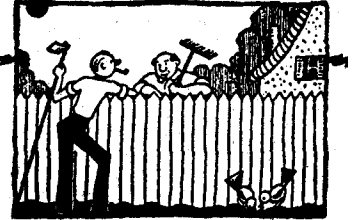




The Garden Spray

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

Member--Men's Garden Clubs of America • Minnesota State Horticultural Society



April, 1954
Volume 12, Number 4
G. "Vic" Lowrie, Editor

Associate Editors:
Don Methven, Wm. Hull
N. W. Christopherson
Joe Witmer

*1) order - price include
2) other not plan
3) notes from Cerney discuss
4) plan to complete*

APRIL MEETING

Date: Tuesday, April 13, 1954
Place: Hasty Tasty Cafe,
50th & France South
Time: 5:45 P.M. sharp
Dinner: \$1.75

PROGRAM

1. Roses in the Border
by Stanley Lund
2. Delphiniums and Their Culture
by Bob Bryant
3. The Best of Peonies and Iris
by Herb Kahlert
4. For the Shade - Primula
by Art Fakler
5. Open Panel Discussion
Glen Cerney, Moderator

Officers

A. H. Flack	President
A. W. Koester	Vice-President
P. W. Young	Secretary
O. H. Erickson	Treasurer
R. J. Dufourd	Past-President

Office of the Secretary
and Speakers' Bureau
P. W. Young
4544 Beard Ave. South

Office of Exchange Editor
G. Victor Lowrie
417 Essex Building

Here is a program timed to help you with your first touch-of-the-soil this spring - handled by specialists in each particular field. You just can't afford to miss this one - and besides the panel discussion alone will be well worth the price of the dinner - open to all attending.

Come with your questions and have them answered by practical gardeners with years of "know-how." Whatever your gardening problems, bring them along - the experts will help you solve them. This is our last meeting before the Club's Plant Auction May 11, so let's make it a real get-

OVER THE FENCE

Chuck Lampright has one and two-thirds acres of garden and woods that will be vying for attention this year with a baby, so Chuck will have to curtail his vegetables and sow alfalfa for a year. He also has some double Canterbury Bells from England that we will want to see later on.

Wally Rowell was host to 15 enthusiastic lily growers who, under his direction, are experimenting with the growing of lilies from seed. We'll report more on this later.

Otto Erickson didn't have to go far for his Christmas tree. Remember the white spruce on the southeast corner of Otto's lot? The top made a beautiful yule tree and the branches protected the roses. It was 12 feet high when cut down; now Otto faces the stump removal problem. Next time you visit Otto, take a second look at the lawn, which the Ericksons lowered by removing the sod and then shaving the soil, thus getting a smoother, lower lawn without losing that good turf.

Maurice Lifson plans on a small spot for rock garden plants this spring. Some of his favorites, which he also uses in part for edging, are: silene (alpestris) in white or light pink; dianthus deltoides, a very small pink which grows easily from seed; campanula rotundifolia - the Irish harebell; and campanula gargantua. But silene is his real favorite for the rock garden.

Art Fakler is enthusiastic about the aurelian lilies which he feels are almost foolproof and less subject to blight than the regals. He now has eight or nine different types of lilies but, aurelians are his delight. Last year a golden throat blossom measured 11 inches; an Enchantment lily had 27 blooms on one plant. Did anyone photograph it? Would be a nice addition to the Club's library. For many years Art has planted his tulips a foot deep; he never lifts them but plants annuals over them, making double duty of the space without that tedious lifting and storing practice. He feels the tulips don't split so easily at that depth and his losses are also few.

Bill Hull has just moved into a new home at 6104 Oaklawn, Minneapolis 10 (Edina). Please change his address on your roster. Lots of sand now but he will have room for perennials; if you are dividing a favorite, how about passing it along? Bill offers 50 feet of young tatarian honeysuckle a foot high, free for the digging. Makes a beautiful hedge.

Did you see Mr. Green Thumb's picture in the March 14 issue of the Sunday Tribune? None other than our genial president, Archie Flack, and did he ever look at home nursing his green babies.

Earlier in the month Fred Paul's picture appeared in the Star & Tribune in recognition of his being named Roster Engineer of the Engineers Club of Minneapolis. Congratulations on receiving this special recognition, Fred. It makes us exceedingly happy to have such distinction bestowed upon one of our members.

You may not recognize them by the color of their skin, but we hope to have Herb Kahlert, Ernie Thompson, Cortis Rice and Rene Dufourd back with us at our April meeting - still maybe the Florida sun didn't treat them any more kindly than did our Minnesota sun - and we got ours for nix???

Secretary "P W" Young has a new supply of the "Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis" baked enamel on metal identification signs for attaching to your garden gate or fence. Every member should have at least one for identifying his garden and himself with the Club. They will be available at our April meeting. Cost, \$1 per. "Men's Garden Club of America" signs can also be had at the same price.

Howard Bishop, who has migrated to Florida, sends greetings through many of our members who visited him this winter. He also expressed the desire of maintaining contact with the Club as an associate member. Greetings, Howard, we're happy that you plan to stay with us and will be looking forward to hearing from you from time to time about your semi-tropical horticulture experiences - best of luck!

Thirty-five of our members, under the direction of Archie Flack and "P W" Young, took charge at different intervals during the afternoons and evenings of March 13 through March 21 of the Minnesota State Horticultural Society's booth and Garden Information Center in connection with the 20th Annual Northwest Builder's Show. The center was well patronized with many seeking gardening information. A number filled in cards indicating their interest in joining a garden club, and between 40 and 50 individuals bought memberships in the Horticultural Society.

Denver Convention

June 8, 9, 10 & 11. Cosmopolitan Hotel Tours of Denver Gardens. An ALL-DAY trip to Echo Lake with lunch at Idaho Spring Lookout Mountain, Buffalo Bill's Grave, Lariat Trail! The Denver City Park and its Museum! The U.S. Mint! Talks by gardening authorities! Illustrated lecture Business meetings! Committee and round table discussions! Fellowship and communion with the world's BEST gardeners the members of The Men's Garden Clubs of America!

OUR EARLIER HISTORY

Thanks to Fred Paul's research on the historical highlights of MGC of Minneapolis and to Bill Block's photography, we were given an enlightening insight into the background of our Club at our March meeting.

Bill's color movies taken in August, 1943, presented a tour of members' gardens and brought back for a few moments those members whom we've lost in recent years. Fred's introduction to the movies revealed the actual beginning of MGC of Minneapolis around a table in the Athletic Club dining room. This first gathering developed into an initial meeting in May, 1942. Fred presented many "firsts" to us in his discussion, such as the first tour in August, 1942; the first ladies' night in December, 1942; and the first auction in May, 1946.

You will be pleased to know that starting with this issue of The Spray, some space in each issue will be devoted to a running account of the Club's history as chronicled by Fred Paul. In this way, later, the pages can be assembled and bound separately.

Of the 61 members of the Club's first year, 16 are still members, 14 being present at the March meeting. They are:

J. R. Addy	Charlie Doell	George Luxton	Walter Quist
W. C. Addy	Oscar Gustafson	Walter Menzel	Henry Bachman
Bill Block	Herb Kahlert	Andy Nyberg	Felix Dhainin
Joe Cohen	Greg Lucking	Fred Paul	Chris Mosberg

Club Plant Auction

Club Plant Auction May 11

As you prick-out your seedlings, don't forget to set aside a flat or two or three or more for our plant auction in May. All donations, regardless how small, will help to raise the necessary funds upon which we depend for carrying out our full program for the year. The same applies to the perennials which you may be dividing this spring. And to boost attendance at the auction, remember your gardening friends are most welcome. So try to bring at least one or more if you can (all men, of course).

Don't Be Trapped!

Already quite a number of out-of-state nurserymen are again running a lot of misleading advertising in the local newspapers and over the radio. If you are at all suspicious of their offering and want to be sure the material in which you may be interested is of sufficient hardiness to be grown in this climate, inquire of Eldred Hunt, Executive Secretary of the Minnesota Horticultural Society, NEStor 4616. It would also be a good idea when you are

LILIES IN MY GARDEN

By M. K. Lifson

Great strides have been made in the last few years in lily culture and much credit is due Mr. Jan DeGraaff for his new creations - Mid-Century Hybrids, the Olympic Centifolium Hybrids and the Cascade type of the Madonna lilies - to mention but a few. The lily has put on a prettier dress than ever before; the gardener who does not grow lilies does not realize what he is missing.

The lily, to me, is an indispensable asset in the garden for its beauty, stateliness and personality as an individual specimen or as companion to other plants. The lily is an emblem of purity. No wonder many poets have written in praise of the lily ("How chaste yon lily's robe of white." - Wm. Peters.)

The lily does not take up too much space. The roots grow downward; one can plant quite a few in a spot allotted to two or three plants of phlox, for example. Most of the lilies can be grown in our climate with a little winter protection, and the majority are of easy culture; even the more temperamental ones do not demand more attention than such herbaceous perennials as phlox or chrysanthemums. Dusting or spraying two or three times during the season suffices to control aphids as well as mosaic. Only two lilies in my garden are susceptible to mosaic: Auratum and Candidum.

Most lilies like companion plants to shade their roots - petunias, snapdragons - and low growing perennials make good ground cover and are doubly beneficial when they bloom at the same time as the lilies. To succeed better with lilies, it would be an advantage to know some of the simple demands of the various types; don't plant a lime loving lily such as the Madonna in soil on the acid side; good drainage is essential; and observe the proper planting depth - directions usually accompany your order.

If one has plenty of garden space and a cold frame or two, one can get a great thrill from raising lilies from seed - bulblets or bulbils or scales. It is the least expensive method of increasing one's stock.

These lilies are grown in my garden in borders as companions to other plants:

Lilium Regale. Velvety white; lovely in the garden in association with delphiniums and other plants. Quite valuable for landscape effects and of easy culture - grow 4 to 4 1/2 feet tall. Blooms late June and early July.

Lilium Centifolium. Blooms in July on a 4-foot stem. Has some of the Regale lily characteristics with the exterior greenish white as contrasted with the yellow exterior of the Regale.

Lilium Candidum. Madonna Lily Cascade type. Pure white with a sweet fragrance. A worthwhile lily having great landscape value, especially as companions to delphiniums. Then, too, they are of purest white and of the sweetest fragrance. However, have not had too much luck with them. Of eight plants, only three wintered over. Will keep on trying.

Amabile. A Turksap Lily with red and black spots. Blooms in late June on 2- to 3-foot stems. Of easy culture. Needs no protection.

Amabile Luteum. The same as above in all respects, only in yellow.

Bellingham Hybrids. July blooming on 4-foot stems; yellow to orange; partially reflexed, nodding; of easy culture.

Lilium Auratum. The Gold Banded Lily of Japan. This is one of the prettiest lilies in cultivation. It reminds one of a diamond studded piece of jewelry. It is bowl shaped, waxy white, spotted with crimson and each segment has a gold band. They are temperamental. Three of mine lost their leaves after blooming and one did not bloom at all. Probably the victims of mosaic disease. They bloom in August on 3-foot stems. A pretty sight and I shall always grow them at any cost. To extend their blooming season, suggest three named varieties: *Præcox*, early; *Platyphyllum*, August, September; *Auratum Pictum*, later.

Lilium Longiflorum - Estate. A large lily similar to the Easter Lily. Blooms late in July, thus extending the growing season of white trumpet lilies. Needs winter protection.

Lilium Henryi. A golden-orange nodding type; stems were much shorter this year than last; need dividing.

Umbellatum and Hybrids. Easiest to grow; make no demands; simply divide when overcrowded. Have even transplanted a big clump in full bloom with success. I have lemon yellow, mahogany and orange colored ones; they grow on 2- or 3-foot stems.

Lilium Tenifolium. The coral lily; easy to grow. These and Lily *Umbellatum* start the lily parade in my garden. Reach a height of 1 1/2 to 2 feet.

Lilium Speciosum Rubrum Magnificum. Beautiful beyond description. The color is rich carmine on white background with reddish spots. Blooms in late August and early September on 4-foot stems.

Lilium Canadense. Grow 4 to 5 feet high. A pretty, bell-shaped nodding lily; yellow to orange with black or mahogany spots; of easy culture.

Lilium Brownii. Of five bulbs planted the fall of 1952, only one bloomed. Rabbits chewed off the stems of the other four. Has a large white trumpet. Blooms at same time as the *Centifolium*s.

Lilium Martagon Album. Grows several clusters of waxy white flowers on a 4-foot stem.

Lilium Superbum. A native lily, orange in color; prefers semi-shade; grows up to 7 feet; blooms in August. After blooming, all my plants wilted. When I dug them up, discovered they suffered from root rot. The bulbs were washed and treated and replanted in a different spot.

To extend the blooming period of trumpet lilies, one should grow a number of *Lilium Phillipense Formosanum*. They bloom late July into August and there is a later variety that blooms in September. Not long lasting. The bulbs are not expensive and I shall always have this lily in my garden.

About three years ago I was sent 36 bulbs by the North American Lily Society for testing. Many turned out to be of the *Umbellatum* type, blooming in May and June and resembling the Mid-Century Hybrids. A few are of the *Davidi* type; one is a *Centifolium* and several grew to 7 feet and looked like Tiger Lilies.

If limited to but three kinds of lilies, I would grow *Centifolium*, *Auratum*s and *Speciosum*s.

APRIL REMINDERS

1. Be not tempted to discard winter protection completely. If you uncover roses and less hardy perennials, be prepared to recover in a hurry should a heavy frost threaten. Heaven knows how much damage has already been done!
2. Warm days are good hose-testing days and you can do two jobs at one time by working the dust and soot from your evergreens. Your first year shrubs and trees could also do with an early soaking.
3. Spring clean your yard as early as practicable, being sure to lift last season's foliage and other foreign material from the crowns of delphiniums, hollyhocks, iris, etc., to discourage rot.
- ✓ 4. All perennials should be dusted heavily with Bordeaux mixture as soon as the first shoots appear.
- ✓ 5. Spray roses, evergreens and other shrubs with lime sulphur (1 to 9 parts of water) just before the buds begin to break.
6. Examine your perennials carefully. If frost has pushed them out of the ground, gently put them back in place.
7. Be in no hurry to prune roses; wait until buds are well formed. By then the dead wood can be easily discerned. For large blooms, cut back teas to three buds on each cane - for maximum bloom, don't cut so severely.
8. Be sure to prune grapes before the buds begin to form or they will bleed badly. Cut out all dead and weak wood and head back new growth to about nine buds - remember fruit is produced on new growth only.
9. You cannot start to revitalize your lawn too soon. Rake it, apply fertilizer and hose it in; then seed and dress. If you roll, do so lightly when the soil is firm - don't pack the soil.
10. As soon as the top surface of the soil is free of frost and dry enough to work (it should break up in your hand), spade in all the peat, compost, leafmold, or manure the soil will take leaving the surface rough so as to hold snow and rain until planting time.
- ~~11. It's never too early to sow peas - the earlier the better. Dig a two-inch trench, drop in the seed, and fill in gradually as plants develop.~~
12. Pansies, violas, most Alpine and wild flowers also do better when planted very early - they can stand a considerable amount of frost.
13. The seeds of bachelor buttons, calendula, candytuft, cosmos, larkspur, mignonette, portulaca and annual phlox can be sown directly into the ground at any time now, providing, of course, the soil was well prepared last fall.
14. The earlier you divide and transplant overgrown perennials the better. A light top dressing of bone meal mixed with equal parts of pulverized manure would help a lot and reward you bountifully. 'Tis better not to disturb platycodons, peonies and gas plants.
15. Plant your new dormant roses early. Prune the canes back to three or four buds and cover completely with earth until the new growth starts.

ANNUALS FOR 1954
By Larry Corbett

Many people take the attitude that annuals are not as desirable as some of the other types of flowers. We have had a great deal of publicity on such items as roses, dahlias, iris, gladiolus and similar specialty flowers, but very little publicity on the use of annuals. Actually annuals fit in with perennials and can give you a wealth of color in a short period of time. You can obtain mass effects or you can get cut flowers. They can be used to fill in your perennial borders or to cover unsightly areas in a hurry. You can use vines or tall-growing annuals to hide certain areas in your yard. Actually you can do a lot more with annuals because you have a wide variety of them to choose from, both old and new.

We will first consider some of the newer items. In the low-growing or border class, I would like to mention the new Alyssum known as Royal Carpet. It is an excellent dark blue flower with plant habits similar to Carpet of Snow and the white and purple can be mixed quite readily. You also have good items in Lilac Queen Violet Queen and Little Gem. The asters, which I consider one of the most beautiful flowers in the group, present one main problem - a disease known as Aster Yellows. This is carried in by insects and is very difficult to control. We have found from experience that some of the early varieties have a better chance of maturing and making blooms than some of the midseason or later types, and we therefore recommend Queen of the Market and similar types. The newest aster is known as Powderpuff; it is a close-quilled flower and very interesting.

An item that has not been given much prominence is Celosia. There seems to be a resurgence in this group and the new Golden Fleece is quite outstanding. I also like Pampas Plume, which has a better feather and head than the old Plumosa. Most of you probably think of the Cristata type, which is known as Cockscomb. They are easy to grow and practically free from disease and insects. Another item that has not been given much consideration is the annual Dahlia - those that can be grown from seed the first year. In the doubles I would certainly recommend the Unwins, and if you like singles, Coltness hybrids are very good.

Marigold is practically foolproof and should be recommended in any annual garden. There is a wide range of varieties and types and, in the dwarf French, I would recommend Butterball, Harmony, Rusty Red, Spry and the new Parisian Hybrids. Another new yellow is known as Lemon Drop. These are all good, compact, low-growing plants. Another group of Marigolds that I like very much is called Chrysanthemum Flowered. If you know this group, the varieties such as Glitters and Happiness are recommended. One of the largest flowers of these is Mammoth Mum. It is a bit on the late side but is a beautiful item. It should be started early for best results.

Petunias are exceptionally good here in the Midwest and practically all of the varieties on the market now are worth trying. One of the newer ones, in the Fl Hybrid Group, is Commanche, which is of the same color as Fire Chief. A good sharp pink is Radiance. Ballerina, Lip Stick and Crusader are new items with a red-and-white combination. Linda is a very nice salmon pink.

The annual Phlox makes a beautiful mass display and we certainly recommend the Dwarf Drummondii types. I like the dwarf better than the regular. Another item in this group that causes a great deal of comment, particularly with the ladies, is Star Phlox. They are quite easy to grow and are very colorful. A group that has not been given as much consideration as I would like to see is the Pinks or Dianthus. In the Heddewiggi type, we have some new items, such as the Gaiety and the new Brilliant. These are quite large flowered, as big as a silver dollar; the Gaiety has a little fringe on the edge of the petal, while Brilliant is practically a straight edge with good striking colors.

All of us like to grow Sweet Peas, and Multiflora is rather interesting. It gives a good stem and a good plant, and you should get six blooms instead of the regular four. Another interesting Sweet Pea is the Fantasy or Unwins Stripe. You can grow Sweet Peas if the weather conditions are right, but if they are wrong, they of course give you trouble. But they are certainly worth trying.

A flower that always does well in the Midwest and which certainly should be recommended is Zinnia. In the large flowering types the All America winner, Blaze, should be tried. I would not mix Blaze in with the other large flowered types because the plant is more dwarf and it could be crowded out by the large flowering, dahlia flowered or California Giants. Some of the other new ones worth trying are Giant Fantasy, Giant Cactus Flowered, Floradale Scarlet and the very small cactus flowered Persian Carpet. Giant Fantasy is excellent with some of the sharper brighter colors, rather than all the pastels, as you get in the Burpee Hybrids. Persian Carpet is an improvement over the Mexicana or Haageana type. People seem to forget the vines, but there are some very good ones, such as the new Hearts and Honey, which is really a type of Cardinal Climber. Of course you cannot go wrong on planting Heavenly Blue and Pearly Gates Morning Glories.

Other good annuals not as well known but should be tried include the following: Anchusa, Blue Bird; Bush Balsam, Camelia flowered; Garden Carnations; Cynoglossum, Dwarf Firmament; Lobelia, Crystal Palace; Nicotiana, Sensation Hybrids; Poppy, Sweet Briar; Portulaca, Single and Double; Salvia, Blue Bedder; Salpiglossis; and Hollyhocks, Indian Summer, which is the annual form.

Portulaca is excellent to plant on poor dry soil. I particularly like Lobelia for its beautiful shade of deep blue or purple. These could be used to advantage more than they have been. If you like Poppies, try Sweet Briar, a good double with a beautiful shade of pink and it holds up better than most Poppies. The use of these plants will give you interesting things in your garden this year.

VEGETABLES

Vegetables can be grown as ornaments as well as for food. Such attractions as Rainbow Mix Swiss Chard or Moss Curled Parsley can be used for edgings or border work and still be used for foods. Southern Giant Curled Mustard and the Dwarf Green Curled Kales are also very attractive.

Much of the work on vegetables has really been done for the commercial grower ~~or shipper rather than for the home gardener.~~ Many of the new items that have been introduced do not have the fine quality that is needed for home garden use. They have actually been developed for shipping quality, having perhaps hard rinds, solid flesh, a little more fiber than needed, or some other quality that lends itself to the market or shipping trade. One of the important angles has been the development of disease-resistant material. These new vegetables with resistance to certain diseases are very definitely desirable for home garden use.

In Cucumbers, we have a new spot rot resistant type in the pickling group known as Wisconsin SR6. We also have a Mosaic Resistant type known as Ohio MR17. In the slicing cucumber group, the new Niagara is resistant to mosaic. The F1 Hybrids such as Early Surecrop, Faribo and Burpee's Hybrid have many of the qualities of the disease-resistant types and are good home garden items. In Cabbage, one of the newest is Badger Market. This is a yellows resistant type released from the University of Wisconsin. We do not actually recommend it for a home gardener, as it is a bit small and has a tendency to mature all at one time and split the heads too fast. In the Muskmelon group we have two good ones: from Cornell in Ithaca, N. Y., the Delicious #51 and Iroquois, both resistant to Fusarium Wilt; from Minnesota, the new Minnesota

Honey is also resistant to Fursarium Wilt. It looks good but has not been tested. Of these three, Iroquois is the best known.

In Beans, the mosaic resistant types are definitely good and we recommend Topcrop, Wade's Bush, Tendergreen Mosaic Resistant, Tenderlong 15 and Contender. Contender is more of a shipping bean and has a little more fiber than some of the others. Of the good standard varieties of beans, we recommend Round Pod Kidney Wax, Kinghorn Wax and Pencil Pod Black Wax for those who like the yellow pod; in the green pod type Topcrop and Tendergreen Mosaic Resistant are good. You should not discount pole bean. They can be trained up fences and take less space actually than do bush beans. They will give you a longer yielding period and fewer plants will take care of the family. You can conserve space by training them upward. We recommend Kentucky Wonder, the new Blue Lake Stringless.

Beets are a good universal item in anybody's garden, and of the newer strains King Red and Special Crosby are worth trying. Early Wonder Dark Strain is an excellent all-purpose beet, good for beet greens as well as for the root. Of course Detroit is still the #1 beet.

Scarlet Nantes is still the best carrot for home garden use, as it is the finest quality with good flavor and a very excellent texture. Chantenay Long Type and Red Cored Danvers are also good. Of the newer carrots, Gold Spike, Imperida and Emperor should be mentioned, but we do not honestly recommend these for home garden use. They have been developed for long distance shipping, they take longer to mature and they do not have the best of quality under our conditions.

If I were growing cabbage in the home garden, I would use a mixture rather than a single variety. If you could get a half-dozen plants of Golden Acre, Copenhagen Market, Globe or All Season and Hollander or Danish Ballhead, you would have a very nice combination. Any one variety usually matures too much at the same time.

I realize that you can get quite an argument on sweet corn as there are many varieties. It is my personal opinion that in the home garden we should go after flavor and quality rather than size. You should also consider what purpose you wish to make of the corn, whether it is all for table use or whether you want to freeze some on the cob or can some as whole kernel. The tops in quality is still the 8-row or Golden Bantam class. There are good hybrids in the 8-row groups, such as our M13 or Hybrid B2 or our 8-row Hybrid Blend. The other item I would recommend is a good strain of Golden Cross and I would not plant these larger types such as Ioana, Eochief, etc., in the home garden. The quality is just not there.

Leaf Lettuce is by far the easiest type of lettuce to grow in the home garden and I would recommend Grand Rapids because it is a good quality lettuce and also is good for garnishing. Salad Bowl is an interesting item and can be picked all through the season, as can Oak Leaf. In the head lettuce group, the surest heading types are in the Great Lakes class. Great Lakes itself, Imperial 456, Penn Lake and Premier Great Lakes are all very good. If you want to get into the Butterhead types, the new Bibb or Limestone Lettuce is always interesting. I call it a conversation lettuce. The White Boston is also a very good Butterhead class.

In the production of Broccoli, I would use the earlier types here in Minnesota. Such varieties as Calabrese or Green Sprouting Early or the DeCicco strains are good. This is a very popular item and if it is carefully sprayed and handled, it will make a good grower in your garden.

Minnesota is not a watermelon country. In fact, I hate to talk about watermelon in this area. Everything we grow has to be on the early side and it does not

have the quality and texture of the larger southern melons. Three good melons in this area are New Hampshire Midget, Northern Sweet and California Honey. By the way, you can train watermelon up a fence if you want to try it. I am only recommending Sweet Peppers and early ones, and the new Vinedale and Morgold, which by the way is a yellow variety, are excellent. Of the older group, I would recommend Sunnybrook because of its thick flesh and sweet flavor. The Early Calwonder is also good.

In Peas, I would only mention the short-vined types, as there is no use going to all the trouble of staking or training peas. Little Marvel is still the #1 and I would also recommend Wando, which seems to be making a place for itself. If you are interested in home freezing or a pea to follow the Little Marvel group, I would certainly recommend the green or Dark Seeded Perfection. It is early enough to yield well and, by the way, it is the #1 freezing pea with the commercial trade.

In Radishes, the only new item would be Comet. This is a good round red.

In the Squash line, I would like to suggest that you try training your squash plants up a trellis or on a fence so as to save space. Of the good winter varieties, I recommend Buttercup and Butternut. Of the summer varieties, I would certainly suggest using Cocozelle or Black Zucchini. The latter two should be picked when the fruit is very small, not over 5 or 6 inches in length. If you learn how to cook it, it is delicious.

Tomatoes are so controversial that I hate to discuss them. Whenever you have a great many varieties it really means that no one variety is consistently good. I will therefore just mention a few of the earlys and second earlys and will not discuss any of the late types. In the early group, Bounty and Earliana are still good. In the F1 Hybrids, I would recommend Polaris. You should use the early types here in Minnesota, as over half of the crop is lost by frost. In the second early group, the new Sioux, Firesteel and Stokesdale are all good. In the F1 Hybrid, Minnetonka has shown quite well. There are many other hybrids and varieties of tomatoes that are all good. I just do not want to start an argument so will tell you to use any tomato that you personally like.

INTERESTED IN WEATHER?

Of course you are, and here are some statistics that may be of value to you in planning business or vacation trips, or just for their curiosity value. These statistics deal mainly with inland USA and have been cross-checked from city to city to assure their reasonable accuracy. They all deal with air miles and are calculated with the help of official U. S. Weather Bureau tables.

For every 100 miles you travel due south in wintertime, the average monthly mean temperature goes up 3.9 degrees; so, if you're going 500 miles southward, you can quickly estimate that average mean temperature to be 20 degrees warmer than here in Minneapolis.

For summer travel, every 100 miles makes a difference of only 1.1 degrees of temperature. That doesn't mean the days might not be warmer than that ratio in proportion to Minneapolis, however, because you must remember that this is an average mean statistic and not an average maximum figure.

How about rainfall? For every 100 miles traveled southward again, the annual total rainfall increases 3 inches. An excellent chart can be drawn from Minneapolis to New Orleans, showing constantly increasing total annual rainfall. Our annual rain here in Minneapolis is 26.9 inches - converted into snow, that would be 269 inches of snow. Let's not convert it all though!