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From a member who has been with the Society long enough to find that Primulas are answering a distinct need for him, yet not long enough to feel at ease among what seems to be a confusing welter of names and species, has come the request for simplification, at least as far as cultivated types are concerned for the benefit of those in a similar position. The subject cleared considerably for him when it was pointed out that all these cultivated species and hybrids actually simmered down to approximately a half dozen sections, or groups, requiring fairly similar cultural needs; and that each section was comprised of Primulas so closely related in appearance, as well as other aspects that, broadly speaking for the beginner and not in any botanical sense, members of each group could be loosely considered as variants of one type.

At the risk of becoming involved, clarification of an often repeated question which is related to the above may well be attempted before continuing with an analysis of these few sections. This question is, what is a species, a hybrid, a variety. The particular plant family known as the genus Primula contains well over six hundred closely related, bona fide members which, because of various distinct characteristics, are classified as species and given specific names (i.e. Primula dentliculata, Primula being the family, or generic name and denticulata being the species, or specific name, just as we bear a family and a given name for purposes of identification). To be classed as a species, a plant must be endemic to a specific location or country and reproduce itself from seed without material variation. A hybrid may be defined as a plant resulting from the union, or cross-pollination—either naturally in native habitat or garden, or by artificial means—of two or more species, the seed of which generally produces plants of wide variation. Occasionally a species varies in color, form of flower or leaf, size, or some other characteristic of sufficient significance to mention but insufficient to be classified as another species, and these are given a varietal, or descriptive, name which follows the specific name as a middle name follows the given one (i.e. Primula dentificulata alba and P. pulverulenta var. Bartley Strain). These variations may appear naturally in species of especially wide geographical or altitudinal range, or in plants removed from the wild state to the changed conditions of the garden, or in those purposely selected for variations as in the case of the Bartley Strain of P. pulverulenta which, as everyone knows, is a pink form of the red species. The innumerable varieties of P. Sieboldi is another example. Natural varieties of species usually come
fairly true from seed. These true, or specific, varieties should be differentiated from the hybrid varieties which, if correctly written, should always be indicated as cross-breds by the use of the x, as P. x Juliana Wanda.

Because the genus Primula contains so many widely diversified species, varieties and uncounted legions of hybrids, botanists have made sectional groupings based upon exceptionally close natural relationships. The number of sections into which the genus is divided is a matter to be approached with some nervousness. In the last few years Professor Sir William Wright Smith and Dr. H. R. Fletcher of Edinburgh have been revising the genus, a revision of the revision accomplished in 1928 by Professor Smith and George Forrest. The 1928 arrangement totaled thirty-two sections, the present arrangement seems to be comprised of thirty while Professor Walter C. Blasdale in his Cultivated Species of Primula states that Professor Smith has shown why the number of sections should be increased to thirty-four, which may indicate that the list at hand is incomplete. If any of the more advanced members of the Society who requested the full list of sections are still with me, the sections as published in volume 4, No. 4, April, 1947, page 49 of the Quarterly correspond with the one at hand with two exceptions: Verticillata appears to have been changed to Floribundae, and Magaseaefolia is deleted, the species for which the section was named no longer being incorporated into the Vernales section.

Since the majority of the sections are not in general cultivation, and perhaps never will be, the original subject of the few which are is resumed.

Everyone knows the Vernales group, perhaps not by that name, but the Polyanthus, Acaulis, Doubles and old forms, the Juliana hybrids, the miniature Acaulis and Polyanthus, Cowslips, Primroses (used here in its true meaning, the species native to England) are all members of the Vernales section, so named because they belong to the spring with all the vernal freshness of that season. All the species of the Vernales section are native to Europe and Asia Minor and the wide geographical distribution has produced varieties that vary so widely to be classified as varieties and not widely enough for species, so that an intermediate classification under the term sub-species has been given many of the Cowslips, Oxlips and Primroses.

Practically all the Vernales section in popular cultivation, however, are hybrids. Polyanthus began as a hybrid between the English Cowslip and English Primrose and was cultivated for its various hybrid forms (though very limited as we know it today) during the 17th century. Cowslips and Primroses are predominately yellow but with occasional color variations. About the middle of that century the “Turkey Primrose” from the Levant, Caucasus and as far east as northern Iran, came to England via France with its many-colored forms including rose to crimson shades, lilac to purple, and white, and these plants combined with the English Cowslip and Primrose to give the Polyanthus one of the widest color ranges of any flower. For those interested in the nomenclature of this vari-colored Primrose from the Levant which has been known under many different names, it is now classified as a sub-species of P. vulgaris, P. vulgaris subsp. Sibthorpi (Sibthorp's form of the common Primrose).

The garden Acaulis is hybrid between the English Primrose and its sub-species from the Levant just mentioned, the name Acaulis describing its habit of flowering without a stalk. Polyanthus is also descriptive, as so many botanical names are, meaning many flowers to a head and was formally incorporated into the English language as pertaining to this particular flower in 1727.

The very miniature torenifera Primula, P. Juliana bearing the given name of the lady who found it in the Caucasus, is seldom seen in gardens. Its brilliant crimson-negenta has been combined with the yellow Oxlip, Cowslip and Primrose, and with the multi-colored Acaulis and Polyanthus to create an elfin race of miniatures known as Juliana hybrids. In the breeding of Julianas, the larger proportion of seedlings are intermediate in size between the very small parent and the large, and cannot be classified as true Julianas which must be decidedly miniature. Those of Polyanthus form (flowering on a stalk) too large for Julianas and too small for Polyanthus are known simply as Variety Polyanthus. No one has as yet offered a descriptive name for this particularly charming race of plants which is threatening the premier position of the giant Polyanthus, although Mr. W. Goddard of Victoria, B.C. says he knew them in his English boyhood as Fancies. The intermediate forms of Acaulis and Juliana blood, on the other hand, have had a name bestowed upon them which, in one short year, seems to have become firmly attached. Cinerellas they are called because in the beginning they were unwanted, being larger than Julianas should be, but were exceptionally popular as soon as seen.

This gives a glimpse into the Vernales group, and although the temptation is great to reveal more of its beauties, confusion may result and the purpose of the article defeated. Culture for the entire section is of the easiest, the plants, originally coming from moist meadows and light woodlands, want similar conditions of loam rich in organic matter, well drained in semi-shaded situations and more water than the average perennial throughout their growing season which is usually from late winter to late fall here in the northwest.

Second in popularity is the Auricula section embracing the hybrid Auriculas of all types, together with the species, P. Auricula, and the other alpine Primulas of Europe, replete with hybrids. The Auricula section takes its name, of course, from the Auricula, which means having small ears. The leaves of all hybrid Auriculas in cultivation are very large in comparison to those of the true species, which is not in cultivation. Long ago the common name for Auriculas was Bear’s Ears.

Beginners, seeing the widely divergent types of Auriculas on exhibition at the shows, may be confused regarding the three main divisions into which they have been grouped. These are (1) Show Auriculas sub-divided into four classes: green-edged, gray-edged, white-edged and selfs, the green, gray and white edges of the petals being of leaf structure and bearing a white meal in heavy deposit on the white-edged, light deposit on the gray-edged and without meal on the green. The selfs are entirely petal structure, one dense, unshaded color. A central circular zone of white
meal known, in this instance not as the eye, but as the paste, is present in all Show Auriculas.

Alpine Auriculas (2) is a confusing term inasmuch as all Auriculas are in reality plants from alpine regions, and why the particular name became associated with a certain type of hybrid Auricula is not known. However, the class of highly bred Auriculas known as Alpines must conform to certain rules just as the Show Auriculas must. The petals of both Shows and Alpines must be unnotched, rounded and layered to form a perfectly flat, round flower (pip is the correct term here), the flowers held in symmetrical and uncrowded position in the truss, or bunch. They must have the anthers well displayed in the throat of each flower (thrum-eyed) and, of course, the plant habit must be impeccable. The two primary differences between the Show and Alpine Auricula is that the Show has meal (paste, or farina) on flowers and foliage with minute instructions as to where and how it should appear, while the Alpine Auricula, which is subdivided into two classes—the light centered and the gold centered—must be absolutely devoid of meal with the ground color evenly shading from dark to light from eye to petal edge.

Garden, or Border, Auriculas (3) might be called the poor relations of the Show and Alpine types. They are grown for massed effects in the garden whereas the Shows are grown only for benching, and the Alpines for benching and very choice garden display inasmuch as there is no meal for the rain to ruin. But Garden Auriculas also have their pride and although there are no rules governing fine points, yet they should conform to good horticultural plant form and a point score has been established by the Society for use in judging these plants. Garden Auriculas may or may not have meal, may be ruffled or flat, but should have a compact, symmetrical truss supported by a stalk strong enough to hold the umbel erect, without which it is of no garden value.

In the gardens of Primula collectors are many of the other alpine Primulas of Europe, Primulas marginata, hirsuta, glaucescens, Clusiana, Wulfeniana, minima and their hybrids to a name a few, but they are not usually found in the beginners' plantings. For those wishing to acquaint themselves with these jewels from Europe's Alps, Blasdale's The Cultivated Species of Primula and MacWat's The Primulas of Europe are recommended, the latter book is out of print but circulates from the Society's library.

Again the native habitat gives the key to culture. Show Auriculas are always pot grown with overhead protection to keep the meal beautiful; Alpine Auriculas, when grown for exhibition purposes, are treated like Show varieties. Pot culture of these types is an article in itself and for those interested, the Year Books of the National Auricula and Primula Society are an ideal guide and may be had from Mr. R. H. Briggs, "High Bank," Rawtenstall, England. Garden culture of Auriculas, at least in the northwest, does not vary materially from that of Polyanthus except that sharper drainage is indicated with rock chips or gravel worked into the soil around the roots and a top dressing of the same given around the plant to protect the woody trunk (or carrot as it is called) from excessive moisture. Being rock plants they naturally have little liking for mud but many a colony of Auriculas denied the comfort of a rock mulch has prospered indefinitely. Auriculas can stand full sun in the Pacific Northwest but are probably better for shade during the hottest part of the day and appreciate frequent irrigation in summer. They bloom in late April and early May and again in the early fall if kept moist and growing during the intervening period, after which they want to be fairly dry, at least not artificially watered.

To lime or not to lime is usually a question asked by those who are just beginning Auriculas, for it would seem that the instruction to lime Auriculas has been thoughtlessly perpetuated without testing the truth of the statement made quite some time ago. In this area we have found that lime has a tendency to stunt the growth and that it definitely robs the colors of sharpness, often causing actual mudliness. Old books on English methods of culture speak of growing them in heath soil which is certainly acid, and in the Northwest they are usually grown on the slightly acid side, as that is the general type of soil, but Mrs. Walter Dakin of Madison, Wisconsin states that to grow Auriculas with any success there they seem to demand lime. Here is a test our mid-western and eastern members could well make to the Society's advantage.

The Candelabra section, which is probably as popular as the Auricula, is delightfully uncomplicated in history, nomenclature and appearance, the veriest beginner being able to identify them without hesitation as soon as it is learned that all bear their flowers in whorls which progress up the stalk as the blooming season advances—like candelabras. At the present time more species of Candelabra are grown than hybrids, but hybrids are being developed with such rapidity that within a few years the reverse may be true. This group of Primulas concentrates in a relatively small area in western Yunnan—the most southwesty province of China—extending south into upper Burma and a short way west into the eastern Himalayas inhabiting mountain meadows and thin woods. Two or three are native to the islands off the mainland, the only one of importance, culturally, being P. japonica, of course from Japan. This species, with its many color variations, is the one most widely known and there are those who think twice before giving it garden space as it reproduces itself around the garden with typical oriental abandon. But it is a good pot-boiler, as such plants are termed, serving a definite purpose and should not be shunned simply because it refuses to be difficult. The pink Bartley strain variety of P. pulverulenta (the powdered Primula) is perhaps second in popularity, with the true species running a close third. Many more are stock garden plants: Primulas Bulleyana, burmanica, helodoxa, Cockburniana, Beesiana, Poissoni, aurantiaca, and many hybrids, to mention a few. The section has a wide color range, hampered at present only by the lack of blue. But the hybrids are in such an array of soft tints and subtle shades this lack is apparent only to hybridizers who always wish for something that isn't and usually end by getting it.

Candelabras begin bloom in this area the end of April with the Auriculas, continuing for more than a month due to the number of species which flower in sequence. But whereas Auriculas wish a sharper drainage and will do with less water than the Vernales group, the Candelabra section wants more water, can do with more shade, and will not object to a
heavier soil, in fact, many types prefer it. In the particular part of Asia producing the bulk of these Primulas springs are very wet from melting snows, summers are equally wet from the drenching monsoon, fall is dry, and winter is buried deep in snow. The reason P. japonica is so amenable to any kind of situation and climatic condition is its rugged life in Japan without such a set pattern. The majority of Candelabras are herbaceous, going into winter dormancy in late fall.

Among the most deceivingly dainty Primulas, because they actually have the constitution of a peatland, are those of the Cortusoides section. The section takes its name from the species P. cortusoides which in turn is named for a plant of like appearance belonging to another genus, Cortus o Matthioli. (The Cortus o family is closely related to that of the Primula, and together with several other genera, or families—Androsace, Dodecatheon and Cyclamen—to mention the best known—make up the natural order, which might be likened to a tribe or race called the Primulaceae.) The Cortusoides section of the genus Primula is characterized by broad leaves that are downy, sometimes hairy but never mealy. The widely differing species within the section point to a correspondingly wide geographical distribution which extends from Siberia to Korea and Japan and south and west to western China.

The most beautiful and widely grown species is P. Sieboldii and the gardener who has not watched the many snowflake patterns and delicate colors come into flower in late April has many joys ahead. Von Siebold’s Primula may be described as an oriental Polyanthus and before the war Japanese catalogs listed several hundred varieties (not hybrids) although it must be admitted the points of differentiation in many were too fine for occidental perception. This Primula is one of the very rare members of the genus which goes into dormancy after flowering and seeding, a habit at once its blessing and curse for though it will live through the worst summer drought anywhere in the country yet it runs the chance of being destroyed by the gardener who does not know it is resting beneath the soil. Because of the summer dormancy, P. Sieboldii is best transplanted in the spring.

Among others of the Cortusoides group, in addition to P. cortusoides, which are making good garden subjects are P. saxatilis, P. heucheri-folia and P. kisoana (pictured and described on page 7, July, 1949 Quarterly) all of which are herbaceous in the late fall. No cultivated hybrids come to mind. Culture as for the Vernales group suits them well.

Of the pendant bell-shaped Primulas, P. Florindae of restricted Tibetan residence is still the most popular, perhaps because of its easy attainability. But its near relative, P. sikkimensis, is considered more typical of this particular group and the section takes its name from this species. As geographically limited, or more so, as the Candelabras the Sikkimensis group grows at higher altitudes to the west and north of the Candelabra country mainly in Sikkim, Nepal, Bhutan and southeastern Tibet. And like the Candelabra, the majority of the Sikkimensis group in cultivation are species but with a limited color range of cream to yellow and reddish-purple to purple shades, however compensation is found in the deliciously heady fragrance which is typical of most. A

recently discovered species, P. ioessa, described as madder-pink varying to pinkish-mauve and violet promises to be an acquisition when available.

A recent change in nomenclature by Professor Smith and Dr. Fletcher must be noted here inasmuch as it involves a number of species in common cultivation. The plant grown under the name of P. microdonta is now considered a long-petioled form of P. sikkimensis and is classified as P. sikkimensis. The species known as the Moonlight Primula, P. microdonta alpica, is now simply P. alpica with three color variations: P. alpica var. luna (yellow), P. alpica var. violacea (violet) and P. alpica var. alba (white). In addition to this change the plant grown under the name P. vittata must now be known as P. secundiflora, as it has been found to be only a lower-altitude variety of the latter. The purple-belled P. Waltonii remains the same and this species together with P. Florindae is siring hybrids in shades of crimson, red, tomato, orange, apricot and yellow which will greatly enhance the beauty of the section.

The Sikkimensis section arises itself from its winter dormancy very late in the spring for Primulas, the young leaves breaking through the soil just in time to see the last vanguard of Polyanthus bloom in late April. The belled Primulas flower from late May through June and, if the weather is not excessively hot, into the first part of July. All of this group including P. Florindae does well when grown like the Vernales. P. Florindae, as is well known, grows to giant proportions in a heavier soil with more water, developing bloom stalks of over five feet when left undisturbed by pool or stream, but the majority of the Sikkimensis section like a more porous soil and some, like the P. sikkimensis pictured on page 25 of the October, 1946 Quarterly, will not live without it.

There are a few other Primulas in wide cultivation belonging to sections other than those already considered and these isolated species may be quickly noted as P. rosea grandiflora, the beautiful brilliant carmine one which blooms so early in the spring together with the violet, lavender and white globes of P. denticulata. Then there is the summer blooming species, P. capilata Moorerana, with its purple flaring bells in close formation, lavishly powdered and perfumed. A number of the Farinosae, Nivalids and Petiolarids may soon be considered in general cultivation but until there are there is no point in admitting them to this particular assembly.
The outstanding feature of the Eighth Annual Show is the fact that there was a show. It opened as planned or April 12th, continuing the 13th and 14th at the Masonic Temple, was a credit to the Society and was well attended despite the most adverse circumstances. Under normal conditions mid-April and Primroses are synonymous in the Portland area but the Northwest had just weathered the longest and most severe winter in its recorded history so that the Primroses were weeks behind schedule. Even so, the quantity of bloom was at once remarkable and adequate, and visitors unacquainted with the overflow of past years felt they had seen nothing to equal it. Attendance, though heavy, was not up to the vast crowds of past years due in large part to the months-long newspaper strike preceding the show which, of course, hindered publicity, and the Northwest’s worst earthquake which occurred around noon of the second day. This catastrophe sent all visitors from Washington hurrying home as damage, which ran into the millions and some loss of life, was heaviest in that state. Local attendance sharply decreased as another quake was expected.

This introduction is in no way meant as an apology, for none is needed, but as an acknowledgment of the truly gallant courage, ingenuity and drive the show chairman, Mrs. M. A. Lawrence, and her mainstay, Mr. Lawrence, displayed. The show plan was much as the 1948, entirely horticultural and educational showing, through one large, unbroken floor planting put in by commercial growers, how Primroses should be grown in the garden. Practically all of the commercial growers who exhibited in the previous show were represented this year although the only choice of material was those plants which happened to be in bloom. Growers favored by a more sheltered location with any average of bloom provided material for those in exposed positions which, with the plants that could be mustered, made possible displays which otherwise would have been out of the question. This may seem strange to those who visualize a highly competitive show, but the activating principle has always been cooperation with competition employed in the most constructive sense of the word. This central planting was compounded mainly of Polyanthus, Julianas, Cinderellas, Alpine and Garden Auriculas giving a most pleasing effect.

Many of the amateur exhibits were outstanding, some plants being without peer, and the general quality was at a higher level than any preceding show. Among the Rarities and Oddities was a green striped Polyanthus belonging to Mrs. Wm. Cullion of Bellevue, Washington, a double wine Acaulis-Polyanthus owned by Mrs. Nettie Foumal, Mrs. Ella Torpen’s novelty green-edge Auricula and a fine Marginata hybrid belonging to Carl Starker.

Again the rule which does not restrict the awarding of ribbons to one plant in a class if others are worthy of such awards was used, and in the Acaulis Division firsts were won by Charles F. Stocking and Evelyn MacDonald with white; Mrs. Harry Lesenko with yellow, three pinks of varying shades and centers, a dark blue and an unusual and very beautiful deep red with very small eye. Mrs. Olive Dimmick won with a medium blue and a clear salmon-rose of particularly good texture.

As some of the prettiest flowers are in that group of plants that are neither strictly Acaulis nor entirely Polyanthus, but which exhibit the flowering habit of both, a division for such, known as Acaulis-Polyanthus has been in use for some time and always well represented. An oriental red of fine form and foliage with clear-cut small star center won for Mrs. P. L. Jackson; another red of fine texture for Mrs. N. Bant; a copper with deeper tone reverse for Mrs. H. A. Harishorn; a clear yellow for Mrs. Robert Boyd and a rich orange for Mrs. O. J. Zach.

In the Hose-in-hose Division Mrs. Thelma Johnson’s red and a yellow of good form together with Mrs. Martin Gerspach’s small-flowering yellow took firsts.

Only two winners in the Polyanthus Division are reported and the indulgence of the others is asked. So many entries, so many winners,—it took two reporters the better part of two days to glean the information contained in this review. If anyone doubts interest in the Primrose, let him appear on the show floor with a pencil, writing pad and an intent look and he is shortly surrounded and deluged by questions although a perfectly competent information booth was manned at all times. However, Mrs. Laura Churchill scored with a silver-edged violet-shaded plant of perfect form and port; an orange with gloriously full, fragrant umbels and a white of heavy texture with orange star. The other Polyanthus prize-winner, as noted, was the Society’s president, Mrs. Carroll Higgins with a velvety red, clear-starred plant of fine form. The winners in the professional class were Miss Linda Eckman with one of the coral Polyanthus which will probably always be identified with her—the clear and resonant color, classic round, flat blossoms with small eye and excellent plant habit. Mrs. Sophia Manssen’s American Beauty shade of great richness and clarity was another blue ribbon winner.

Mr. R. M. Brown displayed the best grown P. Juliae, and the number of meritorious new hybrids was a real delight. Apparently only two won with standard named varieties. Allen W. Davis with Dorothy and Mrs. Florence Bennett with E. R. Janes. In addition Mrs. Bennett received first award for a very pretty orchid seedling. Mrs. Boyd Meyers won firsts with a miniature white, cream and pale pink, Mrs. Willard Kelly with a star-like rose; Dr. Matthew C. Riddle with a brilliant, tiny-flowered purple of Polyanthus form, another equally exquisite jewel of a lilac shade and a bright red, all true miniatures. Audra Link’s Dainty Miss, a peach-pink Polyanthus type of cameo perfection and Lou Roberts’ claret colored, violet-shaped blossoms with bronze foliage and dark stems complete the amateur first award winners as reported. Mrs. Lois Land won in the commercial class with her clear wine flowered plant with almost absent eye and bronzed foliage.

Mrs. Harry Lathrop took the Lois Land silver cup with her mauve Garden Auricula, while Mrs. Ben Smith won ribbons for her oyster white and pastel pink; Mrs. John Karnopp with her pink of interesting shading; Mrs. O. J. Zach with an opulent purple; Elizabeth Stark with a fine henna and Dr. Richard Bond with an unusually fine light red. In the professional group Mrs. Jean Stewart won with a very fine pale yellow and a rosy tan while Helen Jones took first with a warm leather-coat.

(Continued on page 28)
Mr. O. J. Zach looking over some of the Polyanthus in his and Mrs. Zach's garden just before the show. Mrs. Zach, a charter member and one-time treasurer of the Society, won the sweepstakes award in 1949. Mr. Zach was a new gardening interest.
The Society's sweepstakes trophy, a silver encrusted crystal fruit bowl, was won by Mrs. O. J. Zach with forty-nine points. Mrs. Ben Smith, as runner-up, took the Robert W. Ewell award—a silver vase—with forty points. The silver covered vegetable dish which was the President's trophy for the best commercial seedling was won by Mrs. Ben Torpen with her light-centered Alpine Auricula; Mrs. Zach also took the Roy E. Molin silver-ornamented vase offered for the best yellow Primula in the show; Mrs. Florence Bennett won Dr. Matthew C. Riddle's silver bowl for the best species Primula with P. frondosa; Allen W. Davis was awarded the Russian enameled gold spoon given by Mrs. Ben Torpen for the best Juliana hybrid; radio station KPOJ gave a silver trophy for the best auction which was won by Lou Roberts with her double purple seedling and Mrs. J. C. Lamb of Lexington, Kentucky was awarded the first National Bank's award, a silver shell bowl, for the best out of state entry, two pots of pastel pink Primula sent air express. Dr. M. C. Riddle won the Barnhaven trophy, a copper kettle, for the best amateur seedling with a glowing ruby-red miniature Primula of flawless form; Mrs. William Culliton's odd green-striped Primula won Mrs. H. R. Lathrop's painting of P. cortusoides given for the rarest or oddest Primula in the show; Helen Jones' filigreed dish, awarded for the best of the Denticulas, went to Mrs. John L. Karnopp and Mrs. Harry Lathrop took the Lois Land silver trophy with her fine mauve Garden Auricula. Mrs. Olive Dimnick of Gresham again won the Henry Wessinger trophy for the best blue and Mrs. Laura Churchill of Vancouver was awarded Marguerite Clarke's copper plate for the best Primula, a rose shaded plant exceptionally well grown. The Hillsboro Garden Club was the winner of Braeger's Oregon Seed store trophy for the best miniature garden.

Two complimentary exhibits of note occupied opposite ends of the ball room, that of Mrs. A. C. U. Berry on the west end and the American Rock Garden Society on the east. Mrs. Berry's exhibit this year was primarily Alpine and Show Auriculas, the latter including many green, grey and white edged unnamed varieties of excellent form and many of scarlet, yellow, purple and wine selfs. Scarlet and leather coat Pubescens were used for corner accents and four bowls of choice dwarf Rhododendron species made up the background. Interest was so keen in the exhibit this meager report was gained only after hours of work. The American Rock Garden Society's greatly admired exhibit was a beautifully landscaped rock garden using miniature Primulas of many varieties and species with miniature companion material.

The balcony which surrounds the ball room on three sides held miniature gardens featuring the use of Primulas predominately. This division developed into a popular one for many who returned often to take fresh note of a cleverly constructed or particularly imaginative piece of work.

Lectures on Culture of Primroses, Companion Plants to be used with Primroses and the History of Primrose Development were given by Marguerite Clarke, Dr. W. O. Hillery of Bellevue, Washington, and Florence Levy, respectively. Slides were shown by Mr. Louis Marshall.
A BORDER FROM ONE HOSE-IN-HOSE
Edward O. Birch, Short Hills, New Jersey

The border of Primroses in the photograph is composed entirely of Hose-in-hose, divisions from one plant received from a friend. It is pale yellow (maybe, lemon) with darker yellow center, petal edges cut like the wheels of a gear as you can see if a glass is used. It was my first Primrose, I liked it and brought it along when I moved to make my border here.

As to my soil, before I built, the lot was covered with a thin, wiry grass that seemed to grow twelve to eighteen inches high. What it was I do not know (now I would make it my business to know—we learn late) but some years later, when talking to an old resident, learned that I lived on what they used to call the blue bent fields where they hunted rabbits. Anyhow, this was tough sod, a plow wouldn’t turn it—only raise it—and a mattock would break it away. Leaving this upturned sod alone for a couple of years, breaking it now and then, finally I had a vegetable garden, then devoted the soil entirely to Azaleas and now it is as you see in the accompanying picture.

The top soil is good for considerable depth and under all is a gravelly soil with good drainage. Of course, this ground has had quite a bit of cultivation, what is now lawn was once Azalea grounds, and, as they grew and were transplanted the soil was prepared each time. This soil is on the acid side (naturally for Azaleas) as occasionally I used aluminum sulphate and on the lawn and shrubs I use only cottonseed meal for fertilizer. I used to use oak leaves for mulch but was somewhat afraid of fire as the neighborhood built up on all sides. In addition, peat moss was used in the new locations which were continually being made to oblige the ever-increasing Azaleas, consequently I believe my soil is now more spongy than it might otherwise have been.

When a Primrose is taken up for division, the root is twice the size of the top. In the past I have been cruel about dividing, taking a long knife and cutting the ball into three or four sections (as a Peony root) and then transplanting. However, now that I am an enlightened member of the Society and appreciate Prims will behave and divide according to Hoyle, I divide and re-set about August when the foliage is poorest, first cutting about half the top growth off before taking from the ground. After re-setting, divisions are watered and kept on the moist side for about a week or so after which they pick up and make new growth going into winter like young cabbages.

Naturally I have never used lime on my place since my great interest is Azaleas. In my slightly acid soil, all plants seem to do well and this makes me believe there is too much indiscriminate dosing of soil (and humans) and not enough attention paid to body, or texture, of the soil.

As to water, I do not give these Prims any different attention than other plants. In summer if there has been no rain for a week, I will water the lawn and perhaps few roses in the border. At this time, the Prims naturally get some. If another week or ten days go by without rain, I will water again and this time include Azalea borders and foundation plantings. In very hot weather the heavy foliage of the Primroses may wilt at mid-day but pick up in late afternoon. Many gardeners here say it is hard to grow Primroses in Jersey but I have had very good success with these and believe that if conditions are right many more can be grown with as much ease.

The individual Hose-in-hose divisions.

TWO AFFILIATED SOCIETIES IN 1949

The American Primrose Society welcomes its two new affiliated societies, the Washington State Primrose Society and the Onondaga Primrose Society and pledges its aid and support whenever requested. It is with genuine satisfaction that the parent Society watches the growing Primrose interest in various parts of the United States and sees its coalescence in these affiliated groups whose meetings and shows are a source of pleasure to themselves and their communities. The Washington State’s hub of activity centers in the Puget Sound area, the Onondaga’s in Syracuse, New York.
THE BREMERTON AND KIRKLAND SHOWS

The Bremerton and Kirkland Primrose shows turned the Puget Sound country into a spring festival over which Primroses reigned the undisputed queen. Held simultaneously at the time Primroses were at their peak of perfection in that area, April 22nd and 23rd, with Kirkland continuing through the 24th, the two shows developed a number of features in common. Both were considered the most beautiful and largest yet staged, both attracted capacity crowds at all times, and both had plants of excellent quality displayed with the finish which comes only with experience.

THE BREMERTON SHOW

The Bremerton show, which was the fifth annual event sponsored by the East Bremerton Garden Club in the Civic Recreation Center Building, accommodated over five hundred competitive entries and twenty-one complimentary and commercial exhibits. Visitors were conservatively estimated at approximately four thousand for the two days. An interesting addition to this year's show was the Junior Division represented by three troops of East Bremerton Girl Scouts whose thirty entries proved a real delight. A feature all Primrose shows seem to hold in common is the inclination toward education. One table displayed three flats of Primrose plants, the first flat containing volunteer seedlings, the second plants grown from seed planted the August previous, the third contained budding plants grown from seed planted in August but kept in a cold frame. Various members entered species plants correctly named to form other educational exhibits.

The Primrose show was staged by Mrs. J. S. Kilgore with informality the keynote. Three large, circular, complimentary displays through the courtesy of Mrs. Harold T. Lebo, Pliny Allen of Allen's Grove Nursery and the Washington State Primrose Society were used to attract the visitors' initial attention and direct it to the stage which, with its Primrose path and background of shrubs and fir trees, was the focal point. Much credit was given Mr. Robert Barber whose untiring efforts and generosity in furnishing plants, shrubs and trees made this spring landscape possible.

Huckleberry branches backgrounded the side walls along which the educational and commercial exhibits were arranged while the amateur competitive exhibits were bunched on either side of the three circular complimentary plantings and in front of the professional exhibits. At the opposite end of the hall looking over approximately one hundred feet of exhibits toward the stage, were the lounge and tea table which, as always, was beautifully decorated and heavily patronized. Flanking the lounge were complimentary displays by J. E. Jones of Silverdale Nursery, Frank Schriner, floris, and one by the U.S. Naval Hospital which also provided the unexpected in a pair of kittens (named Tom and Jerry by an unidentified sailor) whose play on top of the trellises continued throughout one day.

The concluding statement of the Club's Secretary, Mrs. W. L. Meyers, undoubtedly sums up the feeling held by all sponsoring organizations that "we are proud, as a truly Active Club of Practical Gardeners, to have had the opportunity to educate and entertain the general public and to make them more conscious of flowers in general and of Primroses in particular." General chairman for the show was Mrs. Lloyd C. Solid with Mrs. Theo Kay as assistant chairman and a corps of committees.

KIRKLAND

Looking over the publicity scrapbook provided by Mr. E. Perrine who staged the second annual Primrose show, the unbounded enthusiasm displayed is again as apparent as it was during the show. With an Old-Fashioned Garden as the theme, we are allowed a back-stage glimpse by one newspaper clipping which is headlined Need Old Fashioned Garden Accessories for Staging Primrose Show April 22, 23 and 24th and which continues to ask for: "One old farm pump, preferably moss covered; two or three old fashioned bird baths or sundials; two or three rustic garden seats (strong enough to sit on): one old fashioned "S" shaped love seat (for two); an Old Oak Bucket and the accompanying wishing well; and a moderate sized, gnarled old apple tree, which you've wanted to get rid of for a long time." All of these props were acquired and more, for there were in addition moss-covered rails which went up into rail fences to separate floor plantings and an old fashioned grindstone properly mossed (all objects were genuinely moss-grown, not moss-draped) and seven flowering cherries not to mention numerous other objects to fit mood and time.

Silver trophies ranging from cups to serving trays were donated by merchants of Kirkland, the bank, Chamber of Commerce and the show's sponsor, the East Side Garden Club which contributed four of the seventeen. A Junior or Children's Department was inaugurated this year to encourage skill in arrangements, miniature gardens, corsage making, etc.

Commercial, garden club and complimentary exhibits including a large display by the Washington State Primrose Society covered the entire floor space and stage of the Recreation Center. Calling upon memory, which is admittedly unwise, an exhibit of great charm was one which, perhaps, the average visitor overlooked in favor of the more lavish and glamorous. It was a kitchen garden with alternating rows of old fashioned yellow Polyanthus and small cabbages, edged by parsley and backed by a rail fence upon which had been trained cucumber plants. Unfortunately the exhibitor's name was not learned. Mrs. Gunnar Carlson of East Stanwood, long known as the Primrose Lady, again put in the prize winning commercial exhibit. Horticulturally and imaginatively it was a display which commanded respect and admiration. But the same could be said of every exhibit as the judges who were hard put to it for many hours well know.

The standard among amateur exhibitors was equally high and the judges were saved only by the rule which allowed the giving of more than one ribbon in a color class when plants were of equally high merit. A Polyanthus owned by Mrs. C. C. Chambers of Seattle, a large-flowered heavy satin-textured cerise crimson with umbel, stalk and foliage of such proportions as to be the quintessence of perfection, was the unanimous choice for the best plant in the show. Other outstanding plants
were several giant flowered Jacks-in-the-green in pink and bronze shades, and a complimentary display of new double Primroses which are the sensation of the Primrose world in shades of crimson, scarlet, yellow, blue, rose and white in flat and shaggy types of blossoms. Mrs. William Culliton again won the amateur sweepstakes.

Visitors for the three days were estimated at over 6,000, ribbon streamers being used to check or channel the crowds as needed. While Bremerton had kittens, Kirkland had an uninvited and very active swallow.

Mrs. F. B. Charles was again general chairman with cooperating committees and boy scouts to lend a hand with peat moss and other light jobs for young feet.

MID-CENTURY AWARDS TO ALL SWEEPSTAKE WINNERS

In celebration of the half century which will undoubtedly bring the country's greatest Primrose development, the American Primrose Society is offering a special award to the sweepstake winner of every Primrose show held in 1950.

WINTER PROTECTION

Snow is the best winter mulch but in its absence a light spray of water hosed over the plants when temperatures drop very low has the same effect. Where water is unavailable at such times, evergreen boughs or any material which admits some light and air but does not pack may be placed over the plants to keep them protected. The plants' greatest hardship is not cold, but dehydration especially when soil is frozen and winds are high without snow protection. At such times the hazard is not so much loss from heaving and root breakage, if plants have been set no later than August or September and are well-rooted, but defoliation and bud blast resulting in inferior and late bloom. It is the sudden, extreme change of temperature which kills.

Among the Tudor forms of Cowslips and Polyanthus, the Hose-in-hose is at the present time the best known and most widely known in American gardens. Another old form known as Jack-in-the-green, a favorite since the time of Henry VIII, is being revived and this, with the Hose in hose, may soon reproduce other old forms which, aside from their beauty and quaintness, could be grown for the sake of tradition and the fanciful names by which they have been known for at least four centuries. There are the Pantaloon or Jacks-in-the-box, the Frantickie, Fantastickie or Foolish Cowslip, which, Parkinson said in 1629, "In some places is called by country people Jackanapes-on-Horsebacke." Then there is the less complicated form of the same known simply as Jackanes, and Master Hesket's double, Galligaskins or Curled Cowslips, Feathers which are the same as Shags or Scattered Polyanthus, Clowns, and the green flowered.

All of these forms are mutations with either calyx exaggerations or modifications, or as in the case of the Hose-in-hose, where the calyx exchanges leaf texture for petal texture and form, or where petal texture is exchanged for leaf as with the greens. It can be safely said that until the last few decades these mutations through permanent cellular
change of undetermined cause, occurred only by chance and that they still may occur wherever Polyanthus or Cowslips congregate. Perhaps they occur more frequently than is generally thought and by through lack of acquaintance, and because of this possibility introductions to each one through succeeding Sketchbooks will be given mainly by reproductions of sketches copied from old herbariums. Now it is established that the mutant characteristics are easily transmitted by planned hybridizing and it is not unreasonable to expect that within the next decade an entire race of these horticultural Pucks conceived from a Midsummer Night's Dream will be brought into existence. But only Polyanthus, as Cowslips are not generally grown and the Acaulis calyx does not lend itself to variations.

Heretofore the Irish have laid great claims to these curious and quaint plants. At least they write of them more often and at greater length than the English and Scotch, and that is as it should be for they seem to belong to the Fay-like atmosphere which pervades about the moist isle. Among the Hose-in-hose recently listed by Irish gardeners are Lady Dora, brightest yellow and sweet scented; Lady Lettuce, yellow with traces of pink; Lady Molly, magenta; Sparkler, dazzling crimson-scarlet; Old Vivid is described by the imaginative as not so bright as Sparkler with a yellowish eye and by a typically cautious Scotch firm as being synonymous with Sparkler; then there is Salmon sparkler; the pink from County Kerry; Price of Orange, gloriously scented and said to grow better across the northern border for the Orangemen; Goldflocks, a cascade of gold; Canary Bird; Blue Hose-in-hose; Maureen; Erin's Gem and others.

It is a foregone conclusion that the Americans can never compete with the Irish in selecting names for their Hose-in-hose. Perhaps that is why they go unnamed, or perhaps it is simply to avoid a confusing entanglement of varieties since Hose-in-hose are appearing each year in ever-increasing kinds and numbers. Shades of yellow and gold Hose are very common, pink, rose and red shades are becoming so, there are a few blue and silver-edged blue Hose-in-hose, some old Gold Lace and Silver Lace Hose which should boost old form prestige in the new world. In honesty, a debt must be acknowledged to an ardent English fancier and collector of Elizabethan flowers, Capt. C. Hawkes, whose gift packet of seed as an initial start has done more for populating American gardens with subsequent generations of Hose-in-hose than any other factor.

Occasionally the terms "double" Cowslip or "double" Polyanthus are used to designate the Hose-in-hose, which is confusing but understandable when the flower within a flower is considered. They are also called Hand-in-hands and Duplex, but Hose-in-hose they were when Shakespeare, in the later part of the 16th and early 17th centuries, wrote his play for a year for the old Globe Theatre in London, and some fifty years before that when the girl Elizabeth watched the morris dancers from her father's castle windows, and how long before that no one knows. And why the name Hose-in-hose? Because in merrie olde England additional pairs of hose were drawn on, one over the other, as the weather chilled. Hose, meaning a sheath and specifically the sheath enclosing an ear of corn, dates from 1450; ten years later the term doublet and hose, as male attire, came into use.
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