

## Primula Information

### Which Primrose should I buy?

There are about 400-550 species of Primula in Europe, Asia and North America; a few species grow in Arabia, Africa, Java and South America. The landscape primulas are undoubtedly some of the most important flowering perennials for spring and early summer. Modern breeding tends toward producing strains and cultivars with parentage involving two or more species. Most of them are perennials, with different degrees of hardiness, some are biennials. Following is a list and guideline of the different varieties we are producing and offering to the public.

### Biennial or Semi-Hardy Primroses:

#### **Primula acaulis**

Grown for their large and brilliantly colored flowers in a wide assortment of colors, including the much loved blues. They are frost resistant and they may come back next year, depending where you live in the greater Seattle area. Plants grown under a slow and cold production schedule will develop more than one crown, which will produce more flowers in succession. The acaulis varieties produce large flowers up to two inches in diameter. The flowers generally bloom early in the season on very short stems. There are early and late blooming varieties. The P. acaulis 'Supreme' blooms in mid season and produces large, three inch flowers.

### Sweetheart Primroses

A newly developed species with fully double, large flowers in several exciting colors.

#### **Primula polyantha**

A robust growing primrose much hardier than the acaulis type and easily recognized by the taller stems with the flower clusters held well above the foliage. The P. polyantha 'Pacific Giant' comes in a wide assortment of colors.

### Truly Hardy Perennial Primroses:

#### **Primula vulgaris (English Primrose)**

A very hardy, old fashioned variety. The unscented flowers are basal, arising from the center of the rosette. The charming single, pale sulfur yellow flowers with darker throat bloom repeatedly during spring and summer. Will develop in large clumps, which can be divided every couple of years. Very easy to grow. Native habitat is open woodland and semi shaded meadows in the alpine regions of Europe. The P. vulgaris 'Ernst Benary' is one of the many new hybrids within this section.

**Primula veris (Cowslip)**

A European wildflower of open woods and meadows this hardy species is sweetly scented and will bloom profusely from March through May with reduced flowering during the rest of the summer. It likes a sunny location and somewhat drier soil. Plants reseed themselves readily for easy naturalizing. Easily recognized by its erect and nodding clusters of flower heads on 6-8" stems. Color is mainly pale to light yellow. The P. veris 'Sunset Shades' produces ochre colored flowers with shades of orange and red.

**Primula elatior (Oxlip)**

An old fashioned variety that is hardier than the Primrose polyantha 'Pacific Giants'. It looks similar with the flowers carried on 8-10" stems during April and June. Several new hybrids are available: the P. elatior 'Crescendo Mix', the P. elatior 'Giantea Mix' and the P. elatior 'Jessica'. This last variety has red foliage and produces a brilliant flower mixture of pastel colors of red, yellow and pink.

**Primula juliana hybrid**

This low growing rosette forming miniature primula has four inch long, dark green leaves. It produces bright purple flowers with a yellow center. These hybrids include the P. juliana 'Wanda' and double flowering varieties such as P. juliana 'Rosette'.

**Primula juliana 'Rosette'**

A very special juliana hybrid mix with semi-double flowers that look like little rosettes.

**Primula juliana 'Wanda'**

These dwarf plants are very winter hardy. The foliage almost entirely disappears during the winter. In early spring the flowers burst into bloom as the new foliage develops. The leaves are deep green and crinkled. The stemmed flowers are deep magenta to purple with a yellow eye. Clump forming. Exciting new colors are available too.