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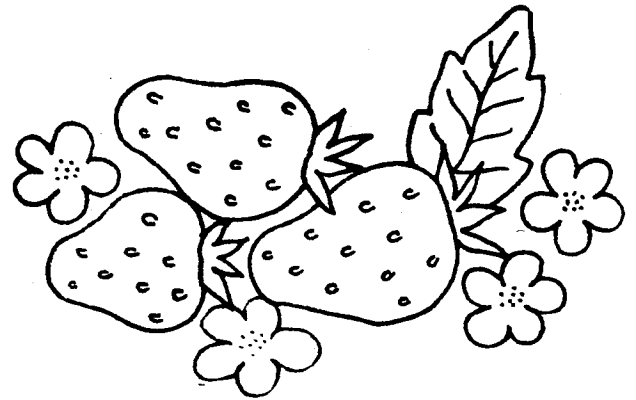


Quarterly Newsletter of THE GWINNETT MASTER GARDENERS

SUMMER 1995

Issue 7

A Bit of Dirt is published quarterly by Gwinnett Master Gardeners. Editors are Brenda Adams and Gail Martin. If you wish something published, please contact us at 466-4665 and 381-2513.



**FUTURE MEETINGS**

June 12 - Gene Petro speaks on Bonsai.

July 10 - Mimi Foster Fuller "A Gardener's Diary"

August 14 - Shelia Wilbur ( & husband) "How to Make Stone Walls"

September 11 - Roxie Higgenbotham, Master Gardener "Garden Ornaments"

October 9 - Business Meeting; Elect Officers. Plant & Seed Exchange.

November 13 - End of Year Party with Walter Reeves speaking on Soil Improvement.

GWINNETT MASTER GARDENER Meetings are the second Monday of each month, February through November. 7:30 PM at the Gwinnett Justice & Administration Center, 75 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville.

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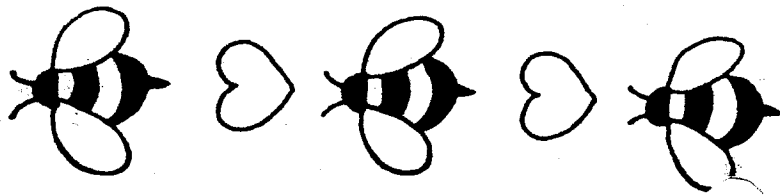
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### AT THE MAY MEETING...

At our recent meeting in May, I think everyone had a fun time and there was lots of good information to be absorbed.

*Try it!* 

A representative from Misty Mills, maker of Misty Grower, Jan Willadsen, was there to talk a few minutes about their product. She gave out pamphlets which further explained how to use it. I was glad to read what other minor nutrients it contains such as calcium, magnesium, iron, copper and zinc. It also has a neutral Ph so we don't have to worry about affecting the soil acidity (or lack of it). Everyone got to take home a bag of Misty Grower to try for themselves.

Debra Hale, who is an employee of Buck Jones Nursery, among other things she does, came to talk about container gardening. By the way, Buck Jones Nursery, on Grayson-New Hope Road, has very healthy plants and is open for retail sales now; every day but Sunday. Debra brought lots of plants and several containers and baskets to show us and put together three of those while we watched. She used sheet moss liberally and says it is available at Michaels, for one. At the end, two folks, Phil and Maria, got to take a finished container home with them.

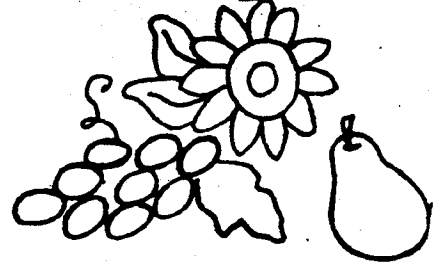
During our business meeting, we discussed possible colors for club T-shirts which Don is handling for us. Pam Folks and Don talked about projects that were in progress and Yippee!! Pam brought the 'completed "Perennial Bloom Chart" which says right on the front: Compiled by Gwinnett County Master Gardeners. Specifically, I think Gail Martin and Maria Turk gave more time to this than anyone. Harold Edwards has done the chart for shrubs and trees but this hasn't been distributed yet. Thanks to ALL who helped--this is something all MG's can be proud of.

Gail Hollimon, our President, discussed several topics including a possible hyper-tufa training session at her house. If you would be interested, let her or Brenda Adams know (945-4252 and 466-4665). Also, we discussed a possible field trip to visit The Hydrangea Lady, Penny McHenry and perhaps Margaret Moseley's yard, who has a year-round garden. We will let members know about field trip/June meeting plans either through the phone committee or mail.

Concerning the Gwinnett Tech project, the Nature Trail has been getting just enough rain water to keep it going. In the fall, there will be a replanting of native shrubs. There won't be any need for greenhouse help from MG's until Fall arrives. Gwinnett Tech issued us a check for \$500. for our help with the plant sale and other activities this Spring, but Dr. Ludwig says we will have to go back to receiving plants from them at a wholesale price for our own future sales; that they cannot afford to continue to pay us.

Barbara Troso, who has been in Egypt for a year, is home for a little R & R. She has to go back soon; her husband still has one and one half years on his contract. We were glad to see her at our May meeting. Barbara was telling me a little about what she has observed as far as plant life in Egypt. It seems they use the same bedding plants, or annuals, that we do; like geraniums, nasturtium, periwinkle, marigolds; but it must all be under a canopy of trees to give the plants part shade as it gets very hot over there--up to 110 degrees in the summer but no colder than 40 degrees in the winter. Most of the trees are colorful, flowering, tropical types but also date, olive and rubber trees. She hopes to join the Tree Lover's Association. BA

LATIN MADE SIMPLE



*Botanical Latin is one of those things we come to before we realize that we have...it creeps up on every gardener all unknown and unexpected. It starts with simple things like zinnia, or lobelia, or begonia, and goes on from there. One disclaimer here - I've used the masculine singular form except in the examples*

*When we begin to garden, we're thrilled that that yellow daisy flower grows and blooms, but then we want to know what kind of yellow daisy flower we have. After figuring out that it is a helianthus, we need to know what kind of helianthus so we can get another one just like it. We finally deduce that the proper name is *Helianthus angustifolius*, or the narrow-leaved sunflower.*

*The Latin names of plants can tell us a great deal about them. If we want something large, there is *grandiflorus* for large flowers, *grandifolius* for large leaves, *grandiformis* for a large form, *grandipunctata* for large spots. And then there's *giganteus*, for a huge plant. The same thing holds true for little plants, only look for *micro* and *mini*, as in *micropetalus* for small petals; *minor* for smaller; *minutus* for very small; *minimus* for smallest.*

*Color, fragrance, appearance and habit are all spelled out in botanical Latin. *Purpuratus* is purple, *albus* is white, *caeruleus* is dark blue, *sanguineus* is blood red, *incarnatus* is pink, *luteus* is yellow, *flavescens* is light yellow, *coccineus* is scarlet, *virens* is green (hence *sempervirens*, evergreen).*

*Similarities to other plants are noted, and make it easier to imagine an unseen plant. For instance, *galacifolius* means leaves like a galax, one of our native plants. *Lilifolius* means leaves like a lily, while *liliflorus* denotes lily-like flowers. We know then that *Cyclamen hederifolium* has leaves shaped like ivy leaves.*

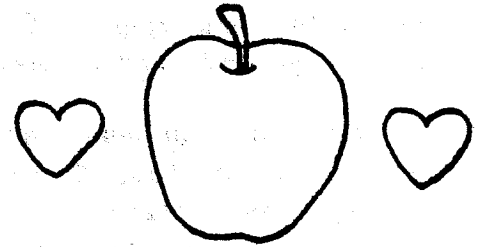
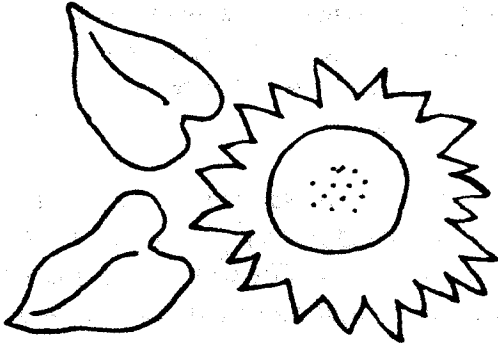
*A little study also tells us where the plants originated, as in *capensis* from the Cape of Good Hope, Africa; *hispanicus* from Spain; *bonariensis* from Buenos Aires; *nepalensis* from Nepal. To go back to a cyclamen, *C. neapolitanum* comes from Naples, Italy. The Latin name can also tell us the habitat the plant prefers, such as *maritimus*, near the sea, *montanus* in the mountains, and *alpinus* in the high mountains; while *uliginosus* is a bog or swamp.*

*The character of the plant can also be ascertained. In *Rosa chinensis mutabilis* we see that the *Rosa* (genus) *chinensis* (species from China) *mutabilis* is a rose whose blossoms change color as they age. If a plant is *hirsutus*, it is hairy. If *pyramidalis* it is shaped like a pyramid. *Decumbens* has it trailing on the ground, if *carneus*, the leaves are thick and fleshy, while *cordatus* signifies heart shaped leaves. This works for the flowers, too. *Fimbriatus* means the petals are fringed; *paniculatus* has flowers in panicles, or clusters; *racemosus* flowers are in racemes; *campanulatus* flowers are bell shaped.*

*Fragrance too is noted in the botanical name. *Citriodorus* marks a lemon scented plant, and *fragrans*, *odoratus*, and *mellitus* all stand for fragrance. *Inodorus* means scentless, while *foetidus* stands for stinking.*

*Sub at the beginning of a name equals slightly, as in suberectus, somewhat erect, or subcaeruleus, slightly blue. If a tri begins the word, there will be three of something. Triflorus is three flowered trifolius three leaved. Finally, if issimus is tacked on at the end, it is very very something. Anemone (species) vitifolia (grape leaved) Robustissima is a very robust anemone, and if a plant is designated fragrantissimus, it is very fragrant; while if speciosissimus it is very showy.*

Gail Martin



### SUMMER DOLDRUMS

*Our spring gardens are full of flowers, and we rejoice in the many colors and scents from March through June. Then come the dog days of July and August, and the garden seems to wilt as fast as we do. We need to plant good, sturdy late summer flowering plants that will see us through until the asters late salvias and other fall bloomers kick in.*

*Probably the most reliable perennial is rudbeckia, blooming brightly golden in late summer. Agastache provides tall, fragrant spikes beloved of the bees, and Anemone vitifolia starts in August. Boltonia will provide a mound of white or pale pink, and the various lycoris species suddenly jump up and bloom in the middle of something else. Hedychium, the ginger lily, provides wonderful fragrance in late summer.*

*The lobelias, L. cardinalis and L. siphilitica, come alive with bloom at this time. Cannas are splendid in late summer, and the little yellow Dicentra scandens provides strings of yellow lockets.*

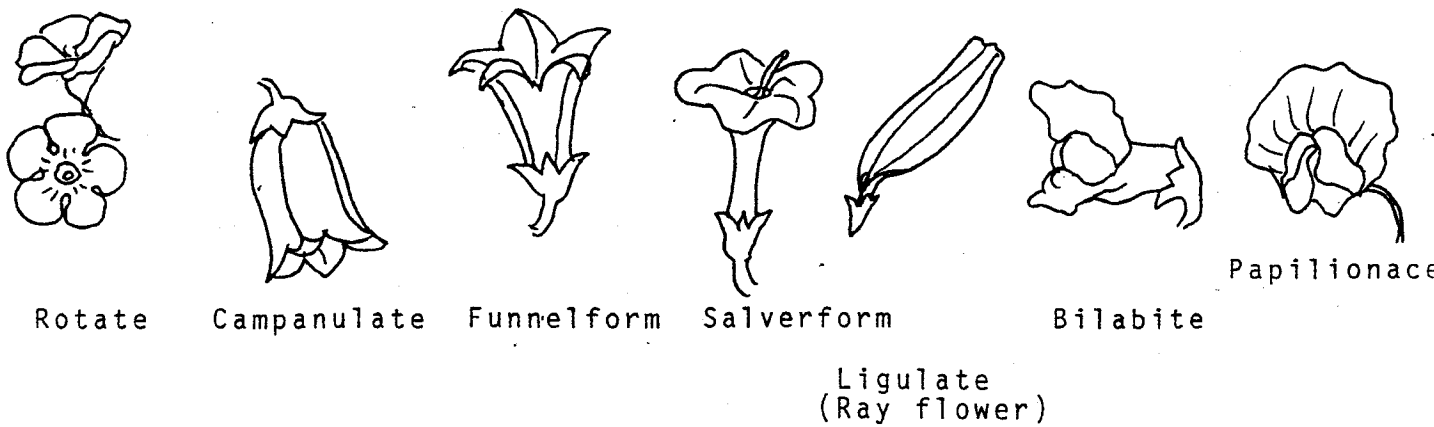
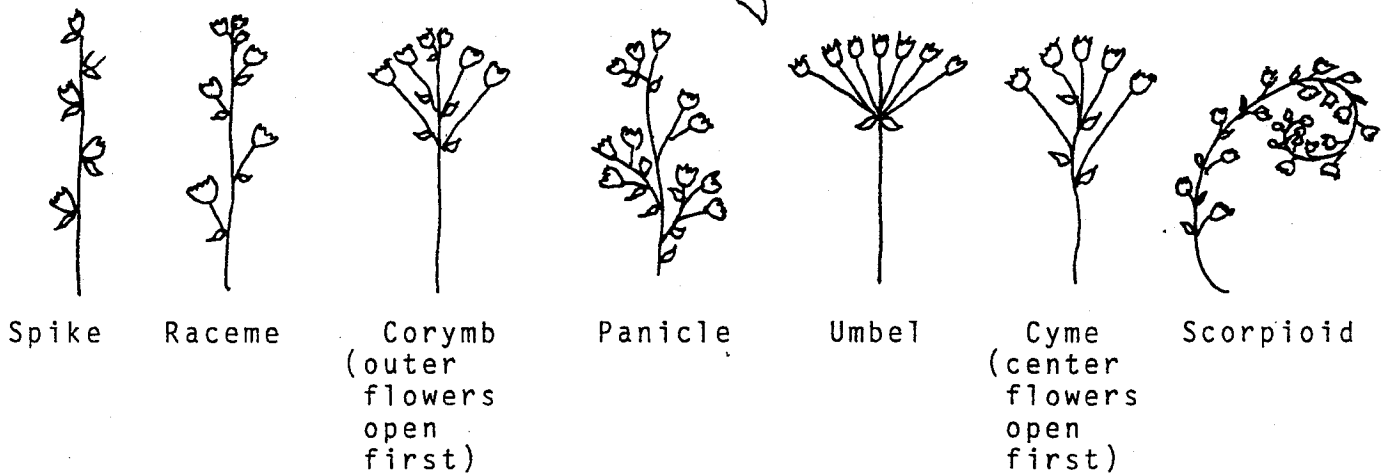
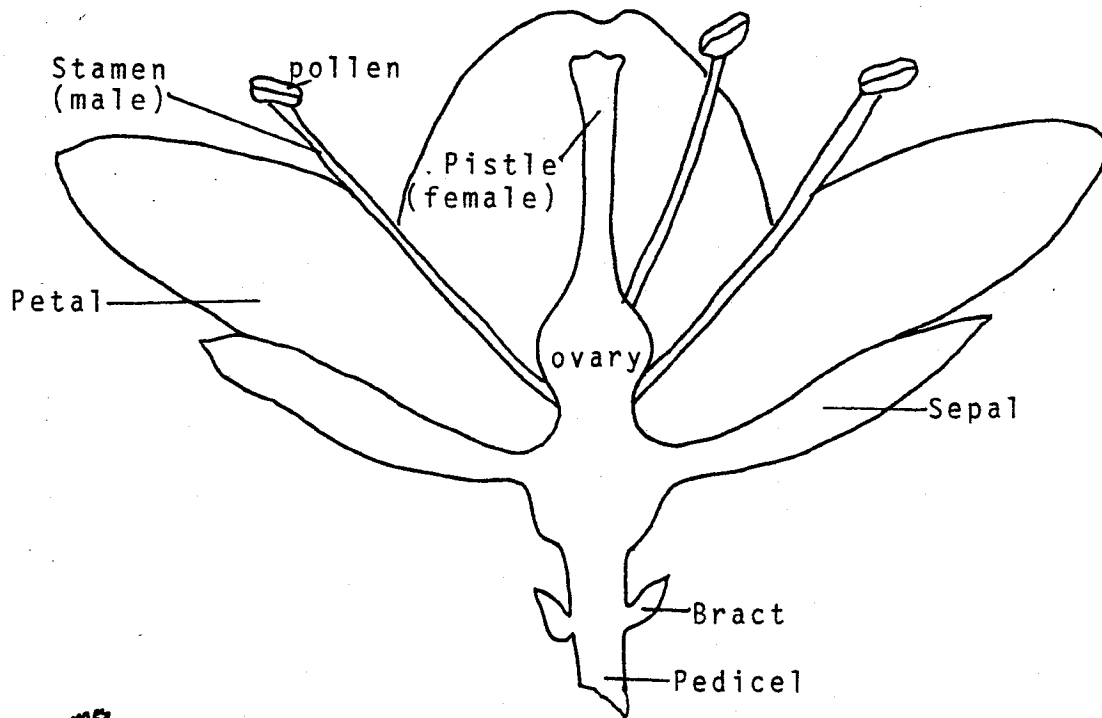
*For shady gardens, the hardy begonia, Begonia grandis, is in bloom, and Cimicifuga racemosa throws up its white candles to lighten up a darkish corner. Caladiums and elephant ears are at their best now, and tuberoses turn the air around them into a perfume factory.*

*Shrubby things like caryopteris bloom now, and the lespedezas. Buddleias are glorious in late summer, and much appreciated by the bees and butterflies.*

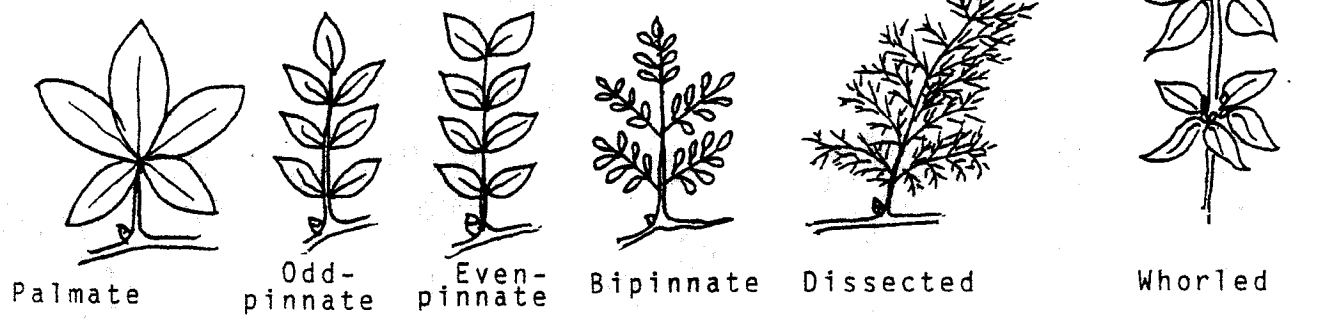
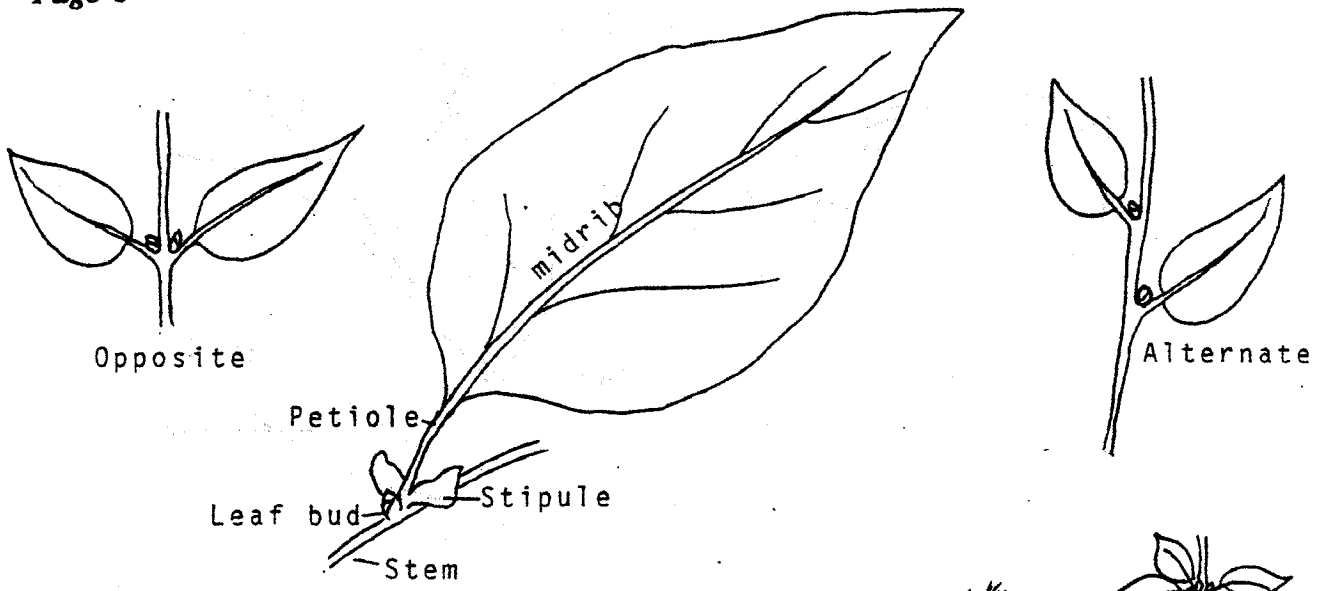
*The late summer garden can be just as beautiful as a spring garden. It just takes a little planning, and sometimes active use of irrigation, to make your garden bloom in August.*

Gail Martin

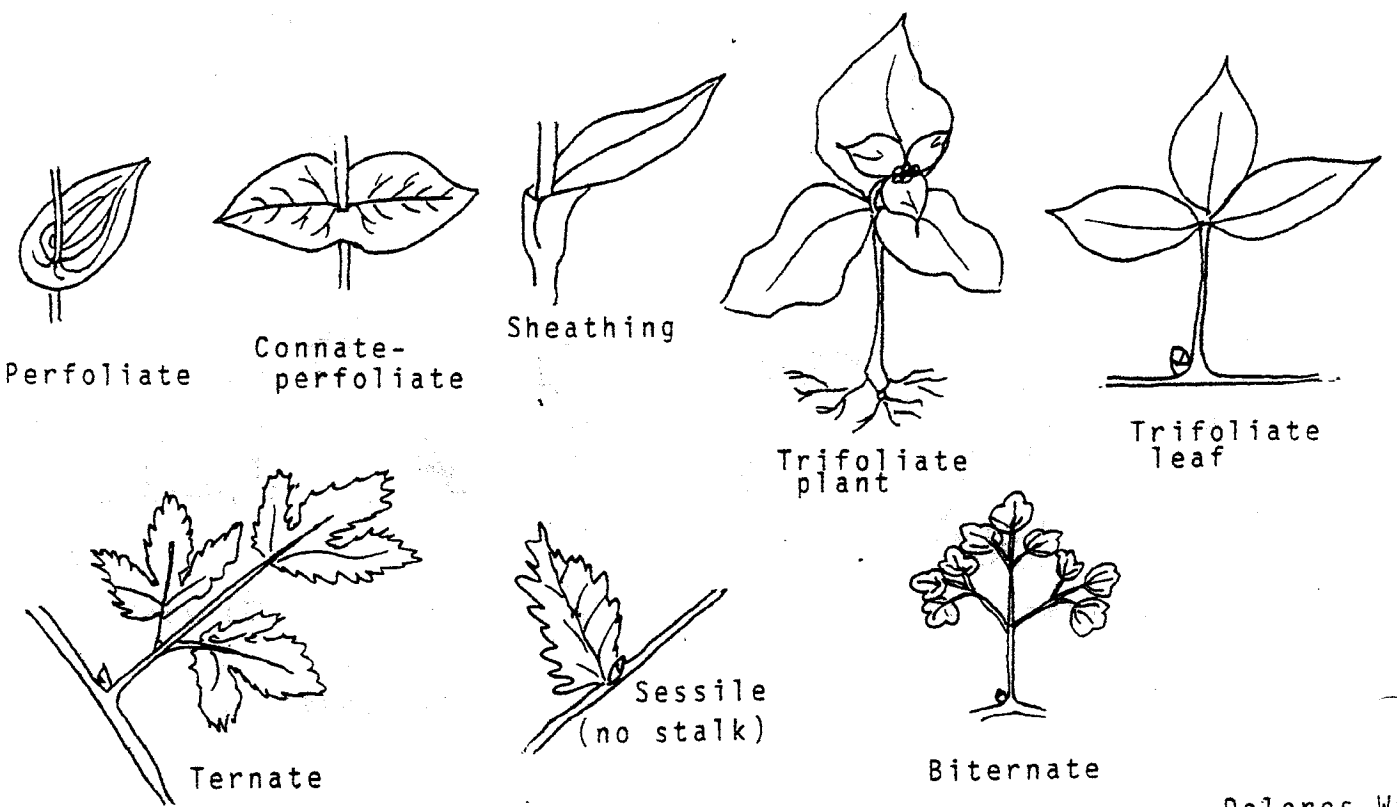
SIMPLE FLOWER

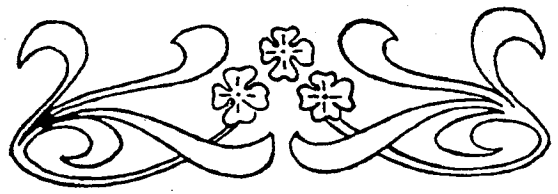


SIMPLE LEAF



NOTE: Leaf bud at base of each leaf.





**MY SPRING GARDEN.....  
THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY**

*Spring at my place has been very hectic. Plants keep following me home. Some of them are obviously pot-bound and so, make me feel guilty when I walk past them in my two holding areas: the front porch for sun lovers and my potting bench area out at "the little house". Those of you who know my yard, know the little house is down near our backyard pond. It houses supplies like cottonseed meal, Black Cow, Natures Helper, lime, wood ashes, Misty Grower and chicken grit. I have done a lot of planting this Spring (among my other duties); I've still got a lot to do.*

*Up near the garage and drive, are my two driveway beds. They are bordered by RR ties and consists of soil of reasonably good tilth but it can get pretty dry in the summer. However, the largest has a problem. (BAD) Several years ago, we acquired chipped up organics like tree limbs and yard junk. It rotted and seemed to make the soil dark (GOOD) but after losing my large Tatarian Honeysuckle bush early this year, and then I noticed dying Hollyhocks and Calamintha. I planted replacements like Coreopsis rosea, Zebrina hollyhock, and Artemisia 'Silver King'. They started dying and/or developing problems. (UGLY) After a desperate trip to the Extension Office with a sample, Steve Brady says I have Rhizoctonia Stem & Root Rot. (BAD) Interestingly, the Zebrina developed a thickening and widening of the main stalks. (UGLY) I don't know what that is, but it's significant, I think, that I don't have disease problems anywhere else on my property--except the inevitable blackspot.*

*If anyone out there has trouble with moles or voles, raise your hand. These little monsters (BAD & UGLY) are driving me crazy! They ate 90 % of the roots from several of my*

*mini-roses and they just toppled over! I have tried several things to get rid of them over the years, but nothing is a certain cure that I know of. I made up a concoction last year that does seem to protect my perennial bed. The basic recipe I got from an oldy but goody book named "The Country Garden" by Josephine Nuese. Take equal parts of castor oil and liquid detergent. Whip till foamy. If you can get some euphorbia cuttings, run them through the blender with water till liquid and add to mix. Use about 1/4 cup in a gallon of warm water. Apply to damp soil.*

*Now on to some of the GOOD stuff. In the wildflower area, the trilliums really outdid themselves. My Trillium cernuum with nodding white flowers and burgundy anthers, came up in a clump of 6 to 8 blooms. I've had a Twinleaf Jeffersonia for two years. This year, I discovered a tiny new one that must have come up from seed. Now, I'm hoping for a Shooting Star seedling (Dodecatheon). Last year, bleeding heart seedlings appeared. This year, they bloomed and were pure white. My Dolls-Eyes is back bigger and better. The other day, I saw a tiny tree frog sunning himself on one of the big leaves. Cute! Solomon Seals are coming up in lots of places, native to this area. There is even a patch in the dogs' pen. I put a fence around them for protection against dogs. On the way to the dogs' pen, I discovered a small paw-paw plant with tiny red flowers. I had never seen it before. The other day, my husband discovered a pink lady slipper in full bloom and just four feet off the driveway!*

*Gardening is such an adventure. It is hard work and it requires a lot of patience, but the rewards are great. Just the sight of that*

little frog sitting on a leaf in my natural area, makes me glad I keep chemicals to a minimum. It does make a difference. I'll leave you with this little confessional by Elizabeth Murray:

"I knew in my heart that I wanted to know the garden intimately, to know all the flowers in each season, to be there from spring through autumn; digging, pruning, planting, feeding, rejoicing. In short, I had fallen in love."

Brenda Adams

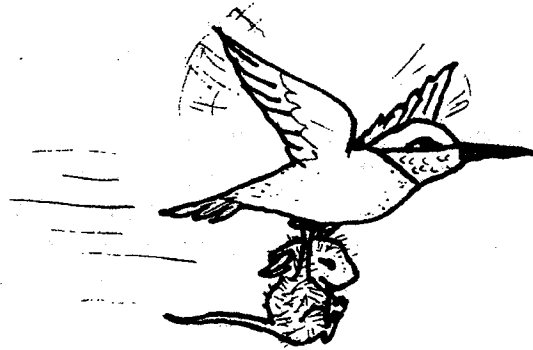
For those of you who have not received the latest Membership List with addresses and phone numbers, they will be available at the next meeting.

Quips by Jenni

"The roaches' curfew is 5 A.M."

Bumper sticker on pigeons:

I  Bridges



Apply your knowledge of plant morphology to matching these columns.

MATCH THIS COLUMN:

WITH THIS COLUMN:

dissected leaf plant  
trifoliolate leaf plant  
sessile leaf plant  
palmate leaf plant  
whorled leaves  
salverform flowers  
raceme of flowers  
sheathing leaves  
umbel of flowers  
ligulate - ray flower  
Corymb of flowers

Lilium superbum - Turks-Cap Lily  
Lobelia cardinalis - Cardinal Flower  
Dacus carota - Queen Anne's Lace  
Achillea millefolium - Yarrow  
Rhus radicans - Poison Ivy  
Aesculus octandra - Yellow Buckeye  
Rudbeckia hirta - Black-Eyed Susan  
Phlox maculata - Phlox  
Cypripedium acaule - Pink Lady's-Slipper  
Buddleia davidii 'Black Knight' - Buddlei  
Eupatorium maculatum - Joe Pye Weed



**THE CHEROKEE ROSE**  
**STATE FLOWER OF GEORGIA**

*On August 16, 1916, the Georgia Legislature passed a resolution entitled "Floral Emblem of the State", and the Cherokee Rose became our state flower. No one is certain how it first arrived in Georgia. It may have been taken from China to England then brought to the American colonies.*

*During the late 1700's and first half of the 1800's, it was found in Georgia gardens and used as an ornamental hedge to fence off portions of large plantations. In this same time period, the Macartney Rose, with blooms that resemble the Cherokee Rose, was also recommended as a hedge plant. Today it is a "pest" in large areas of Texas, Alabama, Georgia and other southern states. It is important that you do not confuse Macartney Rose with the Cherokee Rose. The Macartney Rose will spread over wide areas and is difficult to control.*

*No record has been found to show how the Cherokee Rose got its Indian name. A legend was published in the Fort Smith Herald, on August 13, 1870, which tells of a young Seminole Chief who was captured by the Cherokees and condemned to death. A young Cherokee maiden fell in love with him, helped him escape, and went with him back to his home. As she left, she took a sprig of the white rose growing at her father's door and planted it at her new home where it became known as the Cherokee Rose.*

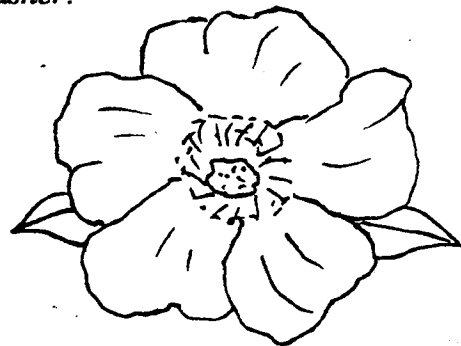
*When planting, first consideration should be given to choosing a site which offers ten feet of room in each direction that you wish the rose to grow. It can be trained against a sturdy fence or wall. If allowed, it will grow up into a tall tree. Horizontal training increases the number of blooms and gives greater visibility.*

*Secondly, a generous 18" x 18" hole should be dug about three feet from the wall or other support. It may be planted on a low support or to spread along the ground. Amend heavy soil with peat moss, pine bark or other organic material. DO NOT fertilize at planting time. It can be lightly fertilized once or twice in the spring after the planting has become established.*

*The most important point is to water the plant often during the first year after planting. Afterwards, there is no need to water it unless there are long summer droughts.*

*The Cherokee Rose demands virtually no care after it is established. Its evergreen foliage does not have the typical rose black spot. A Cherokee Rose growing close to the ground is a likely nesting place for our Georgia state bird, the Brown Thrasher!*

*Harold Edwards*



Answers to Plant Morphology Quiz:

A-4, B-5, C-10, D-6, E-1, F-8, G-2, H-9, I-3, J-7,  
K-11.  
by Dolores Wvland

## THE NATURAL LANDSCAPE

Upon observance of our animal earthmates, we become instinctively aware of their dependence and appreciation of the earth and the way the earth is - naturally. After witnessing a natural landscape, mountainscape, seascape or desert, it becomes immediately apparent that plants, flowers, shrubs, trees, cacti - all plants and terrain - define a place of harmony balanced with color and beauty. For the most part, along with function, this is exactly what we are trying to achieve in our own home landscapes. Anything less can look superficial and anything more - out of place - out of harmony.

With this thought in mind, it may occur to us that not only could a more natural environment be more appealing, it may be easier to create and easier to maintain with the use of fewer pesticides or other artificial means of pest control. Introducing more native plants into your landscape design is one way to achieve this "ease of care" as well as become a healthier environment for you and your family.

We seem to continually be made to compare our individual surroundings with the seemingly "perfect" golf course turfgrass, or with the abundance of ornamental color of many apartment complex or business park entrances. At some point we may be able to dismiss this idea of perfection and all of its pitfalls, (constant pesticide usage, constant preening, constant care) and actually begin to see this "sameness" as lacking variety and design qualities.

Mother Nature's insistence upon diversity is apparent everywhere we look. It is just this diversity which fulfills our needs of food to sustain life as well as beauty to sustain our souls. When a more natural way is employed, diversity is beauty. Even some of the once thought of "hideous" weeds are tolerable in some areas of the landscape. We may even consider propagating a few of them should we begin to see some of the advantages - such as drawing other segments of the population to us, such as butterflies, various birds, and new pollinators!

When we begin to really "care for" our surroundings with a natural vision and less idealism, we may begin to recognize that becoming earth-friendly, in turn, causes the earth to, by nature to become more US-friendly. Beneficial insects begin to make their way back to our homes, along with birds which not only may eat some very bad bugs such as Japanese Beetles, but may even plant a "surprise" for you for the Spring in the way of any number of "loved" native plants - as well as a few that we may have to grow to love!

Pam Folks

