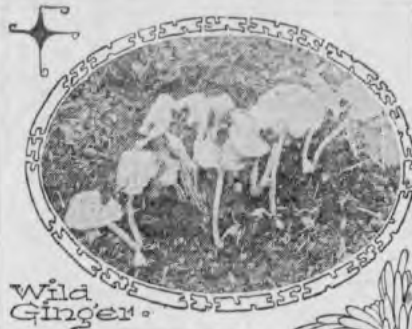
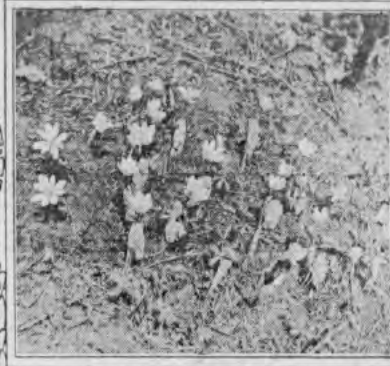


Bloodroots, Marsh Marigolds, Akder's Tongues and Dutchman's Breeches Among Spring Blooms That Delight Eye and Heart



Wild Ginger.



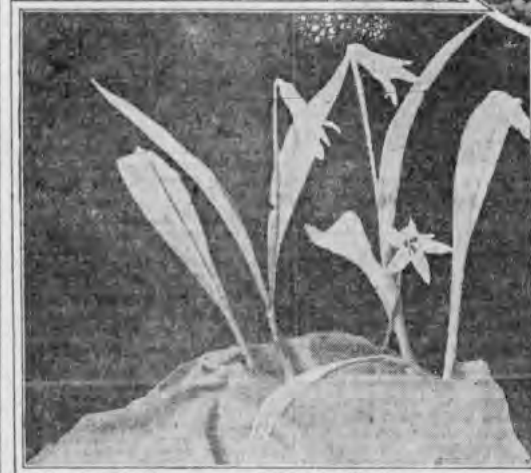
Bloodroot.



Marsh Marigold.



Dutchman's Breeches.



Adder's Tongue Dogtooth Violet.

WITHIN the last fortnight the red or swamp maple has glorified the lowlands with its flowers and brilliant hue, forming a pleasing contrast with the ash-gray stems. It is strange that this tree is not more often used for decorative planting; for it will adapt itself to drier sites and would well take the place of the much admired redbud growing farther south. The flowers of the maple are succeeded by the pendulous scarlet wings of the fruit; and before the summer is over the leaves take on more gorgeous tints than the autumnal colors of other trees.

When the red maple blooms, here and there along the river, we find a shrub, still bare of leaves but covered with tiny yellow flowers. This is the leatherwood, *Dicra patustris*. If you strip down a bit of the bark and try to pull it from the stem you will understand the significance of the common name and its value to the Indians, who use the bark for thongs.

Now is the time that we are enticed to buy from children on the street big bunches of the cheerful golden marsh marigold. For she always sits with her feet—roots—in the water, and only a barefooted boy is likely to teach her, although "enough for everybody and some to spare" is her motto. The plant is wrongly called "cowslip." The true cowslip is a European primrose and resembles the marsh marigold only in color. Wordsworth's Peter Bell would have stopped to pick the young leaves of the marsh marigold for greens—something more substantial than mere yellow flowers. Both the primrose and marsh marigold are familiar flowers in Europe and both are named in Jean Ingelow's "Songs of Seven."

With the advance of May, Mother Nature's spinning wheels whirl faster and faster and the earth-carpet—the most lovely product of her looms—is woven with intricate designs of flowers in bewildering profusion. But from them all we single out the dogtooth violet, or adder's tongue, for special admiration. The latter name due to the tongue-shaped, brown-tipped leaf, is more appropriate; for the plant is a species of lily and of no kin to a violet. It has two shining leaves which spring from a deeply buried bulb. Between the leaves arises a beautiful cream-colored bell, slightly tinted with mauve at the base. The yellow flower

adder's tongue is common in the Eastern states. A smaller species with a rose-colored flower is also found in Minnesota. This genus flourishes best in alluvial soil.

Far more common is the Dutchman's Breeches. Everyone is familiar with the pretty pale flowers arranged along a slender stalk. The divergent nectaries of the flower have given rise to the ludicrous popular name. The single pale green leaf, finely divided into many segments, adds to the delicate beauty of the plant. On Big Island, Lake Minnetonka, protected from marauders by an unclimbable fence, grows another member of the same genus, the squirrel corn (*Dicentra canadensis*), similar to Dutchman's Breeches, except that the flowers are usually white and shaped like those of another relative, the bleeding heart of the gardens. The squirrel corn is developed from subterranean tubers, round and yellow like grains of Indian corn.

Many will not observe the flower of the wild ginger, although they cannot fail to see its large round leaves. But when one has learned the habit of the plant he will stoop to look between the leaves for the purplish-red flower-bell bent down to the ground and tricked out with three slender horns. The enigma is easily interpreted: If the curious should lift up the flower to gaze upon it, the horns will protect it from the "evil eye." With closer approach one perceives another charm—the delightful, aromatic odor. Some people carry about with them a piece of the thick rootstalk as a specific for bodily ills.

Who does not know and love the bloodroots—babes in the woods—each closely rolled in the swaddling blanket of a quantity-fashioned grayish green leaf? As the leaf unrolls the flower bud is disclosed, unshathed in two thin, pale yellowish green sepals, which fall as the snow white corolla expands. The petals—some 8 to 12—are also evanescent and will not endure rough handling or a long journey. Hence let us leave them to light up the woodland. The flower passes quickly from infancy to maturity. Presently nothing is left but the seed pod. But the leaf continues to grow lustily. It is an attractive feature with its odd lobation and prominent reddish veins. The red, fleshy, subterranean stem is the origin of the name—bloodroot. The relationship of the bloodroot to the puppy is shown by the two sepals, which fall so early.

ELOISE BUTLER.

Campaign for Clean Lots Is Waged by Garden Club

Neighbors Will Be Asked to Help Make Vacant Places More Tidy.

Dirty Places Will Be Photographed and Owners' Names Published.

GARDEN CLUB SYSTEM TO FORCE CITY CLEANING

1. Police list all the dirty lots in the city.
2. Lists of dirty lots are turned over to the Garden club.
3. Dirty lots are assigned to improvement associations, covering their respective localities.
4. Committees from local improvement associations request neighbors surrounding the lots to clean them up.
5. In case of refusal owners are requested to clean up. They naturally will refuse.
6. Official photographer of the Garden club will photograph the dirty lots from enough points of view to include all the houses surrounding.
7. One copy of the photograph is posted in the room of the local improvement association, one copy furnished to each of the daily newspapers and one to the Improvement Gazetteer.
8. In some instances the Garden club will clean the lots at its own expense, but in the majority of cases will content itself with putting a sign on the lot stating that it was beyond the control of the club.

The vacant lot still continues to engage a place in the public eye, not just at present from the standpoint of a producer of obnoxious vegetation, but on account of the general unsightliness of the majority of unused lots.

Vacant lot gardening has had its day and now the scheme of pleasing up every vacant lot in the city, it is hoped, will take hold of the public's fancy in the same manner the idea of curtailing vacant lots did, and every civic-minded citizen will get busy and help clean up the dirty property in his neighborhood. Not only would he be repaid by the improvement it would make in the sightliness