



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 1978, Volume 36, Number 8

MARK YOUR CALENDAR MAIL YOUR CHECK

MGCM SECOND GARDEN VISIT--SUNDAY AUGUST 6th, 1978
(By Reservation Only. Use Form at Bottom of Page.)

MEET AT MOUNT OLIVET CHURCH PARKING LOT (50th St. & Knox Ave. S.)

BUSES LEAVE AT 1:00 P.M.

PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE GET THOSE RESERVATIONS IN EARLY
By the Wednesday, July 5, deadline only 72 reservations had been made for the July tour, yet 124 were served dinner at the Arboretum. It is not fair to the tour leader, who must secure buses and assure us of dinners, if you defer making your reservation until after deadline. This month make every effort to get your reservation in on time.

--Richard R. Hulbert

WHAT YOU WILL SEE ON TOUR IN AUGUST

by Bob Haley

On the second of our 1978 summer garden tours (Like the first open to wives, friends, and visitors), we will visit five homes, a golf course a garden in the making for a home not yet built, Bachman's Lakeville Greenhouse and Nursery. We will end at Mount Olivet's Retreat Center Chub Lake.

After leaving Mount Olivet parking lot our first stop will be at our treasurer Charles Robbin's home, 7112 Park Avenue, Richfield, an excellent example of urban lot landscaping. You will see curving beds of
(Continued on page 2)

DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS IS AUGUST 2, 1978!

RESERVATION(S) FOR MGCM GARDEN TOUR SUNDAY AUGUST 6.
(Return this form with your check to Richard Hulbert
3422 Xerxes Av. N., Mpls., Mn., 55412 by Wednesday August 2.)

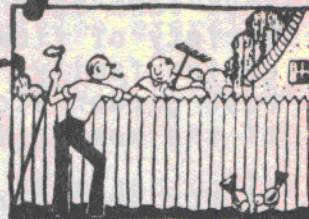
Reserve _____ places for me on the August 6 tour.
(\$8.00 singles; \$15.00 couples)

Check for \$ _____ payable to Men's Garden Club of Mpls. enclosed.

Your Signature _____ (Add names of your guests at bottom of page)

Address: _____

Zipcode



annuals and perennials disguising the lot line fence and enhancing the family's patio. Notice the attractive vegetable garden and how his neighbor has almost a mirror image of the back fence planting.

At Dr. Marlin Rosin's, 8727 Penn Avenue South, Bloomington, we will enjoy a spacious garden with something for everyone. A long expanse of luxurious lawn extending to Lower Penn Lake makes a perfect background for a variety of flower and vegetable gardens reflecting the interests of the entire family. There are children's gardens as well as an outstanding rose garden accented by tree roses. The greenhouse attached to the back of the home gives year long pleasure to a family of green thumbs.

At our secretary Dick Victor's, 4358 Metcalf Drive, Eagan, the hilltop location offers a wide expanse of rolling hills in a new area of homes. Dick's yard, appropriately, is tops. A colorful array of flowers in well kept beds accent the yard's beauty.

Also in Eagan is the rambling garden overlooking a lake where Richard Scherer lives. At 1535 Cliff Road you will wander through a series of gardens with waterfalls, little bridges, over 6000 flowering plants and five acres of beauty. Now retired, Mr. Scherer has been written about in many local and St. Paul papers. His garden is often the background for summer weddings. His 1977 guest book had over 3000 entries.

Nearby, an MGCM member, Ray Rahn, displays his gardening talent at his Parkview Golf Course. You will enjoy his sculptured evergreens, the sparkling pools and waterfalls and the attractive flower beds.

Doing things in reverse with his usual originality is Harold Witter. He has already planted an extensive garden--almost like a nursery--in a secluded area near Farmington. He will soon build his new home there where his landscaping is already well under way. Much more will be transplanted later to enhance his location alongside a stream. Notice Harold's wide assortment of trees, shrubs and perennials. He even has a wildflower garden started.

A special treat awaits you when we stop to see the old-fashioned, story book type of garden owned by Marve and Ruth Kuchera in Farmington. Gardens meander around the house, under shady trees, alongside the bubbling Vermillion River. Stop on the little footbridge. Look back over the gardens where birds abound and you'll expect to see Little Red Riding Hood come along with her basket at any minute. Our thanks to Harold Witter for bringing this garden to our attention.

A fitting last stop will be Bachman's Lakeville Greenhouse and Nursery. Breathtaking in its vastness and beauty, it is also unusual for its precision control of growing plants. You will probably see some varieties that you have never before seen. Our Bachman members will be our guide here and will tell you about methods of propagation and culture.

Worthy of a garden club stop in its own right, our dinner will be at Mount Olivet's Retreat Center. The glass-walled dining room affords a spectacular view over Chub Lake. Located on an old farmstead, this new building combines the best of the old area with modern comfort in a spacious activity facility.

Stop right now and fill in that reservation blank.
Mail it, too. It's no good if not mailed.

OVER THE GARDEN FENCE

Gardening must be among the best of retirement hobbies for men for a long list of the most excellent reasons:

Gardening gets one outdoors and physically active. It is very healthy. The bending, and pushing, and lifting gets all those muscles exercised.

As long as we think of the physical with the mental we should note that gardening has a strong "think potential" too.

Gardening can fit into almost any budget from the many thousand dollar annual outlay to those who make it yield a modest profit.

In gardening one begins with what he has, however modest. It requires no prior knowledge and no special skills or aptitudes. Yet gardening can take one as far as he is willing to go in science and technology.

If one can take his gardening inside, this hobby knows no season and can keep one equally active the year around.

Hope and expectation, something to look forward to with pleasure, is what keeps the human spirit alive. Gardening does this as does almost nothing else. There is always another year to correct one's mistakes.

Gardening keeps its practitioners in constant contact with the world in the most meaningful ways. One doesn't lose touch with people. New people constantly visit and inquire and admire--keeping the ego sufficiently inflated. The garden produce shared with friends and neighbors keeps one appreciated. We bring a lot of beauty into the world and into our associations. Obviously through our gardening we get into clubs and shows and tours.

Gardening is a hobby that can be shared with one's partner on equal terms. Gardening helps solve the problem many wives have with retired husbands getting underfoot and in the way.--Out in the yard he isn't such a nuisance. In fact a man who produces flowers and vegetables is to be treated with love and appreciation. Also, gardening provides more amiable conversation.

Gardening can be adjusted to one's present health and strength and may be pursued right up to the grave.

Gardening is broad in its range of activities and interests and excites a number of auxiliary skills, crafts, and interests: carpentry, masonry, plumbing, electricity, art design, tool care, chemistry, literature, poetry, architecture, photography, lecturing, teaching, travel, collecting--You name it.

Maybe our club should actively promote gardening as a retirement hobby in our Twin Cities community. There certainly is no group of men in the entire area better qualified to speak up on the subject or who could better testify to the benefits of gardening for men in retirement. Our motto might be: "Retired? No! I garden."

--Dick Hulbert

Bring a guest. Bring a prospective member.

THE JULY TOUR IN RETROSPECT

Bob Haley emulating the guide on last year's tour to Koopman's in Fari-bault managed to get us lost on the way to Donal O'Donnell's, our first stop. (How anyone ever manages to find anyone in that tangle of street in Edina is a mystery. It outtangles the Washburn area's "Tangletown".

Donal offered for viewing:

- .His home for the ladies in particular.
- .A vegetable garden near the street in the only spot likely to receive much sun. We noted that he is using the new folding tomato cages.
- .A shade garden under big oaks and maples with heavy emphasis on hosta as border plants.
- .A woodland garden lush and tangled with snakeroot, jewelweed and other natives; guaranteed to be damp in dust-dry weather.
- .A patio with bridge-timber steps leading down to the water's edge of facing lake. Potentilla bordered the steps; great pots of geraniums bedecked them. A collection of Christmas cactus reposed under a red cedar to one side of the patio; many more were inside the house.
- .A secluded safe spot for the birds, replete with brush pile and bird-bath, hidden under the trees in a corner of the front yard.

Lyle Buchanan's Japanese garden, his swimming pool and his outdoor living area were, with the aid of bamboo fencing, lilac hedging, etc., as completely secluded as though they were miles from other human habitation. The Japanese garden with its redwood deck, bridges, benches, and garden house; its shallow pool, flowing water dripping over rock ledges; its trimmed pines, junipers, yews had been developed over a period of twelve years we were told. (He stayed around on his birthday to tell us about the characteristics of Japanese gardens.) The garden was a gem which could compete successfully with widely acclaimed and much larger Japanese gardens around the nation.

At Struan Complin's we were struck by the lush, sharply sloping lawn behind the house, (What a grand sliding hill for children in the winter!) by the row of birches along the lot lines uphill; by the magnificent old white oak entwined with woodbine and standing well-in near the house; by the use of white stones to encircle smaller trees in the yard. The stones in turn were bordered with fibrous begonias in variety. Struan, we noted, is planning ahead for fall color. All along the side of the house were pots of chrysanthemums almost hidden under chunks of redwood bark.

Maintenance of the Noerenberg Gardens will be a challenge for the Henne County Park Reserve District but this area needs such a display. Where else could we expect to see stepladder-high meadow rue, big beds of baptisia, a great planting of almost three feet tall ismene in full bloom, a nursery size collection of astilbe venusta, a massed planting of fern leaf peonies? There were also rows of snapdragons held erect by binding twine stretched between green metal pipes, beds of yellow petunias and of miscellaneous other flowers. Then there was the grape arbor with its accompanying tuberous begonias and double flowered impatiens. And, of course, the vista of the lake from the spot where the Noerenberg home once stood!

Tom Jones' rose garden was a riot of color, a viewer's delight, a rose-grower's envy from the compost and pea gravel absolutely weed-free mulch to the miniature roses bordering the beds, to the tree roses with canes

above the standards almost as thick as tree branches. Even Leon Snyder call to come and pick your fill of raspberries failed to lure many away.

That gravel path through the woods and leading to the timber stairway winding down to the lake at Leon Snyder's would have been sufficient reason to visit his home, but most of those on the tour didn't get that far. Some dallied in the vegetable garden with its ripe peas, shoulder high sweet corn, potatoes in flower flanked on the one side by the raspberry patch on the other by the viburnum planting (What a picture that will be when all those viburnum seeds turn red.) Others deterred by the protective soft mud in the vegetable area surveyed the flower garden above the granite boulder wall effective with its white alyssum foreground and tall nicotiana. The recent heavy rains had, unfortunately, broken down the delphiniums. Leon also has an effective corner of the house planting--a bed of fibrous rooted begonias and geraniums centered with big granite boulder and backed by potentilla and juniper.

Bruce Johnstone's house uphill from Snyder's has less of a drainage problem so some of his later vegetables were farther along. There was a bench beside the pea patch. We could envision Bruce sitting there, BB in lap, scaring off the birds. The birds raiding his raspberry patch on July 9th had no wings. We noted that Bruce grows his pole beans on plastic netting. Five varieties of clematis were in flower on a trellis to the south of his house. His flower garden was laid out as usual--numerous small beds within one large bed centered on a large birdbath. The bed purple gayfeather was especially eye-catching.

Dinner at the Arboretum was eye-appealing, tasty and more than ample. Whether that induced some of the men to help clear the tables afterward or whether it was the wrap-around red checked gingham uniforms worn by the youthful waitresses we don't venture to guess.

DRIFT FROM THE SPRAYER

I say Amen to F. A. C. MacCullough who writes in the Houston Texas MGC YARDNER, "Zucchini squash grows so quickly from seeds and sets fruits in such a small size that it is practically indecent. An average zucchini plant will give you at least four tender 1/4 lb. squashes each week for six to eight weeks before it wears itself out or succumbs to insects. One caution about this little green money machine, however; your family and neighbors can absorb only so much zucchini. After that they will begin hiding when they glimpse you coming with another bucket of squash. If you aren't willing to freeze or dry your surplus zucchini, plant on enough to feed your family. Three plants will feed two people."

The Excelsior "Triangle" Flower Planting has been expanded to three projects--it now includes plantings by the Post Office, the Red Owl store and the Police Dept. Linc Aldritt, Bennie Johnsen, Everett Clauson and George Johnston of the Minnetonka MGC are the ones responsible for this city beautification project.

Charles Proctor and Darwin Price will be chairmen of the September MGC Flower and Vegetable Show at the Arboretum.

THRIPS: Keep the developing leaves of gladiolus covered with carbaryl (Sevin) to prevent thrips damage.

MILDEW Control mildew on flowers with sulphur, Karathane, Pipron, Benlate, or Actidione PM through September. Those most troubled are chry-

CONSERVATION PRACTICES AND WARNINGS

WHY DRY GRASS CLIPPINGS? Dry grass clippings are among the most popular mulches for discouraging weeds and reducing the loss of water to evaporation. Drying the clippings from your lawn keeps them from packing down, fermenting and smelling.

If your lawn contains the grasses that spread from runners, spread layer of newspapers or cardboard before mulching with dried clippings, to reduce rerooting. If you spray your lawn grass with weedkillers, compost the clippings before using them in your garden.

SEWAGE SLUDGE PRECAUTIONS Organic gardeners have for years been hauling off sewage sludge from digester plants to spread on their farms and gardens. It appeared to be an eminently thrifty and ecologically sound practice, but recent revelations should make gardeners stop and think about it.

Analyses of sludge from certain large industrialized cities reveal high percentages of heavy metals: cadmium, zinc, lead, etc. in soluble or semisoluble forms. And the notoriously persistent polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB) are showing up in the sludge of certain cities. These toxic chemicals break down so slowly that they can be absorbed from the sludge-treated soil by plants, passed to milk from livestock that feed on the plants, and then to humans. PCB from sludge piled in sanitary landfills can leak into ground water supplies and thus into wells.

The National Garden Bureau, an educational service of the garden seed industry, advises gardeners to ask to see an analysis of any sludge before using it. If toxic heavy metals or PCB show up, don't use it.

We TALK ABOUT BURNING GARBAGE AS A SOURCE OF ENERGY but in Holland today more than 1/3 of the garbage of the entire country is being composted and furnished to the farmers at cost. In perhaps not many years the garbage of the entire country will be preserved for return from whence it came.

NEW MEMBERS SINCE ROSTER WAS PRINTED (Clip and paste in your roster.)

Banovetz, John D. (Jeanne) 5112 Irving Av. S. Mpls., MN 55419	922-9142 339-0304	Hamilton, Ham (Theo) 217 - 9th Av. N. Hopkins, MN 55343	938-8161
Canine, Kent (Etta) 7209 Thomas Av. S. Richfield, MN 55423	861-1149 874-4149	Klobassa, Donald (Teresa) 7404 Bryant Av. S. Richfield, MN 55423	861-1271 482-2931
Fagerlie, Val (Patricia) 1870 N. Sheldon St. Paul, MN 55113	645-7397 456-4609	Schulte, Lou (Kay) 6901 Gleason Circle Edina, MN 55435	944-3261 853-3451
Finsrud, Allen C. (Jeanne) 4717 Brookdale Dr. Mpls., MN 55443	561-7065 647-2415	Welshans, Robert (Candace) 716 E. 58 St. Mpls., MN 55417	822-5331 488-0271

Richardson, Earl M. (Maxine)
7653 Washington Av. S. (Office) 944-2730
Edina, MN 55435

BIG FLOWER and VEGETABLE SHOW at the ARBORETUM
SATURDAY and SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER, 9th and 10th

PREPARING VEGETABLES FOR EXHIBIT

by

Orrin C. Turnquist
Extension Horticulturist

Much has been written on how to do a better job of raising top quality garden produce but little on the selecting and exhibiting part of gardening. Exhibits must be educational to be worthwhile. They must show that better produce is the result of the use of good seed of adapted varieties. They must show what can be produced when improved cultural methods are used and when insects and diseases are controlled.

During the late summer and fall, gardeners have opportunities to show the produce they have grown in their gardens. County and state fairs, and horticultural and garden club shows usually have places for the amateur to exhibit vegetables. To assist the gardener in selecting and preparing the vegetables for exhibit, the following suggestions may be helpful.

ASPARAGUS -- Select straight, dark green spears with tight scales at tip. Should be free of rust, insect injury or other defects. Trim to a uniform length of 6 to 8 inches and tie 12 spears in a bunch with rubber bands or ribbon.

SNAP BEANS -- Wax and green beans should be harvested before the constrictions appear between the seeds, when the seeds are about half grown. The ends of the pods should not be broken off in picking. The pods should be uniform in size, color and quality. The pods may be wiped clean but should not be washed. Avoid showing blemished or wilted specimens.

LIMA BEANS -- Harvest when the seeds are full grown but still tender and before they have changed in color from green to white. Prepare like snap beans.

BEETS, CARROTS, PARSNIPS, TURNIPS, RUTABAGAS -- Root crops should be mature but not over-grown, pithy or coarse in texture. Tops should be trimmed off 1-1½ inches above the crown. Side roots should be carefully trimmed off but not the tap root. Roots may be carefully washed but not scrubbed so that the outer skin is injured.

BROCCOLI -- Although the heads quickly wilt, it is sometimes brought in to exhibits. Heads should be dark or purplish green and compact. Avoid any yellow flowers in the head. Stems should be cut about 5 inches from the top of the head. Specimens should be free from insects or defects.

CABBAGE -- Select firm compact heads that are not soft or withered. Stems should be cut about ½ inch below the head. Remove all blemished or broken leaves but care should be taken not to peel the heads too much. A few outside wrapper leaves are desirable. Specimens may be washed.

CAULIFLOWER -- Heads should be white, compact and free of small leaves and ricey texture. Stems should be cut so as to leave 4 to 6 leaves. These outer leaves should be trimmed to 1-2 inches above the white head. Use a soft bristled brush to remove dirt from the heads. The curds of the head turn brown quickly if damaged.

(continued over)

CELERY -- Remove roots of the stalk and trim the butt to form a triangle or pyramid. Trim off diseased and broken leaves on the outside until the color is uniform. Avoid pithy or woody and stringy stalks.

SWEET CORN -- Select ears that are well filled out to the tip. Kernels should be milky and juicy. Remove outer husks but allow a short shank and the inner husks to remain. Ears should be uniform in size and color. They should be fresh and green and free from insects and disease.

CUCUMBERS -- For pickling select fruits 3-5 inches long. All specimens should be at the same stage of maturity and uniform in size, shape and color. For slicers select fruits that are straight, dark green, and 6 to 10 inches long. They should be uniform in size, shape and color. Do not show over-ripe fruits that are usually dull in color.

EGGPLANT -- Fruits should be of uniform purple color and free from bronzing and greening. Stems should be left on the fruits. Specimens should be wiped clean but not washed. Avoid large or wilted fruits. Dark spots indicate bruises or decay.

KOHLRABI -- The ball should be 2 to 3 inches in diameter with the roots removed just below the ball. Remove all the leaves except the 4 to 6 top leaves and trim them to 2 to 3 inches long. Be sure there are no worms present on the petioles of the remaining leaves. Exhibit three specimens. Often the kohlrabi will be too large, tough, with a poor whitish color. There is also often damage caused by insects. They should be clean but not washed.

LETTUCE -- Some people prefer to exhibit lettuce in a container of water to prevent it from wilting. This usually distracts from the exhibit more than it helps. If the lettuce is picked the night before and kept in a cool area it should be in good condition for showing. The outer older leaves should be removed and only fresh crisp well colored leaves exhibited. It should be exhibited as an entire plant rather than individual leaves. Only one plant is required.

MUSKMELONS -- Harvest fruits when they separate easily from the vines. Specimens should be free of soft spots, mechanical injuries and discoloration. They should be wiped clean but not washed.

ONIONS -- Have specimens mature and thoroughly cured. The neck should be small. Do not peel to give a slick appearance. Only such outer scales that are broken or discolored should be removed. Small basal roots should be left intact but trimmed to a uniform length of $\frac{1}{2}$ inch. Wipe or brush but do not wash.

TABLE ONIONS -- These are exhibited as green onions. Trim the tops to 3 inches long so the overall length should be 6 to 8 inches. Have 12 onions tied in the middle. The roots are trimmed to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch length. In some cases the wrapper skin is removed to expose the long white shank. This is generally done just before showing as it often discolors if it stands too long. The general diameter of the onions should be $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in diameter. They should be straight with a white stem and dark green leaves. The bulbs should not be enlarged. Some of the usual faults include crooked poor colored stems, dry or discolored leaves, and bulbs enlarged or too small.

(Continued Page 9)

PEAS -- Select bright green, well filled pods with seeds at the best eating stage. Do not wash as "bloom" should be preserved. Exhibit 12 pods with stems attached.

PEPPERS -- Select specimens that are uniform in size, shape and color. They should be free of disease or other defects. Stems should be left $\frac{1}{2}$ - 1 inch long. Wipe clean but do not wash the fruits.

POTATOES -- Tubers should be uniform in size, shape and color. Washing is permitted but do not blemish the skin by scrubbing. Avoid specimens with defects or disease.

PUMPKINS -- Specimens should be mature and uniform in size, shape and color. Stems should be attached to the fruits. Wipe clean but do not wash.

RADISH -- The radish should be prepared by removing any discolored or injured leaves. The roots should be washed and tied in bunches of 12. They should be kept refrigerated until ready to exhibit. Only fresh, firm, crisp, good colored, smooth, and roots free of blemishes should be shown. Some of the common faults include spongy, wilted, or poorly colored roots. They should not be exhibited without the leaves.

RHUBARB -- The stalk should be pulled from the plant and the leaves trimmed so only 2 inches of the leaf blade remain attached to the petiole or leaf stalk. Only 3 stalks need to be exhibited in the 4-H Exhibit. The stalks should be straight, free of any blemishes and should have a good color. The faces of the leaf stalk should be clean and free of any soil.

SPINACH -- This vegetable is less succulent than leaf lettuce. However, some people still prefer to show it in a jar of water to prevent it from wilting. The best way is to display the entire plant with the roots removed. Trim the roots $\frac{1}{2}$ inch from the bottom leaf. Be sure the leaves are clean, fresh and crisp. They should also be well colored and free from blemishes. Spinach is often wilted and poor colored together with insect damaged leaves.

SUMMER SQUASH -- Select small to medium size fruits when the rind is soft and easily punctured with thumbnail. Select specimens that are uniform in size, shape and color. Leave about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch of stem and wipe fruits clean.

WINTER SQUASH -- Select mature specimens where the rind resists the pressure of the thumbnail. Fruits should be uniform in size, shape and color and free of defects. Leave stems attached to the fruits.

SWISS CHARD -- Select plants that are fresh, crisp, and have bright green leaves. Trim off roots and trim butts to a pyramid shape. Exhibit like celery.

TOMATOES -- Select fruits that are uniform in size, shape and color. Remove stems. Fruits should be perfectly shaped and free of cracks or blemishes.

WATERMELON -- Fruits should be mature but not overripe. Leave one inch of stem on each melon. Wipe but do not wash.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR. SATURDAY and SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 9; and 10
These are the dates for the MGCM Annual Flower and Vegetable Show at the
We expect and hope every member will become a real exhibitor.

Rev. RICHARD HULBERT
3422 Xerxes Avenue No.
Minneapolis, Mn. 55412



FIRST CLASS

William H. Hull
6833 Creston Road
Edina, MN 55435

MARK YOUR CALENDAR. SATURDAY and SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 8 and 10
here are the dates for the 1973 and 1974 Minneapolis Show at the
the event and every member will receive a first exhibit.