

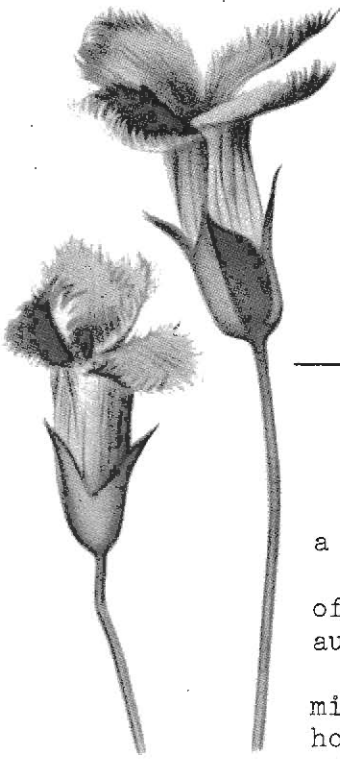
THE FRINGED GENTIAN

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MELLOWING SUMMER-TIME

The longest day has been reached and soon the sun will take a shorter arc in the sky.

The foliage of the trees begins to tarnish from the heat of summer and the grass and flowers are somewhat seared, and autumn looms again as the foliage thins.

The whirring calls of the cicada are familiar sounds of midsummer. This is the season for insects, when crickets, grasshoppers and katydids join their music to symphony of fall. While on moonlight nights from high overhead come the notes of migrating birds passing to the south.

One of the characteristic features of early fall is the tall weeds along the roadsides and the profusion of Golden-rods and Asters.

September is predominantly the month in which the results of the summer flowers appear in the form of fruit.

"To understand Nature is to gain one of the greatest resources of life" -

- John Burroughs

SPRING REVIEW

Spring in the garden was beyond compare with the twelve varieties of Trilliums, the many violets, Mertensia, Hepaticas, Marsh Marigolds and numerous others, it was a spectacular show. The ferns have never been taller or lovelier.

The six-foot tall Pink Azalea was a mass of breath-taking bloom being literally sprinkled with flowers of purest pink, fragrant and with long projecting stamens. The glowing patches of orange Flame Azalea followed.

The magnificent flowering shrub of Mountain Rose Bay or Purple Laurel (*Rhododendron catawbiense*) bloomed during June and the Great Laurel or Rose Bay (*Rhododendron maximum*) with pink or white flowers blooms in July.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations are extended to our member Mrs. Gerald H. Burgess, (Louise) 5236 Vincent Ave. So., upon the publication of her first full-length novel, "This Side of the Stars".

Mrs. Burgess has been autographing this publication in Dayton's book department where the books are available.

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

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MISLEADING FALL FOLIAGE

Some of the first plants to show brilliant autumn colors are the Poison Ivy (*Rhus radicans*) and Poison Sumac (*Rhus Vernix*). It is very unfortunate that these plants exhibit such beautiful colors at this season, since so many people are tempted to gather sprays of these brightly colored leaves, generally with disastrous consequences.

It seems to be difficult for many to identify them with certainty. They both bear clusters of ivory-colored fruit which is often gathered for winter bouquets by the unknowing.

Poison Sumac is a close relative of Poison Ivy and similar in nature, but much more virulent and is the cause of many of the severe cases of skin-inflammation in the fall. They both secrete a highly poisonous volatile oil which rises in an invisible mist from the foliage of the plant, therefore its often not even necessary to have handled the plant for poisoning to develop.

Poison Sumac grows abundantly in wet places such as swamps and tamarack bogs. Altho plants are found along roadsides where highways have been built thru swamps.

In some localities Poison Sumac is known as Poison-ash, Poison-elder, Poison-dogwood or Poison-oak. The plants reach a height of twelve feet.

STRANGE AS IT MAY SEEM

Have you ever wondered what cloves really are- (*Caryophyllus aromaticus*)? They are the dried unopened flower buds of the Evergreen Clove Tree, which belongs to the Myrtle Family. It is a native of the East Indies. The Dutch call the clove the (Kruidnagel or spice nail).

During the middle ages cloves were used to sweeten and preserve foods. Today clove apples are still being made.

The flowers begin as tiny pale green shoots, then become tinged with a delicate pink. This is the time for picking the buds. The buds grow in clusters of from 10 to 50 heads on a main stem.

The culinary uses of both the whole and the ground cloves is numerous. Being also used in cosmetics and soap, and many a toothache has been stopped by the application of oil of cloves.

BLOODROOT

The Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*) is the only member of the Poppy family to bloom in our woodlands.

It blooms early in April when the woods are still bleak and bare and they respond to the weak rays of the sun penetrating the forest floor.

The eight or more white petals form a square when fully open. The juice of the bloodroot is red and was used by the native Indians in their ceremonial painting.

When the weather remains cool the blossoms last a week or two, but are quickly gone if there comes a sudden burst of warm sunshine. This past spring conditions were ideal and they lasted more than two weeks.

This flower ranks among the top favorites of America and is readily grown.

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IN MEMORIAM

With the death of Mr. Clinton M. Odell June 4th at the age of 80, the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden have lost their founder, their president and their most devoted and enthusiastic member.

All his life Mr. Odell had been concerned with conservation. He was awarded the plaque of the Minnesota Conservation Commission April 1957 in recognition of his many contributions. His interest in the Wild Flower Garden began in his high school days for Eloise Butler was his botany teacher.

For many years Mr. Odell contributed privately to the Park Board's limited funds for maintenance of the garden. He was responsible for development of the Upper Garden, for the fence surrounding this garden and for the employment of extra manpower. Often Mr. Odell could be found in the Wild Flower Garden in his spare time digging weeds and helping Mrs. Crone the Curator with new plantings. He preferred this to playing golf with his friends.

With the future of the garden in mind Mr. Odell was instrumental in organizing the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden in the summer of 1952. He was its president until his death. It was his dearest wish that the Friends would guarantee the continuance of the garden in the event of his death. Membership fees and donations would supplement the allocations of the Park Board and would continue the unique contribution the Wild Flower Garden makes to Minneapolis.

The future of the Wild Flower Garden now lies with the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden. The memorial which would mean most to the man who gave so much of his time, his devotion and his money to the development of the Wild Flower Garden as a sanctuary and an educational project for Minneapolis is its continuance. Two or three years of neglect because of insufficient maintenance and the garden would be an overgrown mass of weeds, its significance lost, the labor of years destroyed. The challenge now lies with us.

By Dorothy Walton Binder

BIRD NOTES

By the end of summer the songs of the birds have ceased and their plumage begins to fade, altho the rich note of the Scarlet Tanager is occasionally heard even in the hottest weather. The wild ringing cry of the Crested Flycatcher which generally is not heard until the latter part of May is still heard until late in fall, as well as the lazy summer song of the Wood Pewee.

As autumn nears increasing numbers of birds are migrating back to the south. Many are leaving before the frosts of fall.

The Bobolinks are returning to the wild-rice marshes and the flocking of Black birds is noticed. The shore birds are slowly making their way southward.

Soon the Juncos and Chickadees will return from the northern woods and again spend the winter with us.

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DID YOU KNOW

That plants that are able to rush into bloom early in the year are those which have stored up food in their underground bulbs, corms or rootstocks such as Trilliums, Solomon's-Seal, Iris, Trout Lily, Hyacinths, Tulips, Daffodils, Spring Beauty and many others.

WHAT PLANTS TO AVOID

In planting wild flowers in this locality try to avoid those requiring intense acid soil. It will save you many grievous errors.

However they can be grown providing the soil is kept acid with an application of Aluminum sulfate annually. Soil acidity is a vital problem.

Some of the plants requiring acid soil are--

Clintonia

Stemless Lady's-Slipper

Goldthread

Pitcher Plant

Wood Sorrel

Wintergreen

Bunchberry

Painted Trillium

Rose Trillium

Rhododendron

Azalea

Bluets

Trailing Arbutus

Mountain Laurel

Galax

Oconee Bells

Prince's Pine

Shinleaf

LATE SUMMER FLOWERS

One of the greatest floral displays of the year is presented by the Asters and Golden-rods in the fall. The profusion of the many varieties of both enliven the upland garden and woods garden as well as the swamp with the masses of purple, white and blue flowers.

The Asters and Golden-rods are a fitting climax to the seasonal succession of flowers that begin with the modest spring flowers, the Hepaticas and Pasque-flowers.

The bright-colored blossoms of these late flowers lend a colorful charm to the autumn landscape.

DORMANT PLANTS

Do not be disturbed if some of your early spring blooming plants have completely disappeared. Such as Spring-beauty, Dutchman's breeches, Squirrel-corn, Bloodroot, Trout Lily, Trilliums and Mertensia. These and several others become dormant before the heat of midsummer. Ferns grown with them will prove a satisfactory cover.

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Martha E. Crone -- Editor