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All material for the Quarterly should be sent direct to the Editor's Office, 16614 Ninth Avenue, Bothell, Wash. 98011

Subscription (including membership): $3.50 per year, $10.00 for three years paid in advance. Old QUARTERLYS are available, 10 for $3.65 postage included, at the Treasurer's Office—Treasurer, Mrs. L. G. Tait, 14015 84th Ave. N.E., Bothell, Washington 98011.

The Quarterly of the American Primrose Society is owned solely by the Society, which is incorporated under the copyrighted name AMERICAN PRIMROSE, PRIMULA AND AURICULA SOCIETY.

The editor is Mrs. Emma Hale, 16614 Ninth Ave., Bothell, Washington 98011.

Published four times a year: Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall.

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Entered as second-class matter at Bothell, Wash., under the Act of March 3, 1879.
Dear Fellow Members:

This is a good time to take note of your winter losses and damage to your primulas. Take notes on the type of plants and conditions under which they died or survived; then, try to duplicate the growing conditions and types that survived when making your future plans. If you do hand pollinating for seed, use these hardy plants that survived for seed parents. This will help prevent future losses.

Show time is here again. No matter how bad the winter, a lot of nice plants always turn up at the shows. This year's National Show is in Tacoma along with the annual meeting and awards dinner. This show is open to all members wherever they live. Now in the days of airmail and air parcel post there is no reason why your perfect plant cannot win a trophy at the National Show. Send your plants to the APS National Show in Tacoma in care of the show chairman: Mrs. Frank L. Springer, 29901 Marine View Drive S.W., Federal Way, Wash. 98002. A wide area of representation makes this truly a national show.

Make this year's show a special occasion by bringing your plants to the show and staying for the annual meeting and awards dinner. The Tacoma people are good hosts and there will be planned garden visits on Sunday for those who wish to go.

At the National Show and annual meeting is the best place I know of to meet old friends and make new ones. I wouldn't miss it for the world. I hope to see you at the annual meeting.

Sincerely,
HERBERT DICKSON

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.
mens at the mouth of a short-styled flower would come in contact with the stigma, at the same level, as it visits a long-styled form. In the absence of insects, self-pollination may occur, in which case less abundant and poorer seed is formed.

With the exception of *P. scotica*, which is homomorphic, the other species with which we are dealing are also dimorphic, as are the primulas, auriculas and polyanthuses of our gardens.

Although the distribution of the primrose is widespread, its actual habitat is governed by the type of soil best suited to its requirements, viz. the damper clays and loams containing plenty of humus.

Some detailed ecological research has been done recently in Dorset, where an intensive survey of its distribution has revealed some new facts about its habits. This survey showed, as might be expected, that primroses in this county were almost confined to woods and hedgebanks, but nowhere were they to be found in hedgebanks adjacent to woods in which they did not grow. Further, it was found that there were two stretches of country where primroses were almost entirely absent and these coincided roughly with those areas of dry, chalky or sandy soils, which stretch across the county, while the two main areas where the plant grows are in the West and North-west of the county, where they grow equally in woods and hedgegrows, and in the East, where they are mostly confined to woods only. In both these areas the soils are the damper clays and loams. It was also found that rainfall was also a determining factor for they are most abundant in the West, where the rainfall is highest, and less plentiful in the drier East of the county, where they are generally absent from the hedgebanks, which dry out more quickly than woods. Nowhere are hedgebanks wetter than those adjacent to woods, which explains why no hedgerow primroses were found in areas where they were absent from woodland. The primrose has several local names, among which are: Butter Rose, King-Charles-in-the-Oak, Lady's Frills, Spring Flower and the earlier name, Primerole.

Following the primrose in time of flowering comes the gay and fragrant cowslip, "peggles" or "pailges," as I knew them as a boy in North-west Essex. Unlike the primrose with its single flat flower on each scape, the flowers of the cowslip are in umbels, that droop on all sides of the stalk, of a deeper yellow colour with orange dots or honey guides. It normally grows in the open in meadows and pastures on clay, and is common on Boulder clay and Liassic clay, and is also found on chalk and limestone. When found in the shade of copses and woodlands it is taller and finer in flower and foliage.

Two of its common names, "Astetyke" and "Palsywort," refer to its supposed medicinal properties. As to the latter, Gerarde says: "They are thought to be good against the pains of the joints and sinews," and "a conserve made with the flowers...prevaileth woonderfully against the palse." "Astetyke" is a corruption of Arthritica, a name given because the cowslip was supposed to be beneficial for pains in the joints.

It is called Herb Peter, a reference to the resemblance to a bunch of keys, the badge of St. Peter.

At one time an ointment for the complexion was made from the flowers; now it is used in country districts for making a sweet wine.

Within a small area in North-west Essex and over the borders of the neighbouring counties of Suffolk and Cambridgeshire is to be found the True or Bardfield Oxlip. It is so abundant in the damp woods in this locality that the local inhabitants find it difficult to believe that it grows nowhere else in the British Isles. Its habitat is restricted to the Boulder clay, a glacial deposit of a calcareous nature, which here, where it overlies the chalk, contains boulders of chalk and flint.

In very general terms the oxlip has flowers rather like, but slightly smaller than those of the primrose both as regards shape and colour, carried in umbels at the end of a long stalk, as in the case of the cowslip, but unlike the latter in that the umbels droop usually to one side of the stalk. It has a very delicate fragrance less pungent than the cowslip but rather more pronounced than the primrose.

The cowslip hybridises with the primrose (*P. veris x vulgaris*) and the resulting cross, the False Oxlip, is not uncommon in some parts of the country, and is very often confused with the true oxlip. The Bardfield Oxlip also hybridises with the primrose (*P. elatior x vulgaris*) and a detailed study of the oxlip and primrose in East Anglia was made about 65 years ago. It was found that around the edge of the oxlip area there was a zone of oxlip-primrose hybrids, and it was suggested that this hybrid zone was gradually extending inwards, resulting in the theory that the oxlip was being slowly hybridised out of existence by the primrose. It has been shown more recently that this in fact can happen in other species, but even more recent work on primroses and oxlips...
has indicated that the suggested encroachment of hybrids is not likely to have taken place, and that the movement of the two species is probably governed by ecological factors. I remember as a boy making an annual pilgrimage in April to Bowcroat and Yardleys, among other woods in the vicinity, to enjoy the beauty (and to pick a handful) of these pale yellow carpeters of the woodland. Now, nearly 60 years later, I am told, they still flourish in these localities. Incidentally, primroses are not usually found where oxlips grow.

The fourth primula in our list is also of local distribution. It is not strictly calcicole but apart from a few localities in the south of Scotland it is confined to the limestones of North-west Yorkshire and adjoining counties, on wet ground which is rather peaty. It is most plentiful on the carboniferous limestone of the Craven district where it may be seen in drifts on the moors, but it is not absent in a few wet spots on the magnesian limestone.

It is a little gem with numerous small lilac-purple or lilac-pink flowers with a yellow eye, arranged on a common stalk in an umbel, erect or spreading. The lower surface of the leaves is mealy (hence farinosa). It is usually in flower from May to July. Height 2-9 inches.

There is a rare albino form which one may be fortunate enough to come across by diligent searching.

For the Scottish or Highland primrose, we must travel to the extreme North of Scotland and Orkney, where it inhabits sandy heaths, turfy places near the coasts and pastures, but rarely inland. It is similar to P. farinosa, but about half its size although stouter in proportion. Its purple-blue flowers with yellow centre, are in umbels and appear from June to September. The leaves are mealy below. Height 1-4 inches. P. Scotica is listed in some nurserymen's catalogues but I understand its life is but brief in our Southern gardens.

Reprinted from Year Book of the National Auricula & Primula Society (Southern Section).
She knew how to do anything in the way of construction, even though she had been an art major at the University and one doesn't expect such practical skills of one of us art majors. I learned a lot from my sister about auricula and about other things, too. Never let anything get you down — keep busy if you are in pain — and hum a little tune while you work were three of the most important things.

When she passed away three years ago her son insisted I take all her plants as he wished her hybridizing to go on. The following article was found as I was going through some of her hybridizing notes after I moved to Arlington last month. It will help me next month as I pollinate doubles and I hope it will help anyone else who is interested in working with them.

Nancy Ford

In looking over the cards I have on the different double auricula, I have observed two main types (there are many others) where auricula hybridist might profit from my experience in hand pollination.

The auricula are like polyanthus in that some are pin eyed and some thrum eyed. The pin eyed type is no problem if the exposed stigma is at the moist, receptive stage. All you need do is put pollen on it and cut away the anthers. The thrum can be difficult, however, as many of the good doubles tend to have up to eight stigmas which may be either very close to the ovary or actually part of the ovary skin. Some have the ovules exposed and I have experimented with pollinating these and, watching them carefully, have harvested the ripened seed which was exposed throughout. It is better to take a later floret which may not be so double or look the umbel over carefully for one which may have a normal stigma, style and ovary.

The most difficult to pollinate are those which will not permit the petals to be pulled away from the ovary. This type is made up of a series of tubes, one inside the other, with the inner tube actually the only covering on the ovary. If you tear all the petals off you end up with the bare ovules and no stigma. I have tried to pollinate this type by removing the outer and inner tubes except the very center one which I cut off and peel back until the stigma is exposed. I can't say that any of these have been successful in producing seed, but one tries any method if a choice plant is involved in a cross. Some plants have no ovary so these may be used for pollen only.

There is one type of double auricula that differs from the P. VERNALES section in that it has the anthers at the base of the ovary and so could not be self pollinated.

center tube

stigma

8 cut 

No peel back

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Primrose Shows In England

by Dr. E. Lester Smith

Before describing our English Shows it is necessary to clear up some differences in terminology. Nothing is more confusing than a word whose meaning changes when it crosses the Atlantic. For example, we should be horrified to see a car (automobile) on the pavement, which for us is the area reserved for pedestrians, i.e. your sidewalk—an expressive term that we never use. So 'primrose' with us is not a generic term. In common parlance it refers only to the yellow *Primula acaulis* that grows wild in our woods and hedgerows; among horticulturalists it includes all the coloured hybrid acaulis types, and what we sometimes call anomalous primroses, like the Jack-in-the-green. Over here we do not use the word 'acaulis' except in botanical names—we say primrose instead; so in England the polyanthus is definitely not a primrose. Our common generic term is primula, which however excludes the auricula. Hence our Society is called the ‘Auricula and Primula Society’, though, as I shall explain, the organisation is odd and parochial even for England.

In both our countries Shows must be arranged on a relatively local basis. Few people will carry exhibition plants hundreds of miles, and for you State boundaries and laws also interfere. So in America you have your local Primrose Societies, each organising its own Show. But all are affiliated to the American Primrose Society and are served by the one Journal. In England we have three Shows, in London, Birmingham and Manchester, but the three Societies are completely separate and autonomous, and each runs its own independent journal—yet they have precisely the same name. To make matters even more confusing, they differentiate themselves as the Northern, Midland and Southern Section respectively, as though they were parts of a single body.

Instead, in earlier times they just ignored one another, each recruiting members as if it were the only Society, and months could elapse before a member happened to hear of the other Societies. The Northern in particular regarded itself as the original Society (as it well may have been) and the natural repository of the rigid traditions of the florists' flowers. The Northern was then dominated by proud, stubborn old men in their 70's and 80's, who just knew that no 'youngsters' in the South could raise auriculas like theirs. Actually the most prolific raisers of prize-winning Shows and Alpines respectively were Hayson and Douglas, who both lived near the S. Coast. In recent years more liberalized councils have prevailed, each Society now reports or comments on the Shows of the others, and there have even been proposals for amalgamation, though these have come to nothing as yet. Moreover many keen growers join two or even all three Societies, and exhibit at as many Shows. Until recently this was a herdic enterprise, because often the Midland and Northern Shows were on consecutive Saturdays, with the Southern on the Wednesday between. Things are easier since the Southern changed to a Saturday, and got a better attendance as a result.

Early records of all Societies seem to be lost, but the Northern does have an old minute book that records a decision to revive the Show in 1873, implying that they must have started originally well over 100 years ago. Indeed, there is positive evidence that auriculas have been cultivated in the North of England for about 250 years, and that Edged Shows were being exhibited for prizes around 1770, if not earlier. It must be recognised that ours are primarily auricula societies. Indeed the Northern at one time abbreviated its name to 'National Auricula Society' on the cover of its Year Book. The 'and Primula' part of the title was probably added originally to admit the gold laced polyanthus, grown since the time of our first Queen Elizabeth as a florist's flower to standards almost more strict than those applied...
illustrated in the table, which analyzes auriculas compared with about 100 last two years. Its supporters have cleaner colours, like the lovely Southern managed what is probable favourably and the similar number of A.P.S. members out of a population four times as great — even after allowing for our overlapping memberships.

Another feature of our Shows is that there is often little competition, i.e. few exhibitors, in the polyanthus and primrose classes, and with multiple entries allowed many of the awards may go to a single exhibitor. Thus in 1967 Lambert Smith took 22 out of 29 awards at the Northern Show, and 14 out of 25 at the Midland, and did well again in 1968. Similarly at the Southern I took 11 and 6 awards myself out of 26 in the two years. Some explanations can be offered for these wide discrepancies between English and American Shows. I can speak with limited experience of yours, because in addition to reading the A.P.S. Quarterly I had the privilege of being taken to the Kirkland Show in 1963 by Ralph and Evelyn Balcom, with whom I was enjoying a visit. Firstly the exhibition auriculas seem to be peculiarly English plants. Moreover, unlike orchids, say, they are not a rich man's hobby but have always been grown predominantly by modestly-paid artisan types, who often could not afford cars. Now polyanthus and primrose plants as shown tend to be bulky and heavy, so it is impossible to bring many by public transport. Also the dates of the Shows, in late April and early May, are geared to the auriculas; even so they sometimes prove rather too early for the Show auriculas in a cold dull spring. On the other hand they are too late for some primroses, polys and 'other primulas' (though too early for the candelabras etc.) The table shows that in 1968 the Southern nevertheless managed to amass 60 'other primulas' and what must surely be a record entry, at least for the last half-century, of 40 gold laced polyanthus. It is splendid to see the revival of these lovely plants — many of them descendants of plants I raised from seed bought from Peter Klein shortly before his death. I kept the strain going, propagating from the best plants, and distributed seed widely. It has since been further improved, notably by Mr. Warriner. This year the Southern is to experiment with an innovation, namely an additional Show in March primarily to attract the early primulas, though there will be numerous other classes. Another pleasing feature is the steady increase in numbers and quality of double auriculas. Again many of these are of American origin being descendants of Denna Snuffer plants and seed, and of Balcom seed, raised mainly by myself and Mr. Gould, until several others started breeding them in recent years.

There are several other ways in which our Shows differ from yours.

**Number of Plants Shown**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Shows</th>
<th>Alpines</th>
<th>Double Auric.</th>
<th>Gold Laced Polys</th>
<th>Other Polys &amp; Primls</th>
<th>Other Primulas</th>
<th>Total of Classes</th>
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<td>210</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>1968</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M.</td>
<td>1967</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>45</td>
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<tr>
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<td>190</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>15</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>S.</td>
<td>1967</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>20</td>
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<td>110-180</td>
<td>110-180</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>50-90 (120 in 1951)</td>
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<tr>
<td>M.</td>
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*Numbers rounded off

**AMERICAN PRIMROSE SOCIETY**
For one thing we do not have so many types of competitors. Our few professional growers do not compete, and the only distinction is for novices, save sometimes a class for auriculas shown by the raiser. Your classes are always for single plants whereas we go in for collections, like 'Six Shows—four dissimilar'; 'Four Shows, dissimilar'; 'Three Shows'; 'Two Shows'; and the same again for Alpines. Also 'Pair Gold-centered Alpines'; 'Pair double primroses'; 'Three Double Auriculas'; 'Four European Primulas' and so forth. In this way we get more plants on the bench without your elaborate colour grading, and encourage the big growers to enter groups, leaving the singles classes for those with fewer plants. This works out because the challenge cups are mostly for collections, and in some instances an exhibitor entering a collection is excluded from corresponding singles classes. All plants are shown in separate pots, even though primulas will usually have been dug from open ground a few days previously.

Another fundamental difference is that our Shows are essentially serious private meetings for members, who scrutinise competitors' plants, with magnifying glasses if necessary, discuss the Judges' decisions, arrange swaps and compare experiences. Moreover they are always one-day Shows, which means they are only open for an hour or so in the afternoon, after judging. They are only perfunctorily advertised, but if the public cares to look in they are generally admitted free. Perhaps we are naive in this, since most other horticultural societies do charge for admission. Also we do not have your practice of badgering the neighbourhood traders for gifts as prizes. We either give no prize beyond the printed card, or a few token shilling—often donated back to Society funds. Each Section does have, however, about a dozen silver challenge cups, to be held for a year by the winners. Some of these are so large as to embarrass winners who have to take them home by train! It would not be fair under our conditions to invite trade exhibits, and we do not usually have any, though there may be an occasional non-competitive exhibit of interest. We do have sales of plants donated by members, the proceeds going to the Society's meagre funds, otherwise supported only by small members subscriptions and donations.

Finally one must say something about the Journals. The Northern Year Book is the most ambitious; for the last 14 years it has appeared in two fat parts in spring and autumn, with page numbers running impressively into the hundreds—because they go on from year to year. Each part has in fact about 70 pages printed on rather thick paper with a fawn-coloured cover and generally a somewhat old-fashioned (or should we say 'traditional'?!) appearance. The Southern Year Book with its 'auricula green' cover and sometimes a coloured plate looks more modern; it also runs to about 70 pages, but gets many more words on each page; a news-sheet called 'Offsets' sometimes appears between issues. The Midland 'Argus' started in 1958 as a little news-sheet but had grown to 50 pages by the last issue. For $4 or so you can have the whole lot; if that is too much, then for primrose growers (in the American sense) the Southern Year Book at $1 is best value.
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
Answers by Alice Hills Baylor, Corresponding Secretary
Johnson, Vermont, 05656

Question: I want so much to have P. nutans and P. Viali and each year some disaster takes the seedlings of those two. Can you help me? I hope to try once more but am looking for a nursery who can supply them.

Answer: Both P. nutans and P. Viali are short lived Primulas. That is one reason nurseries do not list them. In order to keep both in the garden it is best to plant seeds each year for a supply. I have had some plants of P. Viali for three years and have divided but this is is not the usual case. The roots of both are very fine and resent transplanting. Great care should be taken when lifting them from the germinating flat. Here we transplant into peat pots so the roots will not be disturbed a second time when transferring to the garden. The soil for both, we have discovered, should be very light with fine sand, rich loam and compost. They should be mulched as the roots seem to have a tendency to be near the surface due to frost upheaval. If the soil is rich enough with compost the roots will penetrate deeper and give the needed nourishment and moisture.

Question: Can seeds of the fragrant “Moonlight” Primrose, P. alpicola, LUNA be planted outside in December (Washington State).

Answer: I would not recommend planting seeds of P. alpicola in the open ground at any time. The seedlings are extremely small and great care should be used in transplanting them from germinating flat to growing flat. Even then some are lost. I would suggest planting the seeds in a flat as is the usual procedure, and placing the flat outdoors covered with a window screen to protect it from heavy rains. Bring the flat into a warm place in February or March. If it is covered with snow allow it to melt slowly and when moisture is needed water with 100 degree water. Alternate this until germination has begun. Place flat under lights (two to three inches below lights) in a cool place. As seedlings grow spray with a foliar fertilizer once a week or use a weak solution of fertilizer when watering. Transplant with care to another flat when in second leaf. Transplant to the open garden in August, if plants are healthy or keep over in a cold frame the first winter.

Question: Is P. rosea difficult to grow?

Answer: P. rosea is one of the easiest Primrose to grow. It needs rich, moist soil, well drained position, partial shade but not bog conditions which one often hears is needful for this most charming miniature Primula. Being one of the earliest ones to bloom it is most welcome in any garden. There is one precaution and that is it should not be planted later than August 15th in most locations. The roots are fibrous and do not seem to become established as quickly as others of the tribe. I would also suggest if one is in a location where an early freeze might be expected that a mulch of small stones be placed around each plant of P. rosea. Watch before winter sets in if there is any heaving, if so firm into the soil.

Question: When should Primroses be uncovered in spring?

Answer: Primroses should not be heavily covered. In Vermont we use nothing and suggest only evergreen branches or a very light material to hold frost in ground to keep plants from heaving. When the plants push up through the mulch one may remove the branches. If in the case of alternate freezing and thawing watch for heaving and use extra mulch around, not on the crown, and push plants back into the soil.
A Green Thumb?
by RALPH BALCOM

Primroses require regular period care, especially in the summer months. At least they should be inspected at frequent intervals so that if anything is wrong, something can be done about it before it is too late. It is probably true that more primroses are lost by neglect, lack of attention or by actual carelessness, than because the grower lacks the knowledge of how to care for them. To have lovely plants and flowers of most any kind, one must “pay the price”, which is the labor involved in their care. Mrs. Polly Chapin, a past president of the Washington State Primrose Society, is a wonderful gardener and her home is surrounded by lovely plants and flowers and is a picture to behold. Her reply to friends who tell her that she has “a green thumb” is; “No, but you are right. I do have a green thumb.” Her neighbors thought her just a bit “odd” because they could hear her talking, apparently to herself, as she went among her flowers. John said that, one day she had told him rather shyly, she made it a habit to visit her plants most every morning and that she actually talked to them. First she would greet all her “children”, as she called them, with the salutation, “Good morning everyone, and how are you?” Then would talk to many individually and if there was one that was doing particularly well, would stop to praise it and to them regularly because they knew then they were being loved and that someone was really concerned about their welfare.

Dr. Hanley suspected, however, that the important reason her plants did so well was that, while visiting and talking to her “children”, she was also keeping a weather eye on them to see if any needed care and on many occasions would stop and work a bit if they did need attention. At least, she was making mental notes of things that would need to be done later.

He also made an observation that I often remember: “I think almost everyone loves beautiful flowers. Even hardened criminals appreciate them. But I have noticed that the best plants are grown by people who not only love flowers, but who also love to work with them. To be a good gardener, one must like to get his hands dirty”. My own observations confirmed what he said. I know of no one who really dislikes working in the garden, of whom one could say, “He has a green thumb.”

Nancy Ford Reports
On Moving Her Garden

Nancy Ford reports that moving her garden to Arlington in February, with heavy frost every night until this date, March 20, seemed to do it good. Perhaps it is because Liquinox 0-10-10 was applied generously immediately after planting and the free cow manure and pure water with heavy lime content made the double auricula, daffodils and other bulbs perk up and start blooming. The portable greenhouse is full of newly planted seed. The last load of twelve 20-25 year old rhododenrons was moved March 9. They were bedded down in Blue Whale Peat Moss and Liquinox 0-10-10 applications and rhododendron fertilizer applied the next day. Water on leaves and roots every evening before the heavy frost and wind came kept them safe and prevented shock.

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Richard W. Redfield, Secretary
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Closter, N. J. 07624

The Quarterly Bulletin

ALPINE GARDEN Society

ANNUAL SEED DISTRIBUTION LIST, with preferential treatment for overseas members, of some 2,000 varieties, including new introductions otherwise unobtainable.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION $3.00
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— Send for fully descriptive folder —
HOW TO PLANT

Start with any garden soil available and then make it loose and friable so that water will drain readily, yet it will retain enough to stay moist. You can use anything you have to do this, such as leaf mold, compost, sand, peat moss, vermiculite, etc., in any combination that will give you the proper degree of friability. This may be tested by squeezing a handful of the properly moistened mixture and noting whether it falls apart when the pressure is released. Another good test is to fill a pot with the mixture, compress it moderately, and note whether water soaks through it rapidly and disappears from the surface within a few seconds. It is wise to play safe at the outset and add extra coarse sand if there seems to be too much clay in your soil mix.

The soil should then be sterilized to kill weed seeds and disease organisms. For small amounts of soil you can do this in the oven at 250 degrees for an hour, being sure the soil remains moist. Or, a double boiler, covered, is a better way of retaining the moisture.

Place drainage material in the bottom of a pot, can, or flat. Rock charcoal or sphagnum moss is suitable, or just the debris from the above soil that you have sifted. This material should cover the bottom inch or two of the container. Now fill the rest to the top with the sterile soil and press it down very lightly. The soil level is then about one-half to three-quarters inch from the top. As evenly as you can sprinkle the seeds over the top of the soil, then cover with about one-quarter inch of vermiculite that has been screened to remove the powdery dust. Sterile sand may be used instead, or the seeds may be uncovered. If you do not cover them with vermiculite or sand, wet paper will do, but must be removed at the first sign of germination. Soak the container from the bottom until the top becomes moist.

If you water from the top put a cloth taut over the top to avoid washing the seeds away.

Use hot water (about 120°) for the first three days. This speeds the germination. A temperature of 60° or 65° is ideal. Glass or plastic may be used over the container to conserve moisture, but the cloth will be better as it allows air circulation. After most of the seed have germinated, remove the cloth and be cautious with the watering. It is most important now to keep them well ventilated to avoid damping off. If this starts Natriphen or Panodrench will control it. For good plants keep seedlings growing fast. Any balanced liquid fertilizer may be used according to the directions of the manufacturer. Just be sure you don't get it too strong. Protect from slugs and bugs with your favorite brand, but don't get full strength insecticide on the foliage. Dilute it with technical talc or place it between plants.

TRANSPLANTING

You can transplant the seedlings into flats when they get their first set of true leaves, the crinkled ones, or wait until later if they are not too crowded. Don't wait too long, however, or you will have considerable losses. Planting seeds in the spring allows the seedlings to develop while in the flats to good sized plants to be set out into beds in late summer, where they will become established and anchored before the freeze comes along to heave out plants that are firmly rooted. A covering of evergreen boughs is desirable if the seedlings are small. It isn't the freezing that does the most damage — it's the bright sun that usually comes right after it. The boughs will filter the sunlight. Drainage is important in our climate. Don't let them stand in water. Raised beds are best.

GENERAL CULTURE

One or two applications of 0-10-10 fertilizer in the fall, before the frost comes, will harden the plants and help them to become semi-dormant. Over-fertilizing at this time is responsible for most plant loss. Plants should be divided every second year after they stop blooming. Cut the roots back to four inches, wash away all dirt, dip in an insecticide solution, and then separate them. Cut back or discard some of the leaves at this time to balance the reduced root system. Remove all dead blooms. Set plants at least eight inches apart in enriched soil that has been treated with some insecticide that will protect against root weevil. Shade from hot sun and keep well watered until plants are established. Liquid fertilizer will help offset the shock of transplanting.

Primroses may be grown in full sun in the Northwest if enough humus and moisture is provided. High filtered sunshine is ideal, of course, but too much shade makes for leggy plants.

There are so many varieties of primroses that you can have some in bloom all the year around. The American Primrose Society hopes that you will have.
A Project For Beginners:

How To Make A Scree

"...if some misfortune were to necessitate our starting a rock garden again from the very beginning, we should furnish it almost exclusively with scree or peat beds."

There is no getting around it; many of the more choice and fastidious alpines just do not do well in the ordinary rock garden. They need better drainage and a somewhat leaner diet than usually afforded in such a position. The answer, of course, for these treasures, is the scree.

A scree is usually seen as an adjunct to—or extension of—the rock garden. It may, however, stand quite apart, and be any shape desired. One of our members during the recent cold spell had the good fortune to have her plumbing freeze up and burst. This required a long trench to be dug across half the front lawn to replace a pipe. Needing another scree to her garden. It may, however, stand to—or extension of—the rock garden. They need better drainage and a somewhat leaner diet than usually afforded in such a position. The answer, of course, for these treasures, is the scree.

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Now comes the drainage material for the bottom. Farrar would such a site available and that you want the scree to be retained by a low stone wall in front and to merge into the ground at the back. The first thing to do is to excavate the soil to a depth of 2 1/2-feet. Pile the topsoil to one side; if it is good stuff it can be used later as part of the scree mix. Discard the subsoil; you might use it as a fill elsewhere in the garden.

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The location for the scree is often dictated by considerations of available space but, if you have a choice, make it on a gentle slope to the south. Let's assume you have

Roy Elliott, Alpine Gardening

Take an African violet to lunch next week and learn all about them; how they grow and bloom in your home all year round; that there are hundreds of varieties to choose from and that by sending $4 to The African Violet Society of America, P.O. Box 1326-P, Knoxville, Tenn. 37901. You will receive Culture leaflets, membership in the African Violet Society and five issues of the colorful 72 page African Violet Magazine. You'll be glad you did.

NATIONAL AURICULA AND PRIMULA SOCIETY — Northern Section

Invites all Auricula and Primula Lovers to join this Old Society

Membership of $1.50 per year includes Year Book

Hon. Sec., Mr. J. Robinson

584 Edenfield Rd., Rochdale, Lanes, England

I've been working in my garden And I've got sand in my hair, I've got it 'neath my finger nails And almost everywhere.

It scours around between my toes And wears holes in my socks, I find it in my "shell like" ears Sometimes even tiny rocks.

I've got a crop of hangnails That would make a tiger scream And Ivory soap won't help them Nor Lux, nor Jergen's cream.

I grab a bunch of quack grass, Shake the dirt with all my might. It fills the wrinkles in my neck And slides down, out of sight.

And though you cannot see it I know full well it's there. So 'scuse me while I take a bath And cultivate my hair.

By IRENE B. HILL

The National Auricula and Primula Society, Northern Section, has a new Booklet out called HOW TO GROW AND JUDGE AURICULAS.

Price $1.00 postage paid.

Send orders to

J. Robinson, Hon. Secretary
584 Edenfield Road
Norden, Rochdale, Lancs
England

Any Snohomish County members of A.P.S. wishing to start a local Primrose Club are asked to write Nancy Ford, Rt. 5, Arlington Airport Park, Arlington, Wash. 98223. It takes about 10 to start a new affiliated club.

Educational programs and slides will be available from the National Society. There may be time to have a primrose show this spring if members wish.
Mighty Acorns Make Little Oakes

I am sure that we all remember the old saying—"Mighty Oakes From Little Acorns Grow!" It seems to me that it should be changed for a person who gardens to Mighty Acorns Make Little Oakes. It is the acorn that contains the might and power to produce the sturdy Oak and it seems to me that would justify the latter way of modifying the saying.

There are many elements in gardening which seem trivial, but really mean much. No gardener can avoid being impressed about seeds. The wondrous ways of Nature are mysterious. The spark of life in an acorn or a kernel of corn, protected from harvest to planting time and even longer are factors the average gardener does not consider yet he knows that when he gives them the right conditions of warmth and moisture they germinate and produce plants.

Observing gardeners soon find out that seeds reproduce their kind and endeavor to choose known varieties which will give them a good harvest. Each garden, with its particular kind of soil has a climate all its own, so what will do best for you in your garden is the sort to choose.

Gardening on the whole is a great cooperative effort. You try your best to secure the plants that respond for you and you supply water in case there is not enough rain. Sometimes you even supply warmth when necessary and cultivate away the weeds so they will not use up the nutrients the plant needs. In all your efforts you strive to grow the perfect plants.

In your gardening dwell occasionally on that mysterious spark of life in the seed. It is truly one of God's greatest gifts to us to aid man to feed the world and to beautify our surroundings.

Orrin Hale
(deceased)

THE SCOTTISH ROCK GARDEN CLUB invites you to join

The Club's twice yearly JOURNALS, illustrated in colour and black and white, are described in the most flattering terms by rock and alpine gardening authorities in many lands outside Scotland.

The yearly SEED DISTRIBUTION contains much seed unobtainable elsewhere.

The full annual subscription is £1 ($2.50)
Novice or Expert, you will enjoy membership
R. H. D. Orr, C.A., Subscription Secretary
30 Alva Street, Edinburgh 2, Scotland

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

The American Primrose Society Board after grave consideration at the Board Meetings in August 1968 and in March 1969 has recommended the following changes in the Constitution and By-Laws: To raise the dues because the cost of printing and operating the Society has increased greatly since our dues were established in September 1956. If we are to continue, it is necessary to have more revenue.

Proposed Amendment to the Constitution:

Article VI—The Constitution maybe amended at any regular or special meeting by a majority of the members present, providing the Amendments have been approved first by the Board in regular session and notice of such Amendment has been published in an issue of the Quarterly prior to the time of the meeting.

Proposed Amendments to the By-Laws:

Article III Section II—Dues shall be: Active membership...$5.00 per year Sustaining membership 10.00 minimum per year Life membership............$100.00 Family membership first member...........$5.00 per year Each additional member Family memberships, includes all privileges to each member with one copy of all American Primrose Society publications.

Article III Section VI—Any local, state, or National Garden Club or similar organization willing to affiliate with and espouse the objects of the American Primrose Society may become an American Primrose Society affiliated organization by paying an annual dues of 50 cents per member on the rolls of the affiliated Society at the end of each preceding year, except that the minimum affiliation annual dues shall be $5.00.

FROM YOUR SEED EXCHANGE DIRECTOR

SUPPLEMENT LISTS are available to all members, on request to The Seed Exchange Director. If desired by airmail, overseas members should enclose an International Reply Coupon; United States Members enclose six cents in postage to cover addition cost.

EXCEPTION: Contributors to The Seed Exchange will automatically receive the list.

White small envelopes (such as are used in the Seed Exchange) with un-gummed flap are available, at the following prices:

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Mills, Mrs. Robert G. 150 Prospect Ave., Princeton, N. J. 08540
Miw, Satoshi 17335 Kirkshire, Birmingham, Mich. 48009
Morr, Frank F. 830 Sheridan Road, Evanston, Ill. 60202
Morris, Harry W. 17335 Kirkshire, Birmingham, Mich. 48009

Newman, Mrs. A. W. Three Old Maids, No. 6 R. D. Gore, New Zealand

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Ostrom, Mrs. Gordon 8310 Gillies Rd., Everson, Wash. 98247

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Pistolii, Miss Agnes M. 619 W. Howard Ave., Des Plaines, Ill. 60015
Pope, Mrs. John L. 7810 Acton Road, Acton, Ind. 46259

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Robinson, J. 584 Edenfield Rd., Norden, Rochdale, Lancs, England
Rohe, Francis (Garden Consultant) 4 Greenleaf St., Battleboro, Ver. 05301

Sahin, Zelimir K. Tyrkovic Aalsmeer, The Netherlands
Schaper, Mrs. Alexander H. Clubhouse Road, Binghamton, N. Y. 13903
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Smith, Mrs. Clifford L. Rt. 1, Plummer, Idaho 83515
Stafford, Carleton C. 616 Sackett Ave., Cuyoga Falls, Ohio 44221
Standish, Mrs. M. P. 128 Barn Hill Rd., Rutland, Conn. 06486
Stevens, Mrs. George 1034 Homestead, Port Angeles, Wash. 98362
Summers, Alan L. 14 I. U. Willets Rd. W., North Hills, Roslyn, N. Y. 11576

Tomkins, Mary 1350 168 Oakland Road, San Jose, Calif. 95112
Veno, M. M. 668 Oakhill Ave., Atleboro, Mass. 02703

Washburn, Dr. Richard H. Box A, E. Alaska Exp. Station, Palmer, Alaska 99645
Worth, C. R. 114 W. Court St., Ithaca, N. Y. 14850
Wotherspoon, W. W. 105 Tonnancour PI., Grosse Pointe Farms, Mich. 48236

\[ (P. Torrestii \quad P. frondosa \quad P. terebrata \quad (P. wvofurata) \quad P. vaseana \quad P. involuta \]
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. to 10 p.m. Saturday, April 12th and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, April 13th.

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 Potlach”. Show opens Friday, April 18, at 2 p.m.

OUR PRIMROSE SHOW

Have you ever gone out walking
In the dawning of the spring?
Did you see the Persian carpet
That our precious Julies bring?
Polyanthus tall and stately
Umbels full of blossoms too
Makes you think of Sunday dress ups
In their rich and pastel hues.
Blue acaulis, how I love them
Nestling in the morning dew,
Glistening from the evening’s dampness,
Golden stars in shades of blue.
Auriculas are prim and tailored,
Surely royal blood is there.
If you know a more regal flower
Please just tell me where.
Put them all together
Species added to the view,
Tables—tags and entries
Something brought strange or new.
Time keeps marching on
We pray again all will join hands To keep our Primrose Show coming on!

Thelma Nelson——

Editor’s note—This poem is dedicated to Rosa Peterson, who is over 80 years old. Whenever you see her, no matter what time of the year, she always wears a flower.

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. to 6 p.m. Saturday, April 26 and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, April 27.

Mt. Angel Primrose Show

The 22nd annual Mt. Angel Primrose Show has been set for Sunday, April 13, 1969. It will be held in the John F. Kennedy High School on East Marquam St., Mt. Angel, Oregon. There is no admission charge and doors are open 12 noon till 6 p.m. It is sponsored by Mt. Angel Garden Club.

Join A Round Robin

A cordial welcome is being extended to all interested in becoming members of a Round Robin (correspondence group). A Primula Round Robin will enable you to contact those of like interests within your own region, nationwide or international. Joining a Round Robin will enable you to correspond with those enthusiastic about your own particular thing. Experiences may be compared and sharing information will be beneficial to all. Membership in a Robin is a source of lasting friendships, nurtured through Robin contacts.

A Round Robin is a group of 10 or 12 interested Primula growers who circulate letters about their experiences, and ask questions of each other. All letters go a regular route. Each time the Robin comes to you, read all the letters, take out your old one, put in your new letter, and send them on. We have a director of Robins who keeps things going smoothly and extracts any information which might be of interest to all members for publication in the Quarterly. Robins are for beginners and old timers alike.

If you would like to join a Robin, please contact Mrs. Olaf E. Nelson, A.P.S. Director of Round Robins, 10803 Butte Drive S.W., Tacoma, Wash., 98498.

A questionnaire will be returned to you. Answering this questionnaire will enable your Director to place you in a desirable Robin.

American Primrose Society

Classified Ads

VERMONT HARDY PRIMROSES


P. Abchasica; P. rubra; Boothman Hybrid, Miniature polyanthus; Candelabras; Pulverulenta, Pagoda Hybrids, Species.

Seeds, double auriculas, 5c ea. All others, 100/.50. List on request.

SKY HOOK FARM, Johnson, Vt. 05656.

Informative reading on African Violets, Orchids, Cacti Lilies, Begonias, Daylilies, Gourds, Herbs, Wildflowers, Birds, Rock Gardens, Growing Under Lights, ads swaps. Published monthly. Sample copy 25c. $2.50 one year.

OZARK GARDENS, Aqua Callente Star Route, Julian, Calif. 92036.

COLLECTOR’S ITEM . . . Be the first in your area to grow these lovely double auricula plants. Hardy outside. Hand pollinated seed 5c each. Plant now. Nancy Ford, Rt. 5, Airport Park, Arlington, Washington 98223.

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