Quarterly of the American Primrose Society

1956 YEARBOOK

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THE EAST ANGLIAN PRIMULAS

David G. F. Barton, Regional Editor, Vancouver Island, British Columbia

"I know a bank whereon the wild Thyme blows, The Oxlip and the nodding violet grows—"

So said Oberon, who was, perhaps, more of a poet than a botanist, since Oxlips and Thyme like very different growing conditions. We must allow Shakespeare a poetic licence, but with the A.P.S. Quarterly it is rather a different matter. On p. 53 of the number for April, 1956 is this statement; "We can find the Oxlip in marshy soil along banks of creeks and meadows permeated by spring water, provided the soil is not sour."

This seemed so much at variance to all I had ever seen and heard about the plant I wrote to our Editor about it, and she suggested that I make some enquiries in the only part of England where it is known to grow; the East Anglian counties of Suffolk, Essex and Cambridgeshire. This article is the result.

The Oxlip has always been rather a magic plant to me. When I was a small boy my mother used to tell me about the Oxlip wood at Bardfield, in the county of Essex. She spent a considerable part of her childhood at her grandmother's estate of Park Hall, near Bardfield, and she knew every acre of it, and every flower that grew in meadow, wood and marsh. I am never likely to forget the thrill I experienced when, at the age of ten, I picked my first bunch of Oxlips in this very wood. When my mother paid a visit to this same spot about two years ago, she was curious and heartstuck to find that all the trees had been cut down, and the land turned into a housing estate. The British government is now aware, at last, that the Oxlip is rapidly becoming a very rare thing, and it has recently listed a certain wood in Essex as a National Monument, so that this tract at least, will not be ploughed up to share the sad fate of so many beautiful and interesting spots.

As soon as I was given the green light to go ahead with this article I wrote to the Editor of the East Anglian Magazine asking for information about the Oxlip, and this letter was published in the issue for Aug. 1955. Almost immediately I began to get a steady stream of letters from people who had read the letter and were interested in country life and the local flowers. Some of them sent seeds as well. One of the things which struck me was that nearly all my correspondents talked not only about Primulas, but also about the countryside, the old houses, and the histories of local families, the names of which, in some cases, are to be found in Domesday Book. To them, there...
three most English flowers, the "bold Oxlip," the "freckled cowslip" and the "pale prime-rose," seem to be woven right into the melody of that old "Merrie England," echoes of which still linger on the air of this most simple countryside. For this reason I am going to tell you something about the setting in which these flowers grow.

I spent three months of the winter of 1935-36 near the tiny village of Bedingfield, in the county of Suffolk, and only about forty miles from Bardfield. Everywhere I went I noticed masses of Cowslip and Primrose plants growing at the base of the hedges beside the roads, in the pastures, and the woods, and I thought what a pity it was that they did not grow as easily on Vancouver Island as they do there. In the particular locality where I was staying the rainfall is only nineteen inches compared to our twenty-seven, but the soil is a rich loam with heavy, sticky clay beneath, and therefore very retentive of moisture; nor do they have our usual long, dry summers. I am sure, also, that there is far greater humidity at almost all seasons, which must be an important factor in the growing of these plants.

That part of East Anglia is very backward compared to the rest of England. In the village of Bedingfield there is no electric light and only a village pump for seven or eight houses. The local grocer tried to get up a petition to persuade the authorities to bring power in, but he told me he met with very little response, the usual reply being— "If they bring us that sort of light, what will we do with the oil lamps?"

The church, built of Gothic stone and flint in the 14th century is on the site of a still earlier one which was in existence at the time of the Domesday Book. (1068). It has a fine hammer beam roof, good carving on the pews, a 15th century bell and it's greatest treasure a pre-Reformation pewter for Holy Communion, still in regular use.

One often reads in the advertisements of English country magazines of houses with "a wealth of oak." Such a one was The Oak Cottage, where I spent most of my time. Built in the 15th century, it had heavy beams and studs showing on the inside, and the floors were of 12 inch hand-sawn boards. It had the great central chimney common to many old farm houses in those parts. I think people must have been a good deal shorter in those days—there was not a door I could get through without bending my head. In a rough piece of grass, under the shade of some large oaks within 20 ft. of the door there is a small colony of Oxlips which, for all anyone knows, may have been there as long as the house itself.

Quite close by is the magnificent old Fleming's Hall, as fine a piece of architecture as one may find anywhere in East Anglia. The present owner, M. L. P. Brutton, told me that it was built about the year 1240, during the reign of Henry III, by two Flemish flax merchants named Adam and William Le Fleming. At that time, and for many years later, flax growing and weaving were the main industries of the district. The moat, which goes all round the garden (about four acres, most of which is now in lawn) is even older than the house and is believed to go back to the conquerors. The main beam and heart-of-oak timber in the house is almost all the original. A friend of mine was drilling a hole in one of them to thread some electric wiring through and he broke two rather expensive "bits." From an engineering point of view, therefore, the timber is likely to last for as many years again." If there were only room I would tell you of the old town's history which has all the charm of a fairy tale.

The blossoms of the Oxlip are about the size of a dime, and pale yellow in colour; four or five are borne on one stem, like the polyanthus. The blossoms face upward, and the average height is about 8 inches. They have a faint, woody scent.

Mr. F. H. Richold, whose ancestors, political refugees from France in 1561, were cloth makers for many generations, writes about Eastey Wood, some ten miles from Bardfield—"Oxlips grow plentifully here, but nowhere else in the neighbourhood. It is a coppice of wild nut bushes and saplings, and serves as a shelter for game and foxes. It is about 250 ft. above sea level, there are no rivers or streams, and it is not marshy; the subsoil is strong clay. The ordinary (acaulis) primrose, (P. vulgaris) grows plentifully on the banks and slopes of the undulating landscape. It has established itself particularly on the banks of some of the railway cuttings where it makes masses as large as a cottage. It, too, dislikes marshy land. The Cowslip, (P. versicolor) grows in all the old meadows and pastures; it is deeper in colour than the Oxlip, and is very strongly scented. Some blossoms have an edging of bright orange, running to orange-red, and some have..."
frilled edges. Suffolk folk call them "peggies" or "peggles"; their height is about 6 inches, but they like animal manure, and when they get it will grow more robustly, sometimes reaching 8 inches."

This reminds me of the old rhyme told me by a farmer—

"Farms on which the Cowslips grow
Never will a mortgage grow.
"

Mr. Richold continues; — "In East Anglia the month of April is known as Primrose time,— it is as much a part of the rural calendar as haytime and harvest. Around Easter all the local folk, the young and not so young, go out into the fields and spinneys and gather great bunches of flowers. With these they decorate the deep windows, the font and the pulpit of the church for the Easter festival. I well remember when I was a boy, a man who was known to be a veteran poacher was found in a wood and brought before the local magistrate; his defence was that he was not poaching but PRIMROSING!"

About four miles from Bedingfield lies the ancient small town of Eye. The name is the Saxon derivation of Heya, Ey, or Aye, meaning an Island, for at one time that part of the country was largely under water. I have a horticultural friend there who has been making enquiries for me, and she says she can hear of no Oxlips growing thereabouts. There is, however, an abundance, a natural crossing between the Primrose and Cowslip, known locally as "Lady Fingers." Mr. Dickinson, of The Gables, Haverhill, Suffolk, supports this; he has brought into his garden many variations of this cross. In his opinion the cowslip is dominant, and he says the (accutis) Primrose is dying out in many parts of the country, and its place taken by the hybrid. (Readers might possibly obtain seed from him in exchange for that of local natives).

A correspondent who lives in Essex wrote to say that she had established a colony of Oxlips in her garden, in deep shade. They were originally growing in a wood. With cultivation these flowers have developed stems seven to eight inches in length, each carrying twelve to twenty blooms on little stalks about one and a half inches long. Nearly everyone who has written has said that last Spring the Oxlips were far better than they had ever seen them; longer in stem and with larger flowers. The reason for this is thought to be the lack of wild rabbits; the scourge of myxomatosis having almost wiped out the rabbit population.

Parkinson wrote about 300 years ago about the Primrose: "It will hardly endure in all the care and industry we can use to keep it." I wonder how many people have found this to be true? In the Turner Herbal of 1551 there is a beauty recipe—"Some women sprinkle ye flowers of cowslip with whintye wine, and after still it, and wash their faces with that water to drive wrinkles away, and to make them fayre in the eyes of God, Who they are no afayed to offend." A famous London physician of that age said—"Roots of the Primrose stamped and strained, and the juice snuffed into the nose with a quill or such like, purgeth the brain and qualifieth the memory." To come down nearer to modern times, while I cannot say with Benjamin Disraeli's Lord St. Jerome that "Primroses make a capital salad," I do know from experience that Cowslips make an excellent wine, and many, many gallons of it are made in East Anglia every year. Here is a very old recipe for it, though I fear not many of us will have the wherewithal to try it.

"Pick the flowers without any stalks, enough to make a quart. Boil five pounds of sugar in a gallon of water for half an hour. As scum rises take it off with a wooden spoon, then pour the sweetened liquor into a tub, and when cold drop in the flower heads and squeeze in the juice of two lemons. Stir this six times for two days, then strain through a muslin and store in a cask. At the end of a month bottle the liquid, dropping one lump of sugar into each bottle."

*If this type of historical writing is interesting to you, please communicate with the Editor as Mr. Barton and others will be glad to supply it from the wealth of material which is available to them.*

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**The Garden Primulas**

(A translation by Robert Lascher, Editor in charge of translations, from the German of Leo Jelitto's book "Die Freilandeprimulae" published by Verlag von Eugen Ullmer.)

Many of the Primulas mentioned are pictured in alphabetical sequence in the 1954 Quarterly's which contain a Dictionary of the Cultivated Primulas and in the July and October 1955 Quarterly's which contain a Supplement.

**INTRODUCTION**

The Schlüsselblumen (flowers resembling a bunch of keys) have long since been favored in our gardens. We know them as harbingers of spring, therefore it is natural (in Germany) to encounter these primroses in every garden, even the tiniest. Who is not impressed in April and May, when our Primula officinalis (veris) transforms our meadows into a brilliant gold? Whoever has the opportunity to see our native Primulas in their natural habitat, be it in the lofty alpine solitude or in the vast plains in the North of Germany, cannot hesitate but become an enthusiastic admirer of these ordinary yet delightful plants. Every garden lover and garden enthusiast when encountering the colorful Auriculas in any farmer's garden, or observing the varicoloured Primulas in his own garden, knows that spring time and Primulas are as one.

The Auricula hybrid, Primula x pubescens which is a parent of our Garden Auriculas, was discovered in the Alps at the end of the 16th century and was introduced into cultivation in Belgium. In a short time various types appeared which spread abroad very quickly. These Auricula hybrids soon created a veritable "primula-fever," or fanaticism, culminating in the 18th century, when 300 or 400 named kinds of Garden Auriculas were grown by fanciers with the utmost care and devotion. It cannot be said that this fanaticism has altogether disappeared since. Busy hands of hybridizers adopted other native Primulas, to improve them, and gave us many multi-coloured varieties.

When around the middle of the 19th century missionaries, traders, and explorers brought new plants to us, a few Primulas were among them. At the end of the 19th century and beginning of the 20th century botanical exploration in China and neighboring countries began. At the same time a few gardeners in Germany resolved to introduce various plants and shrubs including hybrid Auriculas and Polyanthus into their nurseries, recognizing the value and importance of these plants. Out of these unknown plants of Genus Primula species and others emerged, giving our garden culture an enormous impetus. As the plants gained favour each year a new era began in our lives and in our gardens. The first perennial beds could be seen, and in no time the first shrubs were planted and rock gardens were created as part of the cultivated garden. The nursery improved varieties, adopted the newly discovered and newly introduced plants into cultivation, among them many Primulas, which have become today a "must" in our gardens. Who does not know the beautiful "Ball-primula," demicculas; the rose Primula, rosa; the various whorled Primulas and many more, which are now so important in the garden?

We have long recognized Primulas in general as typical spring-flowering plants. With the new introductions and their increase, the picture has changed entirely, and we know now that the flowering period can include the entire year. It is possible to have blooming Primulas in the garden starting in February without interruption through October and
November, right up to killing frosts. This has given us heretofore unknown possibilities, and more and more gardens will be made in which the Primula will be proudly featured among companion plants. It is probably the untrammelled, clear colours which have made more Primulas so attractive, and these may be used intelligently in all parts of a garden to give it a new note of distinctive and varying brightness. If here and there a feeling of mistrust and insecurity has been shown towards the Primulas, then we must attribute this to failures in cultivation. This is probably also the reason many people have refused to try to grow them. Failures are not to be allowed to make us undecided, on the contrary, they should challenge us to surmount them. It is imperative that we pay strict attention to the Primula family, so we can give this plant the position in our garden to which it is entitled and in which it has the greatest chance to survive and increase.

THE GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION AND NATURAL HABITAT

(1). General

From a geographical point of view Primulas are classified into two groups: The European Primulas with about 100 species and the non-European Primulas with about 500 species. *The Europeans are primarily rock plants of the high and central mountains with some species found in the meadows at low altitudes, among the higher hills, and in not too dense borders of woods. Distributed over the whole of Europe, particularly so in the Alps, the greatest number of the non-European Primulas are found in Asia, especially in the high regions of the eastern Himalayas, in Tibet and the near western China. We may encounter individual species even in the Arctic region, in North America, One single species, our native farinose Primula, P. farinosa, is also found in the Andes in South America. Ethiopia, Arabia and Java produce one Primula each, unfortunately of no garden importance.

We observe the distribution of the Primulas to be mainly over the northern half of our globe, and only a few species extend beyond the southern half. Therefore we can, for our purposes, divide the Primulas into the European and the Asiatics. Contrary to the European species, which are mostly rock dwellers, the Asiatic Primulas are mainly meadow plants and dennis among light shrubs, particularly so among Rhododendrons. Only a limited number of species grow in light conifer woods and among rocks, with just a few as typical marsh plants.

To understand the cultural requirements and to create for our Primulas the best growing conditions in our gardens, we must first analyze the natural environments of the Primulas. After all, many Primulas, except our oldest garden forms, still possess the traits of wildlings. It is impossible to ask them to adopt any position or condition we give them in the same manner as our old garden Auriculas and Polyanthus which have been in cultivation for a long time and are thoroughly acclimated. As different as their natural habitat is, as varied must be their treatment. We have to accept the climatic conditions prevalent in our gardens, but we can alter the soil conditions and provide the best location available. This careful planning partially offsets the fact that we cannot always provide the setting or possibly even the humidity or altitude they are accustomed to in their native habitat. (The Candelabra Section has provided many species which have proven to be excellent garden plants when provided with a damp location.)

(*According to the chart of the "Number of Primula," appearing on page 121 of the October 1955 Quarterly, there are 449 species, 43 subspecies, 111 varieties and 38 forms, 250 of which are in cultivation. Although there have been some additions to the numbers since the chart was drawn up, it is probable that Mr. Jelitto used the German word "arten" to mean "native" Primulas. This term could include the species, subspecies, varieties, forms, and the natural hybrids.)

Welcome to the National Show in Kirkland
Mrs. John Siepmann, Regional Editor, Kirkland, Wn.

We are coming out from Old Man Winter's long siege, bowed but not broken! In looking over the terrific damage to our beloved Primroses, as well as their companion plants, we know that putting on our Show this year will really be a challenge!

In my contact with our growers, nurserymen and exhibitors, I find this wonderful spirit of courage and cooperation, and losses are not as great as some expected. So, we've accepted our challenge, and as they say, "Things are looking up" as Spring progresses.

A banquet will be held in honor of Dr. Matthew Riddle, of Portland, winner of the A.P.S. Quarterly Premier Award for Outstanding Achievement in Hybridizing. Mrs. Florence Levy, Editor Emeritus of the Quarterly will present the Award. Arrangements for tickets may be made by writing to Mrs. Harry Biglow, 303 2nd Street S., Kirkland, Wn., and enclosing a stamped addressed envelope for a reply or by phoning her at Va. 1854. The Banquet will be held at 6:30 P.M., April 21st at Bruce Judy Catering, one block East of the Civic Center where the Show will be held.

We hope to see all of our old friends and looking forward to meeting many new Primrose lovers at the National Primrose Show sponsored by the East Side Garden Club. April 20-21-22.

"Spring is a true reconstructivist." H. Timrod.

Dialogues of the Complete Gardener

CHAPTER I

A Conference between the Complete Gardener (C.G.) and the one who is to become the Gardener's Gardener, (G.G.)

C.G. How do you do? A friend has told me that you would make a fine Gardener's Gardener, so I have come to see you.

G.G. Please come in and sit down and tell me the requirements of a Gardener's Gardener.

G.G. It is easy to get someone in to dig, to sow, to transplant in a general way with weeding, and even to weed among the shrubs, but unless one can find someone who loves the garden and its inhabitants and is knowledgeable, there is a mountain of work one must do for oneself. I am still learning after a few scores of years, but I have a feeling to give what I have learned to someone who will appreciate what it has meant to me. I have heard that you have grown alpines and rare plants since you were a child and that your love of gardening is such that you would rather labor in a garden such as mine, than remain in your present position. If I were you, I would feel exactly the same way; so we would have something in common, at the start.

G.G. Yes, I love to garden, even in pretty nasty weather.

C.G. Yes, there's the rub, I wonder if you come to my garden to work, winter and summer, will you think longingly of steam heat and air conditioning?

G.G. No doubt I will, but I've had drips running down my neck many the time while out to cover my plants, many of which will not live to stand moisture in their crowns. I usually say, even to the neglect of my house and come in so weary I just have the simplest of dinners. I only try to be careful to get those vitamins which assure me of a cold-free winter. I watch my health in the same way that I clean my shovel.
C.G. That's what I need; someone who knows what certain types of plants require, or at least someone who tries to feel what an unknown plant may need, and if he is not sure, to ask me before he uses his judgment. A garden makes one very humble, but I have a human vanity which it dribbled out and fed me by those 'nifty and lovely' plants, which have agreed to stay and flower for me. I was never so proud and humble as when Primula Wolstonii and Reidi first gave forth blossoms... I watched these little Soldanelloideae from the time when they were tiny mounds of furry leaves. I marvelled at the white meal which covered the stems and bracts. Finally the bells of Primula Reidi opened, each so creamy white! A glorious reward for patience! 'Hard to keep as love, and just as rare as perfection' is what Farrer says. He tells us to give Reidi a spongy soil with plenty of peat, sand, and leaf mold, with a dressing of chips and caution us not to get it wet in the winter. I do it in a little different way and these plants are still with me. I feel quite righteously. I feel as bold as a tiger when I go against Farrer.

G.G. If I were not already a slave to the garden Farrer would bind me. He may have his prejudices and enthusiasms, which are in excess of the truth as we see it, but he can impart the glory which is in the feeding one gets with plants which respond to one. I've had enough botany in College, in fact I majored in Horticulture, so that I watch the Section relationships within a Genus in order to try to suit a plant's needs. It gives a hint, at least, if you know how a sister or a cousin plant is satisfied. My best learning came outside of school. I had a friend who was a natural gardener and who loved to teach me the plant's names and their requirements. She gave me some of my best things and, although she is gone, I never see the pink cyclamen or the lovely hyacinths in my garden without living over the happy days we spent together. Her name was Agnes James.

C.G. Oh, I knew her well and she taught me too. She gave me many precious plants and I am glad, as her garden is untended now and almost a waste. I cannot bear to think of it. If you knew Agnes James so well, I have little need to tell you that the ideal gardener must be careful, the call of duty. Many of my plants are in frames with no natural shade. They need almost constant attention.

G.G. I rather feel like a plant myself when I'm in the garden. Nothing makes me feel so withered and old as an Auricula leaf crying for water.

C.G. Another thing, hortenuous in my garden is a must. No tools left behind to trip the gardeners, no papers or anything ugly must be left in the garden. There are all the kitchen, all the screen, all the shingles and panes of glass for shelter, and that is enough which is not natural - in fact, it is too much, but the plant's happiness comes first, the appearance of the garden as a whole, second. The Gardener's Gardener must be meticulous and finish everything she starts, unless she is called by a change in the weather to minister to some other frame or plot.

G.G. It all sounds natural to me. Of course, my judgment may often be faulty, but I promise the plants and you that I will not be careless. The responsibility for the living things in my garden is almost more than I can bear. All I can say is that I'll do my best, but I'm afraid you will just have to know that, and take me for 'better or worse' or not at all. I have my limitations like anyone else. Besides I have a hope that I will learn from your methods so that I can garden better than ever in my own little plot.

C.G. Well, we can try each other and see if my garden suits you and if I can trust my precious life's work to your hands. I want to visit my family and friends occasionally and go on a hunt to Mexico, South America, or Canada with a free conscience, and with the knowledge that a knowing soul is taking care.

CHAPTER II

In which the one who is to be the Gardener's Gardener sees the Garden for the first time. It is a lovely day in March. She has walked from the highway and is delighted with the many species of Rhododendrons which flank the driveway and extend into the woods on either side, where rare varieties of Magnolias and countless other flowering shrubs are mingled with the Rhododendrons. The Compleat Gardener greets her.

C.G. I'm glad you found your way into our little valley. Now the first thing is to find out how you like the garden. It is shy and does not show itself to those who prefer an arranged display of various colors which hit the eye and force the admiration of everyone. So many people are disappointed in its lack of "landscaping" in the ordinary sense. You will soon see that it is primarily a Primula and Rhododendron Garden, but there are almost complete collections of the species of several other genera. For instance, my "rock garden" starts out with a dry stone wall, which, though good looking enough, will have to be rebuilt. The steps through it are solid but the wonderful leaf mold mixture we made up to be placed between and under the stones, has, in many places, washed out. I had an old-time "professional" do the job, but somehow, it hasn't stood up.

G.G. These saxifrages and auricula hybrids look quite happy.

C.G. This part of the wall is solid, but nearer the steps one could put in a hole and push in and have it find itself at another spot. However, we have had more success in the upper garden, but not without a great deal of trial and error.

G.G. Oh! I've never seen anything so beautiful as this frame of Auriculas; there aren't many flowers, but the foliage is so outstanding, so various in shape and amount of meal. Auriculas seem so much more interesting out of bloom than cacti. That Green Edge is a wonder.

C.G. It should be, it has won many prizes in England, however I never show my plants in competition. My collection of Auriculas and Primulas has been gathered with a concentration of so many years' duration, that I feel I have an unfair advantage. You have done some studying on the Point Scores, wouldn't you say that White Edge over there was good?

G.G. Oh, it is a beauty, the best I have ever seen.

C.G. Here is a frame of miniature daffodils. They always seem so gay and colorful — they can dispel a grey mood, any day.

G.G. These tiny tufts of dianthus have such individuality, even without bloom they stir my curiosity. I feel breathless. What is this tiny curled bunch of grey leaves?

C.G. That is Aquilegia Jonei, and thereby hangs a tale. Perhaps I'll tell you what this plant has meant to me, one day.

G.G. You have your curiosity stirred. I know how certain plants acquire a collateral of personal experience. So many of my plants have "histories" as gifts from a good friend or a chance acquaintance, or as a "find" on some wonderful excursion.

C.G. I am a good sleeper, but I am always so excited the night before setting out on a plant hunting trip that I have to take a sedative to get needed sleep. I was lucky to meet some of those responsible for bringing in some of our best Primulas, when I was last in England. I never met Farrer, but I have claimed him as a good friend, and his memory is alive because of the plants he established, as well as for those he described in such loving terms as to make me look for and acquire them. He must have staffers many to the persistent activity of being a Plant or Seed Detective. My copy of "The English Rock Garden" is almost losing its covers. Although this book has long been out of print, I have heard that a few unused volumes have been unearthed and are for sale.

G.G. The A.P.S. should acquire them for trophies. I should like another set— one for the breakfast room and another for my bedside table. Sampson Clay's "Present Day Rock Garden" is still available and since it was written as a Supplement to "The English Rock Garden," it would make another good trophy... I can't keep my mind on books when a bed of gentiana verta is blooming so electrically! Oh, and there are other gentians, too. It is almost too wonderful to stand, to see these little minima hybrids, the tag on this one says Primula x Bilecki, isn't that a cross with rubra?

C.G. Yes, but goodness only knows what crosses the unmarked ones are. They have been crossed by hand and some of the tags lost and others have been crossed by the
bees. I keep the ones I like and out the rest go to make royal compost for those which deserve to live.

G.G. Here are xLinda Pope and xMarven, how healthy and happy they look, and there is pubescens alba! What is that blue, a pubescens?

C.G. That is a rare gift from the gods. The color view with gentiana ornata does it not. We shall hand pollinate for seed as such a blue should be stabilized. Its parentage is a mystery, I’ve never seen this color in a Primula before.

G.G. How did you get the idea of having these large rectangular beds—it almost looks like a nursery up here, except of course, no nursery could keep such a selection.

C.G. We had, and still have, difficult drainage problems in the section nearest the house. The whole area has drainage tile—but not enough. The beds for Gentian, Auricula, Rhabdoxyssus, Lawsonia, Daphne, dwarf Iris, many native species and dwarf evergreens, were made by supplementing almost impossible soil. A government drainage engineer told me that it was the worst of all possible soils—Olympic formation, I think he called it.

G.G. It looks like a mucky blue clay here where the drainage ditch is being dug.

C.G. Whatever it is, it is completely non-regenerate.

G.G. This soil in the beds seems to suit the plants.

C.G. It should, it has been worked over enough. First, it was rotostilled several times. Secondly, it was covered with a deep layer of very well rotted sawdust. Thirdly, it was given a covering of sand. Then it was given leaf mold, and lastly a fine grade of well-dampened peat moss, each rotostilled, in turn. It was then allowed to settle and was tamped down, and allowed to settle again. The addition of all these materials raised the beds and so we used logs to hold the soil in place. The paths are surfaced with a heavy roofing paper which keeps down the weeds and which can be cleaned of mud. It is so dark as to be almost unnoticeable; certainly we do not have much time to give to paths, and this system works as the best I have found for the work garden. After all this work, the beds are not yet ideal. The soil texture is too light and it dries out so rapidly as to necessitate frequent watering. To help overcome this we surface the beds with pebbles and chips to prevent evaporation. A heavier mixture would be better, but the soil is so terrible we have to do it this way. It seems to improve a little as time goes on—so it really should, as we give a good top dressing of leaf mold and sand each year.

Fanny thing about plants, different parts of the garden seem to have an altogether different effect on their growth. Sometimes there seems to be no rhyme or real reason for their choice. Prinulza Jaffreyana, one of the perfectly beautiful treasures of the Farinowese Section, finally got away from me. Perhaps I moved it too much, but I could not seem to make it happy. I think I could manage it now if only I can get the chance. In nature it does not have much rain and spends six months under a blanket of snow. It was doubly precious as the seed came directly from seed sent home by Mr. George Sibbett in 1938. I do have a good stand of Primula senttion, however, in spite of the fact that its requirements should be identical. I almost breathe along with these little plants of mine trying to desperately to please, and when they turn away they seem to take a part of me with them. It is so wonderful when Plant Hunters bring plants in again for the third and the second time so that we have new chances to accommodate them.

G.G. We owe a great debt to these pioneers. I would never have the patience to brave such long journeys over such horrid terrain and such dangerous country—even to get to the glorious meadows and natural scenes which are the reward. Many of them have hiked miles in their bare feet when their shoes have been stolen or worn out. They have been covered with insect bites for months and have had all the appalling fare of the natives when food stocks have been depleted. Imagine yak butter in tea!

C.G. That is why I think that whatever patience we are called upon to have is only a slight token of appreciation. I get so tired of these so-called gardeners who give up when they have a single season’s setback. They expect a garden to react like a golf ball or some other inanimate part of a decile hobby. It may sound dramatic to say that we gardeners pit ourselves against nature itself, but it is true that when we win the stake are marvellous, and when we lose, it must be only to try again. When I think of the lifetime of thrills I have had just because I haven’t given up when the going was rough, I am sorry for those who will not venture much for the joy which a gardening triumph gives. Gardening is one pursuit which will never be reached, for new goals are constantly brought to us in the new plants which fill our, in spite of wars and rumors of wars. Think of the garden even a hundred years ago. Look at a plant dictionary of a hundred years ago. Look at the First Primula Conference Report made in 1888. Just think, the work that you and I will do together, may be a small part of the report given at the next conference. In retrospect I have found my garden one of the most satisfying things in life. When I am older and perhaps at the last, confined to a wheel chair, I will still be poking my stick at my plants, have a "know-it-all" look on my face, and be directing just how Primula Jaffreyana—I hope—should be planted this time. It would take more than a teed-chair to divorce me from my love.

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NATIONAL AURICULA AND PRIMULA SOCIETY, Northern Section
Membership including Yearbook, $1.50
New Address:
Hornier on the Auricula (reprint) $3.50. Please see page 23.

Please see page 13 for the Alpine Garden Society notice.

NATIONAL AURICULa AND PRIMULA SOCIETY, Southern Section
Membership including Yearbook, $1.50
New Hon. Sec.
G. Redvers Williams, Mount Pleasant, Eastbury, Newbury, Berks., Eng.

Broaden Your Knowledge of Plants
Through Membership in
THE AMERICAN ROCK GARDEN SOCIETY
You are invited to join—annual dues $3.50 include a Bulletin.
Mr. Edgar I. Totten, Secretary, 238 Sheridan Avenue, Ha-Ho-Kus, N.J.

Western American Native Plants
I know where mountain goats feed on Primula Parryi along a steep rocky talus slope below rugged snnow filled crags. Last fall I failed to see the friendly old monarch that has watched me collect seeds in fifteen years while he marched on the plant I was seeking. At 70, come April, I seem to be the oldest of the goats now dependent upon this plant for part of a meager but wonderful livelihood. I hope and plan to climb again and again to timberline, but unsold seeds have no value to me, and its cost money these days even to travel with goats.
You are welcome to a copy of my native plant seed list. I collect certain alpines on order. Frank H. Rose, 7020 Poplar Street, Missoula, Montana.
300 Primula Parryi seed $1.00, Collected plants $2.50 for 6 in September.
Classification of Primulas as to Their Cultivation

Walter C. Blasdale, Regional Editor, Berkeley, California

This list includes only those species that have been in cultivation and of which there is some probability of procuring seed. Some of the species listed appear in more than one of the groups. Many varieties and hybrids could be added to this list.

CLASS I. Sun-loving Bedding Plants.

Many of the sun-loving types of Primula are especially useful as narrow borders for outlining walks or for relatively small areas near the edges of larger plantings. Species of the MALACOIDES Section are usually treated as annuals. In California the seed is sown in August or September, the seedlings planted out where they are to flower six or eight weeks from the date of sowing; they begin to flower in early spring. In less favored climates they should be started in a frame or greenhouse and planted in the spring; they flower correspondingly later. In California the seeds of the VERNALIS Section should be sown in the spring, the seedlings planted out early in the summer. They should give good crops of flowers the following spring and summer. Three-year-old plants should be divided and reset soon after flowering.

MALACOIDES Section: Forbesii, malacoides.

VERNALIS Section: amoena, elatior, Judiae and its hybrids, veris, vulgaris, Polypanthus.

DENTICULATA Section: denticulata.

CLASS II. Bedding Plants Needing Some Shade.

Most of the shade-loving primulas are larger and of different character than those of Class I. They need more water, some shade, and a soil fairly rich in humus. All are perennials although Cockburniana is disposed to die after its first flowering period. With few exceptions they are easy to grow.

CANDERABRA Section: anisodon, aurantiaca, Breetana, Bulleyana, burmanica, Cockburniana, beladoxa, japonica, Poissonii, prolifera, polyantha, Smithiana, Wilsonii.

FARINOSAE Section: involucrata, Knautiana, modesta, yarngemisia.

MUSCAROIDEAE Section: Vialis.

SICKIMENSIS Section: alpica, firmipes, sickimensis var. Hopeana, iones, reticulata, sickimensis, Waltonii.

CLASS III. Bog Plants.

These species make especially fine plants in this part of the country when planted where there is a natural flow of percolating water. They can be grown if artificially watered at short intervals. Some of them are disposed to decay at the crowns during dormancy especially if the temperature is somewhat high during this period.

FARINOSAE Section: involucrata, Knautiana, modesta, rosea, yarngemisia.

SICKIMENSIS Section: Floriniae.

CLASS IV. Rock Garden Plants.

In Berkeley, as elsewhere, it has been found that some primulas enjoy the rock garden because they are typical alpines; others, though not typical alpines, need pockets containing special kinds of composts and certain exposures which are not so easily provided in beds or borders. Many of them are of small stature and display their charms to better advantage when associated with similar plants in contracted spaces and they may even receive more attention from the gardener because he comes to think of each of them as a personality.


BULLATAE Section: Forbesii, Rockii.

CAPITATAE Section: capitata, capitata subsp. Mooreana.

Notes From North Eastern Pennsylvania on the Classification of Primulas as to their Cultivation

Doreta Klaber, Regional Editor, Quakertown, Pennsylvania

Here are some comments on Mr. Blasdale’s classifications, as observed by an Easterner who has no horstout, no alpine house, no lath house; who grows practically all her plants from seed (started in late winter — January or February) using very hit-or-miss home-made cold frames... no flats, no pots, no coffee cans. In other words plants grown and cared for under conditions where a plant has to be tough to take it.

CLASS I — Sun-loving Bedding Plants:

There just “ain’t no such animal” in this part of the country. With our long dry summers ALL primroses grown outdoors need some shade.

MALACOIDES Section is not hardy here.

VERNALIS Section. Extremely hardy. If grown in the sun these primulas will flag on hot days but can usually be revived. They are happy in filtered sunlight — the shade of woods, under shrubs, or the east side of a building. Seed of the true amoena is not easily procured. All the rest of the cultivated Vernalis are of the easiest culture
in reasonably good soil, good drainage, and the care any gardener gives plants. Here the natural fall of leaves mulches them over the winter, and where it covers too heavily some are removed. They stand up above the fallen leaves, green and cheering, over the winter.

DENTICULATA Section. P. denticulata comes so early that there isn’t much shade, it is true. But in open too-moist spots the crowns are inclined to rot over the winter, while up against a rock or in the woods it will come through with no harm, raising its gay flags among the first spring flowers.

CLASS II — Bedding Plants Needing Some Shade:
The term “bedding plants” seems to me a misnomer for most Primulas. There are no plants that look better in a semi-wild setting than primroses, and while it is true that they look best in groups, and frequently in groups of one color and kind, “bedding” connotes in my mind formal arrangements. This may be a personal quirk and not what Mr. Blasdale had in mind. These plants do, as Mr. Blasdale says, require more water, shade and good soil, in this part of the country too.

(Courtesy Gardening Illustrated)

(Photographed by Orval Aase)

The lilac-flowered Primula yarungensis is one of the few orange Primulas. This Candelabra is heavily coated in farina and usually attains a height of about 18".

CAINELABRA Section. The easiest and most permanent here is japonica. It will survive almost anywhere, and where happy will seed itself around. It can take a lot of moisture or will be satisfied with woodland conditions. Most of the others thrive here if they have excellent drainage as well as plenty of moisture and shade, but any stagnation will make them rot. There are a few listed I haven’t tried and a few that haven’t done too well or at all. Of those I have tried I have liked barmanica, aurantiaca, palveales, and Balleyana the best. All are well worth growing.

FARINOSAE Section. I haven’t tried Knuthiana or modesta (is the seed available?) and wonder why farinosa and frondosa were left out of this category. Here they are the easiest to grow, and will stand almost full sun if they have moisture and good drainage, or will grow in semi-shade in moist woods. They seem to thrive on frequent division and otherwise ordinary care. Primulas involucrata and yarungensis grow and bloom here, but this past summer succumbed to our month of dry 90 to 100 degree heat. They have lived as much as through two bloomings, but so far do not seem very "permanent" here.

(Courtesy Gardening Illustrated)

Primula rosea, one of the easiest Primulas to grow. When it has found a happy growing place it will seed itself profusely into the paths as does Erythronium.

MUSCAROIDES Section can’t take the hard conditions I described at the beginning of these notes.

SIKKIMENSIS Section. Most of these do not seem to like it here. Primula secundiflora (omitted in Mr. Blasdale’s list) has grown and bloomed here, but died after flowering, probably also because of the heat. The same for Wallacei. Most of the others never survived their first winter. My impression is that this section is biennial in this part of the country, though other growers may have had better luck, or better conditions under which to grow them.

CLASS III — Bog Plants:

FARINOSAE Section. Primulas involucrata and yarungensis were kept artificially watered as was rosea. The latter always lives through and blooms but not with the abandon reported by west coast growers. It stood this past summer’s heat when the others passed out. L. D. Hills writes that the first two do best in woodland conditions.

SIKKIMENSIS Section. Florinolae grew and bloomed sparsely this year, many then rotted. Some are still alive but I will be surprised if they survive the winter. They are not in a "bog" but were kept well watered.

CLASS IV — Rock Garden Plants:

AURICULA Section. I have found x pubescens and the various forms of auriculas easy from seed, very slow to grow up, needing two years from seed before blooming.
and I have found it difficult to provide satisfactory homes for them. They wilt if in full sun, seem to appreciate association with rocks to put their feet under, and at least semi-shade. All the others have either refused to come up from seed or died during their first summer. I imagine that purchased plants given appropriate positions would survive, they surely must be hardy, but I still obstinately try to grow them from seed.

BULLATAE Section. Once procured seed of Forrestii but it died before blooming. Should be able to grow it here.

CAPITATAE Section. Primula capitata subsp. Mooreana has lived and bloomed here this year, some then died. Will have to wait to see whether others survive the winter.

FARINOSAE Section. I haven't tried aligda or conspersa, but chrysopa and frondosa will grow in a shady spot in the rock garden. Primula tomentosa has been tried in various positions, open, moist woodland and shaded border. It survives each winter and summer, but has yet to bloom. Some must be in their third year.

FLORIBUNDA Section. Is not hardy here.

NIVALES Section. Primulas chionantha and sino-purpurea (so much alike, except for color, that they look like one species to me) grew and bloomed sparsely here this year. Then many of them died and more seem to be leaving me each day. It is possible that they are just going dormant, but more likely that slugs or rot are doing away with them. They are growing in a shaded bed and most certainly could not stand an open rock garden position here as they flag under any warm sun.

CLASS V — Greenhouse Plants.

I have had no experience with greenhouse plants. However, I do not consider the CORTUSOIDEAE needing a greenhouse here. Here they are grown as woodland plants and all thrive under typical woodland conditions. The polyantha and baccharisfolia types mature more slowly than the others such as saxatilis and steblaei, but seem to be equally hardy.

**Primula Photography Contest**

*(Black and White Glossy Prints Only)*

The Editor hesitates to call this year's attempt to get adequate illustrations for the Quarterly a success, but earnestly hopes that members, indeed that photographers, will send in their snapshots and photographs to help fill Quarterly pages with pictures of our favorite flowers. If the response is good, next year's contest will be conducted in a more professional way with more emphasis on the professional photographer's point of view. This year, the judging will be done by Mr. Harvey Maddux, of the Maddux Engraving Company, who will judge each photograph and prints according to being clearly reproduced, the ranking official A.P.S. Judge will assess the subject matter; and the Editor will judge according to its utility as Quarterly material.

The Quarterly is prepared to pay $1.00 for each photograph used during 1956 and will give a credit line to the photographer as well as to the owner of the subject material. This is not a very large sum, but in comparison to our yearly dues, it is fair.

Among the trophies to be given will be: A.P.S.Q. Sweepstakes: A 2-volume set of "Farren's English Rock Garden," a porcelain statue of Kwan-Yin, Chinese Goddess of Mercy in the Garden, whose lovely hands are movable, for the best picture of Camellias in the garden, will be given by Mrs. John P. Hannum, of Hannum Orchards; the Golden Chrysanthemum will be given for the best picture of Acaulis in the garden, by Dr. Sam Henreke, of Portland; Barnhaven will give a trophy for the best Primulas picture, whether a specimen or a garden shot; Acme Peat Products Limited will give a Nursery Sign, a Bale of Sphagnum moss, and a bicycle for the "best managed Primula garden" picture. Any species or hybrid picture will have a chance to win other prizes and a chance for the Sweepstakes Trophy.

Every glossy print sent to the Editor, 8016 Jennings Avenue, Portland 22, Oregon, will be the property of the A.P.S. Quarterly and must be so designated on the back of the picture, if it is to be judged. This last has some legal significance, the purpose of which is to protect the Quarterly from being charged for a picture. This contest closes June 10, 1956, and the winner's names and some of the pictures will be published in the July Quarterly.

How I Grow Polyanthus Plants

For the past few years I have been interested in growing a few Polyanthus plants, and I have had, at various times, up to an acre of these in different beds. I believe I have grown plants which have been notable for their strength, their healthy habit and their brilliance of colour. Almost five years ago we came to this little Worcestershire town of Bewdley, on the River Severn. The house has three acres of land which had been the site of a large fruit farm and which had not been thinned out or attended to for ten years. Some idea will be gained of the condition of this land when I say that before digging the kitchen garden it was necessary to uproot and remove 40 trees of all shapes and sizes. This thinning out has continued, off and on, for the last four years, and now that alterations to the house are completed, the one acre of garden and two acres of orchard will receive more attention.

I have, of course, had an almost unlimited supply of material to make compost, and this has had a salutary effect upon the plants grown in the cleared spaces. There are portions of the garden where the soil has been made up with 3 ft. of compost. I always grow my plants in Fertosan compost, I know of many other growers who have adopted the same procedure, and I know that the results are eminently satisfactory.

I think that it would be difficult to produce a better growing medium, especially for Polyanthus, than one part Fertosan compost, one part ordinary clean garden soil, and a small sprinkle of steamed bone flour to which may be added a similar sprinkle of finely powdered peat. This is what I have found to produce a satisfactory result over here, and it is what I usually use for myself. I am very particular to get steamed bone flour, that is, a dry milled dust with about 29% phosphoric acid content, and I have found this to be a very valuable aid to Polyanthus raising. I have, over the past two years, been experimenting with a seedling compost, and the basis of this has been eight parts of Fertosan compost, lightly sterilized to release nitrogen (128° 20 mins.) and one part of powdered dry sphagnum moss, with one part powdered peat. The powdered peat can, with great benefit, be replaced with one part powdered peat charcoal, of which more anon. This mixture produces an excellent seedling compost, wholly organic and completely proof against damping-off. I have given samples of this formula to six growers, and in every case the results have been outstandingly good. Either of these formulas will give excellent results with Polyanthus or similar flowers, and will not be at all expensive. I have tried them both and I know they are of tip-top quality.

I have done a little work on the growing of Polyanthus plants, but I have the object of producing massive plants in pots, frames, or in glasshouses, or even in dozens or as individuals, but rather as very hardy, vigorous, plants producing masses of colour when grown in the open, without protection. I have reached the conclusion that Polyanthus Primroses can suffer in quality if they are corded in boxes or under glass. I find that to secure the finest quality, these plants must have at least some wintry conditions.

The grower who is producing plants for seed will, of course, have his own methods for securing his seed, which may entail a lot of bending under glass for hand-crossing. After raising seedlings in boxes I have abandoned the practice. I find the best and most simple way to raise strong plants is to cultivate the soil, turn the soil in the spring with fork of an apple tree and place the roots in a mixture of Fertosan compost and in March, April, May, or August scatter Polyanthus seeds under the tree broadcast, covering them with a sprinkler of ordinary sharp sand. Water this little bed twice in two weeks, and then more or less, forget it, except for going along about once a month to remove any unwanted weeds. In the shade of the tree every viable seed will germinate strongly, and the apple tree roots become festooned with Polyanthus roots, which run along underground adhering to them. (Editor's comment: It is essential in Oregon to keep the seedbed moist until the plants have strong roots.)

I believe there are larger root systems where Polyanthus are grown under apple

*(Please continue on page 70)*
Pollinating and Growing Primroses

In a recent poll of fifty members who were late with their dues or who had failed to tender their resignations, we were able to discover what type of information some of the readers expected in their Quarterly. Some members wanted more scientific, others more casual. A member asked for material of a historical nature; four members wanted growing information adaptable to Eastern use. Many wonderful compliments and several renewals were received, as well as further suggestions. The majority of the comments could be summed up with this quotation:

"Much of the material is over my head, but I will continue another year as I seem to be learning more and more all the time. I will look for an article which will give growing information which will start at the beginning and go step by step all the way through the Primrose."

To start at the beginning—but what beginning? The hen or the egg, or the seed and the plant, poses such questions as to beginnings that all I can do is to tell you of my introduction to Primroses. I was walking through the market one spring morning, and I had been tempted, quite beyond my strength, to spend the mushroom money on two perfectly beautiful Polyanthus plants, one yellow, one the deep purple. I walked further and spent the avocado money on a cluster of Juliana "Wanda." A little later the usual weekly pint of whipping cream gave way to one of the loveliest clumps of acasus I had ever seen. My family was delighted and we all pooled our resources and went on a hunt for plants. The Polyanthus and Acasus we found, had not reached the high degree of perfection now taken for granted, but they were a lovely beginning.

A few years ago I was visiting of Polyanthus later I met Mrs. John P. Hannon and visited her lovely garden. She was generous and my garden was even more beautiful than ever the next May when her gifts, the lovely "Pagodas" bloomed. Mrs. Hannon gave me a membership in the Society and my interest in hybridizing was turned from Primula Pilos to Primula, Polyanthus, etc., and the development of a small or non-existent eye in pastel Polyanthus. Since that time I have read hundreds of articles on growing procedures, and have helped different growers in every step of Primula culture.

It should be a help to refer to the parts of a plant shown on the back cover of the January 1966 Quarterly. All Primulas have the same formation (pin and thorn), and can be pollinated in much the same way. "Every primula blossom is both male and female, and the two different arrangements of the reproductive organs give rise to the terms Pin and Thrum. In its form known as Thrum-eyed, the petals are fused at the surface of the throat below the stigma, which projects itself, by means of a longer style, beyond the opening of the tube and above the surface of the blossom." (An excerpt from an editorial in the first printed Quarterly).

A few years ago I was visiting Mrs. Hannon and followed her progress step by step, as you read the following account of pollination, by Mrs. Orval Agee: "The anther contains pollen grains in minute sacs and as these grains mature the sac opens, allowing the pollen to escape. The anther then has a fluffy appearance, and is a bright yellow. Polyanthus, in contrast, the stigma is usually receptive as soon as the flower opens, often before. The stigma, when free of pollen, is clear and sticky. A thrum-eyed plant, having stamens above the pistil, may self-pollinate as soon as the pollen is ripe. To keep this pollen from dropping down on the stigma, one should emasculate the flower before it opens by carefully tearing the corolla down to the calyx, using both hands to pull away the corolla, thus leaving the pistil undisturbed. An easy way to transfer pollen is to tear off the flower with the attached stamens, turn it so the stamens are inside, then use this as one would a brush, to rub pollen on the stigma of the plant that is to be seed.

Pollen grains placed on the stigma absorb moisture from it, and germinate, growing down the style in a lengthening tube, using food from the style tissues. When the tube reaches the ovule, it breaks, fertilizing the ovule, and this is the first step toward development of the seed. One grain of pollen is needed to fertilize each ovule, and there are many ovules attached to the placenta of the ovary in a Primula. One must be sure the sticky stigma is well covered with pollen. As rain would wash off the pollen, pollination should be done on a clear day or under cover. Since bees are attracted by color and scent, removal of the bloom leaves will help to keep the stigma, in most instances, from further pollination.

To keep track of a cross, a jeweler's tag, tied to the pedicel, is handy, or one may make tiny cards, with a thumbtack through them, to record the identifying numbers given the plants used in each particular cross. When the ovules have been fertilized, all the petals and parts of the flower can be removed. The capsule begins to ripen, and the flowers are picked. Sealed in the pod is the seed, which is carefully labeled with the type of seed, the color, or the particular cross. In recording, the number given the seed parent precedes the number given the pollen parent.

It is the studied opinion, as well as the experience of Florence Levy, Ivan Agee, and the editor, that thrum on thurn crosses give a higher percentage of thums, and that thurn on pin and pin on thurn crosses give more seed. In breeding show Auriculas, Alpines, and other horticultural varieties for the Show Bench, it is usually more successful to cross seed-thums than for thurn-thums than for bulk of seed.

The superior plants chosen for polli- nation must have the best of care while occupying the benches of a nursery, or the deep grape boxes of the amateur, so that with their growing cycle during the time they are making seed. The harvesting of seeds stops removes an appreciable amount of phosphates from the soil surrounding the plants, and a supplement should be provided because the subsequent development of roots is much retarded if there is a deficiency of phosphates in the soil. The old perennial cycle is completed with the ripening of the seeds, and the plant, which has served its purpose, is cropped. This is usually done in September, and the crop, which is large enough to accommodate the plant, and sometimes it rots. Any rot may become progressive.

Double Primroses are an exception as they should be divided only when necessary. Undue crowding however, may encourage heaving and rotting of the center.
A small section of the pollinating benches at Barnhaven. Parent plants are selected from the fields as color shows; dug with a ball of earth on the roots, placed in rows according to shades, and carefully labeled. Benches have a layer of tile and gravel forming drainage for the garden loam to which 1/8 part Blue Whale has been added. Before Blue Whale was on the market, organic phosphorus and peat were added to the loam.

crowns. They should be attended to in May, directly after flowering, as it is extremely important for them to have time to develop adequate roots and be firmly established before fall.

When buying seed it is best to order all the catalogs available in order to make your choice of colors and forms. Primrose Shows usually have Commercial Exhibits by professional growers and it is interesting to note how each line-breeding hybridizer has harnessed the Polyanthus to a point where an experienced Show Chairman can say—those are Eickman, those are Colosia, those are McHenry, those are Pacific, those are Barnhaven, just by a casual glance. Polyanthus seed from a seed exchange or from amateur crossings will yield interest, but it cannot always be depended on to yield a bulk of good plants. Five years ago I had thousands of plants from European seed and from the seeds of friends from all over the country. Most of these were sold in the society plant sale for twenty-five cents or less per plant, while plants from Eickman and other established seed producers, which had received the same devoted care, sold for fifty cents to two

Florence Levy's hands as she pollinates the Miniatures, which are her personal hobby, and which have become the delight of thousands of gardeners.

dollars and a half a plant.

After you plant a full packet of carefully-hybridized seed you may prepare to be thrilled, because from the day you place the seeds in a carefully prepared can or flat, you will be in a state of suspension, waiting first for the amazing cotyledon which magically pushes itself into evidence. The tiniest leaves which follow, give a foreshadowing of the vigorous plants which will soon belong to you, at least one hundred strong IF you will follow the instructions which are usually sent with each packet, or the simple directions which follow.

**STANDARD FLAT MIXTURE**, to be prepared in quantity, in advance.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/3 course sand</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/3 good garden loam</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/6 Blue Whale Impregnated Peat Moss (or 1/8 fine grained compost)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/6 good grade well-moistened peat moss</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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Mix thoroughly and strain through a ¼ inch screen and store in a moistened condition.
The hybridizers' hands travel over each umbel many times, removing petals and transferring pollen, before it looks like this at the end of pollinating and the beginning of seed development.

An amateur who has had amazing luck with germination and early flowering of Polyanthus and Auriculas prepares his flats in the following manner: A layer of newspaper is cut to conform to the bottom of the flat and this is covered with broken crocks, quarter-inch mesh gravel or other drainage material. The flat is filled with the Standard Flat Mixture* leaving room for a one-inch layer of a Seeding Medium consisting of one-third peat, one-third sand, and one-third garden loam. One-fourth inch of space should be left between the soil and the top of the flat after the surface has been pressed with a flat board. To provide a very smooth surface for small seeds, a fine sifting of sand and peat may be added. Seeds can be sown thinly on this seed bed and the plants may be allowed to mature in the flat, ("Standard Flat Mixture, page 62").}

...to the point of being transplanted outside, since good growing materials have been provided for the roots when they form. Much the same procedure is followed by another amateur who raises about fifty plants each of several types of Primulas. He seeds half packets of seed in 4 ounce flat tins, such as four slices of pineapple come in, in a well drained seedling mixture. The tin, seeds, earth and all, can be soaked thoroughly and placed in the freezing compartment in the refrigerator, taken out the next day and soaked in water as hot as the hand can comfortably stand, and replaced in the freezing compartment as soon as thawed out. These may be taken out any time after 24 hours, when they should be covered with a newspaper and a pane of glass. The seeds should be watched carefully as germination is much earlier with this method.

Six plants of Linda Pope x Marvin which won the Mrs. A. C. U. Berry Trophy for the Best Display of One Variety in the Fourteenth Annual A.P.S. Primrose Show.

The Auricula species and their hybrids offer interesting subjects for cross pollination. These plants and their parents were grown in pots in The Standard Mixture.

A very fine article on "Growing Primroses from Seed" by Florence Levy, may be found on page 58 of the October 1939 Quarterly, called "The Primula Planting Guide," which every new member receives with his first Quarterly.

If seeds are planted closely together they are transplanted or "pricked out" into another flat, which has been filled with the Standard Flat Mixture, as soon as they have two pairs of leaves. The seedlings may be lifted from the seed flat with a fork and gently separated. Plantlets are inserted in holes spaced about an inch and a half apart each way, which may be made by the finger tip covered with a rubber finger protector. The flat, after a thorough but very gentle watering, may be placed in dappled shade where the ventilation is good. These tiny plants should, of course, be well protected from any undue fluctuations of temperature.
Blue Whale Impregnated Peat has taken the guess work out of plant food for me, because I have learned by experience that my ground uses a nursery bowl a yard for every 150 square feet planted to garden. It provides the necessary amount of phosphates to stimulate the root development and hastens maturity. It provides nitrogen at a low enough rate to give fine color to the foliage without causing the plant to have excessive foliage and weak flower stalks. It provides potash which builds a plant's resistance to disease while providing a balancer which helps the plant to assimilate nitrogen and trace elements. Then there is a sort of mysterious benefit, often noticed when the best grade manure is used, a sturdiness of growth which defies analysis. Blue Whale is also cheaper and easy to handle. I have reason to be grateful for having evolved this method as the beds have responded. I have used the Primroses in them through one of the worst winters experienced in this part of the country.

The test beds, where vermiculite, spent hops and Peat Moss were used, are totally empty of plants. All the gold lace and the beards (false women) thought that the lovely Candelabra were wiped out as are the swaths of Garden Auricula. Yet, the primroses (Auriculae and the Alpines in the front borders and in the rock garden, which were planted in rich, humusy earth, well drained and well-mulched with crushed rock, withstood a 40° drop in temperature at a time when they still held up.

Soil management for Primforcements is a fascinating study. It is interesting to divide a blue Primrose, and put some of the plants in an acid soil, which intensifies the blue, and some in a well-limed soil, and see the difference in color. A variation in the same plants which are best in a non-acid soil. Texture is affected by sun and shade, the addition of potash and some trace elements, as well as by breeding. Many professional growers raise sturdy plants which, when planted in the well-limed home garden, flourish and show their good breeding. Other growers raise the plant to its optimum performance in the safe garden. All of them, for the plant to be in its optimum shape, is a matter of luck.

This editorial has attempted, in the space allotted, to answer many of the questions which have been sent in. Articles will follow which will give growing
1955 American Primrose Society Show In Portland

Mrs. O. Miller Babbitt, Show Chairman

The theme of the show “Springtime” seemed a natural one for early April. Much time had been spent by many busy and willing hands “setting up” the show. The clubhouse, itself a beautiful building, was decorated with fine spring blossoms placed in large urns. Planters of evergreen shrubbery formed a background. Polyanthus in every conceivable color were also used in planters which were placed throughout the auditorium.

As our guests reviewed the exhibits, it seemed to me that the Polyanthus Division won their favor. These were made most conspicuous by their harmonious blending of color. Here one found pinks in charming soft, clear tones; blues in heavenly colors, varying from light to deep cobalt, a touch of lustre in the petals; rose shades; white and cream; others yellow to gold; new beautiful colors in cocoa to brown; on another table one observed luminescent brilliant red to scarlet—all so well worth the multiple efforts of growing and showing them! How could one decide on one’s favorite color? Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Van Kirk of Eugene, exhibiting for the first time, won the Sweepstakes with their rare and beautiful double Polyanthus and Acaulis plants. These lovely old fashioned forms in modern colors, many edged as are pinks, provided one of the focal points of interest in the Show.

While entries in the Show Auricula and Alpine Auricula Divisions were limited, due to the early date and the adverse weather conditions, one saw some beautiful and well-grown plants. These Divisions are generally highly competitive and when the Show Committee is fortunate in receiving large exhibits the judges have a most difficult situation. (Judging becomes so close in selecting THE finest plants. It takes great skill when time is the essence). We especially welcomed our exhibitors from the north who brought, as they said, “all they had.”

Complimentary exhibits were of much interest and were a great addition to the show. Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Clarke’s arrangement of “Marie Louise” and “Quaker Bonnet” on a white three-tiered pedestal drew much comment. Mrs. Orval Agee brought along a fine collection of species and excellent Auriculas. Mrs. A. C. U. Berry’s exhibit contained a lovely collection of species, many so rare that members of the society and guests could not recognize them. Some tiny species with minute blooms seemed just large enough to fill a thimble.

The lower level of the clubhouse was filled with beautiful displays by professional growers. Helen Jones, blue ribbon winner, Barhavon (Florencie and Lew Levy), Maude Hannon, Linda Eckman, Mr. and Mrs. L. G. Miller and many others, spent hours placing their displays, which, as usual, drew much admiration. Also on the lower level was a Primrose Bar for selling hundreds of Primroses.

We had the pleasure of welcoming eight charming young ladies from the Klatwa Club of Jefferson High School who assisted the Hospitality Committee by taking the registrations and passing programs to our guests. This was indeed a dress rehearsal for these girls, as Nancy Wyle, Portland’s Rose Festival Queen for 1955, as chairman, and Mirian Daum, as co-chairman, conducted the outstandingly successful Jefferson High School Primrose Show. This event is held regularly each May first and is always sponsored by the Klatwa Club with the full support of the many thousands of students who attend Jefferson and many of their parents.

The Bamford Trophy

Judging for the Bamford Trophy will be done by a five-man team of Judges, all of whom are graduates of the correspondence course and the visual examination given by the Show Auricula Floriculturists of America, under the sponsorship of the A.P.S. This is the first year that the winner will be the one who produces “the most perfect Show Auricula seedling in the U.S. or Canada.” The first judging will take place in Kirkland, April 20-22, at 10:45 A.M. Friday, April 20th. The entries are accepted between the hours of 9-10 A.M. Friday. A greenhouse is being provided for the complete protection of these valuable plants. The second judging will take place at the Tacoma Primrose Society’s Show to be held April 28-29th. Cyrus Happy, 4 Country Club Lane, Tacoma, Washington, will give further information to those interested in competing for the Bamford Trophy at Tacoma. The third judging will take place at the one-day Jefferson Show to be held at the Jefferson High School Portland, Oregon on May 1st. Entries are accepted from 7 to 8:30 A.M. Dr. and Mrs. Sam Henricke, 6346 S.E. Stephens St., Portland, Oregon, are in charge of arrangements for the entries for the Bamford Trophy for the Portland area. Their phone number is Beacon 2-4769. The Award will be presented during the evening ceremonies which start at 7:30 P.M. The British Consul will present the Award to the deserving winner. This is the most appropriate time since the Bamford Trophy is a gesture of good will from Britain. Dan Bamford, the donor, will have a cable of the good news the moment the winner’s name is known. Most of the Show Auricula growers on this continent count him as a personal friend.

(courtesy Cyrus Happy III, photographer)

"Best Plant in the Show" a plum purple double, which was proudly exhibited by Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Van Kirk of Eugene.
Junior May Court Opens Jefferson Primrose Show

A.P.S. Invited to Enter Primulas

Banford Trophy Award

Susan Welsh, Student Journalist

Extensive plans have been energetically laid to make the seventh annual Primrose Show at Jefferson High School, 5210 N. Kirby, Portland, Ore., the focal point for Primrose lovers in the Northwest. The one-day Show will open at 11:30 A.M. and will be closed during the hours of 4:30 and 7:15 P.M.

Held in conjunction with May Day activities the show is sponsored by Klan Club of Jefferson. Reaching over a Junior May Court, a King and Queen, elected from the freshman or sophomore classes, will open the flower show on the morning of May 4. "Waltz of the Flowers," the theme of this year's show, is being beautifully and sensitively carried out with an old English maypole entwined with streamers and flowers flanked by a beautiful wall of greenery. Singing canaries in pretty cages will fill the room with cheerful music.

Interest is running very high, and an especially fine showing is anticipated. In addition to the entries of the students and members of the faculty, American Primrose Society Members have been invited to enter two of their Primulas plus their best Show Auriculas seedling in the Jefferson Show. Primalias belonging to the Society members will be judged by a slightly different and more or less standard system than those of the students. Entries may be received between the hours of 7:30 and 8:45 A.M. or the evening of the show at Jefferson High School 7th Annual Primrose Show.

7:15 and end at 9:00 P.M.

In an effort to increase the student's interest in Primulas and to work cooperatively with the faculty and the A.P.S., Klatawa junior and senior girls have organized an effective system of committees under the capable chairmanship of Miriam Daim, and the co-chairman Karen Drier, who will head the flower show next year.

Horner on the Auricula


Auricula lovers the world over have good reason to be grateful to Dr. Frederick Jordan, of Cortland, N.Y., and to Mr. Tom Meek, the genial editor of the Year Books of the National Auricula and Primula Society (Northern Section) for their untold efforts to give us the best of the Auricula and Horned P.D. Horner. These are appearing since 1977 as articles in the "Florist and Pomologist" and for nearly eighty years they have lain hidden in the few remaining copies of this nearly forgotten British Journal until unearthed by Dr. Jordan and now republished, together with a reprint from the Royal Horticultural Society, and tributes to the memory of the author, in the 1955 Year Book of the National Auricula Society (Northern Section).

Francis Daltry Horner was born at Hull, England, in 1837. He was the son of a clergyman and was himself a noted grower of tulips and other flowers. He was a gentleman and a well known contributor to the horticultural papers of his day. Young Francis therefore came honestly by his love of flowers and his ability to write. Educated for the ministry at Ripon and Dublin, he entered the Church of England and was for a time a parson near a parish where he had time to grow the wonderful auriculas and tulips for which he is still remembered.

While he was incumbent at Kirkby Malzeard the National Auricula Society was formed. In 1867 he became its first secretary. In England this is usually considered the executive office of a society or association, the presidency being a position more of honor than of work, and it is recorded that Mr. Horner did important work for the Society — "it is largely due to him that it exists at all." He held this position for nearly twenty years until, in 1881, he was elected a Vice-President.

His horticultural interests were wide and his knowledge great. Although Auriculas were his favorites he was noted for his success in raising tulips, orchids and cacti. He grew maize (corn) for the color of its ears and he was always encouraged by precept and practice to the raising of new varieties from seeds. Between him and his friend Ben Simonite it is said that thousands of varieties of Auriculas were raised. Certainly, to produce the number of new varieties they cultivated, the number of seedlings must have been enormous. In this country it is interesting to note that "A Synoptical Catalogue of Show Auriculas" published in the "Garden Oracle" in 1889 lists about three hundred and fifty varieties of which sixty-five are credited to Mr. Horner, as compared with thirty-one raised by Turner, his nearest competitor.

Mr. Horner died in 1912 after a long and painful illness which hid him from public view for a number of years.

Besides a shorter piece on Mr. Horner's writing consists of a series of Chapters, from 1 to 14, under the heading "The Auricula." In them he takes us through the Auricula year beginning just after the flowers have faded and gone. But first, in Chapter, he describes for us the Auricula "in its florist form," defines its properties, deals with its faults and determines its classification. This is a task rather difficult to do entertainingly but Mr. Horner's command of language is ample to carry it off delightfully. His prose is that of his time. It may sometimes seem a little labored to American ears accustomed to a more incisive speech, but to those of us who share his background, Horner's language has a nostalgic quality that will not be denied.

He takes us through a cultural routine that is characterized throughout by its common sense approach. Through his eyes we see the auricula as a living thing to be kept under wholesome conditions, as far as possible natural to it; clean compost, normal plant food, fresh air, clean water sufficient for its needs.

Mr. Horner takes us through the details of propagation by offsets and of cross-fertilization. The chapter next describes the culture of mature plants, his narrative is interlaced with hints from his vast experience to enable the grower to get the best out of his materials and to avoid the pitfalls of common error.

Half regretfully he helps us prepare our plants for exhibition, then very obviously he enjoys every minute of the show. Here, in the home greenhouse when we return, we look at the exhibits over, pause here to note the excellence of this or that, but our work is incomplete. Always we are learning, absorbing almost unconsciously the riches from this man's mind.

The experimental grower as well as the novice will find in Mr. Horner's work the perfect guide, not only for the use of information it contains but equally for his style, unique in these unrestfull days, and the quiet humor with which, here and there, he illustrates his point. It is to be hoped that Mr. Meek has on hand a plentiful supply of the 1955 Year Book. The demand should be great.

(Please see page 51 for National Auricula Society Notice.)
Errata. Please cross out the last sentence of the first paragraph on page 14 of the January 1956 Quarterly. The sentence should get an award for being the prize error as of course an Alpine does not have paste.

The trophy pictured on page 6 of the January 1956 Quarterly was given by the National Bank of Commerce, Kirkland Branch.

How I Grow Polyanthus Plants

(Continued from page 57)

trees than those grown by any other method, and the really dark green coloring of the foliage is a sure sign of health. Plants from seeds sown in March, April and May are planted out in October, and those sown in August are planted out at the very beginning of spring.

Among some of the remaining old trees, in one corner of the garden, near the orchard, I have a series of narrow beds, each 20 yards long by 7 ft. wide which are divided by narrow paths. In these beds I grow daffodils for our bloom, as they do well under the remaining trees, giving a nice display in the early spring, and a cash return which more than pays for the bulbs which have been planted. The daffodil bulbs are planted in double rows, 6" apart, across these narrow beds, and these double rows are spaced 20" apart, so that, when the blooms have been gathered, a double row of Polyanthus plants, splits, or seedlings, is inserted between the rows of daffodil leaves. These do very well, as the daffodil foliage gives off moisture and affords shade and shelter, so that in autumn the daffodil beds are full of choice Polyanthus plants, ready for dispatch. Quite a few thousand were taken out of these beds this autumn, as the dry summer over here had rendered them scarce elsewhere, and my plants were all of excellent quality. I do not plant these plats as yet, to scatter the seed under the apple or plum trees, as described. I find that with this method germination is 100%, and every viable seed germinates. I use only Fertosan compost on all of these beds, and I think that this is sufficient to produce fine plants of really good quality. I do give the growing plants a light sprinkle of steamed bone flour, as described, and a good dressing or two of sifted Fertosan compost as it becomes available. I used to give an ordinary sprinkle of sifted peat, but I think that this is not better than the dressing of sifted compost.

I have found a better dressing for a row of Polyanthuses than an even sprinkling of finely powdered peat charcoal. This is easily made by placing any ordinary peat in a can with a few holes in the top, similar to the worm can we use to go fishing. When the can is packed full of peat, it is placed in or on a fire so that it becomes red hot and gives off a lot of producer gas through the holes, which gas may, of course, also burn with the fire. The can, of course, acts as a retort and allows the peat to only burn to charcoal. When the gas has ceased to flow through the holes in the top of the can, the can, being red hot, is removed from the fire and allowed to cool. It is not opened for about a couple of hours, when the contents will receive air and will burn away to ash. When the can is opened the peat charcoal is ready for use, after being powdered. In this material I believe there is the finest way of applying the acid contained in the peat which the plant desires, and I find that one dressing of this charcoal keeps the plant clean and in excellent condition, and is equal, in effect, to about six dressings of powdered peat.

I am now mixing this peat charcoal with my Fertosan compost for Polyanthus growing, and so far I have found nothing finer. I suggest that you try it, and let me know how you get on. G. E. DAWSON, Technical Director, Fertosan Limited.

The President’s Message

It is my opinion that articles on growing procedures are more important than "personal messages." In this Year Book, which is crowding the margins with the roster, show news, and the Treasurer’s report, I intend to keep my remarks at a minimum.

The Editor has turned in her resignation effective in October. She has assured us that her rewards of friendships, education and experience have more than rewarded her for the time and money she has spent on the Quarterly. Nothing I could say could possibly express the feeling of gratitude we all feel toward Mrs. Worthington for her tireless work in the organization, and for her superior editing of the Quarterly. Will you dear members, help the Board to find a new Editor?

In 1952 the treasury was in the red, since that time the balance has increased and the membership nearly doubled. Several increases in printing and engraving costs and the necessity of hiring clerical and secretarial help has brought us to the realization that membership dues must be increased. The last 15% blanket raise of printing costs last October cost the Society over $50 more for every Quarterly and an estimate of at least twice that amount for the Year Book, which is already expensive, since the roster now costs the Society $12.93 a page in excess of the contract. The Editor has a contract with the Society (which may be cancelled with 90 days notice by either party) to edit, publish and mail a sixteen-page Quarterly for $325; an issue, which is the estimated gross cost of a sixteen-page Quarterly. The Society pays in addition, $10 initial mailing fee (no longer adequate); $50 a Quarterly for non-member secretarial help; provides the stationery for the Editors; and, since October, has absorbed the last raise in printing costs amounting to $16.7 a page, so that the loss would not be sustained by the Editor. The January Quarterly generally makes up for the loss incurred by the July and October Quarterly, and Mrs. Worthington believes that a good business manager could run the Quarterly without loss, under the present arrangement as long as publishing costs remain the same.

I am appealing to the membership to study our financial condition as shown by the extensive report from our Treasurer, Mrs. Orval Agee. Any constructive suggestions will be given the concentrated attention of the Board. We have examined the possibility of having a smaller Quarterly, but since the advertising would be cut to a minimum, the savings to the Society would not be small as to be disproportionate in the extreme, to the necessary sacrifice of space.

If any member should propose a candidate for Editor, it might be well to study the printing costs in the area proposed as Quarterly Headquarters. May I beg that any suggestions made be backed up with a little hard evidence? I have spent a good deal of time trying to find a less expensive way to publish the Quarterly. We have thought of mimeographing, but this would entail excessive postage since it must be sent first class. We have thought of lithographing but find that it would cost only eight to ten dollars a quarter less and would take a great deal more work in the preparation. As for a candidate for Editor, that person should have a well-developed sense of integrity, responsibility and timing, as well as editing and business ability.

This next year I will again be joining that very lucky group of members who

Wayne Arnold, President 1955-56 with
Malacodius Primulas and Clematis from
his nursery.
enjoy the benefits of the society in return for a payment of dues. The experience of having been an Officer and Worker for the Society has given me an expanded viewpoint of the vital importance of knowing the will of each member, in that I know the Board cannot represent the various segments of the membership, unless it is made aware of the will of each segment. We are now an international organization; let us have democratic representation.

Chester K.
Strong
A Tribute

I wish to express the appreciation of the Board of Directors as well as the many grateful members who have written to the Officers, for the seed exchange and for the careful and exhaustive work of its Director, Chester K. Strong and his ever-helpful wife, Hazel.

Wayne Arnold, A.P.S. President

STATEMENT OF THE AMERICAN PRIMROSE SOCIETY

Balance as of Dec. 31, 1954 .................................................. $ 998.84
Receipts for 1954 not included in 1954 Report ................ 40.57

Balance as of January 1, 1955 .............................................. $1039.41

RECEIPTS:
Sale of Quartettes .......................................................... $ 129.75
Silver Tea, April .......................................................... 11.45
Slide Rentals .............................................................. 20.00
Misc. ........................................................................ 1.15
March Plant Sale ............................................................. 33.10
April Portland Primrose Show (Plant Sales) .... 192.45
Gresham Show (Plant Sales) ................................. 150.75
June Plant Sales ............................................................. 28.00
September Plant Sales ......................................................... 26.10
November Plant Sales ......................................................... 8.75

Total ................................................................. $601.50

MEMBERSHIPS & SUBSCRIPTIONS:
1955 ........................................................................ 1013.25
1956 ........................................................................ 645.00
1957 ($7.50); ($25.00) .................................................. 10.00
Commercial Listings —
1955 ($6.00); 1956 ($2.00) ............................................ 8.00
Library — 1955 ($20.00); 1956 ($19.00) ..................... 39.00
Sustaining — 1955 ($50.00); 1956 ($35.00) .... 85.00
Affiliated Societies — 1955 ($43.00); 1956 ($7.50) 50.50
Family — 1955 ($16.00); 1956 ($8.00) .................. 24.00

Total Receipts, 1955 ...................................................... $1874.75

TOTAL INCOME .............................................................. $3515.66

DISBURSEMENTS:
Quarterly:
Contract for Quarterly (Printing, engraving, editing) ........ $1300.00
Initial Mailing ($50.00); Mailing Envelopes ($59.00) .... 89.00
Extra Pages for Roster and Constitution .................. 110.25
15% increase in engraving and prtg. costs (Oct. Quart.) 35.44
Stationery .................................................................. 40.03
Clerking (non-member) .................................................. 200.00
Clerking, A.P.S. ............................................................ 26.27
Club Rental ($80.00) and Speaker ($15.00) ............... 95.00
Phone — Official Business for Sec. Directed by President 37.88
Typewriter Repair ......................................................... 3.50
Mimeo. of Meeting & Delinquent Membership Notices 28.15
Refreshments — Feb. Meeting ...................................... 5.00
Treasurer's Labels ($3.00); Treasurer's Bond ($10.00) 15.00
Invoices ($16.20) and Stationery ($91.98) .............. 108.18
Membership Applications (Engraving $11.62, Prtg. $54.45) 46.07
Postage (Billing, meeting notices, Treasurer, etc.) .... 94.44
Slide Expense ($2.90 Projection Lamp; $38.95 Slides) ... 41.85
Show Expense:
Drawing Fund (Mrs. O. Miller Babbitt), April Show .... 200.00
Club Rental for Show, April Show ............................... 50.00
Refreshments ($14.50); Show Ins. ($56.00), April Show 50.50
Plants and Carriage (Sale Plants), April Show ............. 101.40
Electrical Equipment, April Show ................................ 56.24
Judges Travelling Expenses, April Show ................... 1995
Posters Lettered and New Show Cards, April Show .... 24.80
Saucers for Show Plants (Permanent Investment) .... 19.05
Trophies (Nat. $7.50; Jefferson & April Show $27.25) 34.75
Additional January Quartettes ........................................ 15.00
Scrap Books and Album ................................................ 7.10
Copyr. & Incep., Legal Work Donated by J. P. Hannon 20.00
Officers' Travel Expense .............................................. 55.00
Flowers ($8.00); Miscellaneous ($10) ......................... 18.10
Refund to Tacoma Soc. for April Quartettes not sold .... 15.00

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS .................................................. $2968.95

Bank Balance as of Dec. 31, 1955 .... $ 46.71
Savings Account as of Dec. 31, 1955 .......................... $25.50
Balance in Norman Lawfield's Account, Eng. (approx.) $83.58
Balance in Seed Exchange Account, Chester K. Strong 76.14

TOTAL Balance on Hand Dec. 31, 1955 ................ $1181.95

Checked and approved by Mrs. Frank Howard, bookkeeper and A.P.S. Clerk. Audited by Mrs. L. G. Miller and Mrs. J. DeWael.
Respectfully submitted, Mrs. Orval Agee, Treasurer

The Friday Harbor Primrose Club extends a cordial invitation to all flower lovers to attend their Primrose Show to be held May 11-22 in the Study Club at Friday Harbor. The theme will be "Primrose Bower." There will be no charge.
SECTIONAL NOTES FROM BARNHAVEN

Florence Levy

All of us surround ourselves with color, some unconsciously by avoiding those hues that are too hot, others, consciously, by choosing colors which react pleasantly. Those less conscious of color feel, to a greatly dullest degree, than others to contrast, repose, relish, or sublimation by those who are color sensitive. Active people feel pain in a magenta dye on white, and in the solar plexus or nuchus are common among this sensitized group when confronted by violent, harsh or inharmonious color schemes. The color pink and for horticulturist, the color of three Prunus (S. bold, Lannesian erecta and serrulata) and the species are tinted, it is Rose. The people who choose to work with color - the painter, musician, interior decorator, hybridizer, color is defined as the general name for all sensations arising from the activity of the retina of the eye and its attached nervous mechanism. Perhaps this definition accounts for the fact that every color has a hue, a tint, and a shade. In thinking about color, an article by George L. MacAveley was re-remembered (Seven Aspects of Color). This article is reprinted in this issue (pp. 56-60). This is well worth re-reading especially for the nine figures illustrating the Six Tints and Shades Theory, the Hue Plane of the Five Color (Munsell) Theory, and the Color Sphere. Extremely interesting is Figure 4, Purity and Value, which shows the color sphere with the equator representing the pure hue with the white pole north, the equator toward which the tints are diluted, and the black pole south of the equator toward which the shades are darkened. The center of the equator represents the entire range of grays or blend in which the hues and shades do not bear to the grayed tints. Figures 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9 are also valuable.

Using the R.H.S. Color Chart, Mr. MacAveley lists the eight plate making up the magenta system. There are those who talk at the color of magenta because they do not like it. Then there are those who dislike it because it lacks understanding of it, therefore it might be well to learn more about this particular system, then to live it like pink, and the magenta gardener certainly need have nothing to do with magenta unless every system in the sphere to choose from.

Magenta, the pure hue taking its position at the edge of the equator dividing the color sphere in half, is the color of Dicentra formosa, Dilutes, and the color of Primula rosea. Originally it was a brilliant Anilina dye named after the city of Magenta Italy. As magenta moved this run parallel, rose, up through the tints toward the white pole, once tinted it becomes Fuchsia, and from Fuchsia, twice tinted, magenta becomes Rhododendron Pink, the name of a dye produced hybriding or hybridizing, the color of the color of three Prunus (S. bold, Lannesian erecta and serrulata) and the species are tinted, it is Rose Pink, a color which is one of the breath-takingly delicate, cool, clear pinks of the newest in Polyanthus.

Dropping back from the top of the sphere, or white pole, to the Magenta Pure Hue at the equator, and continuing to drop down to the hues to the bottom, or black pole, once shaded it is Tyrian Purple, which, originally, was derived from sea snails and used by the ancients. Twice shaded, it is Ruby Red, a color named for the precious stone and used in use since the 16th century.

Leaving the circumference of the color sphere, we come to the center along the equator to the neutral grays or browns, once grayed is Magenta Rose and twice grayed, Rose Pink, the color of Helleborous orientalis, and named for the mineral, euhedral.

All of these, and many more in various dilutions, greyed tones, tints and shades to the color Pink and the other color systems (save green), and the Auricula takes care of it) exist in the world. This delving into the color systems was prompted by Frank J. Taylor's article "The Great Rose Lottery" appearing in the Saturday Evening Post on February 25th. He says they (Jackson & Perkins) "have a lavender Pincocchio, which is about as far as you can go in getting all of the primary colors in one flower."

Through careful selection and equally careful hybridizing, the bulbous trees crossed for mass production, hoping for one or two specimen plants, primitive hybrids have not only produced, but the secondary, and tertiary, and the secondary, too, all get better, but while generally similar, these systems, too, have been made to come true from seed which is so small a feat when working with hybrids.

Paid Advertisement
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The $64,000.00 Question
In 1955 64,000 American and Canadian Gardeners used Fertosan Compost Accelerator to decompose their garden rubbish into Rich, Disease-free Humus. It only takes six weeks from the time the bacteria are introduced into the compost heap until the humus is ready for use in the garden or greenhouse benches.

(See page 35 for Instructions on "How to Make Compost the Easy Fertosan Way.")

ANNOUNCEMENT:
A new addition to the "Fertosan Family" has just arrived—
"Fertosan Myco"

FERTOSAN MYCO
This new baby is really a lusty one, being six times stronger than the regular Fertosan Compost Accelerator and it does its work in half the time; consequently obstetric fees are a little higher.

Why not try this new baby in your garden or greenhouse.
Write for prices and further information.

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(Pricing vary according to shipping and merchandising costs. All packets are sent to customer postpaid.)
Fertosan Compost Accelerator, West Jordan, Utah $ .69
O. A. Moore, Colloidal Soil Service, College View Station, 3827 South 52nd St., Lincoln 6, Nebraska .69
Clair W. Stille, 137 Bassett Avenue, Lexington 27, Kentucky 1.00
Sally's Pater Sound Seed Company, 1550 Westlake Avenue North, Seattle 9, Wn... 1.00
Portland Seed and Pet Store, 204 S.W. Yamhill, Portland 4, Ore. 1.00
Dunn Sales Limited, 310 King Street East, Toronto 2, Ontario, Canada 69
Dunn Sales Limited, 58 Victoria Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada 69
Canadian Organic Developments Limited, 306 Burns Building, Calgary, Alberta, Canada 69
Mr. William Wagner, Belmont Abrasives Company, 285 Newbury Street, Boston 15, Massachusetts 1.00
R. W. Papenhausen, Gar-Products Incorporated, Queens Avenue, Lindenhurst, L. I., 1.00
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Headquarters for Hobby Gardeners
BLUE WHALE (all sizes) No Mail Orders
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Pickle Dusters — Tools — Fertilizers — Bulbs — Plants — Seeds
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Get the genuine from the originator with the emblem on each seed packet. A better crop from lovelier flowers of Polyanthus. All packets $1.00 each, including Crown Pink, Warm Laughter, standard colors, and a mixed pkt. including some of each color. Number of seeds varying with scarcity, from 50 to 200. New folder.
All one dollar a packet — Folder with each order.
LINDA A. EICKMAN
3531 S.W. Falcon St. Portland 19, Oregon

The Friday Harbor Primrose Club Officers for 1958
are: Marian Hannah, President; Alice Moore, Vice President; Helen Fowler, Secretary; Rune Haubner, Treasurer. Mabel Hitching is the Chairman of the Show and her address is simply, Friday Harbor, Wn.

The Lewis County Primrose Show will be held April 19-20th at the Community Building at the Recreation Park, 13th and Williams, Chehalis, Washington. The theme will be "Hi Lites of Spring."
Pacific Northwest Nurseries, Inc.
EXTENDS A WELCOME TO THOSE ATTENDING
THE NATIONAL PRIMROSE SHOW AT KIRKLAND, WASHINGTON
EARL RANDALL, invites you to stop in at his nursery store, located in Bellevue,
just N. of the Lake Washington Bridge, S. of Kirkland,—not five minutes from the
Civic Center. Nursery stock, from EARL RANDALL'S large nursery, is on display in
the area surrounding the store.

Welcome to Kirkland, and to
Primrose Corner
Where Primroses are
featured, just six beau-
tiful miles northeast of
the National Primrose
Show in Kirkland.
Send for free folder
MR. AND MRS. CHARLES E. GILMAN
Conrad Olson Road, Rt. 2, Box 2656, off Avondale Rd., Redmond, Wn.
GARDEN AURICULAS—POLYANTHUS—CANDLEABRA—JULIAE, etc.

Visit SPRING HILL FARM at Show Time
POLYANTHUS, ACAULIS, GARDEN AURICULAS, JULIAE, and ASIATICS
Heather - Pansies - French Lilacs - Many other Perennials and Shrubs
We ship anywhere in the U.S.A. Please come and visit us or send for Price List.
"We Grow what We Sell" Carl and Ruth Bartlett
P.O. Box 42, GIG HARBOR, WASHINGTON

ACME SUN DRIED PEAT and the famous BLUE WHALE IMPREGNATED
PEAT MOSS, which has been accepted by the Women's Health Federation as a product
of Superior Merit, will be proudly and prominently displayed so that you will not forget
to take a sack home to your garden. The Women's Health Federation is a subsidized,
non-profit organization which, for a number of years has granted a certain part of its
funds to education and research in organic soil education. BLUE WHALE was chosen for
its 1954 Certificate of Merit, because of its ability to build the soil, and was the "only
soil-building product so honored."
If you are looking for a gift to take home to those left behind, don't forget, EARL
RANDALL and his informed salesmen will show you the finest line of tools and garden
supplies to be found in any garden store.

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Offer you the advantage of the favourable rates of
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Catalogues On Natural History and Gardening Free On Request
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106 Lake Street S.
extends a cordial welcome to all
visitors to Kirkland. It is a lovely
and a pleasant place in which to live.
Welcome to
FRIENDLY KIRKLAND
DR. RONALD O. DAVIS
OPTOMETRIST
Arcade Bldg., Kirkland, Wash.
Andyke 1181
Welcome to the Tacoma Primrose Society Show
April 28-29, Tacoma, Washington
and to PETER KLEIN'S NURSERY

Turn east from highway 99 on S. 74th on the southern outskirts of Tacoma, and follow the map to the right, to visit the nursery where the Tacoma Doubles originated. Although I lost many rare Primulas and other perennials, I saved some plants I'll be proud to show you. Be sure to stop by on your way to the Kirkland, Tacoma, and Puyallup Shows.

Yours for better Primulas, Peter Klein

FOR COLOR
that captures the radiance of a spring morning

PRIMROSES from BARNHAVEN
Long-stemmed ACAULIS
Transplants and Hand-Pollinated Seed

SILVER-DOLLAR POLYANTHUS
Plants - Transplants
Hand-Pollinated Seed

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Barnhaven
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Dear Primrose Friends:

On page 37 may be found printing instructions as well as a list of the current Exotics Varieties of Show Auriculas we are offering this year. The following is a continuation of page 38: The Primula garden can be enhanced by the addition of such flowers as the following: HABERLEA rhodopensis "twin sister" of Ramonda — for any shady cool nook or crevice in well-drained rich leafy soil — they forming increasing rosettes of hairy toothed leaves, of stiffest dusky flannel.... "Sprays of small Gloxinia-like flowers in early summer. (60)" RAMONDA pyrenaeica "...oval foliage more corrugated than crinkled... of brilliant glossy green with a dense fringe of hairs." Flowers of a clear bright tone of lavender-blue with an orange eye. Happiest hanging in a north-facing wall or any "rich-soiled shady crevice or ledge." (75) ANDROSACE ocularis, a rare plant with grey-green foliage. Pink flowers with dark eye on 4" stem, a real gem. July-August. ANEMONE nemorosa, (Lady of the Snow) A charming species from the high Alps. Large white flower tinged silver grey inside and covered with silky fur 3", March-April. CYANANTHUS integer, delightful little rock plant prostrate stems with small oval leaves and a profusion of clear blue flowers, 2", July-October. LITHOSPERMUM prostratum "Grace Ward," most popular evergreen trailer covered with deep blue flowers in spring and summer. 6". We list many of the Katschka group of SAXIFRAGE "...where lie the dearest (in every sense) jewels of the family. A proud representative is S. Burseriana ($4.50) "which has large brilliant blossoms on short stems over compact mounds of narrow, undivided leathery or spiny foliage early in the year." Other SAXIFRAGA are offered from the Encrusted Group or "Silver Saxifrages," the Mossy Group and others — all listed for your convenience in our free list together with many rare and interesting plants from other genera.

It is my wish that I may meet you at the Kirkland Show to which I hope to bring some of my most cherished Show Auriculas for your observation.

Sincerely,
Frank Michaud

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Thompson & Morgan
Seeds of the following plants may be ordered according to number. Please add $2.50 to a personal check for cashing charges. International money orders are acceptable. Free catalog sent with orders.

**Candelabra Primulas**
(3060) "Aileen Aroon" 20c (3061) Asthorpe Hybrids 10c (3062) Moerheim Hybrids 14c (3063) "Red Hugh" 14c

**Malacoides Primulas**
(3081) Jean Russell 20c (3083) Rose Bouquet 20c (3077) Down 14c (3075) Achievement 20c (3078) Mixed 20c (3082) Pink Sensation 20c

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Seed and Floral Company
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GARDEN SOILDUSTO
Put it on...spade it in!

Apply Miller's Garden SOILDUSTO before you work your garden soil. Destroys wireworms, root weevils, cutworms, sowbugs, and many other destructive soil pests. Protect the roots and your plants over a longer period of time.

Available: 4 oz., 10 oz., shaker can, 2 lb., 5 lb., 10 lb.

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Specialists in Rare and Slow Growing Evergreens
FOR ALL TYPES
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A Quality Product Developed Through Research

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SOLUBLES, WHALE BALEEN, WHALE BONE AND
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ABSOLUTELY
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