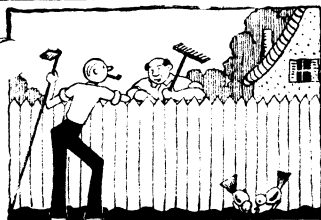


THE GARDEN SPRAY

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS



Volume 9
Number 1
Vic Lowrie, Editor

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

January, 1951
Associate Editors: Jack Cohen,
Ed Montgomery, George Luxton

JANUARY MEETING

Date: Tuesday, January 9, 1951

Place: Hasty Tasty
1433 West Lake Street

Time: 5:30 P.M. sharp

Dinner: \$1.50

OUR NEW OFFICERS

Fred Paul, President

Vic Lowrie, Vice-President

Rene Dufourd, Secretary

Bill Brooks, Treasurer

Cortis Rice, Jr.
Past-President

PROGRAM

6:30 P.M. Business session including:

Annual Reports from

The Secretary
The Treasurer
The President

Office of the Secretary
and Exchange Editor

5020 Second Avenue South
Minneapolis 19, Minn.

7:00 5-minute intermission

7:05 "Plants from the North"
A talk with slides by Dr. Leon C. Snyder,
Agriculturist, University of Minnesota,
U. S. Department of Agriculture

8:30 Questions and Answers

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Our January meeting is always a full one and the one coming up looks like it will top them all! What with the retiring officers padding the account of their stewardship and the new ones trying to make a good first impression, those two acts in themselves are worth the price of admission! But that's just the beginning. Dr. Leon Snyder of the University Farm School who has made a real study of plant life in the Northern half of our state, is going to talk on the hardiest of the hardy and demonstrate them with slides.

So come all ye faithful, give our retiring officers a rousing vote of thanks for a job well done, and let our new officers know that we aim to make 1951 another banner gardening year!

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WE ARE DEEPLY SADDENED

We were all shocked to learn of the untimely passing, on December 27th, of L. E. Cristman.

"Jim," as he was known to us all, became a member of our Club in 1944 and with his kindly way quickly endeared himself to every member with whom he came in contact.

He was a tireless worker, an accomplished gardener, and a real lover of flowers. He gave freely of his time, his experience and of his own garden.

An extremely active member, Jim headed many committees, served on numerous others, and in 1946 held the office of Secretary. Never too busy to accept an assignment - no job was too difficult, no work too menial.

He contributed much to the success of our National M.G.C.A. Convention last year and, again this year, as a director of the Dahlia Society, he contributed much to their Mid-west Conference.

In recognition of Jim's outstanding contribution to the welfare of our Club, he was awarded, at our annual Christmas dinner, the 1950 M.G.C.A. Bronze Medal - a medal given each year to the Club's most distinguished member.

We mourn his loss not only as a fellow member but as a truly great friend. Jim will always be remembered not just as a good gardener, but for his kindness, his enthusiasm, his love of life.

To Jim's dear wife, Elvera, we extend our deepest sympathy.

* * * * *

To the Officers, Executive Board and Members,
The Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis

Dear Fellow Gardeners:

As you know, it is customary for the officers to present an annual report at the close of the year, but a conventional report on my part, including a recital of the activities within our Club, would unnecessarily deuplicate the annual report of the Secretary. Hence, I shall leave that to him.

I do feel that we have had a good year. Whatever success we have attained, we owe to the efforts of the several committees and to the enthusiasm and congeniality of each and every member. I should like, as your representative, and personally, to express deep appreciation to the several committees for the fine work which they have done. I gratefully acknowledge the complete co-operation of each of the other officers, the assistance of the past-presidents, and, in particular, the generous support of the membership in general.

We have had an active year and have tried some new undertakings and I hope they may be continued. Our speaker's bureau is functioning and, although it needs more speakers, it is accomplishing much good. The rose exhibit last Spring was greatly appreciated by the sponsoring bank, and by the hundreds who viewed it. A repeat performance with roses or other flowers would be appreciated. The tour to Faribault was well attended and we could profit by similar tours to other growers. A definite test program is established and under its present leadership is bound to succeed. Our meeting with the Horticultural Society and University staff opens up wide fields for activities and the opportunity to serve others.

We have found that we are not only interested in our own gardens but also in others' - not that we wish to become crusaders but we are in a position to offer assistance where needed.

What interests me intensely is that the groundwork has been laid whereby the heterogeneous interests of the various clubs in the area may perhaps be consolidated into an overall viewpoint in the form of a Council of Garden Clubs which could accomplish many benefits for the entire community. Such a council could act as a clearing house and centralize the aims and objectives of all the garden interests in this area. Perhaps it could lead to a much needed Garden Center in Minneapolis, and certainly help promote an experimental Arboretum. It would be the natural means of promoting the new "Plant Minnesota" program; encompass the next Victory Garden movement; be instrumental in promoting youth gardens. If a Council is to be established and needed projects sponsored, the leadership must come from our Club. Hence, I definitely recommend that these matters be given consideration. Your retiring Executive Board has passed a resolution suggesting that the new Board appoint a committee to make a study and recommendations with respect to them.

Let me say that this past year with you has been a great pleasure, and, although I could now relax a little, my interest in our Club will not diminish, but on the contrary I will now add my efforts to yours in the support of our new president and his officers, who will most certainly lead us to more beautiful gardens and to greater appreciation of them.

Cordially yours,

CORTIS N. RICE, Jr..

JANUARY CHORES

It's far too cold to attempt to do anything with plant life out of doors now - it's tough enough to have to shovel snow. But there are things to do indoors. For instance . . .

1. Examine your dahlia tubers to make sure they are not diseased, too dry, or rotting. Cut away the affected areas and dust surfaces with sulphur. Place in a damper spot or add a little moisture if they appear to be shriveling up.

2. How about those garden stakes, window boxes, garden furniture, etc.? Have you painted them yet? Or scheduled the time for doing so?

3. No need to worry about protection against deep frost until the snow disappears, which, by the looks of things, won't happen until Decoration Day. But when it does, watch your plants and have ready some covering where needed. The limbs of your Christmas tree make good ground covering for tender perennials when the ground is free of snow.

4. Don't go throwing your wood ashes away - store them in a dry place, and, come Spring, use to sprinkle your perennial beds and reap the benefit of their limestone and fertilization value.

5. You no doubt have made careful notes before you put your garden to bed for the Winter of the numerous changes you wanted to make next year. Oh, yes! . . .

Well, anyway, now is the time to start drawing up plans to include those changes plus the new perennials, shrubs, trees and annuals you plan to grow in 1951, and just where you want to plant them. Don't forget that the seed catalogs will be coming along almost any mail now, and without a plan, how can you intelligently order your seeds, bulbs, plants, etc.? Personally, I'm sick and tired of never being able to find enough room to sow and plant everything those darned catalog writers talk me into ordering. Sucker!

YOUR DUES ARE DUE

If you haven't paid your 1951 dues, it is high time you did! And if you want to have your name and address included on the Club's 1951 roster, please send your check immediately to Rene Dufourd, 5020 Second Avenue South. At the same time be sure and include your home address and your resident and business telephone numbers.

GENERAL EISENHOWER SAID

"What the church should be telling the worker is that the first demand religion makes on him is that he should be a good workman. If he is an amateur gardener, he should be a competent gardener. Church by all means on Sundays - but what is the use of church if at the very center of life a man defrauds his neighbor and in-

LILY BUYERS' GUIDE

The North American Lily Society has published an 8-page Lily Directory, listing over 400 lily species and varieties carried by 84 dealers in the U.S. and Canada.

This booklet is available at 25¢ a copy and orders should be addressed to Dr. Robert D. Rappleye, Dept. of Botany, Uni-

PLANT AMERICA - FOR MORE NATURAL LIVING

This is a slogan you'll be hearing more and more frequently from here on. The movement was launched early in 1950 in New York and is fast moving across the country and is aimed to implement a program developed by the National Council of Garden Clubs, the National Association of Nursery Men and other organizations.

The general objective of the program is to conserve the land, to make it greener and more productive for abundant life, beauty and recreation. The program is predicated on the premise that the land is our most priceless heritage. It is believed that the objective of the program in its entirety can only be accomplished by replanting our forests, farms, cities, roadsides, churches and schools, our homes and factory grounds wherever the need lies.

The "Plant America - for More Natural Living" program is in active progress in the following states and was activated by proclamation by the Governors of the states indicated by an asterisk:

Connecticut *	Michigan	Pennsylvania *	Maine *
Oregon	New Jersey	Texas	Mississippi *
Washington	Ohio	Wisconsin	New York *
Massachusetts			South Dakota *

A number of organizations in Minnesota are rallying behind this movement and our own Club should appoint a committee to study the project with a view to setting up a local "Plant Minneapolis - for More Natural Living" program. It might well be tied in with our own attempt to establish an arboretum, a Council of Garden Clubs, and a garden center.

AN ARBORETUM FOR MINNEAPOLIS

On several occasions we have discussed among ourselves the advantages to be derived from the development of an arboretum in Minneapolis for the purpose of researching, testing and experimenting with ornamental plant material.

As you recall, this subject was advanced by our president, Cortis Rice, at our meeting with the Horticultural Society and University Farm School in October.

At the last meeting of the Club's retiring executive board, a strong recommendation was made to the new 1951 board that a committee be appointed to study and move forward with the establishment of not only an arboretum but in conjunction with this movement, the forming of a Council of Garden Clubs and the development of a Garden Center.

Archie Flack, chairman of the Special Interest Group on Flower, Shrubs and Trees, in a letter to our retiring president urged that the Club move forward with this work, confident that not only amateurs but professional gardeners in this area would derive inestimable value from such an experimental operation.

As you know, Archie has made an exhaustive study of flowering shrubs and trees suitable for this climate and he is of the opinion that many of the more beautiful shrubs that flourish outside of this area could be crossed and made hardy for growth in our severe climate. An arboretum would furnish the necessary experimental ground.

NEWS AND VIEWS

The new wonder grass, *Zoysia Japonica*, that drives out crabgrass and grubs of Japanese beetles, is still under test by the U. S. Department of Agriculture and is expected to be available for marketing in three or four years.

* * *

Can you believe it - Petunia seeds may be scarce! It seems that California seedmen are having difficulty combatting a disease called "curly top" which affects beets and is transmitted to petunias by leaf hoppers.

The common variety of leaf hopper didn't infect the petunias, but a new strain of the virus developed last summer that overnight killed large plantings. The only solution at the moment is to isolate petunia growing from where beets are being grown.

* * *

Jack Cohen with his family departed hurriedly for Florida Christmas week to escape the cold and to make a hasty examination of tropical flora. Wonder what he expects to bring back in addition to a healthy tan?

* * *

If you're interested in birds and like hunting them, you'll be glad to hear about a new book just published called "Where to Find Birds in Minnesota." The information in the book has been gathered by 49 Minnesota bird-lovers - scientists, housewives, businessmen, doctors, authors and others. It is compiled by Kenneth D. Mor-

ison, former Minnesota conservationist who now edits the Audubon Magazine, and Mrs. Josephine Daneman Herz, enthusiastic member of the Minneapolis Bird Club.

The book gives precise instructions about finding the birding areas, what roads to take, whether the roads are open in the Spring - the best birding time, whether you can drive your car or ought to get out and trudge. This book is available in all Minneapolis bookstores at \$1.50.

* * *

Lily growers take heed. If your plants don't mature properly, maybe it's because you've got them on too thin a diet. Dr. S. L. Emsweller of the Bureau of Plant Industry says that lilies are rich feeders, like plenty of nitrogen and make heavy demands on other food elements. He recommends the use of a complete fertilizer and suggests frequent feedings throughout the growing season.

* * *

Enjoying the sun down in the heart of Texas is our good friend, Tom Foley, where he intends to stay come Spring. We're glad to report that he's recuperating nicely.

* * *

Don't be looking for Ernie Thompson until some time in April. Ernie, sporting a new house trailer, inveigled his son into driving him to St. Petersburg, Fla. He writes that on the day Rochester, Minn. suffered 32° below zero, it was "a little cool" in Florida - down in the 50's!

HAPPY GARDENING!

As we stand on the threshold of a New Year, there appears to be little on the horizon that bespeaks of joy - a promise of better things to come. So until that Dove of Peace appears in sight, let us put our shoulders to the wheel and help in every way we can to defend our heritage of Freedom, so that Freedom may survive.

Fortunate are we who can get solace out of the soil as we snatch an hour or two between shifts.

That is why we call "Happy Gardening!" and wish you all the best.

"I DUB THEE KNIGHT"

The presentation of Past President pins made at our Christmas party was done so well by Rene Dufourd that we are reproducing below his presentation speech in toto:

"From time immemorial it has been customary for human beings to recognize and reward jobs well done, deeds of valor, etc. We have medals for bravery, scholarships for deserving students, Nobel prizes for many achievements. It is, therefore, fitting that we should tonight honor our Past Presidents.

"In thinking about this meeting, I tried to imagine what an occasion such as this would look like in the days of King Arthur, when knighthood was in flower. I imagined a large hall filled with beautiful ladies - just as we have here tonight. A long table was at one end of the room, just as we have tonight. At this table were seated many men, heavily mustached, long, dark, flowing hair - just as we have not tonight!

"As I was saying, in the days of old, when knights were bold, the king would draw his sword, and with a flourish would tap the man on the shoulder and say 'I dub thee knight.'

"Today I simply take out of my pocket a small box and present it to the individual. While the method of recognizing valor has changed, the sentiment has not. The spirit which prompted King Arthur to accept an individual into knighthood is the same spirit which prompts us tonight to say to these men: We appreciate the work you have done for us, the time you have spent, the sacrifices you have made in our behalf."

Past Presidents

1942 - Tom D. Hughes is the oldest living Past-President. He was the first President of the M.G.C. of Mpls.	1946 - Glen Cerney
1943 - Upsher Smith	1947 - Harold Kaufman
1944 - Ed White	1948 - Stan Lund
1945 - Herb Kahlert - Charter Member and Director, 1942	1949 - Bill Swain
	1950 - Cortis Rice

OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

Seems like each one gets better and the committee in charge of this year's party, headed by Stan Lund, is deserving of far more than the customary three cheers and a tiger. The surroundings were delightful, the decorations added to the joyous Christmas spirit, the food was excellent, the favors were most generous, the program left nothing to be desired, and lucky were the door prize winners!

Mr. and Mrs. Peterson and Mr. and Mrs. Scott put on a superb and instructive demonstration of how to make Yuletide arrangements for the home and for the adornment of one's person. We are much indebted to them for giving us their time during an extremely busy period and for their generous donation of material.

The hard work Bill Block and his photographic committee did in putting together over 200 of the best colored slides of our members' gardens was truly appreciated. It was a fine, colorful show and if there had been a radio scout in the crowd, George Titue would already be on his way to radio stardom.

Lester Johnson and the Donaldson management are indeed deserving of our utmost praise and profound thanks.

GROWING TUBEROUS BEGONIAS

Tony Koester

I have grown Tuberous Begonias for only the past four years - still quite an amateur. The first year I had about a dozen plants, and increased the number each year, growing 75 in 1950. My preference is the Double Camellia type in solid colors with the Fimbriata, or Carnation type second, and the Double Camellia, in picotee shades, third. Have tried some of the new ruffled and rose form novelties, but feel that there is a sacrifice in the size of the bloom, which to me is quite important.

Begonia tubers can be planted either in the garden or in pots. Prefer the latter plan using 8-inch pots, because they can then be moved at any time, either for color harmony, or size of the plant. It also facilitates replacing unsatisfactory plants. I do not buy named varieties but seedling tubers. These are less costly and can be purchased in any desired colors, and the same results obtained.

Early in January I examine my tubers, culling out those which produced unsatisfactory blooms the previous year. All tubers are marked as to color, type and quality of bloom. At this time I order new tubers of the color and type to provide the best display. They are also marked as to type, and at time of bloom, the balance of information is recorded.

About the first of March the tubers are planted in flats, containing a mixture of one-third of each; peat, sand and vermiculite. I plant them rather close together, but not too deep, and transplant into other flats when about three inches tall. They should be kept moist at all times, but not too wet. The tubers are left in the second flat, until the weather is satisfactory for placing out-of-doors in pots. The soil for pots consists of equal amounts of barnyard manure, peat or leaf mold and good garden soil. A tablespoon full of fish meal and one of bone meal is added to the soil in lower half of each pot.

Most growers recommend some direct sunlight, but this seems to be desirable only in the early morning or late afternoon. It is, however, important that Tuberous Begonias have plenty of indirect light. This past year I shaded some of my plants too much and had trouble with mildew. They do better in a lath house where they have sufficient light but not too much direct sunlight. They require a lot of water and with proper drainage there is little danger of overwatering. The soil should never be permitted to dry out. After they are in bloom, do not use an overhead spray except in extremely hot weather.

The mixture of soil and fertilizer used for potting carries the plant through the Summer, and there is need for little additional fertilizer. If large blooms are desired, apply liquid manure during the blooming season. The plants will need some support. A stake, the thickness of a pencil and 18 inches long, in each pot will suffice.

Begonia plants are not immune to disease. I had trouble this year with mildew, either because they were started too early or due to lack of adequate light. Slugs cause some trouble, but they can be controlled with Baitem or a similar poison.

Leave plants outdoors until killed by frost, then remove pots to a cool place in the basement, leaving tubers undisturbed until January, when preparations for the next season begin.