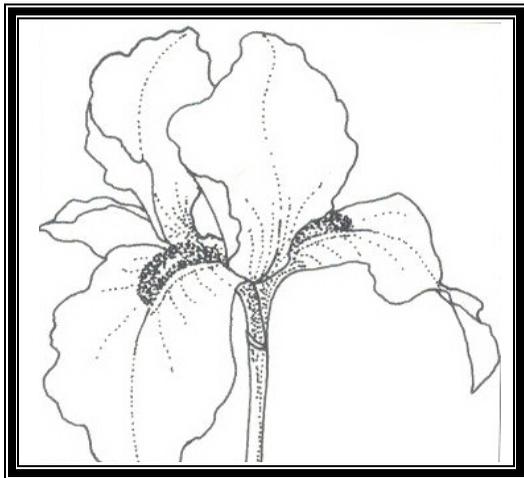


Innisfail and District Historical Village



Heritage Gardens

A Bit of Grandma's Garden at the Historical Village

Gardening is subject to fashion. Some of the plants your grandparents or great-grandparents carefully nurtured through hot summers and harsh winters can no longer be found at the local garden centre. Newer, trendier plants have replaced them. Even within a species, such as roses, new varieties or **cultivars** have been and still are being developed through breeding and research. So, while roses can still be purchased, the variety of rose used by early settlers may not be available.

Plants, like furniture, clothing, and farm tools, are part of our history. Perennials, in particular, are **living** remnants of our history. Brought from the 'old country' and planted here as reminders of home, pieces of plants were passed from generation to generation. Pieces or cuttings taken from a plant are **genetically identical** to the original. Seeds from plants are not as closely related to the original because of pollination. Seeds are more like children and grandchildren while plant cuttings produce identical twins. Plants taken from cuttings are part of an unbroken continuum with plants brought here by early settlers

Early settlers raised annuals as well as perennials but they didn't have the luxury of garden centres or hobby greenhouses so most of the annuals they grew were seeded directly into the garden in the spring and were hardy and produced abundant seeds which could be saved from year to year or would naturally self-seed and required only thinning to maintain them in the garden. Some examples of early annuals found on Alberta homesteads include Clarkia, nasturtiums, marigolds, and

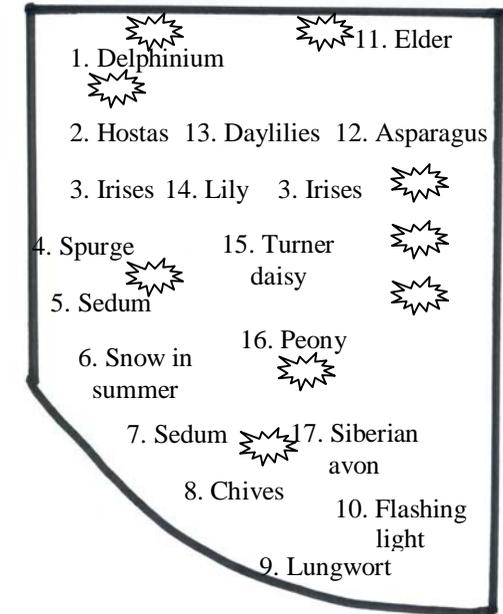
poppies (Icelandic- *Papaver nudicaule*, opium - *Papaver somniferum*, and Oriental - *Papaver orientale*) and pansies (Johnny jump up, *Viola tricolor*). Many people grew the opium poppies for their seeds which were produced in abundance and are excellent for use in cooking.

At the Innisfail Historical Village, we want to grow and preserve the plants we saw in Grandma's garden. We want to obtain pieces of plants brought over by early settlers and record the stories behind the plants. What are they? Where did they come from? Who has owned them and lovingly tended them over the years? If you have a plant you are willing to donate, particularly a plant with a story attached, please contact Grace or Stu Little at 227-5217. Share the beauty and the history with all of us.

If you recognize a cultivar in the bed please bring its name to our attention.

Heritage Garden

Boardwalk Building



The Heritage Garden is located in front of the Boardwalk Building., just inside the front gate of the Innisfail Historical Village. Grace and Stu Little deserve the credit for collecting and planting the items found in this garden. Some of the plants in this bed have a history, which is given below, while others were included because they were typical of the plants grown in the early years in this area.

1. Delphinium (*Delphinium elatum*)

Delphiniums are an old fashioned garden plant well adapted to prairie conditions. Pacific giant hybrids are the type most commonly seen in prairie gardens. The history of these particular plants is unknown.

2. Hostas (*Hosta* spp.) Plantain Lily or Funkia

Hostas originated in the Far East and first reached the west in the 1790's. The genus contains over 40 species and 1000 cultivars. The hostas here were purchased from the Beaverlodge Nursery in 1976. This nursery was founded by John Wallace who came to Canada from England in 1935 to work at the Central Experimental Farm in Borden, Manitoba. He then worked at the Beaverlodge Experimental Farm before starting his own nursery. Wallace was inducted into the Alberta Agriculture Hall of Fame for his work in finding, testing and breeding better plants for northern latitudes.

3. Bearded Iris hybrid (*Iris x germanica*)

Another old fashioned perennial, the iris has been cultivated since ancient times and used in European gardens for centuries. This particular iris came from the garden of Maggie Wilson. Maggie, who lives across the street from the Innisfail cemetery, has been a very colourful resident of our town for years.

4. Spurge (*Euphoria polychroma* now *Euphoria epithymoides*)

Originating from eastern Europe, this particular spurge was a gift from Parkland Nurseries.

5. Sedum (*Sedum* spp.)

This sedum was donated by Ida Cossey, one of Innisfail's active gardeners.

6. Snow in Summer (*Cerastium tomentosum*)

A groundcover which originated in Europe.

7. Sedum (*Sedum* spp.)

Another sedum donated by Ida Cossey,.

8. Chives

This plant also originated from the Beaverlodge Nursery in 1976. **See Hostas.**

9. Lungwort (*Pulmonaria* spp.)

These plants were once thought to cure lung problems hence the common name lungwort. It is also referred to as boy/girl plant because of the flowers that change colour from pink to blue. This particular plant was donated by Len Harvey, a local music teacher. He received a piece from his neighbour Marian Jensen who got it from her sister-in-law Muriel Jensen, Muriel's plant originated with Dorothy Leslie.

10. Flashing light (*Dianthus deltoides*)

Also known as Maiden Pinks, this type of plant originated in Europe. This specimen was donated by Virginia Ritson-Bennett.

11. Golden elder (*Sambucus canadensis* 'Aurea')

This plant was started from a shoot taken from Virginia Ritson-Bennett's garden. Elder's figure strongly in mythology. Some believe that an elder will never be struck by lightning and will protect your home from evil influences.

12. Asparagus (*Asparagus officinalis*. *Liliaceae*)

A hardy perennial vegetable that was common in many early gardens. These plants come from stock bought at Beaverlodge Nursery in 1976.

13. Daylily (*Hemerocallis* spp)

Leonard Fink, who taught here for many years, brought these yellow daylilies from his dad's farm, located north of Ponoka. His grandfather originally planted them there in the early 1900's.

14. Lily, Asiatic hybrid (*Lilium*)

These red lilies previously grew in the garden of Bill Birch, a retired Innisfail teacher. They originally came from Less Treeboin's acreage, located at the corner of 42 St. and 51 Ave. The acreage is now covered by new houses and is west of the kindergarten.

15. Clustered bell flower (*Campanula glomerata*)

This plant was obtained by Grace and Stu Little from Reg Turner so it was referred to as the Turner daisy.

16. Peony (*Paeonia* spp)

Peonies are a long-lived perennials that are still found at many abandoned homestead sites. These peonies came from the Ure farm on the Cottonwood Road and were originally planted by Percy Ure in the 1940's.

17. Siberian avens (*Geum urbanum* var. *sibiricum*)

Hardy and long lived, these siberium avens were purchased at the Beaverlodge Nursery in 1976. See Hosta.

Plants with write-ups but not put on map:

Bog Ferns
Minature bleeding hearts
Maltese Cross
Viola