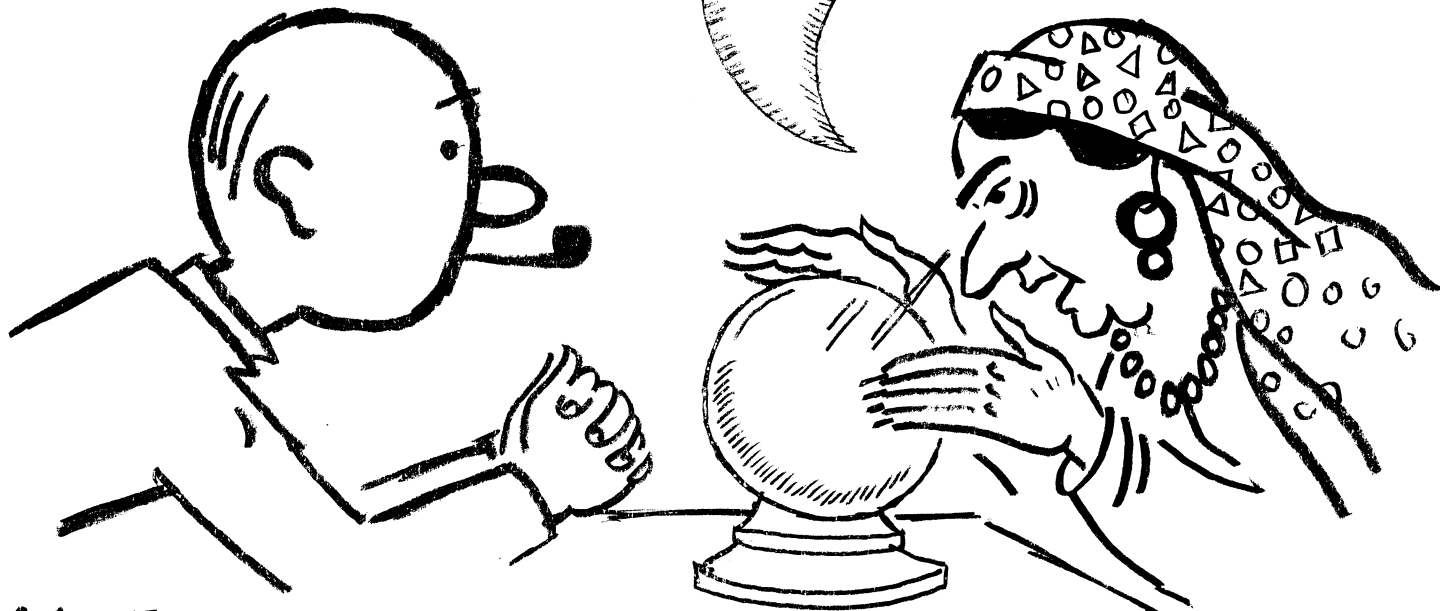


" I SEE A 13 - YOUR LUCKY NUMBER  
TUESDAY MAY 13<sup>th</sup> IS YOUR LUCKY DAY -  
I SEE YOU AT THE GARDEN CLUB AUCTION -  
YOU ARE BUYING "LIKE CRAZY" - YOU ARE  
LOADED WITH PLANTS - SHRUBS - SPRAYS - GARDEN  
TOOLS - FERTILIZERS, YOU ARE HAPPY - YOU ARE  
LUCKY... I SEE A GARDEN FILLED WITH  
BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS THIS SUMMER



**MAKE TUESDAY MAY 13<sup>th</sup> YOUR LUCKY DAY -**  
BE SEEING YOU AT THE PARK BOARD GREEN-  
HOUSE - 38<sup>th</sup> & BRYANT AVE., SOUTH - COUNTRY  
STORE FROM 4 to 6; SUPPER 5:30 - 6:00 - AUCTION  
AT 6:00 - COME, HAVE FUN - SAVE MONEY TOO!

## NEWS AND VIEWS

The evergreens we planted in that part of Lyndale Gardens which the Club has under its wing are doing beautifully. Only one seems to have been winter killed. Do we have a project this year? How about making a planting of perennials in the Centennial colors of Maroon and Gold?

\* \* \* \* \*

The Board has decided to forego a Spring Flower Show this year in favor of a really pretentious Fall Show, either late August or early September. More later.

\* \* \* \* \*

Our spirited shrub and tree auction last month netted the club \$359.75, of which \$250.00 is being contributed to the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. Our sincere thanks to Dr. Snyder for making this possible.

\* \* \* \* \*

Larry Corbett is on the hunt for a donation of Funkia Variagated to plant around the flagpole at Sibley House in Mendota. Please get in touch with Larry if you have any to spare.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Winnipeg Horticultural Society have just published their annual Prairie Garden booklet, containing much valuable material of use to Minnesota gardeners. Price: 50¢. Address the Society, c/o W. J. Tanner, 518 Henderson Highway, Winnipeg Manitoba, Canada.

\* \* \* \* \*

We welcome Floyd Ashley into active membership of the Club -- looking forward to knowing him better and exchanging gardening ideas. Floyd is in the food business with the Nash Finch Company, phone WA 7-9761. He lives with wife, Elsie, at 15720 Highway #7, phone WE 8-8311. Landscaping and arrangements are his special interests, including growing trees from seed.

\* \* \* \* \*

## PLANT AUCTION

The Park Board Greenhouses will be open for the delivery of your contributions to the Auction early Tuesday morning, May 13. Be sure to bring those extra seedlings in addition to the extra perennial divisions.

The customary Gountry Store will be open from 4 P.M. to 6 P.M. Tuesday afternoon for your lady guests. Caterers will serve supper at 5:30 for \$1.50 per person. Everything goes under the auctioneers hammer starting at 6 o'clock. See you at the old stamping ground, Park Board Greenhouses, 38th & Bryant Avenue South. Men only for dinner and auction. Guests are cordially invited. COME - HAVE FUN! SUPPORT THE CLUB, SAVE MONEY, TOO!

## YEW (*Taxus*)

One of the more attractive and certainly most valuable group of low and medium growing Coniferae for planting in our climate are the Yews. Their dark evergreen foliage and fleshy, red fruit make them extraordinarily beautiful when used as landscape material with light-colored backgrounds.

*Taxus* will flourish in any reasonably good garden soil but will respond better when planted in a reasonably moist but well-drained loam, heavy in humus. It prefers a shaded or partially shaded planting site, protected from strong winds. Since direct sunlight, either in summer or winter, quite often prove injurious to the foliage, North or East exposure is preferable.

The Japanese Yew (*Taxus cuspidata*) is without question the species best adaptable to our area. In its dignified habit of growth, in the deep tones of its dense foliage, in the unusual character of its often centered bright red berries, it lends distinction to any planting.

There are many varieties of the Japanese Yew, one to fit almost any desirable situation, the more popular and more readily available includes:

COLUMNAR (*Taxus cuspidata columnaris* or *pyramidalis*) This upright clan of moderate growth develops into a broad-topped, narrow base column 6 or 8 feet tall. Its foliage is medium green, its growth fairly rapid. Needs yearly pruning.

CUSHION (*Taxus cuspidata densa*) This is a compact, dark needle, rounded or globose form, considerably broader than high. Mature plants are supposed to attain an eventual height of 4 feet but due to their extremely slow growth, it would take years to reach that size.

DWARF (*Taxus cuspidata nana*) Here is probably the best known and most commonly used variety in landscaping. A wide spreading flat top shrubby form whose maximum height ranges from 3 to 5 feet and whose spread with cover from 10 to 15 feet. It is somewhat irregular in branching and has short, broad radially arranged needles of a slightly dull green coloring. Slow growing though more rapid than "densa." A truly ideal ornamental.

INTERMEDIATE (*Taxus cuspidata intermedia*) A somewhat upright, spreading branched form with very dark needles. Texture and height in between "cuspidata" and "nana" and so is its rate of growth, somewhat on the slow side.

PYGMY (*Taxus cuspidata minima*) A diminutive slow-growing variety, having dark needles, rarely exceeding a height of 10 inches.

There are many other YEWs in cultivation, with quite a few found in Twin City gardens as, for example, *Taxus Media Hicksii*, a striking plant when fully developed, distinctly upright, growing to a height of 10 feet. It is an ideal accent plant of quite formal appearance. With age, it broadens appreciably, developing numerous side branches, tending to give the plant a more open oblong shape.

*Taxus media Hatfieldi* is another popular YEW. Similar in spreading habit to the spreading Japanese Yew but with a more upright branch structure and displays a blunt pyramidal habit of great density and compactness. Being quite bushy, it falls out well both at the top and at the base, giving a neat formal appearance without the necessity of clipping. Height 6 to 8 feet.

Dr. Winter's talk at our last meeting on dwarf fruit trees, with his demonstration on how to make different types of grafts, proved most interesting as well as helpful. Thank you, "J.D."

Below is reproduced a paper on the subject by Gordon Yates, whom Dr. Winter told us has had the widest experience in testing dwarf and semi-dwarf stocks of any one in this area.

WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED ABOUT DWARF APPLE TREES  
Gordon Yates, Fruit Acres, La Crescent, Minnesota

Many people are asking for information about dwarf trees that is not easily found in the commercial catalogs. Most catalogs are prepared with little thought to the climate that we have in Minnesota. They are prepared for the country as a whole. Northern nurseries that do know about our climate have little knowledge or experience to work on. They have very little published information to fall back on to help them reach a decision, or to help them give advice to the potential purchaser. It is with this thought in mind that I shall try to give you the benefit of our experience at Fruit Acres.

We have been working with the dwarf and semi-dwarf stock here since 1953 and as a result have been able to collect a little information in respect to what we can and what we cannot do.

Methods used to make dwarf trees - There are several different methods of making a so-called dwarf tree. The three main methods can be briefly described as follows:-

1. Bark inversion. This method is done by merely removing a strip of bark probably 3" wide and completely inverting it and replacing it back in the stem.
2. Insert method. Here a piece of known dwarfing stock is inserted in the stem of the tree between the rootstock and the variety.
3. Dwarf stock of the Malling and Malling Merton series.

Bark inversion - Dwarfing results because the nutrients produced in the leaves do not readily pass through the inverted ring of bark. It has much the same effect as girdling. When a single ring of bark is inverted there is regeneration of tissue at the vertical seam, and this new bark becomes able to transport nutrients downward. Eventually, the regenerated tissues grow so much that the dwarfing effect of the inverted section is lost after a few years.

Insert method - We know that by using an interstem the dwarfing quality is only one-sixth to one-tenth as much as when that type of interstem is used as an understock. In which case, you would finish up with semi-dwarf instead of a dwarf. The insert usually used in this case is either a Malling VIII or IX, both very brittle varieties which break very easily. The result is that in the stem, where we require a lot of strength, we are going to have a piece which will be liable to break anytime that the tree has a good crop. Also with this method, due to the constricting action of the dwarf insert, we get a bulbous swelling below the graft which is highly susceptible to splitting. This happened to 25 trees that we had here and as a result they had to be pulled out.

Malling and Malling-Merton stocks - The former are various stocks collected and classified by the East Malling Research Station in England and the latter are the result of 30 years work in crossing Malling stocks with woolly aphid resistant varieties such as Northern Spy at East Malling at the John Innes Institution at Merton. They are listed as EM and MM, respectively.

In the Malling-Merton series from 3500 seedlings some 20 were chosen for field tests and of these 20 after cropping tests under field conditions, four have been released as superior to the Malling series. These four are MM.104, MM.106, MM.109, MM.111. Both the Malling and Malling-Merton series are not all dwarfing stocks and the correct term for these series is classified rootstocks. Of main interest to amateur growers as dwarfs are EM.VII, EM.IX and MM.106. With the care that most amateurs are able to give their trees I would say that these three are the most likely to be successful in Minnesota of all stocks produced by the three dwarfing methods described.

Strictly speaking only EM.IX is a classified dwarf but with the short growing period that we have in Minnesota we do not expect any of the classified stocks to reach the height that they do in Europe or in the warmer states in America. As a result, both EM.VII and MM.106 should be almost as dwarfing but at the same time we shall get the benefit of an improved and stronger root system.

As regards varieties which will be hardy on these stocks the same rules will apply as now with standard trees. No variety will become more hardy because it is on a classified rootstock.

Supplies are limited - As anyone who has tried to obtain trees on these stocks know, the supply is very limited and it will be a long time for the supply to catch up with the demand. Most firms are already sold out for this spring and many, including us Fruit Acres, are already sold out for next year. However, we are doing our best to increase our supply as quickly as possible so that we hope you will not have to wait so long. We are working closely with one of the large wholesale nurseries in Minnesota so that we hope to have a supply of Minnesota varieties available to the public for the spring of 1960. In the meantime, those of you who do not want to wait that long may be lucky and find some Beacon and perhaps McIntosh available out of state. These could be grafted over to other varieties which are hardy in your area but are not available out of state.

Planting and care of dwarf trees - Those of you who are lucky enough to have obtained any of these trees might like a little information on planting. The main thing to remember is to keep the bud union above the ground at least three inches. You will see this quite easily in the form of a slight crook or swelling. Cut the leader back to about 36" and after the tree has started to grow and the shoots are 6 - 8" long, cut back again to a good strong shoot which will make a permanent leader. Keep the tree free of weeds and if it gets dry during the summer, water thoroughly. A good mulch will help to conserve water and will also help to protect the young root system next winter. However, with a mulch be sure to have a good rodent guard around your tree and check for mice regularly. Do not try to fertilize your tree on planting as these trees have a tendency to blight. If you want to give them something, wait until you have plenty of growth started and then take it easy, especially with the nitrogen. Do not kill them with kindness - one handful of 5-20-20 is quite enough.

Characteristics of the various stocks - As you may have guessed, we do not have all the answers on these trees nor shall we until we get one of those really old fashioned winters. Then we can see how they behave under really exacting conditions. However, we do know that they can stand 20 degrees below for short periods without showing any severe injury. Much will depend on the way the trees go into the winter whether they are going to be affected by it or not. Life is too short to wait until all the bad conditions, coupled with a hard winter, occur before we decide whether these stocks are completely hardy. However, I personally think that we know enough to risk going ahead and for the amateur the risk is not so great as for the professional. The amateur can at least make sure that the trees have sufficient water in the summer months so that the trees will go into the winter perfectly mature.

The stocks in order of dwarfing and apparent hardiness as found in our test orchards:

<u>Stock</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>Hardiness</u>	<u>Root Strength</u>	<u>Root Depth</u>
EM. IX	Dwarf	Semi-Hardy	Root Brittle	Shallow
MM. 106	Dwarf	Hardy	Good	Medium
EM. VII	Dwarf	Hardy	Good	Medium
EM. II	Semi-Dwarf	Hardy	Medium	Shallow
EM. I	Semi-Dwarf	Hardy	Good	Deep
MM. 104	Semi-Dwarf	Hardy	Good	Deep
EM. XI	Semi-Dwarf	Very Hardy	Good	Deep
MM. III	Semi-Dwarf	Hardy	Good	Medium
MM. 109	Vigorous	Hardy	Good	Deep
EM. XVI	Very Vigorous	Not Hardy	Good	Medium
EM. XXV	Very Vigorous	Not Known	Good	Deep

Supporting by stakes is recommended in the early years for all the above and permanently for EM. IX and EM. II.

#### MAY REMINDERS

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

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.

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 plants and give you more bloom. A handful placed around the plant about 6 inches out from the main stem, worked lightly into the soil and watered in, will do the trick. Plus a regular program of spraying every 10 days and immediately following a heavy rain.

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, phlox, 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 the 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.

Don't neglect to stake your high growing plants before they get too high to resist storm and wind.