

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

62.79

LIBRARY
RECEIVED
★ FEB 28 1945 ★
U S Department of Agriculture

BEAUTIFUL NATIVE PLANTS

FROM THE
HIGH PLAINS, BADLANDS
AND BLACK HILLS

1945



ASTRAGALUS SPATULATUS: (*Homalobus caespitosus*). However burdened with names, this little plant is one of the beautiful treasures of the rock gardener's world. The Pea florets are in shades of purple, blue toned mainly, the wings tipped with white. Season, May-June. The pungent tipped leaves are spatulate, grayish, nearly evergreen, in cushion formation seldom exceeding eight inches in spread. This growth type has a finely and widely divided, partly underground crown and an indivisible, branched tap-root. Reproduction is by seed.

The right soil medium: Any mixture approximating relatively dry scree is satisfactory, especially if it includes an appreciable element of decayed vegetable matter. An important factor in success is to transplant small plants, early.

When you have grown *Homalobus* well you may consider most all the beauties of the Great Plains at your beck and call. There remain a few "tougher" subjects.

CLAUDE A. BARR
PRAIRIE GEM RANCH
Smithwick, South Dakota

FOREWORD: To grow the Great Plains plants it is important to recognize native factors of adaptation and environment. Character and faculty have been molded in them by untold ages of existence where periods of moisture shortage are long and of moisture excess mostly brief. Yet strange as it may seem, many have made no apparent effort at emigration.

To withstand shortage moisture retention devices in the plant structure have been developed to an outstanding degree; to escape excesses the wise plants select the high places and slopes and rocky, gravelly and porous soils from which excess water readily drains away or down, renewing aeration. In general moistness is sought, wetness is avoided.

Truthfully, rainfall on the Plains is often too infrequent for best growth, so that garden environment brings willing response and surprising performance and beauty.

A recommended "scree" for replacing soils that are too rich and moisture retentive or close textured and impervious is mixed from equal parts of ordinary soil, coarse sand, and fine gravel or rock chips, including some lime. This provides an excellent base for all Great Plains plants. The needs of certain subjects for portions of richer soil, leafmold, or other humus may be met by adding these elements, locally, in planting or in top-dressing.

SERVICE: High quality plants only are sent on your order. We do not substitute without permission. Our packing will please. In addition to culture suggested in this catalog, special advice is given when it may prove useful, or on request.

Prices include prepaid delivery.

HARDY PERENNIALS

Achillea lanulosa A pleasant little non-ramping Yarrow with heads of unusual whiteness. Suggesting *A. millefolium*, it flowers at but 6 to 9" and travels only an inch or two a year. Clump, 35c.

Actinea (Tetraneuris) simplex Small golden Gailardias, 4 to 8", above narrow silvery leaves. A fine show in June, occasional later. 30c; 3, 75c.

Agastache anethodora Anise Hyssop. Delightfully fragrant tall herb, with spikes of purple blue continuously from late June. Rich soil, shade. 50c.

Anemone caroliniana Prairie Anemone. Inch and a half blossoms in white, blue, or rarely pink, of 8 to 20 cupped segments, this brave though dainty beauty is wisely sought. 25c; 3, 65c.

A. patens nuttalliana Pasque Flower. Large six-pointed stars of satiny lavender, March, April. South Dakota state flower. 35c; 3, 95c; doz., \$3.50.

Antennaria aprica Ladies' Tobacco, or Pussy-toes. Broad little leaves of silvery olive in inch-high evergreen mats, pussy-toe blossoms at 4". Gray-white flowered, 20c; soft pink, 25c.

A. campestris Broad leaves of rich, soft, deep green, white beneath. "Toes," white or silvery. 35c.

A. microphylla Tiny leaves in bluish silver, charming pattern and texture. White furry "toes." 35c.

A. obovata Like a larger *aprica*; gray "toes." 20c. Antennarias are among the most valuable all-season, slow-spreading, rock garden ground covers.

Artemisia frigida Low, tufted, feathery, silvery and fragrant Sage. Arching silvery spikes with tiny yellowish bells, August. 25c; 3, 65c.

Asclepias pumila An 8" Milkweed of close colony habit. Abundant upright umbels of creamy white, mid-summer, on. Also a very rare light pink. Easily controlled. Either color, 25c; 3, 60c.

Aster fendleri Charming new Aster, covered with dainty cupped blossoms of lilac blue, in September. 10 or 12". Selected blossom type, 50c; 3, \$1.20.

A. kumleini Prairie Gem Blue. One of the finest native Asters, a broad, 12" high sheet of blue and gold, September. 40c; 3, 90c.

A. kumleini Choice varieties, lovely rose pink or lacy silver blue. 15". 30c; 3, 75c.

A. meritus Rare dwarf Aster with special merit of July flowering. Much admired pinkish violet in closely set corymb effect. 8 to 12". 50c.

A. ptarmicoides (Unamia alba) Cream centered, white rayed, long season beauty, beginning in July. 10 to 15". Lasting cut flower. 30c; 3, 75c.

Astragalus (Geoprumnon) crassicarpus Buffalo Pea, Ground Plum. Procumbent stems, deep green pinnate leaves, May-time bloom of blended purple, pink and buff; in June spread out clusters of red cheeked fruits like small plums. 40c; 3, \$1.10.

A. goniatus Festive bonnets of bright lavender bedecked with purple, June, August; 4 to 8". Appealing traveler, confine if need be. 40c; 3, \$1.00.

A. gilviflorus (Orophaca caespitosa) Tufted Milk-Vetch. Low cushion of silvery tri-part leaves, with a snow of stemless blossoms, April, May. Astonishing beauty. Scree. 30c; 3, 75c.

A. spatulatus (Homalobus caespitosus) Pictured and described on cover. 35c; 3, 90c.

A. (Orophaca) tridactylicus Red Orophaca. Like gilviflorus but delightful lavender rose. Rare. Lean limy scree. 50c; 3, \$1.20.

Callirhoe involucrata Poppy Mallow, Wine Cups. Deep glossy cups of intense wine red; leaves dark, deeply cut, trailing stems as much as 24" long. Long summer season. 25c; 3, 65c.

Campanula petiolata Western Harebell. Lavender to blue-purple flaring bells, freely borne, June, September; 8 to 15". 30c; 3, 85c.

Cerastium strictum Low spreading mat of rich green with multitudinous white flowers, to 8", May to July. Like a larger C. arvense. Clump, 25c.

Chrysopsis villosa Golden Aster. Massed beauty in richest tone, Aug. Sept. 12". For best effect shear back to 4" in June. Finest type, 30c; 3, 75c.

Clematis (Viorna) scotti Leather flower. Intriguing blue to purple nodding urns, May, June. Glauous leaves; silky seed plumes. 12". 50c; 3, \$1.25.

C. (Atragene) tenuiloba Fairies' Bower. Charming, distinct, rare and permanent in the affections are its large half-open, nodding purple blossoms, above finely cut leaves. 8 to 10", May, June. Spreads slowly. Rich soil, light shade. 80c; 3, \$2.00.

Dalea (Parosela) aurea Rare, novel, and exotic appearing plant of silvery green and airy light yellow, in Prairie Clover effect. 10 to 16". 50c.

drained soil; 3 to 5". Luxurates in scree with a little richness. Half shade first summer. 30c; 3, 80c.

P. andicola Large white blossomed creeping Phlox of the high prairies, blooming from April through June; 4". Same culture, this and following Phloxes as for *alyssifolia*. 25c; 3, 65c; doz. \$2.35.

New blue lavender, choice form, 40c; 3, 90c.

New lovely powder blue, 50c; 3, \$1.35.

Select extra large white, 45c; 3, \$1.10.

P. hoodi Mossy green, snowed over with lovely little blossoms, April, May. Very slow spreading, finally making wide mats. 35c; 3, 85c; doz. \$3.00.

P. longifolia Handsome upright species, to 6"; cluster flowered, producing wide masses of mauve pink, in May; leaves dark green. 50c; 3, \$1.25.

P. scleranthifolia Free flowering white, thrilling in its wide dense mats or trailing down over rocks; May. Permanent light shade. New. 50c.

Phlox "Little Cheyenne" (*hoodi* X *andicola*) Most perfect little blossoms imaginable, shining white with the usual speck of gold; May. 65c; 3, \$1.50.

Potentilla divisa Astonishing beauty in sunlit yellow from a tuft of silvered leaves; early May. Height 3", spread to 10". 50c; 3, \$1.35.

Ranunculus glaberrimus Low species of earliest spring, laquered blossoms "like gold coins." 35c.

Senecio purshianus Plant of nice habit, displaying in June airy light gold blossoms, 8 or 9" up from a permanently gray leaf mass. 35c; 3, 75c.

Sideranthus spinulosus Massed light golden inch-wide Asters, September, October. Dense low type, 6"; fine textured frosty foliage. 30c; 3, 75c.

Solidago glaberrima Dwarf selection of Smooth Goldenrod, 10 to 12", with unusually charming broad, nodding-tipped panicles; August. Moderately encroaching. 25c.

S. mollis Very attractive Goldenrod bearing billowy heads at 4 to 12"; Sept. Slow traveler. 25c.

S. pulcherrima September beauty with groups of plump tapering rods, to 16". Safe in any company, not a traveler. 50c.

S. wardi Upright rods of golden beauty, to 30", lovely with September Asters. Non-spreading. 35c.

Talinum parviflorum Little Sunbright. Airy rosy blossoms every summer afternoon, to 7", from a 2" tuft of succulent leaves. Tiny tubers, 3, 35c.

Thalictrum venulosum Especially good faintly bluish foliage masses, to 8", for all-season effect. Bronzy bloom, to 15 or 18". 35c; 3, 70c.

Thermopsis rhombifolia Dwarf Golden Pea. Broad packed racemes of glowing medium yellow. May; 8 to 12". Unusual, beautiful. Colonizer. 35c; 3, 65c.

Townsendia exscapa Easter Daisy. Tuffet of narrow silvery evergreen leaves, incredibly wide glowing pink Daisies, all under two inches in height, April, May. For driest leanest scree. 35c; 3, 85.

T. sericea Similar habit and more dwarf, one of the very first of the Plains' responses to spring. Early April. White or delicate pink. 35c; 3, 85c.

Tradescantia bracteata Rainbow Spiderwort. Blues and purples, bright rose, many others. Bloom begins at 4" in June, continues to 10" in late summer. Each 20c; mixed colors, 3, 55c; doz. \$2.00.

Sky blue, white, Appleblossom pink, each 35c.

Verbena bipinnatifida Continuous show in bright blue lilac, May to October; low, trailing. Hardy, but avoid winter wet at crowns. 30c; 3, 75c.

Viola adunca A smiling little old man in deep blue. Often blooms in autumn. Part shade. 25c; 3, 60c.

V. nephrophylla A lovely big blue Violet that likes much moisture through flowering time. 35c; 3, 85c.

V. nuttalli The Violet of brilliant gold of the dry open plains. Heavy producer, April through May, 3 to 6"; sun or light shade. 30c; 3, 50c; doz. \$1.80.

V. pedatifida Showy blossoms of sky blue carried above deeply incised leaves. Stemless. Any soil, shade or sun. 35c; 3, 80c.

V. rugulosa White with violet pencilings; 6 to 12". Spreads by short stolons; part shade. Clump, 35c.

Yucca glauca Most northerly ranging Yucca, with white edged, bayonet-like, evergreen leaves, to 20". Flowering spike or panicle, 36 to 40", of pendant creamy bells, June, July. 50c; 3, \$1.20.

BULBS FOR FALL PLANTING

Allium cernuum Nodding Onion. Umbels of light shell pink, July; to 16". 3, 25c; doz. 75c.

A textile Broad upright umbels of green-ribbed white stars, at 8"; May. Dormant in summer. Alliums may be moved in spring. 3, 20c; doz. 40c.

Brodiaea douglasi Ample umbels of waxy blue lavender, to 20", June. Beautiful, and easy. Long slender leaves of green. 3, 35c; doz. 80c.

Calochortus gunnisoni Gunnison Mariposa. Very lovely white chalice with clusters of greenish hairs, July; 16". Grassy leaves. 3, 35c; doz. \$1.00.

C. nuttalli Sego Lily, Mariposa Tulip. Sun-reflecting white with gold and maroon markings; June, 12". Slender glaucous leaves. 3, 30c; doz. 85c.

Fritillaria atropurpurea Bronze Fritillary. Mottled purple on yellowish ground, open, half-nodding, "slightly fantastic" flowers, 1 to 5 on 8 to 12" stems; May. Dark glaucous foliage. 20c; 3, 50c; doz. \$1.75.

Lilium umbellatum True species. Orange red, to 4" across, June, July. 1 to 3 upright blossoms at 10 to 18", 4" deep, rich gritty soil, cool position, perfect drainage. Blooming size, 30c; one-inch, 40c.

Zygadenus gramineus False Camas. Massed creamy stars in a haze of golden stamens. Erect spires, 8 to 16". June. Grassy leaves. 3, 20c; doz. 60c.

COLD CLIMATE CACTI

Cultural directions: The following species will bear 30 degrees below zero, or more, out of doors, but must prepare for it by being dry and shriveled in advance of winter. Planting in an ample depth of 9 parts of gravel and coarse sand, to 1 part of good loam has been found to produce lavish bloom and also to provide the requisite drainage.

Echinocereus viridiflorus Ball to cylindrical, 2 to rarely 4" tall. Glossy green yellow blossoms, bright colored spines. June. 25c; 3, 60c.

Neobesseya (Mamillaria) missouriensis Ball, to 2", pale orange or yellow flowers. Scarce. 35c.

Opuntia fragilis Brittle Cactus, a pygmy Prickly Pear, with surprisingly large yellow blossoms, centered red, June. Free blooming strains. 25c; 3, 60c.

O. imbricata Tree Cactus. Purple carmine blossoms, unfailing attraction. Rooted cuts, 25c; 3, 60c.

O. polyacantha Many-spined Prickly Pear. 4" or larger sections; 4" silken yellow blooms. 30c; 3, 75c.

O. rhodantha Like polyacantha but blossoms are a gorgeous carmine rose; June. Small, 35c; 3, 90c.

O. humifusa Sections 4 to 6". spines fewer; largest of silken yellow flowers, red filaments; late June. Ripe "pears" dark red, showy. 30c; 3, 75c.

Larger specimens of some of the Prickly Pears, on quotation.

SHRUBS

Of this brief list of Great Plains shrubs, some are showy flower, and others possess architectural and color values and good all season appearance.

Amorpha canescens Lead Plant. Low, gray velvety effect, with orange dotted purple fingers of blossom; June, July. Usually 12 to 25". 75c.

Artemisia cana Rather stiff, erect gray bush, to 2 or 3'. Leaves lance-linear, 1½ inch long. 60c.

A. filifolia Sand Sage. Very attractive, pleasantly fragrant, silvery, much branched bush. 2 to 3'. 50c.

A. tridentata Sagebrush. Blue silvered, three-tipped little leaves, rather erect bushy plant. At its eastern range limit, near Prairie Gem Ranch, heights vary from 12 to 30". 75c.

Atriplex canescens Salt Bush. Gray green in branch and leaf, a broad densely branched bush, to 24". 60c.

Cercocarpus montanus Mountain Mahogany. Little toothed leaves slightly grayish, blossoms interesting, seed plumes silvery, silky, reflecting light; pleasing in shrubby groups. Upright, slow growing, ultimately to 8'. \$1.00.

Chrysothamnus graveolens Rabbit Brush. Fine textured plump bush of bright green, to 3' or so, every upper branch tip carrying a head of Goldenrod-like blossoms, in September. Striking seasonal effect. 50c.

Eurotia lanata White Sage. A Sagey appearing plant, holding its leaves well into winter, and adding white seed tufts in fall. 40c.

Rhus trilobata Lemonade Sumach. Spreading or more erect bush, usually 2 to 5', moderately dense, dark green. Dark red fruit clusters, magnificent autumn leaf coloring. 50c.

Rose J. W. Fargo A double wild rose of many petals and beautiful form, a delightful wild rose pink. Blossoms in clusters, over several weeks, slender stemmed, to 24". \$2.00.

FOR GARDENS IN HALF SHADE and moderately rich soil, well drained, are: *Achillea lanulosa*, *Agastache anethiodora*, *Allium cernuum*, *Anemone patens*, *Antennarias aprica*, *campestris* and *microphylla*, *Asters meritus* and *ptarmicoides*, *Campanula petiolata*, *Cerastium strictum*, *Clematis tenuiloba*, *Dodecatheon pauciflorum*, *Fritillaria atropurpurea*, *Iris missouriensis*, *Liatris ligulistylis*, *Lilium umbellatum*, *Lithophragma parviflora*, *Penstemon gracilis*, *Phloxes alyssifolia*, *hoodi* and *scleranthifolia*, *Thalictrum venulosum*, and, excepting *V. nuttalli*, all the Violets. With adequate moisture, however, much sun is equally agreeable to these-shade tolerant kinds.