

p 39) b. <Wed> June 2/76 (flowered May 13)  
 (35) first draft f. Tues. June 8/76 (Grassflower)  
 from pencil original

Gray 610  
 Claytônia  
 (Purslane f)  
 peren. simple / succulent  
 stems from deep tuber  
 opp. lvs petioled, rarely  
 sessile; lowest / bract dry  
 C. caroliniana / 1-8 stems  
 raceme 2-11 flow'd  
 C. virginica / 2-40 fl. stems  
 lowest bract firm / herbaceous

- 1 Clay tone your purple derives <arrives>
- 2 from deep tubers pussley partially
- 3 kin picked <trouched> wilt spring beauty
- vulgar <common> good-morning-spring <weed> salvage moist-eyed & daystar
- 4 salvage sprung common good morning
- 5 (daystar) obscures <sup>2</sup>eras f <sup>1</sup>married integrity ^
- 6 spoor (lost) <sup>2</sup>forest <sup>1</sup>midsummer returning / mayflower
- 7 ~~lance~~ <lanceleaves> shield buds kinless royal
- 8 gold-glint eye purple silkiest throat

Taylor 235 /  
 portulacaceae f common  
 "spring beauty" (portulaca)  
 (cf 80 F #29 l. 8) ie pussley  
 also "Mayflower"  
 "good-morning-spring" slender  
 herb, partial shade <(to)>

- 1 Clay tone your purple derives/arrives
- 2 from deep tubers pussley partially
- 3 kin picked wilt spring beauty
- 4 ^ good-morning-spring weed salvage moist-eyed the? ^
- 5 (daystar) obscures <sup>2</sup>eras <sup>1</sup>married integrity / lost
- 6 spoor midsummer forest returning / mayflower
- 7 lance/leaves shield buds kinless royal
- 8 gold-glint eye purple silkiest throat

moist site, weak  
 narrow lvs entire  
 lvs Petals 5, stamens (\*)  
 5<-6 indeterminate> {vertical:}  
 fruit small pod [mayflower]  
 3 valves: named after (one word)  
 John Clayton, bot. ea. / Va  
caroliniana like

- 2nd draft Tues June 8/76
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8 gold-glint eye <eyed> purple silkiest throat

virginica but smaller  
 flwrs. broader lvs.  
 East N.A. April.  
 virginica 4-6" H  
 lvs narrowly lance 2-5"  
 5/8" wide, fleeting  
 wilting if picked.  
 Both plants disappear  
 by midsummer, won't  
 grow on dry sites  
 Ours Pt. J. purple  
 yellow "gold" <indefinite> stamens  
 filament + anthers  
 (ovary etc carefully  
 (superior → i.e. above the chalice - 2 clusters  
 (\*) I. petals 4 or 5 <united> notched at tip

cf  
Anew #37 {upsidedown line:} that may discover such integrity  
T.G.V. III ii 76 with yr. tears | moist it again  
 + frame some feeling line ↗  
 Dante: una selva oscura . . via era smarrita  
 earliest in the spring <Clay tone> you name yourself  
 "completely disappear by midsummer  
 . . bloom just before the forest canopy  
 comes into leafage but soon die  
 down." Z: bef forest leafs shad-/ows  
 (Dante dark wood

\* \* \*

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Edited and transcribed by Jeffrey Twitchell-Waas.}

## Sources

Taylor, *Taylor's Encyclopedia of Gardening*, **Claytonia**, **Portulacaceae**, **Superior**  
Gray, *Gray's Manual of Botany*, **Portulacaceae** (Purslane Family) > **Claytonia** (Spring Beauty) (610)  
Everett, *Woodland Flowers*, **Spring Beauty** (45)

Dante, *Inferno* I. 1-3  
Shakespeare, *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* III. ii. 75-77  
LZ, *Anew* 37 ("The world autumn") (CSP 97)

## Grassflower

line 1: **Clay tone your purple arrives**  
line 2: **from deep tubers pussley partially**  
line 3: **kin touched wilt spring beauty**  
line 4: **good-morning-spring weed salvage moist-eyed daystar**  
line 5: **obscures married eras integrity lost**  
line 6: **spoor midsummer forest returning mayflower**  
line 7: **lanceleaves shield buds kinless royal**  
line 8: **gold-glint eyed purple silkiest throat**

June 2-8/76

line 1: **Clay tone your purple arrives**  
Taylor, **Claytonia** (clay-tō'ni-a). The spring beauty of our meadows is one of perhaps two dozen species of slender, perennial herbs of the family Portulacaceae, sometimes transferred to the wild garden. Both those below need partial shade and a moist site. They have tuberous roots (corm), and slender weak, narrow leaves without marginal teeth. Flowers blooming very early in spring, pink or white, often streaked, borne in few-flowered, lax clusters. Petals 5. Stamens 5. Fruit a small pod with 3 valves. (Named for John Clayton, early American botanist of Virginia.)

Both plants below will completely disappear by midsummer. They bloom just before the forest canopy comes into leafage, but soon die down. Their culture is easy in moist places under partial shade, impossible on dry sites.

**C. virginica**. The common spring beauty, commonly called Mayflower, grass-flower, and good-morning-spring. A slender herb 4-6 in. high. Leaves narrowly lance-shaped, 2-5 in. long. Flowers white, but often tinged with pink or streaked with it, about 5/8 in. wide, very fleeting, and wilting at once if picked.

**Clay tone** > *Claytonia*

line 2: **from deep tubers pussley partially**

Gray, **FAM. 60 PORTULACACEAE** (Purslane Family) > **3. Claytonia** L. SPRING-BEAUTY. {...} Perennials of N. Am., Asia, Austral. and N.Z., our two species sending up simple stems in early spring from a small deep-seated tuber, bearing a pair of opposite leaves and a loose raceme of showy flowers. Corolla rose-color with deeper veins, opening for more than one day! (610).

Taylor, **Portulacaceae** (por-tew-lă-kay'see-ee). The purslane family, notorious because it contains the pestiferous "pussley," also comprises several very beautiful garden plants among its 16 genera and 500 species. {...} Leaves alternate or opposite, always without marginal teeth. Flowers regular, showy in some genera, but quickly fading in most, and opening only in sunlight in a few. Fruit mostly a dry, 3-valved pod (capsule).

See Everett line 3.

line 3: **kin touched wilt spring beauty**

Everett, *Woodland Flowers*, SPRING BEAUTY, *Claytonia virginica* [Purslane family]. The dainty Spring Beauty is a close relative of the garden Portulaca; it is also kin to that common nuisance of gardens, the "pussley" weed. All three close their flowers at night and during dull weather. If the Spring Beauty is picked the plant quickly wilts and its flowers close. It is one of the earliest spring flowers; after blooming, the stems die down until the following year.

BLOOMING SEASON: March-May. WHERE FOUND: Moist woods {...}. FLOWERS: In loose clusters, white or pale pink, with darker veinings. Individual flowers have slender stems, are star-like and all face one way. PLANT: Perennial, 6-12 inches tall, with a deep, tuberous root. Stem rather weak. Leaves slender, somewhat fleshy, 6 to 8 in pairs on stem (45).

See Taylor, **C. virginica** line 1.

See #29 "Pachysandra," line 8: when *spring beauty* goes quicked.

line 4: **good-morning-spring weed salvage moist-eyed daystar**

See Taylor, **C. virginica** and **Claytonia** line 1.

See Everett line 3.

Shakespeare, *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* III. ii. 75-77:

*Proteus*. Write till your ink be dry, and with your tears  
Moist it again, and frame some feeling line  
 That may discover such integrity:

line 5: **obscures married eras integrity lost**

Dante, *Inferno* I. 1-3:

Nel mezzo del cammin di nostra vita  
 mi ritrovai per una selva oscura,  
 che la diritta via era smarrita.

**obscures eras integrity lost** / **spoor** < *oscura* {...} *via era smarrita* (dark {...} the path was lost).

See Shakespeare line 4.

line 6: **spoor midsummer forest returning mayflower**

See Dante line 5.

**midsummer forest returning** < *nel mezzo del cammin* {...} *mi ritrovai per una selva* (in the midway of the journey {...} I found myself in a forest).

See Taylor, **Claytonia** and **C. virginica** line 1.

#35 - Grassflower

Notes for 80 Flowers [4]

line 7: **lanceleaves shield buds kinless royal**

See Taylor, **C. virginica** line 1.

line 8: **gold-glint eyed purple silkiest throat**

See LZ notes above on their own “spring beauty.”