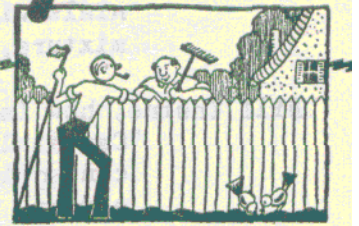




The Garden Spray

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

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



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G. Victor Lowrie, Editor

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

May Meeting

WHAT: LUCKY BUCK FUN AUCTION

WHEN: MAY 8, 1962

WHERE: PARK BOARD GREEN HOUSE
38th & BRYANT SOUTH

WHO: YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS

TIME: 5:45 P.M. SHARP

FOOD: DELARIA'S KENTUCKY FRIED CHICKEN

PRICE: \$1.75

FUN: GUYS & DOLLS - All the best from years
past and a few new innovations

FUNDS: LUCKY BUCKS - ONE SAMPLE enclosed - Good in trade at the Fun Auction.
All transactions at the Auction will be by Lucky Bucks - - - -

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100 for \$10.00
50 for 5.00
10 for 1.00

Buy your Lucky Bucks from the cashier.

A bigger and better Auction is planned. More varieties, more plants, more fun. Who could ask for anything more. Just what you have always wanted - your own fertilizer manufacturing machine - one will be auctioned off this year.

The Astronaut Will Be Another New Feature Added To This Year's Auction.
AND THE BIG FEATURE - ONLY BY ATTENDING WILL YOU KNOW. IT IS REALLY
A HOT ITEM - WANTED BY ALL.

COME AND BRING A FRIEND

LET'S ASK A QUESTION OF . . .

by Bill Hull

Eng Hoyme, what should be done to lilies about this time of the year?
"Loosen the soil, feed them with a 5-10-5 fertilizer, include them in the spring spraying schedule when spraying other perennials with a good fungicide, whether it's Captan, bordeaux mixture, or whatever you use."

Bill Thorne, how far along should my dahlias be by now?
"Certainly well started by now, swelling and perhaps split. You can split wherever you find an eye, perhaps three divisions to a root. After May 15, when all danger of frost is past, they go outside."

Sherm Pinkham, what mixture do you use for potting begonias?
"I've always used a third each of soil, peat and manure. This year I obtained a lot of leaf mold and am going to try almost 100% leaf mold, strictly as an experiment. By this date I like to have my tubers potted in 8 inch pots and outside if it isn't too cold. Sometimes they have to be taken in at night so don't take chances if the temperature might drop."

Archie Flack, how far along should I be with annuals now?
"As soon as the soil can be worked, you could sow larkspur and scabiosa. Certainly by mid-May annual poppies, cosmos, marigolds, zinnia should be planted. If seedlings are raised inside or in a cold frame, mine will be in the border by now. Stocks and snaps can go out as early as the end of April. By the first week in May I plan to be almost through planting."

Joe Witmer, if I have "snow-mold" damage what should I do?
"By now you should already have fertilized and watered well to get your lawn started. "Snow-mold" is really a misnomer since it's actually the result of compacting and smothering. It's usually surface damage and not permanent. Incidentally, I'm predicting an early spring. At the very end of February when having a large tree planted, the jackhammers broke through the frost line at eighteen inches."

NEW VARIETIES OF VEGETABLES TESTED BY THE MINNESOTA AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE IN COOPERATION WITH HOME AND COMMERCIAL GARDENERS AROUND THE STATE, TURNQUIST RECOMMENDS THESE FOR HOME GARDENS.

Beans - Tendercrop, high quality, high yielding, mosaic-resistant, excellent for freezing, canning and fresh use; Kinghorn Wax, yellow fiberless podded, with pure white seeds, desirable for freezing or canning.

Beets - Ruby queen, fine-textured, uniformly bright red with globe-shaped roots.

Carrots - Tip-Top Nantes, uniformly tapered and sweet; Scarlet Nantes, an old variety that reaches usable size earlier than other varieties, one of the sweetest and one of the most dependable for the home garden.

Cucumber - Challenger, a new early hybrid with smooth, long, slim fruits; Saticov Hybrid, mosaic-resistant and tolerant to downy mildew, slow to pro-

NEW VARIETIES OF VEGETABLES (Cont'd)

Lettuce - Greenhart, attractive, finely frilled, light green, tolerant against bolting to seed.

Radish - Red Boy, quick-maturing, slightly oval with bright scarlet-red skin, especially suited to summer planting.

Peas - Frosty, excellent for freezing.

Squash - Seneca Prolific Hybrid, a very early, productive summer squash; Zucchini Hybrid, a summer squash which produces from early in the season until frost; Buttercup, Burgess Strain - a turban-shaped, medium-sized winter squash with dry, sweet flesh.

Sweet corn - Earliking, an early hybrid producing large ears.

Tomatoes - Hybrid EE - One of the earliest and highest yielding tomato hybrids, medium in size and mild in quality; Moreton Hybrid - a dependable early tomato in most parts of the state, producing large, thick-walled, meaty fruits till frost; Big Boy Hybrid - a mid-season hybrid, with large, thick-walled, meaty-fleshed fruits.

A list of the vegetable varieties tested in 1961 and of other dependable varieties for Minnesota gardens is given in recently published Extension Folder 154, 1962 Vegetable Varieties, available from Bulletin Room, Institute of Agriculture, University of Minnesota, St. Paul 1.

OVER THE GARDEN GATE

by Bill Hull

A pleasant evening not long ago with Past Presidents Harold Kaufman and Cortis Rice in, of all places, Coral Gables, Florida. Harold pointed out that in addition to we three, two other Minneapolis Past Presidents had been in Florida at that time - Vic Lowrie on his way to the Virgin Islands, and Rene Dufourd at his home in Mount Dora. Add to that a short time before P.P., Les Johnson, plus many other members and it looks like we're fleeing from Minnesota. I wonder why?

At this writing on April Fool's Day the tulips are just coming up. An experimental planting of daffodils planted in the sod last fall, forming a drift under an ornamental crabapple, are also pushing through the ground. Each day as the ice and snow melts back just one or two inches, another daffodil appears. They're practically breaking through the snow.

Walter Menzel passed on the word that past member Bill Block died recently. Probably all of his friends know this by now but we carry it in case someone missed hearing. He was a fine man.

Heard that the camera special interest group met again recently and probably had it's usual superb meeting. A lot of interest has been stirred in this group by Eng Hoyme, Vern Roufs and Bob Sicera. Thanks, fellows.

Dale Durst has been planting his seedlings, getting ready for Spring. Today he's out in the hotbed putting in an electric cable. Dale starts his seeds in milk cartons split lengthwise. Since they're waxed they do the job splendidly and there's no clean up and storage problem when he's through with

OVER THE GARDEN GATE (cont'd)

Did you see Joe Witmer's photographs on propagating geraniums from cuttings, appearing in a recent issue of Horticulture magazine? Good going, Joe - another past president, while we're on the subject.

President Norm Christopherson and past prexies Archie Flack and Les Johnson met recently with school authorities to plan our 1962 volunteer work with youth gardens, Les's pet project. All of us who worked on this last year enjoyed it and recommend your participation when the call for help goes out. Good to see the fellows pushing for an early start this year.

Telephoned Bill Kelley and talked to a real estate salesman. Bill has moved to St. Petersburg, Florida, which was news to me. Sorry to see him go. Temporary address: Beach and Surf Club, 17350 Gulf Blvd., St. Petersburg, Florida.

NATIONAL MGCA CONVENTION - June 26 - 28

The Men's Garden Club of Syracuse this year hosts the National Convention. Highlights aside from business and a most promising series of informational meetings, include the opportunity to tour the Jackson & Perkins Gardens, to visit Cornell University Plantation, Greenhouses and Hortatorium, and to include the St. Lawrence Seaway and 1000 Islands in the trip. Hospitality is profusely planned and there will be much for the ladies to do.

ANNUALS FOR COLOR AND VERSATILITY

by D. B. Johnstone

Perennials are excellent and important as a basic framework in the garden, but they definitely need the addition of annuals to give color, variety and continuous bloom all season. Many perennials are especially good early in the season, some fairly good, late, but a garden entirely of perennials, is lacking in color through a good portion of the summer.

The best gardens usually have a basic framework of good and varied perennials with spaces left here and there throughout the garden in which the gardener can inter-plant various annuals each year as he chooses. Annuals give color all season, allows one to use specific colors that many perennials completely lack, and they give a gardener a chance to change the general garden pattern from year to year. Most of the best new varieties in flowers are frequently annuals because more breeding work and development work is done on that group. Fragrance is exceedingly important in the garden, and most of the better fragrant flowers happen to be annuals. For cut flowers, annuals are most important, even though many perennials make excellent bouquet materials. Another factor is economy in that a good many annual plants can be obtained from a small packet of seeds, whereas purchasing perennials by the plant or half dozen is not inexpensive these days.

In choosing the proper annuals, be sure that you get adapted kinds for your own area, and in most instances, the seed racks in your locality should

ANNUALS FOR COLOR AND VERSATILITY (Cont'd)

be planted in clumps or groups rather than individually or long straight rows for best results. Long, straight rows are good, of course, along a walk, edging or straight border. Don't overlook white in a garden inasmuch as it tones up and adds the very necessary color to any garden plant. Also, don't forget that foliage color and attractiveness is important as well as the bloom itself. Coleus, Crystal Palace Lobelia, Forest Fire Celosia, etc. add as much from the foliage as from the flower color. Fragrance is exceedingly important in any garden and adds a sort of fifth dimension that makes an otherwise ordinary garden unusually attractive to all the senses.

For earliest flowering annuals, many of them such as Linaria, Candytuft, Poppies, California Poppies, Virginia Stock, Nemophila are good but do not last long. Other early blooming annuals that do last are Alyssum, Dwarf French Marigolds, White Gypsophila, Lilliput, Zinnias, Pansy, Viola.

For the best dwarf, low edging annuals consider any of these; Alyssum, Dwarf French Marigolds, Portulaca, Lobelia, Magic Carpet Snapdragons, Dwarf Phlox, Pansy, or Violas, Ageratum Blue Mink, Nierembergia, Sweet William.

Among the better tall background annuals for this area I would suggest: Cleome, Four O'Clock, Cosmos, African Marigolds, Tithonia, Gloriosa Daisy, Balsam, Sunflower Sungold, Celosia, Castor Bean.

Among the best medium height annuals that are good here; Petunias, especially the new Fl Hybrids, Pinks or Dianthus, Phlox, Salvias, red and blue, Snapdragons, Dwarf Celosia and Cockscomb, Verbena, Unwin or Rainbow Dahlia, Stocks, Nicotiana.

For certain specific colors we might recommend the following:

Blue, which is a very hard color to find, (and frequently flowers listed as blue are really a form of lavender, violet or purple), the best tru blues can be found in: Lobelia, Cynoglossum, Anchusa, Blue Bedder Salvia, Heavenly Blue Morning Glory, Bachelor's Button, Ageratum.

For lavender blues or violet blues: Alyssum, Royal Carpet or Violet Queen; various Petunias, Verbenas, Asters, Nierembergia, Violas, and Pansy.

Scarlet - Petunia, Fire Chief, Red Satin or Comanche; Salvia, Bonfire, St. John's Fire; Celosia, Forest Fire; Celosia, Toreador; straight color varieties of Phlox, Snapdragon, Verbena, Zinnia.

For Crimson - Petunia, General Dodds; Nicotiana, Crimson Bedder; Snapdragon; Phlox; Zinnia, in their respective colors and also Gaillardia, Indian Chief.

In Pinks, there are many shades, and among them you could choose - Deep rose pink, light pink, salmon pink, etc. Good pink colors can be found in any of the following, depending on the type of pink wanted. Petunias, (especially new Fl Hybrids) Zinnias, Aster, Vinca, Verbena, Jewel Portulaca, Snapdragon and Phlox.

Orange is easier and can be found easily in many Marigolds such as Tangerine, Honey Comb or Cupid Orange; Calendula; Zinnia; Tithonia Torch, Mandarin Cosmos.

Yellows are also rather widely found and would suggest Golden Celosia, Calendula, Marigold, Zinnia, Snapdragon, Sungold Sunflower.

ANNUALS FOR COLOR AND VERSATILITY (Cont'd)

For white, there are many varieties in; Petunia, Alyssum, Gypsophila, Zinnia, Berberna, Phlox Candytuft and Shasta Daisy.

For fragrant annuals, and this is exceedingly important in any good garden, we suggest any of the following: Alyssum, Verbena, Stocks, Pinks, Carnations, Heliotrope, Mignonette, Nasturtium, Nicotiana, Sweet Peas.

For a semi shady place, some good annuals that are attractive, colorful and not too difficult would be: Torenia, Impatiens, Viola, Alyssum, Pansy, Browallia, Begonia, Balsam and Coleus, Vinca.

Now for some of the better new and improved varieties of annuals to fit some of the uses outlined above consider the following:

F1 Hybrid Petunia. Here there are so many good new ones that it is difficult to try to list them because so much depends on one's color preference, etc. Needless to say, the F1 Hybrids are much costlier, but are worth the extra expense because of their good new colors, their continuous and heavy bloom, their uniformity and their vigor of growth with compact habit. The multiflora hybrids are smaller flowered but produce more flowers and hold up somewhat better than the Frandiflora type hybrids which are larger flowers, but produce fewer flowers and do not hold up quite as well under adverse outdoor conditions. Among some of the better new F1 Hybrid Petunias would be Glitters, Red Satin, Pink Satin, Blue Lustre, Linda, Ballerina, Pale Face, Tango, Comanche, Satellite, Prima Donna, Coral Satin, Venus, Mercury, Neptune, Calypso.

Alyssum, Rosie O'Day is a new All America Winner just out this year. It is the first Pink Alyssum, dwarf of habit, is a fairly pale heather pink. It is quite good in cool weather, but does pale somewhat to a quite light pink under extreme heat.

Sweet William Wee Willie is a brand new annual flowering, very miniature Sweet William, growing only about four or five inches high and covered with small miniature flowers, in shades of pink, crimson, salmon, white and bi-color.

Celosia, Forest Fire is an excellent annual, developed in Japan, with dark, bronze foliage and scarlet orange plumes, growing medium height and extremely showy.

Gloriosa Daisy is a new tetraploid Rudbeckia, with extremely large yellow, golden and maroon flowers, many of them bi-colored, excellent for cutting and for mass background effect. It flowers the first year, but does hold over as a perennial with very minimum of attention.

Peppermint Pinks is a brand new special formula blend of annual flowering Dianthus, with many shades of red, crimson, pink, rose, white, bi-color and flower both with rounded and fringed edges, fragrant and excellent for either cutting or medium low edging.

Marigold, Petite is probably the best mixture in the dwarf miniature Marigold. Good for edging.

Marigold, Crackerjack is probably the best new African type Marigold, with large flowers, yet quite early and with the flowers appearing very much on top and above the foliage.

Marigold. Cupid is a true African, yet dwarf in habit, quite early and with

ANNUALS FOR COLOR AND VERSATILITY (Cont'd)

Ageratum, Blue Mink, a tetraploid Ageratum, probably the best Ageratum on the market for edging and border purposes.

Zinnia, Cherry Sundae is a formula blend of two attractive and harmonious colors, one a cherry cerise, the other a creamy yellow and a beautiful proportion for either beds or cutting. The flowers are large, and the particular color combination is certainly worth trying, if you have not grown them before.

Nasturtium, Dwarf Cherry Rose - the writer's favorite Nasturtium, being a dwarf gem or globe semi-double type, with extremely brilliant cherry cerise flowers that are borne well above the foliage.

Phlox, Dwarf Twinkle Star - the All America winning Phlox of a year of two ago, yet not as widely grown as it deserves. It is a true Cuspidata type, dwarf, full color range with starred flowers. Good for edging. Also try Phlox Bright Eyes - NK's new item. Excellent color range.

Blue Bedder Salvia - an azure blue tall Salvia, a perennial but blooms the first year and it should be handled as an annual. Beautiful either as a medium tall background plant and tremendously good in cuttings and bouquets.

Below are listed a few annuals that are not new, but have not been as widely planted as their beauty and general merit deserves. We suggest giving one or more of these a trial and believe that you will be very satisfied with them in your garden.

Heliotrope, Penstemon, Nierembergia Purple Robe, Snapdragon Magic Carpet, Phlox, Dwarf nana compacta Mixed; Cleome Pink Queen; Celosia Forest Fire or Pampas Plume; Verbena Ideal Florist Strain Mixed.

NATIONAL ROSE SHOW - JUNE 21, 1962

This year Minneapolis will be host to the National Rose Show and naturally the Minnesota Rose Society is anxious to make the event the most successful rose show ever undertaken. Everyone who grows roses is eligible to enter.

POINTS TO LOOK FOR IN SELECTING SPECIMENS FOR SHOW:

1. Disbudding should not show (do it early!)
2. Cut the stem in relation to the bud
3. Have good leaves left on (3 clusters of 5 leaves)
4. One bloom only on hybrid teas
5. Cut just above 2 5-part or mature leaf
6. Must not have a double or split center (HT)
7. Grandiflora may be single or spray
8. Floribunda usually a spray - freshness of the stamens indicate freshness of the flower
9. Avoid leaf damage if possible
10. Clean residue off leaves ... do not remove thorns above vase level
11. Groom the blooms -- leave no sign of leaf removal
12. Blooms should be $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{2}{3}$ open at judging time -- cut with this timing in mind. LABEL EACH ROSE WHEN YOU CUT IT. Put into pail of water immediately (unless planning to dry saran wrap for storage) after cutting and refrigerate
13. Cut single-petaled roses when the sepals are beginning to curl back.

HERE'S HOW TO INCREASE EARLY YIELDS OF TOMATOES

Home gardeners can greatly increase early 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 from flats.

Place black 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 ft. apart.

Use a starter solution at transplanting time to get plants off to a good start. Dissolve $\frac{1}{2}$ 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.

FRUIT TREES REQUIRE LOTS OF CARE - Horticulture Short Course

Don't plant fruit trees unless you're willing to undertake a sustained spray program and give the trees proper care.

He outlined these recommendations for success in growing tree fruits:

- . Choose varieties adapted to your area in Minn. Order early from a nursery close to home to get the varieties you want.
- . Don't overcrowd trees. Space them so they have a chance to develop.
- . Plant fruit trees where they will not get competition from other trees.
- . Protect fruit trees from rabbits and mice by using wire screen or hardware cloth.
- . Prune trees at planting time; then give them a light pruning each year.
- . Fertilize as needed to maintain proper growth.
- . Spray consistently to control pests; don't wait till insects and diseases appear.

L. C. Snyder, Prof. & Head Univ. of Minn. Hort. Dept.