The Bird’s-eye Primroses

by Alice Hills Baylor
Stowe, Vermont

The members of the Farinosae group in the genus Primula are called “Bird’s-eye” because the flowers which include brilliant red, pink, lilac, yellow and white have a distinct yellow eye. They are found growing in native habitat in many parts of the Northern hemisphere: Asia, the Falkland Islands, Scotland, England, mountain meadows of Southern Europe, the lowlands of Labrador, British Columbia, the Grand Canyon and along the Great Lakes.

To be without the very early brilliant flowers of *P. rosea var. grandiflora* in spring would be like having a ring without a jewel! The plants in my garden were germinated twenty-three years ago, which proves its hardiness, permanence and longevity. The neat rosette of dark green foliage is small and undeveloped when the flower stem is thrust up four inches and topped with startlingly brilliant carmine flowers in a bunch of from five to seven. This miniature from the Himalayas often flaunts its clear ruby flowers against winter’s white blanket. For that reason it should be planted where they may be seen and appreciated when it may be difficult to venture far into the garden. When several plants of *P. rosea* are massed together the clusters merge completely, hiding the dark pointed foliage. A humus filled pocket in the rock garden, with a northeast or northwest exposure, and filled with *P. rosea* will make an unforgettable picture in early spring.

On a steep slope topped by an apple tree I have a planting of several hundred to make early spring long remembered. The exposure is northwest so they have afternoon sun. There is plenty of underground moisture where they are planted en masse in rich leaf mold soil. *P. rosea* is also used for a border for paths where later blooming primroses take over the color parade and where they have morning sun. The variety *grandiflora* is the largest of the roseas with a fully developed rosette of four to five inches and the flowers are the brightest with fringed edges. It seeds in abundance. *P. rosea* ‘Petite Pink,’ my own introduction, is smaller in all respects. The foliage is dainty being two to three inches long and the flower stem two to three inches high topped by fringed shell pink flowers. *P. kleinii* is a cross between *P. rosea grandiflora* and *P. Clarkii* made by the late Peter Klein. It is dainty and the smallest of the clan and claims the border of blue auriculas where it is greatly admired. The roseas should be divided every two years or the wiry roots will strangle the plant causing the center to deteriorate.

The most familiar members of this group of Primroses have one characteristic with which most of us associate them, heavy farina on the underside of the foliage. (The exception being *P. rosea* and *P. luteola*). This gives the plant a silver lining with the upper leaf green and shining. The best effect from this group is to plant en masse or in drifts. This is easily accomplished as all come readily from seed. By June the roots may be showing through the peat pots into which they had been transplanted and planting outside is facilitated by simply sinking the pots into the prepared beds so the roots are not dis-
turred. The roots of all the Farinosae group are extremely fine and care must be taken in handling. Humus is the most important element for their success. A mulch of stone chips is used to keep the farina coated foliage from being earth splashed in a heavy rain.

*P. farinosa* was first discovered by Clusius in 1583 from the mountains near Vienna and also collected from the Pyrenees and European Alps and is the meadow beauty of Great Britain. The rosette is about five inches across and the scapes four inches high bearing five to ten pink or white flowers. "Moist meadow banks" is the description of its native home which is difficult to duplicate in one’s garden. It is best grown in a raised location with quantities of humus incorporated into the soil and a top dressing of stone chips in a location that is moist or where it can be kept moist.

*P. frondosa* is a beautiful miniature from the Balkan mountain bogs. It is very much like *P. farinosa* except that it is larger in all respects. The foliage is broader but shorter, glabrous above and thickly coated with farina beneath, the flowers are larger and a deeper pink. The winter buds, heavily coated, are formed in autumn. It enjoys a moist soil with good drainage. *P. farinosa* and *frondosa* are perhaps the better known and most widely grown. They are unfortunately not long lived and need to be replenished by seed.

*P. modesta* is a true miniature and from my experience the most satisfactory of the tribe. In 1958 the late Harold Rugg of Dartmouth gave me seed of *P. modesta* that had been sent to him from India. Today there are many plants in my garden that were germinated from that seed. Its native home occurs on the Japanese Islands of Hokkaido, Honshu, and Shikoku growing in alpine and sub-alpine gravel ravines. When the snow melts in early spring I eagerly watch for the winter buds of *P. modesta*, for they appear as wads of white cotton on the gravel top dressing. The foliage quickly unfolds into a rosette three inches across heavily powdered with farina on the underside of the leaves. The three inch scape bears umbels of five to eight half-inch pink flowers with a distinct yellow eye. It is an excellent seed bearer but there is no need to reseed as the plants should be divided every two or three years giving a permanent supply. The flowers last a long time and when the plants are out of bloom it gives a fine appearance to the area in which they are planted.

The variety of *P. modesta farrier alba*, is a conversation piece. It is smaller than the type having only about an inch and a half rosette. The pure white flowers are borne on a one inch stem. I have planted on the edge of a raised bed with the soil at least three fourths leaf mold. This little plant hails from Hokkaido and the Kurile Islands and is perfectly hardy here in Vermont.

*P. scotica* is a sub species from Scotland and the Orkney Islands and a true miniature. Its leaves are shorter and broader than *P. farinosa* and the scape shorter and the umbels of flowers a deeper pink. It is not as amiable as *P. farinosa* and is more difficult to keep as a garden subject. I have heard complaints of seedlings damping off. I believe this is caused by keeping the seedlings in the germinating flat too long. A mild solution of potassium permanganate will prevent this.

*P. danielica* is the most robust of this group of miniature primroses and remains in flower for a much longer period of time. The rosette is five to six inches across, the narrow lanceolate leaves are three to four inches long and heavily coated with white farina beneath. It is a prodigious grower and will exhaust itself with side shoots if not divided every second year. The root system of the majority of the Bird’s-eye Primroses are short so that if left alone will absorb all plant food quickly. Quantities of humus should be worked into the soil when new divisions are planted. This should be done as soon as possible after flowering. However, *P. danielica* continues to bloom from its first opening in April for six to eight weeks so it is often July before I divide the plants. So heavily are the under sides of the leaves coated with white farina, that when dividing, the water in which I wash the roots to separate them is milky white.

*P. mistassinica* may be found along the lime stone ledges of the Great Lakes and I have collected it in the lime stone bluffs of Apple River canyon in Northern Illinois and in the moraine above Lake Williboughby in Vermont. It is a dainty and very small plant with umbels of pink flowers on three inch stems. In Vermont it was growing on a lime stone ledge where water dripped in association with Grass of Parnassus (Parnassus carolinana). I brought a clump from the ledge containing all the roots and some moss. The tiny primrose lived three years and then it disappeared.

*P. laurentiana* is very much like *P. mistassinica* and is found growing in the mountains of Labrador and Nova Scotia.

From China comes two members of the Farinosae group, *P. involucrata* and its near relative *P. yargongensis*. The first has pure white flowers on a six inch stem which is tall for the three to four inch rosette while *P. yargongensis* (syn. *P. wardii*) has lilac flowers. Both demand moisture in a peaty soil. We have had *P. involucrata* for several years at the base of the auricula terrace where the fragrant flowers are greatly appreciated. Because the stems are tall and wiry several plants should be placed close together to give a pleasing effect.

*P. siberica* is similar to the foregoing two and is found in central Asia, Alaska and the Yukon area. I germinated it in 1959 and had a good stand but must confess it lasted only the one blooming season. The flowers are a pale lilac and not nearly as lovely as its near cousin *P. yargongensis*.

*P. Halleri* (syn. *longifolia*) is a much taller plant than those we have been discussing. The scape is eight to ten inches high and the umbels of rose colored flowers is outstanding. (Purple has been mentioned but all I have ever raised were a lovely rose). In 1959 I had a most beautiful stand of *P. Halleri* which I have not been able to duplicate since. The seed I have had does not germinate well and those plants I have brought to maturity have not been as lovely as the 1959 stand. This plant can be distinguished from the related species by the longer corolla tube.

*P. gammifera var. zambalensis* (syn. *chrysopa*) which I germinated in 1958 proved to be a most spectacular Primrose with mauve flower heads held on a ten to twelve inch powdered scape. It unfortunately is not long lived. It was introduced by F. Kingdon Ward from China and may be a splendid garden primrose if one could reseed it every two years. I have not been able to obtain seed since. The name refers to the bulb-like root. It is very similar to *P. compulsa* which is more delicate and graceful. The rosette of *compuls* is tufted and the underleaves, flower stem, and a portion of the corolla are covered with farina. The scape is unusual for a Farinosae as it is two whorled. I have not grown either of these primroses for several years now.

*P. luteola* is the stunning yellow flowered member of this tribe and is a most valuable garden subject. The large rosettes are eight to ten inches across, the leaves are lanceolate,
coarsely dentate, light green with no farina. Above this rosette rises a stout stalk bearing an umbel of from twelve to eighteen fragrant yellow flowers in July. Blooming at this time of the season is certainly a boon and this primrose deserves greater popularity. I have found it in no way difficult and to my knowledge have never lost a plant. P. luteola is multiplied by division after it has been established by seed. The roots are long and stout for a Bird's-eye. Divided in August after it has bloomed and replanted in an extremely rich soil, in bed which is raised above the path four inches for drainage, it thrives year after year. There would certainly be a lull in the garden without P. luteola. It, like P. dariatica, needs dividing or the side shoots will exhaust the plant. It is in the auriculate section of this group due to the lack of farina, as is the truly treasured P. rosea.

The Bird's-eye Primroses give flowers from early spring - soon after the snow melts - into July - when the yellow P. luteola blooms. They have endeared themselves to gardeners. Some are difficult to retain long but can be had by seeding often, others are enduring and only need to be divided to have them remain in the garden. To be without them would be a great loss.

### APS Summer Board Meeting

The summer meeting of the American Primrose Society was called to order by President Herb Dickson, on July 9, 1983 after the Annual Picnic and Plant Auction. The meeting was held at the Chehalis Rare Plant Nursery, Chehalis, Washington.

President Dickson noted the Secretary elect was absent and had not been able to attend the three previous meetings. The position was vacated by the Board and Esther 'Candy' Strickland was voted in as interim Secretary until the next APS election.

The main topic of discussion is still our financial status. President Herb Dickson pointed out that our dues do not pay our Quarterly costs and suggests a budget be set up for Quarterly funds. At the next meeting special attention will be given to increasing the Life Memberships to $200 and adding a Sustaining Membership of $50 per year. In all likelihood, the annual dues will have to be raised in 1984.

Portland, Oregon was suggested by Herb Dickson as the location of the 50th Anniversary of the American Primrose Society National Show to be held in 1991. "Now is the time to get started if we want to have a good showing of species and rare plants".

National membership is slowly building, with the Washington State Chapter leading the pack of new memberships. APS netted over $317 on the annual plant sale and auction.

Candy Strickland, Secretary

### Montana, Home for the Incana

*by* Gary Eichhorn, Missoula, Montana

Larry Bailey, Edmonds, Washington

Driving east on Highway 90 out of Missoula, towards Butte, Montana, Gary Eichhorn was reminding Larry Bailey, the unusual warm winter and spring might have forced the Primula incana into early bloom; if so, this adventure could be for naught. Having planned the trip for some time, Gary was apprehensive, watching the cold, dark clouds stretching and bending around the surrounding mountain peaks. All spring, high temperatures set records throughout the Pacific Northwest and upper Rocky Mountain regions, pushing the native flora into an early season. Now, on the 12th of June, with summer coming into full swing, weather patterns shifted, and cold, damp arctic winds penetrated the upper mainland of the United States.

Curiosity heightened as the ribbon of four vacant lanes of asphalt started its descent into the Deer Lodge Valley, for here was one of the few areas *P. incana* was identified as habitating in recent history.

Deer Lodge Valley, a narrow valley with farms hovering close to the predominant Clark Fork River twisting its way through marshes, is surrounded by reaching mountain ranges. Lacking large trees, the valley gives the appearance of being hostile, allowing howling winds to sweep through without barriers. Surrounding foothills close to the valley are covered with short plains grasses, reminiscent of wild west movies; Indians are expected to ride up over the crest at any moment.

Nearing the destination, the two 'greenhorns' pulled off the highway to fuel up and to obtain last minute directions on possible locations for *P. incana*.

Before venturing into the back country of mid-America, one should understand inhabitants, who live in desolated regions, do so because they get along without people, and 'don't take to strangers.' Asking for a local map is sure to get a response: 'whach you need the map for?' The question...
is returned with a degree of suspicion indicating they feel you are about to steal all native wealth. Taking maps avoids the inevitable, "nope." It also sidesteps trying to describe a primula and why you are out on a raw, windy day looking for a small plant you can’t eat, chew, snort nor smoke.

Gary previously researching P. incana’s locations, was directed to the "Marshes at Warm Springs." We had no idea that the marsh areas and the warm spring were actually located within the compounds of a State Institute for the physically and mentally handicapped. The "Marsh can be seen from the observation platform on the mount created by the warm spring’s alkaline discharge." The observation platform was blocked off, so guessing which direction to take, a small two track, dirt trail was followed behind the campus towards the stream and marsh areas. Found were old bogs drained to allow cattle to graze. After tramping around in a wet, muddy, willow, weed, and thistle infested stream bed, getting cold, then trying to get back to the car before someone happens by to ask what you were doing.

On one excursion down a dead-end road, a large old abandoned 'hotel' appeared on the bare windswept, cold and unprotected rolling landscape. One got the feeling it was a deserted prop for the film 'Giant.' Gary, taking more notice of the threatening dark clouds, icy winds, and desolation of the area, began to indicate that maybe it was too early for the P. incana, and a more suitable time to look for this bird's-eye primrose would be later in the month; more fitting and kindly to both man and plant.

Ready to give up, and getting hungry, roadways that worked themselves back to the town of Deer Lodge were followed where, earlier in the day, the local gas station / grocery store / post office and soda pop distributing center had been spotted.

Although hope was rapidly fading on finding the elusive primula, interest in other flora and fauna of this fascinating area was starting to develop. Side roads darting off here and there to unseen 'destinations' were still inviting. On one of these dead-end, dirt roads a clearing was noticed as if man had not meddled there recently. Spotting a bird skull with an unusually long beak, Gary was busily searching along the roadway for other collectibles, leaving Larry to wallow around in the mud and muck of a somewhat stagnant, smelly stream bank.

Indicating this area was 'special,' Dodecatheon pulchellum was seen for the first time, along with creeping blue flowering phlox. A call and waving of arms attracted Gary, who sauntered over to inspect Larry’s "weeds." Larry, who had spotted a couple of pink dots closer to the water, was wading towards them through ugly wet muck, when Gary, looking over the low bluff from the high side of the embankment, let out a whoop. It seemed the clouds parted and the sun shown on the spots of pink, revealing a small plant of Primula incana in full bloom, peeking out of the marsh grass like a delicate fairy wand. "There it is! There it is! My God, there it is!" was all Gary could say in the initial excitement. Larry, still wallowing in the sticky, white/grey muck, on the low side of the bank, was slowly making his way to the find. By the time he got close to the bird's-eye primrose for a first-hand look, Gary was moving up stream, finding more, (but not many) of the low rosettes growing along the lower bank of the creek bed.

Once the excitement wore off, a closer observation of the environment was made. The most predominant characteristic was the white/grey clay soil appearing along the bank and in the flood plain. It is apparent the soil stays moist along the creek, but bakes hard on the flat areas of the flood plane. Primula incana blooms along this shallow bank in a narrow strip separating the stream bed and higher flood plain. The primula was growing on the north side of the slope — keeping its roots and foliage in shady moist crevices. Blooms extend on a truss, reaching near the top of the bluff, approximately 7 to 8 inches (18 to 20 cm) high, exposed to the bright Montana sun.

P. incana seedlings sprouted, both within the stream bed and on the flood plain. Seedlings exposed to the
baking action of the sun will not survive the summer, indicated by the absence of mature flowering plants in these areas.

Flora in the immediate vicinity included horse-tail ferns (Equisetum), marsh willow, and cat-tails growing close to the water; grasses, thistles, and buttercups surviving the unprotected heat and dryness of the open ground. Later, Gary had samples of the soil analyzed by Montana State University. The resulting report showed the texture of the soil as sandy loam, containing 6.2% organic matter and very high in potassium. The soil is moderately alkaline (pH8) and low in nitrogen and phosphorus.

Inspection of the Primula revealed plants with a rosette of approximately 7 inches (18 cm) across and leaves 4 inches (10 cm) long with their edges serrated on the apical half. Stalks averaging 7 inches (18 cm), holding 3 to 5 pips in full bloom with other buds coming into maturity on the umbel. The flowers were 3/8 inch (1 cm) across, bright pink with a yellow throat. Farina was prevalent on the leaves and the underside was almost white with meal.

After trying to take photographs, crawling on hands and knees in the staining, mucky clay, both Gary and Larry become aware of the wind picking up its chilling penetration; and hunger pains. In the excitement of finding an American primrose, lunch had been forgotten.

Throughout the summer months, Gary stopped by the location to try and collect *Primula incana* seed. The seed pods did not mature until the middle of August, but by that time local insects had also gotten to them. One plant rescued from the baking clay, survived the summer in Edmonds, Washington. Kept under the bench of a greenhouse and well watered; it grew into a mature plant. Moving into the alpine house for winter, the container will be buried in the soil under the bench. Here moisture from beneath is retained, making overhead watering unnecessary.

Plans are made for going back next year to where *Primula incana* was known and search out more locations for this beautiful plant. Investigating in the University of Montana herbarium, Gary noted four areas where *P. incana* had been found: The Marshes at Warm Springs at an elevation of 4814 ft. (1467 m), wet canyons near Anaconda at 5200 ft. (1584m), wet meadows near Monida at 6823 ft. (2079 m), and Marshes, four miles southeast of Townsend at an elevation of 3300 ft. (1006 m). Specimens collected for the University are quite dated, making it uncertain whether the species still survive in locations close to human settlements. Of special interest were the specimens collected from the Anaconda canyons - 3 to 4 times the size of those at the other locations.

Reviewing articles of enthusiasts who found this primula in its native habitat, (Dr. R. M. Bond, Volume 8, No. 4 - April 1951) key elements of its natural environment appears to be the white alkaline clay soil. Plants grow along the small protected bluffs between stream beds and the flood plain. Duplication of these natural conditions are not found in primula gardens; probably the reason for its lack of continuing success in cultivation.

As more interest in native plants grows, hopefully more information can be collected on the growing of these American primulas. Work must be done on collecting additional information on the growing conditions of primulas in the native habitat and controlled garden conditions. With the rapid intrusion of drainage and irrigation projects into remote areas, *Primula incana* will no longer have a place to call home.

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**EASTSIDE PRIMULA SOCIETY**

April 14, 15, 16

Totem Lake Mall

Kirkland, Washington

Chairman: Charlotte Noble

**Best in Division**

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The Gold Lace Revival

by Florence Bellis

Lincoln City, Oregon

Mr. Bernard M. Smith's piece on Gold Laced Fives and Sixes in the 1931 Year Book stirred some long banked embers. His statement that "all our modern strains come from a common source in that they all carry Barnhaven blood" warmed me into believing that the story of today's Gold Lace revival and a light tracing of Gold Lace beginnings might be of interest. At the same time I would be doing something I have long wanted to do: acknowledge on his home ground my debt to that wonderful gardening gentleman, the late Mr. R. H. Briggs of Rawtenstall.

Our friendship began in the early forties, he as reader-contribution and I as editor of the American Primrose Society Quarterly. He lived in the heart of traditional Gold Lace country where the rage of laced Polyanthus peaked around mid-nineteenth century, then collapsed for three or four decades. Toward the end of the century enthusiasm revived and continued into the twentieth but declined again. First it was the torrent of excitingly beautiful ornamentals that plant hunting expeditions began to pour in from the Far East; then the first World War. By the second World War only a few nurseries still grew what remained of the named Laces.

I know that one of these nurseries was bombarded and that the owner armed himself with a hand basket and combed the surrounding area for plants or any piece with a root on it. He either shared the plants with Mr. Briggs or nursed them back to fertility and shared the seed. Though the seed could not reproduce the named varieties it did carry many of their characteristics.

Mr. Briggs then shared his seed with me in 1945 which allowed me to list plants for the first time in the 1948 Barnhaven catalog: "GOLD LACE-These are descendants of the very old, traditional Polyanthus and are perfect companions in mood to the old Hose-in-hose in the garden or in corsages. Not bred for size but for the gold lacing which outlines each petal and for the densusness of their rich brown or mahogany color." Seed was listed as sold out until July 1st which meant that the current spring's pollination was needed for an adequate supply.

This would have been the second selection and pollination since receiving Mr. Briggs' gift. By 1949 I was able to offer, in addition to plants and seeds, transplanted seedlings: "GOLD LACE-From plants of near-perfect form, circular eye, mahogany ground, petal edges evenly laced with gold. Always small flowering. From traditional Show Polyanthus imported seed, flowered and hand-pollinated here."

Every catalog from then on listed Gold Lace. And every year the fine points as laid down by the 19th century perfectionists were noted and used to advance the strain. And as of old it was the men who fell hopelessly in love with them at first sight. The women growers who were keen on them early in the American Gold Lace rush were in the minority. But how the others loved to wear them bunched, after the fashion of an elite florist in Portland (Oregon), bunched and tied with gold-colored satin ribbon to match the lacing.

I am also grateful to Mr. Smith for his correspondence which brought to my attention the six-petalled floret of the early days. Until he did I was completely unaware of their existence. I am sure they must have occurred now and then but escaped me and my pollinators in the spring push of a large commercial operation. Though I was well qualified to work out the first judging score for Garden Polyanthus, I knew my place when it came to scoring Gold Lace. So I fell back on George Glenny's rules, probably sent me by Dan Bamford, and it was on Glenny's six-point score that all Gold Lace were originally judged at the American Primrose Society shows. Here it is in skeletal outline from his PROPERTIES OF FLOWERS (about 1835):

- Stem, ½ point; compact, symmetrical umbel, ½ point; truss not less than five wide-expanded flowers, 1 point; center pure and uniform with that on the edges, 1½ points; lacing thinly and evenly laid on round each segment, cutting down to the center, 1½ points; and ground color red or black, unshaded and dense, 1 point.

However, no mention was made in this set of rules about the number of petals in the pip and since I had never noticed more than the normal five, there was no way of knowing that an abnormal six had been the epitome of perfection. I had Thomas Hogg's TREATISE, published in 1822, but the stylized truss of five-six-cleft florets illustrated on page 178 went uncounted until a few months ago. No mention was made in this text or in his 1835 SUPPLEMENT of the pre-fertilized or required number of petals. Evidently the six-cleft was then "so commonly known that it needeth no description," the sentence with which early herbalists so often tantalized us about other plants.

I next studied the photographs Dan Bamford had sent me and noticed that Beeswing had one six-petalled pip in each of its four umbels, but that Tiny's two umbels had no sixes. Since Mr. Smith mentions another photograph of Tiny having "an odd six-petalled pip here and there" I am convinced that today's Gold Lace carry a tendency, an inherent wish, to struggle back to their six-petalled ancestors of how many years before 1822?

Mr. J. M. Barlow will always have my most grateful thanks for making a trip this January from Leigh-on-Sea to the Lindley Library at the R. H. S. in London to research a sentence for me. My question was, Had I written the sentence or had Glenny? Mr. Barlow's report and photocopy from his own volume, THE CULTURE OF FLOWERS & PLANTS published 1860, relieved Mr. Glenny of all responsibility. Evidently his later writings became more detailed: "Beyond these circles there is a yellow lacing, which should reach round every flower-leaf to the yellow eye, and down the centre of every petal to the eye, and so much like the edging that the flower should appear to have twelve similar petals. The ends of these twelve should be...etc."

Four weeks ago I saw my first six-petalled Laces. I laughed into the cold March sea wind as I thought how strange it is that our eye catches spontaneously what is in the back of our mind. I was casually passing a bed of Gold and Silver Lace when four plants leaped out at me - two silver and two gold - because I sensed something different about them. The florets were fuller yet perfectly flat, symmetrical wheels precisely laced and round eyed. One Silver Lace had two sixes in each umbel, the others one. One plant had a small umbel growing out of the normal truss; another, when emasculated for pollination,
showed a flattened style and stigma, additional signs of a tendency to mutate.

And so, for the first time in almost forty springs of cross-pollinating the Laces, I am trying my hand at coaxing more six-petalled pips back into existence. Long ago I learned that the primula family goes out of its way to fulfill the hybridizer’s dreams of form and color no matter how extravagant. Yet I never pollinate the Laces without a feeling of awe for what must have taken so many, many years of patient determination to evolve the most sophisticated of all polyanthus from unassuming field and garden flowers. Did the elaborate design unfold a step at a time capturing the imagination and the selective eye? And how many generations were needed to bring them to a draftsman’s precise perfection? Selection and natural pollination must have been the method used in the 18th century since roguing was still the practice in the late 19th, continuing into the 20th.

These questions sent me to my notes compiled from the R.H.S. Journals. (Before launching the first Quarterly of the American Primrose Society I copied everything recorded about the primula family in the complete set of Journals at the Oregon State University library.) Volume 49 (1924) carries a fifteen-page article by Miller Christy, F.L.S., THE GARDEN POLYANTHUS: ITS ORIGIN AND HISTORY. His first task was to establish the approximate time when polyanthus, as we understand the term, began to appear. He searched the works of the 16th and early 17th century writers and found nothing to substantiate the belief that the polyanthus was “one of those plants which have, from time immemorial, been favorites in gardens.” (THE PENNY CYCLOPEDIA, 1840.) But he did find what he believed to be descriptions of their earliest beginnings in John Rea’s FLORA (1665) and Randle Holme’s ACADEMY OF ARMORY (1688).

By that time the colored primroses brought back from the Levant on the ships of the first Elizabeth had long established themselves in English gardens. Rea said, “We have now other kinds of Primroses and Oxslips that bear diversities of red flowers which are more esteemed than those of our own country.” He describes these various new sorts, “The red Primrose is of a newer date, more beauty, and greater variety than the older sort... there being almost twenty diversities of reds, some deeper and others lighter, from blond-red to pale-pink colour, some are of a blewsh rose colour, sader and paler...” He then mentions, “The red Cowslip or Oxslip is also of several sorts, all of them bearing many flowers on one stalk, in a fashion like those of the field, but of several red colours; some deeper, others lighter; some bigger, like Oxlips, others smaller, like Cowslips. Of some of these sorts a multitude have been and are yearly raised from seeds, still sowed in hope of gaining new varieties.”

We know that the Vernales is a sporting group and that also, if given the opportunity, delights in crossing over the species line with close relatives to produce all sorts of variant offspring. Holme mentions a “double Cowslip, of a purple colour” and a “fine orange colour towards the bottom, edged with cinnamon colour, and red on the outside; some the like with scarlet.” And “The Oxlip Cowslip is like those of the field, but of several red colours, some deeper, others lighter, some bigger, others smaller.”

So it seems that by the late 17th century the polyanthus had begun its flight. Mr. Christy says that “at the beginning of the 18th century, the Polyanthus was comparatively new in cultivation and was still largely undeveloped and little known” but that a “Polyanthus ‘bloom’ had already begun and raged for at least half a century.” In 1731 Philip Miller described it as “Primula veris hortentis umbellata cafe et folio folioso, cocineo majore: Garden Primrose or Polyanthus with large red flower.” In 1759 Miller speaks of the various sorts of Polyanthus “which have been so much improved within the last 50 years as to almost equal the variety of the Auriculas; and, in some parts of England, they are so much esteemed as to sell for a guinea a root; so that there may be still a much greater variety raised, as there are so many persons engaged in the culture of this flower.”

Mr. Christy further says that not until printing had been perfected to reproduce colour was it possible to get a clear idea of the appearance of these early forms of Polyanthus, and that probably the earliest colour representations of the plant appeared in 1734 (THE FLOWER GARDEN DISPLAYED). He considered the illustrations extremely poor with regard to colour, but we have now other forms and popular as Rose and Chrysanthemum Shows are today and at them amateur growers competed very keenly for prizes.

It was then that growers began naming their plants, Nicholson’s “Tantara” selling in 1804 for 10s. 6d. And of course points, or “properties to which it was considered the flower should conform strictly for show purposes,” were set forth by J. C. Loudon, Thomas Hogg, George Glenny (and others) in books prolonged by supplements and editions. Mr. Christy says that “The fullest statement as to these is that given by Glenny in PROPERTIES OF FLOWERS (1859), but this need not be set forth here, as the points are of no interest nowadays.” That was in 1924. Doubtless these are the same rules Mr. Barlow photocopied for me from Glenny’s 1860 THE CULTURE OF FLOWERS & PLANTS.

In this work Glenny still refers to the Gold Lace simply as “The Polyanthus” because at that time it was
The only polyanthus other than the named curious forms. No distinction was necessary until the 1880s when Gertrude Jekyll was resolutely developing her Munstead strain of "bunch-flowered primroses," our first Garden Polyanthuses. The earliest reference I can find to Gold Lace, as such, is in 1886 at the Primula Conference Exhibition (R.H.S.) when Mr. Douglas (James, probably) was awarded the first prize in a class for "Six Polyanthus, gold-laced." These were, of course, named varieties, one being Barlow's 'John Bright.' There were two additional classes: one for "Three gold-laced Polyanthus"; the other for "Single Specimen, gold-laced Polyanthus."

So it would seem that for some two hundred and fifty years the fancy for Gold Laced Polyanthus has come in waves, the crest and the trough. Miss Jekyll's A GARDENER'S TESTAMENT tells us that florist's flowers were, of course, named varieties, one being Barlow's 'John Bright.' There were two additional classes: one for "Three gold-laced Polyanthus"; the other for "Single Specimen, gold-laced Polyanthus."

There has for many years been too many people chasing the few plants of the older double primroses. The rumored "charmed circle" of growers is really non-existent. Once a variety has been rediscovered in a garden, it has not been difficult to obtain a plant when the grower has one to spare. Indeed, it is this willingness to share that has led to over propagation. In my own case, I have had to rest the older varieties this year to rejuvenate them.

New fanciers joining the happy band of double primrose growers do not always understand what is involved. Doubles do not increase fast and a variety can only be increased by divisions. Novice growers read a few books and catalogues (mostly out of date) and then assay growers of long standing reputation with long lists of wanted varieties; many of which probably have not existed for some years now. Double Primroses did not suddenly disappear in the 1950's. The best Doubles have originated since the 1940's, with the best, then as now, coming from America.

For several years I have intensively studied, widely advertised in various papers in the United Kingdom and Ireland; also written hundreds of letters in an effort to find the 'true' old doubles. Often after much time and expense a plant is received, only to find it not the genuine article, or, in a couple of instances the variety was of too poor quality to justify keeping. To-date I have about a dozen of the old doubles with a few more promised. It has been an interesting, but frustrating and expensive venture; perhaps the greatest gain being the friendly contacts I have made along the way. There are probably a few more old varieties in remote gardens to be discovered but I feel certain that the long lists given by some writers no longer exist. To date, the following has been acquired:

- Old Irish Sulphur - more or less the wild English Primrose double.
- Bon Accord Purple.
- Bon Accord Gem - Rose Red, shaded with mauve.
- Marie Crousse - Parma Violet - Splashed + Edge white.
- Old Ivory Cream - Almost Ivory White, attractively petalled.
- Our Pat - Sapphire Blue - Olive Green Foliage, veined crimson.
- Quaker Bonnets - Pure Lilac Mauve.
- Alba Plena.
- Red Paddy - Rosy Red, Laced with Silver.
- Chevithorne Pink - Orchid Pink.
- Crimson King - the old Scots Double red.
- Double Green.
- Pride of Erin - a snow white double bred by a titled Irish Lady and never named by her. I call it Pride of Erin to avoid confusion with other whites. When in bud it shows a beautiful faint pink blush, but when grown alongside Alba Plena one can see that Pride of Erin is the whiter. I know of only one other person who owns it, this being the lady who was given it by the originator. Thus it is quite rare.

There is an increasing number of people joining the search for the older varieties, which is good from the historical point of view. With few exceptions (one being the true Marie...
Thoughts From The U.K. on Double Primroses

by Bernard M. Smith
Gravesend, Kent, England

The early florists, fore-runners of the so-called Old Florists, knew of the double primrose but it is doubtful if they ever raised one from seed, relying instead on sports found in the wild and mainly of various shades of yellow with occasional white or cream forms.

The old florists knew the art of cross pollination and gave us the best of the old named sorts many of which are still with us today, although some are difficult to obtain as the serious collectors do not part easily with them for fear of their being lost to cultivation. The men who left us this heritage, people like Murray Thompson, the Rev. Murdock, the Rev. McMurtie and William Chalmers left us treasures which were nearly lost as were most of the old primulas.

As Mr. Roy Genders aptly puts it in his book 'Primroses,' "During more recent years, the awakening of a new interest in the double primrose has been primarily due to a few specialist growers who have spent long hours in tracking down those old varieties, so many of which have almost become extinct in post war years. Amongst these enthusiasts must be numbered the late William Chalmers and his son David, the Daisy Hill Nurseries of Newry, Major H.C. Taylor of Bridgenorth, Mrs. Emmerson of Co. Down, Mrs. Reef of Great Yarmouth, Mrs. Fish of South Petherton, Mr. T. E. Townsend of Mansfield and the Charnpengow Nursery of Velerton. Without their endeavours the double primrose would certainly have disappeared from our gardens." These dedicated people came just before today's modern florists, but alas, with the passing of most of them the rot set in again and many old sorts are gone, this time forever. No more will growers thrill to see Madame Pompadour or Rose du Barry in bloom so one can understand the reluctance of modern collectors to part with some of the old varieties. Fortunately a strain of modern primroses easily raised from seed was developed by Mrs. Florence Bellis of Oregon in the early 1960's and today Barnhaven (Kendal, England) sells the seed which can be counted upon to produce a fair number of good doubles. Goodwinds of Tasmania also produced a strain of double polyanthus which is first rate. Now that the technique is available, many modern florists are breeding their own strains and taking prizes at the National Shows.

With the spread of the 'concrete jungle' and more and more of our woods being destroyed, wild primroses, *P. vulgaris* syn *P. acaulis*, are becoming scarce in many areas but even so in secluded woods there is still the odd double to be found now and then. Mr. Roy Genders writes of how he found double primroses growing wild at Great Evenden near Cambridge, whilst in 1957 Country Life Magazine carried a photograph of double white primroses found in a wood in Kent. A good double yellow was found in a wood in Shropshire about 1969 and gave its double genes to the Barnhaven strain before disappearing from the pollinating shed.
The new Bressingham catalogue offers 'Sue Jervis' another fine double found in a wood and named after the finders niece. It is a fine pink and full double.

So the wild doubles are still about! So should you chance to walk through an English wood in the spring, keep an eye open but beware, primroses are now protected by law. Who knows, we may even be able to leave some to the next generation.

N.A.P.S. Northern

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Top Winning Cultivars

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Also of note: Penlan Double Jack-in-the-Green; Hose-in-Hose x Double G. L. P.; Double Gold Laced Polyanthus; Alba Plena sporting Lilacena Plena; Hose-in-Hose x Double; Laurels Flower of Spring; Laurels Dreamgirl; Laurels Cleopatra; Hadrian's Sunset; Hadrian's Ame- thys; Red Paddy; Our Pat; P. juliae x Double (Rosetta Jones' seed); Laurels Joy; Laurels Silver Rose; Noels's Double.

So rather than concentrate on bug identification, it seems to me it would be more profitable to concentrate on damage control or prevention. But before you spray everything in sight, consider whether you are going to eat the plant or just look at it. There are no systemic insecticides registered for use by homeowners on edible crops.

ORTHENE, METASYSTOX-R, DYSISTON and DYSISTOX are all systemic insecticides. Most will be found in combination of ingredient products like ISOTOX (an Ortho Product), Houseplant systemic, and K-Mart or Fred Meyer house brand of all purpose ornamental spray. There are others available, too.

On plants you are going to eat use DIAZANON, MALATHION, METHOXYCHLOR, THIODAN (ENDOSULFAN) or PYRETHRUM. Also, Bacillus Thuriengensis (a bacteria specifically-sort of-for caterpillars) works well when the larvae are small. Brand names or common names are BACILLUS THURIENGENSIS, B.T., DIPEL and THURICIDE.

Many cutworms and other bad guys overwinter in the lawn, garden cover crops or garden refuse not tilled in and in patches of weeds along fences, alleys and elsewhere. Spraying as recommended for European crane-fly should give some measure of control. DIBROM (an Ortho Product) is good for general insect cleanup in lawn and weed areas.

Test any of these products on one or on a portion of one of your plants before dousing a whole row of show auriculas or other primroses to see if it
damage the plant in any way. Phytotoxicity (chemical damage) should show up quickly but wait for a few days to be sure.

Since many of the bad guys are night flying moths (day time too for others) you may want to try one of the electric light traps. They do work. BUT - they may also increase damage by attracting moths from surrounding acreage!

In addition to or instead of chemical cals, you may try handpicking at night by using a flashlight. Anytime after sunset is fine.

And as simple as it sounds, if you find any cutworms while doing other garden chores, smush 'em!

Editor's note: this article was first published in the October 1983 'Newsletter' of the Washington State Primrose Chapter of the APS; Irene Buckles Editor.

The APS Open Door

Some members may recall the WISH CORNER, first published in the APS Quarterly for Spring 1973. It's purpose was to aid members in finding specific primrose seed and plants. Many friendships developed through this column.

It is my fondest wish to resurrect this service and to be its new coordinator/communicator. I propose it be named THE APS OPEN DOOR, as I see it opening the doors of communication among us in a most personal way. The APS Open Door will enable isolated members of APS to obtain seeds, plants and related items presently enjoyed by members of APS affiliated Chapters. At chapter meetings plants, seeds, whatever are routinely traded between interested parties. Quite naturally a certain comradesy also develops among these swappers of things primula.

The service will work this way: in each Quarterly will be a notice similar to a paid ad called The APS Open Door. The ad will briefly describe the service and list the name and address of the coordinator.

You and I will do everything else. Those who have will write and tell me what you have. Those who want shall write and tell me what you want. I shall attempt to match the wants with the haves. Then you deal with each other through the mails to your mutual satisfaction. Perhaps in picking up a plant you may pick up a pen pal for life. Wonderful!

Initial correspondence through me should be limited to the genus primula or at least to primroses and their companion plants within the family primulacae.

Professionals are asked to send seed lists or catalogs of plants, seeds, books and other supplies.

All correspondents are asked to send a small donation of $1.00 to help defray APS mailing expenses. More or less is OK but remember that while the coordinator will work out of love of primroses, professionals might ask for postage, stationery, photocopies and other services. If surplus funds accrue it will be given to the National APS Treasurer to aid an ailing APS budget.

The door is open, please write to:
Harriet Garney
42 Water Street
Fairfield, Maine 04937
phone (207) 453-2313

From the mailbox

After four years I felt it was time to leave the office which APS members have several times chosen me to occupy. Persons with other interests and perspectives are essential to the well being of our society and the matters which changes force us to consider should be considered a benefit and not a burden.

I would like to express a few brief words of thanks for the confidence that you have placed in me in the past, for the help that has so generously been given, and to express my pleasure in the resulting friendships I have made.

First thanks must go to the late Helen Clarke who initially asked me to assume office; one of my greatest memories will always be of a delightful afternoon spent with Fred and Helen in their lovely garden when the Erythroniums were in bloom. Such people as the Clarkes are a mainstay of our society and to them we owe endless gratitude.

Anita Alexander was the first president I served under and it was always a pleasure to correspond and cooperate with this capable and well-organized lady on behalf of the society. Needless to say Herb and Dorothy Dickson have always played an important role in aiding my efforts and Ann Lunn has been a tireless and delightful correspondent from whom I derived great pleasure and assistance. My very best to Ann, Cy Happy was the first busy editor I worked with and from whom I learned of the great complexities of producing a Quarterly. With Larry Bailey I have had the pleasure of participating in a truly impressive renaissance in careful recordkeeping and organization. Few people will ever know the extent to which Larry's efforts have aided this society and of the skills which he has so willingly shared with us. I would be remiss not to thank Mary Speers, Jim Menzies, Ross and Helen Willingham as well as many others and I must also mention with gratitude the correspondents I have gained through our membership here and abroad. Special thanks must also go to several East Coast friends and members such as Jon Gende, Mary Ann Gehan, and Susan Miller who have helped with our record keeping efforts.

This is also the time to look ahead and consider what must be done if we are to remain as a viable society. The mechanisms are now in place for us to progress; they are very fragile and have been gained only at great effort and expense and we now have the ability to accurately record our membership and have a superb Quarterly that has already won respect for us in the horticultural community and will with continued support gain for us the increased membership essential for our survival. It is imperative that we maintain the efforts we are now making and make a redoubled effort to attract advertising revenues and an increase in membership. It is essential that we convince potential advertisers that we are an expanding market and not a declining parochial society. The needed revenues cannot be derived from memberships alone; we must supplement our income from other sources which if effective should in turn stimulate an increased interest in Primulas and provide additional members. The choice is ours; we can rest for a moment on our laurels and watch everything quickly disappear or we can make an effort to give the greatest thanks possible to those I have mentioned earlier by insuring our healthy continuation by renewed efforts to seek new sources of revenue and an ever increasing membership. Practical interaction and cooperation with other organizations such as the American Rock Garden Society and the Rhododendron Society are but two of many potentials. I have not always been able to do as much as I have wished to benefit the society; we each bring a particular interest to our offices; mine was (with the help of Larry Bailey) to develop an orderly way of handling subscriptions and to get our membership records into a more professional system. I ask that you give your wholehearted support to my successor, Brian Skidmore. Many thanks and best wishes to you all.

G. K. Wenderson, Great Hill, South Acworth, NH 03607
I hasten to say that I am not an expert on primroses nor indeed do I grow many. I have ‘Guinivere’ and ‘Our Pat’ and hope to get a few more later.

As far as the Garryard race is concerned my own research has failed to turn up much new information. However, I have ascertained some facts which appear to contradict what Cecil Monson wrote and was published in your journal a few years ago.

What I have found is that J. Whiteside Dane did not live at Garryard until 1910. Thus it is a little unlikely that ‘Appleblossom’ arose before that, although of course it could have. What is perhaps more interesting is that Dane received plants from Glasnevin Botanic Gardens (including some assorted primulas) in May 1919. This is the only record of contact between Glasnevin and Garryard. In the following year 1920, plants of a primula called ‘Dane’s Primrose’ were sent from Glasnevin to another garden in Ireland. This was probably ‘Appleblossom’. No other record of this primrose appears in our donations books.

If we add the date of the distribution of ‘Dane’s Primrose’ to the date of Dane’s move to Garryard, we would have to conclude that ‘Appleblossom’ arose after 1910.

What is also to be noted is that I can find no reference to Appleblossom or Garryard primrose in horticultural journals prior to about 1930 – in fact there are very few references to these plants anywhere. This is puzzling, but suggests a late date for ‘Appleblossom’ perhaps agreeing with the ‘julian’ hybrid hypothesis.

This is all very tentative and I know we have Monson account. My opinion is that ‘Appleblossom’ arose after 1910 and that the Glasnevin distribution in 1920 is the earliest record of it so far found. Had this beautiful plant been around before 1920 it would certainly have been mentioned in Irish horticultural magazines before 1922 (when most ceased publication) and also in journals like Gardeners’ Chronicles and Gardening Illustrated.

I have tried contacting the Monson family. I sent a letter to a J. Monson listed in our telephone directory in Dromahair which is the last address of Cecil Monson, but although I sent a stamped envelope for reply I have received nothing. This is sad as I had hoped some titbits of information or letters might survive.

The legends about Ireland’s derelict gardens stuffed full of old primroses are only legends. Many of the old varieties have vanished, although ‘Guinivere’ is still about as are ‘Kinlough Beauty’ and ‘Lady Greer’. We have a few enthusiasts at present, and get occasional requests for help, but we rarely can do more than say the story is untrue.

I wish we could ascertain the true history of the Garryards. I have given my opinions for what they are worth. Perhaps someone in the USA who corresponded with Cecil Monson has still contacts with his family who might receive a more helpful reply.

Charles Nelson, National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, Dublin 9, Ireland

I have been corresponding with Bernard Smith of Gravesend, Kent, a fellow member of the APS for some considerable time and whilst on holiday I discovered that we were relatively close to “Windways” so I decided to telephone him and arranged to call. Naturally enough Bernard was anxious that we should come along and my wife and daughter also came along.

We arrived about 2:30 p.m. to be met by Bernard and were joined shortly afterwards by his wife Audrey who had been visiting her 94 year old father. “Windways” is a two bedroomed bungalow on a plot of approximately 35 x 20 m. It contains the most wonderful display of varied plants and trees that one can imagine.

After tea in the lounge where two twenty year old palms grown from dates sent over from California thrive with other house plants, a stroll round the garden followed.

Bernard pointed out the two passion flowers and two clematis which cover the front wall. Nearby were two light pink and two dark pink moss roses growing with fuchsias, carnations and laced pinks. A bed of primroses grew under a Magnolia alba, nearby a variegated dogwood, a flowering currant, a crab apple grown from seed, a red weigela and two laurels and many rose trees. The side wall was partly clad by various cotoneasters, a Kermia japonica and a winter jasmine. There is a hedge of lilacs, laburnum, mountain ash, pyracantha, yew and many more roses.

In the back garden an 8’ x 6’ greenhouse held cucumbers, tomatoes, peppers, orchids and various strains of seedling primroses. Two frames nearby each held 60 silver lace polyanthus whilst other primroses were under shaded covers. Double auriculas in pots stood in all the vacant spaces. A small patio held a vine in a tub, two oleanders (souvenirs of a Spanish holiday) were in pots. The beds along the back lawn held an apricot, two peaches, and a fig (all from seed), three apples, forsythias, ceanothus, two rhododendrons, a clump of bamboo,logan and young berries, runner beans and many more gardens and plants.

It only goes to show how diversity can be obtained successfully on a relatively small plot designed to give the utmost interest throughout the year. Dedication and devotion, a love of all plants and especially a deep and enviable knowledge and understanding of the successful cultivation of primroses and polyanthus. It is knowledge only too willingly shared and it is a love, believe me; who could find time for guidance will surely not be disappointed when they meet Bernard Smith and talk of primroses.

Needless to say his generosity abounds and we came away with many gifts of seeds, seedling polyanthus and memories of a wonderful garden and hosts long to be remembered.

Malcolm Birkett, “Brecklands” Graiselound Fields, Hazey, Nr. Doncaster, South Yorks. DN9 2LN England
This spring, the most heartening point with my own seedlings has been the fact that one or two crosses have produced a quite high proportion of plants which have been, to some extent, striped. Vastly different from ten years ago! One particular cross, in fact (Rover Stripe x Ormonde Stripe) gave around 75% of striped plants although obviously, only a few were worth keeping. Rover x Raglan Stripe yielded one or two promising plants, too. The disappointment was in the attempt to produce a Stripe with a definite yellow ground; some years ago, a cross was made with Spring Meadows but every generation so far has given just rubbish. This year, one small plant did crop up resembling Spring Meadows but with faint stripes of white farina. This is not what I was aiming for but it was crossed with one of the other Stripes without, I must admit, any great hopes attached.

It does seem as if any attempt to introduce a non-striped plant into the breeding results in several generations producing little result. At the same time, it is necessary to try to introduce new 'blood'. My major waste of time in the past was bringing in the pollen of a 'striped' Alpine, Paso Doble, which cropped up, as something of a novelty, at one of the Northern Shows. The object of this cross was to try to create the colouring of the long-extinct variety, Glory of Chilton, a watercolour of which is well known, with brown and yellow stripes. No striped pips of any kind emerged but it would perhaps be a little unkind to describe the exercise as a waste of time as one quite good Alpine (although it would not, perhaps please the judges) and some very eye-catching Borders (REAL Borders, not second-rate Alpines of Selfs) resulted.

In spite of the foregoing, I have used in several crosses in 1983, the pollen of an auricula given to me by a well-known Lancashire grower. This was a pinkish Self, of just about exhibition quality, which had a tendency to striping. It cropped up in a bunch of seedlings, parentage unknown. It will probably be a long haul to achieve anything but it should be worth the effort.

Just a word about the names of the Stripes. Bestowal of a name does not indicate unsurpassable quality - rather it sticks in my memory better than the numbers I used formerly. Secondly, some of the names must seem rather odd. They reflect my interest in a pursuit even more odd than auriculas - the collecting, restoring and subsequent riding of Edwardian bicycles.

Allan Hawkes, Hazel Dene, Spinney Lane, Rabley Heath, Welwyn, Hertfordshire, AL6 9TF

England
On May 28th I was felled by a heart problem with other complications. After a considerable hospital stay am home trying to sort things out, answer mail, etc.

Some "kind" person completely organized my den-office combo - as well as a good clean! I cannot find some things - an article ready for you and two ready for England! If they don't come to light soon will have to start over. I do need to keep from being upset by this type of incident.

I have just made a tour of the garden. Lawn ¼ acre, kitchen garden 100' x 100', flowers nil this year! Such a cold summer. Last year we had ripe tomatoes and melons at this time, this year just setting on! We have had only 3 warm days this year and much wind. I can believe sleeping here with 3 blankets and wearing a sweater in July!

John Zanini, 10578 Devonshire Circle, Penn Valley, CA 95946

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Seed Exchange
Richard L. Critz, chairman, 1236 Wendover Ave., Rosemont, PA 19010

Did you remember?

The cut-off date for receiving seed in the Exchange is November 25. Chairman Critz asks that all seed be cleaned and chaffed, and no chemicals (insecticide/fungicide) of any kind be used on contributed seed. To date sufficient amounts of candelabras, vernales and garden auriculas have been donated. The exchange would especially like to have seed of American natives and small alpines in the farinosa and auricula sections, i.e. parryi, incana, mistassinica, marginata, glutinosa, etc.