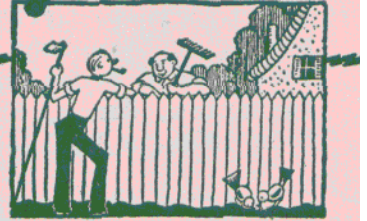




# The Garden Spray

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

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



March 1960  
Volume 19, No. 3  
G. "Vic" Lowrie, Editor

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

## March Meeting

Date: Tuesday, March 8, 1960  
Place: Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church  
Knox Ave, So. & W. 50th St.  
Time: 5:45 P.M., Sharp  
Price: \$1.75

## Officers

Wm. H. Hull	President
Les Johnson	Vice President
Dwight Stone	Secretary
Ev Haedecke	Treasurer

Office of the Secretary  
4620 Hampton Road

Office of the Exchange Editor  
G. Victor Lowrie  
401 Essex Building

## PROGRAM

### "Old Timer's" Night

Special Program using the theme "The Best of the Past," emphasizing useable garden information applicable today, and honoring all charter members and members of over 15 years.

Program Chairman, Bill Thorne, promises a lot of interesting, factual material, a little reminiscing, a lot of fun.

"Old Timers," if you have any slides of early club projects or outings, get them to P. W. Young immediately. We may use a few.

### OUR THOUGHTS ARE WITH . . .

Tony Koester, who was re-admitted to St. Mary's Hospital on February 4.

Harold Kaufmann, who came home from Mount Sinai Hospital on February 3 and is permitted limited exercise.

Henry Bachman, who seems to be in a little trouble in Swedish Hospital. Hope it isn't too serious.

## OUR GARDEN LILACS

by John C. Wister, Director, Arthur Hoyt Scott Hort. Foundation, Swarthmore, Penna.

The genus *Syringa* includes about 25 species. They are native in the mountainous regions of Hungary and Bulgaria. Over 75 of the 100 best varieties recommended today have been introductions that have come from the Lemoine Nurseries, Nancy, France. Victor and Emile Lemoine introduced many varieties from 1870 to 1940.

Among the outstanding American and Canadian lilac breeders are the following: John Dunbar, Walter B. Clarke, T.A. Havemeyer, Edward J. Gardner, A. M. Brand, Isabella Preston and F. L. Skinner.

For best results, lilacs should be planted in good soil in full sun with annual feeding and pruning. Prune to 6 to 12 stems per plant and remove 2 or 3 of the largest stems annually. Remove criss-cross growth and open up the center of the plant to allow light to get in.

Lilacs are propagated by cuttings or grafting. They can be grafted on ash, privet or lilac seedlings. Grafting is probably the most economical method; for salable plants, from 2-4 feet, can be produced in 2 or 3 years. By planting deeply the scions develop roots in a year or two and thus become "own-rooted" plants. Some nurserymen prefer to dig the grafts after the first or second season to remove the understock root. Care must be taken to remove all the understock or it can crowd out the lilac. Seedling lilac is bad in this respect because it can't be identified until the plant blooms.

Budding is cheaper than grafting for growth is usually quicker. The bud is placed at the ground level and is planted deeply when the plants are sold.

Cuttings are usually taken of half-ripened wood in June, after the plants have bloomed. Necessity of taking the cuttings at exactly the right time is important in obtaining high rooting percentages. However, some varieties are very poor in developing roots and often it takes 3 or more years to develop a salable plant with those which do root. The use of hormones, plastic tents, and continuous mist have given better and quicker results.

Suckers can be used, but not for mass production. Seed collected from good varieties germinates readily, however it does not come true.

In the selection of varieties, a long season of bloom with a wide range of colors can be selected.

The whites are preferred because of their spectacular effect in the garden. 'Vestale' and 'Mont Blanc' have been outstanding single varieties with 'Ellen Willmott' and 'Alice Harding' best among the doubles.

In the violet shades, 'Cavour' and 'De Miribel' are good singles; 'Marechal Lannes' and 'Henri Robert' are doubles.

'Decaisne', 'Maurice Barres' and 'Firmament' are best singles and 'Olivier de Serres' and 'President Grevy' are doubles in the bluish tints. The bluest of all is 'President Lincoln'.

Finest lilac-colored single is 'Jacques Callot' whereas in the doubles 'Henri Martin' and 'Victor Lemoine' are outstanding. The best palest pink among

## Our Garden Lilacs (Cont'd)

the older varieties is 'Macrostachya'; the pinkest pink, 'Lucie Baltet'. 'Belle de Nancy' is an outstanding double with good newer varieties such as 'Mme. Antoine Buchner' and 'Katherine Havemeyer'.

Among the many magnificent magenta varieties, 'Mme. F. Morel', 'Reaumur', 'Paul Thirion' and 'Capitaine Baltet' rate very highly.

'Ludwig Spaeth', 'Toussaint L'Ouverture' and 'Mrs. W. E. Marshall' are outstanding single purples. This color class lacks good doubles.

Among the novelties which look very promising are: 'Fraicheur' and 'Henry Clay' in the whites; 'Primrose', a creamy white; 'Crepuscule', blue; 'Charm'; 'Glory', largest flower; 'Night', darkest and late; 'Priscilla', 'Edward J. Gardner', fine pink; purples, 'A. M. Brand', 'Col. William R. Plum', and 'Margaret Rice Gould' and 'Diane', a personal favorite much like 'Reaumur'.

Although there are many fine varieties, there is still room for improvements. More compact, shapely plants, dwarf varieties, greater resistance to disease especially mildew, more consistent annual flowering, larger flowers, clearer colors, non-fading colors, longer season of bloom, earlier flowering, stronger fragrance, and easy to propagate varieties are some of the characteristics sought in new varieties.

R. J. Stadtherr  
Minnesota Nurserymen's Newsletter

### SECOND ANNUAL CHICAGO WORLD FLOWER & GARDEN SHOW

PLACE: INTERNATIONAL AMPHITHEATRE, 42nd & S. Halsted Sts., Chicago, Ill.  
DATES: SATURDAY, MARCH 19, TO SUNDAY, MARCH 27th, (inclusive), 1960  
HOURS: 11:00 A.M. to 10:00 P.M. DAILY  
EXCEPT SUNDAY MARCH 27th, (Final Day) 11:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M.  
ADMISSION: Advance Sale Tickets - \$1.25 on sale at flower shops, nurseries and garden supply stores, garden clubs, etc.  
Box Office Price . . . . . \$1.25 - children under 12 . . . 50¢  
SPONSOR: THE CHICAGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

### APRIL SHRUB AUCTION

This event has been assured again with some choice material having been indicated. So study your needs, and plan to bid on these new and unusual varieties of shrubs and trees.

The entire proceeds will again go to the Minnesota State Arboretum, of which we're all so proud.

Watch the April issue of Spray for the meeting place, since the church will be unavailable that night.

TRENDS IN IRIS IN 1959  
from the  
Chicago Region Bulletin

WHITE: Some of the new ones with good reputations in this class include: Uintah, Angelina, Swan Princess, White Bouquet and Swan Ballet which won the Dykes Medal in 1959, Cascadian, Wedding Bouquet, Lady Ruffles, Tranquility, Truth, Frost & Flame and Isle of Wight. Crystal tinged faint blue.

LIGHT BLUE: Cahokia & Sierra Skies, still good; newer ones include: Angel Curls nicely ruffled, Blue Sapphire (Dykes 1948) Azure Haven, Eleanor's Pride, Frances Craig, Celestia, Smiling Thru, and Exotic Blue, and odd blend of light blue.

MEDIUM & DARK BLUE & BLUE PURPLE: Arabi Pasha, Pierre Menard, Windsor (later than Pierre Menard & similar, but much nearer true blue) Demetria, Helen Novak, Mary McLellan, Star Sapphire and Allegiance, a true dark blue without red or black in it.

BLUE BLACK: Deep Black, Black Hills, & Total Eclipse are still hard to beat; Others include Storm Warning, Black Satin, Dark Boatman, Black Taffeta.

BLUE PLICATAS: - on white: Dotted Swiss, Castle Rock, Belle Meade, Full Circle, Blue Freckles & Engraved on pale gray (oncobred).

PINKS & derivatives: Valimar, Glittering Amber, Pink Splendour, Happy Birthday, May Hall, Pink Sensation, still very good, Native Dancer on the tan side, June Meredith highly rated. Sweet Tomorrow and Memphis Belle are two quite deep pinks.

RED: Much work has been done on these in the past few years, showing great improvement in color; these are Defiance, Royal Ruby, Savage, Black Cherry (bitone), Purple Haven & Patience, two red purples, High Barbaree & Captain Callant.

RED BLACK: LaNegraflor, Huntsman, Sable Night.

COPPER (Orange under new classification): Inca Chief, Olympic Torch, East Indies.

DARK BROWN: Dark Chocolate.

LIGHT YELLOW: Char-Maize, Spring Moon, Zantha.

MEDIUM YELLOW: Butterhorn, Foxfire, Golden Sunshine, Glowing Gold.

DEEP GOLDEN YELLOW: Solid Gold, Full Reward, Phoebus Apollo.

YELLOW & WHITE MIXTURES: Golden Garland, Golden Years, Wedding Ring, Princes Anne.

Good PLICATAS & MIXTURES: Palomino, pink ground with copper markings, City Lights, very bright orange brown on cream. Firecracker red on yellow. Fire Lady a very brilliant red on cream, Pink Accent Lavender pink or light blue on white. Port Wine, rich red on white, Dancing Tiger gold on white.

## Trends in Iris (Cont'd)

WHITE OR PALE standards with Colored Falls: Braithwaite, Helen Collingwood, Cape Cod, Maytime.

WHITE standards & YELLOW Falls: Pinnacle, Channel Islands, White Hat, Truly Yours, a mixture of these colors.

### GARDEN QUIZ from the Minnesota State Horticultural Society

Can you name some native trees that have compound leaves -- that is, each leaf is made up of three or more leaflets?

Ans ... Butternut, walnut, locust, ash, bladdernut, hickory, sumac.

What are the top annual flowers for garden fragrance?

Ans ... Sweet alyssum, nicotiana, petunia.

Name some herbaceous perennials that add fragrance to the garden.

Ans ... Lily-of-the-valley, pinks, gas plant, tall yellow daylily (*H. flava*), showy stonecrop (*Sedum spectabile*), pansy, some varieties of peonies, and many others.

When moss begins to take over in certain areas of the lawn what is wrong?

Ans ... It probably is too shady; or the wrong kind of grass for shade has been planted and it is too thin to compete with moss. In some cases the fertility level may be so low that the grass is not as dense as it should be, allowing moss and weed pests to get started. In poorly drained areas also, the grass may be thin, allowing moss to come in.

Do garden moles eat seeds, roots or bulbs?

Ans ... No. They live on earthworms. It is their burrows that are objectionable. Also, mice may use the burrows later and they of course will eat many kinds of plant material.

How far back should you prune a hedge that has no branches near the ground?

Ans ... All the way to the ground, for the new branches come out just below the point where you cut the stem off. Do this severe pruning at any time before growth starts in the spring.

Can a new variety of plant or tree be originated by grafting?

Ans ... No. Grafting and budding are used for vegetative propagation, (increasing the number of plants which are exactly like the original). New varieties are obtained only through plants grown from seed.

How can you keep house plants such as coleus, begonias, fuchsias, etc., from becoming too "straggly"?

Ans ... Frequently pinch off the terminal leaf buds. In early winter, during short light days, avoid over-watering and over-fertilizing.

Garden Quiz (Cont'd)

What is the difference between a Rhodendron and an Azalea?

Ans ... Technically they are all Rhodendrons. Rhodendrons are popularly referred to as two groups -- Rhodendrons and Azaleas, but the distinction is on a horticultural basis and not very well defined; hence some confusion. In general, those called Azaleas are smaller plants with leathery, smaller leaves. Either may be evergreen or deciduous.

If you have a pine tree whose needles are borne in bundles of five you can be sure that it is ----- what kind of pine?

Ans ... White pine (*Pinus strobus*). The needles of many pines are borne in bundles of 2 or 3, but white pine is the only 5-needled pine native in Minnesota.

Speaking of shrubs -- distinguish between: Snowball, Snowberry, Snowhill, Snowflake.

Ans ... Snowball is a large shrub producing snowball-like clusters of flowers. Snowberry is a low growing shrub producing small white waxy berries. Snowflake is a variety of Mockorange (originated in Minnesota). Snowhill is a variety of hydrangea (*Hydrangea arborescens grandiflora*).

What are the three main purposes of cultivating soil?

Ans ... The primary purpose is to destroy weeds. Two secondary purposes are: To increase the aeration of the soil; and to decrease evaporation, through the formation of a dust mulch. Many authorities question the effectiveness of cultivation in accomplishing the last two.

What is the difference between a "cutting" and a "scion"?

Ans ... They are really the same thing -- a piece of plant stem. When we attempt to grow roots on the piece we call it a cutting or slip. When we graft it onto some portion of another plant we call it a scion.

AUDITING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Auditing Committee's Report dated January 10, 1960:

"The books were kept by two treasurers during the year, Dwight Stone and Ev Haedecke, and were found to be in good order and very well kept. The bank accounts were reconciled with the bank statement and savings pass book and all items appeared to be properly accounted for.

Respectfully submitted:

Auditing Committee

R. C. Adams, Chairman (signed)

Sherm Pinkham

Floyd Ashley