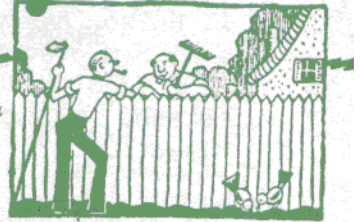




# The Garden Spray

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

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



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Ed Culbert, ass't editor. Charlie Proctor and Phil Smith, assoc. editors.

Club Officers: President - Nate Siegel      Vice President - Phil Smith  
Secretary - Ed Culbert      Treasurer - Dave Johnson  
Immediate Past President - Grant Christenson  
Directors - Roger Anderson and Otto Nelson

## NOVEMBER 11 IS THE DATE

A Veterans' Day Special at the Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church, 6 PM, \$2.00  
We plan to make war on absenteeism, declare a battle plan against winter,  
and seek a moratorium against the frustrations and illnesses of the world  
by having another heck of a good evening of fun, fellowship and information.

The program features our own Vic Lowrie who will share with us his Experiences  
With a Home Greenhouse, and the University and Arboretum's Merwin Eisel who  
will discuss Hostas with us. A great meeting. Be sure to be there.

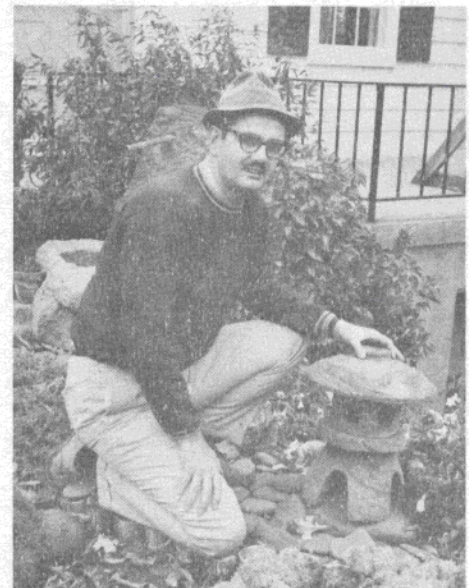
NOW!

WIN A HANDSOME HUMIDITY METER.

ACT FAST!

Call it a hygrometer if you prefer. It's a dandy. But you must act before  
November 22. So see page four...NOW.

This handsome fellow preparing his lovely garden for winter is Phil Smith, as if you didn't know. A member since about 1961, he was sponsored in our club by Bill Brooks. An attorney specializing in patents, trademarks and copyright law, he's served the club in many ways. Such as chairman of the Christmas party in 1965, secretary in 1967, associate editor of "The Garden Spray" since 1967, and currently Vice President and program chairman. In this last role he has followed his program, published last January, right down the line. We thank him and congratulate him for his honors within and without our club. The latest is nomination as an Overseas Vice President of the Delphinium Society of Great Britain. See the story on page four. A tip of the hat to you, Phil Smith!



## OVER THE GARDEN GATE

by Bill Hull

Recently we asked a question concerning gardening products you can't find. Al Nelson has the following. HELP. Let's locate these for Al. 1) Parnon, a mildew preventive, not an eradicant. 2) SLUGITT, an English slug killer. 3) POTASSIUM SULPHATE, a better form of potash for roses than is muriate of potash. 4) IRON SULPHATE, a chemical to reduce alkalinity or increase acidity of soil.

Al, if you hear from anyone on these, let us know and we'll pass it on.

\* \* \*

We're missing some club activities we should consider. Rockford has a Cornboil annually, as do other clubs. Portland has a Potlatch, as do other clubs. Some clubs in Texas have Barbecues. Why can't we? Some clubs have a summer picnic with a bottle of beer as part of the menu. Most of these events are very successful and most are stag events. Now, ladies, don't get me wrong. It's great to have you around. But men also need the company of other men.

\* \* \*

Here it is: Walter Menzel's secret recipe....

### How to have a live, green Christmas tree:

- 1) Choose a freshly cut green evergreen, preferably a double balsam.
- 2) Use a large tree stand, one with a capacity of at least a gallon of water.
- 3) Add at least a tablespoonful or more of a good soluble plant food such as Rapidgro or Agrico.

Walter says that over the years he has tried various methods to preserve a tree, such as iron chelates added to chlorox and hot water and had a "stinking mess, sticky to clean up when you take down the tree. As proof that this method works you have only to see the new green sprouts appearing at the end of each branch, usually the first week in January."

Thank you, Walter. We've earmarked this for Spray since receiving it last January 14.

\* \* \*

Is the garden all put to bed? Probably so. And all cleaned up. This is written two weeks before you'll see it but perhaps it might not be too late to do some of the following:

Bring in plastic bags or sealed buckets of leaf mold, soil, sand, for starting those seedlings next spring.

Bring in freezables from the garage. Check to see that no tools are left outside, or sprinklers, or pieces of hosing.

Open all outside faucets and close them from the inside shut-off so they drain.

Take care of the mower as per manufacturer's instructions.

## GARDENING AND GARDEN CLUBBING ON THE WANE?

I'm tempted to make a flat statement and say "Yes" but I don't have enough facts to prove it. I only suspect it.

Trends have been obvious for some time. Some of the suburban women's garden clubs are dropping by the wayside or out of existence. Flower showers have not been as numerous and clubs have been combining to put them on. Packet seed sales of both flower and vegetable seeds are down considerably although I believe sales of started plants are up. This could simply mean that fewer people are interested in growing things from seed. It could also mean that community pressure and conformity force people to "put in a few flowers" and the quickest, cheapest way is to drop by the corner and buy a couple of packs of petunias on the way back from bridge or golf.

I suspect that all types of clubbing are less popular today than twenty years ago and I'd greatly appreciate any statistics to prove or disprove this. They have to be in sufficiently large scope to mean anything, of course. How is church membership today compared with twenty years ago? What about church attendance--are people joining, paying their pledges, but not attending? What about service clubs: are there more Kiwanians, Rotarians, Lions today than twenty years ago? Fraternal bodies: are there fewer Masons being raised, fewer Knights of Columbus being initiated? I suspect so--based on population changes.

Of course, that's the final criteria. It must be related to population changes. It would be better to compare the number of Kiwanians today as a ratio to total USA population of men over 25, versus 20 years ago, and the population then. Any organization that has the same number of initiates it had twenty years ago, the same general size, the same dollar savings in the bank, has had it. Unless drastic steps are taken.

If this reduction in clubbing is true, how does it affect our hobby? It further alienates us. It opens the door wider to future needs for professionals in the related fields. It makes manufacturers aim their products at a more sophisticated market. It makes it increasingly harder for groups like the Minnesota State Horticultural Society, the Men's Garden Clubs of America, the National Council of Garden Clubs to stay in existence. Which means they will all be envious of such arrangements as the state financial support our own horticultural society gets, of the deductible clause and the company-sponsored membership of many groups. It makes us wonder how we can get executives to say to managers "I want you to be active in the Men's Garden Club" along with saying that about all the professional bodies, which are shoulder-rubbing luncheon groups usually.

So the median age has dropped steadily from 30.2 years in 1950 to 28.3 in 1964 (U.S. Office of Aging) and now is estimated at below 25. So the leisurely work in the garden, the communing with nature is changing in scope. So millions want to be mass participants in the stadium or before the boob tube.

It's sad to think that an increasing number (percentage) of children won't know or care about the smell of the soil turned over on an early morning, the soul cleansing advantages of gardening, the frustration-levelling effects. That many will never be able to watch their own little garden patches develop--simply because Mother and Dad don't know or care about gardening. It's sad to think that millions of young fathers (fewer millions) won't have the pride of bringing to the table the first peas or corn they ever grew. That garden bouquets are a thing of the past.

What can we do about it?

William H. Hull

### 474 POUNDS OF POTATOES FROM 2 POUNDS

Yes, that is the record of Don White of the Minnetonka Men's Garden Club. From two pounds of seed potatoes, Don grew what is believed to be a new record total. The old record was 430 pounds by Dr. Ray Crawford of Hamburg, New York. You'll probably see more about this but we congratulate Don and his club members who have present to attest to such things as the number of potatoes at the start (65 eyes - 64 grew), the actual weighing of the potatoes, which were washed and dried before weighing. So it sounds like a winner.

### WHAT'S THE STATUS OF THE NORTH STAR REGION?

Rog Anderson and Otto Nelson are our Directors. Can you give us a summary for Spray? What's happening?

### WILL YOU GIVE FIVE MINUTES AND A SIX CENT STAMP....

to help a fellow out? The fellow is your editor and he has a SPECIAL CONTEST OF CHRISTMAS MEMORABILIA.

Here's all you do: Write ten words or more on the subject of what the Christmas or Channukah season means to you and send it to Bill Hull pronto. Such things as the frost on the punkin, the rejuvenation idea, memories of your boyhood....

Why? We'd like to build a special little Christmas story for our December issue which goes to press in November....so it must be done NOW.

Won't you do this for us, please?

As a special prize -- YES THERE IS A PRIZE TOO -- we have for the winner a very lovely brand new still-in-its box humidity meter (hygrometer) which is attractive and available on the market for quite a few dollars.

The contest is open to any member of this club and closes November 22. Judging will be by an impartial but not stupid committee of one.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO PHIL SMITH

We're pleased to hear through a friend that Phil Smith has been honored by the Delphinium Society of Great Britain by being nominated as a U. S. Vice President of this fine organization, the only other one being Frank Reinelt of Vetterle & Reinelt. The Society had requested Phil to write an article on delphiniums which he did, it being very similar to the one we carried in Spray, and this resulted in a nice letter of compliments from the Society. Good going, Phil.

THREE IMPORTANT LAST-MINUTE ITEMS. READ CAREFULLY.

1. "Bring your garden slides to the November meeting," says President Nate Siegel. "If you're not there, mail them to Les Johnson. Our slide presentation has always been a traditional part of our Christmas party and all of us would like to have a glimpse of your garden.

Nate also announces the nominating committee consists of Charlie Proctor, chairman, Jack Peterson, Les Johnson, Bob Smith, and Dwight Stone. The auditing committee is Evald Johnson, chairman, and Frank Vixo and Paul Burt.

The Bronze Medal committee is Bill Hull, chairman, Al Nelson and Sherm Pinkham.

Ed Montgomery tells Nate that the Amendment to the Articles of Incorporation has been filed with the Secretary of State...and Nate thanks Ed again for his work in this area.

And he congratulates Sherm Pinkham who was elected the Senior Citizen of Minneapolis! We all join in on that!

2. Ed Culbert wishes you particularly to know that you must inform him if you have made up any meetings this year and wish to be eligible for the Green Thumb Awards at the Christmas party.
3. And here are the Christmas party details from Chairman Roger Anderson.

The Christmas party will be the regular Tuesday - December 8, at the Sheraton Motor Inn on Highway #494 (near the Thunderbird). Chairman Rog Anderson has arranged a fine prime rib dinner, a singing group for entertainment, and fun and frolic for all. Further details in the December Spray, but you can make your reservations now.

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RESERVATION FOR CHRISTMAS PARTY

Mail to Roger Anderson, 3161 Hillsboro Avenue, Minneapolis, Minn. 55426, making the check payable to "Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis."

Tickets are \$6.50 per person. Guests are welcomed.

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ tickets for the Christmas party @ \$6.50 each.

Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signed

MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

Dave Johnson, Treasurer  
1633 Xerxes Ave. N.  
Minneapolis, Minn. 55411

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Please return entire statement with remittance  
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1970 ANNUAL DUES-----\$10.00

Remittance upon receipt will be appreciated.

Includes memberships in:

Men's Garden Clubs of America  
North Star Region of MGCA  
Minn. State Horticultural Society

Includes these publications:

"The Garden Spray"  
"The Gardener"  
"The Minnesota Horticulturist"

PLEASE COMPLETE ROSTER INFORMATION BELOW

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Last name                      First name                      nickname (if desired)  
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