American Primrose Society

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Presidents of affiliated Primrose Societies are included on the Board of Directors

Quarterly of the American Primrose Society

Volume XXXIII

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Cover Photo: A show plant originally exhibited with just one truss, the Gold Lace polyanthus is now being shown by English growers with several trusses, as do the American exhibitors. Photo taken at the Birmingham, England Show last spring by Cyrus Happy while on a visit to Ireland and England.

Membership (including four Quarterlys): $5.00 per year, $14.00 for three years paid in advance. Ten old copies of the QUARTERLY are available for $3.65, and Pictorial Dictionaries at $3.00 each, postage included, at the Treasurer's Office—Treasurer, Mrs. John Genheimer, 7100 S.W. 209th, Beaverton, Oregon 97005. (Free cultural chart and Seed Exchange privileges with new memberships.) All dues are payable each November 15 and should be sent to the treasurer: MRS. JOHN GENHEIMER, 7100 S.W. 209th, Beaverton, Oregon 97005.
Dear Fellow Members:

Now that you have planted all the new seedlings and have divided, replanted or repotted the rest, it is time to put your thoughts to other matters.

There must be many of the membership who could help our Editor, and at the same time the entire Society by writing about Primrose happenings, be it a plant, a garden, or even a conversation between two or more people. If it has been interesting to you it will appeal to others as well. There are never enough new articles, so don't worry about any good matter going to waste.

Could it be that you are making any unusual crosses? If it's not to be kept secret many people would profit from your information. Also, it's always nice to find out how people in different areas plant and care for the same species.

At this time I also want to remind you that I and the rest of the Board as your representatives. If you don't let us know what you want, we can't do it. All letters that I receive will be read at the next Board meeting, then acted upon.

Hoping to hear from you,
Your President,
Dick Charlton
Primroses Respond to Good Care

By Dorothy Campbell

Primroses are one of the earliest blooming flowers to herald the coming of Spring. What is prettier than a well-grown large bed of these beauties in full color after a long wet and dreary winter? There is hardly a color missing, with innumerable hues of each color besides, to be obtained today in the primrose world.

They are available even in the grocery store, although these are forced for the market, making them not as sturdy as field-grown plants, so patronize your primrose show growers or your local nursery as much as possible. You get sturdier plants and larger clumps too. In any case, you stand a better chance of not losing them if you give them a little special attention at planting. So many people buy them, only to push them into a hole somewhere in the low front border of an already neglected garden, and then wonder why, after a spurt of flowering, they either die outright or slowly deteriorate, if they don't flatly wilt and die!

Your primrose bed, like any other kind of gardening area, whether it be a vegetable garden or your perennial garden, needs some sort of preparation before you introduce your plants. A good garden area will get almost any healthy plant off to a better start. In spite of what is so often said about primroses being able to grow anywhere in your garden, especially here in the Pacific Northwest, I have found from experience, that if they are planted in an area where they can receive dappled shade from noon until late afternoon, or morning sun only and shade in the hottest part of the afternoon, that you will have far better success with them. Some of the ones now that have been hybridized with P. juliae, Wanda is an old timer and has produced many hybrids, can withstand more sun as also can the Garryard strain. These are the ones with the reddish colored leaves and stems. Why spend good money on a choice plant and then not give it the special attention it so richly deserves?

When you bring home that plant have your bed already prepared before you start looking for plants. Loosen up the area first to get air into the ground, then put a substantial amount of rotted leaf mold, rich loose compost or well-rotted cow manure if you can get it. Then work it all up to a nice friable texture. Then wet it, but don’t use a hose and pack it all down or turn it to mud. Put a sprinkler to work, one that falls like raindrops, slowly. If it wants to puddle too much, turn it off for a while to allow the water to soak down in and turn it on again until the soil is watered down to at least six inches. Do this several times if necessary. Then leave it alone for a day or so to ‘mellow’. NOW go look for those primroses!

When you plant your ball of dirt around the plant is packed hard, don’t just pop it into the hole! Loosen the edges of the ball and get a few of the roots out so you can work some of the soil from the newly prepared bed into the outside edge of the ball and get those loosened roots out there so they can grow as many “hair roots” as possible to get food coming into the plant. Have a can of water that has a little commercial fertilizer in it to make a weak solution. This helps to prevent “shock”. Any good fertilizer will do, such as Liquinox GROW or Hypoxon, or something of that sort. At least water it when you plant it again. Now, don’t just plant it, say a prayer and leave it to its own devices. The first time the sun comes out it will wilt, and may take a long time to get it going good, if left so long that it cooks. Stand a couple of shingles, or boards or newspaper to protect it for several days. If you have nothing better, a few limbs from a tree or a shrub poked into the ground around the plant will do. Chances are it won’t even know it was moved and will go on blooming long into the spring. Even if it wilts some, it will come out of it and straighten up in a day or so. Fertilizers high in nitrogen produce nice healthy green foliage and plant growth, whereas those high in potash should be used for flowering. Liquinox BLOOM is good then. Other fertilizers can be used if you are familiar with them, but primrose growers recommend these.

Winter care is equally important to the care of your plants. Primroses...
are considered hardy. Outside of some of the doubles most of them are. Some of the doubles can be very tempermental, although I have seen "Quaker Bonnet" and "Cottage White" persist for years in too neglected a bed to support anything but another weed.

In the winter, especially during the time of hard frost, even the best of them can perish if you are not careful. If you are one who has had the good fortune to have a snow covering during this period, be grateful! Your primroses are then as safe as a baby in a blanket. If the wind blows the snow off, go out and shovel some more over them. If you are having bitter cold weather with no snow and with sunshine, beware! Get some loose light covering over them right away. They don't want a heavy covering as they need to breathe, so the air should still be able to circulate under the covering.

Get some evergreen boughs, they are ideal, turn them upside down, so that the curve of the branch allows air to be cupped in the pockets while, at the time, it protects the plant from the sun. Believe me, the sun then is the last thing they need at a time like this! Contrary to belief, it will not save them as you might think. This is when they go soft and this is when you will lose them.

Don't let all those old Christmas trees go to waste. Get out and get them! The disposal of these trees sometimes presents quite a problem to others and they are ideal. If you don't want the whole tree, take along an axe or a hefty hatchet and cut off the lower limbs. They cover the largest area and make the most shade.

A light layer of straw from the feed store would suffice, but remember, don't be too generous, the plants need air. You just want to protect them from the sun.

The biggest share of damage is after frosty days begin, especially when the weather is bitter cold. Christmas comes at just the right time. December, after Christmas and until February's end is the worst time. Christmas trees are easily available then, and just think, you'll be recycling them! At the same time you will be doing a service to your primroses! Next spring you will be having primroses blooming while your "Miss Grasshopper Gay" neighbor will be lamenting the loss of all of hers!

Our garden is located in the foothills of Mt. Rainier, one of the coldest areas in western Washington. It gets pretty cold up in this area with heavy 3 to 4 inch needles of frost heave. Having been a marsh area at one time, all the ground gets super saturated with water a good deal of the winter and spring, and we also have two large ponds which subirrigate the area.

NATIONAL AURICULA AND PRIMULA SOCIETY — Northern Section
Invites all Auricula and Primula Lovers to join this Old Society
Membership of $3.00 per year includes Year Book.
Hon. Sec. J. Ollerenshaw
33 Gloucester Road, Hyde SK14 5JG, Cheshire, England

Experiences With Primulas
By H. Lincoln Foster
I did grow P. Warshenewskiana for a few years, but like many of that ilk, unless they are pleased to self-sow, they last only so long. It is a puzzling and bewitching section the Farinosae, with its odd cousins like rosea and capitalata subsections.

P. Warshenewskiana, as I remember the literature, and I can't lay my hands on it, comes from the wet seeps in the Turkish mountains and probably in the Russian Caucasus hovering somewhere between P. rosea and P. Clarkei. Wet seeps seem to be essential for vigorous growing and flowering and seeding. I grew it in a moist limestone scree and it did flower and set seed, but I sent the seed in to the exchanges because I was convinced that it was thriving. But one year, I think the third, none came up.

It is quite possible, I'm sure, to grow it in pots as one can P. Clarkei, and divide it quite frequently to stimulate new growth. The species suddenly appeared in the literature and in seed lists, but I wonder if anyone is really still growing it.

Note: For the member who has had trouble with P. Kleinii. My seemingly recalcitrant P. Kleinii was divided into eight crowns, all of which are lustfully setting out to divest the bed of its nutrients. Do not be afraid to divide your primulas. They all do appreciate it.

Banto Deluxe dust mixed with two parts of talc will control cut worms.
A. P. S. BOARD MEETING
Sept. 14, 1974

President Dick Charlton opened the meeting after a delicious lunch at Herb and Dorothy Dickson's home. There were twelve board members present, as were the presidents of all the affiliated primula clubs in the northwest. The minutes of the last board meeting were read and approved. Treasurer Thelma Genheimer reported $1,299.97 on hand and 610 paid members. Ruth Huston reported that one of the round robins had been lost and she is trying to trace it down. The others are doing fine, and the people are enjoying them and passing along a lot of valuable information.

A discussion was held on what to do with the old Quarterlies, most of them being at the Dickson's, causing quite a storage problem. Dorothy and Herb have been making up as many complete sets as they can. The appeal in the last Quarterlies brought some response. They were able to complete two sets so far. A motion was made and passed to reserve fifty copies of each issue. Some people do send stamps or postage money while others include neither and it is hard to keep track of. Permission was granted.

The next board meeting is at noon of the second Saturday in January at Dorothy Springer's home.

Recording Secretary, Ludie Dines (Mrs. William C. Dines)

1975 SHOW DATES

National Show and Annual Meeting
April 12 and 13, 1974
Show at Villa Plaza Branch, Pacific National Bank of Wash. Tacoma, Washington
Banquet to be announced

Valley Hi—March 28 and 29, 1974
Milwaukie, Oregon—April 5 and 6, 1974
Washington State Society—April 19 & 20
Eastern Chapter—To be announced
Mt. Angel—To be announced

Cyrus Happy, the noted American auricula grower, and his wife Rita visited England and Ireland this spring. The following photographs are a pictorial review of their trip.

DR. COHEN acts as auctioneer at the plant auction at the Birmingham show.

CROWDS OF PEOPLE view the show benches at the Birmingham show.

THE CORN EXCHANGE in Manchester was the scene of the spacious Manchester show.
CLOSE-UP of show alpine auricula "Frank Crosland," a lavender blue with a light center. This variety stands in the overall 5th place in the 1973 national English standings.

A BENCH SHOT of the show alpines at the Birmingham show. Note at the lower right front the use of place certificates instead of award ribbons. The winning plants are moved to the front of the benches for closer viewing.

ANOTHER Bench shot. This time of show auricula selfs. Again the prize winning plants have been moved to the bench front for better viewing.

MR. JACK BALLARD looking over plants in his greenhouse.

THE WYNNE SISTERS — Veronica, Winnifred and Emily. Miss Winnifred made some of the first Garryyard crosses at the turn of the century, many of which are still grown, including the variety "Tawny Port."

SHIELA PIM holding a pot of a pantaloons-type polyanthus and a tinker boy who had just arrived with a plant of the wild English primrose.

MR. FRANK FAULKNER, well known for his breeding of alpine auriculas.

Editor's note: Our thanks to Cy Happy for sharing a bit of a fantastic trip with our readers.
Marking Candelabras And Denticulatas

By RALPH H. BENEDICT, D.V.M.

I use a large amount of organic material mixed with my poor sandy soil to grow candelabras and denticulatas. I find in the spring that the crowns of the plants are as much as four inches under the surface of the soil. This may be due to a protective action of the plants, or expansion of the frozen soil. However, the moles, mice and shrews finish the job of burying the crowns. When spring comes after a long hard eastern winter, some, or many, of the plants just can't make it due to weakness, crown rot or compaction of the soil.

To correct this problem, I mark each plant with a stake about eight inches behind it. In the spring I remove the mulch and carefully dig down to the crown, if buried, and remove the soil. I am sure this is one of two reasons I have a very high percent of candelabras survive year after year.

An Interesting Search

By RALPH H. BENEDICT, D.V.M.

Last winter the Seed Exchange offered P. uralensis. I ordered a package of seeds and raised twelve plants. I could tell they were Vernals; however after checking the “Pictorial Dictionary” I could not find it listed as a species, sub-species, variety or hybrid of any Vernal. Problem number one.

I then wrote to Ross Willingham, Seed Exchange Director, for any information he could furnish. As he was very busy, his good wife Helen furnished me with the following. She called Mrs. Anton Schwarz, who had, with her husband, raised many of the species and forms of the Vernals. They all agreed that they could not find mention of it in any literature they had, but did say it resembled P. veris.

Problem number two. The Spring issue of the “Quarterly” 1974, No. 2, page five under “Down The Primrose Path” mentions...“What is that plant that blooms so early mystery”...it is of acaulis form”. “Could it be P. sibthorpii, a sub-species of P. vulgaris, or P. altiaca, a synonym for elatior, sub-species Pallasi.

Now to be sure of solving both problems I needed W. Wright Smith, H.R. Fletcher's The Genus Primula: Section Vernales”. This was out of print I thought. However, I wrote to Dr. Fletcher, Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh, Scotland, and asked him to help me, by sending me a copy, or to give me any other help. I received an answer from D.M. Henderson, Regius Keeper, that Dr. Fletcher was retired, but was in “fine form”. He sent me the Monograph I needed. As I hoped, it solved both problems.

Number one. P. uralensis, Page 446, Monograph, is listed under syn. of P. veris, ssp. macrocalyx, so it is the same as a form of P. veris macrocalyx from the Ural Mountains.

Problem number two. P. elatior ssp. Pallasi, syn. (altaica) has a scape with three to six flowers in an umbel. It cannot be “what's that plant that blooms so early of acaulis form”. The plant could be P. vulgaris ssp. sibthorpii or some hybrid of it or P. juliae.

This ended my search, thanks to a lot of nice people.
Primulas As House Plants

By Gus N. Arneson

Although Primulas are outdoor plants and the word primrose suggests, to most people, scented breezes, dew bejeweled fields, spacious skies, and spring there are those who would like to bring some of them indoors — to raise them as house plants. Two APS members in as many months have asked how this can be done and from this it is reasonable to assume that others would be interested in whatever answers can be supplied. My own experience does not qualify me to help these seekers for information about indoor cultivation so I have consulted several distinguished authorities and their suggestions are here summarized.

None of the experts consulted gave unqualified endorsement to any primula as a "house-plant" although, with sympathetic attention to their requirements, some species can be successfully treated as part time guests in the living quarters of a home and, of course, many can be raised in rooms that are kept cooler than is usually comfortable for human habitation.

Lee M. Raden, when asked about Primulas indoors has been under fluorescent lights if temperatures no higher than sixty degrees F. can be maintained. At higher temperatures foliage will be lush but there will be little or no bloom...Many are adaptable, but none of them like high temperatures and I would not consider them ideal house plants.

Ray Genders, in his book on The Polyanthus, writes: "for display in a light, airy window for a porch, or a cold greenhouse, the Polyanthus makes a most attractive pot plant...The plants require no heat, indeed they will not tolerate any...the cowslip and primrose behave in the same way as the Polyanthus...After flowering the plants should be removed from the pots, divided, and replanted in a shaded bed outdoors."

Alice Hills Baylor reports that her experience with growing primulas indoors has been under fluorescent lights in a 50-55 degree F. basement. She has grown P. sinesis and P. obconica both of which, she says, "...are tender and used as forced house plants by florists". She has also forced P. auricula, P. veris, P. polyneura, P. sieboldii, and P. Kisoana. She concludes: "One must have a cool place out of direct sunlight to bring primroses into bloom indoors."

Mrs. Tait of Primrose Acres also suggests P. sinesis and P. obconica and adds P. Kewensis and P. malaoides. The highly respected British firm of Thompson and Morgan (Ipswich) Ltd. recommends for raising indoors five varieties from their own catalogue of P. malaoides and seven of P. obconica.

It appears from this brief inquiry that no primulas can be treated as house plants in the sense that, for example, African Violets are treated but that some species, if given the care indicated, can be brought to bloom and enjoyed indoors after which they should be returned to their natural growing conditions outdoors if they are to be kept alive and healthy.

References.
Ray Genders The Polyanthus, Its History and Culture. 1964
By personal communication:
Alice Hills Baylor, Stage Coach Road, Stowe, Vt. 05672
Bob Goplerud, Far North Gardens, Auburndale, Ave. Livonia, Mich. 48154
Lee M. Raden, Schytte on Pickering, Chester Springs Pa. 18425
Mrs. Lawrence G. Tait, Primrose Acres, 14015 84th Ave. N.E. Bothell Wash. 98011.

Application for Membership

Mrs. John Genhiemer, A.P.S. Treasurer
7100-S.W. 209th — Beaverton, Oregon 97005

I desire to be admitted to (or to renew my membership in) the American Primrose Society. Herewith I enclose my dues as checked below, which will include four Quarterlies a year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Membership Type</th>
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<td>Active Membership, One Year</td>
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<td>Active Membership, Three Years</td>
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<td>Library and Horticulture Societies</td>
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<td>Second Member in Family</td>
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Kindly Make Checks Payable to American Primrose Society Treasurer

Amount Enclosed $____________

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY STATE
Alaskan Report

By Mildred Bolton

It is amazing what a summer of sunshine and rain and 65 degrees can do for the flowers. Here in southeastern Alaska in the northern rain forest, everything went through its growth cycle from one to three weeks earlier. Last year we had four days of sunshine and clear skies; this year one or two days a week. Even the primroses were sturdier and able to set seed.

After dividing the heavy clumps of P. Parryi in July, they bloomed nicely in late August. P. minima (from Dorothy Campbell) has had flowers all summer long.

The Alaskan primroses cuneifolia; subsp. cuneifolia (A) is from Attu Island in the Aleutians. Subsp. saxifragnifolia (B) comes from the 2,000 ft. level near Mt. Juneau. The tracings are of their largest leaf.

The P. borealis I brought back from the Nome area last summer had three to five delicate pink blossoms on four inch stalks. They seem to be adapting to the soil, here mixed with seaweed and shell, though they grow in saline flats.

Another friend from Fairbanks sent me several plants from St. Lawrence Island. They had finished blooming and have a slightly different leaf and are very small. But they too have a tight noise-bud braced against the oncoming winter.

In Anchorag, the first of August, all the spring flowering primula were well into their leaf growth. Two months before, the beds under the birch tree were ablaze with color.

Many parts of this lawn and the gardens in back of the house were sunk and/or raised five feet during the (1964) earthquake. So the owners terraced the most jumbled areas into rockeries for their alpine collections, and developed raised beds to protect the tree roots.

HINT OF THE QUARTER

From Dr. Ralph H. Benedict
Hillsdale, Michigan

I obtained the cheapest metal lawn broom or rake. I then straightened the bent ends of the tines. This prevents tearing the plants from the ground or damage to the leaves when removing mulch or leaves from the plants. With several plants or several thousand, it sure saves my back!

IRIS, P. SIKKIMENSIS and ostrich ferns in August in a Juneau, Alaska garden. photo by Mildred Bolton

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Fresh Seed of
Polyanthus, Acaulis, Juliae
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Double Vernals,
$3.00 for 50 seed

Transplants after August
RUTH BARTLETT HUSTON

QUARTERLIES NEEDED

Dorothy and Herb Dickson

Dorothy and Herb Dickson are still in the process of putting together at least three complete sets of Quarterlies. Now needed are:

1944 Spring—4 copies
Summer—3 copies
Fall—4 copies
1946 Winter—4 copies
1949 Spring—3 copies

If you have one of these and would like to donate it to the Society, please contact the Dicksons. A suggestion has been made that perhaps memorials to former members might be made in the form of donations of old Quarterlies to the Society instead of to libraries.

IRIS, P. SIKKIMENSIS and ostrich ferns in August in a Juneau, Alaska garden. photo by Mildred Bolton

IRIS, P. SIKKIMENSIS and ostrich ferns in August in a Juneau, Alaska garden. photo by Mildred Bolton
Q. Can you tell me how long P. auricula has been in cultivation? Also the Bird's-eye?
A. Accounts of P. auricula appeared in an herbal by Matthiæus in 1544 as having been found in the mountains of South Europe. The Bird's-eye primroses were described by de Lobel in 1576 as having been found in the mountains in Austria. The Cowslips are common in meadows of England and Europe and appeared in the earliest herbal in 1438.

Q. A problem with P. Kleinii is the outer whorl of leaves is normal but towards the interior of the rosette the leaves become smaller, ending in a tight whorl of imbricated leaves less than a centimeter long. The plant has persisted this way for a month with no sign of flowering.
A. If I were you, I would lift the plant, place in a mild solution of any fertilizer, thus washing the roots in search of cut worms. Then reset the plant after having cultivated a trowel full of sand or small lime-stones (roseas like a gritty soil) in the planting area. Pour the mild fertilizer, thus washing the roots in the planting site so as not to disturb the roots with one's foot. Any material that breaks the wind and to hold snow will not be broken off as easily as in spring. Then too, one should mark the plant may be divided for propagation. I have been asked repeatedly if Primulas from different Sections will cross and I have not known of it. To my knowledge the Hose-In-Hose and doubles come in the Vernales and Auricula Sections and not in the Candelabra.

Q. Should Primroses be covered in winter and if so to what extent?
A. Primroses are sturdy and hardy but they do suffer from drying winds and heaving due to the alternate freezing and thawing of the soil. One should use evergreen branches (or shrub trimmings) to break the wind and to hold snow after the plants have been mulched with compost (avoid having any on crown of plant) or mulched with stone chips. A good way to anchor plants that have been divided or transplanted is to place a small stone on each side and then push the stone into the soil with one's foot. In periods of thaws watch for heaving and push plants into soil with one's foot. Any material that will not pack and smoother primroses is good.

Q. What is the Vernal Section and P. polyneura?
A. The Vernales and Auricula Sections will cross and I have not noticed the plant may be divided for propagation. I have been asked repeatedly if Primulas from different Sections will cross and I have not known of it. To my knowledge the Hose-In-Hose and doubles come in the Vernales and Auricula Sections and not in the Candelabra.

Q. Will you give me some cultural information for P. hyacinthina?
A. P. hyacinthina is in the Muscarioides Section and I grew it in 1948 from seed set from India to Prof. Harold Rugg of Dartmouth. At that time I grew several Primulas in this group including P. viali. It is a beautiful form, highly scented and not in the Candelabra. I have not raised P. Sieboldii from seed before and have a nice flat of year-old seedlings which are presently dying back or just dying. Do the seedlings exhibit the same characteristics of the adult plant in this late summer die-back?
A. Yes, the small ones do exactly as their elders. It is wise when transplanting Sieboldii to do it in fall or late summer when the pink “eyes” will not be broken off as easily as in spring. Then too, one should mark the planting site so as not to disturb the roots with something that will endure until spring as Sieboldii are slow in showing in spring.

Q. Do you know where I may buy a copy of Doretta Klaber's book "Primroses and Spring"?
A. I do not now have extra copies. Is there any one in the Society who might know of a source or have one they wish to sell? If so, kindly let me know.

Ed. Note: There are a number of bookstores in the Pacific Northwest area stocking the book. If addresses are wanted, please contact the Editor's office.
Q. How often have you found it needful to divide primroses in the garden? I am referring to the Veronales group and Candelabras.

A. For the best effect and for sturdy plants I believe that every three years is about right. The plants become too closely massed together and the plant food is exhausted, especially for the center of the plant. After three years one may have four to six divisions from both groups.

Q. Do I divide P. denticulata directly after it has bloomed or do I wait till August?

A. If you are in a cold winter climate you may divide directly after denticulata has bloomed so it will become established by fall. If however, you are in an area where there is an open winter season it is best to wait until August. In such an area (California) the winter buds are apt to form too early and the plant throw an imperfect flower head in fall. To avoid this in warmer climates transplant later.

Q. Do you know of a liquid fertilizer for potted plants and house plants which contains sugar?

A. To a gallon of water add: 1 pound ammonium sulphate, 1/2 pound potassium nitrate, 1 pound sugar. Give one teaspoon per potted plant a month.

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**WIND CHILL INDEX**

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How you find Wind Chilling Temperature:

Locate actual temperature in top row and wind speed in left hand column. Equivalent (wind chill) temperature is found where these two intersect. Example: with temperature of 10 degrees and wind speed of 10 mph, the wind chill temperature of -10 degrees.

*(From the U.S. Weather Bureau)*
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