

Salem Should be the World's Bulb and Beauty Center

The Wild Garden at Home And How Glorious it May Be Made Here in Our State

Some of the Treasures, to Mention Only a Partial List of Them, and They Are Having a Widening Appeal Now

John C. Burtner of the department of industrial journalism of the Oregon State Agricultural college sends for this annual slogan issue of The Statesman on Floriculture the following very helpful and interesting article on the wild garden and its possibilities for beauty in Oregon:

To anyone who enjoys working with growing plants there is a thrill and a constant pleasure in the establishment and maintenance of a wild garden. For his materials he goes not to some well-ordered nursery with its systematic rows of shrubs and flowering plants lined up for inspection; he scours hillside and forest, streamside and mountain meadow, their treasures, and rejoices over the excuse which takes him out on long drives and walks in the open. He has no well-defined instructions for the care of his garden, but experiments with herb and shrub, soil and moisture, studying the home conditions of each plant until he is to him an intimate friend, being like a member of his family. Every trip affords him eyes to new beauties, which he may reproduce in his garden, and teaches him new facts regarding the world about him.

The planting of wild gardens is appealing to many persons in these days, and the beauty and fitness of our native shrubbery for ornamental purposes is coming more and more to be realized and appreciated. You will be interested in enumeration of a few of our Pacific Coast trees, shrubs, and smaller flowering plants which are useful and decorative.

Some of the Treasures

If the site of one's grounds permits the use of conifers, there are several species which may be employed to advantage. Probably no more graceful evergreen can be found than the western hemlock with its beautiful lines and feathery foliage. The Douglas fir is also good, as well as the grand fir from the coast, and the white fir from the higher mountains. Port Orford cedar is a pleasing tree, while the larch or tamarack, which is a conifer but not evergreen, is attractive and interesting. Several species of pines also occur, which make good backgrounds for deciduous shrubs.

Most of us are not fortunate enough to possess large grounds, and for us the conifers are for the most part out of the question. Generally, however, we can find room on the lawn or parking for a few shade trees, and we do not have to go to distant states for these. No finer shade tree can be found than the broad-leaved maple, which is loved by nesting birds; no lovelier nor sweeter-scented tree than the locust, and none more interesting than the madrone which sheds its reddish bark in long strips, revealing the fresh new covering beneath.

Of shrubs, the first to be named is the rhododendron, which in spring transforms the open woods of our coast into an apparent garden of roses. A close second is the azalea, which in reality is another species of rhododendron. An inhabitant of southern Oregon and California stream-beds, the azalea has a rich, almost tropical fragrance. Another sweet-scented shrub is labrador tea whose spray odor is very pleasant, and whose foliage and flowers are attractive, though little known. Fragrance in the garden is always to be desired, and we may contribute to it also by use of the beautiful orange or mock-orange, whose waxy white clusters of blossoms are familiar to everyone.

Still More and More

Among the colorful native shrubs which add beauty to the wild garden are the several species of Oregon grape with their blossoms of pure gold; and red-flowering currant whose flowers in various individual shrubs may range from palest pink to darkest crimson. A white-flowered shrub of stately beauty is viburnum, related to the snow-ball but with its flowers in erect flat-topped clusters. Nine-bark has diminutive snow ball-like flower heads which are accented by tassel-like groups of colored stamens. Dog-wood, which becomes shrub or tree according to the situation in which it grows, is showy against dark conifers and service-berry is bride-like in its spring whiteness. Ocean spray in a shower of creamy white in June, and hard-back, a close relative, bears soft pink sprays of tiny blossoms. Goat's beard, like-wise a relative, is also attractive, though smaller, and its creamy plumes may be used to advantage as cut flowers blended with wild roses or other colored blossoms. Since sweet-brier has been established on the Pacific coast, it may well be included here, even though not a native, for there is no clearer pink to be found in all the realm of flowers than in this rose.

There are only a few of the familiar shrubs of field and forest which may be grown in the wild garden, but they offer almost endless possibilities of arrangement and combination in beautifying one's home grounds.

With the Smaller Plants

Among the smaller plants there are numerous varieties from which to choose. A shady nook on the north side of the house or garage may be given over to ferns; and many species of these are found on the Pacific coast; from the dainty, feathery five-finger or maiden-hair, to the tall plumes of the wood fern, or the swords of the evergreen Christmas fern. A wild fern bed kept watered through the dry season is a place of beauty all summer, and the possessor of such spot never wants for greens when selecting flowers for the living room of the house, or for the bedside of an invalid. How quickly the commonplaceness of a bouquet is eliminated by the addition of several fronds of maiden-hair to a bowl of sweet peas, or long shafts of sword fern as a background for tall pink snap-dragons.

In the fern garden various woods' flowers may be introduced, yellow violets and oxalis, geranium and anemones. In such a garden, weaker plants may be crowded out, but the four just mentioned are prepared to hold their own against each other and the ferns. The violets and oxalis, particularly, will flourish and spread, as will also the maiden-hair.

And Angel Slippers

In conditions where the leaf mold and shade of coniferous woods cannot maintain the little fairy orchid or angel slipper may be grown. It is very fastidious, however, regarding its "environment," and unless it can be made to feel at home, will disappear after a year or two. This dainty little plant, whose extermination with the falling of the forest and the increase of populations, is slow but sure, can be saved to all who care enough for its beauty and exquisite fragrance to provide a natural home for it in the wild flower garden. Other orchids, too, the white and yellow lady's slippers, the curious coral-root which lives on the humus of the forest, the gleaming white rita orchid, the rattlesnake, plantain, and the tway-blade, all may be grown artificially with a little extra care and effort expended to make the conditions simulate those of the forest.

Several species of false Solomon's seal grow on the Pacific coast, and these are all attractive additions to the shaded wild garden.

Those plants called fawn-lilies, curly lilies, adder's tongues, or dog tooth violets, exist in many lovely colors in this region, and a few of the best of these are the blue or other shrubs which insure shade and moisture, is a beautiful exhibit in early spring. Like yellow, pink, lavender and white butter-lilies they dance, their slender stems scarcely seeming to hold them to earth. Trilliums or wood-lilies are in the same situations, and their waxy white petals and yellow stamens are as exquisite as those of Easter lilies.

In less shaded spots, blue and white violets may grow, and once established they seed themselves and make a carpet of blossoms in April. Polemoniums, too, love these conditions, and their blossoms of soft pastel blue, pink, lavender, and buff, all existing on a single plant at the same time, form a whole garden in themselves and last from March till June.

And More and More

In sunny exposures one may have a riot of color, cerise of Indian pinks; magenta of bird-bills; lupine in blue, purple, and white; small golden woolly sunflowers; innocence, and cluster lilies, larkspur, columbine and many, many more which cannot be described here but which you will find in your search for appropriate colors and forms for your needs. Materials can be found for rock gardens, for marsh and water gardens, and fortunate is he whose

FROM A PROMINENT LOVER OF FLOWERS

Mrs. Rosebraugh Knows and Grows Them; Few Hints for Beginners

Editor Statesman:

When I am asked to write something about flowers I fear the anything I might say would be known to other flower lovers. But the questions asked by some at a flower exhibit or in a garden show that many are yet in the primer of flower lore; the encouraging fact is that they wish to learn, and some of us still in the lower grades have learned some things that are new and interesting to others.

One of the old problems for which some one is always asking a solution is "what can I grow in the shade?" While sunshine is certainly desirable for flowers, and at least a limited amount is, perhaps, essential, much will grow in shade.

The flowers that bloom early before the trees leaf out and combine, thalictroids and ferns do well without full sun. And it is surprising how well sun-loving plants will grow in partial shade.

I gave a friend his last fall and was surprised at the fine blooms she had this spring in her shady yard, though naturally the bloom was late. The same was true of tulips.

Fertilizer Questions

To me one of the most interesting and important subjects for the gardener is proper soil and food or fertilizer for various plants. This spring a friend said "The iris you gave me looks fine, and I just put a lot of sheep fertilizer on it." I said, "Well get it off as soon as you can." Most of us know that iris (except the Japanese) likes lime and bone meal, but never barnyard or similar fertilizer. I had an interesting experience this spring that might have led me to think I "don't have any luck" with young primroses. One box of several dozen young Japonica primroses remained small and looked sallow and starved, while those in other boxes were thriving. I removed them and found that I had carelessly taken soil for that box where ashes had been emptied. And we know the primrose path is not the cinder path; they like leaf mold and their older fertilizer. Those same "little plants" are now very green. However it seems true in the garden game as in another of which it is said, "know the rules and when to break them." A friend who knows much more about flowers than I do says the arbutus or "bear's ear" primrose likes lime.

grounds afford him possibilities for all these.

Before closing, may I mention one more group of plants, without which a wild flower garden on the Pacific coast would be incomplete. These are the mariposa lilies, some of whose species represent the most exquisite perfection of beauty found in the whole plant world. Different forms vary from an inch or less to more than four inches in diameter, and are well deserving of their Spanish name meaning "butterfly lilies."

The making of a wild flower garden is more than planting seeds and stirring the soil. It becomes, year by year, more beautiful and more a part of yourself, and you may discover that you grow as it grows. And with the establishment of such a garden you are doing your bit toward perpetuating some of nature's loveliest, for with the progress of civilization, a degree of extermination is inevitable. When the last virgin sod is broken, if that time ever comes, certain natural habitats will be forever lost. But here and there the wild things will have found a home where they are protected and encouraged and are enjoyed by those who love them.

Salem, a Flower and Bulb Center

SALEM is a flower and bulb center. That is the commercial angle of Salem Beautiful.

But Salem Beautiful for the mere value of the distinction of being a city that loves and promotes beautiful things in floral and other essentials of adornment and symmetry is of as high money value.

Mrs. W. P. Lord, pioneer in the advocacy of the idea of making Salem stand out among the world's most beautiful cities, for which this city has the natural setting, was instrumental in the organization of our first floral society. She asked for 5000 members, hoping to have general interest here in making this city what it has a right to be, by the decree of nature. Now that organization is the Salem Garden club, which is doing good work; but it should have the 5000 members or more; for Salem has trebled in population, or more, since that time.

We can compete on more than an equal footing with Holland with our tulips. We can be supreme in the wide world in most other near perfections of floral growth.

Great strides have been made in and around Salem by her commercial growers, and by her home owners, in making this a flower and bulb center. But vastly greater things are possible.

No other line of endeavor promises more in making this the great city it has the right to be.

THE THIRD COOLING MOTHS SPRAY IS DUE

F. H. Zinner hands in the following for this issue:

According to the experiment station reports, growers of apples or pears in the Willamette valley should at this time prepare to apply dust or spray against the codling moth in the third application of the season. The moths that have developed from the overwintering larvae are now actively laying eggs and these eggs will hatch in from 8 to 16 days depending on weather conditions. Warm weather will increase the activity of the moths.

The next spray or dust should be on before these eggs hatch, which means by the 29th of June unless the weather remains cool, in which case the time may be extended a few days. Arsenate of lead is used for the spray at the rate of from two to four pounds per 100 gallons of water. A lead arsenate dust may also be used with effectiveness where growers have dusting equipment.

Work Going Well On New Home for Metropolitan, Inc.

Reconstruction of the first floor and basement of the Oregon State building to provide headquarters locally for the Metropolitan Chain stores, Inc. of Delaware, is proceeding rapidly, the frame work being placed this week for the windows in the front of the store-room. Lath is ready for the plaster which will soon be put in the building. New steel supports to carry the large I-beam across the front of the store were put in place this week.

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WOMAN DOCTOR AT THE STATE COLLEGE

A woman physician will be added to the staff of the Oregon State Agricultural college health service next year as a part of a general expansion program for the department just completed by the board of regents. Dr. Edith Sappington, for three years on the staff of the University of Michigan health service, will act as health advisor for women, while Dr. D. C. Reynolds, also of the University of Michigan health service, will head the staff here.

The entire health service, the men's and women's departments of physical education, intramural sports and all hygiene and public health courses are to be grouped under one department, headed by Dr. Clair V. Langton, who, for the past year, has been head of the department of physical education for men.

In spite of the fact that the health service is housed in the smallest and oldest building, and supported by student fees, the college is endeavoring to safeguard the health of the student by organizing an efficient personnel.

The Whining Pigeons

RICHMOND, Va. (AP)—Three pigeons of the Hampton Roads naval base averaged 60 miles an hour in a recent race at the Hampton Roads flying club. The birds covered a 240-mile course in four hours flat.

A conference of Russian housewives has selected a commission of 23 to study the problems of married woman's life.

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"The Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe Had No Way to Modernize"



None ever needed it, either, more than she did, to take care of her large family properly. Houses for Homes.

Today we are not living in shoes, boots or any other cast-off articles. The average American family resides in a house—a structure that lends itself perfectly to MODERNIZATION.

There are few homes that do not need some MODERNIZING. It may be only some trellis work at the front entrance for rose bushes to climb—or a new and better lighting system, or the attic finished for living quarters, or the woodwork done over. It may be one of a thousand small improvements or it may be a complete program of MODERNIZATION to make the home more beautiful and a better place in which to live.

You are Better Off—Stop and think how much better off you are than the old woman who lived in a shoe, bursting with so many children she didn't know what to do!

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