

THE FRINGED GENTIAN

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Vol. 5

July 1957

No. 3

SUMMER - NOONTIME OF THE YEAR

Summer is now singing its noon song, as it dreams of timid spring flowers now past.

By the middle of July, midsummer is half-way between the first growth of June and September's ripening. Goldfinches are gathering the ripened thistle down to line their nests. This beautiful bird nests when others have already reared their broods.

The parade of flowers that started in the woods has gradually moved out into the meadows, wood edges and open upland gardens.

The colors deepen under the summer sun after the youth of spring is done.

The Showy Lady's-slipper (*Cypripedium reginae*) the most spectacular of all of our native orchids blooms just as summer comes in. It hurries away all too soon as if to avoid the heat of summer.

Altho it formerly grew in most sections of the State, it now has become rare, except in the wilder areas in the northern part of the State, and even there it is being quickly exterminated.

Sunflowers begin to bloom in July, as well as Blazing Stars, Lobelia, Phytolacca and Butterfly-weed. August brings the first Asters, Golden-rods, Cone-flowers, Bergamot and Rosinweed. These are followed by numerous summer flowers.

PLANT PROGRESS

May again brought the biggest show of the year with the beautiful display of Hepaticas, Trilliums, Bluebells, Columbine, Crested Iris, Anemones, Jacob's Ladder, Violets and many others.

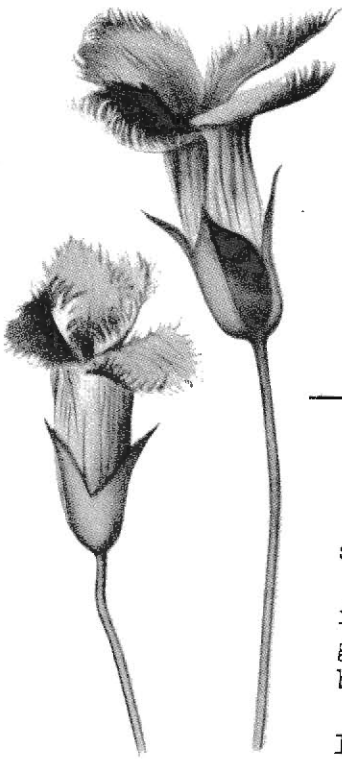
May is also the month for the Yellow Lady's-slipper as well as the beautiful purple stemless Lady's-slipper often called the Moccasin Flower. June ushers in the Showy Lady's-slipper, the Minnesota State Flower.

Before the close of June hardly any trace of even the foliage remains of Trout Lily, Dutchman's-breeches, Spring Beauty and Virginia Bluebell. These delicate spring flowers hasten away and become dormant before the hot days of summer. They then require the shading of taller plants.

By the middle of June the ferns are fully developed and are at their loveliest.

By the first of July the long procession of spring flowers remain but a memory until another year, and the summer flowers one by one take over, but always there is variety.

File this issue with the others in your "Fringed Gentian" green cover.



WHY NOT PLANT SOME TRILLIUMS

Late summer or early fall when they are dormant is an excellent time to plant trilliums, and then they will be ready to bloom in the spring.

Of all the early spring flowers, none are more eagerly sought after than the trilliums. Some for their outstanding dignified beauty and some for their unique structure.

The trilliums belong to the lily family, the latin name means "Triple", because of the conspicuous arrangement of all the parts of this flower in 3's or multiples thereof, they are sometimes called Trinity Lilies.

The Large-flowered Trillium (*Trillium grandiflorum*) is the most satisfactory for cultivation, thriving under shrubs and trees where soil does not heat up much in summer.

It is a charming plant with a single blossom set off by its large green leaves. The lovely white petals gradually change to pink or lavender as the blossoms mature.

The flowers are very sensitive to light and usually all the flowers in a colony face in one direction, following the sun in its course across the sky.

In the wilds they like to grow in ravine slopes where they make a floral picture of unbelievable beauty. It is a pleasure to have a colony of these attractive plants come into bloom early in May.

The Large-flowered Trillium ranks sixth from the top in the list of 1080 plants nominated by the Naturalists of America as the continents showiest flower.

Altho they fail to bloom for several years after they have been picked, they still maintain their numbers in many undisturbed areas, perhaps mainly due to easy seeding. However it takes several years for seeds to germinate and then several more to reach the blooming stage.

They are quickly exterminated when an area is turned over to pasturing.

Plant the bulbs 6 to 8 inches deep, depending upon their size.

There are several varieties of trilliums that thrive well under cultivation, altho they lack the showiness of the Large-flowered.

The little Dwarf or Snow Trillium (*Trillium nivale*) is a miniature of the Large-flowered and one of the first spring flowers to appear, coming into bloom the first part of April and sometimes as early as March, often it is covered by a late snowfall without apparent harm.

The Nodding Trillium (*Trillium cernuum*) has a white flower hidden under the leaves. Several varieties of Purple Trilliums and the Yellow trillium also cultivate easily.

STRANGE AS IT MAY SEEM

In spite of the beauty of Blue Flag, Marsh Marigold and St. John's wort, they are toxic to grazing cattle and therefore avoid them. Perhaps that is why these plants are increasing rapidly.

Remember the slogan of the Wild Flower Preservation Society,

"Enjoy us, but don't destroy us."

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SEED DISPERSAL

The many ingenious ways of distributing seeds to assure wide circulation, like those of the maples, elms, ash, tulip tree and ailanthus which are equipped with wings that sail and whirl carrying them considerable distances from the parent tree.

Cockleburs and Beggar's-ticks have barbs and hooks that cling to clothing and passing animals. Violets, Jewel-weed etc. explode their pods thereby throwing the seeds some distance.

Silky parachutes of Anemone, Milkweed, Cat-tail, Dandelion and Goats-beard are carried great distances. Acorns and various nuts are carried away by squirrels.

"I trust to Nature for the stable laws
Of beauty and utility. Spring shall plant
and Autumn garner to the end of time."

- Robert Browning

The 10 showiest, most conspicuous wild flowers most likely to be encountered by Nature-lovers, in the opinion of naturalists in a country-wide poll are -

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Cardinal-flower | (Lobelia cardinalis) |
| 2. Showy Lady's-slipper | (Cypripedium reginae) |
| 3. New England Aster | (Aster novae-angliae) |
| 4. Butterfly-weed | (Asclepias tuberosa) |
| 5. Stemless Lady's-slipper | (Cypripedium acaule) |
| 6. Large-flowered Trillium | (Trillium grandiflorum) |
| 7. Wild Columbine | (Aquilegia canadensis) |
| 8. White Water Lily | (Castalia odorata) |
| 9. Fringed Gentian | (Gentiana crinita) |
| 10. Marsh Marigold | (Caltha palustris) |

CORALROOT

Coralroot (Corallorrhiza) has no chlorophyll and its roots are filled with fungi. It belongs to the Orchid Family.

The fungi reworks organic material that it takes from the soil, and supplies it to the higher plant and then in turn may absorb organic compounds from the roots with which it is associated.

This combination of fungus and root makes up a structure called mycorrhiza. The two plants work together. When some plants are taken away from their companion they die. These plants cannot grow without the helpful root fungi.

The Indian Pipe (Monotropa uniflora) is entirely white, since it contains no chlorophyll. The roots are almost completely covered with mycorrhizal fungi, upon which it apparently depends for food.

I always find Trailing Arbutus growing abundantly with Blueberries. So seemingly they are dependent upon one another. However these plants are not parasites. The plants considered parasites are those which gain food by extracting it directly from a living organism, generally called a host. Some of these are Mistletoe, Beech Drops and Dodder.

HONORED

Mr. Clinton M. Odell, our president had the distinction of being awarded an honor plaque, for his many years service in conservation. It was presented by Mr. Cox, Past State Forester, in behalf of and during the 1957 Northwest Sportsman's Show.

The Inscription on the plaque reads -

To Clinton M. Odell, Courageous Crusader for Conservation.
From the 1957 Northwest Sportsman's Show.

This honor bestowed upon Mr. Odell is well deserved, for his many contributions to advancement of Conservation in many lines. His vision and enthusiasm have been the nucleus to help preserve our fast disappearing Natural Resources. He has kindled the interest of many in the great out-of-doors.

We extend our heartiest congratulations.

THE GARDEN'S USEFULNESS

More and more people are turning to Nature for pleasure or relaxation. Attempting to get away from the nerve-racking confusion of the city and noisy highways. It is the growth of this interest which has chiefly distinguished the past years.

Here in the Wild Flower Garden, in this secluded spot can be found the ideal place for enjoyment of our wild flowers. Many of the principles of conservation are practised here.

The garden is greatly devoted to spreading knowledge relative to plant life. Here one can learn about warfare among plants, distribution, their habits and their uses in garden plantings. A sufficiently simple method is demonstrated in determining the wild flowers.

If planning a Naturalistic planting, careful attention must be given to the requirements of the different varieties. An attractive floral display can easily be developed.

Nesting of various birds is encouraged and songs of many are heard. Much of the joyousness of June is due to the melody of the birds. Their singing welcomes the rising of the day, the cheerful summons of the robin at dawn, then all the others awake and are in tune.

DID YOU KNOW

That the dried and ground-up fruits of Red Peppers (Capsicum) is the Paprika we so commonly use.

That Tomatoes are near relatives of the Potato and Tobacco, and like them are natives of South America.

Official publication of "Friends of the Wild Flower Garden", issued quarterly.

Martha E. Crone -- Editor