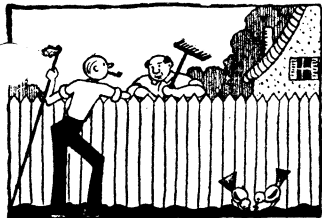


THE GARDEN SPRAY



BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

MEMBER—MEN'S GARDEN CLUBS OF AMERICA
MINNESOTA STATE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

Volume 5
Number 11
Jack Cohen, Editor

December 1947
Associate Editors
Ed Montgomery, Victor Lowrie

DECEMBER MEETING

Date: Tuesday, December 16, 1947

Place: Fountain Terrace,
Medical Arts Building

Time: 6:00 P.M.

Dinner: Baked tenderloin steak

Price: \$2.15 per person

SPECIAL FEATURES

Dinner on the Terrace; meeting in the Fountain Room. Special decorations; flowers for the ladies. Pictures of members' gardens.

Speaker: Mr. C. Eugene Pfister, Chicago, Past President, Men's Garden Clubs of America; Rosarian for M.G.A.; Member Board of Director, United Horticulture. Subject: Your Garden and Roses.

You'll enjoy meeting and hearing Mr. Pfister. And you'll see some of the slides of his own large rose garden. Maybe you'll see your own picture!

Officers

Harold R. Kaufmann,
President
H. W. Bishop,
Vice-President
R. J. Dufourd,
Secretary
A. H. Flack,
Treasurer
G. G. Cerney,
Retiring President

Office of the Secretary

5020 Second Avenue So.
Minneapolis 9

THE OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis
extend the Season's Greetings
and best wishes for a happy

gardening year

37 SPEECHES IN TWO HOURS!

The Bull Session of the November meeting was a give-and-take affair all the way through on the most thrilling garden experience of 1947. Everyone called on was asked to give his most interesting experience of the year and an attentive, courteous audience listened intently for several hours to learn how the other fellow did it. So here goes a brief report on the last meeting. (Note: Some of you fellows who gave reports are not mentioned here because Ye Editor lost the first page of his notes - Sorry!)

Stanley Lund: His most thrilling experience was seeing Vic Lowrie's prize-winning Peace Rose. He got his peat and manure in just before the first snowstorm, buried his rose trees - and felt good.

Andy Nyberg: Dahlias were exceptionally good considering the bad dahlia-growing season. Sweet peas didn't do so well and as far as tuberous begonias are concerned, "The longer I grow them, the worse they get."

Walter Quist: Passed up his garden talk and gave us a stump-roaring speech against the proposed new charter and pointed out how its provisions would ruin the present Park Board system.

Bill Robinson: Raised $1\frac{1}{2}$ bushels of Monarch Plums; no worms in them due to a good spraying job.

Oscar Gustafson: Got his first chrysanthemum blooms out of plants he's been nursing along for ten years.

Greg Lucking: Has the whole city as his garden and gave a nice talk on the Park Board's tulip-planting experiences. Worried about squirrels getting at the tulips during the early Winter. Planted 1,200 bulbs and nary a squirrel got at them. Have same tulips growing in perennial border for past 25 years.

Ed Montgomery: Found gravel helpful in plantings of primulas, pentstemon, etc. His Alpine Garden experiment worked out well.

Harold Stephens: Mums were gorgeous; dahlias good; handicapped because in a "low pressure" area. Calls himself a

Bill Swain: Didn't overwork this year. Took it easy and got fine crop of vegetables. Did little spraying except epsom salts for mosaic in cucumbers and tomatoes. The salts worked. Bill is writing a series of articles on "Culinary Herbs" for the Minnesota Horticulturist. They ought to be good for Bill knows the magic of herbs.

G. G. Cerney: His tuberous begonias were the best he's had in years. Had a fine hybrid lilac - Mirandy - which is a perfectly true pink and blooms three weeks after the regular lilac season. His Jacob's Lily or Amaryllis Formosina was a honey this year.

Howard Bishop: Got a garden tractor this year because he's too old for an electric train. Had lots of good use for it, including snow removal. His asparagus bed paid out this year and the fruit trees gave their first fruit. A bushel of blue grapes will furnish the grape juice and jam that tastes so good, including the last drop, with Nash's Coffee.

Frank Janes: Trout fishing and duck shooting interfered with his garden this year. "Cracking" carrots was a new experience.

Russ Bechtel: Lousy spring weather gave him beautiful sweet peas while the late fall produced bushels of chrysanthemums

Al Erickson: Planted 700 evergreens this summer, mostly in a relative's nursery. His Mirandy Rose came in the best color of the season a week before the big snow

Herb Spencer: Re-made his entire bed of roses but still favors chrysanthemums.

Charlie Comings: Our clematis expert had good luck this year. His clematis Henry gave fall blooms 6½" across. It's white and as large as a butter plate. Ramona and Constance Buchard are other good clematis. His Floradora (fl.) gave best rose results.

Carl Nelson: Our champion dahlia grower reported hot weather didn't permit good blooms, but fall weather helped.

Milan Evans: Has outdoor bed in which he starts biennials and perennials. Is proud of his delphiniums.

Bob Bryant: Greatest disappointment was his dahlias. Had nice bunch of delphiniums, and tuberous begonias were excellent. Picked 2½ bushels of pears from his Parker pear tree. Picked green, they ripen in time for Christmas.

Cortis Rice: Had lots of fun with fibrous rooted begonias this year. He made cuttings from three plants, used a chicken feeder to the 50 plantlets that survived the early frost, and had large bed of this favorite all summer.

Joe Witmer: Is a painter of flowers. Garden tours are his #1 garden joy; #2 was to see tuberous begonias blooming in a snow pile. He masses the May bloomers to give the effect of a cool spring day; the chrysanthemums, a cool fall day; effects to be gained in a view from the garden. Plants, bushes, etc. are all arranged artistically.

Foley: This is a new member and Ye Ed. hasn't his first name on his records. Peace Rose with seven perfect blooms was his thrill of the year.

Charlie Mann: Just threw out some seeds and plants just grew for him. Finest asters he's ever had; no care and no spraying. "Nature is wonderful," he says. His Mountain Ash with all berries and leaves was a real surprise.

A. G. Dewars: Garden tours are thrill of garden year. Liked Sherman's place the best of all.

Harold Wright: Put coal ashes on top of tulips and forcing bulbs came through fine. Says compost bed fine for forcing. Enjoyable experience was basement green house à la Fred Paul. However, he built it too tight and nearly smothered his plants. Young Wright gave us an inspiring talk on what a young man thinks of gardening. Likes the newer annuals and favors the marigold hybrids.

Brad Gregory: Had good sweet corn because grown near the road to keep coons and pheasants away. Delphinium were marvelous; tuberous begonias not as good as he expected. Had lots of color in perennial garden and raised enough vegetables to carry through the winter.

Carl Erickson: A slight investment in a duck pass interfered with his gardening satisfaction. Enters all flower shows to be a good fellow.

Jack Cohen: Thrilled with big crop from his dwarf apple tree; crinums that bloomed in four different periods during the summer; snaps that were prize-winners and calendulas 4 inches across.

Ed Culbert: Giving us lessons on the meaning of botanical terms must have been his biggest thrill of the year.

Rene Dufourd: Was official inspector of gardens for the Club and had lots of fun on the job. Favors Vermiculite and sand in 50-50 combination for seedlings. His magnolia did exceptionally well for him. Urged members who believe in no spraying of poisonous insecticides to subscribe for Organic Gardening.

Herb Kahlert: Had 10 months of blooming. Started with tulips which did well; then iris did poorly; roses were beautiful; double petunias very floriferous and

mums were tops. An interesting gardening year.

Harold Kaufmann: Year as a whole was unsatisfactory for gardening. Tomatoes looked fine until August heat blighted the buds. The best tomatoes were those that came two weeks before frost. Chry-

santhemums came out swell. Had a block project with 13 neighbors, all co-operating in growing mums. Worked out so well that they will repeat it in 1948. Lost 46 tuberous begonias because of slugs. Recommends raising orchids indoors. Related that Harold Nelson stayed up all night to raise a real florist's orchid.

FRED PAUL'S PROPAGATOR

This is a good time of the year to get ready for early spring indoor planting, and Fred Paul developed a propagating box which is simple to construct, and will help in nursing seedlings until outdoor planting is possible.

Fred describes his box as a simple frame of wood, 3 feet wide, 4 feet deep, and 6 feet long, covered with paper or plywood. He recommends that it be supported at least 36" above the floor for easy access. Two 40-watt fluorescent lamps in a simple strip type reflector are supported from a 2"x2" wooden strip down the center of the top of the box.

The bottom of the box is floored to support the flats. Lamps are best supported about 12" to 15" above the top of the flats and a "blue" type of lamp produces more stocky seedlings. Shallow, small flats are filled with Vermiculite, set in water until thoroughly wet, then taken out and allowed to drain for several hours.

A light sprinkling of sphagnum moss serves as an excellent seed bed and after seeding, another light cover depending on the seed size is applied and watered. The flats are then covered with glass and paper until germination begins, when the cover is removed and flats are set on shallow pans of water in the propagator.

It should be added that before filling the flats, Fred pulls one wick through the center hole in the flat and the top is spread out. Five pieces of spun glasswicking are used for the purpose.

From this point on, all the care needed until transplanting time is to keep the pans supplied with lukewarm water. The lamps will furnish about 10 degrees of heat so that if the box is set in a furnace room, no additional heat is necessary.

If the flats are clean and seed is treated with spargon or semesan, no "damping off" will occur - says Fred.

DUES NOW DUE

Dues for membership in The Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis are now due. Please send your check for \$3.00 to Archie Flack, 629 Kenwood Parkway.

LAST CALL

Project chairmen of the various projects sponsored by the Garden Club are asked to get in their annual reports before the next meeting - Tuesday, December 16th.

WE HAVE A "NEW LOOK" TOO!

The format of The Garden Spray has