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On the cover
Creative gardeners have developed interesting strains of juliana hybrids. Selecting parents, collecting ripe pollen, applying it to a receptive stigma, gathering ripe seed, planting and growing—the cycle continues. Each generation the thrill is renewed as the first blossoms appear.

Chapter sets national show date April 19-20

National show of American Primrose Society will be sponsored this year by Washington State chapter on April 19 and 20.
The show and plant sale will be held at Meeker Street Shopping Mall, 1401 W. Meeker St., Kent, Wash. Admission is free. Hours are Saturday from noon to 6 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Special feature of the show will be a non-judged exhibit of juliana hybrids, both named and unnamed. The public is invited to bring new or old julianas to display in this educational feature.
Additional information may be obtained from Ross Willingham, 2248 S. 134th St., Seattle, Wash. 98168 (tel. 206-244-1748) or from Rosetta Jones, 6214 S. 287th St., Kent, Wash. 98031.
First show of the season will be sponsored by Valley Hi on March 29 and 30 at Beaverton, Ore.
Tacoma Primrose Society and Oregon State Primrose Society have selected April 12 and 13 for their shows. Tacoma’s show will be held at Villa Plaza, and the Oregon show will be staged at Milwaukie.

Study weekend will feature primula experts

A seminar on Asiatic primulas will be included in the study weekend Feb. 29 to Mar. 2 at Victoria, B.C.
Panelists will be Alfred Evans of the Royal Botanical Garden, Edinburgh, Scotland, and Reuben Hatch, Ore. The weekend is sponsored this year by Vancouver Island Rock and Alpine Garden Society. Chairman is Mrs. S. M. McCulloch, 5021 Prospect Lake Rd., Victoria, B.C. V8X 3X3.
Also included on the schedule are the following presentations: plants of the western Himalayas, Hatch; unusual plants of the southern rockies and natural rock gardens in the southern Rockies, Panayoti Callas; Japanese alpines; Roy Davidson; bonsai, Larry Aguilar; eastern gardens, Francis Cabot; propagation of alpines, Doris Pate; Thetis Park nature sanctuary, Jessie Wollett; and an opening slide tour of Victorian gardens by Fred and Jennifer Hook.
Mrs. McCulloch reports that each speaker will have ample time to discuss his topic. All sessions will be held at the Empress in downtown Victoria. Room reservations must be made with hotel personnel.
Registrations for the study sessions are handled by Mrs. R. T. Batey, 1-1-5 St. Charles St., Victoria, B.C. V8S 3P9.
Juliaes intrigue hybridizers, collectors

by Dorothy Springer

Julia Mlokossiewicz discovered P. juliae in the Caucasus near Georgia in 1900. Plant breeders soon recognized the importance of the little plant in their hybridizing programs.

George Arends, the German breeder, first purchased his P. juliae from an English source in 1913. He crossed it with his acaulis strain, using many different colors. These hybrids he called X Helenae as a group. After further selection he began to name and release other varieties. Purple Carpet, Gem, Jewel, Blue Cushion, Snow Cushion (Schneekissen) and Flower Cushion were but a few.

A Mr. Zeeman, working in the experimental gardens of the dendrological society of Austria in Pruhontz, was also using P. juliae crossed with blue acaulis. These he labeled as a group P. pruhonitzaiana.

Identification is difficult

Since those early efforts plant breeders, both amateur and professional, have been intrigued with the possibilities offered by P. juliae and her early hybrids. Many of those early varieties were almost impossible to tell apart. We now have a confusion resulting from the group of plants all known as Wanda.

The true Wanda is a fall, winter and early spring bloomer. The fall and winter blooms are of a washed-out shade of blue purple. The plant grows as a mat. Grace Dowling described it on page 123 of the 1962 issue of the quarterly. The plant now masquerading in every garden in the Pacific Northwest is the brilliant magenta colored, mound shaped variety which has a small white area on the inside on each flower petal. This I believe to be either Jewel or Gloria, both early juliana hybrids.

Which is Dorothy?

Another early variety in question is Dorothy. The English growers describe her to be a large flowered, single-stemmed cushion type. Our Northwest Dorothy has always been known as the stalked small-flowered variety. Lady Greer, which is so similar to our Dorothy, also has many variations grouped under her name.

Tawny Port was raised in Ireland around 1920 by Col. C.L. Graham of Sallens, Co. Kildare. Kinlough Beauty also originated in Ireland about 1930. It was raised by a Major and Mrs. Johnson. Mrs. W.F. Wynne raised Julius Caesar at Avoca, Co. Wicklow. These three varieties are still available with some searching.

Amateurs produce named plants

Dr. Matthew Riddle was another amateur grower interested in Julianas and miniature polyanthus. His hybridizing program produced Joy, The Dove, Bounty, Frolic, Violetta, Rosalinda, Red Riddle and Red Velvet as well as many others.

About the same time Dr. Riddle was working in Oregon, William Goddard was producing such varieties in Victoria, British Columbia, as Gold Jewel, Snow Maiden, Dainty Maid, Firelight, New Dawn.
Cream-colored Dorothy (thrum form) shown at Tacoma

Peter Klein's lavender Juliana jack-in-the-green

Maiden's Blush and Pearly Gates. An old Barnhaven catalog also credits him with a variety Lavender Cloud which Butchart Gardens now grows and which they obtained from England.

Other older varieties still grown and available from collectors are Primrose Lodge, Kay, Purple Splendor, Roberta, Springtime, Bright Eyes, Crispie, Irish Gem and Mrs. King. Some of these are much older than others, and their origins have been lost through the years. Perhaps other growers and collectors may have more information to share. Betty Green originated in Holland and Lady Greer in Ireland. There is also a variety known as Pink Lady Greer.

Northwesterners create hybrids

More recently working in the Pacific Northwest, Ruth Bartlett Huston produced Little Rosa, So, and one of my all time favorites, Bea. Ida was named after Ida Mangue of Seattle and came from either Ralph Balcom or Violet Chambers. Ross Willingham produced City of Bellingham, the Clarke's of Oregon gave us the little yellow charmer, Marguerite Clarke. From Oregon has come more recently the blue cowichan type Juliana Blue Boy.

The late Peter Klein crossed P. juliae with a jack-in-the-green. The results gave us Jay-Jay, which the Dicksons introduced following Pete's death. A package of Barnhaven New Juliana seed produced Buttercup, also introduced by the Dicksons. Herb crossed P. juliae with a large polyanthus; the best of the group he named Royal Velvet.

Two are favorites

Another of my favorites is Gracie, originated by Earl Welch of Seattle. This forms a solid sheet of cream colored flowers and is in bloom for many weeks. Another favorite is my own Stoplight, a red jack-in-the-green.

The original parents were two yellow
Dr. Matthew Riddle’s Rosalinda, a stalk form juliana

rather large seedlings from a packet of Barnhaven New Julianas. These were crossed, and the resulting progeny recrossed for several generations, working toward a very small yellow. One of these seed pods produced about two dozen seedlings, which to my great amazement were all red jacks, the best of which I called Stoplight.

The name Barnhaven has been mentioned several times in this article. Without the work of Florence Bellis many of the varieties we know today would not exist; without her collecting and releasing the work of other breeders, those plants also would be lost.

Search provides thrill

The quest continues every spring as primula enthusiasts the world over seek to collect named varieties. As with other collector items, the value of these plants is not in the plants themselves but in the thrill of the search and the romance of the past history of those early varieties. Many thousands of commercially hybridized seeds are sown annually, most of which come from first generation crosses between a juliana and an acaulis or polyanthus. Carried on into second, third and fourth generations, these can produce some real beauties.

The new Sakata strain, which is available from several mail order seed catalogs and listed as juliettes, julians or julianas, promises new colors with which to play. The Sinclairs are still producing the Barnhaven New Juliana strain.

These are the julianas, new and old. Many varieties still available are not listed here. Those not mentioned might be brought forth in another article for the quarterly.

Dorothy Springer, 7213 South 15th, Tacoma, Wash. 98465, served recently as quarterly editor and then as district head of Federated Garden Clubs of America. She works at a local nursery and garden store.

Grower breeds hardy root system from juliae into double primrose

by Rosetta Jones

For years I played around with double primroses, but in 1970 I decided to get serious about them. I wanted to produce a hardy strain of doubles with good form in a wide range of colors that would come true from seed.

Two plants of a rather washed out rosey lavender with a few extra petals showing in some of the blossoms were all I had for the seed bearing parent. The only double that had any pollen — and very little of that — was a muddy magenta with weak floppy stems.

Offspring were mixed

The offspring from these were a mixed lot in various shades of lavender and magenta. Some of them had very good double blooms, but the floppy stems couldn't hold them up.

I was able to select one or two single plants with good form, but I still had the problem of finding a good pollen bearing double. A perfect double without pollen was of no help here.

By 1974 about 100 plants bloomed. Among them was a pale yellow acaulis with strong stems, a compact nosegay form and lots of pollen! The color was an added bonus. Pale yellow indicates a soluble pigment that will blend with red and magenta pigments to produce pastels and clear colors.

Got results

With this plant, #11-4, as the pollen parent the results were astonishing. I built my present strain with it. It's a slow process, however; and it was 1978 before I had enough plants and seed to put on the market.

The same year #11-4 appeared I was crossing various juliana hybrids. With all that pollen available, I applied it to some of them, including Jay-Jay, a brilliant red jack-in-the-green. The results from these crosses were far from perfection; but there were several good julianas in various shades of lavender among the Jay-Jay seedlings.

Seedlings included doubles

These Jay-Jay crosses were again pollinated with #11-4, and a good amount of seed was obtained. In 1978 these F2 seedlings began to bloom.

I couldn't believe my eyes as one after another opened. There were jack-in-the-green, stalked and cushion forms in colors of magenta, red, lavender, near pink and a few yellows. The most astonishing fact of all was that they were about 25 per cent double.

One wouldn't expect doubles to appear until the third generation, so it seemed that Jay-Jay must carry the factor for doubling. Not all retained the stoloniferous root system of juliae, and all were larger in leaf and bloom than Jay Jay.

Crossed F2 hybrids

Things were getting so exciting at this point that I immediately crossed these F2...
hybrids to each other, using pollen from the doubles onto the singles. I planted the seed as soon as it ripened. The seedlings were grown in the greenhouse over the winter to save a year of waiting to see the results.

Plants started blooming in late spring of 1979 and continued to do so into the summer. There was a greater percentage of doubles, and the form was excellent.

**Colors varied**

The most interesting result was the further separation of colors. Now there were pinks, clear reds, yellows, two-toned (yellow with a red center), lavenders and purples. Again not all had the juliae root system.

There will be about 200 of the F2 and F3 hybrids coming into bloom this spring. What fun that will be to watch!

**Pollen ripens later**

It is easier to cross semi-doubles with each other, but the percentage of doubles will be greatly reduced. Unlike in double auriculas, pollen in the vernales doesn’t ripen until the bloom has been open for several days or even longer. Sometimes the bloom will be fading before the anthers mature.

Several other juliana crosses, other than the doubles, will bloom this spring. Perhaps I will be able to tell you what I crossed and the results at a later date.

Rosetta Jones' new doubles in first bloom

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**Offers pollinating tips**

To pollinate, I use tweezers to remove the anthers hidden among the petals of the double blooms, put it on a glass side, tease the pollen out with a corsage pin and transfer it to the pistil of the single or semi-double blossom that has had the petals and anthers carefully removed. A pin-eyed plant is best because you can remove the petals and anthers without getting the pollen on the pistil.

The pollen should be a rich gold or yellow and look moist and alive — as indeed it is. If it is dry and dull looking, it is too old. The pistil should also look moist and shiny.

**Crosses mature faster**

In some juliana crosses the seed is very slow to germinate. The seedlings may take an extra year to come into bloom. The Jay Jay crosses are much faster to mature than many of the other julianas.

Hardiness being one of my priorities in the doubles, I find these new plants with juliae in their background to be very promising. They survived the cold dry winter and hot dry summer of 1979 much better than any of the other varieties growing here...

Anyone with a little patience can grow his own doubles. A packet of double seed will give you material to work with.

---

Rosetta Jones, 6124 S. 205th St., Kent, WA 98031, operates a nursery. Her interest in hybridizing primroses led her to return to college to earn a degree.

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Among the primroses grown in greenhouses and homes, Primula malacoides Franch. is most worthy of our attention. The small plant originated in China and now is grown in many countries on a commercial scale as a flowering pot plant for winter resale. Under greenhouse conditions it is grown as an annual.

The leaves are oblong to oblong-elliptical (depending on the cultivar), cordate, light green, slightly hairy, toothed, slightly rugose. The undersides of young leaves and petioles are usually farinose. New growing points originate at the base of the petioles.

**Scapes feature many umbels**

Flower scapes have many flowered umbels with individual flowers flatly funnel shaped, 2.4 cm (0.8 - 1.6 in) in many shades of rose, red, violet and white. Flowers are fragrant, particularly on sunny days. Plants form buds in January and bloom profusely until the end of April. The seed pod is an angular capsule; seed is fine, dark brown.

At present there are many new and very beautiful cultivars available, differing in height, size of umbels and individual flowers, their form and color. Commericially Primula malacoides is easy and profitable to grow for resale in pots or as cut flower.

**Growing conditions**

It prefers humid, cool greenhouse and a filtered, but bright light. It is propagated by seed. 1 gram (0.03 oz) contains about 10,000 seed. They remain viable for about a year or two.
When the leaves begin to touch, the seedlings are transplanted, for the second time, into individual 10-11 cm (4 in) pots. This time the potting soil should be enriched by adding to 1 cubic meter (1.3 cubic yards) 2 kg (4.5 lbs) bone meal and 0.8 - 1.0 kg (1.7 - 2.2 lbs) superphosphate.

Transplant twice
Most flower growers transplant P. malacoides three times. Our experience shows that transplanting only twice produces equally good plants at a lesser expense and less work. Until the transplanted seedlings take hold they are kept under the same conditions as earlier. Watering should be moderate or the leaves will yellow.

In November/December the greenhouse temperature should be lowered to 4 - 8° C (40 - 42° F) and in January, when the buds are formed and flowers are ready to bloom, the temperature is increased to 8 - 10° C (46 - 50° F).

February flowering
In February the flowering commences. At that time a selection of plants with the best characteristics for the production of seed can be made. Some cultivars are self-polllinating, others need to be pollinated by hand. Selected seed plants are kept at a higher temperature of 15 - 18° C (59 - 64° F). In March/April they are shaded and watered much less.

The seed ripens middle of April. The seed has to be collected as it ripens, because the mature capsules burst easily and the seed is lost.

Watch for fungus
At the time of blooming period and especially while the seed ripens P. malacoides is often attacked by Botrytis cinerea fungus. Plants that are heavily infested should be destroyed and the remaining pots placed apart so that the leaves do not touch. Any fungicides listed for Botrytis can be used. The greenhouses should be well ventilated as preventative measure.

P. malacoides keeps well in home setting. On a light window sill it will bloom profusely and for a long time. It particularly likes, if it is available, a space between double windows. The most important thing, however, is sufficient light, high humidity and temperatures not above 12° C (54° F).

Better cultivars include: Brilliant Crimson — rhodamine pink; Cherry Red — ruby red; Eiger — white; Fire Chief — brick red; Jadvyga (= Hedwig) — mallow purple; Kristal — white; Lietuvaite (= Lithuanian Girl) — cyclamen purple; Lilac Queen — double, lilac purple; Rose — fuchsia purple; Royal Purple — plum purple; Vytautas Virkau — cardial red.

Mrs. Ona Skeiviene sends this article (torn Pasaveto 5, 233019 Kaunas, Lithuanian SSR. We appreciate her participation and the translation efforts of V.O. Virkaii, 313 Fifth St., Downers Grove, Ill. 60515.)
Handsome
P. ramzanae
is dwarf perennial

"It is a new species and a beauty! It was named for Rhamzana, Ludlow’s old servant who accompanied Bill Sykes, my Wisley student, who was on the expedition into Nepal."

-Dr. H. R. Fletcher

by G. K. Fenderson

Primula ramzanae sp. nov. W. W. Smith and Fletcher was discovered in 1952 by members of the Polunin, Sykes and Williams expedition to western Nepal.

This handsome new species was found at Nahure, Nepal, near the Phoksumdo Tal Lake at altitudes of about 5200 meters on cliffs and scree slopes growing under conditions of abundant surface moisture. Other habitats given in the original description are dryish south facing slopes and exposed position among rocks.

Differs from gambeliana

Ramzanae’s nearest ally is assumed to be P. gambeliana, a plant which differs from the newer introduction by the presence of farina only on the winter bud scales, its larger leaves and more robust habit. P. ramzanae has copious farina on the lower leaf surfaces and on the interior of the calyx but lacks it on the bud scales.

In addition, the style in pin-eyed plants of P. gambeliana nearly reaches the annulus in contrast to P. ramzanae, where in the same form it is only slightly longer than the calyx. In thrum-eyed flowers of P. ramzanae the stamens are inserted near the mid-point of the tube, whereas those of P. gambeliana are located near its apex.

Features purple stain

P. ramzanae is a handsome dwarf perennial which arises from a short stout rhizome and a dark stained scale-clad resting bud. The petioles, scape, roots, bracts and calices are frequently stained a handsome dark purple, which gives this species a most distinctive appearance.

The leaves are to 10 cm. long when mature inclusive of the slender long petioles. The leaf blade is ovate to orbicular, 1-2 cm. long and broad, rounded at the tips, cordate at the base and toothed at the margins. Above they are a shiny, dark green, below they may be completely clad in white farina or merely farinose near the margins.

Produces fragrant flowers

The slender, efarinose dark stained scape may reach 7-8 cm. and carries a 2-9 flowered umbel of fragrant flowers. The linear to linear lanceolate bracts are 1-1.5 cm. long as are the pedicels. The cylindrical, bell-shaped calyx is 5-8 mm. long and is divided into slender, pointed or blunt bipped lobes. The interior surface of the calyx is usually densely plastered with white farina.

The pale purple heteromorphic corolla is sometimes streaked with a darker pigment, and there is always a conspicuous five-lobed annulus. The corolla is 2-3 cm. in diameter and is divided into deeply notched obcordate lobes. The corolla tube which is twice as long as the calyx is another feature which distinguishes P. ramzanae from P. gambeliana. The corolla of the latter species often more than twice exceeds the calyx. The cylindrical seed capsule is 1½-2 times as long as the calyx and opens by longitudinal valves.

The type specimen of P. ramzanae is Polunin, Sykes and Williams 42 and the original diagnosis appears in Vol. LXXIX 1954, Page 358 of the Journal of the Royal Horticultural Society, Great Britain.

Kris Fenderson, APS treasurer, lives at Grout Hill, South Acworth, N.H. 03807. He also drew the handsome illustration to accompany this article.
Candelabra primroses thrive in simulated bog
(Yellow P. helodoxa in front, red P. japonica behind)

Candelabras like artificial bogs

by Ralph Benedict

These are several methods of growing beautiful sturdy long-lived candelabras without ideal conditions.

The use of water at this time is very costly because of our energy shortages. Many of us in the midwest do not have a ravine with a creek or a natural bog. Even our soil will not retain moisture because of its sandy nature or excess of moisture-robbing tree roots.

Grow in containers

One way of raising candelabras is to grow them in containers—old washtubs, refrigerator liners or steel drums cut in half. Dr. Wilkins and Clarence Owens, active APS members in Jackson, Mich., use secondhand washtubs.

The containers, filled with good leaf mold or peat mass and soil and buried to the rim, will hold a few plants that will thrive for several years with very little care or water.

Make lined 'bog'

The second method I use for many plants is to remove the dirt from an area about five feet wide and 10 feet long—about 30 inches deep. This area is lined with plastic. Fill it with lots of humus-rich soil and place logs or rocks around the edge to hide the plastic. Plant with candelabras.

For companion plants use cardinal flowers (lobelias), astilbes, dorumicum. For smaller plants use farinose primroses—rosea, Primula x Peter Klein etc. Also try miterworts and foam flowers (tiarella).

Outside the bog try such plants as epimedium, hosta lilies, dwarf shrubs and others that are drought resistant.

Almost trouble free

These beds will need extra water very seldom, even in July and August when candelabras must have moisture to grow new roots. There will be no problems with tree roots or moles. The lack of tree roots keeps the moisture and fertility of the soil abundant.

The beds can also be placed in areas of more sunlight. Candelabras can grow well in strong light if moisture is steady.

All the japonicas do extremely well in these beds and containers. I have planted hybrid candelabras from many sources—England, Scotland, seed exchanges.

The beautiful ones

I want to say that the most beautiful ones are the pagoda hybrids established by Maud Hannon. After her death the strains were kept pure and improved by Anita Alexander. The colors are beautiful. The flower heads are packed with bloom, and the stalks are especially strong and straight. The plants grow in heavy clumps.

I know if you will try one of these methods, you will never be without these beautiful primroses in your garden. What a sight they are in late May and June with a hummingbird or butterfly sampling their nectar!

Dr. Ralph Benedict, our staff veterinarian and midwest expert, lives at 14 Alpine Ct., Wilson Lake, Hillsdale, Mich. 49242.

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Write to:
Dorothy Dickson
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From the mailbox

I have just received the copies of the Primrose bulletin featuring one of my slides on the cover. Thank you for them. . . .

Your first sentence in the article is incorrect. Nowhere did I say that "I have had all the Alaska species identified by Dr. Hulten growing in my garden." I told you that I was sending you 13 slides of species that I have, or have had, growing in my garden. I have not ever seen or collected P. mistassinica, P. stricta, P. incana. I have collected herbarium specimens P. egalikensis, but have not had this species in my garden.

The picture on page 8 is of P. tschuktschorum and was taken at Platinum. Surely I did not have this slide identified in this manner, I hope, as P. cuneifolia. I am glad the slide of P. sibirica reproduced so well. By the way, Hulten says it is sibirica, not siberica, as does Dr. Stanley L. Welsh of Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah, who has determined many of my herbarium specimens and has made several trips to Alaska to collect.

Sincerely,
Aline Strutz
916 P St.
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Ed. note: We are sorry for the misunderstanding. We simply misread the handwriting in Mrs. Strutz' kind and informative letter. We tried to be very careful in keeping color transparencies with their identifications. There may have been some problems with shuffling of slide mountings between color separation facilities and the print shop. Members will want to be sure the Alaskan plants are properly labeled in their quarterlies.

The only experience I have had with Alaskan primula species is with P. cuneifolia. I obtained the seed from a seed exchange with a rock garden society. I had read that is was a difficult plant to keep, but since it was indigenous to my area, I decided to try it. I have since found that it is P. cuneifolia ssp. cuneifolia which grows here, and I have been able to obtain plants.

My experiences so far with P. cuneifolia have been good. I have the plants in a semi-shaded bed and a sandy soil with a small dressing of compost added each spring. The plants have rewarded me with continuous bloom from spring until frost in the fall. This year about five crowns are present, three of which provide the flowering scapes. Each scape is about four inches high with two to four deep purple blooms. The plants have not set seed for me for some unknown reason. P. cuneifolia has a wonderful scent, very much like the old fashioned pinks and carnations. A very pleasant bonus!

Regardless of any apprehension someone may have about P. cuneifolia, I personally believe it makes a welcomed treasure in a garden.

Only this year was I able to obtain P. cuneifolia ssp. saxifragifolia. It is a very tiny plant, ranging from ½ inch to 2 inches wide. Both foliage and bloom hug the ground tightly. Their flowers are a light pink with a yellow eye. I have tried, without success, to obtain seed or plants of other species, but I'll keep on trying.

Happy gardening,
Jim Fox
P.O. Box 1935
Palmer, Alaska 99645

The spring issue with its articles on western American primulas I found most interesting; and I also appreciate the black and white photos, most of which are of good quality reproduction.

In late summer this year, finding evidence of pest attacks among my potted florists auriculas and primulas, I watered the compost in the pots with a solution of Murphy's Systemic Insecticide and as in previous years all showed no ill effects—except, that is, for two plants of P. suffrutescens (which I had purchased in the spring of this year).
These suffrutescens had no insect damage, but I watered them along with the others as a precaution. They soon showed signs of dislike of this treatment and gradually over a period of several weeks died a sort of lingering death.

I have not previously experienced this happening with primulas treated with any kind of pesticide, although I—and, I believe, others too—have suspected signs of intolerance of the above mentioned pesticide among some Asiatic/Himalayan primulas (P. sondo-chifolia type etc.) in past years.

Wishing you well,
John Barlow
83 Tattersall Gardens
Leigh-on-Sea
Essex SS9 2QS
England

A friend who was traveling in Scotland volunteered to visit Jack Drake and hopefully get some P. marginata seed for me. On Sept. 6 she left her tour group and taxied out to Mr. Drake’s and was simply delighted with the size and selective quality of the place. She was told that P. marginata seed had been harvested but not cleaned and packaged, but if she cared to wait they would prepare some for her. She returned Sept. 20, but due to the slowness of mail delivery I didn’t receive the seed until Sept. 25. I had them in soil inside of 15 minutes (using Ralph Balcom’s method of using a moist brick).

(When my friend called to say she had returned, she asked what she should do with the seed as they seemed quite damp. Of course, I was pleased to hear this. It told me how fresh the seed was. I urged her to put the seed packet in her refrigerator until she could mail it.)

As I said, I planted it Sept. 25. On Oct. 5 I thought I could see that some germination had taken place. Today (Oct. 8) using a magnifying glass, I found quantities of tiny new plants—no leaves yet, of course, but “comma” shaped, newly started seedlings. I am delighted.

A long time ago I had been told that P. marginata seed should be sown immediately on ripening. Several times I had bought seed that was delivered months after harvest and found that they simply would not germinate until more than a year had passed. This time I hoped the 19 days between purchase and planting would not rule out early germination. Their generous and early activity is a real bonus. Thought you may be interested to hear of this practical demonstration of the truth about planting fresh marginata seed.

Sincerely,
Violet Chambers
4915 N.E. Sixtieth
Seattle, Wash. 98115

In the past few weeks I have received Nos. 2 and 3 of “Primroses.” May I offer you my warmest congratulations? The series of articles on “Primulas of Western America” is of great interest and it is most valuable to have the reprint of Louis Williams’ article. Looking through the names, I realize how many I have grown and lost. Primula suffrutescens, raised from A.G.S. seed in 1973, finally expired this year. . . I have a well established plant of P. parryi in the open rock garden. It flowered in 1978 and I hope it will flower again next year. Seed of this and some of the related species is commonly offered in the A.G.S. seed list and I have small plants of P. rusbyi and P. ellisiae. I also enjoyed your article and the superb photographs of Japanese alpine primulas. I find these very difficult to grow and keep.

As you know, Mrs. Youle has given up the editorship of the National Auricula and Primula Society (Southern Section) Year Book, and the task has been taken over by a team consisting of Ray Edwards, Jim Sherwood and myself.

With all good wishes,
David Winstanley
“Woodlands”
Toot Hill Road
Greensted
ONCAR, Essex
England CM5 9LH

Many thanks for the quarterly. I find it very instructive and interesting, and although I am rather embarrassed by all the publicity you give me. I am particularly pleased by the way my article is presented. I cannot claim to be an expert hybridizer; perhaps I get more deeply involved than some of my fellow florists, but I keep plodding along and try to pick out the best of every generation for further breeding.

Sometimes I scrap the whole lot, and other times it is difficult to decide which to discard. I try to keep a picture of Burnard’s “Formosa” in my mind when examining my seedlings. This makes me realize we have a long way to go yet.

You will be interested to know the laced pink (dianthus) on trial at Wisley was awarded a Highly Commended 1979. There were only four awards, two F.C.C. for Allwood Bros. and two H.C., so I feel highly honoured. I named it “Frances Isabel” after my wife. With only a small garden it is a long process getting an improved variety, but gardening is a worthwhile hobby and I get a great deal of pleasure and satisfaction from it.

Kindest regards,
Hubert Calvert
7 School Crescent
Lüpsel, Wakefield
West Yorkshire
England WF2 8LX
President's message

Probably 80 per cent or more of the members of APS are unaffiliated with any of our local chapters or clubs. They are subscribers to the quarterly only. In the last few years our magazine has grown in professional stature, size and circulation. With rapidly rising costs the only way to maintain the high quality of the quarterly is to increase circulation. Our non-profit status severely limits the amount of advertising space we can sell.

Although we advertise our quarterly in several horticultural journals, our best publicity comes from word-of-mouth in local clubs and at annual primrose shows. Membership and activity in the locals leads to joining the parent society to receive the quarterly, to enjoy the seed exchange and to be able to get the other publications of APS.

Spring is a good time for our local branches to hold their own shows, to mount membership drives and to encourage their members to join APS. Look over the membership list in the quarterly (fall of 1978) to find APS members that are not in your local club. They will be delighted to be invited and will probably bring friends!

If there is no local primrose club in your area, maybe you are the one to start it. If you need help, contact any of the APS officers. There should be a local club, for example, in the Berkeley-Oakland area. There are quite a few isolated APS members there. The more members we have the better quarterly we get for the money.

Board discusses judging, finances, library

The executive board of APS met at Chehalis, Wash., on Jan. 19, 1980. Following is a brief summary of the proceedings:

The treasurer reported a current bank balance of $2834.39. A preliminary budget for the 1979-80 year was drawn up estimating income from 625 memberships, seed exchange, advertising and all other sources at $6,300. Principal cost of the four issues of the quarterly currently running $5600, for four 40-page issues. The board voted to publish the next two issues at full size and then re-examine the budget.

Judging committee reports

Chairman Dorothy Dickson presented a preliminary report from the committee on judging. They recommend that APS show judges should: (1) be members of APS, (2) take periodic judging refresher courses, (3) judge three shows as juniors before full certification and (4) be growers of the primula type they are asked to judge. It was reaffirmed that national shows conform to the published rules and regulations of APS and that national show schedules include classes to accommodate all national trophies.

The board selected the following nominating committee for presenting a slate of officers for 1980-81: Helen Clarke, Ethel Balla, Ruth Huston, Mildred Washburn and Herb Dickson.

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APS has a new treasurer!

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In Tasmania...

Goodwins develop giant polyanthus hybrids

by James Menzies

Tasmania is about as far away as one can get from the United States of America. But it is from this southern-most island state of Australia that we are getting the spectacular Goodwin strain of polyanthus primrose.

Last October my wife Marian and I spent a memorable day as guests of Alan Goodwin, his wife Beverly and his brother Tony on their 1400-acre ranch near Hobart. Their ancestral spread includes cattle, sheep, an 1830 stone mansion (now an Historic Trust Building) and a growing international rare-plant seed business.

One request starts it all

As Alan tells it, their seed business started when someone asked him to get them some seed of some native Tasmanian trees. More requests followed, and

soon the Goodwins built up a network of seed collectors and customers around the world. They now offer seed of hundreds of rare species of trees, shrubs and herbaceous plants.

The stone-walled mansion house is uninhabited and now houses the seed business. It provides cool even temperatures for seed storage, space for office, seed cleaning and packaging, a small kitchen for morning and afternoon tea and several rooms for Alan's impressive collection of antique gramophones and old records!

Breeds longevity, hardiness

Twenty years ago Alan grew some seed of the original Pacific Giant polyanthus from California. The plants grew luxuriously in the cool Tasmanian climate but lacked longevity and hardiness. Alan
began hybridizing them with a strain of large ruffled bronze polys from New Zealand known as Harrison's Tango Supremes.

Selecting the best qualities of these two showy lines, the Goodwins have come up with their Regal Supreme Tangos that have created some excitement at our recent shows. They have very large blooms, brilliant colors and tall, sturdy scapes. According to the Goodwins, the strain has superior longevity, vigor and leaf-spot resistance.

The Menzies' Australia - New Zealand tour also included a pleasant visit with Mrs. Goldie Hamilton, Winton, New Zealand.

The Goodwin trio share the labor of this family enterprise. Alan is the public relations man, and he and Tony share the growing operations. (I got the impression that Tony runs the rest of the ranch in his spare time.) Beverly got involved late in the game but has now become their exclusive pollinator.

Because none of the native bees seem to pollinate the primroses, Beverly can do the pollinating in the open field (on hands and knees). She gets a break twice a day to fix tea for everybody else. All of Goodwins' seed is hand pollinated and is one of the few commercial sources of single-color polys available.

**Everyone helps**

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**Seeds are exported**

The primrose seed business is all export. They do grow 20,000 - 30,000 plants each spring that are quickly sold through local retail outlets. No other Tasmanian nursery is growing polys. The Goodwins are not the only APS members in Tasmania, but they are still somewhat lonesome pioneers in the primrose game.

They have other primroses. Several species are on their list, and they are growing some garden auriculas as well as getting into double polys. Their growing seed "hobby" may not be crowding the cattle for space, but it is certainly competing hard for time and interest. Even the numerous trained cattle dogs seem to hang around the primrose operation.

Their address: Goodwins, Bagdad South, 7407, Tasmania, Australia.
What would happen if I crossed Primula juliae with the giant blue polyanthus? With a wild primrose, P. vulgaris? With an oxlip?

The cross on the big blue eyeless polyanthus is a very good one. The offspring will mostly have the desirable P. juliae-style roots, good sized flowers in shades of maroon, purple and near blue. Actually, that is one of the best crosses you can make. Almost all the offspring will be of good quality, and maybe 10 percent will be outstanding. We have a group of similar plants that are the most permanent primroses in the garden. Several won juliae trophies last year.

If you really want to get into a juliae breeding program, remember this very good rule: "Stay close to the species!" In other words, when making crosses, keep the offspring at least 50 percent P. juliae. Keep re-introducing the species, P. juliae, into the strain. A plant that is 25 percent P. juliae may show none of the desired juliae qualities except possibly smallness. But if it has the desired color, it should be used as pollen parent on one of the plants that is closer to the species. I'd love to see giant polyanthus with juliae-type leaves and roots.

The P. vulgaris x P. juliae cross produced the well-known juliana E. R. Janes, which has an almost orange color. It was the exception to the usual results. I've tried it. So have several others. Our results were a uniform mauve in the first generation. I went on to the next generation. The results were a most un-Mendelian uniform mauve.

P. elatior x P. juliae is a good cross, giving an unexpected high percentage of yellow shades, some quite similar to Dorothy. I can save you a year. I have seed of that cross in the refrigerator.

These juliae crosses should be hardy in almost any part of the northern or central United States and all Canada. There is a good opportunity for a grower to start a successful primrose business based on selected Julianas.
Diary of a Primroser

by Cy Happy

Winter is racing by. The snow did not last long. Primula vulgaris subsp. subthorpii from northern Iran sends up a steady supply of lavender blossoms. Blue form of Crocus chrisanthus was trying to bloom at New Year’s. A little white polyanthus, daughter of Garryard Guinivere, has been blooming all winter.

The seed catalogs have been enjoyed in the warmth of the wood stove. Thompson and Morgan offers a nice selection, including red cowslips, juliana hybrids, plus sections for tender primula and hardy species in the fine print in the back part of the catalog.

January pilgrimage to find primroses

Made the annual January pilgrimage to Gibson’s Nursery; 75,000 polyanthus under glass were just starting to show color. Couldn’t resist two glowing reds with dark stripes.

Gave a slide program to a garden club one morning. They wondered why the supermarket polyanthus don’t survive. Seems they had not opened the root ball and shaken out the old potting mix—just dumped the plants out of the pots and poked them into the flower beds. I pointed out that roots will stay in the original soil unless it is removed. Only then will the roots venture into the surrounding soil.

Primroses in Leningrad want to continue contact with APS members. Their former contact person was our much-missed member Ivanel Agee. The address is: USSR 196128 Leningrad, Blagodatnaja Str. 13-32. Vladimir Serebriakov is club president.

Do you know the way to Fairfield?

Maine members please contact Harriett Gurney, 42 Water St., Fairfield, ME 04937. She would like to form a group of APS members. Her large garden is on the Kennebec River. Three small islands form a perfect backdrop for the primulas and rock garden.

We are looking forward to the study weekend in Victoria, B.C. Victoria is almost a second home with so many friends there. Besides, Rita was born in Alberta, and my maternal grandparents were from the Maritimes and left relatives all across Canada—so we have strong ties to our northern neighbor.

Those planning to take the ferry Coho from Port Angeles to Victoria for the study weekend would be wise to check with Black Ball Transport, Seattle phone 622-2222, to be sure the ferry is running that weekend. Maintenance work is scheduled to be completed by Feb. 25, but one can never be entirely certain.
Irish homeowner digs own peat, stacks it to dry

The house was full at Christmas. Cy, Martha and Ned brought memories of Christmases with the generations now gone, but partly replaced them with the delightful presence of baby Sayre, Ned and Dina's daughter. Tony, Lisa and Jim were over colds and tonsillitis, but Emily, age 1, was down with the flu. Terrible to have Emily's first Christmas spoiled. Rita gave me an apple picker. Needed one for a long time.

Ahh—that marvelous peat fire!

Her folks gave me a generous supply of real Irish peat for the fireplace. The pungent smoke made the house smell just like Keane's Hotel, Lisdoonvarna, Co. Clare, Ireland. (Keane's is the place for rock gardeners to stay when visiting the marvelous Burren. Mrs. Keane is the local wildflower expert.)

Just came in from the primrose patch. Winter losses are minimal. Still I must mention how one gardening friend removed all soil from the beds and replaced it with bedding soil mix from a supplier of high-quality soils. Sickly primroses looked healthy again in the new soil. Fresh soil is important to most primroses.

Time to ready plants to show

Primrose shows are little more than a month away. Time to groom plants, put out slug bait, move some plants to warmer locations and feed with 0-10-10 to bring on the flowers.
Rosetta Jones plans a special juliana table at the national show. Varieties will be identified; new varieties of high quality will be named. Growers and breeders of these charming miniatures will be able to congregate, exchange ideas, information and, perhaps, plants.

Looking ahead to 1981

Alpines '81, the Fifth International Rock Garden Plant Conference, will be at Nottingham University, England, on Apr. 13-16— that's next year. Optional garden tours include trips in England before and Scotland after the conference. Accommodations in university residence halls will keep expenses to a minimum.

Anyone wishing to make the pilgrimage to Primula cusickiana in the northeast corner of Oregon, contact Mrs. Dorothy M. Twinkel, Rt. 1, Box 1491, LaGrande, Ore., 97850. She knows the territory and has a four-wheel drive vehicle.

Today winter is melting into a pre-spring rain. Plants are perking up. The ones in the greenhouse and on the porch will need a good soaking. Auricula flowerbuds should be just appearing way down in the crowns. From now on they will be damaged by any setback.

I'll head for the greenhouse. See you at the shows.

Old quarterlies are full of good information.
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