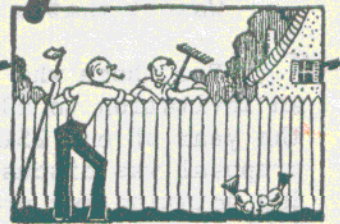




# The Garden Spray

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

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



November 1962  
Volume 20, No. 11  
G. Victor Lowrie, Editor

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

## November Meeting

Date: Tuesday, November 13, 1962  
Place: Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church  
Knox Avenue at W. 50th  
Time: 5:45 P.M. Sharp  
Price: \$1.75

## Officers

N. W. Christopherson	President
Ev Haedecke	Vice-Pres.
Dwight Stone	Secretary
Charles Proctor	Treasurer

Office of the Secretary  
4620 Hampton Road

## P R O G R A M

1. Report by Nominating Committee and election of 1963 officers
2. Talk on propagation and care of Delphiniums - P. W. Young
3. Talk on the selection and potting of bulbs for forcing - Stan Bachman
4. Discussion of a project to be sponsored by our Club at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum - Les Johnson and Dr. Leon Snyder

Have you sent the colored slides of your garden to P. W. for showing at the Christmas party?

## GEORGE LUXTON DIES NOVEMBER 1

George Luxton, good friend and honored member of our Club, passed away during the early morning hours of November 1, after an illness of several weeks. At age 81, George's life included at least two successful careers, as the first news photographer in this area and as a renowned and beloved garden writer. We extend our sincerest sympathies to the family.

OVER THE GARDEN GATE  
by Bill Hull

Wasn't that a good meeting in October?

For those who weren't in attendance, the club unanimously voted to extend an invitation to MGCA to have its annual convention in Minneapolis in 1967, the year of our 25th anniversary. The last convention here was in 1949. The proposal was discussed pro and con with some of the men who ran the 1949 meeting pointing out problems and possibilities for such a convention. Particularly pertinent were Archie Flack's remarks that each man must be prepared to work hard before casting an affirmative vote, because having such a convention can be rewarding but also hard work. Now the invitation has been extended and we must await official action when the MGCA committee reviews all such invitations on hand for 1967.

Speaking of Archie Flack, we really owe him a roundhouse cheer for the fine way he conducted the question and answer session at this meeting. Several people commented on the skill he employed.

The speaker was Dr. Don White of the University. Of course we can't possibly review every fine point the professor emphasized, but here are a few of them: "The best winter protection is to select a hardy variety and send it into the winter in good condition . . . Avoid stimulating plants at an unusual time. Hence, gradually reduce watering to avoid an overabundance or saturation of soil and thus eliminating air in the soil . . . Water evergreens very heavily just before the hard freezes but don't time them because this would stimulate fall growth and send them into the winter with too much new soft growth . . . Don't hesitate to water evergreens in the middle of winter if there is a thaw . . . Dry mulches are better than wet ones for winter protection but should not be applied until after the frost layer is established. Wait for hard freezes.

P. W. Young is now making his annual call for slides of our own gardens to be used in the Christmas party. Either get them to P. W. through the mail or bring to the November meeting. Don't wait. The sorting and preparation takes time and we can't expect him to do this at the very last minute.

Bob Smith and others told us recently how they grow potatoes in hay or straw. Straw is spread on the ground; the seed potatoes laid thereon and more straw atop them. More straw is added during the growing season. Talk to Bob for further details.

Phil Smith supplies us with a fine quotation from Josephine Moffett Benton: "The work of bending over a hoe, kneeling to transplant, is also a kind of joy of creation, a sense of well-being at having one's hands in the rich loamy soil, one's back wet and hot under the rays of the sun."

Bill Cowcill's garden is still at the peak of bloom (at this writing in early October,) His riotous color is accented by the very fine English mums Bill imports from the motherland. Another fine garden we all didn't get to see.

Why don't we all go down to Rockford, Illinois, next July 29 to August 1 and see a good national MGCA convention? Would give us a chance to get ideas for our own in 1967, if we are awarded the contract. Probably never again will be a national convention so close to us. And it's an inexpensive event.

## OVER THE GARDEN GATE (Cont'd)

Yes, Cortis, Bailey's "Cyclopedia of Horticulture" not only lists Cobaea scandens in light violet and greenish purple but also says there is a white (alba) variety. There is even a variegated-leaf form.

Someone has said that a diplomat is one who can tell you to go to hell and you actually look forward to making the trip.

Girl to male pianist: "You play beautifully. Why did you take up the piano?" Pianist: "My beer kept falling off my violin."

Let's sign off with a memo to George Titus, a past president who visited us at the October meeting. It was wonderful seeing you again, George, and everyone wishes you and Jo a safe return to your Santa Rosa - and do come back again.

## DUES ARE DUE

It is that time again. Included with "Spray" is your dues statement. Please do the Club Secretary and Treasurer a favor by returning this statement with your \$10.00 immediately.

Each year the Club Roster has a few errors. Most of the errors are caused by the Secretary, but you can help him if you will fill in the bottom portion of the statement in full. Check it over carefully before you return the statement.

Remittance to the Minnesota State Horticultural Society and Men's Garden Clubs of America are due January 1. Please pay your dues early this year so we can send your name and pay your membership in these organizations at the earliest possible date.

Thank you,

Dwight Stone, Secretary

## SPRITES

The Sprite Snapdragon seeds you received last spring were supplied by Bodger Seed Company. Mr. Bodger is interested in knowing your reaction to the variety.

If you planted Sprites in your garden, write Mr. Bodger a note and tell him how you liked them.

The address is:

Mr. Howard Bodger  
Bodger Seeds Limited  
El Monte, California

LET US ENJOY THEM ALL!

Here we are already around to our last regular monthly meeting, for this year, where we will be saying "thank you" to our 1962 officers . . . voting in a new slate and giving the 1963 management our blessings.

It has been an interesting year. Certainly as good a growing year as one could want and I am sure, all who could, took advantage of every gardening break Mother Nature bestowed upon us.

And now such a beautiful Fall. Saturday, October 27 I cut twelve Peace roses - in size and color they were unexcelled - some of the most beautiful blooms of the year. Then the mums, each variety seemed to be trying to out-class the other, not only in size of bloom but in height - how wonderful and aren't we gardeners fortunate in being close to so much beauty with the happy feeling of being almost a part of it.

So let us put our gardens to bed gently and snugly with the assurance that by so doing we will be richly rewarded when the earth again turns warm and our garden favorites, once again, come out to greet us.

This brings me to a phase of our club programing which needs thorough discussion by our membership. With so many new members with interesting gardens, how can we arrange to see more of them? Many members who have been in the club for some time have never had their gardens on a club tour.

To begin with, we should strive to visit every member's garden over a period of time and not repeat a visit until each and every member's garden has been covered.

This could be worked out geographically by grouping members according to districts or zones and with buses for transportation the problem should not be a difficult one.

By so doing we could cover more gardens on each tour and not spend so much time traveling.

I personally would favor making our first tour in June rather than waiting until July. Then I would propose that we start serving dinner earlier rather than starting late and spending so much time standing in line to be served.

Why not have a garden tour committee whose sole responsibility would be to map out a series of tours that would eventually cover every member's garden. It should not be necessary to pre-visit every garden. Simply advise a member that his garden will be on the June, July or August tour. Naturally all these details would need to be buttoned up and the member advised at least six weeks in advance of the tour date, even two months ahead of the tour date when practical.

Let's take greater pleasure from more member's gardens in 1963 and enrich our gardening knowledge at each visit. In the meantime, why not write us about your garden; in what you specialize, the plants with which you were particularly pleased, your proudest achievement and your most sorryful disappointment, and we will publish your report in the Spray in order of their receipt.

## ORNAMENTALS NEED PROTECTION AGAINST WINTER COLD

Snow warnings are reminders to gardeners that many ornamentals may not survive the rugged Minnesota winter without some protection.

Best way to protect the perennial flower border is to cover it with a mulch of dry leaves or marsh hay to a depth of 6 to 8 inches, according to C. G. Hard, extension horticulturist at the University of Minnesota. Apply the mulch after the soil has frozen slightly. Do not pack the mulch. Evergreen boughs will also make a good mulch, especially because they will trap snow, one of the best materials for winter protection. Bulbs need the same type of protection as the flower border.

The mulch serves several purposes. It will insulate the flower border against extreme cold and will help control the temperature in the spring when the alternate freezing and thawing would damage plants.

Chrysanthemums will usually overwinter if they are mulched in the same way as the flower border. If they are growing in a low spot in the garden, it may be a good idea to lift the clumps and move them to a higher place. Or put them in a coldframe and mulch them. Another method of overwintering them is to put them in garden flats, put the flats on the east side of the house if possible and cover them.

Hard gives these alternate suggestions for protecting roses:

Cover them with dry leaves to a depth of 24-36 inches. Pack the leaves around the base but pile them loosely on top. The mulch should be about a foot deep above the top of the bush to provide enough insulation. Or

When the ground is beginning to freeze, mound garden soil around the base of the roses to a depth of 12 to 14 inches. After the soil is frozen, mulch the top to protect the upper part of the bushes. Prune back roses to a convenient height to make them easier to protect.

Apply a good fungicide before mulching or mounding roses to control black spot, mildew and canker.

Tilt climbing roses so they can be easily laid on the ground. Then cover with soil and marsh hay or dry leaves.

Release from Institute of Agriculture, U. of M.

## GREEN THUMB AWARDS COMING UP!

Secretary Dwight Stone tells us to date we have fourteen members who have perfect attendance for the year. If all fourteen also attend the November and December meetings, they'll receive their green thumb awards at the Christmas party. By years of attendance, the fourteen breakdown as follows: 6 one-year, four two-year, two each for three and four years. Another group of eight have missed only one meeting each.

## MINNESOTA STATE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY GARDEN QUIZ

The summer season often is too short for satisfactory muskmelon yields. How can the plants be hurried into production?

ANS...Early yields can be increased by starting the seedlings in peat pots and transplanting them through slits cut in black polyethylene mulch which has been laid down in the field or garden.

How can Canna roots be stored?

ANS...Dig with a clump of earth if possible. Put in baskets or boxes (with soil still on them) and place in a cool dark part of the basement.

What special condition do Peruvian Daffodils (Ismene) bulbs require in storage?

ANS...Warm temperature -- 60 degrees or somewhat higher. If stored in a cold place they often fail to bloom the following year.

How can passion flower vine (Passiflora) be over-wintered?

ANS...It is not hardy outdoors except in unusually well protected situation -- perhaps heavily covered, next to a house foundation. Some growers cut it back severely, pot it up and handle it as a house plant over winter. Others take stem cuttings and root them indoors in moist sand -- producing a new plant for spring planting outdoors.

Can geraniums be removed from the soil and "hung up" for storage over winter?

ANS...Possibly, but unless you have unusually favorable storage conditions (cool and moist) the results will probably be disappointing. Prune back the potted plants almost to the soil level and store in a cool light place, watering sparingly. If this is not practical, you had better start over again with cuttings.

Can trees and shrubs be pruned during the winter season?

ANS...Winter is a good time to prune trees. While leaves are off it is easy to see what is needed. Large shrubs in need of severe pruning also can be pruned in winter. Normal, annual pruning of most spring-flowering shrubs can best be done in late spring, immediately after flowering.

Do house plants do better in standard clay pots than they do in glazed pots or other non-porous containers?

ANS...No. In dry atmospheres (as in most houses) glazed pots may be superior as the loss of water will not be so rapid and less frequent watering is needed.

How long does it take to develop a new variety of apple?

ANS...25 years or more. An apple tree grown from seed bears fruit after 10 or 12 years. Another ten years is required to test and compare it with established varieties. If the new variety merits naming and introducing, another five years will be consumed in propagating stock so that it can be offered to the public.

Forsythia bushes frequently come through the winter with no apparent damage but fail to bloom except on a few lower branches. Why is this?

ANS...The lower branches were protected from extreme low temperature by snow covering. The flower buds, already formed in the fall, are more sensitive to winter cold than are the foliage buds.

Does the Clematis vine need winter protection?

ANS...Yes. It is desirable to heavily mulch the base -- or, to remove the main stem from the trellis in order to lay it on the ground and cover with mulch. New growth comes from the crown or from a short section of the lower stem which