



HOUSE FOR TEAS.

Black	4 6
Blue	5 5
Green	5 4
Orange	1 9
Red	1 9
White	1 4
Yellow	2 5
Dark	2 10
Light	2 10
Dark	1 7
Light	1 6
Dark	5 5
Light	5 5
Dark	9 10
Light	9 10
Dark	7 7
Light	10 10
Dark	10 10
Light	4 2
Dark	4 2
Light	1 6
Dark	9 9
Light	6 6
Dark	6 6
Light	1 9
Dark	10 10
Light	7 7
Dark	1 7
Light	12 12
Dark	1 1
Light	1 1

Bindweeds

By R. W. Sidwell

There is nothing remarkable in a plant family containing both noxious weeds and plant of value to man. Couch grass is not far removed from wheat and chickweed is of the same family as the carnation. The family *Rosaceae* is perhaps the most weed-free of the main plant families. Apart from parsley piert, a minor weed of cornfields, the family is devoid of offensively unwanted plants.

On the other hand there are some plant families which are expected to be weeds. Such a family is the *Convolvulaceae* or bindweed family. Quite often I have noticed that when I have mentioned convolvulus a certain bristling resistance is detectable. Years of trying to cope with the rampant greater bindweed and the even more pernicious lesser bindweed have left gardeners with little love for the family. The local name "wavewind" is very descriptive.

But even the most fervent bindweed-hater must admit that the flowers of our common bindweeds have a certain attraction. I have among my 19th century books an illustration of the lesser bindweed used as a plant for hanging baskets for conservatory decoration. I do not, however, suggest that we go as far as that, and secretly I wonder if anyone did. What I want to do is to call attention to some very choice and desirable bindweed relatives which, far from being invasive or potential weeds, are plants requiring and deserving some special care to grow them successfully.

Cutting back a badly frost-damaged *Convolvulus oneorum* the other day really prompted me to write this article. This is one of the choicest of dwarf shrubs and as it comes from the Mediterranean it is not surprising that it requires a warm sunny spot. The silvery foliage of this plant has a sheen that is almost unique and is brought about by the long silky hairs being so closely pressed against the leaf surface that the leaves appear hairless at a casual glance. My specimen had reached a height of four feet and much further across when the last winter reduced it to ground level. It is not often that one finds it quite so large. The white flowers of typical bindweed form have a purplish flush on the outside and they are borne over a very long period, even right through the winter if the weather is mild.

Even more tender, and rarely surviving the winter outdoors is *C. mauritanicus*. This bears clear lavender blue flowers almost continually through the summer and much of the winter in a cool greenhouse. It forms a prostrate mat and will get a yard across in the course of the summer. It is easy to grow from cuttings taken in late summer and wintered in a frame or cool greenhouse. It always attracts attention when in flower.

There are some very useful annuals in the family. The common dwarf annual convolvulus is *C. tricolor*. This has flowers of a rich blue with a yellow and white throat. I consider it to be one of our best annuals and I think it should be more widely grown. The so-called climbing annual convolvulus is really *Ipomoea purpurea* or *Pharbitis purpurea* if we follow the latest name-change. This is a good hardy annual with flowers opening bluish purple and turning pink by nightfall. There are other colour forms within the pink, purple and blue range.

One of the loveliest of the annuals is the well-known Morning Glory which is usually found listed in catalogues as *Ipomoea rubro-caerulea*. We will not get involved in the latest name-changes here. Given a warm summer, there are few more beautiful sights than a well-grown batch of

these, opening their new batch of flowers every morning. There are now several colour variations available but I still prefer the ethereal blue of the original wild species which, by the way, comes from tropical America.

If perfume is required, what can equal that of the moonflower, *Calonyction aculeatum*? The white salver-shaped flowers, six inches or more across, give off their perfume at night. Although this is a perennial, it is usually treated as an annual and will flower in the summer from a spring sowing. It should not be sown too early but should be grown without check in a fairly rich compost. In a hot summer it may succeed out of doors but it is best given the protection of a greenhouse.

There are several other annuals belonging to the genus *quamoelit* which are well worth growing. The plant long grown as *Mina Lobata*, and still usually sold under that name, is now placed in the genus *quamoelit*. This is a vigorous perennial climber but is best treated as an annual. It is quite unconvolvulus-like in its flowers, which are red in bud and turn yellow on opening. It does well outside in a warm summer. Under glass it soon fills more than its allotted space.

Groceries in 1926...

...be the answer to the working wives' t in the weekly shopping in the lunch-hour. The leisurely pace would be appreciated. The being as it was 53 years ago were brought in by Mrs. M. Tyler, of 5 Cherry Orchard, Charlton, who has written her shopping list which his wife, Hilda, wrote when they were married.

...id 80, a retired senior member of the Journal, explains that just before he and his wife moved to 11226 she wrote out her first grocery order. It was for a dig at Ashton-under-Hill and the grocer's was to take orders. These were the groceries which they would return from their honey-

...has survived among other old papers. Mr. Tyler wrote the other day when he was clearing out a

It makes interesting reading. In order to make comparisons possible, a reporter who shops today for herself and her husband took a copy of the list with her and priced all the articles in it at July 1926 levels. She says she did not expect to be able to buy black lead, but found some after visiting several shops. She notes that in making comparisons it has to be remembered that metrication affects the weight of some packages. For example, a three pound bag of flour now contains 3.3 lb.

The simplest economic history yardstick which Mr Tyler and our reporter agree on as a means of making comparisons of value is the fact that in 1926 the agricultural minimum wage was £1.10s a week with 9d deducted for the insurance stamp, and today the basic agricultural rate for 40 hours work by a worker over 20 years of age is £48.50.

To make price comparisons easy, our reporter has translated decimalised prices into £.s.d. These prices are shown in typescript in a column on the right of the old list. The asterisk against one item indicates that the original brand article is not now obtainable and that an approximately comparable article has been quoted instead.



Convolvulus mauritanicus

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summer
SALE

NOW
FULL S
-still hunc
bargains th
the st

JUST ONE OF OUR MANY
BEDDING BARGAINS

SILENTNIGHT
"HOLLYWOOD"
FIRMALUX DIVAN

Luxurious deep quilted mattress 7
inch deep firm edge divan base.

4ft 6in x 6ft 3in approx
SALE PRICE £84.95

3ft 0in x 6ft 3in approx
SALE PRICE £63.95

"HOLLYWOOD" MATTRESS ONLY
4ft 6in x 6ft 3in approx
SALE PRICE £47.59

3ft 0in x 6ft 3in approx
SALE PRICE £37.95

owen

A name worth
Evesham, Telep