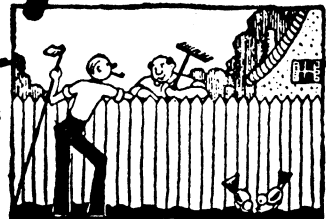




The Garden Spray

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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MEN'S GARDEN CLUB MONTHLY MEETING TUESDAY, AUGUST 8TH

- LADIES' NIGHT -

(Other guests more than welcome, also)

Bud Christenson has planned a two part feature for this evening - A visit to the Arboretum combined with a viewing of members' gardens.

At the Arboretum, Leon Snyder will conduct us through the new Educational Building and then we will visit the gardens of Bruce Johnstone, on the hillside, and of Leo Snyder in the "Holler" below. We haven't heard whether the kind lady who lived up hill from Bruce last year still lives there or still has the hole in her hedge through which so many sneaked to view her plantings in 1971.

MEET AT MT. OLIVET CHURCH, 50th Street and Knox Avenue South for a 5:45 p.m. departure by bus for the Arboretum. Dinner at the Arboretum's Ordway Shelter at 6:16. All inclusive price \$3.00 per person.

IN CASE OF RAIN, come anyway. All those dinners have to be eaten. "Waste not, want not." Likewise, consider the treasury.

FLOWER SHOW REMINDER: Again this year instead of staging one big flower show our June, July, August and September meetings will feature little flower shows. Each month show will be judged and ribbons awarded by Al Nelson and Carl Holst. Points earned at each showing will be cumulative. The grand total for the four months will determine the winners so bring as many specimens as you can each time. Containers will be supplied. Specimens should be in place by 6:00.

Sorry, fellows, Bud can't supply an early bus so you who display will have to drive directly to the Arboretum with your entries. We know you wouldn't trust them on a bus ride, anyway.

SUMMER INTERLUDE

The evening for which all MMGC men had waited - the annual tour of beautiful gardens - came July 11th. After a delicious chicken dinner, while standing on the patio of the Bob Livingston home looking out over the long expanse of yard and the beautifully designed plots of garden, I experienced the sense of country living - of peace and quiet - away from city noise. The gardens were uniquely designed to display many varieties of lovely lilies, delphiniums and numerous plants of varied types. A lovely place to live!

After scrambling into our "air conditioned bus", whilst Bill Scoggin admonished everyone to move to the rear for a longer ride, we drove to the Clyde Thompson home, truly a "Garden of Eden." This outstanding display in gardening architecture was centered by an artistic bird bath surrounded with ferns, an assortment of varied plants, colorful flowers and bordered with hostas. A border ringed the entire back yard and, with a meticulously manicured lawn, accentuated the lovely garden.

Our next visit was at the Warren Bergstrom home. My first impression was of a home in the Bavarian Alps. The hill on the side of the lawn sloping gracefully into a garden and border of roses, peonies and many colorful plants reminded me of the gardens in the lovely rolling hills of southern Germany. Here, again, we looked upon a yard designed and fashioned to fit the site. I am sure many hours of pleasure are experienced in this garden beside the rippling waters of Minnehaha Creek.

As I walked across the street to Sherm Pinkham's home, I was reminded of the lovely homes in Connecticut nestling on wide expansive lawns among stately elms and within white picket fences. Proceeding up the driveway, I viewed a unique hothouse stocked with beautiful petunias and other colorful plants. Mums are already in bloom. A complete bed of petunias banked by a nice stone wall and the continuation of petunia plantings and other colorful flowers beside the white picket fence was reminiscent of Connecticut. A comfortable place in which to relax and enjoy the art of gardening.

Away we go to Otto Nelson's and Chet Groger's block. Many times I have seen these beautiful, unique gardens but it is always a delight to see them again and to let my eyes rove over the many terraces and literally hundreds of varied plants and flowers. As I stretched out in a lounge chair on Otto's patio and looked up along and over the series of terraces and into the blue sky above, I knew this must be the acme in gardening architecture. To bring to fruition beautiful and fanciful gardens from what otherwise would have been just an unappealing hill must have required a terrific amount of work, careful and thoughtful planning and selection of plants.

Our final visit was to the home of Nate Siegel. A great deal of thought and planning must have been exercised in designing this garden and selecting the plants to accommodate the comparatively small plot of ground. There are miniature dahlias, beautiful clematis vines, azaleas and numerous plants of varied colors and types which cannot be fully described. A lovely lily pond surrounded by a myriad of plantings accentuates the garden. In the background, an interesting vegetable garden supplements this well planned area. As we left the garden, we viewed an outstanding border of coleus on the south side of the house and a front border of lobelias. This is a garden that must be seen in order to appreciate the many selections used in its design.

As I drove home that evening reflecting upon the beautiful gardens I had seen, I could not help but feel that the "Man upstairs" must have had a hand in helping the gardeners develop such lovely areas. This was a memorable evening and I hope to

ROG'S REFLECTIONS

Our summer is turning out to be a good one for flower growing. The moist, rather cool days seem to be making the plants grow vigorously and the blooms hold luscious for days. My delphinium seem to be lasting forever and really made a good show. However, some bright, enterprising individual just has to either invent a fool proof stake or develop a strain with stronger stems to support those big blooms (I grow). How about it, Phil?

The good gardening weather kind of paid off for us in helping to make those fine gardens we toured in June very attractive. Those of you who weren't able to make it missed seeing some very fine yards and an opportunity to see what a great job some of our newer members are capable of doing. They certainly proved they've got the gardening know-how and the desire to put in the hard work to make it attractive. Keep up the good work fellows!

I also want to thank Bud Christenson for the hours of hard work organizing the tour. Getting everything done that needs doing for these affairs and making it come off without a hitch, as well as provide good weather, is not an easy job. Nice going, Bud. We are looking forward to another fine effort on your part for August.

I am very pleased to announce that C.U.E. (Committee on Urban Environment) has given MMGC a merit award for outstanding service for our effort in developing the Community Garden. David Johnson, the guy who brought the project to reality through his organization, hours of hard work, etc., accepted the award on behalf of the Club during a July meeting of C.U.E. This is quite an honor for our Club and it certainly helps to make our name and image more prominent around town. In addition to maintaining exceptional yards and gardens of our own and promoting our regular Club activities it ought to be our Club aim to sponsor more worthwhile projects when we are able. With a membership of 108 hard working expert gardeners, we are probably capable of doing more.

Carl and David report that the Community Garden is making a good show this summer. Stop around and take a look.

You may not have heard, John and Nancy Lillibridge are the proud parents of a baby girl, Amy Jo, born in late June. So, if you notice John acting a bit differently the next couple of meetings, you'll know the reason why. That first born is always a little traumatic, making sure everything in the way of care is done by the book, responsibility of feeding another mouth in days of inflation, etc.....Congratulate John and Nancy!

We'll be looking forward to seeing you and your wives on August 8th at the tour.

- Roger Anderson

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Every 12 months, 2,000,000 acres of America, for all practical purposes, disappears, but almost half of that goes into parks and other recreational uses for the use of future generations. Of the remaining 1,000,000 acres, a sizeable chunk of 420,000 acres goes into urban development, with houses built on it; another 420,000 acres is drowned by the creation of lakes and reservoirs under the guise of flood control; finally, 160,000 acres is paved over to make roads, highways and airports.

* * * * *

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

G. Victor Lowrie, 5025 Ridge Road, Minneapolis, Minnesota, Tel: 933-3980

DRIFT FROM THE SPRAYER

by Ed Culbert

The canes on my raspberries are starting to die. They didn't produce too well this year. Usually, I get the most and best berries from the lush new fall canes. Come spring, since I don't bury, I have a lot of winter kill. Many of the surviving canes aren't healthy. I'd root out these plants as suspect were it not for the fine fall crop they bore last year and which, experience tells me, the new canes now shooting skyward will bear this year. Soon I must again face the onerous task of trimming away the dead canes and tying up the new growth. If I could only overcome my mental set that I must pick my fill of home grown raspberries before the Minneapolis Aquatennial, I'd give up growing raspberries as biennials, adopt the new University of Wisconsin plan, cut everything to the ground in the fall and consider raspberries an annual crop to be harvested each fall.

Ed Landrum, editor of the Dallas MGC bulletin, claims finely ground books make wondrous compost. When his living room ceiling fell down, he discovered the attic insulation was finely ground books so he scraped up the mess and poured it into the compost pile.

Later, he reports, "I prepared a bed for some cannas I've had for years, using the existing black soil, sharp sand and partially composted finely ground books. I transplanted the cannas on April 5th. Now, those particular cannas were dwarfs, bought as dwarf and grown and bloomed as dwarfs for years with a maximum height of 24 inches. They are now in profuse bloom on stalks ranging from 48 inches to 56 inches tall. The only solution I can offer is that, among all those finely ground books, there must have been an old Charles Atlas Body Building Course!"

The 25 member North Suburban MGC really digs in. The evening of June 1st they planted the garden at the Crystal Court House with a large "C" done up in white petunias with a background of blue petunias. The outside border was done up in bright red petunias. A total of 44 dozen petunias were used.

The garden at the Crystal swimming pool was planted the following evening. "The planting was started with white alyssum and then we used marigolds in the forward corners. From there we worked back from the middle using red and orange plumed celosia. For the background, we alternated tall marigold and pink cleome."

We hear that many of the local fellows received the July Spray on Saturday and others not until Monday or Tuesday. All copies were delivered to the Nicollet Bran Post Office at 1:00 p.m. Thursday, July 6th. According to the posters on all the collection boxes around town, mail picked up by 5:00 p.m. is delivered the very next day if it has a 554 zone or certain other area zone numbers. Either this is pure ballyhoo or the typed statement on the Spray cover "First Class Mail" isn't read and we are paying first class rates and being relegated to third class status. Our readers are entitled to call our product third class if they so desire but the postmaster isn't a reader - not officially anyway. Guess we'd better get out that old rubber stamp "FIRST CLASS MAIL" and ink up those big letters again. If that fails...??

It's worth a trip to Duluth to see Joseph Priley's plantings of annuals around the government buildings on the hill. He had just finished transplanting when we were there July 1st but the display was already breathtakingly gorgeous.

Roger Anderson finds himself busy to the point of exhaustion with his summer garden business. He doesn't know it yet but that "busy to the point of exhaustion" is common-place for MGC Mpls. members who are retired.

NOTES FROM THE BERRY PATCH

By Bob Smith

Berries can be a valuable addition to any garden. Advantages of growing your own are the ability to select varieties that suit your taste and the chance to harvest vine ripened fruit for top flavor. Many factors such as soil requirements, winter protection, bird protection, etc. must be considered but with careful planning and preparation you can grow berries quite successfully. In general, berries prefer soil that is well drained, slightly acidic and high in humus. These notes will cover the types of berries I have grown ranging from the more productive for effort expended to the more marginal. Most berries are somewhat marginal in Minnesota because of the hardiness factor.

Strawberries Strawberries are at the top of my list and if I had to choose one berry to grow this would be it. I have raised June bearing and everbearing varieties but prefer and now grow everbearers exclusively for the following reasons:

1. They bear the year they are planted.
2. They have a longer bearing season.
3. They adapt well to the hill system which reduces effort and time spent.
4. Bird damage is usually less in late summer during heaviest production so often no protection is required.

This article will cover everbearers only as there are many articles on Junebearing strawberries, one just recently by Dr. Snyder in his Sunday column.

Two everbearers that have performed well for me with very little disease or insect damage are Ogallala and Ozark Beauty. Red Rich and Geneva are also of excellent quality but I do not grow them because they are susceptible to mites which I have been unable to control without spraying. Mite damage has been minimal with Ogallala and Ozark Beauty. Ogallala has a very distinctive aroma and flavor but after primary fruit set the berries become quite small in size thereby increasing the picking and processing time. I prefer Ozark Beauty, a newer variety, which is sweeter, much larger in size and holds longer after picking. It is also very free from mildew in damp weather - an important factor in selecting a strawberry to grow in our area.

Both varieties are excellent for freezing. I have found a process that preserves them in very close to fresh quality. With a mulch and spray-free culture washing is usually unnecessary; but if required should be done quickly and the berries well drained before processing. Berries should be picked at the peak of ripeness and processed immediately by removing stems, slicing and stirring in light clover honey to desired taste. The stirring is continued until there is sufficient liquid to cover the berries which are then packed in plastic containers and quick frozen. It is important that the berries be completely immersed in the liquid. The resulting product will then retain flavor, texture and color approaching that of fresh berries.

I start a new patch of berries each year and maintain it for two years. Strawberries are heavy feeders so they should be grown in soil that has had a cover crop or fresh manure turned under the previous fall or else had well rotted manure or compost applied just before planting. A balanced fertilizer should also be worked in at planting time. With the hill system plants should be spaced about 18 inches apart with a 24 inch picking aisle every two or three rows. Runners are pinched throughout the life of the bed with the plants ultimately becoming large mounds. This is the reason for the 18 inch spacing which seems quite large at planting time.

(over)

To save money and keep disease down, purchase a dozen certified plants from a nursery each year to maintain a nursery row from which to produce plants for your berry patch. This will also enable you to get your patch off to a quick start each year. Nursery stock is usually dried out and does not respond very quickly after planting but will produce good vigorous young plants late in the summer with which to start your new bed the next spring.

Blossoms should be pinched off until July 1st the first year so that plants become well established before they start bearing. At this time, apply a mulch. Aged coarse sawdust is preferable but any material including black polyethylene will do. The mulch will conserve moisture, keep weeds down and berries clean. Coarse sawdust is a deterrent to slugs but will not completely eliminate them if they are a problem in your garden. Additional mulch and fertilizer should be applied the second year. The use of sawdust or other mulching material with a high carbon to nitrogen ratio (sawdust is 400 compared to 10 to 12 for soil) requires additional nitrogen to prevent depletion of soil nitrogen.

There are many good light weight, durable nettings available on the market for protection from bird damage. They may seem expensive but, considering their life of five or more years and multiple use on other fruit and berry crops, are well worth the cost in terms of fruit saved. Netting may be laid directly over strawberry plants without support. It is very easy to remove it for picking and then to replace. I have prices and other information on various nettings which I will make available to anyone who wishes to inquire.

A thin layer of hay applied late in the fall is sufficient to hold the snow and provide winter protection. This will also prevent damage to the crowns from alternate thawing and freezing early in the spring.

IT'S TIME FOR ACTION

In the June Garden Spray Sherman Pinkham wrote, "There is one matter in particular I would like to mention. The headquarter grounds in Des Moines is in need of landscaping. A detailed plan has been worked out which lacks only one element - "Green Stuff" put out by the Bureau of Engraving. How about this? Let's pass the hat (remember what we did for the wildflower garden in ten minutes?). Why not start with a memorial tree for Archie Flack with an appropriate marker at its base, "Give by the Minneapolis Club," and as funds permit honor other pioneers like Tony Koeste: Glen Cerney, Herb Kahlert, George Titus, Fred Paul and others. The kitty has an initial deposit of five bucks. I will accept any amount from a five to a one. Give me a phone call if interested or send a check in the mail."

Last month President Roger Anderson in his monthly letter said, "I read with a great deal of interest, Sherm Pinkham's suggestion in last month's Spray, that the MGCM do something about providing a memorial to assist in making it possible for our National to beautify their landscape. It certainly would seem the only way to accomplish this is to promote an idea of this sort. Give this proposal some thought. We will bring it up at a future meeting to see what the membership might be interested in doing on this question."

In order that MGCM members may be assured that a master plan exists and be aware of what is required to implement, we published the list of landscaping materials needed (page 7). Your editor, likewise, is belatedly matching Sherm's fiver.

PLANTS NEEDED TO COMPLETE LANDSCAPING THE TWO ACRE
MGCA NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS PLOT ACCORDING TO THE MASTER PLAN
(Estimated Cost \$3,530)

-
- | | |
|---|--|
| 3 <u>Euonymus sarcoxie</u> (Upright euonymus) | 3 <u>Pinus sylvestris</u> (Scotch pine) |
| 4 <u>Lonicera zabelli</u> (Zabel honeysuckle) | 1 <u>Ostrya virginiana</u> (Ironwood) |
| 1 <u>Crataegus punctata</u> (Dotted hawthorn) | 1 <u>Quercus palustris</u> (pin oak) |
| 6 <u>Kolkwitzia amabilis</u> (Beautybush) | 2 <u>Tilia redmond</u> (Redmond linden) |
| 6 <u>Cornus paniculata</u> (Gray dogwood) | 5 <u>Cornus baileyi</u> (Bailey dogwood) |
| 1 <u>Ginkgo biloba</u> (Maidenhair tree) | 3 <u>Yucca filimentosa</u> (pots) |
- 2 Eleagnus angustifolia (Russian olive) Tree form
- 4 Cercis canadensis (American redbud) Tree form
- 3 Hydrangea paniculata grandiflora (Pee Gee hydrangea)
- 3 Cotoneaster acutifolia (Peking cotoneaster)
- 2 Prunus cerasifera pissardi (Purpleleaf plum)
- 3 Forsythia lynwood 'Gold' (New golden forsythia)
- 4 Philadelphus minn. 'Snowflake' (Minn. Snowflake mockorange)
- 5 Viburnum prunifolium (Blackhaw viburnum)
- 1 Abies concolor (Concolor or white fir)
- 2 Amelanchier canadensis (Shadblow serviceberry)
- 6 Viburnum americanum (American cranberrybush)
- 7 Euonymus alatus compacta (Dwarf euonymus)
- 4 Magnolia soulangeana (Saucer magnolia)
- 3 Acer platanoides columnar (Columnar Norway maple)
- 2 Crataegus mongyna - stricta ora form of upright (Hawthorn)
- 4 Euonymus radicans vegetus (Bigleaf wintercreeper)
- 1 Cercis canadensis (Redbud clump) (3-stem American redbud)
- 4 Taxus densiformis (New intermediate yew)
- 1 Gymnocladus dioicus (Kentucky coffee-tree)
- 7 Crabapple trees - suggested varieties: Charlotte, Dorothea
Katharine, Jay Darling, Loensis

BACKWARD, TURN BACKWARD, OH TIME...

According to a news release from MGCA national headquarters, the archives show that 110 years ago couples celebrated the first anniversary of their marriage with a vegetable wedding. Each guest contributed a vegetable of some kind with almost every variety known being among the gifts. Usually the contributions were enough to feed the new family all winter.

The guests sometimes wrote poetic bits to attach to the gifts or serenaded the honored couple with original lyrics set to a familiar tune. One such number that was reported to have made the vegetable anniversary "hit parade" of the day used the refrain of The Peanut Song. Remember:

"Oh, the man who has plenty of good peanuts

And giveth his neighbors none;

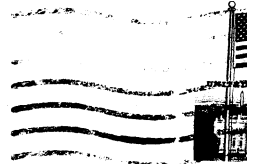
He shan't have any of my peanuts

When his peanuts are done."

This refrain was taken up and cabbages, turnips, parsnips and the entire garden was substituted for peanuts until the serenaders grew weary.

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