

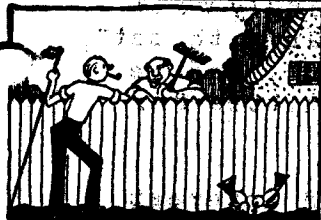
THE GARDEN SPRAY

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

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

October, 1952
Volume 10, Number 10
Vic Lowrie, Editor

Associate Editors:
Don Methvan, Art Faakler,
Herb Kahlert



OCTOBER MEETING

Date: Tuesday, October 14
Place: Hasty Tasty Cafe,
50th & France So.
Time: 6:45 P.M. sharp
Dinner: \$1.50

OFFICERS

Vic Lowrie President
Bill Brooks Vice-President
Rene Dufourd Secretary
Chet Harkins Treasurer
Fred Paul Past-President

PROGRAM

- 6:30 Business session
6:45 "Insect Control in the Flower Garden" by Dr. L. K. Cutkomp, Professor of Entomology, University of Minnesota.
7:30 "Propagating Under Fluorescent Lights" by our own Archie Flack
8:00 Special Interest Group Sessions

Your Program Committee, under the leadership of Bob Adams, has worked out a monthly series of programs which you are not going to want to miss. October's meeting program is just typical of those to follow—all on subjects of greatest interest to the majority of members.

Remember to set aside the second Tuesday in every month as your night with the boys! Mark your calendar, leave a note on your dresser, tell your wife to write it down somewhere. Come, revel once a month in a most delightful evening of gardening with your fellow hobbyists.

IN APPRECIATION OF OUR SUPPORT AND CONTRIBUTION

TO THE EDITOR: I have been directed by the Board of Park Commissioners at its meeting of September 17 to express to you and the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis the thanks and appreciation of the members of the Board for the co-operation and support of the Men's Garden Club in securing the passage of the park referendum on September 9. The unprecedented vote which the referendum received is a tribute to the efforts of your organization and others who did so much to bring the referendum campaign to a successful conclusion. Kindly express our thanks to all concerned.

OUR FALL SHOW

Although it fell somewhat short of being the largest exhibition of blooms and vegetables as compared with previous shows, it was without question the highest in quality and exceedingly well staged. It takes a great deal of planning and a lot of hands to set up, run, and dismantle a show. The boys really did a job, and we are indeed grateful to "P.W." Young and his "Show" Committee for their excellent work.

Bill Holmberg, Bob Bryant and the Bachmans added interest and color to the show with their generous contributions of plants and flowers. Their exhibits provoked much comment and we certainly want them to know that we do appreciate their co-operation. And of course that is equally true of the judges. To them - Mr. & Mrs. Bryant, Ralph Bachman and Mrs. Barry - we also extend our sincere thanks and appreciation.

For the large public attendance Saturday evening and all day Sunday, we are indebted to George Luxton, who gave us such a nice send-off in the Minneapolis Star & Tribune. Our hats off to George!

Gee and by golly, almost forgot to comment on "Special Interest" groups' display of specimen branches of shrubs and perennials. Tony, Archie and Glen were responsible for this added attraction and educational touch. It would be nice to have more of our Special Interest groups represented at both our Spring and Fall Shows with working exhibits. Let's work on this.

THE SEPTEMBER MEETING

Our first Fall meeting, arranged by Bob Adams and his Program Committee as a preliminary introduction to our Flower Show, proved both interesting and helpful. Lloyd Bachman, Bob Bryant and Curtis Rice put on quite a demonstration, a miniature flower show, if you please, from which stemmed many good ideas mixed up with a few essential "do's" and "don'ts." Thank you, boys, for a splendid program. Its influence was clearly reflected in our Flower Show which followed 10 days later.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS NOVEMBER 11

At our November meeting we elect Club officers for the coming year. The Nominating Committee has been appointed with Glen Cerney as Chairman. The committee will present its slate to the membership at our November 11 meeting. Make a point of being there to help elect those you wish to run the Club in 1953.

NEWS AND VIEWS

Well may we be proud of our Dahlia growers who paraded their best before the public and the judges at the season's Dahlia Show in September. If you didn't take in that display of the "King of Flowers," you robbed yourself of a real treat. Among the top winners were Tom Ennis, Bill Holmberg and Tom Krumm; the latter won no less than 23 ribbons and took second place with next to the highest number of points in the amateur class. Carl Nelson, though, really stole the show, taking just about all the top ribbons and honors the judges could bestow, including "Grand Champion" awards in seven out of ten available classes. Hats off to each and every one of you!

Seems like we are a little late in recognizing three more of our members who have been honored by the Minneapolis Star by being singled out as "Town Toppers." These distinguished members include Fred Paul, Harold Kaufmann and Archie Flack. We are indeed proud of you gentlemen!

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Tony Koester and his family in the passing of his mother on September 13.

Rene Dufourd announces a special sale of 18" aluminum marking stakes - regularly priced \$1.35 a dozen reduced to \$1 a dozen while they last. Will take phone, mail or personal orders, but act quickly - and remember you will need stakes to mark those new plantings that may be late in coming through in the Spring.

The Treasurer has asked us to remind you that your 1953 dues are due and payable not later than Dec-

ember 1. So please send your check for \$4 to C. G. Harkins, c/o Northern States Power Co., 15 S. Fifth St., and thus save us cost of billing.

You country gardeners who are pestered by pheasants will be pleased to hear a report concerning lindane, a killing agent for wireworms. Seed corn treated with lindane will repel pheasants and supposedly any other lindane-treated seed will do likewise.

Please change business phone of Herman H. Strachauer on the Club's membership roster from HO 7671 to BR 2261.

THREE CLUB MEMBERS HONORED

The Minnesota State Horticultural Society, at its 86th Annual Meeting held on September 26 at the Curtis Hotel, recognized three of our members for "meritorious work in the field of horticulture." Curtis Rice was awarded a "Life Membership" in the Society, and Bob Bryant and Vic Lowrie were presented with "Certificates of Merit."

The Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis was well represented at this two-day meeting and a number of the members participated in the program. Leon Snyder spoke on "Evergreens;" Dick Lehman on "Daylilies;" "OC" Turnquist on "Freezing Edibles;" and your editor presided at the Friday morning session. In addition, our Club sponsored an exhibit of roses, tuberous begonias and chrysanthemums contributed by Al Nelson, Tony Koester and Harold Kaufmann respectively. Bill Brooks and Don Methven installed our animated three-dimensional insignia, and Archie Flack gave an illustrated talk on the flower border.

1952 FALL FLOWER SHOW RESULTS

468 Entries - 33 Exhibitors
(and every exhibitor won at least one ribbon)

Group A - SPECIMENS

Grand Champion - Peace Rose, Dr. Stillman

Court of Honor -

Camelia Type Begonia - Tony Koester
Double White Petunia - Tony Koester
Floribunda Rose - P. W. Young
Yellow African Marigold - Len Bies
Ball Dahlia - Frank Heschmeyer
Semi-cactus Dahlia - H. E. Nelson
Miniature Dahlia - Vic Lowrie

Sweepstakes: Frank Heschmeyer with

36 points.

Runners-up -

Vic Lowrie	- 32 points
Morris Lifson	- 25 points
H. E. Nelson	- 24 points
Chas. Reif	- 24 points
Otto Erickson	- 22 points
Curtis Rice	- 19 points
Doc Stillman	- 19 points
A. I. Nelson	- 18 points
Glen Cerney	- 16 points

Group B * ARRANGEMENTS

Grand Champion - Rose Arrangement, Vic Lowrie
Runner-up - Hobby Arrangement, Stan Lund
Sweepstakes Winner - Vic Lowrie.

SOIL CONDITIONERS

By Art Fakler

My first experience with one of the newer soil conditioners involved a flakey product known as Soil Life, which was supposed to be dissolved in water and sprinkled on the soil. I followed the instructions very carefully for a gallon mix, but found the substance had such a viscous texture that it became a difficult task to mix it. It took approximately 30 minutes of constant stirring with a ladle, and finally a small electric paint mixer before the solution dissolved. Using the manufacturer's recommended formula proved that the solution was too heavy to use for application by a sprinkling can, as it poured out with the approximate consistency of syrup. The next quantity I mixed, I used 2 gallons of water and my wife's kitchen beater, which was a curved spiral affair. This method agitated the water better and was decidedly easier to dissolve the flakey substance but it still required approximately ten minutes before the solution was usable, and again it did not flow through the sprinkler head satisfactorily until I added more water. I would never recommend this product unless you had a power agitator and could regulate the flow of the substance into the water, as the product has such a tenacious quality of congealing into sticky lumps and adheres to the beater and sides of the container.

My second experiment involved the use of Krilium, which is a powdery substance. The instructions did not dwell upon the work necessary to thoroughly mix Krilium with the soil, nor were enough specific instructions given to prepare small areas without guessing. Therefore, my method in preparing small areas was based on a rough estimate compared with the five pound quantity suggested by the manufacturer to be used over a certain measured area. Since I wanted to treat various small areas between groups of perennials, I dusted the surface of each area with Krilium and turned the soil completely over. Then the exposed clods were dusted again fairly well and the soil turned over several times, breaking up all clods to secure good composition. This method no doubt involved more labor than the sprinkler method, but from a comparison of the soil treated with Soil Life, I believe the Krilium treatment produces a much better and deeper texture.

I firmly believe that my experiment has proved beyond any doubt that it was worth the trouble and labor required to improve heavy soil. One outstanding change noted was the ability of the soil to absorb all the water that was sprinkled on each Krilium-treated area. I wish a simple device could be made or developed to measure more accurately the quantity of Krilium needed for various depths. This would eliminate present guessing and possibly reduce the cost of preparing the soil.

OCTOBER CHORES

It is not too late to make some preparations for a better garden next year. A good cleanup of all diseased plants, uprooting and burning of annuals, and removal of all stalks from perennials are the essential first steps you must take.

Continue to spray roses for black

help them go into the winter as strong and healthy plants - a helpful protection against winter kill.

Take up those plants you wish to house during the winter - geraniums, coleus, cacti, ivy, philodendron, parsley and chives, etc. Also bring in soil for potting and seedling before the ground freezes too hard.

Clean up the vegetable garden, placing undiseased leaves in compost pile, burning all others. Fall digging is most beneficial; add manure or compost, spade deeply, and allow the rough earth to stand exposed during the winter.

Don't burn your leaves; build a compost heap. If you haven't room for a pile, dig a pit and put leaves, clippings and vegetable refuse in along with a dressing of lime or "Active."

Protect your young trees from rabbits by using chicken wire, or wrap with tarpaper up to 3 feet in height. Keep roots of shrubs and young trees moist, especially evergreens - they will winter better.

Before the ground freezes, hill young shrubs and plants, and all roses to a height of a foot if possible. After the ground is frozen, cover roses with coarse leaves or marsh hay and mulch the more delicate perennials.

Don't fail to stake where bulbs are being planted, and spot your perennials, particularly those slow to show life in the spring. Also tag roots and bulbs dug up for winter storage.

Mulch your berries for the winter, but do not cover crowns of strawberry plants.

Young pansy plants may be planted where they are to flower if the beds are high and dry. Cover lightly with mulch before the first hard frost, thus protecting them from wind and so on until they are frozen.

Remove seed pods from hybrid tea roses and other bedding plants. The plant needs to store all its food to increase cold resistance during the winter.

Remove canes from climbers and pillars from their support, pin to ground, and cover well just before a hard freeze.

SOIL CONDITIONER ? ?

By The Silver Fox

Much fanfare about "magic" soil conditioners has been exposed in the press and magazines, but do we have the full story? The rush by companies to get into the racket is taking on all the appearance of the old gold rush days. There are many of these magic conditioners and more are coming on the market every day. One company expects to do seven million dollars worth of business in its first year. Barnum was right!

These soil conditioners are supposed to "make cultivation easier, to stimulate the activity of soil organisms, permitting the soil to breathe better." This, it is claimed, means that plants will grow better and thus there will be higher yields. And all in 24 hours. That's progress for you! No digging, no delay, no waiting. And it took nature thousands of years to do the same job!

But does it? Reports are beginning to come in which would tend to dampen the claims of the sponsors. The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station did not have too good results with its experiments with Krilium on geraniums (see Journal of Soil and Water Conservation for April, 1952). The Ohio State Flower Growers' Association experiment with roses in Krilium-treated soil and manured soil showed that the manure was more effective.

The high cost of using these soil conditioners will keep many of us from using them except in small lots. They are not effective except in hard soils: they have no food value and no one at this

WRITES DR. R. MILTON CARLETON . . .

A series of thermocouples by which I recorded soil temperatures last winter gave me some interesting slants on what happens to roots in freezing weather. On bare ground, during an early severe freeze without snow, temperatures at 6 and 12 feet below ground skidded to 32° within a week and stayed there until a thaw sent air temperatures above freezing.

Later, under a heavy snow, temperatures at these levels did not fall below 34°, even when sub-zero readings were reached above ground. The snow fell after the ground had frozen to a depth of two feet.

A thermocouple buried under shrubs did not reach its low points for several days after those in

open ground. The shrubs apparently gave off enough heat to influence temperature of the soil around them. This same effect was noticeable when the weather warmed up. Snow disappeared rapidly from the area around the shrub stems. The bare ground was exposed at least four days before it came into view on the open areas.

This means that root growth of woody plants continues much longer than air temperatures indicate. Late planting of most shrubs and trees would result in good growth in spite of freezing weather.

This latter doesn't hold true with roses, however. Roses under freezing conditions form few new roots when planted in fall under Mid-west conditions.

WORDD EXTREMES OF WEATHER

The lowest temperature on record in the U.S. is -66° F. at Riverside Ranger Station, Wyo., in Yellowstone Park, February 9, 1933; highest is 134° F. at Greenland Ranch, Death Valley, Calif., July 10, 1913. Highest and lowest temperatures recorded anywhere on earth are 136° F. at Azizia, Libya, North Africa on September 13, 1922; and -90° at Verkhoyansk, Siberia, February 5 and 7, 1892.

The average annual precipitation for the U.S. is approximately 29 inches; wettest state is Louisiana, with an annual average rainfall of 55.11 inches. Driest state is Nevada, averaging 8.81 inches annually. Highest local average annual rainfall is 150.73 inches at Wynoochee, Oxbow, Washington, based on a 13-year record. Greatest 24-hour rainfall in the U.S., 23.22 inches at New Smyrna, Fla., October 10-11, 1924.

~~Extreme rainfall records in the U.S. include a total fall of only 3.93 inches at Bagdad, Calif. for a period of five years - 1909-13, and an annual average of 1.36 inches at Greenland Ranch, Calif.~~

An authenticated rainfall record of 241 inches in one month - August, 1841 - was reported at Cherrapunji, India, with more than 150 inches in a period of five consecutive days!

Heavy snowfall records include 60 inches at Giant Forest, Calif., in one day; 42 inches at Angola, N. Y. in two days; 54 inches at the Dalles, Ore. in three days; and 96 inches at Vanceboro, Maine in four days. Greatest seasonal snowfall, 884 inches - more than 73 feet - at Tamarack, Calif. during the winter of 1906-7.

The largest hailstone definitely recorded fell at Potter, Neb. July 6, 1928. It weighed 1½ pounds. There have been reports of much larger stones, but they undoubtedly refer to masses of ice resulting