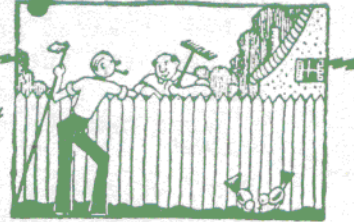




# The Garden Spray

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

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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

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## APRIL 9 MEETING .....

.... again at Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church, 50th & Knox Ave. S.  
at 6 p.m. with another delicious dinner for \$2.00.

## P R O G R A M

- A galaxy of University professors. -

Leon Snyder - "The Blossom" last of the series

Howard Pellit - "New and Old Shrubs"

Robert Mullen - "Azaleas and Rhododendrons for Minnesotans"

## See Inside Pages -

Al Blackburn dies at La Jolla. Home club mourns.

Ground breaking for new MGCA headquarters - Des Moines, April 7.



## NEW VARIETIES OF ANNUALS

by Bruce Johnstone

For Bill Hull's sake who has such wonderful thumbnail definitions, I contributed the following: A bore is one who talks about himself, a gossip is one who talks about others and a brilliant conversationist is one who talks about you.

Getting to the idea of new annuals always brings up the fact that almost nothing is brand new and just how "new" does a variety have to be to be worth mentioning and recommending. The average new variety is worked on in a breeder's workshop from three to five years; and an All America winner takes two years from trial-award winning to availability to the public. The All America winners available this spring were trial observed and voted the summer of 1966; awards decided on by the All America directors January of 1967; the crops grown last year and this spring will be the first year they are available to gardeners.

As we all know, all new varieties are not necessarily worth growing, but All America winners are at least widely and scientifically tested and are as good a bet as any of the new introductions.

Of course, any new variety should be more than new to be worth planting - it should be better than similar varieties and it should be adapted to this area.

The 1968 All America winners number quite a few because several have been carry-over from a previous year's award because of short crop the introductory year.

Marigold, Orange Jubilee is a true F<sub>1</sub> hybrid, hedge-type, fully doubled, deep-orange blooms on compact hedge-like plants. The blooms are borne profusely above the foliage, are fully doubled and this is a most colorful and worthwhile variety.

Marigold, First Lady is another F<sub>1</sub> hybrid, dwarf-type African Marigold, but with clear, lemon-yellow carnation-flowered blooms with a somewhat narrower and slightly smaller plant.

Celosia, Golden Triumph is a new introduction from Japan with apple-green foliage and golden-yellow plumes of about the same habit and height as Forest Fire.

The Geranium Carefree Series have achieved a great amount of publicity because they are first readily available All America winning F<sub>1</sub> hybrid geraniums. They are seed propagated and bred particularly for the outdoor garden use as bedding plants. They are disease free, which cannot always be said for cutting propagated geraniums, and they are relatively early to bloom from seed (taking about five months from seed to bloom). Although there is a full range of colors, the All America winning three are the scarlet, deep salmon and bright pink. There are also a white, a picotee, a light salmon and a light pink. These Carefree series have large floral clusters which, if kept cut, will continue blooming all season, and they show their hybridity in their uniformity, their continuous flowering and general vigor. They do not ordinarily need pinching. The foliage is clear green without zoning. The one drawback is the very high cost of seed, making them impossible to sell in a retail packet in a seed rack. But plants are available from commercial growers.

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New Varieties of Annuals  
(continued)

Verbena Blaze is an All America winning dwarf, compact, verbena similar to Amethyst but with bright, flaming-scarlet flowers, and very floriferous.

Zinnia, Wild Cherry is cactus flowered-type zinnia with extremely large, (5"-6") graceful, double, cactus-type blooms with a beautiful cherry-cerise that is very showy. Of the above All America winners, all are available in detail NK packets and other seedsmen as well with the exception of the geraniums which are difficult to retail at this point.

Also good and new, although not All America winners, are the following items:

Marigold, King Tut, this is a new, greatly improved, dwarf, petite, sprite-type marigold with extremely large, bright-colored flowers on a compact plant.

Amaranthus Early Splendor has been out for about a year and does beautifully when we have a dry, warm season and poorly under cold and damp conditions. It is a foliage plant worth trying if you want to risk the weather conditions to come.

Zinnia, Paintbrush is a Northrup King promoted Zinnia developed in Switzerland. It is a dwarf 15" - 18" plant with rather small, double-flowered, but extremely floriferous and makes a good border-type zinnia for color in the bed and cut flowers in the house.

Petunia, Cherry Blossom is one of the best, new, bicolor petunias with a cherry-cerise flower and a white throat.

Petunia, Orange Bells is a cousin to the above with an orange-red bloom with a light throat.

There is just not time or room to describe all of the good, new items and as all of our friends know, you are always welcome to visit the NK trial grounds which are a riot of bloom; all varieties labeled and at their best viewing from mid-July through early September.

In Memoriam

**Al Blackbourn**

March 1968

Bronze Medal Recipient 1957

We extend our sympathy to his family  
and mourn our own loss.

NEW ROSES FOR 1968

by Carl Holst

MISS ALL-AMERICAN BEAUTY. A good pink that holds with no blemishes or shadings. Flowers are borne on long stems and is very floriferous, and has fragrance. Plant is about five feet tall.

SCARLET KNIGHT. A fine, deep-red grandiflora with good color, bud form, and is on a vigorous, free-blooming plant. It has beautiful leathery foliage.

EUROPEANA. This is an exceptional red floribunda that has a tremendous bloom, good habit and is very floriferous. The bloom is long lasting.

BIG RED. This rose has a very large bloom, but not enough to satisfy me. Foliage is grey-green and the plant is upright. I need another year to give a fair estimation.

LADY X. This is one of the finest lavender hybrid teas, being much better than sterling silver. Buds are high and the plant is vigorous and tall.

INDIANA. A good, red rose of cardinal-red color and forty petals. Flowers are set close to the foliage which is heavy, large, and deep green.

CLAIR MATIN. A pink supposedly, everblooming climber. It is subject to mildew and while the flowers are a light pink, it has not repeated for me. Will remove.

LEMON SPICE is a yellow rose that is lemon yellow in color and is intensely fragrant. The plant is somewhat disease free and vigorous.

SIMON BOLIVAR. This is a Chinese red rose on absolutely disease-free foliage and is very floriferous with forty petals to the plants. This is a very striking rose and makes a tremendous display in the garden.

SEVENTH HEAVEN. A tall, deep-red rose with very good form and is very, very fragrant. The foliage is clean on an erect growing plant.

STRAWBERRY BLONDE. This is a vigorous plant with beautiful foliage and flowers that are coral-orange in color.

RED CHIEF BY ARMSTRONG. Has large bloom with forty petals and is red in color. This is a very fragrant rose and is tall and upright in habit. It received a special award for outstanding fragrance in 1967 International Trials at Geneva, Switzerland.

FLAMING PEACE. A sport of Peace with crimson top and gold reverse. It splits and fades badly.

MEXICANA. A bicolor with red on top and silver reverse. Small bloom on low plant.

TRADE WINDS. Red on top of petal and silver on bottom. Larger and much better than Mexicana.

PAPA MEILLAND. A large, very deep, velvety-red rose. It stood out in a field of roses at Mentor, Ohio. It is upright with dark-green foliage.

continued

New Roses for 1968  
(continued)

PICCADILLY. This is a brilliant scarlet and gold bicolor of medium size. It fades badly in hot weather. Foliage is mahogany red and quite disease resistant.

VIKING. A deep pink or light red, perfectly shaped flower of about forty petals on a well-branched plant.

CARRAIS. A very light-pink hybrid tea with good form and is quite floriferous. The plant is upright with disease-free foliage.

SWORD OF HOPE. A long-pointed, medium-red bloom, that has a tendency to split. Foliage is somewhat like Pink Favorite.

UNCLE WALTER. A very vigorous plant that has a deep velvety, crimson bloom. Plant is too vigorous and mine grew eight feet the first year. Not enough bloom to know if it is worthwhile.

DAILY SKETCH. Large, double, high-centered blooms that look like small Kordes Perfecta. It is vigorous and has glossy foliage. An unusual floribunda that needs partial shade.

ICEBERG. The best of the white floribundas. Many pure white flowers on disease-free foliage and a floriferous, vigorous plant with beautiful glossy foliage

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4-H CLUBS AND N.K. & CO. SEND SEEDS TO KOREA

More than 100 4-H clubs from 40 counties have contributed money toward buying 18,000 packages of flower seeds which have been sent to 4-H clubs in South Korea, according to Leonard Harkness, state 4-H club leader at the University of Minn. Cooperating in the project is Northrup King and Co., which provided the seeds at cost and shipped them to Korea.

The contributions for seeds came as the result of a letter from Park Hyung Duck, director of the Provincial Office of Rural Development in Chungchong Pukdo, Korea to Governor Harold E. LeVander, who turned the letter over to Harkness.

In his letter, the Korean official asked for flower seeds. "I firmly believe that the bright future of my country lies in the beautiful dreams of the rising generation," the letter read. "Now my staff and I have an idea for providing the seedbed for youngsters' dreams. It is to initiate full scale flower-propagating campaign all over the province." Duck commented that a flower-growing project throughout the province would help rural youth look beyond the economic problems of their rural homes and contribute to greater emotional stability of the young people.

Seven cartons containing the 18,000 seed packets of some 50 different flower varieties -- ranging from alyssum to zinnias -- are now on their way to South Korea for planting by the 51,856 young people who are members of 2,371 Korean 4-H clubs.

Besides supplying flower seeds, the Minnesota 4-H members hope to initiate an exchange of letters and pictures with Korean 4-H'ers.

## GROWING YOUR OWN PLANTS FROM SEED

by Archie Flack

It has been mentioned in previous articles that if you do not have any facilities inside for starting seeds early, it is far better not to attempt indoor seeding. The list of plants that can be seeded successfully outside is a lengthy one. Of course, your flowering dates will be delayed, but in a mixed border with perennials that will be giving you considerable color up to say, July, combined with outdoor sown annuals will give you a colorful border up to freezeup. Most garden annuals can be sown outdoors either in a specially prepared area from which they will be transplanted later, or directly into the border where they will flower. The chief exception would be the high priced, small seed of F<sub>1</sub> hybrid petunias and snapdragons. These justify seeding under more controlled conditions inside.

One must recognize that annuals are divided into three groups, hardy, half-hardy, and tender. The tender annuals cannot withstand frost and should not be sown outside before the middle of May. These would include celosia, cosmos, marigolds, salvia splendens and zinnias. The half-hardy annuals will sustain a light frost, but the hardy ones such as larkspur, ten-week stock, calliopsis, dianthus, matricaria, poppies, pansies, phlox and probably others, need give no concern.

In seeding outside, a distinct area that can be designated as a nursery border is a definite advantage. If you are designing your garden from scratch, it is not difficult to arrange for such a spot without intruding on your regular border space, and its many advantages soon become evident as you proceed. Much can be said in favor of seeding directly into the border where they are to flower. If you are so doing then avoid seeding in rows. Sow in patches about 12" in diameter between your perennials about evenly spaced the length of the border. Refer to the article in Garden Lessons We Have Learned, page 7, for more detailed information.

If you are seeding in a prepared area with the intention of transplanting into your border, then, of course, sow in shallow drills in straight lines. However, have in mind that some annuals do not transplant readily, such as poppies and even larkspurs that are better sown directly where they will flower. Another point to have in mind is that the seed bed or border into which you contemplate sowing, should be prepared early. In order to do this, it is a distinct advantage to prepare the area in the fall. This applies particularly to this part of the country where all outside work in the garden is at a standstill throughout the winter, and frost is slow in coming out in the spring. The resulting delay can be serious for some seeds whose germination is poor when weather turns warm. This refers particularly to larkspur and Bells of Ireland. These should be sown as early in the spring as soil is workable, and it is obvious that if dug in the fall, the soil can be worked earlier than if digging is delayed until spring.

In seeding the border in patches about 12" in diameter, simply smooth out an area by hand, sprinkle thinly the seed to be sown, cover lightly by picking up soil adjacent, and press gently with small block of wood carried for this purpose. Place label in front and proceed to next patch. After the first true leaves appear, thin out to two or three inches apart, the thinnings can be transplanted if necessary. Once the sowing is done, the area must not be permitted to dry out, and on excepting dull days they will need daily attention. Following is a list that the writer has successfully seeded outside in this area; there are doubtless others:

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THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

by G. R. Christenson

Your presence at meetings is needed. In order to retain our meeting place, it is necessary we guarantee a certain number of dinners. Last month's small attendance cost your club \$19.25 to meet this guarantee.

Please change your committee roster to eliminate Fritz Holzman as a delegate to the North Star Region and add Jack Peterson in his place.

Mark your calendar now for our annual fun auction, May 14, 1968. Dave Johnson and his committee are working hard to make this one the best ever. If you have any plant material they can use, please call Dave. Why not ask a friend now to attend as your guest.

We are saddened at the passing away of our member and good friend, Al Blackburn. The club has given a gift to the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum in his memory.

The board took action on the Flower Show Study Committee's and club's recommendations on a flower show. Details at the meeting this month.

Don't forget to Call Vern Roufs if you are interested in the Photography Special Interest Group. Those interested in the Vegetable Special Interest Group should call Bob Smith or Charlie Proctor.

Now is the time to enter your garden in competition for the Lehman Trophy. Call Archie Flack, Phil Smith, or Les Johnson.

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Growing Your Own Plants From Seed  
(continued)

aster	cosmos	calliopsis	matricaria	penstemon
anchousa	candytuff	dianthus	poppy	phlox
allyssum	centaurea	larkspur	portulaca	scabiosa
Bells of Ireland	cynoglossum	marigolds	pansy	stocks 10 week or trysonic
				zinnia

Should you wish to raise perennials from seed, you can be assured that it is a rewarding experience. However, you should have a spot reserved for that purpose which would be a part of your nursery border. Any of the hardy perennials could be sown in shallow drills in the spring. At this time, however, there is so much work to do in the garden that you could be delayed until the hot weather takes over. If such is the case, then you would be well advised to leave the seeding until about the middle of August. The writer in the past has had considerable success in that manner. The young plants are allowed to remain undisturbed in the seedbed until the following spring, when they would be planted out in rows in the nursery border, rewarding you with flower later that season. You could then select the plants you wish to transfer to your border. You will find that the young plants in the seedbed will withstand the winter beautifully. A light covering of hay would be some insurance, but they seem to withstand the winter better than older plants.