

THE NATIONAL HORTICULTURAL MAGAZINE

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Number 2.

THE STATUS OF AMERICAN PLANTS IN HORTICULTURE

By C. Z. Nelson, Galesburg, Ill.

Charter Fellow National Horticultural Society

The great majority of the American people are probably not aware that our Northeastern states have supplied as large an array of trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants as any other equal area in the world. Our *Indian Corn*, and the two varieties, *Sweet Corn* and *Pop Corn*, are close rivals in commerce of the Asiatic wheat. Our *Fox Grape*, of which the *Concord* is the most popular form, is among the most important of the economic vines. Among ornamental vines, the *Virginia Creeper* and the *Trumpet Vine* are second to none, and like other American plants, are more popular in the Old World than in their native land. The Japanese and Siberian types of shrubbery in general outrank our own, but that is not saying that we do not have any shrubs which are popular under cultivation. And when we consider the variety of our flora, we have more than twice as many species as the rest of the world put together.

We find only a few types of foreign trees cultivated in our Northern states and these are cultivated more for novelty than for their actual worth. On the other hand, the most popular as well as the most serviceable trees for our use are the American types. In fact there is nothing in Old World trees which does not find its equal in our native trees as majestic avenue, ornamental specimen and flowering trees. Among the conifers, the *Red* and the *White Cedars* are by far the best of their class. Among flowering trees none of the hardy trees can compare with the *Flowering Dogwood* and *Flase Acacia*. Our *Hawthorns*, *Wild Crabapples*, and *Wild Cherries* are all superior to Old World types.

With regard to herbaceous plants, in which the reader will be more interested on account of the general interest in floriculture, it may be stated that our native types are among the very best in cultivation. Unfortunately our Northeast is poorly represented in bulbous forms, but the Northwest more than makes up for the deficiency, and with the exception of *tulips*, *narcissi*, *hyacinths*, and *corcuses*, supplies some of the most popular bulbous plants in cultivation.

If we seek for perpetual flowering plants, the Old World offers *Veronica spicata* to compete with our *Gaillardia aristata*, and for general purposes *Gaillardia aristata* is superior on account of being both the more conspicuous as a garden type and better for cutting. Our two species of *Hibiscus*, *moschentus* and *militaris*, are offered by all first class dealers both in America and in Europe. *Boltonia asteroides* and *B. latisquama*; *Spiraea (ulmaria) lobata*; *Eupatorium ageretooides*, *E. coelestium*; *Echinacea purpurea*; and several species of *Pentstemon* supersede foreign plants in popularity. With regard to what is known to botanists as the monstrous forms, the double-flowered forms of *Rudbeckia laciniata* (*Golden Glow*) and the *Flora Plena Sunflower*, *Helianthus decapetalous*, are to be found in nearly every garden in the north temperate zone. While *Phlox paniculata* is more popular in cultivation than our native species on account of its larger stature and its extensive range of coloring, it must be admitted that plants like *Phlox pilosa*, *P. glaberisma*, and *P. amoena* make a glorious display.

Neither should we omit the fact that many of our native plants, which are so common that we regard them as weeds and which find no place in our gardens, are very popular in Europe. We observe that even in their wild state many of them present picturesque specimens. *Veronica noveboracensis*, *Desmodium Dillenii*, *Eupatorium purpurcum*, *Veronica Virginica*, *Verbascum thapsus*, *Aster Tradescantii*, *Aster novae-angliae*, and several species of *Golden Rod* and *Rudbeckia subtomentosa* often develop clumps which are surely noble specimens, and they thrive in almost any soil. No more unique plant exists than the *Mullein* with its woolly leaves persisting through the winter and standing out as the only herbaceous vegetation showing life. Another native worthy of mention is our great *Blue Lobelia*, *L. syphiletica*. In its native land it is seldom cultivated while in both Europe and Japan it is esteemed as a very choice plant and is more popular than its rarer sister, *Lobelia cardinalis*, the *Cardinal Flower*.

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WILD FLOWERS OF NORTHEASTERN MONTANA

By Mrs. Albert Obergfell, Sidney, Montana

Charter Fellow National Horticultural Society

I have been asked to write of the flora of Northeastern Montana. I did not think it differed from that of Northwestern North Dakota, yet I note we have many plants that Mr. A. L. Truax did not mention in his article in the August number.

(Continued on page 7)

NATIONAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

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 MAGAZINE

The National Horticultural Magazine is published and owned exclusively by The National Horticultural Society. It serves as the official organ of the Society and is devoted exclusively to the increase and diffusion of horticultural knowledge. The magazine will serve the Fellows of the Society first, last and always. At present the space available is quite limited but as the Society grows in stature the number of pages per issue will be gradually increased. All of the Fellows of the Society are requested to help the growth of the Society and their magazine by nominating at least one new Fellow during the year. The Fellows of the Society should feel that this is their Society, that the magazine is their medium of expression, and that they are to take an active part in the Society's activities. It is only through the help and the encouragement of the Fellows that the Society will take its place in the world side by side with the National Horticultural Society of France and the Royal Horticultural Society of England. All who will co-operate toward this goal will be proud and happy then that they were a real help in bringing about this laudable result.

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National Horticultural Library, Herbarium and Museum

One of the objects of The National Horticultural Society is the founding of The National Horticultural Library, Herbarium and Museum. In establishing such an institution, it is the aim of the Society to gather together under one roof a complete library of American horticultural literature, a complete herbarium of the North American flora, and to provide a museum for the preservation of specimen material covering every phase of horticulture as well as a museum for the safe keeping of the personal relics of American horticulturists. A beginning has been made by accepting gifts of books, pamphlets, trade catalogs,

herbarium specimens, photographs, etc. For the present the material will be cataloged and preserved in a fireproof building at the temporary headquarters of the Society at Henning, Minnesota, and as soon as permanent headquarters are established this material will be properly displayed.

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WASHINGTON WILD FLOWERS

By Irma Henderson, Seabold, Wash.,
Charter Fellow National Horticultural Society

Washington has as many wild flowers as any state but the only region with which I am familiar is a little island five miles by twelve in size, which has many flowering shrubs and trees but few herbaceous plants.

The first to appear in early spring are "Skunk Cabbages," which look very much like large, clear yellow Calla Lilies. They are beautiful, but very ill-smelling. Then comes the "Indian Plum" with loose panicles of scented, white flowers before the leaves have fairly started.

Next comes the beautiful "Rocky Mountain Currant," ranging in color from pale pink to deepest red in drooping racemes. Few shrubs present a more beautiful appearance, and with it invariably arrives the first Hummingbird, a ruby-throated variety, that later gives place to a green-bronze variety that stays until cold weather sets in.

After the Currants come the *Trilliums*, white, that change with age to a dark red, and then we have the "Dogwood Trees" with their lovely four-petaled white flowers to be followed by bright red fruits. About this time also come the blue "Evergreen Huckleberries" and the red deciduous ones put forth their tiny pink bloom. The "Oregon Grape" has long spikes of yellow flowers which the children like to eat. The "Solal Berry," *Gaulthera ovatifolia*, also an evergreen, grows on the top of decaying fir stumps and in the underbrush and has pretty pink flowers. In damp places we find clumps of both true and false "Solomon's Seal."

The "Twin Berry," belonging, I believe, to the "Honeysuckle" family, has brownish yellow flowers in pairs followed by shiny, juicy black berries. The "Twin Flower" is a tiny, fragrant, pink, bell-shaped flower produced on a creeping evergreen vine. The children call them "Jingle Bells." The native "Honeysuckle with orange flowers followed by orange-red berries, is entwined in the Alder trees. It has no fragrance. Another variety has fuzzy leaves with tiny purplish-pink flowers followed by scarlet berries.

In June the *Syringa* blooms and its glistening white, four-petaled flowers and strong fragrance are everywhere in evidence near the waterfront.

By the Fourth of July the *Spiraea* with its clouds of cream-white flowers is in bloom. It is sometimes appropriately called "Ocean Spray" and also "Indian Arrowwood." Later the pink *Spiraea* blooms in marshes and along damp roadways.

Less than five miles away on the mainland are acres of *Rhododendrons* but I know of only one native bush on the Island. Their pink bloom is so lovely in May that the steamers are crowded with people going out to see the sight and they come home loaded with all the flowers they can carry.

Although having rather inconspicuous flowers both the "Wild Cherry" and the "Cascara" trees make pretty specimens for the yard, the former having a very pretty mottled-brown bark.

Last but not least is the "Madrone Tree," which is found, I believe, nowhere else except on the Pacific Coast. It is a broad-leaved evergreen and in winter the thin bark is red, but in summer it sheds its last season's leaves and its bark and for a time the trunk is bright green. It is the favorite of the jackknife autographer for it carves with delightful ease. In spring the tree has clusters of sweet flowers very much resembling lilies-of-the-valley in shape, and these are followed in the fall by big bunches of bright red berries.

NORTH DAKOTA WILD FLOWERS

By Fannie Mahood Heath,
Vice President, National Horticultural Society

Judging from the numerous letters that I have received from various parts of the United States for information regarding some of the wild flowers mentioned in my article on "North Dakota Wild Flowers in Cultivation" I am convinced that many others are equally fond of wildlings. I am also convinced that I did not make myself clear on all points so I will try again for I want my writings to be as helpful to all who are interested in the cultivation of our wild flowers as it is possible for me to make them. Mr. Truax has stated that *Anemone patens* will not grow in gardens anywhere and I have read similar statements elsewhere so I am going to give my method of growing them. My present colony of them has been in the present location for three summers now and the plants are at this writing in apparently first class condition.

At the rear of our house is a semi-circular lilac hedge running east and west about one hundred feet in length. On the inner south side of this hedge I dug a bed about five feet in width with a good slope to the south. Then I thoroughly worked into the soil, which was heavy yellow clay, a quantity of decayed sods and sand sufficient to make it rather light, but not too porous. Along the edge of this bed I planted *Anemone patens* together with other early blooming dwarf wildlings and with plants of the beautiful, silvery *Artemisia canadensis* interspersed. Taller growing, rather weak-stemmed plants were planted at the back. By the time summer's intense heat has reached its height these taller plants have grown up and fallen over the plants at the edge of the bed, thus affording them the required protection mentioned by Mr. Truax. I had *Anemone patens* in a similar bed at the rear of the garden at one time and they grew very nicely for a few years then the tall shrubs grew so high they shaded the bed practically all of the time so that the *Anemones* and everything else died out in the next few years. I am very eager to see if my *Anemone patens* colony will thrive and increase in the present location. Later in the season after the taller plants at the back of the bed have finished blooming, their dead stalks are cut away and the dwarf plants allowed to breathe the

crisp air again. It is then that *Artemisia canadensis* comes into its own, covering all adjacent space with its prostrate stems reminding one of soft, silvery gray fur. Few plants can rival it in its delicate beauty. A most striking illustration of the beauty of this plant when grown en masse is furnished by a dense colony of *Artemisia* growing in an old sand pit several acres in extent, which is located several miles from my home. From this pit hundreds of loads of sand have been taken in varying depths of from two to ten feet. This entire pit is covered with *Artemisia* like a beautiful carpet of softest silvery fur. It is among the most beautiful sights I have ever seen.

Among the most satisfactory flowers growing at the back of my wild flower bed was *Linum Lewisii* or "Perennial Flax." This variety has very pretty foliage and pale blue flowers. It blooms for a very long time, and will stand a lot of neglect and still keep "cheerful." Here too the splendid little *Aster oblongifolia*, which is somewhat scraggy looking in its native habitat (dry banks and hillsides), increased quite rapidly and became a veritable mat of the brightest, daintiest inch-wide, violet, rosy purple and lavender yellow-centered blossoms all through the intensely hot "dog days" when most flowers wore a rather dejected look. Even our wild lilies called *Lilium philadelphicum* by some botanists and *L. umbellatum* by others blossomed splendidly there, although they are plants hard to domesticate. These lilies should not be disturbed more than is absolutely necessary to keep down the weeds as they resent cultivation. They are one of our most showy wild flowers and are always in bloom for the Fourth of July. Their bright red upturned blossoms are very conspicuous among the waving grass.

The dainty little "Harebells," *Campanula rotundifolia*, or "Blue Bells of Scotland" did exceedingly well there also. This little wildling should be in every collection as it will adapt itself to various situations and soils. It is splendid when grown with *Galium boreale* or "Bed Straw." The small white flowers in dense terminal clusters make this plant very useful in giving that finished look to a bouquet of cut flowers.

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Errata

In my article in the August number where it states that *Achillea multiflora*

may be used as a substitute for ferns it should read *Achillea millefolium* or *A. lanulosa* because these have finely cut or dissected leaves while the foliage of *A. multiflora* is never dissected.

Again, "Ox-Eye Daisy" is given as the common name of *Rudbeckia hirta*. It is true that this name is often applied to the *Rudbeckia hirta*, yet is more generally applied to *Chrysanthemum leucanthemum*, especially in the East, while the name, "Black" or "Brown-Eyed Susan," is more generally applied to *Rudbeckia hirta*.

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WILD FLOWERS OF NORTHEASTERN MONTANA

(Continued from first page)

Phlox hoodii is one of the earliest to make its appearance. It is a pretty, low growing plant with white flowers, fine for border or rock garden but difficult to transplant.

Fritillaria atropurpurea, a dainty three-petaled purple and mottled nodding flower grows from a bulb in sand, is a very desirable plant and easily grown in cultivation. Another bulbous plant that is worth while and I find easy to grow is *Calochortus* or "Mariposa Lily." It is found growing on southern slopes of the hills in rocky soil.

Tradescantia virginica or "Spiderwort" has pretty blue, three-petaled flowers from June until frost. It grows on the open prairie and is very easy to grow.

Dodocatheon or "Shooting Star," likes a moist place. I have them growing at the edge of a bog garden. There are white and three shades of red.

Yucca glauca or "Spanish Bayonet" has stiff, sharp, evergreen foliage with many white to cream colored flowers on strong erect stems. It is found growing on hillsides in full sun. I find the best ones growing in soft sand.

And so the list goes on with *Antennaria dioeca*, *Anemone patens*, *Aragallus lamberti*, *Artemisa*, *Aquilegia*, *Allium*, *Cogswellia*, *Cerastium arvensae*, *Campanula*, *Delphinium*, *Erysimum asperum* or "Western Wallflower," *Heuchera*, *Lupine*, *Lepachys*, *Liatris*, *Lesquerella*, *Mentzelia*, *Mertensia*, *Pentstemon*, *Petalostemon*, *Potentilla*, *Thermopsis*, *Townsendia* and many more that I will not take the space to mention at this time.

GARDEN GOSSIP

*Introduction by Fannie Mahood Heath,
Grand Forks, N. D.*

Dear Fellows:

Our Editor has kindly dedicated this department for our use. We can come to it for help in our perplexities and also to get acquainted, for in this department the writer's name and address will be published unless the writer requests otherwise. I wish every reader could realize the amount of pleasure and useful information that may be derived from floral correspondence. It would require a good sized book for me to tell you of the many pleasant things that have come to me from all parts of the United States through people writing to me after having read some of my little articles in Park's Floral Magazine. Many lasting friendships have sprung up and almost every mail brings some kindly remembrance from distant friends. If you are lonely or oppressed by business or financial worries, or if you have garden problems won't you try our "Get Acquainted Corner." We want every Fellow to feel this is his or her department and we also want the Fellows to suggest an appropriate name for it. The more questions you ask the greater will be the help this department can render its readers. Write your particular hopes, desires, successes and failures. You will then realize what a kind-hearted, whole-souled, generous family The National Horticultural Society is.

Fannie Mahood Heath.

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Mrs. Wilder's New Book

We have it on good authority that Mrs. Louise Beebe Wilder's new book will be published during 1923. The many garden enthusiasts who have enjoyed Mrs. Wilder's most valuable book, "Color in My Garden," will await the event with great interest.

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"Flower Journal"

Number 2, Volume I, of a delightful 12-page periodical entitled, "Flower Journal," edited and published by Eva Kenworthy Gray, Thirty-second and Woolman Avenue, San Diego, Calif., has been received. All interested in garden-lore will find it of great value.

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Red Clover as National Flower

Mr. Eric B. Magnusson, in a recent letter, puts in a good word for the lowly but esthetically important "Red Clover" as the national flower of the United States.

Trailing Arbutus

Question: If any of the Fellows have been successful in raising the Trailing Arbutus in cultivation, will they please tell us how they did it?—Mrs. F. M. Heath, Grand Forks, N. D.

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Montana Plants

Mrs. Albert Obergfell, E2 Ranch, Sidney, Mont., a Charter Fellow of the Society, writes that the native plants, which she mentions in the article on another page, are abundant near her home with few exceptions, and that she can get them for any Fellow of the Society who wishes to exchange plants.

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Acknowledgment

The receipt of the following books, periodicals, photographs, herbarium specimens, etc., for the National Horticultural Library, Herbarium and Museum is hereby acknowledged:

Mrs. Fannie Mahood Heath has donated one copy of "Flower Guide," by Chester A. Reed; a photograph of the members of the "Tri-State Floral Club"; a photograph of the Heath Farmstead, and miscellaneous numbers of Park's Floral Magazine.

Mr. Hamilton Traub has donated the following books: "Home Grounds: Their Planning and Planting," by Liberty Hyde Bailey; "Soils and Fertilizers," by Chas. L. Quear; "Sixty-two Experiments in Crops," by Chas. L. Quear; "Thirty-nine Experiments in Soils," by Chas. L. Quear. Mr. Traub has also donated his large collection of American and European horticultural trade literature, and American horticultural periodicals.

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Directory of the Charter Fellows

It is planned to publish in the January issue of The National Horticultural Magazine a complete directory of the *Charter Fellows of The National Horticultural Society of America*, a directory of the *Regional Vice Presidents* of the Society, and the portraits of the *first Board of Trustees*.

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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 described in this department.

FRANKLIN NURSERY, 200 West Fifty-eighth Street, Minneapolis, Minn. "Peony Price List; Fall 1922, Spring 1923." Ten pages.

T. C. THURLOW'S SONS, INC., West Newbury, Mass. 1922 issue, "Peonies, Hardy Garden Perennials, Ornamental Evergreens, Shade Trees and Shrubs." Sixty-two pages and cover.

THE GLEN ROAD IRIS GARDENS, Grace Sturtevant, Wellesley Farms, Mass. 1922 catalog of extra choice Irises including Miss Sturtevant's originations. Twenty pages and cover.

MRS. WILLIAM CRAWFORD, 1602 Indiana Avenue, La Porte, Ind. "Peony price List; Fall 1922, Spring 1923." Four pages.

C. F. WASSENBERG, Van Wert, Ohio. "Peonies and Iris." Twenty pages.

THE WEED LANDSCAPE NURSERY, Beaverton, Ore. "Peonies; price list for 1922."

GEO. N. SMITH, Wellesley Hills, Mass. "Iris, Peonies, Phlox, fall 1922; spring 1923." Twenty-four pages and cover.

SUNNYBROOK FARM IRIS GARDEN, Mrs. Frances E. Cleveland, Eatontown, N. J. Catalog of extra choice Irises including the Sunnybrook seedlings. Eight pages and cover.

MOVILLA GARDENS, Haverford, Pa. Price list of Peonies, Irises, and Hardy Perennials.

HENRY S. COOPER, Kenosha, Wis. "Unvarnished Facts Edition, Tips and Pointers for Beginners with Peonies." Contains Peony-lore, cultural directions, descriptions and prices. Sixty pages and cover. Price, 25 cents.

PETERSON NURSERY, 30 North LaSalle Street, Chicago, Ill. "Peonies and Iris." Contains Peterson's master lists of Peonies and Irises; cultural directions and prices.

LEE R. BONNEWITZ, Van Wert, Ohio. (1) "Preliminary Peony Price List"; (2) "Garden List of Lee R. Bonnewitz, with road map showing how to reach Van Wert." Contains complete list of Irises and Peonies in the Bonnewitz collection; (3) "Revised Peony Price List." Issued July, 1922.

BERTRAND H. FARR, Wyomissing, Pa. "Quality Bulbs." Fall bulbs, descriptions and prices. Sixteen pages and cover.

D. W. C. RUFF, Globe Bldg., St. Paul, Minn. "The World's Choicest Peonies." Price list.

FOREST HEIGHTS GARDENS, 1815 Twenty-sixth Avenue North, Minneapolis, Minn. "Gladioli, Peonies, Irises." Sixteen pages. Descriptions and prices.

CLARENCE W. HUBBARD, 6144 Lake-wood Avenue, Chicago, Ill. "Peonies and Irises, Being a List of the Better Varieties, Season 1922-1923." Price list.

BLUE RIDGE PEONY GARDENS, Stanley C. Rosenfeld, Thirty-fifth and Blue Ridge Boulevard, Kansas City, Mo. "Herbaceous Peonies." Price list.

BUECHLY'S NURSERIES, E. M. Buechly, Greenville, Ohio. "Peonies, Irises, Gladioli. An Illustrated and Descriptive List with Prices of Choice and Rare Varieties." Season 1922-1923. Sixteen pages and cover.

STRAND'S NURSERY, Taylors Falls, Minn. "Fruit and Ornamental Trees, Small Fruits, Shrubs, Vines and Roses." Thirty-two pages and cover.