

The Observations of John Larkin - March 1996
BLOOMING - MID FEBRUARY to MARCH 10, 1996

Freezing Weather - (U)=Unaffected (A)=Affected (?)=Too early to tell

Arisaema triphyllum, **Jack-in-the-pulpit, Indian-turnip**. Plants about 1' high, with two leaves, each comprised of three leaflets and one unusual flower with a flap on top. Fruit are bright red berries. Indians knew how to cook corms to make them edible.

Aronia arbutifolia, **Red chokeberry**. Shrub to 5'. One-half inch white flowers in clusters, red berries in the fall. (?)

Cercis canaensis, **Redbud** (U) Deciduous tree with pinkish purple flowers.

Chaptalia tomentosa, **Sunbonnet**. Leaves basal, 1_" daisy-like white rays (petals) with white disc flowers (centers).

Cornus florida, **Flowering Dogwood**. Mid-sized tree, deciduous, with opposite leaves and 2 ½" white flowers (U)

Crataegus opaca, **Mayhaw**. Small tree, deciduous, opposite leaves, white 1" flowers in clusters. Fruit makes good jelly. (U).

Gelsemium sempervirens, **Carolina Jessamine**. Evergreen thin vine, 1" yellow flowers, January. to mid-April. Will climb into trees or shrubs or trail along ground, rooting at the nodes. A place of business (in Franklinton) had them blooming on lattice that was at least 30'x8'. It looked great, these thousands of bright yellow flowers peeking through the lattice. (U)

Houstonia patens, **Bluets**. Small plants about 3" tall, ¼" blue four petalled flower. (?)

Lamium amplexicaule, **Henbit**. Low annual, lavender/purple flowers in small clusters. Likes cool weather. (1)

Linaria canadensis, **Blue Toadflax**. Winter annual flowering stems to 12", presents a hazy blue mist appearance from a distance. (U)

Liriodendron tulipifera, **Tulip Tree**. A large tree with unusual leaf shape and flower. Attractive, yellowish, cup-shaped flowers on the upper two-thirds of the tree. (A)

Lonicera sempervirens, **Coral Honeysuckle**. Not rampant, evergreen vine with clusters of bright red tubular flowers. (U)

Nothoscordum bivalve, **False Garlic**. One-half inch white flowers in clusters on 6-10" stalks. Narrow grass-like leaves. (U)

Oenothera speciosa, **Showy Evening Primrose**. Perennial herb 12 to 18" tall, 3" pink or white cup-shaped flowers. March to June. (1)

Oxalis rosea, **Wood sorrel family**. Compact plant with pretty, pink 3/4" flowers, non-invasive. (U)

O. rubra, Perennial herb with woody crown and fleshy tubers. Pink 1/2" flowers on long scape. Invasive. (U)

Phlox divaricata, **Blue Phlox**. Perennial herb to 2' tall, leaves sessile (stemless). 1" lavender to blue flowers. March to May.

P. pilosa, **Prairie Phlox**. Perennial herb, 1-2' tall, narrow leaves and 1" pink, lavender or bluish flowers. Feb to June.

Prunus angustifolia, **Chickasaw Plum**. Large shrub with many white flowers. March, fruit in May-June. (U). Blooms February to March, fruit in May-June. (U)

Pyrus calleryana, var. **Bradford (Flowering Pear)**. 1 to 2" white flowers. Attractive fall foliage. (?)

Ranunculus fascicularis, **Early Buttercup** & *R. muricatus*. 1" yellow, glossy flowers. (U)

Sassafras albidum, Tree to 40', yellowish flowers in clusters. Good fall color. Leaves used as gumbo file'. (?)

Taraxacum officinale, **Dandelion**. Per. from taproot. Feb. to June.

Vicia angustifolia, **Narrow-leaved Vetch**. This is a pest. (u)

Viola langloisii, **Langlois Violet**, *V. rosacea*,. Both bluish and *V. primulifolia*, **Primrose Violet**, White. All are in bloom now. (U)

Wisteria floribunda. Buds were at least partially frozen. (A)