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A Case Study

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Study on herbaceous perennials of Kashmir valley for landscape use

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ABSTRACT: The present investigation on the study on herbaceous perennials of Kashmir valley for landscape use were conducted in three districts of Kashmir valley. For this purpose four representative sites were selected and observations on prominent characteristic *viz.*, type of inflorescence, flower size, flower shape, fragrance, flower colour as per (RHS colour chart) foliage colour, foliage texture and landscape use were recorded by making exploratory trips to these sites. The study revealed a large number of ornamental bulbous plants growing satisfactorily in this environment and producing a majestic display in gardens from early spring until late fall.

KEY WORDS: Ground cover, Landscaping, Herbaceous perennials

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ulbous plants are grown mainly for their decorative and sometimes fragrant flowers. They add beauty and interest to the landscape. Different types of bulbs offer variation in form, fragrance, colour and lasting display. Bulb make perfect partners for specimen trees with deep roots and deciduous canopies. The flowers of bulbs can complement a trees's habit effectively. White flowered bulbs mirror the white blossom of ornamental cherries (prunus) the crisp shape of crocuses echo the chalice form of magnolia blooms, and bulbs with pendent flowers imitate the habit of weeping tree (Brickell, 1996). Bulbs do wounders in the foreground of shrubbery, blend in beautifully with a woodland scene, liven up any border, and some can even compete with turf if their foliage is always allowed to ripen before the grass is mowed. Foliage is one of the greatest importance in perennials as well as their shape and size colour comes to the fore an it is all too seldom appreciated by gardners that to arrange plants according to the colour of their flowers (Kelly and Hiller, 1995). All these features of 53 bulbous plants in the landscape were studied in the present investigation.

RESEARCH METHODS

The present studies were conducted during the year

2006-07,through 2008-2009 in Srinagar, Gulmarg,Sonmarg and Kokernag areas of the Kashmir valley. In the present studies survey and identification of native and introduced bulbous plants of ornamental value were made and observations on prominent characteristics related to floristic and landscape use of different species were recorded by making exploratory trips to the following sites of Kashmir valley (a) Srinagar (Barzulla, sheikh bagh, Sonwar,Gupkar, Shankarcharja Hills, Zabarwan Hills, Dachigam, Nishat, Shalimar, Chesmashahi, Telbal Hazratbal, Naseem bagh (b) Sonmarg (Sonmarg, Thajwas (c) Gulmarg (Gulmarg, Tangmarg, Baba Reshi) (d) Kokernagh (kokernagh, Wagan, Sagam).

RESEARCH FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Fifty three bulbous species growing in the surveyed areas were evaluated for types of inflorescence, flower size, flower shape, fragrance, foliage colour, foliage texture. Flower colour (as per RHS colour chart) and landscape use growing in the surveyed areas are depicted in Table 1, 2, 3 and 4.

Data present in Table 1 revealed that out of fifty three bulbous plants evaluated for their type of inflorescence, fourteen species were having solitary inflorescence. Twelve bulbous species were found to have raceme type of

Sr.	Scientific name	Common name	Family	Type of	Flower	Flower	Flower
No.	Se leneme name	Common name	•	inflorescence	size (cm)	shape	fra grance
1.	Alstroemeria aurantiaca	Peruvianlily	Alstroemeriaceae	Umbel	8	Funnel	Moderate
2.	Amaryllis belladonna	Belladonnalily	Amaryllidaceae	Umbel	20	Funnel	Strong
3.	Anemone biflora	Wind flower	Ranunculaceae	Cluster	3	Saucer	-
4.	Anemone x hybrida	Japansese anemone	Ranunculaceae	Cluster	9	Saucer	-
5.	Begonia evansiana	Begonia	Begoniaceae	Cyme	3.5	Star	-
6.	Begonia x Semperflorens	Fibrous rooted Begonia	Begoniaceae	Cyme	3.5	Star	-
7.	Begonia x tuberhybrida	Multiflora and pendula begonices	Begoniaceae	Cyme	4	Star	-
8.	Belamcanda chinensis	Blackberry lily/Leopard lily	Iridaceae	Solitary	4	Cup	-
9.	Canna indica	India shot canna	Cannaceae	Raceme	7	Trumped	-
10.	Clivia miniata	Kaffir lily	Amaryllidaceae	Umbel	3	Trumped	Moderate
11.	Colchicum luteum	Autumn crocus/naked ladies	Ranunculaceae	Flower Head	3	Goblet	-
12.	Crocosmia masoniorum	Montretia	Iridaceae	S pi kelets	1	Funnel	-
13.	Crocus chrysanthus	Winter crocus	Iridaceae	Solitary	4.5	Cup	-
14.	Crocus sativus	Saffron crocus	Iridaceae	Solitary	5	Cup	-
15.	Dahlia variablis	Dahlia	Compositial	Flower Head	20	Pompon	-
16.	Eranthis hyemalis	Winter a conite	Ranunculaceae	Solitary	3	Cup	Moderate
17.	Eremurus himalaicus	Desert candle/foxtail lily	Asphodelaceae	Raceme	2.5	Star	-
18.	Fressia X hybrida	Fressia	Iridaceae	Raceme	5	Funnel	Strong
19.	Fritillaria imperialis	Crown imperial	Liliaceae	Umbel	8	Bell	Strong
20.	Gagea elegans	Yellow star of Bethelem	Liliaceae	Cluster	2	Star	-
21.	Galanthus nivalis	Common snowdrop	Amaryllidaceae	Solitary	1	Bell	-
22.	Gladiolus by zanthus	Gladioli	Iridaceae	S pi kelets	5	Funnel	Strong
23.	Gloriosa rothschildiana	Glory or climbing lily	Colchicaceae	Solitary	9	Slipper	-
24.	Hemerocal lis flava	Common yellow Day lily	Hemerocallidaceae	Solitary	10	Trumpet	-
25.	Hippeastrum puniceum	Gaint Amarylli's	Amaryllidaceae	umbel	15	Funnel	-
26.	Hyacinthus orientalis	Sommon Hyacinth	Hycinthaceae	Raceme	2.5	Bell	Strong
27.	Iris ensata	Blue flag/Japanese Iris	Iridaceae	S pi kelets	13	Slipper	-
28.	Iris germanica	German Iris/Tall Bearded Iris	Iridaceae	Spikelets	10	Slipper	-
29.	Iris 'Gingerbread Man'	Iris	Iridaceae	spikelets	6	Slipper	-
30.	Iris japonica	Iris	Iridaceae	S pi kelets	5	Slipper	-
31.	Iris kashmeriana	Iris	Iridaceae	spikelets	10	Slipper	-
32.	Iris reticulata	Spanish Iris	Iridaceae	S pi kelets	5	Slipper	Strong
33.	Iris tectorum	Roof Iris	Iridaceae	spikelets	8	Slipper	-
34.	Iris unguicularis	Iris	Iridaceae	S pi kelets	7	Slipper	Moderate
35.	Ixiolirion karateginum	Iiolirion	Amaryllidaceae	Raceme	5	Funnel	_
36.	Le ucojum aestivum	Snow flaxe	Amaryllidaceae	Solitary	4	Bell	Moderate
37.	Lilium auratum	Gold band lily	Liliaceae	Raceme	30	Bowl	Moderate
38.	Lilium canidum	Madonna lily	Liliaceae	Raceme	5	Trumpet	Moderate
39.	Lilium longiflorum	Easter lily/White trumpet lily	Liliaceae	Raceme	6	Trumpet	Strong
40.	Lycoris radiata	Red spider lily	Amaryllidaceae	Umbel	1	Tubular	-
41.	Muscari armeniacum	Grape Hyacinth	Hycinthaceae	Raceme	0.5	Tubular	_
42.	Narcissus pseudonacissus	Trumpet narcissus	Amaryllidaceae	Solitary	4	Trumpet	-
43.	Narcissus tazetta	Polyanthers narcissus	Amaryllidaceae	Solitary	4	Trumpet	Moderate
44.	Nerine bowdenii	Spider lily	Amaryllidaceae	Umbel	8	Funnel	Moderate
45.	Ornithogalum umbellatum	Star of Bethlehem	Hycinthaceae	Raceme	2	Star	_
46.	Scilla bifolia	Blue bell/Squill	Hycinthaceae	Raceme	4	Star	_
47.	Scilla siberica	Siberian Squill	Hycinthaceae	Raceme	1.5	Saucer	_
48.	Sprekelia formosissima	Jacobean lily/Aztec lily	Amaryllidaceae	Solitary	12	Star	_
49.	Sternbergia lutea	Autumn Daffodil	Amaryllidaceae	Solitary	4	Funnel	-
50.	Tulipa Clusiana	Lady tulip	Liliaceae	Solitary	5	Goblet	-
51.	Tulipa lanata	Mughul tulip	Liliaceae	Solitary	4	Goblet	-
51. 52.	•	• •		•			-
52. 53.	Zantedeschia aethiopica Zanteeschia elliottiana	Arum lily/Calla of gardeners Golden Arun/Golden calla	Araceae Araceae	Spathe Spathe	25 15	Funnel Funnel	-

Table 2: Flower colour recoreded as per RHS colour chart								
Sr. No.	Name of Species	Flower Colour						
1.	Alstroemeria aurantiaca	Fuchsine Pink-627/2						
2.	Amaryllis belladonna	Persian Rose -628/2						
3.	Anemone biflora	White + Magenta -27/3						
4.	Anemone x hybrida	Pure white						
5.	Begonia evansiana	Magenta -27/3						
6. 7.	Begonia x Semperflorens	Blood Red -802/7 Magenta -27/2						
7. 8.	Begonia x tuberhybrida Belamcanda chinensis	Mandarian Red- 17 with sports						
		of cadmium orange – 8/2 base						
9. 10.	Canna indica Clivia miniata	Vermilion -18 Nasturtium Red -14/1						
10.	Cilvia miniaia Colchicum luteum	Butter Cup Yellow -5						
12.	Crocosmia masoniorum	Delft Rose -020/1						
13.	Crocus chrysanthus	Butter Cup Yellow -5						
14.	Crocus sativus	Campanula violet-37/1						
15.	Dahlia vari ablis	Multi colored						
16.	Eranthis hvemalis	Lemon Yellow-4/1						
17.	Eremurus himalaicus	Canary Yellow -2/3						
18.	Fressia x hybrida	-						
19.	Fritillaria imperialis	Orpiment Orange - 10/1						
20.	Gagea elegans	Sulphur yellow-1/3/						
21.	Galanthus nivalis	Pure white with inner Tepals nickle green -57 tipped						
22.	Gladiolus byzanthus	Rhodanine purple-29						
23.	Gloriosa rothschildiana	Cherry-72 with lemon yellow-4/2 streaks						
24.	Hemeroc alli s flava	Lemon yellow-4						
25.	Hippeastrum puniceum	Dutch vermillion-717						
26.	Hyacinthus orientalis	Spectrum Blue-41/						
27.	Iris ensata	Wistaria Blue-640						
28.	Iris germanica	Hyacinth Blue-40/1						
29.	Iris" Ginge rbread Man"	Garnet Brown 00919						
30.	Iris japanica	White with Blue bird Blue- 042/2 margins						
31.	Iris Kashmeriana	Campanula violet-37/2						
32.	Iris reticulata	Hyacinth Blue- 40						
33.	Iris tectorum	Campanula violet-37						
34.	Iris unguicularis	Veronica violet-639/1 Lobelia Blue-41/3						
35.	Ixioliri on Karateginum							
36. 37.	Leucojum aestivum Lilium auratum	Pure white White tepals with central						
		Golden band						
38.	Lilium candidum	Pure white						
39. 40	Lilium longiflorum	White						
40. 41.	Lycoris radiata Muscari armeniacum	Scarlet- 19/1 Lobelia Blue-41						
41.	Narcissus pseudonacissus	Yellowish cream						
43.	Narcissus pseudonacissus Narcissus tazetta	Cream						
44.	Ornithogalum umbel latum	Pure white with Agathia green-						
	-	60/3 base						
45. 46	Scilla bifolia	Dahlia Purple -931/3						
46. 47.	Scilla siberica Sprekelia formosissima	Spectrum Blue -45/1 Scarlet -19						
47.	Sprekeua jormosissima Sternbergia lutea	Lemon yellow						
46. 49.	Tulipa Clusiana	White with Tyrian Rose-24/3						
50.	•	streaked						
50. 51.	Tulipa lanata Zantadasahia aethiopica	Jasper Red-018						
51. 52.	Zantedeschia aethiopica Zantedeschia elli otti anaA	Pure white Aureolin-3						

Table	3 : Foliage characteristic	es of Bulbous plant	s for landscape
Sr. No.	Bulbous plants	Foliage colour	Foliage texture
1.	Alstroemeria	Grey green	Smooth
2	auranti aca	Midaman	Elachy
2. 3.	Amaryllis belladonna Anemone biflora	Mid green Mid green	Fleshy Soft
3. 4.	Anemone X hybrida	Mid green	Soft
5.	Begonia evansiana	Dark green above	Glossy
	8	and reddish on	
	D	lower surface	Classes
6.	Begonia x Semperflorens	Pale green	Glossy
7.	Begonia x tuberhybrida	Reddish green	Rough and fleshy
8.	Belamcanda chinensis	Mid Green	Smooth
9.	Canna indica	Dark green often	Smooth
		broze tinted	
10.	Clivia miniata	Mid green	Fleshy
11.	Colchicum luteum	Mid green	fleshy
12.	Crocosmia masoniorum	Mid green	Rough
13.	Crocus chrysanthus	Pale green with	Smooth
		pale silvery green	
14.	Crocus sativus	central strips Pale green	Smooth
15.	Dahlia variablis	Green	Pubescent
16.	Eranthis hyemalis	Dark green	Rough
17.	Eremurus himalaicus	Dark green	Smooth
18.	Fressia X hybrida	Mid green	Smooth
19.	Fritillaria imperialis	Mid Green	Smooth
20.	Gagea elegans	Mid green	Smooth
21.	Galanthus nivalis	Bluish green	Soft
22.	Gladiolus by zanthus	Dark green	Smooth
23.	Gloriosa rothschildiana	Dark green	Gloosy
24. 25.	Hemerocal lis flava	Dark bluish green	Smooth
25. 26.	Hippeastrum puniceum Hyacinthus orientalis	Mid green Dark green	Smooth Fleshy
27.	Iris ensata	Mid green	Smooth
28.	Iris germanica	Grey green	Smooth
29.	Iris 'Gingerbread Man'	Dark green	Gloosy
30.	Iris japonica	Dark green	Gloosy
31.	Iri s kashmeriana	Dark green	Smooth
32.	Iris reticulata	Mid green	Smooth
33.	Iris tectorum	Dark green	Glossy
34.	Iris unguicularis	Mid green	Rough
35.	Iiolirion karateginum	Mid green	Smooth
36. 37.	Leucojum aestivum	Dark green	Gloosy
38.	Lilium auratum Lilium canidum	Dark green Dark green	Gloosy Gloosy
39.	Lilium longiflorum	Mid green	Smooth
40.	Lycoris radiata	Dark green	Smooth and
		-	fleshy
41.	Muscari armeniacum	Mid green	Rough
42.	Narcissus	Bluish green	Soft
	pseudonacissus		
43.	Narcissus tazetta	Mid green	Soft
44.	Nerine bowdenii	Dark green	Smooth and
45.	Ornithogalum umbollatum	Mid green	fleshy Soft
46.	umbellatum Scilla bifolia	Dark green	Smooth
47.	Scilla siverica	Dark green	Smooth
48.	Sprekelia formosissima	Dark green	Smooth
49.	Sternbergia lutea	Mid green	Smooth
50.	Tulipa Clusiana	Mid green	Soft
51.	Tulipa lanata	Grey green	Soft
52.	Zantedeschia aethiopica	Dark green	Glossy
53.	Zanteeschia elliottiana	Dark green	Rough

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Table	e 4 : Lands cape use of bulbou	ıs plants									
Sr. No.	Scientific name	Beds	Borders	Pathways	Woodlands	Rock garden	Companion plant	Ground cover	Specimen plant	Back- drop	Pots
1.	Alstroemeria aurantiaca	•	√				•	•	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	•	
2.	Amaryllis belladonna		✓								
3.	Anemone biflora	\checkmark	✓								
4.	Anemone X hybrida	✓	✓								
5.	Begonia evansiana	\checkmark	✓		✓						
6.	Begonia X Semperflorens	✓	✓								
7.	Begonia X tuberhybrida	✓	✓								
8.	Belamcanda chinensis		✓			✓					
9.	Canna indica	✓	✓								
10.	Clivia miniata	✓	✓								
11.	Colchicum luteum	✓						✓			
12.	Crocosmia masoniorum		✓								
13.	Crocus chrysanthus	✓	✓			✓					✓
14.	Crocus sativus	✓	✓			✓					
15.	Dahlia vari ablis	✓							✓		
16.	Eranthis hyemalis	✓						✓			
17.	Eremurus himalaicus		✓								✓
18.	Fressia X hybrida		✓								
19.	Fritillaria imperialis	✓	✓		✓	✓					
20.	Gagea elegans	✓			✓	✓					
21.	Galanthus nivalis		✓		✓	✓					
22.	Gladiolus byzanthus		✓								
23.	Gloriosa rothschildiana	✓									
24.	Heme rocallis flava		✓		✓	✓					
25.	Hippeastrum puniceum		✓								
26.	Hyacinthus orientalis	✓									
27.	Iris ensata		✓			✓					
28.	Iris germanica		✓			✓					✓
29.	Iris 'Gingerbread Man'		✓			✓					
30.	Iris unguicularis		✓			✓					✓
31.	Iris kashmeriana		✓			✓					
32.	Iris reticulate		✓			✓					
33.	Iris tectorum		✓			✓					
34.	Iris japonica	\checkmark	✓			✓					✓
35.	Ixioliri on karateginum	\checkmark									
36.	Leucojum aestvum							✓			
37.	Li lium auratum		✓		✓	✓					
38.	Li lium c and idum		✓		✓	✓					
39.	Li lium long iflorum		✓		✓	✓					
40.	Lyc or is radiate		✓			✓					
41.	Narcissus pseudonarcissus		✓		✓	✓					
42.	Narcissus tazetta		✓		✓	✓					
43.	Nerine bowdenii			✓		✓					
44.	Muscari armeniacum	\checkmark				✓					
45.	Ornithogalum umbelatum	\checkmark				✓		✓			
46.	Scilla bifolia	✓	✓								
47.	Scilla siberica	✓	✓								
48.	Sprekelia formosissima		✓								
49.	Sternbergia lutea		✓		✓	✓					
50.	Tulipa Clusiana	✓	✓		✓						
51.	Tulipa Lanata	✓	✓		✓						
52	Zantedeschia aethiopica	✓			✓						
53.	Zantedeschia elliottiana	✓	-		✓						

inflorescence. Spike type of inflorescence was found in ten bulbous plants. Umbel type of inflorescence was present in seven bulbous plants. Three species of Begonia were having cymes type of inflorescence. Amemone biflorea, Anemone x hybrida and Gagea elegans were having cluster type of inflorescence.

Zantedeschia aethiopica and Z. elliothiana have spathe type of inflorescence whereas flower head type of inflorescence is present in Dahlia variablis and Colchicum luteum.

Funnel shaped flowers were recoreded in eleven bulbous plant species as in Alstroemeria aurantiaca and Crocosmia masoniorum. Nine species produced slipper shape flowers as in Gloriosa rothschiliana, Iris germanica, I. Joponica. Star shaped flowers were observed in seven species as Eremurus himalaicus, Gagea elegans. Trumpet shaped flowers were observe in seven species as in Canna indica and Clivia miniata cup shaped flowers were observed in Belamcanda chinensis, Crocus chrysanthus, C. sativus and Eranthis hyemalis. Bell shaped flowers were produced by Fritillaria imperialis, Galanthus nivalis, Hyacinthis orientalis and Leucajum aestuvum saucer shaped flowers were observed in Tulipa clusiana, Muscari armeniacum and Lycoris radicata. Dahlia variablis produced pompon shaped flower Lilium auratum bowl shaped flowers. These features such as type of inflorescence, size, shape can be used by designers to generate the character of a landscape.

Fragrance of flowers was recorded by smelling for common man interested in gardening. Sweet fragrance makes the environment solaceous and pervades the whole atmosphere in the cool of a summer's evening which after all, is the most pleasant time for relaxation in the garden, this wonderful sweet fragrance happily enriches the mellowing dusk for many meters aroud. The addition of fragrance to the other natural attributes of a plant add to its value as a garden plant. Persual of Table 1 further depicts that out of fifty three bulbous plants evaluated for fragrance of their flowers, six flowers had strong scented fragrance as in case of Amarylis belladonna, Fressia x hydrida, Hyacinthus orientalis. Moderate smelling flowers were found in nine species as Alstroemeria aurantiaca, Clivia miniiata, Leucojum aestivum. Colour in plants is normally thought of as flower or fruit colour because those are the most striking, foliage likewise have colour of considerable range. In the present studies the foliage colour of species was recorded and has been depicted in Table 1. Twenty two species were having dark green colour with Begonia evensiana having dark colour above and reddish on lower surface. Twenty one species were having mid green leaves as Anemone species. Three species namely Alstroemeria aurantiaca, Iris germanica and Tulipa lanata Produced grey green leaves. Pale green coloured foliage was noticed in Begonia semperflorens, Crocus sativus and Crocus chrysanthus. Bluish green foliage was produced by three species viz., Galanthus nivalis, Narcissus pseudonarcissus with Hemerocallis flava having dark bluish green foliage. Reddish green foliage was observed in only one species namely Begonia x tuberhybrida. The foliage texture refers to the surface structure. Appreciable differences in foliage texture was noticed in bulbous plant species. Various textures such as soft, smooth, rough, pubescent, tomentose, glossy, fleshy and prickly were recorded. The investigation reveals that out of fifty three bulbous plant species, twenty four plants were valued for their smooth texture as Alstroemeria aurantiaca, Belamcanda chinensis, Canna indica. The plants were valued for their glossy texture like Iris japonica, Zantedeschla aethiopica. Eight plants were valued for their soft texture such as Amemone x hydvrida, Anemone biflora and Galanthus nivalis. Six species were valued for their rough texture with Begonia x tuberhybrida having rough fleshy texture. Four species namely Amaryllis belladonna, Clivia miniata, Hyacinthus orientalis, Colchicum luteum had thick and fleshy foliage. Pubescent foliage was noticed in one specie namely Dahlia variablis. Color is an important component in landscape design and the major contribution is of flowers. The floral colours are more appealing than manmade ones. The range of colours obtained in flowers is very vast. In the present study the flower colour was recorded with RHS (Royal Horticulture Society) colour charts to ensure as much uniformity of result as possible and is depicted in Table 2. Landscape today is more important than ever before as the highways, parks and banks of lakes/rivers become more crowded. Beautiful places and quite retreats where people can relax and enjoy nature become more essential. The planting of landscape plant is an easy and effective way to increase the beauty of tourist sites some uses of bulbous plants is listed below as.

Beds:

Among fifty three bulbous plants twenty- six species (Anemone biflora, A × hydria, Begonia evansiana, Canna indica, Clivia minita) are suitable for growing in beds.

Borders:

Out of fifty –three bulbous species evaluated for various landscape uses, it was observed that forty bulbs (Alstroemeria aurantiaca, Belamcanda chinensis, Crocosmia masonorum) are best suited for use in borders.

Pathways:

It was observed that among bulbous plants Nerine bowdenii and Lycoris radiata are suitable for growing against pathways

Rock garden:

Twenty-three Bulbous plants (Crocus chrysanthus, C. sativus, Fritillaria imperialis, Galanthus nivalis are best suited for rock gardens.

Specimen plant:

Dahlia variables was observed to be suitable for growing as specimen plants.

Pots:

Flowering pots add charm and beauty to landscape design. Among forty-eight bulbous plants, five species (Crocus chrysanthus, Ermurus hemalaicus, Iris germanica, Iris unguicularis, Iris japonica) were suitable for growing in pots.

Ground covers:

Out of fifty three bulbous plants four plants can serve

as ground covers (Colchicum luteum, Eranthis hycmalis, Leucojum aeslirum, Ornithogalum umbelalum).

Conclusion:

The investigation out of 53 bulbous plants, 34 species were having spread upto 15 cm; 3 species between 16-30 cm and 6 species >30 cm.

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