



Wild Flowers in a City Garden

A lover of wild flowers who has had success in their cultivation in her garden is Mrs. Gowan, of Peterborough. The illustration shows a corner of her garden in which may be seen ferns, trillium, jack-in-the-pulpit, anemone, violets, golden-rod, orchids and Dutchman's breeches. The little blossoms in the foreground are a species of the wood geranium, Herb Robert.

quarters than when in the nursery. The surface soil mark can usually be seen on the stem of the plant. Stake all tall plants at once if tops are very heavy, rather than allow the wind to constantly blow them around in all directions. In tying plants or trees, tie them so that the tree cannot be chafed or rubbed.

Take off all wire fastened labels from the stems of plants or trees when planting, or they will, if neglected, cut the stem almost asunder in time.

In planting trees, use finely pulverized soil in and around close to the roots. Sand half an inch in depth sprinkled over the roots is a good material to induce a quick, strong root development. Never put manure of any kind in direct contact with the roots when planting. Pack the soil fairly firm around the roots so as to leave no air spaces. All of the roots should be in close contact with fine soil or sand. Puddling the roots before planting in a thick mixture of clay soil and water is useful, especially when the soil they are to be planted in is very dry.

Prune off sufficient of the growth of deciduous trees, shrubs, or rose bushes so as to give a proper balance of top and roots. A too large proportion of top to the root means slow development at the best. It is better to have the roots to overbalance the top in quantity, than the reverse. Rose bushes especially should have the tops pruned down to as small a proportion as possible, as they often have but a very small quantity of fine fibry roots. Cut off or shorten the large thick roots especially

where broken or damaged. The fibry roots are the roots that start dormant plants quickly into growth again. Plants or shrubs taken from fairly heavy soils usually have a better root system, and transplant more successfully than do plants taken from light, sandy soils. Plants or trees set out in very early spring, seldom require any water when planted.

Wild Flowers in The City

E. Aylesworth, Crichton Gowan, Peterborough, Ont.

Being impressed by the beauty and variety of wild flowers which grow in profusion within our city limits, I felt curious to know the extent of their beauty before man began to interfere with the soil. I accordingly searched for a record of them in pioneer literature, and found the following by Col. S. Strickland: "Several hundred acres of open plain were dotted here and there with clumps of oak and pine. In the spring these openings were gay with wild flowers. Amongst the first to show their varied beauties might be seen the red, white and blue hepaticas or liverwort, the white and yellow violet, and many others indigenous to the country. Later in the season the cardinal plant, lobelia (this plant grows wild in the woods, especially in damp places. It is used extensively among the settlers as an emetic), lupin, and tiger-lily, and a profusion of flowery gems, lent their aid to adorn the charming scenery of this sylvan spot."

The place here described by Mr. Strickland is the site upon which the

city of Peterborough stands. Peterborough is, therefore, by nature, entitled to its appellation, "The City Beautiful." I have seen old walls and banks near the river covered with wild flowers and vines of brilliant hue, more beautiful than anything under cultivation. Our city furnishes evidence of how persistently wild flowers cling to their native soil even when disturbed by cultivation.

The flowers which appear in the accompanying illustration were gathered within the city limits in July, about thirty different kinds being represented. The original, in addition to being a beautiful artistic photograph, is interesting to examine through a magnifying glass, the flowers being easily recognized in this way.

Little attention seems to be paid to the preservation of wild plants and flowers, yet an acquaintance with them is necessary in the study of botany, art and scientific floriculture. Therefore, should not our school teachers, school boards, and horticultural societies be interested in the preservation, where possible, of trees, plants and flowers?

As to the responsibility of parents in the matter, the admonition of Mrs. Traill is worth repeating here: "Mothers of Canada, teach your children to know and love the wild flowers springing in their path, to love the soil in which God's hand has planted them, and in all their after wanderings through the world their hearts will turn back with loving reverence to the land of their birth: to that dear country, endeared to them by the remembrance of the wild flowers which they plucked in the happy days of childhood."

A collection of wild flowers and ferns pressed by the late Mrs. Traill is one of the cherished possessions of our city museum.

Climbing Roses

Wm. Hunt, O.A.C., Guelph, Ont.

The best way to keep climbing roses from being killed back by frost in winter is to take them from the trellis and lay them down as near the ground as possible about the end of October. About the end of November, or early December, three or four inches of strawy manure or some pine or cedar boughs should be placed over them. Tying them down in the way mentioned keeps them below the snow line, as a rule, during the winter. The covering protects them after the snow has melted late in winter or early spring. Take the covering off when the weather is dull, warm, and mild about the beginning of April.

Acid phosphates should not be sown with the seed or too near the roots of growing plants, as injury may result.