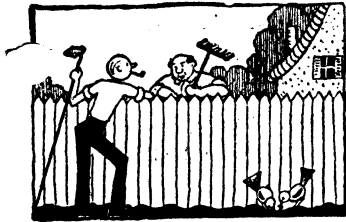


THE GARDEN SPRAY

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS



MEMBER—MEN'S GARDEN CLUBS OF AMERICA
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Vic Lowrie, Editor

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ANNOUNCING THREE SEPTEMBER EVENTS!

1. Tuesday, September 11th

Regular monthly dinner-meeting at
Hasty Tasty Cafe, 1433 W. Lake St.

2. Saturday, September 15th and Sunday, September 16th

Annual Fall Flower Show and Family
Picnic at Park Board Greenhouses,
38th & Bryant South

3. Saturday, September 22nd

Visit the Experimental Station of
the Horticultural Department of
the University of Minnesota

Officers

Fred Paul, President

Vic Lowrie, Vice-President

Rene Dufourd, Secretary

Bill Brooks, Treasurer

Cortis Rice, Jr.,
Past-President

Back at our old stamping ground for the first Fall meeting, Tuesday, September 11, and we expect the whole gang to turn out. Dinner at 5:30 P.M. and Archie Flack, with the aid of the members of his committee, has worked out a program you'll not want to miss.

Chris Mosberg will talk on Spring Flowering Bulbs in conjunction with a movie in color with sound. No, you won't be able to hear those "Rare Beauties from Holland" break through the soil, but you will be well instructed and highly entertained with some perfectly astounding masses of color.

Then, to help you garner some multicolored ribbons the following Saturday, Bob Bryant has consented to give us a few "What to do's" and "What not to do's" when exhibiting specimens at flower shows. So come prepared to load up on how to win the blue ones!

But that's not all, for Harold Kaufmann winds up the meeting with his popular Bull Session. Just imagine, from 8 o'clock on you get into a huddle with the boys whose special interest is your interest. You can move from one group to the next; ask questions, relate experiences, stay as long as you like

FALL FLOWER SHOW

"X" September 15th on your calendar, for that's the day we dress 'em up and send 'em on parade. They shouldn't take much fixing for this show. Mother Nature has been primping them up all Summer with refreshing rains and cool nights. If you've attended to your chores and kept those uglies away, the sweet things will give the judges a trying time. Let's try to make this the most spectacular Show ever!

The Classification Committee has established the largest range of classes ever developed - 99 in all - and Rene had to rush out and buy an extra lot of ribbons to take care of all the would-be winners.

So take that schedule into the garden with you and carefully check off each variety of flower in your border against the lot number on the schedule. Then Saturday morning bring them to the Park Board Greenhouses and you'll be surprised how many will place!

FLOWER SHOW MUSTS

1. Watch the garden for 10 days before the Show
2. Cut late in the evening and harden off
3. Cut long stems and extra flowers with a sharp knife; cut on a slant
4. Remove excess foliage, set in deep water at once in a cool spot

Qualifications to Watch

1. Color - clear, not muddy
2. Size - uniform, large
3. Form - typical of the variety, both face and back of bloom
4. Substance - mature and fully developed, but not past prime; individual blooms, no side buds
5. Stems - long, uniform in length, straight and strong without blemish. Flowers well set on stem; terminal flower looking at the sky
6. Foliage - remove all below water line. Remove imperfect leaves

Place Your Exhibits Early

The Park Board Greenhouses will be open early on Saturday morning, September 15, so bring your entries over early and get through arranging before the crowd arrives around noon. If your blooms are properly hardened off, they'll stay fresh for days.

Identify Your Stuff

Be sure to put your name on the bottom of each container used for arrangements, as well as those for house plants and potted material. In this way confusion and loss will be avoided.

Bring the Whole Family

The Family Basket Picnic will be held at Park Board Paint Shop Saturday, September 15 at 5:30 P.M. Plan to bring the family and friends. Coffee served.

Suggestions

1. Remember the judging takes place the moment the judge sees your entry
2. Select specimens by comparison with a number of others and select the best you have
3. Transport exhibits to the Show in plenty of water
4. Water plentifully exhibits on display

We mourn the passing of our good friend and fellow member, Allan G. Dewar. Although Allan had been inactive for some time, he was an ardent gardener in his

TREE PEONIES

Originally growing wild in the Mountains of China, tree peonies were later imported into Japan and still later into Europe. They come in three distinct types: the European - a double, having broad foliage; the Japanese, having both single and double bloom with narrow leaves; and the Lutea Hybrids, which come in yellow, orange and red. These are propagated with difficulty, hence are quite expensive.

Although not so versatile for cut flowers as the herbaceous type, tree peonies are excellent for use in the garden, particularly when used as small shrubs in landscaping material, and their gorgeous bloom will add color and distinction to your perennial beds.

In contrast to the herbaceous type, tree peonies become woody and do not die down to the ground each winter. Normally, mature plants grow to an ultimate height of five feet. Once established, you should experience little difficulty carrying them through the Winter.

Tree peonies like semishade, but, if they are planted near trees, a complete fertilizer should be applied two or three times during the Summer, and the plants should be watered during dry spells. Growth is slow, and it takes several years to produce a good specimen plant, so be sure to buy three-year-old plants. The better varieties can be purchased from Oberlin Peony Gardens, 425 Penn Ave., Sinking Springs, Pa.; Louis Smornow, Upper Brockville, N. Y.; and Curtis Gardens, 5930 Argus Road, Cincinnati, Ohio.

The plants are available in an exquisite array of colors varying from white to pink, red, purple and all shades of yellow. Some of the loveliest varieties include Pink, Archiduc Ludovico, Jules Pierlot, Carolina d'Italie and Reine Elizabeth; Red, Flambeau and Souvenir de Ducher; Yellow, Chromatella, Souvenir de Maxime Cornu and La Lorraine; and White, Lactea and Flora.

Tree peonies are propagated by grafting on vegetative rootstocks and later form their own roots above the graft. They are grown in pots as young plants and thus can be planted at any season. When shipped dormant, the plants usually are handled in September and October.

Tree peonies bloom earlier than the herbaceous type of peonies, but, when the blooming season is completed, the foliage is attractive for the rest of the growing season.

A sandy loam soil is preferred, and good drainage is essential. The plants generally are considered to be heavier feeders than the herbaceous type. Work plenty of well-rotted manure into the bed when planting.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA EXPERIMENTAL STATION

Archie has arranged with the faculty members of the University Farm School for our Club members and the adult members of their families to visit the Experimental Station. Although this station is under the direction of the Fruit Department of the University of Minnesota, their tests encompass a wide range of ornamental

trees and shrubs as well as fruit. We are to bring a picnic supper and dine together. Now read carefully: The meeting place is at the junction of Highway 7 and 41 in Excelsior at 2 P.M. on Saturday, September 22nd. Dr. Leon K. Snyder will meet us there and escort us to the Experimental Station.

SEPTEMBER CHORES

It will soon be bulb planting time. Daffodils may be planted as soon as delivered, the earlier the better. Prepare the soil well and add a liberal application of bonemeal. This will stand your bulbs in good stead for a number of years. Set daffodil bulbs in the ground so the top of the bulb is 5" below the surface. Arrange them in drifts by rolling eight or ten out of a bag and planting them where they land.

Don't overlook the fragrant, colorful hyacinths. They too should be planted in masses or clumps a little later. Also the spring flowering crocus, scilla, galanthus (snowdrops), erythronium (trout lilies), muscari (grape hyacinths), and mix in some roots of Mertensia (Virginia Bluebells).

Most varieties of lilies should be planted in late Fall. Read your lily catalogs carefully for many have to be handled with great care. There are, however, many varieties that are easy to grow. This is particularly true of the recently introduced American and Canadian hybrids. Lilies native to China and Japan also do well in our climate. Do try some of the hardy varieties. They will add a touch of majesty to your garden. The kinds listed in a chart elsewhere in The Spray will prove easy to handle and establish. They are recommended by Alan MacNeil, one of the country's leading authorities on the genus. Lilies like rich soil and need good drainage.

When the leaves of gladiolus turn yellow, the corms are ready to be taken up. Cut the tops off flush with the corms and place in a shallow box to dry. Do not leave them in the hot sun too long, and protect them from frost. Dust with 1 to 5% DDT, and after allowing them to dry 4 to 5 weeks, remove the old corms from the new, dust again, and store in a cool, dry part of the basement.

September is the best month for thinning and rearranging perennial borders. Do not disturb the Fall blooming plants until Spring. Before replanting, dig the bed thoroughly and be generous with plant food. Lily of the valley will do better if replanted every three or four years. Retain the strongest pups and set 3" apart each way. Plant just below the surface.

Keep nursing your mums. Feed them up until they start to bloom. Keep them securely staked and disbud for large bloom. Continue to spray or dust dahlias. Soak them well once a week and feed every 15 days. Keep tying the new growth to stakes and disbud for large blooms and longer stems.

It's time to stop feeding and cultivating your roses. Also go light on watering unless we should run into a period of drought late in the Fall. But continue your dusting or spraying program, and remove leaves from the bed as they fall.

Poppy seeds can still be sown. They come up in no time and with a light covering, will winter well. Keep phlox from going to seed; cut off the pods as soon as they form. Hedges should not be trimmed or sheared this late or you'll force immature growth which won't ripen.

Small plants of lantana, ageratum, verbena, coleus, marigold, bedding begonias, petunias, geranium and others will make attractive house plants this Winter if given lots of light. Pot them early so they may become well established before taking them into the house. Be sure to protect them from frost.

Improve your vegetable garden with green manure by sowing winter rye (2 lbs per 100 square feet). Spade the rye under next Spring, thus adding to the humus supply of the soil and improving the structure. The same purpose can be accomplished by dig-

AUGUST GARDEN TOUR

Threatening weather may have kept a few delicate members closeted out of the rain's reach, but the showers didn't break anyway until we had wound up a perfectly enjoyable evening and were on our way home - with minds full of new gardening ideas - and maybe the little moisture that fell at that time helped those ideas to germinate.

What an interesting garden have the Dufourds, our dinner hosts for that evening! Rene is a real gardener and as you probably all know, a staunch apostle of organic gardening - and well may he so continue if the results he has achieved with both vegetables and flowers are any criterion of what organic gardening has to offer.

But aside from the quality of his fruits and vegetables and the attractiveness of his flower borders, the entire layout was most effective - the landscaping with the fence of grapevines dividing the home garden from flower beds and lawn was indeed well done and gave the whole place an atmosphere of charm.

Our hosts also provided the caterers who served one of the most appetizing meals of the Summer. Thank you, Mr. & Mrs. Dufourd, for your generous hospitality, and congratulations on your gardening accomplishments!

By the way, did any of you pay particular attention to Rene's Espalier apple tree? It's a young dwarf tree only three years old and will produce the upper branches during this, the fourth year. I'm wondering if other members have had experience with the Espalier system of growing dwarf trees; if so, would certainly like to hear from you. We need such material for The Spray.

After leaving the Dufourds, we visited the R. C. Adams', T. P. Regan's, W. R. Dutcher's, R. A. Phillips' and the O. H. Erickson's. All had centers of interest, specialties of one kind or another, but probably the most fascinating of all was a little gem at the end of the line - a jewel of a garden on a forty-foot lot owned by Mr. and Mrs. O. H. Erickson, who are the architects of as lovely a small garden as one could ever hope to see. Probably it is best described as a miniature estate: lawn, walks, perennial borders, a rose bed, a tuberous begonia bed, a pool, a rockery, a cutting garden hidden behind a hedge, vines, creepers, trees, shrubs, evergreens and a range of annuals that most larger gardens rarely accommodate - oh, yes, and manicured to perfection. Orchids to you, Mr. & Mrs. Erickson. Yours is a fairy garden!

Bob Phillips had an unusual collection of five roses, some in immense tubs, which he has wintered in his basement for three or four years. But the highlight in his garden was a really rare plant - a collector's item if you please - which goes by the name of Metasequoia. Am not going to tell you any more until I get its history from Bob, so look for it in an early issue of The Spray.

Almost forgot to mention that at our August meeting we had garden gate prizes donated by Herb Kahlert - Iris, named varieties, and good ones too! Rene pulled the firecracker out of the box for Victor. Thanks again, Herbie!

TAKE THAT PICTURE!

Don't overlook the opportunity of taking colored pictures of your Fall blooming plants, as well as Fall landscape effects in your garden. We need these for the Club's film library and for our Christmas party. By all means include

OLD STUFF22nd ANNUAL SHOW MINN. DAHLIA SOCIETY

Taken from the Question Department of "My Garden", the English magazine:

Q. I have a small root of lily of the valley on which blooms are always pink. Is this a rarity?

A. The pink form has been in cultivation many years but has never become popular, probably because it is not an attractive shade of pink. The botanical name is *Convallaria majalis* var. *rosea*.

Many of our members will be exhibiting at this outstanding show, to be held September 10 and 11 at the Northwestern Bank, 7th & Marquette. Our own Harold M. Stephens is serving his second term as president of the Minnesota Dahlia Society, and Bob Bryant, Bill Holmberg and Tony Koester are on the Show Committee. Don't miss this glamorous display of the "King of Flowers."

A KEY TO LILIES TO GROW IN THE GARDEN

By Alan MacNeil

Kind	Flower		Plant Height	Flowering Date
	Shape	Color		
<u>EARLY</u>				
Martagon Album	TC	White	4-7 feet	Late June
Hansonii	TC	Yellow	3-4 feet	Late June
Backhouse Hybrids	TC	Ivory, Mauve, Pink, Copper	4-7 feet	Late June
Candidum	Tr	White	5 feet	Late June
<u>MIDSEASON</u>				
Canadense	TC	Yellow to brick-red	4-7 feet	Very early June
Superbum	TC	Orange-red	5-9 feet	Mid-July
Regale and Centifolium Hybrids	Tr	White	4-6 feet	About mid-July
Brenda Watts	Hyb	Vermilion	5 feet	Mid-July
Edna Kean	Hyb	Cherry-red	4 feet	Mid-July
Coronation	Hyb	Clear Yellow	3-4 feet	Mid-July
<u>LATE SUMMER</u>				
Tigrinum	TC	Orange-red	5-6 feet	Mid-August
Seneca	TC	Apricot-red	6-7 feet	Late August & September
Henryi	TC	Orange-yellow	4-7 feet	Mid-August
Speciosum punctatum	TC	White and pink	5 feet	Early August
Speciosum rubrum	TC	White & crimson	3 feet	Later than one above

Flower shapes: TR - trumpet; TC - Turk's Cap

Spray early growth with bordeaux mixture. Stems often winter unaccountably underground, so, close to plants, always weed by hand. In mid-summer, spray with nicotine to control aphid. In cutting flowers, leave two-thirds of the stalk if possible. In Fall, when stems have died, cut