

# BROOKLYN BOTANIC GARDEN

## FALL WILD FLOWERS

### Lecture

Most fall wild flowers are not so delicate nor so hard to find as those of spring. They often grow on roadsides and in vacant lots; living perhaps where they are not wanted and therefore called weeds. The weeds of one country are often choice garden flowers in another. These foreign plants are often escapes from old gardens.

1. Yarrow is one of our commonest flowers along the roadsides. As you see, the leaves are very finely cut into many small parts, feathery and gray-green. The flowers are aromatic and white. Bees and butterflies carry its pollen.
2. The Dandelion blooms all through the year. Like many of our other wild flowers, its first home was in Europe. We find it along roadsides and very commonly in lawns. The name dandelion means tooth of the lion, for the edges of the leaves are zigzag like teeth.
3. Wild Carrot or Queen Anne's Lace or Bird's Nest is a beautiful and very common flower. The wild carrot is the original stock of the garden carrot which we eat. The plants have deeply cut leaves, and flat-topped flower clusters. Countless insects visit them, including bees and butterflies. The flowers decorate every roadside and waste place. The old flower clusters curl up and resemble a bird's nest.
4. The European Bell Flower is seen occasionally along the roadsides and is recognized by its beautiful blue bells. The flowers commonly hang down on only one side of the stem. They are visited by bumble bees and honey bees.
5. Chicory or Succory is another flower belonging to the dandelion family, but not so common as some of the others. The roots are sometimes ground up and added to coffee. The beautiful blue flower closes in rainy weather.
6. Butter and Eggs or Toadflax flowers are colored, as you see, much like butter and eggs. This flower we find along the roads or in city lots all through the summer to October. Bumble bees and butterflies visit the flowers and carry the pollen.
7. Indian Pipes do not look like real plants at all, because they have no green leaves. The leaves and flowers are white and fleshy. This plant gets its food from decaying wood and leaves in the soil. We will find clumps of Indian pipes in the woods in the fall. They blacken quickly when gathered.
8. The pretty yellow flowers of Sundrops with the four petals we will see along the wayside in the summer and fall. The pollen is yellow and loosely connected by cobwebby threads. Moths carry it from flower to flower.

9. In the fall we see the beautiful purple color of the Iron-weed in swamps and wet places. This plant belongs to the same family as the dandelion and daisy. It is a tall coarse plant with rough stem.
10. Joe-Pye Weed grows with the iron-weed and blooms at the same time. It is a tall stout plant with rough leaves, found on borders of swamps and low damp ground, named for an Indian who used the plant in medicine.
11. The Jimson Weed is a relative of the potato and tobacco. The flowers, which look something like morning glories are followed by large, thorny seed pods. It is very poisonous to eat, but not to touch. This rank-smelling weed is found in waste places and vacant city lots. The flowers are about 4 inches long. The pod is oval and prickly.
12. The Turtle-head is a flower sometimes white, sometimes pink, like the one here, which we find in moist places and swamps. It is a smooth-stemmed plant with bright, deep green leaves. The flowers are about an inch long and look like a turtle's head.
13. The bright red flowers of the Cardinal Flower seem most beautiful in the swamps and wet places where the plant grows. The humming bird carries the pollen from one flower to another. It is one of our most beautiful fall flowers. It does not live in the city. We should be careful not to pick this flower because it is so rare.
14. The Great Lobelia has blue flowers. It is found in low, moist grounds near swamps and woodlands.
15. Dodder lives on other plants and gets its food from them. Its yellow stems wind around other stems and send in little suckers. Its flowers are white, and its seed pods brown. It has no green leaves.
16. The swamp Rose Mallow we can see toward the last of August in any of the sea marshes near New York, a very beautiful flower at the end of a tall plant. We can see it from a long distance among the grasses of the marshes. It belongs to the hollyhock family. It has stout stems, and big showy pink flowers.
17. Pink Gerardia. This little flower, with its slender leaves we often see in fields and roadsides in late summer and early autumn. It has pretty, light-magenta flowers.
18. Smooth Bur Marigold or Brook Sunflower belongs to the daisy family. We can see it in the wet places even in the city, although it is common in the country. The commoner bur marigold is an uninteresting weed, the fruits of which are the stick-tights or "beggar ticks" that cling to one's clothing in the fall.
19. The Wild Sunflower is another member of the daisy family. A sunflower plant with much larger flowers is often planted; its seeds are fed to parrots and chickens.
20. Ladies' Tresses - Most people do not know that many kinds of orchids grow in our woods and fields. Here is one which we find in the late fall in wet places. The flowers grow in a spiral about the stem.

21. Closed Gentian - Bottle Gentian. Here is a flower, which never opens. Sometimes bumble bees force it open, but it is naturally closed. It has a blue color and is very pretty.

22. Fringed Gentian. This is one of our most beautiful flowers. We should never pick any fringed gentian, because it is rare. It is biennial; that is, it blooms at the end of the second year, bears its seed, and dies.

23. Aster. We have many kinds of asters in the fall. Here is a nice one of a pink or lavender color. Asters are varied and beautiful. All yield abundance of nectar for bees and "bee flies".

24. White Aster. Here is a white kind we often see along the roads.

25. The golden-rod is shown here and is one of our commonest flowers in the fall and late summer. We do not need to be careful about picking golden-rod. There is enough for everyone.

26. Silver-rod is a white flowered golden-rod.

27. Witch-hazel is the last flower to bloom - toward the end of October. It even blooms as late as November. The pale slender petals may be nearly an inch long. The plant is a shrub, as high as a lilac bush.

28. This picture shows the fruit of the Witch-hazel. When it is ripe, it suddenly splits open with a loud noise and shoots the seeds out like bullets from a pistol.

29. Milkweed blooms in the summer but we see the pods in the fall; they are full of brown seeds with large tufts of silky down, the plant is sometimes called silk-weed because of this. The down makes the seeds able to float in the air for a long time.

30. Boneset is a common plant in low ground. It often grows at the margin of a pond or in some other moist place. It is a tall, stout, hairy plant, whose long narrow leaves grow in pairs and meet around the stem. The big branching clusters of tiny, dull white flowers make the plant very showy.

31. The flowers of White Snakeroot are very much like those of Boneset, but they are in looser and more irregular clusters, and they are a bright, pure white. The plant is smooth, and the broad leaves are set out on slender stalks.