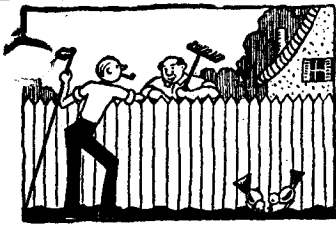


# THE GARDEN SPRAY

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS



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

October, 1953  
Volume 11, Number 10  
G. "Vic" Lowrie, Editor

Associate Editors  
Don Methven  
William Hull

## OCTOBER MEETING

Date: Tuesday, October 13

Place: Hasty Tasty Cafe,  
50th & France So.

Time: 5:45 P.M. sharp

### PROGRAM

6:30 Business session

6:45 "What We Saw in Canada" by  
Clubmembers Leon Snyder and  
Archie Flack

This sounds like another outstanding program, with Leon and Archie showing slides and movies of their Canadian experimental station trip this summer. Note that these are new slides from this most recent trip and ones we should all enjoy. Put this on your must list!

Your Club slide library can use all the slides you can furnish. Club speakers who meet with other clubs are using them all the time and fresh slides are necessary to illustrate their talks properly. Will you go through your slide files and select as many as you can spare? Bring them to the next meeting please.

RESERVE DECEMBER 10 (second Thursday)  
for our Christmas Party with the ladies.  
Plan on it with your lady and look for  
details in next month's Spray

### Officers

R. J. Dufourd President

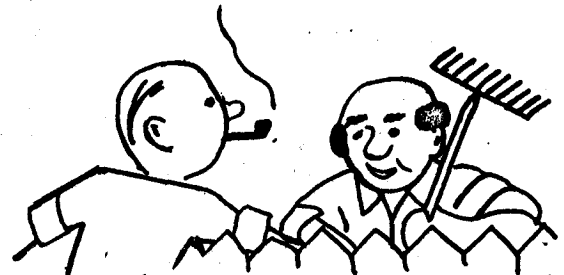
A. H. Flack  
Vice-President

C. G. Harkins Secretary

T. P. Hughes Treasurer

G. "Vic" Lowrie  
Past-President

## OVER THE FENCE



with  
AL APHIS and MIKE MILORGANITE

"How are the gophers, Mike?"

"Pretty good. Getting better every week. I hear a lot of Rose Bowl talk too."

"Not the Golden Gophers! I meant the gophers in your garden!"

## OUR FALL FLOWER SHOW

As expected (with thanks to "P.W." Young and his energetic show committee, together with thirty-one member exhibitors) we had a first class show. However, we did miss a number of our members who in the past have contributed much to the success of our Fall shows, including Glen Cerney, Cortis Rice, Gordon Ballhorn, Ed Culbert, Rene Dufourd, Bill Holmberg, Harold Kaufmann, Andy Nyberg, Doc Hillman and George Titus. Many of these members were out of town, while the dahlia specialists were moving their blooms for the Minnesota Dahlia Society Show the following Monday.

To the judges, Mrs. Gee, Miss Fischer, Mr. Fischer and Mrs. Widdy, we extend our congratulations for doing such a superb job, as well as our thanks for taking time out from a busy schedule, which they all undertake at this time of the year.

An exhibit that added considerable color and glamor to the show was Bob Bryant's elaborate display of dahlias, beautified still further by Olga Bryant's stunning arrangement. Thank you, both Olga and Bob, for giving so generously of your excellent material, talents and time. We are also indebted to the Bachmans for their colorful display of potted chrysanthemums, for which we most heartily thank them.

The 31 exhibitors placed 451 entries (411 specimens, 40 arrangements). Those with over ten entries included the following:

Tony Koester	46	entries	"P.W." Young	23	entries
Maurice Lifson	40	"	Pink Pinkham	20	"
Albert Nelson	35	"	Herb Kahlert	17	"
Frank Heschmeyer	33	"	Vic Lowrie	16	"
Charlie Reif	30	"	Hank Elieff	14	"
Blackie Blackbourn	27	"	Archie Flack	12	"
Otto Erickson	24	"	Charlie LaCrosse	10	"

### The Top Winners

Grand Champion - Spray of Clematis Jackmani - H. H. Stevens

### Sweepstakes

Tony Koester	62	points	Herb Kahlert	19	points
Frank Heschmeyer	45	"	Archie Flack	16	"
Charlie Reif	44	"	Bill Hull	13	"
Otto Erickson	44	"	Ernie Thompson	13	"
Al Nelson	33	"	Hank Elieff	13	"
"P.W." Young	30	"	Eng Hoyme	13	"
Pink Pinkham	27	"	Fred Paul	12	"
Maurice Lifson	26	"	Vic Lowrie	12	"
Blackie Blackbourn	20	"	Charlie LaCrosse	11	"

### Court of Honor

Specimen  
Clematis Jackmani

Exhibitor  
H. H. Stevens

Pompom Dahlia  
Double Petunia - Allegro  
Hybrid Tea Rose - Diamond Jubilee  
Fibrous Begonia - potted  
Spray of Passion Flowers

Tony Koester  
Tony Koester  
Blackie Blackburn  
Fred Paul  
Tony Koester

#### Arrangements

Grand Champion - Miniature Dahlia, Aberdeen, with foliage -  
Stan Lund  
Runner-up - Improved Snowstorm Petunias - Vic Lowrie

#### Sweepstakes

Vic Lowrie	52 points	Tony Koester	12 points
Maurice Lifson	30 "	Al Nelson	10 "
Hank Elieff	20 "	Bill Hull	10 "

#### FUNCTIONS OF PLANT NUTRIENTS - ZINC

Zinc - like the other so-called "minor" plant food elements - is required in very small quantities by plants. It was not until 1914 that zinc was recognized as being necessary for the normal growth of green plants.

Plants differ a great deal in sensitivity to supplies of zinc in the soil. Citrus is especially sensitive to zinc deficiency, but deficiency symptoms of plants growing under normal field culture have also been observed in corn, pecans, peaches, apples and alfalfa.

The first actual zinc deficiency ever reported was located accidentally. Workers who were searching for the cause of "rosette" on pecans found that iron sulphate solutions that had been placed in zinc galvanized buckets corrected "rosette," while iron sulphate solutions not so stored had no effect.

Zinc appears to be necessary in plants for the maintenance of complex chemicals, called "auxins" formed within the plant, which in turn regulate the growth of the plants. Just what this relationship is, scientists have been unable to discover, and zinc takes its place with the other minor elements as a rather mysterious, though highly necessary catalyst, in actuating the growth processes. This element is the latest of the trace elements shown to have a definite function in animals. This has to do with removal of waste carbon dioxide from the blood stream.

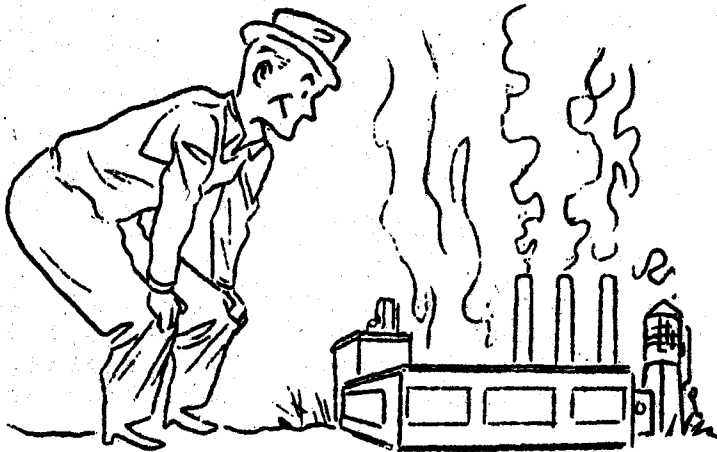
The availability of soil supplies of zinc to plants is affected by the soil reaction and by application of phosphates. Generally speaking, the higher the alkalinity of a soil, the lower the zinc content of plants growing on that soil. Applied phosphate combines chemically with zinc in the soil, tying it up in forms that plant roots cannot use.

Zinc deficiencies in gardens are uncommon. The amounts supplied in applications of complete plant foods are ample to prevent shortage

## BACK YARD SOIL CONDITIONER FACTORY

Maintaining organic matter in your soil is an important part of successful gardening. One of the main reasons that farmers rotate their crops is to keep up a good level of soil organic matter. Adding organic matter to a soil is by no means a cure-all as some folks seem to believe. It does, however, open up heavy soil, permitting air to penetrate. On the other hand, it increases the water-holding capacity of sandy soil. Further, it contains some plant food, and the presence of organic matter in the soil helps to release plant nutrients from soil minerals into available form.

Most gardeners cannot practice crop rotation nor have they access to the other main source of organic matter on farms, animal manures. It is possible, however, to keep soil in good physical condition by maintaining a couple of compost heaps. Composting materials may be piled in a shady, out-of-the-way corner of the garden, or back of the garage. Into them can go all types of garden refuse, such as grass clippings, corn stalks, leaves and weeds that have not formed seeds. Vegetable materials should be placed in layers each about 6" thick and covered with a thin layer of garden soil. Since the bacteria, which break down this raw vegetative material into crumbly, decomposed compost, require extra nitrogen



and phosphorus to do their job, it is a good idea to sprinkle each layer of plant material with a complete fertilizer. In addition to hastening the process of decomposition, the plant food will enrich the compost, making it a more valuable source of plant nutrients.

Alternate layers of vegetable material and soil can be built up to a height of 3 or 4 feet. If the pile is surrounded by wire fencing or wood sides to keep the sides vertical, it may

be built up somewhat higher. Each layer should be thoroughly soaked with a garden hose, or the top of the heap should be dished to catch the rain water. It is totally unnecessary to add a "compost activator," earthworms, or worm food. The plant food you sprinkle on each layer is the only activator needed, and the worms will come in droves of their own accord.

### ORCHIDS GALORE

. . . to Bill Holmberg, Tom Krumm, Andy Nyberg, Harold Nelson and Tom Ennis for doing so well in the September 14-15 show of the Minnesota Dahlia Society. Bill had a beautiful Court of Honor award; Tom placed high with many ribbons; Andy had an outstanding commercial display; and Harold and Tom also won honors

of the show by the St. Louis Park Affiliated Women's Garden Clubs. We understand the planners hadn't expected Frank's overwhelming entries and ran out of ribbons. Specimens were open to the public for entry. Several MGCM wives placed or judged in this show.

to George Luxton for the

## HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

One of the most successful of its recent annual meetings was held by the Minnesota State Horticultural Society on September 18 and 19 at Faribault. The registration exceeded 500 even before the bulk of the members arrived on Saturday afternoon. Several members of the MGC of Minneapolis were in the spotlight and the membership turned out in strong force to support them.

The feature of the Friday morning session was the talk by Senator Thye, a horticulturist himself, who ably presented the need of the gardener's philosophy in the world today. Friday afternoon was devoted to a tour of Brand's Nursery and Andrews' Nursery. Kim and his brother provided everyone with apples and refreshments, and showed their beautiful apples being sorted, graded and packed.

The banquet hall was packed that evening. The fine dinner was served by the Junior Chamber of Commerce, of which Chet Harkins is a past president and recipient of a distinguished service award. Countess Maria Pulaski, the escaped spy, was most interesting - and in more ways than one! A high point of the evening - and one which fills MGC of Minneapolis members with pride - was the award of an Honorary Life Membership to Dr. Leon Snyder. That makes three now to our club, a pretty good record!

Saturday morning was occupied by a variety of subjects including a report on new vegetables by Dr. Orrin Turnquist. Bill Swain and Harold Kaufmann were the featured speakers at the luncheon for club presidents and made many useful suggestions to the other clubs from our own experience.

The second tour, on Saturday afternoon, included Farmers Seed & Nursery Company and the Lehman Gardens. Charlie Okken and his associates conducted us through their test gardens, showed us how seeds are harvested and packed, and passed out many samples - vegetables, melons, seeds and packaged popcorn to every visitor.

Dick Lehman was disappointed that his acres of mums were not all blazing in color as is usual at this time of the year, but nevertheless he put on a beautiful show and served coffee and doughnuts to the whole convention. Previously he had provided mums in pin-on bottles for all the ladies. And then, as if that were not enough, he and Mrs. Lehman served a most delicious dinner on their lawn and terraces. Seventy-five enjoyed grilled steak, ham, meat balls, cold meats, salads in variety, and everything that one could think of, including hot home-made breads and a choice of home-made pies! What a member this Lehman man is! What hospitality!

It was announced that Cortis Rice had been elected vice-president of the Horticultural Society, and that Charlie Okken had been elected a member of the Executive Board for a term of three years.

As a grand finale to the entire proceedings, Archie Flaak presented a beautiful orange-bronze mum, the best that Dick has yet developed, to Grandma's little boy and announced that it had been named "George Luxton." George, for the second time in his life,

## FALL CLEANUP

By the time your garden has been visited by Jack Frost and the mature vegetables have been harvested and stored, it's time to think of cleaning up the garden for next spring.

If diseases and insects have been prevalent in the garden this past year, it's desirable to remove the debris and burn it. This is especially true of asparagus if the fern-like tops have taken on a reddish-rust color. In that case, cut off the tops and burn them this fall to control the rust.

Remove dead plants and rake up old fruits of tomato, cucumber and melons that have not been harvested. This practice will help to prevent many volunteer plants in the garden next year.

Don't forget to pull up all wooden stakes used for labeling the rows or supporting plants. Clean off the soil and dry the stakes before storing them away for the winter.

## WINTER PROTECTION OF FRUITS

In this severe climate, many fruits need winter protection. This is true of strawberries and raspberries, as well as tender grapes. Apples and pears need protection against winter sunscald and against rabbits and mice.

Strawberries should be covered with clean straw or marsh hay late this month or early in November. Before the winter cover is applied, however, they should be hardened by several frosts. Don't wait to put the mulch on until it's too late. Blossom buds for next spring's crop will be injured by temperatures down to 20° F.

The usual way to protect raspberries is to lay them down and cover the tips with soil. Commercial growers plow a furrow of soil over the canes, thus covering them completely. When the canes are laid down and held in place, snow drifts in and covers them, keeping them uniformly cold during the winter and not subject to sudden thaws and freezes. It is really the sudden changes in temperature during the late winter that kills the canes rather than the extreme cold.

Grapes should be pruned back and covered with soil. Leave short spurs along the main stem. These spurs should have one or two buds for next year's fruit.

A cylinder of hardware cloth, 1/4 to 1/2-inch mesh, is the best protection against mice. This also protects the trunk from rabbits. A new rabbit repellent now on the market may prove helpful in controlling rabbits.

## PROTECTING ORNAMENTALS FOR WINTER

Although many of our perennials are considered hardy, most of them would benefit from a winter mulch. This mulch should be put on late, after the ground starts to freeze. The greatest benefit from the mulch will come next spring when the snow goes off. The mulch will keep the ground frozen later and thus prevent heaving of the

A good way to protect chrysanthemums over winter is to put them in a coldframe. As soon as the bloom has been destroyed by frost, cut off the tops and transplant to a cold frame. Water in well and cover with a dry mulch. Cover the frames with glass sash or boards to keep out the snow and rain.

Hybrid tea and Polyantha or Floribunda roses require added protection. One very good method is to mound dirt around the plants early in November. Bring in the dirt so as not to expose the roots. After the soil has frozen, cover with marsh hay or straw to a depth of 6 to 8 inches. Another method is to dig a trench 2 feet deep in well-drained soil. Dig up your rose bushes and lay them in the bottom of the trench. Then cover with mulch and soil, leaving a mound of dirt to carry away excess moisture.

U of M Farm News

#### ODDS AND ENDS

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has recently published a rather complete booklet on rose culture entitled "Roses for the Home." It is catalogued as No. Al.77:25 procurable at 15¢ from the U.S. Government Printing Office, Division of Public Documents, Washington 25, D.C.

Did you ever know anyone quite as busy in retirement or get around as much as does our genial president, Rene Dufourd? What with being prexy of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, active in the Camera Club and in two or three civic organizations. In August he motored to Yellowstone Park for three weeks. On September 10 he left Minneapolis by car on his way to New York; then sailed on the 16th for France. He expects to pick up the reins back home around the middle of November. Such a busy guy!

We were sure pleased to see Otto Erickson almost running around with the aid of a shillelagh at the Park Board Greenhouses. A lot of nice material he exhibited too; garnered 44 points, sharing third place in sweepstakes with Charlie Reif.

Harold Kaufmann was prancing gingerly from paint shop to greenhouse, looking handsomely younger. "Fit as a fiddle" said Harold; that we

#### HOW TO RAISE RHUBARB THIS WINTER

Fresh rhubarb can be a treat on tables as sauce or pie when the snow flies if steps are taken now to force some of the plants in your basement. If the planting is old and ready to be replaced with new roots next spring, the old clumps can be used for forcing now.

Before the ground freezes, dig 4 or 5 large clumps out of the garden and place them alongside the house or garage. Leave them outside until they are completely frozen. Cover with moist straw or soil to prevent their drying out. After the plants have been exposed to outdoor temperatures for two weeks, they can be taken inside. Set the clumps in bushel baskets or orange crates and work moist soil around the roots so they are fully covered.

Place the containers where the temperature remains at 60 to 65° F. and keep the rhubarb watered enough so the soil is moist but not wet. It is also desirable to exclude the light in the room to reduce leaf size and develop an elongated stalk. A good forcing spot is adjacent to the furnace room where windows can be covered. In 3 or 4 weeks after rhubarb is brought indoors, it will start producing and continue for about 5 weeks. Roots should be discarded after they have been

## FROM THE MASTER GARDENER . . .

Growing tests during the summer again prove that high analysis water-soluble plant food gives fine results when used:

(1) As a starter solution; (2) for supplementary lawn feeding; and (3) for supplementary feeding as foliage sprays on certain flowers and vegetables.

Water-soluble plant food, however, will not take the place of applications of regular plant food at planting time.

I tried (on purpose) to burn some growing grass with complete plant food. Here's how I did it: Forgot about directions on the bag; applied plant food when the grass was wet with dew; walked off and left it without watering the plant food in or brushing it from the blades of grass. Yes, a fine case of burning resulted! The sad part is that too many folks do the same thing without trying. They just don't read the directions!

## TOO EARLY TO STORE CARROTS

Carrots will not keep well if they are harvested too early and put into a warm storage cellar. Until the storage room has cooled off, carrots will store better in the ground as long as they can be safely left outside. Heavy frosts will not harm the carrots, but they should be dug before the ground freezes.

After carrots are harvested, the roots should be washed and dried thoroughly. If the tops of the carrots are removed along with about 1/4 inch of the top of the root, there will be less sprouting in storage.

Temperature is the most important factor in storing carrots. They will keep best if the temperature is between 32-38° F. and not over 40°. A good way to keep carrots is to place them in a clean crock, cover the crock loosely with a burlap sack, and store at the recommended temperature. Carrots have been kept in this way until April, when the storage place was cool and moist.  
(U of M Farm News Bureau)

## HORTICULTURAL DIRECTORY AVAILABLE

Former MGCA President, Al Irving, of New York, is currently engaged in one of those innumerable voluntary jobs that seem the lot of all active garden clubbers - only this time the job is one that promises to benefit all of us. Al has spent most of his vacation working on "The Directory of American Horticulture" which is being produced by the American Horticultural Council. And it's not difficult to imagine that isn't Al's idea of a vacation! But the volume promises to be something of tremendous value - it will contain all national horticultural organizations in the U.S., with considerable information that is up to date about each of the following:

Arboretums and botanical gardens, locations and names of directors; universities, colleges and institutions teaching horticulture; experimental stations and individuals in charge; all awards and what they are given for; state flowers and trees; parks, commercial and public gardens; flower shows, festivals and pilgrimages with dates; garden centers and other information.

Since the A.H.C's activities are all directed to the benefit of horticulture with no thought of profit, and since all the work is being done on a voluntary basis, it seems that the least we can do to show our appreciation is to send \$1 to the A.H.C. Dir-