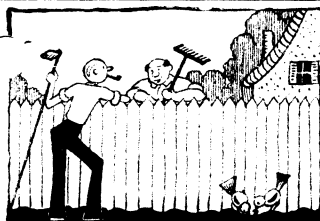


THE GARDEN SPRAY



BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

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

Volume 8
Number 11
Vic Lowrie, Editor

November, 1950
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Ed Montgomery, George Luxton

NOVEMBER MEETING

Come shoot it, boys! Spread it on!

It's our BULL SESSION!

Date: Tuesday, November 14th
Place: Park Board Greenhouses,
38th & Bryant Avenue South
Time: 5:30 P.M.
Dinner: \$1.50

PROGRAM

6:30 Visit the Chrysanthemum Show
7:00 Election of officers for 1951
7:30 The BULL SESSION

Each member will have an opportunity to talk (not to exceed three minutes) on his favorite subject, be it plants, flowers, trees, seeds, fertilizers - chemical or organic; neighbors or in-laws; his greatest thrill, disappointment, success, failure, reward or gripe during the 1950 growing season!

No, you won't want to miss it - the most popular, informative, stimulating and exhilarating meeting of the year.

Gregg Lucking has invited us to use the facilities of the Park Board Greenhouses primarily for the purpose of enabling us to see the Park Board's chrysanthemum show while it's at its best.

At our Bull Session, Frank Janes has consented to act as moderator, subject only to his being called on to defend the invasion of Canadian geese should the migration conflict with this date. Since we need Frank to uphold the chair, may the geese defer their onslaught until after November 14th!

Officers

Cortis Rice, Jr.,
President

G. B. Germain,
Vice-President

Rene Dufourd,
Secretary

C. F. LaCrosse,
Treasurer

William E. Swain,
Past-President

Office of the Secretary
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NOVEMBER CHORES

Working a trowelful of bone meal around perennials before they go into the winter will make blooms more bountiful next summer.

Roses may be killed any time after the first heavy frost, but don't cover them with marsh hay until they are bare of leaves - then rake and burn the dead leaves before covering.

Be sure to pull up all annuals before the snow flies. Don't leave them in the beds to attract slugs or become diseased and infect surrounding perennials.

Remove dead foliage from around delphiniums and peonies. Skimming off a little of the top soil and replacing with coal ashes or sand will help keep the plants disease free.

Cut back the chrysanthemums when they are through blooming, but keep stalks long enough to collect falling leaves for root protection.

We have had too dry a fall to allow shrubs, particularly evergreens, to go into the winter without watering them down well - this also applies to roses.

Tulips can be planted up until the time the ground is frozen too hard to work. Of course they may bloom a bit later than those planted earlier, but not much.

To speed winter disintegration, give your compost heap a final, thorough forking and watering.

Spade the edges of the flower beds where annuals are grown and expose the hibernating insects to frost. Same applies to the vegetable garden - and dig deep.

Try sowing seeds of larkspur, snapdragons and cornflowers in the spot where you want them to bloom. Do this before the ground freezes. Work the soil well before sowing and give a little protection. Seeds will be dormant all winter and germinate in the early spring.

Drifts of leaves should not be allowed to remain on your lawn or they will destroy the grass underneath. It is also best not to allow the grass to get too long before the snow begins to fall if you want to reduce winter kill.

Asparagus beds should be given a good covering of well-rotted manure, but first remove the seedlings and cut the tops to within six inches of the ground.

NEWS AND VIEWS

Will "Special Interest Group" chairmen please complete the writing of their annual reports and submit them to George Germain just as quickly as possible?

* * * * *

It is not too soon to review the colored pictures taken of your garden this year and make a selection of those which you would like to have shown at our Christmas party next month.

Jim Cristman is home now recuperating from a rather prolonged illness. We hope some of the members will drop in to see him soon and commiserate with him over the time lost from his fall gardening.

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Bill Addy has been under the weather too for the past few weeks. A visit or a phone call would help him to pass the long days of convalescence.

OCTOBER MEETING

The interest on the part of our members in the activities of the Minnesota Horticulture Society and the Division of Horticulture of the University of Minnesota Farm School was well demonstrated by the unusually large attendance at our October meeting which was held on the University Farm Campus on October 10th.

Those of us who were fortunate enough to visit the experimental chrysanthemum and rose test gardens found much of interest, both in the new varieties of mums - of which there were many hundreds all in full bloom - and this year's seedling roses, which were quite a surprise. This experiment will be closely followed, especially with respect to how well they will come through the winter and bloom next June.

Following our dinner, cafeteria style, we had a most interesting sort of round-table session with Bill Swain acting as moderator.

Professor W. H. Alderman, Chief of the Division of Horticulture, opened with an address of welcome, gave us a general idea of the accomplishments of the Division of Horticulture, how it functions and the work it has done in assisting commercial growers in the development of more hardy fruit stocks and in the production of better fruits and higher yields. Similar work had also been done with vegetables with equal success.

It was pointed out that, aside from their test work with roses and mums, little attention had been paid to ornamental plants due primarily to limited funds, but that it is the aim of the Division to expand experiments in this direction in an attempt to help the amateur gardeners and citizens of the State to better adorn our homes, boulevards and parks.

Mr. Alderman went on to say that horticulture has a profound effect on the social and economic life of our State, as well as the country as a whole, and it was his Division's responsibility to contribute maximum help commensurate with the ability of the staff to work within the monies made available for this purpose.

Drs. A. E. Hutchins and I. C. Snyder gave us a very comprehensive report on the experimental work that has been going on for some time with mums and roses, as well as with fruits and vegetables, and explained how the Division of Horticulture disseminated the benefits accrued from these experiments to the farmer, nurseryman and other commercial growers throughout the State.

Dr. Snyder explained that his department works with 89 agriculture agents and 60 home economic demonstrators in the dissemination of material, and also makes use of the garden counsel in approximately 200 weekly newspapers and 50 radio programs.

In addition, he and his assistant appeared almost daily before groups of farmers, local community club members and by lectures, movies, slides and printed material, attempt to aid as many people in as many communities as they can possibly reach. (Again, of course, within the limits of their budget.)

Harold Pederson, Hennepin County Agricultural Agent, explained how the county agents work with the Division of Horticulture in helping to disseminate the work of not only the University but also the material developed by the State and Federal agriculture departments.

Bob Phillips, to whom we were indebted for this round-table discussion and who made all the arrangements with the Horticulture Society and the Division of Horticulture and who is also in charge of the rose and chrysanthemum test gardens

explained some of the work that had been done under Dr. Longley, the work going on now, accomplishments to date, and plans for expanding experimental work with a wider group of ornamental shrubs and plants in the future.

Out of this meeting came two important recommendations submitted by our membership. Mr. Rice made a plea for the formation of a Council of Garden Clubs and the establishment of a Garden Center to be used as a meeting place for all Twin City garden clubs.

The second request came from Glen Cerney on behalf of the group that the Horticulture Division give some consideration to the establishment of a short university course in flower judging. Both suggestions were enthusiastically received by the University representatives. Mr. Quist, President of the Minneapolis Park Board, promised to get behind the idea of a garden center to discuss such a project with the Park Board Committee and other city officials and expressed the feeling that with the full co-operation of all interested parties, a place could be found for the establishment of such a center.

Edward Hunt, Secretary of the Minnesota Horticulture Society, explained the function of the Society and how it is set up to co-operate with the amateur gardeners throughout the state, and closed with an invitation to the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis and others to take full advantage of the Society's facilities.

All in all, it was a highly successful meeting and many expressed the wish for a repeat performance. Maybe we could arrange our program calendar to make such a get-together an annual event.

VIEWS AND NEWS

Did you ever enjoy such a Fall before? The unusually late varieties of chrysanthemums that often haven't an opportunity to bloom in this part of the country before Winter sets in, are all ablaze, as this November issue of the Spray goes to press. On Sunday, October 29, the Lake Harriet Rose Gardens were a mass of bloom with colors so deep and formation so perfect that each

rose appeared as though set in wax. Many an annual and perennial are blooming away on higher ground having completely escaped the earlier frosts.

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Congratulations to Ralph Bachman on his election to the presidency of the Minnesota Florist Association's Public Relations Committee.

A SPIDER CENSUS

When weeding on one's knees (as weeding should be done), were you ever conscious of the quantity of spiders present, no matter where you started or in what part of the garden you worked?

"My Garden," the intimate little magazine for British garden lovers, reports in the October issue that a census of spiders in a Sussex grass field yielded two and a quarter million to the acre! They also write of a natural history book entitled "The Spider" by John Compton (Collins, 105.6d net) charmingly written, scientifically accurate and a delight to read, that tells of the Arenea, the Garden Spider; of Angelina, the greenhouse spider; of Wolf Spiders, Jumping Spiders, Crab Spiders; of the Cardinal, the largest of our house spiders; of the sacred Cardinal Wolsey; of a British spider which stalks its prey and when within shooting distance, spits liquid glue which instantly solidifies into a strangling net over its victim; of Trapdoor Spiders; of Water Spiders who make their home and rear their young at the bottom of a pond. It tells of their courtships; the sexual arrangements of these little creatures - totally different from those of any other living animal; how the female has the nasty habit of frequently eating