

THE GARDEN SPRAY



BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

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

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Vic Lowrie, Editor

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ANNOUNCING TWO SEPTEMBER EVENTS

Tuesday, September 9th

Our first Fall Meeting at Hasty Tasty
on Fiftieth and France South.

A program of interest to everyone; one
you will not want to miss, regardless.

Saturday & Sunday, September 20 & 21

Our Annual Fall Flower Show at the Park
Board Greenhouses, 38th & Bryant, which
promises to be our biggest and best.

OFFICERS

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

With our next regular meeting, September 9, we start our Fall Dinner Programs and the boys tell us that they will be right down our alley, with speakers we will enjoy and on subjects we all want. Since our September meeting precedes the Fall Flower Show by but 11 days, the main subject will be "A Practical Demonstration of a Flower Show," telling when to cut and how to harden, exhibits of blue-ribbon specimens and also-rans, with speaker pointing out what the judges look for in specimens, what pitfalls to avoid and what good characteristics to seek. We meet at Hasty Tasty, 50th & France South, 5:45 P.M. sharp, and what say we have a record-breaking attendance? Am sure we all have a number of gardening experiences to relate, questions that need answering, problems still unsolved. There is no better place to exchange gardening thoughts and ideas than at our regular monthly meetings.

So why don't we all try to set aside the second Tuesday in every month as our MUST gardening date and try our utmost not to let anything interfere. Now - clear the deck for Tuesday, September 9 and we'll be looking forward to seeing you all.

G. VICTOR LOWRIE

MUM PHOTO CONTEST

Here is an opportunity to have some fun and make a little money on the side. Dick Lehman is anxious to get some 35 mm. Kodachrome slides of a wide variety of mums, hence this interesting contest. The contest is open to all our members. You can take your Mum pictures in your own garden, your neighbor's, or even journey down to Faribault and take them at Lehman's Nursery. Dick will pay \$1 for each slide accepted and is offering 13 additional prizes ranging from \$50 down to \$10. So climb aboard, boys; get your entry blanks from the Secretary, Rene Dufourd - you may make as many entries as you wish.

OUR FALL FLOWER SHOW

Saturday, September 20 is the day. Now go place a circle around that date on your calendar and decide as you read this notice that this time you are going to enter something, if only one bloom or house plant or arrangement. This has been a splendid growing year for almost everything. Every single amateur gardening member must have something to exhibit, so let's try and make this Fall show a full membership show - and for those of you who are exhibiting for the first time, our September program will show you just how to do it. Look over the show schedule; it covers just about everything in bloom at this time of the year in Minnesota gardens; if you have anything that isn't listed, enter it in the miscellaneous group. It may be so unusual as to win a blue ribbon. Your show committee is working hard to make this our Show of Shows; don't disappoint them; let everyone enter at least one specimen - we hope all will enter many!

FALL FLOWER SHOW COMMITTEE

General Chairman - P. W. Young	Vice Chairman - A. I. Nelson
Schedule - G. G. Cerney	Housekeeping - O. H. Erickson
Registration - G. S. Titus	Staging - S. F. Pinkham, Sr.
Judging - S. D. Lund	

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 sharp knife; cut on a slant.
4. Remove excess foliage, set in deep water at once in cool spot. Stems with sticky sap and hollow stems, singe the stems severely before plunging into deep water.

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. See-

tember 20, 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. Judging starts at 3 o'clock.

BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY

The Family Basket Picnic will be held at Park Board Paint Shop Saturday, September 20 at 5:30 P.M. Plan to bring the family and friends. Bring the refreshment of your choice.

IDENTIFY YOUR STUFF

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

SUGGESTIONS

1. Remember the judging takes place the moment the judge sees 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.

THINGS TO DO

Sure enough, bulb planting time is around the corner with daffodils already waiting to get going. Plant them early - the earlier the better - but prepare the soil good and deep; add lots of bonemeal and a little sand on the bottom to contribute to good drainage. While looking through the catalogs at the enticing new varieties, don't overlook some of the old standbys that have performed so faithfully over the years.

As a winter protection, set daffodil bulbs in the ground so the top is not less than 6 inches below the surface. And as with all spring bulbs, try planting them in drifts as nature's wildflowers grow - roll the bulbs out of a paper bag and plant them where they fall.

A bit later, plant the fragrant hyacinth, the colorful crocus, scilla, galanthus, muscari and be sure to mix in some roots of mertensia. Give your Spring blooming perennials the once-over. September is dividing and transplanting time. Here again a well-dug bed, well-enriched with compost or manure, will pay big dividends in health and blooms next year. Watch the lily of the valley for overcrowding; retain the strongest pups and set them 3 inches apart just below the surface. Don't touch the Fall blooming perennials until Spring.

Mums will reward you if given a good feeding right up to blooming time, and remember the plants can be moved at any stage in the growth, including while in bloom. Choose a dull day or after sundown in the evening - give them a shot of transplanting solution and shade them from the hot rays of the sun for a day or two.

Dahlias are a little late blooming this year, but their growth is lush, so keep them securely staked, give ample water, disbud for larger blooms and longer stems.

Roses will continue to give of their best until clipped by Old Man Frost, but they should be placed on a strict starvation diet starting immediately - no food, little water and stop cultivating. This will help harden the canes and allow them to go into the Winter with a minimum of new growth. Keep up your spraying program though until the last leaves fall and remove the fallen leaves from the bed. It's also time to stop feeding and cultivating shrubs; don't prune at this late date or you'll encourage new growth and weaken the plant against the hazards of winter.

When the gladiolus are through blooming and the leaves 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. Keep them out of the hot sun and protect against frost. Dust with 5% DDT and after allowing them to dry 4 to 5 weeks, remove old corms from the new, dust again, and store in a cool, dry part of the basement.

Sow your 'wild oats' in the vegetable patch and you'll be a better gardener next Spring. Two pounds of Winter rye per 100 square feet will add humus to the soil and improve its structure. Digging in compost or manure will serve the same purpose.

Next month you'll be wanting to plant tulips and lilies, but get your order for bulbs in early, particularly of the newer varieties, or you're likely to be disappointed.

How about sprinkling a little lime around your lilac bushes and working

NEWS AND VIEWS

Wonder what Hank Elieff did to those rows and rows of glads since we visited his Gladiolus Farm a couple of weeks ago? They sure popped out - and nice! Congratulations, Mr. & Mrs. Henry Elieff. We are indeed proud of you both for the honors you garnered at the Minnesota Gladiolus show last week. For the benefit of those who may have missed the newspaper story, just ponder over these: Champion Amateur Basket, Champion Amateur Case, the Koerner Memorial Trophy for arrangement of miniatures, two Champion Glads and Sweepstakes Award for Arrangement. If you weren't able to take it in, you missed a truly fine show. Never did you see such spikes and some of the miniatures were perfectly beautiful; some should be in every flower garden!

Here's another date you'll want to make on your calendar: September 15 and 16, when the Dahlia boys parade their stuff. It's to be another bang-up show and you'll find a number of our members among the top winners - sure hope they hold over some good specimens for our own show later in the week.

Copper Naphthenate, an extremely effective wood preservative, heretofore available only in a dilute solution ready for use, can now be purchased in concentrated form, according to a report in the August issue of BETTER HOMES & GARDENS. One gallon of the concentrate can be mixed with 3 gallons of mineral spirits. Wooden cold frames, flats and labels treated with Copper Naphthenate can be used immediately and will, of course, add years to the life of the wood constantly in contact with soil and moisture.

We are happy to report that Tom Regan is coming back with us following a siege of pneumonia which has kept him on his back, just far too long. We've missed you, Tom, and will be looking forward to seeing you September 9.

Bill Shaw is having to take things easy for a spell, so prescribes his doctor. He is able to get around and about every day but stays pretty close to home. Sure, he would welcome a visit from the boys, so drop in and say 'hello.' In the meantime, Bill, we all wish you a speedy recovery.

We are sorry to hear of the passing of Ed Montgomery's father, Judge Montgomery, and extend our deepest sympathy to Ed and his family.

Our own Minnesota State Horticultural Society will hold its 86th Annual Convention at the Curtis Hotel September 26 and 27. They are planning an unusually good program of speakers and a most interesting display of horticultural exhibits. The banquet on Friday night and the luncheon meeting Saturday noon are a must, and every member who can should attend. The full program of speakers and events will be published in the next issue of the Minnesota Horticulturist. Look it over carefully and make plans to take in as much of the convention as possible. "You will be repaid," says Eldred Hunt, the majordomo of the Society.

If you want to see Dahlias growing at their best; if you are interested in relating size of plant to size of bloom; if you would like to know how much color and excitement dahlias will add to your own garden; if you are a lover of flowers - who isn't - then don't fail to visit Bill Holmberg's display of over 800 varieties that will be blooming at their best Labor Day week, September 6 to 13. Bill says this is the last year he is going to raise so many. He plans to cut his stock down to between 100 and 125 next Spring. Address: 5303 Fremont Avenue North.

Your Photography Committee is wondering how many colored films you have taken of your garden this year and if every member's garden will

be represented at our Christmas Party. If yours hasn't been taken, better get in touch with a member of the committee while you still have color in your garden, and get a few shots snapped.

The husband of Mrs. Stanley Lund has a merry twinkle in his eyes these days and well he might! Esther came through with top honors again this Fall, winning the Grand Champion Ribbon and Sweepstakes for arrangements at the Edina Show, and taking both the Grand Champion and Sweepstakes runner-up ribbons at the Minnesota Garden Flower Society Show. Let's give them both a big hand. After all, they do have to be grown before they can be arranged!

We have a special invitation to attend the Fall Flower Show of the Min-

netonka Men's Garden Club which will take place on September 6 and 7 in the Laramie Ford Garage at Navarre.

Bob Adams is our new Program Chairman, heading up a committee which includes Archie Flack, Leon Snyder and Lloyd Bachman. The September program will be Bob's first, and you can be sure it will be a good one! We are indeed regretful over Ed Culbert's resignation as chairman, and most sincerely thank him for the splendid programs he provided during the earlier months of the year.

Will you please make the following changes in your roster: C.E. Doell, business phone, MA 1116; Greg Lucking, MA 1116; H. E. Elieff, MA 5225; W. H. Hull, FI 2721 business and home, WH 3451.

MGCA CHARTER PRESENTATION TO MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF RICHFIELD

On September 8 in the Banquet Basement of Bud's Cafe at 66th & Lyndale Ave. South, the Men's Garden Club of Richfield will meet to accept the MGCA Charter, which is to be presented by the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis. It will be an historic occasion for our neighbor club and their directors have expressed the wish to have the members of our Club join them in celebration.

In addition to the charter presentation, the boys have arranged a full evening's program: Cortis Rice will talk on "Preparing Specimen Blooms for a Flower Show," and Ralph Bachman will discuss "The Making of Arrangements by Men." Dick Lehman will be guest speaker and the Mayor of Richfield will be guest of honor. The program starts at 6 P.M., Monday, September 8, and all our members are urged to attend. Please make reservations for dinner through the club secretary, W. C. Thorne, Phone: residence RO 9-8821, business, DU 2323. On September 13 and 14 the Richfield Club will help dedicate the city of Richfield's new City Hall located at 70th & Portland by putting on a Fall Flower Show. This is to be quite an event and we are all cordially invited to attend.

SOIL CONDITIONER

Seems like the market is flooded with soil conditioners that promise everything but the breaking up of rocks. What with Krilium, Loamium, Fluffium, TecSolium, Acrisoil, NuSoil, Sprout Soil, Terrasol, D & P Soil, Dupont Soil and about 10 others, the advertising boys must be having a field day. As for us simple amateur gardeners.

our troubles are all behind us. Now, if any of you have tested one or more of these miracle wonders, our membership could substantially benefit from your experiences. So won't you please send The Garden Spray a report of your findings, recommendations and the use made of soil conditioners and we will publish them for the enlightenment of

AUGUST GARDEN TOUR

Could the daylight hours have been lengthened, we would have liked to spend more time in every garden visited, and particularly in the Bryant Greenhouses, for there was so much to learn about orchids and their other fascinating tropical plants. Unfortunately, by the time we reached the end of the tour, darkness had almost overtaken us and we had little opportunity for enjoying the Brook's estate. Our visit with the Bryants as hosts was a delightful beginning of an extremely pleasurable tour. The park-like surroundings were ideal for our dinner meeting, and our commissary committee is to be congratulated on the fine meal that was served.

As for the tour itself, it left nothing to be desired. Every garden offered something of interest and added to our fund of gardening knowledge. It is just too bad we are able to cover so few gardens during a season, for there is nothing that can take the place of a visual presentation or a practical demonstration of the results of good gardening. One cannot go into a member's garden, no matter how small, without learning something new, picking up valuable ideas, seeing unfamiliar plants under cultivation and getting better acquainted with another gardening enthusiast. Maybe we should organize Saturday or even Sunday tours. The Spray would like to get your thoughts on such an idea.

VOTE 'YES' ON THE GREEN BALLOT, SEPTEMBER 9th

The City Charter sets a limit on the tax rate for parks and playgrounds. For 1951 it was 3.38 mills. The 1951 legislature increased this to 5 mills for 1952 and provided that continuation of the 5 mills after June 30, 1953 would depend on the approval of a majority of those voting on the proposition in a referendum to be held in 1952. This referendum is to be voted on by the citizenry on September 9 and will appear on a green ballot. It will be the only issue printed on a green ballot so that it will be readily identifiable. Be sure and vote "YES" and urge your friends and neighbors to do likewise. Without a favorable vote, the limit will go back to the previous level of 3.38 mills. A "Yes" vote will not mean an increase in real estate or property taxes; it merely permits the city to appropriate that much for Park Maintenance and Improvement. On the other hand, a "No" vote will not reduce the tax; the money will then go into another city budget.

The membership of our Club, in recognition of the need for maintaining and improving our parks and recreational facilities, at our last regular monthly meeting on August 12, endorsed the higher levy and voted a contribution of \$25 to come out of the surplus in our Crab Apple Tree Project Fund to be paid to the Citizens Committee on Parks and Recreation. This committee is made up of a group of civic-minded citizens formed for the sole purpose of acquainting the voters with the whys and wherefores of the referendum.

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Those of you participating in the Club's testing program should keep your records up to date so that findings may be submitted to those in charge of special interest groups. Tony Koester, General Chairman, would also welcome reports on unusual horticultural experiences, whether you are a participant in the testing program or not. Although we have enjoyed a good growing season, we have also had a struggle holding our ground against the common (and also the unfriendly) weeds.