

THE NATIONAL HORTICULTURAL MAGAZINE

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THE GLADIOLUS

By A. E. Kunderd,
Honorary Fellow, National Horticultural Society.

The Gladiolus, as we know it today, easily takes a place in the front rank as one of the most useful and beautiful members of the floral kingdom. It is one of the most easily grown and universally adaptable of all flowers. In its stately majesty and beautiful tints and variety of color blendings it has few equals. In the garden its long season of bloom together with its great variety of color, form and types makes it one of the most striking and noble of all garden subjects, and in the hands of the floral artist it lends itself to all manner and kinds of floral arrangement. It is suitable for a wide range of floral uses and as a decorative subject has few, if any, equals. Mathew Crawford once said, "It has few equals and no superiors. None are more beautiful and there is nothing in sight to supercede it." Few who have seen a beautiful collection of the newer varieties will dispute this claim. It is susceptible of great variation and improvements in the hands of the enthusiastic breeder of plants and there are yet many possibilities of still greater improvement in store for the future. It embraces many "species" of many varied types, and almost endless possible combinations and variety may yet be secured. There is really no end to the variety which can be attained and this is one of the charms for the dreamer and worker in this branch of the Horticultural World. Among millions of new seedlings from carefully chosen parentage there will be thousands of beautiful new kinds, equal to most of the best in the lists of today, and yet each possessing a distinction and beauty all its own to the careful observer. It would seem as if every type and blending of color might long since have been achieved but such is not the case. "The most beauti-

ful variety" has not yet been produced, perhaps never will be, else Evolution, in this field at least, were at an end. Change and improvement is Nature's Law and the climax in this direction will perhaps never be reached. When we observe and admire a new variety, in beauty beyond our wildest hopes, we can rest assured that soon a newer variety will appear, easily of equal beauty, and of a charm and color harmony at least equal to the best that has gone before, and of distinct and marked individuality. If majestic grandeur and stately beauty alone were required the Gladiolus might easily lay claim as the best representative for our National Flower, for where else could be found a more suitable subject to represent our majestic and wonderful young country. It is indeed to be regretted that the Gladiolus has no representative among its "Species" native to our own fair land, but what is lacking in this respect has been long since made good in another direction, the production and development of its offspring, for America is proud today of easily holding first place in the development and perfection of this wonderful flower, even though we must accord to other nations and their plant originators first place for having discovered its possibilities and laid the foundation for this great development. When one considers that there are well over one hundred botanical species of the Gladiolus, many of which are varied and useful to the breeder of this remarkable flower, it is easy to understand its endless possibilities of variety and improvement yet before us. Only intelligent, patient and careful selection is needed, and who will say that America is lacking in these requirements? Let us not be content to confine our standards of beauty to any certain

limits as to color or types but let us strive to encompass every possible type and color combination. Beautiful self-colors and magnificently blotched creations such as are found among the pansies and orchids, so universally and much admired everywhere, should lend pleasures and joys to everyone in endless measure. Even rich and gaudy colors give joys to many, and why not when one considers the different tastes and changes of time and fashion and the eagerness with which we admire these charms in other flowers. Who among us can say this is the best, or that, when Nature furnishes us with such endless variety and beauty of type and color in such great abundance? Who can say this is the best, or most beautiful, for all of us when tastes differ so widely and "experts" fail to agree? The best and most beautiful variety is the one you most enjoy and which pleases you the most, be it red, white, pink, yellow or some other color or shade, self-colored, or marked with beautiful orchid markings. Then let us all enjoy, each in his or her own way, whatever of individual beauty we are enabled to perceive, disregarding all preconceived notions or standards. What is more restful and elevating than a beautiful garden, and what is more beautiful in any garden than an endless array of choice Gladioli. Some one has said that "the flowers of language are not equal to the language of flowers." Be this as it may, the flowers of language are dependent on the endless list of beautiful words. So let it be with the language of flowers, let it be an endless selection of beautiful varieties. Let us all enjoy the varieties now available, yet ever longing for other and newer beauties to admire among one of Nature's marvelous floral creations, the beautiful Gladiolus.

NATIONAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

Incorporated July 1, 1922

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."

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THE NATIONAL HORTICULTURAL MAGAZINE

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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.

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CONSTRUCTIVE PHILOSOPHY

"If every individual in every town of every state would work to improve and beautify his community, we should have the most inspiring spectacle of history—an entire nation working to make life better and more beautiful!" (*National Garden Week Program.*)

NATIONAL GARDEN WEEK

President Warren G. Harding has endorsed *National Garden Week, April 22 to 28th*, which will be conducted by The General Federation of Women's Clubs with other organizations co-operating. At the suggestion of the management of *The Garden Magazine* this noble and patriotic work was undertaken, and the public response from all sections of the country has been spontaneous from the first. Many governors of the several states have officially recognized the good work, horticultural societies, and other organizations all over the United States are actively co-operating. The Board of Trustees of The National Horticultural Society of America at the annual meeting on February 6, 1923, officially endorsed the work undertaken by The General Federation of Women's Clubs, and the Society will do all in its power to make the first observance of National Garden Week a great success.

CHARTER FELLOWS

(Admitted since February 1st.
Charter closes June 30, 1923)

Dr. Edward F. Bigelow, South Beach, Conn.
Mr. Emil Bollinger, City Forester, Lake Forest, Ill.
Mrs. William Crawford, 2016 Indiana Ave., LaPorte, Ind.
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Mrs. R. A. Sprague, 312½ Kittson Ave., Grand Forks, N. D.
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Mrs. C. E. Warriner, 323 So. Fourth St., Grand Forks, N. D.
Mr. Percy E. Wells, Maple, Ontario, Canada.
Mrs. Olive Wood, Henryville, Ind.

SHALL WE SPECIALIZE?

By Mrs. Wilda Carson, Idaville, Indiana,
Charter Fellow, National Horticultural Society.

Most of us, in the days gone by, have read the fairy tale of the water-nymph who gazed and gazed upon her sun-god Apollo and was slowly pining away when Apollo in sheer pity changed her into a sunflower that she might always turn her face to the sun. We thought her very foolish, and yet, today, in our floral fancies is there not the lurking danger of ourselves becoming sunflowers?

It seems hard for the Rose specialist to see equal beauty in the Iris, and vice versa. When the splendor of the Peony bloom is past should we sit with folded hands and "pine" until Peony time comes in another year?

The pageant of the flowers passes before us so gradually that we can "specialize" in a dozen or more varieties that will not in any way rival each other in respect to time of blooming, and this broader policy of "specialization" will extend the joys of the enthusiastic flower lover through the entire growing season.

The flowering shrubs and trees that greet us in the earliest spring are indispensable for they form the setting of our picture and prepare us for the rush of the hyacinths, tulips and narcissi that closely follow. We are so "hungry" for blossoms that we forget that we were literally down-on-our-knees to them last fall tucking them in the soil in "drifts" along the driveway, and in clumps among

the perennials, near the edge of the shrubby borders, and even in a circular bed in the back yard, if we can keep it hid from the landscape expert. Before we have time to sigh over the fading of the hyacinths, tulips and narcissi, the Iris is with us in all its rainbow hues, and certain species are of easy culture and will respond readily to good treatment. The newer tall bearded varieties are truly majestic.

While we are still holding our breath over the continuous rainbow, the peonies stage their pageant of glory. They are slower in growth and resent frequent division, but they are so perfect that it is worth while to wait for the loads and loads of beautiful blooms after they once become established.

Next come the roses in great variety. Hybrid teas make lovely ever-blooming hedges and they are very easy to propagate. Hybrid perpetuals are hardier, make taller hedges, give larger blooms, and if pruned and fed well after blooming will in most cases bloom again in the fall. To the modern climbing rose, doff the hat! It is as nearly perfect as a flower can be. It has clean, glossy foliage which is beautiful even when the plant is not in bloom, and which covers a multitude of unsightly places. If planted every six feet along a wire fence, it makes a beautiful hedge, and it has no equal for pergola, pillar and screen planting.

When the show of the roses is fading our interest is centered on the stately delphiniums with their long spikes of bloom ranging from the purest white, cream, azure, medium to deepest blue. The improved single and double varieties with individual blooms measuring two inches in diameter will keep one's enthusiasm at the highest pitch, and they are fit companions of the purest of all flowers, the white lilies. Just when one has decided that the lilies are surely the acme of perfection, one's attention is riveted on the great masses of the hardy phloxes. This plant is cheap in price, multiplies very rapidly, blooms for such a long time, and at a time when other flowers are scarce, and has such distinct and bright colors (do not confuse them with the old magenta colors) that one can have great masses of the phloxes in places where other more expensive flowers cannot be planted.

In the meantime, thousands of the bright and cheerful spikes of the latest improved varieties of the Gladiolus, rivalling the lilies, are everywhere in evidence; and the orchid-flowering cannas make their gorgeous tropical display. In the Dahlia we have one of the grandest flowers imaginable. Its types are so different—cactus, decorative peony, collette, etc.—that it is hard to believe that they are really Dahlia blooms—mammoth fluffy, crinkly blossoms that can be cut by the armful until the first hard frost, and it is then that one appreciates the terraces of Chrysanthemum

bloom from the tiny pompoms to the big shaggy fellows.

"Specialize?"—if we must, not on one, but many.

WILDLINGS OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS AND THE RARE AMERICAN LOTUS

By Mrs. Jean Druley Jensen, Fox Lake, Ill., Regional Vice President, National Horticultural Society, for the South-east Midland.

Northern Illinois, with its rolling wooded hills, rich soil and many inland lakes and sloughs, is no laggard in the number and variety of its wild flowers, either on land or water.

Commencing with the *Blood-rot* in the spring and ending with the *asters* and *Joe Pye Weed* in the fall, there is always something in blossom. Among those that have not yet been mentioned by the Fellows of the National Horticultural Society of America in other states are: *Toothwort*, *May-apple*, *Dutchman's Breeches*, *Great White Trillium*, *Blue and Yellow Violets*, *Red Osier Dogwood*, *Hawthorns*, *Wild Crab-apples*, *Thimbleweed*, *Culver's Root*, *Elder*, *Button Bush*, *Pokeweed*, *Wild Balsam Apple*, *Queen Anne's Lace*, *Snake Root*, *Bellwort*, *Toadflax*, *Jewel-weed*, *Evening Primrose*, *Smooth False Fox Glove*, *Spring Beauty*, the *Pink*, *Orange and White Milkweeds*, *Pink Knotweed*, *Columbine*, *Wake-robin*, *Turk's Cap Lily*, *Trumpet Honeysuckle*, *Cranesbill*, *Nightshade*, *Bergamot*, *Polemonium*, and *Jack in the Pulpit*.

Old settlers tell me that the pink and yellow varieties of the *Lady Slipper* were abundant here at one time, though I have never seen them here. I believe both to be extinct in this locality.

The many shallow lakes filled with wild rice and celery make this section an ideal feeding and breeding place for ducks and other wild waterfowl.

We have several aquatic flowers worthy of special mention. First and foremost is the *Rare American Lotus*, which grows here in Grass Lake in great profusion. Acres and acres of it as far as the eye can see it lifts its great greenish yellow bloom and gives out its heavy perfume. It was thought at one time that this was the only bed on the continent but I understand that there are small beds in the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers. Small beds have also lately started in Nippersink and Pistakee Lakes. These colonies probably started from roots and seeds that have come down with the current and ice in the spring, from the larger bed.

This flower, unlike the common water lily, does not lie on the water. Both the leaves and the flowers are borne on long stiff stems and stand up at least a foot out of the water. The blossoms are as large as a plate. These beds are a wonderful sight and excursion boats make trips to them twice daily during the flowering season which commences about

the middle of July and there are still some in bloom at that time in September. After the flower fades, the cone-shaped seed pod increases in size until it is three or four inches in diameter. The seeds inside become almost as hard as flint. The seed pods and leaves are gathered in immense quantities and are carried to the city where they are dried and decorated in the various shades of bronze, and mixed with other bronze weeds, they are made up into beautiful winter bouquets which bring a handsome price.

There is an old legend that the seed of the *Lotus* was ground into flower by the Indians and made into bread.

On the way to the *Lotus* bed another water-loving plant attracts one's attention, and on questioning the boatsman, one is told that it is *Pickereel Weed*, *Pontederia cordata*, a homely name for such a pretty flower which has handsome arrow-shaped leaves. These leaves are also gathered, dried and used in making up winter bouquets.

Other beautiful floral displays are seen when the several varieties of *Thorns* and *Wild Crabs* are in bloom; at *Violet* time; when the *White Trillium* is in flower; when the *Mandrake* has all its fairy umbrellas up and still later in the golden time of the *Goldenrod*.

BUREAU OF REGISTRATION AND EVALUATION

The National Horticultural Society of America officially endorses the work undertaken by the *American Joint Committee on Nomenclature*, and the work undertaken in this field by the several national societies sponsoring single horticultural subjects. It is the aim of the Society not to duplicate the work now carried on so successfully by the several agencies. Any requests for registration received that come properly within their fields will be forwarded to the societies concerned. The National Horticultural Society will, however, maintain a *Bureau of Registration and Evaluation* for the registration of plants that are not sponsored by a national society. As soon as practicable, test gardens will be established in connection with the American National Botanical Gardens to be sponsored in each of the Regional Districts, and all plants registered with the Society will be tested, at the request of the originator, as to quality and hardiness, and the results will be published.

The *Standing Committee on Nomenclature, Registration and Evaluation* of The National Horticultural Society has not as yet made its report, and for the present, the following informal system of registration will be used until the report of the Committee is ready:

- (1) Registration of Botanical species and varieties.
- (2) Registration of originator's name and general description of horticultural varieties.
- (3) Registration of meritorious horti-

cultural varieties based upon reports from the official test gardens, and a symposium of the votes of the Fellows of the Society.

Amateur and professional originators are requested to forward descriptions of new horticultural varieties to the Registrar of the Society. Botanical species and varieties will also be published. Only plants that do not come within the province of a recognized national society such as the A. P. S., A. I. S., A. G. S., A. R. S., A. D. S., A. F. S., etc., are eligible to registration.

Registration

Rudbeckia intermedia sp. nov. (J. R. McLELAND).

In the autumn of 1919, Dr. J. R. McLeland, Pleasanton, Kansas, sent a *Rudbeckia* labeled, "*Rudbeckia laciniata*—What?" to Mr. C. Z. Nelson, and in 1920 it flowered and proved to be of no near relation to *Rudbeckia laciniata* except in the construction of the leaves. A comparison with other known North American species proves it to be new with *Rudbeckia subtomentosa* as the nearest species. The following description was submitted by Mr. Nelson.

Rudbeckia intermedia, sp. nov. Perennial, 1 m. to 1½ m. high; leaves bright green and finely rough hispid; the lowest long petioled, pinnate, with 5 to 7 cut or lobed leaflets; the terminal much the largest, decurrent to the next pair and often irregularly lobed; the upper three: pinnate or parted, to simple; all sharply serrate except some of the upper reduced ones; all lance ovate and taper pointed; heads large, 6 to 8 cm. broad; rays commonly 20 orange; disk rich brown, hemispherical at maturity, 2½ cm. broad. A handsome and hardy species. Type locality: South of Pleasanton, Kansas. Range: South and Westward. (J. R. McLELAND.)

Dodecatheon lutescens sp. nov. (C. Z. NELSON).

While on one of his collecting trips in northern Kentucky in 1918 Mr. C. Z. Nelson discovered a new *Dodecatheon*. The following description was submitted by Mr. Nelson:

Dodecatheon lutescens sp. nov. Leaves yellowish green with brownish midrib; lanceolate, erect, undulate or crenate, tapering into a broad petiole 2 dm. long, and 6 cm. broad; flowers small for the size of the plant, several in the umbel; pale yellow with a brown ring at the base; anthers light brown; capsule ovate, acute, shorter than the calyx lobes. Type locality: ravines along Otter Creek, 32 miles northwest of Louisville, Ky. Range: Southward into Tennessee and Westward to Mt. Vernon, Ill. (C. Z. NELSON.)

A suggested revision of the two genera, *Rudbeckia* and *Dodecatheon*, by Mr. Nelson will be published in later issues of the Magazine.

New Species of the Cactus

Mr. Nelson has four species of the Cactus to his credit, and a fifth species has persistently failed to bloom for Mr.

GARDEN GOSSIP

News Notes, Correspondence,
Reminiscences, Questions,
Answers

It is the aim of *The National Horticultural Society of America* to encourage the founding of a comprehensive local horticultural society in every American municipality that is not already blessed with such an organization, and the Society will lend its influence toward the founding of at least one *American National Botanical Garden* in each of the Regional Districts.

The *Grand Forks Horticultural Society* was founded by the Fellows of The National Horticultural Society of America resident in Grand Forks, N. D., and vicinity. The Society is affiliated with the National Society, and the Magazine will be its official organ. The purpose of the Society is to promote horticulture in all its branches in Grand Forks, N. D., and vicinity. The Society will encourage school gardening, stage flower, vegetable and fruit exhibitions, and will sponsor the American National Botanical Garden for the Northwest Midland to be estab-

Nelson after nine years under cultivation. Dr. J. N. Rose has grown it for three years and has had the same experience. The publication of this species has therefore been much delayed. It is reported, however, that the species has flowered for Dr. H. Winert, of Berlin, to whom specimens were sent, and that he is about to publish the description of the species. Dr. Winert's description will be re-published in the Magazine as soon as possible.

IN MEMORIAM

NANNIE ELIZABETH ALLEN

It is with the deepest regret that we announce the calling from her earthly activities of one of the Charter Fellows of The National Horticultural Society of America, Mrs. Nannie Elizabeth (White) Allen, of Clinton, Missouri. Mrs. Allen was born in Illinois March 26, 1859, and moved with her parents to their farm home near Clinton, Missouri, in 1868. Here she was married, February 8, 1877, to Mr. Albert M. Allen, who survives her. Besides her husband, she leaves a son, Mr. Ernest M. Allen, and a ten-year-old grand-daughter, Miss Lila Frances Allen, to mourn her loss. Mrs. Allen was called from her earthly home on January 25, 1923, and was buried in Englewood Cemetery on January 28, 1923. Besides her family and neighbors, a wide circle of pen friends will be grieved to learn that she has gone from among us, for she possessed the gift of radiating good cheer and love to all who were fortunate enough to have ever received her letters. She was my pen friend for many years, and I know I am only one of the many who will miss her greatly. She shed her sweet influence on all while still with us, and now that she is gone on before, her sweet radiance shall abide with us until we too shall go on and be with her once more in the place where there will be no more partings.

FANNIE MAHOOD HEATH.

lished at Grand Forks, N. D. Following the noble example of the *St. Thomas Horticultural Society*, the new Society will aim to make Grand Forks a second "Flower City" by encouraging especially the mass planting of the choicest flowers such as peonies, irises, roses, hardy phloxes, gladioli, dahlias, etc.

Mrs. Jean D. Jensen, Fox Lake, Ill., will be pleased to procure native Illinois plants for those who wish to exchange.

A copy of "*World Agriculture*," the official organ of *The World Agriculture Society*, edited by Prof. Laurence H. Parker, Amherst, Mass., was received recently. It is a quarterly journal of information on the world aspects of agriculture and country life, and should especially appeal to the Fellows of the Society resident in the country.

"Urge school gardens at every school." (*National Garden Week Program*.)

One of the most important horticultural events of the season will be the *National Peony Show* to be staged at St. Paul, Minn., June 10 to 17th, under the auspices of *The American Peony Society* and the local horticultural societies of Minneapolis and St. Paul. Exhibitors from all parts of the United States and Canada will compete, and all horticulturists who can will attend without any urging.

LITERATURE OF THE TRADE

For the convenience of the Fellows of the Society the literature of the horticultural trade received by the Secretary will be briefly reviewed.

O. L. RINGLE, Wausau, Wis.—"A List of Peony Novelties," pp. 14; a catalog of choice varieties.

D. M. ANDREWS, Rockmont Nursery, Boulder, Colo.—"New or Noteworthy Plants, 1923," pp. 16 and cover; a catalog of native herbaceous plants, shrubs and trees that should be in all complete collections.

B. H. FARR, Wyomissing, Pa.—Vol. I, No. 1, "Better Plants," February, 1923; a valuable trade paper that should appeal to all interested in horticulture.

CLARENCE W. HUBBARD, 6144 Lakewood Ave., Chicago, Ill.—"Price List of Choice Poenies."

JOHN LEWIS CHILDS, INC., Floral Park, N. Y.—"Childs' 1923," pp. 144 and cover; vegetable, field and flower seeds; plants, summer flowering bulbs, greenhouse plants, hardy herbaceous plants, shrubs, vines, trees, etc.

"Home and School Gardening for Children, 1923," pp. 16; Junior catalog for school children; contains valuable cultural directions and garden plans.

LUTHER BURBANK, Santa Rosa, Calif.—"Burbank Seeds, 1923," Bulletin No. 63; pp. 32 and cover; the famous Burbank originations.

TEMPLIN-CROCKETT-BRADLEY CO., 5700 Detroit Ave., Cleveland, O.—"Seed Headquarters"; pp. 40 and cover; vegetable and flower seeds; plants, bulbs, fruits, etc.

GARDENS OF SMELDLEY, Waterloo, Ia.—"Extristrong Gladiolus Price List."

A. E. KUNDERD, Goshen, Ind.—"Catalogue of the Kunderd Gladioli for 1923"; pp. 56 and cover; an illustrated catalog of the famous Kunderd originations.