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GARDENSIDE GOSSIP

VOLUME 4

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NUMBER 1

BUT WHEN AGAINST THE OLD RED ELL
DECEMBER "NORTHERS" BEAT,
AND YOU'RE OBLIGED TO SET THE CREAM
BESIDE THE STOVE TO HEAT -
SAY, THAT'S THE TIME YOU WISHED YOU LIVED
A-BACK ON SUMMER STREET.

Winter Churning in Vermont D. L. Cady

A PUBLICATION OF

GARDENSIDE NURSERIES, INC.
SHELBURNE, VERMONT

SOME DIFFERENT AND UNUSUAL NATIVES

On this, the first day of winter, and the year's shortest day, we surely wish we lived on 'Summer' street. Certainly there is nothing summery about Vermont at this season, and thruout the section where live the bulk of the Gossip's readers, much the same conditions prevail. What gardening we can do is in anticipation.

For that reason, we mail this January issue. With it is a copy of the Master List. You have at least three months in which to anticipate the summer's garden. Here's 'Milk for your Porrhinger, and Butter for your Bread'. In the Gossip are the things we have found of especial interest the past year, and some oddities not easily purchased anywhere. In the Master List are the Porridge and Bread of your garden; the best of all the older better known plants, together with those that are new that we have assembled and tried here.

So for the two months of 'Indoor Gardening' that you must do until the next Gossip arrives, we send you these helps. May you fully enjoy them.

There are recurring waves of interest in gardening with Native plants, which may be said to overlap, for interest in the lovely things of our own woods and fields never really fades. And each time a wave reaches the crest, we progress a bit farther toward the desirable shore of real cultivation of these things, and the day when we shall grow them in our nurseries, instead of digging them from the wild; and shall be as interested in hybridizing and improving them as we are in working with the plants of Europe and Asia.

Longer descriptions of the following plants will be found in other parts of the Gossip. Just a brief word for each will do here.

HELONIAS BULLATA

The SWAMP PINK; A perennial, spring blooming herb, with tuberous roots, native in bogs from New Jersey to North Carolina. Grows two feet high from a tuft of basal leaves, the pink or purplish flowers in a dense raceme, about three inches long at the top of the hollow scape. Suitable for bog-gardens in full sun, or in drier soil, in partial shade. Also a good pot plant for late winter and spring.

We have a fine lot of roots in storage, so that they can be sent out at any time, in addition to our field bed. The entire supply is not large, however, so order early. 35¢ each; 10 for \$3.00.

POLYSTICHUM LONCHITIS

The MOUNTAIN HOLLY-FERN: A rare northern fern, growing above the limits of the Christmas Fern. Leathery evergreen leaves, two feet long, 1-pinnate into lanceolate segments, spiny-toothed and strongly auricled at base. Available only in limited quantity, it should have the best attention of the plant loving purchaser, given a cool location, in deep shade, in a stony, light woods soil. \$1. ea. Postpaid.

SCOPOLENDRIUM VULGARE

The HART'S TONGUE FERN; One of the rarest American ferns, usually found in shaded ravines, under limestone cliffs. The leaves are straight or curved to 18" long, and 3" wide, entire or sometimes wavy-margined. Not difficult to grow, in light continual shade, in a loamy, limy soil. Use limestone chips, or broken mortar rubble, with leafmold and loam. \$1.50 each.

JANUARY BARGAIN LIST

THIS IS A BARGAIN LIST, FOR IN IT ARE THOSE ITEMS OF ESPECIAL INTEREST THAT WE HAVE IN BUT MODERATE QUANTITY, AND SOME FEW OF WHICH WE HAVE REALLY LARGE NUMBERS, OFFERED AT PRICES LOWER THAN THOSE IN THE MASTER LIST. DELIVERY POSTPAID, -

BUT, TO OBTAIN THESE PRICES, YOUR ORDERS MUST REACH US BY OR BEFORE MARCH 1st, and FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED.

RUSSELL LUPINS

Now, a year after first offering plants of these Lupins, we know but little more of them than we did. This summer we hope many of you will see really good spikes of bloom on the plants purchased last spring. Certainly the few spikes that were seen on young plants late in the summer of 1938 cannot be accepted as evidence of what the plants really are but simply as a sample of what to expect. We actually saw but one spike, and that was a fine buff yellow, with a longer extent of open flowers than we think usual on Lupins. But even that plant was not in our fields, for steady demand all summer thru eventually took the last plant we had in late August. Again, we have to offer only plants from small pots, so that you may use our facilities in that way to obtain larger plants by fall, with the hope that some may flower late in summer.

The seeds offered this year are still from plants selected personally by Mr. Russell, in England. For our part, we think we have solved a difficulty in growing the small plants, which made it impossible for us to fill all our orders last spring. But will you help us by reserving your supply before March 1, for we cannot guarantee to have them ready in early May, unless we know how many seeds to sow in February.

PLANTS FROM SMALL POTS - 25¢ each; 10 for \$2.00; 100 for \$15.

CHRYSANTHEMUM MAXIMUM, variety ESTHER REID

There are many conflicting reports about this fine Shasta Daisy, so far as hardiness is concerned. Last year we had a fine lot of young plants in pots in a sheltered frame. In the spring, all were dead. Yet in May in a garden over 100 miles north of us, we saw heavy field plants growing thriftily, that had wintered outside with but Spruce boughs for covering. It would appear that a well established plant, on well drained soil, protected with a covering that does not mat down, will stand the average cold winter. Soil may also be a factor, for nearly all Daisies of this group like lime in some form.

Esther Reid is fully double, pure white, the blooms $2\frac{1}{2}$ " or more across. It is so much better than any other Shasta Daisy as to admit of no comparison. We offer Greenhouse-grown plants from $2\frac{1}{2}$ " pots at 50¢ each; 10 for \$4.50.

MECONOPSIS BAILEYI

One reason for offering plants that are not readily grown is the hope that with wider trials and broader experience, may come the knowledge that will make them easily cultivated. We sent out a lot of this Blue Poppy last year, and planted some in our own fields. While we did flower the plant here, once upon a time, we lost everyone we set last year, but during the summer we were told one trick which may help. This plant almost grows out of the ground. The crown is at the top of a stemlike part, above the fibrous roots. This stem must not be buried, and the fibrous roots are but barely covered. Aside from that, we cannot add to what we wrote about it last year. Can you help us?

Plants from either $2\frac{1}{2}$ " pots, or from forest loam soil, about May 1st. 35¢ each; 10 for \$3.00; 100 for \$27.50.

THE SEARCH FOR THE UNUSUAL

There isn't a day but that we indulge in a search for the unusual. It may be in a catalog or seed list that comes in; or it may be in some work of reference; or in the books and magazines that mention plants casually or specifically. In letters from friends, we watch for a hint of some new thing. And again we just search our memories for something that may be lying dormant there. It's lots of fun, and costs very little.

The years slip by easily, and sometimes we realize with a start that lately we haven't seen mentioned this plant or that for a long time. So it was with *Helonias bullata*. Back in 1916, we saw it in flower in a wet boggy bed in a nursery we were visiting. At that time that firm, and one other, catalogued it. Of the two who then offered it, one is no longer in existence, and the other hasn't it.

Now, we have a friend who lives where the Stud Pink grows naturally, and somehow, when writing him, the plant came to mind, and we inquired if he could obtain it. In reply came a tremendous clump, and an offer of more. We found the plant would grow in our light loam, if shaded at all times, with lath racks, and we have a fine lot of it growing in that way. In addition we have a lot of strong collected roots, which are offered elsewhere in this issue. It is hardy in the north, under good conditions, for the plants we saw in 1916 had wintered in New England. And from our own experience, as well as from the words of authorities, it can be grown in good garden loam, if kept shaded. In nature, it grows from New Jersey to North Carolina, in open damp bogs, in sphagnum, when in full sun, and in drier soils, in partial shade. We have never forced it, but our leading Horticultural authority states that it can be started into growth in pots, and brought into flower quite early, and we shall prove it ourselves this spring.

A visit to a friend's nursery gave us our other two newest comers. For a year or more, we have been treasuring some plants of the Hart's Tongue Fern, which came from a celebrated collection, and included some of the crested forms, as well as the type - so that we well know the plant, and its scarceness in America. Imagine our surprise to see a large bed of the finest *Scopolendrium vulgare*, the fronds nearly 18" long, and nearby, another bed of the just as rare *Polystichum lonchitis*. Like everything else in nurseries today, they were for sale, and we demanded all the surplus, with delivery to be made this coming spring. So that, unless loss occurs, those of you who feel you are skilled enough to care for these two rare Ferns, may have the pleasure of them both. They aren't difficult, just need shade and cool conditions, and a bit of underground moisture in dry weather.

The Search for the Unusual - Cont'd

BEDDING VIOLAS

Probably it is unnecessary to try to describe either of these Ferns, further. Those interested in them, will have at hand or obtainable, accurate pictures and descriptions. Both are well shown in Tilton's Fern Lovers Companion.

We have been growing what we consider the most beautiful of all American Ferns, Braun's Holly Fern (*Polystichum braunii*), with some success. The crowns will divide but are very slow to become established again. Unfortunately for many, nearly all our stock went to one person, the past summer. Someday again we hope to be able to offer this in nursery grown plants, but it will not be immediately. Taking it for resale is prohibited by law, in Vermont.

The Russell Lupins represent another extreme of the search for the unusual. We cannot take any credit for unearthing these for they are to be found in most catalogs, and in many gardening journals throuth the country. But we do hope that the plants we grew and sent out last year will have thrived in enough cases, and will winter over successfully, so that before this summer is over, we shall know just how closely they approach the eloquent words that have been written of them, here in America. In England, there seems no question of their value. We know, of course, that of the plants we sent out, many did not live. Will you please write us about your luck with the young plants, and tell us later how they flower, if they come thru the winter.

Esther Reid is not new, it was available in one American nursery quite a number of years ago, in considerable quantity, but it didn't 'catch on'. Then suddenly interest in it arose, and there was no stock. About that time, too, came rumors of its lack of hardiness. We have lost it once, ourselves. On the whole, it seems likely to be a matter of culture. We have known entire beds of such Shasta Daisies as Alaska, and other reputedly hardy sorts, to die out in winter, and generally speaking it could be traced to late division, and consequent soft growth. If the plant has grown all summer, and flowered, and then ripened off naturally, it is sure to be in better condition to resist winter than if it has made a lot of new growth late in the year. Anyway, avoid covering it with any material that will hold moisture, for the fleshy root stalks rot easily. Evergreen bougns are just about best of all.

In addition to all other methods of obtaining new things, that we have mentioned, is the best of all - seedling raising - from hybrid, or selected seed. Year in and out, many an American nurseryman raises plants that he cannot hope to sell, with the faith that some seedling in the lot will be of sufficient value to repay him for his trouble. On the whole, not too many poor things are sent out, and few, deliberately.

There was a time when we never failed to mention bedding types of Violas in every catalog or circular that we mailed out. Then it seemed that we had converted every customer to our viewpoint, and stocked every garden with them, and need no longer 'plug' for them at every opportunity. Not only that, we failed to keep up our supply, and a year ago we were badly jolted by a fine demand for Violas, and only a small number of plants to supply it. We spent all last summer amending matters and we can assure you that at present we have enough Bedding Violas for probable needs - every one a year old field grown plant of the best type.

JERSEY GEM: The finest of all bedding Violas in habit and in persistence and profusion of flowering. The color is a deep lavender blue, the flowers large, not round, but typically Viola shaped. There is a slight fragrance, and the stems are long enough for picking and use in bouquets.

WHITE JERSEY GEM: A white counterpart of the preceding, with all the good points of its parent.

MOSELEY PERFECTION: An English bedding Viola, with a rounder flower than in the Gem types, but with profusion and persistence of flowering, in fact this Viola was in full bloom, when we were finally frozen in, this Fall. The color is a clear bright yellow, without any eye or streaking.

THESE VIOLAS ARE PRICED AT 25¢ each; 10 for \$2.00; 100 for \$18. Five or more exactly alike, at the 10 rate; 25 at the 100 rate.

 SPECIAL OFFER OF VIOLAS until March 1st only. POSTPAID.
 10 Jersey Gem; 5 White Gem; 5 Moseley Perfection - \$3.00.
 20 Jersey Gem; 10 White Gem; 10 Moseley Perfection - \$5.00.

NAMED VARIETIES OF PYRETHRUM

The Pyrethrum of our gardens is really a Chrysanthemum, known as *C. coccineum* or *C. roseum*, to botanists. In recent years it has been incorporated in the breeding of the fall flowering Chrysanthemums. For our purposes, however, the commonly used name, Pyrethrum roseum is best. These are spring and summer flowering plants, with tall stems of daisy-like flowers, above a heavy tuft of finely cut, dark green foliage. On deep, cool, loam soils they may stand three feet high, and they will grow and flower fairly well in partial shade. Seedling plants may give varied colors, and blooms of all sizes. Selected forms have been named, and grown by division, so that striking colors, large size, and other desirable attributes may be perpetuated. These assure the gardener of the finest flowers. We have been growing more of these each year, and have to offer at this time, the following two year old clumps.

BRILLIANT: A fine, deep red sort, well doubled. 25¢ ea.

BUCKEYE: Much like the preceding, and fully double, but with a tinge of lighter coloring, at the center of the flower. 25¢ each.

EILEEN MAY ROBINSON: Single, light rose-pink, and by far the finest Pyrethrum, single or double, that we know. 35¢ each.

TROJAN: Fully double, deep rose-pink. 25¢ each.

VICTORIA: A single, deep red sort, good size. 25¢ ea.

MIXED SEEDLINGS: We have been growing a lot of Pyrethrum from the best available seed in a search for improved types. All the plants are of good class, and are now two years old. They come in all colors. Single plants, 25¢ each; 10 for \$1.50; 25 for \$3.25; POSTPAID, of course.

LILIES

The Search for the Unusual - Cont'd

Again, a bargain list of Lilies, but this time, instead of being little ones, they're BIG ones. These are all flowering size bulbs and larger. We never know until they're dug and stored in the Fall just what we have, and there were more than usual of the following. Until March 1, AT THESE PRICES:

CANADENSE: The native Meadow Lily, drooping yellow bells, partly recurved. Fine for naturalizing. 25¢ each.

CONCOLOR: Bright glowing orange cups, held stiffly erect on two foot stems. A showy sort for June and July, yet not large and coarse. The best bulbs we ever dug. 25¢ each.

HENRYI: The Yellow Speciosum, a bright orange yellow Turksap, fine for planting among shrubs, and a permanent and hardy sort. Flowers late in summer, and will stand eight feet high, carrying from twenty to thirty blooms. Fine flowering bulbs, 4/6" around, 20¢ ea.; 6/8" bulbs, 25¢ each.

SUPERBUM: The Southern Turksap Lily, often stands five feet high, and carries a dozen flowers of bright orange red, well spotted with black. It is fine for naturalizing, and will enjoy a sandy, rather acid soil. 25¢ each.

TENUIFOLIUM: Of the Coral Lily, we also dug some extremely fine bulbs. They were grown on new soil, and are but two years old, altho they run an inch in diameter, for the most part. They will surely flower, if at all successful, and they are very easily grown. If potted in 5" bulb pans, in February, they may be flowered inside by May. 15¢ ea.; 10 for \$1.

UMBELLATUM: Our stock of this old garden favorite increases yearly. We do not attempt to keep colors separate, and the reds and yellows are all mixed up. The plants are mostly dwarf, to about two feet high, and the flowers often from four to six inches across, erect, cup-shaped blooms. To lower our count, we offer them at 15¢ each; 10 for \$1.25.

UNKNOWN VARIETY: We have told you before that this sort was found in a bed of seedlings of Amabile, from Japanese seed. It is much taller, slender stemmed, erect. It flowers in August, bright orange red Turksaps, spotted, something on the order of Amabile and Tigrinum. It has done well here, and tho' the bulb is seldom over 1" in diameter, it flowers profusely. Single bulbs, 25¢ each; 10 for \$1.00.

REGALE: We do not need to describe the Regal Lily, and if you could see the fine bulbs we have in storage, we would not have to urge you to buy. Consider the size, and the price, and fill your gardens, - now. 4/6", 25¢ ea.; 10 for \$1.75; 100 for \$15. - 6/8", 35¢ ea.; 10 for \$2.75; 100, \$25.00.

PRINCEPS: This fine lily of Regal type is consistently a week to ten days later in flowering, and greatly extends the season in the garden. It has become a rather fixed type, the chief difference from Regal, other than its flowering date, being in the color of the anthers. It is hardy and easily grown. 4/6", 35¢ each; 10 for \$2.50; 6/8", 75¢ each; 10 for \$5.00; and a very few 8/10", extra fine bulbs, at \$1.00 each.

SHELBURNE HYBRID: This last of the Regal type hybrids is the most variable one, and is consistently latest of all, tho' some seedlings are as early as Regal. In good soils, this Lily will often grow six or seven feet high. We shall flower about 15,000 of this variety this summer. COME AND SEE THEM, in July. Bulbs, 4/6", 50¢ each; 10 for \$3.50. -- 6/8", 75¢ each.

SMALL LILIES: We have innumerable quantities of small bulbs of many kinds of Lilies in our storage. If you wish to try your hand with growing some flowering bulbs for yourself at low cost, write us, and we'll gladly make you a real low price.

It might be well at this point to refer to some of the things we wrote about last January, and tell you why they haven't appeared in our pages since then. One was Dianthus, Spark. The pinks to which this variety relates include Beatrix and Furst Bismark. All grow readily, but are at times inclined to a stem rot. In our haste to provide a stock of Spark, we brought it into the greenhouse quite early, and during the dark days of March and April it began to rot away, and we couldn't save it. The few cuttings we did obtain, saved us the plant, and before the summer was over we had about 50 small plants in our Trial Beds. If they are all right this spring we'll start more slowly, and perhaps by fall we'll have a lot of them. In the meantime, we hope this spring to supply the orders on file that were accepted last year.

The other Dianthus we mentioned at that time grew well, and yielded various quantities of plants. None of them are yet available enough to offer specifically, tho' one shows up in the field count. On the Campanula carpatica forms we had better luck, and several of these will be available for orders from the Master List this spring. In this connection, we are reminded of a query in a letter last spring, "Why \$1.00 for Campanula Riverslea?" Well, partly because we only had a few plants, but mostly because we are convinced that this is absolutely true stock of what was first sent out as Riverslea. Plenty of seedling plants of this variety are to be had, but as we saw it in bloom with the others, when we bought them the fall before, it was far ahead of any other Campanula carpatica we ever saw.

The Astilbe crispa forms grow slowly, and are still very scarce. Only a few are available this year. Astilbe sinensis pumila, which we did not mention last year, grew well, and is offered in quantity this spring. And, last of the plants we spoke of last spring, we want to tell you that our bed of Pyrethrum Florence Shadley did over-winter well, and flowered beautifully. Instead of offering it, we divided it all we dared, and are hoping that the greatly increased quantity may winter as well. If they do we shall send them out next year. This Pyrethrum was offered in quantity at one time, and then nearly disappeared. It didn't winter for us the first two lots we had. We surmise, and hope we are right, that the plants we now have represent another strain, perhaps raised from seed of the original, and have greater vitality than the original. Certainly their behavior so far is promising.

We still like the Korean Mums. For various reasons, it seems best to leave their growing to the specialist. They are just a bit too late for our season, and while we sell many plants where they will do perfectly, our aim is to provide things for the colder climates.

The Search for the Unusual - Cont'd

HEMEROCALLIS

Aster frikartii is another plant of proven value and popularity that we must refrain from offering. Fine young plants grown in pots all summer, failed to live thru the winter a year ago, but in our bed in the field, where we took the cuttings for the potted plants, every old plant lived thru perfectly. This year we raised even more than usual. They grew all summer in field beds, and the last thing before cold weather we dug them and stored them in our frost-proof cellar. If they are all right in March, we'll pot them up and offer them then. If not, we'll have to think of some other way to provide good healthy plants in the spring. One fault with this Aster lies in the fact that growth starts very slowly in spring, and is not active until June. While starting, they are weakly and easily lost. If you would let us send them out in June, it would be much better. Everyone wants them in April.

In July we wrote that we hoped to see some new colors in our bed of *Liatris scariosa* alba, last fall. We were very disappointed, however, for only the type color, and white, appeared. In the white there was great variation, ranging from plants with sturdy single stems, to bushy heads a foot across, made up of short stems, each tipped with several flower heads. Most of the bed flowered, but at the last there were left some 500 plants that showed no sign of a stem, whether because too small, or whether because this fall they will flower and show us all the colors of the rainbow, we still don't know, and won't until September. One particularly fine white form was segregated, as a seed parent for the future. Seed from it was sown, along with seed from our pale flowered type of two years ago, which this year sent up some stems of the type color, and some pale ones. And with them was sown some seed from a strain of *Liatris pycnostachya* that has produced white flowers, so now we have something more to wait two years for. Next fall we should see flowers from the first seedlings raised from the pale flowered *L. scariosa*, so they'll help pass the time.

We're looking forward to seeing that big lot of Shelburne Hybrid Lilies flower, this summer, a year earlier than we hoped, for the bulbs made unusual growth last year. In it we shall certainly find many diverse types, for this is the most variable of all the hybrids of *L. regale* and *L. sargentiae*. At the least, we shall have later flowering sorts, perhaps equaling those we sent out some years back that were in bloom as late as August 26th. And there can be some real variations in the blooms, tho' as these are from seed of the original bulbs, it isn't so likely as with later generations. You may be interested to know that no more seed will be harvested from the original bulbs. Part of them are offered in this Gossip.

We do not have enough of the newer and better Daylilies to permit any real lowering of the prices. With the better sorts, to do so would result in our being sold out at once. But to induce the earlier orders that so delight us, we offer two DISCOUNTS from our regular prices, - but only until March 1st.

Order five different sorts, and deduct 5% from the total.
Order ten or more sorts, and deduct 10% from the total.

AMARYLLIS: Large golden yellow flowers, slightly deeper in the throat. Petals recurved. 3' July 7. 50¢ each.

CALYPSO: Large clear lemon yellow. Opens at night and lasts until next midday. 3½' July 6. 35¢ each; 10 for \$3.00.

CISSIE GIUSEPPI: Deep coppery rose, red and green outside. \$1.50.

FLAVINA: Charming and dainty little flower, bright lemon yellow. Only 18" high June 6. \$1.00 each.

GEM: A lovely rich deep orange yellow. 3' July 11. 50¢.

GOLCONDA: Chrome yellow, 4' high July 13. 50¢ each.

GOLDEN BELL: Large fragrant flowers of soft apricot yellow. Deeper throat. Petals fluted. 3' July 6. 50¢ each.

GOLDENI: Deep golden yellow, a smooth even shading. Flowers very heavily in July and August. 3' July 13. 25¢ each; 10 for \$2.00.

GYPSY: Orange yellow, overlaid with reddish bronze. A distinctly colored, low sort, much liked when seen. 50¢ ea.

HYPERION: Large waxy flowers of soft canary yellow. Surpasses all in size, form, color and substance. 3½' July 21. \$1.

MIDDENDORFI: A true, even, pleasing yellow. This has been sent out as OLIEF. Dr. Stout is our authority for the change. Early sort, much liked. 2½' June 1. 50¢ ea.; 10, \$4.

MIKADO: Orange flowers, each petal carrying a blotch of dark red purple, makes a brilliant flower. 3' June 20. \$2.00.

MRS. A. H. AUSTIN: Large, deep golden yellow flowers, especially fine. 3' July 14. 50¢ each.

MRS. W. H. WYMAN: Pale glistening yellow flowers on 4' stems that open a large number of blooms. The latest flowering sort we have and lasts until Sept. July 23. 50¢ each.

OPHIR: Large golden yellow sort. 4' July 13. \$1.00 ea.

RADIANT: Clear pure orange. As fine as Hyperion, and ranked with it. Tall, opens many flowers at a time. 4' July 13. 75¢ each.

ROYAL: A fragrant, golden yellow sort, of Japanese origin. It has exceptional texture. 3' June 29. 50¢ each.

VESTA: Deep orange yellow, lightly flushed with orange red. A glistening sheen over all. 2½' June 29. \$2.00 each.

VISCOUNTESS BYNG: Grows over 4' tall, the stems well branched and carrying many moderately large, erect flowers. The color is a soft silvery yellow, over which is a pale coppery rose. Very distinctly different from any other we have seen. July 24 to September. \$2.00 each.

WINSOME: A pale creamy yellow of appealing beauty. Fragrant and dainty, it opens among the first and pleased all the June visitors. 3' June 1. 50¢ each; 10 for \$4.00.

THE 1938, ALL-NURSERY, SELECTIONS

The following plants, like an All-American team, represent the best things we watched thru the past season. Most have been offered before, but all have proved their worth by continued performance. You should want them for your gardens.

AETHIONEMA, WARLEY ROSE

This little rockery plant is a perfect gem, in every way. It is neat and compact, and stays that way, never becoming too large, yet it grows readily, and is perfectly hardy. The narrow blue gray foliage, and the small round heads of bright pink flowers make it a miniature counterpart of *Daphne cneorum*. It isn't new, it has a long and honorable record abroad, and we have grown it for several years. Last summer we had excellent luck with it, and there is a fine bed of young plants that we can offer at 25¢ each, 10 for \$2. Use it in the rockery, and as a low edging for formal beds. You'll like it.

ALYSSUM SAXATILE FLORE PLENO

Very well known is Alyssum, Basket of Gold. This is the same plant, but the flowers are double. The effect is a heightening of the color to a deeper, more metallic gold. The habit of the plant is good, it is compact and does not lose its center. It is perfectly hardy here, with ordinary covering. The gray foliage is good at all times, and makes the plant particularly useful as an edging. Of course it is good in the rockery. No more expensive than seedling plants. 25¢ each; 10 for \$2.00.

ASTER, STAR OF WARTBURG

The history of this dwarf, spring flowering Aster is not clear, but for purposes of description we need only say that it is a strong growing form, with broad, rough green leaves, in a dense clump, from which rises in late spring a foot high spike crowned with a large deep lavender blue flower, with a distinct golden eye. It has been so easy of culture, and so hardy, as compared with the Aster alpinus types, as to make it outstanding, and it is large enough to be used in the front of the border, or in the rockery. 25¢ each; 10 for \$2.00.

ASTILBE SINENSIS PUMILA

Flowering late in summer, after all similar types of bloom are thru, this dwarf Astilbe is particularly welcome. The foliage stays close to the ground, and the flower stem rises to about a foot, topped by a dense spike of tiny rosy pink flowers. While not new, it is just becoming known, and was popular in August and September, when in flower. 25¢ ea.; 10, \$2.

CASSIA MARILANDICA

Here is an entirely different plant, one that grows to be four feet high. It makes a clump of smooth erect stems, clothed with light green, pinnate leaves, and toward the top, it bears in small clusters from the axils of each leaf, small bright yellow flowers, in midsummer. These are followed by long flat pods. It has no pests, is very hardy, and is nice for the background of the border, or for use as a specimen-clump, alone, or in front of shrubs. 25¢ ea.; 10 for \$2.00.

CAMPANULA TELHAM BEAUTY

We have to spare a few of these fine single Peachbells. Light lavender blue in color, the flowers, on established clumps are larger than on any other variety we have ever seen. These plants are not seedlings, but are grown by dividing plants imported from a stock known to be the true type. 35¢ each.

ALL PRICES INCLUDE DELIVERY

WE HAVE TO USE A PORTION OF THIS

COLUMN TO REMIND YOU AGAIN OF TWO THINGS. FIRST, UNLESS SPECIFICALLY STATED OTHERWISE, ALL OUR PRICES INCLUDE DELIVERY EAST OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER. WEST OF THAT ADD 5% TO COVER EXTRA COST. SECOND, THE PRICES HERE QUOTED WILL NOT BE MAINTAINED AFTER MARCH FIRST.

SMATTERINGS OF COMMON SENSE

Each season we learn a number of things about gardening, and always a few of them are so apparent that we can't understand why we didn't think of them before. We pass on a few of them for what they're worth.

Whatever keeps moisture in, will also keep it out. Last spring this was well demonstrated to us in a small plot of melons, planted with an eye to the hot days of late summer. As our spring is cool, we usually use Hotkaps to start the plants along, and remove them when growth is well under way. Last year, right after sowing the seeds, we had a prolonged dry spell, and they would not germinate. After a time, we removed the Hotkaps and put water on the hills, but still they laid dormant, until we had the first good rain, when they literally popped out of the ground. The reasoning would be that moisture left this ground, especially as the Hotkap warmed the soil under it, and prevented slight rains from entering. The watering we gave with the hose was not enough, and only a general rain added enough moisture to permit the seed to grow.

Later in the summer, we mulched some choice small Evergreens with Peatmoss, thinking to conserve the moisture, and in spite of rains they appeared to be losing ground. Examination proved that under the moss, the soil was dry, for it was too thick for rain to penetrate. In the soil it might have been a sponge. On top, it did absorb the rain, but didn't send it on down.

To do plants any good, moisture must reach their roots. We often recommend to purchasers of Evergreens that they sink common clay land-tile on end, about them, and fill them with water often. Thus the water reaches the roots, and the tile is a reservoir that holds some supply. Small cans, opened at one end, and with a few holes in the other may also be used. Try them in your rockery, and thru the drier parts of your border. Among the Phlox, one will help if not too deep. And use water generously or not at all.

Smatterings of Common Sense - Cont'd

GAILLARDIA SUN GOD

Much has been written of late about soil tests, and in particular has the degree of acidity or alkalinity best suited to certain plants, been discussed. Probably most of you know that the letters pH, followed by a numeral, designate the sourness or lack of it in a soil sample. Actually a neutral soil is pH7. Below that numeral the soil has an acid reaction and above it there is a distinct alkaline tendency.

We have had made a considerable number of soil tests. They have served a definite purpose in helping us produce better crops of flowers in the greenhouse, and as well on farm lands. On the whole, the tests showed the conditions over the area we cultivate to be about the same. And in fertility, the lack and the surplus were fairly fixed items too. But some surprising things came to light, particularly when we began to try to change these soils to suit varying needs, and when we learned that a soil may show visible limestone, yet have a pH below 7 (a definite acid reaction), we had to wonder if we weren't getting in a bit too deep.

Now no one with any gardening experience would attempt to grow Heaths, or Laurel, or Rhododendron, or Azaleas in a soil that derived from limestone rock. Nor would one expect plants of the Clover group to thrive on soils that grow the sourland plants we have named, successfully. But we here can grow Azaleas in a sandy loam, overlaying limestone, and within a half mile of a quarry producing land lime; and the same soil will grow Clovers in good shape - as the weeding crew will testify. The fact is, any cultivated soil contains so many diverse characteristics as to make an analysis of a tiny part of it of scant help in 99 out of 100 cases.

We therefore do not proclaim that our soil is ideal for every plant, or that we have seven different kinds to fit every plant. We attempt to do what you must do as well when you bring a collection of plants together in your garden - cultivate as many of them as we can as successfully as we can, under the conditions that we have. If a certain fern comes from limestone ledges, that fern gets lime in a moderate amount, tho' not in a readily available form. If a plant really needs acid conditions, we give it a little Aluminum sulfate. Mainly we try to provide a deep layer of soil, well filled with humus to hold moisture, and trap fertility. Then we add some good complete fertilizer. After that, we stir the soil, and keep down weeds, give shade or full sun, as the nature of the plant indicates, - if we can. If it won't grow under those conditions, then it is time enough to begin to worry about soil tests, fancy soil menders, and the like. One good gardener has said that manure and gumption would grow anything.

This is by far the finest pure golden yellow Gaillardia. After having much trouble with it, trying to send it out in small pots, when it was scarce, we decided to try it again, only when we had good field grown stock to offer. Our old beds have stood outside over two winters, and from them we grew the past summer a fine bed of strong young plants. We expect to have them to send out this spring, and offer them at 35¢ each; 10 for \$3.00; 25 for \$6.25 - Until March 1, only.

IRIS SIBIRICA, CAESAR'S BROTHER

A distinct advance over older Siberian Iris in size, this splendid new variety has blooms of the deepest blue-purple imaginable. If you are unfamiliar with the progress made in this plant family in the past years, try this and be happily surprised. 35¢ each; 10 for \$3.00.

LIATRIS SCARIOSA ALBA

Apart from our interest in this family, and our hope that it may soon reward that interest with other colors, the White Liatris offers an unusual bit of color for the fall garden. White is not common at that season, and is the more noticeable, while it also serves as a foil for brighter tints. Incidentally we have found this Liatris flowers later than the type, and there were many unopened spikes when frost stopped them in October. Try them with your Korean Mums. 50¢ ea.; 10 for \$4.50.

PENSTEMON CRANDALLI

Back to smaller things. We take pleasure in recommending this Western Beardstongue, since so many of those are not too hardy in our climate. This has over-wintered perfectly, and forms a dense mat of fine foliage, covered in June with bright blue flowers. For the rockery, or carpeting. 25¢ ea.; 10, \$2.

PHLOX SUBULATA, VIVID

We think that, for some reason, this finest of all Moss Pinks likes us, for it grows readily here, and flowers profusely. It also sells out rapidly, and when the season closed last year we had one stock plant left. From it we have grown a fine bed of young plants, not large, but thrifty, that we can offer at a lower price. No other of this family rewards the careful grower with such a wealth of bright pink color in May. 25¢ each.

POTENTILLA TONGUEI

We have added to our collection of Cinquefoils, but this is still our favorite. It makes a fine tuft of green foliage and sends out long runners, which do not root, and take over the bed from less vigorous plants. All summer long, it carries bright yellow flowers, an inch across, with a distinct red center. Use it on poor soils, it flowers better. 25¢ each; 10 for \$2.00.

PRIMULA, YELLOW HOSE-IN-HOSE

We offer this here because we know that many will be glad to know we again have a stock of it. Probably it belongs in the group called polyanthus, which is really a hybrid lot. We had this originally from an old garden. It is bright yellow, and one flower projects from the calyx of another. 25¢ each.

SCABIOSA SILENIFOLIA

As a rule, we have trouble with the Scabiosa family. But this small form has been perfectly hardy, and has grown easily. It has light green foliage, makes a tufted clump, a foot across at maturity, and carries its perfect little lilac pincushions on six or eight inch stems, most of the summer. Ideal for the rockery, a perfect edging plant. 25¢ each; 10 for \$2.00.

ODDMENTS

There is no rhyme nor reason to this page. It represents both plants and shrubs and evergreens - things that we didn't have room for on other pages, or that didn't belong there.

ANTHOXANTHUM ODORATUM

Did you ever see the Sweet Grass baskets that the Indians weave? They are made from the leaves of the Sweet Vernal Grass whose correct name is given above. But - and this is the most curious part, to us - this is not a native American grass. It comes from Europe and Asia, and is naturalized here. So, not until we landed could an Indian have a fragrant basket for tatting, or a sachet for the bureau. Anyway, we have long been interested in this grass, and last year we secured seed and grew a number of plants. The foliage is richly fragrant, but it is the roots that are strongest. The leaves are about 6" long, and narrow, but in flower the plant stands two feet high. Try a clump at the edge of the lawn, or even in the border. The leaves and roots can be readily saved and used to manufacture odd and attractive gifts. CLUMPS, 25¢ each. SEED, 25¢ per packet, postpaid. Lower prices on larger lots.

DAPHNE MEZEREUM

Occasionally a customer braves the April mud, and wanders about the nursery early enough to see the Mezereon Daphne in bloom. The lilac-purple flowers line the sides of the erect leafless stems, which grow to four feet at maturity. The bees find them always, for they are among the earliest fragrant flowers. In late summer, bright red berries replace the flowers along the stem, and shine among the light green leaves. A fine little known shrub, one of which should be in every garden to lighten the waiting thru rainy spring weather. We have some fine branched plants, about 12" high, at 50¢ each.

DAPHNE CNEORUM

This evergreen relative of the preceding, comes first to everyone's mind, when Daphnes are mentioned. It flowers later, in May, and scattering all summer. The delightful fragrance is equalled by the attractiveness of a well grown, compact plant, covered with its tiny light green leaves. Choice and rare, always, it is becoming known and plentiful. We have to offer this spring some fine plants, about 6/8" across, but compact and well budded. Dug with a ball of soil, they are not offered postpaid. 50¢ each, packed for shipment by express, or by post if not too far. Larger plants, \$1.00 each.

HYPERICUM HOOKERIANUM

Among the shrubs that we have recommended from time to time is this one which we had originally from the Department of Agriculture's Plant Introduction Gardens. It grows to be a compact, rounded bush, about four feet high and three in diameter, twiggy, and well clothed with slender dark green leaves. The flowers are the typical bright yellow St. John's-Wort blooms, but are 2" across, filled with the tufted stamens. Its value in our gardens lies in its midsummer flowering, when it is always covered with blossoms for a month or more. While listed as not hardy, it is entirely so here, and we have had the identification checked by the B.P.I. Last summer we succeeded in growing a quantity of strong seedlings, from 4" to 8" high. Transplanted to the garden, and cared for one year, they will be large enough for a permanent place. We offer 5 seedlings for \$1.00, postpaid, while they last.

Smatterings of Common Sense - Cont'd.

There are soils so poor as to need complete making over before growing any plants. Others of heavy clay may definitely refuse to support certain types of growth, but the average good garden loam will grow all of the worthwhile garden plants.

The analyzing of a series of tests of soil is a problem for a scientist, and he will be governed in part, even then, by his knowledge of the section from which the sample was taken; the time of year when the tests were made; and even the character of the operator of that piece of land. A soil may show a definite shortage of nitrogen in April, and have plenty for the crop on it, in June. It is a complex matter, this study of soil fertility, and the average gardener, like ourselves, is apt to become pretty well bogged down.

There is a story we can tell to illustrate the need for common sense in promoting soil fertility. Recently there was published in a gardening journal, a very complete analysis of a material that is supposed to make any soil productive when added to it, in sufficient amount. By careful comparison with published analyses of well known types of soil, we established the fact that this material was identical, save for a few decimals with the soil on many thousands of acres in one of the middle-Atlantic States!

And to top that are two tests of a soil we used in our own greenhouses last year, which showed a better analysis of plant food, after it had produced a crop, than it did before.

Common sense tells us not to disregard the new facts the scientists are turning up every day. But it also tells us not to discard established practices, until others have been proven better. If your garden grows the plants you want, don't let a set of figures from a soil test convince you that the evidence of your senses isn't right. And if this seems uncalled for, we can assure you that we know those who have been so convinced.

 WE PAY THE POSTAGE ON ALL PLANTS WE SEND OUT, UNLESS SPECIFICALLY STATED OTHERWISE. ADD 5% IF YOU LIVE WEST OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER. AND PLEASE, WHEN YOU ORDER 5 PLANTS OF A KIND, AND TAKE THE TEN RATE (as you are permitted to do), DON'T MAKE THEM OF FIVE DIFFERENT VARIETIES. THEY MUST BE EXACTLY ALIKE! That is the most common mistake customers make in ordering

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