

The Garden Spray

AUGUST 1979, Volume 37, Number 8

THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB
OF MINNEAPOLIS

WELCOMES YOU TO THE

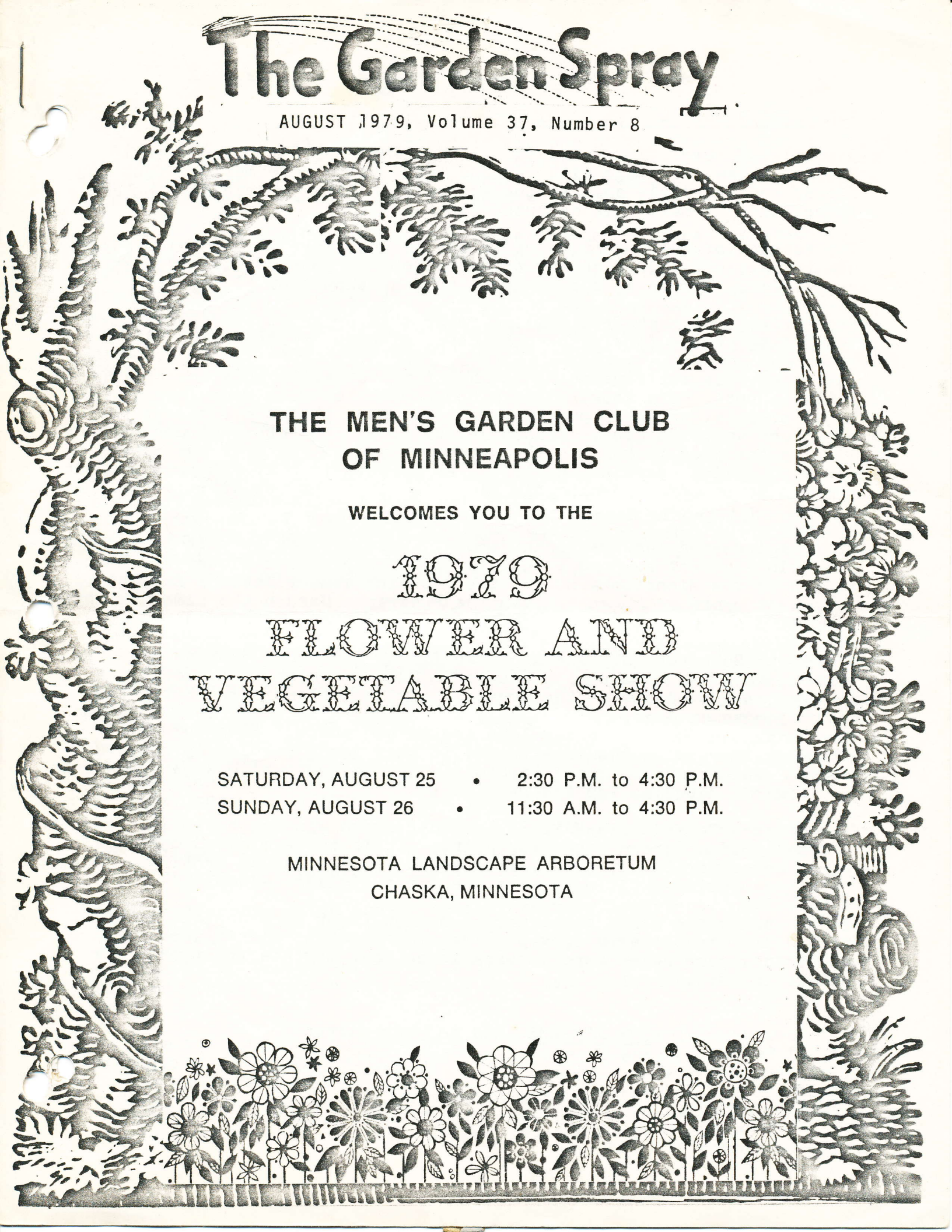
1979

FLOWER AND
VEGETABLE SHOW

SATURDAY, AUGUST 25 • 2:30 P.M. to 4:30 P.M.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 26 • 11:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

MINNESOTA LANDSCAPE ARBORETUM
CHASKA, MINNESOTA



DRIFT FROM THE SPRAYER

OPEN LETTER FROM WALTER SCHMIDT

"Dear Club Member: You received a letter from Bob Smith and Charlie Proctor a few weeks ago with new and interesting information about our flower and vegetable show at the arboretum. Plan to join the fun and competition to make this an outstanding show.

"The success of this event is up to all of us. Make up your mind right now to participate. Plan now to enter some of your quality flowers and vegetables. Here's to the biggest and best show ever."

Stan Crist just back from Holland reports surprise at finding flowers and foliage there fine with no evidence of bugs or diseases.

Chet Groger is retiring so he'll have time to garden on a more extensive scale. Hence, he's looking for a house with, or with room for, a greenhouse or solarium to propagate, grow and house the more exotic types of plants he wants to grow. Meanwhile, he hopes some other gardening couple will be the ones to buy his present property and "inherit our many perennials, lilies, peonies and iris", as he puts it. If you know someone who has a yen for gardening tip him off. It might result in a new MGCM member.

June 21 I weeded the Fragrance Garden. From a block away it looked colorful; close up not so good especially after seeing the flower bed maintained by the Minnetonka MGC at the shopping center east of Excelsior. In recent years we haven't given the Fragrance Garden the time and attention it deserves. Are we expecting the garden chairman to do it all?

The North Suburban MGC maintains two flower plantings just as does the Minnetonka MGC. This spring the North Suburban members replaced the colored cement blocks at the Crystal City Hall planting with treated cedar landscape logs. Minneapolis MGC needs to do some replacing, too. The Fragrance Garden planter logs are in bad shape. We should start now planning to rebuild them next year, if they don't completely rot away first. We have a Fragrance Garden savings account which would go a long way towards material for the rebuilding.

The Houston Texas MGC's YARDNER, another award winning bulletin, has been mimeographed on green paper for years. It is to be mimeoed on white paper hereafter to cut costs. Ten years ago the GARDEN SPRAY gave up it's green printed title on page one for a similar reason.

If you think the SPRAY has a permanent new front page design you are mistaken. The prepared copy provided for page one didn't look right on a vertical page so we superimposed it on last month's front page for better balance.

NEW MEMBERS (Add to your roster)

Ketcham, James R.
9107 W. 154 St.
Prior Lake, MN.

447-5771

55372

Prosser, Edmund
4130 Upton Av. S.
Mpls., MN. 55410

920-2308

SEED PRODUCTION, PART III. VEGETABLE SEEDS, FINE
by Laurence W. Corbett

Within the category of fine seeds we find annuals, biennials, and perennials. The biennials and perennials are one of the largest, most varied and interesting groups. As with the coarse seeds special machinery has been developed to harvest certain crops. For example, the seed parts of radish must be crushed before the seed will come out.

Radish, like beans, peas and corn, is an annual. It can be grown in many areas; but commercially U. S. production is now concentrated in California, Washington, Wyoming and Idaho. These are irrigated areas. Seed is planted in rows. If the growing area is very windy the plants are allowed to ripen and dry, then are combined direct. In most areas, however, the plants are cut, windrowed, dried and then threshed. The cleaning of the seed requires clipper mills with various screen sizes, and air pressure, gravity mills and indent sizers to remove odd shaped pieces.

Carrots, cabbage, beets, onions and turnips are good examples of biennials. The edible root or head is produced the first year. The second year the seed stalk develops, flowers appear, are fertilized and seed is formed. There are several factors that trigger the formation of seed stalks. Genetics plays a part but temperature exposure is one of the most important. The age of the plants and length of daylight all contribute. You often wonder why your early planted carrots, beets or onions go to seed the first year instead of the second year. The work of Dr. H. C. Thompson on celery gives us several answers.

Seed from the same lot planted in different months and exposed to normal temperatures gave entirely different results. In the commercial production of celery, growers had experienced "bolting" or seed stalk formation in certain years on early planted fields. This made a large percentage of the plants (stalks) unsalable. Thompson's experiment proved that celery exposed to a certain number of days of chill or cool weather had the rest period broken and would react as though they had been through their normal two year cycle. Celery (seed) planted in December, carried in a cold frame, planted into the field in April or May will have 100% of the plants go to seed. The same seed if planted in April, carried in a frame, then transferred to the field will not bolt.

In certain years early planted carrots and beets will have a percentage of "bolters" that do not form a usable root. This is caused by exposure to prolonged temperatures below 40° Fahrenheit.

Genetical construction and selection are very important. Prior to World War I the United States imported most of it's sugar beet seed. The big bulk came from Germany and the Netherlands. When this source was cut off the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the beet sugar industry started a crash program to develop American varieties and to produce seed.

To save time by getting more generations per year this work was done in Arizona and southern California. The breeding project called for increase in sugar content, increased tonnage and resistance to white fly injury (curley top). The breeding program was carried out under very favorable conditions. However, the seed thus produced when planted in northern California, Idaho, and Utah had a high percentage of "bolters".

(continued over)

If the work had been done under greater stress a selection could have been made for non-bolters. There is a great difference in individual plant lines as to bolting and non-bolting.

In the production of seed of carrots, beets, and most biennials the parent seed is planted either in seed beds or direct to the field. The old method was to plant beds where the roots were allowed to develop. The beds would be dug, the roots sorted for color and shape and then stored (if necessary) or transplanted to the seed fields in early spring. The roots were spaced so that one acre of seed bed would give eight to twelve or more acres of seed production. The tendency today is to cut labor costs by seeding direct to the seed field where possible then to thin by chopping out plants for spacing. This uses more stock seed and is practical only where winters are sufficiently mild to avoid winter kill.

In the second year the roots, transplanted or not, will develop seed stalks, flower and set seed. When the seed is ripe the plants are pulled and placed in small piles to cure and dry so the seed can be threshed. In certain areas plants can be allowed to stand until dry enough to thresh. Once the plants have been through the thresher the problem is to clean the seed. The process is similar to that used for annuals, viz: use of screens of various sizes, wind, weight differentials or whatever else is needed to obtain clean, pure seed.

Man has changed many vegetables. Among these is cabbage. We have bred and selected for more compact solid heads with short cores. Some of our selections are so compact that the seed stalk cannot emerge. In situations like this the heads are cut four ways so as to allow the seed stalk to come through. In commercial production the planting schedule is arranged so that the plants go into winter about half grown. By spring they have enough maturity and have been exposed to cool temperatures so that the rest period is broken and the plants will go to seed.

When I first came into the trade it was felt that you could not grow cabbage seed in California. Research at Davis, California, (U. of California College of Agriculture) proved otherwise. Plant heads are started earlier so plants are more mature but the main problem is to grow in areas where the plants will be exposed to a long period of cool weather to break the rest cycle. I have seen a field of turnips in southern California that was over a year old. The turnips were as big as your head but not a single seed stalk.

One problem in seed production is seed shattering. To obtain the most seed plants have to be harvested when about twenty five percent of the seed is ripe. This means that there is very high moisture in the stems of the plant. The moisture must be reduced or the plants will not go through a combine or threshing machine. A heavy rain can ruin the seed. It may shatter out of the heads or sprout in the pods. A heavy wind can roll the plants and actually thresh the seed, losing the seed onto the ground.

Beet seed holds pretty well. Carrot shatters rather easily. Onion heads must be cut when the first black seed shows and placed on canvas racks or the best seed will be lost. The investment in canvas sheets is very substantial but is necessary for easy shattering seed. (Canvas sheets are used in large numbers for saving flower seed.)

(concluded on page 5)

In the production of seed of perennials you run into problems of lack of concentration of set. Chives can have mature seed heads and fresh flowers in the same patch. Many of the herbs are similar. To save seed of these species you resort to hand picking. This has to be done every day or at least every few days. Hand labor is expensive.

The problems of cleaning seed are the same whether hand picked or machine harvested. The problems are usually increased by machine harvesting. The best seed is obtained by careful study of the likes and dislikes and of the behavior of each variety of plant grown for seed.

AND YOU DON'T HAVE TO TURN IT DOWN OR UP

For comfort in your home, would you buy an air conditioner and air purifier all wrapped up in one package and perfectly silent? There is one available in many different sizes and colors. Cost of maintenance is practically nil and it is guaranteed not to become obsolete through American genius or technology. It will last many times longer than any other air conditioner on the present market.

It has a net cooling capacity, on the average, equivalent to ten room-size air conditioners in operation 20 hours per day. It will in no way add to the electrical energy crisis now faced by the nation.

According to Soil Conservation Service scientists, a tree will cool the air beneath its canopy as much as 20 degrees through the process of evaporation--and even more important, the tree turns carbon dioxide into oxygen.

One physicist has determined that a healthy tree will absorb enough carbon dioxide in one day and produce enough breathable oxygen at the same time to offset the effect of one man's breathing process during the same day.

You already have one? Fine! If not put one or two in this fall to protect the south and west exposures of your house. And, remember a dwarf tree won't do.

GO EASY ON THAT HOSE: The best solution is to wait until the soil becomes dry enough for the plant to wilt slightly. Soak the soil thoroughly and deeply, and then wait until it dries before watering again. The soil will dry from the top down and, as it does, will encourage deep root development to reach the water. Plants with such deep roots will be capable of withstanding considerable drought.

Gardeners who "sprinkle" their lawns and gardens every evening are encouraging roots near the surface and, in the long run, are asking for trouble.

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The passerby who stops to admire your garden might be interested in MGCM. Talk to him about it.

Did you enjoy an article in the SPRAY? Tell the author.

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

This year I get the last word in the August SPRAY. After you read this letter all you have to do is unclip the attached pages of show entry sheets and get to work.

My thanks to Dwight Stone and Dave Johnson for the fine job they did in organizing the July tour. Everyone enjoyed themselves very much. The ice cream cone after dinner made the occasion even more enjoyable. The whole affair will be a real challenge to Fred Glasoe in September.

In other years we've scheduled a regular meeting on the Saturday afternoon of the Flower Show. This meeting has been poorly attended so none has been planned for 1979. Instead, attendance at the show will be counted toward the Green Thumb award. Here's how it will work.

There will be two ways to be counted present. One, and far more preferable, is to enter something in the show. Two, if you choose not to enter, you must attend the show. If you choose the second option, it becomes your responsibility to make your presence known to the MGCM host at the hour you attend. Be sure he marks you present on the attendance list. If you have any questions, please call me.

I attended my first flower show two years ago. None of my stuff was good enough to compete with that of Bob Smith and the other outstanding vegetable growers in the club. However, when I got to the show I noticed that my NK 199 was just as good as Bob's. My snap beans, in my opinion, were superior to the ones that had ribbons on them.

I then encountered another club member who shall remain nameless, (his initials are D. V. and he's secretary of the club) who embarrassed me into entering the following year.

You will recall that last year was a very poor growing year and that there was a bad storm just prior to the show. As I viewed my garden in an effort to select show material the old "my stuff isn't good enough" thought obsessed me. However, I knew that that same nameless MGCM member would be waiting for me and that the harassment would be unbearable. So, I set about collecting the best from what was available.

I am happy to report that I won some ribbons. I also found out that the poor growing year had had an effect on everyone so I was not alone with less than perfect specimens. Just think, if that one nameless member could each year embarrass one more non-participating member into entering in one hundred years we would have perfect attendance. And, if each year every participant were to encourage just one non-participant into entering, we'd have 100+% participation in five years.

Support the show! See you there.

--Bob Gage

P.S. Remember the two new classes for this show: 1) Adult non-members--relatives, neighbors, friends; 2) Children under age 16. The new classes will use the regular schedule of entries; the material must have been grown by the exhibitors; each non-member exhibitor must be sponsored by a member, who will be responsible for acquainting him with the rules of procedure. In the case of children, the sponsoring member must be ready to give any assistance required in the preparation and making of entries.

MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS
1979 FLOWER AND VEGETABLE SHOW
SATURDAY, AUGUST 25 AND SUNDAY, AUGUST 26

RULES FOR EXHIBITORS

1. Show Classes
 - A. Children's Class- a child sponsored by a member. The sponsor must be available to assist the entrant in staging his horticultural material. This class will be broken up by age; under 11 years of age and 11 through 15. This class cannot compete for Court of Honor or National Awards.
 - B. Members Class- a member of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis or a member of a club especially invited to participate.
 - C. Open Class- a member or non-member over 16 years of age. This class cannot compete for Court of Honor or National Awards.
2. Exhibits may be entered and registered at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, Chaska, Minn., from 8:00 a. m. to 11:30 a. m., Saturday, August 25, 1979. Judging will begin at 12:00 noon.
3. No one will be permitted in the exhibition room during the judging, except members of the judging committee.
4. No exhibits may be removed until after 4:30 p. m., Sunday, August 26, except by permission of the show committee.
5. Identification of each competing entry will be by official registration tag upon which the name of the exhibitor will be concealed until after the judging has taken place. Entry tags will be color coded for each class.
6. Each exhibitor will be required to fill out a registration and scoring sheet to be delivered to the clerk in charge.
7. Exhibitors are not limited in the number of entries they may make in each class. Exhibitors may make more than one entry in each class provided that each entry is of a different variety and the name of the variety is specified on the entry tag, as in Dahlias, Roses, Tomatoes, etc. When varieties exist (unnamed) in color only, the color must be specified on the entry tag and an entry may be made in each color, as in Tuberous Begonias, Phlox, Zinnias, etc. Additional class numbers will be assigned by the staging committee at the exhibit table as needed. In miscellaneous classes, new numbers may be assigned if three or more entries of a species have been made and two or more are meritorious.
8. Judging will be strictly on the merits of the entry and more than one place may be awarded to an exhibitor in a class provided the Rule 7 is complied with.
9. Awards will be made on the merits of the entries and if in any class there are no entries worthy of awards, the judges may withhold any or all awards.
10. Section A entries will be exhibited in containers available at the Landscape Arboretum and at other designated locations. Section C entries will be exhibited on paper plates provided by the exhibitor.
11. Permanent trophies will be awarded to the winner of the greatest number of points based on 3 for first, 2 for second, and 1 for third and the Grand Champion in Sections A and B combined and in Section C. The Blackburn Award will be made to the member attaining the greatest number of points in Sections A and B combined. The Tom Foley Memorial Award will be made to the member attaining the greatest number of points in Section C.
12. Court of Honor Awards will be made to members with particularly meritorious exhibits in Sections

Rules for Exhibitors
(continued)

A, B, C. (5 in Section A, 3 in Section B, and 5 in Section C).

13. National Awards will be made to the particularly meritorious Rose and Pepper exhibits shown by a member.
14. All exhibits must have been grown and prepared for exhibition by the exhibitor. Assistance may be rendered in the area of exhibition preparation to entrants in the Children's Class.
15. The show will be open Saturday, August 25 from 2:30 p. m. to 4:30 p. m. and Sunday, August 26 from 11:30 a. m. to 4:30 p. m.. Everything including containers and personal property must be removed between 4:30 p. m. and 5:30 p. m. on August 26, 1979.

IMPORTANT! READ CAREFULLY

1. Make a thorough study of both the "Schedule of Entries" and the "Rules for Exhibitors", particularly Rule number 7.
2. The registration and scoring sheet is your personal registration blank. Aery important.
3. On the upper right hand corner of the Registration and scoring sheet appears your personal Exhibitor's Number which will be entered by the Registration Clerk. Print your name and the name of your club plainly underneath this number.
4. Indicate the number of actual entries in the "No. of Entries" column using Class Number as per "Schedule of Entries" including all of the sub entries under the main class numbers.
5. File this sheet, when fully completed, with the Registration Clerk when you enter your exhibit.
6. On each entry tag used, print your personal "Exhibitors Number" and your name and the class number. Conceal your name by folding the tag and clipping the undercut.
7. When known, print the name of the variety of specimen on the entry tag.
8. After your entries have been listed file the Registration Sheet with the Registration Clerk not later than 11:45 a. m. Saturday, August 25. Your cooperation in getting entries in well before the deadline will be appreciated.

To make the show a success we will need all of the flower and vegetable exhibits that you will have time to prepare and enter in a wide variety of colors and species. Your attention again is called to Rule 7. Prior to judging the staging committee will subdivide classes where large numbers are entered. Example: Class 2, Aster, could end up 2A Aster, 2B Aster, red; 2C Aster, white; etc.

"Good Luck"

MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS

1979 FLOWER AND VEGETABLE SHOW

SCHEDULE OF FLOWER ENTRIES

SECTION A

CLASS NUMBER

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------|----------------------------------|------------|
| 1 African Daisy | 3 blooms | 37 Lily | 1 stalk |
| 2 Aster | 3 blooms | 38 Lupine | 1 stem |
| 3 Balsam | 1 stalk | 39 Lythryum* | 3 stems |
| 4 Begonia-Tuber- Rose* | 1 bloom | 40 Marigold- 2½" and over | 3 blooms |
| 5 Begonia-Tuber-Carnation* | 1 bloom | 41 Marigold- under 2½" | 3 blooms |
| 6 Begonia-Tuber-Others* | 1 bloom | 42 Pansy- not Viola* | 3 blooms |
| (4, 5, 6, no leaves) | | 43 Passion Vine | 1 branch |
| 7 Begonia- Fibrous* | 1 branch | (Branch not over 36" | |
| 8 Calliopsis* | 1 branch | Exhibitor provide support) | |
| 9 Canna | 1 spike | 44 Petunia-double | 1 branch |
| 10 Celosia-Plumed | 1 stalk | 45 Petunia-grand. | 1 branch |
| 11 Celosia- Crested | 1 stalk | 46 Petunia-single mult. | 1 branch |
| 12 Chrysanthemum | 1 spray | 47 Phlox-Annual* | 3 branches |
| 13 Chrysanthemum-Spoon or Quill | 1 spray | 48 Phlox-Perennial* | 1 spike |
| 14 Chrysanthemum-Exposition | 1 bloom | 49 Rose-Hybrid Tea | 1 bloom |
| 15 Clematis | 1 branch | A-Red C-White E-Orange & Apricot | |
| (Branch not over 36" | | B-Pink D-Yellow F-Bicolor | |
| Exhibitor provide support) | | 50 Rose-Floribundia-Poly.* | 1 spike |
| 16 Cleome | 1 stalk | A-Red C-White E-Orange & Apricot | |
| 17 Coleus- Foliage | 1 stalk | B-Pink D-Yellow F-Bicolor | |
| 18 Coreopsis* | 5 blooms | 51 Rose-Grandiflora* | 1 spike |
| Cosmos* | 5 blooms | 52 Rose-Miniature* | 1 stem |
| 20 Dahlia- AA or A | 1 bloom | 53 Rose-Climber | 1 stem |
| A-Cactus C-Formal | | 54 Rudbeckia-Gloriosa Daisy | 3 blooms |
| B-Semi-Cactus D-Informal | | 55 Salpiglossis | 3 stems |
| 21 Dahlia- B | 1 bloom | 56 Salvia-Annual | 3 stalks |
| A-Cactus C-Formal | | 57 Salvia-Perennial | 3 blooms |
| B-Semi-Cactus D-Informal | | 58 Shasta Daisy* | 3 blooms |
| 22 Dahlia- BB, Miniature, Pom Pom | 3 blooms | 59 Snapdragon | 3 spikes |
| 23 Dahlia- Unwin, Colt | 3 blooms | A-Standard | |
| 24 Delphinium | 1 spike | B-Butterfly | |
| 25 Dianthus- Pinks* | 5 blooms | 60 Verbena | 3 branches |
| 26 Carnation-Garden* | 3 blooms | 61 Veronica | 3 stalks |
| 27 Digitalis | 1 stem | 62 Zinnia | 3 blooms |
| 28 Gaillardia* | 3 blooms | A Large Dahlia | |
| 29 Heliopsis* | 3 blooms | B Cactus | |
| 30 Hemerocallis- Day Lilly | 1 branch | C All other | |
| 31 Hibiscus | 1 bloom | 63 Geranium | 1 stalk |
| (Furnish own container) | | 64 Miscellaneous Annual | |
| 32 Heuchera- Coral Bells* | 3 stems | 65 Miscellaneous Perennial | |
| 33 Hollyhock | 1 stem | | |
| 34 Hosta | 1 stem | | |
| 35 Lathyrus-Perennial Sweet Pea* | 5 stems | | |
| 36 Liatris | 1 stem | | |

* Denotes specimen to be shown in a pink container.

SCHEDULE OF POTTED PLANTS AND HANGING BASKETS
SECTION B

CLASS NUMBER

| | | | |
|---|-------------------|--|--------|
| 66 Begonia- A-Wax B-Rex | Potted | 82 African Violet Miniatures A-Blues & Purples B-White C-Pinks & Reds | potted |
| 67 Begonia-Tuberous | Potted | 83 Episcia | potted |
| 68 Begonia | Hanging Basket | 84 Streptocarpus and other Gesneriads | potted |
| 69 Ferns | Potted or Hanging | 85 Orchids | potted |
| 70 Asparagus Ferns | Potted or Hanging | A- Cattleya B- Paphiopedilum C- Phalaenopsis D- All others | |
| 71 Succulents A-non-needed B-needed C-Aloes | Potted | 86 Terrariums & Dish Gardens | |
| 72 Palms | Potted | 87 Bonsai | |
| 73 Ficus | Potted | 88 Vining Foliage Plants A- potted B- hanging baskets | |
| 74 Dieffenbachia | Potted | 89 Miscellaneous Potted House Plants | |
| 75 Prayer Plant (Maranta) | Potted | 90 Miscellaneous non-vining house plants in hanging baskets | |
| 76 Aralia, Croton, Fatsia | Potted | | |
| 77 Schefflera | Potted | | |
| 78 Dracaena | Potted | | |
| 79 Norfolk Pine | Potted | | |
| 80 Gloxinia | Potted | | |
| 81 African Violets A- Blues & Purples B- White C- Pinks & Reds | Potted | | |

SCHEDULE OF VEGETABLE ENTRIES
SECTION C

| | | | |
|--|-------------|---|-------------|
| 101 Beans (in pod A Green B Wax C Lima | 12 | 116 Potatoes A White B Red C Russet | 5 |
| 102 Beets-table | 5 | 117 Pumpkin A Small pie B Field & Big Max | 1 |
| 103 Broccoli | 1 head | 118 Squash A Summer B Winter | 3 1 |
| 104 Brussel Sprouts | 12 | 119 Tomato A Red B Yellow C Small Preserving | 3 3 6 |
| 105 Cabbage | 1 head | 120 Watermelon | 1 |
| 106 Carrots | 5 | 121 Any vegetable not listed | |
| 107 Cauliflower | 1 head | 122 Apples A Standard B Crab | 3 6 |
| 108 Corn-Sweet A Yellow B White C Bicolor | 3 ears | 123 Grapes | 3 bun. |
| 109 Cucumber A Slicing B Pickling (below 5") | 3 6 | 124 Pears | 3 |
| 110 Eggplant | 1 | 125 Plums | 6 |
| 111 Kohlrabi | 3 | 126 Raspberries | 1 pt |
| 112 Muskmelon | 1 | 127 Strawberries | 1 p |
| 113 Onion A Yellow; B White; C Red | 3 | 128 Any fruit not listed | |
| 114 Parsnips | 3 | | |
| 115 Peppers A Sweet green B Long hot C Any other pepper | 3 6 3 | | |

THE GARDEN SPRAY
Men's Garden Club of Mpls.
5315 Oakland Ave
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN. 55417



THIRD CLASS

William H. Hull
6833 Creston Road
Edina, MN 55435