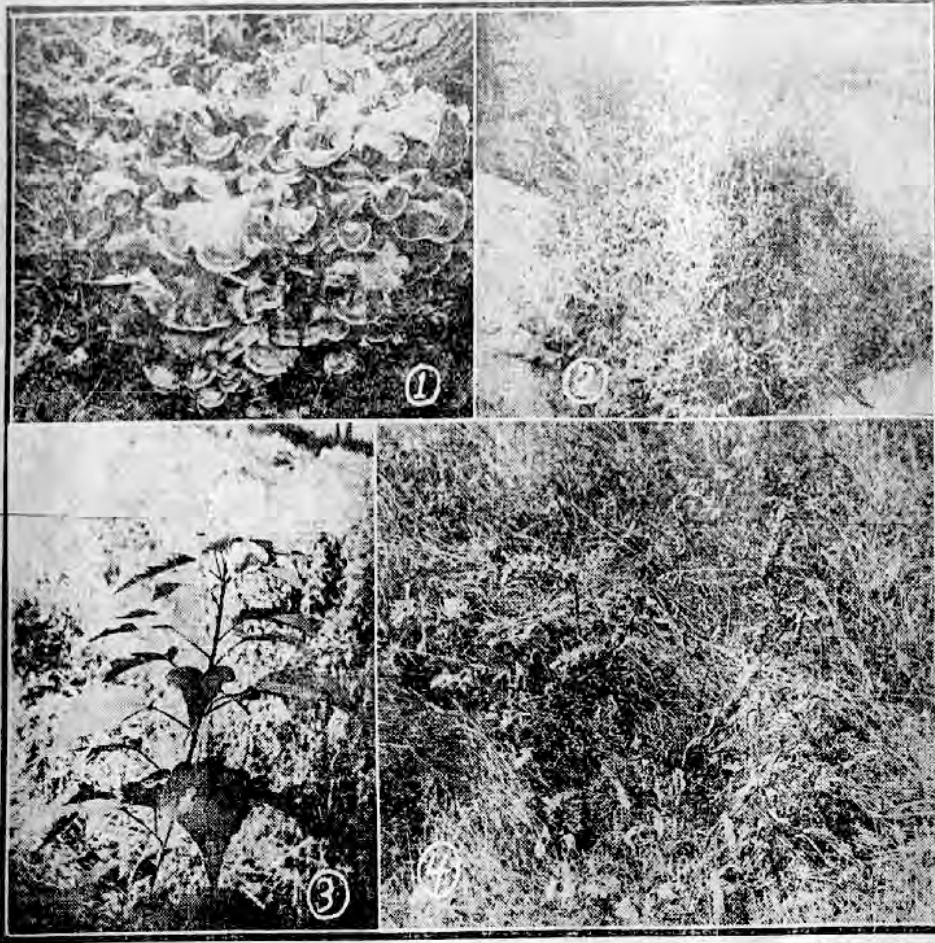


## Late-Blooming Flowers Dot Meadows With White, Blue and Gold; Asters, Gentians, Lobelias and Sunflowers Greet Field Lovers



1. Fan Tuft Polyporus. 2. Russian Thistle. 3. Hibiscus. 4. Swamp Betony.

—Photos by M. K. Meeker.

The photographs, many of them colored by hand, illustrating the wild garden in Glenwood park and the native flowers of Minnesota growing therein, exhibited by Miss Mary K. Meeker at the state fair, may be seen hereafter on application at the public library. For the remainder of the season Miss Butler will conduct parties through the wild garden according to appointments by telephone.

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FOR the late-blooming flowers we must turn to the flood-plains and meadows still glorious in the white, blue and gold of the moisture-loving asters, gentians, lobelia and sunflowers, tricked out here and there with the deep red of the cardinal flower—the palest red found in nature. The brilliant salvia now blooming in the cultivated gardens has a tinge of yellow in its richness, but that cannot be said of the red lobelia known as the cardinal flower. Companions in this notable company is the large-flowered, pale pink hibiscus *militaris*, locally abundant on the river bank. The hibiscus from the wild garden printed above is *H. Moscheutos* with a larger and brighter colored flower. This species is not indigenous to Minnesota, but is the glory of the swamps ranging from Massachusetts to Ontario and Missouri.

The swamp betony, *Pedicularis lanceolata*, would be of interest to the close observer, with its dense, leafy spikes of pale yellow, laterally compressed,

two-lipped flowers, but who can spare a glance for it when awed by the iridescent blue of the fringed gentians that surround it? Reference was made last May to *P. canadensis*, similar to this betony, that was abundant on the prairie and adjacent woodland slopes, early in the season.

The sweet fragrance, however, of the tiny *Spiranthes cernua*, an orchid slender as a grass blade, makes one conscious of its presence, and its pearly whiteness intensifies the celestial blue of Bryant's flower. Most of the orchids are early bloomers. The blossoms of this delicate late-comer are arranged in a curiously twisted raceme, so that it has been given the name ladies' tresses.

The naturalized plants have enforced their citizenship on cultivated land and contest their rights by defensive and offensive methods. For instance, the Russian thistle appears to be in its youth harmless and innocent; but later it grows prodigious, develops numerous short spines and overspreads the ground, destroying other vegetation. When the seed are ripe the plants are uprooted by the wind and, like a huge cartwheel, roll over the ground, sowing evil broadcast for another season until they come to a fence, where their advance is checked until piled to the top, when the procession is formed again.

This plant, introduced from Russia several years ago, is not a true thistle, although so called on account of its prickles. It belongs to the goosefoot family, which numbers other tumble weeds. The smooth pigweed or lamb's quarters, whose young, tender leaves

are superior to spinach for the table, is of close kin.

A part of the wild garden recently acquired by the park board was once used for a pasture. Consequently, several naturalized weeds, as Canada thistles and creeping Charley, or ground ivy, are firmly established in excess. The thistle is discouraged by being pulled up wherever it shows its head, but it continually breaks out from the newly budding, creeping rootstalks. Another method is taken with creeping Charley, who, with pretty, scalloped, round leaves and bright blue flowers, is not uncomely, if only he could be taught to keep his proper place. Various other rampant, naturalized plants, with pleasing foliage or flowers—butter'n-eggs, cypress spurge, Aaron's rod, bouncing Bet—have been planted around him, which, together with the native golden rods, will tussle with one another for possession of the field. We shall watch the scrimmage with some what we fear of the Irish delight in a shindy. Last November tansy also was planted among the contestants. Every root has grown and blossomed, and it bids fair to spread and hold its own with odds in its favor. Tansy is found on the sites of burned down or abandoned houses in the country and is associated with days long past. The finely cut leaves have a pungent odor and the flowery disks, bright and golden as sunlight, are fine for large bouquets.

Your attention is called to another edible, bracket mushroom, *Polyporus frondosus*, pale gray and velvety, and made up of many overlapping brackets. The pores on the under surface are barely perceptible to the naked eye. This fungus particularly affects the roots of oaks, and was found in the wild garden at the foot of "Mon-

arch," an aged white oak. It often attains great size. One was discovered a year ago by an oak stump on the top of the highest bluff in Lake City, too big for removal. The specimen in the wild garden weighed 20 pounds. The one who took it no longer thought it might weigh 50 as he tugged it to the waiting automobile. It was displayed for a few days on Nicollet avenue in Mr. Hoffman's (the optician) window, until it began to shoot its spores all over the store, covering everything with a white, dustlike powder.

ELOISE BUTLER.

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