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HYBRID PEONIES

A. P. SAUNDERS
Clinton
New York

1944



I OFFER in this list chiefly a selection of my peony hybrids, many of which represent strains that are new to horticulture. These plants are still so recent that stocks are very limited and I shall have to accept your order on the condition that stock is still available.

Groups of these hybrids have been shown at peony exhibitions during the last ten years or so and wherever shown they have excited much favorable comment and received marks of recognition including many medals and certificates.

Those who have bought named varieties from me in the past will please note certain changes of names in the present list and make the appropriate alterations in their labels. These changes have been made to avoid confusion with certain older varieties mostly in the group of Chinese peonies.

The strains offered below are arranged roughly by season, beginning with the earliest. In my garden I have peonies for almost two months, beginning about May 5 with the earliest species and hybrids, and ending about July 5 with the last of the Chinese peonies and sometimes with belated blooms on *P. lutea* and its hybrids.

Considering the difficulties of propagation I hope my prices are not unreasonable. As to quality I think you will find my plants worthy of the best company you can give them in your garden.

Peony shipping season September and October. Transportation prepaid.

Price in all cases except where otherwise indicated \$5.00 a root. Cash should accompany orders.

Directions for Planting

Failures with peonies are more often due to bad planting than to poor roots. The ground should be prepared in advance and must be **deeply dug**. Two feet is not too much; 18 inches is a minimum, and the hole where the root is to be set should be filled with good friable loam. Some manure at the bottom will be to the good but it must not come into contact with the roots. These must be set **not too deep**.

In the case of the herbaceous peonies, the buds should be placed so that they will be covered with two or three inches of soil.

Tree peonies and the *lutea* hybrids should be planted at the depth at which they have been growing. In grafted plants the union between the understock and the scion should be a couple of inches below the surface of the soil.

At the best however peonies cannot be expected to give much bloom the first year after setting.

Herbaceous Peonies

HYBRIDS

(Roughly in order of blooming season)

Woodwardi x tenuifolia

In some seasons the first of all peonies to bloom. The plants have finely cut foliage and a great abundance of bright crimson flowers. Sold under number only.

Mlokosewitschi x tenuifolia

Extremely early, being also among the first peonies to bloom. They range in color from light pink to cherry red. Two of particularly good color are:

No. 6905. Fine bright cherry red.

No. 6941. Fine light pink.

Veitchi x Mlokosewitschi

These lovely little plants come very early into bloom. They bear charming creamy-white flowers not large in size but very elegant and attractive. Sold under number only.

Albiflora x macrophylla (tomentosa)

All very early — before the officinalis varieties and about two weeks before the beginning of the Chinese peonies.

Chalice. The largest single peony in the list. Pure white blooms, 8 to 10 inches across, with long silky stamens, rise erect on heavy stems about three feet tall. Very lovely. When it is in bloom it is hard to notice any other flower. \$10.00

Seraphim (formerly Seraph). Less tall, with flowers not so huge. Abundant bloomer. White single. Earlier than Chalice.

Ariel. Full double. Light rose pink. Delicious cinnamon scent. Also very early; an extraordinary variety for its season.

Celia. Semi-double with tuft of petals in the center. Color light flesh with yellow cast. Very early.

Audrey (formerly Rosalind). Semi-double, sometimes almost fully double. Very light pink, a few days earlier than Celia. A very effective plant in the garden.

Shell Pink (formerly Seashell). A fine upstanding plant with single flowers of pale pink having a slight cast of yellowish green. Early and desirable.

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Second Generation Hybrids

Of the following, Serenade, Fantasia and 4992 are second generation plants of the cross albiflora x macrophylla. Garden Peace and Requiem are back crosses, using pollen of an albiflora x macrophylla hybrid on an albiflora variety.

Garden Peace (formerly Peace). (1941) Level white single blooms, held high, crowded with surrounding buds. Its side blooms give it a very long season. Exceptionally good as a garden plant. Foliage enormous, dark green, smooth. A grand acquisition. Not for sale, 1944.

Requiem. (1941) Very tall, as tall as Garden Peace. Flower smaller, but a perfect waxy white single bloom, held flat, with high golden centre. Petals of heavy kid-like substance. Much admired.

Serenade. (1941) Single smooth-edged petals of heavy substance. Palest flush. Tall, superb carriage.

Fantasia. (1941) Single flesh pink, crinkled petals of great substance; crimson stigmas. Grand foliage and stature.

No. 4992. Second generation from the cross. The first generation plants are usually sterile. This plant has strongly fertile pollen and sets seed regularly. It is therefore of great interest to the hybridist.

Albiflora x Wittmanniana

Green Ivory. Flowers light green with some yellow. Distinct and beautiful. A novel color and a very early variety. \$10.00

Ballerina. (1941) Large bomb of delicate greenish yellow, full, fringed. Very early for a double. A handsome flower.

Elizabeth Cahn. (1942) Very large white goblet; petals somewhat twisted, with underlay of faint green. Delicate, erect, beautiful. \$10.00

Albiflora x tenuifolia

Smouthi. Often offered as a form of anomala or even as that species. It is really a hybrid made in France about 1845. It is an excellent plant, bearing fine bright crimson flowers both showy and fragrant.

No. 8277. I repeated the cross to make sure, and got a series of plants similar to Smouthi and with the same fragrance. This one is much darker in color than Smouthi; a tall conspicuous plant.

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Albiflora x decora

Reward. (1941) Upright, very handsome. Flat single bloom; beautiful warm dark maroon. Attractive.

Albiflora x decora alba

In this beautiful new strain the flowers on opening have a flush of peach pink towards the base of the petals which are otherwise white with a silky lustre. The blooms are large, usually single, and borne on tall stems.

Silver Swan. (1942) A handsome tall plant. Flowers of great substance.

Camellia. (1942) Flowers becoming semi-double; may be fully double on well-established plants. Extremely promising.

Officinalis x decora alba

Very early. Delightful pale pink flowers. Plants rather dwarf. Flowers medium in size.

Diantha. (1942) Flowers of peach blossom color.

Officinalis x lobata

These plants have a much better habit and stature than lobata itself and the flowers approximate the brilliant color of lobata. Being hybrids between closely related forms they are fertile.

Scarlet Tanager. (1942) (*Officinalis rubra plena x lobata*). Tall plant with vermilion red blooms.

Good Cheer. (1942) (*Officinalis alba plena x lobata*). Lovely light vermilion.

Albiflora x officinalis

The "Challenger" Group (*albiflora x single officinalis*)

A strain of extraordinary robustness. The stems are sometimes nearly an inch thick, and the height of the plant and weight of the foliage proportional. The flowers are a splendid crimson, varying in darkness, large open cups filled with brilliant golden or striped crimson anthers.

Challenger. Garden Achievement Medal and Silver Medal of American Peony Society. Tall dark crimson with bright yellow anthers.

Defender. Dark mahogany crimson. A very large cup with a mass of silky stamens. Blooms with the later officinalis. Court of Honor Award, Syracuse, 1941.

Buccaneer. Similar to Challenger, but a lighter crimson. Very fine.

Erebus. Fine very dark mahogany red single. The darkest of this group. Conspicuous yellow stamens.

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Tantrums (formerly *Gladiator*). (1942) Very dark crimson single. Fine color. In centre, wild confusion of yellow stamens.

Mariner. (1941) Single darkest maroon crimson, very beautiful color. Moderate height; fine carriage.

Other hybrids between *albiflora* and forms of *officinalis*

Marta. Very tall. Flowers loosely double. Brilliant lustrous deepest mahogany red, with touches of white on the edges of the petals. Very effective. Award of Merit, Mass. Hort. Soc.; Court of Honor Award, Syracuse, 1941.

Cavatina (formerly *Felicity*). A light bright cherry pink. Single. Filaments almost white, stigmas crimson. (Hybrid between *P. albiflora* and *officinalis rosea plena*.)

Jacqueminot. (1941) Full double crimson bomb, the color of the rose for which it is named. The buds look like huge rosebuds.

Madrigal. (1941) Very large blooms, semi-double, palest pink or white. Like a fine *albiflora*, but in the season of *officinalis*, or earlier.

Edward Steichen (formerly *Col. Steichen*). (1941) Magnificent huge dark crimson semi-double, on very tall stems. Not for sale, 1944.

Postilion. (1941) Enormous flower of deep scarlet crimson. Very brilliant. Semi-double flat cup.

Legion of Honor. (1941) Beautiful almost single flat flower of lustreless cherry scarlet. Light green foliage. Unusual and striking. Court of Honor Award, Syracuse, 1941.

Rosy Wreath. (1941) Single very pale pink cup. Charming.

Bordeaux. (*albiflora* x *Sabini*). (1943) Large claret colored single. Large center of yellow stamens and petaloids, some edged crimson. Very effective and showy of its color. Flowers held well above foliage.

Albiflora* x *coriacea

The "Lavender" Group

This is a quite new race of hybrids, The color is a beautiful clear lilac, becoming more and more delicate as the flower ages. Very few roots for sale. \$10.00

***Veitchi* x *Emodi*. Early Windflower**

***Beresowski* x *Emodi* Late Windflower**

These two strains are so closely alike that I prefer to offer them under the above names. The early strain blooms at the very beginning of the peony season; the other about a week later. These plants are graceful and

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unusual. The flowers, which are only moderate in size, resemble white anemones. They are slightly nodding and are borne on tall stems. The foliage is fern-like and very handsome. Sold as strains only.

Albiflora x Otto Froebel

The plants cover themselves with gaily held flowers in some new and fresh shades of pink, charming for cutting or in the garden.

Hope. Semi-double, an exquisite flower, of an intense pure rose color, absolutely free from mauve, a color rare in herbaceous peonies. Comes sometimes full double.

Birthday. (1935) The sensation of the group at the Boston Show, 1935. Like a huge pale pink Shirley poppy slightly fringed at the edges. Single.

Anniversary. (1941) Fringed flowers. Like Birthday, but darker in color. Very attractive.

Fidelity. A lovely salmon flesh color. Single.

Verity. The palest of the group; light flesh pink. Single. Very tall and fine.

Valor. Bright clear pink, semi-double. Large bloom. Tall upstanding plant.

Mercy (formerly *Patience*). Beautiful salmon rose cup. Single. Very attractive.

Amity. Lovely light rose pink single. First class certificate, Washington, 1929.

Victoria Lincoln (formerly *Victoria*). One of the handsomest of the group. Clear pink. Large full double when established. Magnificent.

Honor. (1941) Especially good single bright pink cup.

Good Will. (1941) One of the last in bloom of this strain. Almost double; bright rosy pink.

Spring Song. (1941). Beautiful pale creamy salmon, single.

Lotus Bloom. (1943) Superb enormous flat semi-double light pink flower of quite extraordinary substance. Tall. First quality.

Albiflora x lobata

This race of hybrids contains many beautiful pink and red colors we have so long desired in the Chinese peonies — flesh, cherry, salmon, coral and rose pinks to clear bright crimsons, with no hint of purple and never a bad color in all the hundreds that have bloomed. I think this is the most brilliant and effective strain of hybrid peonies yet produced.

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- Janice.** Tall erect variety bearing good-sized flowers of a charming pale salmon pink color. Extra. Very early.
- Jeannette.** Somewhat darker than the above, salmon rose in color.
- Nathalie.** Magnificent flat bloom almost full double, brilliant salmon rose.
- Julia Grant.** Semi-double. Very fine clear pink color. \$10.00
- Coralie.** Orange cherry single. Unusual color. A beauty. \$10.00
- Sophie.** Brightest cherry red; upstanding; large semi-double cup. Fine center.
- Grace Root.** Light clear salmon pink cup-shaped single. Much admired at Boston Show, 1940. \$10.00
- Cecilia.** Light bright cherry. Fringed. Enormous goblet. One of the best.
- Ellen Cowley.** Bright cherry semi-double rosette. Lovely.
- Cardinal's Robe** (formerly Cardinal). Brilliant and shining scarlet single. Very striking color. \$10.00
- Ludovica.** (1941) Clear rose pink. Very large semi-double cup. One of the best. \$10.00
- Laura Magnuson.** (1941) Very large cup-shaped light clear bright rose, semi-double. Late for this strain. \$10.00
- Elizabeth Foster.** (1941) Single brightest rose-pink flat cup. Large and brilliant.
- Alexander Woolcott.** (1941) Large semi-double flat cup, shining crimson. The very brilliant color never fades. \$10.00
- Constance Spry.** (1941) Magnificent light cherry semi-double. A beauty.
- Nadia.** (1941) Wide-spreading cherry pink blossom, with slightly crinkled petals. Late for this strain. \$10.00
- Emblem (No. 12849).** (1941) Fine single brilliant red. Very floriferous. Every stem bears a flower.
- Alert (No. 9257).** (1941) Exceptionally brilliant crimson single.
- Jean Cowley.** (1942) Full semi-double bright rose; goblet form; moderate height. A lovely flower. \$10.00
- Red Red Rose.** (1942) Brightest crimson-scarlet bomb. Very handsome.
- Lustrous.** (1942) Intense luminous vermilion-scarlet. Semi-double; bomb-shaped. Very large and striking flowers.
- Skylark.** (1942) Upright goblets of clearest pink, held very high.
- Lovely Rose.** (1942) Deep creamy pink semi-double. A lovely and unique quality of color. Not for sale, 1944.

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- Bravura.** (1943) Shining light crimson with white flares on outside of petals. Charmingly crinkled and of fine form. Brilliant and effective.
- Fortune.** (1943) Rounded goblet of bright rose with strong white flares outside and coral pink warmth inside. A beauty.
- Great Lady.** (1943) Single or slightly semi-double very large loftily held widely expanded blooms of China pink. Fine garden plant.
- Montezuma.** (1943) Scarlet crimson goblet with two rows of rounded petals. Fine shining color. Large heavy stems and foliage. Tall. 4 ft.
- Olivia Saunders.** (1943) Tall single goblet held high. Light cherry becoming a lovely light pink. A very elegant plant.
- Red Cockade.** (1943) Bright clear crimson. Very tall. Flowers of heavy substance. Petals frilled and crinkled like a big fringed tulip. Gay and effective.
- Rose Diamond.** (1943) Tall upraised cup of clear salmon rose. Single. Petals folded in a pointed fashion which gives great style to the flower. Late, for this race.
- Rose Garland.** (1943) China pink single cup. On the reverse, conspicuous white flares streaked pink. Rather dwarf. A delightful little plant. Not for sale, 1944.
- Rosy Cheek.** (1943) Upright. Slightly semi-double. Very special color; deep rose, deepest at base of petals, growing light toward the tips. Very distinct. Not for sale, 1944.
- Claudia.** (1944) Very tall erect semi-double goblet, 3½ to 4 feet. Opens bright light cherry, changing to clear pale salmon pink. Very good. \$10.00
- Carina.** (1944) Shining scarlet crimson. Loose double rose form. Moderate height. Intense and brilliant. \$10.00

Triple Hybrids in which albiflora, officinalis and macrophylla are combined

- Pageant.** (officinalis x 4992). (1941) Light pink with an enormous cluster of stamens. Tall and upstanding. Very conspicuous.
- Burgundy.** (albiflora x [macrophylla x officinalis]). (1941) Blackish purple petals of heavy substance, lustreless and crinkled; brilliant yellow stamens. Noble carriage. An outstanding beauty.

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Campagna (No. 8497). (1941) (Parentage similar to that of Burgundy). Deep white goblet with greenish shadows. Filled with a mass of bright gold anthers. Petals slightly fringed and crinkled. A lovely flower.

Varieties of uncertain parentage

Horizon. Very large flesh-colored single with enormous center of golden stamens. Very tall. Outstanding.

Patriot. Bright crimson goblet held high. Fine pure color. About 4 ft. Very vigorous plant.

CHINESE PEONY SEEDLINGS

These are not hybrids, but seedlings of my own raising which have made themselves friends in the past few years.

Silvia Saunders. Specially good as a garden plant. Literally covers itself with light fresh pink wild-rose-like semi-double flowers. Has proved a great garden favorite wherever grown. American Peony Society rating, 9.

Grace Loomis. A very large double, pure white, very late. First Class Certificate, and rated in the American Peony Symposium at 9.2.

Louise. Another fine white, still later, so that it has never been shown. Lengthens the season, blooming with Richardson's Grandiflora.

Emmy Swan. Outer petals light pink, the whole center of the flower yellow with a few splashes of crimson; very unusual in color. Fragrant.

Solo Flight. A very large Japanese type. Flat pale flesh guard petals with high center of pale yellow. Very popular at Boston Show, 1935. The plant is tall and upright and covers itself with bloom; a conspicuously beautiful plant in the garden.

Snowflake. The plant I have under this name (and the name is certainly not correct) is of Japanese or European origin; it seems to be very close to White Lady, but I think not fully identical. Anyway it is one of the finest of all peonies of the Japanese type. Pure white, petals very thick and heavy. Center of closely packed staminoid petals.

PEONY SPECIES

I offer a few species some of which are not easy to obtain true to name.

anomala. I can offer a few seedling plants of this interesting species, which I think I have true to name. It is a very different plant from Smouthi, which is often sold as anomala. The flowers of the true spe-

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cies are purplish in color, somewhat nodding and not much to look at, but of botanical interest.

arietina alba. A very beautiful early species. Flowers with a silky sheen. A fine variety.

cretica. Probably a form of *P. arietina*. Grayish green foliage, light pink flowers. A nice plant and very early.

decora alba. Another fine early blooming plant.

Emodi. The Himalayan peony. Very tall, with nodding white flowers and extremely handsome foliage. A beautiful species.

macrophylla (tomentosa). A very large-leaved species from the Caucasus region. Flowers white; one of the first of all peonies to bloom.

Mlokosewitschi. The only truly yellow herbaceous peony and one of the most beautiful of hardy plants. A very early and abundant bloomer. Although not always certain to succeed, it should at least be tried in every garden.

obovata alba (Japan). This is the wild peony of Japan and is a pleasant little plant of no very conspicuous charm. It occurs also with pink flowers, and is then no better.

officinalis lobata. You may call this simply *Paeonia lobata* if you wish. This too is a variable plant from seed. The precious form of it has flowers of a brilliant vermilion color and seems to be almost identical with the English plant offered under the name Sunbeam.

officinalis Ophia. A very good light red single form of *officinalis*. This would be a good plant to use for crossing.

officinalis Otto Froebel. The authenticity of my plants is very doubtful. My stock seems to be identical with what is now called by Barr & Sons *officinalis Charm-er*. In any case the flowers are single, of a good pink color, and the plant has proved of great value for hybridizing. Its seedlings do not run quite uniform in color.

triternata. Very early. Light mauve pink flowers. Foliage waved. A plant worth having.

Veitchi. Closely related to *anomala*. Flowers similar in color.

Willmottiae. A very beautiful white-flowered species from Western China; one of the earliest of all peonies; large handsome foliage. Very rare.

Woodwardi. A lovely pink form of *Veitchi*.

Woodwardi alba (Beresowskyi). As far as I can see, the species *Beresowskyi* is a white form of *Woodwardi*; at least that is what my plants are. This is a very beautiful dwarf plant with flowers like anemones.

Tree Peonies

Seedlings. Seedlings of 4 to 6 years' growth, unbloomed; they cannot be sold to color, but will contain many beautiful things. For those who wish to start a large group of these matchless plants at small expense.

\$2.50 each, \$25.00 a doz.

Grafted Tree Peonies.

The following are chiefly of European or Japanese origin:

Jeanne d'Arc. Vigorous grower; abundant bloomer. Flowers salmon rose, almost double.

Reine Elizabeth. Immense deep rose pink double. One of the most popular of the European varieties.

Tamafuyo. Clear rose pink double. One of the best.

No. 45. Salmon pink semi-double. One of the best.

No. 238. Beautiful clear rose pink double.

No. 176. Lovely flesh pink cup-shaped double.

P. LUTEA and P. DELAVAYI

Paeonia lutea is the wild yellow tree peony from Southern China. Flower 2 to 3 inches across like an enlarged buttercup, with a lily-like fragrance; foliage fern-like, very handsome. A beautiful and unusual plant.

Paeonia Delavayi is very closely related to *P. lutea*. Its flowers are a dark mahogany red. The two species intercross with extreme ease, producing hybrids in which the flowers vary in color from reddish yellow to a rather deep orange-red. Beautiful for cutting, resembling French anemones in a totally new set of colors. I have many plants of these intermediate forms, but very little stock of the dark red Delavayi.

HYBRIDS BETWEEN CHINESE TREE PEONIES and P. LUTEA or P. DELAVAYI

The following variety is of French origin:

Souvenir de Maxime Cornu (Henry, 1919). I can offer a few strong field plants of this European hybrid. Pale yellow shot and edged with red, giving an almost orange effect. Enormous double flowers. Very free bloomer. Stems too weak to hold up the massive blooms. \$10.00

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The following are all hybrids of my own raising. I regret that I can offer this year only these three varieties:

Argosy. (1928) Clear sulphur yellow, single, 6 to 7 inches across, with plum colored dash at base of petals. Garden Achievement Medal, Boston, F.C.C. Mass. Hort. Soc.; Court of Honor Award, Syracuse, 1941. \$10.00

Canary. (1940) An even brighter yellow than Argosy; otherwise very similar in form and general character. A lovely flower. \$10.00

Narcissus. (1941) Clear pale yellow, rosy towards the center. A fine little flower. \$10.00

Of all the varieties below my stock is so low that I must withdraw them from sale for the present:

Black Pirate. (1935) Vote of Commendation, Mass. Hort. Soc. Very dark mahogany red with black stains at base of petals. Single. A grand flower.

Banquet. (1941) Yellow ground suffused strawberry red, semi-double flat rosette. Very large petals somewhat crinkled.

Brocade. (1941) Red gold single. Deep wine-colored stains at base of petals. A flower of great style and substance. Magnificent growth. Great bloomer.

Centaur. (1941) Somber red with black base to the petals.

Corsair. (1941) A darker Black Pirate, the darkest of all, so far. Large black stains at base of petals. About a week earlier than Black Pirate.

Damask. (1941) Buff yellow double, with much reddish color suffusing the outer petals, with deep red stains at base. Much style.

Festival. (1941) Pale creamy yellow edged and flushed with rose. A flat rosette almost double. A very finished flower.

Princess. (1941) Semi-double mauve suffused with golden sheen. Pale gold center. A beauty.

Roman Gold. (1941) The most brilliant yellow yet. Not large, but of very perfect form.

Arcadia. (1942) Semi-double yellow, somewhat lighter than Argosy. Holds its flowers well up above the foliage. Excellent garden plant.

Marchioness. (1942) Soft yellow suffused pale strawberry pink; brilliant center. Single. Beautiful form, style and substance.

Silver Sails. (1942) Beautiful silvery yellow faintly flushed; semi-double; heavy petals. Exquisite.

Trophy. (1942) Bright strawberry red; semi-double rosette. Conspicuous yellow stamens in center.



