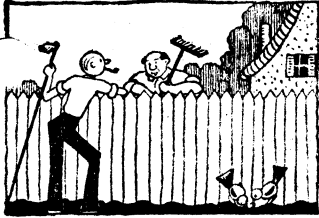


THE GARDEN SPRAY

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS



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

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Jack Cohen, Editor

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THE IMPORTANT MARCH MEETING

Be sure to come!

FRIDAY, MARCH 9

Fountain Terrace, Medical Arts Building

P R O G R A M

5:00 P.M. Special Board of Directors meeting

5:30 Special Fountain Terrace dinner

6:30 New Things to Try This Year.
Ed Montgomery

7:00 How and When to Use Insecticides
Joe Hradecky

7:30 Garden Markers, Labels and Supports
C. W. Marrs

7:45 Questions and Answers
Conducted by G. G. Cerney

8:00 "Musts" for March
A. H. Flack

8:15 Drawing for 2 Brownell Sub-Zero Roses

8:30 Meeting of tuberous begonia project
group with Walter Menzel

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Be sure to get in on the drawing for the two Brownell Subzero Hybrid tearoses, which will be raffled off at the March meeting. This is a variety that is difficult to get and the roses are highly recommended by Wilcox of St. Paul. Come promptly and plan to stay late for this will be an interesting meeting from beginning to end.

THE NEXT THREE MEETINGS

The March, April and May meetings are planned with the specific purpose of giving you rounded-out help and advice for your spring garden. It is a good program and the supplemental questions and answers that come out of these meetings will be stimulating to better your spring garden efforts.

GREENHOUSES IN MINNESOTA

Fortunate members who have greenhouses of their own in which to get an early start for plants are Holmberg, Mosberg, Savory, Cerney, Hanson, Nelson and Jack Cohen.

G. G. Cerney gave us a brilliant talk on greenhouses for the amateur gardener, and so inspiring was it that all of us who do not have a greenhouse consider it a "must" in our future gardening plans. Cerney talked from practical experience as he has two small greenhouses attached to his house that he plays with during the late winter, early spring and late fall.

Here are a few highlights of his talk:

A greenhouse can be used for:

1. Germinating seeds and growing seedlings.
2. Starting cuttings, propagating perennials, shrubs and even trees.
3. Starting bulbs, tubers and rizomes in late winter or early spring; i.e. tuberous rotted begonias, dahlias, cannas, callas, tuberoses, gladiolus, etc.
4. Extending the fall blooming period, well into winter, by bringing from the garden such plants as chrysanthemums, marigolds, begonias (common), geraniums and many others.
5. Storing tender plants and bulbs.
6. Growing hobby plants like orchids, tuberous rooted begonias, cactus, roses, lilies, exotics, medicinal plants, herbs, etc.
7. Raising vegetables - in dirt or in chemical tanks.
8. Having blossoms throughout the indoor season.
9. Some people could take vacation in a small greenhouse!

KAHLERT'S FIRST MEETING

The first meeting of the year, under the inspiring leadership of Herb Kahlert, got off to a sis-boom start on Feb. 7 at the Fountain Terrace. It was a gorgeous, inspiring affair for the 42 members who attended. Herb tells us this is just a taste of the bigger and better meetings to come during the rest of the year, though how this one could be improved is beyond us.

The Business Meeting: It was decided to accept non-resident memberships in the Club. This motion was passed for the special benefit of Dr. Olson, who is a loyal, enthusiastic member of the Club, but who is in California at the moment doing special war duty for the Medical Corps.

A note of appreciation and thanks was extended to Harold Kaufmann, Ed White, and Ralph Tomlinson, who got up the efficient and practical program for the year, as well as compiling the Membership Roster. The members are urged to consult this roster frequently and put it in a spot where it can be easily read. The whole program for the year is outlined in it and what a program it is to look forward to!

On the reverse of the card is a directory of the members, together with home and business telephone numbers; home addresses are also given. It is the members' fraternal responsibility to visit other gardens within their neighborhood.

Fred Paul was unanimously elected to fill the vacancy on the Board of Directors. This is no new job for Fred as he has been a member of the Board since the very earliest days of the Club.

OUR ST. PAUL FRIENDS

It was indeed a pleasure and honor to have the following St. Paul gardeners as guests at our February meeting: Mr. George H. Johnstone, chairman of the St. Paul Victory Garden Committee and past-president of the Ramsey County Garden Club; Mr. William S. Johnstone, president, and Mr. H. Trudeau, treasurer of the Ramsey County Garden Club. They have extended a cordial invitation to all members of the Men's Garden Club to attend the 33rd anniversary meeting of the Ramsey County Garden Club to be held Friday, March 16 at 6:30 P. M. in the basement of the Central Park Methodist Church. 12th & Minnesota.

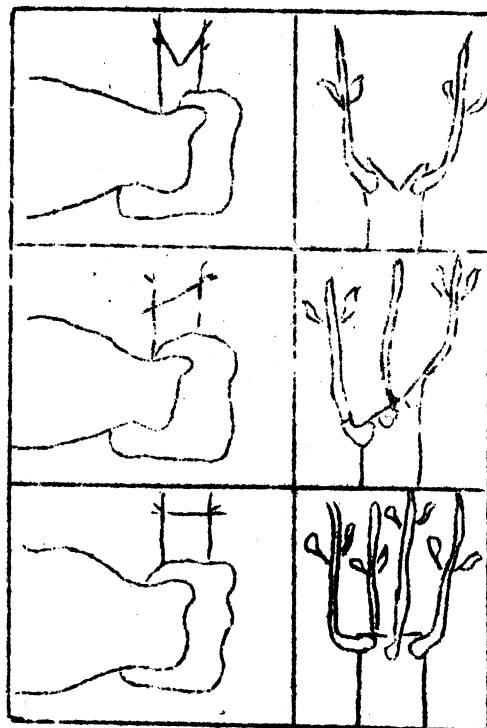
DAHLIAS - CUTTING AND PROPAGATION

William Holmberg

Bill starts his plants early in the greenhouse. He cuts up the dahlia roots with a clever little hand jigsaw wherever he believes an eye will show on the tuber. This is necessary because the eyes do not always show. Instead of taking these tubers and planting them in his garden and hoping that the eyes will sprout, he starts them in 1/3 black dirt, 1/3 peat, and 1/3 sand about February 15th. When the eyes begin to show and when the cuttings are about three inches tall, he cuts the small cuttings at the node.

There are three different ways of doing this. (See illustrations.) He then takes the cuttings and dips them in Rootone and starts them in the cutting bench. Good light is essential in getting good results. A porch is not always best. Poor light results in damping off. Potassium permanganate solution will eliminate spores and fungus in the sand and cut down on damping off.

When the cutting has been removed from the tuber (depending on the type of cut that has been made), new laterals will appear. When these in turn have reached a height of three inches, they in turn are cut from the tuber in the same way previously mentioned. From this point on it is merely a repetition in the taking of cuttings. You will get just as good tubers from plants as you would if the dahlias were started directly from tubers.



Dahlias should be stored in a temperature of 40° to 44°. Bill gave a grand demonstration of how to cut dahlia tubers. He brought two of his prize beauties with him and after they were cut up, they were raffled off to the members.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

G. G. Cerney, Moderator

Q. How can you ventilate a greenhouse in the spring when you are working in the office?

A. A good wife or automatic ventilator opener will do it.

Q. Can dahlias be planted between delphinium?

A. No. Dahlias are dug up every year while delphinium remain in the ground year after year. Delphinium needs lime while dahlias need acid soil.

Q. How do you make a potassium permanganate solution?

A. Put 12 tablets of a prepared permanganate in a gallon of water; or dissolve enough of the bulk permanganate to make a nice shade of pink.

Q. Why not broadcast carrots, radishes and beets in rows eight inches wide?

them plenty of support so that stakes are not necessary.

Q. What about the knocked-down greenhouses? Are they in all sizes and can they be put up by anyone?

A. Yes, particularly the Orlit Greenhouse, made by Lord & Burnham and advertised in The Flower Garden.

Q. Are vegetables successfully grown in greenhouses in the winter?

A. No. There is not enough sunshine.

And so ended our first session of the monthly feature of Questions & Answers. Be sure to bring the problems that bother you to the next meeting and the group will try to help you as far as they can. After all, if

SWEET PEAS, or "SOUNDS FROM THE PEA POD"
An interim report from our Sweet Pea Project Committee

To have reasonably good chances of success in the growing of Sweet Peas and avoiding some of the mistakes which appear to be the cause of failure, the following essential conditions should be established by all who plan to grow sweet peas.

- SEED:** Select seed which comes from growers who are diligent in their efforts to control diseases in peas. It is recommended that the early varieties also be tried.
- SOIL:** Fairly rich soil is recommended. It should have lime; this may be accomplished by simply mixing in some old plaster, limestone, or lime. The soil must be sterile to avoid a multitude of diseases. In the spring, it is not practicable to sterilize soil out of doors; the simple procedure is to dig the soil out of the trench and replace it with virgin soil, or soil which has been baked or steam-sterilized. If you happen to have some fairly dry soil stored indoors, it can be easily sterilized with the dry form of formaldehyde.
- PLANTING:** Plant as early as possible when planting outdoors. If planting indoors, use 3" pots, or bands, filled with sterile soil. Arrange the plants in the bed or row about 6 inches apart. Do not plant the peas so they remain in a trench; rather hill them slightly. Peas prefer a cool climate; bear this in mind when selecting a location for peas and pick your coolest spot.
- CULTURE:** Peas do not stand drought, but do not sprinkle them - soak the ground thoroughly when needed. Cultivate the soil lightly to form a dust mulch or use a ground cover such as Alyssum.
- SPRAY:** Green aphids are the worst enemy - spray with nicotine. Occasional dusting with sulphur will tend to prevent blight and mildew. Pull out and burn a plant at the first sign of disease.
- RECORD:** However you may grow peas, please keep a record of what has been done - and when.

There are a number of further suggestions which might be followed by different members interested in further precautions in disease-control: different conditions of growing such as degrees of shade, cloth house, seed disinfection, continuous soil sterilization, etc.

The Committee would appreciate it if the members would volunteer the method of their choice so as to have as diverse experience as possible. Let's have your questions

PHOTOGRAPHERS ATTENTION

A photographers branch of the Men's Garden Club is being formed. We want photographs of the gardens of our members and the Committee will put on its own garden salon this fall. If you are handy with the lens, will you let George Luxton and Bill Block know that you will be glad to serve on the committee of photographers? By the way, congratulations are due Bill Block on his appointment as local representative for a

TUBEROUS BEGONIA PROJECT

The new project being started is the special study of the growing of tuberous begonias. A special group is being formed to determine how best to grow this exotic California plant in Minnesota. Walter Menzel is chairman of this committee and he invites all members of the Club who are particularly interested in tuberous begonias to become members of his committee. A meeting of the