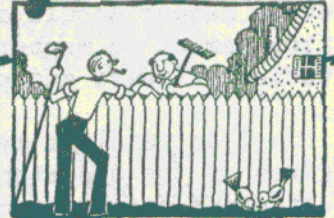




# The Garden Spray

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

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



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G. "Vic" Lowrie, Editor

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

## October Meeting

Date: Tuesday, October 10, 1961  
Place: Mt. Olivet Lutheran Church  
Knox Ave. So. at W. 50th  
Time: 5:45 P.M., Sharp  
Price: \$1.75

## Officers

Les Johnson	President
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## P R O G R A M

Talk on Plant Hardiness by Dr. Conrad Weiser,  
Horticultural Department, University of Minnesota.

Round table discussion on Summer mulching practices  
conducted by some of our members, headed by Dolph Bezoier.

Our good friend, George Luxton, is in Eitel Hospital having trouble with his "tick". Am sure he would be pleased to hear from his fellow club members, and we all wish him a speedy return home.

Lee Stroub is having even more difficulty with his heart - six months of complete inactivity has been prescribed by his doctors. Lee would enjoy a visit with his friends - better telephone beforehand. Take good care of yourself Lee, and we'll keep in touch.

If you want to see a colorful arrangement of Mums, drive around to Harold Kaufman's garden, where you will find 150 of twenty-nine varieties of Dick Lehman's best. Address 4127 Washburn Avenue, So. But don't stop there. Take a few hours off and get down to Faribault where awaiting you is probably the largest variety of mums you could ever hope to see - a gigantic spectacular.

COMMENTS BY BILL COWCILL

This is my first attempt at writing for "The Spray" to which I think every member should contribute - It is a good method of passing along ideas from member to member and learning of the successes and failures in growing various flowers and plants.

I do consider myself very fortunate in having a greenhouse, as this gives me the opportunity of growing flowers the year round. At present 16 different varieties of imported English Chrysanthemums are growing under glass, mostly of the incurved species and with the same luck as last winter you will be seeing some blooms at our club meetings this winter. They finish blooming around January.

Then comes the Polyanthus or English Primroses that bloom from February to March along with the Cineraria. Later will be sown the seeds of annuals for the outside border. It is grand to see beautiful blooms around you indoors while the snow is flying outdoors.

Observations from experience of this summer's garden tours impressed upon me the keen competition that exists, considering the very fine gardens of members both in Minneapolis and Richfield - they were outstanding. Now I'd like to know what hobby can contribute more to the moral of the neighborhood and to the community than a beautiful garden?

One special flower appealed to me this year, although I didn't see many of them and that was Penstemon. The seedlings purchased at our last auction turned out to be very beautiful flowers in the herbaceous border. The Garden Encyclopedia lists many varieties but I was highly satisfied with Penstemon Sensation. Annual Penstemon start blooming in August and continue until frost, providing the blooms are cut, when they will repeat with new shoots.

Another colorful flower I can recommend is the Dianthus Bravo, which blooms from June until frost. A packet of seeds given to me at the club by Bruce Johnstone of Northrup King made a magnificent showing - they were a bright crimson red about 8 to 10 inches high.

Joe Witmer and Eng Hoyme are to be envied for their very outstanding varieties of Day Lilies. Anyone that hasn't seen them this year missed a treat.

Getting to our annual Flower Show. Did you ever see such an enthusiastic bunch of fellows in your life? Everybody was hopping around like Jack Rabbits making out their entries and registrations and towards the zero hour of 2 P.M. Saturday, they all pitched in and cleaned up the mess. In conclusion I take off my hat to Bill Hull for his splendid display of African Violets and to Jerry Olson for his magnificent display of beautiful Roses. Good luck to you all for next year.

## SOAK GRASS SEED TO AID NATURE

This is the time of year when nature contrives to produce the right combination of temperature, light and moisture conditions most favorable for seeding lawns. Lawns seeded now will have a better chance for successful growth and development than at any other time of the year.

However, there is a trick you may use to help nature do an even better job of getting your newly planted lawn seed off to a fast start. The trick is to pre-soak the seed before it is planted.

This applies mainly to Merion and Kentucky bluegrasses, which are speeded most by this treatment. It will neither hurt nor help fescues and bentgrasses that may be included in a seed mixture with the blue grasses.

The objective in pre-soaking seed is to make it sprout faster. This is particularly important when seed is sown late and you are trying to avoid too much competition from weeds and adverse weather.

The first step in pre-soaking seed is to put it in a cloth bag. Then immerse it in a bucket of water for at least 12 but not more than 24 hours. The seed should be thoroughly soaked.

After the soaking period, the seed should be rinsed thoroughly with water from a tap or hose. Rinse it until the rinse water shows no trace of brown coloring. Then take the seed out of the bag and spread in a thin layer in the sun to dry for 2 or 3 hours. The final step is to sow it.

Soaking grass seed in this manner washes away a water soluble acid which inhibits rapid germination. Nature put this chemical in the seed to delay germination until the most favorable natural conditions prevail, but it isn't needed if you plant your lawn at the right time.

Without pre-soaking, Merion bluegrass may not germinate for from three to five weeks, depending on moisture and temperature conditions. When it is pre-soaked, Merion will germinate in as short a time as six days when seeded at this time of year.

Kentucky bluegrass germinates faster than Merion, but it still will germinate better if you keep the lawn moist by frequent watering until the grass has become well established. After that, water it thoroughly only about once a week when it doesn't rain.

Reprinted from The Wind, MGC of Chicago Region

Editor's note: Sounds like a good idea for reseeding patches, but for a whole lawn of any size, what a project!

## TREES AND SHRUBS GO MODERN

Superior dwarf varieties of trees and shrubs are needed for landscaping home grounds today, directors of arboretums and botanical gardens were told Thursday (August 24 at their national meeting at the Leamington Hotel.)

The shift toward the one-story ranch style home has brought with it sweeping changes in home landscaping, Leon C. Snyder, head of the University of Minnesota's horticulture department, said in an address before the American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboretums.

Shrubs like the lilac and honeysuckle and large trees like the American elm are no longer in scale with the modern home and grounds. The need is for small, compact shrubs and small-to-medium-sized trees.

To help solve this need, an active project of testing and breeding woody ornamentals was started by the University of Minnesota horticulture department in the Spring of 1954, Snyder reported. Establishment of the Minnesota Arboretum in 1958 provided 160 acres for the purpose of testing and developing new varieties of woody ornamentals. More than 1,400 species and horticultural woody plants are now being tested to find out their adaptability to this area. Many heretofore unknown varieties for this region are proving their hardiness. A breeding program is under way to develop new varieties of flowering crabapples, Weigelas, azaleas, mockoranges and roses for Minnesota and similar climates, according to Snyder.

Members of the American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboretums visited the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum and the Northrup King Annual Trial Grounds Wednesday morning.

Reprinted from the University Farm and Home News, Institute of Agriculture, Univ. of Minn.

## DOUBLE DUTY

by Thurber Day

When attempting to raise flowers and a few vegetables in a small yard, partly shaded, it is necessary to double up on certain crops to obtain greatest possible color and bloom.

I used a plot this season (approx 5' x 30') south of the house in this manner. When about 200 Tulip bulbs were through blooming, Blue Salvia and Cleome plants were appearing as volunteers from last season. By transplanting and adding Zinnia plants an attractive summer and fall garden resulted. Before transplanting I donated a quantity of extra Salvia and Cleome to friends.

In using ground in this manner it is of course necessary to fertilize well both fall and spring and during growing season. Warning - don't keep too many Cleome plants and be sure they are located in back of the other flowers!

## IT'S DAFFODIL PLANTING TIME

Before cutting back your perennials or even removing your frost bitten annuals, mark the places where daffodils can be planted, then go to work.

Use large white stakes as markers, then step back and envision the effect those stakes will make when they turn into clusters of white and yellow blooms.

Don't overlook the spaces between your evergreens, peony shrubs and perennial plants. How about those heavily shaded places under the oaks where the sun will shine through in the early spring but not later, after the foliage leafs out. Think how drab those areas will look most of the summer, but daffodils will surely make them sparkle in early spring, just when we appreciate color the most.

Now, I am not going to tell you what varieties to buy; there are just too many to mention. Get yourself a catalog from a good reliable house or better still - go to your favorite nursery or seed dealer and make your own selections. I would suggest though, that you not overlook those dainty little colorful, sweet-scented Pectya, Pecticus and Jonguilla.

Having chosen the location for these charming spring beauties, the rest is very simple. Loosen the soil to a depth of twelve to fifteen inches, work in some plant food, preferably bonemeal (you don't need any expensive so-called bulb fertilizer), then plant the bulbs so as to allow five to six inches of soil above the bulb top. Should your soil be light and sandy, increase the depth one or two inches.

Try planting in groups rather than in a straight line or measured spacing. Where you have room, plant in drifts or in irregular patterns. For cutting, you could plant them in rows in your vegetable garden. The larger bulbs do better if not planted too close together, seven to eight inches apart is about right, and for the smaller ones, four to five inches.

It is best to water them down well after planting and keep the ground moist until the ground freezes hard. It is essential for daffodils to form strong roots before going into the winter, so be sure to do every necessary thing to encourage this. If you plant many varieties, don't forget to label your plantings.

During the first winter, after the ground freezes hard, you should apply a mulch or covering of some kind, but if it is heavy, such as evergreen boughs, remove them early in the Spring, being careful not to injure any foliage that might be breaking through the soil.

Following the blooming period, allow the foliage to die down naturally, do not cut it off. Water generously during the heat of the summer to keep the bulbs firm and fresh so that they may make good root growth again following the dormant period.

Not much work, are they? Little in your garden will require less attention nor be more rewarding. So treat yourself to a generous planting of daffodils this Fall, and then dream all winter of how much you are going to enjoy their brilliance next Spring - both in the garden and as cut flowers in the house.

## FORCING BULBS FOR EARLY SPRING PLEASURE

by Walter R. Menzel

Now is the time to start planning for some extra early bloom, months before any color will appear in your outside garden. A careful selection of suitable bulbs of tulip, hyacinth, narcissus and daffodils will give you no end of pleasure and satisfaction during the early months of March and April of next year. Start now to investigate the possibilities.

The first requirement to start a collection of potted bulbs is a cool - cold place where the roots can develop without any top-side growth. Have you an unheated cellar room, a cold frame, a deep window well, a root cellar, or even a pit, where the pots may be stored under straw and leaves? From such a spot a few pots may be taken out at intervals during late February and March and April for forcing.

Have your selection of bulbs ready by late October or early November. Have good garden soil available, fortified with bone meal. I usually plant five or six tulip bulbs to a six inch pot. Daffodils and narcissus, with their attached noses, need larger bulb pans, 8 inches or wider. Hyacinths I plant three to a pot, although the large hyacinth bulbs also make pleasing plants, one to a pot.

Putting the bulbs into the pots should be carefully done. On tulip bulbs you will notice one flat side. This flat side should be to the outside of the pot, permitting a much more even spacing of the stems when the bulbs are in bloom. Plant the bulbs in the pot deep enough so that the tips are well covered. Sometimes, with root growth especially vigorous, the roots will push the bulbs upward enough to spill some of the top covering soil.

As it is not always possible to water during the period of root growth, place all planted pots in a deep pan of water so that each is soaked, showing moisture at the top. Then place pots in the final spot in the cold cellar. Try to keep the temperature between 32 and 40 degrees if possible by watching the window or vents.

My favorite tulip for forcing is GENERAL DEWETT, a copper orange and fragrant. Another is PEACH BLOSSOM, a double pink. COLEUR CARDINAL is a good scarlet and PRINCE CARNIVAL, a gay red. These are all short stemmed and good for pot culture and forcing. Don't make the mistake of choosing a tulip which grows too tall for the pot. The normal growing height is usually given in the catalogue and should be between twelve and twenty inches.

I have found the more unusual daffodils most rewarding, such as TEXAS, which is completely double; SELMA LAGERLOG; PRESIDENT LEBRUN; and SCARLET ELEGANS. Lastly, for a rich fragrance, a pot or two of PAPER WHITE narcissus.

White, blue and pink hyacinths are the easiest to force. For a light blue try BISMARCK; for dark blue GRAND MAITRE. Pink DERBY or PRINCESS MARGARET are very good and white L'INNOCENSE.

Pots should have adequate moisture. After February 1 watch for any top growth. When spears are up three to four inches remove pot to a warmer room. Take started plants, place them in saucers in the furnace room for a few days. Then when the leaves and buds are well defined move them to a bright spot. Before long you should have the results you wished for.