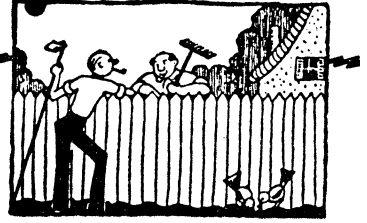




The Garden Spray

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

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



June 1964
Volume 23 No. 6
G. Victor Lowrie, Editor

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

June Meeting

Date: June 9, 1964
Place: Mount Olivet Lutheran Church
50th Street and Knox Avenue South
Time: 5:45 P. M.
Price: \$1.75

Officers

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

Office of the Secretary
8300 Sheridan Avenue South

P R O G R A M

Unusual Gadgets That Make My Gardening Easier - Members
(Members are requested to bring such gadgets and tools)

and

A special talk on gardening by Vic Lowrie

OVER THE GARDEN GATE

by Bill Hull

Glad to see Dwight Stone leading us toward filling the few openings in our membership. Probably accomplished by now. The new young men we've added in recent years have done a lot for our club and we hope we've helped them. Let's continue.

The May Auction was undoubtedly successful. I imagine Dwight will list and credit the men responsible, but I believe we know who they were and we thank them, too.

I'm personally pleased to see this auction remain a fun auction. This we initiated during our year of presidency of our club. For the benefit of the newer members, we had reached the point where we were working too hard to raise money, without having any fun at it. So we raised the dues and de-emphasized money-making projects. I'd like to see us sell the merchandise at even half the price we're still getting for it. There are few actual bargains because you fellows bid it up too much. How's that for a radical thought? Maybe we should even drop the auction completely, and have a small spring show and early garden tour or another inside program. Just brainstorming.

The May 26 Arboretum Tour will have come and gone by now. If I'm in town, I've been committed for months to be present when a young fellow receives his Eagle Scout award. I'm sure you'll understand. That's once in a lifetime for him.

Each year at this time, we have rain. The May 8 last-killing-frost date is certainly not a planting date. For years I planted up to May 15, and for the most part, the seeds either rotted in the ground or were washed away by deluges.

A trip in April is not for a gardener. I've never worked harder than in the first two weeks in May, trying to get my garden in shape after a three-week absence. My storm windows aren't off yet - June 1 - and they were off in mid-April 1963. Also, we had an early spring in 1963 with less rain than now in 1964.

It certainly has been a sad month for us, and we join with many others in expressing our sympathy to P. W. Young and Bob Adams upon the loss of their wives, dearly beloved by all of us. "Influence does not die. Goodness cannot die. Personality must continue."

SPROUTS FROM THE COMPOST HEAP

by Dwight Stone

Another successful plant auction is history. Thanks to the many contributors; thanks to the generous customers; thanks to Bert Zats and his committee. All are equally important to the success of this undertaking.

It was refreshing to have Mary Margaret Schultz at the auction to sell the roses. She auctioned an American Beauty and a World's Fair Salute rose.

Wally Carlson has been on the sick list. Wally is home from the hospital and expects to be back to work soon. Louis Dorweiller is back to work again. Chet Harkins is feeling much improved, but hasn't returned to work. Send Chet a card - I'm sure he would appreciate receiving your message.

Walter Menzel and Cortis Rice returned from their European vacation on May 16. From all reports, they had a wonderful time, and have ample pictures to show if the Club would like such a program.

If you didn't take in the tour of the azalea gardens at the Landscape Arboretum on May 26, you missed a good time. If you did, nothing more needs to be said.

Our sympathy goes out to Bob Adams whose wife passed away the early part of May.

Congratulations to the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis and its Spray editor, Vic Lowrie. MGCA presented our club an award for its outstanding monthly publication. Sherm Pinkham brought the good word back from the National Convention. Sherm was a delegate to the convention representing our club.

By now, you have been assigned a few school gardeners. Do your best to make good gardeners out of your charges.

Are you interested in having a MGC of Minneapolis night at the Met to see the Twins? If you are, tell Dwight Stone; and if there appears to be enough interest, maybe such a project can be arranged.

Was the guest you brought to the plant auction favorably impressed? If the answer is Yes, bring him to the June meeting. We can still use a few more good members.

Paul Burt has taken on a line of greenhouses. If you or any of your friends are in the market for a greenhouse, give Paul a call.

Did you see the copy of the NSP house organ that circulated around at the April meeting? The cover and feature story was about our own Norm Christopherson, who retired to Sun City, Arizona soon after completing his year as president of MGC of Minnesota. How about a story on Arizona gardening, Chris?

SPROUTS FROM THE COMPOST HEAP (Cont.)

The Twin City Iris Society is having its show at American Hardware Mutual June 6, 2:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. and June 7, 12 noon to 6:00 P.M. All are invited to attend. You may also exhibit if you wish.

Bob Smith is actively soliciting vegetable gardeners to help with the test pattern on the various methods of mulching tomato plants. By fall, perhaps we can have a report on the results of the tests.

Thanks, Ev, for the fine job you did as president of the club in 1963. The club presented Ev with the past president's rose award at the May meeting.

Attendance at the May meeting was very good. Over 75 members and friends attended the dinner and auction. Continue the fine attendance record we are making this year. Bring in more potential members - we can still use a few more.

A quote to remember: "Opportunity is never lost. Someone else will take those you miss."

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ARBORETUM NOTES

Leon C. Snyder

New ornamentals showing promise at the Arboretum

Source given by numbers at end of description. See list of nurseries at end.

Abies lasiocarpa arizonica (Arizona Corkbark Fir). An interesting upright fir with a bluish cast. Color equal to the best of the Colorado Blue spruces. (9)

Acanthopanax sieboldianus. A medium to large shrub, growing to a height of 8 feet. Grown chiefly for its foliage and arching habit. Tolerant of shade and city conditions. Fully hardy. (4, 8)

Aralia elata. (Japanese Aralia). An exotic small tree with large, twice compound leaves that are over 3 feet long. Appears to be fully hardy. (4)

Aronia melanocarpa. (Black Chokeberry). An excellent compact shrub about 3 feet tall and about as wide. Attractive white, pear-like blossoms in late May followed by purple to black fruits in September and October. Leaves a glossy green, turning red in October. (4)

Artemisia nana. (Dwarf Sagebrush). A low-growing, dark green sagebrush that spreads to make a dense ground cover. Plants should be cut to the ground each spring to maintain a neat appearance. Very hardy. (1)

Berberis koreana (Korean Barberry). A vigorous, upright barberry growing to a height of 6 to 8 feet. Fruits borne in a grape-like cluster bright red. Leaves turn a brilliant red in the fall. (4)

ARBORETUM NOTES

Continued

Berberis thunbergi minor (Box Barberry). A dwarf form of the common Japanese barberry with much smaller leaves and compact form. (6)

Betula nigra (River Birch). This native river-bottom birch does equally well in wet or moderately dry sites. The reddish, flaking bark is especially effective during the winter months. Excellent as a clump tree. Apparently highly resistant to the bronze birch borer. (6)

Buxus microphylla koreana (Korean Boxwood). One of the hardiest of the broad-leaved evergreens. Excellent for low-clipped hedges or for foundation plantings. Selections differ in habit of growth and winter foliage color. Propagates readily from cuttings. (5)

Caragana brevifolia (Shortleaf Peashrub). A compact Caragana that forms a mound about 4 feet high. Leaves are very small and dark green. Holds its foliage much better than most Caraganas. Propagated from seeds. (1)

Carpinus caroliniana (Blue Beech). A small tree or large shrub. Can be grown in clumps. Stems smooth, angular and gray in color. Leaves turn bright yellow in the fall. Fruits look like clusters of hops. (6)

Celastrus loesneri (Chinese Bittersweet). A very vigorous vine that produces an abundance of yellow fruits that open with a red center. Both sexes should be planted for best results. (10)

Clematis tangutica (Golden Clematis). Probably the best of the yellow-flowered Clematis. Very vigorous, producing an abundance of bloom in June and a scattering of bloom in July and August. Flowers are followed by plummy seed heads that are effective into early winter. Makes an excellent ground cover. (12)

Cotinus coggygia. 'Royal Purple' (Royal Purple Smokebush). The best of the redleaved smokebushes. Some dieback can be expected each spring but the roots and older stems are fully hardy. A little light pruning each spring will result in an attractive medium height shrub. (3)

Cotoneaster apiculata (Cranberry Cotoneaster). The hardiest of the low-spreading cotoneasters. Flowers pink in June, followed by large bright red berries. May show some tip kill in an open winter. (6, 8)

Cotoneaster multiflora (Manyflowered Cotoneaster). A large spreading shrub reaching a height of 6 to 8 feet and a spread of 12 to 15 feet. Flowers white resembling miniature pear blossoms. Fruits bright red and produced in abundance. Fruits cling to the branches until consumed by birds in mid-October. (3)

Crataegus 'Toba Hawthorn'. A double-flowered form of hybrid origin developed at Morden, Manitoba. Flowers are at first white turning pink, effective for several weeks in late May. Fruits are bright red but sparingly produced. (14)

Deutzia x lemoine (Lemoine Deutzia). The only hardy Deutzia for Minnesota. Plants reach a height of about 6 feet and are covered in late May with clusters of showy, creamy white flowers. (2, 8)

ARBORETUM NOTES (cont.)

Dirca palustris (Atlantic Leatherwood). An attractive compact shrub that reaches a height of about 5 feet. The yellow flowers open in April before the leaves. The branches are very flexible with a tough leathery bark. Plants retain an attractive form for years with no restrictive pruning. Native in northern and eastern Minnesota. (13)

Possible Sources of Plants

1. Arboretum - no commercial source known at present
2. Bachman's Nursery - Minneapolis
3. J. V. Bailey Nursery - Newport
4. Coles Nursery - Paynesville, Ohio
5. Elmore Nursery - Elmore
6. Fiores Nursery - Prairie View, Illinois
7. Green Ridge Nursery - Madison, Ohio
8. Greguson's Nursery - Minneapolis
9. Horton Nursery - Madison, Ohio
10. Interstate Nursery - Hamburg, Iowa
11. Kingsville Nursery - Kingsville, Maryland
12. Littlefield - Wyman Nursery - Abington, Massachusetts
13. Orchard Gardens - Grand Rapids
14. Summit Nursery - Stillwater
15. Wayside Gardens - Mentor Ohio
16. Willis Nursery - Ottawa, Kansas

Reprinted from Minn. Nurserymen's
Newsletter

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STRAWBERRY PLANTS NEED CULLING AND UPGRADING

Don't give up on strawberries just because last year's plants were weak, sickly and poor yielders.

Chances are that a virus infection has attacked some of the plants, says Herbert Johnson, extension plant pathologist at the University of Minnesota. Virus diseases are spread by insects and there is no cure, once a plant is infested.

Best safeguard, Johnson says, is to start an entirely new planting every spring in an area well separated from the old patch.

You can order all new stock from a nursery. Or you can improve the present stock by selecting for transplanting to the new beds only the most vigorous young plants from the old patch. Plant them two feet apart with four feet between rows. The plants that die are likely to be diseased, so get rid of them.

The next step will take nerve, Johnson says.

You must dig out all but the most vigorous plants as the season progresses. The vigorous plants have many runners. They usually bloom profusely. You may not have many plants left at the end of the first season. For that reason, you may want to retain the old patch until new stock gets going.

But if you follow this procedure each year, you soon will have uniformly vigorous strawberry stock. Johnson says if you try this, you may get a lot more pleasure from your gardening. And the strawberry crop is sure to improve.

MANY MORE WOODY SHRUBS NOW ADAPTED TO MINNESOTA

The list of woody shrubs adapted to Minnesota conditions is growing longer each year as a result of breeding and testing of ornamentals by University of Minnesota horticulturists at the Landscape Arboretum and the Fruit Breeding Farm.

Nevertheless, it's important to check carefully before buying nursery stock to be sure you are getting varieties adapted to Minnesota and to conditions in your own home yard, Leon C. Snyder, head of the University of Minnesota's Department of Horticultural Science, warned today.

Among varieties of woody shrubs tested and found to be hardy in Minnesota, Snyder recommends these: Shubert chokecherry, a small tree or large shrub with purple leaves; Toba hawthorn, a small tree with double flowers similar to Paul's Scarlet, an English hawthorn; Enchantment mock-orange, which does not grow too large and does not become leggy like many mockoranges; hybrid lilacs such as the late variety Prestonian, and the early bloomer Dilatata; Claveys Dwarf honeysuckle, a compact shrub growing to a height of 5 feet, useful in hedges or for foundation plantings; and flowering crabapples.

Few ornamentals combine as many desirable qualities in a single variety as flowering crabapples, Snyder said. Among these are three varieties developed and introduced by the University: Flame, Radiant and Vanguard crabapples, all fully hardy, with white and red blossoms, bright red fruits and foliage with a reddish cast.

Many shrubs grown in more temperate climates are showing some promise for Minnesota because of the efforts of University horticulturists to develop hardy strains. Although they are not as yet reliably hardy, Minnesotans may want to plant some of these on a trial basis; Korean boxwood, a broadleaved evergreen shrub 18 to 22 inches high, which has done well in the Twin Cities area; the Mollis azalea and several other hybrids; the Beatrix Farrand forsythia; and the Umbrella and Star magnolias.

Among the shrubs that have thus far proved to be unsuitable for Minnesota planting because of serious dieback or flower bud damage in cold winters are Golden Raintree, most flowering quinces and many broadleaved rhododendrons.

Reprinted from Institute of
Agriculture
University of Minnesota

FOR BEST RESULTS PLANT RECOMMENDED VEGETABLE VARIETIES

A new early tomatoe suitable for direct seeding in the garden in May is one of the newer varieties of vegetables recommended for Minnesota gardens.

Called Gardener, this tomatoe has medium-sized fruits which mature about the same time as Fireball. Plants are adapted to staking.

The Gardener tomato is one of the vegetable varieties urban, suburban and rural gardeners may be interested in planting this year because tests show it is adapted to Minnesota, according to O. C. Turnquist, extension horticulturist at the University of Minnesota. Selection of varieties adapted to local conditions is one of the most important steps to a successful garden, he emphasizes.

As an aid to gardeners, recommended varieties for Minnesota are listed in a revised University Agricultural Extension Service publication, just off the press, 1964 Vegetable Varieties, Extension Folder 154. The publication may be obtained free of charge from Bulletin Room, Institute of Agriculture, University of Minnesota, St. Paul 55101 or from county offices.

Included in the publication are many new introductions which are more productive, more disease resistant and of better quality than some of the older varieties. Reliable older varieties are also listed.

Planting some of these new varieties, in addition to older varieties will make gardening more interesting, Turnquist said. Here are some of the vegetable varieties he recommends for small home gardens: snap beans - Tendercrop, high-yielding all-purpose bean for fresh use, canning and freezing; broccoli - Spartan Early, early, high quality and excellent for freezing; carrot Nantes, one of the most popular, dependable and sweetest carrots for the home garden; lettuce - Summer Bibb, loose-heading type that can be grown all summer; peas - Frosty, early, large peas, excellent for freezing; radish - Stoplight, earlier and longer standing than some older varieties, and Red Boy, especially suited to summer planting; tomato - Gardener.

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