

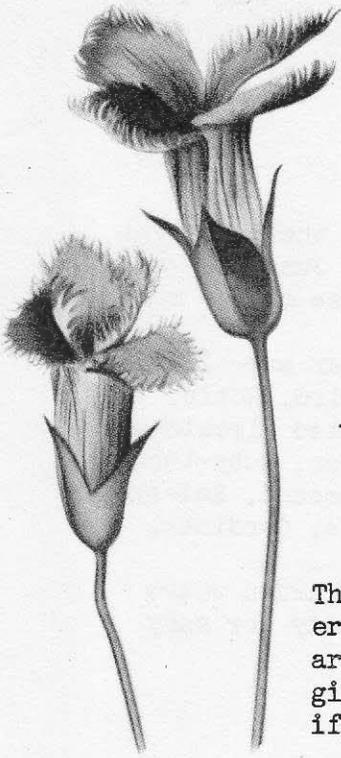
# THE FRINGED GENTIAN

(9)

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## LONG SUMMER DAYS

The golden summer when the days are long in here again. The dainty spring flowers have long since passed, and the deeper colors of summer flowers are now noted. Mingled with these are a number of white flowers all too little appreciated. They give us a source of light and restfulness, and serve to intensify the brilliant colors. In nature no colors clash.

The transitional space of almost invariable charm between the last spring flowers and the beginning of the summer flowers is most conspicuously taken over by the Showy Lady's-Slipper, (Cypripedium reginae) the Minnesota State Flower. This queen orchid of America seems to prefer to hold the stage alone. These gorgeous orchids hasten away all too soon, especially if the weather is warm.

Even tropical orchids cannot compare with them. They grow mostly in deep swamps where few can behold their regal beauty.

To have missed its flowering season in the garden seems almost to lose part of the summer.

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## DEVELOPEMENT OF A PRAIRIE GARDEN

When the upland or prairie garden was established ten years ago the area was a ticket of sumac and various other shrubs. These have been removed and thousands of typical prairie plants of various kinds introduced. Here the sun beats down all day and only the deep-rooted plants of the prairie will thrive. The success in growing these plants is to provide good drainage. However the annuals will not germinate readily during a dry spring and will be greatly lacking. Most perennial deep-rooted plants are best started from seed, since they are difficult to transplant.

The prairie garden becomes colorful in midsummer when the spring flowers have gone and the shade in the woodland is so dense that very few plants will bloom there.

Aside from the graveled trails leading to all parts of the area and a number of settees conveniently placed, it is kept as natural as any native prairie.

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File this issue with the others in your "Fringed Gentian" green cover. A new cover will be sent upon request.

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BIRD NOTES

Fondly we recall the eager spring songs of the birds upon their arrival from the south. It seems such a short time ago and now during June they are already feeding the young. They must hurry if they are to raise one or more broods, for they have only a short time to stay.

Among the birds nesting in the Wild Flower Garden this year are- Indigo Bunting, Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Catbird, Robin, Brown Thrasher, House Wren, Blue Jay, Wood Pewee, Phoebe, Crested Flycatcher, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Flicker, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Barred Owl, Broad-winged Hawk, Ring-necked Pheasant, Red-eyed Vireo, Yellow Warbler, Northern Yellow-throat, Baltimore Oriole, Cardinal, Field Sparrow and Goldfinch.

The Blue-gray Gnatcatcher was again seen adjacent to the garden where it nested some years ago. It had not been noted in this locality for many years.

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DID YOU KNOW

That Moneywort or Creeping Loosestrife (*Lysimachia Nummularia*) is a member of the Primrose family (*Primulaceae*). It makes an excellent ground cover and is covered with attractive yellow star blossoms in June.

It is not to be confused with the Evening Primrose which has only four petals instead of five of the *Primulaceae* and is no relation.

Altho it spreads rapidly it can be easily controlled and grows where few other plants will grow.

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JULY LULL

When the spring flowers have faded and before the summer flowers have come into bloom, when there is little variety in the woodland where shadows are deepest. It is then that the Tall Blue Bellflower (*Campanula americana*) is the most conspicuous. It is an annual and has proven quite equal to reproducing itself year after year. During moist seasons there are hundreds of specimens scattered throughout the area. The two to six foot stems with about a foot of terminal spike of brilliant blue flowers, flattened out rather wheel-shaped are an attractive sight.

Honeybees, bumblebees and hornets are attentive visitors to this flower.

The dainty Blue Bells of Scotland or Harebells belong to this family, as well as the cultivated Canterbury Bells.

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FRIENDS OF THE WILD FLOWER GARDEN

The improved conditions in the Wild Flower Garden attest to the valuable assistance rendered by the Friends of the Wild Flower Garden.

The preservation of this bit of wilderness here within view of a busy metropolis cannot be over emphasized.

The interest of public spirited citizens is greatly appreciated and may you continue your much needed support.

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ALONG A SHADY WOODLAND PATH

The woods at first seem to convey the impression of sweet repose. A tranquillity that belongs to the heart of the woodland.

A walk along a woodland trail can be enjoyed almost anytime of the growing season in the garden. If you were to choose the one leading from the office building you would find it most interesting.

The first flower of the season is found here, the Dwarf or Snow Trillium, generally coming as early as the first of April. Soon others follow such as the Rue Anemone, Bellwort, Bloodroot, Clintonia, Jacob's Ladder, Mertensia and meriads of Hepaticas of various colors. The glory of eleven varieties of Trilliums, displaying shades of rose, yellow, maroon and white.

During May, on a gentle slope is found a snowy cascade of the Foam Flower (Tiarella) forming a glorious carpet. When the flowers have gone the plants form a dense green ground cover, remaining so thru the winter.

The fern bank is a mass of feathery green representing many of the 50 varieties growing in the garden. The Ostrich fern at the base of the bank is determined to outdo them all in height, becoming four to five feet tall.

Continuing on to Violet path where more than a dozen varieties of violets bloom of many hues. This path is later taken over by a display of Azaleas and Rhododendrons. Also in the lowland along this trail five varieties of Lady's-Slippers (Cypripedium) bloom. First the small white one, then the large and small yellow, the rare Ram's-head and finally the Showy Lady's-Slipper (Cypripedium reginae) the Minnesota State Flower. The Stemless Lady's-Slipper grows enewhere in the garden.

Jack-in-the-Pulpit stands here and there preaching his sermon, later on the flower is replaced with a cluster of bright red berries.

The feathery plumes of False Solomon's Seal with their gently curving stems seem to bend under the weight of the terminal cluster of white flowers. Later they develop a showy cluster of red berries so heavy their stalks are bent to the ground.

The Giant Solomon's Seal grows beside them on the wooded hills. The bell-like flowers usually grow in pairs from the base of each leaf distributed along the stem. These finally turn into round blue berries.

Aromatic creeping Ginger makes a fine ground cover under trees. The maroon-colored bell-like flowers are fertilized by gnats and flies.

The fragrant large white flowers of May Apple are shielded by an umbrella-like leaf. A yellow lemon-shaped fruit develops later in the season.

Wild Geranium or Cranesbill form masses of purplish pink, mingling beautifully with the many other flowers in bloom on the shaded hills.

The blue Wood Phlox really is a lavender shade growing abundantly in the open woods area. Butterflies and bumblebees are its frequent visitors.

Further on in a mossy swamp is the insectivorous plant, the Pitcher Plant. This is found only in wild swamps. The pitcher-like leaves make it one of the oddest plants.

There are countless others along this trail too numerous to mention and each season has its own display.

"Ah, never doth Time travel faster  
Than when his way lies among flowers"

-T. Moore

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STRANGE AS IT MAY SEEM

Potato seeds are poisonous, they belong to the nightshade family. (Solanaceae). Members of this family are characterized by a typical flower that is a flat five-pointed star.

Well known plants that belong to this family are Tomatoes, Peppers, Egg-plant, Tobacco, as well as Jerusalem-cherry, Chinese Lantern, Nightshade, Angels Trumpet, Butter-fly flower, Salpiglossis, Petunia and many others.

The cultivated Galceolaria is often mistakenly called Lady's-Slipper. However this plant belongs to the Figwort family. The native Lady's-Slippers (Cypripedium) one of which is the Showy Lady's-Slipper, our Minnesota State Flower, are Orchids.

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INFORMATION

The Curator of the Wild Flower Garden receives many requests as to the identity of the variegated green and white foliage plant used extensively in garden borders. The plant is called Bishops-weed or Goutweed and belongs to the carrot family and is an inconsiderate spreader even creeping into the lawn.

Wild carrot or Queen Anne's Lace also called Bird's Nests (Daucus Carota) from which our garden vegetable was developed many years ago belongs to this family. None of the later are permitted in the garden due to its spreading habit.

This family has many members that provide seasoning for our food such as Parsley, Anise, Dill, Caraway, Coriander, Chervil, Celery and Angelica.

The Poison Hemlock is also a member of this group.

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THE WILD FLOWER GARDEN

The propagation of wild flowers or in other words the flowers that were here originally when white man came, is a worthwhile service to the community.

Only a few varieties of wild flowers are normally found growing in any one locality. Rarely are there more than a few different sorts at anyone time in wild areas.

Here is the Wild Flower Garden- in an area of only 13 acres, there is a greater variety of vegetation than can only be found in greatly scattered territories. This is the result of the introduction of hundreds of native varieties as well as many from other states which offer real advantage to the garden.

Inspite of the close proximity of plants which is necessitated by the endless varieties, the garden is being kept a place of beauty and wonder after natures own pattern.

The irregularities of surface afford differences in light, exposure and moisture, thereby making it ideal for plants of many requirements.

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Martha E. Grone -- Editor