

THE FRINGED GENTIAN

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MELLOW FALL DAYS

As summer merges into autumn, the last flowers of the season are hurriedly blooming, as the fearful of impending frost.

The many varieties of Golden-rods and blue and white Asters are a real harmony of contrasting colors, making the hillsides glow with loveliness. The Wreath Golden-rod is last of the Golden-rods to bloom, and one of the most outstanding with its bluish stems studded with golden clusters of tiny florets in the axils of lance-shaped leaves, for nearly its entire length of several feet. None is prettier or daintier than this species.

In the meadow are Cardinal Flower, Ladies' Tresses, Meadow-sweet, Joe-pye weed, Boneset, Ironweed, Bottle Gentian and Fringed Gentian.

Various Sunflowers, Trailing Wild Bean, Ground nut, Black-eyed Susan, Blazing Stars and Downy Gentians in the sunny upland garden.

Finally the Witch Hazel the last spectacular flower of the year, ends the season in a blaze of glory, remains in bloom until December.

Botanists have not yet agreed whether to call this the latest flower of the year, or the earliest of the following year. The leaves have fallen early and the yellow ribbon-like petals shine against the blue-sky background like clusters of golden stars.

September and October days are really more ideal than the rare days in June. They are the two months of transition from one kind of beauty to another.

Frost in the morning and cool air in the evening to give it zest, while the days are clear, sunny and warm.

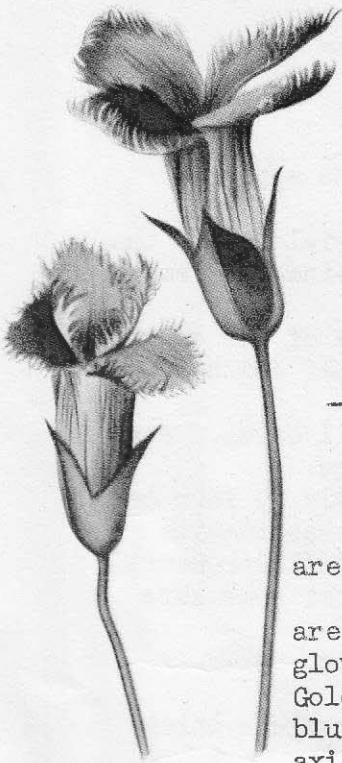
The migrant songbirds have long ago returned from the north and are on their way south. The winter residents have been arriving irregularly from the north since September. Such welcome guests as Juncos, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Chickadee, Purple Finch, Tufted Titmouse, Kinglet and Cedar Waxwing. Bands of Sparrows are still drifting about like blown leaves.

This season brings to mind the lines by William Cullen Bryant-

"The sweet calm sunshine of October, now
Warms the low spot; upon its grassy mould
The purple oak-leaf falls; the birchen bough
Drops its bright spoil like arrow-heads of gold."

When the season for wild flowers has passed some of the more common cone-bearing trees should receive our attention.

This subject will be discussed in our next issue.



PLANT CONSERVATION

There perhaps are few people who are not susceptible to the appeal of wild flowers.

Many of our choicest wild flowers are fast disappearing, yielding to the cultivation of the land, the destruction of the forest, and drainage of bogs and swamps.

Anyone who preserves the native trees, shrubs, and flowers of the countryside by growing them in a wild-flower garden, serves both himself and his native land.

The idea of home as a personal refuge is deep-rooted in all of us. Perpetual pleasure can be gained by preserving our natural heritage.

The preservation of wild plants cannot be solved permanently by laws or by restrictions on collecting. The best solution is by public sanctuaries and many smaller wild flower gardens. If you know of some wild flower haunt that is to be cleared, or destroyed, try to rescue the plants for some safe place. Encourage them to increase and multiply.

How refreshing to find a few native flowers in home gardens.

"Wild Flowers for your Garden" by Hull, is an interesting volume which can be obtained from this publication.

DID YOU KNOW

That Humming birds are found nowhere except in the Americas. The greater part of 500 known species are found in the Andes of South America. There are 16 species west of the Rockies but only our Ruby-throated Hummingbird east of the Rockies.

In summer they are distributed all the way from Florida to Labrador and Hudson Bay, but they winter in the south from southern Florida to Central America and South America.

They arrive at the Wild Flower Garden the 15th of May and depart again the 15th of September, having maintained this schedule for many years.

MUSHROOMS

This is an ideal season for mushrooms after our generous rains, and many mushrooms hunters are afield gathering the abundant crop.

If not well acquainted with the many varieties growing, do not rely upon so called tests with silver spoons, silver coins or salt. There is a test however, that is infallible- to know the mushroom itself.

A little real interest in this subject would soon lead to the identification of many varieties. When once thoroughly aroused to study them, it is impossible to go about without meeting at almost every turn many mushrooms that are both odd and thought-provoking and delicious eating.

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

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FALL MOODS

As the October days grow shorter and the month draws to a close, insect life lessens. The cicadas cease their incessant chorus. The butterflies that survive into the fall, are mostly of the dull-hued kinds. They are inconspicuous among the falling and sombre foliage.

This is also the time when gossamer of spiders is prevalent everywhere. The silvery webs seen drifting about and flying banner-like from trees and shrubs.

Young spiders crawl to the top of bushes or fences, let out threads from their spinning apparatus, then it is caught by the breeze and floats out as it lengthens, until finally it has buoyancy enough to carry the spider away out of sight or drift him along until he strikes some foothold. Apparently this is their method of migrating to new territories.

November is a struggling mixture of winter and summer. The moods of the month vary with the changing winds, finally the legions of cold gradually winning their way.

The greater part of the month is still balmy enough to be enjoyed, yet how different the landscape from that of spring.

The mellow tints of the declining year have taken the place of the lush green of spring.

Tulip-tree

Many plants have different common names locally applied. Sometimes the same name is given to different plants. This causes great confusion. Fortunately each plant has only one scientific name which serves to establish its identity.

An example is the Tulip-tree that was planted in the garden this past season to test their hardiness. Their scientific name is (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) of the Magnolia Family. Some of the common names are - White wood, Yellow poplar, Tulip poplar, Poplar, White poplar, Blue poplar, Popple, Hickory poplar, Cucumber tree, Canoe-wood, Old-wife's-shirt tree, Lyre-tree, Lime-tree, and Ko-yen-ta-ka-ah-to (Onondaga Indians, N.Y.).

A magnificent tree becoming 60 to 100 feet high, with a glossy handsome foliage.

The showy greenish-yellow tulip-like flowers are dashed with orange to attract the bees. The cone of fruit is about three inches long.

STRANGE AS IT MAY SEEM

The green growth appearing on ponds, pools and shallow lakes during late summer and fall, having the appearance of algae, is not algae or scum as is generally believed.

It is Duckweed (*Lemna polyrhiza*) of the Duckweed Family. It consists of minute perennial floating aquatic plants, without distinct stems and foliage, with hanging roots from underneath and is the smallest of flowering plants.

Propagating by the growth of new plants from a cleft in the edge on the base of the parent plant. Also by minute bulblets. In the autumn these plants sink to the bottom of the water, and rise again in the spring and increase in size.

Both domestic and wild ducks feed upon these plants, as well as fish.

DUTCHMAN'S PIPE-VINE

(Artisolochia siphon)

This native climber of the Birthwort Family is recommended highly for growing in the shade. It is a favorite for the north side of buildings. Its rapidly growing foliage soon provides a lattice-like screen. The conspicuously large kidney-shaped leaves sometimes are twelve inches in diameter. The blossoms are curious brownish-purple, and S-curved like a pipe.

JACOB'S LADDER

Jacob's Ladder (*Polemonium reptans*) is being extensively cultivated in gardens. There is another species that also takes kindly to cultivation, (*Polemonium Van-Bruntiae*). This is exceedingly rare and is worth a try.

This beautiful and stately plant grows about two feet tall, has locust-like leaves which remain attractive all summer. The blossoms are darker blue and much larger than *reptans*, blooming in July, while *reptans* blooms in May.

ACID SOIL

Many wild flowers require an intense acid soil, therefore are difficult to grow in ordinary garden soil, especially in the southern part of the state.

Test the soil and if lacking in acid apply Aluminum sulphate once or twice a year to maintain the acidity.

The following list of plants are some that require intense acid soil-

Clintonia	(<i>Clintonia borealis</i>)
Dwarf Iris	(<i>Iris verna</i>)
Stemless Lady's-slipper	(<i>Cypripedium acaule</i>)
Goldthread	(<i>Coptis groenlandica</i>)
Pitcher Plant	(<i>Sarracenia purpurea</i>)
Wood Sorrel	(<i>Oxalis Acetosella</i>)
Bunchberry	(<i>Cornus canadensis</i>)
Twin Flower	(<i>Linnaea borealis</i> var-am.)
Mountain Laurel	(<i>Kalmia latifolia</i>)
Blueberry	(<i>Vaccinium</i> sp.)
American Yew	(<i>Taxus canadensis</i>)
Wood Lily	(<i>Lilium philadelphicum</i>)
Wintergreen	(<i>Gaultheria procumbens</i>)
Creeping Snowberry	(<i>Chiogenes hispidula</i>)
Savory-leaved Aster	(<i>Aster linariifolius</i>)
All Azaleas	(<i>Azalea</i> sp.)
All Rhododendron	(<i>Rhododendron</i> sp.)

The Trailing Arbutus (*Epigaea repens*) will not establish if soil is lacking in acidity and mycorrhiza, the fungi with which it associates.