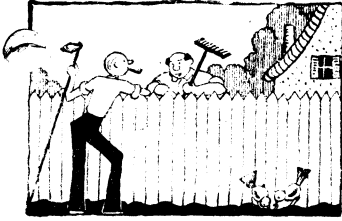


THE GARDEN SPRAY

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAP



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

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Vic Lowrie, Editor

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JUNE FLOWER SHOW

Date: Saturday, June 23, 1951
Place: Park Board Greenhouses,
38th & Colfax Ave. South
Time: Entries close 3:30 o'clock
sharp - Judging starts at
4 o'clock
Dinner: 5:30 P.M. - Pack a family
picnic

Don *error perpetua*
Officers

Fred Paul, President
Vic Lowrie, Vice-President
Rene Dufourd, Secretary
Bill Brooks, Treasurer
Cortis Rice, Jr.,
Past-President

In place of our regular June meeting, we will hold our annual Spring Flower Show over the weekend of June 23 and 24.

Because a number of our members will spend two weekends driving to and from Detroit to attend the M.G.C.A. 16th annual convention the week of June 11th, we have had to set the date of our own Show a week later than is customary.

However, even though the Peony and Iris will be through blooming at this late date, most other flowers will be at their best. So go over the schedule carefully and plan now to enter every class for which you have plants now growing. Don't dismiss consideration of a single bloom until the night before the Show. Just think back to previous Shows and see if you can't recall the many additional entries you could have made and qualified for ribbons had you only brought all the material in your garden you looked at twice but didn't bring. This is your own Show - let's make it the best Spring Show we have ever put on.

This year the Show is being divided into two distinct classes: Class "A" - Specimens; Class "B" - Arrangements. We will have two sets of judges for each class and award a grand champion and sweepstakes ribbon to each class.

FLOWER SHOW MUSTS

1. Watch the garden for 10 days before the Show.
3. Cut long stems and extra flowers with a sharp knife; cut on a slant

QUALIFICATIONS TO WATCH

1. Color - clear, not muddy
2. Size - Uniform, large
3. Form - Typical of the variety, both the face and back of bloom
4. Substance - Mature and fully developed, but not past prime; individual blooms, no side buds
5. Stems - Long, uniform in length, straight and strong without blemish. Flowers well set on stem; terminal flower looking at the sky.
6. Foliage - Remove all below water line. Remove imperfect leaves.

PLACE YOUR EXHIBITS EARLY

The Park Board Greenhouses will be open early on Saturday morning, June 23, so bring your entries over early and get thru arranging before the crowd arrives around noon and cramps your style. If your blooms are properly hardened off, they'll stay fresh for days.

IDENTIFY YOUR STUFF

Be sure to put your name on the bottom of each container used for arrangements, as well as those for house plants and potted material. In this way confusion and loss will be avoided.

MANY, MANY THANKS

We are indeed grateful to all who contributed so generously in time, labor and material to our auction. Tony Koester has asked us to express his appreciation and special thanks to the following for their help in making the auction a success: The Andrew Nurseries and Lehman Nursery of Faribault; the Bachmans of Bachman, Inc. Harry Franklin Baker; Bob Bryant; Larry Corbett of Northrup King; Les Johnson of Donaldson's; Chris Mosberg of Danish Seed; Bob Phillips; E. A. Linquist of Sterling Electric; Joe Hradecky; J. M. McClure of Minneapolis Iron; Morris Lifson of Royal Lemon; Howard Bishop of Nash Finch; Brand Farms of Faribault; Farmers Seed Co.; Chicago Avenue Florists; Hubbard Mfg. Co.; and Gregg Lucking for his usual fine cooperation and assistance.

YOU ARE ALL INVITED!

All members of the M.G.C. of Minneapolis are cordially invited to join the Richfield Garden Club Spring Flower Show, June 1-2 at Oak Grove Lutheran Church, 71st and Lyndale Ave. S. Also the Flower Show spon-

BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY

The Family Basket Picnic will be held at Park Board Paint Shop Saturday, June 23, at 5:30 P.M. Plan to bring the family and friends. Coffee will be served.

SUGGESTIONS

1. Remember the judging takes place the moment the judge sees your entry
2. Select specimens by comparison with a number of others and select the best you have
3. Transport exhibits to the Show in plenty of water
4. Water exhibit plentifully on display

OUR MAY PLANT AUCTION

Over 90 members and their guests attended our plant auction last month which was the second largest turnout in our history. Congratulations to Tony Koester, his committee and auctioneers for a job extremely well done.

Our auctioneers were almost too good! The bidding got so spirited at times that a few of the more popular items brought rather fancy prices. All in all it was a most successful event - we had a barrel of fun and the Club's treasury was enriched by approximately \$500!

WHAT, NO GARDEN PICTURES!

Don't forget to photograph your most colorful garden spots. You'll be sorry come the Christmas party, if you're not represented. If you haven't a camera of your own, you can call on Bill Block, George Titus or P. W. Young for help.

APPOINTED DELEGATES TO MGCA 16th ANNUAL

Glen Cernev and Archie Flack have been

A REPEAT PERFORMANCE

On Monday, July 6th, the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis will again sponsor a Rose Show (non-competitive) at the Farmers and Mechanics Savings Bank of Minneapolis at 90 S. Sixth Street. The display must be set up and ready for review by the public by 9 o'clock in the morning, which means the material has to be arranged on Sunday and from 6 o'clock Monday morning.

We would like to make this exhibit an even more outstanding event than last year's, which means we will need a lot of first class material - roses of every variety grown and as many specimens of each variety as Club members can spare. Last year, if you remember, we exhibited 85 different varieties - a total of 350 blooms.

Stan Lund is in full charge of this affair. Please get in touch with him and volunteer your services to help make this Rose Show a highlight in our calendar of events. Every member's wholehearted cooperation is earnestly solicited.

SOIL REACTION (pH) PREFERENCE OF PLANTS

Harold C. Pederson

Clubmember and President of the Minnesota Horticultural Society

Harold gave us a splendid talk on soil conditions and particularly on the types of soil; i.e., acid or alkaline (pH). Here are the essentials he touched upon:

The symbol pH is a means of expressing the acidity or hydrogen-ion concentration. The pH scale is graded from 1 - which is extremely acid - to 10 - which is extremely alkaline. The neutral point is 7. The majority of garden plants do best at a pH of 6.0 to 6.5, which, of course, is slightly acid. To be on the safe side it is best to have your soil tested. The University of Minnesota Farm School will do this for you, or you can buy an inexpensive soil tester kit at any good garden supply or seed store and do it yourself.

To rectify a soil that is too alkaline, apply sulphur, preferably in the Fall, since it is slow acting. Two to 4 lbs. per 100 sq. ft. should be sufficient. Aluminum sulfate may be substituted at the rate of 1 lb. per 100 sq. ft. Be careful though, it is quick-acting and can be dangerous if the soil lacks phosphorus. Iron sulfate may also be used at the same rate as aluminum sulfate.

The most common method of rectifying a soil that is too acid is by the application of lime. Here again Fall is by far the best time to apply lime.

Harold turned over to the Spray the optimum pH range of just about everything that grows in this part of the country - trees, shrubs, flowers, vegetables and grasses. Anyone may borrow the list for the asking. However, below we give you a list of those plants requiring either decidedly acid soil and those plants that do better in soils more on the alkaline side.

Acid-soil plants: Aconite, Baptisia, Blueberry, Fern (except Maidenhair), Flax, Heath, Heather, Lady Slipper, Lupine, Lily Turk's Cap, Lily of the Valley, Marigolds, Platycodon, Solomon's Seal, Trailing Arbutus and Wintergreen.

Alkaline-soil Plants: Alyssum, Bean, Beet, Canna, Cabbage, Cranberry, Carnation, Canterbury Bells, Canteloupe, Honeysuckle, House Leek, German Iris, Madonna Lily, Pea, Phlox and Passion Flower.

JUNE GARDEN TIPS

Watch your newly-set-out plants and seedlings on very hot days. Keep them shaded until they have become well established.

Don't remove the leaves from your tulips and daffodils until they have ripened off completely. They may be moved if in the way and transplanted elsewhere but do not disturb the tops. This is true of all bulbs.

Ever try thinning the flower buds on hollyhock? The remaining flowers will develop better and last longer.

Iris blooms should be cut as soon as they wither and not left to go to seed; your grape hyacinth will self sow if you permit them to go to seed.

It is best to leave some foliage on the base of the stalk from which your peony bloom was cut, or cut only a few blooms from each plant.

Better mark those peonies and iris you wish to divide or remove in the Fall.

Your house plants will do better next Winter if set outdoors in a shaded spot and, better still, if you place pots and all in the ground.

Remember sweet peas like their roots moist, so mulch with lawn clippings or peat moss.

Keep up your spraying and you'll have healthy plants with an abundance of bloom. There are many all-in-one sprays or dusts on the market which include DDT, fermeto rotenone, nicotine, pyrethrum, sulphur and what have you.

The iris borer cannot be reached with spray, so cut and burn all leaves when found

Since cutworms feed at night, apply poison bait at night; it will be fresher and more attractive to the worms.

Dusting sulphur is recommended for red spider and mildew, but apply it to both the upper and under surfaces.

Weed killers do their best if used during the heat of the day in temperatures over 75°

Sweet corn can be planted late in June for a later crop. Same for beans, beets, carrots and turnips.

During very hot weather, give lettuce an abundance of water and shade from sun.

Asparagus should not be cut after late June. A liberal top dressing of well-rotted manure should be applied to the bed as soon as cutting season is over.

All newly planted trees and shrubs should be kept well watered until established.

Stake your plants as they grow - don't wait until they get tall enough to tremble in the breeze. You'll have better tomatoes if you stake them too.

June is a good month to sow perennial seeds either in cold frame or open seed bed.

Feed roses well. A little liquid manure or handful of Vigoro once a month will repay you with more blooms. Spray or dust every ten days. The healthier the plant, the stronger the growth and better the bloom.

PROLONGING THE KEEPING QUALITIES OF CUT FLOWERS AND GREENS

R. E. Widmer

Extension Service, University of Minnesota Farm School

The wilting of flowers may be due to the failure of the stems to conduct a sufficient supply of water to the foliage and flower to keep pace with evaporation (transpiration). Bacteria, which multiply rapidly in still water at room temperature, attack the tissues of the stems and clog the conducting tissues thus preventing the free ascent of moisture to the flowers above. Any precautions taken to retard the rate of transpiration while keeping the conducting vessels clear will tend to increase the life of the blooms.

Observe the following rules and enjoy the full benefit of cut flowers in the home:

1. Select flowers in the proper stage of development for cutting. Most garden chrysanthemums are best for cutting before the flower is fully open; roses, before buds open; gladioli, when the first floret is open; peonies, before the petals unfold; poppies, the night before they open.
2. Cut flowers with a sharp knife in preference to shears which will bruise the conducting vessels and reduce the water intake.
3. Make all cuts on a slant to keep the severed surface from resting squarely on the bottom of the container.
4. Immerse the stems in water immediately after cutting to prevent the formation of air bubbles in the conducting vessels.
5. Remove all submerged leaves to prevent contaminating the water.
6. The stems of woody plants should be split and peeled back for an inch or two to insure passage of sufficient water to the flower.
7. Stems of plants such as poinsettia, dahlia and poppy should be "sealed" to prevent "bleeding" and the subsequent clogging of the conducting tissues. Protect the blooms with wax paper and hold the cut ends of the stems in boiling water or over a flame briefly, following with a plunge in cold water.
8. Use wide-mouthed containers to permit free entrance of air through the top. The use of cold water is preferred unless otherwise noted.
9. Keep the flowers in a humid room (at least at night), out of direct sunlight, and away from drafts, radiators or stoves. In this connection it is also advisable to cut flowers only when the plants are turgid, preferably in the morning or late in the day.
10. Slightly wilted flowers recover in a shorter period of time when placed in warm water. Warm water moves into the stem at a faster rate than does cold water. Once the flowers are turgid, a low water temperature will help retard transpiration and respiration.
11. Keep the flowers at a low temperature whenever possible, especially at night. Roses will withstand temperatures as low as 38° F. and carnations 33° F., with no harmful effects. In general, a temperature between 40° F. and 50° F., accompanied by a high humidity, is quite satisfactory.
12. Change the water and cut the stems daily. Clean water and clean containers only should be used. Copper containers have proved beneficial to some flowers.

13. The use of chemicals will retard the rate of carbohydrate depletion and hence the rate of maturity of the flowers. Several commercial preparations such as Bloomlife and Floralife have been found quite effective. In general, a solution containing hydrazine sulfate and sugar also produces a favorable response in rose, carnations and sweet peas, as well as other cut flowers.

14. Floral containers may be thoroughly cleaned by washing with sodium hypochlorite, Chlorox or alcohol, if soap or a detergent, water and a brush fail to give results.

15. Practically all flowers will benefit from a hardening treatment in a storage place prior to arrangement. Simply place the stems of freshly cut flowers as deeply as possible in cold water at a temperature between 40° and 50° F. in a humid atmosphere, such as is found in most basements, for several hours.

16. Several waxes placed on the market recently have proven satisfactory for prolonging the keeping properties of some flowers and greens. A thin transparent coating of the plastic wax is applied to the blooms and leaves, thereby reducing water loss. Such products are especially beneficial when used on material which must be kept out of water. "Bloomlife's Flower and Plant Glaze" may be applied as a dip, spray or merely wiped on, while "Flora Wax" is usually applied as a spray. These products may be purchased through flower shops.

GREETINGS, NEW MEMBERS!

ARE YOU CONVENTION BOUND?

Make yourselves acquainted with our new members; their names and addresses appear below. A hearty welcome to you, boys - we are all looking forward to meeting you personally and sharing with you our gardening joys and headaches:

John D. Galloway, M.D., Route 4, Minneapolis 20. Phone: Res. Wh 5918; office, Br 6558.

Chester G. Harkins, 3504 17th Ave So. Minneapolis 7. Phone: Res. Dr 9502; business, Ma 6251

Robert D. Wright, Excelsior, Minn. Phone: Excelsior 704

Quite a number of our members are planning to attend the M.G.C.A. convention in Detroit the week of June 11. We hope all who can spare the time and can get away that week will make the occasion a vacation special. The Detroiters have really gone all out in an attempt to make their sponsorship the best yet.

It's an easy and interesting trip to Detroit if you go by boat either from Green Bay or Manitowoc, Wis., across to Ludington, Michigan. Inquire at the Pere Marquette Railway, Minneapolis office; they will reserve space for your car and sleeping accommodations for yourself and family on the night ferry.

* * * * *
* It troubles us not a little to have to *
* report the passing of W. F. (Bill) Rob- *
* inson. *
* Bill was a loyal member actively inter- *
* ested in the Club's welfare, a splendid *
* gardener, a good friend. He will be *
* greatly missed by all who had the privi- *
* lege of knowing him. Our deepest sym- *
* pathy goes to his family. *
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