

The

# GARDEN SPRAY

VOL. 19 NO. 12

DEC.  
660



MERRY CHRISTMAS

6:30 PM

Christmas Party  
DECEMBER 13<sup>th</sup>  
American Hardware Mutual  
Insurance Co.  
3033 Excelsior Boulevard

\$350  
PER  
PERSON



December 1960  
Volume 19, No. 12  
G. "Vic" Lowrie, Editor

Associate Editors  
Wm. H. Hull, Joe Witmer  
Ev Haedecke

### C H R I S T M A S   P A R T Y

Date and Time:    December 13, 1960 - 6:30 P.M.  
Place:            American Hardware Mutual Insurance Co., 3033 Excelsior Blvd.  
                          (Use West entrance off parking lot)  
Price:            \$3.50 per person for members, their wives and guests

### R E S E R V A T I O N S   R E Q U I R E D . . . .

Reservations for the Christmas party must be returned to Mr. R. C. Adams, 1119 Pillsbury Building, Minneapolis 2, Minnesota. Please use reservation blank on back page of this issue.

### P R O G R A M

The dinner menu will feature prime ribs au jus, baked potato and all the trimmings. A surprise dessert to top off a wonderful meal, with subdued music throughout dinner.

After the dinner hour we will move to the adjoining auditorium for a program of special music, our annual awards, and slides of members' gardens. There will be no featured speaker this year and we plan to adjourn at nine o'clock.

### P. W. YOUNG, Regional President

P. W. Young, past president of our club, was elected to the presidency of that group at the North Star Region meeting, Saturday, November 19. His term will begin January 1. P. W. has been Vice-President of the Region during 1960.

Other officers are: Joe Seaman, Vice Pres., who is president of the Richfield MGC; Warren Zimmerman, secretary and past president of the Rochester MGC; Ben Dunn, treasurer and past president of both the Rochester MGC and the Minnesota State Horticultural Society. Also Paul M. Kroeger has been appointed to serve as a director of the North Star Region for a term of two years.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW OFFICERS . . . .

. . . who were elected at the November meeting and will take office in January.

PRESIDENT: L. W. "Les" Johnson, who has served so capably as vice-president this year, as well as in many other major capacities since he entered the club in 1954, upon the sponsorship of P. W. Young. Les was show chairman in 1958 and program chairman in 1957.

VICE-PRESIDENT: N. W. "Chris" Christopherson, who returns to the board after a two-year absence from the group; previously serving as secretary from 1955 to 1958. His other club activities include serving as auction chairman in 1959. Chris joined the club in 1952 and was sponsored by Chet Harkins.

SECRETARY: Dwight Stone, our capable secretary since 1959, continues in this position for the third year. His many club activities were outlined here a year ago.

TREASURER: Ev Haedecke, our competent treasurer since 1959, continues in this position for the third year. His club activities have also been discussed previously in the "Spray".

Immediate

Past President - W. H. "Bill" Hull remains on the board, his sixth consecutive year as an officer.

AUDITING COMMITTEE

The Auditing Committee, consisting of Bob Adams, chairman and N. W. Christopherso was announced at the November meeting. They will audit the club's financial records and report at the January meeting.

NATIONAL PRESIDENT AT REGIONAL MEETING

The meeting of the North Star Region at the new student center of the St. Paul Campus of the University, Saturday, November 19 was a success with Leland Fetzer, President of the M.G.C.A. coming from Rockford, Ill. for the event and being the featured speaker at the noon luncheon.

The morning's program consisted of a movie entitled, "Look Down", which was received with such enthusiasm that many members asked if it could be re-shown some-time. During this same time the directors were in session.

The afternoon session was built around speeches by Dr. Hard, Professor T. S. Weir and Dr. L. C. Snyder of the University Department of Horticulture.

Minnesota State Horticulture Society president, our own Joe Witmer, was also introduced as was Eldred Hunt, society's executive secretary. Our own Bill Hull, 3rd Vice-President of M.G.C.A. introduced President Fetzer.



## WILT PRUF SAVES DAHLIA TUBERS

by Kenneth Olson, Danish Seed Company

The fall and winter storage of Dahlia Tubers has always been a problem to the home gardener. While very excellent fungicides and pesticides are readily available to protect the tubers, moisture retention has been difficult to maintain. This has been particularly true in homes with heating systems which tend to dry out the air and subsequently stored roots.

For the past two years, Dr. P. P. Pirone, plant pathologist at the New York Botanical Gardens, conducted tests with the aim of answering the problem of Dahlias drying out in storage. By first dipping the tubers in a Wilt Pruf mixture (4 parts water - 1 part Wilt Pruf), allowing them to dry and then storing them in dry peat moss, he obtained 100% protection against tuber desiccation.

The following varieties were used in Dr. Pirone's 1958 tests: Blue Victory, Desiree Draps, Gerrie Hoek, Henry Iriquois, Islip Purity, Kidds Climax, King Albert, Little Jim, Mary Elizabeth, Mrs. Hester Pape, Mrs. V. Brittain, Our Friend, Piquant, Reisan Wunder, Storm Cloud and Wallah.

In the 1959 tests the following additional varieties were used: Dr. J. Beyer, El Dorado, Loretta Pirone, Margaret Duross, and New Look.

### Special Instructions

Tubers were cleaned and dried for a few days before dipping in Wilt Pruf.  
Tubers and stems were dipped.  
Wilt Pruf did not retard sprouting.  
Ideal temperature for storage 45 degrees above zero.

### HAVE YOU DONE IT?

Remembered the birds! They will soon be needing help so get out those plain and fancy bird feeders and keep them filled. Be sure to include sunflower seeds for the cardinals and hang chunks of suet on low hanging branches.

Protected young fruit trees and other tasty canes from Peter Rabbit! The safest protection is to surround them with chicken wire, at least two feet high. Foil or wrapping paper around trunks of young trees will also prevent sun scald. A mixture of five parts resin to one part linseed oil painted on the trunks also makes a good repellent.

Cleaned up your garden tools; covered them lightly with oil and stacked them out of the way for winter!

Planted more tulips! It's not too late unless the ground freezes hard before this reaches you.

by G. Victor Lowrie



## FORCING PLANTS FOR INDOOR BLOOM

This is the season to select bulbs, plants, roots, and even shrubs for forcing. Of course, most gardeners have at one time or another tried forcing bulbs, but there are many others that merit attention even though the gardener has only an enclosed porch in which to grow them. Greenhouses, if cool enough, are ideal for forcing. The reward for successful forcing, is of course, the satisfaction of doing something new, something different, and in having something for that "Brag session" at the club meeting.

Actually many plants may be potted at this season for forcing into bloom by late winter or early spring. Some, such as the colorful pansies and azaleas, are easy to force, while roses and gerbera require carefully controlled conditions. At first the easier forced ones should be chosen until skill and equipment have been accumulated.

Light, temperature and moisture determine the rate of growth and quality of bloom. The higher the temperature the more rapid the growth, but if it is too high, weak growth and off-color blooms will result.

Thus, it is important that the chosen plants be brought into cool growing condition as early as possible and allowed to grow under the preferred conditions of temperature.

Most of the enclosed porches and backyard greenhouses are cool enough for good growth for most kinds require 40 to 60 degrees. If the temperature where the plants are to be forced exceeds 70 degrees in the daytime, poor growth is to be expected for most kinds.

Light is also a factor in plant growth at this season. Some artificial lighting may be needed to offset periods of cloudy weather. The length of day is too short for certain kinds of plants and supplemental lighting is essential for them. Fortunately this is not a problem for the majority of plants commonly selected for forcing.

Chrysanthemums are the best known of those for which light must be controlled to induce flowering. Poinsettias require long, unbroken nights of darkness to color up. Most of the plants, especially bulbs and spring flowering plants, form their flower buds under specific light and temperature conditions so those that are to be forced need only warmth and moisture to start into growth.

Moisture may also be a problem in forcing plants, especially where the air is as dry as indoors. Wetting the walks and walls of the porch or greenhouse is a common practice but hardly appropriate to the home. Lightly syringing the plants may be resorted to although this has to be done carefully to avoid over-watering the soil. It certainly is one important means of overcoming the usual hot dry air of the home.



## FORCING PLANTS FOR INDOOR BLOOM (Cont'd)

In forcing plants it is well to group those with similar temperature requirements. Pansies, stock snapdragons, and many other early bloomers thrive at 40 to 50 degrees nighttime and 5 to 10 degrees higher in the daytime. Roses, on the other hand, need 75 degrees or higher if long stems are to be had.

It might well be emphasized here that for best results in forcing, we should select well developed large roots, bulbs and plants. It is unwise to expect a small bulb, plant, or bush to produce a good display of bloom unless it has built up strength in nursery or garden.

### DESIGNED AS A FORCING GUIDE

Here are some of the many plants that may be forced for late winter and early spring bloom. Temperatures are for minimum night settings; daytime to run an average of 10 degrees higher under most conditions.

It is unlikely that temperatures will not vary from the ideals stated, and this will hasten or retard development; but for growing conditions in an enclosed porch or greenhouse the tables will give some idea of what to expect. Only a few should be tried until the conditions in the greenhouse or enclosure can be determined accurately enough to know the possibilities. The plants suggested are listed to give an idea of the fun that may be had from growing something different.

For those without enclosure or greenhouse there is always the possibility of doing something with artificial lights. Peggie Schulz in her book "Growing Plants Under Artificial Light", gives detailed information of other methods from the above. Moisture and temperature are handled differently in an enclosed space such as a basement forcing room.

Reprinted from "The Gardener's Forum"

### AGAIN WE TIP OUR HATS TO THE PARK BOARD

That was a mighty fine display of Mums the boys had on parade at the Park Board Greenhouses. Not only were they beautiful specimens of the varieties represented but the entire show was artistically arranged and the motiff thoughtfully worked out. Congratulations!

TEN DOLLAR

MEMBERSHIP DUES

ARE DUE DECEMBER FIRST

IF YOU HAVE NOT PAID UP ALREADY

PLEASE DO SO IMMEDIATELY

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE

MEN'S GARDEN CLUB  
MINNEAPOLIS

For Christmas party reservations, over please.





DON'T  
MAKE US  
RING  
YOUR DOORBELL!

PLEASE  
COME

MAIL US YOUR ANSWER NOW.

Mr. R. C. Adams,  
Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis  
1119 Pillsbury Building  
Minneapolis 2, Minnesota

\_\_\_\_\_ I will certainly attend the Christmas party and please  
reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places for my party at \$3.50 each.

Check enclosed for \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will not attend the Christmas party.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature