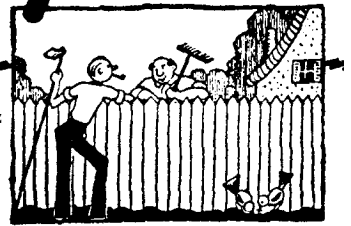




The Garden Spray

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

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



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7017 Dublin Road
Edina, Minnesota 55424

Associate Editors:
G. Victor Lowrie, J. Robert Kelly,
Charles R. Proctor, Harold R. Kaufmann

April Meeting

April 12, 1966

Judson Memorial Church
41st and Harriet Avenue

5:45 p.m.

\$1.75

Officers

R. E. Smith (Bob)	Pres.
G. R. Christenson (Bud)	V.P.
S. F. Pinkham (Sherm)	Sec.
Frank P. Vixo	Treas.

PROGRAM

"Wild Flowers of Alaska" Leon Snyder

This past year Leon visited Alaska and recorded on film the wild flowers native to this part of the world. The number and beauty of the wild flowers of this area is astounding.

"Minnesota Landscape Arboretum" Leon Snyder

Special Notice:

This April meeting will be at the Judson Memorial Church, 41st and Harriet Ave.

YOUR FIRM'S MESSAGE CAN BE INCLUDED IN SPRAY

As mentioned in the February issue, we plan to carry advertising in Spray, probably starting with the next issue. Any horticultural item or service should be included. If you are interested, please discuss it with Bert Zats at once.

OVER THE GARDEN GATE

by Bill Hull

If there is a personal information slip enclosed, it means you still haven't filled one out--and this is the third sent you. Won't you please do this right away so we can complete this information for officer use. This will not be widely distributed. If you are hesitating because you don't wish to reveal your birth date, leave it off. It isn't that important.

It was good to see Bob Savory and Rog Koopmans with us this last meeting, since it seems some time since either has been able to attend. And wonderful that Paul Burt is sufficiently recuperated to be present. We heard that P. W. Young has been bouting with the flu in California, from which he rapidly recovered. At one time there were a half a million people out of the schools (plus adults otherwise) in the greater Los Angeles area, with influenza type A.

Someone complained that his March Spray was missing a page, which makes us happy, because we're glad to know it's read that carefully.

Burt Zats is working on advertising for the Spray. Cortis Rice is on vacation somewhere. So is Sherm Pinkham, and Vic Lowrie is in the Virgin Islands.

A wonderful March meeting with Richfield's Jim Bezat discussing Dahlias with us and showing his fine slides. We also saw some photos of fine gardens in this, our sister club. Then another superb question and answer panel moderated by Archie Flack.

The articles we are requesting for Spray are coming in nicely, and you can see them being run in each issue. Again, thanks to Harold Kaufmann, chairman, and Phil Smith, vice chairman, and the entire committee, for this enterprise. We are even considering use of these in some manner at our 1967 convention here. If you haven't yet been approached and have an idea for a good article, please take the initiative and contact either of the above or me.

We've just seen a fine brochure on PEATS FOR SOIL IMPROVEMENT, published by the Cooperative Extension Service, Michigan State University (bulletin #516), and co-edited by Dr. Rouse S. Farnham of the Soil Science Department, U. of Minnesota. Very well done. One excellent table therein concerns uses and application rates for different types of peat. Available for about fifteen cents.

We're sorry to hear that Louis Fischer has been ill and unable to attend the meetings. This is the first we have heard of this. Louie, good health and a rapid recovery to you.

Robert Waln, In Memoriam

Many of you have read the writings of Robert Waln, past national MGCA president in 1963 and twice president of the Garden Writers Association of America. Bob died suddenly while shoveling snow at his home in a suburb of Philadelphia. Whether you personally knew him or not, Bob Waln affected your life, as a member of MGCA. He was progressive in his thinking and a great man to work with. He was very active in many horticultural and beautification groups and in every single one of them his judgment and guidance will be missed.

PRESIDENT BOB SAYS

by Bob Smith

Glad to see Paul Burt back with us at the February meeting. Harold Kaufmann has been home since the middle of March and is coming along fine. News from California indicates that P.W. is staying on awhile to have a gall-bladder problem taken care of. We hope P.W. has a speedy recovery and is back home soon.

The Dayton Flower Show, March 11 thru 19, featuring Italian gardens, was very impressive. Dayton's and Bachman's, who did the staging, are to be commended for another outstanding show.

The Spring Flower Show at the Como Conservatory will be held April 2 to 17.

I am very pleased with the enthusiastic manner in which the committees are working and planning this year's events. Bob Kelly and Ed Beery, co-chairmen of the Flower and Garden Show, have this important announcement for you:

The Flower Show committee, with the endorsement of the Board of Directors, has proposed a new approach to the show program for this year. We believe the plan will merit your approval and support. Our basic idea is to derive more enjoyment and satisfaction from the shows and to obtain wider membership participation. Requirements and procedures for entries will be simplified and we look forward to enthusiastic membership response.

Briefly the program is this: We will have monthly shows at the regular meetings, June thru September. Entries will be timed to allow display of blooms, which the single late show has excluded in the past. The shows will be less formal. Detailed plans are now in the making, combining many former techniques with the new program. Please watch for more announcements in the May issue of Spray. In addition, instructions regarding shows at each meeting will appear in issues of Spray preceding those meetings. The committee is looking forward to your participation and will do all possible to make this new approach rewarding to all.

Bill Brooks, Special Interest chairman, reports that the special interest program is moving ahead with a great deal of enthusiasm. The rose group is planning a meeting for April. Those groups receiving sufficient membership interest to warrant organizing are shown on page 10. If your first interest is not included, associate yourself with the group of your secondary interest and add to your garden enjoyment this year.

Dale Durst is getting out publicity on the Big Pumpkin competition and has a special announcement elsewhere in this issue.

COME TO THE NORTH STAR REGION MEETING APRIL 18

An evening of sociability, a chance to chat about gardening, will be the highlight of the North Star Region meeting Monday, April 18, 7:30 P.M., at the Oilmen's club, 12th floor of the Pick-Nicollet Hotel. This general meeting, open to all and hoping you can make it, will include a brief business session featuring election of 1966 officers. Our own Neil Barry, as retiring president, will be in charge. The group this year has featured several state awards and has held several meetings open to officers of the clubs, wherein they and official delegates can exchange information. Neil says the business session will be short and sociable, with garden talk being the main topic; we should all come. Refreshments can be ordered if desired.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU: ELWOOD SWANSON

Elwood Swanson is an accountant by vocation and a gardener by avocation. He has been with NSP for 16 years and has gardened for 15 years. Working from a plan conceived by Homedale nursery, Elwood is gradually landscaping his home at 11041 Queen Avenue South. Putting first things first, he has concentrated on shrubs and green grass the last few years and is a believer in Pax, Scott's, and a power mower set high, his aim being to grow the greenest grass in the area.

The 100 x 100' lot allows space for home, children (three of them ranging from six to twelve years) and flowers. His favorite bloom is the rose but his young garden sports a goodly number of petunias and marigolds. Perennials are a planned addition and any of you having extras could well check with this new member.

Elwood's charming wife, Mabel, is an avid 'Spray' reader. Mabel is the type that acts when the weeds show. She goes right out and pulls the trouble makers, root and all. So, rose growers and green-grass lovers, here is an energetic addition to your specialty group, and a good gardening friend to all MGC members.

..... JRK

GRASS GROWING ON BLACKTOP!

No kidding. It can be done. Last summer I saw grass growing in two different locations atop heavy blacktop. In one instance an unattractive and broad driveway was converted into a lovely winding walk, simply by laying sod over the portion to be covered. The sod, Scott's Windsor, was laid in the usual strips butted closely together and then watered and fed regularly. I could catch the end of the mat and lift it like a rug, since the strips had grown together through stolon action. At another location I saw a lovely home, fronted with a fine turf. When I tried to push a metal rod through the sod I realized it, too, was placed on blacktop. The entire front yard had been blacktopped and then treated as the small example I had seen. It was a solid mass and had been growing there for over a year when I saw it. In the large yard the sod could barely be pulled loose in the center of the yard, like a rug laying on a floor, but it seemed very tightly knit. At the perimeter, the stolons had forced their way into the seam at the curb edge and had tied the entire "rug" to the ground. Of course, this was an experiment to prove the stolon action of Windsor grass and I doubt if it has many uses for the average gardener, but it is not beyond reason for occasional use and would be a good way to store sod temporarily, rather than leaving it rolled up and rotting.

..... WHH

Off and away.....with the minister's blessing.

The minister, visiting his parishioner in the hospital, approached the bed and noticed how ill the poor man looked. As the minister stood there, the sick man gasped and tried to speak, looking increasingly ill. Obviously, he was in a horrible condition, wanting to speak badly but being unable to get a word out. In desperation, the minister grabbed a piece of paper and pencil and said, "Write it on here." The man scribbled down a few words, lay back and quickly succumbed. Of course the minister hastily called the floor nurse and all measures were taken but the poor man was too far gone to save. Later the minister remembered the hastily scribbled note and pulled it from his pocket where he had jammed it in the excitement

THE DOZEN BEST HYBRID TEA ROSES

by Al Nelson

For almost a hundred years, hybrid tea roses have been the most popular type of rose in the garden and for the commercial florist. This popularity is due to a number of traits that have been developed over the centuries. It has beauty of form and color. It has the ability to bloom in any season when the conditions are favorable. It has the restrained growth needed for a bedding plant; and it thrives over a wide range of soil and climatic conditions. It can be multiplied quickly by present-day propagation methods.

There were four species in China that had qualities which European growers sought. These traits were: continuous blooming, doubleness, slender and high-oinked buds. One specie which combined these traits was called the Tea Rose. Some of these species were not winter-hardy and could not thrive under severe pruning.

There were about eight species in Europe and Asia Minor that had been used for natural or artificial hybridization. These combined to supply their progeny with a tendency to doubleness, some repeat blooming, moderate winter-hardiness, tolerance of severe pruning (important in cold climates), and more sturdy stems. The type which combined these factors was called Hybrid Perpetual.

The French hybridizer, M. Guillot, crossed a hybrid Perpetual with a Tea and got a new type of rose which he named La France, and introduced it into commerce in 1867. This is considered the first Hybrid Tea.

There were no true yellows in the hybrid perpetual class, and the color was unstable in the Hybrid Teas that had been produced. Pernet-Ducher crossed Persian Yellow (A Foetida species) with a Hybrid Perpetual and got a new type of rose which was called Pernetiana. It was put on the market in 1900. Descendants of this rose produced flowers of copper, coral, salmon, orange, apricot, and yellow. Then Pernetian off-spring were crossed with Hybrid Teas, and the color traits were transmitted to the Hybrid Teas, ~~and the color traits in almost any color.~~ Unfortunately, Persian Yellow also transmitted a weakness to disease.

With improvements bred into the Hybrid Tea strain, public demand for plants increased. To root cuttings is slow. Nurserymen had, by this time, developed a better technique for multiplying their plants, and also increasing their vigor. The method was grafting. Seeds of a wild specie, usually Canina or Multiflora, are sown in the field. When the plants have reached proper size, bud-wood of the chosen variety is grafted into the neck of the wild stock. (The bud-wood is an undeveloped branch, and the neck is the area between the first root and the first branch.) When these buds have grown to the right size, the bush of the wild variety is cut off just above the budded stock. The chosen variety now takes over and is allowed to grow to the proper size for marketing.

Hybridizers are producing new varieties of Hybrid Teas each year. Any list is soon out-dated, but here are a dozen good varieties, with some of their traits, in the order which I would choose them:

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The Dozen Best Hybrid Tea Roses

(continued)

1. PEACE. Yellow blend, slightly fragrant, slow to repeat bloom, medium height, robust, disease resistant.
2. CRIMSON GLORY. Dark red, very fragrant, repeats well, average resistance to disease, listed as of medium height but is inclined to be low and sprawling.
3. WHITE KNIGHT. Pure white, no fragrance, fair at repeating, medium height, disease resistant, but subject to injury from thrips.
4. CHRYSLER IMPERIAL. Dark red, fragrant, repeats well, medium height, resistant to disease.
5. TROPICANA. Orange-red, fragrant, repeats well, medium height, disease resistant.
6. MEMORIAM. Light pink, fragrant, slow to repeat its bloom, listed as medium height, but is inclined to be short, average disease resistance.
7. CONFIDENCE. Pink blend, fragrant, fair at repeat blooming, medium height, average disease resistance, subject to injury from thrips.
8. SUTTER'S GOLD. Orange blend, very fragrant, slow to repeat, resistant to disease.
9. CHARLOTTE ARMSTRONG. Light red or dark pink, fragrant, repeats well, tall, disease resistant.
10. KING'S RANSOM. Deep yellow, fragrant, slow to repeat, medium height, disease resistant.
11. DAINTY BESS. Light pink, single, fragrant, repeats well, resistant to disease, medium height.
12. TIFFANY. Pink blend, fragrant, repeats well, resistant to disease, listed as medium height, but is inclined to be low.

I have been asked to tell something about my interests and activities in rose-growing. Here are a few items. Forty years of rose growing. Five years as gardener at the Veteran's Memorial Rose Garden. A member of the American Rose Society, the Minnesota Rose Society and the Royal National Rose Society of Britain. In addition to these routine activities, I usually have an experiment or two going, to learn more about roses. At the present time, I have six Tea roses that have survived two Minnesota winters without freeze-back, but the production of roses has not been satisfactory. There may be more factors involved than mere winter survival. I am going to give them two more years to prove their worth.

ANNUALS - IN 12 POINTS

by Archie Flack

- 1) Describe. Botanically annuals are plants which grow from seed, flower and seed in one season having completed their life cycle. In gardening many plants are treated as annuals that are botanically perennials, but if they can be raised from seed and flowered in one season they are usually referred to as annuals. Snapdragon is a good example. Do not confuse this with perennials such as delphiniums which can be seeded early in the year inside, and flowered the first year. Annuals are classified as hardy, half hardy and tender. The tender ones, of course, cannot be planted out until danger of frost is over; these would include salvia splendens, celosia, zinnias, marigold and our old friend, the tomatoe.
- 2) Advantages. The obvious advantage of growing annuals particularly in Minnesota is that one is not concerned with carrying them over the winter. Also, the wide range of color and form combined with a long blooming season makes them of major importance. Seeding can be started inside early if you have facilities such as fluorescent lights and hotbed. A cold frame will advance your season two or three weeks but, failing any facilities, many can be seeded in the open ground.
- 3) Selection. Plant breeders should be complimented on the wonderful work they are doing. In the writers own recollection petunias and marigolds had no place in the discriminating gardeners list. They can hardly be compared to what they were sixty years ago. There are so many good annuals that selection is largely a matter of individual preference. The writer prefers those that give a maximum amount of flower not hidden by the foliage. Here in Minnesota the following are suggested: ageratum, phlox, cosmos, carnations, calliopsis, celosia, cleome, dianthus, larkspur, marigolds, petunias, snapdragons, stocks, scarlet sage, scabiosa, salpiglossis, verbena, and there are two biennials that are garden gems, canterberry bells and foxglove. There are, of course, many more. Practically all those mentioned can be seeded outside where they are to flower, or in a separate border for transplanting. Expensive small seed such as the F1 hybrid petunias and snapdragons are better sown inside or under some controlled conditions. Salpiglosi prefers light soil, and the carnations require a longer season to give best results and should be sown early, preferably inside. Stocks to be seeded outside should be confined to Trysonic or "Ten Week." No attempt is being made to select the best strains or varieties of the above except perhaps petunias and snapdragons. Each year there are many new introductions and some of the old ones are discontinued. One cannot go very far wrong in selecting the all-Americans, but a visit to trial grounds, and members' gardens will assist greatly in helping make selections. One of the writer's favorite petunia, Red Ensign, does not appear to be listed this year. Any of the Magics are good in whatever color you prefer. Comanche continues to be tops. In the grandifloras, Seafoam, is a fine white, and a large flowered white for window boxes is White Avalanche. Pink Satin is an excellent pink and if you want a real blue, try multiflora, Blue Mist. There are so many good petunias the trouble is you are tempted to grow too many kinds. In tall snapdragons the Rockets were tops but they were at their best the first year introduced. The writer now prefers Burpee's Topper in colors that grow to three or more feet. Some of the good medium height are no longer listed, and Burpee's Tetras in colors are excellent. For a low growing fourteen-inch snap, Sprite, certainly filled the bill but that appreciably is not listed this season, and Carioca has taken its place.
- 4) Propogation. The seeding and care of annuals under fluorescent lights or in the hotbed is a subject by itself, and these comments will be confined to seeding in the open border. Those mentioned under selection have been seeded outside by the

Annuals - in 12 points
(continued)

writer, there are, no doubt, others. Follow the planting program outlined in the previous article on borders. The area of seeding to conform to that program should be about one foot in diameter. Smooth the area by hand and sow thinly, covering lightly with soil from around, firming the area with piece of wood about four by six inches or any other convenient method. Put a label in front of area with description and date sown. After germination and plants are established, thin out about one inch apart, the final distance varying with the kind, but further thinings can be transplanted if wanted.

- 5) Time of Seeding. This will vary but larkspur particularly should be seeded as soon as the soil can be worked. Most of the hardy annuals can be seeded early in May, but the tender ones should be delayed until at least the middle of May.
- 6) Planting Annuals in Border. You will be well satisfied with the plan of confining groups to only three plants as outlined in the previous article. This will give you color through the border and a constantly changing effect as the season advances. Hardy annuals can be planted out beginning even at the end of April. They will withstand frost.
- 7) Planting Annuals in Beds. In a general way, particularly in a small garden, beds should be avoided, but occasionally a long narrow bed can be used to advantage. These should be planted with those of low growing habit.
- 8) Annuals for Edging. If you prefer an edging to your border there are a number of annuals suited to this purpose such as ageratum and alyssum. Most seed catalogs list annuals for specific purposes and these lists should be referred to.
- 9) Staking and Tying. The method outlined in the article on borders is applicable here. Three stakes to each group of three plants with ties around the stakes, the plants growing up inside the ties. The writer has found an excellent way to handle petunias is to get chicken wire, one to two-inch mesh, twelve to eighteen inches wide, three and one-half feet long. Bend these around to form a cylinder about twelve inches in diameter. Thread two stakes through the wire mesh driving the stakes into the ground. Plant three petunias inside the wire cylinder and your problems are over. In a few weeks the cylinder is hidden and the wire prevents the petunia from rambling all over the place.
- 10) Feeding. From the time of planting until the middle of June, light side dressings of well-balanced fertilizers high in phosphates like 5-10-5 every 10 days is a definite advantage.
- 11) Cultivation. There should be frequent shallow cultivations until plants cover the area making further cultivation almost impossible. This cultivation will maintain a tilth which will act as a mulch, retaining moisture and destroying weeds, in addition to cultivating in the side dressing of fertilizer.
- 12) Maintenance. It is very important to remove dead flowers promptly before they go to seed, to prolong the flowering period and for appearance. Plants should be kept well watered to prevent injury in case of storm. The border must be watered during hot, dry weather. Overhead watering is unavoidable, and apparently does no harm and flowers are not injured. It is desirable to spray about every ten days with a general purpose spray. The chances are that this will control most infestations, but you should be alert to any specific trouble such as from aphids, leaf hopper and red spider, which might demand a specific spraying with malathion or DDT.

MANY FACTORS TO CONSIDER IN SELECTING SHADE TREES

Whether a shade tree will serve its function well in a particular location depends upon careful choice of variety and proper care to keep it in top condition.

Hardiness, longevity, mature size, adaptability to the site and freedom from insects and diseases must all be considered in selecting shade trees, according to Leon Snyder who spoke in Kansas City recently at the meeting of the Golf Course Superintendents' Association of America.

Hardiness is the ability of a plant to thrive on a given site, but it involves much more than resistance to low temperature, Snyder declared. The American arborvitae, for example, can withstand winter temperatures as low as -125° F. without injury, providing the drop in temperature is gradual. But if the drop in temperature is sudden, it can be killed at temperatures above 0° F. Hence to assure success with this species, it is necessary to select a site where temperature changes are gradual, such as a north slope.

One answer to the problem of getting hardy trees and shrubs, the horticulturist emphasized, is to purchase nursery stock as near home as possible or from an area with similar latitude and climate.

Slower growing species are generally longer lived and structurally stronger than fast growing species. Various poplars and silver maple are recognized as fast growing but relatively short lived. Although the silver maple is actually not short lived, it is subject to breakage by winds and ice storms as it reaches maturity. Slower growing species like the oaks, hard maples and ash are longer lived and usually more desirable.

Plantings should always be in scale with the surroundings; yet mature size of trees is often forgotten when selecting various species. Although large, open areas can take large trees, smaller varieties are needed near buildings. Flowering crab-apples and other small, ornamental trees are appropriate at the edge of woods or as a border for a fairway.

Adaptability to the site, one of the most important factors in selecting trees, involves knowledge of the soil type, soil pH, soil moisture and exposure to wind and sun. A study of trees in nature will help in choosing trees for a given situation, Snyder explained. Thus if the site is poorly drained and wet for much of the year, select trees which normally grow in swamps or river bottoms subject to periodic flooding.

Snyder listed these species as useful in wet soils if the seed source comes from nearby or from an area with a similar climate: tamarack, river birch, black ash, red maple, black spruce. Red maple requires an acid soil for best growth; sugar maple thrives only where the soil is deep, fertile and well drained.

Susceptibility to wind breakage should be another consideration. Green ash, hackberry and burr oak have a sturdy, wide-angle branching habit and generally resist wind. On the other hand, Idaho locust, silver maple and basswood are examples of trees to avoid in windy locations.

Don't forget the insect and disease problem when you select trees, Leon warned. The choice of a tree species based on insect or disease resistance must be made for each area. It is always safer to plant a variety of species than just one kind. Certain tree species like the American chestnut have been practically

Many Factors to Consider in Selecting Shade Trees
(continued)

eliminated because of the ravages of disease. Since Dutch Elm disease has been destructive in some places, it would be unwise to continue planting large numbers of American elms in those areas. Black locust and its cultivars should be avoided where the locust borer is a problem. Where there has been an invasion of bronze birch borer, planting the European White birch or the native Canoe birch would be asking for trouble. But the River birch might be used because it shows considerable resistance to this insect.

Although general tree care starts with the selection of the right tree, continuous annual attention is required to keep trees attractive and healthy. Good care should include proper pruning, fertilizing, watering and control of insects and diseases.

Special Interest Groups - Bob Smith's Column

Annuals	- Nate Siegel	Photography	- Les Johnson
Arboretum	- Jim Lowrie	Roses	- Al Nelson
Mums	- Sherm Pinkham	Trees, Shrubs & Lawns	- John Kolb
Perennials	- Phil Smith	Vegetables	- Chas. Proctor

DALE DURST ANNOUNCES BIG PUMPKIN CONTEST LOCALLY

Dale is in charge of the Big Pumpkin Contest for our club and I believe also for the region. We do know he is working with other clubs and that some, particularly Minnetonka, is anxious to cooperate. Of course all clubs can't be involved in all activities. Our Minneapolis' rules will be the same as MGCA's rules: (1) Grower of pumpkin must be under 17 years of age and be a resident of Minnesota. (2) Weight of pumpkin must be certified by a MGC member or a 4-H leader or a County agent. (3) A certification of the weight must be sent to Dale Durst, 6108 Oaklawn, Edina, Minnesota, before October 20. Our club will award prizes for the three largest pumpkins and all entries in the state contest will also be entered in the MGCA national contest. Burpee Big Max pumpkin seeds may be obtained from Dale for the asking, but any type of pumpkin or 'cucurbit' seed may be used.

George Germain and wife have been travelling all winter in their trailer. They were six weeks in Mexico, travelling about 300 miles south of Mexico City for a total of 3,000 miles. They left there on February 15 for the desert and Joshua Tree National Monument at Twenty-Nine Palms, California and should be home for the April meeting.

You wonder just how much some of our boys whoop it up when on vacation. Thor Solem sends regards from the Jamaica, West Indies Playboy Club, which is appropriately located on Bunny Bay. He might have seen more action than Paul Kroeger has seen in California. We keep hearing reports of the bare-breasted waitresses in California cocktail lounges, but Paul hasn't mentioned them although he's been out there two months. So, in fact, has P. W. Young. HMMMMM.

Northrup King this year introduces a new packet of flowers called BOUQUET OF SUNSHINE, a special blend of gold and yellow annuals. More than fifteen different varieties are included, such as zinnia, celosia, marigold, poppy, snapdragon and dahlia. Even a touch of the unusual such as gazania, leptosyne, bartonia and yellow lupin. Find a spot to try these in. Sounds interesting.