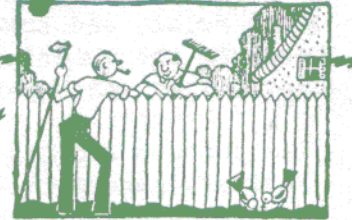




# The Garden Spray

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

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



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William H. Hull, Editor, 7017 Dublin Road, Edina, Minnesota 55435

Associate Editors: G. Victor Lowrie, Charles R. Proctor, Harold Kaufmann,  
Phillip H. Smith & Archie Flack

Club Officers:	President: Grant Christenson	Vice President: Nate Siegel
	Secretary: Ed Culbert	Treasurer: Evald Johnson
	Director: Dale Durst	Director: Al Nelson

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On March 12 our meeting will be held at Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church, 50th and Knox Avenue South.  
Dinner at 6:00 p.m. for a price of \$2.00.  
Nate Siegel has programmed more splendid talks:

Dr. Leon Snyder - "The Stem"

John Kolb - "Genesis of Soil"

Dr. Harold Arneman (University of Minnesota) -

"The Composition of Soils"

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

by G. R. Christenson

Nate Siegel has a good program this month. Why not bring a guest who would be a potential member. Those who missed the meeting last month were deprived of a program of new introductions for 1968, presented by our own experts, Dick Lehman, Carl Holst, and Bruce Johnstone. Nate is going to present, in condensed form, some of the material presented at our programs from time to time in "The Garden Spray," as space permits. Watch for these articles beginning this month.

Les Johnson and his study committee on flower shows made a recommendation at the February general meeting that we have a big show again this year. It was the consensus of the members present that we defer making a decision until the March meeting. Plan to attend and voice your opinion on this very important function of our club.

Sorry to hear of the hospitalization of our good member and friend, Tom Krumm, at Mount Sinai Hospital, Minneapolis. Sherm Pinkham also advises one of our past members and friend, Al Blackbourn, is hospitalized in La Jolla, California. Our best wishes and a speedy recovery to you both.

Bill Swanson, our cheer chairman, will appreciate being advised when any of us know of the illness of any member.

Don't forget our plant auction in May as you're starting new material this year. Start a few extra of the choice items for the auction. Dave Johnson, our auction chairman, is already making plans for this fun-filled evening.

In the past, our club has been very active in the promotion of public gardens in Minneapolis. It is my understanding that the Kenwood Gardens taken for new highway construction, will not be replaced. Perhaps a letter from you to your Minneapolis Park Commissioner could be instrumental in promoting the replanting of these beautiful gardens in a new location.

The club committees for 1968 are as printed below. Some chairmanships will be filled at a later date as the club's desires become more definite. If any of you not on a committee would like to work on one, please let me know. Our chairman are delighted to have additional people on their committee.

MGC of Mpls. Committees for 1968

The first name indicated after each committee is chairman, except where co-chairman is indicated.

Program - Nate Siegel (Board Ex officio members)

Membership - Sherm Pinkham, Otto Erickson

Telephone - Jack Peterson

Cheer and Visitors - Bill Swanson

House and Badges - Harold Kaufmann

Speakers Bureau - Charles Proctor

Historian - Art Johnson

Publicity and Advertising - St. Clair Beeman

Spray - Editor, Bill Hull; Associate Editors, G. Victor Lowrie, Charles Proctor, Archie Flack, Harold Kaufmann and Phillip H. Smith

Food - Burt Zats

Flower and Garden Shows - to be appointed

## A GARDEN OF ZINNIAS

A garden full of color from one variety. The zinnia, one of today's most popular annuals, can make such a garden -- without monotony.

But the zinnia was not always so versatile. The original zinnia, a native of Mexico, had dull, small, rather uninteresting purplish blooms. What has happened to this drab plant since its first introduction into American and European gardens is a living monument to plant breeders and seedmen.

Today's zinnia comes in all sizes, shapes and heights suitable for a variety of planting purposes. From the compact Thumbelina, a four to six-inch plant, sizes range through the Lilliputs, about a foot tall, to the giant three-foot varieties.

Flowers come in a variety of colors from white to deep crimson. In fact, zinnias are available in nearly every color except blue. Even multicolored varieties are available. One of the newest of the zinnias, Paintbrush, a Northrup King introduction, produces a mass of medium-sized double blooms in nine separate colors.

Zinnia flowers have other differences besides color. There are zinnias with single blooms, zinnias with double blooms, and some in between. Some varieties have flat papery petals, others have twisted petals that give a frilled appearance. Close examination of the zinnia flower reveals it is not a single flower, but two types of flowers: inner or disc flowers and outer, highly modified, petal-like ray flowers. In double forms the disc flowers have taken on the appearance of the ray flowers.

Despite its rather dull beginning, the zinnia, a member of the sunflower family, has become a popular variety with home gardeners. It blooms easily and quickly from seed planted in a sunny location. It produces quantities of blooms all summer long, particularly if spent blooms are kept cut. The zinnia is also outstanding as a cut flower.

Popularity extends from the newest to the oldest gardeners. Its large seeds are easily handled by the smallest gardener. Seeds should be planted about 1/8 inch deep and four inches apart and later thinned to eight to sixteen inches depending on the size of the variety. Water freely by running a hose on the ground rather than by sprinkling.

Northrup King & Co. release

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### MGC of Mpls. Committees for 1968 (continued)

Garden Tours - Fritz Holzman, Manley Jackson  
Legislation and Civic Affairs - to be appointed as needed  
Industrial and Civic Awards - Ev Haedecke, Dwight Stone, Bill Swanson  
Lehman Trophy - Archie Flack, Phil Smith, Les Johnson  
Christmas Party - to be appointed  
Club Property - Charles Proctor  
Club Auctioneers - Dwight Stone, Doc Stillman, Ev Haedecke, Louis Dorweiler  
Club Photographer - Vern Roufs, Wally Carlson  
North Star Region Big Pumpkin Contest Coordinator - Dale Durst  
Delegates to North Star Region - Nate Siegel, Otto Nelson, Fritz Holzman  
Builders Show & Flower and Garden Show - Dwight Stone, Frank Vixo

## THE PERENNIAL PROBLEM

Wouldn't it be nice if we could "furnish" our gardens with select perennial flowers such as the 'Taplow Blue' globe thistle instead of the plain, old common variety, with 'Croftway Pink' bergamot instead of plain old pink monarda? Well, yes, and in a way we can; we can use named varieties of irises, of peonies, of daylilies and quite a number of other things. And, when it comes right down to it, the weather is so extreme here that it isn't always a wise investment to buy fancy named cultivars of shasta daisies, heleniums and the like - seedlings, carefully rouged, do just about as well in our midwest gardens and we don't feel nearly so badly when they die off on account of bad weather, an infestation of slugs or a bad case of gardener's 'sitzenlust.'

Right now you can run out and sow a bunch of perennial flower seeds with every expectation of having a good crop of seedlings to work with next spring.

Seeds sown this time of the year come up quickly so they must be sown in a frame of some sort that will provide protection for the babies over winter. A recent issue of Flower & Garden magazine gave blow-by-blow details of building a honest-to-goodness garden frame, either to be heated (hotbed) or left unheated (coldframe). It's really great to have a standard frame with all the gadgets that make it operate, but since time's of the essence and money is tight - at least in this household - you can make do with a jury rig. Scout around in the attic or basement (the loft of the garage is also a likely place) and turn up an old window sash or a storm window. A visit to the salvage yards will give you a wider choice. Then simply construct a temporary wooden frame to fit the sash, dig it into the garden and you're in business. Depth? You need a foot of clearance from the top of the soil inside the frame to the glass. More space is better but not essential. Placement? Morning sun is great; ignore the impassioned demands for a clear south exposure that one reads in so many garden books. One great problem with frames in our part of the country is that the winter sun, shining through the glass, overheats them and you've always got to be hurrying out to raise or lower the glass. I'd far rather face mine north in the middle of a field, or face it east, backed up against a building with shallow eaves, or face it south where the bare branches of a huge old tree will shade it lightly through the middle of the day. Dress the soil inside with equal parts of sand and peatmoss to a depth of two or three inches and spade it thoroughly. Run down to your supply store and pick up a methyl bromide soilsterilizing bomb along with directions for use, and fumigate the bed. Two days later you can plant.

I like to plant my seeds in shallow drills spaced six inches apart. This is fairly wasteful of space and you might want to jam your rows closer together, but, then, remember: come spring you must stay home and transplant every weekend 'til the frame is empty instead of trotting off on wildflower and bird-watching expeditions. Use weatherproof labels and special weatherproof pencil to mark each row as it is sowed. I like to cover my rows with fine, clean sand, but you can use some of the soil from the bed just as well. Here are some of the things that can be planted right away in your frame:

..... continued

The Perennial Problem  
(continued)

Achillea species	Gaillardia aristata cultivars
Althaea rosea (hollyhocks)	Gypsophila paniculata cultivars
Alyssum Saxatile	Helenium autumnale cultivars
Anchusa italica 'Dropmore'	Helianthemum mutabile cultivars
Aquilegia (all sorts)	Heliopsis scabra
Aster (all perennial sorts)	Heuchera sanguinea cultivars
Bellis perennis cultivars	Iberis species
Campanula (biennial & perennial sorts)	Inula orientalis
Centranthus ruber	Myosotis (outdoor sorts for early spring)
Chrysanthemum coccineum (painted daisy)	Papaver nudicaule
Chrysanthemum maximum (shasta daisy)	Papaver oreintale
Coreopsis grandiflora	Penstemon (new Hybrid sorts)
Delphinium (all sorts)	Salvia splendens
Dianthus (all perennial sorts)	Saponaria ocymoides
Digitalis purpurea	Thalictrum dipterocarpum
Doronicum caucasicum	Verbascum olympicum and V. phoeniceum
Echinops ritro	Veronica (all sorts)
Erigeron species	Viola ( all sorts, including pansy)

And that's just a start. A packet of each at a quarter is no great investment and you may end up with several thousand plants! Who can hesitate with that sort of a bargain looking you in the face?

Kansas City Garden Center Bulletin  
September '67

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G A R D E N   T I P   F R O M   D U P O N T

Want to stop rabbits from  
nibbling and destroying  
spring bulbs?

Use a harmless chemical taste repellent to divert rabbits to other available food sources. We spray large drifts of young bulb shoots with thiram fungicide and repellent in the early spring and have no rabbit damage at all. Yet we have no shortage of rabbits! A number of commercial sprays contain an effective taste repellent -- "Arasan" 42-S thiram fungicide and repellent. Or, you can mix 1 quart Rhoplex AC-33 or Latex 512R to 2 quarts of water, then mix thoroughly with 1 quart of "Arasan" 42-S. A single application from a knapsack sprayer or by brush on a small bed of bulbs will last the season.

..... by Seth L. Kelsey, estate manager,  
Kennett Square, Pennsylvania

I don't know if we stop to think often enough how fortunate we are in having so many capable members in the various fields of horticulture. Last February's meeting was an example when our "pros" were called upon to present "Introductions for 1968." This information was so ably presented that I felt many of us would like to have an opportunity to review the talks given: Dick Lehman, "Hemerocallis and Clematis"; Carl Holst, "Roses"; Bruce Johnstone, "Annuals." Dick's will be carried in this issue and subsequent issues will carry Carl's and Bruce's.

#### DICK LEHMAN'S: NEW CLEMATIS AND DAYLILIES FOR 1968

As the clematis has a much greater shelf-life than most other plants, we do not have new varieties introduced every year. In fact, up to this date, not a single clematis has been developed by an American hybridizer.

The ever popular purple, Jackmani, was developed by George Jackman in England in 1858 and is now 110 years old and out-sells all other varieties listed about 25 to 1.

American catalogs list items as "new" but many are novelties and have been known to the trade for many years. One of these is Florida Bicolor, a small double flower with chartreuse sepals and a deep-blue cushioned center, which makes it look very much like a Passiflora rather than a clematis. This variety was introduced from Japan in 1837 and in the past year or two has been promoted by a very prominent American nursery as something "new." It definitely is a novelty and not very well known in this country. It is not really hardy in Minnesota.

Blue Rosette is another variety that is being promoted, having double blue flowers with as many as 40-50 petals. This variety is from Ireland.

There are three new Japanese hybrid clematis being introduced in this country this year: Ka-suga-yama, a large orchid flower with maroon center. Flowers are 6-8" in diameter and are produced most of the summer. Mus-a-chino, 7" pure white flowers with purple or blue center, varying in intensity on the same vine. Sho-Un, supposedly the most exciting of the three. The flowers are two-toned lavender, shading to blue, 6" side with heavy texture flowers and cream center. These three belong to the Lanuginosa group which means they are more or less everblooming and should be pruned down to 4 or 5 feet each year ... either spring or fall.

Montana Tetra-Rosa has strong vigorous growth up to 30 feet and is covered with blush-pink flowers all summer long. As the Montana varieties come from the high altitudes of northern India, the roots are perfectly hardy, but we have been unable to bring the wood through the winter. Inasmuch as they produce all their flowers on two-year-old wood, we do not recommend any of the Montana varieties for Minn.

The daylilies have just not taken hold in the Upper Midwest. Personally, I think they are one of the very best of our easy-to-grow perennials and they have a definite place in the mixed perennial border. They need no special attention as to fertilizing and spraying; they are not particular as to soil; and they will tolerate considerable shade and still do very well. Their normal blooming time is between late June and mid-August and it seems that the flowers are much larger and more sparkly when the temperature is in the range of 95-100 degrees. Some very good varieties being introduced this year are: Success Story, a pink with red eye; July Four, a deep rose with wide petals; Coalport, a near blue; Doublegood, a VonZion daffodil-like double; and Seranada, a luscious strawberry and cream pink.

## 1967 WAS A BUSY YEAR FOR AGRICULTURAL QUARANTINE INSPECTORS

Agricultural quarantine inspectors of USDA's Agricultural Research Service have the important task of keeping destructive foreign plant and animal pests and diseases out of the United States. Working with customs officials, inspectors examine incoming travelers' baggage, cargo, freight, mail, cars, planes, and ships for prohibited agricultural items. Such items often harbor foreign pests which could cause enormous damage to U. S. crops, livestock, forests, lawns, gardens, and ornamental shrubs. In fiscal 1967, inspectors stopped an inbound foreign pest on an average of once every 13 minutes.

Of the 587,530 prohibited items seized and destroyed, more than half were fruits, meats, plants, and similar agricultural products carried by travelers who did not realize the articles were prohibited or restricted.

Inspectors at Eagle Pass, Texas, removed from a car radio antenna a raw potato which the owner declared definitely improved reception. Such a potato, if grown in nematode-infested soil, could spread this destructive microscopic pest to the United States.

A young Asian traveler arrived at New York protected against smallpox by a special "charm" -- a bundle of twigs wrapped in leaves. Agricultural inspectors were somewhat less than charmed, however, when the fetish yielded several foreign insect pests including the highly destructive citrus blackfly.

Inevitably, a few travelers tried to smuggle prohibited materials. At the Mexican border, a woman calmly nibbled a sandwich while inspectors discovered twenty undeclared fruits and plant cuttings concealed in her luggage. Then, thoroughly suspicious, inspectors took a closer look at the "sandwich," and found two more plant cuttings and two bags of seeds placed neatly between bread slices.

A passenger arriving at San Francisco declared the contents of a gallon can to be "lemon drops." When a dubious inspector shook the can and the "lemon drops" failed to rattle, he removed the lid and discovered a dozen mangos. Mangos frequently contain larvae of the Mediterranean fruit fly, a pest which has invaded the United States five times in the last forty years and which was finally eradicated at a cost of \$21 million dollars.

The youngest "smuggler" of the year was intercepted at Miami, Fla. An alert inspector noticed that a 2½-month old baby looked uncomfortable in its bassinet. Wondering why, he investigated and found three prohibited avocados hidden among the bedclothes. Avocados often contain larvae of the avocado seed moth, a serious pest in Latin America.

The largest single insect intercepted was a 3-inch beetle, discovered in the cargo hatch of a plane arriving at New York from Bogota, Colombia.

During the fiscal year which ended June 30, agricultural inspectors and customs officials examined a total of more than 48 million pieces of baggage and almost 57 million incoming mail packages. Other major sources of intercepted items were ship and airplane stores.

THE HOUSE WITH NOBODY IN IT

Whenever I walk to Suffern along the Erie track  
I go by a poor old farmhouse with its shingles broken and black.  
I suppose I've passed it a hundred times, but I always stop for a minute  
And look at the house, the tragic house, the house with nobody in it.

I never have seen a haunted house, but I hear there are such things,  
That they hold the talk of spirits, their mirth and sorrowings.  
I know this house isn't haunted, and I wish it were, I do;  
For it wouldn't be so lonely if it had a ghost or two.

This house on the road to Suffern needs a dozen panes of glass,  
And somebody ought to weed the walk and take a scythe to the grass.  
It needs new paint and shingles, and the vines should be trimmed and tied;  
But what it needs the most of all is some people living inside.

If I had a lot of money and all my debts were paid  
I'd put a gang of men to work with brush and saw and spade.  
I'd buy that place and fix it up the way it used to be  
And I'd find some people who wanted a home and give it to them free.

Now a new house standing empty, with a staring window and door,  
Look idle, perhaps, and foolish, like a hat on its block in the store.  
But there's nothing mournful about it; it cannot be sad and lone  
For the lack of something within it that it has never known.

But a house that has done what a house should do, a house that has  
sheltered life,  
That has put its loving wooden arms around a man and his wife,  
A house that has echoed a baby's laugh and held up his stumbling feet,  
Is the saddest sight, when it's left alone, that ever your eyes should  
meet.

So whenever I go to Suffern along the Erie track  
I never go by the empty house without stopping and looking back,  
Yet it hurts me to look at the crumbling roof and the shutters fallen  
apart,  
For I can't help thinking the poor old house is a house with a broken  
heart.

From POEMS, ESSAYS AND LETTERS, by  
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Mailed  
Rec'd

GROWING YOUR OWN PLANTS FROM SEED \*  
(Continued).

Care of the hotbed.

Ventilation. It is assumed that the thermostat is set at forty degrees to insure that the night temperature does not go lower. As soon as the sun hits the sashes in the morning, temperatures will rise rapidly to 100 and higher; that will ruin the plants in short order. For that reason, ventilation is necessary. Strickly speaking, the amount would vary with the sun's intensity. This can mean many adjustments throughout the day, with the sashes being closed probably in the early afternoon to conserve some of the sun's heat for the night. If your general foreman is available for this chore, you have no problem, but for many of us we had better figure an alternative. As the season advances into early April, considerable ventilation could be made first thing in the morning and left all day with reasonable safety. During March there would be at least four inches of ventilation regardless of outside weather conditions, and not closing them until late afternoon. This entails some risk but you may not have an alternative. For a more detailed discussion, refer to the article by Phil Smith in "Garden Lessons We've Learned."

Watering. If you were a professional grower, you no doubt would vary the amount of water given to different annuals. This is not practical to the home gardener who is growing only a few of various annuals under the same conditions. On bright sunny days your plants in the hotbed might need water more than once a day, while on dull cool days, none at all. When plants need water, give them a thorough soaking, which probably will be as soon as you return home. This will have to do until the same time next day. The writer has been able to raise desirable plants that way. Later in the spring when sashes can be completely removed, plants will get the benefit of any rains.

Fertilizer. For the home gardener, if fertilizer is added at the time the seedlings are transplanted it should be sufficient. If over-fertilized, the young seedlings might quit right there. It would be better to err by under-fertilizing rather than to over-do it. Here, again, nothing can equal experience.

Sowing dates. These, of course, vary considerably, and are determined largely by the temperatures at which the plants are to be grown, in conjunction with your facilities. A long list could be compiled giving various kinds, temperatures at which grown and flowering dates, but this would be of little practical interest to the home gardener. If you are growing in your basement under flourescent lights, and have a heated cold frame (hotbed) which you will activate about the middle of March with a thermostat set at forty degrees, you have as good a setup as an amateur can have without having a greenhouse. Most of our basements are at sixty to seventy degrees and under those conditions your general sowing of

annuals would be about the middle of February. This gives you plants to set out say by May 15th. Your own experience and requirements would determine to what extent you would vary this. For instance, ten week stock would be better seeded in early March. You would not sow tomatoes that early. If you are growing perennials like delphinium, which you want to flower the first year, you would sow in January. The above, however, is a general guide.

It has been mentioned already that if you do not have some facilities, do not make any attempt to sow inside early.

In the next issue, we will take up seeding annuals outside, either where they are going to flower or in specially prepared beds from which they can be transplanted. You might be surprised how many can be raised that way. Naturally the flowering dates will be later, but you can have an excellent late show. In fact, even if you have facilities for growing inside, some plants seeded outside will prolong your color in the border.

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