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The Flower Beautiful

1908

The Peony

MARIE JACQVIN

GEORGE H. PETERSON

Rose and Peony Specialist

FAIR LAWN, N. J., U. S. A.
READ CAREFULLY

Why you should order early: Many peonies in the better grades are in limited supply and are over-sold yearly. The propagation of the Peony is slow, and we do not make varieties to order. If your order is not sent in promptly after catalogue is mailed in August, please name one or two possible substitutes or instruct us to return money if that is preferred. Where selection is left to my judgment, I always send greater value than remittance represents.

Roots may be shipped either by Express or Freight. By the former method I guarantee roots to reach destination in perfect condition. By freight, buyer must assume all risk. The roots will arrive in good condition, but there will often be vexatious delays. Under ordinary conditions, roots will stand a two months' journey without injury. They are packed lightly in moss, without soil, and are now entitled to a more favorable express rate than ever. To illustrate. The regular rate to St. Paul, Minn., is $4.50 per 100 lbs. Plants now go under the "General Special" rate of $3.00, and the charge for each parcel of plants is figured at this 100-lb. rate, with a minimum charge of 35 cents. Thus a 15-lb. box or bundle of plants to St. Paul would cost three cents per pound, or 45 cents; whereas the same weight of ordinary merchandise would cost $1.10, being sent under a graduated scale.

I can ship direct by Wells Fargo & Co. or U. S. Express, and via Erie; D., L. & W., or N. Y. Susquehanna & Western R. R. My nearness to New York City (16 miles) enables me to make quick connection with any shipping route.

No charge for packing except on large orders at special price. No charge in any case for delivery to Transportation Company.

Substitutions. Please state what is to be done in case some variety is sold on receipt of your order; whether you wish money returned or some equally valuable variety substituted.

Remittances may be made by Bank Draft, Express or P. O. Money Order on Fair Lawn, N. J., Check, or Currency in Registered Letter; same to accompany order.

Open Accounts. Anyone desiring to open an account will please send financial references, which he should understand will take a few days to investigate. No account opened for an initial order of less than $10.00.

Complaints, if made immediately on receipt of goods, will be investigated, and if due to any fault or negligence on my part, will be promptly satisfied.
“Hedged 'round About”
A Help to Better Hedging

Make your grounds more attractive, more exclusive, more valuable

A young untrimmed hedge of Japanese Barberry in sunlight and shadow. Note its graceful, uniform growth.

GEORGE H. PETERSON.
FAIR LAWN, N. J.
U. S. A.
Introductory

With the passing of the Winter of 1903-04 it was found in this locality, and quite generally throughout the North, that many thousands of beautiful hedges of California Privet had been killed to the ground by reason of the severe cold. Several disheartened owners of such hedges applied to me for advice, and I suggested the use of Japanese Barberry, which for some time had been attracting my attention. Planters of this have become so enthusiastic, and the demand has increased to a point where I feel the issue of this pamphlet called for.

Knowing of the inability of California Privet to endure severe cold, I had for several years decried its use in the North. Its continued rapid growth, making shearing a frequent necessity during the growing season, I also looked upon as a serious objection to the average planter where a gardener is not employed.

And so the purpose of this leaflet is to bring to your knowledge something more enduring, more ornamental, and requiring much less labor to keep in form.

If, however, you do not intend to expend a little labor in preparation of ground and trim your hedge once or twice annually, my advice is—Don’t! For while a neat hedge is one of the most attractive features about a suburban or country home, a neglected, “ragged” one is probably the most detractive.

Japanese Barberry---What it is

Berberis Thunbergii (botanically) is a native of Siberia and northern Japan, which is sufficient guarantee of its hardiness anywhere where hedge-planting people live.

The wood is yellow, covered with a chocolate-brown bark and densely studded with small, pliable yet very sharp thorns.

In the early Spring, before other deciduous shrubs show signs of life, we find this plant breaking forth into a dress of a most pleasing shade of light green. In May we find it abloom with a delicate bell-like flower of white, slightly tinged with yellow. Beautiful as it is throughout the Summer with its small, dense foliage of green, its Autumn colorings are scarcely equaled by any plant we have; and when this is gone we are amazed at the wealth of scarlet berries seen hanging on the branches. This fruit, distributed with lavish profusion on the dense brown wood and hanging on throughout the Winter, presents a picture which, when seen against the snow, is not soon forgotten. One of the densest growing shrubs of which I know, it is also one of the hardiest. Through the Winter of 1903-04, alongside of California Privet, which was killed to the ground, this shrub was found full of life in every branch right to the very tips.

Being an exceedingly dense grower from the ground up, this hedge becomes a perfect bar to dogs, cats and chickens, as well as larger animals. Its habit is very graceful, slightly pendulous, attaining a height of from 3 to 5 feet, according to richness of soil.

Its great merit can best be made known to you through the following disinterested authorities:

California Privet has again demonstrated its manifest unfitness for use as a hedge plant north of Philadelphia. Far better
A small portion of a trimmed hedge of Japanese Barberry in-
closing the large estate of E. H. Hathaway, Esq., Prospect 
St., East Orange, N. J. Under the shears, this plant 
makes a wall of dense green, true and solid 
as if chiseled from marble.

in every way for this purpose is the cheery little Berberis Thun-
bergii, always reliable, always beautiful, with its early verdure in 
Spring, its graceful habit in Summer, its glorious Autumn foliage 
and its wealth of coral fruit all through the Winter and Spring 
months."—Editorial in April 15, 1904 Gardening.

Also from the pen of Dr. W. Van Fleet, one of the most eminent 
and conservative horticulturists of our day. Dr. Van Fleet is in 
charge of the trial grounds of "The Rural New-Yorker," and the 
following is from an article in the January 6, 1906, issue of that 
paper:

"The last two cold Winters so sharply defined the limitations 
in hardiness of the oval-leaved or California Privet that great 
interest has been aroused in effective substitutes for that very 
popular ornamental hedge plant. California Privet still holds its 
own for seaside planting south of Boston, but there have been 
many losses inland and in northern localities. The most promis-
ing reliably hardy shrub for decorative hedging, where the climate 
is too severe for dwarf box or California Privet, appears to be 
Berberis Thunbergii, popularly known as Thunberg's Barberry. 
It is of dense spreading growth, with many drooping branches, 
attaining three or four feet in height in good soil. The small 
widely-set leaves are of cheerful bluish green during the growing 
season, coloring glowing scarlet in Fall. The small yellow 
flowers are most freely produced in May, and are followed by
brilliant red fruits or berries remaining fresh and bright all through the Winter. Our photograph, Fig. 7, shows a fruiting twig in natural size, taken after the leaves had begun to fall. As a well-grown bush may have thousands of branchlets about as furnished as the one figured, the bright and cheery Winter effect can be imagined. We have never known these fruits to be attacked by birds, though they are not inedible. The habit is naturally so even and compact that only slight pruning of stragglng branches is needed. The branches are well armed with sharp spines, making such defensive armor that cattle or sheep seldom browse it. It is remarkably easy to transplant, having a most extensive fibrous root system, yet does not rob the soil to anything like the extent of the privet. We find it almost impossible to grow anything but grass nearer than 10 feet of a California Privet hedge. The hungry rootlets reach out nearly a rod on each side, and appropriate the lion's share of the manure and fertilizers applied within that distance. The deciduous barberries all endure shade well. Thunberg's is no exception; hedge lines of it may be run under open trees and close to other plants with good effect if care is taken to give extra mulching and fertilization.”

Preparation of Ground

If the soil is all natural top soil of fair fertility, the problem of preparation will be easily solved. In this case all that is necessary is to thoroughly fine the soil to a depth of 15 to 18 inches in a strip 2 to 3 feet wide, working in, if it can be obtained, three inches of old well-rotted manure. If the top soil can be thrown out and the subsoil well spaded, it will well repay the extra labor entailed. As the hedge will, if the proper sorts are selected, endure for a couple of generations, I would strongly urge a little extra labor in the preparation of the soil before planting, as it will be exceedingly difficult to correct any deficiencies afterward. If the soil is in whole or part filled-in land, it will be necessary to see that all is made of equal fertility that a uniform height of growth may be obtained.

Planting

Having gotten the soil in fine and level condition, draw a coarse line taut on the surface of the soil where the planting is to be made, stamp line down into the soil every few feet with flat of a rake. The line may then be removed and will be found to have left an impression which will insure straight planting. Plants should be set 12 inches apart if in single row. If in double row, 18 inches apart in row, with rows 12 inches apart and appear thus:

* * * * * * * * * *

The latter method, while using more plants, will make a hedge of great solidity and impenetrability.

Cultivation

The surface of the soil should, at least during the first two years, be kept mellow and free from weeds. This can be done well and quickly with a hand wheel cultivator, which is run along each side of the row every week or ten days. (This implement, costing $4.00 to $6.00, should be owned by every one having a vegetable garden). A hoe should be used at every second cultivation, between the plants. In the Fall a dressing of stable manure which may be new, should be applied, and forked into the soil the following Spring.
**Pruning**

At planting, Japanese Barberry may be cut back one-third or merely trimmed even.

Unless a hedge is wanted to take on some formal shape, all the Summer pruning necessary will be an occasional clipping back of the stronger growths extending above the body of the hedge. This can be quickly done with the ordinary sickle or grass hook. In March, or before growth begins, a more careful general pruning should be given which, the wood being hard, will bring into use a pair of heavy hedge shears.

**The Stock I Offer**

has all been transplanted, which insures bushiness and a mass of fibrous roots. Do not be misled by greater height quoted at low cost. This is obtained by leaving plants in seed bed, where a greater height is obtained at half the weight of our plants.

**When to Plant**

This plant is so very hardy and starts into growth so very early in Spring, I have decided to offer it hereafter only in Fall. Shipment can be made in late October and during November. There is ample time to prepare one's ground and plant in Fall, but in Spring the foliage is often out before the planter is ready, and growth is stunted.

**Prices**

Fifteen to eighteen inches high, stocky, well branched bushes, $9.00 per 100; $75.00 per 1,000; 500 at 1,000 rate.

This is the best size for general planting. Larger stock on application.

**Parting Advice**

Plant a hedge of it this Fall. Make your grounds more beautiful and exclusive and you will feel as one patron who says, "I thank you for putting me next to such a good thing," even though you may express it differently.
Introduction

No greater tribute could be paid to the Peony of to-day than that evidenced by the hundreds of people who come here to see roses and stay to worship the Peony. Each year we have many people come for the first time, and when I behold their amazement, admiration and then enthrallment, I must confess to a sort of "I told you so" feeling.

Here is a row of nearly 100 four-year plants of the real Sol-fatare, a solid wall of white and yellow shimmering in the morning sunlight. A lady grasps her husband's arm and exclaims, "Oh, Will! did you ever see anything so perfectly beautiful? We must have hedge rows of Peonies just like that."

Two ladies are sitting under a tree at the edge of a peony field when one is heard to say to her companion, "I thought I'd die walking up that track in the sun, and now I'm wondering if I am dead and if this isn't heaven."

And even now, after the spell of their charm has left us, it must be admitted that to him who owns his own home grounds, there is no other flower so worthy of attention. Its absolute hardiness, its ease of culture, its freedom from disease and insect pests, and its everlasting increase from year to year, are points which are rarely combined in the most common flowers, so that when too are found combined, wondrous size, delicacy and range of coloring and fragrance railing the rose, it would seem that "perfection could no further go." And after the blooming season is over, the brilliant glossy-green foliage is always attractive and refreshing during the heat of mid-summer.

My interest in the Peony dates back fifteen years, when a connection with the largest ornamental horticultural concern in this country (who had imported a choice collection from France) showed me what wonderful improvements had been made in this flower, and I then felt convinced that it could not be long when this flower must win its way into our gardens and our hearts—and that time has now arrived.

My entire individual time is devoted to this flower and the rose. From this it will at once be obvious to the intelligent purchaser that his interests will be better served than if this was merely a branch of a general nursery business. Orders placed here secure my personal attention. What this involves to the purchaser is almost daily shown in my mail, as enthusiastic patrons tell of their success and make comparisons with stock purchased elsewhere.

To the writer appears strange that even yet there are so many of our most intelligent people unacquainted with the modern varieties of this flower, and it is most interesting to hear their different exclamations of amazement as they come here during the blooming season; and what wonder!

Leading the procession, arrayed in skirts of the most delicately cut foliage, comes TENUIFOLIA with her brilliant crimson flowers, which a visitor knowingly and convincingly tells his companion, "That isn't a peony; that's a poppy." We would be quite content to look upon TENUIFOLIA, beautiful as she is, in her somewhat diminu-

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tive stature, but right alongside stalks proudly P. MOUTAN (Tree Peony). Now, Mr. Moutan's garments have not impressed us deeply, but as he turns his face every voice exclaims, "Look! Look!" And well, indeed, may we look, for what a face of impressive magnificence we behold! Next in the procession comes OFFICINALIS. Here we see a family proud of its ancient history and old associations, but, like so many families in the human race, shows little improvement in the progress and culture of the times. And yet, Mrs. RUBRA PLENA, although some of us may turn up our noses at the perfume you use, who among us does not secretly envy the exceeding richness of your glowing crimson coat?

For some time down the line we have noted myriad heads bobbing in response to rhythmic winds. On and on they come! and at last PAEONIA ALBIFLORA is here. We settle down into our seats with the satisfying knowledge that at last the curtain has arisen—all that has preceded was merely introductory, a prelude, as it were. First in the procession is SARAH BERNHARDT—and what a fitting name to lead. Tall and stately, Sarah unfolds into a vision of soft rose-pink, white and yellow. Now some of us objected to Mrs. RUBRA PLENA's perfumes, but what delicate nostril that will not now delightfully exclaim, "Ah!" Sarah is scarcely out of sight when stately FESTIVA MAXIMA sweeps by. Now here is a lady of both quality and proportions. Clad in purest snow-white, she easily overtops her consorts. As if to accentuate the purity of her whiteness, we see here and there a blood-red fleck, which legend says is the life blood of some bold suitor whom her arrow once pierced. It is true that FESTIVA no longer celebrates her birthdays, but why need we care, for will she not always be young and lovable? Crowding close upon her heels comes one of royal blood, the DUCHESS of NEMOURS (Calot), and fittingly chaste, we find the flower all that she who bears the title should be.

And now, like the final discharge of rockets at the exhibition, there bursts upon our view a mass of bewildering and dazzling bloom, crowding and intermingling so closely as to make it quite impossible to discern the order in which they appear. Here is JEANNE d'Arc, fainting jauntily her mani-colored gown in the face of the DUKE of WELLINGTON, who, with military bearing stands by her side proud of his stature and reputation. And here, too, demanding our homage pass ALICE de JULVECOURT, CARNEA TRIUMPHANS, MODESTE GUERIN, MAD. BOUQUET—but why go on? I drop my pen and pick it up again, for here comes LA TULIPE, holding her head of striped and fluffy loveliness, demanding recognition. I bury my nostrils into her silky bosom and drink deep and full of her rich, languorous odor. The ranks are thinning slightly now, and it seems as though the best must have passed by, when we behold MARECHAL MAC MAHON. The Marechal is certainly a dapper chap. Note the beauty of his raiment, how glossy from head to foot, and his dazzling features seem as if they must have been cast in a mould to produce such wondrous symmetry and uniformity.

Surely now the curtain must come down, and we prepare to leave our seats when a burst of deafening applause greets our ears. We forget the grace of BERNHARDT, the queenliness of FESTIVA MAXIMA and the chastity of the DUCHESS, for all else is swallowed up in the incomparable perfection of COURONNE d'OR. "Crown of Gold," indeed! and how worthy of the crown she is. Before she
leaves she begs to present to us a very dear relative whom we have been told possesses great charms, and thus at last we stand face to face with Marie Lemoine. It would take an artist's pen to do her justice, and so I content myself to store away in memory a vision of matronly beauty that the saucy charms of Jeanne d'Arc can ne'er displace. As the curtain falls the little lady at my side grasps my arm and exclaims, "Look!" Passing from the stage, we behold Marie Lemoine linked arm in arm with a very tall gentleman, who seems to stoop to hear what she might say. His bearing, personality and brilliant attire betoken Rubra Superba, a gentleman of breeding and of polish.

And so at last the Peony lover goes home again to dig by day and dream by night, happily knowing that in God's appointed time his much-loved flowers will again appear in all the radiant beauty of eternal youth.

Duchess de Nemours (Calot)
(See Section D)
The History of the Peony *

The Peony, like the Rose, can be traced back to ancient times, but the species PAEONIA ALBIFLORA (so popular to-day), or, as it is commonly known, the Chinese Peony, is of modern development.

The species OFFICINALIS is indigenous to Europe, and it is probably this class which is referred to in the writings of the ancient Greeks, and concerning which there were so many peculiar and superstitious legends.

The ALBIFLORA and MOUTAN (Tree Peony) types can be traced back to China in the middle of the sixth century, when these classes received considerable attention at the hands of the Chinese gardeners. These subsequently found their way to Japan, where the Moutan class won much favor, was greatly improved, and is still very popular.

So far as can be learned, the Albiflora type, with which we are most concerned, did not reach Europe or America until early in the nineteenth century. It appears that at first there was little general and determined effort made to improve this species, but toward the middle of this period the French hybridists (the most skilful in the world) enthusiastically took hold of this flower with results that are little short of marvelous; as is shown in the varieties we possess to-day.

Concerning the naming of this flower, Dr. Coit very interestingly relates:

"It is the species officinalis which probably secured for the genus its name. The genus Paeonia was so named by the ancients in honor of Paeon, a physician, who cured the wounds received by the heathen gods during the Trojan war. The ancient writers, who transformed simple facts into fabulous histories for the purpose of deifying favorite mortals, relate that Paeon, who was a pupil of the great Aesculapius, first received the peony on Mt. Olympus from the hands of the mother of Apollo, with which he cured Pluto of a wound he had received from Hercules, but this cure caused so much jealousy in the breast of Aesculapius that he secretly caused the death of Paeon. Pluto, however, retaining a grateful sense of his service, changed him into the flower which ever after bore his name."

In olden times this plant was supposed to have much medicinal value, and it appears that it was also the subject of much absurd superstition. Dr. Coit states:

"Antiquity celebrates the virtues of this plant and places it among the wonders of the vegetable garden. Fable gives us its origin, Aesculapius its properties, and superstition ranks it among miraculous plants, assuring that demons will fly the spot where it is planted, and that even a small piece of root worn around the neck is sufficient to protect the wearer from all kinds of enchantment."

* For the information contained in this brief sketch I am largely indebted to Dr. John Elliot Coit, of Cornell University. Dr. Coit, with the unequaled resources of the University library at hand, has made an exhaustive research into the past history of this flower and is undoubtedly the best informed man in this phase of the peony of our day.
The above is a reproduction from the "Herbal" by John Gerard, published in England in 1633, and is of interest in showing what the "Peonie" of long ago was like. The other illustrations throughout this booklet, which are photographic reproductions of my own flowers, interestingly show the wondrous development wrought, and incidentally the progress made in illustrating.
“The ancient Greeks when digging up the plant were careful to do so at night only, as it was said that if anyone attempted to meddle with it in the daytime the green woodpecker, which the gods had assigned to the plant as a protection, would dart at the eyes of the intruder.”

Planting and Cultivation

The Herbaceous Peony is of such simple culture, and so easy to grow, that but little instruction will be necessary in order that the beginner may produce the finest blooms. While it will grow and bloom under conditions in which most plants would perish, it will well repay, in largely increased size and beauty of bloom, a thorough preparation of soil.

Where such fancy blooms are wanted, it will be well to excavate the proposed beds to a depth of 2 to 2½ feet and fill in with good garden soil which has been well pulverized and mixed with from 1-5 to 1-4 of its bulk with old, well-rotted manure. If only new manure is obtainable, it should be mixed well with the soil in bottom of trench up to within one foot of surface, and applied as a mulch on the surface after planting. In this way the roots will not come in contact with the decaying manure. As soon as frost is out in spring the manure should be removed from crown of plant and forked into surrounding soil. Care must be exercised so that root is not disturbed.

After plants appear above ground, the surface soil should be kept mellow by frequent stirring.

Character of Soil

Probably the very best soil for the Peony is one which is neither too heavy with clay nor too light with sand, one which might be termed a medium loam, and such as would make a good vegetable garden. Such a soil, mixed with manure, should be fairly retentive of moisture, and the Peony, being a strong grower, can absorb much water. In a dry season, watering before blooming time with a hose or otherwise will be beneficial, and if one’s soil is not sufficiently rich, a weekly application of liquid manure will aid materially in bringing forth specimen blooms.

When to Plant

The best season for planting the Peony is in fall, after the roots are well ripened. In this latitude, this occurs in most varieties after mid-September, and is shown in the foliage becoming dry and yellow. Many nurserymen begin digging September 1st and before, but a glance at your peonies then will show the foliage still quite fresh and green. The roots, too, will suffer from shrivelling if dug and shipped while weather is hot.

This early digging, in many cases prompted by a desire to get the Peony out of the way before other nursery stock can be handled, will, in my opinion, if long persisted in, weaken the plant and bring on some fatal disease, just as is to-day the case with the Easter Lily. Here, in order to get their flowers on the market first, the florists’ demands upon the grower have brought on a disease which makes the growing of this bulb most difficult.
My own preference of time for planting is from September 20th to October 20th. We often plant in November, and one of the most successful of our plantings was made in last week of October. I have found that more depends upon preparation of soil and condition of root than upon an early planting. Planting may also be done in early spring, but the growth the first season will not be strong, and but rarely will flowers be produced until the second year.

**Uses**

There is probably no other plant with such varied usefulness. For effective massing in landscape work it is unequaled. As an edging or facing for shrubbery, it is likewise good. Planted in beds, borders or as specimen plants on the lawn it is equally at home. It is particularly attractive when used to border a drive or walk.

An attractive use for the Peony is low, ornamental, lawn hedging. This, of course, applies where only ornament and not defense is required. The dark glossy-green foliage, untouched by disease or insects, is exceedingly attractive through the spring and hot summer months. And the cost, too, in some of the most desirable low-priced sorts, will be even less, when purchased by the hundred, than a hedge of Japanese Barberry, inasmuch as they may be planted two feet apart, and a single row is quite ample.

**As a Cut Flower**

It is hardly equaled. Cut as the bud is about to unfold and placed in water in a cool room, where the air is fresh night and day, most varieties will last several days. The blooms will then be superior to those left to open on the plant and exposed to the heat of the sun.

Set at once in a cold, dark cellar, the different varieties may be kept several days longer than their blooming period. Bring up as wanted.

**Most Economical Plant to Buy**

While its first cost may seem high, it is really the most economical plant one can buy, from the fact that it represents a *permanent* investment and one which pays annual dividends of increase of at least 100%. Almost every family, of even the most moderate means, spends annually quite a tidy little sum in Easter Lilies, Geraniums and other bedding plants, and at the end of the year has nothing left to show for it.

The only practical method of propagating the Peony is by root division, and this increase will occur as rapidly with the amateur as with the professional grower. Where one desires fine blooms, rather than a greater number of plants, it is best to let the plant remain undisturbed for several years, as it is not until the second or third season after planting that really perfect blooms are obtained.

**Wintering**

So far as protection from cold is concerned, the Peony does not ask it in even the most severe climates. It is well, however, to re-
move the foliage when dead and in late fall apply a mulch of stable manure which may be quite new. The crown of the plant should not be covered deeply. Two inches of loose manure directly over the plant is sufficient, as the Peony is cold blooded and does not like to be smothered. In spring treat as directed for newly set plants under "PLANTING AND CULTIVATION."

Disbudding

Most Peonies usually set three or more buds to a stem. All but the central (largest) bud should be pinched off as soon as they can be gotten hold of, if the finest individual blooms are wanted.

How The Peony is Sent to You

The Peony is sent out in the form of a root (see cut), from
which, when dormant, will be seen protruding pinkish “eyes” or buds, the strongest of which will throw up next season’s flowering shoots. The root should be set so that the upper eyes are about three inches beneath the surface of the soil, and, if planted in permanent beds, should be about 2½ to 3 feet apart. When planted in field for cut-flower purposes, the plants should be set three feet apart in row, and rows from 4 to 5 feet apart, according to land at one’s disposal.

Quality of Our Roots

Our soil and most thorough system of cultivation produce the best peony root in the world. I have had them not only from all over our own country but from various parts of the world, and know whereof I speak—but I’m prejudiced. Had I the room, I could prove by the printing of hundreds of enthusiastic letters that my Peonies are absolutely in a class by themselves, but must content myself with simply a sample of them, as follows:

Miamisburg, Ohio, June 3, 1908.

Peonies purchased from you have done splendidly and all prove true to name, which is a great satisfaction to me, I assure you. At this moment I have half a dozen Marie Lemoine on my desk, which are enough to put life and cheer in the most desolate spot on earth or where-ever placed.

You certainly have my best wishes, and if you keep sending the grade of stock you sent me, you will soon have no need of advertising, as you will have an army of customers doing it gratis.

I enclose order for five dozen of your best varieties for a friend.

S. E. WATERS.

6817 Euclid Ave., Chicago, May 23, 1908.

Last fall, you will remember, I bought a dozen Peonies from you, being selections made by yourself. I am pleased to say that these roots have made a wonderful showing this spring; in fact, some of them are showing more buds at this writing than roots I planted a year ago last fall, and there is every indication that I will have a nice showing of flowers next month.

J. S. BAXTER.

Gladstone, Manitoba, Oct. 4, 1907.

The peonies arrived safely, and I must thank you for your prompt and considerate attention to my order. The roots were quite equal to photo in Peony Book, and were so skillfully packed that not one eye was injured; indeed, I was more than pleased with their quality.

ALLAN HAMPTON COLLINS.

199 Hoyt St., Buffalo, N. Y., Oct. 11, 1907.

The Peonies arrived in fine condition. I am very much pleased with them, as they look so fine and healthy. They are even better than I expected to get.

WILLIAM INSKIP.

Desirable as it is to get fine strong roots, it is even of greater importance that stock be true to name. We receive many letters, congratulatory, on this point, and telling of other purchases where the writers have had to wait several years for blooms, and then find them untrue.
The Plants I Send Out

"One-year" plants are those which have grown a full year since division and will have from two to six eyes, according to variety, etc. "Two-year" plants have grown two years since division, and, where the cost can be borne, are, of course, more desirable, as the immediate effect is greater. "Three-year" plants are very heavy clumps, and are well worth the price asked. They can at once be cut up into several plants if desired.

Do not let the mere number of eyes claimed influence you too strongly, as a weak root with from six to ten small eyes may not flower for several years, while two or three good plump eyes, with strong roots behind them, will flower the first season. Even in one-year stock, I aim to send out only roots which will produce some bloom the first season, if well planted, and this we can invariably do if your order is received fairly early. When one-year roots are exhausted we send a full equivalent in generous divisions. All orders are numbered when received, and are filled in numerical order.

When Shipment is Made

We usually begin digging about September 15th, and ship after that date, unless shipment is especially requested earlier.

Can Be Shipped Safely Anywhere

The Peony in fall can stand without injury a journey of months if kept from prolonged heat, which would start it into growth. There is, in fact, no flower which can be transported over long distances with greater safety.

Why You Should Order Early

It will be to your interest to send in your order promptly on receipt of catalogue. This may save you disappointment, as some varieties are in very limited supply and cannot be obtained from reliable sources. Some varieties I can supply by the hundred. Early orders also get the strongest roots. The receipt of your order and remittance will be acknowledged by return mail.

Exhibition

In 1909 we will have the finest field exhibition in this country. Here will be found two clumps of each variety planted in alphabetical order and in their third year. These are grown under ideal conditions and will prove a treat to the Peony-lover and enable him to select, without going over various fields at random, the varieties which most appeal to him.

We will be pleased to notify intending visitors when the flowers are reaching their height. In a normal season this usually occurs about June 6-8 here.
Prices

Are net, as quoted, except as noted below, and are as low as a like quality can anywhere be obtained. The thorough cultivation given my Peonies, going over the fields with cultivator and hoe every ten days the entire season, and the extreme care exercised in handling, labeling and packing, I have never seen equaled, elsewhere. And remember that a peony root quoted at a certain price may actually be worth two or three of same variety quoted for less money elsewhere.

Discounts

Orders amounting to $10.00 . . . . . . . . . . . . . 5% off
" " " 25.00 . . . . . . . . 10% "
" " " 50.00 and upward . . . . . . . . 15% "

Special prices quoted on large lists where not less than ten of one variety is wanted.

Mons. Dupont
(See, Section E)
Herbaceous Chinese Peonies

(Paeonia Albiflora)

Section A

1 year, 25 cents; 2 year, 60 cents; 3 year, $1.00 each.

Each variety can be supplied this year only in ages indicated by figures following description.

ACHILLE (Calot). Delicate flesh, resembling an immense carnation. Very distinct and beautiful dark green foliage with crimped edges. 1—2—3.

EDULIS SUPERBA (Lemon). Beautiful brilliant pink, silvery reflex; large, well-formed, full flower on strong stems. Blooms earlier than Festiva Maxima. Fragrant and good in every way. A much worthier sort than its price would seem to indicate. There is quite a stock of it in existence. 1—2—3.

HUMEI (Anderson). Very large carmine-pink bloom on good stems. Strong grower and good bloomer. Late. 2—3.

QUEEN VICTORIA (?). Outer petals flesh white; center rosy white, shaded with salmon; center petals tipped with carmine. Good bloomer and habit. Popular as a florist's cut flowers. Fine for massing. 1—2—3.

REINE DES FRANÇAIS (Guerin). Outer petals fleshy pink; center white and yellow. Good grower and bloomer. 2—3.

RUBRA TRIUMPHANS (Guerin). Brilliant dark crimson. The foliage is also very dark with reddish stalks, presenting, especially in the early season, a pleasing contrast when planted with a light green sort like Duchess de Nemours (Calot). 1—2—3.

Section B

1 year, 50 cents; 2 year, 85 cents; 3 year $1.39 each.

Each variety can be supplied this year only in ages indicated by figures following description.

ALEXANDER DUMAS (Guerin). A pretty shade of bright pink, with chamois, white and salmon intermingling; flowers large and full, coming in clusters. A very attractive variety. 1—2—3.

BAYCKII (Guerin). Large flower, guard petals bright rose, center salmon pink with silvery reflex; stiff habit. 2—3.

CANARI (Guerin). Outer petals fleshy white, with yellow center. Tall grower, sweetly fragrant. 2—3.

COMTE DE PARIS (Guerin). Pretty anemone-shaped flower; outer petals pink, center soft pink and salmon-yellow, with tuft of bright pink petals edged with crimson. A very pretty and floriferous sort. 1—2—3.

DELACHEI (Delache). Large and full, deep, rich, purplish-crimson flower. Good grower and bloomer and fine for massing effects. Fragrant. Late midseason. 1—2—3.

Duchess D' Orleans (Guerin). Large guard carmine-pink petals, with center of soft pink, interspersed with salmon. Tall grower. An exceedingly good, perfect bloomer and very pretty flower. One of the most desirable of the low cost sorts. 2—3.

Golden Harvest (Rosenfield). A charming combination of blush, yellow and rose; center petals tipped carmine. Similar to Jeanne d' Arc. Very free bloomer, fragrant and fine all-around flower. 1—2—3.


Mad. Lébon (Calot). Very large full blooms, tall erect grower. Petals broad; brilliant cherry pink, intermixed with narrow salmon petals; silvery reflex. Late midseason. 2—3.

Marie Lemoine
(See Section F)
Section C

1 year, 60 cents; 2 year, $1.00; 3 year, $1.75 each.

Each variety can be supplied this year only in ages indicated by figures following description.

ALBA SULFUREA (Calot). Large, perfectly formed, full, globular flower. Guard petals pure white; center sulphurish yellow. Good habit. Fragrant. 1—2.

ALICE DE JULVECOURT (Pele). Superb, well built, full flower; a combination of rose, blush and cream that is most charming; center petals beautifully edged carmine; flowers in early midseason. 1—2.

DUKE OF WELLINGTON (Calot). Guard petals white, very broad; center petals sulphur white, narrow and very full. The large, finely formed flowers come on long, firm stems, making it an ideal sort for cutting. A good free bloomer; deliciously fragrant. Late midseason. 1—2—3.

FESTIVA MAXIMA (Miellez). Very large and full pure white flowers, with few center petals usually tipped with blood red spots. A very vigorous grower with massive foliage, flowers coming on long, stiff stems. Fragrant, early, and blooms most abundantly. Perhaps the very best all-around white we possess. It is certainly the most popular. 1—2—3.

FLORAL TREASURE (Rosenfield). Very delicate salmon pink with green heart. Rosy tinge on first opening. Good upright grower and bloomer. Flower large and full, foliage light green. A charming flower where delicacy of coloring is desired, and very popular among the florists. 1—2—3.

JEANNE D’ARC (Calot). Soft pink, sulphur-white and rose; center spotted carmine. A unique and charming combination of colors. Moderately strong grower, but a sure and very free bloomer, flowers invariably coming perfect. The most popular of the tri-colored sorts. 1—2—3.

LA TULIPE (Calot). Flesh pink, shading to ivory white, center petals tipped and outer petals striped with carmine. Large, very fragrant, globular flower, borne on long, stiff stems; very strong grower. Very distinct and desirable. Late midseason. 1—2—3.

MONS. BOUCHARLAT AINE (Calot). Bright lilaceous pink with silvery border. Very full compact flower. 1—2.

NEC PLUS ULTRA (Miellez). Fresh rose pink shaded with lively pink. Fine, large bloom on long stems. 3.

SULPHUREA (Lemen). Large, globular, sulphur-white bloom. 1—2.

Section D

1 year, 75 cents; 2 year, $1.25; 3 year, $2.25 each.

Each variety can be supplied this year only in ages indicated by figures following description.

DUCHESS DE NEMOURS (Calot). Guard petals white; center lemon-yellow with greenish reflex. Large, cup-shaped, full bloom. Among all peonies there is nothing so exquisitely chaste as this variety in a half-open state. A good, free, perfect bloomer; delicately fragrant. Splendid cut flower. One of our prime favorites. (See cut). 1—2—3.

EDOUARD ANDRÉ (Mechin). Deep, brilliant, crimson red, with metallic reflex, showing golden yellow stamens. A globular-shaped bloom of great effect; early. 1—2.

LOUISE RENAULT (Crousse). Very large and full bloom, petals very broad. Color unique—a solid slatish pink. Fragrance very spicy and the most delightfully refreshing of all Peonies. Good habit and stems. Blooms late. 1—2—3.


MAD. CHAUMY (Calot). Medium large, very full flower, beautifully formed. Silky petals, soft pink shaded with bright rose. Slightly drooping, graceful habit. Blooms late. 1—2—3.


MARIE JACQUIN (?). Glossy, flesh white with rosy tinge to bud. Exquisitely beautiful semi-full cupped flower. With its wealth of golden stamens in center, this flower suggests our native pond lily. On very strong growths the flower often fills up to center. Fragrance very rich and languorous. Very distinct. Midseason. (See cut on cover). 1—2—3.


MATHILDE DE ROSENECK (Crousse). Exceedingly tall grower and good late bloomer. Flower extremely large and full. Color flesh pink, shaded with chamois and delicately edged carmine. 1—2.

MODELE DE PERFECTION (Crousse). Immense, well and evenly formed flower. Color flesh pink, marbled with bright rose deepening in center. Flower opens cup shaped, then develops to high pointed center which afterward opens up making a very high built-up flower. Good erect habit, strong stems and a prodigious bloomer. Very distinct and desirable. (See cut). 1—2—3.

MODESTE GUERIN (Guerin). Large, anemone, ball-shaped bloom, perfectly built. Bright lilac carmine pink. Splendid habit and foliage. A good one. 2—3.

RUBRA SUPERBA (Richardson). Deep, rich, brilliant crimson. Large full flower, strong grower. Blooms very late. The very best late crimson sort we have. Blooms when nearly all other peonies are gone. Good bloomer on established plants, but does not do much the first year or two. 1—2.

Section E

1 year, $1.00; 2 year, $1.60; 3 year, $2.75 each.

Each variety can be supplied this year only in ages indicated by figures following description.

ATROSANGUINEA (Calot). Large, moderately full, flat bloom. Color deep scarlet-purple, tinged with violet. Bright golden-yellow stamens showing through flower. 1—2—5.

CARNEA TRIUMPHANS (Guerin). Large, full flower; guard petals broad, flesh-pink. Center well filled with pale yellow
Modele de Perfection
(See Section D)
nicely fringed petals, interspersed with flesh and blotched with crimson. Strong tall grower; fragrance very agreeable. Early midseason. 1—2.

COURONNE D' OR (Calot). Very large and full, imbricated flower of superb form. Color white, reflecting yellow; center petals bordered with carmine; golden stamens showing through and lighting up flower. Solidly and perfectly built from edge to center. Fragrant, a good grower and reliable bloomer, it is, in my opinion, the attainment of perfection in the Peony. (See cut). 1—2.

MAD. BARILLET-DESCAMPS (Calot). Very tender pink, bordered with white and shaded with lively silvery tints. Golden stamens reflected throughout flower. An immense, full ball
of silk and satin, very sweetly perfumed. Tall grower with very distinct broad foliage. 1—2—3.

MAD. BUCQUET (Dessert). Very pretty, perfectly shaped bloom; color dark velvety amaranth. One of the darkest peonies in cultivation. Good upright habit. 1.

MAD. CROUSSE (Calot). Extremely large and full flower. Snow white, edged in center with bright carmine. One of the most habitually fragrant of peonies. Beautiful both in bud and open flower, and coming on good, strong stems, it is most valuable for cut and general purposes. Blooms late. 1—2—3.

MAD. DE GALHAI (Crousse). Large imbricated bloom; very soft, glossy, flesh pink, shaded with transparent salmon. Late. 2—3.

MAD. DE VATRY (Guerin). Large, perfectly formed blooms, outer petals clear flesh; yellowish center, changing to sulphur-white, marked with carmine. Fine. 1—2—3.


MAD. EMILE GALLE (Crousse). Large, cup-shaped, imbricated flower, soft lilac; center shaded soft flesh and cream. Very fresh coloring. Late. Extra. 1—2.

MEISSONIER (Crousse). Very brilliant crimson. Full flower, coming late midseason on very wiry stems. Foliage remarkably narrow. Color is wonderfully rich and brilliant, but habit is poor. 1—2—3.


MONS. KRELAGE (Crousse). Very full, enormous flower. Bright currant red with amaranth heart. Splendid habit. Late. 1—2.

ROSE D'AMOUR (Calot). Large full flower. Soft fleshy pink, very fresh and delicate. 1—2.

SARAH BERNHARDT (Dessert). Broad guard petals, delicate rose pink. Center petals short, straw-yellow, with tufts of whitish pink. Habit ideal, flowers are borne on stiff upright stems. Fragrance delicate and agreeable. Blooms young and abundantly. The first of the Albiflora sorts to flower. 1—2.

SOLPATARE (Calot). Guard petals pure white, center petals narrow, sulphur yellow. Large, full, fragrant flower on long upright stems. Exquisitely beautiful. The true Calot variety of this name is one of the most valuable peonies we possess. In my opinion it leads all of that most charming class—white and yellow. 4 year, $1.00; 5 year, $5.00 each. (No small sizes).

TRIOMPHE DE L'EXPOSITION DE LILLE (Calot). Large, imbricated bloom of finest shape. Fleshy, soft pink with white reflex; carmined center. 1—2—2.

Section F

1 year, $1.25; 2 year, $2.00; 3 year, $3.00 each.

Each variety can be supplied this year only in ages indicated by figures following description.

ALFRED DE MUSSET (Crousse). Well formed, large, fleshy-white flower, shaded pale salmon, with rosy center. Very fresh coloring. 1—2—3.
MARIE LEMOINE (Calot). Enormous sulphur-white, full flower, delicately shaded chamois, with narrow carmine edge. The massive bloom comes late on a very stout, erect stem of medium height. A sort the Peony enthusiast raves over, as well he may. (See cut). 1—2.


Marechal MacMahon
(See Section D)
Section G

1 year, $1.50; 2 year, $3.00; 3 year, $5.00 each.

Each variety can be supplied this year only in ages indicated by figures following description.

ALBERT CROUSSE (Crousse). Immense, very full, convex bloom; fresh salmon-pink; center shaded with clear pink. A remarkable variety. 1—2.


GLOIRE DE CHAS. GOMBAULT (Gombault). Pretty globular flower, extra full. Outer petals fleshy pink; center petals narrower and of a clear salmon-flesh color, shaded with apricot, with tuft of pink petals striped with carmine. Very showy and beautiful mani-colored variety. 1—2.

LIVINGSTONE (Crousse). Bears same relation to late pinks as Marie Lemoine does to the whites—peerless. Very large, full evenly formed and shaded bloom. Color beautiful soft pink. Good erect grower and bloomer. Stems tall and stout. Reliable, young bloomer. Without a peer or fault. 1—2—3.

MAD. LOISE MERE (Calot). Large, flesh pink changing to fleshy white. Large petals of great substance, few in center delicately bordered carmine. Flower lit up with small bright yellow petals. Very stiff erect stems. Late. 1—2—3.

A Few Choice Tidbits for the Connoisseur

Not more than one of each sort to a customer.

ADOLPH ROSSEAU (Dessert). Deep brilliant red with metallic reflex. Flower very large on tall stiff stems. Ideal habit. 1 year, $2.00; 2 year, $3.50.

AVALANCHE (Crousse). Very large and full milky-white flower of perfect form, reflecting yellow from base of petals; few center petals very delicately edged with carmine. Fine, strong grower, good bloomer and delightfully fragrant. Really superb. 1 year, $3.00.

CLAIRE DUBOIS (Crousse). Very large globular flower, very full. Convex, tufted; petals lacinated and incurved. Color of the finest original pink, glossy reflex. A real gem. 1 year, $2.00; 2 year, $3.50.

GROVER CLEVELAND (Terry). Brilliant crimson, very large, full and finely fringed. Color peculiarly rich and glowing. An American production of very great merit. 1 year, $2.00.

MARGUERITE GERARD (Crousse). Immense, flat, full flower. Flesh, changing to soft flesh-white, with creamy white center. Rare variety. 1 year, $3.00.

Extra Large 4 and 5 Year Clumps

Edulis Superba (Sec. A) .......................................................... $1.75
Queen Victoria (Sec. A) ...................................................... 1.50
Alexander Dumas (Sec. B) .................................................... 2.00
Dr. Brettonneau (Sec. B) ...................................................... 1.75
Duchess d' Orleans (Sec. B) .................................................. 2.00
Festiva Maxima (Sec. C) ...................................................... 2.50
La Tulipe (Sec. C) .............................................................. 3.00
Duchess de Nemours (Sec. D) .............................................. 3.00
Meissonnier (Sec. D) ........................................................ 3.50
Solfatare (Superb) ............................................................. See Sec. E
Peony Collections

These are made up from our best stock and are especially recommended to anyone desiring a small collection and who is unacquainted with the merits of the different sorts. They are selected to cover a wide range of color and season. The Standard Collection embraces the best among the low-cost sorts. The Royal Collection is made up of gems of the first water, and will make a Peony enthusiast of anyone possessing an appreciation of the beautiful in nature.

**STANDARD COLLECTION.**

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<td>Madam Lebon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Festiva Maxima</td>
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The set for ........................................... 4.50 7.65

**ROYAL COLLECTION.**

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The set for ........................................... 9.20 15.55

**Mixed Peonies**

We offer these in strong divisions only. They are made up from varieties where the labels have been lost and such sorts as we have found unworthy of a place in our select collection—often because they too closely resemble some pre-existing variety. Planted in an inconspicuous place, they will be found very useful for quantities of cut blooms. Every root is from a named variety. $10.00 per 100; $5.00 per 50; $3.00 per 25.
Miscellaneous Peonies

P. tenuifolia FLORA PLENA. Very full, bright crimson-red. A superb sort. (The Tenuifolia species is the first peony to bloom; is a dwarf grower, with very delicate fern-like foliage). 1 year, 50c.; 2 year, 75c.

P. tenuifolia SIMPLEX. Very showy, bright crimson, single flowers. 1 year, 35c.; 2 year, 60c.

P. officinalis RUBRA PLENA. Large, full, globular, bright crimson bloom. The flower of our grandmothers' gardens. Blooms here in late May, following the Tenuifolia and preceding the Albiflora classes. Used very largely on Decoration Day. 1 year, 25c.; 2 year, 50c.

P. officinalis ROSEA. Same as preceding one, except in color, which is a bright pink. 1 year, 30c.; 2 year, 60c.; 3 year, 85c.

Couronne d'Or

(See Section E.)
Tree Peonies

This is a remarkable species developed from P. Moutan, a native of China and Japan. In habit of growth it is not unlike a deciduous shrub. The growths are short and stocky, the plant, slow of growth, eventually attains a height of four or more feet and of large circumference. The foliage is quite distinct, and the immense flowers, which usually appear some two weeks ahead of the Chinese Herbaceous class, are most remarkable for their superb size and gorgeous colorings. Splendid for grouping or as specimen plants on lawns. While a hardy plant, it will be found desirable to give it some protection in very cold latitudes.

It may safely be said that in all floriculture there is nothing so impressive as a well developed bush of the Tree Peony in full bloom.

Plant so that buds are above ground, and protect with litter.

All shoots springing from the root should be rubbed off.

Varieties

I offer only a few varieties, embracing the cream of those in cultivation to-day.

All 2 Year Stock.

BIJOU DE CHUSAN. Very large bloom, transparent glossy white, very lightly shaded purple; silky petals, mixed with golden stamens. $1.50 each.

CAROLINA D'ITALIE. Very large, full bloom, fine form; very fresh flesh, nankin color, salmon reflex. Very floriferous and one of the very best of its color. $1.25.

COMTESSE DE TIDER. Very large, full bloom; bright salmon, with satiny white border. Very floriferous, $1.00.

JEANNE D'ARC. Very pretty imbricated flower, chamois and salmon, with bright copper colored reflex. Very good bloomer. $1.50.

MADAME STUART-LOW. Large cup-shaped flower; bright, rich salmon-red, with broad silvery border and golden stamens. Color of exceptional brilliance. Very floriferous. $1.50.

MLLE. MARIA CLOSON. Large, full bloom of perfect shape; broad petals, glossy white, lightly shaded clear violet. $1.25.

REINE ELISABETH. Very large, full bloom; bright salmon-pink of exceptional brilliance. Vigorous and very floriferous. The Queen of all Tree Peonies. $1.25.

SOUVENIR DE DUCHER. Large, full, globular bloom; fine dark violet, with velvety purple reflex. Vigorous and floriferous. A superb sort. $2.00.

SOUVENIR DE MAD. KNORR. Large flower, soft flesh, slightly tinted salmon, border of petals frequently shaded and marbled with purple. $1.50.
# Order Sheet

**Geo. H. Peterson, Fair Lawn, N. J.**

**PLEASE USE THIS ORDER SHEET**

<table>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quantity</th>
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**Amount Enclosed**
"A Little Book About Roses"

is the title of my annual Rose catalogue, published February 1st. It is a unique and beautiful booklet which has found a warm place in the hearts of thousands of rose-lovers the world over. It represents a business that, for quality, stands alone, and even we were surprised at the avalanche of orders it brought us the past spring, and which cleaned us of stock long ere the planting season was over.

My entire time the year round is devoted to the study, cultivation and shipping to various parts of the world these two flowers, and if the enthusiastic testimony of thousands of successful amateurs is a fair criterion, this little book is fulfilling its mission beyond all my fondest hopes.

It is sent free to intending purchasers—to anyone on receipt of 10 cents in coin or stamps.

The present edition is exhausted, but we will be glad to enter your name for 1909.
Not as pretty a picture as our older fields would have made, but just to show you what even two-year stock will do in field.

(Planted October 25, November 3, 1966. Photo taken June 1967.)

A SMALL PORTION OF ONE OF OUR TWO-YEAR PEONY FIELDS.