

Lythrum virgatum, or loose-strife, with its long spikes of beautiful rosy purple; *Myosotis palustris*, or the Forget me not, the name of which was acquired by the following romantic legend: "A young couple were walking by a river side and the young man fell in and was drowned, he grasped a *Myosotis* flower which was within his reach and throwing it to the girl exclaimed with his last breath "Forget me not." Then we have the curious *Sagittaria*, named from its foliage resembling an arrow-head; the Marsh Marigold with brightest golden yellow flowers; the different species of flags and Iris; *Callas palustris*, whose beauty is found into its bright scarlet fruit; *Nymphaea odorata*, the sweet scented water Lily; the common yellow water Lily, and many others.

Little care is necessary after once planting except to check the intrusion of weeds, such as sedges and rushes, and seeing that the water is not motionless for any length of time. The first specimens of the great water-lily of the Amazon that were brought to England, did not thrive until the gardeners, who studied the natural conditions under which the plant grew, discovered that in their native waters there was a continuous ripple; they then introduced a little mechanical contrivance to produce the same on the surface of water in the tanks in which the lilies were grown, and their cultivation was then a perfect success.

GEO. MOORE.

A HARDY PERENNIAL.

Bocconia cordata.

This noble plant belongs to the natural order, *papavaraceae*, although its flowers are borne in plumes, and it is therefore commonly called the *plume poppy*.

It is well adapted to any soil, but it is not suited to the flower border, as it grows too large and spreading, attaining a height of six to eight feet; but planted on the lawn or shrubbery, single specimens are very effective. The foliage is very handsome, deeply cut, resembling the poppy, and its peculiar glaucous hue harmonises admirably with the tall, feathery plumes of creamy white rising above it. The blossoms last throughout the months of August and September. It is a native of China and Japan and is quite hardy.



Bocconia cordata.

THE HABITS, FOOD, AND ECONOMIC VALUE OF THE AMERICAN TOAD.

The Natch experiment station of the Massachusetts College of Agriculture has been, for some time investigating the character and probable usefulness of the toad, and the pamphlet, from which the following brief extracts are taken, is full of interest. For many years the value of the toad as a destroyer of noxious insects has been recognized, and it was common for gardeners to keep one in their melon pits and cucumber frames.

Unlike frogs, toads are, in a measure, domesticated, and make their homes near the abodes of men, and on a summer's evening, after a shower, it is no uncommon thing to see them in numbers, hopping about the garden walks, not at all afraid of visitors, but seeming to claim a right to protection on account of the good they are doing. This peculiarity renders it easy for men of science to study their habits, and what their food consists of; although to the casual observer, this may not appear to be of much importance, the investigations that have been made in Massachusetts prove that it is much more so than may be supposed, and that the economical value of the toad, as an insect destroyer, is far greater than could have been suspected.

A great deal of interest was taken in the toad by