

THE HOME GARDEN

PLOT OF WILD FLOWERS

It was just a narrow stretch ground on a city lot, shadowed by closely-built houses, and a high, tight, board fence, but the wild flowers flourished there, although the conditions were very different from those of their natural habitat.

The beginnings of the garden were made twelve years or more ago, before the danger of the extermination
of our native plants was fully realize
d. The woods, however, were even
then receding before the growth of the city of Rochester, making longer and longer trips necessary to bring us to the haunts of our wildwood friends. So, because we loved them; because if we could not visit them in their nawe could not visit them in their native retreats we still longed to see them; because it was only a question of time before many of them would be ruthlessly destroyed, when we found them at all plenty we took a few of them up tenderly with as much of the soil as possible and carried them home.

that so many and such different spe-cies of plants should flourish under cies of plants should flourish under such apparently unfavorable conditions. The soil was naturally rather heavy and poor, but many basketfuls of wood's soil and leaf mold were uncomplainingly tugged home and added to it, and the leaves with which nature covered the bed in the fall were allowed to decay and then were carefully due in avoing the roots of the allowed to decay and then were carefully dug in around the roots of the plants. Many of our native plants, and especially the early spring flowers, readily adapt themselves to the wild-flower garden, but none of them wild do this without more or less care. The natural thing for everyone to do in beginning a wild garden is to start in the spring when everyone feels an impulse for gardening. When hot weather comes, the desire for gardening wanes, and many wild gardens contain nothing but the delicate shade-loving flowers of May and June. It would be better if we all began with the summer and autumn blooming wild flowers which are generally more robust and sun-leving. These require less care than the spring wild flowers, and few of them These require less care than the spring wild flowers, and few of them are in danger of extermination. Maturally everyone who begins a wild garden wants to start with lady-slippers, and all the rare and delicate things. These are precisely the things that are in danger of extermination, and people ought not to take them until they have had some experience in gardening. perience in gardening.

The second commonest mistake is to bring in the plants with insufficient balls of earth. It is only fair to others that when we remove rare plants from the wild to our gardens we should take pains to duplicate na tural conditions as far as possible.
Lady-slippers and other orchids almost thrive permanently in gardens,
most of them require a combination
of shade and leaf mold and more of shade and leaf mold and more moisture than it is convenient or possible to give. Moreover, it is likely that there are certain undiscovered elements in the cultivation of hardy orchids. It is a great deal better to leave the orchids in the wild and join the Wild Flower Preservation Society of America, than to bring lady-slippers into a garden where it is impossible to duplicate natural conditions

sible to duplicate natural conditions.

The glory of the garden was in the trillium blossoms. Roots of white Trillium grandiflorum). carried home year after year, until several fine clusters adorned the bed. One clump, though seemingly planted in about the worst possible place, close up against the board fence, increased in size until last year it bore forty blossoms. When these were in bloom, all at once, the plant was a beautiful sight. Most of the flowers beautiful sight. Most of the flowers were of very large size and of the purest white. The red-flowered trilliums (T. erectum), flourished also, making a pretty contrast to the white ones, and the dark-red fruit made the plants attractive after the blossoms had withered. Trilliums are so beautiful and so deserving of cultivation, that it is a pleasure to note that several dealers in native plants catalogue them. They flourish better if transplanted after the bulbs have ripened than when taken up in bloom. ened than when taken up in bloom and they require two years to become really well-established.

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nount of yellow matter in it, renders it quite possible that it helps to color the legs as well as to keep the organs healthy. At any rate, birds losing leg color through confinement or other causes, quickly recover their brightness of leg by being given an amplerun on grass and a fair supply of maize. A clay soil keeps yellow legs of a good color, but it is detrimental to black legs; sand and gravel appear to be best for white legs, and peat land for black.

Plumage.

It is in selecting fowls for the color it quite possible that it helps to colo

It is in selecting fowls for the color It is in selecting fowls for the color of their feathering that the greatest difficulty is presented to the novice; and it is only after much experience that one can meet with anything like success in this direction. As I have said, it is impossible to discuss every variety of color in this article. The whole colors are perhaps the simplest with which to deal. Taking black plumaged birds first, it may be said that many, as chickens, show white that many, as chickens, show white flight feathers in their wings—a frefight feathers in their wings—a frequent cause of much disappointment to the novice, who is apt to select such birds too early and too hastily. It is common for black fowls to show these white feathers soon after birth but they generally disappear during the chicken moult. Sometimes they remain for four or five months.

the chicken moult. Sometimes they remain for four or five months, but eventually the fowls get rid of them. White plumaged varieties are hatched of various shades of yellow, but if they are the produce of dead white stock they will feather at once white. A chicken hatched with specks will almost invariably feather with a speck here and there although often only in here and there, although often only in underdown, and so it is not vis ible. Light Brahmas and similar varieties are best with plenty of black in the under-color, as it generaly results in well defined hackles; with pure

in well defined hackles; with pure white under-color the hackle striping will be groy instead of black.

Buff is perhaps the most difficult of all the self-colors for novices to select, and my unqualified advice to them is: Leave all buffs until they have got their adult plumage. Of course it is easy to see that a buff have got their adult plumage. Or course, it is easy to see that a buff hatched with black ticked hackles and a black tail is not likely to get rid of such faults, and neither is one with a great deal of white in it, so such birds could be turned into "chicken pie" if the aim is to obtain sound colored stock. I do not object to a little grey white in flights, for adult birds so adorned are useful to have in the breeding pen when a medium shade is required, although the breeder must have a thorough knowledge of mating before he can utilize them. It should be noted that light colored birds can

often be made to assume a dark shade by frequent washing without in. any way employing dyes. In selecting fowls of the black-red type, such as Game of that brown Leghorns, and partridge Cochins and Wyandottes, some novices make great mistakes. Exhibition birds, at least those at the shows, generally have solid black breasts, and often when the poultry-keeper finds that his birds have a few brown feathers in birds have a few brown reathers in this part, he becomes disgusted and disposes of them, discovering his mistake when it is too late. The cockerels have brown in their breasts with the first chicken feathers, but they generally shed them in their chicken



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What charm how rare in th would seem to do not mean for instance, t so often that of and the idea t in-smile, such it become. No stupid and inar feel inclined to grinning idiot!'