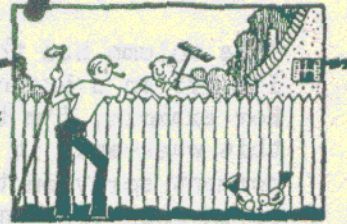




The Garden Spray

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

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Officers

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R.E. Smith (Bob)	V.P.
G.R. Christenson (Bud)	Sec.
S.F. Pinkham (Sherm)	Treas.

May Meeting

May 11, 1965

Park Board Greenhouses
38th and Bryant Ave. South

5:30 P.M.

\$1.75

PLANT AUCTION

Starting at 5:30 there will be an old-fashioned Country Store with certain objects placed for sale, including a lot of material grown by members. The Country Store will feature two basic prices on items: Three and Five Lucky Bucks (30¢ and 50¢). Bargains galore!

At 6 o'clock dinner will be served, featuring DeLaria's fine foods, with the auction, thereafter, aimed at being short and sweet.

The outstanding prize of the evening will be a BLACK AND DECKER EDGER-TRIMMER, new of course, to be raffled.

Guests are welcomed so don't hesitate to bring them, and they will be eligible for the edger-trimmer too.

Don't forget to bring your own started plants using the starred tongue-depressors as identifying labels.

OVER THE GARDEN GATE

by Bill Hull

This column has to be short this time, which probably is a blessing in disguise. I'm off on a business trip and this week-end must be given to the garden. For example, I'm testing a new pre-emergence herbicide and if it doesn't go on this week-end, it might as well be forgotten. The same thing is true of a dormant spray on trees and some shrubs. The experts all say these sprays must go on when the temperature will not go below freezing for twenty-four hours and before growth has started in the spring. This season that day looks like it will be this week-end only.

Another good session with the Plant Auction committee again recently. Bob Kelly, chairman, Dale Durst, Jim Lowry and myself have been giving a lot of thought to this activity and, I believe, you'll see several different ideas brought out by Bob and his group at this next meeting. The goals are to continue emphasizing it as a Fun Auction, to cut down on the time involved in the auction, hoping to keep it moving fast, and to give you as good bargains as possible. Let's see if those goals can't be each of ours at this May meeting.

A good letter from our MGCA President, Phil Conrath of Webster Groves, Missouri, in which he says, "Yesterday I received a copy of the April issue of THE GARDEN SPRAY. This is an exceptionally strong issue. It is well written and has information for the gardener that is of real value; it is not a rehash of information gleaned out of a garden magazine or other sources but the result of practical gardening experience. Thanks for the copy." Thanks, President Phil, for the kind words to SPRAY staff.

Some rose growers never read their newspapers to check the weather reports. This spring, with ice still on and in the ground, I received a package of roses to plant.

Not so long ago the Almanac of the Minneapolis Tribune referred to three major plant diseases: spot blotch, net blotch and septoria. The Almanac continued:

"We quoted a colleague as asking: 'Isn't that a Fargo law firm?'
A columnist in the Fargo, N.D., Forum replies: 'Sounds more to me like the Twins infield.'

"We rechecked with our colleague and learned that he had in mind Fargo, Okla. He's never even heard of Fargo, N.D.

"As any baseball fan knows, the Twins infield is Zoilo Versalles. He's never heard of Fargo, N.D. In addition to Oklahoma, Georgia and Arkansas have cities named Fargo. Residents there have never heard of Zoilo Versalles."

Need an extra 1965 roster? If so, request one from Vic Lowrie or me.

Enough for now. Hope to see you at the auction.

AFTER THE FLOODS, WHAT?

The Syttende Mai North Star Region Gardeners' Open Forum

Monday Evening, May 17, 6:30 P.M.

Minneapolis Brewery Grain Belt Park Gasthaus
Broadway and Marshall Street N.E.

Parking: Across the street in Grain Belt lot

Menu: Tube Steak, Baked Beans and Cole Slaw
FREE BEER--All you wish
Coffee or milk also available

Recognizing that spending money is serious business and that people don't do business with clowns, the cost will be less than \$1
AMPLE FOOD--LOW COST

President's report (5-8 minutes)
will bring the Region news up to date

Treasurer's report (2 minutes)

The Open Forum will include:

Roses	Mums from Minnesota	Annuals
Vegetables	Greenhouses	Dahlias
Perennials	Community Planting	Lawns

(Each group will pick their own moderator.
The moderators will report at 8:30 P.M.)

Due to increasing interest in home greenhouses and basement-light propagation cabinets, additional information on these will be available.

Gardening Friends and Guests Welcome--No Introductions

NEW WHITE POTATO INTRODUCED BY U

A new potato variety, called Anoka, has been developed at the University of Minnesota and is being introduced this spring. Anoka is a white potato, elliptical to round in shape with very shallow eyes. The skin is smooth and white. Uniformity in size and shape of the potato is one of the outstanding characteristics of this variety. Because of the uniformity of size and shape, a crop of Anoka produces a high percentage of U. S. number one grade potatoes.

Of special interest to consumers is the fact that Anoka is a good potato for cooking, mashing and baking. When cooked, the potatoes do not become gray upon standing. Because of the shallow eyes, there is little waste in peeling. The uniform size of the potatoes in a market pack also has appeal to consumers.

Anoka is early maturing, similar to the Irish Cobbler and Cherokee. Its yielding ability is higher than Cherokee but not as high as Irish Cobbler.

In 1964 five and a half acres of Anoka were planted by Minnesota certified seed growers. The University of Minnesota has no seed stock available but information about sources of seed may be secured from the Division of Seed Certification, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, 620 State Office Building,

MEN LEAD WOMEN AS HOME GARDENERS

Only five years ago women were the prime market for gardening equipment and supplies. They represented 53% of all gardeners in the U. S. But, today men have taken a 6-to-5 lead, according to recent studies made by the Union Fork and Hoe Company, a leading national manufacturer of lawn, garden, agricultural and industrial tools.

"This vast increase of male interest in gardening has become a major growth factor in the rapidly expanding \$4 billion gardening market," said Union president Edward Durell.

"Although the studies show that the number of women gardeners also has increased substantially," Mr. Durell pointed out, "the ranks of male gardeners have grown at a much more rapid rate. Men today represent 55% of the green-thumb enthusiasts in the nation's 38 million gardening households. There are approximately 33 million male gardeners, compared with 27 million women who garden. In a great many homes both husband and wife are gardening enthusiasts.

"In the past decade, some 25-billion dollars worth of gardening equipment and supplies were sold -- an average of \$2.5 billion a year. Today this market has reached \$4 billion annually, according to a recent report from the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia. And now, with the swing to gardening by the country's male population adding more new customers than ever before, the outlook for growth in the next decade is especially bright."

A part of the survey revealed that today 41% of American husbands are doing a majority of the shopping for their families. Five years ago, only 21% of the men were. Add this to the fact that in 1962 31% more retailers throughout the United States were selling garden tools and supplies than in the previous 12 months, and a correlation between these trends and the increase in the number of male gardeners can readily be seen.

The Union studies showed that an acceleration in the formation of family units that stems from the population explosion is a major natural factor that is spurring the over-all growth in gardening. Men and women are marrying earlier today. The average age of the groom is 22, the bride 20. And this increase in family units leads inevitably to an increase in the number of gardens.

Also contributing to the rise in masculine interest is the increase in the number of men over 65, coupled with the widespread interest shown in recent years for mild exercise as a means of maintaining health in declining years. Today there are more than 16 million senior citizens in the United States, and their ranks are swelling each year.

"In addition," said Mr. Durell, "our studies showed that while more men garden than women, the wives often are the inspiring force behind their husband's interest in green thumbery. They like colorful flowers as well as being able to bring the fragrance and beauty of cut flowers into their homes during all or most of the year (varies with the climate). And they like the idea of growing vegetables, both as a budget-stretcher and as a source of pride when they can serve their very own home-grown vegetables to their families and friends."

Continued from our April issue:

HOW MY HUSBAND RAISES PRIZE BEGONIAS (THE SPECIAL "UNDER-THE-BED" SPECIES)

by

An Observing Wife
(Harriet E. Pinkham)

By this time the glassed-in porch has become warm so you ambulate your charges to this sunny ward, trestles and all. Here they advance into the adolescent stage, by shooting up rapidly, developing big feet, and impatiently await the all important "potting time." Going to pot is a happy time for all of us, as each receives its own sterilized pot, full of nutrition and vitamins.

Soon balmy spring breezes beckon them into the white, sanitary lath house with bandage-like material stretched over the top. The lath house functions as an oxygen tent. Now, you roll up your sleeves and really go to work, for they are entering the feeding and diet cycle. Every morsel of food and every drop of water is weighed, measured, and mixed according to scientific specifications. Wearing gloves is optional, but if it becomes necessary to dust with sulphur, be sure to don your nose mask. During this feeding cycle, a problem always arises which must be overcome. As the aroma of sheep manure and fish meal permeates the air, all the cats in the neighborhood gather around like a pack of wolves. If they, too, have a population explosion this year, it may become necessary to hire a boy to drive them back.

Strange to say, in spite of all your loving and meticulous care, there are always a few runts which do not respond to treatment. Disgustingly you throw them out. These are always retrieved by the wife who digs a few holes on the north side of the house and places these poor retarded outcasts in them. History relates that in due time these are quite often reclaimed and blue ribbons hung on their necks.

Time marches on, and finally the lath-house pets reach maturity, bursting into full bloom in beautiful patches of color. They remind you of your grandmother's old-fashioned flow-garden quilt. Every year when this happens, you stand in awe and admiration, humbly acknowledging: "Only God can make a tree," - and such begonia blossoms; yet, you are deeply grateful that He has given you the urge, the patience, and the joy of being a willing instrument of His handiwork.

One parting thought I would leave with you. If, throughout all these months, you dream of taking a well-earned vacation, well, perish the thought. It would be a step toward insanity to leave these beautiful babes in the hands of someone else. I know, you, too, will say, "Please, I'd rather do it myself."

Remember, you, too, can raise prize begonias by just following these few simple rules.

289 Pages of Gardening Advice for \$2

That's the story of fourteen booklets which you can order from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., for \$2., check or money order, specifying catalog number A1.2:P 69/2. The complete set of fourteen booklets is as follows:

Better Lawns -- Establishment, Maintenance, Renovation, Lawn Problems, Grasses. Rev. 1962. 32 pp., il.
Lawn Diseases, How to Control Them. Rev. 1963. 16 pp. il.
Home Propagation of Ornamental Trees and Shrubs. 1962. 12 pp. il.
Growing Flowering Annuals. 1963. 21 pp. il.
How Much Fertilizer Shall I Use? Rev. 1963. 6 pp.
Hand Sprayers and Dusters. 1959. 12 pp. il.
Roses for the Home. Rev. 1964. 24 pp. il.
Growing Camellias. 1962. 12 pp. il.
Insects and Related Pests of House Plants, How to Control Them. Rev. 1964. 16 pp.
Planting and Maintenance of Trees, Shrubs, Vines. 1959. 12 pp. il.
Pruning Shade Trees and Repairing Their Injuries. 1962. 15 pp. il.
Shade Tree Pruning. Reprinted 1961. 25 pp. il.
Growing Vegetables in Town and City. Rev. 1962. 40 pp. il.
Suburban and Farm Vegetable Gardens. Rev. 1964. 46 pp. il.

"EARLY FIREBALL" TOMATO DEVELOPED BY IRRADIATION

Irradiation has played an important part in the development of a new early ripening tomato variety being introduced by the University of Minnesota this spring. Named Early Fireball, the new tomato resulted from a mutation or genetic change caused by irradiation treatment, according to T. M. Currence, professor of horticulture, responsible for development of the new variety.

Parent of the new variety is Fireball, widely accepted generally as an early standard variety since it was introduced about ten years ago.

Work on the new tomato began in 1957 at the university, when several thousand seeds from one Fireball plant were irradiated with thermo-neutrons. Plants were grown from these treated seeds and from untreated seeds of the same plant, Currence explains. From the plant population grown, seed was saved of the first-to-ripen fruit. The same procedure was followed for three additional years. In the fourth year the best selection - now known as Early Fireball - produced an early yield of 2.6 pounds per plant compared with 1.7 pounds from the best line planted from untreated seeds.

The red, slightly ridged fruit of Early Fireball is slightly larger than that of Fireball. Since foliage is sparse, the fruits are exposed and tend to sunscald in hot, sunny weather. Plants are self-pruning and small. Because of early fruiting, they tend to wither and die in late summer.

If you are interested in growing this new variety this year, check with your local garden store. More information on Early Fireball is given in Miscellaneous Report 58, Early Fireball, available from Bulletin Room, Institute of Agriculture University of Minnesota, St. Paul, Minnesota, 55101.

GARDENER WHO WENT TO SEED

After years of searching for the ideal hobby, I believe, I've found it right outside in the backyard. I'm planning to take up gardening. It was the artificial flowers my wife bought that gave me the idea. There is surely something sacrilegious about artificial flowers, as if human technology could improve on one of God's most beautiful artifacts.

"They last so long," my wife said defensively, "and they never get wilted and messy, like real flowers."

"I'll bet I can grow better flowers than those," I said, and realized instantly that I was launched on my hobby.

"They would wilt and fall apart," she said.

"That's part of the beauty of flowers," I pointed out. "They wilt and fade and become desiccated and die. It's part of the cycle of life. Besides, you can't press plastic flowers in a book."

"I wish you would take up gardening," she said. "It would be nice to have a little help, after all these years."

I went outdoors to look over the ground. There is something ennobling about growing things. It is one human activity in which man is engaged in joint venture with the Supreme Power. Procreation also gives the human being this spiritual quality, but man's role in this function is so far removed in time from its end result as to be meaningless.

"I'll probably start with tulips," I said. "I think I like them better than anything."

"I've never had any luck with tulips," she said. "You'd probably have to mulch the soil."

"What do you mean," I asked, "mulch the soil?"

"You have to have a compost pile," she explained. "You build one out of leaves and such. You have to rake the leaves. You could use the leaves under the alder trees. Then after the pile ages you mix it with the soil."

"How do you mix the pile with the soil?"

"With a shovel," she said.

"I probably won't start with tulips," I said. "I certainly don't want a pile of decaying old leaves around. I may start out with sweet peas."

"You have to build a trellis for sweet peas," she said. "They have to climb."

"Anyway," I pointed out, "I can't do anything until I get some catalogues. I'll send away for some. You can't have a good garden without a plan. Planning is half the fun."

We went into the garage to check the tools. I picked up the shovel and gave it a heft. It was heavy and hard and cold.

"On second thought," I said, "I'll probably wait until spring. It seems to me that if you are going to start gardening, it ought to be in the spring. But there's no reason you can't go ahead on your own. You could start the compost pile."

Married people are happier when they do things together.

Reprinted from Los Angeles Times -- thanks to Bob Bryant

Written by Jack Smith, Times Staff Writer

CLIPPINGS

by Charlie Proctor

The shrub auction netted \$158, which will be turned over to the Arboretum. Incidentally, the University has published a mighty nice map and guide to the Arboretum.

The plant-auction committee has another bang-up program coming up. Let's have a good turnout to get in the fun. Who knows, maybe by that time there will be hopes of planting your purchases!

The tabulation of the answers on the "Flower Show" questionnaire were definitely in favor of having one. A committee will go to work on it immediately. To make this an outstanding event is going to require the co-operation of all, so be prepared for a call to participate or help. More on this at a later date.

Hopefully, spring is coming - sometime. To me one of the real pleasures of gardening is going around visiting other members' gardens, and I am looking forward to it. It's surprising how many ideas you can get from the other fellows. Why not try it yourself - spring bulbs will be out before long. I had crocus blooming through the snow on April 25. Incidentally, I have read several articles by experts who say it is preferable to dig tulip bulbs after they have ripened, to be replanted in the fall.

The area cleanup contest at Sumner Olsen housing project is now past. A number of the occupants showed considerable interest in growing flowers to make their surroundings more attractive, but need some advice - a good opportunity for us to do a bit to help make our city more attractive. Volunteers, please, for this worthwhile project? Les Johnson is working out the details of our participation in the Fulton School Garden project and will be calling for assistance.

SELECT RECOMMENDED VARIETIES OF FRUITS FOR HOME GARDENS

Choose a fruit variety suitable to your part of the state and to your particular conditions if you want to be successful in growing fruit in your home garden. That suggestion comes from O. C. Turnquist, extension horticulturist at the University of Minnesota. He emphasizes that choice of an adapted variety is the first step to success in growing fruit.

Another point for the home fruit grower to keep in mind, the University horticulturist says, is to include at least two different varieties of each fruit selected in order to improve fruitfulness of the planting through cross-pollination. Most plums and cherryplums require special pollinizers.

A few varieties suggested for all areas of Minnesota are these: June-bearing strawberries - Earlimore, Premier, Dunlap, Robinson (Scarlet Beauty), Trumpeter and Sparkle; everbearing strawberries - Ogallala, Brilliant, Gem, Superfection, Ozark Beauty; raspberries - Durham and September (both red everbearing), Newburgh and Latham; grapes - Beta (black), Bluejay (dark blue) and Red Amber (red); crabapples - Centennial, Dplgo and Rescue; hybrid plums - La Crescent.

Apples and other fruits are listed according to approximate time of harvest, as well as to adaptability to the four fruit districts into which Minnesota is divided. Information is also given on susceptibility to specific diseases and necessity of winter protection for specific varieties.