

GARDEN SPRAY

DECEMBER 1963

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SOCIAL
HOUR
AT
6 PM

WIVES
and
GUESTS
WELCOME!

1963 CHRISTMAS PARTY

DATE: TUESDAY/DECEMBER 10
PLACE: BOULEVARD TWINS
TIME: SOCIAL HOUR 6-7 PM
DINNER AT 7 PM
PRICE: **\$350** PER PERSON

OVER THE GARDEN GATE

by Bill Hull

Now that it's time for winter to be here, we wish you had heard the remarkable speech by Dr. Conrad Weisner who was one of the four speakers at the annual meeting of the North Star region. Those present agreed it was an outstanding program. Dr. Weisner, doing research work at the University of Minnesota, discussed some of the countless winter hardiness studies going on over there; but, in particular, those connected with winterkill of American arborvitae.

Pointing out that there is so much to be learned in this field, Dr. Weisner told how his department has gradually concluded that it is not desiccation or even low temperatures that cause winterkill, but more probably rapid temperature drop. Arborvitae that had been gradually lowered in temperature were taken as low as minus 125 degrees F. without killing them. He pointed out that when the sun went behind a cloud or any object, thus shadowing an arborvitae suddenly, there was an eighteen degree temperature drop in one minute on the surface of that arborvitae. Under lab conditions similar to that, they can cause injury at will, said Dr. Weisner. He had earlier stated that a dogwood can be killed by 25 degree temperature in summer; it will take zero in the fall; and as low as 125° below zero in the laboratory in winter. "What we don't know," the doctor continued, "is what the plant is doing within itself to regulate this situation." A very commendable speech.

Another excellent talk was given by Herb Baldwin of Landscape Architect Associates. "Let's not move on a landscape as much as in one," the speaker said, defining landscaping as "the art and science of effecting the shape of the earth from above and below its grade line, and the enlargement of forms within its medium." "The real for landscaping is for people," he continued, "not for an architect's colossal, or a contractor's dilemma, or because of a good price on sod."

Our own Eng Hoyme talked on photography in the garden, doing a most commendable job. In a very lucid talk, Eng stressed the use of one film, one camera, one type of subject until that was fairly well conquered before going on to another variable. He urged keeping detailed records of photos taken so results can be compared. He stressed the importance of obeying the rules. Use outdoor color film for outdoors and not indoors unless you know how to compensate for the color factor. He insisted that a tripod always be used and that one should know his own camera well before even considering buying another camera. "But if you do want a new camera for garden photography, I suggest something in the single-lens reflex type," Eng concluded.

OVER THE GARDEN GATE

(Continued)

Rollie Lindstrom, Richfield MGC, discussed living with a brand new greenhouse. Lindstrom emphasized that his 10 x 16 greenhouse cost double the purchase price by the time it was installed and working. He stressed the value of purchasing a greenhouse with automatic vents and recommended that the 10 x 16 foot size was sufficiently large for any amateur.

It was a good meeting. Seneca "Joe" Seaman, past president of the region, was awarded the Green-Bronze Medal for outstanding service to the region, including our club, by his year as president and his two years in charge of the Capitol Rotunda flower display.

Officers for the new year include: Vice president, our own Neil Barry; President, is LeRoy Peterson; and Secretary Wilford Krueger, both of Richfield, the two officers always coming from the same club; and Frank Berg of Minnetonka as Treasurer.

Well, I see Dale Durst has his tulips in the ground now without the use of a pickax. Dale always gets so busy on other things his tulips have to wait. Then he uses my pickax, and puts them in the ground under lumps of soil. Maybe he has the right answer because he always has as gorgeous tulips as anyone I know. The pickax is for rent, fellows.

Good to report that San Diego county MGC with president Al Blackburn, formerly of our club, of course, is doing well. Going strong and I expect it will be one of our big clubs some day - it will certainly be one of our best probably is now.

And let's wish a special Christmas greeting to our out-of-state friends, and ask if they won't rush a brief paragraph about their goings-on for the January Spray. How about it - the Blackburns, Christophersons, Dufourds, Kelleys, Tituses? Tell us something about your activities. We miss you.

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HAIL TO OUR NEW OFFICERS

The slate of officers for the year 1964 presented to the membership by the nominating committee at our November meeting was unanimously adopted.

President - Dwight Stone	Secretary - G. R. Christenson (Bud)
Vice President - Paul M. Kroeger	Treasurer - R. E. Smith (Bob)

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POINSETTIAS

The poinsettia is a temperamental, stubborn plant unless given the climate, the light, the fertilization and moisture in just the proportion it likes. For a large Christmas bloom, keep in a cool, sunny window preferably at temperatures between 55° and 60°. Water sparingly, only when the soil begins to appear dusty. As the lower leaves begin to lose color, add a trace of completely soluble fertilizer in each watering - 1/8 teaspoon-

GARDENING MALE

Why do men garden? It is because in this world of tensions and artificiality a man can get down on his knees in good soil and know that his hands are in earth's basic resource.

He can spade, hoe and cultivate in mellow, rich humus and appreciate that in a world of increasing complications, he is in contact with something unchanging, simple and fundamental.

Why do men garden? It is because the heart grows tired of the ruthlessness and self-seeking of men who place power and prestige above honor and service.

When a man goes into his garden at the end of a day in the marketplace, he can listen to the evening song of birds. He can see plants that have come from the seeds he planted and know that he has had a part in the miracles of life.

Why do men garden? It is because the heart craves contact with the verities that govern our flowering world.

Much of life is artificial; much of man's activity is trivial. The daily path becomes a rut and one forgets to lift his eyes. But when a man goes to his garden, he finds reassurance of his faith and realizes that life is basically good.

No one knows when ancient man first discovered he could plant seeds, grow his food, and establish a permanent home instead of leading a nomadic life. But this we know. Men still plant gardens because they find in gardening a satisfaction that enriches the heart.

- St. Louis Globe-Democrat
Courtesy The New Trier
(Illinois) Gardener

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A \$250,000 study of the effects of pesticides has been approved by the Senate, and probably will be adopted by the House-Senate conferees on the appropriations bill for the Department of Agriculture. The amendment, offered by Senator Ribicoff, of Connecticut, would provide the department with funds to start a program to evaluate the efficiency of pesticide control activities and the effects of pesticides on nontarget insects and animal life. The fund would be used for expansion of field survey operations, expansion of methods, improvements work, particularly in the area of biological control techniques, and initiation of investigations on the impact of pest control and eradication programs on the areas involved, including effects on wildlife populations, beneficial insects, livestock, poultry, etc.

- Reprinted from American Forests

PRUNING ORNAMENTAL SHRUBS AND TREES

(Continued from November issue of Spray)

HOW TO PRUNE

1. Make all cuts clean with sharp tools.
2. Never leave any stubs. A short stub may never heal over and is always a source for infection. Make all cuts back to a bud, branch or main trunk. The removal of a large limb should be done in 3 cuts. First an undercut is made by sawing up one-fourth or one-third through the limb about a foot from the trunk of the tree. Then the uppercut is started one to two inches beyond the first cut away from the trunk on the top of the branch and sawed down until the limb falls. As the two cuts near each other and the limb begins to sag, its weight will break the wood at the center and the limb will jump clear without stripping and tearing the bark down the tree trunk. Finally, the stump is removed by a cut flush with the trunk of the tree.
3. Paint all cuts over 1" to 2" in diameter with a protective paint.
4. Disinfect tools after each cut on diseased plants. A satisfactory disinfectant to have in a suitable can for this purpose is alcohol.
5. Shrub rejuvenation. Thin out the older branches over a period of a few years or cut the shrub to within a few inches of the ground in late winter or early spring. The obvious exception to this would be weak growing shrubs or those which have been budded or grafted. Never cut any shrub off at a horizontal line several feet above the ground. This is an artificial practice, outmoded for many years, and always results in unsightly specimens. Thin out here and there, cut one branch back hard and another not nearly as much and thin out from the base, simultaneously. In this way, an old plant can be reduced in size, still look natural and will produce new growth at different places from the ground on up to the top.
6. Shear hedges wider at the base than the top. Both evergreen and deciduous hedges should be sheared in such a way that they are wider at the base than the top, thus allowing the important lower branches plenty of room, light and air. If the hedge is pruned narrower at the base than the top, the lower branches will often die from lack of light. Once these lower branches die on an evergreen hedge, it is practically impossible to force any new ones to grow in the same place. Deciduous hedges, on the other hand, are mostly vigorous growing plants, and when they become open at the base, the entire hedge can be cut to within a few inches of the ground in the early spring and will quickly start a new vigorous growth from the ground, thus forming a new hedge in a few years' time.

PRUNING ORNAMENTAL SHRUBS AND TREES

(Continued)

Pruning need not be difficult. It is important, however, that one understand exactly why the contemplated pruning is necessary and can visualize the probable results. Even yews can be heavily pruned and old plants rejuvenated by the expert gardener who has previously studied what to do, and when to do it.

Rhododendrons are more difficult to prune properly, but for those who are interested, there is a full discussion of this on pages 128-134 of "The Arnold Arboretum Garden Book" by Donald Wyman, published by D. Van Nostrand Co., Inc., Princeton, N. J., 1954.

Certain it is that time and effort can be saved if one carefully considers all these factors before adopting a policy of indiscriminate pruning.

Reprinted from ARNOLDIA, Arnold Arboretum, Harvard University

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CANKERWORMS EMERGE: PLAN TO CONTROL NEXT SPRING

If you're alarmed by an invading army of gray, wingless insects crawling up tree trunks and walls of your house, you may have good reason.

The extension entomologist at the University of Minnesota, John Lofgren, says a massive emergence of the fall cankerworm adults has occurred this year and may cause trouble next spring when their eggs hatch.

Lofgren says little can be done now. Your best approach is to plan a spraying campaign for next spring.

The eggs laid by the female adult cankerworm moths are difficult to remove from trees and houses now, so control must start when they hatch in the spring. The trees will need thorough spraying when the worms begin to feed. Lofgren says that municipalities should be alert to the menace then.

The outbreak so far has been reported in the northern suburbs of the Twin Cities and as far northwest as Fargo and Moorhead.

Two consequences of the cankerworm menace may have telling effects on the state's tree population. First, the caterpillars may defoliate trees so extensively that they suffer permanent damage. Secondly, if any of the trees injured or killed happen to be elms, they will provide new breeding grounds for the elm bark beetle which transmits Dutch elm disease.

Lofgren adds that the situation could be eased by an early spring warm spell, enough to cause hatching, followed by killing cold weather. However, if we have a cool spring with a sudden warmup and rapid budding and leafing-out of trees, there may be many leafless trees.