

The Plant Alphabet

A is for aster, that blooms in the fall;
Its colors are dainty and pleasing to all.

B is for bluebell, that grows in the wood.
'Tis a shy, modest flower that bows as it should.

C is for clover—the red and the white—
It has a fine flavor that bees find just right.

D is for daisy, dotting the fields.
A pretty June picture, tho no fragrance it yields.

E is for edelweiss, star-shaped and white.
When it buds in the spring, it's a glorious sight.

F is for forget-me-not, tiny and blue.
Bidding us ever be faithful and true.

G is for golden-rod, flower of the prairie.
It looks like the plume on the cap of a fairy!

H is for hollyhock, graceful and strong;
Brightening the garden wall all summer long.

I is for ivy, that glorifies all—
Clinging to castle and cottage so small.

J is for Jack-in-the-pulpit so gay.
He has his own church in the woods, every day.

K is for kudzu, a vine that is known
To grow fifty feet the first summer it's sown.

L is for lily, that floats on the pond;
Of sleep on its broad leaves, the frog is quite fond.

M is for mignonette, shyest of flowers.
Its fragrance we breathe thru soft summer showers.

N is for the narcissus which brings
Message of springtime and early birds' wings.

O is for orchid, flower of the bog.
'Tis often found springing from half-rotted log.

P is for pansy, with dear, saucy face;
Each garden reserves for this posy a place.

Q is for Queen Anne's lace, ever so fine;
Each blossom unfolds in a dainty design.

R is for rose, whether garden or wild.
Its loveliness charms both the grown-up and child.

S is for snapdragon, children's delight.
It can open its mouth and then shut it up tight.

T is for tulip, with colors so gay;
It will dance in the wind like a lassie at play.

U is for umbrella plant from afar,
Kept on the porch in a crockery jar.

V is for violet, loved by us all;
No flower more welcome, altho it is small.

W is for willow, with "pussies" so gray,
And when the wind blows, the "kittens" will play.
—M. N. D.

This poem came from a 1920s magazine. There are three letters of the alphabet that are not included in the poem: X, Y and Z.

Can you think of any plants or flowers that start with these letters?

X = _____
Y = _____
Z = _____

The poem is written in a style known as "rhyming couplets." This means that each pair of lines rhymes with each other.

Can you write rhyming couplets for the X, Y and Z plants or flowers you listed above?

X is for _____

Y is for _____

Z is for _____

