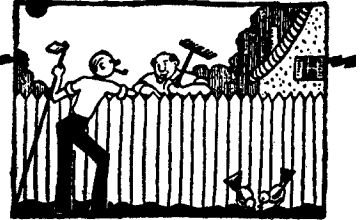




# The Garden Spray

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

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



March, 1955  
Volume 13, Number 3  
G. "Vic" Lowrie, Editor

Associate Editors:  
Don Methven, Wm. Hull,  
N. W. Christopherson

## OUR MARCH MEETING

Date: Tuesday, March 8, 1955  
Place: Mount Olivet Lutheran Church  
Knox Ave. S. & West 50th St.  
Time: 5:45 P.M. Sharp  
Price: \$1.50

### Officers

J. M. Witmer	President
F. F. Heschmeyer	Vice-president
N. W. Christopherson	Secretary
R. C. Adams	Treasurer

### PROGRAM

6:45 SHORT BUSINESS MEETING  
7:00 TUBEROUS BEGONIAS  
S. F. Pinkham  
7:10 ARTIFICIAL LIGHT GARDENING  
Fred Paul  
7:20 TREES AND SHRUBS  
Dr. Leon Snyder, U. of M.  
Gregg Lucking, Park Board  
7:40 TIME-LAPSE FLORAL PHOTOGRAPHY  
Unusual and excellent motion  
pictures by the Nationally  
known Carters, R.J.S. (Nick)  
and son, Bill.

Office of the Secretary  
N. W. Christopherson  
6145 Clinton Ave. So.

Office of the Exchange Editor  
G. Victor Lowrie  
417 Essex Building

George Titus and his gang have come up with another program packed full of Spring-gardening-helps. This is one program you'll kick yourself around or even into the compost heap for missing...

...so-o-o if you want to get off to a good gardening start; get the low down on how "Pink" grows those prize winning begonias; how to beat the late Spring by coaching those "All Americans" under artificial light; what trees and shrubs best suit your environment; capped with a time-study picture of just "how-your-garden-grows", set aside Tuesday, March 8 for a great big evening out with the boys -- be seeing ya!

### OUR FEBRUARY MEETING

One of our best attended meetings and we were all well rewarded with an excellent program thanks to George Titus, Harold Kaufmann, Felix Dhainen, Larry Corbett, Orrin Turnquist, Cortis Rice, et al. Larry's and Felix's talks are published elsewhere in the Spray; Orrin's if not received before press time will be mailed to each member separately in the form of a bulletin on vegetables by the extension division of the University Farm School.

For those who were unable to attend the February meeting and to keep the records straight, the proposed ten dollar initiation fee and the proposition of increasing the number of active members from seventy-five to eighty were both presented to the membership and voted down.

### CLUB PLANT AUCTION

Don't forget to raise seedlings for the plant auction to be held the second Tuesday in May. When dividing perennials, set aside a division or two, pot them or box them and bring them along too. Any extra tools, seeds, fencing, stakes or what have you that have real value, don't throw or give them away, they are bound to bring something at auction and every little helps. Make sure seedlings, plants or shrubs are properly labeled and if the item is extra special, be sure to so stamp it.

### BUILDER'S SHOW

If you haven't mailed in your card as a volunteer to man the Horticultural Society booth at the Builder's Show from 7 P.M. to 10 P.M. March 15, 16, or 17, please do so immediately for we need your help.

We must be gardeners and not mechanics in our approach to world affairs. The forces of nature will generally be on the side of him who understands them best and respects them most scrupulously.

George F. Kennan

Blessing on the seeds we sow,  
Bless the rain that makes them grow.  
Bless the earth that guards them well,  
Bless those who near the garden dwell  
Bless, oh God, our garden.

Anonymous

REMEMBER TO SOW THOSE EXTRA FLATS FOR THE AUCTION

## OVER THE GARDEN FENCE

by Bill Hull

The fence this month is a long one, running down 500 miles into Mexico, at Valles, a small town of 21,000 people not particularly educated to the value of the American dollar. It's about 100 miles into the tropics.

Of course, it's a gardener's paradise, but most gardening is done for a livelihood, not for pleasure. Thick tropical vegetation is the rule, especially near water sources.

Bananas grow everywhere, growing upwards from a purple pear-shaped blossom, one cluster to a plant. Sugar cane, oranges, corn and coffee predominate. The citrus fields from Monterrey south make Florida, Texas and California areas seem dwarfish. Tangerines are sold in clusters, tied to a stick about 2 feet long. About 25 for a peso (8¢).

February 1st is still a little early for most "spring flowering" plants but roses, bougainvillea, trumpet-vines and wild flowers are blooming now. After all, the heat was ninety today.

A philodendron extends fifty feet down one side of our dining room. Carefully trimmed, its leaves are fresh and green.

The maguey is the cactus most cultivated since it supplies both hemp and tequila. It's a spreading plant with blades that average four feet but occasionally reach six feet in height.

Of course, there are palm trees and coconut trees as you would expect. Papayas are just coming into season.

We passed up Monterrey because of its commercial aspects and prefer this small town. Here you are made welcome indeed, with quite reasonable prices. The city's finest accommodations compare with a top southwestern motel. Our two bedrooms, bath and a very small sitting room costs us \$35.00 a day (\$2.80 American currency). You can golf all day or swim in a beautifully kept pool for a peso (8¢). In the market I bought a huge papaya and 8 bananas for a total of 2 pesos (16¢).

But one must remember those are not the prices in the big cities, which compare to prices in similar U.S. situations.

Very dominant impressions about Mexico: the surprising dominance of the high Sierra Madre mountains; the friendliness of the rural natives; the outstretched palms of his city cousins; the profusion of bloom south of the Tropic of Cancer; the value of being able to speak Spanish, an advantage that opens doors and makes a trip easier.

BE SURE TO SET ASIDE SOMETHING FOR THE AUCTION

DOWN TEXAS WAY

1-23-55

Dear P.W. --

Thought I'd drop you a line to let you know I'm now a member of the "First Dallas Men's Garden Club". Things are done differently down here so I am glad to get to be with these men and learn how they do it the year around. Right now camellias are blooming although generally under cloth coverings. Roses still insist on blooming even with freezing weather at night. I don't believe the Club here will hold a candle to the Minneapolis M. G. C. which will be disappointing. Also, on this next Sunday, I will attend a Dahlia Club meeting but then again there apparently is no one within a 100 miles that knows dahlias like Bill H., Bob B., Andy N. and Tom K. I'm going to miss them.

I thought you would be interested in the clipping on Better Business Bureau's ad specifying nursery advertising rules. Don't know whether the committee fighting false advertising has ever seen these ads.

Also am sending you the Sunday ads on what these people down here are buying now. Seems strange to me since we are used to nothing but snow and ice. Here winter is nearly over.

Give everyone my regards.

(Signed) Tom Ennis

Editor's note - The ads included:

Camellias	Crape Myrtle	Pittosporum	Nandinas
Mahonia	Photinia	Azaleas	Cherry Laurel
Holly	Fig Trees	Gardenias	Waxleaf Ligustrum
"The Naughty Caladium"			

FORCING SHRUBS FOR INDOOR BLOOM

It is possible to force out branches of various shrubs in the house much earlier than many folks suppose. Pussy willow, forsythia and flowering almond are good selections for early forcing, while a little later flowering crab and cherry blossoms may be brought out. Attempts have been made at times to force lilac branches and it seems fairly easy to get good blooms if large branches are taken into a reasonably warm cellar and placed in tubs or deep pails. The cellar should not be dark but there should be no direct sunlight. Spraying the tops will be helpful.

The branches to be forced should be cut with a long slant at the bottom which will facilitate the taking up of water. The water filled receptacles in which they are placed should be deep and they should stand in partial shade. The tops should be sprayed with an atomizer until the flowers start to open as this will keep the buds from drying out. Use lukewarm water for this purpose.

## GET YOUR LAWN OFF TO A GOOD START

You've heard the old saying "Appearances can be deceiving". It's really apropos at this time of year. Certainly, a glance out of your living room window wouldn't indicate that it's time to begin caring for your lawn... but it is.

Right now, even though snow may still be on the ground, is when you should give your lawn its first feeding with a complete lawn food. It's simple. All you have to do is apply 3 pounds per 100 square feet of lawn area. Spring thaws and rains will work the plant food down to the feeding roots, making watering-in unnecessary. And, it's effective. Complete plant food supplies all the nutrients grass must get from soil for best growth. That's mighty important when you want a lawn that is deep-rooted, thick and luxuriant. A new type of lawn food will be on the market this spring. It is well worth trying, from current reports on its performance in trials last year. One application is supposed to last all year.

Important, too, is the fact that needed nutrients are available to grass roots just as soon as growth starts. They do not depend upon the action of soil bacteria to make them available.

If you haven't tried an early feeding program previously, try it this year. Come Spring, you'll be quite amazed at the way your lawn is coming along. By summer you'll have the kind of lawn that can stand up under the bruising treatment it receives from children and blazing sun. It will be more free of weeds, too, because early feeding gives grass plants a head start on weeds. By the time weeds begin growth, there are few spots where they can break through.

## TO LIME OR NOT TO LIME

A good many gardeners have the habit of applying lime each year to their lawns or gardens, fearing that "sour soil" will nullify all their other gardening practices. Actually, annual liming on the home grounds is not only wasteful, but may actually be harmful. Farmers apply limestone only once in a crop rotation, that is, every three or four years. The reason for using lime is, of course, to decrease soil acidity. Material used for this purpose do not leach out rapidly and annual applications may cause a build-up which in turn will cause an alkaline condition, in some respects as detrimental to plant growth as too much acidity.

Lawn grasses are perfectly tolerant of moderate soil acidity and if you want to keep clover out of your lawn, never lime it at all unless it is extremely acid as determined by soil tests. Too high a degree of alkalinity in the soil may cause phosphorus and iron to be chemically tied up in forms unavailable to plants. In other cases the high calcium content of the alkaline soil causes an unbalanced nutrient status which particularly affects calcium, magnesium and boron availability.

So before you spread lime the first time, have your soil tested. If excessive acidity is indicated, make an application no more often than every three or four years.

## THE PROPOSED GARDEN CENTER OF LYNDALE PARK

Board of Park Commissioners  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

by Felix K. Dhainin  
Landscape Architect-Administrative

The Board of Park Commissioners was established in 1883 as a legally constituted public body to provide for the leisure-time needs of the people of the city of Minneapolis. Of course, the leisure-time needs of people are many and varied. Some like active recreation, others passive, still others in between. Therefore, the gamut of the facilities and program we provide is extensive. A park system, to carry on its functions in a proper manner, must be well balanced. This means we cannot have a preponderance of active types of facilities and equipment versus the passive or more leisurely kinds. Neither could the parks be devoted entirely to flowers, shrubs or plant material nor to one particular facet. The Park Board has ever attempted to keep abreast of the over-all needs of its citizenry and to maintain a progressive department, well-balanced for carrying on the leisure-time requirements of the population.

Again, the leisure-time needs of the people have changed in the past and are due to change in the future. These changes are the results of many things; the greatest being the upsurge in available leisure time. Naturally, our primary objective is to serve the large masses of our people; ever alert to changing trends and changing conditions in the leisure-time needs of these people.

This brings us to the projection of a Garden Center to serve the citizenry. Presently we have no central or highly-organized Garden Center that can provide the leisure-time service for the needs of those of our people interested in gardening. It has been our observation that as more leisure time becomes available (and industry tells us that it is expanding), people are more and more turning to types of activities they can do themselves or do in family groups. Gardening is a leisure-time activity which we feel should be encouraged. It is a type of activity having scenic appeal. Through our Garden Center unit we will endeavor to inculcate in people the desire and joy of doing their own gardening.

We would like our gardening activities to be centered at one location, thus providing a more efficient unit, a more attractive center, and at the same time enable us to do a better job. The Garden Center at Lyndale Park is being proposed with those basic concepts in mind. It is conceived as an extension to the present Rose Garden, using the fountain as a focal point. Included would be perennial beds, formal arrangements, grass plots, plus other interesting features such as statuary, etc. Also contemplated is a Garden Center building in which would be located rest rooms, storage facilities, meeting rooms, and other worthwhile units. The exact size of the building has not been determined nor just how such a building would function.

We have merely allocated the space and location for such a unit. The Garden Center could include informal areas demonstrating the proper methods and techniques of growing shrubbery; planting a flower border; harmonizing color and various gardening techniques applicable to the average citizen's backyard garden.

Parking facilities will be provided, also a service and storage yard for carrying on the gardening activities of the Center. Informal borders will provide for the planting of special flowering types of trees, shrubs, and flower arrangements; the ultimate development might have informal paths and walkways leading to various sections of the formal and informal gardens.

It is not anticipated that this garden would be an arboretum or a unit for extensive research. Other agencies such as the State or the University should be engaged in such activities. Our aim is to produce the rudiments of elementary gardening at the same time provide a unit that would inspire the general population to use some of their leisure hours for gardening activities.

It is our hope that Garden Club organizations will cooperate in this venture, by generating interest for it; assist in its promotion; help in its operation when developed; and provide the stimuli necessary to bring it to fruition. With your cooperation the citizens of this area will benefit immensely. All organized clubs will gain by providing a service to our citizens as well as having a focal point around which their activities can center.

This brief explanation will give you a broad, general picture of the basic concepts and policies of your Park Board. The plan as envisioned has been approved by the Board of Park Commissioners. A great deal of further study remains before the project can be developed plus the loyal support and backing of organized groups like yourselves.

REMEMBER TO SOW THOSE EXTRA FLATS FOR THE AUCTION

CHOICE ANNUAL FLOWERS FOR 1955

by Larry Corbett

1. F1 Hybrids

- |                                   |                        |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| A. Prima Donna (Bright Rose Pink) | F. Sioux (Warm Salmon) |
| B. Ballerina (Silver Pink)        | G. All Double Petunias |
| C. Comanchie (Fire Chief Red)     | 1. Sonata (white)      |
| D. Apache (Bright Rose Red)       | 2. America (rose pink) |
| E. Paleface (White)               | H. Snapdragon (Japan)  |
|                                   | 1. Also Doubles        |

2. Open Pollinated

- A. F2 Petunia - The Crown Jewels (5 colors including creamy yellow)
- B. Annual Larkspur - Steeplechase, Regal, Supreme
- C. Extra Early Snapdragons - Magic Carpet (4" good color range for edging)  
    Apricot  
    Sunny Boy
- D. Zinnia (Blaze Group) Ice Cream - - cream color
- E. Portulaea, Jewel
- F. Celosia Cristata - Toreador
- G. Dahlias from seed - Coltuess, Unwins, Rainbow Mix
- H. Asters - Powder Puff Boquet, also Early Ballet Dwarfed  
    also Kirkwell for dwarf edging
- I. Sweet Pea - Multiflora, Florinbundas
- J. Celosia Plumosa - Golden Fleece, Pampas Plume
- K. Bells of Ireland or Shell Flower

Marigolds - Honeycomb, Happiness (early)

    Rusty Red - Dwarf French Double - Deep Mahogany red

    African Cupid Dwarf - True African but dwarf - large flowers

Blue Salvia - Blue Bedder

Zinnia - Exquisite

Double Petunias from Japan - Sakatas all Doubles

    Giant Victorious

- 1. Minstred - Rich Blue and White

Petunia, Crusader

Verbena - Ideal Florist strain (poor name but good strain) Dwarf Compact  
    Semi-spreading, very fine color range, florets eyed to give  
    sharp color effect.

IF YOU PLAN TO GROW ANY OF THESE BEAUTIES REMEMBER THE AUCTION