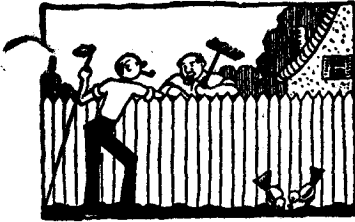


# THE GARDEN SPRAY

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAP



MEMBER—MEN'S GARDEN CLUBS OF AMERICA  
MINNESOTA STATE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

February, 1953  
Volume 11, Number 2  
G. "Vic" Lowrie, Editor

Associate Editors:  
Don Methven; Wm. Hull

## FEBRUARY MEETING

Date: Tuesday, February 10, 1953  
Place: Hasty Tasty Cafe,  
50th & France Ave. So.  
Time: 5:45 P.M. sharp  
Dinner: \$1.50

## PROGRAM

6:30 P.M. Business Session  
6:45 "What Is a Hybrid?" - "Elementary  
Plant Breeding" by Dr. Arthur M.  
Wilcox, University Farm School  
7:45 Annual Reports of Special Inter-  
est Groups

The Program Committee has come up with another outstanding program for our February meeting. Plant breeding is a fascinating subject in itself, but you won't want to miss Dr. Wilcox's colorful presentation of the subject. You will thoroughly enjoy the doctor's interpretation of this highly scientific phase of horticulture which he unfolds in terms and understanding of the amateur gardener. In addition, we will receive further reports from the Special Interest Groups, followed by a general discussion on the subject presented, open to all.

So don't miss the night with the gang, Tuesday, February 10th - circle the date on your calendar and don't let anything keep

## Officers

R. J. Dufourd President  
A. H. Flack  
Vice President  
C. G. Harkins Secretary  
T. P. Hughes Treasurer  
G. "Vic" Lowrie  
Past President

## OVER THE FENCE



"Hey, Al, I'm getting scientific. Sent a sample of my soil to Washington for analysis."

"What did they say, Mike?"

"I quote: 'Your soil contains mostly floor sweepings from combination bar and poolroom on West Broadway. Contact local sanitation authorities.'"

"Where did you send the sample, Mike?"

"To the F.B.I., of course!"

## THE JANUARY MEETING

What a delightful get-together we had on Tuesday, January 13th. Those who couldn't make it (and there weren't too many for we had a bang-up attendance) were robbed of a most pleasant evening. The business session was short and to the point. All the annual reports were enthusiastically received, especially the treasurer's, showing cash in the bank amounting to \$1,495.28. The budget for 1953, as recommended by the retiring officers, was approved and that set the stage for the new officers to take over, which they did. In the absence of President Dufourd, who is holidaying in Florida, the Vice-President, Archie Flack, took charge and tossed the ball to Bob Adams who emceed the program.

The Photographic Committee represented by "P. W." Young put on a decidedly interesting as well as educational demonstration of "how to get the best results with your camera." Here recorded are a few of the "dos" and "don'ts" which should prove helpful to our camera fans:

1. The importance of eliminating distracting backgrounds which fight for interest with the specimen in foreground. This can be accomplished by selecting the best angle to take the picture, or by using wider lens opening and faster speed, which will leave background out of focus.
2. He discussed advisability of using a light meter to insure better pictures and even recommended taking additional shots at one-half an opening greater than reading, or one-half an opening less than reading to give greater assurance. Also suggested members take readings of dark and light areas alike of proposed subject and adjust reading to emphasize whichever area you desire to stand out.
3. Warned members against burning or buckling their slides by leaving in projector too long. He stated that very few projectors would not injure the slides. Did not define "too long".

Following the showing of slides, which were interpreted in terms of how disappointments in films could be avoided, the Special Interest Group, chaired by Tony Koester, took the limelight. Tony gave a graphic report of the undertakings of the various groups, and Archie Flack followed with a report of the activities of his "Shrub and Tree" group. Archie's report is included with this issue of The Garden Spray.

### A NEW SOIL CONDITIONER

"Erunam can be your'n for the asking. Public demand forces us to release our revolutionary new garden product. Erunam (pronounced Air-oo-nam). Erunam is not just an inert soil conditioner. ERUNAM is everything. One heaping glob of our magic atomic substance will re-make your garden. Erunam makes light soils heavy, heavy soils light, and it steadfastly ignores medium soils. Erunam is a selective pesticide; it kills harmful weeds, bugs and diseases while fraternizing with the approved ones.

tains decomposed chlorophyll; your garden will never smell the same. Erunam contains no nasty chemicals; it's purely organic. One pound of this concentrated product is equivalent to sixteen ounces. Most of the world's leading experiment stations are full of Erunam. Write us for our trial garden size bucket today. Offer limited to home gardeners only.

"Remember - ERUNAM spelled backwards is M-A-N-U-R-E"

## NEWS AND VIEWS

Now don't be in too much of a hurry to start your seeds in the house, for unless you have exceptionally good light, can control the temperature, and have a cold frame in which to harden them off before planting, you're likely to end up with weak spindly plants. Seeds of most annuals will germinate and be ready for transplanting in the borders from 8 to 10 weeks after sowing.

With this issue of The Garden Spray you will receive the 1952 Annual Reports of the President, Secretary and Treasurer. The first report from the Special Interest Group is also included. Others will follow in succeeding issues.

No doubt you have all looked over the early seed catalogues and picked out the new novelties. Here are a few as a further check. The two All-American winners this year are Comanche Petunia awarded the Bronze Medal, and Royal Carpet Alyssum, winner of the Silver Medal. Comanche is a hybrid petunia supposedly having great vigor, with scarlet-red medium-size blooms which run true to type. Royal Carpet Alyssum has a rich deep purple color, quite dwarf, is fragrant and reported to be an excellent companion to the white variety, Carpet of Snow. Other novelties include: Giant Hybrid Zinnia Sunny Boy, Petunia Pink Frills, Snapdragon Candlelight, Giant Hybrid Zinnia Eskimo, Trysonic Stocks, Giant Fluffy Asters, Super Giant W. R. Asters, Celosia Golden Fleece, Marigold Fluffy Ruffles, Scabiosa Lavender Moon, Marigold Atomic Gold and Viola Scottish Yellow.

Yes, we have another bountiful crop of new roses including two "All-American" selections, Chrysler Imperial, a vivid crimson hybrid tea, and Ma Perkins, a coral shell-pink floribunda. Additional new introductions: Cinderella from Holland, a thornless, white, pink tinted miniature; Josephine Bruce, an English hybrid tea, seedling of Crimson Glory, a rich velvety crimson; from France comes Confidence, a yellow and pink blend developed by Francis Millard, originator of Peace, and Eden Rose a clear medium pink with a heavenly fragrance; Germany gives us a cross between Poinsettia and Crimson Glory, a deep red, fragrant hybrid tea christened at the Annual Convention of the M.G.C.A. in Detroit, the Detroitier. Another promising hybrid tea is Lodestar with buff-orange-pink coloring, not unlike Diamond Jubilee but with much deeper coloring, which holds throughout the life of the bloom.

On the vegetable side, no new introductions were deemed worthy of an "All-American" award. Instead, a list of the all-time winners from 1933 to 1952 was voted upon and they are listed below in order of the number of votes each received:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Lima Bean, Fordhook 242 - 1945           | 7. Cucumber, Early Surecrop, Hybrid - 1951 |
| 2. Squash, Early Prolific Straightneck 1938 | 8. Spinach, America - 1952                 |
| 3. Beet, Perfected Detroit - 1934           | 9. Tomato, Pritchard - 1933                |
| 4. Carrot, Emperor - 1933                   | 10. Lettuce - Great Lakes - 1944           |
| 5. Radish, Cherry Belle - 1949              | 11. Sweet Corn, Iochief, Hybrid - 1933     |
| 6. Snap Bean, Topcrop - 1950                | 12. Cabbage, Chieftain, Savoy - 1933       |

You know, it's really not too soon to start thinking about our May Auction. First, think about all the sturdy, vigorous plants and seedlings you are going to have fun buying at your own price. As you well know, much of the material at the Auction will not be available anywhere else. Second, remember when you sow a flat of seeds for your own garden to sow an extra one for the Auction, and this is a special invitation to members with green-

upon - especially dollar-wise - by all means get it across to our Auction Chairman, S. F. Pinkham. He will appreciate all the help you can give him.

When using sawdust as a mulch, the West Virginia Extension Service recommends mixing in 7 pounds of nitrate of soda or sulfate of ammonia for 100 pounds of sawdust. They also suggest using year-old sawdust.

#### WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

We are happy to welcome into our organization five new members:

Albert E. Coxe, 3204 43rd Ave. S.  
Everett B. Haedecke, 5524 W. 70th St.  
William H. Hull, 4209 Vernon Ave.  
Charles Lampright, 1 Loring Rd. Bellgrove  
Herbert H. Stevens, 3806 Glenhurst Ave.

Be sure to make yourselves known to them. They are all enthusiastic gardeners. Their association with us will be most enjoyable and we are looking forward to exchanging experiences with them.

#### FEBRUARY CHORES

1. Winter is moving along, Spring will soon be here. Better get going on the painting of garden stakes, window boxes, garden furniture, etc.
2. Have you drawn up plans for your 1953 garden? Do you know what new shrubs you want and where to plant them; what shrubs aren't doing so well in their present location and where to move them? How about your color combination with annuals this year - have you worked this out in combination with perennials? By putting these ideas down on paper (better still drawing your garden to scale and spotting in the changes, new additions, etc.) you will save yourself a lot of headaches, come Spring, and be able to buy what you need more intelligently
3. Remember to save your wood ashes from the fireplace. Keep them in a dry place until Spring, then sprinkle on rose or perennial beds. They have good limestone and fertilization value.
4. Take a look at your gladiolus corms to make sure they are clean. Throw out those infested and place in paper bag with naphthalene flakes (one ounce to 100 corms). Remove in three weeks.
5. Examine dahlia tubers for excessive dryness and signs of rot. Dampen if too dry, and cut diseased parts away. Dust the cut surfaces with sulphur.
6. Check your wintering-over cold frames for rodents and trap them. Keep contents of the frame cold until late winter, then warm up gradually for an early start. Air occasionally when outside temperature is in the thirties.

EXCERPTS FROM M.G.C.A. PRESIDENT'S JANUARY LETTER

Hi, Fellow Gardeners -

Congratulations to all you new officers. I am sure your efforts will be greatly appreciated by your local club members. I would like to assure you that M.G.C.A. will be happy to assist you at any time. Congratulations also to all you officers that have been re-elected to another term. Thanks for the fine help you gave to M.G.C.A. in the past and I trust we can count on your continued support.

I received the following letter from Gene Pfister after he and Jesse Strauss had a meeting in regard to the National Plant Test Program.

"Jesse Strauss and I have gone over all of our Plant Test Programs very thoroughly and make the following recommendations:

1. Annuals - Chairman: Dr. R. M. Carleton. This program is operating and should be continued.
2. Tuberous Rooted Begonias - Chairman: Dr. C. P. Wilson. This program is operating and should be continued, at least as long as it is of value to the Clubs.
3. Chrysanthemums - Chairman: Frank K. Balthis. This program has been revised through the co-operation of several nurseries and should be continued.
4. Daffodils - Chairman: Allen W. Davis. This program has just about fulfilled all that was expected. It takes too long for the tests to function properly and the program should now be discontinued.
5. Dahlias - Chairman: P. F. Kershisnik. This program, as we see it, can never function properly from the M.G.C.A. standpoint, for none of the introducers of new material has enough or is willing to send tubers to our testers. Our recommendation is that it be discontinued.
6. Delphiniums - Chairman: Carl Grant Wilson. This has been primarily a seed growing proposition; one who plants them seldom knows what he's going to get. Our recommendation is that it be discontinued.
7. Flowering Shrubs - Chairman: Walter P. Harbath. This program has never functioned properly and we recommend that it be discontinued.
8. Broad-Leaved Evergreens - Chairman: E. K. Roth. This program is fulfilling its purpose and should be continued.
9. Gladioli - Chairman: Lee M. Fairchild. We have had the same problem on this program as with the Dahlias. No material is available. Our recommendation is that the program be discontinued.
10. Hemerocallis - Chairman: Elmer Claar. This is another program similar to Dahlias and Gladioli. It should be discontinued.
11. Iris - Chairman: Henry J. Beyerle. This program is also similar to Dahlias, Gladioli and Hemerocallis. It should be discontinued.
12. Louisiana Iris - Chairman: Claude W. Davis. This program has been

three lights accommodates bench space 4' x 4' and one can have as many multiples of this as needed or space permits.

While there is a lot to learn in this method of growing plants, I did succeed with the annuals. Naturally, having the installation, one experiments with house plants and many of them do exceptionally well. Fibrous Begonias, Ivy, Cissus, Coleus, Iresine, Crassula Lycopodiodes, Saxifraga, Pteris, Anthericum, Philodendron, Fitonia, Dracena and Babytears have responded remarkably well. I tried Azalea; it was a failure. And geraniums have not done well with me, possibly because the temperature was too high.

For the annuals I found that having the lights 12" from the plants was the best and I ran them 12 hours on and 12 hours off. This combination, of course, might not necessarily be the best. There is plenty to learn. There is a relationship between temperature, intensity and length of exposure and many other things to become familiar with. Also to use incandescent lights in conjunction with fluorescent is said to be beneficial to plant growth.

#### EXCERPTS FROM M.G.C.A. SECRETARY'S JANUARY NEWS LETTER

According to the by-laws of the M.G.C.A., Article VII, Section 3, the secretary shall mail to the secretary of each club an official call to the annual meeting at the time and place determined at least 90 days prior to said meeting. The time and place having been determined by the Board of Governors at the last Annual meeting on June 26 at Boston, Mass., all clubs are therefore and hereby notified that the annual meeting of the Board of Governors and of the delegates to the meeting will be held at the Peabody Hotel in the City of Memphis in the State of Tennessee on the dates of April 7, 8, 9, and 10, 1953. The date of April 7 being reserved for full meetings of the Board of Governors.

According to the Constitution, each ~~Club is entitled to have two voting~~ delegates at the convention.

Resolution for 1953: What I should, I would do; I can do; I will do. All shoulders to the wheel.

Chas. J. Hudson, Jr. sends his call for nominations for the Johnny Appleseed Award.

The Bulletin Exchange clicks. Bulletins are better. Some editors use advertising for financial help. An idea to try. Better bulletins make stronger clubs.

Victor Ries, Editor, Broadcaster, Writer, Ohio Extension Floriculturist, says: "Garden questions are amazingly similar from one part of the country to another." Just what I thought. Gardeners are gardeners everywhere.

Your secretary made four December Garden Club banquets. Next, St. Paul, January 6; Duluth, January 14. Hope to see some of the boys at Superior. Going up north to show some of my annual slides and talk National.

My favorite programs for February:  
A. Unusual plants which I can grow in my climate. B. What's new in the seed catalogs? C. Building indoor hotbeds and raising seedlings under fluorescent lights.

If you're pretty good, try Sedel's Pan American strain double petunias, or Sakatas Victorious or Canadian All Doubles. But you better be good as the seeds are small and expensive.

Do you have nematodes? Write for Bulletin #2048, Office of Information, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, Washington 2 D. C., and find out what's bad for them.

H. E. KAHLERT, Secretary  
Men's Garden Clubs of America