

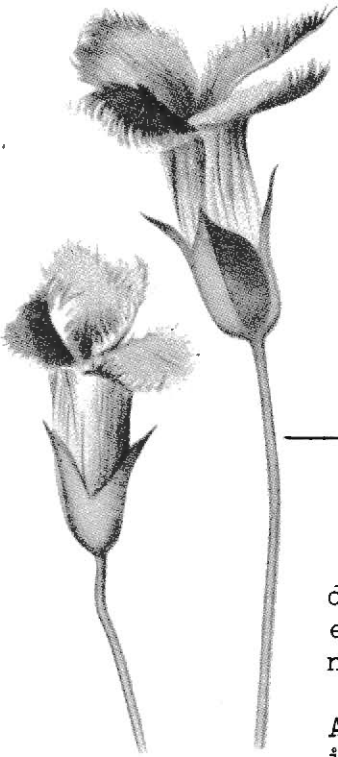
THE FRINGED GENTIAN

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MELODY OF MIDSUMMER

The days dawn early, birds awaken and sing even before daylight. The golden-glow preceding the new-risen sun - feathery clouds in a blue faultless sky and the delightful early coolness offset the oppressive heat of midday.

We welcome the heat of midday to mature and ripen all fruits. After a long day the sun drops low and the coolness of evening is like a benediction.

The hot, dry, sunny weather also is the heyday of insect life. Innumerable butterflies rise and dip about the garden and thru the woods, while night moths flock to lighted windows. Moths and butterflies are characteristic of midsummer. Unlike the dull-hued butterflies of early spring, those of summer are gay in color. In the trees and bushes countless glinting fireflies are gleaming at dusk.

All things that love the sun are out of doors where the air is sweet with flower fragrance. The woods are deep in the shadow of full foliage to shield the delicate ferns from the blazing sun.

Growing things of earth are fast developing for soon the steps of autumn will be heard.

BIRD NOTES

The merry music of the Bobolinks, Meadowlarks and Thrushes will soon be gone and the vivid memory of another spring is again past.

With the exception of a few feeble reminders early in the morning or at eventide, the brilliant notes of May and June are gone.

The evening chiming of the Veery fades from our reluctant ears.

The Goldfinches now feathered in their summer costume of bright yellow and black are laying their first eggs and many times have a second brood. They do not migrate so need not hasten.

It was pleasant to again have the Bluebirds nesting in the garden after an absence of several years. Their scarcity was noted everywhere for many years. Perhaps their attempts to nest in wayside newspaper boxes with little success has proven disastrous.

Strangely the Red-winged Blackbirds were noted frequently coming to the feeder in the garden this past spring and summer.

By the end of August various birds are already slowly making their way southward.

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

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JERUSALEM ARTICHOKE

(Helianthus tuberosus)

A tuberous-rooted perennial sunflower, with annual stems 5 to 8 feet, closely resembling the common sunflower. The name "Artichoke" comes from the apparent similarity of flavor of the tubers to the true Artichoke.

The tubers similar to potatoes are produced in clusters near the thick fleshy root.

The plants are propagated as are potatoes from cut tubers, or plants that have sprouted in the spring (rooted slips). It blooms late in the fall after most flowers have passed and is fine for cut flowers. It was called sun-root by the Indians.

Roots are best dug in the late fall or early spring. If the plants are left undisturbed they will spread very rapidly and become a pest. Therefore its best to plant them by themselves in a restricted area. They thrive in swampy places as well as in average garden soil.

The tubers are considered starchless potatoes and are much sought after, eaten boiled or raw in salads.

CHIMNEY SWIFTS

The evening decent of the Swifts when they return in silence to their roosting quarters long after dark, and leave again in the darkness before dawn is seldom noted by bird watchers.

They nest and sleep in unused chimneys having originally nested in hollow trees. They fly over their roosting chimney in flocks and one by one they descend. Being migratory it so happens that they arrive from their winter homes late in the spring and leave again early in the fall when chimneys are not in use.

They have the ability of flying straight up and straight down which enables them to enter and leave chimneys. Long hours are spent on the wing catching insects.

PLANTING TIME

August is an ideal time to plant or transplant Trilliums. Clumps that contain more than three plants should be separated. Plant them at least six inches deep under trees and shrubs, as well as in wooded areas. Protect them from squirrels, since they delight in digging them up. Cover the area if possible with wire. One of the simplest plants to grow.

DID YOU KNOW

That the humming of the Honeybee is produced entirely by vibrating the wings rapidly. This characteristic sound is made with the wings while the bees are flying, crawling or at rest.

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MEMORIAL

The citizens of this great metropolis owe a debt of gratitude to the late Mr. Clinton M. Odell, for his contributions to the growth and development of the garden. In so many ways he contributed most generously so that the future generations might benefit.

It was thru his effort that the upland or prairie garden was established in 1944, an addition to the already existing garden.

For many years such an addition had been envisioned for a concentration of prairie plants. A large portion of native Minnesota plants grow on the prairie, where the sun shines the entire day.

We pause to pay tribute to his many deeds of kindness and in recognition of this his friends have placed in this prairie garden, a native stone settee and bronze marker in his memory.

"On all his sad or restless moods
The patient peace of Nature stole;
The quiet of the fields and woods
Sank deep into his soul"

-Whittier

WINTER DAMAGE

The past winter has been most disastrous to trees, shrubs and perennials, due to a number of reasons.

The subsurface deficit of the past several dry years had not yet been overcome. The season was characterized by relatively low temperatures yet no record low was reached. Very little rain or snow and a great deal of hot winter sunshine combined to make a most severe season.

The terrific wind storm of November 1958 drove the moisture from evergreen trees and shrubs by its force, leaving them exposed to the hot winter sun which followed. This resulted in many evergreens dead or partly dried this spring.

The great loss in bulbs and rhisomes, including trilliums, tulips, iris and many others was caused mainly by the wind drying them followed by the many days of sunshine on ground unprotected by snow. Yet surprisingly many plants survived these conditions, including the Azaleas and Rhododendrons in the Wild Flower Garden.

They bloomed beautifully during May and June, they must be seen to be appreciated. The seedling plants set out some years ago by the Curator are now fully six feet tall. The outstanding Rhododendrons are the Catawbiense and maximum. The two most satisfactory Azalea are Flame Azalea (*Azalea calendulacea*) and the pink nudiflora and vaseyi.

ORCHIDS

Some of our loveliest and rarest wild orchids grow in deep bogs where they are seldom seen by anyone.

One cannot but sympathize with Thoreau who grumbled because the Purple Fringed Orchis grew so abundantly in the Maine woods, where only the moose and moose hunters could see it, and rarely in Concord where Philosophers dwelt.

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GARDENS ADVANTAGE

The love of nature is becoming more spontaneous. The beauty of our wild flowers is steadily growing with the rise of culture, yet our wild areas are fast disappearing.

The function of the Wild Flower Garden is to provide such an area so that urbanites can find peacefulness and repose close at hand in the fields, woods and marsh of this area. It makes for richer and more interesting living.

In order to properly preserve this Sanctuary for the benefit of future generations, great care must be exerted to not only protect the existing beauty but to further it.

The Friends of the Wild Flower Garden are helping greatly to promote for posterity this area of unique interest and significance.

"In Wilderness is the Preservation of the World"

-Henry Thoreau

STRANGE AS IT MAY SEEM

The round holes bordered with a ring of mud often found in wet low places are made by Crayfish. The rim of mud appears to have boiled out.

The Crayfish abide in these openings and multiply very rapidly and should be checked. Owls are known to take them while they are at work in the night.

GHOST PLANT

Indian Pipe (Monatropa uniflora)

A leafless, plant devoid of green, a parasite drawing its nourishment from other living roots, thriving in the deepest shade.

One of its common names is Ice-plant, well named since it is noticeably cold and clammy to the touch. It turns black when picked or exposed to the sun.

It is closely related to such plants as Azalea, Rhododendron, Wintergreen, Trailing Arbutus, Blueberry and Cranberry.

Most of these are difficult to transplant and apparently are somewhat parasitic upon the roots of other plants.

Indian Pipe may have the aid of a fungus to extract organic matter from the soil.

Trailing Arbutus is always found growing in company with Blueberry.

WILD FLOWER LECTURES

Lectures on Wild Flowers and scenes in the garden illustrated with koda-chrome slides can be arranged by the Editor.

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

Martha E. Crone -- Editor