

# THE OTTAWA NATURALIST

---

VOL. XXIII.

OTTAWA, JANUARY, 1910

No. 10

---

## SOME OF THE BEST NATIVE PLANTS FOR CULTIVATION.

BY W. T. MACOUN,

Horticulturist and Curator of the Arboretum and Botanic  
Garden, Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa.

There are in Canada about 4,000 species of flowering plants, and 76 species of ferns. In the Province of Ontario alone there are nearly 2,000 species of flowering plants, and 46 species of ferns. This flora stretches from the Atlantic to the Pacific and from latitude 49° to as far north in the Arctic regions as the Canadian territory extends. Over this wide area there are many variations in climate, each great climatic region being again subdivided into habitats, where the different species are found. Some species have a very wide range, extending from the Atlantic to the Pacific and from the 49th parallel to the Arctic circle, while others, such as the Tulip Tree, *Liriodendron tulipifera*, American Crab Apple, *Pyrus coronaria*, Common Papaw, *Asimina triloba*, Flowering Dogwood, *Cornus florida*, Virginian Cowslip, *Mertensia pulmonarioides*, and other plants I might mention are confined to very limited districts in south-western Ontario, though having considerable range south in the United States.

There is no difference of opinion among lovers of plants as to the beauty of the Canadian flora. The great variety, the charming forms, the lovely colours, and the blending of the whole when under natural conditions give us innumerable and varied pictures of which we may well feel proud.

There is a growing sentiment in Canada in favour of Canadian things. We are becoming more proud of our country every year. We are looking for an individuality which will stand for Canada, and one of the best ways we can impress our individuality on the people of other countries and our own is to make Canadian trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants a prominent feature of our landscapes. We have too often in the