

The Garden Spray AUCTION EDITION May 1954

**GOING!
GOING!
GONE!**

Sold to?



GARDEN TOOLS

WEED-KILLERS



SPRINKLERS



THE GREAT DAY
TUESDAY
MAY 11

THE PLACE
BOARD
GREENHOUSES
3854 + BRYANT
AVE. - SO.

THE FINEST - THE HEALTHIEST - THE MOST-SURE-TO-GROW SPECIMEN IN YOUR GARDEN THIS SUMMER COME - BID FOR YOUR SHARE OF THESE CAREFULLY NURTURED, QUALITY SEEDLINGS - ANNUALS - PERENNIALS - SHRUBS - TREES. ALL PROPAGATED AND GROWN WITH THE UTMOST CARE BY THOSE WHO HAVE THE "KNOW-HOW"

THE TIME
DINNER AT 5:30 P.M.
AUCTION AT 6:30 P.M.

COUNTRY STORE
OPEN - 4:30 TO 6:00 - P.M.

BRING YOUR FRIENDS

GETS

WELLISES

OVER THE GARDEN FENCE
With Bill Hull

Bill Brooks sports a new lawn of 30% merion bluegrass which he started last fall, after Rototilling peat into the old lawn to lighten it up. Bill was impressed with merion's qualities at the Northrup King tour last summer, so decided to try the new seed. Apparently it has wintered well and if it lives up to its billing of being more vigorous and heat-resistant than the older varieties, Bill will be happy. A little expensive for lawn seed, he adds, but it spreads several times as far as other seeds.

Had an interesting discussion with Bill about pre-emergence weed killing with an American Cyanamid product, and also Union Carbide's Crag Herbicide No. 1, which this writer has used successfully in weeding strawberries.

Charlie LaCrosse is enthusiastic about his fluorescent light propagator. Says he couldn't get along without it after several years of satisfactory use. Charlie keeps seedlings from two to four inches from the lights, starting them in vermiculite and transplanting to loam. He has a double-deck propagating bench, each shelf being a different height, thus providing more room for the advanced seedlings.

George Luxton has a utilitarian compost heap formed at the corner of a wall and boxed in with lumber, where he carts leaves from the catch basins of his neighborhood. Thus he not only builds compost but performs a service to the neighborhood. George likes a little horse manure to provide an activating factor as well as heat in the pile; he warns against the use of leaves on which street or auto oil has settled, since oil deters disintegration of the leaves and seeds.

George also has a unique way of determining whether a rose has winter killed before giving up and ripping it out by the roots. He removes the soil carefully and then hoes down the rose

above the graft. If buds appear, he carefully recovers the rose which hasn't been injured, as might have happened had it been completely dug up.

While on roses, Bill Addy has a new method of preventing winter kill. After the first frost or so and when the soil has about an inch of frozen crust, Bill uses a root feeder to water the roses from the roots up. This water then freezes and protects the plant all winter. He has also found that the circular wire supports usually used for peonies form a good container for dirt and mulch over the roses.

One of our members has encountered several friends whose tulip loss this year is running as high as 75%. This seems to be due to a combination of our open 1954 winter and a virus originated abroad and spread through repeated planting in the same area. This member advises we give our tulips plenty of time before deciding they are dead, and also we consistently rotate the tulip bed - even as much as a foot away each year would be of great value.

Hank Elieff brings further honors to himself and the Club as this year's Awards and Schedule Chairman of the Central International Gladioli Show. This is the annual international show of the North American Gladioli Council, which will be held for the first time in Minnesota, at Rochester, August 7 and 8. A good date to remember. The Council is also making available space for garden club displays on a competitive basis. Here is an opportunity for MGCM to compete for a trophy and to support an international group. Hank is adding another 20 to 25 new varieties of glads this year, but modestly says he's reducing his overall planting to only 25,000 in 1954!

Vern Rouf's property features an open back lawn that combines with his neighbor's to create a sizeable expanse. This spring he's planning to plant pyramidal flowering shrubs across the rear line to

discourage children sliding on a potentially dangerous area. His neighbors approve the idea, so Vern's whole neighborhood may plant, jointly, making it a community project.

Ed Culbert is working on a problem terrace with a 45° angle. Mowing and maintaining grass at such an angle has become such a nuisance that Ed is dividing some spirea and transplanting them to this sloping area. Here's hoping this will solve his problem.

Doc Stillman took some gloxinia leaf cuttings last fall of varieties Emperor Frederick, Emperor William and Tigridia and had them in sand for three months before small tubers were formed. Now after repotting, Doc has been waiting for these tubers to sprout. Some did sprout in two weeks; others took two months; still more have still to sprout, making a minimum of five months of patient waiting and tending for that anticipated sprout! That's perseverance! Doc has also added an 8x12 foot cold-frame and has sprouted 500 dahlias and potted 800 geraniums, all in his spare time (one of those lucky greenhouse aristocrats!)

George Titus, just recovering from the flu, was forced to concentrate on a spring garden. Neighborhood trees cast such heavy shade that most annuals were out of the question. Now George is so partial to his iris, tulips and primulas he's glad the situation was forced on him. He has 40 to 50 varieties of the newer iris which we're waiting to see in bloom before too long.

Heard at the table discussion at the April meeting: Superphosphate is almost indispensable to some of our members. Soybean meal is about 30% nitrogen. Tartarian honeysuckle is being proclaimed as superb hedging. Sawdust three inches thick makes a fine mulch, but nitrogen must be added. Vapotone is widely used by our clubmembers.

It is regretted that the Club was unable to complete arrangements to visit the Cedar Creek Forest this spring as a group, although there is a possibility

KSTP-TV is running a weekly Sunday television program from 1 to 1:30 P.M. featuring John Ott, the renowned botanical photographer as the narrator. The show is being billed as "How Does Your Gardener Grow?"

Did you know that one of our past presidents, chrysanthemarian, special-interest group leader, assistant program manager, gardener par excellence, Harold Kaufmann participated as a lecturer at the University Horticulture Short Course?

Messrs. Flack, Cerney, Lehman and Lowrie made up a panel with Rene Dufourd as monitor in presenting a program on "The Flower Border" before the Minnesota Flower Garden Society held in St. Paul the afternoon of April 8.

Wasn't that an enlightening discussion on delphiniums led by Bob Bryant at the April meeting? We were particularly interested in knowing that crown rot is apparently more prevalent in heavier soil and that drainage helps reduce this danger. Ever then, our expert stated, there is not much known about this rot. Leon Snyder felt that the Pacific hybrids put so much energy in flowering that they may weaken themselves for adverse weather. Bob Bryant also brought out that sodium selenate controls cyclamen mite on delphinium. This chemical is available in powder for watering in or in a dilute power in an inert carrier for raking in around the plants.

Remember, the first thing you and your friends see is your garden gate - keep it trim and don't forget to decorate it with the Club emblem.

That was awfully good news Felix Dhainir brought us concerning the Park Board's contemplated development of a Civic Garden Cultural Center located in the vicinity of the rose garden and the Club's flowering crab tree planting. We most assuredly must get behind this project and help all we can in bringing it to fruition.

A nice tribute was paid our cameraman, Bill Block, nominated Town Topper by the Minneapolis Star last month. Take a bow, Bill, we're proud of you, as man;

PRIMULAS

Recommended by Art Fakler

Primulas grow well in this area and supply bloom at a time in spring when bloom is generally lacking in the garden. The newcomer can start them from seed if he is willing to wait two years for bloom; otherwise buy seedlings.

Primulas are ideal for shade. Most varieties, in fact, require shade. The polyanthus is an all-around good variety, grows taller than the Julianas, which are miniatures but which provide a mass of flowers. The Aucalis variety is a beautiful choice but is a little on the prima donna side, winter-killing fairly easily.

For spots where shade is lacking, Sieboldii type is recommended. This is an Asiatic, which is colorful and quite rugged; also the denticulate variety. Both are found in white and pink-orchid shades. Primulas are especially pleasing in spots where they are encountered rather unexpectedly. They provide a startling effect.

PERLITE - A NEW AID TO GARDENING

Joe Witmer

Perlite should take its place along with vermiculite as a soil conditioner, rooting medium and as an aid to seed propagation. Perlite, like vermiculite, is an exploded mineral, a silica of volcanic origin, but in contrast it has little or no water-holding capacity. This is valuable!

The use of Perlite as a seeding medium is manifold. It is sterile. Being pure white, it shows up tiny dark seeds to good advantage. Being sand-like in nature, it prevents small seeds from sifting down. Large seeds can be pressed into Perlite better than in any other medium to prevent washing. The drainage quality of Perlite makes it additionally useful as the top layer of a seedbed; water drains off immediately so that there is no waiting to sow seeds and there's never danger of too much moisture. As a covering for seeds, Perlite is satisfactory though it has a tendency to pack when moist and sometimes the new seedlings will push up the whole covering layer instead of breaking through the covering. No harm is done - Perlite is extremely light in weight. Seedlings are easily removed from Perlite for transplanting and much of the material will cling to the tiny roots.

~~Perlite is an excellent substitute for sand as a soil conditioner, if~~ you don't object to the color. Drainage is swift and thorough; there are no dry spots in soil mixed with Perlite. The firmness of Perlite makes it especially valuable as a rooting medium. The ideal rooting medium should be damp but not wet - again Perlite is tops. Slips of geranium, coleus, chrysanthemums, fuchsia and impatiens have been tested and all have rooted at an accelerated pace, as in sugar sand. Tuberosus begonias can be lifted easily from Perlite without breaking a single root.

Horticultural Perlite is not yet on the market. The commercial grade, however, can be obtained at lumber yards under the name of Perlag which is an aggregate used in the scratch coat of plaster. A large sack containing 28 pounds costs under \$2.50. Incidentally, fine vermiculite can be bought very inexpensively at lumber yards under the name of plaster aggregate. This commercial grade is not screened as uniformly as the horticultural grade but the difference is hardly noticeable; it serves the same purpose and costs a lot less.

MAY REMINDERS

Tulips should not be allowed to go to seed — break off flower heads as soon as petals fade but retain leaves until they wither. Should bulbs become diseased, remove immediately and burn. Keep the plants well watered to prolong flowering period. Might be well to stake their location at the time withered leaves are gathered, then you won't accidentally be digging them up.

One cannot start too early to control disease in the garden. Watch for aphids on tips of plant shrubs and beneath the leaves — apply nicotine sulphate and rotenone every fourth day until pests are eliminated.

Keep your garden well dressed by disposing of blooms as soon as they have passed their best. By so doing you will not only enjoy a longer season of bloom but will also help strengthen your plants by not allowing them to go to seed.

Dahlias should not be planted until all danger of frost is over and the air warm. A good practice is to set your stakes first, then plant the tubers or young plants. Be generous with water.

Seeds of tender annuals can be sown directly into the ground at any time if protected by Hot-kaps. As a matter of fact, extra-early-set plants can be protected from frost with Hot-kaps.

In place of tanglefoot or similar products, try spraying your trees with a 50% DDT emulsion.

Keep in mind that strong healthy plants are more resistant to disease; therefore feed them well for less doctoring.

Asparagus, rhubarb and bush fruits must be planted early in a soil that has good drainage. All of them require plenty of plant food, and the bush fruits will start off well if you use a starter solution poured around the roots.

Roses are heavy feeders so give them lots of nourishment. An application of commercial fertilizer once a month until the middle of August will strengthen the plant and give you more bloom. A handful of fertilizer around the plant about six inches out from the main stem, worked lightly into the soil and watered in, will do the trick. Plus regular program of spraying every ten days and immediately following a heavy rain.

Watch your plants as they grow up and begin staking them early — don't wait for the wind to break them down.

Peonies are thirsty plants, giving them lots of water and an application of commercial fertilizer will give you better growth and fuller blooms. For extra large blooms, break off the side buds.

It is not too late to divide perennial asters, delphiniums, shasta daisies, phloxes, chrysanthemums and later blooming perennials. Smaller plants usually do better and give more blooms.

In transplanting young plants, try not to bury their roots more than a half-inch deeper than where they were rooted in flats or other containers. Also, choose a quiet, cloudy day for transplanting outdoors, if at all possible. An application of liquid fertilizer mixed lightly according to directions will in most instances eliminate any setback in growth.

Newly set plants moved with balls of soil around their roots need plenty of water — be sure to direct the water into the ball of soil rather than into the surrounding loose soil.

Plant fancy-leaved caladiums in an open shaded spot as soon as the weather and soil become permanently warm. They are equally effective whether massed in beds of contrasting colors or planted among other plants in a flower border.

Keep our giant AUCTION in mind when you are planting or dividing perennials

TRY THESE ROSES . . . says Stan Lund

For best effect, plant 3 to 6 of one variety together, segregated from other plants.

New H.T. Varieties

Mohavee - burnt orange
Buccaneer - yellowish-red
Chrysler Imperial - red
Chief Seattle - cream apricot
Helen Traubel - pink

New Floribundas

Carousel
Lilibet - pink
Pinocchio varieties
Connie Mack - red

Old Standbys

Charlotte Armstrong H.T.
Peace H.T.
Fashion Fl.
Vogue Fl.
Independence Fl.
World's Fair Fl.

LAST CALL TO AUCTION MAY 11

First, make a list of your garden needs: seedlings, (annuals and perennials), shrubs, trees, roses, bulbs, tubers, fertilizers, insecticides, tools, etc., for you'll find most every garden requirement placed under the auctioneers' hammers starting at 6:30 P.M. Second, bring your male gardening friends and neighbors who are cordially invited to participate. If they cannot make it for dinner, have them meet you in the auction rooms (Park Board greenhouses) at 6:30 P.M. Third, make a contribution to the auction by way of plant material or equipment. Extra tools, gadgets, hose, seedlings, divided perennials, dahlia tubers, glad corms, house plants, stakes, whatever you do not want (not necessarily new but, of course, in working order). Deliver all

material to the Park Board greenhouses at 38th & Bryant South Sunday afternoon, May 9, or preferably any time on Monday, May

We were greatly shocked over the sudden passing of Wally Rowell. Wally brought to the Club an unusually wide experience in lily culture and contributed much of his time as well as material in helping many of our members to become successful lily growers. He is going to be missed, not only as a loyal member but as a real good friend. We extend our deepest sympathy to the Rowell family.

The kiss of the sun for pardon,
The song of the birds for mirth.
You are nearer God's heart in a garden
Than anywhere else on earth.
(Submitted by John McClure)

SEEDING DIRECTIONS ARE SPECIFIC

It says on the seed packet : "Sow in drills," or "Sow in hills." This is seedman's talk and may deceive the average gardener. A "drill" to the gardener is not a military maneuver, but a shallow trench. A "hill" is not an elevation except in a few sections where rainfall is extremely heavy. In most places it is a hollow in which seeds are sown to produce a plant that stands alone with space around it to spread out instead of standing upright in a row.

The main point in growing seed is to take care not to bury them so deep that they will fail to emerge from the soil. Seed rows can be made with the edge of a board, the end of the hoe handle, or, for larger seeds, such as beans and corn, with the hoe blade itself. Depth of plant recommendations on the seed package should always be followed, but if you have heavy clay soil, it is a good idea to plant seeds more shallow than recommended.

Plant food application may be made in two ways: the easiest method is simply to broadcast it over the entire garden before planting time. Another method often used by commercial growers is to place a band of plant food two inches to the side of the row and two inches deep. This is then covered over with soil. At no time should seeds come in direct contact with plant food. Use two pounds of plant food to 50' of row. For squash and other vegetables planted in hills, dig a hole 8 or 10 inches deep, place a double handful of a good commercial fertilizer in the bottom of the hole, work it into the soil, then replace the soil removed from the hole. This

YOU CAN'T GO WRONG WITH THESE

. . . says Herb Kahlert

PEONIES

Reds
Carl Rosentrap
Mary Brand
Philip DeVore
Burma
Grover Cleveland
Sir John Franklin

Pinks
Hansina
Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt
Minuet
Walter Faxon
A. B. Franklin

Whites
Mrs. J. B. Edlung
Singles
Charm (red)
Crinkled (white)
Seashell (pink)

IRIS

Yellow
Ola Kala

Dark Blues
Danube Way
Indiana Night
Sable

Pinks
Pink Cameo
Harriet Throw

Whites
New Snow
Winter Carnival
Goodwin

Reds & Maroons
Solid Mahogany
Ranger
Firecracker
Light Blues
Great Lakes
Azure Skies
Blue Skimmer

Gadgets, equipment and gardening tools and supplies go like hot-cakes at the AUCTION. Put your contributions aside now!

ROBERTS' BIRD SANCTUARY

With the approval of the Minneapolis Park Board, the Minneapolis Audubon Society and the Minneapolis Bird Club are jointly taking steps to add fruit and/or seed bearing trees and shrubs to the Robert's Sanctuary for the benefit of the birds that use it or stop there during the migrating season.

Unless you are a "birder" you might not be aware of the fact that in the Robert's Sanctuary you have a phenomenal bird population, and a location that has almost national attention. Certain it is that whenever ornithologists come to Minneapolis, they make a bee-line for that place.

Before doing any planting, a survey was first made of the trees and shrubs present at a time when the ground was frozen so that we could get into all parts of the marshy section, and from that survey we could determine what to buy according to the funds available. The Park Board donated some Mountain Ash, Nanking Cherries and Buckthorn; a friend of the Society donated some White Birch; the rest were purchased. Here is a list of what was planted on Saturday, April 24th:

6 Russian Mulberry; 2 Honey Locusts; 6 Nannyberry; 6 Snowberry; 10 High Bush Cranberry; 3 Red Cedar; 10 Nanking Cherry; 10 Mountain Ash; 10 Buckthorn; 20 White Birch; 2 Hackberry.

The work of planting was done by the members themselves, with some aid from two Boy Scout troops who, through their participation, particularly through the summer in watering, etc., can achieve Merit Badges on Conservation, Bird Identification and Tree Identification. George Titus heads up the committee for the participating

FOR BETTER COLOR SLIDES OF YOUR GARDEN

by Eng Hoyne

Do your color slides have that "post-cocktail look" - sort of blurred and fuzzy? Or do they resemble the work of a color-blind artist - off color? If so, take heed, my friends, to these basic rules of photography:

TO GET TRUE COLOR: Use daylight film outdoors or indoors with blue flash bulbs. Use one kind of film and flash bulbs until you understand them. Take pictures with subjects in full sun only, unless you use flash bulbs. Take no pictures before 9 A.M. or after 5 P.M. in midsummer. The big factor in true color is proper exposure. Use some system of determining exposure, such as an exposure meter, exposure guide, or the table that is enclosed with your film. Whatever your system, work on it until you understand it thoroughly. Record exposure data of every slide taken so corrections may be made on the next roll if necessary. Slides which are too dark are underexposed; those too light are overexposed.

Picture taking can become as simple as raising zinnias, even for the beginner, if you wait for ideal conditions. This means having your subject in full sun and setting your camera at 1/50 of a second, and the diaphragm opening at f 7. Focus the camera, holding it steady, and squeeze the shutter slowly. With this simple formula, there should be no reason for failure.

TO GET SHARP PICTURES: The two main reasons why pictures are not sharp are due to incorrect camera focusing and movement of camera or subject. Correct focus is always more essential in pictures taken at a close distance than those whose subject is farther off. Most small cameras are equipped with good range finders. Learn how to use them efficiently by practicing over a measured distance, seeing if your range finder reads the same as the measured distance. If you have no range finder, the same rule holds true, except that distance must be guessed and measured until you become reasonably accurate.

There are ways of finding out why your slides are not sharp. If part of the picture is sharp and there is no subject movement, you can be sure you did not focus properly. A slide that is fuzzy all over is caused by one of three things: camera movement, a poor lens, or a lens that needs cleaning. If some of your slides are sharp and others are not, it is most certainly camera movement that is your problem; in fact this is most often the reason for faulty pictures. If you suspect your camera lens is at fault, you can easily check this by using a tripod or placing the camera on some other stationary object, focusing correctly, and checking the results. ~~More often you will find that you are at fault and not the camera!~~

As in gardening, some rules can be broken. If you are breaking any rule and still getting good color slides, by all means continue. But if your slides are not wire-sharp and the color not perfectly true, try these recommendations and I am sure you will be amazed at the results. With better color slides of your garden, you and your friends can enjoy your six-month's hobby twelve months of the year.

And don't forget to save some of your better slides for your Garden Club library! The next Photography Group meeting will be on Tuesday, May 18 at 7:30 P.M. Subjects covered will be of specific interest to beginners. Anyone interested is invited. Please call CH 9798 if you plan to come.

Don't forget to put aside a couple of flats for our big