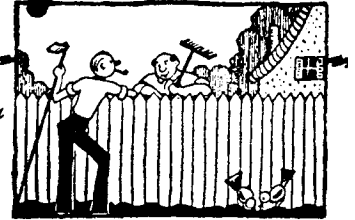




The Garden Spray

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS



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

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May Meeting

May 10, 1966

Park Board Greenhouse
38th and Bryant

Country Store: 4:30 p.m. on
Dinner: 5:45 p.m.

Price: \$1.75

Officers

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

ANNUAL PLANT AUCTION

Yes, sir, here it is. The Annual Fun Auction, chairmanned this year by Bob Sicora and Bob Nelson, who promise us some unusual plants, and a good selection thereof. We are told there probably will be some bush clematis and some "special surprises" too hot to mention. There will be door prizes, special prizes, Delaria's prize chicken.

And -- here is the best offer of the day. The club will pick up the tab for dinner for any prospective member you care to bring as guest that night. It might be a good idea to call President Bob and tell him if you plan to bring a guest, lest the number be rather surprising. But, let me say this, we have been repeatedly urged to bring prospective members to this meeting, fellows, so let's do it.

REMEMBER: May 10 AT THE PARK BOARD GREENHOUSE

PRESIDENT BOB SAYS

by Bob Smith

Don't forget the plant auction on May 10. If you have any extra plant material bring it along. This is also a good opportunity to bring a guest. Al Nelson and Bob Sicora have a good program planned, so don't miss this meeting.

Our sympathies go to Cliff Brisco at the passing of his wife. Also to Mrs. Bob Bryant who recently suffered a broken hip. Mrs. Bryant has been a judge at several of our flower shows.

Some of the residents of the Sumner Olson homes in the Glenwood Redevelopment area are interested in beautifying their homes by planting flowers. To most of the residents this is something new and they are seeking counseling and guidance. Charlie Proctor worked with them some last year and will be willing to act as coordinator if three or four members will be willing to help. Let Charlie know if you are interested. This is an opportunity for our club to be of service in a community beautification project.

Several of the special interest groups have held their first meeting. Eight members of the rose group had a very successful meeting at Al Nelson's home on April 16. Al demonstrated covering and uncovering roses and fed the gang well. The vegetable group met at Charlie Proctor's, Thursday, April 21. Eight members also turned out for this meeting. Plans were made to visit the garden of each member of the group at the beginning, middle and end of the season. Test seed for the MGCA vegetable-study program was also distributed and is available to any member of the club who is interested.

A card from Paul Kroeger indicates that his special interests will be roses and Bonzai from now on at his new residence, 6600 Ocean View Avenue, Carlsbad, California, 92008, where he has been vacationing the past few winters. We will miss the Kroegers but wish them the best of everything in their new home.

The Minnesota Horticultural Society will hold its centennial celebration August 25-26. Centennial stamps will be available for purchase at the May auction.

Insecticides Again Called Dangerous

"Attention must be paid to insecticides and plant-protecting substances. DDT has produced cancer in animals. The importance of this to human beings cannot be fully judged. Methylenaphthalenes are carcinogenic and are much used in insecticides. These substances remain in fruit and vegetables, as has been shown by the fact that Drosophila flies die if fed on carrot juice made from previously treated plants. Could it not be possible that this juice is also carcinogenic for infants?Insecticides containing arsenic can cause cancer of the skin."

W. Herberger, The Treatment of Inoperable Canc
Williams & Wilkins Co., Baltimore, 1965

There's the story of the girl who went into a department store and asked the floor manager: "Pardon me, do you have notions on this floor?" "Why, yes, ma'am," he said, "we do, but we've got to suppress them during business hours."

OVER THE GARDEN GATE

by Bill Hull

If anyone wants the feel of good physical exercise, come around the Hull place. We can provide it. As you know we moved last November and I've spent most of the odd hours of the winter cleaning up and clearing out areas outside. So far we've cleared sufficient brush to have four truckloads hauled away and are about through. I've been up in 34 of the 37 trees this winter trimming them. Some are huge; others small. Mostly oaks.

It's been a real saga, a constant problem of what to do next when so much was due to be done this spring. A new rose bed had to be made. If you ever have used a manual sod remover, you will understand how elated I was to find I could rent a power machine. It was so effective, that I cut 420 square feet of sod in thirty minutes. That sod was removed from a new arc-shaped rose bed, sixty feet by seven feet. Then, following Ron Twite's suggestion, instead of digging out the bed, we tilled it deeply with a deep running tiller called the Howard, sold by Si Rutherford, but available otherwise for servicing. Then we constantly added manure and retilled it. Later, when the roses were added, the holes were dug slightly deeper and bonemeal added.

Our roses, about 100 of them, were moved last fall and heeled in the new vegetable garden. When lifted and replanted they were green to the very tips. Never have I had roses come through so beautifully.

The next step was to plant about 50 flowering trees (crabapples mainly) and 55 flowering shrubs. The master plan had been worked out this winter but had to be changed slightly as we went along. I believe the crabapples will be a riot of color within a few years. Of course the crabs have been a hobby of mine for many years and I've visited and studied them all over the country, including knowing the late Arie den Boer of Des Moines, whom I consider the top authority. Further consultation with Leon Snyder and Archie Flack and we should have an outstanding selection of trees and shrubs. But this year's total of over 100 is really just a start on the future.

Let me share with you the back-breaking toil and fun of planting over 100 such items, plus the 100 roses, of course. Most of it I've done myself but I've had the help of a few lads and a week of vacation. It's no little job to dig all of those holes, add the bonemeal and manure, throw away some of the soil, substitute some soil, trim the plant, insert it and partially fill the hole, water the plant, later refill the hole with more soil, stake and tie it, ad infinitum. But we like it, don't we fellows.

We've also rearranged some of the sod and are trying to get that to catch.

Let me say a word of praise for the young high school boys who helped me one Saturday. I've heard rumors about lads not wanting to work. Well, scotch that, my friends. I have practically been deluged with calls from lads in the Edina high school system, after asking the science teacher to help me find someone. In fact, I have on tap five young fellows whom I'd like to see this club keep busy all this summer with yard work. Let me know if you can use them. Boy A is 14, the son of a gardening family, works for 75¢ an hour, worth \$1.00 if the work is hard. Boy B, also 14, works for 75¢ an hour but doesn't quite know his way around a garden like Boy A does. Boy C is 16, works for \$1.00 an hour, has his own garden of berries, knew how to lay and peg sod on a slope without detailed instructions. Works consistently and reliably. Has spent summers on a farm. Boy D is also 16 and works mainly as a team with Boy E whom he knows well. Is steady and reliable. Boy E is

TWELVE FAVORITES IN MY VEGETABLE GARDEN

by Bob Smith

The choice of vegetable varieties as in the choice of flower varieties or other types of plant materials is largely a matter of individual taste. Type of soil, climatic conditions and disease problems are also important factors to be considered in determining the varieties one should grow. Results received from vegetable specialists across the country who have participated in the MGCA vegetable-study program have pointed this out very clearly to me. Dr. Orrin Turnquist, of the University of Minnesota Agricultural Extension Service, conducts a vegetable testing program to determine the varieties that are dependable in Minnesota and publishes his recommendations each year in Extension Folder 154. This folder is well worth consulting and most of my favorites are included in its recommendations.

Twelve favorites in my garden are listed below with comments on their qualities and cultural practices. Each year I try new varieties and compare them with those I have grown in the past and when a new one comes along with superior qualities and performs dependably in my garden it becomes a new favorite. The following include both new and old varieties which have provided the qualities that I like:

- 1) Tender Crop Green Beans - An excellent all-purpose bush bean which is very disease resistant and produces an abundance of long, round, nearly straight pods of top quality.
- 2) Ruby Queen Beet - An outstanding table beet that reaches useable size early with fine textured, bright red, globe-shaped roots of fine sweet flavor. Excellent for greens when thinned at half-growth stage.
- 3) Emerald Cross Cabbage - An early F₁ hybrid producing small, compact plants with round, smooth heads that retain their fine quality for a long period. A shovel of compost or rotted manure per plant does wonders. In small plantings a canopy of 1/4" netting or screen does a good job of controlling cabbage butterflies without spraying.
- 4) Scarlet Nantes Carrot - A very dependable sweet, early carrot with a medium-length cylindrical stump root that does well in most soils. Working the soil deep, incorporating compost in the row and thinning will help to produce smooth, straight roots of top quality.
- 5) Sugar King Sweet Corn - A 78-day hybrid producing 7-8-inch ears with 14-16 rows of golden kernels of excellent quality. Make successive plantings at weekly intervals to provide a continuous supply all season. In my estimation, no vegetable compares with sweet corn fresh from the patch. Rotating corn planting each year will reduce insect and disease problems. A liberal application of rotted manure and nitrogen fertilizer at planting time followed by a heavy mulch of straw or hay about July 1 will help to provide the fertility and moisture retention necessary to produce large, full ears even in dry weather.
- 6) Burpee Hybrid Cucumber - Very dependable, disease resistant variety that produces an abundance of top quality cukes for slicing and pickling. Apply a generous amount of rotted manure in each hill and keep fruit picked for continuous production. If short of space, grow on a fence or trellis.

.....continued

Twelve Favorites in my Vegetable Garden

(continued)

- 7) Buttercrunch Lettuce - A 1963 All-America Award winner of the butter-head type with exceptional quality. Slower to bolt than other Bibb varieties. Lettuce likes soil rich in humus with a continuous supply of moisture. Mulching helps to conserve moisture. Plants started indoors can be set out in cold frame for early spring crop. Late fall crop can be matured in hot bed.
- 8) Red Burgundy Onion - A medium-size onion that is superb for salads and hamburgers. Mild enough to eat like an apple yet with a subtle flavor that makes salads a joy. The red color is very decorative. While not a good keeper it is unsurpassed in its season. The onion maggot problem can be solved by interplanting radishes which the maggots prefer. When the radishes become mature they should be pulled and the infested ones destroyed.
- 9) Burpee Hybrid Muskmelon - Vigorous vines produce heavy yield of large, round, heavily netted melons with very thick deep-orange flesh that is exceptionally sweet. Ripens ahead of other main-crop varieties which is very important in Minnesota. The most dependable and flavorful melon I have grown. Melons love light soil rich in humus. Plastic mulch helps to promote earlier harvest.
- 10) Sweet Chocolate Pepper - 1965 introduction from the University of New Hampshire. A medium-size pimento-shaped pepper that turns from green to brown at maturity with thick flesh that is very crisp and sweet adding zest to any salad. Combined with Emerald Cross Cabbage and Red Burgundy Onion it makes an outstanding salad combination. Very early and productive.
- 11) Little Marvel Peas - An early pea that is very tender and sweet. Peas fresh from the garden to the kettle are an outstanding treat that very few have experienced. Two rows planted 6 inches apart with an 18-inch chicken-wire trellis between has worked real good for me. A canopy of half-inch mesh netting gives me complete protection from birds.
- 12) Big Boy Hybrid Tomato - A mid-season variety that consistently produces a good crop of large size, excellent flavored slicing tomatoes. Very well adapted to staking. Pruned to two or three stalks and tied to 6-foot high, 2 by 2 stakes will produce fruit of exceptional quality in a small area. Apply a liberal amount of compost or rotted manure and fertilizer low in nitrogen but high in phosphorous and potash at planting time. Mulch plants about July 1 and see that they have a continuous supply of moisture. A feeding of liquid fertilizer just before fruit begins to ripen is helpful since tomatoes are very heavy feeders. Rotating tomato plantings each year and destroying any diseased fruits or vines will help to keep disease problems to a minimum.

The rewards of a successful vegetable garden are twofold. First, enjoyment of the beauty of God's vegetable kingdom and second, the enjoyment of the fruits of one's labor which cannot be duplicated from the vegetable stand or grocery store. No garden is complete without some vegetables in it. Vegetables and flowers complement each other, so be sure to include some of your favorite vegetables in your garden this year for a real treat.

THE DOZEN BEST HOSTAS

by Robert Savory

The Genus Hosta, or Funkia, as it is sometimes called, comprises a group of some of our hardiest herbaceous perennials. The oriental looking foliage varies in shape, shade and size, lending itself to many difficult spots. The decorative foliage is topped by multitudes of bell-shaped flowers hanging gracefully from arching scapes. The various species blooming throughout the summer. These plants do best if grown in shade or partial shade, in rich, humus soil with plenty of moisture during summer and with adequate winter drainage.

Following are twelve recommended varieties from our collection listed in order of importance:

HOSTA UNDULATA - Easily distinguished by the white and green wavy leaves, with a leaf mound not to exceed ten inches. Very fine for borders or foundation planting. Racemes reach a height of 24 inches, topped by light purple flowers. Blooms in July.

H. PLANTAGINEA (Subcordata Grandiflora) - The leaves are bright yellowish green, 8-inches wide and 12-inches long. Pure white flowers 4 to 6-inches long rise on a 30 inch raceme. Blooms in August and September.

H. VENTRICOSA (Coerulea) - The dark violet flowers of this variety are the finest of all hostas. The leaves are 10-inches long and 8-inches wide and very dark green. It forms a dense, ornamental clump and is surmounted by a 40 inch raceme. Blooms in late June and early July.

H. HONEYBELLS (HYB.) H. Plantaginea x H. Lancifolia - The leaves are light green, 11-in. long and 7-in. wide and rise to a height of 24 in. Flowers are white with violet penciling, and are very fragrant. The scape extends to 40 in. Blooms late August.

H. DECORATA (Thomas Hogg) - The leaves are broad at the base, blunt, and somewhat wavy at the margin measuring 7-inches long and 4-inches wide with a nice white margin. The leaf mound rises to 12 inches, topped by a 24-inch scape of beautiful violet urn-shaped flowers. Blooms in August.

H. LINDA ALBA (Albo Marginata Var. Alba) - The leaves are dark green and wavy on both sides and average 5-inches long and 1½-inches wide. The leaf mound rises 10 inches topped by a 26-inch scape of pure white 1-inch flowers. Blooms in August.

H. FORTUNEI VAR. VIRDIS MARGINATA - This plant has two shades of green in the leaf, light yellow green with a dark green border. The leaf blades are 12-inches long and 7-inches wide. The leaf mound being very dense and rises to 24 inches. The flowers are bell-shaped, white and light lilac. The flower is 3-inches high and blooms in July.

H. CRISPULA (Fortunei var. Marginato Alba) - The finest of the white margined varieties. Dark green wavy margined leaves, with glossy undersides. The leaf blade is up to 10-inches long and 6-inches wide. Flowers are delicate purple. The leaf mound is 20-inches tall. Blooms in late June and early July.

H. ALBA MARGINATA - This plant is about the same size as Decorata, but having wavy leaves with the same white margin. Has lavender flowers.

WHAT IS THE HIGHWAY BEAUTIFICATION ACT?

Public Law enacted by the 89th Congress October 22, 1965, an Act to provide for scenic development and road beautification of the Federal-aid-highway systems, is known generally as the Highway Beautification Act of 1965.

The Act is being administered by the Department of Commerce, Bureau of Public Roads. Rex M. Whitton of Missouri is Federal Highway Administrator. Lawrence Jones of Texas is Deputy Federal Highway Administrator.

The Act provides that "before the promulgation of standards, criteria, and rules and regulations, necessary to carry out sections 131 and 136 of title 23 of the United States Code, the Secretary of Commerce shall hold public hearings in each State for the purpose of gathering all relevant information on which to base such standards, criteria, and rules and regulations," and that, "The Secretary of Commerce shall report to the Congress not later than January 10, 1967, all standards, criteria, and rules and regulations to be applied in carrying out the United States Code."

As a basis for such public hearings, which began on March 1, 1966 and continues through May 3, 1966, in each of the 50 states, and including also Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia, the Department of Commerce, Bureau of Public Roads, prepared a draft of definitions, standards, and criteria as a guide at such public hearings.

In order to gain wide-spread public opinion and assistances in the formation of such draft standards, the Department of Commerce, Bureau of Public Roads formed a 36-member National Advisory Committee on Highway Beautification. This committee has met four times in Washington, D.C., on May 12, September 24, and November 4, 1965, and on March 29-30, 1966.

The committee is comprised, for the most part, of heads of national organizations directly interested in and affected by the Highway Beautification Act, among them the Chairman of the Board of Urban America, Inc., Chairman of the Board of the Chamber of Commerce of the U.S.A., the president each of the following groups: Scenic and Historical Preservation Society, the Associated General Contractors, the General Federation of Women's Clubs, the American Association of Nurserymen, the American Petroleum Institute, the American Institute of Architects, the Institute of Scrap Iron and Steel, the National Council of State Garden Clubs, Inc., the American Society of Landscape Architects, Keep America Beautiful, the American Association of State Highway Officials, the American Society of Planning Officials, the Outdoor Advertising Association of America, the American Institute of Park Executives, the American Forestry Association, the Automobile Manufacturers Association, and, of course, the Men's Garden Clubs of America.

Philip A. Conrath of Missouri, as President of MGCA, served as member of this National Advisory Committee on Highway Beautification throughout 1965. Currently, L. E. Moyer of California, 1966 MGCA president, is serving on the committee.

It is anticipated the Committee will meet again early Fall, 1966, when the results of the public hearings throughout America have been digested and correlated, and a second set of draft standards has been formulated for review by the committee prior to presentation by the Secretary of Commerce of final detailed report and recommendations to the Congress by not later than January 10, 1967.

Over the Garden Gate - continued from page 3

seventeen and well organized. He issued me a card saying he is in the landscaping business. He is still a student, a senior. Has had landscaping-nursery experience and very knowledgeable. Also works in a service station. Also on call by a roofing firm where he gets union wages I am told. Very outstanding but will probably be grabbed by someone for permanent work. Both boys D and E work for \$1.50 an hour and are worth it. Boy E could foreman an entire job if you wanted to leave him with others.

I've gone into detail because if you want some lads for help, this is the type of fellow we all would like for sons and whom we like to see coming along through our school systems.

In the meantime, come out and see the plantings. Maybe three to five years from now, when they are impressive, you can remember when they were whips.

The Dozen Best Hostas - continued from page 6

H. FORTUNEI - Often sold under name H. Glauca, but it is quite different, for the leaves are smaller and the racemes of flowers are more open and stand well above the foliage. One of the finest for a beautiful effect. Two-foot spikes of blue flowers in August.

H. SIEBOLDIANA AUREA MARGINATA - Large bluish gray-green leaves with gold edges. It is covered with bloom and a seersucker texture. Lavender flowers usually do not show above leaf mound.

H. ROYAL STANDARD (plant Patent applied for) - An exceptionally beautiful sweet scented hybrid of H. Plantaginea. Pure white flowers. Stems 18 to 24-inches tall. August and September bloomer.

BONSAI GARDENING

Leon Snyder, Jr., says the following are good to use for bonsai plants:

White Pine, Mugho Pine, Jumpers, Ironwood, Chinese Elm, Barberry, Winged Euonymus and Potentilla.

POWER OF PUBLIC OPINION

On July 3, 1775, George Washington took command of the Continental Army under an elm at Cambridge, Mass. Loveland, Colorado has a 90-foot elm which is an off-spring of the famous Washington elm. Recently commercial enterprise planned to destroy the elm to make room for a building. But they were forced to move the building 14 feet. Why? Because the concern was deluged with calls from all points around the area -- including Denver, Boulder, Longmont, Ft. Collins, and the Men's Garden Clubs of Colorado -- even people not members of clubs.