

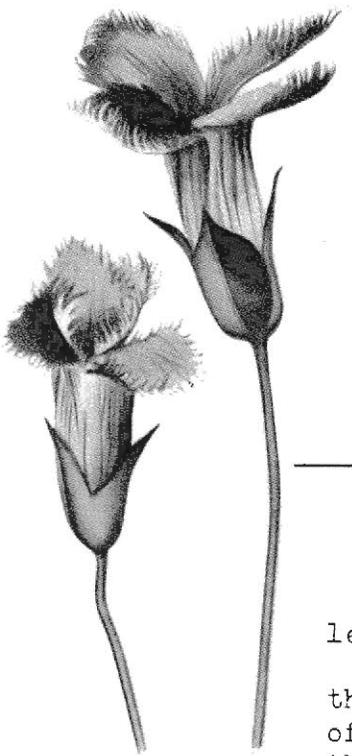
THE FRINGED GENTIAN

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THE BURST OF SPRING

Spring is loved the most, when newness of buds and green leaves are unending joy and fascination.

After a long northern winter, what a welcome sight to find the brave little Snow Trilliums pushing thru the heavy blanket of leaves. They seem to defy the chilly nights and frosty weather.

Altho twelve varieties of trilliums grow in the garden, this smallest and daintiest one is the first to appear. They have an appeal that only true harbingers of spring can produce.

They grow in heavy wooded areas, blooming early before the foliage of trees and shrubs shade them.

All around the woodland there are signs of spring. As soon as the snow has melted and the sun touches bare patches of earth, tiny green shoots appear.

The bursting seed, the opening bud are signs of life renewed.

Henry David Thoreau remarked -- Spring ... is a resurrection, an experience in immortality.

PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE

Altho the Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) is not a native, it is a good plant to grow along streams, margins of ponds or in wet meadows. Especially where the competition is too severe for less aggressive plants to grow.

The plant is a long-lived perennial, 4 to 6 feet tall and produces graceful spikes of purple or pink flowers. They bloom during July and August.

When once established it is hard to eradicate and will crowd out other weaker growing plants.

It can also be grown in garden borders where it remains smaller and does not readily spread.

This six-petaled flower has 12 stamens of two different lengths, and the length of the single pistil varies in different flowers, this is termed by botanists as trimorphous. Only pollen from stamens of the same length can pollinate the stigmas, therefore each flower is sterile to its own pollen, thus ensuring the vigor of the race.

File this issue with the others in your "Fringed Gentian" green cover.

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BIRD NOTES

The silence of the winter is gone again, and the feathered songsters sing a welcome to awaking life.

Long before the woods turn green the northward winging o'er map-less miles commences. Memory is strong motivation in humans, it must also be an attribute of birds. How else could the tiny Hummingbirds find their way back to the sirup bottles in the garden.

Birds are so essential to our plant life, considering the countless numbers of insects consumed.

Even in winter, Brown Creepers, Nuthatches and Kinglets succeed in finding many hibernating pests or their eggs in bark crevices.

Soon the endless waves increase containing various warblers, for during May more birds can be seen than any other time of the year.

Their medley of varied notes lend infinite charm to the sweet spring woods. The cheerful Wren sings from the smallest perch it can find.

The Snow Buntings, Juncos and Tree Sparrows have long since departed for the north.

Some years the Thrushes, Veerys and Oven-birds arrive before danger of late snowstorms is over and then great numbers perish due to lack of their food.

As May is the month of the coming of the birds with bursting of buds and flowers blooming, so June is the month of the birds home-life. Some are still constructing nests while others already have families to engross their attention.

They are eager to rear the young while proper food supply is abundant.

At least twelve Mourning Doves have wintered in this area, a few miles north of Minneapolis, in Brooklyn Center. They feed mostly on cracked corn, at night they perched on an old log on the ground spreading their wings in a flattened position.

OGONEE BELLS

Shortia galacilolia was considered the "Lost Flower" and would have disappeared completely if it had not been brought into cultivation.

It comes from the Great Smocky Mountains and is the loveliest and rarest of North American Wild Flowers.

It is well established in several areas in the Wild Flower Garden, preferring to grow in acid woods rich in humus on a slight slope which gives it the required drainage. In shaded areas especially under maidenhair-ferns it seems to do best.

Being an evergreen ground cover, altho the leaves turn deep red in Autumn. The white bells delicately fringed open in May.

DID YOU KNOW

That the tulip of today has little resemblance to the wild tulips of Asia Minor where their history extends centuries into the past.

The botanical name *Tulipa* is derived from the Persian word "Toliban" meaning turban, which the flower resembles when turned upside down.

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TEN BEST STARTERS

In response to numerous inquires as to what plants would be best to start a wild flower planting this spring. The following perhaps will offer some suggestions.

These ten to start with are favorites and very dependable.

<u>Jack-in-the Pulpit</u>	<u>Bloodroot</u>	<u>Columbine</u>
<u>Cardinal Flower</u>	<u>Mertensia</u>	<u>Trillium</u>
<u>Wild Ginger</u>	<u>Hepatica</u>	<u>Blue Phlox</u>
	<u>Various Violets</u>	

Jack-in-the-Pulpit (*Arisaema triphyllum*) They prefer some shade, blooming in May. Seeds should produce blooms the second spring. However it is best to get bulbous rootstocks the first year.

Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia cardinalis*) this brilliant red flower blooms from July to September. Seeds germinate readily, but start with a few plants.

Wild Ginger (*Asarum canadensis*) A good ground cover, ginger flavored, spreads quickly, start with some plants.

Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*) Very reliable coming up year after year. Clumps increase in size each year. Blooms early in the spring. They may be started from seed but take several years to get to the blooming stage so get some clumps.

Mertensia or Virginia Bluebells (*Mertensia virginiana*) Seeds germinate easily but get a few plants the first year... Blooms in May and plants die down and disappear completely a few weeks after blooming but reappear the next spring.

Sharp-lobed Hepatica (*Hepatica acutiloba*) Blooming in April, various colors. The leaves are evergreen, remaining over winter and until after flowering. Best started with plants for seeds require several years before blooming.

Columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*) A very graceful beautiful flower blooming in spring, in full sun or partial shade. Easily propagated from seed, but start with a few plants for better satisfaction.

Large-flowered Trillium (*Trillium grandiflorum*) There are many varieties of trilliums but it is advisable to start with this one. Seeds sown as soon as ripe require 3 to 5 years before reaching the blooming stage. Start with bulbs which should be planted 6 inches deep.

Blue Phlox (*Phlox divaricata*) Blooms in May in sun or shade. Start with a few plants. They spread nicely.

The Violets There are many varieties that are easily grown if given conditions similar to those from which they originally came.

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DO YOU REMEMBER

The following lines by the famous poet, Ralph Waldo Emerson-

"Why Nature loves the number five,
And why the star-form she repeats".

It does seem strange that so many of our flowers have their petals or sepals based on the number five. In some of these the petals are free from each other while in some the petals are more or less united into a disk, a cup or a corolla.

The following are among the many in this group-

Geranium	Queen-of-the-Prairie	Goldthread	Larkspur
Buttercup	Globe-flower	Pitcher Plant	Monkshood
Thimble Anemone	Rose-mallow	Oxalis	May Apple
Canada Anemone	Wood-sorrel	Sundew	Pipsissewa
St. John'swort	Polemonium	Dwarf Ginseng	Phlox
Wild Roses	Hawthorn	Frostweed	Violets
Apple	Fringed Loosestrife	Avens	Sandwort
Cherry	Starry Champion	Cinquefoil	Firepink
Plum	Spring Beauty	Grass-of-Parnassus	Strawberry
Clematis	Columbine	Marsh Marigold	Partridge Pea

FROGS

There is no more wonderful expression of the recurring miracle of spring than when the peepers start their gay chorus in nearby woods and pools.

Each species has its distinctive call note, the high bird-like piping of the hyla. The low melodious trill of the toad. The loud abrupt call of the common tree frog and the deep bass of the bull frog and the green frog.

WILD LEEK

Have you ever wondered what the shiny, rather broad leaves are that appear so early in the spring? It is the Wild Onion or Wild Leek (*Allium tricoccum*)

Soon these leaves wither and disappear and then a naked scape arises, bearing greenish-white flowers and later a clump of shiny black seeds.

The Leek belongs to the onion family and is strongly onion flavored. They grow from a fibrous-coated bulb, the fibers are black, but the bulb is white. Altho very strong they are relished by many folks.

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