

A botanical companion to

***The Wild Iris***



This zine collects images of and some basic information about all the plants mentioned in Louise Glück's book *The Wild Iris* (please contact me if you notice any that are missing). The zine is meant as a reference for the curious and – like me – botanically ignorant reader of this wonderful book.

There is also a web version of the zine available [here](#).

## 1.1 Introduction

I first read *The Wild Iris* in 2017 on the recommendation of my friend Jane, which began an ongoing love of Louise Glück's work. When I first read the book, I was entranced and also confused. I was not then and am barely now a gardener, and while I have spent much of my life outdoors – hiking, camping, canoeing, etc. – I had never internalized the names of the plants around me. Thus, in reading the poems, my images were confused. I could not keep straight clematis from chicory. I still loved the book: There is so much that comes through without any botanical knowledge at all. Yet, I felt that the resonance of the book might be greater if I knew just a little more about what all these proper nouns were referencing, if I could picture them clearly.

In 2020, I reread *The Wild Iris* in full as part of a book club with my friend Cay. Around this same time, Cay and her friend Mathilde completed their zine, *Burnout*, on academic travel. In the conjunction of these two things – feeling again my lack of knowledge and seeing a zine happen in real time – the idea for this botanical companion to *The Wild Iris* was born.

The intended purpose of this zine is to serve as a companion to readers of *The Wild Iris* that do not have extensive knowledge of the plants woven through the text. The zine provides an image of and some basic information about every plant that is mentioned in the book, organized in the same sequence that they appear in the poems and duplicated where there are references to the same plant across multiple poems. I have worked to find images that show the plant in at least some context, though I have not always been successful. The information that I have chosen to present alongside the image is relatively sparse, and chosen to reflect some of the knowledge that a gardener might use in growing the plants. I have not offered any kind of linking interpretation between the characteristics of the plants and their function in the poems. This is left to the reader.

I want to thank Jane, Eric, Cay, and many others for advice and encouragement throughout this project.

## 1.2 License

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All of the images are referenced to their source and (where known) their license is provided in the bottom right hand corner of each page. If you believe an image should be removed, please contact me.

The zine is generated using a mixture of python and latex. You can see all of the underlying code online in the zine's github repository.

# Contents

1.1	Introduction . . . . .	3	Scilla . . . . .	24
1.2	License . . . . .	3	Retreating Wind . . . . .	25
<b>2</b>	<b>A botanical companion to <i>The Wild Iris</i></b>	<b>6</b>	Birch . . . . .	25
	The Wild Iris . . . . .	7	Apple Tree . . . . .	26
	Iris . . . . .	7	The Garden . . . . .	27
	Pine . . . . .	8	Peas . . . . .	27
	Matins . . . . .	9	Crocus . . . . .	28
	White Daffodil . . . . .	9	The Hawthorn Tree . . . . .	29
	Wild Violets . . . . .	10	Hawthorn Tree . . . . .	29
	Birch . . . . .	11	Love in Moonlight . . . . .	30
	Matins . . . . .	12	Roses . . . . .	30
	Trillium . . . . .	12	Coreopsis . . . . .	31
	Trillium . . . . .	12	April . . . . .	32
	Pine . . . . .	13	Scilla . . . . .	32
	Fir . . . . .	14	Violets . . . . .	33
	Lamium . . . . .	15	Violets . . . . .	34
	Lamium . . . . .	15	Violets . . . . .	34
	Maple . . . . .	16	Hawthorn Tree . . . . .	35
	Snowdrops . . . . .	17	Witchgrass . . . . .	36
	Snowdrops . . . . .	17	Witchgrass . . . . .	36
	Clear Morning . . . . .	18	The Jacob's Ladder . . . . .	37
	Blue Clematis . . . . .	18	Jacob's Ladder . . . . .	37
	Spring Snow . . . . .	19	Matins . . . . .	38
	End of Winter . . . . .	19	Clover . . . . .	38
	Matins . . . . .	19	Matins . . . . .	39
	Hawthorn Tree . . . . .	19	Roses . . . . .	39
	Foxglove . . . . .	20	Song . . . . .	40
	Daisies . . . . .	21	Roses . . . . .	40
	Roses . . . . .	22	Field Flowers . . . . .	41
	Matins . . . . .	23	Field Flowers . . . . .	41
	Birch . . . . .	23	Buttercups . . . . .	42
	Scilla . . . . .	24	The Red Poppy . . . . .	43
			Red Poppy . . . . .	43
			Clover . . . . .	44
			Clover . . . . .	44

Matins . . . . .	45	Vespers . . . . .	62
Heaven and Earth . . . . .	45	Lilac . . . . .	62
Maple . . . . .	45	Roses . . . . .	63
The Doorway . . . . .	46	Vespers: Parousia . . . . .	64
Tulip . . . . .	46	Apple Tree . . . . .	64
Midsummer . . . . .	47	Vespers . . . . .	65
Vespers . . . . .	47	Maple . . . . .	65
Fig Tree . . . . .	47	White Lilies . . . . .	66
Vespers . . . . .	48	Vespers . . . . .	67
Vespers . . . . .	48	Tomato Plant . . . . .	67
Chicory . . . . .	48	Gold Lily . . . . .	68
Aster . . . . .	49	Silver Lily . . . . .	69
Hawkweed . . . . .	50	Sunset . . . . .	70
Buttercups . . . . .	51	Lullaby . . . . .	70
Daisies . . . . .	52	The Silver Lily . . . . .	70
Daisies . . . . .	52	Silver Lily . . . . .	70
End of Summer . . . . .	53	Snowdrops . . . . .	71
Vespers . . . . .	53	Maple . . . . .	72
Vespers . . . . .	53	White Daffodil . . . . .	73
Blueberries . . . . .	53	September Twilight . . . . .	74
Vespers . . . . .	54	Aster . . . . .	74
Vinca . . . . .	54	Gold Lily . . . . .	75
Hawthorn Tree . . . . .	55	The Gold Lily . . . . .	76
Scilla . . . . .	56	Gold Lily . . . . .	76
Early Darkness . . . . .	57	The White Lilies . . . . .	77
Harvest . . . . .	57	White Lilies . . . . .	77
The White Rose . . . . .	57	Poppies . . . . .	78
Roses . . . . .	57		
Wayfarer Tree . . . . .	58	<b>3 Appendix</b>	<b>79</b>
Ipomoea . . . . .	59	3.1 Glossary . . . . .	80
Ipomoea . . . . .	59	3.2 References . . . . .	81
Hawthorn Tree . . . . .	60		
Presque Isle . . . . .	61		
Peonies . . . . .	61		
Retreating Light . . . . .	62		

2 A botanical companion to  
*The Wild Iris*

## *Iris*

*The Wild Iris* (page 1): "At the end of my suffering / there was a door."

---

**Family:** Iridaceae

**Type:** Herbaceous, deciduous or evergreen perennial bulb or rhizome

**Blooming period:** Spring to early Summer

**Sun requirement:** Full

**Soil requirement:** Rich, well-drained, slightly alkaline.

**Notes:** There are a multitude of wild-growing and cultivated irises, in numerous colors. Iris flowers typically have three large "falls" (downturned petals) and three smaller "standards" (upturned petals).

**Sources:** [1]



## Pine

*The Wild Iris* (page 1): "Overhead, noises, branches of the pine shifting."

---

**Family:** Pinaceae

**Type:** Coniferous, evergreen tree

**Sun requirement:** Full sun

**Soil requirement:** Acidic, mostly well-drained

**Notes:** The cones produced by pines can ripen over multiple years, from green to brown. The pinaceae family includes pines, firs, cedars, hemlocks, larches, and spruces.

**Sources:** [1],[2]





## White Daffodil

**Matins (page 2):** "Underneath, hollow stems of the white daffodils, / Ice Wings, Cantatrice"

---

**Other names:** Narcissus

**Family:** Amaryllidaceae

**Type:** Herbaceous perennial bulb

**Blooming period:** Early to late Spring

**Sun requirement:** Full sun, partial shade.

**Soil requirement:** Well drained.

**Notes:** "Ice wings" and "Cantatrice" are different varieties of white daffodils. Daffodil sap can irritate the skin and aggravate skin allergies. Narcissus is also a figure in Greek mythology: A hunter who is known for his beauty, who eventually falls in love with his own reflection.

**Sources:** [1]



## ***Wild Violets***

**Matins** (page 2): "dark / leaves of the wild violet."

---

**Family:** Violaceae

**Type:** Herbaceous semievergreen perennial.

**Blooming period:** late Winter to early Spring

**Sun requirement:** Sun or partial shade.

**Soil requirement:** Rock gardens, screes, and alpine houses. Moist, well-drained soil.

**see also:** violets

**Notes:** The flowers are violet or white.

**Sources:** [1]



## Birch

**Matins (page 2):** "by the mailbox, leaves / of the divided birch tree folded, pleated like fins."

---

**Family:** Betulaceae

**Type:** Deciduous tree

**Sun requirement:** Sun

**Soil requirement:** Moist, well-drained

**Notes:** Birch have white bark that peels almost like paper, and which is often used as fire starter and was used in canoe construction; The leaves have notable fall color.

**Sources:** [1]



## *Trillium*

*Trillium* (page 4): "When I woke up I was in a forest. The dark / seemed natural, the sky through the pine trees / thick with many lights."

**Family:** Melanthiaceae

**Type:** Herbaceous perennial

**Blooming period:** early to late Spring

**Sun requirement:** Partial shade

**Soil requirement:** Fertile, moist but well-drained, neutral to slightly acidic.

**Notes:** Trillium have petals, sepals, and leaves that occur in whorls of three. They tend to grow in the forest.

**Sources:** [1]



## Pine

*Trillium* (page 4): "The dark / seemed natural,  
the sky through the pine trees / thick with many  
lights."

---

**Family:** Pinaceae

**Type:** Coniferous, evergreen tree

**Sun requirement:** Full sun

**Soil requirement:** Acidic, mostly well-drained

**Notes:** The cones produced by pines can ripen over multiple years, from green to brown. The pinaceae family includes pines, firs, cedars, hemlocks, larches, and spruces.

**Sources:** [1],[2]



## *Fir*

*Trillium* (page 4): "And as I watched, all the lights of heaven / faded to make a single thing, a fire / burning through the cool firs."

---

**Family:** Pinaceae

**Type:** Coniferous, evergreen tree

**Sun requirement:** Full or partial sun

**Soil requirement:** Moist, well-drained

**Notes:** The pinaceae family includes pines, firs, cedars, hemlocks, larches, and spruces.

**Sources:** [1],[3]

A close-up photograph of a Lamium plant. The image shows several clusters of small, white, tubular flowers with two-lipped corolla, emerging from a dense carpet of green, heart-shaped leaves. The leaves have a prominent, textured vein pattern and serrated edges. The background is a soft-focus field of similar plants.

## *Lamium*

*Lamium* (page 5): "This is how you live when you have a cold heart."

---

**Other names:** Dead nettles

**Family:** Lamiaceae

**Type:** Herbaceous mostly semi-evergreen annual or perennial

**Blooming period:** Spring to Summer

**Sun requirement:** Full or partial shade

**Soil requirement:** Moist but well-drained.

**Notes:** The leaves of some varieties of lamium have their interiors marked with silver. Sometimes considered a weed; sometimes used for groundcover.

**Sources:** [1]



## Maple

*Lamium* (page 5): "As I do: in shadows, trailing over cool rock, under the great maple trees."

---

**Family:** Sapindaceae

**Type:** Deciduous, evergreen tree

**Blooming period:** late Spring

**Sun requirement:** Sun, partial shade

**Soil requirement:** Fertile, moist, well-drained

**Notes:** Many maples have notable fall color.

**Sources:** [1]





## Snowdrops

*Snowdrops* (page 6): "Do you know what I was, how I lived?"

---

**Other names:** Galanthus

**Family:** Amaryllidaceae

**Type:** Herbaceous perennial bulb

**Blooming period:** late Winter to early Spring

**Sun requirement:** Cool, partially shaded.

**Soil requirement:** Rich, moist.

**Notes:** All parts may upset the stomach if ingested; contact with the bulb can irritate skin.

**Sources:** [1]



## ***Blue Clematis***

***Clear Morning*** (page 7): "tendrils / of blue clematis, light // of early evening"

---

**Family:** Ranunculaceae

**Type:** Herbaceous or woody, evergreen or deciduous, perennial vine

**Blooming period:** different cultivars flower from late Winter to Fall

**Sun requirement:** Sun or partial shade.

**Soil requirement:** Rich, well-drained soil, shaded roots.

**Notes:** The color of a clematis depends on the climate: warmer climates are associated with darker flowers.

**Sources:** [1]



## *Hawthorn Tree*

*Matins* (page 12): "are you like the hawthorn tree, / always the same thing in the same place"

---

**Other names:** Crataegus

**Family:** Rosaceae

**Type:** Deciduous (or rarely semi-evergreen) tree

**Blooming period:** Spring to Summer

**Sun requirement:** Full sun is best.

**Soil requirement:** Any but very wet.

**Notes:** The tree blooms widely, often with white flowers -- and also often shows fall colors later in the year.

**Sources:** [1]



## ***Foxglove***

**Matins (page 12):** "are you more the foxglove, inconsistent, first springing up / a pink spike on the slope behind the daisies / and the next year, purple in the rose garden?"

---

**Other names:** Digitalis

**Family:** Plantaginaceae

**Type:** Herbaceous deciduous or evergreen biennial or perennial

**Blooming period:** Summer

**Sun requirement:** Partial shade

**Soil requirement:** Moist, well-drained.

**Notes:** Foxglove does well in most conditions. Foxglove was historically used in herbal medicine for the treatment of epilepsy (and other seizure disorders) and heart conditions.

**Sources:** [1]



## *Daisies*

*Matins* (page 12): "a pink spike on the slope behind the daisies"

**Family:** Asteraceae

**Type:** Herbaceous perennial or biennial

**Blooming period:** Spring

**Sun requirement:** Full sun or partial-shade.

**Soil requirement:** Fertile, very well-drained.

**Notes:** The flower consists of white rays arranged around a yellow center. Daisies grow widely, and are sometimes considered a weed.

**Sources:** [1],[4]



## Roses

*Matins* (page 12): "purple in the rose garden"

---

**Family:** Rosaceae

**Type:** Deciduous or semievergreen shrub.

**Blooming period:** Summer

**Sun requirement:** Full sun.

**Soil requirement:** Fertile, moist and well-drained.

**Notes:** Roses have many different cultivars of many different colors. Roses can be difficult to grow in cold climates and susceptible to many different types of pest.

**Sources:** [1]



## Birch

**Matins (page 13):** "I see it is with you as with the birches: / I am not to speak to you / in the personal way."

---

**Family:** Betulaceae

**Type:** Deciduous tree

**Sun requirement:** Sun

**Soil requirement:** Moist, well-drained

**Notes:** Birch have white bark that peels almost like paper, and which is often used as fire starter and was used in canoe construction; The leaves have notable fall color.

**Sources:** [1]



## *Scilla*

*Scilla* (page 14): "Not I, you idiot, not self, but we, we—waves / of sky blue like a critique of heaven"

---

**Family:** Asparagaceae

**Type:** Herbaceous perennial bulb

**Blooming period:** Spring to Summer

**Sun requirement:** Full sun or partial shade.

**Soil requirement:** Well-drained.

**Notes:** The bulbs are small, often numerous.

**Sources:** [1]





## Birch

*Retreating Wind* (page 15): "this arc from the white birch"

---

**Family:** Betulaceae

**Type:** Deciduous tree

**Sun requirement:** Sun

**Soil requirement:** Moist, well-drained

**Notes:** Birch have white bark that peels almost like paper, and which is often used as fire starter and was used in canoe construction; The leaves have notable fall color.

**Sources:** [1]



## *Apple Tree*

*Retreating Wind* (page 15): "to the apple tree."

---

**Family:** Rosaceae

**Type:** Deciduous tree

**Blooming period:** Spring

**Sun requirement:** Sun, can tolerate partial shade

**Soil requirement:** Any but waterlogged

**Notes:** In addition to their flowers and fruit, apple trees also have notable fall color.

**Sources:** [1]



## ***Peas***

*The Garden* (page 16): "the young couple planting / a row of peas, as though / no one has ever done this before"

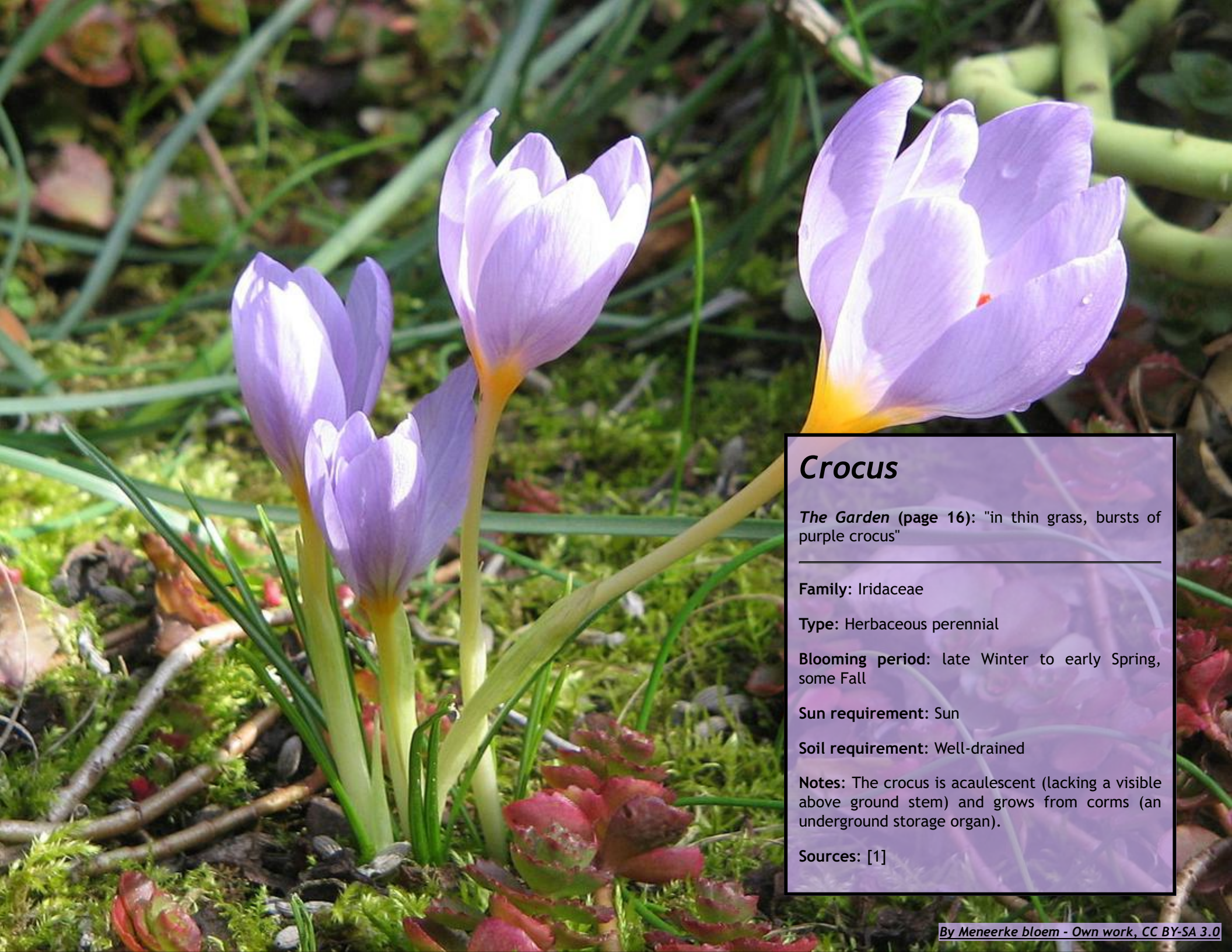
---

Family: Fabaceae

Type: Herbaceous annual

Notes: Pea plants reach maturity about sixty days after planting. Peas do not thrive in the heat of summer.

Sources: [5]



## *Crocus*

*The Garden* (page 16): "in thin grass, bursts of purple crocus"

---

**Family:** Iridaceae

**Type:** Herbaceous perennial

**Blooming period:** late Winter to early Spring, some Fall

**Sun requirement:** Sun

**Soil requirement:** Well-drained

**Notes:** The crocus is acaulescent (lacking a visible above ground stem) and grows from corms (an underground storage organ).

**Sources:** [1]



## *Hawthorn Tree*

*The Hawthorn Tree* (page 18): "Side by side, not / hand in hand: I watch you / walking in the summer garden"

---

**Other names:** Crataegus

**Family:** Rosaceae

**Type:** Deciduous (or rarely semi-evergreen) tree

**Blooming period:** Spring to Summer

**Sun requirement:** Full sun is best.

**Soil requirement:** Any but very wet.

**Notes:** The tree blooms widely, often with white flowers -- and also often shows fall colors later in the year.

**Sources:** [1]



## Roses

*Love in Moonlight* (page 19): "a whole world /  
thrown away on the moon: ... the narrow garden  
/ where the cat hides, rolling on its back in the  
dust, / the rose, the coreopsis"

---

**Family:** Rosaceae

**Type:** Deciduous or semievergreen shrub.

**Blooming period:** Summer

**Sun requirement:** Full sun.

**Soil requirement:** Fertile, moist and well-drained.

**Notes:** Roses have many different cultivars of many different colors. Roses can be difficult to grow in cold climates and susceptible to many different types of pest.

**Sources:** [1]



## ***Coreopsis***

*Love in Moonlight* (page 19): "a whole world /  
thrown away on the moon: ... the narrow garden  
/ where the cat hides, rolling on its back in the  
dust, / the rose, the coreopsis"

**Family:** Asteraceae

**Type:** Herbaceous annuals and perennials

**Blooming period:** Summer

**Sun requirement:** Sun

**Soil requirement:** Fertile, well-drained

**Notes:** The flowers often resemble daisies.

**Sources:** [1]



## *Scilla*

*April* (page 20): "as deep blue / marks the wild scilla"

---

**Family:** Asparagaceae

**Type:** Herbaceous perennial bulb

**Blooming period:** Spring to Summer

**Sun requirement:** Full sun or partial shade.

**Soil requirement:** Well-drained.

**Notes:** The bulbs are small, often numerous.

**Sources:** [1]





## *Violets*

**April** (page 20): "as ... white / [marks] the wood violet."

---

**Other names:** Pansy, viola

**Family:** Violaceae

**Type:** Mostly herbaceous annuals and perennials, a few shrubs

**Blooming period:** late Spring to Summer

**Sun requirement:** Sun or partial shade.

**Soil requirement:** Typically moist, but well-drained

**Notes:** There are many different varieties, with different flowers and blooming periods.

**Sources:** [1]



## *Violets*

*Violets* (page 21): "Because in our world / something is always hidden, / small and white, / small and what you call / pure"

---

**Other names:** Pansy, viola

**Family:** Violaceae

**Type:** Mostly herbaceous annuals and perennials, a few shrubs

**Blooming period:** late Spring to Summer

**Sun requirement:** Sun or partial shade.

**Soil requirement:** Typically moist, but well-drained

**Notes:** There are many different varieties, with different flowers and blooming periods.

**Sources:** [1]



## *Hawthorn Tree*

*Violets* (page 21): "you / are no more lost / than we are, under / the hawthorn tree, the hawthorn holding / balanced trays of pearls"

---

**Other names:** Crataegus

**Family:** Rosaceae

**Type:** Deciduous (or rarely semi-evergreen) tree

**Blooming period:** Spring to Summer

**Sun requirement:** Full sun is best.

**Soil requirement:** Any but very wet.

**Notes:** The tree blooms widely, often with white flowers -- and also often shows fall colors later in the year.

**Sources:** [1]

## *Witchgrass*

*Witchgrass* (page 22): Witchgrass: "Something / comes into the world unwelcome / calling disorder, disorder"

---

**Other names:** Panicum capillare

**Family:** Poaceae

**Type:** Annual herbaceous grass

**Blooming period:** Summer

**Soil requirement:** Dry, sandy, waste places, cultivated ground

**https:** [//soilcropandmore.info/crops/Grasses/Witchgrass/Witchgrass-Panicum-capillare.htm](https://soilcropandmore.info/crops/Grasses/Witchgrass/Witchgrass-Panicum-capillare.htm)

**Notes:** Widely considered a weed, witchgrass flowers release seeds that can travel far on the wind.

**Sources:** [1],[6]



## *Jacob's Ladder*

*The Jacob's Ladder* (page 24): "Trapped in the earth, / wouldn't you too want to go / to heaven?"

---

**Other names:** Polemonium

**Family:** Polemoniaceae

**Type:** Herbaceous annual or perennial

**Blooming period:** late Spring to Summer

**Sun requirement:** Full sun.

**Soil requirement:** Fertile, well-drained.

**https:** [//www.gardeningknowhow.com/ornamental/flowers/jacobs-ladder/growing-jacobs-ladder-plant.htm](https://www.gardeningknowhow.com/ornamental/flowers/jacobs-ladder/growing-jacobs-ladder-plant.htm)

**Notes:** The stems of the plant are densely packed, and each stem bears fern-like leaflets, which resemble a ladder. Jacob's ladder is a ladder to heaven dreamt by the biblical Jacob. In the dream, angels are ascending to and descending from heaven using the ladder.

**Sources:** [1],[6]



## ***Clover***

**Matins (page 25):** "on my knees, pulling / clumps of clover from the flower beds"

---

**Family:** Fabaceae

**Type:** Herbaceous, deciduous or semievergreen annual, biennial, or short-lived perennial

**Blooming period:** late Spring to Summer

**Sun requirement:** Full sun.

**Soil requirement:** Well-drained.

**Notes:** 3-lobed leaves and heads of pealike flowers in a variety of colors.

**Sources:** [1],[6],[7]



## Roses

*Matins* (page 26): "you do not do this / in the garden, segregate / the sick rose; you let it wave its sociable / infested leaves in / the faces of the other roses"

---

**Family:** Rosaceae

**Type:** Deciduous or semievergreen shrub.

**Blooming period:** Summer

**Sun requirement:** Full sun.

**Soil requirement:** Fertile, moist and well-drained.

**Notes:** Roses have many different cultivars of many different colors. Roses can be difficult to grow in cold climates and susceptible to many different types of pest.

**Sources:** [1]



## Roses

**Song** (page 27): "the blood-red / flower of the wild rose begins / to open on the lowest branch"

---

**Family:** Rosaceae

**Type:** Deciduous or semievergreen shrub.

**Blooming period:** Summer

**Sun requirement:** Full sun.

**Soil requirement:** Fertile, moist and well-drained.

**Notes:** Roses have many different cultivars of many different colors. Roses can be difficult to grow in cold climates and susceptible to many different types of pest.

**Sources:** [1]



## Field Flowers

*Field Flowers* (page 28): "What are you saying? That you want / eternal life? Are your thoughts really / as compelling as all that?"

**wild madder (bedstraw):** Clusters of small, four-petaled white flowers on stems. Forms in large patches.

**tall buttercup:** Yellow flowers with wide petals on tall, erect stalks.

**cow vetch:** Clusters of purple-blue flowers that ascend the stem.

**common fleabane:** Bunches of flowers on stems, consisting of hundreds of bristle-like rays surrounding a central yellow disk.

**Notes:** Hundreds of different flowering plants grow wild in Vermont from spring through to fall. Many of the species mentioned elsewhere in the book can be found growing wild. Below, we have reproduced several species reported to grow in a field in the Landon Community, South Hero, Vermont.

Sources: [8]



## ***Buttercups***

**Field Flowers (page 28):** "you don't look at us,  
don't listen to us, / on your skin / stain of sun,  
dust / of yellow buttercups"

---

**Other names:** Ranunculus, crowfoot

**Family:** Ranunculaceae

**Type:** Herbaceous annuals, aquatics, and  
perennials, some evergreen or semievergreen

**Blooming period:** early Summer

**Sun requirement:** Sun, partial shade

**Soil requirement:** Moist, well-drained

**Notes:** The lustrous petals reflect yellow,  
including onto skin when held close.

**Sources:** [1]



## Red Poppy

*The Red Poppy* (page 29): "The great thing / is not having / a mind."

---

**Other names:** Corn rose, field poppy, red weed.

**Family:** Papaveraceae

**Type:** Herbaceous annual, some biennial or short-lived perennial

**Blooming period:** Summer to Fall

**Sun requirement:** Sun or partial shade.

**Soil requirement:** Poor, very well-drained.

**Notes:** Large flowers with four red petals. The plant should be deadheaded (dead flower heads removed) regularly to ensure a long flowering period.

**Sources:** [1]



## ***Clover***

***Clover*** (page 30): "What is dispersed / among us,  
which you call / the sign of blessedness"

---

**Family:** Fabaceae

**Type:** Herbaceous, deciduous or semievergreen  
annual, biennial, or short-lived perennial

**Blooming period:** late Spring to Summer

**Sun requirement:** Full sun.

**Soil requirement:** Well-drained.

**Notes:** 3-lobed leaves and heads of pealike  
flowers in a variety of colors.

**Sources:** [1],[6],[7]



## Maple

*Heaven and Earth* (page 32): "being entirely contained by / the burning maples / at the garden's border."

---

**Family:** Sapindaceae

**Type:** Deciduous, evergreen tree

**Blooming period:** late Spring

**Sun requirement:** Sun, partial shade

**Soil requirement:** Fertile, moist, well-drained

**Notes:** Many maples have notable fall color.

**Sources:** [1]



## Tulip

*The Doorway* (page 33): "the grass not yet / high  
at the edge of the garden, the early tulips /  
beginning to open--"

**Family:** Liliaceae

**Type:** Herbaceous perennial bulb

**Blooming period:** Spring

**Sun requirement:** Sun

**Soil requirement:** Well-drained

**Notes:** Tulips do not produce nectar, and rely on  
wind and land animals for pollen distribution.

**Sources:** [1]



## Fig Tree

*Vespers* (page 36): "Once I believed in you; I planted a fig tree."

---

**Other names:** Ficus carica

**Family:** Moraceae

**Type:** Evergreen or deciduous tree

**Blooming period:** Spring to Summer

**Sun requirement:** Full sun or partial shade.

**Soil requirement:** Fertile, well-drained.

**Notes:** Fig fruit is in season from late summer to early fall. Fresh figs do not keep well and thus are difficult to transport. The tree tolerates only moderate seasonal frost.

**Sources:** [1],[9]



## Chicory

**Vespers (page 38):** "the field itself, in August dotted / with wild chicory and aster"

---

**Other names:** Wild endive, cornflower (though this name is applied to other plants as well)

**Family:** Asteraceae

**Type:** Herbaceous (somewhat woody) annuals, biennials, and perennials

**Blooming period:** Summer to Fall

**Sun requirement:** Full sun

**Soil requirement:** Well-drained

**Notes:** The leaves of the plant are edible. The root has been used as a sweetener and source of fiber.

**Sources:** [1],[10]





## *Aster*

*Vespers* (page 38): "the field itself, in August dotted / with wild chicory and aster"

---

**Family:** Asteraceae

**Type:** Herbaceous deciduous or evergreen perennial

**Blooming period:** Summer to Fall

**Sun requirement:** Sun or partial shade

**Soil requirement:** Fertile, well-drained, adequate moisture all summer

**Sources:** [1],[11]



## *Hawkweed*

*Vespers* (page 38): "I study the hawkweed, / the buttercup protected from the grazing herd / by being poisonous"

---

**Other names:** Hieracium

**Family:** Asteraceae

**Type:** Herbaceous perennial

**Blooming period:** Summer to early Fall

**Sun requirement:** Full sun

**Soil requirement:** Poor, well-drained

**Notes:** Hawkweed is closely related to chicory, often considered a weed.

**Sources:** [1],[12]



## ***Buttercups***

**Vespers (page 38):** "I study the hawkweed, / the buttercup protected from the grazing herd / by being poisonous"

---

**Other names:** Ranunculus, crowfoot

**Family:** Ranunculaceae

**Type:** Herbaceous annuals, aquatics, and perennials, some evergreen or semievergreen

**Blooming period:** early Summer

**Sun requirement:** Sun, partial shade

**Soil requirement:** Moist, well-drained

**Notes:** The lustrous petals reflect yellow, including onto skin when held close.

**Sources:** [1]



## *Daisies*

*Daisies* (page 39): "Go ahead: say what you're thinking. The garden / is not the real world."

---

**Family:** Asteraceae

**Type:** Herbaceous perennial or biennial

**Blooming period:** Spring

**Sun requirement:** Full sun or partial-shade.

**Soil requirement:** Fertile, very well-drained.

**Notes:** The flower consists of white rays arranged around a yellow center. Daisies grow widely, and are sometimes considered a weed.

**Sources:** [1],[4]



## **Blueberries**

*Vespers* (page 43): "I climbed / the small hill above the wild blueberries, metaphysically / descending, as on all my walks"

---

**Family:** Ericaceae

**Type:** Deciduous or evergreen woody (prostrate shrubs) perennial

**Blooming period:** late Spring to early Summer

**Sun requirement:** Sun, partial shade

**Soil requirement:** Moist, well-drained, peaty or sandy, acidic

**Notes:** Blueberry plants are categorized into highbush and lowbush; highbush is typically cultivated and lowbush is typically wild. The berries follow the flowers.

**Sources:** [1],[13]



## Vinca

**Vespers** (page 44): "I remember the sunlight of early spring, embankments / netted with dark vinca."

---

**Other names:** Periwinkle

**Family:** Apocynaceae

**Type:** Herbaceous or woody (subshrub) evergreen perennial

**Blooming period:** Spring to early Fall

**Sun requirement:** Partial shade, shade

**Soil requirement:** Any

**Notes:** Can be used as a groundcover in full shade, but will flower more with sun.

**Sources:** [1],[14]



## *Hawthorn Tree*

*Vespers* (page 44): "I remember small things,  
flowers / growing under the hawthorn tree, bells  
/ of the wild scilla"

---

**Other names:** Crataegus

**Family:** Rosaceae

**Type:** Deciduous (or rarely semi-evergreen) tree

**Blooming period:** Spring to Summer

**Sun requirement:** Full sun is best.

**Soil requirement:** Any but very wet.

**Notes:** The tree blooms widely, often with white flowers -- and also often shows fall colors later in the year.

**Sources:** [1]



## Scilla

**Vespers** (page 44): "I remember small things, flowers / growing under the hawthorn tree, bells / of the wild scilla"

---

**Family:** Asparagaceae

**Type:** Herbaceous perennial bulb

**Blooming period:** Spring to Summer

**Sun requirement:** Full sun or partial shade.

**Soil requirement:** Well-drained.

**Notes:** The bulbs are small, often numerous.

**Sources:** [1]





## Roses

*The White Rose* (page 47): "This is the earth?  
Then / I don't belong here."

---

**Family:** Rosaceae

**Type:** Deciduous or semievergreen shrub.


**Blooming period:** Summer

**Sun requirement:** Full sun.

**Soil requirement:** Fertile, moist and well-drained.

**Notes:** Roses have many different cultivars of many different colors. Roses can be difficult to grow in cold climates and susceptible to many different types of pest.

**Sources:** [1]



## Wayfarer Tree

*The White Rose* (page 47): "Who are you in the lighted window, / shadowed now by the flickering leaves / of the wayfarer tree?"

---

**Family:** Caprifoliaceae

**Type:** Deciduous shrub.

**Blooming period:** late Spring to early Summer

**Sun requirement:** Sun or partial shade.

**Soil requirement:** Deep and fertile, not too dry.

**Notes:** The *Viburnum lantana* is also known as the wayfarer tree; it bears fruit after flowering that ripen from red to black.

**Sources:** [1]



## *Ipomoea*

*Ipomoea* (page 48): "What was my crime in another life, / as in this life my crime / is sorrow"

---

**Other names:** Morning glory.

**Family:** Convolvulaceae

**Type:** Herbaceous or woody shrub, liana, or small tree; annual or perennial climber

**Blooming period:** Summer to early Fall

**Sun requirement:** Full sun.

**Soil requirement:** Rich well-drained.

**Notes:** Seeds are highly toxic if ingested.

**Sources:** [1]



## Hawthorn Tree

*Ipomoea* (page 48): "wound in the hawthorn, all / earthly beauty my punishment / as it is yours--"

---

**Other names:** Crataegus

**Family:** Rosaceae

**Type:** Deciduous (or rarely semi-evergreen) tree

**Blooming period:** Spring to Summer

**Sun requirement:** Full sun is best.

**Soil requirement:** Any but very wet.

**Notes:** The tree blooms widely, often with white flowers -- and also often shows fall colors later in the year.

**Sources:** [1]



## *Peonies*

*Presque Isle* (page 49): "Muslin, flicker of silver. Heavy jar filled with white peonies."

---

**Family:** Paeoniaceae

**Type:** Herbaceous or woody, deciduous perennial

**Blooming period:** late Spring

**Sun requirement:** Sun, partial shade

**Soil requirement:** Rich, well-drained

**Notes:** The foliage has rich fall color.

**Sources:** [1],[15]



## Lilac

**Vespers (page 52):** "when I close my eyes, / birdsong, scent of lilac in early spring, scent of summer roses"

---

**Other names:** Syringa

**Family:** Oleaceae

**Type:** Woody deciduous perennial (small tree)

**Blooming period:** Spring to early Summer

**Sun requirement:** Sun

**Soil requirement:** Deep, fertile, well-drained, alkaline

**Notes:** The flowers are often very fragrant.

**Sources:** [1],[16]



## Roses

**Vespers (page 52):** "when I close my eyes, / birdsong, scent of lilac in early spring, scent of summer roses"

---

**Family:** Rosaceae

**Type:** Deciduous or semievergreen shrub.

**Blooming period:** Summer

**Sun requirement:** Full sun.

**Soil requirement:** Fertile, moist and well-drained.

**Notes:** Roses have many different cultivars of many different colors. Roses can be difficult to grow in cold climates and susceptible to many different types of pest.

**Sources:** [1]



## *Apple Tree*

*Vespers: Parousia* (page 53): "in the front yard / the apple tree is / studded with blossoms."

---

**Family:** Rosaceae

**Type:** Deciduous tree

**Blooming period:** Spring

**Sun requirement:** Sun, can tolerate partial shade

**Soil requirement:** Any but waterlogged

**Notes:** In addition to their flowers and fruit, apple trees also have notable fall color.

**Sources:** [1]





## Maple

*Vespers* (page 55): "And by day the grass going brown in places / under the broad shadows of the maple trees."

---

**Family:** Sapindaceae

**Type:** Deciduous, evergreen tree

**Blooming period:** late Spring

**Sun requirement:** Sun, partial shade

**Soil requirement:** Fertile, moist, well-drained

**Notes:** Many maples have notable fall color.

**Sources:** [1]



## ***White Lilies***

***Vespers*** (page 55): "the first rains of autumn shaking the white lilies—"

---

**Family:** Liliaceae

**Type:** Herbaceous perennial bulb

**Blooming period:** Summer

**Sun requirement:** Full sun, part-shade.

**Soil requirement:** Well-drained.

**Notes:** There are many different varieties of lily, flowering in many different colors.

**Sources:** [1],[17]



## *Tomato Plant*

*Vespers* (page 56): "And some things / have the nerve to be getting started, / clusters of tomatoes"

Family: Solanaceae

Type: Herbaceous annual or perennial vine

Sources: [17]



## Gold Lily

*Vespers* (page 56): "stands of late lilies—optimism / of the great stalks—imperial gold and silver"

---

**Other names:** Toad lily.

**Family:** Liliaceae

**Type:** Herbaceous perennial bulb


**Blooming period:** late Summer to Fall

**Sun requirement:** Partial shade.

**Soil requirement:** Rich, moist soil.

**Notes:** The toad lily is a different family from the lily, but has closer-to-golden blooms.

**Sources:** [1],[18]



## *Silver Lily*

*Vespers* (page 56): "stands of late lilies—optimism / of the great stalks—imperial gold and silver"

---

**Family:** Liliaceae

**Type:** Herbaceous perennial bulb

**Blooming period:** Summer

**Sun requirement:** Full sun.

**Soil requirement:** Well-drained.

**Notes:** There are many different varieties of lily, flowering in many different colors.

**Sources:** [1],[18]



## *Silver Lily*

*The Silver Lily* (page 59): "The nights have grown cool again, like the nights / of early spring, and quiet again."

---

**Family:** Liliaceae

**Type:** Herbaceous perennial bulb

**Blooming period:** Summer

**Sun requirement:** Full sun.

**Soil requirement:** Well-drained.

**Notes:** There are many different varieties of lily, flowering in many different colors.

**Sources:** [1],[18]



## Snowdrops

*The Silver Lily* (page 59): "Snowdrops / opened and closed"

---

**Other names:** Galanthus

**Family:** Amaryllidaceae

**Type:** Herbaceous perennial bulb

**Blooming period:** late Winter to early Spring

**Sun requirement:** Cool, partially shaded.

**Soil requirement:** Rich, moist.

**Notes:** All parts may upset the stomach if ingested; contact with the bulb can irritate skin.

**Sources:** [1]



## Maple

*The Silver Lily* (page 59): "the clustered / seeds of the maples fell in pale drifts."

---

**Family:** Sapindaceae

**Type:** Deciduous, evergreen tree

**Blooming period:** late Spring

**Sun requirement:** Sun, partial shade

**Soil requirement:** Fertile, moist, well-drained

**Notes:** Many maples have notable fall color.

**Sources:** [1]





## White Daffodil

*The Silver Lily* (page 59): "And in the crook, where the tree divides, / leaves of the first daffodils, in moonlight / soft greenish-silver."

---

**Other names:** Narcissus

**Family:** Amaryllidaceae

**Type:** Herbaceous perennial bulb

**Blooming period:** Early to late Spring

**Sun requirement:** Full sun, partial shade.

**Soil requirement:** Well drained.

**Notes:** "Ice wings" and "Cantatrice" are different varieties of white daffodils. Daffodil sap can irritate the skin and aggravate skin allergies. Narcissus is also a figure in Greek mythology: A hunter who is known for his beauty, who eventually falls in love with his own reflection.

**Sources:** [1]



## *Aster*

*September Twilight* (page 60): "shimmering // blues of the wild / aster"

---

**Family:** Asteraceae

**Type:** Herbaceous deciduous or evergreen perennial

**Blooming period:** Summer to Fall

**Sun requirement:** Sun or partial shade

**Soil requirement:** Fertile, well-drained, adequate moisture all summer

**Sources:** [1],[11]



## Gold Lily

*September Twilight* (page 60): "blossom / of the lily, immense, / gold-veined—"

---

**Other names:** Toad lily.

**Family:** Liliaceae

**Type:** Herbaceous perennial bulb

**Blooming period:** late Summer to Fall

**Sun requirement:** Partial shade.

**Soil requirement:** Rich, moist soil.

**Notes:** The toad lily is a different family from the lily, but has closer-to-golden blooms.

**Sources:** [1],[18]



## Gold Lily

*The Gold Lily* (page 62): "As I perceive / I am  
dying now and know / I will not speak again"

---

**Other names:** Toad lily.

**Family:** Liliaceae

**Type:** Herbaceous perennial bulb

**Blooming period:** late Summer to Fall

**Sun requirement:** Partial shade.

**Soil requirement:** Rich, moist soil.

**Notes:** The toad lily is a different family from the lily, but has closer-to-golden blooms.

**Sources:** [1],[18]



## White Lilies

*The White Lilies* (page 63): "As a man and woman make / a garden between them like / a bed of stars"

---

**Family:** Liliaceae

**Type:** Herbaceous perennial bulb

**Blooming period:** Summer

**Sun requirement:** Full sun, part-shade.

**Soil requirement:** Well-drained.

**Notes:** There are many different varieties of lily, flowering in many different colors.

**Sources:** [1],[18]



## *Poppies*

*The White Lilies* (page 63): "and beyond, / a churning sea of poppies—"

---

**Family:** Papaveraceae

**Type:** Herbaceous annual, some biennial or short-lived perennials

**Blooming period:** late Spring to early Summer

**Sun requirement:** Partial shade

**Soil requirement:** Rich, moist, neutral to acidic

**Notes:** Poppies are used in the production of opium. The poppy is also used as a symbol of remembrance for those killed in war, especially in the United Kingdom.

**Sources:** [1],[18]

### 3 Appendix

### 3.1 Glossary

**annual** - A plant that completes its life cycle in one growing season

**biennial** - A plant that flowers, seeds, and dies in the second season after germination and produces only stems, roots, and leaves in the first season.

**perennial** - A plant that lives for at least three seasons – woody perennials leave woody stems at their base outside the growing season, while herbaceous perennials leave nothing above ground.

**herbaceous** - A plant with no persistent woody stems above ground (this includes most perennials and almost all annuals and biennials)

**woody** - A plant with persistent woody stems above ground, with subcategories including trees, shrubs, and lianas.

**tree** - A perennial woody plant with an elongated trunk or stem.

**shrub** - A small to medium-sized perennial woody plant. Smaller shrubs are termed subshrubs. Shrubs with all of their woody stems lying on or close to the ground are termed prostrate shrubs.

**deciduous** - A plant that loses its leaves annually at the end of the growing season. Plants that lose only some of their leaves are referred to as semi-deciduous (somewhat interchangeable with semi-evergreen).

**evergreen** - A plant that retains its leaves at the end of the growing season, and loses some leaves regularly throughout the year. Plants that lose only some of their leaves are referred to as semi-evergreen (somewhat interchangeable with semi-deciduous).

**bulb** - A food storage organ, usually underground, that is used to sustain the plant through its dormant period (there are many variations on bulbs observed botanically, we have followed the hor-

tical convention and elided these distinctions). A plant with a bulb is often referred to simply as a bulb.

**vine** - A plant that tends to grow using stems, lianas, or runners that climb other nearby plants or structures.



## 3.2 References

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