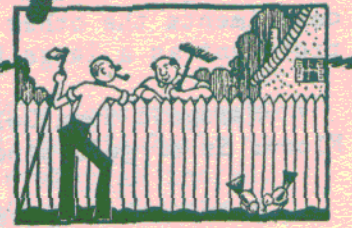




# The Garden Spray

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

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



May 1960  
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 G. "Vic" Lowrie, Editor

Associate Editors  
 Bill Hull, Joe Witmer,  
 Ev Haedecke, Geo. Luxton, Eng Hoy

### May Meeting

Date: Tuesday, May 10, 1960  
 Place: Park Board Greenhouse  
 38th & Bryant Avenue  
 Time: 5:45 P.M., Sharp  
 Price: \$1.75

Wm. H. Hull	Preside
Les Johnson	Vice Preside
Dwight Stone	Secretar
Ev Haedecke	Treasur

Office of the Secretary  
 4620 Hampton Road

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

### PROGRAM

#### SPRING "FUN AUCTION"

Here is your opportunity to obtain some fine plants grown by our members. About twenty members are known to be bringing their best items - from begonias to tomatoes - but won't you, too, bring something? Everyone should have a few plants they can spare, whether divisions, cuttings, extras.

Lots of fun and surprises in store for you at this event, thanks to the Planning Committee composed of Bruce Warner, chairman; Ev Haedecke, Charlie Proctor, Dale Durst and Fred Holzman.

No country store this year.

## NEW FOR 1960

by Larry Corbett

Marigold Toreador, F1 Hybrid, a new color in the Climax Group. Is orange and compliments the other shades of yellow and gold. It appears to be a distinct improvement as a large flowered Marigold of the African class.

Marigold Spun Gold in the Cupid Group is dwarf, compact and an early bloomer. Flower is of good size.

Third All-Americas is Phlox Tetra Glamour. Larger flowered than most annual Phlox; color, salmon pink with a dark eye; it is very attractive. The dwarf types, annual Phlox, known as Drummondii Nana Compacta, are excellent edging and boarder plants and give a great deal of color.

A fourth item is Snapdragon Rocket. In this group you have six distinct colors and a mixture or formula mix of these colors. It is the first F1 Hybrid Snapdragon developed primarily for outdoor or garden use. It is a real advancement over the standard Snapdragon.

The fifth All-America winner is also a Snapdragon known as Vanguard. It is also an F1 Hybrid; it is a deep rose pink; it's main distinction is the doubleness of the individual blooms; the close setting of the blooms on the stem.

In the Alyssum group. Pink Heather was introduced as an All-America last year. It introduces a new shade or color in this family. The pink is quite nice in the cool of the fall or early spring but it fades out in the heat of the summer.

Asters are one of the most beautiful items that one can grow in the garden. Unfortunately, they are subject to Aster Yellows and Wilt. Powder Puff is one of the newer varieties of Asters and it is beautiful.

In recent years considerable work has been done on Celosia or Coxcomb. One of the recent introductions that's very attractive is Forest Fire. It will give a very brilliant spot to your garden.

Dianthus or Pinks are an item that are very easy to grow in the garden. They are not subject to many diseases or insects. Several members of our club use them to real advantage. Dianthus, Heddeewiggi, Brilliant Mixed and Gaiety Mixed are two very attractive items and should be used more than they are.

Crackerjack Marigold is probably the outstanding large flowered open pollinated Marigold at the present time. If you're looking for a good tall plant with a very large flower for background or individual garden, Crackerjack is outstanding.

## NEW FOR 1960 (Cont'd)

We have had so many Petunias in the last few years I really hate to mention them. I think you would be interested that in plant breeding, particularly the development of F1 Hybrids, one sometimes is lucky enough to develop an inbred, that seems to combine with many of the other items and they often call this a work horse or wheel horse. This is what you have had in the development of the Red Satin, Peach Satin and Pink Satin group. A new Petunia introduced recently in the Star class is called Satalite. It is quite distinctive and interesting if you like Star type Petunias.

Pentstemon is a family of flowers that rather intrigues me. They can be grown as long season annuals though many of them are biennials or even perennials. They should be used more in our gardens.

There are two types of Salvias interesting to gardeners. Most of us think of the Red when we speak of Salvia and if we want a good dwarf, St. John's Fire is one of the best. There is a Blue Salvia quite distinctive from the Red. It is primarily used for mixed bouquets and is an excellent item for arrangement work.

Stocks are an item that are used a great deal in California and other areas where they have a long season. They are very fragrant. The Column Stocks, of course, are used by the florist and are beautiful but are too long seasoned to do well in our area. Some of us have grown Ten Weeks Stock. I would like to call your attention to a newer 7 Weeks Stock which is called Trysomic.

The Annual Dwarf Sweet William known as Wee Willie is a very attractive adging or low-growing plant. It has good clear sharp colors. There is an annual Delphinium which is quite attractive and by the way, it does not have spurs on the flowers. The variety is known as Blue Mirror. Wee Willie in front of Blue Mirror is very attractive.

Another group that is not used much but should be used more in home gardens is Verbena. The one big problem with Verbena is germination. To be honest, a good crop of Verbena germinates quite well if it's above 10% but once the plants get started they spread, cover the ground well and will make good cut flowers or bedding plants. There are many forms of Verbena - one of the newer groups is known as Sparkle Hybrids. It is a lively and interesting combination.

Zinnias, of course, are always very good in this area. If you like pastel colors the new Pink Lady is rather attractive dark pink on the outside shading to almost a pinkish white in the center. A new group of Zinnias in the quilled or cactus flowered have been introduced and are called Dark Jewels. These are sharp colors. Another Zinnia that has been improved and is quite a nice item has a horrible name - it's called Ortho-Polka. It is a large flowered peppermint stick. I think at one time it was supposed to have been called Candy Cane which would have been a good name. If you like small Zinnias for cut flowers or to wear in your buttonhole we are introducing an improvement on the Cupid Group known as Sugar 'n Spice. It is a dainty very attractive little Zinnia.

## PERENNIALS

by G. G. Cerney

Except for those who have a greenhouse, florescent light-bench or hot-bed the first half of April is a little too early to start seeds of annuals indoors. Of course, the 'hardy annuals' can be planted outside as early as the soil permits; ie, Sweet Peas, Cosmos and many others.

While the seeding of annuals goes on the early perennials are in growth and very often in the latter part of April and the first half of May you can find in bloom; Scilla Bloodroot, Chionodoxia, Anemone, Viola "Johnny-jump-up", Myosotis, Aquilegia, Hepatica, Bergenia (Saxifrage), Crocus, Viola "Violet", Phlox subulata, Caltha "Cowslip", Trillium, Arabis, Dicentra eximia "Fringed Bleeding-heart", Pulmonaria, Primula, Dryas, Euphorbia polychroma, Polemonium "Jacobs Ladder", Epimedium and others.

By the time tender annuals can safely be set out you can expect to see blooming; Phlox divaricata "Wild Sweet William", Brunnera (Anchusa myosotis", Erythronium, Lithospermum, Dicentra, Iris pumila, Iris Cristata, Muscari "Grape Hyacinth", Tulips, Geum, Papaver "Oriental Poppy", Tradescantia "Spider Flower", Thalictrum "Meadow Rue", Trollius, Potentilla, Hemerocallis, Allium, Cerastium, and others.

Then in latter May and during June and July there is hardly a day passing but what some kind of perennial starts its blooming period. Many of these carry through to the middle of August when the border takes sort of a 'breather' for a couple of weeks and this is the period that annuals are a great asset to the border.

Then in September come many more perennials as witnessed at fall flower shows.

This has not been written with the thought of encouraging the growing of perennials in preference to annuals but merely to show how you can extend your season of garden enjoyment by fully two months, or three, earlier without much effort because once established the perennial requires very little care, and without much extra space because many of them can be double-cropped such as Scilla, Grape Hyacinth or Mertensia may grow in the space occupied later in the season by Platycodon, Hibiscus or Fall Aster. Phlox subulata and Chinodoxia can occupy the same area. Cerastium or Veronica repans or Myosotis can occupy the same area used for lilies with a benefit to the lilies. Follow-cropping is done with the use of shallow rooted annuals following Narcissus and Tulips. There are many many combinations by which space may be saved and at the same time keep the border filled, even with some vegetables.

A few perennials if seeded early, will show some bloom the same season but generally the seeding of perennials is left for the summer which gives time to develop a husky young plant by fall.

Many kinds of good perennials are now available locally. Better results can be expected from locally grown plants because most of the earth is left on the root system and they are out of the ground a relatively short time. Before sending away for plants check with your local growers, if they have the inquiries they are very likely to provide the stock.

If you have some problems in your planning as to variety, shade, moisture, acidity, etc. do not hesitate to call your Special Interest Group on Perennials.

## PRIMULA CULTURE

by Arthur Fakler

Primulas or primroses are an excellent choice as an experiment for a shady protected nook, rock wall or corner around your house. They require about as much care as the ordinary perennial, with this exception. They require plenty of water during dry periods and need ample protection during our severe winters. The best protection is nature's own snow covering, or boughs, hay or straw. I have also placed empty peach crates over choice clumps and then covered these with leaves.

Primulas are quite easy to grow from seed and will help reduce the costs considerably in securing a variety of plants. Since the advent of fluorescent lighting, I have found through my own experience, that primula seeds germinate far more evenly and reliably than other methods usually advocated for difficult seeds. Many of you men in our Garden Club are fully aware of the method which I am going to outline, but will repeat it for those who are not aware of its simplicity, nor have as yet heard of the method.

Briefly, the plan involves the use of ordinary aluminum foil pie plates, which must have holes punched or drilled into each plate to allow for drainage. Each plate should be packed with pulverized sphagnum moss, to within one-fourth of an inch from the top of the rim. Then I usually run an inch or two of water in a laundry tub and allow the plates to float on top of the water until they have absorbed as much water as possible. Do not try to push the plates down in the water as this will force the moss out of the plates. After the plates have absorbed enough water naturally (I usually leave them from one evening until the next) drain the laundry tubs and then leave the plates to drain over night, or you can press out the excess water. I press the moss down firmly with a round flat fruit jar cover to provide an even surface for the seeds. Sprinkle the seeds evenly over the surface and then cover lightly with some pulverized sphagnum moss. Place each plate into a snug fitting plastic bag and fold the ends under so the plastic is rather taut across the top of each plate. If you cannot lower your lights sufficiently, use props and place each plate within two inches from the bottom of the fluorescent tubes.

Seedlings usually begin to emerge within seven days or so, providing the seeds are not too old. After a substantial number of seedlings begin to emerge, the plastic container can be removed. I usually leave the seedlings within the two inch limit, but to avoid loss through rapid evaporation of moisture from the moss, I cover each plate with a small square of hormone and fertilizer treated plastic. This piece of plastic is supported across the plate by using a criss-cross of two pieces of bamboo strips. If moss continues to dry out too rapidly, it may be necessary to increase the distance between the light tubes and seedlings.

After seedlings have reached a height of approximately one-half inch or so, they can be pricked out and transplanted into flats. You will discover that primulas will develop a terrific root structure and it will require a little dexterity to prick the seedlings out of the moss. I usually lift out and pull apart a small section of the moss and gently work the seedlings apart with an aluminum pointed prong. I made a prong from a piece of aluminum clothes wire, pointed at one end and flattened at the other, about seven or eight inches long, which I find useful in separating the seedlings. I use the pointed end to pry apart the seedlings and the flattened end to make the holes in the flats for the seedling.

## PRIMULA CULTURE (Cont'd)

The best soil medium for transplanting seems to be a mixture of equal parts of one-third garden loam, peat and sand. I keep the flats about eight or ten inches below the fluorescent tubes until they are ready to transplant outdoors.

Primula seedlings are so tiny that they are apt to be overlooked if placed too soon in permanent areas in the garden, unless there will be no other plants to interfere. To overcome this I have buried entire flats in a protected, shady corner and covered the flats with glass. If a glass covering is used, it may be necessary to use a wedge under the glass to provide a little aeration from time to time.

Primulas will do well in any garden loam, but if you have a heavy soil, a quantity of peat moss can be worked into the soil before transplanting.

I have had more enjoyment out of growing the Polyanthus type of primulas, as they seem to be a little more showy and have a larger color range to work with. For a border plant in a shady area, the miniature pink or wine red Juliannas are quite exquisite and will be in bloom usually around May 1st. Another easy growing variety is the P. Sieboldi in shades of pink and pure white. The Himalayan primrose, the P. Denticulata, with a rosette of either pure white or mauve in the shape of a golf ball is also quite easy to grow.

Primroses will spread quite rapidly if they have the right preparation and care and will require dividing of the root stock every two or three years.

## PRAIRIE FIRE - A NEW U OF M ROSE

Prairie Fire is very floriferous, having  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to 3 inch red flowers borne in large clusters on vigorous canes. Each cane will produce from 35 to 55 individual blooms. The flowers are a very bright red with the outer petals slightly darker than the inner ones. The base of the petals is white thus having the effect of highlighting the red in the flower. The blossoms are long-lasting and age slowly to a lovely, clear pink and the brighter and deeper color of the buds and fresh blooms give a brilliant fiery effect.

The plant is very vigorous, producing numerous succeeding canes throughout the season. These canes are very sturdy and upright. The plants will reach a height of 5 feet in a single season. The foliage is a dark, glossy green.

Prairie Fire has demonstrated outstanding winter-hardiness for a floribunda rose in Minnesota. During five succeeding winters of testing, this plant has survived without special winter protection. However, the winter of 1958-59 with its penetrating cold and little or no snow cover demonstrated the need for some protection. Therefore, it is recommended that a 12-inch leaf or hay mulch without earth mounding be provided.

Prairie Fire is especially useful as a showy flowering shrub for landscape plantings. It can be used very appropriately as a background for a flower border or a border of garden roses.

## PROGRESS REPORT FROM OUR PRESIDENT

It seems to me that we are progressing nicely but thought you might want to know some of the plans for the rest of the year. We will have our auction in May, a gardening how-to program back at Mt. Olivet Church in June, tours during the summer months, a fall flower show, meetings in the fall months, and a Christmas party.

The date of the fall flower show has been set as August 13 - 14, and reservations made for it. It was a very hard decision due to conflicting activities and dates which would involve many members, but the Board decided on the above date after considerable thought. You may want to plan your garden to bring bloom to a peak at that date.

Various committees are progressing nicely and their chairmen would welcome your suggestions. The show group is working (Otto Erickson), the telephone committee is ready for emergencies and Maury Lifson and his group will make the calls for attendance at the Downtown Wednesday luncheons (call him if you want to be reminded), the special interest groups (Eng Hoyme) are progressing very well, the photography committee (Vern Roufs) is updating the official record book. There are many activities, involving more detail and work on members' part than you can possibly conceive unless you have been involved in Executive Board duties of our club.

The Board meets at least monthly. We intentionally avoid bringing business before the total membership unless it is vital, but we hope you realize that we solicit your suggestions or criticisms. Please feel free to talk to me or the other Board members (Les Johnson, Dwight Stone, Ev Haedecke, P. W. Young). I assure you any matter you propose will be given very serious attention.

I personally believe we are having a good year and thank you for your many comments about our activities. The Old Timers Night and the Arboretum Benefit Auction were most successful. We hope you are enjoying 1960.

### SAFETY PRECAUTIONS IN USING PESTICIDES

1. Read the directions and follow all of the safety precautions on the label.
2. Avoid spilling poisonous material on your skin. Some chemicals may be absorbed through the skin. If these materials come in contact with the skin, wash immediately with soap and water. This is especially true of the concentrate before it is mixed with water. Wear a respirator and goggles when applying toxic materials.
3. Avoid inhaling fumes or dusts. Do not smoke or eat during the operation. Maintain your position on the windward side of the spraying operation in order to avoid drift.

## SAFETY PRECAUTIONS IN USING PESTICIDES (Cont'd)

4. Store poisonous materials in closed containers and in a dry place where children, animals and people, unaware of the dangers involved, cannot come into contact with them. Be sure that containers remain properly labeled. Empty or nearly empty containers should be destroyed. Burying is perhaps the safest method of disposal.

In case of an accident or undue exposure of toxic chemicals, there are a number of poison information centers located in various towns in Minnesota. The main office is located at the following address:

Poison Information  
Division of Special Health Services  
Minnesota Department of Health  
Minneapolis 14, Minnesota  
Telephone Number: FEderal 9-7751

A telephone call, by your physician, to this office will give him the information he needs and if necessary, they will refer him to the center nearest you.

### AUGUST FLOWER SHOW DATE SET

Otto Erickson, Show Chairman

Our annual flower show will be staged August 13 and 14 at the same beautifully impressive location (American Hardware Mutual Building). Please plant now for mid-August bloom, studying your charts and records to learn which plants and flowers can be expected to be at their prime then. For example, you may want to plant more Gladioli, early Dahlias or Mums than you usually do. Remember to be generous in your estimate because any surplus can be used in arrangements. We will need a good representation in both specimen and arrangement categories in order to stage the kind of flower show of which we can again be proud.

Remember the early date - August 13 - 14.

### THE APRIL AUCTION . . .

. . . provided a fine group of shrubs for us and netted the Arboretum \$204.00. We've been hearing alot of favorable comments about that event and thanks to Leon Snyder and members of the Auction Committee for their fine work. Lots of praise for Louie as a new member of the auctioneering staff.