

THE GARDEN SPRAY

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

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



April, 1952
Volume 10, Number 4
Vic Lowrie, Editor

Associate Editors: Don Methven,
Art Fackler, Herb Kahlert

April Meeting

Date: Tuesday, April 8, 1952
Place: Bachman's Greenhouses
6010 Lyndale Avenue South
Time: 5:30 P.M. Sharp
Dinner: \$1.50

Officers

Vic Lowrie	President
Bill Brooks	Vice-President
Rene Dufourd	Secretary
Chet Harkins	Treasurer
Fred Paul	Past-President

Office of the Secretary and
Exchange Editor

5020 Second Avenue South,
Minneapolis 19, Minnesota

A DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM

Your Program Committee has arranged an unusually fine program this month. We will meet at Bachman's Greenhouses and be served dinner right there on the premises. The Hasty Tasty folks will be caterers and start serving at 5:30 P.M.

Lloyd Bachman will conduct a tour of the greenhouses at 6:30 P.M. sharp in order to take advantage of as much daylight as possible.

Ed Culbert, our Chairman, has a full program lined up for the evening, and it promises to be one of the highlights in the year's schedule of outstanding programs.

Look what's in store for you:

1. A tour of the Bachman Greenhouses.
2. A talk by Lloyd Bachman on "New Developments in the Floral Industry and how they can be of help to the amateur gardener."
3. A demonstration on seeding, transplanting and propagation of plants, emphasis will be placed on the importance of soil, watering, fertilizing, light and temperature.

Perennials, annuals, fertilizers, insecticides and equipment will all be available at reasonable prices at our May 13 Auction.

SPRING AUCTION - COUNTRY STORE
May 13, 1952

This year, in addition to the auction, we will conduct a Country Store. Therefore all plants and merchandise will need to be priced, set up and ready for sale by

All items offered for sale at the Country Store will be priced so that members and their friends may have the opportunity of purchasing a wide assortment of fine plants and merchandise at reasonable prices. At 6 o'clock everything will be released for auction.

This is the club's only fund-raising project. We are dependent upon the receipts from the auction to pay our operating expenses. With the full cooperation of every member its success is assured.

Below are the names of the committee chairmen and their members. They are all key link in a chain of performances that will put this auction over the top. This is a club venture we hope all will participate in, not only in buying but in contributing material as well as brawn.

General Chairman: TOM REGAN

Country Store Managers
Vic Lowrie Tony Koester

Country Store Salesmen
George Patchin, Chairman
George Titus Al Nelson

Identification and Pricing
Glen Cerney, Chairman Bob Bryant
Gordon Ballhorn Harold Wright

Auctioneers
Herb Kahlert, Chairman Geo. Titus
Frank Janes W. Holmberg
Bill Swain Geo. Patchin
L. Stillman

Bookkeepers
Vic Lowrie, Chairman Ed Culbert
Cortis Rice Archie Flack

Cashiers
Rene Dufourd, Chairman Roy Edlund
M. Evans Art Fackler

Receivers and Handlers
Andy Nyberg, Chairman Len Bieg
Bill Brooks Harold Nelson
Geo. Germain Frank Heschmeyer

Telephone Committee
Milo Evans, Chairman Art Fackler
F. H. Farmer S. F. Pinkham

Sow that extra flat of the finest for our May 13th Auction.

TESTED VEGETABLES RECOMMENDED FOR 1952

Faust Purple Pole Beans - Most sensational; turn green when cooked; good flavor; good freezing.

Burpee Oshkosh Yellow Pepper - Best results; blocky; turn yellow when ripe.

Green Pepper - Fordhook Burpee; blocky; turn bright red when ripe.

Radish - Burpee White.

➤ Onion - Sweet Spanish; large; good keeper.

Tomato - Burpee Big Boy; best results this year.

Ball's Extra Early Hybrid; Earlier than Earliana.

Carrots - Goldinhardt; good, blunt carrot; red color. Nantes Half Long: good blunt carrot; Imperator, not good.

Green Beans - Contender, Seminole, Tenderpod - all good.

Egg Plant - Vaughn-Japanese Hybrid; plentiful; odd shape.

Corn - Lost to the pheasants,

➤ Cabbage - Ferry Morris, Bonanza - good.

Peas - Burpeeana: dwarf pea; excellent yield; excellent for freezing.

Lettuce - Bibb; good.

Head Lettuce - Farmers Pennlake, Cross Imperial and Great Lakes. Heat resistant, poor heads but good as leaf lettuce.

Potatoes - Red Warba: early, red, good yield, Hennebec: good yield, large. Sequoia,

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APRIL REMINDERS

1. Be in no hurry to remove winter protection from roses and less hardy perennials. If you do uncover, be ready to recover in a hurry if frost or snow threaten.
2. Test your hose on a warm day by washing the dust and soot from your evergreens. Give them a good soaking as well as your first year shrubs and trees.
- ✓ 3. Examine perennials. If they have been pushed out of the ground by frost action, put them back in place.
4. Clean up your yard just as soon as it is workable as a prevention against disease. Clear out last season's foliage and all other coverings from the crowns of delphinium and hollyhocks and keep them clear; otherwise you'll invite rot.
- ✓ 5. Dust perennials with bordeaux mixture as soon as first shoots appear, and spray rose evergreens and other shrubs with lime sulphur (1 to 9 parts water).
6. Wait until buds begin to break before pruning roses so that dead wood can be discerned from green. For exhibition blooms, cut back teas, hybrids and hybrid perpetuals to the buds on each cane. For maximum bloom, don't cut so severely - just prune down to the sixth or eighth bud.
7. Grapes should be pruned before buds begin to form. Cut out all weak wood and prune canes to about a foot apart and head back new growth to about nine buds.
8. Rake lawn, then fertilize as soon as you can get to it. Hose in as soon as applied. Then seed and dress. If you roll, do so lightly, don't pack the soil.
- ✓ 9. When the frost goes out of the ground and is dry enough to work (it should break up your hand) begin preparing the soil for later planting. Work in all the peat, compost, leafmold or manure that the soil will stand. Leave the surface rough to hold later snow and rain.
10. Sow sweet peas as soon as a 2-inch trench can be dug. Fill trench gradually as plants grow. Garden peas should be sown early too; the earlier the better.
- ✓ 11. New dormant roses should be planted as soon as ground can be worked. Mound the earth completely over them until growth starts.
12. Divide and transplant overgrown perennials. Give light top dressing of bone meal and pulverized manure mixed with equal parts. Do not disturb platycodons, peonies or gas plants.
13. Pansies and violas may be planted early and most alpine and wild flowers.
14. Dahlias may be propagated by starting tubers in soil in the house early this month. When the shoots are 3 to 4 inches long, cut them off just below a node and root them in moist sand which is kept shaded. After rooting they should be grown in a warm place.
- ✓ 15. Bachelor's button, Calendula, Candy tuft, Cosmos, Larkspur, Mignonette, Portulaca and Annual Phlox can be sown directly into the ground while it's still frozen providing the soil was well prepared last fall.
- ✓ 16. Start tuberous begonias in flats; canna roots in 4" pots.
17. Get snaps, tomatoes and cabbage started in cold frames.
- ✓ 18. Sharpen lawnmower; get sprays, dusters and all other garden equipment in shape.

19. Finish painting stakes, fences, trellises, window boxes and outdoor furniture.
20. Don't delay any longer ordering your spring bulbs, plants, seeds, fertilizers and insecticides.

Make your BETTER plant purchases at the May 13th Auction.

STARTING SEEDS INDOORS

Seeds can be started in two inches of soil. Use seed pans, shallow pots, or wood flats. Use ordinary garden soil, mixed with sand, or a 50-50 mixture of clean sand and vermiculite or 100% vermiculite.

Fill container to within one-half inch from the top (this prevents seedlings from being shaded). Jostle mixture to settle, then press down with a brick. If planting in pots, use a fruit jar or can as a tamp.

Water soil thoroughly at this point, drain and allow to stand several hours before you start your planting. If necessary, add more soil after tamping to be sure it comes close to rim of container.

Make rows 2 1/2 inches apart with ruler or short piece of lath. Make rows approximately twice as deep as seeds are wide. Check germination tables or directions on seed packet and be careful to sow in the same container only the seeds that are sure to be sprouting in the same number of days.

To get maximum germination from your seed, use a seed protectant. The University Farm report good results from Arasan Spergon and Phygon. (Read "More Plants from a packet of seeds" in March issue of The Minnesota Horticulturist). Add a pinch of the powdered chemical to a packet of seed and shake well before planting.

Drop seeds about 3/8" apart and mark rows as planted. Plant stakes are easier to read but varieties can be marked on sides of container. Then sift fine soil, sieved sphagnum moss or sand over planted rows. Sphagnum moss will reduce loss from damping off.

After planting, cover container with glass if possible, then paper. Folded newspaper can be substituted for both. Set planted flat or pot in warm place - 65 to 70 degrees - until first sprouts show, then expose to all light possible. Do not allow seeds to become dry after they have been planted and be careful to keep seedlings out of draft.

After germination, keep temperature in the 60's and keep soil just barely moist. When second set of true leaves have formed, seedlings are ready for transplanting into individual small pots or large flats. Space seedlings two inches apart in good top soil. Make ample hole for roots and lower each plant so that point where leaves emerge is at soil level. A plant stake with V notch makes good pry for lifting seedlings.

Your seedlings now need lots of light and air with just enough heat to keep them from chilling. While nights are still frosty, expose to sun and air only during the daytime. During the first weeks, do not permit excessive drying or sudden temperature changes.

A CIVIC-INTEREST PROJECT
IN CELEBRATION OF OUR 10TH ANNIVERSARY
PRESENTED TO THE MEMBERSHIP AND UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED AT THE MARCH 11 MEETING

During the last two or three years, quite a number of our members have expressed the thought that the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis should undertake, or underwrite, or participate in and be identified with a civic project in collaboration with the Minneapolis Park Board System.

It, therefore, seemed appropriate that such an undertaking - a civic interest project - could well be launched in celebration of our tenth anniversary.

With this in mind, we naturally turned to those members who so successfully brought the club to its 10th year of maturity - our seven active past-presidents including:

Glen Cerney	Stan Lund
Herb Kahlert	Fred Paul
Harold Kaufmann	Cortis Rice
William Swain	

These seven past-presidents acting as a sub-committee of our Civic Interest Group under the Chairmanship of Cortis Rice were asked to study every logical civic interest possibility in which the club might participate or sponsor, and come forward with a recommendation for consideration by the club as a whole.

This Committee has been at work for a number of weeks, have held several meetings and discussed a number of projects. After much deliberation, it was concluded that the best project would be for the club to provide and plant shrubs or trees or both in a public area within the Minneapolis Park Board System, advantageously located so that the planting could be enjoyed by a high percentage of the citizenry.

The committee suggested that these plantings consist of flowering crab apple trees of the newer varieties, perhaps Almey. The May Day tree, *Prunus Padus*, sometimes called European Bird Cherry, is also being considered, it being particularly appropriate, not only from a geographical standpoint, but also because it is native to the mountains of Norway and Sweden, which should make it most appealing to our local population. This tree is rare in other parts of the country, perhaps it will not grow except in climates similar to ours. It is the first tree to bloom in the spring, a very clean tree, most attractive to birds, and may be grown either as a large shrub or a small tree. There are some of them already planted on Minnehaha Parkway together with crabs. The combination of the two makes a very beautiful display. The May Day tree usually blooms first but the crab tree usually blooms before the white blossoms have fallen. As a matter of fact, the combination of crabs, May Days and Lilacs which we grow well in this community would also make a desirable combination.

The whole idea was then submitted for consideration by the Park Board Commissioners, through its president, Walter P. Quist, who, at one of their regular meetings, expressed a willingness to entertain the idea. At the same time, a Park Board Committee was set up to work with our committee in arriving at a location that would be mutually agreeable and acceptable to the members of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis.

On Monday, March 24, your committee met with the committee of the Park Board and toured various areas of the Park system looking over a number of suitable sites.

Another meeting of the two committees is scheduled for Thursday, April 3, at which time the Park Board expects to make a definite recommendation of a mutually agreeable site with planting suggestions. The committee hopes to have something concrete to report.

INFORMAL FLOWER BORDERS

A Panel Discussion by Archie Flack,
Eldred Hunt and Edgar Lehman with
Rene Dufourd as Moderator.

This proved to be an extremely interesting and helpful discussion. Many constructive points were brought out, some from the floor, and the entire program contributed much food for thought and many splendid ideas which we can put to practical use in our own gardens.

We are indeed most grateful to the Program Committee for arranging such a splendid program, and to the participants we offer a generous measure of thanks for handling the subjects so ably.

The various phases of the subject covered included:

1. Definition:
Borders are special plantings located on the margin of open areas, beside drives and walks, or around buildings.
2. Type:
Annuals and Bulbs
Perennials and annuals (herbaceous borders)
Shrubs
3. Design - Layout:
Location Size (in depth)
Elevation (plants according to heights)
Balance
Accents
4. Preparation of Soil:
Drainage
Humus - leafmold, compost, manure, etc.
Deep digging - perhaps removing poor soil, etc.
Fertilizing Planting
5. Color Arrangements:
Groups of Colors - Balance of Color - Color Harmony - Blooming season,
Bulbs in spring, Perennials early season, Annuals fall.
Relation of colors - Expression of individual taste.
6. Summer care:
Staking Weeding Watering
Insect and disease control
Removing dead flowers
Mulching (sawdust, straw, buckwheat hulls, corn cobs, etc.)
7. Fall and winter care:
Changing - Dividing - Replacing - Cleaning dead stalks
Mulching (Straw, manure, boughs, etc.)

Those present will recall that during the course of the evening Rene Dufourd, as Moderator, called on a number of the boys to express their opinions and experiences on certain phases of the subject including Otto Erickson, whose gem of a garden we had the pleasure of visiting last summer. We know you will enjoy reading the letter from Otto, on the following page, in which he expresses in quite some detail how he plans his own pictures

March 17, 1952

Mr. René J. Dufourd, Secretary
Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis

Dear Rene:

When you, as moderator of the very interesting panel discussion at the Garden Club's last dinner-meeting, turned to me for some comments on the subject "Informal Flower Borders," I felt completely unprepared for any cohesive opinion. At that moment I was too absorbed in digesting the great variety of pros and cons so ably and interestingly presented by the panel speakers, Archie Flack, E. M. Hunt, and E. C. Lehman, to recall much of the principles and methods that I try to apply in my little pocket-size garden. However, without claim to authority, I have a few afterthoughts, which, if you judge them worthy of consideration, I hereby submit for The Garden Spray.

To me the informal flower border is a component part of the general garden plan, and, as such, I endeavor to keep it in proper harmony with the whole. That is, without over or under emphasis in its relation to the rest of the landscaping.

After a measure of satisfactory balance has been attained in the garden, it sometimes is very tempting to disturb it in the course of experimentation, or for reason of making room for surplus plants. The result often is an overdone flower border at the expense of well-needed lawn and ornamental shrubbery. Bitter experience has taught me this.

Usually it is difficult, if not altogether impossible, to arrange an attractive flower border along the south side of the garden plot, due to excessive shade. East and west exposures have good possibilities, but the best result is obtained when locating the main flower border along the north lot line. There the plants enjoy maximum sunlight, and, without much trouble, can be arranged according to height with the taller varieties in the background.

The gardener is fundamentally an artist who, like the painter, deals in line, form and color. The outline of the border, the groupings of the plant material, and the color combinations decided on, all of this expresses our artistic effort for beauty in the garden. Unavoidable occasional drab spots in the flower border, caused by perennials with short blooming season, may be somewhat minimized by planting these flowers well inside the edging and far apart.

Individual taste, will, of course, determine color combinations in the informal flower border, but I tend to agree with the consensus of the panel speakers that red is too dominating in our gardens and that we would profit in satisfaction by turning more to the pastel shades and the whites. A wide variety of bright colors in the flower border naturally gives a grand effect, but the impression may become confusing to the point of irritation.

Fences are a necessary evil to the gardener who resents trespassing by dogs, and, occasionally by children, through flower borders and shrubbery. White picket and board fences look better than wire fences, but are less effective. A wire fence surrounds my garden, but I have never been able to hide or conceal it satisfactorily. Light green paint helps to make it less conspicuous, but, just the same, I am afraid that it will always remain an eyesore.

To stake or not to stake was the question evoking the liveliest disagreement among the panel speakers. Well, I am definitely on the side of the "stakers." The reason is that I have more often cried over flowers that have been flattened by rain and wind when proper staking could have prevented it, than I have over broken tips of

tall and lanky flowers that have been held too rigid by stakes. I consider proper staking as just as important a chore in the garden as that of snipping all flowers which have passed their prime, before they become unsightly seedbearers. Types of supports and stakes and methods of applying them could profitably be made the subject of a full-length article.

During the early part of the growing season, it doesn't seem possible that much harm can be done by hand cultivation. In fact, it is likely to be more beneficial than mulching at this period because it provides better aeration of the soil. However, toward midseason or when the fine feeder roots can be expected to lie close to the surface, it might be advisable to hang up the hoe and depend entirely on a light mulch. I have not experimented sufficiently to have a clear idea of what kind of mulching material to recommend.

From my experience as an amateur gardener, I have in the above tried to put down a few guiding hints about the informal flower border. As our good friend, George Luxton, indicates to us in his column each Sunday, any phase of gardening provides us with endless opportunities for discussion and study. I have learned a lot from George and his old Grandma. With their helpful advice, I am enjoying the thrills and adventures of gardening more than ever.

(Signed) OTTO H. ERICKSON

What are you setting aside for our May 13th Auction?

ANNUALS CLASSIFIED BY TYPE, COLOR AND HABITS

For edges and borders - Sweet alyssum, dwarf nasturtiums, lobelia, dwarf marigold, ageratum, Virginia stocks, forget-me-nots.

Long stems for cutting - Asters, calliopsis, scabiosa, cosmos, giant zinnias, and double gaillardias.

Short stems for cutting - Marigolds, snapdragons, calendulas, sweet peas, annual chrysanthemums, bachelor buttons, carnations, lilliput zinnias, annual pinks, sweet sultans, salpiglossis.

For color masses - Petunia, zinnia, marigolds, calendulas, annual phlox, verbena, stock, aster, salvia and poppies.

For light or poor soil - Nasturtiums, Clarkia, godetia, poppy, portulaca, and zinnias.

For fragrance - Mignonette, heliotrope, nasturtiums, alyssum, ten weeks' stock and sweet peas.

For shady places - Fancies, torenias, or wishbone plant, godetia, forget-me-not, nemo-phila and a variety of primulus.

For hot situations - Sunflowers, heliotrope, portulaca, ice plant, petunias, balsam and annual gaillardia.

Sow indoors for early bloom - -

Ageratum	Cannas	Geranium	Marigold
Antirrhinum	Celosia	Heliotrope	Salvia
Asters	Coboea	Ipomoea	Petunias
Balsam	Cockscomb	Lantana	Stock
Begonias	Coleus	Verbena	Torenia
Browallia	Dahlias	Lobelias	Ricinus

TESTING OF SEEDS FURNISHED BY DANISH SEED COMPANY

<u>Variety Under Test</u>	<u>Date seeded</u>	<u>Date germinated</u>	<u>Percent germination</u>	<u>Date transplanted</u>	<u>Vigor of seedling</u>	<u>Date - first flower</u>	<u>Rating-vigor of plant</u>	<u>Rating-for beauty</u>	<u>Do you rate as novelty?</u>	<u>How does it rank with existing varieties?</u>	<u>Would you continue to grow?</u>	<u>Rating Scale</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
ASTER - Crown (Calif.grown)	5-7	5-12	80% *	B	7-15	B	B	B	B	Yes	* Planted direct in garden greenhouse; 2 wks diff. results	A. Top quality B. Excellent C. Good D. Fair E. Reject	
ASTER-Italian LaBella Rose	5-7	5-14	80% *	D	7-10	D	D	D	No	* ditto - 30"			
ASTER - Italy Lima Giant-Wh.	3-30	4-7	60%	5-12	B	7-14	B	B	B	Yes	Large white flower - 30"		
ASTER - Italy Princes Aurora	3-30	4-6	60%	5-12	D	7-17	D	D	D	No	Poor color - 30"		
ASTER - Remo Mixed	5-7	5-12	80% *	A	7-15	A	A	A	A	Yes	Same as #1, but dwarf; very good - 15"		
COSMOS-Gloria Danish	5-7	5-14	60% *	B	7-10	B	B	B	No	* Too large for border			
COSMOS-Radiance	5-7	5-14	80% *	B	7-12	B	B	B	No	* Too large for border			
BACH.BUTTON Rose Gem(New)	5-7	5-12	100% *	B	6-30	B	B	B	Yes	*			
CLEOME-Helen Campbell	3-30		10%							No	Possibly old seed		
HOLLYHOCK - Indian Summer	3-30										No germination		
LINARIA-MAROCANA No. Light	3-30									No	Too small a flower		
MARIGOLD - Glitters	5-7	5-12	100% *	B	7-4	B			Yes	* Light yellow - 24"			
MARIGOLD - Happiness	5-7	5-12	100% *	B	7-6	B			Yes	Orange - 24"			
NICOTIANA - Sensation	5-7	5-15	80% *	B	7-10	B			Yes	Mixed Hybrids			
TITHONIA - Torch	5-7	5-12	80% *	B	7-1	B			No	Plant too large for amount flowers			
ZINNIA -Flora dale Scarlet	5-7	5-12	80% *	B	7-4	B			Yes	Good; large			
ZINNIA-Burpee New Hybrids	5-7	5-12	80% *	B	7-4	B			Yes	Good; large			

The limited number of final reports make it difficult to give 100% recommendations, but reports do indicate which annuals are worth trying; also those not recommended. We suggest that future testing be concentrated on annuals which local club members want tested, and not on novelties having little or no value in this territory.

November 12, 1951

(Signed) RAY C. EDLUND, Official Club Tester