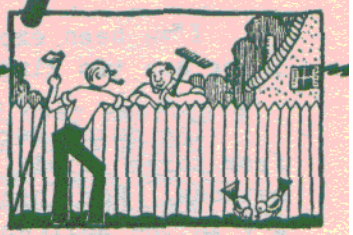
The Garden Spray

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

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



July 1960
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G. "Vic" Lowrie, Editor

Associate Editors
Bill Hull, Joe Witmer,
Ev Haedecke, Geo. Luxton, Eng Hoyme

July Meeting

Date: Tuesday, July 12, 1960

Place: Lloyd Bachman's home
5905 Colfax Avenue, So.

Time: 5:45 P.M. Sharp

Price: $1.75

Officers

Wm. H. Hull	President
Les Johnson	Vice President
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4620 Hampton Road

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PROGRAM

Lloyd Bachman will host dinner in his beautiful garden.

A bus has been chartered to take the members on the tour, and the following gardens will be visited:

Lloyd Bachman	5905 Colfax Avenue, So.
Lawrence Bachman	5915 Colfax Avenue, So.
Henry Bachman	5900 Lyndale Avenue, So.
Fred J. Holzman	5125 - 30th Avenue, So.
Wally Carlson	5124 - 30th Avenue, So.

The Lloyd and Lawrence Bachman gardens are large and beautifully landscaped with a wide variety of shrubs and trees. Henry Bachman's garden, while not as large, is also interestingly landscaped. The Holzman place features many of the All-American roses which should be in full bloom at the time of this tour. Wally Carlson has a neat and attractive garden, well balanced with shrubs, annuals and perrenials.

Don't miss this opportunity to see landscaping at its very best. All are unusually fine gardens - colorful and unique.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS . . .

keep coming in. We now have eleven on the waiting list. Some of these have

PROPAGATING LILIES

By Bill Duck*

I've been experimenting with propagation of lilies for some years. There are two kinds of seed - the quick and the slow germinators.

The quick germinators planted outdoors in April show top growth in from three to six weeks. In my experiments I have tried several different methods. For instance, I have planted seed in rows about 4" apart, making a V in the soil about ½" deep, sowing seed thickly in the V and covering with ½" of silver sand. I use silver sand for two reasons, one being that it marks the rows and also has something to do with good root growth.

Later I began using small square bottomless wooden frames placed directly on the soil. They are about 15" square. I sow seed closely and cover with a light sprinkling of silver sand. Over that I pour ½ to 1" of Vermiculite. A number of frames are grouped inside a frame 2' high of slats with a movable top of slats. Here I can leave the seedlings for up to 2 years.

Slow germinating seed needs other treatment since if it was planted in April it might lie dormant for as long as 2 years. I solved this by using a medium composed of 2 parts of peat moss; 1 part sphagnum moss (sifted through a ½" screen). To this I add 2 parts of Vermiculite mixed dry and then moistened until damp, but not wet.

Fill a pint screw-top fruit jar partly full of water, then dump the water out. Using a long-handled spoon, drop seed into can as you turn it to coat the wet sides with the seed. Seed will adhere readily to the wet interior of the can. Fill the can with the soil mixture described earlier, using a large-mouthed funnel. Replace top and place filled jar in a spot where temperature will remain about 70°. In about three months place the jar in the refrigerator where you keep your vegetables to hold it at from 45 to 50 degrees for an additional three months.

By the end of this period you will find tiny rooted bulbs formed. Remove seedlings from jar and plant in flats, covering bulbs with a sprinkling of silver sand and with about 1" of peat moss. In 3 to 6 weeks top growth will begin and you have saved more than a year in getting your plants started. After top growth starts seedlings can be placed in a cold frame or in any convenient spot outside.

Some lilies bear bulblets in the axils of the leaves of growing plants. These can be planted in the same way and will come true.

Still another way of propagating lilies consists of cutting the stalks just above the bulb after flowering. Strip off a third of the leaves from the base of the stalk and plant stalk in soil at an angle of 45 degrees up to the remaining leaves. After about 90 days you will have a number of bulbs on each stalk. I have had as many as 45 bulbs from a single stalk. These too will come true to the mother bulb.

*Published in the Bulletin of the Upstate New York Region.

HEALTH OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

Excerpt from a speech
by
Hon. David S. King

Mr. King of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I am greatly concerned over America's health, and this concern now prompts me to take the floor of this great legislative body, to say what I think needs to be said. America's health is in danger, and if the warning signals apparent to all are not heeded, we risk physical and mental deterioration, and inevitable capitulation to the virile and more rugged peoples of the world.

In May 1955, Dr. Paul White and Dr. Norman Jolliffe, eminent scholars in their field, reported to Congress that the United States was one of the most unhealthy countries in the world in regard to coronary heart disease. The incidence of heart disease among men from 45 to 65 years, they said, was two to three times higher in the United States than in England, France, Germany, Italy or Spain.

In a paper in the New York State Medical Journal, dated September 15, 1955, Dr. Jolliffe continued his report by stating that "although in America today, life expectancy at birth is near the best of any civilized country in the world, at the age of 40, life expectancy is near the bottom."

From what study I have done, and basing my opinion solely upon the conclusions of dedicated men of science who do qualify as experts, I am convinced that the contaminatives, additives, and toxic chemical compounds taken into the human body in connection with our regular food and drink, are in large measure responsible for the deplorable deterioration of our national health.

Referring specifically to the chemicals which are added to the foods we eat, Dr. Martin said:

I also believe that the absorption of these toxic chemicals - and there are 704 different chemical compounds used in foods, and 150 of them have never been adequately checked for their toxic effects on humans - over a long period of time can cause serious tissue damage, which inevitably termin ates in a degenerative disease.

And so, the American Nation has come a long way from the days when it was content to sit down and eat humble fare, transmitted to the kitchen direct from the hand of its Creator, touched only by the magic of nature's inscrutable chemistry - simple food, unpampered, and undevitalized. The rugged life and simple diet of the American pioneer have gone. We have replaced them with the unwholesome living of the modern sophisticate. America would do well to reread the admonition of the Apostle Paul to the Corinthians: "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are" - 1 Corinthians 3:16-17.

TREE WOUND TREATMENT

Wounds on the trunk and branches of shade trees are common. They stem from a wide variety of causes - skidding automobiles, carelessly operated lawn mowers, bark-gnawing rodents, pruning, wind and snow storms.

A wound occurs when a section of the bark is destroyed in any manner. Bark is a protective cover; if it is broken, the underlying tissues are exposed to attack by wood-decaying diseases. Once established, these may move into the heartwood and produce cavities that result in loss of the tree.

According to procedures advocated by the National Arborist Association, all wounds should be treated as promptly as possible after their occurrence to lessen the chance of disease invasion. The manner of treatment varies somewhat with the nature of the wound.

In wounds resulting from impact by automobiles or other heavy objects, an irregular-shaped section of bark often is torn away, the sapwood gouged and splintered, and the bark at the edges of the wound loosened. Somewhat similar wounds may be caused by squirrels and rabbits in feeding on the bark.

When treating wounds where the bark is torn, cut away the loosened edges with a sharp knife or a mallet and chisel and smooth the splintered wood. Then shape the wound to form a pointed ellipse with the long axis parallel to the length of the stem. This shape favors healing since callus growth develops primarily along the sides of a wound rather than from the top and bottom.

Preliminary shaping of pruning wounds is done as a part of the pruning operation. In removing a branch, make the final cut as close as possible to the parent stem. Never leave a stub. Smooth the surface of the cut, removing roughened or torn bark and protruding wood.

The final step in treating any wound is the application of a good-quality tree-wound dressing, available at garden supply stores. Usually this is an asphalt base paint containing a disinfectant but free of chemicals that might injure the living tissues at the edges of the wound. Such dressing materials are the best known substitute for living bark.

To be effective, the film of wound dressing material must be intact during the entire time the wound is healing. Therefore you should inspect treated wounds occasionally and, if cracks or checks have developed, reapply the dressing.

Reprinted from the Indiana Nursery News

WHEN THE DAFFODIL IS COLORED BLACK

We see the yellow daffodil growing up out of the ground, and it seems clear that its color, the most emphatic thing about it, grows up with it, belongs to it, is it. Yet, that yellow on the daffodil, that red on the rose, was eight minutes ago in the sun.

Before this was discovered in the seventeenth century it was not known that all flowers are black. No one realized that not one single color belongs to any object intrinsically, and that all objects are black or no-color. Little was known as to the nature of light and no one had thought of attempting to split it up. It was left for the great Newton to appear with his prism in the dark room. Even today his little experiment still fascinates us. We make a neat hole in the blind; a ray of sunshine passes across the darkness to a screen. Then we place a prism (roughly a piece of glass with at least three sides) in the path of the ray. Instead of the beam passing - though bent by the glass - we see separate bands of light each of a different color, the most obvious being red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and violet.

A beam of ordinary white light, any thread of it however thin, is a bundle of rays which can be fanned by a prism because the particular wave length or scale of each makes it subject to a particular degree of bending. Thus, spread out, each ray is discerned as a different color. We close the fan and it is white again.

Of course, there is no necessity to take a prism and go into a dark room in order to satisfy ourselves that color exists in white light. All we need is a garden, a garden-hose, and a sunny day. We turn on the hose, arranging the nozzle so that the water comes out as a fine spray, and stand with our backs to the sun - and there in front of us is a rainbow.

Failing a garden and hose, we all have eyelashes and noses. If we sit down and turn our faces to the sun and then screw up our noses while half-closing the eyes (thus looking hideous to a spectator), we find that the very fine hairs on the bridge of the nose, together with our eyelashes, will stretch out most of the spectrum.

Thus, then, the waves of light fall upon the objects of the world. What happens depends upon the constitution of the object. One will absorb all the waves; another will reject them all; another will accept some and reject others. The black tulip has accepted all and gives us none; the white rose has accepted none and gives us all; the daffodil has accepted most but gives us one: yellow which is sent back to our eyes.

Can we satisfy ourselves visually that, though the spectrum exists, there are no colors on earth irrespective of it. We can if we are prepared to undertake extraordinary means to pass steadily away from the light of the sun. If instead of going up in a balloon into the heights of the air we descend in a balloon into the depths of the sea we shall behold objects changing their color before our eyes as the different waves of light grow weaker.

WHEN THE DAFFODIL IS COLORED BLACK (Cont'd)

Our companion, of course, would be William Beebe, who is accustomed to journey into the deep dark realms of the ocean in his bathysphere. Descending slowly one day, when less than fifty feet beneath the surface he happened to glance at a large prawn which he had taken with him. Its color is, as most people know, an attractive scarlet. "To my astonishment," he relates, "it was no longer scarlet, but a deep velvety black." . . .

But if the force of light most wait till it strikes something before appearing as luminosity, how are we able to see the sky flooded with light? The answer is that the so-called empty air is packed with atoms and molecules which, while less easy to discern than whales, are just as physical . . .

Reprinted from The Saturday Review

WATER

When a man is thirsty he needs a drink. When the land is thirsty it also needs a drink, but thirst of the land is a mighty thirst indeed. Ten tons of water per acre per day is moderate summer drinking for growing crops, but now the increasing demand for water for industrial and domestic use is easy to understand why we should consider our water problem more wisely. A change of summer from wet to dry can really bring about a water crisis. As more producers of food learn the value of irrigation, as more and more homes are built, as more and more industries demand large water supplies, such crises must become more frequent unless we prepare to meet them now.

A bit of this water program is being heard in Austin, your governor and legislators.

Do we waste water? Naturally, during last summer our minds have been much occupied with the application of water to plants. Little by little we have come to the conclusion that there is a great deal more to learn about the best way of using our water supplies. Indeed, we are beginning to think that if water had been as expensive as champagne we might have known a great deal more about the most economical and most effective use of it.

It comes to mind of an experiment carried out in England last year pertaining to roses. The experiment was designed for quite another purpose, but one very interesting fact has emerged from it. Two-thirds of a rose border had been watered all summer by giving a short burst of misty spray overhead which lasted only 35 seconds every hour, day and night. The other third of the rose border was watered twice a week by applying water through sprinklers for an hour and a half at a time. Thus this part of the rose border received nearly three times the part that received the hourly sprays of mist. This makes us wonder whether the old story of giving copious watering, if one waters at all, is the right one. Naturally the danger of applying small quantities of water at frequent intervals is that trouble may ensue if the supply is interrupted. However, the more one thinks about this question of watering the more complicated it is.

Reprinted from The Yardner - Men's Garden Club