



Tree Peony, Kimomanoizuki—Moon-Peeping-Out-of-the-Clouds.

Typical of the single Japanese varieties. Rich glowing purple petals; bright yellow anthers.

from the most delicate satiny white through shades of pink, rose and crimson to the deepest purple.

The Japanese names are most fanciful and poetic. When preserved, as they should be, they add much to the charm of the flower. The finest white I have, a semi-double, rejoices in a name which translated is said to mean "Snow-storm." One bloom of this plant was by actual measurement $11\frac{1}{4}$ inches in diameter. Its size and the indescribable sheen and beauty of its petals contrasting admirably with the golden stamens combined to render it the finest flower without exception that I ever saw. A deep purple single flower variety is called "Moon Peeping Out of the Clouds." Other examples of Japanese names are: "White Lion in a Fury," "The Seven Gods of Happiness," "Snow Clad Fuji."

Any soil suits the tree peony, but of course it responds to generous treatment. The roots are very long and the plant is a

gross feeder. The soil should, therefore, be deep and rich, and kept enriched by top dressings dug into the soil from time to time. It loves water, and copious drenchings before and during the flowering season will be amply repaid by increased size and substance in the flowers.

The only pruning necessary is to cut off the dead blooms and give shape to varieties inclined to be straggling. With ample room, however, the tree peony is naturally a symmetrical plant and requires but slight trimming. As the flowers are formed from the buds produced in the preceding year, the little pruning necessary should be done as soon as the blossoms fall. To prune in early spring will prevent any bloom during that season, and to prune late means simply the removal of the flowering buds. Propagation is usually effected by grafting in the spring on the roots of the herbaceous peony. They may also be propagated by division, though this is not advisable, as the plants dislike being disturbed, and by layering, which is comparatively easy. Regard must be had in putting down layers to the brittle nature of the wood, and great care is consequently necessary in bending down the shoot intended to produce a new plant. The season of blooming is coincident with the old-fashioned peony, *P. officinalis*, and precedes by nearly two weeks the not less gorgeous *P. sinensis*, which are the pride of our gardens in early June.

The tree peony may be as easily grown in Canada and Eastern Ontario as the herbaceous varieties. It is equally hardy if given close and dry protection. It may be had cheaply, and in almost infinite variety. It is magnificent in foliage and flower, yet it is unknown except in a few gardens. In the hope that it may be more widely grown and add to the delights that flower lovers alone know, I have ventured to bring it specially to the notice of the Ottawa Horticultural Society.