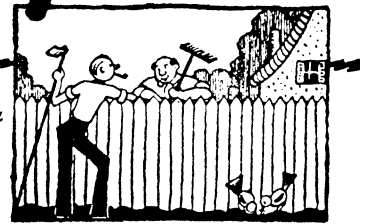




# The Garden Spray

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

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



January 1965  
Volume 23 No. 1  
G. Victor Lowrie, Editor

Associate Editors  
Wm. H. Hull, Otto Nelson  
Neil Barry

## January Meeting

Date: January 12, 1965  
Place: Mount Olivet Lutheran Church  
50th Street and Knox Avenue South  
Time: 5:45 P.M.  
Price: \$1.75

## Officers

Charles Proctor	President
R. E. Smith (Bob)	Vice-President
G. R. Christenson (Bud)	Secretary
S. F. Pinkham (Sherm)	Treasurer

President's Report

Secretary's Report

Treasurer's Report

Audit - 1964

Budget - 1965

Installation of 1965 Officers

## PROGRAM

Soils and Soil Management - Harold Arneman  
Associate Professor of Soils U. of M.

Short Talks by New Members on their  
Gardening Interests

OVER THE GARDEN GATE

by Bill Hull

Thank you, Vern Roufs, for a good Christmas party. Superb steaks. Good friends. I'll say no more because Dwight is writing about most of it, so we won't duplicate. But it was a dandy.

I must mention how pleased and surprised I was to receive the very fine cigar humidor and cigars from my club. Thank you again for this near-conclusion to my year as national president. It will remain one of my dearest possessions.

Sixteen of you had perfect attendance during 1964, and we honored you with Green Thumb awards. This is the largest number we have ever had. Starting with 1959, the annual total runs 3, 8, 11, 13, 8 and 16 this year. So this program has paid off for us in attendance alone.

Special honors go to Bud Christenson and Bob Smith for four years' perfect attendance, and to Les Johnson and Bill Swanson for two and three years each. Then, for one year, comes: Don Berne, Dale Durst, Fred Holzman, Otto Nelson, Jack Peterson, Sherm Pinkham, Charlie Proctor, Vern Roufs, Phil Smith, Dwight Stone, Ron Twite and P. W. Young. We had Green Thumbs ready for Paul Burt, Bob Kelly and John Pulver, but they had to miss this, the twelfth meeting.

Although Dwight will write in more detail, I must offer special congratulations to Otto Erickson, winner of the Bronze Medal. No one could be more deserving. I will remember how Otto accepted the show chairmanship for me back in 1960, and how he rallied men around him to put on one of the biggest, and we thought the best ever, showing the genuine warmth with which we all regard you, Otto, and your ability as a leader.

Wonder what percentage of us gave plants for Christmas. I had a Moses in the Bullrushes in the basement, neglected, unwatered, when I heard of a lady who had looked at length for one. She received this poor plant with open arms, and we know it will be given more attention than it's had from me.

Let's all try to start Charlie Proctor's year with a big attendance at the January meeting. As our new president, Charlie will have on his board Bob Smith as vice-president, Bud Christenson as secretary, Sherm Pinkham as treasurer, while Dwight Stone remains as immediate past president.

Some of you will remember that the Men's Garden Club of Richfield visited some of our members' gardens this last summer. At this club's Christmas party, slides were shown of the gardens visited. Why don't we return the courtesy and see some of their good gardens? Let's see some new gardens and get some new ideas. Most of ours don't change that much from year to year.

OVER THE GARDEN GATE

Continued

Peggie Schultz has a new book just out. All About Geraniums by our own Minnesota friend (Doubleday & Company, Inc., 1965, \$4.95) is the best and most all-inclusive work on this plant we have seen. Lots of good illustrations and interestingly done. Believe you'd like it.

\* \* \* \* \*

EVEN L.B.J. HAS A BAD LAWN

The Editor's No. 1 daughter, Mrs. Carolyn Caldwell Parks, sends the following quoted material of recent vintage from the Kansas City Star.

"Lyndon B. Johnson, who has been reasonably successful in cutting down on the household light bill, now seems to have developed another problem rather common to homeowners. The White House lawn is going to pot. It has been described by experts as "sick," and is under treatment. It is being watered, sprayed with a fungicide and eventually will be re-seeded with Merion bluegrass. Presumably this is a crash program designed to cure all trouble at the grass roots.

"We would not, however, make light of this issue. Quite obviously in any campaign some votes are to be won by what has been described by political scientists as "identification." We suppose that some people, noting Mr. Johnson's orders to turn off those lights, found themselves performing much the same role on a lesser scale at home. Others, noticing these days that their own lawn seems to be sick, may suddenly have a new sympathy for the problems of the presidency.

"One may be unimpressed by all that a chief executive may say of poverty or trade or Vietnam or Cyprus, and be unsympathetic with the problems of legislation and of politics that close in on any president. One cannot be unsympathetic with a homeowner whose lawn is a mess. Here we see Mr. Johnson forced to face up to one of the common problems of Americans everywhere. Here we see a problem that not all the Treasury's billions nor all the acts of Congress can possibly solve. President and citizen, we are all in this together - up to our knees in crabgrass and dandelions, that have no respect for a man's position in life."

And the Merion bluegrass will not thrive in the humid, hot Washington climate, either! The Department of Agriculture should know better.

Reprinted from The "Show-Me" Gardener  
MGC of Webster Groves, Missouri

SPROUTS FROM THE COMPOST HEAP

by Dwight Stone

Happy New Year! And a new year it is with new officers to guide the fortunes of our club. If Charlie, Bob, Bud and Sherm receive as good cooperation as I received in 1964, we are in for another banner year.

Bert Zats is now a firm believer in a "stitch in time, saves nine." From now on he will be known to us as "Rip" Zats. Rip had a very embarrassing experience at the Christmas party. He doesn't always eat dinner wearing his overcoat.

Our sympathy to Tom Krumm. Tom's brother passed away on December 7 thus making it impossible for Tom and his wife to attend the Christmas party.

Soon the cold weather will be driving some of our members to warmer climate for the winter. Paul Kroeger will be heading south and west soon after the first of the year. George Germain has already left us.

Your new treasurer, Sherm Pinkham, would appreciate receiving your dues for year 1965. We like to get the roster printed in January but can't go to press until we hear from you. If you don't know if you have paid, just send another ten spot - the treasury can always use the money - just kidding, of course.

How about that new member you have been planning to bring to a meeting, but so far haven't managed to extend the invitation? Get over to the telephone right now and make that call. The date is January 12. The January meeting is a good one for prospective members to attend as the reports presented pretty well tell the story of why we belong to a club such as the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis.

Often during the year we receive requests for speakers from other garden clubs in the area. If you would like to be included as a speaker in this program, please notify me. At present I have two requests on file that need to be filled.

It is never too early to start planning. Again this year, the Minnesota Horticultural Society is planning a spring trip to Chicago for the World Flower and Garden Show.

Last year nine of us (some wives) took in the event and I'm sure all had a good time. As yet, the dates aren't firm; but as soon as we know, we will pass the information on to you.

\* \* \* \* \*

M.G.C.A. 1965 TRAVEL

Once again M.G.C.A. is sponsoring three travel tours, through Tom Duffy Travel Service, 499 S. Warren Street, Syracuse, New York. You should receive a brochure soon.

1. Hawaii, Japan, Hong Kong, 22 days \$1,495.00 from New York, July 1, 1965.
2. Six countries of Europe - England, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, France, Holland, 22 days \$895.00 by jet from New York, June 1, 1965.

CHRISTMAS PARTY - 1964

Continued

onions at the November auction but somehow lost them. The Spray must be a wonderful advertising source as the want ad in the December issue really brought results.

"PP" Haedecke assisted by others presented factual evidence of "Sprouts From the Compost Heap" to Dwight Stone in the form of a bushel of compost sprouting with Japanese import roses and the new Minneapolis flower, Sunburst Celossea.

Slides of Members' Gardens

The program was climaxed by showing of slides of members' gardens by P. W. Young.

Poinsettia Plants

In tradition, the ladies in attendance were again presented with poinsettia plants. The weather cooperated so most got their plants home without frost-bitten leaves.

\* \* \* \* \*

NEW BRONZE-ORANGE GARDEN 'MUM DEVELOPED BY U HORTICULTURISTS

A bright bronze-orange, fully double garden chrysanthemum has been developed by University of Minnesota horticulturists and is being introduced for spring planting in 1965.

Called Superior, the new 'mum produces abundant, flat-petalled 3-inch flowers atop bushy plants. It has been developed especially for northern climates where early flowering is necessary.

Stems are willowy and foliage is a clean, glossy dark green. Plants reach a height of 18 inches and a spread of 30 inches when grown in full sun. Blooming usually begins by the first week of September in the Twin Cities area.

Superior is the 45th variety of garden chrysanthemum introduced by the University of Minnesota's Department of Horticultural Science for northern climates. Work on developing the 'mum was done by University horticulturists, R. E. Widmer and R. A. Phillips.

Plants will be available from many nurseries and greenhouses in the Midwest this spring.

For more information about Superior, get a copy of Miscellaneous Report 57, Superior, A Garden Chrysanthemum for 1965, from Bulletin Room, Institute of Agriculture, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, Minn. 55101. The report shows the chrysanthemum in color.

Institute of Agriculture  
University of Minnesota

1964 MGCA VEGETABLE STUDY PROGRAM  
by Bob Smith

The 1964 Vegetable Test Program consisted of testing three varieties of vegetables and a cultural study of the effect of using various types of mulches in growing tomatoes. There were enough respondents in the vegetable testing program to provide a good sampling under many types of soil conditions and from many areas of the United States. The response from the Tomato Study Program was not as successful in terms of number of respondents and will not be reported on in this article.

The data reported by the vegetable testers consisted of information on planting and harvesting dates, germination, yield, disease resistance, type of soil, fertilizing program, weather and other remarks. Only the data which are of greatest interest have been summarized in this article along with remarks from the writer, who also took part in the tests.

Vegetable test seed, supplied by Harris Seed Company, included Summer Bibb Lettuce developed at Cornell University to withstand bolting for a longer period than the standard Bibb; a green snap bean developed by Dr. Hoffman at the Vegetable Breeding Laboratory in South Carolina, called by him the "poor man's bean" because of its ability to survive under difficult conditions and on relatively infertile soil; and the Triumph Cucumber developed by Peto Seed Company, which won an award in the All-America Trials last year, and which will be a new introduction in 1965.

This was a good year to test Summer Bibb Lettuce under unusual conditions because of the extreme heat and drought experienced across the country in June, July and early August. Where testers did not use another variety of Bibb Lettuce as a control, they were very pleased with the results obtained from the Summer Bibb Lettuce. The testers who used another variety for control all used Buttercrunch, which was a 1963 All-America Award winner, for this purpose. In no case was Summer Bibb rated over Buttercrunch either in flavor or ability to withstand bolting. In my own tests, I was highly pleased with the test variety both in flavor and compactness of the head. I considered it on par with Buttercrunch in these respects but did not rate it as high in its resistance to bolting. I attempted to prevent bolting during the hot weather by shading and mulching, but was unsuccessful because of the extreme heat.

Under less extreme weather conditions I believe that either Summer Bibb or Buttercrunch could be successfully grown throughout the summer in our area. I made successive plantings throughout the season. The first planting consisting only of Buttercrunch, because the test seed had not yet arrived, was made under lights on February 9th, transplanted to the hotbed on March 12th, with the first harvest on April 25. From then on, plantings of both were made at intervals until the hot weather set in, and again in the fall. The last crop was harvested up to November 15th and although temperatures got as low as 25 degrees, no frost damage was observed. I have been growing Bibb Lettuce for a number of years and for those who like good lettuce I would recommend any of the Bibb varieties and especially Buttercrunch during the heat of the summer. They are very easy to grow, superior to other kinds of lettuce in flavor, including head lettuce, and are not readily available on the market in the quality that you can produce in your own garden.

1964 MGCA VEGETABLE STUDY PROGRAM

by Bob Smith

Continued

While no one reported testing the green snap bean on poor soil, the extreme weather provided ideal circumstances under which to test this variety's ability to survive under difficult conditions. Where a control variety was used, there were some conflicting reports, but there was a general consensus that the test bean was superior to Topcrop and Contender but not to Tendergreen and Executive. Here again, where a control variety was not used it was rated very high in yield, quality and ability to withstand drought. In my garden it outperformed Executive, a 1963 All-America Award winner, in every way except eating quality. However, the performance of Executive was not up to par for me this year. I would certainly recommend growing Executive and other top varieties where eating quality is the most important consideration. The test bean had many desirable qualities such as a strong root system, vigorous growth habits and a concentrated set of attractive pods which were very long, straight, nearly round and very uniform. It should be a very good bean for growing under the conditions for which it was developed.

The reports on Triumph Cucumber indicated excellent results from this variety. Some of the remarks were: "Never had better cucumbers in 25 years." "Cucumbers were excellent in the same garden where I never had a satisfactory crop of cucumbers before." "A very good cucumber for the family garden." "Continued to produce large fruit after Vaughn's "Long Green" had dried up and died." This cucumber appears to be on par with Burpee Hybrid which some testers used as a control, and is relatively free from disease. In my garden it stood up well, producing fine quality slicers right up until frost. The Triumph Cucumber is being introduced by Harris Seed Company this year.

The weather was abnormally hot and dry in all areas where the tests were made. In the East, the drought was so bad that several testers reported a complete failure in their home garden. Under these extreme conditions, it is very hard to fully assess the qualities of the varieties tested without further trials. All of the varieties performed well in their resistance to disease, even though only a small percentage of the testers indicated use of any type of disease control.