

THE FRINGED GENTIAN

(1)

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PLEASURES OF WINTER

Winter is the most alluring season for a walk in the Wild Flower Garden. Along the silver-clad aisles of the winter woodlands one becomes conscious of the stillness and peacefulness of the white forest. The beauty of tree architecture can now be seen which the foliage concealed in summertime.

After a snowfall, numerous animal tracks are found crisscrossing the untrodden snow.

For the flower enthusiasts the winter months are the in-between months, when snows lie deep on field and hill. Dry flower stocks are crowned with puffs of snow. Birds are silent and cold winds blow.

On clear cold nights the stars seem to swing low enough for one to reach up and grasp a handful.

To have joy in the winter-time think but of the spring and summer ahead when skies are blue and days are bright. When the new green again comes on bush and tree and the sweet scent of spring flowers fills the air, the songs of birds, longer days, warm sunshine and soft south winds.

"Come forth into the light of things,
Let Nature be your teacher."

-Wm. Wordsworth

JEWELL-WEED

The Jewell-weed or Touch-me-not, (*Impatiens*) was introduced in this region where it is an interloper, an area where it has not been gradually fitted into a definite niche by the continuous action of age-long evolution.

Such plants placed in a new area where their natural competitors and enemies do not exist, will often run wild in such numbers and with such rapidity as to crowd out the natives. This condition has been existing in the Wild Flower Garden. Jewell-weed was brought in years ago and even after diligently removing them each year, they still return in great numbers. They are annuals and have numerous seeds which propagate readily.

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

BIRD NOTES

The wonder and delight of having birds about in the winter when everything is still is far greater than in summer.

A helping hand is most appreciated at this time by our little feathered friends who are plucky enough to brave snowstorms and cold weather.

After the summer visitants have left for the south, our winter birds become conspicuous and tend to cheer us during the long winter months.

The mess-tables are in full operation in the Wild. Flower Garden. The feeders are filled with sunflower seeds every day. Beef suet is hung nearby and peanut butter placed in convenient places. Mellot seeds and crushed grain are placed on the ground in sheltered places for the Juncos.

Cardinals, Blue Jays, White-breasted Nuthatches and Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers remain about the feeders the entire year as well as a few Chickadees. However, the Chickadees and Nuthatches increase in numbers upon the approach of cold weather. Purple Finches and Goldfinches appear in great numbers at this time.

A half dozen Red-breasted Nuthatches have been busily storing food in every crevice and cranny since early fall.

The shyness of the White-breasted Nuthatch contrasts greatly to the friendliness of the Red-breasted Nuthatch. They fly about us uttering their characteristic toot-toot, as tho expressing their gratitude.

A little Brown Creeper as well as several Evening Grosbeaks were noted early in December.

Save the seeds of Zinnias left over in the garden, the Goldfinches are very fond of them.

The full complement of winter birds at the feeders is reached well before snow flies.

BRAZIL NUT

The Brazil nut (*Bertholletia excelsa*) is borne on one of our largest trees, often reaching a height of 160 feet.

The nuts are packed into a thick-walled, woody capsule from four to six inches in diameter. Twelve to twenty-four nuts are tightly packed into this capsule. When the seed pod falls it does not open and liberate the seeds, instead they must be split open. A pod often weighs a pound or more. They fall from the trees during December, January and February.

They grow principally in Tropical America, especially along the Amazon and Orinoco rivers.

These nuts have become a traditional part of our Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners.

DID YOU KNOW

That the fragrant Twinflower was the favorite flower of Linnaeus. Its botanical name is (*Linnaea borealis*). Linnaeus was the first to arrange and classify plants and give them scientific Latin or Greek names.

Greetings of the Holiday Season to all members of "Friends of the Wild Flower Garden, who have so generously supported the work of the garden.



STRANGE AS IT MAY SEEM

A number of well known vegetables belong to the Mustard Family, one of the larger flower families. They are Cabbage, Brussels sprouts, Kohlrabi, Kale, Cauliflower, Broccoli, Rutabaga, Radish, Turnip, Cress, Watercress and Horseradish.

This family is referred to as "crucifers" or "cross-bearers" because their corolla is made up nearly in all cases of four petals borne in opposite pairs suggestive of a cross.

One of the handsomest of our native crucifers is the Prairie Rocket (*Cheirinia aspera*). Other interesting plants are Toothwort (*Dentaria laciniata*) and Pepper root (*Dentaria diphylla*).

DAFFODILS

Great confusion arises over the plant names "Jonquil", "Narcissus" and "Daffodil". All of them are Narcissi but the hardy yellow Narcissi with trumpet-shaped center are commonly called Daffodils. The fragrant cluster types, which have several flowers on one stem are generally spoken of as Narcissi. The name "Jonquil" a plant which has hollow rushlike leaves and numerous yellow flowers hanging from one stem.

TREES

Many of our trees cannot endure smoke and dust from the City, the Evergreens being among these. However, the following trees are not affected by smoke or dust:

Honey Locust	(<i>Gleditsia tricanthos</i>)	Ailanthus (<i>Ailanthus glandulosa</i>)
American Elm	(<i>Ulmus americana</i>)	Horse Chestnut (<i>Aesculus</i>
White Ash	(<i>Fraxinus americana</i>)	Hippocastanum)
Cottonwood	(<i>Populus deltoides</i>)	Basswood (<i>Tilia americana</i>)
Maples	(<i>Acer sp.</i>)	Balm-of-Gilead (<i>Populus candicans</i>)

GRATITUDE

We are grateful indeed for the kind contribution of printing the last two issues of "Fringed Gentian", from our faithful member, Mr. Lloyd Hale. We express our thanks and appreciation.

PINE NUTS

In answer to numerous inquiries -- the small cream-colored, sweet nuts contained in the mixture of salted nuts are Pine Nuts. They come from Italy and are the seeds of the "Umbrella" Pine (*Pinus pinea*).

(4)

PLANT TODAY FOR TOMORROW

It is imperative that we build up our supply of native trees. The planting of trees is one of the most practical and economical methods of helping Nature.

An estimate has been made that 3-inch saplings of the following trees planted under ordinary conditions, will in twenty years have diameters of -

Silver Maple	21 inches	Yellow Locust	14 inches
Box Elder	21 inches	Hard Maple	13 inches
American Elm	19 inches	Horse Chestnut	13 inches
Tulip Tree	18 inches	Honey Locust	13 inches
Sycamore	18 inches	Red Oak	13 inches
Basswood	17 inches	Pin Oak	13 inches
Catalpa	16 inches	Scarlet Oak	13 inches
Red Maple	16 inches	White Ash	12 inches
Ailanthus	16 inches	White Oak	11 inches
Chestnut	14 inches	Hackberry	10 inches

The years of a tree's life are recorded with fair accuracy in the rings of its wood. In a year of drought, the wood ring is much smaller than during a wet year. Woods differ in structure, the trees of slow growth usually have fine-grained woods.

LARGE-FLOWERED TRILLIUM PROPAGATION

Propagation of the Large-flowered Trillium can be accomplished by seed, which should be planted as soon as ripe, altho it will take from three to five years for them to bloom.

Rather than wait for this slow process I find a much faster method is to transplant individual plants and at the same time injure the corm. The following year many stalks are produced on this single corm. This method has produced 25 blooming stalks from one corm. Following their first blooming they should be separated and planted individually.

YAMS AND SWEET POTATOES

The Sweet Potato and the Yam are distinct one from another. They belong to entirely different families.

The Yam (*Dioscorea Batatas*) belongs to the Yam Family and is related to the Lilies. It was introduced and naturalized from Asia.

The Sweet Potato (*Ipomoea*) is of the Morning Glory Family and is the only cultivated species of this family of any economic importance. It was originally native to Central America.

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