

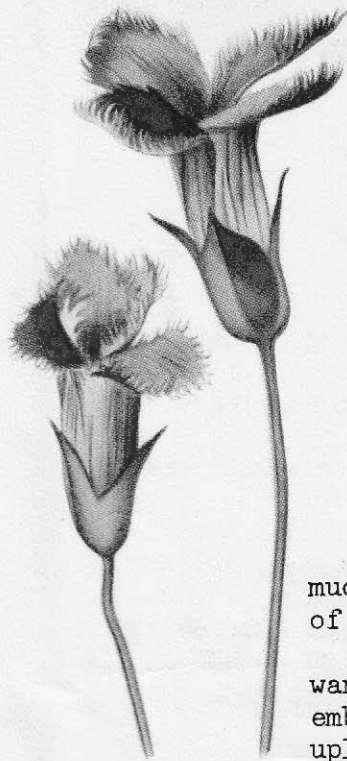
THE FRINGED GENTIAN

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SUMMERTIME

July and August are not easily separated, their features being much alike. They bring us to a pause in the rapid development of growing plants.

The peak of Spring bloom comes the latter part of May, then wanes somewhat, then rises to a climax again in August and September when the flowers of the prairie are at their best in the upland garden.

The heated woods are now silent, the birds having ceased their singing, only an occasional note is heard as a reminder of the brilliant songs of May and June. Their nesting is done and they are now busy guiding and guarding the young.

The Yellow-headed Blackbirds, Water Thrushes and many warblers are already starting back south during August.

Summer with the blazing sun and long days brings us diversified blossoms, such as the scarlet spikes of the Cardinal Flower, Purple Fringed Orchis, Blazing Stars, Purple Loosestrife and many others. Many varieties of Golden-rod and Asters start to bloom during September and last well thru October. The Asters countless as the stars for which they are named present a springlike delicacy, wholly at variance with Autumn's yellows, reds and purples.

This little publication attempts to save you valuable hours and fleeting opportunities by reminding you from time to time thru out the circle of the year of what is doing in the plant world, lest their brief period pass before you remember that this is their appointed season.

Observation without records falls short of its possibilities for both value and enjoyment. Field notes made day by day will prove most valuable and be treasured for the pleasant associations they recall and become precious heirlooms.

Thoreau said; "A man must attend to Nature closely for many years to know when, as well as where, to look for his objects, since he must always anticipate her a little".

WILD FLOWER BOOK

"Wild Flowers of New York" by Homer D. House. The plants shown therein closely correspond to the flora of this area. The illustrations in color are so superior for identification purposes that most people I encounter prefer this book to any other. Unfortunately, it is difficult to obtain since it is out of print.

MUSHROOMS

Common edible and poisonous fungi

The term "fungus" or plural "fungi" is a group of non-flowering plants, closely related to algae and lichens.

They are a most interesting class of plants and even a little knowledge of them will add much to the pleasure of woodland walks.

Moisture is the condition most favorable to their growth, so the best time to look for them is after a rainfall, especially in autumn.

They appear so unexpectedly, have so many curious shapes, and such a variety of shades of color. Some grow on wood, such as the Elm Cap, Oyster, Sulphur, Coral and Velvet-stemmed Collybia. Others grow on the ground in woods, fields or meadows, these include Puffballs, Lepiotas, Inky Caps, Shaggy Mane and Fairy-rings. Evergreen woods are prolific with Boleti.

The species most commonly cultivated is the Meadow Mushroom (*Psaliota campestris*). It grows in fields and meadows, especially in autumn.

The season starts in May with several varieties of the delectable Morel. They were found in abundance this past May.

The majority of the common fleshy fungi have a central stem, bearing a cap, beneath which spores are developed. An enormous number of spores are present in the gills.

The deadly Amanita, also called Death Cup is white spored, has a ring or collar on the stem a short distance below the cap which is 3 to 5 inches across varying in color from white to gray or smoky brown. This variety should be known by those who gather mushrooms. It is one of the most poisonous species, and unfortunately widely distributed, growing from July to October.

There is a general distrust prevalent regarding the edibility of various mushrooms. A knowledge of fungi is the only safe means of distinguishing edible fungi from poisonous. All so-called "tests" are merely myths and utterly useless. Make sure that all specimens collected are safe to eat.

DID YOU KNOW

That the number of really poisonous wild fruits in Minnesota is surprisingly small.

There is a general belief that any fruit that birds will eat is safe for human food. This is not entirely true since the edible flesh of some fruit is eaten by birds but the poisonous seeds are rejected.

That a mountain has a great variety of flowers. Each one hundred feet up, is the equivalent of ten miles north. Therefore several thousand feet up there is bound to be a change of flora.

WILD FLOWER PROTECTION SOCIETIES ARE AS BADLY NEEDED NOW AS AUDUBON SOCIETIES

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

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WHAT IS THE WILD FLOWER GARDEN?

Perhaps the title of "Wild Flower Garden" is a misnomer and greatly misleading. It would be more appropriate to call it "Wild Flower Sanctuary".

Many visitors expect to find a formal garden laid out in neatly trimmed beds and borders, with Rock Gardens rising up out of a mowed lawn, rather than a place where wild flowers are planted in beautiful natural surroundings to imitate their native habitats, where there is no fixed or formal order. They must have an environment suited to their being if they are to survive. The charm of a wild flower is found mostly in its natural setting.

Here in this 13 acre tract of wilderness we endeavor to grow most wild flowers native to Minnesota as well as many from other States, where they are safe and can be enjoyed by interested patrons and where with care they can thrive for generations to come.

In this small area more varieties are established than can be found growing in any one locality. Plants from all parts of Minnesota are represented and since those from the southern part of the State thrive best in alkaline soil and those from the north require acid soil, it takes great effort to provide suitable locations and yet not sacrifice the natural appearance.

The woodland of large trees - Oak, Ash, Maple and various others, ferny glens, Marsh, prairie and pools are all part of the setting, as well as various soil conditions and gradations of shade and sun. On the edge of this wooded area sloping down to a bit of bogland are Giant Solomon's Seal, some of them six feet tall, also Turk's-cap Lilies seven feet tall. Here the many varieties of ferns are most outstanding, extending up the slope and among the trees presenting a mass of feathery green. The lovely sight has quite an indescribable charm in this world apart from our daily environment.

Colonization of weedy plants takes over quickly therefore continual war must be waged against them. Perhaps some weeds have a few good virtues, yet they soon crowd out the desirable plants if left to multiply.

Everyone should learn to appreciate the rich world of our wild flowers, which nature so abundantly provided for us. Let us pass them on unspoiled to future generations.

STRANGE AS IT MAY SEEM

Angleworms never were found and are not found now in wild places in America. There are no earthworms in a wild country, unless they were introduced there. Many of our wild flowers will not thrive wherever they have been introduced.

SHOOTING STAR

The lovely pink or magenta Shooting Stars (*Dodocatheon meadia* and *Dodocatheon amethystinum*) are most appropriately named. The strongly reflexed petals form the "tail" of an imaginary comet, while the "head" of the meteor is formed by five large, bright flame-colored anthers that seem to converge into a single head. The early pioneers called them Prairie-pointers. They are closely related to the cultivated Cyclamens.

LADY'S-SLIPPERS

The dust-like seeds of the Lady's-slippers (Cypripedium) consist of only a few cells and since they have no food reserve, perhaps explains why so few seedlings are found. Consequently their numbers are rapidly decreasing, bringing them nearer to extinction. Plants obtained from Nurseries are gathered in the wilds. Measures of protection should be given them.

Contrary to general belief, it is not difficult to establish several varieties providing they are given conditions similar to their natural one, and certain instructions for planting them should be carefully followed.

If not possible to reproduce their native habitate, it is wasteful to even attempt transplanting them.

Those than can be transplanted are the Showy Lady's-slipper (Cypripedium reginae) Minnesota State Flower, the largest of our wild orchids; the Small White Lady's-slipper (Cypripedium candidum); the Small Yellow Lady's-slipper (Cypripedium Calceolus var. parviflorum); and the Large Yellow Lady's-slipper (Cypripedium Calceolus var. pubescens).

The Minnesota State Flower has no fragrance quiet contrary to statements made in some reference books, but its showiness and beauty makes up for the lack of fragrance.

JACK-IN-THE-PULPIT

This is an interesting flower of the deep woods, (Arisaema triphyllum) of the Arum Family. Some of its other common names are Three-leaved Indian Turnip, Marsh Turnip, Pepper Turnip, Bog-onion, Brown-dragon and Starchwort.

The violently acrid bulb is exceedingly firy to the taste, and has been used medicinally. The Indians roasted the tubers making quite palitable food, giving it the name of Indian Turnip.

The club-like clusters of bright red berry-like fruit is very attractive in the fall. They propragate easily, the young plants blooming in a few years. Try planting a few.

SAVE THE WILDFLOWERS

Reprint from "Museum Notes", by N. L. Huff

Wildflowers, ferns and trees growing in their haunts rank high among the elements of natural beauty in the world about us. Some of our most attractive wildflowers have already been exterminated in the vicinity of cities and highways, and many others are in grave danger of the same fate.

With the advance of civilization the complete destruction of vast areas of native vegetation is absolutely inevitable.

That Minnesota may retain more of that primitive beauty let us use our influence for conservation of native plant life wherever it is still found. It is our heritage. Let us preserve it as we have received it, and let us pass it on, unspoiled, for the enjoyment and inspiration of future generations.