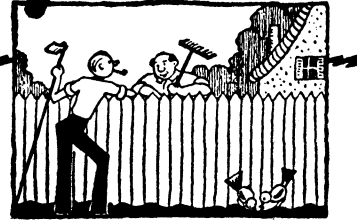




The Garden Spray

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

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



April, 1957
Volume 15, Number 5
G. "Vic" Lowrie, Editor

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

APRIL MEETING

Date: Tuesday, April 9, 1957
Place: Mount Olivet Lutheran Church
Knox Ave. So. & West 50th St.
Time: 5:45 P.M. Sharp
Price: \$1.50

OFFICERS

A. W. Koester	President
R. C. Adams	Vice Preside
W. H. Hull	Treasurer
N. W. Christopherson	Secretary
G. S. Titus	Past Preside

PROGRAM

"LAWNS & GRASSES" By Dick Stadtherr

"SHRUBS & TREES FOR THE SMALL YARD"
By Dr. Leon Snyder

Auction of Ornamental Shrubs and Trees
for the Arboretum Fund with description
by Dr. Snyder.

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

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

This is a "double-must" meeting for every member.

There are some new and improved grasses on the market today which need clarification, particularly as to their application in this severe climate of ours, and few are better able to give us the real dope because of the experimental work undertaken at the University School Farm than our fellow member, Dick Stadtherr, who not only participated but supervised much of the test sowings of these new grasses.

DON'T FORGET OUR MAY PLANT AUCTION

Enclosed with this issue of the Spray is a list of 19 different varieties of ornamental shrubs and trees, a total of 138 plants, all to be auctioned off at this meeting. Now many of the varieties are new to Minnesota but can be grown here. They are all extremely interesting items, and most of you will want to have one, two or three or more in your garden. Here's a chance to get some fine unusual material at a price you can afford to pay. Come early and look the material over before the auction — bring the list of material to be auctioned with you — be seeing yer—all!

DON'T FORGET OUR MAY PLANT AUCTION

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THE NEGLECTED HOLLYHOCK

One of the oldest flowers in cultivation is the hollyhock, a native of China, which was cultivated by bee keepers because of its abundant pollen.

Later, when this wild flower from China was brought to England in the Middle Ages, it became known as the "holy-hock" or "hock leaf", so-called because the leaves were used to reduce the swelling in the hock of a horse or the ankle of a man. Hock being the old Saxon word for heel.

In the 9th century, it was found growing by pilgrims on the Isle of Farne where it was named St. Cuthbert's Cole after Saint Cuthbert, an English monk who, in the 7th century, was the Bishop of Lindisparne. Sometime after this, the name was changed to hollyhocke, meaning holy mallow.

Sometime during the 16th century, the hollyhock reached France where it was supposed to be taken from Syria. The French called it "Damascus-rose".

Botanically the hollyhock is known as Althaea rosea and has many relatives, all noted for their showy flowers. Among these are the marshmallow (Althæa officinalis), the common rose mallow (Hibiscus mosecheutos), the rose-of-China (H. rosa-sinensis), the shrub althea or rose-of-Sharon (H. syriacus) and many others

Hollyhocks should be grown in full sun in ordinary soil. Their deep tap roots enable them to withstand considerable drought. Although classified as biennials, they many times will carry over and bloom for two or three years. They can be easily grown from seed which is best sown in the open ground, and the plants moved to their permanent location when small.

Seedmen offer both single and double forms. Some have slightly ruffled flowers and others different shaped leaves. The Antwerp or figleaf hollyhock has leaves shaped like those of the fig.

Today, we have annual types which probably are more satisfactory than the old fashioned biennials.

Hollyhock rust is its most troublesome disease and that may be why so many gardeners avoid this unusually colorful flower. However, the rust can easily be detected by the

yellow lesions on the upper surface of the leaves and the orange to reddish pustules on the undersides. The leaves should be cut and burned as soon as identified, and the plant sprayed or dusted with berban, if sprayed: one and a half to two tablespoons per gallon of water.

Since infection usually starts early in the Spring during warm wet weather, it is necessary to start spraying just as soon as the first leaves appear and continue at ten day intervals. Be sure to apply the fungicide to both the upper and under surfaces of the leaves as well as the whole of the plant's stem. Bordeaux or similar spray are ineffective.

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WHAT HAVE YOU SET ASIDE FOR THE AUCTION

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GARDEN RECORD BOOK

If you are not already doing so, begin now to keep a garden record book. Record the date of sowing seed, planting and transplanting of each variety. Note the time of bloom of each annual, perennial and shrub. Keep a record of your spraying or dusting schedule, health of your plants and complete results obtained. Such a record book, kept over a period of years, you will find invaluable.

LANDSCAPE ARBORETUM STICKER

Enclosed with this issue of the SPRAY is a Landscape Arboretum Sticker which you are invited to display on your car with the hope that it will invite inquiries, and afford you the opportunity of explaining what is an arboretum and how much the citizens of the State would benefit from the establishment or operation of a State Arboretum.

A new Hormone insecticide, extracted from the abdomen of the adult male Cecropia silkworm, gives promise of being the long-sought-for agent against which pests cannot develop resistance. According to Dr. Carroll M. Williams, Harvard Zoologist, the hormone disturbs the process of metamorphosis. Applied to the outside of the pupa, it produced a freak that was part pupa and part adult, and soon died. Flies, roaches, and other pests have developed resistance to virtually every known insecticide. Since it is unlikely that an insect can become resistant to its own hormones, the newly extracted agent, once identified and produced in quantity, is expected to become as effective as well as permanent insect eradicator.

San Jose, California
March 15, 1957

To the Editor:

I am taking advantage of your invitation to write our suggestions, gripes, complaints or what have you.

Being out of town a lot, I miss many of the meetings and therefore the discussions. Of course, I know the remedy for that is to stay home and attend the meetings, thereby knowing what is going on.

Yet there must be others who cannot attend the meetings and they, too, miss the proceedings and must sometimes wonder what went on.

Under our system of operation, the Secretary was relieved of the necessity of taking minutes of the meetings; that function being taken over by the reporters of the GARDEN SPRAY.

Perhaps this phase of our operations has been overlooked for some time.

I think the Editors should consider publishing a good, substantial resume of the talks and garden discussions given during the meetings. Such articles published in the SPRAY during the following month would:

1. Constitute "the minutes of the previous meeting".
2. Act as a history of club activities.
3. Keep absent members informed.
4. Eliminate some of the irrelevant articles which have appeared in the past months.

Thank you, Mr. Editor, for your consideration.

Sincerely,

S/H

Rene Dufourd
The Hardshelled Crab

Editors Note: Rene has a good idea which the Editors of the SPRAY will attempt to follow. It would help considerably though if the speakers were requested by the Program Chairman, at the time their topic is assigned, to provide the club with a transcript of their talk for publishing in the SPRAY. It takes the skill of a court reporter to record a talk and without shorthand knowledge, it's almost impossible. It might also be a good idea for the Secretary to make available to the Editors of the SPRAY the significant deliberations that take place at the monthly meetings of the Board of Directors.

G.V.L.

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WHAT HAVE YOU FOR THE PLANT AUCTION

APRIL REMINDERS

1. Don't be in too big a hurry to uncover your roses nor your less hardy perennials until we have a fairly prolonged spell of real warm weather. Even then be prepared to re-cover in case of a threatened heavy frost.
2. You can unhill your roses as soon as the soil has completely thawed. As soon as you do, spray or dust for blackspot with captan or fermate. Withhold pruning until you can distinguish green from dead wood, fertilize around the middle of May.
3. Don't be in too big a hurry to pronounce the demise of a rose. Many are slow to show new life, particularly if canes are severely killed back. Give them until late in May.
4. Plant new dormant roses as soon as the ground can be worked. Make sure the graft is just below the soil level after the soil has been firmed. Prune the canes back to three or four buds and cover with earth until new growth appears, then wash soil off gradually.
5. If you haven't as yet attended to your lawn, get going immediately. Rake well, dress and seed if necessary, apply fertilizer, being sure to wash it into the soil thoroughly, and roll lightly when soil is firm.
6. It is a good practice to dust perennials with Bordeaux or ferbam immediately when the first shoots appear and to top dress them with bone meal, pulverized manure or commercial fertilizer.
7. 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, leafmold or manure the soil will take, leaving the surface rough in order to hold the moisture until planting time.
8. Sweet peas should be planted as soon as the ground is in shape to dig a trench four to six inches deep. Line the bottom of the trench with well-rotted manure; cover with soil up to two or three inches below surface; sow seeds covering them lightly; fill trench gradually as plants grow.
9. Pansy plants and violas can also set out as soon as the ground is ready. They thrive in cool soil and will take a considerable amount of frost.
10. As soon as planting conditions are right, sow where you want them to grow, peas, parsnips, spinach, beets, carrots, lettuce, parsley and radishes.
11. Give your asparagus bed an early dressing of a complete commercial fertilizer (unless it is a well-manured new bed) and you can do the same for the rhubarb.
12. Annuals for early bloom, such as petunias, snapdragons, ageratum, salpiglossis, stock, asters, scabiosa, verbenas and salvia should be started in the house. Bachelor buttons, calendula, cosmos, larkspur, mignonette, portulaca and annual phlox can be sown directly into the ground as soon as weather permits. Sinningias, nicotiana, marigolds and cleome can be sown when they are to grow in late May.

Week End Garden Visits

During April not many types of flowers be in bloom — The early small bulbs perhaps, Scilla, Chinodoxia, Crocus, etc. Not enough information has come in yet to advise you regarding these. The plant at Vic Jaeger's, however, does have a number of these and early tulips, and should be worth investigating.

Have you returned your card?

P. W. Young
Program Chairman

OVER THE GARDEN FENCE

By Bill Hull

William (Bill) Holmberg is a dahlia man, living at 5303 N. Fremont, and having been in our Club since 1942 when he was sponsored by Andy Nyberg. In addition to his 500 dahlias, Bill has 4000 tuberous begonias, many geraniums and other plants. He is Vice-President of the American Dahlia Society and is associated with the D. C. Hey Co., dealers in photocopy equipment.

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Note in a Surrey, England, seedsman's catalog: "If your neighbor has a flower is very proud of, let us know and we will supply seeds of one larger or in an entirely color. We specialize in this work."

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L. G. (Lee) Straub lives at 5016 Washburn Avenue South, where he specializes in iris. Lee who describes himself as a "not very" active member, is also interested in arrangements and in cooking. Introduced to the Club in 1953 by H. Kaufmann and P.W. Yo he is associated with the National Food Stores, managing the 43rd and Upton Store.

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From an English rose catalogue: "Lady Godiva - a pale pink sport."

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Robert P. (Bob) Savory is a professional member of the Club, having been sponsored in 1947 by Harold Kaufmann. Bob lives at 5300 Valley View where he specializes in orchids and rooting of evergreens and shrubs. Bob is active in the American Orchid Soc: and likes to hunt and fish.

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We've certainly missed the absentee members lately. In addition to those on vacation, we've particularly missed the ailing Sam Abrams and Vic Lowrie. Both are improving we have been told.

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Henry Bachman's Florida fishing expedition he describes as "pretty sad". Then he tells us he caught over 250 pounds of fish. "Too bad. So sad."

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Gossip seems to indicate that rabbit and mice destruction to shrubs is particularly bad this year. What's your experience?

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Orrin Turnquist particularly urged growing vegetables in the perennial garden and also in the small garden, using such technics as companion cropping, inter-cropping

OVER THE GARDEN FENCE (Continued)

tomatoe staking and block-planting (of corn). Among those vegetables that can be particularly attractive amongst the flowers are parsley, chives, beets, onions, brocc and cabbage. They don't look bad tossed together with salad dressing either, Orri:

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Archie Flack and Ted Wier also gave very interesting talks at the last meetin Archie is one of our own real experts and made a masterfull presentation. Thanks P

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Isn't it the Chicago Tribune that contains the little poem "The Wake Depen Upon Its' Friends. Help! Help!" Well, so does THE SPRAY. If you won't tell us abo yourself, tip us off to activities of other members. Tell any of us - Lowrie, Wit Methven, Christopherson or me - Hull. And say "It's for SPRAY".

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Your March MEGA contains hotel reservation and convention registration bla for the June convention of the National (MGCA). Let's go, fellows! I personally the Portland boys are planning a fine meeting. And there are invitations for conv tioneers to attend other coast clubs.

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WANTED: Land for a vegetable garden. Anyone have any suggestions. Prefe the vicinity of my home in Edina.

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Every member is looking forward to our May PLANT AUCTION. You can help ma it a success and at the same time share your better varieties with your fellow mem by sowing an extra flat or two and contributing them to the AUCTION.

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MINNESOTA STATE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY GARDEN
QUIZ FOR APRIL, 1957

1. What is meant by "ground cover" plants"?

Ans. Low growing plant of any kind which may be used instead of lawn grass the purpose of completely covering the ground surface.

2. In choosing flower colors to be used in borders and beds what mistake is commo made?

Ans. Too few white flowers are used. Reds, blues, and other strong colors appear more brillant and attractive if generous amounts of white are used with

GARDEN QUIZ (Continued)

3. Can lawn be fertilized and re-seeded at the same time?

Ans. Yes. Early spring is a good time to do both. If fertilizer is used at the recommended rate it will have no adverse effect on the germinating grass.

4. What materials are suggested for the control of cutworms?

Ans. Toxaphene, and also DDT are quite effective when dusted on the soil around the plants. Use a dust containing 5% of either material. Put paper collars around the stems of transplants such as tomatoes.

5. What shrub plants are commonly used for hedges?

Ans. Alpine currant, Japanese barberry, Cotoneaster, Caragana, Dwarf ninebark, and many others. Buckthorn, a common hedge material in past years is no longer recommended, it is the alternate host for the Crown Rust disease of oats.

6. Will tulips benefit from spring applications of fertilizers?

Ans. Yes, it is a good practice to add a light dressing of fertilizer early in the spring, soon after the plants are well through the surface. The fertilizer will have little effect on the bloom immediately following but will enable the bulbs to maintain their vigor so that flower production the following year will be good.

7. What is the purpose of rolling lawns in the spring with a roller?

Ans. Helps to level out small humps and depressions. Except on light soils there is some danger of making the soil too compact and hard for good grass growth. Light rolling of newly-seeded areas may increase germination by establishing contact between soil and seed.

8. What are some of the ways of hastening the germination of seeds?

Ans. Soaking in water before planting. Treatment in hot water. Seeds notched or filed (such as canna and castor bean). Many tree and shrub seeds are stratified and stored in a cool moist place for a considerable time before planting date.

9. At what rate would you apply a lawn seed mixture to a soil that is being newly planted to lawn?

Ans. Usually 3 or 3 1/2 pounds per 1000 square feet. Under some conditions the rate may vary from 2 to 5 pounds per 1000 square feet.