

THE BULLETIN OF THE

HARDY PLANT

VOL 2 NO 6

SOCIETY

1960





SEDUM SPECTABILE

A really good late-flowering perennial which never fails to produce large pink flat heads of flowers in September. Beloved of butterflies, it is commonly called 'ice-plant' because of the large thick pale green leaves which are always cold to the touch.

Drawing by G. R. Kingbourne

CONTENTS

LOBELIAS	<i>G. W. Robinson</i>	116
NOTE ON LUPINS	<i>Mary Gallup</i>	118
PROBLEMS OF STAKING AND TRAINING	<i>Brian Walkden</i>	120
LESS COMMON AUTUMN PERENNIALS	<i>Alan Bloom</i>	123
THE GOOD CAMPANULAS	<i>Peter Hunt</i>	125
1960 PLANT REVIEW	<i>J. P. Wood</i>	127
THE CHARM OF PINK	<i>Members</i>	133
SUGGESTIONS FOR YOUR BOOKSHELF	<i>Noël J. Prockter</i>	136
OUTING TO WISLEY	<i>A Member</i>	138

OFFICERS

of the

**HARDY PLANT
SOCIETY**

Vice-President
ALAN BLOOM

Chairman
S. M. GAULT, A.H.R.H.S.

Vice-Chairman
**ROBERT S. W. POLLARD,
L.A.M.T.P.I., J.P.**

Hon. Secretary
**R. G. ELMS,
24, Sudbury Croft,
Wembley,
Middlesex.**

Hon. Treasurer
**J. S. AMOS
180 Orchard Way,
Shirley, Croydon,
Surrey**

Hon. Editor
**MRS. KAY N. SANECKI
Hawthorn Cottage,
Blind Lane,
Bourne End,
Bucks.**

AIMS OF THE SOCIETY

The aims of the Society are to further the culture and improvement of hardy herbaceous plants (excluding rock garden plants) and to stimulate interest in such plants both old and new.

MEMBERSHIP

The yearly subscription (which includes the Society's Bulletins as published) is 12s. 6d. per year, or £1 for joint membership of man and wife, U.S.A. \$2.00. Life membership is £15. Membership also includes free entry to any shows which the Society may hold.

ONCE again, only three Bulletins have been produced this year, last year we were caught up in the strike in the printing trade, and this year it was almost an Editor's strike. I do apologize to all members who have waited for this issue, that because of personal difficulties I have been unable to produce four Bulletins this year. Thank you for your letters asking about the missing number, and I hope that you will forget my shortcomings when you read this largest-ever issue.

We tender our apologies, too, to Mr. Graham Thomas for the mistakes which occurred in Vol. 2, No. 5, pp. 96-97 in the captions to the photographs which accompanied his article. Errata are published with this issue and we hope that in fairness to Mr. Thomas and all the work he did for us you will spare the time to cut out and stick the correct caption to each photograph.

Christmas Greetings and Best Wishes for 1961 to all members, and may we suggest that a worthy Christmas present to your gardening friends would be to introduce them to the Hardy Plant Society and to pay their first year's subscription for them!

My personal good wishes and hearty greetings from your committee.

Kay N. Sanecki
Hon. Editor

COVER

Photograph by J. E. Downward of *Campanula persicifolia*
Ruth Mansdel.

LOBELIAS

G. W. ROBINSON, A.H.R.H.S., F.L.S.,

The Curator of Oxford Botanic Garden, writes in favour of Lobelias.

IN the older floras Lobelias were included in *Campanulaceae*, but in recent years they have been raised to family rank as *Lobiliaceae*. The genus commemorates the name of Matthias de L'Obel botanist to James I, and in his day one of the leaders of horticulture. He established a Physic Garden at Hackney which was maintained until his death in 1616. There are some 250 species in this genus and their geographical distribution is interesting. On the American continent they range from Chile and Argentina in the south to Kamtschatka and in Africa from the Cape to the tropics. Both New Zealand and Australia have representatives and two are natives of Britain. They are also extremely diverse from the dwarf growing *L. erinus* to the giant forms of tropical Africa which can reach many feet in height.

Of the scarlet flowered herbaceous species the hardiest is undoubtedly *L. cardinalis* a native of the United States and Canada. The true plant however is rarely seen outside Botanic Gardens though introduced in 1626. The species is glabrous and has dark green to purple foliage oblong lanceolate in shape and 3 to 4 in. in length, with denticulate margins. In flower it is usually from 2 to 4 ft. in height and brilliant crimson scarlet. It does not flower until late July and August. There is a figure of the plant in the Bot. Mag. t. 320. The closely allied *L. splendens* hails from Texas and is less hardy. In this plant the foliage and stems are glabrous and usually red and the flowers scarlet. In Bot. Reg. t. 60 it is described as the shining lobelia. *L. fulgens*, on the contrary, has downy and more lanceolate foliage and both leaves and stems are red or reddish, the flowers again being scarlet. Introduced in 1809 it is a native of Mexico and the flowering period is earlier, from May onwards. It is considerably less hardy and must be protected in winter.

Blues and whites are provided by *L. siphilitica* also N. American in origin and introduced in 1665. It is reasonably hardy with us. There is also a dwarf form *L. siphilitica nana* which is a useful rock garden plant. The inter-crossing of these species has, over a long period of time, given rise to a considerable range of garden varieties in an extensive range of colour from white through pink to scarlet and purple. Many of them are vigorous erect growing plants which for sheer colour are unequalled. Three varieties with both red foliage and scarlet to vermilion flowers are Huntsman, The Bishop and that old favourite Queen Vicortia. In purple, Purple Emperor is one of the best, and *vedrariensis* is a vigorous grower with purple to violet flowers. This received the Award of Merit of the R.H.S. when showed in August 1959. A surprising number of these hybrids have received Awards of Merit even First Class Certificates but have

now dropped out of cultivation. All these cultivars should be regarded as doubtfully hardy and be protected in winter. They dislike our wet conditions and damp may prove more deadly than cold. In districts with severe winters they are best in protected cold frames; in milder areas they can be laid in ashes at the base of a warm wall until April when they can again be planted out. If propagation is necessary the old plants can be divided in early March and the small plants grown on in cold frames until it is safe to plant out.

Two other species are in cultivation *L. tupa* from Chile and *L. laxiflora* from Mexico. *L. tupa* is a Chilean plant which in its native habitat may reach so much as 10 to 12 ft. in height the inflorescences being at least 2 ft. long and the individual flowers 2 ins. Here in Britain it may reach 5 or 6 ft. with large woolly leaves rather like a verbascum. It requires a warm and sunny corner and benefits from a little protection in winter at least in cold districts. It has been in cultivation since 1824 and there is a figure of the plant in Bot. Mag. t. 2550. It also received the R.H.S. Award of Merit in 1927. Closely allied and from the same country is *L. polyphylla* with dark chocolate coloured or maroon flowers. I do not think this is now in cultivation.



Photo: Amateur Gardening
Probably the hardiest and most handsome of the species is *Lobelia cardinalis*, which produces wonderful vivid red spikes in the late summer.

Though it is in cultivation the Mexican *L. laxiflora* is not reliably hardy. It seems to like a light warm soil and sunny situation and given these will go on for some years. I have however tried and lost it repeatedly. It is on the border line between a perennial herb and a sub shrub, reaching 2 or 3 ft. in height and with loose inflorescences of red and yellow flowers about 1½ in. in length. It was figured in Bot. Mag. 5. 3600 as *L. cavanillesii*.

Although not hardy, but very interesting are the giants of the family, the Central African species. While some of these have been introduced and raised in Britain we have had little success with them. One species can be flowered under glass *L. gibberoa*. This will reach 10 or 12 ft. with a compact inflorescence of white flowers. It has been recorded as reaching a height of 29 ft. on Mount Elgon at 9,000 ft. These gigantic plants are described and figured in Journal of the Royal Horticultural Soc. 1938. By way of contrast one of the British species the water lobelia, *L. dortmanna*, grows in shallow lakes and tarns in Wales, the Lake District and in Scotland and Ireland. The flowers are pale lilac in colour and the plant a perennial spreading by stolons and forming a green carpet on the floor of the pond or lake.

SOME NOTES ON LUPINS

MARY GALLUP writes from her practical experience at Waterperry, and answers some of your questions about Lupins.

EVERYONE knows and admires the modern lupins with their magnificent spikes in such a wonderful range of colours. In a good up-to-date variety the keels and bells which compose the florets are so large and well formed that they completely hide the stem—how different from the rather gappy spikes of indifferent blue produced by some of its forbears.

It is interesting to take a glance at the history of this race of garden plants. There are in existence about 70 known species including hardy annuals, perennials and not quite so hardy shrubby evergreens. The first to be introduced to this country in 1596 were *L. albus* from the Levant, the yellow *L. luteus* from Sicily and *L. varius*, blue and white, from southern Europe. All through the 18th and 19th centuries other species were brought home from America, including the yellow tree lupin *L. arboreus*. Perhaps the most important introductions were *L. polyphyllus* and *L. p. albus* from California in 1826, and about 80 years later the pink *L. moerheimi*. Upon this material the hybridists worked and to what good purpose is to be seen in the endless beautiful varieties exhibited at the flower shows of to-day. George Russell will be remembered for the work he did by the strain which bears his name. Downer was another great grower and the work is still being carried on by many other present-day nurserymen.

None of the lupins are indigenous to Britain, but occasionally garden escapes, particularly of the yellow tree lupin, are found in waste places and the blue perennial *L. nootkatensis* (a native of Nootka Sound) has become naturalized in parts of Scotland, usually growing on shingle by the riverside. It is worth noting the conditions under which they grow wild, *i.e.*, silt and gravel by the water. Good drainage and abundant moisture is what they choose. Lupins prefer an acid soil so probably a deep well-drained sandy loam with a pH below 7 is ideal.

It is only necessary to dig up a healthy plant and see the extent of the root system to realize the depth they need and how much they appreciate a friable rooting medium. Small nodules will be noticed on the roots; these contain nitrifying bacteria which are extremely beneficial. Lupins are hungry by nature (the name is derived from 'lupus' a wolf) but owing to the nodule forming bacteria they share with many legumes the advantage of being able to utilize nitrogen from the air. To encourage this it is important to stimulate a vigorous root system, and to this end the ground in preparation should be deeply cultivated and manured with an organic phosphatic fertilizer. Bone meal 2 or 3 oz. per sq. yard may be worked into the ground before planting or given as a dressing in autumn or spring. Potash is valuable to general health and is conveniently given in the form of wood ash or $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. of sulphate of potash in spring.

Some growers advise a liquid seaweed fertilizer to be given in April or early May.

Summer mulching is a great help in conserving moisture which is so very essential. Spent hops, leaf mould or even lawn mowings can be used; lupins resent farmyard manure coming into direct contact with their roots but it would be safe used as a mulch if well rotted.

Nowadays, when plants seem more and more prone to diseases and pests it is refreshing to find that the lupin produces no major troubles of this kind. Bud dropping is a fault which occasionally appears but since there is no cure it is better to destroy the plant as the tendency might be transmitted to its progeny.

Lupins are not among the longest lived perennials; this may be because of some annual ancestry in the many crossings which have gone to produce modern varieties but may also be accounted for by the quantity of large seed pods they produce which if left to ripen must exhaust the plant. Apart from the unsightliness of dead flower heads it is time well spent to remove all but the pods actually needed for seed saving. Three pods from several plants of exceptionally good colour would produce a splendid bed of seedlings and though none could be relied on to come true the majority would be as good as their parents and one or two might, be better.

When raising lupins from seed a more even germination will be obtained if the seeds are soaked for twenty-four hours or chipped before sowing. Seedling raised in frames in April or May and planted out by early July will often flower at the end of the summer and show what they are going to be; they can also be sown out of doors in May or June.

When a new variety is first shown there is often a great demand for it. If the grower has only a limited stock his number of cuttings is equally limited and this is the only way of propagating plants true to name. When the demand exceeds the supply, it has to be withdrawn from the catalogues for a time while the stock is built up again. Varieties are not equally prolific in throwing up cutting material and the shyer they are in this respect the more expensive they will be. This is sometimes disappointing for those who were not prepared to pay the very high price fetched by a novelty and then find it withdrawn from the market, but in the long run a variety that in succeeding years has the vigour to become plentiful and reasonably cheap has greater merit as a garden plant and is more worth while to buy.

It is not necessary here to give a long descriptive list of varieties as there are many catalogues for this purpose, but for those who like pastel shades these are a few outstandingly good ones:—George Russell, pink; Gladys Cooper, smoky blue; Lady Gay, pale yellow. Freedom is a very pleasing shade of blue and white; Betty Astell, clear pink. Strong colours are provided by Masterpiece, deep purple; Festival, intense orange, and Beryl, Viscountess Cowdray, red.

Form as well as colour is important in flower grouping and the spikes of the lupins are an invaluable feature in the mixed border. If space can be found for a whole bed to be given up to them in varieties of colours the result when in bloom could be described as the place where the rainbow ends.

Problems of Staking and Training

by BRIAN WALKDEN

As I look through the windows as I write this article I can see that there is a strong wind blowing. My new garden is a mile or so inland from the Sussex coast and although fairly sheltered, experience some very strong winds, some of which are not far from gale force, even during the summer months! I can, therefore, appreciate the importance of proper staking and training in my garden, particularly in the herbaceous border. Whether one's garden is exposed or not there are so many advantages to be derived from careful staking and training that it pays to spare a little thought and time to it in the herbaceous border. As this wind blows I feel quite happy and know with every confidence that little damage will be caused during even the strongest winds.

As the border is usually the show piece of the garden one must try and present the blooms and the beauty of growth to their best advantage and staking will certainly play an important part. No two borders are alike, not only in the range of plants but in other respects. It would be impossible to lay down hard and fast rules on the subject of staking, for a great deal depends on the locality. Obviously in gardens like mine, plants will require more staking than those in sheltered borders. The type of soil will have a distinct bearing on the rate of growth and also on its quality. Is it, for example soft and lush or hard and sturdy? According to soil conditions some plants will grow taller than others.

One of the many pleasures I derive from my border is the variety it provides not only in colour and form but with the 'down to earth' subject of staking. There is one important rule that I try and observe, and that is as far as possible all the supports should be concealed. It always amazes me why so many keen gardeners like to 'grow' borders of ugly stakes and canes. So many colourful borders are marred by the thoughtless insertion of supports many of which are far too large and thick for their purposes.

Undoubtedly one of the most natural supports for plants is twiggy brushwood, similar stuff to that which you use for your pea rows. Inserted at any early stage of growth, plants will eventually grow through and around it and will support themselves quite happily, and will eventually conceal the brushwood with their foliage. It has to be renewed unfortunately each season as it soon becomes too brittle. In some districts it may be rather expensive to replace.

As staking is an annual task, I feel that it is best to purchase some material or system which will give years of good service and which is reliable in all conditions. When my border was two years old I was sent some wire supports to try out. These proved to be extremely efficient. Although the initial outlay was a little high, they will more than repay for the service they provide. They could not be more simple, they are constructed of heavy galvanized wire which can be obtained in several gauges. Basically each support consists of three wire stakes and what is known as a container or circle of wire.

These supports are placed over the plant at an early stage of growth, a stake being pushed into the soil close to a clump and a container is slipped over the



Photo: Amateur Gardening

The training of herbaceous plants is greatly facilitated if these special supports are used. They are made of strong galvanized wire, and are almost hidden when the plants are fully grown. The rings can be adjusted according to the size of the plant.

loop in the stakes. The remaining two stakes are then inserted around the plant and fixed in the same manner. The plants will eventually grow through the cross wires of the container at the top and will be effectively supported. These supports are extremely versatile, they can be raised by lifting up the stakes or, of course, you can purchase several different sizes and ranges to suit the plants' growth. At the end of the season they can be quickly dismantled and stored away in the garden shed.

A similar idea can be provided by the garden handyman himself. All that you need are a few squares of large mesh wire netting or string netting can serve the same purpose. The netting is supported at the four corners on short lengths of timber and is placed over the plants at an early stage of growth. The plants eventually grow through the wire mesh and are supported.

Even these wire supports are not always sufficient for the taller and stronger plants in the border. Delphiniums are a particular problem in my garden. I find the only answer to them is to use long thick cane stakes inserted well into the ground or strong lengths of timber about 1 in. square, the latter must be treated with a wood preservative to prevent rot.

Many gardeners when training in the plants forget to maintain the natural effect of plant growth. Nothing looks worse than plants tied tightly around their



Photo: Amateur Gardening

A simple but efficient method of training is the use of brushwood, the very nature of which makes it ideal material through which to encourage the plants to grow. Once established, the plants are held securely yet naturally in the border.

middles, when they should be allowed to grow naturally without this restriction. With the delphiniums in particular I like to insert canes or sticks at a slight angle so that they are open at the top to allow the plants to grow outwards leaving the centres clear.

The tall back row plants against my fence provided quite a few problems. They were badly bruised against the wood during rough weather and had the most irritating habit of falling away from the fence especially after heavy rain fall. Careful staking solved some of the problems, but I found that if I strained wires close along the fence at approximately 2 ft. intervals I can tie my plants carefully to them as required. These wires are practically invisible during the winter and early spring months and cannot be seen at all once the plants are established. Carefully spaced they will suit any plants.

Of course at the extreme end of the scale there is the problem with the front row plants, many of which will fall or trail over the lawn edge and can be most aggravating when the lawn is trimmed and the edges cut. Foliage is kept under reasonable control by inserting short lengths of brushwood under the plants at an early stage of growth.

Personally I prefer a paved edge to the border and I am particularly fond of crazy paving for this purpose. It blends well with the border and it becomes more attractive still if some of the front plants trail over and on to it.

There is so much to be said for the inclusion of some plants which, in most cases, need little or no staking. Of course the border would be most uninteresting if we kept to this type of plant, but I find the following quite trouble free in my border:—*Coreopsis verticillata*, *Physostegia Vivid*, *Liatris callilepis*, *Sedum spectabile*, *Oenothera fruticosa*, and Phlox.

LESS COMMON AUTUMN PERENNIALS

ALAN BLOOM

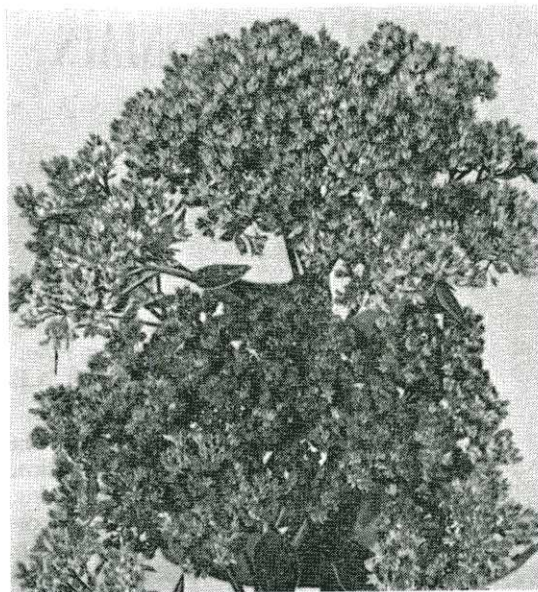
MICHAELMAS daisies apart, most borders are becoming rather dull as autumn draws near. With darker evenings and a nip in the air, a feeling of sadness comes over one that summer's glories are past which not even Michaelmas daisies and chrysanthemums can allay. In any case, a really good display of these two autumn standbys can only be gained at the expense of variety over the rest of the season and in my experience the greatest joy of perennials can be gained by having as wide a variety as possible over as long a period as possible. The subjects I am going to mention may not all fall in the category of uncommon, though the modern emphasis on popularising Michaelmas daisies of the N.B. type, the tendency is to make them more so.

Too little is seen of the autumn flowering aconitums, especially that fine species *A. fischeri*. Given reasonable soil not too dry, its 3 ft. stems carry a close spray of big helmet flowers of the colour of deep blue seas. It needs no staking, only infrequent replanting and will tolerate a fair amount of shade. A cross between this and the taller blue *wilsoni* exists in *A. arendsii*, which comes in September at 3½-4 ft. with amethyst blue flowers. *A. wilsoni* Barker's Var. is good too, with violet blue flowers, but the stems reach a rather shaky 6 ft. and often need supports.

Cimicifugas are splendid border plants, tough, hardy and adaptable yet never a nuisance. They possess overall grace and are quite unique in providing the tall spikiness for late flowering, so essential as a foil. All are white or nearly so. All are best in deepish soil and given this, are happy in either sun or shade. The plants go fully dormant and new growth is tardy, though as it expands and all through the summer as the spikes slowly develop, have a fresh appearance and though some reach 5 ft., no staking is needed. There are several species growing from 4 ft. to 6 ft. and two good named varieties are Elstead and White Pearl.

Physostegia speciosa Vivid is quite well known. It is also what we producers call a good nurseryman's plant—one that customers lose fairly regularly causing them to buy again. The reason for this is not a trade secret, because anyone who has tried it knows that left alone for two or three years, *Physostegia* Vivid is apt to wander off and vanish. The nurseryman of course, replants every year and so keeps his stock intact if he does not sell right out to customers who leave them and lose them.

Polygonum filiforme is late flowering. From quite stout bushy growth—each plant takes up a square yard where soil is good and fairly moist, come dozens of very slender spikes all over, of a dark brick red. An out of the ordinary plant which simply must have room, I find it most attractive, and very amenable to waterside conditions. The root is not invasive, but self-sown seedlings often come which are easily dealt with. For all its toughness as a plant, young foliage is susceptible to spring frost. *Salvia uliginosa* is, I find, more satisfactory in dry rather than the moist soil inferred by its name. Given moisture and richness it



One of the most outstanding autumn flowering plants is the new sedum Autumn Joy, which enriches the late border with long standing large heads of a wonderful deep red.

grows rather lush and weak and though in any case it often needs supporting, it has a mass of brilliant blue flowers in October and even November if no sharp frosts come. It has the reputation of not being fully hardy, but I have never known it fail to come through after a severe winter even if summer is well on the way before it appears. Incidentally, it flowered with me better after the drought of 1959 than ever before—and it was in a very dry border.

Sedum, Autumn Joy gained a well deserved A.M. in 1959 and it is a truly magnificent autumn plant. It came from cross-

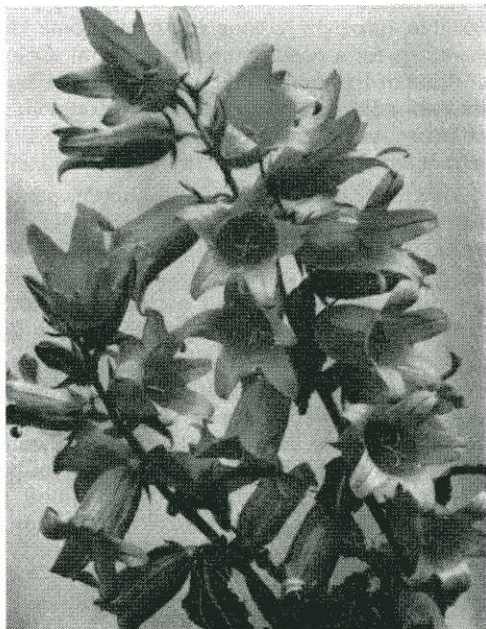
ing the well-known *S. spectabile* and the lesser known *S. telephium* and is a little larger than the former but much brighter than the latter with heads 9 in. across. The same hybridist has produced yet another cross, this time between Autumn Joy and *S. caucicum*. The latter is likewise autumn flowering, but a semi-prostrate alpine species. The new cross has been named *S. caucicum robustum* but I think it will have to be given a cultivar name to be accepted by Authority on Nomenclature. It promises well, and though decidedly a frontal border subject, the carmine-rose heads and blue-grey foliage will fill a real need.

For those in warm districts, or who are prepared to cosset against cold winters, *Senecio pulcher* is a stunner. The flowers are 2 in. across of an intense lilac-purple shade, rather like large cinerarias, but are carried singly on 18 in. stems in autumn from a bunch of dark green leaves. It likes both shade and moisture, as well as fairly light rich soil. Having been able to give it these conditions, I play safe by putting a pile of leaves over the plants before severe frosts come but it can be lifted and framed over winter if taken up with a ball of soil.

Vernonia crinita (syn. *arkansana*) is a worthy plant and is one of the last hardy *Compositae* to flower. It has a very different growth to any of the asters, and sends up immensely sturdy stems to a good 5 ft. crowned by a plate head of dark purple. All summer these stems are well foliated, rather like a eupatorium, and here again the overall stateliness of the plant is an enhancement. Easy to grow, slow to increase but readily divided, it has no vices and quite a number of virtues. This by no means exhausts the range of autumn flowering perennials that are different. *Schisostylis* and *nerine* have not been mentioned, but given suitable conditions they too can add to continuity as the year draws to a close.

THE GOOD CAMPANULAS

by PETER HUNT



An upright growing species *Campanula latifolia* produces beautifully formed deep blue flowers, or violet or white in the forms and is a floriferous border plant.

Photo: H. Smith

I have often thought that it would be fun to devote the whole of a small garden to campanulas and campanula relatives. Think with what pride one could invite friends to see the Bellflower Garden. Certainly, there would be enough diversity of height, from the 2 inches of the alpine garden kinds to the impressive 6 feet of *Campanula lactiflora*, and enough variation in colour and form, to prevent monotony.

But my Bellflower Garden will, alas, remain but a thought; some of the species are none too easy of cultivation. *C. zoyzii* needs an electric fence or its molluscan equivalent to protect it from slugs, and what little time I have must be given to the garden as a whole. Therefore, although campanulas are among my favourite flowers, I confine myself, perforce, to the easier border kinds, which need no special attention.

These border bellflowers are among the most rewarding of plants. If I had to choose one kind only, I would choose the beautiful *C. persicifolia*, the peach-leaved bellflower, in its form *Telham Beauty*. It is probably the best border campanula we have, excellent for the middle of the border, a fine plant for June and July, continuing in flower after the lupins have begun to look tatty. It does

not object to partial shade. Over thirty years ago it received an Award of Merit.

The creeping roots from a loose mat from which the slender flowering stems rise to about 4 ft., clothed for most of their length with the wide bell-shaped flowers, 2 in. across. The clear pale blue is attractive, with no hint of washiness.

But I should hate to be deprived of the other forms of this species. It is very variable, in height, colour and form. Some kinds are a mere 2 ft. tall, suitable, therefore, for a position nearer the front. Colours range from the deep lavender of Pride of Exmouth to the pure white of Fleur de Neige. Both of these varieties are semi-double, but there are fully double kinds such as Delft. None of these varieties has flowers as large as those of Telham Beauty, but that does not detract from their value in any way.

An equally useful and beautiful border plant is *C. latifolia*, another campanula with a number of varieties, ranging in height from 3 to 5 ft., and in colour from white, through blue to purple. This, again, does not object to shade, in fact it is a good plant for the borders of damp woodland streams. It is a native plant, not to be despised on that account, but better perhaps, in its derived forms such as the grey-blue *burghaltii*, the purple Brantwood and *macrantha alba*.

Not as tall as the two described so far is another native, *C. glomerata*, the clustered bellflower, best in the form known as *dahurica*. This grows about a foot or so tall and is a good plant for the front of the border, although I find that it is also excellent in between paving stones, provided that it is planted off the beaten track. The flowers, deep violet-purple in colour and individually an inch across, crowd together in an almost globular cluster at the top of the leafy stem. More suited, perhaps, to planting in paving would be the stemless form, *acaulis*. There is a white form of the type, *alba*, another desirable plant.

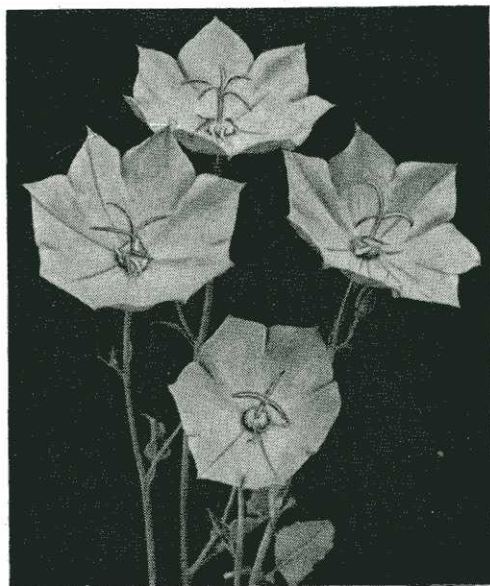


Photo: Amateur Gardening

Another perennial bellflower well worth growing near the front or towards the centre of the border is *C. latiloba*. It is a good-tempered plant; you start off with one small clump and, as the years go on, you divide it up again and again until you have all you need. It divides remarkably easily and although this is best done after the plants have finished flowering in July, it can be done at

Campanula carpatica is bushy in form and well placed at the front of the border. The open flower heads are held up well so that they stand away from the plant.

almost any time. There is an added asset in that the plant does not object to being planted in light shade. The flower stems, rising from a basal rosette, are 2 to 3 ft. tall and the 2 in. wide open flowers spring directly from the stem, in the leaf axils. Some staking is needed in exposed situations as the stems seem to get top-heavy with flowers. The type colour is pale lavender blue, but there is a white form and a form, *pallida*, in which the flowers have much more pink in them, almost lilac.

This by no means exhausts the list of possible hardy bellflowers suitable for the border. *C. carpatica*, for instance, makes very pleasant low green mounds at the front of the border and is covered with flowers from June onwards for several weeks. Colours vary a great deal in the various named forms and in seedlings. There are some good clear blues and several whites, a fine purplish-blue form in Isobel and a dark blue in Riverslea. The flowers are large for the height of the plant, often nearly 2 in. across, and somewhat variable in form.

Some of our native campanulas, such as *C. rapunculoides* (a ramper) and the nettle-leaved bellflower, *C. trachelium*, are a little coarse for the border, but fine plants for the less sophisticated parts of the garden where they can be allowed to go their own ways without having to compete with more exotic plants. This applies also to our native harebell, one of the most delicate of plants, worth its place on a rough bank. There are a few named forms differing mainly in height and colour and in having double flowers.

Many of the dwarfed bellflowers are usually classed as plants for the rock garden and do not, therefore, come within the scope of this article. I cannot resist saying, however, that they are perfectly good plants for planting between the cracks of paving stones. It would be a pity if the alpine enthusiasts were to have a monopoly of these attractive dwarfs.

1960 PLANT REVIEW

by J. P. WOOD, N.D.H.

THE year now coming to an end has certainly been a difficult one from the gardener's point of view and the constant dampness has not been kind to herbaceous plants. However, there have been good plants to see and perhaps the most notable success was the award of a First Class Certificate to *Helleborus argutifolius*, better known to most gardeners as *H. corsicus*, in March. An Award of Merit was given to this plant as long ago as 1930 and in the past thirty years it has proved to be worthy of the highest award that can be given to a plant. It is a native of Sardinia and Corsica and can be described as a dual-purpose subject as it not only has large clusters of yellow-green, cup-shaped flowers but the leathery leaves are handsome as well.

Another plant with fine foliage is *Hosta fortunei albo-picta*. This received an A.M. in May. The yellow variegated leaves are very handsome and it is a useful border plant, particularly where conditions are cool and moist.



A brilliant orange-yellow gaillardia named Tommy is a newcomer from Loddon Nurseries, and promises well as a border plant.

Photo: Amateur Gardening

Apart from those I have mentioned, another plant with interesting leaves that caught my eye this year was *Sedum maximum atro-purpureum*. The dark purple, fleshy leaves are unusual and, although the flowers are not particularly outstanding, I am sure it is a valuable plant for flower arrangers. Incidentally, it is good to see more interest, probably prompted by the floral arrangement movement, being focussed on plants with ornamental foliage and at least one nursery is specializing in plants of this type.

A curious phlox, a variety of *P. decussata*, appeared at an R.H.S. show in September. It is called Norah Leigh and it has white and green variegated leaves. I mention it only as an oddity as the specimen shown looked rather anaemic with pale purple flowers but I cannot recall having seen a variegated phlox before. The committee, to whom it was submitted, sent it for trial at Wisley.

Although I am not particularly fond of gaillardias I was impressed with one called Tommy which is a seedling from the variety The Prince. Blooms were shown by Miss Wendy Carlile in late August at a fortnightly show at Vincent Square and the variety was selected for trial at Wisley. The colour of the flowers is near orange and they are carried on good stiff stems. This and the fact that it is a robust grower suggests that the variety will have commercial possibilities and I will follow its progress with interest.

Michaelmas daisies put up with the bad weather very well and I admired for the first time the Novae-Angliae aster Lye End Beauty which was raised by Miss R. B. Pole. This seedling with phlox-purple flowers is I understand on trial at Wisley where it has already had a Preliminary Commendation and I



A really gay single sunflower is *Helianthus multiflorus Capenoch Star*, with rich lemon yellow blooms and good foliage.

Photo: J. P. Wood

hope it will go on to a higher award. There are few varieties in this section and a good new one is certainly welcome.

Another of Miss Pole's successful introductions is *Achillea Coronation Gold* which received an A.M. in 1958. The flower heads resemble those of *Gold Plate* but its season of flowering is very much extended and in habit it is much dwarfer.

One of the best perennial sunflowers that I have seen is *Helianthus multiflorus Capenoch Star*. The rich yellow blooms, about 5 in. across, appear from August to October on 5 ft. stems. I believe there is another similar variety, *Capenoch Supreme*, with larger flowers but this I have not seen and it does not seem to be listed by many nurserymen.

Although *Libertia grandiflora* is not, to me, particularly outstanding it is useful for its early flowers which appear in May. These are white and carried on stems 2 to 3 ft. tall. It is a member of the iris family and prefers a warm spot in well drained soil. The plant received an A.M. at Chelsea show.

Also at Chelsea an A.M. was given to *Saponaria Bressingham* hybrid. This is an interesting new plant, prostrate in habit, and it grows only about 6 in. tall. The flowers are large and bright pink in colour. Among the exhibits of hardy plants at the show I admired two oriental poppies, *Salome* and *Sungold*. Although it is difficult to gauge colour in the light of a marquee I thought these two looked good. *Salome* has salmon coloured flowers and *Sungold* is orange with hardly any dark blotching on the petals.

The name *kneiffia* was not familiar to me and I was puzzled about it until I discovered that it is synonymous with *oenothera*. Good forms are valuable

border plants and I was much impressed with *O. fruticosa linearis*, sometimes listed as *Kneiffia linearis*, which I saw flowering well in late July. This variety has a long flowering season, June to September, with masses of bright yellow flowers. Also good for a similar position is *O. tetragona* Fireworks. The buds have a red tint and as they open they turn to bright orange-yellow.

In these days of labour saving, a plant that does not need staking is of particular interest. This is one of the attributes of *Limonium latifolium* Blue Cloud which received an A.M. in August. It makes a large stout plant and has masses of lavender-blue flowers. Also in the same month *Limonium gmelinii* was given an A.M. This, growing about 2 ft. tall, has pale blue flowers although curiously enough most reference books state that the flowers are pink!

The blue African lily, *Agapanthus umbellatus*, is more commonly seen than its white form *albus*. The two planted in close association to one another look very attractive although they will not succeed in the open everywhere. The variety *albus* was exhibited in August and gained an A.M. The flowers are pure white tinged with pink in the bud stage.

I usually think of pyrethrums as plants for flowering in spring or early summer, and so they are, but there is a type that flowers in the autumn. This is *Pyrethrum uliginosum* or, to be botanically correct, *Chrysanthemum uliginosum*. Its habit is entirely different from the popular spring flowering pyrethrums as it grows 5-7 ft. tall. It is valuable for its late flowers which are large and white with green shading in the centres.

Finally, I must mention a chrysanthemum that I saw in Mr. Ingwersen's nursery in early November. It was introduced from Japan and is called Mei-Kyo. Mr. Ingwersen tells me that it is very hardy and the plant I saw in the open, about 18 in. tall, was covered with small bright flowers each just over an inch in diameter. Their colour is difficult to describe but pinky-mauve is, I think, fairly accurate. To me the main attractions of this chrysanthemum are its late flowering and its ability to stand up to rain and wind.

SOME OF MY FAVOURITE HARDY PLANTS

S. M. GAULT, A.H., R.H.S.

My adventures with hardy plants go back to my schoolboy days in the extreme north of Scotland. My first attempt at cultivation was to dig up primroses, daisies, and hardy ferns, to add to the few cultivated plants already growing in the shelter of the dry stone walled garden where these initial efforts were made. Many years of cultivating plants in a better climate have not killed my long affection for some of the simple but lovable plants which still give me great pleasure.

The common primrose *Primula vulgaris* is so well known and indeed so well loved as not to need any comment from me. I well remember when passing a piece of woodland in Kent last spring I saw several empty cars and looked to see what was the attraction—none other than hundreds of primroses, common primroses, all growing happily in the thin woodland conditions which suits them in these warmer climates.

Armeria maritima was another plant which pleased me as a boy and still

does so, although I now get more pleasure from cultivated forms such as *Vindictive*, *lauchiana*, Beechwood and another white form *alba*. This is not only an easily accommodated plant but invaluable—being evergreen and I now find it most useful for planting in all corners and on banks, if not exactly as a grass substitute, at anyrate to simulate grass in situations where it is difficult to get the mower. The dark olive green undulating mounds produced by this plant, when well established, are most cheerful in winter and also make a useful edging to a border.

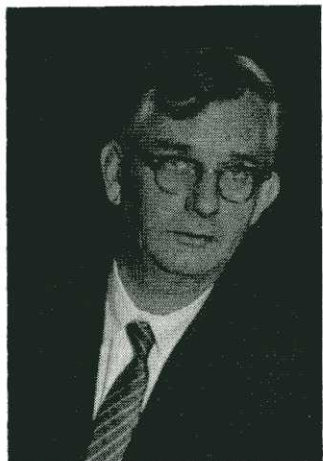
Artemisia abrotanum is a great favourite of which I always have a plant or two in my own garden. It is perhaps a border line plant so far as this Society is concerned being I suppose a shrub, but hardy it certainly is. Its greyish finely cut leaves are useful as a foil for other plants, I generally grow it close to the path where I can pinch off a piece and enjoy its sweetly aromatic fragrance. This plant brings back vivid memories of my boyhood, when southernwood or lads love helped the elder ladies on Sundays at kirk when the sermon became too long, perhaps an early form of smelling salts.

Some of the hardy plants which are now coming back to our gardens were well established forms in my early days in Scottish gardens. The false hellebore or *Veratrum* in particular the variety *nigrum* was often to be seen particularly in the herbaceous class at shows and I well remember very large well-established clumps of this fine plant in a garden near Forfar where I was employed. The leaves are most striking even when the plant is not in flower and its spikes are ideal for breaking up the flatness which is too often characteristic of borders of hardy plants. When obtainable the greenish white *album* and the deeper green *viride* are worth trying if you are not obsessed with the idea of massed colour only in your garden.

I am very fond of *Macleaya cordata* better known to most gardeners of my generation as *Bocconia cordata* and again this is a plant of quiet charm rather than flamboyant beauty. It is not a plant for the small garden, when generously treated it will attain ten feet in height, but it is a plant full of character, the flowers are small, buff coloured in large panicles and combine perfectly with the large grey buff leaves. Coral Plume is a shorter, more highly coloured plant also well worth growing.

These are somewhat random thoughts so that I have just remembered *Artemisia lactiflora*, a plant quite different in character to the southernwood already mentioned. This a true herbaceous plant which stands well on its own feet up to a height of five feet and if planted in a slightly shaded position lasts in flower for a long time. Its creamy white flowers are produced in elegant panicles in the autumn and I find it appreciates moisture more than many plants of this particular genus.

Dictamnus albus whether in its white or purplish forms is another of my favourites, not only because when established it makes a very fine display and has a distinguished look about it. It reminds me of an old Scots guardsman who used to demonstrate how this plant became known as Burning Bush. On a warm summer evening he applied a lighted match to the base of the inflorescence, whereupon the volatile oil produced by the plant flared up, but to my amazement causing no damage to the flowers. Another plant with a parlour trick which may be useful on occasions, particularly to encourage some interest in more



Mr. S. M. Gault, A.H.R.H.S., our Chairman writes here of his best-loved plants.

youthful members of the family is *Physotegia virginiana*; the obedient plant because its flowers can be moved round on the stem and will remain where moved. There are several varieties, perhaps the most useful for the average garden is Vivid an autumn-flowering plant which provides a wonderful show if lifted and replanted every spring. There is generally a bed of this plant at Kew Gardens where it demonstrates its usefulness and beauty each autumn.

Autumn brings to mind another plant which I associate with that season, *Sedum spectabile*, sometimes known as the ice plant. This is a plant which always interests me, long before it starts to flower I find its glaucous foliage attractive. When in flower its attraction extend to many butterflies thus increasing my pleasure. I grow several variants of this fine easily managed garden plant. Carmen is bright carmine-rose and Meteor somewhat deeper in colour. The pollen of this plant when combined with *Sedum telephium* has produced another very fine autumn plant, which is worthy of inclusion in even the smallest garden, *Sedum telephium* Autumn Joy. Few plants remain ornamental over a longer period than this and it has really to be seen in autumn sunshine to be seen at its best.

I have for many years been fond of *Campanula lactiflora*, particularly in its lovely blue forms and was not at first greatly impressed when the late Tommy Carlisle, that fine plantsman, showed me then Loddon Anna, a plant which was produced on his nursery at Twyford. This pale pink form at first sight seemed to me a little insipid but at the plant becomes well established it improves, indeed I would not like to leave it out so charming a variant from the varieties we already grow.

Hope is renewed annually in the breasts of many gardeners, it certainly is in mine, when the snowdrops appear and following on soon afterwards is another of my favourite harbingers, *Primula denticulta*, popularly known as the drumstick primula, even a few plants in a dampish spot or near water brings early colour to the garden. Colour covers a considerable range from the lovely white *alba*, through pink and light purple to the deep purple violet of Taylors Violet and ruby red Prichards Ruby. Not every amateur is aware that this plant readily grown from seed can also be increased by root cuttings, much the best method for named varieties or any good variant produced from seed. Chop the thicker roots into inch long pieces and sow in boxes under glass the resulting young plants can be planted out in a shady moist border in due course. One of the last plants introduced by Tommy Carlisle before his death was *Anchusa* Loddon Royalist and I always remember with pleasure how appreciative he was when it received a very worthy Award of Merit at Chelsea show. This fine plant which required no staking, being only some thirty inches high is a glorious gentian blue making a wonderful display in June and will, I hope, for many years keep green the memory of its raiser.

THE CHARM OF PINK

A colour duet, presented by two members who put to you their favourite pink forms of plants, which are normally some other colour.

EVERY gardener has his or her special weakness, and mine is for unnaturally-pink flowers—that is, pink forms of flowers that are normally of some other colour. Such forms are fairly common among blue-flowering plants—larkspur, lupin, forget-me-not and Canterbury bell spring instantly to mind; but in these cases the colour is nearly always what the Scots call “blae”, a pink with a hint of lavender about it, which to me is not so attractive. (The exception is the hybrid delphinium ‘Pink Sensation’, which inherits its colour from its orange-scarlet parent, *D. nudicaule*). Pink forms of white flowers are rather rare, and can be either breath-takingly delicate, as in *Magnolia stellata rosea* and some forms of jasmine, or merely wishy-washy, as in the pink lily-of-the-valley. It is in the families whose flowers are predominantly yellow or orange that the most subtle and exciting shades are to be found.

The pink-trumpeted daffodils are a case in point, resembling in colour the most exquisite shells, picked up still wet and transparent on the sea-shore, before they become lifeless and dry. I cannot understand anybody failing to be charmed by them, and hope that their ethereal dawn shades will not be too rapidly ‘improved’ by the breeders. The wonderful range of sunset-pinks to be found among the Ligtu Hybrid alstroemerias—from the near-white to near-scarlet, and not a harsh or insipid shade among them—is rapidly becoming familiar to most gardeners, and almost reconciles one to the invasive tactics of their orange cousins. Less well-known, perhaps, is the pink montbretia (*M. rosea*)—rather weedy in habit, but very obliging and floriferous—whose rosy flowers have sweet little cream markings on the lower petals, suggestive of a white moustache on the face of an irate colonel. Unfortunately this charming ornament is only visible on close examination, as the flower does not open widely enough for it to be easily seen.

Among the composites, we have the former rudbeckia, now called *Echinacea purpurea*, of most unusual but effective colouring, whose French-pink (not purple) petals are set off by a cone of warm orangey-brown; unfortunately in my garden the pests are even more fond of it than I am. The wild yellow hawkweeds long ago invaded the garden in the shape of their orange representative, grim-the-collier, but few people grow the beautiful pink hawkweed, *Crepis incana*. It is all nonsense that this plant requires alpine-house conditions; I grow it as a front-of-the-border perennial, where it makes cushions 18 in across, smothered in July with exquisite shell-pink flowers. The annual *C. rubra* is less good; though pleasant enough, the colour is dull compared to that of *incana*.

And here a word of warning about the description ‘salmon-pink’ as employed by nurserymen and seedsmen. To me it indicates the colour of prime Scotch salmon, nicely cooked; but others apparently know only the salmon that comes from a tin or the raw fish on a slab, for the adjective may be applied to any colour from orange-tawny to ruby. I was deluded by it many years ago into sowing *Papaver lateritium*, which has no shade of pink in its carrotty countenance, and which I have been weeding up ever since. Salmon-pink oriental poppies can look lovely, especially grown, as I have seen them, with

great clumps of anchusa against a grey-and-white chalk wall; and some of the most delectable pink shades are to be found among the newer Iceland poppies. The eschscholzia, also a member of the poppy order, has some attractive pink forms, including an almost edible variety that is cream on the outside and strawberry-pink within.

Many more examples could be given, without counting the multi-coloured races, such as tulips, ranunculus, and zinnias, where pink forms as well as yellow and red are a matter of course. Enough has been said to show that I like to look at my garden through rosy spectacles. Unfortunately I have not been very successful in my attempt to grow the pink day-lily. The plant I obtained sulked for some years, and then produced flowers of a curious greyish shade, very unlike the glowing colour-photograph that induced me to purchase it. But I would still fall a willing prey to any nurseryman who would offer the loveliest flower of my imagination, which I long to see, and which should not be beyond the bounds of possibility—a shell-pink crown imperial.

Alice M. Coats

It was at Wisley at the end of June that I first came across the pink form of chicory, *Cichorium intybus roseum*, growing in the herb border. It was not nearly as robust a plant as the blue chicory which stands in my perennial border, but here on practically solid chalk it is very much at home, and is, in fact, hedgerow weed generally in Buckinghamshire. That may account for the pink form at Wisley seeming to be less rampant, but it was delicate in colour and altogether a delightful plant to find. It set me thinking of Pink Sensation the belladonna-type delphinium, which is really a hybrid *D. ruysii* and originated on the famous Moerheim nurseries belonging to Mr. Ruys in Holland towards the end of the '30s long after he had abandoned his efforts to produce a pink flowered delphinium seedling. It was a chance seedling, probably with *D. nudicale* as one of its parents accounting for its smallness. It in turn gave rise to Rose Beauty a delphinium of deeper pink with somewhat larger flowers, but variable constitution.

A hybrid such as this is strictly speaking a little different from a named variety that might have pink flowers though one finds usually that where pink flowers are the exception rather than the rule the plant is a hybrid of the type. Veronicas come to mind, a genus universally thought of as blue flowered, but there are varieties of *Veronica spicata* which make most attractive border plants and have pink flowers. Minuet is one I like to grow, with clear pink spikes almost fluffy with styles, tapering beautifully above dusty grey foliage. Taller and much deeper pink is Pavane which is also worth growing. Erica is a dull pink, not very pleasing and a deep rose variety is Barcarolle. All flower in July and August and divide easily either in the early autumn or spring. The only other pink flowered veronica I know of is *V. incanra rosea*, less silver leaved than *incanra* itself, greyish generally, surface rooting and growing up to a foot and a half in height.

Two pink forms of perennials which are really weedy and anaemic in comparison with their more robust relatives are *Stachys discolor* (syn. *nivea*) and the

pink flowered lavender. The stachys is sometimes supplied as *S. lanata* the beautiful thick felty lamb's ear, but is in fact a much less hairy plant and really only then on the under surfaces of the leaves. The flowers come at the end of June and beginning of July in well-spaced whorls up the stem, as weedy and insignificant as possible against the silver foliage. Like *S. lanata*, the plant probably has a better value if the flowering spikes are removed, then the mat-like growth is of decorative value and it is in the fortunate position of being able only to display its qualities without any of its weaker points!

Really good border plants, though the criterion seems to be whether or not they can withstand our damp winters are the penstemons, and while *P. campanulatus* Evelyn is probably likely to be the best known pink one at present, great advances are being made both here and in America with the genus. A whole series of tests are being carried out and a range of plants of the *P. barbatus* type are merging with a colour range through the whole compass of mauves, pinks and reds. So we can look forward with practical certainty to more good pink penstemons.

A useful and showy border plant in June is galeaga and the mauve varieties are most frequently grown, sometimes the white *G. alba* makes a good companion in clumps for *G. officinalis*, the ordinary goat's rue. The only true clear pink form is *rosea* though *carnea* and *carnea plena* are also good pinks especially when young.

That pink flowered plants exist in many cultivars of herbaceous perennials is not to be disputed. Many of them are varieties which come and go, or something long waited for as in the genus *hemerocalis*. *Verbascum* seedlings may include pink, especially if they are of the *V. phoeniceum* form which is wild over great areas of Europe. The well-known Pink Domino rather mauve-pink in colour is considered to be a sport of Cotswold Queen, itself a dirty bronze salmon shade. Mother of Pearl is listed as blush pink, but it is a plant I have not seen. Hybrid plants *V. nigrum album* × *V. phoeniceum* are producing a wide range of pink shades now from cream to good deep reds.

In reflection on scabious one realizes that the biennial form *S. atropurpurea* usually treated as an annual, produces all kinds of reds, pinks and mauves as well as blues and whites but among the perennial species only *S. lucida* produces pink flowers and those late in the summer and not over as long a period as scabious generally are considered to flower. The growth is bushier than with *S. caucasica* varieties so inevitably border plants, and the flower stems are short in comparison. Similarly among cornflowers, the annual forms produce variations of pink, white and blue, while the perennial forms are not quite so widely varied in colour and the pink is not as common. The dreadful weedy *Centaurea montana* has *carnea* and *rosea* forms but there is nothing as robust as the handsome yellow *C. macrocephala* which dominates all other forms to my mind. *C. dealbata* produces the best pink flowers on 18 in. to 2 ft. stems for some weeks during July and early August, which contrast prettily with the greyish deeply indented foliage.

Kay N. Sanecki

SUGGESTIONS FOR YOUR BOOK SHELVES

Compiled by NOEL J. PROCKTER

THIS compilation of books dealing with hardy herbaceous perennial plants is in no way intended to be a complete list, but at most it will give members of the H.P.S. some idea what has been published and what is available at the present time.

When considering such a list as this perhaps the first writer that comes to mind is that great informal gardener William Robinson, and his famous 'English Flower Garden', published in 1883. My own copy only a second edition dated 1889, was originally owned by The Reverend Joseph Jacob, it has his signature and is dated 1891, a good five shillings' worth at a secondhand book shop. In the preface of the first edition there is a list of names of writers whose contributions were included in this great work—to mention just a few P. (Peter) Barr, H. J. Elwes, Miss G. (Gertrude) Jekyll, A. (Amos) Perry, G. F. Wilson, etc. It is interesting to note that Frances Perry the daughter-in-law of the late Amos Perry, has, and continues to enrich us with her knowledge of hardy plants, by articles, books and her broadcasts. A work also by William Robinson is the book entitled 'Hardy Flowers', 1900; it has descriptions of upwards of thirteen hundred of the most ornamental species, with directions for their arrangement, culture, etc., so it states on the title page. Although a small book, it has 341 pages, but no illustrations, where as 'The English Flower Garden' is handsomely illustrated with many fine engravings, which are so much nicer than the illustrations in the up-to-date editions.

I suppose, next to William Robinson is Gertrude Jekyll, I regret to say I have never really read her books thoroughly, but I am sure I ought to; however she has many to her credit, such as 'Colour in the Flower Garden', 1908, 'Wood and Garden', 1899, 'Wall and Water Garden', but as I do not know them personally I cannot say more.

Another exponent of hardy plants was A. J. Macself, his book 'Hardy Perennials', was published in 1950, two years before he died. It might interest members to know that Mr. Macself was the first secretary and a founder member of The National Hardy Plant Society in 1910; he was also a founder member of The British Delphinium Society in 1928.

It is interesting to note that in the 77 years since William Robinson first published 'The English Flower Garden', that there have been only four other great names who have written and dealt mainly with hardy herbaceous perennials, they are Gertrude Jekyll, A. J. Macself, Frances Perry and Alan Bloom. I am not saying that others have not written about some particular genus or family and indeed they have, on such plants as lilies, paeonies, phlox, irises, ferns and even michaelmas daisies. But when one browses round secondhand bookshops and studies lists of secondhand books, one realizes how many books have been written about horticulture in all its many spheres. As I write I have a list of gardening books with nearly 1,000 titles, but not all of course on hardy plants.

Fortunately, all recent books have been reviewed in the Bulletins of the H.P.S., so members have been kept abreast of the times, but believe me there is also much good reading to be had among the older books, though plant names have in many instances, been changed by the botanist, and frequently, those of

us who have known the older names have to learn new names for old favourites. Let us not, however, bemoan the changes too much as real success can only come in regard to plant nomenclature if botanist and gardener work together, and not think each other is a fool!

Here then is a list to start anyone off on making a library of books on hardy herbaceous perennial plants.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

s.h. = *secondhand*.

- Robinson, William: 'The English Flower Garden', well illustrated, 1883, last edition 1956, Murray, 42s. 0d.
'Hardy Flowers', 1900, *s.h.*
- Jekyll, Gertude: 'Colour in the Flower Garden', 1908, *s.h.*
'Wall and Water Gardens', 1899, *s.h.*
- Macself, A. J.: 'Hardy Perennials', 304 pp., 94 illustrations, 1950. Collingridge, 18s. 0d.
'Ferns for Garden and Greenhouse', 244 pp., 58 illustrations, 1952, Collingridge, 21s. 0d.
- Perry, Amos: 'Water, Bog and Moisture Loving Plants', well illustrated, *s.h.*
- Perry, Frances: 'Water Gardening', excellently illustrated, 338 pp., first edition 1938, *s.h.*, new edition being reprinted.
'The Garden Pool', 116 pp., 26 photographs, Collingridge, 9s. 6d.
'The Herbaceous Border', 112 pp., 21 photographs. Collingridge, 6s. 0d.
'Collins Guide to Border Plants', 288 pp., black and white and coloured illustrations, Collins, 25s. 0d.
- Bloom, Alan: 'Hardy Perennials', illustrated, Faber, 30s. 0d.
'Perennials for Trouble Free Gardening', illustrated, Faber, 21s. 0d.
- Vautier, J. G.: 'Hardy Plants Amateur Gardening Handbook, No. 30', Collingridge, 4s. 0d.
- Lloyd, Christopher: 'The Mixed Border', 196 pp., 78 illustrations, 1957, Collingridge, 35s. 0d.
- Roper, Laning: 'Hardy Herbaceous Plants', Penquin, 6s. 0d.
- Anley, Gwendolyn: 'Iris, their culture and selection', 115 pp., 31 illustrations, 1946, Collingridge, *s.h.*
- Thomas, G. S.: 'The Modern Florilegium', an excellent handbook, Sunningdale Nurseries, 3s. 0d.
- Hellyer, A. G. L. (Edited by): 'Herbaceous Borders', Amateur Gardening Picture Book, No. 5. Collingridge, 7s. 6d.
- Phillips, G. A. R.: 'Aristocrats of the Flower Border', 196 pp. 32 illustrations, 1934 and 1947, Published by Country Life, *s.h.*
- Cave, Leslie: 'The Iris', 216 pp., 4 colour plates, 30 monochrome slates, 3 line drawings, 1950, Faber & Faber, 21s. 0d.
- Parrett, Ronald: 'The Russell Lupin', Holmes & Sons, 5s. 0d.
- Mansfield, T. C.: 'The Border in Colour', Collins, 21s. 0d.
- Kelway, James: 'Garden Paeonies', 64 pp., 15 coloured illustrations, 1954, Eyre & Spottiswode, 10s. 6d.
- Ranson, E. R.: 'Michaelmas Daisies', 123 pp., 14 illustrations, Gifford, *s.h.*
- Symons-Jenne, B. H. B.: 'Phlox', 127 pp., 18 illustrations—A monograph, 1953, Collins, 12s. 6d., *s.h.*
- Bishop, Frank: 'The Delphinium', 144 pp., 9 colour plates, 15 monochrome illustrations. A monograph, 1945, Collins, 10s. 6d., *s.h.*

A MEMBER'S IMPRESSION OF THE OUTING TO WISLEY

I cannot recall the first time a well-grown flower in bloom first filled my heart with pleasure, or the first time I was taken to see a garden open to the public. But I shall never forget the first time I visited the Royal Horticultural Gardens at Wisley: it was the occasion of the annual outing of the Hardy Plant Society on Saturday, 16th July, 1960.

I rose at 5.30 a.m. with some doubts about whether I was going to enjoy myself. During 1959 few items in the calendar of events of the H.P.S. took place on a Saturday, the exhibitions of hardy plants at the R.H.S. Halls, Westminster, the outing to Harlow Car Gardens, Harrogate and the cancelled dinner at the R.H.S. New Hall—all these events took place during the week. I asked myself, 'Would the others on the trip be full-time gardeners able to attend mid-week functions?'

A glance through the latest copy of the H.P.S. Bulletin, showed on p. 104 'A preliminary count of the somatic chromosome number of the F. hybrid gave $2n$ —about 36, which suggests that both the species used in the cross had 36 chromosomes. This observation is in disagreement with the previously reported number of 72 for *C. latifolium*'. I mused, 'Perhaps they were all botanists who see every bomb site plant as a collection of vascular bundles and genes with light brown hair'. Into the patch at the back of the house the lady downstairs calls a garden, I pulled at a weed and toyed with the idea of a button hole. It would have to be a hardy plant and delphinium belladonna would look a bit ridiculous in my lapel. How I long for a garden of my own. I wondered whether those who had arranged this trip were aware that this is the age of the weekend amateur with a small garden but a large love of flowers. Music, philately and sport have a popular following, why had 'haughty-culture' lagged behind, was it still the art and science of the few? These thoughts occupied my mind until I reached the rendezvous and on time too! But not a sign of a coach or one long-haired professor of botany.

Suddenly a young man appeared wearing a half-hardy dianthus as a button-hole. I explained I was quite happy standing on the corner watching all the girls go by, but he explained that I was the last to arrive and the coach was round the corner. It was Mr. R. G. Elms our Hon. Sec. I sneaked into a seat. The weather was fine and warm so I laughed at the others with their raincoats—with luck in my name what else could we expect but sunshine? And what a day it was—what ransom our Secretary paid the weather clerk for that lovely weather I do not know for it rained on both Friday and Sunday.

At Wisley, Mr. F. Knight, the Director of the Gardens met us and conducted our party, saying we could ask questions if we wanted to and he would do his best to avoid them! A man after my own heart!

Can you imagine the delight I experienced seeing for the first time some of the plants I had only heard of, and others I had grown, when as a country boy, I had a quarter of an acre to play with. *Lathyrus latifolius* covered and disguised the pea sticks put there for support next to *Bocconia cordata*—look again, the old plume-poppy has suffered a change of name, it is *Macleaya cordata* now.

Aconitum was in her glory, so too was agapanthus, bright blue flowers on 3 ft. stems—Lilies were out all over the place, so too, were the hostas. My favourite red hot poker kniphofia Royal Standard was there together with others of this lovely species, and *Salvia superba*—how well named this—rich violet in the sunshine. Physostegia as obedient as ever, penstemons, campanulas (or were they platycodons?)

After a good lunch at the Wisley Gardens Restaurant I went off on my own to see all there was to see. I was surprised to learn there is a hardy calceolaria. I saw old 'mother of thousands' (*Saxifraga sarmantose*) growing upside down in a crevice by the waterfall (I must water mine on the side-board-garden at home). There was *Lamium maculatum* doing a fine job of weed suppression, and then *Romneya coulteri* in full bloom. I gazed in admiration for five minutes at this beauty. When I get a garden of my own I'll have a ten-foot border with a tree-poppy at one end and—a brown squirrel ran across my feet and up a nearby tree: I was having the time of my life.

Mr. Gault (our Chairman) was last on the coach but Mr. Elms was out searching for him. Another member volunteered to search for Mr. Elms and I said I would go and look for him when Mr. Elms turned up. Grand fun, and a wonderful day spent among others who share with me that love of our favourite plants.

I no longer long for a garden of my own—I crave for one.

Peter Luckhurst

A REMINDER

The Society wishes to remind members that a service exists whereby hardy plants and seeds which are rare in cultivation and not normally obtainable through the usual trade sources, can be exchanged among members.

If you are anxious to obtain such plants or seeds or if you have any which are surplus to your needs, which you would like to pass on to a fellow member, just send details with your name and address to the Editor, and she will publish your offer or request in the Bulletin.

ADVISORY SERVICE

It cannot be denied that the Hardy Plant Society is a wide spread one, with members in all parts of the world. It is also a fact that many of our members live in country districts and perhaps have few opportunities of discussing, with other hardy plant enthusiasts the doubts and difficulties that are bound to arise.

Your Committee has inaugurated an Information Bureau in an endeavour to help members with advice and possible solutions to their problems.

Mr. R. C. Balfour has kindly consented to act as Information Officer to handle members' inquiries and you are invited to write to him direct at 25 Leazes Avenue, Chaldon, Caterham, Surrey.

It should be stressed that this service is intended primarily to help members who are experiencing difficulties which are not normally met in the cultivation of hardy plants. Every endeavour will be made to help members seeking information concerning hardy plants.

Your request should be accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope and in the case of overseas members, the appropriate International Postal Reply Coupon.

R. G. Elms

DEPENDABLE SUPPLIERS OF HARDY PLANTS

BEDFORDSHIRE

- ★ W. CROCKETT
UPLANDS NURSERIES,
BRAGS LANE,
WRESTLINGWORTH

BERKSHIRE

- ★ THOMAS CARLILE
(LODDON NURSE-
RIES) LTD.
CARLILE'S CORNER,
TWYFORD.
- ★ J. R. TAYLOR
LILY HILL NURSERY,
BRACKNELL
- ★ JOHN WATERER, SONS
& CRISP LTD.
THE FLORAL MILE,
TWYFORD.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

- ★ KELVIN LAWRENCE
HARDY PLANT NURSERIES,
BEACONSFIELD

CORNWALL

- ★ TRESEDERS' NURSE-
RIES (TRURO) LTD.
THE NURSERIES, TRURO

DORSETSHIRE

- ★ JOHN SINDEN
ELDOWS NURSERIES,
CORFE MULLEN,
WIMBORNE

ESSEX

- ★ E. A. T. WRIGHT
OAK ROYAL NURSERIES,
FRONT LANE,
CRANHAM,
TEL.: UPMINSTER 4733

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

- ★ JOE ELLIOTT
BROADWELL NURSERY,
BROADWELL,
MORETON-IN-MARSH
- ★ JOHN JEFFERIES &
SON LTD.
THE ROYAL NURSERIES &
SEED ESTABLISHMENT,
CIRENCESTER

HAMPSHIRE

- ★ MAURICE PRICHARD
& SONS LTD.
RIVERSLEA NURSERIES,
CHRISTCHURCH

HAMPSHIRE—cont.

- ★ HILLIER & SON,
WEST HILL NURSERY,
ROMSEY ROAD,
WINCHESTER

HEREFORDSHIRE

- ★ THE OLD COURT
NURSERIES LTD.
COLWALL, NR. MALVERN

HERTFORDSHIRE

- ★ J. CUNNINGTON
VERULAM HARDY PLANT
GARDENS,
VERULAM ROAD,
ST. ALBANS

HUNTINGDONSHIRE

- ★ B. & N. E. TACCHI
BANKS END NURSERIES
WYTON

KENT

- ★ GEORGE G. WHITE-
LEGG
THE NURSERIES,
KNOCKHOLT,
NR. SEVENOAKS

LANCASHIRE

- ★ S. E. LYTTLE LTD.
THE HARDY PLANT AND
VINE NURSERIES,
CROSS GREEN,
FORMBY

MIDDLESEX

- ★ E. J. WOODMAN &
SONS (PINNER) LTD.
19-25 HIGH STREET,
PINNER

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

- H. MERRYWEATHER
& SONS. LTD.
SOUTHWELL

SOMERSET

- ★ JOHN SCOTT & CO.
THE ROYAL NURSERIES,
MERRIOTT

SUFFOLK

- ★ THOMPSON & MOR-
GAN LTD.
LONDON ROAD,
IPSWICH
- ★ R. C. NOTCUTT, LTD.
THE NURSERY,
WOODBIDGE,
SUFFOLK.

SURREY

- ★ GEO JACKMAN & SON
(WOKING NURSE-
RIES) LTD.
WOKING
- ★ R. B. POLE,
LYE END NURSERY,
ST. JOHN'S,
WOKING
SUNNINGDALE
NURSERIES
WINDLESHAM

SUSSEX

- ★ A. GOATCHER & SON
THE NURSERIES,
WASHINGTON
- ★ ROBERT POLAND
BROOK HOUSE NURSERY,
HIGHBROOK ROAD,
ARDINGLY
TEL.: ARDINGLY 390
- ★ TOYNBEE'S
NURSERIES,
BARNHAM,
BOGNOR REGIS

WARWICKSHIRE

- ★ PACIFIC NURSERIES
QUELLET ROAD,
GREAT BARR,
BIRMINGHAM, 22A

YORKSHIRE

- ★ R. V. ROGER
THE NURSERIES,
PICKERING

SCOTLAND

- ★ DOBBIE & CO. LTD.
SEEDSMEN & NURSERYMEN
EDINBURGH 7
- ★ JACK DRAKE
INSHRIACH ALPINE PLANT
NURSERY,
AVIEMORE,
INVERNESS-SHIRE
- ★ JOHN FORBES
(HAWICK) LTD.
BUCCLEUCH NURSERIES,
HAWICK, ROXBURGHSHIRE