

# Garden Notes

Northwest Horticultural Society

Autumn 1996

## In the Spirit of Autumn



**Fall Plant Sale**  
September 27th - 28th



© Don Normark

## World of Plants in One Place *by Diane Laird*

The same classic climate of Puget Sound that is the foundation of our enthusiastic and passionate gardening community also provides a home base for some of the most *avant-garde* growers in the nation. "Our" Pacific Northwest growers are among the most interesting and adventurous people in the national gardening community, frequently collecting, growing, and introducing new plants to an eager audience long before these plants are widely available elsewhere. Many of these growers will be at our annual fall plant sale, ready to discuss shared interests, recent discoveries, and tales of the plant world with sale patrons. Equally compelling are the personalities of gardeners shopping at the sale - and time must be allowed to take a break from buying

to discover and visit with kindred spirits and browse the contents of others' boxes, then revisit the tables after taking refreshment and inventory.

Fall will be in the air along with aromas of herb-seasoned foods grilling and espresso brewing to fuel this second circuit of the tables. The treasures taken home and planted will reward the gardener with healthy, established plants come spring because our temperate climate allows for almost continuous root growth during the winter months.

So, what treasures from groundcovers to trees can you expect to find at this year's sale? Some of the growers give us a preview...

### Barfod's Hardy Ferns, Bothell

Torben Barfod will bring a wide selection of hardy ferns ranging from small-pot to three-gallon sizes and special shrubs such as sarcococa species which soon will be blooming with small white fragrant flowers, sometimes as early as Christmas or New Year's Day and on into February and March. For those of you living in a microclimate Zone 8b, on the water or just living dangerously (ask him about winter-wrap protection), Torben will also have a selection of tree ferns - *Dicksonia antarctica*, *D. fibrosa*, and *D. squarrosa*.

### Beauty and the Bamboo, Seattle

At Stan Andreasen's table, look for the somewhat rare, mite-resistant bamboo *Bashania fargesia*, the undersides of its leaves covered with hair-like pubescent projections which are irritating to mites.

This is a mid-sized bamboo - between running

and clumping - and the canes are an inch in diameter and up to twenty-feet tall, the leaves grow to a foot long. It is native to the mountains of China. Andreason will offer plants in five-gallon containers; he also sells and installs root barriers. He will have photos of rare bamboos just out of quarantine (*Phyllostachys bambusoides* 'Castillon' and *P.b. Allgold*).



Hypericum 'Albury Purple'  
Ginger Nordberg



Dicentra  
Kim Reading

intense dark red velvety flowers and a dwarf habit. A book of flower photos will be available for plants not in bloom at the time of the sale.

### Héronswood Nursery Ltd, Kingston

For the sale, Dan Hinkley and Robert Jones are saving *Clematis connata*, collected in eastern Nepal in 1995, with autumn-blooming clusters of fragrant bell-shaped flowers; *Holboellia latifolia*, also

collected in eastern Nepal in '99, a hardy evergreen vine with fragrant purple flowers in spring and egg-shaped lacy tender fruit in autumn; and

### *Billardiera longiflora*

another hardy evergreen vine, this with long tubular yellow flowers in spring followed by marble-sized violet fruit in autumn.

### Madrona Nursery, Seattle

Ann Bucher will be offering *Cornus stolonifera* 'Sunshine', a low suckering dogwood with a bright yellow-green leaf; *Tricyrtis formosana*, a toad lily with attractive dark green foliage that grows to three to four feet and sports a small white dark-spotted flower; *Astrantia* in bloom; *Begonia evansoniana*, a hardy begonia with a beautiful big fat leaf at least eight inches in length on a mature plant and with a red underside which shows through when light is behind the plant. It has white flowers and likes deep shade.

### Country Gardens, Fall City

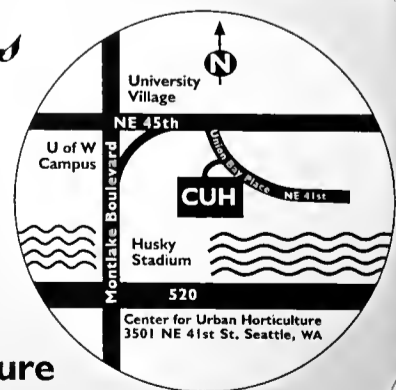
This is the nursery that provided many of the hydrangeas for the Northwest Perennial Alliance's Perennial Border at the Bellevue Botanical Garden. Keith, Don, and Willa Howe will concentrate on bringing many of these same plants to the sale. One of the most popular is *Hydrangea macrophylla serrata* 'Preziosa', a handsome shrub with purplish red stems, leaves purplish tinged, and attractive globular heads of large pale pinkish yellow and rose florets deepening to reddish purple in the fall. They will also have 'Hornli', a new dwarf introduction with small rounded rose or wine-colored sepals, four sepals to a petal (like 'Amy'). Also, *Hydrangea macrophylla* 'Souvenir de President Doumir' with purple, dark blue, or

## Plant Sale Dates & Location

Friday & Saturday  
September 27th and 28th  
(9 a.m. - 4 p.m.)

Center for Urban Horticulture  
3501 N.E. 41st Street, Seattle

For further information or to volunteer,  
please call Janet Warford, (206) 454-6265.



**Holbak's Nursery, Woodinville**

returns with another tempting selection of lush, healthy, and interesting houseplants, many of which can be moved outdoors in the summer for easier maintenance and a tropical look in the garden.

**Morning Glory Farms, Stanwood**

Kirk Baker and William Hielscher will bring their own introduction of a dwarf bergenia: *Bergenia cordifolia* 'Ruby Elf', with pinkish bronze leaves in the summer and autumn, turning deep red in the winter. The largest diameter of leaf on this plant is about three and a half inches, and the flower spikes are true to the species, rising up six to eight inches in a brilliant pink (described by the grower as "prom dress pink - pretty over there, but I don't want it on me..."). Also see *Acanthus spinosa*, the leaf looks lethal and spiny, but the foliage itself is soft - although the flower spike "could really nail you if you brushed against it." Also coming is *Xanthoxylum* 'Merristwood Cream', a bigeneric cross between halmium and cistus. It is a drought-tolerant plant with small gray-green pubescent leaves and flowers Post-it note yellow, and the two-inch blossom has a huge burgundy-red center; the red marking is about half the total area of the blossom. This plant thrives in full sun and dry soil.

**Naylor Creek Nursery, Chimacum**

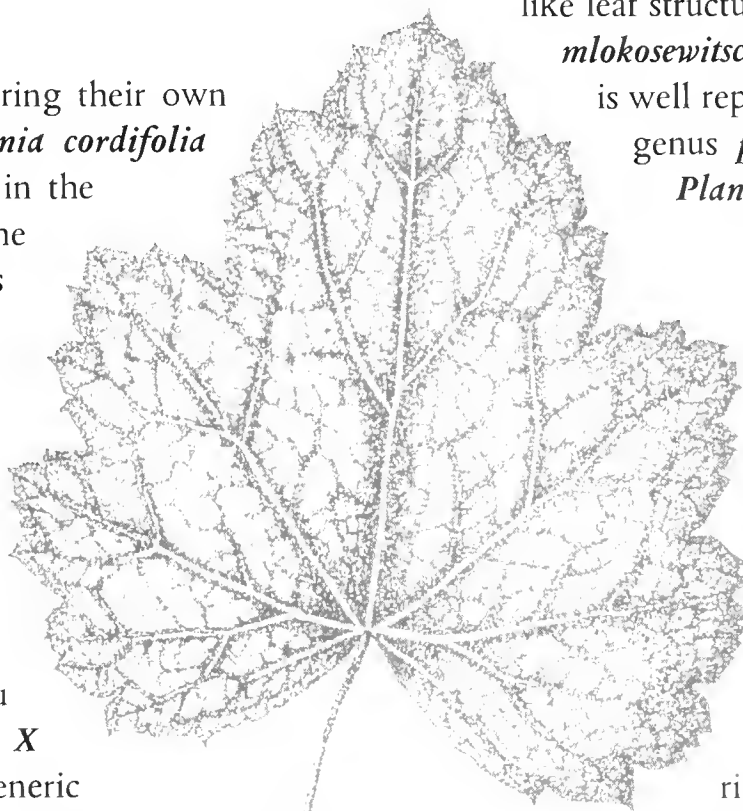
Gary Lindheimer and Jack Hirsch will be bringing *Brunerra macrophylla variegata*, *cimicifuga*, *filipendula epimedium*, and a wonderful selection of hostas including 'Fragrant Bouquet', 'Guacamole' (the reverse of 'Fragrant Bouquet' with a lighter green center, dark edge, and very fragrant flowers), 'Patriot', and 'Minuteman', which is like 'Patriot' but has a heavier texture. Ask Lindheimer to tell you the story of how 'Bridegroom' got its name from a ninety-year-old woman and about her new introduction 'Hot Flash'.

**Ramble on Rose Perennials, Mt. Vernon**

Marta Gorney "has a really good supply" of *Meconopsis grandis* and *Meconopsis x sheldonii* in gallons, *Gentiana asclepiadea*, gallon-sized *Helleborus sternii* (sterile hybrid, gray and rosy, hard to find), *Corydalis alba*, and a selection of different colored *Iris siberica*, daylilies, and perennials.

**Reflective Gardens, Poulsbo**

Entering a second season of indulging customers with the unusual and the offbeat, Kelly Dodson and Sue Skelly will be bringing uncommon gems such as *Arisaema consanguineum*, which grows four feet tall and has a big, round umbrella-rib-like leaf structure, and species peonies including *Paeonia mlokosewitschii* (Molly the Witch). This offbeat section is well represented by fifteen or so species from the genus *plantago* (including the white variegated *Plantago asiatica* 'Variegata'). ("There are good plantagos, really!" Dodson says.) Many perennials and bulbous species from Reflective Gardens are from wild seed collections from all over the world and include new forms of familiar species and a few new to cultivation. Also offered will be dierama in four-inch and gallon pots, *pinellia* (*arisaema*-like Japanese relatives), *Gentiana ternifolia*, *Commelina dianthifolia* which blooms blue and has "half-heart-shaped pouches from which the flowers issue forth in glorious succession, a hardy tuberous rooted thing that likes the sun," *Aceriphyllum rossi* which is early spring blooming with white flowers and a good-sized leaf, a *rodgersia* relative, and huge *Rodgersia podophylla* in bursting two-gallon pots.



Heuchera  
Kim Reading

## NHS January Seed Exchange Preview

In addition to growers' tables and other concessions, we will have a new feature: plants that will be represented on the NHS Seed Exchange List. This display is an opportunity to see some exciting treasures, of which, you might otherwise not be aware, so you can make seed selections more knowingly when the List comes out early in the new year.

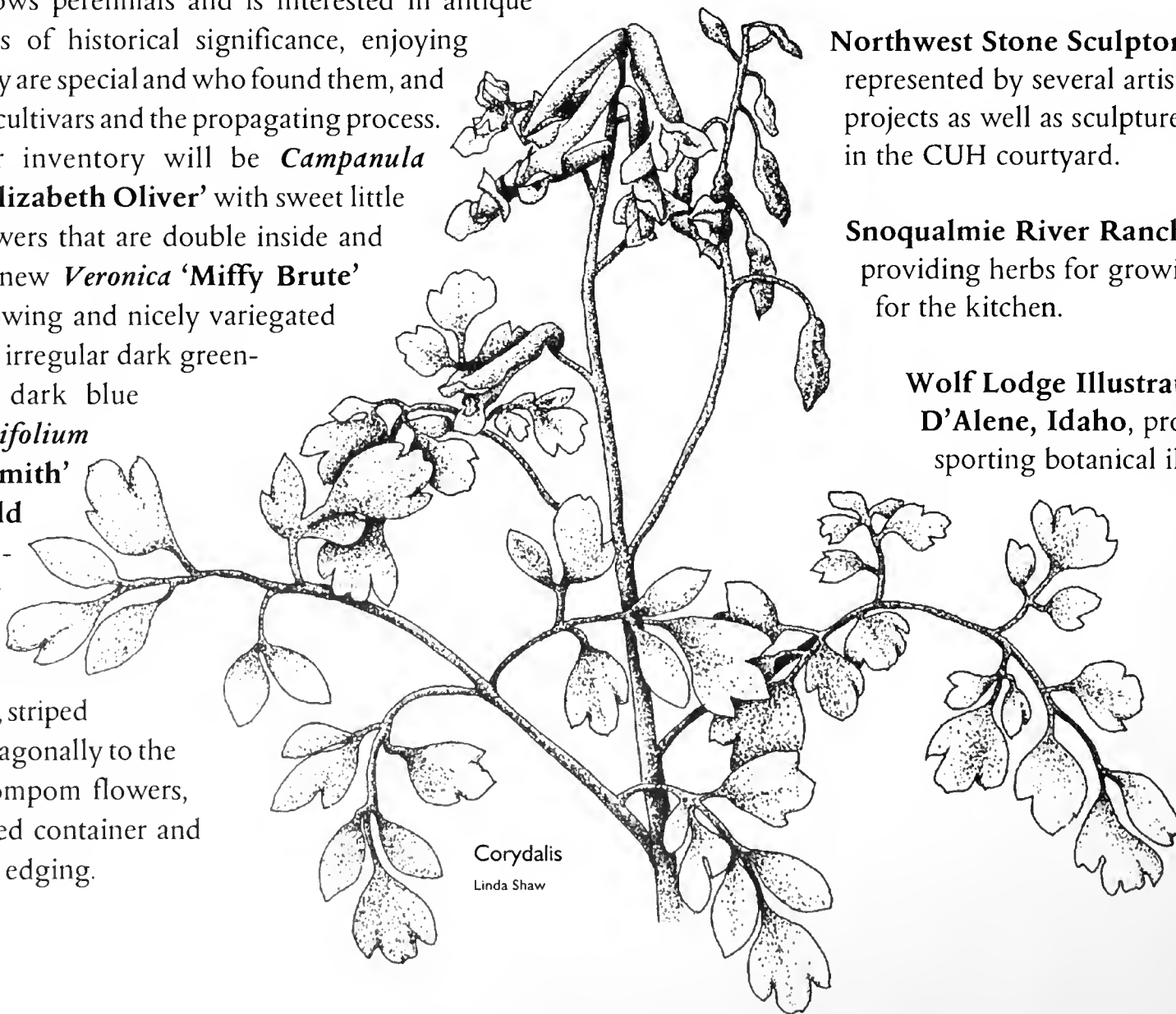
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### Schugmann's Nursery, Deming

Self-described "alpine nutcases", Chris and Joe Schugmann will be selling offbeat perennials, smaller trees such as Japanese maples (the smaller cultivars), dwarf conifers and more unusual and hard-to-find *Ericaceae*, *cassiopes* and *phyllodoce*s (sometimes called mountain heathers) and alpines *Gentiana sino-ornata* (Himalayan blue Gentian), *Gentiana ternifolia* (baby blue and smaller than *G. sino-ornata*); also, hardy geraniums: *Geranium palustre* (can sit in a swamp or be pretty dry and whose main claim to fame is that it blooms from late May to hard frost in pink flowers). Find *Geranium asphodeloides* (it is a trailer like 'Ann Folkard', and its pale-pink to white flowers add color to the out-of-bloom lower growing rhodies); *Euphorbia x 'Martinii'* and *Euphorbia dulcis 'Chameleon'* and 'Chameleon' seedlings; and a selection of *androsace* (in the greater primrose family, with little one-inch stems and whorls of fragrant flowers).

### Woodside Gardens, Chimacum

Pamela West grows perennials and is interested in antique plants and plants of historical significance, enjoying stories of why they are special and who found them, and especially enjoys cultivars and the propagating process. Included in her inventory will be *Campanula cochleariifolia 'Elizabeth Oliver'* with sweet little sky blue bell flowers that are double inside and frilly and full; a new *Veronica 'Miffy Brute'* which is low growing and nicely variegated with a cream and irregular dark green-edged leaf and dark blue flower spikes; *Trifolium pratense 'Susan Smith'* (also called 'Gold Mesh'), a low-growing clover with leaves an inch-and-half long, oval-shaped, striped gold and green diagonally to the margins, pink pompom flowers, perfect for a mixed container and also excellent for edging.



Corydalis  
Linda Shaw

In addition to these growers, others will be sharing their not-to-missed treasures:

**A & D Perennials, Snohomish**  
**Foliage Gardens of Washington, Bellevue**  
**Griswold Nursery, Kirkland**  
**Kerston's Nursery, Brier**  
**Melrose Nursery, Olympia**  
**Native Origins, Auburn**  
**Puget Garden Resources, Vashon**  
**Puget Sound Dahlia Association**  
**Thorton Creek Nursery, Seattle**  
**Sundquist Nursery, Poulsbo**  
**and others**

**Aw Pottery, Seattle**, bringing beautiful glazed containers for plants and water gardens.

**Coffees à la cart, Seattle**, providing espresso plant sale fuel.

**Northwest Stone Sculptors Association** represented by several artists working on current projects as well as sculpture for viewing and sale in the CUH courtyard.

**Snoqualmie River Ranch, Snohomish**, providing herbs for growing ornamentally and for the kitchen.

**Wolf Lodge Illustrations, Coeur D'Alene, Idaho**, providing tee-shirts sporting botanical illustrations.

*Diane Laird is a vice president of NHS, co-chair of the 1996 Plant Sale, and a SysOp in CompuServe's Gardening Forum.*

One Plant Sale Grower Writes...

## Plants from Colvos Creek Nursery

by Mike Lee

Colvos Creek Nursery specializes in native and drought-hardy plants and rare plants of all kinds. We continually bring in new material from everywhere, especially wild sources, to keep our customer (and ourselves) interested. Most of our plants are tested and displayed in a half-acre garden open to visitors by appointment.

Our list is strong on oaks (seventy-plus), hollies (fifty-plus), and eucalyptus (rotating list of thirty-plus), as well as maples, sorbus, penstemons, and conifers. We have been adding natives as fast as we can, especially perennials, and these will be showing up for sale over the next year or two. We are one of the few nurseries growing manzanitas, though the demand has exceeded our supplies for the moment. We expect to have some of these from our new crop for the NHS sale.

Among the other temptations we will be bringing to the sale are *Grevillea victoriae* and *Cistus palhinhae*. The former is a six-foot evergreen shrub from Australia with narrow leaves that have much the same gray-green and silver color scheme as *Senecio x 'Sunshine'*. From fall into spring this vigorous plant is decked with flaming vermillion flowers. Proving hardy in most of the Seattle area, it bloomed undaunted through twenty-degree nights last January.

The rockrose is the most elegant species I know, making a neat two-to-three foot mound of crisp, deep green leaves studded with sumptuous, white crepe-like flowers three inches wide in early summer. Like the *grevillea*, it laughs at drought.

We will also have our usual assortment of oaks, evergreen and deciduous, including the silverleaf oak (*Quercus hypoleucoides*), a wonderful, rugged evergreen from the southwest, and the laurel oak (*Q. laurifolia*) from the southeast, wearing a light crown of spring green all year. We'll have natives, too, including red huckleberry, native oaks, vine maple, and Oregon myrtle (*Umbellularia californica*).

*Mike Lee is a landscape architect and owner of Colvos Creek Nursery, Vashon Island*



Crocosmia  
Linda Shaw

## Botanical Illustrations

NHS is pleased to discover new botanical artists. Thanks to Ginger Nordberg, Kim Reading, and Linda Shaw for contributing drawings to this issue. All three are recent graduates of the University of Washington Certificate Program in Scientific Illustration and have extensive portfolios in a variety of media from pen and ink to watercolor. For more information, please call the NHS Office, (206) 527-1794.

# The Gardener's Critical Eye

by Douglas Bayley

There is a time in the summer, probably beginning in early July, when it is too late - or early - to transplant, or just too hot to really work. Enjoy the reprise. It's the time to rest on your laurels and enjoy the arrangements thought out months ago. There are always some successes, but not always the ones anticipated in March. There are also a few not so successful outcomes, and perhaps even an outright failure.

Mid-to-late summer is the test of a true gardener - the time of unforgiving reality. It is the hardest point in the year to have the garden look colorful and fresh. Many developments take place. Rhododendrons can look drab, and most plants appear spent after blooming. It takes knowledge and skill to have the landscape look great in August and September. While a few plants are in their peak, such as Japanese anemones and hydrangeas, for most the season is over. Some corrections can be made by grooming (cutting back hard) in July so plants flush out with fresh foliage and maybe a few blooms. However, other arrangements need more drastic attention. If color is wanted, there are always annuals, but frequently these too give out in late summer.

Now is the time to take notice where there are holes. Where does foliage seem shabby? What really was disappointing? Make notes and even a plan so you will remember what you would like to do when it comes to moving things around in the cooler fall. Because this is the time of year when the whole family is in the garden, it should look at its best. If there is to be real relaxation, privacy is important - deciduous plants can be fast-growing and great for summer screening when evergreen foliage is not critical.

Where is shade too thick? Summer is a great time for pruning many trees and shrubs. (It is also a nice time for the pruner since it is warm and the days are long.) Maples can be opened up for more light. Cherries and plums are best pruned this season and will keep their shape until next spring. Formal hedges of boxwood, laurel,



*Nicotiana sylvestris*, a great addition to the summer garden

or cypress should have an annual prune now. Remember to keep the tops narrower than the base so light reaches down and keeps the lower foliage healthy.

As summer draws to a close, analyze what has worked and try to coldly appraise what has not. Things seldom get better on their own. Always it is better to edit. I find it easier to give plants away than to destroy them, but the important thing is to remove those plants which do not give satisfaction. No garden is large enough for disappointing plants. Also, as summer winds down, visit gardens and note plants that look good.

Fall brings cooler weather and ideal conditions for rearranging plants as well as for putting in new plants so they will be



Hydrangea  
Ginger Nordberg



© Don Normark

its abundance of flowers to heavy frost.

established when spring comes. While the horticultural industry is geared to maximizing its production of plants for the popular spring rush, real gardeners tend instead to think ahead, knowing fall is the best time to do planting and transplanting. This is why NHS holds its plant sale in the fall: to provide gardeners with knowledgeable advice and excellent plants when most nurseries are picked over and their plants are out-bound.

Now is the time to make your plans and notes in anticipation of the fall NHS Plant Sale on September 27th and 28th.

Douglas Bayley is a garden designer and writer, president of NHS, and curator of the E.B. Dunn Historic Garden Trust.

## President's Message

Fall is not only the best time for planting, but for NHS planning as well. If we are to repeat last spring's ambitious series of lectures and programs, now is the time for organizational work. We need your help in planning and organizing next year's events...the Flower & Garden Show, Garden Tour, and Miller Library Auction and Party to name but a few. There are also opportunities for helping **Garden Notes** with articles and layout.

Volunteers are the backbone of NHS. Consider joining one of the committees and working with other members to make events happen and be the shared pleasure we all want. Our programs can use as little or as much help as you are able to give. Involvement in NHS projects is challenging and fun, and valuably serves the horticultural community.

The Plant Sale is our main event each year. This fall's promises to be the best ever. Foregoing lectures this time, it will be more strongly focussed on providing an excellent selection of wonderful plants for Northwest gardeners. Join us on this popular occasion.

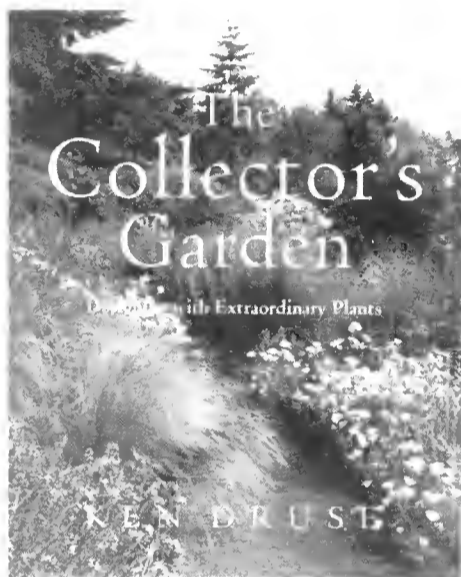
Douglas Bayley

## Library Resources

## Garden Design and Care

by Valerie Easton

Northwesterners count themselves very fortunate to live in gardening heaven. Our benign climate provides conditions amenable to growing a vast array of plants, and hundreds of flourishing local nurseries and plant sales are ready and able to provide them. The question that arises how best to use each plant in the garden and how to care for it over time. Design, pruning, plant selection and placement, climate, soil, and plant identification - all these aspects of gardening are what make it both so fascinating and confusing. There are several new books that deal with this multi-faceted challenge, helping to guide the gardener in both aesthetic and practical choices.



**The Collector's Garden:  
Designing with Extraordinary Plants**  
Ken Druse

Clarkson Potter, New York, 1996

This is a very beautiful book, but don't just admire the photos. The text is an exploration of several dozen outstanding gardens, with advice and ideas from the gardeners themselves. It is reassuring to read that the creators of these beautiful gardens make mistakes, rip out plants, and start over, just like the rest of us. Druse says there is a network of the most serious collectors and he lets us in on their concerns, interests, plant exchanges, and best of all their garden making. The Northwest is well-represented with profiles of Heronswood and Jerry Flintoff's garden as well as quotes from Peter Ray and Judith Jones.

**The Cultivation of Hardy Perennials**

Richard Bird

B.T. Batsford Ltd., London, 1994

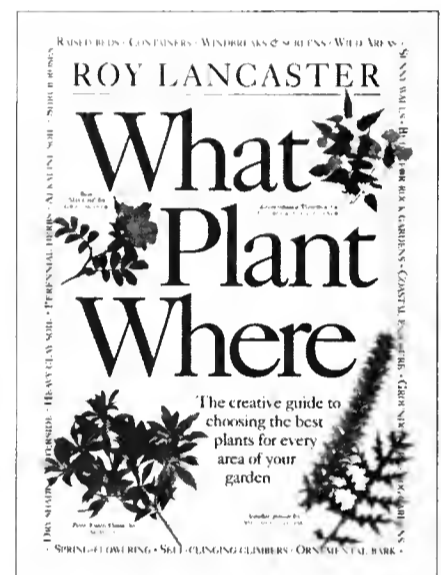
"There can be no doubt that if you wish to have an attractive garden you have got to work at it," is how Bird begins this practical book. General information on siting, soil preparation, maintenance, etc. leads into the largest and most useful section of the book, which consists of detailed and specific instructions on the care of hundreds of different herbaceous plants. Soil, moisture, nutrition, winter protection, how to divide, and - most useful of all - when to cut back are covered. Here in knowledgeable text and clear line drawings is what you need to know to grow vigorous and healthy perennials. And when they robustly outgrow their space, reach for Bird's second book *The Propagation of Hardy Perennials*.

**Elements of Garden Design**

Joe Eck

Henry Holt and Company, Inc., New York, 1996

These pieces appeared in *Horticulture* magazine over the last several years and are collected here in a handsome little book, illustrated with sepia line drawings that resemble old woodcuts. Eck deals with the mysteries of what makes gardens work. Scale, mass, symmetry, and time are discussed as well as how to garden on slopes and where to store garbage cans. Plant lovers would do well to heed his advice that gardens "reflect a series of choices, conscious or unconscious, successful or ill-considered, and "what defines a garden is less what is grown in it than how what grows is arranged."



**What Plants Where**

Roy Lancaster

Dorling Kindersley, New York, 1995

All too often gardeners wander around with a newly purchased plant in a pot, looking for a place to put it. This book by a renowned plant expert guides us to make gardens in the reverse order - consider the site and then choose the ideal plants to suit the conditions. Perennials for dry shade, shrubs for heavy clay soil, conifers for groundcover, and trees tolerant to coastal exposure are just a few of the useful sections. Decision-making is aided by color photos of each suggested plant as well as information on eventual size, description, and cultural requirements and a comprehensive index. This is a particularly useful book for a new gardener, but useful to anyone searching for ideas on how to plant those problem areas, rework beds, or just create a garden of plants thriving in their most ideal situations.

Valerie Easton is Library Manager, Elisabeth C. Miller Library, CUH.



## NHS Garden Tour of England

by Barbara Taber Wilson

Neither rain nor cold weather kept the twenty-five members of the Northwest Horticultural Society's first garden tour of England from their appointed rounds. In spite of England's unseasonably wet and cold day, the hearty and congenial group, led by the intrepid Betsy Fitzgerald, thoroughly enjoyed their ten-day trip to London and the gardens of central England.

The *piece de resistance* was of course a full day at the Chelsea Flower Show with its truly amazing outdoor gardens as well as hundreds of plant and flower displays under a huge tented area. Day trips were taken from London to Kew Gardens, Cambridge, and the Kent countryside. In Cambridge the group toured the Clare College Fellows Garden - guided by the personable head gardener, visited the University Botanic Gardens, and attended a memorable evening service at Kings College Chapel with its beautiful stained glass windows and the voices of the renowned boys choir echoing from the magnificent fan-vaulted ceiling.

Two outstanding gardens were visited in Kent: Christopher Lloyd's Great Dixter and Vita Sackville-West's Sissinghurst. Etched indelibly in everyone's memory is the vision of the impish Mr. Lloyd chatting about his beloved garden, seemingly oblivious to the rain dripping off his ears and nose.

After five nights in London, the tour left for an overnight stay in Bath, briefly glimpsing Stonehenge from the bus windows as we sped over the Salisbury Plain. En route, two of Penelope Hobhouse's gardens were visited, the small but perfect Tintinhull and sprawling Hadspen, now tended by a couple from Vancouver, B.C.

The next day an all-too-short stop in Oxford was followed by a visit to the park-like gardens and stately manor house at Cowsham where the group was guided by the charming owner, replete with her wellingtons and enthusiastically recounting stories of the family's centuries' old home. Kiftsgate Gardens was next on the itinerary before traveling on to Stratford-on-Avon and two nights in the Shakespeare Hotel. An afternoon was spent at Hidcote with an unanticipated performance by a group of very merry Morris dancers, sporting their power-bedecked straw hats and jangling leg bells. The long absent sun appeared in the late afternoon as the group sat sipping tea and munching elegant sandwiches and fruit tarts at a formal tea.

The final day was devoted to visits to Rosemary Verey's Arncliffe House, Rodmarton Manor, and the Royal Horticultural Society demonstration gardens at Wisley. Verey personally greeted the group and led the tour through her garden, excusing herself after a while to prepare for her next guest, the Queen of Norway. Her potager was truly awe-inspiring with its trim brick paths and the lettuce heads and onion sets marching across the tidy beds in military precision.

The garden tour ended May 29th but the friendships forged during the trip have endured. Members Barbara Hampson and Joan King and their spouses hosted a cocktail party and potluck dinner for the group in July where photos were exchanged and memories rekindled.

## New Pacific Northwest Garden History Society

by Duane Dietz

*"Gardens are among the most fragile works of art."*

David Streatfield

Although the Pacific Northwest is a unique garden environment, there never has been a concerted effort to record our garden and landscape history. Individuals have written histories of certain gardens or plants, magazines have carried articles about local botanists and nurserypersons, and libraries have collections of important works. I have plodded along doing garden history research and occasionally bumped into a fellow enthusiast and heard many a horror story about the difficulty in looking for photographs, letters, and diaries of those responsible for our horticultural heritage.

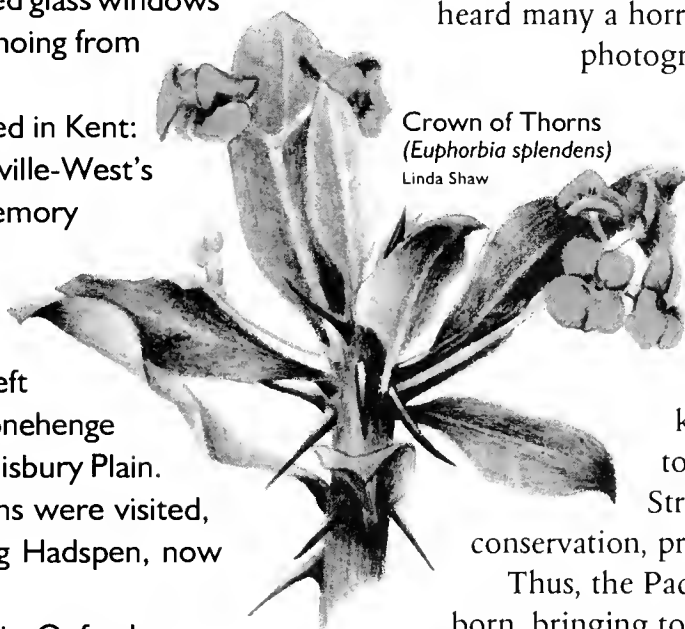
About five years ago I realized that a group must be formed that would record the past, preserve the present, and educate others to carry on the work.

A meeting was held July 20, 1996 at the Center for Urban Horticulture. Fourteen people attended. The day was spent getting to know each other, discussing goals, and listening to University of Washington professor David Streatfield discuss the possibilities for landscape conservation, preservation, and documentation.

Thus, the Pacific Northwest Garden History Society was born, bringing together those interested in different aspects of garden history in the Pacific Northwest: to be in the forefront of protecting, conserving, and better understanding our regional garden heritage and the relationship of garden design to architecture, art, literature, and society.

We would like the Society to serve as a sensitive and authoritative coordinator of information and expertise on historic Pacific Northwest gardens. Please join in this endeavor. For further information, write to the Pacific Northwest Garden History Society, 11505 N.E. 100th Street, Kirkland, WA 98033.

Duane Dietz is a landscape architect for Jones and Jones in Seattle, working on Disney's Animal World in Walt Disney World, Florida.



Crown of Thorns  
(*Euphorbia splendens*)  
Linda Shaw

### Next NHS Grant Application Deadline: January 1

One expression of the Northwest Horticultural Society's support of regional horticultural endeavors is its program of grants. These are designed to enable qualified individuals, organizations, or institutions to develop and expand activities which promote horticultural education and/or research and encourage community participation.

If you would like to receive application information, please call the NHS Office at (206) 527-1794. Written correspondence can be directed to NHS, University of Washington, Box 354115, Seattle, WA 98195-4115.

### Tony Schilling: Mediterranean Odyssey September 17th

by Sue Moss

Our first renowned speaker this fall is Tony Schilling, M. arb., F.L.S., F.I. Hort., V.M.H. I don't know what every one of these British degrees stands for, but it is clear we are going to hear from a very learned horticulturist.

In fact, Tony Schilling was Director of Wakehurst Place in West Sussex for twenty-four years. Wakehurst Place, the "country Kew" managed by the Royal Botanical Garden, is a 462-acre garden known for its Ravine Walk and Himalayan collection. The latter is in major part the result of Schilling's many trips to Nepal and the surrounding mountainous areas where early in his career he helped establish the Royal Botanic Gardens in Katmandu Valley. He has been back to the region many times since, leading horticultural tours and writing and speaking on the area's flora.

The topic of his talk is "A Mediterranean Odyssey" reflecting his other passion for the mountainous areas of the Mediterranean basin. This summer he led a trip to the Spanish Pyrenees. His presentation will take us from Spain to Turkey looking at plants specially suited to the dry places in our gardens.

Since fall is the best time to plant xeric plants, and since we have a fall plant sale the week following the lecture, we hope you can take advantage of the connection by coming to this evening's program to do some research for your plant sale purchases.

The lecture begins at 7:30 p.m. with a social hour at 7:00. In addition, there will be door prizes featuring choice low-water-use plants donated by Plant Sale vendors. If you don't come, you can't win!

*Sue Moss is chairperson of the NHS Lectures and Tours Committee and owner of Sue Moss Garden Design.*



Iris  
Kim Reading

## Upcoming Events

### SEPTEMBER

#### September 17

7:30 - 9 p.m. (coffee at 7)

#### NHS LECTURE

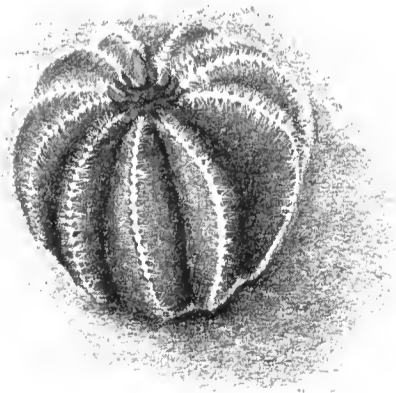
#### Mediterranean Odyssey

Tony Schilling, former director of Wakehurst, West Sussex. Renowned plantsman and educator, Schilling captivates audiences with his in-depth knowledge. He will focus on perennials indigenous to the Mediterranean from southern Spain to Turkey (plants that also do well in the Northwest).

\$7 members, \$10 non-members

NHS Hall, CUH

(206) 527-1794



*Euphorbia obesa*  
Ginger Nordberg

#### September 20 - 21

20th: 3-6 p.m.; 21st: 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

#### RHODODENDRON SPECIES FOUNDATION

#### Second Annual Fall Plant Sale

Thousands of plants perfect for Northwest gardens and homes. Also, browse the Garden Shop for ideas and gifts.

Weyerhaeuser Corporate

Headquarters Campus, Federal Way  
(206) 838-4646

#### September 26 - November 14

7 - 9 p.m.

#### JAPANESE GARDEN SOCIETY Japanese Elements in Northwest Landscape Design

A lecture series by horticultural experts sharing their experiences and accomplishments incorporating Japanese influence in garden design. September 26: Terry Welch, Landscape Architect; October 10: Jan Budden, Garden Artist; October 24: Don Brooks and Mary Anne Parmeter, Kubota Gardens; November 14: David Streatfield, Chair, University of Washington Department of Landscape Architecture. Preregistration: (206) 641-7145

#### September 27 -28

9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

#### NHS

#### Fall Plant Sale

Among the largest and most comprehensive regional plant sales, featuring a large selection of perennials, choice trees and shrubs, herbs, ferns, rhododendrons, dahlias, and ground covers all ready for fall planting. Representatives from over thirty nurseries and specialty growers hand to answer questions and assist with landscape planning.

CUH  
(206) 527-1794

#### September 29

11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

#### PLANT AMNESTY

#### Plant Rummage Sale and Annual Event

Donated plants from area nurseries and members' gardens: new and recycled plants, nursery seconds, plants with minor defects, and overstocked plants. Also rare and unusual shrubs, trees, and perennials. Includes a silent auction.

CUH  
(206) 783-9813

## OCTOBER

### October 6

10 a.m. - noon; 1 - 4 p.m.  
**NORTHWEST PERENNIAL PLANT SOCIETY**  
**Workshops**  
 Larkcom and Ethne Clark, English authors  
 The morning Larkcom will feature many examples of kitchen gardens, how-to information, and tips to use color and form for dramatic impact; in the afternoon Larkcom covers designing herb gardens, including those with medicinal plants.  
 \$5 each session  
 Pre-registration: (206) 451-3982

### October 12, November 9, November 14

10 a.m. - noon  
**Design Studios**  
 These new monthly design studios with top landscape designers are for persons working to correct or enhance existing landscapes. October: All Urban Gardens with Robert Chittock, Landscape Architect; November: Rock Gardens with Michael Moshier, Landscape Designer, December: Bio Gardens/Private Spaces with Meg Ryan, Environmental Designer.  
 \$5 each studio  
 Pre-registration: (206) 543-8616

### October 13

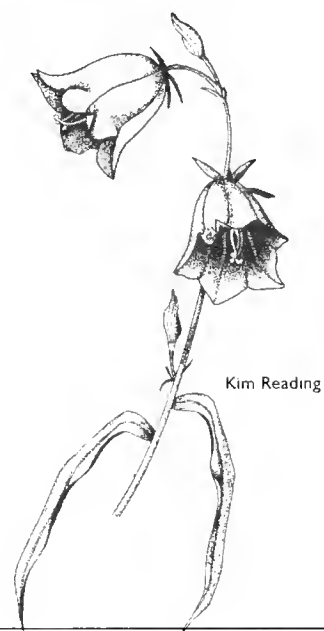
11 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
**WASHINGTON PARK ARBORETUM FOUNDATION**  
**Fall Bulb Sale**  
 Wide selection of unusual plants and bulbs, many of which cannot be found elsewhere, for creation of a dazzling spring garden.  
 Graham Visitors Center, Washington Park Arboretum  
 (206) 325-4510

### October 15

7:30 p.m. (coffee at 7)  
**NHS & ELISABETH C. MILLER BOTANIC GARDEN TRUST LECTURE**  
**A Year at the RHS Garden, Wisley - Past, Present, & Future**  
 Jim Gardiner, Curator RHS Garden, Wisley  
 See a fabulous showpiece garden through four seasons and hear about its conservation and environmental policies and also its future plans. A catered reception follows.  
 Complimentary  
 Pre-registration: (206) 860-5055 (deadline 10/8)

### October 29 - November 23

6:30 - 9 p.m. Tuesdays, 9 a.m. - noon Saturdays  
**CUH**  
**Landscape Design Basics**  
 Keith Geller, Landscape Architect, Seattle  
 Six-part course on creating your own basic landscape plan by developing an understanding of design principles and mechanics, site analysis, etc.  
 \$65  
 Douglas Classroom, CUH  
 Pre-registration: (206) 543-8616



Jim Gardiner: **A Year at Wisley**  
**October 15th**  
 by Richard Hartlage

NHS is co-sponsoring its October lecture with the Elisabeth C. Miller Botanic Garden Trust. The speaker, Jim Gardiner, Curator of the Royal Horticultural Society's Garden at Wisley, will share "A Year at the RHS Garden, Wisley - Past, Present, and Future". We will be taking a look at Wisley throughout all seasons - its plants, artifacts, conservation and environmental policies, and plans for the future.

Gardiner has been curator of Wisley since 1988. Wisley is the RHS's showpiece garden encompassing 200 acres and an internationally famous living encyclopedia for gardeners from around the world. Gardiner is responsible for overseeing all planting policies and practical work in the garden, and this is done under the eye of more than 600,000 visitors a year.

Before coming to Wisley, he was curator of the extensive collections at the Hillier Gardens and Arboretum in Hampshire and has also worked at the Royal Botanic Garden at Edinburgh, the Royal Gardens and Great Park at Windsor, the Cambridge Botanic Garden, and the City of Liverpool Botanic Garden. As you can see, Gardiner's career has been at some of the finest gardens in England and Scotland.

Richard Hartlage is Director of the Elisabeth C. Miller Botanic Garden, Seattle.

## NOVEMBER

### November 6 - 7

6th: 4 - 6 p.m.;  
 7th: 10 a.m. - 12 noon  
**WASHINGTON PARK ARBORETUM FOUNDATION**  
**Dried Flower Sale**  
 Colorful selection of beautiful dried flowers and everlasting arrangements.  
 Graham Visitors Center, Washington Park Arboretum  
 (206) 325-4510

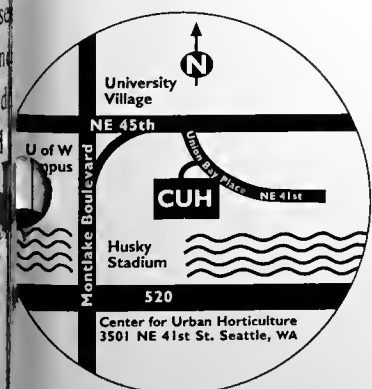
### November 7

7 - 9 p.m.  
**CUH**  
**Big & Bold: Tropical Effects in Temperate Gardens**  
 Richard Hartlage, Director/Curator, Elisabeth C. Miller Botanic Garden  
 Learn about selecting and placing plants to create a lush, tropical appearance in any garden.  
 \$8  
 Graham Visitors Center, Washington Park Arboretum  
 Pre-registration: (206) 543-8616

## DECEMBER

### December 7

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
**WASHINGTON PARK ARBORETUM**  
**Greens Galore**  
 Fresh greens, garlands, cones, wreaths, and other holiday decorations, mostly from members' gardens.  
 Graham Visitors Center, Washington Park Arboretum  
 (206) 325-4510



# Seasonings

by Ted Marston

Our May and early June weather this year has been a good reminder of the vagaries of our climate.

This is illustrated by an example at our home. I have six large boxes on a deck in front of our house which I plant in a wide variety of summer annuals - with the mix changing from year to year, the goal being to exceed the color and beauty of preceding years.

This year, I thought it would be a great idea to add dahlias and cannas to the planting scheme. Besides the flowers, they would also provide substantial size and foliage contrast to the other plants. The containers are in sun and the soil warms quickly so growth is exuberant and lush. I planted the dahlia tubers and canna roots on May 1st, figuring there would be substantial foliage by mid-June followed shortly by continual flowering until frost. The boxes would have early substance from the cannas and dahlias as well as color from the flowering annuals and foliage plants with which I completed the plantings in mid-May, climaxing later when the dahlias and cannas came into bloom.

On July 20th, the first canna leaf unfurled. The first dahlia blossom opened on August 6th. The *Plumbago auriculata*, which I usually plant in the mixed containers for the vigor of its growth and abundance of sky blue flowers (from two-inch plants) has yet

to open its first blossom (this piece being completed on August 15th) although a few buds are showing color.

The unusually cool weather inhibited the growth of warm loving plants, abnormally so in our normally cool spring and summer temperatures. But the frigid temperatures delayed and extended the bloom period of many perennials so that many of the earlier blooming ones are still in color. This is not the year to depend on perennial combinations to repeat their color at the same time next year.

The benign weather patterns, with few major highs or lows, to which we've grown accustomed makes west of the Cascades a heaven on earth for the greatest variety of ornamentals. Many species which relish torrid weather won't perform as they would where they're native, but most will hang on here to extend our plant palette. And, at the other end of the scale, alpiners, tolerant of frigid winters, expire consistently in the hot, muggy summers of the Midwest and East.

Just remember, however, that weather, like death and taxes, is always with us, but just as with the other two, weather is not always consistent.

Ted Marston is a Northwest horticultural writer who has contributed to *Sunset Magazine*, *American Horticulturist*, and *Family Circle*.

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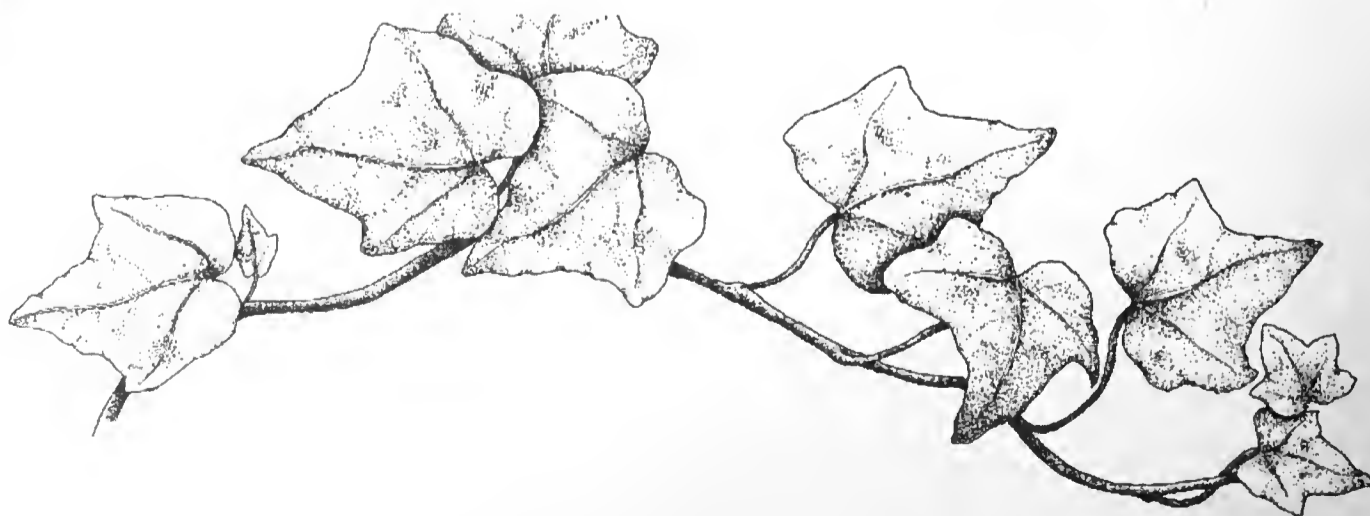
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