



WHAT'S IN BLOOM...
**AT THE READER
ROCK GARDEN**

Story by Corinne Hannah
Photos by Janet Jones

Meandering paths, moss covered stone, tapestries of colour, spectacular views and mouth watering meals, this is what awaits the visitor to Reader Rock Garden.



This wonderful garden is the legacy of William Reader, the City of Calgary Parks Superintendent from 1913 to 1942. Thanks to a grant from Infrastructure Canada—Alberta Program this internationally recognized garden has been rehabilitated using the original plans of William Reader.

The sheer variety of plants in the garden is a testament to the tenacity of this passionate plant collector. Janet Jones, journeyman gardener at the Reader Rock Garden, shares with Bloom readers a few of the treats that await the visitor in April and early May.

Wild ginger *Asarum canadense* (above) is a woodland treasure native to eastern Canada. Close inspection in early spring will reveal subtle and intriguing blooms. This groundcover has

been slow to establish so Janet recommends spacing plants closely when introducing it into your own garden.

Hepatica transsylvanica (right) has happily naturalized throughout the Reader Rock Garden. Large mats of this tenacious woodland plant can be found even in undeveloped portions of the garden. The delicate violet blue flowers are amongst the first to herald spring.

According to Janet oxlip primrose *Primula elatior* (below) is a delight because it is just such a 'Gosh darn welcome sight after a long winter.' Blooming often while snow is still on the ground this primrose is simply a bouquet of sunlight in the garden. The oxlip primrose would be rather unremarkable for the remainder of the season except for a propensity to produce a second flush of bloom in the fall.



For reservations at Reader's Garden Café call (403) 245-3252.

