

## BELLFLOWER FAMILY.

CAMPANULACEAE.

### Cardinal Flower.

*Lobelia cardinalis.*

Found on the margins of small streams, in light shade, and in low moist ground, from July to October.



The single, rather large stalk is round, and somewhat irregularly grooved, smooth to the touch, and a full green color. It grows from 2 to 4 feet high.

The leaves are generally from 2 to 3 inches in length, tapering at both ends with the veins distinctly showing, and irregularly toothed margins ; their texture is fine, and the color a full dark green. They are set immediately upon the stalk, in an alternate arrangement.



The irregular corolla is somewhat 2-lipped, with a long slender tube which is split down its upper side ; the lower lip is broad and 3-cleft, the upper being narrow and in 2 parts ; its color is a deep and glowing red, with a darker spot near the throat upon the lower lip. The pistil and 5 stamens, which curve outwards noticeably, are of a lighter red color with fine gray tips ; the calyx is 5-parted and green. The flowers are arranged in a long, usually one-sided, spike.

Coming into bloom when the midsummer vegetation is growing dusty, this plant fills the eye with the richness of its dark green leafage toned into perfect accord with the glowing hue of its flowers,—their color a truly royal one, of unusual depth as well as brilliancy. The Cardinal Flower should not be plucked ruthlessly, lest it be exterminated, an ever-present danger to the beautiful annuals man appreciates.

It can be cultivated from the seed with considerable success.

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CARDINAL FLOWER: *L. cardinalis*.

Text and drawing excerpted from *Wildflowers from the North-Eastern States* by Ellen Miller and Margaret Christine Whiting, 1895  
Nomenclature and Families updated.