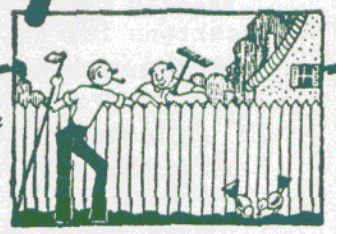




# The Garden Spray

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC.

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



April 1971, Volume 29, Number 4.

IT'S NOT ELECTION TIME  
 but  
 Our Usual Meeting Place Isn't Available This Month  
 so  
 We Hope to SEE YOU the 13th, the Second Tuesday in April  
 at  
JUDSON MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH  
 4101 Harriet Avenue South, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Fellows, our club seems to be having as much trouble reaching and exceeding the 60 mark in attendance as the Dow Jones Average has in breaking over 900; but this is the only paper agonizing over our 60. So, if this reminder doesn't move you we'll have to use dynamite.

### NOTE THIS NOW

THE TIME           6 PM, TUESDAY, APRIL 13 (Right after Easter)  
 THE PLACE        JUDSON MEMORIAL CHURCH - Forty-First and Harriet South  
                       (Enter basement at rear on 41st Street side)  
 THE PRICE        The usual two dollars in coin of the realm  
 THE PURPOSE     MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, INC. (That's You) MEETING

### THE PROGRAM

"A LIVING CARPET" - A film on lawn care  
 provided by member Jack Kolb, specialist in turf work.

"SPRING CARE OF ROSES" - A short talk  
 by member Carl Holst, a well known rosarian and  
 Supervisor of Horticulture, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board.

"VEGETABLES TO KNOW" - The major talk  
 by Dr. Andrew Duncan, Director Department of Horticultural Science,  
 University of Minnesota, St. Paul Campus.

Dr. Duncan who is a native of Scotland attended college in Maryland. He came to his present post just a year ago, April 1, 1970, from Oregon State University where he had served for 12 years.

SPECIAL FEATURE Our directors say it's high time our honorary members had a chance to take a bow. Some of the newer members don't even know them all. So, the Board hopes to bring Henry Bachman, Archie Flack, Harold Kaufmann, Walter Menzel, Walter...

## THE MARCH MEETING

The program on March 9 started with Dave Goddard, as part of an unannounced pep talk in behalf of the May Auction demonstrating how he has started seeds in milk cartons for 25 years. (Have cartons been around that long?) He decorated a carton with foil to make it acceptable in the window and showed how to make a foil tray to protect the window ledge.

Les Johnson came on to tell us re growing perennials from seed, that: The average gardener needs few perennials in sufficient quantity to warrant his raising them. One or two of a kind come cheaper from a nursery. Perennials profitably grown from seed are: (1) Those which will bloom the first year if seeded in late winter or early spring (geranium, carnation, delphinium, blue salvia and, sometimes, columbine); and (2) Those which should not be transplanted into permanent location until the spring after the seeding (campanula, pyrethrum, flax and lupine - scari seed)--these are sown in flats in a cold frame or in raised beds with provision for shade and watering. It is better to purchase seed as seed saved from hybrids rarely produces anything of value.

Albert Wittman's many charts and drawings which we inspected prior to dinner gave us detail on the Eckbo Plan. His talk and the discussion period following brought out further that:

Land and environmental issues were considered to be the most important criteria. Hence, a landscape architect rather than an engineer was purposely selected to make preliminary suggestions for public reaction. We are still only talking concepts. The next recommendations will be similarly tested in public meetings before an engineering firm is hired to draw plans.

Present problems are both physical and economic. Parkways are, perhaps, both more precious and less precious. Most roads were initially completed before 1929. They are past simple repair. Engineers must start from scratch so we could relocate roads around the periphery to avoid bisecting park areas if that seems desirable.

Some facilities built over the years are incompatible with others in use, location etc. Naturalness is the public's prime reaction to landscape usage. There are areas where there is concern that we do not overrun our landscape.

The rose gardens and the adjacent flower gardens are not apt to change although a conservatory is envisioned as part of a five-year bond program. Landscaping both ends of Victory Memorial Drive and a start on replacing its elms is planned.

## PERSONALS

We extend our sympathy to Vic Lowrie whose wife, "Dodie," died suddenly while they were vacationing in Palm Beach, Florida. Mrs. Lowrie was widely known as a flower arranger and show judge. M.G.C. members will remember her especially as a charming hostess on our many visits to the Lowrie garden.

Two more couples have signed up for the M.G.C.A. convention in Roanoke, Virginia, April 26-29. Paul and Eleanor Lindstedt and Bill and Carol Hull now join the Pinkhams and the Culberts on the list.

P. W. Young writes, "Will be home in time for the April meeting. Have made a change in my plans and will be in Minneapolis for the summer season."

## Thoughts from The Terraces

by Dave Johnson

Les Johnson's talk at our March meeting on growing perennials was most informative. In case you haven't read your latest Gardener, you will find an article written by him on the same subject. The perennials in his garden surely exemplify that Les is an expert gardener.

Roger Anderson has another good program for our April meeting. Andy Duncan, Carl Holst and Jack Kolb are speaking on vegetables, roses and lawns respectively. These subjects should provide an interest for everyone.

Spring has sprung--the dormant season is over--see you at Judson Church at our next meeting with your guest!

Nate Siegel, Community Garden Chairman, and his committee have been hard at work. The raised beds should be taking shape on Saturday, April 10, our first working day of laying the railroad ties. The garden will take 100 yds. of black dirt and some 450 yds. of sod. A total of \$2,300 has been raised as of this date with Edvard Peterson, a nonmember, our top fund raiser. M.G.C.A. has asked for detail and pictures of the project when completed for a feature story in the Gardener. The Community Garden should provide a welcome sight in a maze of concrete for the people blessed with their vision.

Archie Flack is back in the hospital for some additional tests. Get well quickly, Archie, and we hope to see you at our April meeting. Received a letter from P. W. Young, who is 92 years young with his great enthusiasm and spirit, saying he will be back for the summer.

Thanks to Bill Hull who raised \$8.00 for the treasury at our last meeting selling seeds and sundry items at his concession stand. Bill's picture is also in the Gardener presenting the Johnny Appleseed Award.

Ed gave me the full page so I would like to share a few points of my geranium culture with you. On March 15 I purchased two stock geranium plants from a local nursery at a total cost of three dollars. From these plants 40 cuttings were taken and put immediately into Jiffy Mix  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to 3 inches apart. This doesn't conform with what I've previously read which states cuttings should be allowed to callous before planting. Last year 95 percent of my cuttings rooted and it looks like 100 percent this year. The lights should be raised about 12 inches from the plants the first week and lowered as rooting takes place. The first cuttings were well rooted by April 1 at which time I took another 20 cuttings from the original two plants. The plants should be fertilized with a mild application three weeks from planting. In one month the cuttings have an excellent root system and are ready for potting in a mixture of black dirt, leaf mold and sand. The first cuttings should be ready to bloom by Memorial Day.

Starting geraniums this way is inexpensive, fast and has the advantage of new stock free from disease. It also eliminates the storage problem when taking plants indoors in the fall. I have discontinued using a rooting hormone on all my flower cuttings and find no difference in survival; however, I do use Pano-Drench periodically to prevent damping off.

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April 1971, Volume 29, Number 4.  
Editor: Edwin C. Culbert.  
5315 Portland Av., Minneapolis, Mn.  
Editorial Staff: Bill Hull,  
Art Johnson, Bob Smith, Phil Smith.  
Deadline for material:  
the 22nd OF EACH MONTH.



Picture

Dwight Stone and three new members admire a yellow orchid displayed by Bob Bryant at our March meeting. Pictured from left to right are William E. Johnson, H. D. Berman, Robert C. Livingston, Dwight Stone.

BURPLESS CUCUMBERS

by Vern Carlson

Burpless Cucumbers are juicy, delicious, crisp, and different than other cukes because they are practically acid free so anyone can enjoy eating them. They may be started indoors, 3 weeks ahead of garden setting, using a good sterilized soil in 3" or 4" peat pots. Sow 4 to 6 seeds per pot and thin out to 2 or 3 plants. Grow at a temperature of 65 degrees and water moderately. Care must be used in setting them out so as not to disturb the root system, as they do not stand transplanting as well as the average plant. They are resistant to downy and powdery mildew. Training on a trellis or fence is a must for Burpless Cucumbers. If permitted to run on the ground, they turn yellow on the underside are difficult to locate, and have the tendency to curl when not hanging free. The average length is 10 to 12 inches but they will grow to 20 inches. Plenty of well-rotted manure, placed under the soil in which the seed is planted, will assure you of a bumper crop, with 3 or 4 hills a foot apart. Germinates in 8 to 10 days, depending on conditions, and 62 days to maturity. Plant when danger of frost is past.

KEEP THEM COMING

Bill Hull informs us that we have now sent in a total of 1068 signatures on SAVE OUR ENVIRONMENT petitions circulated by M.G.C. Mpls. National secretary Lyman Duncan reports that several clubs have gotten as many as 2000 signatures. Are some other sheets still out? Hurry them in to Bill.

Participation in this M.G.C.A. project to gain one million petitioners in favor of anti-pollution efforts was voted by our club in September. Blanks were enclosed with the October and November issues of the GARDEN SPRAY. There was also an art in a recent issue of the HORTICULTURIST. A number of folks who read the latter article typed up their own petition forms, signed them and sent them to Bill.

Bob Bryant brought 4 pots of gorgeous orchids all different ("indoor dahlias", he called them) to display on March 9. One was a cymbidium, the others pophiopedil hybrids. He invites us to "drop by" to see his orchid house anytime now.

29 members attended the Special Interest Group meeting on Annuals at Otto Nelson

## NOTES FROM THE VEGETABLE PATCH

by Bob Smith

Fellows, if you want to add some real enjoyment to your gardening this year, try growing some of your favorite vegetables. This advice comes from a number of your garden club associates all of whom have a primary interest in growing flowers and live on small to medium size lots.

Vern Carlson wouldn't miss growing Burpless Cucumbers each year. Vern probably grows more flowers on a small city lot than anyone else I know of yet finds room for a trellis of cucumbers and a few tomato plants. Read elsewhere in the SPRAY how he grows Burpless Cucumbers.

Dave Johnson does an excellent job of growing vegetables in his terrace garden and in addition to feeding the pheasants, squirrels, and other small rodents, finds plenty left for his family. For spinach lovers, Dave recommends New Zealand Spina. It is easy to grow, requires little space and lasts all season. Several plants are ample and can be grown right in your flower border if desired. The plant will sprout to about 18" in diameter, thrives in the hot dry weather yet tolerates the cool autumn weather very well.

Manley Jackson says, "I get a lot of fun and satisfaction out of growing vegetable. He includes beans, sweet corn, tomatoes, and cucumbers. He confines his cucumbers in an enclosure of 2" x 10" boards. Manley finds eating fresh home grown vegetable a real pleasure.

Dwight Stone has an exceptionally well groomed lawn and flower borders but on the east side of his garage you will find a row of pole beans flanked on the ends by a tomato, pepper, and egg plant. Dwight cautions that more sunlight would be desirable.

Ed Culbert was impressed some years ago when he heard about a pocket size vegetable garden. Since then he has put this information into practice. With proper fertilization, a lot of vegetables can be produced in a very limited space. For example Ed grows his carrots and beets in rows 6" apart. As soon as the plants are established and a mulch applied, the rest is pure pleasure.

Frank Vixo finds a good way to screen his compost pile is to plant pole beans behind and cucumbers in front allowing the cucumber vines to run over the compost.

Our Vegetable Interest Chairman, Charlie Proctor, grows a little of everything but his specialty is pole beans which he grows along the garage and back fence. This year he plans to start his pole lima beans in peat pots to get a head start.

I would rank myself as predominantly a vegetable grower who likes a few flowers mixed in. Here are a few vegetable ideas that I will toss out. Some of the midge vegetables, such as sweet corn, peas, melons, are well worth trying where space is limited. Don't overlook items, such as bibb lettuce, that are difficult to find in the supermarket. Started early and set out in your flower border, bibb will be harvested before your annuals or perennials take over. Bush type squash that take very little space is available in both summer and winter varieties. Use them to obscure your compost pile. Zucchini is an excellent summer squash. Picked when 4" to 6" long it is excellent cooked or in salads.

\* \* \* \*

Bring a gardener friend to the next meeting. Urge him to become a member.

THE GERANIUM: TREATMENT TODAY; TREATMENT YESTERYEAR

"To start a geranium, find an old plant. When neglected, their leaves begin to get smaller and their blooms do not want to fill.

"Cuttings are made by pruning 4- to 5-inch tips from old plants; let them lie in the shade, exposed to air, for about two hours. The cut end will seal over and insure a better rooting percentage. Root in clean builder's sand, or even better, a 50-50 mixture of sand and clean fibrous peat. Roots will form in 10 to 24 days.

"Pot the rooted cuttings as soon as they show  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 1 inch of root growth. Use a fertile potting soil by combining one part fertile organic matter (dry manure or compost) and three parts of clean, fine sand. Mix into this soil mixture a 4-inch pot full of 6-6-6 to a bushel of soil, one teaspoon of fertilizer to a 5-inch pot. Plants may be started in 4- or 5-inch pots and moved to a bigger size as roots develop fully at the side of the pot.

"The sequence in producing a good, healthy geranium plant is to root a good cutting, grow a good leafy plant, harden the bush, and pop the bloom. To push and grow a good plant, give it plenty of light--even full sun--and don't let it go hungry. Weekly liquid fertilizer applications could make big leaves. As soon as you have developed a full, leafy plant, withhold fertilizer entirely and keep the plant growing "on the dry side," but don't let it wilt."

- Excerpted from an article by Ed. Pastorius in THE COMPOST  
(bulletin of Sarasota, Florida Men's Garden Club) December 1970.

"....In taking up geraniums, you must vary your operations according to the treatment they are to have. If to be housed and brought into bloom with a little fire heat, give them a somewhat generous and light soil; if to be merely kept alive out of reach of frost, put them into the poorest stuff you can lay your hands on--such as the loam from some spot in the garden where you never remember to have put a spadeful of manure, and which has been cropped to death. This, with a moderate admixture of sand, will be the best stuff for all kinds of stock that are to be wintered under circumstances in any way trying to plants, and in it they will be more hardy, because less excited to growth, than in a nourishing compost...."

From an article in GODEY'S LADY'S BOOK AND MAGAZINE, October 1859.

DRIFT FROM THE SPRAYER

Joyce Paul found a carton of M.G.C. papers among Fred's materials and turned it over to Archie Flack. Our "lost" club history was in the batch. Fred Paul, long-time city engineer, served as our club historian for many years prior to his death. Our present historian is Art Johnson.

\* \* \* \*

Check your blackberry cordial recipe from the February issue, boys. There's only one letter wrong but "wot an 'ell of a difference it does make." You add the cognac while cooling not while cooking. No sense in boiling away the goodness!

\* \* \* \*

Archie Flack received a rising round of applause when he appeared at the March meeting. We think a lot of you, Archie.

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"Virginia in the Spring," M.G.C.A. Convention, April 26-29, 1971.

COMMENTS BY PHIL - by Phil Smith

A few months ago Art Wangaard, an attorney for the Nash Finch Company, told me of an article he found in one of the old books he bought at an auction of the property of Charles Saunders, the original owner of Charlie's restaurant. The article, apparently written by the editor in answer to an inquiry from a reader and signed simply "F.R.G.," appeared in the October 1785 number of THE NEW LONDON MAGAZINE, "published in London, England, according to an Act of Parliament."

"ANSWER to a LADY who requested to know why a GARDENER is the most extraordinary MAN in the WORLD?"

"Because no man has more business upon earth, and always chooses good ground for what he does. He commands his thyme. He is master of the mint, and raises his celery every year, and it is a bad year indeed, that does not produce a plum. He meets with more boughs than a minister of state. He makes more beds than the French King; and has in them more painted ladies, and more genuine roses and lilies, than are to be found at a country wake. He makes raking his business more than his diversion, as many fine gentlemen do; but he makes it an advantage, both to his health and fortune, which is the case with few others.

"He can boast of more rapes than any rake in the kingdom; thus he indulges his own pleasures, and though he is plain in his own dress with his bachelor buttons, yet he encourages coxcombs with prince's feathers, and greatly admires the pride of London, and with pleasure beholds his love lay a bleeding under a weeping willow. His wife, notwithstanding, has as much of lad's love and heart's ease as she can desire, and never wishes for weeds.

"Distempers, fatal to others, never hurt him, for he walks the better for the gravel, and thrives most with a consumption. He is nature's assistant, and is as famous for his balm of Gilead, female balsams, and genuine drops, as an Apothecary; and his thrift abounds by his honesty.

"He is a great antiquarian, having in his possession Adam's needle, the tree of life, Jacob's ladder, Solomon's Seal, the holy thorn, Venus's looking-glass, the arms of France, and the crown imperial. He is well acquainted with the globes, and has crossed the line oftener than any mariner in Great Britain.

"He is the king of spades, and is happy with his beautiful Queen Margaret.

"He can boast of more laurels than Alexander the Great, and of more bleeding hearts than your ladyship; but his greatest pride and the world's envy is, that he can have you whenever he pleases."

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We hear that the May meeting will be transferred from the Park Board greenhouse to some other park facility but where is still not settled.

Quite a number of fellows brought their extra seeds to the March meeting as suggested. Now how about some extra plants for the May auction?

Larry Corbett notes that the March SPRAY didn't list the meeting place. Could that be why only 56 came?