

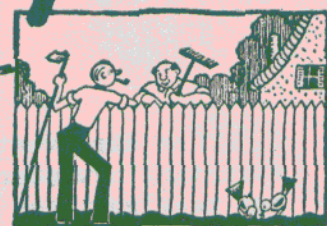


The Garden Spray

Complete
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BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

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



September 1961
Volume 19, No. 9
G. "Vic" Lowrie, Editor

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

September Meeting

Date: Tuesday, September 12, 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
N. W. Christopherson	Vice Pres.
Dwight Stone	Secretary
Ev Haedecke	Treasurer

Office of the Secretary
4620 Hampton Road

Office of the Exchange Editor
G. Victor Lowrie
401 Essex Building

P R O G R A M

Archie Flack will speak on "Building a Better Border", and who knows how to do this any better than Archie. He has given this talk with illustrations to garden clubs throughout the state with great success.

Dr. D. W. French of the Plant Pathology department of the U of M will talk on the threatening Dutch Elm disease. This is a serious menace to all lovers of this beautiful shade tree which so heavily populates our fair city.

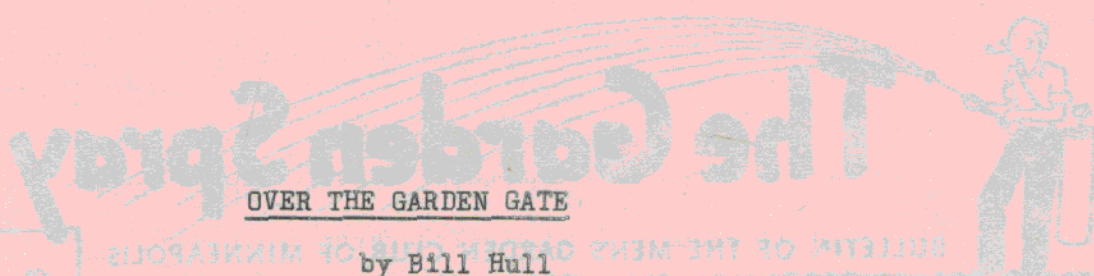
Our Best Wishes

To Chris Christopherson, our genial Vice President, and his wife who celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary August 20.

To Charlie Reif and his wife who celebrated their Golden wedding anniversary on August 2

To Hank Elieff and his wife who celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on August 27.

We wish you all many many more years of good health, filled with joy and much happiness through gardening.



OVER THE GARDEN GATE

by Bill Hull

One disadvantage of a Fall show is that we can't have a session instructing newcomers on show preparation methods for the simple reason that our meetings just before the show are tours. Must be an answer somewhere.

Otto Erickson is improving but as he says, "the doctor has not as yet made any prediction as to how soon I can expect to return to work and to other activities." Otto expressed his appreciation of the card signed by everyone at the July meeting. Don't get anxious, Otto, and follow the doctor's advice.

Wonderful to have Henry Bachman at the August meeting with us. Henry had just returned from the lake where he said he had all the family with him. If his family gatherings are like ours, this one doesn't sound relaxing.

Good to see Bill Swanson back after his resection. He seems well and hardy. Bill recently expressed his appreciation to the club for remembering him while he was hospitalized, particularly the visits and telephone calls.

Why is it that we always have a hard wind and a gulley-washer just before our shows?

A good on-the-spot talk by Archie Flack while we toured Norm Christopherson's garden last month. When asked how he succeeds in getting so much bloom into a garden without apparent crowding, Archie stated: "Plant each variety by threes, spacing these groups at wide intervals in the border until you have used all of one variety. Then do the same with other species and varieties. Don't worry too much about color clashes because they won't be so obvious. You will learn by mistakes," said Archie, "but such a border can be full of mistakes and they won't be apparent." This is partly paraphrased but we believe Archie's idea is included. Why not have him talk on the subject this Spring?

This is the time of year when we should make notes of next year's garden. By January we will have forgotten ideas we've picked up from tours and perhaps even misplaced records of named varieties we were so positive we wanted to include in 1962. Do it now.

"Do it now" can be a dangerous slogan, however. A wife, irked at her husband's repeated ignoring of the garden chores, put up a big sign in the house reading "Do it now." He came home, read the sign, and promptly shot her.

PROPER CULTURE OF TUBEROUS ROOTED BEGONIA

By Hrand Hampkian, Detroit Men's Garden Club

Editor's Note: A complete and comprehensive report on growing TRB.

TUBEROUS ROOTED BEGONIA (*Begonia Tuberhybrida*) a genus of tropical and flowering herbs with succulent stems, named in honor of Michel Begon, a French monk of Martinique, who collected and described many of the original plants in the 19th century.

The tuberous rooted begonia (TRB) was found in the higher altitudes of the tropics where it enjoyed a cool, frost-free climate and grew lush in soil rich with humus.

The TRB's are one of the most rewarding plants to be grown in almost every city garden, as they fill that semi-shady corner, in pots and tubs on the patio, with glowing and lustrous color, in general proportions, all summer and fall, where few other plants would otherwise grow or bloom.

Due to building-crowded city lots, sometimes overhung by large trees, many gardens have these unavoidable shady areas. Of the limited varieties of shade-enduring herbaceous plants, the TRB's are the Queens of the show. Companion plants able to grow in moderate shade are Impatiens, Bush Balsam, Ageratum, Alyssum, Coleus, Calendulas, nicotiana, Biennial Campanula, etc.

TRB tubers should be obtained through firms who do original hybridizing, such as Vetterle & Reinelt, Antonelli Bros. (of Capitola and Santa Cruz, California) and others, because unlike other bulbs which blossom once per season and disappear in a year or two, TRB bloom continuously till frost and for many years. It pays to pay a little more to obtain the finest and latest strains, of exceptional beauty, in which a greater resistance to powdery mildew is also being bred - warning here, be sure to avoid planting zinnias nearby, or anywhere, for that matter.

The Begonia hybridizers are now developing new strains, outstanding amongst which are the high-centered Rose-form Picotee (the best), the Rose-form, the Ruffled-form Picotee and the Ruffled-form, coming in pink, rose, apricot, salmon, red, white and shades in between, with petal edges outlined in darker, contrasting color of great beauty.

Tubers should be received after danger of frost injury in transit is past. Upon receipt keep the tubers in ordinary room temperature on bare pans or flats, kept slightly moist. As soon as the first pink shoot-buds are seen, plant the tubers in flats or small pots. (3" fertil-pots or Miracle-pots are very good, as these are made of fertilized material that disintegrate when planted in soil, so that no root breakage or shock develops when pot and all is planted, sometime in late April or early May, in the permanent bed or pot with soil made up of 2/3 light composted hardwood or oak-leaf mold and 1/3 coarse sandy-loam, the rougher the texture the better, avoiding peat-moss entirely as this has a tendency to get soggy. Cover the tubers with about 1/2 or 3/4" of this mixture, so that the tubers may root on all sides and top, and keep moist but never wet, in 60 degree night and 75 degree daytime temperatures, in a strong light but not direct sunlight.

PROPER CULTURE OF TUBEROUS ROOTED BEGONIA
By Frank Reinelt, Detroit, Michigan

PROPER CULTURE OF TUBEROUS ROOTED BEGONIA (Cont'd)

When the shoots are 3" to 4" long, or when the first two leaves have reached equal development and all danger of a late frost is over, plant the potted tubers outdoors. Begonia beds should be built higher than the surrounding lawn areas for better drainage, made up of soil containing twiggy, hardwood leafmold, rotted sod and sandy loam, with the tubers firmed in properly and set about 15" apart in an alternate pattern. Just before transplanting add a handful of fish-meal to the bottom of the hole, add sand and place the "fertil-potted" tuber on it, covering it with about 1" of the medium, but making sure that the soil or rotted-manure mulch does not come in contact with the plant's stalk. As TRB's have a habit of facing one way, at transplanting time care should be taken that the points of the leaves face the front of the bed. Total shade will discourage full flowering and full sun would cause scalding and burning. Dappled sunlight is the best.

TRB's are gross feeders during active growth and respond wonderfully to a combination of organic and mineral fertilizers. As it is hard to obtain liquid manure, a commercial formulation, as recommended by Frank Reinelt is probably the best.

Soon after transplanting to permanent bed or pot, begin to feed the sprouting tubers with a liquid made of 1 tablespoon of 8/8/4 California Liquid (or equal) in 1 gal. of water - once a week until the plants reach flowering stage. After plants begin flowering use one tablespoon of Atlas Fish Emulsion (or equal) and 1 tablespoon of 2/10/10 California Liquid (or equal) per gallon of water once a week till October 1, applying about a pint per plant, preferably after the beds have been watered. The first program promotes strong plant growth, the second will harden cell-structure, strengthen flower stems and firm, bright-colored blossoms and provide for further energy previous to the tubers' resting period. Never use ordinary lawn (10/6/4) fertilizers of TRB's. TRB beds should at all times be well-drained yet kept slightly damp - simulating, as was mentioned, the shady-cool tropical-forest conditions of their native habitat. It is best to do the watering in the morning. Overhead watering may be used before plants begin to flower, later only the soil should be watered. Because they are shallow rooted the surface soil also must remain damp, yet a water-logged condition will quickly cause a rotting of the roots and stems.

Do not dig up tubers too soon in the Fall. In the Great Lakes and similar regions they may be left in the soil till November 15 or later, so that they may continue tuber growth and development after the flowering has stopped. Dig up the tubers with some soil clinging to the root-system and place in a bright, sunny but frost free place and let them cure for 4 or 5 days, gradually breaking off stems, making sure that no moisture from these breaks remain on the tubers till they become hard and dry. Store in open flats, in a cool but again frost-free place until the following March, when evidence of new growth is visible and the cycle may once again be repeated.

Pest Control: Mealybugs and white flies bother TRB's and so do sowbugs and slugs. As control, use a spray made up of Malathion, DDide, nicotine sulphate

PROPER CULTURE OF TUBEROUS ROOTED BEGONIA (Cont'd)

with a spreader-sticker additive, a teaspoonful of each to one gallon of water sprayed weekly will control these and any other insect pests. To preserve flower quality avoid the spray getting on the flowers.

For fungus disease, such as mildew, use a spray of Karathane which has replaced sulphur for this purpose.

Root-knot, caused by nematods or eel-worms (microscopic in size) may be controlled by an application of Sodium selenate in mild silutions. However, as this is very poisonous, one should make sure that this soil in these beds will never be used again for growing edible vegetables or berries. A better way yet is to get rid of the plants that are badly infested by lifting and burning them, as the pest would have destroyed the plants and others close by anyway. Root-knot is more common on light, sandy soil and badly aerated locations and unfortunately, more prevalent in greenhouses. Malnutrition and improper soil condition and texture (other than as recommended) will also contribute to the spread of this disease.

MANY MANY THANKS

"I want to thank all of those who worked so hard to make our Fall Flower Show a success. To my eyes, this was the most beautifully set up Show from an "eye appeal" standpoint that I have ever seen.

"I can't mention all of you individually, but I want to give special thanks to Al Nelson, Show Chairman, and his co-workers Jerry Olson, Frank Vixo, Charlie Procter, Bob Sicora and others who handled the many mechanical details that are so necessary to success; to P. W. Young who had the room so beautifully decorated; to Dick Lehman for the lovely display of mums and clematis; to Carl Nelson and his wife for the marvelous display of dahlias; to all the members who made up special displays for the Hallway.

"And to all the bunch, including wives and children, who broke down the show and cleared up the rooms in just a little over an hour. It is something to watch!

"Thank you all!"

Signed
Les Johnson

OUR AUGUST FLOWER SHOW

Congratulations to Albert Nelson, show chairman, and his hard working show committee for a most interesting, attractive and successful show.

Our thanks also to the thirty exhibitors and to those who gave so generously of their time and material in building the fourteen educational displays. More about these in our October issue of the Spray.

The Winners

COURT OF HONOUR

<u>Exhibitor</u>	<u>Entry</u>
N. W. Christopherson	Marigold
E. A. Hoyme	Chrysler Imperial rose
E. A. Hoyme	Red arrangement
E. A. Hoyme	Den arrangement
E. A. Hoyme	Living room arrangement
A. W. Kelley	Ruffled tuberous begonia
A. I. Nelson	Crested Coxcomb Toreador
A. I. Nelson	Double White Matricaria
C. C. Reif	Gladiola
W. C. Thorne	Dahlia - Doris Day
F. P. Vixo	Unwin dahlia - coltness
P. W. Young	Delphinium - Stuart Ogg strain

GRAND CHAMPIONS

E. A. Hoyme	Chrysler Imperial Rose specimen
E. A. Hoyme	Living room arrangement

SWEEP STAKES

Specimens F. P. Vixo and P. W. Young - 51 points each.

Arrangements E. A. Hoyme - 60 points.

TOP POINT WINNERS

<u>Specimens</u>			
Frank Vixo	51	Maurice Lifson	32
"P W" Young	51	Bill Thorne	31
Bill Hull	44	Fred Holzman	28
Les Johnson	38	Fred Rodda	28
Chris Christopherson	35	Eng Hoyme	25
Otto Nelson	35	<u>Arrangements</u>	
Charlie Reif	34	Eng Hoyme	60
Dwight Stone	34	Ev Haedecke	22
Al Nelson	33	Paul Burt	16
Bud Christianson	32	Maurice Lifson	12