



Hybridizer/Originator Profile

Nassos Daphnis

New York, USA

Nassos Daphnis was a Greek-born American who is known for his abstract paintings and woody peony breeding. His paintings may be seen in many prominent and privately owned collections. The results of his woody peony breeding are well distributed world-wide and numerous cultivars are held in high regard by peony enthusiasts.

His interest in woody peonies began while visiting William Gratwick in Pavillion, New York. His initial interest was to paint the other worldly flowers, but he soon became interested in hybridizing. The Gratwick estate grew hundreds of Japanese suffruticosa cultivars, but also numerous selected cultivars hybridized by A.P. Saunders, which provided outstanding material to work with.

The Saunders hybrids were of special interest as nearly all were F1 crosses between lutea, delavayi x suffruticosa cultivars. Most were sterile except for two known second generation crosses which held promise for more advanced crosses. These F2 crosses (F2-A and F2-B) would prove to be the foundation of many of Daphnis' most successful crosses. After years of hybridizing work with the so called "lutea hybrids", Daphnis was able to grow 100+ seedlings of which 48 were registered and distributed. A number of these unique crosses proved to be fertile and were further used by more recent hybridizers to create advanced generation lutea hybrids.

For further cultivar information visit the American Peony Society's Peony Registry and search for Daphnis. URL: <https://americanpeonysociety.org/cultivars/peony-registry/>