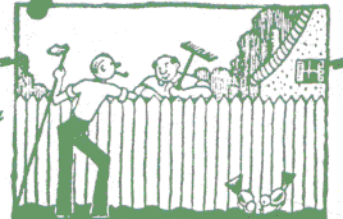




The Garden Spray

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

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	Director:	Dale Durst	Director:	Al Nelson

January 9 Meeting Starts Our 26th Year

The meeting will be Tuesday, January 9, at the Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church, at 50th and Knox Ave. S., at 6 P.M., dinner at \$2.00. Your guests welcomed.

Retiring Program Chairman Bud Christenson has a worthy program:

- 1) Dr. Leon Snyder continues his series on "The Plant." He will review briefly his previous remarks and then discuss "The Leaf."
- 2) Retiring officers will present annual reports, which President Frank says will be in abbreviated form.
- 3) The new officers will be installed in a brief ceremony.
- 4) Participate in naming a crabapple tree. See below.

WANT TO NAME A CRABAPPLE TREE?

As a recognition of our club's sponsorship of the Arboretum section on crabapples, Dr. Leon Snyder and the University of Minnesota has asked our club to select a name for the U's new introduction, a picture of which was shown at our Christmas party. (It was the one growing in Dwight Stone's yard.) To be introduced by the Spring of 1969, the name must be selected immediately and cleared through various agencies. So, come to this January meeting with possible suggestions for a name. The final selection will be up to a committee appointed jointly by the outgoing and incoming presidents of our club; they are Messrs. Flack, Johnson (Les), Kaufmann and Smith (Phil). The name needs wide appeal, something which will help popularize this new U of Minn. introduction.

OVER THE GARDEN GATE

by Bill Hull

Our outstanding Christmas party included the presentation of many awards. For the record and public acknowledgement, let's list a few of them:

Ev Haedecke presented the Industrial award to the John Deere Company.
Frank Vixo gave the President Cup to Dwight Stone.
Phil Smith awarded the Lehman Gardens Trophy to Bud Christenson.
Otto Erickson presented the Bronze Medal award to Al Nelson.
Bob Smith presented the Past-President's pin to retiring president,
Frank Vixo.

Bill Hull presented the Green Thumb award to Bud Christenson for seven years perfect attendance; Bill Swanson for six years; Dwight for four years; Archie Flack, Evald Johnson and Charlie Proctor for three years; Les Johnson, Nate Siegel and Dale Durst for two years; and, the following for one year, each: Jack Peterson, Al Nelson, Sherm Pinkham, P. W. Young, Bill Cowcill, Vern Carlson, and Frank Vixo.

It was also my pleasure to present to President-Elect Christenson the two sets of books of club officers complete for the twenty-five years of our existence, except for one man's picture which will be added soon.

We have a Christmas greeting from Jo (Mrs. George) Titus who tells us she is living comfortably at the Mayette Convalescent Hospital, 1700 Yulupa Ave., Santa Rosa, California, 95405. We know Joe would appreciate hearing from her friends.

It is interesting to see that Northrup King & Co. has introduced the Sensitive Plant (Mimosa Pudica) as a new item in the Punch 'n Grow planter kit. The kits contain seeds evenly spaced at the right depth for best germination and are simple to grow. It would make nice gifts for many people, particularly, children who are intrigued by the folding-up process of the plant when it is touched.

School days can once again be the happiest days of your life, provided, of course, the children are old enough to go.

I have just recently sent for Home & Garden bulletin #135, for 20¢ from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., 20402, entitled, "How to Grow Flowering Crabapples." Should be some interesting information in there for some of us. You may want to order one, too.

According to recent dental survey, over 20 million Americans have no teeth, and over 10 million have either no uppers or no lowers. So, who has been eating all those apples? If an apple a day keeps a doctor away, I wonder what a caramel a day will do for the dentist?

We are, indeed, sorry to tell you that we are losing charter member, Felix Dhainin, who is retiring from the Minneapolis Park Board and is moving away to a new association in Columbus, Ohio. As soon as we get more details, we will pass them on to you including Felix's new address. This is our loss to us as we all enjoyed Felix's friendship and will miss him as a charter member of our club. God speed.

YOUR PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

by F. P. Vixo

It seems but a short time ago that I wrote the first copy for this column. This is the last one I will write as your president and this series would be neither complete nor appropriate without a big and appreciative THANK YOUR for the splendid support and encouragement which each of you has given your board's efforts to carry forward the tradition of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis. I assure you that the thank you is equally sincere from me as your president. The opportunity to serve has been a privilege. Future support of the club and its activities will prove it so.

The Christmas party for 1967 is history as many of you are happily aware. About 150 attended and, I am sure, enjoyed the good fellowship, the delicious meal and the entertaining program. Aren't you glad you came?

You no doubt read in the paper that the city council passed overwhelmingly an ordinance restricting billboard advertising along freeways in Minneapolis. Our own Phil Smith represented the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis as well as the North Star Region, presenting written resolution expressing our views along the line of those we outlined before the state legislature on this point. A polling of our board before Phil attended the meeting indicated one-hundred percent support and Phil did another fine job for the club.

We welcome Warren D. Bergstrom to membership. He lives at 5419 Abbott Place. Home telephone: 922-5079. Business telephone: 339-0771. He is sponsored by the chairman of the membership committee, Sherm Pinkham; and is a CPA working for Ernst & Ernst. He should have something in common with your president in addition to gardening.

HOW TO STOP THE PILLAGE OF AMERICA

by Robert H. Boyle

(from Sports Illustrated - Dec. 1967)

Many of our present environment difficulties can be attributed to the fact that no single person, agency, bureau or department in the Federal Government has an overall view of what is happening to our land and waters. No one is providing any sense of direction or continuity. Action on a problem comes, if at all, only in response to disaster or after persistent clamor by concerned citizens. Sporadic White House interest in "natural beauty" is so superficial as to be dangerous. The public is gulled into thinking problems are being met. Natural beauty is cosmetics conservation. Instead of applying pancake makeup to the landscape, we should be stopping cancer.

An essential first step would be establishment by Congress of a National Council of Ecological Advisers. This council would offer recommendations for the improvement of the environment and the use of resources and draw attention to threats that might be overlooked - or even posed - by partisan interests, such as the Federal Power Commission or the Defense Department.

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RAISING YOUR OWN PLANTS FROM SEED *

While many of our members prefer to purchase annual plants from local professional growers, there are a number who derive considerable pleasure and satisfaction in propagating their own.

If you are going to raise your own plants, you must, of course, have a plan and some facilities. The few of us who have a greenhouse are to be envied; but, others can, with fluorescent lights in the basement, with outside facilities in the form of a heated cold frame which is in effect a hotbed, enjoy considerable success.

While the advice given to professionals is of great importance, it is not always possible for amateur growers to follow without some modifications because of limited facilities. One of these would be the maintaining of lower night temperatures after germination, but every effort should be made to comply as nearly as possible.

Obviously a critical important part of the job is to get even reliable germination, particularly with annuals having fine small seeds as petunias and snapdragons, which must be handled properly if they are to grow.

Getting the Seed to Sprout

There are five basic rules for success with seed sprouting:

- 1) Use good seed from reliable sources. The best seed you can buy is the only real bargain.
- 2) Use a proper germination medium. Here a wide variety of materials will do the job. However, to be successful it must be finely screened and yet porous, loose and open. Water must flow through the container quickly and easily and not stand on top of it. It might be low in nutrients and sales, it must be carefully sterilized, including the container and labels.
- 3) Temperatures. They do vary some by species of plants. Seed germination temperatures for specific species will be supplied under the heading of those particular species. Most of the common species that members would be growing will require a minimum of 65 degrees. Probably better and more prompt germination would occur at 70 degrees. If not kept up to that level, seed will simply rot in the ground. This does not apply to delphiniums and some others which will be dealt with later.
- 4) Moisture. Seed containers must be kept uniformly moist if germination is to occur. Once containers are watered, moisture must be contained evenly, otherwise seed will sprout and then, through temporary drying, die.
- 5) After sprouting most species prefer being moved to a cooler location, with full light and ventilation, and being kept on the dry side to harden the seedling, and discourage damp off.

These are the Basics

If you start with good seeds, sow in a good medium, keep warm and moist, it just can't help but grow. Here are some suggestions on how to go about it:

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Raising Your Own Plants From Seed *

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- 1) Media. Peat, soil, sand. Proportion is commonly 1-1-1, sometimes 2-2-1.
- 2) Soil peat. Sometimes half-and-half. Some growers germinate in clear peat.
- 3) Peat and fine vermiculate, used half-and-half has given good results. If this mixture is used, some light fertilizer would be necessary.
- 4) Many prefer to buy their medium already mixed and sterilized from professional growers. For those of us who mix our own medium and have a compost pile, a satisfactory medium can be made by using garden soil and compost carefully screened in proportion of equal quantity soil, compost, and sand. The sand must be washed and in its place could be used perlite or vermiculate. If garden soil is sandy loam, less sand should be used than if soil is on the heavy side.

About moisture. There are several easy ways to insure even moisture through the germination period. Many professional growers use a regular mist on a time clock. This method had proven very satisfactory but is not practical to the home gardener. Therefore, before sowing, soak the containers well and enclose in a polyethylene sleeve in order to completely enclose the container. Or use a covering of glass, which will usually hold moisture sufficiently so that no further moisture is needed until sprouting begins.

Regarding temperature. Most home gardeners who will be using their basements can maintain a temperature of 70 degrees for germination. If not, it is quite simple to construct a propagating case heated with a cable or low-watt light bulbs, preferably used with a thermostat.

Soil sterilization. The professional grower will usually use special equipment and steam sterilize. Special knowledge is necessary to perform this operation. It is important to remember that sterilizing at too high temperatures and for too long a period will destroy useful microscopic organisms in the soil. Some growers use chemicals with success. For the home grower with limited facilities, Pano-Drench is quite satisfactory, used in accordance with the directions. If preferred, one can bake the soil in an oven at 180 degrees for not over 3/4 hour. The writer has found this satisfactory.

Depth of covering. In a general way, small seed such as petunias, snapdragon, fibrous begonias need no soil covering. Sow thinly and press the seed firmly into the soil or spray lightly with a fine mist spray. Small seed that has no soil covering can generally be exposed directly to the light, a cover of glass or polyethylene should be used to conserve moisture until germination. Larger seeds require a soil covering, generally one to one-half times the diameter of the seed. Avoid covering too deeply. These containers also should be covered with glass or polyethylene to conserve moisture, and in addition covered with newspaper or something similiar to exclude the light until germination when all covers should be removed and seedlings brought to light and air to discourage damp-off and spindly plants. Some home growers prefer to shade lightly for a couple of days when exposing the freshly germinated plants to full inflorescence light.

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Raising Your Own Plants From Seed*

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* Geo. J. Ball, Inc., publishes "The Ball Red Book" for the professional grower, and has given THE GARDEN SPRAY special permission to use that copyrighted material. We are indebted to Archie Flack for reviewing and adapting this material to the home gardener's use and Archie expresses his indebtedness to the "Red Book" for information and ideas used in this series. This material may not be further reproduced without written permission of the editor thereof.

How to Stop the Pillage of America

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With the exception of a few states - for instance, Massachusetts and Wisconsin (their efforts are noted below) - most states have refused to recognize environmental problems.

The Department of the Interior should be reorganized as the Department of Natural Resources. This suggestion was first made in the 1930s, and in 1949 the Hoover Commission urged it again. The proposed department would have full charge of water resources, fish and wildlife, public lands and electric power. It would take over the Forest Service from the Department of Agriculture. The new department also should either take in or have direct veto over the civil functions of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers and power projects of the Federal Power Commission and the Atomic Energy Commission.

Management of natural resources is now strewn across the bureaucratic landscape, and as a result there is next to no coordination and little official concern. The new department would give thrust to conservation issues and bring problems into sharper focus.

There is a need for more state and national parks and better management of those we already have. For example, at famous Yellowstone the Park Service's stewardship has become, in the words of Naturalist Peter Farb, "an act of official vandalism." Concessionaires have been encouraged to build a supermarket, trinket shop, laundry, and 1,000 shoddy cabins within the park, while the Service itself constructed a parking lot that destroyed Daisy Geyser, one of the main attractions. Noel Eichorn, who is doing a study of the national parks for the Conservation Foundation, reports that in most parks concessionaires are so firmly entrenched that they are telling the Park Service what to do.

Specific congressional legislation is needed on thermal pollution. The AEC does not regulate the temperatures of cooling water discharged into the body of water from which it was taken. Nuclear power plants, which use great amounts of water to cool their reactors, pose tremendous dangers. Hot water discharged into a bay, river or even the ocean can create biological deserts. A 3° or 4° temperature difference can be critical. Nuclear plants discharge water 11° to 23° hotter than it was on intake. More than 100 nuclear plants are on the drawing boards, and by 1980 the power industry will be using one-fifth of the total freshwater runoff of the United States for cooling.

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ANNUALS AND PERENNIALS YOU CAN START AT HOME *

Ball's books list a number of annuals with some perennials recommended for professional growers. Following is a selection of these with a synopsis of important comments of value to the amateur. In this area most perennials can be sown outdoors or in cold frames in the early spring, but some have been mentioned here because of a far better germination made possible by sowing under controlled conditions. In addition, some perennials sowed early will flower the first year.

	<u>Germination Time</u>	<u>Min. Temp.</u>
Ageratum	3 weeks	65-75 degrees
Aconitum	to get germination necessary to expose freezing temperatures first. Have distinct preference for heavy soil, and resent disturbance of root.	
Aquilegia P.	3-4 weeks	65-75 degrees
Begonias (fibrous)	2-3 weeks	65-75 degrees
	Sow thinly in sandy medium with some sifted peat to help maintain moisture. Do not cover with soil. Press seed lightly into surface, or go over lightly with mist spray. Cover with slightly tilted glass to maintain moisture and expose to light.	
Bells of Ireland A.	3-5 weeks	50 degrees
	Difficult to germinate. Seed will not germinate at high temperatures. If sowing inside late March and early April best. Best results usually had by sowing outside after danger frost before danger of high temperatures.	
Browallia A.	2-3 weeks	65-75 degrees
	Sow during March or April	
Carnations Outdoor Type	2-3 weeks	65-75 degrees
	For Minnesota sow in Feb. to flower late July or early August.	
Celosia	1-3 weeks	65-75 degrees
	Heat loving plants prefer night temp. 65 degrees. Should not be sown earlier than six weeks before planting time.	
Cleome	1-2 weeks	65-75 degrees
	Can be sown inside March or April	
Coleus	2-3 weeks	70-80 degrees
	Sow early March.	
Delphinium	3-4 weeks	50-60 degrees
	While they do well in all types of soils, if a choice is available heavy loam is preferred. Such soils retain fertility and moisture better than sand soils. Delphinium and Larkspur seed will germinate poorly or not at all in a high temperature. Optimum 50-60. While fully three weeks are necessary to germinate the seed, allow a week or ten days longer for some seed that always comes slower.	

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Annuals and Perennials You Can Start at Home*
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Impatiens	3-4 weeks Are quite easy to grow from seed if a min. temp. of 70-75 degrees is maintained under full light conditions.	70-75 degrees
Larkspur	3-4 weeks Larkspur will not germinate in hot weather. If sowing inside soaking seed for 10 min. in water heated between 125 and 130 will help. Otherwise seed outside as early in spring as soil is workable while cool temperature prevail.	55-65 degrees
Marigolds	1-2 weeks While native to warm climates they do not enjoy temperatures high. Easy to germinate.	65-75 degrees
Pansies	2-3 weeks Germination requires temp. 60-65 degrees night minimum. Medium. Something sterile, well grained and low in fertility. Moisture constant plastic or glass covering should work well. Plenty air and light soon as seedlings are up. For this area sow inside in Jan. or early Feb.	60-65 degrees
Petunia	1-2 weeks Very small seed sow thinly do not cover.	65-75 degrees
Phlox	2-3 weeks Sow week or two later than petunias	65-75 degrees
Salvia	2-3 weeks Germination not hard but failures more frequent than average. Container should be thoroughly soaked at time of sowing covered with plastic or glass to hold moisture and not watered until seed sprouts unless surface becomes absolutely dry. Container kept at min. temp. of 65, seeds are not covered.	65-75 degrees
Scabiosa A.	2-3 weeks Sow in March.	65-75 degrees
Snapdragon A.	1-2 weeks For stocky well-branches plants, sow early and grow cool. Seed is small and if covered at all should be very lightly, many have good success with no soil covering. Container should be covered with plastic or glass to conserve moisture and exposed directly to light. Remove glass or plastic as soon as germination occurs.	65-75 degrees
Stocks Imperial Ranching	2 weeks Sow in Feb. and grow cool.	65-75 degrees

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Annuals and Perennials You Can Start at Home*
(continued)

Verbena A.

3-4 weeks

65-75 degrees

Sow middle Feb. Germination not rapid. 65-75 soil temperature for several weeks they generally will come through 50-55 percent. There is some indication that over-watering at time of sowing reduces germination. Some growers prepare containers watering them the afternoon before sowing.

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How to Stop the Pillage of America
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The coastal fishery resources of the United States are the greatest single wildlife resource this country possesses. It offers respite to millions of people and is worth billions of dollars. So far only one state, Massachusetts, has effectively moved to protect this resource. Massachusetts law prohibits alteration of a salt marsh. When one developer fought this law, the court upheld the state, finding, "Broad Marsh is a 'salt marsh' necessary to preserve and protect marine fisheries. Property is acquired by private citizens with the tacit understanding that it shall not be used to the detriment of the public, and the legislature is authorized to take action to prevent such detrimental use." Owners of marshland who seek compensation can have it set by court. So far no one has applied.