

Garden and Flowers

The Canadian Wild Flowers.

Everybody likes flowers. Perhaps we do not like the wild flowers of Canada as much as we should. We are too apt to look upon the greenhouse flower as the real flower and the modest wild flower as only a weed. But nothing can surpass in beauty and of form and color many of the wild flowers of Canada. To see them in their beauty you must seek them in their native surroundings. A ramble through the woods and meadows, at the proper season, with our eyes open to see the beauty of the flowers, will fill us with delight. Here are the names and descriptions of a few Canadian wild flowers:—

1. The Scented Water Lily is not a lily, but its grace and lovely purity of color could not be well described by any other name. It floats among a multitude of dark green leaves, that rest on the surface of the water. The bloom is a nice combination of ivory-white, green and gold. In the evening the flower closes and shuts in its beauty until the sun again beams upon it. You can find it in the ponds during the summer.

2. The Yellow Pond Lily is not so large as the scented water lily. It

bears a large cream-white flower, pure and dainty rather than showy. It thrives in moderate shade and light sandy soil. It blooms in the month of May.

3. The Harbell grows everywhere in the north temperate zone. Perhaps it is more widely known under the name Blue Bell. As this name implies, the flowers are bell-shaped and of the clearest blue. The interior part of the flower projects like the clapper of a bell. Those who have never seen the harbell would do well to search for it in June and July on shady banks by the streams or ponds.

We could mention here many flowers, but it would take too much space to describe them all. But every Canadian boy or girl should pick the Canadian flowers in the summer and bring them home. In Manitoba there are not so many wild flowers as further west. In the west there are some flowers growing in the fields that only grow here in the house.

The Blue Gnu.

The Scientific American says that an exceedingly interesting animal now on exhibition at the Zoological Park, New York, is the new blue gnu. It would be hard to imagine a more fantastic-looking animal. It suggests to one coming unexpectedly upon it, and seeing it for the first time, a sort of impossible dream creature, a cross perhaps between a buffalo and a nightmare. To the buffalo belong the neck and the horns, but the tail and the hind-



The Blue Gnu.

floats among its rounded leaves on the surface of the water—a ball of gold in a cup of green. The roots of this plant are used for medicine.

3. The Fringed Gentian is a welcome flower, for it blooms when nearly all the other flowers have passed. Late in the summer it may be found in the marshes in great abundance. Its beautiful blue fringed petals whisper a message of hope and cheerfulness when dark days are approaching.

4. The Ox-Eye Daisy is a hardy plant that grows in the poorest soil. The bloom is very large—a golden centre, surrounded by a circle of dazzling white, but is lacking in grace and delicacy. The plant is detested by the farmers.

5. The Wild Orange Lily may be found during June and July among the tall grass of the meadows. Dressed in its gorgeous colors of orange-red, flecked with golden brown, this beautiful flower seems to nod graciously to all her friends.

6. The Cone Flower is a very common plant in most parts of Canada. During July, August and September it may be found upon all wild plains. The bloom stands upright upon its stiff stem and seems to drink in the sunbeams. The petals are the richest golden yellow and surround a centre of brown shading almost into black.

6. The Anemone grows in a cold climate and is found far to the north. It

quarters are those of a horse. The legs are a deer's legs, but the head resembles that of no other living animal. The specimen at the park came from South Africa where the species ranges from Orange River north to Victoria Nyanza. There seems to be no doubt that the wild grotesqueness of the appearance of the gnu is a provision of nature to protect the animal. When frightened or disturbed, these remarkable antelopes go through a series of strange evolutions and extraordinary postures, in order to enhance as much as possible the oddity and hideousness of their appearance, and to frighten away intruders.

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WINNIPEG, MAN., 6TH JANUARY, 1905.

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About Fertilizing.

May R. Christensen, in Park's Floral Magazine, says:—

Do not follow too blindly the council of some weekly newspaper and cheap story paper floricultural column. A great many of these same columns are written by inexperienced persons merely to fill up space at a stated sum per inch. For instance, on the subject of fertilizing, we are told that barnyard manure or chicken droppings are excellent to enrich soil in our flower beds and around our house plants, with never a warning word as to the condition it should be in when used. Chicken droppings should never be fresh when put around any plant unless it be one's purpose to cremate it. I always save the droppings and mix them evenly with soil and some soot from the chimney cleaning, and in from three to six months I have a fine potting soil. Fresh barnyard manure is much too strong also, and I have known several people to give their lawns a dressing of barnyard manure and then wonder whence came so many strange weeds. I have adopted a plan this year, which I believe will work well. I am having all the manure thrown into the chicken yard, and after the biddies have worked

it over I'll warrant there will be no seeds left. Then, by fall I will have a good dressing for our small lawn. And another thing we must remember along with this subject is to never give a plant a stimulant unless it is in a good growing condition. We all know how we loathe food when we are sick, and when a plant is not growing it is either sick or resting and in either condition should be left alone.

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