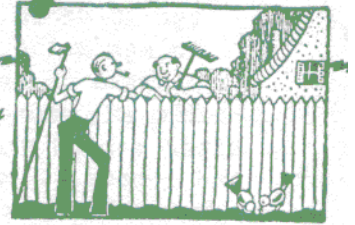




The Garden Spray

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

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



August 1969, Volume 27, No. 8

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★ AUGUST 12 MEETING...another garden tour.

Assemble at 6 P.M. at Cliff Brisco's home and fine garden at 4700 Vincent Ave. S., bringing tables and chairs, please. Cliff suggests that the tubular leg type is more comfortable on his soft lawn. Dinner at \$2.50 followed by bussing to several more fine gardens - to be announced. Not a ladies night.

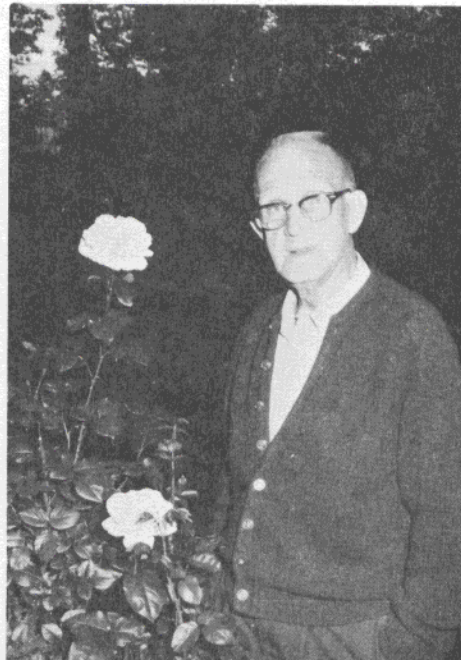
★ YOUR HELP NEEDED AS FLOWER SHOW PARTICIPANT

The dates are August 9 and 10. Win ribbons. Have fun. Talk gardening with the gang. Be sure to see the material within this issue by Charlie Proctor.

★ A SPECIAL TOAST TO OTTO ERICKSON...

We dedicate this issue to Otto Erickson.....

a member of our club since 1951, when he was sponsored by R. Dufourd and Harold Kaufmann. Otto and wife Thora moved 12 years ago to a new home at 2430 Sumac Lane, N.St. Paul, where they have as fine a garden as exists in our club ...or elsewhere.



A retiree from the Northern States Power Co., Otto's interests include all flowers, vegetables, fruits and shrubs - anything that has to do with gardening. A past treasurer of our club and flower show chairman, Otto was awarded our Bronze medal in 1964. Our thanks to Otto, Son of Eric.

OVER THE GARDEN GATE

by Bill Hull

What a pleasure to visit the lovely gardens of our members at the July meeting! After a hard wind and rainstorm at about seven A.M., President Nate Siegel and others had a worrisome day that ended in a gorgeous and clear evening.

Gardens featured started with dinner at the Lowrie's. Vic's beautiful estate was its usual meticulous place of beauty, with the new reflecting pool one of many centers of attraction. A record crowd filled two busses and many cars as we went on to Manly Jackson's lovely place. This writer was particularly impressed by the gorgeous evergreens, the corner vegetable garden which had been landscaped into the whole setting most interestingly, and the bed of "Hospital Memories" of flowers received while Mrs. Jackson was hospitalized.

Dave Johnson's roses, snaps, clematis, new Merion lawn put in five weeks ago, were all claimworthy but the terrace surely deserved the attention it received. Under a huge oak tree, with lots of shade, it is developing into another thing of real beauty.

Dick Hulbert's hundreds of gorgeous roses, lots of them being tree roses, certainly drew choruses of approvals. Two lovely fountains, great clematis, meticulously laid patio. Very nice.

And Bill Cowcill's superb small garden with his "greenhouse." We well remember seeing how Bill grows so much inside in the winter and how he told us of the huge pile of snow and icicles that cut off the winter light.

What a superb evening. Thanks to all, particularly the hosts and hostesses who let us come into their beautiful gardens.

Ed Culbert very thoughtfully tells us that there were 132 members and wives and guests at this July meeting, which makes this the second largest meeting this year, when we had 65 members and guests at the May auction.

Dave Johnson remarked to Ed Culbert on the tour that he gets the concrete slabs for his terraces from a fellow who does concrete work and dumps the slabs he breaks up onto Dave's driveway.

A special welcome to new member, Ralph Papermaster, sponsored by Nate Siegel. Ralph is an M.D. associated with the Northbrook clinic and resides at 2730 Glenhurst, Minneapolis 55416. His telephones are: Office - 561-2520 and Residence - 920-1246. Tell me, Ralph, are you related to Dr. Theodore Papermaster?

PRESIDENT NATE SAYS

Our tours of gardens during the summer month are, to my way of thinking, the highlight of our garden year. This year we have had the privilege of seeing five excellent gardens. Each garden in its own way was an example of what can be accomplished within the size limits of the garden. We all can agree the results in every instance were most beautiful.

Our thanks to Vic Lowrie and his charming wife for hosting our dinner and the view from his lovely garden. Also our hats off to those gardeners who permitted us to visit their gardens, namely Manly Jackson, Dick Hulbert, Dave Johnson and Bill Cowcill.

I'm sure our August tour, not fully planned at this writing, will also be good. Your board did a little head scratching on the question "Should ladies be invited to our August tour?" We thought this question should be decided at our September meeting for future reference.

A goodly delegation is going to Fort Collins. Sorry more could not be with us.

..... Nate Siegel

Some of the 132 members and wives at the July meeting starting at the Lowries.



LET'S GO ALL OUT

WHEN? August 9 - 7:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M.
WHERE? Richfield Public Library
WHAT? Entries in the Flower Show
WHO? YOU

This is our chance to show what good gardening can produce in Minnesota. It is also your chance to vie with the fellow members of our club and members of the Richfield MGC. We hope to see each of you bringing in entries Saturday morning.

Remember that no one has the inside track - you new members have the same chance as the fellows who may have exhibited in previous shows. There will be plenty of people around to assist anyone who does not know just how to prepare his exhibits.

Bottles and entry tags can be picked up at P. W. Young's, 4544 Beard Avenue South, after 6 P.M. the Thursday before the show. Enter his driveway off West 46th Street, between Beard and Chowen Avenue South. Please use the entry form mailed to you with the June Spray, as we are somewhat short of them.

We need twelve to fifteen men to assist in setting up Friday evening, about four to assist Saturday morning, four to assist Saturday afternoon. All volunteers welcomed. Contact Roger Anderson (938-7233) if you can help Friday evening or Saturday morning, Floyd Ashley for Saturday afternoon. And we will need lots of help Sunday afternoon to dismantle. If you are unable to reach either of the above, call Charlie Proctor at 926-9848.

Let's all pitch in and make this the best show ever. Aside from the satisfaction of participating in a real exhibition, you also have the pleasure of working with the grand bunch of guys we have in these two clubs, fellows whose interest is the same as yours.

.....Charlie Proctor, Mpls. MGC Chairman

To all my faults my eyes are blind;
Mine are the sins I cannot find.
But your mistakes I see aplenty;
For them my eyes are twenty-twenty!

(from El Jardinero, MGC Tucson)

SELECTED FROM THE COMPOST PILE

The USDA has ordered immediate suspension of pest control programs conducted by the department in which nine persistent pesticides are used, pending a review of these programs to be completed within 30 days, from the July 9 cessation. The pesticides are DDT, dieldrin, endrin, aldrin, chlordane, toxaphene, lindane, heptachlor, or BHC. This will make many people happy.

Repeatedly this year we have heard people say they have more birds than usual. Is there a marked decrease in spraying by gardeners? Does our club want to get into this furor by asking its members whether they have changed their practices? Bill Hull, for example, says he is spraying on a greatly reduced program, and has done so for two years, with an amazing increase in bird count.

* * * *

"Men and women of America, if you wish to live long and be healthy and happy, make a garden the plaything of your advancing age. You will soon learn to enjoy it as a child enjoys its new toys; your boredom will vanish; life in the open will paint your cheeks red, give you a good appetite, and once more open your clogged senses to the beauties and enchantments of nature which you knew as a child, but had forgotten during the years when you were shoveling superfluous dollars into your vaults. Start a garden next spring and in a few weeks I will guarantee you will have an interest in it which will soon develop into a mania - a passion that will keep you busy, absorbed, enchanted. It will add twenty years to your life." -- Henry T. Finck, from "Gardening with Brains," a new book. Thanks, Bruce Johnstone, for this clipping.

* * * *

The Bureau of Census recently released these figures as part of a study. Of all people studied (both sexes) in the USA, the following percentages have never smoked cigarettes: 25-44 years old: 36.7%. 45-64 years old: 42.4%. 65 years old and over: 68%.

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AL NELSON WINS AWARD FOR "OUTSTANDING CONSULTANT"

Congratulations to our own Al Nelson, rosarian par excellence, who has been growing roses for forty years, and whom we all know is a fine rosarian. It pleases us all to hear that Al was recognized at the Madison rose show on June 21 by being awarded a beautiful plaque for "Outstanding Consulting Rosarian" for 1969, by the North Central District of the American Rose Society. This district consists of Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and both Dakotas-five states. We've asked Al if he wouldn't be less humble and bring this plaque to the next meeting so we all can see it.

A SPECIAL MEMO TO NEWER MEMBERS.....

We try to welcome you to our club in various ways and I fear that sometimes we miss mentioning a new member in these pages. Perhaps we also fail to supply you with what you want in THE GARDEN SPRAY. Maybe our programs aren't exactly what you feel needed right now. Well, do us all a favor. Help. Involvement in our club will bring you great pleasure and great results. because you will find increasing gardening interest and ability. For example, we would welcome your suggestions for articles -- with open arms, indeed. Even better, we would welcome your own articles, your experiences, or your interviews with other members of our club.

You would be enthusiastically welcomed as a new member of THE GARDEN SPRAY staff. I've been active on "Spray" a long time. Probably too long. I'm in my 17th year, 16 years of writing a monthly column alone. We tend to run out of ideas, to be so blase that we forget what you want to hear about, so help us, please. I have a dozen ideas of steady continuing work you could do for "Spray," to whatever limit you want to extend yourself. Although we are proud of THE GARDEN SPRAY's many national awards (including best MGCA club bulletin in 1968), we want to serve you and make your membership in this club more beneficial. So speak up.

Bill Hull

REDDER REDS AND BLUER BLUES COMING FOR DAYLILIES

Identifying pigments that give daylilies the desired colors is one of the key steps in a breeding technique used by biochemist Sam Asen and plant geneticist Toru Arisumi of the USDA's Agricultural Research Service. Plants are selected for breeding on the basis of the kind and amount of pigment the flowers contain.

An outstanding characteristic of modern daylilies is their wide range of flower color. Starting about 50 years ago with wild lilies - usually yellow or orange - breeders developed flowers in varying shades of violet, blue, pink, red and melon. Basic research on lily color has shown that the red and violet or bluish colors in daylilies are caused by a group of water-soluble pigments known as anthocyanins. The amount of these pigments within flower cells determine whether the flower will be red, violet, or a combination of the two. When only limited amounts or no anthocyanins are present, daylily flowers are yellow or orange because the reds and violet or blue are masked by other pigments, predominantely yellow or orange carotenoids.

Now that plant breeders know the pigments responsible for daylily color and know how to extract and measure these pigments, it should be only a matter of time before daylilies with redder reds and bluer blues are available to home gardeners, the USDA states.

The American Ink Maker, March 1969
Thanks to Dale Durst for sending us this.

DELPHINIUMS IN MINNESOTA

by
Phillip H. Smith

(Ed. Note - Phil has been asked to write an article for the 1970 Yearbook of The Delphinium Society of England. He has revised the article so that we may also use it here.)

The delphinium in Minnesota is not a long-lived perennial and plants must be continuously grown from seed to replace those lost each winter.

The delphinium special interest group of our club comprises 12-15 members who have been urged for several years by P. W. Young to grow delphiniums from seed. At least a half dozen of this group have also joined the Delphinium Society of England. Members of this group are provided with English seed purchased and distributed each winter through the courtesy and efforts of P. W. Young, who will be 90 years of age in August. Some grow only a dozen or so plants each year, while others grow several hundred seedlings for selection.

Because of the hardiness problems with the American strains, many of us have turned to the English strains in the hope of getting plants which will survive for several years in contrast to the 2 or 3 year life of the American strains. The English plants do have greater longevity in our climate, although it still takes a very good plant to survive for five years.

We have found that because of our shorter growing season in Minnesota, better results are obtained with seedlings started very early indoors. There are very few home greenhouses in our climate, and most of us start seedlings inside under fluorescent lights in the basement. Delphiniums are sown in January and transferred to a hotbed in March before being planted outdoors around the first of May.

The writer's method of seeding conforms generally to the recommendations of the Delphinium Society's publications. However, you may find the details of my practice of interest. The seed is of course refrigerated until sown which is done in a small flat of sterilized soil mixture. I do not find the composition of the soil mixture particularly important, and I have successfully used various combinations of garden soil, sand, compost, peat moss, perlite and vermiculite. The mixture is baked in my wife's oven for sterilization and I usually also use a chemical sterilant to insure against damp-off problems.

The seeds are carefully sown in rows a couple of inches apart in the flat and covered with an 1/8 to 1/4 of an inch of finely screened soil mixture. The soil covering is important since it not only keeps the seeds moist but also aids in removal of the seed coat from the cotyledons when the latter rise through the soil. The flat is soaked thoroughly to wet the entire contents, drained, and then covered with a sheet of glass with newspaper over the glass. The flat is placed in the dark in the coolest part of the basement (about 60°).

Germination occurs in about ten days and the flat is watched carefully so the covering may be promptly removed when germination begins. It is important to get air circulation to avoid the growth of damp-off fungi. The seed flat is then placed under the lights and seedlings are transplanted (after the first true leaves appear) to stand about 2-1/2 inches apart in the seedling flats. Individual pots, plant bands or peat pots may be used, but I find it less troublesome to transplant directly into flats. My plants are given a feeding of liquid fertilizer when they are a couple of inches tall and then moved, about March 1st, to a hotbed heated with an electric cable with the thermostat set at 35°. The frame sashes are left open on frost-free nights in April. This method produces a strong and hardy plant which may be set outdoors early since the hardening permits the plants to take several degrees of frost. When seedlings are started in January, flowering begins in late July and good plants are produced for the following year from which selected specimens may be moved from the nursery into the flower border the following spring.

When using fluorescent lights it is important to have the tubes spaced close enough to provide high light intensity or the plants will be drawn and spindly. I use four foot tubes spaced on four inch centers laterally and find that good quality plants may be grown with this arrangement. A timer is used to give about 14 hours of light each day. I also use a large metal pan on each bench filled with gravel and water. The flats are placed in the pans so as to provide increased humidity and greater convenience when watering.

The cultural practices for Minnesota grown delphiniums are probably quite similar to those used elsewhere and recommended in the Delphinium Society's publications. I might note, however, a staking method which may be of interest to others. Concrete reinforcing steel is purchased in the 3/8 inch size and 20 foot lengths. These are cut into thirds, making strong and durable stakes approximately 6'-8" in length. Three stakes are placed in a triangular manner with about three vertically spaced ties of rafia to provide the best staking method of which we are aware.

The writer is particularly interested in the new dwarf seed recently received from England. These plants average about 3-1/2 feet and fit in well with our small city gardens, as well as being much easier to stake. I have about thirty seedlings of this dwarf strain just coming into flower as I write this in mid-July and they look very promising.