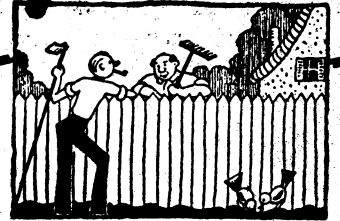




# The Garden Spray

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, Editor

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

## APRIL MEETING

Date: Tuesday, April 10, 1956  
Place: Mount Olivet Lutheran Church  
Knox Ave. S. & West 50th St.  
Time: 5:45 P. M. Sharp  
Dinner: \$1.50

### PROGRAM

1. Discussion of Ornamental Shrubs  
by Dr. Leon Snyder
2. Sale of Same Shrubs
3. Discussion Period

### Officers

George Titus	President
A. R. Blackbourn	Vice-president
N. W. Christopherson	Secretary
Wm. H. Hull	Treasurer

Office of the Secretary  
N. W. Christopherson  
6145 Clinton Ave., So.

Office of the Exchange Editor  
G. Victor Lowrie  
417 Essex Building

If you are looking for unusual hardy ornamental shrubs, here is an opportunity to first learn all about them, how they grow; where they fit; how to plant; when to prune and how they should be cultivated and maintained.

Dr. Snyder is going to provide the Club with young plants of a variety of hardy shrubs which have been tested and proved satisfactory for this area. He will explain their growing habits, where they will best fit into your garden and how to take care of them.

Then they will be offered for sale to members with the proceeds going into our Arboretum Fund.

Now keep in mind these are not just ordinary shrubs but rather extraordinary ornaments most of which are not available at our local nurseries.

DON'T FORGET OUR MAY PLANT AUCTION - IT WILL BE A BIG ONE

If you want to dress up your garden and who doesn't, here is your opportunity to get the unusual in shrubs, in fact, I believe, fruit trees of various kinds will also be available. Even if you haven't room for any more shrubs or trees, you will be able to add much to your store of knowledge about many varieties that can be grown in this climate.

### BEAUTIFUL BUSINESS

This is the caption over an article appearing in the Sunday, March 11 issue of the New York Times, the introduction to which I quote: "In traveling up and down or across the United States, the trend toward planting around factories and industrial buildings is bound to be observed. Many corporations in recent years have spent large sums of money not only for architects to build light, airy, buildings but also for landscape architects, designers, and nurserymen to plant trees, shrubs, lawns, flower beds. Even small parks have been created for employees."

Naturally, I am very pleased to find an article such as this which backs up my interest in having the Men's Garden Club launch out on a program of making awards in our area for industrial beautification. I am positive this is the type of leadership that goes with a club of our prestige and I am equally positive that such a program will react to our credit on the part of the people of Minneapolis and its suburbs.

We dare not venture such an undertaking without careful consideration of all facets involved, nor without the enthusiastic support of our membership. We must have coverage of the entire area which means every member should observe and report likely candidates for the award or awards as may be determined. We must screen all candidates with utmost care and in this regard we must have a panel of judges of sound judgement. We must expect criticism but this will be lessened by setting up a point system by which the candidates will be judged. While this point system is still in the making I perceive it will follow some such order as this:

1. Location of building on grounds; proper set-back; size of grounds in relation to size of building.
2. Landscape design for all-season or all-year effect.
3. Upkeep and maintenance.
4. Effect on morale of employees.
5. Public reaction; creation of goodwill.

If other points come to mind won't you pass them on to me? And won't you please start looking around immediately and continue to do so. Colored slides will have to be taken periodically for judging purposes and I'm sure we'll all be interested in seeing these slides projected at one of our fall meetings either before or following the awards.

Joe Witmer, Chairman  
Industrial Beautification

REMEMBER TO SOW THOSE EXTRA FLATS FOR THE MAY AUCTION

NEWS AND VIEWS

Seems like most of our winter migratory members have returned with the robins. Too bad the weatherman couldn't have arranged a more sunny reception. As this SPRAY is being written, most gardens have a January appearance much unlike Spring. Let's hope by meeting day our gardens will look more interesting.

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Harold Kaufmann, General Chairman, and Joe Witmer, Co-Chairman, of the Minnesota State Horticultural Society's Annual Convention to be held October 12 and 13 under our sponsorship, are already hard at work making contact, forming committees and sparking groups into action. They met with the Society's General Policy Committee on March 29th and secured endorsement on many major points including holding the annual meeting at our favorite rendezvous, Mount Olivet Lutheran Church. If you haven't been called yet to work on a committee, don't feel neglected, you will be, just give the boys a little time there is more than enough for every one of us to do.

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Did you hear about the gift of cactus plants a little old lady, who lives in one of those fancy-priced penthouses atop a marble column overlooking Central Park on that crowded little island of Manhattan, received from friends in Texas? Who not knowing anything about cacti subscribed to the local Texas newspaper in order to watch the weather so that every time it rained in Texas she watered her cacti in New York.

(Passed on by Prexy George Titus)

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Were we ever disappointed to learn that Frank Heschmeyer, who only recently moved into his new home with acreage, is being moved to Des Moines, Iowa. We are going to miss you, Frank, and your lovely family but wish you every success in your new and larger responsibilities. May Iowa be good to you and give you all much happiness.

\* \* \* \* \*

Don't forget our May plant auction as you prick out your seedlings or divide perennials. Set aside those you cannot use, label them and give your fellow members an opportunity to bid for the beauties. We will need a lot of material to auction this year if we are to make our already committed financial obligations.

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Industrious Herb Kahlert has been touring the South visiting Men's Garden Clubs in St. Louis, Mo., Jackson, Miss., Mobile, Ala., Fort Meyers, Fla., and still more clubs are on his itinerary.

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FIRE DANCE petunia and GOLD PAK carrot were the only flower and vegetable selected for the 1956 All-American Selections Award. Twenty-two vegetable trial grounds judges and 26 flower judges in all climatic conditions grew and compared these new selections with the best similar kinds in commerce before they were given the A.A.S. Award.

## ACTIVE SCHOOL GARDEN PROGRAM IN MINNEAPOLIS

Since the school gardening days of 1944, there has been in operation in the public schools of Minneapolis a most worthwhile gardening program for children. The success of this program is dependent upon the energetic three way co-operation of the public school system, the homes of participating children, and Parent Teacher Associations. The program is carried on with children from the kindergarden through the eighth grade and, according to the leaders, experience indicates that it is most effective with the children in grades three through six. It begins in the Spring with a presentation in the auditorium of each school by a qualified person from the office of the consultant of science. During this presentation the project is explained, and slides of suggested procedures and previous year's gardens are shown. Following this each teacher discusses gardening work with her class, and children who are interested in having a garden at home, after obtaining the consent of their parents, are enrolled. A school garden chairman is appointed by the principal of each school in co-operation with the PTA, and during the third week in June, this chairman with a committee arranges to visit the various school gardens. During the third week in July another inspection is made, and the three best gardens in each school district are recommended for final judging in a city-wide award competition.

In 1954, 1,478 children enrolled in the program and 1,148 completed. In 1955, there were 1,574 enrollments and 1,211 completions. For the 6 years enrollments and completions have been very steady.

In 1953, 43 elementary schools and 2 junior high schools participated, 137 gardens (approximately the three best from each school district) were entered in the final city-wide competition, and in the final judging there were 11 city-wide first places awarded, 14 second places, and 25 honorable mention places. 114 other junior gardeners were recognized for outstanding achievement. The best gardener from each of the participating schools were given a conducted tour of the Northrup King Seed Co. In Minneapolis concerning this project, Mr. L. W. Corbett of Northrup, King & Co. says, "Personally I believe this is a project that could be very well started in every city in the United States and that every seed company should back it in their communities. We feel here that it has contributed both to the school and the home life." Further details concerning the Minneapolis School Gardening Program can be obtained by those interested by writing to J. Hervey Shutts, Consultant in Science, Minneapolis Public Schools, Administration Building, 207 NE. Broadway, Minneapolis 13, Minnesota.

(Taken from "Garden Facts for Garden Leaders"  
published by the Federal Extension Service, U.S.  
Dept. of Agriculture, Washington D.C. Feb. 10, 1956)

### DAHLIAS

Dahlia tubers which are in store should be examined to ensure that all is well with them. If any of your friends are experimenting with the new method of over-wintering them in Plythene bags, watch the results, for, if it proves successful, this is likely to prove a much less troublesome way of storing them, especially for those who have to bring them into the house for want of a frost-proof shed or greenhouse.

### DELPHINIUMS

A lot of unpleasant things can be going on unsuspected below the surface of the ground. Inspection of delphinium plants often reveals that slugs are chewing at the young shoots rising from the resting crowns. They can be discouraged by scraping away an inch or two of soil and exposing the growing shoots, which may then be surrounded with sharp ash or grit. A dose of "Slugit" or some other efficient slug destroyer, will also not be amiss.

## 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, irises, 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 a 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.

## A BIZARRE GIANT IN FLOWER

An event of great horticultural interest took place in Holland at the end of February, in the Leyden Botanic Garden, when the giant aroid, *Amorphophallus Titanum* opened one of its immense flowers. This strange plant is a native of Sumatra and has flowered in Europe only at infrequent intervals since its first introduction in 1878.

Seeds were sent from the Padang Province of Sumatra to Florence in that year and a plant raised from these seeds was sent to Kew in the following year and flowered in 1889. Since that date it has flowered at Kew in July 1926, August 1929, May 1936, and August 1940.

Other records of its flowering in Europe are infrequent. It flowered in the Hanburg Botanic Gardens, in 1926, when 35,000 visitors are said to have made special visits to admire its bizarre beauty, at the University of Wageningen in 1932 and 1951 and in the Zoological Gardens of Rotterdam in 1953. A plant growing in the New York Botanic Gardens flowered in 1937.

*Amorphophallus Titanum* is not a plant which can be accommodated in a small greenhouse, for the proportions of its amazing flower are such as to demand ample space. The blossom, from the bottom to the tip of the spadix can, when mature, be a little more than six feet. The spathe is usually green on the outside, coloured purple-brown within and the erect spadix is yellow.

A fully developed flower may last for a fortnight or more, and for the first two or three days emits a powerful stench which has been described as a mixture of rotten fish and burnt sugar. Fortunately the unpleasant odour fades out in time for a due and proper appreciation; with unprotected nose, of this unique plant.

During the period of economic depression between the two world wars, an export trade was developed by some unemployed Sumatrans in "The plant with the largest flower in the world", and tubers of 20 pounds weight were offered for sale at great price.

The plant is far from common and a measure of protection was provided by prohibiting the export of any but the very large tubers, and those only when the leaves had withered and fallen naturally.

The plant now flowering at Leyden was received as a dry tuber last year and must have been a giant of its race, for the tuber weighed a little more than one hundred pounds.

Plants which do not actually flower are also striking, since the great leafstalk may be more than ten feet high and two feet in circumference.

There are some eighty species of *amorphophallus* distributed through the tropics of the Old World, Australia and the Pacific. *A. Rivieri* is sometimes potted and used as a room plant, for its stout scape is handsomely white-spotted and the leafstalk rose-marbled, which with the decorative foliage makes it an ornamental subject.

(Reprinted from the Gardeners'  
Chronicle, March 3, 1956  
London, England)

BE SURE TO SET SOMETHING ASIDE FOR THE AUCTION