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Spring Queen and Sweet Coltsfoot

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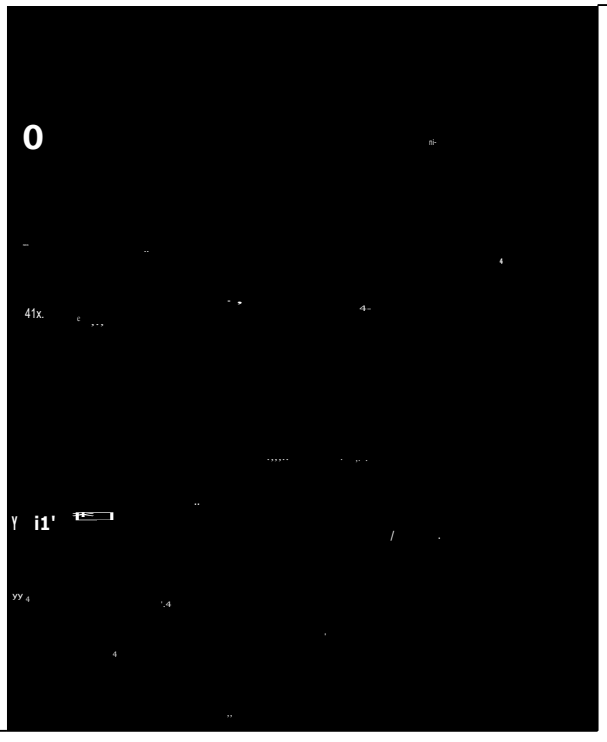


SPRING QUEEN (*Synthyris rotundifolia)*

It is desired that these leaflets reach those to whom they are of the most ftervice. Accordingly, if you wish them continued, kindly send your request on a postal to the Extension Division, University of Oregon.

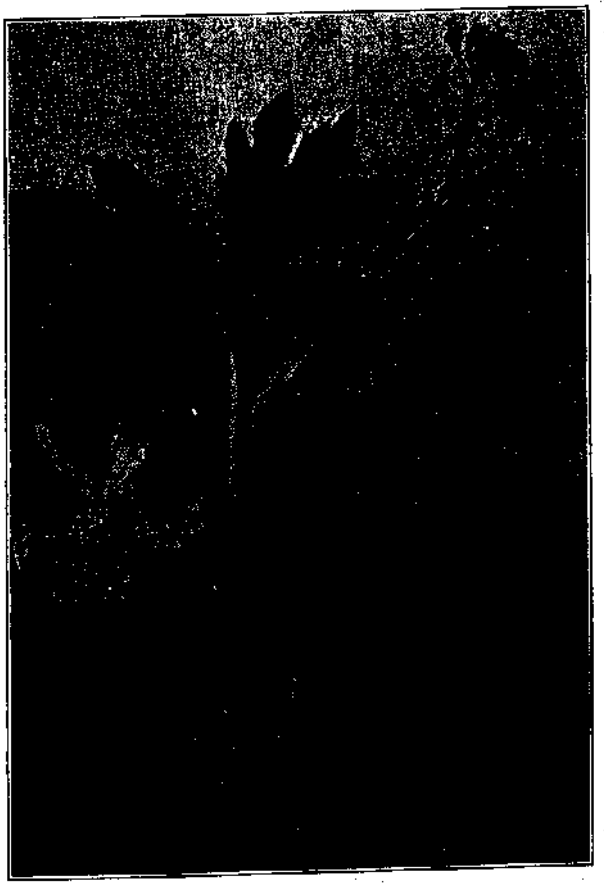
Admitted as second class matter at the postoffice at Eugene, Oregon

Sweet Coltsfoot

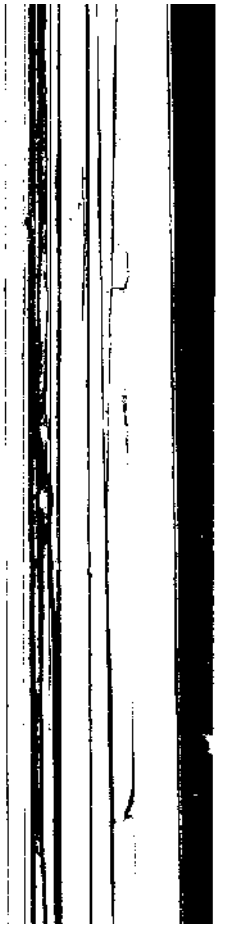
Dandelion Family (*Cornpositae)*

Another early bloomer, the sweet coltsfoot, is a member of the dandelion family. It easily attracts the attention of the observant by its luxuriant growth and conspicuous leaves. It requires considerable moisture and usually prefers shade. It has a strong underground stem with numerous fiber-like roots. The large palm shaped leaves grow from this underground stern and have a white, cottony covering on their under side. On the flower stem the leaves are reduced to inconspicuous scales. All this is clearly shown in Figure 1.

Its scientific name is *Petasites palmata,* the first part being derived from a Greek word which means, " a broad-brimmed hat," referring to the large leaves. *Palmata* is derived from the palm shape of the leaves. The popular name was probably given to the plant because of its resemblance to the true coltsfoot. The latter was at one time a popular remedy for colds, but it is not known that any medicinal value has ever been attributed to the sweet coltsfoot.



SWEET COLTSFOOT
(Petasites paimata) Fig. 1



Detailed Description

On the flower stalk are many flower clusters such as are common to the dandelion family and are known as heads (Figure 2). Each head consists of many flowers surrounded by numerous leaflike bracts. Figure 3 is a section made by cutting lengthwise through the head.

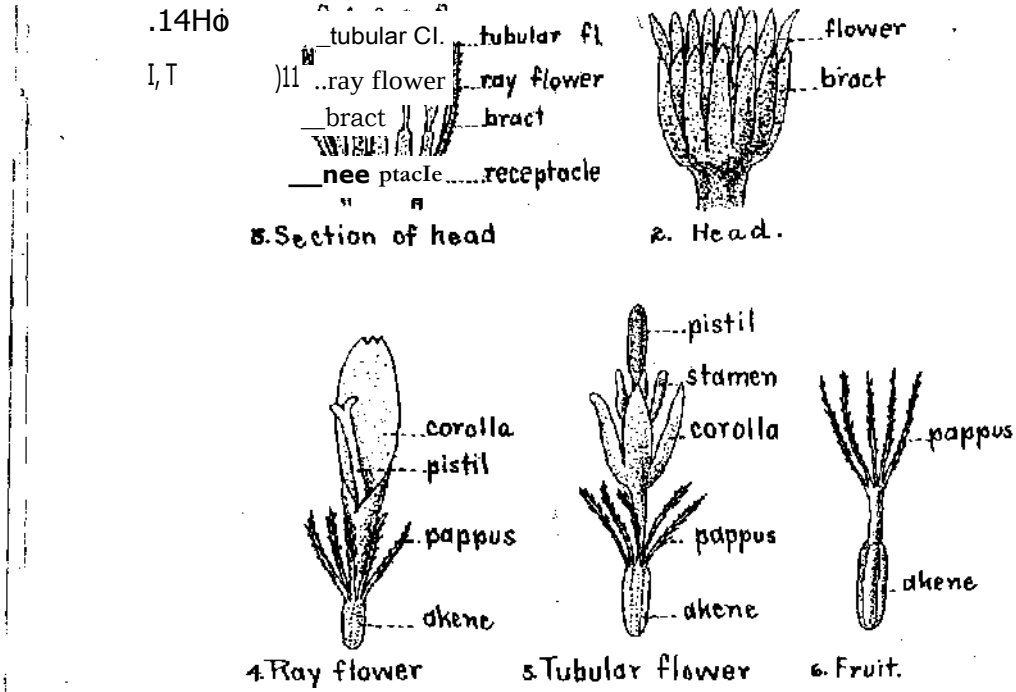
It consists of an outside row of ray flowers with numerous tubular flowers on the inside. Figure 4 is an enlarged drawing of a single ray flower. The parts of the corolla are united with each other to form a short tube extending on one side into a sort of strap. Within are no stamens and a single pistil. The egg case, which when ripe is called an akene, has but a single ovule. The thread-like pappus on top of the akene corresponds to the calyx.

The tubular flower (Figure 5) differs principally in having its corolla tube divided into five regular parts and in the presence of stamens.

By comparing Figure 5 with Figure 4 it will be noticed that the receptive tip of the pistil, or stigma, is at first closed and later opens out into two parts. This is one of nature's devices to bring about cross-pollination, the stigmatic surface being non-receptive when the stamens of that flower are shedding their pollen.

In the fruit (Figure 6) all the parts of the flower have dropped except the pappus which is borne on the elongated upper portion of the akene.

A very interesting study may be made of the variety of forms of pappus found in the dandelion family, the purpose being to provide a means for the dissemination of the fruit.



NOTE: The botanical department will gladly name any of the wild flowers or shrubs for those who may desire it. Pick enough of the plant to show the typical characteristics: flower, fruit if present, leaves and in some cases the root. Send by mail to the, herbarium of the University of Oregon, Eugene.