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Published by the AMERICAN PRIMROSE SOCIETY, Portland, Oregon, for its members.

Society membership $1.50 a year; price to non-members 50c a copy
The genera of plants traditionally found in rock gardens are, with the notable exception of Aquilegia, poorly represented in the North American flora, and the Primula family has fared no better than the rest. Dodecatheons make a charming, if not entirely adequate, substitute for Cyclamen; Drosacera carinata is merely an alias for Androsace chamaejasme, and perhaps three valid species of Douglasia compensate most delightfully for the lack of Androsace carneae. But of Primula itself, the few species all belong to sections Farinosae, Nivales, and Cuneifolia, none of which embrace the most tractable of garden plants. With the exception of two species, all are found in the western mountains and along the coasts of Canada (possibly) and Alaska. So far as I know, Mrs. J. Norman Henry, in her explorations of the wilderness back of the Peace River country, has never encountered a Primula.

P. laurentiana is found on the Laurentian Peninsula in eastern Canada. I have never seen it, but from its description it differs little from typical P. farinosa. P. mistassinica from the same general area, extends down into this country as far as the region of my own garden, for there is an isolated stand of it in the gorge of Fall Creek on the Cornell campus at Ithaca, N.Y. It may be regarded as a two-inch version of the main species, and can be had from an eastern dealer in both mauve-pink and white. I have never grown it but it cannot offer any serious difficulty, for it succeeded in Louise Beebe Wilder’s garden, which was most unsuited to fussy plants.

Of P. farinosa itself, there are two recorded stations in Wyoming. One of these is in wet meadows along the Snake River in Jackson Hole. Visitors to the Tetons will do well to keep watch for it, in spite of the indefiniteness of the locality. The other record is from a region about a hundred miles farther south, equally vague. I have explored that vicinity several times at various times of the summer, without finding a trace of it; but I feel certain, from the points of access to that country, that I must have followed the route of its discoverer. After the war, another try. A third record of the species in the Rockies is of something else, vastly more important.

P. specuicola owes its scientific discovery to a little girl. Some 40 years ago Rydberg, collecting in Utah, was told of it by her, and she rather surprisingly kept her promise to send specimens of it when it came into bloom again. For nearly forty years the species was known only by a few herbarium specimens until in 1941 I sought it out. It grows in the most incredible of habitats for any Primula, and particularly for one of the Farinosae, clinging to red sandstone rocks at relatively low altitudes,
seeking shade of course, but in the parching heat of the canyons of the Colorado and San Juan Rivers. There, making mats a couple of feet across on the cliffs, it looks like a gigantic P. frondosa, larger in leaf and length of stem, covered with white farina. When I found it, the plants were in seed, but from one half-faded flower I came to suspect that its color is of a rather deep and perhaps almost clear blue. Though classified by Sir William Wright-Smith as a variety of P. farinosa, for garden purposes it is utterly distinct in appearance and needs. Botanically it differs so much in relative length of calyx and corolla-tube from all specimens of P. farinosa which I have examined, that I feel it may well deserve specific rank on this and other counts.

While seeds were collected and distributed to such of my friends as I could contact in the confusion of war, my own seedlings perished of neglect in the early days of my absence from the garden, and no report has come of those sent to England. A few plants were taken, packed inadequately, for no moss was available, and part were sent home, part to Mrs. A. C. U. Berry. When I returned some weeks later, all were dead, and no wonder: they had been put in the sand bed with their crowns covered a full inch! I believe that some of those sent Mrs. Berry survived, and that it is to this species that reference is made in the Quarterly, Vol. 2, No. 1, p. 15. P. Hunnewelli, described a few years ago from the north rim of the Grand Canyon, is almost certainly the same plant.

Nearl y as small, but perfectly good-tempered (most surprising in a Nivalid) is P. angustifolia from high peaks of Colorado. A plant set in ordinary soil on a north slope, in the shadow of a dwarf heather, prospered and flowered for some years in my garden, until at last during my absence the heather engulfed it completely. The leaves are about an inch long, narrow, bright glossy green, and the half-inch flowers are a rather bright crimson. It is a plant which any lover of the "tinies" will do well to try, and is available from a Colorado collector.

The stalwart of the American species, P. Parryi, is found throughout the central Rockies. I believe it has been found in northern New Mexico, and I have seen it on the Frisco Peaks, near Flagstaff, Arizona, where it appears in the most robust of its many incarnations. Its northern limit seems to be in the Tetons, and climbers along the Cascade Trail there, have it for company much of the way, until above timberline it flows all over the more level spots. An old record of its collection in southern Montana seems unsubstantiated by later explorations. It makes a thick crown from which rise almost upright, but curving over at the tips, long leaves of a rather dark green, and bears on stems that vary from barely a foot to well over two, great heads of inch-wide flowers of a most intense and vivid crimson, and always seems to flower in great profusion regardless of good or bad season. Sometimes, particularly on the Frisco Peaks, it has a regrettable odor of skunk. In its chosen spots it seems completely indifferent to soil and surroundings, though it usually appears at or just below timberline and does not wander into the true alpine zone, at least in its more southerly stations. But I have found it along woodland streams, in three inches of melted snow above timberline (in the Tetons), in volcanic ash, on granite, on red shale, and even
clinging to limestone cliffs. Such a plant one would at once assume to be adaptable to gardens, but such is not its record. Mr. C. T. Musgrave wrote me that one collection of seed had germinated and grown so marvelously that he had given a number of plants to the Royal Horticultural Society, where its freedom of growth was apparently greatly admired. This in the first season: next season he reported that it was not doing so well, and then silence. I have one plant at home (the only survivor) that still exists in a sand bed after some years, and annually puts out leaves about an inch long. Mrs. G. R. Marriage succeeds with it in her mile-high garden at Colorado Springs, but in an unguarded moment she admitted to me that it makes very poor growth even at such an altitude. This flamboyant giant seems to pine for its heights, and will never become a familiar plant in gardens, I fear.

**Primula Parryi**

Of the two medium-sized Nivalids, I have yet to find P. Rusbyi. According to Rusby's records, it comes from the Mogollon mountains of western New Mexico. I spent two weeks at a ranch there searching every likely and unlikely spot, and even going on a long and strenuous pack trip to the various "baldies" which to my disgust are wooded to their 11,000 foot summits, but there was no place which a self-respecting Primula would select. After returning home and studying everything I could find on Rusby's travels, (he had died a short time previously) I came to the conclusion that either he had been in an entirely different region, perhaps the Mogollon Rim in Arizona, for the discovery was made before the region was mapped; or that one small spot which I had not explored thoroughly, and where, on my way out of the mountains, I glimpsed another plant bearing Rusby's name, may have been the right place—but I still doubt that a Primula would grow there! I have no intention of revisiting those dull and disappointing peaks, but after the war, if all goes well, I shall seek another station many miles away, and perhaps shall find the truant.

The failure of this trip was somewhat easier to bear as just previously I had found its mate, P. Ellisae, on a most enjoyable adventure. Its first appearance was on the second afternoon of our pack trip, as we were riding along a narrow trail that skirted the edge of nothing. When a flare of crimson appeared beneath a bush, completely forgetful of the void beside us, I slid off the horse and knelt to worship the beauty. But this was only its first appearance; not till nearly a day later did we reach the summits and find that there, on open scree, the Primula held almost undisputed possession of many acres. All over those heights, so beaten by desert winds that we could barely sit our horses, the Primula paraded its numbers accompanied by only a tiny Potentilla. Memory after five years is a treacherous thing, and the wind prevented photography, so I may err in details. As I recall the plant, it was a miniature version of P. Parryi, usually not more than six or eight inches in all-over height, with rather greyish leaves, several crowns, and many heads of bloom, to a plant. There, however, was none of the squallings color of the Big Fellow, but a marvelous variety of shades from palest mauve to rich red-purple, and even after long search an albino, which was most tragically lost on the hectic return trip (a story in itself). A species from great elevations (nearly 12,000 ft.) on a few isolated peaks in the New Mexican desert, would, one would think, prove almost intractable in gardens. But the story is one of success, complete so far as the war has left communication possible. P. Ellisae came promptly and profusely from seed, flowered in a couple of years, in gardens of the skilled, and at the hands of gardeners of whom I had never heard before—and stayed to bloom in other years. At this stage I am being advised that selection of the best forms is called for—and surely few Nivalids have reached the stage where gardeners can afford to discard the inferior ones. Another trip to its mountains is called for as soon as possible in order that it may be tested generally from a fresh supply of seed.

Of P. suffrutescens I can only say it is a plant of the California Sierras, occurring in the Lake Tahoe region if memory serves, and that it seems fairly reasonable in cultivation in England. I have never heard of real success with it on this side. Seedlings come easily, but for me they simply sit and do nothing for years, till both they and I are weary of the futile attempt. Other species of the Cuneifolia section are found in Alaska, and occasionally in gardens, but most of the latter are from Japanese sources. Nivalids and Farinosae also occur in Alaska and the islands, but little information is available about them.

So ends the tale of American Primulas as I have seen them, in the
Seeds of P. marginata Offered

This year Mrs. A. C. U. Berry has given the Society seeds of Primula marginata which include named forms and the hybrid, Linda Pope. Although seeds of these varieties are in good proportion in the mixture, special forms and hybrids do not come true to the parent plants. Interesting new forms may, however, crop up.

When requesting seed from the Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. S. R. Smith, Route 16, Box 102, Portland 2, Oregon, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope. An outline of P. marginata and its cultural needs is given in the Sketchbook, page 29.

Seedling Care

At this season there will be greater safety to seedlings from summer sown seeds if they are pricked off into flats and given winter protection of a cold frame or evergreen boughs. In localities having mild winters, they could yet be put into their permanent positions if winter protection could be provided if necessary.
WINTER CARE OF PRIMROSES IN OREGON
Alfred E. Brooke

For a flower so long in cultivation as the Primrose, it is surprising how little one can find written about them and their care. A few books, written mostly in England, are available. The lack of recent literature on care can, it seems to the writer, be attributed to the hardness of the Primrose and its ease of culture.

Many gardeners in Western Oregon give their Primroses a weeding just before, or during, blooming season and another when they divide about every other year. These gardeners do absolutely nothing to protect their Primroses from Winter weather.

Primroses do not demand much Winter protection, but a reasonable "stitch in time" is always rewarded with better plants, hence better bloom, in the spring.

During excessive rain some attention is usually necessary to prevent Primroses from standing in water or being washed out. This latter particularly applies where the garden is the playground and banquet scene for one or more moles. See that your Primroses have normal drainage. They will bloom in water, but are not an aquatic plant. Auriculas, particularly small ones, seem to persist in trying to climb up out of wet soil, but a little patience will eliminate the necessity of supplying special conditions for them.

During sub-freezing weather when the ground is wet there is usually a tendency for the soil to heave and some plants will be partly pushed out. This is especially true of divisions that have not developed a large deep root system. Remove a small amount of soil from under the plant and set it down to the proper depth, i.e. with the crown just clearing the soil. This requires less than a minute and results in a healthy plant in spring instead of a neglected cripple. Auriculas require less re-setting from frost action than Polyanthus.

Cold dry winds in Winter sometimes result in burned foliage on Primroses. This is not serious unless the condition persists for some time. A vigorous plant soon sends up new leaves in Spring and often the wind burn is completely gone when blooming time comes. If not, remove the leaves affected. A windbreak would eliminate burn and can easily be made with evergreen boughs or a board set on the windward side of the Primroses.

As weather moderates toward Spring slugs relish a diet of fresh Primrose leaves. A moderate application of poison bait at this time will save the new leaves and nearly rid your garden of slugs for the year. Get the first slugs and save many a worry later when their increase starts working.

In the opinion of the writer the above suggestions constitute all the care Primroses need in Winter in Oregon. One of the finest characteristics of the Primrose is its courage and spunk, bursting into bloom when most hardy plants are just waking up. Don't pamper Primroses. Feed them moderately and give them a reasonable chance and you will get more reward per minute of attention than from any other plant in your garden.

England, to be sure, is most closely linked with Cowslips and nightingales, but how odd it is that the two should persist together throughout Europe, North Africa and parts of Asia. For the Nightingale flies from North Africa and makes its Spring and summer home in the countries of the Mediterranean, central and northern Europe as far east as the valley of the Vistula. Its arrival in England would seem timed to the Cowslips, for mid-April hears the first vanguard of males singing in the woods and tangles as they await their mates. Could it be that France and Spain, Germany, Switzerland, Bohemia and the Balkans, the Caucasus, yes, even North Africa, could it be that the Nightingale returns to each when their Cowslips bloom?

Certainly, it is fanciful, but consider the beauty, the delight that falls upon the senses; those first warm spring nights washed in liquid melody, moonlight and the heady fragrance of Cowslips released by the fallen dew. Let him who can put springtime, romance and melody into words capture the fragrance of Cowslips and transfer it to paper. A heavy scent yet delicate; rich and full, it is the flower-laden Spring wind; it calms while it stimulates and remains a riddle which needs no answer.

They knew full well, in olden times, how to enjoy the Cowslip, and it might profit to bring some of these pleasures to light again. From its petals essential oil could once more be distilled and used as a perfume possessing the very essence of Spring. A potpourri jar with dried Cowslips in liberal proportion, or sweet bags for linen would endow a household with the distinction that only herlooms bring. The old herbalist, Culpeper, says to 'have a special eye over them' to make sure that the flowers are thoroughly dried and kept 'in a warm place'. That 'if you let them see the sun once a month, it will do neither the sun nor them harm'.

Culpeper also says about Cowslips, or Peagles (Paigles, from the Scottish paigled—drooping with fatigue) that 'Venus lays claim to this herb as her own and is under the sign of Aries', and that 'our city dames know well enough the ointment or distilled water of it adds to beauty'. So universally is Venus thought of as the goddess of love it has almost been forgotten that originally she was the Latin goddess of spring who would choose for her flower spring's incarnation, the Cowslip. And judging from the assembled wine recipes, the interests of Dionysus were not entirely overlooked when she laid down her claim. Every old herbal and cook book carries at least one recipe for Cowslip wine and each recipe seems to differ in the proportions of Cowslips, water and sugar. But all
like note in a lower key. Sometimes the trill is continued, and, as if in ecstasy, cascades down like a falling star’. Mr. Goss was visiting an English cellist friend at the time the Victor people made a recording of the nightingales singing in accompaniment to the cello. Those evening recitals are well remembered by all who listened to the nightly broadcasts from the cellist’s cottage garden. The poignantly mellow tones of the cello pulsating through the calm night would start the chorus of nightingales singing in full tune with the instrument.

So many and such varied songs—a limpid, ecstatic outpouring says one; of great purity and brilliance recalls another; like crystal bells says the Chinese. With throat throbbing, feathers quivering from the strong vibration going on within, he is as nearly master of his instrument as any of the song birds. Night and day they sing while courting and nesting, ceasing in June when the fledglings must be fed. Not all of England hears the nightingale. It tends more to the southern counties, does not reach all of the western or northern, although it is to be found in Yorkshire.

There it is comparatively rare and, not too long ago, local newspapers would announce the place and time of singing. Around midnight a crowd would gather and stand entranced and silent for several hours until the bird wearied.

The nightingale, like the Cowslip, has no outstanding physical beauty to recommend it, yet it, too, has been the subject of romantic poetry since medieval times. It is a plain plumaged bird, the male being the same rust brown as the female, and, although of the thrush family, looks more like a warbler. Its shy habits are in keeping with its modest appearance, and it returns year after year with the children to the same thicket, copice, hedge or grove, seldom showing itself, content with singing, bathing and rearing its brood before returning south in early autumn.

So he departs, leaving to the north countries the memory of his song interwoven with other joys of spring. We do not have the silver voiced nightingale in our country but our own thrushes are sweet-tongued. And we can again have Cowslips as we had them in colonial times when, in the mid-seventeenth century, hardly a garden large or small had not its Cowslip walks, its Cowslip floral ribbons that tied the flower-knots together. In the course of those three hundred years much of the old has been crowded out for the new, which is as it should be. But some of the gracious past might well be revived, and for those who think likewise, consider the Cowslips, so freshly burdened with traditions and uses, giving long and freely, and asking no more than a bit of space for a foothold.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

The following list of books consulted is given for the convenience of those who wish to delve more deeply into the information and pleasures, both pictorial and printed, contained therein.

COWSLIPS

Gardening With Herbs, Helen M. Fox
A Garden of Herbs, Eleanor Sinclair Rohde
The Gentle Art of Cookery, Mrs. C. F. Leyel
Mrs. Becton’s Book of Household Management
Leaves from Gerard’s Herbar, arranged by Marcus Woodward (1857)
Culpeper’s Complete Herbal

NIGHTINGALES

Journal of Summertime in the Country, Rev. Robert Arts Willmott
British Birds, Archibald Thorburn
Allen’s Naturalists’ Library, H. Bowdler Sharpe
Birds of Great Britain, M. Lewin (1836)
Summer Studies of Birds and Books, W. Warde Fowler
WIND, RAIN AND PRIMROSES IN ALASKA

My hill-top postage stamp garden, 55' x 8 feet at the widest spot, is above a rock wall and has had every inch of soil made with sand, gravel, cow manure and peat. When I left Washington I was told I could never have a garden here, to which I uttered no word of complaint since I was determined to have Primroses. And although it has been an uphill pull in more ways than one, after five years the results this spring were really thrilling.

Last year we counted 157 days that it rained and blew, then we became so disgusted we stopped counting. In November we had a real Alaskan storm, wind 75 miles an hour, wrecked my cold frames and all of my precious seedlings from before I could care for them.

I had covered my primrose beds with evergreen boughs which, when removed in April, disclosed lavender and white Cashmireans in full bloom. The Polyandrus grew very large with leaves like cabbages and plants covered with blossoms. Cowichan is a sight to behold. You wouldn't know Judges, Wanda, Helen and her other hybrids they are so very lovely in drifts and groups on the rockeries. The sales are practically too tall for a small garden. P. pseudokinkimans bleached for the first time this year with a stalk two feet tall. P. rosea seems happy and is so bright and early, coming into flower as the snow melts.

Double lavender and double white do well, and the old standbys, Auriculas, well, they defy any kind of weather to hold them down.

I've been on the trail of a miniature Primrose on Attu and was surprised to receive a package recently from a box who is "way out there," whether from this particular island or not I wouldn't, of course, know. But five Primroses, one white and four purplish shades were included, bearing tiny leaves about an inch high, stems approximately three inches, with one flower to a stem. I am sure they are P. cinerifolia from descriptions I have been able to find. I planted them with a prayer on my lips for they weren't in too good condition.

Our only garden pest is the slug, but the gardener's pets are the mosquito, which swarm around on warm days to see that no work gets done. Heavy rains make it necessary to fertilize much and often, and to make other gardeners envious will say I have access to the dairy and can have all the old cow manure I want to carry away. With the ending of the blooming season I am giving a good dressing of bone meal. So, even if it seldom droops below zero here, we have our own set of problems and difficulties which have been solved through constant application of the trial and error method.

—Mrs. C. A. Craft, Cordova, Alaska

Gift Season

Christmas and the season of rocking chair gardening that follows is not too far away for some consideration. The January, 1945 Quarterly will be the first issue of the four available to those holding a 1945 membership ($1.50), and this first number of the year will be released December 19th in time for Christmas.

Should the entire publications of the Society be given to complete the set, an additional $2.25, or $3.75, would include the six Quarterly published to date as well as the four issues to be brought out in 1945.

P. marginata

No one could select and string together words to surpass Farrer's description of P. marginata in Volume II of the "English Rock Garden" wherein he says that "these flowers are of a beauty unbelievable: wide-open saucers of the loveliest lavender-blue, pure and clear, with infinitesimal atoms of white powder hovering densely on their eye, like globules in a shower on the surface of a pool". The leaves, arranged in rosettes, are textured like the Auricula, thick and greyish green, and the new growth is heavy with golden meal that illuminates the saw-toothed margins—hence the name. Like many saxatile plants Marginata has a woody rootstock, or trunk, which often reaches great lengths if "set high in the rock-work and allowed to fall down it will prove the beauty of a hundred years, ever increasing the mass of its trunks; and burgeoning in fresh rosettes all the way down which will, in time, form a sheet". It is one of the earliest Primulas to bloom and duets in lyric tones with P. rosea. The flowers are arranged in a loose head, sometimes many, other times few, on a very short stem held close to the rosette, foliage framing flowers like a nosegay's frill.

In cultivation it is free and easy and it is possible to work up a large colony either from seeds or cuttings. But Farrer says "in nature this loveliest blue Primula of our Alps is a rare species; extremely abundant, indeed, but only in a small limited district ranging from the Maritime chain up through the Cottians, preferring the limestone, but making no bones about growing happily on other formations too, and so little particular about altitude that it may be found luxuriant from 2500 feet up
to 7000 or 8000”. Most authorities limit _P. marginata_ to the Maritimes and the Cottians which form a natural barrier between France and Italy, but the Granfall Alps between France and southwestern Switzerland which would seem a continuation of the same chain, are also credited with sheltering this alpine.

Farrer recommends that _P. marginata_ be sought in the valley of La Maddalena above San Dalmazzo de Tenda where it exists not only in rampant profusion but in the most lovely degree of variation. This same country surrounding Tenda is charmingly spoken of by Meriel du Vivier in his article “Treasures of the Alpes Maritimes” in _My Garden_ magazine for August 1936 as being a favorite retreat of P. Allioni. He considers the fairest of all alpine Primulas. _Marginata_ varieties so lovely as to make even the beauteous common type seem “silver in the time of Solomon” may be seen in other districts of these Alps as well as the valley of La Maddalena, says Farrer.

This tendency of _Marginata_ to vary in color and, in some degree, foliage, has given rise to the many named forms that find their way to the Primula marts from time to time. Usually it amounts to the shifting of balance to one side or the other of the typical lavender-blue, but Farrer speaks of a white that is not too pure or full shaped, and it has been whispered that several bona fide blues are known.

Hybrids between _Marginata_ and others of its Section (the Auricula Section which is divided into seven sub-sections containing twenty-one species and three sub-species native to the European Alps including its name plant, _P. auricula_) are said to be very beautiful. _P.x marven_ is a hybrid, the first cross being between _Primulas auricula_ and _cardiokaria_, called _Venusta_, before introducing _Marginata_ blood. It is a rich violet-purple with white eye and evidently named by using first syllables. A natural hybrid, _P.x Crucis_, was found in 1913 in the Cottane range as a result of union between _Primulas margarita_ and viscose. Farrer says it still awaits its full description but that it has many splendid color forms, one Blue Bowl, which must be a dream for it has “all the vigour of one parent, the stalwart volume of the other, uniting flowers of a clear and lucid sapphire-blue like the finest Chinese glass of Klen.”

More hand knowledge exists on the appearance and habits of Linda Pope ( _P. marginata var. Linda Pope_) since it circulates rather freely in commerce. One glance at Linda and you know she comes from off the top with her perfumed, full and graceful flowers of a delicate lilac, with a fine white eye, and her exquisite powdered foliage. Being a garden hybrid her parentage is questionable, which seems to bother no one in the face of such beauty, but MacWatt believes the plant to be a Marginata-Alpine Auricula cross.

Admittedly, _P. marginata_ shows off to best advantage when planted high on rock ledges where it can hang by its toes, head down. But it does as well in the rock garden on the shady side of rocks, if not shadowed by trees, wedged between crevices, or in partial sun in the border where soil is loose, on the lean side regarding fertilizer, and with sharp drainage. The one objection, if it could be called so, is that the trunks which would otherwise hang, project themselves above the ground.

These, however, eventually become dotted with new-formed rosettes which partially clothe its nakedness.

In cultivation it is simple and easy if treated like Auriculas. The seeds are so fine they need only be pressed into the soil and a piece of glass put over the container until germination begins if this method is used. No time will be saved by sowing now, and it is believed that a higher percentage of seedlings will be raised by sowing in late fall or early winter, keeping the container outside to freeze, with germination taking place in the spring. Guard against overmoistness, keep the soil just damp, water from the bottom rather than sprinkling from the top and see that the mixture is loose and gritty with the addition of a little more sand than is used with English types. Seeds should be sown thinly, of course, and when seedlings are pricked off, keep in mind good drainage and avoid over fertilizing, using only a moderate amount of raw bone meal. Given these few considerations, _P. marginata_, so loved for its winsome daintiness, stands “ready to require the affection of the cultivator” as it has since 1777, the recorded date of its emigration from mountain fastnesses into the gardens of the discerning.

F. L.

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**REPORT FROM WISCONSIN**

As there seems to be some interest on the part of West Coast members regarding conditions which prevailed during the past winter and spring in other parts of the country where Primroses are grown, a report from Wisconsin may help satisfy this interest.

The ordinary winter here is rather one with snow falling well past Christmas, and it is not uncommon to have snow protection from Thanksgiving until the spring thaws. Normally this protection is sufficient but with this winter the cold has been replaced by a very mild winter with only a few days of weather up to 20 degrees below zero.

The spring of 1944-45, from beginning to end was unusual, being very mild, with only a few days of our customary 10 degrees below zero. There was very little snow until late February and March, when we had the usual snow fall for this period. We had freezing nights up to and including May 7th, when the temperature began an abrupt rise, and by the 10th, the sound day recording was 56 degrees. The early winter was responsible for the loss of many seedlings, some of the summer's divisions and even a few of the old established plants. The abrupt rise in temperature in early May caused a shortened blooming season, small flowers, and short stems. In a space of two weeks all types had bloomed and the showing attracted little attention.

Seeds were not allowed to set in an attempt to strengthen the plants.

If the spring blooms fell far below our expectancy, the converse was true as to the new seedlings from fall and winter plantings. The best results showed up in the open seed beds from fall plantings just after the first heavy frosts, the beds being of stiff clay with leaf mold worked into the upper inch of surface. The seedlings are robust, and are now being set in the trial rows. The second best results came from flats seeded in late March in a combination of leaf mold and sand, and immediately put out doors under a cover of snow. All types germinated in due time. The poorest results appeared in a flat planted after the period of freezing which had lasted all winter. These were scarified in March with the approved method of the opinion that it is best to sow seed immediately after harvest, but in this climate we run the risk of the seedlings being too weak to winter.

We intend to make a fall planting this year. In last year's fall planting there were seed of our 1942 crop, and some from 1941, which had been lost and forgotten. The germination of these old seeds was surprising and results favorably with my imports and domestic purchases during the winter, all of which I assume were of the 1942 crop.

In closing, please permit me to make the following observations. Activities generally will start to germinate outside here when the temperature range is between 40 and 55 degrees above zero and Polyanthus type, 50 to 65 degrees above. The tender seedlings should not be cast away, as not infrequently they develop delphiana rosettes in the way of something unusual.

NOTES FROM OUR MEMBERS

One of the best things about a hobby is the sharing and exchanging of enthusiasm with those whose interests parallel. In the letters to the Corresponding Secretary are such friendly experiences and valuable regional information, so many gems of interest, it was suggested that excerpts be published for the pleasure and instruction of the entire membership.

Take, for instance, the first Primrose purchase and the seeding method of Mrs. Kenneth M. Maxwell, Downingtown, Pennsylvania. "Some years ago my first plant was bought at a Pennsylvania Dutch market from a Mennonite woman in a white organdy cap. Then I began to pour over seed catalogs and have been quite successful in raising several varieties. I start the seed in flower pots, putting the small seedlings in the cold frame for the winter, and it is the greatest pleasure to peep into the frames in the spring and watch them open up. The pots with the seeds requiring freezing are left out in the frame until January and then brought into the house after which germination starts. If I lived in one room I think I would want to plant some seeds."

And the unusual Cowslip and Gold Laced of Mrs. W. H. Haydon, Riderwood, Maryland, "Primroses have been a love with me for many years and I have had some lovely ones and quite a good many. Among them the garnet red, gold banded, very perfectly marked; the deep crimson hybrid Cowslips, the pale yellow, or cream, snow-white, and one pale yellow and old rose combination in each blossom. They were greatly admired." Mrs. Haydon also has an appreciative word for those who have contributed to the Quarterly. "The Quarterlys I have found very interesting and attractive, also scholarly and instructive. It is strange to me that in our section of the world so few people have so little interest in the instructive and educational side of horticulture. To me it is as great a pleasure to read and study as to work with the plants and enjoy the possession of them."

Mrs. C. E. Wells, Sugar Pine, California says, "Received the two Quarterlys and my enthusiasm is high, just seems as though I had found many friends. The first trip after this war will be your Spring Show; do hope Mrs. Berry will have her Spode plates on display then, they must be lovely. Enjoyed Mr. J. G. Bacher's writing, my youth was spent in Switzerland, and well I remember a group of the village children going after the first flowers of spring, Primroses and Hepaticas. My mother always tore narrow strips of cotton for me to tie the bunches, string would cut the stems. We made many small bunches, slipped them on a pole, then took them to the hospitals and old folks, always singing for the Swiss are a happy people."

S. Sgt. William J. Dress is now a member having written from Italy that "The genus Primula has long been a favorite of mine, so when I read of the American Primrose Society in the June Flower Grower, I determined at once to write for particulars."
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