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The usual scarcity of hardy summer bloom can be greatly reduced by planting Hybrid Hemerocallis. They provide an unfailing supply of yellow for garden display and cut-flowers. See half-price offer on page 3.

Return Postage Guaranteed by
Farr Nursery Co., Weiser Park, Pa.

Section 435 $\frac{1}{2}$ P. L. & R.

Miss Harman

~~E. C. Aucher,~~
Principal Horticulturist
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BETTER PLANTS—February, 1932
Tree Peony Edition



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BETTER PLANTS and PLANS

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God's first gift to man was a Beautiful Garden

VOL. X

FEBRUARY, 1932

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FEB 23 1932

NUMBER 2



Single specimen Tree Peony Banksi measuring 4 feet wide and almost 5 feet high. A Tree Peony in Norfolk, England, was 80 years old in 1906, and bore 400 flowers from 8 to 9 inches in diameter.

The Tree Peony—"King of Flowers"

Many years ago the late Bertrand H. Farr set out to make Tree Peonies available to the average garden as well as to the large estate. We are proud to have shared and continued his ambition; to have developed methods which enable us to produce new plants in quantity, at greatly reduced cost; and to present a comprehensive list of Tree Peonies.

History. In the sixth century the Chinese distinguished between Herbaceous Peonies and Tree Peonies by naming the former Sho Yo and the latter Moutan; Moutan were commonly called Hwa Wang (King of Flowers), and the herbaceous, or Sho Yo, were called Hwa Leang (Ministers to the King).

Tree Peonies are native to China, and written Chinese references date back to 536 A.D. In 724 A.D. they were imported into Japan, and in 1787 into England. Between 600 and 900 A.D. all Tree Peonies were under the protection of the Emperor of China, and a certain variety sold for 100 ounces of gold. In France, \$460 was the price per plant in 1789.

Distinction. Tree Peonies differ from Herbaceous or Common Peonies in that their blooms are more vivid in color, usually much larger, and with beautifully crinkled, crêpe-paper-like petals. They bloom several weeks earlier than other Peonies and the plants are finer rooted, having woody branches, like shrubs, developing into large and old specimens bearing hundreds of blooms.

We know of plants in Berks County, Pennsylvania, which must be at least fifty years old. A Kentucky customer wrote us last year about seeing them in the gardens of Kentucky mountaineers—"but try to buy them; they will them to their children."

Culture. Tree Peonies are scarce only because it is hard to propagate them. Once produced, they are hardy as lilacs. During the first winter after planting, a 4- to 5-inch mulch of clean straw or hay should be placed around them after the ground is frozen, so as to prevent heaving in spring. We recommend this only because they are valuable and not because they are any less hardy than most common shrubs. Average soil of good lime-content is sufficient. Feed with Vigoro; do not use manure. Keep cultivated and watered. Plant several inches deeper than they were in nursery row.

Shipment. Tree Peonies may be safely shipped and transplanted during spring or fall. Approximate periods are March 15 to April 15; September 1 to November 15.



A two-year-old Tree Peony just dug from nursery row. Leaves removed.

1932 List

We are now able to include in this list a crop of Japanese Tree Peonies which matured last fall. These are distinctly single to semi-double, with clear, intense colors and crêpe-like petals. All plants here offered are two years old, field-grown. Trueness to description and safe arrival are guaranteed. Plants are returnable at our expense if in any way unsatisfactory.

SEE DISCOUNTS, PAGE 2

- | | |
|---|---------|
| Akashi-gata. Semi-double. Sal- | Each |
| mon..... | \$10 00 |
| Banksi. Double. Pink..... | 6 00 |
| Gosho-Zakura. Single. Shell- | |
| pink..... | 6 00 |
| Haku-raku-ten. Semi-double. | |
| White..... | 7 50 |
| Iro-no-seki. Single. Flesh..... | 6 00 |
| Iwato-kagami. Almost full | |
| double. Pink..... | 6 00 |
| Kin-Fukurin. Single. Bright | |
| crise..... | 7 50 |
| Michishiba. Single. Rose-pink... | 6 00 |
| Moutan. Single. Purple-red..... | 3 00 |
| Ruriban. Semi-double. Purple... | 7 50 |
| Shin-akebono. Almost full | |
| double. Flesh..... | 6 00 |
| Tama-fuyo. Single. Clear pink... | 6 00 |
| Tama-Usagi. Single. White..... | 7 50 |
| Tsukasa-jishi. Single. Lavender. | 6 00 |
| La Lorraine. Double. Clear golden | |
| yellow. 2-yr. plants \$35; 5-yr. plants \$65. | |
| Souv. de Maxime Cornu. Double. | |
| Yellow with purple fringes. 2-yr. | |
| plants \$25; 5-yr. plants \$65. | |

Less 10 per cent for cash with order
Also 1932 discounts, page 2

SEE SPECIAL DISCOUNTS FOR 1932—PAGE 2, COLUMN 3



An outdoor living-room for C. V. Gough, Akron, Ohio. Farr Landscape Department designed and planted the Gough home in 1921, and the present new home, again, in 1927. Photo by Gough.



A section of Arthur A. Chalmers' gardens, Amsterdam, N. Y. Farr plants repeatedly for ten years. Photo by Farr.

February Garden Gossip

Tree Peonies

Tree Peonies have been high-priced because it has been exceedingly costly and difficult to produce new plants. Once produced, they are simple and hardy to maintain.

Why Winter Spraying?

Spraying for scale insects is preferably done during the winter or early spring. The spray, to be effective, must be so strong that if one waits until the buds begin to swell, or new growth gets under way, real harm will be done to the stock itself. A winter spray commonly used for this purpose is Sunoco Spray Oil. Shrubs and trees 1-20; Evergreens 1-30.

Sprouted Peonies

The mild winter has, in some cases, caused Peonies to sprout and lilacs to leaf. The harm will probably not be serious but an insulating 4-inch mulch of clean hay, straw, or excelsior may be advisable. Apply only when the ground is solidly frozen, at the next opportunity. This will minimize further sprouting in case of more mild weather and will tend to protect the tender sprouts of Peonies.

Pruning "ABC's"

Purposes. (a) To rejuvenate the plant; (b) to maintain a desired size or form.

Nature of pruning. (a) Removing injured, dead, or diseased branches; (b) removing branches which conflict, cross, or rub; (c) thin out to admit air or sunlight; (d) cut out sprouts or suckers which shoot from the ground; or cut out old canes and let the new sprouts take their place.

Pruning periods. Prune spring-flowering shrubs immediately after the flowers fall; summer or fall-blooming shrubs during late winter, before the flower-buds have formed. If a restricted or compact growth on evergreens is desired, prune during June, just after the plants start into growth.



Gateway to gardens of Harold Bullard, Fairfield, Conn. Landscape plan and materials by Farr on three successive orders since 1928.

Roadside Butchery

Some day it may, happily, be the rule to find public utility companies following the lead of the concern which conducts a course in tree-pruning for its linemen. It shouldn't be so difficult to show the average employee how a shade tree should be pruned and how passageways for wires can be provided without sacrificing the beauty and health of roadside plantings.

The question is, if people don't do more than they have done in this direction, and don't do it faster, will there be any trees left to save when both public and commercial sentiment arrive at the realization that they are worth saving?

Mice, Moles, Chipmunks

Mice, moles, and chipmunks account for most cases of disappearing tulip bulbs. For mice, buy "mice seed" from your seed-store. Place it in a number of small boxes, with holes which can be entered by mice but not by birds; use it all the year in the garden. Mice are usually more of a garden pest than is realized.

Moles are usually a sign of insect-infested soil. Keep open soil well cultivated and buy special mole-traps for other places. Some gardeners are able to use ordinary mouse-traps effectively when set in the runways after carefully opening them. Fasten the trap to a block of heavy wood or metal.

Chipmunks usually have a warm spot in our hearts, but if they become an epidemic, various gases can be forced into their burrows with fatal results. Write to U. S. Department of Agriculture for more details about garden-rodent extermination.

Warning

Many trees planted last fall will die this winter because the winds have shaken them loose during moist and unfrozen January—unless immediate and painstaking steps are taken to apply more soil and guy-wires.

Garden Club Lecture Service

Our reduced rates for Garden Lectures continue until the rush of spring shipping begins—usually March 15.

Rates, until March 15, \$5, plus travel expenses.

Subjects, with colored slides, are Peonies; Tree Peonies; Irises; Spring Bulbs; Perennials; Rock-Gardens; The Small Garden; Landscaping.

No engagements desired after March 15.

1932 Discounts

We are using our 1931 prices, with discounts, for 1932. If you do not have a copy of the 1931 Catalog, please ask for one. If you have a copy, please note the following discounts on the cover.

5 per cent on orders exceeding \$2.99
10 per cent on orders exceeding \$9.99
15 per cent on orders exceeding \$24.99

10 per cent for cash with order until March 15; 3 per cent after that

Examples. During February, a cash order amounting to \$3 will cost **\$2.57**; a \$10 order, **\$8.10**; a \$25 order, **\$19.13**.

MORE THAN SATISFIED WITH FARR LILACS

Mannsville, N. Y., October 24, 1931

In 1917, after visiting Highland Park, Rochester, N. Y., I thought I would have a lilac garden of my own. The next spring I bought several varieties. Later, I was given your address by the Assistant Supt. of Rochester Parks, and have since been buying of your firm. Now I have 119 varieties of lilacs, mostly from your nursery, and am more than well pleased with them and your dealing with me. Nearly all have bloomed the same or the next year after I received them.—GEORGE STAPLIN, JR.

FOR 15 YEARS

I take pleasure in expressing my entire satisfaction with all transactions with your firm during the past 15 years. All my purchases have been satisfactory, and I do not now recall any plants received from you that have failed to grow and give satisfaction. Same applies to bulbs received from you. During the year, five flower shows were held in this city and I had the pleasure of receiving prizes at each show. I can honestly say from my experience that you are justified in the use of the title "Better Plants—By Farr."—FREDERICK SCHOLES, Utah.

