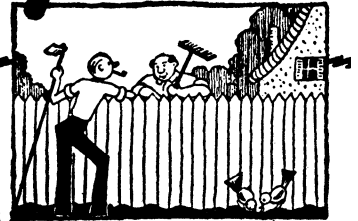




# The Garden Spray

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

*Member--Men's Garden Clubs of America • Minnesota State Horticultural Society*



October 1959  
Volume 17, No. 10  
G. "Vic" Lowrie, Editor

Associate Editors  
Wm. H. Hull, Joe Witmer  
Ev Haedecke

## OCTOBER MEETING

Date: Tuesday, October 13, 1959  
Place: Mount Olivet Lutheran Church  
Knox Ave. S. & W. 50th St.  
Time: 5:45 P.M. Sharp  
Price: \$1.75

## OFFICERS

P. W. Young	President
Wm. H. Hull	Vice President
Dwight Stone	Secretary
Ev Haedecke	Treasurer

Office of the Secretary  
4620 Hampton Road

Office of the Exchange Editor  
G. Victor Lowrie  
401 Essex Building

## PROGRAM

- 1) Report of the Special Committee on Club Financing.
- 2) A gardening film in color.
- 3) "Trigger Talks" by a few.

Do try to be present at this Meeting. A Special Finance Committee has been working for several months on our financial situation and will present their findings and make some recommendations at this October Meeting. You will, in all probability, be asked to vote on their recommendations which could conceivably have a bearing on the amount we pay for future dues.

\* \* \* \* \*

Coming: A SPECIAL CHINESE AUCTION. Await it!

\* \* \* \* \*

## BERRIES INTRODUCED FROM SOUTH AMERICA

Strawberries and blackberries bearing giant-sized fruits were collected in South America in 1957 by USDA horticulturist George M. Darrow (retired). They may have important characters to breed into our domestic fruits.

Both native and improved strawberries were collected in Chile. They are forms of the species Fragaria chiloensis, one ancestor of our cultivated strawberries. They appear to be relatively disease resistant. The fruits are remarkably firm -- firm enough to pick and handle in bushel baskets. Most of the wild ones are easily capped. They don't meet our taste standards, but do have several features our plant breeders are interested in. They were collected in both arid and humid locations and from the mild coastal climate and well up toward the permanent snow line where the berries ripen even after freezing.

Three important blackberry species, each with fruits 2 inches or more long, came from high in the Andes Mountains in Colombia and Ecuador near the Equator. Rubus gachetensis, said to be tasty as well as resistant to drought and cold, and R. macrocarpus were collected in the wild near Bogota, Colombia. One plant of the latter species collected also on Mt. Pichincha in Ecuador had in a single cluster 42 buds, flowers, and fruits. The fruits, deep wine colored long before ripening range up to  $2\frac{1}{4}$  inches long. Best of all was a plant of R. roseus collected high on Volcano Tungurahua in Ecuador, likewise prolific and having 42 buds and fruit in a single cluster. Nearby was a plant appearing to be a hybrid of R. roseus and a common local species -- encouraging evidence that R. roseus will hybridize

It will take years of breeding and testing before we can expect results from these introductions. Blackberries from the short-day equatorial region are particularly difficult to bring into bloom in this country. Eventually we may get something of value for special needs and areas of the country.

Reprinted from The A.H.S. Gardeners

## NO MORE LEGGY PETUNIAS

Having trouble with your petunias running wild or over-reaching their allotted space? Have you tried to control them by mixing Phosphon D in the soil?

It seems that two scientists at the U.S. Department of Agriculture Research Center, Beltsville, Maryland, were successful in keeping petunias short and compact by growing them in soil treated with that new planting growth regulating chemical Phosphon D. No change in the flowering habit was detected nor in the general health of the plants.

Tests were made with both one ounce and four ounces of Phosphon D per 100 pounds of soil, the results indicating that the more of the chemical used, the shorter the plants.

However, the scientists warn that where temperatures remain high at night the chemical does not work as well nor can it be relied upon.

Phosphon D is formulated by the Virginia-Carolina Chemical Corporation, Richmond, Virginia.

## OUR 1959 FLOWER SHOW

We did it...we did it...we did it...It could be said that we lifted ourselves by our own boot straps and we did come through! Everyone said they didn't have anything in their gardens, yet we had 545 specimens this year as against 600 for last year. And in spite of the fact that most of the men who formerly contributed the greatest number of arrangements were either ill, out of town, or otherwise unable to help out this year, we still had 56 arrangements as against 78 for last year. Not bad -- in fact darn good!

We heard many fine comments on our Show, thanks to all of you. So often the Chairman gets the credit for a good show and the blame for a poor one, when really he has very little to do with it. He can do everything in his power to set up a neat show and to promote harmony within his group, but it is still the specimens and the arrangements from you, the members, that finally spells success. To you belongs the credit!

And so I sincerely wish to thank all of you who worked so diligently on the Show...and all of you who searched your gardens and made our Show a fine one with your beautiful specimens and arrangements. And a special thanks to all of our professional members. We are indebted to them for their fine displays. We are fortunate in having so many capable and willing members in both the professional and amateur ranks. The committee extends a very grateful thanks to all who helped.

Eng Hoyme, Flower Show Chairman

### THE WINNERS

GRAND CHAMPION SPECIMENS \* Carl Nelson                      ARRANGEMENTS \* Stan Lund

SWEEPSTAKES \* SPECIMENS \* Al Nelson                      ARRANGEMENTS \* Eng Hoyme  
Eng Hoyme

COURT OF HONOR \* SPECIMENS \* Carl Nelson - 2              Bill Ost - 2  
Otto Erickson              Bill Kelly  
Al Nelson                      Chas. Proctor

ARRANGEMENTS \* Stan Lund - 2  
Eng Hoyme

38 men brought 545 specimens -- 15 men brought 56 arrangements

### POINT RANKING

#### Points for Specimens

Al Nelson	44	Otto Erickson	32
Eng Hoyme	44	Les Johnson	28
Bill Ost	38	Geo. Germain	23
P. W. Young	38	Sherm Pinkham	21
Frank Vixo	34	Bill Kelly	21

#### Points for Arrangements

Eng Hoyme	20	Bill Kelly	20
-----------	----	------------	----

## OCTOBER CHORES

Time to prepare for a better garden next year. A good clean-up of all diseased plants, uprooting and burning of annuals and removal of all stalks from perennials are the first and essential steps you must take.

Continue to spray roses for black spot, mildew and aphids; this will help them go into the winter as strong and healthy plants - a helpful protection against moisture.

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 seeding before the ground freezes too hard.

Clean up the vegetable gardens, 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 and an activating agent.

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.

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

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

After last winter's experience, we learned the importance of moisture. Therefore, be sure to keep your garden on the moist side. At this writing, we are getting much rain from Mother Nature but if the Fall Should turn dry before a hard freeze, be sure to resort to the hose and sprinkler. You cannot give your evergreens or newly planted shrubs too much water regardless of weather, so play it safe with plenty of moisture until the ground is frozen so hard that the soil cannot take more water.

Now is a good time to take a trip to the nursery to select those shrubs and trees you want to add for their color. It may be too late to place your order for Spring delivery. Evergreens, balled and bagged, can be planted quite late. Here again, though, water them generously, until the hard freeze.

If you haven't planted your daffodils by now, you had better wait until next year, but you can make up for the loss by doubling up with tulips. Tulips can be planted as late as the ground can be worked and even later than that if you will keep the area, reserved for tulips, covered up until your bulbs arrive or you are ready to plant.

No flowers, not even dahlias, offer the gardener the range of color as do tulips. Then think of the cheerfulness they bring you after a long drab winter with their brightness of color from early May until late June.

OVER THE GARDEN GATE

by Bill Hull

We were indeed fortunate to have George Spader, Executive Secretary, MGCA, with us over the weekend. Although we did not have a special meeting of our Club during George's visit, we attended a special all-club meeting at the University on Friday evening, September 25, as part of a group of about forty members who came out on a miserable, raining evening. The tour was canceled, and we had an indoors meeting in the Horticulture Building with speeches by Dr. R. Widmer, Dick Stadtherr and Mr. Spader. Followed by dinner at Lido's with twenty men attending there.

The next morning, Saturday, we had a small caravan to the University of Minnesota Arboretum and the Fruit Breeding Farm where we were hosted and addressed by Dr. Leon Snyder, Archie Flack and Dick Stadtherr. Mr. Spader was much impressed by the outstanding arboretum we have in this area and left the area full of praise for the work being done there. Following that tour, there was a luncheon at Hasty Tasty, Hennepin and Lake, with an informal talk and question and answer period with Mr. Spader presiding.

I was personally able to visit the other clubs with Mr. Spader, who met about 200 members of Men's Gardens Clubs while he was here. It seemed to me that he succeeded in bringing the national office closer to us and was of considerable service to many clubs. Come back, George Spader, the door is always open to you.

\* \* \* \* \*

Rode to work the other day with Bill Ost, the tuberous begonia man. He represents our club in the MGCA national begonia testing program and is full of praise for that program. Bill has a lot of new ideas which would easily make a good program on the subject of begonias.

\* \* \* \* \*

Seems to me we've never had so much illness as during this year. Bob Bryant is recuperating back at home, after being a very sick man we understand. M. Lifson is up and around after minor surgery, which luckily turned out not to be as serious as was suspected. Tony Koester is still in the hospital and would appreciate your cards. Mrs. Herb Kahlert and Mrs. Ev Haedecke have both been quite ill, a fact which you might want to pass on the distaff side of your family. Perhaps there are, or have been, others who are ill. If you know of any, please inform Cheer Chairman, Paul Kroeger or President P. W.

\* \* \* \* \*

Ask Archie Flack how he got started in the fruit brokerage business. A most interesting experience. Archie had achieved wide recognition by the time he was 25, but he'll be slow to admit it to you.

\* \* \* \* \*

Four of us help man the Horticultural Society Booth at the State Fair. Was a joint responsibility that day with MGC of St. Paul. Good experience representing a fine group.

## OVER THE GARDEN GATE (con't)

It would surely be interesting to know the different voluntary gardening capacities in which our members serve. Consider those presidents and committee heads of the Minnesota Horticulture Society alone! How about the men who have worked on Park Boards in the area, the garden writers, the speakers who have given hundreds of speeches to women's clubs, the past national president of MGCA and the national director, the volunteer supervisors of public rose gardens, individual church grounds.

If you want to make out a case for our club being a true service organization, add to the above the public plantings in park areas, the free garden shows, the countless advisory capacities pertaining to gardening.

Wonder how much tax money would have to be spent if all of these MGCM volunteer efforts were suddenly put on a pay basis?

\* \* \* \* \*

## OLD WIVES' TALES ABOUT WATERING

Out at the agricultural research station at Fort Collins in Colorado, they recently concluded a five-year study of the most efficient way to water grass. From April through October they sprinkled test lawns at varying intervals, using varying quantities of water.

What they found out is what other researchers have been discovering elsewhere; that most of the widely held beliefs about watering are nothing but old wives' tales.

For instance, nearly everyone will tell you to wait until a lawn is dry and then soak it thoroughly. Light watering they say is worse than none. Just the opposite says research. Light watering, done frequently, is by far the best.

But if you water lightly, won't all the roots be drawn to the surface? Not at all says research. Contrary to popular belief, roots do not "reach" for water. And no matter how heavily or lightly you water, a majority of the roots will be distributed throughout the first six inches of soil.

Grass itself is 70-75% water. This water is essential for its life and growth and as used up, in the making of chlorophyl for instance, it must be replaced. If soil dries as little as half an inch, grass may be under severe drouth strain.

Right there is the clue to best watering practice. The ideal arrangement would be to start watering early in the season and to water every day or so whenever not raining. That, of course, is why automatic underground irrigation systems are growing fast in popularity. They make it possible to water a lawn quickly, at any hour of the day or night, with the least waste of water.

Even if you can't water that often, do the best you can. Contrary to the old wives' tales, even a little water will do good.

One thing everyone can do is to feed the grass regularly. Well fed grass is