

Juniper berries are said to be eaten readily by many animals, the seeds not being digested.¹

The Mock Orange is a common and decorative shrub in the valleys east of the continental divide, but in Alberta it has so far been known only in the Waterton Lakes area, where it grows very sparsely on a few rock outcroppings on the southern slope of Mt. Crandell near the townsite. It also grows luxuriantly in a small, east-facing ravine just north of the former locality. In the summer of 1974, a small colony of this shrub was discovered on the lower south-facing slopes of an unnamed ridge of red shale on the Alberta side of Mt.

Darrah, west of Pincher Creek. A specimen from this locality has been deposited at the University of Lethbridge Herbarium (Kuijt No. 4743). The similarity of the site to that of the first-mentioned Waterton site was striking. It seems entirely possible that other, comparable southern slopes between Mt. Darrah and Waterton Lakes will yield further specimens of this attractive shrub.

¹HITCHCOCK, C. L., A. CRONQUIST, and M. OWNBEY. 1969. *Vascular plants of the Pacific Northwest, Vol. 1*. Univ. Washington Press, Seattle.

²KUIJT, JOB. 1973. *New plant records in Waterton Lakes National Park, Alberta*. Can. Field-Nat. 87:67-69

³MOSS, E. H. 1959. *Flora of Alberta*. Univ. Toronto Press.

TODAY'S WEEDS — TOMORROW'S VEGETABLES

by AL GRASS*

The other day I read an article in a garden magazine regarding "weeds" and it has prompted me to offer the following comments.

I would like to suggest that one man's weed is another man's wildflower. A weed, it seems, is a plant which competes with more "suitable" plant varieties. Should not a rose bush in a carrot patch be considered a weed? After all, it is stealing nutrients from the tasty carrot.

Some of our most beautiful wildflowers are weeds:

*"Fringing the stream at
every turn
Swing low the waving
fronds of fern;
From stoney cleft and
mossy sod
Pale asters spring and
golden rod."*

Every garden should have a weed patch. This has a dual purpose — to encourage small birds and insects to visit with you and so that you will have some weeds to study and admire. What better way to spend one's time than to cultivate dandelions for sparrows and finches?

Have you ever thought that today's weeds may be tomorrow's vegetables? We can imagine such tasty treats as creamed *Stellaria* on toast wedges and sweet pickled pigweed. Even today we can enjoy such treats as lamb's quarters and dandelion greens.

Nothing is worse than a garden without weeds. Give me a weed patch anytime. There is a thousand-fold more to admire in weeds than in their sickly pampered garden kin.

*From *The Victoria Naturalist*, 31(9) May, 1975.