

species. At this time too, Tritonia is showing up - T. lineata with lemon flowers with dark lines, and T. crocata with clear orange flowers, together with some of its colour variants. Coming into their display about this time are species of Ixia (stamens on one side of the flower, not symmetrical as in Tritonia). The most abundant is I. maculata in a range of colours but always distinguished by the black throat that gives it the name. Petals may be cream to orange-yellow, others pink or cerise. I. polystachya begins flowering now and makes good bluish displays until January. I. paniculata, with flowers like little orange trumpets appearing later in October, is becoming more plentiful. Babiana stricta, with distinctly hairy leaves, puts on a magnificent show at this time. In 1972 a few with the common blue-purple flowers were seen. Now there is the whole range of colour from white to deep purple. The common Romulea rosea fades into insignificance beside an unidentified species with enormous pink flowers that is worth a place in any garden. In the last few years it has developed into quite large patches. The clearest blue flowers at this time belong to Aristea ecklonii now seen in many open places about Auckland. The hardy Gladiolus natalensis with yellow and red flowers, and the smaller pink Gladiolus nanus are increasing their hold.

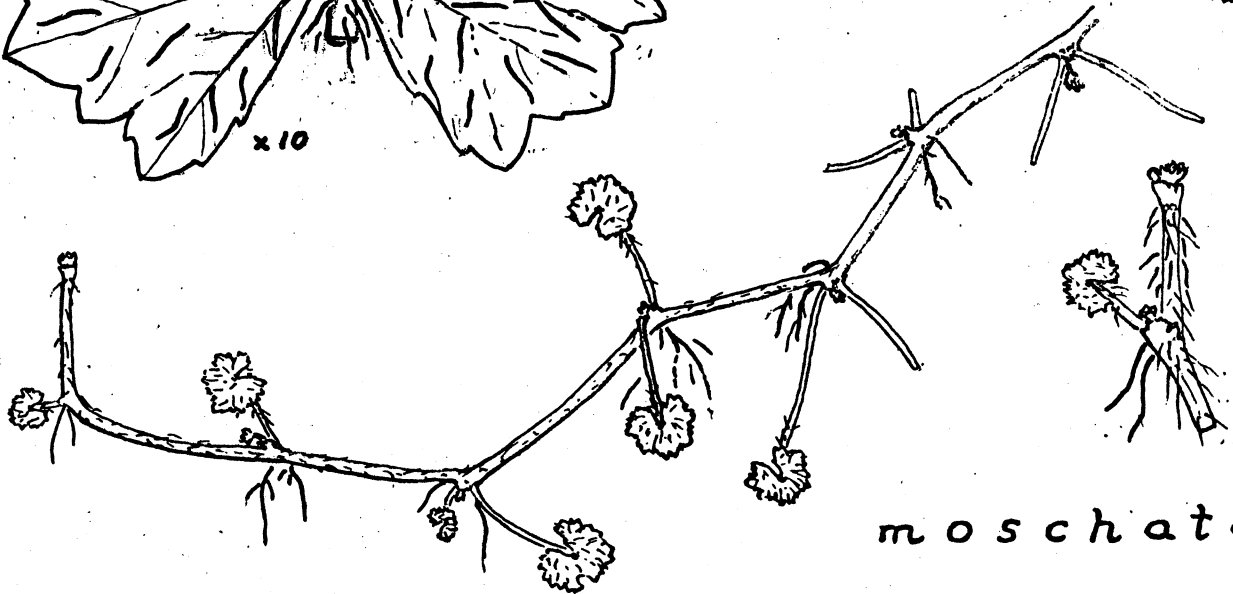
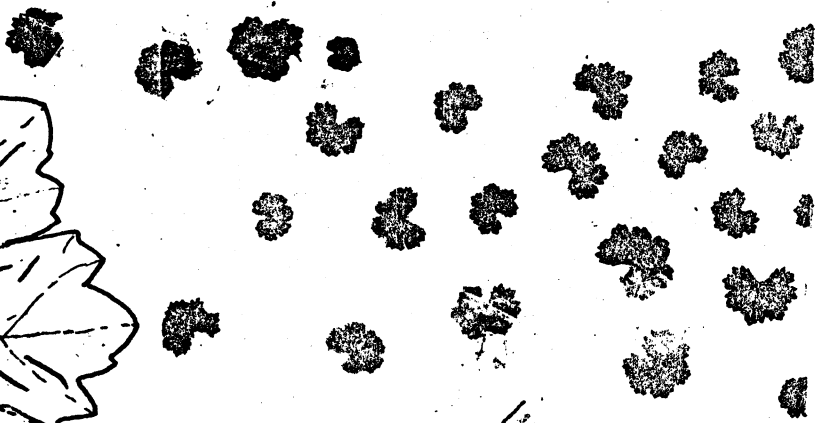
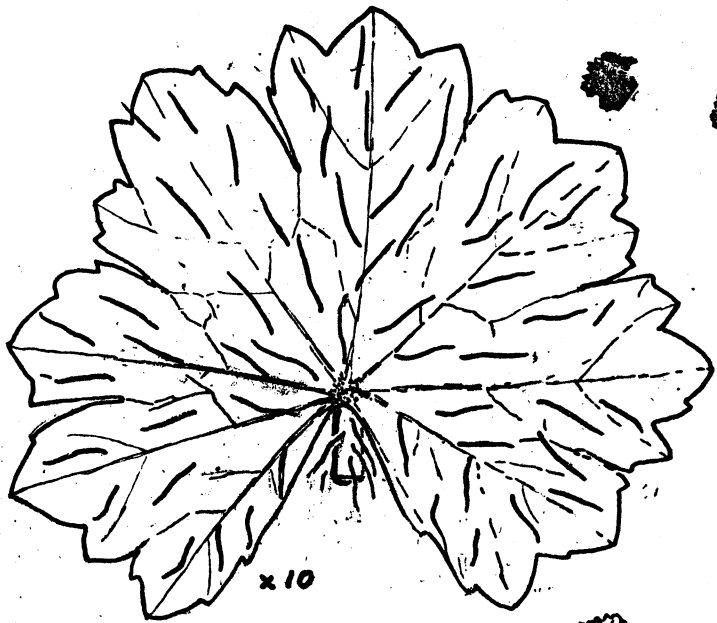
Flowering is not all over by November. While many are making their last efforts, Ixia polystachya is reaching its peak, and the salmon flowers of Watsonia bulbifera are making a brief appearance soon to be replaced by up to 100 small corms along each stalk. In 1972 there were a few clumps; now it obscures graves and pushes out more desirable species.

By December these iridaceous plants are on the wane but to fill a gap the pale yellow Gladiolus undulatus blooms for a few weeks. Unspectacular as it may be, it found its way onto markets up till about 1964 when there were few other cut flowers available just before Christmas. When montbretia (Crocasmia x crocosmiiflora) begins flowering in January most other flowers of its kind have retreated underground with their replenished stocks of food. If the few competing plants on this poor soil can be kept in check in autumn the African plants can appear again in spring to produce what must be New Zealand's finest display of wildflowers.

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## TWO HYDROCOTYLE WEEDS

R.O. Gardner



moschata

tripartita

