

PLANTS

which have flowered successfully

in gardens of the

FALKLAND ISLANDS

1944



by H. R. EVANS, Gardener, Government House.

31st May, 1944

The Honourable,

The Colonial Secretary.



Sir,

At the request of His Excellency, I have compiled a list of hardy flowering plants, shrubs and climbers, known to have flowered successfully in this Colony.

I understand that His Excellency wishes to publish this list for public circulation. In the event of it being printed, may I suggest that the Botanical names be printed in heavy type in preference to under-lining as in the copy.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

A. R. Ewan
Gardener.

FOREWORD.

It is not difficult to commend this little work, for it serves two purposes. Firstly, it will prove of true value to every garden-lover in the Falkland Islands, and, secondly, should greatly help in removing the common belief that those islands are a desolate land.

Ever since the time when the Falklands were first mentioned, they have been associated with furious winds, constant tempests and almost unbearable cold. It has proved almost impossible to upset this belief, and when one mentions the facts of statistics of sunshine and wind and temperature one is met with a shrug and a mild reference to journalistic licence. I myself landed at Port Stanley on March 31st, 1940. It was still daylight and I shall not soon forget my first impression, which the neat and tidy cottages surrounded by their flower-filled gardens gave me on my drive to Government House. There before my eyes was proof most vivid that the winds and lack of sunshine were probably mythical.

The writer of the horticultural notes is a Falkland Islander, trained at Kew, who was at the time head gardener at Government House. He is, of course, an enthusiast, and as soon as the war was over and the opportunity given him, he exerted himself to the utmost to produce a flower garden which would convince anyone that horticultural possibilities in the Falkland Islands were very great. He had tremendous success, and the herbaceous borders he designed and grew would have been remarkable in any climate. The following list shows his success as a gardener and the Falkland Islands as a possible garden.

By its very nature the list cannot be complete but the author is to be congratulated, and I wish him and his little book the greatest success.

A. W. CARDINALL,

late Governor and Commander-in-Chief.



PLANTS WHICH HAVE FLOWERED SUCCESSFULLY IN GARDENS OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS.

1944.

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The object of this list is to acquaint would-be Horticulturists and also new-comers entering the Colony, with the range of flowering plants, shrubs and climbers, which can be cultivated in our gardens.

In compiling this list, it was not possible to investigate gardens outside the Stanley area, but it is believed that the list is a comprehensive one.

To the professional Horticulturist who may examine the range of flowering plants at present under cultivation, it will at first sight, appear strictly limited, but it must be remembered that there are no nursery gardens or parks in this Colony. Our gardens are mainly of the "cottage" type though with a good deal less space for purely decorative gardening than their English counterparts.

It must be admitted, however, that flowering shrubs and climbers are not given the consideration they should receive. Many more of these valuable plants should be cultivated, both for their beauty and for shelter.

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HARDY PERENNIALS.

- Achillea Ptarmic* fl. pl. (Sneezewort) Flowers Feb.-April. Requires sunny situation.
- Astroemeria aurantiaca*. (Peruvian Lily) Flowers Jan.-March. Requires sheltered position.
- Alyssum saxatile*. Flowers Dec.-April. Valuable plant for rockeries. Might also be used as an edging subject.
- Ameria formosa hybrida*. (Giant Thrift) Flowers Nov.-Feb.
- Anemone nemorosa*. (Wood Anemone) Flowers Nov.-Dec. A beautiful plant for for the rockery and wild garden.
- Aquilegia alpina*. Flowers Nov.-Jan. Deserves a place in every rockery.

- Aquilegia Canadensis*. Flowers Nov.-Jan. Ideal for massing in small beds due to its dwarf nature. Would make a suitable rock plant.
- Aquilegia hybrida*. (Columbine) Flowers Dec.-Feb. This beautiful flower makes a magnificent display when massed in beds, or in groups in the mixed border.
- Arabis alpina*. (Rock Cress) Flowers Oct.-Dec. Forms a charming edging. Valuable plant for the Rockery.
- Artemisia abrotanum*. (Southernwood) An aromatic plant suitable for the wild garden.
- Aster*. (Michaelmas Daisy) Flowers Feb.-April.
- Aubrieta deltoides*. (Rock Cress) Flowers Oct.-Feb. Best results are obtained when treated as a hardy biennial. Excellent plant for rockeries and carpet bedding.
- Bellis perennis*. (Daisy) Flowers Nov.-Feb. Most effective when massed. Suitable for the rockery.
- Campanula glomerata*. Flowers Dec.-Jan. An elegant plant for the mixed border.
- Campanula persicifolia grandiflora*. Flowers Dec.-Jan.
- Campanula rotundifolia*. (Hare-bell) Flowers Dec.-Feb. A charming plant for rockeries and the wild garden.
- Centaurea montana*. (Cornflower) Flowers Jan.-March.
- Centranthus ruber*. (Valerian) Flowers Dec.-Feb. An ideal rock plant, though quite effective in the mixed border.
- Centranthus ruber*. var. *alba*. Flowers Dec.-Feb.
- Chrysanthemum inodorum*. (Bridal Robe) A delightful plant, invaluable for the rockery.
- Chrysanthemum maximum*. Flowers Feb.-April. Forms a pleasing summer hedge. Outstanding when planted in groups in the mixed border.
- Chrysanthemum coccineum*. (Pyrethrum) Flowers Dec.-March.
- Delphinium*. Flowers Dec.-Feb. A sheltered situation is essential.
- Dianthus caryophyllus*. (Border carnation) Flowers Feb.-April. A choice plant for the mixed border.
- Dianthus deltoides*. Flowers Dec.-April. Invaluable for the rockery.
- Dianthus plumarius*. (Pink) Flowers Dec.-March. Most effective when used as an edging subject. A pleasing rock plant.
- Doronicum plantagineum*. (Leopard's Bane) Flowers Oct.-Dec. An invaluable plant because of its early flowering season.
- Erigeron speciosus*. (Midsummer Daisy) Flowers Dec.-Feb.
- Gaillardia grandiflora*. Flowers Dec.-March.
- Geum Borissii*. Flowers Dec.-March. A choice plant for the rockery.
- Helenium bigelowi*. Flowers Jan.-April. Most effective when massed in beds or borders.
- Hesperis matronalis*. (Sweet Rocket) Flowers Dec.-Feb. A suitable plant for the wild garden. Tends to become a pest if not controlled.

- Heracleum giganteum*. (Giant Parsnip) An interesting ornamental plant for the wild garden.
- Heuchera sanguinea*. Flowers Nov.-Jan. A charming plant for rockeries and mixed beds.
- Hieracium aurantiacum*. (Orange Hawkweed) Flowers Dec.-March. Ideal for the rockery and wild garden.
- Iris barbata*. (Flag) Flowers Dec.-Jan. Suitable for the mixed border.
- Lupinus polyphyllus*. Flowers Dec.-Feb. The famous Russel Lupins are included in this species.
- Malva sylvestris*. (Mallow) Flowers Dec.-March.
- Matricaria chamomilla*. (Chamomile) Flowers Dec.-March. A favourite plant for the mixed border.
- Meconopsis Baileyi*. Flowers Dec.-Feb. A most beautiful plant when massed.
- Meconopsis cambrica*. (Yellow Welsh Poppy) Flowers Nov.-Jan. An ideal plant for the wild garden. Must be kept under control.
- Mimulus moschata*. (Musk) Flowers Nov.-Jan. An invaluable plant for the rockery.
- Papaver nudicaule*. (Iceland Poppy) Flowers Dec.-March. Makes a colourful display when massed in beds. Adaptable for rockeries. A valuable bee flower.
- Papaver orientale*. (Oriental Poppy) Flowers Dec.-Feb.
- Penstemon glaber*. Flowers Jan.-April. Most effective when massed in beds.
- Polemonium coeruleum*. (Jacob's Ladder) Flowers Nov.-Feb. A valuable bee flower.
- Polygonatum multiflorum*. (Solomon's Seal) Flowers Jan.-March. An excellent plant for the mixed border.
- Primula auricula*. (Auricula) Flowers Nov.-Dec. Most effective when massed.
- Primula (veris) elatior*. (Polyanthus) Flowers Oct.-Dec.
- Primula vulgaris*. (Primrose) Flowers Oct.-Dec. A valuable plant for the rockery and wild garden.
- Salvia officinalis*. (Sage) Flowers Dec.-March. Though a culinary herb, this free flowering plant may be used in the mixed border.
- Saxifraga aizoon*. Flowers Oct.-Dec. A charming plant for rockeries.
- Saxifraga umbrosa*. (London Pride) Flowers Dec.-Feb. An ideal plant for the rock garden and odd corners.
- Scabiosa caucasica*. Flowers Jan.-April. A valuable border plant.
- Sedum acre*. (Yellow Stonecrop) Flowers Nov.-Feb. An excellent subject for rockeries and old stone walls.
- Sedum rupestre*. (Rock Stonecrop) Flowers Feb.-April.
- Sempervivum tectorum*. (House leek) Flowers Jan.-April. An interesting plant for the rockery.
- Sidalcea*. (Greek Mallow) Flowers Feb.-April. A valuable border plant. Must be situated in full sun.

Statice latifolia. Flowers Jan.-March.

Tanacetum vulgare. (Tansy) Flowers Feb.-April. An ideal subject for the wild garden.

Thymus vulgaris. (Thyme) Flowers Dec.-March. A charming plant for rockeries and edgings.

Verbascum Thapsus. (Great Mullein) Flowers Feb.-April. A choice plant for the mixed border.

Veronica repens. Flowers Nov.-Jan. A typical rock plant.

Veronica spicata. Flowers Feb.-April. A most beautiful subject for the mixed bed or border.

Viola cornuta. May be flowered from Oct.-April. Most effective when massed. Best treated as an annual.

Viola tricolor. (Pansy) May be flowered from Oct.-April. Best treated as an annual. A charming plant for rockeries.

HARDY BIENNIALS.

Anchusa italica. Flowers Dec.-Feb. Makes a magnificent display when massed.

Campanula medium. (Canterbury Bell) Flowers Jan.-March. Requires sunny sheltered position.

Cheiranthus Allionii. (Siberian Wallflower) Flowers Oct.-Dec. May also be used for late flowering if seed is sown early in spring.

Cheiranthus cheiri. (Wallflower) Flowers Oct.-Dec. An invaluable spring bedding plant.

Dianthus barbatus. (Sweet William) Flowers Dec.-March. Makes a brilliant display when massed in beds.

Digitalis gloxinoides. (Foxglove) Flowers Dec.-Feb. Invaluable for odd corners and wild gardens.

Digitalis purpureum. Flowers Dec.-Feb.

Lunaria annua. (Honesty) Flowers Dec.-Feb. An interesting plant for the mixed border and wild garden.

Myosotis dissitiflora. (Forget-me-not) Flowers Oct.-Dec. Forms a delightful edging. Excellent plant for rockeries.

HARDY ANNUALS.

Agrostemma coeli-rosa. (Rose of Heaven) Flowers Dec.-March.

Alyssum maritimum. Flowers Dec.-April. Most striking as an edging subject.

Anchusa. Flowers Feb.-April.

- Bartonia aurea.* Flowers Jan.-April. A magnificent free flowering plant of dwarf habit. Most effective when sown in groups in the mixed border. Could also be used as an edging subject.
- Borago officinalis.* (Borage) Flowers Jan.-April. An invaluable plant for the mixed border and wild garden.
- Brachycome iberidifolia.* (Swan River Daisy) Flowers Jan.-April. An attractive plant for the border and wild garden.
- Calendula officinalis.* (Marigold) May be flowered from Nov.-April. For summer flowering treat as half-hardy if best results are to be obtained.
- Centaurea americana.* Flowers Jan.-April.
- Centaurea suaveolens.* (Sweet Sultan) Flowers March-April.
- Chrysanthemum coronarium.* Flowers Dec.-April. Invaluable for the mixed border.
- Collinsia bicolor.* Flowers Jan.-April. A suitable edging plant.
- Coreopsis grandiflora.* Flowers Dec.-March.
- Dimorphotheca aurantiaca.* (Star of the veldt) Flowers Dec.-March. A charming flower for the mixed border.
- Eschscholtzia californica.* (Californian Poppy) Flowers Jan.-April. A valuable plant for the rockery.
- Gillia.* Flowers Dec.-Feb.
- Godetia.* Flowers Feb.-April. A most attractive flower when massed. To flower consistently the plant should be treated as a half-hardy annual.
- Gypsophila elegans.* Flowers Jan.-March. A graceful plant for the rockery.
- Helichrysum monstrosum.* (Everlasting Flower) Flowers Feb.-April.
- Iberis.* (Candytuft) Flowers Jan.-April.
- Lathyrus odoratus.* (Sweet Pea) Flowers Feb.-April. For best results treat as a half-hardy annual.
- Limnanthes Douglasii.* Flowers Dec.-April. Suitable plant for the rock garden. Valuable bee flower.
- Linaria.* (Toadflax) Flowers Jan.-April. Most attractive plant when planted in bold groups.
- Linum grandiflora rubrum.* (Flax) Flowers Jan.-April. A most striking plant when massed.
- Lupinus.* Flowers Feb.-April.
- Malcolmia maritima.* (Virginian Stock) Flowers Dec.-March. Forms a delightful edging. Valuable for rockeries.
- Malope rosea.* Flowers Feb.-April. A striking plant for the mixed bed or border.
- Nemophila insignis.* Flowers Dec.-March. A charming edging plant. Valuable for the rockery.
- Nigella hispanica.* (Love-in-a-mist) A most beautiful flower for the mixed bed.
- Papaver glaucum.* (Tulip Poppy) Flowers Jan.-March. Most effective when massed.

- Papaver Rhoeas.* (Shirley Poppy) Flowers Jan.-April.
- Phacelia campanularia.* Flowers mid Jan.-April. An excellent grouping subject with dwarf habit.
- Platystemon Californicus.* Flowers mid Jan.-March. A most interesting free flowering plant. Suitable for edgings.
- Reseda odorata.* (Mignonette) Flowers Jan.-March.
- Rudbeckia.* Flowers Jan.-April. A delightful plant when massed.
- Salvia horminum.* The beautiful bracts are in full colour from Feb.-April.
- Saponaria vaccaria.* Flowers Feb.-April. Requires sunny situation. Attractive bedding plant but requires a suitable base plant for best effect when massed.
- Senecio elegans.* (Jacobaea) Flowers Feb.-April.
- Tropaeolum majus nanus.* (Nasturtium) Flowers Jan.-April. Will produce an abundance of bloom when grown on poor soils. Excellent for the rockery.
- Viscaria.* Flowers Feb.-April.

HALF HARDY ANNUALS.

- Alonsoa Warscewiczii.* Flowers mid. Jan.-April. Requires a sheltered but sunny situation.
- Antirrhinum nanum.* (Snapdragon) Flowers Feb.-April. Makes a magnificent display when massed, but also effective when planted in small groups in the mixed border.
- Antirrhinum nanum compactum.* (Tom Thumb vars.) Flowers Jan.-April. Ideal for exposed situations.
- Dahlia.* (Coltness Hybrids) Flowers Jan.-March.
- Dianthus Hedewigii.* Flowers Dec.-April.
- Gaillardia picta lorenziana.* Flowers Jan.-April. Makes an attractive display when massed in beds.
- Lobelia speciosa.* Flowers Jan.-April. A charming plant for rockeries.
- Mathiola incana.* (Stock) The variety "Ten Weeks" is the most satisfactory and popular. Makes a magnificent display when massed in beds.
- Mesembryanthemum crinitiflorum.* (Livingstone Daisy) Flowers Dec.-March. A beautiful plant. Excellent for ribbon planting and rockeries. Requires a position in full sun.
- Mesembryanthemum tricolor.* Flowers Dec.-March.
- Nemesia strumosa.* Flowers Jan.-April. A dwarf free flowering plant suitable for massing.
- Petunia nana compacta.* Flowers Jan.-April. Most effective when massed. Also adaptable for the rockery.
- Tagetes patula.* (French Marigold) Flowers Jan.-March. Ideal for massing.

BULBS.

- Chionodoxa*. (Glory of the Snow) Flowers Sept.-Oct. A dainty little plant for the rockery.
- Crocus luteus*. Flowers Sept.-Oct.
- Crocus vernus*. Flowers Sept.-Oct.
- Galanthus nivalis*. (Snowdrop) Flowers Sept.-Oct. A most delightful plant for rockeries.
- Hyacinthus orientalis*. (Hyacinth) Flowers Jan.-March. Makes an attractive bed when massed.
- Lilium Hansonii*. Flowers Jan.-March. Outstanding when planted in groups in the mixed perennial border.
- Muscari racemosum*. (Grape Hyacinth) Flowers Oct.-Nov. A most attractive plant for the rockery.
- Narcissus Jonquilla*. (Jonquil) Flowers Nov.-Jan.
- Narcissus Pseudo-narcissus*. (Daffodil) Flowers Oct.-Nov.
- Tulipa gesneriana*. (Tulip) Flowers Dec.-Feb.

SHRUBS AND CLIMBERS.

- Berberis Aquifolium*. (Barberry) Flowers Oct.-Jan. A most beautiful flowering shrub. Should be grown as a single specimen.
- Berberis aristata*. Flowers Nov.-Jan. Should make a good hedge subject. Effective when grouped.
- Berberis vulgaris*. Flowers Nov.-Dec.
- Cotoneaster horizontalis*. A striking evergreen, bearing a profusion of red berries during the late autumn.
- Cytisus scoparius andreanus*. (Broom : Crimson and Gold) Flowers Dec.-Feb. A magnificent display of colour when massed.
- Cytisus scoparius*. (Common Broom) Flowers Nov.-Jan.
- Euonymus europaeus*. (Spindle Tree) Under trial, but appears to be quite successful.
- Fuchsia corallina*. Flowers Jan.-April. This would make a fine specimen plant. Could also be used for hedges.
- Genista andreana*. (Broom) Flowers Dec.-Feb. Invaluable because of its dwarf habit.
- Hedera dentata*. (Ivy) An invaluable climber for covering old walls and fences.
- Ilex Aquifolium*. (Holly) An ornamental shrub. Most effective as a single specimen.
- Laburnum vulgare*. (Golden Chains) Flowers Dec.-Jan. Though not classified as a shrub, this small tree would make an attractive specimen for lawns and gardens.

- Lonicera Periclymenum.* (Honeysuckle) Flowers Jan.-April.
- Lupinus aboreus.* (Tree Lupin) Flowers Dec.-March. Will grow almost anywhere and make a brilliant display of colour.
- Phormium tenax.* (New Zealand Flax) This is a most interesting plant which might be used effectively. Flowers every third or fourth year.
- Pyracantha Leylandii.* (Fire Thorn) On trial. Successful when grown in partial shelter.
- Pyrus Aucuparia.* (Mountain Ash) Though the plant does not appear to flower and fruit consistently, it is valuable because of its beautiful autumn foliage. Requires a sheltered situation.
- Ribes magellanica.* (Coast Currant) A valuable hedge subject for boundaries of large gardens.
- Ribes sanguineum.* (Flowering Currant) Flowers Sept.-Nov. A most attractive shrub. Should be grown in sheltered situations for best results.
- Rosa.* (Briar Rose) Flowers Dec.-Feb. Several briars are under cultivation and are invaluable for the wild garden.
- Sambucus nigra.* (Common Elder) Flowers Dec.-Feb. A fast growing plant. Makes an excellent windbreak for large gardens.
- Sambucus nigra var. albo variegata.* The variegations of the leaves are most striking. Effective when grouped.
- Sambucus.* (Oaked Leaved) A slow growing species which could be used for specimen planting because of its fine cut foliage.
- Spartium junceum.* (Spanish Broom) Flowers Feb.-April. Invaluable as a late flowering subject for the shrubbery.
- Veronica elliptica.* (Box) Flowers Dec.-Jan. This plant is extensively used for hedges, but might be used advantageously as a single specimen.
- Veronica speciosa.* Flowers Dec.-Feb. Is not quite so hardy, and does not form such a close hedge as *V. elliptica*, but it is considered to be the more striking of the two.
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A COMPARISON BETWEEN THE CLIMATE OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS AND THAT OF THE SHETLAND ISLANDS.

In the Northern hemisphere we must go the Farøes to find conditions which are in any way comparable with those of Stanley.

They are believed to have a natural plant growth in many ways similar to that of the Falklands. But in the absence of complete Meteorological statistics a comparative table of data for Lerwick in the Shetlands, which is the closest station to the Farøes, may be of interest.

The extracts refer only to the spring and summer months, the seasons which are of greatest importance when considering plant growth.

Stanley has an advantage over the Shetlands in the matter of bright sunshine. As might be expected from its latitude, it receives a quota of sunshine which is comparable with Kew - 20% more than Lerwick. But this is Stanley's only claim to a climate which compares with that of the South of England and in all other respects it is inferior to that of the Shetlands.

Perhaps the best known of the dangers to young plants is frost. Statistics of ground frost are not available but it will be noticed that the average monthly minimum temperature for Stanley is never more than 1° F. above freezing point, even in midsummer, while at Lerwick it is always above 36° F. except during April - the first spring month, and at midsummer it rises to 42° F. Hence, except during April, ground frosts must be comparatively rare at Lerwick while at Stanley they can be experienced even at midsummer.

It is interesting to note that April, the coldest spring month in Lerwick, has a mean daily temperature which is higher than the corresponding temperatures at midsummer in Stanley. The extreme minimum (21° F.) shown for Lerwick is 5° below that indicated for Stanley, but there is little doubt that, if a longer series of observations were available for Stanley, this situation would be reversed.

Stanley almost certainly escapes the worst frosts in the Falklands, which will occur inland in sheltered, low-lying areas.

At first sight Lerwick appears to be almost as windy as Stanley, but observations at Stanley were estimated from a sheltered position in the town while wind speeds at Lerwick were taken from an anemometer 310 feet above sea level, with an effective height of 39 feet. There is little doubt that the mean speeds for Stanley should be increased by about 5 m.p.h. before comparing them with averages for Lerwick. Moreover, Lerwick, in common with all other stations in the British Isles, shows a maximum of strong winds in the winter and a minimum in summer, while Stanley shows very little variation throughout the year and the mean speed for spring and summer is above the average for the year.

SPRING AND SUMMER MONTHS.

	Month	Max. Temp.	Mean daily.		Mean monthly.		Extreme.		pation metres.	Rel. Hlty.	Cloud amt.	Sun-shine hours.	Mean wind speed m.p.h.	
			Max.	Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.	Min.						
STANLEY [Oct. 31 - Mch. 30] Annual Range Sea Temp. = 39 - 48°F. Spring & Summer	Oct.	43	48	34	58	28	64	26	1.4	77	6.4	5.4	17	
	Nov.	46	52	37	30	62	67	26	2.2	72	5.1	5.9	16	
	Dec.	47	53	38	32	63	71	29	2.9	71	6.0	5.7	15	
	Jan.	51	56	40	33	68	74	31	3.1	74	6.9	5.4	14	
	Feb.	51	55	40	33	65	74	30	2.8	77	6.6	5.9	16	
	Mch.	48	53	39	32	62	64	29	2.6	77	6.7	4.8	17	
	Spring & Summer	48	53	38	31	63	74	26	2.5	75	6.4	5.5	16	
	LERWICK Annual Range Sea Temp. 46 - 53°F. Spring & Summer	Apr.	41	45	41	29	52	62	21	2.3	84	7.3	4.2	17
		May	45	49	45	36	57	66	27	2.1	82	7.2	5.0	15
		June	49	53	49	38	62	70	33	1.8	85	7.5	5.5	15
July		53	57	53	42	63	71	37	2.3	86	7.7	4.4	12	
Aug.		53	57	53	42	63	71	38	3.0	86	7.7	3.8	12	
Sept.		51	54	51	39	61	69	32	3.0	86	7.4	3.7	15	
Spring & Summer		49	53	49	38	60	72	21	2.4	85	7.5	4.4	14	
KEW		Apr.	47	55	40	31	67	80	26	1.5	62	6.5	4.9	9
		May	55	63	46	35	75	87	30	1.7	61	6.1	6.4	8
		June	59	68	51	42	80	88	37	2.1	60	6.4	6.8	7
	July	63	71	55	47	82	90	43	2.2	60	6.6	6.3	7	
	Aug.	62	70	54	45	81	94	41	2.2	61	6.6	5.9	7	
	Sept.	57	65	50	38	75	92	31	1.9	65	5.8	4.9	6	
Spring & Summer	57	65	49	40	77	94	26	1.9	62	6.3	5.9	7		

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