THE WINNIPEG FLOWER GARDEN

PRESENTED BY

The Winnipeg Horticultural Society

1939

The Winnipeg Horticultural Society

A Garden of Flowers and Herbs for Every Home

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FOREWORD

Gardeners are apparently doers and not talkers. Perhaps that hasn't been your experience. But at any rate your Editors have found it hard to get them to talk on paper, or, having said something, to admit they said it. This booklet is almost anonymous. Some of our authorities refused to write for us if we published their names. Some we didn't ask. We didn't know just what to do about it. Finally we decided to leave all author's names out. We hope you won't mind and we hope the authors won't mind. We are very grateful to them for passing their information on to us and to you. We hope you like it.

We have made a bit of a change this year by giving you short notes on a number of hardy plants not commonly grown in the gardens of the City. You know it is a bit difficult to meet the needs of both the beginner and the old hand in a small booklet like this. Our earlier booklets have paid most attention to the beginner. The balance this time is the other way. (Some of last year's booklets are still available and can be had from the Secretary if you want them.) We want to know more about your experience with new or unusual hardy plant material. We'll let you be anonymous if you wish, though really we'd rather attach your name to your work. Do let us hear from you. You can see from this booklet how short a note about some particular plant may be. We also would like to hear at greater length about any of your gardening experiences.

We have added this year too an article on the use of plants other than for decorations. Well, that isn't quite right for the article is on dyeing and that is for decoration. But you'll understand what we mean. The study of horticulture doesn't end with the appreciation of the beauty of the flowers. Flowers and trees and plants have other uses, and we have but suggested one of them. Perhaps you have a hobby derived from horticulture. If so, won't you let us hear about it?

In the meantime we wish you a joyous and colorful gardening year.

THE EDITORS.

THE WINNIPEG FLOWER GARDEN

MANITOBA WILD FLOWERS FOR WINNIPEG GARDENS

Distant fields look greenest, and distant gardens most floriferous. Entranced by the beauty of the gardens of England we try to imitate them, to grow under our so different conditions of soil and climate many of the myriad plants that make the Old Country gardens so beautiful. Some plants grow as well here as in England; I dare say even better. The paeony is an outstanding example. But alas many are not hardy here and year by year enthusiastic gardeners, seeking something new, waste money, time and patience trying to grow lovely but tender plants. On the other hand some plants hardy here prove difficult subjects in English gardens. I remember reading a letter from a well known English grower asking for seeds of Lithospermum canescens, our common Hoary Puccoon or Prairie Cowslip, a plant which, he said, was rare in English gardens and hard to acclimatize. Which brings me to my point. Why not more Manitoba wild flowers for Winnipeg gardens?

Here we have a group of plants, every one of which is stamped "Hardy in Manitoba". With them we have the guarantee that our winter cold will not of itself kill them. So that is something to start on. But you must remember that the temperature is not the only factor that determines whether a plant is hardy here or not. Sunshine and shade, moisture and dryness, type of soil, drainage, and, in some cases, associated plants, are equally important. Just because a plant withstands forty below zero weather in its native habitat does not necessarily mean that it will withstand it in the open border. Some are very accommodating, some difficult. I don't want to make the subject appear more difficult than it is, but on the other hand I don't want to lead either to disappointments on your part, or to the murder of our wild flowers. In this number of the Winnipeg Flower Garden are two short articles written with some of these thoughts in mind, telling you of some of our native flowers and how they have been successfully grown in Manitoba gardens. We hope to make this subject an annual feature of our booklet. We have several more articles on this subject up our sleeves, but to make this section a success we hope our readers will drop us a note telling of their experiences with native plants. Here's to more and lovelier Manitoba Wild Flowers in Winnipeg Gardens.

ON ANNUALS

A beautiful garden can be made of annuals alone, or they can be combined with perennials, filling in spaces left for them or where early spring bulbs or early blooming perennials have left gaps. For the beginner the wisest plan probably is to concentrate on annuals at first, putting in only a very few perennials the first year. This will allow him, or perhaps more often her, to clear the new garden bed of weeds and get it really well dug and fertilized and somewhat matured and settled before planting perennials. It gives him too a chance to get acquainted with flowers that are transitory before he starts on a permanent collection.

Nearly all annuals require much sun and a good garden soil. Cosmos will usually bloom a little earlier if it has some shade. Calendula (pot marigold) and nasturtium will grow many leaves and few flowers in rich garden soil. Pansies will do as well in shade as in sun, or even better.

Annuals are usually divided in catalogue lists into hardy (those that can be sown directly in the garden) and half hardy (those that should be started indoors). This division really depends more on how long it takes flowers to bloom from seed than on their hardiness, but such is the catalogue listing. The beginner should try some of both, but he will be well advised to buy most of the half hardy kinds from a reputable nurseryman. He may if he likes grow some of these himself, but until he has attained some proficiency he will do best not to trust to success or failure of his whole garden to his first amateur efforts.

In sowing the hardy annuals outdoors have the ground well dug and raked to a fine tilth. Sow when the soil is rather dry. Sow in irregular circles, barely cover fine seed, larger seed (except sweet peas) cover one quarter to one half inch. Press down gently with a flat board. Water in the evenings. When the plants are a few inches high give a first thinning out. This is best done when the soil is moist. At this time leave at least twice as many plants as you will finally want so as to allow for losses due to cut worms. Thin again to the required distance before the plants become crowded. One of the commonest reasons for failure is that natural soft heartedness which makes one hesitate to uproot small plants that are doing their best to please. Flowers best seeded where they are to grow are:

Sweet allysum, varieties Little Dorritt, 5 inches, or Carpet of Snow, 2 to 3 inches. Flowers white, sweet scented. Plants have a spread of about 9 inches. Makes a very pretty edging.

Candytuft. Can be had mixed or in some very pretty single pastel colors. Sweet scented. Grows about 9 to 12 inches high and 6 to 9 inches across.

Calendula, or pot marigold. The present varieties come in brilliant clear shades of yellow and orange. Grow about 12 to 18 inches high and a foot across. Best in a lean soil.

Cornflower. Can be had either dwarf, (about 1 foot), or tall, about 2 to 2½ feet. The dwarfs are blue. The tall can be had in blue, pink, white or liver. The blue are the best. The cornflower seeds profusely and will come up year after year. Given its own way it can choke out almost any other flower. Nevertheless it is a gay, useful, and easily grown flower. Individual plants spread about 18 inches.

Poppies. There are a number of varieties in white and shades of red and orange. They grow about 2 feet high, are rather slender and so may be grown fairly thickly.

California Poppies (Eschscholtzia). Very gay, low growing, about 12 inches high with a spread of 12 to 18 inches. Colors cream to brilliant orange, and some rather pretty delicate mauves. Very long season of bloom. The flowers may be cut but close in the evening unless they are about to drop their petals. Close on dull days and at night outdoors.

Mignonette. There is no more fragrant perfume than that comes gently blown from a patch of mignonette on a warm day. The flowers are not at all showy. Height 9 to 12 inches, with a spread of about 10 inches.

Portulaca. The most garish and brilliant colors: white, yellow, brownish, orange, cerise. Grow flat on the ground, each plant having a spread of about a foot. Flowers only open in full sun.

Night Scented Stock (Matthiola bicornis). Flowers only open at night and then emit a rather penetratingly sweet perfume. Do not grow too close to the house.

Nasturtium. Require a poor soil for good bloom. Don't plant till ground is warm, they are very frost tender. The writer considers the old singles as beautiful as the new doubles. The latter are lovely however, semi-creeping, and have the same sweet perfume as the singles.

Sweet Peas. The real fanciers start their sweet peas indoors about April 1 and transplant to a prepared sweet pea trench about May 24. You can find the details in the 1937 Winnipeg Flower Garden. If you are a beginner and have neither facilities nor inclination for starting your plants in the house you can get quite good bloom by planting the seeds outdoors. If possible plant in ground well worked, well fertilized and well tramped down. Plant at the bottom of a trench four inches deep and cover the seed with one inch of earth. As the seedlings show up fill in the trench little by little till flush with the ground. The seed should go in as early as the ground can be worked. Plant seed about 2 inches apart with the hope of having plants about six inches apart finally. Keep the ground well mulched during the growing season. Give an occasional thorough soaking during dry weather. For best bloom pinch out laterals, but you'll get some lovely flowers for your own use without this. In the average garden sweet peas grow, on a trellice or wire netting, to about six feet.

Godetia, Clarkia, Coreopsis, Nicotine, Zinnia and Mallow may also be sown where they are to bloom. Clarkia and Mallow probably do best this way. The others are usually more satisfactorily handled as half hardy annuals and started indoors. Clarkia, nicotine, cornflowers, California poppies and candytuft will usually seed themselves and come up again the following year if they are allowed.

Half Hardy Annuals. These are the annuals that you must start indoors or buy from your nurseryman. This group includes many of our showiest and longest flowering plants: snapdragons, stocks, zinnias, phlox, petunias, balsam, annual carnations and many others. Seek the advice of your seedsman or nurseryman as to the color, height and spread of these plants.

The lawn is the heart of the garden. Do not pierce it.

Patronize our advertisers and mention "The Winnipeg Flower Garden" when you do.

Plan your perennial border so the main view is end-on. It gives a cumulative, massed effect.

Better a ten cent plant in a two dollar hole, than a two dollar plant in a ten cent hole.

ORCHIDS

Orchids! Orchids on your Garden Budget! Hardy orchids that will bloom and increase year by year giving you flowers gay and dainty, and flowers, which, hardy here, mope and die in many of those Old Country gardens that we envy. For orchids, laughing at our heat and cold, have grown in Manitoba since time immemorial. Some alas are becoming rare near Winnipeg before the onslaught of civilization and the thoughtless wild flower picker. If, without thought and preparation, you try to transplant them to your garden, you will, I am afraid, only help to hasten their disappearance. But if you give them the conditions they require they will give you of their beauty year by year, and you may help save them from destruction.

Cypripedium spectabile. (The c-y-p is pronounced "sip", and sip is the abbreviation all cypripediums go by in the fancier's jargon. The final "e" of spectabile is sounded, with the sound of ee in feet). This is our best known orchid, the Showy Lady's Slipper. You all know its big, soft, showy pink and white purse. You have all seen it wilting on the sidewalk flower vendor's pots on Portage Avenue on hot days in late June or early July. Worse still you have probably seen armfuls of this dainty flower dead on the roadside murdered by flower vandals. It is a lovely flower in the wild or in the proper garden setting, but its grace is the grace of a wild thing. It must have the dappled shade of trees to grow and look its best, and a bit of space about to give it a feeling and air of freedom; or else some of its old friends of the damp woods. It is not well set off against foundations of concrete, stone or brick, nor does it look well in formal plantings or mixed with the blatant moderns of the annuals. Its beauty is made more beautiful by giving thought to its surroundings.

Having chosen a site for this lovely thing, a place where filtered sunlight only prevails, you must next prepare a special bed for it. The following method has been found successful. Dig out the earth to three feet, setting the soil so dug to one side for later use. Put in a foot deep of large pieces of rotting poplar and then another foot of poplar branches. This will give you a combination of drainage and plant food, and simulate the plant's native conditions. Mix leaf mould, sand and peat with enough of the excavated soil to fill the hole. The leaf mould and peat help retain the essential moisture while the sand gives drainage and prevents rotting of the crowns in

the thawing and freezing of spring. Fill in and tramp down well and give a thorough soaking. When the ground has settled, fill again with the soil mixture. In planting, the commonest mistake is to plant too deep. The crowns should never be more than two inches below the surface, and the roots spread out almost horizontally. If a good ball of soil is taken surrounding plant and roots the Lady's Slipper can be moved successfully to such a bed at any time of the year, even when it is in full bloom. And there it will thrive and multiply for years, particularly if it is given a top dressing of leaf mould each year. I hope this all doesn't sound too hard. It really isn't and it is well worth it. By the way, I am told that pure white form of Spectabile grows in Manitoba but I have never seen it.

Cypripedium pubescens (the "u" has the sound of "u" in pure) or Large Yellow Lady's Slipper with its bright yellow slipper and rippling brown ribbons is easier to grow. It will do well in any good garden soil with a clay base, and in either full sun or partial shade. Like Spectabile its crown must be not more than two inches, or, probably better, not more than an inch below the surface and its roots spread out horizontally, and it should not be allowed to dry out. It blooms in July.

Pubescens' baby sister **Cypripedium parviflorum,** the Small Yellow Lady's Slipper, also blooming in late June and July rather has a preference for moist, low-lying areas. It needs full sun to give of its best but will thrive in semi-shade. Good garden loam will cover its food requirements, so long as it has moisture.

Cypripedium acaule (a-call-ee, emphasis on the "call") is the first of this group to bloom,—in May—and, alas, usually the first to die in cultivation. This is the true Moccasin Flower. It is rose with darker veins, becoming darker as it grows old. It only reaches a height of 6 to 12 inches. In the wild it grows generally in pine wood, either in moist, semi-shaded acid sand, or in peat. An acid soil condition appears to be essential to success, and, even with the soil condition fulfilled, success is problematical, or, at most, short lived. The alkali from our Winnipeg gumbo probably fairly quickly seeps in and neutralizes the acid in any specially prepared bed. Probably for success in a City garden the safest plan is to build a concrete pit two feet deep, put in about eight inches of coarse stone (preferably granite) for drainage and then fill with peat, acid sand

and leaf mould, and water with rain water. This is only a suggestion. I do not know from experience that even this will succeed.

As to the other Cypripediums, arietinum and passerinum, I have been unable to get much information from experienced growers. Dorothy Fowler tells me that passerinum has continued for many years in her garden at the edge of a small stream in ordinary clay.

There are some other lovely orchids growing wild in Manitoba, but these will have to wait for another day. But in those already described you have some lovely hardy plant material for your garden. In England they are generally classed as only half hardy, to be grown in a cold house. Well here is one place our Winnipeg gardens can have it over the gardens of England.

And finally, you will probably collect your own plants in the wild. When you do, take note of the condition under which they have been growing, conditions of sun, shade, moisture and soil. Nature will give you some valuable hints if you will only take them.

SOME HARDY VINES

The commonest hardy creeper to be seen covering the walls of houses and verandahs in Winnipeg is the Virginia Creeper, Ampelopsis quinquefolia. It has some distinct advantages and, on the other hand certain disadvantages. Being a native it is perfectly hardy and it will stand the worst kind of treatment, or none at all. It grows rapidly, lives long and, given support, will cover a wall thirty feet high. It must however have support. It colors too a very fine red some falls. On the other hand it is coarse leaved, a voracious feeder and spreader, a great harborer of insect pests and it drops its leaves rather early in the fall. Its very hardiness and commonness make one desire something else for variety's sake.

Of recent years Ampelopsis Engelmani, Engelman's Ivy or Engelman's Virginia Creeper has been grown with reasonable success in the City. This vine is self clinging but may blow down in a heavy wind. It is much finer leaved than the common Virginia Creeper and it tends to grow in long narrow spear heads which are much more attractive than the unkemp top of the common vine. It will grow to a height of thirty feet and is most attractive on two and three storey brick or stucco houses.

The true ivys have not proved hardy in Winnipeg.

There are a number of lower growing vines, those that reach up to a height of 8 to 15 feet and that are very attractive and hardy. Foremost probably are the clematises. The large flowered hybrids can be kept for years if care is taken of them and they are taken down and covered each fall. There is one very beautiful purple flowered one, Jackman's hybrid I believe, which has grown in the City for a number of years. The last time I saw it it covered the whole front of the house and was a mass of big flat purple flowers; a lovely sight. The absolutely hardy one that I have grown are ligusticifolia, or Western Virgin's Bower, serratifolia or Korean Clematis, and tangutica or Chinese Clematis. The first has very neat foliage and masses of pretty white flowers. They all must have some sort of netting or trellis to grow on and the bottom of the netting must be set close to the ground. They all tend to grow into an impossibly tangled mat if they are not trained and kept cut back a bit, for they don't grow out flat like an ivy or Engelman's creeper. Their flowers however are very attractive. In nature they ramble through shrubs and small trees, and, grown

in this way, they are attractive in the garden, particularly the yellow flowered ones. The blue flowered Clematis alpina, native of British Columbia, has been reported hardy in Manitoba but I have never seen it in flower.

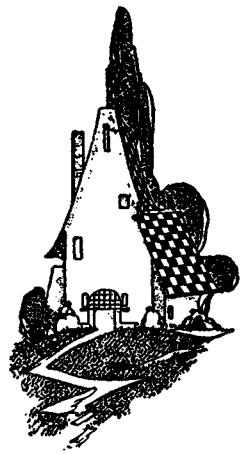
F. L. Skinner of Dropmore offers the first Manitoba hybrid clematis this year, under the name of Clematis Grace Darling. It is a hybrid of the Korean Clematis and is described as growing to a height of nine feet or more and producing creamy white flowers about an inch and a half across in July and August. Mr. Skinner has been experimenting for a number of years in the production of hybrid clematises that will be hardy in Manitoba and give us the range of color, white, cream, yellow, pink, red, blue and purple, that these vines have in the East. This is the first time he has placed one of his hybrids on the market. Once more Manitoba gardeners are placed in debt to Mr. Skinner, who has, before this, brought us so many new hardy plants. It is to be hoped that this work with clematises will be crowned with as much success as his work in hybridizing lilies. He has received five Awards of Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society for the latter.

The native grape, Vitis vulpina, makes a very attractive cover for a fence or trellis. Even better is the improved Beta grape. The grape vine has a peculiar habit of sending its new growth out almost horizontally after it has reached the top of its support. It makes an unusual, and, in its place, an attractive variation in line in the garden. The flowers of the grape are small and very inconspicuous but sweet scented. The fruit, particularly of Beta, is very good for jams and jellies. The male and female flowers grow on separate plants so, if you want flowers and fruit you must choose your plants accordingly. Pruning of grapes should be done in the fall. They grow rapidly and may be pruned back hard.

The native Solanum dulcamara is a very attractive woody climber, growing slowly to a height of about six feet. Belonging to the potato family it has the one disadvantage that its leaves are beloved by potato bugs, but the leaves can easily be protected by spraying with lead arsenate or Paris green. The flowers are perhaps half an inch across, royal purple in color with a prominent bundle of orange stamens, and occur in racemes of a dozen or more. The flowers are succeeded by brilliant, shiney green berries, which then pass through orange to bright scarlet. The plant bears flowers on one part and fruit on another at the same time, so adding to its attractiveness. Cuttings with leaves and berries will keep for several weeks

in the house in the fall, and will fairly readily strike root. The plants too come readily from self sown seed.

A climbing rose, a sport of our wild prairie rose, has been under cultivation for some time at Morden but has not been put on the market commercially so far as I know. It is hoped that it will prove a parent of a truly hardy rambler for Manitoba gardens. Taken down and covered each fall some of the rambler roses of Eastern Canada have lived over a winter or two in Winnipeg, but none have been reported as being really hardy.



FRUIT TREES FOR WINNIPEG GARDENS

To one who has not grown fruits in Manitoba and who looks upon those who do as strange individuals there is a realm of horticulture to be explored with ever increasing interest. The mass of bloom in the early Spring, the sight of the fruit laden trees in the fall, the aroma of some varieties and, best of all, the satisfying taste of one's own fruit plucked from one's own trees in one's own garden, be it large or small, all make fruit growing an intensely interesting pursuit.

Growing fruit in the West has presented problems in hardiness and drought resistance but these, in many cases, have been overcome. There is now a wide variety of apples, crabapples, plums, grapes, cherries and berries that can be grown in any garden.

Briefly, the following is my suggestion as to how to set about growing one's own fruit in as short a time as possible:

(1) Write to the Dominion Experimental Farm at Morden for the Morden Station Report for 1931 to 1937. It is free and on page four gives hardy varieties that can be grown here besides much other valuable information.

(2) Choose a piece of ground that is not exposed too much to the sun and has ample protection against the wind.

(3) Draw a plan of the proposed planting, spacing the apples and crabs about eighteen feet each way and the plums twelve feet each way. You may plant sandcherries, gooseberries, currants, etc., between these rows for quick fruit to be removed when the apples and plums begin to fruit and develop in size.

(4) Order three or more varieties of as many of the fruit trees that you want from a local nurseryman. Do not buy more than two or, at the outside, three years from the bud or graft.

(5) These would be my selections for this district:

APPLES—Trail, Wapella, Rosilda. The hardiest but not 100% hardy.
CRABS—Osman, Olga, Dolgo, Florence. All 100% hardy.
PLUMS—Assiniboine, McRobert, Mina, Olson, Ojibwa.
CHERRY-PLUMS — Opata, Mordena. Get two or three cheap sand berries with these.
SAND CHERRIES—Black-Beauty, Manmoor, Brooks.
GRAPES — Native, Alpha, Beta. Last two need winter cover.
GOOSEBERRY—Pixwell.
RASPBERRY—Chief, Newman 23, Latham, Starlight.
CURRANTS—Red Varieties: Diploma, Red Lake.
Black Varieties: Kerry, Crandall.

(6) Plant in the Spring as soon as the frost is out of the ground. Trees may be ordered for Fall delivery (to be heeled in or partially buried until Spring) or in the Spring for immediate planting.

(7) Cut the trees back about half way after planting.

Here are the peculiarities of fruit trees that make them seem mysterious:

(1) It is necessary to plant trees of two or more different varieties of the same kind of fruit. For instance, if planting apples or crabapples, plant one each of Olga, Dolgo, Osman, Florence and Trail. The reason for this is that these varieties are almost all self sterile, that is, they will not produce fruit alone but will set fruit with pollen from another variety of crab or apple. Because all trees do not bloom at exactly the same time it is wise to have as many different varieties as possible to insure pollination.

(2) Authorities tell us that most fruits thrive best in a deep rich medium loam. Unfortunately for most of us, we never see that happy medium. In spite of this, good fruit can be and is being grown on most, and in many cases, adverse types of soil in Winnipeg and suburbs and in Manitoba at large.

(3) In the older fruit growing districts of this country and in the United States, insects and diseases of fruit trees are a problem but we are more or less free from these here.

(4) Pruning is something that seems to worry some people. Usually a tree tends to grow with limbs low on the main trunk. This is as it should be in this climate because the frost damage always occurs on the topmost branches first. So a low tree (as a schoolboy says) "is a good thing". More information can be obtained from the Morden Report.

With these few points as an introduction the amateur may be helped to make a success of fruit growing.

THE WILD LILY

So far as I am aware Lilium philadelphicum, the wild Tiger Lily, is the only lily native to Manitoba. It grows from one to three feet tall, with one to five flowers at the summit of the stem, standing erect, looking to the sky. It varies in shade from a drab orange to a brilliant orange red, and to my way of thinking it is the most beautiful of all the red or orange lilies that are hardy here. It had been used with excellent results in the production of hardy hybrid lilies. It grows, of course, from a bulb, and increases by producing new bulblets on its underground stems and by seed. It can be successfully moved in bloom if you take a generous chunk of dirt along with it, digging six inches around the plant and a foot deep. The one difficulty in moving the plant is that the stem below ground is brittle, but even if it breaks off the bulb may survive. Collecting the plants in bloom assures you of getting the color that you want. I am not certain, but I think, that the length of stem depends upon the conditions under which the particular plant is growing, rather than being inherent in the plant itself. It grows under quite a variety of conditions: on the open prairie, in open and sandy soil in Eastern Manitoba, in dry woods and thickets.

In cultivation too it is an accommodating plant, but the flowers are at their best when they receive some shade from the afternoon sun. They will do well in the shrubbery or lightly shaded by trees, or on the east side of the house. They do best too, I think, in a not too heavy soil, one composed of leaf mould, sand and well worked clay is very satisfactory. They will do very well too in a very light sandy soil should you have that in your garden. The bulbs should be planted about six inches deep. Once planted they can be left undisturbed for years. They bloom in July.

It is not difficult to increase your supply of lilies from seed, and, if you choose your plants well for color, you may get some very beautiful and brilliant colors from your seedlings, varieties worth naming and propagating. The seed ripens quite late in the fall. Wait until the seed capsule begins to split, then pick it and put it in a dry, warm, but not overheated place for a week or two to ripen. Prepare a seed bed of rather light sandy soil, and before the snow flies plant your seed in rows, just covering them with the light soil. If you have a late fall the seed will sometimes germinate the same fall. The tiny seedlings will usually stand the winter. More often they will not germinate till spring. Protect them from hot sun by a covering of laths, spaced an inch or so apart, or by branches. Water occasionally in the evening. Replant the small bulbs in the fall about an inch deep and one to two inches apart. They may or may not need a second transplanting the second fall, depending on their growth. They will usually bloom the third year. I hope you'll try growing some from seed. It really doesn't take so long, and at the same time you will be increasing the supply of this lovely wild flower of Manitoba.

If you aren't in a position to collect this lily in the wild it is listed by some of our Manitoba nurserymen. Once you have a nucleus you can easily increase your stock, and I am sure you will find new pleasure in this Manitoba Wildflower in your Winnipeg Garden.

The gardener's motto, "Watch and spray".

Let the Editors have **your** experience as a grower.

Buy "Grown in Manitoba" plants, trees and shrubs. Our climate demands hardy materials.

SOME GOOD PLANTS NOT GENERALLY KNOWN

Calliopsis, Double Tinctoria. This is a semi-double, grows about two feet tall, makes a very attractive display when grouped and is excellent as a cut flower.

Anchusa, Blue Bird. Sown in early March will bloom in June. It is similar in shape and size to semi-dwarf Snapdragon and when planted with yellow snaps makes a very pleasing combination Its compact growth, its fine Forget-Me-Not like blue flowers and long period of blooming are qualities that make it really worthwhile.

Larkspur, Blue Butterfly. This is a perennial, but if sown in February will bloom in June. It is of bushy growth, a very excellent blue and grows about fifteen inches. We have not many good dwarf blue flowers in the annuals and this has the advantage of being hardy, so that once established it will grow as a perennial. The sprigs of bloom can be used to good advantage with cut flowers.

Marigold (Tagetes Erecta), Tom Thumb Golden Crown. This is an excellent plant. It is of the African Guinea Gold type. It grows into a compact bush, about twelve inches high and fourteen inches across. The blooms come just above the foliage so that each plant is a round, compact growth, and it is very free blooming, twenty to twenty-five blooms to a plant. I was very pleased with it last year.

Chrysanthemum Indicum Praecox. This is a perennial, but if sown in February will bloom in August. It should be planted in a cool spot in the garden, given enough water so that it does not suffer from drought. (I mention it this way rather than say it should be kept moist.) It grows two and

a half to three feet and bears many blooms, some single, some semi-double. The cut flowers last a long time. If the young plants are set out in six-inch pots they can be taken up in the fall and can be used for decoration indoors.

Rudbeckia Monplaisir (My Joy). This is quite good. It is of bold growth and should be grown where flower beds are large. It is a good cut flower when set out in vases without being crowded.

Perennial Plants

Asters. The perennial aster should be grown much more widely. The Alpine types grow from ten to fifteen inches high. The dwarf hybrids grow from one foot to twenty inches high and the Nova Belgi grow about three feet high. The flowers are small but are produced in great numbers and give a fine appearance from about the middle of August till late September. The colors are white and lilac mauve. The habit of growth differs widely in plants raised from seed and it is much more satisfactory to buy roots of established varieties or selected seedlings.

Gypsophila, Bristol Fairy. This is the finest of its kind. It cannot be raised from seed but is grown by grafting on to roots of Gypsophila paniculata. It is fine as a cut flower or for setting off bouquets of Sweet Peas or other delicate flowers.

Statice Latifolia. A good form of statice. The bloom is made up of hundreds of little points of lavender blue. It is used in the same way as gypsophila. It is also fine for drying for winter bouquets.

VEGETABLE DYES FROM THE GARDEN AND THE WILD

The knowledge of growing flowers and plants successfully is not as old an art as that of employing these growing things for man's use. It is more than likely that primitive man used plants as dyes almost as soon as he used them for food. Over the centuries dyeing has developed into one of the fine arts. Even though synthetic dyes have supplanted the vegetable dyes in convenience, price, and perhaps fastness, the old method gives colors and soft shades unequalled by modern science.

For commercial purposes vegetables dyes are not practical in this modern world, but if one can spare the time to learn the secrets of the plants' color possibilities, then is a store of endless interest opened up. Experiment in this homely research gives the satisfaction of accomplishing the unusual at no great expense.

Because it is easy to procure in its natural state and almost fool proof, I dye wool. The raw wool from the sheep must be washed and then mordanted. A mordant is any chemical used to treat the wool prior to dyeing. It affects the fibres in some way so that they retain the dye. Different colors can be obtained with the same dye by using different mordants. So too the pot you use for dyeing will affect the color, due to minute amounts of the material from which the pot is made dissolving out. I use an aluminum pail, just one we have around the house. Tin will do, but it alters the shade of the dye.

A good standard mordant is made of two tablespoons of powdered alum, the kind used for pickles ,and one half a tablespoon of cream of tartar, dissolved in half a pail of cold water. Take 8 ounces of wool (I use an handful, having no scales), wet it, squeeze, and then put it in the mordant solution. Boil gently for one hour, stirring occasionally. Let stand over night and rinse in lukewarm water.

All native dyeing in all countries began with the use of roots, flowers, leaves, bark, nuts and galls of plants, shrubs and trees that grew wild. Animal products, insects and lichens too were used. Not a few of the things used the world over grow wild in Manitoba or are to be found in our gardens, orchards or woods. Much exploration of possibilities and experiment is needed before we know more than a small fraction of what we can do with what lies to hand. Much information

about what the Indians used in dyeing lies buried in the books of early explorers. I am only telling you here about four dyes, three from the wild and one from the garden. I hope this may whet your appetite for more and that you will try many more wild substances yourself. The results are bound to be interesting and may be most surprising. So then for these dye-stuffs.

Bed Straw (Galium boreale). This small, white flowered wilding, like a miniature Baby's Breath, is one of the earliest blooming plants with dyeing qualities. It gives a pink color to wool mordanted as described. It is related to madder, a well known dye in Europe. Dig the tough, thread-like roots in June. Wash, cut up with scissors and let stand over night in enough water to take the wool to be dyed. The depth of color is going to depend on the quantity of roots you use. They are pesky things to dig, so your color will likely be light, like mine. While your dye-roots are soaking, mordant your wool. In the morning, squeeze out the wool, rinse it and add it to the dye pot. Boil gently for one hour, stirring often. Let cool. Hang the wool to dry in a shady place. Rinse later in clear water. When dry, pick out, or card out, the bits of root.

Spinach. Water drained from this vegetable makes an excellent dye. The mordanted wool is dropped in to the liquor and boiled for half an hour. The result is a lovely shade of yellow.

Golden Rod. Most dyestuffs, barks, roots and young leaves are obtained in the spring. The flowers of the golden rod are about the last source of material in the season. It is so easy to pick and so satisfactory, and gives a lovely soft yellow, or, as I shall explain, by redyeing, an orange. My children and I gather the flowers with a basket, snipping the flowers from the standing plants with scissors. The plants are abundant, so that you quickly have all you need. Soak the flowers over night with water to cover,—about half a pail, and boil an hour in the morning. Strain. Add the mordanted wool and boil gently, one hour, stirring frequently. Dry before washing in suds and rinsing. To get an orange dye take the wool out of the dye pot after it has boiled for an hour. Add ¼ ounce of potassium bichromate to the golden rod dye bath. Put the wool back in the pot and simmer 15 minutes. Dry. Wash in suds; rinse; hang out to dry.

Lichen. I don't know the name of this one. It grows on the rocky hills around Kenora and the Winnipeg River, and is

greenish grey and brown when it clings, dry, to the rocks. We scraped it off with sticks and knives and shovels. Sometimes it comes away as a powder, sometimes in sheets. Cover what you get with water and let it soak over night. It may be a bit porridgey in the morning and need some more water added to it. Boil gently for one hour. Strain. To the fluid add your mordanted wool. Boil 1 hour, turning the wool frequently. Take out the wool, rinse and hang out to dry. The color is a lovely, soft, warm fawn.

These then are only a few suggestions. You can try endless others if you wish; the bark of fruit trees in the spring; the leaves of the birch, both spring and fall; the roots of other wild flowers besides Bedstraw; the galls of oaks; and so on and on. Nor are color possibilities finished with the dyeing, for they can be mixed and blended later as you card. I hope you'll find here new pleasure from your garden.

Attention and activity lead to mistakes as well as successes: but a life spent in making mistakes is not only more honorable but more useful than a life spent doing nothing.

G. BERNARD SHAW.

ON GARDEN PICTURES

It takes much experience in gardening, much observation of other peoples gardens and some artistic sense to produce satisfying garden pictures. I don't mean photographs. I mean living pictures made with flowers in your own garden. And I am not talking about landscape gardening or prize gardening. Sometimes a prize garden is also a garden picture, but quite often its prizeness is its well-keptness. It has a very satisfying look about it, but that is not what I'm talking about. The garden picture is often a little thing, and quite often a transient thing. That's why you have to have a good deal of experience in gardening, and sometimes a bit of luck too, to produce it. It can be produced in quite small gardens and easily missed in big ones. It is that peculiar association of flower with flower, of color and form with form that strikes us as a lovely picture.

A garden picture may be made of only two plants or of many; of only one or two colors or of several. You have to choose and make your own. What pleases you may not please another; your neighbor's masterpiece may look like an Old Fords' Home to you. My suggestions you may treat with a shrug of your shoulders. I don't mind. It's not exact directions but the idea I want to get over to you. So anyway here are some flower combinations which I have thought made lovely garden pictures: adornis vernalis and anemone montanum; cherry red tulips near white spirea; pale yellow tulips with mertensia virginica; orange and yellow tulips over white arabis; white siberian iris with blue aquilegia and one or two Iceland poppies; phlox canadensis with tulip Clara Butt; Russian almond with mertensia virginica, white wood violets and viola missouriensis; blue siberian iris with pink dianthus plumarius. Every one of these groupings was small. Any Winnipeg garden could accommodate them and they are so much more beautiful than the set rows of low, medium, tall that one so often sees in both perennial and annual beds.

So I urge you. Observe the flowering of your neighbors' gardens and of our public gardens. Note times of blooming and conditions of culture and make a try at painting a little garden picture of your own next year.

THE SUMMER GARDENER

Pity the Summer Gardener. From November to March he has watched the snow, picturing his garden. April comes, then May. And still he waits. Early in June he sets out his plants. Again he waits. In July his garden bursts into bloom. In August it begins to burn up, and by September the Summer Garden is gone. Pity the Summer Gardener!

What warmer pleasures are there than great expectations and old friends? April is almost upon us, when melting snow will bare the ground, and we can go out into the moist sweet air to greet old friends. Has the Winter Aconite survived again, to open its golden petals even before the snow has gone? See, here is the first green spear head of the lovely Squills; here the brown needle tip of Lily of the Valley; there the purple head of the first Mertensia! Old and faithful friends, giving you first greeting, while yet the Summer Gardener is puddling with his flats.

Almost with the first crow and the first robin the wild hepatica opens its downy buds. By mid-April the wild anemones and garden crocuses are in bloom, while columbines, pyrethrums, tulips, delphiniums and violets are shooting. The first of May sees the gay blues and whites of the Siberian squills. In a week or so violets and bleeding hearts, marsh marigolds and corydalis are gay with flowers. Then follow in rapid succession hoary puccoons, hawthornes and plums and Saskatoons, mertensias, Iceland poppies, early tulips,—a dozen more, until before May ends the whole world in bloom with the soft, sweet flowers of spring. Pity, pity indeed, the Summer Gardener.

EARLY SUMMER

And what is so rare as a day in June?
Then, if ever, come perfect days;
Then heaven tries the earth if it be in tune,
And over it softly her warm ear lays:
Whether we look, or whether we listen,
We hear life murmur, or see it glisten;
Every clod feels a stir of might,
An instinct within it which reaches and towers,
And, groping blindly above it for light,
Climbs to a soul in grass and flowers;
The flush of life may well be seen
Thrilling back over hills and valleys;
The cowslip startles in meadows green,
The buttercup catches the sun in its chalice,
And there's never a leaf nor a blade too mean
To be some happy creature's palace.

"Vision of Sir Launfal"
JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL.

When sowing small black seeds, a small amount of talcum powder put in the seed envelope and well shaken will whiten the seed so that it can be seen against the black earth.

CAMPANULAS

These are the Blue Bells, and include our native Harebell, Campanula rotundifolia. There are many kinds hardy in Winnipeg, from the minute Campanula caespitosa or pulla, to the tall Peach-leafed Bell Flower, Campanula persicafolia. One of the best to start on is Campanula carpatica. This grows about a foot high and as much as twenty inches across. The flowers are carried on wiry stems, face upward, are about an inch and a half across, and come in shades of blue and in white. It is unbelievably floriferous and, if the seed pods are kept picked, will bloom from late June until freeze-up. It is most accommodating as to soil requirements, doing well in any ordinary garden soil, and, one final good point, it is careless of sun or shade. The plants are very readily increased by taking cuttings with a bit of root attached in the spring.

ADONIS VERNALIS

This is a brilliant flower rarely seen in Winnipeg gardens. It grows about a foot high with finely cut, ferny foliage and big yellow single flowers a good two inches across. The color is very clear, with quite a dazzling shine to the petals. It comes in to bloom about May 15 and remains in bloom for about three weeks. The royal purple Anemone montanum comes in to bloom usually at the same time, the two flowers being most effective together.

Adonis appears to be a fairly accommodating plant in culture. Large plants of it grew for years in the open borders of the Brandon Experimental Farm, but died out during the drought year. Mr. A. J. Richardson has had several plants for a number of years, and although some have died he has kept his stock going. One gardener reports having had a plant of this now for twelve years and that it appeared even better than ever last summer. It will grow in any good garden loam or in quite sandy loam. The soil should not be allowed to dry out and bake around it. It will grow in full sun or light shade. It can be increased from seed, but the seed must be sown as soon as ripe.

BETA GRAPE

We have had this vine for more than ten years. We detach it from the trellis in the fall and lay it on the ground, throwing a little earth and brush over it. We usually find a few feet at the ends of the vine killed in the spring, and cut them back. The bulk of the branches, however, come through without any difficulty, and make a tremendous growth during the summer. The fruit is dark blue, smaller than the ordinary blue grape, and not as sweet. We usually get from one to two baskets. The fruit is pleasant to eat, and makes splendid jelly.

DANDELION CONTROL

The eradication of dandelions from the lawn by means of chemical sprays is still in the experimental stage. The Winnipeg Horticultural Society does not feel that it can unqualifiedly recommend this method to its members as yet. Mr. Wm. Silversides who has been doing the experimental work tells us that there are certain variables of temperature, humidity, etc., which may cause irregular results, and that the exact conditions for spraying have not yet been determined. The spraying of a small section of the Parliament Buildings' lawn in 1937 resulted in a kill of about 66% of dandelions in the area sprayed, according to Mr. Silversides. The Public Works Department, however, he tells us, felt this estimate unjustified and would not grant permission for spraying of this area in 1938. Some fifty lawns were sprayed in 1937 and more in 1938. Data concerning these will be available this summer. If you are very anxious to have your lawn treated this year we suggest you get in touch with the Department of Horticulture at the University in June or July and find out what their results have been. Otherwise we think it better you wait another year. We will report results in our next bulletin.

All year round there is spring, and all through life is youth; there is always something which may flower.

KAREL CAPEL, "The Gardener's Year".

Why not visit the Experimental Farm at Morden in Apple Blossom time?

Woman has no seductions for the man who cannot take his eyes off his paeonies.

FAIRIES AND ELEPHANTS

Reginald Arkell, in explaining how he, a writer of musical plays, came to write "Green Fingers"*, a book of light verse about gardens, says that, having a garden, he just had to write about it. But most of his book was about his wife. She was his real inspiration. He used to sit at the window, he says, and think beautiful thoughts while she was pulling up weeds. This one about her was terribly popular:

I knew a girl who was so pure
She couldn't say the word Manure.
Indeed, her modesty was such,
She wouldn't pass a rabbit hutch;
And butterflies upon the wing
Would make her blush like anything.

That lady is a gardener now,
And all her views have changed somehow.
She squashes greenfly with her thumb,
And knows how little snowdrops come;
In fact the garden she has got
Has broadened out her mind a lot.

My own wife says that gardening broadens more than the mind. Which probably is irrelevant. But anyway, I'm sure any ordinary, amateur gardener, whose object is to have a lot of flowers in his (or her) garden and doesn't give a darn about growing them for show purposes, will appreciate the next poem. You know how you feel when you've read all the experts' directions on how to grow gladioli or paeonies or what not. That "gone" feeling comes over you; you throw a few packages of seeds on the bare earth, grab your golf clubs and run for the links. Well, if you're despondent after all our good advice here's what Arkell has to say about "Sweet Pea Culture":

Prepare the ground in Autumn
And sprinkle lime about;
Give the soil time to settle
Before you plant them out.
The trenches should be three feet deep
And also two feet wide,
With bone-meal, soot and farm manure
Mixed with the soil inside.
You'll find that mid-September
Is the proper time to start;
Thin out the plants until they stand
Just half a foot apart.
Be careful how you drain the soil,
Put sand along each row—
But, Gladys. she just shoves them in,
And, golly, how they grow!

And I guess a lot of us do the same, — that is the "just shoving them in", or our Gladyses do for us. The time to get a plant is when you can get it and the time to plant it is when you've got it. What's more, the soil to plant it in is the soil in your garden. When we sing our hobby, we often gambol as light as pachyderms at plays, and, by our heavy footed advice, trample the tender hopes of the young gardener. Rose Fyleman sang "There are fairies at the bottom of my garden." There can be fairies at the bottom of any garden, if—you keep the elephants out.

*"Green Fingers", by Reginald Arkell, published by Jenkins.

The End