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Photograph from E. M. M. Boddy

A WILDFLOWER GARDEN

Foreground L to R:- *Acacia aculeatissima*, *Tetralochea ciliata*; Central L to R:- *Helichrysum cinerum*, *Pimelea rosea*, *Leschenaultia biloba*; Background L to R:- *Boronia denticulata* and a mixture *Grevillea*, *Prostanthera*, etc.

HOW TO MAKE A WILDFLOWER GARDEN AND WHAT TO PLANT

FLANNEL FLOWERS — Page 63

HOW TO GROW TERRESTRIAL ORCHIDS, GREENHOODS, ETC.

This Issue . . . Growing Wildflowers

The primary aim of this publication is to provide simple instructions on the growing of Australian wildflowers in home gardens. We vary our style in this issue for those who wish to establish—

A WILDFLOWER GARDEN (51)—How to establish a wildflower garden for the: **SHOWY WILDFLOWERS (55)**—Mostly small plants chosen for display which includes: **WESTERN AUSTRALIAN WILD FLOWERS (60)**—With special reference to *Beaufortia*.

ISOPOGON & PETROPHILA (62)—Part 1 of a series introducing three species for the garden.

FLANNEL FLOWERS—THE GENUS ACTINOTUS (63)—A comprehensive article of special interest.

TASMANIAN NOTHOFAGUS (66)—Part 1 of a series on Tasmanian plants for the garden.

WILDFLOWERS FROM SEED (67)—A challenge and more methods of competent propagators.

WATTLES—Their Propagation (69) and Cultivation (70).

NATIVE ORCHIDS, TERRESTRIAL—Methods of Growing (72), Pollination (73), and Seed Collection (75).

THE GREENHOOD ORCHIDS, *Pterostylis*—Autumn flowering (75), of South Australia (79) of Tasmania (81).

WILDFLOWERS OF CENTRAL AUSTRALIA (84)—Part 1 of a series with mention of showy plants for dry areas.

BOTANY—The Plant Body Part 2 (89)—An excellent series on plant botany for beginners.

EUCALYPTS—Quick results for New Gardens (95).

NEXT ISSUE . . . Rock Gardens, Miniature Gardens, *Pileanthus*. Please send notes.

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A WILDFLOWER GARDEN

by E. M. M. BODDY

SOIL TREATMENT FOR THE AVERAGE GARDENS

The majority of our native trees and the larger shrubs will thrive under average soil conditions where drainage is reasonably good, this would include the Acacias, Eucalypts, Angophoras, Casuarinas, Grevilleas, Kunzeas, Melaleucas, Callistemons, Banksias, Hakeas etc. There will be exceptions within the various species which is understandable owing to the size of the Continent, with its range of soil and climatic conditions and varieties of many species of plant life distributed in each State.

The root systems of the trees and larger shrubs will penetrate stiff soils into clay where they will thrive and become firmly established, but many of the smaller shrubs and plants are not so easily established unless the soil and physical conditions are similar to their native habitat.

Many of the densely populated areas of early settlements have followed agriculture where the soil has been selected as being heavy and more suited to farming than much of the light sandy soils where many of our choice plants are found. In consequence, many city and town collectors of small and colourful native plants are looking for means whereby they can build up gardens to make the conditions more suitable.

With the advent of trace elements, agriculture is being extended into light scrub country which will be ideal for the introduction of choice plants. Gardeners in many parts of the Victorian Mallee have been enjoying this advantage for a long time.

The successful growing of the Leschenaultias and many of our small plants is difficult in stiff soils and it is recommended that native plant collectors make a study of soil requirements before purchasing some of the rare species and variety of native plant life.

An inspection of areas where small native plants occur naturally and a duplication of these conditions by artificial means may be necessary in many gardens. Areas for inspection would be comparable to portions of the New South Wales Coast, portions of Victorian Mallee and Mornington Peninsula, the Brisbane Ranges adjacent Geelong, the 90 mile and Little Deserts, portions of the North East Coast of Tasmania, the Victorian Grampians, portions of the Victorian Wimmera, the many situations in Western Australia and Eyre Peninsula South Australia. In these situations the soil will be light and friable, well drained, and covered with natural mulch and humus from falling leaves and twigs over the ages. The soil will remain cool during the dry periods, and regardless of heavy rain and occasional flooding of flat country, the area will not remain saturated to smother and rot systems of often sparsely rooted plants.

It is considered that the three main factors controlling the successful establishment of many of these small native plants are:-

1. A cool and well drained root system.

The raising of beds 6"-8" with light friable sandy loam will assist drainage and a cool root system may be achieved by heavy mulching and close planting, in order that the soil is quickly covered by foliage.

2. The majority of our small plants require a slightly acid soil, with a P.H. value between 5 and 6. A neutral soil has a P.H. of 7. Many light sandy soils which grow bracken fern are extremely acid with a P.H. of 4

