

## SOME MORE PLANTS IN SHAKESPEARE

[Then there's ....., a rare engineer  
Troilus and Cressida II. iii. Ed.]  
Norman S. Sutherland

Sir, the year growing ancient,  
Not yet on summer's death, nor on the birth  
Of trembling winter, the fairest flowers o' the season  
Are our carnations and streak'd gillyvors,  
Which some call nature's bastards:

The Winter's Tale IV.iv.

Crown'd with rank fumiter and furrow-weeds,  
with bur-docks, hemlock, nettles, cuckoo-flowers,  
Darnel, and all the idle weeds that grow  
In our sustaining corn.

King Lear IV.iv.

bold oxlips and  
The crown imperial; lilies of all kinds,  
The flower-de-luce being one!

The Winter's Tale IV.iv

And here I prophesy: this brawl to-day,  
Grown to this faction in the Temple-garden,  
Shall send between the red rose and the white  
A thousand souls to death and deadly night.

First part of King Henry VI. II. IV

Primrose, first born child of Ver,  
Merry spring-time's harbinger.

The Two Noble Kinsmen I. song

A little research and we find that gillyvors belong to the carnation family; the streaked variety were flowers of mixed colours developed by gardeners. The wearing of flowers was a custom in Elizabethan times and we have mad King Lear covering his head with weeds and flowers from the countryside. Fumitory favoured arable land; rank being luxuriant. The cuckoo flower also known as Lady-smock was in bloom at the time of the year when the first notes of the cuckoo were heard; hence we have the cuckoo song of Love's Labour Lost.

The flower-de-luce (fleur-de-lys) - an iris and occasionally confused by Shakespeare with the lily. The red and white roses - a reference to the Wars of the Roses between the Houses of York and Lancaster; and Ver, to spring.

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NATIVE ORCHIDS OF THE CHRISTCHURCH PORT HILLS  
Addition to the Checklist

John Thompson

On the 14th December 1980 we added one more species of native orchids to those listed in No 14, p.13 of this Journal. Thirteen plants of Pterostylis australis were seen on a grassy bank on Mt Cass in full flower.

We were delighted to notice, on a later visit made on 12th January 1981, that the ovaries of twelve of these plants were distinctly swollen giving hopes of a good scattering of seed.