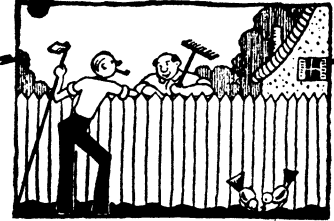




# The Garden Spray

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  
Wm. H. Hull, Joe Witmer  
Don Methven, Bob Adams

## APRIL MEETING

Date: Tuesday, April 8, 1958  
Place: Mount Olivet Lutheran Church  
Knox Ave. So. & W. 50th St.  
Time: 5:45 P.M. Sharp  
Price: \$1.50

## OFFICERS

W. W. Brooks	President
P. W. Young	Vice President
W. H. Hull	Treasurer
N. W. Christopherson	Secretary

Office of the Secretary  
N. W. Christopherson  
6145 Clinton Avenue South

## PROGRAM

ARBORETUM BENEFIT AUCTION  
Lots of shrubs and trees available

Lecture by Dr. "J.D." Winter, Head of  
Frozen Food Laboratory at the U. of Minn.  
Farm School. Subject: "Dwarf Fruit Trees"

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

You won't want to miss this garden program!!

The Auction is one of our two money-raising schemes of the year. The proceeds will go to fulfill our budgeted promise of \$250.00 to the Arboretum Fund. You will want to support this Auction enthusiastically in keeping with the members' voted pledge of this amount. A list of the items available may be found elsewhere in the GARDEN SPRAY.

Mr. Winter -- "J.D." as he is generally known -- is very familiar with all fruit types of this area and will show slides to illustrate his talk. He organized and has been Secretary for many years of the Minnesota Fruit Growers Association. Two years ago he returned to his native England and visited at East Malling Station where dwarf fruit trees were first developed.

OVER THE GARDEN FENCE

by Bill Hull

An excellent program in March again, thanks to Bill Ost and his group of speakers. A. W. Buzicky, Director of the Metropolitan Mosquito Control District (6 counties -- 3,000 square miles), informed us of the activities of his group. Here are some high lights: mosquitoes must breed in free water -- not merely damp soil as thought. Eggs laid on dry ground depend upon future moisture to hatch them. Eggs known to lay dormant as long as three years. Program of his group includes draining worst breeding areas as finances permit, modifying fringe breeding areas at edges of pot-holes, filling sloughs. Temporary actions will be the spreading of insecticides like DDT at breeding sites. Mr. Buzicky emphasized this is a long range program, maximum control probably being reached in about three years. Present cost is fifty cents per capita, not to exceed a two mill tax, but only running .61 of one mill in Hennepin county.

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Al Nelson, as rosarian for the Capitol Approach Rose Gardens in St. Paul, now has another 1500 roses to care for. For his own roses, Al digs trenches, tips the entire plant in, and covers them for the Winter. Loss under five per cent. Starts the covering process after October 20. This permits high pruning in Spring. Sprays weekly with protective spray and during thrip flying times, sprays with Isotex-N (DDT and Lindane). Believes in shallow planting for longer life. Choice of roses include: Fashion, Ma Perkins, Red P., Circus, Spartan, Vogue and Independence.

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Art Fakler's interesting display and demonstration of starting seeds in sphagnum moss well received. Runs milled moss through an eighth-inch screen, soaks, compresses and uses for growing medium. Several members apparently now ready to switch from other starting mediums. Bill Ost also showed his starting technics for tuberous begonia seeds. Also most interesting. One novel idea: A brick upon which is placed leaf mould, the whole enclosed in a wooden frame. Moisture moves upwards through the brick.

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We are sorry to learn that Charlie Rief has been under the weather. We wish him a speedy recovery and hope we can keep posted on his condition. Once again the appeal: Please let us know, fellows, when a fellow member is ill.

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"P.W." Young back from California just in time for the meeting. Had a fine visit with friend and Past President George Titus. Also met a group of Minnesotans there.

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We understand our St. Paul MGC friends had a fine open house and we personally were sorry to be out of state and have to miss it. Among those present were Bill Brooks, Archie Flack, Walter Menzel, Otto Erickson, Herb Kahlert and Chris Mosberg.

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Norm Christopherson had some fine caladiums beginning to come into their own. And did you see the lovely orchid plants Bob Bryant brought to the meeting?

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ARBORETUM AUCTION

The following is the list of trees and shrubs that will be offered for sale at our April Club Meeting -- April 8th. The description is by Dr. Leon Snyder.

Lot 1 -- Redbud - Cercis Canadensis. 20 Trees.

These Redbuds are from seed collected from a tree growing in Excelsior. The plants should prove reasonably hardy. The Redbud flowers before the leaves come out in the Spring, usually about the middle of May, and last about two weeks. In the Fall, the leaves are an attractive yellow color.

Lot 2 -- Japanese Katsura - Cercidiphyllum Japonica. 5 Trees.

This is a small tree from Japan that we have had in our test plantings for 3 winters. The foliage is very attractive, and the Autumn color very showy. There are several of these trees in the Arnold Arboretum in Chicago that are about 25 feet high and upright in habit of growth. If this proves hardy here, it should be a very nice, small shade tree.

Lot 3 -- Euonymus Nanus Turkestanica. 6 Shrubs.

This is the upright form of the dwarf Euonymus and should grow about 4 feet high. The leaves are narrow, dark green in color and persist on the plant all Winter. The fruit is very colorful, being about an inch across and a brilliant pink. The fruits mature in late August and resemble large Bittersweet fruits.

Lot 4 -- Forsythia - Wright's. 12 Shrubs.

This is a selection which we have propagated from a plant in Harold Wright's yard in Excelsior. The parent plant has bloomed every year for the last 10 years. This should be a very hardy form of Forsythia.

Lot 5 -- Radiant Flowering Crabapple. 25 Trees.

This is a new Crabapple that is being introduced this Spring and was shown on the front cover of the recent issue of THE HORTICULTURIST. It is especially attractive because of the rosy-bloom flowers, the compact habit of growth and the brilliant red fruits produced in September and October.

*Bought \$13.-*

Lot 6 -- Viburnum Wrighti. 12 Shrubs.

A rather compact shrub that produces brilliant red berries in the Fall. The only place I have seen it is in East Lansing, Michigan and there the shrub was completely covered with bright red berries in September. We do not know how hardy this variety will prove to be.

Lot 7 -- Selected Apricots. 36 Trees. Will be sold only in pairs.

These apricots are some of the best selections which will probably be named in about 3 years. Since these Apricots are still under number, it will be necessary that the buyer sign a statement to the effect that he will not propagate them in any way and could use them only for test purposes. This is because of our new royalty program with the Minnesota Nurserymen's Research Corporation.

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## ARBORETUM AUCTION (con't)

DO STUDY THE LIST CAREFULLY AND DECIDE WHAT YOU CAN USE IN ADVANCE.

A valuation has been placed on each Lot, and the Auctioneers will be instructed to accept only minor amounts over that figure.

Each tree or shrub will be numbered -- as Lot 1/1, Lot 1/2, etc. When you pay the Cashier, you will be given a tag with a number as above. Those in charge of delivery will give you the corresponding tree or shrub.

See you at the Auction!!

## ROSES IN ARIZONA

By Al Nelson

I spent Christmas week in Phoenix where I visited two rose nurseries.

One was the Whittington Nurseries near Maricopa where Mr. Whittington showed us around. By Arizona standards, he is considered a "small" grower -- growing a mere 2½ million rose bushes, which produce 750,000 plants each year sold only at wholesale. Their field, a mile square, is irrigated by water from a private pump, 550 feet deep. The sub-surface water level of the area is dropping at the alarming rate of 5 feet a year, due to numerous private pumps; though the natives believe much of that fall is due to a 7-year dry cycle. They now hope to be entering a wet cycle. Also new dams in the mountains to the North may relieve a water shortage.

The soil is a brown clay, with a small mixture of sand. Unwatered, it produces only a few cacti and a scattering of small bushes. When irrigated, it is very productive.

In Mr. Whittington's field, each mile long row (or parts of a row) was of a different Rose variety. Chemical fertilizers are mixed with the irrigation water, and thus fed and watered in the same operation. Blackspot is not a problem to Arizona growers, because it does not develop unless the leaves have been continuously wet for over six hours. Mildew is a minor problem: moist air in contact with the leaves can cause mildew after a field has been irrigated; but even this seldom happens. Mr. Whittington had dusted his field with sulphur only once prior to digging the bushes; but this was more for the benefit of the inspector who was to call the next day, than for any value to the plants. Thrips are a problem only to those who grow the plants for the flowers; but these fields were for the development of sturdy bushes, so no spray was used against these thrips.

In our part of the country, we expect cold weather to send the plants into dormancy. In this part of Arizona, some growers quit irrigating the rose fields toward the end of October. Mr. Whittington did not. He said that they go dormant naturally at that time of the year. However, he had had a flock of

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ROSES IN ARIZONA (con't)

sheep turned into the field to eat off the leaves. This is another way of forcing the plants into dormancy. They did not seem to have injured the plants in the least; and, since there was no poison spray on the leaves, there was no danger to the sheep. Sometimes chemical sprays are used to defoliate the plants. There are also machines that can do the job. And some growers have the leaves picked by hand. Indian labor is cheap and plentiful.

This is shipping time for the nurseries here. A u-shaped instrument with a V-shaped shear at the base, is pulled along a row by a tractor at about a 15-inch depth. This cuts the longer roots. An attachment raises each bush partly-way out of the ground. Workmen follow, cull out the poor and diseased plants, tie the rest into bundles of ten, and label them. The bundles are loaded into trucks and taken to a shed, where they are pruned -- a bundle at a time -- stacked under the sheds and wet down. They are now ready for shipment to individual dealers.

Jackson & Perkins have a large establishment in Deer Valley, north of Phoenix. They grow ten million plants. Since they cater to the retail trade, their methods of handling the bushes are different. They are hauled from the field to a shed, and spread out on 4 conveyor belts. About half-way on these conveyors is another belt running crosswise of the 4. At this point, there is a man at each belt who picks out the culls and places them on the crossbelt. At the end of the crossbelt, a man packs the culls into a box that holds several hundred bushes. These are probably for the "bargain counter" trade.

At the end of the other conveyors, are men packing the good quality bushes into large boxes. These are probably shipped to the Jackson & Perkins distributing center at Newark, New York. On the day of our visit, there were over 50 men working in that one shed. Rose growing is a big business.

In reporting these facts about production in Arizona, one feels almost as though he was repeating some of the tall tales told about California or Texas: like the one about the Californian, traveling through Texas, who wished to razz the Texan on the poor quality of their home-grown fruit. He picked up a melon from a fruit stand and asked, "Is this the biggest grapefruit you can grow here?" "Careful!" said the Texan, "Don't crush that raisin!!"

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## 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. Who 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.