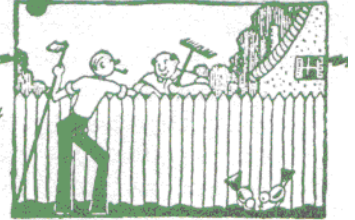




The Garden Spray

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

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



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Club Officers:	President - Grant Christenson	Vice President - Nate Siegel
	Secretary - Ed Culbert	Treasurer - Evald Johnson
	Director - Dale Durst	Director - Al Nelson

NOVEMBER 12 PROGRAM

Election of 1969 Club Officers - report of nominating committee -
R. E. Smith, chairman

Award 1968 Flower Show trophy - C. R. Proctor, flower show chairman

a. Sweepstakes - Al Blackburn

b. Queen of the Show - Tom Foley

A panel on fluorescent gardening - Dale Durst, moderator

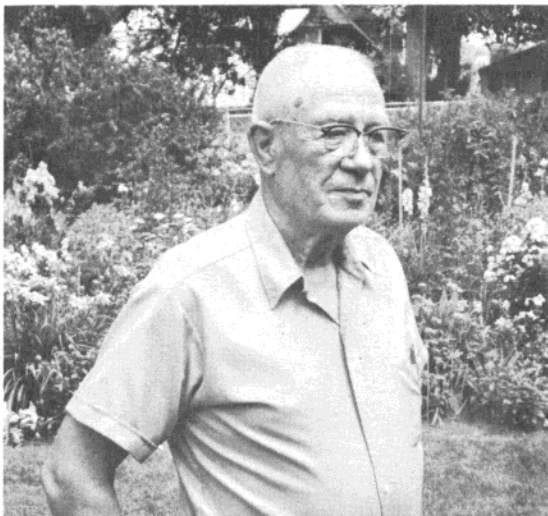
"The Annual Miracle" - a 26 minute film from George J. Ball, Inc.
The editor joins others in recommending this film, having seen it
when it was first released a very few months ago.

Newcomers and their gardens - a few brief talks by some of our newer
members with whom we will want to get better acquainted.

TIME: 6 p.m.

PLACE: Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church

\$2.00



The Garden Spray proposed a special salute this month to our friend and work horse, Les Johnson. An active member since 1955, Les brought to our club his experience as an office manager. Les has contributed tremendously to our club - programs and flower-show chairman, repeatedly. Worked for years with youth gardeners. An honored past president in 1961, Les rightfully received our Bronze Medal in 1963; the Lehman Trophy in 1964 and the Blackburn Trophy in 1966!

RENE DuFOURD - FAMILY AUTO TRAGEDY

Undoubtedly many of you have heard of the terrible accident in which the Rene Dufourds and their family were involved on October 13 in Suffern, New York. Rene and Mrs. DuFourd were visiting their daughter, Jean, her husband and the grandchild. The auto accident was on highway 17 and apparently was a head-on crash with another car. It is our understanding that the family had gone for a ride with the son-in-law driving. Rene and the grandchild survived and were hospitalized (our last word) at the Good Samaritan Hospital in Suffern, New York. Injuries were fatal to Mrs. DuFourd, Jean and Jean's husband. Rene's injuries were extensive, including the loss of an eye.

Our hearts go out to our good friend, Rene. Words are simply too inadequate at times like this.

A Call for Help Brings a Hospital Visitor to Rene DuFourd

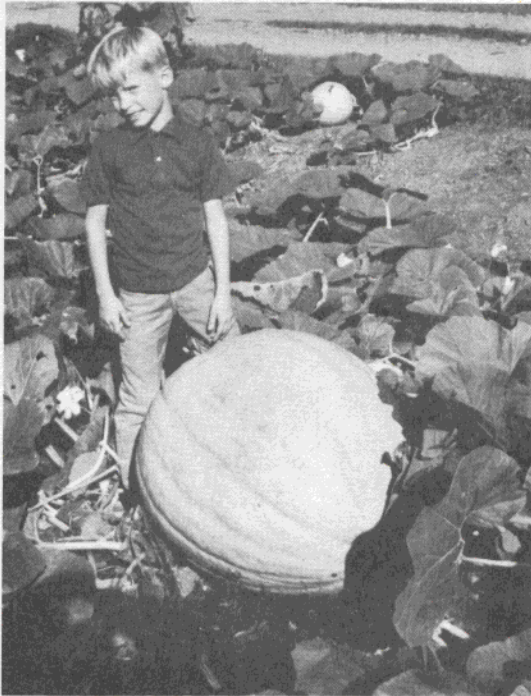
The editor was wondering how he could learn whether Rene was still in the Good Samaritan Hospital, Suffern, New York and placed a telephone call for him on October 25 when he first learned of Rene's accident. The hospital said he was in the intensive care ward and could not, of course, accept a call. We then did a little research with our Men's Garden Club directory and found a club at New City, New York, which is about 10-15 miles from Suffern, and called the president of that club (Arnold Price, 442 Hempstead Rd., New City, N.Y. 10956). We had never met, but when I explained our interest in a friend, Arnold willingly volunteered to investigate. The next day he drove over to Suffern, was permitted to visit Rene, and carried our good wishes. He found Rene in good spirits, obviously not able to talk much with a wired-together jaw and other problems but glad to hear from his Minnesota friends. Arnold also learned that the duFourd's other daughter is there from California and that the son-in-law's family, the Dewards are in Suffern and extremely helpful in this emergency. I learned all of this because Arnold called me back Saturday with this information.

We thank you, Arnold Price, for your very great helpfulness, in time of need. Come to Minnesota some time and meet all of us in the MGC of Minneapolis!

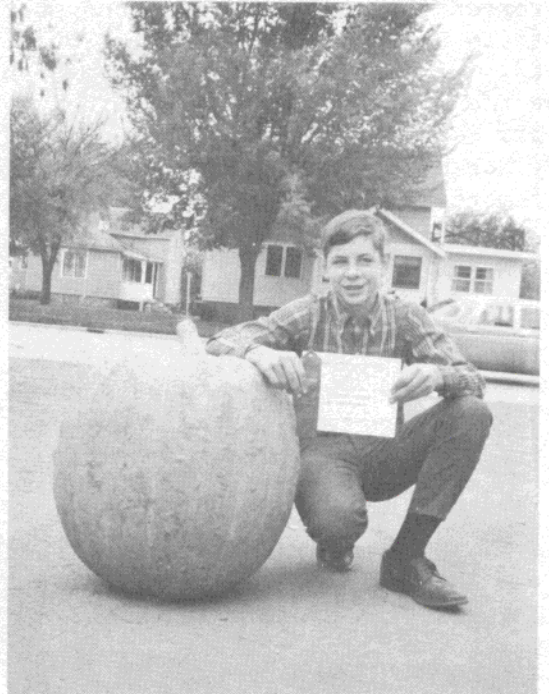
MGCA COLORADO CONVENTION, FT. COLLINS, JULY 20-27, 1969: MGCA Executive Secretary, Guy Chichester, returned recently from a three-day visit in Colorado with MGCA President-elect Earl Cook and members of the 1969 Convention Planning Committee. The Colorado Convention Committee is working diligently to assure a highly successful convention pleasing to every member and visitor. Tentative featured speakers will include the Governor of Colorado, as well as horticultural experts and special guests known around the world. Special tours to members' gardens in Ft. Collins will highlight the convention. Other tours are also scheduled to scenic vistas that all convention goers will enjoy. Although the convention itself will take place between July 21-23, many post-convention highlights are scheduled between July 24-27 for all members to enjoy.

STATE PUMPKIN (153 lbs.) and SUNFLOWER (22-inch) WINNERS

Nate Siegel deserves congratulations because he, along with Dale Durst, have concluded another extremely successful pumpkin and sunflower contest. There were 104 pumpkin entries, twenty-five of which weighed over 100 pounds. The total weight of all entries was 8,242 pounds and they averaged 79½ pounds each. The sunflower contest brought in 101 entries with the average being 15½ inches. Here are the winners.



1st - Craig Theilman - Avon
153 pounds



2nd - Arthur Byron - Waseca
145 pounds



3rd - Bruce Micklay - Stewartville



1st - Karen Markwardt -

SPECIAL INTEREST - VEGETABLES

Our group consists of about a dozen men who grow vegetables in varying amounts and variety. We have had two gatherings this summer, with a third one in the planning stage.

On one of the worst days of late winter a dozen met at Northrup King trial grounds. Larry Corbett conducted us through the greenhouses on a very interesting tour in which he explained and showed the experimental work in progress on peas, cabbage, cucumbers, etc. Following this we gathered in the office area and had a general bull session covering the range of seeds, growing, etc. Of particular interest was an article in the Cornell University bulletin on the subject of plant growing, which contained a formula for a growing mixture. This is available under the name "Jiffy Mix," which is distributed locally by Northrup King and available at most gardenstores. It is widely used by commercial growers. For those desirous of mixing their own in quantity, the formula is as follows:

	<u>One peck mix</u>	<u>One cubic yard mix</u>
Vermiculite (No.2 or 4 Terralite)	4 quarts	11 bushels
Shredded sphagnum peat moss	4 quarts	11 bushels
20% Superphosphate (powdered)	1 tablespoonful	1 pound
Ground limestone	1½ tablespoonfuls	5 pounds
5-10-5 fertilizer	1 to 4 tablespoonfuls	2-12 pounds

Perhaps we can arrange to have the entire article run in a later issue of Spray.

In August the group visited the Green Giant plant in Le Seuer to see the process of canning corn. It was a very interesting tour, and we even had dinner served by the "Corn Cob" Princess. We are planning a tour of the Northrup King seed processing plant later on. Any outside of our group who are interested should contact Bob Smith or Charlie Proctor.

Bob Smith is renown for his vegetable growing. The basic ingredient contributing to his success, above and beyond the sweat of his brow, is the use of large quantities of manure and other organic matter. He also supplements this with organic fertilizer, which he mixes himself. The formula for any who might want to mix their own is as follows: Hydrolized Turkey Feathers 1 part; Colloidal Phosphate 1 part; Wood Ashes 1 part; Granite Dust 1 part. This will provide a product with an analysis 4-6-4 plus trace minerals. Using 2 parts of turkey feathers, 1 part of the others, will change the analysis to 6-6-4 plus trace minerals. Bone meal in place of colloidal phosphate will not change the analysis appreciably. Likewise, substitution of 2 parts of soybean meal or cottonseed meal for 1 part of turkey feathers will produce approximately the same analysis. We should emphasize that this should be incorporated into compost or into the soil in conjunction with an application of humus (compost or manure) which aids in breaking down the components in the fertilizer and making them available to the plants. Soybean meal, bone meal, colloidal phosphate and granite dust are available from Northeast Feed Mill Co., 1428 N. E. Marshall. Turkey feathers are available from Fertilizer Company, 2300 Sioux Blvd., New Brighton.

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

by Grant Christenson

We are saddened to hear of Rene DuFourd's accident and the loss of his wife, daughter, and son-in-law. At this writing details are still somewhat vague. I know you all join me in wishing Rene a speedy recovery from his injuries.

It was a shock to receive news of the passing away of our friend and member, Kermit A. Olson. Our heartfelt sympathy to his family.

Sherm Pinkham, Christmas party chairman, and his committee have planned a grand evening of good food, fun, entertainment, favors, door prizes and fellowship for December 10, 1968. Plan now to attend by returning your reservation today to our treasurer, Evald Johnson.

Does anyone know the whereabouts of our Historian Book? Please, if you have had any reason to use the book in the past, look to see if perhaps you still have it. Historian Art Johnson will appreciate a call when it is located.

As the year draws to a close, it is desirable to locate all club property. Please make a list of any club property in your possession and mail to me. I don't guarantee to find a new storage place, but our new offices will have an up-to-date list.

Don't forget to mail your Minnesota Horticultural Society ballots (Page 107 of the October issue). Let's get Phil Smith elected.

Thank you, Dale Durst, and the North Star Region, for the swell job done on the Big Pumpkin-GiantSunflower contest. Contest winners and details are elsewhere in this issue.

A swell program last month provided by Vice President Nate Siegel. The blossom bloomed at last and like all good things, was worth the wait; also some interesting talks by newer members; and, some good tips by a panel on winter cover, etc. Nate promises another good program this month. Why not call a friend and bring him along as your guest. The club needs YOU and new members to continue successfully.

I received a nice letter from Men's Garden Clubs of America thanking us for our check in final settlement of the 1967 National Convention. Included in this letter was another commendation for the very fine 1967 convention. This reminds me it's not too early to be making plans to attend the 1969 convention in Fort Collins, Colorado.

Dues are due again, your cooperation in returning the dues statement with information section completed and \$10.00 check will be greatly appreciated.

MINNESOTA STATE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY GARDEN QUIZ

Early in the season numerous whisker-like green projections frequently are found on the undersides of wild plum leaves. What are these?

Ans: They are tissue overgrowths (galls) caused by the presence of a tiny insect or "Gall midge." Such galls are seldom seen on cultivated plum varieties. Spray applications in early spring will control gall insects.

What is "Serviceberry" or "Juneberry" and what is it good for?

Ans: Its botanical name is Amelanchier laevis, a large shrub native to much of Minnesota. The reddish black fruits are edible. It is useful as a large shrub in a background landscape border.

The new hybrid geraniums (grown from seed by plant suppliers) have received much attention as outdoor bedding plants. What are their main characteristics?

Ans: The stems are vigorous and free-branching, requiring little pinching or pruning. Flower heads are not as compact as the older types but are produced in great numbers.

Close mowing of lawns helps prevent weed problems -- True -- or False?

Ans: False. Bluegrass turf will be more vigorous and weed free if it is mowed frequently but at a high level (1½ to 2 inches). Unfortunately, most lawnmowers are adjusted to cut much too low.

Which are the greater hazards to garden plants -- weeds, or disease and insect pests?

Ans: Probably weeds. Plants frequently do escape serious disease or insect damage, even without planned controls; but weeds are inevitable. Continuous effort to remove weeds while they are small is necessary if serious damage to the desired plants is to be avoided.

Does the Sycamore tree grow in Minnesota?

Ans: Sycamore or Buttonwood Tree (Plantanue occidentalis though native farther south, frequently is successfully grown as far north as Minneapolis. A distinguishing feature of the tree is the "deciduous" bark. Patches of the bark fall off each year. Newly exposed bark is greenish white, gradually becoming brown. Thus the trunk has a mottle appearance.

What shrub is unusual in that it produces its flowers in late fall when its leaves are falling?

Ans: Witchhazel (Hamamelis virginiana), found occasionally in southeastern Minnesota.

How did the Dahlia get its name?

Ans: Introduced from Mexico, the dahlia was named in honor of Dr. Andreas Dahl, a Swedish botanist and pupil of Linnaeus.

Bogs in the coniferous forest areas of Northern Minnesota often are almost covered with a dense, low growing shrub that has small thick, hairy leaves. What is the name of this plant?

Ans: Leatherleaf (Chamaedaphne caliculata). The leaves are broad-leaf (not needles) and are evergreen (retained more than one season).

What is the difference between a Hazelnut and a Filbert?

Ans: Both are common names for Corylus, a genus of hardy nut-bearing shrubs or trees. C. maxima is the commercial filbert. C. americana is the

MGCA - BEGONIA PLANT STUDY REPORT

During the 1967 season, MGCA begonia testers confined their efforts to the testing of a single product, Pipron, manufactured by the Ely Lilly Company, and intended as a mildewicide.

The company provided testers with very generous samples of the material, and your test chairman asked them to try it not only as a preventive, but also as an eradicant for mildew on begonias as well as on other ornamentals subject to this miserable disease. Many testers followed my suggestion and divided their quart samples into a large number of small samples so that other members could share in the experiment.

We had hoped that our results would be conclusive and that at the end of the season we could say with no equivocation that the material was more effective or less effective than other mildewicides. Unfortunately, this was not the case. Some testers thought it was the complete answer to mildew problems. Others reported it to be ineffective and in this category were some of the larger operators including a few who grow on a commercial scale. I would also have to include myself in the latter group, for I was not able to control nor eradicate mildew with the product.

One of the variables in the test of Pipron was the safe dilution ratio at which it could be used. We started with five drops to a quart of water, and many growers increased this to ten drops without experiencing any damage to the plants. Those who could not control mildew with Pipron did not find that the dilution made an appreciable difference.

Perhaps the most encouraging feature of the 1967 tests was the very high degree of cooperation from the MGCA Plant Study members. Reports were submitted by about seventy-five percent of those who were given samples.

Mildew is such an important disease of tuberous begonias that solving it would virtually make these plants trouble-free. No insects are known to attack them other than a little botrytis. There is rarely a problem with other diseases. For this reason we will once again concentrate on mildew during the 1968 Plant Study Program. We will revert to the oldest mildew remedy of them all -- sulphur. Actually, it should be referred to as a preventive control rather than a remedy, as it won't eradicate mildew once it occurs.

This year I have grown over 20,000 tuberous begonias without a speck of mildew and have used nothing but a dusting of sulphur at about ten-day intervals. Those who have used sulphur in hot weather warn that it may cause burning, so I would suggest applying it when the weather is cool. Sulphur will bleach out the open blossoms; so, it is best to use it conscientiously until open blooms arrive. By then, you may have no further trouble. There is a dandy little rotary duster made of cast aluminum that sells for about ten dollars with which you can dust ten thousand begonias in five minutes. I have had one for five years and it still is as good as new.

Since sulphur will not cure mildew but only prevent it, we will need to have an eradicant handy. My suggestion for this year is that you try a combination of "karathane" (also called Mildex) and another powder known as "Miller's 658."

.....continued

MGCA - Begonia Plant Study Report
(continued)

I generally use about equal parts, a level teaspoon of each to a gallon of water. The karathane will kill all the mildew it hits and the Miller's 658 appears to give it a lasting protection that prevents the mildew from building back up. I have successfully wiped out a very severe mildew infection with this combination. I am convinced that it works in the upper New York State climate, and now I would like to find out how it behaves in other environments.

While we cannot distribute samples of any of the materials I have suggested, sulphur is only a few cents a pound and neither of the other materials are out of reason. You may find you cannot buy small quantities of karathane, but some other gardener will probably share a bag with you. It is rather toxic, so handle it with due caution and follow the directions on the label. It appears to have a fairly long shelf life, too. Use a sticker-spreader if you have trouble getting it to saturate the mildew spots. A little "Dreft" or similar detergent will do the trick. Continue to spray at weekly intervals until all mildew disappears. If you get it under control early, it may be confined to the tops of the leaves. A long-standing infection may get under the leaves. If so, you may have a problem reaching it. At that stage, I would suggest that you consider tossing out the plants that are infected.

Respectfully submitted,
H. GILBERT HARLOW, Chairman
MGCA Begonia Plant Study Program
Union College
Schenectady, New York

CHRISTMAS PARTY SLIDES NEEDED NOW BY LES

Les Johnson needs your 1968 garden slides no later than our meeting, November 12, 1968. Sort them out now and bring them to the meeting or mail to Les. Only your help can make the slide showing an annual event at the Christmas party. The date of the party is December 10 (second Tuesday), the place is the Thunderbird Motel. Plan ahead now by completing and returning the reservation blank attached. A gala evening for you and your girlfriend!

FOR SALE

New Mexican machete, 24-inch blade. Buy now for the revolution! An extra - brought back from Mexico. Six dollars. Bill Hull

