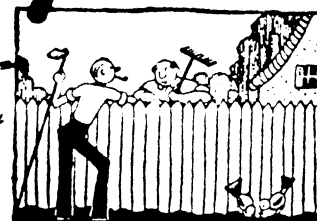




The Garden Spray

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

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



August 1974, Volume 32, Number 8

AUGUST MEETING and GARDEN TOUR (Men Only)

Tuesday, August 13, 1974: Cost \$3.00

MEET, 5:45 P.M., at Roger Anderson's 3161 Hillsboro Av. S., St. Louis Park for dinner followed by a tour by bus to 5 members' gardens. Bring a check as usual. Directions: Take Minnetonka Blvd. to Hillsboro. Turn south (Hillsboro is a block east of the Co. Rd. 18 intersection.)

OVER THE GARDEN FENCE

The July tour was a "best ever" tour thanks to Jim Mielke, tour chairman and the five tour hosts. Over 150 enjoyed the Colonel's cooking at Phil Smith's beautiful new gardens. Dave Johnson's and Dwight Stone's yards are always beautiful but were the best I have ever seen them. The rest of the gardens were new to me. Dean Schneider has a beautiful yard with a high patio deck overlooking the array of color. Dick Hulbert's yard was a bit smaller but packed with goodies and not conveying a hint of overcrowding. Complementing the design of his beautiful yard was a delightful garage that looks like a little cottage with a front porch, window boxes and curtains. Thanks to all of you for your extra work in sharing your yards with us. An extra thanks to Dean and Dick for serving refreshments. On such a hot evening it was most welcome.

The August tour will begin at Roger Anderson's in St. Louis Park with the Colonel putting his chicken together with Jimmy Dean's ribs. Roger is also tour chairman and has lined up some good gardens for us to visit. In addition to the formal tours, we want to try something similar to the Toledo M.G.C. this year. On each weekend beginning with August 10-11th, several gardens in a geographic area will be having open house. Please feel welcome to visit these gardens on the specified dates and bring your wife and family who may be a prospect for membership. Do not, however, expect to be entertained. The owner may or may not be present and if present may be pulling weeds, or hoeing or barbequing his dinner. It will be an opportunity especially for our new members to get acquainted in a less hurried way with some of our member's gardens. The schedule is:

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|------------|--|
| Aug. 10-11 | Otto Nelson and Chet Groger (either end of one block) |
| 17-18 | Darwin Price and Marlin Gilhousen (across the street) |
| 24-25 | Bill Cowcill, Evald Johnson and Jim Perrin (a little more driving) |
| 31-9/1 | Jerry Olson, Clarence Knoblauch and Al Nelson (<u>The</u> rose center of Mpls.) |
| Sept. 7- 8 | Nate Siegel, Carl Holst and Charlie Proctor (Stop on your way to or from the flower show at Linden Hills Park) |

THE JULY TOUR

The temperature was in the 90's when 152 members and guests assembled under the welcome shade of 3 huge oaks at Phil Smith's on the 9th. The ers were fresh, unwilted and colorful; the ladies equally so. It's a one's guess who was eyed the most. DeLaria's surprised us with fine meringue pie. The Spray-advertised ribs were missing but there was f a-plenty, anyhow.

Phil greeted us with a multitude of delphiniums of various hues as we became a member of the Royal Delphinium Society. The superb specimen featured in the entry garden were a preface to the back yard growing of seedling cuttings and year old cuttings in first bloom. Phil had t work hard to bring that clay soil of his up to any reasonable degree tilth as chart and samples in the garden clearly demonstrated. He's ing vegetables, too, tomatoes in cylindrical metal frames, beans on a tent (should make picking easier. Might even provide a hide-away in shade), onions, carrots...

Dwight Stone's split rail fence with its hanging baskets of petunias his circle of lettuce, peppers, cabbage, tomatoes under a pine brough back memories of the 1967 national convention in Mpls. His front of house planting with a row of pink geraniums alternating with mums, a ground of roses was eye catching. Around the entire yard there was s thing for every taste. There was even a potato plant peeping out of corner of a flower bed near the SW corner of the house.

A companula border and gayly flowering achilleas and potentillas gree us as we debarked at Dean Schneider's. At the rear a rose terrace di to the stairs to the porch where cool drinks awaited. Dean had tomat in hardware cloth cylinders and lots of other vegetables and flowers. swampy area next door could offer problems like mosquitoes and floodi but gave assurance of rich black soil.

Dick Hulbert had confined his roses largely to a border planting, tre roses alternating with standards, against the south lot line fence. otherwise would have been bare ground in front of the roses was color with ageratum and fibrous rooted begonias in a double row. A corner tain had ferns, juniper and forget-me-not around and above it. There two other fountains, also refreshments on the patio. Gorgeous, fragr pink petunias, beds of red geraniums, orange-red cosmos (Diablo?) als caught my eye.

At Dave Johnson's you parachute down to the vegetable garden--the ter are that steep and high. There was Bibb lettuce big as cabbages, car beans, onions, corn for weeds (He said he was going to "weed it out") where there was no more concrete to build terraces, squash and cucumb took over. On the level ground above the terraces were roses and tho tree lantanas we've so often admired, and gay achillea Goldplate, and pansies, and, and,

One thing we missed--tuberous begonias at their height of bloom. Eve fellow had them coming along. What a sight they'll be in another mon

NOTICES

Anyone interested in having a flower show workshop contact Dale Durst Tulip bulbs anyone? Charley Proctor will be placing an order direct ordered for tulip & other spring flowering bulbs. If you are interes

TIPS ON FLOWER SHOW PREPARATION

by Marlin Gilhausen,
Flower Show Co-Chairman

Although it is too late to plant material for our fall flower and vegetable show, now is the time to groom and prepare those potential September prize winners. Fertilizing, spraying, watering, disbudding, mulching, and staking are all things that should be done now and will show results next month. Proper plant nutrition and adequate moisture are of great importance in development of prize winning specimens. Lack of any of the major elements will cause improper flower or fruit development, stunting, and dwarfing, and poor color of blooms and discoloring of foliage.

During our extremely hot dry summers, plants will benefit from mulching several ways--the most obvious being conservation of moisture. A mulch also maintains a cooler soil temperature, eliminates the need for cultivation and its associated root damage, and will prevent mud from splattering onto leaves and flowers on those final days before picking your specimens.

Many plants will develop a much better form if staked during their growth period to prevent bends and crooks which cannot be removed at show time. Some examples would be snapdragons, gladiolus and delphiniums. Other flowers of a large bushy nature, such as dahlias and chrysanthemums, should be provided with overall support to keep stems from developing unsightly bends. This will also prevent wind damage to the foliage which is an important part of your exhibit.

Attention should also be given to the practice of disbudding. Most flowers are exhibited as disbuds unless the show schedule calls for a spray, scape or branch, as in the case of flowers such as lilies or similar plants. When disbudding, remove the entire stem leaving no protruding "horns". In roses, Hybrid Teas, Climbing Hybrid Teas and Hybrid Perpetuals should be disbudded. Single Hybrid Teas (such as Dainty Bess and Innocence), Polyanthas, Floribundas and climbers are not disbudded. All dahlias should be disbudded, but it is not recommended that miniatures and pompons be disbudded to the extent recommended for A and B size dahlias. Partial disbudding of the small types will, however, produce larger and more perfect blooms and longer stems.

Plants should be kept free from insects, fungus and mildew throughout the growing season by periodic applications of the insecticide and fungicide of your choice. Adjust your spraying schedule so that the last application will be made about two weeks before the show.

Now get out and start planning what you will be able to exhibit at the show and we will have further last minute preparation tips for you in the next issue of the GARDEN SPRAY.

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Attending the MGCA national meeting at Cortland, New York this month are MGCM members Sherm Pinkham as North Star Region delegate; Ed. Culbert, Henry Halvorson, Paul Lindstedt, Watt Myers, Nate Siegel and Dwight Stone as MGCM delegates; and Bill Hull as MGCM alternate and National Awards Committee chairman.

Dr. Orrin Turnquist is hospitalized with a broken hip. There were no details at press time.

CARROTS; USES and CARE

Carrots have always been a mainstay in my vegetable garden. They are easy to grow, require little space and are well suited for winter storage and use when good fresh vegetables are often both high priced and hard to obtain. Carrots are packed with vitamins and minerals for good health and are versatile in use. They make delicious raw juice. They provide many fine flavored salad uses and numerous cooked variations including bread cookies, cake and pie.

A recent newspaper article told of a man in England who died after drinking a gallon of carrot juice. This is certainly understandable since this is the juice of 17 pounds or about 34 average sized Chantenay carrots. His liver was unable to detoxify the tremendous quantity of nutrients from so much juice. A little carrot juice, 4 to 8 ounces per day, goes a long way in promoting good health. This is true of most vegetable and fruit juices. They should not be consumed in large quantities as a beverage unless well diluted.

While there are varieties of all types that are equally good in quality for raw, juice or cooked uses, I prefer Chantenay varieties and Pioneer for juicing because their large diameter makes preparation for juicing easier. The long, slender Emperor varieties are nicer for carrot sticks. Should your soil conditions limit the types of carrots you can grow you do not have to sacrifice eating quality because there are top quality varieties in all types.

In heavy clay soils the Chantenay varieties will usually produce the best results. The long Emperor types require deep, loose, loamy soil to produce long, slender, smooth roots. The cylindrical, stump-rooted Nantes and Danvers varieties can penetrate most soils except those that are extremely heavy or shallow so can be grown under most conditions. When carrots are unable to penetrate the soil the crowns have a tendency to push up above the surface and the exposed portion of the root turns green and develops a bitter flavor. Deeply working the soil and incorporating compost and other organic matter will improve the soil structure for growing carrots. If your carrots should erupt above the surface, cover the crown with soil, compost, or a mulch to prevent greening.

Organic practices including crop rotation and use of predator insects for disease and pest control keep disease to a minimum in my garden. Large numbers of lady-bugs are observed throughout the summer working on the carrot tops and potato vines. I believe this has an effect in keeping leaf-hopper population down and the incidence of the aster yellows transmitted by them to a minimum.

Starting seed in June to get the major growth during the cool, moist fall weather and harvesting as late as weather permits seems to impart an especially sweet, rich flavor to carrots. When I harvest carrots in late October I top, wash and store them outside in plastic bags covered with leaves until mid-December. At that time they are brought into the cellar and stored in large containers at a temperature of 35 degrees.

— Bob Smith

Coming next month "The 1972 Carrot Trials".

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THE MANURE SPREADER, newsletter of the MGC of Greater Kansas City is just that--an 8 page newsletter telling all about who and what.

THE CATTLEYA, EVERY MAN'S ORCHID

by Bob Bryant

There are many thousands of orchids but the one that almost always comes to mind at the mention of orchids is the cattleya. It is the large beautiful flower used so much in corsages and wedding bouquets. It is an epiphyte growing naturally in trees and on rocks. In cultivation, it is grown in pots in fir bark and tree fern (osmundine) the current medium.

The plant grows on a rhizome with roots extending below and attaching to the inside and outside of the pot. A pseudo-bulb extends upward with a leaf on top. It serves all the purposes of a bulb but is called a pseudo bulb because it is above ground. The leading growth when mature forms a sheath at the axil of the pseudo-bulb and leaf. Ultimately the flower spike will grow through the sheath and emerge into a cluster of buds--usually from two to four.

A great deal of hybridizing has taken place over the years and it is now possible to have cattleya flowers of almost every color. Laelias, Brassolas and Sophronitis cross readily with cattleya and the multiple traits the parentage have added many additional good traits to the flowers.

One group of cattleyas have two leaves and the flowers are smaller but have eight to twelve blooms to the stem. These bifoliate have been crossed with the larger flowered plants and have also had an influence on the size and color of the offspring. By careful selection through the year one can now have continuous bloom the year round.

Seedlings still take six to eight years to bring to maturity. The meristem method can give you an exact duplicate but takes about the same length of time to produce a mature plant as does seeding.

The one thing to be careful about before starting is that you are apt to like growing cattleyas and thus become addicted.

THE FORTY-NINERS: ED MONTGOMERY

by Don Wilson

Ed Montgomery is a "Johnny come Lately" compared to some of the MGCM members. He came here in 1934, didn't take long to become a member and he's been a regular ever since. As a matter of fact, he was at a recent meeting and gave me some of his background. He was and is a practicing attorney for Richards, Montgomery, Cobb and Bassford since 1933.

He has a large lot (about 300 x 75) at 4320 Wooddale. Many of you in the past have seen his beautiful garden. He says that Elmer Hallberg a landscaper friend gave him ideas on the original plantings. Ed has raised all the ordinary types of plants - but he is not your ordinary gardener.

He specializes in a wildflower garden. At the time we were talking his lady's slippers were in full bloom. He has many native plants such as choke cherries etc. He also raises sweet potatoes and what I think is a non-native - peanuts.

Ed also specializes in a few "heirloom" plants. He has some lily of the valley that have been growing since before the turn of the century. Most unusual, perhaps, is the pure white hosta with large leaves. The history is that it came from Asia perhaps 100 years ago. His grandfather had it during the Civil War and Ed planted his in a pot about 5 years ago.

WE'VE RECENTLY READ THAT

Before too long gardeners will be eating toasted cottonseed nuts and cottonseed brittle candy. According to University of Texas Cotton Economic Research, glandless cottonseed is a promising food product. High in protein and very tasty, the kernels can be eaten like nuts, used in cooking or made into spreads.

When you are pruning some plant that bleeds, use nail polish for a plant seal.

Vitamin tablets or liquid added to your pot plants gives them a good boost. Vitamins contain trace elements.

The National Wildlife Federation in a survey of its members (620,000) asked eight pertinent questions about environment, pollution, interests and concerns. The first question they asked was, "Which of these outdoor activities do you or your family ever take part in?" There were 14 top responses to answer, the first three were: Gardening, Bird Watching, and Outdoor Photography. 84% of the members picked gardening as the primary outdoor activity. The next nearest choice was 71%.

Poultry manure is free of weed seeds because a seed will not germinate after it passes through a chicken's gizzard.

Elm, maple, ash, oak, pine, poplar, and spruce are often hit by lightning, but beech, horsechestnut, birch, and holly are relatively safe. Deep rooted trees are seemingly more susceptible than kinds with shallow spreading roots; and decay-ridden specimens are in greater danger than sound ones.

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Return to
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