

THE NATIONAL HORTICULTURAL MAGAZINE

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Number 1.

NORTH DAKOTA WILD FLOWERS IN CULTIVATION

By FANNIE MAHOOD HEATH
Vice President, National Horticultural Society

My collection of hardy shrubs and flowers is large and varied, and contains many of the choicest plants to be found in the average catalog, yet if anyone were to ask me what part of my garden I enjoy most I would unhesitatingly answer "My wild flowers." There is a fascination about these plants not found among the garden varieties. The study of their requirements and habits and the mystery surrounding their behavior in cultivation is very alluring and leads me on and on. Then, too, the encroachment of man and his plows and herds on the wild flowers' domain makes it necessary to remove these rare beauties to congenial quarters on private grounds where they will be safe from molestation, and have a chance of survival.

It is truly surprising the ways in which the various plants will act in cultivation. A few years ago I found growing in a swamp, which was sun-bathed and wind-swept, several clumps of the *Novae Angliae* Asters of the most intense blue color. They were so beautiful and rare in this section that I hesitated to disturb them, knowing full well that I could not supply the moist conditions of their native habitat. That old adage, "There is nothing like trying" finally won out so I dug three good clumps with the sod and roots intact. One clump was planted in full shade where it was rather moist, another in a low place in half shade, the third at the south end of our house, in very sandy soil, where it gets the full sweep of the sun for several hours each day. The last named, to my surprise, is doing best of all, and has developed into a fine, well-formed clump which blooms splendidly. The one in half shade is doing fairly well, while the one in full shade has weak, sprawling stems and no blossoms. There are several other varieties of wild asters growing here but I cannot name the species at the present writing. Some grow four or five feet high, while others grow only a few inches to a foot in

height. Practically all of them do well and grow taller in cultivation.

I wonder if I can describe the various flowers so that the wild flower enthusiast will be able to recognize them when he sees them near his home. The first to bloom in early spring is *Anemone patens* or *Pulsatilla Hirsutissima*. The furry, silky blossoms appear on dry, sandy knolls shortly after the snow disappears. They are known by various common names, "Wild Crocus," "Wind Flower," "Pasque Flower" and "Prairie Hen" Flower are some of them. They are commonly called "Wild Crocus" owing to their many striking similarities to the Crocus. The flowers range in color from almost white through smoky blue to bluish purple; usually much lighter on the inside. They are rather hard to domesticate unless one has conditions similar to their native habitat. These beautiful wildlings are fast disappearing from many sections of the country.

The dainty little *Viola pedatifida* or Birdfoot Violet has somewhat larger blossoms and is of a lighter blue than the common violet and the leaves are deeply parted into linear lobes. It thrives in cultivation but does not spread so rapidly as to become a nuisance as does *Viola rugulosa*, the white one.

Anemone canadensis or "Canada Anemone" is very easily grown. It is very abundant in this section of the State. It has pure snow white blossoms an inch or more across, which rise from the center of the deeply cleft palmate leaves which are borne at the top of naked stems. It grows along the ditches and in low places on the open prairies in full sun but thrives also in a reasonably moist garden soil in either sun or shade.

The common yellow Ox-Eyed Daisy (*Rudbeckia hirta*) is a great favorite of mine as it is so cheery looking as a cut flower, and it will take care of itself in any location where it is not too wet, and give continuous bloom from early July until freezing up time. It is best used as

a solid border along a fence or near shrubbery where one does not wish to risk choice things. In such a location it is desirable. Its deep maroon center and deep yellow petals, which range from one to two inches in length, will enable anyone to distinguish it.

The little *Geum ciliatum* or *ciliatum sieversia*, is another extra early little blossom. The little clusters of usually three red blossoms, which come early in May, look very much like three little dark red strawberries. Did I say red blossoms? It is only the calyx that is red as the white petals never open. The blossoms are soon followed by plummy, reddish seedpods which give it the common name of "Old Man's Whiskers" or "Apache's Plume." It transplants readily and takes kindly to cultivation if given a sunny location. The *Lithospermums* are very satisfactory plants in cultivation. *Lithospermum canescens* has racemes of bright orange flowers $\frac{1}{2}$ inch wide and greyish green foliage which remains throughout the summer. *Lithospermum linearifolium* has larger fringed florets of a light yellow color borne in smaller clusters. The foliage is of a lighter green and much narrower. It has a long, slender, carrot-like root and grows naturally in very sandy soil but will thrive in any well drained sunny location. Both bloom in May.

Capnoides aureum or "Golden Corydalis" will please the most exacting gardener if given a shaded, somewhat moist location. Its blue-green foliage is so dainty and lace-like that one does not mind if the yellow blossoms are small and somewhat hidden by the foliage which remains fresh until hard frost. When grown in a dry, sunny location it grows much ranker and is not nearly so pretty.

Thalictrum venulosum or "Early Meadow Rue" has very dainty foliage and makes a good substitute for a fern bed when one cannot have ferns, espe-

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NATIONAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

OBJECT OF THE SOCIETY

An altruistic and educational society, national in scope, organized for "the increase and diffusion of horticultural knowledge, and the stimulation of universal interest in horticulture."

OFFICERS AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Axel A. Tervola, President; Fannie Mahood Heath, Vice President; Hamilton Traub, Editor-Secretary; Eric B. Magnusson, Treasurer; John F. Traub, General-Counsel.

THE NATIONAL HORTICULTURAL MAGAZINE

Published quarterly and owned exclusively by The National Horticultural Society.

All Fellows of the Society are requested to send in for publication signed articles on gardening and allied subjects. An effort will be made to publish as much of this material as space will permit.

Advertising rates on application.

Edited by the Secretary of the Society—Hamilton Traub, Henning, Minn.

NATIONAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Deep down in the human breast there is a keen desire to possess an ideal home, but during the past centuries, in our country, however, the colonists from Europe and their descendants had their energies severely taxed in the hard struggle of reclaiming a continent from the wilderness. During this constant battle with nature for the bare necessities in the frontier sections, many of the finer influences in the life of man were necessarily neglected. Happily for us, with the passing of the Nineteenth Century, the day of the pioneer in America, except in remote districts, passed away forever, and with the exit of the bison and the nomadic Indian, a stage of development has now been reached when the American is settling down to a peaceful, beautiful, and satisfying home life.

Home Is Basic American Institution—Home and Garden Synonymous

The home is the basic American institution, and the role of horticulture in the building of the home is fundamental. A home without a garden is an anomaly. Correct landscaping of the home grounds is the chief means of creating a restful environment in both the city and country, and a proper understanding of the art of horticulture will enable all to possess beautiful home surroundings thus bringing contentment into their lives through the hourly or daily contact with the reposeful influence of the harmonious home.

Central Clearing House Needed—National Society Fills Need

Great strides have been made in the increase of horticultural knowledge, but much work in this field still remains to be done, and popularization is yet in its infancy. Many are taking an active interest in practical horticulture, but the home gardener, as a rule, is greatly handicapped on account of the lack of co-operation, and his outlook is one-sided in many instances from too narrow specialization. There was no central clearing house for horticultural knowledge in this country that covered the entire field; no altruistic national organization for the purpose of popularizing horticulture, and after a period of discussion, a committee of amateur horticulturists sponsored *The National Horticultural Society* which came into

legal existence on July first of this year. The proposals of federating or uniting the existing horticultural societies proved to be impracticable, and the problem was solved by the creation of a national society which covers the entire field of horticulture, and which rounds out the work now carried on by isolated units by paying special attention to the odds and ends that are not sponsored by the existing national societies.

Society Is Altruistic and Educational in Scope

The National Horticultural Society is entirely altruistic and educational in nature, and the board of trustees administers all income wholly in the interests of the fellows of the society. No individual derives any profit from the society.

Object to Stimulate Interest in Horticulture

The object of the society is "the increase and diffusion of horticultural knowledge, and the stimulation of universal interest in horticulture." The society offers an economical and effective solution of the various problems confronting the home gardener in particular, including money outlay, specialization, regional and local activity, the standardization of horticultural plant names, and color values; the evaluation of horticultural varieties of plants, and the building up of a native gardening tradition, or practical gardening science for each climatic region.

The Miracle of Co-operation

Co-operation on a continental scale paves the way. For a very small outlay annually, the amateur and professional horticulturists may acquire fellowship in *The National Horticultural Society* which will eventually unite the gardening enthusiasts in one great family, creating in this way a community of interest.

Modest Beginning to Put Program Into Effect

A modest beginning will be made at once to put part of the great program of the society into practice. All fellows of the society will receive the journal of the society, *The National Horticultural Magazine*, which will be enlarged in size and which will appear at more frequent intervals as the society grows in stature. A modest beginning will be made to

standardize plant nomenclature in co-operation with other organizations; books, specimens, etc., will be accumulated for The National Horticultural Library, Herbarium and Museum, and other benefits comprising the remainder of the program of the society will be provided as opportunity for service offers, including *The Horticultural Year Book*, a pronouncing dictionary of plant names, a color chart, texts on practical gardening for each climatic region of the continent, and provision for the proper functioning of local horticultural societies, national chapters for the specialized study of horticultural subjects; local, regional and national horticultural exhibitions, and many other worth-while activities.

Ultimate Test Is Practical Application—"Building Homes for People to Live In"

The scope of *The National Horticultural Society* covers the entire field of horticulture: ornamental gardening, including landscape gardening; amateur flower gardening; professional flower gardening or floriculture; vegetable gardening with special emphasis on the kitchen garden; fruit raising with special emphasis on the home orchard, and all allied activities. It is the aim of the society to stimulate a well rounded interest in horticulture, and the ultimate test will be the application of the principles in "the building of homes for people to live in." As an institution, the society fills a basic and definite need in American civilization. Man's love of natural beauty and his dependence for sustenance in part upon the products of horticulture is fundamental and in such a vast country as ours there is a well defined need for an altruistic central agency for the collection and dissemination of horticultural knowledge. The society will cover its legitimate field thoroughly and will round out the work of the existing horticultural societies by working hand in hand with these organizations whenever possible.

Fellowship Open to All

Fellowship in the society is open to all interested in horticulture, and all concerned are invited to avail themselves of the benefits that the society offers.

HAMILTON TRAUB,
Secretary.

NOTABLE WILD FLOWERS OF NORTHWESTERN NORTH DAKOTA

By A. L. TRUAX

Charter Fellow National Horticultural Society

The flora of this region is a rather peculiar proposition as it is an overlapping of that of the Central Region and the Rocky Mountains. Part only of the plants indigenous here can be found in *Britton* and *Brown* or *Gray*; the rest must be sought in *Coulter's* or some other Rocky Mountains botany. In this short article I shall name only a few of the most profuse and striking of the flowering plants which are native here, in the order in which they hold the stage.

First of all in spring comes *Anemone patens*, var. *nuttalliana*, which literally carpets the ground on sandy uplands and slopes with its whitish or lavender blossoms as soon as the snow disappears. This charming harbinger of spring is vulgarly called "Crocus" by nearly every one, but it bears no relation whatever to the Crocus and its tribe. The common name should be the "Wind-flower," and I wonder why we cannot have a little nature study in our schools so that the oncoming generation might learn to understand and know the birds and flowers of their native regions by their proper names.

With the disappearance of the *Anemone* comes the "Wild Sweet Pea" (*Thermopsis rhombifolia*), which forms great masses of yellow, perfuming the air with its fragrance. About the same time, or a little later, appears the "Prairie Bluebell" (*Mertensia lanceolata*), a charming plant and profuse bloomer, so dainty that it seems almost out of place on the windswept prairie, and should rather be hiding itself in some woodland nook of the farther East.

With the "Prairie Bluebell" and the "Wild Sweet Pea" also appears the "Creeping Phlox" (*Phlox Hoodi*), a charming gray-leaved, white-flowered dwarf, loving the sun and heat. Then come the Milk Vetches or *Astragalus* in bewildering variety, from the little tufted *A. lotiflorus* with its pale yellow flowers in sheets and patches, to the tall tufted clumps of *A. bisulcatus*. It takes a better botanist than I to classify and name them all.

With June, everywhere the month of roses, comes the Prairie Rose (*Rosa Arkansana* or *pratincola*), growing everywhere, and varying in habit from a dwarf to a bush.

Then with the heat of July come the Prairie Sunflowers, the most profuse and notable of which are *Helianthus sub-rhomboidens* with its snowy heads of dark purple disked flowers, and *H. strumosus* with both disk and rays of a uniform yellow.

In August the wild asters hold the stage and on until the frosts of Septem-

ber they brighten the bleak prairie with bewildering variety and color from violet through blue and lavender to white.

The foregoing constitute the principal pageant of the seasons from spring to autumn, but any list would not be complete which failed to mention a few of the choicer and rarer wildlings which seem to select their chosen spots in which to grow and bloom. On the sides of railroad cuttings and on clayey and gravelly slopes where little or nothing else can find a foothold, grows *Mentzelia ornata*, which looks shabby and depressed by day, but towards evening opens its ten-petalled, fragrant white flowers like the Night Blooming Cereus. On the tops of high buttes and on the summits of river bluffs can be found in June and July the Great-flowered Pentstemon (*Pentstemon grandiflorum*) with its great spikes of lilac purple bells. It is one of the grandest of our northern wild flowers. On sandy and sterile places can often be found the Tufted Evening Primrose, (*Oenothera caespitosa*). Its spreading subterranean roots seems to defy drouth and heat; its blossoms, 4 to 6 inches across, are white as the driven snow, as fragrant as the magnolia, and open only at night. I know of no fairer sight in nature than this marvel of the desert lifting its perfumed chalice to the evening star.

Now a few words as to the transplanting and naturalizing of these "high plains" wildlings. Few of them will do well far East. *Anemone patens nuttalliana* is an incorrigible wildling which refuses to grow in gardens anywhere, and seems to require the protection of the tough prairie sod. *Mertensia lanceolata* will grow quite well in common garden soil if given a warm sunny location. *Thermopsis rhombifolia* has long leathery roots and seems difficult to transplant; once transplanted, it comes up where, and only where, it chooses. *Pentstemon grandiflorum* thrives splendidly under cultivation, and is listed by many nurserymen and florists. *Oenothera caespitosa* will thrive in a hot dry location, but once established it is hard to control and should be confined to waste spots or the wild flower garden.

Editorial Note: Mr. Truax writes that he is unfortunately so situated that he cannot consider any floral exchanges. He states further that many Rocky Mountains nurserymen already list many or most of the plants mentioned in his article above.

NORTH DAKOTA WILD FLOWERS IN CULTIVATION

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cially if planted with *Achillea multiflora*, "Wild Yarrow" or "Milfoil," which also has very pretty foliage. When used as a

fern bed the flower stems of both should be cut away.

Alsine longifolia with its small, white blossoms and steely blue-green foliage, when grown among my rare Alpines, has done as well and received as much admiration as any of them. It takes kindly to cultivation.

Mimulus ringens, which grows naturally in very wet places, has done well for me when planted in a wooden bucket sunk in the ground. If one has plenty of water it is well worth growing in a partially shaded location.

Petalostemon purpureum or "Prairie Clover" is very abundant here. It seems to like a moist, well drained location, in full sun. It comes in many shades of violaceous red, rose, and several shades of purple. *Petalostemon candidum* is pure white. All are worthy of cultivation as are also the *Lacinarias* or *Liatris*, known also as "Gay Feather" and "Blazing Star." (What resemblance to a star anyone can see in their rather ragged, rosy-purple, round, tassel-like blossoms growing along the erect stems to a height of three feet, is beyond my comprehension.) They are easily grown in cultivation and will repay you if given a good, rich soil of rotted sods and a warm, sunny location.

Malvastrum coccineum or "False Mal-low" is a good, little plant that takes readily to cultivation and improves greatly. The skeleton-like greyish leaves round out to a wonderful degree in cultivation. The orange-scarlet little blossoms are like tiny single hollyhocks, about one inch across, borne in terminal clusters which keep growing and blooming for six weeks or more. Give it a sunny, sandy location.

Oenothera caespitosa will reward you with its great white blooms if given a well drained place in full sun.

No native plant received more praise in my garden than did *Mertensia lanceolata* or "Prairie Bluebell." It is such an intense blue. It blooms for a long time and increases in size under favorable conditions.

Pentstemon grandiflora grew over three feet in height and was loaded with its large, lavender-purple trumpets. Many persons thought it was *Digitalis*.

Other desirable plants which do well in cultivation but which space forbids my describing, are: *Allium stellatum* and *A. reticulatum*, *Lilium umbellatum*, *Sisyrinchium angustifolium*, *Chrysopsis villosa*, *Helianthus scaberrimus*, *Oxalis violacea*, *Heuchera hispida*, *Aquilegia canadensis*, *Heracleum lanatum*, *Galium aparine* ("Bed Straw"), *Campanula rotundifolia*, *Pentstemon gracilis* and *P. acaulis*, *Artemisia canadensis*, *Linum*, *Lepachys*, *Astragalus* (several varieties). All of these are to be found within six or eight miles of my home. Besides these I have a goodly number of wood plants from Minnesota and adjoining states of which I will tell later.

HORTICULTURAL FORUM

This department is open to the Fellows of the Society for an exchange of ideas.

Forest Tent Caterpillar

The Forest Tent Caterpillar in this section (Central Minnesota) has been very destructive. It starts on the bass-woods where the moth has deposited the eggs the previous season. A large bass-wood in front of the house was enveloped in a very fine silken web which reminded one of the habits of some snakes that cover the body of their prey with saliva before swallowing it. The caterpillars eat every leaf on the tree, and migrate to other trees, going through the orchard and taking every leaf. After the caterpillars are gone, the trees leaf out again, but of course there is no fruit. Mr. Ruggles, our State Entomologist, says that this can be stopped by spraying, but that would hardly be possible with forest trees.

W. M. STONE,

Charter Fellow National Horticultural Society.

Proposed National Flower

Representative Kissel's bill, requesting Congress to make *Bellis perennis* the national flower of the United States, will

prove of interest to the fellows of the society. There is probably little danger that the bill will be enacted into law, but the question of a national flower will not down. Sooner or later, such legislation will be enacted and the fellows of the society should make their contributions toward the final result by discussing the subject freely in the columns of their magazine.—*Editor*.

Congressman Kissel's bill is quoted in full:

"Sixty-seventh Congress, Second Session; H. R. 11902.

In the House of Representatives, June 5, 1922, Mr. Kissel introduced the following bill, which was referred to the Committee on the Library and ordered to be printed:

A BILL

Designating the daisy as the national flower of the United States.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the daisy (*Bellis perennis*) is hereby made and declared to be the national flower of the United States of America."

INFORMATION BUREAU

In this department questions pertaining to horticulture and allied subjects will be answered.

Pressing Herbarium Material

To the Secretary, National Horticultural Society:

Will you please describe the method of pressing herbarium material?

—J. E. G.

Ans.: Mrs. Fannie Mahood Heath gives the following instructions which will prove valuable in preparing your herbarium: "Gather specimens when as free from moisture as possible, and use unglazed newspaper for pressing. If convenient, it is well to lay the papers in a warm, sunny place for a time before using. Several thicknesses of paper should be at the bottom, and alternate layers of flowers and paper should be spread on this base with several layers of papers on top. The press should then be made effective by using a board the size of the papers weighted down with a heavy weight of some kind. It is well to change the papers after about a week as this insures that the specimens will keep their natural colors much better. In the case of thick-stemmed plants it is well to spread a layer of cotton batting next to the specimen material."—*Editor*.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR CHARTER FELLOWSHIP IN THE NATIONAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Article III, Section 5, By-Laws of the Society, provides that "charter fellows shall be persons who were admitted to fellowship in the Society between July 1, 1922, and December 31, 1922, both dates inclusive; and charter fellows shall bear their titles for the duration of their fellowship in the Society. In accordance with this provision a complete directory of the Charter Fellows of The National Horticultural Society will be published in the January, 1923, issue of THE NATIONAL HORTICULTURAL MAGAZINE.

Annual fellowship dues in the United States and Canada, \$1.00; abroad, \$3.00; life fellowship, \$100.00. The fellowship dues include subscription to THE NATIONAL HORTICULTURAL MAGAZINE. Make checks payable to NATIONAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

APPLICATION FOR CHARTER FELLOWSHIP IN THE NATIONAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

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To the Secretary, The National Horticultural Society, Henning, Minn. ..

I hereby apply for Charter Fellowship in The National Horticultural Society.

Name (please print).....

Address (please print).....

.....

Those who are not at present Fellows of the Society, and who desire to apply for fellowship, should either use the blank at the left, or apply by letter to the Secretary of the Society. Send in your application now.

NOMINATION FOR CHARTER FELLOWSHIP IN THE NATIONAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

.....192....

To the Secretary, The National Horticultural Society, Henning, Minn.

I nominate.....
(Print name of nominee)

.....
(Print address of nominee on above lines)
for Charter Fellowship in the Society.

All Fellows of the Society are privileged to nominate as many eligible friends as they desire. Fellows may use either the nomination blank provided at the right, or send in their nominations by letter to the Secretary of the Society. Send in your nominations now.

.....
(Name and address of nominating Fellow)