



Over the GARDEN GATE

By MARIE O'CONNOR

Mrs. Harry O. Smith, Cave Junction, past president of the Oregon Federation of Garden Clubs and an authority on Oregon wildflowers, primroses and peonies, addressed the Klamath Falls Garden Club at its regular meeting June 2 at the city library. In addition, Mrs. Smith is state horticultural awards chairman.

The topic of Mrs. Smith's talk was peonies, and, according to her, "The soil in the Klamath region is ideally suited to the growing of peonies since the soil is alkaline and contains the correct 'ph' factor."

Mrs. Smith has some 100 to 150 seedlings which she has grown. At the end of five years, the time required to produce the first bloom (from seed) she selects 15 or 20 of the best plants, those of color and strong stems, and incorporates them into her garden picture. Many of the specimens shown at the meetings were Mrs. Smith's own seedlings. One of her favorites, a white peony, she has named "Peace."

The numerous specimens which the speaker brought from her Cave Junction garden included singles, doubles, semi-doubles, anemone-type, Japanese and Chinese. The colors ranged from white through creams, pinks, roses and reds.

The speaker prefers to buy her peony roots (a peony is a herbaceous perennial, not a bulb) from a western grower since many peonies with a high rating in the East are poor performers in our Western region, not being adapted to our soil. Variety Kansas, a supposedly red peony, turns out to be a rose color in Oregon soil.

Mrs. Smith considers fragrances of prime importance in peony selection. One of her pink specimens was far more fragrant than any rose. In buying peony roots in September to the end of October, she advises selecting a three to five eye division. Dig a hole two feet deep, add well rotted manure or bonemeal and good garden soil. Set the root not more than two inches below soil level, just low enough so that it will not heave above ground in winter. Sometimes an inch depth is sufficient. Place peonies away from tree or shrub roots, and plant in full sun, allowing a space six feet wide for each plant. The peony is the long-lived perennial in the garden and deserves plenty of room. The age-old red species, Officialis or Decoration Day peony, is called the lifetime peony. It gives 15 years of good flowering enjoyment.

When a peony is on the decline and needs to be divided and replanted, we are warned by these symptoms: there is more foliage than flowers, the stem is weak and droopy. In this state, it is time to carefully dig up the entire plant in the fall after the foliage has partially died down, cut off the top and divide the roots into a natural division, with the required number of eyes in each. Trim off the feeder roots and some of the tubers and replant each division as for new roots. Do all this in the shade and out of drafts.

The first year after planting a new division, mound the soil over the roots to prevent heaving. When buds appear the first year, disbud so as to conserve the strength for the new root. In four or five years the plant will reach its prime and will continue at this perfected stage for 10 years or more before it will need to be again divided.

Do not over-fertilize. If the soil is well prepared at planting time, no more fertilizer is needed for two years and then only a light application every year or so. On the other hand, if you do not wish to divide and renew old plants, you are privileged as Mrs. Smith suggests "to permit your peonies to grow old with you."

Ants are attracted to peonies by the honey dew which the plan-

exudes and are not harmful unless they may at times transmit diseases.

Some of the more prevalent peony diseases and their antidotes are: leaf spot—cut the foliage below the soil surface and burn; Botrytis Blight which is recognized by a grayish mold on the stems—treat with Bordeaux mixture in spring; Crown rot—burn the entire plant. Blasted buds are oftentimes due to late frosts. Botrytis Blight also causes blasted buds. For exhibition blooms gardeners are advised to disbud all but the central bud, but flower arrangers prefer to use the clusters in arrangements since the smaller flowers are more attractive for this purpose than the huge blossoms.

Some varieties recommended by Mrs. Smith are: Festive Maxima, the Monsieur Elie series, Sarah Bernhardt, all old and highly rated; Lady Alexander Duff, La Cygne, and Kelway's Glorious (an English introduction). The two latter are the highest rating white peonies.

Among the Japanese type are Mikado, a red; Amanasode (pink Mikado) Tomato Baku, with yellow petals and a beauty; and Westerner with cupped petals. Peony ratings are listed in such magazines as Flower Grower and Popular Gardening, with a rating of 90 and above considered good. Some of the Western nurseries specializing in peonies are the Lewis Nursery near Jacksonville, Oregon; and Brand's in Minnesota. Mrs. Harding's "Book on Peonies" is recommended as a guide to peony culture.

The Fernleaf peony is a novelty of the family with asparagus-like foliage. There is also a wild peony species that is native to the Northwest but is of no value beauty-wise.

The tree peony is a tender species and not generally grown in the Klamath area. However in a few protected spots it has survived our rigorous weather. It is short-lived and does best on its own roots rather than grafted. The foliage is magnificent, resembling a beautiful shrub. Each tree bears hundreds of blooms. It also has a deeper range of colors than the herbaceous species, but is very expensive. The Lewis Nursery has a full stock of them.

Mrs. Smith, in response to a request, touched briefly on the classes of primroses suitable for our climate. The auriculas are best suited to our alkaline soil and are hardiest and fragrant. The garden auriculas are recommended locally, not the show or Alpine auriculas. Also, Juleis and Candelabras may be grown here if grown from seed.

The prevent root weevil in primroses, dig in powdered chlordane, aldrin or Isotox in soil prior to planting.

Mrs. Smith's discussion of peonies was heard by seven garden clubs in the area. Her presentation of awards to the outstanding horticulturists of Oregon will be one of the highlights of the Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs convention, the last day of the three-day convention in Eugene, June 13.

Modoc Forester Is Transferred

Harold F. Stammer, administrative officer of the Modoc National Forest, was transferred on June 2 to the regional office, North Central Region of the Forest Service with headquarters in Milwaukee. The North Central Region includes the states of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio and Wisconsin.

Stammer began his career on the Chequamegon National Forest in 1935 and since that time has served on the Coconino and Apache national forests in Arizona and on the Gila National Forest in New Mexico.



A TEEN-AGER'S GREEN THUMB and an eye for symmetry and color, created this spot in the garden of Mr. and Mrs. John Guest, 2833 Homedale Road. The unusual fence, boundary for the backyard garden is of redwood and bamboo poles. The bamboo is used to roll carpeting on. Paul, only son in the family, is responsible for the rock garden, and the pool where goldfish dart into the shadows of overhanging flat rocks. A water lily will bloom during the summer in the four foot deep pool. A variety of perennials dot the rock garden. Paul, a Klamath Union High School junior this year, brought moss from the woods and used buttermilk as a binder to make it cling near the water's edge. Zsa Zsa, the Peko, looks on as Paul checks soil moisture.



TYPICAL CAMPERS such as these will throng to the Northwest's parks and camp sites this summer. Two long weekends, Fourth of July and Labor Day, make this an especially attractive summer for short "bonus vacation" trips.

EFFICIENT FEEDING AND LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT



By Dr. Gustav Bohstedt
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University of Wisconsin

We see warnings from time to time calling attention to the danger of salt poisoning in pigs. One recent warning stated "more than one per cent of salt in a feed mixture may produce salt poisoning symptoms." Such comments do not impress those of us who have had years of experience in salt feeding research.

We know from research studies that pigs require salt in their rations and will do poorly without it. We know, too, that pigs have ample tolerance for salt and that it is difficult to salt poison them.

Dr. J. E. Burnside, a researcher at the Tifton, Georgia, Experiment Station, reported feeding pigs on rations containing up to 16 per cent salt without sickening, let alone poisoning them. The pigs, of course, had free access to water.

In studies conducted at the Wisconsin Experiment Station by Dr. R. H. Grummer and me, pigs were salt-starved for months and then suddenly exposed to large amounts, much more than one per cent salt in their ration. Fed dry or wet, salt fed in such amounts simply had a deterrent effect on feed consumption. It did not poison the pigs.

These failures in all attempts at salt poisoning pigs set us thinking that perhaps feeding practices at agricultural colleges and experiment stations were not sufficiently comparable to those existing on many farms, especially in regard to competition of slop or swill-fed pigs at feed troughs

where the animals in excitement and greed might bolt an overdose of salt in their otherwise customary feed. A previous salt deficiency in the rations might accentuate the rate of consumption and severely restricted trough space might set up a spirit of competition for feed at the trough. Lack of free access to water under such conditions might be another contributing factor to salt poisoning.

With the desire to be able to forestall losses from salt poisoning of pigs by demonstrating the necessary conditions, this is what we had to do:

1. Withhold salt from the pig rations for months.
2. Use a short feed trough to set up strong competition and bolting of feed.
3. Slop-feed rather than dry-feed.
4. Mix heavy proportions of salt in the feed all at once. We used 1 1/2 and 2 per cent salt by weight of the slop. This is equivalent to 6 to 8 per cent salt in a dry feed mixture.
5. Prevent access to drinking water.

So, where most or all of these conditions exist, it is possible to salt poison pigs—but it is difficult too.

Rather than being too much concerned about a salt content in excess of one per cent in the feed mixture, the swine producer must be sure to provide 0.5 per cent salt in the finished ration at all times to avoid salt deficiency losses.

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