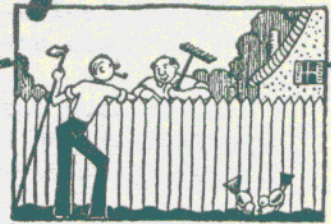




The Garden Spray

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

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



March 1963
Volume 21, No. 23
G. Victor Lowrie, Editor

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

March Meeting

Date: Tuesday, March 12, 1963
Place: Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church
Knox Avenue at W. 50th St.
Time: 5:45 P.M. Sharp
Price: \$1.75

Officers

Ev. Haedecke	President
Dwight Stone	Vice-Pres.
G.R. Christenson	Secretary
Charles Proctor	Treasurer

Office of the Secretary
8300 Sheridan Ave. So.

P R O G R A M

Starting Sweet Peas the Stone Way
Dwight Stone, Member

Garden Birds and How To Attract Them

Don Lewis, Naturalist
Minnesota Museum of Natural History

DAMPING-OFF DISEASE IS SEEDLING ENEMY (Cont'd)

Damping-off is a fungus disease that kills plants during the first days or weeks of growth. According to the county agent and Herbert G. Johnson, extension plant pathologist at the University of Minnesota, infected plants often topple over suddenly and die.

The disease-causing fungi may be on the seed, in the soil or on soil-holding containers. Preventive measures are based on eliminating the fungi or providing chemical barriers that will prevent fungi from growing.

The most effective control measures are made before planting. Seed should have a coating of a good seed treatment chemical, such as captan, chloranil, dichlone or thiram. Place a toothpick-full of the chemical in the seed packet and shake till the seeds are coated.

You can kill the damping-off fungi in soil or in the containers by heating thoroughly to at least 180 degrees. Do the job in your oven, if you don't mind the smell. Soil should be slightly moist before heating; use a thermometer inserted into the center of the soil as a guide.

If the damping-off fungi get a start they will grow faster in sterile than in non-sterile soil. Soil and containers must be kept off the ground or other non-sterile areas to prevent reinfestation.

In most cases, proper conditions for seed germination and seedling emergence are also suitable for vigorous growth of the fungi. Johnson recommends reducing moisture at the surface of the soil to give fungi less advantage. Saturate the soil thoroughly when watering and don't water again until soil approaches the wilting point for plants.

For further information on prevention and control of damping-off disease, call or write the county extension office at 3390112.

Reprinted from the University Farm and Home News
Institute of Agriculture, U. of M.

HERE'S HOW TO INCREASE EARLY YIELDS OF TOMATOES

Home gardeners can greatly increase yields of tomatoes by following some techniques used by University of Minnesota plant scientists.

R. E. Nylund, professor of horticulture at the University of Minnesota, suggested use of these techniques.

Select an early variety such as Faribo Hybrid EE or Fireball.

Grow the plants in peat or clay pots instead of flats. Root damage is far less from setting the potted plants in the garden than transplanting

HERE'S HOW TO INCREASE EARLY YIELDS OF TOMATOES (Cont'd)

from flats. Place plastic mulch over the planting area.

Set the transplants through slits in the black plastic, planting them close together - about a foot between plants in the row, with rows about 3 feet apart.

Use a starter solution at transplanting time to get plants off to a good start. Dissolve 1/2 cup of complete fertilizer in a gallon of water and use about 1 cup of this solution around each plant.

If the weather is cool when blossoms come out, spray the blossom clusters with a hormone blossom spray to prevent excessive blossom drop.

Nylund also suggests that starting muskmelon plants in peat pots about two weeks before planting and using a black plastic mulch in the garden will greatly increase yields of muskmelons.

Cost of black plastic film for the home garden is negligible, he said. Besides increasing soil temperature, black plastic controls weeds, conserves moisture, keeps fruits clean and often freer of disease. Weed control alone may make the black plastic mulch worthwhile, Nylund declared.

HOW TO PRESERVE THAT GREEN COLOR

Did you know that you can preserve the green color of foliage for several years by selecting branches that have been making healthy growth. Rinse off the dust and dirt, remove any damaged parts, then use a sharp knife to split each branch about two inches up from the bottom. Place them in a tall vase filled to a height of about seven inches with a solution of one part glycerine (from the drug store) and two parts water. After two to four weeks in the base, the solution will have reached the tips of the leaves, not changed in color. The treatment is now complete, so remove the branches, use them in arrangements with or without water, or store them for future decorative use.

DOUBLE-DUTY SPRAY

Grubs are directly responsible for rot in dahlias and iris and also the fungus diseases of bent grasses resulting in "angel circle" and other fungus diseases found in these grasses. Spray your bent grass with "Deldrin" to kill the grubs that eat off the roots of the grasses to cause angel circle and your bent lawn won't be bothered any more, just like clearing up the borer in iris or dahlia plants frees them of iris and dahlia rot.

A lawn which sprouted a fine crop of edible mushrooms after a heavy application of spent mushroom manure was brought under control by giving it a heavy dose of mercury. One of the men working for me reported he had a case of athlete's foot which was cleared up while doing such a job, so perhaps you too may find some help for your aching feet. When you have

DOUBLE-DUTY SPRAY (Cont'd)

to clean up mushrooms on your lawn, use a mercury dust or solution and do two jobs at the same time.

OVER THE GARDEN GATE

by Bill Hull

If you weren't at the February meeting you didn't hear the good news that the 1967 convention of MGCA has been awarded to our club in Minneapolis. This decision was made by the Board of Directors in formal meeting at St. Louis on January 11 and the announcement held up for our February meeting. Good news for us and we hope for MGCA members everywhere when they learn of it. President Haedecke has asked me to serve as chairman of a special steering committee to work toward the achievement of this goal. Would you like to help now in the planning stage?

One of the smartest steps we all could take to assure us of a better 1967 convention would be to have a big turnout at the 1963 convention, July 30-August 1 in Rockford, Illinois, only 340 miles from here. We know of several who are going but you should go, too. Those who have attended our MGCA conventions have always returned with praise and fond memories of a good time. The costs are low, being \$25 for registration if made when the announcement comes out in THE GARDENER, this price including banquet ticket, tours, meetings, etc. Additional tickets to single events are available for your wife, and you should take her. Please let me know if you're planning or considering going.

Wasn't that an excellent February meeting VP Dwight Stone prepared for us? Bruce Johnstone gave us an excellent detailed summary of new annuals for 1963 and Peter Bonucci, also of Northrup King, discussed some of the problems of hybridizing. One example, was how a variety of corn is repeatedly bred to a sterile variety of corn until ultimately the parent variety has all of its original characteristics except it is now also sterile. This means it can now be cross bred easily with another variety, with no danger of self fertilizing itself. Come again, Peter Bonucci.

Isn't it good to see our president trying to revitalize interest in our old-time special interest groups. It was Harold Kaufmann who was the power behind this successful program for many years. We sincerely hope Walter Quist, the new general chairman, will get the same cooperation Harold got. But if we want this program we can't leave it up to someone else to do.

I've become curiously interested in pod corn and some of the other unique varieties of corn no longer on the market. Anyone else interested in growing some of these varieties solely for curiosity?

Good visits recently with Maury Lifson and Dolph Bezoier both of whom have had their share of troubles which they have bravely faced. We wish them well and at the same time can't help thinking that their interest in gardening and the promise of a new spring must have been of help to them. If you haven't read the soul-searching THE DEVIL'S ADVOCATE, you should.

OVER THE GARDEN GATE (Cont'd)

We certainly offer our best wishes to Joe Witmer for receiving the assignment to write the garden column for the Sunday STAR. We all know the department is in good hands again. Those of you who missed the February meeting will be interested in seeing the reprint of the announcement, autographed by many members and framed, then presented to Joe at the meeting.

Dale Durst says to plant an extra flat for the Spring Auction. As the current commercials say: "Do it!" or "What are you waiting for?" It would help Dale to let him know soon that you're doing this.

We can report that the Convention Steering Committee, which Ev Haedecke has asked me to chair has already been giving thought to our two foremost problems: 1) the time of the year to hold the convention; and 2) the hotel with which we will want to make the tentative agreement. Your suggestions made very soon would be appreciated.

LEAF DAMAGE MAY HAVE MANY CAUSES

Don't be too quick to blame plant leaf damage on chemicals. Better wait instead to see what happens in the field after the damage occurs. A University of Minnesota extension specialist says that curling, crinkling and pushing together among veins on plant leaves may be caused by one or more of at least three things.

True, one possible cause is hormone-type weed chemicals, such as 2,4-D, which may have been used in the same area or near by. But a second common cause is virus diseases, spread either by insects or by seeds. And a third possible cause is direct insect injury, such as punctures from little creatures that suck leaves.

Any one of these three injuries can produce similar kinds of symptoms, according to plant pathologist Herbert Johnson. He has seen this diagnosis problem in thousands of cases among such plants as tomatoes, grapes, cucumbers, muskmelons, elms, box elders, soybeans, shrubs and garden flowers.

If the problem came from weed chemicals, the plants often outgrow it. Soybeans hit lightly by a 2,4-D drift usually have three nodes of leaves with some distortion. Symptoms usually differ from one node to another, with the lowest being the worst. Also, if there was chemical injury, you usually find a uniform effect over a uniform population of plants.

If the damage is from a virus, the damage will be more spotty. Some plants will be affected, but others near by will seem perfectly healthy. However, with virus damage, the effect usually becomes more severe with time, while plants tend to recover from chemicals.

With insect injury, the plant will outgrow it if the insects disappear or are controlled. So the general principle is to see what happens in the field. This often tells more than inspection of an individual plant.

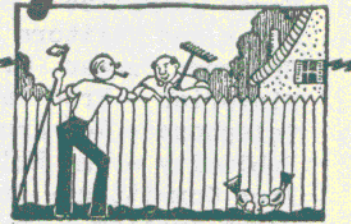
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March 6, 1963

Dear Gardener:

Attached is a list of our 1963 committees. Many of us work on several projects and we ask you to contact any chairman and tell him that you would like to be a member of his committee.

We would like to call special attention to the Cheer and Visitor Committee - as you know, it is impossible for Otto Nelson to keep informed unless we help him- if you know of any members confined to hospital care, contact Otto with this information.

We have reactivated the Special Interests Committee and in so doing we want every member to know that Walter Quist has informed us that he will present a "revolving" plaque and a certificate to the member that does the best job on growing shrubs, flowers, plants or vegetables and informing the membership of his accomplishments.

Ground rules are in the formation process and the membership will be informed shortly.

Further, you will note several new Committees - Official Club Photographers - these men will take pictures of interest at meetings or special occasions. The slides in turn will be the property of the Club and will be cared for by the new Club Properties Committee.

We feel that Fred Paul has done a great service to our Club in recording the Annual History, however, we also are of the opinion that if we had pictures of these events, the vividness would be retained.

We hope that by forming these committees that we will enhance the future traditions of our Club.

As each new president takes office he immediately is confronted with a number of problems. To expedite decisions, a Past Presidents Advisory Committee has been formed to lend council of their experiences.

We know that all of you will help make this a great year - if you know a good gardener that would become a good member - give Joe Witmer the information.

Another Green Thumber

E. K. Hardwick

The Special Saturday Socials will be handled by Dr. Rodda and myself, you will be notified later in the Spring.

MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

1963 Committee Chairman

Program - Dwight Stone
Membership - Joe Witmer
House Committee - Harold Kaufman
Cheer and Visitors - Otto Nelson
Telephone - Tom Krum
Publicity - Wm. Hull, Joe Witmer, Co-Chr.
Food Committee - Frank Vixo, Paul Burt
Shrub Auction - Dr. Snyder, Les Johnson
Plant Auction - Dale Durst, Arvid Ahnert, Co-Chr.
Garden Tours - Manly Jackson, Herb Stevens
Special Sat. Tours - Dr. Rodda, Ev Haedecke
School Gardens - Les Johnson, Paul Kroeger
Photography - Eng Hoyme, Fred Paul, Bob Sicora
Club Photographers - Wally Carlson, P.W. Young, Vern Roufs
Flower Show - Charlie Proctor
Christmas Party - Bill Swanson, Dr. Schoenleben
Industrial Awards - Joe Witmer, Ev Haedecke
Lehman Trophy - Archie Flack
Community Projects - Gar Anderson, Ev Haedecke
Arboretum Committee - G. Victor Lowrie, Dick Lehman, Cortis Rice
Parks (City & County) Comm. - Moore, Dhainin, Lucking, Holst, Quist
Club Auctioneers - L. C. Dorweiller, Dr. L. L. Stillman
Club Properties - P. W. Young
Special Interests Comm. - General Chrm., Walter Quist
1. Azaleas - G. Victor Lowrie
2. Begonias - Sherm Pinkham
3. Delphinium - P. W. Young
4. Lillies - Eng Hoyme
5. Roses - Fritz Holzman, Jerry Olson, Al Nelson
6. Shrubs - Otto Erickson
7. Perennials - Glen Cerney
8. Annuals - William Cowcill
9. Vegetables - Bob Smith
10. House Plants - Walter Menzel
11. Unusual Plants - Dolph Bezoier
12. Clematis - Roger Koopmans

DELEGATES TO NORTH STAR REGION

1. Enior Johnson, Delegate
 1. Neil Barry, Alternate
2. W. W. Brooks, Delegate
 2. Nate Siegel, Alternate

1963 STANDING COMMITTEE ON OBTAINING
NATIONAL GARDEN CLUB 1967 CONVENTION
FOR MINNEAPOLIS

W. W. Hull, Chairman
E. B. Haedecke
Dwight Stone
Harold Kaufman
Walter Quist
Cortis N. Rice
Larry W. Corbett
G. Victor Lowrie
Joe Witmer
Dick Lehman