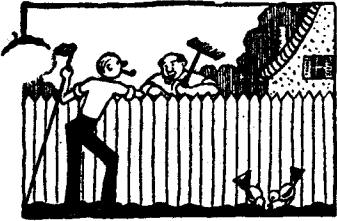


# THE GARDEN SPRAY

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

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



September, 1953  
Volume 11, Number 9  
G. "Vic" Lowrie, Editor

Associate Editors  
Don Methven  
William Hull

## ANNOUNCING FOUR SEPTEMBER EVENTS!

1. SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12 - OUR FALL FLOWER SHOW.
2. FRIDAY NIGHT, SEPTEMBER 18 - ANNUAL MINNESOTA STATE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY CONVENTION BANQUET AT FARIBAULT, MINN.
3. SATURDAY AFTERNOON, SEPTEMBER 19 - PERSONALLY CONDUCTED TOUR OF LEHMAN'S AND FARMER SEED NURSERIES IN FARIBAULT FOR OUR MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES.
4. SATURDAY EVENING, SEPTEMBER 19 - WE ARE ALL INVITED BY DICK LEHMAN TO A BARBECUE SUPPER IN HIS SPACIOUS GARDEN ABOUT 5:30 P.M.

(WITH SUCH A BUSY CALENDAR WE WILL FOREGO OUR REGULAR SEPTEMBER DINNER MEETING)

You will, of course, participate in our Fall Flower Show on September 12, which is open to the public on Saturday evening and Sunday from 10 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

We hope as many as can get away will attend the Annual Convention of The Minnesota State Horticultural Society in Faribault on September 18 and 19. As members of this society we should take advantage of the opportunity to support this important meeting.

If you cannot attend the sessions during the day on Friday, don't miss out on the Annual Banquet which will take place in the Faribault Armory on Friday night. Details of this dinner and entertainment are already in your hands and an early reservation is important.

The tour of Lehman's and the Farmer's Seed & Nursery Gardens Saturday afternoon, starting at 1 o'clock, will be most interesting as well as enjoyable. You are cordially invited to bring the adult members of your family.

Following the tour (about 5:30 P.M.) we will all congregate at the Lehman residence where Dick has generously invited us to partake of a Barbecue Supper with the Lehman family. This is a special treat arranged expressly for the adult family members of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis. Mark the date, Saturday afternoon, September 19!

## Officers

R. J. Dufourd	President
A. H. Flack	Vice President
C. G. Harkins	Secretary
T. P. Hughes	Treasurer
G. V. Lowrie	Past President

## OVER THE FENCE



People are living longer all the time, and taxes are going to be cut. Soon the only thing certain in the world will be crab grass.

## OUR AUGUST GARDEN TOUR

Thank you, Mr. and Mrs. Blackburn, for inviting us to serve dinner in your lovely, colorful garden. The surroundings made a splendid meal even more appetizing.

Our appreciation to the Program Committee and particularly its chairman, Bob Adams, for making the evening so enjoyable, what with a sumptuous dinner and the selection of such interesting gardens.

And to the members whose gardens we visited, congratulations on your accomplishments and so many thanks for allowing us the privilege of a visit!

## ON THE MEND

We are delighted to be able to report that Otto Erickson and Harold Kaufmann are back home with their families and flowers and are recuperating rapidly. They both asked to have their appreciation expressed for the flowers, notes, cards, and visits which our members so thoughtfully showered upon them.

## OUR FALL FLOWER SHOW

Saturday, September 12, is the day.

Park Board Greenhouses, 38th & Bryant Avenue South, is the place.

3 o'clock is judging time when all entries must be in place.

5:30 P.M. is family picnic time - so fill up the basket and join the happy throng!

## Show Committee

Chairman	- P. W. Young
Vice Chairman	- A. I. Nelson
Schedule	- G. G. Cerney
	A. H. Flack
Housekeeping	- C. F. LaCrosse
Registration	- G. S. Titus
Staging	- S. F. Pinkham, Sr. ✓
Judging	- S. D. Lund

As in the Spring Show the number of classifications has been enlarged - 156 classes. Again the exhibitor is not limited as to the number of entries he may make in a class. He may make MORE THAN ONE ENTRY provided that each entry is a different variety and the name of the variety is specified. In species where varieties are not named, the color must be specified and only one of a color may be entered.

Everything points to a good flowering situation by the 12th of September.

Study the Schedule carefully and bring everything "Showable" in as many classes as possible. If you have something good that is not classified, bring it along and enter it in the miscellaneous class.

Select your blooms carefully and HARDEN THEM OFF. Even a few hours in deep cold water and in the dark will help if you find you have overlooked picking a good one the night before.

## FLOWER SHOW REMINDERS

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. Singe severely all stems with sticky sap, or hollow stems, 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 AND IDENTIFY YOUR STUFF

The Park Board Greenhouses will be open early on Saturday morning, September 12, 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. Be sure to put your name on the bottom of the container used for arrangements, as well as those for house plants and potted material. In this way confusion and loss will be avoided.

## GARDEN FACTS FOR SEPTEMBER (University Farm, St. Paul 1, Minnesota)

### Vegetables

1. Continue your pest control program right up to killing frost. Near the harvest period use chemicals like rotenone or pyrethrum for insect control as they are not toxic to humans.
2. Don't harvest your carrots and beets for winter storage too early. Leave them in the ground until mid-October so your storage room will cool off before you store them.
3. Members of the cabbage family will continue to grow after light frosts. These include cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, kale, kohlrabi and brussels sprouts.
4. Vine crops like squash, pumpkin and melons are frost-tender and should be harvested as soon as the tops have been blackened by frost. Cure squash and pumpkin in a warm, well-ventilated room for about two weeks. Try not to break off stems or bruise the fruits in harvesting.
5. Pull up your onions if they don't seem to mature. Lay the bulbs in windrows with the green tops still attached. Cut the tops off when they have dried.

## GARDEN FACTS FOR SEPTEMBER (Continued)

6. Cut off the potato vines about 10 days before harvest to set the skin and reduce amount of skin feathering. Do not harvest late blight-infested potatoes when the plants are still alive.
7. Sow a fall crop of rye in open spots in the garden to add organic matter to your soil next spring. It will aid in controlling erosion during winter months also.
8. Pot up some plants of parsley and chives for use in the house during winter months.
9. After sweet corn ears are harvested, there is no reason for leaving the corn stalks to mature and extract plant food from the soil. Chop them up and put the stalks on the compost pile if no corn borers were present.
10. Do not cut off your asparagus tops until next spring. The tops will catch snow and provide moisture for the plants in next years' growth.

### Fruits

1. Do not harvest grapes too soon. They will be much sweeter if allowed to ripen fully on the vine. Use a sharp knife or a pair of scissors to cut the clusters from the vine.
2. Winter apples should be left on the tree until fully mature. A frost will not hurt the apples, since they can stand down to 27 degrees F. without injury. As winter apples mature, they develop a waxy coating that keeps them from shriveling during storage.
3. Certain fruits can be propagated by tip layering. This is done by bending over a branch and covering with soil just back from the tip. Cutting the stem where it is covered will often increase root formation. By next spring, roots should be formed and the new plant can be cut from the parent and replanted. Black and purple raspberries, currants and gooseberries and grapes can be increased in this manner.
4. Be sure that young fruit trees are protected from mice before winter sets in. A cylinder of hardware cloth, 1/4 to 1/2 inch mesh, around the base of the tree and 18 inches high gives the best protection. Heavy-weight aluminum foil wrapped around the base of the tree has given good protection in most cases where tried. Last winter a few cases were reported where mice ate through the foil. New window screen might be used in place of the hardware cloth, but it rusts out quicker.
5. Complete the job of pruning raspberries. Cut out all old canes that bore fruit and thin out the new canes. Six to eight canes per hill or three or four canes per foot of row are enough to leave for a full crop next year.
6. Clean up the rotted plums under plum trees and remove any mummied fruits from the trees. Destroy by burying or feeding to livestock. This will reduce brown rot trouble next year.

### Ornamentals

1. This is a good time to transplant peonies and bleeding hearts. Plant strong, vigorous divisions in well-enriched soil. Peonies should have full sunlight, while bleeding hearts do best in partial shade. Set the peony plants so the buds or "eyes" are about 2 inches below the soil surface.
2. Dig your dahlia roots as soon as the tops have been killed by frost. Cut the tops at the ground line and turn the clumps upside down to cure for a few hours in the

## GARDEN FACTS FOR SEPTEMBER (Continued)

3. House plants should be taken indoors soon. Clean up the pots and prune back the tops. Check carefully for insects. Make cuttings of geraniums, coleus, lantana, etc., instead of bringing the old plants in.
4. After tuberous begonias have been killed by frosts, lift the corms and cure in a well-ventilated room. After curing, place in a cool room for winter storage. Cover the corms with shavings to keep them from drying out. Potted begonias can be brought indoors to finish their bloom.
5. Protect your chrysanthemums from the first frosts. They may give you several weeks more of attractive bloom if protected. Burlap sacks or old blankets thrown over plants at night should give sufficient protection.
6. When harvesting glads, cut the tops off immediately and cure in a well-ventilated room. Keep named varieties separate. These can be put in paper sacks.
7. Remove annual flowers after they have been killed by frost. This will not only improve the appearance of your garden but will also reduce your insect and disease troubles next year. This refuse can be added to the compost pile unless the plants are severely diseased.

### THE PLANTING OF LILIES

By Alan and Esther Macneil

DRAINAGE. Good drainage is essential to the growing of lilies. Many authorities feel that it is the most important single cultural requisite. Bulbs cannot stand in stagnant water or soil and survive. The so-called 'swamp lilies' are not found in nature in the sour stale soils of swamps, but where water is moving and where there is a good supply of oxygen.

SOIL. Lilies like a well and deeply prepared soil, retentive of moisture, and high in humus content.

PREPARATION OF BED. In the well built and established garden, where the soil and drainage are good, no special preparation is necessary before lilies are planted. The hole for the bulbs is dug, the ground at the bottom of the hole forked to a depth of ten to twelve inches, and the bulbs are planted.

For fine culture new beds for lilies should be prepared as carefully as are those for roses, peonies, or other choice perennials. The gardener should remember that the bulb will feed to a depth of at least two feet and probably three feet.

MANURE. There is an old maxim, 'Never use manure with lilies,' which deserves some comment. The more or less ordinary practice of digging down twelve to fifteen inches, putting in a layer of manure, two or three inches of soil, and then the bulb, is a risky procedure. Such close proximity of manure to the bulb is believed by some to encourage the development of basal rot.

ALKALINITY OR ACIDITY: pH VALUE. The importance of alkalinity or acidity of the soil in relation to lilies is a controversial matter.

On the whole, the European lilies, *L. HENRYI* and strangely, *L. GIGANTEUM*, seem to prefer or tolerate an alkaline soil. The Tibetan species, some of our Pacific Coast lilies, *L. JAPONICUM* and *L. RUBELLUM* have a strong preference for an acid soil. Most others are adjustable and grow well in a neutral soil or one that is well fortified with a buffer

## THE PLANTING OF LILIES (Continued)

QUALITY OF BULBS. Top-size bulbs in a given species normally produce a maximum of flowers, and are selected for show gardens where they will be at their best the first season. Since there is a tendency for bulbs to split when they reach their maximum size, bulbs of moderate size are preferable for the average garden.

Bulbs should be purchased from a reliable nursery. They should be firm, sound, and completely undessicated. If they are only slightly desiccated, packing them in slightly moistened soil, sphagnum, or peat will normally revive them so that they are in better condition for planting. If the roots are strong and alive, it is a good sign of the vitality of the bulb. Neither the bulbs nor the roots should be soft or spongy, and all there must be no symptoms of basal rot.

SEASON FOR PLANTING. Fall is generally considered the most satisfactory season for planting the majority of lilies, and in some sections of the country it is the only season. Many of the Asiatic and a few of the European and North American species respond to spring planting.

As soon as bulbs are ready in the fall and can be delivered by the nursery they should be planted. The long cool days of October and November give them a chance to settle in and get established. Planting at the date the gardener prefers is not always possible, for bulbs mature at different times: some species as early as August, others as late as the end of October. If planting threatens to be very late, the gardener should prepare the bed and mulch it well to keep the ground from freezing and plant the bulbs directly in the open when they do arrive. The mulch should be reapplied as soon as the bulbs are in place; it will serve to keep the ground protected from sudden changes for some time after planting, and will be in place in spring when a mulch is most helpful.

Normally very late planting does little or no harm. We have planted as late as early January under two feet of snow; but in cold, bare winters damage can result.

DEPTH OF PLANTING. The standard rule is to plant a bulb to a depth of three times its diameter, the distance being measured from the bottom of the bulb. *LILIUM CANDIDUM* and *L. TESTACEUM* are exceptions and require more shallow planting, while *L. GIGANTEUM* should be placed just under the surface with the tip at the level of the ground. Depth of planting also varies with the heaviness of the soil in a given garden. The gardener must use his judgement here. In clay, the bulbs are planted less deeply; in light, sandy soil, more deeply than the recommended average.

SPACING. The number of bulbs to be planted in a group naturally varies with the taste of the gardener as well as with the species and location. For the finest effect the slender and smaller-flowered lilies are best used in clumps of a dozen or more. The larger-bloomed, showy lilies are effective in smaller numbers, though a minimum of six is recommended for a really good display. With the rarer and more expensive forms the gardener may wish to limit his planting to from one to three bulbs, particularly when he is experimenting to see how they are going to adjust in his garden.

The smaller-flowered varieties should be more closely spaced than the others -- placing the bulbs from five to seven inches apart is good practice. The larger plants with big blooms require considerably more space, and recommended distances between bulbs range from eight to sixteen inches.

DISINFECTATION OF BULBS. Minor abrasions to the roots and scales of bulbs are likely to occur in digging, packing, shipping, and later in the handling by the gardener after he has received them. Because injured sections are more liable to inroads of various forms of fungus and rot than are normal unbruised tissue, the use of certain disinfectants is

## THE PLANTING OF LILIES (Continued)

SAND. For a number of years gardeners have conscientiously bedded their lily bulbs in sand. Some specialists have felt that this was of little value but we believe that the antiseptic quality of clean, sharp sand is helpful in the establishment of newly planted bulbs.

POSITION OF BULBS IN THE SOIL. The recommendation that bulbs be planted on their side has little value in the case of most species. But with loosely scaled bulbs like *L. BROWNII* AND *L. CANDIDUM* it has real merit, especially in those sections of the country where the fall is apt to be wet for an extended period, permitting water to settle in loose crowns. Planting the bulbs on their sides prevents this.

START PAMPERING THOSE BEAUTIES  
GET SET FOR SEPTEMBER 12

### FUNCTIONS OF PLANT NUTRIENTS - BORON

Boron is the "Cinderella" of plant nutrient elements. For many years, it was regarded as an undesirable impurity in potash compounds used in plant food mixtures. Hence, many states required plant food manufacturers to guarantee that their products contained no more than a certain minimum percentage of this supposedly dangerous element. Actually, too much Boron is highly toxic to plants, but nowadays, in contrast to the days of yesteryear, boron in the form of borax is especially added to complete plant food.

Boron, as one of the group of "trace elements," is needed by plants in very, very small quantities. In common with the other trace elements, its specific functions in plant growth are as yet not clear. It is known, however, that where this element is deficient, plants exhibit hunger signs, or deficiency symptom patterns, which are corrected when a little borax is added to the soil or sprayed on the foliage.

Pure boron is an extremely scarce, high-priced and rather useless, brown, powdery metal, but the common borax, a compound containing this element, has a variety of uses, one of the most important being a raw material in some plant food mixtures.

Boron deficiency has been found in apples, alfalfa, sugar beets, red beets, cauliflower, cabbage, celery and citrus fruits, just to name a few. Some alkaline soils and acid soils that have been over-limed, have been found deficient in boron. This nutrient element leaches through the soil profile rapidly, and on extremely deficient soils annual applications must be made.

### PEONIES

(By Leon Snyder and Orrin Turnquist)

This is the time of year to plant peonies. Perhaps you have some choice varieties are growing in too much shade or have come crowded by nearby shrubs. Or, if don't have any of the newer types, you wish to buy some from a peony grower or nursery.

The first step in transplanting is to prepare the soil. Select a site in full light where there will be no competition from trees, shrubs or grass. A sunny spot in the flower border is an ideal place for peonies.

Plant the peonies in groups towards the back of the border. The soil should be enriched with well-rotted manure and a phosphate fertilizer. Dig a hole about 12 inches deep and put 6 inches of manure on the bottom along with a cupful of super phosphate. Cover over with several inches of soil and you're ready to plant the peonies.

Lift the old clump of peonies carefully with a spading fork. If the soil does not fall away readily, wash it away with water. With a sharp knife divide the clump in sections, each with a sizeable piece of root and three to five buds (eyes).

Plant in the holes you have already prepared. The buds should be about 2 inches deep after planting. Water well to settle the soil. After the ground freezes in the fall, cover the area with straw or manure for winter protection.

## ESTABLISH YOUR LAWN NOW

Late August and September is the very best time of the year to seed new Blue Grass lawns in the northern half of the country. It is also an ideal time to renovate an established but run-down turf. The natural time for grass seed to germinate is in the fall rather than in the Spring. At this time of the year, the extended season of cool temperatures and more dependable rainfall greatly favor the growth of young grass.

Lawn-making starts with thorough preparation of the soil, so spade or plow the soil to a depth of at least 6", then work up a fine seed bed free from lumps greater than 1/2" in diameter, applying plenty of complete plant food. On all except extremely infertile soil, three pounds of plant food per 100 square feet will provide ample plant nutrients to get the lawn underway. This should then be worked into the soil with the rake, or it may be applied after plowing or spading, but before the seed bed is worked up.

Don't succumb to the false economy of buying low-priced grass seed. Any seed mixture you purchase should contain at least 50% Blue Grass, with 85 to 90% guaranteed germination. Broadcast the seed at the rate of four or five pounds per thousand square feet with a spreader or, if by hand, sow half of the seed lengthwise and half crosswise to assure even coverage.

**DO NOT RAKE THE SEED IN. INSTEAD ROLL IT WITH A LIGHT ROLLER TO INSURE GOOD CONTACT BETWEEN THE SEED AND THE SOIL.** Raking the seed in is liable to bury some of it too deep, with a resulting loss of stand.

Now comes the critical time. Water the entire seeded area thoroughly with a fine spray and be sure that it has no opportunity to dry out even for one day, until all of the grass is growing. Nothing is so fatal to germinating seedlings than dryness, and more new lawns are spoiled during the first week after seeding, due to the soil drying out, than from any other single factor.

Let the grass grow as long as you possibly can before mowing it, since it needs its top growth to manufacture the starches which are stored in the roots over winter and which give rise to the new growth in the Spring.

As a final gesture, make sure that no mat of leaves remains on the grass over the winter.

By the Master Gardener

~~If you want to participate in our Fall Flower Show, and surely you do, but you need a little advice or a little help in getting your exhibits to the show -- don't hesitate -- call "P. W." Young or Al Nelson, or any of the members of the Show Committee. If they're not home, call your officers. We want this show to be the best ever, but above all, we want you represented!~~

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A DAHLIA SHOW SPONSERED BY THE MINNESOTA DAHLIA SOCIETY  
WILL BE HELD IN THE NORTHWESTERN NATIONAL BANK, SIXTH  
STREET AND MARQUETTE AVENUE, ON MONDAY AND TUESDAY --  
SEPTEMBER 14TH AND 15TH.