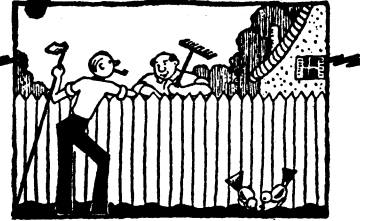




# The Garden Spray

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

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



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Associate Editors  
Wm. Hull, Joe Witmer  
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## JUNE MEETINGS

Two Exciting Functions

A Garden Tour Tuesday, June 11

AND

A Picnic at the Fruit Breeding Farm Saturday, June 15

Host to our regular June dinner meeting on June 11th will be the A. R. Blackbourns, 5015 Wooddale Lane, Edina.

Dinner will be served at exactly 5:45 P.M. Get there early and enjoy Blackie's lovely garden. Then off we go to visit other members' gardens in the general neighborhood.

Different caterers will serve dinner.

## OFFICERS

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

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Saturday afternoon, June 15, Leon Snyder has invited Club members and their families to visit the University Fruit Breeding Farm. So pack yourselves a big fat picnic basket and bring along the whole family for a real old-fashioned jolly picnic party. Come as early in the afternoon as you can for there will be lots to see and enjoy. We will all join together for a picnic supper at 5:00 P.M. Oh yes, please bring your own refreshments and wear your most colorful picnic duds.

The simplest way to get to the Farm is to take Highway 169, going south in the direction of Shakopee to Highway No. 5, which is located about a quarter of a mile before you get to the "Y" at which a Mobile Gas Station is located. Go west on No. 5, approximately 15 miles to the Fruit Farm which is well marked. You can't

OVER THE GARDEN FENCE

By Bill Hull

The auction was what the youngsters call a "real good" affair, very successful and lots of fun. Benny Benson, Chairman, and Tony Koester, President, deserve a lot of credit and thanks. At this writing, the net is assured as over \$500 unless there are larger expenses than the treasurer expects. It was a very busy day for some of the boys who spent at least the whole day preparing material and a lot of automobile mileage assembling it. I felt a little lost when I first arrived because the work was going so well, but shortly I became busy as a bee making change. We sold over \$144 worth of merchandise at the country store alone.

Auctioneers were Ev Haedecke, Doc Stillman and Bruce Warner; cashiers were Bob Adams, George Germain, Chet Harkins and Bill Hull. So many other members worked like beavers at the arranging and carrying in of material, I'm afraid to attempt to list them all but I know you members join me in thanking them.

Highlights: Chet Harkins winning the quarter-inch Black and Decker Drill. The great interest in buying the fine mums and coral bells which Dick Lehman so generously furnished us, as well as the enthusiasm over auctioning Dick's hemeroid-callis.

To my knowledge, the President and the Auction Chairman never did get around to eating dinner!

In addition to Dick's most generous donation of Mums, Coral Bells and Day Lilies, he also gave us flats upon flats of Pansies, Tomatoes, Petunias and a number of prized Passaflora. A million thanks, Dick.

To all donors who made the auction possible, we extend our profound gratitude and especially to Dick Lehman and Bob Savery who contributed so unselfishly, and to Bob Bryant, John McClure and Leon Snyder.

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All I hear this year is "winter Kill" and more of it. The dry winter without sufficient ground cover, and with some hard Freezes was disastrous. Mums, Coral Bells and Daffodils all bit the dust, with many roses going the same way.

\* \* \* \* \*

One suburban resident recently helped himself to two basketsful of peat piled up at a park board bulldozing site and was promptly called before his park board. Someone had complained. The park board felt obligated to reprimand the gentleman but also commented they wished someone would haul off all of the peat. What a world we are living in when citizens feel they must report their neighbors for such activities.

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Miracle: Seven-tenths of an inch of rain brought two inches of grass by the next weekend.

OVER THE GARDEN FENCE

By Bill Hull

Question of the day? What can you buy for \$4.50 that approaches the fun and enjoyment you get from your Men's Garden Club Membership? You get all of the Club's own activities, the fun of knowing such a superb group of men, an annual subscription to MEGA, the privilege to attend a national convention, the mass buying privileges through national and other services offered through national, an annual subscription to the Minnesota Horticultural Society Journal and all the privileges of that group. Try balancing all of that against anything else you can buy for \$4.50: a dinner, a book, fifty pounds of fertilizer a tank of gasoline, half of a doctor's call, thirty minutes in the barber's chair, one shoe.

\* \* \* \* \*

It takes all kinds but thank goodness there aren't many like this: For the first time in six years of working with our Club I was turned down on a request. The member said, "No, I've quit doing anything that doesn't mean financial return to me." More to be pitied than blamed.

\* \* \* \* \*

Did you know that George Titus is moving to California? This news has come as quite a shock to many of us who have known George so well and who have enjoyed working with him, on the board and in the many capacities in which George has served our Club, culminating in the presidency last year. The move, planned for around June 15, is to a milder climate with a longer gardening season. Be sure to call or see George soon because this will happen in but a very few days after you receive this issue of the SPRAY. Do keep in touch with us, George, and don't think you will be forgotten by this Club.

George promises to keep us posted and to give us a permanent address when he and Mrs. Titus are settled out there. I personally predict that he will soon be forming a MGC somewhere in his new area and nothing could be finer for the Men's Garden Clubs of America.

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And we might all be sad, for we are to lose another ex-president, ex-secretary, ex-club leader, no other than our "Hard Boiled Crab," Rene DuFourd. (How are we going to get along without the "Old Crab" needling us into activity as he has for so many years.)

In the opposite direction go the Dufourd's; Orlando, Florida no less. It must have been a difficult decision for them to make. What with one child in California and the other in Florida, looks like they are going to have to alternate their living between the two opposite coasts. Maybe that's why their first move is a temporary one to Orlando, then back to Minneapolis in the Fall. Wouldn't you guess it will be Sacramento next Winter. Wherever you are, Rene, our good thoughts and best wishes will always be with you, with the hope that as you race from one end of the country to the other, you will make Minneapolis your resting point staying long enough each time to at least join with us at one of our meetings. Best of luck to Roselle and your good self.

## JUNE GARDEN TIPS

Keep your newly planted trees and shrubs watered well, soak the roots frequently throughout the summer, also roses.

Fruit trees, such as plum, pear and apple which have set a heavy drop of fruit need good fertilization. Spread four or five pounds of a good commercial fertilizer per tree in a circle beneath the outer tips of the branches.

Do not completely defoliate your peony plants and be sure to break off faded blooms. . . same is true of iris, their blooms should be cut as soon as they wither.

Geraniums bloom best if kept rootbound. Six inch pots are large enough; in order to keep them from drying out too rapidly place them in larger pots and pack with peat moss or other water-retaining substance.

Let the lawnclippings fall where they may. Unless there is extremely heavy growth or grass, it is better plant food and humus economy to "let the lawnclippings lie." Experiments have shown that best grass growth has been by feeding the lawn regularly but lightly during the summer and retaining the clippings.

When the temperature gets to 75° or higher go after those dandelions, plantain, buckhorn, etc., that are crowding out your grass. Use any good weed killer but follow the directions exactly.

Be on the look-out for cutworms — Chlordane is by far the best remedy. Use at night for best results.

If you haven't established a consistent schedule of spraying or dusting, start immediately. Keep track of the days you do it and what you have covered so that nothing that needs protection against pests and disease is overlooked.

Flowers keep better if cut in the late

afternoon or in the evening. They should be plunged at once into deep water.

Mulching of perennials, roses and vegetables will help preserve moisture and keep down weeds. Use peat moss, buckwheat hulls, ground corncobs, sawdust or even grass clippings. Add a commercial fertilizer rich in nitrogen occasionally.

If you plan to train your tomato plants to stakes, be sure to pinch out the suckers which will start to grow above each leaf and tie the plant securely to stakes set firmly in the ground. Don't expect as large a crop from each vine, but the fruit will be larger and develop earlier.

The asparagus bed should not be cut after late June. As soon as the cutting season is over, give the bed a liberal top dressing of well-rotted manure or a balanced fertilizer.

Do not fail to dust your gladioli with 5% DDT until the buds show color. Two or more plantings of corms may be made to provide for a succession of bloom.

Perennial seeds may be sown this month. It is more desirable to sow them in a cold frame although they can be sown in an open bed. Shade them however when they first come up to keep them from being burned. The same holds true of all seedlings and plants set out during hot weather.

If spring blooming shrubs need pruning, it should be done as soon as the blooming season is over. This is particularly true of spireas, honeysuckle and weigela. Lilacs will not bloom on new growth so only partially prune unless you are willing to forfeit bloom next year. It is a good idea, however, to cut the blooms before going to seed but do not cut further than immediately below the bloom stem.

It's a good idea to move houseplants out-of-doors during the summer months. Place them in a shady spot and don't neglect the water.

## PLASTIC GREENHOUSES FOR HOME GARDENERS

Experimentation with plastic greenhouses has been going on for some time at various agricultural experiment stations throughout the country. At the University of Kentucky, after many years of experimentation, we have found that it has many advantages over glass greenhouses. Its use, by no means limited to large-scale agriculture, can realize the dream of many a home gardener to own his own green-

Certainly much less expensive, the plastic greenhouse enables home gardeners to carry plants through the winter and to grow out-of-season flowers and vegetables. Furthermore, due to increased humidity and better light diffusion, plants grow better under plastic than under glass, especially African Violets, tomatoes, and leaf lettuce, and a great variety of other vegetable and flower plants. These facts have been proven by research at the University of Kentucky where comparisons between growth under glass and plastic have been made for many years.

**CONSTRUCTION:** Presently, plastic greenhouses are made with wood frames, covered with polyethylene. The framework for plastic is much less costly than glass, and the plastic itself is about one twentieth as costly as glass to install. The resistance to wind, snow, and rain is excellent. Plastic greenhouses have withstood winds up to seventy miles per hour. The polyethylene plastic cover withstands all kinds of winter weather, but has a tendency to deteriorate to some degree in the summer sun. However, polyethylene is very inexpensive and periodic replacements are extremely easy to make. Some new types of plastic which last longer are being tried but as yet have not been sufficiently tested. If they prove economical, the same framework as used for polyethylene can be used. A new one is being tested by the University of Kentucky that is more transparent than glass. It can be repaired readily with an acetone liquid, should repair become necessary. Anyone using a polyethylene house can readily change to these long lasting plastics at any time if they are proven. Some of the new long lasting plastics give promise of being as cheap as polyethylene and still lasting for years. Of course, it takes time to test these plastic materials out. A gardener can proceed to build a polyethylene house and change over any time he is convinced it would pay to do so. Of course, polyethylene is so cheap and efficient and the renewal costs are so small that one may pay to renew it each fall. One would then have a brand new covering which is clean and not made grimy by weather and smoke. It is good for a greenhouse to be aired out through the summer months, and many plants do better when exposed to air and sunshine.

**VENTILATION:** Although plants grow under plastic even better than under glass, this does not eliminate the need for ventilation and proper fungicides. Ventilation should be present for winter use. Also, fans that blow out humidity, pull in fresh air, and help distribute heat, will add to the efficiency of the plastic greenhouse. The fan may be installed so that it blows through inexpensive plastic tubes, carrying heat under benches or alongside growing plants. This keeps the heat hanging in the top of the house and conducts it to where it really makes plants grow. A small fan can be installed in the small house, such as would be used by the home gardener, and do the same fine job that larger fans are doing in the University of Kentucky plastic houses.

**HEATING:** The plastic greenhouse is easier and more economical to heat than the glass greenhouse. A propane gas heater is recommended because it is least likely to give off harmful fumes, such as are produced when oil or natural gas is used. Fumes produced by propane gas are actually beneficial, if not present in excessive concentrations. Any heater reduces oxygen and increases humidity and carbon dioxide, both of which are good for plants, up to a certain degree.

## PLASTIC GREENHOUSES (Cont)

set over plastic heating in a double-lined plastic house, plants will grow in severe winter weather with remarkably small cost and little care. The black flats and heating tubes last for many years.

A complete, easily assembled unit for the construction of small plastic greenhouses for home gardeners is now available. It has all the necessary attributes and parts and comes in kit form as a complete "do-it-yourself" unit. The interested gardener may obtain free literature on request from the manufacturer, Plastic Greenhouses, Inc., 520 Fifth Avenue, New York 36, New York.

If further information is desired on the various uses of plastic in agriculture, pamphlets are available from the Department of Horticulture of the University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky.

(Reprinted from the N.Y. Botanical Garden Journal)

### Spring Flower Show Postponed

Unseasonable weather, loss of so many perennials and slow starts of annuals is responsible for the postponement of our Spring Flower Show for another year. All active participants in our Spring shows who could be reached were called for a vote on a Spring Show or Picnic Party in June. Practically without exception, the vote was for a picnic.

This does not rule out Spring Shows for future years unless, of course, the weather takes a deciding hand.

### Who Has the Flats

Those who took home the plants they bought at auction in flats, will they please bring them to our next meeting or return them to Tony Koester's home. They were only loaned to us by our generous contributors.

### Evergreen & Clematis Planting

Four each of six varieties of evergreens and thirty clematis were planted in the Lyndale Gardens by about fifteen industrious club members on schedule, Saturday morning May 18.

Now the cost of this project amounted to \$250.37 although at this writing only \$125.50 has been contributed by the members. Will those of you who have not as yet sent in their contributions, please do so quickly so that we may pay our bills. The difference between cost and contributions will have to come out of the Club Treasury. At the moment, it looks like a Treasury bite of \$124.87.

The variety of evergreens planted included: Norway pine, Scotch pine, Australian pine, White pine, Black Hill spruce and Colorado Green spruce.

### Minnesota Rose Society Show

The Minnesota Rose Society have extended an invitation to members of our club to exhibit at their show to be held June 29, 1957 at the American Hardware Mutual Bldg., 3033 Excelsior Blvd. For information call Mrs. R. J. Strenge, Pa. 1-1162.

The sympathy of our members is extended to Bill Brooks  
in the death of his wife, Peggy.