Quarterly of the American Primrose Society

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YELLOW GARDEN AURICULA
Photo: Orval Agee
The Quarterly of the American Primrose Society

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All dues are payable each November 15 and should be
sent to the treasurer:

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(Total cultural chart and Seed Exchange privileges with new memberships.)

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AMERICAN PRIMROSE SOCIETY
President's Message

Dear members:

Even though winter is still here, we had more snow yesterday, several Julias are blooming, many acaulis, Clarkei (under a gallon jug) and marginata. Other auriculas are budding. Showing color are P. frondosa, rosea, Oxlip, denticulata. Just showing above ground are P. sieboldii, saxiferalis, polyneura, Chionantha, P. kisoana. Kisoana is the only one damaged. I must move it so the sun won't get to it when it is frozen. None of the capitatae, or Sikkimensis sections are showing yet.

This is the time of the year to evaluate your plantings. Sometimes better drainage, more sun or shade can be provided and will mean success.

Gardening is always a challenge. Often we could buy things cheaper than we can grow them, without the backache, sweat, sore knees and rough hands. But only the gardener knows the satisfaction of growing from seeds—beautiful flowers or fruits and vegetables to eat. They really do taste better. Part of its freshness, of course, but a great deal of it is anticipation.

Here are some hints I have that you might like to try:

1. Hang one of those pest strips in the greenhouse. This results in no aphids or bugs or anything.
2. I use a large automatic coffee pot in the greenhouse so I can have warm water to water my seed pans on the heat cable or for hot water to help start primula seed.
3. To sprout seeds before planting singly in pots, put any seed that is big enough to handle between two pieces of cloth on a dish. Keep the cloth wet and set it on a heat cable. As soon as the sprout shows, plant it in a pot and it will come right up. I start cucumber and climaxes marigolds, hollyhock, and many others this way. As you know, many seeds never grow when you plant them one to a pot. This way you plant only sprouted seed. They all grow, and you don't have a lot of pots tied up.

Happy and successful gardening to all of you.

Sincerely,
Lou
Mrs. William Dines
HYBRIDS
With Primula Allionii

By Mrs. Orval Agee

Primula Allionii seems to work quite well as a pollen parent with others in the auricula section. Have not tried it as a seed parent, due to the tiny reproductive parts, just easier crossing the other way.

Not having too many plants of some crosses cannot be certain of them. Did not care for the few hybrids of P. Villosa subspecies commutata, seemed inferior to either parent. The one plant raised from P. Marginata x P. Allionii was quite lovely. There are seeds of this cross, so will try more. The seedlings of P. Pedemontana x P. Allionii are starting rather slowly. Hope they bloom next year.

So far the stickiness of P. Allionii leaves does not seem to be transmitted to the hybrids. The P. Carniolica x P. Allionii has leaves quite like P. Carniolica, but usually smaller. Most are about one inch in length. There were thirty six of these hybrids with quite a variation. Stems from two and a half to four and a half inches, mainly on the shorter side. Shape of bloom from the slightly funnel shape of P. Carniolica to the flat blossom of P. Allionii, with a color range from a real pale rose tint, to near Bishop's Violet, fading to a light eye. Some of the plants are more floriferous than others, but all seem worth keeping. Have tried to set seed but apparently these are sterile hybrids. The plants seem to have good sturdy roots, should be good rock garden plants. The ones in the photograph have bloomed in the four inch pots for three years so will stand neglect.

PRIMULA CARNIOacula X P. ALLIONII

NOTES FROM NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

As to primroses — we had two plants blooming as late as Dec. 4 (year 1968) or perhaps they were early and thought it was next spring. There has been practically no snow here—not over ½ inch at a time—so they do not have the usual snow mulch. However, the temperature has been fairly even, with no heavy freeze or deep thaw, so we are hoping for the best.

On Dec. 7 we had a visit from a Mr. and Mrs. Tjong, who came to this country last year from Indonesia. Mrs. Tjong had been up to meet us back in June when our garden was still flourishing, and expected to show her husband a garden full of flowers. She was quite shocked to find everything blasted by the cold. Where they came from there are two seasons—wet and dry! We do have some evergreens, and by scratching around, located a couple of tough plants which still had blossoms — and some of our Erica was in bloom. However, at this season, most of our garden color comes from the birds, of which we have some twenty species as more or less regular visitors all through the winter. Our place is small, but there is brushland adjacent, and we keep our feeders supplied. With both shelter and food available, they do not seem to mind living on the outskirts of the city. Carl H. Ely, New Haven, Conn.
Primroses usually evoke in our minds pictures of open woodland and light shade. Plants outside Primulaceae which covet a similar situation range from very common to unusual. A few of these which would make good associates for shade-loving primroses merit some short notes.

Three creeping perennials which we have enjoyed growing appear to be forget-me-nots but really belong in another genus of the Boraginaceae. First, Omphalodes verna, called Blue-eyed Mary, is best known. Second, its white form, O. v. alba, rates poorly with some writers but for us its demure habit fits nicely into an all-white-flowered ground cover section of the garden. The leaf of either of these is rough, light green, abruptly den. The leaf of either of these is slightly taller than the other two. Larger deep blue flowers and smooth leaves, but still with the heavy veins characteristic of the others, make it a showier subject. Propagation in any case is most often done by division of the stolons, preferably in the spring when plants begin good growth. Even unrooted sections will take root under proper conditions. Plants may also be grown from seed. Light woodland shade suits them although I have seen O. cappadocica thriving in full sun. Poor soil suffices.

Fame came to white-flowered Asperula odorata by reason of its fragrant leaves which have long been coveted by Europeans to add to their May wine. It is often called Sweet Woodruff. The four-angled stems are clasped by whorls of narrow light green leaves above which the small star-shaped flowers gleam in purest white. Plants may be divided in spring to complete a sufficiently large planting to give a lighter atmosphere to some shady woodland which might otherwise be dull. Small flowers in great abundance create the white carpet appearance.

A spreading plant for either sun or shade is Campanula Poscharskyana. Stems are of such succulence, though thin, that a milky substance exudes when they are broken. So a wise gardener sets this sprawly subject well back from paths where constant breakage would be likely. Each of the numerous funnel-form flowers widens to end in shapely pointed calyx lobes of lavender-blue, a color so characteristic of Bellflowers. Blossoms continue to open on the long panicles from early to late summer and even into fall. The thin textured leaves seem almost iridescent when the plants are grown in full sun. Even in shade the leaves seldom achieve a deep green color. The lower leaves on the trailing stems are heart-shaped and much toothed. This

campanula from Dalmatia will wander happily on the woodland floor or cover rocks in tighter mats in the sun.

A little more height, combined with bright color, can be introduced by using Aquilegia formosa, a western native columbine. The wildings I have seen have usually been red and yellow although they may be yellow only. Self-seeding is common when this gay flower with its fern-like foliage has friable loam and some sunshine to encourage it. Hummingbirds are attracted to its gay nectaries.

A whole article might be devoted to the herbaceous plant known to laymen as Periwinkle or Creeping Myrtle, but to the botanist as Vinca major or V. minor according to whether the parts of the plant (leaves, stems, etc.) are larger or smaller. Old gardens often contain plantings which have survived years of neglect. New plantings require less time to become established than do those of some slower-growing ground covers. The solitary, salver-form flowers occur in the axils of the shiny, almost leathery ovate leaves which grow in opposite pairs along tough prostrectate stems. Slight differentiation in foliage coloring accompanies differences in flower color.

Let us consider in more detail the popular Vinca minor and some of its varieties, any of which will prosper in soil of moderate fertility and with some shade. Starvation and/or too much sun will spoil the lusciousness and depth of color in the foliage. Vinca minor itself has rich green leaves and blue flowers. The white flowers of V. m. alba have lighter green leaves as a foil for their purity. Two more blue-flowered kinds are V. m. flore plena and V. m. variegata. The first of these may have single as well as the double flowers which give
it its varietal name. The latter seems to me to have paler flowers than the type and, of course, has golden variegations of the leaves, not necessarily conforming to any set pattern. Neither of these two kinds enjoys as much favoritism as the others I have grown.

The use of *Vinca minor atropurpurea* under madronas has a great deal to recommend it, primarily because the bronze-tinted leaves of the vinca harmonize with the leaves and bark of the trees, but also because the plants seem unperturbed by the constant shedding of one or the other of these parts. Nor is there any toxicity of the soil evident as there is when trying to grow some plants, such as small-leaved rhododendrons, under madronas. Reddish-purple flowers characterize this form of *Vinca minor*.

Nurseries sell *Vinca minor* in clumps of varying sizes which may or may not be divided when set out. Rooted cuttings are sometimes available also. Established plants root at the nodes along the stem. Rooted sections may be removed and planted to increase coverage. Strong stems, cut below enlarged nodes, will root speedily in sand, sand and peat moss, or other media with or — more slowly — without bottom heat. Most home gardeners find it expedient to simply lay down developed stems. The small amount of soil removed by a trowel so the stem can be buried, will be enough weight when replaced to hold the stem firmly until it roots. Fragile tips are best left exposed since they may rot if buried. This work is best done in the spring. Hardiness, pleasing appearance and simplicity of propagation combine to keep *Vinca minor* high on the popularity poll of ground covers.

Greed for space, a common characteristic of the above mentioned plants, precludes their use in too close association with primroses which they might choke out or obliterate. But they can add variety and interest to the ever-enticing woodland garden when drifts alternate with or provide foreground for primroses, thus enhancing the total vista.

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

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

**Question:** Is Primula Bulleyana hardy and does it bloom in early spring?

*Answer:* *P. Bulleyana* is extremely hardy. It is a Candelabra and is late blooming, coming into first bloom as *P. Japonica* is almost past its best. It is one of the Candelabras that has been used to hybridize and is one parent for the charming Oriental hybrids that are so popular. The buds are orange, the full flower soft yellow. A large plant, should be given 12-16 square inches space.

**Question:** Is *P. capitata* a good subject for the garden?

*Answer:* *P. capitata* is one of the most beautiful Primulas but it has proved not to be long lived with us here in Vermont. The seed germinated quickly and the seedlings transplanted with no ill effect. The rosette is handsome with denticulate margins, the flowers on 8-10 inch stems, the scrape is a disk-shaped and the tiny florets are a deep blue with purple shadings. It is from the Himalayans growing at 10,000 to 15,000 feet elevation.

**Question:** Will you kindly give me a list of the yellow Candelabras and rules for their culture?

*Answer:* All Candelabras enjoy moisture and rich soil in partial shade. They are not bog plants, that is, they will not endure where water is stagnant. If they are long lived they are of easy culture. The smallest one is *P. cockburniana*, orange, growing from 5-8 inches high. It is short lived but has been used as a parent for some hybrids. One should reseed every year if it is to stay in the garden. *P. Bulleyana* is orange in bud, yellow when opened, hardy. *P. helodoxa* is another yellow Candelabra and a large one, needing extra moisture. It has been a very late blooming Candelabra in the East. Perhaps others have an earlier date, ours...
being well into August and continuing into September. It is, however, beautiful and deserves its name, "GLORY OF THE BOG". *P. aurantiaca* has burgundy buds but the flowers are orange. This Primrose has not done too well for us. The most beautiful yellow is the Oriental hybrid called "SUNSHINE" and carries the Candelabra bloom well into July.

**Question:** What members of the Belled Flowered Primroses do you suggest for the garden

**Answer:** The true "Belled" flowered Primulas are for the most part difficult to grow and belong to the *Soldanellioideae* group. The only ones with which I have had any degree of success are *P. nutans* which lived for three years, then needs to be replaced by seedlings. *P. Cavadoriana* came readily from seed, lived to bloom the following year which were perfectly beautiful and then vanished. The same was true of *P. sapphirina*, the nodding bell-flowers long remembered. *P. Wattii* lived three years but the double notched large purple flowers weren't worth the trouble of having such a short time. The Belled in the *Sikkimensis* group are well worth raising and give satisfaction for many years. They are some of the largest Primulas and some of the most showy coming from the Himalayas in a region of the Chinese-Tibetan areas. *P. alpicola* is the yellow "Moonlight" var. LUNA. There is a lavender one and another that I had called "Smoky" which was a mauve-grey. That has not appeared in my garden for several years and perhaps that strain has disappeared altogether. These are very fragrant. The larger *P. Florinda* is said to be a wander. For two years I grew it where the overflow of one pond kept it constantly wet. It endured but not as well as where it merely had heavy moisture. This is one of Ward's finds (as is also *Alpicola*). The plant has handsome foliage, glossy dark green, the scapes will rise from the plant to a height of two feet and blooms in July or August. It is difficult to obtain seed in the East because of late blooming but left on the stalk will scatter seed for self sowing. *P. Waltonii* has reddish flowers, often red only on the reverse of the petals. *P. secundiflora* is a handsome plant, smaller in all respects with a one sided umbel of purple flowers and blooms for me in New England the last of May. It, however, is not as long lived nor is its other form, *P. vittata*.

**Question:** Will you describe the Alpine auriculas? How do they differ from the garden auriculas?

**Answer:** The alpine auriculas are classified as miniatures. The Rosette is compact with no farina and trusses of large flowers for the size of the plant. The colors are crimson, maroon, blue and pink with a distinctive yellow, often white, eye. They come easily from seed and are extremely handsome and an addition to any Primrose garden. Some of the plants do not exceed the size of a silver half dollar, so they are ideal for a small garden.

The alpine auriculas differ from the garden ones in size and also in colors. There is perhaps no more handsome Primrose than a good colored garden auricula. The rosette may be dark green; heavily farina on both foliage and stem; soft grey green; deeply toothed or smooth edged, being from four to six inches across. The flower stock rises 4-6 inches to produce a bunch of velvet textured florets 8-16 to a bunch. They are in the light shades of yellow, pink, lavender, *Sunburst* which is yellow flecked with orange, and blue shades. Then the colors run through the shades of red crimson, garent, cherry and brown with some being edged with pale green or grey. The eyes are large for the most part, some being yellow, others white. There is a white form which is rare and a cream the color of coffee cream. All are long lived and will give off-shoots for greater number. If one certain color is desired the only sure method is to take an off-shoot.

**Question:** We saved our Primrose seed last January and potted the plants up in September, holding them in a cold greenhouse. Now in January they are in full bloom. Can we pick off the flowers now and have more flowers in February and March?

**Answer:** If the flowers are picked off now in January they will not bloom again until next early spring with the exception of a few which will throw flowers again in fall.

**Question:** I have heard of P. Takedana. Can you tell me what it is like and can it be grown easily?

A. It is a handsome plant, about six inches in height. It resembles *P. jesoiia* in the Cortusoides group but far more handsome with distinct hairs on foliage and stems. The leaves are deeply cut. The flower stalk is rugged and topped with an exquisite florescence of bright rose colored flowers. The seed came to me from Japan and was easy to germinate but few plants survived transplanting. Those that did have flourished since 1969.

P.S. Letter just in from New Jersey says: "The seeds you sent to me in December and were planted in my greenhouse have all germinated with the exception of two. That is a much better rate of germination than I had when planting outside with snow covering which proves that if one has found a system that works one should stick to it! We live and learn."
PRIMULA MISTASSINICA

By William S. Thomas, Royal Oak, Michigan

What a thrill! We accidentally found a colony of the only primrose native to Michigan—Primula mistassinica. This is a tiny plant with gray-green toothed leaves 1" to 3" long, and with flower clusters on stems only 4" to 6" high, similar to P. farinosa.

Three years ago my wife and I were vacationing at friends of ours near Cedarville in the Upper Peninsula. It was late August. We found this colony of primulas while exploring along the shore one afternoon. We were attracted first by the petite lavendar blooms of this stranger, growing among thin grasses. On closer examination the foliage looked like a small primula, but I couldn't believe any would be blooming this time of year. Our friends knew a botanist and wild flower authority living in the vicinity, who identified our find for us.

Knowing our interest in primulas, our friends readily gave us permission to dig six of these little plants to take home with us. On our last evening there, we carefully dug each plant with a liberal ball of soil—a damp, sand-gravel mixture; potted them individually and put them in plastic bags. I noted the roots were quite fine, numerous, and only 3 or 4 inches long.

We planted our treasures alongside one of our small pools in the rock garden, in fine gravel and sand, similar to their native site. They transplanted well with no apparent set-back.

The following year these prospered in their new home, blooming well in May and June, and re-blooming in August and September. There were numerous seedlings, also a couple of which turned out to be white!

I'm sorry to say we lost most of these plants this past summer. We had an extended hot, dry spell in August and September, and unfortunately, we were away on vacation the last two weeks of August. Because the roots are so small, the few plants that survived were in the damper parts of the bed. Evidently damp sand and sun are the principle need. We hope they are strong enough to come through the severe weather we are having this winter, and thrill us again with their gay, little blooms next spring.

ARTICLE I—NAME
The name of this organization is The American Primrose, Primula and Auricula Society, Incorporated, commonly referred to as The American Primrose Society.

ARTICLE II—PURPOSE
The purpose of this society is to bring the people interested in primula together in an organization to increase the general knowledge of and interest in the collecting, growing, breeding, showing and using in landscape and garden the genus primula in all its forms and to serve as a clearing house for collecting and disseminating information about primula.

ARTICLE III—MEMBERSHIP
SECTION I—All persons interested in the objects of this society shall be eligible for membership as individuals.

SECTION II—Organizations interested in the objects of this society may become affiliated societies and groups of A.P.S. members may organize into regional or local chapters to become subdivisions of the American Primrose Society.

SECTION III—Upon payment of current dues each member shall be entitled to vote at the annual meeting of the society and each affiliated organization, regional or local chapter, shall be entitled to one vote as an organization.

SECTION IV—OFFICERS
SECTION I—Any individual member of this society shall be eligible to hold any office of this society.

SECTION II—The officers shall be: president, vice-president, treasurer, recording secretary, corresponding secretary (two or more as required), and six elected directors.

SECTION III—The board of directors shall consist of the six elected directors, the current officers of the society, the immediate past president, editor of the Quarterly, the president of each affiliated society, and the president of each regional or local chapter.

SECTION IV—Officers shall be elected by ballot at the annual meeting.

SECTION V—The president shall appoint a nominating committee so that the committee can submit the nominations in time to be published in the quarterly before the annual meeting. Nominations will be accepted from the floor at the annual meeting with the consent of the nominee.

SECTION VI—The board of directors shall conduct the business of the society with full power to act
under the provisions of this constitution and bylaws.

SECTION VII—The terms of all officers shall be for one year, except directors beginning at the close of one annual meeting and ending at the close of the next annual meeting. Terms for directors shall be for three years. Two directors will retire and two new ones will be elected at each annual meeting.

ARTICLE V—ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the society shall be held during and in the same vicinity as the National Primrose Show each year. The local chapter or affiliated society sponsoring the show will be host to the national society for the annual meeting.

ARTICLE VI—AMENDMENTS

The constitution may be amended at any annual meeting by two-thirds majority vote of the members present provided amendments have been approved by the board, and notice of such amendment has been published in the Quarterly, or otherwise given to all members prior to the annual meeting.

ARTICLE VII—NATIONAL SHOWS

The board of directors may each year, upon application, designate one of the general primrose shows staged by a local chapter or an affiliated society as the National Primrose Show. Every effort will be made to secure a truly national representation at the National Show. Within the board's discretion a special type primrose show, when staged by a local chapter or an affiliated society, may be designated as the national show for that type of primula. Never more than one show for a particular type of primula shall be designated as the national show for that type of primula in one year.

ARTICLE VIII—PUBLICATION

SECTION I—The society shall maintain and issue regularly quarterly magazine, which shall be delivered free to members and shall be sold to non-members under such terms as the board of directors from time to time deem it advisable to fix.

SECTION II—The president and board of directors shall designate an editor to have charge of, and responsibility for the preparation and publication of the magazine, and such other functions as naturally devolved upon such a position.

SECTION III—The editor shall be responsible for collecting and handling of editorial material for the editing and arrangement of all material in the Quarterly according to the guidelines, rules and limitations determined by the board of directors.

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I

SECTION I—The officers shall be elected by ballot at the annual meeting of the society. Voting shall be by members and duly elected representatives of regular or local chapters and affiliated societies present at the meeting. Absentee ballots received by the secretary prior to voting time at the annual meeting will be counted the same as if the member were present.

SECTION II—The president shall preside at all meetings of the society and of the board of directors and perform the general duties of the president. He shall appoint such committees or committee chairmen as are needed to successfully carry on the work of the society.

SECTION III—The vice-president shall assist the president in every way possible and assume the office of acting president in case of absence or incapacity of the president.

SECTION IV—The treasurer shall post a bond during his incumbency, the cost of which shall be defrayed by the society. He shall receive and account for all money of the society and disburse the society's funds on approval of the board of directors. The treasurer shall be prepared to render a report at each board meeting and at each regular meeting. The annual report made by the treasurer shall be accompanied by a report of audits made by an audit committee of two members appointed by the president.

SECTION V—The corresponding secretaries shall conduct all official correspondence.

SECTION VI—The recording secretary shall record the minutes and maintain files and records of all publications.

SECTION VII—The directors shall serve with the other officers as a board of directors to carry on the necessary business of the society under the provisions of the constitution and bylaws.

ARTICLE II

Special meetings shall be called by the president or vice-president, or may be summoned by the board of directors. Notice shall be given to all members of any special meeting and the object of the meeting shall be stated in the notice. No business shall be transacted at a special meeting except as stated in notice thereof.

ARTICLE III

SECTION I—Memberships shall be active (individuals and household), sustaining, life, affiliated organizations and local or regional chapters.

SECTION II—Dues shall be set by the board of directors.

SECTION III—Active membership shall entitle the holder to receive all publications issued by the society during the year and to vote in the regular meetings of the society.

SECTION IV—Sustaining membership may be purchased by persons interested in furthering the objectives of the society.

SECTION V—Life membership may be awarded to persons who have performed outstanding service in the interests of the society, or may be purchased by persons interested in furthering the work of the society. Life memberships shall carry all privileges designated for individual membership.

SECTION VI—An affiliated organization membership may be taken out by local, state, or national garden clubs, or similar organizations that have special and preeminent interest in primulas, affili-
ARTICLE IV

The members present, including five members from the board, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of any business at any regular or special meetings of the society.

ARTICLE V

The bylaws may be amended in exactly the same manner as the constitution.

ARTICLE VI

Roberts Rules of Order, shall govern this society in all parliamentary matters to which they are applicable, and in which they do not conflict with the constitution and bylaws.

A MAY WALK IN THE GARDEN

Beauty is indeed in the eye of the beholder! My first sight of Primula reidii in bloom sent me into raptures and for a few days visitors were duly escorted to gaze upon it. Except for a mild "Isn't it pretty" to please the hostess, the response was a complete letdown. I still think it is the most beautiful primula I have seen so far.

Rhododendron brachycarpum is at it's best. It is not surrounded by other rhodos. to take away from its glory. This plant was grown from seed, and the bees may have had something to do with its colour, which is a very good pink. Meconopsis horridula's blue has been set off by the deep purple of Rhododendron "Purple Splendor." This is a two year old cutting with one truss of flowers and the colour combination is accidental and startling. Three of the Meconopsis regia are in bloom, a good red, there is a variation in the colour of the hairy buds, one having golden and one a silvery colour.

I was stopped in my tracks by the glowing red of the new growth of Vaccinium delavayi: this grows about ½" per year. Ledum groenlandicum, that lover of wet places, is full of bees. It is growing in a well-drained dry spot in full sun and has been for years—the idea is to take a chance.

In a weak moment last summer I bought Lagerstroemia indica. The fall colouring of the leaves was gorgeous, and I was happy. This past winter was very mild so I waited and waited, but no sign of life in spring. I knew I should have had my head examined! I planted Caragana casperi a foot or so away to take the place of the loss. Time was pressing and the Lagerstroemia was not dug up. By the first week of May leaves became visible, and again—what colour!—russet red and bronze green!

An annual which from now on is a must in the garden is Omphalodes linifolia; grown for the first time last year, it seeded itself thickly. Some of these seedlings
were taken to the Show plant sale, but the further thinning-out never took place. The three foot patch is now an airy mass of white from 6-18 inches high.

I have a long range plan of growing lilies, particular the species, in amongst the shrubs. These are being grown from seed, so long-range is no misnomer. One of the successes has been Lilium pyrenaicum, the turk's cap lily. It seems easy and accommodating. It has 4 or 5 yellow flowers on three foot stems, not spectacular, but pleasant. Kalochila latifolia "Dexter's form" was seen a few years ago and immediately coveted. After some trials and tribulations one is now in bud at Dorthill, and these buds are a bright red, a beautiful acquisition.

A gift to the rock garden last year was Eritrichium rupestre var. pectinata (Syn. E. strictum). The blue flowers on 15 inch stems are ineffable - seed will be saved! Campanula elatinoides just beginning to bloom, pale blue, starlike flowers of the C. garganica type. The colour of Anemone lesseri puts some people off, but is not that magenta-ish. Calceolaria polyphylla, 'John Innes' is a mass of fat pouches, a brilliant yellow. Alyssum spinosum gets better every year. Its symmetrical round form is now 8 inches high by one foot wide after four years.

How does one get rid of Meconopsis cambrica? It is becoming like the dandelion.

I have never seen Halmiociestus x sahuicci more floriferous. On the dry poor soil, where it grows with the other cistus and heleniums, it stands out like a jewel. The day is drowsy. The ramble in the garden has come close enough to the house to make audible a rumble from the kitchen for lunch. Francisca Darts.

Reprinted from the Bulletin of the Alpine Garden Club of British Columbia.

When Clytie, the beautiful daughter of Oceanus, was abandoned by her lover, Apollo, she turned towards the sun and died. As she expired she turned into a flower, which was named, appropriately, heliotrope; which means, as you may perceive, "I turn to you." Personally, I don't believe it. . . .

Notes from Around the Globe


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"Tis we who be of simple mind
and work in garden, often find,
While bending o'er the lovely sod, The highest thoughts of life and God."
Submitted by Lucy Paull
The results I got from packet of seeds I received from you were most satisfying. Picked a bouquet for a friend yesterday. I planted P. obconica seed in a pot some weeks ago (in hot bed); no sign of germination yet. I raised P. Malacoides last year and have enjoyed their blooms for several months in a Solarium. They seem to be passing out now. Are they annuals? I'd appreciate any information on these two sorts you may have.

Stella Nelson—Port Orchard, Wa.

I am gradually learning what it takes to grow Primulas in this difficult climate. I am sometimes frustrated as my friends who have only a passing interest in Primulas seem to do so much better than I. I seem to be having better luck with Candelabra than the other species.

Sister Patience, Denver, Colo.

We have two acres of open woods on the Eastern shore of Maryland and are trying to naturalize various plants that will do well in shade. We have had a few primroses that seem to do very well and the rabbits mostly leave them alone. They are a slow growing type, I suppose Polyanthus. We would like to grow a lot of them from seed as it seems difficult to get plants other than in mixed colors. We want to stick to yellows and whites. Would also like to experiment growing them to bloom indoors in the winter. Any information or suggestions will be most welcome.

Miss Marjorie Dunn
St. Michael, Md.

Of interest to those growing Primulas I got poorly rooted Primula Suffrutescens from the Arboratum plant sale last fall. The plant was placed under fluorescent lights (16 hours a day) and it has responded with 5 large growing tips and 11 or more lateral shoots. The light seems to be the best way to get it to continue in the garden like that.

Steve Doonan, Issaquah, Wa.

HAVE IMMENSELY ENJOYED THE PUBLICATIONS SO MUCH TO DO AND LEARN. AM GRATEFUL ITS THERE TO STIMULATE AND ENRICH.

MRS K. J. WILSON
BAY VILLAGE,
OHIO

Thanks for seed that came with my membership card last year. I always love seed. I have so many beautiful primroses, but loose a few when I plant them out. The Sieboldii are good here, I have three or four nice beds of them. I have a friend that likes primroses so have something in common.

Mrs. H. C. Schulties
Sacramento, Calif.

Is there anywhere in this country one can get the common yellow primrose, which grows wild in the British Isles? I would like to get some plants, but would try growing it from seed if necessary. Would like to get some plants, but would try growing it from seed if necessary. Would you be good enough to give me some information about the Primrose society too.

Mrs. John Fischer
Guilford, Conn.

Seems I should call you Beth, have read your name so many times. One time you wrote asking if I would be interested in the Round Robin letter. I surely would. At that time I was quite snowed in and not being an exceptional letter writer I didn't agree. May I join now? Hope to be in the Alderwood Manor area this spring, am going to visit you or else. Have loved primroses forever it seems. For years I had one brilliant red Cowichan and several Quaker Bonnets, lost both. But have a good number growing again. Always interested to read or see the various methods of growing and caring for the plants. All I say if it works why switch, sounds like a tobacco add. The sun is bright after snow and snow and freezing, so here I go to the primrose greenhouse.

Mrs. Doris Burge
Forest Grove, Ore.

I am presently working on equipment in Radioactive isotopes, used in tracing sap and flow of fertilizers used in forest tree experiments, some hope for larger primroses.

George Sayers
Maple Ridge, B.C.

Your Society journals have been providing a great knowledge for me. I admire the wonderful activities which are being done by you and all other leading people in your country. We have here a society for primroses but the item has been confined to Primula Sieboldii varieties. Pacific giant primulas are popularly sold at flower shops and green house primulas are also grown on many occasions but no society has been organized for these primulas.

Mr. Balcom and Mrs. Heacock have sent me seeds of double Auricula and Candelabra Fuji Pagoda and Apomistic. I was pleased to have saved some double Auricula Plants. They are healthy lovely plants. Candelabra seed produced a large number of plants. It was a pity that Primula Japonica has been neglected here. In spite of that they are thriving beautifully abroad.

Dr. Shuichi Hirao
Zushi, Kanagawa, Japan

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**AMERICAN PRIMROSE SOCIETY**

Page 55
The Amazing Durability of Some Primula

By Herbert Dickson

After a year and a half of retirement from my full time job, I am now getting to the repotting and caring for many potted primulas that were neglected because of a move, starting three years ago, then two operations that laid me up one whole season and the necessity of constructing a greenhouse and shade areas.

I had resigned myself to heavy losses; but it is surprising how many survived and some even thrived and multiplied. Most of the plants were in 4 1/4 inch square plastic pots placed side by side in a wooden flat with the flats set on black plastic exposed to the full elements both summer and winter. They were watered with an overhead sprinkler, fed through the sprinkler and weeded once last spring. Weeds and grass in the pots seemed to help the plants through the winter but will choke out many of the plants if the previous year's weeds and grass are not removed before the next growing season.

Primula sieboldii and P. rosea thrived and increased. The hybrid polyanthus and acaulis all disappeared the second season, but most of the species in the Vernales section survived, such as Primula Juliae, P. veris, P. veris subspecies columnae, canescens, and macrocalyx, P. sibiric, P. elatior, P. vulgaris and the Juliae hybrids. Many self sown seedlings from these species are appearing in pots all around them. The candelabras in pots all died after the first year because after blooming the plants failed to develop an adequate root system for the next year. They come so easy from seed that it was no great loss except for a few outstanding color selections I really wanted to save, especially a brilliant velvety red and a baby ribbon pink with the eye the same color.

Most of the auriculas can stand rough treatment and survive, the garden hybrids for three or four years in a pot without repotting or five or six years in the ground without dividing or resetting and probably indefinitely if you could each spring add enough new soil to the bed to cover the carrot to the base of the leaves so the new roots could grow into the new soil.

I was disappointed to find only one survivor from about 50 plants of P. pedemontana. From seed they are slow to reach flowering size.

A pleasant surprise was finding a plant of P. allionii in bloom. Somehow it had been overlooked and left to the elements. The one I had kept track of and tried to protect was barely surviving.

Primula kisoana did not like the pots, but P. jesooana thrives in them, and P. williamsii does better in the open in the pot than it does protected from the winter rains. All the Farinosae group seemed to do better in the exposed pots than in the ground.

Primula marginata is an ideal pot plant and will stand many years in the same pot without disturbing, but I had to rescue mine from the winter wet last year. I lost a few and the others were doubtful for some time. The marginata hybrids and the pubescens hybrids are almost indestructable.

Two examples of durability and easy culture in the Auricula section but of opposite growth habits are P. carnica and P. rubra. A plant of P. rubra that had won many blue ribbons at the shows for me I divided last fall because after nine years in the same eight inch pot it was hanging over on all sides and taking root in the sand around the pot. When I finished I had 50 rooted divisions and 20 cuttings. My plant of P. carnica has also been in an eight inch pot for nine years. I grew it from seed and it bloomed once before I put it in the big pot. It has one thick carrot more than an inch thick at the base and about seven inches to the rosette on top. There is only one short branch about half way up with a small rosette of leaves on it. Each year it has bloomed with one stately umbel until this year when as of now (February) there two flower umbels starting to unfold. I would like to get some increases from it but in its present state of good health I am afraid to disturb it.

If I would decapitate this plant about an inch above the soil it would probably grow many off sets around the base of the cut. If I cut the severed carrot in three or four pieces treated them as cuttings they would probably root and grow many more off sets. I do this regularly with other auriculas, but now and then one dies and the severed pieces fail to root.

I have some Carniolica seedlings coming along. If they bloom and show promise of becoming fine specimens, I may decapitate their grandfather.

The P. rusbyi seedlings I reported on last year were repotted last fall. They promptly went dormant and I thought sure I had lost them because their first seedling winter was mild and they did not go dormant. I feel more confident now since each one has a new bud just breaking through the soil.

Although many of my primula survived with neglect and abuse, I do not recommend this treatment because the losses are too great and the survivors are poor rugged specimens compared to what they could be with proper care and sitting. I will continue to grow many primula in pots because they are easier to handle when selling them. Except for the show auriculas and a few others that have to have alpine house protection to survive, no potted primula can equal the beauty of the same type of plant well grown in the ground in association with rocks, streams and other plants for shade as needed.
How To Grow Auriculas

by R. H. Briggs

The actual business of re-potting should be got under way by the middle of June, and as most amateurs have only their spare time in which to do work, it is well to plan to do say, eight or ten each evening according to size of one's collection, and thus spin out what is really a pleasure of a toil. A rather irksome aftermath of re-potting is the washing of the empty pots. It can be particularly so if these are allowed to accumulate; by far the best policy is to steep the empty pots off before commencing a fresh batch. The greenest of pots are easy to clean after being in water overnight.

With which plants shall we make a start? Preferably with seedlings which have reached a stage to justify them being planted separately in pots so as to give them as long a period of growth as possible in new and richer compost. Off-sets too, which were taken last year and have become nicely rooted should be considered varieties which have naturally detached itself from the parent plant. The off-set has to be decided, and one of the most important questions is to the compost used for weak-rooting plants. The off-set must be potted or boxed together. Show auriculas generally are later in blooming than Alpines though the writer's experience is that Selfs are quite as early as the latter, so the edged varieties are first to be repotted.

Much can be learned by a close examination of a plant in its naked state, the cause of failure may be revealed by the condition of the carrot and rooting system. One cannot expect worthwhile blooms from a plant with a diseased carrot or weakly-looking roots. In all cases where the carrot is diseased it should be cut back to a sound part and the wound cauterized. Lime, powdered charcoal or flowers of sulphur may be used for this purpose, and some leave any which have been so treated overnight so as to give the wound an opportunity to dry before potting up. Cauterizing is equally important when off-sets have been detached if by so doing a raw patch is left on the carrot of the parent plant. The off-set too, will require treating unless it has naturally detached itself.

Plants differ very much in the abundance of roots which they form, some quickly fill a pot, others make but few. Only experience can tell one whether a plant by nature yields but few roots or whether the lack of them is the result of mismanagement.

In either case, the root system may be encouraged by making the compost easier for the tiny rootlets by the addition of fine silver sand. Superphosphate of lime is the fertilizer which more than other artificial is supposed to benefit the rooting system, and no harm can be done by adding a little of this to the compost used for weak-rooting plants.

The size of the pot is all important. Auriculas must never be over-potted. It is rare to use anything larger than a 3½ inch Long Tom or a 4 inch ordinary pot.

I think the arrangement of the drainage is also worth a great deal of attention. My method is to put a zinc perforated disc in first, then crocks in the usual way, and to cover by pieces of large charcoal. A very critical period for the auricula is the few weeks after re-potting, for if too much water is given before the roots have become sufficiently active to absorb same, they tend to rot, as does the carrot at its most vulnerable point, just below the soil or indeed at soil level. By far the best way to water newly-potted plants is to stand them almost to the rims in a trough of water, then let surplus water drain away. A shady place is a necessity for housing the plants for the first few weeks, indeed, until there is evidence that growth has begun and that the roots have become active again, after which they can be given more light and air.

By the end of the month the average amateur should have finished his task, and from now onwards it is a case of intelligent and unrelenting care during the months to come before flowering period arrives.

"THE COMPOST"—Undoubtedly the most important question which has to be decided, and one which will go a long way to determining the quality of bloom next year, is what sort of compost to use, so its choice and preparation deserve careful consideration. Many and varied have been the composts recommended, particularly by the old growers, some actually nauseating in character. However, growers today prefer to

Continued on page 61
GROWING PRIMROSES FROM SEED

TIME TO PLANT: From the first of January to the first of May.

SOIL MIXTURE — Any good seeding mixture in which other small seed will grow. Here is a standard mix for Primula: 1 part garden soil, 1 part sand, 1 part peat, and 1 part vermiculite or sponge rock. If your garden soil is weed free, sterilize it to kill the weed seed.

HOW TO PLANT: Use 3 1/2 or 4 inch deep pot or flat with good drainage holes in the bottom. Put at least 1 inch of coarse material such as sand, gravel, or broken pots in the bottom for good drainage. Fill the container with the soil mixture. Press down lightly and level the surface 1/2 to 1/4 inch below edge of the pot. Sow seed evenly over surface. Cover with vermiculite or any material that does not form a crust when dry. If you can water the containers from the bottom up, O.K.; if not, place a cloth to fit on the top of the pot or box, put a few grains of sand around the edge of the cloth so it won’t blow off. Set containers outside exposed to the weather. The cloth will protect the soil from washing in the rain.

CARE OF SEEDLINGS: Never let seedlings dry out. Keep moist but not soggy. Remove cloth when seed start germinating. A couple of weeks of 50-degree temperature will start germination, after the covers are removed water from the bottom or with a fine mist. Keep the pots in the shade with good air circulation and protect, if needed, from drips, beating rain and birds.

TIME TO TRANSPLANT: Soon after the first set of true leaves have developed.

HOW TO TRANSPLANT: Fill pots or flats with any good growing medium with drainage material in the bottom the same as for seed. Remove seedlings from pot and separate a few at a time so they will not dry out before they are transplanted. Set seedlings one inch or more apart each way, as deeply as you can without covering the base of the leaves. Keep well watered in partial shade until ready to plant out in their bedding plots.

WHEN TO PLANT OUT: Plant out as soon as the plant can survive on normal garden care. Allow a month of growing weather before frosts for the plants to establish before winter. The time between first transplanting and planting out will vary according to the type of Primula, from one month for some of the Candelabras, to one year for some of the Auriculas.

GENERAL COMMENT: In general primroses are easy to grow. Some are slower than others. All like rich soil, good drainage, plenty of moisture, during the growing season, and they do better with some degree of shade. The hotter and longer your summers the more shade and moisture they need.

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 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 rich 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.

How to Grow Auriculas
Continued from page 59

follow the dictum of the late Rev. F. D. Horner, himself a successful grower who said, "The auricula is clean in all its habits and requires clean food, good sweet loam, leafmould, and sand from the bed of a limpid stream." To prepare such a compost, four parts of good, well rotted loam and one part of leaf soil should be well mixed and rubbed through a half-inch sieve, and to each bushel of this a pint of coarse silver sand be added and 4 ounces hoof and horn meal, and the whole thoroughly mixed.

Perhaps it will not be out of place here to mention the use of ground mica such as is under the name of "Vermiculite", for raising seedlings; it is germ-proof and gives good germination if instructions supplied are adhered to. As for the best time for sowing the seeds, opinions vary, some prefer as soon as the seed is ripe, others prefer to wait until February. Seed sown in February will have germinated by March and an early opportunity should be taken to prick out any which are large enough, using the same seed compost.

To ensure rapid growth, these seedlings must never be allowed to stagnate. After prickling out, they seem to grow well for a short period and then at a standstill. Move them on again, this time using half seed compost and half plant compost, when large enough they can then be placed singly in plant compost.

WE ARE SORRY: Due to mistaken information given to the Quarterly, Mrs. R. E. Kartack’s name was listed in the In Memoriam column. To Mrs. Kartack, her relatives and friends we are sorry the mistake occurred.

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Our new price list of Primula and other plants is out. We have mailed to all in our active list. If you haven’t received a copy write for one.

RUTH S. BARTLETT
ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Annual election of officers of the American Primrose Society will be held at the Annual Meeting April 17, 1971, Rose Manor Inn, Milwaukie, Oregon. The Nominating Committee has selected the following list of nominees.

President ........ Mrs. William Dines
Vice-President .... Mr. Albert Rapp
Recording Sec'y. .. Mrs. Wm. Tate
Corresponding Sec'y—East Mrs. Alice Hills Baylor
Corresponding Sec'y—West Mr. Ralph Balcom
Treasurer ........ Mrs. L. G. Tait
Members to the Board .......... Mr. Elmer Baldwin
................................ Mr. Lincoln Foster

Nominations for any of the offices may be made from the floor. Also, any member in good standing, who is unable to attend, may mail his vote by absentee ballot. Simply send it to Mrs. William Tate, our recording secretary, at 1006 40th Street, Milwaukee, Ore. 97222, and it will be counted along with the other votes at balloting time.

PLEASE NOTE

The mailing list for the Winter Quarterly was completely revised. If any member did not receive the Winter Quarterly will you please notify the Editor, Mrs. Emma Hale, 16614 Ninth Ave. S.E., Bothell, Washington 98011 or the Treasurer Mrs. Lawrence G. Tait. One will be sent you immediately.

Application for Membership

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