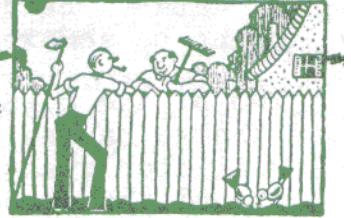




The Garden Spray

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

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



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Proctor and Phil Smith.

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North Star Region Delegates: Verner Carlson & Dale Durst

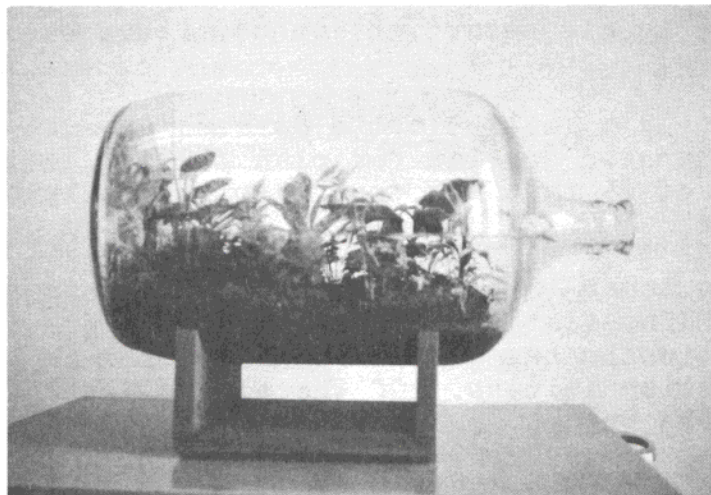
March 11 Meeting

Usual place, time, price: Mount Olivet Lutheran Church, 6 P.M., \$2.00

Three-Part Program:

"NEW ROSES" by Carl Holst
"NEW MUMS" by Rooger Koopmans
"BOTTLE GARDENS" by Phil Smith

You can make a bottle garden (or terrarium) for your den or office. For complete instructions come to this meeting and learn how Phil Smith gets these large plants through the small neck of the bottle. (See photo below.)



GREAT NEWS: WE'RE HALF WAY THROUGH WINTER! SPRING IS BOUND TO COME.

OVER THE GARDEN GATE

by Bill Hull

PRESTO turnip is a small pickling turnip developed by T. Sakata & Co. of Japan. Ready for pickling within a month after sowing, this might be an item some of you would want to investigate.

Two of the U. S. Navy's mascot goats at Annapolis died recently of strange causes. Cause: to make the Navy dairy barn shipshape for the 3 million visitors last year, the farm superintendent spread arsenic around the foundations to kill the grass. One day the wind blew the arsenic to surrounding grass plots, and when this was cut, the wind blew the arsenic into the goat area, enough to kill Bill XVI and the beer-drinking goat, King Puk. The only other goat around, retired Bill IX has no teeth, so he can't eat the grass, and survived. (From Organic Gardening & Farming, via "The Cold Frame" of Staten Island MGC).

I'm worried about Tiny Tim. What's he going to do when he starts to lose his looks.

Congratulations to Ed Culbert, who was recently presented an illuminated scroll making him an honorary member of the Minneapolis Muni. Hiking Club. Only five people have ever received this award. Ed was cited as an "ardent active member since January 1928...elected to the presidency twice (25 years apart)...zealous guardian of the club's finances...knowing counselor of the many phases of the club's activities...historian,..friend to all." The yearbook issued at the banquet when Ed received this award includes his photo and a recitation of his services. Good going, Ed.

We welcome to membership Kenneth A. Burger, personnel management with Federal Aviation Administration (sponsored by Ed Culbert) and George W. Smith, regional sales manager for Parke Davis & Co. (sponsored by Paul Burt). We'll ask Ed and Paul to give us some more details and we can fill you in on these men, but in the meantime, we welcome them heartily.

My grandfather is in his second childhood, I suppose. Anyway, he's back on the bottle.

If you wish to build a small plastic covered greenhouse, 5 x 7 feet, ask the State Extension Service for plan 5941 "Plastic Covered Greenhouse", issued by the USDA, but available only through the extension service.

The European corn borer is spreading with increasing rapidity, says the USDA. One of the most destructive insect pests in the USA, it destroyed 60 million bushes of corn in 14 states in 1967, at a loss of nearly \$64 billion dollars. Of the eleven North Central states covered in the USDA report, only Minnesota and South Dakota did not show corn borer increases.

PRESIDENT NATE PRAISES FEBRUARY SPEAKERS

Our February meeting was, by all standards, a good one. Our attendance was good. Our business meeting brought out productive suggestions on how to increase our membership. We were most pleased to welcome two new members - George Smith and Kenneth Burger. Cortis Rice's Sarasota Garden News for February reports that their outdoor gardening activities have started. However, those who were with Otto Nelson's indoor gardening interest group know that gardening in our north country can be a year around activity, as it is Otto's. Bob Smith is now getting more interest groups organized and will have them ready for this meeting.

Our February program was excellent. Archie Flack's presentation of the annual border is, to my mind, always a rare treat. The technique that Archie uses and the results illustrated, plus his inimitable presentation, should have given all of us something to take home. Dr. Allen Peterson, of the University of Minnesota, then presented a very informative talk on "Insect Control for the Home Garden" which was very well organized and illustrated with excellent slides.

Car Anderson's suggestion that we bring prospective members to a meeting with the club paying the dinner ticket, has been adopted by the Board only to the extent of covering the March and April meetings. So, let's have those prospective members.

..... Nate Siegel, Pre

WHO WILL BE THE MYSTERY MAN AT THE MARCH MEETING?

At the February meeting, a guest, Stan Crist of the Minnetonka MGC was the lucky recipient of a free dinner ticket as he was the man who shook the hand of our February "Mystery Man" at the right time. All Stan needs to do is to show up at the March meeting, and he will receive a free dinner.

Dwight Stone, hospitality chairman, says "This time you could be the winner. When you get to the meeting on March 11, be free with your handshakes. Someone is the Mystery Man and will give away a dinner ticket for the April meeting. Just remember that a stranger is a friend you have never met."

VEGETABLE AND INDOOR GARDENING GROUPS TO HOLD MEETINGS.

INDOOR GARDENING special interest group will tour Bachman's greenhouses on Saturday, March 8, starting at 1:30 P. M. Those who signed up will be telephoned, but all are welcomed. Reservations unnecessary. Ladies, too.

VEGETABLES special interest group will tour Northrup King research greenhouses at the trial gardens on Saturday, March 15, at 9:30 A.M. Those who signed up will be telephoned, but all members and friends are welcome.

NORTH STAR REGION ELECTS 1969 OFFICERS

President for 1969 is Charles King of the Sioux Valley Men's Garden Club. Verner Carlson of the Minneapolis Club is recording secretary.

The Big Pumpkin and Sunflower contests were big successes this year except the costs involved were a problem. The total spent was over fifty dollars.

At present the region is actively promoting a meeting in North Minneapolis for the purpose of starting a MGC in that area. The expense involved comes from money raised in 1966 and 1967 from the Garden Tours. The 1968 Tour was not so successful and unless tours can be better patronized, we will have to look for an increase in our dues (now ten cents per member per year) or drop some of the activities.

JOINT FLOWER SHOW IS COMING ALONG WELL

Representatives of the Richfield and Minneapolis MGCs have met and laid the initial plans for the show this summer, on August 9 and 10, once again at the Richfield public library. After discussion it was decided to invite members of the Sioux Valley and Minnetonka MGCs to enter, so the event now truly becomes a regional show. We have no idea how many will exhibit, but we want to encourage those two clubs to participate. Conceivably, this show could evolve into a North Star Region show with all clubs participating.

Committees have been established with these chairman: Staging-Roger Anderson; Classification - Les Johnson; Exhibiting - Floyd Ashley; Judging and Awards - Bud Christenson; Hospitality - Cliff Briscoe; Publicity - Dwight Stone. There will be a counterpart chairman for each committee from the Richfield club.

It may seem premature with gardens still under two feet of snow to be planning a show. We do not think it is too early for preliminary plans. Have you ordered your seed yet? How about trying something not commonly grown here? Through coming months we plan articles and talks on exhibiting. Our plan is to start you thinking now about the flower show.

....Charlie Proctor

UNIVERSITY SHORT COURSES AVAILABLE TO YOU

The Institute of Agriculture, University of Minnesota, offers these courses all on the St. Paul Campus.

- March 10 - Commercial Fruit Growers short course.
- March 11 - Small Fruit Growers short course.
- March 17 - Garden Store Operators short course.
- March 18 - Turf Management short course.
- March 19 - Shade Tree Management short course.

HOW I GROW CARNATIONS

by Bill Cowcill

My carnations are grown for year around bloom by taking plants from the garden for winter bloom in my greenhouse, (which I built myself). Requirements for winter care as follows: Space: A vertical height of 3-4 feet is needed to accommodate these naturally tall plants. Temperature: I find a range of 40° to 45° daytime and 50° at night best for my carnations and conditions. Ventilation: No direct drafts should be permitted but a change of air is beneficial.

Plants may be grown from many available seed strains, but I prefer to reproduce choice plants from cuttings. I believe that the perpetual flowering types are best since they produce longer lasting plants and produce many bright clear colors and have long, strong stems. I keep choice plants for two full seasons of generally continual bloom.

CUTTINGS: Cuttings should be taken from November to March, preferably using shoots from the lower one half of the plant. The cut should be made just below the node, getting a portion of the node for best results. I use a rooting medium of half sand and half peat, and I find that bottom heat speeds up rooting to not more than four weeks. A pencil can be used for a dibble for inserting the cuttings. The lower leaves should be removed before insertion in the propagating box. When the cuttings are well rooted, I transfer them to 3 inch pots, using a potting mixture of 4 parts sterilized screened loam, 1 part bone meal, 1 part sand, and 1 part peat.

PINCHING: After the plants have started to grow well, I pinch or stop them back by taking out the center above the fifth node to promote side growth. Then, they are pinched a second time at the 5th node after potting in 6 inch pots to which I add lime and wood ashes to my standard potting mixture. For support I use canes and several ties to keep them upright. It is important to pinch out the side buds, leaving the terminal bud so as to produce larger blooms.

SUMMER CARE: After danger of frost, I move my plants to the garden, adding lime, wood ashes and bone meal to each planting location in the border. If plastic pots are used indoors, they should be knocked off prior to planting out. Clay pots can be plunged since they are porous, but I prefer to set all plants directly into the border. The plants should be spaced approximately 1 foot to 18 inches in the garden. I make small irrigation ditches or grooves between the plants so as to keep the water away from the crowns. My recommendation for feeding is to spray once a month with Rapid Gro on the foliage and the ground, and I alternate with malathion for control of aphids and thrips. However, insects do not bother much if good spacing and ventilation is provided the plants.

Faded and dead blooms should be removed promptly, and cut blooms for the home should be taken six nodes below the flower. Scraping of the lower end of the stem helps to promote longer lasting cut flowers.

In the fall or even after the first frost, I pot up the favorite plan and take them indoors, after which cuttings can be taken. Or, cuttin can be taken in the fall for propagation without taking up the plants I discard all plants after two years since dissappointingly small blooms are produced after the second year.

By repeating the same procedure, I have continuous flowering plants the year around. If you have any questions, please give me a call.

NATIONAL LAWN AND GARDEN WEEK is March 20-26, 1969. Meaning what

Meaning that over 50 private organizations have joined with the U. S. Department of Agriculture to make this first annual observance possible. One of the national co-chairman of this group is our own past national president of MGCA, Stan Munro, 1968 President. Many communities and organizations are already carrying out action programs which may be brought into national focus under the "Growing with America" banner. Among these are many of the Men's Garden Clubs, of which our own club has been very active in this type of activity. Admittedly, to a large extent, the success of this activity will depend upon U. S. community leadership. Although the announcement of this activity has just recently reached us, is there anything we can do to participate? If so, as individuals or en masse, we should notify Stan Munro or Harold R. Lewis, Director of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., 20250.

PROCTOR LOCATES "JIFFY MIX".

Charlie Proctor reads the GARDEN SPRAY and, in the November issue read that a product called "Jiffy Mix" is available in garden stores. "Not so simple," says Charlie. He looked in vain for the product until finally it was located at Kidders (now under a new name) Nursery, 9407 Cedar Ave., Bloomington, and the Hennepin County Farm Bureau Store at 8140 Golden Valley Rd., just west of the Golden Valley Shopping Center. Thanks, Charlie.

LET'S ENTER THE HOME GARDEN PROMOTION CONTEST

Better Homes & Gardens magazine in concert with the Men's Garden Clubs of America annually has a contest created to give special recognition to an affiliated Men's Garden Club which is adjudged to have made the greatest contribution to creating interest in and encouraging home gardening.

All projects or cooperative efforts involving any type of home gardening, including lawn, landscaping, flower, fruit and vegetable gardening, are eligible for consideration.

The club entry receiving the top award will be presented with a permanent plaque. Where warranted, award certificates may also be presented.

The editor was sent the complete rules, and possibly also the president and secretary have them, for our consideration. All activities completed but not necessarily begun in 1969 are to be recorded and must be post-marked before March 1, midnight, 1970. Here are some examples of some of the projects to consider: home garden contests, Lawn-of-the-Month contest, garden tours, sponsorship of a home and landscape course, developing visual aids to help gardeners, operating a booth at a garden center or special event, stage planting, pruning and other garden demonstrations for the public, organize talks by members for other clubs, present programs on radio or television stations. This club could do well in such a contest if we went out for it.

NEW LOOK TREES AND SHRUBS FOR HOME GARDENS

by H. F. Winters and J. L. Creech, U.S.D.A.

Everyone admires the shaded residential street, but how long before the wild seedling trees grow out of bounds? How much does it cost property owners and taxpayers each year just to repair curbs, sidewalks, and streets broken by tree roots? The not-so-simple problem of leaf disposal is often overlooked in tree selection for cities. Vigorous tree growth is a real and costly problem in the maintaining of utility lines, also.

What is the solution? The need for landscaping has not changed. And the rural background of the majority of Americans prevents the acceptance of bare brick and concrete as their environment.

Can costly and sometimes unsightly mistakes be avoided in the future? U. S. Department of Agriculture scientists believe so. There already is a greater variety of plant material than most people realize.

Nurserymen always have been eager to identify and propagate plants for specialized uses. A few shade tree varieties originated from well-planned tree breeding projects. The recently patented varieties of honeylocust, linden, and sugar maple are examples. Many more originated as selections from seedling plantings in arboreums and

along city streets.

USDA Scientists long have been aware of the need for selected shrubs and trees for specialized landscape use. Several department programs are aimed at testing introduced and native plants. The Agricultural Research service, the Forest service, and the Soil Conservation service routinely evaluate plant introductions for a variety of purposes and in doing so have the opportunity to select outstanding varieties for landscape use.

The New Crops Research branch has the job of introducing and testing foreign plants. It has performed this function since the end of the last century. Among over 300,000 plants brought to the United States, many have shown outstanding ornamental value. Perhaps best known are the Japanese flowering cherries in Washington, D. C.

A more recent development is the "Bradford" ornamental pear released for general propagation in 1960. Repropagations of the "Bradford" are uniformly vigorous in growth and have produced medium-sized, dense-headed trees when trained as street trees. In early spring, the trees produce myriads of spurborne, small white flowers.

In summer, undulating margins of thick glossy-green, broadly oval leaves of the "Bradford" pear add to the attractiveness of the foliage. Autumn is its special season for color. The foliage undergoes several changes from green to dark purple-bronze to rosy-red, and the leaves are retained later than those of most trees. The small, brown inedible fruits are not troublesome since they hang on the trees until they disintegrate during the winter or are eaten by birds.

Other kinds of trees which have received recent attention and may offer the greatest promise for future development are coniferous evergreens, crapemyrtle, honeyllocust, magnolia, certain species of maples, and Chinese pistachios. American nurserymen have been particularly active in propating new varieties of the evergreens and honeylocust.

As a result of USDA plant introduction activities, several new tree species appear particularly promising for certain areas of the Nation. Recent introductions of the purpleblow maple under test at Chico, Calif., appear particularly desirable for lawn and street trees. At maturity it seldom exceeds 25 feet, which would make it suitable for use under powerlines. The autumn foliage is brilliant even in the warm interior valleys of California.

The greatest need for ornamental trees at present and probably for some years to come is in the Northeast. In this area, millions of American elms have died because of the Dutch elm disease. Although several agencies of the Federal Government have cooperated in attempts at control, it appears most elms eventually will need to be replaced. Various kinds of lindens, maples, and oaks appear particularly promising as replacements.