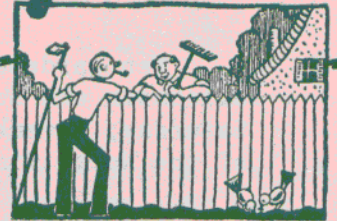




The Garden Spray

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

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



October 1960
Volume 19, No. 10
G. "Vic" Lowrie, Editor

Associate Editors
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October Meeting

Date: Tuesday, October 11, 1960
Place: Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church
50th & Knox
Time: 5:45 P.M. Sharp
Price: \$1.75

Officers

Wm. H. Hull	President
Les Johnson	Vice President
Dwight Stone	Secretary
Ev Haedecke	Treasurer

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4620 Hampton Road

Office of the Exchange Editor
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401 Essex Building

PROGRAM

Dr. Herb Johnson - Talk on Fire Blight. Slides will be shown in conjunction with Dr. Johnson's talk.

Mr. Don Taylor - From the University of Minnesota. He will speak on Nematodes (ground pests).

STATES' MEN GARDENERS TO MEET NOVEMBER 19

Men gardeners from six affiliated clubs in Minnesota and one each in Wisconsin and South Dakota will meet at the University of Minnesota on Saturday, November 19 according to Rollie Lindstrom, Minneapolis, president of the North Star Region, Men's Garden Clubs of America.

The meeting, open to any man gardener, will start with a noon luncheon, program and guest speakers in the afternoon and will adjourn before dinner. Leland Fetzer, Rockford, Illinois, national president of the Men's Garden Clubs of America, will be a guest speaker.

Robert Schwietz, Vice-President of the Minnesota Horticultural Society, is general chairman of the meeting.

WE WELCOME TO MEMBERSHIP

Dolph Bezoier, 6628 Brookview, a music teacher in Edina and owner of a very large lot sloping into a lake. He'll have a big gardening project and is now faced with the question of what to do first. Sponsor: Bill Hull.

Bill Swanson, 9908 Humboldt Avenue, S., a cost accountant at Napco Industries. Bill has a large flat lot in a newer area. Some excellent shrubs he's planted himself and an obvious plan for the future. Sponsor: P. W. Young.

Both of these men have attended several meetings. You will want to welcome them now as new members.

IT'S EASY TO TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN YOUNG FLOWER PLANTS AND WEEDS. PULL THEM ALL UP. THOSE THAT COME UP AGAIN ARE WEEDS!

MOVING PLANTS

by Otto Erickson

While trying to think of what to write about moving garden plants, in and out of season, the slogan used by a transfer company some years ago came back to memory. "We move anything, anytime, anyplace", has a strong resemblance to what many a gardener has answered when asked for advice about moving garden plants.

To move seedlings and small plants is no trick to anyone who has gardening for a hobby - it is when it is desired to move large, well-established and rooted plants, shrubs and small trees that extra caution and care has to be observed, if good results are to be obtained. Two things determine success or failure; suitability of the new location and the method plus skill in the process of moving.

The new location should meet, as closely as possible, the plant's requirements. Exposure to conditions of weather and sun light, soil consistency, available nutrients, pH, etc., are important factors. Referring to the garden encyclopedia or other sources of information for plant culture is a good precaution.

Size of the plant, shrub or tree to be moved determines the method, or procedure of moving it. If not overly large, it may be possible to "lift" it and transfer it with the aid of just a shovel. In other cases it may become necessary to wrap burlap snugly around the root-ball and hoist it into a wheelbarrow for transfer to its new location. The main consideration in the process of moving a plant from one place to another should always be to keep the root system as near to intact as possible.

Contrary to popular advice I dig and move large plants, shrubs and small trees without preliminary watering. When the soil containing the roots is dry, it stays more compact and is easier to shape into a ball of desired size. Also, in transferring the plant, it is lighter and more convenient to handle than if the soil was excessively moist. However, after the plant has been maneuvered and set at proper level in its new place, it should be watered generously. It may also prove beneficial to shield the plant from the direct rays of the sun for a day or two.

It is a lucky circumstance that most garden plants are rugged and able to survive mistreatment and abuse. This fact enables us to move them about as often as our changing fancies about color combinations and landscape designs dictate. However, the good gardener tries to be gentle, kind and understanding when dealing with the subjects in his garden. Thus the rewards become mutual; the plants thrive and the gardener derives satisfaction and pleasure.

By BILL HULL

A very fine board meeting of the North Star Region at Rochester, Saturday, September 10th, to which regional vice-president P. W. Young; delegate Bill Brooks; alternate Paul Kraeger and I journeyed. Several other Twin Cities club representatives attended. The total was about twenty five. Basically a business meeting.

One of the activities of this group is to establish a regional speakers registration bureau.

Thanks, Charlie Precter and all of your special committee, for the outstanding September program on fluorescent gardening. Special mention to Bob Sicera, whose efforts we failed to acknowledge in the last "Spray".

Mark your calendar now for Tuesday, December 13, our annual Ladies Night Christmas party. Price will be no higher than in recent years. Menu will feature prime ribs of beef and a surprise dessert. Place: American Hardware Mutual Building. Program: still being crystallized.

Also reserve Saturday, November 19 for a regional meeting in St. Paul. This is to be the first big regional event and a state-wide committee promises some big attractions. Will probably not be an evening event so your Saturday night will be free. No Minnesota home game that Saturday!

CACTUS FOUND WILD IN 47 U. S. STATES, BRITISH EXPERT SAYS

Reprinted from the Wall Street Journal

This may come as news to most Americans, but cactus can be found growing wild in every state of the Union except Maine and Vermont - and possibly Alaska.

The authority for this statement, and a visitor in town yesterday, is Sir Oliver Leese, veteran of the British North African campaign against Gen. Irwin Rommel, and later commander-in-chief of the British Eighth Army in Italy.

Sir Oliver has practically cornered the cactus market in England, after a try at mushroom growing at his estate in Shropshire. He has written "Cacti & Succulents." The succulents are cacti without needles and are generally fleshy and, says Sir Oliver's book, remarkably edible.

Everybody, said Sir Oliver at the New York Botanical Garden yesterday, wants to know how people get interested in cactus plants and "what is all the fuss about them in England, anyway."

Sir Oliver decided to go into business for himself in Shropshire after his retirement from the army in 1946. Mushrooms seemed like a good thing till prices fell, labor costs went up and "the mushrooms practically started growing right up through the dining room floor." He grew them in his cellar.

"They were a frightful nuisance, too," said Lady Leese. She prefers cacti because they grow in greenhouses.

BREAKFAST BALLAD

Eternal Crabgrass

CRABGRASS NEAR a nuclear reactor at Dawsonville, Ga., is surviving heavy doses of radiation News item.

Good neighbors, put away your sprays and dusts,
Trust not your hopes to any crabgrass cure,
You might as well resign yourself to fate --
This curse of lawns is destined to endure.
It now seems certain if the human race
Should ever die in an atomic cloud
Each gardener who has warred upon this pest
Will have a bed of crabgrass for his shroud.
And as ten billion seeds drift toward the stars
May heaven help poor Jupiter and Mars

Bradley L. Merison

Reprinted from the Wall Street Journal

Researchers here are hotly pursuing a mysterious benefactor of mankind - a light-sensitive compound, contained in most plants, that's known to control plant growth from germination of seeds to coloring of fruit.

Once the scientists can isolate and identify this elusive substance, they may be able to tamper with nature by spraying plants with chemicals specially designed to speed up or slow down the work of the growth control compound. They may be able to breed new plant strains with made-to-order sensitivity to light. Some startling possibilities may emerge. Among them:

Superplants - including food and fiber producers - that grow several times as fast as usual. As a sample of what might result, researchers thru extra doses of artificial light, already have shot a six-year-old loblolly pine tree to a height of 18 feet, while a normal tree of the same age stands only two feet tall.

Plants that yield fruit or flowers practically on demand. Now by interrupting the nightly sleep of a cocklebur plant with blazing light, the scientists have kept it from flowering, even though it has grown a full four feet tall, while a normal cocklebur, only eight inches high, has flowered and turned brown. By giving the frustrated plant one full night of darkness, the researchers say they can permit it to begin budding.

Plants adapted to grow healthily far from their native regions. By retarding budding for several weeks until frost danger is past, or by breeding later blooming varieties, peach trees might be safely grown in places where short growing seasons make success chancy now.

PINNING DOWN THE COMPOUND

The effort to pin down the identity of the mystery compound is being pushed here at the U. S. Agriculture Department's key research center, where the compound's existence and its effects have been uncovered in a series of experiments in recent years.

Scientists long have known that light has varying effects on plant growth. Some seeds, for example, germinate best in darkness, while others need light. Scientists then experimented with varying kinds of light. They found that the growth of many plants while a dim red light of a different wave length - "far red" had no effect on the same plants.

MANIPULATING NATURE (Cont'd)

Knowledge of this reversible reaction opened the way last June to recording of it. A researcher took a ball of ground-up corn; corn was chosen merely as a handy, abundant medium for test work. He jammed the ball onto a lens-like device, flattened it into a thin layer and placed the lens in a spectrophotometer, an instrument designed to compare brightness of varying colors by measuring their wave lengths.

A beam of bright red light was shot through the substance; reflecting the amount of light that passed through, an indicator moved along a track, inscribing an ink line. Then a beam of far red was flashed on the mushy material; instead of continuing on its track, the scribe trudged back to the starting point and stayed there. The scientists concluded that the ball of corn contained the mystery compound. Nothing else, they say would explain why two lights which affected growth in differing ways would be absorbed to different extents.

SEEKING NEW BREAKTHROUGHS

Dr. Byron T. Show, the Government's farm research chief, calls the measuring and recording of this reaction the most important gain in plant research in a quarter-century. And now the scientists are looking ahead to new breakthroughs.

This much is already known: The substance is a pigment. It must be blue, because in the spectrophotometer test it wholly or partly absorbed red light, as blue materials do. It's undoubtedly a protein because it satisfies protein tests, such as coagulating at a certain temperature in hot water.

In the protein test, the corn plant was crushed into liquid form, then placed in water. The part of the solution that did not coagulate was then subjected to the solution, indicating that the mystery compound was in the part of the solution that had coagulated.

The compound has a name. "We call it phytochrome - plant color," says Dr. Harry A. Borthwick, group leader in the plant physiology laboratory here at Beltsville. (To be continued in next issue)