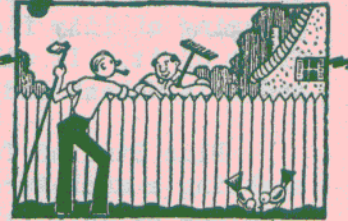




The Garden Spray

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

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



July 1961
Volume 19, No. 6
G. "Vic" Lowrie, Editor

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

July Meeting

Date: Tuesday, July 11, 1961
Place: Dolph Bezoir, 6228 Brookview
and Arvid Ahnert, 6240
Brookview for a catered dinner.

Time: 5:45 P.M. Sharp

Price: \$1.75

Officers

Les Johnson	President
N. W. Christopherson	Vice Pres.
Dwight Stone	Secretary
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Office of the Secretary
4620 Hampton Road

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P R O G R A M

This month will feature our Garden Tour. After dinner at the homes of Dolph Bezoir and Arvid Ahnert we will go, by bus, to the gardens of Bill Hull, Dale Durst, L. Dorweiler and Bob Adams. It is very important that each member brings card tables and folding chairs to the meeting.

We are extremely sorry to learn that four of our members have been on the seriously ill list and we certainly all wish them a rapid and speedy recovery. Bob Adams is home after having been in the hospital. Bill Swanson is, at this writing, recovering from emergency surgery at Methodist Hospital. Bill Kelley underwent emergency surgery also at Methodist Hospital. Otto Erickson suffered a heart attack and must take care of himself and get some rest.

PLANTS OUT OF THE ORDINARY

by Maurice K. Lifson

Bergenia (magasea cordifolia) which commenced to bloom in the middle of April is still performing this 29th day of May. It has a generous grouping of lily flowered tulips for a background and creeping phlox in front of it. It will bloom a week or two longer with Iris Great Lakes and Iris Wabash and Blue Star of Texas as additional companions.

Blue Star of Texas (amsonia tabernaemontana) is a shrubby plant resembling a miniature willow tree and it is now in bloom. When it is out of bloom by July 1st the plant remains attractive with its green clean foliage. It is very hardy and requires no spraying or dusting.

Coreopsis Golden Shower begins to bloom in early June and performs until frost. It does not resemble the coreopsis with which most gardeners are familiar. The plant is compact and produces an abundance of starlike yellow flowers. The foliage is ferny. It, too, is hardy and requires no spraying or dusting.

Verbascum (Mullein). I have had a colony of these mulleins for about ten years. They bear upright pink spikes that make a charming picture for me with Iris White Sprite, Danube Wave and Hesperis (sweet rocket). As the foliage of all Verbascum hug the ground, be sure to dust or spray with some insecticide as soon as the rosette of leaves appears. Otherwise your foliage will resemble a moth eaten cloth.

I mentioned Hesperis (Sweet Rocket). Here is a so-called old-fashioned plant that should be grown in our gardens. It makes a lovely companion to Iris - especially the white Sweet Rocket. As you can surmise it is very fragrant. It is a biannual, but if you allow a few seed pods to remain on your plants you will always enjoy sweet rockets - I mean plants.

Chrysanthemum Summertime, a yellow single originated by Bristol Nurseries which starts blooming the latter part of July and is going strong until frost. The yellow daisies are a wellcome contribution to the landscape effect this time of the season. Then too it does not have to be divided every year. It is at its best when it is atleast two or three years old. There must be a great demand for this chrysanthemum but not in Minneapolis as the Bristol catalogue for this Spring lists it as "sold out."

Dahlias - I am very partial to the so-called annual Dahlias Coltness Hybrids. I like the single Dahlias which to me are so graceful and refined. They won me a blue ribbon in the last flower show. I had quite a sizeable planting of the white Coltness Dahlias and they almost stole the show from August until they were nipped by a light frost. Thanks to Frank Vixo who successfully stored the tubers for me - us - So I still don't understand why they are classified as annual Dahlias.

Did you ever try to grow the very low growing snapdragons as an edging plant or in your rock garden? If not you will be delighted with snapdragon magic carpet. Plants can be obtained from Lehman Gardens,

PLANTS OUT OF THE ORDINARY (Cont'd)

by Maurice K. Lifson

Other very desirable annuals are Nierernbergia in blue, blooming all season. Aod Gazonia with interesting foliage as well. The flowers come in white, orange and yellow. These two plants are charming and low growing.

Nigella or devil in a bush or love in a mist - choose whichever name suits your perception - when you see it grow you'll see why the name is suggestive of the above nomenclature. Originally my plants bore light blue flowers but they seeded themselves for so many years that the flowers come in single and double in different shades. They don't have a long period of flowering but the seed pods are so interesting that they are used in arrangements and this is why one finds hundreds of volunteer seedlings everywhere in the border.

In closing I wish to state that I don't go out of the way to have plants in my garden that are out of the ordinary. I personally don't consider the plants I described in this article and in a previous one, I grow them because I like them. Most of these are companions to my phlox, Daylilies, peonies, iris, tulips, lilies, Delphinium, platycodon and many others not to exclude some annuals.

I welcome most cordially everyone of you to visit my garden anytime. Don't overlook my formal rose garden including tree roses and my pocket handkerchief garden which is now in bloom. And remember that a garden is like a theater running a different show almost every month.

Peter Rabbit met with a worse fate in my garden than in Mr. McGregor's garden. He ate off one or two of the aconitum (monkshood) plants and met his Waterloo. He had a quiet and private funeral.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

. . . . Arvid Ahnert, 6240 Brookview Avenue, was sponsored by Dolph Bezoier. Arvid is headed for retirement in two years from the decorator painting business. He is an ardent gardener and a good Swed. He and Dolph are next door neighbors and they do the planting while their wives do the gardening.

Einar O. Johnson, 4617 Grand Avenue, was sponsored by Thurber Day. Einar has a double lot with shrub flowers, rose bed, fruit trees (pear and apple), border of pink and blue petunias. Is a very enthusiastic gardener.

Garfield Anderson (Gar), 5820 Chown Avenue, was sponsored by Paul Burt. Gar was born and raised on a farm near Luverne, Minn. He has two children, is a graduate of the University of Minnesota and is employed at Northwestern Bell Telephone Company. His hobbies include vegetable and flower gardening, amateur color photography, amateur "Ham" radio and chief of the radio telephone section, State Civil Defense office. He also enjoys fishing and hunting.

University Farm and Home News
Institute of Agriculture
University of Minnesota
St. Paul 1, Minnesota
June 1, 1961

LANDSCAPE ARBORETUM PRAISED FOR EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

The University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum was praised today (Saturday, June 3) by the president of the American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboretums for developing a challenging program of popular education and special projects.

John E. Voight, who is also superintendent of Alfred L. Boerner Botanical Gardens, Milwaukee, spoke at the dedication of the entrance gateway to the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum near Excelsior. The gateway was a gift of the Lake Minnetonka Garden Club.

While parks are essentially recreational, arboretums and botanical gardens should have primarily an educational motive so visitors can take home ideas, thoughts and how-to-do-it information, Voight said.

Stressing the part arboretums and botanical gardens can play in American culture, he declared that they should help create public opinion that would lead to effective action on many community problems related to civic improvement and long-range planning.

The importance of the arboretum to educational research was emphasized by Milton F. Kernkamp, assistant director of the University Agricultural Experiment Station. The arboretum is now cooperating with the Agricultural Experiment Station on three research projects, he reported: breeding hardy ornamental shrubs, developing roses and other flowers adapted to this region and establishing and maintaining lawns.

The future of the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum depends upon the people of the state, Leon C. Snyder, head of the University of Minnesota Horticulture Department, told the audience.

"The Landscape Arboretum is a project for all of the people of Minnesota and the surrounding areas and it can be a mediocre or a successful enterprise, depending upon the amount of support they give it," he declared. "Dedicated individuals and groups initiated this project which now provides all the citizens with an opportunity to take part in and benefit from this research and educational facility."

Snyder suggested that groups sponsor special projects at the Arboretum. Among many projects now being sponsored are the research on woody ornamentals, supported by the Louis and Maud Hill Family Foundation and the rhododendron and azalea planting by the St. Paul Garden Club. The arboretum now has the most extensive rhododendron and azalea planting in the North Central Region, with approximately 1,400 plants of about 100 species, varieties and hybrid seedlings.

WATCH OUT FOR THESE POISONOUS PLANTS

A noted pharmacologist has listed more than 100 plants containing poison which are grown in the average American garden. In an issue of a standard seed catalog he counted 54 harmful plants.

There is enough poison in a 10 cent packet of castor bean seeds to kill five children. One tulip bulb contains enough poison to kill a man. Sweet peas contain a poison that causes a form of paralysis. It is seldom fatal, but can keep a victim bedridden for months. There is poison in "elephant ears" that causes a painful swelling of the mucous membranes of the mouth, tongue and throat. "Dumb cane" has that name because chewing the leaf can cause your mouth to swell so that you can't talk. There is no reason, of course, to stop growing beautiful flowers just because some contain poison. But avoid the habit of chewing on a bit of leaf or a stalk. Remember to tell youngsters that it is dangerous to put leaves or stems into their mouths. Above all, don't store plant bulbs where children can get at them.

Below is a list of poisonous cultivated plants. Those marked with an asterisk can be fatal if taken in quantities which a child might eat.

<u>PLANTS</u>	<u>POISON PART</u>	<u>PLANTS</u>	<u>POISON PART</u>
*Elephant Ear	Any	*Dumb Cane	Any
*Narcissus	Bulb	Spider Lily	Bulb
*Four O'Clock	Root, seed	*Iris	Underground stem
Columbine	Berry	*Pinks	Seed
*Cyclamen	Tuber	*Mock Orange	Fruit
*Ivy	Leaves	*Spanish bayonet	Root
*Potato	Seed, sprouts	*Bittersweet	Berry
*Pimpernel	Any	*Caster Bean	Seed
*Oleander	Leaves	*Foxglove	Leaves
*Lily-of-the-valley	Any	*Bluebonnet	Seed
*Burning bush	Leaves	*Scotch broom	Seed
Sweet Pea	Stem	*Tulip	Bulb
*Jimson weed	Any	*Mountain Laurel	Any
*Rhododendron	Any	*Monkshood	Root

-- From Balls and Burlaps Vol. 7, No. 5, p. 14
Reprinted from The Wind Vol. XVIII, No. 6

RESPIRATION IN PLANTS

Reprinted from The Wind, Men's Garden Club, Chicago

Respiration is the process by which the energy of sunlight, stored in plants by photosynthesis, is released to provide growth.

The stored energy is mainly in the plant sugar and it is released by free oxygen (aerobic respiration), excepting in certain yeasts, molds, bacteria and other fungi. The process involves a combination of one molecule of sugar (consisting of six atoms of carbon, twelve of hydrogen and six of bound oxygen, plus stored energy) with six molecules of free oxygen (oxidation) to form six molecules of carbon dioxide (each consisting of one atom of hydrogen and two of bound oxygen), and released sunlight energy.

In aerobic respiration all the stored energy is freed, with part of it, however, wasted in the form of heat or light. Some plants develop heat as high as 80 degrees above the surrounding air, and at times damp hay in poorly ventilated barn lofts bursts into flame, "spontaneous combustion." Ordinarily, though, oxidation (respiration) is much slower than in general fuel combustion and occurs at lower temperatures.

The energy wasted in the form of light is manifested in such phenomena as the phosphorescence of certain fungi and deep-sea fishes, and in the flesh of the male firefly during its mating period.

The water formed is mostly evaporated and affects rainfall and air temperature. The carbon dioxide is used immediately in photosynthesis during the day and at night is diffused into the air to be used again in photosynthesis another day. Both day and night the oxygen released by photosynthesis is used in respiration.

In the lower plant forms the yeasts, molds, bacteria and other fungi, respiration is without free oxygen (anaerobic). The oxygen used is bound in the molecules of the sugar of these plants and only a portion of the stored energy is released. The result is fermentation, rather than oxidation and instead of carbon dioxide and water, carbon dioxide and alcohol, or organic acids (the lactic acid in sour milk or the butyric acid in rancid butter) form.

In such micro-organisms as yeasts and bacteria, anaerobic respiration is the base for industrial alcohols, alcoholic beverages, vinegar, cheese, sauerkraut and ensilage. It also decomposes much of the dead plant and animal bodies in and on the soil and creates those organic products which maintain soil fertility and later transformed by aerobic organisms, revert to simple substances.

To the housewife, aerobic respiration means loss of food values in stored fruits and vegetables and anaerobic respiration, food spoilage.