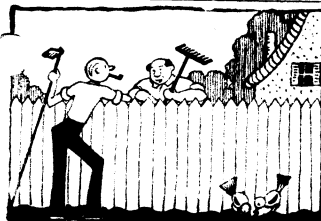


# THE GARDEN SPRAY



BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

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

Volume 8  
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Vic Lowrie, Editor

May, 1950  
Associate Editors: Jack Cohen  
Ed Montgomery, George Luxton

## MAY AUCTION MEETING

Date: Tuesday, May 16, 1950  
Place: Park Board Greenhouses,  
38th & Colfax Ave. So.  
Time: 5:30 P.M.  
Dinner: \$1.00

### P R O G R A M

6:30 P.M. Report from Herb Kahlert on  
the 15th Annual M.G.C.A. con-  
vention in Oakland, Calif.

6:45 A continuation of our Botany  
Course on Plant Chromosomes by  
Harold Peterson, President of  
the Minnesota Horticultural  
Society

7:00 Auction Sale

### Officers

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Office of the Secretary  
and Exchange Editor

5020 2nd Ave So. Mpls 19

At last . . . weather notwithstanding . . .

### OUR ANNUAL GARDEN CLUB AUCTION

You know you're not going to miss this auction even though your frames are filled with stuff, for here is the finest selection of shrubs, plants and seedlings available in the Northwest. Most of the material has been grown by our own members - choice varieties of many exquisite perennials and dazzling annuals not for sale at most commercial growers. All exciting numbers, painstakingly cultured and properly hardened off, ready for that favorite spot in your garden.

To you who are supplying these what's-their-names of perfection, deliver them early at the Park Board Nursery. Their portals will await your arrival up to 3 o'clock the Sabbath, until the bells strike 6 on Monday, and all the long day Tuesday, but please make your presence as early before the first hammer blow of the auctioneer as your busy day will permit.

In my haste I most forgetful-like failed to relate that much will be up for auction that day - mums and clematis; tuberous begonias and roses; shrubs and vines; garden tools and fertilizers; perennials and annuals; and much more you'll be surprised to see. You'll need reinforced crates to carry these aristocrats away, so bring many they'll bulk large and you'll be bidding and buying aplenty!

## THE APRIL MEETING

We had a bang-up session: the food was good, the talks were interesting, the business discussion was short and to the point, and the company was companionable. What more could one wish? May be warmer weather - and it will come! George Titus (you know, little impatient-like) handed in a sort of poem or what have you at the dinner table. It read:

Spring. Beautiful Spring! Your virtues we sing.  
Where in h--- are you?

George, along with most everyone else, is still looking and waiting for that same elusive spring and meanwhile the cold frames are bursting, the garages and basements are loaded, and there's hardly room enough left in the house for the wife!

Swinging back to the April meeting, Jim Cristman, our chairman, conducted a fine program. Archie gave us his third lecture on elementary botany this time covering the leaf. These talks have not yet appeared in print, but they will in due course and with illustrations.

Walt Menzel was billed to talk on fertilizers, but he carried us off on the leeward side and tried hard to make us unhappy with our present lot by his enthusiastic portrayal and glowing word pictures of the plants and flowers he encountered during his visit down South. Believe he uncovered just about every imaginable tree, bush, vine, plant and wild flower that took root in the South. It was all very interesting traveling along with you, Walt, and we enjoyed the fantasy, but irrespective of everything else, including the weather, we are going to stay right here in good old Minnesota and apply our fertilizers in due season.

That really was the sweetest-smelling fertilizer talk ever heaved. I'm not going to attempt to report the smelly end of Walt's talk other than to pass along these thoughts . . . When you fertilize, do it as sparingly as possible, particularly with commercial fertilizers. Remember that 100 lbs. of the commercial variety is equivalent to one ton of barnyard manure. The principle elements in fertilizers are Nitrogen (N), Phosphate (P) and Potash (K). Nitrogen gives plants leafy lushness; phosphate provides the stem-building element - the backbone of the plant; and potash supplies the finishing touches - stimulates the starch in the plant which gives it sweetness, body and vitality.

Regular application of fertilizers is necessary because 60% is absorbed the first year, and another 25% the second, leaving a residue of only 15% for the third year.

Dick Thompson, manager of the Dayton Farms and gardens followed Walt on the program and with words and pictures quickly had us immersed in bogs, lowlands and a veritable fairyland of Nature's little darlings (see elsewhere in this issue). He left many interesting and helpful suggestions with us and I'm sure a desire on the part of most of us to try our hand at cultivating a wild flower garden of our own.

### A HONEY OF A HONEYSUCKLE

It's new - being introduced this Spring. It's a dwarf form of the bush honeysuckle named Clavey Dwarf Honeysuckle. It forms a compact bush, quite regular in form, 3 to 4 feet tall, and suitable for a low-growing hedge or individual bush. Primarily a foliage bush as flowers and fruit are too small and badly hidden by dense growth to make much of a showing.

### THE LOWLY ONION BECOMES AN ARISTOCRAT

Soon you'll be able to grow Golden Globe type and Sweet Spanish onions from seed in just about the length of time it now takes to grow them from sets. These hybrid onions not only produce larger and more disease-resistant bulbs, but they mature earlier. Just the thing for this Northern climate of ours!

## OUR SPEAKER'S BUREAU

The following members are prepared to talk to any group at almost any time by being given advance notice. They will talk on the following subjects (and other subjects, too, if you'll just urge them):

Harold C. Pederson	"Why a Garden Club?"
L. E. Cristman	"Garden Flowers"
R. J. Dufourd	"Vegetable Garden and Small Fruits"
Lawrence Corbett	"Lawns"
William S. Block	"The Garden in Color"
Herb E. Kahlert	"The Iris"
W. E. Swain	"The Herbal Garden"
C. N. Rice, Jr.	"Preparations for a Flower Show"

This is a good start. Any other volunteers? Talks recently given: Bill Block at Bloomington; Harold Pederson at Cloquet Men's Garden Club; Rene Dufourd, Business & Professional Club at YWCA. Let's all try spreading the gospel of good gardening!

### COLOR ALL SEASON WITH SHRUBS

You can brighten up your garden with a few hardy flowering shrubs and do away with a lot of work all through the years. They'll hide an offensive corner, give you privacy from your neighbors without hurting their feelings, and give you a brilliant spot or two all through the growing season. Here are a few to choose from:

French and Persian Lilacs; Purpleleaf Plum; Forsythia; Plumleaf Spirea; Mock-orange; Flowering Quince; Purple Smoke-tree; Crabapples; Red and Greenleaf Barberry; Dwarf Cherries; Honeysuckle; and Mountain Ash.

### CHANGES IN ROSTER

#### Regular Members:

Add: John Brandt, 6512 Parkwood Road; Business phone, ST 4811; resident phone, HO 6823

Change: Leonard Bies' phone number to Orchard 9608R

#### Professional Members:

Change: H. Bachman, business phone, HI 2591; residence phone, PL 8682

Change: H. F. Baker, 4629 E. Lake Harriet Blvd., Minneapolis 9

### FLOWERS FOR SHADY PLACES

In general, annuals must have sunlight to grow satisfactorily, but here are some that should flourish in shade:

Begonia semperflorens	Vinca rosea	Impatiens balsamina
Cornflower	Balsam	Monkeyflower
Nicotiana	Torenia fournieri	Nasturtium
Lobelia erinus	Myosotis arvensis	Pansy

Some perennials that may fill the bill are:

Astilbe (in variety)	Bleeding-heart	Cardinalflower
Beebalm	Daylily (in variety)	Ferns
Bugbane	Bugle (Ajuga reptans)	Aquilegia canadensis
Great Blue Lobelia	Buttercup	Coralbells
Plantain-Lily (in variety)		Foxglove

**EDGING WITH STRAWBERRIES.** Ever try Everbearing strawberries as an edging plant for borders or sidewalks? They make an attractive showing, form a solid mat, and look like a strip of green carpet.

## CLUB NEWS

A Judging Committee is being formed. Would you like to join?

Our library of garden slides is nearing completion. We already have enough available for our speakers but could use more. Be sure to send in views of your garden and keep the Club in mind as you take new ones during the year. Our Secretary is the custodian.

The Special Interest Groups are coming out of Winter hibernation. They are talking of "stealing the show" by introducing Special Interest Group Exhibits" at our flower shows. Sounds interesting!

Harold Kaufmann's test program is under way. You can help by planting some of the material available and reporting your results to Harold, Test Chairman.

Herb Kahlert has just returned from a flying trip to Oakland, Calif., where he attended, as our delegate, the annual meeting of the M.G.C.A. We are all ears, Herb; can hardly wait to hear about it.

George Luxton is doing a splendid job of spreading the garden gospel in his daily Minneapolis Tribune column. His choice of material is excellent and his presentation instructive. The colored illustrations added much. Congratulations, George

Every member will be sorry to hear that Bill Swain, our immediate Past-President, is moving to Faribault; but fortunately he is not going to be too far away and he plans to join us at our meetings. We wish Bill every success in his new venture in the marketing of Blue Cheese, and much happiness for the Swain family in their new surroundings. At the moment they appear to be having trouble finding a place to live and local contractors are booked solid for 1950. Has anyone a good-sized trailer with a sunporch they would like to loan?

Somehow or other we missed including in the Special Interest Groups listing a Dahlia Group. Well, we have one headed by Harold Stephens, so get your names in and your tubers working.

### A ROSIE INVITATION

The Tri-City Rose and Garden Club has extended a cordial invitation to the members of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis to visit with them during the American Rose Society's convention, June 7-8-9-10. Headquarters, Blackstone Hotel, Davenport, Ia. There will be a wealth of horticultural highlights, tours, dinners and shows. Boating on the Ol' Mississippi, and everything that makes for a good time. Bring the whole family.

### ARE YOU A GARDEN GADGETEER?

Then tell Rene Dufourd, chairman of our gadget Committee, all about those new gadgets you are trying this year - the good points as well as the bad; where the recommended ones come from; their price, usefulness and other merits. We could make an interesting and useful report by the year end if you'll co-operate.

### WE'RE HUNGRY FOR NEWS!

Let us have it; we'll publish it as you like it - as is, or doctored. News about your garden activities in or out of town; garden experiences you'd like to pass on to your fellow Clubmembers; tips, hunches, stories funny or straight (but beware of the censor). And please report any illness to the Secretary.

### DON'T TRUST TO MEMORY!

"Gee, that's funny! It slipped my memory. How many times have you said that? Write it on a name stake and stick it in the ground at time of planting. Rene Dufourd has these stakes by the dozen, gross or hundreds, in two sizes to fit your every need, and they're cheap and still the Club makes money on them. And while we're in a selling mood, how about those garden signs. Rene has them - both Minneapolis Men's Garden Club and M.G.C. of A.

### POETRY DIVISION

I was in love with my garden,      For I found a bachelor button  
But now my love is dead,              In my perennial bed.

## WILD FLOWERS

The feature of the program of the April meeting was a talk by Mr. Richard Thompson on the wild flower plantings at Boulder Bridge Farm.

Mr. Thompson has been gardener in charge of these plantings for several years, and his description of the work which has been done at the farm under the direction of Mr. and Mrs. G. Nelson Dayton, accompanied by an excellent collection of slides, was of unusual interest.

Tribute was paid by the speaker to his employers and the vision they had in doing away with their conventional flower garden and developing extensive plantings of native plants. The rule followed by the Daytons in obtaining plant material was to transplant it wherever possible from places where it would otherwise be destroyed, and not to rob the woods of wild flowers which ought to be allowed to remain in their native habitat.

Mr. Thompson's principal advice on the planting of wild flowers was to proceed by the trial and error method. From his experience there is apparently no way of predicting with certainty whether native plants will thrive when planted in a place where its kind has not been growing. Experimenting with planting in different locations often results in surprises, the plants flourishing where least expected and disappearing where conditions were considered ideal.

Unless arrangements are promptly made whereby the members of our Club can visit Boulder Bridge Farm and see the beauties of these wild flower plantings, we apprehend that trespassers are likely to be found there who might be identified as members of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis!

## PERENNIALS WORTH GROWING

Anemona Japonica. Grow in a garden that is covered in winter, or grow near the roses and cover both. Look like single roses and blossom same time as chrysanthemums. Marie Manchard is the best variety.

Astilbe, Arendsii is tallgrowing. Marguerite Van Rechterin gives lavender-rose colored blooms. Looks like dwarf, ash leaf spirea. Another good variety is Astilbe rosea - peach blossom.

Campanula, persicifolia. Peach bells is best variety. Singles are better than doubles and need no covering.

Dictamus, albus variety. Gas plant is a long-life plant - white more attractive.

Veronica, Longifolia, subsessilis is the best for the garden. Large spikes of deep blue flowers.

Dodecatheon, medulia. Shooting Star. Deep white or purple. Do well in garden.

Geranium, platypetalatum. Bluish-purple flowers. Plant lasts only five years but is good to fill in for July bed.

Trollius, Globe flower. Look like gigantic buttercups. Live long if they have plenty of moisture.

Verbascum, phoeniceum (Greek Mullin). Color is white through pink to deep purple. Grows easily from seed and is good for perennial border.

Japanese Iris (Iris Kaempferi) grow near roses for coverage. Have 50-50 soil and peat mixture. Needs lots of moisture.

Mertensia. The well-known, easy-to-grow and hard-to-kill Virginia Bluebell.

## GARDEN TIPS

Don't allow your tulips to go to seed - break off flower heads as soon as petals fade. This will allow food to be stored in bulbs. If tulips become diseased, remove immediately from bed and burn. Keep your tulips well watered during the blooming season. Keep a record of both your tulips and daffodils that have special appeal so that the information will be available at bulb-ordering time.

Start early to control disease in your garden. Spray or dust with Bordeaux or sulphur your phlox, lilies, hollyhocks, delphiniums and peonies. Be on the lookout for aphids on tips of plant shoots and beneath leaves and apply nicotine sulfate and rotenone every fourth day until pest is eliminated.

For a long season of bloom and for stronger, healthier plants, keep cutting faded flowers. You weaken your plant by allowing seeds to develop and mature, and you dress up your garden if you dispose of blooms as soon as they pass their best.

Keep your roses well fed with a complete fertilizer. A small cupful placed around the plant but away from the root about once a month until the middle of August will give you a maximum bloom and strong, healthy plants. Spray them regularly every ten days and you'll be well repaid in bloom for your efforts.

Don't be surprised if old man frost lingers long this year - keep some covering handy for your more tender annuals. Pansies, violas, larkspur and snaps, if properly hardened off, can be set in the ground now.

Be careful when cultivating that you do not cut off the tips of your lilies or other slow-growing perennials. (If you had some of Rene's markers identifying those places, you wouldn't be in any danger of doing damage!)

When watering newly set plants which were moved with balls of soil about their roots, be sure to direct the water into the soil balls rather than into the loose earth surrounding them.

It is not wise to bury the roots of young plants more than a half-inch deeper than where they were rooted in the flats or other transplant container. Also choose a quiet, cloudy day for transplanting outdoors.

Kind of a cold day to be writing about hot weather, but it will come, so prepare your soil for it by working in plenty of humus. Rotted manure is excellent; so is peat moss and leaf mold.

Peonies can stand plenty of water and an application of commercial fertilizer will show results. Stake them before they become very large. Early staking is a good thing to keep in mind for all tall growing plants. For large blooms, pick off the side buds.

Sweet peas should be thinned to about 6 or 8 inches apart. Spray with Bordeaux for mildew; with nicotine for lice.

Chrysanthemums, perennial asters, delphiniums, shasta daisies, phlox should be divided early. They'll do better and give more bloom.

Dahlia planting time is a little later, for the ground should be fairly warm and the weather settled. Set out your stakes first, then plant the tubers or young plants. Keep them well watered.

Wait until all danger of frost is passed before sowing cucumbers, melons, squash and lima beans. Give your melons an abundance of sun.