Quarterly of the American Primrose Society

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The Gold Laced Polyanthus... Dan Bamford
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Introducing Frank H. Michaud of Alpenglow Gardens.....Inside back cover

The PICTURE ON THE COVER: A Gold Laced Polyanthus: Photographed by Cyrus Happy III. The late Peter Klein raised this fine seedling. His outstanding efforts as a hybridist are commented upon by Dan Bamford.

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Gold Laced Polyanthus
And A Few Reminiscences

DAN BAMFORD, Middleton, England

It is with great pleasure that we publish this article by one of the great floriculturists. In the winter issue he will have another article on the old florists.

The Gold Laced Polyanthus is a flower much beloved by the old florists a generation ago. For generations it journeyed with the Show Auricula and the Gold Laced Polyanthus would generally be found in the same garden. Indeed I would say that it was quite as extensively grown, if not more so, and with equal enthusiasm as the Auricula.

I have never been able to trace how or when the Gold Laced Polyanthus first made its appearance and like the Auricula its origin must remain shrouded in the mist of the past. I think we can conclude that it was a sport from the early polyanthus no doubt in a very crude and rough form, but when it seized the imagination of the old florists it was developed until it reached the peak of perfection.

Rigid standards were laid down for the perfect flower and these were aimed for with the same tenacity as the Auricula. A really good Gold Laced Polyanthus is a jewel in the polyanthus world.

Now, let us straighten out the difference between the Gold Laced Polyanthus and the border polyanthus. The former is a florist flower pure and simple, the latter is a plant for the border and both are of equal importance, but they are in a different category. The former aims for perfection alone, the latter for garden effect, and I say quite emphatically that the Gold Laced Polyanthus is not a plant that would display itself well in a long border. The color range is too limited and the effect would be dull and monotonous, on the other hand, the border polyanthus with its brilliant colors would not stand the test of the microscope the Gold Laced Polyanthus would.

You have developed the polyanthus really well in America and the pink shades have added to their charm. Yes, our springtime would be dull without the border polyanthus. There is no need neither would I advise any gardener to confine himself to any one type of gardening. If you say I am a floriculturist and nothing else you cut yourself adrift from the pleasure of the brilliant display of present day development in horticulture. But if you do combine the two, floriculture and horticulture, do keep them in their rightful place. In horticulture you can allow your imagination to run in any direction to suit your own fancy, both as regards form and colour, but in floriculture you must adhere to rigid standards as laid down for the particular flower we are dealing with. It is slow but fascinating, particularly when you see yourself drawing nearer to the perfect flower. In the American Primrose Society you have your florist section and the horticultural. There you will have the border polyanthus and the Gold Laced Polyanthus but not clashing. Similarly you will have the border fancy auricula and the classical Show Auricula, but again not clashing. If you do combine the two you will have a very happy time in your garden.

I hope no member of this society will accuse me of being narrow minded in my garden. I have grown the Show Auricula and Gold Laced Polyanthus from my boyhood upwards but at the same time I have also raised thousands of the Far Eastern Rhododendrons of all the species I could lay my hands on, as well as grown the Camellias, Azaleas, Lilies, Alpines, border Carnations, etc., in fact every thing from Orchids to Lettuce. I say here and now that the wealthiest magnate never had greater pleasure from his leisure than I had in my garden.

Now in my advancing years I can no longer indulge in my hobby to the same extent but I still derive great pleasure in dreaming of the past. Sometimes when I look at some of my Show Auriculas I can almost hear the peaceful 'click', 'click' of the handloom shuttle deftly propelled from side to side by one of the skilled old weavers weaving his delicate fabric in silk into designs of rare beauty. And the Gold Laced Polyanthus seems almost synonymous with the face of many of those gentle men I knew long ago. Alas, and yet alas, we shall never see their type again, but I will refer to them at intervals so that they are not entirely forgotten.

It always appears to me tragic to see some of our old tradition so neglected and almost vanishing. Where is the Gold Laced Polyanthus today? We have neglected it to such an extent that it is practically nonexistent. The few florist societies in my country cannot feel very proud of this particularly when it was really the creation of my countrymen and I do not care two hoots who hears me say this. Strip a man of his traditional pride and sentiment and nothing remains but a husk to cumber the earth.

But I must now return to the Gold Laced Polyanthus. There must be a few alive today who remember these when they were at their peak of popularity. Practically none of the old named varieties are in existence, but efforts are now being made to develop the plant again using Tiny as a parent, one of the few old varieties remaining. Tiny is quite a good variety and some progress will no doubt be made, but it will be a long time before we see it in the perfect form and in a range of named varieties as it was a generation ago. I must hand out to you in America the credit for pioneering the resurrection of this plant, and to the grand capable gardener of yours Pete Klein must go the credit for most of the progress. My friend Mr. Cyrus Happy sent me coloured slides of some of Pete's raising and I must admit that they were up to the old standard. I was amazed at the progress he had made. It was a tragedy he had to leave us. He would undoubtedly have graced this Society with one of the finest florists of this generation, both with his Gold Laced Polyanthus and Auriculas. I hope the American florists will carry on in his footsteps and again firmly establish these two old world flowers which were developed with...
such patience and skill by our ancestors in generations now past, and no doubt many of you in America have still some of their blood in your veins.

The properties of the Gold Laced Polyanthus are as follows: The stem must be strong and erect and long enough to throw the truss well above the foliage. The footstalks must be stiff and of such a length to display the pips without overcrowding. There should not be less than five pips to the truss and they should be close and fill the truss. The tube should be golden yellow in colour, well filled with anthers which should cover the tube and curling over completely to cover the stigma. It must lie in the centre of the flower and be completely circular. The centre must be bright yellow and perfectly circular, size about half the diameter of the pip. The ground colour should either be rich dark crimson or red and the colour must be uniform without any shading. The pips should be of one size and lie quite flat and smooth, free from ridges or serratures, and circular in outline. The edging should be bright gold in colour and go perfectly and evenly round each petal down to the centre.

That generally describes the Gold Laced Polyanthus and what you should aim for in breeding. Now a little latitude can be allowed both in the centre diameter and width of edging. For instance the centre diameter can be a little more or less than half the diameter of the pip, provided the refined appearance of the pip is preserved. The edge colour can be about one tenth inch in width but here again it can be a little wider or narrower depending on the size of the pip and provided the refinement is preserved.

It is here where the judgment of your judges will be called into play, but, a little experience and you will soon be quite at home in judging. Such is the Gold Laced Polyanthus, a flower for the florist but not for the border. A flower to fascinate and tax the skill of the plant breeder and provide a life-
time of pleasure for the plant aesthetic. It is of no interest to mention the names of the varieties I saw 65 years ago—they are no longer with us. With me, they remain only as a pleasant memory.

What were the gardens of the old florists like in that period? Certainly not the gay colourful borders we see today. For brilliance of display the gardens of today have the old gardens well and truly beaten. Yet on looking back to the carpet or geometric garden of old, there was certainly something fascinating about them. The artistic designs worked out by the bedding out of thousands of different coloured dwarf plants definitely did produce a great artistic bedding display. Many beds had the coat of arms of the town beautifully executed with floral plants, on another bed would be a floral clock, the revolving fingers being planted with dwarf coloured plants, yet another would have a floral barometer. The number of plants used in such plantings must have been colossal. I believe there is still an example of a floral clock at Edinburgh, there was the last time I was there. Alas, and yet alas, the cost of this type of gardening is too costly today, the labour no longer available and I am afraid, what is more tragic, the interest no longer with us. Someday a resurrection of it, on a limited scale, may be seen in America. I hope so, if only as a reminder that you still cherish some of our old tradition and sentiment.

In the same period my favourite memory is of the borders leading to the door of some old thatched cottage. The back of one border planted with tall hollyhocks, then nearer the front were perennial Phlox and the old scarlet Paeony, then came the flaked Carnations and edged Pinks, the latter falling over from the beds on to the path. The other border would be planted with old English Roses and the old H. P. Roses. With a sigh I remember the scent from such borders. We are breeding today for brilliance of display, but are we improving the scent? I am afraid we are not. But let us enter one of those old cottages and you would be met with the most exquisite of all plant perfumes—the Musk. How many members of this society remember that sweet delicate perfume? When the last of the old brigade departed the Musk seemed to go in deep mourning and carried its fragrance with them. Today it is not
possible to procure a plant of the Musk with the old fragrance. Why it should have suddenly left the plant is a mystery to me and I am told that it no longer carries its scent in its natural habitat.

The other type of gardens, those of the old florists were generally small, as they mostly belonged to the artisan class. They were usually surrounded by a hawthorne hedge and there was no attempt made to produce an artistic effect. I have seen many robins peacefully rearing their young in those hedges, a very peaceful scene. The beds were usually rectangular in shape and were filled with Gold Laced Polyanthus, Bizarre and Flake Carnations, edged Pinks, Show Pansies, old English Tulips, and in many the Show Gooseberry. In one corner would be the Auricula house. In some of these gardens you could see scores of varieties of the Gold Laced Polyanthus.

It was amusing to look over the garden hedges and see how the bushes were protected from rain and strong sunshine. As a boy I well remember seeing the whole of the bushes covered with umbrellas. Is there anything like that in America today? I heard of one old grower who would regularly spring up from his bed when there was danger of spring frost damaging the setting fruit, then take the clothes from his own bed and spread them carefully over his bushes. My friends, that sounds very humorous, as indeed it is, but there is an enthusiasm behind it which calls for our admiration, and yet again there was a copper kettle trophy to be won. We have seen the last of such sacrifices. No need today to make them, we have other means of protection. But it serves to show the tough type of Englishmen over a generation ago. I think it was Napoleon who once said, "The trouble with these darned English is that they don't know when they are beaten."

Please don't think I am out to boost up my race. I say quite frankly that I do not think you would find one who would make such sacrifice today.

The Gold Laced Polyanthus were planted out in the beds but were protected in winter and flowering time by what are known as vitrol carbons. These are spherical glass containers about 18 inches in diameter and used for transporting acid to the Bleach and Dye works. There is a short neck and opening about 2 inches in diameter at the top used when pouring out the acid. These were cut round the centre and the half with the opening used to place over the polyanthus. This opening made an excellent ventilator which could be closed by placing a piece of slate over the opening. They were ideal bell glasses. I can assure readers that a whole bed of these bell glasses did not look particularly handsome, but when the covering was removed in spring when the plants were in full flower, there was displayed a collection of Gold Laced Polyanthus such as no member of our English Societies or the A. P. S. will see in this generation... clean, well grown plants and flowers which painted a picture I am pleased to look back to.

Many, many years ago I wrote one of our leading alpine nurserymen, the late John Stormth of Kirkbride on Carlisle, asking him to pay a visit to our Auricula Show. His reply was, "Yes Dan, I shall be pleased to come if you will assure me that I shall see a collection of Gold Laced Polyanthus like those I saw in old Jack Beswick's garden many years ago!" My reply was, "John, don't think you will ever see anything like that in your lifetime!" He did not come.

The Gold Laced Polyanthus is perhaps a little more particular about soil and aspect than the border Polyanthus, but they will grow quite well together provided you keep the Gold Laced well watered in dry weather. They like a rich loamy soil, not sandy, but rather on the heavy side, enriched with decayed leaf mould and a little well decayed manure three years old. Sand or grit should be added to ensure perfect drainage.

I grew my plants in beds in a clearing between trees with one side open to the sun facing West. There they were at home and grew with absolute abandon. I had many varieties there which were elsewhere non existent such as Middleton Favourite, Cheshire Favourite, John Beswick, Bang Europe, Mrs. Brownhill (a real jewel in refinement), Tiny, Bee and Dene, Dark Warrior, Dark Hilloock and a good many others. In the same spot the Double Primroses and many Primulas were perfectly at home. Many, many times since the war I have grieved that I did not pack the whole collection, while there was still time, and send them to my dear old friend and fellow member of this society, Frank Michael, of New Westminster, Canada. They would have been safe and multiplied in his hands. In spring, when in flower they always attracted a great number of gardeners.

From what I have said it will be seen that the position they like is one which is partially shaded and a little humid. The sheltering trees in my old garden provided these conditions perfectly, the sunshine rippling through the trees was much to their liking, the trees themselves gave a certain amount of humidity. It was a delightful setting and it was the last spot I always visited before leaving my garden in the evening.

The beds were raised about six inches above the level of the paths, which allowed any excess water to quickly drain away from the crown of the plants. I was never troubled with red spider in this spot, but occasionally green fly would make its appearance which was easily cleared away by spraying with nicotine. Their worst enemy was slugs, but I easily kept these at bay by small heaps of slug powder placed all over the beds. Beyond this they were no trouble.

The plants should be lifted and divided every three years, the strong new outer growths being cut away from the worn out crown preserving as many roots as possible and then transplanted in their new flowering quarters. The worn out center can be discarded if the plant has given several side growths, but if the plants are slow to increase it can be planted in a nursery bed and any new side growths it may make can be severed from it when they are strong enough. Keep the plants well supplied with water during dry hot periods in summer and this is best carried out in the evening, using a hose on the watering can. Really they are no more trouble than the ordinary border type polyanthus. I usually covered my plants with garden lights in winter to keep off excessive rain and left them covered until the flowers were well out in spring to keep them clean. A good planting of these is well worth seeing, the craft of the old florist is displayed all over them.

I think all that is necessary has now been written about the Gold Laced Polyanthus and I hope you in America will carry on and develop it, not only for its beauty, but to preserve one of the more refined sides of our tradition. I am now getting very much older and just passed through a very serious illness, and it could by the hand of fate be the last time I shall have the pleasure of contributing to the Quarterly, but I hope not. But one thing I will say again, it has always been a very pleasant corner in my life to meet a few of your members in the flesh, and many in correspondence. That is something that will always be tucked away in my book of memories.
Winter Primrose Reflections

ALICE HILLS BAYLOR, Sky Hook Farm, Johnson, Vermont

Those who order primroses have a mental picture of the effect the new plants will have in their garden. A few to border a semi-shady area where lilies will bloom later or a mass of multi-colored flowers to transform a barren space to springtime glory. . . . the plan is well established in advance. It is always a great pleasure for a grower to receive a card or note telling the desired effect was beyond expectations. It is also a great disappointment to a grower when the report reads, “The plants arrived in perfect condition but are not doing well.”

Primulas pay big dividends when cultural directions sent with each order are followed. Deep digging, plenty of humus, plant food, moisture and semi-shade are important. One might say primroses enjoy serene comfort! If we provide these comforts. . . . a comfortable place to live, food and drink, plus shade from the heat of the day. . . . they give us much in return.

This season I was able to visit a few gardens where it was obvious the primroses were not up to standard. In one garden I found the polyanthus planted behind and beneath a large peony. They were sulking. No dappled sun, no air, no plant food nor moisture, as a peony is as greedy as any garden subject. Another garden edged a ravine where leaf mold lay in thick layers, but none had been used for the primroses. The soil was hard and dry. Before I left both gardens the plants had been lifted and replanted and the later reports were good.

Another gardener had followed all the instructions for perfect growth but the plants had yellowing foliage. The mulch was rich and deep, the semi-shade perfect. I handled one plant and it was loose and I lifted it right out of the ground. The roots had been wound in a tight ball and planted with the tips of those wonderful six inch roots right at the top of the soil! I lifted each plant . . . dug a deep hole . . . spread the roots . . . watered well . . . firmed the soil and removed the yellowing foliage. They perked right up and a note later told me they were as lush as they had been at Sky Hook.

Perhaps those who have been discouraged will take new hope and try again. The woman who wrote, “I guess I shall just have to give up trying to grow those lovely Polyanthus now writes, “Send more and tell me something about them.” More were sent but there was no time to tell about the interesting family tree of the Polyanthus, which is perhaps the most popular garden primrose.

Dues Confuse . . .

If you joined A. P. S. last summer you were sent the winter, spring and summer issues at that time. Starting with Nov. 15, 1961 your dues are again payable. It would be too great a burden on our Treasurer to have it any other way. We are most appreciative to a loyal member from Friday Harbor for her Life Membership and to all those new and old sustaining members.

THE CANADIAN PRIMULA AND ALPINE SOCIETY

Dues, including educational monthly Bulletin $2.00
Treasurer: Rev. H. Stewart Forbes—2054 Quilchena Cres., Vancouver 13, B.C.

From The Seed Exchange Table

HILDA AND ELMER BALDWIN,
Syracuse, N. Y.

What is a Seed Exchange? If the question were asked of a dozen members chosen at random, one half of them would probably be familiar with the term through contact in one form or another and among the six answers, I suppose each would refer to the basic idea of the opportunity to obtain seeds of certain plants. Yet one wonders what, if any, other facets of the enterprise are visualized? Perhaps the question should ask, “What does the Seed Exchange mean to you?”

An organization such as ours must deal with many aspects of primulas and associated plants; must keep them all alive and active to be of—and to maintain a general as well as specific interest to a great number of persons from at least three corners of the world. This may only be accomplished through the medium of our Quarterly. To those who have escaped the trials and tribulations of editing, may we say briefly, the toughest assignment of all and perhaps the least credited (surely, one that should be given all possible support) is that of Editor: editing and building the Quarterly. One takes so much for granted! A very small segment of this responsibility is delegated to a Seed Exchange committee, and here begins this tale.

Superficially, the Exchange is a means of acquiring seed which might otherwise be difficult to obtain, yet such an understatement should be corrected. The program never starts nor stops—it continues. For example, in the spring the local, domestic, and overseas growers must be encouraged to collect and to contribute seeds of interest, in as large quantities as is possible and practicable. Many growers we find are basically opposed to the Exchange idea. Sometimes a grower will and sometimes he will not contribute. There are those whose hard work we so much admire and wish to share: the alpine gardeners of France, Switzerland, and Austria; the Botanical gardens of Scotland, England, Germany, France, Holland and Japan, as well as our own, that considerable correspondence is undertaken with these possible sources for seeds of what promise to be of unusual interest. Here also, we must include our members.

While some of the inquiries are unanswered, nearly all respond and here commence the rewards of the job. We find, as others have also found, a common bond of interest which broadens and becomes firmer with the interchange. Much valuable seed is received from these sources on an exchange basis for seed which we have collected of plant material indigenous to our region. One of the more unusual means of conveying information and establishing a rapport that has developed by reason of the office is a tape-letter correspondence, by means of a recorder and three inch reels of tape—which play for an unbelievable length of time as you discover when writing your first such letter. The contact is so much more personal on hearing the writer’s voice and so much more of the local color is conveyed than is possible by means of the black and white medium.

The search goes on as one continues to seek out items which may reasonably be considered of interest. Along with our home work and necessary business, we endeavor whenever possible to crowd in a short field trip
on any available weekend in early, mid- and late summer to check on seed of local, native plants. Usually in August we spend a few days in the mountains, for other native plant seed. Along with this of course, seed is collected from the garden, as may be seen from the lists.

We have now passed through summer and into autumn and the members' seeds are coming in. On receipt, all seeds are listed in the annual accounting book, as are later all requests for seeds, dates sent, expenses, and miscellaneous information. Some of the seeds contributed arrive in time, some are late, and some do not arrive. A 3x5 card index system is maintained on all seeds received, giving plant name, sender or source, and any pertinent information, filed alphabetically and at such time as the list must be published, the cards are then numbered for future reference and from these the seed list is made up. Later, the numbered stock seed envelopes are placed numerically in trays for easy access and we are ready for requests. It is now about February. Seeds are going out and coming in at more or less the same time so an addendum will be required and, when we are reasonably sure no more seed is coming, the addendum is compiled and mailed to those requesting it—and it is now well along in April. By May first we hope to have received and filled all addendum orders and a final listing of collections is made and mailed to all desiring it. This concerns the remaining stock packets and will conclude the year's business of distribution. In the meantime—and all the time, the search continues for more and other seed.

Exclusive of the final clearance collections, between four and five thousand packets of seed are sent to members each year. The quantity of attendant correspondence is not estimated in numbers. The satisfaction is unlimited here. We trust that it is measurable to those who utilize its services.

Letters from overseas members . . .

Dear Mr. Baldwin:

I am sending in cooperation with my friends, Heads of Garden Schools, our list of seeds which are prepared to be sent to you. In your last letter, I do not find if our last seeds interested you and your friends.

We admire this year many primulas with their first blossoms and other flowers which came to us with your first envoy. Many of the seeds are growing very slowly, many others do very well. I have in my little garden a place reserved for flowers coming from the U.S., from your seeds. We have another wish: to learn how to obtain seeds of Nymphaeas (other than white or rose, which we have here) and Liliums.

After three years of exchange of letters with my American friends, I not only have many seedlings and flowers but also many good—unknown—friends in six states of the U.S. The possibility of correspondence in English interests my wife and me and brings us many happy evenings and happy moments in our garden where we can see flowers from the other part of the world. We believe that the international liaison of gardeners is the ideal way to obtain the peaceful life for all nations and their peoples who enjoy the international beauty of flowers, and who can enjoy the international speaking about the same flowers. We are admiring your successes in the crossing of colors, but it is very sad for us that we cannot obtain many of the beauties of your country.

With wishes of health, happy life, and of long correspondence and exchange of seeds, and friendly letters between us, I am

With my best regards and greeting,

Yours

V. Kristof,

Czechoslovakia

Dear Mr. Baldwin:

I wish to report the result of seeds of 1959. P. cockburniana, denticulata, frondosa, luteola, polyanthus Te-cuusch, saxatlils, Viola cirtisi, Digitalis orientalis, Dianthus myrtinervis, Anemone leivilei, Aquilegia oxysepala, Viola elegansula, and V. priceana bloomed last year. Primula bulleyana was not true to name and was P. japonica.

The 1960 results are: Primula ab- schasica, P. floribunda, P. polyanthus Regal Supreme are blooming in cool green house. Primula farinosa is now blooming and is not true to name. It is P. frondosa. Primula chionanthus, P. cortusoides, P. helodoxa, P. Laurenti- ena, P. luteola are in growing.

Yours,

Kibusaburo Noguchi,

Japan

CHRISTMAS SUGGESTIONS . . .

A subscription to the Primrose Quarterly will give your friends the advantage of the SEED EXCHANGE with their first issue. A card will be mailed before Christmas advising the recipient of the gift from you.

A gift selected from our advertisers of plants, seeds, books, or products would be an easy way to shop. If plants are given they will be mailed at the proper planting time for the area.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q. Does it do any good to use Cupro-lignum on wood that has already started to rot? Also, does it do any good to use it on painted wood?

A. If used on wood that has started to rot it will prevent the rot from developing further, Cuprolignum's copper protects against both rot and termites for at least ten years without pressure treating as tested by the U.S. Forest Products Laboratory. The paint should be removed from wood before its application so that it can penetrate. Use it on cold-frames, flats and greenhouses to prolong the life of the wood.

Q. What is a good remedy for horticulture rash?

Dorothy Dickson, Seattle, Wn.

A. Undiluted Purex applied to hands or face is an excellent remedy for poison oak or other rash makers.

Mrs. L. G. Gentner, Medford, Oregon
What To Do In The Primrose Garden In The Pacific Northwest—Oct., Nov. and Dec.

RALPH BALCOM, Seattle, Wn.

When the month of October arrives, most of the heavy work in the Primrose garden is over for the year. Primrose gardening however is a year-long job and there are some tasks to be done even in this slack period.

In early October, just before the start of the wet cold winter season here in the Pacific Northwest, it is wise to clean up the Primrose beds and sort of tuck the plants in for their winter sleep. I like to weed them thoroughly and pick off decayed and yellowed leaves especially from the deciduous types such as the denticulatas and the candelabras. This eliminates many hiding places for slugs and other garden pests and also the removal of old leaves reduces the sogginess around the crowns that develops during constant wet weather. This lessens the loss of plants due to crown-rot. Special plants that appear to dislike the continual drenching from the winter rains can now be protected by panes of glass arranged to shelter them. There are a number of Primrose plants, especially those in the Petio-lares Section that need a protection such as this when grown out-of-doors.

A mulch of non-packing barnyard manure or compost placed around the plants at this time of year is very good. If any other type of fertilizer is used, it should be one very low in nitrogen because the plants should be discouraged in making any lush growth at this time whereby they could be easily damaged by a quick freeze. It is my opinion that a fertilizer—especially of the commercial type—applied in the fall is quite wasteful because much of its nutrients is leached down by the heavy winter rains to a position below the root area and becomes unavailable to the plant. I prefer to wait until about the time the plants wake up from their long sleep in the early spring and then give them a good breakfast consisting of a well balanced fertilizer. This is the period of their maximum growth and they seem to relish such a feast.

If you are one who does not have a greenhouse or a heated place in which to germinate primrose seed, you might try sowing it in December and just set the containers out-of-doors. Shelter them with glass for protection from the beating rains but raise the glass a few inches to allow a good circulation of air. Leave them outside all winter to freeze and thaw with the changing weather. Water sparingly—just enough to keep the seed always a bit moist but never soggy. In the spring when the weather warms the seed should germinate well without any artificial heat. I have been quite successful in germinating P. Sieboldii and other species of the Cortusoides Section by using this method.

Should a quick freeze occur in the late fall or early winter following a warm period, and should the temperature remain below 25° for any length of time, it could badly injure primrose plants that have not had a chance to harden off. Most of us will remember the year of 1955 when such a freeze happened in November and it disastrous effect upon our then tender plants. Be on guard for such an occasion. If a hard freeze should occur, cover the plants with an airy loose material such as wood excelsior, evergreen boughs, or even hay, but remove this covering as soon as the freezing weather is over.

One final task comes to mind. Watch for the appearance of slugs and if they are found, bait, spray or dust with one of the many good preparations now obtainable at the garden stores.


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JAC LEFEBER
15424 S.E. 16th, Bellevue, Wash.
What To Do Now... In The East
Doretta Klaber, Quakertown, Pennsylvania

In early October one looks over one's plantings with special care to see that all are in good condition and that they are ready for winter. Moles are likely to be making new runs at this season. "Mole Nots" or other similar poison is a deterrent, though no cure. One drops a few pellets into the run at 2 foot intervals, closes the hole with a bit of sod, waits a couple of days and then presses the runs flat with the foot.

If there are wet spells, slugs may abound. One dusts with slug-shot or places slug bait around the plants at intervals under the foliage (it looks horrid), or, if the vole beasts are visible, a scissors is a sure cure.

If your primroses are in the woods, the fall of leaves will soon cover them, and as it settles the evergreen varieties will show through. This is sufficient winter protection. Where the beds are in the open one can use evergreen boughs after the ground is frozen. Here, any open beds get only a mulch of stone chips from a half-inch to an inch in depth. They all seem to survive our difficult winters. If the soil is wet in these open positions there will probably be some heaving and thawing. When this takes place it is important to press the plants back into the soil as soon as possible. Where snow covers the ground all winter there is no problem.

Some of the seed lists from nurseries come during these months and one has the fascinating task of deciding which seeds to order. Do it promptly: first, to be sure of getting what you want while they are available, and second, to have them on hand in plenty of time for winter planting. We will discuss seed planting in the next installment. In the meantime, as soon as the seeds arrive, list them in a notebook. You will find that keeping records in gardening is important. The name of the seeds should be set down, the date, the nursery from which they came and any cultural notes that will help you to successfully grow them. After listing, place the packets of seeds in a waterproof container (fruit jars with rubber rings in place are good), then place the jars on a lower shelf in the refrigerator. They should stay there until planting time, which in this garden is as early as January or February as is feasible.

Now when outside work has come to an end, you can still stay along the Primrose Path by reading and studying everything you can find on the subject. Christmas is coming and perhaps discreet hints will bring you some coveted books for your very own. And don't forget to refer to the "Primrose Dictionary" prepared by this Society. It is full of valuable information. I hope it will be possible for the Society to print it as a pamphlet for the benefit of both old and new members. I cut the articles from old Quarterlies and assembled them in one binder. It is kept at my bedside with other reference books.

In October you get your coldframes ready to plant the new crop of seeds. If you have no coldframe you can make one any size you want, but preferably narrower than the usual commercial frame. My preference is for 2½ feet wide, a space easy to reach across. You place an 8 inch board at the back, 2 inches into the soil. A 6 inch board at the front is also dug in two inches. Two sides, sloping on the top edge from back to front complete the box. The sketch shows my homemade methods. The open ground between the boards should be forked over, then covered with an inch of cinders or crushed stone for drainage. Over this is placed the soil mix (spoken of in the spring Quarterly) which consists of loam, compost, peat etc. with stonechips or sand to lighten it if necessary, a small quantity of dried or well-rotted cow manure and a sprinkling of a general poison to take care of bugs in the soil. On top of this vermiculite is spread, just deep enough to hide the soil from view. The level of the finished planting medium should be one inch below the top of the front board. The vermiculite holds moisture yet seems to prevent damp-off, but because it has no nourishment in it, it is used only on the surface. But I do not remove the soil at the end of the season, but only replenish it, some of the vermiculite eventually does get mixed in with the soil, and I believe it encourages root formation. The frames are next topped with their celloglass covers (the "glass" tacked to a wooden frame). These are held down by stones—and all is ready for winter planting. The sketch shows a cover with shadecloth* instead of celloglass. These covers replace the celloglass as soon as the sun seems too warm for the latter. The cloth made for the purpose provides shade and also allows rain to go through without beating the earth into ridges, as used to happen with the old slat shade covers.

P.S. You may think "sifting the soil" was accidentally left out in speaking of preparing the seed beds. This was no accident. I have found it unnecessary.

The Primrose In History
CAPTAIN COMEL Y HAWKES, British Research Editor

Whenever we think of Spring flowers the first that comes to mind is the Primrose. Both for its beauty and for its early arrival it seems to find a place in our hearts and tells us that Spring is near.

This plant is equally dear to children and it is usually the first flower, except perhaps the Daisy, of which they learn the familiar name. In medieval times the Primrose was called the Daies-eie (Day's Eye) because it was thought to open its eye at sunrise; the same tradition is of course attributed to the Daisy.

It is however strange that the flower which we now admire so much appears to have been overlooked by the early Anglo-Saxon herbalists when they were compiling their manuscripts, although the ancient Hippocrates does mention the Primula in his list of Simples, but we do not know whether this was the Primula vulgaris.

Perhaps the reason the early herbalists did not mention it is because it was not used very much in their mixtures except when they wanted to make up a soporific dose—in the same way they used the violet because of its scent.

Canon Ellacombe says that "the full history of the word Primrose is too long to give," but a short account is as follows: "The old name was Prime Rolles or primrose. Primerole is an abbreviation of French primeverole; Italian primavera, diminutive of prima vera from flor di prima vera, the first spring flower." Dr. Prior says Primrolo is an outlandish unintelligible word, and was soon familiarized into primroloes, and this into primrose."

Edmund Spenser, 1552-92, mentions the Primrose in his Shepherd's Calendar, but it would appear that it may not be the common Primrose. Yet it was not long before Shakespeare's day that the word as we now know it came into use.

William Shakespeare speaks of the Primrose many times and to mention a few instances we find a reference in Henry VI Merry Wives of Windsor, Venus and Adonis, Cymbeline, Midsummer Night's Dream, Winter's Tale, Hamlet, Macbeth, etc.

John Gerard in his Historie of Plants, published in 1597, devotes a whole chapter and a page of illustrations which shows the double white Primrose, Hose-in-Hose and the Common Primrose. He also describes the Green Primrose—single and double—also the Jack-in-the-Green.

According to Gerard it had many medicinal virtues and cured many ills and he commended it "against pain of joints called gout."

Parkinson, 1569-1650, in his Paradisi In Sole, Paradisus Terrestris mentions the Primrose as does Philip Miller, 1692-1771, Gardener to the Worshipful Company of Apothecaries, when writing in his Dictionary of Gardening first published in 1733.

Henry Lyte must not be forgotten for in his Historie of Plantes published in 1577, which he dedicated to the Sovereign Lady Elizabeth Queene of England, he calls the Primrose Pretie Mulleyen, and says "as a pot herbe it is good for the head." Another English writer, Francis Bacon, who loved flowers, refers to the Primrose in his Essay on Gardens, 1596.

Ever since those days the Primrose has been a favourite flower in England and the old weavers of Lancashire and Cheshire, living in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, have done much to produce many coloured hybrids.

One cannot forget Milton's line "bring the rath primrose that forsaken dies," nor Forbes Watson's beautiful description in which he says "In the Primrose as a whole, we cannot help being struck by an exceeding softness and delicacy: there is nothing sharp, strong or incisive." In her Sunny Memories Mrs. Stowe writes of the flower as having "the faintest and most ethereal perfume."

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Lynn M. Ranger
41 Lynn Shore Drive, Lynn, Mass.

If you have not yet paid your 1961 dues remember they were due in January.
My discovery of the beauty of primroses came as a sudden revelation. A newspaper notice in May 1954 led me to a startling exhibition of primroses. An enterprising group of primrose fanciers had constructed an Auricular Theater. Dr. Fred Jordan designed it, while the Ben Hoag family, Wilfrieda Mott, and others contributed to its making.

On a miniature stage they placed gorgeous blooming plants. Mirrors that reflected concealed lights multiplied the plants and added a mysterious charm. In the accompanying photograph one mirror shows at the right, while Mrs. Elmer C. Baldwin (left) and Mrs. Ben Hoag read an announcement. The total effect was fascinating and unforgettable. I immediately paid for membership in the Onondaga Primrose Society. Moral: set up imaginative primrose exhibitions and entice your friends to visit them.

Primroses, taken in the broadest sense, offer an extraordinary range of appeal to flower lovers and others. It is as a novice in the field that I shall try to tell why I like them.

Their basic appeal for me consists in the richness and wide variety of their colors, which range from white to almost black. No flower, of course, should be black! Actually some Auriculas approach black. The delicate and bold tints and shades of primroses play upon one's eyes and mind through a multitude of variations and pleasing combinations.

The flowers may be round and flat, funnel-shaped, cylindrical, or spherical; clustered or solitary; upright or dangling; while in some kinds one flower grows out of another (bouse-in-hose).

Then, too, the shapes and habits of primrose plants display an interesting variety: from creeping forms to the gorgeous, stately, storied structures of the wonderful Candelabras. One may have leaves that are as smooth as glass or delicately powdered with many degrees of silvery dust, beautifully notched or smooth, round or elongated, miniature or challenging the cabbages.

For persons with geographical or cosmopolitan interests, another fascination of primroses is their extensive habitats on the earth. On the remarkable chart of the Genus Primula prepared by Elmer C. Baldwin for the American Primrose Society, the 72 species described originated in 18 regions or countries of the Northern Hemisphere. The 24 from China, 13 from the Himalayas, and 13 from Tibet and its borders constitute 50, or about half, of the 102 localities mentioned. Other areas prolific of native primroses are the Alps, 12 species; Sikkim, 9; India, including Kashmir, 7; Burma, 6; Japan, 4; Bhutan, 3; and Italy 2. One species each is referred to seven countries, as follows: Bulgaria, Caucasus, France, North Scotland, Scandinavia, and the United States (from the Sierra Nevada Mountains).

The enterprising researcher, Elmer C. Baldwin, manager of our Seed Exchange (please send him all the seeds you can), has studied all the numbers of our A.P.S. Quarterly. He discovers that nine North American species of primroses have been reported on, including the sauvrutescens on his Chart. These species are P's Augustifolia, Cusatkiana, Ellisiae, inca, intercedens, laurentiana, mistosinica, Parryi and sauvrutescens. These are in the Pictorial Dictionary Volume 12. Further mention of Augustifolia may be found on pg. 114 of Vol. 13, and of Cusatkiana on pg. 134 of Vol. 14.

Now one experiences an unusual kind of global, mind-stretching delight if he can walk into his primrose garden and consider; that japonica came from a romantic country, and here is one that was born in West China, a wild beauty region of unusual fascination. This was imported from the borders of Tibet or from the grand slopes of the Himalayas or of the Alps. That such a large variety of one family of plants could be so wisely scattered over the earth is a mysterious and fascinating fact.

The effect is a feeling of oneness with the whole good earth, indeed with the Universal Reality, because there must be some beauty-loving Intelligence who is responsible for the magnificent flowers of our world. Since this Power has brought about the appearance of primroses in so many regions of the earth, He must have a great fondness for them. And now He and cooperating human beings are producing an ingenious mixture of primrose and daffodil, that is to say, creating a remarkable range of gorgeous hybrids which never appeared before on this globe and which anyone in the temperate zones may have in his gardens.

Let us consider next the bipolar fascination of primroses: 1. for beginners there are many that are easily grown;
they can have primrose beauty on short notice and minimum effort; 2. for the experimentalist or sportsman there is the challenge of many which are difficult to grow, and of possible new ones yet to be created. In short, both the amateur and the ambitious seeker may find satisfactions in producing these charming flowers.

My imagination was recently stirred by reading the book called Primroses and Polyanthus by Roy Genders and H. C. Taylor. Among the numerous named varieties which they described I listed a dozen which I especially liked. Sutton's, seedsmen of Reading, England, could not name any source for obtaining them. (Sutton's 1961 seed catalog honors primroses by printing, a magnificent cover which consists of a color reproduction of eleven varieties.) I sent my list of wants by way of friends in London, but there considerable correspondence brought no available source. This means that a lot of gardeners are having a wonderful time quietly creating new varieties of high excellence. We are free to follow their example.

The most amazing range of primrose seed that is available (to members of the American Primrose Society) appears in our Seed Exchange List 1961 and Supplement. Here appear 224 items from nine countries. If there is any richer source of variety in available primrose seed in the world, I should like to know its name. Thompson & Morgan, Ipswich, England, offer 101 varieties in their 1961 catalog. There are several American growers of primroses who concentrate on producing the most beautiful and vigorous known primroses, some of which win prizes in Great Britain.

There is a social reason for growing primroses which overcomes any tendency or objection to privacy or individualism in gardening. A remarkable characteristic of many species is the speed of their expansion. Some of the early-spring Acaulis group, for example, beget themselves so fast that they need division every summer. Because many of these plants multiply rapidly, the primrose lover soon finds himself blessed with more plants than he has space for.

This fact fulfills the sociologist's ideal: here is a hobby which compels one to share with his neighbors. It is difficult for a primrose fancier to be an isolated, crabbed individualist. Because he must find some one to take over the care of his excess plants, and because his affection for his choice ones hinder him from throwing them on the compost heap, he develops a strong impulse to cultivate and establish friendly relations with neighbors who might accept primrose plants.

Further, an attractive primrose collection attracts neighbors and passers-by, and disseminates primrose enthusiasm. Once this enthusiasm has taken possession of one's mind, it is difficult to eradicate it. Last spring a new neighbor from afar saw a bed of primroses for the first time in my yard. He glowed with excitement and delight, and exclaimed, "I am sold on primroses!" Needless to add that already I have supplied him with several varieties of plants to start a collection.

Conclusion: If you want a large and increasing group of affable friends, grow primroses. Since primroses have no intrinsic national distinctions, this hobby or pastime of growing them makes gardening a more sociable affair and contributes much to promoting the feeling of human brotherhood.

The A. P. S. Slide collection is available to garden clubs at a nominal fee. Write Mrs. Dorothy Dickson, 13347 56th So., Seattle, Wash.

Primroses In Salem, Ore.

MARIE M. JACKSON

The expressman came to the door to inquire if "this was the place" and when I replied that it was he said, "My, you must have a piece of a rainbow in this package!" My primroses from a California shipper had arrived. They were packed in an orange crate and the blooms were touching the top of the crate. How very lovely they were—and these were my very first prims. That was before I had discovered how easy they are to grow and how suitable our Northwest is for their culture. That was about 1944 or 45. I have been "dabbling" with primroses ever since.

It seems to me that just anybody who wants to can grow primroses. However, one must be aware of their enemies and I find the slugs to be the worst pests we have. They demand constant vigilance to be kept under control, especially where we have the moist climate which the primula enjoy. Then too, we live in a rural area and it seems the slugs live all around us.

In growing my seedlings I have found there are numerous methods to be used, any one of which will usually do—I just use the one best suited for my purposes and let it go at that. The Quarterly has been a source of information and help always and how I enjoy knowing of other folk who also grow primula. As a result of my membership in the American Primrose Society I have friends afar with whom I correspond and find that our common love of flowers is a very strong bond.

By trial and error I have learned that my seedlings should be planted at the proper time or they become retarded in their headlong sprint toward spring blooming. There have been primula in bloom here in the fall and right through the winter. However, nothing is as lovely as the early spring display. Two-year old clumps in my flower garden border have been "bursting" with bloom for nearly a month now (article written Feb. 2nd) and have given me a quantity of bloom to use in the house too. After they are through blooming I shall divide the larger clumps and reset them elsewhere or share with friends.

In seeding new crop primula I have found that I can quite adequately sterilize my medium by the use of hot water drenched through the flat prepared for planting. This is an easy and inexpensive way to accomplish preparation of clean soil. I have the flats well saturated as I sow the seed and then cover with newspaper and a screen on top. Oh, yes, must not forget a good spraying with "Slugfest" to guard against snails and slugs, and I learned from sad experience that a stitch in time saves nine or more plantlets!

I cannot say too much good about Slugfest or Slugspora for getting rid of these pests. They do not always come to a bating of dry material spotted around, but with the application of spray in and around the plants I have found that it is far more effective. Mr. Slug may detour quite a way before reaching a small spot of dry bait. However, just to be doubly certain—I use both the spray and the bait.

The only other problem I have is with the birds—they pull up my markers and even slips and small plants newly set out. It is most frustrating to find carefully marked beds with the tags carried off and strewn about.
Letters to the Editor

(During the past winter weather reports from various parts of the country, particularly the East, were so alarming that I was gravely concerned about the future of primula in the U.S. From the following excerpts you will see that in most cases they withstood severe cold with and without snow covering. Some losses were observed in the Seattle area from too mild weather that encouraged aphids to flourish and slugs to feast, and excessive rain which caused some crown rot in unraised, poorly drained beds.

The Editor)

From Mrs. E. E. Firth, Big Bay Point, Barrie, Ontario, June 1st:

"We were all ready to leave Florida early in May when our son telephoned to advise us to delay our trip. We live on a 30 mile lake. He said that the piles of cakes of ice forced up by the lake storms were over 20 feet high on the lawns of the cottages, and winter was still here. So we remained in Florida for several weeks longer.

The season is very late. Since our return, there have been only three mornings when the temperature was over 42 degrees. The primroses are late—they are in full bloom now, but the Japanese varieties still are backward, and only just beginning to show buds.

I have some information to add regarding growing primroses in this climate. Although we live in a snow belt, where the first snows usually fall in late October and remain until fairly late in April, last winter broke all records for lack of snow. New York State and Pennsylvania received the snow that usually comes up here. The first international ski meet north of us had to bring in snow in truck loads to cover the runs. There has never been so odd a winter—and, as usual, the temperature went to between 25 and 30 degrees below zero. When I heard this I felt sure that my primroses would be winter-killed, but strange to say they have broken all records for loveliness this spring. (Mrs. Firth sent a large envelope of blossoms which prove it.) So far I haven’t found a single plant that was winter-killed.

We have many trees on our land—maple, oak and others, and there is a tremendous fall of leaves. Last fall we left for Florida earlier than usual. Only a moderate quantity of leaves had fallen. Usually, most of these are off the trees and we rake up a large part of them before we leave, leaving only enough to lightly mulch the garden. Last year they remained on the garden all winter. I was afraid that the plants would be smothered, but the only loss has been a few shasta daisies. Fortunately, my family helped us by coming up early and raking off the leaves in mid-April, otherwise there would have been trouble because of our late return. So it looks as if a good leaf mulch is protection, as well as snow."

(Editors note: Mrs. Firth goes on to say that all her many primrose plants are from her own seed since she found twenty years ago that many seed imported from Europe were not hardy enough for Ontario climate. She is 72 years old. For 40 years she was one of the editors of the Toronto Star Weekly. She is also a hybridist. She enclosed with her packet of primroses a spray of deep rose Aubretia which is her own creation. It took her 24 years to get this seed—she started with a very pale, washed-out shade of pink. She also has a lovely pink Oriental poppy with tremendous blooms the shade of Mrs. Perry, but hers is a shorter plant with very sturdy stems that does not “flop” after wind or rain. Another plant of hers that local nurseries are featuring is a deep apple blossom pink Arabis.)
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From Mrs. Melvin Apple, Marblehead, Mass., May 5th

“I have found that even in frames unless they are very deep, keeping plants in pots is most unsatisfactory because of freezing and sudden thaws. A problem here in and out of frames and in and out of pots is heaving. Except for small seedlings in frames, I use granite and/or calcite hen grit to assure perfect drainage around the crowns of plants. Over the grit I use pine needles or spoiled hay for a mulch depending on the likes of the plant.

The organic mulch is put on the soil surface toward the end of December after the ground freezes.

I have been trying to grow Primula for three years. Maybe I will enjoy a year soon when I won’t have to blame my losses on the elements.

On Monday of this week small craft warning flags went up as a storm was coming up the coast. To make matters worse, they were replaced in a short time with gale warning flags. That evening my husband and I battened everything down. In the early morning hours of Tuesday the deluge and winds arrived. Oh did we groan knowing we were all set for anything. . . . we thought. I took advantage of the inclement weather to go into Boston. On my return home at 4 o’clock I found the high winds had flipped the sashes off the frames. The flats were sopping wet even though they were on a drainage bed of crushed rock. I put in an emergency call to my husband and he arrived home at 4:40. We were a sorry looking duo trying to pour excess water out of the flats and tilting them in the frames to facilitate more water runoff. Many newly emerged seedlings had floated away. The rain finally stopped.

The 6:40 weather broadcast announced that heavy frost and more high winds were on the way. So out we went again. This time our 200 plus flats went into the garage. The temperature went down to 28 that night but only a few of the newly germinated seedlings that were left were nipped by frost.

Wednesday I was up at 5:30 to give all the flats a Natriphen treatment and get them back into the frames so I could leave at 8:30 for the League of Women Voters Conference. The day was hot with a good stiff wind. If it hadn’t been for the wind my losses would have been even greater.

Yesterday was another fine day but the damage could not be rectified. I surveyed the losses and they were really heavy. Only the nine month old Denticulatas and Auriculas suffered no damage. Oh well—Such is life.”

From a new member Mrs. J. L. Lockard, Salem, W. Va., May 16th

. . . “I am deeply interested in growing Primulas just for my own pleasure and I grow them from seed. I buy only a few plants. I have many beautiful plants in bloom now from seed planted last year.”

From Helen H. Roberts, New Haven, Conn., May 13th

. . . “I have loved primroses for years but knew very little about their care which is why I joined the Society. Some of the commoner varieties, with yellow, white or red blooms have done very well in my garden in borders exposed to the sun in winter and under high shade in summer, but I have had very disappointing luck with the finer varieties and rarer colors and as yet cannot distinguish between them as to their original homeland and growing conditions. The last two winters here have been the worst in many years. I have lost a number of rare things called “hardy”, even shrubs.”
The location of my garden (and home) is particularly unfortunate in respect to adverse winters because only two blocks east of me is a high cliff promontory which cuts off the sun (when there is any) until noon from the whole garden in winter.

Two years ago I received a large order of plants which I set out under a dogwood that almost died because of the extreme cold. It did not leaf out as it should have and many young plants died of sun, though I tried hard to save them with burlap shade. A lot that survived that experience died this winter of prolonged sub-freezing weather. Our season is at least a month late. Today is our first mild day. P.S. The primroses that were lost were planted in a prepared bed exactly according to instructions, mulched with peat moss and covered with salt hay in the winter."

Let's give credit where due. Mr. S. R. Lehmann, Elgin, Ill., March 3rd

"What is left of the garden when spring comes is problematical. We have had no snow or rain, and temperatures as low as -18 degrees. Of course, one can always start over again."

On June 6th Mr. Lehmann reported that he had some winter casualties. P. polyanthus (except the pinks) lived and bloomed, P. pulverulenta came through, but all but one P. farinosae was lost and one P. denticulata bloomed from a second bud. Most of his older polyanthus plants rotted.

Editor's note: Much of the crown rot occurring in early spring can be traced to lack of water the preceding summer.

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MEMBERSHIP in the A. P. S. with privileges of the Seed Exchange, and/or a collection of back issues of the Quarterly makes a thoughtful gift. One year $3.50—3 years $10.

DUE TO HEAVY FOG which caused seed to germinate in the pods Mrs. Snuffer cannot fill any more orders for double auricula seed in 1961. She does not plan to seed her plants in the spring of 1962. Sorry.

Give Seed For Christmas . . . 1961 crop.

DOUBLE AURICULA Seed: Yellow, Pink, Lavender, Purple, Red—50 for $3.

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Send your seeds to the Seed Exchange now.

GIFT BOXES

As a special feature we pack gift boxes of primroses so that you may say Merry Christmas to one whom you would like to have enjoy your gift in the gay spring season. $3.50 and up.

SKY HOOK FARM JOHNSON, VERMONT

People and Flowers

Alice Hills Baylor...

of Sky Hook Farm, Johnson, Vt., was appointed by the A.P.S. Board to fill the term of the late Chester Strong as Corresponding Secretary. Mrs. Baylor will attend the World's Fair in Seattle and the National Primrose Show and Annual A.P.S. meeting, both to be held in Kirkland, Wn. The World's Fair and the Primrose Show open on the same date, April 21.

Primula floribunda...

a tiny greenhouse plant resembling P. Sinensis has been flowering just six weeks from seed by the Anton Schwarz in Seattle. The blossom is bright yellow. Blasdale's book describes both.

A new nursery called Rosals...

Rosetta Jones has opened a new nursery on the Tacoma Highway at 22405 Pacific Highway So.
AURICULAS
English named varieties of Show and Alpine.
We have a good stock but some varieties are in limited quantity. Dwarf slow growing Conifers that stay dwarf and other shrubs all suitable for Bonsai culture. Large collection of rare plants and Alpines for Rock Gardens as well as unusual plants from the World's far corners are listed in our Free Catalogue.

ALPENGLOW GARDENS
13328 Trans-Canada Hwy., North Surrey, B.C.

MRS. DENNA SNUFFER
wishes to advise members that she is not going to seed her double auricula plants in the spring of 1962. There is no seed available now.

BAY CITY PRIMROSE GARDEN
Bay City, Oregon

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BLUE WHALE
We sell it... And we use it!
Hand Pollinated Polyanthus Seed
Try my pink seed (75% pink) 200 for $1.75
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10429 So. Brayton St., Tacoma, Wn.

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Harry N. Leckenby Co., P. O. Box 6614, Seattle 16, Wn.

IMPORTANT
To import plants to the United States from Canada it is necessary to make an application for a permit to the United States Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Entomology, and Plant Quarantine, 209 River Street, Hoboken, N.J.

It is very important to mention if the plants are to be shipped by Post or Express. This permit is free.

A special permit is needed to import Carnations, Dianthus, Pines and Junipers.

CourtesY ALPENGLOW GARDENS
North Surrey, B.C.

Frank H. Michaud of Alpenglow Gardens

New World plant lovers will always be indebted to European plantmen for the variety, beauty, and excellence of many plants they grow today. Mr. Frank H. Michaud is one who has left his native land, France, and adopted Canada as his home.

When he was twenty-five years old he founded a nursery at Chelles, just outside Paris, France, Six years later the flood waters of the Marne destroyed it all. Leaving his two children behind until he could afford to send for them, Mr. Michaud and his wife crossed the ocean to re-establish his nursery in British Columbia. He started out with little more than certain intangible assets: a love of plants, especially those of the rock garden; the skill of a trained plantsman; and an enthusiasm and personality that won the confidence of Canadian and American plant lovers. In a few years he was financially able to send his wife back to France for the children, who have since been of great help since they shared their father's interest in horticulture.

Mr. Michaud's first list was issued in 1923. Since that time it has grown to a good sized catalogue with many of the rare rock and alpine plants, primula, dwarf conifers, heathers, etc. that one should buy only from a reputable grower.

It is with the show auriculas that Mr. Michaud's skill as a plantsman is best seen. He imported plants of named varieties from England and has since made wonderful crosses of his own. He was awarded the Bamford Trophy in 1955 in recognition of his efforts in furthering the culture of the auricula in America and Canada.

Next spring, if you are visiting the World's Fair in Seattle, plan to visit Alpenglow Gardens at New Westminster, B.C. It is possible to make the trip and return in one day.

No account of this plantsman would be complete without mention of the warm personality and interest in people that has earned him friendships with plant lovers across the continent. His interests also include stamp collecting, color photography, and studying the literature of the plants he loves. His library includes some 185 horticultural and botanical volumes.
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