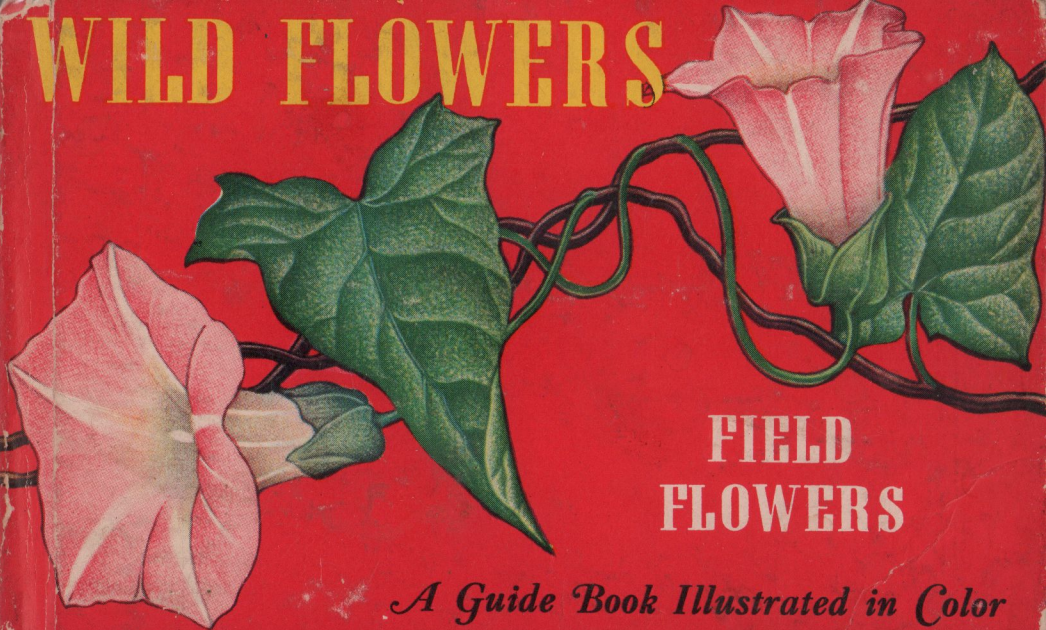


WILD FLOWERS



FIELD FLOWERS

A Guide Book Illustrated in Color

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Joyce C Bielfelt

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A Guide to WILD FLOWERS
FIELD FLOWERS

A Companion Book to
A Guide to GARDEN FLOWERS + A Guide to WOODLAND FLOWERS

By T. H. EVERETT
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FOREWORD

WHEN we consider the most commonly known flowers of our fields and waysides, we cannot but be impressed by the fact that many of them are not native Americans but are immigrants that have come to us from distant lands. They have found conditions here to their liking and have stayed and multiplied their kind.

This abundance of immigrant plants is especially noticeable in those areas of our country that were originally covered with thick forests. When the trees were cut down the native species that grew in their shade for the most part did not find the new conditions to their liking—the light was too strong and they missed the cool, moist atmosphere of the woodlands. As they died out, they were largely replaced by sun-loving flowers from overseas.

The newcomers sometimes came to us as weeds in seeds of agricultural crops that were imported. At other times their seeds entered the new country in straw and other packing material. Often the seeds came in ships' ballast which was dumped at convenient points along our shores.

So long have some of these aliens been here that we ordinarily accept them as natives and some of them have been honored by having been named official State Flowers.

Field flowers are predominantly Summer and Fall bloomers. Some of them are regarded by the farmer as weeds and so may be picked without thought of conservation. Always be careful, however, not to pick those kinds which are rare or those that are scarce in your locality.

T. H. EVERETT

CHICORY, or SUCCORY

Cichorium intybus

[Chicory family]

CHICORY is a European immigrant now thoroughly established in North America. The dried and ground-up roots are sometimes used as an adulterant or as a substitute for coffee. The young shoots forced in darkness are eaten as Witloof or as French Endive. Chicory is derived from the Arabic name for this plant, Chicourey.

BLOOMING SEASON: July-October. WHERE FOUND: Waste places, fields and roadsides; South Carolina to Canada, westward to Nebraska; also California. FLOWERS: Sparsely scattered along slender stems, blue (rarely purple, pink, or white); 1 to 1½ inches in diameter, resembling Dandelions but with fewer rays; rays toothed at tips. PLANT: Perennial, 1½ to 3 feet tall. Stems stiff, erect, branched. Leaves lance-shaped, the lower ones spreading, stalked, deeply toothed, the upper ones smaller, stalkless.





NEW ENGLAND ASTER

Aster novae-angliae

[Thistle family]

MOST of the 250 kinds of Asters known to science are natives of North America. Of these the widely dispersed New England Aster is one of the most beautiful. It has long been favored as a garden plant in Europe; the English, who call the Asters "Michaelmas Daisies," value this species so highly that they have bred from it many choice, named varieties.

BLOOMING SEASON: August-September. WHERE FOUND: Moist fields and swampy places; Quebec to Saskatchewan, southward to Colorado, Alabama and South Carolina. FLOWERS: Daisy-like, clustered at ends of branches, violet-purple (occasionally red, pink, or white) with yellow centers; 1 to 2 inches in diameter. PLANT: Perennial, 2 to 8 feet tall. Stems strong, erect, leafy, branched above. Leaves lance-shaped, stem-clasping.

FIELD MUSTARD, or CHARLOCK

Brassica arvensis

[Mustard family]

A COLORFUL but troublesome weed of European origin, this plant often occurs so plentifully in fields of grain that the whole landscape is painted yellow when they are in bloom. The Field Mustard is a close relative of the Black Mustard, from the seeds of which the well-known table condiment is prepared. Its flowers attract honeybees and other nectar-loving insects.

BLOOMING SEASON: May-November. WHERE FOUND: In cultivated fields and waste places; widely distributed. FLOWERS: In leafy clusters; each flower, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch or more in diameter, has four bright yellow petals and four long and two short stamens. PLANT: Annual or biennial, 1 to 2 feet tall. Stems stout, erect, branched. Leaves alternate, oval, coarsely saw-toothed or irregularly lobed, rough to the touch.





CANADA GOLDENROD

Solidago canadensis

[Thistle family]

THE Goldenrods are North American plants although a few species grow naturally in South America and two or three occur in Europe. They are among the most colorful of wildflowers, and nature uses them in the fall to paint great areas of the American landscape a rich golden-yellow. They are often accused unjustly of causing hay fever.

BLOOMING SEASON : August-October. WHERE FOUND : Hillsides, thickets, and roadsides ; Newfoundland to Saskatchewan, southward to South Dakota and Tennessee. FLOWERS : Bright yellow ; the tiny heads, each with four to six short rays, are arranged along the upper sides of arching branches to form large, handsome plumes. PLANT : Perennial, 1 to 5 feet tall. Stems slender, erect, rough. Leaves narrow, lance-shaped, toothed, 2 to 5 inches long, usually sessile.

VENUS'S-LOOKING-GLASS

Specularia perfoliata

[Bellflower family]

THIS plant has two kinds of flowers. The earliest, borne on the lower parts of the stems, are insignificant in appearance and set seeds without receiving pollen from other flowers. The later ones appear higher up, are showy, and are visited by insects which carry pollen from one to the other and so bring about cross-fertilization.

BLOOMING SEASON : May-September. WHERE FOUND : Barren fields and dry woods throughout the United States and in parts of Canada and Mexico. FLOWERS : Solitary, or two or three together in the leaf axils ; the upper ones $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch across with five (rarely four) reddish-violet petals, the lower ones without showy petals. PLANT : Annual, 6 inches to 2 feet tall. Stems rather weak, very leafy, usually branched below. Leaves shell-shaped, stem-clasping, 1 inch or less in diameter.





BIRD'S-FOOT VIOLET

Viola pedata

[Violet family]

THE Bird's-Foot Violet occurs plentifully but over rather limited areas throughout its range. Its flowers are the largest of any native Violet and look rather like those of the garden Pansy. The common name refers to a fancied resemblance between the leaves and the spreading toes of a bird's foot.

BLOOMING SEASON: May; often again in fall. WHERE FOUND: Dry, sandy soils; Massachusetts to Florida, westward to Louisiana and Minnesota. FLOWERS: Solitary on short stems, $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 inch in diameter; two upper petals dark velvety violet, three lower petals lilac-purple (variants from this color scheme are common). The anthers form a conspicuous golden center to the flower. PLANT: Low-growing, nearly stemless perennial. Leaves in dense tufts, long stalked, hairless, conspicuously divided into three segments, each segment again lobed or cleft.

DANDELION

Taraxacum officinale

[Chicory family]

ORIGINALLY a native of Europe and Asia, the Dandelion is now established over the civilized world. Its name is a corruption of the French *dent de lion* (lion's tooth), and refers to the jagged-toothed leaves which may be eaten cooked or in salads. Dandelion blossoms make an excellent wine.

BLOOMING SEASON: Early spring to late fall. WHERE FOUND: Fields, lawns, and waste places; common everywhere. FLOWERS: Bright golden-yellow. Flower heads flattish, 1 to 2 inches broad, supported on hollow stems; they close at night and are followed by balloon-shaped, airy white seed-heads. PLANT: Perennial, 3 to 18 inches tall, having a milky juice, bitter to taste. Roots thick and deep. Leaves forming basal tufts or rosettes, oblong, often narrowed toward base, coarsely and irregularly lobed.





YARROW, or MILFOIL

Achillea millefolium

[Thistle family]

A NATIVE of Europe and Asia, the Yarrow has become one of the commonest and is one of the prettiest of our weeds. The whole plant is wholesomely aromatic. Old books recommend it to induce nose-bleeding, as a cure for ague, baldness, and other ills, and as a potent love charm. An intoxicating beer is brewed from it in Sweden.

BLOOMING SEASON : June-November. WHERE FOUND : Fields, roadsides, waste places, and in lawns ; throughout North America. FLOWERS : Tiny "daisies" with few rays, clustered together in flat-topped heads that measure 2 inches or less across. Each "flower" has three to five white or pinkish rays. PLANT : Perennial, creeping, 1 to 2 feet tall. Stem tough, erect, leafy. Leaves oblong or lance-shaped, many times divided so that they are fringing and fern-like.

FIELD DAISY, or OXEYE DAISY

Chrysanthemum leucanthemum [Thistle family]

THE Field Daisy is so common in our eastern states that it has been named the state flower of North Carolina. Yet it is not an aboriginal American ; it was brought here by the white man, probably as a weed in farm seeds. Like many European immigrants, it found its new home good and it prospered accordingly. To the farmer the Daisy is a troublesome weed.

BLOOMING SEASON : May-November. WHERE FOUND : Meadows, pastures, and waste places ; throughout the United States and Canada, most common in the east. FLOWERS : Each flower head consists of a bright yellow disk surrounded by numerous spreading white rays and measures 1 to 2 inches across. PLANT : Perennial, 1 to 3 feet tall. Stems erect, sometimes branched. Leaves oblong, narrowed toward base, coarsely toothed ; lower ones stalked.





BLACK-EYED SUSAN, or YELLOW DAISY

Rudbeckia hirta

[Thistle family]

THE Black-Eyed Susan was originally restricted to the plains and prairies. It did not come east until sunny, grassy meadows replaced the natural forest. The thrifty farmer regards it as a weed but even he must admit that it is a gorgeous weed when it brightens his hayfields in high summer. It is one of the best wildlings to use as a cut flower.

BLOOMING SEASON : May-September. WHERE FOUND : Prairies, fields, and grassy places ; Quebec to Manitoba, southward to Texas and Florida. FLOWERS : Bright orange-yellow "daisies" with purple-brown, cone-shaped centers, 1½ to 3 inches in diameter. PLANT : Biennial, occasionally annual, 1 to 3 feet tall. Stems erect, sometimes branched. Leaves lance-shaped, lower ones stalked, upper ones sessile, 2 to 7 inches long.

PEARLY EVERLASTING

Anaphalis margaritacea

[Thistle family]

DESPITE its rather ghostly appearance, the Pearly Everlasting is a pleasing wildling. To be fully appreciated it should be seen on a hot sunny day dotted over a rocky hillside. Under such conditions it is perfectly at home and its cool silvery-gray forms a welcome relief from more gaily colored flowers. Like all Everlastings it is but a poor substitute in the home for fresh-cut flowers.

BLOOMING SEASON : July-September. WHERE FOUND : Dry hillsides, fields, thickets ; Newfoundland to Alaska, southward to North Carolina and Kansas. FLOWERS : Small yellow tufts surrounded by tiny water-lily-like heads of gray-white bracts ; the heads form flattish clusters 2 to 8 inches broad. PLANT : Perennial, 1 to 3 feet tall. Stems erect, white-woolly, leafy. Leaves narrow, lance-shaped, gray-green, woolly.





BUTTER-AND-EGGS, or YELLOW TOAD FLAX

Linaria vulgaris

[Figwort family]

AS PRETTY as many a garden flower, the Butter-and-Eggs is content to flaunt its beauty from roadside bank or waste land. It likes its own company and is usually found growing in colonies. Cattle will not eat it. Its juice mixed with milk has been used as a fly poison. Butter-and-Eggs is a native of Europe and Asia but it now grows as a weed throughout the temperate regions of the world.

BLOOMING SEASON : June-October. WHERE FOUND : Fields, roadsides, and waste places ; most of the United States and Canada except Pacific Coast. FLOWERS : Miniature "snapdragons" set closely together in erect racemes, clear lemon-yellow with a bright orange blotch in the throat. PLANT : Perennial, 1 to 3 feet tall. Stems slender, erect, very leafy. Leaves $\frac{1}{2}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, narrow, gray-green.

GREAT MULLEIN, or VELVET DOCK

Verbascum thapsus

[Figwort family]

THE tall, soldierly flower spires of the Great Mullein and its bold rosettes of winter foliage possess an architectural quality both impressive and dignified. This plant is an immigrant from Europe. In the middle ages it was used for making candlewicks and was believed to possess medicinal properties.

BLOOMING SEASON : June-September. WHERE FOUND : Dry fields and stony waste lands. Nova Scotia to South Dakota and California, southward to Florida and Kansas : FLOWERS : Yellow, $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 inch broad, in dense, erect club-shaped spikes, opening a few at a time. PLANT : Biennial, 2 to 7 feet tall. Stems erect, woolly, leafy, sometimes branched. Leaves oblong or ovate, covered with yellowish wool and of blanket-like texture, 4 to 12 inches long, the basal ones largest and forming a beautiful rosette that persists through the first winter.





BUTTERFLY WEED, or PLEURISY ROOT
Asclepias tuberosa [Milkweed family]

THIS most gorgeous of American Milkweeds does not possess abundant milky juice like so many of its relatives. It well deserves, however, the name of Butterfly Weed for when in bloom it attracts great numbers of these colorful creatures; indeed, the flower is so constructed that other insects can scarcely reach its nectar. The Indians used the roots as a remedy for pleurisy and bronchial ills and as the source of a red dye.

BLOOMING SEASON: June-September. WHERE FOUND: Dry fields and pastures; Maine, Ontario, and Minnesota, southward to Florida and the Gulf. FLOWERS: Glowing orange or yellow, arranged together to form dense rounded clusters. PLANT: Perennial, 1 to 2 feet tall. Stems stout, erect, leafy, sometimes branched above. Leaves alternate, lance-shaped, sessile, 2 to 6 inches long.

SHOOTING STAR, or AMERICAN COWSLIP
Dodecatheon meadia [Primrose family]

THE Shooting Star is an elegant flower that grows most abundantly in the middle-west and southwest portions of its range. Its petals point backward like the ears of an angry horse so that the flower resembles somewhat a greenhouse Cyclamen. It is a favorite for planting in rock gardens and wild gardens both here and abroad. The flowers have a pleasing fragrance.

BLOOMING SEASON: April-May. WHERE FOUND: Moist cliffs, open woods, prairies; Manitoba to Pennsylvania, southward to Georgia and Texas. FLOWERS: Purple-pink or creamy-white, tipped with yellow, in loose umbels that have the effect of bursting skyrockets. The stalks of the individual flowers are arching and vary in length. PLANT: Perennial, 8 inches to 2 feet tall. Leaves oblong or ovate, narrowed to the stalk, 3 to 12 inches long, forming a loose basal rosette.





WILD CARROT, or QUEEN ANNE'S LACE

Daucus carota

[Carrot family]

LIKE many European plant immigrants, the exquisite Queen Anne's Lace has prospered; in many places it is now a pest to farmers. Yet to this dainty plant mankind is indebted, for the cultivated carrot has been obtained from it by careful breeding.

BLOOMING SEASON : June-September. WHERE FOUND : Dry fields, waysides, and waste lands; throughout North America except the extreme North and South. FLOWERS : Small, of uneven size, white or rarely pinkish, many together forming flat lacy heads that measure 2 to 4 inches across. Central flower in each head usually dark purple. The seed stems curl inward to form nest-like cupped heads. PLANT : Biennial, 1 to 3 feet tall. Stem rough, erect. Leaves finely divided, especially the lower ones, smelling of carrots when bruised.

ST.-JOHN'S-WORT

Hypericum perforatum [St.-John's-Wort family]

THE St.-John's-Wort is an untidy plant; it retains its withered petals for a long time and these detract from the appearance of its later flowers. Its name arose from the belief that dew collected from it on the morn of St. John's day was a cure for eye diseases. It is a native of Europe, naturalized here.

BLOOMING SEASON : June-September. WHERE FOUND : Fields and waste places; most of the United States and southern Canada. FLOWERS : In terminal clusters, each with five yellow spreading petals and a central bunch of stamens, $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 inch in diameter. PLANT : Perennial, 1 to 2 feet tall. Stems erect, leafy, with many non-flowering shoots at bottom. Leaves more or less oblong, sessile, showing tiny punctures if held up to the light.





RED CLOVER, or MEADOW CLOVER

Trifolium pratense

[Pea family]

THE sweet-scented Red Clover originated in Europe. It is one of our most valued fodder plants. Bumblebees visit it in great numbers and fertilize its flowers. When it was first taken to Australia, the Red Clover grew well but failed to produce seeds which farmers needed to sow for the next year's crop. This was because bumblebees did not exist in Australia; the condition was corrected by importing bees.

BLOOMING SEASON: April-November. WHERE FOUND: Fields, meadows, and roadsides; throughout the United States and Canada. FLOWERS: Crimson, pink, or rarely whitish, crowded together in dense egg-shaped heads that rest on leafy collars. PLANT: Perennial, 6 inches to 2 feet tall. Stems branching, rather straggling. Leaves long stalked, each with three elliptic or ovate leaflets that often have a dark spot near their centers.

ROUGH-FRUITED CINQUEFOIL

Potentilla recta

[Rose family]

THE name Cinquefoil which is applied to many species of *Potentilla* is from the French *cinque* (five) and *feuilles* (leaves). It has reference to the five-parted leaves that are common in some types. Many native and introduced species occur in North America. The Rough-fruited Cinquefoil came originally from Europe but is now thoroughly naturalized here. It also occurs in parts of Asia.

BLOOMING SEASON: June-September. WHERE FOUND: Fields, roadsides, and waste places; Maine, Ontario, New York, and Michigan, southward to Virginia. FLOWERS: Numerous, clear sulphur-yellow, about $\frac{3}{4}$ inch in diameter. Individual flowers resemble small single Roses. PLANT: Perennial, 1 to 2 feet tall. Stem rather stout, erect, hairy, branched above. Leaves (except the uppermost) stalked, each formed of from five to seven toothed leaflets that spread fanwise.





WILD STRAWBERRY

Fragaria virginiana

[Rose family]

THE Wild Strawberry is surely the most delicious of all our native fruits. It makes a most pleasant appeal to sight, smell, and taste, and most people consider it to be superior in flavor to the garden varieties. Long before the white man came to these shores the Indians cultivated this plant for food and bruised the berries and mixed them with meal to make bread.

BLOOMING SEASON: April-June. WHERE FOUND: Woods, fields, and roadsides; Newfoundland to South Dakota, southward to Florida and Oklahoma. FLOWERS: Of delicate texture, with five white petals and a central group of yellow stamens. PLANT: Perennial, 6 to 8 inches tall, creeping and extending itself by runners which form new plants at their tips. Leaves long-stalked, each of three wedge-shaped, toothed leaflets.

BOUNCING BET, or SOAPWORT

Saponaria officinalis

[Pink family]

BOUNCING BET grows plentifully and in ever-widening colonies in soils that are too dry for many of our summer flowers. Originally brought from Europe and planted in colonial gardens, it escaped its bounds and is now common in our landscape. It is a pretty flower with a pleasing fragrance, particularly after nightfall. Its juice forms a lather with water which is useful for removing grease spots from woollens.

BLOOMING SEASON: June-September. WHERE FOUND: Roadsides, fields, banks, waste places; common east of the Rockies, also in California. FLOWERS: In dense phlox-like clusters, each with five pink or whitish petals, 1 inch in diameter. PLANT: Perennial, 1 to 2 feet tall, spreading by underground stems. Stems erect, leafy. Leaves in pairs, ovate, 2 to 3 inches long, sessile.





BLADDER CAMPION

Silene latifolia

[Pink family]

THE Bladder Campion deliberately encourages the visits of night-flying insects, for only after dusk (and on dull days) do the flowers expand to their fullest and give off their sweet fragrance. Naturalized from Europe, the Bladder Campion also occurs in Asia.

BLOOMING SEASON: July-August. WHERE FOUND: Meadows and waste places; Illinois and Missouri to New Jersey, and northward to Ontario; also on Pacific Coast. FLOWERS: Numerous, on erect branched stems, often drooping, $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch broad. Each of the five white petals is deeply notched. The brownish calyx looks like a small inflated balloon, especially as the seed is forming. PLANT: Perennial, 6 inches to $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet tall, branched at the base. Leaves opposite, pointed, bluish-green, the upper ones broadly lance-shaped, the lower ones spoon-shaped.

STOUT BLUE-EYED GRASS

Sisyrinchium graminoides

[Iris family]

BOTANICALLY the Blue-Eyed Grass is not a grass at all. It is a dainty and pretty relative of the Iris which earned its common name because of the grassy appearance of its foliage and because of its starry blue flowers. Each flower remains open for but a few hours and closes around midday. About 150 different kinds of Blue-Eyed Grasses are known to scientists. All of them are natives of North America.

BLOOMING SEASON: April-June. WHERE FOUND: Moist grassy meadows and open woods; Nova Scotia to Minnesota, southward to Florida and Texas. FLOWERS: Blue six-petalled stars, $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch in diameter, two to four in a cluster. PLANT: Perennial, 8 to 18 inches tall. Stems branched, furnished with two broad wings. Leaves grasslike, in tufts.





YELLOW SWEET CLOVER

Melilotus officinalis

[Pea family]

EXCEPT for flower color this species is similar to White Sweet Clover (*Melilotus alba*) and, like it, attracts moths, bees, wasps, and other insects. When dried the plant is delightfully fragrant but it does not, as was sometimes believed, discourage flies and clothes moths. At night the leaves go to sleep by folding their leaflets together. A native of Europe now thoroughly established in North America.

BLOOMING SEASON : July-November. WHERE FOUND : Roadsides and waste places throughout most of the country. FLOWERS : In dense, slender, one-sided racemes 2 to 4 inches long. Individuals resemble tiny Sweet Peas that are without a large, flaring upper petal. PLANT : Annual or biennial, 3 to 10 feet tall, freely branched. Leaves rather distantly spaced, each with three finely toothed leaflets.

COMMON BURDOCK, or CUCKOO BUTTON

Arctium minus

[Thistle family]

THE seed heads of the Common Burdock are designed for travel. They cling tightly to the clothing of man and to the hides of beasts and are carried long distances to reproduce their kind in places far from their mother plants. Children stick the burrs together to make simple toys. Cattle will not eat the bitter leaves.

BLOOMING SEASON : July-November. WHERE FOUND : Waysides and waste ground ; east of the Rockies. FLOWERS : Magenta, purple, or white, in a tuft at the center of a large ovoid burr, composed of numerous leathery bracts tipped with hooked bristles. Burrs arranged many together at ends of branches. PLANT : Biennial, 2 to 5 feet tall. Stems coarse, erect. Leaves large, broad-oval, cottony beneath, on hollow stalks.





WILD BERGAMOT

Monarda fistulosa

[Mint family]

THE Wild Bergamot is less showy than its scarlet-flowered sister, the Oswego Tea (*Monarda didyma*). Nevertheless, it is a pleasing wildling that can be used attractively in wild-flower bouquets. The plant is aromatic and the flowers are great favorites of butterflies; they also play host to hummingbirds.

BLOOMING SEASON: June-September. WHERE FOUND: Dry hills and thickets; Maine to Minnesota, southward to Florida, Louisiana, and Kansas. FLOWERS: Tubular, 1 to 1½ inches long, lilac, pink, or white, in dense terminal heads that resemble honeycombs after the flowers fade. Only a few flowers in each head are open at one time. PLANT: Perennial, 2 to 3 feet tall. Stems square, slender, usually branched. Leaves opposite, lance-shaped or pointed-oval, toothed, often heart-shaped at base, usually stalked.

EVENING PRIMROSE

Oenothera biennis

[Evening Primrose family]

THE flowers of the common Evening Primrose open at nightfall and fade with the coming of the sun. Each flower lasts only a single night but new buds expand each evening, and the plants keep up a display over a long season. In the dusk the flowers are visited by night-flying moths; the nectar is down so deep in the slender tubes that only these insects can drain it all.

BLOOMING SEASON: June-October. WHERE FOUND: Dry fields, roadsides, and pastures; Labrador to Florida, westward to Minnesota and Texas. FLOWERS: Fragrant, especially at night, 1 to 2½ inches in diameter, with four heart-shaped yellow petals. PLANT: Biennial, 1 to 6 feet tall, often bushy. Stems wand-like, occasionally branched, leafy. Leaves lance-shaped, alternate, mostly sessile.





PASTURE ROSE

Rosa virginiana

[Rose family]

THE Pasture Rose is one of the commonest of the several Wild Roses that are natives of America. It is usually a low-growing plant and for this reason it is sometimes known as the Dwarf Wild Rose. Its flowers are handsome and fragrant, and a large bush in full bloom makes a truly beautiful picture. In the fall the foliage becomes rich yellow-brown and the crimson fruits (or "hips") are conspicuous.

BLOOMING SEASON: May-July. WHERE FOUND: Moist and wet soils; Newfoundland to Ontario and Minnesota, southward to Georgia and Louisiana. FLOWERS: Solitary or few together, 2 to 3 inches broad, each with five heart-shaped pink petals. PLANT: Spreading shrub, 6 inches to 6 feet tall. Stems usually prickly. Leaves dark green, shining, of five or seven toothed leaflets.

WILD LUPINE, or OLD MAID'S BONNETS

Lupinus perennis

[Pea family]

MEMBERS of the Pea family are the only plants able to use as food the nitrogen of the air. This they do through bacteria that live in their roots. Because of this faculty they often can live in barren soils. The wild lupine frequently grows so plentifully on acid, sandy wastes that whole fields become blue at blossom time. Its roots penetrate to prodigious depths.

BLOOMING SEASON: May-June. WHERE FOUND: Dry, sandy fields and hillsides; Maine to Florida, westward to Ontario, Minnesota, Missouri, and Louisiana. FLOWERS: Like small Sweet Peas arranged in erect spikes 6 to 10 inches long, bright blue (rarely pink or white). PLANT: Perennial, 1 to 2 feet tall, erect, branched. Leaves on slender stalks each with seven to eleven leaflets that spread like the fingers of a hand.





MEADOW BUTTERCUP

Ranunculus acris

[Crowfoot family]

THE Meadow Buttercup is a favorite of children who hold the flowers under their chins to see "whether or not they like butter." The juice is acrid and capable of causing skin blisters, and for this reason children should be warned never to put the plant into their mouths. Cattle carefully avoid the Meadow Buttercup.

BLOOMING SEASON : May-September. WHERE FOUND : Fields and meadows; Newfoundland to British Columbia, southward to Virginia and Missouri. FLOWERS : Numerous, on wiry stems, each with five broad, bright-yellow petals that are very glossy on their upper sides. The buds are cup-shaped. PLANT : Perennial, 2 to 3 feet tall. Stems erect, branched, bright green. Leaves cleft into from three to seven divisions each of which is deeply lobed. Lower leaves stalked ; upper leaves sessile.

SNEEZEWEED, or SWAMP SUNFLOWER

Helenium autumnale

[Thistle family]

THE dried and powdered leaves and flowers of this plant are used medicinally to induce sneezing. The flowers attract honeybees, bumblebees, wasps, and other nectar- and pollen-seeking insects. The leaves are bitter and are usually avoided by cows ; if they eat them the milk is spoiled.

BLOOMING SEASON : August-October. WHERE FOUND : Swamps, ditches, and wet ground ; Quebec, Manitoba, and Oregon, southward to Florida, Nevada, and Arizona. FLOWERS : Numerous, forming large flat-topped clusters. Individuals are 1 to 2 inches across and have conspicuous yellow or brown ball-shaped centers and ten to eighteen drooping, bright-yellow rays that are toothed at their ends. PLANT : Perennial, 2 to 6 feet tall. Stems stout, erect, with narrow leafy wings, branched above. Leaves alternate, stalkless, lance-shaped to oblong, toothed.





GREAT PLANTAIN

Plantago major

[Plantain family]

THE Great Plantain is one of the commonest weeds in the vicinity of human dwellings. It is entirely without beauty, being coarse of leaf and unimposing in flower, yet it is of bold and distinctive appearance and so is well-known to almost everyone. Its seeds provide food for wild birds and are often gathered to feed canaries. Young geese devour the leaves eagerly but livestock seemingly do not like the flavor and pass the plant by.

BLOOMING SEASON : May-September. WHERE FOUND : Yards, waste places, and lawns ; throughout North America. FLOWERS : Insignificant, greenish or purplish, crowded together in erect rat-tail-like spikes 3 to 10 inches long. PLANT : Perennial, 3 inches to 2 feet tall. Leaves long-stalked, the stalks tough and stringy, ovate, forming loose rosettes or basal tufts.

KNOTWEED, or PENNSYLVANIA PERSICARIA

Polygonum pennsylvanica [Buckwheat family]

IF THIS plant were rare or foreign to our country, gardeners would undoubtedly plant it in their borders and tend it with care, for it possesses both beauty and decorative value. Because it is a common inhabitant of rubbish heaps and fence rows, it is commonly passed by without a second glance. It is a communal plant that usually grows in great masses and remains attractive over a long season.

BLOOMING SEASON : July-September. WHERE FOUND : Moist roadsides and waste places ; Nova Scotia to Florida and the Gulf of Mexico, westward to Minnesota and Texas. FLOWERS : Small, dark pink, or rose-colored, crowded together in irregular club-shaped spikes. PLANT : Annual, 1 to 3 feet tall. Stems erect, branching. Leaves lance-shaped, stalked, 2 to 11 inches long, swollen at joints.





**ORANGE HAWKWEED, or
DEVIL'S-PAINT-BRUSH**

Heiraceum aurantiacum

[Chicory family]

THE Orange Hawkweed is one of the most handsome naturalized importations from Europe, but in some sections it has become a most pestiferous weed and has taken possession of much good pasture land. In olden times it was believed that hawks sharpened their eyesight with the leaves of this plant. The name Devil's-Paint-Brush refers to the seed head.

BLOOMING SEASON : June-September. WHERE FOUND : Fields, woods, and roadsides ; New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, northward to New Brunswick and Ontario. FLOWERS : Resemble small, orange-red Dandelions borne several together at the tops of slender, hairy, stems. Individual flower heads measure from $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 inch across. PLANT : Perennial, spreading by runners, 6 to 20 inches tall. Leaves long-oval, hairy, mostly arranged in basal tufts.

**PURPLE CONEFLOWER, or
BLACK SAMPSON**

Echinacea purpurea

[Thistle family]

BECAUSE of the general resemblance of the flower heads of this plant to those of the Sunflower, in some places it is known as "Red Sunflower." It is a good-looking plant and is frequently cultivated in gardens both here and abroad. It is particularly useful as a cut flower because its flowers and foliage stand up well in water and do not wilt.

BLOOMING SEASON : July- October. WHERE FOUND : Moist, rich soils ; Pennsylvania to Georgia, westward to Michigan, Kentucky, and Louisiana. FLOWERS : Purple, crimson, or pale lavender-pink "daisies" each with twelve to twenty spreading or drooping rays rather widely spaced, and a conspicuous raised center. PLANT : Perennial, 2 to 5 feet tall. Stems stout, erect, branching. Leaves lance-shaped or ovate, the lower ones stalked.





GREAT or HEDGE BINDWEED

Convolvulus sepium [Morning-Glory family]

THE Great Bindweed harms shrubs and hedges by smothering them. Once established in cultivated ground, it is difficult to eradicate; ordinary cultural operations merely cut into pieces the thick, white, wide-spreading roots, and each small piece gives rise to a new plant. The flowers ordinarily close about midday but in dull weather they remain open through the afternoon.

BLOOMING SEASON: June-August. WHERE FOUND: Hedges, thickets, and fields; over most of the United States and parts of Canada. FLOWERS: White or pale pink with white stripes, funnel shaped, the outer rim five-sided, twisted in bud, about 2 inches broad and 2 to 3 inches long. PLANT: Perennial, twining vine. Stems 3 to 10 feet long, light green, leafy. Leaves shaped like arrowheads, 2 to 5 inches long.

SCARLET GILIA, or SKYROCKET

Gilia aggregata [Phlox family]

HUMMINGBIRDS extract the nectar that is plentifully secreted at the base of the long flower tubes of the Scarlet Gilia. Oregon Indians know this plant by a name which means "doves' drink-plant"; according to their legend, at the beginning of things the wild doves drank only the nectar of the flowers. Indian children loved to suck the flowers for their sweetness.

BLOOMING SEASON: June-August. WHERE FOUND: Dry soils; Nebraska to Mexico, westward to California and British Columbia. FLOWERS: Scarlet, pink, or yellow dotted with crimson, tubular, 1 to 1½ inches long; the mouth cleft into five spreading or recurved lobes, arranged in loose clusters 6 inches to 1 foot long. PLANT: Biennial, 2 to 4 feet tall. Stems erect, leafy, particularly on the lower part. Leaves alternate, mostly stalked, finely divided, and fern-like.





CALIFORNIA POPPY

Eschscholtzia californica [Poppy family]

OF ALL California Wildflowers this is the best known. It is the official state flower, beloved by Californians and admired by visitors. In Australia and India it has run wild and is thoroughly naturalized ; in many other parts of the world it is cultivated as a garden plant. The Spanish Californians use this plant as a pain-killer, especially in treating headaches and insomnia. They also prepare from it an oil that is said to encourage the luxuriant growth of hair.

BLOOMING SEASON : June-September. WHERE FOUND : Open, sunny places ; California and Oregon. FLOWERS : Saucer-shaped, 2 to 3 inches in diameter, with four fan-shaped petals, orange, yellow, or cream, opening only in sunshine. PLANT : Perennial, 9 inches to 2 feet tall. Stems freely branched. Leaves long-stalked, finely dissected, blue-green.

COMMON, SPEAR, or BULL THISTLE

Cirsium lanceolatum [Thistle family]

THIS well-armed European has thoroughly adapted itself to life in North America and is common over great areas of our country. To the farmer it is a weed, often troublesome in pastures, but to the bees its deliciously fragrant flowers are sources of food. The caterpillars of the painted-lady butterfly eat its leaves.

BLOOMING SEASON : July-September. WHERE FOUND : Fields, roadsides, waste places, usually in moist soil ; Newfoundland to Georgia, westward to Pacific Coast. FLOWERS : Dark crimson-purple, silky, forming a rounded head $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 inches broad, atop a graceful, urn-shaped, spiny green cup. PLANT : Biennial, 3 to 5 feet tall. Stems stout, branched, leafy. Leaves lance-shaped, deeply lobed, dark green, furnished with stout prickles and bristles.





BEAR GRASS, or SOAPWEED

Yucca glauca

[Lily family]

THE *Yuccas* offer an amazing example of the interdependence of insects and flowers. Only the Pronubia Moth can effectively transfer the pollen from one *Yucca* flower to another and the *Yucca* flowers are the only food acceptable to the caterpillars of this moth. Pronubia Moths are found wherever *Yuccas* grow wild. Because the Indians used the roots of this species instead of soap it is known by the common name of Soapweed.

BLOOMING SEASON : May-June. WHERE FOUND : Dry soil ; South Dakota and Montana, southward to Texas and Arizona. FLOWERS : Nodding, greenish-white, 1½ to 3 inches in diameter, arranged closely together on erect stems to form tall spires. PLANT : Perennial, 3 to 6 feet tall. Stem very short. Leaves narrow, sword-shaped, stiff, sharp-pointed, blue-green, forming a large loose tuft.

HIGH-BUSH or MOUNTAIN BLACKBERRY

Rubus alleghaniensis

[Rose family]

THIS is one of the several kinds of native North American Blackberries that produce fruits that are delicious when eaten raw, cooked in pies, or preserved as jellies. They also can be made into excellent wine. The Mountain Blackberry is by no means confined to the highlands but is generally more abundant in such regions. The fruit ripens in August and September ; it is rather solid and less juicy than that of most other Blackberries. Occasionally plants bearing amber-colored fruits are found.

BLOOMING SEASON : May-July. WHERE FOUND : Dry soil, Nova Scotia to Ontario, southward to North Carolina. FLOWERS : In loose clusters, white, resembling miniature, narrow-petaled, wild white roses. PLANT : Shrub 2 to 8 feet tall. Stems erect or arching, very prickly. Leaves with three to seven ovate, toothed leaflets.





SNOW-ON-THE-MOUNTAIN, or WHITE-MARGINED SPURGE

Euphorbia marginata [Spurge family]

THE original home of the Snow-on-the-Mountain is the land lying between the Rocky Mountains and the Missouri River. In all probability the plant was not very common even there until development of the country began ; since that time it has taken possession of great areas alongside railroad tracks and also has naturalized itself in waste places in many middle-western and eastern states. It is a plant of attractive appearance and is sometimes grown as a garden annual.

BLOOMING SEASON : May-October. WHERE FOUND : Dry soils ; Minnesota to Texas, eastward to the Atlantic states. FLOWERS : Small, clustered, green and white, surrounded by showy green, white-margined bracts. PLANT : Annual, 10 inches to 3 feet tall. Stems rather stout, erect. Leaves ovate, sessile, bright green.

PRAIRIE ONION

Allium stellatum [Lily family]

ABOUT 75 of the 300 known species of Wild Onions are natives of North America. The remainder occur in other parts of the Northern Hemisphere. The Prairie Onion is very common throughout its natural range and provides conspicuous patches of color during its blooming season. In the east and in Europe it is sometimes cultivated as a garden plant and it then adds, in the late summer, modest interest and color to the flower border or rock garden.

BLOOMING SEASON : July-August. WHERE FOUND : Rocky banks ; Illinois and Minnesota to Missouri, Nebraska, and Kansas. FLOWERS : Rosy-pink, each on a short stalk and arranged many together in close, rounded heads. PLANT : Perennial, 8 to 18 inches tall. Base is a bulb. Leaves narrow, grass-like, smelling of onions when bruised.





POKEWEED, INK-BERRY, or SCOKE

Phytolacca americana

[Pokeweed family]

ALTHOUGH the roots, berries, and possibly other parts of this plant are poisonous, the young shoots (thoroughly cooked) are excellent as "greens." The poisonous property is destroyed by boiling or is poured off with the water. From the roots and fruits of Pokeweed medicinal preparations are made. Children use the juice of the berries as ink and for painting and dyeing.

BLOOMING SEASON: June-September; in fruit August-October. WHERE FOUND: Roadsides, fence rows, thickets, and waste places; Ontario and Minnesota, southward to Florida and Mexico. FLOWERS: Small, white, in slender racemes. They are followed by green berries that become dark purple when ripe. PLANT: Perennial, 4 to 12 feet tall, bushy, strong-smelling. Stems very stout, branched. Leaves ovate, lance-shaped, 8 to 12 inches long.

IRONWEED, or FLAT-TOP

Vernonia noveboracensis

[Thistle family]

THIS robust native is often found growing in company with Joe-Pye Weed, New England Aster, and other lovers of low, moist places. Like them, it colors our roadsides and meadows through summer and fall and complements perfectly the bright yellows of Goldenrods and Sunflowers. It is a great favorite of the butterflies. Other insects, including bees, are also frequent visitors.

BLOOMING SEASON: July-September. WHERE FOUND: Moist meadows and fields; Pennsylvania, North Carolina, West Virginia, westward to Mississippi and Missouri. FLOWERS: Deep reddish-purple (rarely white), in small thistle-like heads borne many together in loose, branched, flat-topped clusters. PLANT: Perennial, 3 to 9 feet tall. Stems erect, roughish, branched. Leaves alternate, elliptic or narrowly lance-shaped, 5 to 12 inches long, finely toothed.





BLUEBELLS, or VIRGINIA COWSLIP
Mertensia virginica [Borage family]

SURELY one of the loveliest of American Wildflowers, the Virginia Cowslip is known not only to those who live in regions where it grows naturally but also to thousands of gardeners both here and abroad who cultivate it tenderly in their rock gardens and wild gardens.

BLOOMING SEASON: March-May. WHERE FOUND: In moist meadows, along banks of streams; Ontario to South Carolina, westward to Nebraska and Kansas. FLOWERS: Tubular or funnel-shaped, about 1 inch long, pink changing to blue as flowers open. Individuals droop or spread and are arranged in loose terminal clusters. PLANT: Perennial, 1 to 2 feet tall. Stems erect, occasionally branched. Leaves oblong or ovate, 6 inches or less long, bluish-green. Whole plant dies to ground after flowering and reappears the following spring.

**LARGE-FLOWERED SENSITIVE PEA, or
 PARTRIDGE PEA**

Chamaecrista fasciculata [Senna family]

LIKE the smaller-flowered Sensitive Pea (*Chamaecrista nictans*) the leaves of this species respond to vibration; if the stems are jarred sharply the leaflets fold themselves together like those of a tropical Sensitive Plant, but more slowly. At night the leaves go to sleep, each leaflet turning on edge and then flattening itself along the stem until it hugs its neighbors. The seeds, borne in pea-like pods, are eaten by birds.

BLOOMING SEASON: July-September. WHERE FOUND: Dry soils; Massachusetts to Minnesota, southward to Florida, Texas, and Mexico. FLOWERS: In groups of two to four, yellow, 1 to 1½ inches in diameter, with unequal petals, often purple-spotted. PLANT: Annual, 1 to 2½ feet tall. Stem erect or spreading, branched. Leaves stalked, feathery, each with twenty to thirty leaflets.





TAWNY DAY LILY

Hemerocallis fulva

[Lily family]

THE Tawny Day Lily is a native of Europe and Asia and was brought to this continent as a garden plant. As such it became popular but, refusing to stay within the limits of gardens, it "escaped." It now demonstrates its ability to take care of itself by growing and thriving without the aid of man in many parts of the east. Sometimes colonies cover wide areas but produce very few blooms.

BLOOMING SEASON: June-August. WHERE FOUND: Meadows, stream-sides, open woods; New Brunswick to Virginia and Tennessee. FLOWERS: Tawny-orange "lilies" that last for one day only, borne in clusters of from six to fifteen. PLANT: Perennial, 3 to 6 feet tall. Leaves $\frac{1}{2}$ inch or less wide, abundant, arranged in coarse, grass-like tufts.

SEGO LILY, or NUTTALL'S MARIPOSA LILY

Calochortus Nuttallii

[Lily family]

"SEGO" is an adaptation of the Indian name for this plant. The Indians ate the bulb-like roots and considered them a great delicacy. It is recorded that when the Mormon pioneers faced famine in 1848-49 the Sego Lily became one of their principal foods. This is the state flower of Utah.

BLOOMING SEASON: June-July. WHERE FOUND: Semi-desert regions; South Dakota and Nebraska, westward to California. FLOWERS: Large, handsome, with three large white, lilac, or yellowish spreading petals, each with a purple spot and a yellow base and three much smaller green sepals. PLANT: Perennial, 3 to 15 inches tall. Stem arising from a small solid bulb, usually branched, bearing few leaves, the lowermost leaf commonly with a bulb in its axil. Leaves narrow, grass-like.





JOE-PYE WEED, or TRUMPET WEED

Eupatorium purpureum

[Thistle family]

THIS handsome native commemorates an Indian medicine-man named Joe Pye who earned a great reputation as well as a fortune by apparently curing typhus fever and other ills with decoctions prepared from the plant named after him. Butterflies are especially fond of the Joe-Pye Weed; they visit it in large numbers when it is in bloom.

BLOOMING SEASON: August-September. WHERE FOUND: Moist meadows and roadsides; New Brunswick to the Gulf of Mexico, westward to Manitoba and Texas. FLOWERS: Very numerous, forming large terminal clusters of soft fringed bloom; pale pink to magenta, occasionally white. PLANT: Perennial of bold, vigorous growth. Stems leafy, 3 to 10 feet tall. Leaves lance-shaped to ovate, toothed, 4 to 12 inches long, arranged in whorls of from three to six (usually four).

COMMON MILKWEED, or SILKWEED

Asclepias syriaca

[Milkweed family]

ALTHOUGH rank in growth and not showy in bloom the Common Milkweed is of bold and dignified appearance. Its flowers are followed by large pods that contain within their rough exteriors many flat, brown seeds overlapping each other like the shingles of a roof and a compressed mass of silky parachutes that are intended to carry the ripe seed far and wide. The plant contains in abundance a milky-white, sticky juice.

BLOOMING SEASON: June-August. WHERE FOUND: Fields, roadsides, and waste places; New Brunswick to North Carolina, westward to Saskatchewan and Kansas. FLOWERS: Small, brownish-pink or dull greenish-pink, borne many together in close, rounded heads. PLANT: Perennial, 3 to 5 feet tall. Stem stout, erect, leafy, usually unbranched. Leaves opposite, oblong or oval, 4 to 9 inches long, whitish underneath.





FRINGED GENTIAN

Gentiana crinita

[Gentian family]

THE Fringed Gentian has suffered considerably at the hands of thoughtless pickers of wild flowers; it is now exterminated or rare in localities where once it was common. Because it is not a perennial, seed must be scattered each fall to ensure the next season's crop; when the flowers are picked this is prevented. Only under sunshine do the lovely blooms expand; in dull weather they remain tightly furled.

BLOOMING SEASON: September-October. WHERE FOUND: Moist meadows and open woods; Quebec to Ontario and Minnesota, southward to Iowa and Georgia. FLOWERS: Bright blue (occasionally white), about 2 inches long, erect, with (usually) four spreading, much-fringed petal lobes. PLANT: Annual or biennial, 1 to 3 feet tall. Stem erect, usually branched. Leaves opposite, ovate or lance-shaped.

COBAEA BEARD-TONGUE, or DEW FLOWER

Penstemon Cobaea

[Figwort family]

THE early settlers prepared from this Beard-Tongue a tea which they used as a laxative. The name Dew Flower has reference to the drops of nectar that collect at the bottoms of the flower tubes early in the morning and which are often sipped by children who appreciate its sweetness. The name "Beard-Tongue" calls attention to the hairy sterile stamen. The Beard-Tongues number about 150 different kinds and are most common in the western part of our country.

BLOOMING SEASON: April-July. WHERE FOUND: Dry prairies; Missouri and Kansas to Texas. FLOWERS: Reddish-purple, tubular, about 2 inches long, five clustered together at top of stems. PLANT: Perennial, 1 to 2 feet tall. Stems stout, erect. Leaves oblong or ovate, toothed, the lower ones stalked and the upper sessile.



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