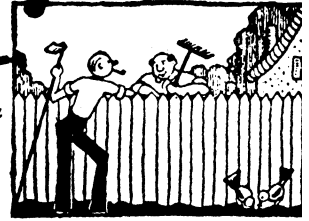




# The Garden Spray

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

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



December 1972, Column 30, Number 12.

COMING NEXT TUESDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 5, 1972.

## ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

PARADE OF TURKEYS

ANNUAL AWARDS

GARDEN SLIDES

MOUNT OLIVET LUTHERAN CHURCH  
50TH STREET AND KNOX AVE. SO.

Dinner: 6:45 PM Sharp (Punch Bowl: 6:15)

Price: \$4.50 per person Guests Invited

By reservation only

Hurry the word to Cliff Brisco  
Call him at 922-8118

The North Suburban and the Richfield MGC members have this year been invited to join us in this holiday event.

WIVES NOTE:

HOW TO PRESERVE A HUSBAND..

Be careful of your selection; do not choose too young, and take only such varieties as have been reared in good moral atmosphere. When once decided upon and selecte let that part remain forever settled, and give your entire thought to preparation for domestic use. Some insist on keeping them in pickle, while others are constantly getting them in hot water. Even poor varieties may be made sweet, tender and good, by garnishing them with patience, well sweetened with smiles, and flavored with kisses to taste; then wrap well with a steady fire of domestic devotion, and serve with peaches and cream. When thus prepared they will keep for years.

-Aunt Hannah's Jubilee Cook Book - 1887

## FOR HUSBANDS ONLY

Christmas is coming. It's high time you gave some tender loving attention to you wife, so BRING HER TO OUR CHRISTMAS PARTY. She'll love you for it.

THE GARDEN SPRAY - The Bulletin of the Men's Garden Club of Minneapolis, Inc.

December 1973, Volume 30, Number 12.

Editor: Edwin C. Culbert

5315 Portland Ave., Minneapolis, Mn.

Editorial Staff: Robert E. Smith

Phillip H. Smith and Donald Wilson

Deadline for material: the 22nd  
OF EACH MONTH

Club Officers:

President: Roger J. Anderson

Vice President: Carl J. Holst

Secretary: John E. Lillibrige

Treasurer: Clifton Brisco



1973 Board Pictured

Lillibrige, Anderson, Wilson, Holst, Halvorson, Perrin and Livingston

THE NOVEMBER MEETING

Facing Bob Smith's superb display table of huge potatoes, carrots and onion on stage by Walter Menzel's Sacred Lily of the Nile bulbs and Tony Wick's black pansies potted in a hollowed out pumpkin 52 members, 4 guests and "Pa" (Mrs. Charles) Barger sat down to dinner at our November 14th meeting.

Following dinner and after the vegetables were auctioned off (top price was for 3 white sweet Spanish onions which went to Dwight Stone, auctioneer) officers for 1973 were elected. Unopposed as candidates were: Carl Holst, president; Henry Halvorson, vice president; Robert Livingston, secretary; James Perrin, treasurer; John Lillibrige and Donald Wilson, directors. Roger Anderson will automatically join the group as immediate past-president.

Then Mrs. Barger charmed us with her witty, slide illustrated chronological on how a group of garden club women's dream developed into a \$100,000 project \$76,000 already contributed.

The Normandale Japanese Garden now being constructed on the campus of Normandale Junior College has been designed in the authentic tradition by Takao Watanabe, landscape architect with the Tokyo Metropolitan Government. Dr. Leon Snyder, Director of the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum will help Mr. Watanabe make the selection of plant materials that will withstand our Minnesota winters.

The 2 acre garden includes a portion of 20 acre natural pond area. The remaining acres will be left in its natural state. The plans include strolling paths, bridges, stone lanterns, fountains, shelters, a waterfall and flowering shrubs and trees. The garden, the only one of its kind in the upper midwest, will be open to the public.

All contributions will be used for the actual construction of the garden, the promotion of the project and to bring Mr. Watanabe to the United States with funds directly from the Bloomington Garden Clubs. The college will maintain the garden in the authentic Japanese manner after it is constructed.

## ROGER'S REFLECTIONS

I can hardly believe the year is at its end and this will be my last attempt at preparing a message for you as your president. I want to thank you all for giving me this opportunity to serve you and to express my appreciation to all of you for the cooperation and assistance you so willingly gave throughout the year.

Also, I want to extend a special thanks to the members who performed outstandingly as committee chairmen during the year. You are the ones who make this another in a long line of successful years for our Club. At the risk of slighting some, I would like to credit a few individuals for their part in our effort this year: Carl Holst provided all those exceptional programs; Ed Culbert continued his outstanding work on the SPRAY; Bob Smith and Charlie Proctor kept up with tradition in organizing a bigger and better auction; Bud Christensen couldn't have done better in arranging the tours (maybe he could have done something about some warmer weather.); Phil Smith, a great job in chairing the nominating committee which came up with an outstanding slate of new officers; Dave Johnson for continuing his hard work in keeping the Fragrance Garden in top shape throughout the year; Al Nelson for judging and keeping score on the monthly flower shows; Dwight Stone for hospitality at meetings and his top dollar auctioneering; and Cliff Brisco for keeping us solvent during the era of great inflation.

I am pleased to announce your Board has approved the membership applications of four well qualified individuals. They are: Harold Sievers, Statistician for Northwestern Bell, sponsored by Bob Gage; Leonard Brenny, teacher, sponsored by Henry Halvorson; Dr. Harold Nathanson, physician, sponsored by Nate Siegel and Orrin Turnquist, Professor of Horticultural Science, U of M., sponsored by Bob Smith. Incidentally, Orrin is a former member of our Club and the father-in-law of another new member this year, Todd Bachman. Congratulations fellows, we're glad to have you with us.

We are disappointed to learn that NSP's facilities will not be available for our use next year in publishing the SPRAY. This will mean an additional amount of work for Ed Culbert in locating another resource. It will also raise our costs considerably since NSP has volunteered this service for years. We have been very fortunate to have had this service, so many thanks to NSP for their generosity.

The December issue of the Gardener gave me a pleasant surprise. Thought it was our SPRAY for a minute. Three of the major articles were written by members, Phil Smith, Cliff Brisco and Bruce Johnstone. Nice job, boys! It's good to see our membership contributing in such a large way to a national publication.

Thanks to Sherm Pinkham for his persistence in making our drive for the National Landscape Improvement Fund a success. As a result of Sherm's efforts, two hundred dollars was collected.

See you at the Christmas Party, December 5th. Bob Voigt has a great evening planned for you.

-Roger Anderson

Sherm Pinkham got his wish. The Board added the sum needed to bring MGCM's contribution to the National Headquarters Landscaping Fund up to \$200.00. Unfortunately the never absent Sherm wasn't at the November meeting to hear about it nor to receive "the stinker" lily bulbs Walter Menzel brought for him. Sherm was midway in a two week hospital stay.

## NOTES FROM THE BERRY PATCH

by Bob Smith

Blackberries - The blackberry is the king of berries in my estimation. It has everything going for it including exceptional sweetness, good flavor, aroma and large size (about 1 inch long by  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch diameter). This berry should not be confused with the black raspberry usually called "black cap" which is more commonly grown in our area and which is much smaller in size.

Blackberry culture and habits are the same as those of the red raspberry. They propagate from root suckers and bear fruit biennially on wintered over canes. The canes are larger and stiffer than red raspberry canes and have prickles more like black raspberries requiring gloves to handle. Their biggest drawback, however, lack of hardiness which makes winter covering a must in Minnesota to produce fruit.

I became acquainted with this berry through my dad. He was raised in Indiana where they grew in abundance both wild and tame. He wanted to recapture the pleasure of fresh blackberry cobbler, etc. from his youth and became quite successful in growing blackberries at his lake cabin in Aitkin county. There we cleared an area of hardwood forest which proved very suitable for growing berries. His success stimulated me to try them in my garden and after a few years with the help of a netting enclosure to keep away the birds, I was able to harvest some bumper crops. Blackberries must be fully ripened on the vine and this is usually not possible without protection from birds. It is the last couple of days in the ripening process that transforms this berry from one of mediocre taste to one of the juiciest, sweetest and finest flavored berries of them all. They are great eaten fresh off the vine, or with milk, in pies or cobblers, as jam or jelly, in or on ice cream and in any other way that a berry can be eaten.

Alfred, one of the hardiest varieties, proved to be dependable, disease resistant and of good quality for us. There are many new varieties listed in the nursery catalogs. I met my downfall when I tried one of them. At the end of the second year when it began bearing fruit, I found it to be very inferior. The new variety was so well integrated into the patch, however, that I had to destroy my entire planting to eliminate it and have not yet started a new patch.

Ideally, new blackberry canes should be pinched to induce lateral growth for maximum fruit production. However, in Minnesota this would make the job of winter protection an impossible task. The system that I used was to remove all but the 6 or 8 most vigorous new canes from each hill with the hills spaced 8 feet apart. The canes were not pinched or allowed to form lateral growth the first year. With this practice, winter protection was not difficult. A trench was dug between two hills and the canes from both were buried in a common trench in the same manner as for roses with an additional covering of leaves on the surface. When uncovered in the spring the number of canes was further reduced to the 5 best. These were fanned out and tied to a three wire trellis to provide space for the fruit spurs to develop and bear fruit. A V-shaped trellis was used with three wires on each side of the V so that the new canes could be tied separately from the bearing canes. This also gave a slant to the bearing canes so that picking of fruit was made easier.

The real answer to growing this fine berry in Minnesota lies in the development of a good "everbearing" variety with the same characteristics as the new Fall Red raspberry - heavy production of fruit on the first year canes in late August and early September. This would enable the grower to properly prune the new canes for maximum fruit production which would come at a time when bird damage would also be minimal. Without attempting to take the next year's crop from the wintered over canes, a light mulch would be sufficient to prevent any winter injury to the roots from which the next year's new canes would come.

In any event, this is a superb berry that should not be overlooked for use in Minnesota. For those who do not mind expending the effort to provide winter protection it can be grown successfully now and, hopefully, it will be made available to all through development of a dependable "everbearing" variety in the future.

#### SHOP WISELY FOR YOUR HOLIDAY TREE

Christmas trees are now on the market and a few simple procedures can assure you of selecting and keeping that perfect tree.

First determine where the tree is to be displayed in your home. You will then be able to determine the most suitable size and shape. Trees generally appear smaller than they really are. Buying the tree early will help you in your choice of a fresh tree. Check for signs of needle shedding and brittleness to indicate excessive drying. Tree limbs should be strong enough to hold ornaments and strings of electric lights. The tree should have a strong fragrance and good green color for the species.

Once you purchase your tree, store it outdoors in the shade until you are ready to use it. Spray it frequently with water. When moving the tree indoors, cut the butt end of the tree at a diagonal about one inch from the bottom and place it in water. This opens the tree's pores and aids in the absorption of water. Keep the butt end of the tree in water during the entire time it is in the home.

#### REPORT #2 ON USING MONEY FOR HUMUS

A most peculiar situation has developed in the test pile that was mixed with green grass clippings. Temperature inside the pile had dropped to ambient temperature and composting had ceased. On examination, it was apparent that the grass clippings had completely broken down into compost, although the test material was still about 50% intact. By comparison, grass clippings in the control pile (no other material added) had not even begun composting, and still gave a high temperature reading. In another control pile, a small amount of ground money had been water-soaked and left to its own affairs to see what would happen. Nothing has happened---it's cold, wet and is gradually settling into a hard lump of green glop.

The material will smoulder in a lieisurely way when set afire, giving off an odor of burning rags but never quite flaming.

Meanwhile, in the test bed, 3 of the 15 Shasta daisies have unaccountably expired. The remaining 12 show some signs of malnutrition but are otherwise still with us. There is no apparent breakdown of the material in the soil, as it is still displaying its distinctive green color.

The material will not serve as a surface mulch, as it solidifies, like peat moss, when it dries, and it does dry hard when it dries!

New Tree Disease Book - A 658 page book published by the Forest Service, U.S.D.A. is the first comprehensive one on diseases of forest and shade trees of the United States. The book by Dr. George H. Hepting, a world-renowned forest pathologist, describes diseases of 200 important trees, including fruit trees. "Diseases of Forest and Shade Trees of the United States," Agricultural Handbook No. 386, is available for \$4 from the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 20402.

## LILIES - PART 2 - STANDARD SPECIES AND HYBRIDS

by Les Johnson

In your garden large or small, there is no reason why you may not enjoy the exquisite perfection of hardy lilies. Even a garden filled to overflowing with other flowers may have lilies tucked in here and there to enhance the garden picture. Surprising as it may seem, lilies like just such places.

Many kinds of flowers will not tolerate being crowded in between other things because of the space they naturally demand. Lilies are different; they thrive where the foliage of other plants shades the soil and keeps it cool. They thrust their slender, short leaved stems up into the light and produce their lovely blooms - serene beauty that will be the envy of the neighborhood. The variety of possibilities with lilies is almost endless, and I fancy you thinking, "What kind of lilies shall I plant."

So let's assume that your garden is of average size and you wish to plant your lilies in the border among the plants you now are growing. Also that you want a selection that will bloom over a long season, and include not only the various types of flowers but a good color range as well. Because there are over eighty species or wild lilies and many hundreds of hybrids, a choice is somewhat difficult to make especially for the beginner with lilies. The best way that I can think of is to visit gardens where lilies are being grown and see those that appeal most to you. We have several members in MGCM who grow lilies and would be glad to help in your selection. I will mention a few standard lilies that will do well in your gardens.

*L. plumilum*, the well known coral lily is one of the earliest to bloom, usually at the end of May. This is a lovely little turkscap lily, either a bright scarlet or in its lessor known form "Golden Gleam" a bright yellow. It is hardy but sometimes short lived if conditions for it are not perfectly to its liking. It is easily grown from seed and will bloom in the second summer after planting. Another early species is *L. martagon alba*, a white turkscap, long lived under congenial conditions and forming large clumps increasing from year to year.

In June comes so many of the Asiatic hybrids that it is difficult to select the best among them. Jan DeGraaff, Oregon Bulb Farms has produced and placed on the market several hundred named varieties and strains. His Mid-Century hybrids include many variations in both shape and color and all have hybrid vigor and can be relied upon to survive and prosper in your gardens. Enchantment, Destiny, Harmony, Prosperity are among the best known of the Mid Century's. From similar breeding lines DeGraaff has produced many more color variations that are being sold as strains. These strains vary a little in color and form but are generally similar. I will name a few.

Golden Chalice hybrids: Up-facing flowers ranging from clear lemon yellow through rich warm shades of gold and apricot orange.

Rainbow hybrids: Up-facing, cup shaped flowers, two to three feet in height colors varying through shades of orange to deepest mahogany red.

Fiesta hybrids: This group is tall, bears up to thirty nicely spaced reflexed and nodding flowers in varied colors from deep yellow through orange to deep reds. A very hardy vigorous group.

In July come the trumpets. The Regal lily is probably the best known and most widely planted trumpet lily in our gardens. But our hybridizers have greatly improved upon them in size and vigor. The "Chinese Trumpets" *L. regale*, *L. leucanthum*, *L. L. sargentiae*, *L. sulphureum*, have been crossed and inter-crossed to produce a race of trumpet lilies with great vigor and beauty sold under various

names, Centifolium, Olympic hybrids, etc. Then these have been further crossed with *L. henryi* to produce the Lovely Aurelians, with great variety of shape and color and great hybrid vigor and hardiness.

Other than by visiting gardens where you can see the actual lily blooming, the next best thing is a color catalog. A good one is available from Pat and Dorothy McCormick: P. O. Box 700 Canby, Oregon. Another from Rex Bulb Farms, Newberg, Oregon, 97132. Both of these growers feature Oregon grown bulbs and to get an idea of what other growers are offering, I would suggest asking for lists from Stone and Payne, 533 Piedmont Street, Waterbury, Connecticut 06706 or Mrs. Paul Lutz, R. D. Road, Box 80, Boalsburg, Pa. 16827 or E. H. Doerr, Hillside Gardens, New Ulm, Minn. 56073.

#### NEW MEMBERS

Leonard Brenny, 4553 Aldrich Av. No., Mpls., 55412	Phone: 529-4193
Dr. Harold Nathanson, 4104 Drew Av. So., Mpls., 55410	Phone: 926-8376
Dr. Orrin Turnquist, 1459 Hythe St., St. Paul, Mn.	Phone: 644-3668
Harold Sievers, 7105 Concordia Dr., Mpls., 55435	Phone: 926-2562

#### DRIFT FROM THE SPRAYER

Hal Nelson, editor of The Gardener is certainly giving our area top billing lately. The September-October issue contained two excerpts from the Garden Spray and a book review by Bill Hull. Now the November-December issue appears with full page articles by MGC's Cliff Brisco, Bruce Johnstone, Phil Smith and by Robert Waldoch of the Sioux Valley Club.

That forthcoming January-February issue on vegetables surely ought to feature our Bob Smith than whom no expert is "experter." How about it Bill Hull? You're listed as a regional editor.

Bob Voigt is due an apology. The SPRAY editor didn't have the copy of Bob's November party announcement retyped because it looked good and clear. That was a mistake. The machine didn't pick it up well.

Nate Siegel has been elected president of the Minnesota Rose Society for 1973.

It is said, "Men do not quit gardening because they grow old; they grow old because they quit gardening."

What better proof need we have of the virtues of gardening than our own P. W. Young or Houston MGC's member J. George Ball who celebrated his 99th birthday on October 2nd, and who then began his fall plantings of geraniums, gerbera, lilies, tube-roses, ranunculus and other bulbs.

Of course, if you don't want to be tied down, if you want to live it up gardening can still be your dish. Remember gardening didn't keep Adam out of mischief.

Herman T. Vivian, president of the MGC of Austin, Texas, has offered to pay the National dues for 40 young men who are interested enough to pay the local dues to join the club. He has requested members of his club to seek members of student in any kind of school, college or university who want to "join and learn with us." Vivian operates the Acme Fence Company of Austin and always includes an invitation to join in his newspaper advertisements.

The Longview, Texas Parks and Recreation Department has nominated the Men's Garden Club of Longview for the Texas Recreation and Park Society Garden Club Award for 1973.