

... Yarrow, flowering in compact clusters of very small white flowers each less than one-quarter inch wide, gives a lacy effect accentuated by its fern-like leaves.



... one of about 1,200 species of groundsel, (or ragwort), the yellow flower of this local species is followed by silver-white fruit clusters, much like those of the dandelion. When a plant bears both the yellow flower and the silver-white fruits at the same time, it makes a striking display.

An Assortment Of Shapes, Colors, Textures In May Wildflowers

Text And Photographs By Jerry Raynor

At any time of the year, nature provides a wide range of shapes, colors, sizes and textures in its display of wildflowers. These wildflowers come in several inflorescence types — solitary flowers, flowers arranged in spikes or racemes, or in umbels (clusters).

Some of the wildflower blossoms are quite large, others so small that their full beauty can only be seen up close. Some have thin, satin-like petals while others have petals that are rough or velvety in texture. A few are loners, blooming alone and easily overlooked, though the majority of May's wildflowers appear in masses, often in full fields so that they are highly visible.

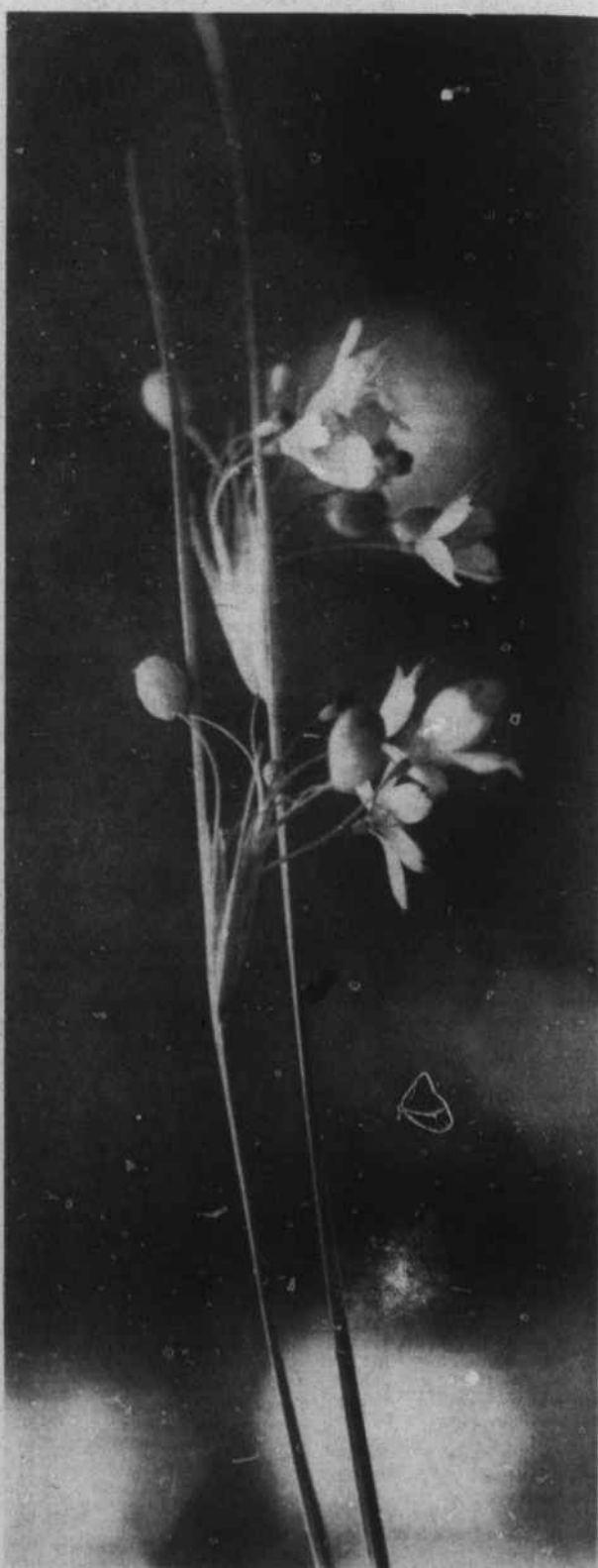
Wildflower colors in May run predominantly to yellow and white, with several in shades of blues and purples, and a smaller number in reds and pinks.

In the countryside and in vacant lots in towns during May, stands of slender lavender toad flax and spikes of reddish sorrel whose flowers resemble seeds frequently grow in mixed stands, resulting in a spectacular carpet of color. Another common May flower that tends to spread over large areas is the waxy buttercup of a brilliant deep yellow color.

The photographs on this page represent only a small sampling of what May has to offer in common and not-so-common wildflowers.



... a wild onion in flower, with its miniature reddish bulbs, white flowers and thin green bracts is like firework flower.



... the small delicate flowers and seed pods of Blue Eyed Grass could easily inspire a design for jewelers.



... although not a flower, reindeer moss, common in this area in drier patches of soil, takes on a greenish hue in springtime when it acquires its peak growth rate. The many-branched plant is popular with flower arrangers and with children making tray gardens.