

Michigan Lily

Lilium michiganense

This 3-4 foot tall wildflower grows in wet prairies and moist woodland valleys throughout Missouri. It blooms well in sunny prairies, but not in closed-canopy woodlands; consequently, it is believed the wooded areas where it now occurs have become shadier over the years. Native Americans used fire to keep the prairies and savannas open, and this practice favored the many sun-loving plants and animals that were used for food, fiber, and shelter.

~ about the artist ~

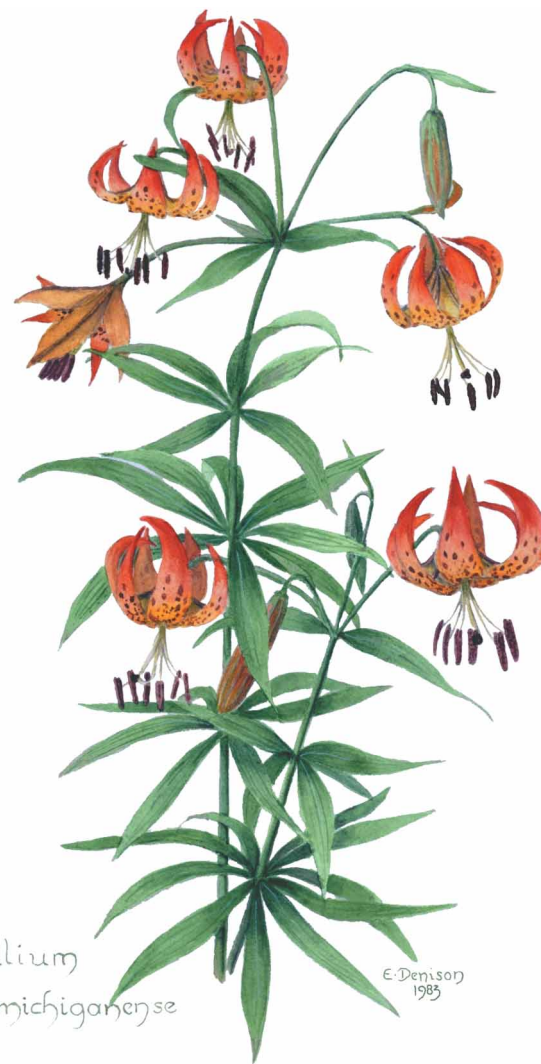
Edgar Denison was born in Stuttgart, Germany in 1904, immigrated to the United States in 1927, and became one of Missouri's most celebrated wildflower enthusiasts through his popular field guide, Missouri Wildflowers. Denison, who died in 1993, was also a pianist, master gardener, and artist who drew and painted hundreds of Missouri wildflowers.

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*Lilium
michiganense*

E. Denison
1983

American Lotus

Nelumbo lutea

This common wetland plant grows throughout Missouri and is particularly abundant along the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers and their tributaries. It occurs in oxbow ponds (ponds which are formed when a bend in a river is cut off) and artificial lakes. The lotus blooms throughout summer, yet a single flower opens for two days and closes tightly at night.

~ about the artist ~

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Rose Mallow

Hibiscus lasiocarpus (*H. militaris*)

Common in wet meadows, sinkhole ponds, ditches, and pond edges, this showy native is one of the largest blooming plants in the Ozarks. The six-inch blooms appear in mid-summer and can vary from white to light pink with a wine-red center. Densely hairy leaves are gray-green, often appearing like velvet. The large, round seeds are eaten by ducks and quail.

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HIBISCUS MILITARIS
E. Denison 871

Common Sunflower

Helianthus annuus

This familiar midwestern roadside wildflower was originally grown by North American Indians for its protein-rich edible seeds. It is an important food for wildlife and is the ancestor of the huge-flowering commercial sunflower which is grown worldwide. Common sunflowers bloom mid to late summer.

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Copper Iris

Iris fulva

Copper iris is found naturally in the bootheel of Missouri and throughout the southeastern United States in bald cypress swamps, bayous, and pond edges. It grows nearly submerged in water in spring, but can tolerate wet soils that dry out in summer. Because of their adaptability and striking copper-red flowers, they make excellent landscaping plants, thriving in most sunny garden conditions.

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IRIS FULVA
E. Denison, v-1572

Black-eyed Susan

Rudbeckia hirta

Black-eyed Susan is one of the most common wildflowers along Missouri's highways though never abundant in high-quality natural prairies and savannas. It tends to prefer the disturbed soils of grazed pastures, hay meadows, old fields, and roadsides. It is a biennial, living only two seasons, growing leaves during the first year and then flowers and seeds during the second.

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Rudbeckia hirta

E. Denison
Oct '71

Amethyst Shooting Star

Dodecatheon amethystinum

This rare plant only grows in “driftless areas” (pockets of land that were not affected by glaciers) throughout the Midwest and along the Niangua, Missouri, and Mississippi rivers in Missouri. It typically grows in thin soil just above or below north-facing limestone bluffs. The common name is derived from the rose-purple drooping flowers with petals folded back like the tail of a meteor. Shooting stars are pollinated by bumblebees, which release the pollen by vibrating (“buzzing”) their wings while hanging beneath the flower.

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*Dodecatheon
amethystinum*



Pokeberry

Phytolacca americana

Though current research shows that this plant should be avoided as an edible, the cooked greens and purple juice from the berries were once widely eaten. The purple berries produce a red dye and ink and are a favorite food of birds and other animals who spread seeds in their droppings. Pokeberry is common everywhere in Missouri, especially on disturbed ground of farmland, roadsides, and gardens.

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Showy Lady's Slipper

Cypripedium reginae

This is one of Missouri's largest and most spectacular wildflowers. It is a threatened orchid existing in remote areas of cool, deep southern Ozark canyons. It is virtually absent elsewhere in Missouri, probably due to habitat loss and over-harvesting by nurserymen and garden enthusiasts. The plants are covered with tiny hairs that can cause a skin rash like poison ivy.

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Royal Catchfly

Silene regia

This rare and beautiful wildflower is endangered throughout the Midwest due to habitat loss, yet still exists in the Ozarks on dry prairies and oak savannas. Its scarlet flowers attract hummingbirds, gardeners, and botanical enthusiasts alike. It is called catchfly because sticky resin covers the flowers and stems that catches tiny insects. While royal catchfly does not digest its victims, the resin effectively protects them from aphids.

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Silene regia