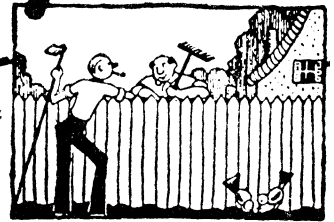




# The Garden Spray

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

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



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April 1973, Volume 31, Number 4

NEXT MEETING APRIL 10, 5:45 PM MT. OLIVET LUTHERAN CHURCH, 50th & KNOX S., DINNER \$2

TOPIC: "SPRING IN PARIS" (What else in April?)

In April of 1972 our member and Tuesday's speaker, Phil Smith, made a brief visit to Paris for the purpose of negotiating a legal contract for a client. He took his camera along in case he got a chance to see some of the Parisian gardens and the spring bloom of bulbs and shrubs. Phil will show his slides as he tells about the trip.

## GARDEN CLIPPINGS

Once again in March we had a good program and a good turn-out to share it. Orris Turnquist is a good photographer and shared some of the highlights of a recent trip to Europe. An interest in gardens and plant materials adds another dimension to travel.

This is surely the "anticipating season" for gardeners. Later we may have a few problems with weather, pests, and blisters, but right now we are "rarin to go". My crocus and other early bloomers are up, and a peek under the leaves indicated the roses had wintered well. So far so good!

Why not share some of your enthusiasm with a friend or neighbor who doesn't garden? Think especially about a young couple in a new house or someone who has just retired. Share some plants, help him plant them, show him how to trim shrubs, lend him some tools, but most of all share your knowledge and enthusiasm. It doesn't need to be a big project, in fact a small successful venture is the best start.

Many visitors remark about the well-kept lawns and the flower gardens in Minneapolis. I am happy that more and more people are putting color in their front yards, even if it is only a few red geraniums in front of the evergreens. The formal evergreen planting has served us well. It is a bit of green in winter and a good place to string Christmas lights, however, I think that in summer some bright flowers are attractive. Some color in every front yard would give our city a big lift.

The Men's Garden Clubs national convention has arranged an interesting program. I regret that it comes at a time when I am very busy. The one thing I question is the selection of Jerry Baker as banquet speaker. Perhaps some jokes and light talk goes best with peas and roast beef. However, I am confused about his title "Master Garden of America". I think many of the statements in his book are more amusing than practical, and I have never been able to find out who confers this "Master Gardener" title. Does anyone in the club know?

Don't forget the plant sale next month. Bring what you can spare and plan to buy what someone else could spare. See you in April

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Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc., Minneapolis, Minnesota  
Edwin C. Culbert, editor, 5315 Portland Avenue, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55417  
Editorial Staff: Leslie W. Johnson, Robert E. Smith, and Donald Wilson  
Deadline for material the 15th of each month.

#### THE MARCH MEETING

A rather extensive perennial garden is planned for the arboretum. A list of 77 different plants ranging from achillea to yucca together with numbers of each needed was distributed to those in attendance March 13. Hopefully, most will be donated by garden clubbers. If you weren't there and might have something of use, contact Leon Snyder. Mail your list to him at the arboretum Rt. 1, Box 132-1, Chaska, Minn. 55318.

Also in March, Marlin Gilhousen closed the treasury of the former Richfield MGC by presenting Dr. Leon Snyder with a check for \$590.36 to be added to the endowment fund for the hosta collection.

Dr. Orrin Turnquist, our speaker for the evening, not only gave us a rapid fire discussion of biological competition, as he called it, in the garden but a whirlwind tour of northern Europe illustrated with slides taken during a four month sojourn there 1 year. ("Horticulture there as seen through the eyes of an extension horticulturist")

Speaking of pest control, he suggested Dectran for slugs in flowers and lawns, and Mesural for slug treatment between vegetable rows. Save for the slug treatment all suggestions he gave were, he said, to be found in the bulletins he brought along for distribution. (See below.)

Among his many effective slides were those of weed problems in Europe--bachelor butt in wheat fields, red poppy in Swedish rape; Belgian low, fence style pruning--branch trained on wire like grapes; vertical-tiered-greenhouses; use of whole potatoes rather than cuttings for seed; field milking to avoid loss of butter fat in trek to barn; a the bikinied work crew on his potato project. We think the snap of the interior of sauna showed it to be co-educational but it flashed by so fast we can't be sure.

Materials available through Bulletin Room, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, Minn.

*Home Fruit Spray Guide* Extension Pamphlet 184.  
*The Apple Maggot* Entomology No. 20 Fact Sheet.  
*Cedar-Apple Rust* Plant Pathology No. 4 Fact Sheet.  
*Controlling Diseases in the Home Vegetable Garden* Plant Pathology No. 9 Fact Sheet  
*Controlling Insects in the Home Vegetable Garden* Entomology No. 11 Fact Sheet.  
*Controlling Insect Pests of Shade and Ornamental Trees* Entomology No. 28 Fact Sheet  
*Fungicides for Lawn and Garden* Plant Pathology 16 Fact Sheet.  
*Weed Control in the Garden* Orrin C. Turnquist  
*Vegetable Varieties for 1973* Orrin C. Turnquist

#### ERRORS IN ROSTER

Paul Burtis correct address is Rt. 1, Balsam Lake, Wis. 54810  
Bob Livingston's office phone is 333-0246  
Thomas Warth's phone is 920-6346  
Floyd Ashley's name was omitted. Insert

A - Ashley, Floyd C. (Elsie) 15720 Highway 7, Mtna., Mn. 55343  
Phones: Bus. 929-0371 Home 938-8311

NEW ADDRESS Robert D. Gage 6713 Gleason Rd., Edina 55435 Phone: 941-1038

INTERMEDIATE BEARDED IRIS  
by Julius Wadepammer

Classes of irises are man-made devices to enable us to understand and talk about a plant in terms of its physical qualities. The classes of iris discussed to this time include:

	<u>Size</u>	<u>Bloomtime</u>
Miniature Dwarf Bearded MDB	5-10"	Early
Standard Dwarf Bearded SDB	10-15"	After MDB
Intermediate Bearded IB	15-28"	Between SDB & Tall Bearded

The definition of Intermediate Bearded Irises is: plants from 15 to (but not including) 28 inches tall with blooms 4 to 5 inches in width. The bloom period as well as the size is intermediate. This rapidly growing group of irises blooms between the SDB irises and the tall bearded irises. The bloom period is the qualifying point for the class.

The IB's are a hybrid class composed of a number of species. Here proportion is a very important consideration. The flowers should be in proportion to the size of the plant and held well above the foliage. The flowers usually have two branches and, ideally, 6-9 buds per stem. Those coming from Iris aphylla may have from 10-15 buds per bloom stalk. The best cultivars have successive blooms over a long period of time rather than several flowers open at one time.

The culture of IB irises is similar to that of other bearded groups. The rhizomes should be planted slightly below the soil surface (about 1/8") and in full sun. Fresh manure should never be used as a fertilizer. If commercial fertilizers are used select one that is low in nitrogen and higher in phosphorous such as a 10-20-20. The IB's are planted or transplanted in July and early August.

This class of irises can be used effectively in small groups of 5 or 6 plants. Their bloom period in the southern half of Minnesota is from May 20 to June 5 making them important in the spring flower garden. They make excellent rock garden clumps. Due to the very fine form and newer colors these smaller distinctive irises are excellent conversation plants. They are also good accent plants for an area where a 20" colorful plant is desired. Some of the better cultivars include:

- ORANGE:      Orange Riot, Toy Money, Apache Warrior, Apache Gold, Elfin Antique
- BLUE:        Sea Patrol, Azure Echo, Annikins, June Prom, Blue Vision, Pixie Skies, Drummer Boy, Galaxy
- CREAM:      Border Cream, Frosted Cream, Intermezzo
- RED:         Toy Soldier, Charm Song, Indian Fire, Devilry, Light Cavalry, Gadget
- PINK:        Sweetie, Lillipinkput, Pink Reverie
- YELLOW:     Solo, Proper Lemon, Barbi, Sing Again, Indeed, Ohio Deb
- ORCHID:     First Lilac, Rose Harmony
- VERY DARK: Arctic Night, Dark Eden, Royal Event, Ebony Embers
- VIOLET:     Charm Song, Maroon Caper
- WHITE:      Frosted Cups, Artic Flare, Cloud Fluff, Little Angel, Small World

## GROWING FROM SEED THE EASY WAY...And EXPENSIVE TOO

Perhaps you have not tried planting seeds by some of the easy techniques. I'm speaking of seeds packaged in such a way to insure even distribution and even depth of planting. Apparently many companies have gone to "seed tapes" as a handy--and expensive way to achieving this goal. For example, I have on my desk a tape of Bell Boy hybrid sweet pepper seeds. They are in a water soluble paper tape that is twenty inches long and contains forty seeds. They sell for \$1.25, which is over six cents a seed.

A little cheaper is a forty inch tape of Super Master Marglobe tomato seeds, containing eighty seeds and selling for 75¢. Now we're down to about a cent a seed. Keeping going, you can get sixteen feet of Royal Chantenay carrots, containing 256 seeds for 85¢. Now, no one can complain when carrot seeds sell for three for a penny, and someone has prepackaged them to assure you even distribution and no need for future thinning.

Another firm sells wooden plant markers about six inches in length with a hole bored through the marker in which from one to three seeds are placed in a soluble paper. A line is even drawn on the marker to tell you to what depth to shove it into the soil. These are a little more expensive. A package containing two balsam, two alyss and two celosia costs 89¢ or almost 15¢ per marker. Each marker, of course, grows a plant. That's expensive when one considers the cost of bulk seed or even the cost of a grown ready-to-transplant seedling.

I doubt if men garden club members will buy many of these items. I believe they'd prefer to buy seeds by the package or buy individual plants and let the grower make a small profit.

Individual plants are still a good buy. Although a lot of us grow items from seed, if we were not doing it partly for fun and had to keep count of the cost of time, electricity, etc., we'd never grow them ourselves. Example: A dozen fibrous begonias are growing beautifully for me under lights. The seed cost me about two dollars and they've been tended twice daily for two months. Other costs include electricity, an electric timer, a heating coil for \$6.00, a set of fluorescent lights, a bucket of sand for \$1.50 and other hidden costs. Of course these costs can't all be laid to the poor 12 begonias but those plants are getting to be expensive. Of course poor germination didn't help. I'm glad I'm having fun and not raising them to sell like our friendly growers.

### Bill Hurl THE FORTY NINERS

After some eight months of preliminary discussion, the MCGM was officially organized on May 8, 1942. August 22, 1942 the charter membership roster was closed with 57 active and 3 commercial members. By 1949, the club boasted 73 active and 10 associate members and under the leadership of president Bill Swain, famous for his enthusiasm for herbs, undertook to stage the national convention. Bill was a leading amateur chef so for months we forsook the Colony Restaurant and for the same price each meeting ate hot dishes, meats, what have you doctored up to taste (Bill's) with herbs galore. The money saved went into a kitty towards convention expenses.

Of the 83 who were members in 1949, a check shows 41 have died, 8 have moved away, 8 have dropped out, 11 unaccounted for are no longer listed in the telephone directory and 15 still remain on our roster. Don Wilson is preparing articles on eleven of them (Bill Brooks, Bob Bryant, Larry Corbett, Ed Culbert, Thurber Day, Rene Dufourd, George Germain, Vic Lowrie, Ed Montgomery, Al Nelson, and Curtis Rice) similar to the articles he has written on the four of them (Henry Bachman, Harold Kaufmann, Walter Menz and Walter Quist) who are now honorary members.

## MINIATURE ROSES PART I, EARLY HISTORY

By Jerry Olson

Miniature Roses, after intermittent periods of popularity and oblivion during the past 165 years, are finally making their presence noticeable in gardens and at Rose Shows where they are acclaimed by both young and old as the "Little Darlings" of the rose world. Their perfect flower form, lovely colors, and dainty foliage set them off like rare sparkling gems. They possess all the attributes of the finest exhibition type hybrid teas, but in a greatly reduced scale. Surely, anyone who gazes at a spray of Red Imp, at the perfectly formed buds of varieties like Pixie Rose and Baby Betsy McC or at the half opened blooms of Cinderella can fully appreciate what wonderful creations these Lilliputian beauties really are.

Children love them not just for their rare beauty but also because they are small enough for them to handle. This is a wonderful and beautiful way to introduce our youngster to the great world of horticulture and rose growing in particular. People of all ages have a soft spot in their hearts for these little "Fairy Roses". They are ideal for the elderly, as they can be easily cared for either in pots or in small beds in the garden.

The Rosa Chinensis Var. Minima is not entirely new to Minnesotans but the increased interest in this little rose leads us to ask the question--where did this little elf-like rose come from? It seems that prior to the French Revolution some of the French aristocracy were growing in pots a variety thought to have been the original variety 'Pompon de Paris' which was supposedly brought to France from the Isle of Bourbon.

About 1810 specimens were brought to England supposedly from the Island of Mauritius. It is believed that these roses came to the islands by way of the Orient where they were produced by careful and painstaking cultivation by men who selected and kept only the smallest plants. At the time of their introduction into England, Miss Molly Lawrence, an artist who painted pictures of roses was at the zenith of her popularity. Nurserymen were quick to seize upon this popularity and named the new roses in her honor. Consequently the Rose Lawrenceana got a great assist in its introduction to the people of England. Later these roses seemed to slip in popularity and in the 1840's--William Paul listed only fifteen varieties available to the public.

Some varieties did make their way to America in the early 1830's. In 1844, Robert Bu a nurseryman in Philadelphia said, "The dwarf habit of these Fairy Roses is believed to be the result of selection and by the roguing out of larger specimens." William Prince in his "Manual of Roses" listed thirteen varieties of miniatures available to the American rose enthusiasts. One American, Samuel Feasts of Baltimore, even introduced two new varieties, Pretty American and Prince of Dwarfs.

At this point we can safely assume that for the most part the early variations of the Fairy Roses were the result of clonal divisions, mutations, and open pollination. However, interest seemed to lag, and unusual as these roses were in size and rare beauty, people were drawn to the larger and more glamorous hybrid perpetuals. The feeling of the time can be summed up by Henry Ellwanger in his book, (1892) "The Rose", "What are called Fairy Roses are miniature Bengals and we do not consider them of any value

### Editors Note

Jerry's article will be continued in succeeding issues of *the GARDEN SPRAY* as follows MINIATURE ROSES, SINCE 1920; MINIATURE ROSES, WHERE and HOW TO GROW; MINIATURE ROSES, THE ROSE FOR YOU.

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Are there friends and acquaintances at work who should be MGCM members? Invite them

## DRIFT FROM THE SPRAYER

The 60 degree weather at the time of our March meeting got me to thinking of the spring when a heavy snowfall and frost after the leaves were out broke branches and froze blossoms. I even lost my iris. Of course, that's Minnesota for you--no lack of variety. My father delighted to tell of the New Year's Day on the Vermillion iron range in the 80's when spectators in shirt sleeves watched a baseball game between Tower and Ely. Mother never failed to remind him, "But don't forget, Eli, it was 40 below the next day."

The gas company annual report says 1972 was the coldest year in 55 years. Will 1973 be the hottest? I hope not. Those 100°+ May temperatures back in the 30's are still too vivid.

Starting at the May meeting, each member of the Sioux Valley MGC will be asked to wear a boutonniere from his garden; a flower, a sprig of something or other. Those who forget will contribute a small sum towards the treasury. Not a bad idea at all. Maybe we should do likewise.

Speaking of the weather again, those pictures of our Sun City contingent (the Chamberlains, the Christophersons, the Ericksons, and the Johnsons) took us back to the "unusual" dry season when we were at the MGCA convention in Tucson last year and the dust storms there and in adjacent New Mexico. We were left with considerable doubt as to what attraction that area has to offer Minnesota retirees. Now we have proof that all is not (and never was) beer and skittles there.

In clearing our files, we found a letter from brother Jim in Las Cruces New Mexico dated May 1961 saying, "Warm winters and dry springs make this a paradise for bugs of all kinds, especially those that feed on flowers, etc. Now I must add iron and sulphur to the soil to counter the strong alkalinity built up through too much watering with the hose. Irrigation water has been short most of the time for the past decade and promises to be so again..."

What promises to be one of the most interesting presentations at the convention in Dallas this year will be made by Stuart K. Strong, field director for the Rare Plant Study Center at the University of Texas at Austin. The Center established in 1971 studies methods to prevent the extinction of rare and endangered species of native plants and to promote, generally, the survival of uncommon and desirable species of native trees, shrubs, wildflowers and grasses.

Phil Smith reminds us, "Hold open the dates of June 25, 26, and 27 for the Minnesota State Horticultural Convention. This will be held at St. Paul's Place Inn, 2965 N. Snelling Ave. in Roseville."

Wasn't that a honey of an article Bob Smith had in the March-April issue of *The GARDE*? No mincing of words--and plenty of proof both statistically and pictorially.

Add Bill Hull's name to the list of those going to the MGCA convention in Dallas. Are there any other bodies? The Minnetonka club hopes to send a large enough delegation to get group rates.

Dr. Reuben's book has invaded the field of gardening! First the book, then the movie. Now a member club has scheduled a talk on "Everything You Have Been Wanting to Know About Roses and Don't Know Who to Ask".

The Toledo Ohio MGC will again have an entry in the Toledo Flower and Home Show scheduled for April 2 - 8. Their 1972 entry was awarded a trophy and they intend to repeat.