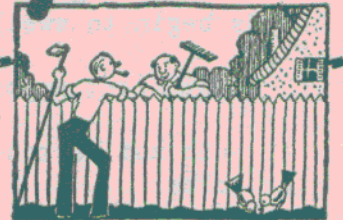




The Garden Spray

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

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



April 1962
Volume 20, No. 4
G. Victor Lowrie, Editor

Associate Editors
Wm. H. Hull, Neil Barry
Otto Nelson

April Meeting

Date: Tuesday, April 10, 1962
Place: Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church
Knox Avenue at W. 50th
Time: 5:45 P.M., Sharp
Price: \$1.75

Officers

N. W. Christopherson President
Ev Haedecke Vice-Pres.
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4620 Hampton Road

PROGRAM

"New Developments at the Arboretum" - an illustrated talk by
Dr. Leon Snyder

SHRUB AUCTION

Make the April meeting a must. Again Dr. Snyder has selected a fine group of shrubs and trees to be offered at auction. A list of the material is enclosed. This is your chance to pick up some very interesting plants at the price you want to pay.

If you have any friends who could use some of this material, bring them along.

Remember all proceeds of this sale go to the support of the Arboretum.

Remember May 8 - Annual FUN AUCTION. Bob Smith can use

TIME'S a 'WAISTING - GET BUSY

Spray woody plants to eradicate scale, insects, aphid eggs and other over-wintering pests with delayed dormant spray. Delay application until buds begin to swell.

At first opportunity wash off the soot from evergreens.

Do not be too hasty in uncovering protected shrubs, roses, perennials or bulbs.

Pansy plants may be set out as soon as the ground is ready.

Sweet peas should be planted immediately. Seed them about two inches deep in trenches and fill the trenches gradually as the plants grow.

Dahlias may be propagated by starting the old tubers in peat moss. When shoots are three or four inches high they may be cut off below a node and rooted in moist sand and kept in the shade. After rooting keep in a warm place.

The following vegetable seeds should be in the ground as early as possible: peas, parsnips, spinach, beets, carrots, lettuce, parsley and radishes.

Give the asparagus bed an early dressing of complete fertilizer and the same goes for rhubarb.

You may prune shrubs early in the Spring if they do not flower until Summer. Do not prune birches, dogwoods nor maples or they will bleed badly.

Seedlings started in the house should be transplanted as soon as possible. For strong growth get them into cold frames as soon as weather permits. In any event be sure seedlings are hardened off before planting into the garden.

Hotbeds should be ventilated on warm days but keep the sash well covered on cold nights.

Lawns can be improved better in the Spring than any other time during the year. First rake the lawn with a good firm rake, then feed it with a lawn fertilizer. Reseed where necessary; a little seed on an old established lawn will help a lot. Fill in low spots, seed and roll. When the soil is moist but not too wet to pack, roll the whole lawn.

Before vines start to grow, repair arbors, lattice work and fences and repaint. Might take a look at garden furniture and paint it also.

A good dusting of all flower beds with Bordeaux mixture as soon as winter covering has been removed, and again ten days later will prove very beneficial.

Keep an eye out for insects, cocoons, caterpillar nests and insect eggs and destroy them.

Just as soon as the ground is sufficiently dry rake up the yard and burn all the rubbish - not in the wind nor near anything that could be injured by intense heat.

WONDERING WHAT POTATO VARIETY TO PLANT IN '62

If you're wondering what variety of potatoes to plant this spring, here are a few tips from O. C. Turnquist, extension horticulturist at the University of Minnesota.

If you want a "very early" variety, choose Norland. It is an attractive red variety with shallow eyes and some resistance to scab. But it's not recommended for long storage, as the color tends to fade and the quality decrease.

For an "early" variety, plant either Irish Cobbler or Cherokee.

Where common scab appears to be a problem, as it is in most gardens, Cherokee would be superior to Irish Cobbler. And Cherokee is also resistant to late blight. Both Cherokee and Irish Cobbler have very good cooking quality.

Good mid-season varieties are Kennebec and Red LaSoda.

Kennebec is a high quality white variety with resistance to blight. It requires close spacing and vine killing to prevent over-size and rough tubers. Kennebec tubers should be hilled to prevent greening and frost injury.

Red LaSoda is an attractive, glossy red potato with medium deep eyes. It is generally more uniform in appearance and quality than Red Pontiac.

Snowflake, a new white variety maturing two to three weeks earlier than Kennebec, has performed well in some areas. The tubers are shallow-eyed and don't green as much when exposed to light as do those of Kennebec.

Probably the most outstanding variety in the 1961 University of Minnesota potato trials was Bounty. Its tubers are round and blocky in shape, with extreme uniformity. It's high in yield as well as quality. Its maturity is similar to Red LaSoda or Pontiac.

A new red variety, LaRouge, with the same maturity as Bounty, looked very good in the 1961 trials. It has resistance to both scab and blight but sets heavier than other red varieties.

Reprinted from U of M - University Farm and Home News.

SOME PROMISING NEW TREES AND SHRUBS

For Minnesota Gardens

University of Minnesota

Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station

1. Blue Beech (*Carpinus caroliniana*). The Blue Beech is characterized by its smooth, light gray bark with muscular swellings along its angular stems. Although commonly grown with a single stem, it is most effective when grown with multiple stems to form a natural clump. This species grows to a height of about 20 feet and forms a well-rounded and a bushy crown. The leaves are simple, ovate with toothed margins, turning orange to red in the fall. The fruits are produced in clusters at the tips of leafy stems. Each dry fruit is borne in the axil of a lobed foliar bract.

The multiple-stemmed habit of growth, the brilliant autumn coloration of the foliage, the interesting, hop-like fruits, and the gray, muscular stems are all interesting features that make this a worthwhile ornamental.

2. The Juneberries or Service Berries. (*Amelanchier* spp.) are quite similar to the Blue Beech in habit of growth and color of bark. There are several closely related tree-like species native to this area. The Alleghany Service Berry (*Amelanchier laevis*) is perhaps the most common in Minnesota.

TIPS GIVEN ON PROPAGATING PLANTS

Use vigorous new growth if you want to be successful in propagating a plant from a stem cutting, a University of Minnesota horticulturist advised gardeners attending a special horticulture session during the University of Minnesota's annual Farm and Home Week on the St. Paul Campus today (Wed. a.m.)

Old woody portions of a stem or old leaves do not root as readily as new vigorous growth, C. J. Weiser told the audience. Always remove flowers, flower buds and lower leaves which would be beneath the surface of the rooting medium. Usually about half the length of the stem is placed in the rooting medium, or the entire petiole (leafstem) on leaf cuttings.

Weiser recommended using clean sand, vermiculite or perlite to root cuttings. Though water is fine to start such plants as African violets, it does not hold enough oxygen for most cuttings. Soil may be used as a rooting medium, but often it, too, may have insufficient oxygen and it may also carry diseases that will attack the cuttings. All media for rooting should be in well-drained containers. Cuttings should be watered regularly.

Place the rooting container in a well lighted place so the cuttings can produce food for the formation of new roots, the horticulturist suggested. Wilting will result if the temperature is too high. Rooting hormones will speed rooting and increase the number and length of roots.

Most plants can be propagated from stem cuttings, including geraniums, coleus, chrysanthemums, garden carnations, philodendron and most shrubs and

TIPS GIVEN ON PROPAGATING PLANTS (Cont'd)

most shrubs and trees. African violets, gloxinias and some begonias are among plants propagated from leaf cuttings.

Evergreens need pruning to correct defects and to limit the mature size of the plant, according to Leon C. Snyder, head of the University horticulture department, who also spoke at the session. The pruned tree should always resemble its natural form, he said.

Reprinted from the University Farm and Home News
Institute of Agriculture, University of Minnesota

DWARF FRUIT TREES ANSWER TO SMALL SPACE

No room for fruit trees in your garden?

Dwarf trees may be the answer to your space problem, E. T. Andersen, University of Minnesota horticulturist, told a Farm and Home Week audience at a special session on gardening on the University's St. Paul Campus today (Wed. p.m.)

Other advantages of dwarf fruit trees are these: they come into bearing sooner than other fruit trees - often the year after they are planted; they are easier to prune and spray; they are easier to harvest, necessitating only short ladders if any at all; and they fit into home landscape or garden schemes. Furthermore, fruits are generally better in color, quality and size than from standard-sized trees.

Andersen cautioned, however, that a winter mulch is important to protect the roots. Plantings of dwarfing rootstocks at the University Fruit Breeding Farm were killed out entirely in unprotected plantings during the dry, snowless winter of 1958-59. But where these stocks were protected by weed cover or sawdust they survived. There was no serious loss of dwarf apple trees in sodded orchards where grass cover surrounded the roots.

In selecting dwarf fruit trees, consider varieties adapted to Minnesota conditions, Andersen urged. He pointed out that there are some natural dwarf fruits hardy in this area, in addition to those produced by grafting and the Northstar sherry, which tend to be dwarf in growth habit, as is also the case with the Haralson apple.

Reprinted from the Univ. Farm and Home News,
Institute of Agriculture, University of Minnesota

PLANT EVOLUTION AND MAN

Have you ever wondered how our vast variety of plants, flowers and fruits came into being? And what has been man's part in producing them?

Obviously the plant life of the earth has been developing for millions of years by the processes of natural pollination produced by wind or insect and by random seed distribution. This is Nature's way of creating new varieties and man has had very little to do with it until recent years. In fact, sex in plants was only recognized by man some 200 years ago and only 100 years ago the first fundamental laws of plant variation through cross breeding were discovered by Mendel.

Our primitive ancestors must have eaten wild fruits and grains thousands of years before some genius learned to save seed and plant it to grow a crop in a place more convenient for his purposes. Their land must have acquired value and the struggle for its private ownership began.

It would be logical to assume that once man began saving seed, he would soon associate the quality of the grain he harvested with that which he planted, and would begin to select seeds from plants with the longer heads of larger grains. This must have worked out pretty well with many annual plants, but with perennial berries, fruits and nuts which never come true from seed, improvement was difficult. But eventually man learned how to propagate his vines and berries by cuttings and root division and his fruits by grafting. There after any chance seedling of superior quality could be and frequently was handed on from generation to generation unless accidentally destroyed. This was true also of plants for beauty as well as for fruit.

Until recently every superior plant treasured by man has been the result of a chance discovery of one-in-a-million seedling produced at random by nature. Today man is trying to short-cut the slow processes of Nature by selection and of breeding superior strains of plant life. Results have been nothing less than spectacular. Within the memories of many members of this Club are the successes of Luther Burbank with fruits, the hybridization of corn by Wallace and others, the introduction of new and better varieties of vegetables and flowers by many workers.

Today hundreds of scientists are at work in Universities, government institutions and private nurseries, collecting plants from all over the world, cross-breeding different varieties, treating plants and seeds with chemicals or radiation and studying the results. Always, they are hoping for a mutation or a shifting of genes or chromosomes that will show up as an improvement in the plant for the benefit of the present and future generations of men.

The surface of this field has been barely scratched. Big things are certainly in store for the future.

Reprinted from The Garden Gazer, M.G.C. Akron, Ohio