

WILD FLOWERS HELD TO BE DECREASING AT POINTS MORE EASILY ACCESSIBLE

Beautiful May Flower or Arbutus Once Covered Ground With Perfumed Carpet But Has Been Driven Back Farther and Farther From Haunts of Men, Says Albert R. Sweetser.



Fig. 1. Cluster of Calypsos.



Fig. 2. Calypso.



Fig. 3. Sessile Wake Robin, or Trillium.

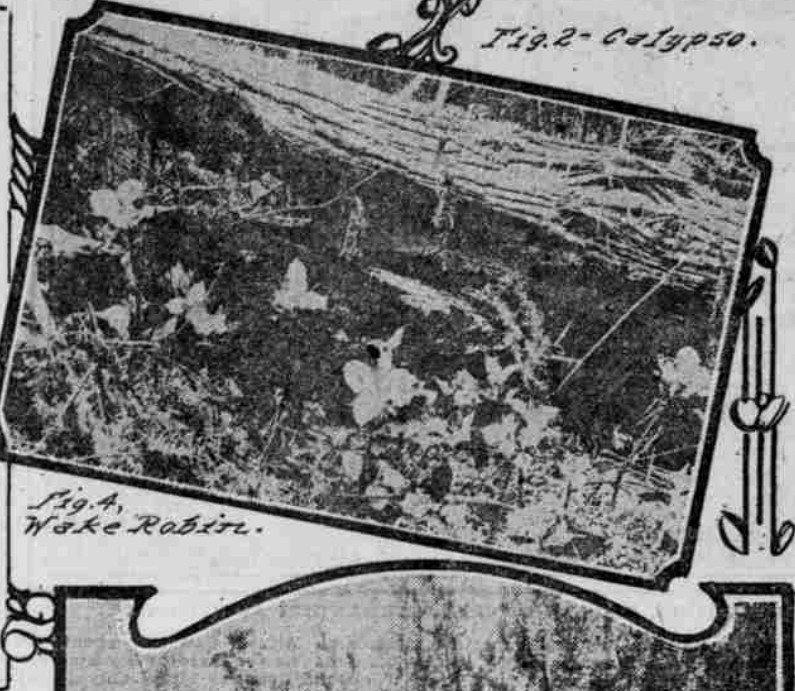


Fig. 5. Indian Plum.



Fig. 6. Branch of Indian Plum.

BY ALBERT R. SWEETSER. Professor of Botany in the University of Oregon.

It is planned to have water-colored drawings of the flowers found in the vicinity of Portland on exhibit about the time of their blooming in the general delivery room of the library. The writer will be glad to determine specimens at any time they should be sent to the herbarium of the University of Oregon, Eugene, Or.

THE eastern states suddenly awakened to the realization that with increasing population there was a growing decrease of the wild flowers at points easily accessible. The beautiful May Flower or Arbutus once covered the ground with its perfumed carpet, but has been driven back farther and farther from the haunts of men. The sweet-scented pond lily, opening its floating pure white cup and reflecting the rays of the morning sun from its crystal dotted chalice, was once to be seen merely for the effort of gathering, but is fast disappearing because of persistent picking. So the list might continue indefinitely.

One of the reasons for the passing of our wild flowers is to be found in the frenzy of possession which seems to threaten us all. The fisherman is not content with a moderate catch but seeks for a record, the toddling child takes all the pones he can hold and, affectionately squeezing them in his hot little fists, they wither and die. The adult, surrounded by nature's flower beds, covets them to adorn the home, but soon these frail denizens of field and forest wither and droop. There is no feeling that this destruction is from wanton maliciousness, but from a lack of understanding. There was a time when boys and birds were mutual enemies, but through the work of the Audubon society we all have been educated to love the birds, to protect their nests and to guard their eggs and offspring. It is the writer's opinion that such a campaign of education might develop a similar reaction towards our plants. In a previous article it was shown that the plants possess organs similar to those of animals, although simpler, and carry on physiological processes of eating, digesting and circulating, which proved them to be live things and worthy of consideration.

concrete about which to cluster our attention and that we may not simply be setting up a man of straw for the fun of its demoralization, we have taken for illustration the conditions existing around the young city of Portland.

M. W. Gorman, who for many years has botanized over Oregon hills and valleys and followed her winding trails, has perhaps the best knowledge of Oregon's flora of any man within her borders. At our request he has given us a list of fifty more plants that were once common and easily gathered near the city, but are being continually pushed back, and some of them disappearing entirely.

We are warned of spring's approach by the swelling buds of the Indian plum. At first the merest trace of green appears, then bursting through the leaves emerge, soft and delicate as the wings of a moth es- sence, the white flowers. Later, last- ing from his chrysalis. Last year, the white flowers in great profusion decorated the hedge rows. Fig. 6. An examination of the individual flowers discloses the fact that the sexes are distinct and on different shrubs. On one the flowers are all pistillate or female, while on another they are all staminate or male. Later, the pistillate shrubs will be found the fruit, consisting of a large pit with a thin flesh. One wonders how they could have been of any food value, but we are told that the Indian squaws were wont to remove the little pulp by pushing the fruit through holes in a board and so with patience accumulate sufficient for a little taste.

Though appearing so early and occurring in such abundance, there is little danger of overpicking these decorations, provided we take them back from the highways and do not destroy the bush. They are more or less self-protected by the odor of the broken branches, which is disagreeable to many.

with its feathered fellow of the skies in welcoming spring. Fig. 5. Its scientific name, Trillium or Threeoome lily, probably refers not to the fact that the parts of the flower are on the plan of three, which is common to all lilies, but rather to the circle of three leaves. In western Oregon we have two species. One has a long flower stalk lifting it above its leaves, and is white at first, but turns red with age, Fig. 2. This is more inclined to grow on the uplands and perhaps is more abundant. The other species often has mottled leaves, in the midst of which the white flower sits down close and its color never changes, Fig. 1. The Trillium always offers a temptation to pick them in large quantities, but it is the latter which seems to be more rapidly disappearing.

GLADIOLUS IS REMARKABLE FLOWER FOR HOME GARDENS

With Little Care This Really Beautiful Plant Thrives Luxuriantly and Will Adapt Itself to Almost Any Condition.

BY G. S. CREGO, Of the Portland Seed Company. WHILE there is no question that the rose is the most prominent feature of Portland flower gardens, a position to which it is justly entitled, there are some other equally beautiful flowers which might get at least a degree of prominence, and among these none is more worthy of attention than the gladiolus (with the accent on the "L"). Of the easiest culture, hardy, a sure bloomer under all conditions, it should be planted in masses in every garden that can spare the room for any kind of flowers.

The writer believes in specializing to some extent, that is, making some one plant or flower the dominant feature of the garden, and if other plants are grown at the same time in smaller quantities, let them be merely incidental to the main feature. Miscellaneous mixtures in a garden seldom are satisfactory.

The gladiolus is a plant which is reasonable in its demands for space and care, but will respond generously for any special attention which may be given. It will thrive and bloom if planted only two or three inches apart each way, or if crowded in a narrow strip close against the wall of the house, but for really notable results it should have a location in the open garden, planted four to six inches apart in the row with rows one to two feet apart.

Good Soil is Needed. Any fairly good garden soil will produce good flowers, but if the soil is deeply spaded, worked until it is soft and fine, enriched with a generous application of a first-class commercial fertilizer, both on the surface and in the bottom of the rows, spikes of bloom of almost incredible size and brilliance may be produced. The number of varieties from which to choose is almost limitless. Thousands of seedlings are being produced each year by specialists, each of whom gives a new name to any bulb at all worth saving without any regard to the fact that it may exactly duplicate some other variety already on the market. For the use of the home gardener any one of a comparatively small number of well-known sorts will be found entirely satisfactory, but whichever kind is selected, it should be in quantity sufficient to not only make a mass of bloom in the garden, but to allow of a great number of spikes being cut for house decoration.

Among the varieties which may at the present time be had in generous quantity at a moderate cost are: Panama, flesh-pink, tinted with lavender, long spike and large blossoms. Rosella, a splendid lily-like rose colored blossom of great size. Mrs. Frances King, cherry-red, wide-open flowers, long spikes. Glory, very large cream-pink blossoms, the petals being ruffled and fluted; one of the best. Schwaben, probably the best yellow, exceptionally strong grower. Mrs. Frank Pendleton, salmon-pink with red blotch in the throat; often called the "red throat" gladiolus. Halley, salmon-pink, extra large flowers and the earliest sort. Pink Perfection, the most beautiful pink ever produced, extra large flowers and an enormous spike. Baron Hulot, brilliant indigo-blue; tall, but slender spike. War, one of the very best. Very large blossoms of dark velvety crimson on tall strong spike. One of the finest varieties for cuttings.

Investment is Permanent. Any one of the above sorts may be depended upon to vastly more than repay the cost and care invested. Another item in favor of the gladiolus

like flower, with its single leaf, Fig. 4, grows from a bulb loosely held in the grasp of the soil that unless unusual precautions are taken it is almost impossible to gather it without destroying the plant and all its destruction is rapid. Mr. Gorman reports that it was once abundant in Macleay park, but not a single plant remains.

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With Little Care This Really Beautiful Plant Thrives Luxuriantly and Will Adapt Itself to Almost Any Condition.

It is the fact that the investment in a permanent one. The bulb planted not only produces a splendid spike of bloom the first season, but under ordinary conditions it reproduces itself, sometimes more than doubling the original number planted, thus providing material for the next season's planting without any additional cost.

As a cut flower nothing is more lasting or satisfactory than the gladiolus. It will keep in good condition for several days in water, and when placed in a rather deep vase of water in a cool place, all the other buds will develop and expand until the last one, but the gladiolus should be picked off and the water changed. Cared for in this way, the spikes may be kept in good condition a week or ten days, the colors becoming softer and more delicate as they near the top.

The spikes should be cut a few inches above the ground, leaving four or five leaves on the stub, as these are necessary to the proper maturing of the bulb. In October, when the leaves have commenced to turn yellow, the bulbs should be dug and spread on the top of the ground for a few days until dry, when they may be carried indoors, the old roots and tops pulled off and the bulbs stored for the winter. Any place which will keep them in good condition is a good place for the bulbs. They should be kept dry, otherwise they are likely to start into growth before it is time to plant them in the spring.

Splendid Trees Dignify Portland's Streets. Spring Activities of the Pruning Shears and Saws Often Destroy Beauty. SPlendid street trees which dignify many Portland streets and provide a grateful shade in the hot summer months have come in for more than the usual amount of degrading this spring, if any one may judge from a drive about the various residential districts of the city. On numbers of the streets, trees which have been hacked and cut so that the natural shape and the vigor of the plant has been seriously impaired.

A Garden Talk

By Chas. G. Welby. To have a garden that is not ordinary, you must have some of the best men of your profession help you in planning and planting; men able to give to your home grounds that fancy finish so much admired by city folks. No matter how modest your garden for a secure the best of some reliable gardening establishment. It will pay in the long run to do so.

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wise the maples, which are used as street trees are not the type of trees which demand extensive pruning. They should be thinned out when the growth becomes excessively dense.

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