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THE PICTURE ON THE COVER: P. puberulenta in a deep border at the estate of Mrs. Maude Harmon, Portland, Oregon. Photo by Orval Agee

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AMERICAN PRIMROSE SOCIETY
A Last Tribute To Our Beloved
Friend and Member Dan Bamford

It is with great sadness that this is written. Our beloved Dan Bamford passed away on October 9, 1962. So many friends of his have written of his passing that I feel I should quote from at least some of the letters to convey the feelings of these friends.

To new members not acquainted with Mr. Bamford may I say simply that he was one of the old-time floriculturists who did so much to further interest in the Show Auricula in both England and the United States. He was the donor of the wonderful antique copper kettle, a perpetual trophy given each year at our National Show for the best seedling Show Auricula. He also gave us the old Gooseberry Scales that he hoped we would display at each National Show. His letters to his friends in this country were most helpful and encouraging when standards of perfection were being established here for the Show Auricula.

In a letter from Mr. George Mooney, 80 Mainway, Alkrington, England, Mr. Mooney states:

"I have to tell you with sadness that Dan passed away peacefully in his sleep on October 9.

He often spoke to me of his friends in Canada and the U.S.A. when I visited him, which was more frequent during the last days of his life. It was a great disappointment to him that he was not able to keep up the correspondence which meant so much to him.

He was the most interesting of gentle men and captured your imagination after a few minutes in his company. His long life never had in it a moment of boredom. Music, politics, his practical work in the textile industry, in which he was a recognized expert and in particular his hobby of floriculture, never left him for a moment to languish.

He had a host of friends and in those last two or three years when he could no longer actively carry out his gardening pursuits, he was always at the service of everyone; in advice, suggestions and recommendations. He was never selfish with his knowledge and gave the benefit of all his years of experience to the young and old without asking for or expecting a reward. Friendship was the only thing that mattered to him in life.

He was extremely fond of children, animals and flowers and how he loved to be in his greenhouse endeavoring to improve the species. One feels that he was one of the last of the old Lancashire florists but I think he would be the first to agree with the following quotation from an old florist's book dated 1849 with which I conclude this letter with its sad news."

"By some it may be considered a sort of presumption for florists to attempt to mend Nature. Well, be it so; we hope that, like a fond mother, she will only laugh at the innocent amusements of her children, and let us have our own way.

The botanist loves Nature for herself alone: A rustic beauty to him is loveliest when least adorned. Not so the florist; he loves Nature too, but not in dishabille; for him she must be clad in all her charms. He takes wild beauty from its native home, sees hidden charms beneath the rustic guise, makes it its fondling, lends it from morn to eve, watches every change of colour and of form with joy or sadness, as it approaches to its waking dream, or recedes from it. With years of toil, anxiety, and care, with perseverance, he bends the stubborn beauty to his will.

He aids Flora in producing her soft round form of beauty, Nature's charm. For her he skill prepares the many-coloured mantle, that might vie with charms, flacons the Carnation, Ivaces the Picotee, makes the proud Dahlia almost to forget its ancestry — giving to Flora beauties not her own. His, by morphology's aid, raised the wild Dog-rose from its humble birth to wear a diadem,—beauty's queen! What were Roses all without his fostering care?

But what is Nature? Is she not to-day just what she was ten thousand years ago? and who can tell but all our efforts only help to do what Nature's self has sometimes done before without our aid? Therefore, vain man, think not those things are done at thy mere bidding; thou art but the secret agent of a will mightier than thine. Those soft pursuits are given to lead our thoughts from worldly cares to seek a brighter and a better home."

From Gwendolyn M. Hawkes, Cheshire, England;

The news of the death of Mr. Dan Bamford, at the age of seventy-nine, will be received with sorrow and regret by all who knew him.

A native of Middleton, Lancashire, he was a consultant textile engineer with the firm of Mather and Platt, and for fifty years was a member of the Institute of Mechanical Engineers. Since his retirement he has been "on call" for his firm.

Members of the A.P.S. will remember him as the donor of the Bamford Trophy and he contributed many articles to the Quarterly.

He appears to have grown every kind of plant from gooseberries to Orchids, one lovely specimen he showed to the writer, and it was always a joy to have a chat with him.

He was a constant on Auriculas and as a true Lancastrian he would not hold his punches nor suffer fools gladly; yet he would go to any amount of trouble to explain and help a beginner or anyone who really wanted to know about a certain plant.

His great-uncle was one of the prime movers who caused the Peterloo Riots on August 16, 1819 in Manchester at St. Peter's Field, now the site of the Free Trade Hall. Several lives were lost as the magistrates ordered the military to break up the meeting. It is understood that Mr. Bamford's uncle was imprisoned — possible in a good cause for all they wanted was Parliamentary Reform!

Dan's own life would have made a wonderful story and the last time I visited the writer she begged him to commit his knowledge to paper, but ill health during the last few years prevented this.

By a strange coincidence his great friend, Mr. William Barber, died within a few weeks of dear old Dan. He arrived at the last Northern Show looking as genial and debonair as ever, with not an Auricula, but a Gardenia, in his buttonhole — a flower he had grown himself.

Mr. Barber was eighty-nine and last year he told me he had been growing Auriculas for eighty-one years and made his first exhibit, which won him a prize, at the age of eight.

England has lost two great Auricula growers in the passing of these two men.

We are grateful, too, for the obituary sent by Mr. Frank Jacques of Middleton. This clipping was from the Middleton Guardian, duplicating much of the above accounts.

Mr. Frank Michaud received a letter from Cyril Hayes informing him of Dan Bamford's passing and wrote your editor of the fact. Mr. Michaud has been a close friend and correspondent of Dan for many years.

John Shuman wrote "The news of the passing of Mr. Dan Bamford is sad news for all members of the American Primrose and Auricula Society. He was the guiding light in the Auricula movement in America and his articles will stand forever. I feel I have lost a fine friend and I will miss his long instructive lectures that came every few months. As long as there is an Auricula of quality in America Dan Bamford's spirit will be close by. We should always remember his stood for quality; perfection if possible."

AMERICAN PRIMROSE SOCIETY

1963 Winter Quarterly
Concerning Primulas

GRACE DOWLING, Seattle, Washington

CHAPTER 2
CANDELABRA SECTION

Permission to reprint this chapter was given by the University of Washington Arboretum Bulletin.

The candelabras are becoming almost as valuable to gardeners as _P. acutiflora_ and _P. polyanthus_. Different entirely from the last two, the ease of growth, the range of colors and the later season of flowering give a variety to the garden which is much to be desired. They are definitely without prejudices. When they grow along streams they show, by their quantities of bloom, that they are happy, but when grown near rhododendrons and azaleas or in a border on the shady side of a house or in a strip of moist woodland, they excel themselves.

The general form of the plants and leaves is suggestive of polyanthus plants—big, rank and luscious foliage varying in size, quality and texture. Some leaves often have dark red or pink veins, some are notched, some varieties have farina on stems or blossoms and all carry wonderful blooms in whorls about the stems. The color and height vary with the species, and the time of flowering extends to give at least two months of bloom.

In various parts of Asia, they grow in moist meadows where the water is always moving along, never stagnant. In cultivation they do not seem to be particular whether the soil is heavy or light, if they have the moisture they have learned to depend upon; and the more moisture they have the less shade they require. They are greedy, liking rich soil, full of cow manure, compost, ashes, bone meal, most anything they can get except too much lime. Deep cultivation is appreciated.

At the first heavy frost the leaves die down, leaving a mass of rotting vegetation which should be removed as soon as possible. Slugs choose these places to lurk and plunder. Slug bait should be placed around and about to prevent the crowns from being eaten.

Some of the candelabras do not, by nature, cross easily with each other, but neither do some reproduce themselves true to type from seed, and when seed is sown many undesirable colors result. This can be avoided somewhat by collecting seeds from the center of a large planting where the bees are not as apt to bring pollen from beyond the edge of the group. It should be every gardener's solemn duty to dig up and burn every candelabra primula with muddy, dirty colors as soon as the blossom opens, otherwise the fine colors will be lost, and there will be only mediocre strains, neither worthy nor desirable. Seeds may be planted as soon as ripe, and, in a mild climate, seedlings will be ready to put in permanent situations early in the fall, or the seedlings may be wintered in cold frames and not set out until they have started growth in the spring.

Contrary to conventional treatment, candelabras should be divided in the early spring. Those with more than one crown should be separated and replanted, digging in fertilizer of one kind or another before replacing. Most of the candelabras give some fall bloom and in several species a mass of bloom is produced. This adds to their value and gives the garden a quantity of color unusual at this season.

**PRIMULA JAPONICA**

In 1850 the first _P. japonica_ was brought to England and it takes no great imagination to picture the furor when blossoms were first exhibited. It came from Japan, and it has since become an essential, component part of many gardens. The colors vary remarkably and Mr. Reginald Farrer's characteristic account of _P. japonica_ cannot be surpassed. "There are good golden-eyed forms and there are inferior white forms with blurred, weeping eyes, sore edged and conjunctivitis;—and superb forms of hot, clear scarlet-rose, like sun-lit blood, or salmon, suffused with tomato sauce." This description has many times bolstered my resolution when culling out the inferior plants in my planting. There are many forms frankly magenta, and for magenta haters these are absolutely taboo; there are many named varieties: Miller's crimson or scarlet, described as "brightest and richest of all"; _P. japonica_ Rose du Barri, a good, wild-rose pink; _P. japonica_ Postford White, whose seeds are supposed to come true. There is no reason why every grower of candelabrum cannot have his own favorite strain, by saving seeds of the best and diligently discarding all those that will possibly mar the color for which he is striving. It is a grand game and lends another interest to gardening.

_P. japonica_ does not make a practice of naturally crossing with other candelabras; however, from the variety of seedlings the best may be chosen and propagated vegetatively. Sir George Thursby is one selected as outstanding from a large planting. It is deep wine color with a distinguishing texture to the petals, and a luscious foliage.

_P. japonica_ is definitely easy and takes no more care than any good perennial. Water, much as one gives the border plants, good soil and a place where it gets some shade, suits up its desires, and the color lifts the general facial expression of the June garden more than any other plant I know.

There are many places where _P. japonica_ may be planted to make a picture so outstanding that it dominates the entire landscape. I have in mind a garden where there is a stream arranged in falls down a slope with _P. japonica_ planted "naturally" along both sides. Nothing else of consequence is allowed.
at just that season, to mark this beauty. Early in the morning or late in the afternoon, when the sun is low and shining through the blooms of gorgeous color on stems over three feet high, it is a stunning sight. Along a shady path with a deep green background of rhododendrons or memlocks is an advantageous location; not in a straight line, but with bays, letting the primulas run back into the trees or shrubbery. Another successful planting is in front of a wisteria vine, trained to cover a lattice or fence. The wisteria and the *P. japonica* bloom at the same time.

There is no excuse for dullness in the June garden as long as we have a place for *P. japonica*.

**Primula Pulverulenta**

It is a pleasant and an admittedly smug feeling to think that Mr. E. H. Wilson of the Arnold Arboretum discovered this grand plant. He tells how he found it “on the edge of cultivation” somewhere near the border between China and Tibet, a sturdy, luxuriant plant with flower stems three feet and more tall with blooms varying from pale pink to crimson. *P. pulverulenta* has the same manner of growth as *P. japonica*, long, mealy stems with flowers in whorls, in the candelabra fashion. The flowers are not so flauntingly ostentatious as *P. japonica* but are soft pinks and pale reds.

The arrival of *P. pulverulenta* probably did not make the original sensation of her sister *P. japonica*, but having proved such an important parent to hybridizers, the latter must take its place, not above, but still unquestionably near.

The typical *P. pulverulenta*, as Wilson introduced it, is rarely seen in gardens now; it has been changed and improved until, while it still retains its aristocratic style which dominates the blood of all its children, its color range is extended and its general countenance varies considerably.

No doubt the greatest improvement was made by Mr. G. M. Dalrymple, of the Bartley nurseries in England. He developed the Bartley strain, a pink variety whose seeds come fairly true. Lady Thursby, a beautiful salmon color, is considered the outstanding single variety in this strain, but all the Bartleys are exceedingly refined.

Another strain, developed in Ireland, called Lissadell Hybrids, a cross between *P. pulverulenta* and *P. cockburniana* has infused the yellow of *P. cockburniana* into the pink of *P. pulverulenta*, making splendid shades of brilliant orange with much red in some of the colors. Two distinct plants in the Lissadell strain are called Red Hugh, a brilliant Chinese red, and Aileen Aroon, a more subtle color. Neither of these consistently reproduce themselves exactly, so the seedlings must be watched and poor colors discarded before one’s planting becomes uninteresting. The Royal Morheim nurseries, in Holland, also have a charming strain, more delicate in growth and colors than the original pulverulentas, called Morheim Hybrids.

It is an absorbing diversion to hybridize with *P. pulverulenta*; there is always an amateur’s chance to get something outstanding, but it takes determination to throw out the poor colors as they come into bloom. Crosses of *P. pulverulenta* with *P. Beesiana*, *P. Bulleyana*, *P. Poissoni*, and *P. Cockburniana* are not difficult.

*P. pulverulenta* likes the same locations and diets as *P. japonica* and will do fairly well with less moisture. The amount of fertilizer, generally well-rotted cow manure, determines, to a great extent, the number of whorls of bloom and the height of the stems.

The foliage is large, leaves often twelve inches long, the individuality of the leaves changing with the different marriages it makes. A planting of two hundred or more assumes consequences in almost any situation, as the colors blend easily with other colors and no problem presents itself. Forget-me-nots through the beds of *P. pulverulenta* soften the austere growth, and ferns in groups, in the locations they both love, are perfect.

**Primula Burmanica**

Reddish purple, red purple, and crimson maroon, are only three of the descriptive colors given to *P. burmanica*. In spite of these elegant names it is definitely a strong brilliant magenta, a magnificent plant with lusty leaves, often a foot long, the blossoms carried in whorls, giving the same impression of opulence as the rest of the candelabra section. After the exhaustion of trying to make some primulas only endure your attentions it is a great comfort to find *P. burmanica* often flourishes under neglect. It does not mind some sun: it is indisputably a perennial; it seldom crosses with its neighbors and it is surprising how seldom it is seen in gardens. In cultivation it asks for little, much the same as the other members of the section. It produces seeds plentifully which germinate quickly, if planted as soon as ripe.

Mr. Kingdon Ward first brought *P. burmanica* from Burma with many of his fine importations.

Planted near a group of *P. sikkimensis* or *P. florindae*, with their soft yellow colors, *P. burmanica* is striking and gratifying. I have it planted near *P. helodoxa* and across the path from a group of Morheim hybrids, whose delicate colors need the strength of *P. burmanica*’s strong magenta to balance the planting.

**Primula Helodoxa**

Not only the “glory of the bog,” according to its descriptive name, *P. helodoxa* is the glory of the garden when placed where it is satisfied and therefore well grown. It ranks high in the list of important primulas and is invaluable, not only in a bog, but along the sides of a stream, at the edge of a shady pool, in damp woodland or anywhere small enough to let its beauty develop into its natural magnificence. At its best, stalls of bloom, four or five feet tall, carry whorls of yellow blooms that are not just yellow, but with a gleam, when the sun shines on them through the trees, unlike all the other yellow primulas. The whorls are somewhat farther apart than in many of the other species.

All primula enthusiasts owe Mr. George Forrest much gratitude for this grand plant which he and the late Mr. Kingdon Ward collected in Yunnan and Burma and introduced as recently as 1913.

Plenty of shade and plenty of food and moisture are all the requirements of *P. helodoxa*. The stalwart and deeply wrinkled leaves show that they require much water to develop them. The blooms, in June, near a group of *P. burmanica* or a planting of the deeper shades of *P. pulverulenta*, make different, but equally charming color combinations. Even the spell of *P. japonica* is enhanced with...
these soft yellow whorls growing near them, if the groups are kept by themselves and not mixed haphazardly.

*P. helodoxa* seldom crosses with other members of the candelabra group but Mr. Dalrymple has described an “orange-flowered *P. helodoxa*,” a cross between *P. Bulleyana* and *P. helodoxa*, also a “cream-colored *P. helodoxa*.” A hybrid, the result of a cross between *P. helodoxa* and *P. anisadore*, has also been reported. When well established, this beautiful giant may seed itself in the garden.

It is easily grown from seeds and it is not difficult to divide when large enough. The majority of the candelabras are deciduous plants, but *P. helodoxa* has the reputation of being sub-evergreen, one or two leaves sometimes remaining on the plant all winter.

The umbel is rather distinctive. It is composed of a dozen or more blooms, the lengths of the stems varying with each flower, making graceful, loose tassels.

**Primaula Bulleyana**

Mr. George Forrest introduced this fine primula to cultivation and named it for Mr. A. K. Bulley who made possible this particular voyage of discovery. Like many others, *P. Bulleyana* came from the primula heaven of Yunan, *P. Bulleyana* is a glorious plant; like *P. japonica* and *P. pulverulenta* in growth, it differs in color. It has the candelabra style of blossom but the buds of *P. Bulleyana* are a brilliant flame color and as the flower opens, the inside of the petals are a deep, strong, clear yellow. The upper whorls, with the flame-colored buds and the lower whorls, with the open yellow flowers are vivid and stunningly lovely. Members of the Candelabra tribe require great numbers blossoming at the same time to get the effect of brilliance and stateliness which is due them.

This is one of the finest species in the section and should be given every opportunity to do its best. If left with only seedlings, its small leaves, the whors growing farther apart and the blossom becoming smaller. It should be divided every second year or whenever the plants have made several crowns.

*P. Bulleyana* crosses readily with *P. pulverulenta* and all the rest of the candelabras, for which reason it is difficult to get seeds true to name if it is planted near others of the section. Care should be taken to keep it near those primulas which do not hybridize easily or to make large plantings where seeds from the center of the group may be collected. Then there should be very little danger of harvesting seeds which will not reproduce themselves fairly true to name.

The leaves are large, sometimes twelve inches long with a dark red mid-rib and the flower stem reaches well over three feet when at its best.

Cheerful under the same conditions its near relatives prefer, it appreciates an occasional feeding in spring and in late summer while making its roots. The big candelabras should have a feeding routine not unlike that furnished to any plant in the perennial border but as their flowering period is short, the helping need not be as generous as with plants which bloom all summer.

**Primaula Beesiana**

The firm of Messrs. Bees, Ltd., is the Godfather of *P. Beesiana* and Mr. George Forrest, again, is the plant collector who brought this member of the candelabra section from Asia. In itself it is not so valuable as many, for, to quote Mr. Farrer again, “it suggests a virulent magenta form of *P. japonica*.” Clear magentas do not offend me but *P. Beesiana*, in its original form, is a hueless shade, not luminous and sparkling. However, some of its children are so beautiful one can forget the shortcomings of the parent.

The Asthorpe seedlings, a charming strain, are the progeny of *P. Bulleyana* and *P. Beesiana*. The lovely variety *Edina*, also a cross between *P. Bulleyana* and *P. Beesiana*, is a bright cherry color, produced by the Royal Botanic Gardens at Edinburgh. *P. Edina*, practically come true to name. A sizable planting of this treasure along a shady walk is not met often, but it is a marvelous addition to a primula garden.

The cultivation of *P. Beesiana* is simple. It should be given cool, rich soil in half shade with moisture enough. It is not difficult to know when there is moisture enough, as the foliage quickly shows by its quality and quantity if it is suffering. *P. Beesiana* is rather gross in growth, not to the extent that it is vulgar, but it does not have the refinement of many others of the family. It blooms in June and July.

**Primaula Cockburniana**

A smaller member of the group, but with such a wonderful color that *P. Cockburniana* must necessarily be included in every collection of Asiatic primulas.

Again, this is an introduction of Mr. E. H. Wilson's and it was named for Mr. Cockburn, who pronounced his name, not as it is spelled, but as if it were spelled Co-burn. Mr. Wilson relates in his "China, Mother of Gardens" that he first saw this treasure in a deep ravine through which rushed mountain streams.

Only about a foot high, with whors of blooms nicely poised along the stem, it has an almost indescribable color—yellow, but with a red-gold tinge that makes it more orange, more brilliant and translucent.

Unfortunately it is one of those primulas which never seem to be able to live after the effort of blossoming. Seeds are set in profusion but only now and then a plant, much to one's surprise, lives for another year. One of the growers on Vancouver Island finds it lives longer if divided immediately after flowering, and even if it does not need dividing it should be taken up and moved to another location. I always keep a place for it in the Asiatic primula path, along an old fallen log covered with the native licorice fern. Occasionally it self-sows its seeds, but unless it is treated as a biennial, the space often lacks an occupant.

Its magnificent color has intrigued hybridizers and these resulting children seem more content. Aileen Aroon is a hybrid between *P. Cockburniana* and *P. pulverulenta*; her color is a combination of the scarlet of *P. pulverulenta* and the yellow of *P. Cockburniana*, an intense, vibrant shade.

*P. Cockburniana* blooms with the others of the tribe in June, but insists, more than some, upon perfect drainage, half shade and the rich, moist soil demanded by all the candelabras. The extra work to keep it in the garden is more than repaid by its beauty.

**Primaula Chunogensis**

A recent arrival from Tibet, *P. chunogensis* is fast gaining many friends and will serve a definite purpose in primula

1963 Winter Quarterly
garden. It has been called a “perennial P. Cockburniana” and that reputation alone is enough to gain an entrance, but after arriving, being agreeable and asking for few favors, it is sure to remain, a welcome member to the Asiatic group. To my mind it will never take the place of P. Cockburniana, nothing ever could, but it is much the same color and, to the casual observer, they seem alike. The color is yellow with the reverse sides of the petals a scarlet shade, nevertheless the whole stem does not have the full, vigorous excellence of P. Cockburniana. I have P. changensis planted near P. Bulleyana; the colors are similar and P. changensis blooms in May and June, a little earlier than P. Bulleyana.

The plant is robust, neat and upstanding with clear green wrinkled leaves, finely toothed and about six inches long. The flowers grow twelve or sixteen inches high and have a delicate fragrance.

P. changensis, with its Chinese name, comes from the Chung valley in Yunnan, but appreciates its home in the western world, never worrying about its environment. One year I planted some seedlings near a big shrub of Spirea arguta. Later the shrub was removed, letting the sun cake the soil where the seedlings had remained, forgotten. While they did not flourish in this unseasonably situation, they lived, and when transplanted to a cool, misty shado spot they went on growing as if nothing had happened.

They set seeds generously, even seeding themselves, and as with the other candelabras, should be divided, when necessary, early in the spring.

**Primula Poissonii**

Three species, P. Poissonii, with subspecies P. Wilsonii and P. glycyosma are so nearly alike that there is a question whether the names are correctly placed. From the amateur’s point of view, they serve the same purpose, except that P. glycyosma blossoms rather later than the others, extending the primula season. The latter also possesses the added attribute of sweet smelling leaves, as its name suggests.

Mr. Reginald Farrer explains the differences of two of them in his unforgettable style. Of P. Poissonii he says, “there is something cold and clammy about the whole plant; the flowers are of an acid and chilly magenta and the flopping smooth leaves, with their pallid mid-ribs are flaccid and as unpleasant as a corpse’s fingers,” but P. glycyosma “exhales a sweetness as delicious as the lives of the saints.” With all respect to Mr. Farrer’s unflattering description of P. Poissonii, some clear purple shades are frequently produced from seedlings and all, or any one of them, while not indispensable, add an interest to the group of candelabra primulas. I have only P. Poissonii, one small planting, near a drift of P. Florindae, where it blooms in August. This late blooming is, in itself, a valuable addition to its questionable charms.

P. Poissonii came originally from high in the mountains of Yunnan and Mr. Delaya, who has enriched our gardens with outstanding plants of other families, introduced it in 1890. In the original habitat of these three primulas, there are distinct differences in their characteristics but cultivation, apparently, has modified all three enough to make them closely resemble each other. Not only these, but many more of the primula tribe change with the good living in a garden.

P. Poissonii, P. glycyosma and P. Wilsonii (named for Mr. E. H. Wilson), all about eighteen inches high, like very much the same treatment and location accorded P. japonica. A little more sun or a little more moisture than is accorded to the general run of candelabras is appreciated.

**Primula Aurantiaca**

The name aurantiaca, meaning golden or orange, may not be exactly descriptive. The blooms, growing in two or three whorls closely spaced, have more tenderness than the words golden or orange suggest. There is an extra pig-

P. microdonta is one of the “easiest”: for this we may be thankful. It may not have the magnificence of P. Florindae, neither may it have the delicate feeling that P. sikkimensis imparts; it is between the two, sometimes as tall as P. Florindae, but with a one-sided umbel of two tiers, gracefully poised on a tall stem and covered with white meal to enhance its beauty.

Under most conditions P. microdonta is a hardy perennial, a deciduous species that grows in ordinary perennial border conditions in the average garden where it can have plenty of moisture. It forms a rosette of almost smooth leaves, rather leather-like in texture; long, oval blades from two to nine inches long. It blooms somewhat later than many primulas, in July and August. In the path of Asiatic primulas, it makes long thin drifts with very telling effects and it also makes a tall background for P. capitata or P. Mooreana.

P. microdonta is one of Mr. Kingdon Ward’s finds, high on the mountain sides in Southeast Tibet. The name, microdonta, meaning toothed, probably refers to the notches in the lobes of the corolla.

P. microdonta, var. alpicola differs from the species P. microdonta in its color, being a deeper yellow, and the plant is smaller, seldom reaching more than eighteen inches. It blooms in June, sending up fragrant flowers with much white powder in the throat of each.

P. microdonta, var. violacea, is equally lovely but with an unusual, deep violet color more blue than purple. These nodding, sweet-scented blossoms droop and fade in full sun, but in half-shade, in a deeply cultivated moist soil (more or less boggy conditions) it is perfectly hardy, a true perennial, blooming in June.

P. microdonta, with the two varieties, make a stunning group with not less than thirty or so plants of the yellow kinds and fewer of the P. microdonta var. violacea, carefully placed.
PRIMULA ANISODORA

The fragrance of anise seed, which is supposed to be an attribute of P. anisodora (this supposition has given it its name) has always eluded me. Fragrance is sought in every garden and there may be plants of P. anisodora that possess this quality or it would never have received its name nor been included in the plantings of many gardens because the flowers of P. anisodora are more interesting than beautiful. The flower buds are almost black, shining like little buttons, in whorls around the stem. As they open the color becomes a deep wine red with purple shining through, entirely without the magneta feeling so often objectionable.

The drooping flowers, blooming in May and June and in July are not striking but the yellow eye lightens the somberness of the color and a large group planted near P. sikkimensis, which begins to bloom before P. anisodora is gone, helps to make a picture. The stems are often from twelve to sixteen inches high, therefore the plants should be planted in front of P. sikkimensis.

P. anisodora was raised from seed which Mr. George Forrest sent to England in 1918 and it has not been received with any great enthusiasm although some collectors think it rare and outstanding. Very little has been done with it. One cross has been reported between it and P. kelodoxa, a "pinkish apricot" shade.

It should be treated as a biennial, raising it from seed each year, as it has a strong tendency to die after producing seeds. It grows best in a damp, shady spot but hates our open wet winters and seldom survives them. It is one of the primulas which, perhaps for lack of space, I could relinquish with no great grief.

CANDELABRA HYBRIDS

Hybrids of the candelabra section are constantly appearing, two of which are too lovely to omit from this list. One named Tango, a choice seedling which originally appeared in a planting of Asiatic primulas, is exceptional. The color is reminiscent of a tangerine shade with an indescribable delicacy. Another, Tyee, was named because of its resemblance in color to the flesh of salmon. (Tyee being the Indian name for salmon.) Both of these I saw blooming in masses in November at the edge of a thin woodland. Neither variety sets seeds.

The grower of Asiatic primulas with a collecting propensity has many opportunities to find outstanding hybrids.

My path of Asiatic primulas, approximately a hundred feet long, winds through the woods, the direction indicated by the fallen logs that have been there so many years they are entirely overgrown with ferns, our native salal, and mosses. Ferns were first planted in the bays that naturally presented themselves when the clearing away of underbrush was finished. Species rhododendrons are placed at intervals and the natural planting of dogwoods lighten the aspect of the shadows made by the Douglas firs and yew trees. Where the path begins it is edged with P. rosea; and on the right, the Moerheim hybrids grow with a background of wood ferns and red huckleberry on an old log. Across the path is a long stretch of P. denticulata and behind them P. burmanica and P. kelodoxa. The Bartley hybrids follow along on the left and on the right, P. Littoniana and P. sikkimensis with P. pulverulenta in a bay with ferns and a small tree of Prunus Blireiana at the outer edge. Here, at the turn of the path around a huge Douglas fir tree there is a group of P. Florindae, with a few P. Poissoneii and then Red Hugh across from a thin planting of P. chungensis, backed with a log covered with licorice fern. From here the path is dominated by P. pulserulenta, P. japonica, with sword ferns, maiden hair and ostrich ferns separating the primula varieties to a certain degree. At the far end the path emerges under the spreading branches of a winter-flowering cherry into a cross path dominated by maples and hemlocks.

The planting of this path changes somewhat every year, as my tastes change, as plants fail to survive the winter, and as I grow new seedlings of other or better varieties. Now a place must soon be made for P. aurantiaca, some new P. Bulleyanas and P. luteola and some white P. japonicas.

The polyanthas have nearly gone when this path begins to bloom. Interest shifts immediately from European primulas to Asiatic primulas and the season of bloom is continued far into June.

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Garden Auricula .................. 1.00 pkt.
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Selected Yellow Garden Auricula 1.50 pkt.
Other members of the Primulaceae

DORETTA KLABER, Quakertown, Pa.

Flowers, like people, have some queer relatives. The Primula Family includes a number of other genera: Anagallis, Androsace, Cortusa, Cyclamen, Dodecatheon, Douglasia, Lysimachia and Soldanella. It is hard to believe by looking at them that Cyclamen, Dodecatheon (Shooting-star) and Soldanella belong to the same family as primroses, not to mention weeds, Scarlet Pimpernel (Anagallis) and Creeping Charlie (Lysimachia). More plausible to me are the close relatives Androsace, Douglasia and Cortusa.

The latter came up from seed in force last spring, but "something's been eating my porridge" and I'm afraid they won't survive. The leaves are very close to the cortusoides section of primroses. I have 't had any luck yet with Douglasia or Soldanella, which have come up from seed but then disappeared. Of course I shall keep on trying when I can get seeds again, for they are high on my list of "most wanted". The Scarlet Pimpernel jumps up all over the place, and I leave it where it's not in the way, for its bright coral flowers add to the gayety of scene. Luckily Creeping Charlie has avoided this garden so far, though the glossy leaves and golden flowers are attractive.

My success story starts with Androsace. For years A. sarmentosa grew very slowly, and I carefully removed each runner with its rosette of leaves and grew them as cuttings. Then I received a packet of seeds marked "A. sarmentosa, mixed". That did it. Now their silvery rosettes run madly about, surmounted by their clusters of charming pink flowers on 2 to 4 inch stems. They make a delightful groundcover, differing greatly in appearance in winter from that of the rest of the year.

Other members of this group have not as yet spread so fast. A. sempervivoidees has small formal green rosettes and flowers on shorter stems. It will in time spread into a big mat surmounted by its sweet pink flowers. The A. carneae group makes almost spiny little rosettes with very short stemmed pink or white flowers and increases slowly—a choice morsel. Another androsace is A. spinulifera or "new species" depending on where you get the seed. It starts out looking much like A. sarmentosa, but the leaves surrounding the grey rosettes become 4 to 6 inches high and the flower stems rise to 8 to 10 inches. These are topped by an exploding head of white flowers with a red reverse to the petals, so that the buds look red. It does not run, but gradually increases into big clumps of its slightly hairy clustered leaves. It is not quite as appealing as the smaller androsaces but has a character of its own.

The Shooting-stars (Dodecatheons) like it here. The seeds are planted in winter in coldframes and invariably come up in late spring. A few small pointed leaves are all you see until late summer when they die down to a tiny bud with roots attached. These little spidery things, planted at the edge of the woods in a well-drained position, come up the following spring, make a nice cluster of narrow leaves which are surmounted by their bright pink flowers. The ones I grow: DD Amethystinum, tetrandrum, pauciflorum, etc. are perfectly delightful. In late summer they again die down to a small bud which proves perennial.

I've grown the hardy cyclamen for years and always have some flowers though they haven't ramped as they seem to in some gardens. Their foliage is so interesting that one forgives them their sparse flowering. Perhaps I have them
Androsace Sarmentosa. Winter appearance shown below.

in too much shade, for sun certainly increases flowering in most plants. In the summer, 1961 Quarterly I showed Cyclamen Europeum. I think it might interest those not familiar with these plants to illustrate C. Neapolitanum now. C. Europeum blooms a bit earlier (both flower in late summer and fall), is fragrant, and has rounded marbled leaves. C. Neapolitanum is considered the hardiest of all and where suited will seed around and increase rapidly. The best planting of it I ever saw was on a wooded hillside where the groundcover of ivy protected the seedlings of the cyclamen, so that the two plants made an interwoven pattern. C. coum is a winter or spring blooming species and the only one without marbling on the leaves. Its rounded glossy dark green leaves are attractive nevertheless. The only other one I've grown is C. ciliicum which in my garden was a tiny beauty, though it is spoken of as larger than C. Europeum.

All these members of the primulaceae can stand conditions similar to those we give our primroses... that is they thrive in good soil in semi-shade with good drainage. Androsaces are planted here in the rock-garden, which means gritty soil with a top-dressing of stone chips, but I believe at least A. sarmentosa would grow just as well without this coddling.

1963 Spring Primrose Shows  
(not all dates have been set)

Oregon Primrose Soc. ...................... April 13, 14 (Milwaukie, Oregon)
East Side Garden Club ....................... April 19, 20, 19 (Kirkland Wn.)
Mt. Angel Primrose Soc. ................... April 21 (Mt. Angel, Oregon)
Canadian Primula & Alpine Soc. .......... April 26, 27 (Vancouver, B. C.)
Washington State Primrose Soc. NATIONAL SHOW (Auricula) ................ May 4, 5 (Seattle, Wn.)

Nominations for 1963 A. P. S. Officers

President .................................. Mr. Ralph Balcom, Seattle, Wn.
Vice President ............................. Mrs. Orval Agee, Milwaukie, Oregon
Treasurer .................................. Mrs. L. G. Tait, Bothell, Wn.
Recording Secretary ...................... Mrs. John Siepman, Bellevue, Wn.
Corresponding Secretary ................. Mrs. Alice Hills Baylor, Johnson, Vt.
Board Member ............................ Mr. Albert Funkner, Boring, Oregon
Board Member ............................ Mr. Cyrus Happy III, Tacoma, Wn.

If you wish to vote please mail your ballot before April 15 to Mrs. Mary E. Zack, 4825 N.W. Bailey, Portland 9, Oregon. Voting will take place at the National Show Banquet in May.
Golden Girl . . .
First American Named Show Alpine Auricula

Cyrus Happy III of Tacoma, Washington has registered this Gold Center Alpine Auricula with the official S. A. F. A. Chairman according to the rules adopted for naming of American Auriculas. (See Vol. XX, no. 3).

This is the second auricula to be officially named in America, the first being a white edge presented by John Shuman and named Frank Michaud.

A description follows:
Name: Golden Girl, first bloomed: 1958
Variety: Gold Center Alpine. Existing Offsets: 6
Original Grower: Cyrus Happy, Cross: unknown. Tube: Gold
Anthers: Dense, curving evenly inward covering stigma.

Paste or Center: Round, and good proportions, cut sharply joining body color.

Body Color or Color: Rich, brilliant mahogany, good shading to gold

Pip: Round outline, flat, no notches. 7 petals of equal size. Center and body color in proportion to tube.

Stem & Footstalks: Good stem & footstalks slightly long.

Total points 95

Describe Leaves: Spathulate, margins wavy but entire apex obtuse.

Defects: Anthers slightly recessed. Footstalk a bit long.
RULES GOVERNING DISTRIBUTION

Members may select twenty varieties for $1.00, stamps, currency, or check.
An equal number of second choice should be included. No refunds or credits where insufficient second choice has been named to permit sending the total number of packets requested. Seeds will be sent via third class mail. Members desiring special handling should include for air mail, eleven cents for each twenty packets; thirty cents for special delivery, regardless of quantity; seven cents for first class, for each twenty packets. The Exchange closes March 1, 1963. Orders should be received before that date. If an addendum listing is necessary by reason of seeds received too late for list No. 1, same may be had by requesting it on your order. Make checks payable to:

ELMER C. BALDWIN
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SYRACUSE 10, N.Y.

List in numerical order.

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REMARKS
New British Membership Chairman

We are pleased to announce that Mrs. Gwendolyn M. Hawkes has kindly consented to be British Membership Chairman. Her address is “Brown Roof,” Stapeley, Nantwich, England.

The wife of our British Research Editor, Captain C. Hawkes, Mrs. Hawkes shares the Captain’s enthusiasm for choice plants and flower shows. She en-

To Overseas Members...

Quarterly subscriptions are just one pound a year. A Bank Note, Postal Order, or a pound note can be mailed directly to A. P. S. Treasurer, Mrs. L. C. Tuit, 14015 84th Ave. N.E., Bothell, Washington. There is no longer any difficulty in sending such a small amount overseas.

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Kirkland, Washington

Page 27

AMERICAN PRIMROSE SOCIETY
The Spell of the Auricula

JOHN SHUMAN, Seattle, Washington.

The Auricula in its present form is one of the world's most beautiful flowers. The prestige and history connected with these plants is a long, long story. Very rare in nature and scarce by virtue of their high state of perfection Auriculas of quality are highly prized and tightly held by their owners. They represent hundreds of years of effort by some of the world's most famous florists who were dedicated to the purpose of trying to produce the "Perfect Auricula."

Dating back about 100 years from the time they were first shown and qualified for a name many fine Auriculas have been produced and some are still in existence. The English have brought this flower to its high state of perfection and have produced many named plants. We in America now have access to owning these fine specimens and also to participate in the fascinating game of developing the Perfect Auricula. At present my plants now attain 90 percent of perfection as required by the seemingly impossible point scores given this flower some 150 years ago.

As Americans acquire these plants they should be mindful of the effort and the spirit of the effort that has gone on before. The old Florists were always striving for improvement and had only perfection in mind. Some spent their whole lives growing Auriculas as a hobby without great success—others achieved success more easily, and so it will be with the American growers.

The ideal American grower should be one who likes something different; something that everyone else does not have or can easily get. His attitude should be to improve on the present plants of high quality. To do this is anyone's secret, Auriculas have a mind of their own. They will bloom well one year and very little the next—or maybe not at all. The type of soil used is everyone's secret and will show results at blooming time.

It is a great thrill to watch new seedlings from your own crosses bloom for the first time and, although "everyone's kids look the best to them" we all are very mindful of how the judges will see the plants on show day. To get a plant in full bloom on show day and to win over other friendly enemy competitors is very satisfying.

To produce a new plant and qualify it for naming is a long process and this writer's goal, much the same as others. It's all very interesting, some hard work and much pleasure and satisfaction in having a fine collection of good Auriculas. I predict that in the years to come American growers will produce as good (and maybe better) Auriculas as have our English friends. It's a challenge and an interesting hobby for those who have everything or nothing. The twelve years that I have been growing Auriculas have been happy years and I invite all readers of my article to look into Auriculas as a hobby and, if possible, capture the "Spell of the Auricula."

My Visit To The Northwest

ALICE HILLS BAYLOR, Johnson, Vermont

(Part I appeared in Fall Quarterly)

The board meeting of the APS was called by our President, Herbert Dickson, on Saturday, August the 11th. It was with soaring spirits that Beth Tait drove Nancy Ford, Grace Conboy and me to Portland that glorious day with Mt. Rainier snow capped in the distance.

Meeting the members with whom I had corresponded and whose writings I had enjoyed for so many years proved that personalities overflow into the written word, for without introductions, I knew many on sight, I was greeted with such warmth that I felt at once I was meeting with old friends.

We had the rare privilege the next morning of visiting Mrs. A. C. U. Berry in her garden. Rhododendrons flank the drive and fringe many many peeling lawns. Mrs. Berry led us to the rear of her house up a gentle rise which takes one into the realm of alpines. Rare Primulas, Gentians, Androsaces, Lewisias, Campanulas and many more are grown in raised areas held by sturdy logs. The combination of moisture holding logs and drainage due to the slope of the entire garden makes these beds a perfect home for choice plants. I soon forgot to take notes as I so eagerly listened to Mrs. Berry tell of her experiences. She is still an ardent collector. She was so gracious and generous for we all left with gift plants and her P. Rosea, Gentiana acaulis, tiny bulbs of Rhodohypoxis and seedling P Reidi x Williamss are now happy in my garden.

We had lunch with Ivy and Orval Agee and inspected their greenhouse where Show Auriculas and species Primulas are grown. The naturalness of their garden has charm as the paths wind among fruit trees where Primroses are planted as edgings and in masses in deep beds. I should like to have stayed longer to see more of Orval's fine pictures but other gardens were on our list for the day.

The hanging baskets of striking Fuchsias in the lath house of Bob Funkner enticed me with their sheer beauty. Some appeared as colorful Ballerinas, others like jeweled ear-drops.

The extensive gardens of Walter Marx (just across the street from Funkner's) were ablaze with color. Tall Delphiniums accentured Auratum Lilies, Japanese Iris complimented soft shades of Hemerocallis and Heathers from brightest hues to lavenders edged the paths.

We were fortunate to visit Mr. de Groof and have this famous hybridizer take us through his glass houses where Lilies in pots held little metal caps over seedlings to create new colors and hybrids. In the trial gardens were beds of huge size and unusual colors. One of raspberry tones was the most beautiful I have ever seen.

Hazel and Floyd Keller drove Grace Conboy, Dorothy Dickson and me back to their home in Tacoma where we had a delicious supper. In their greenhouse were Orchids and more lovely Fuchsias and in the gardens were summer flowering perennials. We were joined there by Wilbur Graves who drove back to Seattle with us.

Monday morning we were at home with our hostess and for the first time since our arrival we had time to spend in Nancy Ford's garden and greenhouse. The Ford home grounds is enclosed by an attractive 6 foot fence behind which is a jewel of a garden where plant treasures are growing encased as in a frame. Their home is built on a hill above Portage Bay and several levels of gardens have been created by steps and terraces. The greenhouse is on the third level at the far end of the terrace from the steps. Raised beds for double Auriculas are on either side of the joining path. Nancy's
Show and other double auriculas are propagated in the cold greenhouse and a screenhouse. Rows of seedlings in pots are marked with tags showing crosses made with some of her best plants.

The lower level is moist for the lake makes a high water table. Here primroses grow lush and lovely. She grows many species primula directly in the ground rather than in pots as she finds they do best that way.

It was to be my privilege to spend many more hours in Nancy's garden but this was the last full day Grace Conboy would be with us so garden visiting was planned.

We drove over the floating bridge to Merced Island, a lovely residential area of beautiful homes and gardens. Lake Washington could be viewed through century old trees as we drove to the naturalistic garden of Mrs. John Minor Blackford. We had tried to call Mrs. Blackford before leaving home but, when we could not get an answer, had decided to go hoping that we would find her out working in her garden. We wandered through the many secluded paths calling her name but unfortunately she was not to be found. The house is sheltered by large trees, the wide lawn sweeps in a gradual slope towards the lake. Rhododendrons bank the paths that curve into the woodland and are edged with choice rock garden plants, Primroses and ferns. Benches are hidden along the paths to give an opportunity to reflect on the surrounding beauty.

The evenings in Washington State are delightful and to visit George Schenk during the time when shadows are lengthening, with the snow capped Mt. Rainier in the distance, was breathtaking. One felt, while walking on the paths flanked by wind bent conifers on his rock strewn hillside, as if one were truly near timber line. Crevice plants thread delicate stems between boulders. Mats of varied colored foliage carpet the scree. Dianthus, Campanulas, Gentians, Erodiums, Androsaces, Potentillas and many varieties of Thyme blend to give this garden a feeling of a true mountain side. Saxifragas give accent, Ericas and dwarf evergreens feather softness. George has brought a bit of alpine glory to those who cannot climb the heights.

We visited Beth Tait's garden at dusk with her perennial border giving summer color and her lath house showing husky poyanthus being readied for next spring's bloom. Fragrance hung in the cool air and we would have liked exploring farther into the dark night recesses of her garden.

Tuesday morning Nancy and I called on Mrs. Grace Dowling who has contributed so richly to our Quarterly with her manuscript "Concerning Primulas." With animation and inspiration she told us of her experiences in growing and collecting Primroses for her garden. We walked on the grounds of the Bayview Manor where she now makes her home. She told of the plans for a terrace of Primroses which has since been planted by Mr. Ralph Balcom and our editor.

We dined at the Wharf, a well-known seafood restaurant, where we had the pleasure of watching the fleet of fishing boats moored nearby. Later we visited the Government Locks and the extensive grounds there landscaped by Mr. Carl English, well-known horticulturist and collector of rare plants.

The visit to the garden of Ralph Balcom who has done so much to develop the double auriculas was a treat indeed. The plants which he hybridizes are, for the most part, in pots in his greenhouse; the seedlings in lath sheltered frames cleverly built to allow free circulation of air during the summer. All plants are marked with the cross numbers when recorded in his annual. This in itself is a most meticulous task as the records must be kept for years. This project was begun in 1953 when he found the first natural double in the auricula seedling bed. Since then hundreds of crosses — or so it seemed when he showed me the records — have been made. Great care, patience and knowledge must be exercised by one who wished to perfect a strain which will reproduce itself true from seed. There were a few of these plants in bloom and they are truly lovely.

I went with Anne Siepmann to visit the garden of Mr. and Mrs. Anton Schwarz and saw beautiful evergreens, Heathers and a most remarkable wild flower garden with a collection of interesting and unusual ferns. Their greenhouses held flats of dwarf evergreens which they are propagating; the areas adjoining were planted to hundreds of Primroses protected by lath screens. The wild flower garden took one down many steep levels on a winding path. In nooks and in masses beneath the trees were many varieties of Ivy used as ground cover.

The evening Nancy and I were invited to spend with our President Herbert Dickson and his charming wife Dorothy was a memorable one. To describe the many plants, deciduous, coniferous and herbaceous that are grown by them would take more space than can be allotted here. His nursery abounds with a wealth of plant material, many grown in large containers to facilitate transplanting. The vigor and health of the plants showed the attention given to the soil. Their Primroses are grown in raised beds sheltered by fruit trees, each type to a given area. Beyond in open fields are large plantings of Iris, Hemerocallis, Gladiolus, Dahlia, etc. These flowers are used by Dorothy whose specialty is making floral arrangements, corsages and wedding bouquets. (I wore a lovely corsage home which she had made for me from an orchid from the Floyd Keller greenhouse).

One of the Dickson greenhouses is filled with potted Show Auriculas in perfect condition with the promise of lovely flowers to come. The larger greenhouse holds dwarf evergreens and I found their varied foliage and forms fascinating. After our tour of their entire grounds I felt as though I should repeat the trip to establish in my mind the entirety. This was not possible as a tempting picnic table was spread in the garden around which we gathered. Rosetta and Allan Jones joined us for a delightful evening of conversation.

The members of the Washington State Primrose Society held a picnic at the home of Hazel Johnstone on the last day of my stay in Seattle. There I had the opportunity of meeting the enthusiastic group that puts on such a fine Primrose show each year. After visiting with them I could well understand the reason for their success. I was greatly impressed with the beautiful trees in the Johnstone's home grounds; the setting of the large swimming pool which reflects the conifers banked on the far side and the use of stone retaining walls planted with trailing shrubs and plants. Beneath the spreading branches of an enormous tree tables were set and spread with tempting dishes which proved that gardeners are also wonderful cooks. It was a delightful occasion.

The contacts made, the friendships cemented and the inspiration gained from my trip are life long in endurance. Names now bring a flash of personality and also register in my mind's eye a choice planting to be cherished and enjoyed in the future. May I again say "Thank you" to each one of you who contributed so richly to the happy time I spent in your beautiful Northwest states.

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**AMERICAN PRIMROSE SOCIETY**

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**BLUE WHALE we recommend it**

**PACIFIC NORTHWEST NURSERY**

11071 N.E. 8th, Bellevue, Wash.
GL 4-7173
Dear Mrs. Ford:

Perhaps my experience will encourage other amateur gardeners who have become discouraged from numerous failures in growing primroses. In the old days, my own failures were much more common than the successes.

It has seemed to me that in some ways the different varieties of flowers resemble human beings in temperament. Primroses make me think of the Scottish and north of England folk with whom I am acquainted. They put up with a great deal and react very quickly to illtreatment (they sicken and often die.) They don't like coddling nor being “fussed over.” Undoubtedly there are rare varieties that are temperamental, but the wide variety of the older primroses with which many of us love to crowd our garden seem to me to be like simple, friendly folk.

I have just a few rules. I cannot use a fertilizer around my plants—they are growing so close together, massed under and in front of flowering shrubs. Instead I use a liquid fertilizer whenever I think they require it. I have found that my own varieties seem to prefer a slightly acid soil. Therefore I never use any lime in the sections of our garden where they are growing. (We have many trees, and most of our garden must be limed at least every second year.) I use a fungicide when I see brown spots on the leaves, and I cut away the large leaves that rest on the ground when they begin to yellow. I watch for slugs, and drop slug bait around under the leaves when it is required. If I notice that some insect is eating the leaves, I use the gun that I use on potatoes—to destroy the cabbage worm—dusting the plants lightly with the white powder. I do this only before they bloom and after they are through blooming.

Our summers are hot and come quickly. I don't divide my plants right after they bloom—the hot weather arrives before they have taken hold. Instead, I divide any plants that seem crowded and look as if they would not bloom early in the spring. Ones that bloom and seem to need dividing, I divide at the end of the summer, but not too late.

The temperature where we live goes to 30 degrees below zero, but snow usually falls by the end of October, and remains until late March or early April. Drifts rise to a height of 6 feet. We have many trees, therefore I do not have to mulch the primroses. The leaves take care of this. Most of the leaves are raked off carefully early in the spring to avoid danger of smothering. The final leaves are not cleared off until May, when the earliest plants start to bloom. So far as I have been able to discover, I have never had a plant winter-killed.

I divide my plants every second or third year. I find that some require dividing more frequently than others. I am endeavoring to classify my plants (not very successfully) as they have all been grown from seed of a wide variety obtained from England and Europe more than 20 years ago. I have varieties that run from 6 to 16 inches, with the Japanese varieties growing as tall as 2 feet. I now have varieties of the latter in shades from slightly off white to deep red and rose. They are very lovely. I carpet beneath them with pale pink and two shades of blue forget-me-nots (Victoria) the seed of which I buy in England.

I always “run on” much more than I intend, when I get on the subject of my favorite flower.

Sincerely, Brodie (Mrs. E. E.) Firth

15021 Auburndale Avenue
Livonia, Michigan
November 20, 1962

Dear Mrs. Ford:

Thanks so much for sending the cultural chart so promptly. This is exactly the sort of information we need, so that we can avoid some of the pitfalls we have encountered in the past, and at least try to furnish conditions to the liking of some of the species.

We have been growing primulas for about ten years, and have been very successful with polyanthus, as well as a number of the species. For some unknown reason we seem to get better results from English polyanthus seed than from the several American varieties we have tried. Normally, our climate is not too severe, since we almost never have terrific storms, extremely high winds, or hail. Perhaps the greatest difficulty is we cannot count on winter getting cold and then staying cold, but sometimes have quite warm days, even in January and February.

This year was really a bad one for primulas. We lost several hundred seedlings which were left in cold frames for the winter, but which, alas, were not covered. After some below zero weather and a fair amount of snow early in the winter, we had several warm days in January, then another thaw in February. The ground remained frozen, but water stood on the crowns of our poor seedlings, completely ruining almost every one. Then, during the spring, we had almost no rain, and to top things off, a week of ninety-degree weather early in May. As a result, everything bloomed too soon or not at all. Don't recall ever having such hot weather during the rest of the summer, but of course the damage had been done. We have had quite an open fall this year with plenty of rain, and I think there are about as many polyanthus in bloom now as there were during the so-called spring.

Unfortunately, we have had so many gardening interests in the past that we haven't kept adequate written records on primulas or anything else. We are trying to remedy this now that our primary interest has become rock gardening. We planted several strains of polyanthus this year, as well as chrysanthemums, more lutea, denticulata alba, Halleri, rosea, saxatilis, more japonica, and probably some others which I don't recall at the moment. The seedlings look fine and have been protected for the winter this year, so we have high hopes.

Like Mrs. Jackson ("Doings of An Amateur" in the fall quarterly), we grew a number of fine digitalis plants as Florindiae Walonlif a few years ago. Ours were set out under the dogwoods where they grew and grew and self-seeded and self-seeded. Even this year we yanked out volunteers by the dozen.

We noted Mr. Baldwin's comments on seed exchanges in the fall quarterly. Personally, we feel that seed secured from the various exchanges should be planted on a purely experimental basis. If we are pretty sure of success we will try to buy seed, although this is not always possible—especially in this country. At any rate, we certainly hope A.P.S. will not discontinue its seed exchange.

Thanks, again, for the chart, and for your very nice letter.

Sincerely,

Robert Coplerud

From Other Magazines

The Professional Gardener reports a new type fluorescent lamp made by Westminster that has been especially designed to stimulate plant growth. This new tube emits most of its light in the wave lengths which plants require for healthy growth. The new Plant-Gro lamps may be used to speed seed germination, produce stronger seedlings, increase the ability of cuttings from plants to form roots, and to accelerate normal plant growth.

These new lamps are expected to be useful in growth chambers where vegetation can be grown without the use of sunlight. They will be available in a 2-ft. 20-watt lamp expected to list for $2.20 and a 4-ft. 40-watt lamp for $2.35. They are interchangeable with regular fluorescent lamps and use the same fixtures and ballasts.

From The Canadian Primula and Alpine Soc. magazine: Executive Board members have decided that none of...
them is growing and using enough of the many good Primula species. Specimens of these are to be brought to the club Parlor Shows with accompanying talks as to the procedure followed.

The Horticulture Newsletter comments that "there is still discussion about the manner in which roots grow in a clay pot and how differently they act in a plastic pot. It has been often concluded that oxygen available through the porous clay wall causes roots to grow out and along the outside of the soil ball and next to the clay pot wall. Recent tests, however, appear to indicate that root growth extends directly downward in clay pots until the bottom of the pot stops the roots and then they spread out along the side of the soil ball. Both clay and plastic pots are satisfactory for plant growth but it is necessary to recognize the difference in handling the plant. Drainage, watering and fertilizing are all quite different in a plastic pot."

In growing primulas in plastic pots it is a temptation to overwater. If you are in doubt about the need of water just turn the plant out and observe the moisture content of the soil. During cold weather the evaporation is almost nil in a plastic pot.

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Onondaga Primrose Society Meetings in 1963

Dr. Raymond F. Piper, president of the Onondaga Primrose Society of Syracuse, N.Y., has sent the following list of meeting dates. The October meeting held at the home of Ben and Mina Hoag featured "Native Flowers of New York State" with colored slides by Dr. Mildred E. Faust, Prof. of Botany at Syracuse State University. "Primrose Culture" with slides by Elmer Baldwin was the program for November at the Baldwin home.

General Information: Meetings: 8 p.m., third Friday of month. All interested persons are cordially invited. Questions about primula culture welcome. Membership: Annual dues: $1.00. Expectations: attend meetings as you are able; help on committees; bring plants or other exhibits of interest. Bring a friend as often as you can. Promote primulas!


February 15, with George and Sylvia Trostel, 235 Homecroft Road: south from James St. second street east from Midler Ave. Co-hostess: Lois Smith. Program: demonstration of growing plants under lights by Peter Prosonic.

March 15, with George and Hazel Ritzler, 1640 Valley Drive, fourth house on right, south of Seneca Turnpike. Co-hostess: Geraldine Gates. Program: variety of slides from Vetterle & Reinelt, Capitola, Calif., hybridizers of begonias, celpatans, and primrozes.

April 19, with Miss Cornelia Hiscock, 101 Burligam Road, off Dewitt St., 2nd st. right north of James St. Co-hostess: Florence Strong. Program: talk and slides by Paul Shoemaker, stressing scenery on the Hawaiian Island.

May: On the Saturday when primula blooms are best, there will be a tour through about half a dozen of the most interesting gardens in Central New York, where there are primulas, planned so that we can stop somewhere for lunch and end up at the Baldwin home, with informal socializing and refreshments. Co-hostess, Mary Bowen. A special notice will be mailed out as soon as the date is determined.

Organization: President and Librarian, Raymond Piper Vice-president and Exhibits, Ben Hoag Secretary, Geraldine Gates Treasurer, Blanche Camp Telephone Committee: Hilda Baldwin, Mary Bowen, Louise Capra Tour Committee: Elmer Baldwin and Mary Bowen.
CLASSIFIED ADS

PRIMULA POLYANTHUS, NEW REGAL SUPREME. Australia's finest Polyanthus. An outstanding success at Australian, New Zealand & South African flower shows this spring. The flower size is very good, 2 to 2 1/2 inches up to 3" when well grown. Magnificent color range. Seed $1, $2, & $5 per pkt. Send for list. GOODWINS, Mangalore, Tasmania, Australia.

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DOUBLE AURICULAS. Plants. $3.50 ea., Hand pollinated seed from Snuffer and Balcom Double Auricula Plants. 50 seeds $3.00. Mrs. Janet Round, South Colby, Wn.

ORDER back issues of Quarterlies and Primrose Stationery from Editor.

VERMONT HARDY Double Auriculas, $3.50 each; Semi-double, $2.50. Seeds: 50 for $3.00. SKY HOOK FARM, Johnson, Vermont.

IN MEMORIAM

Our beloved member, Mr. Philip A. Chandler, Division of Plant Pathology at the University of California, Los Angeles, passed away this fall. We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife.

For Exciting New Things for Spring

write

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People and Flowers

Mr. Yoshiharu Matsumura...

Director of Societas Herbaria Orientalis-Asiatica, and Editor of Anamoros Herb.aria, of Show Junior College, Kobe, Japan, is presently at the University of Missouri, Department of Botany, as associate researcher in Botany. He will be here for one year. Mr. Matsumura, our friend and member, will be remembered for his very informative writing on Primroses of Japan (Volume XV, number 3).

Sunset Magazine...

is planning a major article on Primroses for their March 1965 issue. There will be either an outside or inside color page of primroses taken at Vetterle and Reinelt Nursery, Capitola, Calif., last spring. A Sunset photographer took many pictures at the Kirkland Show and visited some of the primrose gardens in the Northwest. Sunset has the sincere thanks of the Primrose Society for including A. P. S. in their list of plant societies mentioned on page 178 of the December issue. For subscription rates please write SUNSET, Lane Magazine Company, Menlo Park, Calif. It's a wonderful magazine.

Floyd S. Keller...

son of Floyd and Hazel Keller of Tacoma, is the new president of the Tacoma Primrose Society. It is not surprising that he is an enthusiastic grower of primroses, as his parents have set a good example along these lines.

A Correction...

In the last issue an error was made in the address of the Secretary of the American Rock Garden Society, Mr. E. L. Totten. The correct address is 1220 Everett Place, Hendersonville, N.C. A typographical error made it Henderson, N.C., and it just so happens that there is such a place. Notification was sent to that post office to forward any mail to Mr. Totten.

T. C. Clare...

do of Ascot Wood, Ascot, Berkshire, England, has for a long time tried without success to get some seed of Dodecatheon philosica, the blue shooting star. As the plants are Primulaeae, it occurred to him that some of our members might grow the plant, and he willing to let him have a few seeds. He is also keen to get seeds of D. hugeri, dentatum, and D. alpinum. The desire comes from having had for years Moldenke's book AMERICAN WILD FLOWERS.
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