

THE FRINGED GENTIAN



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AUTUMN THE SEASON OF NOSTALGIA

The summer's prime has faded and altho October is the month of fallen leaves, wider horizons are more clearly seen. The distant hills are once more in sight.

Autumn is for understanding, how well it is that each year should bring such a time for all growing things to pause and rest.

The pressure of blooming and fruiting is relaxed. Altho next years buds are already formed and are now patiently waiting for the cold season of shortened days and long nights to end.

Then to burst forth in the warm spring sunshine.

It seems but a few weeks since trees were in fragrant bloom and now the fruit has ripened and has been harvested.

The silhouettes of the leafless trees etched against the brown of November fields, foretell the white days to come when every tree will be outlined in clinging snow.

At this time it is well to recall the lines of George Meredith--

"Earth knows no desolation"
She smells regeneration
In the moist breath of decay"

BIRD NOTES

Waves of Warblers have been moving south since the middle of August. They continue to pass thru hurriedly while many others move more leisurely. Robins were still about late in September and at dusk uttered the same call they have in the spring. It makes one wonder if the adults are teaching the young to sing.

Blackbirds gather in large flocks feeding in fields and remaining until October. Ducks and Geese hurry thru after frost, some as late as mid-November.

Flocks of Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were noted during the middle of September, along the north shore of Lake Superior just below the Canadian border, slowly making their way south. Stopping to sip from belated flowers as tho they were reluctant to leave.

The sweet whisperings of the migrant songbirds brighten the days briefly with a few melodies, before they move on to the south.

How welcome birds are that come back in the fall in great numbers to stay thru the cold weather. Chickadees are returning to be joined later by Juncos and Snow Buntings. Soon Goldfinches return from fields and meadows, their late nesting completed.

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

ANGELICA

Purple-stemmed Angelica (*Angelica atropurpurea*) also called Masterwort is a sturdy biennial growing 6 to 8 feet. The stems are hollow and several inches in diameter. The leaves are very large, the lower ones often two feet across. The blossoms are large terminal umbels of tiny white flowers.

This plant has medicinal ingredients therefore its name. The oil extracted from the seeds gives a sweetish flavor to custards and breads. The stalk blanched may be eaten like celery or cooked like a vegetable.

This plant thrives locally in deep rich loam which should be moist yet well drained. The first year a rosette of leaves forms close to the ground. The second year the plant grows tall and after blooming and seeding dies.

USES FOR SPHAGNUM MOSS

When there is a delay before plants can be planted after receiving from a Nursery they should be protected from drying out by packing in moistened Sphagnum Moss.

Shredded Sphagnum Moss is one of the most ideal mediums for the germination of seeds. It is inexpensive and easily procured from nurseries or seed houses. Since it is completely sterile, there is no danger of damping-off. Germination takes place in a very short time and the seedlings make rapid growth. If mineral nutrient solutions are added, plants can grow in the moss well beyond the seedling stage.

Shredded Sphagnum Moss can be prepared by rubbing dry moss thru a wire screen.

A light covering of this fine moss sifted over fine seeds sown in flats will prevent the soil from cracking or drying out too quickly.

A flower pot placed inside a larger pot and the space between the two pots packed with Sphagnum Moss and kept moist will keep the inner pot cool during hot weather, also prevents the soil from drying out.

NOVEMBER NIGHTS

November nights are star nights with the leaves gone the whole sky can be seen and the interesting winter constellations stand out prominently.

During spring and summer the stars seem to have retreated into some distant depth of the sky, but by November the remoteness is gone. Stars then seem to be in easy reach.

One of the best known constellations visible during the evening starting in early winter and continuing for several months is Orion. In the early fall it can be observed in the south sky in the early morning hours when few persons are about. But later in the winter it dominates the sky during the evening hours.

The mildew so often found on Golden Glow and several other plants, caused by a fungus can be controlled by dusting thoroughly with fine dusting sulphur.

FALL PLANTING

A number of plants are best planted in the fall, during September or October. Trilliums, Mertensia and Lady's-slippers to mention a few.

The Large-flowered Trillium (*Trillium grandiflorum*) is most attractive when planted in colonies. The tuberous rootstock should be planted three to six inches deep in any soil in wooded areas, under shade trees or shrubs or ravine slopes. They also do well planted among ferns, then when the Trilliums become dormant and disappear the ferns take over and cover the bare spots. They remain in bloom about a month which adds to their desirability.

Virginia Bluebell (*Mertensia virginica*) makes a good companion plant for the Trillium. Both blooming at the same time and having the same requirements, altho Mertensia may also be planted in moister situations such as meadows or along streams. The roots should be planted just below the service of the ground.

Both the Trillium and Mertensia are some of the showiest flowers.

The Large Yellow Lady's-slipper (*Cypripedium calceolus pubescens*) grows well in wooded areas, hillsides and gardens. Not difficult to grow, they should be planted with the buds just beneath the surface.

The above mentioned are excellent for the home garden as well as for woods restoration and will tolerate both sun and shade as well as being easiest of culture.

STRANGE AS IT MAY SEEM

One of the most important tropical fruits is the banana. It belongs to the *Musa* genus of herbaceous plants, tree-like in growth.

The banana is a native of tropical Asia, Africa and Australia.

The plant is grown for its fruit, fiber and the beauty of its foliage.

The cluster of fruit hangs from the crown of the plant, generally many fruits in the bunch. The fruits point upward.

After bearing the plant withers and dies, but first sends out suckers from the base, this perpetuates the plant. The new plant bears fruit the following year.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Grateful acknowledgement is made to the members of Friends of the Wild Flower Garden Inc., for their very worthwhile contribution to the garden.

Your interest helps greatly to maintain a constant planting of wild flowers, and to provide adequate help, which is so necessary to keep a check on weeds and encroaching plants. A short while of neglect would soon destroy the fine work accomplished.

Wild flowers are introduced to grow in a natural habitat, resembling the remnants of what was once a great wilderness.

The wild flowers in the garden can help in a small way to take their place. When the last of the wilderness is destroyed it cannot be replaced.

May you continue your most appreciated support so that this fine heritage can be passed on to the next generation.

SNOW-ON-THE-MOUNTAIN

Snow-on-the-Mountain (*Euphorbia marginata*) of the Spurge Family, is an annual native of North America.

Its milky juice is distinctly irritating to the skin of many persons like Poison Ivy. This is noticed when picking the plant for bouquets for which purpose it is freely used.

It was originally an inhabitant of the plains and prairies of the middle west. Having become a weed by sowing itself abundantly. Being sufficiently aggressive to become an annoyance.

Strangely this week with its green and white variegated foliage is beautiful, therefore is commonly grown in gardens as a decorative plant.

DID YOU KNOW

That the Tangerine (*Citrus nobilis* var. *deliciosa*) is a variety of orange which peels very easily and divides into sections readily. It is sometimes called Kid Glove Orange. Tangerines are actually known as Mandarin Oranges.

The trees are small with willow-like leaves and small flowers. The flattened round fruits with the loose peel is orange-yellow in color and has a fine flavor.

MUSHROOMS

Fresh Mushrooms contain the vitamins of the B complex (thiamine, riboflavin and niacin) and a small amount of ascorbic acid. Canned Mushrooms contain less than half of the amounts found in fresh Mushrooms.

Health value of Mushrooms

Calories per lb.	210
Vitamins	A C
Proteins	3.5 o/o
Carbohydrates	6.8 o/o
Fats	.4 o/o
Iron	.00073 o/o

BULB PROTECTION

Field mice are particularly fond of tulip and lily bulbs and where an area is badly infested with mice it is quite useless to attempt to grow them unless some protection is given.

Newly planted bulbs are in greater danger of being destroyed than those well established. It would be well to cover the freshly planted area with wire or scatter naphthalene flakes.