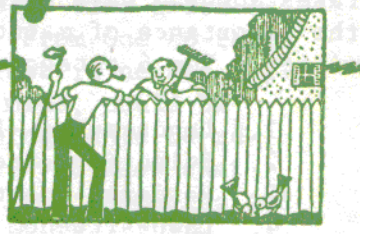




# The Garden Spray

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, Otto Nelson  
Neil Barry

### May Meeting

Date: Tuesday, May 14  
Place: Park Board Greenhouse  
38th & Colfax Ave. So.  
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.

### Slave and Plant Auction

Win a slave to do your chores.  
Buy your plants and go outdoors.  
Give the orders, crack the whip,  
Watch things grow while a drink you sip!

The poetry isn't as good as the plants. Be sure to attend the Slave Auction at the next meeting. Surprise and plants galore!

The success of the auction depends upon you.

If you know of a potential member bring him along as a guest of the club. It would be helpful to notify Charlie Proctor in advance, if you are bringing someone.

### LEHMAN GARDEN TROPHY

Archie Flack reports that he and Joe Witmer have 13 entrants competing for this trophy and that initial visitations will be started soon. Each visitation takes about 3 days because of the widely scattered locations. Archie emphasizes the importance of maintenance throughout the year, in determining the final winner. The 6 categories used in judging are:

1. Landscaping--foundation planting and general garden design.
2. Selection--trees, shrubs suitable for area.
3. Borders--location, design, depth.
4. Lawn--freedom from weeds, general condition, maintenance.
5. Maintenance--pest control, weeds except lawn.
6. General improvement.

### MGCA RECOGNIZES WHITE HOUSE GARDENER

by Bill Hull

Some time ago the Awards Committee of MGCA voted to recognize the persons responsible for the beautifully maintained gardens in Washington at the White House. Negotiations have been in effect for some time and the award was made on April 19. The President requested the award be received by Irvin Williams of the National Park Service, in charge of the garden, although unusual encouragement for grounds beautification has been made by both President and Mrs. Kennedy. The President was to be present and participate in the ceremony.

Representing MGCA was our president, Robert Waln, immediate past president, Bryant Horne, Dr. Joseph Howland, MGCA Director of Public Relations, and Dr. Henry T. Skinner, American Horticultural Society President with which MGCA is affiliated. I was invited to participate but was unable to attend.

Our official party arrived on time and was being given a scheduled tour by White House Social Secretary, Letitia Baldrige, when it was learned an emergency had arisen which removed the President from the scene, so the award was to be made to Mr. Williams as he had wished anyway.

The notables were all assembled in the garden and President Waln made a brief comment on the appropriateness of this award by MGCA as representative of the horticultural viewpoint of the millions of home gardeners of America honoring the home garden of our nation's leader and his family. Then he gave the award to past president Horne who made one of his fine short talks, emphasizing the significance of this award as fostering improvement to home, neighborhood, city, state and nation in beauty of character and surroundings based upon family home gardens. He then handed the plaque to Mr. Williams who responded with appropriate remarks including that he felt it was a real honor for him to accept the award for President and Mrs. Kennedy.

There was much clicking of cameras by a substantial press turnout, including all of the press associations and many newspaper and magazine representatives. Coverage was good in the eastern cities, but I haven't seen anything in our local papers yet. More is forthcoming in national publications, for which we can keep our eyes open.

Each of us can be proud of MGCA's part in recognizing this situation and the stature gained by MGCA as a result.

## GRASS MOWERS NOW COME IN CANS

One of the most startling developments in chemical horticulture is the introduction of MH-30T by the United States Rubber Company. Currently called "a grass growth inhibitor for highway, military, airport, golf roughs, industrial and similar areas," MH-30T slows the growth of grass remarkably. The grass is first sprayed with the chemical, then cut to desired height. From one to three cuttings, depending upon degree of neatness desired, is all that is needed for the rest of the season. It is claimed that a hedge, such as mine, could be sprayed once at the beginning of the season and no more trimming would be required all season long. If you've ever trimmed a large hedge, you know what that means. It is also claimed it keeps potatoes and onions from sprouting and ivy from climbing.

The product has been tested for twelve years by U. S. Rubber, who state it is nontoxic, harmless, can create a great savings to highway departments, golf courses, etc.

What actually happens is that MH-30T is absorbed by plant leaves (grass blades) and transferred by the plant's fluids to the active growth areas of the plant. Cells continue to expand within the blade of grass, for example, but the cells do not divide and, of course, it is the rapid cell division that causes growth. Growth is thus inhibited but the grass becomes greener and lusher.

But wait--don't throw away your mower. It's not for home use, yet. A couple of the big national tree concerns are licensed to use it, but it's not even available for your and my use. The material, applied as a spray, must be used under very close controls to assure proper application. Trucks must have exactly calibrated equipment including a special tachometer, since truck speedometers are not sufficiently accurate.

We need have no doubts about its future availability to home owners. U. S. Rubber is working with equipment manufacturers to produce the necessary tanks. If reports are all as good as claimed, here is a product that will be quickly made available for the huge home owner market.

We're indebted to Dale Durst for first alerting us to this product, after which we wrote the manufacturer for further details.

...by Bill Hull

## SCHOOL GARDENS

Les Johnson's group is working with 78 youth gardens. He still has openings for a few judges. See him.

A doting adult son wanted to remember his mother on Mother's Day. Knowing she was very fond of pets, he visited the pet shop in search of an idea. The proprietor suggested a Mynah bird, since he had one on hand. "This bird," he explained, "is a very wonderful bird. He speaks constantly and has a vocabulary of a thousand words." So the son bought the bird and had it shipped to his mother. Later he called her and asked, "Did you receive the gift I sent?" "Oh, yes, son," she exclaimed, "and it was delicious." "Delicious!" exclaimed the son, "that was a valuable Mynah bird which could talk--had a vocabulary of over a thousand words." "Well, then," said the mother, "why didn't he say something?"

## OVER THE GARDEN GATE

by Bill Hull

"Tis Auction time, opportunity to buy those rare and unusual plants at a good price. Dale Durst and his committee have worked hard preparing the material for this, one of our major activities. Let's turn out in droves and help make it successful. An excellent time to bring a prospective member.

As part of the auction, Dale has obtained from Cortis Rice, seven trays suitable for growing African violets or other plants under lights. Each tray is 8 feet long by 14 inches wide. These trays will not be on hand at the auction, so if you want some, see Dale. They are available on a first come basis at one dollar each. A good buy.

Archie Flack's system for creating pillars of petunias is worth copying. He creates a wire cylinder one foot high and one foot in diameter, using one-inch chicken wire. It requires a piece three and one-half feet long. Held to the soil by two stakes woven through the mesh, it is soon covered by the three F1 petunias Archie plants inside the cylinder. For balcony petunias, he uses a wider mesh as high as four feet and plants six petunias on the outside of the cylinder.

Everyone's interested in corn--to eat, watch, or drink. Even to grow. Recently I've obtained some seed of curious or near-ancient varieties. Only a few seeds of each of the nine varieties, but you're welcome to a few if you'd like them. Speak up soon.

It appears that President Ev's special interest groups are busy. The photography group under Eng Hoyme has been outstanding for several years. Recently I met with the Azalea group, Vic Lowrie, Chairman, and spent an enlightening evening. A fine talk by Leon Snyder. Anyone interested in our African Violet group? We could call it Gesneriads.

A severely cold winter and now an early spring. At this writing in April I'm further ahead with my garden than I've ever been at this date. Everything spaded and manured early, lawn raked and fertilized. Even the storm windows off by mid-April. Watch it snow now.

Who's visiting gardens? Let's have some reports. I can see Dale Durst's spring blossoms, hear about Vic Lowrie's roses, Archie Flack's annuals in the cold frame, P. W. Young's delphinium cuttings--but what about you? We need a hundred helpful reporters.

A lot of change has been made recently in technics and costs of obtaining pure water from brackish and salty water. All gardeners, even those in fortunate areas like ours, will particularly appreciate the progress being made. A recent article stresses that some such units are now processing hundreds of thousands of gallons of water daily at a cost not too far from what we city dwellers are paying. I've lost the article and can't be specific on prices but promises are encouraging.

If you aren't using kitchen plastic in gardening, you're missing a real bet. Crafts, transplants, cuttings, all start faster and with more assurance of success, when encased in plastic taken from your wife's kitchen supply. I've used both Saran Wrap and Cut Rite successfully. Even makeshift greenhouses and cold frames can be made from this material. Experiment with it.

## OVER THE GARDEN GATE (Cont'd.)

Vic and Dodie Lowrie return from a month's European tour any day now and Cortis and Muriel Rice are away on the MGCA tour of the same continent. We all wish them a wonderful time.

I'm pleased that a group of naturalized crocus came up this second spring. They were planted right in the sod two years ago and overcut with the lawnmower all last summer. No one thought they'd make it the second year.

### APRIL MEETING

It was good to see Frank Vixo present after being in the hospital for surgery. Frank is back at work and feeling fine.

A Big Thank You to the ladies of the church for the very tasty Dinner.

Bob Smith has two guests and Jack Peterson one. It is always good to see the members bring guests and prospective club members. See Charlie Proctor about a FREE Dinner offer for guests and prospective members for the May dinner and auction.

Check with Ev. about Larry's bird house. It may be auctioned at the May auction. It is a real beauty and practical in every way.

Les Johnson asked for judges and help on the junior gardening--better call him for details.

Donald Young reported that Al Blackburn has started a Men's Garden Club out California way.

Archie again called attention to the slow registering on the part of the members for the Dick Lehman Trophy award. I have found that it has made a better gardener out of me after I entered the contest. I felt very much rewarded for having entered the contest long before I won the trophy. Dick's trophy has a chance to make better gardeners and a better club. In fact I believe that it has done so already.

We had a very interesting program. Ted Weir gave a very good demonstration on pruning and grafting of trees. Judging by the interest shown, it would not be surprising if a number of the boys will be doing a good deal of grafting from now on.

The auction was a real success. Every item sold. Leon brought about thirty Azaleas. They went like hot cakes. If there are any others that would like some, Leon will try and take care of you.

...by Otto S. Nelson

Speaking at the closing session of the University of Minnesota's annual horticulture short course, C. G. Hard, extension horticulturist, gave these suggestions on creating an effective shrub or flower border:

- \* Use a variety of materials.
- \* Use materials of various heights, textures and forms.
- \* Use materials which change at different seasons--for example, some spring blooming plants, others that display autumn color or are attractive in winter.

CAN YOU ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS?

Should trees and shrubs be planted in the spring or can they be planted in the fall?

ANS...In general, spring planting is recommended. However, many authorities agree that fall planting, particularly of some of the hardier materials, is usually successful and can be recommended if it is more convenient for the gardener to do it at that time.

What trees have red foliage all summer?

ANS...Few, if any, completely fill this requirement. Crimson King maple retains a reddish color; so does Newport Plum (a tall shrub or semi-tree). Schwedler and Norway maples have a reddish spring foliage, changing to deep green during the summer. Shubert Chokecherry (a newer semi-tree--not yet generally available) has good red foliage showing green only at the growing tips of the branches.

What is the difference between a Rhododendron and an Azalea?

ANS...Technically they are all Rhododendrons. Those called Azaleas are smaller plants with leathery, smaller leaves. Either may be deciduous or evergreen.

Red Osier dogwood (*Cornus stolonifera*) a native Minnesota shrub is most useful as a landscape plant if it is severely pruned each spring. Why?

ANS...The bright red winter color of the young stems is particularly desirable. The color of old stems is much duller. Severe annual pruning encourages the production of numerous new stems which turn bright red in winter.

Impatiens, a flowering house and garden plant, has remained a favorite for many years. Why?

ANS...It is easily grown from cuttings and seeds. It tolerates considerable shade and with its continuous bloom of bright flowers is one of the most useful plants for bringing bright colors to shady areas.

So-called "hayfever" is caused by plant pollen. What is the main offender?

ANS...Ragweed. Other important contributors are: Kochia, Giant ragweed, Redroot pigweed, Lambsquarters, Cockle burs and Hemp.

Is it necessary to have two bittersweet vines (*Celastrus scandens*) in order to have berries produced on either?

ANS...Two vines are recommended because some have only male, and some only female flowers. However, some vines have both kinds, so it is possible, if you are lucky, to have berries when the planting consists of a single vine.

Sand or a similar medium which contains air space is usually recommended for the rooting of cuttings. Why is it better than rooting in water?

ANS...Many things will not root successfully in water because rots consume the roots that start. Roots formed in water are apt to be soft and suffer much injury or are destroyed when the cutting is transplanted to soil.

Many buyers of so-called "peat" for the garden are disappointed. Why?

ANS...Much of the bulk material sold as peat is mainly muck, a black sticky material with a low organic content and practically no fertilizing value. True peat or peat-moss is 75 to 90 percent organic matter. Compressed bags or bales of peat usually are better buys than loads of unidentified "black stuff".

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