

Some Wildflowers Can Be Grown In Gardens

By BETTY FRANKEL
Special Writer

One of the joys of summer is the wild flowers that nature spreads with prodigal abandon over unused fields, vacant lots, and along the roadsides. Tall airy spikes of white sweet clover, frosty Queen

Anne's lace and sky blue chicory predominate, making a cool, rather restrained combination that is apt to be here and there by a liberal dash of more intense color.

Ribbons of tawny orange day-lilies, patches of golden-brown-eyed russias and tall clumps of

bright yellow wild lettuce are a gay touch.

Purple thistles, lavender monarda, and pink clover are more delicately colored, but enliven the basic blue and white scheme.

SOME OF THESE flowers

which are so beautiful en masse are too woody to be grown in the home garden, even in a wild-flower garden. Others, though, are good candidates for the home garden.

One of the most striking wild flowers of all is the orange milk weed, or butterfly weed as it is so aptly called. It is as handsome in the perennial border as it is growing on a sunny bank along the side of the road. It bears its brilliant, intricately formed waxy flowers atop leafy two-foot stems from July to September.

Because the plants have long, very brittle tap roots, they are somewhat difficult to transplant. They are easy to grow from seeds, though, planted in fall or spring in a protected spot and transplanted when still small to a sunny spot in the garden. The clumps grow larger each year and a well-established plant is a brilliant spectacle.

LYTHRUM is another candidate for the home garden. Its long slender spikes of pink-purple blooms are as effective in the garden as they are in a sunny field. They will grow in almost any situation, but thrive best in a moist but sunny spot.

Monarda, or bee-balm, is another wildling that takes kindly to cultivation. In addition to the commonly seen light-lavender variety, there are also species with red or rose flowers and these are excellent additions to the garden. They can be grown in either full

sun or part shade.

Perennial sunflowers will also grow either in the sun or in partial shade. Although they are tall, they are nowhere near the height of the annual sunflowers grown for their seeds. The perennials are four to six feet tall and have blooms about three inches in diameter.

Many of the wildflowers have been hybridized so that there are special garden varieties. Conversely, some of the wildlings are garden flowers that escaped from cultivation and made themselves at home in the wilderness.

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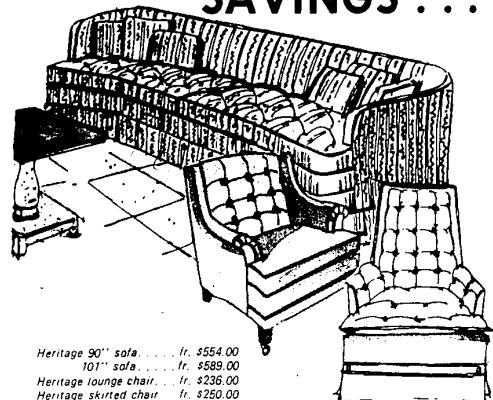
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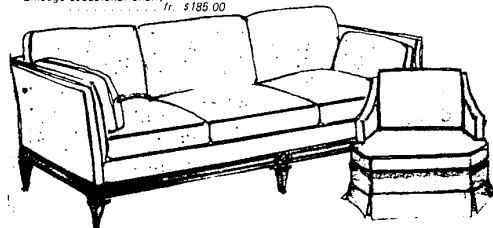
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