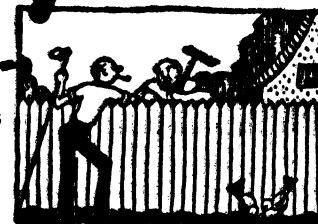




# The Garden Spray

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

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



May 1964  
Volume 23 No. 5  
G. Victor Lowrie, Editor

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

## May Meeting

Date: May 12, 1964  
Place: Park Board Greenhouses  
38th and Bryant Avenue South  
Time: 5:45 P. M.  
Price: \$1.75  
Food: DeLaria's

## Officers

Dwight Stone	President
Paul M. Kroeger	Vice-President
G. R. Christenson (Bud)	Secretary
R. E. Smith (Bob)	Treasurer

Office of the Secretary  
8300 Sheridan Avenue South

## AUCTION - FLOWERS AND FUN

The time has arrived for you to get those much-needed plants. Where is there a better place than the MGCM auction? The committee has worked long and hard in preparing for another big auction.

"Funny Money" will be used again this year. Buy a good supply before the auction starts. The amount not spent is redeemable in cash.

There will be Criss-Cross, Pig-in-a-Poke, raffles - you name it - it will be available at the auction.

Maybe even a special bonus offer. What will it be? The best way to find out is to be at the auction May 12.

Come and bring a potential member. Another reminder - the Club will buy the dinner of all potential members. Just tell Bob Smith that you need a complimentary dinner ticket for a guest. It is just as simple as that.

Personal checks will be accepted.

SPROUTS FROM THE COMPOST HEAP

by Dwight Stone

Mark the date, May 12, for the plant and flower auction. Come and bring a potential member and a big spender. The Club will pick up the tab for your friend if you feel he is a potential member.

Welcome to John Kolb, our newest member. John is Grounds Superintendent at Minikahda Golf Club and was sponsored into the Club by Dr. Leon Snyder.

Bill Hull, National President MGCA, and Sherm Pinkham attended the National Convention in Atlanta. Anybody else?

Larry Corbett brought good news of our friend Rene DuFourd from down Florida way. It is nice that our old friends still remember us.

Chet Harkins has been a hospital patient but is now home again. I think he would appreciate receiving a card or letter from you.

Our sympathy to P. W. Young. Lola, Mrs. Young, passed away April 19 after a long illness.

That was another fine shrub auction at the April meeting. Each year Leon manages to offer material that is appealing to the group.

In addition to the shrubs, gardening books from the library of the late Sam Abrams were auctioned off. This money will also be donated to the Arboretum as a memorial to Sam. Thanks, men.

Louis Dorweiler has also been a hospital patient, but reports are that he is home again and getting along fine. Louie may appreciate a card, too.

If you hurry, there is still time to enter your garden in the Lehman Trophy competition. You are interested? Then call Archie or Joe and tell them.

The North Star Region is giving consideration to a joint meeting at some future date of all affiliated clubs. This may be a good way for us to get better acquainted.

Talent and struggle go hand in hand. If you want to get even with someone, try getting even with those who have helped you.

With the planting season about ready to start, some of our winter vacationers should soon be returning. We have missed you.

Attendance at general meetings is increasing steadily. Do your part to help hold up the attendance figure. The more the merrier.

The Flower and Fun Auction is to be held at the Park Board Greenhouses, 38th and Bryant rather than at Mount Olivet.

## TOMATOES!

For dependable, continuous production of high-quality tomatoes, O. C. Turnquist recommends four varieties: Fireball, Hybrid EE, Moreton Hybrid and Big Boy. Fireball and Hybrid EE produce early, medium-size fruits but become less productive in late summer. They are bush-type plants, not suitable for staking. In addition to one of these early varieties, Turnquist suggests Moreton Hybrid, which will start producing as Fireball and Hybrid EE taper off. For large, smooth fruits, Big Boy, a mid-season to late variety, is still the most popular of all tomatoes.

Plant Early Salad Hybrid if you want some of the small-fruited cocktail or eat-whole tomatoes. One plant may yield up to 400 fruits.

If you like yellow-fruited tomatoes, try Sonray, a mid-season variety milder and less acid than most red tomatoes and suitable for staking.

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## RESULTS OF THE 1963 POTATO VARIETY TRIALS

Results of the 1963 potato variety trials in the Red River Valley have been reported by Orrin C. Turnquist, extension horticulturist at the University of Minnesota.

Among the highest yield over all locations were Bounty, Kennebec and Red Pontiac varieties averaging 221, 202 and 200 cwt. (hundred weight) per acre respectively.

LaRouge, Irish Cobbler, Red LaSoda, Snowflake and Norland followed with average yields of 194, 187, 182, 178 and 170 cwt., respectively.

The highest yields were found at Baker, Minn., and Grand Forks, N. D. Other locations included Argyle and Crookston, Minn., and Park River, N. D. The 1963 Potato Variety Trials were conducted under the joint supervision of the Agricultural Extension Services at the University of Minnesota and the North Dakota State University.

The ranges of dry matter of varieties and selections, as determined by specific gravity, were recorded at a low 18.7 percent at Baker and a high 21.7 percent at Grand Forks.

Turnquist said the percent total solids tended to be slightly lower than that observed in 1962. Generally speaking, these are still high enough percentages for cooking and processing quality. The highest average total solids for all locations was 22.2 percent for Irish Cobbler; Snowflake and Kennebec followed with 21.3 and 20.5 percent, respectively. Of the varieties tested at all locations, Red Pontiac averaged the lowest with 18.9 percent.

Several varieties and selections had resistance to late blight and immunity to virus X. LaRouge, Norland, Early Gem, Avon, Cherokee, Arenac, Emmet, Ona, Superior, Reliance, Onaway, T 461-1, ND 4192-3, Minn. 125, and TL 6937 were resistant to common scab.

Reprinted from Institute of  
Agriculture, U. of M.

## HERBS ADD SUBTLE TOUCH TO COOKERY

Herbs add the subtle touch that makes seasoning an art, a University of Minnesota home economist told gardeners who attended the annual Horticulture Short Course on the St. Paul Campus March 23.

Verna Mikesh, extension nutritionist at the University of Minnesota said herbs give three-fold pleasure: in growing, using and sharing. She pointed out that they are easily grown and add interest to the garden. They are interesting to use because you are truly a creative cook as you experiment with new flavors. They are also fun to share with friends.

Since no two herbs are alike, and since each varies in strength, strict rules cannot be given for their use, Miss Mikesh said, but she suggested these guides in cooking with herbs:

Use discretion. Start with a small amount, allow that to blend thoroughly with the food and then add more to meet individual taste.

Use only 1/8 teaspoon of fresh powdered herbs to equal 1 teaspoon of fresh herbs.

Use 1/4 teaspoon of dried herbs to equal 1 teaspoon of fresh herbs.

To foods that cook for several hours, add herbs during the last hour of cooking. For vegetable juices and sauces to be served cold, steep the herbs at least an hour or, better still, overnight. For use in salad dressing, let the herbs stand in the dressing at least an hour at room temperature.

Using healthy plants and changing the garden location of tomato plants from year to year are two important steps in avoiding diseases in tomatoes, Herbert Johnson, extension plant pathologist at the University, told the group. Spraying or dusting at the right time will control both diseases and insects.

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## ADD INTEREST TO GARDEN WITH NEW VEGETABLES

In a Horticulture Short Course conducted March 23, a University of Minnesota horticulturist said that gardening could be made more interesting and the family could enjoy some new taste treats by planting some vegetables you've never grown before.

A. E. Hutchins, professor of horticultural science, suggested planting such vegetables as broccoli, Chinese cabbage, kohlrabi, Brussels sprouts, New Zealand spinach, endive and salsify, which are too seldom grown in Minnesota gardens. A few of these vegetables, planted along with the regular standbys, will add new satisfactions to gardening, he said.

Variety selection is one of the important steps to success in vegetable gardening, according to O. C. Turnquist, extension horticulturist at the

ADD INTEREST TO GARDEN WITH NEW VEGETABLES

Continued

University. He emphasized the better returns and higher quality of many of the new varieties of vegetables. He also suggested trying some novelty items for fun. Among the newer varieties adapted to Minnesota, he recommended these as worth trying along with some of your old favorites:

Broccoli - Cleopatra and Zenith, both all-America award winners, useful for both spring and fall crops; Swiss chard - Burgundy, a dual-purpose vegetable and ornamental with attractive bright red and deep maroon leaves; tomato - Delicious, a large, smooth globe-shaped tomato of excellent flavor, Big Boy, a large-fruited, popular hybrid, and Early Salad Hybrid, a small fruited tomato for relishes and salads; lettuce - Buttercrunch, loose-heading, resistant to heat and seed formation; pepper - Pinocchio, a dual-purpose vegetable and ornamental with bright red finger-like sweet fruits borne erect from the top of the plant. Novelty items for the garden would be Big Max pumpkin, excellent for autumn decorations and Hybrid Halloween, suitable for jack-o-lanterns.

The two University horticulturists spoke at the opening session of the University of Minnesota's 43rd Horticulture Short Course on the St. Paul campus.

From Institute of Agriculture  
University of Minnesota

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HOLLAND PRODUCES BLUEGRASS VARIETY DEVELOPED IN U.S.

Park bluegrass, a variety developed by the University of Minnesota a few years ago, is now being produced in The Netherlands and Denmark and some may find its way back to the U. S. this summer.

Agronomists H. L. Thomas and Neil Van der Schans at the University point out in the current issue of Minnesota Farm and Home Science that 6 million pounds annually, or about 25 to 30 percent of the bluegrass sown in the U. S. in the past three years, has come from Holland and Denmark.

Thomas and Van der Schans say estimates are that the Dutch might export over a million pounds of certified Park bluegrass this year.

In Minnesota, Park is grown principally by the Northern Minnesota Bluegrass Growers Association, a group of 150 farmers mostly in Roseau County. Yields there average about 200 pounds of bluegrass seed per acre.

Since Park was developed, the Minnesota industry has marketed nearly a million pounds of certified seed of that variety annually.

Holland, long known for its turf seed production as well as its tulips, took a keen interest in Park from the start. One seed company there estimated yields of over 1,000 pounds Park per acre.

## HOLLAND PRODUCES BLUEGRASS VARIETY DEVELOPED IN U. S.

Continued

In the spring of 1961, Dutch growers bought 50 pounds of foundation Park seed from the University of Minnesota Agronomy Seed Stocks. This was seeded on nearly 9 acres and the production was largely slated for planting for production of certified seed.

Estimating on the basis of nearly 900 pounds per acre in 1962 and 1963, Thomas and Van der Schans say, this could lead to over a million pounds of certified Park for export from Holland in 1964.

The agronomists say that whatever effect the Holland production will have on Minnesota producers remains to be seen. Annual use of bluegrass in the U. S. is about 20 million pounds, and the use is going up as a result of landscaping of new homes, industrial plants and recreation areas.

Currently, only 2 or 3 million pounds of improved bluegrass varieties are sown annually, with wild bluegrass accounting for the other 17 to 18 million. The agronomists suggest that wild bluegrass sales may suffer most as Holland-grown Park bluegrass comes to the U. S.

Institute of Agriculture Release  
University of Minnesota

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### SOIL BLENDS

One of the principal requirements for growing quality plants, as every good gardener knows, is the proper soil blend or mixture. Plants require different soil blends depending upon the type of soil that sustained them in their native habitat. The following is a list of soil blends that have proven best for certain potted plants.

#### Soil Blend A - General Purpose

- 1 Part Sharp Sand
- 2 Parts Good Garden Loam
- 1 Part Leaf Mold (Humus)
- 1/2 Part Dried Cattle Manure
- Add 1 quart Bone Meal per bushel of blend

#### Soil Blend B - For plants requiring additional Humus and Sand

- 2 Parts Sharp Sand
- 2 Parts Good Garden Loam
- 2 Parts Leaf Mold (Humus)
- 1/2 Part Dried Cattle Manure
- Add 1 quart Bone Meal per bushel of blend

#### Soil Blend C - For plants requiring some acidity and a high percentage of humus

- 2 Parts Sharp Sand
- 2 Parts Good Garden Loam
- 1 Part Leaf Mold (Humus)
- 2 Parts Peat Moss
- 1/3 Part Dried Cattle Manure

#### Soil Blend D - For most Cacti and Succulents

- 2 Parts Sharp Sand
- 2 Parts Garden Loam
- 1/2 Part Leaf Mold (Humus)
- 1 Part Crushed Flower Pots or Brick
- Add 1 quart bone meal to each bushel of mixture.
- Add 1 quart ground limestone to each bushel of blend

Reprinted from The Wind - Chicago Region

SPRING CLEANING GLEANINGS

Back in Oklahoma when we were gettin' fetched up, our mother always wound up spring cleaning with a good dose of sulphur and molasses. Ugh, what a sickening mess! But if you think that was horrible, just read what we came up with in our spring cleaning! Even the title is bad!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

OH, YANH, YANH, YANH (BRITISH)

'Twas just about a year ago  
When Rachel Carson let us know  
That this would be a silent  
spring  
This year the birdies wouldn't  
sing  
The insecticides and sprays and  
drugs  
Would kill the birds just like  
the bugs.

Well, bless her heart, her  
admonitions  
Only worsened the conditions.  
This spring is surely far from  
silent  
Fact is, it sounds a little  
violent.  
Along with all the birds this  
spring,  
We have some bugs that TRY TO  
sing.

While we were tendin' to our  
knittin',  
We got invaded by Great Britain.  
From TV, radio and scratchy  
needles,  
We get bombarded by those  
BEATLES!  
Oh, help us Lord, and we also  
say,  
"PLEASE, RACHEL CARSON, LET US  
SPRAY! "

From  
Cactus Points and  
Sage Advice  
Men's Garden Club of  
Odessa, Texas  
April 1964