

The Plattsmouth Journal

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Wild Flowers are Easily Tamed in Home Garden

The Gardener Learns Their Requirements and Aided by Nursery-Grown Stock.

There is a sensitive softness about the sun in late winter, even though it shines upon discolored snow, slush and mud. It awakens within us a consciousness of the stirring of life underground, the near coming of pink-flushed arbutus blossoms, of unfolding hepatica buds and of the pure white blooms of the bloodroot.

Wild flowers have a special appeal for all who love growing things; and Spring is the season when their shy beauty is at its loveliest. Trips to the Spring woods are delightful, but for the city or suburban dweller not always easy to arrange. Even the greatest wildflower enthusiast may miss the blossoming of his favorite woodland plant because of some miscalculation or unavoidable delay.

Therefore it is a real satisfaction to have a planting of wild flowers in the garden. Then the gardener may be sure that the thousand and one duties and pleasures of modern life will not keep him from glimpsing any one of the bright little flower faces as they appear in magic rotation.

More Cooperation Today.
Fortunately the wild-flower lover now has every encouragement to create a wild garden. Not so long ago the making and stocking of such a garden presented serious difficulties. But the growing active cooperation of both the nursery man and the landscape artist has changed all this. It is against the law to rob the woodlands and heigerows of their rapidly diminishing treasures, but there are men today who have cherished these little native beauties, who have learned their strange necessities of soil and sun and drainage, and who are ready to supply the gardener with thrifty wild plants and with cultural information regarding them.

A visit to any of the large flower shows will provide notable examples of really distinctive work along these lines. The fact that such beautiful plantings constantly draw admiring crowds about them, and that high rewards of merit are bestowed upon them by the judges, proves that there is an active and ever-growing appreciation of the use of wild woodland flowers in American gardens.

Location the First Consideration.
The first consideration for the amateur in wild-flower gardening is that of location. Shade, of course, must be provided to make the woodland dwellers thoroughly comfortable, but the sort of shade is just as important as the shade itself. An apple tree is good, or a locust or elm or even a spreading, gnarled dogwood. Evergreens create very acid soil and therefore are good for only certain wildlings such as some of the woodland ferns, columbine, pink meadow flower, painted trillium, bunchberry and trailing arbutus. A deciduous tree which has a far-reaching and greedy root system is a poor choice to shelter the wild-flower garden. Poplars or maples, for instance, are unsatisfactory.

Those who are preparing only a few square feet of space for wild flowers may plant apple saplings, young pines and hemlocks, or, better still, native rhododendrons and laurel where they will provide a background and offer increasing shade as time passes. Of course, any trees will eventually sap the ground's vitality and injure the flowers beneath them unless they are kept cut out and new soil is occasionally added.

A small wild garden may also be planted on the shady side of the house if dripping from the eaves is prevented. The wild-flower garden of my childhood was placed in such a location and was a satisfaction and delight for many, many years. Plenty of rock drainage and a yearly supply of fresh leaf mold were the two secrets of its success.

Drainage Vitally Important.
Drainage indeed is a necessity in the wild garden. The plants are small and fragile and their roots cannot tol-

erate "wet feet." Even the bog plants like to perch on hummocks above the water line. A bed of ashes or broken rock forms a foundation for a six-inch covering of mixed garden soil (medium sandy), leafmold and saw manure (or one of its commercial substitutes). Experience has proved that the wildflower bed is best located where water is easily available, for wildlings do not like drought. Watering cannot be neglected. Those who are fortunate enough to have a natural or artificial stream in their grounds can utilize at least part of its banks for a wild planting.

Having thus given consideration to their several necessities—food, water, shade and drainage—the gardener next turns to the procuring of wild plant material. He may visit a nursery which specializes in wild plants and there select the inhabitants for his new garden bed, or he may order them from a catalogue. Whether the space prepared is large or small, a succession of bloom is of course desirable, with the emphasis laid perhaps on early Spring blossoming.

Trailing arbutus is the first to bloom and every wild-flower gardener will probably want to start with this harbinger of Spring. It is not one of the easiest flowers to grow, but nursery pot-grown plants are now available which are far harder than the "collected" specimens previously offered for sale. Hepatica, though only a little later, is even more beautiful as it lifts its nodding groups of lavender stars beside some gray rock or rotted stump. The hepaticas are susceptible to cultivation, the roundlobe variety preferring acid and the sharplobe neutral soil. Bloodroot comes next, and, in addition to its showy blossoms and lovely, characteristic foliage, it is very easy to grow.

The trilliums are another group of beautiful Spring wildflowers, and there are many species to choose from. Common periwinkle, though a fugitive from Europe, is thoroughly at home now in the American countryside and may be depended upon to cover a whole bank with its glossy green foliage, while hundreds of unbelievable blue blossoms open in early May. Anemones, fringed polygala, twinflower and the many meadow and other native orchids are all desirable for a shady woodland planting. Blue and yellow violets, creeping buttercups, blueets and other more prolific bloomers may be planted out in the full sun, while the shy, dainty lovers of shade are set back where they will get protection from too strong light, but also from careless feet and rampant growing neighbors.

Columbine is the glory of June in the woods, and there are a dozen others to rival it. Wild roses, black-eyed-susans and meadow rue are only a few of the beautiful sun-loving Summer wildlings.

After the asters have faded in Autumn, the wild-flower gardener will be glad if he has provided for this barren period by planting bunchberry, partridgeberry and wintergreen.

Bog Plants and Ferns.
Those who have facilities for raising bog or water-loving plants must not neglect the lovely wild iris, the Mertensia, which endures dry soil but which burgeons to glory in moisture; the forget-me-not, the wild calla, the pitcher plants, the orchids, jewelweed, beloved by all the tribe of humming birds; and in Autumn, the gentians and the glorious crimson cardinal flowers.

Indeed, there is so much to choose from when planting a wild-flower garden that its boundaries may threaten to widen until it engulfs the tulip bed and the dahlia border. But whether it occupy a meager corner or extend itself over a whole wooded hillside or through a rocky glen, almost every gardener today wants a wild-flower garden.—By Esther C. Grayson in the New York Times.

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Civic Body Endorses Convers'n of Warrants

Chamber of Commerce at Meeting Endorses Move to Reduce Interest Costs.

From Saturday's Daily
The Chamber of Commerce at their meeting this week adopted a resolution in which they endorsed the proposition for the conversion of \$45,000 of city warrants now outstanding into low interest rate bonds.

This matter is to be presented to the voters at the general city election on Tuesday, April 2nd and is one in which every citizen that votes should give study and thought. Those who do not vote on the proposition are in fact casting a vote against the measure as it must carry a certain percentage of all votes that are cast.

The city has, as many know, a large number of outstanding warrants from various improvement districts and which draw from seven to five percent interest which makes an added burden to the taxpayers of the community. It is possible under the conversion of the warrants into bonds to secure a rate of interest that will be at least as low as 4 1/2 per cent, saving the taxpayers this amount in interest from the present rate on every warrant.

The city council has acted on the matter of presenting this proposition to the voters of the city in the hope that they might by this means be able to reduce from \$700 to \$1,000 a year the interest rate that is paid by the city. The matter is now up to the voters to determine whether they wish to adopt this means of cutting the interest rates or not.

The proposition is one that has met with the general approval of the residents of the city as a money saving proposition but must be confirmed by a vote of the people and in which everyone should see that they vote to assist the city government in making this saving to the taxpayers in interest rates.

FOUND DEAD, GAS ON

Omaha.—Dennis J. Dan Hurley, 50, was found dead in his gas filled club room of the Allied Mill Employees early Friday. Six gas jets were open in the room when A. R. Stark, janitor, found the body. Hurley, father of seven children, worked at the mill until recently. He suffered a nervous breakdown last November, Mrs. Hurley said, and lately had been sleepless and depressed. A note, addressed to a salesman for the concern, read:

"Thanks for the drink. First one in ten years. Now 2:30 a. m. So here goes. No regret, not after what I have been thru. Well, so long."

The widow, three sons and four daughters survive.

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POLICY OF ISOLATION SEEN

London.—A startling hint Great Britain may adopt a policy of isolation was dropped by Sir John Simon, foreign secretary, when he said in a speech near Leeds "We cannot insist in every sort of foreign adventure over all the world or pledge our activity to everybody's quarrel."

Sir Austen Chamberlain, former foreign secretary, told a Birmingham audience the same spirit "which plunged Europe into war, caused not only her enemies but the world to affix to her the guilt of the great war" still throbs in Germany. Asserting the reich had "no justification for a unilateral breach of the Versailles treaty." Chamberlain said "Germany has gone thru two revolutions since the great war, but it seems to me the old spirit is little changed."

Altho Simon's statement was unexpected, it apparently was not a slip of the tongue. In preliminary remarks about his forthcoming interview with Adolf Hitler he said: "The task which rests upon us, perhaps especially upon me, is far too grave and serious for any man to use a single sentence without the fullest consideration."

He concluded his statement about Britain's determination not to pledge its activity to everybody's quarrel with "it would not be a contribution to peace if we did that. It would be contrary to the solid, good sense of the British people."

JAILED FOR PETTY THEFT

Los Angeles.—Two policemen arrested David Kanard, 69, and placed him in jail for taking two potatoes—worth about a cent each—from a box in front of a grocery store. He said he was hungry.

Arraigned in municipal court several hours later on petty theft charges, Kanard pleaded guilty and was remanded to jail. Judge Clement Nye deferred sentence until Friday. By that time, Kanard will have spent two days in jail. At the rate of credit given on fines—\$2 a day—he will have served out \$4, or 200 times the value of the potatoes, before he even appears for sentence.

"Ideal Girl of 1936" Crowned



Her "perfect figure" won Miss Marian Quigley, left, the title of "the ideal girl of 1936" at the annual convention of beauticians in New York. She was crowned by Miss Marion Pierce, center, who won the title of the "ideal girl of 1935", while Miss Ethel Hampton, right, who held the crown in 1934, looked on. Miss Quigley is five feet one inch in height and weighs 100 pounds.

Ask Exemption of Book Accounts from Taxation

Measure Proposed in Legislature to Relieve Merchants of Burden of Taxation on Accounts.

A proposal to exempt book accounts from taxation blocked a vote Friday in the Nebraska house of representatives on a bill to increase the intangible tax.

Representative Edward J. Dugan (D.) Omaha, sponsoring the exemption movement, said: "It's time we did something for the merchants of our state. They're broke. They can't even pay their rent. It's unfair to tax these book accounts because many of them are never collected."

Representative Eugene Perigo (R.) Scottsbluff, author of the bill, objected to delay, pointing out only a few days remain before the April 1 assessment date and the bill must be passed by both houses and signed by the governor before then in order to apply to the 1935 assessment.

Perigo proposes to boost the rate from 2.5 to 5 mills on cash and other Class A intangibles and from 8 to 10 mills on securities and other Class B intangibles. He favored a measure of relief to merchants by shifting book accounts from Class D to Class A. Action on the bill was delayed when Dugan confessed he was worried about a suggestion from Representative Marion J. Cushing (R.), Ord, that removal of book accounts from the intangible tax law would not exempt such assets, but would make them subject to taxation at the full rate applied to personal property, which might run up to 50 mills in some cities.

Dugan favored exempting all property now included under the intangible scale, but Perigo objected.

"The trend of wealth is toward stocks and bonds and other intangibles. Intangibles amount to about a billion dollars or about a third of the property in the state. We can't exempt all that."

Case county is one of the finest agricultural centers in the state. Improved farming conditions and better prices for farm products will react to the advantage of every town in this territory.

Wabash News

Frank Reese and wife received a letter from their daughter, Mrs. Ernest Westerland of Eagle saying they were down with the chickenpox, but were getting along very nicely.

Ivan McBride was taken with an attack of scarlet fever last Monday. He was a guest of his friend, Harold Richards, and when he woke up in the morning he was broken out and has returned home until he shall be entirely over the malady.

Warren Wickham and family, who were visiting in Wabash last Monday, departed for Everett, Kansas, at which place they will visit for some time until work starts here. During their stay there, he will overhaul his truck and also the car of his father, who resides there.

Leslie Bosworth was over near South Bend during the early portion of last week, where he was doing some painting at the place on which his sister, Mrs. Clarence Ohms and husband recently moved and where they will make their home for the summer. Grandmother Mrs. Ira Bosworth was also over visiting with the daughter.

Shower for Miss Gerbeling

A shower was given at the H. P. Hinds home on last Monday night in honor of Miss Alcie Gerbeling, who was to become the bride of M. M. McCoy, of Lincoln, the following evening. A very enjoyable time was had and a large number of the friends of the bride-to-be were present, bringing beautiful and useful gifts to grace her new home.

Returns from South

Mrs. Henrietta Lawton, who has been spending the winter at Okla-homa City with a daughter, enjoying the mild climate there as compared with the cold weather that prevailed here, arrived home last Monday. She was accompanied from Lincoln by her grandson, Henry Rymers, who is attending school there and who came down to assist in getting the house streightened out after being closed all winter.

Married Last Tuesday

At the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry H. Gerbeling, their daughter, Miss Alcie Gerbeling, was united in marriage to M. M. McCoy.

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Coy, of Lincoln, there being a large number of friends of the bride and many of the groom present. The bride has been making her home in Lincoln, where she was employed in one of the large department stores of that place. The groom is an employee of the Gooch Milling company, as a miller. The newly wedded couple will make their home in Lincoln.

The wedding lines were read by Rev. W. A. Taylor, former pastor of the Baptist church of Wabash, who came to perform the ceremony of his friend, being accompanied by Mrs. Taylor. They drove over from their home at Union.

The Journal joins in congratulations and best wishes to the young couple in their new home in the capital city.

HITS MADAME SECRETARY

Berkeley, Calif.—Because Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins whom she described as a "mere politician" will be charter day speaker at the University of California Saturday, Miss Martha Ijams, prominent alumna of the university, has refused to serve as a hostess at the alumni dinner Saturday night.

Miss Ijams in a letter to Robert Sibley, executive secretary of the Alumni association said: "I believe the university should stand for recognition of achievement in the educational and scientific world. I do not believe that the world is so barren of persons warranting recognition that it should be necessary for the university to delve into politics to find someone worthy to receive the honor of being chosen charter day speaker."

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