



NORTH DAKOTA
**Late
SUMMER
FLOWERS**

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LATE SUMMER is dominated by goldenrods and asters. The goldenrods have a general character but our several species differ in size and habit. Canada is the most common.

Tall Smooth differs from it in the smooth, usually taller stems because it grows in moist locations. Missouri or Early is a low, smooth sort on drier soil. The Gray and Soft are low growing in dry places and commonly have a narrower flower cluster.

Canada is often a pasture weed and especially so is Stiff goldenrod, a coarse plant with wide leaves and a flat-topped flower cluster. Narrow-leaved also has a flat top and grows only in wet, usually sandy soil.

Asters show a variety of colors as well as habit. Smooth Blue is nearly in a class by itself, a common, handsome, late fall bloomer. The flowers vary into purple or even rose. In the purple asters, New England is one of the best, a tall, stout, very leafy plant. It may also come in rose.

The Aromatic (not obviously aromatic) and Silky have large heads but are low and not so attractive in form. An interesting blue one in the Bad Lands is often excluded from Aster because it is only annual or biennial. It may make a large spreading plant on bare clay.

Of the whites, two are exceedingly common and weedy. Tall White grows in ditches and sloughs and spreads freely. White Prairie (often called white wreath) is usually on dry prairie or it

may be on saline flats. It is a more delicate plant, beautiful in full bloom but often a weed in lawns.

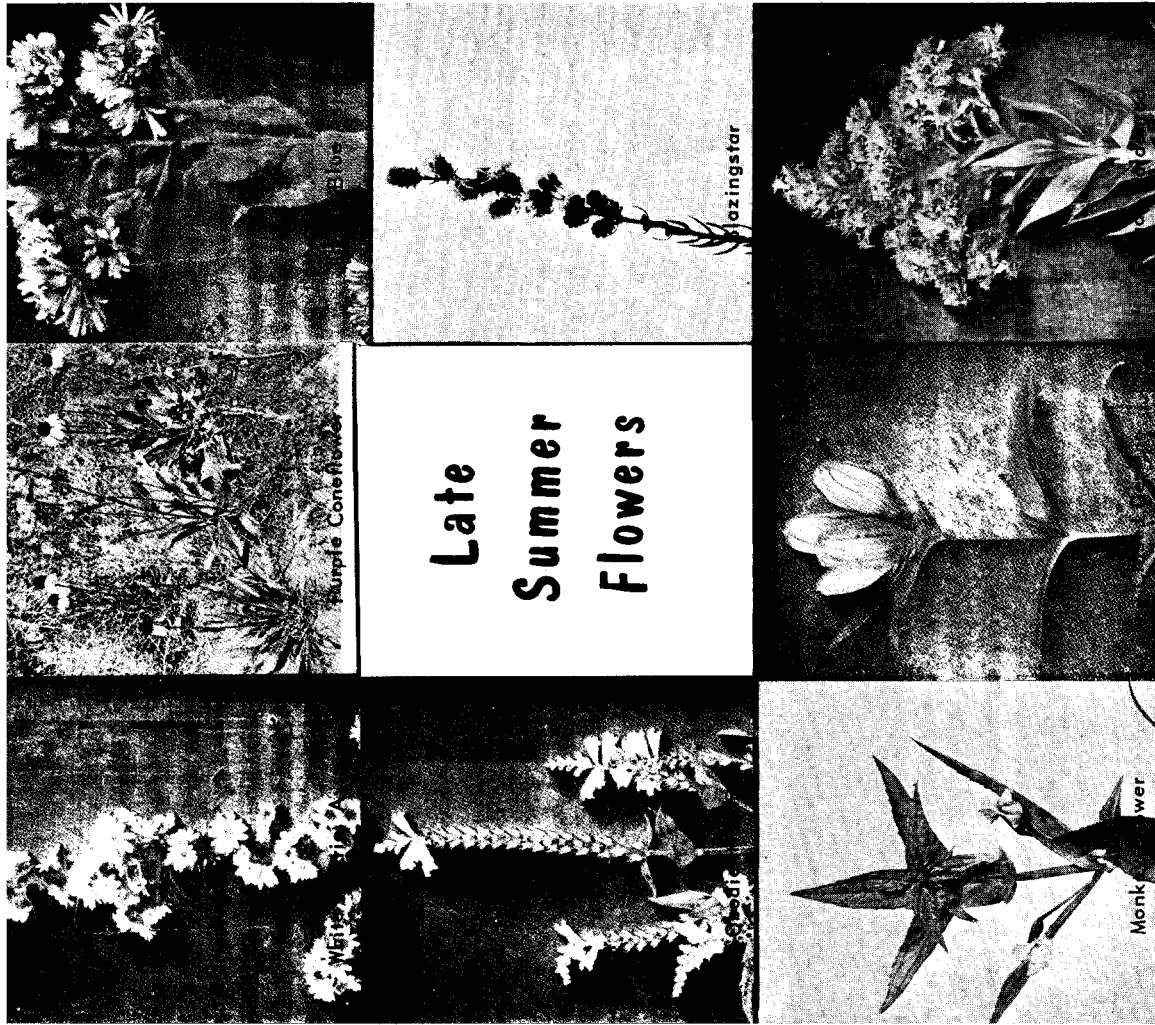
Upland is a low plant, usually found on hill tops or dry prairie. False Aster I have applied to Boltonia. It is closely related and very similar to Tall White but less leafy and not weedy. It sometimes is abundant around small mudholes.

Golden Aster is a very common prairie plant but not a true aster. It is weedy in appearance, rough stemmed but attractive. A similar plant with fine-cut leaves is sometimes called ironplant but that is a poor name for this species. Gumweed, with its sticky heads, is also somewhat similar.

The blazingstars contribute much to the reds. The tallest, known in trade as Gayfeather, is found almost only in Richland county in low meadows. The Roundheaded is more widely distributed but stays with fairly rich soils while the Narrow-leaved or Dotted grows in dry soils.

Prairie or Long-headed Coneflower is unique in that it has a very long central part of the head. The yellow ray flowers are few, rather large and sometimes partly or all dark purple. It grows in dry soil. Purple Coneflower blooms in July. The plants are found especially on stony or clay slopes, stiffly erect to 2 feet high. The slender ray-flowers are pink; the prickly center of the head is brown and the stalks persist all winter.

Sunflowers usually are showy and often weedy. Maximilian's is rated as one of the best. It is one of our most common, a per-



ennial with bunched stems and partly folded leaves. The heads of the Jerusalem Artichoke (tuberous sunflower) are larger but not so well grouped. It is found in woods and low places and is the latest to bloom.

Common sunflower is an annual weed and Sand is a smaller edition that grows regularly in sand. Both of these have brown centers in the head as does the Stiff, which develops patches in grassland but usually has only one or three heads to a stem.

There is also a False Sunflower, a perennial with yellow heads and short, wide, opposite leaves. Sometimes good displays of *Coreopsis* may be found in low places in the western part of the state.

The western part of North Dakota seems to have fewer distinctive flowers in autumn than in spring. Rabbit Brush is a goldenrod-like shrub that is conspicuous on bare buttes and hill-sides. Perhaps the most striking of all is the flower called "Scoria Lily", which is not a lily but more closely related to cactus. It is a very rough biennial, 2 feet high. The large, white, 10-petaled flowers are very showy in the evening, for it opens only then. I call it Evening Star. It grows sometimes on clay but more generally on hills crowned with broken "scoria".

Woods in autumn are much grown up to weeds. Especially along the Red River, and decreasing westward, Tall Coneflower makes quite a show. Artichoke, of similar size, grows in the same places. Along the edge of the water, or where the edge was before the water dried up, several flowers may be found. The only species of beggarticks that has showy flowers grows there and sometimes makes quite masses of yellow flowers.

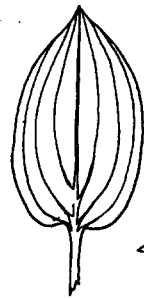
Arrow-head, from the shape of the leaf, grows in shallow water or on the mud when the water is gone. The three-petaled, white flowers are striking. Water-plantain, with rounded leaves and much smaller flowers, grows in every ditch and pond edge.

Farther back, among weeds and grasses, Obedient Plant often makes colorful patches. The rose-purple flowers grow in long spikes, actually in four neat rows, but when pushed to one side they remain instead of springing back. The somewhat larger, eastern form of this plant is often grown as an ornamental.

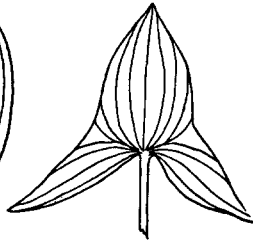
Monkey Flower forms neither spikes nor patches, but the individual dark purple flowers are handsome. Sometimes Touch-me-not, a relative of the garden balsam, with watery stems and dangling yellow flowers, is found in wet places.

Gentians belong to autumn. Closed Gentian is sometimes common in low meadows, the bottle-shaped flowers clustered at the leaf bases. The large, open flowered Downy is rare but a smaller form is frequent in the northern part of the state. One closely related to the Fringed Gentian of the east, a slender plant, is found occasionally in boggy spots.

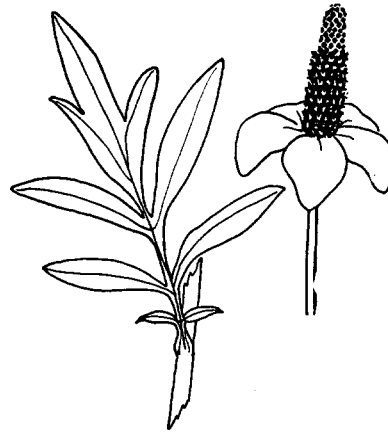
An interesting orchid, Ladies Tresses, in low meadows, has tiny white flowers in three, slightly twisted rows. It blooms late.



Water-platrain



Arrow-head



Prairie Coneflower