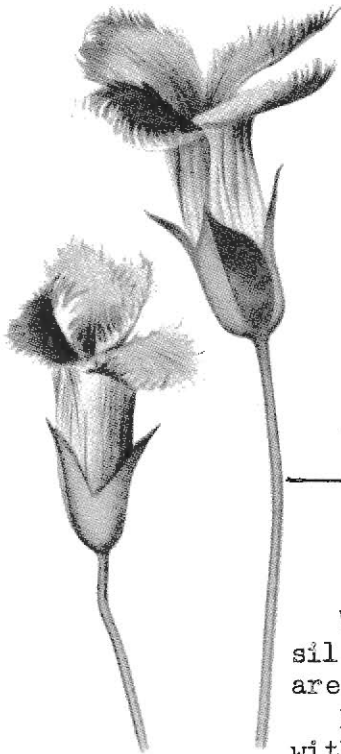


# THE FRINGED GENTIAN



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## WINTER'S ENCHANTMENT

When the blasts of winter appear there is found solace in the silence of the freshly fallen snow. The brooks in icy silence are locked and muted, their current slowed by frost in the ground.

For this is the solstice season when days are the shortest, with only eight hours of sunlight. The rays from the sun slant low in the south sky giving very little warmth. Dusk falls quickly and it is now in our snug security that we cherish the warmth from our fires.

Wearied by winter's drab and sombre tone, this weathered look is soon erased when the sun mounts in the sky, and we are again safe through the winter storms. Any day now there will be a whisper of spring in the wind and another winter has blown itself out.

"Snow comes on wings as silent as an owl's  
The snow now turns and slowly climbs the sky  
But winter scowls and shows a bleary eye."

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## BIRD NOTES

Our cold-weather birds add a note of cheerfulness to this season with their bright little chirps of greeting, even on a cold frosty morning.

With little encouragement in the form of occasional food and water many birds will stay near-by all winter.

The Chickadee is the most vocal bird at this time yet its sweet notes have little strength or endurance during the cold. The nasal call of the Nuthatch and the sharp note of the Hairy Woodpecker and the Downy Woodpecker help enliven the scene. There are few other sounds aside from the sound of the chilling wind and the crack of expanding ice.

Blue Jays and Cardinals are brilliant against the snowy background.

Feed the birds at this time when foraging is difficult for them. Suet, sunflower seeds, peanuts and peanut butter, as well as various small seeds such as millet. Pumpkin, squash and melon seeds are also very much relished by a number of birds. Save them during the season.

A large flock of Blackbirds were noted near Shakopee the later part of December, no doubt they will remain here for the balance of the winter.

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

NEW BOOK JUST OUT

"PRINTS OF INVISIBLE FINGERS"

This charming volume of fragments of nature lore, was written by Millicent Mahlum Kelts.

Prof. R. E. Hodgson, Agriculture Dept., Minnesota State University says of the book- Some folks have discovered the secret of sharing in some phase of Nature's unending drama. They find it hard to believe that others are blindly missing the rewards to be had by so little effort.

This most interesting volume with full page drawings by R. Bruce Horsfall is now available at \$3.95.

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DID YOU KNOW

That Swifts are the fastest of all birds. They have been clocked at 200 miles an Hour.

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CARDAMON SEED

The Cardamon Seed (*Elleteria cardamomum maton*) is used extensively both whole and ground as a flavoring in pastries and cookies.

This exotic herb adds a most intriguing flavor to many of the old favorites such as bread, rolls, cookies, fruit salads, jellies and also used in pickling spice blends.

This plant is a native to India, but now is being cultivated in Mexico and Central America.

There are 8 to 16 seeds in a pod or fruit capsule. This seed was used as early as 800 B.C.

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TO THE MEMBERS OF THE WILD FLOWER GARDEN

A great deal of satisfaction can be derived by the members in realizing what their membership is contributing to the development and perpetuation of the garden.

This achievement has taken many years to accomplish and constant effort is required to add to the display, as well as control weeds and many other disturbing factors.

There is only praise for the skill and patience which has made the Wild Flower Garden what it is today.

Perhaps the wild blooms are not as large and showy as various cultivated varieties yet they are our natives and much more interesting. When massed they produce such wealth of color and perfection of bloom.

This past summer many ferns were added to the New Fern Garden - 75 Ostrich Ferns, 150 Interrupted Ferns and 25 Lady Ferns. Many addition plantings were made in the woods and bog garden.

Experiments are being carried out with leaf coverings to keep down weeds as well as to avoid erosion on slopes.

The Conducted Garden Tour held in May for members and friends was well attended and enjoyed by all. Requests have been made for a repeat tour this coming spring.

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SPECIAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

The regular Annual Meeting of Friends of the Wild Flower Garden, Inc., will be held Tuesday, January 10th, 1961 at 7:30 p.m., at the home of our President Mrs. Carroll Binder, 1627 W. 26th St., Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The nominating committee will give their report. Directors and Officers will be elected.

KINDLY ATTEND

A NEW FLOWER GARDEN

It is interesting to note that the members of the Grand Marais Garden Club are diligently working on the establishment of a Wild Flower Garden, to feature wild flowers native to the North Country. A beautifully located area at the confluence of two rivers is being devoted to this project.

The new interesting Circle Drive around Lake Superior has been completed, and many will be taking this drive in the summer. To do so it is necessary to pass through Grand Marais, while there stop awhile and deviate a few miles up the Gunflint Trail and visit this very fine Reserve.

Here a concentration of plants native to the far north are being planted. Many of these northern plants have a preference for deep bogs where unlikely the average person would never see them, if they were not brought out into this accessible garden.

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AN ENDURING CONSTELLATION

This again being the season when the stars seem to come closer, much pleasure can be derived in viewing the most interesting and fascinating Constellation "Orion". At this time it is found in the south, rising late in the evening in the southeast.

It is hard to believe that the star in the upper left hand corner of the quadri-lateral, named "Betelgeuse" is 250 times larger than our own sun and 3000 times more luminous.

This blazing and glowing red sun is about 500 light years away.

The constellation Orion is one of the finest sights and the easiest to find.

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ZODIACAL LIGHT

The latter part of March look for the Zodiacal light in the western sky just after sunset. It appears as a wedge of hazy light directly in the west at the place where the sun has set. Your Editor has witnessed it numerous times. It can also be seen in the east just before sun rise.

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WILD PASSION-FLOWERWild Passion-Flower or May-pop (*Passiflora incarnata*)

This flower is a very modest form of the many gorgeous species of the equatorial regions, is still most beautiful as well as odd.

An ornamental tendril-climber of 20 to 30 feet. It forms a tremendous growth of lustrous foliage in one season. Excellent for trellis or fence.

Its vigorous, comparatively free of pests and flowering early in life abundantly.

The intricate design of the purple and pale pink flower is most interesting. They are 3 to 4 inches across and bloom most profusely.

May-pop refers to its small very fragrant, melon-like edible fruits, which also are called Wild Apricots.

Methods of propagation are simple - the vines should be cut back in late fall and the root potted and taken into a cool basement for storage.

To start new plants, slips or cuttings are placed in water in late fall and potted as soon as roots form. They will grow all winter when placed in a window. They are ready to be set out when danger of frost has passed in the spring.

These small plants will climb at least 25 feet in one season. Hundreds of slips can be collected from one plant. They will endure considerable frost in the fall. This information is based on your Editors personal experience.

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PEANUTS

The Peanut (*Arachis hypogaea*) is also called Goober or Ground Nut. Altho not grown commercially north of the state of Virginia, they can be grown here with special care and barring an early frost in the fall.

Its a low-growing, vine-like plant with small yellow flowers. This nut is an important crop in a number of ways. Being grown for forage, as a crop to improve soil as well as for food.

The fruits or nuts develop underground. The flowers are pushed under ground to ripen its pods. The pods are harvested and dried, then carefully roasted. The care taken in roasting determines their flavor.

They require a long growing season and prefer a soil of sandy loam. The plants are left in the ground until frost kills the tops. In planting obtain unroasted nuts.

The success of growing these gives the inspiration for further efforts to experiment with plants not normally grown here.

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STRANGE AS IT MAY SEEM

The Cashew is grown for the sake of its odd kidney-shaped nuts. They are born on a red or yellow fleshy receptacle called the cashew apple, about 3 inches high. The apple is also edible, the nuts are roasted before they are eaten.