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## Foreword

With one or two exceptions all dahlias on the market today are what are known as “garden dahlias,” a name applied originally to the various kinds of wild flowers native to Mexico.

Shrinking the page a bit, we might guess that there are twenty or more varieties of ordinary garden flowers that have been given names by florists and nursery owners. We might also guess that most of our wild flowers are named in the same way. The name of a wild flower is usually given to the flower itself and not to the plant. The plant itself might be called by the name of the genus, but the true name of the flower is given in the name of the species. Thus we have a garden flower called the rose, which is grown in all parts of the world, and a wild flower called the rose, which grows only in the mountains of the Rocky Mountains. The wild rose is the flower of the species Rosa palustris, and the garden rose is the flower of the species Rosa chinensis. The two flowers are very similar, but they are different in many respects. The wild rose is a much larger flower, and it is more fragrant. It is also more showy, and it has a longer blooming season. The garden rose is a smaller flower, and it is not as fragrant. It is also not as showy, and it has a shorter blooming season.

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