITA ALEXANDER, *Portland, Oregon*

The *Candelabra* species "seems to be a very natural and distinct series and shows no very close association with any other section, nor does it appear to contain any doubtful members tending in the direction of other sections."¹ Seed or plants of about half of the species is not available, and we can only hope that species seeds from the Asiatic roof of the world will be forthcoming again to enchant collectors and hybridizers. For the present, we can make better use of what we do have.

Hybridizers can enlarge the flowers, create new colors, extend the blooming season, and strengthen the plants. Some fine hybrids were developed in England and Europe but many of them were lost during the war years. A "simple hybrid" needs to be re-crossed occasionally¹ anyway, to retain the vigor. Some fine new forms might well add sparkle or serenity to gardens as hybridizers re-create the old crosses.

Primula fanciers everywhere are familiar with the Bartley strain of *P. pulverulenta*. Mr. G. H. Dalrymple of Bartley selected and developed plants that are fully fertile and set quantities of seed. "The earlier colour breaks are sterile, and depend for their propagation upon the division of old plants."² Shades of pink with a red or yellow eye are readily available now. When well grown in moist, rich soils and seen in masses, it is one of the glories of early spring. Some of the named varieties of the strain have been: *Bartley Blush*, *Bartley Pink*, *Hugh Dalrymple*, *Hidcote Strain*, *Lady Thursby*, *Lapworth Blush*, *Lapworth Rose*, *Mrs. Berkley*—a sterile white—and *Itton Court*, a Chinese red.

Mr. Dalrymple worked with great care and diligence for twelve years to get fertile seed and establish the colors of his Bartley Strain. Mrs. Hannon's Pagoda Strain is the result of many years of hand-pollinating and rigid selection. Our Society president has asked each of us to do some hybridizing because that is the only way we can move forward.

Crosses between *P. pulverulenta* x *Cockburniana* have produced some interesting hybrids, some of which are named. *P. x Red Hugh* has bright vermilion red flowers; *Aileen Aroon* flowers are shades of reddish orange. The leaves are like *pulverulenta*, the stalks densely silvered, and the flowers are an inch across. Unique has a color intermediate between the parents. *Cockburniana* x Unique produced *Excelsior*, a "plant with flowers

Primula burmanica





Mrs. Maude Hannon, center, viewing a bed of Fujiyama candelabra (her creation) fronted by Bartley Pink candelabra at the Gresham, Oregon Flower Fair.

—Photo by Orval Agee

of a rich cherry shade." Whereas *P. Cockburniana* is biennial, the hybrid is perennial.¹ *Bulleyana x pulverulenta* produced Inverleith, a dark pink; the back cross produced Ladybird, a deep rose with a darker eye. *P. chungensis x P. pulverulenta* produced *P. x chunglenta*, a "hardy perennial with foliage resembling that of *P. chungensis* and with flowers as large as those of *P. pulverulenta*, at first deep bright red, fading later to salmon or coral pink, and always with a dark eye."¹

Crosses using *Bulleyana* and *Beesiana* have produced good plants. When the former is the seed bearer strong colors are produced; the *Beesiana* seed bearer is more likely to produce pastels. *P. x Edina* "is in size and habit intermediate between its parents and bears many-tiered scapes of handsome, salmon-coloured flowers."² *P. x Asthore* is "a variable hybrid best regarded as a strain as there is so much range of colour. It was raised as Lissadell, in N. Ireland in 1914. The cross has been made both ways."² *Bulleyana x Burmanica* yielded the vigorous Avary Tipping, tiers of brick red flowers with yellow centers.

The *aurantiaca* hybrids have dark stalks. *P. aurantiaca* can "tolerate more

sunshine and a less abundant water supply than many of the candelabras."³ Crosses with *pulverulenta* have produced some handsome hybrids.² Millar's Crimson is a *japonica* cross blooming in April and a clear bright red. Jack Drake has developed a strain of pastel and vivid shades in bloom from May to June titled "Inshriach Hybrids." Peter Klein was working with a small hybrid developed in Europe, Thorpe Morieaux. He was seeking to achieve a double with it, and had plants that were partially so.

Maude Hannon used to have about ten thousand species and hybrid plants in the bog and borders. From them she developed the white *japonica* Fujiyama, snow white with a lemon yellow eye. It has lush foliage, lighter than that of other *japonicas*. She fixed a number of colors in her Pagoda strain candelabras; Mandarin Orange, Imperial Red, Cloissoni Pink, Manchu Yellow, Oriental Apricot, Burmese Opal. The Manchu Yellow has distinct foliage. The rosette is flatter, the blades are long and narrow and smooth, the leaf is greyed in color. "I can go through a bed of mixed plants and pick out all the Manchu Yellow any time."

Mrs. Hannon would like to see someone try *Poissonii x heledoxa*. The seed from her cross was sterile, but she never "got around to following it up." She tried *anisadora x heledoxa* both ways. With *anisadora* as the seed bearer the seed was fertile and yielded a scented salmon pink bloom. Here in the long wet rainy season of the Pacific Northwest the evergreens are here today and gone tomorrow. They tend to rot at the crown during the rains, and need sulphur. *P. heledoxa* lasts the longest. They are very heavy seed bearers. Mr. Blasdale suggested "someone shorten the first joint of the scape and eliminate the first few flowered whorls of the heledoxa."³ Mrs. Hannon thinks it would be very desirable to increase the umbel size and keep the color precisely as it is.

No clear blue has been developed in the Candelabras, to our knowledge. The Pagoda strain has a number of lavender blues.

In reply to an "ify" question, Mrs. Hannon said she hopes the rest of us will maintain the colors she has developed by rigid selection and hand-pollination. Most of the Pagoda strain are later blooming by two to three weeks than the many species used as sources. "Some showed a tendency to bloom earlier, and some work should be done on those to extend the season. When selecting a plant, I look for a sturdy stalk with the whorls clean and regular. A double row of petals on each whorl is nice. The individual flowers should be an inch or more across, and I like a petal edge serrated like a carving better than an even edge. The flower should not be cupped at all, but flat or convex. A pin parent as a seed bearer yields larger flowers, but the thrum looks prettier to me because it has a tiny rosette in the center. I want my flowers to have eyes, so they have character and zip. In my garden, the *pulverulenta* stalk has not been as sturdy as the stalk of *Beesi-*



Snow white Fujiyama with lemon yellow eye

—Photo by Orval Agee

ana, *Bulleyana*, or of the Pagoda strain. I don't know if that is a matter of inheritance or of growing conditions. We must remember as we select and cross it is not all inheritance; soil structure and tilth, degree of acidity, and fertility all influence the plant tremendously."

In this area candelabra hybrids are being raised in a tremendous variety of soils from the very heavy black bog to fine sand. At least one very successful grower is enriching leaf mold with well rotted horse manure. All the gardens have two things in common: They never let the plants dry out to the point of wilting and the areas have drainage so stagnant water does not stand about the crowns and sour the soil.

- I am indebted to the following references:
1. Transactions and Proceedings of the Botanical Society of Edinburgh, V 33, 2, 2, p 170-2
 2. Asiatic Primulas, Handbooks No. 11-17, Will Ingwerson, East Sussex, England
 3. Cultivated Species of Primula, Walter Blasdale, p 173-187
 4. Notebooks and conversation from Maude Hannon

Montana Primulaceae of Garden Value

FRANK H. ROSE, Missoula, Montana

When Primula Society people think native Primulaceae they probably think *Primula parryi*. I know this primrose growing native in Montana, Wyoming, and Colorado. It is palatable to sheep and other livestock and to game animals. Its large, succulent leaves make ideal "lamb feed" (milk producing) and where grazing is less intense the flower stems come off first. Most native plants are not well enough known and too hard to grow to compete in public demand with petunia, pansy, or even auriculas.

Primula parryi blooms in July and ripens seed in August. Like all rare plants, except those rare because they are new, it has rather exacting growth requirements, not well known, that limit it to restricted sites. In the wild sites nature regularly provides what it needs and more important avoids what it cannot tolerate. Nature provides this climate and moisture in the Hudson zone just below timberline. Its site is in ice water. The seepage below a snow bank that lasts into August or along a stream just below timberline where, in spring, it is dunked each day by the flood waters from melting snow. It is buried deep under snow during the long winter and gets almost daily showers even in late sum-

Primula parryi



mer. With all this moisture it doesn't grow in a bog as does *P. incana*. It wants fresh, not stagnant, water and takes a rich loam of humus, sand, and gravel with perfect drainage.

Where I know it in Montana, on a talus slope between domestic sheep and wild mountain goats, no water is in sight at seed collecting time but can be heard down in the rocks below the snow banks bordering the crags. Here it grows into heavy clumps, the fleshy fibrous roots packed with gravel that will scarcely wash out. It is a long six miles up from the end of the road and I do not expect to go there again. Out of this natural habitat there comes a year with climatic conditions it cannot stand. This makes it a plant for specialists and unprofitable to a collector.

Every Primula gardener with a rock garden should grow *Douglasia montana*. It, like most alpiners, wants perfect drainage and no over crowding by aggressive neighbors. It is found usually on gravel points or steep slopes or at high elevations that suggest for it the scree, but the north side of a rock or a rock wall with a rock below that it can spread its crown over and one above to keep damp and cool the fibrous parts of its root system seems ideal. I have one that has bloomed each of the last 15 years second in the spring only to *Ranunculus glaberrimus* and each year with a somewhat larger cushion. It has had no attention or care, just the right site from the start. The fine fibrous roots of the *Douglasia* come at the lower end of a tough tap root, as with *Colomia debilis* of the rock slides, and an inexperienced collector would get few of the essential rootlets. Seed are easier and safer but slow. *Douglasia's*

pinhead sized pink flowers are rather insignificant singly but in mass, as is their custom, they are the show spot at the time in the wall. Perfect drainage, cool roots, and a little water in those extreme droughts seem all it needs. The same site as *Lewisia rediviva*, *Senecio canus*, or *Eriogonum ovalifolium* but the shady side of the rock.

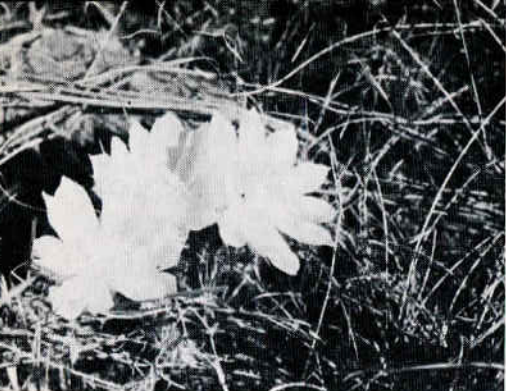
Of our Androsaceae the best is the long-hairy leaved perennial *A. chamaejasme* with its yellow eyed white flowers but I don't know it where I can drive my jeep to it and do not collect it. If an annual with a long name will do I sometimes see *A. septentrionalis subumbellata*, but if it doesn't seed you have lost it.

Dodecatheons you all know. There are many. We have four more or less available each in its own site. I get to some every year but generally not to all four. *D. Jefferyi* is the big one of the cold wet sites. The drier parts of a sphagnum bog would be about right. It looks like *Primula parryi* until it blooms and grows in much the same site but at a lower elevation. With its big fleshy roots, also like *P. parryi*, but filled with clay instead of gravel, it can stand a drought in August but does not dry to brittleness and keep for years as does the shallow rooted *D. cusickii*. *D. cusickii* is the dry site one and most accessible to Missoula. It should be collected in June when the leaves become yellow but before the roots become brittle, otherwise they all get broken. This doesn't so much matter when collecting for your own garden as the crown bud seems all that is necessary. A light loam in sun or part shade on a slope somewhat damp in spring or much like the *Douglasia* above except not under a rock. Try not to "blow your top" if the neighborhood kids beat you to the flowers as they sometimes do mine. The bright pink patch in a wet meadow may be

D. radicum. I know one hayfield more dodecatheon than hay but do not like to tramp through the hay just before cutting time to collect seed or dig plants even with the owner's permission. For the rare order I get the plants are available elsewhere. Just more moisture than *D. cusickii* seems its chief need. *D. conjugens* as I know it, if I know it, is variable. It may be a foot high with a cluster of flowers on a grass sodden bank at low elevation or a single flowered gem only centimeters high and a brighter purple above 9000 ft. Its leaves do not have the fuzz on the upper surface that the dirt clings to in *D. cusickii* and its site is cooler and damper but not wet like *D. radicum*. I know *D. conjugens* where about one-half of the flowers are white in Big Hole Basin on an open prairie and on the slope and down into the edge of the timber along a sheep driveway in the Belt mountains. It is easy to collect when you get to it. The dried up leaves show where it is and a little lump of the clay loam will hold the fleshy fibrous roots safely until replanted the following spring. It grows also higher up on Big Baldy in a rocky gravelly soil near the only place I know albino (alba) *Eritrichium elongatum* but that requires a climb that I do not plan to make again.

Do not worry about collecting Northern Rocky Mountain plants. Just use judgment as to how, what, where, and when to dig. Best to leave most of those that someone else may see when in bloom but back from the highways are plenty of wide open spaces where your use of that one plant is more important than any other use probable. It takes lots of flowers to make a lamb chop or grow an elk. That is what you are saving them for. In this area at least it is overgrazing or a change in

Continued on page 44



Lewisia Redivia and *Leypripedium Calceolus Pubescens*, (Lady slipper orchids)
—Photographed in the Dry Belt by Mrs. Grace Conboy

Plant Hunting in B. C.'s Dry Belt

GRACE M. CONBOY
SOUTH BURNABY, B. C., CANADA

Though I was born in B. C., Canada and have travelled over many of its highways and byways and along parts of its coastline, I had never been to the Interior valley area at just the right time to see *Lewisia Redivia* in bloom. I had seen lovely collected plants and been told they were plentiful, so was curious to see them for myself in their native habitat.

The 24th of May long week-end seemed a likely time to coincide with their blooming period so we packed up the necessaries and headed to Hope on Friday evening. Through the valley we noted many Dogwood (*C. Nuttali*) in lovely bloom. Most deciduous trees were well leafed. We spent the night in Hope to be fresh for the long drive on the morrow.

Travelling up the Hope-Princeton Highway the mountains are heavily forested with deep green evergreens. Snowy mountains seemed very close at hand. We had hoped to see the native *Rhododendron Californicum* in bloom but found the buds were still tight. The air was noticeably cooler as we climbed. At lower levels we admired plentiful clumps of the wild Red Currant (*Ribes sanguinum*) up

exposed slopes and along the road edge.

We soon noted snow patches in the sheltered parts and under trees close to the road which would explain the lack of obvious growth and bloom. All deciduous trees were still tightly budded except for a few in sheltered open places—sun pockets—were commencing growth. Pussywillows occasionally were spotted just shedding their neat brown jackets. Ours on the Coast had been in full pollen three months ago!

Nearing Princeton most of the open slopes 'neath the Ponderosa Pines were golden with bloom of *Arnica Cordifolia*, pleasing at a distance but near at hand rather coarse with large compositae flowers and elongated heart-shaped leaves. No sign of lovely *Penstemon Meneisii Davidsoniana* as we neared Princeton (it is lovely on the banks later in the year). Here we noticed the Poplars and other decidui breaking into rapid leafage.

We decided to drive on to Keremeos, in the heart of the dry belt country. My, how good the sage brush and pine woods smelt on this warm Spring day, especially when one has not been up for months. (I can almost

smell their fragrant aroma now despite the grey clouds and few snowflakes of Vancouver's moist winter.)

Stopping for a respite near Hedley, we encountered our first prickly Opuntias (*O. Fragilis*). Why they are "fragilis" can only refer to the beauty of the bloom, for they are indeed nasty little brutes to come upon if you don't see them first. They even penetrate shoe leather. They are found throughout most of the interior valley and must be most attractive when covered with yellow bloom.

We travelled on to Keremeos and settled ourselves in an auto court for our stopover. It was a lovely evening so we decided to explore a little before dark. Tramping through the sage brush towards a shoulder or hillside, we found our first *Lewisias*. No leaves—just the dainty many-petaled blooms close to the ground, deep pinks to pure whites, with as many as 5 to 6 blooms from one crown. It does give one a real thrill to see a lovely plant for the first time in its natural setting in perfect bloom. Collecting a few plants we found the roots quite large as expected. (I had heard the Indians used to collect them by the sackful and trade them for money or as exchange. They used them for food.) The plants were not difficult to collect intact in the deep grey sandy loam.

Driving on we noted that when one got farther away from habitation *Lewisia* plants were very plentiful. Not collected so heavily by the Indians we presumed. They were lovely indeed up roadside banks blooming so joyfully. Near groups of Ponderosa Pines the pretty flowers looked exquisite poking up through the partially decayed pine needles of a soft grey colour.

The clear deep blue of herbaceous *Penstemon procerus* or *tolmei* was found occasionally, with 6 to 7 inch

spikes of flowers in tight neat whorls. Their pleasing blue competed with the dazzling blue of *Delephinium* (possibly *Menzesii*) which flashed here and there along the way. Tall graceful spikes of scarlet *Gilia Aggregata*, also in whorls, with flowers not too unlike a flame coloured Fuchsia but having an unpleasant odor, appeared occasionally.

The next day with a whole day ahead to explore we were off early following the Richter Pass Road, a short route from Keremeos to Osoyoos, through some interesting country. Well away from town we found *Lewisias* in vast quantity, even along the road edge looking not unlike crocus among the sage brush. *Phlox Longifolia* was also plentiful in shades from white to deepest lavender pink.

Travelling on past lush fruit orchards, open sage brushland and green valleys where range cattle grazed we stopped for lunch near a snow-fed stream that came down from the hills. Here several species of *Viola* were blooming, one a very dainty soft delft blue, another a very large flat blue one found near the boggy stream edge. Following the stream in through range land for quite a distance we collected some plants of an interesting looking silvery matted *Arenaria*, with fairly large short budded heads, and a neat silver leafed *Potentilla* with short stemmed blooms of deepest yellow. We were indeed having a wonderful time.

Turning back on a different route we spotted a fine clump of *Corlhisza Orchid*, deep mahogany of ilp with daintily spotted petals in 8 inch spikes. These were growing in rich rotted wood soil in a cool location near the stream 'neath a gnarly tree that looked something akin to Hawthorn. Farther on I was simply amazed to come upon one of the most beautiful clumps of *Cypripidium Calceolus Parviflorum*

that I have ever seen. Such a clutch of 10 to 12 dainty slippers, all in perfect bloom. What a joyful find!

We also came upon a knoll that produced our first *Primulaceae*, dwarf *Dodecatheons*. The leafage was yellowing but the seed heads were setting nicely, almost ripe on 3 to 4 inch stems. This may be the lovely *D. Albiflora* that is distinct to this area. We shall hope plants come through and produce blooms so that we may identify it. *Lewisias* were also here but the fleshy leaves had not yet disappeared and fat buds were just beginning to expand. Obviously the snow had lingered longer on these lee shoulders, delaying growth.

To make our trip complete one more plant I had hoped to find eluded us, *Fritillaria Pudica*, the lovely little "Mission bell". I did not expect to find it in bloom but had hoped to find some seed pods and so be able to collect a few bulbs. Travelling back the main highway along Osoyoos Lake and lower Okanogan we were on the lookout for an area in which we thought they should be found. A *Delphinium* was fairly plentiful and at one section we stopped to investigate a particularly pleasing group. Lo and behold, here also were many neat little fat seed heads of our sought after *Fritillaria*. The location, in a free sharp grey sandy loam was not where we would have expected to find them. The soil was right, yes, but in such a dry place near a railroad track!

P.S.—It is now late November, and I was very surprised to notice in the past few week that the green fleshy fingers of *Lewisia Rediviva* are com-

mencing into growth. They have been kept very dry all summer, were potted up in soil brought back with them. Just this past week I have planted the pots out-of-doors with a piece of glass over them. I was not aware that leaves appeared in fall and wonder if this is the case in their natural state.

Montana Primulaceae by Rose

land use that eliminates some species. Certain species even increase on collecting areas when enough collecting is done to improve the seed bed or scatter the reproductive parts.

Drought kills many plants in nature, usually the young seedlings, but sometimes older plants on marginal sites. The normal drought is a selective killing with the best placed individuals surviving. Adverse seasons probably account for rare plants being where they are and not elsewhere, but that is another story.

For those who like
to dream over colors—

BARNHAVEN'S
No. 17

will be sent free of charge.

* * *

For those who want
to know how a primrose feels—

BARNHAVEN'S
Brochure No. 1

"Primroses—Their Understanding
and Care"

will be sent for 25c

BARNHAVEN GRESHAM, ORE.



Sky Hook Farm awaiting spring
—Photographed by Mrs. Baylor

Plant Associations With Primulas

ALICE HILLS BAYLOR, Johnson, Vermont

Reprinted from the Winter 1961 "The Gardener" official publication of the Men's Garden Club of America.

The plant family Primula is so versatile and contains so many different types that one will find many plants similar in cultural needs to associate with them. Two choices may be made—plants that bloom at the same time for good color combinations and those with good foliage that bloom later in the season.

One of the first Primulas to bloom in April is the bright pink *P. rosea grandiflora* and its smaller counterpart *P. rosea* "Petite Pink". This Primrose belongs in the Auriculatae section, a Himalayan species that grows in a clustered crown of pointed, glossy leaves and is most dependable, four to six inches in height. It is a good rock garden subject and blooms with the white *Draba carthiniaca*, *Hepatica triloba* and *Dicentra cucularia* which are also in scale for size. White or deep purple crocuses are excellent bulbs to use with *P. rosea*. We have

it growing at the foot of a low wall where above in the crevices are *Campanula garganica* to give a summer display. Both these plants enjoy a well drained, slightly lime-contained soil.

At the same time in April the large leafed *P. denticulata* holds bold lavender to lilac flower heads aloft. A border planting of yellow *Draba olympica* and *D. aizoides* is good. The *Draba* foliage makes a nice green mat throughout the season. With the *P. denticulata alba* I have a drift of purple crocuses and with the bright Ruby variety white crocuses. Behind these I have lilies for summer bloom interspersed with long spurred Columbine. Foliage is the medium with which we bind our garden subjects together and both Aquilegia and Thalictrum make a splendid foil for lilies. Rhododendrums and Azaleas form the background planting for the lily combinations with polyanthus, denticulata

and the belled *P. alpicola violacea* and *luna* as foreground or border plantings. In another portion of the shaded Primrose garden *Cornus alternifolia* and *Corylus americana* (Hazelnut) are used for fall foliage coloration.

The vernale group, *P. polyanthus*, *P. acaulis* and the *Julianas*, contains such a wealth of color and profusion of bloom they are planted to compliment each other in the lower section of the sunken garden. The midnight blue polyanthus are edged with the burgundy stalked Juliana Wanda for deep toned combination. The pink stalked Julianas, Mrs. King and Kinglough Beauty, are at the feet of the pastel polyanthus and Nettie Gale, the white cushion, edges the yellow giant polyanthus. Juliana Crispy, the bright red cushion, is with the white polyanthus and the yellow stalked Juliana Dorothy borders the new lavender to purple Gay 90's polyanthus. However the beds in this garden are raised for drainage by the use of low stone walls in which are planted the low Campanulas.

The aristocratic *P. auriculas* are planted in a series of terraces on a ten foot drop on the east side of the sunken garden in masses of color, complimenting and blending with their neighbors. Auricula Delph Blue and Intense Blue are separated by the lavender Iridescent; Tawty Giant, the soft orange, is separated from the yellow by the softer Candlelight; Ripe Cherry is planted below the white group and the deep purples are in association with Green Edge and Violet Queen. In the wall formation that forms the terraces Campanulas are planted in profusion to give a summer effect. *C. garganica*, *C. portenschlagiana* (*muralis*), *C. turbinata*, *C. carpatica* (both blue and white), *C. cochlearifolia* and *C. glomerata* which are the smaller varieties. *Arenaria*

caespitosa, the mosslike plant with white flowers, fills crevices and the rock fern *Polypodium vulgare* and the cliff brake *Cryptogramma acrostichoides* give good effect. Encrusted Saxifrages do well in parital shade, *S. aizoon*, a native to Vermont and the larger *S. Pyramidalis*. On the terraces among the *P. auriculas* also grow the white flowered *Jeffersonia diphylla*, *Aubrieta* in variety, miniature Columbine and *Thalictrums*; the feathery *Dicentra eximia* and its native cousin *D. cucularia*; *Corydalis lutea*; the ground Dogwood *Cornus canadensis* and *Pyrola elliptica*. One may mark a spot, as did I, where the sun filters through during more hours of the day and plant the creamy cupped blossomed *Dryas sundermanni*.

At Sky Hook we have planted Primroses in bays of evergreens and shrubs to show their versatility in combination with tulips, narcissii and grape hyacinths. Aconite, *Thalictrum* and *Hysotis* follow the bulb display. We have planted Primulas in some areas that receive too much sun in summer. Over these we plant in fall a scattering of an annual poppy to provide needed shade and later bloom.

The ravine garden is where a living spring supplies the three pools and the brook that connects them and where *P. denticulata* and the Candelabra Primroses are planted in separate colors by the hundreds. Here *P. denticulata* brings the first bloom amid Trilliums, Hepaticas and hundreds of Trout Lily, *Erythronium americanum*. The shade is produced by sugar maples, beech, birch, hawthorns and two ancient apple trees. There is a rock ledge on which moss and rock ferns grow and another at the source of the spring where *Osmunda*, claytoniana and *O. cinnamonea* have their fronds reflected in the water. Lady, Maidenhair, Christmas and Royal

ferns abound here. The little Bishops-cap, *Mitella diphylla*, makes a ground cover through which the stately Candelabras raise their tiered beauty the last of May and in early June.

Both the pink and yellow Ladyslippers, *Cypripedium acaule* and *C. parviflorum*, grow near a stump. *Lobelia siphilitica* and *L. cardinalis* have crept in and also both the closed Gentians, *G. andrewsii* and *G. linearis*, hold their blue flowers in fall. Two forms of Solomon's Seal, *Polygonatum biflorum* and *P. pubescens* grow near the lush *Actea rubra* that gives an abundance of red fruit in fall. *Aquilegia* have seeded themselves and been allowed to grow while the brook is almost clogged with blue forget-me-nots revelling in moist shade. *Vinca minor* is a ground cover in some places while violets wander near the edge of the wood lot and wild ginger makes a fragrant patch.

There is an abundance of plant material to combine with Primulas. As I close I remember some I forgot to mention, especially the tuberous begonias I plant at the top of the terraced auricula garden.

A.P.S. PLANT SALE

The East Side Garden Club provides a booth to the American Primrose Society in the growers' sales room at each annual Primrose Show. All proceeds go to the A.P.S. and supplement the society income. Were it not for this, and sales at other affiliated clubs, our annual income would fall far below expenditures.

It is the hope of president Herbert Dickson that members will bring plants during *any day* of the show, April 20, 21, 22, to donate to this sale. Your thoughtfulness will be greatly appreciated. They need not all be primulas but should be good quality plants.

Mrs. Blanche Start, founder of Glenhaven Nursery, Mulino, Oregon, passed away this winter. A wonderful gardener and hybridizer of primroses, especially the Candelabra section, and a faithful worker at Oregon Shows, she will be missed by all.

Roland E. Cooper, Regional Editor from England, famous plant collector and former Curator at the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, passed on following a brief illness. His contributions to the A.P.S. in the form of photographs and articles were numerous. He had a deep affection for us and a love of Primroses. He was awarded a Life Membership in 1961 by our Society.

DUES

1962 dues were delinquent Jan. 15th. It would make the job of the treasurer (a difficult job at best for anyone who would rather be working in the garden) much easier and less expensive to the society if members would send their dues in without waiting to be billed. Savings in time, stationery and postage would be the result. Why not make this "Be Kind To The Treasurer Month" and give her more precious time to work in her garden? 1962 members will be admitted to the National Show by showing their new membership card and paying the small state tax. 1961 cards will not suffice.



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Wanzel, Mr. Ray.....301 East 4th Street, Chester, Penn.
Ward, Mrs. Murlin.....611 Tower Road, Castle Rock, Wn.
Warneck, Mrs. H.....8455 34th Avenue S.W., Seattle 6, Wn.
Waterson, Mrs. W. J.....Rt. 6, Box 204, Anderson, Ind.
Watson, Mr. James W.....687 North 7 Road, R. R. 2, Richmond, B. C., Canada
Watson Mrs. James W.....687 North 7 Road, R. R. 2, Richmond, B. C., Canada
Weaver, Mrs. E. A.....52 Lake Shore Drive, St. Joseph, Mich.
Weaver, Mrs. Leona.....Rt. 3, Box 391, Mt. Vernon, Wn.
Webster, Mrs. Charles D.....St. Marks Lane, Islip, Long Island, N. Y.
Wells, Mrs. C. E.....Oakhurst, Madera County, Calif.
Wells, Mr. James S.....P. O. Box 141, Red Bank, N. J.
*Wessinger, Mr. Henry.....1133 West Burnside, Portland 9, Ore.
*Weston, Miss Delight.....448 Old Longridge Rd., Stamford, Conn.
Westover, Mr. Don.....1317 N. 175th St., Seattle 33, Wn.
**Wetzel, Mrs. Richard.....1001 Reading Blvd., Wyomissing, Penn.
Wheeler, Mildred A.....P. O. Box 63, Foxboro, Mass.
White, Mrs. A.....The Pond House, Peamore, Alington, Exeter, Devon, England
Whyte, Mr. George J.....14346 32nd Avenue N.E., Seattle 55, Wn.
Wibel, Mrs. Nola E.....Contoocook, N. H.
Wilkinson, Mrs. Ronald.....9425 13th S.W., Seattle 66, Wn.
Williams, Mr. L. J.....R. R. #1, Ladysmith, B. C., Canada
*Wilson, Mrs. Leslie Z.....P. O. Box 278, Florence, Ore.

Winch, Mr. H. C., MACDONALD & WILSON LTD. FERTOSAN.....562 Beatty St. Vancouver 3, B. C., Canada
Wiper, Mr. Ernest.....6507 Maple St., Vancouver 13, B. C., Canada
Wiper, Mr. Kenneth G.....4655 Cordova Bay Rd., R. R. 4, Victoria, B. C., Canada
Witte, Mrs. Arthur F. A.....Box 102, Goldens Bridge, New York
Wolff, Mrs. Joe.....5437 Pleasure Point Lane, Bellevue, Wn.
Woodford, Mr. R. N.....707 Woolford Road, Kalama, Wn.
*Worthington, Mr. Dale.....6016 S. E. Jennings Ave., Portland 22, Ore.
*Wright, Mrs. Francis J.....317 Stanbery Ave., Columbus 9, Ohio
Wright, Mr. Martin A.....P. O. Box 225, Woodinville, Wn.
*Wright, Mr. Victor F.....1029 18th Ave., New Westminster, B. C., Canada
Wright, Mrs. William T.....East Boothbay, Maine
Wylie, Mrs. Rose B.....312 Crescent Ave., Greenville, S. C.
Wynne, Miss Winifred.....Tigroney-Avoca, County Wicklow, Ireland
Young, Mr. J. Hayden....."Fir Grove", Ruthin, Denbighshire, North Wales
Youngblood, Mr. Harley O.....c/o Blanche Hess, 6425 S.E. 39th Ave., Portland 2, Ore.
*Zack, Mrs. E. Mary.....8825 N.W. Bailey, Portland 9, Ore.
*Zanini, Mr. John.....941 Chula-Vista Ave., Burlingame, Calif.
*Zellinskey, Mrs. V.....Box 135, Shawnigan Lake, V. I., B. C., Canada
Zepp, Mrs. Erwin C.....4586 Starrett Rd., Columbus 14, Ohio

LIBRARIES, SOCIETIES AND EXCHANGES

Alpine Garden Society, Sec. C. B. Saunders.....Husseys Green St. Green, Farnborough, Kent, England
American Rock Garden Society, Edgar L. Totten, Sec.....1220 Everett Way, Hendersonville, N. C.
American Rose Magazine.....4048 Roselea Pl., Columbus 14, Ohio
Bailey Hortorium.....Sage Place, Ithaca, N. Y.
Department of Agriculture Library.....Washington 25, D. C.
Dept. of Agriculture, Main Library.....Sci. Serv. Bldg., Ottawa, Canada
Horticultural Newsletter, H. Gleason Mattoon.....Box 96, Arlington, Vermont
Library of Congress, Exchange & Gift Division.....Washington 25, D. C.
Library of the Royal Agriculture College of Sweden.....Uppsala 7, Sweden
Library of Western State Hospital.....Fort Steilacoom, Wash.
Massachusetts Horticultural Soc. Library.....300 Mass. Ave., Boston, Mass.
Milwaukee Public Library, Serials Section.....814 West Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee 3, Wis.
Milwaukie Public Library.....922 Main St., Milwaukie 22, Ore.
Missouri Botanical Gardens.....2315 Tower Grove Ave., St. Louis 10, Mo.
National Association of Gardeners, c/o Edith A. Medlock, Editor, 194 Old Country Rd., Mineola, N. Y.
National Auricula & Primula Society, Northern Section, Hon. Sec. Mr. J. Robinson, 584 Edenfield Road, Norden, Rochdale, England
National Auricula & Primula Society, Southern Section, Hon. Sec. G. Redvers Williams, Mt. Pleasant, Eastbury, Newbury, Berkshire, England
New York Botanical Gardens.....Bronx Park, Fordham Branch P.O., New York 58, N. Y.
Northern Horticultural Society, Donald G. Ineson.....Milestones, Hightown, Livingsedge, England
Oregon State College Library.....Corvallis, Ore.
Oregon State Library.....State Library Bldg., Salem, Ore.
Ozark Gardens, c/o Mrs. Edith Bestard.....Eureka Springs, Arkansas
Pennsylvania Horticultural Society.....389 Suburban Station Bldg., 1617 Pennsylvania Blvd., Philadelphia, Penn.
Portland Library Association.....801 S.W. 10th Ave., Portland 5, Ore.
Royal Botanic Gardens.....Kew, Richmond, Surrey, England
San Francisco Public Library, Periodical Div.....Civic Center, San Francisco, Calif.
San Jose Public Library.....Market and San Fernando, San Jose 13, Calif.
Scottish Rock Garden Club, James T. Aitken 75 Whitehouse Rd., Midlothian, Scotland
Seattle Public Library.....4th & Madison, Seattle 4, Wn.
Tacoma Public Library.....1102 S. Tacoma Ave., Tacoma 2, Wn.
Tufts University Library.....c/o Dr. Paul Warren, Barnum Museum, Medford, Mass.
University of California General Library.....Berkeley 4, Calif.
University of California Library, Acquisitions Dept.....Davis, Calif.
University of New Hampshire Extension Service.....c/o L. A. Dougherty, Morrill Hall, Durham, N. H.
University of Washington Library.....Seattle 5, Wn.
Victoria Horticultural Society.....225 Battleford Ave., Victoria, B. C., Canada
Washington State Library.....Olympia, Wn.

1962 National Primrose Show

The East Side Garden Club, famous for its Primrose Shows, will be host to the National Show at Kirkland Civic Center April 20, 21, and 22. Mrs. John Siepman is Show Chairman. The theme, "Primroses—World Wide", ties in with the Seattle World's Fair which opens April 21.

Landscaped floor plots by nurserymen and garden clubs make Kirkland's annual show one of the most outstanding in the area. The stage of the Civic Center will represent Japan. Primula native to that country and floral arrangements by outstanding Northwest artists in the Japanese motif will help to carry out the theme.

A. P. S. Annual Meeting and Banquet

The National Meeting and Banquet of the American Primrose Society will be Saturday, April 21, at 7:00 p.m. in the Continental House, 207 Kirkland Ave., Kirkland, Wn. Show trophies will be presented at this time.

Following is the list of nominees from which officers will be elected. If you wish to vote, but cannot attend, send your ballot to Mrs. Mary E. Zack, 8825 N.W. Bailey, Portland, Ore.

President.....Mr. Herbert H. Dickson
Vice President.....Mrs. Rosetta Jones
Rec. Secretary.....Mrs. Mary E. Zack
Corres. Sec'y...Mrs. Alice Hills Baylor
Treasurer.....Mrs. Lawrence G. Tait
Director.....Mrs. Florence Bellis
Director.....Mrs. Grace Conboy

Reservations for the banquet, cost \$2.75, will be accepted by Mrs. Ralph Balcom, 345 N.W. 88th, Seattle 7, Wn. (SU 3-2914). Please make them early.

Those wishing to make motel reservations near the show can write the Bellevue Motor Court, 1657-104th

Mrs. George Tsutakawa and her dance troupe will present authentic Japanese Folk dances at 2:00 p.m. Saturday, April 21. An outstanding artist of the dance, Mrs. Tsutakawa is also skilled in playing the Japanese 16 string harp, the Koto.

Your 1962 A.P.S. membership card, plus tax, will be your admission to the National Show—a new ruling by the A.P.S. board. Other standard requirements for National Shows are published in this issue. Please note the ruling allowing those living 100 miles or more from the show to enter plants the morning of the show opening.

N.E. Bellevue. There is no other motel in the immediate area and hotel and motel reservations in nearby Seattle should be made at once because of the opening of the World's Fair at that time.

The Continental House will be headquarters for Primrose people during the show . . . a good place to meet friends and relax over coffee, breakfasts, lunches and dinners.

A. P. S. Stationery

Because of numerous requests the A. P. S. Board has authorized three different designs of stationery for the use of members. A Primrose in the upper left corner, the words *American Primrose Society*, are printed in green. The cost will be 25 sheets for \$1.00 *without envelopes*. Envelopes to suit can be purchased by the members for less than we can mail them. Please send a stamped addressed envelope to the editor for samples.

Primrose Show Dates

Show schedules in advance of the shows are available by writing the show chairman. Dates of local meetings are given to encourage attendance of those interested in primroses. Guests and new members are welcome at all clubs. Your enjoyment of primroses will increase by sharing ideas and plants with others.

Plant sales at the shows offer many interesting collector's items and often introduce you to new primula species.

No admission charge unless so specified.

CLARK COUNTY PRIMROSE SOCIETY

Apr. 7-8 at the Experiment Station, 1918 N.E. 78 St., Vancouver, Wn., (Shopping Center E. of Totem Pole). Sat. 1:30-8; Sun. 10-6. *Primrose Path* is the theme. Mrs. Mary Ramsden, 6614 N.E. 139th St. R. 5, Vancouver, Wn. is Show Chairman. Mrs. Edrie Horn is president. Club meetings are the 3rd Thurs. at the Experiment Station.

MT. ANGEL GARDEN CLUB

Apr. 8 at St. Mary's School, Mt. Angel, Ore. from 11 to 6. Mrs. Joe Annen, Box 122, R 1, Mt. Angel, Ore. is the Show Chairman. Mrs. Dave Shepherd is president. The club meets the 2nd Wednesday at the City Hall.

CANADIAN PRIMULA & ALPINE SOCIETY

Apr. 13-14 in the Dunsmuir Hall Auditorium, 111 Dunsmuir St. at Beatty (opposite Bus Depot), Vancouver, B. C. Fri. 2-10; Sat. 12-9. There will be an Exquisite Planted Rock Garden, Nursery Displays, Benches and Flower Arrangements. Mr. W. Brandner, 7961 Gilley Ave., So. Burnaby, B. C. is Show Chairman. Mr. A. Guppy is Co-Chairman. Mrs. F. J. Macey is president of the society which meets the 4th Thurs. at Douglas Park Fieldhouse on Willow St. between 20-22nd W. (So. from General Hosp. on 12th Ave.)

FRIDAY HARBOR PRIMROSE CLUB

Apr. 13-14 at the Study Club, Friday Harbor, Wn. Fri. 11-8; Sat. 11-4. *Century 21* is the theme of the show. Mrs. Walter Arends, Friday Harbor, Wn. is the Show Chairman. Mrs. Raymond D. Dahl is president of the club which meets the 3rd Tues. at the homes of members.

OREGON PRIMROSE SOCIETY

Apr. 14-15 at the Community Hall, 42nd and Jackson, Milwaukie, Ore. Plants will be rec'd 6-8 on 13th: 8-10 a.m. on 14th). The theme is *Primrose Lane*. Mrs. Anita Alexander is show chairman. Mrs. Alice Elmstrom, president. Meetings: Last Fri. of month, 8 p.m. Milwaukie City Hall.

E. SIDE GARDEN CLUB

Apr. 20, 21, 22 at Civic Center, Kirkland, Wn. NATIONAL APS SHOW. (See National Show in Index) Mrs. John Siepman is show chm., and president, 3616 N.E. Bellevue-Redmond Rd., Bellevue, Wn. Club meetings on 3rd Wednesday, noon, at Kirkland Women's Clubhouse. Show—50c.

TACOMA PRIMROSE SOCIETY

Apr. 28-29 at the National Bank of Washington in the center of Lakewood Center, Tacoma, Wn. Sat. 1-9; Sun. 11-6. *Primroses in Fantasy* is the show theme. Louis M. Haas, 536 Ramsdell St., Fircrest, Wn. will be Show Chairman. Floyd Keller is president. Club meetings are the 2nd Tuesday at Oakland Fieldhouse, So. Tacoma, Center at Madison St. at 8 p.m.

LEWIS COUNTY PRIMROSE SOCIETY

Show cancelled due to freeze.

Mrs. Reuben Stohr is president. Club meetings are the 2nd Tues. except (Nov. & Dec.) at members' homes.

WASHINGTON STATE PRIMROSE SOCIETY

No Show. Pres. Howard Short 3232 Conkling Pl., Seattle. Meets 4th Fri. 7:30 at Arboretum.

ONANDOGA PRIMROSE SOCIETY

No show, but tour of member's gardens each spring. Contact Pres. Raymond F. Piper, 1310 Comstock Ave., Syracuse 5, N. Y. for meeting dates.

Victoria Garden Festival

DORIS PAGE, Victoria, B. C.

The Victoria Garden Festival, a tradition for thirty years, will be on May 3, 4 and 5 this year. A bus tour each afternoon will leave from 906 Government St., Victoria, at 1:00 p.m. to different gardens each day of the Festival.

The tours will include the display gardens of local nurseries, the Butchart Gardens, gardens at Government House, Royal Roads Canadian Services College, The Victoria University grounds, public parks such as Beacon Hill, Stadacona, Playfair park, with its Rhododendron collection, the Saanichton Experimental Farm, Thetis Lake Nature Sanctuary and the conservatory at the Empress Hotel. Other smaller gardens will be open to the public during the three day Festival.

Mr. Tom Sawyer of 3550 Richmond Rd., Victoria, B.C., is in charge of arrangements and will supply further information or arrange for large groups of visitors if given sufficient warning.

Starting April 27 a C.P.R. ferry will leave Seattle daily at 8 a.m. arriving at Victoria at 11:50 a.m. Alternate routes are from Schwartz Bay (Victoria) to Vancouver, Nanaimo (an hour's drive north up Vancouver Island) across to Vancouver, and Sydney (1/2 hour from Victoria) by ferry to Anacortes, Wn.

Admission and bus transportation to the listed gardens will probably be \$1.75 a day. For those using their own cars admission can be paid at any of the gardens. This has been 75c per day in past years.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

IMPORTED SHOW & ALPINE AURICULAS. England's finest named varieties now available in America. Rare and beautiful auriculas are the ultimate for lovers of fine flowers. A collection small or large of named auriculas gives unending pleasure for years. I will have plants for sale at Kirkland in the salesroom. Write for price list. JOHN SHUMAN, 5957 37th S.W., Seattle 6, Wn.

DOUBLE & SHOW AURICULAS seeds 50 for \$3; transplants \$5 doz.; plants \$3 to \$5 each. Choice Candelabra plants 12/\$5; transplants 12/\$2.50; Polyanthus plants 12/\$5; transplants 12/\$2.50; seeds \$1. pkt. Please add 20% for shipping in West and 30% to East. Hand pol. **EXBURY AZALEA** seed. . . \$3 pkt. Send for complete list which includes many collector's items. JONES NURSERY, 6210 S.286th St., Kent, Wn.

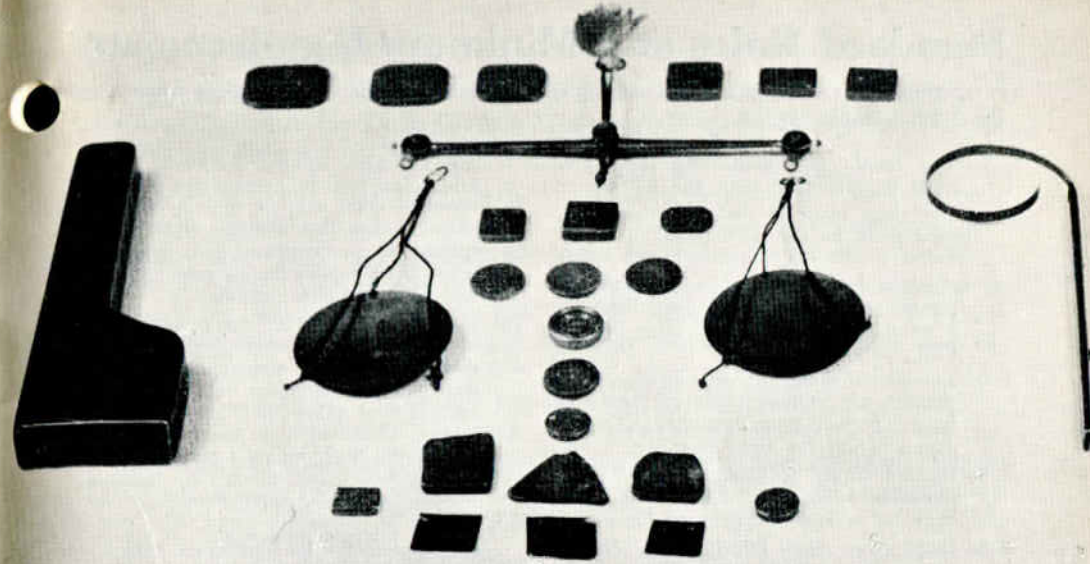
PRIMULA ROSEA GRANDIFLORA, bright pink-50, P.rosea "Petite Pink" -.65. Gift boxes a specialty. \$3.50 and up. Send for List. SKY HOOK FARM, Johnston, Vt.

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Antique Gooseberry Scales

Mr. Dan Bamford spoke of the interest in Gooseberry Shows in England in the winter quarterly. The scales pictured will be on display at the National Primrose Show in Kirkland this year. They were a gift of Mr. Bamford who states "The scales are particularly accurate and all the bits and pieces of hand made weights shown in the photograph were used to weigh to a fraction of a penny-weight. If two berries apparently weighed the same, they were weighed against each other, one in each pan. If they still showed the same weight, the whip-like object on the right,

known as a gauge, was used to measure the circumference. Judging was on a weight basis, but size, shape, smoothness and transparency of skin and the smallness of the eye, all entered into the judging."

The scales are very old, some of the weights were stamped in the reign of King William. Mr. Bamford states that we will not find such another set in the whole of America and does not know where there is another set in England.

Our thanks to you Mr. Bamford for these and the coveted Bamford Copper Kettle. You have been most generous to our society.

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Standard Rules and Minimum Requirements

for a national American Primrose Society show by an affiliated society approved by A.P.S. Board 1961.

1. The local club sponsoring the show must be affiliated with the APS.
2. The show must be designated as a national show by the APS board of directors.
3. A national show must be open to the public for two days or more to include a week end and close no later than 6 P.M. on final day.
4. Entries must be accepted in clay and plastic pots. Other types of pots may be accepted to encourage entries by air express from far away members.
5. Entries from members living more than 100 miles from the show must be accepted on the morning of the show.
6. Entries in the arrangement classes should be accepted up until one hour before judging is scheduled to start.
7. The show will include, besides the individual plants for benching, a decorative section for arrangements, an educational display, and at least one planted display to show the use of the type of primula featured by the show.
8. In a national show the novice, amateur and professional entries will be judged separately.
9. Admission, except required tax, will be free to members of the APS upon display of their paid up membership card.
10. Trophies must be engraved to include at least—APS national show, the year, the award, and the name of the winner; except when the trophy is of a material or construction not suited to engraving. In lieu of the engraving a certificate with the same information that would be engraved on the trophy and signed by both the president of the sponsoring society and the president of the APS will be presented to the winner. The winner of any perpetual or revolving trophy will be presented a similar certificate with the trophy.
11. All primula plants in competition are to be judged as garden flowers by accredited APS judges, except show auriculas, alpine auriculas, and gold-laced polyanthus must be judged as show flowers by accredited floraculture judges.
12. Decorative displays and arrangements may be judged by the standards of the area in which the show is held.
13. Any time there are three or more entries of one type or color of primula

not included on the schedule a separate class will be created for them. A separate class may be set up for any entry not on the schedule if the show committee so desires. (This is useful when a new color break, new form, or new hybrid is first exhibited.)

14. Points for figuring sweepstakes winners are: Blue ribbons—3 points; division champion—5 points; other special awards not division champions—5 points, Best plant of 2 or more divisions—10 points, best plant in show—15 points. Only when a tie exists will red ribbons (2nd place) be counted; then, they will be 2 points each.

DEFINITIONS

NOVICE

One who has never won a blue ribbon award on a primula plant in a show.

AMATEUR

One who does not have nurseryman's license to grow or sell plants.

PROFESSIONAL

One who has a nurseryman's license to grow or sell plants. (The requirements vary from state to state and may be different than the requirements for a sales tax permit).

JUNIOR

Age limits determined by the local society and published in schedule.

PRIMROSE (For show purposes)

Any species or hybrid of the genus primula

SEEDLING

A plant grown by the exhibitor from seed and displaying its first season's bloom, must be a single crown plant; except in the show auricula, alpine auricula, and goldlaced polyanthus class, a seedling is a plant that has not been named—and it does not have to be raised from seed by the exhibitor.

BORDER ALPINE

Auriculas grown as garden plants that are predominately alpine in character but having minor flaws such as pin eye, notched or pointed petals that prevent its being benched as an alpine auricula.

GARDEN AURICULA

Any auricula grown as a garden plant that cannot be placed in any other established section or class for competition.

SHOW AURICULA, ALPINE AURICULA AND GOLD LACED POLYANTHUS

Plants that conform to the APS accepted minimum standards of the type for benching in a show.

Bygone Fanciers

Quotations from an article by the Rev. G. D. Dunlop. This article is published in full in the 1936 Diamond Jubilee Report of the National Auricula and Primula Soc., So. Section.

"The French, too, have their literature and their brotherhood of the Auricula. And there is a series of charming little books and essays dating from somewhere about the reign of King Louis XIV, who himself, as M. de Valnay records, was much attracted by our flower. Much of this literature shares the pages with that of the Tulip, the Ranunculus, and the Carnation; for the true French fancier seems to have divided his affection equally between all four flowers.

"*Traite de la Culture Farfaite de L'Oreille-D'Ours ou Auricule, par un Curieux de Province*" in three editions, 1732, 1735 and 1738. The book is anonymous, but attributed in one copy to Le Lieur Guenin; and with much probability, for the author signs his preface "Ingenu" . . . an obvious play upon his real name.

In the introduction the author tells us that his father was a keen fancier, and lived to the age of 79, passing on his interest to his son:—"And the interest is all the stronger in me, because I see nothing in it but what is innocent; and it permits those engaged in it to lead a saintly life, and exempt from all reproach; and it serves as a gracious relaxation for gentlemen of the study and the office. I have attached myself only to the Auricula and the Tulip, and principally to the former because it is more to my taste. The Auricula has qualities over and above other flowers: it is green all the year round, and consequently the Fancier has the joy of watching its development or checking its decadence; it has a fragrance sweet and charming; it makes very beautiful bouquets: it has constancy; and it flowers twice in the year."

This is borne out in a pleasant little poem by friend Le Picart, who pictures the plaint of all the other flowers against Auricula before Queen Flora: they accuse her of being an upstart and something worse; but directly Auricula appears before the Queen, the latter is so captivated by her charms that she gives her the verdict and "To render this day memorable to the whole world, I double her renown and her destiny: Auricula shall flower twice each year, and her leaves shall always be green."

After all these frill and flattery the author gets down to practical details. He gives fourteen qualities which the Auricula must have to be in its perfection. There is no great difference between these and our own standards, but it is interesting to note that the French went in for size: "The flowers should be an inch in diameter at least."

Then there are the usual practical instructions on soil, transplanting, seed-sowing, and the like; and the following extracts may give us an insight into those bygone days and ways of France. The right soil for Auriculas; mole-hills or river silt; six baskets of one of these mixed with one of "terreau de fumier de cheval ou de vache." The right pots for Auriculas should be 5 inches in diameter at the top, and only 3 inches at the base; 6 inches in depth. These pots should be glazed a fine green outside. There are, however, many fanciers who use square pots, because they are better for arrangement and show-purposes. Keep your plants clean from snails, grubs and other pests which gnaw right into the heart and make them to perish.

"There are many fanciers who im-

agine that they must choose the time of the full moon for sowing their seeds, but this is an error. There are fanciers who, following the opinion of many authors, sow during the month of September; but experience has destroyed this opinion. Sow in December or February; this is the time chosen by Messieurs Les Flamands, and we ought to believe them since they were the first to cultivate the Auricula. Protect your seedpans against worms by raising them upon planks; and above all against cats, which do not fail to upset the seeds by scratching up the soil."

One of the happiest contributions to the Art of the Auricula by the French was their method of "Theatres," in which they displayed and exhibited their flowers. And we find details in this book. "That place is called a Theatre or Buffet, where one puts the Auriculas when they are in flower. It is made of planks placed in steps, 4 inches broad, raised one upon another only 3 inches; covered with a roof sufficiently elevated to give air to those on top. The roof should be higher by 2 feet at the front than at the back. The highest stage should be 4 feet above the level of the ground. The opening, or the front, should always face north, in order to preserve the flowers in their lustre for as long as possible. One needs to paint the back black, to make the colours of the flowers stand out well.

Many fanciers have taken much care to make these Theatres substantial and to lavish decoration upon them. They have painted in the back pictures which serve as ornaments to their gardens when their Theatres are not furnished with flowers. I could wish they would cover their pictures with a black cloth, to prevent their colours clashing with those of the flowers."

An apology . . .

to Elmer Baldwin, Chairman of the Seed Exchange, for my poor proof reading on the 1962 Seed List.

The Editor

Primroses	Fuchsias
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Seed Exchange Note

ELMER C. BALDWIN, *Chairman*

A very sincere vote of thanks to the contributors who made possible the list which proved to be of very real interest to the members.

Our especial thanks to Mr. Noguchi for his collection of native Japanese plants, collected in the wild, and for the time, care, and effort expended in preparing the contribution. Many members may not have realized what they were missing in not including at least one variety in their order, although it was found necessary to limit members to one packet of "S" contributed seed.

His *primula sieboldii* consisted of seed gathered from 35 separate, isolated plants, collected in their native habitat and we were able to furnish many packets of one seed each from the thirty five plants.

We also wish to thank individually, those overseas members who, because of imposed restrictions, found it difficult to ship seed from their country.

The seeds from Mr. V. Kristof in Czechoslovakia were lost in the mails. He is, however, sending a second packet of the same kinds of seeds. Any one wishing to order may write for a list from Mr. Baldwin at 400 Te-cumseh Road, Syracuse 10, New York.


Mrs. David M. Pixley has sent a clipping to the editor of a Tiffany & Co. advertisement using a beautiful marginata primula in vermeil. This appeared in the New York Times

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Gold Laced Polyanthus. Photographed and grown by Mrs. C. C. Chambers

People and Flowers

Mrs. C. C. Chambers . . .

was pleased to see such perfect Gold Laced Polyanthus seedlings in this natural grouping in her Seattle garden. The seed came from the hybridizing of the late Peter Klein of Tacoma.

J. Robinson . . .

Hon. Sec'y. of the National Auricula and Primula Soc. Northern Section, England, does not let gardening interfere with frequent trips to a vacation house in N. Wales. He packs up his flats of seedlings in the car and takes them along with him.

The Onandoga Primrose Society

of Syracuse, N. Y. meets at the home of members. In January a blizzard was raging and the temperature well below zero but Elmer Baldwin arrived at the Raymond F. Piper home with a corduroy case over primrose plants to protect them from freezing. A smorgasbord was provided by Mrs. Piper, and from all reports it was a wonderful meeting. Hilda Baldwin states that anyone in or near Syracuse,

interested in the O.P.S. can be sure of a warm reception. Please contact president Raymond F. Piper at 1310 Comstock Ave., Syracuse, N.Y.

Ralph Balcom . . .

noted for his educational planting demonstrations at club meetings of W.S.P. Soc. is getting good results by filling flats just half full of his soil mix when he transplants new seedlings. The proportion of sand used depends on the type soil used, of course. No other fertilizer but Blue Whale Peatmoss is used at this time because he wants the roots to become well established. Over fertilizing in the seedling stage can cause stunted root systems.

No Seeds . . .

"I am just a beginner with primroses so have no seeds to exchange" wrote one member after looking over the Seed Exchange list. *One does not need to send in order to buy them from the Exchange.* Those members who so generously send seed are given preference of selection if they wish it, but any member may order.

Mrs. Henriette Klees. . .

Glenmont, N. Y. has sold her home and has no garden. She offers for sale to the highest bidder nineteen years of back issues of the A. P. S. Quarterly. Failing eyesight has curtailed her reading. Out of print issues are scarce.

A Fox Box . . .

Mrs. May Fox of Seattle has a good suggestion for ageing bones susceptible to damp and cold during transplanting time. She uses a paper carton with low sides and cuts one side to the bottom. In this she uses a sponge cushion for comfort. Start at the back of the bed and as you plant slide it easily backward. Another advantage of the "Fox-box" is that ones weight is more evenly distributed and deep furroughs are avoided in freshly prepared soil. When the box wears out just get another.

Primula glaucescens subsp. calycina . . .

One of the most attractive spots in my terraced Primrose garden is the portion where the alpine species, *P. glaucescens subsp. calycina* grows.

The plant has dark green foliage ringed with dense hairs, but with no farina. It grows about two to three inches tall. Above this green tuft in early spring appears the flower cluster on one to two inch stems. The seven to nine florets are large and of a soft lilac of good substance.

This small member of the Primula family belongs in the Section *Auricula* subsection *arthritica*. Its native habitat is the Italian Alps. (Common in the Bergamo Alps, rare in the Judicarian Alps).

The preferred site in one's garden is a rock pocket filled with rich humus and gritty limestone. In New England where limestone is rare the pH of the soil may be controlled by adding crushed, washed sea shells or crushed egg shells. Mulched with chicken grit

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Haysom—Florists' Auriculas & Gold Laced Polyanthus (London 1957) \$5.95

Lyall—Hardy Primulas (London 1959) \$4.95

Puttock—Primulas (London 1957) \$3.00

For a wonderful book on Bulbs I recommend Collins Guide to Bulbs by Patrick M. Syngé (London 1961) 320 pages 357 bulbs illustrated, 330 in color. \$5.75

Your postal card will bring more information about any of the above books and lists of selected new and out of print garden books.

Lynn M. Ranger

41 Lynn Shore Drive

Lynn, Mass.

the plant will develop many side shoots which in time may be removed to increase the colony. Those growing in my garden were raised from seed in 1951 and bloomed for the first time in April, 1952.

Companion plants for this alpine species are *P. rosea grandiflora* and *P. rosea* "Petite Pink" with the soft lavender flowered *P. marginata* as an edging. All these are long lived and early flowering. *Alice Hills Baylor, Johnson, Vt.*

Primula glaucescens





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Cultural Notes From The Late Peter Klein

Recorded by Hazel Keller

(These notes were taken from time to time at
Tacoma Primrose Society Meetings)

SEEDS: Use a seed disinfectant such as Arasan or Semesan with your seeds. Disease is easier to prevent than control.

Fill your flats with soil so there is no dead air in corners. To prevent wilt in seedlings — sprinkle transplants with a solution of potassium permanganate — 1 oz. to 5 gals of water. Be sure to water your flats in the morning with tepid — not cold water—so the plants will be thoroughly dry before sundown. Do not water them in full sun. After fertilizing seedlings sprinkle with clear water to wash fertilizer from leaves. Transplant seedlings when second pair of true leaves appear.

Rotate plantings yearly. If that is impossible change at least part of the soil around plants to obtain the same results.

Use a good drench of fermate or captan on soil where plants have been killed with frost—1 oz. to 3 gals of water.

After first frost mulch plants with dry straw. As season advances add more straw.

Sodium chloride will kill wild morning glories. 1 oz. to 1 gal. of water.

Saline solution will kill blackberry vines. Or use salt dry.

Use copper oxide—1 oz. to 3 gals. water for dampoff and stem canker.

Dust with sulfur for mildew, and avoid drafts in the house.

Spray with bordeaux mixture for leaf spot.

For aphids or plant lice spray with nicotine sulphate or dust with pyrethrum or rotenone.

Use 1 part 37% formaldehyde to 50 parts of water to wash pots and greenhouse benches. Also spray it under the benches. Use parathion for mealy bugs on greenhouse primroses.

A GOOD POTTING MIX (Merton's Mix)

7 parts loam	meal
3 parts peat moss	3/4 oz. ground
2 parts sand	limestone
1-1/2 oz.	3/4 oz. murate
superphosphate	of potash
1-1/2 oz. horn	Mix well

In baiting for slugs remove both ends of a tin can and hide the bait inside the can. Be sure to keep bait available as the slugs never give up.

Bank the soil around the outside of your hot beds to conserve heat.

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Questions and Answers

Q. A new member from Connecticut would like to see articles in the Quarterly covering the culture of auriculas in that area. Most articles from the East have been written by members from areas having a good snow cover throughout the winter. What does one do when winters are a series of freezes and sudden thaws with no guarantee of snow covering? The summers are appallingly hot. In spite of this polyanthus do reasonably well in the area. (Will readers from Connecticut send suggestions?)

Q. Are eggshells good for primroses?

A. Yes. It's a good idea to compost cooked eggshells, but raw eggshells (rinse them out with cold water and let them dry to prevent odor) are valuable in potting mixes. Auriculas particularly like egg shell, crushed fine, either in the mix or at the bottom of the pot above the crocks. If you are short of containers for small seedlings, eggshells broken in half can be used as peat-pots are used. Make a hole in the bottom for drainage and when the weather moderates plant out in the garden by crumbling the shell so that roots will not be hampered. Slow growing auriculas, etc. like the shallow containers.

Q. Are the plants exhibited at Primrose Shows in April kept in pots all winter, or do they blossom that early? (From Norwalk, Wisc.)

A. Very few exhibits are kept potted. Those that require good drainage such as show auricula are always kept in pots. There is a ruling that plants must be grown out of doors with the exception of one class for forced specimens. In many cases in the Northwest some of the plants we would like to exhibit are out of bloom by show time. The Polyanthus, of course, are well

in bloom but *Denticulata, rosea*, and some *Acaulis* and *Julianas* that start flowering as early as February are often past their peak.

Q. Are fluorescent lights good for raising primrose seedlings?

A. Some growers who have tried it are going back to natural lighting. Plants have a tendency to become leggy under artificial light.

Q. Do you treat primroses like strawberries by cutting leaves off in summer?

A. Some believe that cutting most of the leaves in summer is best. Certainly if you are low on water, are subject to attack by red spider, etc. it might be well to do so. Other growers maintain that the food manufactured by the leaves helps to provide energy for next years blooms. Why not experiment and prove to yourself which is best in your case.

Clothesline Gardening . . .

The Northern Gardener, a British publication, reports an idea for those short of space for seed sowing. Plastic containers are filled with a rooting medium that has been well soaked (Rootone is used in England but any peat, sand and soil mix will do). The seeds are planted and the pan is placed in a plastic bag. The top is folded down in inch folds until the bag swells with air. The top is then placed over a clothesline, either in a greenhouse or strung across a window of a cool basement or room, and secured with a clothespin. Nothing further needs to be done until the plants are ready to be transplanted. (Cottage cheese cartons, tuna tins, etc. are useful as containers as they are lightweight. Check for damp-off occasionally.

Letters To The Editor

Dear Mrs. Ford:

Have been enjoying the Quarterly for several years now and Primroses as a hobby is intensifying with each issue. But . . . after reading the last issue from cover to cover (Winter 1962) I went to put it in its proper place, in a notebook, and found that there were NO HOLES! Oh, please keep putting the holes in the copies! Binders are available that fit them exactly. With insignia cut from the envelope and pasted to the backing they are easy of access on the bookshelf. I secured enough past issues to make the collection of Quarterlies the most valuable source of information on such a lovely flower as the Primrose.

Most sincerely, for holes to be again added to our beloved little magazine.

Mrs. Ruth M. Scherer,
Sault St. Marie, Mich.

To Mrs. Scherer and all members:

Please forgive the lack of holes. I had to pound them in with a large nail in my own issue. I found this effective several years back when I purchased many back issues which were also unpunched. A printing shop in your area would be happy to punch them for you.

Regretfully, The editor

From Cecil C. H. Cullander, M. D.
7804 Fairfax Road, Bethesda 14,
Maryland

Oct. 9, 1961

Dear Mrs. Ford,

It now being almost a year to the day (Oct. 24, 1960) that you wrote to me and sent packets of Fertosan and Myco, it is high time I reply.

My composting practice is to call our County leaf disposal service and have them dump 3 to 5 loads of leaves in our yard. In the past I have composted these with 5-10-5 fertilizer or "Activo". I don't believe there was particularly rapid action with these as compared with no chemical additive. However, with Fertosan, I join the ad writers!! I used it both on a mixture of oak and elm leaves and a pile of only maple. This was put on in the early spring as I moved the dumped leaves, which had been there since fall and were quite well dampened, both by the rain and my watering, and applied sprinklings of the mixture. I must say I felt this was some sort of magic and became quite shy when neighbors asked what I was sprinkling from the watering can. It seemed such a little bit of moldy water in the jar, and then to dilute it a tablespoon to a gallon of water and expect anything to come of it. Well, come it did!

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Within a matter of weeks I had indescribably beautiful compost! A gardening friend to whom I gave a packet of Fertosan reports the same results. Therefore, please find enclosed my check for \$3.00, in payment for 5 more packets.

I'd hoped to have a photograph of our garden, especially with the primroses on display, but I've not as yet. That can be something for the future.

Prior to this past year I had grown only Clark's Hybrid polyanthus primroses; one bed of them in a very favorable location and they grew vigorously and needed to be divided each fall. Therefore I wondered why the primroses are considered tricky in this climate. Since last year I've tried a range of polyanthus, candelabra, juliana, auricula and alpicola. I have, so far, but one location—a wet place on the north side of a 6 foot cedar paling fence, which will grow primroses. The auriculas barely survived a sunny spot I had them in. They have been moved this fall to a spot under a huge hemlock where they will get morning sun and good drainage.

Most of my polyanthus got red spider and also were eaten by slugs while we were on vacation. Some are now coming back however. I promise pictures sometime in 1962.

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This Wonderful Age of Plastics . .

If you have no greenhouse or cold-frame for raising seedlings here is an inexpensive way to start seed either indoors in a cold basement or outdoors in a protected spot: A large plastic clothes bag (16 garment size, cost—under \$2) can be stretched over a wooden or wire frame and laid flat. Seedpans are set inside and the zipper closed tight during freezing weather. Seedlings are protected from drying winds and birds, etc. Be sure to allow air whenever possible and shade during bright sunshine following a freeze. A large 10 shelf plastic shoe bag can be used suspended from a rafter of the basement or shed near a light window. Check often for germination and remove pans to more airy quarters for development.

Make this spring a bright one for your friends by sending them gift boxes of primroses or auriculas. I will be happy to send a sample copy of the Quarterly to anyone whom you think may be interested in becoming a member. Articles or black and white glossy prints for publication will be appreciated. . . The Editor



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Already know from experience how wonderful
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for many of you have ordered and sent for our free literature. Many of you have sent for Tom Barber's free recipe for Soil Pots and his specifications for the Soil Pot Machine, which cuts so much labor and is so simple to make.

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Send for directions to get to our bog and plant and other points of interest. If you wish we will pass on your requests for information about British Columbia, or even about the Seattle World's Fair.