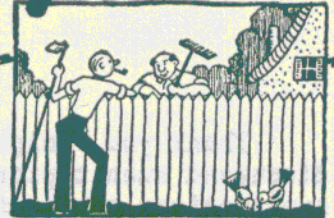




The Garden Spray

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

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



March 1962
Volume 20, No. 3
G. Victor Lowrie, Editor

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

March Meeting

Date: Tuesday, March 13, 1962
Place: Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church
Knox Avenue at W. 50th
Time: 5:45 P.M., Sharp
Price: \$1.75

Officers

N. W. Christopherson President
Ev. Haedecke Vice-Pres.
Dwight Stone Secretary
Charles Proctor Treasurer

Office of the Secretary
4620 Hampton Road

P R O G R A M

"Gardening With Granuals" - a talk by Gene Petersburg
of the Western Mineral Products Company

"Mums" - a talk by Roger Koopmans

Meet our new members:

Walter A. Hammen 4624 Terracewood Drive
Minneapolis 20, Minnesota

Phillip H. Smith 4328 Collidge Avenue, So.
Minneapolis 24, Minnesota

Add to your roster:

George S. Titus 313 Sherwood Drive
Santa Rosa, California

We did not hear from George until after the 1962 roster was printed.

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OVER THE GARDEN GATE

by Bill Hull

Thank you, Dolph Bezolier, for a good February program. Lloyd Bachman discussed such topics as his recent experiments in dwarfing plants by applications of Phosfon. He was recently honored as a speaker at Ohio State telling his professional colleagues of Bachman's commercial use of this product. It's a selective chemical and no universal formula for its use is possible. Lloyd distributes one tablespoon into a quart of sand, then mixes the sand well with two cubic feet of soil, the mums being potted in that soil. This procedure results in a much shorter plant with larger blooms and eliminates a great deal of greenhouse hand labor to care for the tall growing plants. The product can also be used as a drench and Lloyd told of his success in drenching lilies, using a six to ten times stronger dosage than for mums.

Bruce Johnstone of Northrop King discussed the new annuals as well as a few other choice varieties. Those items which received the most acclaim in my area of the room were:

Dianthus - "Peppermint pink" and "Bravo"
Petunia - "Lavender Lace," "Calypso," "Coral Satin," "Sugar Plum,"
"Polaris," "Minuet". Last two are doubles.
Snapdragon "Rocket," Inks and yellows preferred. Difficult to
obtain seed by color. Mixtures still good.
Sweet William "Wee Willie." Very dwarf for edging. Colorful.
Vinca "Rose Carpet" (pink) and "Bright Eyes" (white)
Zinnia "Polynesia"

At this February meeting we were pleased and honored to have as our guest, S. L. "Joe" Seaman, President of the North Star region and past president of the Richfield M.G.C. Joe discussed some of the regions 1962 plans and expressed a need for workers at the regional level. This year's delegates from our club are Otto Nelson and Fred Holzman. Otto says if anyone doesn't realize the tremendous importance of the regions activities in serving the clubs, come to one of the board meetings. You'd be welcomed. See Otto.

Three of our members have major spots in the coming annual convention of the American Rose Society, June 21-23, Minneapolis, Leamington Hotel and American Hardware Mutual Insurance Co. building. Carl Holst is general chairman, Jerry Olsen is show chairman and Fred Holzman is publications chairman. Anyone can enter the show for a \$4.00 fee but only ARS members are trophy candidates. We can help our friends and our city by entering, or at least attending.

Les Johnson and Henry Bachman, vacationing in Florida with their wives, had a recent session with Rene Dufourd. Bet they enjoyed themselves chatting with the Silver Fox in the Florida sunshine. With this issue of Spray the Johnsons and Bachmans will probably be back home, but the Hulls will be in Florida.

OVER THE GARDEN GATE (Cont'd)

Recently I heard a retired man complaining of loneliness and boredom. We could cure that in our M.G.C. in a hurry. No man can be lonely and take any active part in a club like ours. There is a lot of comradeship with an opportunity to make close friends and whet your curiosity. I don't know any bored gardeners.

Our climate may be rigorous but apparently all areas have drawbacks. How about that \$30,000 house in California which was filled to the ceiling with an adjacent vacant lot worth \$17,000? Of the Delta floods? Or the south's tornadoes? Or the southeast's hurricanes? Just because it reached 28 below here -----

Did you hear about Jose, the Mexican, who saved his pesos and came to Los Angeles to watch the Angels play in the new Chavez Ravine Stadium? No seats were available so he shinnied up the flagpole and sat atop the flag to watch the game. Back in Mexico his friends asked if the Norte-americanos were kind and considerate of him. "Considerate!" said Jose. "They were so worried about me being able to see the ball game, at the very first they all stood up, turned around and yelled at me, "Jose, can you see?"

NEW CHRYSANTHEMUM INTRODUCED BY U of Minn.

A new bronze cushion-type garden chrysanthemum called Minn-Autumn, developed by University of Minnesota horticulturists especially for northern climates, will be available from many nurseries and greenhouses for planting this spring.

The vigorous plant has deep reddish-bronze, fade-resistant, 2 ½ inch flowers topping healthy, dark green foliage. Plants are compact and sturdy. They reach a height of 12 to 15 inches and a spread of 30 to 36 inches when grown in full sun. Blooming usually begins in the first half of September in the area of the Twin Cities.

The prefix Minn. is used to designate garden chrysanthemums of low growth habit introduced by the University of Minnesota. Minnpink and Minnbronze are other Minnesota introductions of cushion-type mums.

Minn-Autumn is the 41st variety of garden chrysanthemums to be developed and introduced by the U of Minn. horticulture department over a period of 21 years.

Further information about Minn-Autumn is available in Miscellaneous Report 47, Minn-Autumn, available from Bulletin Room, Institute of Agriculture, University of Minnesota, St. Paul 1. Also included in the publication is a list of the most popular University of Minnesota varieties of chrysanthemums.

Reprinted from the Un. of Minn. Farm and Home News

THE POINSETTIA

There is a charming legend which tells about the miraculous appearance of the Poinsettia in a little church on the outskirts of Cuernavaca, Mexico.

Long ago on a Christmas Eve a small, dark-eyed girl was very sad because she had no flowers to take to church and place at the manger wherein lay an image of the Infant Savior. Then, before the weeping child, appeared a beautiful Angel who bade the little girl to weep not but to go and pluck a weed from the roadside, place it on the church altar and wait. The girl obeyed the angel's command and immediately after she placed her weed on the altar it blossomed forth into a vivid scarlet flower. And that is how the Poinsettia became the Christmas Flower in Mexico and still is the most prized of all the flowers of the Christmas season.

The Poinsettia was named after Joel R. Poinsett, statesman and U. S. Secretary of War, of Charleston, South Carolina, who, in 1825, was appointed the first American minister to Mexico. There he found this attractive plant and sent it to the United States. In 1836 botanists named the plant Poinsettia.

The actual flower of the Poinsettia is the tiny yellow cluster in the center of the flaming red bracts which are often mistakenly assumed to be the flower. The beautiful colored bracts resemble a flaming star, reminding one of the Star of Bethlehem which led the Wise Men and the shepherds to the manger of the Infant Jesus.

With a little care your plant can be carried over to flower again next year.

When the red bracts begin to drop off, gradually withhold water until the leaves have all fallen and the plant enters its resting period. Then it should be stored in a place where the temperature will not fall below 50 degrees; it can be stored as it is or, to save space, you may cut it off about eight inches above the pot. Water just enough during the winter to keep the plant from shriveling.

The plant will require no further care until about May when it is time to repot it with new soil and resume regular watering.

SPRING FUN AUCTION

Again this year we are planning a Spring Auction that will be lots of fun as well as of benefit to each member. Let's start thinking about and planning the plant materials, garden tools and novelties that we can contribute and make fun auctioning so that our big evening in May will be a whooping success.

Bob Smith, Auction Chairman

Mr. W. D. Stone, Secretary
Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis
4620 Hampton Road
Minneapolis 22, Minnesota

Dear Mr. Stone:

You will be interested in knowing that the landscaping award plaque for 1961, which the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis awarded our company on December 12, 1961, has created a great deal of interest. We receive comments almost daily from the people calling at our office when they see the plaque displayed on the office wall.

You are to be complimented for this splendid way in which you have made many people conscious of the satisfaction and joy of beautifying their land and buildings.

We very much appreciate the recognition you have bestowed upon us and shall strive to maintain high standards in landscaping beautification.

Sincerely yours,

L. J. Venard, President
Western Mineral Products Company

SEEDS

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The seeds you may have received in the mail sometime during the week of February 22, 1962 were provided through the generosity of Mr. Howard Bodger of Bodger Seeds Limited, El Monte, California. Howard was a guest of Larry Corbett at the February meeting and offered seed to each member present.

The seeds are a rocket type snap that grows just 18" high.

For those who did not receive seed in the mail - see Dwight Stone at the March meeting. He may still have a few packages for distribution.

MINN. HORTICULTURE SHORT COURSE IN MARCH

The University of Minnesota will hold its forty-first annual horticulture short course in the St. Paul Campus Student Center March 21-23, according to Robert R. Pinches, acting director of short courses.

This year separate one-day programs will be devoted to vegetable gardening, home fruit growing and ornamental horticulture. A meeting for commercial apple growers is scheduled for the first day of the short course.

Highlighted on the vegetable gardening program Wednesday, March 21, will be talks on vegetable varieties for better gardens, growing herbs, cultural and chemical aids to earlier tomatoes and muskmelons, making garden soil productive, insect control and freezing vegetables for quality.

The home fruit growing session March 22 will be devoted to discussions on maintaining soil fertility, recommended varieties of tree and small fruits, care of tree fruits and spraying problems.

On the ornamentals program March 23 gardeners will learn what shrubs and trees to plant to attract birds to the garden. Secrets of good lawn management and diseases of ornamentals are other subjects to be discussed at the morning session. On the closing afternoon, gardeners will be given tips on how to choose and grow clematis, on the best new and old annuals for quick color and on rhododendrons and azaleas for Minnesota.

Beside members of the University of Minnesota horticulture, soils, entomology, and plant pathology staffs, featured speakers will include R. Keith Chapman, entomologist, University of Wisconsin; D. Bruce Johnstone, Northrup King and Co., Minneapolis; E. C. Lehman, Lehman Gardens, Faribault, Minn.; and James Watson, director of turf research, Toro Manufacturing Co., Bloomington, Minn.

R. E. Widmer, associate professor of horticulture, is program chairman. Exhibits of an educational nature will be on display in the horticulture building during the three days of the short course.

Copies of the horticulture short course program are available from Short Course Office, Institute of Agriculture, University of Minnesota, St. Paul 1, Minnesota.

Joe Witmer predicts an early Spring - any takers?