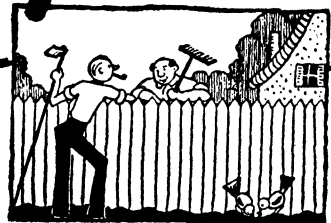




The Garden Spray

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

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



March, 1957
Volume 15, Number 3
G "Vic" Lowrie, Editor

Associate Editors
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M A R C H M E E T I N G

Date: Tuesday, March 12, 1957
Place: Mount Olivet Lutheran Church
Knox Ave. So. & West 50th St.
Time: 5:45 P.M. Sharp
Price: \$1.50

OFFICERS

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

PROGRAM

"How to Grow a Lot of Vegetables in a Small Garden" by Orrin Turnquist
"How to Graft Fruits and Ornamentals" by Ted Wier
"Starting and Growing Annual and Perennial Seedlings" by Archie Flack

Office of the Secretary
N. W. Christopherson
6145 Clinton Avenue

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G. Victor Lowrie
417 Essex Building

Now here is a gardeners' program timed just right and tailor-made for the work that lies immediately ahead.

You won't want to miss this meeting not only for the ideas the program will provide but also here is an opportunity to get the answers from the experts to any spring gardening problem with which you may be struggling. So join the gang on Tuesday, March 12, for a rousing good time — good food, good company, much fun and a lot of knowledge — we will be looking for you!

OVER THE GARDEN FENCE

By Bill Hull

P. W. Young has built another propogator for basement growing under lights. This new production is a masterpiece but P.W. made it so large he didn't have room to swing a hammer to attach the top. Hence he had to use angle braces and a screwdriver.

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"Chris" Christopherson's son has recently shot a hole in one in a golf tournament, for which he will be receiving several prizes. We've heard from other sources that Chris son is a top notch golfer, not to be confused with some of us divot-diggers.

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Wanted: At least 100 club reporters who will let us know what other members of the Club are doing. Keep us posted on important news and chit-chat. When special recognition comes to members' wives, let us know that too.

* * * * *

A warm welcome to Daniel C. (Dan) Chabot, a new member residing at 1426 Flagg Avenue North. Dan is the son of the late Ernie Chabot, a prominent national member of MGCA, known widely for his work with the Club.

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More Congrats to P.W. Young and his committee for another fine program. We will long remember Dr. Arneman's speech and the fine panel consisting of Moderator Kahlert and Members L. Bachman, Cerney, Flack, Snyder, Rice and guest Arneman. Not only was this an educative meeting with members swapping knowledge but it was a participative meeting, which I personally think is important.

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We met in the annex last meeting because someone at the church failed to place our reservation on record. Just a temporary thing. Next time we'll be back in the big room.

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Worth Knowing: Add three pounds of nitrogen for each 100 pounds of sawdust added to the soil. Nitrogen is only needed when sawdust, peat, corncobs are mixed in with the soil and hence withdraw nitrogen from the soil. When these items are used as a mulch they do not break down and don't draw on the soil for nitrogen.

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Foliage sprays mainly make use of nitrogen. Malathion is basically an aphid-icide. Vaportone fine for red spider. Insects are here to stay and eventually get accustomed to most insecticides. Hence, don't stick with the same one forever. A girdled tree half destroyed by mice or rabbits can sometimes be made to come back by wrapping quickly the damaged area with rubber electrician's tape.

Ureaform, about 35% nitrogen, breaks down slowly and hence will supply nitrogen for as long as seven months. So many quick sources of nitrogen are rapidly depleted.

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I wonder if guest speakers (including our own member speakers) don't sometimes feel like asking us to plain old-fashioned shut up when they are speaking. We get a little thoughtless and rude sometimes.

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A rose expert warned recently that now is the time roses need covering with hay or straw to keep them dormant during these alternate thawing and freezing periods. That applies to other plants and shrubs too.

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Note to our members in other climes: Recently when we've been having unusually warm

NEWS AND VIEWS

As this issue is being written, we have a most welcome blanket of snow covering the ground which should add much needed moisture to the soil, providing it doesn't melt too quickly and all run down the drain.

We have had a rather difficult winter what with so many thaws followed by quick hard freezes. If your flower beds have been well protected with marsh hay or other protective properties, plants should not have suffered, otherwise winter damage this year could be quite severe.

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Am sure everyone is anxious and itching to get back into their gardens, and March is a good month to prepare for the coming of spring. Tools need to be sharpened; cold frames built or prepared; flats and other containers for seed propagation put in good shape; soil for indoor seed planting mixed and made ready for use.

Now if you want some helpful hints and a real guide for the preparation of spring, get a copy of George Luxton's book, "Flower Growing in the North," and follow his monthly calendar of things to do and how and when to do them, and I'll venture you'll find it proves to be your best gardening investment of the year.

* * * *

It's not too early to make plans for attending the National Convention of the Men's Garden Clubs of America, which is to be held in Portland, Oregon, June 11th, 12th, and 13th. This meeting promises to be an exciting and most colorful event, taking place as it does during Portland's famous Festival of Roses, which continues from June 10 through June 16. Why not make it part of your summer vacation for the whole family.

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Although May still seems along way away, it really isn't, for in a few weeks you are going to be planting seeds and marking some of the flats, "Hold for the Club Auction." This year we are depending on the proceeds from the auction to foot a good many of

our current bills so do remember the auction when sowing the seeds of the choice numbers you have selected. We cannot have too much good quality material, so let's all set aside some of the best varieties, both flowers and vegetables, and in sufficient quantity to make a noteworthy contribution to the auction.

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Orrin Turnquist has asked that the Vegetable Special Interest Group meet with him immediately after the close of our March meeting. He undoubtedly has some good tested varieties to recommend to you vegetarians.

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The nurserymen have certainly been giving an unusually heavy barrage of promotion to the two All-American Rose Selection Awards for 1957, White Bouquet and Golden Showers. If they live up to all the promises made for them they should be outstanding in our gardens.

White Bouquet is referred to as an enchanting white Floribunda with spots 4 to 5 inch flowers and contrasting lustrous dark green foliage. The flowers being gardenia-like and open fully with petals spreading to form opulent white blooms with a sweet spicy fragrance. Can hardly wait for a full bed of them.

Golden Showers is a climbing rose although it can also be shaped as a bush. It has large 4 to 5 in. vivid deep yellow roses. The variety is reported to be extremely vigorous with new canes continuing to produce many flowers during the entire summer. The deep yellow flowers are on long bronze colored stems, and free of thorns.

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Looks like our plea in the February issue for gardening news from members went unheeded. Not a single member so far contributed an item for the issue. Come now boys, take a few minutes off before you get busy in the garden and send us a story.

THE IMPORTANCE OF WATER TO PLANTS

Life as we know it today began in water and the lowest forms of life still spend the whole of their lives totally immersed in water; if they are taken out of it they die. From very simple beginnings, organisms have evolved into the complex structures we know today — fungi, flowering plants, animals, and, most complex of all, human beings. But even so, water is still a most important factor for the maintenance of life; it is well known that man can go for weeks without food but only a few days without water.

Water is just as essential for green plants — the form of life in which we, as gardeners, are most interested. It does a variety of jobs in the plant — all of them of equal and vital importance. In a healthy, normally growing plant, each job is allocated its ration of water — the plant does not allow one job to deprive another of its fair share. It is unfortunately necessary, for ease of study, to examine each function separately, but it must always be remembered that one function may have effects on the other functions and that each must be regarded as part of the whole.

The essential living part of the plant is protoplasm. This is to be found in the plant cells, particularly in parts of the plant which are growing actively. Protoplasm is composed of highly complex nitrogenous substances — proteins — which contain about 70 per cent water. If this amount is reduced, the protoplasm, and the plant, will die. For this reason the protoplasm has first call on the water supply in the plant, even during periods of drought.

The cell sap — the watery fluid which fills the otherwise empty spaces in many cells — is a solution of sugars, salts and other substances in water. It is responsible for keeping the plant turgid and healthy. Any gardener knows that a plant which is not turgid which is wilting, will not grow as quickly or as well as one which is turgid. Also, a wilting plant is much more susceptible to attack by fungal diseases than a turgid one. Plenty of water means plenty of cell sap and a healthy, vigorous plant.

An ordinary green plant is a highly complex factory — proteins, fats and cellulose, to mention a few of the products, are built up from carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and water and salts absorbed by the roots. The first step in this process is the manufacture of sugar, which only takes place in green leaves in the presence of sunlight:

Carbon dioxide — water — sugar (glucose) — oxygen.

This is called photosynthesis. Respiration is the reverse process:

Sugar — oxygen — carbon dioxide — water.

Energy in the form of sunlight is necessary for photosynthesis to take place.

The energy is stored in the sugar and is released by respiration. Plants use this energy for many purposes and water plays an essential part in its release.

Not all the sugar formed by photosynthesis is used for respiration. Some of it is converted into more complex substances: proteins which go to form the protoplasm, starch for storage in roots, tubers or seed, and cellulose and lignin for building the structure of the plant. Sugar contains about 60 per cent water in a combined form and the substances made from sugar contain about the same amount. Water, then is necessary for the

THE IMPORTANCE OF WATER TO PLANTS (CONT)

structure of the plant — its roots, stems, leaves and flowers.

Plants obtain much of their food from the soil in the form of salts — the nitrat phosphates and potash we apply as fertilizers. Before the plant can absorb these salt they have to be dissolved in water and are taken into and carried up the plant in this form. This salt solution is carried up the woody centre of the plant stem while solutions of sugar and other substances made by the plant in its leaves are carried down the plant in the phloem in the softer tissue near the bark.

In order to get enough salts, the plant absorbs more water than it requires for the other purposes mentioned. The excess water is passed to the leaves, to the spaces between the cells in the leaf, and thence through pores in the leaf surface, stomata, to the atmosphere in the form of water vapour. The evaporation of the water inside the leaf requires a considerable amount of heat which is taken from the leaf tissue nearby thus reducing its temperature and keeping it cool. This process is known as transpire

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DDT NOT SO POISONOUS

At a meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, it was reported that DDT is not as poisonous to the human race as many skeptics have claimed. A test was conducted among 51 experimenters who ate 35 m.m. of DDT daily for one year. That was supposed to represent about 200 times as much DDT as one could possibly pick up from fruits or vegetables sprayed with the pesticide. At the end of one year, it was found that those who had eaten the DDT had no more of poison in their body fat than those not on the test. This would indicate, so the report stated, that the body capacity for DDT storage is limited. Now don't go on a diet of DDT to prove this test out, but at the same time go after those mosquitoes this summer, and don't worry about the spraying having any ill effects on your family. I would still wash the darn stuff off before serving however.

YOU TELL ON YOURSELF

by Sverre Sieverts

You tell on yourself by the friends you seek
By the very manner in which you speak,
By the way you employ your leisure time,
By the use you make of dollar and dime.
You tell what you are by the things you wear,
By the spirit in which your burdens you bear,
By the kind of things at which you laugh,
By the records you play on your phono-graph.

You tell what you are by the way you wear
By the things of which you like to talk,
By the manner in which you bear defeat,
By the foods you choose and the way you eat
By the books you choose from the well-filled shelves
In these ways and more, you tell on yourself
So there isn't a particle of common sense
In trying to keep up a false pretense.

BRAINSTORMING: A PANACEA FOR OUR CLUB?

By Bill Hull

The Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis is one of the finest of the 180 affiliated groups in the national organization; it is widely recognized as a leader and we are all proud to be associated with it and the many friends we make therein. Because of its position, we must search constantly to maintain and deserve that leadership, to be cognizant of any possible weaknesses, to seek new technics of self-improvement. Among other things, we must never be so sure of ourselves that we presume every single member is as enthusiastic as we individually may be.

For example, is there any truth to one member's criticism that there is a tendency for too much of the work being done by the same people, that there exists an overbalance of wisdom and experience against vigor and enthusiasm? If we believed this member, we are dragging our feet.

A second member complains that we don't have sufficient program variety. He points out that, due to our wide range of club activities, only five or six programs a year are on horticultural subjects and it was for the horticultural knowledge he hoped to obtain that he joined the Club.

A third member nurses wounds obtained from the criticism that he runs things. Perhaps there is some truth in this, he admits. "When the president gives me a job, he expects it to be done. I can't risk calling upon unproven members because they too often fail me." He asks, "How can we orient new members and get them working as they may desire?"

There is some truth to each of these criticisms, but we personally feel they are limited. Club officers are constantly searching for high membership participation in activities, for members' reactions to programs and activities, but the solutions to such problems aren't always at hand.

Our Club contains many capable men. Are we offering them all sufficient opportunities to contribute ideas and suggestions? What do they want? More horticulture programs? More workshop opportunities? Or less?

Without meaning the slightest reflection on any person or group of persons and I hope you will accept the honesty of that statement, I believe we should completely review our whole modus operandi. We should study the technic of obtaining programs. Our flower shows should be reviewed. What about our auctions? Of all these activities, are they exactly what we want and need? Should we have an advisory council to work with the board of directors but not to supervise or overrule them? Are our awards the reflection of the entire Club's wishes? Should we establish special qualifications for new members? Should we enforce our regulations regarding attendance at meetings? In other words, is our Club satisfactorily meeting its basic purposes?

After we study these activities, we may not want to make a single change. Even if we don't, we will be happier for having examined ourselves and particularly now at the beginning of the year.

Brainstorming is a new technic developed by Alex Osborne of BBD&O Advertising Agency and has been used very successfully to solve problems and to obtain new ideas for various groups. Here is the way it would work in our Club and I propose to put it into effect immediately.

I suggest we select from six to eight newer (not necessarily younger) members who will be hosts. At their homes during some week we will assemble balanced groups of not

BRAINSTORMING: A PANACEA FOR OUR CLUB?(CONT)

more than ten members per group. Each group will consist of a minority of club leaders with the majority being composed of other members who may not be quite so familiar with club problems or so active. The host will serve as chairman and discussion leader. Another member will act as secretary, saying nothing, but rapidly taking down every suggestion made, no matter how inappropriate it may seem to him. The theory is to develop as many ideas and suggestions as possible, each being either related to the preceding suggestion or entirely independent of it.

There is only one taboo. No one can in any way be negative. The whole attitude must be affirmative. Every idea must be encouraged and recorded. When anyone says or implies the "We tried that once" or "That's no good" or "That won't work", the chairman must ring a bell to negate that reaction. The whole meeting is a constructive hunt, not a gripe session. It is a method of storming our brains for ideas.

The secretaries of each group turn all of these ideas over to the project chairman who organizes them for the board of directors, where they are carefully considered as sources of changes and improvements.

If the Club adopts this proposal, I know the responsible persons will gladly welcome each single idea and give each one very serious thought. No idea will be sloughed aside, unless it is very obviously inappropriate.

Let's all participate in improving our Club. Let's raid our brains! We'll have a wonderful time and we'll undoubtedly develop some good ideas which should greatly assist our officers in conducting the Club along the lines desired by the majority of our membership. The Club should benefit in many ways.

So let's go brainstorming. Will you be host or a brainstormer? I have a telephone and welcome your reaction and response.

Editors Note: This article was inadvertently left out of the February issue — Sorry

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The mysterious jet stream, a swift river of air about 30,000 feet above the earth, is being investigated by meteorologists at the University of California by means of large balloons. Special instruments to control ballast keep the balloons at a constant height and powerful transmitters emit radio signals by which their route can be plotted. Studies so far indicate that the jet stream is a somewhat fickle wind. Its course changes from day to day, and sometimes from hour to hour. Though the flow is generally west to east, it occasionally veers sharply and goes north or south for thousands of miles. Speeds up to 200 M.P.H. have been recorded.

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Cortis Rice informs us he had a very pleasant visit with Walter Grinter, President of the Men's Garden Clubs of America during 1939. Mr. Grinter was in our city this past week and called on Cortis to talk over gardening experiences. He reported he is now specializing in chrysanthemums.

1957 ANNUAL MEN'S GARDEN CLUB CONVENTION

June 11 - 13 at Portland, Oregon

Dear Garden Club President:

The Men's Garden Club of Portland, Oregon invites you and all of your members to spend the week of June 9 with us at Portland to enjoy a big double-feature attraction - the sessions of the Annual Convention, with excellent entertainment and good food, plus the famous Portland Rose Festival and International Rose Show.

Rose Festival Time is the ideal season to visit our "Rose City". The International Rose Test Gardens will have a full dress show of the finest blooming roses you have ever seen. The big and little gardens of our members will be tailored to perfection for your enjoyment. Our parks will be ablaze with nature's colors — and there will be plenty of smiling hosts with their cars to make you welcome and show you around.

Although the first official meeting begins on Tuesday, June 11, the Entertainment Committee will be on hand beginning Sunday, June 9, to make you welcome and keep you entertained.

The speakers on your program all stand high in horticulture. Among them will be Frank Reinelt of Capitola, California, famous tuberous begonia and primrose hybridist; Grant E. Mitsch, introducer of daffodils; Rholin M. Cooley, Oregon's leading iris grower; Warren H. Dowling, Washington gladiolus grower; Jan de Graaff, introducer of a whole new race of garden lilies; P. M. Brydon, rhododendron and azalea specialist. The program contains other famous names.

The Portland Rose Festival Association's activities will also take up much of your time during the week. There will be a wonderful show for three consecutive nights at our Multnomah Stadium, plus a grand Floral Prade, and an International Rose Show at the Municipal Auditorium. You will visit Multnomah Falls and Bonneville Dam in the famous Columbia River Gorge. Portland's beautiful Rhododendron Test Garden will be in full flower.

To give you some of the background on Portland, with some of the special places of interest, we enclose several pieces of literature, with maps, for the use of your members.

Plan to come to Portland in June. We'll be looking for you.

CONVENTION PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

Carl Maskey, Chairman
P. O. Box 591, Portland, Oregon