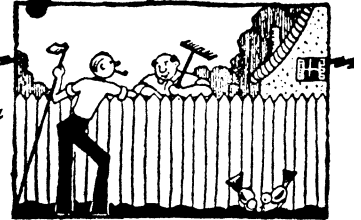




# The Garden Spray

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

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



October 1965  
Volume 23, No. 10  
G. Victor Lowrie, Editor

Associate Editors:  
Wm. H. Hull, Neil Barry

## October Meeting

October 12, 1965

Mount Olivet Lutheran Church  
50th Street and Knox Ave. So.

5:45 P.M.

\$1.75

## Officers

Charles Proctor	Pres.
R. E. Smith (Bob)	V.P.
G. R. Christenson (Bud)	Sec.
S. F. Pinkham (Sherm)	Treas.

## PROGRAM

Plant Ecology from a Global View to the Backyard - Dr. Robert Mullin,  
University of Minnesota

Bull Session to be Moderated by Ev Haedecke

## CHRISTMAS PARTY BANQUET

We may be a wee bit early, but with snow already in the air Christmas cannot be far behind. So take out your calendar and enter in the slot headed Tuesday, December 14, Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Christmas Party at the Ambassador Hotel. You will be filled in on the details later.

## STRIPPINGS FROM THE CLIPPINGS

by Bob Smith

Charlie Proctor is enjoying a well-earned vacation out West and will miss our October meeting. His first stop is Boise, Idaho where his daughter, Ann, will be attending college this fall.

It was very nice of Judson Memorial Church to allow us the use of their facilities for our September meeting and the Women's Circle to provide a fine dinner when our regular meeting place became unavailable.

The vegetable auction, which added \$12.09 to our National Convention Fund, provided a well-needed break in the meeting after the extended business session at which we voted to ratify the increase in dues to MGCA of \$1.00 per member. The increase will become effective January 1, 1966 if ratified by a majority of the clubs.

Our thanks to Eng Hoyme for an outstanding talk and slide presentation on "lilies" and how to grow them; to Archie Flack for his very timely suggestions on fall cleanup and preparation for spring; and, to Don Berne, Cliff Brisco and Ed Beery for the personal touch that their talks added to the program.

Dwight Stone, Sherm Pinkham and I spent a very enjoyable evening on September 20 speaking to the Palomino Hills Women's Garden Club at Rosemount on the subjects of patio plants, begonias, and vegetables.

Leonard Bies, a former member of our club, passed away on September 7.

Nine new members have joined our club this year. The name, address and telephone number of each is listed below. The three newest are:

George Legeros, owner of the Rainbow Cafe at Hennepin Avenue and Lake Street, whose main gardening interest is collecting and growing wild flowers. His sponsor was John Pulver.

Dr. Joseph Wethington, a general practitioner, who resides north of the City on the Mississippi River and has just completed landscaping his new home. He is planning on having a greenhouse and this is how he met Paul Burt, his sponsor.

Phil Anderson, a salesman for D-A Lubricants, is interested in general flower gardening. Phil grew quite a few annuals this year and has started some perennials. His sponsor was Phil Smith.

### New Members this year

		<u>Bus. Tel.</u>	<u>Res. Tel.</u>
Phil Anderson	523 E. Minnehaha Pkwy.		822-9000
Bill Bogart	9765 Russel Ave. So.	332-7151	881-3891
Cal Calendine	6027 James Ave. So.	334-6187	869-5065
Bill Cutcliffe	2665 Huntington Ave.	336-5711	926-7568
Dan Feidt	1715 W. Franklin	338-0755	374-3850
George Legeros	5020 Edinbrook Lane	825-4455	929-7792
Wallace McCurdy	5037 Newton Ave. So.	827-2681	926-3212
Elwood Swanson	11041 Queen Ave. So.	330-6613	888-5446

## Strippings from the Clippings

(Continued)

Wanted!!! Slides of your garden for the Christmas program. Pick out a few of your best slides and put your name and any description on them that will be helpful to P. W. in the slide presentation and send them to P. W. Young or see that he gets them at the October meeting. This is one of the highlights of our Christmas program, so include your garden in the showing this year.

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### UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA HORTICULTURISTS RECEIVE NATIONAL AWARDS

Urbana, Illinois -- Two U of M horticulturists have been named Fellows of the American Society for Horticultural Science for their outstanding service to horticulture.

They are W. H. Alderman, professor emeritus and formerly head of the university's department of horticultural science and Troy M. Currence, professor of horticultural science. They were among forty-one members of the American Society for Horticultural Science to receive this honor at a banquet August 17 held here in connection with the 62nd annual meeting of the organization.

From 1919 until his retirement in 1953, Alderman was head of the U of M's department of horticultural science. Under his direction as department head and superintendent of the university fruit-breeding farm, 124 new fruits, vegetables and flowers were developed. Among the most popular of the fruits introduced during that time are the Latham raspberry, the Red Lake currant and a long list of apples, including Haralson, Prairie Spy, Beacon and Fireside.

A two-day horticulture short course, which for years attracted hundreds of amateur gardeners to the St. Paul Campus, was conceived and staged by Alderman shortly after he came to the university. The year after his retirement he and his wife held Fulbright professorships at the University of Salonika in Greece where Alderman worked with students on the introduction of American methods of breeding and improving fruits.

Both national and international recognition has come to Alderman for his work in fruit breeding. He has been honored by the state horticultural societies of Minnesota, Wisconsin, and South Dakota and by Canada for services in breeding fruit varieties of value to the northern great plains region.

A pioneer in developing hybrid tomatoes, Currence is nationally known for his research in the genetics of the tomato, for the improvement of breeding methods for vegetable crops and for the identification, isolation and utilization of male sterility of certain species. He was among the first to recognize the importance of hybrid vigor in the tomato. He is in charge of breeding work in tomatoes, muskmelons and asparagus at the University of Minnesota. Parent breeding lines were furnished by him to commercial companies so they may develop their own varieties.

## WINTER CARE OF HOUSE PLANTS

by G. Victor Lowrie

Pest control indoors is equally important as in the garden, with prevention being the main objective.

The first essential is to start out with clean healthy plants. Then follow through with careful watering and a well regulated feeding program throughout the season. Maintaining the plants in healthy condition is your best insurance against damaging disease. Unfortunately, this alone is no guarantee against insect and disease contamination. Consistent sanitation and cleanliness routine should be observed at all times.

Keeping faded flowers and wilted foliage picked and burned should be a daily chore. At the same time, check the plants for signs of pest infiltration.

Once a week, preferably early morning, syringe the upper and under foliage surfaces with clean, cool water. Red spider and aphids, when first detected, can be washed off with a forceful stream of cold water made by holding the thumb over part of the spout of the tap. Repeat the operation whenever the beasties appear. Then follow up, spraying with the recommended insecticide.

Include in your sanitation program the cleanliness of your pots. Scrub them regularly to keep green mold from clogging the porous walls of clay pots and fertilizer salts from burning tender foliage. When repotting, boil the clay pots for five or ten minutes, starting in cold water. Plastic containers are cleaned with Clorox or Lysol.

Another good preventative measure is to start out with sterilized soil available at most nurseries or, if you prefer, bake your own in a 200° oven for one hour.

Keep an alert look out for the following pests:

Aphids - small black, red, grey, or green insects found clustered on buds, new growth or on the undersides of leaves. Spray with a 50% emulsion of malathion diluted at the rate of 1-1½ teaspoons per gallon of water. Repeat every few days until pests have completely disappeared. Use Black Leaf 40 on anthurium and ferns in place of malathion, and follow manufacturer's directions.

Red Spider - is not too easily detected. Usually you can detect their presence by the foliage which takes on a grey-green appearance. Turn the leaf over and you will see a tiny web. You will need a magnifying glass to see these pests. Again, a malathion spray or an aerosol house-plant bomb will dispose of the rascals. Keep any spray bomb a good two feet away from the plants.

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## Winter Care of House Plants

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Mealy Bugs - appear as small cotton fluffs along leaf veins or where the leaf stems join the main branch. Shiny patches on leaves made by a sticky secretion is a good give-away. The simplest eradicator is to give them the same treatment as for aphids.

Cyclamin Mite - can hardly be seen with the naked eye but, again, they can be detected by the damage they inflict. Leaves and flowers become stunted and distorted; at times the leaf edges turn up in cup-shape fashion. African violets' center growth becomes hard, stunted, and a sickly light color. Although sodium selenate capsules offer the best control, it is a dangerous poison and must be used with extreme care. Unless the plant is highly valued, destroy it.

Scale - a whitish or grey substance which acts as an armour for the tiny insects. Flat, shell-like, they are glued to the underside of leaves as well as on stems and branches. If few, they can be picked off with a sharp object; otherwise use malathion as recommended for aphids.

White Flies - are difficult to exterminate inasmuch as they are hard to see unless the adults are disturbed sufficiently to make them fly. DDT or malathion will kill the adults but the young, resembling small, pale, cream specks, are immune. Therefore, as soon as white flies are detected, isolate from other plants and continue until all signs of infestation has disappeared.

Fungus Diseases - leaf-spot is the most common and can be controlled by dusting with sulphur or phaltan. Cover both the under and upper leaf surfaces. Crown rot, brought on by overwatering, if caught early enough, can be arrested with the same application. Whenever a fungus disease is found to be present, a fungicide should be applied to all plants located in the same area.

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### PAST PRESIDENT ILL

We're sorry to hear that our past president, George Titus, is hospitalized at the Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital, Santa Rosa, California. George is a SPRAY member and was formerly a very active member of our club. We certainly wish him a speedy recovery and suggest all members who knew George drop him a card right away.

## OVER THE GARDEN GATE

by Bill Hull

It was my loss to miss the September meeting but I was out of town on business. I'm naturally pleased that my home club joins the ranks of the many others which have voted to approve the raise in MGCA dues. I know President Charlie will be wanting to write George Spader and notify him officially of the club approval.

Everybody complains of the miserably wet fall weather. Why don't we make a prediction now for a winter with more snowfall than usual?

The last two weeks have been bang-up ones for the Hulls. During this period we have bought a new house and also sold our present house, the latter being sold ten days after it was put on the market. We've bought a redwood contemporary house in Prospect-Hills section of Edina. It's on a slight hill with a lot of one and a quarter acres, so this gardener will have lots to do. We'll be moving about November 1. As gardeners, you will be pleased, along with us, for the descriptive terms the agency used in advertising our home: "gorgeous landscaped garden," "picture-book yard," etc. Thanks to the MGC Minneapolis men who have helped teach me for years the principles of good gardening, through exchange of ideas. We leave this home with mixed feelings.

If you ever sell your home be sure to spell out initially in the description of the house such things as "Roses to be removed by seller." Some good advice on this topic enables us to take with us all of our roses, lilies and some of the espalliered apple trees if we want them.

Coffee grounds around outdoor plants help any? The Cold Frame (MGC Staten Island, N.Y.) says, "It's not as old fashioned as you think... The complete landscaping of the General Motors building at the World's Fair has been mulched with coffee grounds. The landscape architect who designed the plantings (which won an award for him and GM) used the entire residue of an instant-coffee manufacturing plant to cover the soil. Coffee grounds have up to two-percent nitrogen, a third of one-percent phosphoric acid and varying amounts (under one-percent) potash - but chemical analyses show they contain all sorts of minerals including trace elements. In addition there are some carbohydrates, sugars, minute amounts of vitamins and caffeine also is present. Because they preserve moisture, the grounds seem to encourage acetic-acid-forming bacteria, which makes them suitable for mulching blueberries, evergreens and other acid-loving plants. A remarkable effect of stimulating growth of certain plants has also been observed, and even if they did not add nourishment, the grounds do improve the tilth of the soil and its humus content. Also, just notice the number of earth worms in the soil to which coffee grounds have been added.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture has released its 1965 Yearbook called Consumers All. A few are available through your congressman or at \$2.75 from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., 20402. It is interesting to note that the book covers subjects

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Over the Garden Gate

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ranging from clothing to managing money, including caring for yards, gardens, and houses, and staying healthy. Few of us realize the wide scope of USDA interests and activities these days. Secretary Freeman states, "Though a primary objective of the Department is service to U. S. farmers and ranchers, the real beneficiary of agricultural productivity and abundance has been, is now, and will continue to be the American consumer." That's about the way it should be, seems to me, since it is the consumer that supports this gigantic organization, which, I am informed by the Minneapolis Library, employs 109,654 civilian employees as of June 30, 1964 - a year ago.

The USDA release further states that "Today less than 19 percent of the average American's take-home pay is spent for food. Only about 15 years ago the proportion was 26%. In Russia today the average family spends half (50%) of its income for food; in Japan, more than two-fifths (40%); in England and France, almost one-third (30%)." This is all fine and dandy but shouldn't the tax money that the USA citizen pays to support the USDA, the price-support program, and the storage of surplus food be considered as a part of our cost of food?

The North Central Experiment station of our own University of Minnesota Institute of Agriculture is testing at Grand Rapids to learn what varieties of vegetables and fruit will perform satisfactorily in the north central part of the state. This is the type of work I, for one, applaud heartily. They are testing tomatoes, potatoes, strawberries, and the use of plastic mulch. In the experiments on the use of plastic to speed growth of tomato plants and control weeds, present indications are that clear plastic promotes faster growth than black plastic but also encourages weeds underneath. Black plastic prevents weeds but is ineffective in speeding growth of tomato plants. A smoky plastic is now being tested to find out if it will combine the advantages of the clear and the black plastic. The Grand Rapids station is apparently supervised by Nels H. Grimsbo, horticulturist, while O. C. Turnquist, U. of M. extension horticulturist, is in charge of the potato trials.

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MUM - SHOWINGS

AN INVITATION ... A "Mum" show at St. Paul's Como Park Conservatory has been planned to coincide with the Minneapolis Park Board "Mum" show.

The Como Park show will open on Saturday, November 6, for the general public.

The Men's Garden Club of St. Paul are authorized to extend to the members of the North Star Region and their wives an opportunity to attend a pre-opening view of the show on Friday evening, November 5, from 7 to 9 P.M.

Your club membership cards will serve as admission credentials.

## CARING FOR HERITAGE TREES

Adapted from an article in Arborist News by William E. Storey, head, Horticultural Division, London County Council Parks Department.

Today, more than ever, town planners and architects place emphasis on the value of trees in an urban landscape. With this has come, I believe, a growing awareness on the part of the general public of the contribution made by trees to general amenity.

This in turn has led to the need for increased consideration by park officers of proper management of the trees under their care. There also arises the need for these officers to provide sound technical advice to the architect, the engineer, and others who frequently encounter tree problems with which their professional training does not equip them to deal.

I think that parks officers today are very conscious of their responsibility to preserve the value of the trees inherited from previous generations. When the time comes, they will be able to hand on this heritage not only unimpaired but even improved for the benefit of future generations.

This, of course, cannot be done by adopting a standstill policy and letting trees look after themselves. It implies a continuous process of removal of unsound trees and overcrowded trees to permit proper development of the remainder which must then be properly maintained. Above all, a consistent replanting policy is needed. I stress this as the only way of ensuring perpetuation of species and avoiding great gaps in the age groups of the tree population.

Several instances have occurred in recent years where public criticism has been aroused when large scale removal, necessary for safety, of a favorite tree has been carried out and the whole character of a park drastically changed. This state of affairs is likely to arise where the majority of trees are the same age and consequently reach the limit of useful life at about the same time. Destructive effects can be greatly minimized where consistent replanting has ensured a variety of age groups.

Publicity - In this respect, I have found by experience that an informed public is often an understanding public. If good advance publicity of the intention and reasons for removal of particularly important trees is given, a great deal of embarrassing criticism can be avoided. After all, a parks officer is a servant of the public and has a duty to make his intentions known where the public's enjoyment may be affected. It should also be remembered that by reason of his position and training he is in possession of knowledge not generally available to others.

Public Safety - The amenity of trees cannot be preserved at the expense of public safety and a parks officer has a duty of paramount importance in this respect. He is in an extremely vulnerable position should injury be caused by a tree under his care.

A regular system of inspection should be enforced and I suggest this be carried out twice each year - once in leaf and once out of leaf. A report of any signs of weakness should be made to the responsible officer who can arrange a complete examination of suspect trees and initiate appropriate action. I stress the importance of ladder inspection where doubt exists because, in large old trees particularly, weaknesses exist aloft that cannot be seen from the ground.