

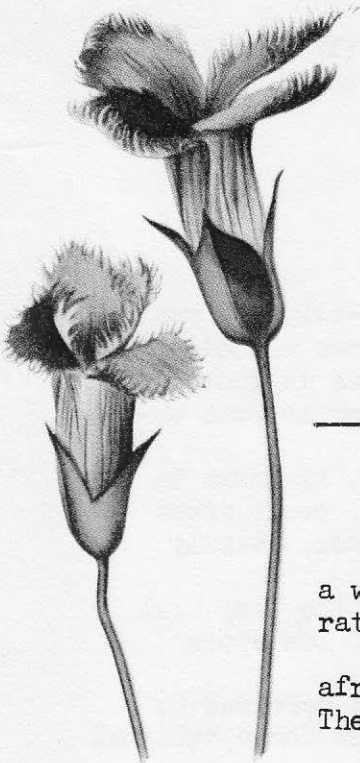
THE FRINGED GENTIAN

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WAYS OF SUMMER

The spring season was greatly belated, then following a warm spell, all plants burst into bloom almost simultaneous, rather than blooming more leisurely.

The lovely spring flowers hurried away all too soon as tho afraid of being overtaken by the heat of long days of summer. The summer air is still sweet with the touch of bygone spring.

As harvest approaches the evening chiming of the verry fades from our reluctant ears. The fields where haying has begun, no longer resound to the merry rippling music of the bobolink and meadow-lark.

Innumerable butterflies still rise and dip in the bright blazing sunshine, while at night the moths flock to lighted windows, equally delicate but less gay of hue, befitting them whose life is mainly passed in darkness.

August suggests the close of the season in many ways, the flocking of the blackbirds, and the evening roostward flight of the crows. The first asters and golden-rods, the lispings of the katydid, the hum of bees and summer is drawing to its close.

"The sultry summer past, September comes,
Soft twilight of the slow declining year."

WILD FLOWER GARDENS JUST DON'T HAPPEN

Wild gardening is essentially naturalistic and informal in character and has nothing to do with formal styles of landscape gardening. It is very much out of place in the conventional flower garden.

It is highly recommended for restoring the original charm of woodlands and developing the beauty of any forested area, and for tasteful planting of rock gardens, fern gardens, bog gardens and water gardens.

A mistaken idea prevails that wild plants are scraggly and unattractive, but if relieved of the intense competition that prevails in the wilds and given room to develop in a congenial location, they quickly make luxurious growth, becoming compact and produce better flowers in great profusion.

Outstanding examples are Hepaticas, Bellworts, Columbine, Lady's-slippers, Lobelias, Lupine, and various violets especially the Bird's-foot Violet.

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

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DID YOU KNOW

That when our Minnesota State Flower, (The Showy Lady's-slipper) was chosen, the Red Columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*) ranked a close second. Perhaps it would have been a better choice since the Columbine is much better known and easily propropagated. The Showy Lady's-slipper is fast becoming rare and difficult to establish.

The Columbine is one of the most beautiful wild flowers, it grows in graceful nodding fashion in various situations such as woods, rocky areas and hillsides. Altho it loves sunshine will also tolerate shade. Easily cultivated, the seeds germinating readily.

It is specially adapted to pollination by hummingbirds, the long bill and tongue of these birds can easily penetrate to the tips of the spurs where the nectar is stored.

When Linnaeus named this flower *Aquilegia*, he apparently referred to *Aquila*, an eagle. Perhaps this flower would be a good choice for a National Flower and serve as a good companion to the Golden Eagle.

BIRD NOTES

The birds now have accomplished their domestic duties which led them north, and now are hurrying back again to their homes in the sunny south. Even before August comes to an end a large part of the resident songsters of the more northernly states have departed and the September woods would be lifeless, were it not for the new arrivals from the north.

The Hummingbirds arrived on May 16th, after their long flight across the Gulf of Mexico, one day later than usual. A good number of them again nested in the garden and fed at the vials of sugar water on the office windows.

Numerous other birds nested in the garden, among them being- House Wren, Mourning Dove, Goldfinch, Indigo Bunting, Eastern Green Heron, Wood Duck, Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Catbird, Robin, Downy and Hairy Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Flicker, Barred Owl, Broad-winged Hawk, Ring-necked Pheasant, Red-eyed Vireo, Yellow Warbler, Northern Yellowthroat, Baltimore Oriole, Crow, Cardinal and Field Sparrow.

STRANGE AS IT MAY SEEM

The Sweet Potato is the only cultivated species of any economic importance of the Morning Glory Family (*Ipomoea*). This family is composed of a great number of tropical vines, mostly Mexican, and only a few native species and many naturalized ones. All have large colorful flowers. The common Morning Glory a native of tropical America has heart-shaped leaves.

The Sweet Potato is a twining and trailing plant, with the potatoes forming under ground, originally native to Central America.

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MINNESOTA STATE FLOWER

The Minnesota State Flower - the Showy Lady's-slipper, (*Cypripedium reginae*) of the Orchid Family still remains the outstanding interest in the wild flower garden.

The largest and most showy of all our native orchids it is considered the Queen Orchid of America. The pure white sepals and petals, and the white rose-striped lip, spotted with purple on the inside, makes this orchid just as exquisite as that of its tropical relative.

The seeds of these orchids are the smallest seeds known, dustlike or microscopic in size. They contain no endosperm. This lack of concentrated food for the use of the germinating seedling makes seed germination extremely difficult. Orchid seeds will not germinate and grow into seedlings unless the fungi mycorrhiza is present in the humus. This explains the rarity of most species and helps us to understand why orchids should be protected from needless destruction.

Due to the lateness of the season the Showy Lady's-slipper bloomed from the middle of June until the first of July this year. In the northern part of the State they normally bloom during July.

BLUE COLUMBINE

It has been the ambition of the Curator of the garden to successfully grow and bring to the blooming stage the beautiful Long-spurred Blue Columbine (*Aquilegia coerulea*) the State flower of Colorado. It grows in the mountains from northern New Mexico to Montana at an elevation of 10,000 feet to alpine zone and never is known to grow at lower elevations. It becomes white when growing in higher zones.

Being very scarce it is protected by law against picking or digging.

A few years ago some seeds were planted in the garden and this spring six came into beautiful bloom. This, contrary to the statements made, that they never bloom away from the mountains.

The Blue Columbine belongs to the Buttercup or Crowfoot Family. Some other well known members of this family are- Eastern Red Columbine growing freely in this area, as well as Red and White Baneberry, Monkshood, Larkspur, Goldthread, Meadow Rue, Hepatica, Pasque-flower, Marsh Marigold, Clematis, Golden Seal, Bugbane, Globe-flower and various Anemones.

Perhaps this is one of the most far-reaching accomplishments of seed germination.

The most satisfactory way of gaining an acquaintance of wild flowers is to plant some where they can be enjoyed.

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BUTTERWORT

One of our rarest plants is the Butterwort (*Pinguicula vulgaris*) a Carnivorous plant. The slender tapering leaves are in the form of a basal rosette, each leaf slightly hollowed like a trough with the surface covered by a great number of hair-like stalked glands. The top of each gland is moist with a sticky substance which stimulates the glands to secrete an extra amount of the mucilaginous material and as the insect struggles it becomes the more permanently trapped on this living fly paper. Sometimes the leaf margins curl over the victim, thus aiding in his capture. A digestive juice then acts on the dead insects, and the soluble nitrogenous material is absorbed by the leaf. The leaf is a butter color hence its name. They grow on wet rocks.

The blossoms of the Butterwort is a blue violet-like flower.

Butterworts have been used for food by Laplanders.

TO FRIENDS OF THE WILD FLOWER GARDEN

Your contributions and help have enabled us to greatly expand and has been appreciated. Many thanks.

Alone, the individual can accomplish little, united, and constant action can achieve the goal of real conservation.

A full knowledge and understanding of our natural resources. To this end it invites the efforts of all friends of the outdoors.

Maidenhair Tree

(Ginkgo biloba)

In the course of evolutionary history, groups of plants dwindle in numbers and leave behind but a single species to remind us of a once flourishing race.

A good example is the Ginkgo, Darwin called it "the living fossil". It is found in China and Japan grown mostly under cultivation reaching a height of 60 feet. Its grown locally as an ornamental tree.

Millions of years ago they were very abundant. They trace their ancestry directly back to fossils found among the first land plants of the mid Paleozoic Era.

The fan-shaped leaves several inches long are similar in shape to the Maidenhair fern, which is the reason for its name. Their texture is leathery and the color is a yellowish green in summer turning to gold in the autumn.

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