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Dividing CANDELABRAS and Other Winter Dormant PRIMULA

Dividing winter dormant primula is like pruning deciduous trees. In early spring just before or just as growth is starting is the best time to divide the candelabras and other winter dormant plants. At this time of the year the plant is still dormant or nearly so. It can be moved with little or no shock and new growth will start soon to heal any wounds received during the dividing and replanting.

Spring is not the only time these plants can be divided. Many of them can, with a little extra care, be transplanted or divided anytime during the growing season with very few losses. Every two or three years is often enough to divide these plants; however, very few will survive more than five years in the garden without dividing and resetting.

All of the species in the Candelabra section increase vegetatively by a root-like growth from the old crown growing up instead of down. A new crown develops on the end of each of these side shoots. As soon as the new crowns get established, the connection to the old crown withers making the new crowns completely separate new plants. All around this crown tuberous roots develop extending out and down like the ribs of a half opened umbrella. As winter comes the top growth dies and a resting bud is formed. This bud lives through the winter. When spring comes, it uses the energy stored in the tuberous roots to start the process all over again.

When dividing time comes in the spring, dig up the clump which is a group of individual crowns. Each crown has its own root system with no connection to any other crown. If your soil is loose, gently work each crown free from the intertwined roots of the other crowns. They will come apart without damage. If your soil is solid and compact, you may have to wash the dirt away from the roots before separating the crowns.

The crowns are now ready for resetting in a new freshly worked bed or back in the old location after it has been worked over with compost or fertilizer added and treated for root weevil and other soil pests. Set the new crown about one inch below the soil surface.

One problem in resetting candelabras is getting the hollow cone under the roots full of dirt without damaging the roots. Mound up the dirt in a cone and set the roots over this cone of dirt is one way. Another way is to puddle the dirt until it is soupy then push the roots down in this soft mud. Either method achieves the desired result of eliminating the air pockets under the roots.

The winter dormant primula species are in the majority. Besides the candelabra, they include Sieboldii, Florindae, Rosea, in fact, almost all primula except the vernales and auricula sections and some of the tropical species.

Some of these winter dormant primula develop clumps that are extensions of the parent plant still connected into one plant and must be broken or cut apart when divided. In general you divide these clumps into pieces that have one or more crowns or dormant buds with some roots then reset these pieces.

Primula Sieboldii is a species that increases by extending its creeping rizom like rootstalk in all directions just under the surface of the soil in much the same fashion as an iris. The old roots tend to die out as the new roots expand. At intervals along this rootstalk and at the ends of each branch are eyes which develop leaves and flowers during the next season.

When the summer gets hot and dry, Primula Sieboldii goes com-
pletely dormant and stays that way until the next spring. For that reason you must mark its place and be careful with your weeding and cultivating. Given the proper place it is one of the easiest of primulas to grow. Don't despair if you forget and hoe your Sieboldii in little pieces. One year I rototilled a bed of Sieboldii before I remembered they were there. I then marked it and left it alone. The next spring I had a maximum increase in plants. Some of the pieces of rootstalk put up leaves and grew from eight inches down.

To keep your plants healthy and blooming is the main reason for dividing; so, let your plants tell you how often to divide. In the right spot some may prosper indefinitely while others will require dividing every two or three years. Those in the farinose section seem to require dividing every year to keep them healthy under garden conditions here in the Pacific Northwest.

PRIMULAS Offer Something for EVERYBODY

Primulas in their great variety offer something for everyone no matter what their tastes or in what part of the world they live or their skill as a gardener.

To start with is the Primula Juliae hybrid "Wanda" which is the easiest and probably the most widely grown of any named primula. It will grow with little or no care in almost anyplace in the temperate or sub-arctic zones that is not too hot and dry in the summer. Ease of culture and reliability of bloom are the characteristics of most of the Juliae hybrids.

The most widely grown primulas are the polyanthus and acaulis types. These have been crossed and recrossed with hand pollinated controlled seed production so that you can now buy seed of them by type and color that come almost true with only slight variations. You can even buy double seed that will produce a good percentage of doubles. A great deal of credit is due to both the amateur pollen dabbler and the professional seed producer for their developments. To many the world "Primrose" means only the wild primula vulgaris of England and Europe. To the majority of the people in the U.S.A. who know about Primulas the word "Primrose" is a general term that applies to any species or hybrid Primula.

If you are not particular and only want some early spring color, the polyanthus, acaulis and juliae hybrids are for you.

If you have a rockery, grow some of the auricula species and hybrids. Some of these species such as Allionii, Spectabilis and Minima will test your skill a little more than the common garden auricula.

For the perfectionist, the growing of show and alpine auriculas will keep you exasperated and fascinated until they close the lid on you.

There is nothing better for a stream side than the candelabras, the various colors of denticula primulas and Primula Floriniae that spreads its sweet and delicate perfume in late June and early July.

In our southern cities many of the parks and public buildings use our greenhouse or semitropical primulas such as P. Obconica, P. Malacoides and P. Sinensis as bedding plants to provide a long season of color. Very few of the spectators know what they are or realize that they are related to some of the more difficult plants to grow that are native to the high Himalayas of Asia, the Rockies of the U.S., the Alps of Europe or the mountains and tundra of the Arctic Circle.

If you live in Alaska, the high Rockies or the European Alps, you can collect and grow many species of Primula that are almost impossible for us at sea level to grow and flower.

I heard of a person in bleak northern Alberta, Canada who grew Vetterle & Rienelt's strain of Polyanthus to perfection even with 50 to 60 degrees below zero winter weather, and they bloomed in the spring two weeks ahead of "Wanda".

If you live at the lower levels and want to test your skill try some of the more unusual primulas as Clarkii, Sonchifolia, Parryi, Cawdoriana, Reidii, Tayloriana, Cusickiana or any of the Petiolars.

Most of the common primula are obtainable only through seed offered in the various seed exchanges. For that matter seed is...
the best source of all types of primulas or hybrids except the named clones that are on the market. Primulas are very easy to cross pollinate by hand. This fact opens up to everyone the most fascinating hobby in all the world, that of creating a new or better plant through controlled hand pollinating. The growing of plants from crosses that you have personally hand pollinated is an activity that no matter how old you get, your enthusiasm and interest stays young. This interest in seeing what my new seedlings will be has kept me growing more plants every year and made me willing to give of my time and energies to further the interest of the A.P.S.

Primulas truly offer something for everyone and through the A.P.S. MORE PEOPLE WILL HAVE the opportunity to learn about and enjoy growing the primula that suits their fancy.

**President's Message**

**Dear Fellow Members:**

I am disappointed by the results of my last message. As of this writing on January 2, 1969, I have received exactly two letters. It now looks as if the year of decision is going to be handled by the Board, making guesses as to what the membership wants and likes.

At times I wonder if too many of us are not afflicted with the national ailment of fear of involvement. Would you step over an injured person and walk on, because to stop and help might get you involved? I hope not, because only by getting involved can you enjoy the benefits of the American Primrose Society. The greater the involvement the greater the enjoyment and personal satisfaction.

Let us go all the way and really get involved and see the multitude of new horizons that are opened to you. It is not too late for your letters.

As a news item there will be a "Primrose Robin" started as soon as I can find a director.

Sincerely,

Your President

Herbert Dickson.

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The Farmer's Almanac predicted the worst snow storm in years for the Pacific Northwest this weekend of January 25-26. Since Christmas we've already had more winter weather than normal with a big snow on New Year's Eve and temperatures far lower than usual for this area.

Seattle, like Rome, is built on seven hills. Wherever one goes, stalled cars and accidents are common because the snow tires usually are good enough for light snow but not always right for several inches of snow over ice.

Frozen water pipes, hazardous driving conditions and the oil strike have overshadowed the Hong Kong Flu as topics for conversation. Editor Emma Hale returned from Christmas in Illinois with her son to broken water pipes in her basement and greenhouse, a frozen pump and no electricity. All this and a winter issue of the Quarterly to get to the printer many miles from Penny Creek Farm. Treasurer Beth Tate lost everything in her biggest greenhouse at Primrose Acres (Her husband's priceless collection of geraniums comprised the major loss) when an oil line froze and within a few hours every plant was frozen. Fortunately her primulas are under a good snow cover and her Show and Exhibition Alpine Auriculas were safe, too. Those growers using cold frames are packing snow in and around their potted plants to keep the foliage from drying out and to prevent heaving of the soil and broken pots.

The Almanac was right. It started snowing late Saturday night and at 3 a.m. we were having a blizzard. Thankful I am that I don't have to drive to work in it.

This will be a good day to pack the Spode and crystal, feed the birds and delight in the extra inches of snow building up around precious auriculas and other primula. My cold greenhouse is empty this winter because neighborhood children have done so much damage to the plants in it the last two years I decided the plants would be better planted in the ground. Even my best double and show auriculas are in raised beds now covered with snow. After moving here four years ago in January I thought I would never move again but my
husband's work will be in Arlington, just forty-five minutes by freeway from here. So we're off to a lovely small city where the Steelhead fishing is great, the people are friendly and good soil and cow manure is available.

My only worry is the weather. If the ground were not frozen I would have no fear of moving plants in February. Four years ago when we moved here our house on the lake was demolished so that an apartment house could be built on the site overlooking the University of Washington. We could take all plant material because a fill would cover my three level garden. It had been an ideal place for diversified gardening because at street level I could raise rock garden plants requiring good drainage and sun. Three stories down steep steps my large greenhouse was built against the lower floor receiving sun until noon. A portable nine by twelve greenhouse nestled under deciduous trees closer to the lake getting all sun available in winter and shaded in summer. The temperatures near the lake were ten degrees warmer in winter than higher areas and candelabras and sikkimensis primula loved the boggy area. I reluctantly pulled up stakes and moved everything including fifty large rhododendrons to the new home overlooking Lake Washington. I couldn't leave anything behind to be covered by tons of dirt, especially primroses.

Although there was some snowfall during the three weeks I had to move my garden the ground did not stay frozen more than a day or two at a time. Two college students and I moved everything in a rented trailer, making several trips a day and planting the large shrubs and trees immediately. I lost only two rhododendrons. The daffodils and other bulbs I dug like clams were heavily rooted but transplanted happily and bloomed well later. The climb up the three flights of stairs was not easy when loaded with flats of plants, etc., but I had practice taking plants to primrose shows for several years and worked on the theory that what goes down must come up. Several sweepstakes came from that ideal site for primula and I was reluctant to leave the greenhouse attached to the house. In it I had learned to hybridize auriculas with the help of Ralph Balcom and other experts. My first Bawford Trophy winner, a yellow self barerooted and fresh and moist. I was home from work that day with a bad cold but I immediately went out and uncovered some compost and potted up seven pots of the different varieties he so kindly sent. Today they are in the 55 degree studio under skylights two stories high and seventeen plants are up about an inch. I was afraid to put them out in the snow for fear of losing them. This first sign of spring has given me primrose fever and I must write Mr. Baldwin for the seed list. Remember this year they are sent only on request and I had forgotten this until a friend said hers had arrived.

Wish me luck with my winter move this cold February. I hope it works as well this time as it did four years ago.

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Primrose 'Show Time' Near

HOW YOU, TOO, CAN BE AN EXHIBITOR

It's Easy to Groom and Prepare Your Own Choice Plants for Display; Here's a Simple Way for Flower Growers to Enter Spring Shows

April is the month for Primrose shows and this year, at least a half dozen of these delightful affairs will be staged in the various communities of the country, sponsored by enthusiastic and hard-working garden clubs. At these shows will be massed literally thousands of these fascinating springtime jewels of the flower world, in such a diversity of form and color that you will wonder again at the vagaries of Mother Nature.

Perhaps you have attended one of these shows and have said to yourself, "I know that I have Primrose plants of my own at home finer than some of those prize winners on display." No doubt you did. All they needed was a little grooming and preparation.

Why not enter some of your choicest plants this year at one of the local exhibitions? It is not necessary that you belong to any garden club since these shows are usually open to everyone. Even if you grow but one Primrose in your own backyard, you are still welcome and are invited to display. The more the merrier. Do not be alarmed if you are in doubt as to the proper name or classification of your specimens because there will be a receiving committee on hand pleasantly willing to assist you. Do find out beforehand, however, the rules of the show governing the hours for receiving the entries and the other necessary regulations, and then abide by these rules. There is so much pleasure and satisfaction to be obtained by displaying one's own flowers for the enjoyment of others, and — there is always the exciting anticipation of winning a blue ribbon or two, and even perhaps a sweepstakes award.

There is nothing very difficult or mysterious in preparing Primrose plants for display. Different exhibitors have each worked out a method that suits him best but they all adhere to the same principles. Here are the various steps to be taken:

1. About a week or two before showtime, wander around your garden and mark those plants that seem best likely to develop into good specimens. Bear in mind that, not only are the flowers important to consider, but that the condition and form of the leaves and flower stalks account for many of the points in the grading. The plant must have the appearance of being well grown without being over-stimulated by the excess use of fertilizers, and also should be symmetrical in form and have a balanced number of flower stalks in a pleasing arrangement. Select those freshly in bloom with enough buds to carry on during several days in a warm show room. Although it is the rule of the shows that all hardy Primroses must be grown outdoors, it is permissible to protect them at this time with a pane of glass from bad weather.

2. The day before the show, dig and pot the best of the plants previously marked. Choose pots of a size in proportion to the size of each plant, scour them clean and place some peat moss in the bottom to help maintain as much moisture as possible. In digging, cut a circle around each Primrose about the size of the pot, lift and settle it in carefully and then fill all open air spaces with peat or soil. A dressing of crushed rock, white sand or tree moss placed on top of the soil helps to dress up the specimen but is not particularly necessary.

3. Soak thoroughly by standing pots in a pan of water or by immersing in a weak manure or booster solution. Give them a good dunking.

4. After draining, groom each plant by removing any faded blossoms or spotted leaves, taking care not to disturb its symmetrical form. If this is done carefully so that it is not apparent, it will be allowed by the judges. Wash the dirt gently from the foliage with a sprinkler.

5. Finally, write your name in indelible on the bottom of each pot just in case a label should become lost and then set them in a cool place until the time comes to take them to the show.

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Answers by Alice Hills Baylor, Corresponding Secretary
Johnson, Vermont, 05656

Question: Kindly give me five Primulas that are of easy culture and also give succession of bloom.

Answer: Both these Primulas belong to the Bird's eye group and both are miniatures with great appeal. It has been my experience that P. Scotica is more difficult to keep than their relatives, P. Farinosa and P. Frondosa. P. Faureae alba is far more enduring and its tiny self has been in my garden for over five years and has been divided several times. It is extremely healthy, about the size of a fifty-cent piece and its one-inch stalk topped with a bunch of pure white florets.

* * * *

Question: Is P. rubra difficult to grow?

Answer: P. rubra is an easy miniature which likes gritty soil in well-drained area. The foliage encircles the rosette, the flower stalk two inches at the most in brilliant cluster.

* * * *

Question: Will you tell me what slug bait is the best?

Answer: My experience is that all are good. They come in various trade names. May be mixed with mulch or scattered around plants.

* * * *

Question: Is P. chionantha difficult to grow?

Answer: I have grown this "SNOW PRIMROSE" for many years. It may be raised readily from seed and planted in soil with one third humus in an area where there is moisture BELOW the surface with morning sun. (The same conditions as Meconopsis). The fragrant white flowers are set closely on the stalk which is powdered heavily with yellow farina and rises 16-18 inches above the large rosette. There is a violet form which shows up in the planting once in a while.

* * * *

Question: Is P. Halleri a satisfactory Primrose for garden use?

Answer: This Primula is synonymous with P. longiflora, a dainty member of the Farinosa group. It is a "semi-miniature" as the rosette is small but the flowering stalk is taller than most members of this family group. It does not give the garden effect as its cousin P. darialica which is a more robust plant and far more floriferous and enduring.

* * * *

Question: Does anyone know a source of seed of P. ATRODEN- TATA? If you do please send information to Mrs. Alice Hills Baylor, Johnson, Vermont 05656.

The Questions and Answers Column editor, Mrs. Alice Hills Baylor is doing such a splendid job, that I wish again to express my thanks.

Emma Hale, editor.

KEEP SENDING YOUR QUESTIONS TO HER.

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AMERICAN PRIMROSE SOCIETY
Commentaries of an OLD GARDENER

by the late ROY E. KARTACK

Editor's Note: Roy E. Kartack passed away on December 7, 1968. He was a sustaining member of the American Primrose Society since 1944. Your editor thought all members would enjoy this informative article by Mr. Kartack, which is a reprint from the National Auricula and Primula Society, Northern Section Year Book. Mr. Kartack was 84 years old.

In the declining years of life a flood of memories return—some to haunt us because we failed to heed the call of opportunity; others to make bright our reveries with the visions of enchanting auriculas and polyanthuses we have raised, plants which might have graced the show bench, but alas, lived but for a short period and their like was never to be seen again. Along with such pleasant memories there have come speculation as to why men develop into the creatures they turn out to be: why so few of the male population, in America, do not round out their years in the pleasant pursuit of growing flowering plants.

It happened that I arrived here, less than a half century after the first white settler, in what is now Sauk County, Wisconsin, built his cabin on the Wisconsin River on the site of what had been a village of the Sac tribe of American Indians. Being a second generation pioneer, in a new land, I knew of the hardships and privations endured by the hardy souls who came when there was still the menace of marauding and often hostile Indians. While the men were clearing, grubbing the land, and sowing the field crops, the women planted and tended the kitchen gardens, which were to become the sole province of the ladies. To brighten up what was a drab existence they cultivated a few ornamental plants. Now in every community, of any size, there are Garden Clubs all organized and sustained by women.

I do not discount the fact that there are influences that come along the line of descent; those predilections that are inborn and turn a man's fancy to the art of growing ornamental plants. I am convinced, however, that it is not an acquisition unless it be that the events of early life create a yen to dabble in the soil. If I may be pardoned for interjecting a few personal comments I will say that I was introduced to horticulture at the tender age of three when a tall and gaunt Scot came from the Canadian Province of New Brunswick to make a fortnight visit with a family from the State of Maine who were our next door neighbours. One day as he was returning from town he cast away the shucks of peanuts just as I came up to greet him. He said “Do you like peanuts?” The answer being “Yes” he promised to bring me a sack on the day he would be leaving for home. The fortnight passed; then a month passed and to my consternation he lingered on. My father, noting my disappointment, brought home a sack of raw peanuts and encouraged me to grow my own crop. With favourable weather there was a harvest and I became aware of the bounties of nature and was thrilled by the fact that growing things could be rewarding.

There is no denying the fact that certain scents play a part in the future of men. When I had advanced to the age of being useful in my fathers' newspaper office the noble profession of printer's devil was bestowed upon me. There the smell of printers' ink, as it then was, became the "Perfume of my early youth." Then a few years later a summer was spent as a florist's helper and the scent of the old florist's carnation was an intriguing fragrance vying as it did with the raucous odor of decaying tobacco stems. That scent has now been eroded by the desire for bigger and handomer flowers.

The day was to come when college beckoned and I went to a town where one of my predecessors as printer's devil had become the editor of one of the newspapers in the college town. Out of gratitude for my father's tutelage in journalism he employed me as a free-lance reporter at six dollars per week. There, again, the odor of printer's ink was to buoy up my spirits. Then came a long period of a mad scramble in the world of commerce when I could only enjoy the sight of gardens and growing fields from train windows; but in every city I visited in all those years of travel over the nation I never failed to look in at the windows of florist's shops; nor turning in at the offices of newspapers. My first visit to Emporia, Kansas was in the Dog Days of August, when a blistering heat had seared the range grasses and the stubble in the wheat fields. The city seemed as quiet as a tomb with not a soul on the streets at mid-day. In spite of torrid air I ventured out to survey the town. Not far from the hotel the odor of printer's ink assailed my nostrils. I was at the entrance of the Emporia Gazette, presided over by that eminent journalist William Allen White. The editor's chair was vacant and no one about; but there came the sounds of snores issuing from a cubicle to the rear of the editor's sanctum. The door wasajar

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AMERICAN PRIMROSE SOCIETY
and I found a sleeping figure I knew could be no other than the famous Walt Mason who produced a widely syndicated, part column, of what is called blank verse. On a sheet of yellow paper were the words “If every day were sunny we’d soon be spending money to buy a cloud or two.” Those words have always been present in my mind when the Augus sun beats down upon our primula plantings as they have these past two years without a rain in the cloudless sky. We are now up to the first day of June with but scant leaves which serve a dual purpose as they can be converted to leaf mold.

I regret to report that 1964 has been off-year for primulas. Warm weather in April brought on the bloom on the polyanthus before the soil is about to freeze in late autumn. It is necessary to cover all outside beds to insulate the plants in times of the January thaws which never fail to appear; and the later thaws in March. In January of this year the thaw came early and there was but little snow during the remainder of the winter. It is the same with the cultivated strawberry. There would be no crop unless the beds are covered with straw. We use leaves which serve a dual purpose as they can be converted to leaf mold.

I once made about bedding down primulas when the soil is about to freeze in late autumn. It is necessary to cover all outside beds to insulate the plants in times of the January thaws which never fail to appear; and the later thaws in March. In January of this year the thaw came early and there was but little snow during the remainder of the winter. It is the same with the cultivated strawberry. There would be no crop unless the beds are covered with straw. We use leaves which serve a dual purpose as they can be converted to leaf mold.

I regret to report that 1964 has been an off-year for primulas. Warm weather in April brought on the bloom on the polyanthus before there was a compensating foliage growth. Auriculas for the most part failed to bloom. The only Asias that made a good showing were the Denticulata and Sieboldii.

We retired to the country at the time when normal conditions were restored at the end of the first world war. Our property being close to virgin soil we set about making our plantings, which for me were rather limited because it was necessary to commute between home and my Chicago office; but I did make a start with primulas. In the years that followed many plants have been grown; and with the assistance of the late William A. Toole we worked up a strain of polyanthus that has the vigour to remain long in the garden. In normal seasons auriculas put on a good show particularly the Alpines. I have raised many Show plants—“Selfs,” some stripped and splotched; but nary an edged plant of merit.

I think it was Dekker who wrote these words “Two things, the abbreviation of time and the failure of hope will always tinge with a browner shade the evening of life.” For me time is rapidly running out; but I hope to be spared long enough to see some of the still un-bloomed Show auricula seedlings blossom in the tradition of the old florist’s edged auricula. Then I can say life will end with no tinge of the browner shade.

R. E. KARTACK, Baraboo, Wisconsin, USA.

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The members of the board of the American Primrose Society wish to extend their deep appreciation and congratulations to two members for their New Life Memberships.

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P.O. Box 96
Trout Lake, Mich. 49793

James W. Watson .................. $100
Brunswick Beach
West Vancouver, B.C., Canada

Beth Tait
Treasurer

Dear Mrs. Tait:
At last a long time wish is being realized — a Life Membership in The Primrose Society! This plant has given me so much pleasure, and would like to be a part in the furthering of its culture.

The seed exchange has given me many interesting species.

Holiday Greetings to you, and may the years ahead for “primroses” be gratifying.

Ruth M. Scherer
Trout Lake, Mich. 49793

December 17, 1968

The American Rock Garden Society
(founded 1934)
cordially invites you to join its growing list of enthusiastic members
Annual Seed List • Quarterly Magazine
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Richard W. Redfield, Secretary
Box 26
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1969 Winter Quarterly

AMERICAN PRIMROSE SOCIETY
Page 19
Random Notes
On PRIMROSES
by CYRUS HAPPY

If your interest has been aroused in growing some of the many types of Primroses from seed, you might profit from these observations. If the seed you have obtained is in sufficient quantity, divide it into two parts. Broadcast one batch on a well drained, outdoor seedbed that has been surfaced with a half inch of wet peat moss. This can be done any time from late winter to the first of May, but preferably about the first of March so that the seeds will be stimulated into germination by the variable weather. If the weather is warm and dry, a layer of wet burlap will aid germination but should be removed as soon as the seed leaves appear. Just provide protection from drought and slugs and Mother Nature will do a first rate job. As for the second batch of seed, plant it in seed pans or flats and cover very lightly with ground sphagnum moss or sand and vermiculite. Then place the seed pans in a greenhouse, coldframe or perhaps a sun porch where they will get gentle heat. Some growers advise soaking the seed in warm water overnight and then freezing in the refrigerator for a day or two. This process can be repeated several times and is especially useful in getting old or improperly stored seed to germinate. If your seed pans show signs of getting dry, use warm water and sprinkle very carefully or better yet, let them soak in a pan of shallow water. I advise dividing the seed into two groups because even though germination is excellent in the outdoor seedbed, some accident or freakish weather may destroy your seedlings. You will then have the pampered seedlings to fall back on. I have had almost 100% germination using a well drained outdoor seedbed with such subjects as Polyanthus, Auriculas, Candelabras and Primula florindae.

Primroses For Gifts

Why not use potted Primrose plants for gifts this spring. Select a strong blooming plant from your garden or from your nurseryman, remove all damaged leaves and faded flowers and work down any leaves that have strayed up among the flowers. The pot should be in good proportion to the plant; usually a five or six inch short pot is about right. As you can see, Double Primroses make particularly lovely potted plants and they will last for weeks if not left too long in a warm dry room. And in succeeding years you will be remembered for your thoughtful gift as the plant brightens up your friend's outdoor garden.

Tips On Growing

So often we hear that a gardener has difficulty growing Primroses and the trouble is usually due to one or more of these easily controlled pests: slugs, root weevils, red spider mite, or occasionally aphids. The slugs are easily controlled by fresh metaldehyde bait or dust. As for root weevil, anyone who grows Primroses (and many other plants and bulbs, Rhododendrons and Strawberries for example) should use Aldrin, Dieldrin or Heptachlor either watered into the soil in liquid form or dug in when the dust is used. The control is complete and will last for several years. The red spider mite is often the cause of yellowed and stunted foliage. A sharp eye can detect this tiny fellow at home on the underside of the leaves and he thrives during dry weather. A good control is Aramite which must be sprayed on the underside of the leaves. A current favorite spray for the control of aphids is Malathion so use it on your Primroses as a matter of course when you are spraying other things. Once started on this simple pest control program, no gardener should have any trouble growing any of the Primroses.

Freeze Losses

Many gardeners are counting their losses from our November freeze and the Primrose fanciers are no exception. We may have lost some plants but there are things to be learned from the freeze, too. The large-flowered Polyanthus were the most hard hit due in part to the fact that many of them were produced from California grown seed. After many generations of growing in so mild a climate, the plants had lost the ability to go adequately dormant and, hence, could not survive the sudden freeze. In contrast, the Cowslip, Oxlip, and their close relatives were scarcely affected. A fine example is double Polyanthus "Moonlight" whose habit of growth indicates that it is quite closely related to the Cowslip. This plant proved completely hardy. It was a pleasure to note that the Juliana hybrids were not injured by the freeze and, with the first bit of mild weather, were sending out a few flowers. These plants should prove useful to the hybridists in replacing the hardiness in our strains of Polyanthus. A practice I have not seen used lately is the scattering of wood ashes around our plants in the fall. The wood ashes supplies potash which greatly aids the plants in ripening their woody tissues enabling them to withstand freezing weather.

Most of the Auriculas took the freeze very well and losses seemed to be but little more than the
usual number caused by crown rot. Some of the Show Auriculas have reported the loss of some plants in the unheated greenhouses. This was probably caused by bright sunlight reaching the plants while they were frozen. Here, the pots were frozen solid but not a plant was lost. If you are discouraged by your loss of Polyanthus plants, let me recommend a border of seedling Alpine Auriculas. You will be fascinated by the great variety of rich, velvety colors and will spend many enjoyable moments trying to select the show caliber plants.

One of the real gems of the Primrose family, Primula Margi-nata, seemed completely unaffected by the weather. This plant is one of the almost shrub-like Primulas and is at its best high on the rockery or in a crevice where it can hang down as it grows. The flowers are a lovely lavender-blue carried in compact umbels just above the foliage. The leaves are made most attractive by the cream-yellow meal that outlines their toothed edges. This plant from the high Alps has produced a charming group of offspring known as Margi-nata Hybrids. Outstanding among these are named varieties 'Linda Pope' and Col. Champney's var. both prominent in the Press as Marginata Hybrids.

**Seeding Methods for PRIMROSES**

**Show Time**

Primrose Show time is almost here again and if you would like to compete but feel that you don’t know enough, here are a few tips for now and for next year. A well grown plant for show is usually one that was divided just after blooming last year or else a sturdy seedling. In order to become a sturdy plant continual root development must be encouraged so add a little bone meal or super phosphate to your soil. A product that is very popular with nurserymen and Primrose and Auricula enthusiasts is Blue Whale, a peat moss product enriched with the by-products from the only whaling station in the North Pacific. It is used either mixed into the soil or as a mulch and is also a great aid to the hobby greenhouse owner who has difficulty making up a well balanced potting compost. A plant growing in properly prepared soil and protected by the above mentioned pest control measures should be in excellent condition as show time nears. From two to four weeks before the show the plant is ready for an extra boost to get the flowers into full bloom and with the best possible size and substance. A popular way of supplying this an 0-10-10 liquid fertilizer made by the Liquinox Company. The day before the show, pot up your plant in an appropriate sized pot, filling in with wet peat moss, carefully remove damaged leaves and blossoms and take your plant to the show, confident that no one could do any better.

Of course, one must have viable seed to start with. If purchased, get it from a reliable dealer who understands how to properly harvest and cure it. If one wishes to use his own seed, he should be harvested with care. Choose a dry, sunny day if possible, and be sure it is fully ripened before gathering. Dry thoroughly before separating from the chaff and then place the seed in a tight container and store it in the cool compartment of the refrigerator.

**Time to Sow**

February, March and April are the most popular months in which to sow Primula seed. Some of the species, especially the Candelabras, germinate best in the summer or fall. Now, however, using one of the tried methods of pretreating older seed, most of these will grow almost as well in the spring. Many growers do prefer to sow in the summertime, but often it is difficult then to get the seedling plants established with a sufficient root system to withstand heaving from the ground caused by alternate freezing and thawing during the winter.
Seeding Medium
A mixture of equal parts of sand, peat (or leaf mold) and garden soil sifted is as safe as any. Many other composts are just as good, no doubt. Any mixture that is used should be porous in texture and should not be too rich in plant food. Sterilization of this medium before using will kill many weed seeds and help eliminate certain mosses and algae that are often troublesome later on. This can be done by placing the soil in a metal container and baking in the oven.

Sowing
For a container, a flat or most any shallow receptacle can be used as long as it is clean and has sufficient openings in the bottom for good drainage. Place an inch layer of coarse gravel, or some other such material, in the bottom and on top of this a similar layer of peat moss. Finish filling with the potting mixture, scrape off flush with the top and then press it all down a bit keeping the whole surface level. In sowing, scatter the seed thinly and as evenly as possible and press it into the soil with a small, flat board. It can be sowed in rows about an inch apart, so that the seedlings can be cultivated later with a kitchen fork. It is not necessary to use a covering of soil, but if any is used, it should be sifted on very lightly and as evenly as possible. In place of a covering of soil, I prefer a thickness of wet burlap on top of the bed to prevent any seed from drying out before germinating. This is removed just as soon as the seed begins to sprout.

The bed should then be thoroughly watered. If possible, this should be done from the bottom by setting the flat in water to about two-thirds its depth and leaving it there until saturated. The flat is then covered with a pane of glass, on top of which a sheet of paper is placed.

Care
The optimum temperature for germination is about 60 degrees. Inspect the flat every day as soon as the first seeds sprout, remove the paper and burlap and also tip up the glass to give more air. After a few more days remove the glass completely. The seedlings need good light but care should be taken that they are not exposed to a hot scorching sun. If they should begin to grow tall and spindling, give them light and a better circulation of air. Avoid frequent sprinklings of water. Wait until they really need it and then give them a real soaking from the bottom. It is best not to water seedling plants by sprinkling from the top. Dusting at soil surface with a safe fungicide-insecticide controls damp-off and aphids, the two major seedling enemies.

Transplanting
The plants are ready to transplant to another flat containing a richer growing medium when they have their first true leaves, although they can be left longer if not crowded. Space them about two inches apart. Bi-monthly dusting to reach underside of foliage keeps aphids in check. The final moving to the open garden should be made when the plants have established a good root system and begin to get crowded here. It is best to do this in the afternoon of a cloudy day. A thorough watering several hours before transplanting the seedlings as well as a good soaking afterwards will lessen the shock and help them establish themselves.

Hot Water Treatment of Seed
Some growers have success in pre-treating primrose seeds, especially if the seed is old. Of the various methods of pre-treating Primula seed, the so-called Hot Water Method is the easiest to use and I believe obtains as good results as any. The method is simple. After the seeds have been sowed, sprinkle well with water heated to about 115 degrees, being careful not to wash them out. Repeat this same procedure twenty-four hours later. That is all there is to it. There seems to be no danger of injuring the seed by use of this process.

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if care is taken that the water is not too hot. A temperature of 120 degrees seems to be the maximum.

A Seeding Experiment

The length of time that Primula seed will remain viable varies somewhat with the species. Some germinate best when fresh, while others seem to require a resting period. Most of the Auriculas are in this category. There is much experimenting yet to be done to determine the exact peculiarities of even some of the more common species.

In order to satisfy my curiosity and make a test, I decided that I could check the various methods of pre-treating the seed and the length of time it was viable. The results are probably not conclusive or scientific but are worth recording.

I divided a standard flat into four equal plots and, using the same medium in all of them planted an even one hundred of the three-year-old seed in each plot.

Seed in plot No. 1 were scarified; seed in No. 2 were treated by the so-called Artificial Freezing Method: in No. 3 they were given the Hot Water treatment, and those in No. 4 received no special treatment, being used as a check.

Inasmuch as all the seeds were planted in the same flat, they were grown under identical conditions. Bottom heat was given—which I believe does aid in germinating most Primula seed—and a temperature of about 60 degrees maintained.

With no special treatment given, 85% of the seed germinated when fresh and only 35% did so after it had aged three years. However—except in plot No. 1—an increase was obtained by the use of some treatment that would break down or soften this hardened outer coat and allow moisture to penetrate.

The Hot Water Method obtained a 68% germination which, if one could judged by this one test, indicates a distinct advantage for this process.

It is evident that most of the seed was still viable, and when moisture—along with the other factors essential to germination, namely: optimum temperature and air—was properly supplied, the necessary chemical process began to function and the almost dormant embryo resumed its active life.

Primrose Show News

National Primrose Show

The Tacoma Primrose Society will host the National Primrose Show this year. Mrs. Frank L. Springer is Show Chairman. The Show theme will be "Sweet Song of Spring" and will be staged at the newly enlarged Villa Plaza Branch of the National Bank of Washington. Show hours: 2 p.m.-10 p.m. Saturday, April 12th and 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday, April 13th.

American Primrose Society National Meeting

The APS National Meeting and Banquet will be held Saturday, April 12th at 6:30 p.m., at the Lakewood Terrace, 6114 Motor Avenue S.W. in Lakewood Center. Reservations may be made by contacting Mrs. Frank Westwood at Rt. 1, Box 1470, Spanaway, Washington, or Mrs. Springer, 29901 Marine View Drive S.W., Federal Way, Wash.

East Side Garden Club's 21st Annual Primrose Show

East Side Garden Club's 21st Annual Primrose Show will be held at the V.F. W. Hall, 4725 148th N.E., Bellevue, Washington, April 18, 19 and 20. The theme is "Primrose Potlatch". Show opens Friday, April 18, at 2 p.m.

Washington State Primrose Society Show

The 1969 Auricula and Primula Show of the Washington State Primrose Society will be held at the Puget Sound Power and Light Company Building, 10608 N.E. Fourth, Bellevue, Washington, April 26 and 27. Show hours 1 p.m.-9 p.m. Saturday, April 26 and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, April 27.

From the Treasurer's Desk

Are you using your Primrose Chart? A great deal of effort and thought was put into the compiling of this Chart of facts regarding Primroses. Do not leave it folded up in some hidden place. Those members not receiving this Chart when joining the Society, may receive one, by sending 30c to Treasurer.

Pictorial Dictionaries are available to members at $2.00 a copy plus 12c postage. Back issues of Quarterlies may be purchased for $3.50 plus 15c postage, for 10 copies.

Our Editor would appreciate receiving articles on Primroses found in your old magazines for the scrapbook. Also any extra black and white photographs suitable for reproduction in the magazine. Your editor needs your support, so if you have had some informative experiences with your primroses, write them up and send them along to the editor.

TREASURER'S REPORT

as of Jan. 15, 1969

Checking and Savings $1,810.30

Mrs. Beth Tait, Treas.
One of the signs of a good gardener is his familiarity with the names of the plants he grows and his ability to use these names correctly. For many gardeners, common plant names prove sufficient, such names as "Lady Slipper" or "Primrose," but as their horticultural interest and experience grow, they discover ambiguities in these common plant names and are certain to feel the need of some more exact, more systematized nomenclature. They find that one man's "Lady Slipper" is another's "Ram's Head" and that there are better than five hundred kinds of "Primrose." The serious gardener finds it to his advantage to adopt the scientific system of naming his plants, binomial nomenclature.

The system of binomial nomenclature was introduced into botany by Karl von Linne, whose name is better known in its Latinized form, Linnaeus, a brilliant Swedish naturalist of the eighteenth century, in his Species Plantarum of 1735, a descriptive enumeration of the majority of the plants known at that time. Previous to the appearance of this work, plants were designated by lengthy Latin polynomials which were in reality brief descriptions of the plants they denoted. These summary Latin descriptions were often of many terms; an example is to be found in Gerard's Herbal, printed in 1636: Primula hortensis omnium maxima et serotina floribus plenis, the greatest double-flowered late English garden Cowslip. It is not to be wondered at that this treasure did not survive the ordeal to grace our gardens today. Different botanists chose different characteristics of a plant as significant or even disagreed in their description of the same characteristic; therefore the plant often appeared under a different name in every work in which it was described. The Linnaean system of botanical nomenclature is, in contrast, simple and exact.

Homologous plant individuals, clones, comprise a species; related species a genus. The scientific name of any plant consists of its genus and species. Where it is desirable to make interspecific differentiations, subspecies, varieties, and forms are appended to the specific name proper and their status signified by the abbreviations subs., var., and f. or forma. For example, the scientific name for the well-known "Gold Band Lily" is Lilium auratum var. platyphylhum, Lilium being the genus, auratum the species, and platyphyllum the variety. The generic name is always capitalized and is a noun or noun-equivalent. The specific and sub-specific names are written in small letters unless they are commemorative terms derived from a proper name or a previous generic name and are adjectives, nouns in apposition, or genitives. The specific and sub-specific names must agree in gender with the generic name. The botanical name of the common English Primrose is Primula vulgaris. Primula is a feminine noun, and vulgaris is a descriptive adjective meaning "common." P. Sieboldii is named in commemoration of a person, therefore the specific name, Sieboldii, is capitalized. It would be incorrect to capitalize "vulgaris." An example of the second case where capitalization of the specific nomen is employed is P. Auricula. This and several related species were originally placed in a genus of their own, the genus Auricula ursli, literally, "bears' ears." When it was recognized to be more properly a member of the genus Primula, the older generic name was retained as the specific name. It is never proper to capitalize a specific name denoting origin, such as P. bhutanica or P. burmanica.

How does a plant receive its name? The first person to accurately describe a species has the privilege of naming that species, but the description must appear in print and be placed on sale to the general public or botanical institutions or be distributed to representative botanical institutions to be valid. A figure of the plant is not an ample description, but must be accompanied by a Latin diagnosis sufficiently accurate to enable positive identification of the species. If it is found that a species has been validly described under a different name than that in current usage or than a newly proposed name, the prior name has precedence, and the name of later publication becomes merely a synonym. It was recently found that P. Winteri had been validly published under the name P. Edgeworthii prior to the publication of the former name; therefore P. Edgeworthii is now the correct name of this species, P. Winteri becoming a synonym, however difficult it may prove for gardeners to make the change.

Since several authors may apply the specific name to different species, it becomes necessary to distinguish such homonyms one from the other. Therefore, it is customary in botanical usage to append the name of the author to a plant name — often abbreviating his name. Thus, P. Edgeworthii Pax was named and described by Pax, and P. calderiana W. W. Sm. et Forrest by Sir William Wright Smith and George Forrest. The name of the author is not set off from the specific name by a comma.

In naming hybrids, one of two forms may be employed; it may be given a Latin specific preceded by the sign X or be indicated by the names of the parent plants separated by this sign. The hybrid between P. Bulleyana and P. Beesiana could be indicated as P. Bulleyana x Beesiana or given a specific name, as P. x Bullesiana—in this case, a contraction of the parental names. When the former method is employed, the parental names should appear in alphabetical order, unless the exact parentage of the cross be known, in which case, the female parent is written first and then the male parent: P. Bulleyana x Beesiana. In crosses of a more complex nature, involving several species, the following form may be used: P. (Bulleyana x Beesiana) x Beesiana.

Recommendations have been made regarding the nomenclature of horticultural varieties. The varietal name should consist of not
more than three terms and should be placed after the specific or hybrid name: P. Sieboldii Dora or P. x plumbescens Kingscote. In commercial practice, the varietal name is sometimes allowed to stand alone or is appended to one of the parents of a hybrid alone, as in P. Kingscote. This is not advisable except in circles where long familiarity with the varieties in question makes any confusion impossible. An unfortunate and well-known example of such possible confusion is afforded by the common practice of appending the varietal names of the many charming forms of P. x Juliana to P. Juliae, one of the species entering into the cross. One often finds references to P. x Juliana Alba as a natural variety of P. Juliae, which definitely is not, being, rather, yet another of the many complex hybrids of this group. The names given horticultural varieties must not be Latinized, with the exception of those of known parentage which designate some botanical character of the plant or its place or origin. It is definitely incorrect to Latinize horticultural names commemorating persons. Varietal names in horticulture should not be translated when used in another language; it would not be acceptable to list P. x Juliana Schneekissen as P. x Juliana "Snow Cushion". When it seems desirable to make such a translation, it should be appended in parenthesis to the original name of the plant. It has been further recommended that the prefixes "Mr.", "Mrs.", etc. and the articles "a", "and", their equivalents in other languages be avoided in naming horticultural forms. Horticultural names are considered validly published when a recognizable description, with or without a figure, is given in a recognized horticultural periodical or serial, a dated horticultural catalog, or scientific publication in any language employing Roman characters.

The proper use of botanical nomenclature is an advantage and a pleasure. A familiarity with its rules and usages is a necessity with the growing interest on the part of both amateur and commercial gardeners in hybridization and will prove invaluable as new species are discovered and introduced to our gardens. And with this influx of new beauty from the collector and hybridizer, gardeners will find an increasing use of the language of plants, which is one of the few truly universal languages of the world.

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