President's message

It is with pleasure that I announce the new editor of the APS Quarterly, Larry Bailey, and his editorial committee consisting of Dan Douglas, Cyrus Happy, Irene Buckles, Orpha Salsman and Vicki Sauer.

We give thanks and appreciation to Cyrus Happy and his wife, Rita, for their four years of hard work and dedication in editing the quarterly Primroses. As you can see Cy is staying on as a member of the editorial committee to assist the editor. We have great hopes for the success of this new organization for the Quarterly.

I want to give a special tribute to Cyrus Happy for his long years of service to the Society. His main interest is show and alpine auriculas. He is a grower and exhibitor par excellence. I really got acquainted with Cy back in 1954 when the Tacoma Primrose Society decided to host the first truly national show of the APS scheduled for April 1955. He was president of the Tacoma Society and I was appointed show chairman. It turned out to be a successful show and the beginning of a long friendship. Since then Cy has served in some capacity from committee member to president of both the APS and the Tacoma Primrose Society. He can always be depended upon to come up with a good program for any meeting when requested. It has been very pleasant working with him; and I hope his dedication and interest in the APS continues many years.

For those who could not attend the annual summer picnic, you really missed a good one. The weather was ideal, partly cloudy with temperature in the 70s. Food was plentiful and delicious. Sixty-five were present. The bidding for plants at the auction was brisk and netted the Society $218. The new editor was present for the board meeting. All in all a good day for the APS.

Herb Dickson
Primroses From Seed - 1930's

Georgia L. Shorett
Edmonds, Washington
Pictures from APS files

Editor's Comments:
Fifty years ago a remarkably lady, Georgia L. Shorett, became interested in growing primulas. By chance the editorial committee came across two similar articles that had been written by Mrs. Shorett on the growing of primroses from seed. One article was typed and appears to have been prepared and polished for submission for publication. The other was hand written in her gardening notebook. The unabashed freshness of the handwritten notes caught the editor's eye and decided to share it with the other members of the APS.

Georgia L. Shorett was an avid gardener and early member of the APS. Her notebooks indicate she was corresponding with English growers (Dalymple, etc.) in the early 1930's. Not having ever personally met Mrs. Shorett, the editorial staff would look forward to receiving any information on or personal contacts some of our members might have had with her and her primulas.

On arriving home I gathered together all of my catalogs and sat down for an evening of joyful investigation, the outcome of which was an order later on to an English Seed House. Not knowing one name from another and confronted with a list of over a hundred varieties (the only term I was really familiar with was H.P.) I concluded to send them some money, asked them to send a representative lot from their entire collection, added some packets of Polyanthus for filler and eagerly awaited the result.

In the meantime, I investigated the raising of seeds in flats and when the seeds arrived five weeks after the order was placed, I was full of enthusiasm for the trial. Naturally I was keen to see what they considered a representative lot and was happy to find eleven packets which included—P. bulleyana; P. cortusoides; P. denticulata; P. florindae; P. involucrata; P. japonica eximia; P. microdonta alpicola; P. pulverlenta; P. sikkimensis; P. veitchii; and some of the blue P. polyanthus.

I n preparing the flats I used a good grade of garden soil, sifted it with a quarter inch mesh sifter, and then baked it in the oven for over an hour, with the thermostat set at 500°F. When fairly cool I turned it into the flats, stirred thoroughly to avoid hard lumps from the baking and let stand until the next day when I gave it a good bath of Senisan both before and after the planting of the seeds.

I finally concluded I would set them out in the garden let them grow and blossom and then get acquainted all over again. By late fall 90% were tucked away here and there and I settled down for a winter of dreams of what the spring might have in store for me.

During the winter I began to collect all the literature on primulas that I could hear of and learned that this family that I had attached to myself had only eight hundred species or families and I concluded I had undertaken quite a task. Each day it seems I learned something new but I am sure the thing that gave me the biggest sigh of relief was when I was told that many primulas were deciduous. Every time I walked the garden path during the winter I found vast...
P. polyanthus

spots with not a sign of a plant where I was positive I put many. As time went on and signs of spring came and I tried to cultivate these bare spots I found evidences of plant life. Farrer has aptly said that many primroses have roots as long as a Scotch sermon, and to my surprise I found roots five and six inches long on plants with leaves almost too small to be seen. These however, belong to the less common varieties.

And now that the year has passed, what about the eleven varieties? All have grown and developed beautifully though some of them will not blossom before mid summer (according to the catalog). In my garden the first herald of the spring was the P. polyanthus with her masses of color and almost at the same time P. cashmeriana and P. denticulata as alike as two peas to the casual observer, though while Cashmeriana has long been a favorite of mine I could easily place P. denticulata first because of her lovely mauve coloring and her less crowded blossoms. To keep up the march of blossoms time P. pulverlenta came next, lovely in her wine red blossoms, tier on tier, and her mealy stems, while here and there tiny plants of P. involucrata with her long slender shiny leaves shoots a tiny blossom, which was literally one, and that one white. P. wardii so alike in leaf and growth as P. involucrata except that her blossom was a lovely rose mauve with a white eye. At this writing P. bulleyana is coming into bloom with her orange yellow blossom, alike P. sikkimensis with here mealy stems and drooping bells of pale yellow. All that have blossomed so far except P. pulverlenta have bravely sent forth a sample bloom while yet such tiny plants, though this I am sure will be quite different when will established. I find too, that I am going to have to do much transplanting later as ignorance of the plants and their characteristics have made me place them where they do not belong.

Particularly do I want to call your attention to the P. polyanthus or Bunch Primrose. The growers have done much in the hybridization of this old fashioned flower until now they have brought to us a complete range of color from white with a yellow and orange eye down the scale to an intense red black, and with the individual blossoms much larger and a much longer stem.

P. polynura

If one were to grow nothing else in the primula family but the P. polyanthus you would be amply repaid in the joy and satisfaction of bloom and color. But having started on this primrose hobby, I am going to try and raise from seed all that are known to be possible under ordinary circumstances in this section of the country, and if all the seed grow that I have planted, I will somewhat resemble the old woman in the shoe. This much I do know that the riot of color and wealth of bloom that bordered my garden paths for two months this spring has many times repaid me for my time and labor.

Footnote: p. Veitchii (Duthie) = p. polyneura (Franch); p. Wardii (Balfour) = p. yargonensis (Petitm.)
Board members meet in Chehalis - Washington

Discussion of the recently appointed members of the editorial staff was the major topic of the meeting held on July 11, after the annual APS picnic in Chehalis, Washington.

Quarterly

Larry Bailey spoke of the changes the committee would like to make in publishing the quarterly. There will be an editorial committee composed of Larry as chairman, Dan Douglas, Irene Buckles, Orpha Salsman, Vicky Sauer and Cy Happy. The hope is that the committee will be the “editor.” Individual members may come and go without disrupting the continuity of the publication. It is also anticipated that the chairmanship of the editorial committee will be rotated among the members. An agreement will be drawn up between the Society and the editorial committee primarily to ensure understanding between the two groups.

The committee stressed that as they would like to get the summer quarterly out as soon as possible and start on the fall issue, they need articles and other material by the end of July for the summer issue and the end of August for the fall issue. More material is needed from individual members — articles, ideas, questions, etc. Articles or written material does not have to be in final form; contributors may jot down notes or ideas on a particular subject and a member of the editorial committee will finalize the article for publication.

Cy and Rita honored

A motion was unanimously approved to express the Society’s appreciation for the fine work Cy and Rita Happy have done for the past four and a half years as editors. The Spring 1981 quarterly was mailed to approximately 900 members: 25% of whom live outside the United States.

Dues

It was agreed to include dues reminder envelopes in the Fall issue of the quarterly. Every membership should come due on the same date. In addition, a second notice, if needed, could be sent individually after the first of January. If possible, the date a membership expires should be included on the mailing label.

Finances

Ross Willingham reported $1659 in the Seed Exchange account. A treasurer’s report showed $2,897 in the checking account with approximately $500 not yet deposited. The bill for the Spring Primroses has been paid.

1982 National Show

The 1982 National Show will be held in the Milwaukee Community Center Milwaukee, Oregon on April 3rd and 4th, 1982. The Washington State Chapter will hold their show on April 24 and 25th, 1982, in Kent.

Elements for a great picnic: Good food and interesting friends. APS Picnic 1981 — Chehalis Rare Plant Nursery

Plant exchange with English growers

For those growers willing to share their “show” auricula plants with other primula growers in England, an exchange is in the process of being established between the American Primrose Society and the National Auricula and Primula Society-Southern Section. Primula enthusiasts interested in participating in the exchange should send Larry Bailey a list of the plants they could spare along with a list of the plants they would be interested in obtaining. The lists will be compiled and forwarded onto Mr. Keith Poulson in England who will make an effort to locate corresponding participating English members.

After the exchange list is established American growers will be notified to ship their plants for the exchange to Mr. Bailey in the United States, while the English growers will channel their plants through Mr. Poulson in England. Once a plant has been received by either Mr. Poulson or Mr. Bailey, it will be potted into special soil mixtures to be grown in until the plants are ready for inspection, certification and shipment. It is expected that shipments of plants between the two countries will occur once, or at the most, twice a year.

It is anticipated that charges for the exchange will be at costs plus a nominal fee for the respective societies.

Plants that would be of special interest to English growers consists of show auriculas “named” in the United States, double auriculas, gold laced polyanthus, and American specie primulas. Growers interested in this exchange should contact:

Larry Bailey
1570 9th Avenue North
Edmonds, WA 98020, U.S.A.

Keith Poulton
11 Deans Gardens
St. Albans, Herts, England

Patience will most definitely be a virtue in any type of plant exchange of this nature.
Bell-flowered Asiatic Primula Florindae

Dan and Evelyn Douglas
Snohomish, Washington

Silver bells . . . not quite, but this enchanting, delicately perfumed, sulphur-yellow primula seems so when it adorns our gardens during the summer.

Primula florindae is a handsome plant which forms a clump of large, rounded, glossy, dark green leaves which are held well above the ground on long, reddish-colored petioles. Its scapes may reach a height of three feet and hold 50 or more brilliant yellow, nodding bell flowers. The inner surfaces of the corolla, as well as the upper portions of the scape and the calyx are covered with white farina. To add to this magnificent show, their golden drops are displayed for more than a month, starting in late June, and staying on into August. During this lengthy blooming period they scent the garden with the delicate fragrance of cardamon.

Cultivation

It is quick and easy to cultivate. From seed, flowering plants can be had within a year, and early spring division is most successful. The latter is a job you will find most delightful, for when the large clumps of reddish, fibrous roots are dug, they emit the scent of licorice.

Native to the moist spring and steamsides of Tibet, this true bog plant finds its most ideal situation near a pond or shaded stream where its roots are bathed with water, but its crown is held high. Somewhat aggressive in this situation, it is better behaved in the shade border in deep, rich, moist soil. If watered regularly during dry weather, it will be long-lived and multiply freely.

Variants

Even more spectacular may be the reddish-amber selections. Their display is equal to that of the yellow form, with the outer corolla being shades of red and the inner surface pale yellow or white. Many of these color variants come true from seed. Although seeds of red forms have been collected in the wild, it is thought that many of the forms are hybrids with P. waltoni and other members of the sikkimensis group.

P. florindae is hardy, easy to grow, long lived, has beautiful flowers and a delightful fragrance. It brightens up moist, shady areas from early to mid-summer when most shade bloomers are finished and ideal for under benches in alpine houses. It is definitely a plant many growers hope never to be without in their garden.

Editors note: "Florindae, one of the most popular and widely grown of the Tibetarian discoveries of Kingdon Ward. It is a robust early species, a plant which often reaches a height of 3' in culture. The root system is highly fibrous, characteristic of bog plants. The leaves are 2-8" long, broad-ovate, rounded at apex, deeply cordate at base, dentate, glossy. Dark green petiole 3-5" long, stout, winged, often reddinged. The scape, usually smooth but sometimes bearing farina near the tip, bears an umbel; sometimes 2, one above the other; made up of 40-60, and in extreme fucundity, 80 flowers. The bracts and 1-4" pedicels are heavily coated with creamy yellow or white meal. The flowers are sulphur-yellow, copiously creamy-farinose within, pendant, 3/4 " across, funnel shaped and sweetly fragrant." ASP Pictorial Dictionary-2nd Edition-1967.

Editor's committee requests photographs

In taking over the quarterly, the editors committee quickly noted most of the photographs in the file were quite old and in need of updating. Of special interest to Primroses readers is how different species are used in the garden, hybridizing, propagation, cultivation and sources for plants. Black and white photo's are better on fine grain paper, glossy and 5" x 7" or larger; this allows for cropping and a good quality in publishing.

Many members have requested that any reprint of the Pictorial Dictionary be in color. In order to work towards that goal, color photo's on all these species is needed. The "native" location is also a desirable photo for the files.

All photo's should be dated and identified with the name of the photographer, species and where taken.
Importing Auriculas and Primulas

Edmonds, Washington
Photos by author

Anyone who has ever crossed the border into the United States, soon recognizes one of the persistent questions the Customs Official asks is, "Do you have any plants or plant material to declare?" Or, after having imported plants into the United States, a common question is "How did you ever get the plants past Customs?"

Importing of plants by the amateur gardener and primula enthusiast is not difficult if two elements exist: 1) patience, and 2) dedication to primulas.

Although the instructions and details for importation of P. auriculas appears to be relatively simple, it is very important to follow each step to avoid disastrous mistakes. A few hints that might be helpful to remember when attempting to obtain plants from other countries are:

1. Do not be swayed by advice from friends, nurserymen, growers, etc., unless it agrees with the official instructions or the advice is from the governmental official who will be signing his name on the certificates.
2. Allow yourself adequate time for arranging for the permit, testing, certification, and inspections.
3. Do not panic when, at critical moments, glitches develop. The people you will be dealing with (government, nurserymen, growers, etc.) are in their position due to their own interest in horticulture. A few humble questions and requests for help will reveal warm and enthusiastic fellow gardeners willing to help you solve your particular problem.

Guidelines

Although the guidelines for importation of Auriculas and other primulas are not difficult, the importer is cautioned to be aware that they are deceptively simple and should be reviewed with great care.

1. Obtain an importers permit for p. auriculas and/or primulas from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.
2. Have the plants certified in the originating country that they are not on any endangered list and free from pests and diseases.
3. When entering the United States, have the plants inspected by an inspector from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Permit

To acquire an importers permit requires obtaining an application form, and submitting it to:

U.S. Department of Agriculture, APHIS Plant Protection & Quarantine Programs Permit Unit Federal Building Hyattsville, Maryland 20782

When the application arrives, it should be accompanied by a package of rules, regulations, procedures, quarantine programs, and lists of restrictive plants and endangered species. All of which should be perused for general references and background knowledge.

After plowing through the information, one will find that 1) Primulas are presently not on an endangered species list, and 2) there is no present restriction except that the plants must be entered into the United States under "Quarantine No. 37," and they are not subject to any post entry quarantine.

"Quarantine No. 37" is the key to potential problems; as almost all the countries most likely to be a source of primulas require inspection and phytosanitary certification of inspection before entering the United States at specific Ports of Entry.

Submission of the "Application for Permit to Import Plants or Plant Products" will result in a prompt response with a permit, a permit number and mailing labels (which must accompany all shipments whether hand carried or shipped). It is important to protect the original copy of your permit as copies of it must also accompany plant shipments.

Plant Certification

Crucial to success in primula importation is the testing and phytosanitary certificates of inspection that must be obtained from the originating country. This certification must accompany the plants on entry into the United States. Failure to have the plants certified could result in having the plants destroyed at the U.S. Inspection Station.

The packet of information received with the permit application form does contain lists of countries with the addresses of the governmental agencies responsible for issuing the plant certificates. By corresponding directly with these agencies, the location of the most convenient inspection station (close to embarkation point) can usually be obtained. For English and/or Londoners the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food have an office at "Eagle House," 90-96 Cannon Street, London EC4N 6HT, telephone 01-623-4266.

Before having the plants inspected, it is strongly recommended that an appointment for the inspection be arranged as much in advance as possible. By making an advanced appointment, it can be determined if it would be more satisfactory to have the plants inspected at the inspection station or at the source of the plants. The inspection service is usually free of cost.

Difficulty in obtaining the certification results from having the plants and the soil in which they were grown declared free from the potato cyst nematodes, (Globodera Rostochiensis — (Woll.). Loam in which the plants are grown must be microscopically inspected at least two weeks and not more than one year prior to the certification inspection of the plants. If the plants are grown in a loam free soil mix (sand-peat) the nematodes are not supposedly to live. Sterilization of the loam does not satisfy the requirement, as the nematode eggs can survive the sterilization process. Arrangements to have the soil tested before having the plants inspected is the major dilemma to overcome. In England, the plant inspectors will readily accommodate this requirement by "house calls" if requested within ample time and at no charge.

Phytosanitary certification requires the plants to be soil and insect free. All soil must be washed off the plants and their roots at the time of inspection. (A mild soap bath beneficial to clean the plants and kill any stray bugs is recommended.) Shipment of the plants into the United States cannot contain any soil.

Most primulas species can survive very well out of soil for a week or more if kept moist but not damp or soggy. Rolling the plants up, (after washing and shaking loose drops off), into strips of newspaper and...
then placing the individual plants into plastic sandwich bags and rolled again, is an excellent method of preserving healthy plants for several days. The plants can also be packed in sphagnum moss, vermiculite, or other soil free medium. The importer should consult with the U.S. Department of Agriculture if he has any questions on the acceptability of a particular packing material. The shipper will be amazed on how small a package results from containing a substantial number of plants bundled in this manner (as illustrated).

Shipment of the plants requires the copy of the phytosanitary certification, a copy of the importation permit, a list of the plants containing the grower's name, and number of plants of each species from each grower along with the special shipping label (green and yellow) conspicuously displayed and securely attached to the outside of the package.

Entry into the United States

Probably the easiest task after the above has been accomplished is the actual entry into the United States. The only significant enigma is that there are only twelve points of entry through which plant material can be mailed: Nogales, AZ; Inglewood, CA; San Francisco, CA; San Ysidro, CA; Miami, FL; Honolulu, HI; New Orleans, LA; Hoboken, NJ; Jamaica (Kennedy Airport) NY; San Juan, PR; Brownsville TX; El Paso, TX; Laredo, TX; and Seattle, WA. Most customs stations have an agricultural inspector qualified to inspect the plants when being hand carried. It is highly recommended that the importer contact the agricultural inspection station at the anticipated point of entry to verify that the plants can be inspected there and at what hours the inspectors are available.

Most major international airports have agricultural officers meeting every international arrival. Examinations of the plants should take only a few minutes if the proper certification, permit, etc., are accompanying the plants. The inspector has available to him a laboratory with microscopes, dissecting trays and cultural dishes to name a few of the conveniences for helping to discover and identify critters.

A thorough washing of the plants before obtaining the certification in the originating country goes a long way to help insure that the plants will arrive safely and pass customs with flying colors. Even with the greatest care, do not be surprised at the time of entry into the United States, if the inspector may still discover a few aphids, etc. The Petiolaris and plants with similar growing habits and structure (dense rosettes and delicates leaves) require extra caution because they are fragile and difficult to wash thoroughly without bruising the plant. A bruised plant being transported under these conditions are extremely susceptible to rot.

Additional Publications:


"Customs Hints for Returning U.S. Residents — Know Before You Go." Available from the U.S. Customs Service of any Agricultural Quarantine office listed in telephone directories under "U.S. Department of Agriculture."

Diary of a Primroser

Cy Happy
Tacoma, Washington

August is a wonderful time of the year in the Puget Sound country — cloudy, foggy mornings and sunny afternoons. Something for everyone.

The auriculas survived an earlier week of hot weather. Temperature nearly 100 degrees and goodness knows how hot in the greenhouse. Potted plants were aided by setting on or being sunk in moist sand. Having a few roots down in the sand was a great help.

Surviving summer

Lee Raden of Phoenixville, Penn., says, "We're having a terrible summer for primroses. Anything good in the basement under lights. It's the only way I can bring the goodies through our July and August."

Summers everywhere can be rough on primroses. Early September is a good time to help them revive with a liquid fertilizer high in nitrogen. This must not be done later because nitrogen encourages soft, leafy growth. The plants would be highly susceptible to frost damage. It might be safer to practice foliar feeding, thus avoiding having the nitrogen available for too long a time in the soil. (But how do you foliar feed when spider mite has withered all the leaves?)

Support your local club

Starting in September all the local clubs become active again. Instructive programs, plant and seed exchanges, Christmas parties and finally the spring shows are the usual order of events. A judging school is planned for late winter. Many primrosers take in the annual rock garden study weekend.

I hope all APS members who have local clubs meeting in your areas will give them your support. This goes for Tacoma, which is now led by two high school students, Tony Trujillo, president, and Byron Lymburn, secretary. Both have been active for quite a few years and have earned the respect of the members. I hope they attract more young people who should learn early the joys of growing and hybridizing.

Plastic potting soil

Just read a paper on the merits of soil amendments—perlite, polystyrene beads and polystyrene foam. A common mix is one-half peat moss and one-half amendment. Perlite provided more moisture-holding capacity and more pore space for the roots' oxygen supply. Perlite also adds a sharp, gritty quality that stimulates root growth.

Although perlite is feather-light, the polystyrene amendments are between 5 and 10 times lighter. Plastic potting soil! What have we come to? Wonder if we have to put a rock on it to hold it down.

Soviet botanist sends seeds

Just received three packets of seed from Dr. Lapin of the Main Botanic Garden, Moscow, USSR. He sent Primula woronowii and P. komarovii from the Caucasus and P. vulgaris from the Crimea. At last I can compare these eastern members of the vernales section.

The 1982 study weekend for rock gardeners is set for Feb. 26-28, Miller Forestry Center Auditorium, Portland, Ore. Subjects include alpine plants of China and Japan. Oregon alpines from the Cascades, Siskiyou, Wallowas, Steens and Columbia River gorge are on the list too.

How to register for study weekend

Registration fee is $35, payable to 1982 Northwest Winter Study Weekend. Send to Ann Lunn, 3040 NW Parkview Lane, Portland, OR 97229.

Rita and I have enjoyed the friendships from all over the world that are part of the editorial committee. Please continue to write to us. I expect to carry on with Diary of a Primroser, so some letters will be answered that way. Keep on writing!

Of knees and plants and friends

Herb Dickson is scheduled for new knees the end of October. Should make his gardening a lot easier. Dorothy was grateful he was home during the hot weather to do the watering.

Larry Bailey brought many named variety show and alpine auriculas back from England this spring. I was delighted to see quite a few were originated by our dear departed friend Jack Ballard. We shall never forget how he took us in when we called on him one Sunday afternoon in 1974. That was the beginning of a warm friendship that lasted until his death.

—Cy Happy

Thea Foster of West Vancouver, B.C. scrutinizing a plant during the auction of the Annual APS Picnic in July.

Resource information needed

The winter issue of Primroses is expected to contain a compiled "resource directory" for primula growers. Included in this directory will be sources for seeds, plants, nurseries, supplies and general information on different gardening societies, books, etc. In order to ensure that this list will be complete, help is needed. Anyone with knowledge of these resources is requested to submit the information to the editor's committee at: 1570 - 9th Ave. N., Edmonds, Washington 98020. The committee would like to hear from individual gardeners with specialized plants and seeds as well as nurseries and supply houses.
Collecting Seeds for the APS Exchange

Irene N. Buckles
Seattle, Washington

Collecting and sharing seeds is an interesting hobby. It is interesting to watch the capsules grow and take on their particular form, shape and color of the seed within.

Exceptions

There are exceptions to the rule of picking dried seed. The petiolaris section is one of these irregularities. This section includes such plants as P. petiolaris, P. edgeworthii, P. sonchifolia and P. grifithii. These plants have a capsule in which, at maturity, the walls completely crumble away to scatter the seeds. These seeds need to be picked while they are still moist in the pod. Once these seeds have dried they might never come out of their dormancy to germinate. Primula rosea is the top part of the garden plant can provide protection also.

Capsules from the candelabra section turn brown and then split from both top and sides. If you don't check them frequently when the seeds start to ripen you may find they have split and spilled from the top part of the capsules.

Pyxidium Pods

P. sieboldii seed pods are reminiscent of a dunce cap or pyxidium. They are a little more sneaky than other primulas by splitting around the bottom. The capsules turn brown and then just seem to sit there. If you touch them when they are ripe, the capsules come off the stem dumping the seeds.

When picking seeds pods sometimes the stems are extra tough. To avoid spilling the seeds by tugging too hard with your fingers, it would be best to use scissors. Don't overlook the small capsule that appears empty. Many times it will contain two or three viable seeds, and one of those may turn out to be an award winning plant some day.

P. auricula

The auricula seed capsule turns brown but is thicker walled so you cannot see through to the brown seed. It splits from the side starting at the top. Auriculas often split their capsules while the seed is still green. Try to leave them on the plant as long as possible, but watch them closely so they don't split their seeds before you pick them. If the plant is potted, try moving it to a protected area, such as the greenhouse, to keep the rain off and wind from blowing the stem around. A piece of glass over the top of a garden plant can provide protection also.

Surprises

You may have a few unexpected surprises when picking primula seed. Such as a ripe pod with a worm or minute mites in it, eating the seed. Or a super fat pod that hasn't split and just keeps getting bigger. Upon opening the pod out of curiosity, you find the seeds have germinated right in the pod. If this is the case they need to be planted right away. This may happen if the weather is cool and damp just as the seeds are ripening. Seeds may also mold under the same conditions. If you collect seed that is starting to mold, put a fungicide on them such as Captan.

Allow air to circulate in the container for the seed capsules. Close containers and plastic bags can cause the seed to mold before they are thoroughly dry. Ordinary mailing envelopes work well, as well as paper bags, small bowls, plastic yogurt containers or dinner plates. If envelopes are used, leave the flap up until ready to clean the seed.

Cleaning Seed

After picking, the seed can be taken out of the capsule or allowed to dry for a couple of days. Cleaning your seed is very important to discourage mold or damp-off when planted. Pre-cleaned seed sent into the APS seed exchange will also make the work easier for Ross and Helen Willingham. A good pair of tweezers are a big help in removing the larger pieces of pods and stems. A fine mesh sieve also works for removing the tiny bits. A plastic knitting needle rubbed rapidly on your slacks will cause enough friction on the point to pick up the small pieces of chaff.

Storing

After the seed has been cleaned and thoroughly dry, it is ready to plant, store and exchange. Seeds need to be stored correctly to remain fresh and viable. Storing can be done in many types of containers. A successful method is small plastic pill bottles or glass jars filled with seed and then stored in the refrigerator. Another is small manilla envelopes stored in a large glass jar with a screw on lid. Packets of activated carbon or silica gel along with the envelopes in a mason jar help keep the seeds dry. A small packet of powdered milk in a facial tissue works well. Both the milk and the gel should be changed at least every six months.

Mailing

When sending seeds through the mail, the small manilla envelopes that can be sealed work very well. They keep air out and are easily labeled. A small piece of onion skin typing paper folded into a packet so the seeds won't fall out can be used for light-weight mailing purposes. Aluminum foil can also be used.
From the mailbox

Having just received the spring issue of the primula society quarterly, I hasten to put in my bid for the pinks you described and offered. I hope they are not all gone by now. It looks to me as though the society is on the way up again, and of course the quarterly has a lot to do with it. I am sure you will receive proper recognition for your indefatigable work from your northwestern associates and friends, but it cannot hurt to have a small word from the northwest.

Having just received a notice from Kris (Fenderson) of a seedling sale on Aug. 29, and so we will all be together again once more before the season ends in these parts. We have had a funny summer that has not been too good for plants; I suppose it is the fact that we have not recovered from the severe drought of a year or so back. No matter how much it rains, the earth seems to remain powdery dry.

Defying all conventional wisdom, I put some polyanthus plants in a new bed in full sun but watered them heavily. They are very healthy, and whenever we have a couple of foggy days in a row they bloom. Don't know what strain they are, as the labels were lost, and that was why I was willing to experiment.

Augustus M. Kelley
P.O. Box 458
Little Compton, RI 02837

As always I enjoyed the new Primroses quarterly.


Could this be the same text? It is profusely illustrated in color and black and white photographs (215 pages). Thank you in advance for any enlightenment you can give.

Irene Hockheimer
Ridge Farms Rd. at Richards Avenue
Norwalk, CT 06850

I got a letter from Anita Stevens of the APS. She told me there was a picture of my scarf in the last bulletin. I'm looking forward to getting it.

I've got a lot of primroses germinating at the moment: P. farinosa, auricula Barnhaven strain, capitata, cockburniana, alpicola, frondosa, aurantiaca. The weather is wet and cool. They enjoy it.

You know how much I'd have liked to go and see you all in Washington. I often think of you. I hope I'll be able to go next year.

Christin Sirdey
Place Ch. Chaigneau
58 190 Tanny
France

I hope and pray that the seed from Dr. Lapin will be in the seed exchange. His letter sounds like he really will send the seed.

We're having a terrible summer for primroses. Anything good is in the basement under lights—onlyway I can bring the goodies through our July and August.

Lee M. Raden
Alpineflora
1 Alpine Way
Phoenixville, PA 19460

Just a brief epistle to say how much I enjoyed the winter quarterly which arrived two days ago. I was very pleased to see the membership roster. If I have not made an error, there are 832 entries of which 655 are in the USA. Of the remainder 45 are in the United Kingdom and 1 in the Republic of Ireland. Canada has 51, Australia 8 and New Zealand 11 (making 19 down under). Japan has 13 and Egypt 1. Europe has 46 made up of Sweden 15, Netherlands 3, Belgium 2, West Germany 8, France 3, Switzerland 1, Czechosloavakia 4, USSR 1, Denmark 2, Norway 2, Austria 3, Hungary 1, Spain 1 and Iceland 1.

No doubt you already have this information, but in any case it does seem a shame that the United Kingdom members do not correspond with each other more. I do write to some who are in the N.A.P.S. (S) and hope to contact others. Nice if we could get details of each one's interests and put like growers in touch with each other. This could also apply "down under" and in Europe. Also Japan. Who knows, perhaps peace through plants or at least better understanding amongst men.

My seedlings of your double auriculas and double striped are coming along. I have now eight of each. Most annoying having to wait so long to see what one has got. But that is gardening!

By the way, two errors in the membership roster. Dr. G. M. Black of Carlisle, Scotland (Cumbria?). Marjorie Watson of Ayrshire, England? History maybe, but not geography please.

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Seed Exchange
Ross Willingham, chairman, 2248 S. 134th, Seattle, Wash. 98168.

Did you remember?

Members are reminded that in order to get preferential treatment in ordering seeds from the APS exchange, it is suggested they donate seeds to the exchange. The seed list will be issued with the winter quarterly and seeds donated to the exchange should be received by Ross Willingham during October if not before.