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THE YELLOW SHEETS

Vol. 1, No. 11. July-August, 1945 — — Laura D. Cole, Grannis, Ark., Editor.

The spring and early summer continue wet, making gardens and crops late. In the bottoms, much distress has been caused by overflows. Here in the hills, we have no troubles that way, but my work with wildlings must be curtailed, because I am too old to wade these mountain branches and slop through swampy places and must wait until the ground is reasonably dry and I can cross the little water courses on stepping stones.

Will not be able to handle any more Iris collections for some weeks. They are out in the country. Mrs. Miller has sold her farm and moved away and present owner has not yet taken possession. I am not strong enough for the three mile walk and digging the Iris. Present owner has expressed a desire to continue the partnership, hence hope to be able to again offer them in time for fall planting.

PARTRIDGE BERRY (*Michella repens*). Hardy evergreen, ground cover.—Needs acid soil, deep shade in the south, berries edible, ideal for terrariums.

RED TRADESCANTIA, so-called from cold weather coloring of the leaves. Color of blossoms seems to depend upon the nature of the soil and amount of the sun. One of the spider worts. Hardy perennial.

GREEN BRIAR, vine stickery; berries black; nodules on roots grow quite large and are used to make pipes.

FIVE FINGERS, (*Potentilla*), medicinal vine, with rather attractive

foliage and yellow flowers in early summer.

VIRGINIA CREEPER, Native Vine; good cover for buildings, takes brilliant autumn coloring.

WHITE VIOLETS good in yard or as pot plants. Does not require rich soil and can stand over half sun.

CONFEDERATE VIOLETS, grey effect, thrive in poor soil and can stand more sun than others.

HARDY ROCK GARDEN PLANTS

HARDY SEDUMS. All Sedums I call hardy can survive 15 below zero without protection. Some of them are hardy in the sub-Arctic. Most are fine for rock garden plants. Last year my *Sempervivums* made almost no increase. This year most are "hatching" chicks, and when my backlog of orders left from last year are filled, I hope to have a number of varieties of hardy Semps to offer. This is a rock garden plant par excellence. Most of the dwarf plants listed under other heads, and many of the wildlings are also good for rock gardens.

I have a few plants of alum root to spare. This is a fine rock garden plant and also good as a pot plant. 10c each.

Any of the above plants, 5c each, unless otherwise noted.

HARDY CACTI—10c EACH.

OPUNTIA VULGARE (Common Prickly Pear) hardy, flower creamy yellow, fruit edible. Can be used as pot plant. Thrives well in poor soil.

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OPUNTIA RAMOSSISSIMA, hardy and dwarf, good in full sun in rock garden, also good as pot plant.

An almost spineless *Opuntia* found here in only one spot that I know of. Have not been able to identify it, but my theory is that it was brought here by the family of a Mexican workman, while a Mexican company was operating a gold mine in Sevier county. One of the mine shafts was close to the Cossatot river, and at the time of the great New Madrid earthquake the earth sank somewhat and the mine was flooded and abandoned, along with a bull train load of gold bullion, stored in one of the passages and was to have been loaded that morning. This cactus may be the descendant of a slip given to an Indian friend.

I have wholesale quantities of the following *Sedums*:—*Sarmentosum*, hardy to subarctic, pendant effect.—One sent me *Glaucum*, much like album, but different flowers and winter coloring; Album white flowers; evergreen with us, an album hybrid has never bloomed for me, color of foliage slightly different, a grey green one which I think is *altissum*, good in rock garden, dish garden or as a pot plant; *Acre* and *Sexanfulare* much alike but different, both dwarf and good ground cover for clayey spots; *Maximowiczii*, little known in U.S.A.—two varieties which are in dispute among the botanists who have seen them. The dealer from whom I bought them, identified them as the rare pink-flowered *Stoloneferum*, and No. 28 as *Stoloneferum coccinea*; and the faculty of our State Experiment Station at Hope, Ark., agrees with him. Other botanists just as well posted say that both

are unusual *Spurium* hybrids.

Have from one to a dozen plants of other varieties. I have only one plant of the *Sedum Spectabile Alba*, the tall White Houseleek. Will trade other *Sedums* for small rooted plants of pink, red and purple *Spectabiles*. Have had all three and put them out in the yard where Bermuda grass killed them.

Any *Sedum* listed, labeled to the best of my knowledge, 5c.

Seven well rooted, small clumps, all different, labelled to the best of my knowledge, 25c, postpaid.

If selection is left to me, 50 well-rooted *Sedums*, 10 varieties labeled, \$1.00.

If unlabeled, 1c each in lot of 25.

Hemerocalis Kwanso, 5c.

Hemerocalis Fulva, 5c.

HOUSE PLANTS

Common Green Leaf Wandering Jew, 5c.

Large Green Leaf Wandering Jew, Purple and grey-striped Wandering Jew, 5c.

Frog Leg Cactus (*Kalanchoe Tubiflora*) 10c.

Red Bird Cactus (*Green Pedilanthus*) 10c.

Variegated *Pedilanthus*, 10c.

Peanut Cactus (*Chamecerous Sylvestris*) 10c.

Opuntia Vilyi (dwarf tender) 10c.

Opuntia, either *elata* or *subelata*, not sure which, 10c.

Cactus *Echinopsis*, 10c.

Unless otherwise stated, all plants whose prices are not given, are 5c each. Postage paid on orders of 50c or more. For less than that amount, please add 5c.

THE YELLOW SHEETS

Until income is bigger, the Yellow Sheets will be published bi-monthly; and until my cubs are home from the war, more attention will be paid to unusual plants, many from other lands, than to our wildlings.

Subscription 25c for 12 issues.—Nice present for your garden-loving friends.

Mrs. Laura D. Cole
Grannis, Arkansas

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IRIS—San Gabriel, Shining Waters, Lady Paramount, California Blue, Mauna Loa, Alta California, Dymia, Indian Chief, Carnation, 25c each, or \$2.50 per doz. **Daylilies:** Ophir, W. H. Whyman, Gem, J. A. Crawford, Mikado, Dawn, Sir Michael Foster, 25c each. Dauntless, Hyperion, Rajah, Serenade, Mary Stoker, 35c each. **Rose:** Wine and Red Shades from 50c to \$1.00 each. **Lycoris Bulbs**, 50c per doz., or \$5.00 per hundred. **Giant Hybrid Amaryllis Bulbs**, 50c each. Memory Lane Iris Garden, 3139 Holly Street, Shreveport, La.

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IRIS, 12 colors, nice roots, names kinds, labelled, 2 doz., \$1.00. Postage

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in North Carolina, otherwise, add 15c postage. Mrs. W. S. Vestal, Graham, N. C.

Set your affections on things above, not on things on the earth.—Col. 3:2.

Doesn't St. Paul here strike the keynote of most of our troubles today? When we let our concern for material objects blind our minds to the more important matters of character, neighborly kindness, welfare of others, faith in God, an effort to live according to His ideals, aren't we building for a lonely and unhappy old age. Doesn't covetousness lead directly to crime? But if we are studying more about things that lead mentally and spiritually upward, we find companionship and true enjoyment increasing with the years.

Recently I enjoyed the pleasure of a short stay in Texarkana. The various Garden Clubs have made this city a beauty spot, and the rural clubs are doing the same work for the surrounding country. This visit confirmed me in the opinion that carefully selected mixed hedges are more attractive than those of one variety. The possibility of including fruit-bearing shrubs in the hedge should not be overlooked.

I was entertained in the home of Judge and Mrs. J. D. Cook, some distance out in the country. We passed a base planting that will long remain in my memory. Against the wall of a small, grey cottage, stood a row of blue Hydrangeas in full bloom. In front of them was a row of yellow Day Lilies (*Hemerocallis*). An ideal planting for a country home, as the average country woman does not have time nor

strength for much work with flowers. These two are perennials and require the minimum of care.

While visiting a Texarkana back yard, I saw a breed of chickens which I have not previously seen for about half a century—the Partridge Cochins. This is strictly a back yard breed. I do not recommend them for a farm, but they are large, decorative plumage, grow quickly and do the minimum of scratching. These were housed in a small, attractive building and the yard was planted to ornamental shrubs and deep rooting perennials. Such fowls require about four feet of floor space, a building 4x8 ft. square being ample for nine hens and a rooster, if given the run of a small yard for as much as an hour a day. Like most breeds, their laying is a matter of strain, rather than breed. Heavy layers can be developed in any breed.

During this visit I was given a start of an unusual perennial, the Peacock Moss (or Fern). A perennial hardy in the southern part of this state, but I do not know how much further north it will prove hardy. Leaves about a foot long, very lacy, and when grown in shade, leaves show a bluish tinge, suggestive of a peacock's feather; while full sun develops an equally handsome bronze tinge. A plant well worth a trial.

The Chinese Date tree (*Jujube*) is hardy there, but I lost mine in a blizzard the second winter. *Echeveria gibbiflora* is also hardy there, a very attractive rock garden plant, but am not sure of it here. Expect to leave one of mine outside this coming winter.

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The young Day Lilies I received from Mrs. U. B. Evans, Haphazard Plantation, Ferriday, La., last fall are coming into bloom. Serenade bloomed in May, a light yellow with shading of brown on outside of petals. Ophir, also a yellow, bloomed first half of June. Margaret Perry and three others from which the labels have slipped are in bud. Think they will open several days apart. W. H. Wyman, Gem, Mikado and Cressida not in bud yet.

A remarkable book, *The Revolution Was*, by Garet Garrett, published by The Caxton Printers, Caldwell, Idaho, was recently given me. I wish it could be read by every voter before Congress meets again in the fall. We are inclined to regard much of the wastefulness, inefficiency and general bad results of the bureaucracy at Washington as merely the mistakes of well-meaning ignorance. This book is carefully documented from speeches and writings of important New Dealers, showing that whole mess is a result of a carefully planned program to establish a totalitarian state in the U. S. They were proceeding along the conventional paths of dictators. All done under the excuse of the general welfare.

We can see the resemblance to the state-planned food shortages in Russia and Germany in our present scarcity of meat and sugar. With plenty of meat animals and people wanting meat, the small local packing houses are drastically limited in amount they can slaughter; also farmers cannot kill their own animals and sell the meat without permission of the bureaucrats. The small slaughterers will be forced to close or go into the Black Market. Elimination of the Kulaks. If they go into the Black Market business, they can be eliminat-

ed more easily, under a fanfare of morality and public welfare. Small business stands in the way of totalitarianism, hence must be eliminated, by piecemeal, if no other way seems safe.

There would be more sugar if the Cuban and Puerto Rican crops had been bought and we house wives left to decide if we were willing to pay the higher price. I have not applied for any canning sugar and do not intend to apply for any because of the questionaire they dare to demand be filled out. Fortunately I came to Arkansas while this region was still pioneer. Sugar was freighted fifty miles from the nearest railroad point. We learned to use molasses.

I have learned by experience that most of our common fruits can be canned without sugar. When opened, I add molasses, preferably sorghum, next to that, cane syrup, to sweeten. Set on the stove and bring to a boil. Stir about a minute and set off to cool. Not as good as sugar sweetening, but very edible and much better than being regimented.

This book is paper bound, cannot be very expensive, and is **ENORMOUSLY WELL WORTH READING.**

You have doubtless read in the papers of the excessive rains in the South. The stories are not exaggerated. Not so much water falls at a time, but so frequently that the ground is hardly dry enough to cultivate before another rain. My vegetable garden is a disgrace to me, but we are getting some cats from it.

Ceiling prices on poultry so low that we are keeping only six hens. These give us two all the eggs we can use and a dozen a week to sell. Would be

ample for a family of three. Ruth, our milk goat, is due to freshen again in September, but still giving right at three quarts a day.

But I am in deep live stock trouble. Cuddles and Mildred are our regular cats. Then a beautiful long-haired cat moved in, chased our two out and then had four kittens. That made seven. Then Mildred had four. Eleven cats are just too many. Am hoping Ralph will bring a pistol back with him this fall. I used to be right handy with one, and a feline massacre seems in order.

Cannot fill any more orders for Lady Ferns nor Bracken until next spring. The roots are now so large and brittle that they break badly in the digging, and recovery is doubtful. I do not like to sell plants of which I am not sure. They might possibly live, but that is the best I can say.

At the George Ralph home in Texarkana is a row of Day Lilies that much interested me. Mrs. Ralph had planted, some years ago, a packet of seed of mixed varieties. All now in bloom this year. One had bloom stalks about four feet tall, large, pale yellow blooms, with edges attractively crinkled. Can you identify it? Neither she nor I could.

My friend, Mrs. Robert Price, of Moyland, Pa., sent me a recent copy of Horticulture, which contained an article on Pokeweed, which surprised me by its adherence to facts. So many published articles about this useful plant are simply hooey. I have never heard of any one eating the roots, so cannot say if they are poisonous, but the early stalks are a fine substitute for asparagus; the leaves and tender

tips are fine boiling greens all summer; chickens eat the ripe berries with great relish; the "pot likker" is not poisonous; and the berries are useful for ink and dyes.

The growth is too coarse for use except in backgrounds; but it is invaluable in back yard poultry runs. Protect the young plants at first with flat rocks or bricks, to prevent the chickens from scratching them up. After the first year, the worst the chickens can do is only cultivation. Height varies according to richness of the ground, and the coloring is much like Castor Beans.

Miss Lugilla Denson, who raises bulbs for the wholesale trade, plants her deep, stem-rooting Lilies in her chicken yard. Says the location is good for both.

It is unfortunate for the suburbanite that the majority of hatcheries cater only to the farm trade. A farm breed of chickens is as definitely unsuited to back yard conditions as a draft horse is for a child's pony. But the back yard breeds, those that expect to stay at home, expect you to provide the food without much scratching on their part, will grow into fine table quality meat and shell out the eggs on four square feet of house space and ten square feet of yard per bird, can be located only with difficulty. Seems to me that here is a fine opening for a paying business. Remember that Kellerstrauss proved in court that during one twelve months, he had sold two thousand dollars worth of eggs, from a forty by forty foot yard. Of course that included eggs from the great Peggy and her daughters, but it does show that here is a fine opening for an old or partly disabled person.

