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PRIMULA JULIAE AND HYBRID JULIANA FORMS
Lou Roberts

Of the wealth of plant material collected in the Caucasus during the last century, Primula Juliae, introduced into Great Britain in 1901, is held in the most affectionate regard by Primrose enthusiasts everywhere. This amiable little plant bursts into bloom with the first bird song of spring, the display continuing on through early summer and again in the fall, if happily situated.

Primula Juliae's form and habit of growth is quite different from others of the Vernales section, forming mats by creeping rootstocks. An herbaceous species, the very small, heart-shaped leaves, finely toothed on the edges, are studded with bright starry blossoms on one-inch stems. A well-established plant will frequently measure from a foot to eighteen inches across, and seldom attains a height of over two inches.

British and Dutch hybridists were probably the first to see the possibilities of producing an interesting race of hybrids from this newcomer to the Vernales group, of which Primula acaulis, the Cowslip, Oxlip, the true English Primrose and the Levantine Primrose are but a few. Crosses were made between Primula Juliae and each of the above mentioned Primroses over a period of years, and countless varieties with a color range from white, yellow, blue, pink, lavender, rose through innumerable shades of purple and red resulted.

The hybrids of Primula Juliae are for the most part intermediate between their parents in form and habit of growth. Many, like Juliae, are herbaceous, and like her too, have creeping rhizomes, although they may be Cowslip or Acaulis in appearance of foliage and bloom.

The Juliae clan is not capricious or moody, does not need to be pampered as some of the others which are not so easily grown. They, as most other Primulas, appreciate a situation with morning sunshine, the filtered sunlight of trees, or a border which protects them from the heat of the afternoon sun. If planted in deep shade, however, the tendency is toward more foliage and scant bloom. Loose, deeply dug loam, and sufficient water through the hot, dry summer to provide a cool, moist root run are essential. Primroses loathe dank, soggy, undrained soil, and will rot if this condition is forced upon them. Here it would be well to warn against allowing Primroses to dry out in summer. More Primulas succumb to excessive summer drought than to severe winter weather. There still prevails the erroneous idea that it is natural for Primulas to go entirely dormant in summer, whereas actually, this is the season for making new root growth and storing vitality with which to provide next season's leaf and bloom. This growth is impossible to achieve in a dry, parched earth. Thus it requires little imagination to understand what happens to a plant when the severe frosts of winter occur with alternate
freezing and thawing so common in many sections of the country. The helpless Primrose, with little or no root system to anchor it firmly in the soil, must give up.

Most growers of Juliaes, noting the tendency of the rhizomes to creep to the surface, protect them from heat and frost by applying a mulch of sandy leaf mold or loam each spring and fall.

Supplying these simple essentials, Juliae Primroses will thrive happily and increase tenfold yearly, needing little attention other than the routine weeding, cultivating and dividing when they become too crowded.

Since the appealing charm of these Primroses is their miniature form, it would be well to apply fertilizers of any sort with a light hand—if at all, otherwise they may lose their characteristic Juliae daintiness and assume the stature of their other parents.

Some varieties of new colors are priced too high for average mass plantings, however, their increase is rapid if well grown. They may be divided, each spring and fall, thus a surprisingly large stock can be accumulated in two or three years.

The urge to collect Juliae hybrids is upon those who are familiar with their easy-going habits and exquisite colorings. With the demand great and the supply limited, new varieties could quite easily be brought into existence in private gardens by planting Juliae hybrids, or hybrids and species, in close proximity so that natural pollination by bees would be encouraged, with the possible result of fine hybrids occurring from the seed obtained. Unless purple or magenta shades are desired, the grouping should include only the lighter colored Juliae hybrids among which could be planted an occasional Cowslip, Oxlip, or light colored Acaulis. If planted with large flowered Polyanthus, however, the outcome could more easily be inferior Polyanthus' or gross Juliaes rather than good Polyanthus with the tiny, insignificant eye.

You will find that some Juliaes cross more readily than others. This is due primarily to two reasons—some hybrids have become all but sterile in their high degree of hybridization, while in some the flower tube is extremely slender and tight with the sexual organs more or less enclosed below the surface of the flower thereby making it almost impossible for bees or other pollinating agents to reach them.

If your interest is keen enough, you may wish to undertake some simple hybridizing through hand pollination, and to that end a short outline as to tendencies might be of value. When using two Juliae hybrids as parents, no conclusion as to the outcome could possibly be drawn in advance since it would be impossible to thread one's way back through the ancestors and number of crosses made to produce the particular hybrids being worked with. But it is interesting to know behavior trends when starting from the beginning with species whose blood is pure, of course, in so far as they are plants native to certain localities which have not crossed with any other plant or plant's.

It has been found in certain English experiments that P. Juliae, when crossed with the true English Primrose, P. vulgaris, will produce seedlings in the first generation that favor the magenta coloring of Juliae, but the form of the Primrose—the exact reverse of the hybridist's aim. When these first-generation seedlings were crossed, the next, or second generation, produced six instead of two shades of purple, in addition to yellow and white, and with more modified foliage. With the breaking up of the color and the diminishing form of growth, new, light colored hybrids could be expected to follow within the next few generations. The additional crosses are needed to breed out the large characteristics of the Primrose, to attain and fix the diminutive, preferably creeping, form of the Juliae, at the same time pushing the dominating color of the Juliae into the background with the aid of the yellow Primrose.

As the crosses go into third and fourth generations, the hybrids are very apt to become less and less fertile, so that fewer and fewer seeds are obtained, which explains the reason for the infrequent offering in the trade of any other than what must be first generation seeds, judging from the seedlings. Germination, by the way, is slow and uneven. When a hybrid is considered worthy of propagating by its originator, it is named...
and increased by dividing and re-dividing the original plant over a period of years.

In crosses between Juliae and the Cowslip, the color of Juliae dominates as in the Juliae-Primrose cross; but in crosses between Juliae and the true Oxlip (Barnesfield Oxlip) the first generation usually results in a good proportion of yellow flowers. Hybrids caused by what is called an 'inhibitor' not contained by either the Primrose or the Cowslip and which acts as a check on the dominant color of the Juliae. The formation of flowering and foliage in both instances was that of the Cowslip and the Oxlip.

In Juliae hybridizing little difference has been noticed in the amount of seeds resulting from 'legitimate' or 'illegitimate' crossing—that is, crossing thrum with thrum type of blossom (or pin with pin) known as illegitimate mating; or the crossing of pin with thrum, the legitimate way. Crossings are almost always made without regard for length of style which determines whether the flower is pin-eyed as with the long style, or thrum-eyed, as with the short. (For illustration of pin and thrum types, see page 26, Second Edition of Volume 1, Quarterly).

The following list of named Juliae forms is, to our knowledge, quite complete as offered by the trade in the United States and British Columbia with the exception of those indicated * which are thought to be obtainable only through importation from Great Britain. Color descriptions of plants from catalog listings, particularly those of purple and rose shades, are often misleading. Purples may actually be any shade from magenta to crimson; while plants described as pink may range from mauve to rose. The hybrids in popular cultivation in the States are fairly accurately described. The originator when known, otherwise the probable place of origin, follows the description in parenthesis.

PURPLE SHADES

Wanda—Dwarf, large violet-purple blossoms, bronze foliage, one of the best old ones. (England).Wanda, Borch var.—Wanda sport, three weeks earlier than Wanda. (Fred Borch, Oregon).


Helenae—Flowers burgundy purple, taller and with smaller flowers than Wanda. Very free flowering and growing. (England).


Helena Muller—Purple blue flowers in large clusters. (Plitser, Germany).


Rae—Glossy red, seedling, larger flowers of same coloring, robust grower. (Borch).


Yellow SHADES

Dorothy—A charming little Oxlip form with Primrose yellow florets. (England).

WHITE AND SHADES OF WHITE

Schneekissen—Large snow-white flowers cover the plant. Award of Merit, 1937, R. H. S. (England).

Alba—Believed to be a white form of Primula Juliae—small, white blossoms, compact cluster. (England).

Snow Fairy—White flowers, large foliage than the type. (England).

Lilmist—Dainty miniature polyanthus with buds of cream flowers usually edged with blush shading. Recent introduction. (England).

AMERICAN PRIMROSE SOCIETY

PINK SHADES

Yellow Dawn—Large, purpure crimson. (England).


Dainty Blue—Delicate miniature polyanthus, lavender pink of lighter shade than Dainty Blue. (England).

Dainty Pink—Large, rose-pink flowers. (England).
A brief paragraph on pests may at some time be of use. With strawberry (vine) weevil, it has been found generally that baiting or spraying as a control of the adult beetle is more effective than trying to destroy the pest in the weevil stage in the ground. Oregon State College suggests the use of apple or bran bait containing magnesium arsenate, calcium, lead, or zinc arsenate, or sodium fluosilicat e (which can be purchased commercially), placed under the leaves around the crown from early spring (April) as the beetles emerge, hungry from their transition, until August or September when the last of the stragglers appear. One large garden sheltering thousands of Azaleas and Rhododendrons—shrubs which attract the beetle—and Primulas from all over the world, is practically pest free. The entire garden is sprayed three times yearly with a solution of arsenate of lead, a control recommended for years by an outstanding horticulturist of the Northwest.

Leaf aphids and red spider can also devitalize Primroses, but these pests can be kept under control by a routine dusting or spraying of rotonone and nicotine.

**Dues And The Roster**

The coming of the New Year ushers in, among other things, the date on which 1945 dues of $1.50 become payable. Some have felt that the yearly dues are rather small and, wishing to additionally aid the Society in its aims, are bolstering their belief by becoming Sustaining Members, which membership is $5 yearly. The membership roll will be published in the Year Book to be released the last of March, and the earliest convenient date for remitting will greatly facilitate the re-listing of names should others wish to transfer to the Sustaining group.

The six Quarterly publications of the Society issued prior to 1945 are available for $2.25.

All checks should be made payable to the American Primrose Society and sent to the Treasurer, Mrs. O. J. Zach, Route 2, Box 155, Portland 10, Oregon.

**P. Japonica Seed**

Mrs. Charles Ward Burton of Detroit, Michigan, has saved seed of the robust Candelabra, P. japonica var. Etta for all members of the Society who wish to send their request with self-addressed, stamped envelope to the Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. S. R. Smith, Route 16, Box 102, Portland 2, Oregon. P. japonica makes a brave show in any climate, is of easy culture and will, even when only mildly happy, self-sow in likely and quite unlikely places.
spring. You will find these young plants are interesting from the beginning. They grow in a beautifully symmetrical manner and the foliage is a study in itself, some of the leaves being extremely crumpled, some having an upright habit, some are dark green, others light green and still others have a bronze cast. At this stage one can indulge in an orgy of anticipation.

About ten or fifteen years ago every garden had a border of Lord Beacomnsfield, and if the gardener was very daring these were alternated with Glencoe. While these yellow and bronze Primroses were lovely, it was a trifle monotonous to know just exactly what was coming each spring. How much more exciting it can be to look forward to entirely new colors. One can dream all winter of beauty to come, and when winter is barely past be rewarded each day with new colors, larger florets, taller stems than was ever hoped for. There will be colors similar to all named varieties, but of far superior quality because in the hands of a skillful hybridist each generation of Primroses is an improvement over the last.

To a true Primrose lover, nothing can equal growing them from seed, and from now on through April is the best time to sow Primrose seed. But remember, Primroses are living things, and even the most famous strains will be a disappointment if they do not receive proper moisture, fertilizer and cultivation needed to bring them to maturity. It is entirely up to the gardener.

Given a group of gardeners, it is safe to say about half take care of their plants, half let them shift for themselves, and in this last category half will admit their neglect, the other half blame the seed, the plants or the weather. Primroses are definitely not plants which can be stuck in the ground and forgotten. To have perfect Primroses a gardener must not only have a desire for them but must have a vision or goal of perfection. It is up to you.

Note: Those who keep their favorite Primroses over a long period may find this subject a controversial one, but no greater spur to expression and progress exists than controversy.

Fourth Annual Primrose Show

The larger the exhibition the more solid the supporting structure must be, and to that end plans are already being made for the Fourth Annual Show to be held by the Society in the Portland Art Museum sometime in April. In addition to all that made the last Show a success, there will be new delights such as a Primrose Garden in the open court, displays of prints, modern water colors of curious old Primrose and Cowslip forms, and herbarium material.

Past-president Capt. E. S. Bradford has been appointed chairman of the show with Miss Alena Jacobson as assistant chairman. Chairman for committees are Mesdames R. M. McClary, F. Shaw, M. A. Lawrence, Audra Link, Lou Roberts, C. F. Linke, Lura Lundin, John L. Karnopp, Lew Levy, John M. Young, R. Pugh and Bennett; Miss Dora Broetje and Messrs. C. M. Ferris, Carl Maskey and R. W. Ewell.

A GROWER'S STAND AGAINST OVER-FERTILIZING

Carl Starkey

At a recent meeting of the Primrose Society I gave a talk on the growing of Juliae Primroses. In the course of the discussion I mentioned that I did not fertilize my plants when grown in good garden soil. It is my feeling that especially these small types, but also the larger Polyanthus forms, lose much of their appeal when grossly over-fed and over-stimulated. The charm of proportion that is inherently one of the delights of the small sorts is quite lost when force-feeding is applied. Their oversized, lax leafage and their too long flower stems make the plant hardly recognizable as a Julia form.

Too much fertilizer given any plant will produce overgrown, heavy, luscious foliage. The blossoms, too, take on a larger size which, in the Polyanthus type, may be desirable if not overdone. But good seed will produce fine forms without stimulation. If well selected seed is obtained for growing Polyanthus there need be no fear for fine form and size of bloom.

Especially in cold climates over-stimulation of plants is likely to be disastrous. If poured too much, they are apt to be short lived and unable to stand the rigors of winter. Even in milder climates when a sudden, sharp cold wave hits, it is the fat and over-fed that succumbs, while those brought up on leaner fare have the ruggedness necessary to carry them through. People wonder, then, why it is that some Polyanthus from the previous spring's purchases die, while others, planted close by from different sources, weather hardships as they come.

If the purchaser wishes larger blooms he may fertilize to his heart's content. He can always buy more plants. But as a grower, I prefer to grow sturdy, compact plants with a good constitution. I know that my plants will perform well in the new owner's garden and will not produce smaller flowers the following season. Nor will he be buying outsized plants which will later deteriorate, undermining his faith at once in Primroses, myself as a nurseryman and himself as a gardener. More frequently now the question is asked, "Do these modern Polyanthus revert to the original, small forms after their first blooming?"

It is not possible for a plant to change its inherent characteristics, but should it make a recovery from forced feeding and flower the second year, the blooms will probably be below normal size, and another year of same growing will be needed for it to regain normalcy.

For my plants, I want no weakened resistance to cold and possible disease. I feel very strongly that we should guard these really fine perennials from the dangerous practice of over-fertilizing, for it will be one of the first things to kill the popularity of a flower that is only just now re-establishing itself in this country.

As the winter continues, mice may become a problem. For rodent control and additional notes on mulching, see page 25, Second Edition, Nos. 1, 2, and 3.

Sowing seeds in January and February, covering pans with glass, and setting them out to freeze will give a heavy and quick germination as soon as the weather warms.
It must have been at about seven years of age that I first learned to know and love a Primrose copse. Since then more than half a century has passed, and yet each spring, when I wander into the Primrose wood, and see the pale yellow blooms, and smell their sweetest of sweet scents, and feel the warm spring air throbbing with the quickening pulse of new life, and hear the glad notes of the birds and the burden of the bees, and see again the same delicate young growths piercing the mossy woodland carpet; when I see and feel and hear all this, for a moment I am seven years old again and wandering in the fragrant wood hand-in-hand with the dear God who made it, and who made the child's mind to open wide and receive the enduring happiness of the gracious gift. So, as by direct divine teaching, the impression of the simple sweetness of the Primrose wood sank deep into the childish heart, and laid, as it were, a foundation stone of immutable belief, that a Father in Heaven who could make all this, could make even better if He would, when the time should come that His children should be gathered about Him.

And as the quick years pass and the body grows old around the still young heart, and the day of death grows ever nearer; with each new spring-tide the sweet flowers come forth and bloom afresh; and with their coming—with the ever-renewing of their gracious gift and still more precious promise—the thought of Death becomes like that of a gentle and kindly bearer of tidings, who brings the inevitable message, and bids the one for whom it is destined receive it manfully and be of good hope and cheerfulness, and remember that the Sender of Death is the Giver of the greater new Life, no less than of the sweet spring flowers, that bloom and die and live again as a never-ending parable of Life and Death and Immortality.

During the winter artificial watering is sometimes advisable for evergreen Primroses. In long, dry, snowless periods accompanied by high winds and sub-freezing temperatures, the triple drying action is counteracted greatly by a thorough watering which supplies the protection of ice. If evergreen boughs, cornstalks or other light, airy material is at hand, it is well to use this after watering as a safeguard against rapid thawing.


An Herbarium Is Began

Recently the Society has received gifts which carry with them real historical significance, gifts which mark the beginning of an art library and an herbarium. We have our first herbarium material through the thoughtful generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Chester K. Strong of Denver who spent several weeks last summer in the Rockies adding to their own collection and photographing the alpine flora. It is quite fitting that the material which starts the herbarium of the American Primrose Society should be an American Primula. P. angustifolia, so named for its narrow leaves (though any wider would be disproportionate) is sometimes called the Fairy Primrose, a name which has also become associated with P. malacoides from Asia and the Austrian, P. minima.

This particular specimen was collected last July at an altitude of 12,500 feet on the ridge in the 'col' between Silver Plume and Bard peaks, at the head of Brown's Gulch, Silver Plume, Clear Creek County, Colorado. Crown, leaves and two lively, lavender-blue flowers of the dried specimen measure no more than an inch in height, roots, three inches. In nature it is a bright rose and, as with most red or rose flowers, such change is common with the damaging or natural death of pigment cells. Even in P. angustifolia's maturity it seldom tops two inches, and the entire two inches of it choose to reside either in a moist pocket or backed against a boulder.

(Continued on page 45)
How many of you, in winters past, have gone to your Blue Primroses and scraped away the snow to find them blooming, or seen them in the early morning glazed with frost, more lovely than the finest porcelain. Is it because of this that each year you watch for them just a little more eagerly; or is it because they bring to you a piece of summer sky, or that you see in them the unfaded eyes of a beloved child.

For a flower developed by human skill to possess such spiritual quality is not common. It is as though the task had become invested with the workers' faith and steadfast purpose. Sixty years ago there were no Blue Primroses, but there were those who hoped for them and who were working to that end. The many years necessary for the repeated selection of plants, the raising of countless seedlings with only a slow trend toward success, discouraged all but the most tenacious. Finally, three men, two English and one Austrian, working independently and by different methods produced, at about the same time, Primroses that could be called blue. Of the work of two, not much is known except that one, the Austrian, produced his Blue Primroses by means of the Old Blue Polyanthus, a plant once plentiful but now, practically non-existent unless it be in that Promised Land, English and Irish cottage gardens.

No information has come to light on how Mr. Dean, of Ealing, produced his Blues, and not too much is available on the history of the Wisley Blue Primroses originated by Mr. G. F. Wilson.

From 'Scott Wilson' exhibited in 1878, Mr. Wilson evolved his Blue Primroses, and around 1889 was able to show a few plants that could be called blue. In 1890 Mr. Wilson exhibited his 'Oakwood Blue' with flowers of deep indigo which was considered the best blue yet obtained. Twelve years from 'Scott Wilson' to 'Oakwood Blue', but how many years went into the making of Wilson's Blue Primroses before 1878? In his garden at Wisley, or out of it, Mr. Wilson was not one to talk of his work, so there is no statement from him either as to time or the manner in which he worked. But Gertrude Jekyll, who devoted much of her life to the development of the modern Polyanthus, has stated that "it was from a purple Primrose with a color inclining to violet that Mr. G. F. Wilson raised his celebrated blue varieties," and to quote Dr. MacWatt, "Miss Jekyll is not one to make a statement without a knowledge of its accuracy". There is little doubt that this 'purple Primrose' was P. Sibthorpii, a beauty from Asia Minor so like the native English Primrose except in coloring. Its wide range over Greece, through Turkey and the Levant to the Caucasus encourages a variety of forms, and from a clear and delicate pink it knows all shades of rose, red and purple. This conclusion as to the alliance of the Blue Primrose with the Primrose of the Near East is strengthened by certain of the Levantine's characteristics—inclination to bloom in the winter, the slow and uneven germination of seed, the small calyx and the frequency with which its small star appears in the Blues.

With the foundation work done, it would have been an ungrateful fraternity had not great strides been made in improving and stabilizing Blue Primroses. Between 1890 and the present time all traces of crimson have been bred out of the best Blues, the crimson ring outlining the star has gone (although many consider this quite attractive), the color is no longer transient as when it tended to purple or crimson after the first year's flowering. Now they leave little to be desired. There are all shades from the palest blue to deep indigo with no hint of purple, many are laced or edged with silver markings, and eyes are varied enough to suit every taste—large, small, almost absent except for rays with a color range from lemon to orange and ochre to brown. Now that the color is fixed in the finest Blues, a wider operational scope is provided the hybridizer and larger flowers are constantly being secured.

That Blue Primroses are apt to be color sensitive and influenced by weather and soil conditions is directly traceable to the crimson in their heritage and to the fact that the blue coloring was finally obtained by 'permanent damage to the germ cell'. Many bloom off-color in the fall; they are more intensely blue in an acid soil but tend to purple or crimson in alkaline; those not quite so blue are made bluer by freezing weather; and too long exposure of blossoms to the sun often brings on a touch of purple or crimson requiring that these plants be given more shade than other kinds. Why many of them exhibit the reddish tinge on the edge of the leaves has not yet been discovered.

When buying seeds of Blue Primroses it should not be expected that all will produce pure Blues. Even when the seedsmen is careful in preventing other colors from entering the blue strain, the color is still too new not to have red ancestral forms reappear. With hand-pollination of carefully selected plants becoming a more common practice it will not be too long before an extremely high percentage of good Blues can be expected.

In another decade Blue Primroses will be as readily procured as any other, but even if they grew at every turning we would still stop before them and gather to ourselves some of the exaltation they reflect.

F. L.
Extracts from the Minutes of the Fall Meetings

In the uncustomed absence of Mr. Fred Borch whose talk on P. Sieboldii was scheduled for the September meeting of the Society, Mr. Carl Starker took over the subject and added one of rapidly rising interest, hybrid forms of P. Juliae. Of P. Sieboldii he reminded the large body of members and their friends that in spite of its fragile looking fairylke flowers and delicate foliage it was practically foolproof; that it would respond favorably to almost any sort of culture—lack of culture—would induce situations that other Primulas would actively resent. Mr. Starker pointed out that although it would do in a light, sandy soil, P. Sieboldii did appreciate the addition of leaf mold or peat. Because it is one of the rare Primulas to take a rest period by shedding its leaves after blooming, it can be allowed to dry out during the summer. It can be transplanted or divided almost any time and will bear up under any degree of heat or cold.

P. Sieboldii

P. Juliae and hybrid forms are so persistent and as difficult to discourage at P. Sieboldii but will give a greater performance if a few simple precautions are seen to. They will, for instance, outdo themselves in copious bloom if planted to take advantage of the early spring sun but shaded from the hottest afternoon sun of summer. P. Juliane and Juliana forms increase very rapidly when planted in good garden soil and can be divided often and at any time. Mr. Starker here made a plea to keep the Julianas in character by growing them under normal conditions rather than over feeding and pushing them beyond their diminutive nature.

The other half of the program was naby taken over by Mr. Alfred E. Brooke who demonstrated the dividing of Auriculas—much ado about nothing, as he put it. The plants themselves suggest the simple procedure of pulling the increase from the parent if such growth is independent, otherwise using a sharp knife to cut through the old rhizome where the natural lines of division appear. This, of course, is done after the plant has been freed of soil. The old leaves are then pulled off and the roots cut back to approximately four inches. Because Auriculas do not increase as rapidly as the English and some of the Asiatic types, division every two to four years is sufficient. If allowed to become crowded, size of bloom diminishes. Mr. Brooke prefers to divide in September when the weather begins to cool and when more root pests, if any, will be disturbed.

Asiatic Primulas was the topic for the October meeting and Mrs. John L. Karnopp gave freely of her study and experience. She has found that a hundred and forty species and named hybrids of Candelabra Primulas exist. Most of the Candelabra Primulas are to be found at high altitudes in fertile, moist meadows of Western China, Eastern Tibet and Northern Burma. They are easily grown in fat, cool soil in more shade than sun and should be kept well watered throughout the hot months. Mrs. Karnopp made a special mention of the occasional color spotting and streaking in the bloom of P. japonica and advised the immediate burning of the plants since it is thought to be a sign of mosaic disease.

The programs for November and January were reversed. Mrs. Lou Roberts will speak on the old forms of double and single Primroses at the later date while Mr. J. G. Bacher at this time showed his colored slides of Primulas and flowering trees to be planted in conjunction with Primroses. Mr. Bacher is a keen amateur photographer and has secured excellent pictures of European and Asiatic Primulas as they bloom in his and other gardens of note. The lively comment accompanying each slide adds appreciably to the enjoyment. Early flowering trees of upright and pendulous habit for formal and informal plantings, well known and rare specimens, single or double flowering ranging in color from white to brilliant red were shown and their practical and decorative value in relationship to Primrose plantings was pointed out.

The Informal Fall Show was smaller than usual due to more severe weather than is generally experienced at this season. More arrangements than plants were shown and of the latter, Mrs. Lois Land's flat of peach and scarlet Polyanthus', ruby Acaulis and aberrant form of P. Juliae together with Mrs. R. P. McHenry's apricot and yellow Polyanthuses were very well received. Mrs. Land also showed mixed Auriculas in a blue bowl, while Mrs. Helen Jones and Mrs. Marguerite Norbo showed mixed auriculas and Polyanthuses in a green container and mixed Primroses in a white bowl. Boutonnieres were in sufficient evidence to confound the calendar.

Reported by Carl Maskey in the absence of Donald O'Connell, Rec. Sec'y.

Notes From Our Members

Correspondence continues to flourish, and with so much of lively interest contained in letters to the Corresponding Secretary, the task of selecting excerpts is beginning to be a pleasant difficulty.

Mrs. George I. Bouton of Detroit, Michigan has had such good results from January and February seed sowings in a cold frame that she not only has Primroses in her garden but is "helping make a lovely Primrose Path by planting them on a river bank for a friend in the country..."

"Our Garden Center occupies a wonderful old 'White House' in our lovely park, Belle Isle, in the middle of the Detroit River, and we have plans to plant some choice small gardens including a Spring Garden with Primroses."

Germination of Primrose seed in four days is the record of Mrs. Robert H. Argle, Kelso, Washington. "I used a dishpan to plant them in, punching holes in the bottom to allow drainage. I then placed a two inch layer of gravel (donated by the county), then a layer of peat moss, and then a mixture of peat, sand and garden soil into which I mixed a teaspoon of fertilizer. This was then treated with boiling water to sterilize it. I scarified the seed and scattered it on while the soil was still warm. I then sprinkled a small amount of Rootone over the seed and a light covering of sand, so that the seed was barely visible. I then placed it in a box containing wet peat moss. Then a cover was placed over it. The evening of the fourth day I took the cover off and a majority of the seed had sprouts. From the size of them I am sorry I didn't look a day or

(Continued next page)
two sooner. What I should like to know is whether any of the other members have tried bottom heat on Primrose seed. I think on my next seed I'll have to do a little experimenting with a light bulb. This is the first of October and I have Auriculas, Polyanthus, Acaulis and Japanese still blooming."

South of the equator at Mount Lofty, South Australia, Mr. Norman J. Shearer writes of his garden 'Narkeena'. "It is spring in this part of the world and the Primrose and Primula season has just finished. They grow extra well in the cooler climate of these hills. During the last two and one half years I have come in touch with a good many of your fighting men and have found quite a number who are fond of gardening."

Mr. R. E. Kartack of Baraboo, Wis., is enthusiastic over the possibilities of growing P. marginata in what would seem to be a natural location. "Yesterday I went to pick up a supply of leaf mold at our place in the shadow of the west bluff of Devils Lake, and I found so many spots suitable for Marginata in the rock crevices that I feel I have neglected a very good location for the Auricula family. I have started some plantings there of other types, and have scattered about the countryside many of my surplus seedlings to create interest in Primrose culture. My seedlings from the P. Florinda seeds from Mrs. Berry's garden are making such progress that they will go into the winter in fine shape. For the past month (September) we have had ideal Primrose weather, many nights just avoiding killing frosts. If we get through this phase of the moon without severe frost we are assured of a month of good weather."

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