Penstemon davidsonii

NORTHWEST
ORNAMENTAL
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NEWSLETTER

Vol. 2 - No. 3 Fall 1975

DASANTHERA PENSTEMONS

Roy Davidson, Bellevue, Washington

Among the more valuable of the native plants of our Northwest must be counted the shrubby evergreen penstemons which constitute the subgenus *Dasanthera*. They are characterized by a woolly covering to the anthers that keeps the pollen dry. These are somewhat similar, although among the entire group of about a dozen species the size varies with the individual from thyme-like to beet leaf dimension, and the color of the flower from an occasional albino through the blue-purple and red-purple range, with pastels of lilac or orchid-pink tint. One of the great delights of the group is the variability of foliar effects. Not only do the leaves come in both large and small but they may be long and narrow, or oval-ovate, with margins entire or "pinked" sharply with light-refracting teeth, and in shades of leaf-green from gray to yellow effect. Some are cloaked in powdery bloom, some with a heavy waxen cuticle. In addition, the foliage changes with the season to become rosy-bronze or purple in some species in winter. Plant habit varies from low crawlers and creepers to nicely mounding domes of a few inches to about a foot, or in a few to semi-erect shrubs over a foot.

Spikes of snapdragon-like flowers appear above the foliage and in the larger sorts are of cut flower value. Generally speaking, there is a blue and a red flowered group, both of course being of purple persuasion. There are four blue species in our mountains with several others in the northern Rocky Mountains, and three red ones extend through the Cascades south to the central Sierra Nevada. An endemic pinky-lilac is found only in a few colonies in the Columbia and Klickitat Gorges, the largest species of all.

One of the difficulties of maintaining penstemons (of most all species) in gardens of the Puget Sound is their preference to generally arid atmosphere; therefore unless there is an open breeziness in their place of situation, they are not likely to prosper. The soil likewise should be porous and free-draining. Choose a situation in good sun and raise the soil level above the surrounds by the addition of about 50% coarse grit and sharp sand. The ideal spot is a raised bed or planter where water can be quite controlled. While they do prosper on such, keep well in mind they have no storage systems for holding water in reserve and therefore summer neglect can mean loss. Fortunately they all are most easily propagated by cuttings so a good new supply of plants can be kept coming along. It is well to cut back old plants and flowering to keep them shapely and vigorous; the trimmings provide cutting stock.

Best tiny *Penstemon* is the purple-flowered *P. menziesii* Serpylli-folius'; it creeps and is so small it is difficult to remember that it is a shrub! Leaves are oval and toothed, becoming livid in winter. A similar gray-leaved shrublet is a red flowered form of *P. rupicola;* foliage very white when new; green in winter. There is a white flowered *P. menziesii;* leaves green all seasons. An especially heavy bloomer is *P. x 'Creeping Thelma'*, rich purple and vigorous.

Penstemon davidsonii is the high alpine blue flowered species, found from Washington to mid-Sierra. It has round, entire margined leaves and forms glistening green mats of foliage, not too free flowering in the garden unfortunately. Of about medium stature are typical *P. rupicola,* carmine red in flower, mealy blue-gray in leaf; mounds up to a few inches in time or will drape over a stone or ledge (rim of a planter) most appealingly. Some pink-flowered forms (or hybrids) are known. This is possibly the most popular species, with a good albino form that requires a little cooler situation to stay on.

From Klamath County, Oregon to the south, *Penstemon berryi* is bluer version of the last, with less glaucousness to the foliage. A very good pink form of it is more erect and has the happy faculty to produce some sporadic flower most of the summer. As a group, *Dasanthera* are May-flowering exclusively. From Mt. Lassen south in the Sierra Nevada, a redder and smaller-flowered species, a taller, greener plant is *P. newberryi* whose grinning face shows yellowish, woolly, exserted anthers in a humorous way. A white and an apricot color form have recently made their horticultural debuts, as 'Mt. Shasta' and 'Nada' respectively.

Two largish blue-flowered species are *Penstemon cardwellii* from the Pacific slope of Oregon and southwest Washington, and *P. fruticosus* from the eastern slope to the Rocky Mountain mainly throughout the Columbia River drainage. Both species are mostly pale lilac-blue, but variable in color and other detail. A linear-leaved form, rather neater and with larger, pink-tinted (often) is *P. fruticosus* var. *scouleri* from the northern part of the range into British Columbia. A splendid albino is known, and at least two good pink colored ones have been designated, propagated and distributed. The one is named 'Mrs. Rutherford" and the other 'Charming'. From highest places above the Snake River's Hell's Canyon, a smaller, neater, compact form of *P. fruticosus* is called var. *serratus;* its mounded masses of sharp-toothed foliaged turn various purplish hues in winter; flowers lilac-blue. Some violet-blue, smooth-leaved compact forms are to be found in Eastern Oregon's Imnaha Canyon. *P. cardwellii* is one that is superb as a cut flower in that tint between blue and pink. Leaves may be up to 3" x 5", are waxed to a metallic effect, toothed extravagantly to refract the sunlight, turn purple-rose bronze in winter and then pinkish-green in spring. New growth at that time is silvery willow green.

If you search about you may locate some of the hybrids that combine the good traits of more than one species. The truest to blue is 'Breitenbush Blue' (*Penstemon cardwellii - P. davidsonii)* with the happy faculty of summer rebloom. Carl English's hydrid *P.* x 'Edithiae' (*P. rupicola* x *P. barrettae)* is an attractive smaller version of the latter. Another is 'Manito'. A pink on green is 'Keechelus Blush' from a colony of *P. rupicola* and *P. fruticosus* intergrades.

From Britain ... and back to us ... are several clones of merit and distinction. The grayish oblong-leaved, mauve-pink 'Six Hills' (not the red one, an interloper in American horticulture) is a small treasure raised from *P. rupicola* but which probably had a paternal ancestor in *P. scouleri.* Of great vigor and superior

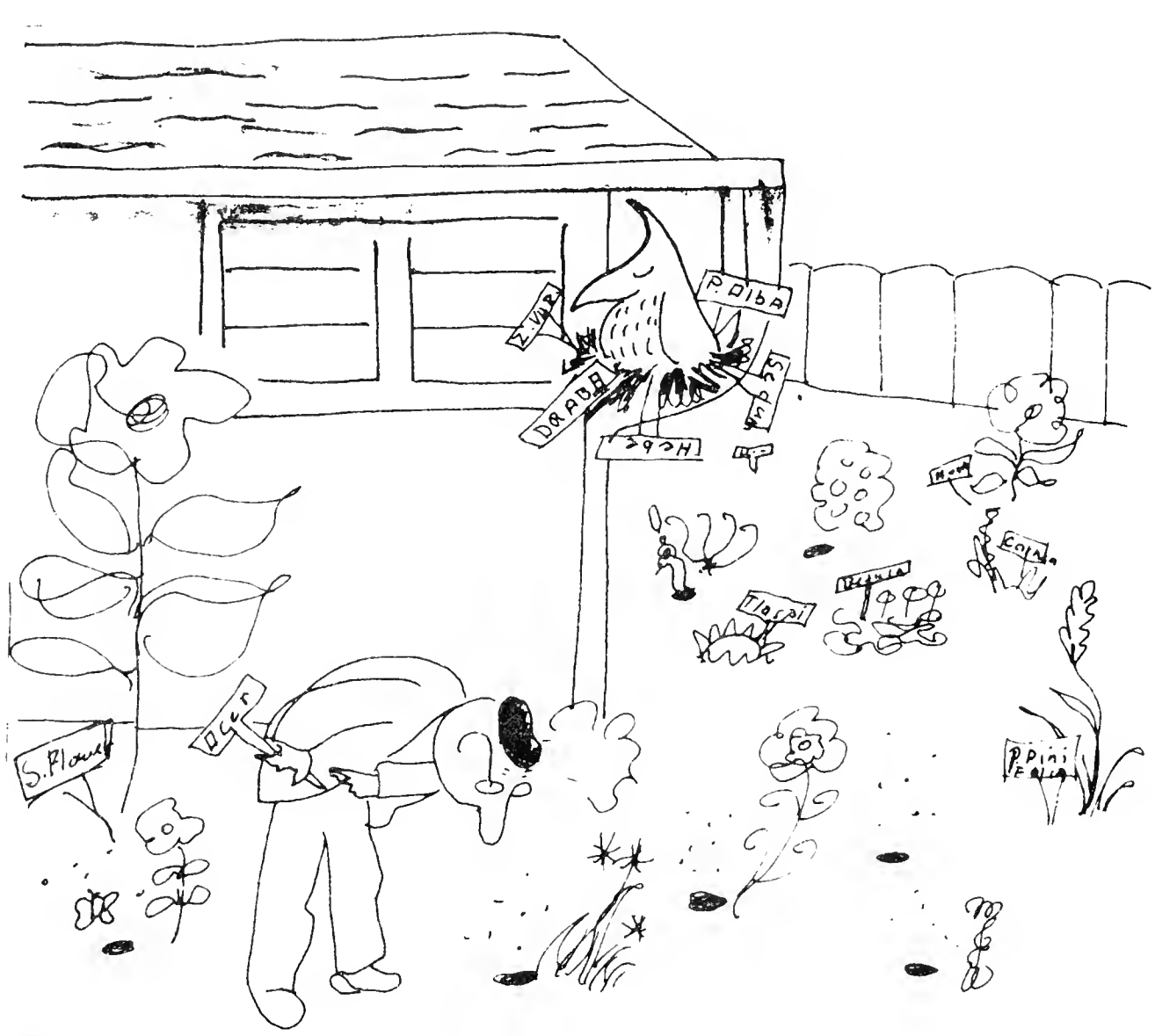
garden constitution is the unfortunately named *P.* x 'Roezlii' (which name correctly belongs to another, distinctly different plant.) It bears similarities to *P.* x 'Edithiae' and is sometimes known (in Britain, at any rate) also as 'Weald Beacon', an infinitely preferable descriptive name. This plant has been named *P. newberryi* forma *humilior* by J. R. Sealy in the BOTANICAL MAGAZINE, Vol. 165, C. 4, (1948); (Editor).

A good number of hybrid origin are coming to gardens from controlled breeding work done in the Columbia Gorge by a resident, Bruce Meyers. However, only a few as yet have clonal names. Those of merit and distinction will assuredly find a wide acceptance.

Illustration: Mary Jo Wise

A STELLAR PERFORMANCE

Robert C. Putnam,
Kirkland, Washington



Preparing a garden for a plant tour can be a project beset with perils when the weather, caterpillars, slugs and what-not conspire to offset your noble efforts. This spring, as preparations were underway for a NOHS Garden Tour, another villian joined ranks to add to our dilemma.

About ten days before the tour date we discovered a pair of Steller's Jays building their nest on an outdoor light under a corner eave of the house. The Jay's nest is a most untidy maze of small diameter branches, lined with a neat basket-weave of finer material. In the foundation of this nest a new building material was being added -- 4" plastic plant labels from all corners of the garden, the cold frames and even the alpine house.

Each morning we would gather up 20 to 30 labels that lay on the ground near the nest site and try to match them up with the right plant. The next day some of the same labels would show up again and all the while a good number of them remained embedded in the nest.

Whenever we came to retrieve our fallen labels we were assaulted by their clamor and were reminded of John Muir's description, "---screaming as if each had a lump

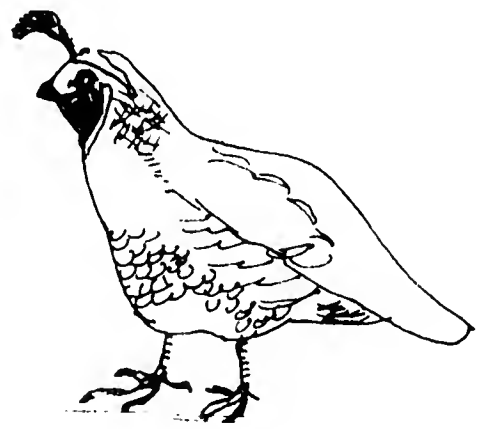
of melting sludge in his throat." The racket attracted other Jays and occasionally their cousin the crow swung over and added his bit so that at times it was impossible to hear the freeway.

After several days of this nerve-fraying frazzle, and scads of misplaced labels, the nest site was completed. During the day of the tour Ms. Jay was setting and all through her oviparous vigil she remained quiet.

The four young ones grew fast but remained perfectly quiet also. Each day a little more wisdom shone in their black eyes and whenever we passed beneath the nest they compressed themselves so that only their juvenile top-notches were in view. One warm evening they all left the nest and headed for the adjoining woods. We missed them.

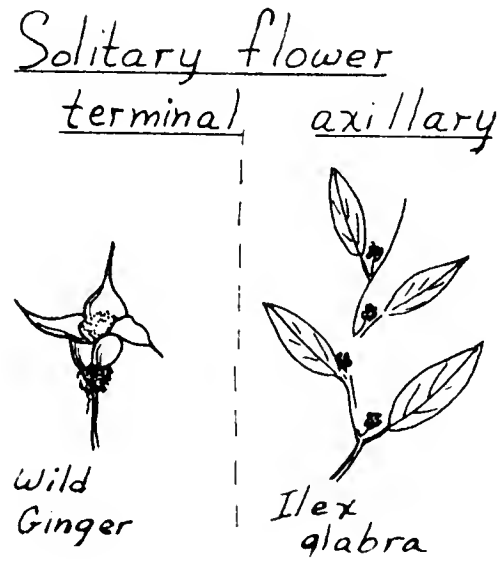
A friend suggested we enter the nest with its collection of labels in some arts and crafts fair as funkie art. Perhaps we shall!

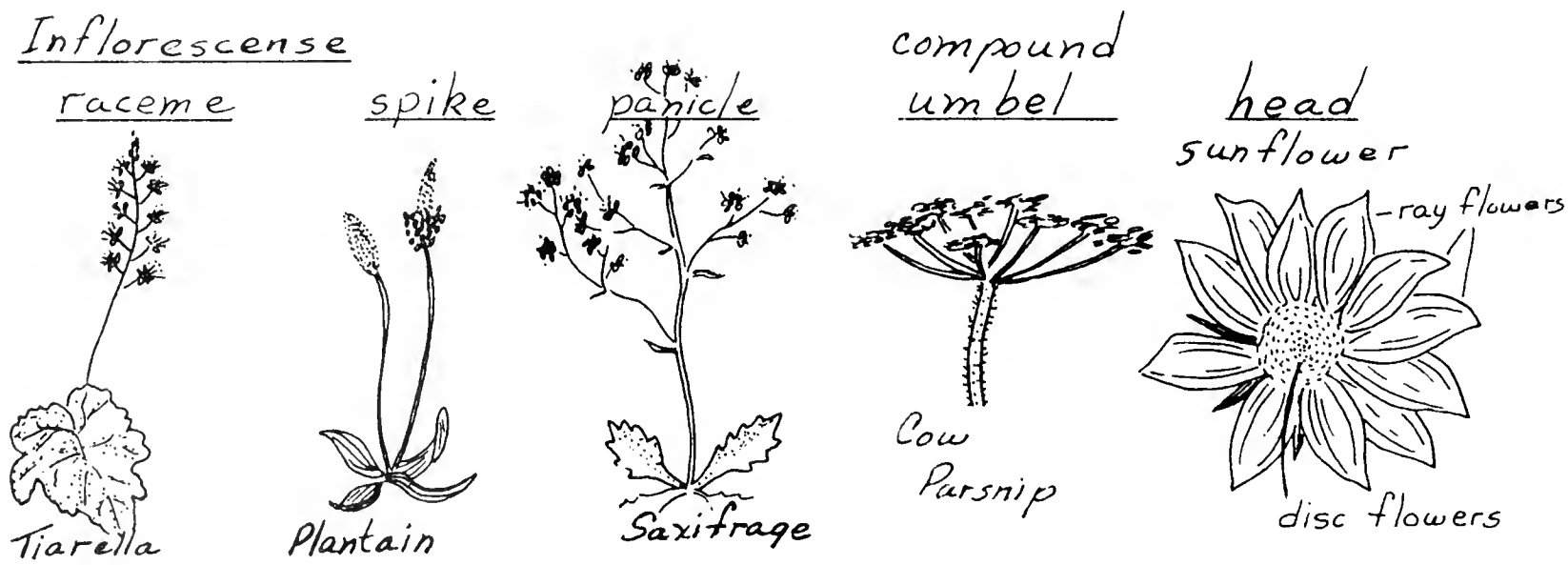
Illustration: Mary Jo Wise

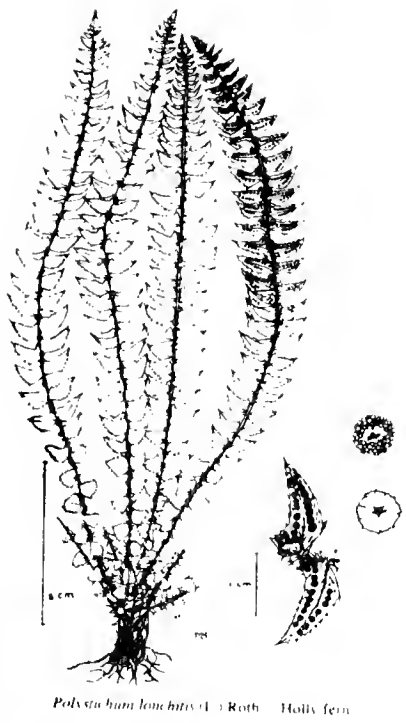


BOTANY FOR GARDENERS

Illustrations: Mareen S. Kruckeberg







NOTES ON FERNS

Mareen S. Kruckeberg, Seattle, Washington

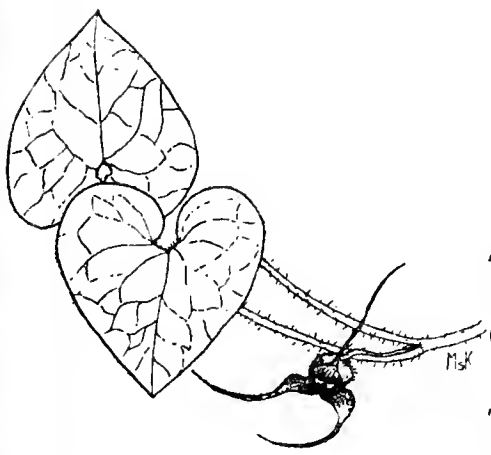
The AMERICAN FERN JOURNAL is pretty heady stuff. When I find two articles of interest as I did in this last issue, it is unusual. One I would like to share with you ... "A new locality for Braun's Holly-fern in Minnesota..." Braun's Holly-fern is a species of *Polystichum*, the genus that contains the familiar Sword-fern, *P. munitum*. We in Washington are fortunate in having so many different species, seven in all, growing in our area, all beautiful and desirable as garden subjects.

Showing our native polystichums to people as young ferns becomes almost embarrassing because they look much alike. I'm sure that a person not realizing their potential would say, "If you've seen one *Polystichum*, you've seen them all." Not so ... as the plants mature they would have to admit the difference. In size alone they range from 6 inches to 3 feet in height. There are also differences in the s ape of the pinnae (leaf-like portions) and their placement on the frond.

The interesting thing about the article was to learn that here was a state with NO polystichums until this discovery of Braun's Holly-fern, *P. braunii*, in the dark canyon of the Kodonce River. I realize now that many other states are as unfortunate as Minnesota, making me feel extremely lucky and ... protective of the 7 beautiful species in our own area, one of which is on the rare plant list.

Editor's note: Look for the many interesting *Polystichum* species being offered in the newly expanded Fern Department of the NOHS Fall Plant Sale.

Illustration: Mary Bryant, reprinted from Handbook No. 12, "The Ferns and Fern-allies of British Columbia" by T. M. C. Taylor, Department of Biology and Botany, The University of British Columbia. This is one of the fine Handbook Series of the British Columbia Provincial Museum, Department of Recreation and Conservation, Victoria, B.C.



Asarum caudatum

ASARUM CAUDATUM

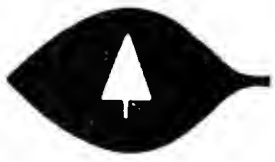
Altha Miller, Issaquah, Washington

Asarum caudatum or "wild ginger", is fairly common in moist shady woods from British Columbia into Washington, west of the Cascade Mountains and in Northern Idaho.

The heavy rootstalks creep through leaf mold, sending up at intervals, pairs of leaves along the underground stem. Leaf

petioles are hairy and from one and one-half to eight inches with showy heart-shaped, palmately veined, deep green leaves. The flowers come singly between the leaves and are an odd brownish purple and nestle close to the ground. The deeply cupped calyx has three attenuated lobes extended into long tips, sometimes as much as one and one-half inches long. The inside of the flower cup is yellowish with purple stripes, a somber yet curiously fascinating flower which is found only by searching for it under the leaves. This attractive ground cover for shady areas needs protection from slugs.

Illustration: Mareen S. Kruckeberg



A DAY IN PACK FOREST

Peg Wilton, Seattle, Washington

On July 30, 1975 members of the Northwest Ornamental Horticultural Society were treated to a field trip to the Charles Lathrop Pack Forest. Those of us who took advantage of the University of Washington's invitation were delighted and given a personally conducted tour - complete with mini-buses - by Dr. Dale W. Cole, Dr. Wm. H. Hathway and Mr. Steve Archie of the U. of W. College of Forest Resources.

The forest, located twenty-five miles west of Mt. Rainier near Eatonville, was established in 1926 by a donation from a pioneer lumberman, Charles Lathrop Pack. It originally consisted of 160 acres and has since been expanded by additional grants and purchases to approximately 2,300 acres. It was to be, and is today, a showcase for scientific forestry practices, improved forest management, with education and research also as important objectives. During its fifty years, more than 3,000 students have participated at the live-in educational and research laboratory during the summers - nearly all for college credit.

After gathering, we walked over to the nursery where 50,000 seedlings of a variety of species were grown for reforestation. Styrofoam container blocks, developed in Canada, were used on long tables under a misting system which sprayed the seedlings three times daily. The area we viewed had been seeded in March in a 50% sterile vermiculite, 50% *Sphagnum* peatmoss mixture - two seeds per cavity on the surface, then covered with silica grit to hold back moss growth and retain moisture. Watering and application of fertilizer would be cut down in mid-August so as not to encourage tender growth in the Fall. By February, the plug should be filled with roots and come out of the container in sound condition for planting. The hemlock seedlings require smaller containers as they did not root sufficiently, necessitating their placement in a protective transplant medium of 50% sand-50% peat mixture for another season before removal. Seedlings are transplanted on clear-cut acreage at the rate of 600 to 1,500 per acre.

Some beds are used in experiments to determine the effects of various fertilizers in controlling aphids which are a serious problem with spruce species, for example.

We enjoyed our bag lunches in the dining hall and viewed the cabins where sixty resident students stay during the summer. We then boarded mini-buses and were driven through reforested areas. As we rose above the glacial moraine of 700' to 1,100' elevation we noted that the residual soils on igneous rock support some fine old forests.

A Day in Pack Forest - Wilton

The real highlight of the trip was an area that had been burned out in about 1800 and had reseeded itself from the few Douglas firs that were able to withstand the heat, due to their very heavy bark. One such magnificent specimen was over 240 feet high and was estimated to be 600 years old. The original burn scars were still clearly evident. The under-growth was beautiful, ferns, mostly swordferns, deer fern and some bracken, almost appeared to be manicured, but our guides assured us these were unmanaged and allowed to remain untouched. It was difficult to believe that Heaven could be any lovelier.

At the 1,700 foot level there was an experimental area where Western white pine that is blister rust resistant is being developed for reforestation use, as well as some areas where alders are planted adjacent to evergreens.

The Pack facility is presently deeply involved in the experimental use of urban and industrial waste as fertilizers in the forest. There have been careful checks on natural clear-cut terminal moraine and sub-soil to determine the effectiveness of the heavy black sludge which is applied approximately 4" - 8" thick and allowed to dry during the Summer. After three months, it is cultivated in the soil to a depth of one foot and allowed to "age" another six months to decompose and become part of the soil. Seedlings are then planted. In areas we saw, clear cutting had been done eight years before and was unable to sustain new growth. The yearling seedlings we saw planted there were thriving.

There are questions to be researched with time such as the microbiology through soil to the river and possibly the ultimate pollution of the underlying water table. Test results showed, for example, that the nitrogen content of the soil went from 2,000 pounds to 9,000 pounds per acre. After 18 months the soil has tested out to be a natural ecosystem.

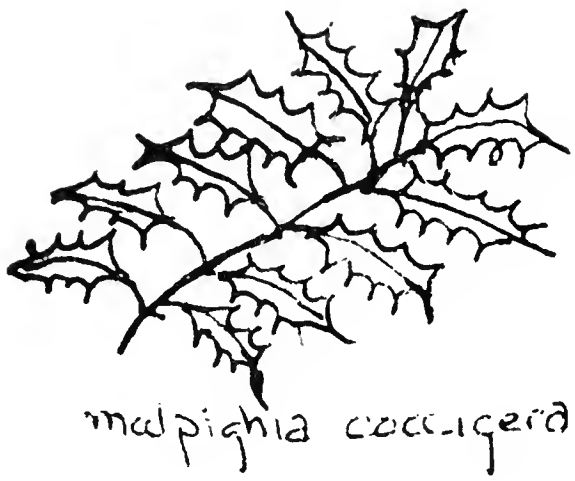
Other questions remain, also; is there a transfer of heavy metals from the heavy sludge to the deer who browse the area? These are chromium, zinc and lead, but not mercury. As these metals oxidize it has been found that they are not becoming available to the plants and are not a problem. However, the oxidized metals did show up in the water table approximately 15 months after the sludge applications at the rate of 22 parts per million but now, 18 months after application, tests show only 15 parts per million.

The next experiments are to add the sludge directly to established forests and observe differences in growth between control areas.

All of these experiments and tests show that the use of sewage sludge may be proven to not only be feasible but a welcome relief to the disposal problem of many major cities. It is important to note that the City of Seattle is not only giving the University their Metro waste, but providing them $150,000 a year for the research. If it were not for this Pack Forest would have very serious financial problems, as the State Legislature only supplies 10% of the total budget, due to cuts four years ago which had reduced Pack to a custodial level of operation. Only through the medium of externally generated non-state funds, has the University been able to build a substantial and growing forestry program at Pack. The enrichment of our forest lands may ultimately be of benefit to many more than just our forest industry, after all!

This was truly a most inspiring day for us all.

MALPIGHIA COCCIGERA



Wendy DeRoux, Seattle, Washington

Malpighia coccigera, a delight grown under glass for ornamental purposes or as a Bonsai, super as a house plant, will be available at the house plant section of the NOHS Fall Plant Sale. Although it looks like a miniature holly, it's related to the Barbados Cherry. It is grown in Florida as dwarf hedging. *Malpighia* has small, shiny, dark green leaves with spiny margins, like a little Christmas holly. The pink flowers are followed by reddish fruit. Put *Malpighia* in filtered light, give it some humidity, a cool night, standard potting mix, and then water it occasionally ... what a delight .....

Illustration: Wendy DeRoux

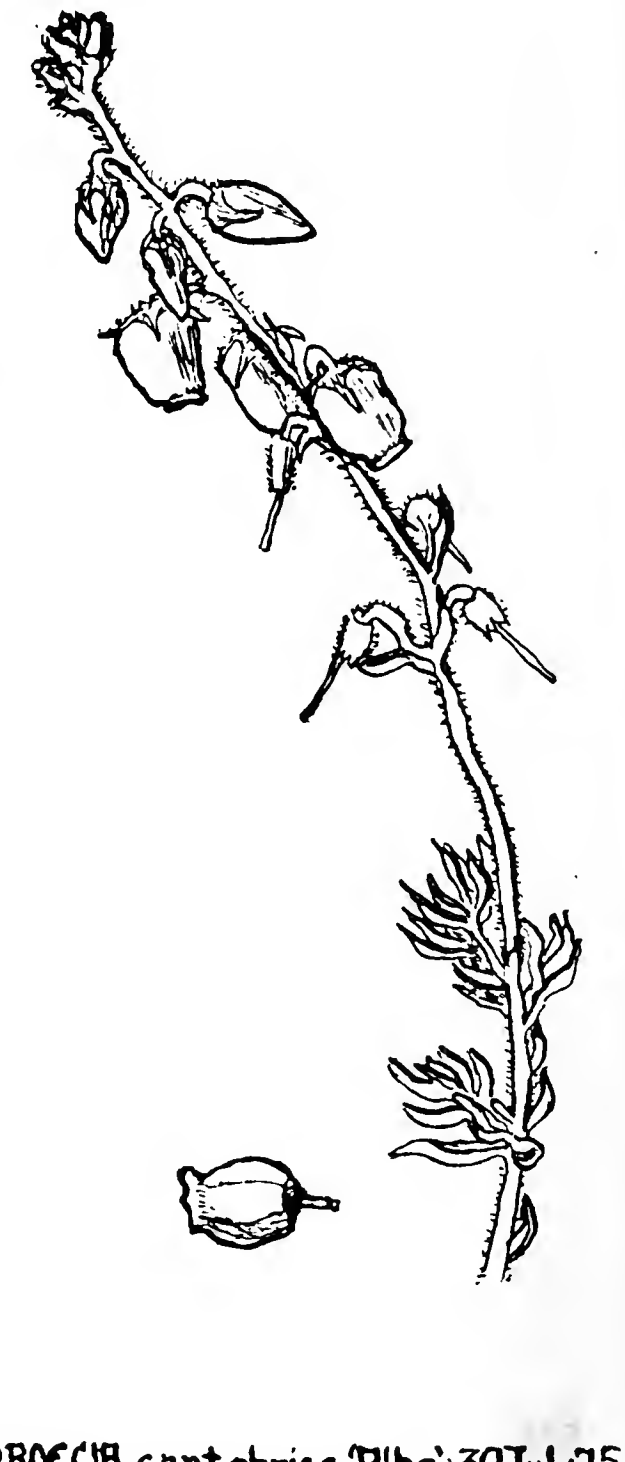
DABOECIA

Dorothy Metheny, Seattle, Washington

A lot of heathers are grown in the Northwest, particularly (and deservedly) the winter-flowering ericas and the foliage-color and intriguing dwarf varieties of the Scottish heather, *Calluna.* But not enough people have tried the daboecias. Nursery people hereabouts call them Irish bell heather.

Like the other heathers, they are evergreen, but they are somewhat less fine-textured, having small oval leaves. Shown herewith, life-size, is a small sprig of the white-flowered *Daboecia cantabrica* 'Alba'. The flowering raceme is indeterminate, that is, the stem goes on elongating through the growing season and more new bells keep developing at the tip, so that the flowering season of this form usually extends from June till November. Unlike the callunas and ericas, the spent bells promptly drop off, leaving only the little green developing seed pods behind.

Authoritative horticulturists have been heard to say that daboecias had to have bog conditions to grow well. True, their native ground is in Irish bogs; but it turns out that they are not difficult in a well-drained sandy garden, if given water in dry weather. They do well in full sun and need a half day of sun for best flowering. In dappled shade the plants look fine but flowers are sparse. And a hard early spring pruning will bring them into lush new growth.



Daboecia - Metheny

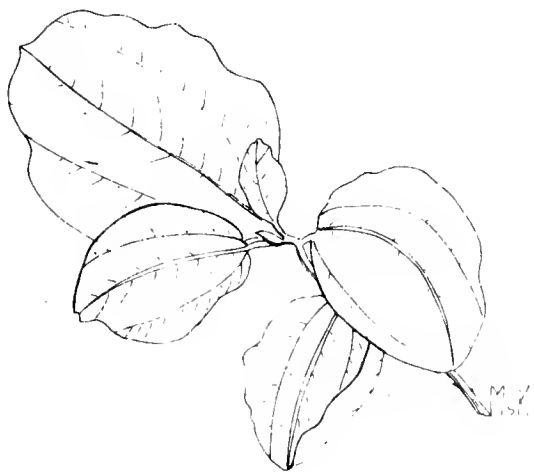
Old reliable color forms are the low-growing (to 6 inches high) and spreading *Daboecia cantabrica* 'Praegerae', with cherry red flowers; *D. c.* 'Alba', white, 12 inches high; and 'Atropurpurea', purple, to 18 inches; besides some recently developed exciting forms now available to us.

Sometimes to be had is the smaller-textured, lower-growing *Daboecia azorica*, from the mountains of the Azores. It has masses of lovely red bells in May, but it is not always reliably hardy in this climate, though surviving extra cold winters in gardens not too far above sea level. In such circumstances, it can be occasionally frozen down to the ground and then grow back from its roots. Its month-long flowering is so charming that it's worth a try by an ambitious gardener.

Illustration: Dorothy Metheny

CEANOTHUS VELUTINUS

Fransi Lile, Bellevue, Washington



Ceanothus velutinus

Ceanothus velutinus, the tobacco bush or varnish-leaf *Ceanothus* is a useful native addition to the garden. It is hardy, a 2 - 5 foot rounded shrub with good garden tolerance. Its dark green leathery leaves have a shiny varnished appearance on top and are smooth or glabrous beneath. Creamy white flowers in dense conical clusters 2 - 4 inches long bloom in May and often continue until August. *Ceanothus velutinus* likes sun and is particularly attractive with the light hitting its shiny leaves ... altogether a welcome companion to other sun-loving plants. You will find it in the Trees and Shrubs Department of the NOHS Fall Plant Sale.

COPTIS ASPLENIFOLIA

Sallie D. Allen, Seattle, Washington

Several years ago when visiting The Plant Farm, the interesting garden and nursery of Bob Putnam, I was especially intrigued by the beautiful foliage of *Coptis asplenifolia*, a plant completely unfamiliar to me. Its neat appearance, tufted about 6 inches high, with intricate fern-like leaves, was somewhat reminiscent of *Aspidotis densa (Cheilanthes siliquosa)*. In doing a bit of research we discovered that not only did *Coptis asplenifolia* come from Japan, the origin of Bob's plants, but was native to Alaska, ranging southward to southern British Columbia, Vancouver Island and Snohomish County, Washington.

During our many family trips to Ketchikan in southeast Alaska to visit my sister and family, I had never seen the plant although I had explored the muskegs *(Sphagnum bogs)*, climbed Deer Mountain and generally explored the flora quite extensively. The muskegs, especially, have always fascinated me with their unique plant communities, and over a 20-year period, many of these plants have found their way to my garden.

When we planned to spend part of our vacation in Ketchikan the summer of 1974, not only visiting my sister but daughter Sue, Bob Putnam suggested I look for the

Coptis Asplenifolia - Allen

American form of *Coptis asplenifolia.* In Sue's enthusiastic letters concerning our coming, she said she wanted me to identify "the most beautiful fern she had ever seen!" She had found it up Deer Mountain and was growing it in her apartment as a hosue plant. "It isn't like any fern you grow in your garden, Mom; it's nothing I've ever seen before and it doesn't have any spores."

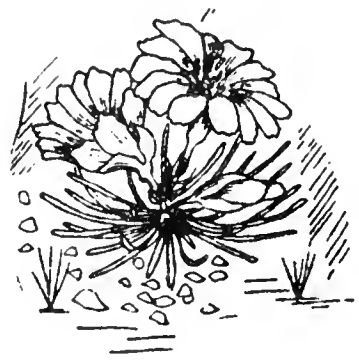
Sue's "fern" much to my surprise turned out to be the Coptis! When we climbed Deer Mountain, we found it in compact little clumps at near sea level where it displayed its curious seeds, nearly to the summit where it was in bloom. The lovely 3/4" fragile white flower with prominent yellow stamens looked like a Ranunculus, the family to which it belongs. Because the flowers are so very short lived, though the wheel-shaped seed heads persist, it is for the beautiful evergreen foliage that one would grow it. It also grew abundantly in the muskeg, literally romping thru the living *Sphagnum* on very thin golden thread-like rhizomes giving rise to its common name "Goldthread". There it was often growing in the company of another little *Coptis, C. trifolia,* also native to Japan, Alaska, British Columbia including Vancouver Island, but does not seem to extend to Washington. Its distribution is extended, however, to Siberia.

Plants were mailed to Bob Putnam and between us we are propagating *Coptis asplenifolia.* Mine, well established in ordinary garden soil (no peat moss) are increasing slowly and have flowered. In time they should form a delightful textured low ground cover, seemingly equally happy in sun, part shade or shade. Time will tell the most successful and effective method of cultivation. I would assume that it is not a plant for dry situations, however, judging from the 180" annual rainfall in its native habitat.

A surprise awaited me upon my return home from Ketchikan. On the first daily tour of the garden to see "what's doing", I discovered *Coptis asplenifolia* and *C. trifolia* coming up in a planting of muskeg flora collected three or four years previously!

The "Collector's Corner" of the NOHS Fall Plant Sale, September 23rd and 24th will be offering a limited number of these delightful *Coptis asplenifolia* for sale for the first time.

LEWISIA REDIVIVA



N. O. H. S. EVENTS AND NEWS

Special Fall NOHS Activities and Dates to remember:

September 17th - Wednesday - 10:30 A.M. - no charge - open to the public.

Dr. Henry M. Cathy, Chief of Ornamentals Laboratory, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, Beltsville, Maryland.

President: American Horticultural Society.

Lecture - American Horticultural Society: Not For Gardeners Only. Dr. Cathy will present all aspects of the programs, publications and people working to bring horticulture alive and well throughout the United States. There will be information about new plants, new gardening information, and projects to do with children, retirees and the disadvantaged. They will be tied together with projects of local concern.

Place - Pacific Science Center - Eames Theater

Co-sponsored by:

Northwest Ornamental Horticultural Society, Seattle Garden Club, Tacoma Garden Club and The Pacific Science Center Foundation

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September 23rd - Tuesday - 9:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.
24th - Wednesday - 9:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

ANNUAL PLANT SALE - Northwest Ornamental Horticultural Society

Place - Arboretum - Washington Park - Office Parking Area

Choice plant material will be available in all departments throughout the sale. Most sections will offer many more species and varieties than can be listed. Remember that this will be the place to find many plants available no where else in this vicinity. Some special plants will be in short supply, therefor, to make certain of getting what you want, we suggest that you shop early.

The 1975 Plant Sale proceeds will be used to support the horticultural education program and plant research development of the Union Bay Research Arboretum and related civic projects.

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September 27 - Saturday
28 - Sunday

SOUTHCENTER GARDEN FAIR

Place: Southcenter Shopping Mall

NOHS is participating in this educational horticultural event.

Sponsored by:

Chinook District Judges Council of
Washington State Federation of Garden Clubs

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October 30 - Thursday - NOHS - ANNUAL DINNER

Place - University Tower Hotel - Condon Room

Time - Cocktail hour 6:00 P.M. - Dinner 7:00 P.M.

Cost - $7.00

Program - Short business meeting - election - slide program

Mark Your Calendar

Notices with further information will be mailed to all members early in October.

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Newsletter Name: We would like an original name for the Northwest Ornamental Horticultural Society Newsletter. There was so much enthusiasm in the members competition to design a logo that the assistance of the membership is again being sought. Now that a busy summer is behind you, put on your thinking cap ... come up with an appropriate, original title ... and ... you may be the possessor of a rare, choice, desirable plant. Mail all entries to the Editor, 18540 - 26th Ave. N.E. Seattle, Wash. 98155. Let's begin 1976 with a name for our Newsletter!

Study Groups: For anyone interested in any Study Group now active, or wish one started in your field of interest, please make your wishes known by calling Barbara Baker, Chairman, 725-1909. The following reports tell us of the activities of two more of our Study Groups.

ERICACEAE

Elmyra Nelson, Seattle, Washington

The Ericaceae Study Group was fortunate in being able to spend the first few meetings right in the garden of Sallie Allen, leader, getting acquainted with the

varied and interesting genera of the *Ericaceae* family. With the aid of hand lenses we became aware of leaf and flower details that we had not noticed before. Over sack lunches, books were discussed and inspected with recommendations made as to those most useful in beginning our study.

It was decided that we would try to meet twice monthly, and that we would begin with the study of native members of the family, incorporating field trips into our meetings whenever possible. Each person has chosen an area of study, a genus of two or more species to investigate. After instruction in methods, cuttings were taken from plants selected for study which will be followed by all-season trials. Records will be kept and successes distributed within the group, to begin with, and as we become more proficient in our propagation, contribute plants to the Arboretum program.

An unspoiled peat bog in south Snohomish County, adjacent to the freeway was the locale of the July field trip to investigate this specialized plant community which included six members of the *Ericaceae* family. Profuse natural seeding had taken place in the open areas of living *Sphagnum*, and modest collecting methods discussed and demonstrated. Selection of very small compact seedlings was suggested and stress placed on leaving the area as if it had never been touched. Several members of our small group are experimenting with tiny peat bogs in containers, the others growing the plants under garden soil conditions.

Hopes are high that some way can be found to preserve this natural area, one of the few remaining so close to Seattle. The *Ericaceae* Study Group would like to spearhead such a project.

REPORT OF RHODODENDRON STUDY GROUP - 1974-75

Marjorie Baird, Bellevue, Washington

Reports: Members of the group reported on three Series, the *Trichocladum*, *Cinnabarinum*, and *Saluenense*. We also had reports on the plant explorers Sir Joseph Hooker and Frank Kingdon-Ward.

Glossary: At each class we added to our list of words which help us to understand rhododendron descriptions.

Field Trips: We visited the lovely garden of Mayde Ballinger in the Fall and in May, went across the Sound to Florence Putney's fascinating garden and house. Enjoyed having our nose-bag lunch at Edna and Marshall Major's, and then visited Connie and Howard Short's charming garden and nursery.

Propagating Bee: In August we walked around our garden snipping whichever cuttings seemed desirable or rootable.

(Personally, I have enjoyed this small but enthusiastic group immensely!)

Little Gardens: A first class publication in every way was a quarterly magazine of the Northwest, "Little Gardens" published by the Lake Washington Garden Club in the 1930's. Can anyone tell us something about its history, how long it was in existence and where we might obtain a full set for our NOHS Reference Library?

NOHS Newsletter: August 1, 1975 marks the second year that our organization has been in existence as the Northwest Ornamental Horticultural Society. During 18 months of this time the members have received a Newsletter at regular intervals. As our Society grows, so our Newsletter will grow. Hopefully it is of sufficient horticultural value to be kept for reference. The best method of keeping them readily available is to have a standard sized 3-holed notebook for that purpose alone; punch holes as soon as your Newsletter arrives, remove staples and add it to your notebook. With the Winter 1975 issue you will receive a two year index providing quick reference to article name, author, specific plant and illustration.

CALENDAR OF HORTICULTURAL EVENTS

September 7th	Seattle Dahlia Society Show Flag Plaza Pavilion, Seattle Center Hours 10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.
September 14th	Evergreen Rose Show, Flag Plaza Pavilion Seattle Center Hours 10:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.
September 17th	Lecture: Dr. Henry M. Cathy Pacific Science Center 10:30 A.M. No charge
September 23rd 24th	NOHS ANNUAL PLANT SALE Arboretum - Washington Park - Office Parking Area Hours: Tuesday 9:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. Wednesday 9:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.
September 26th to 28th	Early Chrysanthemum Show Center House, Seattle Center Hours 11:00 A.M. - 10:00 P.M.
September 27th 28th	Southcenter Garden Fair at Southcenter Sponsored by Chinook District Judges Council Washington State Federation of Garden Clubs Saturday 9:30 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. Sunday 12:00 Noon to 5:00 P.M.
October 5th 6th	Federal Way Flower Show New SeaTac Mall Sunday 12:30 P.M. to 5:30 P.M. Monday 9:30 A.M. to 2:30 P.M.
October 18th 19th	Wild Mushroom Exhibit Pacific Science Theater Hours 11:00 A.M. to 8:00 P.M.
October 30th	NOHS ANNUAL DINNER University Tower Hotel - Condon Room 6:00 P.M.

First Interim International Rock Garden Plant Conference

July 18 - 25, 1976

Co-sponsored by:

The American Rock Garden Society
Rock Garden Club of British Columbia

Theme: Alpines of the Americas

Anyone interested in information of the First Interim Rock Garden Plant Conference to be held in Seattle and Vancouver, B.C., July 18 - 24, 1976, write to Mrs. C. Roger Bennett, 17108 - 25th N.E., Seattle, Washington 98155. Registration forms, program, Conference tour information will be available the end of September. It is not necessary to be a member of any Rock Garden Society to participate.

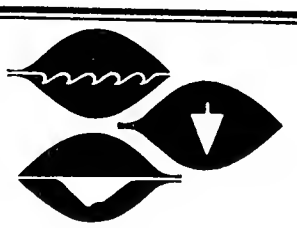
WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

BARNES, Mrs. Stanton (Ernesta)	4520 E. Mercer Way, Mercer Is. 98040	
BURNETT, Mrs. Bud J. (Adele)	#114, 2501 Canterbury Lane E., Seattle 98112	322-1632
DICKMAN, Mrs. Leita	1103 Thompson, Sumner 98390	863-6084
DURYEE Mrs. Phil (Sylvia)	1115 41st E., Seattle 98112	329-2062
HOTSON, Mrs. Hugh Howison (Josephine)	The Highlands, Seattle 98177	362-5991
JADRYEV, Roland P.	1802 7th Ave. W., Seattle 98119	285-0233
LETTUNICH, Mr. & Mrs. Lewis W., Jr. (Maureen)	1276 Amesti Rd., Watsonville, Cal.95076	
TED MARSTON PLANTS ALIVE	5509 1st Ave. S., Seattle 98108	762-8686
MATHESON, Mrs. Jerry (Evie)	Manning's Heather Farm 12450 Fiori Lane, Sebastopol, Cal. 95472	
MULDER, Mary Ellen	23 Holly Hill Dr., Mercer Is. 98040	232-8119
PAUL, Mrs. James R. (Ruth)	3646 Anapahoe Pl. W., Seattle 98199	284-5788
RAY, Dixie Lee	600 - 3rd, Fox Island 98333	
ROGERS, Salli	9003 N.E. 37th Pl., Bellevue 98004	454-1417
SARSITIS, Roger	4718 Latona Ave. N.E., Seattle 98105	633-4537
TERRILL, Allen Dale	2005 13th Ave. W., Seattle 98119	285-3981
WELLS, Edwin	8300 N.E. 24th, Bellevue 98004	454-1853
WESSON, Mrs. Robert H. (Annabel)	3643 40th Ave. W., Seattle 98199	283-2951

YEAR BOOK CHANGES

PLEASE MAKE A NOTE OF THESE CHANGES IN YOUR YEARBOOK:

BAYLEY, Mrs. Christopher	3702 E. Prospect, Seattle 98112	
CAVERLY, Mrs. Bernice	Box 40, c/o Mrs. Parker, Seattle 95111	325-8206
DABNEY, Mrs. Harrill		522-5442
FRENCH, Mrs. Archie		392-5885
HERRON, Mrs. Stephen	Box 198, Medina 98039	
WALKER, Mrs. Herbert	25205 - 8th Pl. S., Kent 98031	



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