

Jardin Botanique de Montréal

4101 est, rue Sherbrooke



Montreal Botanical Garden

4101 Sherbrooke Street East

Tél. CLairval 2931

COMMISSION DU JARDIN BOTANIQUE DE MONTRÉAL  
MONTREAL BOTANICAL GARDEN COMMISSION

MONTRÉAL, CANADA

J.-M. SAVIGNAC  
J.-E. BLANCHARD  
F. MARIE-VICTORIN  
GEO. W. SCARTH  
CLAUDE MÉLANÇON

F. MARIE-VICTORIN, D.Sc., M.S.R.C.  
*Directeur*  
*Director*

HENRY TEUSCHER  
*Surintendant et horticulteur en chef*  
*Superintendent and chief horticulturist*

August 5. 1936

Dear Professor Victorin :

I wrote you yesterday, addressing my letter to Shippigan. But I am afraid that that letter will never reach you, since your card which I got this morning said that you were leaving New Brunswick. So I shall write you once more what I wrote yesterday. There are no startling news. No money in sight as far as we are aware. But, undoubtedly you are anxious to hear how we are getting along. Everything is going smoothly here. We are making slow but sure progress.

Five of the raised beds are finished now: The Woodland, the Sand-dune, the Limestone-rock, the German Iris and the Japanese Iris-bed. Right now we are building the swamp-bed with blue clay, in three compartments with different water levels. It works out very well and I expect to have it finished in two more days.

The whole nursery is tilled 12 inches deep with the Rototiller and manure has been worked in. Outside of the fence a large piece of ground has been plowed and will be tilled next week.

The economic garden is growing up beautifully and everything is labelled now. Starting tomorrow it will be open to the public.

The heating plant has been painted inside and outside and looks real beautiful.

My trip to New York was very successful and I brought back : Over 300 Iris plants of 61 varieties, 15 roots of the double-flowered Blood-root, a few bulbs of *Leucojum vernum*, *Lycoris squamigera*, *Oxalis adenophylla*, *Delphinium tricornis*, *Dodecatheon meadia*, *Tulipa turcestanica* and 4 plants of *Papaver orientale* "Wunderkind" (the finest of all of the Oriental Poppies). I had to pay \$ 3.39 duty on these plants, since as yet there is no provision made in the Canadian importation laws for the free entry of plants for educational purposes. That is one thing we have to get. Fortunately, the customs inspectors were extremely reasonable and estimated the value of the shipment as only \$ 15. That was the best they could do. But I argued with them for over two hours.

Tomorrow we shall mimeograph the 260 letters to the Botanical Gardens of the world. The envelopes are all addressed. They will be sent out the day after tomorrow.

Today we had the newspaper reporters at the garden, and M. Blanchard came out with them. They took pictures of the Rototiller, the beds,

20 - Teuscher (H.) Fr. Marie-Victorin

the economic garden, the greenhouse with your plants and the box of plants from Miscan which had just come. I was photographed holding a Kohlrabi plant in my hands, and I am afraid that it will turn out to be the silliest picture that was ever taken of me.

Just when the newspapermen arrived a man came and asked for information on how and when to plant spruce trees. They were much impressed and asked if they could write that the Botanical Garden would answer inquiries to garden problems. I said they could. So we shall, probably, get a lot of silly questions from now on. Come back and help me answer them.

Your plants continue to arrive in very good condition and I expect to save most of them. Only with *Gentiana gaspensis* we seem to have failed. It arrived while I was in New York and was not planted in the right soil and was not kept wet enough. When I returned, I tried everything I could think of to save the plants but it was too late. It is possible, of course, that I would not have been able to keep the plants alive, even if I had been there. It is a very frail thing and probably can only be transplanted, if you move it with a whole clump of sod. Could'nt you try that yet? I should like very much to have seeds of this gentian.

When do you expect to be back? I am longing to see you again and am missing you very much.

As soon as you are back we ought to have a meeting of the Committee to devise means of getting money. Something has to be done. At the rate we are going now we shall not be able to finish the garden in a hundred years.

In the enumeration of the work we did I forgot to mention the cold frame which we hope to have ready when you come back. All the material: cement, stone, sand and wood for the form are on hand and we hope to start constructing it by the end of this week.

We have not been idle, but what can five men do?

We have figured out that so far you have sent us 2500 plants of 240 species. You, certainly have not been idle either. I get a lot of fun out of mixing a different kind of soil for each kind of plant, and Bouvrette thinks that he will never learn what is the right soil for what.

Some of the seeds which I brought with me and which we sowed three weeks ago are germinating already. The big *Ulmus racemosa* seeds which you brought from Ontario and which I sowed right away have even grown into nice little plants. They were very much in a hurry.

With kindest regards and best wishes

faithfully yours



H. Teuscher