Quarterly of the American Primrose Society

Volume XXII  Spring Yearbook 1964  Number 2

Primula Chionantha — Photograph by Orval Agee
Quarterly of the American Primrose Society

VOLUME XXII SPRING YEARBOOK 1964 NUMBER 2

In Memorium — Mrs. John L. Karnopp .......................... 34
1964 National Primrose Show ... Annual Meeting & Banquet ........... 35
A New Editor .................................................. President Ralph Balcolm 35
Show Dates .................................................. 36
National Show Schedule ....................................... 37
Primula Longiscapa Lede' ................................... R. Ruffer Lanche 40
A Funny Thing Happened ....................................... Florence Bellis 41
Auricula Species and Hybrids ..................................... Ivanel Agee 45
Primula Chionantha ............................................. Robert Putnam 46
Concerning Primulas—Chapter 14—American Primulas ............. Grace Dowling 47
Conserving Moisture ............................................. Alice Hills Baylor 53
Bucks County Garden Notes ....................................... Doretta Klaber 54
A. P. S. Membership List ........................................ 55
Primroses For Fun ............................................ Mrs. A. V. Roney 66
A. P. S. Judges 1963 ........................................... 68

THE PICTURE ON THE COVER: Primula Chionantha photographed in the garden of Mrs. A. C. U. Berry by Orval Agee. P. chionantha blooms in April and May in the Northwest. See Robert Putnam’s article on page 46.

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Subscription price (including membership): $3.50 per year, $10.00 for three years paid in advance. Old Quarterlies available at Editor’s Office—see Index with Winter 1959 issue. Treasurer, Mrs. L. G. Tait, 14015 84th Ave. N.E., Bothell, Wa.

The editor is Mrs. Robert M. Ford, 2406 Boyer Ave. E., Seattle 2, Washington
It is published at the Grange Cooperative Printing Association, Seattle, Washington.
Published four times a year—Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall.
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Entered as second-class matter at Seattle, Washington, under the Act of March 3, 1879

AMERICAN PRIMROSE SOCIETY

Page 33
With deep regret we announce the passing of Mrs. John L. Karnopp of Portland, Oregon, at the age of 88. Mrs. Karnopp was the first to be awarded the Bamford Trophy when it was presented to our Society in 1954 by Mr. Dan Bamford of England. It was his wish that it first be presented to the one who had done the most to popularize and improve primulas in America, particularly the Show Auricula. Mrs. Doretta Klaber, of Quakertown, Pennsylvania, had the difficult task of judging for this award and the following is an excerpt and an excellent summary of the contents of the many letters written in behalf of Mrs. Karnopp.

To quote Mrs. Klaber... "It is my desire to nominate Mrs. John L. Karnopp to be the first winner of the Bamford Trophy: First, for her tireless devotion, over a long period of time, to the task of raising perfect Show Auriculas in the tradition of the Old Florists who long ago set the standards of perfection. Second, for her willingness to pass on to others the knowledge gained during these years of ceaseless effort and patient toil. Third, for her willingness to share with others the fruits of her work in the form of her most cherished Show Auriculas. Fourth, the final and most important reason for my choice: The encouragement she has given in the art of Auricula growing to the novice both old and young. "If the American Primrose Society could be blessed with a dozen members possessing the character, ability, skill, and generous nature of Mrs. Karnopp the Show Auricula would soon bloom in many places where it has never bloomed before; and if it had not been for her they would not now be blooming half a continent away from her garden on the premises of the writer of these lines."

CLASSIFIED ADS


ROSEA GRANDIFLORA — 75c. Species Juliae—$1. Juliana hybrid ”Buttercup”—$1. Frondoza 75c and several rare species in limited supply. See these plus a wide selection of auriculas, candelabras and polyanthus at DICKSON'S PERENNIAL GARDENS—13347 56th Ave. S., Seattle 78, Wn.

DOUBLE AURICULA SEEDS AND PLANTS . . . New colors in these. Seeds sold in mixtures only. A few 1963 seeds left, but order early for 1964 crosses. Plants for sale at garden only. No shipping. Good choice of garden auriculas. MRS. JANET ROUND, SOUTH COLBY, WN.

A New Editor

Beginning with the summer issue, Mrs. Lucien Alexander will become the new editor of the Quarterly. An active member of the Oregon Primrose Society and a knowledgeable grower, Mrs. Alexander is well qualified to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Mrs. Robert Ford. Time does not allow a more detailed account of the change in this issue but members are urged to give their full support to our new editor. Please address all correspondence to her at 11848 S.E. Rhone, Portland, Oregon.

Ralph Balcolm, President

1964 National Show - April 11, 12

The Tacoma Primrose Society will present the National Primrose Show, "Heralds of Spring," at the National Bank of Washington in the center of Villa Plaza, Lakewood, Washington (just past Lakewood Center).

Colonel Louis M. Haas, 536 Ramsdell St., Fircrest, Wn., will be the show chairman again this year, according to club president Floyd S. Keller.

The show will open at 1:00 p.m. on April 11 and close at 9:00 p.m. On April 12 it will be open at 11:00 a.m. and close at 6:00 p.m.

Because the building is not available until the morning of the 11th, plants may not be entered for exhibit until 7:30 a.m. Saturday the 11th. The deadline for entering is 9:30 a.m. Please see the show schedule on page 38 for further details.

Annual Meeting and Banquet April 11

The National Awards Banquet and election of American Primrose Society officers will be at the Pantry restaurant (next to Rhodes Department Store) in Lakewood on Saturday the 11th, at 7 o'clock. Dinner will be $2.50 and reservations may be made with Mrs. Louis Haas in Tacoma or with Mrs. Ralph Balcolm in Seattle.

Featured speaker at the banquet will be an outstanding local authority, Robert Putnam, of Kirkland, who will show slides of some of his plant hunting expeditions in Northwest mountains as well as choice primulas.

The nominating committee presents the following list of candidates for election at this meeting. President, Ralph Balcolm; Vice President, Mrs. Ivanel Agee; Recording Secretary, Mrs. John Siepman; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Alice Hills Baylor; Treasurer, Mrs. Lawrence G. Tait; Board members, Mrs. Etha Tate and Mr. Ross Willingham.
1964 Shows

MT. ANGEL PRIMROSE SHOW
April 12—from 10 to 6

Plants may be entered from 5 to 8 April 11 and from 9 to 9:45 April 12. At St. Mary’s School (basement) Mt. Angel, Oregon. Show across from St. Mary’s Catholic Church. (Church can be seen from the highway.) Signs will be posted. Show chairman is Mrs. Wilbert Schaechez, 780 Elm, Mt. Angel. Mrs. Joe Annen, Rt. 1, Box 122, is club president.

LEWIS CO. PRIMROSE SOC.
April 11—1 to 9
April 12—10 to 6

“Springtime in the Valley” is the theme. Mrs. J. G. Morris, Rt. 2, Centralia, is show chairman. Mrs. LeRoy Teasdale, 311 N. Diamond, Centralia, Wn., is the club president.

CANADIAN PRIMULA AND ALPINE SOC.
April 10—10 to 10
April 11—12 to 9

Mrs. A. Gilchrist, 6005 Eagleridge Rd., W. Vancouver, B.C., is show chairman of the show to be held at the Douglass Park Fieldhouse on Willow St., between 20th and 22nd. Admission 50c. Mr. E. C. Darts is the new president.

EASTSIDE GARDEN CLUB—Kirkland
April 17—2 to 9
April 18—12 to 9
April 19—12 to 6

“Spring Glory” is the theme. Mr. A. Gilchrist, 6005 Eagleridge Rd., W. Vancouver, B.C., is show chairman. Mr. Mansueto Schoolcraft, 15115 88th N.E., Bothell, Wn., is the club president.

CLARK COUNTY PRIMROSE SOC.
April 18—1 to 9
April 19—10 to 6

“Primrose Parade” is the theme of this show at the Experimental Station, 1918 N.E. 78th, Vancouver, Wn. (turn east off Hwy. 99 on 78th St. at Totem Pole Shopping Center or turn at St. Johns Manor Hwy. on 78th St.) Plant sale. Plants may be entered from 9-12 noon on April 18th. Show chairman is Mrs. Seth Barnett, 9219 St. Johns Rd., Vancouver; Mrs. Harold Owen, 3015 N.E. 47th St., Vancouver, Wn., is club president.

OREGON PRIMROSE SOCIETY
April 25—2 to 8
April 26—1 to 6

The Oregon Spring Show will be held in the Milwaukie Community Hall, 42 and Jackson Sts. Plants may be entered Friday, April 24, from 7 to 9 and April 25 from 8 to 10 a.m., deadline. Rather than floral arrangements the show will have Dish Gardens and Bonsai. Mrs. Orval Agee, 11112 S.E. Wood, Milwaukie, is show chairman. Club president, Mrs. William Tate, is co-chairman.

WASH. STATE PRIMROSE SOC.
AURICULA SHOW
May 2—1 to 9
May 3—10 to 6

At the Naval Reserve Building, 840 Terry Ave. N., Seattle, Wn., Mr. Pete M. Schoolcraft, 15115 88th N.E., Bothell, Wn., is Show Chairman with Mrs. Cynthia Hart as co-chairman. Mrs. William Dines is club president. Exhibits will be received May 1 from 7 to 10 p.m. and May 2 from 8 to 10 a.m.

ONONDAGO PRIMROSE SOCIETY
On April 17 at the Hiscock home Mrs. Hilda Baldwin will give a review of the Primrose Quarterly and its purpose. On May 9 the annual garden tour will be followed by a supper at the Elm C. Baldwin home. Mr. Mansueto Capra, 103 Ontario Place, Liverpool, N.Y., is the new president.

FRIDAY HARBOR PRIMROSE CLUB
April 11—opening at 11 a.m.

“Legacy of China and Primrose” is the theme of this show to be held at the Study Club. Tea will be served. There will be a small admission charge and a plant sale. Jessie Woods is show chairman as well as club president.

VICTORIA, B. C.
April 17 and 18

The Victoria Horticultural Society will have a Rock and Alpine Show.

1964 National Primrose Show
Tacoma — April 11-12

NATIONAL BANK OF WASHINGTON IN THE CENTER OF VILLA PLAZA, LAKEWOOD

1. Show will be open to visitors Saturday, April 11, from 1:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., and Sunday, April 12 from 11:00 to 6:00 p.m.
2. Exhibits will be received Saturday, April 11, from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m., deadline.
3. All divisions and classes except Division VII are open to both amateurs and professionals and no differentiation in judging will be shown, whether the plant be entered by an amateur or professional.
4. All Primulas entered in the show must have been grown out of doors except Show Auriculas and have been in the exhibitor’s garden for at least three (3) months. Glass covering for protection of bloom (not forcing) is permitted.
5. Only Show Chairman, judging committee, and clerks will be permitted on the show floor during judging. All entries will be placed by the committee.
6. Entries are the property of the show during the show hours and must not be removed until the show closes at 6:00 p.m. April 12, 1964.
7. Exhibitors shall furnish their own pots (of clean clay or plastic) which should bear the exhibitor’s name, on the bottom of the pot. No top dressing around plants in pot.
8. All exhibits will be judged according to the standards of excellence established by The American Primrose Society.
9. It is understood that members of the Tacoma Primrose Society will not be held responsible for loss of, or damage to person or property.
10. The show management may make such other rules as it may deem necessary for the proper conduct of the show.
11. The judges’ decisions are final.

DIVISION I—ACAULIS
(Open to all)

Section A—Hybrids:
Class 1. Light Blue 7. Dark Pink
Class 2. Medium Blue 8. Lavender
Class 3. Dark Blue 9. Rose
Class 4. White 10. Yellow
Class 5. Cream 11. Red

Section B—Doubles:
Class 1. Lavender 7. Cream
Class 2. White 8. Red
Class 3. Yellow 9. Striped or edged
Class 4. Pink 10. Named
Class 5. Purple 11. Blue
Class 6. Blue 12. Varieties

Section C—Jack-in-the-Green:
Class 1. White and Yellow
Class 2. Pink and Rose
Class 3. Tan and Brown
Class 4. Red shades
Class 5. Blue shades
Class 6. Any other

DIVISION II—POLYANTHUS
(Open to all)

Section A—Hybrids:
Class 1. Light Blue 12. Scarlet to
Class 2. Dark Blue 13. Coral
Class 3. Purple 14. Maroon
Class 4. Light Yellow 15. White
Class 5. Deep Yellow and Dark
Class 6. Orange 16. Peach
Class 7. Chartreuse 17. Pink
Class 8. Brown shades 18. Rose
Class 10. Bronze to 20. Lavender
Class 11. Violet

Section AA—Hybrids, Large Plants—same as in Section A, Classes 1-20.

Section B—Cowichan Hybrids:
Class 1. Light Blue 2. Pink and Rose
Class 3. Tan and Brown
Class 4. Red shades
Class 5. Blue shades
Class 6. Any other

AMERICAN PRIMROSE SOCIETY
DIVISION III—ACAULIS-POLYANTHUS
Competitive—One Plant in Pot
Open to All
An Acaulis-Polyanthus exhibits both Acaulis and Polyanthus characteristics by carrying florets both on single stems as acaulis, and in umbels as polyanthus.

Section A—Hybrids:
Same classes as Section II, Section A

Section B—Doubles:
Same classes as Division I, Section B

Section C—Hose-in-Hose:
Same classes as Division II, Section A

Section D—Jack-in-the-Green:
Same classes as Division IV, Section A

Section E—Any other Hybrid
(Vernalia Section)

DIVISION IV—JULIAE
(Vernalia Section)
Competitive—One Plant in Pot
Open to All

An Auricula exhibits both Acaulis and Polyanthus characteristics by carrying florets both on single stems as acaulis, and in umbels as polyanthus.

Section A—Acaulis:
Same classes as Section I, Section A

Section B—Polyanthus:
Same classes as Division II, Sections A through D

Section C—Acaulis—Polyanthus:
Same classes as Division III, Sections A through E

Section D—Juliae:
Same classes as Division IV, Sections A and B

Section E—Species

DIVISION VII—NOVICE
Competitive—One Plant in Pot
Open to any person who has never exhibited previously or has never won a ribbon on a primula shown. This division will be judged upon individual merit. Each plant of award quality will receive a ribbon.

Section A—Vernalia Section:
Class 1. Acaulis
Class 2. Polyanthus
Class 3. Juliae
Class B—Auricula Section
Class C—Any other Primulas

DIVISION VIII—RARITIES
Competitive—One Plant in Pot
Open to All
Rarities are those plants which are still rare by virtue of limited supply or infrequent occurrence. They include Jack-a-napes on Horseback, Gallivaskins, new novelties or any other primula for which no class is provided.

This division will be judged upon individual merit. Each plant of award quality will receive a ribbon.

DIVISION IX—SPECIES AND HYBRIDS
Competitive—One or More Plants in Pot or Pan
Open to all. This division will be judged upon merit. Each plant of award quality will receive a ribbon.

Section A—Auricula
Class 1. Candelabra
Class 2. Cortusoides
Class 3. Darina
Class 4. Nivalis
Class 5. Peciatoris
Class 6. Skiddimess
Class 7. Muscaroides
Class 8. Seldenoloeideae
Class 9. Vernalia

Section B—Double Auriculas:
Same classes as Section A

Section C—Alpine Auriculas:
Class 1. Light center
Class 2. Gold center

Section D—Show Auriculas:
Class 1. White edged
Class 2. Grey edged
Class 3. Green edged
Class 4. Red selfs
Class 5. Yellow selfs
Class 6. Blue selfs
Class 7. Any other selfs

Section E—Ondies
Class 1. Edged
Class 2. Green
Class 3. Rose
Class 4. Two-toned
Class 5. Southern Cross

DIVISION X—DECORATIVE
Competitive—One entry in Each Class
Open to All

Section A—"HERALDS OF SPRING"
Designs in which primulas must predominate. Other foliages and accessories may be used, unless otherwise stated.

Class 1. Heralds of Spring—design depicting the show theme.
Class 3. High Noon—featuring yellow primulas.
Class 4. Heralding New Members—using figurine as a container.
Class 5. Bird Songs—primulas with birds and flowering branches.
Class 6. Ebb Tide—design combining primulas with a. drift or weathered wood.
b. sea shells.
Class 7. Sunshine and Rain—stressing water reflection.
Class 8. Silvery Moonglow—crecent design using white or near white primulas.

Section B—Corsages
2. Evening.

Section C—Juniors
Class 1. Beauty in a basket—using a favorite primulas.
4. Heralding New Members-
5. Bird Songs—primulas with
6. Ebb Tide—design combining
7. Sunshine and Rain—stressing
8. Silvery Moonglow—crecent

Section D—Men Only
Class 1. My Game—design using your favorite primulas.
2. Spectacle of Species—species
3. Evening.
4. Heralding New Members-
5. Bird Songs—primulas with
6. Ebb Tide—design combining
7. Sunshine and Rain—stressing
8. Silvery Moonglow—crecent

Section M—Sieboldii
Class 1. White
Class 2. Pink
Class 3. Rose
Class 4. Two-toned
Class 5. Southern Cross

DIVISION XI—GROWERS' EXHIBITS
Competitive—Open to all Growers

Exhibits with primoses must be 40% primulas. The set must be completed Sat., April 11 by 9:30 a.m. Plants from these exhibits may be sold but must not be removed from the exhibit until the show closes, 6:00 p.m. Sunday, April 12.
Primula Longiscapa

R. Ruffier-Lanche, Alpine Botanic Institute at Lautaret, Grenoble University

PRIMULA LONGISCAPA Ledeb. (=P. altaica Lehm. = P. intermedia W.W. Smith et Fletcher, non Sims.; etc. . . .)

This species, placed by W.W. Smith and Fletcher (under P. intermedia) in their Section Farinosae, sub-section Eu-Fariniferae, was later placed by Fedorov in his Section Farinosae. In the wild, it is known from East of the Volga to Southeastern and Northern Siberia, even to the shores of the Caspian and Aral seas. It grows along streams and lakes, and is of-ten found in brackish bogs (solon-chaks.)

In the garden, it is easily cultivated, in the way of P. farinosa, P. auriculata and the like. The plant which is shown in the accompanying photograph is from seed collected in the wild in Uzbekistan and sent for distribution, and is now growing in the Lautaret garden, on the margin of a small pond.

At flowering time, the scapes reach from 5 to 12 inches, and bear any number of flowers from 10 to 50—its said even to bear as many as 100! Though related to P. farinosa, it is quite distinct, and reminds one of P. sibirica.

Sooner or later, sowing seed becomes a personal matter, as personal as how you wash your face or comb your hair. You have your way and I have mine, and there are just about as many ways to sow seed as there are to comb hair. But, the thing is, how do we arrive at the particular method that suits us? Usually it is a method developed over the years by taking a fragment from one, an idea from another, a little here and there, selected, changed and adapted to the particular growing conditions, climate, equipment and material at hand, and your own personality. Some like to fuss, and others just like to comb by wiping their hair dry with a towel. Then there are those who don’t like to take the time to comb very much at all. They’re the ones who just throw their seed at the edge of a rhododendron or azalea, scratch it in a little, and come up with a real “do.”

Perhaps the green thumb thing enters into it to a large extent. To me, a green thumb means but one thing—a love for nature sufficiently deep to perceive and understand the divine principle of how things grow: to be able to put yourself in the position of these growing things; and to be willing to do the small, often trivial, extras that mean life or death, health or sickness to your plants, and success or failure to you.

Take, for instance, the recipe devised by Mrs. Symes of Sherwood, Oregon. Her method will appeal to the ladies who go in for baked Alaskas and such things. It could be called “A Funny Thing Happened On My Way to the Oven With a Pan of Primrose Seeds,” the funny thing being the thirty-six hour, or less, sprouting period. The seed spent most of this time in the freezing unit, with a short hitch in the warming oven.

Then panic set in. “After two hours the pan got quite warm, and I was terrified that I had ruined the seed.” So she rushed it back into the freezing compartment—to cool it off in a hurry, I suppose—and when she approached it with little hope the next morning, the seed was a mass of sprouts. She continues. “After I put the pan in the freezing compartment of the refrigerator over night, the next day, after it sat an hour or two at room temperature, I put it into the warming oven of my electric range for two hours.”

Perhaps the condition occurred in the spring at a time when it was safe to put tiny baby things outdoors.

She asks if this was unusual, or if the seed had been treated in any way. I would say the only thing unusual about it was the care with which she observed. You will notice she did not put the pan directly into the warming oven from the refrigerator. She allowed it to thaw an hour or two at room temperature. She followed one of nature’s trails with every step she took.

Here is the way Mrs. Jessop, who gardens in Goderich, Ontario (Canada) sows her primrose seed. She sowed on February 29th, after having frozen and thawed the seed for two weeks prior to
to freeze and thaw with the weather and yet not feed the birds primrose seed?

Mr. Ronald Solt of Barto is another commercial grower in Pennsylvania who found that by taking things more casually he came out with more plants. "The germination," he says, "Must have been close to 100%. And there were some who did not have refrigerators, as incredible as that may seem to those of us who do. I didn't know this until a few years ago when I sent a man on the east coast the seed he ordered, together with the usual seeding instructions which carry the artificial freezing method. He returned the seed with a letter. He told me he was a bachelor, that he did not own a refrigerator —did not, in fact, intend to own one—and gave me detailed instructions exactly where I could sow the seed he was returning. Until that time I actually thought everyone had a refrigerator. Since Victor Ries of Columbus, Ohio, a few years ago implied, more or less, in the Quarterly that artificial freezing was a batch of nonsense, I tried sowing without freezing. I haven't frozen since. But I do use our hot water method, because it gives control. Seedlings, here, must be ready to transplant in early May just as soon as the May day is over. By sowing in flats outdoors, using hot water for watering in, I know it will be six weeks from seed sowing to transplanting, and six weeks from transplanting to shipping or planting in the fields. However, for the private gardener there is no need to synchronize with anything but the weather. If you happen to get a late start in the spring, and you are sowing only in smaller amounts, then Mrs. Snyder of East Derry, New Hampshire, will do her best to make amends, than before. There is really nothing to germinating seed if it comes from a knowledgeable source. By that I mean seed that has been properly harvested, cured, and stored before and during distribution.

I now sow in flats with five half-inch cracks for drainage. The flats are half-filled with sharp rock, over which the seed compost is put. This compost consists of very coarse sand (fill sand which keeps the soil open, not mason sand which packs) leaf mold and sieved peat in more or less equal proportions to make an open, porous soil with a brown sugar feel. This is tamped down with a brick, then more compost added, if necessary, to bring the soil surface just barely below the top of the flat after another tamping. This is for good air circulation around the necks of the seedlings-to-be. It allows the breeze to flow freely across the surface of the soil unimpeded by the sides of the flat.

The seeds are richly scattered in what is supposed to be an even and uncrowded manner, but which always turns out to be thick and hungry. I do my best dreaming when I am sowing seed. Can you look at primrose seed and see only a collection of brown, wrinkly shapes? I see living plants in glowing colors, and color combinations so exquisite I am reduced to nothingness. However—our spring sowing takes place from mid-March to early April. I then use water, just under 120 degrees, to water them
in the day I plant. The next day I reduce the temperature to about 115 degrees. An ordinary thermometer gives you the measurements. Never go over the 120 mark. By watering in, I mean using a sprinkling can with the finest rose you can get, and seeing that all areas get equal and thorough attention.

The seed is not covered by soil or sand until after it has germinated. But plastic covers are used, or cheese-cloth tents, to prevent sparrows from feeding on the seed. The reason for leaving the seed open to view is to watch for fungus which often develops as the seed sprouts. This is the bread mould, the same mould which develops in moist, stale bread. It feeds on the seed germ as the chemical change takes place, and leaves nothing but the empty husk.

If your site is such that brisk air flows through, fungus will be little or no problem. But in sites surrounded by trees, or shrubs, or close buildings, fungus has more chance to develop because of air stoppage. If you have not already found a safe fungicide to take care of everything from sprouting seeds to crown rot on field plants, we have. This is Natriphene, used in sanatoriums and sickrooms as a germicide, and in horticulture as a fungicide. It cures everything from athletes’ foot to mange on your cat or dog. And it certainly cures, completely and safely in one application, fungus on seeds, damp-off, leaf and crown rot. It is to be had from The Natriphene Co., 494 Book Bldg., Detroit 26, Michigan.

Here, we prefer the powder which is used at the rate of a rounded 1/4 teaspoonful to an eight-quart sprinkler. It is also offered in tablet form, but this takes longer to dissolve. I have learned the hard way, to always use less material than instructed on the label.

A day or two after Natriphening, germination has advanced so rapidly that it is necessary to lightly cover the sprouts with sieved sand. All plastic covers, cheesecloth tents and other novel inventions are then removed. The sand protects the sprouts from hot sun and birds, and nothing remains to do but wait until the seedlings have developed their first true leaves, and then transplant them.

There are four precautions worth taking to insure soil drainage: Large enough drainage spaces in containers to prevent clogging; sharp rock in the containers; an inch, or two inches, of a porous seeding mixture on top of the rock; and elevating the containers for a drip-away. We place all seeded flats, and flats of transplanted seedlings, on 2 x 4’s strung on top of benches in high-roofed sheds completely open on all sides and ends.

As I write on, I realize the subject of seeding might be wearing a bit thin for even the most ardent sowers. There were several more topics that seemed of interest when I started. Such as the trouble you can get yourself into by using chemical fertilizers in your transplanting mixture, or fertilizer of any kind in your seeding mixture. How it pays to put several flats of Candelabra flats in a tray of water the day you plant, for an overnight soak, and remember them three days later. How Mrs. A.C.U. Berry, of Portland, used to take seed received from plant hunting expeditions up into the mountains in the fall and leave it there until spring. And how Mrs. Mary McNeal, also of Portland, used to take seed received from plant hunting expeditions up into the mountains in the fall and leave it there until spring. And how Mrs. Mary McNeal, also of Portland, used to take seed received from plant hunting expeditions up into the mountains in the fall and leave it there until spring.

Also. I was going to warn about seed kept too long. Too long, as I remember, might be wearing a bit thin for even the most ardent sowers. There were several more topics that seemed of interest when I started. Such as the trouble you can get yourself into by using chemical fertilizers in your transplanting mixture, or fertilizer of any kind in your seeding mixture. How it pays to put several flats of Candelabra flats in a tray of water the day you plant, for an overnight soak, and remember them three days later. How Mrs. A.C.U. Berry, of Portland, used to take seed received from plant hunting expeditions up into the mountains in the fall and leave it there until spring.

But all this can wait until another time. In summing up, I believe that the over-all principle of seed sowing—all gardening for that matter—is to go with nature. And this reminds me of the ancient Mayan farewell “Go with God, for you cannot go without Him.”

Auricula Species and Hybrids

IVANEL AGET, Milwaukie, Oregon

There are several small primulas in the Auricula Section that are now fairly common and not too difficult to grow. These small plants are good for the rockery or alpine house. It is most interesting to hybridize and produce little hybrids from the auricula species.

Primula marginata, of the Maritime and Cottain Alps, has lovely orchid or lilac blossoms. The plant has serrated leaves edged in farina. P. carniolica, of the Julian Alps in Italy, is a variation of rose tones with a white eye. P. rubra, covering more territory and a wider range of altitude in the Alps, presents more variation of form. The blooms are rose tones with white eye. P. villosa, subspecies commutata, found in Syria, also has blooms in various tones of rose. P. pedemontana, of the Alps between France and Italy, is another with variations of rose with a light eye.

Primula Allionii, not common, is a tiny plant with sticky leaves. This primula is found in a restricted area of the Maritime Alps. It is about an inch high and at present, February 14, has frosty pink blooms about an inch in diameter just overhanging the plant. P. Allionii does not set seed for me, but apparently makes a good pollen parent.

P. marginata x P. Allionii is in bud. It seems to have the growth habit of P. Allionii but the leaves are half way between both parents. The buds show quite a cluster so will probably come up with a cluster (a characteristic from P. marginata). The P. marginata x P. carniolica resembled P. carniolica. P. com.
Primula Chionantha

ROBERT C. PUTNAM, Kirkland, Washington

Mr. Putnam's enthusiasm for P. chionantha must be shared by all who have grown it. See front cover for illustration.

Not often seen in our gardens, but certainly worthy of the finest setting, is Primula chionantha. The smooth, handsome leaves remind us of its American relative, Dodecatheon jefferyi except the primula has gold farina on its leaves. The flower scapes extend 15 inches or more, with white florets in loose whorls. Just to say the flowers are white is not enough. They are a soft, warm, iridescent white and, together with the leaf faces, their dying leaves and messy crowns in the garden. The only foible we have met is this plant a classic elegance not easily matched.

Seed germinates easily and the plant generally is not hard to grow or keep in the garden. The only foible we have found is a slight resentment to transplanting, both in the seedling stage and as a mature plant. It is no great problem, however, if one picks a cool, cloudy day for transplanting, followed by ample watering.

Some sources have reported them difficult to winter over in the resting place, but we have not found this to be true. Good drainage, leaf mould, moisture, and shade in the growing season have kept our bed for five years. When you see their dying leaves and messy crowns in fall, as they prepare for winter, you will swear they are giving up for good. In spring, while you are still grieving, they will start at once, grow faster than other primulas and, together with the leaf faces, their dying leaves and messy crowns in the garden. The only foible we have met is this plant a classic elegance not easily matched.

Auricula Species and Hybrids

(Continued from Pg. 45)

mutata x P. rubra blooms very well, rather like an overgrown rubra. P. comutata has been crossed with P. Allionii. In another cross, a hybrid of P. commutata x P. rubra was pollinated with P. Allionii. These crosses were all planted this spring.

x P. pubescens is an old hybrid of the species auricula and P. rubra and is quite variable. As seeds of both may now be obtained in the seed exchange one may have his own pubescens. This may be done by crossing the yellow species auricula with rose-toned rubra and one can expect variations in color. One sees 'Pubescens Hybrids' in shows. These are probably crossed with our garden auriculas and do make attractive garden or rockery auriculas.

There have been some hybrids of P. minimia on the market at times, but minimia and all its hybrids do not bloom very easily—at least not in the Portland area.

Concerning Primulas

GRACE DOWLING, Seattle, Washington

CHAPTER 14

AMERICAN PRIMULAS

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

Plant explorers in America have been busily at work for many years and in their stride primulas have been discovered, generally, as in most other countries, high in mountain meadows or under overhanging cliffs. Not a great deal of effort has been made to classify this particular group and the different names given to the same plants have complicated the correct identifications in many cases.

The following list has been gathered from florists, magazine articles and reports from collectors. It is offered with no assurance that it is a complete or accurate account, but only with the hope that American primulas may tempt some appetites jaded with struggles growing European and Asiatic ones.

Many on this list I have seen growing, others I have found as specimens in herbariums and a few are only names that are interesting to hear about. In time there will, without doubt, be many more gardens featuring American primulas and, considering the time it has taken English gardeners to establish some European varieties with only comparative success, there is no reason why we cannot equal these accomplishments.

Primula farinosa

All over the world, wherever there are spots favorable to the growth of P. farinosa, this little primula, in some unaccountable way, has found a home and grown contentedly. Apparently it prefers picking its own location and, more than most primulas, has difficulty settling in a garden spot deliberately made for it. The various forms of the American P. farinosa may not be identical with those which grow in other countries. The color may vary or the leaves may be a trifle longer or shorter, but the family characteristics are so evident it is not difficult to recognize. It has been found in Greenland, then in Maine and around Quebec. Gradually, wandering across the country, it grows in high, wet, grassy meadows in Michigan, Minnesota and western Canada.

Most of the forms of P. farinosa are more or less covered with white meal, at least when young, and this fact alone makes it difficult to differentiate its sub-species. One, called mistsinica, is the Canadian P. farinosa, differing from the type in that the leaves are larger, the flowers are paler and it lacks the meal of P. farinosa. It is much easier to tame and stays a longer time in the garden.

Primula inica

A little primula, so much like the type that it has been called P. farinosa var. inica. Another synonym, according to Mr. Williams (an early plant explorer) is P. americana; it is found in Utah, and farther north in Alberta along the Mackenzie River, then drifting down through the Rocky Mountains in Montana, Wyoming and Colorado. The rosettes are a tiny thing formed of leaves one to three inches long. The undersides of the leaves are mealy and the edges are notched above the middle of the leaf. The blossoms are pale lilac, on farina-coated stems four to eight inches tall. It grows in the garden more easily than P. farinosa.

Primula egalikensis

Not unlike P. sibirica and so nearly resembling P. farinosa that it is often
called the Greenland farinosa. P. egalik- 
sensis seems almost like an old friend 
that is met in Northern Labrador. With- 
out a doubt, it is one of the various 
forms of the “Bird’s en” that grows in 
the north of England. It is smaller 
than the type form, being almost a 
dwarf with smooth, pale-green leaves 
without meal, from one-half to one inch 
long with white blossoms growing in an 
umbel on a stem from two to five inches 
tall. It likes limestone chippings in a 
rich, rather heavy loam in a sunny situ- 
ation.

**Primula borealis**

From the Canadian Rockies, as well 
as from Siberia, comes this little gem of 
the Farinosa section. The plant is a 
minute tuft of leaves, smooth and about 
half inch long, with toothed edges, 
and a surprisingly long flower stem, 
three times as long and more as the 
length of the leaves. The specimen in 
the herbarium, with its sweet, faded 
petals (originally probably rose or like) 
was charming and I longed to be able 
to bring some plants into a garden.

**Primula Specuicola**

*P. specuicola*, probably a sub-species of *P. farinosa*, also grows in Utah, along 
the San Juan River on hillsides and 
bluffs under overhanging limestone cliffs. 
The tuft of thin leaves, from which 
shoots the flower stem, shows signs of 
farina while the leaves are yet young, 
but as they grow older the meal disap- 

**Primula laurentiana**

*P. laurentiana* was sent to Dr. Fernald, 
keeper of the Gray Herbarium at Har- 
vard University. It came from the Lau- 
rentian Hills in the vicinity of the St. 
Lawrence River. As far as I can learn it 
follows the general pattern that *P. fari- 
nosa* has established.

**Primula sibirica**

With amazing foresight plant explor- 
ers have brought primulas into cultivation 
where, with good food and care, 
they have become affluent and outstand- 
ing. While *P. sibirica* itself has never be- 
come a plant that has caused much ex- 
citement, some of its close relatives have 
developed latent fashions and tempera- 
ments not guessed by the original collec- 	or. Mr. Lohbrunner, a traveler and 
plant collector who lives in Victoria, 
B.C., found growing in a small river in 
the Yukon Territory a little primula with 
its feet completely covered with water. 
He was not particularly impressed with 
its beauty, but in spite of that he brought 
it home. It developed, with solicitude and 
careful nourishment into what he called 
P. A. Y. Ex. No. 104, a fragrant coun- 
terpart of *P. involucrata*, deep, clear 
pink with a yellow eye. Not a true *P. 
sibirica*, but one of a group, *P. chrysopa*, 
*P. tibetica involucrata* and *P. bore- 
alis*, so difficult for the amateur to separ- 
ate under their respective names. The true 
*P. sibirica*, as its name signifies, is 
found in Siberia, but is also reported 
from the Northwest Territories where it 
was found by a Canadian-Arctic expedi- 
tion. It has flowers that vary some- 
what. Some are pale pink, without much 
substance and with little soul. It is only 
included in this meager list of primulas 
that name describes give this primula a 
dainty, rather frail look that belies its constitu- 
tion. In the mountains it is a husky 
plant but more or less delicate when 
grown in a garden. *P. angustifolia* is 
very small with leaves which grow in 
a tuft only one-half to one inch long, 
and the flower, with scarcely any stem, is 
tucked among the foliage. The whole 
plant, without a grain of meal, is dainty 
and appealing. Generally, there is only 
one large blossom of a dark lilac shade, 
sometimes two, neither is as large as the 
flower on the plant that carries only one. 
It grows on many mountains in Colo- 
rado; Pike’s Peak, Long’s Peak and on 
the Spanish Peaks, and then south to 
the alpine meadows in New Mexico. It 
has been grown in some gardens in fi-
brous loam with limestone chips, in 
mist half-shade with glass over it in the 
winter. There has been found a variety 
called *P. a. Helenae*, which is purple, or 
in some sections a white one has been 
found.

**Primula angustifolia**

The narrow leaves that its name de- 
scribes give this primula a dainty, 

**Primula Rusbyi**

Some thirty or forty years ago *P. 
Rusbyi* was introduced to garden culti-
vation. Most often it has been found in 
New Mexico and Arizona, on a ledge 
justing out from a cliff on a side facing 
north. It is a handsome plant, perhaps 
one of the most beautiful American spe-
cies. *P. Rusbyi* has leaves with notches
varying in size and shape on different plants and with smooth surfaces, free from farina. The umbel of blossoms is carried on a stem six to ten inches long whose color Reginald Farrer described as “obscure purple, like an old blood stain on faded velvet.” Farrer also thought it had a “certain sinister expression.” It grows fairly well in shady, cool, especially prepared spots in the rock garden in good loam, peat and leaf-mold.

**Primula Maguirei**

From northeast Utah, a close relative of *P. Cusickiana, P. Maguirei* was named for its discoverer. According to its description it has fairly thin broadly spatulate leaves with flowers. When there is only one bloom the flower is large and conspicuous, but when more than one the flowers grow smaller as the number increases. It grows on damp, overhanging rocks in the Wasatch Mountains.

**Primula Eximia**

Growing through the tundra of the Arctic regions this primula has been called by Mr. Walter Eyerdam one of the loveliest flowers in the Aleutians, and it is typical of the coastal regions of the Bering Sea. It is a large plant with smooth leaves with no meal, sometimes five inches long, broad at the tip and narrowing to a short leafstalk. The leaves seem rather scalloped but they lack any notches. The flower stem has traces of meal at the upper end and the umbel of flowers consists of six to ten rose-colored flowers on a stem four to five inches long. Growing in the Arctic it is naturally hardy and in the garden will generally flourish in gritty loam, in a moist, open spot. Mr. Walter Eyerdam, in an article in “Little Gardens,” says it is a very variable species in size and character of the leaves and flowers. He reports it growing in alpine meadows where the ground is still damp from melted snow.

**Primula Cuneifolia**

This is a cunning and choice little species called “Pixie Eyes” in Alaska. It grows in the Bering Straits, as far south as Juneau and Seward where there is a white form. It forms a tuft of smooth leaves, which are one-fourth to three-fourths inches long, wedge-shaped and notched at the top, with no meal. My first impression on seeing it in the herbarium was its likeness to *P. minima*, but the leaves are not square across the top. It has an umbel of from one to six rose-colored flowers on a stem four to five inches long. Growing in the Arctic it is naturally hardy and in the garden will generally flourish in gritty fibrous loam, in a moist, open spot. Mr. Walter Eyerdam, in an article in “Little Gardens,” says it is a very variable species in size and character of the leaves and flowers. He reports it growing in alpine meadows where the ground is still damp from melted snow.

**Primula Suffrutescens**

High in the Sierra Nevada Mountains of California, the mountain climber may meet a little shrub-like, partly prostrate plant with dense tufts of leaves growing in rosettes at the end of stout, woody stems. The leaves are leathery in texture, like a wedge in shape, smooth, with no meal, and notched at the top with from four to seven sharp teeth. If found in June or July there may be an umbel of clear pink flowers with yellow eyes topping a stem from two to five inches high. Undoubtedly this is *P. suffrutescens*, which has been more or less of a puzzle to primula growers since 1884 when it was introduced into cultivation. It belongs to the Cuneifolia section, a group fairly closely related to the Farinosae section. A grower on Vancouver Island grew *P. suffrutescens* for twelve years in an alpine house as it does not like our wet winters. It seeds sparingly but may be propagated by cuttings.

**Editor’s note:** Please check your Quarterly Index for other interesting notes on American Primulas. In Vol 10, number 3, Mrs. John Karnopp, Portland, Oregon, has written in her notes on *Native American Primulas* the following:

“The difficulty of establishing our wild species in the gardens comes undoubtedly from the fact that we cannot possibly provide the growing conditions for them that nature does. Some require their winter rest under snow, others must be almost dry the year around, while some like their toes in ice water and their heads in rarefied sunshine. There are those that must have meadow sod to grow in, and others that like mountain scree, or even the extreme of arctic tundra. As yet, we know little about the effect of altitude on these rare things. We must first realize that they have growing habits of very, very long standing and that these are not easily overcome. Acclimatization has been accomplished with many Primula species, in fact some of these have become the parents of lovely hybrids. Perhaps we may succeed with the American Primula through science or even through seed or the selection of plants, but progress can only be made through effort.”

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conserving moisture

alice hills baylor, sky hook farm, johnson, vermont

the plants at sky hook were not the only ones that were on a limited supply of water from may to november during 1963. the entire eastern area of the country as well as many other places had below normal rainfall. the needles of christmas trees dropped early this year which proved a dehydration. i only hope many people remembered the old warning to gardeners, "do not sit down to your thanksgiving dinner until you have soaked your evergreens." this applies to a normal year as well for if roots freeze dry the plant is doomed whether it be spruce or primrose.

april was cold this year with patches of snow lingering beneath pine and on the north side of ravines. the first week of may continued this pattern so that the early primroses (rosea, acaulis, modesta, glaucescens and julianas) were held in color bud while the polyanthus and auriculas tightly kept their trusses to themselves. then on the twelfth of may warm spring came to the green mountains. the anemones and apple blossoms joined the Narcissi! and every primrose except the candelabras and nutans flourished and held their flowers well into august. we camouflaged the newspaper mulch with a sifting of peat moss in the garden area for a better appearance. in the nursery where the newspaper mulch was used in quantities it held moisture and in a matter of weeks disintegrated to become a part of the top soil when more was added.

where there is a shortage of snow dry shredded newspaper may be used as a winter mulch anchoring it into place with evergreen branches, corn stalks or bare branches from shrub and tree trimmings.

we also dug the shredded, soaked newspapers, with liquid fertilizer added, into a pile of heavy clay, the subsoil from a wall excavation that had been the base of one of our compost piles for three years. in all that time the consistency of the clay had not changed. in about three weeks, after adding the paper, the clay was friable and was used in the remaking of beds during fall planting.

mulching is the easiest way to conserve moisture in the soil. whatever the material used it should be well soaked. dry peat moss will rob the soil of moisture so should only be used after soaking.
There is an old saying that "The Canadian Mountie always gets his man." I cannot make the same claim concerning my search for rare and scarce books, but I am really doing better than just "very good."

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**Bucks County Garden Notes**

*The following notes were written by Mrs. Doretta Kluber for her local newspaper under the name "Aunt Susie."

April 19, 1951

There is a golden haze in the woods hereabout. The spicedust is in bloom. It forms the main undergrowth in our woods and we have cut paths through which are gradually becoming bordered with primroses. Primroses and Spring! What lovely words! One sees visions of the English countryside even though one has never been there—for when one reads of primroses it is almost always of the famous English wildflower.

Many people know that we can grow them with ease right here in Bucks county, that the original English primrose has been hybridized until it comes in every color of the rainbow—as do the bunch primroses. Not everyone knows, however, that there are earlier and later primroses so that now one can have some members of the family in bloom from the earliest Spring until Fall. There are kinds that do best by the waterside, many that prefer light woodland or a shady border and some that thrive in rock gardens. They fit in so beautifully with our own native wild flowers—hepaticas, violets, the blue phlox, the red columbine—and what a boon they are for those who want color in a shady garden!

The whole countryside has come alive this past week, animals as well as plants. Take time off to stop and look and listen. It isn't the only time that primroses grow. There are early primroses that have already finished blooming, like the denticulatas. They send up round balls of bloom in white or lavender or purplish colors before many of their leaves develop, and later big cabbages of leaves grow and the plants increase quite rapidly. There is the bird's-eye primrose, a tiny pink flowered plant, which comes early but stays in bloom for a long time. There are Jullie primroses, low plants (Continued on page 69)
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Hon. Sec. Mr. A. E. Bridgewater
109 Watwood Rd., Shirley, Solihull, Warwicks, England
Our primrose business is just an overgrown hobby. When we got to the saturation point something had to give. Doing something I like doesn’t seem like work. I change my mind when it comes to carrying heavy hats and sieving a lot of soil. That part of it is just plain work—after that the fun begins.

Chehalis is just halfway between Portland and Seattle. The climate is also halfway between.

We have a heavy clay soil so have to do a lot of conditioning with manure, old sawdust, compost, etc. Even before we added much of any humus primroses did very well.

We grow mostly polyanthus, candelabras, some acaulis, julianas, a few species and quite a number of garden auriculas. Candelabras are planted by the creek where they do beautifully. Some were completely covered with water for a day or so with no damage. They need no extra water, no fertilizer nor soil conditioning.

I place my seed flats on a shelf in the lath house at a convenient height. I have tried putting them in a cold frame, on the back porch, or even in the house, but find the lath house works the best for me.

When I prepare the flats I put gravel and small lumps of dirt left over from the sieving in the bottom. I finish filling with a mixture of sieved soil, sand, leaf mold and a little Blue Whale Peat. I also put in a little Aldrin and mix it well. Press the soil down with a board.

I like to plant early in April. I plant the seeds thinly and water with a weak solution of Natriphene. I lay a double thickness of newspaper flat down on the seeds and sprinkle water on the paper until they are just covered. When the paper is on I check each day for mold. If there is any remove the paper and spray again with Natriphene solution. I seldom have mold. Everyone who reads this will probably throw up their hands in horror, but my mother did this and it works for me, too.

I keep flats moist with a fogger and cover them with hardware cloth to keep birds out. When seedlings are big enough to transplant they go into the cold frame and from there to their permanent place.

These warm January days are bad if we happen to get hard freezes later. My primroses are bursting into bloom right now. When we anticipate a freeze we put on fir boughs or excelsior, but when we run out, sheets of heavy black plastic are used. The plastic seems to work well but must be removed each morning if the sun shines, otherwise the plants might cook.

We welcome visitors. If anyone is driving through Chehalis stop and see our place. We are located Southeast of Chehalis off old 99 Highway (now Jackson Highway) on Kennicott Road.
Dear Editor:

I have just received the winter issue and feel I must have my say about the new strains of primroses being produced as described in Mr. Baldwin's article.

Granted, they will be effective plants for greenhouses, for very commercial nurseries, for bedders out, for anyone looking for long bloom of masses of Johnny-jump-up. But who, in exclaiming over their size, their ruffles, their color, they now have been hybridized until most colors are represented. They never fade, they are weather-proof, and though the original one was a dark wine color, they now have been hybridized for real gardeners that is the flowers are reverting to a more nearly normal size. I have always felt that, while some enlargement of the flowers does not spoil the plants, there is great danger in ever-increasing size of losing the "wild" look of primroses that is one of their charms.

Let us pause a moment, and think about some of the flowers that have been thus developed. Pansies are an outstanding example. As the advertisers say f'revans sake let us poor old GARDENERS have some of our dear old plants and all the weeds that come with them. So sincerely,

Doretta Klaber

For the next issue, Mrs. Bellis has written valuable notes on summer care of primulas.

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Gresham, Oregon, U.S.A.

A. P. S. Judges 1963

The A. P. S. Board of Directors voted last fall to allow qualified Primrose judges who are members, in good standing, of the A. P. S., to judge at National Primrose Shows. This ruling does not affect local shows. Mrs. Herbert Dickson was appointed judges chairman and has presented the following list of qualified judges as of the 1963 membership list. Please contact Mrs. Dickson if your name is on the list, or if you would like to have your name withdrawn.

Mrs. Orval Agee
Mr. Ralph Baldwin
Mrs. Ruth Bartlett
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Mrs. P. B. Charles
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AMERICAN PRIMROSE SOCIETY

Bucks County Garden Notes

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