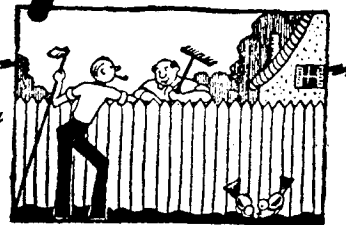




The Garden Spray

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

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



April 1967 Volume 25, No. 4

© 1967, Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Minnesota

William H. Hull, Editor, 7017 Dublin Road, Edina, Minnesota 55435

Associate Editors: G. Victor Lowrie, Charles R. Proctor, Harold Kaufmann,
Phillip H. Smith & Archie Flack

Club Officers:	President: Frank P. Vixo	Vice President: G. R. Christenson
	Secretary: Phillip H. Smith	Treasurer: Nathan S. Siegel
	Director: J. Dale Durst	Director: Albert I. Nelson

WE MEET AT JUDSON AGAIN .. APRIL 11

That's right. At Judson Memorial Church, 4101 Harriet Avenue, at the usual six o'clock time, at a price of \$2.00. The date: Tuesday, April 11.

Your guests and prospective members are welcome at this down-to-earth meeting with talks on two good gardening problems:

Archie Flack will discuss "Planning a Border," which is a presentation Archie has made to many clubs throughout the state.

Bob Smith will talk on "Growing Vegetables," which will be Bob's convention talk. National chairman of MGCA vegetable test program, Bob is a real expert. Makes the rest of us look like petunia pluckers.

PHOTOGRAPHS TO BE TAKEN AGAIN

If you still haven't gotten your photo taken, after chances at other meetings, come to the April 11 meeting dressed in your best and bring along the enclosed North Star Region book form, with check. Pic taking starts at 5:45 p.m. You don't want to be left out of this booklet to be distributed at the 1967 convention.

DON'T FAIL TO READ INSIDE:

Jack Kolb tells about lawns.
Dick Lehman prunes his clematis.
Prexy Frank promotes the auction.

Bruce Johnstone is congratulated.
Horrendous damage from air pollutants.
Too many people having children.

April 67

OVER THE GARDEN GATE

by Bill Hull

A fine letter to North Star Region president, Nate Siegel, from national president, Joe Howland, congratulations, etc. Nate will have a big job with the convention coming here. Joe, too; he's a native of Rhode Island, Ph. D. degree, was associate editor of Better Homes & Gardens, garden editor of House Beautiful, wrote a superb book "Gardens and Outdoor Living," and in recent years edits Scott's Lawn Care and is assistant to the president of Scott's. Years ago he was awarded an honorary membership for life in MGCA, a very unusual recognition.

Paul Kroeger writes from 564 N. Avenida Sevilla, Laguna Hills, Calif. 92653, and asks to be remembered to all of you. Finds himself working on a dry wall and a small garden. No escaping the bug, Paul.

When you're irritable and in a cat-kicking mood, take a quick dose of candy or cola, or even a slice of bread. It is said your blood sugar has run low and irritability steps in.

Recently saw some of Nate Siegel's beautiful moccasins, which he manufacturers. Pioneer Shoe Company is the name. Beautiful footwear for both men and women. Nate, you're being reluctant. Amazing how little we actually know about our members -- and friends.

The geraniums you will see in the twenty-two gardens on tour this summer are Pan-American's new seed-grown F1 hybrids, which come in eight colors. We understand they are quite outstanding, and probably prize winners.

Wish I could get my wife to throw away other junk as quickly as she does today's mail with that catalog I wanted to keep.

Potpourri: Half of the people alive weren't born when the A-bomb hit Hiroshima. A fourth of the nation's labor force will be working in the next couple of years at technical jobs that didn't even exist forty years ago. Gardeners and farmers have a bigger challenge daily with the huge population increase. It took a million years for world population to reach the one-billion mark in 1800. Then in the mere next 167 years it tripled to three billion. Now, it will take only 15 years to add the next billion. By the year 2,000 --- 33 years away -- it will reach seven billion. World population is growing at a rate of about two-percent a year, but the world's food supply is growing at only one-percent per year. Eighty-five percent of the children now being born are in Asia, Africa and Latin America. Pakistan alone will jump from 103 million to 300 million in the next 33 years. President Ayub Khan says that within a decade "human beings will eat human beings in Pakistan." If we think it adds up to a horrendous future, look at today's picture, when 12,000 people die every day of starvation - right now!

Congratulations, Bruce Johnstone

We are certainly pleased to see member Bruce Johnstone be elected to the presidency of the Minnesota State Horticultural Society. This brings further recognition to Bruce for the outstanding work he is doing. All of us in MGC Minneapolis certainly offer you our support, Bruce, in any way it is needed.

Of course, as a member club of 100 or more members, our president, Frank Vixo, is

Copy

YOUR PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

by Frank Vixo

Another day I received a letter from MGCA headquarters requesting 35 mm slides of: (1) "Before and After" pictures of civic beautification projects by local MGC members. (2) Outstanding gardens (over-all views - not close-ups). (3) Best slide of a member at work in his plant study project.

The slides judged the best will become a part of a set of 60 to be sent around to promote what members of MGCA do. It is planned to have their first showing at the Minneapolis convention July 12. Do you have some for us?

Due to a misunderstanding Vern Rouf's name was omitted from the club roster. Please add it to yours as follows: Vernon J. Roufs (Vern), 1064 W. Montana, St. Paul, 55117, business phone 645-3431, home phone 489-5604. Also, please add his name to your committee list as club photographer.

Got a note along with Herb Stevens' dues. His address until June will be: Herbert H. Stevens, c/o Jamaica Flour Mills, Ltd., PO Box 701, 59 Law St., Kingston, Jamaica, West Indies. Maybe you'd like to drop him a line.

At its last meeting your 1967 National Convention committee approved a budget of \$12,000. We'll need your help. Tell Dwight about how you can do your part.

Archie Flack called the other day to advise that Les Johnson will be working with him and Phil Smith on the Lehman Trophy committee. Another addition to your committee list.

At its last meeting your Board sanctioned the Lyndale Garden lighting committee forming a corporation for the purpose of expediting this project of the club and limiting liability as provided by such action. It would also assure tax exemption for donors.

The March meeting of the Board adjourned to a meeting of the Plant Auction committee. This committee urges that you plan now to bring a generous quantity of plants you wish to share from your garden. We need the plants and money as well as to find a new home for some of our plants. Be thinking about guests who might be interested in the club or who could benefit from attending. This is a good opportunity to have new members visit us and on the strength of your recommendation the club, as in the past, will pick up the tab for the dinner.

Five new members were voted into membership at the March meeting of the Board. We welcome them. Please add to your roster:

<u>Business</u>	<u>Home</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Zip</u>
729-2331	722-2034	Westen H. Anderson	5705 21st Ave. S.	55417
	588-4369	Henry Halvorson	4915 Golden Valley Rd.	55422
330-5750	881-4153	R. Leslie Manecke	8308 Golfax Ave. S.	55420
330-5706	881-4451	Donald C. Olson	10106 Portland Ave. S.	55420
822-6912	927-8982	John A. Roberts	5805 Xerxes Ave. S.	55410

SPRING LAWN PREPARATION

by John L. Kolb

Early Preparation

The normal gardener will begin work on his lawn long before the frost is completely out of the ground and the growth of grass begins.

This extreme early start limits the amount of work that can be done. The one objective that can be accomplished at this time would be to remove all foreign debris from the area such as twigs, stones, sticks, bones and such other debris as dogs leave behind, either damaging the grass or the lawn mower.

Severe raking should be avoided unless it is desired to thin the plant population or to remove excess amounts of thatch. Severe raking removes many desirable grass plants that look dead but are actually dormant.

If the weather should become warm (in accord with the calendar) and very little growth is noted, it might behoove you to get out the sprinklers and water judiciously for two reasons:

1. To raise the temperature of the soil.
2. To maintain adequate surface moisture which is often depleted at time of year by strong dry winds.

Fertilization

It is not wise to fertilize too early in the spring. The first fertilizer application should be timed with the ability of irrigation water to penetrate the soil or when growth of grass begins. Both of these conditions are correlated with the removal of frost and with temperature. Too early a fertilization allows the soluble salts of the fertilizer to lie in contact with the leaves, stems and crowns of the plants and can cause damage. This is especially dangerous if the fertilizer goes into solution, is not able to dissipate into the soil, and when subjected to below freezing temperatures the solution becomes concentrated due to the removal of water in the form of ice crystals. This leaves a concentrated salt solution in contact with the plant.

The first application of fertilizer is seldom applied much before May 1 or later in the Minneapolis area. This should be a 1# actual Nitrogen application of a 3-1-2 or 3-2-1 ratio fertilizer. The advent of the "clipping removal" bag will determine which ratio to use. If clippings are left behind use an approximate 3-2-1 ratio inorganic such as 12-8-4; 10-6-4, etc. If clippings are removed, then more Potash should be added with 3-1-2 ratios of inorganic such as 12-4-8, 15-5-10 or 10-3-7.

Mowing

Mowing should be done as needed. The mower should be set at its lowest preferred height of cut for the specific type of grass you are growing. For those who have specialty grasses, the following may serve as a guide:

- A. Bluegrasses alone or in mixtures - 1½".
- B. Bentgrass - 1" to 3/8" maximum, grading down to 5/32" depending on quality of the mower and intensity of bentgrass management.

.....continued

Apr 1

Spring Lawn Preparation
(continued)

Weeds

Many complaints of grassy weeds in early spring turn out to be the "wide" leaf fescues" and "Red Top." These grasses appear as isolated clones or clumps in early spring, looking very similar to a crabgrass invasion. As the vigor of the other grasses increases and temperatures increase these two species gradually fade into insignificance.

Broad-leaf weeds are more easily controlled these days by two good formulae chemicals, "Banvel-D" and "MCPD." Both of these materials can be used at much lower temperatures than the 2,4-D materials, thus application can be made before the annual flower beds are planted. They also are of low volatility and are kind to the grass plants.

Summary

To prepare the lawn in early spring, merely give nature time to adjust. In the meantime, clean all trash and foreign debris from the lawn surface. Water when dry winds begin to remove the surface layer of soil moisture or when the calendar indicates that soil temperatures should be higher than they actually are. When soil temperatures are above 32° and grass growth is evident, fertilization may begin.

Mow and water as needed. Mechanical aerification is seldom if ever needed in the spring due to the expansive power of moisture between soil particles under the low temperatures of winter.

The second application of fertilizer should be 1-2 lbs. of actual (inorganic) nitrogen applied approximately June 1 or at least three weeks after the first application.

Summer treatment of fertilizer and mowing will be quite different from spring. It is hoped that another article will be available at that season.

Seeding is usually not recommended unless the variety of grass is to be influenced or bare areas repaired. It behooves the gardener to decide why the area is bare and proceed from there.

NATE SIEGEL GIVES CLUB LIST OF PROSPECTS

Nate Siegel, new president of the North Star Region, MGCA, recently presented to the club a list of about fifty men who registered at the Parade of Men's Gardens last fall. Members are to contact these men and see if they are interested in joining our club. Nate, who brings to the region presidency, experience as a delegate and officer last year, has indicated the region might repeat this tour this coming year. How can we help with the region, Nate?

PRUNING CLEMATIS

by Dick Lehman

Because the modern hybrid clematis is made up of a combination of so many species it is necessary to know when the variety normally blooms in order to do the right job of pruning. Some varieties normally give their first flowers in June while others bloom first as late as August. The early bloomers need little or no pruning. The late bloomers can be cut way back to the ground each year as all the bloom is produced on the current season's growth.

Jackmani Group and Hybrids: Summer and autumn-flowering varieties producing masses of medium-sized flowers on the young wood from June until late autumn.

Pruning Guide

Hard pruning is necessary with these varieties to encourage strong shoots from the base. Cut down to about two feet from the ground every March or April or even lower, if possible. If the plant produces shoots from below the soil it can be cut down to ground level either in late fall or early spring. This group includes:

Com. de Bouchard	Hagley Hybrid
Ernest Markham	Huldine
Etoile Violette	Jackmani
Gypsy Queen	
	Lady B. Balfour
Davidiana	Mme. Baron Veillard
Duch of Albany	Mme. E. Andre
Integrifolia	Ville de Lyon

Species:

Paniculata, Recta, Tangutica, and Texensis

Lanuginosa Group: Early summer to late autumn-flowering varieties producing very large blooms on both old and young wood.

Pruning Guide

To obtain the early and very large flowers, thin out weak and dead wood in March or April and cut back to a good live bud 4 or 5 feet from the ground. If a mass of smaller flowers in summer is desired, then prune hard in March or April as with the Jackmani group or cut back to the ground in late October or November. This group includes some of the very finest clematis for Minnesota conditions:

Blue Gem	Henryi	Nelly Moser
Candida	Lord Neville	Prins Hendrik
Crimson Star	Mme. LeCoultre	Ramona
Elsa Spaeth	Mrs. Cholmondeley	W. E. Gladstone
Fairy Queen		Wm. Kenneth

.....continued

Pruning Clematis

(continued)

Patens and Florida Groups: Spring and early summer flowering varieties, producing enormous flowers on last year's wood, and sometimes smaller flowers on the young wood in the late summer. The varieties with double flowers belong to the Florida group.

Pruning Guide

As these varieties bloom on year-old wood, little pruning is necessary. The dead ends of shoots should be trimmed back in March or April to live buds.

This group is really not recommended for growing in Minnesota as quite often the wood winter kills in a severe winter so few or no flowers are produced the following year....just like climbing roses. From my observations it appears that a clematis stem and bud will stand a temperature of 20° below zero for 10 to 12 hours. Longer periods or colder temperatures will injure or kill the stem but usually does not harm the root. If you do grow these varieties I would suggest cutting the stem back to 5 or 6 feet in the fall and laying down the stems and covering them with dirt and a foot of leaves.

Barbara Jackman
Belle of Woking

Daniel Deronda
Duch. of Edinburgh
Lasurstern

Miss Bateman
Miss Crawshay

AIR POLLUTION CAUSING MORE CROP DAMAGE THAN WEATHER

"If the pollutants in the air go unchecked," Dr. O. C. Taylor of the University of California said recently, "it won't be many years before agriculture in certain parts of America ceases to exist." Dr. Taylor made this prediction during a panel discussion at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, in Washington in late December.

Another agriculture expert, Dr. Robert Daines of Rutgers University, noted that "for a price, we can do something about pests. But we have no control over air pollution, at any price." The panel members said that air pollution in parts of New York, New Jersey, Florida, California, Oregon and Washington now causes more crop damage than the combined havoc of wind, cold and ice.

STATE SUPPLIES ARBOR DAY TREES FOR APRIL 28

This is a service of which I was ignorant and thought you might want to know of it too. Each year our State Conservation department offers any quantity of trees wished, to schools for planting only on public or tax free land. I had pursued this thinking we might work on this as a slub program but the state already is pursuing it. In fact, anyone can obtain tree seedlings at any extremely low cost providing they are to be planted in mass and are not simply for beautification of your home property. Facts on request.

FOR SALE SWAP OR GIVE AWAY

As a service to club members, THE GARDEN SPRAY announces this new monthly department in which you can list any personal item for disposal at your own terms. There is no charge for listing herein. Deadline is the third Tuesday of each month.

FOR SALE: Kodak Flash Bantam camera with F 4.5 lens, and these attachments, sky filter, haze filter, portrait lens, flash gun attachment, and Cal-Cam adjustable focal frame permitting you to snap flowers, for example, at a predetermined focal range. All sold as a unit at less than half price. Bill Hull.

FOR SALE: Ten-inch camera tripod which opens to about four feet. Also Arcadia pocket-size self-light slide viewer. Half price. Bill Hull.

USDA SEIZES THREE PESTICIDES

Three pesticides have been seized by U.S. marshalls in Pennsylvania and in Nebraska for the following reasons: (1) Was not registered as required by law, was misbranded because the label didn't bear an ingredient statement, directions for use, a warning statement, it was not effective under the circumstances claimed, and wasn't a safe product. (2) This product was misbranded because it contained less of an active ingredient and more inert ingredients than claimed on the label. USDA also said it was adulterated in that its strength or purity fell below the professed standard or quality as expressed on the label. (3) The third product was actually a line of products which were misbranded, adulterated, contained active ingredients not listed on the label, etc. I, for one, congratulate USDA for these actions. The products were brands which I haven't personally encountered. If you wish the names, please request them from me.

HAROLD (THE BADGER) TELLS US ABOUT THE BADGES

Harold Kaufmann informs us of the following key to what markings on our badges imply. If laminated green that person is an active member; yellow, a professional; blue, an associate; and red, an honorary. A Gold Star shows the year that member won the Bronze medal while a Blue Star shows the year he served as President. A silver Dot shows he is a Lehman award winner. Current officers are titled in gold, while major committee chairmen are titled in green.

Harold particularly suggests we not be aloof when we see a new member with a plain white badge. Be cordial and hospitable. Make him feel welcome and wanted as he is, or he wouldn't be there at all.

Harold wants us to turn in our badges before the meeting program starts because badges taken home seldom come back. Several of us would rather have all badges left on throughout the meeting and give us a chance to get better acquainted, even if we had to be corralled as we are leaving. It is three members' work on badges now.

WE NEED YOU

in Minneapolis
in July 1967.....

Mr. National Officer-Director, and your family:

1. We surely do and this is our "formal" invitation to you, along with a report of progress.
2. Our group is having many meetings these days and making progress. We are moving.
3. Dwight Stone and whole committee working hard. Entire club getting the mood.
4. Thanks for your many comments on national publicity. Thank Hal and George too.
5. Dwight said this morning we have about forty local registrants already.
6. Today we received a blank, signed check from Illinois (Belvidere) for two people.
7. We expect many reservations, including yours, as soon as next GARDENER comes out.
8. We are trying very hard to make this "THE CONVENTION OF THE FLOWERS."
9. Searching locally for a photographer to take needed pics and others for sale.
10. Planning to use the idea of supplying hometown stores ready to mail home.
11. Writing individual letters to some 225 registrants at two last conventions, urging attendance. Will not send to you but want you most of all.
12. Great news from Des Moines which is switching from bus to train with forty people!
13. German Band coming from Belvidere MGC to play for us. All but one are MGCers.
14. Special accommodations for President Howland, George Spader and families confirmed.
15. Rooms for all meeting places, meals, banquets, talks, assemblies tied down.
16. Menus roughly confirmed. Had hoped to serve you fabulous Minnesota Walleyed fish, but hotel chefs beg off. Too difficult to serve in large quantities.
17. Official weather forecast for this period from 61 to 83, slight possibility showers.
18. Twenty-two gardeners working/planning for snow to melt so can put gardens on ready.
19. Registration committee acknowledging daily those registrations received.
20. Separate corporation being formed to raise \$50,000 to provide lighting for Lyndale Gardens (city, public) and rose gardens therein. Our people spearheading but our name (MGCmpls) not in title of corporation.
21. Dr. Howland, President, coming on April 1 to meet with steering committee, giving him chance to approve and dovetail Board of Directors plans and needs.
22. Ladies definitely will get to tour the fabulous Betty Crocker (General Mills) kitchens.
23. George Spader set up to bring signs and will have table of MGCA supplies, etc.
24. Perry Davis, THE GOURD MAN OF IOWA (Des Moines) bringing his gourds and to have a table of them on display. Many in this area have never seen Perry's display.
25. MGC Richfield planning on a special flower show in conjunction with convention. Talk of making it an invitational national. Don't know whether time will permit.
26. Richfield and Minnetonka clubs both cooperating beautifully and anxious to help. A special day honoring each club is so designated.
27. Dwight Stone supervising preparation of a booklet of local club members at \$5 each, including photo. Many already registered and mugged. 100% participation Minnetonka club!
28. Downtown Mall on Nicollet Avenue, outside your hotel door, promises to be ready for strolling by July. Looks as if it will, too.
29. Hotel Nicollet renovating lobby, mezzanine, etc., as promised months ago. Will be completed in May. Hotel bending over backwards to please us so far.
30. Booth sales and brochure advertising getting going, some success. Working hard at it.
31. Publicity committee planning on material for the next issues of THE GARDENER and the NEWSLETTER. Hal and George please note. We understand deadlines for both April 1. We supplied Minneapolis letterhead and George mimeographed letter thereon. You saw it. Many favorable comments as to content and appearance. Thanks, George. Same committee hoping to get local publicity, always a problem in big city, as in past.
32. Trying to get one of radio stations to provide us personally with twice a day news summary in capsulated form, for us to read or for their announcer to come read.
33. Wondering if we would get much response if we set up public press meeting in Minnesota Press Club for President Joe Howland? Also working on radio/TV appearances.
34. Weather getting mild, snow melting. This our dirty time of year with top of snow filthy with road dirt and sand. Wonder how grass ever grows where that melts.

Come see us in July.

From all your friends in Minnesota.

NORTH STAR REGION OF MGCA ROSTER

Full name of member

First name of wife

Club membership

Office held, if any

My garden is on tour Yes No

Home/Telephone Number/Business

Garden interest or speciality

I plan to attend all three days of the convention

I plan to attend part of the convention

I have a convention job assignment

I do not have a convention job assignment, but would like one

Signed

Received from _____

The sum of _____ dollars as (partial - full) payment for registration fee for 1967 MGCA. This money is not refundable.

MGCA Mpls. Conv. Treasurer