

BOTANICAL NOTES.

With the breaking up of the winter many eyes are turned to the coming of the birds, the opening of the buds and the advance of spring generally, but too few record their observations. On account of this lack of making a record scarcely any two observers agree as to the lateness or earliness of any particular spring, and the writer asks that any botanical notes considered worthy of insertion should be sent to one of the editors of the NATURALIST, who will see that they are published, if deemed worthy of publication.

Two causes have power to produce an early spring with us. The chief one is a light snow fall, which requires only a few comparatively warm days to take it all off the ground. The second is the absence of severe cold at night which checks the expansion of the buds and retards the melting of the snow and the heating of the soil. Both these causes have worked together the past month and the result is an early spring without any warm days.

In noting the first appearance of flowers in the early days of spring we have always selected the same tree and for Hepaticas the same bank, so that although others may have noted things earlier our observations refer to absolute heat. Up to the present time of writing the following flowers have been seen :—

Hepatica triloba (May flower), April 7, 1897; April 14, 1896; Acer dasycarpum (Silver maple), April 8, 1897; April 16, 1896; Alnus incana (Common alder), April 11, 1897; April 18, 1896; Acer rubrum (Red Maple), April 23, delayed by cool weather; Ulmus americana (American elm), April 23, delayed by cool weather; Salix candida (Hoary willow), April 26; Populus tremuloides (American aspen), April 26; Populus grandidentata (Large-toothed aspen), April 26; Negundo aceroides (Box elder), April 27.

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