Quarterly of the American Primrose Society

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SUMMER 1970
NUMBER III

Best Seedling Show Auricula Winner Of Bamford Trophy
American Primrose Society

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THE PICTURE ON THE COVER: Best Seedling Show Auricula, winner of Bamford Trophy

Photo by Orval Agee

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AMERICAN PRIMROSE SOCIETY
Dear Members,

This is a very busy time for me as I take over as your new president. I have two greenhouses, full of plants, with peppers, lettuce, tomatoes, and cabbage mixed in with the primulas. There are more primulas than anything else! I am growing several varieties that are new to me and some that I have failed with in the past. I hope you are keeping in mind Mr. Dickson's plea in the last quarterly to make notes on yours as they grow and to report to us about them. Many people write for growing information. It would be such a help to have definite information by state and specific area to help in replying to them.

I have been a member of the Washington State Primrose Society and the National Primrose Society for about twenty years. But I have lived in the same place all the time I have been growing primulas, so my experience is rather limited. I have been an avid gardener all my life and have gardened in different places. I was born and raised in Oklahoma and have lived in Providence, Rhode Island, San Jose and San Francisco, California and the Seattle area. After my first spring in the Northwest seeing the primroses in bloom, I was sold on them. There are so many rockery gardens in Seattle and the Juliana's are a natural for them. Everybody had Wanda and lots of Quaker Bonnet and Cottage White doubles — primulas were new to me and I just loved them on sight! In Oklahoma and Rhode Island one depends on hardy perennials like peony and iris. In California I grew Begonias, Geraniums, Camellias and Fuchsias — but in the Northwest everything grows plus all kinds of evergreens.

In the Northwest there are more plant societies for the different shrubs and flowers than I can name. Here one can go to some kind of flower show every week of the year, except perhaps December, January and February. Primrose shows, of course, take all my time in the spring and I usually judge up to four shows a year. I like to visit all the shows I can to see what other people are growing. Our local club puts on a show in Bellevue, Washington annually. There are shows in Kirkland and Tacoma, Washington and Milwaukie and Mt. Angel, Oregon and in Chehalis, Washington now that the Dicksons have moved there. Enough about the shows, other people will give full reports later.

I would like to hear from everyone concerned about the board's proposal to limit the seed exchange to primula only. We will do whatever the majority of the members feel is the best. Please do write to me about your ideas on the Seed Exchange and any other problems concerning the American Primrose Society. Your letters will receive the most careful consideration.

Sincerely,
Lou Dines
(Mrs. William Dines)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

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

Question: Will you give me a list of the hardy Primulas that I can force in my cool greenhouse next winter?

Answer: I expect all of the hardy Primulas can be forced but the Candelabras, the Belled (P. Secundiflora: Alpica and Florindae) might be too large for a small greenhouse. The ones that force best are: The P. auriculas: P. rosea: P. polyanthus: P. acaulis: P. Sieboldii: The Juliana hybrids: P. abshasica: P. dariaica: Hose-in-Hose: P. marginata: P. rubra and P. modesta: and P. Fauriae. In fact the minatures would be the best to use.

Question: Will you kindly give the cultural needs for P. Clusiana: P. Glaucescens and P. Rubra and P. Glutinosus?

Answer: P. Clusiana and P. Glaucescens are both lime lovers. P. Clusiana has oval leaves, flower stem 2-3" with as many as six florets in the umbel. P. Glaucescens has pointed foliage in a compact rosette. Flowers lilac with 4-6 florets. P. Clusiana is the smaller of the two. P. Rubra seems not to have a preference as far as my experience goes. It is a much easier Primula, is longer lived, side shoots that can be removed and rooted. The rosette of P. Rubra is handsome as the ovate leaves curl around in tight formation. Red, often pink but rarely white. P. glutinosus is the most difficult, in fact I have never been able to keep it. It calls for peat, no lime, flowers blue-violet.

Question: I have been told that it is needful to have fresh Primula seed for germination, is this true?

Answer: It is certainly best to have fresh seed of Primulas to assure germination. This is especially true of some types, Primula rosea: P. marginata, and some of the Alpine types, as well as P. Parryi. However, if seed is kept in a closed glass jar in the refrigerator there is an excellent chance of germination. Then there is another
ecological condition to consider and that is the change in temperature in the native haunts of Primulas. So many grow at high altitudes with warm sun during the day and freezing temperatures at night. One can duplicate those conditions by alternating a snow cover over the flats and when moisture is again needed to use 100 degree water. (If snow is not available crushed ice may be used.) This is to be repeated until germination begins.

Question: Will you kindly give me the summer care of Primulas.

Answer: If Primroses have been planted the fall before or in the current spring the care is to mulch well and fertilize. The beds should be soaked once a week if it is dry. Wilted foliage should be removed. If the planting has been in for more than two years the plants should be lifted and divided if needful, the bed turned over to a depth of 12-14 inches with compost added as well as rotted or dry cow manure. The plants may be trimmed of all large foliage and reset and mulched. Soak well at planting time. It will be noticed new foliage will appear and the entire plant will look renewed. Slug bait should be mixed with mulch. A recent letter tells me that pine needle mulch has been found to be beneficial in place of compost as it will repel slugs. The writer had found slug eggs in the compost. Pine needles are used at Sky Hook farm as we have a great supply and that may account for the few slugs in our plantings of Primulas. All Primulas in the Auricula group should be mulched with lime stones or gravel in place of compost.

Question: Is P. marginata a difficult Primula to grow?

Answer: It is not difficult and it is one of the most beautiful of the miniature in flower and in silver edged foliage. It is a small plant with a long root and enjoys being planted in a horizontal position between two rocks facing east or north. The powder blue umbel of from six to eight florets is very early, often blooming before the “last” snow in Vermont. (The last snow storm can be as late as the 12th of May.) There are many handsome hybrids of P. marginata. Mrs. Agee has some lovely crosses she has made.

Question: If Primroses are planted in woodland is it necessary to mulch the plants?

Answer: There is a natural mulching in woodland and the soil is for the most part heavy with compost. Light woodland is an ideal place in which to naturalize Primroses.

Question: I have received the P. acaulis and have planted them. They appear to be doing quite well. I notice though that I have some trouble with slugs and sow bugs or pill bugs, which get near the crown. What do you do for them? Do you use a preparation for them? I have tried lime, soot and ashes, they still persist. I also would like to know what to do about red spider, which I understand will attack them.

Answer: At Sky Hook Farm we use the preparation “SNAROL” for slugs. Any other put out under another trade name should be just as good. We mulch our Primulas with pine needles that seems to repel all “crawlers”. For red spider just wash the plants with SOAP SUDS, not detergents, from a sprinkling can. Ivory soap or Fels Naptha. We also use tobacco dust in the mulch. Lime, soot and ashes (especially wood ashes) are all good for the soil and will release fertilizer and supply potash which gives flowers a deeper color.

Question: In my native Estonia we found in moist pastures a small, pink, farinose Primrose which we called “Swallow-eye”. Might it be your P. darialica? Do you know its place of origin?

Answer: I sent this lady a plant of P. darialica for her to check. Will be interested in an answer.

Question: Do you in general recommend planting Primroses in spring or fall?

Answer: If planted in early spring the plants will continue to grow and bloom. However, many people wish to buy when plants are in bloom to choose the color. That pill bugs but I would suggest a complete rose dust would rid them for you. We mulch our Primulas with pine needles that seems to repel all “crawlers”. Red spider just wash the plants with SOAP SUDS, not detergents, from a sprinkling can. Ivory soap or Fels Naptha. We also use tobacco dust in the mulch. Lime, soot and ashes (especially wood ashes) are all good for the soil and will release fertilizer and supply potash which gives flowers a deeper color.

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is recommended and the care would be to place a paper bag (with bottom cut out and used as a collar) over the plant for a day or two. If it wilts the flowers should be removed. Early fall, or August is an excellent time to make a primrose planting for the plants will become established by cold weather.

Question: Can I transplant Primroses when they are in bloom?

Answer: Yes. We transplant flowering plants when the seedlings throw first bloom in nursery beds to the “color bed.” Then if you are buying you can choose colors. Be sure there are no air pockets around roots. It is best to move with a ball of earth.

Question: I have found one place in my garden where Primroses do well. Is not where I would like to have them planted. Are they so particular as to a planting site?

Answer: The plants tell us quite a bit about “mini-climate” in our gardens. There may be shade and other requirements for the successful growing of Primroses in one location but one ecological condition which does not suit them. (A cold draft of air or some sub soil condition that is not compatible to their requirements.) If you have found a place where they grow to perfection I would be inclined to use that site and try to duplicate the conditions in the area you prefer.

Question: Can you tell me when P. rosea should be divided? I divided mine, and reset them in early September and lost them over the winter.

Answer: P. rosea should be divided and reset soon after blooming. The fiber like roots take a long time to become established so they will not heave when the ground freezes. Also it is a good idea to go around the garden in early October to mulch and to push all plants down firmly. During a thaw in winter make the rounds and push down any plants that have heaved.

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Newcomer Wins Bamford Trophy

The rather small, select circle of winners of the famous Dan Bamford Trophy has now been invaded by a newcomer.

It was only about five years ago that Mr. Al Rapp of Tacoma, Washington, purchased his first Show Auricula plants. These he bought in full bloom from Beth Tuit’s Primrose Acres Nursery and, after getting them home, promptly cross-pollinated them with each other. Two years later, when the plants from the resulting seed bloomed, he selected a few of the best and cross-pollinated them as he had done his first plants. This last spring, one of these second generation seedlings was so good that he entered it in the National Primrose and Auricula Show held in Bellevue, Washington. He was indeed surprised, for it all seemed so easy.

The plant is a green edged Show type and is worthy of this award. The pip itself is quite good. The petals are even and well rounded and the paste is of a nice, fine texture. No Show Auricula yet produced has been perfect and this plant, if it has a fault, it would be that the body color zone is a bit wide on some blossoms. Occasionally on some blooms, it will flash to the edge. However, the body color is a good black and the faults are few. Since this plant has bloomed but once, of course it must stand the test of time. We hope that in the future, it will continue to do as well as it did this year.

Mr. Rapp has been raising primulas but a few short years but already has made his presence felt among the growers here in the Pacific Northwest. Not only did he win the Bamford Award but also the trophy for the best acaulis at this same show. He was presented as a top trophy winner at the primrose show held this year in Tacoma which was sponsored by the Tacoma Primrose Society to which he belongs.

Al Rapp has become a real primula enthusiast. He has two fair sized greenhouses as well as his...
difficult species, has earned and was felt by the Society that Mrs. Agee of Milwaukie, Oregon, has been presented the 1970 APS Hybridizing Award. It is an honor that must be earned since it is only given when it is felt that someone in the United States or in Canada has produced by hybridizing, a primula or a series of primulas, of new and outstanding horticultural interest. It was felt by the Society that Mrs. Agee, by her work especially in the crossing of several of the more difficult species, has earned and richly deserves this honor.

 Probably her outstanding achievement is that of obtaining a series of plants from crosses between P. Allionii and P. marginata. One plant is especially attractive with its lovely lavender blossoms. This she has named "Violet Chambers" in honor of a long time friend who, incidentally, also shares her same interest in the hybridizing of primulas. P. allionii and P. marginata are both in the Auricula Section and take considerable skill to grow—especially the tiny species, P. Allionii. This cross is a very intriguing one.

 In addition to her work with various species crosses, Mrs. Agee has also done much hybridizing between the different types of show auriculas and has produced several award winning plants. Some of these have won her the Dan Bamford Trophy over the past few years. In fact, it was only last year that one of her plants was the winner of the coveted award.

 No doubt, Ivanel has been aided and abetted by her husband Orval. Their combined interest in the raising of primulas over many years and also in the functioning of The American Primrose Society affairs, has been an important factor to its success. Then, too, as is true of so many of our successful growers, the Agees are so willing to share their knowledge accumulated over many years and also their plants, with others, especially with those who are newcomers to the raising of them.

 It is a real pleasure to be able to record, that after many years of effort in the raising of new types from seed produced from hand pollinated crosses, Mrs. Ivanel Agee has been presented the 1970 APS Hybridizing Award.

 My first encounter with primroses was quite a few years back, when I started off with possibly a dozen or so assorted primroses found in a grocery store. At the time, my only concern was to get a few plants, each preferably of a different color, simply to brighten up a little corner in my garden, on our half acre in White Center where we lived at the time.

 Eventually we learned of the American Primrose Society, and out of curiosity we joined. We were pleased with the seed exchange list made available to the members, and purchased a few seeds. My first try at species was Primula Sieboldii, both in pink and white colors. I was ENTIRELY THRILLED with the plants that grew from the little black seeds, and now realize I couldn't have chosen a more attractive one than I did, to arouse an interest in a beginner. I was enthralled and pleased from the moment the fresh crinkly light green foliage began to appear the following spring, to the time when the bright gay lacy flowers began to bloom, perched upon their slender stems some eight to ten inches tall. I always look forward to spring to see the tiny, delicate appearing, little leaves as they begin showing and uncurling quite early in the spring. I always marvel at how so delicate a looking leaf and flower can endure the freezing weather and driving cold rains of even the short winters we have here in our own beautiful state of Washington. This species has a very small pinkish color rhizome rootstock, which travels underground very close to the surface, with roots very often showing from soil wash-off, and is very easily lost or chopped to pieces by too ardent a gardener. It should be well marked lest one forgets it is there. Although quite often the little broken pieces will root and grow if they are not buried too deeply. These can not stand heavy cultivation.

 My next species which I acquired was P. polyneura and although it is not as cherished a plant as P. Sieboldii, I like to see...
and makes a better display, but
P. polyneura does have an attrac-
tive flower in shades varying from
rose to rosy red and purplish crim-
sin, when raised from seed. They
do not increase as fast as do P.
Sieboldii and the flower scape runs
from 4 to 18" tall although mine
were from 8" to 10", possibly be-
cause they made their first home
with me in a grove of hemlocks
with not too good a soil.

P. saxatilis is another one of the
Section Cortusoides and the only
one of the section which I own
to date except P. kisoana. I have
only one plant of each of these and
obtained these two as door prizes
from the Washington State Prim-
rose Society which we joined later.
I became interested in collecting
various species after that, primar-
ily to satisfy my own curiosity as
to what each looks like. I try to
give each one the habitat it pre-
fers or requires.

I obtained three of the many
kinds of the Farinosa Section most
commonly seen, P. farinosa, P.
frondosa and P. dariaida, also
from door prizes or from plant
sales. I cannot see too much dif-
ference between them, although I
believe P. farinosa is supposed to
be of smaller stature. These three
are very dainty and I am very fond
of these smaller plants. I like to
see these planted in groups, pre-
ferably on a sloping section of the
garden, where they won't be ove-
ridden with larger plants—planted
so they look like the seed had
spilled out and washed down the
slope in a scattered manner. Plant-
ing these in this manner also as-
sures better drainage from the
crown, as they are very susceptible
to crown rot and it can mean their
end if they are not quickly divided

and reset. A good method would be
to divide them periodically to pre-
vent this. These are a dainty sec-
tion, with flowers of delicate pink,
and look good tucked in at the edge
of a rock. Of this Farinosa Section
I had P. Fauriae for a short time—
one plant not even long enough to
see it bloom!

This spring of 1970 I hope to get
my first glimpse of P. mistassinica
(from seed started last year) as I
got several of them started and
planted in positions where I hope
they will get some water all year
without being too wet.

We are lucky to have a piece
of creek property where we can meet
the demands of many kinds of
primroses and I am still "collecting
any kinds available," even if only
a small clump. I prefer the smaller
type plants to the long strappy leaf
type with gangly stems and small
flowers. I am afraid "my want list"
is longer than the approximately
thirty species I have grown. To
date I have one or more plants of
P. anisadora, Clarkii, chionantha,
dariaida, frondosa, farinosa, den-
ticulata, Florindae, Juliae species,
P. kisoana, Kleini, kevensis, ma-
lacoides, marginata, macrocalyx,
minima, melanops, mistassinica,
polyneura, pulverulenta. I also
have P. Anita Alexander's Pagoda
hybrids and P. rosea grandiflora,
Auricula rubra, Saxatillis, serrati-
folia, Sieboldii, yargongensis, Vi-
dii, among others. I have lost P.
sinopurpurea, Bardfield oxlip, ul-
tela (which I am sure I did have
but can't seem to find since we
moved), Allionii, and capitata.

I am looking forward to seeing
some of these for the first time this
spring, such as: P. chionantha,
Kleini, minima, melanops, mis-
tassinica, pulverulenta, serratofilia,
and yargongensis. Some new spe-
cies which I hope to have luck get-
ting this year from the list are P.
decorum, new seed of P. capitata,
and quite a few others.

I should try P. sikkimensis as it
is so sweet smelling, and I would
like it along the creek. I hope
to have a lot of new ones by next
year but do not believe in counting my
chickens till I have the right "eggs
to hatch." Time will tell, but it is
interesting and a kind of fun
(work) thing or visa versa, and
since we have this new property I
see no letting up of my urge to try
new ones in the near future. Time
and our health will be the control-
ling factors and I can only leave the
future to Time and Fate at the
present. I know one thing, an awful
lot of varieties and species seem
to really like it here!

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Preparation of Soil and How to Transplant

By Fayme Haverty

If you have seedling plants to be moved from boxes and pots to the planting bed, or intend to divide large clumps of polyanthus, prepare the bed at least two weeks before planting. Best time to do this work is between August first and September fifteenth.

Condition the soil by adding humus in the form of decomposed cow manure for sandy soils, (horse manure for clay soils), peat moss, leaf mold and compost. Also fertilize at this time with fertilizers, preferably organic for plant growth.

Nitrogen, for leaf growth and green color, such as: bone meal, which has 4% nitrogen, cottonseed meal 7%; blood meal 15%, use sparingly.

Phosphorus for strong root growth, resistance to disease and winterkill, good growth and more beautiful flowers. Also hastens maturity and increases seed yield. Good sources of phosphorus are: bone meal 21%, also contains trace minerals; rock phosphate powder 30 to 50% most effective when used with organic matter; basic slag, activated sludge, etc.

Potassium or Potash gives strength to the plant and strong stems. Helps to fight disease. Reduces winter kill. Sources are: natural mineral fertilizers such as rock potash and other rock powders rich in potash are good as green sand and basalt rock, best used with organic potash fertilizers such as plant residues, manure and compost. Wood ashes are a source of potash (6 to 10%), but use sparingly. Kelp is also a source of potash, containing 2.25% to 6.25%.

When you are going to divide polyanthus clumps have a good sharp knife, a pail of water and some wet newspapers. It helps to soak the clumps in water as the soil leaves the plant and it is easier to untangle the roots.

The large plant will contain many crowns, each crown a small plant in itself with leaves and roots. Carefully separate and work each crown away from the main clump, putting each between a layer of wet newspaper so that it does not dry out.

When several crowns (each with some small roots of its own) have arisen from the heavy old root (or carrot), use the knife to make a clean cut. Also cut (shorten) all long roots and cut back the leaves half way.

In planting, space the plants about 8 to 9 inches apart. Spread out the roots and firm soil around the roots and up to the former soil line of the plant. I water the new crowns and also the new seedlings being set into the planting bed with a solution of fertilizer, which gives them a good start.

A Testimonial to Polyanthus and Denticulata Primroses

By Mrs. James E. Kaspar
Rt. 4, Box 336,
Wayzata, Minnesota

My love for primroses came about quite by accident. An elderly gardening friend of mine had ordered about half a dozen plants of polyanthus when she placed her usual spring nursery order about five years ago. Unfortunately ill health forced her to give up her home and garden and I inherited the plants when they arrived.

I wasn't very impressed by either the plants or their picture in the catalogue for some strange reason and planted them more out of curiosity and the wish to please my friend if she should be able to see them than anything else. They bloomed the following spring and I found my self captivated with their red and gold blossoms. Another primrose lover had been born!

In the spring of 1967 I ordered a few plants from Betty Jane Hayward's "Goodwill Garden" nursery among them two denticulata. The one plant enchanted me with it's lavender lollipops for the following two springs but the other had no sign of bloom.

Meanwhile that same spring I noticed my polyanthus were in need of division. I replanted eight or ten divisions, gave about eighteen divisions to gardening friends and set about eight divisions in a pail by the shady side of our garage to wait for a casual acquaintance to pick them up as he had indicated a desire for a few plants. He had promised to get them as soon as he had a chance to plant them.

Well, with one thing and another he never did come and those polyanthus waited in that pail for over a month. I'd forget to check them and they'd get pretty dry and a couple of times when it rained they sat in half pail of water for a day or two. Finally, seeing they were still alive and knowing no one else that wanted any I looked around my own yard for a place to plant them. Any plant that clung tenaciously to life deserved a chance. It was the middle of July,
hot, dry and the only place in my yard available was in the shade of a maple tree. It was high shade so that was all right, but you know how maples rob the soil.

Anyway I loosened the soil, added a little compost, and after they were in gave them a drink of Hypoxex. After that except for an occasional drink to keep them from dying of thirst they were on their own. Oh yes, I did shade them the first couple days as I have found this to be very important in transplanting any kind of plants.

Do you know, six of those eight divisions grew! Not only that, they looked more like miniatures than the husky hybrids they are — which detracts not at all from their charm. Five of the plants are still there this spring in spite of another dry summer and a rather dry fall.

Back to the denticulata. I never really inspected the plant that didn't bloom. It looked healthy and I assumed possibly it was a slow starter. Then last October, late October at that, in preparing the garden for winter I noticed the plant had been busy multiplying and was such a tight mass of crowns there was a good chance it would succumb to rot during the winter months. Closer observation indicated the other plant would be likely to rot also as I had planted them too close and they had grown together. What to do. Drastic measures were evidently in order.

No self-respecting gardener divides his plants that time of the year in Minnesota but after due deliberation I did just that. I took up the sod in a place under a lilac bush, fixed the bed with a lot of compost, and proceeded to pry apart my denticulata. I thought I'd never get done. The plant that had bloomed had two large crowns that separated quite easily but the other took at least an hour of struggling before I got those crowns apart with a minimum of damage. Would you believe there were seventeen divisions!

Well, I planted them all and watered them in well. Decided a loose covering of excelsior would help and kept an eye on them till the snow came in December. The snow stayed and I didn't get another peek at them till late March. They looked fine and I pressed them down as it appeared they had been heaved out just a bit by the frost and as of today it looks as though every one of those plants will live and a lot of them are going to bloom. To me it's utterly fantastic!

Wouldn't you agree these experiences more than prove all these two members of the primrose family ask for is a "fighting chance"?

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Primula Abschasica

*Primula abschasica* sounds like a wonderful addition to the vernal primroses. It is not new but evidently it has not been grown in this country until very recently. Seed was offered in the 1960 exchange list of the American Primrose Society. The seed had been received from a botanical garden in Linz, Austria, which had received it from Leningrad Botanical Society, and it had been collected in Abschasica in the Russian Caucasus. The Austrians considered *P. abschasica* to be a form of *P. Sibthorpii* (a sub-species of *P. vulgaris*), seed of which they also supplied.

H. Lincoln Foster grew both the *P. abschasica* and *P. Sibthorpii* seed, and was kind enough to send me slides of *P. abschasica* in bloom and plants to show me the leaves and manner of growth, as well as a plant of *P. Sibthorpii* grown from the seed sent by the Austrians.

The only reference to *P. abschasica* that Mr. Foster was able to find was in the *Bulletin of the Alpine Garden Society* (Vol. 30, No. 2, June 1962)—a woman botanist, Zinaida T. Artuschenko, mentioned having seen the fragrant flowers in a broad-leaved forest in the Caucasus.

In Mr. Foster's garden in Connecticut *P. abschasica* grew, bloomed very early (among dry fallen leaves) and continued to bloom for about a month. It flowered prolifically in deep sandy peaty soil under pines and in heavier soil under apple trees, and then gave a strong repeat bloom in fall. Mr. Foster speaks of the "gleaming wine-purple (flowers) with a washed golden eye, the eye rimmed
with white," each blossom erect and solitary on a short slender strong scape. The smooth leaves enlarged into a cabbagelike head quite distinct from other vernal primroses. Division of plants proved easy; they lived unattended through a bad drought and increased quickly. No seed was set even when flowers were hand pollinated, although a white acaulis produced seed when pollinated with *P. abschasica* pollen.

From the slides and plants Mr. Foster sent to me, I make the following observations. The color of the *P. abschasica* flowers as shown on the transparencies looked a fine rich deep pink with the small white and yellow eye. The color was darker, the flowers more cupped, the calyx narrower, and there was less white in the center of the flower, than any *P. Sibthorpii* I have grown. The leaves of *P. abschasica* curl back at the edges and are thinner in texture and more lettuce-like than any other vernal, and grow in large and crowded clumps. The plant seems to start to bloom earlier than most vernals, keeps on blooming for as long or longer, and the heavy repeat performance in fall is quite different from the scattered autumn flowers we all find on other vernals.

For gardeners, *P. abschasica* is a new and valuable addition to the vernal clan.

**Culture**

My Primrose Path was made in stony woods. Many rocks were removed from path and planting areas and used to edge the beds. Gardening in the woods is not very demanding. Some of the fallen leaves are removed in early spring to let light and air reach the plants, though part of the natural winter mulch is left to decompose, for this is the favorite nourishment of primroses. The ground is covered with primroses and with their friends and companions—bulbs and native woodland flowers. Weeds do come in. A good spring cleaning is necessary, but in summer weeds are left to protect and shade the primroses. Early fall, from late August to early September, is the second cleanup time. Then rich soil mixed with peat and a light snow of bonemeal and woodashes is worked into all bare spots and planted with new primrose seedlings, or divisions of old ones. If the fall of leaves is too heavy, some are lifted off, as in spring, to allow light and air to reach the evergreen leaves of the primroses.

Just a word about the soil. When we moved to our present home we found that we had rich, undisturbed woods. After clearing enough stones to make room for plants, I put my primrose seedlings into this fine woodland soil without adding anything to it. They grew like mad. This was a cash-and-carry nursery at the time and it turned out that the "carry" part included much of the good soil. Primulas are hearty feeders, so I soon found that when I replaced the soil I had to add peat and rotted or dried cow manure, a little bone-meal and woodashes, gravel and sand to keep the soil open, and a bit of chlordane to take care of the soil pests.

The point I want to make is that plants will grow well in many different soils with many different ingredients. In the West, gardeners swear by Blue Whale, an impregnated peat fertilizer; in a primrose nursery in New England Blue Whale is used, plus tobacco dust and chemical fertilizers. I have seen plants—apparently growing in moist sand—flourishing around a squatter's shack in the New Jersey flats. Some people purchase soil mixtures, some use waste from chicken farms, and to others liquid fish fertilizer is the prime ingredient.

The answer is, I think that most primulas need part shade, rich soil with plenty of organic matter, good drainage, and the typical garden care of cultivating, weeding, watering and mulching when necessary. One of the joys of growing them is that primroses respond so beautifully to a minimum of care.

In dry weather watering is very important. Our woodland is full of big stones so it was impossible to dig trenches through it for a watering system. My husband had heavy plastic hoses attached to our water supply and these are carried on the surface to various parts of the woods where faucets were placed on standards and ordinary garden hoses attached to the faucets. Thus I can water all parts of the planted woods. Aside from the fact that primroses will wilt from lack of water, there is the danger that they will become infested with redspider, which flourishes in heat and drought. This is an almost invisible mite that turns the leaves yellow and rusty, and though it rarely kills the plants (they put forth new growth with autumn rains) it weakens them and spoils their appearance. If you do get it on your plants, a heavy hosing may help or, if serious, a spray of malathion, a poison to be used only according to directions.

These primroses are evergreen and even in winter if they are not hidden by snow it is so pleasant to walk around and see the green foliage peeking out from among the fallen tree leaves. If you have no woodland, primroses will grow in any half-shaded position in the garden or rock garden. Their soil should approximate well drained woodland soil. If they are in the rock garden a top dressing of stone chips or gravel will give them the winter protection that fallen leaves give them in the woods.

Every few years your vernal primroses will need dividing. The center of the plant becomes hard and dry, but it is surrounded by new growth. As with the dentic-
Asian Woodland Primulas

These charming primulas of Section Cortusoides come up a bit later than the vernals and help pleasantly to prolong the primrose flowering season. They have the common name of “Woodland Primroses” but as the vernals are also grown in the woods I use the modifying term “Asian.”

These differ in a number of ways from the vernal primroses. They disappear over winter instead of being evergreen. Each leaf has a noticeable stem and may be pinately veined (that is, the veins branch from a central rib), or may be palmately veined (the veins radiate from a central point at the base of the leaf).

Primula Sieboldii, a beauty, is the best known and most widely grown of this section. It makes fine clumps of its crinkled, scalloped leaves wide at the base narrowing to a rounded tip. The individual blossoms are about ¾ to 1 inch across, held well above the 3- to 4-inch high foliage. A well-grown white form is indeed a treasure. The typical color of P. Sieboldii flowers is pink with a touch of blue which, to me, detracts a bit from their attractiveness. However, there are many beautiful soft tones to be had. In Japan, its native home, specialists have developed several hundred fine forms and colors of this flower, derived from natural variations in the wild, or from seeds. Those collectively called Southern Cross are the most attractive—the flowers are two-toned with contrasting colors on face and back of petals, as lavender and white or pink and white. Most primrose flowers have notched petals, as lavender and white or pink and white. Most primrose flowers have notched petals but some forms of P. Sieboldii have flowers with snowflake patterned petals—little cuts and scallops that impart a lacy look to the flowers and enhance their appearance.

P. Polyanthus Transplants and Seeds. All colors, including true Pinks, new eyeless Venetians. Also Acaulis and Novelties. List on request.

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Shady Cove, Oregon 97539

Show Reports

National Show Sponsored by Washington State Primrose Society

Friday evening, May first, was an evening of excitement as the Washington Primrose Show got underway. Washington State was sponsoring the National Show. The place: The Puget Power Bldg., Bellevue, Wash. The time, 6 p.m., after business hours were over in the building, the rooms were free for the week end.

Show Chairman, Mr. Long, had the truck load of tables waiting to be set up as soon as possible. His helpers were all ready to go, members of the Society—you never saw such an organized group. The tables were set up in no time, and behold the show was on its way. The entry chairman, Mrs. John Siepman and Mrs. Robert Putnam were starting to take entries. Old friends from far and near were starting to come with their plants. What fun to see them, talk over their plants, their ideas and the excitement of the whole show was in the air. This is an opportunity to meet old friends and greet new ones, to bring into friendly contact all who love and grow Primroses.

Then again you may get a chance to exchange some of that precious pollen to put on that good plant that wasn’t open to bring to the show. So maybe in a few years something will show up on the show benches from that pollen and cross. Mr. Al Rapp received such pollen several years ago, this plant won the Copper Tea Kettle, a great honor indeed. The entry clerks were working as fast as possible as all plants had to be in by 9 o’clock so the placement chairman, Mrs. Ruth Smith and Mrs. Mary Baxter could get every plant in its correct section.

Saturday morning the judges and their clerks arrived in such a large group they worked in threes and two clerks, one clerk marked on the chart board the names of winners and the other placed the ribbons. Show judging Chairman was Mrs. H. Warneck. Thank you Alice for all your hours of work, awarding ribbons, arranging for judges and their lunch.

Trophy Chairman Mr. Ralph Balcom set up the trophy tables. There were thirty-six trophies in all. Besides the revolving trophies there were trophies donated by Society members. Such was a National show sponsored by the Washington Primrose Society. There also were revolving trophies of the National.

The judges were assigned their sections and the show was started. In no time the trophy table was starting to fill up. Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Balcom were kept busy getting plants by the correct trophy. The Auricula judges had a rough time as there were so many lovely plants to choose from, judging was keen. What excitement later when the show opened to the public at 2 o’clock for those winners to see their plants up on the trophy table.

In the meantime the Show Chairman, Mr. Long, was busy getting...
Mr. C. F. Hills amongst his prize winning Alpine Auriculas.

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The awards banquet was held at Brad’s Restaurant with President Herbert Dickson presiding. The reports are as follow:

Treasurer’s Report: Beth Tait reported a balance of $852.00.
Round Robin Chairman: Mrs. Thelma Nelson reported having 60 members here and 8 overseas.
Slide Chairman: Dorothy Dickson reported some interest in the East for starting local societies as a result of slide programs.
Judges Chairman: Dorothy presented a new point scoresheet with some changes. President asked for motion to accept changes and motion was passed.
Seed Exchange Chairman: Fayme Haverty reported all orders have been filled. Discussion on having a co-chairman was heard. President asked for motion and it was passed.
Editor Emma Hale: Made a plea for articles from any of the members who could contribute. The president issued the National Awards to all of the following winners:

**TROPHY WINNERS**

**NATIONAL SHOW, 1970**

Sweepstakes - Decorative — Vivian Stewart, Pacific National Bank of Bellevue Trophy
Runnerup - Horticulture — Beth Tait, Mary Baxter Trophy
Best Regular Polyanthus — Ludie Dines, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Croft Trophy
Best Large Polyanthus — Dorothy Campbell, W.S.P.S. Trophy
Best Acaulis - Polyanthus — Ludie Dines, Mr. and Mrs. Orval Agee Trophy
Best Gold Laced Polyanthus — Steven Welch, Capt. Hawkes Trophy
Best Acaulis - Al Rapp, Hilltoppers Garden Club Trophy
Best Juliana (By an amateur) — Dorothy Campbell, Ernest Winter Memorial Award
Best Juliana (By a professional) — Herb Dickson, Ralph Balcom Trophy
Best Species — Dorothy Campbell, Anne Siepman Award
Best Sieboldii — Beth Tait, Alice Stenning Trophy
Best Oddity — Beth Tait, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Dines Trophy
Best Show Auricula Seedling — Al Rapp, Bamford Trophy, Eastside Garden Club Trophy
Best Named Show Auricula—Beth Tait, Frank Michaud Trophy, Beth Tait Trophy
Best Candelabra—Beth Tait, Kitty Schwarz Trophy
Best Alpine Auricula — Beth Tait, John Shuman Award
Best Alpine Auricula Seedling — Beth Tait, C. F. Hill Award, John Haddock Trophy, Grace Dowling Award
Best Border Alpine Auricula — Ralph Balcom, Alice Warneck Trophy
Best Garden Auricula—Herb Dickson, Orrin Hale Memorial Trophy
Best Double Auricula — Thelma Genheimer, Ellen Page Haydon Award, Janet Round Award
Best Acaulis Seedling — Beth Tait, Mrs. C. C. Chambers Trophy

Election of Officers was held and a new slate of officers were elected as follows:

President—Mrs. William Dines
8837 Avondale Road
Redmond, Wash. 98052
Vice President—Mr. Albert Rapp
Tacoma, Wash.
Treasurer—Mrs. Lawrence G. Tait
14015 - 84th Ave. N.E.
Bothell, Wash.
Recording Sec’y.—Mrs. Wm. Tate
1006 - 40th St.
Milwaukie, Oregon 97222

An interesting slide program was given by Mrs. Herbert Dickson.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Siepman

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London S.W. 1, England

Send for fully descriptive folder —
Primroses and Spring
(Continued from page 92)

Sieboldiis spread into ever-widening slumps and do not need to be divided as frequently as many other primroses do. If you want to divide them, do so just after blooming rather than before, so the plants do not receive a set-back when they first come up in spring. Sieboldiis disappear in late summer, so when you notice that the leaves are beginning to fade, don’t think you are losing your plants. They are just going dormant and, unlike most early-to-bedders, they are late risers, so don’t despair of them in early spring, either.

It is just as well to have a special bed for your Sieboldiis to avoid disturbing their roots. I place other plants with the same characteristic of long invisibility—such as shooting-stars (Dodecatheon)—with my Sieboldiis so I will know that the area must not be disturbed.

Primula cortusoides and P. saxatilis are closely related to P. Sieboldii and have leaves rather similar to it. Their flowers are smaller but profuse, and sometimes grow in two tiers. The abundant flowers and the good foliage guarantee that these two species will receive a warm welcome. Flowers of P. saxatilis are usually formed in a looser head than those of P. cortusoides, but the difference is not very noticeable in the garden. Both have cool pink flowers but color is rarely constant and some are better than others. Their shower of blossoms over a long period earn both species an “E” for effort.

Notes from Around the Globe . . . . From the Treasurer’s Desk

I enjoyed Nancy Ford’s articles so much.

Mrs. Thirza Meyer
Orange, Calif.

It is with great regret that I am discontinuing my membership in the A.P.S. due to old age and poor health. I have not been able to work in my garden for many years now and consequently have scarcely a primrose left, due to sad neglect. Over the years I have thoroughly enjoyed belonging to the A.P.S. with its most friendly membership and interesting Journal of helpful information regarding primroses and its annual seed exchange which greatly enriched my garden. I only wish it has been possible for me to have visited one of the A.P.S. wonderful spring shows and to have seen the Pacific Northwest during the Primrose growing season, but I must content myself with the vivid description Mrs. Baylor wrote so brilliantly some time ago.

Wishing the Society continued success and prosperity.

Sincerely,

Mrs. W. J. Waterson
Anderson, Ind.

I live in the extreme southeast corner of Nebraska. The summers are usually hot and dry, not primrose country to be sure, but a flower lover does not give up easily. Have been growing primroses for quite a number of years when they do well here, mostly polyanthus.

Most of my plants are started from seed in my greenhouse. Some plants in the greenhouse at this time are, three greenhouse primroses, fuschias, cinerarias, cyclamen, pansies, these are behind a screen to keep the heat off. The rest of the greenhouse has many varieties of begonias including some Rex. A small flat of seedling gloxinia also a couple dozen streptocarpus these will be potted up when large enough for spring blooming. I have a little trouble germinating seed of some of the Primula, would prefer to buy small plants if I knew where to buy them.

Your gardener friend
Homer Mitchell
Tecumseh, Neb.

I must apologise for delaying so long in writing to thank you for your kindness in including me in the membership of your society, in fact I had hoped by this time to have perhaps been able to contribute information concerning methods of improving germination which would have been useful to other members. Unfortunately my trials on a distinctly amateurish basis are not yet sufficiently conclusive to justify comment. In general terms, should the occasion arise I would be most willing to direct those of your members who are bonafied botanists to a particularly outstanding station of Primula Scotica which I have found in the north of Scotland. The site is almost exclusively on northward facing slopes with complete exposure to wind driven sea spray on a terrain whose substrate comprises of limestone containing trace elements of various sorts including iron,
topped with an inch or two of weathered limestone and 6" of turfy loam.

The flowering period is from the end of June to beginning of July. The area is also of particular interest in relation to the rarer British orchids and includes one or two firsts for such elevated altitudes in the British Isles.

Yours Sincerely,
L. F. Weatherall
London, England

* * *
I have enjoyed the valuable information published in the Quarterly and have always appreciated the efforts and contribution of those who labor so unselfishly to make it possible.

George C. Green
N.Y.

* * *
Last winter was very severe, the coldest was 22 below zero and from Christmas to Feb. 7, it froze continuously, with four feet of packed snow by March. Had some breakage with Rhododendrons, all of the primulas came through in grand style.

John E. Marquis
Nelson, B.C., Canada

We hope your dictionary will enable us to solve the mystery of the P. Involucrata we have grown from seed, obtained privately. All of the seedlings have come out lavender instead of white.

Allen Calvert
Invercargill, N.Z.

* * *
Our very first experience with primroses was in 1966 when we were clearing out the garden property which we had just purchased, straggly little plants were found under ivy which covered 125 feet of fence. When the truckloads of ivy were carted away we found a variety of little plants but only daffodils and the primroses survived. For three years we have been busy with remodeling inside and out, the primroses took care of themselves in a dark corner under an apple tree, hard soil, no fertilizer, visited by snails, slugs and whitefly, they bloomed summer and winter, once stood in water up to their "chins" during a two day deluge, suffered through frosts and occasional 100 degree days. In Nov., '69, we lifted most of the plants, divided them and put them in a long, narrow raised bed. The small divisions are now blooming.

Although I do not grow a lot of Primroses, they are my favorite flower. I haven't had any success raising the P. Sieboldii from seed but will try again. I always look forward to receiving the Quarterly and enjoy them very much.

Best Wishes,
Mrs. R. W. Schmitt
Morehead City, N.C.

* * *
It has been a pleasure to be one of the organization even if the shows and meetings are out of my reach. Had real good luck with germination this year. Now hoping that the winter will be kind to my plants. The Quarterly has been full of information and interesting articles, have enjoyed Mrs. A. C. U. Berry's friendship for several years and marveled at her exceptional gardens.

Sincerely,
Mrs. E. C. Wilson
Corbett, Oregon

* * *
ARTICLES AND PARTS TAKEN FROM MEMBERS' LETTERS. WE NEED MORE ARTICLES TO HELP THESE MEMBERS. AMATEURS AND PROFESSIONALS SEND YOUR ARTICLES TO THE EDITOR, WE NEED YOU.

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AMERICAN PRIMROSE SOCIETY
PLEASE NOTE:
About Membership Cards and
other information regarding your
Society.

Perhaps the reason for new num-
bered Membership Cards should be
explained. The Membership card is
a receipt for payment of dues in
the American Primrose Society.
The Treasurer gives a number to
the member, numerically, as the
dues are received.

The Treasurer sends the name
and number to the Editor of the
Quarterly and the Seed Exchange
Chairman. Please keep your mem-
bership card handy, as lapsed mem-
bers are not entitled to the use of
the many privileges of the society
indefinitely including the
Quarterly and the Seed Exchange.

Any inquiries concerning dues,
membership, Membership Cards
and all payments of dues should be
sent to the Treasurer, Mrs. L. G.
Tait, 14015 84th N.E., Bothell,
Washington 98011.

All Seed, questions or complaints
about the seed distribution should
be sent direct to the Seed Exchange
Chairman, Miss Fayme Haverty,
7730 199th S.W., Edmonds, Wash-
ington 98020.

All horticultural questions should
be sent to our Question and Answer
Chairman, Mrs. Alice Hills Baylor,
Johnson, Vermont 05656.

Articles, pictures and information
for the Quarterly should be
sent to Mrs. Emma Hale, 16614
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Application for Membership

Mrs. Lawrence G. Tait, A. P. S. Treasurer
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