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# Gardenside Gossip

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THERE IS NOTHING HOPEFUL OF SPRING  
BUT A FEW MEAGRE SIGNS, AND THE TRADITION  
THAT SPRING HAS ALWAYS COME HERETOFORE.  
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Thus Rowland Robinson describes  
these months of a Northern winter, in the  
first of his essays called 'In New Eng-  
land Fields and Woods'. And if to us, the  
words seem too true, how much more so  
must they have been to the blind man who  
wrote them. For when the Spring did come  
he could not hope to see it, but must be  
content only to know that it was about  
him.

But we shall both feel and see the  
Spring, in all its beauty. We have a tra-  
dition that it has always come before,  
as well as a promise and a faith. Let us  
then make our plans for that Spring so  
that we may enjoy it to the fullest, as  
we even touch its beauty in the feel of  
the soil beneath our hands. What if you  
do not have the much talked about 'Green  
Thumb'. Good plants, in well worked soil  
will always grow, and bring back memories  
of the Spring thruout all the summer and  
fall. For our part, we've always put more  
faith in a strong back; a keen mind; and  
good plants. They produce more good gar-  
dens than all the luck in the world.

## THE GOLD-BANDED LILY.

Lilium auratum.

Last fall, when we were offered some bulbs of the Gold  
Banded Lily, we were very dubious that they would actually  
appear. Apparently most of our good friends felt the same  
way about them. But they did arrive, early in December, so  
late that we only shipped out the most southern orders. The  
bulbs are in our storage now, ready to be sent whenever wanted.  
They are American grown, clean, firm, and of good size. All we  
were promised was that they would be flowering size, but they  
will measure six to eight inches, and will flower well.

No doubt, some who read this will not have seen an  
Auratum Lily in full glory. To others, they will be a memory  
only. To both, we say, plant a few of these fine bulbs in any  
good garden soil, from six to eight inches deep, preparing the  
soil below that depth, and enriching it as well above the  
bulb. If it is well drained, nothing more is needed. If not,  
it may be well to surround the bulb with sand. Do not let  
manure touch the bulb itself. Growth from early spring plant-  
ing is entirely satisfactory. The stems are sturdy and erect  
with good foliage, and may grow to six feet, tho in ordinary  
culture, about half that is to be expected. The flowers are  
white, spotted with crimson, each segment with a central  
yellow stripe, and they measure about a foot across. The lower  
blooms are apt to be drooping, while the upper are held out  
horizontally, or even slightly erect. The fragrance is un-  
excelled, and is very strong. One bloom will scent an entire  
room. Clean bulbs last remarkably, we have known them to grow  
for years, and increase in size in Vermont. The Mosaic disease  
is the worst enemy, but if kept apart from Tiger Lilies, it is  
not likely to be prevalent, and it seldom prevents good flower-  
ing the first year. Blooms may be expected as early as July,  
but may be as late as early September.

ONE DOLLAR AND FIFTY CENTS, EACH.

All prices include delivery charges, unless otherwise stated. If you live west of Wisconsin, Illinois, Tennessee or Mississippi, please add 5% to cover higher cost of shipping.

HARDY CHRYSANTHEMUMS.

WHAT'S NEW?

From no other small investment is it possible to reap so much pleasure, or so much color in the garden, as from the newer Garden Mums. Coming into bloom as they do, at a time when other plants are fading, and annuals due for a frosting at any moment, they are doubly welcome. Our plants are grown in small pots, are sent out in late April and May, and will flower well this first year. All of the sorts we offer have been chosen for earliness, and are usually at their fullest bloom before early October frosts, while if they escape those, they persist and look well until November.

EXCEPT AS NOTED, our plants are priced as follows; ---  
35¢ each; 3(alike), 75¢; 5(alike), \$1.25; 10(alike), \$2.25; ALSO-  
any five, \$1.50; any ten, \$2.50; any twenty-five, \$6.00.

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SUMMERTIME.

This new Bristol Nurseries introduction is not a true Garden Mum, as we have come to know them. Instead, it is a hardy perennial Chrysanthemum, which may be planted and left alone. It improves in performance for at least two years after it is planted, and then needs division. It grows to about 20" in height, with a spread of two feet. The foliage is glossy rich green, and the flowers are single, two inches across, bright lemon yellow to bronze yellow, fragrant, and carried on densely branched sprays. Last of all, and most important to northern gardeners, -IT STARTS FLOWERING IN MID-JULY, and continues until October. The plant is patented (Number 689), and is sold at the introducers price of SEVENTY FIVE CENTS EACH.

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WHITE WONDER.

At last, a good white flowered Mum, that blooms in late September. There are other good whites, of course, but in our estimation, this is nearly perfect. The plant is husky and strong growing, standing to three feet of height when well grown. The blossoms are ball-shaped, with broad petals, and are exquisitely formed. They open soft creamy white, but when mature are a crisp clean white. The stems branch heavily, so that a few are a fine bouquet. In bloom on September 25th, it was entirely unharmed by a light early October frost, and lasted well thruout the month. SEVENTY FIVE CENTS EACH.

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BUTTERBALL.

We were greatly impressed by this very early yellow pom-pom type Mum, which flowers about September first. The flower is soft and informal, and the plant an easy and good grower. Fine in the garden, and may be cut. REGULAR PRICES.

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JOAN HELEN.

This variety, blooming about September 25th, is a rich rhododendron purple. The flower is semi-double, but large, and the whole plant is a blaze of color. The best in its color in an early flowering Garden Mum. REGULAR PRICES.

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No doubt there will be many who read the heading of this column, who will recognize the question asked daily by a Radio personage. Often as we hear it, we are reminded that in the world of news commentators there is much that is new, while we must repeat descriptions of plants, that have been written about for many years by more able men, and only very seldom do we have anything really "news" to send out to you. However, we do have a little consolation in the thought that there are new gardeners yearly, and that what we may have written five years ago probably never came to their attention. So that if anything we may say here seems repetition to you, pass it on to the young couple who have just bought the house next door!

In the lists coming to us, it is easy to see that there have been few new plants introduced in the war years. It may be asserted without contradiction that about the only family in which work has been kept up, is the Chrysanthemum. With that in mind, last fall we visited the largest Mum display in the East, where we saw not only the introductions and new seedlings of our friend, but also the best of the introductions of other hybridists from various parts of the United States. And because there had been a light frost, while we here had had none, we were able to see just what we might expect from the new sorts under our conditions, or where frost is possible between September 20th and October 10th. Best of all, our guide had a 'behind the scenes' acquaintance with the plants, and we could feel that his remarks to us were not prompted by salesmanship alone. We selected three new Mums at that time, the fourth having been on trial here at the time. And we saw many another that we would like to add to our list, but which flower just late enough to be caught by our frosts. We can heartily recommend most of the new Chrysanthemums being sent out by the specialists, altho we do think it may be found that not all will do as well as we saw them doing at the display in question. We know that even in plants so much alike as Mums, soils and weather conditions will cause a variety to be a failure only a few miles from where it was a conspicuous success. Our frost problem is something of a case in point. Here in the Champlain Valley, we often avoid frosts, as we did last fall, so that we had good blooms outside as late as November first. But it will not do for us to recommend many sorts to our neighbors, who always get frost by mid-September, tho they live but twenty miles away.

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What's new, -con.

Since we did not choose to offer more than four new sorts of Mums, it won't do for us to name others. But we do think we should point that the kinds we chose were past their best on October 10th, and are distinctly varieties for the colder parts of the country. The new 'Summertime' is an entirely different matter. It flowers late in summer, and then keeps on blooming as long as it is not absolutely cut down by frost.

No other new plants have as yet been brought to our attention. No doubt plantsmen the country over have been keeping anything good pretty much to themselves for they lacked the help to propagate and most other firms who might test and report, were just able to keep out of the weeds, themselves. We have two new plants here, neither of which do we care to name at this time, but one of them is being sent to a selected list of firms this spring, to be grow under test conditions.

We did obtain during the past summer a fine collection of Pyrethrum, which raises the list of kinds being grown here to about twenty. It is noticeable to us that a few sorts have vigor and stamina, while others we either just manage to keep, or else we build up a supply, offer them once, and then a bad winter takes the lot! It seems that is a standard procedure. We now intend to turn these plants over to one person to work with, and it is our hope in years to come, that we may send out new varieties with all the stamina and hardiness of the few, but with the colors and forms of the many. Bear it in mind, for this is a most charming plant family.

Also, we'd like to hint at new Lily developments. Actually, we do have something very fine. Our hope is that in July we shall have blooms on a large lot of seedlings, which were sown last year at this time in Vermiculite, and which made exceptional growth during the summer. If we do get blooms, and if these seedlings do prove that our theories are "taking us places", we shall probably tell you more about them next summer.

Letters and even orders continue to come to us for *Dicentra spectabilis alba*. This is the true White Bleedingheart. Do not be confused by those who name *D. formosa alba*, a white Bleedingheart. It is not for so far as common names are authentic, *D. spectabilis* is Bleedingheart, and *D. formosa* is the Plumy Bleedingheart. They are very different in size and type of growth and both are excellent. Let us be content to call the latter, *Dicentra Sweetheart*, as it was christened. But we digress.

#### HARDY CHRYSANTHEMUMS.

##### General List.

FOR PRICES, SEE PAGE 2.

ALGONQUIN. A very hardy, brilliant yellow sort. The loose flowers are on 2' stems and are excellent for cutting. Sept. 10-15.

AMELIA. This is the Azaleamum, or Pink Cushion. A compact plant about 18" high, covered with bright pink double flowers.

APRICOT GLOW. This is the Azaleamum in a glowing, apricot-bronze color. Makes a compact plant 2½' across, full of bloom.

AUTUMN LIGHTS. A glistening coppery-bronze single, of compact habit, and easy culture.

BARBARA CUMMING. A good sized bronzy yellow flower, quite double, and early. Grows about 18" tall, good for cutting.

EARLY BRONZE. A bright little bronze button, flowering very early, and one of the best for the north. Low plant.

EUGENE A. WANDER. Huge, sparkling bronzy-yellow. Earliest big Mum, growing 18" high, and fine for cutting.

FIRE GLOW. Oriental red, changing to a nice bronze-red. On the Azaleamum order, early, very hardy. A compact plant, 18" tall.

GOLDEN CUSHION. The yellow-bronze Cushion Mum. Extremely good.

KING CUSHION. The bronze Azaleamum. Husky and effective.

KING MIDAS. A magnificent large yellow. Very free flowering. 30".

LAVENDER LASSIE. Much like a lavender pink Azaleamum, tho a bit taller, and less compact. This is one of the choicest of all the September flowering Mums. Not over 2' tall.

MILKY WAY. Soft yellow, changing to pure white. Double. Erect. 30".

NORTH STAR. The best single white, free and showy in late September. Two feet high, and may be 4-5' across the second year.

PYGMY GOLD. A very early brilliant yellow pompom, only 15-18" tall.

QUEEN CUSHION. The white Azaleamum. Faintly tinted lavender.

SEMINOLE. Soft white flower, double and of good size. 18" stems. Companion to Algonquin, and both are U.S.D.A. introductions.

SEPTEMBER BRONZE. A rich bronze pompom with the Azaleamum habit. Strong growing and flowers very freely, from mid-Sept. on.

SEPTEMBER CLOUD. A white counterpart of the preceding, but not as strong growing. Compact plant.

SEPTEMBER GOLD. A fine golden yellow "Cushion Pompom."

SUPREME YELLOW. A fine soft yellow Azaleamum, with no trace of any other color, even as it ages.

VENUS. An orchid pink single, growing 30" tall, and flowering before the end of September. Excellent for cutting.

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LILIES.

The crops of Lily bulbs we dug last fall, were of excellent quality, and on the whole, the sizes ran as large as we had hoped. For that reason, we have in storage, more than the number we have been able to offer in spring, for several years. Spring planting should be done as early as possible, and we can forward every kind we offer, at any time you can plant. Will you please set a definite date. If not we shall use our best judgment. From early planting, you may expect results very nearly as good as from bulbs put down in the fall.

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L. SHELBURNE HYBRID.

You will get more pleasure from a planting of our Shelburne Hybrid strain, than from any other Regal type Lily. Some of the flowers will open here the last weeks in June, and we always have flowers during the first part of August. The splendid trumpets vary in color, and are fragrant. Long lasting when cut. WE HAVE 4/6" BULBS ONLY. 35¢ each; 10 for \$3.00; 100 for \$27.50

L. SHELLMAN.

The most sturdy hybrid Lily of Regal type, yet produced. Some of the flowers are extremely long, and all have a broad base with thick petals. The trumpets vary in shape, but are more apt to be long, rather than flaring. This is a double hybrid, and we offer second generation seedling bulbs, which may produce an unusual form at any time. Most of these did not flower in '46. WE HAVE STRONG 4/6" BULBS AT, 50¢ each; 10 for \$4.50.

L. PRINCEPS.

These are seedlings of the famous Hybrid Regal, Geo. C. Creelman. In effect, they are a glorified Regal Lily, with the same shape of flower, the same arching graceful stem, freedom from disease. They stand taller than L. regale, and have larger blooms. Best of all, they begin to flower just as Regals fade. WE HAVE 4/6" BULBS AT, 35¢ each; 10 for \$3.00; 100 for \$27.50 ALSO some 6/8" bulbs at 50¢ each; 10 for \$4.50.

L. PRIDE OF CHARLOTTE.

Introduced by us, some years ago, this fine garden Lily, while it has long trumpet shaped blooms, is not a Regal, but is more like a glorified Sargent's Lily, with long, slender, dark colored blooms, which are clear white inside, with a rich yellow throat. The stems are extremely strong, and tall, and the flowers are held well erect, so that the inside may be seen. Every plant is identical with its neighbor, so that a fine showing may be made by massing the bulbs. A FEW BULBS OVER 8" cir. at, \$1.00 WE HAVE 4/6" BULBS AT, 55¢ each; 10 for \$5.00. ALSO SOME FINE BULBS, 6/8" IN CIRCUMFERENCE AT, 85¢ each; 10 for \$7.50.

L. PRIDE SEEDLINGS.

These are to Pride of Charlotte, what Shelburne Hybrids are to the Regal Lily. They flower over a scattering period, and tho the blooms closely resemble true Pride, some are lighter colored, and shorter, while others are longer. These are the latest flowering strain of all the trumpet type Lillies that we grow. WE HAVE 4/6" BULBS AT, 35¢ each; 10 for \$3.00; 100 for \$27.50

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SMALL BULBS OF THE ABOVE LILIES.

We have a quantity of planting size bulbs of the above, with the exception of true Pride of Charlotte. Will not flower for at least a year, but offer a low priced way to obtain fine Lillies. PRICED AT 10(Alike), for \$1.00; 25(Alike), for \$2.00.

What's new, -con.

We still have the White Bleedingheart. Two years ago in an attempt to consolidate our plantings and our problems, we moved the stock of this plant to a new section. Perhaps we were careless, but we were not in a position to be too exact during those years. In any case, we lost all of our old plants, but as we had made some cuttings during the spring, we did retain the stock. In 1946, these little plants made their appearance in more numbers than we had expected, but they yielded no cuttings, and were so weak we did not dare disturb them. In late fall, we dug very good young plants and these are now in storage. We shall soon start them growing, and again take cuttings, and it is our hope we may have a fine lot of young roots to send out in September. But now, there are none. So please don't chide us for not filling your orders nor ask us when we can supply. We think that we know. But with some plants, it isn't safe to promise too much, and this is one.

To return to Dicentra Sweetheart. We have had this plant for quite a while. It is a very fine thing, but it is not a Bleedingheart. Instead it grows only at the best, to a foot of height. It needs more careful nurturing than the parent, D. formosa, which will grow anywhere for us. After some experimenting here, and after one disastrous experiment in propagation during the war years, when a careless employe let the entire lot dry up, we finally made them happy. When we wrote our good friend Warren Wilson, of Saxton & Wilson, successors to Wm. Borsch & Son, where we had it growing, we could almost see his upraised hands and wild expression, in his letter. For we put it in the dryest and sunniest part of the nursery. It does grow better, Warren, in damp cool soil, and partial shade. But when spring comes, it's like Kilroy (whom, you may recall, -'Was here'). The plant can't take our wet winters on such soil, and tho it doesn't look as happy in the dry location during the heat of summer, it does grow and even flowered very well indeed. We have a fine lot of it, to be offered in March.

Scabiosa Blue Snowflake is still with us, as you may have noted. Last spring, at one time, we had well over five thousand plants in growth here. While many of them were small and did not flower, they made a noble showing, even so. In the fall, one large firm took an incredible quantity of them, and some of you are sure to hear of this plant from another source, before long.

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What's new, -con.

One plant which is slowly coming into the limelight is new, but still so scarce as to make comment on it consist only of a warning that we do not have any, nor do we know where they may be had. This is the double flowered Snow Trillium. We do have a few plants, but the propagation is a very slow process, and tho we offered two roots in the July Gossip, and eventually sold an additional one, we are certain that it will be some time before we can again let any go.

Quite apart from the financial return that may be derived from obtaining a supply of a rare plant, is the satisfaction a true plantsman derives when he is able to send a plant lover something so choice and new as this Double Trillium. To show what we mean, let us say that the second letter we received relative to our offering last summer, requested us to hold both plants for a wealthy customer. Instead, we supplied one to the first comer, sent the second to our well-to-do friend, and as we have said, later spared a third root to another person, who very evidently wanted one badly. And we enjoy knowing that with good luck, all three of these people will enjoy seeing this beautiful bloom, this coming spring. Yet we have heard of a good sized colony of this plant in the wild which is jealously guarded by the finder, so that it won't be raided and the plants lost. According to our lights, it would be better to put the greater part of such a stock into the hands of a reputable dealer so that many people can enjoy them, rather than one. Let the money derived be put to some charitable purpose perhaps, but don't hoard beauty.

So, if you know of anything new and fine whether native plant, or just some common garden thing that has suddenly departed from its regular ways, why not let us know about it. It might bring you financial reward. It might bring you some name and fame. And in any case, it should bring you a pleasant glow from knowing that you are helping to make other gardens brighter.

This summer, we shall visit gardens and nurseries again. No matter where we turned last year, we got the warning, "We'll be glad to see you, but of course the place doesn't look too well yet". That was so true here too, that we mostly stayed at home and cleaned up. But this year we're going visiting. We hope you are, too. For some reason we expected that a lot of old friends would be callers last summer, and we almost dreaded their coming. The place was weedy, and many things have disappeared in the last few years. Maybe you guessed it, for certainly our visitors were far fewer than we anticipated. But this year, we're ready. Come along, we'll be glad to welcome you.

## LILLIES.

### L. SPECIOSUM FORMS.

The speciosums are the Showy Lilies, from Asia. Originally a white bloom, with rose spotting, forms have been developed, which are much brighter in color, and as well, we have a pure white form. The sturdy stem grows to a height of 3' or more, and the blooms are born at the ends of short lateral stems at the top. The flowers themselves are 3-4 inches wide when fully open, but the segments reflex to give them a typical Turks-cap form. As the bloom opens, it is much wider. There is a delightful fragrance, pleasant and lasting, but not over strong. The flowers appear late in summer, and are usually at their best in the September garden. Plant the bulbs 6" deep in any well drained soil. We offer---

L. SPECIOSUM ALBUM. A pure white bloom. 6/8" bulbs, \$1.00 each.  
L. SPECIOSUM RUBRUM. A richly spotted form, the white overlaid with bright pink. 6/8" bulbs, 75¢ each; 10 for \$7.00.

### \*\*\*\*\* GENERAL LIST OF LILLIES.

AMABILE. In cultivation, this Asian Lily is of easy culture, and produces good numbers of its grenadine-red, reflexed blooms at the top of a three foot stem, on short pedicels. 35¢ each

CLARK'S ORANGE. (X) Somewhat similar to the preceding, but larger and more erect than L. willmottiae, which it also resembles, this fine July flowering Lily grows easily in any soil, and flowers profusely. The blooms are orange-red Turkscaps. 25¢ ea.

HENRYI. Henry's Lily is often called the 'Yellow Speciosum', for it resembles that Lily in shape of bloom, and it flowers late in the summer. The stem is tall, fairly erect, and the large orange yellow blossom is darker spotted. It often has ten of these blossoms, and may carry twenty. A very showy garden plant for the late summer. Ours are Dutch grown bulbs and will be available, April first. 60¢ each; 5 or more, 50¢ each.

(X) MAXIMOWICZII. A taller L. amabile, with slightly deeper colored blooms. It blossoms earlier than the Tiger Lily, which it somewhat resembles, but it is more dainty than that Lily. In midsummer, it makes a splendid display, and is permanent and very easily grown. 25¢ each; 10 for \$2.00; 100 for \$17.50

(X) REGALE. The Regal Lily, so well known and so easily grown. The brown trumpets, flaring widely, white inside with a delicate yellow throat, are freely produced, in late June and early July. Excellent for cutting, and for massing in the garden. 4/6" bulbs, 25¢ each; 10 for \$2.00; 100 for \$17.50

(X) SUTCHUENSE. Another fine showy Lily, with bright orange-yellow to cinnamon-red Turkscaps in a nodding umbel in late summer. 35¢ each; 10 for \$3.00.

(X) TENUIFOLIUM. The bright coral red flowers of this little Lily are produced in great profusion in June. We grow it in large numbers and have an extra hardy and easily grown strain. Used in the border generously, and preferably when several are planted closely together, they add much to their season. 15¢ each; 10 for \$1.25.

(X) TENUIFOLIUM GOLDEN GLEAM. Identical with the preceding, but the flowers are bright golden yellow. SAME PRICES.

(X) CONCOLOR. The Star Lily. Its segments of glowing orange scarlet open quite flat, making a bright colored star. Usually grows about 2' high. 25¢ each; 10 for \$2.00.

(X) Small bulbs of Lillies so marked are available for growing on at 10 for 50¢; 100 for \$4.00.

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A SELECT LIST OF CHOICE PLANTS.

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ASTER, HARRINGTON'S PINK.

This New England Aster is by far the finest of the family. The flowers are a delicate soft pink, with no trace of harsh color. The plant is not overly rampant, and it flowers early enough to be of use in the garden, which some N.A. hybrids do not. We found a few plants hidden in a corner of the nursery last spring, and managed a very fair propagation of them. Not large, but strong enough to give a good account of themselves this first year. 35¢ each; three for \$1.00.

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DICENTRA SPECTABILIS.

The well loved Bleeding Heart is available in some of the finest large clumps we have ever had. All the plants have five buds, and many have more. Plant it in partial shade, or in the border where it has shade from some taller plants, or foliage to cover its stems when it ripens in midsummer, as it will do when in full sun. SEVENTY FIVE CENTS EACH.

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GYPSOPHILA, ROSY VEIL.

Not so strong growing as the better known Bristol Fairy this still makes a good quantity of sprays for cutting, and is more easily used in the border, as it is smaller and more compact. Add to that, the fully double, pink, flowers. You have almost desirable plant for any purpose, and one especially fine to use with other blooms in arrangements. 35¢ each; 3 for \$1.00.

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HEUCHERA, CASCADE.

Our former extensive collection of Coral Bells, became sadly depleted during the past years, and will take more than another season to increase to a safe point. But this one sort we were able to divide heavily, and now have an adequate number to offer. Its flowers are small soft pink bells, on very tall stems and the soft green foliage is marked with white. A very attractive plant, and one that flowers nearly all summer. Our plants are large and strong. 35¢ each; 3 for \$1.00.

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LIATRIS PYCNOSTACHYA, Dark Strain.

The finest richest colored strain of the Kansas Gayfeather that we know. Excellent for cutting, for accent or background in the garden. Heavy roots. 35¢ each; 3 for \$1.00; 10 for \$2.50.

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SCABIOSA, BLUE SNOWFLAKE.

The one best perennial Pincushion Flower in existence, today. Absolutely hardy, flowers all summer if kept picked. The soft blue flowers, with pink anthers are on long stems for cutting, and the plant is equally good for garden effect. 60¢ each.

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BEARPAW POPCORN.

We don't feel at all sure that this will prove to be a satisfactory subject for a Gossip dissertation. But we thought that as gardeners, maybe you'd find some interest in the problems of growing it in quantity, while as connoisseurs of the best in products of the garden, you may, or should, be glad to know that it is again available.

First of all, our reason for growing it. We like Popcorn, and particularly, Bearpaw Popcorn, which gets its name from the flat end of many of the ears. After extensive trials, which include some of the newest U.S.D.A. hybrids, this is still the most tender, delicately flavored sort we know. The hulls are thin, and when well cured, the tiny kernels expand amazingly. But it is the curing that is a problem. We have a lot of farm land, and Popcorn is a crop ideally suited for growing on a sod newly broken, as preparation for less sturdy things the following year.

But Bearpaw doesn't grow very large and it has to be cultivated and hoed, if it is to survive weeds. It can't be treated as roughly as most Sweet Corns, even. The slender stalk breaks down quickly after the first frost, so that it must be picked before it has thoroughly dried in the field. And the splayed end of the ear opens the husks, whereupon a flock of Blackbirds which roams this area descends on our fields and eats the exposed end. When picked, it will not pop, and we have built a dryhouse where it may be exposed to cold air after husking. This was a mecca for all the mice, rats, and Red Squirrels in the countryside, until we lined it entirely with heavy wire cloth. And so at last, we have our crop of corn safely under cover, to be shelled on stormy winter days, -but wait, the flat end of the cob won't clean in a power sheller, and must be gone over by hand, at an additional cost. And, as a usual thing, this corn isn't ready to pop until after mid-winter, and sometimes not until the next summer's heat has further dried it. So, when shelled, and carefully cleaned in a blower built for the purpose, it is at last bagged in one pound cellophane sacks (which have been practically unobtainable), and ready to send out.

Last year, the crop was nearly a complete failure. But this year, we have a fine one. It is just beginning to pop in good shape, and we at last have bags, too. By the time you read this, it will be available at thirty cents per pound, postpaid.

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SOILS.

Few persons who make a garden, can have the slightest idea of the amount of research and thought that is directed at the soils of this country at the present time. We are becoming aware how much good health is dependent on good soils, and how much the welfare of the entire nation depends on our maintaining our soils at top fertility levels.

The nurseryman and particularly the greenhouse man has been too well aware of this problem for many years. Some of the oldest works we have for growing plants under glass, give recipes for soils, exact to the same degree as those set up in a cook-book. And tho the early growers did not know much that we now understand and explain chemically, it is amazing how nearly right they were. New methods and materials have come to us, and we have made use of them. But the basic principles are the same as they were years ago.

Briefly, these are the basic principles. A soil must have a good amount of decaying vegetable matter in it (humus). It must not be over wet for any period of time (drainage). It must have reasonable amounts of the basic elements of plant and animal growth, which are now known chemically. This is fertility; but fertility is more, it is the proper combination of all these basic principles, combined with good cultural practices. Like the great painter, we must mix our materials, with brains.

We have no patience with those who propound that some particular method of maintaining fertility is right, and all others are wrong. Gardening with organics has been done for years. It is still necessary. But it has not always been done, and in those years, much fertility has been removed from the soil, and it must be returned. It is derived from concentrated sources, and we know it as 'phosphate'.

From time to time, we are asked, 'What shall I do to have a fine garden?' The next question usually is whether to use this or that commercial product. We can answer such questions, but we dislike doing so. For our knowledge tells us that no one thing alone is needed, save in the occasional case where an element is definitely lacking, and that cannot be determined without actual tests. Instead, we always want to say, 'You must mix your fertilizer with brains!' Good gardening is as fascinating a hobby as photography or wood-working. Texts are available. Buy them, study them, you'll enjoy it!

A SELECT LIST OF CHOICE PLANTS.

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ASTILBES.

Our liking for this fine group of plants of the Saxifrage family, caused us to devote a lot of space to a description of them, and our knowledge of their habits and uses, in an earlier Gossip. Since then, we have been able to note a gradually increasing interest in them, which was stimulated by the introduction of several fine new forms. So popular have these new kinds been, that we were obliged to withdraw them from some lists, and other nurseries too, have done so. But now we have a fine lot of young plants to offer. Remember these are permanent things, liking a rather heavy and damp soil, with excellent foliage, at all times, and showy erect spikes of bloom in June and July, to a height of sometimes three feet.

AVALANCHE. This is a moderately tall form, with pure white spikes of bloom. Striking for use as contrast with deeper colored sorts, especially with Fanal. 35¢ each.

CHINENSIS PUMILA. A dwarf form, growing to less than a foot with us, the flowers in dense rosy mauve spikes in late summer. The foliage hugs the ground. 35¢ each; 3 for \$1.00.

FANAL. The name means Lighthouse, and the dense bright red spikes amply warrant the name. Tho not as tall as many sorts, at the most seldom over 2' high, the plant flowers profusely and makes an excellent garden subject, while for color it stands in a class by itself. 75¢ each.

GERTRUDE BRIX. The flowers of this taller sort are nearly as bright as those of Fanal. But they are lightened by a silvery white center, which gives the blossoms a sparkle not possessed by any other kind. The whole effect is a very deep pink. Fine foliage, and may stand 30" high. 50¢ each.

SIMPLICIFOLIA. This is a species, which usually has white flowers but ours are all grown from one plant, raised here from seed and the flowers are deep rose. The plant grows but a few inches high, with beautiful foliage, and the flower stems, instead of ascending, arch away from the plant, the tips nearly touching the ground. An ideal plant for the rockery, but fine in the front of the border. 50¢ each.

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PYRETHRUMS.

We have added to our collection of these fine June flowering daisies, and now have nearly twenty sorts, but of only a few can we offer plants as yet. All are of easy culture in full sun in the open border, and are excellent for cutting.

EILEEN MAY ROBINSON. A tall, strong growing sort, with very large light rose pink, semi-double flowers. 50¢ each.

HELEN. A very fine double bright rose bloom, of good size, and one that does not fade. Our own introduction. \$1.00 each.

MRS. D.C. BLISS. A small, single bloom, on a hardy and vigorous plant. The great merit of this sort is the unusual color of the flower, which is orange-pink. 35¢ each; 3 for \$1.00.

VICTORIA. A fine old English sort, which we imported from Kelway, more than 20 years ago. Gives the greatest show of color of any sort we grow, for the large single blooms are a rich bright red. Strong in growth, and permanent. Excellent for cutting. 35¢ each; 3 for \$1.00; 10 for \$2.50.

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All prices include delivery charges, unless otherwise stated. If you live west of Wisconsin, Illinois, Tennessee or Mississippi, please add 5% to cover higher cost of shipping.

THE MANAGER'S DESK.

THREE NEW VIOLETS.

Last fall, we offered for the first time, these new Violets which originated at the University of Vermont. Two of them are unlike anything you are in the habit of considering by the name either of Viola or Violet, for they form large clumps of oddly shaped and marked foliage, and are primarily foliage plants for carpeting semi-shady spots, tho they will grow in full sun. They do flower however, and are attractive and fragrant when in bloom. The third is a typical Sweet Violet, save that it does not have the objectionable spreading habit of the ordinary sort. You should try these plants. All are beautiful, and useful.

AKOULA. This is the Russian word for the Shark, given to this variety by Professor Gershoy, because the long, pointed leaf resembles a shark's tooth. The foliage is striated or mottled lightly with white. A beautiful sight when fully developed, and flowers well, too.

DEAN HILLS. Much like the preceding, but the flowering habit is more pronounced, and the foliage is somewhat less irregular, tho it is as well marked. Fragrant.

NETTIE BURNS. This is a typical Viola odorata. The large dark purple flowers are intensely fragrant, and on good stems for picking. The plant increases in size, but does not spread from runners, as does the type.

ALL THE ABOVE ARE PRICED AT, - 35¢ each; 3 for \$1.00.

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A POPPY BARGAIN.

Last fall, we were so pressed with moving Peonies and other plants which had to be reset, that beyond putting out our usual number of Poppies, we were not able to plant back those which were unsold. Many of these roots were small, but others were of normal size. All will give flowers within a year, we think, tho some small roots may not do so. The list is an impressive one, and includes some of the best sorts on the place. We cannot offer them by name, for of some there are not enough to warrant. Hence this bargain offer.

WHILE THEY LAST, WE WILL SEND YOU TEN MIXED POPPY ROOTS, OF OUR OWN CHOICE, ALL DIFFERENT, BUT UNLABELLED, FOR \$1.00.

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PINK LILY-OF-THE-VALLEY.

The demand for this colored form of Convallaria majalis continues, and we have had to obtain further supplies wherever we can locate them. At the present time, we have only a small number of pips, but we expect more, and shall again have a crop of our own in the fall. If we are unable to supply this spring, orders will be set ahead until September. Culture is not difficult, tho partial shade is recommended. Remember, each bud on a stem counts as a pip.

PER PIP, 25¢ each; 5 for \$1.00.

When first I became interested in the nursery business, one feature which was of great interest to me was the long winter rest period. As soon as the beds of plants were covered in the fall, and the November snows had banked the trees, and shrubs, and evergreens, all that was left to do until April, was to get out a catalog and take ones ease. But by the time I became fully indoctrinated, some of that leisure had taken wings and flown. And of late, what with a greenhouse filled with plants for cut-flowers, and giving an opportunity for all kinds of interesting experiments in propagation of plants and bulbs and the like, there just isn't any rest period. In fact, it's almost impossible to find time to send out a catalog! This Gossip should be mailed you in mid-January. But with the trouble I've mentioned, together with a shortage of envelopes and the like, it's a wonder it gets mailed at all.

But here it is at last, the first of our publications for 1947. About March it will be followed by another, which, as for the last two years, will be largely a list of plants. Trees, shrubs, and other woody items will not be listed, but will be put into a separate small catalog, to be mailed to those near us who are most likely to want such material. Difficulties of the past few years, have persuaded us that we should not attempt to send anything but perennial plants, and bulbs, to a distance. However, we continue to grow such material, and those interested who may be near us, are invited to call and see our stock.

The list of plants we shall mail, as well as the stock with which we will fill the orders we receive, is somewhat more extensive than for some years. This is true the country over, we think. For that reason, I shall not raise prices on these things this year, despite the fact that many nurseries are again increasing their prices to us. And as always, our prices will include delivery east of the Mississippi River, which to us means all states east of and including Wisconsin, Illinois, Tennessee, and Mississippi. If you live west of these, please add 5% to cover our extra costs. AND REMEMBER, we guarantee safe delivery, always. If plants arrive in poor condition, notify us at once and we will replace them with the same, or other plants of equal value.

Gardenside Nurseries, Inc.  
Shelburne, Vermont

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