

THE FRINGED GENTIAN

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AUTUMN'S BRILLIANCE

One marvels anew each autumn at Nature's beautiful colors. The Maples - Silver, Sugar and Red, contribute greatly to the brilliant colorings. As well as the golden glow of the birches and the orange, red and purple of the Oaks. The Sumac with their dark red fruit clusters are outstanding.

September with wondrous blue skies and cool breezes and gorgeous sunsets. Asters and Golden-rods brilliantly plumed are at their height of bloom.

Henry Thoreau wrote of autumn sunshine as the glowing embers of summer's fire. A golden blaze has burned brightly for some time this fall, interrupted occasionally by much needed moisture. Nature has again corrected the drouth of the past several years.

After this brilliance has passed a frost or heavy wind brings the leaves showering down to carpet the ground.

The beauties of nature are an unending source of pleasure. Summer is gone until another year and steps of autumn can be heard.

"The splendors of the summertime are done,
And, though the roses linger for a space
Soon they will fade on paths and garden ways.
The russet leaves lie thickly, and the sun
Wakes late now, and his course is swiftly run."
--Marston

BIRD NOTES

The late summer stillness in the woods is now broken with sounds of migrating birds, the rustling of dried leaves and the humming of belated bees.

The fall bird migration is on, but the absence of song and denser foliage make it difficult to observe them.

A few brief notes are heard from Meadow-larks, White throated Sparrows, Song Sparrows and Red-eyed Vireos, otherwise only call notes are heard.

The brilliant yellow Goldfinches are again changing to their somber winter plumage and are returning to the feeder in the garden.

The White-breasted Nuthatches, Black-capped Chickadees, Downy Woodpeckers and Hairy Woodpeckers are increasing at the feeder. Soon the Purple Finches will be back and finally the Slate-colored Juncos.

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

WILD FLOWER CONSERVATION

The general policy of "Do Not Pick" or "Do Not Dig" has proven inadequate for the preservation of our wild flowers. The cultivation of land for civilized use, the bulldozer and drainage of much land has destroyed many valuable plants, making it necessary to change to a policy of finding means of growing wild plants in protected areas.

When the possibilities of gardening with wild plants are recognized, much enjoyment can be derived by the many who have suitable places.

Members of Garden Clubs in recent years have been encouraged to grow wild flowers, thereby increasing their numbers.

Many denuded areas can be restored to natural wild beauty. Perhaps this revelation will encourage others to set aside a small area for the preservation of our precious wild flowers.

POISONOUS SEEDS

During the Autumn, seeds which should be avoided, which are likely to be encountered on a walk in the woods or fields are the following. They are poisonous yet birds can eat them without harm.

- | | |
|--------------|----------------------|
| Mandrake | Monkshood |
| Pokeweed | Spotted Hemlock |
| American Yew | Foxglove |
| Laurel Seeds | Black Nightshade |
| Jimson Seeds | Bittersweet |
| Poison Ivy | Burning Bush |
| Poison Sumac | Lily-of-the-Valley |
| Holly | Snow-on-the-Mountain |
| Mistletoe | Wood Anemone |
| Castor Beans | Apple Seeds |

Wild Cherries and Peaches have poison in the kernel inside the seed.

STRANGE AS IT MAY SEEM

Have you ever observed the large Herring Gull taxi for a quick take-off on land?

During the summer I saw Gulls feeding upon animals, (victims of speeding cars) on the highways. As cars approached they would run along a number of steps in the meantime gaining momentum with their wings for a take-off.

The 50th year of the Wild Flower Garden is drawing to a close, and may this fine sanctuary of wild plants be enjoyed by future generations. These wildlings which are fast retreating before the march of civilization will always be zealously guarded here.

PLANT CENSUS

A census of plants has been compiled in a relatively small area of the garden. The area was chosen as representative of the garden and is approximately 100 X 200 feet including the office building.

It consists of a lovely wooded site to the west and north of the office and has several types of soil, (light loam, woods soil and peat). A trail completely surrounds the tract.

The list of plants includes only those well established and only common names are given.

It proves that even a small area can accomodate a great number of plants and should encourage many to establish a wild flower garden.

TREES

Birch, Paper
Blue Beech
Butternut
Balsam
Cherry, Black
Elm, American
Devil's Club
Honey Locust
Ironwood
Kentucky Coffee-tree
Ohio Buckeye
Maple, Red
Maple, Mt.
Maple, Striped
Mountain Ash
Oak, Pin
Oak, Red
Oak, White
Tree-of-Heaven

SHRUBS

Bladdernut
Burning Bush
Dogwood, Silky
Dogwood, Gray's
Elder, Red-berried
Elder, Purple-berried
Hazel Nut
Leatherwood
Snowberry
Viburnum
Wild Rose
Witch Hazel
Yew, American
Azalea, Flame
Azalea, vaseyi
Rhododendron, carolinianum
Rhododendron, catawbiense
Rhododendron, maximum

VINES

Bindweed
Carrion Vine
Dutchman's Pipe
Ground Ivy
Ground Nut
Hog Peanut
Honeysuckle
Moonseed
Wild Grape
Wild Yam
Virginia Creeper

FERNS

Broad Beech Fern
Christmas Fern
Bulbous Bladder Fern
Fragile Bladder Fern
Evergreen Wood Fern
Hayscented Fern
Goldie's Fern
Interrupted Fern
Lady Fern
Maidenhair Fern
Marginal Shield Fern
Narrow-l. Spleenwort
Ostrich Fern
Silvery Spleenwort
Sensitive Fern
Walking Fern
Woodsia

FOREST FLOOR PLANTS

Aster, Crooked-stem
Aster, White Wood
Aster, Blue Wood
Aster, New England
Aster, Narrow-leaved
Bishop's Cap
Blue Cohosh
Cicely, Sweet
Bugbane
Baneberry, White
Baneberry, Red
Bloodroot
Bellwort
Bellwort, Sessile
Culver's root
Columbine
Cleavers Bedstraw
Fragrant Bedstraw
Citronella
Clintonia
Daisy Fleabane
Dutchman's Breeches
Fire Pink
Foam Flower
Golden Glow
Golden Seal
Ginseng
Ginseng, Dwarf
Geranium, Wild
Galax
Ginger, Wild
Hepatica
Golden-rod, Swamp
Golden-rod, Zig-zag
Golden-rod, Wreath
Hyacinth, Wild
Jack-in-the-Pulpit
Jacob's Ladder
Lopseed
Live-forever
Lady's-Slipper, Showy
Lady's-Slipper, L. Yel.
Lady's-Slipper, White
Lady's-Slipper, S. Yel.
Mertensia
Monkshood
May Apple
Orchis, Purple Fr.
Oconee Bells
Marsh Marigold
Poke Milkweed
Partridge Berry
Phlox, Blue
Rue Anemone
Rue, Early
Snakeroot, White
Sarsaparilla
Solomon's Seal, Giant
Solomon's Seal, False
Solomon's Seal, Star
Sandwort
Starry Campion
Spikenard
Sunflower, Wood
Waterleaf, Virginia
Toothwort
Wht. Turtlehead
Turk's-cap Lily
Spring Beauty
Tick-trefoil
Trout Lily
Tall Bl. Bellflower
St. John's - wort
Trilliums (7 sp.)
Violets (5 sp.)
Smartweed
Wintergreen

BIRD ATTRACTION

Why not choose some of the trees and shrubs listed below, when landscaping a new area or when planning foundation plantings.

It will increase the number of nesting birds where their natural food plants are grown. Evergreens are a good shelter during storm even in the winter.

The importance of birds around the home is not only for enjoyment of their cheerful songs but also for the control of insects.

Purple-berried Elder	Virginia Creeper
Red-berried Elder	Bittersweet
Roses	Wild Grape
Raspberry	Sumac
Blackberry	Wild Crab
Snowberry	Thorn Apple
Juneberry	Hackberry
Viburnums	Mountain Ash
Dogwoods	Mulberry
Various Evergreens	

FERNS AND AZALEAS

The Azaleas and Rhododendrons bloomed as abundantly this past season as those growing in the south.

They are planted in a sheltered area on a gentle north slope with large trees sheltering them from the south and north.

Their roots must be kept cool and moist yet well drained, therefore the slope was chosen to plant them on. Shade is provided for their roots by ferns, they also provide beauty for the shrubs after their blooming period.

The ferns can be depended upon to come back year after year when they are well established. The fiddleheads of ferns start to uncoil early in the spring, but their full beauty is not reached until June, just after the spring flowers have finished blooming.

Some ferns grow so rapidly and crowd out other plants and then the fronds must be plucked. Altho many ferns need little light for the manufacture of chlorophyll and can live in deep shade, others do well in sun and dry areas.

Ferns cool the ground and help moisten the atmosphere, thereby aiding many plants to survive which would otherwise perish.

Ferns have been upon earth for countless ages, many million years before flowers, they covered the earth once, growing fifty feet or more tall.

DID YOU KNOW

That the Twin-leaf was the favorite wild flower of Thomas Jefferson, one of the greatest gardeners of this country. Its botanical name is Jeffersonia diphylla. The plant is desirable for the wild garden.

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