

A GUIDE TO
WILD FLOWERS

Woodland
Flowers

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Joyce C. Bielfelt

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A Guide to WILD FLOWERS
WOODLAND FLOWERS

A Companion Book to

A Guide to GARDEN FLOWERS + A Guide to FIELD FLOWERS

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FOREWORD

AMERICAN woodlands are rich in wild flowers that possess both charm and beauty. Many have other virtues too, and for these they were sought by both the Indians and the early settlers. Some were used for food, others for dyes, and still others to provide healing medicines.

Even today, country people eat Marigold greens in spring, and children are fond of ripe May Apples and the fruits of the Partridgeberry. Some of our woodland plants are used in modern medicine.

But not all woodlanders are beneficial. A number are very poisonous and others sufficiently so to make the unwary uncomfortable. Before you experiment with wild plants, be sure that you know what they are and whether they are harmful or not. Perhaps,

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after all, it is best to leave the wild growth undisturbed so that others who pass by may enjoy its beauty.

Above all, one should not pick or otherwise destroy rare varieties. Some of our choicest natives are now scarce because they have been collected by thoughtless people in the past. Most woodlanders do not take kindly to ordinary garden conditions; to pull them up when they are growing and transplant them into the garden almost invariably results in their early death.

You will perhaps notice that most of our woodland plants bloom in the spring. They can thus complete their main growth while they yet receive a fair amount of light—before the overhead canopy of leaves becomes too heavy and dense.

T. H. EVERETT

BLACK SNAKEROOT; BLACK COHOSH; BUGBANE

Cimicifuga racemosa

[Crowfoot family]

THE thick, blackish, bitter, and acrid roots of this plant are used in the preparation of medicines that are employed in the treatment of whooping cough, rheumatism, St. Vitus's dance and other disorders. The flowers are attractive to carrion flies but are said to repel other insects. Because of this the plant receives its common name of Bugbane and its botanical name of *Cimicifuga* (*Cimex*, a bug, and *fugo*, to drive away.)

BLOOMING SEASON: June-August. WHERE FOUND: Woods; Maine and Ontario to Wisconsin, southward to Georgia and Missouri. FLOWERS: Fuzzy, creamy-white pompons arranged on erect stems to form wand-like clusters, ill-scented. PLANT: Perennial, 3 to 8 feet tall. Stem slender, leafy. Leaves light green, thrice-divided, the leaflets lobed and toothed.



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BLUE COHOSH; PAPOOSE ROOT

Caulophyllum thalictroides [Barberry family]

THE roots of the Blue Cohosh are poisonous. Other parts of the plant may also be dangerous. Children should be warned never to eat the blue, pea-sized seeds. Care should also be taken not to touch the plant unnecessarily for it is reported to cause skin irritations in some people. Fortunately, because of its intensely bitter taste, animals rarely eat this plant in sufficient quantities to harm them.

BLOOMING SEASON: April-May. WHERE FOUND: Rich woods; New Brunswick to South Carolina, westward to Manitoba, Nebraska, Missouri, and Tennessee. FLOWERS: Greenish-purple or yellowish, in loose clusters, followed by blue, berry-like seeds. PLANT: Perennial, 1 to 3 feet tall. Stem erect, bearing one large leaf at top and often a smaller one below. Leaf thrice-divided, the leaflets coarsely lobed.

BLOODROOT; PUCCOON-ROOT

Sanguinaria canadensis [Poppy family]

THE Indians dyed their robes and blankets with orange-red juice obtained from the thick roots of this plant. Today its roots are used in making cough medicines. The flowers of the Bloodroot arise from the ground enfolded within a leafy cloak which unrolls to permit the rapidly developing bud to open and display its beauty. Few flowers are more fragile, the slightest rough handling causing the petals to drop. Rain and wind quickly spoil them.

BLOOMING SEASON: April-May. WHERE FOUND: Rich woods; Nova Scotia to Nebraska, southward to Florida, Alabama, and Arkansas. FLOWERS: Solitary, 1 to 1½ inches broad, white or rarely pinkish. PLANT: Perennial, 4 to 7 inches tall. Leaves long-stalked, more or less kidney-shaped, lobed, 6 to 10 inches broad at maturity, green above, silvery beneath.





BUNCHBERRY; DWARF CORNEL

Cornus canadensis

[Dogwood family]

THE Bunchberry is one of the most charming of woodland natives. It is seen at its best where it carpets the ground with a thick luxuriant mat of greenery, dotted over with choice white flower-heads that closely resemble those of its loftier relative, the tree, Flowering Dogwood. It is lovely in bloom and also later when its clusters of sealing-wax-red berries appear.

BLOOMING SEASON: May-July. WHERE FOUND: Cool, low woods; Newfoundland to Alaska, southward to New Jersey, West Virginia, Indiana, Colorado, and California. FLOWERS: Greenish, tiny, in a tight cluster surrounded by 4 to 6 handsome white bracts. The flower stalk arises from the center of a collar of green leaves which terminates the erect stem. PLANT: Creeping, 3 to 9 inches tall. Stems many, erect.

CHECKERBERRY; CREEPING WINTERGREEN

Gaultheria procumbens

[Heath family]

IN THE late fall and winter the mealy, spicy berries of the Checkerberry provide welcome food for bears, deer, grouse, and other wild creatures. They may also be eaten by humans. Children chew the young leaves which in some sections of the country are called "youngsters." The whole plant is delightfully aromatic and from it the well-known oil of wintergreen is prepared.

BLOOMING SEASON: June-September. WHERE FOUND: Woods, especially under evergreens; Newfoundland to Georgia, westward to Manitoba, Wisconsin, and Indiana. FLOWERS: Small, white, narrow-mouthed bells, nodding singly from the leaf-axils, followed by bright cherry-red berry-like fruits. PLANT: Perennial, 2 to 6 inches tall. Stems creeping on or just beneath surface. Branches erect. Leaves evergreen, oval, leathery, mostly clustered near tips of branches.





COMMON BLUE WOOD ASTER

Aster cordifolius

[Thistle family]

IN THE fall the native Asters provide one of the most conspicuous and glorious features of the American countryside. The Common Blue Wood Aster is one of the latest to bloom. Although its flowers are smaller than those of some of its relatives they are produced in great profusion and in clusters of such generous size that they hang in great misty masses in woodlands and along shaded lanes.

BLOOMING SEASON: September-December. WHERE FOUND: Woods and thickets; Nova Scotia to Ontario and Minnesota, southward to Missouri and Georgia. FLOWERS: Numerous, daisy-like heads (each $\frac{5}{8}$ inch across) in large, loose clusters; rays lavender, violet, or (rarely) white. PLANT: Perennial, 1 to 5 feet tall. Stems leafy, much-branched. Leaves mostly heart-shaped with pointed tips, upper ones lance-shaped or ovate.

COOLWORT; FALSE MITERWORT; FOAMFLOWER

Tiarella cordifolia

[Saxifraga family]

THE Foamflower is found most commonly in the mountains, especially in the southern part of its range. It loves a cool, moist place and often grows in company with its relative the True Miterwort (*Mitella diphylla*). The latter is less showy and can readily be distinguished because it always has a pair of opposite leaves about half way up each flowering stem. The Foamflower sends out slender runners and, under favorable conditions, soon extends itself into wide-spread colonies.

BLOOMING SEASON: April-May. WHERE FOUND: Rich moist woods; Nova Scotia to Minnesota, southward to Georgia, Indiana, and Michigan. FLOWERS: In feathery long-stalked spires, pure white with orange-tipped stamens. PLANT: Perennial, 6 to 12 inches tall. Leaves long-stalked, shaped somewhat like a maple-leaf.





CREVICE ALUM ROOT

Heuchera micrantha

[Saxifraga family]

ALL OF the 70 or more different kinds of Alum Root grow wild in North America. They receive their name because, if chewed upon, their roots pucker the mouth as alum does. The Crevice Alum Root loves rich mountain woods, near waterfalls or on moist cliffs. It is a plant of charming appearance and its delicate flower-sprays are as useful as those of many garden flowers for cutting.

BLOOMING SEASON: May-July. WHERE FOUND: Sloping stream banks, cliffs; California to British Columbia. FLOWERS: Small, in loose, feathery sprays, pink and white. PLANT: Perennial, 1 to 3 feet tall. Stems slender, erect, usually with one or two small leaves. Leaves mostly in basal tufts, rounded or heart-shaped, shallowly lobed and toothed, long-stalked.

DOWNY FALSE FOXGLOVE

Dasystoma flava

[Figwort family]

THE False Foxgloves are partial parasites. Too lazy to extract all the food they need from the soil, they fasten their sucker-like roots on to the roots of other plants (particularly the white oak and witch hazel) and drink the juices they find there. This species is one of the most beautiful of woodlanders. Often as many as a dozen of its splendid flowers are fully open on one spike at the one time.

BLOOMING SEASON: July-August. WHERE FOUND: Dry woods and thickets; Maine to Ontario and Wisconsin, southward to Georgia and Mississippi. FLOWERS: In handsome terminal racemes, the individuals urn-shaped with five spreading petal-lobes, 1 to 1½ inches long, clear yellow. PLANT: Perennial, 2 to 4 feet tall. Stem solitary, square, erect, leafy. Leaves grayish, velvety, lance-shaped, the lower ones with wavy margins.





DOWNY RATTLESNAKE PLANTAIN

Epipactis pubescens

[Orchid family]

THE prettily marked leaves of the Downy Rattlesnake Plantain are seen more often than its flowers, for it is a shy bloomer. Fortunately, it is the leaves rather than the flowers that are the attractive part of this native orchid. They are silky to the touch and have waved or ruffled edges. It is from the resemblance of the leaf markings to the underside of a rattlesnake the plant receives its common name.

BLOOMING SEASON: July-September. WHERE FOUND: Dry woods; Quebec to North Carolina, westward to the Mississippi Valley. FLOWERS: Small, white or greenish, clustered in a club-shaped spike. PLANT: Perennial, 6 to 16 inches tall. Flower stem stiffly erect. Leaves 5 to 8 in a basal rosette, elliptic, stalked, grayish-green with a network of white veins.

DUTCHMAN'S BREECHES

Dicentra Cucullaria

[Fumewort family]

THE common name of this plant refers to its curiously shaped flowers which resemble in form the well-known garment of the Hollander. With their long tongues, bumblebees drink the nectar from the flowers. Shortly after blooming and before the summer is begun, both flowers and leaves die down to the ground to lie dormant until another spring awakens them. Certain tribes of Indians employed the Dutchman's Breeches as a love charm.

BLOOMING SEASON: April-May. WHERE FOUND: Rich woods; Nova Scotia to North Carolina, westward to Minnesota, Missouri, and Kansas. FLOWERS: In one-sided racemes, nodding on slender stems, cream-colored tipped with yellow, each with two spreading spurs. PLANT: Perennial, 5 to 10 inches tall. Leaves delicate green and fernlike, arising from an underground bulb.





EARLY BLUE VIOLET

Viola palmata

[Violet family]

THE wild Violets are often difficult to identify. Botanists believe that about 85 different kinds grow in the United States but because many of these hybridize readily, many "in-betweens" are produced. At one time the Early Blue Violet was thought to be merely a variety of the common Hooded Violet (*Viola papilionacea*), but it is now regarded as a distinct species. Despite its name, its flowers are purple and not blue.

BLOOMING SEASON: April-May. WHERE FOUND: Dry, rich, wooded hillsides; Massachusetts to Minnesota, southward along the Alleghenies to Florida. FLOWERS: Blue-purple, on long, erect, slender stems. PLANT: Perennial, 4 to 6 inches tall. Leaves all from the thickened rootstocks, the early ones rounded, heart-shaped, the later ones more or less deeply lobed, with the center lobe ordinarily the largest.

FALSE HELLEBORE; AMERICAN WHITE HELLEBORE

Veratrum viride

[Lily family]

THE thick rootstalks of this plant are very poisonous. Preparations made from them are used as emetics and stimulants, and also as insecticides. Adult animals are usually too wise to eat the foliage but young ones sometimes do so with fatal results. Chickens have been killed through eating the green tops or seeds. The False Hellebore is a plant of magnificent vigor and noble appearance.

BLOOMING SEASON: May-July. WHERE FOUND: Wet woods and swamps; New Brunswick to Ontario and Minnesota, southward to Georgia and Tennessee. FLOWERS: Yellowish-green, numerous, forming a large pyramidal terminal cluster. PLANT: Perennial, 2 to 8 feet tall. Stems stout, erect, very leafy. Leaves oval with distinct pleated veins, the lower ones broader than those above, sessile or nearly so.





FALSE LILY-OF-THE-VALLEY

Maianthemum canadense

[Lily-of-the-Valley family]

GREAT mats of shining green foliage of this lowly native carpet our northern woods. The leaves are so fresh in appearance, and the slightly fragrant flowers so dainty to look upon that they never fail to please us. The plant frequently establishes itself about the bases of trees. Birds are very fond of the ripe berries.

BLOOMING SEASON: May-July. WHERE FOUND: Moist woods and thickets; Newfoundland to North Carolina, westward to Minnesota, Iowa, and Tennessee. FLOWERS: Creamy-white, four-lobed, arranged in short, feathery racemes, followed by pale red, speckled berries. PLANT: Perennial, 2 to 7 inches tall. Stems slender, erect, often zigzagged, with 1 to 3 (usually 2) pointed ovate leaves. Non-flowering plants produce stalked leaves directly from the roots.

FALSE SPIKENARD; FALSE SOLOMON'S SEAL

Smilacina racemosa [Lily-of-the-Valley family]

ALTHOUGH of similar habit and often found growing together, the False Solomon's Seal and the true Solomon's Seal can easily be distinguished from one another. The False has its flowers in clusters at the ends of its stems and has white berries that ripen to a speckled red. The true Solomon's Seal has flowers hanging all along its stems and has green berries that ripen to a deep blue-black.

BLOOMING SEASON: May-July. WHERE FOUND: Moist woods and thickets; Nova Scotia to British Columbia, southward to Georgia, Missouri, and Arizona. FLOWERS: Small, creamy-white, in feathery, pyramidal clusters, followed by aromatic berries. PLANT: Perennial, 1 to 3 feet tall. Stems solitary, leafy, often zigzagged, gracefully curving. Leaves alternate, lance-shaped or elliptic, wavy at edges.





FIRE PINK

Silene virginica

[Pink family]

THIS most brilliant of native Pinks is most common in our southern woods. Its flowers are of such beauty that the plant attracts the attention of horticulturists who cultivate it with care in their rock gardens and wild gardens. As with many *Silenes*, each calyx is covered with sticky hairs that entrap crawling insects seeking to steal the nectar which is reserved for long-tongued bees, butterflies, and moths.

BLOOMING SEASON: May-September. WHERE FOUND: Dry woods; Ontario and New York to Georgia, westward to Minnesota and Missouri. FLOWERS: Few together in loose clusters, each a brilliant crimson-scarlet star 1 to 1½ inches in diameter and with 5 rudely notched petals. PLANT: Perennial, 1 to 2 feet tall. Stems erect, leafy. Lower leaves spoon-shaped, upper leaves lance-shaped.

GOLDTHREAD

Coptis trifoliata

[Crowfoot family]

THE Goldthread is so named because of its tangle of fine yellow roots which streak the soil like threads of the precious metal. These roots yield a yellow dye. A bitter extract made from them has been used by both Indians and white men as a wash to treat soreness of the mouth, especially in babies. Decoctions of this plant made by country housewives have also been used as a spring tonic.

BLOOMING SEASON: May-August. WHERE FOUND: Damp woods and bogs; Newfoundland to British Columbia and Alaska, southward to Tennessee and Iowa. FLOWERS: White, one (or rarely two) on each slender stalk. PLANT: Perennial, 3 to 6 inches tall. Leaves evergreen, in tufts, each of 3 toothed leaflets and with a slender stalk, shining dark green.





HERB ROBERT

Geranium Robertianum [Geranium family]

THE showy scarlet, pink, and white "Geraniums" that we buy from the florist and set out in our summer gardens or carefully tend as house plants are not Geraniums at all to the botanist. They are Pelargoniums. The humble little weed that we know as Herb Robert is a true Geranium and is one of about 200 species of which some 70 occur in North America.

BLOOMING SEASON: May-October. WHERE FOUND: Rocky (occasionally sandy) woods; Nova Scotia to Pennsylvania, westward to Manitoba and Missouri. FLOWERS: In pairs on slender stalks, magenta-red. PLANT: Annual or biennial, 6 inches to 1½ feet tall, rather unpleasantly scented. Stems with sticky hairs, ruddy, weak, widely branched. Leaves roughly triangular, divided three or more times, each division deeply lobed, bright green.

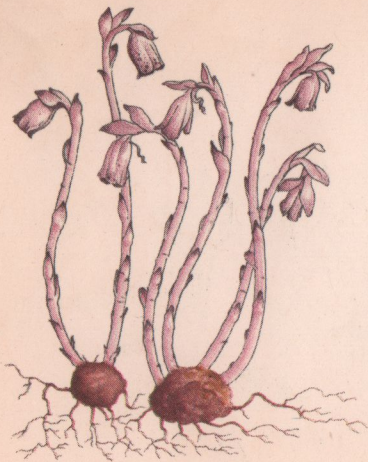
INDIAN PHYSIC

Porteranthus trifolius [Rose family]

WHILE it is true that the roots of the Indian Physic possess certain medicinal properties, they are of much less value than other commonly available medicines and so are rarely used today. We must appraise the Indian Physic for its prettiness rather than for its usefulness. On this score it commands favorable notice for it is quite the equal of many of our garden flowers and is well worth cultivating in the flower border.

BLOOMING SEASON: May-July. WHERE FOUND: Woodlands; Ontario to Michigan, southward to Georgia and Missouri. FLOWERS: In large clusters, white or pinkish, each with 5 long slender petals. PLANT: Perennial, 2 to 4 feet tall. Stems erect, reddish, branching. Leaves of three separate, elliptic, toothed leaflets; the upper leaves sometimes merely three-lobed.





INDIAN PIPE; GHOSTFLOWER

Monotropa uniflora

[Indian-Pipe family]

THE cold, clammy Indian Pipe contains no green coloring matter and so, unlike normal plants, it is unable to manufacture the food it needs from the elements that exist in the soil and atmosphere. It lives as a parasite, obtaining its food already prepared from the roots of other living plants, or as a saprophyte feeding on the decaying bodies of plants that have died.

BLOOMING SEASON: June-August. WHERE FOUND: Dark, moist woods; throughout the United States and in Canada, Mexico, and Asia. FLOWERS: Terminal, nodding, white, usually solitary. PLANT: Herbaceous, of waxy appearance, 4 to 10 inches tall. Stems mostly in clusters arising from masses of matted roots, white or faintly pinkish, erect but crooked at the top, bearing white scales in place of leaves.

JACK-IN-THE-PULPIT; INDIAN TURNIP

Arisaema triphyllum

[Arum family]

MANY an unwary child has learned to his sorrow of the bitingly acrid juice that is contained within the bulb-like root of this plant. Boiling and drying destroys this unpleasant principle. The Indians prepared the roots and ground them into meal from which they made cakes and gruel.

BLOOMING SEASON: April-June. WHERE FOUND: Moist woods; Nova Scotia to Florida, westward to Ontario and Louisiana. FLOWERS: Minute, greenish-yellow, clustered at the base of a club-shaped central column which is surrounded by a large, hooded, trumpet-shaped sheath colored green and maroon or green with whitish stripes. Flowers followed by clusters of green berries that become scarlet when ripe. PLANT: Perennial, 9 inches to 2½ feet tall. Stem stout, bearing one or two leaves each of three ovate leaflets.





JEWELWEED; WILD TOUCH-ME-NOT
Impatiens biflora [Jewelweed family]

PERHAPS the Jewelweed was so named because its flowers look like precious gems or perhaps because dew and rain cling to its leaves in sparkling globules; certainly it is called Touch-me-not because of a quick, nervous response of its seed-pods which, if touched when ripe, instantly burst and scatter their seeds over a wide area.

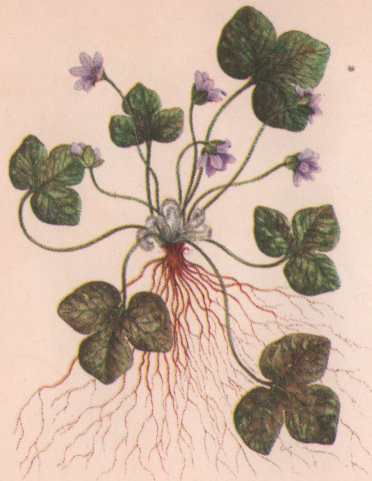
BLOOMING SEASON: July-October. WHERE FOUND: Moist, shaded places; beside streams and ponds; Newfoundland to Saskatchewan, southward to Florida and Nebraska. FLOWERS: Dangling on slender stalks in clusters of 2 to 4, each shaped like a horn-of-plenty and ending in a short, tail-like spur, orange-yellow with tawny-red spots. PLANT: Annual, 2 to 5 feet tall. Stems erect, branched, succulent, leafy. Leaves ovate or elliptic, coarsely toothed.

LIVERBERRY; ROSE TWISTED-STALK
Streptopus roseus [Lily-of-the-Valley family]

THE Rose Twisted-Stalk bears a general resemblance to its relative, the Solomon's Seal. It is a graceful plant and a modest one, for the flowers can scarcely be seen unless one bends back the stem. It is easily distinguished from the Claspingleaved Twisted-Stalk (*Streptopus amplexifolius*) by its purple-pink flowers and by the fact that its leaves are green rather than whitish on the under surface.

BLOOMING SEASON: May-July. WHERE FOUND: Moist woods; Newfoundland to Manitoba; southward to Georgia and Michigan. FLOWERS: Small, bell-shaped, nodding, usually single but occasionally in pairs, from the leaf-axils, purple-pink, slightly fragrant, followed by bright scarlet berries. PLANT: Perennial, 1 to 2½ feet tall. Stems solitary or branched, leafy. Leaves broadly lance-shaped, stalkless.





LIVERWORT: LIVERLEAF

Hepatica triloba

[Crowfoot family]

THE young flower buds of the Liverwort are protected by a dense covering of soft, silky hairs. Early in spring they push their way upwards from a cluster of old leaves which hold their greenness through the winter. They are followed some weeks later by a growth of young fresh leaves. The Liverwort grows in colonies, often in abundance. Its flowers (which are sometimes fragrant) are visited by small lavender butterflies of about the same size as the blooms.

BLOOMING SEASON: December-May. WHERE FOUND: Woods and thickets; Nova Scotia to Florida, westward to Manitoba, Iowa, and Missouri. FLOWERS: Blue, purple, or white with pale yellow stamens, set singly on downy stalks. PLANT: Perennial, 4 to 6 inches tall. Leaves tufted, long-stalked, three-lobed, usually very broad.

MARSH MARIGOLD: AMERICAN COWSLIP

Caltha palustris

[Crowfoot family]

THIS is the Mary's Gold of Shakespeare. It is common to both England and the United States and is particularly plentiful along the banks of the Avon River at Stratford. In New England and some other places the leaves are cooked and eaten like spinach. It is a vigorous plant of clean appearance. Its fat green buds change to pure gold as they open.

BLOOMING SEASON: April-June. WHERE FOUND: Swamps and wet places in light woods and meadows; Newfoundland to South Carolina, westward to Saskatchewan and Nebraska. FLOWERS: Brilliant yellow, 1 to 1½ inches across, in few-flowered clusters. PLANT: Perennial, 1 to 2 feet tall. Stems thick, hollow, erect, branched. Leaves bright, glossy green, rounded or kidney-shaped, the lower ones long-stalked, those above short-stalked or stalkless.





MAY APPLE; WILD MANDRAKE

Podophyllum peltatum

[Barberry family]

THE stout roots of the May Apple are poisonous if eaten, and sometimes cause a skin disease if they are handled. Stems and leaves and unripe fruits are harmful to a lesser degree. The ripe fruits, however, are sweet and edible and are sometimes used for making preserves. The roots provide a purgative medicine which is fatal in overdoses.

BLOOMING SEASON: May. WHERE FOUND: Moist, rich woods; Quebec to Minnesota, southward to Florida, Louisiana, and Texas. FLOWERS: Solitary, nodding from the fork that is formed by the two leaf-stalks, white, 2 inches broad, ill-scented. PLANT: Perennial, 1 to 1½ feet tall. Stems erect. Leaves pale green, the basal ones long-stalked, umbrella-shaped, nearly 1 foot across, deeply lobed; those of flowering stems similar but smaller, usually a terminal pair.

MOCCASIN FLOWER; STEMLESS LADY'S SLIPPER

Cypripedium acaule

[Orchid family]

ONCE one of the commonest of our native orchids, the Moccasin Flower is now rare or entirely absent from localities where it formerly grew in abundance. This is due, in part at least, to the depredations of those people who unthinkingly have plucked the blooms or have torn the plants up by their roots to transfer them to the alien soil of the garden where almost invariably they perish.

BLOOMING SEASON: May-June. WHERE FOUND: Dense, rocky, or sandy woods; Newfoundland to Manitoba, southward to North Carolina, Tennessee, and Minnesota. FLOWERS: Large, fragrant, solitary (occasionally two together), drooping. Sepals greenish-purple. Lip pouched, pink with darker veinings (rarely white). PLANT: Perennial, 6 to 15 inches tall. Leaves 2 at the base (occasionally a smaller one on stem), elliptic, 6 to 8 inches long.





MOUNTAIN LAUREL; CALICO BUSH

Kalmia latifolia

[Heath family]

THE Mountain Laurel is one of the most beloved and one of the most beautiful of American shrubs. In some places, especially near cities, natural stands have been practically exterminated by ruthless collectors. It should be noted that the leaves of this plant contain a deadly poison. Bees are the chief insect visitors but honey made from the flowers is reported to be poisonous.

BLOOMING SEASON: May-June. WHERE FOUND: Woods, especially in sandy and rocky soils; New Brunswick to Florida, westward to Ontario, Kentucky, and Louisiana. FLOWERS: In large terminal clusters, pink to white, the individuals bowl-shaped with a shallowly 5-lobed rim. PLANT: Evergreen shrub, 4 to 8 feet tall. Stems stiff, much-branched. Leaves oval, leathery, rich green.

PALE CORYDALIS

Corydalis sempervirens

[Fumewort family]

A GLANCE at the flowers of this dainty little native reveals to the passerby that it is related to the Dutchman's Breeches. The sac-like flowers are succeeded by slender seed-pods which point upward. Some kinds of *Corydalis* are poisonous to sheep and other livestock and, as this species is known to contain a number of alkaloids, it is regarded with suspicion.

BLOOMING SEASON: April-September. WHERE FOUND: Woods and lightly shaded places; Nova Scotia to British Columbia and Alaska, southward to Georgia, Minnesota, and Montana. FLOWERS: In loose clusters, each flower a flattened, down-pointing, one-sided bag, pink with a yellow mouth. PLANT: Herbaceous, 6 inches to 2 feet tall. Stems slender, erect, leafy. Leaves pale bluish-green, ferny, of three deeply-lobed leaflets.





PARTRIDGEBERRY; TWINBERRY

Mitchella repens

[Madder family]

THE distinctive two-eyed berries that succeed the pairs of flowers are really "Siamese twins," and serve to identify this pretty woodland trailer. They are bright red and remain on the plants throughout the winter unless they are eaten by birds or children. It is not unusual to find the current season's flowers and the previous season's berries on the same plant at the same time.

BLOOMING SEASON: April-June. WHERE FOUND: Woods, usually in dry soil; Nova Scotia to Florida, westward to Ontario, Minnesota, Arkansas, and Texas. FLOWERS: White, waxy, tubular, with 4 spreading petal-lobes, in pairs at the tips of the stems. PLANT: Perennial trailing vine. Stems rooting into ground. Leaves small, round or oval, short-stalked, dark shiny green.

PERFOLIATE BELLWORT: STRAWBELL

Uvularia perfoliata [Lily-of-the-Valley family]

THE Bellworts number five or six species, all natives of eastern North America. Like its relatives, the one pictured here is a plant of modest appearance yet it possesses a certain grace and refinement that commends it to lovers of wild flowers. Stems and foliage are a cool light green. After the flowers have passed the branches continue to grow and produce more leaves.

BLOOMING SEASON: May-June. WHERE FOUND: Moist woods and thickets; Quebec to Ontario, southward to Florida and Mississippi. FLOWERS: Solitary or in pairs, pale yellow, fragrant, about 1 inch long, drooping from ends of branches. PLANT: Perennial, 6 to 20 inches tall. Stems slender, leafy, forked above middle. Leaves ovate, clasped about stem so that the stem appears to pierce base of leaf.





PURPLE-FLOWERING RASPBERRY; THIMBLEBERRY

Rubus odoratus

[Rose family]

THE flowers of this most handsome of raspberries vie in beauty with those of wild roses. Its fruits, although pretty to look upon are disappointing to the palate, for they are insipid and seedy and do not compare in edibility with those of its less beautiful sisters. The fruits resemble edible raspberries but are flatter. Buds, flowers, and fruits are often found on the branches at the same time.

BLOOMING SEASON: June-August. WHERE FOUND: Rocky woods; Nova Scotia to Ontario and Michigan, southward to Georgia and Tennessee. FLOWERS: In loose clusters, crimson-pink or magenta-pink, with a cluster of yellow stamens, resembling single roses, fragrant. PLANT: Shrub, 3 to 5 feet tall. Stems covered with sticky hairs. Leaves long stalked, maple-like, with 3 to 5 lobes.

PURPLE TRILLIUM; WAKE-ROBIN

Trillium erectum

[Wake-Robin family]

IN EARLY spring when the Purple Trillium pushes up from the ground, its leaves are folded protectingly around the flower buds; as the flower expands the leaves spread horizontally. The flower's unpleasant odor serves a useful purpose in Nature's scheme of things for the Purple Trillium depends upon carrion flies to transfer its pollen from blossom to blossom and so to bring about the fertilization which insures formation of seeds.

BLOOMING SEASON: April-June. WHERE FOUND: Rich woods; Nova Scotia to Ontario, southward to North Carolina and Tennessee. FLOWERS: Solitary, stalked, with 3 maroon-red (or rarely greenish, pinkish, or white) petals and 3 purple-marked, green sepals. PLANT: Perennial, 8 to 16 inches tall. Stem stout, erect. Leaves roughly diamond-shaped, three together at top of stem.





RUE ANEMONE

Syndesmon thalictroides [Crowfoot family]

THE Rue Anemone receives its name because its basal leaves resemble those of the Meadow Rue (*Thalictrum*). In early spring its first leaves and flowers rise together from the ground. The central flower of each group opens first, the side ones later. This arrangement provides a blooming season of at least two weeks.

BLOOMING SEASON: March-June. WHERE FOUND: Woods and shady banks; New Hampshire to Florida, westward to Ontario, Minnesota, and Kansas. FLOWERS: White or pinkish, on slender stalks, usually in threes. PLANT: Perennial, 4 to 9 inches tall. Stems slender, erect, growing from a cluster of tuberous roots. Leaves composed of rounded, lobed leaflets carried on slender stalks; the earliest are in clusters at tops of flowering stems. Later, thrice-divided leaves develop from base.

SHINLEAF

Pyrola elliptica [Wintergreen family]

THE Shinleaf receives its name from the fact that its leaves were once commonly used as "shin-plasters" to apply to bruises. It is sometimes called "Wild Lily-of-the-Valley." While its flowers do bear a certain likeness to those of the Lily-of-the-Valley, this is not a good name for the *Pyrola* inasmuch as the true Lily-of-the-Valley (*Convallaria majalis*) occurs wild in North America.

BLOOMING SEASON: June-August. WHERE FOUND: Rich (usually dry) woods; Nova Scotia to British Columbia, southward to Maryland, Illinois, Iowa, and New Mexico. FLOWERS: Clustered at the tops of erect stalks, cup-shaped, nodding, greenish-white, very fragrant, of waxy texture. PLANT: Perennial, 8 to 10 inches tall. Leaves elliptic or oval, dark green, leathery, short-stemmed, arranged in basal clusters.





SHOWY LADY'S-SLIPPER

Cypripedium reginae

[Orchid family]

THIS splendid, exotic-looking flower is perhaps the most handsome of our native orchids. Its blooms suggest some tropical jungle rather than a cold bog or remote woodland glade in our own North America. Because the Showy Lady's-Slipper grows in out-of-the-way places, it is reputed to be more rare than is actually the case; nevertheless, it needs protection from thoughtless pickers and collectors.

BLOOMING SEASON : June-September. WHERE FOUND : Moist soils and swamps, often in woods; Newfoundland to Ontario and Minnesota, southward to Georgia. FLOWERS : Large, with a prominent, inflated pouch colored white or crimson-pink and with 4 spreading, white, petal-like parts. PLANT : Perennial, 1 to 2½ feet tall. Stems stout, leafy. Leaves broadly elliptic, with their bases clasped about the stem, yellowish green.

SKUNK CABBAGE

Symplocarpus foetida

[Arum family]

THE evil-smelling Skunk Cabbage is the first flower to appear in spring. Long before the last snows and frosts have gone its curious horny hoods are pushing through the wet soil. They are quickly followed by lush leaves and, in fall, by masses of scarlet berries. The Skunk Cabbage often grows in great colonies.

BLOOMING SEASON : February-April. WHERE FOUND : Swampy places; Nova Scotia to North Carolina, westward to Ontario, Minnesota, and Iowa. FLOWERS : Insignificant, arranged in a tight knob-shaped cluster which is surrounded by a large, greenish-yellow, purple-brown, or mottled spathe that serves as a protecting hood. PLANT : Perennial, 1 to 2 feet tall. Leaves, appearing after the flowers, are large, light-green, ovate, growing many together from common crowns.





**SMOOTH SOLOMON'S SEAL;
GIANT SOLOMON'S SEAL**

Polygonatum commutatum

[Lily-of-the-Valley family]

THE Giant Solomon's Seal owes its handsome appearance not to its small dangling flowers nor to its dark-colored fruits but rather to the bold and striking effect of its leafy stems that rise sturdily from the ground and curve gracefully in the one direction.

BLOOMING SEASON: May-July. WHERE FOUND: Moist woods and streamsides; New Hampshire to Ontario and Manitoba, southward to Georgia, Louisiana, and Arizona. FLOWERS: Solitary or in groups of 2 or 3 in each upper leaf-axil; small, tubular, drooping, greenish. Followed by blue-black berries. PLANT: Perennial, 1 to 8 feet tall. Stems arching, leafy, growing from a horizontal iris-like rhizome. Leaves alternate, lance-shaped or ovate.

SOAPWORT GENTIAN; BLUE GENTIAN

Gentiana saponaria

[Gentian family]

THE Soapwort Gentian is so very like the equally well-known Closed Gentian (*Gentiana Andrewsii*) that only a botanist can distinguish them apart. Both have bottle-like flowers that do not open and both thrive in the same places. Bumblebees force themselves into the narrow mouths of the flowers and reach the nectar. Other insects sometimes bite holes through the bases of the flowers and obtain the sweet juice in that way.

BLOOMING SEASON: August-October. WHERE FOUND: Wet soil, usually in open woods; Ontario and Minnesota, southward to Florida and Louisiana. FLOWERS: Lilac-blue, club-shaped, in close leafy clusters at tops of stems and in leaf-axils. PLANT: Perennial, 1 to 2½ feet tall. Stems erect, sometimes with short branches, leafy. Leaves opposite, lance-shaped, stalkless.





SPOTTED WINTERGREEN

Chimophila maculata [Wintergreen family]

THE Spotted Wintergreen is closely related to the Pipsissewa (*Chimophila umbellata*) from which it may be distinguished by the distinct white markings on its leaves. *Chimophila* means "winter-loving" and refers to the evergreen character of this charming native. Neither snow nor cold mars the beauty of its foliage which remains attractive throughout the year. The Spotted Wintergreen flowers about two weeks later than the Pipsissewa. Unlike it, the Spotted Wintergreen is not commonly used medicinally.

BLOOMING SEASON: June-August. WHERE FOUND: Dry woods; Maine, Ontario, and Minnesota, southward to Georgia and Mississippi. FLOWERS: White or pinkish, in few-flowered clusters. PLANT: Perennial, 3 to 10 inches tall. Stems creeping on top or just beneath the ground surface. Leaves lance-shaped, toothed, dark green marked with white along the veins.

SPRING BEAUTY

Claytonia virginica [Purslane family]

THE dainty Spring Beauty is a close relative of the garden Portulaca; it is also kin to that common nuisance of gardens, the "pussley" weed. All three close their flowers at night and during dull weather. If the Spring Beauty is picked, the plant quickly wilts and its flowers close. It is one of the earliest spring flowers; after blooming, the stems die down until the following year.

BLOOMING SEASON: March-May. WHERE FOUND: Moist woods; Nova Scotia to Saskatchewan, southward to Georgia and Texas. FLOWERS: In loose clusters, white or pale pink, with darker veinings. Individual flowers have slender stems, are star-like and all face one way. PLANT: Perennial, 6 to 12 inches tall, with a deep, tuberous root. Stem rather weak. Leaves slender, somewhat fleshy, 6 to 8 in pairs on stem.





TWO-LEAVED TOOTHWORT; CRINKLEROOT

Dentaria diphylla

[Mustard family]

NO PLANT in the mustard family is known to be poisonous and many, such as the cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, turnip, horseradish, kohlrabi, cress, and radish, are among the most familiar of garden vegetables. The crisp, white, crinkled roots of the Two-Leaved Toothwort (as well as those of its sister, the Cut-Leaved Toothwort), are very edible and taste much like watercress. They are favorites with children.

BLOOMING SEASON: May. WHERE FOUND: Moist places in rich woods and meadows; Nova Scotia to South Carolina, westward to Minnesota and Kentucky. FLOWERS: White, in erect racemes. PLANT: Perennial, 8 to 15 inches tall. Stem erect, bearing usually two leaves as well as some that spring directly from the roots. Leaves stalked, each of three ovate, toothed leaflets.

TRAILING ARBUTUS; MAYFLOWER

Epigaea repens

[Heath family]

BOTANICALLY, Trailing Arbutus is kin to Rhododendrons and Mountain Laurel. Deservedly it is one of the most beloved American wild flowers but it is now but a memory in many places where once it flourished abundantly, because thoughtless people have picked it indiscriminately. To the Pilgrim Fathers the flowers of this plant brought a message of hope after their first hard winter in New England.

BLOOMING SEASON: March-May. WHERE FOUND: Sandy or rocky woods, particularly under evergreens; Newfoundland to Saskatchewan, southward to Florida, Kentucky, and Wisconsin. FLOWERS: Pink becoming nearly white with age, in close clusters at ends of the branches, spicily fragrant. PLANT: Perennial, spreading as a carpet on the ground, evergreen. Stem woody, much-branched. Leaves oval, short-stalked, leathery.





TWINFLOWER

Linnaea americana

[Honeysuckle family]

MANY botanists believe that this plant is identical with a European species named *Linnaea borealis*. Certainly the two are closely allied. *Linnaea* was named in honor of the great Swedish botanist, Linnaeus, who is known as the Father of Modern Botany. The Twinflower is one of the choicest of woodland plants. It loves the cool recesses of northern woods and there lives in company with Dwarf Cornel, Partridgeberry, and delicate ferns.

BLOOMING SEASON: June-August. WHERE FOUND: Cold woods; Newfoundland to Maryland, westward to Alaska and Vancouver; in the Rockies south to Colorado. FLOWERS: Delicate pink bells nodding in pairs on slender stalks, fragrant. PLANT: Perennial creeping vine. Leaves evergreen, opposite, more or less rounded, slightly scalloped at edges, short-stalked.

VIOLET WOOD SORREL

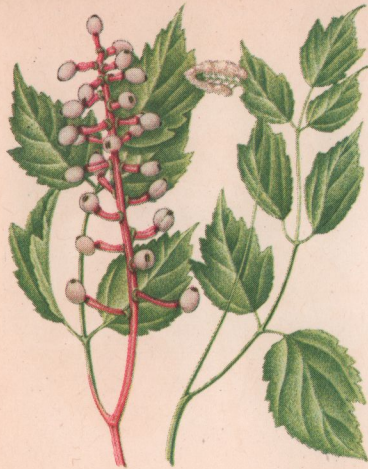
Oxalis violacea

[Wood Sorrel family]

THE Violet Wood Sorrel is a neat little native pretty enough to be accepted by discriminating rock-gardeners as worthy of cultivation in their gardens. Like other Wood Sorrels it contains a sour juice and at night its leaflets fold themselves downward against their leaf-stalks, in which position they sleep until bright daylight returns. Small bees seem to be the most frequent insect visitors.

BLOOMING SEASON: May-June. WHERE FOUND: Dry woods; Massachusetts to Minnesota and South Dakota, southward to Florida and Texas. FLOWERS: Lavender, rosy-purple or occasionally white, in clusters of 2 to 12 atop slender erect stalks. Buds curiously twisted. PLANT: Perennial, 4 to 9 inches tall. Leaves clover-like, growing in a tuft directly from a small brown bulb.





WHITE BANEBERRY

Actea alba

[Crowfoot family]

THE China-like berries of the White Baneberry are sometimes called "doll's-eyes." Each is on a short red stalk which sticks out horizontally from the main stem. Although pretty to the eye, they are poisonous to eat. The roots were used in Indian medicine and were credited with the power to relieve and rally a patient when he is at the point of death.

BLOOMING SEASON: April-June. WHERE FOUND: Cool, moist woods; Nova Scotia to Georgia, westward to Minnesota and Missouri. FLOWERS: Small, white, in cylindrical fuzzy clusters. Followed by white, oval, bead-like berries with a purple spot at the end of each. PLANT: Perennial, 1 to 2 feet tall. Stem erect. Leaves twice- or thrice-divided, the leaflets sharply toothed and often lobed.

WHITE SNAKEROOT; WHITE SANICLE

Eupatorium urticaefolium

[Thistle family]

THE White Snakeroot is said to be poisonous to cattle and so is not favored by farmers. It is one of the handsomest of hardy *Eupatoriums* and is often cultivated in gardens. A common native, its large fringy clusters of bloom are much appreciated by butterflies, bees, wasps, and flies.

BLOOMING SEASON: July-November. WHERE FOUND: Rich woods and moist, shaded roadsides; New Brunswick to Florida, westward to Ontario, Nebraska, and Louisiana. FLOWERS: Small, white, grouped together into tight little heads each sitting in a vase-shaped green cup. Each large and ample flower-cluster consists of many flower-heads arranged rather loosely together. PLANT: Perennial, 1 to 4 feet tall. Stems erect, branched. Leaves opposite, ovate, sharp-pointed, sometimes heart-shaped at base, coarsely toothed.





WILD COLUMBINE

Aquilegia canadensis

[Crowfoot family]

ONE of the most elegant and spritely of our native flowers is the Wild Columbine. It loves to grow in open places in the woods and to anchor its roots in the rock crevices. In early spring the flowering stems push upward from the dense tuft of leaves and, while still quite small, the buds change from green to shades of red.

BLOOMING SEASON: April-July. WHERE FOUND: Rocky woods; Nova Scotia to Rocky Mountains, southward to Florida and Texas. FLOWERS: Nodding from curved stalks, scarlet and yellow with a protruding tassel of yellow stamens and five up-pointing slender spurs. PLANT: Perennial, 1 to 2 feet tall. Stems slender, erect, with spreading branches. Leaves divided into stalked leaflets, the leaflets deeply lobed.

WILD GINGER

Asarum canadense

[Birthwort family]

THE casual observer scarcely notices any resemblance between the lowly Wild Ginger and the vigorous tall-growing Dutchman's Pipe (*Aristolochia Siphon*) but a comparison of the flowers tells the botanist that they are at least first cousins. The Wild Ginger flowers before butterflies or moths are on the wing since its blooms are designed to attract flies and gnats. The roots smell of ginger and are biting to the tongue.

BLOOMING SEASON: April-May. WHERE FOUND: Rich, moist woods; New Brunswick to Manitoba, southward to North Carolina and Kansas. FLOWERS: Solitary, set on a short bristly stalk close to the ground, brownish-purple, bell-shaped with 3 spreading points. PLANT: Perennial, 6 to 12 inches tall. Leaves heart-shaped, dark green and velvety above, whitish and wooly underneath.





WILD HONEYSUCKLE; PINKSTER FLOWER

Azalea nudiflora

[Heath family]

HONEY bees are the most frequent visitors to the attractive blossoms of the Wild Honeysuckle but the honey they produce from these flowers is said to be harmful. The flowers are shed in an interesting fashion. The corolla (petal tube) detaches itself from its stalk and slides down the long pistil until it reaches its tip; there it hangs and sways for several days until it finally drops softly to the ground.

BLOOMING SEASON: April-May. WHERE FOUND: Woods and thickets; Massachusetts to Florida, westward to Illinois and Texas. FLOWERS: Fragrant, deep pink to white, in terminal clusters, opening before the leaves expand or together with them. PLANT: Shrub, 2 to 6 feet tall. Stems erect, branched above. Leaves oblong or elliptic, usually in clusters, soft golden-green.

WILD PINK

Silene caroliniana

[Pink family]

THE Wild Pink is one of the gayest of spring flowers. It brightens woodlands while the foliage of the trees is still young and freshly green. It frequently inhabits rocky crevices together with Saxifrage and Columbine. Like many of its relatives it has stems covered with a sticky substance that entraps small insects like fly paper.

BLOOMING SEASON: April-June. WHERE FOUND: Dry, sandy, or rocky woodlands; Maine to Georgia, westward to Pennsylvania and Kentucky. FLOWERS: Varying from pale to deep pink, about 1 inch broad, in few-flowered terminal clusters. PLANT: Perennial, 4 to 10 inches tall. Stems erect, leafy. Leaves mostly in a basal tuft, spoon-shaped. Those on the stem stalkless, lance-shaped.





WOOD ANEMONE; WINDFLOWER

Anemone quinquefolia

[Crowfoot family]

THE Wood Anemone is a plant of delicate grace and frail charm. In bud its head hangs modestly but as the flower opens it turns upward to the sun in the sky. In cloudy weather its flower closes again. In summer the whole plant dies down and remains dormant until the next spring.

BLOOMING SEASON: April-June. WHERE FOUND: Lightly shaded woods and thickets; Nova Scotia to Georgia, westward to Ontario, Minnesota, and Tennessee. FLOWERS: Solitary, about 1 inch across, white, usually tinged pink or blue on the outside. PLANT: Perennial, 4 to 9 inches tall. Stems slender, erect. Leaves with fine stalks, each divided into 3 to 5 toothed leaflets, arranged in a whorl beneath the flower; also one from base that develops later.

YELLOW ADDER'S-TONGUE; DOGTUOTH VIOLET

Erythronium americanum

[Lily family]

THE fluttering, perfumed flowers of the Yellow Adder's-Tongue open fully only in sunshine; at night they almost close. Throughout the day they turn on their stalks to follow the sun as it moves across the heavens. This handsome-leaved plant is common and usually grows in large, crowded colonies but the colonies often fail to produce many flowers.

BLOOMING SEASON: March-May. WHERE FOUND: Dampish woods and thickets, streamsides; Nova Scotia to Ontario and Minnesota, southward to Florida, Nebraska, and Arkansas. FLOWERS: Yellow, white (often purple-tinged), solitary, nodding, lily-like, on slender erect stalks. PLANT: Perennial, 6 inches to 1 foot tall, spreading by slender, underground runners. Leaves, two from each underground corm (solid bulb), elliptic or lance-shaped, of thick texture, grayish-green, streaked with dull red.



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