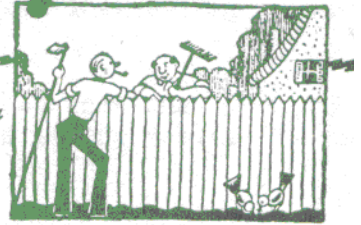




The Garden Spray

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

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



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Club Officers: President - Grant Christenson Vice President - Nate Siegel
 Secretary - Ed Culbert Treasurer - Evald Johnson
 Director - Dale Durst Director - Al Nelson

OUR SEPTEMBER PROGRAM

Dr. Leon Snyder - "The Blossom" the last of a series.

Professor Paul Read, U of M - "The Dahlia" Professor Read
specializes in dahlia culture at the university.

Report on MGCA national convention by Nate Siegel, Sherm Pinkham,
and Bill Hull.

A few short talks on gardening interests by some of our newer
members.

DATE: September 10, 1968

PLACE: Judson Memorial Church
 4101 Harriet Avenue South

(Please note change in location
for this meeting.)

TIME: 6:00 P.M.

The editor received the following commentary to an article carried in our June issue. You may find Jack's method even more useful.

Whenever The Garden Spray arrives, I know I'm going to have some interesting reading. Congratulations on such a fine effort.

There was an article in the June issue that intrigued me. I had seen the release before and it is interesting to get the life cycle and living habits of the pocket gopher.

Although the methods of control are somewhat useful, I am a little surprised that the fish and wildlife service hasn't discovered the "Kolb Method" of extermination. I do not like the sound of such terms as strychnine, etc., and the almost crude way they suggest for mixing their poisons. Too much of this material is spilled where the wrong creature can get into it and, furthermore, it cannot be stored very effectively.

Now, here is how the "Kolb Method" works: Secure a grain-fumigant material made up of 80% carbon tetrachloride, plus 20% carbon bisulfide (carbon disulfide). This can be used for either the pocket gopher or the striped gopher in the following manner.

Pocket Gopher. Using a good probe such as a piece of pipe or broom handle about 3/4" to 7/8" in diameter, locate the main runway by probing into the soil 12-18 inches back from the mound on the side where the horse-shoe-like depression is found. Remove the probe carefully to leave a clean hole and pour approximately 2 plus ounces of liquid into the opening. Then take a fistful of moist dirt from the mound and plug the probe hole. This one treatment will probably do the job, but I usually use 2 to 3 probes or 4 to 6 ounces of material on large diggings.

Striped Gopher. This strange creature is never quite sure which hole is his home, but if you persistently follow him and harass him, he will eventually duck into an opening. When he ducks into this opening, he usually goes down about 8 to 10 inches and then turns around to see what you are going to do about it. The striped gopher has many underground runways and several openings, but for some strange reason, prefers to die at the port of entry.

This treatment is only effective when you have chased or seen a gopher enter into a particular hole. Each gopher has to be treated individually.

When you have found the particular hole that the gopher has ducked into, pour approximately 2 ounces of the fumigant into the hole. Then stomp the hole shut with the heel of your shoe, making sure the hole is tight and that you have jammed spilled material into the hole as well.

WARNING - CARBON TETRACHLORIDE is not without its drawbacks. Care should be exercised in spilling and over inhaling of the fumes. It is also very volatile and its partner, carbon bisulfide, is foul smelling.

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

by Grant R. Christenson

Another wonderful tour arranged by Les Johnson and Fritz Holzman for our August meeting. A perfect evening, after a very questionable storm cloud hovered over the area early in the evening; the beautiful setting of Thor Solem's for dinner, good food, the ladies as our guests; and the gardens of Art Johnson, Bill Bogart, Ed Clubert, Bud Christenson, and an unscheduled stop at my neighbor's garden (Mr. & Mrs. Walter Gelakowski) provided us with a grand evening. For those of you wondering why I have not invited Walt Gelakowski to join our club, it's impossible as the garden is created through the efforts of his wife, Darlene.

The flower show with Richfield Men's Garden Club is now past history and from all reports, a success. Charles Proctor, our show chairman, has included a report elsewhere, therefore, no further comment is made here. My thanks, especially to Charlie for his many hours of work, and to all of you who helped him. Also my thanks to Erle Tornstrom, Richfield show chairman, and those from the Richfield club who helped him. Without the combined efforts of Charlie and Erle, working with the respective clubs, our joint show would have not been possible. My apology for the lack of my presence after early Saturday morning. A commitment to my family last winter necessitated my leaving at a time when I would like to have been present.

At the executive board meeting of the Minnesota Horticultural Society, August 5, 1968, which I attended, it was reported by the nominating committee - Phil Smith, of our club, has been nominated for executive member. Phil will appreciate our support when we receive ballots with the October issue of "The Minnesota Horticulturist." Phil is an excellent gardener, a past officer of our club, active in representing the club at public meetings to express our stand on beautification, and interested in horticulture. It is my opinion he is extremely well qualified to serve in this position.

At the same meeting, the society requested we supply manpower for their booth at the State Fair, Sunday, September 1. Nate Siegel accepted the job of obtaining the necessary people from our club. We are allowed to promote our club while we man the booth. It is hoped some prospective members will be obtained for us, as for the society.

Sunday, September 29, will be Autumn Festival Day at the Arboretum to commemorate the 10th anniversary. Many of us will want to mark this date on our calendar now. The program is outlined on page 92 of the August, 1968 issue of "The Minnesota Horticulturist."

Please note the change in location of our meeting this month. Judson Memorial Church, 4101 Harriet Avenue South. Nate Siegel has a good program including reports from Nate, Sherm Pinkham and Bill Hull on the MGCA national convention.

The Dew Hose Kit some of you asked about at the last meeting must be ordered in quantities of six at a net cost of \$3.50 each, prepaid. I will be happy to order these for anyone interested if you can obtain orders in multiples of six.

DOES YOUR GARDEN NEED HUMUS?
KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH YOUR TREE LEAVES,
OR YOUR NEIGHBOR'S, THAT WILL BE
FALLING SOON?by P. W. Young

If your garden needs humus and what garden does not, the one best way to insure a supply is to build a compost bin and compost all your own leaves, all your neighbors and the street leaves, in addition to lawn clippings, plant tops and straw or hay used to cover your border last winter. Anything except diseased plant material. If you live where there is park maintenance, you may be able to arrange for the delivery of a truckload of park property leaves. But, be sure you have room to store them. A truckload is a lot of leaves.

A compost bin is the best place to store them and the best way to handle your own leaves and garden trash. A compost bin is not expensive to build nor is it a big job if you can drive a nail straight.

My compost bin was built about ten years ago and I can see no reason to change the design if I needed another. It consists of two 4' high, 4' deep by 5' long units. Each unit holds 80 cu. ft. or 3 cu. yds. Combined, they furnish 6 cu. yds. of "green" compost and about 3 yards of the finished product. I find this supplies ample humus for 500 sq. ft. of border.

The dimensions above probably will not fit your space, so you will need to change the dimensions to fit. I advise you not to reduce the capacity (six yards) nor change the height (four feet).

Compost placed in the bin in the fall will be ready for use late summer or fall of the following year without any forking or turning if it is properly made in the first place and kept well watered throughout the year.

I recommend grinding all the material going into the bin. It will disintegrate more rapidly and evenly and will enable you to get nearly twice as much into the same space. About ten years ago, six members of our club, including myself, purchased a compost grinder (Wichita) at a cost of approximately \$250.00, which included the cost of a home-made trailer. From time of purchase it has had only limited overhaul expense and is "as good as new" today. Consider interesting a group of your gardening friends in a similar project, or buy yourself a smaller model - not too small. I would definitely recommend a "hammer-mill" type. It will handle wet or dry material, which, I know from experience, cannot be said for the "knife" type.

Don't let the lack of a grinder prevent you from building a bin and composting. The material used should be free of coarse stems and small branches. It should be layered about six-inches deep - after thoroughly tramping. Each layer should be covered lightly with 3/4 of a two-pound coffee can of 5-10-5 fertilizer (based on a 4'x5'x6" area). It is also advisable to add a small amount (3/4 of a small orange juice can) of a bacterial compound (Activo) and follow with a 1/2" or more of garden soil, rotted manure or compost from last year. Water thoroughly and then start another layer. After filling the bin, water heavily until the water runs out under the bottom boards. Keep the bin well watered throughout the spring and summer. You probably can discontinue watering after July 15.

Use it in the fall to cover the border about 2" deep and again in the spring or early summer. Whenever you spade up a bed, spade in about three inches of compost. My beds are about ten inches higher than my lawn - all compost over the past ten years.

Does Your Garden Need Humus?
(continued)

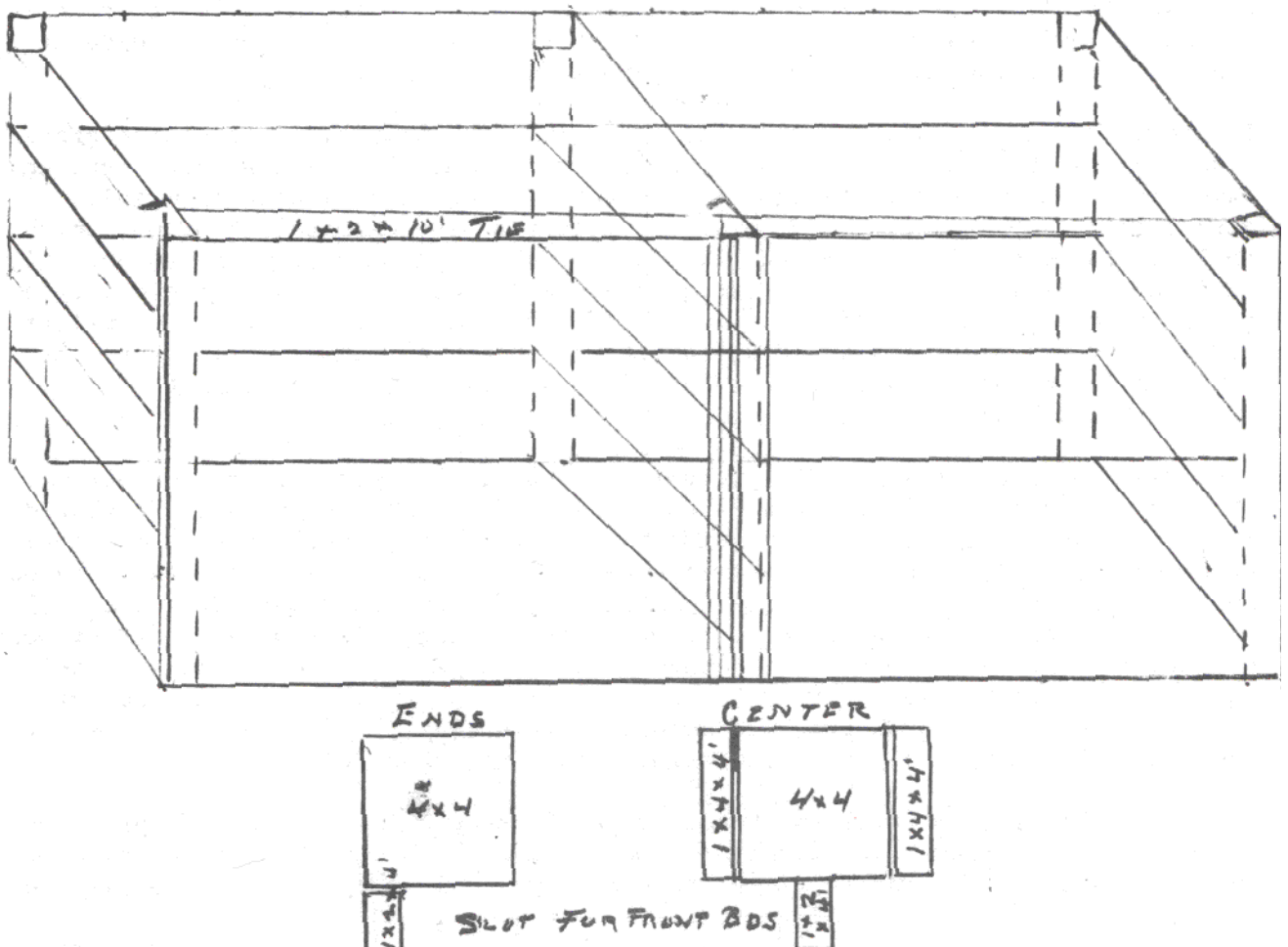
In building a compost bin, I recommend the use of redwood - preferably rough 1" boards and redwood posts. Why 12" wide? Because they help to determine when you have a 6" layer.

The material for a two-unit 4'x4'x10' bin is as follows:

- Six 4" x 4" x 4' corner posts
- Four 1" x 12" boards - (back)
- Twelve 1" x 12" x 4' boards - (ends and center)
- Eight 1" x 12" x 4' boards (removable front)
- *Three 1" x 2" x 4' strips (for slotted front)
- *Two 1" x 4" x 4' boards (for slotted end posts)
- *One 1" x 6" x 4' board (for slotted center post)
- One 1" x 2" x 10' strip (for tying tops of the three posts together)
- One 1" x 4" x 10' strip (for tying bottoms of the three posts together)

The larger diagram shows the general construction. The smaller diagram shows how to use the three starred(*) items above to develop a slotted arrangement to hold the front removable boards. If you have the equipment you can route a slot in the posts instead of using the material above.

GET BUSY NOW so the bin will be ready for use this fall.



1968 FLOWER SHOW
MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS & RICHFIELD

by Charles R. Proctor

Another flower show becomes history and we feel it was a qualified success. The location, Richfield Public Library, was conducive to a very good arrangement. Entries were high quality. I used the adjective "qualified" because only twenty (20) of our active members made entries - a total of 360. Some of our multiple-entry exhibitors were missing, and not too many of the newer members made entries. Sixteen members of the Richfield club made a total of about 300 entries. You will notice that Richfield members walked off with the sweepstakes for specimens and arrangement and the grand champion arrangements. Ribbons were fairly even, with 35 blue, 28 red and 22 white for Richfield as compared to 38, 40, 48 for Minneapolis. Richfield was 1-2 in the sweepstakes' specimen with 48 and 37 points. Bob Smith, of course, had virtually a monopoly in the vegetable class, and the arrangements class was practically a closed Richfield section.

Box Score

Grand Champions

Specimen	Thor Solem	English Delphinium Seedling MGCM "Queen of the Show"
Vegetable	Bob Smith	Pepper "Bell Boy"
Arrangements	Marv Heighstedt	"Our Natural Waters"

Sweepstakes

Specimen	Bill Kreuger (Richfield)
Vegetable	Bob Smith
Arrangements	Marv Heighstedt (Richfield)

Court of Honor

Specimen	Dale Durst	Petunia "Blue Magic" - winner of Lehman Trophy for MGCM most points
	Henry Halverson	Gladiolus - Pensteman "Prairie Fir
	Marv Heighstedt	Marigold
	Gar Miller	Miniature Rose "Spring Song"
	Jack Peterson	Hibiscus
	Thor Solem	Delphinium & Dahlia "Jaconda"
Vegetable	Bob Smith	Pepper
	Ed Culbert	Ornamental Plum
Arrangements	Marv Heighstedt	"Our Natural Waters"
	Gar Miller	"Our Town" & "The Arts"

High Scorers

	<u>Blue</u> <u>Ribbons</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>Points</u>		<u>Blue</u> <u>Ribbons</u>	<u>Total</u> <u>Points</u>
Dale Durst	4	29	Bud Christenson	3	22
Vern Carlson	3	28	Thor Solem	4	20
Henry Halverson	5	27	Al Nelson	4	17
Dave Johnson	4	23	Dwight Stone	3	15

.....continued

Mr. Proctor's article continues.....

My sincere thanks to all who participated in the show setup and supervision. Each detail was very completely covered by the various chairmen and all contribute to the over-all success. Of course, the cooperation in "breaking down" Sunday evening was tremendous.

Committee Chairmen

Staging - Roger Anderson	Schedule - P.W.Young & Les Johnson
Registration - Sherm Pinkham	Classification - Archie Flack
Judging - Jack Peterson	Awards - Bud Christenson
Publicity - Dwight Stone	Hosts - Nate Siegel & Charlie Proctor

Personally, I would like to see us put on another show next year, as I feel we could top this one.

P.S. In the final cleanup we found a lady's blue-figured coat and a man's umbrella. I have these items, so the claimants can contact me.

SHOULD WE INCORPORATE?

In 1959 I was elected treasurer of this club and at that time one of the big issues was "Should We Incorporate."

Today, almost ten years later, one of the big question is "Should We Incorporate."

From where I stand, it looks as though the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis should become a corporation. One of these years we will have a major disaster and then it will be too late.

Therefore, I propose the following motion for action at our September 1968 meeting:

Resolved: The Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis shall change its management from a partnership to a corporation, effective January 2, 1969.

Respectfully submitted,

(signed)

W. D. Stone

It's okay to buy on the installment plan if you don't overdue it.

We were just beginning to make some headway on air pollution, and then these political campaigns louse it all up.

Thursday

Dear Garden Club Members,

Thank you so very much for the beautiful yellow Chrysanthemum plant you so kindly sent Walter.

It is just as fresh and lovely to-day as the first day we received it and he has enjoyed its beauty very much.

Walter has been very ill, as you perhaps know he fell off a ladder while taking down a storm window, a massive blood clot formed above his left eye and surgery was necessary. Now he is recovering nicely and I'm sure that after a few weeks of rest and quiet he will be his old peppy self again.

He will be leaving the hospital soon and we will endeavor to keep him quiet which is not easy to do. No visitors for a while, but we do appreciate the lovely encouraging get-well cards he has received. Thank you so much for them, too.

We truly have so much to be thankful for, now that he is recovering.

Best wishes to all -

Peggy Quist

The above was received on August 3, 1968 and we're happy to report that Walt is back on the job.