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PRIMROSES AS THEY GROW IN WISCONSIN
R. E. Kartack, Baraboo, Wisc.

Wisconsin has one native Primrose—P. mistassinica; its habitat being largely within the confines of the Door county Peninsula. It has strayed to other parts, and has been found in the region of the Dells of the Wisconsin River, not far from Baraboo. This fact gives no assurance that we have either Primrose soil or climate. Primroses, like all other plants, are sensitive to environment. The factors of soil and climate are, therefore, pertinent to a discussion of Primrose culture, and they should have the consideration of the gardener, if he desires to put his skill and energy to the best purpose.

In Wisconsin both soil and climate are variable factors. A plant which may be hardy in the extreme north, may not be three hundred miles to the southward, where the soils may be better suited to its taste. Snow covering, particularly during periods of such wide range of temperature between noonday and midnight, as we experience in January and February, determines hardiness of many forms of plant life. Here we find influences bearing upon the growth of Primroses, which must be taken into account. They may not be the concern of the grower in other parts, unless he finds similar conditions prevail.

As to soils, it may be said that any ordinary garden loam will grow Primroses, and they will likewise thrive in any clay of the proper staple to produce a good kitchen garden; provided there is protection from the mid-day sun, and their requirement for moisture is satisfied. In Wisconsin soils vary from worthless sands, to the most fertile loams known to the tiller. Unfortunately the poorer soils predominate in many sections.

Our own particular situation is on the fringe of the terminal moraine of the last of the Great Glaciers to sweep into the States. The scourings
deposited here contain many elements, which stimulate plant growth; and appear to possess substances which actually accentuate color in the bloom of flowering plants; at least such of the colors as nature intended them to have. The Glacier also rearranged the drainage pattern of the region by diverting the waters of the Wisconsin River from an old channel, just to the west of us, to a new course, some miles to the eastward. In the old channel where, in very ancient times, the river had cut its way through the quartz rock of the Baraboo Range is now Devil's Lake; a place of great natural beauty, and a geologist's Paradise.

The driftless areas to the southward offer no soil problems. There is a vast region in central Wisconsin, which until comparatively recent times was covered by the Glacial Lake. It would be futile to attempt to grow Primroses in such soil, without first making elaborate preparation. Most of the northern sections of the State have some natural loam and the soil is generally satisfactory.

The spot on which our Primroses grow was once a part of an Indian corn field. Only a century has passed since the Indian made way for the white settler, and in the intervening time our soil had borne no crop other than trees, hazel brush, and grasses. When we acquired it, it was as near to virgin soil as could be found in a civilized community. There was just a trace of natural loam, and the spade turned up a stiff clay. It was such soil as this which produced our first successful venture in Primroses, back in 1920. This clay had one very serious disadvantage. After a summer's shower the surface would bake to a hardness that defied the hoe. By spading in leaves it was in time subdued, and now it is in prime condition.

Climate, unlike the soil, must be taken as we find it. Here temperatures range from thirty or more degrees below zero in winter to ninety or more above in summer. Winters may be bitterly cold, or reasonably mild, but always with snow; sometimes delaying until late December, but usually coming in November, and remaining until the vernal Equinox. Summers may be cool and wet, or hot and dry. No human knows what to expect, and under such conditions the gardener must devise means to outwit the weather.

Primroses seem to thrive best when temperatures are between 50 degrees and 75 degrees F. They are dormant when frost is in the ground; and, practically so, when the temperature rises above eighty, even when the ground moisture is ample. There can be some growth under the snow when there is no frost in the ground. As a consequence of climatic conditions, we can expect four to six months of winter dormancy, and about two months in the heat of summer when foliage is reluctant to develop. With the growing seasons restricted by both winter and summer conditions, and considering the fact that seedlings must attain a lusty growth before the heat of summer, if they are to flower the following spring, it is necessary to pursue a practice best suited to a climate, which from the stand point of the Primrose grower, is erratic to the point of exasperation. Wanting both the time, and the facilities to do otherwise, and having a profound respect for nature's processes, we long ago came to the conclusion that fall seeding in the open ground offered the best hope for success. Without disparagement of any other methods, most of which we have tried, we have found that our attempts to quicken the pace of nature have resulted in poor seedlings. They could be carried through the heat of summer, but they refused to flower until the second spring. From March sowings, under conditions simulating in a measure what takes place where man has not intervened, the weather conditions must be extremely favorable to produce flowering plants the next spring. From June sowings we have rarely brought a plant to the flowering stage the following spring. In this climate it seems to require eighteen months from seeding to flowering.

Communications which have come to us, in the past few years indicate that there is some Primrose interest developing in sections less favored by providence, in the matter of climate, than that part of our domain lying to the westward of the Rockies. For those who find themselves situated, as we are, in the northern states of the mid-west there follows a brief description of our cultural methods, and some suggestions for the beginner as to the manner of handling seedlings when they have survived the seed bed.

The soil is prepared for the outside seed bed in October. The mixture is garden loam, leaf mould and granular beach sand. The proportions are of no great consequence, as germination is as sure in loam without the admixture of leaf mould and sand. A loose soil encourages root growth and prevents injury to the root system when seedlings are lifted. The soil is then permitted to settle under the influence of the fall rains. Seeding is deferred until the leaves are off the trees, and then just before frosts are severe enough to put a crust on the surface the seedlings are planted in rows, properly identified. Care should be taken in spacing the seeds, so that the seedlings will have room to grow. If they crowd they cannot be sturdy, and there is danger of damping off. The finer seeds are merely pressed into the ground, but the larger ones receive a sifting of leaf mould. When the seeding process is completed a coarse screen is placed over the bed as a precaution against the ravages of squirrels, chipmunks and other rodents. Mice can be taken care of by placing a bit of poisoned wheat under the screen. After the ground freezes, or snow comes, the screen has served its purpose and can be removed. Ordinarily the soil is sufficiently moist, but if it should be dry it can be watered, using a fine rose.

With the making of the seed bed all fuss and bother is over until spring, and even then there is little to be done except watch the seedlings spring up and thrive. The seeds will sprout as soon as the mean temperature is fifty or more above zero. Growth is rapid and sturdy plants develop with little attention—sturdier and tougher ones than any we have pampered in a flat, and there is no check in growth when the seedlings are transplanted.

Soon after the leaves appear on the maples the seedlings are transferred to trial rows, which are shaded for the greater part of the day. The soil is neutral loam. Tests disclose the potash level is high, and the phosphate content rather less than it should be in what is considered
fertile soil. However these excesses and deficiencies seem to have no effect on the growth of the seedlings. The phosphate deficiency is corrected as will be noted later. The seedlings are set six inches apart and the rows spaced just wide enough to permit tillage. An occasional tilting is required to keep down the weeds, and to assist in making plant food easily accessible. The seedlings do not suffer greatly in the heat of summer if well shaded and watered, but they make no appreciable growth. The plants remain in the trial rows until they have flowered. Then such plants as show promise can be removed to permanent positions, along rock walls; to the shade of shrub borders, or to any suitable situation where they can be displayed in special plantings or color combinations as will satisfy the whim or fancy. Surplus plants are no problem, as there is a great burst of enthusiasm when the Primroses bloom, and they are carried away, to fare well or ill, in other gardens.

European and Asiatic Primulas are treated in the same manner as the so-called English Primroses, and all that we grow do equally as well except those of the Auricula section. We have still to discover what makes the Auricula so obstinate. It is more likely that we will find it in summer conditions, than in the conditions of the other seasons. There are rains throughout the summer season, but in those summers of excessive heat a scorching sun and searing wind will soon dry the ground. Along about the end of August the nights become cool; the rains frequent and the weather ideal and generally to the liking of Primroses. When October comes they are given their final grooming; both the seedlings and the old established plants. Rotted stable manure, bone meal or fish meal is worked into the ground, and leaf mould applied to the surface.

Heavy fertilizing is neither necessary, nor desirable. The best food for Primroses, we know of, is leaf mould. We use it copiously, and the other plant foods sparingly. Leaf mould being of such great value it is well to make a heap of all the leaves, which fall from tree and shrub, so that a ready supply will be always available. We keep oak leaves separately to make a mould which will mildly acidify soil. Experiments with this and other acidifying agents are now under way, but it is still too early to report results.

Propagation by division requires a bit of attention, since sooner or later it will be necessary, and a fine plant deserves an opportunity to display itself in many gardens. Here it is not necessary to divide short of five or six years. When it does become necessary it can be accomplished at any time after the seed pods form, but not later than the end of September. With summer conditions what are they are it is unwise to disturb the plants while they languish in the comatose state induced by the summer heat. It is better to await the coming of the fall rains, when the weather will be favorable and there are still several months of growing weather ahead. Insect pests trouble very little here. We have the usual slugs and grubs. An application of chimney soot or arsenate of lead will distress them. Some Asiaties may suffer an attack by the aphis tribe, but they are easily controlled by spraying with Blackleaf 40.

Impatience afflicts the grower and the Primrose in like degree as the waning winter prepares to abdicate. Even before nature begins to stir, the Primrose, long hidden from sight under its protecting blanket of snow, awaits the first faint murmurings of spring, alert and ready to display its bewitching brilliance amid the stark and drab forms of its more timid neighbors. Those first to flower do not suffer from competition of the lowly Snowdrop, nor the Crocus, of classic form and subdued color. Of all the early flowers, only the Primrose blooming, for the first time, can delight the senses with some new form or brilliant hue—therein lies the germ of interest, which forever holds the grower in its grasp.

FIFTH ANNUAL PRIMROSE SHOW, APRIL 16TH AND 11TH

The need for more space has been eased by the Portland Art Museum offering the use of the auditorium, the textile, lace, and sculpture rooms in addition to the main floor and the outdoor court. With the prospects of vastly increased amateur, professional, garden club and florists' exhibits; lectures, demonstrations, colored slides; artistic arrangements and exhibits of Primrose art, all additional space will be utilized. The show will be open to the public from 12 noon to 9 p.m. both days, April 10th and 11th, Portland Art Museum, Southwest Park and Madison Streets.

The main floor and open court will accommodate all horticultural entries—table exhibits indoors and garden settings in the court—and miniature gardens. At stated intervals lectures on cultural practices and hybridizing, demonstrations of seeding, dividing and corsage making will be given in the auditorium as will the showing of colored slides. The Elizabethan table which was crowded out of last year's show is being planned again to commemorate the antiquity of the flower and acquaint visitors with the Primrose forms of that period. The case of art objects which brought appreciation of prints, old books, pictures and engravings will again be set up.

Chairman of committees are as follows: Mrs. John M. Young, Chairman of the show with Mrs. B. E. Torpein acting as her assistant; Mrs. O. J. Zach, Staging; Lou Roberts, Classification; Mr. Carl Maskey, Properties, Miss Alea Jacobson assisting; Mrs. Boyd Myers, Publicity; Mrs. John L. Karmopp, Placing; Mrs. L. M. Bucy, Entries; Mr. R. W. Ewell, Commercial Exhibits; Mrs. John H. Holms, Garden Clubs and Miniature Gardens; Mrs. T. W. Blakeney, Artistic Arrangements; Mr. Donald O'Connell, Florists' Exhibits; Mrs. Joyce Nelan, Special Features; Mrs. John Reutter, Ribbons and Awards; Florence Levy, Judges and Clerks; Mrs. Carl Lineke, Hospitality and Information; Mrs. S. R. Smith, Membership.

First and second awards in each competitive class will be given with special awards to city and out of city garden clubs, and the most outstanding Polyanthus, Acaulis, Auricula and Juliae hybrid. Professional entries will again be non-competitive.

For Show Rules and Classification send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Mrs. S. R. Smith, Route 16, Box 102, Portland 2, Oregon. Mrs. Smith will also take reservations for the no-host luncheon being planned for show personnel and out of town guests April 10th.
THE USE OF PRIMROSES IN FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS
Mrs. Philip Hart, Portland

Primroses are as engaging and charming indoors as out of doors. From the time the very first white Acaulis make their appearance—often in January—right on through the spring and summer, Primroses are a joy both in the garden and the house.

Artists of the old flower prints recognized their effectiveness, especially that of the Auricula. How often they tucked them into their mixed bouquets! Primroses lend themselves to many treatments—alone with just their own foliage or with other spring flowers. There is a wide choice among the smaller bulbs, such as Muscaria (grape hyacinths), Leucojum (snowflakes), the different Scillas (Siberica, nutans, etc.), Chionodoxa, the incomparable type of Narcissus. The rock garden offers Epimedium, Alyssums, Arabis, Aubretia, and, at last, Chionodoxa, the incomparable and poetaz type of Narcissus. The rock garden offers Epimedium, Alyssums, Arabis, Aubretia, and, in late spring...
still the smallest plants in the bed, and most have not yet flowered. At first they seemed almost pure Auricula in leaf character, but with increasing age other blood has become evident, and an occasional plant suggests that P. Clusiana may indeed have been the seed parent. Yet P. Clusiana x Auricula seems not to be a recorded cross, and their origin remains a mystery, no less than the time when they will decide to bloom.

Our first mistake was made in transplanting seedlings to cold frame and garden while they were still small. Perhaps in milder parts of the country such treatment is satisfactory, but not here, where the soil heaves into a veritable honeycomb in cold weather. Young plants are thrown violently out of the ground, then carefully tucked in again, apparently still intact and healthy, when the surface soil thaws, but they disapprove and very few reach maturity. A safer procedure is to plant the babies in flats and to keep them in the alpine house winters until they have attained a respectable size, in one to three years. Losses under this treatment have been negligible, and largely due to allowing the flats to become overcrowded. Planting in pots would serve the same purpose and would avoid root disturbance, but has not been tried here because of the additional room required.

Once the plants are ready for the garden, some discretion should be used in placing them. The soil should be fairly light, but not very sandy—the usual rock garden mixture is suitable, but scree is not—and on a well-drained slope. The more vigorous plants will accept full sun in our rather cool climate, but all are better in very light shade. The north side of a building is an excellent location. In the rock garden, if one uses Auricula there (the purist will not), the north or east side of a medium-sized rock, or even the lower part of a north slope, will provide sufficient protection from the full force of the sun. Whether to plant in fall or spring is difficult to decide, but in this climate no Primula should be disturbed after early September. My own choice (never followed, however) would be to set out potted plants in early spring. This avoids root disturbance and allows the plant ample time to anchor itself before winter. Needless to say, Auriculas, like all Primulas, need to be watered in dry weather; they may grow on sun-baked rocks in their native haunts, but too much heat and drought are invariably fatal in the garden.

Auriculas, in our experience, do not accept transplanting or division as readily as do Polyanthus and Julianas. Many of them do not mind greatly, but a fair percentage always fail to survive replanting in the open. The shelter of a frame for divisions, or a pot for either transplant or division, will enable the plant to prepare itself for its new home. But pot culture for more than a season is to be avoided: the plants soon lose their vigor, and become the prey of root aphids. Once they are thus weakened, planting out is not sufficient to rejuvenate them. If they recover at all, it will be only after several years of careful attention.

Another fault of Auriculas here is that they develop many crowns above the soil level, where root formation is impossible. Due to cultivation, a severe storm, or mere age, these rosettes break off and if care is not taken, an entire plant will vanish. The remedies are simple: every year a top-dressing of soil and rotted manure, to the level of the crowns,

furnishes a rooting medium; while detached crowns, even those that have lain on the soil for several days, will root promptly if put in the cutting box, or in wet weather if merely stuck in soil.

Winter protection is a simple matter, for our plants get none at all, once they are large enough for open beds. The main bed lies on a north-west slope so constantly swept by strong winds that snow rarely lies there, yet the Auriculas have not suffered.

Summed up, most difficulties with Auriculas are avoided by keeping seedlings in flats until they are of fair size; by giving transplants a chance to recover in pots before they are placed in open beds; by planting in rather light well-drained soil with some shelter from full sun; by mulching to keep the soil at surface level, and by rooting detached rosettes. These precautions are simple enough, and I hope will aid in solving the problem of raising Auriculas successfully in the northeastern states. Most of the foregoing treatment is also applicable to other European species of Primula, but they offer additional problems that baffle the cultivator long after growing Auriculas has become a routine procedure.

(From Page 54)
SAWDUST CULTURE FOR PRIMROSE SEEDS

A. H. MacAndrews, Syracuse, N. Y.

When you buy choice Primrose seeds or have seeds from some of your own crosses you are especially interested in getting good germination and high survival, and any medium that will increase your chances of accomplishing this is worth trying.

I have been using fresh hardwood sawdust for the germination of choice seeds from other plants so I decided to try Primrose seed in it. The results were very gratifying and I use nothing but sawdust now. In order to give the sawdust a fair test I set up a little experiment to prove to myself its superiority. You know it is the easiest thing in the world to convince yourself of something when you rely on judgment and not facts.

I used large clay pots 11 x 5½ inches with fine copper screen over the drainage hole. The sawdust used was fresh from the saw, coarse (circular saw with ⅛" saw kerf), and from green hardwood lumber. It was placed in a pail and wet down with hot water, then transferred to the pot and allowed to drain. The other materials used as checks were moistened well before they were placed in the pots. The same amount of seed was planted in each pot and all seed was from the same source.

Seed was simply scattered on the surface and a glass panel placed over each pot. This was removed when seeds germinated, pots were placed in tin pans and as contents of pots showed signs of drying, water was placed in the pans instead of top watering. Pots were placed on the north side of a garage where they got lots of top light but no direct sun at any time.

No. 1 pot ordinary garden soil.
No. 2 pot washed sand.
No. 3 pot fine peat moss.
No. 4 pot sand and peat 50-50.
No. 5 pot sphagnum moss sifted.
No. 6 pot coarse hardwood sawdust.

To briefly sum up the results I have this to say in favor of the sawdust:

1. Germination was more rapid and more uniform than in any of the other materials tried.
2. I obtained a much larger number of seedlings than from anything else though sphagnum moss was good.
3. The sawdust maintained a much more uniform moisture content and needed to be watered less frequently.
4. The seedlings will live in the sawdust; a much longer period of time before they get leggy. One lot was in the pot five months before it was transplanted.
5. To me the most important thing was the size of the root system and the mass of rootlets that far exceeded any other pot. Sphagnum had a good root system but it was very difficult to separate the seedlings without injury to the root; while in sawdust, the individual plants came out beautifully and after being established in flats the survival far surpassed anything else used.
6. The material never becomes soggy, sticky or dirty to work with.

GOLD AND SILVER LACED PRIMROSES

M. A. Lawrence, Portland

Quite a decade or more ago we had finally got clean disgusted trying to grow “American Made” Primrose seeds, and turned to our favorite vegetable seed man, Mr. Toogood (sounds like he was right out of Pilgrim’s Progress, and maybe so), and ordered along with various blues, orchid-flowering Polys, Auriculas, and so on, a couple of packets of Gold and Silver Laced Primroses.

They proved so interestingly different from the accepted sharp colors and clean margins of conventional Primroses, and have been such willing performers under adverse circumstances, that we have been enjoying them ever since.

Now, those who have seen these laced Primroses need no picture and can save reading time by passing up the next two paragraphs. Those who have not—

Picture in your mind’s eye any of the Acaulis or lesser Polyanthus types of close, compact foliage and defiant habit. Substitute for the usual ground colors odd shades of browns and reds from brilliant to blackish tones, and break up the margins into lacing and picotings of silver or gold meshed over the ground color or a lighter shade thereof.

Some flowers have this lacing repeated in variations over the face of the ground color, or radiating from the eye out into the ground color. Their variability is as extensive as the number of individual seedlings, and their interest lies half in their oddity and half in the fun of wondering what new surprises each day of their season will open. Their appeal is strong enough to lead the gardener’s feet unwittingly.

Our treatment of these rather interesting little calicoes has been rude, even brutal. We give them the least care, letting them endure our dry spots in summer and all manner of other neglect as best they can. We have not attempted even the segregation of what might be thought superior individuals, and they have mated and mismated at their own ruddy whim, free as the pigs of Wallingford.

Some friend shows partiality to a certain plant, and gets half of it, if we happen to feel so inclined, and the other half can live or die, it gets no help from either of us. Therein may lie some of the appeal they have for us, these Cinderellas of our Primrose borders and edges. Each year unfailingly brings us something new and different, usually something over which to exclaim—and often it happens we never see it again.

We have had them in intense silverings and just as bright gold in their lacing; and almost velvety in their blackness. Another year will find no jet at all, but some lovely dark red-browns with hints of purple that could pass for black. They run the gamut from pink and white lace all-over in its spread marginless and clean across the pip that only a mammy could love the chile, to ground colors so definite and margins so flawless in the regularity of their lay design as to mark them as the work of the Green Woman at her matchless best. We can’t explain it, but theirs is an elfin character which constrains us to leave them to their own devices and their own keep. One might as well set one’s self to
nursing pixies and leprechauns as to presume to play master to the "laces". It might be done. It could excel in interest. Our idea is that man-made controls would never produce what these earthy raps and clowns do of their own whimsical irresponsibilities out behind the barn. Those entirely unsuspected and unlooked for "illegitimates" make the gold and silver laces eminently intriguing.

Along with the gold and silvers we got some seed of what was listed as "Dean's Hybrids" and that packet was probably the source of some oddish orangey-brown combinations of diminutive habit and eye-catching brilliance.

But they are another story, as are the Oxlips (which came to us back before 1915 as P. elatior) of which a better liked form still finds room in our wild garden. It has good height, habit, and stem, and a fine cluster of brown-toned nodding hips.

Those earlier days of our Primrose growing also knew P. veris through yellow shades, some reddish Polyanthuses, silver laces of vague character, some of which continue to persist. We had some fine Jean Robinson Auriculas that suited our heavy soil—and the lavender and white Doubles common to the walk-edges of our University district were far lovelier than the Marie Crousse everybody seems to want now. That's our opinion, and of course you can disagree.

Maybe the laces can be subjugated. Let others try it. For our part we are content to sit idly by and just enjoy the sparkly little fellows. That is fun enough for us so far as they are concerned—and we hope they pay us for our indifference to their miscreant ways by continuing to populate our back borders with their chance and vagrant progeny.

MRS. L. E. BROWN, COOS BAY, OREGON

As time flows on and personalities with it, the aura of good which remains is like the gentle rays of the sun. So it is that kindness, understanding, generosity and real love of nature will always be an influence in the lives of those who knew Mrs. Brown. Her garden was a retreat for plants and people and of the many who called few came away empty-handed. For the last twenty-five years a special interest was the growing of better Primroses and that she succeeded in her aim was evidenced last year at the Society's Annual Exhibition where almost all of her plants won highest awards. Born 1881 at Remote, Oregon, passed on January 12, 1946 in Coos Bay, the gentleness of Mrs. Brown remains.
PRIMULA SIEBOLDII
Mrs. Ernest L. Scott, Bogota, N. J.

I have an idea that where climatic conditions are favorable Primula Sieboldii must be regarded as a weed. However, here in the East where the summers are often long, hot and very dry I find myself grateful for P. Sieboldii.

It has some useful characteristics. For example the plants become deciduous and dormant around the first of July at the very time that the white mite becomes voracious and devour the foliage of the Polyanthus leaving nothing at all unless controlled. We are not going to have Polyanthus much longer here in the East if an easy control for white mite is not soon found. P. Sieboldii has nice bright foliage, with long petals, and it makes a decorative border along the shady pathways. The blooming time is just right for the Azaleas and Rhododendrons and the white, lavender and purple flowers of P. Sieboldii go nicely with the lavender and white flowers of the shrubs. I like to plant Anchusa myosotidiflora with them for a sort of analogous color harmony, especially if there is a bit of pink Azalea near by.

One assumes that where the broadleaved evergreens do well the soil is naturally acid. I find P. Sieboldii gets along well among these acid loving plants. Polyanthus don't do well where Sieboldii does best. I don't give Sieboldii any lime at all.

There are two limitation to it, the restricted color range and the papery texture of the petals. If someone could produce a nice pink or a real blue! I must admit the texture of the flower petals is coarse, not at all appealing as is the texture of the Auriculas and Polyanthus.

I wonder sometimes whether anyone except myself has anything good to say about this variety for easy to grow as it is one never hears it mentioned.

(From Page 57)

different tones of yellow to white Primroses, bunches of the lovely fragrant early Violets and of Snowdrops in a shallow dish and add bits of white Heather. You will find that you have brought a true breath of spring into the house. Nothing sets off a mixed late spring bouquet like a few rich-colored Asiatic Primulas. In spring it does not take quantities of flowers to get a good effect.

When choosing your container be sure it is neither heavy in texture, color nor design. Primroses demand as choice a container as Roses so glass, crystal, porcelain, pewter or silver are indicated to bring out their lovely texture to best advantage.

Before arranging Primroses it is helpful to dip the flower heads up and down in a bowl of cold water to remove the earth that may have been spattered on them; a matter of washing their faces before making their appearance in company. If time is available place the stems in cool water deep enough to reach almost to the flower heads. Leave them several hours to harden. This attention is well repaid by the prolonging of the flowers' freshness.
AMERICAN PRIMROSE SOCIETY

60% MEMBERSHIP GAIN IN ONE YEAR

To all new members the Society extends warmest greetings and a cordial invitation to participate in its work and pleasure. The Society, being young and trying to keep up with its growth, has not had the time to publicize the work nor the fact that everyone wishing membership is welcome. Therefore we are glad to have become known.

It will be noticed in the roster that this 60% gain is spread over every state and that the Sustaining Memberships have quadrupled. To this group the Society wishes to express appreciation for the additional support which is strengthening its structure. For those wishing to assume this status, either now or in the future, the yearly fee is $5.00 instead of $1.50. To the entire membership the Society's thanks for its friendliness, interest and cooperation.

PEST AND FUNGUS CONTROLS

Root weevil is best controlled by eliminating the beetle before eggs are laid. To prevent infestation or to clean up your grounds, spray vegetation occasionally with lead arsenate beginning late April or early May. This will take care of all chewing pests. A periodical scattering of bait containing lead arsenate will check the beetle. Methaldehyde baits attract and destroy slugs and cutworms.

Aphids, spittle bugs, and cutworms take great toll of seedlings in practically every section of the country. Dusting with 3% DDT has been found speedy and completely effective. Dusting with flowers of sulphur checks seedling damp-off when not too far advanced as it does crown rot in Asiatics when applied in time.

Referring to Mr. MacAndrews' article on page 58, a recent letter from him states that his experiments with sawdust as a seedling medium began in an effort to check damping-off of Delphinium seedlings. He believes the sawdust has solved this problem. A precaution which everyone knows, but which bears repeating, is the thin sowing of seeds for steady growth and greatest possible air circulation.

For fat plants of Double Primroses, Denticulatas and Julias divide in May. Give the Doubles a top mulch of well-rotted manure if available. Full directions for dividing on page 10 of Volume 1 (3 in 1 Edition available from the Secretary for $1.)

Sale of Choice Plants April 16th

Last year's sale of choice plants and seeds was such a success another one is being planned for the April 16th meeting held as usual in the Men's Lounge of the Public Service Bldg., Portland, 7.30 p.m. For run and rare plants and seeds that do not circulate in the trade, this is a date to remember. A very impromptu sale last year netted the Society $90 and the members a merry evening and prized Primroses. This year more planning is going into the sale with Mrs. Ben F. Smith, 1350 S. E. Flavel St., Portland, in charge. If you have plants to contribute or are interested in acquiring certain types or species, Mrs. Smith will appreciate the information.

FINE PLANTS OFFERED FOR PRIMROSE GARDEN IDEAS

One of the most recent requests is for ideas outlining various uses of Primroses in the garden. Inasmuch as Primroses are being grown with greater success throughout the country and therefore in larger numbers this is a timely subject. The possibilities of Primroses with Primroses are vast and when other semi-shade flowers, shrubs and ferns are included they are unlimited.

Here is a chance to visualize the Primroses you have dreamed of in breathing catching combinations of color, plant material and design—cool woods garden with ferns, border plantings, edgings, rock work, pool-sides, or just color combinations in the back yard. Also jot down those combinations most pleasing to yourself and your friends in your own and other gardens and send to the Editor's office, Box 218, Gresham, Oregon. All papers will be carefully considered and judged by the committee in charge, the three receiving a plurality to be offered a choice of plants and/or seeds to the sum of $10, $5, and $2.50 according to number of votes. Those three papers and those winning honorable mention will be published in the Quarterly from time to time for the benefit and pleasure of the members. Closing date, June 1st.

A card sent some time ago by Mrs. G. I. Bouton of Detroit launched this rounding up of ideas. She mentions some of her favorite Primrose combinations: Yellow Polyanthus with Arabis alpina and Muscaria armeniacum; Primula cortusoides with Phlox divaricata; pink toned and orchid colored Polyanthus with Fritillaria meleagris (Checkered Lily or Mission Bells).

One Day Germination of Auricula Seed

This, of course, is something which defies reason and, knowing it, Mr. Argle prepared in advance for any ribbing. He has witnesses before the fact. In a previous issue of the Quarterly Mr. Robert H. Argle of Kelso, Washington reports germination in four days but suspected from the size of the sprouts that had he looked sooner he would have found germination already begun. Therefore he had witnesses arranged for when making his next experiment.

The Auricula seed was gathered in July, 1945, and kept in the refrigerator in covered glass jars until November 2nd when it was scarified and planted, then sprayed with very hot water. The seed was scattered on top of peat moss without covering and placed in the greenhouse. On November 3rd four seeds had sprouted, the majority of the sowing germinating between six and eight days. Transplanting to flats in the greenhouse was done immediately upon germination. An application of liquid sheep guano was given every two weeks after true leaves appeared and when root run became crowded. The seedling received February 20th for display to members is 2½" across with a bushy root system of the same length—three months and eighteen days from seed.
PRIMROSE GATHERERS.

FROM THE PICTURE IN THE COLLECTION OF GILES REDMAYNE, ESQ.

Reproduction of the engraving given the Society by Mrs. Charles Hutchinson, Girard, Pennsylvania.
REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

A brief survey of the year which has just slipped into Society history gives a sense of deep gratification. The constancy of the officers, the high standard of the membership at large, and the continued advancement of the Society have led to the growth and the work of the membership at large has brought the greatest growth the Society has yet known. The study, the informal discussion which precedes each formal meeting, the judging school, the marvelously beautiful show, the continued high standard of the Quarterly have made a bright page in our book.

Your attention is called to the Treasurer's report. The bank balance is not large, nor is the increase over last year's balance, yet it is a gain despite the low membership fee and the necessity for reprints of past Quarterly issues and enlarged quantities of current issues. This gain has been made possible, in great measure, by the rapidly growing Sustaining Membership group, the increased Active Membership, and the bank sale of the first two volumes of the Quarterly.

The present infectious enthusiasm makes an even greater 1945 a certainty. It is the intense application and long-range vision of officers, directors and committee chairman; the enlarged 1945 show with lectures and demonstrations; the stimulating programs for the year; the friendliness of our members throughout the states—how to accomplish the purpose for which the Society organized a short five years ago. The stimulation and coordination of Primrose interest; collecting and disseminating information on successful culture, nomenclature and lore; and the continued striving for ever more beautiful Primroses.—Robert W. Ewell.

REPORT OF THE CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

In the past year no day has gone by without letters and notes coming from our widely distributed membership. As in past years, the gold of our friendship and the reflection of pleasure runs through every one. Your letters, bringing bits of your gardens and yourselves, turn my post, which would ordinarily be one of labor. Your messages are sent to me, with warmth and information add to the regular meetings and are preserved in the Society's files. I wish to thank each of you for contributing such delightful correspondence.

MRS. S. R. SMITH.

REPORT OF THE EDITOR

Of the 525 members listed herein only a few can realize the full extent of the Society's growth for only a few have seen the original editions of the first three Quarterly. They were mimeographed, in booklet form. That was three years ago when funds, members and information were extremely limited. Since that time, our members have more than doubled the number accepted. Mr. Frank F. Beattie, Dundas, Ontario, Canada andMrs. L. M. Scott, Bogota, N. J., will remain at their posts.

Returning again to 1943 when Margaret Pearson suggested mimeographing as a means of printing members with information available at that time, the mechanical chore fell to her lot and she became Associate Editor. After printing began Mrs. Pearson contributed drawings for the work and it is in that capacity of Art Director that she will continue. The post was vacated by the appointment of Donald O'Connell who will attend to the scientific phase of the work.

In closing, I wish to express my appreciation to all contributors and the entire editorial staff for their work in building a permanent record of the history of the American Primula Society, a record which will be referred to many decades to come.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Bank Balance, January 1, 1945
Receipts for 1945
$113.87
1,450.50

Disbursements:
Quarterly
Stationary and Office Expense
Fourth Annual Show
Postage and Miscellaneous
Total
$1,054.39
72.18
146.75
157.32
$1,564.37

Balance in Bank, January 1, 1946
Mrs. Nettie Founal, Treasurer, 1945.

ANNUAL MEETING

Regular election of officers followed by a Christmas party closed the Society's year December 18, 1945. A number of members showed keen interest in Society affairs by taking advantage of the ballot by mail. Officers and directors elected for 1946 are: President, Mr. W. Ewell; Mrs. J. M. Young, Vice President; Mrs. S. R. Smith, Corresponding Secretary; Mrs. L. M. Scott, Recording Secretary; Mr. W. Ewell, Treasurer; Directors: Three year term, Mrs. J. L. Karnopp and Mr. M. M. Maskey; two year term, Mrs. A. W. House and Mr. Allen Davis; one year term, Mrs. O. J. Zacher and Mrs. Joyce B. Nellon.

An exchange of gifts ended the meeting.

CHAIRMAN OF STANDING COMMITTEES FOR 1946

Program, Mrs. J. L. Karnopp. Educational, Dora Broehtje. Membership-Hospitality, Mrs. J. M. Young. Publicity, Mrs. Boyd Myers. Finance, Mrs. L. M. Scott. Editorial, Florence Levy. Of special interest, the newly-elected Recording Secretary, Mrs. A. W. House, proffered her resignation at the first meeting of the new board, Mrs. Boyd Myers later being appointed to fill the vacancy.

PROGRAM FOR 1946

Jan. 15. Looking forward. Announcement of committees and plans for the year. Outstanding colored slides of Primulas from the gardens of Mrs. A. C. U. Berry, Mrs. J. L. Karnopp, and Mr. and Mrs. L. Levy.

Feb. 19. Discussions and demonstrations of seed planting, both Polyanthus and Asiatics.


April 15. Plant sale. Guest night and social evening.

May 19. Asiatics and Auriculas. Landscaping with Primulas and their use with other plants in the garden.


Aug. 20. Picnic.


Oct. 15. Educational program. Getting acquainted with books, periodicals and pictures.


Members are invited to bring gifts. Meetings are held in the Men's Lounge of the Public Service Bldg., Portland, 7:30 p.m. The informal discussion period from 7:30 to 8:00, in the Women's Lounge across the hall is very popular and all are cordially invited to attend. Utmost freedom of expression is encouraged on subjects.
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