



***Gentiana andrewsii* – Bottle gentian**

COMMON NAME: Bottle gentian

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Gentiana andrewsii* - named for Gentius, king of Illyria who supposedly discovered that the roots from a certain plant helped to cure his troops suffering from malaria. Henry C. Andrews (1743-1820) was an English botanical artist.

FLOWER: Blue with the blossom's 5 petals overlapping and seemingly "closed."

BLOOMING PERIOD: Late August to frost.

SIZE: 1 to 2 feet high

BEHAVIOR: This is the most easily grown gentian. Seedlings are tiny and may take two or three years to bloom.

SITE REQUIREMENTS: The gentian needs rich, moist to wet soils, sand or gravel in full sun or very light shade.

NATURAL RANGE: From New England west to Saskatchewan, south to Georgia and Arkansas. Occurs throughout Wisconsin in suitable habitat, most frequently in moist prairies.

SPECIAL FEATURES: Flower color and blooming period make this a fall favorite. Bumblebees are able to force themselves past the closed aspect of the blossom and thus pollinate the flower.

SUGGESTED CARE: Be sure new plantings get plenty of moisture. The worst threat is drought.

COMPANION PLANTS: In rich prairies look for big bluestem, heath aster, shooting star, sawtooth sunflower, yellow star grass, downy phlox, prairie dock, and Culver's root. In fens (moist, alkaline prairies) it is found with Canada anemone, New England aster, bluejoint grass, boneset, sneezeweed, Turk's cap lily, blue lobelia, and Riddell's goldenrod.