

BROOKLYN BOTANIC GARDEN

SUMMER WILD FLOWERS

1. Yellow star-grass (*Hypoxis hirsuta*) has grass-like leaves, as you can see; but its yellow, star-shaped flowers are not at all like the inconspicuous flowers of true grasses. They are closely related to the daffodil and the jonquil, well-known cultivated flowers of spring. The plant grows in open woods, and blooms from early spring all through the summer till fall.
2. The wild geranium (*Geranium maculatum*) grows in the woods, and blooms in both spring and summer. It is related to the house geranium, but it is not the same plant, as you can see. Its leaves are divided into five parts, but they do not show very well in this picture. It does not have the spicy fragrance that the house geranium has. Its pale purple flowers are very delicate. It is sometimes called cranesbill because its seed pods have long beaks which look somewhat like the bill of that large bird, the crane. You can see several of the young pods in this picture.
3. The forget-me-not (*Myosotis laxa*) grows close to the ground in very wet places, or even in shallow water. Its flowers are blue when they are in full bloom, but pink when they are in bud and when they begin to wither; they can be found in both spring and summer. Its stems and narrow leaves are very hairy.
4. This is the mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*). Its flowers grow in bunches on big bushes, and often make a whole rocky hillside a solid mass of beautiful pink and green in early June. The flowers are deep pink in the bud, and pale pink when they are fully open.
5. Here we see the blue flag or wild iris (*Iris prismatica*). Many of us know the iris of the garden better than the wild one. Both kinds have stiff, sword-shaped leaves. The garden iris comes in many different colors, but our wild iris is always blue. It grows in wet places in early summer.
6. The clammy azalea (*Rhododendron viscosum*) is not very common; it is a beautiful white flower growing on bushes in swamps. It blooms in early summer. The outside of the flower is sticky. It is very fragrant, and so it is sometimes called white swamp honeysuckle; but it is not a real honeysuckle at all.
7. This is a field of daisies. In the front of the picture you can see some of the heads plainly enough to recognize them, with their yellow centers and white rays. Each head or so-called flower is made up of many little flowers. The daisy plant is a troublesome weed; but the flowers are beautiful; they are really single chrysanthemums. (*Chrysanthemum Leucanthemum* variety *pinnatifidum*).

SUMMER WILD FLOWERS (continued)

8. Black-eyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*) is much like the daisy except for its color; it belongs to the same family, and it also is a bad weed in fields. Its brownish purple center consists of many tiny flowers; and each yellow ray is a separate flower. Its stem and leaves are very rough and bristly. Both the daisy and the black-eyed Susan bloom all summer and form enormous quantities of seeds.
9. The dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*) is a flower that everyone knows. It has a beautiful golden head, somewhat like a black-eyed Susan; but it is all yellow rays, with no different center. It is a very bad weed in lawns; but its leaves are good to eat, and its root is used in medicine. It may be found blooming from February to December.
10. King devil (*Hieracium pratense*) is closely related to the dandelion. You can see how much alike their flower-heads are. But these heads are smaller than those of the dandelion; and they grow on a tall, hairy, leafy stem, instead of the low, smooth, bare stem of the dandelion. This plant is a very bad weed. It blooms all summer; and, like the daisy, black-eyed Susan, and dandelion, it produces a great many seeds. In addition, it has slender stems that run along the ground, take root, and send up new flowering stems; you can see one of these runners at the right of the picture. In this way the plant spreads very fast. You often see a large field which seems to be a solid mass of these flowers. It is a beautiful sight, but it is very discouraging to anyone who would like to grow anything else in that field.
11. The wild yellow lily (*Lilium canadense*) is a tall plant of wet sunny places. It has big showy flowers hanging down with their petals spread out. Its leaves are in circles at intervals along the stem. It blooms in July.
12. The Indian pipe (*Monotropa uniflora*) is a plant that never has any green leaves. It lives on the food that other plants have made. Its pure white, waxy stems and flowers grow in rich woods, and turn black as soon as they die. It blooms in mid-summer.
13. The bee-balm (*Monarda didyma*) grows in moist places in the woods, commonly along brooks. We can easily see it from some distance because of its large heads of beautiful bright red flowers. The square stems have pairs of broad dark green leaves with a mint-like fragrance. In fact, it belongs to the mint family. It blooms in midsummer.
14. Wild bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*) is closely related to bee-balm, and has a similar mint-like fragrance. It has showy heads of flowers like those of bee-balm, but pale purple instead of red. Like bee-balm, too, it blooms in midsummer, but it grows in drier places.

15. This plant gives out a white juice when any part of it is broken, and so it is called milk weed (*Asclepias syriaca*). But this juice is not at all like milk except in color; it becomes sticky and black as it dries; in fact it is very much like the plant juice from which rubber is made. The flowers are fragrant and very softly colored, and the big thick leaves are in pairs. The plant grows in sunny places, and blooms in midsummer.
16. This is fireweed (*Epilobium angustifolium*). You might imagine it was called fireweed because of the flaming brilliance of its flowers; but actually it is so called because it grows particularly well in ground that has been recently burned over. It is a tall and beautiful plant blooming in midsummer.
17. These are wild water lilies (*Castalia odorata*). They are growing in a pond or lake, with their big round leaves floating on the surface of the water. The white flowers are large and very fragrant. They bloom all summer. It is often disappointing to bring them in, because they close in the evening.
18. Bouncing Bet (*Saponaria officinalis*) grows as a weed in waste places, but it is pretty enough for a garden flower, with its pairs of smooth leaves and its showy pink flowers, blooming all through the summer and into the early fall. It is in the same family as the carnation.
19. Here we have the tall spikes of yellow flowers of the common mullein (*Verbascum Thapsus*), with its thick leaves protected by their woolly covering. They are found in rocky pastures and along roadsides, all summer and in early fall. There is a big rosette of leaves at the ground, but it does not show in this picture.
20. The moth mullein (*Verbascum Blattaria*) is a close relative of the common mullein, but it is not so common. Its leaves are smooth. Its flowers may be yellow or white, and they are larger and less crowded than those of the common mullein; but the plant as a whole is smaller and more slender. It grows in waste places and on roadsides, and blooms all summer and in early fall. Moths visit the flowers; that is why it is called moth mullein.
21. Anyone who knows garden morning-glories will recognize these as morning-glories. These are wild ones, always pink or white, never blue or purple. The plant is more commonly called hedge bindweed (*Convolvulus sepium*) because it is a climbing weed whose stems twine around the stems of other plants and bind them. It blooms all summer and in early fall; it really is pretty, but it is a nuisance when it grows where we don't want it.
22. Climbing hemp-weed (*Mikania scandens*) is related to the daisy and the dandelion, although superficially it looks very different. Each head of flowers is like the center of a daisy loosened and spread out. The plant grows in wet places, particularly along streams; it has smooth, heart-shaped leaves in pairs; it climbs over the tops of other plants and makes a beautiful display of feathery, pinkish flowers in summer and early fall.

23. The flowers of Joe-Pye weed (*Eupatorium purpureum*) are very much like those of climbing hempweed, both in form and in color; but the plant is strong and erect instead of weak and twining; it sometimes grows much taller than a man. It is found in low ground, often in the woods, and it blooms in late summer and early fall.
24. The individual flowers of the thistle (*Cirsium lanedeolatum*) are much like those of climbing hempweed and Joe-Pye weed; but they are more brightly colored, and the plant has a few large, compact heads instead of a great many, much smaller, loosely clustered ones. The thistle head is beautiful, as you can see; and it is fragrant, but many of us never go near enough to it to enjoy its fragrance, and most of us never pick it, because its leaves have many stiff sharp spines, as you can see in the picture. It is unpleasant even to walk in a pasture where thistles grow, and you can imagine how much cows and sheep dislike it. It blooms in summer and fall.
25. Tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*) is a tall plant growing along roadsides. It has bunches of flower heads of a dull golden color. Each little head is like the center of a daisy, but in tansy there are no white rays. The plant is handsome because of its large, finely cut leaves. The leaves are strongly aromatic. The plant blooms in summer and fall.
26. This is a field full of yarrow (*Achillea Millefolium*). From a distance it looks a good deal like a field of daisies. But even here you can see that these are not daisies. Yarrow and daisies both bloom all through the summer and fall.
27. This is a closer view of yarrow, where you can see the big bunches of very small daisy-like heads; and the narrow leaves divided into many parts, almost like a feather. These leaves have a strange grayish green color, and a very strong aroma.
28. Butter-and-eggs (*Linaria vulgaris*) is named for the yellow and orange colors in its oddly shaped flowers. It is a weed of fields, too; but its flowers are pretty, and we can enjoy them when they grow in waste places where they don't do any harm. The plant has a great many very narrow, bluish green leaves. It blooms in both summer and fall.
29. Everyone knows roses of some kind. This is a wild rose (*Rosa humilis*). It grows on a thorny bush, as all roses do, but it has only five petals instead of a great many, as most garden and greenhouse roses have. In other words, the wild rose is a single rose, not a double one. Wild roses grow in woods, fields, and swamps, and bloom all summer.
30. Different kinds of buttercups grow in swamps and in woods and in fields; some of them bloom in the spring, and some in the summer. This is the tall one (*Ranunculus acris*), that grows in fields and blooms all summer. It is called buttercup because of the yellow color of its flowers. Its leaves are deeply cut, like those of the wild geranium.

31. Wild carrot (*Daucus Carota*) is really a very bad weed. It blooms all summer in large quantities in fields and wastepplaces. But it is much liked by most people because it is so pretty. It has beautiful delicate heads consisting of a great many tiny white flowers; and it looks so lacy it is sometimes called Queen Anne's lace. The leaves, too, are finely cut and very lacy-looking. At the bottom of the picture we can see two old flower clusters beginning to go to seed, and curling up into a cup-like shape, for which the plant is sometimes called bird's nest.