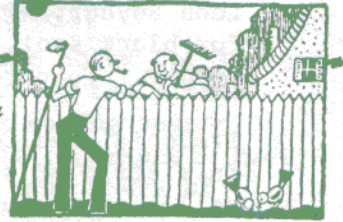




The Garden Spray

July

BULLETIN OF THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS



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

ARBORETUM TOUR - July 14

Members and male guests will leave the Mt. Olivet Lutheran church at 5:30 P.M., by chartered bus to go to the Arboretum for dinner and a tour of the new gardens (new homes) of Leon Snyder and Bruce Johnstone. Tickets are \$2.25 including the bus, whether you ride it or not, but we hope everyone does.

We have not toured the Arboretum for several years as a group and a lot of new changes are there for us to see and to enjoy. Bert Zats has arranged a good tour for us so let's show up.

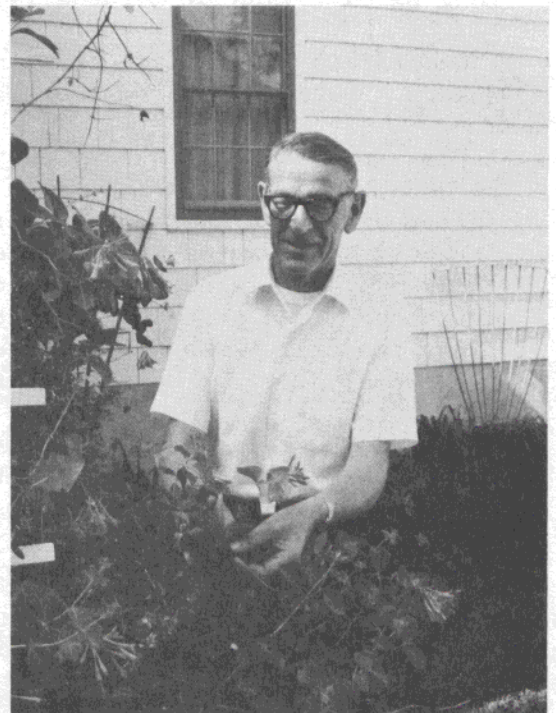
Remember: The bus leaves at 5:30 from the church. Male guests are welcome but we have to do without the ladies this time. They may join us in August.

Club Officers:

President: Phil Smith
Vice President: Dave Johnson
Secretary: Roger Anderson
Treasurer: Vern Roufs
Im. Past Pres.: Nate Siegel

Directors: Clif Brisco and Carl Holst
North Star Region Delegates:
Verner Carlson and Dale Durst

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A special salute to Charlie Proctor. "Pete" has been a member since 1956 and has served in many capacities: Flower Show chairman for many years. Treasurer for two years, President in 1965. He was awarded the President's Cup in 1968 and several Green Thumb awards. A good gardener, Charlie has a fine border, one with lots of shade, and vegetables in a hidden garden and beans on the garage. This is an attempt to say "Thank you", Charlie, for your many, many hours for our club, your constant willingness to dig in, your leadership, your friendship.

So a tip of the hat this month to

OVER THE GARDEN GATE

by Bill Hull

Leon Snyder, writing in the Minneapolis Sunday Tribune, recommends Phaltan for black spot, Mildex or Karathane for mildew, Malathion for aphids and red spider. Good reliables worth remembering.

Fredonia Seed Company sent us samples of a unique product--seeds impregnated in a strip of soluble paper. The radishes, so packaged, grew fifteen feet of well-spaced roots. Great idea. Hope they go ahead with it and put the little, hard to handle seeds, like carrots and lettuce, therein. I saw in a store display locally where this company also sells a line of package seeds they call "Fun-tastic" aimed at children and the venturesome. On display were Sponge Plant (Luffa), Giant Radish (Sakurajima), Snake Cucumber (Cucumis Melo Flexuosa), Yard Long Beans (Vigna Sesquipedalis), and Jack's Beanstalk (Pueraria thunbergia).

I understand the package seed industry is a somewhat steady, almost dormant industry. Perhaps this type of packaging and razzle-dazzle will be good for it.

I have some sad news. Some of you knew Charlie Hudson, past national president of MGCA, from Atlanta and later from Greenwood, S. C. Newspaper writer and later editor of Park's Magazine. Charlie died about May 17 in his garden, which is as he would have wanted it. His column in the Atlanta paper was avidly read by thousands, partly because people knew him. He was one of those rare people whom everybody liked passionately. He was chairman of the Atlanta MGCA convention in 1964, the year I was MGCA president, and of course I am among those who have lost a personal friend. More importantly, MGCA needed him then and now.

George Smith tells us of a formula given him by an old Norwegian friend, Chris Hanson, who received it from a brother in Norway. It's a combination of ammonium phosphate, potassium nitrate and ammonium nitrate and is great as a fertilizer. But George's formula isn't fully explanatory so we'll ask him to tell us more details. He's been in Kentucky on a visit for some time.

I've tried for once just applying straight nitrogen to my lawn (meaning without the other two usual elements). Bought some urea which comes in fifty pound bags at 45-0-0. Two sources recommended it at about 100 pounds per acre but no one could tell me how to set the spreader to achieve that. I set it too fine, being fearful I'd burn my yard to a crisp, and have only used 50 pounds on a little over an acre--I have 50,000 square feet of actual lawn. It's cheap and might be a good idea for you.

Did you see the following advertisement? It was better spaced than our space here permits and we can only quote part of it.

The Respirator.

A blade of grass.

It's quiet. It has no moving parts.

Yet it and its fellow blades take in carbon dioxide and the worst atmospheric pollutants - sulfur dioxide, ozone, peroxyacetyl nitrate, hydrogen fluoride - and give up pure oxygen in return.

The sturdier the plant, the more the purification. In fact, actively growing grass - a 25 foot square releases enough oxygen to sustain life day after day for

BUGS FOR 'THE GARDEN SPRAY'
by Phil Smith

This is the zenith of seasons for the true gardener. From the notes for improvements in planting made last fall, through the protection of the plants over the winter, and the clean-up and planting chores of the spring season, we are now presented with this season's delights in bloom and fragrance. Every facet and form now seems to fall into place, and all of the many hours of thought, planning and plain hard work now seem entirely worthwhile.

The longer I garden, the more I believe that the successful gardener is more artist than grower, more philosopher than cultivator, for with the placement and arrangement of the garden plants, one truly creates with a sense of wonderment and joy in keeping with God's ultimate plan for beauty and grace in the world. The path from seed catalog and manure to a beautiful garden may sometimes seem shaky and arduous, but when the garden blossoms out into the summer's production of the flower border, the pleasure is sensuous and enduring. Could the painter or sculptor experience anything more fulfilling than does the gardener in his own creation of his own particular art form as he lays it out and nurtures it to fulfillment in the flower border?

This is a time of particular excitement for me as my perennials begin to unfold and flower and thereby mold the backbone of color for my flower borders for the next several weeks. As this is written in the third week of June, the blue salvia blue and white peach bellflowers, oenothera, lysamachia, painted daisies (pyrethrum) and aquilegia give my back borders a particularly cool and refreshing appearance. There will certainly be more color later on, but I doubt that the impact on my senses will be any more refreshing.

It has been a long winter since the brilliance of last year's borders and we tend to forget the particular beauty of many floral patterns until we are refreshed with this season's new garden delights. I think we often do not spend enough time in the garden just soaking in the results of our own creation. Surely, our gardens deserve all the time we can give them just to admire and absorb the beauty of color and fragrance. I'm going to spend more time just trying to enjoy my own garden this year. One way I have in mind is to take a leisurely stroll around the garden before leaving for work in the morning and then to do the same thing when coming home in the evening. How about you?

At a meeting of the Arboretum Associates held on June 4, our club was honored with the presentment of a very fine award in the nature of a Life Membership in the Arboretum. I was pleased to attend and receive the award on behalf of our club. The certificate reads as follows:

"The University of Minnesota and its Landscape Arboretum gratefully recognize as both Partner and Life Member THE MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF MINNEAPOLIS, whose interests, benefactions, and services have contributed mightily to the creation and growth of our Northern-most Arboretum as a cultural asset of highest value to our state, our communities, and our citizens from which will come during the years ahead great improvements both in aesthetics and in our natural environment." Signed Leon C. Snyder and Malcolm Moos.

AND NOW LET US SPRAY, said Doctor Grommet
by Arthur Hoppe

Man's triumph over insects, after a million-year battle, came with the discovery of para-dioxogenous-quyxylytylpytl. Or, as it was commonly called PDQ.

PDQ represented a giant stride forward from such early crude insecticides as DDT. It was not only 16.3 times more toxic, 12.8 times longer lasting and 6.3 times cheaper to produce, but it never gummed up the sprayer.

Moreover, exhaustive laboratory tests proved it was absolutely harmless to test tubes, beakers, rubber tubing and Bunsen burners.

As always, a few conservative, fuddy-duddy scientists cautioned that no one knew what the long-range effects of PDQ might be.

"Exactly!" cried PDQ's discoverer, Dr. Greenglass Grommet. "And therefore no one can show that PDQ will produce any harmful long-range effects whatsoever.

"These very same Nervous Nellies protested 237 scientific discoveries in the past the very same grounds. And in every single case time proved them wrong. Can we 1 these wrong-headed fuddy-duddies stand in the way of progress?"

As always, Dr. Grommet and his progress-minded colleagues won the battle and PDQ was approved for sale with adequate warnings on the label.

Housewives gleefully sprayed flies with it. Health officers happily sprayed fleas with it. Foresters joyfully sprayed bark beetles with it. And farmers delightful sprayed boll weevils with it.

In five short years, the world was sopping wet with PDQ. And just as Dr. Grommet had predicted, not a fly, flea, bark beetle, boll weevil or any other insect flew, crawled or bored anywhere.

"After a million years of swatting midges, mosquitoes and miscellaneous malefactor crowed Dr. Grommet, "Mankind can at last enjoy the birds and the bees and the flow in peace."

But, of course, there weren't any. Without insects to eat, the birds disappeared. And without bees to do their thing, the flowers pined.

Yet this was a small price to pay for an insect-free world. And no one would have minded too much if, in the seventh year, all the trees had fallen down.

"Who needs trees?" said Dr. Grommet with a frown. "Never forget that, thanks to PDQ, we have doubled production on our crops." Which, in the ninth year, failed to come up.

"Never fear, we shall find new ways to harvest the fish from the sea," said Dr. Grommet desperately. And the new way was found in the 10th year when all the fish helpfully floated to the surface. Belly up.

And so it went. Finally, the last man on earth, who just happened to be Dr. Grommet sat on a mountain top gloomily surveying the barren, lifeless planet.

"I don't want to carp, dear," said the last woman on earth, who just happened to be Mrs. Grommet, "but it looks as though all those fuddy-duddy scientists were right you were wrong."

ONCE AGAIN NATURE YIELDS UP A CLUE -- THIS TIME AGAINST CANCER.

At this year's annual meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research, scientists of the National Cancer Institute described a new drug, camptothecin, that promises to be useful against advanced cancer of the intestine and rectum. Cancers of this type strike 75,000 Americans each year and cause more deaths than any type of cancer except lung cancer. Since men are so hard hit by these types of cancer and since this story is horticulture-related, we carry it in THE GARDEN SPRAY.

A group of doctors (Gottlieb, Guarino, Oliverio and Block) at the Institute reported administering camptothecin to 17 adults with various types of cancer. Of 9 patients with advanced cancer of the intestine and rectum, 4 achieved tumor reduction greater than 50 percent; in 4 others, tumor masses decreased 25 to 50 percent. One patient did not benefit. That's still almost a 90 percent assist, although on a small test of course.

One patient with melanoma experienced greater than 50 percent reduction in tumor nodules; one adult with lung cancer and another with acute myelocytic leukemia had from 25 to 50 percent decrease in tumor mass or showed other tumor regression.

The source of camptothecin is an obscure and hitherto unimportant Chinese tree, *Camptotheca acuminata*. As long ago as 1934, a USDA representative at Nanking University sent a handful of unidentified seed to the USDA with a note "Collected on a rocky slope at 600 feet altitude in Chang An, Yung Hsien. A tree with green fruits." The seeds were planted and grew. Since they were unidentified no one knew that they were the same plant which had twice previously been introduced to the USA; if so, they probably would not have been grown. When the seedlings were well established several were sent to the Chico, California, Plant Introduction Station, to grow in the milder climate. And there two unobtrusive plants survive to become part of the permanent planting. They were unimpressive and were permitted to grow simply because the space wasn't needed.

In 1950, an extract from *Camptotheca* leaves was tested in a search for a source of cortisone. The test was negative and the remaining extract was placed on a shelf where it remained for almost six years. Then in 1957 the National Cancer Institute began screening plants for cancer-inhibiting capability and they started turning the laboratories upside down. The extract from *Camptotheca* leaves proved active in two tumor systems in animals but the supply was so small the study was really inclusive.

A limb was removed from one of the trees at Chico and the desired constituent was found mostly in the bark and roots, good luck because the tree leaves were scarce. It took until 1965 to isolate some of the substance called camptothecin and the studies were made. Now scientists are attempting to synthesize camptothecin, so unsuccessfully. To keep the experiments going the Department of HEW and the Department of Agriculture are cooperatively planting seedling trees of *Camptotheca acuminata* in the thousands. Eventually they will have enough trees to furnish sufficient extract to put the tests into high gear. For the present, of course, the extract is in very short supply.

As we said, once again nature has given us a clew as to how she might be able to help in some of man's problems.