

WILDWOOD FLOWER

Old-Time and Bluegrass Song by J. P. Webster and Maud Irving; **DATE:** 1859; **CATEGORY:** Early Country and Bluegrass Songs; **RECORDING INFO:** Joan Baez; Norman Blake; Carter Family; Roy Clark; Flatt & Scruggs; New Lost City Ramblers; Stanley Brothers; Keith Whitley & Ricky Skaggs; **OTHER NAMES:** I'll Twine Mid the Ringlets; Frail Wildwood Flower; **NOTES:** Autoharpist Sara Carter sang lead when the Carter Family made "Wildwood Flower" the #3 hit in the nation in 1928. As a parlor tune, the piece went back at least to 1859, as Maud Irving's "I'll Twine Midst the Ringlets." Music historian Charles Wolfe hears "The Pale Amaryliss" entangled in it as well. The actual flower (aronatas) has never been identified.

Oh I'll twine with my ringlets of waving black hair
 with the roses so red and the lilies so fair
 and the myrtle so bright with the emerald hue and the
 pale aronatus with eyes of bright blue.

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G **D** **G**
 Oh, I'll twine with my ringlets of waving black hair
D **G**
 With the roses so red and the lilies so fair
C **G**
 And the myrtles so bright with emerald hue
D **G**
 And the pale aronatus with eyes of bright blue.

Oh, I'll dance, I will sing and my laugh shall be gay
 I will charm ev'ry heart, in his crown I will sway
 When I woke from my dreaming, idols were clay
 All portions of love then had all flown away.

Oh, he taught me to love him and promised to love
 And to cherish me over all others above
 How my heart now is wond'ring misery can tell
 He's left me no warning, no words of farewell.

Oh, he taught me to love him and called me his flow'r
 That was blooming to cheer him through life's dreary hour
 Oh, I'm longing to see him through life's dark hour
 He's gone and neglected this pale wildwood flower.