

The earliest white flower of note is the White Alyssum (*Arabis alpina*), which blooms in the first week of May. Were this to bloom later, it would be overlooked by lovelier flowers, but in the early spring its pure white blossoms are very attractive.

The most charming and graceful, perhaps, of all the early spring flowers, are the Barrenworts or Epimediums. Of these, the best are *Epimedium rubrum*, *E. pinnatum* (*sulfureum*) and *E. macranthum*. The brilliant coloring of *E. rubrum* and the bright yellow of *E. pinnatum* make a fine contrast. The leaves of these pretty plants are also very ornamental.

Most of our best composite flowers bloom in the summer and autumn, but the Leopard's bane is an exception. During the second week of May the Caucasian Leopard's bane (*Doronicum caucasicum*) begins to bloom. Its yellow flowers are very attractive at that early season of the year. Following this is *Doronicum plantagineum excelsum*, which is taller than the last and has still larger flowers and is the better of the two.

The Iceland Poppy (*Papaver nudicaule*) is now becoming more generally grown. Its yellow, white, or orange flowers are very pretty. Other chief points of merit are earliness and continuity of bloom, as the flowers appear early in the spring, continue through early summer, and, after a short rest, open again in the autumn. The Oriental Poppy, which is not in bloom until about three weeks later, is, I presume, well known to you all. Its immense scarlet flowers of great brilliancy make it a very effective plant.

Among the most showy of the spring flowers and the most attractive of those that bloom in the summer and early autumn are the Phloxes. The Moss pink (*Phlox Subulata* Syn. *P. setacea*) is one of the old-fashioned perennials which is still used for bedding or borders. Its deep pink flowers are very effective during the month of May. Other good early flowering sorts are: *Phlox amoena* and *Phlox reptans*. *Phlox ovata*, which begins to bloom in the first week of June, is very desirable. The flowers are of a lovely shade of pink and keep open for a long period. Those perhaps which are most grown are the varieties of *Phlox decussata*, usually known as the Hybrid Perennial Phlox. There are now so many named varieties of this Phlox that it is not difficult to find some which are satisfactory.

The old-fashioned but still popular flower, the Bleeding Heart (*Dicentra spectabilis*), is very showy during the latter half of May. It begins to bloom about the middle of the month and remains in flower for more than four weeks.

All the Columbines are lovely flowers, but there are a select few which are deserving of special note. The first to bloom of these is the Russian Columbine (*Aquilegia oxysepala*), distributed some years ago by the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association under the name of *Aquilegia Buergeriana*, which it was supposed to be at that time. The flowers are large, deep purplish blue with yellow and blue centres. Following this are *A. glandulosa*, deep blue with white centre; *A. Stuarti*, deep blue with white centre, which is often a biennial, and *A. Canadensis*, our native wild Columbine. Toward the end of May, *A. coerulea*, one of the most delicately shaded and graceful species, is in bloom. The season of the Columbines is extended considerably by *Aquilegia chrysantha*, which does not bloom until about the fourth week of June. This is a magnificent species, attaining a height of four feet. The flowers are bright lemon yellow and very showy. There is a white-flowered variety of this which is also very fine.

With the opening of the pretty little dwarf Iris, (*Iris pumila*) during the third week of May, there begins a succession of lovely and many coloured species and varieties which go a long way to make our gardens attractive during the summer. Closely following *Iris pumila* is another dwarf species, *Iris Chamaeiris*, which is bright yellow with brown marking. The Siberian Iris with its numerous varieties now follows, and although these are not so graceful or pretty as some of the other sorts, they have their place in the rear of the border, for they attain a height of from three to four feet. During the first week of June, *Iris flavescens*, a beautiful yellow species with brown markings, begins to bloom, and following this are those wonderful and varied forms of *Iris germanica*, *I. neglecta*, *I. pallida*, *I. squalens*, and *I. variegata*, which rival the

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