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# GARDEN NOTES

Number Ten

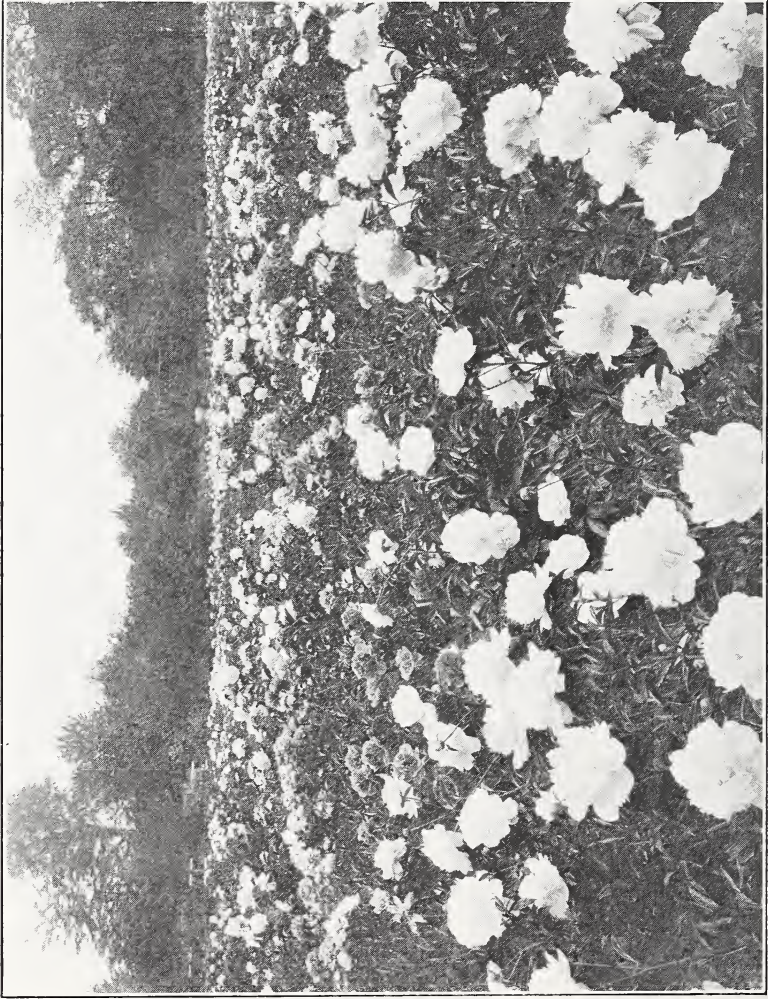


JEANNOT

The Peony and Iris Game.  
Varieties for Beginners.

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Issued by  
**LEE R. BONNEWITZ**  
VAN WERT, OHIO



Partial View of The Bonnewitz Garden, 1922

# Varieties for Beginners

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AM sure that all Iris and Peony lovers are delighted with the fact that thousands of new enthusiasts are beginning to grow our favorite flowers. These newcomers, I find, divide themselves into two distinct groups.

Those who are in the first group are willing to get all the joy possible out of their gardens by beginning with the commoner varieties of Peonies and Irises, and gradually advancing to the higher priced varieties as they learn the various points of excellence in these flowers. For the young man or young woman, the pleasure of beginning with the cheaper varieties is so great that such a plan should be highly commended, as there is just as much pleasure in studying the beauty of varieties which can be purchased at \$1.00 as there is in studying the merits of varieties costing \$25.00 or \$50.00. In my own case I began with Peonies which cost me 25 cents a root and when I found that a neighbor had some which cost 50 cents a root I could at once see that her varieties were finer than mine and I was willing to purchase some at that price. The next year I found in another neighbor's garden some varieties which had cost \$1.00 a root and I was surprised to learn that these varieties had individual names. I immediately secured a catalogue and bought some of the named varieties for which I gladly paid the higher price. The next season I found some varieties which had cost \$2.00 and I could see that these were better than those I had purchased at \$1.00, and that same season I saw my first M. Jules Elie and began to know real quality in Peonies. A little later I found my first Jubilee, a Peony which had been grown from seed by Mrs. Pleas in Spiceland, Indiana, with which I was so delighted, that, although I had spent two years in procuring a single root of it, I was glad to add it to my collection. When it bloomed I was so enthusiastic about its form and beauty that I joined the American Peony Society and exhibited it at the National Peony Show. In this manner of gaining acquaintance with Peonies I experienced several years' pleasure in cheap varieties, which I would have entirely lost had my first purchase contained a Jubilee or some other of the world's best varieties, and the beginners who are willing to go through the same kind of experience will be well repaid in thus advancing from the cheaper varieties to the higher priced ones.



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The other group of beginners in Peony and Iris culture are usually men and women more advanced in years who desire to cultivate only the very best varieties obtainable, and who frequently write me for advice in making their selections. I do not regard myself as an authority on this subject as the Peonies and Irises which I like are not universal favorites, but where money is no object I advise the Peony enthusiast to procure the following varieties.

LECYGNE, which is Lemoine's best, a beautiful white Peony of most excellent form and size and splendid habit, should be in every collection, as should JUBILEE, another white variety, which is my favorite, although it has one fault, which is that its stems are not always strong enough to support its immense blooms, but its buds and its blooms seem to me to be one hundred percent perfect. Every collection should contain a SOLANGE, whose roots are the ugliest of any variety growing in my garden, yet these ugly, deformed roots produce a luxuriance of the most beautiful bloom that can be imagined. Although it does not have the size of either Jubilee or LeCygne, it has a quality of petalage and an individuality of color and shape that I have never seen in any other variety. ALSACE LORRAINE and LA LORRAINE are two other Lemoine varieties which no grower who aspires to a representative collection can overlook. They are both white, La Lorraine being of uncommon size and Alsace Lorraine being of extraordinary purity.

BERTRADE, like all the other Lemoine favorites so far mentioned, is white. This variety it seems to me is entitled to more recognition than it has so far received. If my favorite Jubilee could have the wonderful plant form of Bertrade, with the beautiful delicacy of its own buds and blooms, I feel sure it would be rated the best Peony in the world. Some growers have had remarkable success with BAYADERE (Lemoine), although its habit of blooming is not as reliable as the others I have mentioned. Nearly all of Lemoine's great Peonies are white, but two pink ones, LA FRANCE and LA FEE, are appreciated more every year. Another Lemoine variety, MIGNON, has roots which are nearly as deformed as those of Solange. Mignon is a very slow growing variety, but in its class of semi-dwarfs it has no equal. The bloom is somewhat like Sarah Bernhardt, but it has more of a "Peaches and Cream color" than the Bernhardt variety, which itself belongs to the "Aristocrats of Peonies." Lemoine has originated a new variety which I

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believe will be placed on the American market under the name ALICE HARDING. I was fortunate in being able to secure a root of this variety while in France last summer, and while it may bloom for me this season, I will not really expect to judge its quality for two or three years.

Lemoine has made his reputation by producing the best white varieties, and Dessert, the other great living French grower, has made his fame entirely with pink varieties.

THERESE, one of Dessert's early introductions, is possibly the best pink Peony in the world and undoubtedly it is the most popular, and contrary to the usual rule in Peonies, its price has steadily increased until it now sells for more than three times as much as it did ten years ago. Quality alone can produce such a record. Therese is an early variety, but within the past few years Dessert has given us a new late variety, JEANNOT, which is a more delicate pink than Therese, and which in some particulars excels that famous variety. It is so very scarce that it will undoubtedly remain high in price for many years. GINETTE is another Dessert variety which approaches Therese in quality, but I have never yet seen it equal Therese. RAOUL DESSERT is one of the peculiar varieties which is very freakish in its performance. Its blooms have varied in form, size and color so that it is impossible to say what a typical bloom of this variety is like, but upon a few occasions it has appeared as a claimant for highest honors. LAURA DESSERT is a very good approach to a yellow, and on this account it is in great demand, for it is a prolific seed producer, and it is possible that it may be the parent of the real yellow Peony which the world is looking for. M. MARTIN CAHUZAC (Dessert) is the darkest red Peony I know and when properly placed, it has a most beautiful effect in the garden.

The other great French producer of Peonies was Reviere, and as Lemoine has made his reputation on white varieties and Dessert has secured fame through his pink varieties, this grower has become favorably known because of the great popularity of his red variety, PHILIPPE RIVOIRE, which I believe is universally admitted to be the best dark red Peony in the world. It is of good size and perfect form and every Peony enthusiast wants it. The stock of it is very scarce, as I could not secure even a single root of it when I was in France, either from the widow of the introducer, or from Philippe Rivoire and Son, the firm that first placed the variety on the market. Another variety introduced by

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Reviere is MADAME EMILE DUPRAZ, but unfortunately there has been two varieties sent out under this name, one by the widow of the introducer, and the other by the great Rivoire firm. Both of these varieties have merit, as one of them obtained favorable notice at the Boston Peony Show in 1921, and the other did equally as well at the London, Ontario, Show in 1922, and I presume it will be up to the officers of the Peony Society to decide which one is entitled to the name. I hope to take some blooms of each of these varieties to the St. Paul Peony Show.

Millet, the famous French Iris grower, has originated and placed upon the market one splendid dark red Peony under the name MADAME GAUDICHAU, and indications are that it will be in great demand not only for the quality of its blooms, but also for the color of the plant itself, which is remarkable for the shading in its stems and leaves.

On my visit to England last year I found that LADY ALEXANDRA DUFF was by all odds the greatest Peony in the Kelway garden, and as it grew there, it stood over four feet high, with strong and erect stems as those of the wonderful Bertrade that Lemoine has given us. KELWAY'S GLORIOUS and JAMES KELWAY were two other outstanding varieties in the Kelway garden, and although I saw hundreds of other varieties originated by them, these three were by far the best.

The representative collection needs GEORGIANA SHAYLOR, a beautiful pink variety. I am sorry that I will not be able to supply the demand for it, and my experience in trying to obtain it elsewhere leads me to believe that, although it has been grown longer than any other Shaylor variety, it is yet very scarce. It is possible that Shaylor's \$100.00 prize winning variety, MRS. EDWARD HARDING, belongs in the list of the world's best peonies, but never since the Cleveland Peony Show have I seen a bloom from it which would place it in this class. This year I will have a strong, vigorous three year old plant of it, and I am hoping that I will again see the same kind of wonderful blooms which took the Cleveland Peony Show by storm in 1918. MARY WOODBURY SHAYLOR a semi-dwarf growing variety with large pink blooms, has some wonderful good characteristics, but I cannot yet say it is superior to Georgiana Shaylor, although I hope it may be. WILTON LOCKWOOD was greatly admired in Van Wert gardens last year, and I am hoping that some of the new Shaylor varieties may be superior to any-



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thing we have yet seen from this originator.

Brand's MARTHA BULLOCH, pink; ELIZABETH BARRET BROWNING, white, and FRANCES WILLARD, white, are Peonies of the very highest grade and every one of them I believe should be placed in the list of the world's best Peonies. — I did not see LUETTA PFEIFFER in bloom last year, but the year previous it gave evidence to me that it belonged in the class of the select, but I will want to see it again before placing it with the three I have named. MARY BRAND and LONGFELLOW are both splendid reds of Mr. Brand's, as is RICHARD CARVEL, which seems to have earned a place in the list of the world's best early red Peonies. I am hoping that some of the new varieties produced by Mr. Brand will compare favorably with the varieties I have named.

One of the very best of the new varieties is named PRESIDENT WILSON and it was originated by T. C. Thurlow's Sons. It is a very delicate pink and its color not only withstands the sun better than any variety I know, but it also has the excellent habit of retaining the quality in its petals almost as well as the celebrated ELWOOD PLEAS, which in this particular holds the record among all the varieties I have observed. The Thurlows have introduced several other new varieties and I am hoping that they may have the same high quality which I found in President Wilson.

Franklin's BALL 'O COTTON looked like a winner to me in 1921, but those who saw my garden last year told me that MABEL FRANKLIN showed more quality than Ball 'O Cotton.

One of the surprises at the London, Ontario, Peony Show last year, was a display of blooms of Richardson's WALTER FAXON. While I did not get to attend the Show on account of my absence from the country, I am told that blooms from this variety, which were not entered in competition, excited more favorable comment than any of the prize winners, and the demand for roots of this variety was so great last season that it is probable growers will have to advance the price this year. Richardson's GRANDIFLORA and MILTON HILL are now much better known than they were ten years ago, and I know that some enthusiasts believe that they should be placed in the list of the world's best Peonies.

J. F. Rosenfield has given us the world's best American red Peony in KARL ROSENFELD. He has sent me a seedling of a new variety which I am in hopes may be as good a

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pink as Karl Rosenfield is a red.

A few years ago Eugene Secor of Forest City, Iowa, sent me a few seedlings, and one of them, NINA SECOR, has developed into a remarkably beautiful white Peony which some experienced Peony enthusiasts have compared with Le Cygne. It was shown at the London, Ontario, Peony Show last year and visitors who saw it there were so enthusiastic about its merits that they insisted on buying from me every root I had, with the exception of my one five-year-old exhibition plant. I understand the owner's stock was also greatly depleted, and so it is possible that this fine variety will not be placed on the market again for a couple of years. I hope that everyone who succeeded in securing a root of it will pay particular attention to the variety and see if it belongs in a class with Le Cygne, Jubilee and Solange. Many other amateurs have sent seedlings to me for observation and I am in hopes that some of them may have great merit.

After the blooming season this year, which I hope to spend in my own garden, I will issue a Garden Note expressing my views on many of the new varieties, as my plants will be two and three years old and should give representative blooms.

In my next Garden Notes I hope to discuss the very finest varieties of Irises which I saw on my trip in England last year.



MAD JULES DESSERT

# The Peony and Iris Game

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SUCCESSFUL business man gets as much fun out of his business as his son gets from his college sports, and I am sure that even the most enthusiastic college rooter does not derive more pleasure in seeing his team win, than I get every day from my Peony and Iris gardens.

I began growing Peonies as a hobby about eighteen years ago, and I know of no hobby that I can recommend more strongly to a business man whose health demands that he should spend a good portion of his time out-of-doors. I have allowed my hobby to grow into a business, and I am receiving many letters from men and women in different parts of the United States asking if it is profitable to grow Peonies and Irises. If these inquirers were asking me if it were an enjoyable business I would have no hesitancy in immediately saying "yes," and it is possible that I should not hesitate to give the same answer about it being a profitable business.

There is a growing demand for both Peonies and Irises and I am quite sure that there are many varieties of Irises and Peonies on which the demand will not be supplied for several seasons, and consequently the growers who have secured these scarce varieties and have been successful in growing them, will have an opportunity to make a good profit on their sale.

On account of the population of the country gravitating toward the city where the flower lovers do not have a chance to cultivate gardens of their own, and because these same flower lovers must get their pleasure and study of nature in automobile rides through the country, there is a rapidly increasing demand for seasonable cut flowers such as the Peony, Iris, Dahlia and Gladioli, and the grower whose garden is on one of the main highways near a city, has an abundant opportunity to dispose of all the flowers he can grow at prices which will bring him a nice return for his efforts, and if, in addition to selling his blooms, he is able to sell roots of the choicest varieties during the season when blooms are not for sale, he has a double chance to make a satisfactory profit. Of course, in any business it takes salesman ship to dispose of your commodity at a satisfactory price, and the man with a pleasing personality will be able to get much better prices and dispose of a greater quantity



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of blooms and roots, than the person whose approach is gruff, and who does not know how to make the customer feel that it is a pleasure to be permitted to purchase beautiful flowers from his garden.

Under ordinary circumstances we think that the grower with many acres and with many helpers has more opportunity to make money than the grower who is able to cultivate and dispose of his product without hiring other help, and yet from my own experience I am led to believe that the Peony and Iris lover who has strength enough to cultivate his garden, and who can market his product without the aid of hired help, which must be carried on the payroll twelve months in the year, is probably able to clear more money than the grower who must spend a great portion of his returns in advertising and paying many hired helpers. I know several growers who have less than one acre of ground, where they do all the planting and cultivating of the flowers themselves, and who tell me that their returns on their investment and labor are most satisfactory. I would by all means advise the securing of a location where the garden would advertise itself, for a garden, properly located, when in bloom can advertise itself more favorably than any amount of printer's ink. Peonies fill the landscape with such a riot of color, that even one-half acre covered with bright blooms will spread the fame of the garden so far that visitors will come miles to see it. I have traveled from Boston to St. Paul in a single season in order that I might see the finest gardens in these cities, and the other cities between them. I find that flower lovers from distant states come to see my garden, and when visitors will spend their money to see beautiful gardens, you may be sure that they will also spend their money for the blooms and for the roots which produce the beautiful flowers. I have greater faith in the small garden than I have in the large garden with its multitude of helpers, and yet I believe that the successful large garden is a development of the successful small garden where the grower finds himself possessed of the ability to reach out for an extremely wide market.

One of the advantages of going into the Peony and Iris game is that you can grow into it. As an amateur you can begin with a very small expenditure for a very few varieties, and as you find pleasure in the flowers which you grow, you will also find pleasure in spending your money for other varieties of these flowers, and any hobby which gives you a pleasure in spending your money, and at the same time



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gives you health in cultivating your flowers, cannot be too highly commended. I believe that enthusiastic Peony and Iris lovers invariably spend their money for new varieties, and it is a satisfaction to know that the money spent on fine and rare varieties of Peonies and Irises grows into more value if the owner is enthusiastic and keeps the varieties true to name, and in condition to be placed upon the market. I would not advise anyone to attempt to immediately go into the Peony and Iris game on a large scale, as I have known of disaster coming to growers who had more money than experience, but I am always glad to see outdoor lovers have an opportunity to make a paying business out of a hobby which keeps them out-of-doors, and whose duties they enjoy.

The following information from my own experience may be of benefit to men and women who are wondering if their garden hobby may develop into a satisfactory business.

Every variety of any flower which you think good enough to pay for and take into your garden, should receive a permanent plant label so that its identity will never be lost. A fine variety of Peony or Iris without its true name will lose nine-tenths of its value, for while everyone will admire it, yet only the expert can place it where it belongs. Unnamed and misnamed varieties, although of great beauty, are sold at a loss, if sold at all, and so the very first rule for a successful garden is keep your labels permanent and true.

The second rule is do not attempt to grow too fast. A few choice varieties which one can properly study and learn to know are of much greater value to the beginner than ten times as many varieties of mixed quality which one cannot hope to become properly acquainted with during the short time allowed for study in the garden. I wish someone had impressed this rule upon me most forcibly years ago, for I had to learn it by experience. Too many varieties confuse the beginner, while the thorough knowledge of a more limited number of desirable varieties inspire a grower with faith in himself, and without faith in himself no flower grower will advance very far toward the goal of success.

The third rule is centralize your efforts on the object in view. If you want to make your money in growing and selling roots, remember experience has shown that expensive varieties bring to a successful grower, who has merchandising ability, much better financial returns with a much less amount of labor than the same amount of money expended on moderate priced varieties. The increase from one \$10.00

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Peony will be just as valuable as the increase from ten plants worth \$1.00 each, and of course it takes ten times as much labor to cultivate the ten cheap plants as it does the one expensive plant, and so the labor return is a great deal larger on the expensive variety than on the cheaper one. In this connection, however, the beginner must know which of the higher priced varieties are really worth the money asked for them, for on going over any grower's price list he will find many varieties quoted at \$10.00, and the experienced grower will know that some varieties are not worth the price asked for them, and will refrain from purchasing them, while the beginner, not having this experience, may invest his money in a plant which will not bring him a proper return.

On the other hand if your object is to make money from the sale of blooms remember that the location of your garden on a main highway near a city where it can advertise itself, is one of the two most necessary steps to be taken, and the other one is, that you must procure the cheapest of the standard varieties of Peonies which will produce great quantities of satisfactory blooms. Some varieties which can be purchased at from \$25.00 to \$35.00 per hundred will produce as good bloom for cut flower sales as other varieties which may cost from ten to one hundred times as much. It is only the Peony enthusiast who can realize distinction between blooms which grow on plants that sell for a great difference in price. It will be necessary, of course, to select varieties which bloom very early and also very late in the season, as the highest prices are obtained during these periods. Located as I am, at a great distance from any city, I find that I get a much greater return on my investment in the rare and scarce varieties, and yet I feel sure if I were located near a large city I would reap a satisfactory return on plants which I have now thrown into the discard.

As a grower expecting to make money from your garden you will want to procure your stock at the lowest price possible, and you will find that the growers in Holland, France and England quote lower prices than American growers. I have had excellent results with Peony roots imported from France, but I believe I am justified in extending a word of caution about importing Peonies from Holland, as I have found in many cases that they do not bloom in this country. I believe after a Peony has produced its bloom, that it is necessary for the plant to ripen its roots to prepare the

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bloom buds for the next season, and I believe that our dry weather in July and August is conducive to forming the embryo buds in the root system for the following year. In moist Holland, however, the plants are deprived of the drought which they require to form the bloom buds, but they continue to grow a root system which is not at all successful in throwing out bloom buds, and so the plants produce most healthy roots but they do not bloom. The plants that I have imported from France have nearly all been most satisfactory bloom producers, and I do not hesitate to recommend Dessert and Lemoine, as both of them have furnished me roots which have proven entirely satisfactory. I know that many of my readers will regret to learn that Dessert has retired from the Peony business. On my visit with him last summer he told me that he contemplated disposing of his business, and in a letter just received from him he tells me that M. Doriat, a nurseryman of the Department of Allier, near Vichy, has acquired his entire stock and that it will be moved from its present location.

Peonies are much easier to import than Irises. I have not lost over ten percent of all my Peony importations, and the losses I have sustained were occasioned by very slow transportation during the war. Irises, however, are more difficult to import. At least my Iris importations have proven very much more unfortunate than my Peony importations. On two occasions I have lost over ninety percent of the varieties imported, and so when you see varieties quoted in the United States at a higher price than the same varieties are quoted in France and England, you may know that the importation hazard has had something to do with the higher prices in this country.

A thirty percent duty on the Irises I purchased abroad was one of the surprises I experienced last season. On a shipment on which I expected the transportation charges to be less than \$100.00, I found that the express agent asked me over \$500.00, and on checking the matter up, I found that the government had collected over \$400.00 in duty, and as I made Iris importations from six different firms I found that the item of duty added very materially to my investment in new Irises.

Beardless varieties of Irises should only be imported in early spring, as I have never succeeded with a planting put out in the fall. My experience has been that the Bearded Irises shipped entirely dry, without a particle of moisture or moss packed about them, but wrapped only in dry excel-

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sior, stand the long trip across the ocean much better than if packed moist. I even believe that a short exposure to the rays of the sun before packing is an advantage to Bearded Irises when shipment is made late in the fall.

And so when my advice is asked as to the wisdom of cultivating a garden for profit I always answer that the success will depend upon the grower. If he loves flowers and their cultivation, he will inspire his visitors with this same love while they are in his presence. A grower in his own garden, with a comparatively small stock of varieties to dispose of, has a great advantage over the largest grower in the United States, as far as the visitors to his garden are concerned, for each visitor can see exactly what he is buying, and unconsciously he feels like purchasing and rewarding the grower of the beautiful blooms which he has enjoyed. The grower in his own garden, if he wishes, can ask and procure higher prices for his roots than the man who issues a catalog, and so while the opportunity for a great number of customers is limited in the beginning, he can have the assurance that if he deals justly and wisely with his customers and they get satisfactory results from the roots furnished, each of them will advertise for him so that each succeeding season he can look forward to a more satisfactory business. Of course it will be necessary for him to continually add to his stock of varieties, as his first customers will expect him to be able to furnish them the newer varieties as they are placed upon the market.

And so I wish the greatest success to all flower lovers who are looking forward to the time when they will get profit as well as pleasure from their gardens.

LEE R. BONNEWITZ,  
Van Wert, Ohio.

February 23, 1923.

My Peony and Iris Price List will be  
issued the latter part of April.  
May I send you a copy of each?



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# GARDEN NOTES

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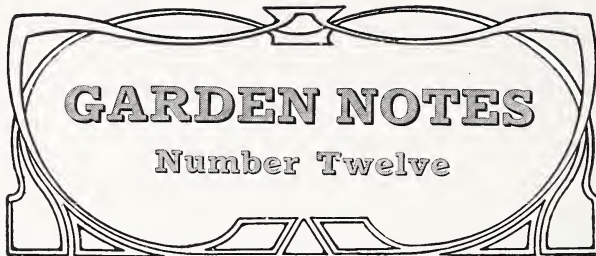


M. MARTIN CAHUZAC

By

## Lee R. Bonnewitz

Van Wert, Ohio



# GARDEN NOTES

## Number Twelve

*“The kiss of the sun for pardon,  
The song of the birds for mirth;  
One is nearer God’s heart in a garden  
Than anywhere else on earth.”*

One Sunday in June last year Mr. J. C. Wister, of Philadelphia, President of the American Iris Society, and I, engaged a car for the day and planned a trip to see the gardens of Kent and Surrey, and we invited as our guest and guide Mr. G. Dillistone, a landscape architect of Tunbridge Wells, who has both poetic and artistic appreciation. Everybody has heard of the beauty of England in June, but not everyone knows that Kent and Surrey, with their hills and valleys, are famous for their home gardens, the kind that you and I have a right to aspire to possess. The day was a perfect one, and we enjoyed it, as we had a perfect right to do, and in one of the gardens Mr. Dillistone quoted the four lines with which I have begun these Notes. I had not heard them before and was particularly anxious to learn the name of the author for, simple as these lines are, they made an appeal to my garden loving spirit such as few other quotations have ever done. Mr. Dillistone told me he had found the lines chiseled on a stone sundial in one of the old gardens he had visited, and that he was unable to give me the name of the author. Since coming home, I find that one of my friends has these same lines in his book of clippings, and that he found them in an American magazine twenty or more years ago, and so it has occurred to me that some of my readers may also have seen these lines and may be able to give me the name of the writer. At any rate, I hope that some of you may appreciate them now as much as I did when I heard them first in an English garden.

## Would You like to know just what kind of Peony Roots I furnish for Bonnewitz Strong One Eye Divisions?

Can you in your imagination picture the root I will ship when I say, "each *Bonnewitz Strong One Eye Divisions* will have at least two eyes, one being for insurance and good measure?"

Are you inclined to have just a slight wavering doubt when I say, "one eye divisions in my garden make just as large plants in four years as do five eye divisions of the same variety planted at the same time?"

If you do, I would appreciate a chance to prove my statements, and so I have reserved all of my stock of the varieties listed on the following page for my "1923 Sample Collections," and

*I will send you Parcel Post, Prepaid, three (3) Bonnewitz Strong One Eye Divisions, my selection, from the list of varieties on the following page, correctly labeled, for One Dollar (\$1.00).*

You furnish the space in your garden; I will furnish the Peonies with full planting instructions, and I am confident that the results will prove my statements, and disclose for you the beauty of the Peony. This is really my "GET ACQUAINTED" offer and I hope that a thousand flower lovers will join me in this trial, for I am anxious to get these Peonies growing in a thousand different gardens where Peonies have never grown.

Fill in your name and address below, attach your check, money order or currency, mail it to me, and the trial is on.

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LEE R. BONNEWITZ,  
Van Wert, Ohio.

I want to try out your *Bonnewitz Strong One Eye Divisions*. Here is my dollar. Send me one of your "1923 Sample Collections," and I will let you know what results I have with it.

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## Important Notices on Peony Quotations and Offers

The response to my Peony Price List which I mailed out July 7th has been so active that it is necessary for me to withdraw the following varieties from sale for the balance of the season:

**LUETTA PFEIFFER**  
**RICHARD CARVEL**  
**EDWIN C. SHAW**  
**MABEL L. FRANKLIN**  
**CHERRY HILL**

I will ship all orders for these varieties which have been accepted up to and including the date of this notice.

I am glad that I am still able to accept orders on both my Beginners' Collections.

### *Beginners' Collection Number One*

M. JULES ELIE,

The most spectacular Peony ever originated. Color, silvery pink.  
BARONESS SCHROEDER,

The beautiful white Peony with a delicate pink veil over it.  
GINETTE,

The new dainty pink Peony of French introduction which is in a class with Therese.

KARL ROSENFELD,

One of the very best American red Peonies.

MAUD L. RICHARDSON,

One of the most satisfactory very late pink Peonies.

FESTIVA MAXIMA,

The large white Peony with distinct carmine markings.

**A Bonnewitz Strong One Eye Division of each for.....\$5.00**

### *Beginners' Collection Number Two*

LADY ALEXANDER DUFF,

The finest Peony in all England.

JUBILEE,

The American Prize Winning Peony.

M. MARTIN CAHUZAC,

A very dark red Peony, sometimes called "The Black Peony."

PRIMEVERE,

Usually spoken of as the best yellow Peony.

MARIE CROUSSE,

A very dainty pink Peony whose buds should be allowed to open in the house.

**A Bonnewitz Strong One Eye Division of each for.....\$10.00**

My usual terms will apply on these beginners' collections. Cash with order, shipment to be made by express. Charges to be paid by purchaser.

LEE R. BONNEWITZ.

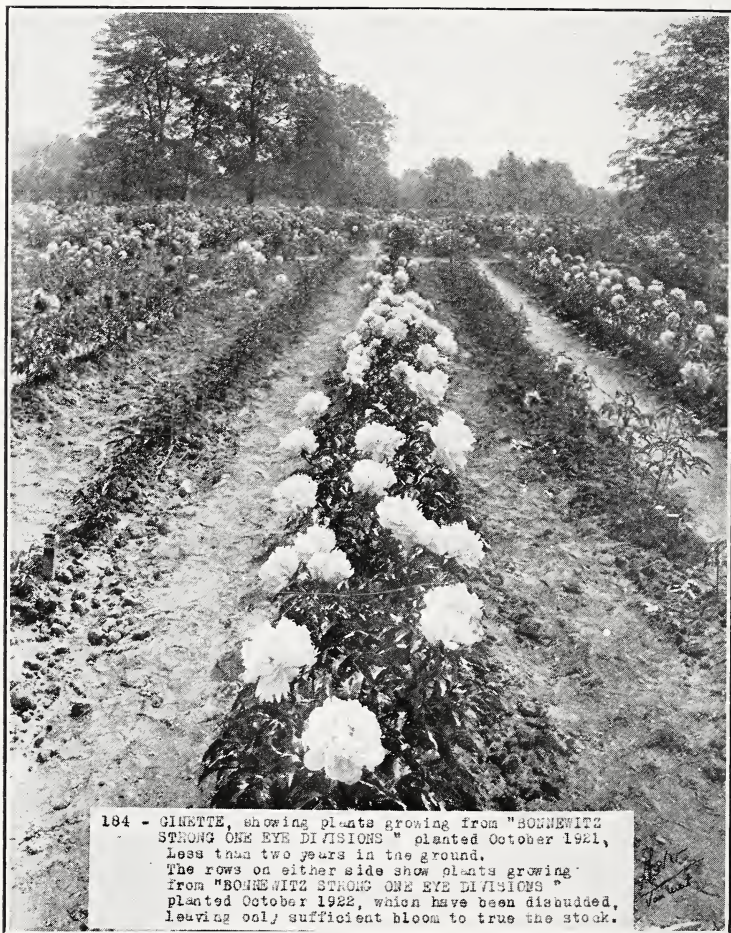
Van Wert, Ohio, July 23rd, 1923.

# Here Are The Varieties

1923 Sample Collections

AKSARBEN (Rosenfield)	MADAME CHAUMY (Calot)
ALBATRE (Crousse)	MADAME CROUSSE (Calot)
ARCHIE BRAND (Brand)	MADAME DE GALHAU (Crousse)
ARTEMISE (Calot)	MADAME DE VERNE- VILLE (Calot)
BELISAIRE (Lemoine)	MADAME FOREL (Crousse)
BELLE MAUVE (Lemoine)	MADAME FOULD (Crousse)
BOADICEA	MADAME SAVREAU (Savreau)
CANDIDISSIMA (Calot)	NEPTUNE (Dessert)
CECILIA KELWAY (Kelway)	ODETTE (Dessert)
CHARLEMAGNE (Crousse)	PRAIRIE KING (Rosenfield)
CONSTANT DEVRED (Calot)	QUEEN OF THE PLEASANCE (Pleas)
COURONNE D'OR (Calot)	SAPHO (Lemoine)
DR. H. BARNSBY (Dessert)	SHABONA (Harrison)
DUC DE WELLINGTON (Calot)	SIMONNE CHEVALIER (Dessert)
DUCHESSE DE NEMOURS (Calot)	SOUV. DE L'EXPO. UNIVERSELLE (Calot)
ELLA W. WILCOX (Brand)	SOUV. DE L'EXPO. DE BORDEAUX (Dessert)
GENERAL BERTRAND (Guerin)	SOLFATARE (Calot)
H. F. REDDICK (Brand)	SUMMUM BONUM (Kelway)
LA TENDRESSE (Crousse)	SUSAN B. ANTHONY (Brand)
LADY MAYORESS (Kelway)	THE GEM (Pleas)
MELANIE HENRY (Guerin)	TRIOMPHE DE L'EXPO- SITION DE LILLE (Calot)
MILES STANDISH (Hollis)	VIRGINIE (Calot)
MIDNIGHT (Brand)	WALTER MORGAN (Pleas)
MIDNIGHT (Good & Reese)	ZOE VERNIORY (Guerin)
MIDNIGHT (Hollis)	
MODESTE GUERIN (Guerin)	
MADAME BUCQUET (Dessert)	





184 - GINETTE, showing plants growing from "BOHEWITZ STRONG ONE EYE DIVISIONS " planted October 1921, less than two years in the ground. The rows on either side show plants growing from "BOHEWITZ STRONG ONE EYE DIVISIONS " planted October 1922, which have been disabded, leaving only sufficient bloom to true the stock.

“Garden Notes” should either be written in a garden or about things which are growing in a garden, and these “Garden Notes” are written in my own garden, and tell the story of my own Peonies exactly as I saw them this year. I have never published a Peony catalogue, but when I do, I would like to have the descriptions give my own ideas of the varieties I sell, and so I hope that within a few years it will be possible for me to compile a Peony catalogue from descriptions I will find in my own “Garden Notes.”

**ADMIRAL TOGO (Hollis)**

This late red variety had splendid blooms in my garden this season. Its color was nearly as dark as Cahuzac, and I could not help comparing it with Philippe Rivoire, although it did not hold its excellent color as well as that famous variety. I will try to accumulate some stock of it so that I may offer it for sale within a season or two.

**ALICE HARDING (Lemoine)**

When in France last year, I purchased from Mr. Lemoine a new Peony which had just been awarded a certificate of merit by the National Horticultural Society and which has since been named Alice Harding. It bloomed in my garden this year, and, although the plant was small, the bloom showed excellent quality and the stem gave promise of being able to support a bloom even as large as Jubilee. The color of this new arrival is white, and its petals seem to be of uniform size and perfect arrangement, so it will probably have a regular form, like Bayadere or Le Cygne, instead of the irregular or ragged effect, which is so much admired in the famous Jubilee.

**AURORE (Dessert)**

As I looked at this bloom in my garden, I felt that it was well named and that, undoubtedly, Mr. Dessert had more than once seen the “Northern Lights,” in which he found the same soft colors which distinguish this Peony.

**ARLEQUIN (Dessert)**

One of the newest seedlings placed on the market and, on two-year old plants in my garden, the bloom seemed not yet entirely transformed from the Japanese type. It will take another year or two to find the real merit of this newcomer.

**AUGUSTE DESSERT** (Dessert)

The small, semi-double blooms on one-year plants of this variety were of the most beautiful shade of sunrise pink, and won great praise from visitors, but the larger, full double blooms on three-year old plants assumed a stronger and, I feel I must say, a slightly harsher tone, which was not quite so beautiful. If the large, full double blooms could retain the shade of the small, semi-double blooms, found on small plants, this variety would, I believe, exceed even Walter Faxon in popularity.

**AVIATEUR REYMOND** (Dessert)

The blooms on old plants of this variety seemed to me this year to possess more quality and size than on smaller plants I had seen in previous years, and I am learning to appreciate its peculiar red, somewhat more than formerly. It may be possible that my visit with Mr. Dessert, in which he told me that he liked the colors of this variety and of Victoire de la Marne, may have influenced me somewhat, for I confess I like Mr. Dessert, and so I suppose it is natural for me to learn to like what he likes.

**BAYADERE** (Lemoine)

This variety has, for years, had the reputation of being very slow to bloom, and it probably deserves its reputation, but this year it redeemed itself in my garden. It bloomed quite freely, and its pure white flowers, which were held perfectly on strong stems, were as fine as anything in the whole garden. I had the pleasure of visiting Mr. Henry S. Cooper in his garden in Kenosha, Wisconsin, during the blooming season, and he certainly knows how to grow fine Peonies, and the most perfect one of them all, on the day of my visit, was Bayadere.

**BALL O'COTTON** (Franklin)

I believe there is a great future for this fine white variety, for on a three-year old plant in my garden its blooms displayed some of the best characteristics of both Glorious and Jubilee. Keep your eyes on Ball O'Cotton. No, I have none of it for sale, but you can, undoubtedly, procure it from the originator, Mr. Franklin, of St. Paul, Minnesota.

**BENOIT** (Riviere)

This is the Peony sent out by Riviere's widow as Philippe Rivoire, and the day it first opened, it looked

so much like Philippe Rivoire that the greatest Peony expert who visited my garden this year failed to notice the difference. The second, third, and fourth days after it opens, it grows continually lighter in color and shows no resemblance whatever to Philippe Rivoire, although it is still a good red Peony. As Riviere is dead, and as his widow evidently knows nothing at all about Peonies, I have decided to put this variety on the market as Benoit, which was Riviere's given name. I will send out only half a dozen plants of it this year to the men in whose Peony judgment I have most confidence and, if it should be decided that this variety is not needed, I will be in position to suppress it. All Peony growers should check their plants bearing the name Philippe Rivoire and assure themselves that they have the true variety for, in trying to increase my stock of this valuable variety from other American growers, I received the one I have named Benoit, and so it is evident that I am not the only grower to whom a false Philippe Rivoire was sent.

#### BOULE DE NEIGE

One of the very old sorts which should be retained in our gardens. It has four beautiful carmine marks on the "Ball of Snow" and very much resembles another variety known as M. Dupont. One of Mr. Shaylor's very best new Peonies seem to me like a very much larger and improved Boule de Neige, but until Mr. Shaylor's new variety can be sold at popular price, we should not discard this old favorite.

#### BRAND'S MAGNIFICENT

This variety from the famous originator and to which his name is attached, shows less merit in my garden than any of the other Brand varieties. I am wondering if my stock of it is true or whether Mr. Brand made a mistake in placing it upon the market. The ones which bear the name in my garden are not of extra size, and are poor in shape and of a rather unattractive shade of red. Mr. Brand has given us so many first-class Peonies that I am almost tempted to believe that my stock may be untrue, or that the variety is not adapted to Ohio soil.

#### CANDEUR (Dessert)

This is one of the very new tall Peonies whose buds open pink and later fade nearly white, and whose full



blooms show a quantity of stamens. The blooms are large and droop gracefully, but in my garden do not go down.

**CHARLES SEDGWICK MINOT** (Richardson)

This is one of the varieties with long, loose petals of a pleasing pink shade, but it undoubtedly does not have as much merit as Walter Faxon, which was introduced by the same grower.

**CHERRY HILL** (Thurlow)

A splendid early red landscape Peony. I like it very much better than in former years, probably because my plants of it are older. They all stood up perfectly, and I am learning that perfect carriage in the garden is one of the best characteristics any Peony can possess.

**CLEMENCEAU** (Dessert)

A new tall variety, with stiff stems, and whose pink blooms fade to a silvery pink of lighter color than that in Lamartine (Lemoine). I am not yet sure that it is as outstanding a variety as Lamartine (Lemoine), but I believe it deserves a place in the Peony world. A few years in American gardens will demonstrate whether or not Dessert was wise in sending this new variety to America.

**COQUETTE** (Lemoine)

This new variety must not be confused with La Coquette. Coquette (Lemoine) is the very latest variety to bloom in my garden. Its buds make me think of an Ophelia rose and the full, open bloom still gives the impression of a most beautiful rose, for the size is not large like the usual prize-winning Peony. With me, it seems to need half shade, and I believe it will thrive best near the sea, or where there is some moisture in the air at least a part of each day. I will be glad to know of Peony enthusiasts who make a success growing this variety.

**CORONATION** (Kelway)

One of the long-petaled varieties which gives an impression of luxury and elegance. I class it with Thurlow's Nymphaea, and I like it very much.

**DE CANDOLLE**

A mid-season red Peony, which sometimes equals Karl Rosenfield and Mary Brand. I am not yet sure that these varieties eclipse it entirely, and it will probably



serve a useful purpose for several years as a medium-priced red Peony for the growers who must buy roots in great quantity for cut flowers. For the enthusiast and garden lover who has space for a very few red Peonies, I would recommend Philippe Rivoire, Mary Brand, Longfellow, Lora Dexheimer, Karl Rosenfield, Thurlow's Cherry Hill, and William F. Turner, and omit such varieties as De Candolle, but this variety still has its place with the commercial growers.

DESIRE (Brand)

I never saw this variety until it bloomed in my garden this year on a two-year old plant, and it instantly met my approval. I will not sell even a single division of it, but I am glad to tell other Peony lovers how well it pleased me so that they can procure it if they wish. Its habit of growth in my garden seemed to be perfect, and its beautiful pink blooms of splendid size were held by graceful stems, exactly strong enough for the blooms which they carried.

DR. H. BARNSBY (Dessert)

I have never given this peculiar red variety my complete approval, but my *Bonnwitz Strong One Eye Division* proposition gives other Peony enthusiasts a chance to prove it out in their own gardens without much financial risk. I have mentioned that its color is red of a peculiar shade, and I must tell you also that it blooms in late mid-season.

E. B. BROWNING (Brand)

This Peony is for the enthusiast only for, like Jubilee, it needs support, and it is only the real enthusiast who is willing to go to the trouble necessary to give these fine Peonies the support they must have. Its large, fine white blooms, however, attracted the attention of every visitor to my garden. There is, evidently, not a large stock of it in commerce, for the demand for it seems to be greater than the supply.

EDWIN C. SHAW (Thurlow)

This new variety seems to me to be almost, if not altogether, as good as President Wilson. It is a dainty pink in color, and, so far as I have been able to observe, its garden habit is perfect.

EMCHEN (G & K)

This is one of my newest importations and on two-

year old plants it seems to have the good qualities of Baroness Schroeder which it very much resembles.

ENCHANTERESSE (Lemoine)

A very tall, late, white variety, with splendid stiff stems and excellent quality in its petals. I give it my unqualified approval, which I hope you have noticed is rather unusual for me, for there are comparatively few Peonies which measure up to my standard of excellence.

ELWOOD PLEAS (Pleas)

A very large, late mid-season, pink variety, whose blooms will keep longer as cut flowers than those of any other variety with which I am acquainted. The blooms are very large, and the color is a pleasing shade of lilac pink, the blooms are entirely double, and the garden habit of the plant is splendid. I have faith that it will sometime get the highest prize in a National Peony Show.

E. G. HILL (Lemoine)

A deep pink variety, with large blooms and very stiff stems. The strong color of the blooms, combined with the erect habit of the plant, makes this a desirable variety for landscape purposes, but it is not valuable for show purposes on the exhibition table.

ENCHANTMENT (Hollis)

This variety has a more pleasing shade of pink than E. G. Hill and, although its stems are not so strong as in that variety, yet it held its blooms from touching the ground during the entire Peony season.

EUCHARIS (Lemoine)

Every Peony enthusiast who likes Alsace Lorraine will like also Eucharis. It is not quite so large or so tall as Alsace Lorraine, but it has the same deep cream color and excellent substance in its petals, and the shape of its blooms is attractive. In size and form, they are much like beautiful roses.

EVANGELINE (Lemoine)

A late, deep rose pink variety, which I hope to describe at greater length next year.

EVENING GLOW (Hollis)

I suppose this variety is appropriately named, but it always makes me think of a light-house on the Atlantic Coast of Florida. I do not know why it does not make

me think of a light-house on the Pacific Coast or elsewhere in the world. I am glad, however, that Peonies bring thoughts of many other things to my mind and sometime, at my leisure, I intend to make out a list of the things which the different varieties bring to my mind. This variety is of a lilac pink shade, of good size and, to my mind, rather too heavy in form to be very graceful.

**EUGENE VERDIER (Calot)**

A late, mid-season variety, with stems as stiff as on E. G. Hill, but with pink blooms of a delightful shade, on which you will always be able to find a nice yellow collar between the guards and the crown. Excellent for both landscape purposes and cut flowers. I purchased this variety from many different growers in France, England, and the United States, and from only three of them I received the true variety. It will probably have a higher rating when all the members of the Peony Society have the true variety growing in their own gardens.

**EUGENIE VERDIER (Calot)**

A much taller pink Peony than Eugene Verdier, and whose strong stems carry exceedingly large blooms, which droop somewhat, but are usually carried well up in the air. The coloring of the bloom is dainty, and the shape and appearance are refined. This variety won first prize for the best six blooms, one variety, at the St. Paul show this year. My secretary in his writeup reported Eugene Verdier winning this award, but I find that it was a typographical error and that "Eugenie" really won the coveted honor.

**EXQUISITE (Kelway)**

This is one of my greatest favorites among all the Peonies. A single, well-grown plant reminds me of a lady, dressed in excellent taste, who wears her clothes with ease and assurance and who, you feel confident, will do exactly the right thing on all occasions. Of course I am glad to have this plant in my garden. The bloom is pink, and is only partially double, but its lack of weight gives it the grace and refinement which pleases me so much.

**FRANCES SHAYLOR (Shaylor)**

A rich, cream Peony, with its petals very closely packed, and with a row of yellow, club-shaped staminodes,

forming a complete circle on the face of the blooms. Very unusual in appearance and, when the weather is entirely favorable, it expands into a remarkably beautiful Peony.

**FRANCES WILLARD (Brand)**

This Peony is one of Mr. Brand's greatest triumphs, and I do not need to qualify my recommendation of it in any particular. When a beginner in Peony culture is willing to make an advance beyond *Festiva Maxima*, Frances Willard should be one of his first purchases. Its color is white, the blooms are of large size, and the stems are strong enough to carry the weight of the blooms. It responds to special care and feeding.

**FESTIVA MAXIMA (Miellez)**

The best white Peony in the world, which can be bought at a very reasonable price. Its weak stem is its only objection.

**GALATHEE (Lemoine)**

This Peony has not yet attracted the attention which I believe it deserves. It is very late, blooming with *Grandiflora*, and it has splendid stiff stems. It opens from a delicate pink bud, and fades almost white, and it shows Lemoine quality and breeding. The largest bloom in my garden this year was on a three-year old plant of Galathee, which had been disbudded, and, although the bloom was larger than anything else in the garden, yet it was held perfectly erect. I intend to give this variety very close observation in the future.

**GERMAINE BIGOT (Dessert)**

This pink variety is most excellent in my garden, and it gives me the impression that it may probably be in the line from which Peonies *President Wilson* and *Jeannot* have descended (or come up), and yet, many of my friends write me that they do not like it. I wish my friends could see in it the same beauty which I see, or that it would manifest in my garden the habits or traits which have prejudiced them against it.

**GEORGE HOLLIS (Hollis)**

I have purchased this variety from three different sources, and two of the purchases are exactly like *Loveliness* (Hollis). This variety, whose color is pink and white, is very late—(this year two days later even than *Grandiflora*)—and it has splendid stiff stems. The other

variety sent me for George Hollis is also pink and white, and it blooms about a week earlier than the variety which is identical with Loveliness. I do not know whether anyone in the country is authority on Hollis varieties, but I have decided to send out the extreme late variety under the name "Loveliness" only. I will not place the other variety on the market at all, unless it shows quality equal to Loveliness, which I doubt very much.

GINETTE (Dessert)

For years I have believed that I could get as good blooms from Ginette as from Therese, but at last I will acknowledge that Therese is the better Peony of the two. Ginette is a light pink Peony, with good stems, and distinctive markings and, while not as good as Therese, yet it deserves a place in our gardens. It multiplies more rapidly than Therese, and I believe also that it produces bloom more abundantly.

GRANDIFLORA (Richardson)

One of the very latest pink Peonies, which has never failed to bloom for me. It is of splendid size and the stems are not quite as strong as they should be, for they sometimes allow the bloom to droop to the ground. The blooms fade till they are nearly white, but they are almost as beautiful after they have faded as when they first open. You can probably procure the variety elsewhere much cheaper than I list it, but I regard it as equal and even superior to many Peonies which sell at several times its price.

H. A. HAGEN (Richardson)

A deep rose pink Peony, with a slight suggestion of Walter Faxon coloring which fades very much lighter. It is quite satisfactory in my garden, but I do not regard it as equal to Grandiflora or Walter Faxon.

HAPPY DAY (Hollis)

A pink landscape variety, which gives somewhat the same effect as Kelway's Exquisite when both are planted for mass effect. I am not yet willing to say that it is as good as Exquisite.

ISOLINE (Lemoine)

This is a new variety, similar to Primevere which, when developed in a bag and opened in the house, is a yellow Peony. Lemoine must have thought it better than



Primevere, but I am not sure that he was correct if he did so decide. I will give it closer attention next year and, if it is not superior, there is no reason anyone should purchase it at a higher price than Primevere.

JAMES KELWAY (Kelway)

I visited Kelway's garden in Langport, England, last year, and I was delighted with both James Kelway and Lady Alexandra Duff, as these were the two very best Peonies in the entire collection. In this country, James Kelway produces such large white Peonies that the plants must be supported, but as I remember the Kelway garden last year, the blooms of this variety were much better carried by the plant itself. I do not hesitate to recommend this variety to a lover of white Peonies.

JEANNOT (Dessert)

A splendid pink Peony, which is later than President Wilson and possibly even superior to that variety and also possibly superior to the other famous variety, E. C. Shaw. I expect to watch this variety very closely during the next few years, as it has shown great promise.

JEANNE GAUDICHAU (Millet)

A medium tall, light pink Peony, with splendid stems, which hold the large blooms perfectly. My three-year old plants of this variety gave me a most pleasant surprise for I had not expected this variety to develop either such great size or excellent quality as I found in my garden this year. Jeanne Gaudichau is taller and has larger bloom than Margaret Gaudichau and both varieties have splendid stems and so can be used for landscape purposes.

JUBILEE (Pleas)

This variety has been the prize winner at two National Peony Shows and as a cut flower for exhibition purposes it is a very great success. Its buds are pink, and when the blooms first open, they have a delicate shade of pink also but, in the fully expanded flower, the color changes to white, with usually a cream center of great attractiveness. I must say that either the blooms are too heavy, or the stems are too weak, for the garden habit of the plant is not to be commended, for it must have support or the bloom will go down. I would be delighted to find a seedling with a carriage as good as LeCygne and a bloom with the beauty and quality of Jubilee.

**KARL ROSENFELD** (Rosenfield)

A splendid red Peony originated in America. It is so nearly like Mary Brand that I cannot easily distinguish one from the other. The plants of both are strong and vigorous, and Karl Rosenfield has the advantage of being sold at a very moderate price. It is in very great demand, and deserves the popularity it has attained.

**KELWAY'S GLORIOUS** (Kelway)

Probably the most beautiful white Peony in the world, but the plant is not a rapid grower. It resents being divided more than any other Peony I know, and under no circumstances should it be divided oftener than once in two years, and even then it is apt to loaf a whole year after being divided. On account of its slow multiplication, the price remains high, but if I am right in thinking that Franklin's Ball O'Cotton may take its place, it is probable that Kelway's Glorious may be sold at a lower price within the next few years.

**LADY ALEXANDRA DUFF** (Kelway)

For a description of this Peony, see the story of "The Long Lost Peony."

**LADY EMILY** (Pleas)

This pink and white variety produces semi-double blooms on young plants and the blooms are remarkable for their gracefulness. However, on strong plants, in well-enriched soil, the same variety will produce blooms of enormous size which, while they may lack grace, will be remarkable for color, form, and strength of stem.

**LITTLE SWEETHEART** (Brand)

This variety seems to me to be adapted for border planting, for the blooms are not of large size and, as they are held well, they do not need support.

**LONGFELLOW** (Brand)

The quality of the red in this variety is superior to the color in most all other red Peonies. Neither the size or the shape are remarkable, but the color certainly is excellent.

**LORA DEXHEIMER** (Brand)

I am nearly convinced that Lora Dexheimer is as good a red Peony as Longfellow, but I will wait another year before coming to a complete conclusion. No red Peony in my garden gave more satisfaction to me this season than Lora Dexheimer.

## LUCY E. HOLLIS (Hollis)

This is a late variety and blooms with Milton Hill. It is above average size, the color is a dainty pink, and the stems are not quite as strong as we could wish.

## LUETTA PFEIFFER (Brand)

I regard this Peony as one of the best. It is very early and the blooms are of extra large size. Its color is a splendid rich pink, which fades to a light pink and still holds its quality. The petals are unusually long, and of good substance, and are loosely placed in the bloom so that the weight of the flower is not too great for the stem. I wish I had enough of it to supply the demand, but it can, I believe, be procured from the Pfeiffer Nursery Company, Winona, Minn.

## MARCELLE DESSERT (Dessert)

This early Peony is of splendid size and quality, and I was glad to meet the young lady whose name it bears and see her devotion to her father and her solicitous care for him. In commemoration of my visit to the Dessert home, where Marcelle Dessert presided, I am giving this Peony a very prominent place in my display garden.

## MAUD L. RICHARDSON (Hollis)

One of the largest and tallest of the late pink varieties, two days earlier than Grandiflora. It is growing in the appreciation of Peony lovers every year.

## MARGARET GAUDICHAU (Millet)

This variety is not quite so tall, and its pink blooms are not quite so large as those of Jeanne Gaudichau, but it has the same splendid habit of holding its bloom well up in the air instead of allowing them to fall to the ground.

## MABEL L. FRANKLIN (Franklin)

I have very little of this variety that I can offer for sale, but I am sure the real Peony enthusiast will want it. It grows so vigorously and its rich, pink blooms are of such size that I cannot help wishing that it had been named W. F. Christman, and that the daintier variety, which bears his name, had been named Mabel Franklin.

## MARY A. LIVERMORE (Hollis)

A late mid-season pink variety, which shows promise of good quality. My plants of this variety are yet only two years old, and I anticipate better blooms next season.

MARY W. SHAYLOR (Shaylor)

A semi-dwarf variety, but a most vigorous grower. It has some of the characteristics of Lady A. Duff, but it lacks the particular charm of that variety. The blooms are pink, and have more substance in their petals than the celebrated English variety.

MARIE CROUSSE (Crousse)

When I first became interested in Peonies, this variety was the one most prized by the Peony enthusiasts of my acquaintance. It held the place of honor now held by Le Cygne. Its color is a most dainty pink, and when covered with a bag, and allowed to open its bloom indoors, it creates a sensation, even when exhibited by the side of Jubilee and Le Cygne.

MILTON HILL (Richardson)

This dainty, pink, late-blooming variety is growing in popularity, and is in much greater demand than five years ago. Its color is not quite so striking as Walter Faxon, but its size and quality are fully equal to it.

PARADISE (Hollis)

This pink Peony deserves its beautiful name, at least it so impresses me. I have not yet seen it growing on strong plants, but, if it increases in size and charm with the strength of the plant on which it is grown, it will rank very high.

LEE R. BONNEWITZ

Van Wert, Ohio, July 23, 1923.

Do you want your name to remain on my list for Garden Notes? If you answered the letter my secretary, Mr. Shimer, mailed you on May 18, when he enclosed a stamped and addressed envelope for reply, I will continue sending you everything I publish. If, however, you neglected answering that letter, and do not now tell me to keep your name on my list, I will take it for granted that you are not interested, and will correct my mailing list accordingly.



# Garden Notes

Number Thirteen

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## PEONY COUNSEL FOR BEGINNERS.

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### Lee R. Bonnewitz

Van Wert, Ohio

The love of Peonies and the desire to grow them usually takes possession of a person like an inspiration. Yesterday we hardly knew what the word "Peony" meant. Today we see a most wonderful flower which has been grown in our own climate, and we become possessed with a desire to grow it in our own garden. Upon investigation we find a multitude of catalogues with a wealth of information, most of which is written for the benefit of the advanced Peony enthusiast. This issue of my Garden Notes, however, is written for the benefit of men and women who have seen magnificent Peony blooms at the shows, and those who have heard and read of the beauty of the Peony, but who have never seen the plants growing in a garden.

Peony gardens are started by purchasing roots which continually grow larger from season to season, and which may be divided every two or three years, and each division thus made, if it possesses even a single eye or sprout will in three or four years become a full sized Peony plant, capable of producing as good blooms as any other plant of the same variety. Plants grown from divisions of roots always produce the same kind of blooms as the original plant. Seeds, however, will produce plants altogether different from the plant from which the seeds were obtained, and in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred, the blooms on these plants will not be as good as on the parent plants.

The beginner should carefully select his varieties and should not let his enthusiasm lead him to buy so many that he can not properly take care of them. Every root purchased and planted should be provided with a stake on which is permanently inscribed the name of the variety. He will want to include in his selection an early, a mid-

season, and a late variety of each of the three colors, white, pink, and red, and I am sure he would enjoy having, also, one of the new yellow varieties now on the market, although it will be necessary for him to invest more money in the yellow variety than in most of the others. He may be interested in knowing that there is a one hundred dollar prize offered for a new yellow Peony, and as this new Peony must be grown from seed, and as it is supposed that seed from a yellow variety is more likely to produce the color wanted, there is quite a desire among Peony owners to possess at least one yellow variety as a seed producer.

If his observation has been thorough he will probably not want any help in selecting the varieties for his first purchase but, judging from the time of blooming in my own garden, *Festiva Maxima*, *La Rosiere*, and *Couronne d'Or* would cover the season in white varieties; *Umbellata rosea*, *Eugenie Verdier*, and *Grandiflora* (Richardson) in pinks; and *Lora Dexheimer*, *Karl Rosenfield*, and *Sops of Wine* would do the same in reds. If he should desire a yellow variety, I suggest a division of *Primevere*. A beginner's collection should also include a root of *M. Jules Elie*, for if he secures a root of good, clean stock, it will probably give him a greater surprise than any other variety. Unfortunately there is a lot of worthless stock of this variety in the country, so it would be wise to select this variety from some grower's garden while the plant is in bloom. If a new variety should be grown from seed with as much merit and individuality as *M. Jules Elie*, I am sure that one thousand dollars would be a very moderate price to pay for it.

In purchasing these varieties he will find the prices so reasonable on all of them except *Primevere* and the red varieties that he can afford to purchase a full sized one or two-year old root, which should have four or more eyes, but the yellow and red varieties will probably be quoted at five dollars or more for a full sized root. As a beginner, he may not care to pay so much for one variety, in which case he will be perfectly justified in asking the grower to make him a price on a division with one or two eyes, which he can probably purchase for about a third of the price of the whole root. This division, if cut from a strong, healthy root, as all divisions should be, will, according to experience in my garden, be just as large in three or four years as any other three or four year old plant of the same variety, even if the other plant started with six or a dozen eyes.

Two or three years ago the growers were afraid to sell divisions, but we are all wiser now, for, as Mr. Farr says, "A strong root with one eye often is infinitely better than a weak one with many." T. C. Thurlow's Sons give their

opinion of divisions by saying, "Undoubtedly they will eventually bloom as well as larger plants, just as a colt will eventually do as much work as a fully grown horse, but we must wait a few years for it." It takes a colt three years to develop into a horse, just as it takes a division three years to develop into a full sized Peony plant, and as it takes a two-year old Peony plant two years to establish itself in a new location, it seems that the purchasers of divisions lose only one year's time in the operation. The sale of divisions has allowed the Peony business to make a most wonderful growth during the past three years and thousands of Peony enthusiasts own rare varieties who could not possibly have owned them under other conditions because there would not have been enough roots in the world to supply the present owners.

Having selected and received his Peony roots, the next thing is to plant them properly. This can be done anytime from the first of September until the ground freezes solid, but it is wise to do it early, because we sometimes fail to get the work completed, which we plan to do late in the season. For the Peony bed, let the beginner select a piece of ground in full sun, with soil at least as rich as that in his vegetable garden. Spade it at least twelve inches deep (fifteen to eighteen inches would, of course, be better, but I have never done it). In case he spades it deeper than twelve inches it would be wise to put some well rotted manure in the lower six inches of the bed where the roots will find it in future years, but in this part of Ohio the soil is so rich that no fertilizer is needed. However, it is wise to use fertilizer in most sections of the United States, but care should be taken if manure is used, that it should be old and well rotted, and even then it must not come in direct contact with the roots.

I like to ridge up my Peony beds so that under no circumstances can the water stand around the plants, for Peonies resent too much moisture. Lack of perfect drainage is one of the two great causes of failure in both small and large Peony plantings. All my Peony beds are raised at least three inches above the surrounding soil. In planting my Peony roots (which are always strong divisions) I place the eyes exactly even with the surface of the bed and cover them with two inches of the best soil available. The root will settle somewhat, as will also the entire bed, but when freezing weather arrives I like to feel that the eyes are covered to such a depth (not more than two inches), that the winds of February and March cannot uncover them.

Too deep planting is the second of the two great causes of lack of success with Peonies, and I find everywhere beginners are prone to plant their roots so deep that the

strength of the root is exhausted in sending its growth to the surface and, consequently, no buds or flowers are formed. The eyes need only enough soil over them to protect them from the rays of the winter sun which would start growth too early in the season. The beginner may cover his few plants with straw about December fifteenth, after the ground has frozen solid, and this covering will keep the bed from thawing out until late in the season. In my latitude, this covering should be removed about the last week in March. The beginner will, of course, understand that these planting directions are given for my own latitude and conditions. Should his conditions be different, he would be wise to consult an experienced Peony grower in his own vicinity as to the best method of planting. My experience has taught me that the method I have outlined is the best for my section of Ohio.

Each plant will thrust its head through the ground in early April, and if more than two sprouts should appear, the owner of the garden may break off and destroy the excess above that number, which process will give increased strength to the two remaining. Within two or three weeks he will find a tiny bud on the tip of each sprout, and a few days later he will find three to five lateral buds lower down on the stem. If he will carefully pinch off these lateral or side buds, the full strength of the plant will go to the main buds and they will develop into fair blooms the first year, and he can have a faint idea of the kind of flowers he will see on his plants two or three years later. If the grower has the courage to pinch one of the buds from the two main stems, the bud remaining will develop into a finer flower than if the young plant was allowed to try to bring the two to full development. On young plants all blooms should be cut so that the plant does not have a chance to grow and ripen seed, for maturing seed is said to use strength which should be retained and used for root growth.

Peony plants need comparatively little attention. The soil should be loosened around the plants to the depth of about an inch soon after the shoots are through the ground. Too deep early cultivation may injure the roots. Keep the soil free from weeds and grass and the plants will ask little else of the gardener.

The second year the beginner may allow four or five stems to carry main blooms, and the third season should find him with such a quantity of extremely fine flowers that he will be unable to resist the impulse to exhibit them at the nearest Peony Show.

LEE R. BONNEWITZ

Van Wert, Ohio, September 3, 1923