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BRAND PEONY MANUAL



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BRAND PEONY MANUAL



*A Comprehensive Instruction Book
on the Care of the*
PEONY



BRAND PEONY FARMS

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BRAND PEONY FARMS
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MYRTLE GENTRY



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FOREWORD

IN the summer of 1920 we issued what we called the Golden Anniversary Number of our catalog. Just fifty years before my father had started his nursery business in Faribault,—the business which to both of us came to mean chiefly the peony business. To us, it was a very special year, and we wished in some way to include the friends who had helped to make our business, in a celebration of the occasion. We knew that through accounts of the work of Luther Burbank and other hybridizers there was growing up a general interest in the work of plant improvement, and we wondered if those who received our catalog might not be interested in some account of our work with the peony. So we put out a larger and finer book than usual, and in it we told somewhat briefly of our own experiments and gave fuller information than we had before done of the history and cultivation of the peony.

We were more than surprised at the response that met our little book. Briefly as we had written we were afraid we might have given too detailed an account of some phases of our work to hold the attention, even of the flower-loving public. But as it turned out, we had only whetted their interest. We were almost swamped with letters asking for additional information about all sorts of matter relating to the peony.

When, in 1922, it became necessary to issue another book, we set out to answer these questions. When we had finished, we had a book, which in size and completeness, was far beyond the ordinary catalog. In fact, we felt it fairly entitled to the name "Manual." This book also was received with unexpected cordiality. The edition was soon exhausted, and in 1922 and again in 1923 we brought the book up-to-date and had large editions printed. To our surprise the demand for the book grew continuously. The last copies were sent out more than two years ago, but requests for the book have been coming practically every day since. Some of these requests have come from persons who wished to replace copies that they had lost, worn out, or given away. Others have

come from persons who have merely heard of the book or seen it in the homes of friends.

We have not wished to have more copies printed since changes have taken place so rapidly in "peonydom" during the last years that we felt the need of radically revising and supplementing the old text. However, gratified by the appreciation of the public, we rashly promised two years ago to get out a more complete and up-to-date Manual. But the spring of 1927 was a very strenuous one. During the blooming season our fields and show rooms were crowded with visitors from abroad from early morning until late in the evening. A peony festival in our own city and peony shows in different parts of the country made demands upon our time. And, more important still, we needed to spend hours each day in our seedling beds. At the end of the season we were too much exhausted to get our material into shape for the printer; and soon the fall digging, shipping, and planting season was upon us, and so the work went over to this year. But one season is much like another in the peony business. Not only have last year's difficulties appeared, but as we worked we have been met by the persistent temptation to make repeated additions to our work. Had we realized how much time and strength as well as expense would be involved in getting out the kind of book which we wished to represent us, we should never have promised the Manual. However, we have done our best and the book is ready for the printer, and will soon be in the hands of the hundreds who have been waiting for it. We trust they will pardon our delay in the fulfilment of our promise.

Introduction



IN the spring of 1867, my father, Oliver F. Brand, then a young man of 23, came to Faribault, Minnesota, from his old home in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. He came intending to make Faribault his new home and to establish there a nursery, the first nursery in the State of Minnesota. From Fond du Lac, Wisconsin to Faribault, Minnesota is a distance of over three hundred miles and the greater portion of this journey he made afoot.



Oliver F. Brand

During the spring of 1867 he made a small planting of nursery stock consisting of apple grafts and peonies on land lately homesteaded from the government by my grandfather, and situated in the town of Richland, fourteen miles southeast of Faribault.

This is the first nursery planting of which there is any record in the state of Minnesota. It consisted of about four thousand apple grafts and peonies sufficient to cover a space about thirty feet wide by a hundred feet long. A portion of this planting of peonies was still growing and blooming, where originally planted, as late as 1916.

My father soon realized that it was not practical to attempt to grow nursery stock so far from a railroad and by the next spring he had moved to Faribault; and, renting ground in the western portion of the city, he started the growing of nursery stock, mostly apple trees.

It was during 1869 that the opportunity for the purchase of the grounds where the nursery now stands was presented to him. Until his retirement he conducted here a general nursery, small fruits, evergreens and forest trees being the main items grown and sold.

Minnesota was then a frontier state and little thought was given to beautifying its homes, hence few shrubs and flowers were grown. But my father was always a flower lover, and even in those early days he grew a full acre of

peonies, made up in the main of four different varieties, *Edulis Superba*, *Queen Victoria*, *Humei*, and *Potts*

Minnesota was then trying to find varieties of apple trees adapted to its soil and climate. The varieties brought in from the east were early found not adapted to the rigorous climate of the state. Peter M. Gideon at Excelsior, Minnesota, planted apple seed and produced the *Wealthy* apple, an apple of great beauty, splendid quality, a profuse bearer, and a fairly hardy tree. The coming of the *Wealthy* gave a wonderful impetus to the search for suitable fruits for the state.

My father, following in the footsteps of Mr. Gideon started to plant apple seed, and continued to plant as long as he lived. At the time of his death he had in his back yard at Pomona, California, some forty apple seedlings coming into bearing. These he was watching with the greatest interest.

During his lifetime he produced several very good seedling apples, among which were three of exceptional merit; the *Estaline*, *Judge Berry* and *Brand's Imperial*.

As the state grew older the demand became greater for ornamentals. He increased his peony plantings. In the spring of 1888 he purchased from Ellwanger & Barry of Rochester, N. Y., twenty-five varieties of peonies different from any he then possessed. From then on he purchased every variety of peony that he saw offered. By 1894 his collection ran up to over a thousand varieties.

During the season of 1896 he made a planting of varieties chosen especially for the purpose of obtaining select seed. The seed from this planting, amounting to about four quarts, was saved in the fall of 1899 and planted that same fall. At just this time I became associated with my father in the business. The planting of the peony seeds was one of our first labors after I entered the business, and the implement made for the purpose of spacing off the seed in this planting is still to be seen in one of our storage rooms.

The seed was planted in rows two feet apart so that it could have horse cultivation. None of this germinated until the spring of 1901.

But so many little plants appeared this year that the rows were plainly visible. The plat was given intensive cultivation throughout that season. This gave the roots a wonderful growth as yearlings.

In 1902 the plants came unusually strong for two-year olds. They were again cultivated thoroughly and often and four plants did the unusual thing of producing bloom that year. The most wonderful thing of all was that the first plant to bloom was that marvelous red, *Richard Carvel*. The other three that bloomed that year were singles of no value. The next year, that of 1903, the entire lot bloomed, and like all seedling plots it was a wonderfully beautiful sight.

Father's health began to fail at about this time and from now on although still keenly interested in the fields he gave very little personal supervision to them. All of that work fell to me.

When this field of seedlings bloomed, assisted by one of our men, I checked and staked every plant in the field, checking with a mark of (xxxxx) every plant that I thought of exceptional merit and with a mark of (xxxx) those that had promise, and that shouldn't be discarded without further trial. From this bed of my father's seedlings came all of those varieties which are listed in this manual as *Brand varieties*.

The partnership between my father and myself lasted until the fall of 1911 when father retired from business and moved to California, where he passed away in January, 1921. As before mentioned he always retained his love for the search of new things in horticulture.

I have been interested in peonies as far back as I can remember. As a little boy I followed my father about the fields and talked with him about the many things we grew. However, my mind first really centered on the peony with the blooming of our first seedling, Richard Carvel. From that day, 26 years ago, to this, I have worked constantly to produce new and better peonies.

In the fall of 1903, all of these seedlings which were deemed worthy of further trial, were lifted, divided, and planted and later were thoroughly tested out. During the season of 1907, quite a few were named and offered for sale, but we were unknown at that time as peony people and it was several years before any sales worth while were made. Meanwhile, the stocks of our better seedlings were accumulating and each year making better and still better showings.

On father's retiring from the business, his interests were sold to a Mr. Kinney, who remained with me for five years in the general nursery business. Mr. Kinney never had much time for peonies, but I never lost faith or interest in the flower. When Mr. Kinney retired from the business with the close of 1916, I became sole owner, and my work with the peony began in earnest.

In 1913, I attended my first peony show. I learned that the Minnesota Garden Club was going to stage a flower show at the University Farm in St. Paul. I induced Mr. Kinney to go with me. I cut blooms of Frances Willard, Chestine Gowdy, Mary Brand, Longfellow, Florence Nightingale, and Martha Bulloch. These flowers I had held in my cellar in jars of water for several days awaiting the date of the show.

The morning of the show, I got up early and packed them into eight paper flower boxes, and Mr. Kinney and I took them to the train with us, and made the trip of sixty miles to St. Paul.

We walked the half mile or more from the street car over to the show building, each of us with two boxes under each arm. The nearer we got to the show room, the more dubious I became as to whether we had anything in our boxes really worth showing. When we entered the show room a little late, all the other exhibitors were there with their flowers in vases already set up. When I saw a wonderful vase of Marie Lemoine and a still more wonderful vase of Therese, my heart sank; but we had carried these flowers a long way and I would not turn back.

I remember yet how I felt when I cut the cords about our first box and lifted the lid, and then the wax paper from off the blooms. It happened to be a box of Martha Bulloch, Martha Bulloch as it grows on its native heath, in the deep, rich, spring wheat soil of the Middle West. When I looked into the faces of the great pink beauties as they lay in the box before me, I was no longer afraid. We staged the flowers we had brought and throughout that entire day those seedlings were the sensation of the show. I returned home greatly encouraged.

Remember, all these years we had sold the old standard sorts of peonies at wholesale to the nurserymen of the country, but our business with the finer peonies had not yet started.

That fall we advertised our finer peonies in a modest way and did a still more modest business in them, just about enough to cover the advertising. For the next two years the results were about the same, but with the passing of the entire planting into my own hands in the fall of

1916, I began a more extensive advertising campaign and gradually business began to come this way.

In the fall of 1918, I was so fortunate as to employ Miss Myrtle Gentry to take charge of my office for me. I found her so efficient in the work, that, after she had been with me two years, I induced her to become associated with me in the business and placed in her hands the entire sales part of the business.

Realizing that I now had with me one who was as capable as anyone in the country of handling the sale of our product, and who had as much faith in the peony as I had myself, I felt safe in expanding the business to a degree I would not otherwise have dared to do. Our business rapidly developed until we have now reached the point where we believe we do as large a retail business in the better sorts of peonies as is done by any company in the world, and our product goes out to all parts of the world.

Relief from the worries of office supervision, gave me time I should otherwise not have found, to devote to the many plantings of seedlings that I had coming on in the different stages of experimental development.

In June 1923, the American Peony Society staged the National Show at St. Paul, Minnesota, in the Hippodrome Building on the State Fair grounds. The show filled the entire floor space of this great building and proved to be the greatest peony show that had ever been held in the entire world. This show has gone into history as the St. Paul-Minneapolis Show, as it was held at a point between the two cities, and both cities were responsible for its wonderful success.

At this show we staged twenty-three new seedlings on which we won both the gold and silver medals of the society as well as several Honorable Mentions, the first and only time such a feat has ever been accomplished. The judges in passing on the display said it was the greatest exhibition of seedling peonies ever staged by one originator.

In our fields we have some eleven hundred selected seedlings under test, among them many very beautiful things, none of which have ever before been exhibited although five of them have already been named, two of them for our presidents, President Lincoln and President Coolidge; one of them, an immaculate white, for the great southern commander and citizen, Robert E. Lee; one for my friend, C. W. Bunn, whom I consider one of the greatest peony critics and showmen in America; and one for my father, Oliver F. Brand, whom I have always considered one of the finest men that ever lived.

We shall make one more selection of seedlings from our present seed beds this coming season, and when these, together with those referred to above as now under test, shall have been thoroughly tested, named and offered to the public, my work, individually with seedlings, will be done.

We are still making large plantings of seed but these plantings are by my associate as well as by myself, and to our combined efforts must go the reward. We intend to continue in this business of bringing out peonies as long as we live, and we take this occasion of extending an invitation to those who are looking for new peonies to write us every year, for we shall always have something good to offer.

So many of our friends have shown a keen interest in the work of my father and myself that I feel justified in introducing this book with a brief account of the beginning and the development of our work with the peony.



The St. Paul-Minneapolis National Show, June 1923

Growth in the Popularity of the Peony



WITHIN recent years there has been a great increase in the popularity of the peony. This has come about largely through the direct and indirect work of the American Peony Society (page 10). When people band themselves together and begin to talk about a thing, interest in that thing begins. Before the organization of the American Peony Society there was manifested no widespread interest in the flower. It is true there were people scattered over the country who might be classed as peony enthusiasts, but most of them had very little knowledge of what constitutes a good flower. There were a few good collections along the northern Atlantic coast, and as far back as 1894 we had a collection that included the best varieties then known. But none of us who were supplying the trade sent out any of the really good kinds.

But with the formation of the American Peony Society all this soon changed. Richardson, Kelway, Lemoine, and Dessert had each recently put out a good peony or two. These flowers were talked about and written about by the members of the society and shown at its early shows. The best of the old flowers were also exhibited. These shows are now held from year to year in different sections of the country. Peony enthusiasts from far and near flock to these great show events, for here they may see in perfect form not only the best of the varieties with which they are already familiar but wonderful new seedlings that are being exhibited perhaps for the first time.

Then too these shows bring the peony to the attention of new groups of people, and as a result local organizations are formed. At present nearly every state has its own peony society and many states have organizations in smaller districts. All these local organizations hold their own shows.

Thus the indirect work of the American Peony Society is proving perhaps as important as its direct work.

As a result of the growing popularity of the peony, a considerable literature about it has been produced. Magazine articles, bulletins, and catalogs have given information as to the cultivation of the peony and the selection of varieties. Mrs. Harding's two books are interesting and contain much valuable information. It is the purpose of this manual to give to our readers the best results of our own experience and to show them how easily fine peonies may be grown even in the most modest garden.

This interest in the peony, while not yet so universal as that in the rose, is still rapidly growing and we believe that it will not be many years before it will outstrip that flower in popularity. For the most beautiful peonies are more beautiful than the most beautiful of roses.

That the interest in the peony is becoming more widespread is shown in various ways. The membership of the American Peony Society has increased from thirty-seven members in 1902 to about seven hundred in 1926. Twenty-five of the charter members lived in the three eastern states, Massachusetts, New York, and Pennsylvania. Of the present members the largest number are from the Middle West while the South and extreme West are well represented. In the place of the few experimental plantings of the early part of the century immense plantings now exist in different parts of the country. Some of these are made for the production of roots which are sent to almost every state in the country. Others are made for supplying the demand for cut flowers which has grown up in the big northern cities. Not only has the sale of the moderately priced varieties increased enormously but there is a surprising demand for the new and expensive varieties.



Taken in the garden of E. C. Shaw of Akron, Ohio—from left to right Bertrand Farr, E. C. Shaw, A. M. Brand.

The American Peony Society



FEBRUARY 18th, 1903, is a date in history that should stand out very clearly in the minds of all peony lovers, for it was on this date that a meeting was called at Brooklyn, New York, for the purpose of completing the temporary organization of an American Peony Society, which should have these purposes in view: to improve the standard of excellence of the flower; to bring about an acquaintanceship among those interested in its culture; to supervise the nomenclature of the different varieties of peonies; to stimulate the growing and introduction of really valuable seedlings; to commend varieties of merit; and to encourage exhibitions by offering prizes for worthy exhibits in the form of medals and cash prizes.

The temporary officers of the Society were as follows: President, C. W. Ward, Queens, New York
Vice President, Guy A. Bryant, Princeton, Illinois
Secretary, Arthur H. Fewkes, Newton Highlands, Mass.
Treasurer, J. Howes Humphreys, Philadelphia, Penn.

The first regular meeting of the Society was held at Detroit, Michigan, June 11th and 12th, 1903. A permanent organization was completed at this meeting, and Mr. Frank B. Lown of Poughkeepsie, New York, drew up the articles of incorporation. The Society was finally incorporated under the laws of New York, July 2nd, 1904. After the permanent organization was completed the temporary officers were re-elected as permanent officials.

The second annual meeting was held in the Museum Building, Bronx Park, New York, June 8th and 9th, 1904. At this time the society had a membership of thirty-three. The present membership is over eight hundred.

One of the things that attracted the most attention in those early days was the surprisingly chaotic state into which the nomenclature of the peony had been allowed to degenerate. Worthless originations were being sold; duplicate varieties distributed under various names; descrip-

tions were inadequate and misleading. It was deemed necessary to take definite steps at once to bring about a condition that would make it possible to secure the variety one ordered without the possibility of having to make repeated attempts.

Professor John Craig of Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, was made chairman of the nomenclature committee. The first symposium Committee consisted of Wm. A. Peterson, John A. Charlton, J. F. Rosefield, and A. H. Fewkes.

The work of straightening out all this confusion about the peony both as to names and varieties was carried on at Cornell University. A trial garden was laid out and planted. To this trial garden, roots were donated by fifteen different persons and firms, three of which were in France, two in Holland, one in England, and ten in the United States. Several hundred varieties were included in these donations which formed a nucleus to which many later contributions were made.

In June 1907, Professor A. P. Saunders, B. H. Farr, and Joseph Dauphin were added to the Nomenclature Committee.

The first plantings were made in the fall of 1904 and checking went on during each blooming season beginning with that of 1906 and ending in 1912. During the summer of the latter year the checking was completed, and that fall the planting was dug up, divided and sold, the net proceeds going into the treasury of the American Peony Society.

We owe an immense debt of gratitude to the men who carried on this work. By the time their work was finished the dire confusion in nomenclature was straightened out, and from that time on one has been pretty sure of getting what he orders in the peony line.

Early conditions were so bad that in the blooming season

of 1896, my father found, in checking through his collection, that he had bought from different sources the variety *Eduhis Superba* under twenty-two different names.

It might be of interest to know that the following men have been presidents of the American Peony Society.

Charles W. Ward	1903-1909
Bertrand H. Farr	1909-1917
James Boyd	1917-1919
Lee R. Bonnewitz	1919-1921
Arthur H. Fewkes	1921-1923
Winthrop H. Thurlow	1923-1925
Archie M. Brand	1925-1928
Harry F. Little	1928-

Peony shows of the American Peony Society have been held at the following cities.

New York, N. Y.	June 8, 9,	1904
Chicago, Ill.	June 16, 17,	1905
Boston, Mass.	June 15, 16,	1906
Ithaca, N. Y.	June 27, 28,	1907
Ithaca, N. Y.	June 19, 20,	1908
New York, N. Y.	June 11, 12,	1909
Boston, Mass.	June 14, 15,	1910
Philadelphia, Pa.	June 8, 9,	1911
Ithaca, N. Y.	June 19, 20,	1912
Cleveland, Ohio.	June 12, 13,	1913
Chicago, Ill.	June 10, 11,	1914
Boston, Mass.	June 19, 20,	1915
New York, N. Y.	June 9, 10, 11,	1916
Philadelphia, Pa.	June 13, 14,	1917
Cleveland, Ohio.	June 5, 6,	1918
Detroit, Mich.	June 17, 18,	1919
Reading, Pa.	June 10, 11,	1920
Boston, Mass.	June 17, 18,	1921
London, Ont.	June 16, 17,	1922
Minneapolis, St. Paul, Minn.	June 21, 22, 23,	1923

Des Moines, Iowa.	June 21, 22, 23,	1924
Philadelphia, Pa.	June 5, 6, 7,	1925
Fort Wayne, Ind.	June 15, 16,	1926
Peoria, Ill.	June 9, 10,	1927
Boston, Mass.	June 22, 23, 24,	1928

If one will notice the dates he will see how the blooming season varies in different parts of the country.

The present officers and directors of the Society follow:

President, Harry F. Little, Baldwinville, N. Y.
Vice President, Professor A. P. Saunders, Clinton, N. Y.
Honorary Vice President, A. H. Fewkes, Newton Highlands, Mass.
Secretary and Editor, W. F. Christman, Robbinsdale, Minn.
Treasurer, W. W. Cook, Clinton, Iowa.

DIRECTORS

A. M. Brand, Faribault, Minn.
James Boyd, Haverford, Pa.
W. W. Cook, Clinton, Iowa
W. G. DuMont, Des Moines, Iowa
H. F. Little, Baldwinville, N. Y.
W. H. Thurlow, West Newbury, Mass.
W. F. Christman, Robbinsdale, Minn.
Prof. A. P. Saunders, Clinton, N. Y.
Chas. F. Wassenberg, Van Wert, Ohio.

The object of the society is to interest people in flowers, mainly in the peony. By creating this interest we create a tendency to beautify our homes which makes life more worth the living.

We ask everyone who loves flowers, and especially the peony, to join the American Peony Society; in the first place because of their love of the flower and secondly because of the bulletins of the Society which all the members receive. These bulletins contain much valuable reading matter on the peony and are issued three or four times a year. The dues are three dollars per year. This amount may be remitted to us and we will send it on to the person who happens to be treasurer at the time it is received.



A Field of Two Year Old Mons. Jules Elie



E. B. Browning

The World's Best Peonies



WE receive many letters asking us to give a list of the world's best peonies. We think that some reply to such letters should find a place in this catalog. However, taste in flowers is a very personal matter, and we feel that the composite judgment of a number of peony enthusiasts would have more value than our own indi-

vidual opinion. Fortunately we are able to give a list for which we can share responsibility with the members of the American Peony Society.

At several times this society has sent a list of all the well known peonies, both old and recent introductions, to a number of its members and asked that they give a grade

on a scale of 10 to each variety with which they are familiar, thus indicating their personal estimate of its worth. From the responses received tables have been compiled and printed in the bulletins of the society. In these symposiums the originator of each variety, the number of votes received, and the average of these votes are given.

We feel that for an average to have any real value it should be based upon a considerable number of votes. Having this in mind we have examined the symposiums carefully, and find that twenty-six varieties, each having at least twenty votes, have received an average of 9 or over. We print this list below, together with the rating received, the name of the originator, and the year of introduction. These varieties, according to the judgment of a number of people much interested in the peony, are the world's masterpieces. Fifteen of them came to us from France, and four from England. The other eight originated in America, four being Brand peonies.

Name of Variety	Rating	Originator	Date
Baroness Schroeder	9.0	Kelway	1889
E. B. Browning	9.2	Brand	1907
Festiva Maxima	9.3	Meillez	1851
Frances Willard	9.1	Brand	1907
Kelway's Glorious	9.8	Kelway	1909
Lady Alexandra Duff	9.1	Kelway	1906
La Fee	9.2	Lemoine	1901
La France	9.0	Lemoine	1907
Le Cygne	9.9	Lemoine	1907
Longfellow	9.0	Brand	1907
Mme. Jules Dessert	9.4	Dessert	1909
Mrs. Edward Harding	9.3	Shaylor	1918
Martha Bulloch	9.1	Brand	1907
Mary Woodbury Shaylor	9.0	Shaylor	1916
Milton Hill	9.0	Richardson	1891
Mons. Jules Elie	9.2	Crousse	1888
Philippe Rivoire	9.2	Rivoire	1911
Phyllis Kelway	9.0	Kelway	1908
Raoul Dessert	9.0	Dessert	1910
Rosa Bonheur	9.0	Dessert	1905
Sarah Bernhardt	9.0	Lemoine	1906
Solange	9.7	Lemoine	1907
Souvenir De Louis Bigot	9.1	Dessert	1913
Therese	9.8	Dessert	1904

Tourangelle	9.4	Dessert	1910
Walter Faxon	9.3	Richardson	1904

An examination of the list will answer the question so often asked "Why not be satisfied with the good old varieties which can be bought so cheap instead of paying high prices for the new introductions?" Of the twenty-six varieties in the list, it will be noted, all but five, Baroness Schroeder, Festive Maxima, Milton Hill, Mons. Jules Elie, and Lady Alexandra Duff, originated after 1900. The exact date for Lady Alexandra Duff is not known but as my father received one from Kelway before 1900 we have placed it in this list. Three of the five we believe will maintain the reputation gained; but Festiva Maxima and Mons. Jules Elie, though fine when first opened, do not hold their beauty, and we anticipate that in later votes they will drop at least into the 8 to 9 list.

There are quite a number of new introductions that were not well enough known at the time of the last symposium to receive twenty votes, but that we feel sure will be included in the honor list when the next vote is taken. We cannot conclude this topic without mentioning a number of these.

Two Thurlow introductions almost qualified for the list in the last vote. President Wilson, introduced in 1918, received nineteen votes averaging 9.3. E. C. Shaw, put out the next year, had an average of 9 with fifteen votes.

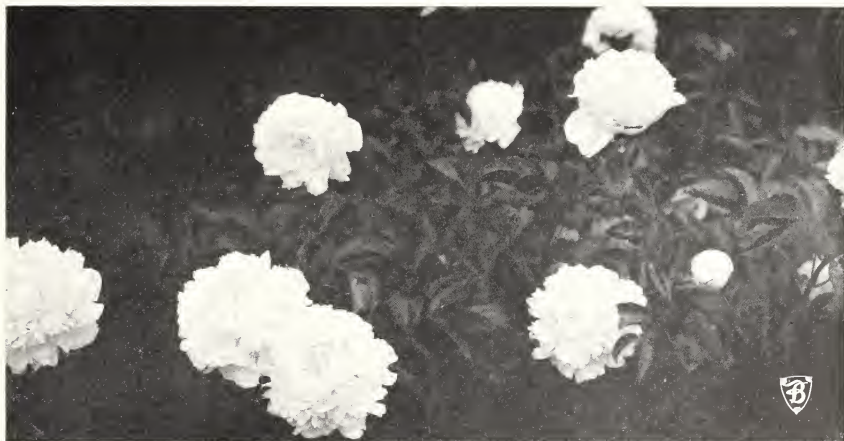
Of Brand varieties Mrs. A. M. Brand, which was not sold until 1925, received an average of 9.6 on five votes. This peony, as well as a number of our other recent introductions, will, we feel confident, make the honor roll when they become more widely known.

Mabel Franklin, introduced by Franklin in 1920, received an average of 9 on the thirteen votes cast.

Frankie Curtis, put out by Vories in 1904, received an average of 9.3 on five votes.

Grace Loomis, a Saunders peony introduced in 1920, received sixteen votes averaging 9.2.

In conclusion we can only say that we believe that the list of "the world's best peonies" is changing rapidly. We predict that a list of the twenty-six peonies having the highest rating in a symposium compiled in 1950 will differ as much from the one compiled from the 1926 symposium as that list differs from one that could have been compiled in 1900.



More New Seedlings Not Yet Introduced



Rating of Peonies



IT may be of interest to some of our readers to know how peonies are rated by the American Peony Society and also to consider the value of the results.

A list of peonies on which a rating is desired is prepared by the secretary of the Society and sent out to members of the Society who have a representative planting and should therefore be qualified to give a fair estimate of the worth of a good many varieties.



Mivyle Gentry

Voting is based on a scale of 10. A grade of 10 indicates practical perfection in the judgment of the voter. It has never been attained as a final grade. A grade of 9.0 to 10 signifies a very high degree of excellence; 8.0 to 9.0, high quality; 7.0 to 8.0, fairly good quality; anything below 7.0, poor. In order to supplant inferior varieties with superior kinds, it is recommended that, in general, varieties receiving a final rating below 7.0 should not be further propagated.

Ratings, However, are Not Infallible

In arriving at this rating, an average of all votes cast is taken. Now as to the value of these results. Our opinion is that in general, they have a very real value, but that they must not be considered infallible. For a good many reasons, some of which we give below, they often fail to represent the true value of a variety, especially if the number of votes cast is not large.

- (1) The variety may be a comparatively new one, which has not been grown in many gardens long enough to have become thoroughly well known.
- (2) Prejudice against a certain type of bloom may influence many votes.
- (3) Blooms from immature plants not capable of producing typical flowers may have been considered and judged.
- (4) The slow development of some varieties may not have been considered, and so blooms of plants too young to produce typical flowers have been judged.
- (5) Preference for certain colors may control the judgment of many voters.

Soil and Climate Affects Varieties

- (6) Location both as to soil and climate materially affects some varieties. Solange, for example, though rated

among the highest, does not do well in the extreme South. This variety does not always do well with us in Minnesota. We believe that in the future the rating of this peony will be materially lowered. Mireille is another variety that is much affected by location. Voters in the 1920 symposium reported on it as follows:

Buds do not open	H.N.G. Ohio
Extra with me	T.F.D. Mass.
Should be discarded	E.J.E. Iowa
As good as any	E.A.J. Ill.

This wide difference of opinion by well known growers shows that some peonies are so erratic that no rating is applicable to all localities and to all seasons.

(7) Failure to have the true variety often gives a false rating.

(8) The individual judgment of voters as to what constitutes a one point variation in rating may differ widely.

Rating Pretty Accurate on Old Varieties

But, in spite of errors in individual ratings, we believe, as we have said, that the results of the Symposium are valuable. In our opinion, the ratings are pretty safe to go by in selecting old and well-known varieties, when votes are received from 20 or more persons. On fairly new varieties a smaller number of votes, say 10 or 15, is a pretty safe indication of the value of the variety, since these varieties carry with them also the experienced judgment of the originator. In the early days of peony hybridizing, producers, in the first enthusiasm of the work, had not learned to be sufficiently critical of results. We all put upon the market varieties of which we are no longer proud. When our judgment had become better trained and we had come to have a reputation to maintain, we learned to subject a variety to long and critical tests before putting it on the market. This may be illustrated by our two varieties Henry Avery and Phoebe Cary, both of which we think highly of. Henry Avery with 16 votes rated 8.5, and Phoebe Cary with 18 votes rated 8.8 in the 1921 symposium, Bulletin No. 14. Five years later Henry Avery with 23 votes rated 8.8, and Phoebe Cary with 21 votes rated 8.8 (Bulletin No. 26). Both of these varieties were fairly well known at the time of the first vote, and their ratings changed little in the following five years.

But with really new varieties, kinds that have not been established in the voters' gardens at least five years, a rating is not dependable. Votes on these varieties are apt to be registered by people who have seen the blooms on immature plants or in a single show. In the first case the rating is pretty sure to be too low and in the second too high.

Why Ratings on New Varieties May Be Wrong

To illustrate how a rating altogether too high may be received, let us take the variety Mireille. Now, in our opinion, if a vase of first-class specimens of Mireille were placed side by side with a vase of first-class Le Cygne and one of first-class Solange, it would be hard to decide which of the three was the best. Now, judging from these three vases, Mireille should receive as high a rating as either of the others. But the rating of Le Cygne in the Symposium is 9.9, that of Solange 9.7, while that of Mireille is 7.7 with 33 voting on the variety. So something must be wrong with Mireille. The fact is, it doesn't come good oftener than once in about ten years. Now suppose that Mireille is an entirely new sort and is exhibited for the first time. Of course it wouldn't be shown unless it were at its very best. It is apparently as good as Le Cygne and Solange, with which it must be compared since they are of the same



Walter Faxon

type. People go crazy over it; and, if a symposium be taken the next year, voters who have seen it only at the Show must give it a grade of at least 9 7. This shows why, in buying very new varieties, the reputation of the originator is what must be depended on. The honest and experienced originator with his knowledge of the variability of peo-

of letters from all over the country saying it was the best of the reds. We have also had hundreds of letters asking why Archie Brand was rated so low.

But why such old varieties as Alfred de Musset, Edulis Superba, Mme. de Verneville, and Modeste Guerin should be rated below 8 0 is hard to explain. Alfred de Musset is a beautiful peony, a much better flower than Aurore 8 0, Bertrade 8 1, Boule de Neige 8 0, Mme. Calot 8 1, Gismonde 8 2, and many others that rate above 8 0. Perhaps, if we consider the flower alone as compared with most distinctive of the latest varieties, Edulis Superba has a high enough rank. But who would do without that grand old pink that gladdens our eyes so early in the season? I have seen Mme. de Verneville receive first prize for the best flower in comparatively large shows, and it is one of the most dependable of peonies. Why should it be given a rating of 7.9, while Marguerite Gerard receives 8 4? There is no peony that can take the place of Modeste Guerin. Its color is good, striking, and in a class by itself. No collection of any size is complete without it.

tries them out many years before putting them on the market and so knows their real worth.

Some peonies are rated too low. The ratings of Alfred de Musset 7 9, Archie Brand 7 5, Charles McKellip 7 8, Edulis Superba 7 6, Mme. de Verneville 7 9, and Modeste Guerin 7 8 are illustrations of this.

It is easy to see why Archie Brand and Charles McKellip should have these low grades. They were not well-known at the time the ratings were made and will doubtless receive a higher rating later. I have seen blooms of Charles McKellip at Duluth, so wonderful in color and form that they far out-did Philippe Rivoire, and we have had scores

We have discussed what we consider weaknesses in symposium results because the rating of a peony given by the American Peony Society is likely to make or break the sale of that variety. No matter how good a peony is, if its rating is below 8 0, it is a drug on the market; and no matter how poor it is, if it happens to receive a grade above 8 0, it sells.

To sum up our entire chapter then, we believe that the symposiums of the American Peony Society are valuable although they must not be followed blindly and that in judging the permanent value of the really new varieties, we must depend on the standing of the originator.

History of the Peony



Botany of the Peony

FAMILY relationships between flowers as well as between people are often hard to guess. For example, few would suspect that the peony is closely related to the common wild buttercup and the hepatica, or to the well-known garden flowers, the larkspur and the columbine. However, if the simplest forms of these flowers are examined, and the difference in size is ignored, they will be found to have a marked similarity of structure. In fact, all of these plants belong to one botanical family, the Ranunculacea. A number of species of the peony are known to botanists. The many varieties of our modern gardens are descended in the main from two of these, *Paconia officinalis* and *Paconia albiflora*.

Paconia Officinalis

THIS species is a native of Southern Europe. In its wild state it bore single red flowers; but in a state of cultivation double ones appeared. Whites and pinks were also produced. It is the species to which the name *paconia* was first applied. The ancient Greeks named it from a physician Pacon, who, according to ancient fable, cured the wounds received by the god Mars in the Trojan wars. It was supposed to have medicinal power, and, in time many miraculous powers were attributed to it. Bits of root were worn around the neck as a charm to keep off enchantments. It was introduced into England at an early date. Here, well into the last century, it was planted at the door of many a cottage to keep out evil spirits. It became so common that it was for a time scorned by the wealthy. From England it was brought over to New England, and from here it has been carried all over our country.

The bright red peony of old-fashioned gardens is the finest variety of this species. The "piny toes," which our New England great-grandmothers separated from their cherished clumps and gave to their friends were what

should now buy as divisions of *Rubra officinalis*, although their owners would not have recognized them by this name. This is the earliest of the really good peonies. Being a native of the South, the blooming season comes earlier than that of the other garden varieties, whose ancestors came from the far North. With us it is generally in bloom for Memorial day. The whites of the *officinalis* species are poor and the pinks are indifferent. But the old standby, *Rubra officinalis*, is a splendid variety, which we could ill-afford to lose.



Brand Peonies—Frances Willard in the Center



Ella Christiansen

Paeonia Albiflora

THIS is the species from which are descended most of the varieties of the modern herbaceous peony. It is a native of the cold portion of Siberia, where the temperature often stands at 60° below zero for a long time. It is no wonder that its descendants are among our hardiest flowers. In its wild state its flowers are typically single, and, as its name implies, they are generally white. But Prof. N. E. Hanson, of the State Agricultural Station at Brookings, S. D., who has been sent by the United States Government on several expeditions into Siberia to search for hardy plants, tells us that he has seen semi-double blooms, and that occasionally he has run across a pink or red among the wild plants.

Chinese traders passing beyond where the great wall now stands very early in the Christian era were taken with the flower, and on returning home took roots with them. It soon spread over that great empire and into Japan. Both the Chinese and Japanese have always been flower-loving people. Their nurserymen are ingenious and painstaking to a marked degree. They found the peony, with its different colors, its abundance of seed, and its tendency to throw sprouts an easy plant to work with; and by the year 600 A. D. they are said to have had hundreds of varieties in singles, semi-doubles, and doubles. The interest in the flower, even at that remote period, was such that they had peony societies, held shows, and kept records of their varieties.

English traders, penetrating China about the first of the Nineteenth Century, saw the flower and took roots home with them. China had many varieties at this time, and the importers must have selected what seemed to them the finest. Nevertheless, we know of but three of these early importations that are still commonly found in peony lists. They are *Whitley*, *Humei*, and *Fragrans*. The peony received a warm welcome in England and soon passed over the channel into France.

The Work of French Producers

ALTHOUGH England has had many cultivators of the peony, and some producers, it is in France that the real history of the modern peony begins. A number of French gardeners raised peony seedlings in the early part of the Nineteenth Century and many named a few of their best sorts (see table.) Some of these old varieties still find a place in most lists of peonies and a few are splendid varieties. Among the good ones are *Delicatissima*, *Festiva Maxima*, *Edulis Superba*, *Grandiflora Nivca Plena*, *Modeste Guerin*, and *Madam Calot*. Since 1850 France has had four great originators—*Calot*, *Crousse*, *Lemoine*, and *Dessert*. Each has produced a long list of good peonies.

Calot

CALOT was the first of France's really great peony breeders. His work was done at Nancy, directly east of Paris perhaps a hundred and fifty miles. He inherited the collection of the *Compte de Cussey*; and, using this as a foundation for his work, he produced and named many meritorious varieties. He continued sending out seedlings up to the year 1872. Of the *Calot* peonies we have selected sixteen very fine sorts, all of which we consider worth growing, and many of which are strictly first class. *Eugenie Verdier*, *Marie Lemoine*, *Mons. Dupont*, and *Reine Hortense* we consider his best.

Crousse

CALOT'S work as an originator ceased with the year 1872, and during that year his collection passed into the hands of *Crousse*. It was a fortunate transfer. *Calot* was a great florist, but *Crousse* seems even greater. He was a tireless worker, and most painstaking. During the year this great collection was in his hands he produced more good sorts than any other one man. He had a genius for selection, and the flowers he named and sent out are, as a rule, of a very high standard. From 1872 to 1879 he continued to send out from the *Calot* seedlings, but after 1879 the flowers were his own. The first good flower accredited to him in order of time is *Livingstone*, a magnificent deep pink and a flower hard to excel. *Livingstone* was introduced in 1879, and was followed during the next 17 years by a long list of uniformly high class flowers. His *Avalanche* is a flower without defect. We had rather sell to a beginner a *Mons. Jules Elie* than any other peony.

The Lemoines

IN the same garden at Nancy where *Calot* and *Crousse* produced their wonderful flowers, *Victor Lemoine*, the greatest flower originator of all time, also did his work. He produced many fine varieties of roses, geraniums, begonias, lilacs, philadelphus, and many other flowers, as well as of the peony. The uniformly high quality of the *Lemoine* Peonies is remarkable. *Le Cygne*, *La Fee*, *La France*, *La Lorraine*, *Mme. Emile Lemoine*, *Enchantress*, *Sarah Bernhard* and *Solange* are all wonderful flowers; and *Alice Harding*, which we have not seen, is said to be the most wonderful of all.

His son, *Emile Lemoine*, is now carrying on his work. Through the many raids upon Nancy during the late World War, he stayed bravely at his post, though a bomb from a German gun landed within a hundred yards of the house and about the same distance from the entire stock of one of his most cherished peonies.

Dessert

AT *Chenanceaux*, in Southern France, lives a genial gentleman styled *Mons. A. Dessert*. He is the originator of *Therese*, which is very generally considered the most beautiful of all peonies. *Dessert* is the greatest living authority on the peony. He has produced many varieties, and as a rule they are of the very highest order. While *Calot* and *Crousse* seem to have worked for beauty of form, for constitutional vigor of plant, and profusion of bloom, *Dessert* seems to have worked also for beautiful color combination. *Tourangelle* we consider the equal of *Therese*.

The English Producers

THE *Kelways*, father and son, are the great English originators. They have sent out some of our most wonderful kinds. *Baroness Schroeder*, *James Kelway*, *Phyllis Kelway*, *Kelways Queen*, *Lady Alexandra Duff*, and *Kelways Glorious* are their contribution of worthwhile peonies to the world. Every one of these is a masterpiece, and is found among the very finest of our show flowers.

The Work of American Originators

FOR fully a half century American peony lovers have been producing seedling peonies, some on a large scale and others in a more moderate way. Many of the later originations have not had the test of time to fully demonstrate that they will find a permanent place in the list of the world's best peonies. There are a number, however, that have already attained this distinction.

It has been our pleasure to examine in our fields most of the newer originations other than our own. Among the number, we are agreeably pleased to find several that will surely attain wide popularity when better known. In comparison with the foreign originations they show up very favorably. With the very rigorous requirements exacted by the Seedling Committee of the American Peony Society, we feel sure that a higher and higher class of seedlings will be offered to the public. In order to obtain the endorsement of this Committee, a three year observation period on probation is required. Any inherent qualities that will in any way detract from the value of the variety can generally be pretty well determined during this time. In former years too many peonies were placed in commerce before they had been sufficiently tested and as a result many varieties once cataloged are never heard of now. We, ourselves, were over enthusiastic when we first began to introduce seedlings, and we named some that we should not now retain if we were judging them today to offer to the public.

MR. EDWARD AUTEN, JR., of Princeville, Illinois, is doing some fine work in producing seedlings. He displayed some very fine seedlings at both the Fort Wayne, Indiana, and the Peoria, Illinois shows of the American Peony Society. At Fort Wayne he showed an exceedingly fine double white seedling and at Peoria he showed some splendid singles that are among his named varieties and are for sale. Mr. Auten also showed a fine Japanese seedling at the Peoria show and this variety was awarded the prize of \$100.00 offered by the Brand Peony Farms for the best Japanese seedling exhibited of outstanding merit. This seedling was very dark and of splendid type and character and Mr. Auten has named it *Pride of Nippon*. *Mischief* and *Humoresque* are two attractive varieties of Mr. Auten's origination.

MR. BETCHER of Dover, Ohio, has produced at least one good sort in *Modella*, a very promising pink.

BRAND PEONIES have received a recognition of which we are proud. Four of our productions, E. B. Browning, Frances Willard, Longfellow, and Martha Bulloch rank with the world's 26 best. We have devoted another chapter of the book to our own work.

MR. A. B. FRANKLIN of Minneapolis, Minnesota, has been working with seedlings about twenty years and has added several very choice varieties to our list of good peonies. *Mabel L. Franklin*, *June Day*, and *Ball O' Cotton* are undoubtedly his best. Mr. Franklin has several other varieties that are very promising but with which we are not yet familiar.

MR. W. L. GUMM the Veteran peony grower of Remington, Indiana, started with peonies many years ago. He, too, like most people who grow peonies and have a real love for the flower had not been long at the work before he planted seed and through the many years he has been working he has produced several very fine peonies. *Lillian Gumm* is undoubtedly his best production. This is a great pink. The color is very uniform and distinct and we consider it a very fine flower. Mr. Gumm's *Vera*, is also very fine. This is a single bright dark red.

MR. L. D. GLASCOCK of Joliet, Illinois, has worked to hybridize officinalis with Chinensis and has a good many promising hybrids.

MR. GEORGE HOLLIS of South Weymouth, Mass., who died in 1911, was one of the early originators of peonies. He named a large number of seedlings but only one of the large number of seedlings stands out in our estimation as



Some of Our New Seedlings Not Yet Introduced

really a first class peony, and this is the variety *Loveliness*. This is a very fine peony and will be found in our general list. This is a large, flat, rose type flower and one of the very late ones to bloom. It is rarely seen at our peony shows for this reason. The color is a uniform hydrangea pink changing to lilac white. It is also fragrant, and when it comes good is one of the very best flowers of the entire season.

MRS. SARAH A. PLEAS of Whittier, California, was a most ardent and diligent worker with her seedling peonies and has the distinction of seeing two of them attain a very high rank. We refer to the variety *Jubilee*, a wonderful white beauty and *Elwood Pleas*, a very fine pink. She has the further honor of being the only woman originator of note in the country.

MR. J. F. ROSEFIELD of Indianapolis, Indiana has given us the variety *Karl Rosefield*, an immense bright red. It is both a splendid cut and show flower. At the American Peony Society's exhibition held at Fort Wayne, Indiana, in 1926, he exhibited two seedlings that gave considerable promise. While he has produced several seedlings, *Karl Rosefield* at the present time is his one outstanding production. At the time *Karl Rosefield* was introduced, Mr. Rosefield, the originator, lived at Omaha, Nebraska and this wonderful flower was brought out there. He now lives in Indianapolis, Indiana.

JOHN RICHARDSON of Dorchester, Massachusetts was a peony breeder of very high order. He worked on a limited scale but he loved his work and was painstaking. *Walter Faxon* and *Milton Hill* are his two outstanding varieties. He also produced *Rubra Superba* and *Grandiflora*. These two peonies are desirable on account of their late blooming habit. *Grandiflora* makes a wonderful show flower while *Rubra Superba* gives needed color to a garden late in the season.

Professor Robert T. Jackson of Peterboro, New Hampshire, was a very intimate friend of Mr. Richardson and upon Mr. Richardson's death the peonies were turned over to him. *Hovey & Company* of Boston, put the varieties, *Dorchester*, *Norfolk*, *Grandiflora*, *Rubra Superba*, and *Milton Hill* on the market. The balance of Mr. Richardson's were retained by Mr. Jackson.

To Mr. A. H. Fewkes of Newton Highlands, Mass., must be given the credit of saving for us the variety *Walter Faxon* or at least bringing it to the attention of the flower loving public. We quote from Mr. Fewke's letter as follows:

"It was through me that *Walter Faxon* was brought to notice. Professor Jackson gave me a root of each of the entire collection. In June of the same year that he gave them to me, I went to his place in Cambridge to see them in flower and he called my attention to one he had named *Walter Faxon*. It was a large plant with a lot of flowers

Some New Seedlings



Visitors from Missouri and Indiana viewing all of the stock of one of our new seedlings.



Visitors from Missouri and Indiana with Mr. Brand in lead inspect some new ones.



Two plants of our wonderful new Pink Peony Mrs. Deane Funk.



A row of selected seedlings showing Mrs. Deane Funk in the foreground. Note the beautiful hard maple specimen.



A. M. Brand admiring a new seedling.



Looking toward the storage building across a field of two year old selected seedlings.

on it, but they were small and not at all like the blooms that are shown now on the exhibition tables. I remember his remark at the time that "the ladies like it," for the color is nearly a pure pink.

"He sent me the roots in the fall and I think about three years after I exhibited flowers of it at the peony show at Horticultural Hall. They were fine blooms and certainly made a sensation. They were well colored and everybody went wild over them. This was the first time it was ever shown in character and started the demand for it which is still active."

HANS AND JACOB SAAS, brothers, living at Benson, Nebraska have worked considerable with peony seedlings and so far have brought out what promises to be a very fine peony, *Florence Macbeth*.

PROFESSOR A. P. SAUNDERS of Clinton, N. Y., has produced and placed in commerce but three varieties of peonies but all three are very desirable, speaking well for his critical selection. These varieties are *Grace Loomis*, a splendid white; *Sylvia*, an attractive semi-double, light pink and *Matilda Lewis*, a very dark red. Prof. Saunders work with new hybrid peonies is attracting wide attention and he will doubtless have something new to offer along this line in the near future.

E. J. SHAYLOR, of Auburndale, Mass., was very active during the latter years of his life in growing seedlings. He has produced a number of exceptional merit among the best of which are *Georgiana Shaylor*, *Mary Woodbury Shaylor*, *Mrs. Edward Harding*, *Cornelia Shaylor*, *Rose Shaylor*, *Wm. F. Turner*, and *Le Jour*. In all he originated and named about thirty varieties. He died at Auburndale, October 24th, 1926.

MR. TERRY was another American originator who made a great many peonies and put them into commerce, but unfortunately they did not possess the merits required by

discriminating growers and collectors. His varieties *Rachel*, and *Grover Cleveland* are good, and about the only Terry varieties one now sees.

T. C. THURLOW'S SONS of West Newbury, Massachusetts, have originated a number of very fine peonies which we are listing as follows: A. P. Saunders, *Betty Blossom*, *Black Prince*, *Cherry Hill*, *Edwin C. Shaw*, *Helen*, *James Boyd*, *James R. Mann*, *Katharine Havemeyer*, *Nymphaea*, *President Wilson*, *Pride of Essex*, *Sarah K. Thurlow*, *Thomas C. Thurlow* and *Winnikenni*.

The work of originating peonies with them is a co-operative work and neither of the brothers, *Winthrop H.* or *George C. Thurlow* claims the distinction of originating any particular one of the varieties. They have been very successful and have given to the peony world some splendid varieties.

JUDGE LAWRENCE A. VORIES of St. Joseph, Mo., has been very active in producing seedlings and has brought out several of great merit. These are the varieties *Frankie Curtis*, *Nancy Dolman*, *Henry Vories* and *Lady Kate*. These seedlings are attracting a great deal of attention and will have to be watched as they have a great deal of merit. Mr. Vories has several other seedlings of promise and is to be congratulated upon his work and the enthusiasm he displays in making annual journeys to the annual peony shows staged by the American Peony Society and bringing his originations for exhibit.

MR. WARD WELSH of Springfield, Ohio, had several very fine seedling peonies coming on at the time of his death which occurred in September, 1927. Among these were two very fine light pinks which were shown at the National Show at Peoria. One of these has since been named *Mrs. Ward Welsh*.

The Growth and Care of Seedling Peonies

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THE seed of the peony is dark brown when ripe and of much the shape and size of the average garden pea. If allowed to become thoroughly ripe before picking or to dry after picking, it takes a full year to germinate; but if picked from the seed-pods soon after they begin to open, when it has taken on a uniform light brown color and planted immediately, it will give fully a 40 per cent germination the spring after planting, the remainder coming the second spring. The seed can also be held until fall and then planted and still give satisfactory germination the next spring, if stratified in damp sand immediately upon picking and held cool and moist until planted. If dry seed is planted, germination need not be expected until the second spring.

The planting can be done either in beds or, if in quantity, in long 6-inch broad rows in the field. Either method is desirable, depending upon the amount of seed sown. In bed-planting, make the beds $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet wide and as long as desired. Elevate the beds about 6 inches so as to shed water. The seed should be planted in the beds either as soon as gathered, or, if held dry or stratified, a couple of weeks before the freeze-up is expected. Scatter the seeds broadcast over the bed so that they lie about an inch apart, then cover with an inch of good surface soil which has been lightened by having mixed into it a good half of its bulk of either road or river sand. As soon as the ground freezes, mulch the bed with some coarse litter—marsh hay or cornstalks preferred—just enough to hold the frost steady. Remove this mulch after heavy freezing is over in the spring.

The little seedlings should be left in the seed-bed until two years old, when they should be lifted in September and transplanted into the location where they are to bloom. If handled in this way, a portion of the plants will bloom

when four years old, and all may be expected to do so as five-year olds. This is the ordinary and probably the easiest way to handle peony seedlings.

But there is another and probably better way if quick results are wanted. Plow a piece of ground, suitable for planting, in the fall. In the spring plow it again and keep in good tilth until planting-time in that fall. Plant the seed, as soon as gathered, in rows 2 feet apart, with the seed an inch deep and 8 inches apart in the row. Mulch the same as in bed-planting. Remove the mulch in the spring, and if enough seed germinates the first spring to mark the rows, start cultivation and continue twice a week until August 1. If the seed does not germinate the first spring, keep the rows hand-weeded the first season and start cultivation early the next spring as the little plants show up. Seedlings handled this way will throw an occasional bloom the second year, and all will bloom the third year. *Richard Carvel* bloomed as a two-year-old seedling plant. But to bring the bed into bloom as three-year-olds, steady and intensive cultivation must be given it.

Seed gathered from a promiscuous planting of fairly good peonies, as a rule, will not produce worth-while seedlings. On the other hand, the chances are that from seed gathered from a collection of only choice varieties, such as rate 8.0 and above, some very good seedlings may be expected, the number depending on the amount of seed planted. And yet there are some varieties that do not rate so high that still are good mother plants—*Alba Sulphurea*, for instance, a good clear sulphur-white and a splendid seed-producer. Then there are singles in the clear whites, reds, and pinks, all good seed producers, that are good to use.

Where space is limited it is probably best to hand-pollinate. Flowers with good, clean, sharp colors should be used

in the work. Using a camel-hair brush, take the pollen from a clear white like Frances Willard and place it on the stigma of a good clear red like Mary Brand, or vice versa, having taken care to remove the stamens from the blooms that are to receive the pollen before they have been self-fertilized. Such a cross should give good results. Place rather large paper sacks over the blooms being worked with, to be sure that no natural fertilization occurs.

Where the work is done on a larger scale, more satisfactory results can be obtained by segregating the breeding plants. That is, plant a dozen or more of Mary Brand and Frances Willard (or of whatever two varieties are to be used to produce the seed) by themselves where there will be no danger of bees or the wind bringing pollen in from other varieties. Here, if the stamens are removed from one variety and the pistils from the other, the bees and the wind will do the fertilizing on a much larger scale than in the case of the hand-work. The principle is just the same but much more seed will be produced with much less effort.

When the seedlings bloom, the real work with them begins. To be successful, one must be thoroughly familiar with the really good peonies. He must carry them at all times in his mind's eye, for it is by comparison that we judge peonies. As the seedlings bloom they should be under constant observation. The grower should judge each seedling during the short time it is at perfection. A system of marking should be used that will designate plants considered of exceptional merit, and also those that seem good enough for a further trial. For the first class "5x" may be used and "4x" for the other.

In September these two classes of seedlings should be lifted from the seed-bed, divided, and planted with plenty of room in a bed where they are to remain for three years under trial. This three-year trial generally gives one a pretty fair idea of a seedling. During the last two years in this trial-bed these seedlings should be again carefully

watched and rechecked as to whether they deserve a "5x" or a "4x" or, it may be, no rating at all.

A record should be kept of their behavior, and at the end of the third year, the desirable sorts should be lifted, divided and put through a second three-year test. At the end of this second test the grower can say what seedlings are worth propagating.

In testing seedlings, every one that looks at all good should be tested not only for its behavior and desirability in the field, but also for its qualities as a cut flower. For this last test the flowers should be cut in the bud, developed in the dark, and then opened indoors. Many a peony that is not striking in the field shows up wonderfully if handled in this way. Meanwhile, the seed-bed from which the seedlings have been taken, and the plants left in the first test-bed after removal from the seed-bed, should be well cared for for several years, for often a jewel appears where it is not expected. If a seedling does not indicate in the six-year trial that it is worthy, it should be discarded. Seedlings of exceptional merit only should be retained.

Of all the plants raised even in our best beds, about ninety per cent revert to the original type of the peony and turn out singles. In the remaining ten per cent all types may be expected, from the slightly modified single, known as the Japanese, to the mammoth solid double forms.

During the blooming season the bed is gone through several times a day. Promising varieties are noted and so marked. Each day our interest is fresh, for we know we shall find new plants in bloom; and each day we say to ourselves, with the unflinching enthusiasm of the experimenter: Among these thousands of plants, all unlike, we must surely find a few, at least, different from any that the world has yet produced and as good as the best. But years of work with the peony have made us exacting; and along with our hope goes the constantly deepening determination not to offer to the public as a Brand Peony any



A Bed of Five Year Old Transplanted Seedling Peonies Containing Over 17,000 Different Kinds

variety that does not approach our standard. Fortunately for the ordinary purchaser of peonies, this standard calls for many qualities that the amateur himself would not think of demanding.

A good peony, first of all, produces beautiful flowers, that is, flowers that have the charm that comes from good color and fine form. But peonies capable of producing such blooms fall into two classes: (1) those which develop the full beauty of the flower in the field under ordinary conditions, come good every year, bloom profusely and possess stems strong enough to support the flowers; (2) those that,

in order to bring out their full beauty, must be developed in the house away from the sun and unfavorable weather conditions, or that produce good flowers only once in three or four years, or that give scanty bloom, or possess weak stems.

It goes without saying that the first class are the only desirable plants for the amateur; but he is unable to tell one from the other. Now Brand Peonies are for the most part selected from the first class. However a few varieties having some defect, are saved for the collector who is willing to sacrifice some desirable characteristics for exceptional beauty of color or form.

Historical Table of Peonies Chief Producers and Their Varieties

In this table the chief peony originators and their best productions are arranged as nearly as possible in chronological order. The table shows also the ratings of the varieties in the symposium of the American Peony Society.

French Producers		Votes Average		RIVIERE		Votes Average		GUMM		
Votes Average		LEMON		82	9.2	Philippe Rivoire (1911)		15	8.8	Lilian Gumm (1921)
66	7.6	Eduis Superba (1824)		7	8.8	Vera (1923)		VOTES AVERAGE		
40	8.1	Grandiflora Nivea Plena (1824)		English Producers		4	8.4	Alex D. Vories (1924)		
MIELLEZ		THE KELWAYS		5	9.3	Frankie Curtis (1924)		6	9.1	Nancy Dolman (1924)
84	9.3	Festiva Maxima (1851)		50	8.3	Venus (1888)		8	8.9	Henry M. Vories (1924)
49	8.1	Mme. Calot (1856)		70	9.0	Baroness Schroeder (1889)		7	8.7	Lady Kate (1924)
CALOT		Eugenie Verdier (1864)		49	9.1	Lady Alexandra Duff (1899?)		THURLOW'S SONS		
40	8.7	Reine Hortense (1857)		22	9.0	Phyllis Kelway (1908)		24	8.6	Chur Hill (1915)
40	8.2	Gigantea de Nemours (1858)		33	9.8	Kelway's Glorious (1909?)		16	8.9	Pride of Essex (1916)
17	6.5	Alba Sulfurea (1860)		33	8.8	Kelway's Queen (1909)		19	9.0	President Wilson (1918)
28	8.1	Mlle. Leonie Calot (1861)		American Producers		12	8.6	A. P. Saunders (1919)		
36	8.0	Boule de Neige (1862)		RICHARDSON		15	9.1	Edwin C. Shaw (1919)		
60	8.3	Eugene Verdier (1864)		43	7.2	Rubra Superba (1871)		11	8.9	James Boyd (1919)
58	8.6	Eugenie Verdier (1864)		62	8.8	Grandiflora (1883)		11	9.0	Sarah K. Thurlow (1921)
36	7.9	Mme. Crousse (1866)		63	8.0	Milton Hill (1891)		11	9.0	Karinne Havemeyer (1921)
49	7.8	Augustin d'Hour (1867)		48	9.3	Walter Faxon (1904)		9	8.9	Thos. C. Thurlow (1919)
52	8.5	Mme. Emile Galle (1881)		HOLLIS		8	8.7	James R. Mann (1920)		
47	8.3	Mons. Dupont (1867)		21	8.5	Maud L. Richardson (1904)		10	9.1	Alan H. Thurlow (1921)
67	8.1	Couronne D'Or (1873)		18	8.5	Standard Bearer (1906)		10	9.0	Harriet Gentry (1925)
CROUSSE		LOVELINESS (1907)		26	8.8	Loveliness (1907)		9	8.9	Betty Blossom (1925)
58	8.1	Livingstone (1879)		ROSEFIELD		57	8.8	Karl Rosefield (1908)		
45	7.9	Mme. Geissler (1880)		MRS. PLEAS		22	8.5	Opal (1908)		
75	8.4	Felix Crousse (1881)		38	8.7	Elwood Pleas (1900)		33	9.0	Longfellow (1907)
67	8.5	Mme. Emile Galle (1881)		28	8.9	Jubilee (1908)		23	8.8	Henry Avery (1907)
60	7.9	Mme. de Verneville (1885)		9	8.6	Jessie Shaylor (1916)		24	8.6	Judge Berry (1907)
56	8.7	Avalanche (1886)		16	9.2	Grace Loomis (1902)		36	8.8	Richard Carvel (1907)
61	8.7	Claire Dubois (1886)		7	8.7	Silver Saunders (1921)		15	7.9	Ruth Brand (1907)
39	8.5	La Perle (1886)		SAUNDERS		36	8.8	Richard Carvel (1907)		
44	8.3	La Rosiere (1888)		BETSCHER		22	8.4	Lora Dexheimer (1913)		
78	9.2	Mons. Jules Elie (1888)		4	8.8	Modella (1920)		11	8.3	Mrs. A. G. Ruggles (1913)
50	8.9	Marie Crousse (1892)		14	9.0	Nina Secor (1922)		6	8.2	Dariness (1913)
56	8.4	Marguerite Gerard (1892)		SECOR		14	8.3	Winifred Domme (1913)		
58	8.6	Albert Crousse (1893)		14	9.0	Nina Secor (1922)		17	8.7	Luetta Pfeiffer (1916)
59	8.1	Asa Gray (1895)		SASS		18	8.2	Brand's Magnificient (1918)		
23	8.2	Pierre Duchateau (1895)		6	9.2	Florence McBeth (1924)		15	7.8	Faribault (1918)
LEMOINE		SHAYLOR		29	8.9	Georgiana Shaylor (1908)		11	8.4	David Hartun (1920)
50	8.9	Mme. Emile Lemoine (1899)		15	8.6	Le Jour (1915)		5	8.7	Harriet Olney (1920)
21	8.1	Galathee (1900)		20	9.0	Mary Woodbury Shaylor (1916)		8	8.5	Desire (1922)
42	9.0	La France (1901)		11	8.6	Jessie Shaylor (1916)		A. M. BRAND		
60	8.6	La Lorraine (1901)		9	8.6	Jessie Shaylor (1916)		5	9.1	Blanche King (1922)
36	8.9	Enchantress (1903)		11	9.1	Cornelia Shaylor (1917)		5	9.0	Hansina Brand (1922)
41	8.8	Alsace Lorraine (1906)		6	8.7	E. J. Shaylor (1918)		9	9.0	Ella Christiansen (1925)
27	9.2	La Fee (1906)		22	9.3	Mrs. Edward Harding (1918)		6	9.0	Hazel Kinney (1925)
49	9.0	Sarah Bernhardt (1906)		5	8.9	Eunice Shaylor (1919)		5	8.9	Laverne Christman (1925)
56	9.0	Le Cygne (1907)		10	9.1	Rose Shaylor (1920)		5	9.6	Mrs. A. M. Brand (1925)
47	8.6	Primevere (1907)		5	8.9	Rose Shaylor (1920)		5	9.0	Mrs. F. A. Goodrich (1925)
59	9.7	Solange (1907)		FRANKLIN		12	8.8	Ball O' Cotton (1920)		
11	9.5	Alice Harding (1922)		12	8.8	Ball O' Cotton (1920)		8	9.0	Mrs. Frank Beach (1925)
VERDIER		FRANKLIN		13	9.0	Mabel L. Franklin (1920)		6	9.1	Mrs. Harriet Gentry (1925)
46	8.3	Marie Jacquen		12	8.7	Mary P. King (1920)		6	9.0	Mrs. John M. Kleitsch (1925)
DESSERT		FRANKLIN		13	8.7	Mary P. King (1920)		12	9.0	Mrs. Romaine B. Ware (1925)
56	8.5	Adolphe Rousseau (1890)		10	8.8	W. F. Christman (1921)		6	8.9	Victory Chateau Thierry (1925)
29	8.3	Eugene Bigot (1899)		10	8.8	W. F. Christman (1921)		6	8.9	Mrs. Deane Funk (1928)
31	8.2	Mme. de Treyeran (1899)		THE BRANDS		7	8.2	Amanda Yale (1907)		
62	8.8	M. Martin Cahuzac (1899)		15	8.5	Ben Franklin (1907)		15	8.1	Charles McKelip (1907)
32	8.4	Abliflora, the Bride (1902)		20	7.8	Charles McKelip (1907)		29	9.2	E. B. Browning (1907)
46	8.5	Germaine Bigot (1902)		31	9.1	Frances Willard (1907)		29	9.2	E. B. Browning (1907)
71	9.8	Therese (1904)		23	8.8	Henry Avery (1907)		31	9.1	Frances Willard (1907)
46	9.0	Rosa Bonheur (1905)		23	8.8	Henry Avery (1907)		23	8.8	Henry Avery (1907)
47	9.4	Mme. Jules Dessert (1909)		24	8.6	Judge Berry (1907)		24	8.6	Judge Berry (1907)
27	9.0	Raoul Dessert (1910)		33	9.0	Longfellow (1907)		36	9.2	Martha Bulloch (1907)
22	9.1	Souv. de Louis Bigot (1913)		27	8.7	Mary Brand (1907)		27	8.7	Mary Brand (1907)

New Peonies Originated by A. M. Brand



IN 1923, at the St. Paul-Minneapolis National Peony Show, we exhibited about twenty of our new peonies. These seedlings were all varieties selected by us in 1920 from our trial beds.

With the exception of one variety in this exhibit, Hansina Brand, these seedlings were all from one planting of seed. This was a very fortunate planting, for out of this exhibit of 20 varieties, 16 were of remarkable and outstanding quality.

This exhibit was judged by as seen a judging committee as ever judged a collection of new peonies. The committee consisted of the late Bertrand H. Farr of Wyomissing, Pa., the late E. H. Schwartz of Washington, D. C., and Harry F. Little of Baldwinville, N. Y., now President of the American Peony Society. The judges told us after the judging was done that it was the greatest exhibit of new peonies ever staged anywhere by an originator.

These seedlings were awarded the Society's Gold and Silver Medals, the Gold Medal going to the variety Mrs. A. M. Brand, a great white, and the Silver Medal to the variety Myrtle Gentry, a delicate pink. Several awards of merit were also given.

These seedlings were the result of many years of careful preliminary work. In the first place a planting of choice varieties was made from which to save the seed. This planting was made far removed from any other peonies so that the percentage of the seed produced was known.

When this planting bloomed, the seed was saved and carefully planted. When the seedlings had developed into two-year olds, they were lifted and planted in extra choice peony soil. There were about 4,000 of them. Here the little plants were allowed to remain two years when they bloomed profusely. We selected some fifty different kinds out of this seed bed for future trial, several of which promised to be very fine indeed. These were divided and planted out in a trial bed where they remained for three years. Here they were checked as two and as three year olds. At the end of the third season the promising ones were dug, divided, and again planted out into a second trial bed where they were again checked at two and three years of age.

The blooms from the choice varieties, such as had been marked 5x (or No. 1) in the first and second trials, were cut and exhibited at the St. Paul-Minneapolis Show and these were the flowers that were judged there and that received the medals and high commendation of the judges. These new peonies were of such outstanding merit that although our stock was so limited that we could not deliver any roots for two years, we booked orders at that show for one hundred and ten roots at \$50.00 each or a sum total of \$5,500.00. This feat is unique in peony history.

In the testing out of these new sorts and in the work of making final selection for naming and propagating, the experience acquired through many years of working with seedling peonies was brought to bear, and the result was such that every peony finally chosen was in its way a masterpiece.

The range of good varieties of peonies is now so great that there is no place for anything new that is not strictly

of the best. We have realized this for some time and have kept this thought constantly in mind in our own work.

Our business has been built upon the reputation of the Brand peonies. The excellence of such varieties as Mary Brand, Longfellow, Frances Willard, Phoebe Cary, Richard Carvel, Judge Berry, Luetta Pfeiffer, Martha Bulloch, Lora Dexheimer, Henry Avery, E. B. Browning, Chestine

Gowdy and many others of our older productions has caused Brand peonies to be in demand wherever good peonies are grown. That the demand for our new originations as they come out may be equally gratifying it is imperative that these new productions shall equal or surpass the best of the old. We believe that all who saw our new seedlings at the St. Paul-Minneapolis Show will agree that they more than maintain our early reputation.

In this collection of Seedlings appeared the following varieties:

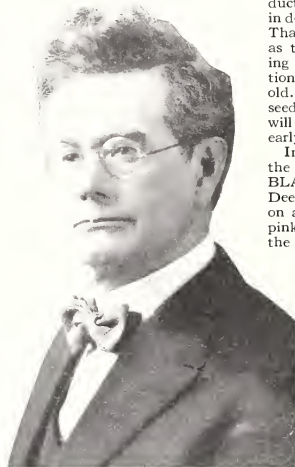
BLANCHE KING (A. M. Brand 1925). Deep Pink. There is a constant search going on among peony lovers for a good, deep pink. The old variety, *Edulis Superba*, has the desired color but it lacks quality. So we must look further for this shade of pink which the world likes so well. We have it to a striking degree in *Blanche King*. This is a large, round rose type flower of brilliant, glowing, deep pink. It holds its color in the field, but shows unusually well when cut in the bud and opened inside. This variety received an Award of Merit at the London, Ontario National Peony Show in 1922.

ELLA CHRISTIANSEN (A. M. Brand 1925). Pink. Although not so deep a pink as *Blanche King*, *Ella Christiansen* is so far removed from the delicate pinks in coloring as to be a real acquisition to the garden.

The flower is very large, both on the plant in the field, and also when handled as a cut flower. As a bloomer, it is probably the most profuse of all this list of seedlings. The flower is exceedingly large. The petals, long and narrow, are heavily serrated on the edges. The flower opens cup-shaped at first and then flat. As a field flower, *Ella Christiansen* received unbounded praise from every visitor as it has an irresistible appeal. We think more and more of it every year.

HASINA BRAND (A. M. Brand 1925). Pink. A flower of beautiful form and great size. The plant is very tall and strong, which enables it to hold its great blooms erect. The color is a glistening, flesh pink with a salmon reflex shading deeper towards the base of the petals, which gives it a very distinct color. As it fades, it resembles *Solange* in color and has often been mistaken in our show room for a perfectly formed specimen of this flower. But *Solange* sometimes fails to develop its flowers at all and often produces imperfect bloom, while *Hasina Brand* comes good every year. This is one of the very best of this list of seedlings.

HAZEL KINNEY (A. M. Brand 1925). Delicate Pink. I can still remember this beautiful flower as it appeared on the plant the first time it bloomed. The form of the flower was so superb and the color so pure that it impressed itself upon me as a flower of great promise. In this I have never been disappointed. *Hazel Kinney* makes a great show flower when displayed by the side of the very best. It is true rose type in form. The color is a delicate, clear hydrangea pink. The plant is of medium height and the



A. M. Brand

foliage light green and clean. Late mid-season. A prolific bloomer.

LAVERNE CHRISTMAN (A. M. Brand 1925). This flower resembles *Therese* very much in color, form, and general makeup of the flower. It is a large flower of rose type, loosely formed, with long, broad, petals. In color it is a deep, rose pink, shading lighter towards the end of the

of that wonderful flower, *Mirielle* has a fair idea of what Mrs. Harriet Gentry is. It invariably blooms well with flowers of the utmost beauty, while *Mirielle* gives perfect bloom so seldom that we do not recommend it.

MRS. JOHN M. KLEITSCH (A. M. Brand 1925). Pink. This is the flower that claimed everyone's attention the third day of the St. Paul-Minneapolis National Show.



petals. The plant is tall and vigorous. It received an Award of Merit of the American Peony Society, St. Paul, 1923.

MRS. A. M. BRAND (A. M. Brand 1925). Pure White. This flower first attracted our attention as a two year old because of the remarkable, uniformly large pure white blooms which it bore and the clean, thrifty light green stalks and luxuriant foliage it produced. Blooms were cut in the bud and taken inside to be developed and it showed up in remarkable form. The flower opens out a pure, glistening white of pure rose type, a large flat flower with prominent guards and petals of wonderful substance. This variety received the Gold Medal of the American Peony Society, St. Paul, 1923. This is a very late variety.

MRS. F. A. GOODRICH (A. M. Brand 1925). Pink. Our estimation of this peony is constantly rising. It is a large, deep pink flower with great broad petals of splendid substance, arranged in the most perfect form in true rose type. Mr. Goodrich selected this flower in our fields to be named for his wife. It received an Award of Merit, London, Ontario, 1922. Its season of bloom is very late and fragrant.

MRS. FRANK BEACH (A. M. Brand, 1925). Ivory White. A very large, flat, perfect rose type flower with long, narrow, lacinated petals with the same lacy effect seen in the great variety *Jubilee*. The blooms are as large as those of *Jubilee*, but are borne finely erect on rather dwarfish plants with very strong stems. We consider *Jubilee* one of the finest of peonies, but it is handicapped by a weak stem. Mrs. Frank Beach is a glorified *Jubilee*. It opens a deep cream and fades but little even when developed in the field. This variety, like *Le Cygne* develops a flower true to type even on a yearling plant. It blooms profusely as a two year old. It received an Award of Merit, American Peony Society, London, Ontario, 1922. Late mid-season, sweetly fragrant.

MRS. HARRIET GENTRY (A. M. Brand 1925). White. One of the most refined flowers in this entire list. Another white of most perfect rose type. The petals, very large and of the purest glistening white, are arranged in wonderful perfection. Anyone who has ever seen a perfect specimen

The variety is very late and the buds taken to this show were cut and taken with us in the car the evening we drove up to St. Paul. The first day they just started to open; the second day they were about half out, but on the third day they were in full bloom and at that time the most marvelous vase of peonies in the whole vast room. The color is a violet rose with a distinct lavender cast. The petals are long, broad, pointed, and of great substance. The form of the flower is most pleasing and perfect. It is a wonderful flower of true rose type. Very late, fragrant. This variety took first as the best flower in the entire show at the 1928 Northwest Peony and Iris show.

MRS. ROMAINE B. WARE (A. M. Brand 1925). Pink. This is one of the most delicately beautiful peonies ever sent out. It was first selected from the seed bed because of the striking beauty of its form. It has a true rose bud effect in the center and the petals radiating from this in peculiar fashion give a pleasing and striking effect to the entire bloom. On my trip East this June on returning from



Hazel Kinney



MRS. A. M. BRAND

the National show at Boston I stopped overnight with my good friend Harry F. Little. Mrs. Romaine B. Ware was in full bloom. Of this wonderful flower Mr. Little said, "I think this one of the daintiest of all peonies in its perfect beauty." The flower is exquisitely delicate. It is medium size and of rose type. The plant is of medium height and a very profuse bloomer. Mid-season, fragrant.

pure, clean, pink buds just before they opened in the seed bed. The next morning I was up long before the sun to see the opening flower. When my eyes rested upon the five immense half opened blooms, I realized that then and there a mile stone was passed in the history of the peony. When noon came and four of these great blooms were fully open, I knew for a certainty that another peony, a great



Mrs. Frank Beach



Ella Christiansen

MYRTLE GENTRY (A. M. Brand 1925). Pink. This variety produces a plant of splendid growth and clean appearance. It holds its beautiful great flower erect and well above the foliage. The beautifully formed flowers are of the largest size, of perfect rose form, with great broad nicely rounded petals of wonderful substance. The color is a beautiful pink, with tints of flesh and salmon. While all of these new seedlings have a pleasing odor this one is the sweetest of all. It has the fragrance of a tea rose. Awarded Silver Medal at St. Paul Show in 1923.

pink, had come to take its station with *Le Cygne*, *Solange*, *Therese* and *Lady Alexandra Duff*." This flower is one of the earliest of good peonies and so early that we have never been able to take it to a National Show. In 1927 it bloomed in perfection and in our own show easily out-classed anything in the room, although it was shown alongside of the world's highest rating peonies. We kept the buds in storage in our refrigerator and brought fresh bloom into the show room every other day.

Victory Chateau Thierry is a very large flower with



Myrtle Gentry



Mrs. A. M. Brand

VICTORY CHATEAU THIERRY (A. M. Brand 1925). Pink. In 1923 we wrote of this wonderful sort. "Occasionally there appears in a bed of seedling peonies some flower so beautiful, either in form or color or both, that the plant breeder recognizes at once a masterpiece. Such a flower was *Victory Chateau Thierry*. I first noticed its immense,

immense broad, evenly arranged rounded petals of great substance. Its petals remind one of the great petals of *Lady Alexandra Duff*. A bright clear pink. This is one of those outstanding flowers of which we have so few in peonies. It is a flower that will take its place by the side of *Le Cygne*.



New Peonies for 1928

MRS. DEANE FUNK (A. M. Brand 1928). Pink. This flower was first selected from the seed bed in 1917 as the seedling showing the best color of that entire bed, a bed which produced all the now famous seedlings which were shown by us at the St. Paul show in 1923. In 1920 it was again selected after a three-year trial as the best seedling for color and again in 1923. For some unaccountable reason we did not have it on exhibition at the National Show held in 1923.

Three years ago both Mrs. Deane Funk and Mr. Harry Little, who were with us during the blooming season, selected this variety in our show room as an exceptionally fine flower. It was unnamed and went under the number 20-22. For the last three years we have had it under careful study. This year it was the most sensational flower in our entire show room. It is a large flower with great broad petals of a peculiarly beautiful formation. The guards and lower half of the petals turn outward, gracefully downward, and then up. Then comes a distinct band of golden stamens such as you find in Phyllis Kelway. The stamens light up the entire flower and these in turn inclose a rose bud cup-shaped center of large incurving petals. The color is really a Walter Faxon pink. It is a magnificent color in the show room, holds up well as a cut flower, and it is also a beautiful flower in the field.

On June 29, we decided definitely that the name of this seedling, 20-22, would hereafter be Mrs. Deane Funk. Her order included a root of this variety three years ago, and on June 29 we received a letter from Mrs. Funk reading as follows: "This very morning I thought of writing to you to tell you of my own exalted opinion of '20-22' for it was the loveliest and about the most satisfactory peony in every way on my place this year. Its color is wonderfully beautiful and distinctive among all the pinks, and its form is perfect. The flower has delightful fragrance and held on the plant longer than any in the section of good ones where it stood. It attracted the attention of everyone who saw it and it was singled out and gone back to after many other of the fanciest ones were seen. I am indeed proud to have it named for me, if you still wish to do this, for I believe you have no more beautiful seedling and I shall be wonderfully proud of my namesake."

When Mrs. Funk saw this seedling in our show room and was so pleased with it, we decided then to give it her name if she continued to like it over a number of blooming seasons. After receiving her letter, we gave the flower her name and decided to offer it for sale this season. We are

printing a portion of Mrs. Funk's letter without her permission.

COMMANDER (A. M. Brand 1928). Red. This was the only seedling red shown by us at the St. Paul-Minneapolis show in 1925. It is very late and was still in the bud when the show closed so it did not attract attention. It is a very large, high built flower and very compact in its make-up. It is best described as a cone shaped, rose type peony. The color is a true self Solferino red. Though it comes very late in the season, it is a remarkably sure bloomer, which cannot be said of most late varieties. We consider this a real acquisition to our wonderful list of Brand's reds.



Mrs. Deane Funk

PRESIDENT COOLIDGE (A. M. Brand 1928). Pink. The cry is often raised, "Why bring out new peonies? You can't get something decidedly new all the time and why bring out something a little different from what we already have?" There is a place and a big place for every good new peony. For there is no good new peony that looks enough like some other one to a real peony lover, to bar it from being introduced. But here is a peony that anyone will note as different, quite different from any other peony that we know of. It is as distinct as Mrs. Romaine B. Ware is from other peonies. As a seedling in the seedbed it was

noted as a flower of fine color and beautiful form. It was also noted that it had a peculiar way of carrying its bloom that gave it a wonderful landscape effect. This same characteristic has marked the variety wherever it has been planted. The flowers are large and of a beautiful, rather uniform, lavender pink. The petals are very large, rounded and arranged with beautiful regularity like those of a great rose. The guards are prominent and stand out from the balance of the flower, making it very attractive from a distance. The entire flower finishes in the center with a striking rose bud effect. The blooms are held on very strong stems which carry them well above the foliage. This is a late variety and is remarkable both as a show flower and a landscape variety.

REV. H. TRAGITT (A. M. Brand 1928). White. A very large flower of true rose type. The great blooms are of the most perfect form and look like great balls of snow, they are so round and of such a pure white. The stems, which are short and strong, hold the great white blooms straight up. The plants are of very sturdy growth and all come to an even height. When planted in a row they present a surely remarkable sight when in bloom. The blooms are so profuse that they cover the whole plant in a solid mass of white. As a rule the bloom is a pure white, although occasionally a faint trace of red shows on an inner petal. The bloom is globular in form with great broad snow white petals of great substance. Something very distinct in a white peony.

Why a New Variety of Peony is Necessarily Expensive



ACAREFUL reader of the two chapters, *The Growth and Care of Seedling Peonies*, and *New Peonies Originated by A. M. Brand*, will not be surprised at the statement that at least sixteen years are required to produce a choice, distinctive, and dependable new peony and get it on the market.

The seeds must first be produced for a new planting by the cross fertilizing of choice varieties. Two years will generally be required for germination. The young plants will not give typical blooms for at least three years. Another year in the seed bed is necessary to show whether a promising plant is really worthy of further testing. Two tests of three years each in different locations should then be made in order to tell whether or not a new variety is really a valuable acquisition. After it is finally decided to preserve a variety, considerable stock must be raised before any surplus roots are available for the market.

Now the producer of a new and valuable plant should certainly have some compensation for all the years of thought and labor that he has put into the work. There is no reason why he should not be protected in the sale of his product as an author is protected by a copyright and

an inventor by a patent. However, no satisfactory method of doing this has yet been devised. As soon as a new plant is put upon the market, growers can buy stock, propagate the plant, and, in a comparatively short time, without the long preliminary work of the producer, they can have surplus stock for sale. We regret that there are usually a few of these growers who have not enough appreciation of the work of the originator to maintain his price. The originator can thus control the market for a short time only, and, in order to get any pay for his very specialized work, he must charge a good price during that time.

Even after the new variety has got into the hands of many growers the price will remain for some time higher than that of old varieties. In the first place, the stock will still be scarce and therefore, bring a better price. Then, too, originators of peonies are becoming more critical, and a new variety which is now put upon the market by a discriminating producer is likely to be really more choice than the earlier and coarser varieties which were produced a few years ago. In an article on *The World's Best Peonies* we have shown that this is true.



Beautiful Peonies in Yard of Mr. and Mrs. Chester Smith, Hill City, Minn.

*The
different
methods
we have
used in
digging
Peonies*



Our Method of Digging Peonies



PERHAPS there is no better way to show how the demand for peonies has grown during the last decade than by a description of the changes that have taken place in our methods of digging the roots with which we fill our orders and make our own new plantings.

Ten years ago our digging was all done with spades. We could take four or five men out into the fields, each equipped with a spade, and in half a day, by the slow method of hand digging, they could dig enough roots to fill the retail orders of our fall trade. Now digging with a spade is hard work and it is difficult to get the roots out in good condition by this method. However, it is the only practical way to follow when the planting is small and the rows short.

As the demand for peonies increased, we made larger and larger plantings. With the larger fields and longer rows some better method had to be devised. About nine years ago we began to use a tree plow, or tree digger, as it is called (see opposite page). A tree digger has two large wooden beams like those of a wooden beam plow. They are joined together by a heavy U shaped steel blade, a foot or more wide. In digging, the blade runs about fourteen inches under the row.

At first we pulled the digger with three heavy teams. This was much faster than the spade method, but it was hard to get six horses to work evenly together. Often the

blade of the digger would be thrown out of line, and would shave off some of the roots on one side. Now we use a tractor for our motive power. It pulls fast and steadily. We can dig ten times the number of roots with the same crew in the same time, and we get each root unbroken.

Before we begin to dig we cut off the tops of a row or of an entire field as we may wish. The tractor straddles the row and the digger follows. The blade simply cuts around and under the row but leaves the roots undisturbed in the ground. With the tractor we can dig forty thousand roots in a day, but we generally dig at short and frequent intervals throughout the fall season.

A crew of men follow the digger and lift as many roots from the ground as we wish to work up at once in the storage sheds. The rest are left undisturbed in the ground until they are needed. The method of handling roots in the sheds is described in another chapter.

For the last three years we have dug on an average of two hundred and fifty thousand roots each fall. It will readily be seen that it would be impossible to carry on our present business if we were obliged to depend on our old spade method of digging. But with our present methods we are not only able to take care of our large volume of business but to handle the roots so carefully and expeditiously that they reach our customers in the best possible condition.

Our Method of Handling the Roots that We Send Out



NOTHING tends more to conserve the vitality of nursery stock than the possession of proper equipment to handle it with and the knowledge on the part of the nurseryman of how to handle the equipment. Nothing tends more towards the building up of a truly profitable plant business than does the use of such equipment and such knowledge.

Sixty-one years of experience devoted to the growing and handling of all kinds of nursery stock, and peonies in particular, has given us a thorough knowledge of how to handle the stock; and many thousands of dollars spent in equipment has provided us with proper facilities.

We have always believed that our interests as nurserymen were best served by delivering to our customers the very best product we knew how to produce, and that that product should be delivered to him in the very best possible condition; in other words we believe that a satisfied customer is our cheapest and best advertisement, and to make each customer a satisfied one it is our endeavor when sending out a peony root, or any other stock, to see that it is in prime condition, full of vitality and free from disease, fitted to give keen pleasure to its future owner.

In order that peony and iris roots may give the most satisfying results, it is necessary that very careful attention be given them from the instant they are lifted from the ground until they are again planted in the gardens of our customers. We pride ourselves on giving our roots this attention.

We see that both our peony and iris roots are dug in the field under the supervision of a careful and experienced foreman, and we spare no expense in having the stock carefully handled while it gets from the field to our storage building, where it is instantly taken inside and there properly cared for.

That the entire handling of our plants may take place inside, we make use of a modern storage building, the largest building of its kind used for the handling of peonies and iris. This building, which is to be seen on page 30, is in the main 60 feet wide by 170 feet long.

Many writers say that both the peony root and the iris rhizome will stand lots of rough usage and neglect in handling. It is true that both of these plants often survive such treatment; still we find that the more careful we are in the handling of these roots the better success our customers have with them after they are planted.

Because of this, we are very particular that all the roots handled, either peony or iris, are hurried from the field into this storage and packing building just as quickly as possible after digging. When we are digging peonies we seldom have fewer than ten to fifteen men at the work. The roots are loaded on a wagon as quickly as the soil can be cleaned from them, and within fifteen minutes after they leave the ground they are safely stored inside.

As you look at the picture, you see the rear of the building. In entering the building from the opposite side you come first into the back, or frame portion, entering first a large room 40x60 feet, used as a storage room for lumber, boxing material, and packing material, such as sphagnum moss and planer shavings, and also as a weighing and shipping room. From this room our express and freight shipments are weighed and billed out, being loaded on wagons and trucks from the platform shown at the rear.

Passing to the left from this room, you enter the iris room. This room is 30x60 feet, and during the shipping season is used entirely for the handling of iris. Built entirely around the four sides of the room are individual stalls, one for each variety of iris we offer for sale. In the center of the room are the tables where the iris orders are



Storage Building
and
Peony Packing
Room



collected, and other tables where these orders are boxed, ready to send out.

The atmosphere of this room is kept absolutely dry at all times during the packing season, as the iris is very susceptible to dampness which it cannot stand at all while being handled.

From this room to the east open two doors, through which our main storage rooms are reached. These two rooms are each 30x50 feet and 25 feet high, and they occupy the entire stone portion of the building as seen in the picture.

The south room is lighted from a skylight in the roof and is used during the digging and shipping season as a receiving room for the loads of peony roots as they come from the field. Our roots from the field are handled on large, flat bottomed racks the size of a hay rack, 10x14 feet. The load, team and all go right into the iris room through the big doors shown to the right of the team in the picture. As soon as the load is inside, the doors are closed while it is being unloaded, so as not to have the air on the roots an instant longer than necessary.

The roots are taken from the load into the receiving room where they are placed in large stalls erected to keep the different varieties separate.

The peony, unlike the iris, demands a certain amount of moisture in the air while being handled and the atmosphere of this room is kept charged with moisture. It is very easy to do this, as this room and the storage room adjoining it were built on the same plan as that of the most approved refrigerator. In the first place is an outside wall of stone eighteen inches thick. Then comes a four-inch clear air space and then an eight-inch wall of hollow tile in which are four air spaces. The doors are five inches thick, made of three thicknesses of inch matched lumber with two one-inch air spaces between. The roof is constructed the same way as the doors, all out of matched, cypress lumber.

Here in this receiving room the most of the rough work of cleaning up the roots is done. The dirt is got out of the clumps, the tops are cut back close to the buds, and the surplus ends of the roots cut off. Here also most of the large wholesale orders are divided and boxed. This room is provided with natural light and is a very pleasant room to work in. Its sister storage room to the north of it is lighted by artificial light only and is the true storage room, as a dark room is much easier to carry stock in than a light one. This room is used to carry the surplus stock in storage while the packing season is on.

Leaving the receiving room by the doors at the east, one enters our peony room proper. This is a room 60x50 feet and in this room our retail work is done. (See picture, page 30).

The picture, although showing but about one-fifth of the room, still gives a pretty good idea of it. Each peony that we offer for sale is carried in a stall or bin provided for it. The roots, already divided, are covered with damp packing and are ready to fill into orders. Two rows of these stalls are to be seen directly in front. The little box protruding

from the front of each stall contains the printed label of the variety that fills the stall, and just above the little label box, on a white board printed in plain black letters, is the name of the variety. If you will look closely at the name of the first stall at your left you will make out the name Couronne d'Or.

Straight ahead, at the far side of the room, three tiers of stalls can be seen one above another. Single varieties go into the bottom tier, Japanese varieties into the middle tier, and varieties of which we sell a very few into the top tier. In the further right hand corner, a section of pigeon holes shows, and directly back of these are a lot of drawers in rows, one above another. These hold our surplus printed labels. In the right hand wall of the room, the large doors leading to the receiving room are to be seen. Directly to the right Miss Gentry stands working on an order. You will notice that she wears a fur coat. This is necessary, even in the early fall season, as we hold the temperature in this room as low as we can, with an abundance of moisture in the air to keep the roots in perfect condition.

Miss Gentry selects the roots that go into every retail order that we send out and has done so for the last nine years. It is to this strict personal supervision of this particular part of our work that we attribute the almost universal satisfaction our roots have given to our customers.

Just beyond Miss Gentry and at the next table stands Mr. Brand, attaching a label to a peony root which has received his as well as Miss Gentry's approval. Just across the table from Miss Gentry, but not visible in the picture, is Mrs. Foreman, our chief boxer. Mrs. Foreman can box as fast as orders can be assembled, and we are sure our customers will say that she does a nice job. Immediately in front of you, as you look down the aisle at its farthest end sits Olaf Holmquist. Olaf has divided peonies for us for years. When we have a particularly hard root to divide and none of the rest of us like to undertake it, it is passed over to Olaf and he will always work it out in the nicest way possible. Olaf's father started to work for my father in the nursery in 1869.

In the front of Olaf is L. M. Larson. "Lars M." as we call him, is now 71 years old but he is as spry as a colt. He has divided peonies for us for 15 years. At Olaf's right is Wm. King. William has been with us only two years, but he is a natural born divider. There are none better. He divides steadily all the while during shipping season.

As will be seen from the picture, this room is also used as a dividing room. Here we always have the very choicest varieties brought in and divided so that this work is done under our personal supervision. In this room also we carry all the peonies we store through the winter.

We have gone into so much detail in describing our methods and equipment because we believe that our customers will be interested in knowing how much of personal interest and skilled labor as well as expense are represented by the boxes of iris and peony roots which come to them from the Brand Peony Farms.

When to Plant Peonies—Fall Planting

A VERY large part of peony planting is done in the fall. Many writers of popular articles on the peony advise early planting and mention September and October as the only months suitable for the work. As a result, a large number of our customers ask for September first shipment. We want to emphasize the fact here that our many years of experience have convinced us that the importance of early planting is very much over-estimated.

Each fall we make several plantings at considerable intervals as we get roots enough ahead to make a good planting. Often the last planting is made just before the final freeze-up. The next spring we notice that those that were planted early the preceding fall show a little stronger

growth than those that were planted later. But in the second growing season there is no perceptible difference either in size of plant or amount of bloom. And when our early and late fields are dug at the end of two or three years we find no difference in size or quality of roots.

Now we fill our fall orders at the earliest possible date, but a few facts about our work will show that it is impossible for us or any other grower to ship all fall orders in time for September planting. We begin to dig for our trade as early as the roots are in proper condition, that is when they have become dormant. This date depends upon growing conditions during the summer and may be anywhere from August 15, to September 10. After the roots are dug



*Planting
Peonies*



they must be taken to the packing room, cleaned, divided and stored in properly labeled stalls. Not until all this is done can we begin to fill orders. But when we do begin we push the work as fast as we can considering the facts that only selected workers can be used and that they must have our personal supervision. We generally are filling orders on the day they are received by October 10. We trust, however, that our customers will be patient, if they do not always receive their orders as early as they would like, remembering that late planting is not a serious disadvantage, and that when their shipment is received it will consist of roots handled in the best possible way, the real Brand divisions, upon which we pride ourselves.

Spring Planting

WE are frequently asked if we agree with the statement so often made that peonies should never be planted in the spring. Our answer is an emphatic No. However, a warning should be given in connection with this answer. Roots intended for spring planting should be dug in the fall and held in a dormant state under proper

conditions of temperature and moisture until they are planted in the spring. Most nursery stock of all kinds is stored in the fall and planted in the spring.

We have erected a costly storage building providing ideal conditions for holding stock through the winter. We always carry over many roots both for our spring trade and our own planting. Customers who desire to plant in the spring may be assured that roots which have been stored here will be received in the spring in the same condition as those sent out in the fall and will give practically the same results.

We have at the present time in one field roots that were planted in September 1925, and others that were planted May 11, 1926. Both sets of plants bloomed profusely in June 1928, and no difference could be seen either in the size of the plants or the amount of bloom. We have always planted a good many peonies in the spring; and, if we did not know that dormant stock could be successfully planted then, we should not recommend spring planting to our customers.

Size of Root to Plant

OUR many years of work in growing and handling all kinds of Nursery Stock has given us worlds of practical experience, which we are now applying for the benefit of our customers in our peony business. This broad experience, we believe, adds value to our opinion in regard to the best kinds of roots to plant, and the proper handling of these roots before they reach our customers.

Perhaps the best way to make clear the kind of roots which we recommend, is to make mention of the kinds we do not advise.

We do not believe in planting **ONE YEAR ROOTS**. All good Nurserymen will tell you that everything that

they line out in their nursery rows has a general root pruning before it is planted. All the little fibrous roots are removed, and the old root is trimmed back. We treat our peony roots in the same manner. People who do not understand propagating rules are pleased when they receive stock that is covered with little fuzzy roots. These little feeding roots range in size from a hair to a lead pencil. It is impossible to straighten them all out as they were growing before they were disturbed. If peonies are planted with these rootlets left on, the soil is forced down upon them, and they are planted criss cross, and the result is a deplorable root system. These rootlets have already lost much of their vitality before replanting takes place, and they should be removed, if for no other reason than this. Then when these rootlets have been removed, you have a small three to five eye division left.

Neither do we favor planting **TWO OR THREE YEAR OLD CLUMPS**. Many people think it is necessary to plant large clumps in order to get quick blooming returns, but we know from experience that these large clumps will prove disappointing if planted. A two or three year old clump has many roots, and there is no way to get the soil packed firmly about all its parts so as to bring about the vigorous growth that comes from the division. We cannot recommend a root to our friends who purchase of us if we would not plant that same kind of root in our own fields.

We have tried out, in our own plantings, roots that we have mentioned and we have definitely concluded that the **3 to 5 EYE DIVISION** is really the best size of root to recommend to the majority of our customers. We always make these divisions by dividing not younger than a two-year-old plant, and not older than a three-year-old. The roots from this division are so few that the soil can be brought into direct and firm contact with every part. The root is properly pruned and new feeding roots begin to form soon after the root is planted; and these new roots grow on without being disturbed, so that by the time your plant is a three-year-old it has reached its greatest perfection. It is during this third season of blooming that you get those uniformly perfect blossoms that all peony lovers look forward to. The 3 to 5 eye division is really a selected yearling, trimmed up as a real Nurseryman would trim it ready for planting.

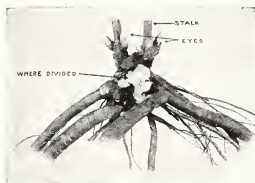
The following extract from a letter we have recently received is in confirmation of the opinion expressed above:

You may be interested to know the outcome of my experiment with a Brand division and a two-year plant of Marie Jacquin, bought in the fall of 1926 from _____ for \$1.00 and \$2.50 respectively.

In the spring of 1927, as was to be expected, the two-year plant had rather the better of it in number of stalks and buds. I allowed only two or three to develop on each plant. There was practically nothing to choose between the two plants so far as the bloom was concerned, but the Brand plant was, if anything, rather the more vigorous of the two.

Last spring, 1928, there were twelve stalks on the clump and eight on the Brand division and I allowed one bud to develop on each stalk. The blooms on the Brand division were handsomer and almost a third larger. I called the attention of a number of people to the two plants, and without exception they chose the Brand as the finer of the two, and it certainly was much stockier and finer. I should add that the two were set out three feet apart, and were given precisely the same treatment in every way. You may be sure I shall buy no one, two, or three year old plants hereafter. I am wondering if those who advocate these clumps rather than divisions have ever taken the trouble to make a fair trial of the two.

Charles Huntington Smith
Deerfield Academy,
Deerfield, Massachusetts.





Peonies as They Bloom on Two Year Olds at the Brand Peony Farms

Culture of the Peony



THERE is no perennial with which we are familiar that will stand more abuse than the peony and live year after year. On the other hand, there is no plant that will respond more generously to careful and intelligent treatment. For those who wish to get the most pleasure out of their plants we have prepared the following cultural directions.

Location and Soil

Peonies should be planted where they will receive full sunlight and where the soil will not be impoverished by the roots of trees and large shrubs. To get the best results, thorough drainage should be provided. Peonies will not do well in wet or soggy ground. Heavy soil will produce the best blooms, but sandy soil will give good results if well fertilized and liberally supplied with water during the blooming season and periods of drought.

Preparations for Receiving Plants

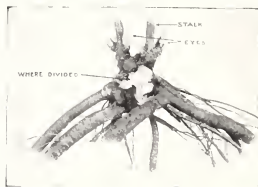
If a regular bed is to be set out, begin preparations a month before the plants arrive. If the soil is fairly good garden soil, suitable for raising vegetables, plow or spade to the depth of eight inches, then work up the soil, level it off, and leave until time to set the plants. Top fertilization will be sufficient. If you have filled in soil of poor quality, dig it out to a depth of two feet. Fill in a foot of well rotted stable manure well tramped down and then fill in the balance of the trench with good garden soil, packing it down and leaving it to settle.

If it is planned to scatter the plants in the herbaceous border already started, provide enough space for each plant to permit it to develop properly. If plants are set out as specimen plants on the lawn, sod in a circle not less than three feet in diameter should be taken up to permit good preparation of the soil and thorough cultivation during April, May, and June.

Planting

When the plants arrive, immerse them in water for from eight to twelve hours. This will not hurt the roots and if they happen to be shrivelled, it will help them materially. The packing material should be washed away, great care being taken not to injure the buds. The labels should be removed before planting. In spacing, allow at least three feet each way. Four feet would be better if you wish to produce the finest blooms. The plants should not be placed where they will be crowded by other plants or heavy rooted shrubs or trees.

A great many people make their main mistake right at this point; that is, in the actual planting of the peony root. Dig a hole two feet in diameter and eighteen



inches deep. If you are not going to use fertilizer in the bottom of this hole, fill it up with good pulverized surface soil so that when it is packed down hard with the foot, you can put the plant right on top of this filling, directly in the center of the hole, and have the buds come two inches below the surface level of the soil. Then fill in a little around the root with well pulverized soil, working it carefully about the roots with the fingers and tramp it down heavily with the foot, being careful not to injure the buds. Keep filling in until the hole is full and tramped solid, then mound up over the entire hill about six inches of mellow soil to stay until the next spring. This last operation insures the shedding of water during the first winter. After the ground is frozen, apply a light mulch of straw, wild hay, corn stalks, or other coarse material. This pre-

vents injury to the crowns by the constant freezing and thawing of winter.

Cultivation

When garden making time comes in the spring, remove the mulch and level the mound. As soon as the buds begin to appear above the ground, begin cultivating, and cultivate until the plants are in bloom. After the blooming period, frequent cultivation will be found of much benefit in producing satisfactory growth and bloom the following year, and in keeping down the weeds.

The soil should be stirred to a depth of two inches close to the plant and at least three farther away. If the plants are in rows, cultivate to a depth of three inches between the rows. The potato fork and potato hook are good tools to use where horse cultivation is not practical.

Watering

In times of drought, give an occasional thorough watering. A light sprinkling is of no value as it does not get down to the roots where the moisture is needed. It is astonishing what water will do in producing large exhibition bloom. A good way to water is to dig a trench about six inches from the stalks and pour in two or three pails of water at a time. Where the plants are in rows, the entire row may be easily watered by digging a shallow trench and filling from the hose. A watering of this kind will be sufficient for a week.

Fertilizing Peonies

We have often heard it said that there may be "too much of a good thing." This is especially true in the growing of peonies. We believe that amateurs and some professional growers, in their zeal to obtain the best results, have often over fertilized their plants with disastrous results. If the soil has been thoroughly prepared well in advance of planting time, as directed above it will not be necessary to add additional fertilizer for three or four years. Light soils will not retain fertility as long as heavier ones and for this reason will need attention more frequently.

Bone meal, vigo, and wood ashes are safe fertilizers.

Two large handfuls of either is sufficient for a three year old plant. Before applying stir the soil to a depth of about two inches in a radius of eighteen inches from the outer stalks. Scatter the fertilizer evenly over this surface to within two inches of the leaf stalks. Stir into the soil thoroughly with a hoe or rake. Apply late in the fall before the ground freezes. Use steamed bone meal, not the ground bone, to get the best results, as it is more easily taken up by the soil and assimilated by the plant.

Well rotted barnyard manure will do it too great quantities are not used. Half a cubic foot of the material applied according to the directions given for the use of bone meal will be sufficient. Such an application annually is plenty. The harm from the use of manure comes from overdoing it or from letting the fertilizer come in contact with the roots of the plant. Much harm has been done by the use of liquid manure and droppings from the chicken yard. Both of these fertilizers are pretty sure to burn the roots and severely injure if not kill the plant.

Cutting Bloom

In removing flowers be sure to allow two sets of leaves to remain on each plant stalk to insure root growth for another year. After the blooms have fallen, trim off the flower buds and shape the plant so that it will be attractive.

Removing Tops of Peony Plants

A very serious mistake is often made by cutting off the tops of peonies immediately after the blooming period. This is exceedingly damaging to the root system as the buds for the following season's bloom cannot develop properly without a considerable amount of this year's foliage. If this should be repeated for any length of time, the loss of the plant would very likely occur. By September fifteenth the plant has made its year's growth. After this time the tops should be cut to the ground. They should then be burned to dispose of any fungus disease that may have started on them. After the ground is frozen, it is well to apply a light mulch to mature plants as well as newly set ones. In this way the possibility of crown injury by alternate freezing and thawing during the winter is prevented.

Why My Peonies Fail to Bloom

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WE have always encouraged our customers to come to us with their peony problems; and of all the questions that come to our office this is probably the most common, "Why do my plants fail to bloom?" We believe that there are a number of reasons why peonies fail to develop flowers, and we hope that a discussion of the principal ones will enable many of our readers to decide upon the one or ones that fit their cases.

Two causes of shy and imperfect bloom are so common that we hesitate which to place first. These are too deep planting and a poor choice of location. We have decided to discuss planting first.

While the soil should be thoroughly prepared for a considerable depth, the plant itself should be so set that the little pink and white buds from which next year's growth is to develop are only two inches below the surface. If they are placed deeper than this, the buds already formed may have strength to produce bloom but will not develop vigorous growth. And more important still, new buds for next year's growth will be produced nearer the surface along the woody stems instead of upon the fleshy crown. The growth from these will be spindling and weak and result in little or no bloom. In a few years the plant will be utterly worthless.

In deciding where to plant peonies, it must be remembered that the buds which are to produce the bloom and growth of a given year are formed under ground on the fleshy root, or crown, during the preceding July and

August. Hence it follows that such a location should be chosen as will make possible the best growing conditions from early spring until growth has ceased sometime in August. And these conditions include deep and frequent cultivation and abundant moisture.

A little thought will show how unfavorable are many common locations. A small circle of turf is often taken up from the lawn and a peony planted in this space. Here cultivation can not be deep or extended. Then, too, in dry season, the small bit of soil is quickly dried out. In such conditions strong and vigorous growth cannot be produced, and few and imperfect flowers will be developed.

Poor results are often due to the planting of peonies under trees or near shrubs. These larger plants not only shut off the sunshine but deprive the peonies of food and moisture. Then, too, their larger root system makes thorough cultivation impossible. It is surprising how large a circle of ground the roots of a moderate sized tree will penetrate.

Peonies will not thrive when planted near the foundations of houses unless very special care is given them. The walls absorb moisture from the soil and at the same time throw off heat. Thus the roots of the plants become dried out and cannot produce healthy growth.

By this time our readers may be asking, "Where then shall we plant our peonies?" The answer is, that these flowers do best when planted in wide and not crowded borders or in the garden. Here they can receive deep and



Peonies Used in Border Planting on the Grounds of W. B. Stottlemeyer of Waynesboro, Pa.

frequent cultivation and abundant moisture throughout the entire growing season.

Strange as it may sound, a third cause of unsatisfactory bloom is too generous treatment. Once it was necessary to urge people to fertilize their peonies as well as give them other care. But with the modern development of the peony its popularity has increased. People have come to prize their plants more highly, and in their zeal for the best re-

sults are likely to fertilize too heavily. In this way they injure their plants and flower buds suffer with the rest of the growth. Advice concerning fertilization is given on page 35.

Unseasonable frosts or freezing in late spring often causes failure to bloom. Cold water sprayed on frozen plants before the sun has had an opportunity to complete the damage already sustained, will often remove the frost from the plants and little damage will result.

How and When to Divide Peonies



A GOOD peony well located should be a permanent feature of a private garden. A strong root well planted and properly cultivated is good for fifty years or more without change. There are authentic cases of peonies that have remained undisturbed for one hundred and twenty-five years and that still produce good bloom and lots of it; and this is why we say, "A good peony once planted lasts a life time. Why not plant the best?"

However, some unfavorable condition may develop, and it may become apparent that a plant is not doing well; or some circumstance may make it necessary to change the location of a plant. In either case, the clump should be taken up, divided, and the divisions replanted. Do not replant the clump as a whole.

The best time to dig a peony root is just after the buds, or eyes, are developed. In Southern Minnesota, this is during the month of September, though the work may be done in October and in some years as early as August 20th. Do not move peonies in the spring if you can avoid it.

Dig the clumps as carefully as possible so as not to injure the roots. The dirt should be removed by shaking the clumps hard or by picking the dirt out with a sharp pointed stick. Be careful in doing this not to injure the buds. It is not advisable to wash the roots, as this is likely to injure the buds if the roots have to lie any length of time before being replanted.

After the dirt has been removed, the large root should be cut into divisions. A sharp knife with a straight blade should be used for the work. Before beginning to divide the root, get a clear picture in your mind of what constitutes a good division. It must have a fair portion of the crown, or fleshy part, together with the attached roots. It must have also at least one good strong eye, and we believe

that a three to five eye division is the best. Turn the plant around to see if there is some place of natural cleavage. If such a place is found, cut in towards the center of the crown. When a good deep cut has been made, it may be necessary to take a hand to each part and break the clump into halves. Each part can then be divided more easily into smaller divisions.

When the divisions have been made, cut the bottom of the roots off smooth so that the division with roots, crown, and buds is about six inches long, and as big as a man's hand, with wrist included. Smooth all the rough breaks off with the knife. Do not hesitate to cut the roots off as directed as all of the root beyond the amount specified is waste. We do this with our sale plants, although perhaps some of our customers, feeling that they had got more for their money would be better pleased to receive the larger division with all of the roots attached.

In replanting these divisions it is advisable to do so in a new location where peonies have not been planted before. If the same location must be used remove the old soil and fill in with new.

Be sure while handling the root of the peony you are dividing that you do not allow it to become damaged by careless handling. A peony root should not be exposed to the action of the air more than is absolutely necessary or it will become injured by such exposure. Divide the root immediately while it is still brittle and replant at once if possible. If this cannot be done remove it inside into a cool cellar and cover with some damp material until the dividing can be done. Do not allow the root to become limp before dividing. The more careful peony roots are handled the more vitality is conserved, and the better the results that will be secured.

Modern Peony Types



THE progenitor of our modern herbaceous peony, *Paeonia albiflora* is a native of Siberia and bears a white flower which is single in form. It has been cultivated extensively first in China and Japan and later in Europe and America; and through cultivation it has come to vary widely in form and color. Now many conditions of a state of cultivation are more favorable to variation in a plant than are the conditions of the wild state. The chief of these as is shown in the story of the development of the Brand varieties are (1) intensive cultivation (2) an increased food supply (3) cross fertilization both natural and artificial and (4) selection and preservation of plants bearing desirable characteristics.

Probably a variation in color occurred first. An early Chinese writer mentions a red as well as a white peony. From these two varieties and their descendants other colors have come.

But the wide variation in form which has come about seems even more wonderful than the variation in color. The process by which double blooms have been developed from singles is interesting. This change is brought about by the transformation of stamens and pistils into petals. An entirely double variety thus contains neither stamens nor pistils. Our modern peony furnishes flowers in the various stages of this development and also in different forms of the same stage. We have, therefore, a very great variety of forms. Various attempts have been made to group these different forms into classes, or types, and to apply roughly descriptive names to them.

We give below explanations of what have been the most commonly used terms:

1. **SINGLE.** This class of flowers contains seed bearing carpels, a mass of pollen producing stamens, a single row of wide petals or guards, and a calyx. Example: *Albiflora*, *Mellen Knight*, *Pride of Langport*, *Harriet Olney*.

2. **JAPANESE.** This type illustrates the first stage in the doubling process. The stamens have become greatly enlarged. They are narrow and thick and of various colors. They have taken a step towards the petal form. Vestiges of anthers remain, and these sometimes carry pollen. Examples: *Mikado*, *Fuyajo*, *Margaret Atwood*.

3. **BOMB.** In this stage the stamens have taken on the texture of petals. They are, however, narrower than the guard petals, and their edges curve towards each other. They exist in great numbers and form a distinct ball, surrounded by the wide and more drooping guards. Examples: *Mons. Jules Elie*, *Archie Brand*, *Modeste Guerin*, and *Richard Carvel*.

4. **THE CROWN.** Sometimes the carpels also become transformed into petals. Often these petals differ from those produced from stamens and form a well defined central tuft. Such a bloom has thus three distinct sets of petals—those formed from carpels being surrounded by the transformed stamens, and these in turn by the wider guards. Such a flower belongs to the crown type. Examples: *Octavie Demay*, *Henry Avery*, *Avalanche*, and *Eduilis Superba*.

5. **CONE.** Sometimes the great mass of petals, just as the bud opens, form a perfect cone, which is surrounded by the guard petals. This gives the type its name. But often,

as the flower develops, the innermost petals push up and form a crown. Example: *Chestine Gowdy*.

6. **ROSE.** When both stamens and carpels have been transformed into large round petals that differ little if any from the guards, we have the rose type. Examples: *Kelway's Glorious*, *Marie Lemoine*, and *Myrtle Henry*.

7. **SEMI-ROSE.** These flowers are like those of the rose, except that part of the stamens have remained unchanged, and the flower is, therefore, more loosely built. These stamens may be scattered among the broad petals or they may be arranged in a ring around a central group of petals as in the well-known *Couronne d'Or*. Examples: *Judge Berry*, *Mary Brand*, *Sarah Bernhardt*, and *Couronne d'Or*.

8. **DOUBLE.** When all stamens and pistils have become transformed into petals, whether these are like or unlike the guards, the flower is entirely double. The rose type then is double. The bomb may be double, but it may contain carpels. The crown also may be double, but it may contain a few stamens or petals that are only partially transformed and bear remnants of anthers.



Judge Berry

9. **SEMI-DOUBLE.** Of all this list of terms this one is most loosely used. We apply it to a very loosely built flower of the semi-rose type. Examples: *Phyllis Kelway*, *Marie Jacquin*, *La Rosiere* and *Luetta Pfeiffer*.

The following slightly different list of terms has been recently recommended by the American Peony Society: single, Japanese, semi-double, rose type with stamens, rose type, globular, globular with guard petals.

It will be noticed that two types, "crown" and "cone," are omitted. The "globular" and "globular with guard petals" are two groups of the "bomb" type, the former having the guard petals less conspicuous than the latter. "Rose type with stamens" is the same as the "semi-rose."

Japanese Peonies



THE name, Japanese Peony, is likely to give the impression that all peonies of this class originated in Japan. In reality, however, it is merely the name of a type of peony that has long been admired in Japan but that may be found anywhere in any bed of seedling peonies.

This type marks the first step in the transformation of the single into the double peony. In it the stamens have become greatly enlarged. They are narrow and thick and of various colors. Vestiges of anthers remain and these sometimes carry pollen.

The Japanese type of peony is passing through the same process of improvement that has come to the doubles and to the singles. Fifty years ago we had very few double peonies and no singles that we should now call first class. At the present time we have many good double varieties



Mikado

and a few really desirable single and Japanese forms. In several large lots of peony seedlings there are pretty sure to be a considerable number of the Japanese type. Many of these have been propagated and placed on the market with little thought as to their quality. Just as long as they

were odd, it was sufficient. But as we have come to have more definite ideas as to what is really desirable in a peony, the demand has come for real quality in the Japanese as well as in the other types. The result is that we have now some really fine peonies of this sort. These are wonderfully artistic in effect and we are sure that this type is bound to become as popular in America as in Japan, and that our propagators will continue to introduce improved varieties. Probably, however, we shall not have the art to coin such interesting descriptive names as the Japanese have given to varieties that have originated with them. The translation of some of these perhaps will interest our readers. Fuyajo translated means "An Illuminated Castle," Amano-sode, means "Heavenly Sleeves of a Garment," and Toro-nomaki is "A Book that Enlightens Every Secret Under the Heavens."

We have definite ideas as to what constitutes a good Japanese peony. We have grown a large number, and the following list we can unqualifiedly recommend. We would suggest, however, that in adding these varieties to a planting or in exhibiting them in a show room the best effect is produced by grouping them together.

Akaku (Japan)	8 1
Akashigata (Japan)	8 0
Alma (Shaylor)	8 5
Altar Candles (Pleas)	8 0
Ama-no-Sode (Japan)	9 2
Cathedral (Japan)	8 1
Exquisite (Japan)	8 9
Flamboyant (Japan)	8 5
Fuyajo (Japan)	9 2
Fuji-Zome-Gorono (Japan)	9 3
Isani Gidui (Japan)	8 6
King of England (Kelway)	8 7
Kukenu Jishi (Japan)	8 6
Mikado (Japan)	8 7
Princess Duleep Singh (Kelway)	8 7
Rashoomon (Japan)	8 7
Some Ganoko (Japan)	9 0
Taiho (Japan)	9 4
Tamatbako (Japan)	8 9
Tokio (Japan)	9 0
Toro-No-Maki (Japan)	8 0
Torpilleur (Dessert)	8 0
Yeso (Japan)	7 7

Single Peonies



THERE seems to be some confusion as to what constitutes a single peony. Peonies of this type are often confused with the Japanese type which is somewhat similar in form.

A single peony consists of one, two, or even more rows of outer guard petals, with the central mass of pollen bearing stamens. This is the original type of the peony from which the other forms have been developed.

Until the last few years, the ambition of peony originators has been to produce fine varieties of double type. We, ourselves, have until the past few years given but little attention to the single varieties. But, recently through various causes, our interest in the singles has developed.

In the first place we have noticed with surprise the pleasure visitors have manifested in the many Singles which occur in our beds of seedlings. Most people have seldom seen any but the double varieties and they exclaim over the novelty and delicacy of the single forms, and in a measure, they have converted us to their appreciation of these earlier simpler forms. They certainly have, for both house decoration and for garden effects, an artistic value different from the double form. The main bud of the single opens first, but before it has passed its prime the lateral

buds have opened also making the plant a mass of bloom. In fact, the single peony, as a rule gives a much better landscaping effect than does the double. The blooms close with the coming of evening, but in the garden this is not a disadvantage. The best varieties hold well both in wind and sun; and, when the cool of evening approaches and they take the form of immense rosebuds, they still present a most pleasing sight. Then, too as a class, they come into bloom at least a week before the earliest of the doubles,—such as *Eduilis Superba*, the early pink, and *Richard Carvel*, the fine early red. This lengthening of the blooming season of the peony is a real advantage.

One great surprising advantage that the singles have over the doubles is, in spite of their delicacy, they hold up better under heavy winds and rains than do the apparently more sturdy double flowers. On viewing our fields after heavy rains, we have been surprised to find the best singles standing erect while many fine double flowers were bent to the ground by the weight of the water encased in the bloom.

However, singles as well as doubles must be chosen with great care if they are to give lasting pleasure. The flower must have substance as well as color and the stems should be stiff and straight. Up to the present time we have placed

four singles on the market but we are now adding three more to our list and we have a number of others that we are watching with interest and that we think will create a sensation when they become known.

We have tested also many varieties introduced by other originators, and we feel sure that the following kinds will prove satisfactory. Descriptions of these for the most part will be found in catalogs, but at the end of the list we are giving descriptions of the three varieties that we are just offering, as no descriptions of them have appeared in any catalog until our 1928 one.

Albiflora	Le Jour
Black Prince	Marguerite Dessert
Darkness	Madeleine Gauthier
Departing Sun	Mellen Knight
Edith West	Perle Blanche
Flanders Fields	President Lincoln
Harriet Olney	Pride of Langport
Helen	Schwindt
Hogarth	The Moor
Krinkled White	Vera
L'Intencelante	Watteau

Our New Singles

IN the fall of 1917 we made our greatest planting of peony seed. It consisted of over a bushel and a half of very carefully selected seed. This planting eventually brought us in the neighborhood of 40,000 seedlings. These seedlings planted into two great beds have brought us many fine seedlings, the first of which we now offer to the public in a limited way.

In checking these two great seedling beds, special attention was given to what seemed at the time of selection desirable singles. There is a growing demand for singles and that this demand might be met, every single in these two large beds that seemed promising was selected out and put through a rigorous six year test. Out of this test there have come probably a dozen good singles which eventually will be offered for sale. We are listing three of them this year.

FLANDERS FIELDS (A. M. Brand 1928). Red. Eight years ago one of our seedling beds came into bloom for the first time and we noticed among the many different seedlings in bloom a red that always caught the eye. Even at a distance of 20 rods from the bed this one plant, because of the brilliancy of its color stood out from all the others. The next season it was just as noticeable. That second fall this plant was lifted and divided and put through a three year test and this season completes its second three year test. Every year and in every way it has proven a splendid flower.

It is a single of the most brilliant red. Two rows of petals surround a large prominent center of golden stamens. The petals stand out flat and are of great substance and rich and velvety in appearance.

KRINKLED WHITE (A. M. Brand 1928). White. A sister seedling of Flanders Fields and like that beautiful variety a single. Found in the same seed bed with Flanders Fields it has gone through the same tests and we are most thoroughly convinced of its value. The flower is first noticeable in the bud which resembles very much the bud of a pale pink tulip just ready to burst. The bud is comparatively small and beautiful in effect. As it opens and expands it develops into a large flower with great broad pure white petals that are krinkled like crepe paper. This gives it a most beautiful effect. Stems tall, straight, slender but strong and a clean light green. A splendid show flower and a splendid field flower. Award of merit, Des Moines National Show. Only twenty plants will be sold this season.

PRESIDENT LINCOLN (A. M. Brand 1928). Red. We believe this red seedling stands head and shoulders above any red seedling that has yet been produced. The plant is tall with straight stiff stems that hold the bloom well erect. The blossom is very large, opens out flat with two rows of great long broad petals of great substance, inclosing a large ball of golden stamens. The color is the most dazzling of deep brilliant red. We have not tried President Lincoln as a show flower, but as a field flower out in the burning sun it is the greatest single we have ever seen.



Another View of a Planting on the Grounds of W. B. Stottlemeyer

September 1st Planting

A GREAT deal of unnecessary work and worry is caused the peony grower every shipping season by the belief held by some people that their peony roots must be planted by September 1, if they are to do well. This is a mistaken idea. We have planted peonies in large quantities for over fifty years, and we have never been overly particular as to the exact time in which to make our planting. The peony root that is planted early in September will be a little surer to produce a bloom the next June, than the root that is planted on October 15. But the second June after planting, no difference can be noticed in the size or the amount of bloom from either root; and the bloom of the peony the first year does not amount to much at its best.

Many people who write peony articles for newspapers and other periodicals state that you should plant your peonies the first of September. They have never given the matter much study. Consequently when customers send in their orders for peony roots, they usually ask for September 1 delivery. If our customers could be with us from the 15th of August until the 10th of September at least, they would readily see that to send out orders the first of September is almost impossible.

The peony business is one that demands careful, personal supervision at all times. It is a business in which a certain amount of help can be employed, and no more. It requires the most careful working out of details. The date at which operations begin for the filling of the season's orders is fixed by local conditions of the season. As a rule, we start to dig stock about the 20th to the 25th of August, depending upon the stage of bud development. Oftentimes conditions of growth are such that we are compelled to start digging as late as September 1.

Years ago one man could have dug, divided, packed and shipped every peony root we sold in a half day's time. Last fall we employed 18 persons who worked ten hours a day from the 20th of August to the 1st of December, handling peonies alone. Then we were so hurried by our customers that the writer, Miss Gentry, and two boxers worked every evening until 10 o'clock, and were obliged to work on Sunday until our orders were filled to date.

It is usually the 10th of September before we are ready to fill orders, and by the 10th of October we are usually filling our orders the same day that they arrive. In order to handle over 100 varieties and still keep each root true to name, much preliminary work has to be done before any orders can be filled. When the season opens, we divide our workers into crews: one for digging, another for dividing, and another for selecting roots. The digging crew digs the roots and delivers them to the storage building. In carrying on this part of the work, we never have the roots

out of the ground and exposed to the elements more than 20 minutes before they are delivered to the storage building where they are perfectly safe. Here the dividing crew divides each root, and then they are gone over and the choicest roots selected for our retail customers. In our storage room a stall is provided for each variety, and after the roots are selected they are packed into their proper stalls with packing material that has been especially prepared for this purpose. When every variety is packed into its proper stall, we are then ready to fill our orders.

Every part of the work has been properly and carefully done under supervision, and all varieties stored away without any mixes. The filling of the orders now goes on rapidly and accurately. We try to fill them in the order in which they are received, with few exceptions. We try to serve our extreme northern and Canadian customers as soon as possible. We often have customers who are closing up a summer home and wish to plant their stock before they leave. We try to take care of these orders early. Then we like to take them in order and fill them as fast as possible. Miss Gentry selects every root and brings it to the filling table where it is inspected by Mr. Brand and the label attached. The order is then checked to see that it contains every root that is called for, and it is passed on to the boxer. These filled orders are taken to the express office at least once a day. When we handle our stock, as we have tried to explain, we feel that we have given our customers our best service, and our best product.



Livingstone

Preparing Peonies for Exhibition

"HOW to grow peonies" and then "How to show them." These suggestions are offered in the most friendly manner. The writer does not wish to give the impression that there is any definite set rule to follow, or that the writer's manner of handling peonies is necessarily the best way in which to handle them. He has simply tried to describe the methods that have brought him the best results through an association with the peony extending over a period of more than fifty years.

In the first place, to have a good show we must have good peonies. And by good peonies I mean well grown. The peony arrives at its maximum beauty as a three year old. Nothing can excel a three year old field of peonies properly located as to soil and properly cultivated. Then,

and then only, the bed or field, taken as a whole, is at perfection. The general average of the flowers as far as size, perfection of form, and perfection of coloring is concerned is at its best.

The finest show peonies I have ever seen were from a three-year-old bed where the plants stood three and a half feet apart each way. Holes had been dug eighteen inches deep and two feet in diameter. Well-rotted barnyard manure, rich in fertility, was placed in the holes to such a depth so that when well tamped down the surface was within four inches of the land surface. Two inches of well tamped surface soil was placed on top. This permitted the peony root to rest on the soil above the manure, with the eyes of the root two inches below the land surface.



A Field of Two Year Peonies—Brand Peony Farms

Peonies planted in any ordinary rich garden soil and given at least three and one-half feet to the plant, if well cultivated and hoed, will produce splendid flowers the third year from planting, although not quite so large or finely colored as where they have the underground manure treatment. But where we do not happen to have the three-year-old field to depend upon for our show blooms, we must make the best of what we have.

If the blooms are to be taken from a garden that has received a yearly application of manure or fertilizer nothing more is to be looked for in the line of fertilizers. Such a garden in a year of normal rainfall can be depended upon to give good flowers. But should the rainfall be deficient, water should be supplied. The peony is a heavy feeder and needs lots of water to bring out the best flowers during the blooming season.

A quart of wood ashes worked into a little trench running about a peony plant six inches out from the stalks will add wonderfully to the size and color of the blooms. Two good handfuls of bonemeal to an established two-year-old plant or to one that is older works wonders.

Liquid manure, quite rich from well-rotted manure, applied the same as the ashes several times during the early growing season is good. It is best to work the ashes or the meal into the soil just as early as the soil can be worked.

And then, after all else has been done, keep the cultivator and the hoe going every other day. There is nothing that produces good flowers like good cultivation.

We have now done everything we possibly can to produce good show flowers. The show is approaching and we must prepare to care for our flowers that they may be shown to the best possible advantage. Dry storage held at about 40 degrees should be arranged for.

It is hardly worth while to attempt to gather the

officialis varieties and hold them for the show, although it can be done.

The first good variety of the albiflora varieties to watch for is Richard Carvel, followed in a day or two by Festiva Maxima; and from then on the race is fast and furious. One should go through the fields continuously, if large, and every few hours, if small, so as to cut the blooms when they are just right. A good deal of trouble is experienced by beginners in cutting the blooms at just the right stage of development so that when they are placed in the show room they will open fully the first day of the show, when the judging takes place.

The rule for cutting has been that the bud should be cut just as the first petal begins to lift. This has led most people who are making their first attempt to show blooms to cut too soon. The bloom should not be cut until, upon taking the bud between the fingers and pressing it, the upper third of the bud feels soft to touch. This is two or three days after the time when the first petal seems to lift from the bud. If cut just as the first petal lifts slightly from the bud, the bloom will not open up until about the third day after being placed on exhibit.

Blooms that are intended for the large classes, which call for an entry of from twenty-five to one hundred varieties to the entry, and from one to three blooms to the vase, should be cut with stems of a uniform length of about eighteen inches. Blooms intended for the classes calling for from six to twenty-four or more flowers to the vase, should be cut with the stems as long and as uniform in length as it is possible to get them.

Cutting should not be done until the dew is entirely off the buds in the morning, or, if after a rain, until the rain drops have disappeared.

As soon as cut, carry the blooms inside and remove the most of the foliage from the specimens intended for the



Booth of Brand Peony Farms, St. Paul National Show, 1923

large classes. But leave about half the foliage on the blooms to go into the other classes, as in these classes the presence of the foliage sets off the blooms and helps out in the artistic effect of the entry when on display, a point not considered in judging the large classes.

After the removal of the foliage, the blooms are set in deep jars of cold water, the deeper the water the better so long as it does not touch the petals of the flowers. Place the jars in a cool, dark room where they should remain for at least two hours. The blooms should then be wrapped for shipping or taken to storage. It will do to wrap as many as a half dozen together. If this is done, take a couple of thicknesses of newspaper and roll the flowers into the paper, bringing it over the tops tightly and tying it together about the stems. But it is preferable to wrap each bud separately. This is not as much of a job as it would seem. Get as many little paper bags as you need from your grocer—No. 1₂ or No. 1—either will do. Cut a V shaped hole with your scissors in the center of the bottom of the bag. Then insert the stem of the peony down into the sack and through this hole. Take hold of the stem and pull the bud right down into the bottom of the bag. It is all done in an instant.

As soon as the blooms are bagged, they should be tied in bundles of about six, each bundle containing but one variety, and these bundles labeled with the variety name.

These bundles should then be packed in crates with blooms at each end of the crates and stems overlapping in the center. The buds encased in their coverings can be

packed down rather tight in the crates without fear of crushing. This keeps them firmly in place, so that they cannot move in the crates and so be injured in transportation. After each crate is full, a wooden cleat should be pressed down over the center of the stems in the center of the crate and nailed. Used orange or lemon crates with the centers removed make first rate receptacles in which to pack. Tight boxes should not be used.

The last two or even three days cutting can be kept at home, bagged and in cold water, with perfect success if one has a cool dark room in the cellar to keep the flowers in.

An ordinary refrigerator is a splendid place to keep the blooms in if one has only a few.

The morning of the opening of the show the blooms should be placed in tubs, pails, or large jars of water as soon as received from storage. From such receptacles work them into the vases where they are to be exhibited. The end of every stem should be cut off fresh as it goes into the vase.

If these instructions are carefully followed, the buds will burst almost immediately into full bloom as the bags are removed; and if care is taken that no direct drafts of air pass through the show room and strike the blooms, the exhibit will easily stand in perfect condition through a three-day show.

Those who have never seen peonies that have been properly handled for exhibition purposes, cannot imagine what a beautiful sight they are.

Why the Same Variety of Peony Does Not Prove a Winner Every Year



THE question is often asked "Why is it that some years one peony, say Le Cygne, seems to dominate the show room, while another year Mme. Jules Dessert may be the outstanding flower, and still another Kelway's Glorious, or Martha Bulloch?"

The cause of this apparent mystery is that the same weather conditions act differently upon different plants. One year the conditions may be exactly right for Martha Bulloch, and Martha Bulloch blooms stand out as supremely good. The next year, weather conditions may be just the opposite of what Martha Bulloch demands, and this variety is a failure. But these same conditions may be just right for Solange and La Lorraine, and these two are superb while the year before they were poor.

An excessive amount of moisture in the early season will materially affect the blooming quality of some varieties. Especially is this true of large, compact, slowly developing blooms. Such flowers may become "water logged," as we term it, and develop imperfectly. This abundant moisture, on the other hand, causes other varieties to do exceptionally well.

An exceedingly dry season preceding the blooming

season may be productive of inferior bloom with some varieties, while drouth at this particular period would not injure others.

Late freezes often materially affect the quality of bloom with some varieties. Early varieties are, naturally, more likely to be affected by frosts than are late sorts.

Then, also, no time can be fixed for a peony show that is suitable for all varieties. The date is generally placed at midseason or, possibly, a little later. For this reason, some of our finest early varieties are seldom shown at their best even though cold storage is resorted to. Our Richard Carvel and Judge Berry, for example, when seen in the show room rarely do themselves justice. They have been held so long in cold storage that they do not hold up with the later flowers with which they must compete.

Such late varieties as Loveliness, Enchantresse, E. B. Browning, and Richardson's Grandiflora seldom bloom in time for shows; but when they do appear in the show room they attract much attention.

Thus we see why no two peony shows distribute their prizes in the same way.

The Cut Flower Business



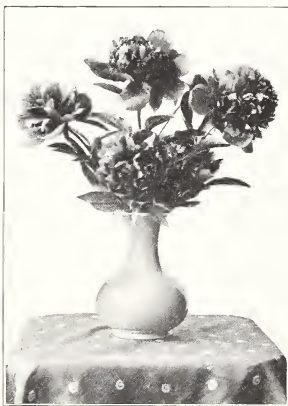
SCARCELY a day passes that there does not come to our office one or more inquiries about some phase of the cut flower business. Now for several reasons we do not make any speciality of selling cut flowers. We are too far north to have our fields in bloom for the big Decoration Day business; and even if we were not we should not like to strip our plants of bloom. We raise peonies for the roots, and this business does not combine well with the cut flower business. For our business we divide our stock every two or three years, and to cut the blooms with the long stems that the cut flower trade demands would injure the root development of the young plants. Then, too, we do not like to cut large quantities of flowers from our fields, preferring to leave them pretty nearly in full bloom. In this way they serve as a better advertisement of our real business, and at the same time give greater pleasure to our guests. But after all, perhaps, the determining reason of all is, that when the blooming season is upon us, we are too much swamped with work connected with our real business to attend to a cut flower trade.

However, as we wish to serve our peony friends in all possible ways, we have written to a number of our customers who have bought plants from us especially for the cut flower trade and have asked for their opinions about different phases of the business. The substance of this article is derived chiefly from the answers to these letters.

The first thing to remember in going into the business of raising peonies for cut flowers is that there are two distinct markets to be considered. One is the great Decoration Day market, the market of the big cities and, in general, a distant market. The other is the local market. These two markets call for different methods of procedure and for different lists of peonies.

The peony has come to be the great Memorial Day flower, especially in northern cities. St. Paul, Minneapolis, Chicago, Detroit, Cleveland, New York, and Boston absorb millions of blooms each year for this trade. Now peonies do not come into bloom in the latitude of these cities until some time after Decoration Day. The flowers then must come from some distance south. Large plantings

to supply this demand have been made as far south as Virginia, Tennessee, North Carolina, Missouri, and through the southern portions of Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio. The flowers are generally sent to big wholesale dealers in the cities and distributed by them to the local



Richard Carvel

florists. The demand at this time is for numbers of flowers, and, when it comes to quality, the trade is not very particular. The varieties chosen may be such as will ship well and store well. As one writer has put it, "We must choose



A Row of Chestine Gowdy—the Best Late Cut Flower—Pink

the varieties that can be on the market in the greatest quantity, in the right condition, at the right time, and at the cheapest price." The buds too must be attractive as it is in the bud stage that the wholesale dealer sells them to the retailer.

In the extreme southern plantings, where peonies come into bloom two or three weeks ahead of Decoration Day, fairly late varieties must be chosen that they need not remain too long in cold storage. The two old varieties, Queen Victoria, or Whitleyii, and Fragnans have been most used here. Neither of these peonies rate high, still they will both stand distant shipment and long storage, and if well grown will make a good bud and a pretty fair flower. Like the Ben Davis apple, they are not choice but dependable. Also they are cheap, and will probably be for some time the most profitable varieties for this section.

Farther north the midseason and earlier sorts begin to work into the plantings, and somewhat choicer varieties are available. Here the plants come into bloom a shorter time before Decoration Day, shipment can be made more promptly, and flowers can reach the market nearer the time they are to be used and will not have to remain so long in cold storage.

The following lists of peonies have been recommended by our correspondents for the middle and northern plantings. We have arranged the varieties roughly in order of their blooming, the earliest varieties first. The later varieties

are better for growers fairly distant from the market, and the early ones for growers who can get their blooms to market within two or three days of Decoration Day.

Among the pinks are *Umbellata Rosea*, a good stem, cherry color and dependable bloomer, though not a high class flower; *Octavie Demay*, which stands storage well and opens into a really fine flower; *Edulis Superba*, one of the very best early cut flower pinks, long stem, good foliage, nice clean bud; *Mons. Jules Elie*, which is beginning to bring a bigger price than any other because of its fine color and immense size; *Delicatissima*, a good and dependable sort; *Albert Crousse*, a very beautiful flower; *Mlle. Leonie Calot*, a very beautiful delicate flower; *Sarah Bernhardt*, choice flower, free bloomer, fine color, a high grade flower but more expensive than others in this list; *Venus*, another popular late midseason variety; *Livingstone*, deep pink, and *Grandiflora*, light pink, both remarkably fine very late varieties, *Chestine Gowdy*, the best late pink.

Among the whites that have been tested out are *Festiva Maxima*, a wonderful cut flower but one which must be raised near the market as it does not hold well in cold storage; *Duchess de Nemours*, beautiful both in bud and bloom; *Mme. de Verneville*, an abundance of very fine flowers; *Avalanche*, fine quality, midseason; *Baroness Schroeder*, profuse bloomer, beautiful both in bud and bloom, late midseason.

It is harder to give a list of reds desirable for the cut flower business especially if the market is remote. Most of the reds contain stamens and these are undesirable when flowers are held in cold storage, as those coming from a distance are likely to be. Our list is therefore limited. New varieties that have proved satisfactory are Richard Carvel, without doubt the best very early red; Karl Rosefield and Mary Brand, probably about equally desirable as mid-season flowers, though Mary Brand has the better bud; and Felix Crousse, the great late cut flower red.

It will be noticed that the varieties recommended for the distant market are old and inexpensive varieties. As has been said, the demand comes from a big special need and the market is not very discriminating. However, a few growers for this trade have written us that they are beginning to work with the choicer varieties.

But we believe that in many communities, where a considerable number of people are accustomed to pay good prices for fine flowers, the local dealer has a chance to build up a good trade in such fine varieties as Le Cygne, Tourangelles, Judge Berry, Therese, Philippe Rivoire, Mme.

Jules Dessert, La France, Martha Bulloch, etc. But he must know his community. Then he must build up his business just as the trade in fine roses, gladioli, and carnations has been built up. He must know and choose the best cut flower varieties, early, midseason, and late. Then he must give his plants the right treatment, cut his flowers in the bud, and handle them in the right way until they reach the customer. In fact flowers for the home trade if they are to bring big prices must be handled in the same way and with the same care as if they were being prepared for a local or distant peony show. The article found on page 40 gives full directions for the production and handling of show flowers.

During the last ten years interest in the peony as a garden flower has grown in a remarkable way. It has become far keener and more discriminating as well as more widespread.

Each year we sell more peony roots and better ones. And we feel sure that the same development is bound to take place in the cut flower trade that has already taken place in the sale of roots.

Diseases of the Peony

ALL plants are subject to diseases. Some plants are so susceptible to disease that, after they have been under cultivation for some time, it is practically impossible to grow them. Others, and happily the peony is one, are comparatively free from serious disease. Still it is better to have an understanding of the troubles that may attack the peony in order that we may be able to combat them; for no matter how slightly a plant is affected, it will not do so well as if entirely healthy.

We have long hesitated to write anything about the disease of the peony as our readers are apt to take the matter too seriously. There are really but two diseases of the peony which cause us any worry. These are the French root disease and nematode trouble. Outside of these two diseases the troubles of the peony are, we think, brought about by changing weather conditions. When weather conditions are just right, these diseases disappear. When weather conditions are wrong, they appear. This is the case with almost all kinds of nursery stock and, as nurserymen, we do not consider these other troubles of the peony root at all alarming. Our experiments have been along the line of eliminating even these troubles. We have mentioned them simply because at times they are seemingly serious and our customers get unduly alarmed over them.

There are three diseases of the peony that may give considerable trouble. They are Botrytis, Nematode troubles, and French Root Disease, or what is sometimes called Lemoine's Disease.

Botrytis

is a fungus disease that spreads more or less rapidly depending upon soil and weather conditions. As a rule it does not attack an entire plant but takes only a stem or two. It generally begins its work when the plant is about half developed and in a tender stage of growth. Sometimes it starts at the top of the stem, working rapidly downward to the ground. In other cases it starts in the middle of the stem and works downward. In both cases the stem burns black, wilts, and as a rule bends over to the ground. After a day or two it becomes covered with a white fungus.

What is apparently another form of the same disease sometimes attacks the bud when about a half inch in diameter, blasts it, and kills the stem downward from three to six inches. When the disease attacks the plant at this stage of its growth, it is less serious in its effects, as the plant has taken on a harder growth and is better able to resist it.

Botrytis is most prevalent during close, warm, moist weather and upon plants heavily fertilized with strong manures. As soon as the disease appears the affected part should be removed with a knife. Be sure to cut down to clean unaffected wood. The diseased stalks should not be thrown on the ground but should be burned. The entire tops of the plant should be removed by October first, and burned as soon as they are dry. A good stirring of the soil, even though it is wet, checks somewhat the progress of this disease. We have little trouble with Botrytis and attribute this to our thorough cultivation. The disease is seldom fatal, and if the directions given are followed one year, no effects of the disease are likely to be apparent the next.

Nematodes

The nematode trouble is not a disease in the true sense of the word. It manifests itself on the roots of the plant. These become covered with small nodules varying in size from that of a millet seed to that of a garden pea, and resembling the nodules seen on the roots of clover and similar plants. If these nodules are cut in two with a knife, and the freshly cut surfaces placed under a powerful microscope, they will be found to contain little live worms, or nematodes. These little worms feed upon the substance of the root, and impair the health and growth of the plant.

We are told that there are hundreds of different kinds of nematode worms infecting different soils, and that peonies planted in soil that contains the special nematodes that prey on peonies will become infected with them. These nematodes do not exist in so cold a climate as Minnesota, so our roots are not bothered with them; but Eastern and especially Southern soil is. When we have to buy new varieties or surplus stock from infected regions, we sometimes get diseased plants. So, like the growers of those regions we have to search for a remedy for the trouble. We think such a remedy has been found, but more testing must still be done. The Department at Washington is testing and perfecting a treatment which is called the hot water treatment. We are keeping in close touch with its work, and are also carrying on our own experiments. Within two or three years we hope to be able to give definite instructions to the readers of our literature, but we advise people having only a few good peonies not to experiment with this treatment until the degree at which the water should be held, and the length of time the roots should remain in the bath have been determined by those who are experimenting in a large way.

French Root Disease, or Lemoine's Disease

is given these names because it is very common in the case of the very finest peonies sent to us from France, especially in the Lemoine varieties.

This disease manifests itself in the large roots of the peony, showing itself in alternate enlargements and contractions in their growth. If the enlargements are cut through with a knife, a small, hard, eye-shaped formation is found in the center. The root, except for its lumpy appearance seems healthy. If badly affected, the plant takes on a short stunted growth, and produces but little bloom. Occasionally, with such plants, a year will come when they do exceedingly well, sending up a fairly good growth, and producing splendid blooms. But the exertion required for the year's growth seems to exhaust their vitality, and for several years their bloom will amount to practically nothing.

Some varieties of strong constitution may have this disease and apparently not suffer any bad effects from it. Such varieties are Mons Jules Elie, Felix Crousse, James Kelway, and Sarah Bernhard. A portion of the stock in commerce of all these varieties is affected, but the plants almost without exception will bloom well.

Solange, which when it comes good, we consider one of the most beautiful peonies, is affected with this disease. In fact, our honest opinion is that there is no stock of Solange that is entirely healthy. We believe that our stock of this variety is as good as any, but we cannot say that it is entirely free from the disease. However, Solange is a variety that seems able to carry the disease fairly well.

Other varieties, among them some of the most beautiful peonies, are so badly affected and, apparently, so unable to withstand the effects of the disease that we consider it folly for the small collector to carry them in his garden. Mignon, E. G. Hill, and Bayadere are such varieties.

Now what the trouble really is so far nobody knows. Men at the Department of Agriculture have told us that they can't decide what causes the trouble. They do not know whether it is a disease, or a condition of the roots caused by the presence or absence of some special element in the soil in which the first plants were produced. That it is an old trouble we know, for we find it referred to in C. S. Harrison's Manual on the peony published in 1907.

Many theories have been advanced as to how to overcome it, but so far no real cure had been discovered. This we do know about it. It will not pass from one plant to another as will Botrytis. It simply stays in the root of the affected plant. It is probable that the presence of the diseased roots contaminates the soil immediately around the plant. So, if an infected plant is removed and another root planted in its place, the soil for a distance of four feet and a depth of two feet should be removed and deposited where other peonies will not be planted for several years. If the hole is filled with fresh clean soil there is probably no chance for future trouble.

Plants troubled with this disease do better in new soil full of life than in worn out soil, and in well drained places than in locations where the drainage is poor.

Rots

Of the minor troubles of the peony, two rots which affect the roots are the most common.

Crown Rot is a rot almost always present in the crown of plants over two years old. It is a decay of the crown of the plant apparently caused by the annual dying of the leaf stalks. The base of the stalk, as it dies down in the fall, decays down into the crown of the plant and this annual occurrence causes the decaying of the crown itself. Very dry seasons and severe open winters seems to aggravate the condition; while, on the contrary, seasons with normal rainfall and winters that are mild or have plenty of snow lessen the condition. In fact, when weather conditions

are ideal, root rot almost entirely disappears unless the condition has already become too serious.

To keep this trouble from becoming serious, we recommend a mulch of coarse litter over the crowns during the winter, and during hot dry spells in summer, and a similar mulch about the roots and close up about the plants after the soil has been thoroughly stirred. If, however, an old plant which has had proper cultivation is not doing well, it should be lifted, divided, and replanted. Often crown rot will be found to be the trouble. The center of the crown will appear as a hollow shell, the bark and buds alone remaining. The parts within have been rotted away with dry rot. If this condition exists, divide the root into good divisions, carefully scrape out all diseased parts of the root, smooth off the rough edges, and plant the divisions in good clean soil free from fresh manure. Generally this one treatment will eliminate the trouble; but, if it should not do so, lift the yearlings the next year, again remove diseased tissue, and replant. The chances are that the next year the roots will come perfectly clean.

True Crown Rot is not generally serious if the above directions are followed; but there is another rot that is more troublesome because no satisfactory treatment has as yet been discovered. This is a deep brown rot that appears sometimes just at the union of the crown and the root and sometimes lower down on the large fleshy roots. This rot in its early stages resembles a canker in the bark of the root, and as it develops it eats deep into the root. Often these cankers spread entirely about the root, and eat so deeply into it that the root drops from the crown. We are not sure what causes this disease, but apparently it is brought on by the heavy use of manure. Often the tops of plants badly affected dry up after they have attained full growth in July. If dug the roots will be found decayed; and if this decay is placed under a microscope it will be found full of little white worms eating into the still live portion of the root. From experiments that we are carrying on, we expect the hot water treatment will prove a cure for the trouble.

Leaf Blotch and Stem Blotch

are fungus diseases that are always more or less in evidence. If weather conditions are favorable to the peony, there is little of this trouble during the season. If they are unfavorable it is very common. However it is not likely to do any serious harm to the plant.

Recent Research Work

Up to five years ago the matter of diseases of the peony did not trouble us much; but with a continually increasing acreage and the necessary increase in time that must be devoted to the cultivation and handling even of healthy stock, disease has become a matter of much concern to us. Hence we were very glad when the Department of Agriculture at Washington three years ago began the first really scientific research work that has ever been done on diseases of the peony. We have kept in close touch with its work; and, working in line with it, we have done a lot of experimenting ourselves.

Last season roots affected with French Root disease and Root Rot were subjected in different lots to different treatments. We have experimented with hot water treatments, holding the water at different temperatures and carrying the roots for different lengths of time in the bath. We have used Bordeaux, Formaldehyde, Uspulun, Semesan, and Dip-dust in different strengths and for different lengths of time. We have planted many thousand roots treated in these different ways; and checks are being made of the results of these different experiments and careful records kept. We hope, as a result of the work that is now being done, to get our stock into such condition that not the least disease of even the mildest sort shall pass from us to our customers; and also, we intend to pass on the information gained to the readers of our literature that they may be able to combat disease successfully in their own plantings.

Peony Pests



UNDER this heading we are including those troubles that affect the peony, but are not in any sense diseases.

Ants are the most conspicuous of the insects that infest peonies, and we receive more questions about these pests than with any others. At a certain stage in the development of the bud, it exudes a sweet sticky substance that some times attracts ants in great numbers. In our large plantings, where the number of ants to the plant is small, we have never seen that they did any damage; but sometimes in small plantings, especially if the plants are not in a vigorous growing condition, they may affect the development of the bud.

We notice in our fields that, after a hard drenching rain which has washed off the honey, the ants disappear. The same result may be produced at will in the small planting by thoroughly drenching the plants, spraying them from the garden hose. Ants may be kept from attacking plants by encircling each plant with a strip of cloth an inch wide which has been thoroughly saturated with kerosene.

The rose bug, or beetle, does considerable damage to peonies in some parts of the United States, appearing in June and disappearing in August. They are snout beetles, and do their damage by boring into the buds, leaves, and flower stems. As a result many buds drop off, and others are riddled and do not produce perfect flowers. The eggs are also laid in the buds, and hatch in a week or ten days, producing little white grubs that feed upon the flowers. After they have attained their growth they enter the ground, change to pupae, producing a new lot of beetles the next year.

The beetles may be hand picked or shaken into a bowl containing kerosene. If the beetles are numerous a poison spray should be used. Arsenate of lead is commonly used. Prof. Ruggles, State Entomologist of Minnesota, recom-

mends a new spray called Evergreen, which is put out by the McLaughlin, Gormley, King Company of Minneapolis. This should be diluted, one part of poison to one hundred of water, and soap should be added. Dried buds, which harbor the eggs should be burned. If the soil around the plant is stirred in the fall or early spring, many grubs will be killed.

Cut Worms often do very great damage to peonies after the new shoots appear above the ground in the spring. They cut small stems off entirely and partially cut off larger stems, then suck the juice until the stem wilts and sometimes falls over. With a young and valuable root the loss of a single stem is serious as it prevents the development of the root. The loss of all stems is likely to kill the plant.

With a small planting the worms may be hand picked by lantern at night, when they come to the surface of the ground, or dug out from the soil around the infested plants by day. Poisoned baits should be scattered over the ground around the plants. These baits are made by sprinkling clover or weeds which the worms like with arsenate of lead or Paris green. The same poisons may be mixed with bran, and the mixture sprinkled around the plants.

The cut worm season is short but the fight against the pest should begin early and last until the danger is over. Some seasons and some soils are favorable to the development of cut worms. In soil where they are likely to appear, preventive measures should be tried. Cultivating the soil in the fall will prevent the development of many worms; and the poisoned bait may be scattered before the plants have appeared above ground.

Moles and gophers often tunnel under plants, loosening the roots and impairing the vitality of the plants. As soon as a runway is seen to have gone under a plant, the soil around the roots should be firmly tamped down. The only way to avoid the trouble is to trap the animals.

Peony Markers



ONE of the most important things in the planting of peonies is the correct and proper marking of varieties. Even the amateur who feels that he will never care to know the name of the variety he purchased may regret some day that he kept no record of his purchase and has no way of identifying his plantings.

With markers, the same as supports, we find many on the market, many of which possess desirable features. Others are not practical.

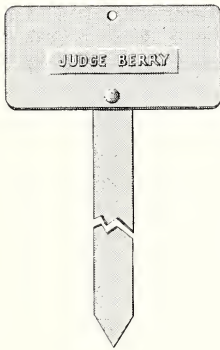
One of the most substantial and satisfactory markers that we have ever seen consisted of a heavy strip of galvanized iron about 18 inches in length, one-eighth of an inch in thickness and three-quarters of an inch in width. Securely riveted to the top of

this strip is a piece of the same material of about one-half the thickness, two by four inches in diameter. On this piece there is soldered a strip of brass with the name of the peony embossed in letters, plainly readable, a quarter of an inch in height.

We are so favorably impressed with this marker that we have arranged to handle it to accommodate our customers. We do not expect to make a profit on these markers and for this reason we sell them to customers only. We have them made up for us during the winter season and we are willing to sell them at a price that will cover the actual cost of the making plus the cost of handling them. For this reason we are unable to give a definite price as the cost of material may change, but heretofore, we have been able to sell them at 25 cents each. Any one interested in making a purchase should give us a list of the ones they desire early in the season and we can have them ready for distribution early in the spring.

The half tone cut illustrated herewith will give a good idea of the construction of this marker but it must be seen to thoroughly appreciate its good qualities and its rigid, substantial construction.

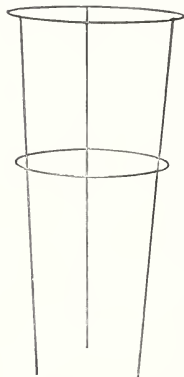
We have examined a score or more of markers, many of which possess considerable merit and would prove satisfactory, but as we have said before, the one illustrated here is to our way of thinking the best. We urge each one who is making a planting of peonies to see that they are carefully staked and also charted.



Peony Supports



IN this manual we are trying to answer the questions that come most frequently to our desk. Every year we receive many letters from customers asking what we can recommend in the way of peony supports. Every peony grower has felt the need of protecting his finest plants from damage by wind and rain and thus preserving their beauty throughout the entire blooming season. Even those varieties that have sturdy stems that under ordinary conditions are sufficient to support the flower, are often unable to withstand the assaults of a heavy wind and rain storm. The weight of the bloom with the added accumulation of water proves too great a burden and the flower is borne to the ground, where it becomes damaged and its beauty impaired.



The appearance of a garden is greatly improved by a generous use of good plant supports. They should be placed while the plants are still small. After the blooming season they may be removed and used

for later plants in either flower or vegetable garden. There are a number of peony supports on the market but we have found none that we consider as good as the Adams Peony Support which we are showing. This support is sturdy, can be stored away in a small space when not in use, and can be used to advantage with a great variety of plants. They are practically invisible and permit of cultivation with the minimum amount of interference. They are made of No. 6 and No. 8 gauge galvanized wire that will not rust. The No. 6 gauge is the heavier wire. This wire is heavy enough to make them very substantial and with ordinary care, they should last many years. We are certain that a trial will convince you of their merits.

They are made in a variety of sizes but we recommend the largest size and carry in stock this size only.

We are illustrating this support showing its construction and will be pleased to receive your orders for any quantity you may desire.

ADAMS PEONY SUPPORTS

Special 6 Gauge, 24-inch tops—80 cents each.

Shipped only by express, F.O.B., Faribault.



Suggestions for Peony Plantings



AS HEDGES. Peonies make fine hedges for division lines between lots, along driveways and walks, as a border for the vegetable garden.

If you have other places on your ground for the growing of peonies you will probably plant these hedges for color effect. In this case plantings of one color and variety closely set will be most effective. However, if all your peonies must go into the hedge, you had better make a compromise, and plant partly for color effect and partly for the full development of individual blooms. In this case, choose some varieties for one purpose, some for the other purpose, give the choice plants more room, and disbud them.

When first set, the peonies of a hedge may be alternated with iris or fine varieties of perennial phlox. A succession of bloom will thus be furnished. Such a border can often be so planned that it can be widened when the peony plants are three or four years old. The other plants can then be moved to the front.

IN SHRUBBERY AND PERENNIAL BORDERS. The peony is indispensable for furnishing masses of color in mixed borders. In long borders, the best effects will be produced by setting two or more plants of one variety in a group, alternating the colors of the groups. Scatter single plants through a short border. In choosing varieties select early, midseason, and late varieties, and thus insure a long season of bloom.

IN GARDEN ROWS. To secure quantities of flowers for cutting and also to produce the most beautiful blooms, plant in rows in the garden. Here cultivation is easy, and the flowers can be cut without interfering with color effects in the more decorative plantings.

ON GREAT ESTATES. Good old varieties can be bought very cheap in large quantities. Plantings of from one to five acres so placed that they are seen through a vista or against a background give indescribably beautiful effects. Nothing will add more to the charm of a fine estate.



Entrance to Our Grounds—Midwinter Showing Nature's Best Covering for Peonies

Peonies for the North



IN all of our experience, we know of no peony that is not satisfactory in the north. We have reports from northern Saskatchewan, where the thermometer sometimes registers 50 below zero, stating that peonies do exceptionally well in that section. The *Chinensis* peony, which originated in Siberia, requires a certain period of cold weather to be at its best. Peonies grown in the north possess wonderful color and substance. In Minnesota, where our winters are quite rigorous, we enjoy the peony at its best. We seldom experience a failure of bloom, unless from hail or some similar cause. This is of rare occurrence, however.

We have a report from Northern Alberta, 428 miles north of the 49th parallel, which is practically 110 miles north of Edmonton, showing peonies are doing splendidly there, and during the month of July afforded the owner a quantity of splendid bloom. Forty-five degrees below zero has been recorded there recently. This part of the country is usually blessed with a generous amount of snow which affords ample winter protection.

We quote from a letter of a grower in Manitoba, as follows:

"I have been growing peonies in Manitoba for 25 years and have never lost a plant on account of the cold winters. I never cover them. Even the newly planted ones are left without cover, and some winters there is no snow on them. The temperature sometimes gets to 40 below zero, not very often, however."

What better endorsement of the hardiness of the peony is needed? There need be no hesitancy on the part of anyone in the north to plant peonies; and as all varieties outside of the tree peonies do well, we are not giving a list from which to make selection.

However, there are many locations in the north where a winter covering of snow cannot be depended upon and in such instances we advise a mulch for peonies during the winter. This mulch should be applied after the first real cold snap has come and the ground is frozen seemingly for the winter. A two or three inch mulch applied over and well about the crowns of the plants should be used. Leaves, straw, and hay are all good to use. Boards or brush should be dropped on top the mulch to hold it in place.



One of Our Fields of Two Year Old Peonies

Can Peonies be Grown in the South?

WHEN this question came to us seven or eight years ago, we were accustomed to reply that the peony, being a native of Siberia, was especially adapted to cold climates, and we doubted the advisability of making expensive plantings in the South. We felt, however, that it would be an interesting experiment to see what could be done with this flower both in our southern states and in California, but we advised any who wished to attempt the work to begin with a few early varieties and add to the list as the first planting justified.

As a result of our correspondence, we sent small shipments to customers in Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee, Mississippi, Mexico and California. Since then we have received most pleasant reports of their success. One Alabama customer ordered more than one thousand roots last fall.

Most peony orders are made out during the blooming season or soon after when enthusiasm is at its height. As we are writing this in the month of May, peonies in the South have already bloomed; and we have now booked more orders for fall delivery from that section than from any other.

This morning's mail brought an order for one hundred and fifty-six roots to be sent to a good customer in Georgia. It called for the following varieties in lots of from one to fifty: Augustin d'Hour, Felix Crousse, Richard Carvel, Lora Dexeimer, Ben Franklin, Venus, Henry Avery, Therese, Marie Crousse, La Perle, Mme. Calot, Mons. Jules Elie, Reine Hortense, Ruth Brand, Archie Brand, Festiva Maxima, Mme. Crousse, Marie Lemoine, Mme. Emile Lemoine, Baroness Schroeder, and James Kelway.

A few exact quotations from letters from southern customers will, we feel, be more helpful than anything we could write ourselves. Last year one customer from Georgia wrote as follows: "Of all peonies that I have planted Ruth Brand, Mons. Jules Elie, Augustin d'Hour, and Reine Hortense were especially beautiful this year." A few days ago we received another letter from the same customer reading as follows: "This year Henry Avery was exquisite. None were admired more than Archie Brand and Ruth Brand. Ruth is still my first love. Mons. Jules Elie measured nine inches across from tip to tip."

A letter from Memphis, Tennessee, received a few days ago, reported the following varieties as especially fine: Mons. Jules Elie, Festiva Maxima, Reine Hortense, and

Ben Franklin. An exact quotation reads as follows: "My favorite is Ben Franklin. It is such a deep, dark, glorious red."

Two years ago we made a shipment to another customer in Memphis. We have just received a letter from her from which we make the following quotation: "I cannot resist writing you how exquisitely beautiful is my two year old Henry Avery. Of the forty odd kinds in the garden this is the loveliest. The flowers are very large, the color a most delicate shell pink with a golden center of stamens. Milton Hill, Solange, and Therese are also lovely but do not keep so well. I want to thank you for your interest in helping me with my selection two years ago."

Last season we received a letter from Birmingham, Alabama, from which we take the following: "Of all the peonies I planted Archie Brand was the finest. It was beautiful. How I hated to disbud these. The entire shipment did wonderfully well." Other Alabama customers report splendid success with Kelway's Glorious, the Single and Japanese varieties, Walter Faxon, Marguerite Gerard and Primevere.

A letter from Los Gatos, California, praises Judge Berry very highly. One paragraph of this letter reads as follows: "The fine peony roots that you sent me last September have all bloomed and I am more than pleased with them. Two plants bore five flowers each. Judge Berry, less than a year old bore five superb flowers, and we thought it among the most beautiful of all I had. I think it is wonderful."

Our advice to anyone who is making a first planting of peonies either in California or in the South would be to include in his list some of the varieties mentioned by our correspondents as having proved successful in their gardens.

One customer expressed the opinion that success with peonies in the South is more dependent upon soil than climate. Another recommends furnishing shade for the plants. Another recommends placing a light mulch around the plants to protect the crown of the peony from injury by the intense heat of the southern sun. The mulch is especially important in the case of young plants which produce too little foliage to protect the root. We advise a light mulch for peonies in the winter in any locality where alternate freezings and thawings occur, which are liable to injure the roots in the ground.



Entrance to our Peony Show Room.



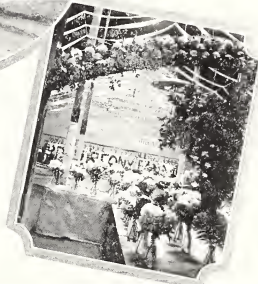
One of our busy days during the blooming season. A bed of young Iris in the foreground.



A Peony Drive through our fields.



A Beautiful Corner in our Show Room.



Another Corner of our Show Room.

Our Peony Show

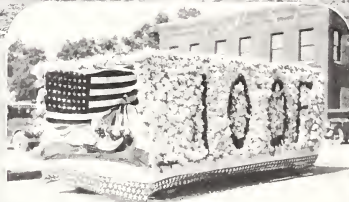


One of our busy days during the blooming season. 30,000 Improved French Lilacs in beds under lathe.





Peony
Festival
Faribault, Minn.
1927



Our Annual Peony Show



FOR many years our peony fields have swarmed with visitors during the blooming season. The great beds of flowers, each one acres in area, are laden with bloom, and furnish masses of color rivaled, perhaps, but surely not surpassed by the tulip fields of Holland, or the rose gardens of Oregon and California.

A drive through the fields furnishes view after view of marvellous beauty. But if one wishes to examine at close range the different varieties of peonies in these beds, he will find that the long tramps he must take over freshly cultivated ground are warm and strenuous work. So, mindful of the comfort of our visitors, we adopted the plan several years ago of furnishing a supplementary indoor show where a careful examination and comparison of varieties could be made more easily and comfortably.

We stage the show in the peony room of our big storage building, where during the shipping season our orders for peonies are filled. This makes an ideal exhibition room. It is 50x60 feet, and, opening off it, is our refrigerating room. Every June we decorate this room and during the entire blooming season of the iris and peony we maintain here a show, that in every respect except size, compares favorably with the National Peony Show. Almost every variety of iris as well as peony that we carry in our fields is exhibited here in true show fashion. Several views of this room are among the pictures included in this manual.

The show lasts at least two weeks. During the first week, the early varieties of peonies, the new double and semi-double varieties of Philadelphia, or syringa, and many of the beautiful French lilacs are exhibited. Every day some changes are made. By the end of the week, the iris has practically disappeared, since its season is over and iris blooms cannot be held in cold storage, and some mid-season varieties of peonies have come on.

During the second week the later varieties of peonies, such as Enchantesse, E. B. Browning, Martha Bulloch, Grandiflora, and Solange gradually appear. It happens

that the new Brand introductions, Mrs. A. M. Brand, Myrtle Gentry, and the others described on pages 24 and 25, are late varieties, so they cannot be shown until the second week. But with the coming of the late sorts the early varieties do not disappear, since our refrigerating plant, with its capacity of a car load of flowers, enables us to hold these back and bring fresh specimens into the show room as the earlier ones fade. So, during the second week, choice blooms of all the best varieties of peonies, both our own introductions and those of other originators, may be seen.

Not only are more varieties on exhibition than can be seen at any one time out of doors but ideal conditions for studying them are furnished. The room is cool and comfortable and the blooms are more perfect than those exposed to the weather outside.

A continual stream of visitors from near and distant sections of the country view the exhibit every year. Many persons who are interested in both iris and peonies make two visits. A partial record of out-of-town visitors during the past season shows that, besides Minnesota, the following states were represented: Pennsylvania, Ohio, South Carolina, New York, Wyoming, Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, Arizona, Arkansas, Iowa, California, Texas, Mississippi, Kansas, Wisconsin, Oregon, Montana, Michigan, South Dakota, North Dakota, Tennessee, Oklahoma, and Virginia. This clearly shows how interest in the peony is growing.

This last year we found our parking space utterly inadequate to accommodate the automobiles of our guests. Next year we shall enlarge this space by taking up a large field of peonies and getting the ground into lawn.

Seasons vary in Minnesota as elsewhere. It is therefore impossible to set the dates of the show very far ahead. We shall be glad to have persons who plan to visit us send us a note of inquiry about the first of June and, we will notify them by card of the best time to come.

The Faribault Peony Festival



ALMOST every city, and many small towns, are exceedingly proud of some one special characteristic,—some natural feature, or some product of the locality. Many places have become widely known for this special feature. For example, there is a well known flour city and several flower cities. Portland is famous as "The Rose City." Its annual rose festival has certainly done much to put this city on the map. At Winchester, Virginia, they hold an apple blossom festival to celebrate their fine apple growing industry.

The Faribault Chamber of Commerce some two years ago was considering what one characteristic feature of Faribault might become most helpful in the development of civic pride among its citizens as well as in spreading its fame abroad. Almost at once the question arose, Why should not Faribault, the home of the Brand Peony Farms, become The Peony City of the Northwest? The suggestion was received with enthusiasm and at once preparations were begun for a 1927 Peony Festival.

Probably no project ever carried out in Faribault has elicited such enthusiastic co-operation among so many people as this one. June 29, was the day set for the event. Although it proved to be a sizzling hot day, the thermometer reaching the 90 degree mark, guests early began to pour into the city, and by noon the streets swarmed with one of the biggest crowds that have ever gathered here, and the city was ready to receive its guests. Business

houses had been elaborately decorated with peonies all along the line of the parade which was to be the principal event of the day.

Business men, industries, schools, and private citizens all contributed to the success of the parade. It was three miles long and consisted of floats of all sorts, automobiles, and horse drawn vehicles, all profusely decorated in every conceivable manner, peonies, of course, featuring as the chief element in the decoration. Several bands accompanied the parade and a cavalcade of men and women mounted on gaily decorated horses added to the brilliancy of the scene.

Generous prizes had been provided for the most beautiful and most original floats in the different divisions and rivalry was so keen among the entrants that the judges found their work exceedingly difficult. The parade wound up at Central Park and here the Peony Queen was fittingly crowned.

Eighty thousand blooms were contributed by the Brand Peony Farms alone for the floats and window decorations. In spite of the extreme heat the flowers stood up remarkably well. Visitors who had seen the famous rose festival of Pasadena were emphatic in their statement that it did not compare in magnificence with the Faribault Peony Festival.

So successful was the event that it was immediately decided to repeat it this year. The 1928 Festival proved to



Young Ladies from Faribault at the Flag Pole, Minnesota State Capitol, Advertising the Faribault Peony Festival

be as successful as the first one. A number of changes were made. For partial decoration of some of the more elaborate floats paper flowers were used. They proved a satisfactory substitute, and would be a necessary feature wherever a superabundance of natural flowers was not available.

The afternoon exercises at the park were omitted and a pageant, or "revue" was put on in the early evening on the beautiful campus of Shattuck School. Here the Queen of flowers, the Peony, received the homage of the other flowers.

Faribault is especially fortunate in having unusual talent for putting on such a pageant. Mrs. C. W. Newhall, who has had much experience in planning and carrying out school entertainments of various kinds, wrote, dramatized, and directed the "Peonibault Revue," and Mr. J. K. Andrews, a local nurseryman, arranged the garden setting.

Later in the evening a dance was given in the Armory and here the Queen of the day held her court. So enthusiastic is everyone over the success of the Peony Festival that there is no doubt that it will become an annual event.

The Future of the Peony



WE feel that the future of the peony is very bright. As we pass through the country on our various pilgrimages, we are surprised with the fact that, in spite of the thousands of peony roots that are sold each year, only a small percentage of homes have peonies growing in their yards or gardens. However, there is an increasing demand for peonies, and with the great number of homes still to be supplied with them, we have every confidence that this demand will continue to increase for many years to come.

We believe, also, that with the demand for more peonies will come an insistent demand for the very best flowers that have been produced. The question is often raised, "Why should one pay \$25.00 or more for a new variety when a good peony can be procured for \$1.00?" People who offer this query would have us believe that there is no further reason for working for improved varieties and that the history of the peony is therefore closed.

They do not realize that the development of the modern peony, with its wonderful beauty and variety, has taken place in the last 75 years or so. About the middle of the last century, European and American hybridizers, realizing the possibilities of the coarse and little prized peony of the time, began painstaking work for its improvement. During the next fifty years they produced many really good varieties. These are the good cheap peonies of the present century. But, using their work as a foundation, the peony workers of the present century have been able to produce flowers of even greater distinction and charm.

The 1922 symposium of the American Peony Society furnishes strong evidence of the truth of this statement.



A Good New One Not Yet Introduced



The Blooms at the Right are Judge Berry in a Garden in Los Gatos, California

It shows that of the 26 varieties having 20 or more votes and receiving an average of 9.0 or better, all but four originated in this century.

If one will refer to our Historical Table of Peonies on page 23 and make a study of this table, he will find that of the peonies rating above 9.0 that all except Festiva Maxima, Mons. Jules Elie, Baroness Schroeder, Milton Hill and probably Lady Alexandra Duff have been introduced since the year 1900.

A visit to any big peony show will furnish further evidence of the superiority of the best of the new varieties. It is around them that the crowd lingers. All of this means that the collector who wants the world's very finest flowers, those possessing the greatest refinement of form and color, must choose his collection largely from recent introductions.

Since so much has been accomplished in the last 26 years, it seems probable that much more can still be done. As for us, we believe that the last chapter in the history of the peony is far from being written, and we expect to have a share in writing its future history. As for the last chapter, that must be left to future generations.

A List of Fifty of the Best Inexpensive Varieties

WE are often requested to name the best inexpensive white, or red, or pink peony. What would seem the best peony to one person might not to another, since the personal taste of different individuals varies so much. For example, one may like a delicate pink like *Therese* while another prefers a deeper pink like *Sarah Bernhardt*. One may like a large solid bloom while another may prefer a looser and more delicate type of flower. Then the question of season of blooming may be a factor in one's choice of a flower. We are, therefore, giving a list of fifty inexpensive peonies, any one of which is bound to please.

RED

A. J. Davis	Felix Crousse	Midnight
Adolphe Rousseau	H. F. Reddick	Officinalis Rubra
Augustin d'Hour	Karl Rosefield	Olf Silver Tip
Ben Franklin	Lora Dexheimer	Prince of Darkness
Charles McKellip	Mary Brand	Rachel
Eugene Bigot		Shenandoah

PINK

Archie Brand	Faribault	Mons. Jules Elie
Asa Gray	Grandiflora	Octavie Demay
Chestine Gowdy	La Perle	Pierre Duchartre
Claire Dubois	Livingstone	Reine Hortense
Edulis Superba	Marguerite Gerard	Sarah Bernhardt
Eugenie Verdier	Marie Crousse	Venus
	Mme. Emile Galle	

WHITE

Avalanche	Jubilee
Baroness Schroeder	La Rosiere
Duchess de Nemours	Marie Jacquin
Festiva Maxima	Marie Lemoine
Frances Willard	Mme. Emile Lemoine
Grandiflora nivea Plena	Mme. de Verneville
	Mons. Dupont

Red Varieties

ADOLPHE ROUSSEAU (Dessert & Mechin). 8.5. Red. This variety is one of the very best of the early dark reds. The blooms vary with the seasons, and some times they vary on the same plant. Some times the flower is loosely built and at other times it is quite double. The petals are very large, long, broad, and of good substance. The plant is very tall with heavy dark foliage. The flowers are of great size, held well erect, and extremely showy. This is a magnificent landscape variety and also a wonderful show flower. The color is a deep rich velvety maroon red showing stamens.

A. J. DAVIS (Brand). Red. A. J. Davis is another good red that resembles Adolphe Rousseau in a good many ways except in color. Where Rousseau is a deep red Davis is a lighter and brighter red. The plant is tall, the flowers are loosely built, and held erect. It also is a fine landscape variety. The flowers are large to very large. A very good variety.

AUGUSTIN D'HOUR (Calot). 7.8. This peony is mid-season and of bomb type. It is an extremely large, showy flower. Its primary petals are narrow and built up close and high. It is a very deep, rich, brilliant solferino red, with slight silvery reflex. It makes a splendid cut flower, and although it rates below 8, we feel that it has a place in any large collection.

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN (Brand). 8.1. Red. An unusually tall dark red variety which resembles Adolphe Rousseau very much in color and make up, but it is a much stronger plant and a much more profuse bloomer than that desirable variety. The stems are long, strong, and heavy, holding the blooms well above the plants. This

makes the variety very desirable for landscape effect. Each stem carries a single blossom, which makes it also a very desirable cut flower variety. This is a good dark red which we do not think is fully appreciated. We would class it as the best mid-season very dark red peony for cut flower or landscape purposes. You will not be disappointed if you have a Ben Franklin in your collection.

CHARLES MCKELLIP (Brand). 7.8. Red. This is a large, loosely-built, semi-rose, deep red peony. We think it is the most perfect in form of all the deep red varieties. It is especially beautiful in the bud. This is one of the varieties whose good qualities are impressing themselves more and more upon the public. When the next Symposium is taken, we feel quite sure that it will rate above 8.5. It comes into bloom just after Mary Brand, and we believe it is as good a red.

Charles McKellip was voted on in the first general Symposium and then received its low rating of 7.8. It was a comparatively new flower at that time and had not been talked about very much, but did receive more than 20 votes. All varieties that received 20 votes or more in that symposium were not voted upon in the next symposium which accounts for its present low rating. Five years from the taking of the last symposium the next general symposium will be taken and then we prophesy that Charles McKellip will come into its own. At Duluth, Minnesota, where as fine peonies as can be grown in the entire world are produced, and where the reds come simply gorgeous, Charles McKellip is the finest red of all.

EUGENE BIGOT (Dessert). 8.3. Red. In color this peony is a very bright dark red. The color is so brilliant in effect that Eugene Bigot always catches the eye even from a long distance and among other good reds of its season. This is the true test of desirable color in a red. The blooms are of medium size, showing stamens. Very late, in season with Rubra Superba. Very desirable as a cut flower red for the home market because of its lateness.

FELIX CROUSSE (Crousse). 8.4. Red. A deep rose red flower of medium size. A very profuse bloomer. The flower consists of a central bomb of narrow incurved petals surrounded by broad prominent guard petals of the same color as the center. There is an entire absence of stamens. This variety is one of the greatest of all cut flower reds. Felix Crousse is also a wonderful show flower, there seldom being a show of any size in which it is not found among the winning reds.

H. F. REDDICK (Brand). 7.7. Red. This is one of our best dark reds. It is of medium height, and mid-season. The flowers are large, semi-rose, and brilliant with gold stamens showing among the petals. Its fine habit of growth, its beautiful blossoms, and its profuse blooming habit, make it a variety which every collector should have. This variety and Ben Franklin will produce the most cut flowers of any reds we know of. At the Peony and Iris growers' convention held in Chicago in the fall of 1926, several prominent growers stated that they considered H. F. Reddick one of the very finest of all red peonies.

KARL ROSEFIELD (Rosefield). 8.8. Red. This is a brilliant and striking variety. It comes into bloom early mid-season. The flowers are very large, semi-rose type, and slightly fragrant. Karl Rosefield and Richard Carvel are our two best sellers among the reds. Both varieties are very desirable for cut flower purposes.

LORA DEXHEIMER (Brand). 8.4. Red. The splendid habit and bright color of this plant have marked it, with us, as of exceptional merit, since we first selected it from the seed bed in 1904. Each succeeding year has added to our good opinion of it. The color of this variety is an intense flaming crimson. It comes into bloom early mid-season. This is a variety that ranks with Longfellow.

Reports come to us from all parts of the country regarding the wonderful qualities of Lora Dexheimer. We believe eventually that its rating will be as high as that of Philippe Rivoire.

MARY BRAND (Brand). 8.7. No red peony ever attained such favor so quickly as has Mary Brand. This variety is always found among the winning reds in every show room. It comes into bloom with Frances Willard. Its color is so distinct that it is easily recognized by amateurs, no matter how many times they pass it in our fields. It is a red in which there is little trace of purple. One of the most satisfactory reds as a cut flower as it will last a week and hold right up stiff, if cut in the bud.

MIDNIGHT (Brand). 7.3. Dark red. This peony is often called the "*Black Peony*." It is almost as dark as Mons. Martin Cahuzac, which is considered the darkest red. It is medium early and comes into bloom before Longfellow. The flowers are large, and are borne on long stiff stems. If you wish a very dark red peony, you should order this variety.

OFFICINALIS RUBRA. 8.6. Red. A large, round bloom of vivid crimson. This is the deep bright red peony of the old time garden. Earliest of all good peonies. Very desirable in this latitude, as it is generally in bloom on Memorial day. The red "pinney" of our grandmother's gardens. Nothing to take its place.

OLD SILVER TIP (Brand). 7.6. Red. So named because of the very marked silver effect on the edges of the petals as the blooms open, and which gives a very beautiful, iridescent effect to the color of the flowers as you stand and look up a row of this variety, and its silvered petals gently moving in the wind.

Old Silver Tip is a wonderfully profuse blooming flower, semi-rose type. Flowers of large size produced on compact growing plants of medium height and mid-season. Color a soft madder-red with a pronounced silver sheen on petals as the flower develops. Both a good cut flower and good for landscape values. A very desirable sort that through the many years I have had it under test has universally produced an abundance of first class, good-sized blooms.

PRINCE OF DARKNESS (Brand). 7.5. This is a rich, dark maroon peony, of typical semi-rose type. It is a free bloomer. Its blossoms open early and last long. It is excellent for landscape effect and for cutting. It is a question as to which is the better peony, Midnight or Prince of Darkness. Both varieties should be in every large collection.

RACHEL (Terry). 7.9. Red. The flowers of this variety are of medium size, and semi-rose in type. The plant is of medium height and is a strong profuse bloomer. This variety generally produces a single blossom to the stem, which makes it a good commercial sort. It is a splendid bright red.

SHENANDOAH (Brand). If you are looking for a very late, fragrant variety, this is the one to order. The flowers are large and very double. It comes into bloom with Rubra Superba and is a profuse bloomer.

White Varieties

AVALANCHE (Crousse). 8.7. White. A large, compactly built, globular cone shaped flower. The blossom develops a distinct creamy white color which surrounds a center of delicately tinted lilac-white petals with a few wide petals edged with tracings of carmine. Plant of medium height, strong, upright and a profuse bloomer. A splendid flower for landscape effect. A wonderful show flower. At the National show held at Ontario this variety was awarded first as the best specimen bloom in the show. Avalanche and Albatre are one and the same.

BARONESS SCHROEDER (Kelway). 9.0. White. This is considered one of the finest peonies grown. When the last Symposium was taken, this variety received a rating of 9.0 after 79 people had voted. When the buds first open, they are a delicate blush, but the flower soon fades to

a milky-white. This is a variety that should be found in every collection. It comes into bloom late, after most of the white peonies are gone.

COURONNE D'OR (Calot). 8.1. White. This is a reliable flower in all respects. It is unlike all other whites, and can easily be identified in any collection. The outer petals are pure white. A ring of yellow stamens is found around a tuft of center petals that are tipped carmine. This variety comes into bloom just before Marie Lemoine. It belongs in the class of peonies that can always be recommended.

DUCHESSE DE NEMOURS (Calot). 8.1. White. A beautiful early almost pure white with shadings of green at the base of the petals. Blossom cup-shaped with marked crown effect. Duchesse de Nemours, although a comparatively old variety, is unexcelled for beauty of form, purity of color, and all-around general goodness. We think it should be in every planting, but since it is an old variety we seldom list it with our collections as most people who have ever made a purchase of peonies already have it. A splendid cut flower.

FESTIVA MAXIMA (Meilleux). 9.3. White. This is the most all around popular white peony. It is the oldest of our really good sorts. The flowers are large, the petals of the purest white are broad, rounding, and of wonderful substance. The blossom is true rose type with great broad guards surrounding an inner tightly built up mass of rich white petals almost as large. Bright carmine flakes on the edge of the central petals. This flower is admired by everyone who sees it and should be found in every collection.

FRANCES WILLARD (Brand). 9.1. White. This variety is listed among the World's 22 Most Beautiful Peonies. It is a perfectly-formed flower. The petals are of varying sizes, forming a very large rounding flower, often having a raised cup-shaped center inclosing golden stamens. It opens an exquisite blush white, with an occasional carmine touch, changing on the lawn to pure white. Although delicate in appearance, it is of good substance and an excellent cut flower. Altogether, it is a wonderful combination of strength and delicacy. It is found in the winning classes in every show room.

GRANDIFLORA NIVEA PLENA (Lemoine). 8.1. White. Rose type. Very early. Large globular flowers; guards milk-white; collar pure white; center, on first opening, an intermingling of white salmon, and sulphur yellow; fragrant. Though one of the oldest varieties, it ranks among the best, and the true stock is scarce.

JUBILEE (Pleas). 8.9. White. This variety produces very large, flat, ivory-white flowers. The petals are long and narrow, loosely arranged. The feathery effect produced is very attractive. Everyone who is familiar with peonies knows that Jubilee is a fine flower. Its only defect is a weak stem, but one can well afford to furnish support to so beautiful a flower.

LA ROSIERE (Crousse). 8.3. White. This is a striking variety. The flowers are large and produced in clusters. They are straw-yellow at the center shading to a creamy white border. The fragrance is pleasing. The flower is loose, showing yellow stamens, a band of which light up and give a yellowish cast to the entire flower.

MME. DE VERNEVILLE (Crousse). 7.9. White. We feel that this variety has altogether too low a rating. The flower is large, very full, and bomb type. The guard petals are sulphur white, but the center petals are rose white with carmine touches. The flower is of good substance. The stems are long and strong. It is an ideal cut flower. The fragrance is pleasing. It comes into bloom after Festiva Maxima, and we feel that it is superior in beauty.

MME. EMILE LEMOINE (Lemoine). 8.9. White. A rare and beautiful peony. A strong grower and free bloomer. Flowers very large and uniform in shape and size. The plant is rather tall with strong erect stems. The bloom is very perfect in form, with large rounded rose like petals of a tender glossy white overlaid with a sheen of delicate satiny pink, covered with minute dots of deeper pink. Petals of

great substance. Some stamens are intermingled with the petals. A wonderful peony.

MARIE JACQUIN (Verdier). 8.3. White. A flower with the purest white guards; then a collar of yellow stamens which surround a row of shorter pure white petals, which in turn enclose a tuft of yellow stamens, giving the flower a pronounced water-lily effect. This is one of the most dainty peonies in the entire list. Its stems are erect and a clean light green as is also the foliage. The flowers are held perfectly erect. The flower is semi-double and on young plants it often comes a beautiful single.

MARIE LEMOINE (Calot). 8.5. White. This variety has the most pleasing and pronounced fragrance of any peony. It is a sulphur-white, occasionally showing a carmine tip. It is one of the most beautiful of all peonies. It is very late, and for this reason it should be in every collection. It lies between Eugenie Verdier and Marie Lemoine as to which is Calot's masterpiece. This variety usually has a poor-looking root. When we are filling our orders, and select a root of this variety, we always have a feeling that it will not please our customers; but we know that when this variety comes to bloom, it will give complete satisfaction, and the poor looking root will be forgotten, when you have planted it.

MONSIEUR DUPONT (Calot). 8.3. This is one of the old standard peonies that can always be recommended. The flower is a glistening ivory white, with center petals bordered with carmine. Golden stamens are mingled with the petals throughout the flower. It is deliciously fragrant. It is wonderfully prolific, and an annual bloomer. It comes into bloom just before Couronne d'Or. It is one of the very best white peonies.

The plant is very tall. The flowers large, and almost perfectly round open out cup shaped and give a very desirable landscape effect.

Pink Varieties

ARCHIE BRAND (Brand). 7.5. Pink. We receive more compliments on this variety from all over the country than on any other one variety. Those who have purchased this peony express their surprise at its low rating. We believe that Archie Brand deserves a rating of 8.5 and when the next Symposium is taken we believe that you will find it around this mark. When the last Symposium was taken, this variety could not be rerated as the committee decided that all peonies that had been voted on by twenty or more people should not be included in the new vote. Archie Brand is a large round, full rose-type blossom of an even shade of sea shell pink. The foliage and stems are light green and very clean in appearance. The buds as they develop are very attractive, enormous in size, and wonderfully beautiful as they open. As the flower just opens, it is at its most beautiful stage. The petals of good length are then banked in a compact mass with four distinct corners to the bloom which gives a very pleasing effect. The guards then begin to fall away leaving a great round ball of bloom in the center. This variety becomes coarse when heavily fertilized. It does best on clay soil.

ASA GRAY (Crousse). 8.1. Pink. When grown in a soil that is suitable to it, and well grown, this is one of the most beautiful of all peonies. It seems to do best in heavy dark loams. The flowers are large and of true rose-type. The guard petals are salmon pink, thickly marked with minute specks of deeper pink. It is a variety that is easily identified, a prolific bloomer, and fragrant. Probably the most beautiful of all the speckled varieties.

CHESTINE GOWDY (Brand). 8.4. Pink. This is a striking specimen of the cone-shaped peony. The broad outer petals are silvery pink. These enclose a zone of fine, irregularly shaped, closely set petals, of deep rich cream, which in turn surround a prominent cone of broad pink petals, splashed and tipped with crimson. Its varied coloring has repeatedly caused it to be singled out for special

admiration from a group of the finest varieties. This is a late variety with delicate fragrance. It was the first prize peony at the National Peony Show held in Cleveland, Ohio, as the best peony introduced since 1910. A very thrifty variety and a profuse bloomer. Becoming in great demand as a late pink cut flower.

CLAIRE DUBOIS (Crousse). 8.7. Pink. Occasionally, as one walks through a field of many different varieties of peonies, he comes to a sort that so far as its all-around good qualities are concerned, stands head and shoulders above its neighbors. Such a flower is Claire Dubois. A late flower, of immense globular form, with long incurved petals of a uniform shade of clear violet rose, tipped silvery white. It has that same wonderful attractiveness possessed by Mons Jules Elie. They are much the same in color but Claire Dubois is late where Mons Jules Elie is early. The best cut flower of its color in its season.

EDULIS SUPERBA. Pink. 7.6. We do not believe that justice was done this grand old variety in the Symposium that placed its rating at 7.6. No flower with as many good qualities as this one has should rate below 8.0, and we think when another vote is taken that it will advance to this figure. It is the first good early deep pink. It sometimes opens for Decoration Day with us in Minnesota. The flowers are large, borne profusely on tall strong stems. A loose, crown type flower, of a beautiful deep pink. One of the greatest of all cut flowers in its color and season.

EUGENIE VERDIER (Calot). 8.6. Pink. A tall growing, very large flat flower of a light hydrangea-pink, the petals being lighter towards the outside and gradually growing deeper in color towards the center with a few flecks of crimson on the central petals. This is one of the greatest peonies. The plants are very thrifty and tall, the blooms are immense in size, and are borne profusely. It is a flower beautiful and striking in the field and wonderful as a cut flower.

FARIBAULT (Brand). 8.2. Pink. This variety was displayed as a seedling a few years ago in our own city. We took about seventy-five blooms in a large vase. When the citizens in the show room came in to see the flowers in the evening they greatly admired this large vase of flowers under artificial light. When they found it was a seedling and had not been named they suggested we name it Faribault in honor of the city. This is a splendid late variety coming into bloom with Marie Lemoine. The color is a deep rose with a silver sheen. The collar petals are a trifle lighter than the guards. The center petals are silver tipped. The total color effect of a number of blooms is that of blending shades of rose. The fragrance is mild. The stems are long and very strong. It is a free bloomer with large sized blossoms. Faribault is fast becoming known as a late deep pink cut flower sort. It is a very profuse bloomer and we find it a wonderful moneymaker as a cut flower.

GRANDIFLORA (Richardson). 8.8. Pink. A very large flower of true rose type. In form this is one of the most beautiful of all peonies. Seen from a distance, it immediately catches the eye because of the wonderful perfection of the flower. A rather flat bloom, very large with a very graceful and beautiful arrangement of the petals. A soft shell pink, shading to white with faint shadings of rose.

Grandiflora is a very late variety. We consider it the best of all the very late pinkies. When one thinks that the peony season is finished he can still go out and cut fine blooms of this most beautiful variety.

LA PERLE (Crousse). 8.5. Pink. If we were selecting 25 peonies for our own planting, we could not do without La Perle. When the flower first opens, it is a beautiful soft shade of pink which gradually fades to almost a pure white. Remarkably beautiful both in the opening bud and in the full open bloom. The writer will never forget great vases of La Perle which graced the show room of the national show at Cleveland. It seemed the most beautiful flower in the entire show.

LIVINGSTONE (Crousse). 8.1. Pink. This is a deep pink that comes into bloom just before *Grandiflora*. The blossoms are very large, compact, and of perfect rose type. The center petals are flecked with carmine. It does not have the fragrance of *Grandiflora*, but is an extra good peony. *Livingstone* is one of the most satisfactory of the late pink peonies. It is a remarkably beautiful variety that seems to come good every year, which is a very desirable quality.

MME. EMILE GALLE (Crousse). 8.5. Pink. The blooms of this variety are large, compact, and flat rose type. The color is a delicate sea shell pink with touches of heliotrope and lavender. The plant is medium tall, strong, and a free bloomer. This variety is extra fine in the bud. It comes into bloom with the very late ones of which it is one of the best. If this were a new variety, it would easily command a price of \$50.00, as it possesses all around good qualities and is of such exquisite beauty. This variety is often mistaken for *Tourangelle*.

MARGUERITE GERARD (Crousse). 8.4. Pink. This variety is one of the most admired of Crousse's productions. It produces a large, flat-shaped flower with broad petals. The color is a delicate hydrangea pink which changes, as the flower ages, to a creamy white. Many of the central petals, and sometimes the guards have minute dark charming flecks on the tips. This flower creates a wonderful effect in the field or garden. It is essentially a garden flower as it shows up best on the plant. Its color is very pleasing in itself but this combined with the wonderful attractiveness of its form makes of it an outstanding variety as it opens on the plant in your garden.

MARIE CROUSSE (Crousse). 8.9. Pink. This is a very attractive flower. The blooms are of a very delicate shell pink bordering on salmon. The stems are stiff and upright. The flower is fragrant and comes into bloom mid-season to late. A splendid variety that is distinct in color from any other pink you might have in your garden. *Marie Crousse* is a most desirable sort for distant effect. It is such a clear pure self color that it easily catches the eye, even when blooming in the midst of a hundred different pinks.

MONS. JULES ELIE (Crousse). 9.3. Pink. One of the largest and most beautiful of peonies. In fact it is the largest of the *Globe* type varieties. An immense self colored flesh pink shading just a trifle deeper towards the

base of the petals. Great prominent broad guard petals enclose an immense ball of incurved narrower petals of the same color, all covered with an intense silvery sheen. In our opinion one of the best of all the bomb type peonies. This variety resembles a great *Chrysanthemum*. A long keeper as a cut flower. On the Chicago market it is the greatest early pink cut flower sort.

OCTAVIE DEMAY (Calot). 8.5. Pink. This is a very early flesh pink. The collar has ribbon-like white petals, with the center a deeper pink than the guard petals. A rather dwarfish plant but still an excellent cut flower as the foliage comes clear to the ground. In the delicate pinks this is the best early cut flower.

PIERRE DUCHARTRE (Crousse). 8.2. Pink. A beautifully formed flower that resembles *La France* so much that some years it is taken for that wonderful variety. The flower is of beautiful symmetrical form with great broad rounded petals, of true rose type. The color is a pale lilac flesh with glossy reflex, bordered with silver. We have always considered this a peony that was not fully appreciated and a much better peony than its rating would indicate. It is a peony that is in a class with *Reine Hortense*, *Livingstone*, *La Perle*, etc., and should find a welcome in every garden of any size.

REINE HORTENSE (Calot). 8.7. Pink. This is a show flower and is usually found in the winning classes. This variety is sometimes sold under the name of *President Taft*. It is a tall-growing variety, producing lots of large perfectly formed flowers on long stiff stems. The color is a uniform hydrangea pink, minutely splashed on a white background. It is also prominently flecked with crimson. It is a truly wonderful flower. We are seldom able to supply the demand.

SARAH BERNHARDT (Lemoine). 9.0. Pink. Here is another variety that is always found in the show room. It is such a well-known peony that it seems unnecessary for us to say that it should be in every garden. It is semi-rose in type. It comes into bloom late mid-season. The color is an apple blossom pink with each petal silver tipped. The fragrance is agreeable.

VENUS (Kelway). 8.3. Pink. This variety is especially good for a cut flower. Both the buds and foliage are clean. The flowers are of medium size, compact and pale hydrangea pink. The petals are large. This is a tall-growing variety, and a very free bloomer. It always pleases.

A List of Sixty Choice Peonies of the More Expensive Varieties

WE have not included in this list the most recent of our own introductions or those of other originators, no matter how highly we ourselves value them.

WHITE

Ball O' Cotton
E. B. Browning
Enchantresse
Grace Loomis
Kelway's Glorious
Le Cygne
Mrs. Edward Harding
Nine Secor
Nymphaea
Sarah K. Thurlow

RED

Auguste Dessert
Brand's Magnificent
Cherry Hill
David Harum
Longfellow
Mme. Gauchiau
Mons. Martin Cahuzac
Philippe Rivoire
Richard Carvel
Winnifred Domme

PINK

Desire
E. C. Shaw
Florence Macbeth
Georgiana Shaylor
Henry Avery
Henry Vories

PINK

Jeannot
Judge Berry
June Day
Katharine Havemeyer
Kelway's Queen
Lady Alexandra Duff
La Fee
La France
La Lorraine
Lillian Gumm
Loveliness
Luetta Pfeiffer
Mme. Jules Dessert
Martha Bulloch
Mary Woodbury Shaylor
Milton Hill
Nancy Dolman
Phoebe Cary
Phyllis Kelway
President Wilson
Pride of Essex
Raoul Dessert
Rosette
Rosa Bonheur
Solange
Souvenir de Louis Bigot
T. C. Thurlow
Therese
Tourangelle
Walter Faxon
Mabel L. Franklin

YELLOW

Fanny Crosby
Laura Dessert
Primevere

Red Varieties

AUGUSTE DESSERT. (Dessert). 8.7. This is one of the best of all the later peonies sent out by Dessert. This variety was considered of such excellence by the originator that he gave it his own name. We give Dessert's own description: "Flower cup-shaped of fine form, with rounded petals, very brilliant, velvety crimson, carmine, with silvery reflex and often streaked white; very large silvery border; visible stamens intermixed with the petals in many flowers. A superb variety, awarded certificate of merit at the Paris show, June 2, 1920." We consider this variety and *Elisa* the two best of the later varieties sent out by Dessert. A brilliant light red that is very distinct in form and a most desirable sort.

BRAND'S MAGNIFICENT (Brand). 8.2. We have produced many very fine reds, and of these, this is one of the very best. The plant is of medium height, comes into bloom mid-season, and is a wonderfully profuse bloomer. The blossoms are semi-rose, and the flower looks more like an American Beauty Rose than a peony. The color is a deep, dark red with a bluish cast. This variety carries more blue in it than any other good peony. The petals are large like those of a rose. We consider this a wonderful flower because of its beautiful form, its free blooming, its broad symmetrically-arranged petals, and its magnificent color effect. At the National Show held at Des Moines, this variety appeared in the collection winning the gold medal. In the class calling for ten named varieties, it appeared in the collections winning both first and second prizes.

CHERRY HILL. (Thurlow). 8.6. A very tall growing semi-double bright dark red that is early, and splendid as a landscape variety. The color is a deep garnet, with a sheen so rich that the variety is very noticeable among all other reds. Blooms are somewhat small, and irregular in shape until the plant becomes well established, when they become perfect in form and of good size and wonderful in color. Awarded a silver medal by the Massachusetts Horticultural Society.

DAVID HARUM (Brand). 8.4. This is one of our newest reds. The flowers are very large with prominent guard petals surrounding a great ball of closely packed petals of the same shade. The entire flower is an even shade of soft Tyrian-rose. An upright growing plant with very strong stems that hold their great blooms erect. One of the very best landscape reds. This variety appeared in five prize-winning collections at the National Show held at Des Moines in 1924.

LONGFELLOW (Brand). 9.0. Red. We believe that practically everyone considers that, in color, Longfellow is the best of all red peonies. At the Des Moines show, it appeared in seven of the winning collections. In the class calling for twenty red blooms of one variety, we were first with Longfellow. At the Minneapolis show held a few days later, this variety again won first in the same class. It is as striking in the field as in the show room, since it neither fades nor turns dark as do most reds.

MME. GAUDICHAU (Millet). 8.8. This variety is a strictly first-class red. The color is a very dark crimson, and resembles *M. Martin Cahuzac*. The flowers are large, loose, and stand the sun remarkably well. It comes into bloom late mid-season. Although this variety resembles *Mons Martin Cahuzac* in color, it is a much prettier plant. The stems are red and the foliage of the plant both in the spring and again in the fall is of a dark reddish color.

MONS. MARTIN CAHUZAC (Dessert). 8.8. This variety is a shade darker than *Midnight* or *Prince of Darkness*. If you wish the darkest red peony grown, this is the one to order. Flowers medium to large in size, semi-rose type with stamens. Color a deep maroon red. One of the most sought after of all peonies.

PHILIPPE RIVOIRE (Riviere). 9.2. A very fine bright crimson. Beautiful in form of flower and splendid in growth of plant. The most fragrant of the red peonies. Mid-season.

A splendid show flower. Entirely void of stamens. This is the most distinct in color of all the reds. It is not a bright red like *Mary Brand* or *Longfellow* and yet it shows an absence of the purple in the red which is so objectionable. The form of the flower is beautiful in the extreme and this combined with its uniform soft color makes a flower that is loved by all who see it. The true stock is very scarce and much spurious stock is on the market.

RICHARD CARVEL (Brand). 8.8. What *Mons. Jules Elie* is to pinks, this variety is to the early crimsons. On account of its extra early blooming, large size, and splendid qualities, this variety has already become a well-established favorite. The demand is increasing from year to year. We advise those who wish to purchase this sort, to get their order in early. A single plant on the lawn is attractive and delightful. It is beautiful and lasting, and on account of its delicate fragrance, is valuable as a cut flower. The best of all early dark reds. The odor of most reds is offensive, but the odor of *Richard Carvel* is pleasant and pronounced, a very rare quality in a red flower.

WINNIFRED DOMME (Brand). 8.3. Scarlet Red. No matter how many good reds you may have in your collection, there is still room for *Winnifred Domme*. Nearly every red has a trace of purple or blue in it, but this is a red with the purple almost entirely eliminated. It is the nearest scarlet of all peonies. The plant is dwarfish; but the stems are strong and erect, producing a single bloom each. When the next symposium is taken, we believe this variety will be rated in the 9 class. One of our good customers writes the following: "I should like to tell you about *Winnifred Domme* in my garden this year. My planting has all the reds I know anything about from *Philippe Rivoire* clear down the line, including all your own; and throughout its blooming season, *Winnifred Domme* was the best red of them all and at all times, morning, noon and evening. This was not only my own judgment, but that of all who saw my garden. I only wish *Winnifred Domme* had the height of *Longfellow*."

White Varieties

BALL O'COTTON (Franklin). 8.8. White. We can use all the good new whites in peonies that we can get and this is one of the good ones. *Ball O' Cotton* is one of the good ones. *Ball O' Cotton* is one of the finest new whites that have been brought out in some time. The flowers are globular in form, entirely transformed, and of the purest white. *Ball O' Cotton* wherever shown has caused very favorable comment and is now looked upon as an outstanding white. At the Northwestern Peony and Iris show for 1927 held at Faribault, the largest and finest show ever put on by this association, it won first prize in the class of twenty best blooms of white.

E. B. BROWNING (Brand). 9.2. White. In the vote taken by the American Peony Society, *E. B. Browning* was one of the group of four flowers that stood ninth highest on the entire list, stamping it as one of the world's greatest peonies. To produce the best results, this variety must be grown in rich, well-drained soil. This is a very late variety, coming into bloom with *Marie Lemoine*. For this reason, we do not recommend it to our southern customers. It has had some undeserved adverse criticism. If this variety has not been more than satisfactory to anyone who has planted it, it is because it was planted in soil not suitable to the variety, or it did not receive heavy cultivation. It will do well in any heavy black soil. The flowers of this variety are very large, and semi-rose type. The buds are often as large as the expanded blooms of other fair-sized varieties. The bud opens slowly, and as the petals unfold, a delicate pink coloring appears; the inner surface of the petals being washed with the most delicate pinkish canary. The perfume of the flower is strong and sweet. The variety is so late that it is not always seen in peony shows, but appeared in the prize-winning collection at Des Moines in 1924. When we looked for an outstanding white for our Collection No. 3, we chose this variety.

ENCHANTERESSE (Lemoine). 8.9. White. A very tall growing variety with clean light green stems and foliage. Blossoms are of the very largest, pure rose type, petals broad, long, and notched at the edges. Guards a pure creamy white splashed with crimson with occasional faint tracings of crimson on the central petals. Wondrously beautiful in the bud stage especially when the great pure white buds hang suspended half opened for several days. When it does finally open, it becomes an immense chaste creation of almost unbelievable beauty. We understand that this is not a good flower for the south as it is very late and does not open well, but the farther north it is grown, the better it becomes. As grown with us, it is rated far too low. It is surely entitled to a rating of 9.2.

GRACE LOOMIS (Saunders). 9.2. White. One of the very best and choicest of all white peonies. Tall, strong, light green stems hold erect large, pure rose shaped, cream tinted white blooms of the most perfect form. One of the very finest of show flowers, and a good flower in the field.

KELWAY'S GLORIOUS (Kelway). 9.8. White. Although not as symmetrical a flower as *Le Cygne*, we believe this wonderful variety is in every respect as good and that it entitled to just as high a rating. At the St. Paul show in 1926 *Kelway's Glorious* was shown in perfection and such flowers we never saw before.

The flowers are of the largest size, the petals very long and so constructed that the entire bloom seems a great downy ball of the most exquisitely delicate snow white lace. Probably no peony embodies great size with perfection of beauty to a greater extent than does this variety.

LE CYGNE (Lemoine). 9.9. White. There are several peonies that when the year comes that they are at their best are unsurpassed in their perfection of form and their general all around beauty. *Le Cygne* is such a flower. Among the true whites, it lies between *Le Cygne* and *Kelway's Glorious* as to which is the most beautiful flower. *Le Cygne* is purer in its whiteness and more perfect in the arrangement of its petals and in its general form. *Kelway's Glorious*, although an immense flower in size, still has such a daintiness of construction that its appeal is irresistible. So it is a matter of taste only as to which flower is the better. *Le Cygne* is a flower of the purest white with no tracings of color. Its form is absolutely perfect. An immense flower of true rose type that as a rule is a wonderful show flower. Early to mid-season in blooming. The great blooms are held erect on strong stems of medium height. Produces large typical blooms on one year plants. One of the greatest of all show flowers.

MRS. EDWARD HARDING (Shaylor). 9.3. White. A wonderful white. Received the \$100.00 prize at the American Peony Society's show at Cleveland in 1918, offered by Mrs. Harding for a new white peony of superlative merit.

NINA SECOR (Secor). 9.0. White. Flowers medium to large, borne on tall graceful light green stems with rather narrow clean light green foliage. Bloom absolutely pure white and of true rose type. Built high with a cupped rose bud center. Very fragrant. This is one of the very best pure whites, much on the style of *Kelway's Glorious*.

We have been watching this flower at the large shows for several years and have been much impressed with its wonderful qualities. Now that it has come into bloom on old established plants in our own fields we are still more impressed with it and are not afraid to venture that its rating will climb still higher. One of the very choicest of all whites.

NYMPHAEA (Thurlow). 8.8. White. Large flat flowers with wide, silky petals of delicate creamy white, notched at tips, and edges somewhat rolled; yellow stamens in center reflect a golden light throughout whole flower. Fragrant. Mid-season. We like *Nymphaea* very much. It is one of those peonies that remind you of a water-lily

only it is much larger, and much more beautiful than any water-lily we have ever seen. A very refined flower and a real addition to our growing list of good peonies.

SARAH K. THURLOW (Thurlow, 1921). 9.1. Pink. Large size, broad, rounded guard petals of flesh white or pearly white, with deeper heart of soft blush with faint salmon shades. Fragrant. Stiff stems and good foliage. Somewhat resembles *Tourangelie* in style. Late.

Pink Varieties

DESIRE (Brand). 8.5. A very large flower rather loosely built with long broad petals with stamens showing. Color a delicate lilac pink fading lighter towards the edges. *Desire* is a very beautiful flower that has had rather an eventful history. The plant was first noticed in a large bed of seedlings in 1913. It appeared so good that it was chosen as the best of the entire bed. Blooms were cut from this seedling plant and taken to the show of the N. W. Peony society. These blooms were staged in a large exhibit of splendid seedlings and were awarded first prize. D. W. C. Ruff, the veteran grower of fine peonies, placed the awards. Of *Desire* he said, "Here is a strictly first class peony."

Our soil is quite spotted. In our fields water pockets are apt to show up in the most unexpected places in the spring. Three different times in succession it happened that we got our entire stock of *Desire* planted in such a place. Inferior flowers were the result. But the fourth planting was in the right soil and we were spellbound with the result. The variety that year was a marvel. It showed what the plant properly handled would do. An outstanding pink of the first quality.

EDWIN C. SHAW (Thurlow). 9.1. A large cup-shaped flower produced on strong stems. The outer petals are broad and rounded with carmine tracings, the inner petals gradually growing smaller and shorter to the center. The color is a clear shell pink.

Ever since we first grew the *Thurlow* seedlings, we have been very much impressed with their almost universally outstanding qualities. At first we thought *President Wilson* the finest peony of the lot, but after several years of careful comparison have come to the conclusion that we like *E. C. Shaw* even better. It is our first choice of the *Thurlow* peonies, anyone of which is first class. One of the very finest of peonies.

FLORENCE MACBETH (Sass). 9.2. Very large cup shaped flowers opening out flat. Color a soft blush pink at the center fading lighter towards the edges. Form very fine. This variety was first shown at the National show in Des Moines, Iowa, and its merits were such that it received a Certificate of Merit. An exceptional vase of 20 blooms of it was shown in the light pink class and here it was awarded first prize over many fine entries. A new sort of exceptional merit.

GEORGIANA SHAYLOR (Shaylor). 8.9. This, we think, is Mr. Shaylor's greatest flower. For years we have been of this opinion and have never changed our mind. If Mr. Shaylor had never produced another peony, his name would still have lived among peony lovers because of this one variety. When the time comes for *Georgiana Shaylor* to bloom I take an hour off and go down into the field where the three year olds of *Georgiana* are. There I stand spellbound before hundreds of great blooms of as beautiful a flower as was ever produced.

HENRY AVERY (Brand). 8.8. Light pink. With a stock of sufficient size to permit of a satisfactory judging of the merits of this variety, we have come to the conclusion that in *Henry Avery*, we have one of the very choicest of peonies. The plant is of medium height and mid-season in period of blooming. Flowers large to very large. General color effect, pinkish creamy white. Guard petals are large and prominent, enclosing a great ball of large rose-type petals of the same even color as the guards. Between the

guards and the central petals, is a very distinct collar running from an inch to an inch and a half in width, of deep bright yellow petals. This collar gives the flower a very striking appearance, as the petals are a deep yellow. Fragrance, delicate and very pronounced. If you are looking for something very refined in beauty, you will not be disappointed in Henry Avery. In writing up the Boston Show of 1924 for Peony Bulletin No. 22, Prof. Saunders says of this variety: "In several places in the hall, there were impressive blooms of Henry Avery, which struck me as one of the best Brand varieties I had ever seen on the exhibition table."

HENRY M. VORIES (Vories). A large flat flower, of true rose type. The petals are long, broad, and of great substance. A beautiful light salmon pink, with darker shadings of pink at the base of the petals. A tall growing variety with strong stiff stems. Very late.

This variety was shown at the Peoria National Show in 1926, where the wonderful condition in which the variety was shown and the beauty of the flowers themselves called forth much favorable comment.

JEANNOT (Dessert). 9.2. This flower, one of Dessert's last productions, is of unusually high quality. In the first symposium it received a rating of 8.9 with 9 votes while four years later when peony lovers had become better acquainted with it, its rating based on 18 votes rose to 9.2. This speaks very highly of the variety. A large, high built, round flower of rose type with a cupped center. Color a delicate lavender pink, with salmon pink shadings at the base of the petals. Several years ago while making a tour of Eastern Peony Gardens, the writer first saw Jeannot. It was on three year plants. Although I saw no name I was very much impressed with this flower as it was unquestionably a very choice variety. I inquired the name and found that it was Jeannot. Absolutely first class.

JUDGE BERRY (Brand). 8.6. This immense, delicate pink flower is the very best of its season. It comes so early that it is seldom seen on exhibition. However, at the Des Moines show it appeared in five of the winning collections. The bud is pink, and as the petals open farther and farther, it becomes a flat pink disc, of surpassing beauty. It is often seven or eight inches in diameter. The petals are narrow, long and fringed, with some stamens intermingled. The flower has a pleasing fragrance. Coming at the very beginning of the peony season, when most varieties are of small or medium size, this immense flower has a peculiar distinction, and will be wanted by every peony buyer who wishes a really good early pink. The demand for this variety is so great that we never have a large stock on hand. Mrs. McCullagh, of Gatos, California, wrote us as follows: "Judge Berry, less than a year old, bore five superb flowers, and we thought it among the most beautiful I had. I think it is wonderful."

JUNE DAY (Franklin). 9.0. Mr. A. B. Franklin of Minneapolis, Minnesota, has produced some very choice peonies, peonies as good in quality as the best. We have been watching Mr. Franklin's peonies for some years and have been adding the different varieties to our collection as we became acquainted with them. Of these peonies, we think June Day one of the very best. It is a flower of striking beauty, rose type, light flesh in color with lavender shadings on the edge of the central petals. Pleasing fragrance. An upright grower with dark green foliage. We like it very much. Mid-season.

KATHARINE HAVEMEYER (Thurlow). 9.0. Originator's description: "Large, rose-type, flesh pink in color; guard petals broad and rounded, somewhat notched at the ends. Center petals narrow and fringed. Full, high center. Sweet fragrance. Mid-season, to late. Honorable Mention, American Peony Society, London, Ontario, 1922." The Thurlows have put out several very fine peonies and we think Katharine Havemeyer one of the finest of these. In our show room last season we had many blooms from two year plants that showed up wonderfully well. We consider it an extraordinary variety.

KELWAY'S QUEEN (Kelway). 8.8. There has been a great deal of trouble about Kelway's Queen. The stocks of it have been badly mixed up and several spurious sorts have been sent out under the name. But there is never any mistake as to its genuineness after one sees it. It is a distinct peony, both in the flower itself and also in the appearance of the plant. We have the true variety and guarantee our stock of it to be absolutely true. It is rose type. A large compact flower of uniform mauve, with center flecked crimson. A tall, strong grower, very profuse bloomer. Late mid-season. One of Kelway's very best. A very distinct color in peonies, a great show flower.

LADY ALEXANDRA DUFF (Kelway). 9.1. One of the largest and most beautiful of all peonies. An immense, loosely built flower with great broad rounded petals so exquisitely arranged as to make a flower of most ravishing beauty. In color it is a lovely French White. This flower looks white but when closely scrutinized it shows the white tinted with the most delicate pink imaginable. When not disbudded, the central flower is loosely double of a rather flattened, circular form, with the central petals touched with carmine. It is a beautifully formed flower and sweet scented. The plants are exceedingly free flowering and very showy. The side flowers, which open after the central flower, come semi-double saucer shaped and show stamens. Taken all in all this is positively one of the most beautiful of all peonies, and should be asked to name the twelve most beautiful peonies Lady Alexandra Duff would be one of the twelve.

LA FEE (Lemoine). 9.2. A scarce variety which is seldom seen in any garden. Plants tall with but few stalks to the plant. Long narrow sharply pointed foliage. Flowers of the very largest, loosely built with long narrow petals sharply notched at the edges. Guards mauve-rose. Collar creamy white. A beautiful mottling of different shades of pink. One of the most striking of all peonies both in the field and in the show room. It is hard to find healthy stock of this variety but starting with two small plants several years ago and being careful of our stock, we have worked up a small stock of very choice plants perfectly clean which we offer this fall.

LA FRANCE (Lemoine). 9.0. A flower that gives wonderful results in our soil and climate. Blooms very large of true rose type. Color a true uniform apple blossom pink, with crimson splashes on the guards. Plant robust with tall strong stems which support well the enormous blooms. In the years when La France is at its best, no flower in the pinks outranks it in the shows. We consider it one of the ten greatest of all peonies.

LA LORRAINE (Lemoine). 8.6. La Lorraine is a large flower nicely rounded in form with great broad petals beautifully arranged. The color is a soft even shade of creamy pink. We think this is a flower that is not really appreciated. In our opinion it is one of the choicest of all peonies and we believe it should rate well above nine. This was the judgment formed by us when we first saw the flower and we have never had reason to change our opinion since. We have seen blooms of La Lorraine so beautiful that when shown together with magnificent blooms of Le Cygne, Therese, Kelway's Glorious and Mme. Jules Dessert they showed up just as well as these wonderful sorts. In fact, we think La Lorraine as good a flower as any of these.

LILLIAN GUMM (Gumm). A new flower of very outstanding qualities. A flower is indeed good when it is repeatedly singled out from hundreds of varieties in the field. We recently had about twenty plants of Lillian Gumm growing in a field of about two acres which contained many different varieties of the best sorts. When this variety came into bloom there was something so attractive and distinct about its color that it was singled out as one of the most beautiful peonies in the entire field.

Lillian Gumm is a very large flower, globular in form, rose type, with great broad petals, and a cupped center.

The color is a uniform apple blossom pink with more brilliant shadings at the base of the petals. We believe this to be one of the truly coming flowers.

LOVELINESS (Hollis). 8.8. This variety bears very large, flat, hydrangea pink flowers that develop into blooms of wonderful beauty. It is Hollis' best peony. It is one of the very finest of all peonies. The plants are tall and heavily foliaged, with stems strong enough to hold the immense blooms erect. The flowers which are a uniform shade of pink, make wonderful show flowers. During the season of 1927, Loveliness was one of the very best flowers that we had. It showed up well wherever it was located in our fields. We wonder that so beautiful a flower is so seldom seen in gardens. Everyone should have it.

LUETTA PFEIFFER (Brand 1916). 8.7. Luetta Pfeiffer is a very large semi-double, pinkish white. The foliage is large and clean, the stems are long and stout, and the blooms, which are of the very largest size, are produced in great profusion. The petals are long, broad, of great substance, a pure hydrangea pink interspread with just enough golden stamens to make the flower fascinating and very beautiful. In season it is early.

We have now accumulated a splendid stock of the variety and offer it without hesitation to all critical lovers of the peony as one of the world's very best peonies. In the new symposium, this variety received a rating of 8.7 based upon 17 votes. This was a gain of three points over what it was in the old symposium. We consider this a remarkable showing and feel satisfied that when the next general symposium is taken Luetta Pfeiffer will rate much higher.

MME. JULES DESSERT (Dessert). 9.4. This is one of the finest of all peonies. The flowers are very large, well-formed, with long, broad petals. The blooms are held rigidly erect on good straight stems of medium height. The color is a creamy white, but lighted with buff and salmon shades. A few golden stamens also show to add beauty to an already beautiful flower. We have always found this variety hard to divide. Anyone who receives a root with two large eyes and plenty of root system, should be pleased. Mme. Jules Dessert is always among the main prize winners at the great shows.

MABEL L. FRANKLIN (Franklin). 9.0. The outer petals are a light pink with the extreme center petals a darker pink. Near the crown of the flower there are intermingled short, creamy petals that add greatly to its beauty. A light margining of lavender is to be found on the inner petals. Delightfully fragrant. We consider this one of the four best of all of Mr. Franklin's fine new seedlings. It is a large, beautiful brilliant pink with wonderful show flower possibilities. A real acquisition to a growing list of good peonies.

MARtha BULLOCK (Brand). 9.1. This is the most striking of our peonies. The mammoth pink flowers, often nine to twelve inches across, are borne on strong, stiff stems high above all other flowers in the field. As it nods at the beholder, it seems to say, "Match me if you can." It surpasses everything of its color for landscape effects, but its beautiful shadings and delicate structure are best exhibited by a single bloom in a crystal vase. It is a great show flower. In the Minneapolis show last summer, this variety won both first and second in the color class calling for six pink blooms of one variety; although it had Therese as a competitor. At Flushing, N. Y., it won the silver trophy offered by the Flushing Garden Club. It was the production of this flower that really induced us to embark in the peony business as a specialty. We had some beautiful blooms from three year old Martha Bullocks in the cellar. They looked so wonderful that we thought it might be well to take them to the Minnesota Peony show sponsored by the State Horticultural Society. It was in 1913, and we had never been to a peony show before. We carried our blooms in large flower boxes 60 miles to the show at St. Paul. When we entered the show room and saw wonderful vases of



Martha Bullock

Therese, Solange, Mme. Jules Dessert, and such flowers in full bloom, our heart sank. We did not think we had anything that could compare with such flowers. But we opened up our boxes. The first box happened to contain Martha Bullock. When I lifted the wax paper from the large blooms and the great pink faces looked at me from out the box, just as perfect as when placed there in the early morning, some five hours before, I was no longer doubtful. Those Martha Bullock were the sensation of the show. They were an inspiration to me and at that moment my mind centered on the peony. It has been my main vocation ever since.

MARY WOODBURY SHAYLOR (Shaylor). 9.0. A very large flower of the most refined beauty, borne erect on very strong dwarfish stems. The outer petals are a delicate light shell pink with central petals a yellowish creamy white tinted salmon. Very fragrant and a most beautiful sort. Mid-season.

MILTON HILL (Richardson). 9.0. This is a very beautiful flower of a delicate shade of salmon pink, resembling Walter Faxon. When this variety is shown in first class form it is impossible to beat it in the show room in its color. This variety received a rating of 9.0 with 63 people voting. We are never able to supply the demand for roots.

NANCY DOLMAN (Vories). Judge Vories displayed this wonderful seedling for the first time at the National Show held in Des Moines. Here it was awarded the silver medal

of the Garden Club of America. It also received second prize as the best specimen bloom in the entire show.

Nancy Dolman is a peony of the greatest size and still it is a refined flower. The color is a beautiful soft pink. The bloom is very compact. The buds attain great size before they commence to open. They are so large and compact that it takes a week for them to fully open. This is indeed a truly fine peony.

PHOEBE CARY (Brand). 8.8. We consider this a second Martha Bulloch. The variety was introduced in 1907, but was so good that before we were aware of it, almost our entire stock was gone. The stock which we had for sale last year was exhausted before the shipping season was over, and we were obliged to refund on late orders. This variety is of a true rose type. The petals are large, broad, and of good substance. It is slightly cupped. The color is a beautiful rose pink, with the center slightly deeper in shade. The fragrance is pleasant. It is a late blooming variety, coming in season with Marie Lemoine. The plant is tall, with an abundance of light green foliage.

PHYLLIS KELWAY (Kelway). 8.8. A very large, loosely built flower of the most exquisite beauty. Color a deep lavender flesh with long rays of lighter lavender playing the length of the petals through the deeper colors. A row of broad petals surrounds a loosely built cup-shaped center of long narrow petals intermingled with conspicuous yellow stamens. The stems are long and erect. Blossoms held erect, and as the rays of sunlight play through the shadings of the flower it is one of the most brilliant and striking peonies in the entire list. We consider Phyllis Kelway one of our choicest sorts.

PRESIDENT WILSON (Thurlow). 9.3. A large flower carried on very stout stems of medium length. A very pleasing soft pink changing to shell pink, with the guards sometimes showing crimson markings.

Examining a private show of wonderful peonies staged by Mr. E. C. Shaw, from his great collection of peonies, where only the very best were on display, I was asked to pick out the vase of flowers that I thought the best without looking at the labels. I did so, and my choice fell on a vase of President Wilson. One of the great peonies.

PRIDE OF ESSEX (Thurlo 1916). 8.9. Exceptionally large broad petals of deep flesh-pink make a very large flower of good form. Stems long and stiff. Midseason. First class certificate, Massachusetts Horticultural Society. Fragrant.

RAOUL DESSERT (Dessert). 9.0. A large blossom with great broad petals. Mauve with carmine pink shadings and silvery reflex. You will find the same color in Helen Wolaver. Extra choice.

ROSA BONHEUR (Dessert). 9.0. This is a very fine flower, coming into bloom mid-season. The color is a light violet rose, with guard petals flecked crimson. It is an erect, medium strong grower. The flowers are large, flat, and of rose type.

ROSETTE (Dessert). 8.8. Pretty flower of fine shape like a Captain Christy rose, silvery flesh shading to a salmon at base of petals and flecked crimson on the edges. A splendid variety of erect habit.

SOLANGE (Lemoine). 9.7. The color of this variety is a deep orange salmon, or Havana-brown at the heart overlaid with a delicate, tender, rich cream. This variety comes into bloom late mid-season, is rose type, and a splendid variety. This variety does not come perfect every year, but when it does come good and is seen in the show room, it is a difficult variety to beat.

SOUVENIR DE LOUIS BIGOT (Dessert). 9.1. The color of this variety is a brilliant rose, slightly tinged carmine at the base, turning to a salmon pink. It resembles Walter Faxon in color but stands up in the field much better than that variety.

THERESE (Dessert). 9.8. A very large somewhat loosely built flower with long narrow pointed petals. The plant is of medium height with strong stems. As a rule, it will produce large typical flowers, even on one year plants, if they are allowed to bloom. The plant is wonderfully productive of blooms of the largest size and most ravishing beauty. Beholding Therese for the first time, people stand spellbound before its revelation of beauty. It can truly be said that there is no peony more beautiful. It stands the equal of Le Cygne, Solange, and Kelway's Glorious. The color is a uniform light violet rose shading to lilac white at the center. With 71 voting, this variety rated 9.8.

THOMAS C. THURLOW (Thurlow 1919). Salmon-flesh changing to white. Guard petals broad and collar of narrower petals or broad petaloids tinted and edged yellow giving a delicate coloring. The center is made up of short yellow petaloids surrounded by a ring of cup-shaped petals edged yellow. Midseason.

TOURANGELLE (Dessert). 9.4. Rose type, late mid-season. This is a vigorous grower, bearing large high built flowers, with a cupped center. In color it is a delicate pearl white, suffused with shades of most delicate salmon and La France rose. There is always a question in one's mind after becoming acquainted with the good peonies as to which are really the best. We unhesitatingly pronounce this one of the very best.

WALTER FAXON (Richardson). 9.3. This remarkable flower is at its best in the show room. If cut in the bud, and held in a dark cool room for a day or two, and then brought into the light, it develops into a flower of wonderful coloring and exquisite beauty. In color it is the most vivid of all the pinks, the only "real pink" as someone has said. A glance over a show room will disclose every vase of the flower to one who has once become acquainted with its color. The flowers are medium size and attractive form. In the fields it does not hold up as well as *Souv. de Louis Bigot*, which in color approaches it nearer than any other variety. For show purposes or home decoration, it is unique.

Yellow Varieties

FANNY CROSBY (Brand). 7.7. Yellow. Fanny Crosby is an early yellow peony that is growing more and more in favor as it becomes better known. The plant is strong, thrifty, and very floriferous. The strong straight stems hold the blooms erect and as the side buds are in bloom almost with the main flower it makes a very pretty landscape sort. Flowers are of medium size. A central globe of deep yellow incurved petals that some seasons are heavily tipped with white are surrounded by very prominent large light pink guard petals which gives the bloom a wonderful setting.

So far there are three good yellow peonies, *Primevere*, *Laura Dessert*, and *Fanny Crosby*. One year one of these may be the best, the next year it may be another, and still another year the third. They are all different in season of blooming so we need all three.

LAURA DESSERT (Dessert). 8.8. Yellow. This peony, *Primevere*, and *Fanny Crosby* are the three finest yellow peonies grown. The flower is round, of rose type. Guard petals creamy white enclosing a dome like center of pure canary yellow. Like *Fanny Crosby*, the plant is an upright grower and holds its blossoms erect, giving it good landscape value. Like all yellows, it must be developed inside away from the sun to preserve its color.

PRIMEVERE (Lemoine). 8.6. Yellow. This is a fine yellow peony. The guard petals are a creamy white, enclosing a central ball of sulphur yellow. If cut in the bud, as it begins to open, and developed inside away from the sun, the flowers will hold a clear yellow color, which is very beautiful.

