

In this paper the authors will endeavour to give a brief account of the general characteristics of violet hybrids and also a list of the hybrids recorded from the North American continent.

To the amateur botanist who has neither time nor inclination to study with earnest perseverance the multitude of violets occurring in our woods and meadows, the existence of intermediate forms between different species is at first apt to provoke confusion and discouragement. A closer study of those intermediate forms which at first may seem to blur the systematic boundaries between well defined extremes belonging evidently to different specific units will, however, instead of causing confusion, help most comprehensively to avoid it. In other words, the recognition of certain intermediate forms as casual hybrids will prove one of the most helpful means to the botanist endeavouring to arrive at a well founded understanding of the systematic value and relationship of our violets.

The hybrid nature of puzzling forms, apparently intermediate between two species, can be most easily determined.

The general appearance of hybrid plants, their vigorous vegetative development, their bright and abundant flowers and, generally speaking, their air of strength and splendour is often very characteristic. When odd plants displaying these marks are found in violet colonies composed of two or more species, they very often prove to be typical hybrids between well defined species.

The vegetative superiority of hybrids in plants is, however, a too well known feature to warrant a lengthy discussion. It is sufficient to say for the sake of illustration, that for instance hybrids in the genus *Epilobium* and in grasses are always characterized by their conspicuously vigorous vegetative organs. Not only do they display a most luxuriant growth as far as foliage and profusion of shoots are concerned, but their ability to survive and hold the ground is far more pronounced than that of any of their parents. Several observations have thus been recorded to the effect, that hybrids between species of *Epilobium*, originating in a ditch or any other area of limited extension, are able on account of the superior strength of their vegetative organs, after a few years, to take possession of every inch of the ground, killing every plant of the species from which they originated. Similar observations have been made on violet hybrids. In botanic gardens, where several species of violets are grown in close proximity, it has been recorded that species, after a few years, often have been killed and replaced by more vigorous hybrid plants.