

PLANT CHARACTER STUDY

Different individuals require different treatment, enjoy different pleasures, dread different dangers, and are threatened or overshadowed by different sorrows.

Almost in the same way, all plant life is made up of nature forces, vastly contradictory. The final results of the working-out of these forces spell life—or death.

Like human beings, plants are threatened with different dangers. They are immune from certain diseases, or they are predisposed to the same. They are proof against the ravages of certain insects, certain vermin, certain molds, or they are very susceptible to the life-draining effects of such.

Certain plants require rich, nutritious soils, which same soils would quickly cause other plants to mold, rot, or, on the other hand, would produce a rank and unnatural growth, too intolerable to be permitted.

Certain plants require warmth above ground, warmth below ground, a nice modicum of moisture, and a close protection from draughts. These, by the way, are those that revel in loneliness. They love to be left undisturbed, in sole possession of earth, air and currents—and they breathe out the fragrances of heaven itself.

Again, we find plants that need as consistent attentions as young children. They must be coddled. Above all things, they must be loved. They want their faces washed daily. They love a daily tepid bath. They shiver and grumble when they get wet, cold feet. Adverse winds, an unfortunate draught, hot or cold, simply crinkles them up. They get their faces and limbs sunburnt if they stand in the sun before they are quite dry. They become unhealthy if they are too muffled up.

And so runs the story. As with humans, just so with plants. A successful mother knows her children. They do not realize, yet, that she does know them. They have a divine intuition that sends them running to her to be "kissed and made well." In some cases the hurt is not too real, and quite often the hurt is very real—but bearable; with the help of mother love, forgotten.

A successful gardener knows his plants. If he adds a member to his collection he sets about learning the nature of that plant. He studies its habits, its needs, its nature—and uses common-sense and mother love.