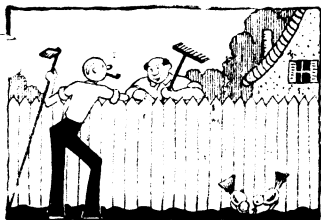


THE GARDEN SPRAY



BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

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

March, 1951
Volume 9, Number 3
Vic Lowrie, Editor

Associate Editors: J. G. Cohen,
G. G. Cerney, E. T. Montgomery,
Ben Methven, L. L. Stillman

MARCH MEETING

Date: Tuesday, March 13, 1951

Place: Hasty Tasty

Time: 5:30 P.M. sharp

Dinner: \$1.50

PROGRAM

6:30 P.M. Business session.
Kim Andrews of Andrews Nurseries,
Faribault

6:45 "Roses Suitable for the North" -
with slides

7:10 Temperature Control with Proper
Planting - Howard E. Kaerwer, BSA,
Mgr. Research Div., Northrup-King

7:30 "New Developments in Fungicides and
Seed Treatment"

8:00 Bull Session

Officers

Fred Paul, President

Vic Lowrie, Vice-President

Rene Dufourd, Secretary

Bill Brooks, Treasurer

Cortis Rice, Jr.
Past-President

Office of the Secretary
and Exchange Editor

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A MONTHLY BULL SESSION

It has been suggested that we shorten our monthly programs a little to make room for a fifteen- or twenty-minute Bull Session to be conducted at the close of each meeting. The period would be devoted to helping members solve their current horticultural problems. Your problem would be written out on a card furnished for the purpose, and our club members who are specialists in the particular field would give the solution to your problem.

After all, one of the purposes of our Club is to help each other in becoming better gardeners, and by exposing our problems to those with wider experience, we should find little difficulty in broadening our gardening knowledge. If you have any questions on culture, fertilization, pruning, seeding, etc., bring them to the meeting. We feel confident you will get much help.

NEW VEGETABLES

A talk with slides by O. C. Turnquist

It was quite evident from Mr. Turnquist's most interesting talk and the colorful exhibits he displayed on slides that the Agricultural Extension Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture in co-operation with the University of Minnesota, in addition to assisting in the development of better varieties of vegetables, is doing an outstanding job in testing and selecting varieties most suitable for home gardens and particularly for the really small plot owner.

Every year the new varieties that hold most promise for top growth, quality and yield in this part of the country are tested together with the best of the older varieties. Usually 20 testing plots are selected, scattered over the state to represent a true cross-section.

The University picks the counties in which the plots should be situated and the county agents choose the co-operators.

A careful record is kept of the number of degree days of each variety from time of planting to maturity; the quality as well as quantity of yield; its keeping and freezing quality and all the other desirable qualities of each vegetable under study.

Every year the results of these tests are carefully evaluated and published in the form of a bulletin identified as Extension Folder 154, and made available to all interested parties throughout the state.

Just a few outstanding varieties selected from the 1950 tests are given below:

Snap Beans, Tendergreen. A bean with outstanding freezing qualities. Bean 1515 not yet introduced and to be named this winter, gives unusually high yield, combined with top quality for freezing.

Wax Beans, Cherokee. A very fine quality bean.

Lima Beans, Triumph. By far the best baby lima.

Carrots, Sweetheart. Similar to Nantes or Touchon. A good home garden carrot.

Sweet Corn, Golden Rocket. An outstanding early home garden variety. Hybrid B2, a good midseason home garden corn.

Cucumbers, Burpee Hybrid. An outstanding variety in plant vigor, yield and quality.

Leaf Lettuce, Niagara. An open pollinated cross produced in the east, resistant to mosaic. Salad Bowl, a promising new variety to be introduced next year.

Onion, Asgro & 41. An F1 hybrid produces a high yield of large fine quality bulbs.

Peas, Freezonia. Produced high yield of large pods that ripened over short period.

Radish, Cherry Balls. Shorter tops, brighter color and becomes pithy less readily.

Muskmelon, Troguis. One of the best in southern half of Minnesota.

Watermelon, New Hampshire Midget. One of best home garden varieties; California Honey holds much promise.

Squash, Sweetmeat. High quality, good keeper and sweet. Faribo hybrid squash "R" a good winter squash. Caserta, one of best early summer squash.

Tomatoes, Faribo Hybrid E. One of the best varieties for earliness; Stokesdale, one of the best all-purpose varieties.

COLORFUL ANNUALS

Herb Kahlert

As has been the custom for many years, each season - in addition to some new perennials - a variety of different annuals are tried, including a few new introductions, many old reliables, and some old ones not common in this Minnesota climate. This experience adds interest to gardening, extends our knowledge, and changes the garden picture each year. Sometimes this practice leaves a bad spot in the garden when things do not meet expectations.

The following are a few of the many annuals tried and planted during the 1950 season with comments on the results:

Amaranthus. To be used back of an edging in the border. 18" high spaced 12" from seed sown directly in the soil. Grows rapidly, blooms early until heavy frost, with heavy mahogany-colored bushy spires and broad red-green foliage. Will use again. (Do not confuse with Celosia Plumosa.) Heavy rains knock it down.

Anchusa. Capensis. A busy plant 18" high - indigo blue blossoms. Needs staking against heavy rains. Blooms not prominent enough for a large garden. Will not use again.

Asters (Remo). Planted seed in soil, came nicely, 12" high branching, bi-color blue and white, many 1 $\frac{1}{4}$ " blooms. Will plant again in foreground of border. (Blue ribbon.) Aster (Crown). Dwarf, very late, better sow under glass for early start. Not available yet.

Cleome - Yellow. 48" high, small bloom, poor germination, not worthy, needs further development; Purple. Darker than Pink Queen but not any better. Pink Queen. Okay, fine for background, self seeds freely.

Centuria Americana. (Large bachelor button). White and lavender blossoms like a large thistle 3" in diameter and 36" high. Keeps well when cut - a fine novelty. Stake against rain and wind.

Celosia. Gilbert's Maple Gold. Used Gilbert's varieties for several years, have a pleasing difference. Cockscombs very large. Seeded directly in the soil.

Thompsonsi Magnifica 2nd year. Fine large background plant with plumed spires in yellow, gold, copper and red. 48".

Cosmos. Had small blooms, did not turn out as well as the self-seeded Radiance which were gorgeous.

Hunnemania. (Fumariaefolia). Seeded direct in soil with good success. Enjoyed the delicate tulip-shaped blooms and serrated light green foliage. Canary blooms on 8-inch stems, keep well when cut in bud. Plant 12" high, requires no attention nor water nor fertilizer.

Marigolds. Varieties grown - Goldsmith, Happiness, Golden Trumpet, Mammoth Mum, Naughty Marietta, Spry, Yellow Pigmy and Cupid. Outstanding is Happiness with light gold blooms from July 15 to heavy frost. Best marigold of all for medium height in border. Spry is very thrifty, 8" high; prefer Yellow Pigmy better for edging. Cupid has large 2" blooms on 8" plants but slow grower. Naughty Marietta won a blue ribbon for singles, is very decorative.

Matricaria (Feverfew). Ball's Double. A fine perennial which worked fine as an annual seeded directly in soil. Covered with white double blooms. Stands up well. Recommend this double feverfew very highly. Blue ribbon.

Pansy (Felix, The Cat's Whiskers). On the market for the first time in 1950, in all the catalogs this year. A fine novelty, took a blue ribbon. The seed was sown about March 1 and set out June 1. Blooms started on July 15 and made a fine display until very hard frost in November. With an airy covering of twigs and straw, they should do even better next year.

Petunias. Twelve varieties of petunias were planted. All started indoors under glass in flats. Good germination requires a particular technic, especially for the doubles. Outstanding were the Victorious doubles (Sakata-Japan) with Wedels (American) runner-up together with Allegro - a salmon - and Sonatra - a white. These are the only doubles that with my long experience I feel are worthy to be called good. There probably are others. Victorious was blue ribbon. Wedels was blue ribbon.

good pink. California Giant #2 dwarf suffled was good. Admiral, a blue, Snow-storm, and Balcony were all satisfactory where used correctly. Portulaca. A new upright portulaca of Italian origin; interesting and stood up well. Salvia. Rose Flame, a new variety in all the 1951 catalogs. Will use more extensively because of its pleasing pink. Better try it and start under glass. Welwinss, a mixed strain of white, salmon, purple and red from England; interesting blooms were not prominent enough. Will not grow again. St. John's Fire, a good early red about a foot high did well in both sun and shade. A good variety if you like a brilliant red, early, and plants not too tall. Blue Salvia (Royal Blue) Farinacea was pretty tall and needed staking. Find for arrangement spikes. Phlox, Dwarf (Nana Compacta). Scarlet, looked fine just back of the white alyssum edging. It was seeded directly just about ten inches back of the alyssum and they overlapped a little. For the latter part of the summer it came in fine. Old blossoms need to be trimmed and will stand clipping to make it conform after a heavy rain. This made a fine color slide.

Snaps. Canary is still my best bedding snap. It shows up and is not too tall although all snaps had to be staked. The tetras were good but did not care for the new Skyscraper pastels. Rosalie was the best garden pink.

Vinca Rosea. This periwinkle came through nicely. It was good in a hot dry spot. Was sown under glass.

Viola (Arkwright Ruby) was started in the cold frame and bloomed fine in late fall. We covered it with twigs and straw to keep from smothering. Hope to have a fine bed in 1951.

Edgings. I've used white alyssum for an edging over a period of twenty years. It puts a finishing seam on the border better than anything else, but is getting pretty tiresome. In quest of variety, I mixed with it a small amount of Violet Queen Alyssum and that did make a pretty good change, but it was still alyssum! The next best thing tried was Dahlberg Daisy, which also has carpet characteristics, but does not last as long. Also tried dwarf marigolds, dwarf verbenas, dwarf phlox, lobelia agratum, nierembergia, dwarf petunias, but none is as good as alyssum. They take longer to grow, don't last as long, are uneven or are frostbitten early. With a long border it would cost much to buy plants, but with alyssum it takes only 40¢ for a 600-ft. border seam. There are a number of perennials which would qualify such as bishops weed or alyssum saxatile, but that would make the border more or less permanent and some constant trimming would be required. Everyone to his own likes and dislikes!

REMEMBER OUR PLANT AUCTION

Just a reminder to grow a few extra flats of annual and perennial seedlings for our May auction. Also remember to save your perennial divisions, extra gladioli bulbs, tuberous begonias, dahlia roots and whatever else you can spare. All contributions will be thankfully received, be they ever so small. Contact our Auction Chairman, A. W. (Tony) Koester. Phone Walnut 1578.

HOLIDAY BENT

The Lunds and Rices left recently for Florida. The Titus' and Thompsons have joined up in St. Petersburg. The Kahlers are attending the Southeastern Regional Conference of the M.G.C.A. in Albany, Ga. The Bishops and Ballhorns are reported sunning in the Bahamas. Mrs. Bob Bryant is visiting in Pasadena Calif., and the Lowrie's are conventioning in San Francisco.

GREETINGS

We welcome into membership and extend hearty greetings to the following new members:

| | | | |
|---------------|-----------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| N. D. Beugan | 5222 Girard Ave. S. | D. J. Malloy | 6236 Garfield S. |
| W. R. Dutcher | 5039 Eleventh Ave. S. | J. M. McClure | 4513 Arden Ave S. |
| H. A. Elieff | 4009 Park Avenue | J. W. Sifford | 7100 Pillsbury |

TOMATO VARIETY TESTS
UNIVERSITY FARM 1950 PROJECT

Below is a table giving the accumulative results of testers growing different varieties of tomatoes under the jurisdiction of the University of Minnesota Farm School. Note that the figures in the first two columns have to do with "yield" and percent of yield of No. 1 fruit; the numbers in the next two columns represent rank of yield; for example, variety "Chatham" ranked first in earliness of yield (the first to ripen), ranked 20th in size of fruit, and the individual fruit averaged 2 ounces in weight.

| Variety | Yield No. 1 | | Rank | | Average oz. each |
|---------------------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|------------|------------------|
| | Tons @ acre | & Total Yield | Early Yield | Fruit Size | |
| Stokescross #4 | 15.51 | 79 | 16 | 6 | 3.5 |
| Earpee Hybrid | 15.48 | 73 | 13 | 5 | 3.8 |
| Vaughan Hybrid | 12.64 | 57 | 15 | 13 | 2.7 |
| Break-o-Day X Penn orange | 12.55 | 58 | 9 | 3 | 4.3 |
| Big Boy | 12.00 | 68 | 19-20 | 2 | 4.5 |
| Firesteel | 11.91 | 50 | 8 | 8 | 3.2 |
| Sioux | 11.72 | 50 | 12 | 11 | 2.9 |
| R. H. James 49-48 | 11.53 | 52 | 11 | 1 | 4.8 |
| Best of All | 10.13 | 67 | 19-20 | 4 | 4.0 |
| Europeana | 9.16 | 34 | 3 | 17 | 2.3 |
| R. H. James 48-4 | 9.03 | 43 | 10 | 12 | 2.8 |
| John Baer | 8.66 | 52 | 17-18 | 7 | 3.3 |
| Morden Hybrid | 8.60 | 36 | 4 | 15 | 2.5 |
| No. Dakota 49 | 7.63 | 35 | 5 | 9 | 3.1 |
| Pritchard x Earliana | 7.38 | 32 | 7 | 14 | 2.6 |
| Earliana x Valiant | 7.06 | 32 | 2 | 16 | 2.4 |
| Alpine | 6.20 | 26 | 6 | 19 | 2.1 |
| Chatham | 4.78 | 26 | 1 | 20 | 2.0 |
| 222 x Stokes 6 | 3.35 | 29 | 17-18 | 18 | 2.2 |

PLAN NOW TO ATTEND THE M.G.C.A. 16th
ANNUAL CONVENTION IN DETROIT JUNE 11-14

1951 JOHNNY APPLESEED AWARD

The Johnny Appleseed Medal will be awarded at the M.G.C.A. annual convention in Detroit in June. The recipient does not necessarily have to be one who is nationally known or who has large funds at his disposal. Nominations will be received even if there is a repetition of previous nominations. Have you any candidates worthy of consideration?

Nominations must be filed by not later than May 1, 1951, and in the hands of the

"To be eligible for a Johnny Appleseed Award, any male person 21 years of age or over must have performed meritorious service as either an amateur or professional in horticulture in any of its branches, where the results become an element of educational value, relieve the monotony of what would otherwise be a dull existence in a community, and where said person has had to overcome prejudices and obstacles and suffered privations in the attainment of his

NEW FLOWERS AND LAWN GRASSES

Don Methven

A flower is a thing of beauty under any circumstances, but enlarged about twenty times and thrown on a screen in full color in a darkened room, say, you can't seem to find words to describe it! The glamorous beauty queens of movie-land take second billing compared to some of the beauties that Larry Corbett threw on the screen at our February meeting. Most of the slides were from commercial seed growers on the west coast and gave some idea of the labor, the "know how", the perseverance, and the acreage involved in the production of flower seeds and the hybridizing of new varieties. Those endless rows of petunias, asters and zinnias, running off into the dim distance, took all of the conceit out of a man with a 60-foot lot.

The most interesting slides were the ones showing a single flower or groups of four or five in complementary colors. One, in particular, a single brilliant red aster against a dark background gave much the same effect as a fireworks display. The last few slides were of flowers grown right here in Minnesota at the Northrup King trial grounds. They were equally as beautiful, both in form and color, as the California specimens - if anything, more brilliant - but of course, lacking was the picturesque setting of palm trees and mountains in the background. After looking at these pictures, I'll bet a lot of the fellows are going to buy more flower seeds than they'll ever find room for in present borders.

As an introduction to his subject, Larry touched on the almost unbelievable progress that has been made in plant breeding in recent years, how some of the earliest theories of plant breeding once forsaken have been resurrected and applied to more advanced modern technics, that many of the newer introductions have resulted from hybridizing, hand pollination, the use of colchicine and so on. As science marches forward, we may expect even more startling results in the development of hardier varieties of flowers, fruits and vegetables with greater resistance to disease; more colorful blooms, and, who knows, maybe one of these days we will be able to plant them and forget them - then the fun of gardening will be over!

Several new and hardier grasses now being tested but not yet ready for the market may be the answer to some of our lawn problems. A few new varieties touched upon by Larry and exhibited on slides included:

Perennials: Delphinium - Astelot series (red shades), Elaine (pink), Coral Bells of separate colors, Iceland Poppies - art shades, new rose, pinks, corals, salmons.

Annuals: Tithonia - Torch AAS
Marigold - Glitters AAS
Tetraploid Snaps
Nicotiana - Sensation hybrids
Cosmos - Radiance
Early Stocks
Zinnia, new super giants

Petunia - Fire Chief
Petunia - Silver Medal (salmon pink)
Marigold - Mammoth Mum
Aster - Princess
Cleome - Helm Campbell (white)
Zinnia - Floradale Scarlet (red supergiant)
Marigold - Happiness

LIBERTY GARDENS

You can reduce your grocery bill this year by planting at least a portion of your home garden in vegetables and fruits. Garden club leaders met with the Secretary of Agriculture in Washington late in January and set up a tentative prog-

ram for a home vegetable garden campaign under the banner of Liberty Gardens. Complete details of the plan have not yet been released, but will be soon. Let's get behind this program at least as far as our own family needs are con-

TIME TO GET SOWING

Soon - that is! Now don't be in too big a rush to germinate the seeds of tender annuals indoors unless you have a cold frame to harden them off should weather delay spring planting. For your guidance we give below the average germination time and period from seed to bloom of the more popular annuals:

| Annual | Type | Germ. Time | Seed to Bloom | Indoor Start | Outdoor Planting ** |
|------------------|------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|---------------------|
| Ageratum | Tender | 6 to 10 days | 9 to 12 weeks | Yes | 5/1 to 6/15 |
| Alyssum | V. Hardy | 5 to 10 days | 5 to 6 weeks | No | 5/1 to 5/15 |
| Asters | Tender | 6 to 10 days | 12 to 18 weeks | Yes | 6/1 to 6/15 |
| Calendula | V. Hardy | 6 to 10 days | 8 to 12 weeks | No | 5/1 to 5/15 |
| Celosia | Tender | 6 to 10 days | 8 to 10 weeks | No | 6/8 to 6/15 |
| Centaurea | V. Hardy | 5 to 7 days | 6 to 8 weeks | No | 5/1 to 5/15 |
| Cleome | V. Hardy | 7 to 10 days | 8 to 10 weeks | No | 5/15 to 5/22 |
| Cosmos | Tender | 5 to 9 days | 10 to 12 weeks | Yes | 6/1 to 6/15 |
| Dahlias | 1/2 Tender | 5 to 10 days | 8 to 10 weeks | No | 6/1 to 6/8 |
| Dianthus | Hardy | 6 to 10 days | 10 to 12 weeks | No | 5/15 to 5/31 |
| Calif. Poppy * | V. Hardy | 14 to 21 days | 8 to 10 weeks | No | 5/1 to 5/15 |
| Larkspur * | V. Hardy | 14 to 21 days | 8 to 12 weeks | No | 4/1 to 4/15 |
| Marigold | Tender | 4 to 5 days | 7 to 10 weeks | No | 5/15 to 5/31 |
| Morning Glory * | Tender | 5 to 10 days | 12 to 14 weeks | No | 6/8 to 6/15 |
| Nasturtiums | Tender | 8 to 13 days | 7 to 8 weeks | No | 6/1 to 6/15 |
| Pansies & Violas | V. Hardy | 8 to 14 days | 12 to 14 weeks | Yes | 4/1 to 4/15 |
| Petunia | Tender | 6 to 12 days | 10 to 12 weeks | Yes | 5/15 to 5/31 |
| Phlox | Hardy | 8 to 17 days | 9 to 12 weeks | No | 5/1 to 5/15 |
| Portulaca | 1/2 Hardy | 5 to 10 days | 6 to 8 weeks | No | 5/15 to 5/31 |
| Scabiosa | 1/2 Hardy | 15 to 20 days | 12 to 14 weeks | No | 5/15 to 5/31 |
| Shirley Poppy * | V. Hardy | 6 to 12 days | 7 to 10 weeks | No | 4/15 to 4/30 |
| Snapdragon | 1/2 Hardy | 8 to 14 days | 12 to 16 weeks | Yes | 5/15 to 5/31 |
| Sweet Pea * | V. Hardy | 14 to 28 days | 10 to 12 weeks | No | 3/1 to 3/31 |
| Verbena | 1/2 Hardy | 10 to 15 days | 8 to 10 weeks | No | 5/15 to 5/31 |
| Zinnia | Tender | 5 to 18 days | 6 to 8 weeks | No | 6/15 to 6/30 |

* Do not do well when transplanted ** Sow hardy annuals outdoors two weeks before the first date; half-hardy annuals delay sowing outdoors until the first date; tender annuals delay sowing outdoors until the second of the two dates.

Warning - Do not sow seeds indoors until thirty days prior to first planting date; earlier for seeds with long germination periods; later for fast-growing plants. Light is all-important. Young plants will not grow sturdy and strong if not given proper sunlight.

Watch out for damping off. Use a seed disinfectant - Semesan is good. Dust your seeds with it before sowing; it will help prevent damping off. The use of Vermiculite instead of soil will do away with the damping off problem.

Seed Planting. Vermiculite is an excellent indoor potting medium. It is completely sterile and, of course, weed-free. It holds moisture well, and being so light, the delicate roots of seedlings can easily penetrate it. Another advantage - when seedlings are ready for transplanting, they slip out of this mica quite easily. Vermiculite comes in three grades; use the finest - the best for starting seeds.

Mica contains no nutrients, so these must be added after the seeds have germinated. Therefore, when the plants are up, add a liquid plant food to each watering, or use a commercial fertilizer (dissolving 1½ teaspoonfuls in a gallon of water).

bottomless box which has a sash on top; one end should be 6 to 8 inches higher than the other so that the rain can drain off. Boxes should be placed to slant to the south or southeast. When coldframes are heated, either with manure or electricity, they become hotbeds.

Coldframes are ideal for such annuals as marigold, ageratum, snapdragon, dianthus, pansies, violas and bedding petunias. Seeds can be planted two to four weeks earlier than the outdoor planting date and plants will be hardier than ones sown indoors. Open the sash on sunny days; keep it closed on rainy days; and shut at sundown.

Vegetable seed sowing gets underway this month too. Cabbages, tomatoes, cauliflower, brussels sprouts, eggplant, broccoli, squash and celery can be sown in flats and transplanted to pots as soon as they become crowded. Peas, spinach and onion sets should be grown outdoors where they are to grow as soon as the ground can be worked.

Begonia tubers can be started into growth any time now by placing them in a shallow box filled with equal parts of good soil and peat moss. Barely cover the tubers and keep moist without overwatering in a temperature of 55 to 60°. Give maximum light when leaves begin to form.

If you really want to benefit from your gardening experience, start keeping a record of every important activity in your garden. Record the dates of seed sowing, germination, transplanting and final planting note the time of pinching back, disbudding, blooming, fertilizing, spraying or dusting, etc. Make a note of the condition, infestation, position in garden, amount of shade, sun, moisture, etc.

With vegetables, keep track of yield, both for quantity and quality; the elapsed time for maturity; flavor; freezing or canning qualities, etc.

"POT SHOT"

Richard Armour

My wife has lots and lots and lots
Of potted plants in pots.
She gives them tender, loving care,
And moves them here and moves them there
To see that each and every one
Shall have its share of light and sun.

She hikes to distant hill and gulch
To bring them healthy loam and mulch;
She nurses up the tender shoot;

She laves the leaf, bestirs the root;
And frequently large sums invests
In stuff for killing scales and pests.

I'm glad my wife's so kind to plants,
I do not carp or stand askance.
There's just one thing I'd like to mention

I wish I got as much attention!
(From The Garden Plot, Detroit, Mich.)

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There's something feminine about a tree.
It does a strip tease in the Fall, goes
with bare limbs all Winter, gets a new
outfit in the Spring, and lives off the
saps all Summer. (Walnut, Ia. Bureau)

IN SYMPATHY

We are sorry to hear of the passing of
Bill Holmberg's father. Our deepest
sympathy to you, Bill, and your family