

PAEONIA

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LETTER FROM: Dorothy Hamilton, Lake Hayes, No. 1 R.D.
Queenstown, New Zealand

Dear Chris,

12th October, 1985

Have just received the latest copy of *Paeonia*, and as usual we have both found the articles very interesting. It does make us realize just how little we know, but then, we are enjoying the challenge of finding out!

The seed we received from you a year ago has I'm afraid had anything but orthodox treatment, but we are pleased with what we have been able to plant out so far. We reckon we must have had 60-70% germination, as so far we have lined out approximately 600 seedlings. Upon receipt we put all the seed in the fridge while we wondered what to do with it. We couldn't find any articles on seed sowing in the southern hemisphere with fresh seed coming from the northern hemisphere. So after only a few days, Bruce sowed some of each variety in flats 2" deep x 24" x 15". Then after a few more days we thought we'd just plant the balance direct in the garden. A section was sprayed for weeds and the seed sown at the beginning of October, 1984. By early January, 1985, I couldn't resist having a "poke" and found a lot of seed putting down a root. Then we really upset everything by deciding we would sell the property we have and move on to a new 10 acre block where we would really have enough room to grow as many plants as we like. So at the end of January we scooped up as much seed as we could find, potted a lot into individual $\frac{3}{4}$ pint pots, and the balance into the large flats.

Come September we found that it had made no difference which way they had been treated — the germination seemed to be the same. Seed that was left behind in the garden we lifted and transplanted, as we did with trays and pots — all have an easily handled leaf stem and mainly a good long root, the poorest being in the flats which we put down to lack of depth for the root to go down in; some appeared sort of calloused at the roots. However, a month later the seedlings are growing beautifully with very few deaths amongst them. As the balance in the trays develop to an easily handled stage, we line them out. All newly planted seedlings we keep covered with shade cloth until they are well established.

To date the lactiflora mix and '**Roy Pehrson's Best Yellow**' (is this herbaceous?) have been the slowest to germinate. Quad F₂ x '**Moonrise**', '**Serenade**' F₃, tetraploids peach, pink, white, Dr. Reath's tetraploid mix, Reath's 26, 27, 28,' Quad F₃ x '**Silver Dawn**' F₃, and '**Vista**' x '**Archangel**' have given some lovely strong plants. I suppose its early days yet to know what percentage we will get to grow on, but at present it all looks very promising. Then, of course, we have to wait a few seasons to see what we get in the quality of the flowers.

The tubers we received from Roy Klehm last November are looking really great — we should get flowers from most of them this season. Out of a consignment of 300 plants, including 27 tree peonies, we appear to have lost only one tree peony, '**Black Pirate**', so feel we couldn't do much better than that. We have another consignment at present going through customs, which we hope to plant this week.

We have a very deep black soil — originally swamp land — that has been drained for most of the peonies, but one block of older plants that we have obtained from private gardens round about are on a much more gravelly soil needing a lot of humus. Our ground freezes to a depth of about 4 inches for maybe six or seven weeks in midwinter and I suppose our summer temperatures will be up to about 90°F, so we have a pretty temperate climate. Incidentally, to the best of my knowledge, we would be the most southern growers in the world, being slightly more southern than the Elworthys in Temora. I say this only as a matter of interest, not as a boast.

All in all, we feel poised for an exciting period with plants all showing a lot of buds — I'd think maybe another 2-3 weeks before they're really flowering. The only plants in bloom at present being Mlokosewitschii.

We will be forever grateful for the help we were given in Mansfield by members of the A.P.S. — some day we may get back — we would understand so much more now. We hope any members coming to N.Z. would look us up. Sorry this is such a long-winded letter, but perhaps some of it may be of interest to your readers.

Would you be able to send us some more seed. We would love some tree peony (suffruticosa) seed. Have enclosed money — let us know if it's not enough.

Kind regards,

Dorothy Hamilton

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8th of October, 1985

Joachim Langfeld
Franziusweg 27
1000 Berlin 49
West Germany

Dear Mr. Laning,

I just want to tell that I got very beautiful seedlings from the seeds you sent me some years ago. I am very sorry that the limited space here does not allow extended breeding programs

I include some seeds from a magnificent tree paeony which could / should be *P. s. var. papaveracea*. The plant fits to the description in the last Bulletin; the Berlin Bot. Garden got it at the turn of this century from China.

I would be very happy to have some (very few!) new seeds from you, if possible from unusual crosses (or species). I get here very much seed from my seedlings and I distribute it (as well as seedlings which must have been spared due to the building of a new house) all over Germany with the help of the seed exchange of the GdS (a 5% edition of the RHS).

I include a check to help with the postage. Best thanks in advance.

Yours very sincerely,

Joachim Langfeld

THE PROBABLE ORIGIN OF ORIENTAL GOLD AS A SOURCE OF YELLOW FLOWERS

Nancy Ann Halas

(to help put the writings of Nancy Ann Halas into proper perspective, see Will McLewin's "The Taxonomy of Babel - Comments on earlier letter on P. brownii." in Paeonia Vol. 25, No. 3, July 1995.)

Peony Sessiliflora (pod parent) x Peony Albiflora (pollen Parent) = Oriental Gold

Oriental Gold (pod parent) x 'Claire de Lune' (pollen Parent) = 'Goldilocks'

Above is the family structure of 'Goldilocks', which is a double yellow (Yellowish Green actually) dwarf peony. The leaves are bluish Green in color.

Stern in his pages 108-109 describes Peony Sessiliflora as being a member of the Mollis Group. The leaf structure is similar to the Mollis family except that it is a distinct species because of the absence of red in the pigmentation of the plant.

This species is one that Ben Gilbertson spent a great deal of time hybridizing. It is a very difficult plant to obtain fertile seeds from.

The leaves of 'Oriental Gold' greatly resemble the crease of a man's fedora hat, which is characteristic of the leaf structure of Peony Mollis and Peony Sessiliflora. It probably is very hard to obtain Peony Sessiliflora, but we do have the resulting hybrids of it. 'Oriental Gold' might give the impression that it is a warm weather plant. That is not true at all since it thrives in cold climates even North Dakota. While 'Oriental Gold' is a tall plant, 'Goldilocks' is not since it is dwarfish in my experience. I find that these plants need to be free of competition from other peonies or weeds or grass. The root structure is not invasive and that is part of the problem of the plant in that more vigor is needed to hybridize succeeding generations. Of them all, 'Goldilocks' probably has the prettiest flower, however I have found it to be shy flowering. It doesn't bloom for me every year.

I would think that Peony sessiliflora should be renamed Peony Gilbertsonii since Mr. Gilbertson dedicated his time to the furthering of the merits of the plant.

In Volume 56 of the 1931 issue of the Royal Horticultural Society on page 73 describes P. Sessiliflora as to be found in Europe of unknown origin. It flowers at the end of May about 18 inches high. It is quite distinct by its compact green foliage. It is the only species with bright green foliage when it comes up first. It is so distinct in the way of growth and flowers that it appears to be a species.

We find the plant imparts a greenish yellow color to the flowers in hybrids as 'Oriental Gold' and 'Goldilocks'.

LETTER FROM: William Adee, 112 West Clayton Street
Waukegan, IL 60085

2 October, 1985

Dear Chris,

Enclosed please find check for a sampling of this year's seeds. Please select from Spoon Petals, '**Walter Marx**', '**Primevere**', Quad 4 Quad 3 x '**Moonrise**', Quad 3 x '**Archangel**', and '**Spellbinder**'. The underlined ones are the ones I would most like to have. Any species seeds would be welcome.

I have been meaning to ask you if you have the catalog from Far North Gardens, 16785 Harrison, Livonia, Michigan, 48154. They have wide selection of peony species seeds every year. Their catalog is \$2.00. Last year they had the following: arietina, broteri, cambessidesii, coralina, decora, emodi, japonica, latifolia, lutea, (and var. ludlowii), mlkosewitschii, obovata, paradoxa, potanini (and var. komarovi), russi, suffruticosa, and tenuifolia, anomala, officinalis, peregrina, and veitchii. Each year they change the list somewhat. They also had Japanese imports of plants of obovata if I remember correctly.

The suffruticosa seeds you sent me last winter germinated this past spring. I was terribly pleased with such quick results.

I made weekly trips to Milwaukee's Witnall Park all through the peony season last spring. Their collection is quite marvelous and I made notes. The problem is that so many of them are great and one wants them all. They have a spectacular plant of '**Cream Delight**'. In one corner of the garden was a group of three '**Aviator Lindberg**' that was splendid. The color has some purple cast to it but is very lovely. (Where can one buy it?) Their large specimen of '**Coral Charm**' stopped visitors in their tracks.

Has anyone ever looked into the possibility that '**Mattie LaFuze**' might be tetraploid? All its floral parts seem to be extra heavy. The stem certainly looks tet.

My '**Good Cheer**' flowered for the first time this spring. I have just planted '**Little Dorrit**'. I am collecting seed setters and am hoping for good things.

Best Regards,

Bill Adee

LETTER FROM: Mrs. V.F. Tolomeo, 1624D Shore Rd.
Port Angeles, WA 98362

October 11, 1985

Hello -

Copies of Paeonia and the Bulletins are read and reread and appreciated.

Time to give you some feedback about the seed ('83 and '84) you sent out to inexperienced hands. Mostly because my timing was completely out of sync with Nature's, many of the '83 batch were lost (not for lack of caring or effort). The '84 batch did better. Today I transplanted forty seedlings and was pleased and surprised to see the strong root growth (more should come up next spring from the '84s).

Of today's transplants, I was particularly interested in eight plants which came from a packet you had marked "Don H's 1423." Each of these plants showed three good eye's on the young "crown." In the 6/84 Paeonia you mention the difficulty and desirability of Obovata alba which I understand is one of the progenitors of '**Silver Dawn**'. Perhaps I could contribute something by trying plants which respond well to the English-type climate but tend to fail in colder areas. (I'll try to locate Obovata alba by next fall.)

About my own efforts to produce seeds. Our garden this year had blooming plants of six herbaceous hybrids, six young suffruticosas (planted two years ago) and one '**Age of Gold**' planted here fall of '83 ' and '**Golden Era**' (planted fall of '84). None of the herbaceous produced seed. '**Age of Gold**' is turning into a wide low bush (perhaps 20 stems at ground level, some too immature to have bloomed) and further surprised me by having three, and in one case, four laterals on each bloom stem. Not having any lutea pollen early in the season ('**Age of Gold**' had untested pollen last year but none this year), I used Hana Daijin pollen on the early terminal blossoms. The single blossom of '**Golden Era**' provided pollen for later lateral blooms. One seed apparently developed from the '**Age of Gold**' x Hana Daijin cross and four from the '**Age of Gold**' by '**Golden Era**'. The AofG by HD is somewhat misshapen and slightly smaller than the others. All appear firm and are in moist vermiculite at about 68°. None have yet germinated but I'm hopeful. (In vermiculite since 9/14.)

Enclosed is check for next year's subscription and for whatever seeds you think appropriate.

Sincerely,

Irene Tolomeo

BOOK III - A. P. SAUNDERS' PEONY NOTEBOOK

Editor: Professor Saunders' Book III, the record of species crosses that do not have lactiflora as one parent (he called lactiflora albiflora in his day) is entered here so that anyone interested in more information on any specific species cross can drop me a line and I'll send what information he had gathered. It seems that there is not a whole lot of data in this area of hybridizing, but what there is should be available to anyone who needs it.

- Chris

This is the Third of five "Big Notebooks" compiled by A. P. Saunders covering certain aspects of his work with peonies.

Notebook No. 1 contains records of all the herbaceous hybrids having as one parent P. albiflora (lactiflora) in its many varieties. These "albiflora crosses" comprise the very large majority of the Saunders herbaceous hybrids, including some of his most important ones. Number 1 notebook also contains six pages of Triple and Quadruple crosses; hybrids involving three, or four, species "bloods" in them, respectively.

Notebook No. 3 contains accounts of all the herbaceous hybrids not having P. albiflora in their parentage at all. Books 1 and 3 together, therefore, cover virtually his entire work with the herbaceous peonies.

Notebook No. 2 contains virtually the same information as No. 1, but arranged in a different fashion which seems less convenient or useful. His daughter, Silvia, who had photocopies made through the great kindness of Mr. Walter Pilkington, the Head Librarian, thought it unnecessary to have No. 2 copied.

Notebook No. 4 contains notes on the Japanese Tree Peonies and on the so-called Lutea Hybrids (Tree Peony Hybrids). Since these notes were kept in a far more casual way than the records on the herbaceous crosses, it was felt that they do not impart information that would be at all useful to a Hybridist, such as: what plants were used; where they had been obtained; etc. Therefore, No. 4 was not photocopied.

No. 5 was a workbook containing a mass of miscellaneous material: some plans, some work on the Species, etc. Not useful enough to another person to bother copying.

(This introduction was written in June, 1969.)

anomala	x	tenulfolia
"	x	mlokosewitschi
arietina	x	decora
"	x	macrophylla
"	x	mlokosewitschi
"	x	officinalis (several forms)
"	x	Otto Foebel
"	x	triternata
"	x	willmottiae

bakeri	x	Mloko
"	x	officinalis
beresowskyi	x	emodi (Late Windflower)
"	x	Mloko
broteri	x	emodi
"	x	Mloko
"	x	triternata
browin	x	Veitchi x Otto Froebel
corallina	x	macrophylla
"	x	Mloko & reciprocal
"	x	officinalis
"	x	tenuifolia
"	x	woodwardi
coriacea	x	officinalis
corsica	x	macrophylla
"	x	mlokosewitshi
"	x	triternata
cretica	x	Mloko
"	x	officinalis
"	x	Otto Froebel
decora	x	macrophylla
"	x	microcarpa
"	x	officinalis
"	x	paregrina
"	x	veitchi
emodi	x	mloko
"	x	Otto Froebel
"	x	tenui
"	x	veitchi (early Windflower)
false lobata	x	mloko
"	x	macrophylla
"	x	wittmannianna
tenui hybrida	x	wittmannianna
lobata	x	officinalis
		F ₂
macrophylla	x	microcarpa
"	x	mlokosewitchii
"	x	officinalis
		F ₂
		F ₃ and back-crosses
"	x	Otto Froebel
		F ₂
		F ₃ and back- crosses
"	x	russi major
"	x	willmottiae
"	x	Wittananiana
		F ₂

microcarpa	x	officinalis
"	x	tenuifolia hybrida
"	x	willmottiae
"	x	wittmanniana
mlokosewitschi	x	obovata japonica
"	x	officinalis
"	x	Otto Froebel
"	x	peregrina
"	x	Russi major
"	x	tenuifolia
		reciprocal
		F ₂ mloko x tenui
		F ₂ tenui x mloko
		F ₃ mloko x tenui
		F ₃ tenui x mloko
"	x	tenui rosea
"	x	triternata
"	x	Trollius 'Orange Prince'
"	x	veitchi
		F ₂
"	x	wittmanniana
"	x	woodwardi
obovata japonica	x	tenuifolia
officinalis	x	officinalis (various forms)
"	x	Otto Froebel
"	x	peregrina
"	x	tenuifolia hybrida
"	x	veitchi
"	x	willmottiae
		F ₂
"	x	wittmanniana
		F ₂
		reciprocal
Otto Froebel	x	tenuifolia
"	x	tenui hybrida
		F ₂
"	x	tenuifolia latifolia
"	x	triternata
"	x	veitchi
"	x	willmottiae
"	x	wittmanniana
"	x	woodwardi
ozieri alba	x	tenuifolia

tenuifolia	x	tenuifolia various forms
"	x	triternata
"	x	veitchi
"	x	woodwardi
tenui hybrid	x	wittmanniana
veitchi	x	woodwardi
"	x	willmottiae
willmottiae	x	wittmanniana

SEEDS SEEDS SEEDS SEEDS SEEDS SEEDS SEEDS SEEDS SEEDS SEEDS

A batch of seeds was recently received from Larry Wier, Buchanan, Michigan. Write to me if you wish to have seeds sent to you. Here are the different types of seeds:

'Kate Barry' - open pollinated

'Moon of Nippon' - open pollinated

Red Japanese of unknown identity - open pollinated (a substituted variety from Smirnow)

'Gay Paree' - open pollinated

Pink Japanese tree peony - unknown identity, probably self-pollinated

'Virginia Dare' - open pollinated

'President Lincoln' - open pollinated

Mixture of unknown identities - some doubles and semi-doubles, etc.

'Prince of Darkness'

'Midnight Sun'

Unknown Pink Double

Maybe - **'Ama-no-sode'**

- Chris

See page 3 of this issue — Seeds that Joachim Langfeld sent (about 25) of *P. s.* var. *papaveracea* placed in vermiculite are germinating nicely. I would think this is a species we call Rock's Variety. Thanks!

- Chris