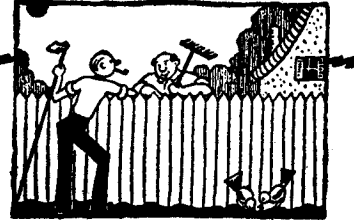




# The Garden Spray

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

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



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G. "Vic" Lowrie

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

## OUR APRIL MEETING

Date: Tuesday, April 12, 1955  
Place: Mount Olivet Lutheran Church  
Knox Ave. S. & West 50th St.  
Time: 5:45 P.M. Sharp  
Price: \$1.50

### Officers

J. M. Witmer	President
F. F. Heschmeyer	Vice-president
N. W. Christopherson	Secretary
R. C. Adams	Treasurer

### PROGRAM

6:30 SHORT BUSINESS MEETING  
6:45 NATIONAL CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS  
Walter Menzel, our delegate  
7:00 OUR NATIONAL PRESIDENT  
Herb Kahlert  
7:15 RUN FOR THE ROSES  
Stan Lund - Club Rosarian  
Carl Holst - Park Rosarian  
8:30 "ROSARAMA"  
An outstanding color movie in sound from Mount Arbor Nurseries presented for us through the courtesy of Henry, Lloyd and Larry Bachman.

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N. W. Christopherson  
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### THE ENCLOSED POSTCARDS

....and their use will be explained in detail at the April meeting so please don't mail them now unless you can't attend this meeting. We are seeking additional varieties and classifications which have heretofore been missing from the spring show classification list. So, if you have any special varieties you would like to show, even if you are in doubt to their readiness at stage time, please list them on this card and mail it in. You don't need to sign the card

## OUR HERB WEARS THE CROWN

At long last Herb Hahlert has been elected to the high office of President of the Men's Garden Clubs of America.

No man deserves this honor more than Herb. His many years of tireless effort in behalf of the National Organization, his willingness to accept duties and assignments at personal inconvenience, his consistent attendance and participation at national conventions, his tireless effort in organizing new clubs and in helping them get under way in a constructive manner, his garden which shows the genius of the master gardener, stamp him as one richly entitled to the reward which entails a considerable amount of self-sacrifice, energy, effort and time which Herb reluctantly has accepted.

Certainly we, of the Minneapolis Men's Garden Club, know well his merits; as charter member, perennial program chairman, our second Bronze Medal winner, and past-president, Herb has left an enduring mark on the constructive achievements and growth of our Club. Each member is delighted and highly honored that his worth has been nationally recognized.

We, who know him best, know that he will be an outstanding President of the Men's Garden Clubs of America. With his personality, drive, knowledge and skills he can be little else.

## ELEVEN POINTS IN GROWING A ROSE

1. Good drainage at the base of the beds is essential.
2. Cut off cleanly dead and broken portions before planting.
3. Prune weak stems back to main cane.
4. Cut back main canes unless in very good condition.
5. In filling around roots with good fertile soil, make sure that graft is just below the soil level after the soil has been firmed.
6. After covering the roots, step into the hole to firm contact.
7. Fill hole with water unless soil is very heavy and moist. When drained add more soil.
8. Mound up base of canes to depth of 4 to 8 inches with clean soil, leaving for 10 days. Remove gradually.
9. When ground is warm and plant established, mulch surface with porous material.
10. When cutting roses, leave at least two sets of 5 part leaves.
11. Remove straggly growth before winter. Fall cutting back not necessary. Some experts say it is definitely an error.

OVER THE GARDEN FENCE

By Bill Hull

That first thaw in March sure made you want to get outside, didn't it? It was a good time to put your sashes on your cold frames and to pick up some of the litter that gets buried in the snow. Also a good time to start warning the kids to stay off the soft lawn.

\* \* \* \* \*

When you first listed all the garden items you wanted from the spring catalog could you afford them all? Probably a good thing that most of us can't. Keeps us from over-buying.

\* \* \* \* \*

The March issue of "Minnesota Horticulturist" should be retitled, "The Minneapolis MEGA", since four of the six articles were by our members, Messrs. Snyder, Witmer, Paul and Turnquist.

\* \* \* \* \*

A Greek farmer used to plant a wheat called calamus, failure of which meant hard times or even famine. Any type of suffering which ruined this crop became a calamitas. By 1490, calamity had reached its modern English meaning. Another indication of agriculture's contribution to etymology.

\* \* \* \* \*

To cut time in establishing a lawn, presprout your seed. Mix one handful of lawn seed with two or three handfuls of vermiculite (or a substitute) all dampened. Enclose in a plastic bag or bucket, leaving in 70 degree temperature for a week. Sprinkle on well prepared seedbed and keep moist, watering at least twice daily.

\* \* \* \* \*

A bachelor friend had to throw away a no-good cook book. He couldn't use it because every recipe started with "Take a clean dish....."

\* \* \* \* \*

Iowa State College has developed a new hybrid black raspberry, Black Hawk, about which some of the garden journals are raving, claiming it is unusually vigorous, productive and disease resistant. Wonder how it will be for our area?

\* \* \* \* \*

Some trees are estimated to consume 200 gallons of water a day, which is about the human capacity on New Year's Day.

\* \* \* \* \*

REMEMBER TO SOW THOSE EXTRA FLATS FOR THE AUCTION

OVER THE GARDEN FENCE (Cont.)

How popular you'll be if you pass this information along to your wife, we can't say. But the Department of Agriculture says it costs your wife more than one-third more money to feed the family ready-to-serve foods instead of all home-prepared foods. In the test home prepared meals cost \$4.90 per day while ready-to-serve meals, using frozen food, canned foods, and mixes, cost \$6.70. Better plant a good sized garden and save your self some dough.

\* \* \* \* \*

If you get that tired feeling about nine each night, don't worry. If you're normal, your heart beats 103,389 times.....your blood traveled 168 million miles... you breathed 23,040 times.....you inhaled 438 cubic feet of air.....you ate three and a quarter pounds of food.....drank 2.9 pounds of liquid.....generated 400 tons of energy and perspired just under one and a half pints. You moved 750 muscles..... spoke 5000 words.....your nails grew .00004 inch.....your hair grew .017 inch..... you exercised 7 million brain cells. How do we manage to live through so much work each day?

\* \* \* \* \*

A prominent speaker entering the stage to address as austere group entered a door marked PUSH. He thought this would be a good opening for his extemporaneous speech so at the beginning, remarked that, "There is the word that explains my rise to success". Then he turned and pointed to the door, but it was the other side, and there in large letters read the word PULL.

\* \* \* \* \*

We certainly regretted to hear that you were in the hospital, Frank Heschmeyer, Although you may be home again by the time this is printed, we certainly will all be pulling for your rapid recovery.

\* \* \* \* \*

Archie and others: The Horse-Radish has been placed in several genera and given many names. In "Hortus Second" (1941) it was called *Armoracia rusticana*, a name given it by Gaertner in 1799, whom I knew well. In the second edition of Bailey's "Manual of Cultivated Plants" (1949) the name *Armoracia lapathifolia* was adopted. Since the latter was first used for the Horse-Radish by Gilibert in 1781, it would appear that this, in view of its priority, was the correct name. Who said "Horse-Radish"? (Baileya, Vol. 1, No. 1)

\* \* \* \* \*

One of the boys who's also a TV authority said its cheaper and easier on the set to leave it on than to turn it off. When you start on the repair bill cycle, you wonder if the cheapest method isn't to bury a hatchet in the top of the set. It's the Time-Thief and Intellectual Stupidifier of the Twentieth Century, althought I'll admit it's spotted with good programs.

\* \* \* \* \*

PLANT EXTRA FLATS FOR THE AUCTION

## PRUNING

The art of pruning is one of the gardening practices which many of us find most difficult to understand, yet when the principles are once fully grasped it is one of the most interesting of gardening operations. The objects and systems of pruning are varied, but there is one which is applicable to all trees and shrubs, and this consists of the removal of any weak and superfluous growths which are likely to overcrowd the center of the tree or shrub and shut out light and air.

An unpruned shrub, of a fair age, will usually provide an object lesson in the necessity of such pruning, since the center of the bush will probably be a mass of dead growth which has perished because it has been overshadowed by more favorably placed branches and so has been unable to obtain the necessary sunlight for the leaves to perform their natural functions. It can be readily understood that this dead wood may harbor disease, and if we can prevent this dangerous condition by a timely thinning of the growths we are materially assisting in keeping our trees and shrubs healthy. Thus the pruning of established shrubs during the winter will chiefly consist of removing dead wood, thinning the branches which have become too dense and are likely to shut out the sunlight, and the removal of crossing branches which are likely to rub their neighbors. This latter is very important, for rubbing branches will wear away the bark and leave an open wound which is highly susceptible to fungoid infection.

Another point which we must bear in mind is that when we remove a number of growths or branches we divert the sap into other parts of the plant, thus setting up an increased sap pressure in the growths which are left and so strengthening them. It thus follows that a comparatively hard pruning may be beneficial to a weakly plant by inducing it to grow more strongly. On the other hand the severe pruning of an already strong growing plant is likely to aggravate the tendency to produce over luxuriant growth; it is therefore necessary to prune strong shrubs with caution and avoid removing too much growth at one time.

If a shrub has outgrown its space and it is desired to reduce it in size, do not cut off the ends of the shoots as this will spoil the natural contour of the plant. The best method is to shorten back the longer branches to a fork so that no unsightly stumps are left, and by careful cutting in this way it is possible to substantially reduce the size of a shrub or tree and yet preserve its natural shape.

Most of the fruit trees will have already been pruned, but there may be some old trees of which the pruning has been neglected for a number of years. It is obvious that the usual methods of pruning will not apply to these. The best procedure then is to thin out the branches, as already explained, so that the sun can penetrate to all parts of the tree. It is a good plan to occasionally stand on the south side of the tree as the work proceeds and observe which branches are obstructing the view through the tree, as these are the ones which will also obstruct the sunlight and they should be removed. The young side growths on the remaining branches may be thinned if necessary by pruning them back to three or four buds from the base.

Another important rule in pruning is to seal all the cut surfaces with tar or pruning paint. It is as important to protect the wounds of a plant until they heal as it is our own, for they are just as liable to become infected with harmful germs.

## OUT DOOR COOKERY

By Bill Swain

IN CASE YOU MISSED .....

THE FIRE: Build your fire bed in the front half of the fire box, almost up to the grill (6 to 8 inches deep at highest point). Use fire starter (if paper or other material is used be sure it has burned out completely before starting to open broil). If all the grill is needed, push coals back beyond the center but only 1 or 2 inches deep so the fire tapers providing different amounts of heat from front to rear. Remember the heat under the grill moves with the wind or draft toward the chimney. Refuel during cooking if necessary, but avoid stirring up or using fuel that flames unless you remove unprotected food first and can keep it off until ashes or flame have subsided.

PREPARATION OF MEAT: Several hours before cooking season meat with garlic, and other suitable seasoning. Use tenderizer as directed on poorer grades and cheaper cuts. Brush with cooking oil and let stand at room temperature. This will reduce the moisture loss and shrinkage and improve flavor and texture.

BROILING THE MEAT: The use of a broiler basket is desirable to avoid puncturing the meat with fork when turned. Start meat at the back of the fire heating both sides gradually as you move it to the hottest part of the fire. As the fat drips causing fire flashes, move meat back out of the flame. Remember even where there is no fire under the grill there is heat between the fire and the chimney. Cooking time will vary with the thickness of the meat and the fire.

Broiling Time For 1 To 1 1/2  
Inch Thick Steak:

Rare	10 to 15 Min. per side
Medium	15 to 20 Min. per side
Well	20 to 30 Min. per side

Brush meat as you turn it with 3 parts oil and 1 part cider vinegar. Until you have experience or if you cook heavier cuts, use meat thermometer to insure proper cooking. Allow one pound

the March meeting, you are really unfortunate because such remarks as "One of the best programs we've had" were the farewells most often heard as the meeting adjourned.

Sherm Pinkman gave a very excellent brief discussion of tuberous begonias and has promised us to make a few notes for "Spray". Look for them in this issue.

Leon Snyder spoke on "Trees and Shrubs" and also showed about fifty slides of many newer varieties on which the University is experimenting. In the last 18 months the University has received over 800 varieties of shrubs and trees from all over the world, and out of this testing program they hope to have discovered some varieties hardy for Minnesota.

Another most interesting part of the four-barrelled program in March was a series of time-lapse floral photographs by R.J.S. (Nick) Carter and son, Bill. The Carters showed their equipment, designed and made by them, by which they can take a series of movie shots at stated intervals during the opening of a bud, all taken automatically by equipment when it is once set up. In two minutes the club saw a seven day growth of wheat germination, also a gloxina which had required 60 hours to open. These are just two examples of the thrilling movies which were concluded with time-lapse photography of the total eclipse of the sun here last June 30. They were very excellent color movies and were thoroughly enjoyed.

Fred Paul ran anchor man on the program with a discussion of fluorescent lighting. Since the March issue of "Minnesota Horticulturist" had carried an article by Fred on the technics of using fluorescent tubes, he spoke to the club on the technical reasons for using various colored tubes and explained those best choices for us to use. For flower gardening purposes Fred recommended a combination of blue and daylight tubes since they most nearly reproduce clear daylight. If just one color is desired, use white. Fred gave an interesting talk proving he certainly knows his tubes.

## TUBEROUS BEGONIAS

Sherm Pinkham

In the ten minutes allotted to me I can hit the high spots only on any sort of a talk on tuberous begonias.

With some background of playing and coaching baseball I learned that you always lead off with a mediocre hitter saving the sluggers for farther down in the order. So it is tonight, the clean-up men will follow later on.

Sooner or later our gardening interests seem to develop in certain directions. Some of you specialize in dahlias, some roses, delphiniums, vegetables and so on down the line. Let's call it a hobby within a hobby.

My particular pets are tuberous begonias, with chrysanthemums a close second. I like them chiefly for their beauty, their continuity of bloom and comparative freedom of diseases. Our modern begonias are more or less new, mostly since 1919. They are not an old family, like roses for instance, which George Luxton claims can be traced back 35 million years.

First, start with healthy stock. Tubers can be purchased from our local dealer. You can buy large or medium sized ones. My neighbor, Tony Koester, has had excellent success with the medium ones. To Tony, by the way I owe much of my interest along this line.

From the 15th of March on I start placing the tubers in flats containing a 50-50 mixture of peat and vermiculate, in a room where the temperature is between 60 and 70 degrees. A spare room is a good place if your wife will allow it. Depress the tubers so that their concave tops are about even with the mixture and water sparingly. Do not crowd as the roots will become entangled when removing later. I allow only one sprout to develop, cutting off the others with an old razor blade. One hates to do this, it's like disposing of all but one pup from a good litter.

When three or four inches high, I remove the plants from the flats to eight inch pots, containing a mixture of 1/3 garden soil, 1/3 peat and 1/3 rotted manure along with some sand. I screen out the lumps. Into each pot goes a coffee measuring scoop of fish meal, or cotton seed meal, or soy bean meal, or a combination of the three, the latter for experimental purposes. Soon after potting it should be warm enough to put them outdoors and you will likely have some extra ones to donate to Doc. Stillman for the club auction in May.

I grow begonias in a lath house covered with cello glass and cloth, although a few so called runts did remarkably well last summer planted directly into the ground on the north side of the house. A moving shade is generally recommended, avoiding the hot midday sun. I stake every plant and dust (start early) with sulphur to avoid mildew. Strong winds are also one of the worst enemies.

Keeping accurate records is well worth the effort, numbering each pot, recording various mixtures therein, the type of flower, etc.

In closing may I detour a bit. I have enjoyed immensely my association here the past five years. To you new members, let me urge you to get in and pitch. You have an innumerable amount of garden brains around this table from which to draw, experts along most any given line, like Glen, Al, Bob, Vic, Harold, Dick, Lloyd, Cortis—you could name most of the roster. If in particular hot water you can always call on Archie or get the dope direct from the horses's

mouth, Leon Snyder. A friend of mine at Minot once told me that "gardeners are never selfish". How right he was, most of them continually helping others. A while back George Titus brought me some of his finest iris.

With Herb Kahlert now at the helm let's make his home club an example for the entire country to follow. We want not only a good club but we want the best. One member laid off his job today in order that he might be here tonight. You can't beat that for loyalty. Come rain, snow, sleet or storm most of this gang shows up here every month and goes home feeling greatly enriched.

#### APRIL REMINDERS

1. Don't discard winter protection completely, If you uncover your roses and less hardy perennials, be prepared to recover in a hurry should a heavy frost threaten. Heaven knows what damage has already been done!
2. Dust all perennials heavily with Bordeaux mixture immediately the first shoots appear.
3. Don't consider a rose dead for many weeks yet. Remember the experience of several others in the club. Some roses are very slow to come to life.
4. Don't prune roses until buds are well formed and the dead wood is easily discerned. For large blooms cut back teas to three buds on each cane. For maximum bloom don't cut so severely.
5. Revitalize your lawn as soon as possible. Rake it, apply fertilizer, hosing it in. Roll only lightly when the soil is firm. Packing the soil is a real danger.
6. As soon as the top surface of the soil is free of frost and dry enough to work (it should break up in the hand) spade in all the peat, compost, leaf mold or manure the soil will take, leaving the surface rough in order to hold snow and rain until planting time.
7. If your soil was well prepared last fall, you may sow seeds of bachelor buttons, calendula, candytuft, cosmos, larkspur, mignonette, portulaca and annual phlox directly into the ground now.
8. Divide and transplant overgrown perennials as soon as possible. A light top dressing of bone meal and pulverized manure would help a lot. Save your divisions for the auction.
9. Plant new dormant roses early. Prune the canes back to three or four buds, and cover completely with earth until the new growth starts. Elsewhere in this issue are eleven points for success in rose growing.

BE SURE TO SET SOMETHING ASIDE FOR THE AUCTION